
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

March 2007

Next meeting –

AGM – Monday 23 April

Dr Denis Savage will be giving an illustrated talk about the Coddington Vineyard after the AGM on Monday 23rd April at the Village Hall. The AGM will start at the usual time of 7.30pm.

There will also be a glass of Coddington wine with some cheese and biscuits to enjoy afterwards to add extra flavour to the evening.

Coach trip to Kew

On Wednesday 30 May a coach trip is being organised by Herefordshire Record Office to the National Archives at Kew. The National Archives building is close to Kew Gardens, which could be visited instead, if you are more interested in plants. The coach will leave Hereford at 7 am and start back from Kew at 5 pm. The cost is £14 per person. Bookings, with a £5 deposit, must be made by 30 April. For further details, [REDACTED]



All cleared up

Perhaps reflecting current awareness of the need to 'go green', there was an excellent turn out of members for the annual village spring clean on 17th March. Large numbers of black bags were ferried to the dump, and everyone felt very pleased with themselves in the get-together over coffee, generously supplied by The Crown.

Photo: Derek Lewis

Geopark Way Trail

Colwall is prominent in the designated 'Abberley and Malvern Hills Global Geopark' not only by its position at the centre, but for its wealth of geological heritage from stony granite outcrops on the hills above to limestone slopes in and around the valley below. It is because of this geological significance that Colwall has been selected to feature on the new Geopark Way Trail. The Trail will snake its way down from Bridgnorth and will probably enter Colwall at the Wyche cutting and exit towards Oyster Hill on its way to Gloucester. The exact details of where it will go through Colwall are still under consideration but it will be sure to include the best geology the village can offer.

A representative of The Abberley and Malvern Hills Global Geopark visited Colwall in late February in anticipation of finding a village rich in history, local legend and natural beauty. She was not disappointed

and left us charged full of enthusiasm. The traveller following the trail through our village will be in for a treat. After surveying its impressive geology they will find a friendly village thriving with life and having everything the weary traveller will need in the form of shops and hostelry to refresh him for the continuation of his journey. A guidebook containing a map of the trail will be available this summer. It will contain articles on geological features and historical references to the communities along its way.

More information can be found on the Geopark website at www.geopark.org.uk. A follow-up article will be in the next newsletter containing details of the exact route the trail will make through the village and on the release of the new guidebook.

Conrad Shail

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From the archive

We are grateful to Conrad Shail for his donation of a complete copy of the Midland Edition of the Radio Times of March 10, 1950, containing 2 articles about Colwall.

The first describes the programme 'An English Village – an adventure in radio in which the village of Colwall in Herefordshire is put under the microscope'. Constructed by expert consultants, there were five weekly parts, and each broadcast also included studio interviews with local people and recordings made at a general Parish meeting. The script of the programmes is available in Colwall Library, but sadly the response by the BBC to a recent enquiry was that the tapes no longer exist.

A second article is headed ... **The Snuff-Takers of Colwall**

'The clock tower at Colwall is known to all the natives as "Aunt Alice" – which helps to illustrate the conclusions of the experts that have been carrying out research for the programmes. They say that although Colwall is a large and sprawling village – about 6 square miles in extent – it has a strong sense of community, and in spite of industrial and tourist infiltration has not yet grown big enough to destroy the intimate personal relationship that exists among its inhabitants.

A prevalent local habit is snuff-taking, but according to one of the consultants for the opening programme, the average Colwall man appears quite unconscious that snuff-taking is in any way unusual. Although much in contact with visitors, the villagers, and especially the women on the farms and smallholdings, have kept their soft and pleasing Herefordshire burr. This accent is deceptive – those who attempt to illustrate it generally succeed only in producing "Loamshire noises".'

Welcome to new member Terry Dipple of Ohio

Terry has traced 35 Dipple ancestors born in Colwall. His grandfather's great-grandfather was William Dipple, c1752-1840, who was the tenant farmer of Cowl Barn Farm. Terry writes: 'Thank you for my membership and past Society newsletters. If you are interested in the families of Colwall I have a lot of info on them in my website 'The Dipples Of Colwall Herefordshire And Related Families Around The World' which can be found at: www.tribalpages.com; User I.D - tadip; Password - colwall.'

A village website

A few years ago, Richard Maddrell set up a village web site which attracted some interest, but was not very active, so after a time he donated the site to the Parish Council. This site now provides a lot of useful information, particularly on council activities, and includes a links page for those organisations in the village which have their own web sites. However, many organisations (including the Village Society) do not currently have their own web site and may be put off by the jargon and by the cost of setting up an independent one. What is needed is a web starter kit aimed at getting people over the initial hurdles, and a source of low cost web space which could be shared by the community. If you are interested in following this up for your own organisation, please get in touch with Chris Sennett, [REDACTED].

Blacksmiths in Colwall

– corrections to the article which appeared in the Newsletter, June 2006

The reference to the census of 1876 should have been to Kelly's Directory 1879.

The references to the censuses of 1879 and 1900 should have been to Kelly's Directory, 1879 and 1900

The reference to the 1926 census should have been to Stevens' Annual 1926.

Contributions, corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome.

Newsletter editor: Susan Bond, [REDACTED] or c/o Colwall Library
