
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

January 2005

Next Meeting

Our speaker at the Society's Open Evening on **Monday 17th January** is John Boynton, one of the leading experts on the railways of the Midlands. His subject is

‘When the Railway Came to Colwall’

John was a resident of Colwall at one time when he taught here. He was born in Walsall, however, and thinks that the sound of passing trains was one of the earliest he heard. The opening of the Worcester to Hereford line in 1861 had a profound effect on the village, and subsequent development was very much centred on the station and the goods yard.

One of John's books is ‘Rail Through the Hills’, the chequered story of tunnelling through the Malverns. Sadly, the book is sold out, but second-hand copies occasionally turn up.

Our meeting in the Village Hall begins at 7.30 pm, and, as always, there will be refreshments afterwards.

See you all there.

Derek Lewis

Where does the water come from?

‘All the Malvern Hills springs on the west side of the Hills occur where the Llandoverly Sandstone meets the Malvern Hills uplift, a line roughly followed by Chase Road in Upper Colwall. A geologist of the Malvern Field Club had a theory that the combined flow of all the springs along this line ran more water than could be accounted for by the catchment area above them, thereby deducing that the water came from another source. This has never, as far as I am aware, been scientifically worked out.’

From ‘Colwall Collection’ Stephen Ballard, p57.

Village Spring Clean

A reminder that the annual Village Spring Clean will take place on Saturday 12 March from 9.30 to 11.30, concluding with coffee at the Crown.

Volunteers are asked to assemble on the station approach where bags and grabbers will be available. Last year the event was a great success; the large number of supporters enabled us to cover the rural lanes as far as Petty France and Jubilee Drive as well as the village itself. Please do join us this year.

M.E. Martin

A mediaeval tragedy

The tragedy of the Black Death in Europe when measured in loss of life as a percentage of inhabitants is perhaps analogous to the present Indian Ocean disaster. It has been estimated that the population of England fell from three and three quarter million in 1348 to two million in 1400.

In Colwall we know from Duncomb's ‘History of Herefordshire’ that in 1349 one hundred and fifty eight persons died either here or in the neighbouring parishes of Coddington, Bosbury and Cradley. What we do not know is who they were. However, a Bishop Trillek kept a register of clergy deaths and from this we learn that a priest from Ledbury parish church, another from Bromsberrow, one more from Bishop's Frome, yet another from Castle Frome, one each from Eastnor and Coddington and as many as three from Bosbury succumbed to the bubonic plague but that our clergyman goes unmentioned. He survived. *(Source: J. Hillaby)*

At this distance in time we can only speculate about the reason(s) for this. Could it have been because of the comparative isolation of our parish church and vicarage? At that period the village clustered round Evendine with a scattering of farms – all at some distance from St. James'. Or could it have been because our incumbent did not visit his parishioners, though he would have had to conduct their burial services?

Village archive

Joyce Ingledew

Looking through the archive is like looking up a word in an encyclopaedia. You start with one idea in mind, but get distracted when something else catches your eye. Sometimes it is absolutely fascinating. At other times, it is a bit boring, not at all what you are after. The trouble is, it takes forever to sort through the originals in the archive and it is bad for them too, as frequent reference wears them out and is likely to lead to loss. The solution is to store them on a computer and to create an index, but this is easier said than done. On the computer you want to be able to have some idea of what each item is about and you would really like to search the whole list of acquisitions – looking for people, or places, or events. Then, ideally, you would like to see the item on the screen, especially if it is a picture.

All this means having a lot of information associated with each item and the first hurdle is to decide how to store it. We are still at that first hurdle, but hope to start this year with the next task, which is to create the index. After that we can think of making it available on the Internet. It sounds easy, but it will take some time. But when it is done it will provide something which everyone can enjoy.

Recent acquisitions: We are grateful for the following donations to the archive:

- A photograph of the opening of the Millennium Room, October 2002 (given by Derek Lewis)
- Details of the Evacuation Scheme for Colwall, 1940-1943 (Ann Sealy)
- Photographs of Upper House cottage, Evendine Lane, 1968 (Ann and Robert Sealy)
- Complete set of 'The Colwall Clock' 1980 – 2001
- 'The First Five: Story of the Downs School' by E J Brown (given by Janet Pickard (née Brown))
- A full transcription of manuscript notes by Stephen Ballard (3rd generation) in Hereford Record Office
Transcribed by Anne Hailes from a digital image produced by Graham Cowan, this is one of the sources used by Rosemary Ballard in her edition of Stephen Ballard's papers 'Colwall Collection'.
- 'Barnard Castle and the Cholera Outbreak, 1849' by Beverley Pilcher M.A.
The Rev. George Dugard was the incumbent in Barnard Castle during the cholera outbreak. He was the son of Thomas and Mary Dugard of Doverdale near Worcester and is buried in Colwall churchyard. His connection with Colwall is unknown, although on retirement in 1859 he came to 'Glenwood' in Upper Colwall where he died in 1865.

Recent purchases: From time to time the Society makes small purchases to add to the collection:

- '90 years on: The history of Evendine Court' by Jean Buchar (second hand copy)
- Two Ordnance Survey maps, 2nd Edition 1904, 1905, 25 inches to the mile, one of the north of the parish centred on The Purlieu, and a second of the south, centred on Massington Farm. Bought from The Hereford Record Office.
- A facsimile copy of the Sale particulars of the Old Colwall Estate, June 1963 (Original kindly lent by Dorothy Lockyear)

Proposals for development in Herefordshire 2005 – 2011

The public Local Inquiry to hear unresolved objections to the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) will start next month in Hereford. It is expected that the general principles for development in Colwall will be considered in the week 7-11 March, and the detailed Proposals Maps in the week of 6-10 June 2005. Anyone may attend the inquiry, but only those who objected to the Draft Plan in December 2002 and the Revised Draft in June 2004 have the right to make representations.

The issues affecting Colwall are:

Main villages: settlement boundaries: Colwall is designated as a main village for development. The UDP Proposal Map extends the settlement boundary to the north of Old Church Road and along Mathon Road, thus allowing further 'windfall' sites for residential development. There are 14 objections to the principles of designating these main villages, including one from CPRE Herefordshire (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) and 5 objections to the settlement boundary in Colwall, including one from Colwall Parish Council.

Colwall Housing Allocation: The UDP allocates a site for 20 dwellings – meaning that development is anticipated – on Brockhill Road (known as 'Covent Garden'). There are 9 objections, including CPRE, and 2 expressions of support, including Colwall Parish Council. There are 4 objections proposing alternative sites: adjacent to the former Oddfellows pub; land between Orlin Road and Old Church Road; Old Court nursery site; land south of Old Church Road.
