

NEWSLETTER

Colwall Village Society

FEBRUARY 2012

Revealing Our Heritage

I hope you had a **Very Merry Christmas** and will have a **Happy New Year!**

COLWALL SINGERS by Liz Boocock

On the 13th December 2011 Colwall Singers gave their last Concert in aid of Borrowers Toy Library. After 44 years of singing the Singers have finally decided to call it a day. The Choir, which was formed by Vera Jarvis in January 1968, has raised more £11,000 over the years, £5,000 of this in the last five years. The first concert ever given raised £12 16s 0d for the Save the Children Fund. All concerts were given in aid of Charities in the main were local.

At the inaugural meeting of the Choir there were 18 members who were accompanied by Mrs. Mary Twinn. Shortly after, Mrs. Twinn moved from the district and her place was ably taken by Mrs. Audrey Speechley, who remained with the Choir until she retired three years ago and Margaret Roy stepped into the breach. Membership of Choir grew to 28 during the first year and this remained the average membership over the years.



The Colwall Singers, with Conductor Gillian Hopwood, proudly display the Evangeline Anthony Cup

By 1970 Colwall Ladies Choir, as it was originally known, won the Advanced Class at Hereford Music Festival

In 1977, Sylvia Jarvis had to say goodbye to her Choir when her husband had to move away because of his age. She left the Choir in the capable hands of Ron Ward who, with a break, has remained with the Choir ever since. Mr. Baber and Mrs. Hopwood covered the conductor's place for the couple of years Mr. Ward was away.

The Choir has sung in many and varied places from Churches, Church Halls, Old People's Homes and even in a tent in the middle of a field! They have supported local events in the village and given joint concerts with other choirs.

The Colwall Singers, formerly Colwall Ladies Choir, with Conductor Mr. Ron Ward (September 1987)



It was a hard decision for the Choir members to make to disband the Choir, but they felt the time was right. A few younger voices were joining even in view of the upsurge in choral singing at the moment.

The Choir wanted their last concert to be a happy event, which celebrated the life of the Choir. After the concert Ann Lechmere, the only founder member remaining, gave a brief history of the Choir. Following this the chairman thanked Ron Ward and Margaret Roy for all they had done for the Choir over the years, and presented them with a gift from the members. Finally she thanked the audience, many of whom had been faithful supporters over 70 years and asked them all to partake of the refreshments and cake, which had been provided by members of the choir.

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Talk on Colwall Park

Our talk on January 30th 2012 we heard from David Lovelace about the fascinating stories surrounding Colwall Park. During David's very professional and interesting presentation he read extracts from the transcription of a document concerning the dispute between the then current Bishop of Hereford and the grandson of the previous Bishop. It is so full of interesting detail that I thought it merited reproducing here. The slide of the entrance to Colwall Park (the Flan

To the Queen's most excellent Majesty

Humbly complaining [etc] to your gracious majesty your loyal and obedient servant John Scory and John Lovell: that whereas Edward Fox's sometime bishop of Hereford being in possession of Colwall Park by a deed dated July 29 Henry VIII [1537] leased to John Bridges his whole park of Colwall, as it was then enclosed and imparked, 40 years for £13 6s 8d a year, John Bridges assigned this lease to William Elton on whose death William's wife Margery, as executrix of William's will, became the occupier of the park. Margery then married Edward Threlkold so they became the leaseholders. When the late Reverend John Scory² became Bishop of Hereford he acquired the reversion of the lease of Colwall Park and by a deed dated 3rd November 6 Elizabeth [1564] Edward and Margery rendered their lease to Bishop Scory who then, by an indenture dated 20th June 14 Elizabeth [1572], leased the park with its herbage and pannage to Silvan Scory, his wife Alice (who since died) and John Scory³, one of the present complainants, for the life term of the longest living of them for £13 6s 8d a year. Silvan and John had been enjoying full freehold possession of the park until the interruption and forcible entry hereafter specified. In March 38 Elizabeth [1596] your complainant John Scory leased the park to the other plaintiff John Powell who with his servants



The Flap Gate Entrance to Colwall Park (with Committee Member Rebecca Rosoff)

cattle have been occupying and grazing the park in a very quiet manner until the 6th and 7th July 1596 when at night very early in the morning before sunrise John Abrahall, Anthony Nott and James Lovell with about 12 others, in a very unlawful riotous and disordered manner, assembled themselves near the park having upon them bills, pikes, axes, javelins and other unlawful weapons. Being so armed they riotously and forcibly came to the enclosure or pales of the park along a quantity of its length of which they violently, forcibly and riotously broke open and pulled down and entered into the park and, with carriages brought either into the park or near to the pales or enclosure, carried away out of the park a great quantity of the grass cut down by your subject the plaintiff to be made into hay, and also carried away the pales rails and posts they had violently pulled down and carried to the house of one John Farley who is the receiver of the grass, pales, rails and posts and entertained and received into his house the said unlawful,

these persons have often in the last two years have made unlawfully assemblies, confederacies, conspiracies and sultations not only for pulling down the pales etc of the park and troubling your subjects quiet passion therein but for the spoiling of all such cattle as should be laid in the park and of such person in the park on behalf of your subject. By such means many vagrant and disordered persons have been with all as namely William Wood and Charles Mason and others and some have been paid with a promise of further payment to make unlawful attempts against your subjects in the park and these people threaten and menace your subjects in such sort that they dare not manage⁴ enjoy the park nor use it for their best profit nor receive the park's profits for fear these named. Also they have ved amongst themselves not to divulge any of these acts, nor the names or dwellings of any of them lest their ordered doings and outrages should come to light. To this effect these people have conveyed away one Martin rrgan who lives with the present Bishop⁵and James Stone, two of the principle rioters and agents, so that your subject is unable to serve process upon them to answer for their misdemeanours which they covertly and very ningly do shadow under the name of the reverend father in God with present Bishop of Hereford vaunting and ng that all whatsoever they and other rioters have committed in the name, right and title of the Lord Bishop and virtue of a letter of attorney under his hand and seal made upon a certain decree in the exchequer chamber on the alf of the reverend father against Silvan Scory, Thomas Cave and Anthony Harford which did nothing to concern your subjects now complaining. In consideration of all which premises and for as much as in those parts so far remote n this City of London there are a great number of very disordered persons and much given to brawls, fighting, rrelling and bloodletting and upon small occasions many murders and manslaughters have within the last 20 years n there committed, and for that if the said riots, routs, unlawful assemblies, confederacies, conspiracies and other demeanours aforesaid should go unpunished the same would greatly embolden the rioters and riotous persons to nmit the like misdemeanours and for that severe punishment of the said misdemeanours would be greatly to the or of such malefactors from committing the like offence hereafter may it therefore please your majesty to grant highness, most gracious writ of subpoena to be directed to John Abrahall, Anthony Nott and James Lovell nmanding them to obey under a pain at a certain day to come and appear in your majesties high court of star mber before the lords and others of your majesties council to answer the premises and abide such further order our majesties council shall take in the premises and your subject shall for your majesties long and prosperous reigr r this realm as their bound duty is.

the manuscript uses the word 'manure'. OED: Late Middle English "1. the work with the hands 2. to hold occupy, administer, manage"
Robert Westphaling took over as Bishop of Hereford from John Scory in 1585 and continued until 1602.

Future Talks

April 2012 [AGM]:

uncan James: 'Some Old Properties in Colwall'

ongst those covered may be: Peatty's Cottage, Maple ise, Winterslow and Upper House Farm.

October 2012:

n Bridges: 'Coddington Church'

January 2013:

rk Archer: 'The Restoration of Perrycroft'

22nd April 2013:

Dr Janet Cooper: 'The Work of the VCH (Victoria County History) at Eastnor'

16th September 2013:

Amanda Simons: 'British Camp'

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

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

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