
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Annual Review

April 2003

Chairman's Report

The Society's Jubilee Project was very well received. A souvenir Parish Pictorial Map was produced for complimentary distribution to all households in the parish. The map was made from a set of original watercolours by Ron Hill of the Colwall settlement against the background of the Hills. These were assembled on computer by Graham Cowan and special illustrations and emblems superposed, to produce a CD from which the map could be printed. This process posed considerable challenges for artist and technologist alike. The whole project was carried through by David Ward. Thanks and congratulations to them all on its successful completion.

The distribution of the map raised much interest in the society. Membership reached 167, the highest ever. There were record attendances at our meetings, starting with the AGM and slide show 'Colwall Then and Now' devised by Jim Savage and Graham Cowan. The guest speakers at our open meetings in September and January were Jim Tonkin, a mediaeval buildings specialist, talking about Herefordshire vernacular buildings and Nigel Bailey of the Hereford and Gloucester Canal Trust who described the restoration work being undertaken on the canal.

Regular events included the annual village Spring Clean in April - this year's is on April 5th.

The Society took part in Colwall Jubilee Fun Day with a treasure hunt based on the Parish Map and had a display stand at the Horticultural Society's Annual Show.

The committee welcomed Marion Percy as a co-opted member with a particular interest in the history of Evendine Lane. Special tribute must be paid to two of the Society's founding officers who are retiring from the committee at the end of this year. Joyce Ingledew has been an efficient and most welcoming Membership Secretary throughout a time in which membership has increased steadily. Derek Turner has provided both enthusiasm for history projects, and wise guidance as Treasurer in keeping the finances on a sound basis. He is unable to continue owing to decreasing mobility, and we give him our very best wishes for his recovery.

Finally, I am standing down as Chairman after five years in office. It has been a privilege to be a part of establishing this new and successful community group. The resulting activities and opportunities have been continually interesting and enjoyable. My appreciation and thanks go to all members of the committee during my period of office, and to all members for supporting the society.

Susan Bond

Parish Pictorial Map

David Ward

The Jubilee Map was finally completed and distributed to Parish homes last autumn. Just over 1000 issues and sales were achieved and over 60 copies were framed by our local picture framer Richard Bennett. Large scale versions were given to the three local schools, and for display in the Jean Simon Room, the Ale House, the Surgery and the Millennium Room.

The map was based on over 180 aerial photographs taken in March 2002 when the weather finally allowed

the helicopter flight to take place. These photographs are a valuable addition to the archive, and are proving useful in a number of ways.

We are looking into ways of making copies of individual prints available for residents who would like a picture of their own part of the parish. Unlike the map itself the set covers the whole of our extensive territory. Details will be published in a few weeks time.

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Colwall Then and Now

Jim Savage and Graham Cowan

At this year's AGM we will be presenting our third and final slide show depicting Colwall Then and Now. The series comprises various views around the village copied from old postcards taken largely around the early 1900's, compared with current photographs taken from the same angle. There are about 200 slides in the collection and they will be put onto a CD-Rom disc for the archives in the Millennium Room to be available for viewing on the archive computer. We recently were given access to a private collection of postcards of Colwall and Malvern belonging to Mrs Verbist who came to Colwall as a small child and lived in the village for many years. We are in the process of making a CD album of these but currently it has worked out at nine 700 MB discs just to copy them and they have yet to be titled and indexed so it will be a little while before it is available for viewing. The aerial photographs taken for the Parish Map have also now been copied onto disc at a high resolution and will be available for viewing at the Millennium Room facility.

The 'then and now' project will also include a large number of photographs sent in by residents for the Colwall 2000 Domesday Book at the turn of the Millennium so we will have quite a comprehensive photographic record of Colwall Parish during the final 100 years of the 20th Century.

History projects

Derek Lewis

One of the continuing results the Society can achieve is the publication of historical projects – the outcome of steady research into aspects of Colwall's past. The fifth of these is likely to be ready soon – Ann and Robert Sealy's study of the James Family and the building company. The history of Evendine Lane is one that Marion Percy is keen to work on depending on getting some spare time and some assistance. Material is also being collected on individual

reminiscences which could make a volume of 'voices from the past'.

We need new subjects and enthusiasts to work on them and see them through. Or perhaps you have come across a source of information on past village activities or personalities which, now we have the Millennium Room accommodation for the archive, should not be lost. We shall be pleased to hear from you.

Archives

Joyce Ingledew

Those members working with the archives have had an active year. The County Archivist and her assistant very kindly paid us a personal visit to advise us and have been very supportive and helpful. The completion of the Millennium Room has provided us with a base and storage space in the form of a locked cupboard and map chest for our collection. And the society has made financial provision for the supply of practical storage materials so that our goods can be saved from deterioration.

The collection of material is ongoing. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. A whole range of things have been brought in, among them press cuttings, photographs, maps, posters, even a golf ball, but a special mention must be given to the fascinating tapes that Mary Ritchie has recorded of her interviews with elderly Colwallians.

The work at the moment concerns the compilation of a catalogue for members of the public to consult. It is intended to make this available both as printed lists and in searchable form on computer. Future work will be directed towards indexing every photograph, picture and illustration in the collection.

The archive is being consulted by those interested in their own particular research projects, and is open every Friday morning or at other times by arrangement: contact Susan Bond [REDACTED] in the first instance.

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Colwall Village Society Committee 2002/2003

Chairman:	Susan Bond	Committee:	Michael Burke
Vice-Chairman:	Derek Lewis		Graham Cowan
Secretary:	Lis Kirkness		Marion Percy
Treasurer:	Derek Turner		David Ward
Membership Secretary:	Joyce Ingledeu		
