



JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

Next Open Meeting: Monday 19th January 2009

**** NOT 22nd as published in "The Clock" ****

The next open meeting is on Monday 19th January in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm and will be a talk by Paul Picton. His subject is "The History of Old Court Nurseries/Picton Garden".

Tea or Coffee will be available AFTER the meeting, since the consensus of opinion expressed at our last meeting was to retain the status quo.

'Aunt Alice' Exhibition by *Gwyneth Rees*



On November 15th 2008 the Colwall Parish Council, with the support of Colwall Village Society,



mounted an exhibition in the Millennium Room at Colwall Library. The object of this exhibition was to allow visitors to view the working clock mechanism in the clock tower and to follow, via photos and video, the progress of repairs to the faces and motion works. The 100+ visitors were able to find out about the historical background regarding the original suggestion for a village clock in 1895 and how eventually it was built in 1931 by Tom Pedlingham as a memorial to his wife Alice. I am grateful to Mrs. Margaret Chapman for the loan of a number of photos. Research is ongoing and, to date, we have still not been able to find a photo of Aunt Alice herself!

Society's First Commemorative Plaque

On 6th December 2008 Elizabeth Lloyd on behalf of the Society unveiled a commemorative



plaque to Dame Laura Knight. The smart green roundel, now mounted beside the main entrance to The Colwall Park Hotel, is the first in what the Society hopes will be a series of plaques



commemorating people who deserve recognition in Colwall.

The poet W H Auden, who was a tutor at the Downs School, is under consideration for our next plaque, but if you have any other suggestions as to who could be honoured, please let us know.

Steam Trains In Colwall!

On Saturday 4th October 2008 an excursion train organised by Part Time Rail made the journey from Worcester to Hereford - it was double headed, GWR 'Kinlet Hall' leading 'Nunney Castle' with a rake of Pullman coaches.

The photograph shows the train with an impressive head of steam just after it passed through Colwall Station. For the many children present, it



must have been a magical glimpse into the past - let's hope it will not be too long before the magic is repeated.

Whilst it may only be a slight chance, there is optimism that the single line from Malvern to Hereford could eventually have two tracks to avoid the all too frequent bottlenecks. The chance is only

slight because of the effect of the current financial turmoil on future capital expenditure.

Litter Pick

20 bags of litter was the result of the efforts of those who turned up for the second litter pick of the year. As part of 'England's Big Tidy Up' we were smartly equipped with green bags and tabards. Thanks to committee members Marion Percy and Susan Bond for their organisation of this community event.

Archives

Work is progressing on gradually creating computer records of all our archive material. Many records will be able to be viewed using the dedicated computer in the Millennium Room, thus reducing the risk of damage to irreplaceable material. Books, tapes, newspapers and other artefacts will have to be indexed to enable their physical retrieval from the archives. It is a slow and painstaking task, so please bear with the transcribers and typists who are as anxious to see the finish as you are!

1881 Census

This idea was superseded when Herefordshire Library recently decided to make Ancestry.com freely available on its library computers. Now you can search the many millions of Census, Births, Marriages, Deaths and Military Records and create printouts of your results, all from the comfort of your local Library.

Colwall Shops In The Past by Barbara Eagles

I thought that newcomers to Colwall would be interested to read of the shops that were in the village in the 1930s and 40s.

Starting at Colwall Green, we had a Fish and Chip shop by the Yew Tree Inn. Just beyond was Pedlingham's Grocers, a busy shop taking orders out daily. The Colwall Green Post Office also sold groceries.

My grandfather, Charles Pedlingham, had a Carpenter and Undertaker's business in Stowe Lane by the railway bridge. On the corner of Mill Lane on the left there was Mrs Talbot's Sweet Shop. We always called in there for sweets in the way to school. Many of the sweets were loose, in the boxes in the window and usually there was a cat asleep in one of the boxes, which didn't appear to do us any harm. Mr Talbot was a Postman and a Tailor. At Highgate, between Brookside and Chevenham, the Miss Jenkins' had a little Teashop; they did good trade with their home made teas.

My father was a Shoemaker and had a shop in Stowe Lane where I live. There was another Shoemaker at the entrance to Mill Lane. When Mr Bright of Barton Court built the present Village Hall, he included a little chapel and it was named St. Crispins, because he is the Patron Saint of Shoemakers.

The Stores had various tenants. I recall Mr and Mrs Wilkes, an elderly couple. Mrs Wilkes used to sit outside on a deckchair in the summer, waiting for a customer to arrive. There was also a Drapery there. Mr Bishop's Butcher Shop was next door. The next shop before 'Aunt Alice' was Hill's Ironmongers. Mr Hill senior was a Saddler. They delivered paraffin all around the area.

There was a little shop adjoining Billesley. It had many tenants, including a Shoe Repairer, Electrical Goods, a Fish Shop and finally a Hairdresser. Next to the Crown Inn was Brant's Newsagents and Grocers. We always bought our bacon there; Mr Brant used to slice it with a large carving knife. Mr Tustin's Butchers Shop was opposite.

The other side of the Crown was Mr Welch's Sweet Shop. He used to have a film show in a wooden hut in the garden, which we enjoyed – until it burned down and was never replaced. Afterwards there was a Wool Shop there. By the Crown car park, where the seat is now, there was Colwall Gas Co. Showroom.

Lockyear's Garage was a busy place, with taxis meeting the trains – a centre in the village which regrettably is now gone. The Post Office was kept by the three Miss Plowmans'; in the early 1900s it was a Bakery also. Lloyds Bank was there; the Midland Bank was in the Station Yard on the left. Many of the older generation will remember Mr Button the chemist; we always thought a bottle of his own made up medicine put us right!!

John Goodwin's Office had many uses during the War it was run by Miss E. Goodsell as a Grocer's. The three Miss Armstrongs' were at York House. They sold Drapery, Household Goods, and Ironmongery. Very good quality clothes – greatly missed. Next, Wormington's Bakery: bread and cakes baked on the premises and delivered daily; Mr Evans, Fishmonger and Greengrocer: Mr Cyril Holford, Barber; Mr Harry Pedlingham, Butcher. Peter is the third generation at the shop.

Down Old Church Road on the right (Rope Walk) was another Grocers Shop run by Mr Stokes. When the Council Houses were built at Orlin Road a little shop was included in one of them run by Mrs Gough.

Considering the population was much less in those days, I think we were well catered for in Colwall. Indeed, the 'Good Old Days'.

Found During Research Of Colwall Parish Council Records - From a Malvern Gazetteer of about 1911

Funny, Isn't It?

The following handbill has been flying about Colwall, without the printer's name attached:-
"Stolen. A valuable Horse Road Sweeping Machine, the property of the Colwall Ratepayers. The Parish Council, realizing that they were responsible for the safe custody of this implement, are prepared to handsomely reward any person or persons who will assist them in regaining possession of it. If they do not succeed they will feel compelled to apply for Urban Powers in order that they may have better control over the Ratepayers' property, and so prevent further theft. By order of the Council."

David's Grove by Marion Percy

Although it is only January, the first signs of Spring are beginning to appear. Snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils - they will soon be gracing our gardens, grass verges and green swards. Year by year the crocuses and daffodils shine out from the corner of the grassland adjoining the Primary School near Colwall Green. Overhead the buds of birch trees burst into leaf. Some people may wonder about the origins of this Spring-welcoming grove.

When my husband died in February 1985, he had been a Parish Councillor for nine years, a Malvern Hills Conservator and also chairman of the local Liberal Party. My daughters and I were very honoured when each of the groups contributed to make this a beautiful living memorial in David's honour. A fellow Parish Councillor, John Price, made a bench and it gives me great joy to see mothers collecting children from school, dog walkers and many other people resting beside the footpath. I have also heard that the ex-headmaster of the Primary school, Richard Southall, took the children outside and held a school choir practice amongst the spring flowers.

The plaque set into the boulder of Malvern granite, given by the Conservators and which I personally selected from the North Malvern Quarry, did not appear until March 2003. The, then recently appointed, Parish Council Chairman, Nicky Carless, suggested that the grove should be marked and so in a simple ceremony performed by the Rev. Carl Attwood, followed by a short eulogy by my youngest daughter, Alison, the stone was

dedicated. The original bench, which had become rotten was replaced by a new one given by the Parish Council and the Parish Council also generously paid for the inscription to be put on the plaque.



Original Tree Planting Group – 18th April 1986

Now the nine birch trees, all of a different species, have grown into tall elegant specimens and continue to leaf every Spring, their white trunks standing out against the background of the green hedge. Annually the crocuses and daffodils herald the Spring with their golden shine and hopefully David's Grove will continue to give pleasure and solace to the Community for many years to come.

Future Talks

27th April 2009 - Freda Ballard. The Ballard Family

21st September 2009 (Provisionally): Paul Remfrey,
The Herefordshire Beacon.

January 2010 (Provisionally): Keith Duddy,
Park Farm II.

If you have any suggestions for future talks and/or speakers, please contact a member of our committee, and we will investigate.

The Mystery Of The Missing Madonna by Conrad Shail

By the church door of St. James, there is an area where a statue of the Madonna and child used to be. I have two pictures (albeit both from a distance) of the statue from about 1917 and 1950. As you may know it is no longer there. What happened to it? To help solve this mystery - has anyone more information about it? Can anyone remember it being there? Has anyone any more pictures showing it?

This could involve a bit of detective work and hopefully bring forth new information that will explain what happened and the results can be published in a future edition.

Your Contribution Here?

My thanks to the contributors who allowed this, my first newsletter, to be a Bumper Issue! Next issue will have a further articles on the shops of Colwall, some ideas for local research and, of course, your article...?

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Corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome. Contributions in by 13th April 2009, please,
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