
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

September 2007

Next meeting on Monday 24 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

'Not just a railway village'

How much of the history of Colwall can be seen in its landscape? There are villages in England that have moved once, or even twice, but not many settlements have moved three times as Colwall has. The final move towards the railway is a small part of a history going back through medieval times to the Iron Age.

At our next meeting Dr James Ferguson will be giving an illustrated talk about the early history of Colwall as shown in the landscape. He first began to appreciate how much evidence there is from walking around the parish. When the Village Society was formed he volunteered to produce a set of walks to develop historical interest in Colwall and several of these have since been published as 'Discovery Walks' by the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Dr Ferguson continues to spend a lot of time walking the parish and its surroundings. If you have a Parish Footpath map you may find it useful to bring it with you to refer to after the talk.

Admission is free for members, £2 for visitors. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Churchyard recording complete

On 1st September a small group from the Herefordshire Family History Society, helped by 2 local residents, completed the recording of monumental inscriptions in the churchyard up to the end of 1949. It has taken 6 visits over a period of 3 years – several quiet afternoons on hands and knees reading the stones in the company of a few little frogs and rather more ants from the occasional anthill. The records will now be typed and checked before being produced on CD in about a year's time.

For the record – Colwall railway bridge

In August 2005 we noted that the road bridge over the railway was narrowed to one lane, and permanent traffic lights installed for the first time in Colwall. On 15 August 2007 the bridge was completely closed following an inspection by Herefordshire Council which raised safety concerns. It was opened for pedestrians only on 5th September, the first day of term at Colwall CE Primary School.

More details and current news on the Parish Council web site: www.colwall.net

From the Archive

The old organ at the Wyche Free Church

From a pamphlet written by Ken Gaines, one of the Elders of the church who has worked for the famous organ firm of Nicholsons.

The organ was built in its present form in 1924 by Rest Cartwright of London as a 'stock job' (parts of older organs). It appears to have been based mainly on an organ built around 1878 by Trustam & Son of Bedford who seem to have used an even earlier soundboard – now estimated to be approximately 200 years old. It was supplied in 1924 to Farnborough Gospel Mission, whose choirmaster noticed it while on a visit to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley. An electric blower was fitted in 1951 and the organ received a cleaning and light overhaul in 1967.

It was acquired by Wyche Free Church in 1982. A thorough overhaul in 1995 included repair to the pipework, refurbishment of the action and soundboard renovation. The tonal qualities and neat appearance of this small organ have been appreciated by discerning experts.

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Milkmen in Colwall

Today there are two large dairies offering doorstep delivery, and supplies of milk in plastic bottles at the village shop. Fifty years ago fresh milk from working farms was delivered all around the village by many different milkmen. This list was kindly supplied by Les Hughes.

Mr P Powell	Knell Farm, Upper Colwall	Mr John Harris	Upper Mill Farm
Mr Harry Goodwin	Brockhill Farm	Mr George Bishop	Cummins Farm
Mr P Pickets	Hoe Court Farm	Mr G Pedlingham	Lower House Farm
Mr Bill Wall	Mathon Road	Mr Owen	Old Castle Farm
Mr H Pedlingham	Hardwick Meadows		
Mr Bill Sears & Mr Jack Sears	Colwall Park Farm		
Mr J Roberts	I think he bought his milk, I expect from Brockbury. He was not himself a farmer.		
Mr Archer	Brockbury. He was a modern farmer, and started milk production in a large way. His milk was collected by milk tanker.		
Mr J Hinch	Netherpath Farm. Milk collected by milk tanker.		

Archive news

We are grateful for the following donations to the archive:

3 original photos of the procession and ceremony at the dedication of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Upper Colwall, 1910.

Copies of 3 photos of the Flower Show 1948, and a photo of a meet of Ledbury Hunt 1910 showing the Temperance Hotel and the Post Office.

'The Story of Ebrington Road', 1851-2006, compiled by Mary Read. Several Colwall people are mentioned including members of the Ballinger family who had connections with the village. John Ballinger founded the Perseverance Lodge of the Oddfellows.

'A Light on the Hill' The History of the Wyche Free Church 1856 – 2006, by Valerie Goodbury.

Minute Books of the Wyche and Upper Colwall Ratepayers Association, 1969-1988.

Invoices and receipts from Lockyears Garage and other village shops, 1950's to 1980's.

Copy of a photograph of the grandstand showing spectators at Colwall Park Racecourse, 1932.

The recent flooding

The Society would like to collect records of the floods in Colwall in July for the archive. If you have any photographs or written accounts that you would be willing to donate, or would lend for copying, please hand in to Colwall Library marked Village Society Archive, or email: villagesociety@colwall.info

Archive Group

The Archive Group hope to meet regularly in the autumn in the Millennium Room, either on Tuesday or Wednesday morning or afternoon, depending on library opening hours. We aim to sort through all our holdings to check on their condition, decide on any items which should be copied or which might be bound for easier access, check and correct the computer catalogue, and separate out photographs for separate indexing. If you would like to help and are not already in touch please contact Susan Bond.

Contributions, corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome.

Newsletter editor: Susan Bond, [REDACTED] or c/o Colwall Library
