

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011



Notice is hereby given that the **14th Annual General Meeting** of the Society will be held in Colwall Village Hall on **Monday 18th April 2011 at 7.30.p.m.**

Proposed Agenda.

1. Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting for Approval.
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011 & any questions.
5. Election of Officers and Committee.
6. Any other business

Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda should inform the Secretary no later than 4th April 2011.

The Officers and Committee Members retire at the AGM and are eligible for re-election. The following have indicated their willingness to stand for the year 2011/12, as indicated.

Chairman. Michael Milne.

Committee. Susan Bond.

Marion Percy.

**Treasurer &
Membership Secretary** Margaret Matthews.

Graham Cowan

Secretary. John Atkin.

Rebecca Roseff

Derek Rees.

Conrad Shail.

Any member wishing to nominate a member either for the committee or one of the officer positions should let the Secretary know by 4th April, along with the name of a seconder and the agreement of the person being proposed.
(the Secretary [REDACTED])

The annual subscription of the Society remains at £5 per person.

Hoe Court and the Binyon Connection *by Martin Colman*

A recent planning application for alterations to Hoe Court, which stands largely hidden from view at the end of its drive off the Mathon Road, included as one of the reasons for the house's status as a listed building the understanding that the poet Lawrence Binyon spent part of his childhood there. This must have puzzled those who know that Lawrence Binyon, best known, of course, for the lines from the 'For the Fallen' spoken on every Remembrance Sunday, was born in 1869, while Hoe Court did not become the home of the Binyon family until after 1920.

Lawrence Binyon was indeed a cousin of Thomas Binyon of Hoe Court, but there is no evidence that the poet ever visited Colwall.



Hoe Court 2011

Lawrence Binyon was born in Lancaster, while Thomas Binyon's family home from an early age was Henwick Grove, then a country house and estate on the edge of Worcester and today the main campus of the University of Worcester. Lawrence was a visitor to Henwick Grove from his childhood, and family visits continued throughout his life to Thomas's sisters Margaret and Guliema in Worcester.

Thomas Binyon left Worcester to become a partner in a London firm of solicitors. He retired when still young to live the life of a country gentleman, but not to Henwick Grove where his sisters were prominent figures in Worcester's public life. Instead Thomas and his family moved to Spring Grove, Bewdley, now the West Midlands Safari Park, and it was there that my mother was born in 1909 to Thomas's elder daughter Cicely.

The move to Colwall by Thomas and his wife Edith came in about 1914, and was initially to Old Colwall. Ten years later they moved from one edge of the village to the other, to Hoe Court. Throughout these years Henwick Grove remained the principal setting for family gatherings, and it would have been there rather than at Colwall that the cousins and their families would have met.

Until 1921 Hoe Court had been the home of the Raper family for two generations. They are commemorated by memorials on the north wall of the parish church and by a prominent red marble cross in the churchyard, not far from the later Binyon family graves. The Raper family also had connection with Lawrence Binyon the poet, but once again there is no evidence of a visit to Colwall.

Robert Raper of Hoe Court was not only prominent in local affairs, the first chairman of the Malvern Hills Conservators, but was also a fellow and Vice-President of Trinity College, Oxford where Lawrence Binyon was an undergraduate from 1888 to 1892. Robert Raper was an art connoisseur and a collector of pictures, and it was with his encouragement that Lawrence Binyon applied for a job with the department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum. Aided by a glowing reference from Raper he was duly appointed and spent his entire career there, writing books on both English and Oriental at the same time as achieving fame as a poet.

Hoe Court continued to be the home to Thomas Binyon's family after his death and that of his wife. It was from there that my mother was married in 1939, and it was there that my sister Rachel was born in 1947. To my regret I was a few days old before I arrived there after my birth in Malvern.

Hoe Court as I remember it in my childhood still generated its own electricity and had its own water supply pumped up to tanks in the roof. While Thomas Binyon had bought the land around the house, he did not buy Hoe Farm from the Raper's estate. This was bought by the Nicholls family, to be followed by the Fitzers.

The last of the Binyons of Henwick Grove, Worcester died in 1941, a year before Lawrence Binyon himself died at his home in the Thames valley. Family contact continued with his wife and daughters, and I was invited to from Oxford to Lawrence's home, still largely unaltered twenty years after his death. Henwick Grove, as the Binyon family wished, has since been of great benefit to the City of Worcester, developing from a Teacher Training College specialising in agriculture into a thriving university.

The name of another of Thomas Binyon's cousins may be known to local people. Brightwen Binyons, Thomas's first cousin, was the architect responsible in 1892 for the design of the Barrett Browning Institute in the centre of Ledbury with its familiar clock tower, now used as a library. Once again all the evidence is that meetings between cousins would have happened at Henwick Grove rather than Colwall.

Elizabeth Binyon died at Hoe Court in 1967, and the family link was severed a year later when Hoe Court was sold. Dr. Colin Phipps and his family lived there briefly before moving to Mathon Court, to be followed by the Burdett family. Hoe Court is now to be the home of Annabelle Haywood.

St James Church Colwall in Context by Tim Bridges

This short history is annotated with notes of pictures shown at a talk on 17th January 2011. The list is published at the request of several people present at the talk who expressed their interest in visiting the many comparative buildings. All the comparative examples are in *italics*, and places are in Herefordshire unless specified.



The site of the church has a history stretching back to Anglo-Saxon times if not before, with possible remains of earlier buildings. Colwall was within the parish of a minster church at Ledbury.

Hope Bagot (Clee Hill, Shropshire) - Early church site of probable pre-Christian origin beside spring and yew tree.

Acton Beauchamp - Shaft of carved Anglo-Saxon cross reused as lintel, [Cropthorne (Worcestershire) has the head of an Anglo-Saxon cross].

The earliest structural feature is the Norman south doorway. The chancel is recorded as having two Norman windows before the 19th century rebuilding.

Kilpeck - Elaborate Norman doorway carved by masons of the 'Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture'.

Heath Chapel (Corvedale, Shropshire) - Unaltered small Norman church.

Tarrington - Norman windows to chancel.

NB. There is the head of a Norman window preserved in the west wall. [A similar example can be seen at Queenhill (Worcestershire) in the wall of the nave].

The nave was extended with the south aisle with its fine Early English style arcade and the tower in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Much Marcle - Early English style arcades.

Bosbury - Detached medieval tower.

Kinnersley - Robust defendable medieval tower.

Mathon - Tower heightened in 15th century like Colwall.

14th century Decorated style nave windows were reset in the north aisle in the 19th century

Ledbury - Fine Decorated style windows.

The nave and south aisle have fine 14th century timber roofs

Shelwick Manor (Landmark Trust) near Sutton St Nicholas - one of many examples with similar late medieval timberwork.

The medieval interior would have been decorated with wall paintings, stained glass and floor tiles. It would have been furnished with screens and other pieces of which just the 13th century font survives.

Kempley (Gloucestershire) - St Mary's Church in the care of English Heritage has superb 12th century wall painting.

Castle Frome - Norman font carved by masons of the 'Herefordshire of Romanesque Sculpture'.

Dilwyn - Medieval screens.

St Fagans (Cardiff Wales) - Reconstructed church from Llandeilo Talybont has decoration and furnishings to show how a church interior would have looked in the late Middle Ages.

Great Malvern - Medieval stained glass.

St Katherine's Hospital, Ledbury - Medieval tiles.

Ripple (Worcestershire) - Medieval miserecords carved with the Labours of the Months; the subject of the picture on the surviving medieval tile at Colwall.

The alehouse and churchyard cross are also Medieval survivals.

Cradley - Medieval parish house.

Knill - Medieval cross with head and niche.

Tyberton - Medieval cross with head, carved with crucifix.

At the reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries the church interior would have been whitewashed and refurnished with the pulpit as the dominant feature. Colwall retains its fine 17th century pulpit and memorials of the Harford and Walwyn families from this period.

St Margaret's - 17th century painted text to the walls 'Go and sin no more'; the church also contains a fine late medieval rood loft.

Wickhamford (Worcestershire) - Fine 17th century furnishings.

Abbey Dore - 17th century furnishings with carved royal arms. Colwall has a fine royal arms of Queen Anne.

Tewkesbury Abbey (Gloucestershire)- Early 19th century print to show that before 19th century restoration the interior was dominated by the pulpit and galleries.

Bosbury - 16th century Harford memorials in Classical style.

Dormington - 17th century Brydges memorial.

After much alteration and neglect in the 18th century, 19th century rectors restored the church and adapted it for Victorian 'high church' worship.

St Peter, Cheltenham (Gloucestershire) - Church by SW Daukes who designed the new rectory, now Glebe House.

Highnam (Gloucestershire) - Church designed by Henry Woodyer, architect of the rebuilt chancel at Colwall of 1865.

St Michael's College, Tenbury Wells (Worcestershire) - Woodyer designed the college for Frederick Gore Ouseley, Precentor of Hereford Cathedral.

Alvechurch (Worcestershire) - Woodyer was a pupil of William Butterfield, architect of this church.

St Giles Roman Catholic Church, Cheadle (Staffordshire) - Both were influenced by AWN Pugin, leading Gothic revivalist and architect of this church.

Welland - East window glass by Hardman of Birmingham, as at Colwall.

Newland (Malvern, Worcestershire) - Elaborately decorated Victorian interior to St Leonard's Chapel at the Beauchamp Community.

Coddington - East windows by pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones, in contrasting style to the Victorian glass at Colwall.

Tewkesbury Abbey (Gloucestershire) - Victorian restoration work carried out by builder Thomas Collins who worked on north aisle at Colwall for Micklithwaite in 1880.

Much Marcle - Fine glass by Charles Eamer Kempe, similar to the Bright windows in the north aisle at Colwall.

The 20th century has brought changes to the interior of Colwall church with reordering to suit modern needs, and the screen of 1906 moved to the west end. The Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries also has interesting links to Colwall churches.

Hereford Cathedral - Elaborate Victorian screen removed in the 1960s and now in the Victoria and Albert Museum London.

Dodford (Worcestershire) - Fine Arts and Crafts church contemporary with the church of Good Shepherd, Upper Colwall.

Llanfair Kilgeddin (Monmouthshire) - Sgraffito wall decoration of 1892 by Heywood Sumner, son of Mary Sumner married in Colwall in 1848.

Future Talks

18th April 2011 [AGM]:

Elizabeth Lloyd : 'The Bright Family of Colwall'

23rd January 2012: (provisionally)

John Bishop: TBD

19th September 2011:

Rebecca Roseff: 'Colwall Chase'

23rd April 2012 [AGM]:

David Lovelace: 'The Battle of Colwall Park'

Finally ...

My thanks to our contributors. Articles on Colwall related subjects (however tenuous!) are always welcome.

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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