
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

September 2008

Next Meeting - Monday 22nd September 2008

The next open meeting is on Monday 22nd September in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm and will be a talk by Mike Paulson on the Worcester to Hereford Railway. He will look at the planning, development and construction of the railway between about 1845 and 1861; at some of the difficulties that had to be overcome; at the significant probability that it might not have come through Colwall at all, and at some of the key figures involved, including Stephen Ballard I and John Haywood of Hope End (whose daughter founded the Mothers' Union). Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.

Colwall Station

Recently the two buildings on the "hills" side of the line have been repainted, thus obliterating the graffiti which had defaced the walls for many years. In addition, Network Rail has tidied up the track by removing a large quantity of rubbish.

Two plaques have been erected - one to record the work of the Colwall WI who maintained the station gardens from 1983 to 2007 (this has been placed on the platform next to the existing plaque honouring the last stationmaster for Colwall). The second plaque placed in the garden border outside the station records the fact that Malvern Water (in partnership with Colwall Parish Council) has kindly agreed to sponsor the future upkeep of the gardens.

Dame Laura Knight

We have agreed to put a commemorative plaque on the front of The Colwall Park Hotel to honour Dame Laura Knight. Mr Iain Nesbitt, owner of the Hotel, has kindly agreed to assist in the costs involved.

Laura and Harold Knight visited the Malvern area almost continually from the 1920s to the mid 1960s, staying in the area permanently throughout the Second World War. Laura Knight and her husband stayed and entertained in The Colwall Park Hotel for most of the summer months and sometimes longer from 1947 to 1961. Laura painted many works of the surrounding countryside around Colwall, some of which were exhibited at The Royal Academy and the Royal Watercolour Society. Laura painted some of her portraits within the Hotel. The oil painting, The Pool, exhibited at The Royal Academy in 1959, depicts the Hotel's old swimming pool that was used by villagers. Harold Knight died at the Hotel on 3rd October 1961.

Aunt Alice

As you may be aware, extensive repairs (by the original makers of the clock) are underway to put Aunt Alice, (and particularly the clock faces and motion works) into a good condition. The Parish Council has invited contributions towards the cost - circa £6,000 - and the Society has made a donation of £50.

Apple Festival

An autumn apple festival will take place at the Downs School on 18th October 2008, where apparently presses will be available for fruit pressing and juicing.

Colwall Cricket Club

Congratulations to the Club on gaining promotion to Division One of the Worcestershire League. In its decisive victory on 30th August 2008, 15 year old Odge Davey scored an unbeaten 105!

Litter Pick – Saturday 25th October 2008 [09.30 – 10.45]

Volunteers (aged 18 and over) who are willing to assist should meet, suitably attired (stout footwear and protective gloves), in Station Approach at 09.30. They must be vigilant as to any risk that may be encountered, particularly regarding the highway. In places that are not easily accessible, no attempt should be made to collect litter. High visibility vests must be worn and these will be made available together with litter pickers. Colwall Free Church will offer tea and biscuits from 10.45 onwards.

Archive

We store our collection of archive material in the Millennium Room and have decided to catalogue all the items so that eventually they will be accessible online. We will keep you informed of progress.

Society Logo

The winner of the competition for a new logo for the Society will be announced at the meeting on 22nd September 2008 and the logo itself will be available on display.

1881 Census

We intend to collate the records for people either registered as residing in Colwall or registered in UK as being born in Colwall as of the 1881 Census day. These should be available for access on the Society's computer (in the Millennium Room), after our "expert" has completed the necessary technical work.

When Do You Like A Cup Of Tea Or Coffee?

We have always served refreshments after the lecture has ended, but there has been a suggestion that many would prefer to have them before, i.e. from 19.00 onwards. We will take a vote on the 22nd September to allow you to decide which alternative is most suitable

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust

Under the direction of the Trust, sites are chosen which will become Earth Heritage Champions Projects. The objectives of the project are to involve people in the local communities in the two counties in monitoring, conserving and utilising their own local sites of geological and landscape importance, along with options for promoting the project and ways of seeing 'Champions'. This will give local groups the opportunity to learn about geo-conservation issues and to become actively involved in conserving and utilising the sites for educational and/or recreational purposes. Two geological sites have currently been chosen which are in our area – Gardeners Quarry in Jubilee Drive and Brockhill Quarry & Parkwood.

Future Talks

19th January 2009 - Paul Picton. Old Court Nurseries/Picton Garden

21st April 2009 - Freda Ballard. The Ballard Family

21st September 2009 - Provisionally: Paul Remfrey, The Herefordshire Beacon.

January 2010 - Provisionally: Keith Duddy, Park Farm II.

Suggestions

If you have any suggestions for future talks and/or speakers, please contact a member of our committee, and we will investigate!

And finally...

Newsletter Distribution

In order to reduce the Society's printing and postage costs for newsletters, AGM agenda and other similar documents, we think it would be a good idea to distribute them electronically as far as possible. If you are willing to receive documents in electronic form, please email cvsnewsletter@colwall.info. The formats we intend to use are PDF and Microsoft Word (XP version) DOC.

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

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