

Colton History Society

Time Capsule Project

Colton History Society assembled a collection of documents, images and everyday items reflecting village life in the late 20th Century and before. They have been deposited with the wish that villagers recover them 100 years hence in 2110.

Dear Reader,

If you are reading this letter we can only assume that you have some interest in the history of Colton and you are accessing the Colton Parochial Records.

We have placed these documents on file with the Staffordshire Records Office with the expectation that they will be helpful to the parishioners of Colton near Rugeley in recovering the Time Capsule deposited at St Mary's Church by the Colton History Society.

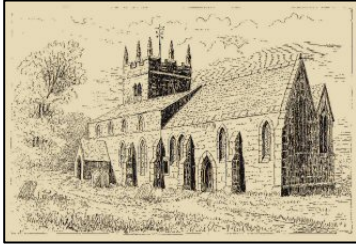
It is our wish that the Capsule be recovered in 2110.

On the 12th. November 2009 a time capsule was buried in the churchyard of St Mary's Parish church in Colton. We are hoping that it will remain buried for 100 years from that date. The Time Capsule was organised and assembled by Colton History Society. The capsule is in the form of a lead box that has been welded to seal it tight in the hope that the contents will remain in good condition. It contains a variety of artefacts and information that we have collected together reflecting the age we live in and life in Colton. A list of its contents is deposited with this letter.

Although it was organised by the History Society it very much represents the community of Colton in 2009. Many people have contributed to its contents in one way or another. All the different organisations that flourish in the village have contributed information about themselves to give the reader of 100 years time some flavour of the activities which take place. The children of St. Mary's school have also contributed to the contents and will hopefully give the reader of the future some insight into what it was like to be a schoolchild in 2009.

On the day it was buried it was a pleasant, mild, Autumn morning. There were lots of people present to watch the capsule being placed in its burial spot including all of the children from the school. The Chairman of the Parish Council Mr. Tony Hill, gave a short speech and then deposited the first shovel of earth on top of the capsule. All the schoolchildren then also placed a shovel full of soil over the capsule. The occasion was a very happy one with a real sense of community spirit.

Our hope is that it remains buried for 100 years and that it will give those who open it the same amount of pleasure it has given the residents of Colton on assembling and burying it.



Colton History Society

Time Capsule Project

As we bury this time capsule Colton History Society has been in existence for seven years. The History Society comprises of some forty members meeting once a month in the village hall where we have invited guest speakers and in the summer months we embark on a number of field visits.

The Society has been able to draw on many records and documents deposited in the Staffordshire Record Offices to help build up an understanding of the history of the village that we can trace back to Anglo Saxon times.

In particular it was the work of Frederic Bonney and the Rev Parker in the late Victorian era that inspired the society to create this 'Time Capsule' so that we, the villagers in the early 21st century could in turn leave our legacy to the villagers of the early 22nd century.

As we approach the end of the first decade of the 21st century we look forward with a degree of apprehension. Climate change, Co² emissions, environmental pollution and the uncertain future of energy supplies all combine in predications of a much changed world in 2110.

The social changes taking place now will also manifest in a U.K. with a social and religious structure much changed from the last century. We think at this time we all share a degree of concern over the legacy we are leaving our grandchildren.

On a more positive note, when we look back over the second half of the 20th century the rate of change has been incredible. Since the end of World War II we have enjoyed a technological revolution greater than the industrial revolution in the 1800's. Technology and communications driven by computerisation has developed at an exponential rate since the 1960's. The world has become a much smaller place as a result.

This explosion in technology presents us with a real problem when we try to determine in what form we should leave information for you. Twenty five years ago personal computers and mobile telephones were things of fantasy. Now just about every adult and child has or has access to both.

With these advancements it is difficult for us to envisage technological developments in the coming twenty let alone one hundred years. This gives us a problem in deciding how we leave material for you in the future. One thing is for sure; our computer is going to look very, very strange to your eyes!

We have concluded that paper copies are the best media . However the bulk of paper limits how much we can leave. So we have compromised by leaving our more important documents as paper copies and also a notebook computer which is loaded with copies of all of our images and documents. Our hope is that the hardware and software remain intact in the capsule and that you will be able to access them. Only you will know if our hope translates into a reality.

As a society we have published a significant amount of material, with our book Colton – the History of a Staffordshire Village being the high point. Enclosed in this capsule is a copy of that book together with a copy of the Rev Parker's book Colton and the De Wastneys from a hundred years earlier, together with copies of our other printed material that the Society has produced to date.

We have also included a survey of Colton in the Medieval period that the Society commissioned Dr. Hunt of Birmingham University to undertake. He collected the documentary evidence to show that in the Medieval period Colton was a bustling, thriving borough with resident tradesmen and a market. Over the centuries we have lost all of these, in fact we no longer have a shop. However the strong community spirit of the residents still lives on.

Our hope is that you will find all the contents of great interest and that they will give you some insight into the lives and activities of the residents of Colton in 2010.

Colton History Society Committee

Gill Sykes

Bill Brown

Liz Cradock

Sonia Jenkinson

Shirley Carter

Duncan Shortland

Philip Charles

12th November 2009

Colton History Society

Time Capsule Contents

Colton History Society Documents File Vol I

Colton History Society Documents File Vol II

Colton History Society: A Collection of Writings by Society Members

Colton History Society Hard Back Book: Photograph Collection

Colton History Society. Hard Back Book: Colton History of a Staffordshire Village (2 off)

Colton and the De Wasteneys. First Edition gift to Mrs Oldham from Rev Parker

Colton History Society Time Capsule Project Village Survey publication

Staffordshire Medieval Rural Settlement Survey

Colton Register of Electors 2009

Colton Local History Booklet May 1986 (Original)

St Mary's School Parent's Information Booklet 2009

St Mary's School Head Teachers Report June 2009

Letters to 2110 Parishioners from St Mary's School pupils 2009

St Mary's Church, Parochial Church Council Report for the year 2008

St Mary's Church, Quinquennial Report for 2007

St Mary's Church, Terrier & Inventory for 2009

Open Letters & Summaries from the following 9 Village Organisations

Eleven Club	Ramblers Club	Line Dancing Club
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Friendship Club	Womens Institute	Parish Council
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Parish Lands Trust	Village Hall Admin Committee	Produce Guild
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November 2008 to October 2009 Parish News Magazines

Social Statistics publication from 1971

H.R.H Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Crown

H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II & H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother £5 coin

H.R.H. Prince Wales Wedding Crown

H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II: Complete set Threepenny Coins minted

H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II: Complete set Sixpenny Coins minted

H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II: Complete set of all £:s:d. coins minted

H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II: Complete set of first Decimal Coins minted

Road Map showing 50 miles radius of Birmingham

O.S. Map centered on Colton

Disposable camera

Digital camera

M.P.3 Player

Mobile phone

Computer floppy disc

Ladies tights

Ladies handbag and contents

Top denture plate

Disposable razor

Railway tickets

Plastic carrier bag

Colton History Society Membership Card 2009

Food shopping receipts

Utility Bills

Pack of playing cards

London Illustrated News 1957

Motor Magazine May 1960

Notebook computer loaded with all History Society electronic files

Mains charger for Notebook

Battery for Notebook

DVD player for use with Notebook (& connecting USB cable)

DVD 1 Copy of images held on file

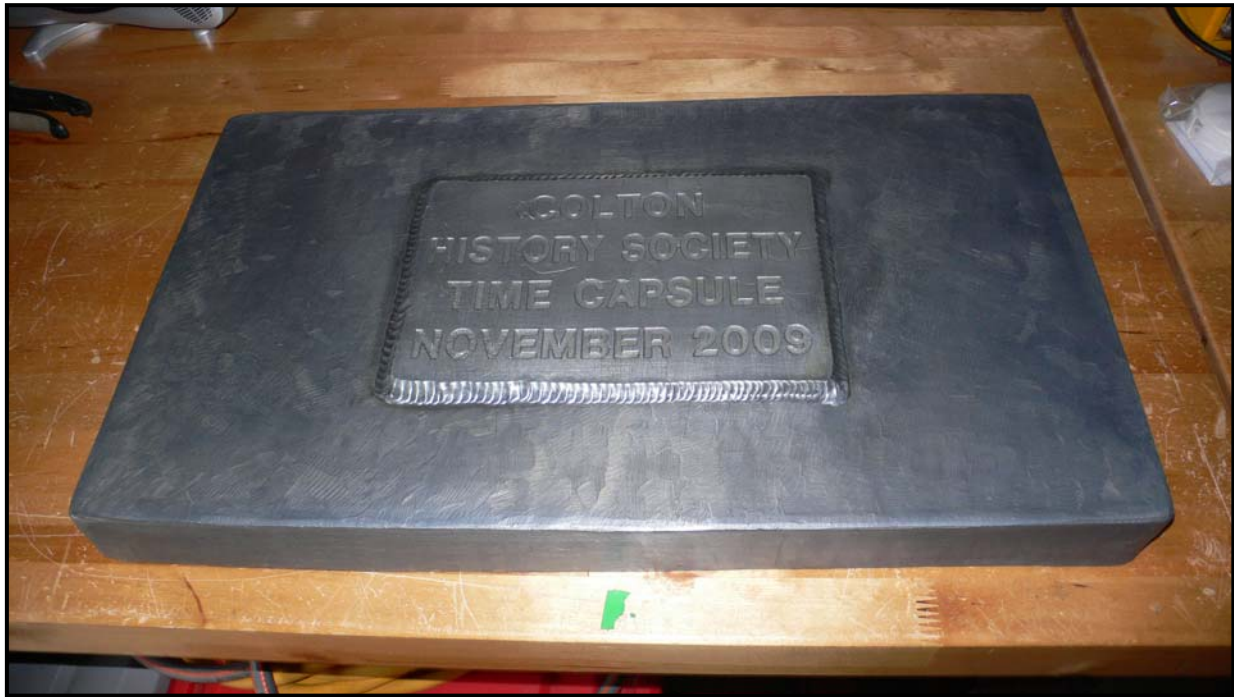
DVD 2 Copy of images held on file

DVD 3 Copy of images held on file

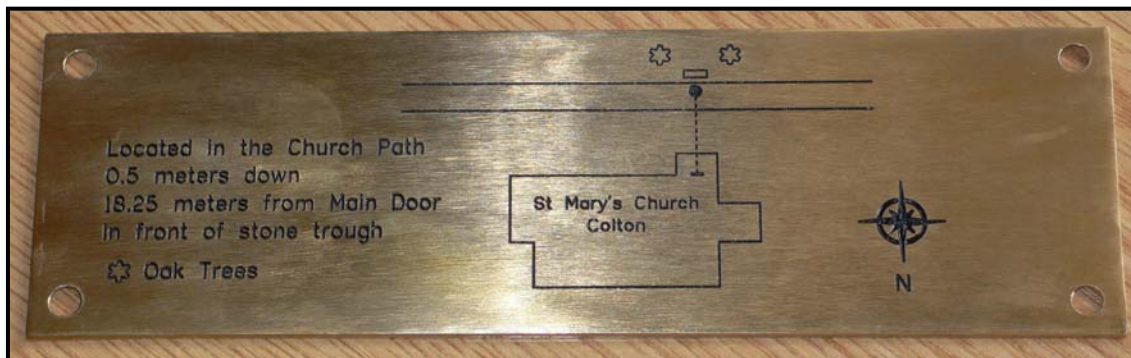
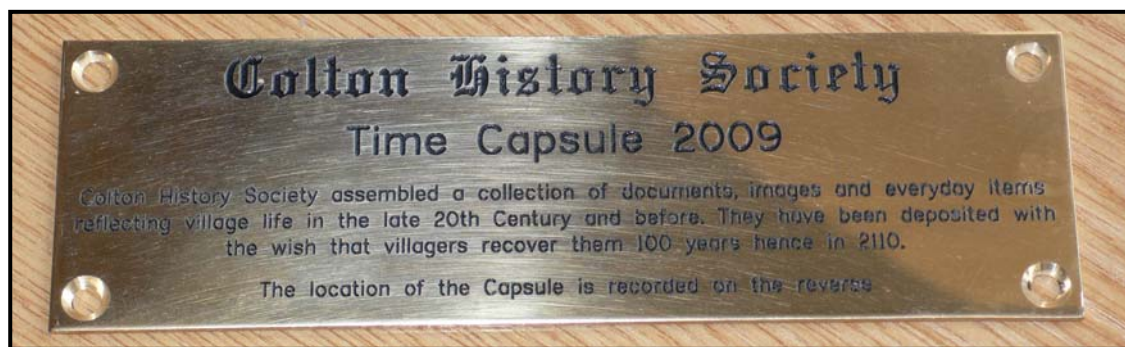
DVD 4 Copy of documents held on file

VCD Village Walk & Photograph Album

CD Audio files in MP3 format



Pictured above the lid of the lead capsule and below the front and reverse of a brass plate recording the project and location of the capsule. One brass plate is affixed to the wall inside the tower of St Mary's Church, the other in the Village Hall.





Closing the
Capsule



Below
Preparing for
the burial



Gill Sykes Society
Chairwoman (2nd left) &
Tony Hill Parish Council
Chairman & LDC
Councillor (centre)



History Society
members

Colton Parishioners



St Mary's School
children

Arriving to take part
in the ceremony







Awaiting
2110

12th November
2009



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