

# NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2010

**Colwall  
Village  
Society**

Revealing Our Heritage

**A Happy and Healthy New Year to All My Readers!!**

**Request for Information** *from Terry Dipple (of Fairfield, Ohio, USA)*

*Terry writes:* I know this is a long shot, but could you pass the attached photo of Charles Dipple & his family around to the older members of the society, to see if any of them could put some missing names to the faces.



(This is what I deduced about the above family photo, probably taken about 1910-20)

**Back Right** - Jenny (Ayres) Dipple; Alexander Dipple; ? ; ? ; Sarah (Davies) Dipple; Charles Dipple Jnr; ? ; ? ;  
**Front Right** - ? ; ? ; Charles Dipple Snr; on his right Mary (Etheridge) Dipple; Richard (unmarried) or George a nephew who lived with them for a while;

Regards *Terry Dipple - (my grandfather Osman Richard, born in Colwall 1872, was one of his many nephews).*  
**(If anyone can help Terry then please contact the Editor or any member of the Committee – thank you)**

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### Village Quiz

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 the Society entered a team (Susan Bond, Lyn Goswell, Jenny Hill and Michael Milne) who achieved second place out of the seventeen teams who entered. Congratulations!

# “The Ledbury Run” by James Ferguson

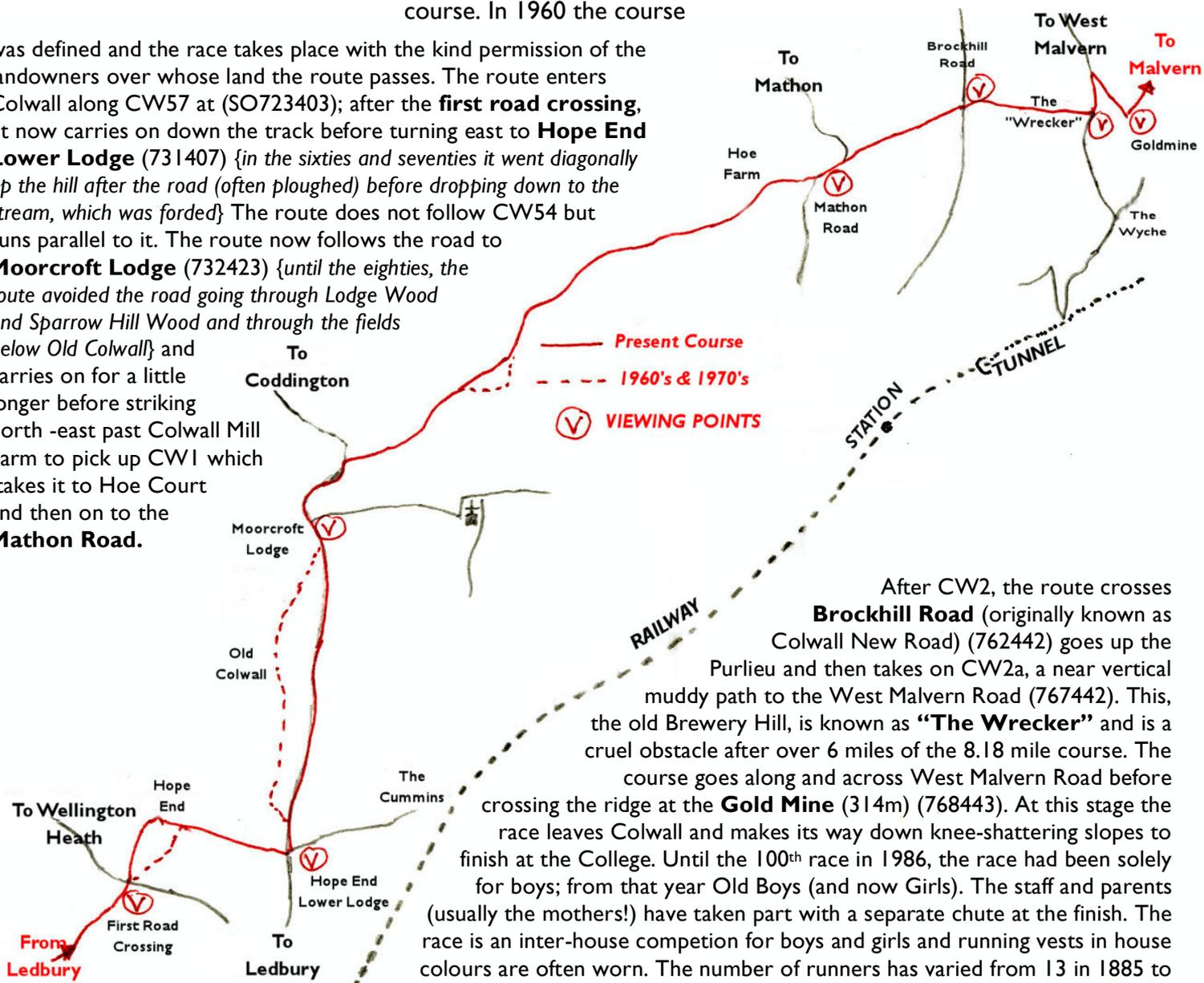
One of the two most famous school runs in Britain is the Malvern College run, “The Ledger”, from Ledbury back to Malvern; it is not for the faint-hearted and is very tough with a couple of severe contrasting climbs. It has never been compulsory and participants have to undergo a couple of rigorous medicals. A better name for the run might be ‘The Colwall Run’, since 70% of the course lies within our parish.



Near Moorcroft Lodge - 1978

The college was founded in 1865; initially, runs were known as paper chases and could go on for up to twenty miles. Many of these passed through Colwall (and Hope End in particular) but the tensions that developed with the local farmers meant that a route was needed that caused less friction. In 1879, the first race took place with the boys travelling to Ledbury from Malvern Wells by train and then running back, though the run only became an annual event in 1896. There was no fixed course until 1960; the route was a matter for each runner, but no-one could go south-east of the railway (where 90% of Colwall’s population then lived) and one could only run on tarmac for 20 yards at a time (later to become 100 yards). It is thought that no-one ever ran through a tunnel under the Malverns. Fairly soon a pattern emerged and the favoured route was to go via Petty France before following CW53 to the railway and then choosing where to pass over the Hills; initially, there were few houses in Colwall Stone and the target landmark was the prominent Spa Concert Hall at the Royal Malvern Well in Upper Colwall, above what was referred to as Brewery Hill. Colwall's expansion to the north-west of Walwyn Road led to aggravation with (in particular) those in The Crescent and 1959 was the last race where runners chose their own course. In 1960 the course

was defined and the race takes place with the kind permission of the landowners over whose land the route passes. The route enters Colwall along CW57 at (SO723403); after the **first road crossing**, it now carries on down the track before turning east to **Hope End Lower Lodge** (731407) {in the sixties and seventies it went diagonally up the hill after the road (often ploughed) before dropping down to the stream, which was forded} The route does not follow CW54 but runs parallel to it. The route now follows the road to **Moorcroft Lodge** (732423) {until the eighties, the route avoided the road going through Lodge Wood and Sparrow Hill Wood and through the fields below Old Colwall} and carries on for a little longer before striking north-east past Colwall Mill Farm to pick up CW1 which takes it to Hoe Court and then on to the **Mathon Road**.



After CW2, the route crosses **Brockhill Road** (originally known as Colwall New Road) (762442) goes up the Purlieu and then takes on CW2a, a near vertical muddy path to the West Malvern Road (767442). This, the old Brewery Hill, is known as “**The Wrecker**” and is a cruel obstacle after over 6 miles of the 8.18 mile course. The course goes along and across West Malvern Road before crossing the ridge at the **Gold Mine** (314m) (768443). At this stage the race leaves Colwall and makes its way down knee-shattering slopes to finish at the College. Until the 100<sup>th</sup> race in 1986, the race had been solely for boys; from that year Old Boys (and now Girls). The staff and parents (usually the mothers!) have taken part with a separate chute at the finish. The race is an inter-house competition for boys and girls and running vests in house colours are often worn. The number of runners has varied from 13 in 1885 to 207 in 1986. The last Colwall winner was Ben Attwood in 1999 in under 50.

minutes. The race can easily be viewed at the points in **bold** type; the 2010 race (marking the fiftieth anniversary of a fixed course) is due to start close to Ledbury Station at 3.00pm on Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, when the runners would greatly appreciate your support and encouragement.

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## THE PERRYMAN FAMILY IN COLWALL *by Elizabeth Pitkin (née Perryman)*

### Background

My father Harry Perryman, who had six brothers and two sisters, was born in Birmingham. After leaving school he served an apprenticeship as a shoe repairer. He met and married Betty in 1937 and they lived in Longbridge on the outskirts of Birmingham where he had his cobbler's shop, until the Second World War started.

In 1936, Harry's father Henry Perryman had bought a bungalow, with sufficient land to grow vegetables, at Ockeridge in Worcestershire. He and Grandma lived there with their two as yet unmarried youngest sons. In 1939 Grandfather Henry wanted the rest of the family to move away from Longbridge and the danger of bombing near the Austin Motor Works. Three more brothers and their families, including Harry and Betty, moved to the Worcester area. The eldest brother, Harold, went to live near to his work at Redditch. They were all registered as Conscientious Objectors to military service, so they were directed to work on farms, except for Harold, whose work at Nife Batteries was deemed of National Importance. Harry and Betty lived in rented accommodation next to the farm where he worked.

In 1945 after the war, Harry and Betty moved to Powick where they had a smallholding. I was four years old. My brother Henry was born in Powick in 1945. It was a lovely place for us to grow up in but Harry and Betty found it increasingly hard to get a living out of the land so in 1952 they sold up and we moved to Colwall.

### Life in Colwall

#### Chester House in 2009



Henry and I were sent to the local school but the standard of education was poor compared to our last school in Powick. Henry was sent to a private school in Ledbury and I went to Douglas House in Malvern. Later, Henry passed to the Grammar School in Ledbury and I started a two-year secretarial course in Hereford. The winter time was a great delight to us as there was so much snow that buses and trains had great difficulty getting over the hill or through the tunnel. We spent our time tobogganing on the hill above the station.

In June 1953 Harry bought our first TV set so that we could watch the Coronation. In that first summer at Colwall, with mother we met other mothers and their children at the Colwall Stone. A wagon came to take us to

fruit growing fields and we spent several days picking blackcurrants. The fruit went to the Ballard factory to make into jam. It was wonderful eating sandwich lunches sitting in the fields with hands smelling of blackcurrants.

The headmaster of the local school sometimes hired films to show at the village hall. Lots of people came to see them. Laurel and Hardy and the Fred Karno gang featured in some of the films.

Henry liked to watch the trains running at the end of the garden and he spent some time in his early years with the drivers on the footplate while they shunted the trucks in the goods yard. One time, Henry and I walked along the railway line right up to the tunnel, standing on the tracks.

Henry used to play with Peter Pedlingham who was the son of the local butcher. The boys played a lot of cricket in the yard and sometimes on their field opposite. Henry was a lot younger and sometimes got hurt playing with the older boys. It didn't put him off and he was soon out playing with them again. Peter's father would put up the meat orders for delivery on Saturdays which Peter and the boys took round on their bicycles.

Next door to the Pedlinghams were Cyril and Doris Holford. Cyril was the village barber. He only had one eye as he lost the other one while standing too close to the dartboard in a public house. Cyril and Doris were lovely people and very friendly towards us. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh toured England after the coronation and came in their car down Jubilee Drive and through Colwall. Cyril dashed forwards towards the car waving and calling and the Queen turned and smiled at us.

Our house, called Chester House, was next to the Holfords. On the other side was a family with one son who had a baker's shop where they made their own bread. Next to them was a large draper's shop run by two spinster ladies. Their young men had been killed in the First World War, so they never married.

We liked to climb the Hills. Over the station and up the hill took you out on to the Jubilee Drive right by a café called 'The Copper Kettle'. On top of Beacon Hill was a wooden building which was a café but unfortunately it is no longer there. Up the road on the left-hand side was a nursery specialising in Michaelmas Daisies which were a lively sight in the autumn.

My mother went to work in the Schweppes factory up the road on the right and we used to get a certain quota of drinks at reduced prices. Later on, when I had learned to type, I walked into the factory and asked if they had any typing jobs vacant. I typed invoices for six weeks. The Personnel Manager was the father of one of my school friends.

Mother later went to work as relief receptionist at the Park Hotel in Colwall. The hotel at that time let the local schoolchildren pay to use the swimming pool. Henry and I spent many afternoons by the pool even though it wasn't heated!

We stayed in Colwall for five years. Harry went to Bournemouth to see his sister Dora. He liked the place, found work and a flat and so Betty sold up the house and we had to move to Bournemouth.

Bournemouth became a favourite place for the rest of the Perryman family. Four of the brothers, two sisters and "Grandma" Perryman eventually moved there. Henry and his family, like me and my family and our mother Betty, have lived in Bournemouth ever since.

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## **Future Talks**

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

### **18<sup>th</sup> January 2010:**

Michael Lewis, 'Hope End House'

### **15<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Ian Rowat, 'Malvern Hills and Colwall Green'

### **26<sup>th</sup> April 2010: [AGM]**

Graham Cowan, 'Colwall Past and Present'

### **21<sup>st</sup> June 2010: (provisionally)**

Keith Duddy, 'Park Farm II'

### **20<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

James Ferguson, 'Not Just a Railway Village, 1800 – 1930'

### **17<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Tim Bridges, 'Colwall Church'

## **Finally ...**

My thanks to our contributors.

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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