

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

**Colwall
Village
Society**

Revealing Our Heritage



At last a picture of Aunt Alice! * – but read on...

The Scarecrow Day in Colwall was a great success with lots of people of all ages turning out to view over 70 scarecrows, varying in size from a mini astronaut to a 7ft chef. There were lovely teas being served on Colwall Green and it was great to see so many families out walking, the village was certainly buzzing!

In a mad moment we agreed to make a scarecrow, not having done this before we put our thinking caps on and came up with the idea of Aunt Alice. She was placed by the clock in the Library field. 'Aunt Alice' as you may know was a gift to the village from Tom Pedlingham in memory of his wife.

Janet Sutton

* Despite a number of requests we still do not have any photos of Alice Pedlingham for the Archives.

Geopark Way Trail - Update 3. *by Conrad Shail*

It has been well over a year since I last wrote in the newsletter about the Geopark Way.

Just to recap for those of you less familiar with woolly-hats, rucksacks and well-worn walking boots. The Geopark Way is a 109 mile long walk winding its way through the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark from Bridgnorth in the North to Gloucester in the South. The Geopark Way passes through delightful country side as it explores 700 million years of the Earth's history with exposed rock formations and contoured land shaped from forces way beyond our comprehension.

The Geopark Way project has suffered its ups and downs over the last couple years from flooding through to disputes over access etc. But through the efforts of all those involved from the Earth Heritage Trust through to the County Councils and all the people in those communities the Geopark Way is now open for all to use.

Rather than the chain of celebrations previously planned, its opening was marked with a Geopark Day on the hills on 6th June and the release of the trail guide simply called 'the Geopark Way'. This guide is now available from the Malvern Tourist Information Centre for £9.95. It is through funds from Defra and Advantage West Midlands that this publication is now available. Its B4 format makes it small enough to easily fit in a rucksack but big enough to contain clear maps and photographs.

If you purchase this guide turn to sections 10 and 11 where you will see details on the North Malvern to Colwall Stone walk and the Colwall Stone to Ledbury Walk.

Of all the sites and places of interest on its 109 miles journey there is none better than the village of Colwall and all it has to offer with its wealth of geological, natural and human history. To the weary walker Colwall has much to offer to help rest his or hers tired feet and refuel ready for the journey ahead.

The Colwall part of the Geopark Way starts where it descends from the east side of Beacon through the Wyche Cutting and into the Upper Colwall part of the village. It then takes the walker down Walwyn Road to Ballard Drive; from here I will take you step by step along its way through the village eventually ending on the west boundary where it leaves on a route over Oyster Hill to Ledbury.



Entrance to Ballard Drive

- Follow Ballard Drive down past the old railway airshaft for 700m.
- At the end of the drive, turn right and follow the path to the stile.
- Over the stile then for 100m to a second stile.

As the guide takes you through the village it draws your attention to the fauna and flora and the soils and rocks they live on.

- Over the second stile turn right and follow the field boundary down towards the barn in an adjacent field.
- At the barn turn left (not through the field gate).
- Stay on the lower path for 250m through a gate and
- Turn to the right towards the kissing gate.
- At the kissing gate follow the path over the station footbridge to Colwall Stone.

Here the guide concludes section 10 and leaves the walker to enjoy all Colwall has to offer, from a well earned rest at one of the local Public Houses or Café, to a overnight stay at a B&B or hotel.

After a well-earned rest or even an overnight stay set off again back over the station footbridge.

- Follow the path ahead to the kissing gate.
- At the kissing gate follow the path straight ahead to the far left-hand corner of the field.
- Pass through the gate and follow the path up the hill.
- Immediately after the steps turn right and follow the path through the wood.
- When the path leaves the wood follow the field boundary to the right.
- After passing through two fields exit over a stile onto Evendine Lane.
- Follow the lane down the hill to the telephone box.
- At the telephone box turn right into the road running along the east side of Colwall Green
- At the junction of the B4218 cross over and follow the wide track to the left of 'Aysgarth' house.

An alternative route down to the bottom of Evendine Lane and to the left along the B4218 would lead to the 'Yew Tree' public house. After sampling the ale follow the B4218 to the right where the wide track past 'Aysgarth' house can be picked up just past the bus shelter.

- Follow the path across the field taking care to cross over the railway tracks.
- On the other side of the tracks, Brockbury Hall can be seen straight ahead.
- Cross the field and on to the drive leading to Brockbury Hall.
- Once on the drive veer to the right and cross the stile ahead into a small paddock.
- Walk straight on and over another stile.
- Follow the path around the edge of a pool (an ancient moat) on to a dirt track.
- Turn right and follow the track into a field.
- At the top right hand corner of the field turn left.
- Follow another dirt track along the field boundary.
- On the right bend in the track, leave it and go straight ahead along the field boundary to a stile.
- Over the stile follow the field boundary through two small meadows to a gate.
- Go through the gate down a short track onto Flapgate Lane.
- Turn to the right past the stone cottage (a very nice man lives here!) and immediately to the left.

Here can be seen a fine example of a 16th century Alehouse. Take a moment to study the style of construction of this building, as it was very rare if not unique for buildings of the time. The common way of construction was to use cruck ends.

- Go through the wooden gates into the Churchyard and follow the path to the far side.
- Through the small Iron Gate, take a left across the car park to the stile at the bottom of a short slope.
- Cross the stile into a large field.
- Cross the field to the far right hand corner.
- Pass through a gate into a narrow field and across a small footbridge over the Cradley Brook.
- Take a right angle turn to the right and cross the stile obscured by a tree.
- Follow the field boundary to the left and go straight ahead over three stiles, into an orchard.
- Follow the orchard boundary, emerging through a gate into a lane.
- At the lane junction follow the road towards Coddington.
- Pick up the footpath at the next stile on the left.



View across to Oyster Hill from Geopark Way

At this point the path will take you away from Colwall up the hill, over stiles and through woods until you arrive on the top of Oyster Hill. A fine view and a beautiful place to take a rest on the bench and eat your sandwiches.

For a more descriptive guide to this walk, I recommend the purchase of the Geopark Way guidebook.

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Editor's Note: Your Committee thought it might be a good idea to organise walks based on the Geopark Trail passing through Colwall. They would comprise short stretches of the Trail, say 2 miles or so, with car parking at either end to allow a group of you to provide your own shuttle service if necessary. Your comments are invited!

For Your Dairy

Colwall Orchard Group is hosting its Apple Day festivities on Saturday 17th October, starting on The Green at 11am with a decorated wheelbarrow parade, lead by the Outside Capering Crew Morris Men, which will process to the Cricket Grounds for the main event. Bring your spare apples and have them converted to fresh juice. There will be entertainment, a hog roast, tea and cakes, and a bar serving local ales and ciders.

The CVS Exhibition at the Horticultural Show - 8th August 2009

Your Committee decided that this year that, rather than display some of our records from the Archive, we would try to enlist the help of those attending the Show in deciding who should be honoured with our next plaque.

The Colwall entries in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography combined with some local knowledge gave a list of some 39 persons! From that list 21 were selected as being particularly relevant to Colwall and of those 14 were displayed in detail.

Each of the 14 "Famous People of Colwall" was displayed on a single A4 sheet containing their photograph or drawing and a précis of their life with an indication of their connection with Colwall.

A simple voting form, containing all 21 names, was used and people viewing the displays were encouraged to vote for the person(s) of their choice.

The results of those votes, along with those taken at the 21st September meeting, were combined and the following results obtained:

Name	Show Votes	Talk Votes	Total
Auden , Wystan Hugh (1907 - 1973) poet and writer	8	2	10
Bairnsfather , (Charles) Bruce (1887 - 1959) cartoonist and writer	11	3	14
Ballard , Ernest (1870 - 1952) horticulturist	2	1	3
Ballard , Stephen (1804 - 1890) civil engineer	9	4	13
Barrett , Elizabeth (1806 - 1861) poet	2	6	8
Boyd , James (1921 - 2009) restorer of Downs Narrow Gauge Railway	7	1	8
Bright , Allan (1863 - 1942) MP, author of Piers Plowman books	0	1	1
Cullis , Stanley [Stan] (1916 - 2001) footballer and football manager	11	3	14
Duggan , Mary Beatrice (1925 - 1973) cricketer	0	0	0
Horton , Henry (1923 - 1998) cricketer	3	3	6
Jackson , Barry (1879 - 1961) theatre impresario	3	2	5
Knight , Dame Laura (1877 - 1970) painter	1	1	2
Langland , William (c.1330 - 1400) one of the first English poets	0	1	1
Lind , Jenny [Johanna Maria] (1820 - 1887) singer	3	5	8
Nicoll , (John Ramsay) Allardyce (1894 - 1976) literary scholar and university teacher	0	3	3
Raper , Robert William (1842 - 1915) founder of University Careers Service, first chairman of Malvern Hills Conservators	1	0	1
Rowe , Albert Percival (1898 - 1976) scientific administrator	4	0	4
Snowball , Elizabeth Alexandra [Betty] (1908 - 1988) cricketer	18	4	22
Sumner , Mary Elizabeth (1828 - 1921) founder of the Mothers' Union	6	2	8
Trease , (Robert) Geoffrey (1909 - 1998) author	4	5	9
Voysey , Charles Francis Annesley (1857 - 1941) architect and designer	4	1	5

Bearing in mind the totals, along with the practicalities of actually mounting a plaque in a position where it will be readily seen, it is now up to your committee to decide who shall be the next recipient. If you have any strong views on who has been omitted from our list please contact the Secretary, giving your reasons for requesting inclusion, a brief biography of the person and indication where a plaque could be mounted.

Future Talks

Please note both the change of date and change of speaker for our January 2010 meeting.

18th January 2010:

Michael Lewis, 'Hope End House'

15th March 2010

Ian Rowat, 'Malvern Hills and Colwall Green'

26th April 2010: [AGM]

Graham Cowan, 'Colwall Past and Present'

21st June 2010: (provisionally)

Keith Duddy, 'Park Farm II'

20th September 2010

James Ferguson, 'Historical Map'

17th January 2011

Tim Bridges, 'Colwall Church'

Finally ...

My thanks to our contributors. So far, I have managed to keep the newsletter at four pages with some colour photos, BUT it would make my life easier if I had a choice of articles and photos for publication rather than begging! I look forward to be inundated by your articles and photos ready for the January 2010 edition...



Looking a little ahead may I wish you the Season's Greetings and a Healthy and Happy New Year.



If you are prepared to receive your newsletters by electronic means, please register with the email address below.

Corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome, as are CONTRIBUTIONS!

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or hardcopy c/o Colwall Library