

Colton History Society

Parish Assembly Report

8th April 2010

Colton History Society is looking forward with enthusiasm to it's eighth year and the committee is pleased to see support for the Society continuing to grow. Our regular monthly meetings are well supported by parishioners with numbers attending regularly approaching forty or so. On occasions when we have a speaker of particular interest the number attending can be considerably more.

Eight speakers visited us last year, each giving an illustrated presentation on a variety of subjects ranging from The History of the Staffordshire Oatcake and The Hixon Rail Disaster to a talk entitled Dying to Meet You which recounted the history of the undertakers profession.

Members also enjoyed two outings during the year. Our first being to Tutbury Castle where we were given a Costume Audience with King Charles II by Dr Gareth Williams of British History Museum, Gareth has a special interest in Staffordshire history. Following our Audience members retired to the tea rooms for afternoon tea and scones.

Our second visit was to Ingestrie where we enjoyed a picnic lunch on the lawns followed by a visit to Ingestrie Hall before moving on to St Mary the Virgin Church. The church is a Grade I Listed Building completed in 1676, and reputed to be designed by Christopher Wren. Our hosts for the afternoon were Mr Tony Stubbs and Mr Trevor Field-Williams both of whom gave us an exceptionally informative and interesting afternoon.

2009 also saw the Society complete two major projects.

The Medieval Settlement Survey was undertaken by the History Society in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council Archaeology Dept. Professor John Hunt of Birmingham University was commissioned to review work produced by our Society and validate it with his own research. The objective of the project was to identify matters the Society could develop as future projects and to provide Staffordshire County Council with an assessment of the archaeological sensitivity of the settlement area in order that it might inform the future decisions of the County's development control team.

Our other major project completed in 2009 was the Colton Time Capsule. As part of this project every home in the Parish received a survey to enable us to build a picture of the community in 2009. The school was also involved from an early stage and amongst the contributions from the school were open letters written by every pupil to the villagers of Colton in 2110. The letters described the children's life at home, school and play and sent good tidings to the future generations. A host of artefacts reflecting our lives in the 20th and 21st century were packed in a specially commissioned Lead Casket which was buried in the grounds of St Mary's Church on Thursday 12th November when all the school children, their teachers and a great number of villagers turned out to participate in the ceremony.

In bringing the year to a close we produced two all new D.V.D's for showing at our Christmas meeting. One recording the 1997 Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the other a compilation of festivals and village events from the 1970's and '80's.

The committee has a packed calendar for the future with bookings through to autumn 2011. Next year will see members taking a guided tour of Lichfield Cathedral and in September we have a costume Audience with King Henry VIII in the village hall when we will be inviting non members and neighbouring history societies to join us.