



Coleridge Memorial Project

at Ottery St Mary, Devon, UK

Patron: The Right Hon. The Lord Coleridge, 5th Baron of Ottery St Mary

News Update no 6

Please forward this to anyone with an interest in Ottery and / or Coleridge. Also - please stay in touch - if you read anything here that you'd like to comment on, or you want to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list, use the online comment form at www.coleridgememorial.org.uk/index.html.

SUMMARY:

- **CMP meeting on 24th Feb**
- **Poetry stones take centre stage - sculpture becomes phase 2 of project**
- **Current "Making it Local" bid deferred but MIL keen on Poetry Stones**
- **New MIL bid in preparation - March 14th deadline**
- **Section 106 bid unsuccessful**
- **Coleridge Sauce due Easter 2011 - Subscriptions now urgently needed**
- **John Pilsworth on BBC Radio Devon**

Committee

The committee has not met since September but there is a growing need to meet again soon to resolve some detailed issues on implementation and funding. This will take place on 24th February - details have been sent to members.

Policy changes

Members were advised by letter prior to the November "Making it Local" bid that the CMP chairman and secretary were about to alter the emphasis of the bid to include a much enhanced version of the poetry stones theme. The poetry stones was an idea which came out very strongly in the public consultations conducted a year ago (the report is online at www.coleridgememorial.org.uk). This last minute decision followed informal advice from a number of directions that MIL would find it difficult to fund our sculptural memorial, and was much more interested in the other parts of the bid - ie the poetry stones the exhibition and interpretation material. The letter included an apology for somewhat autocratic manoeuvring without notice or consultation. The response was, fortunately, in favour of the change. This approach is now more firmly in place as the notes below will indicate.

The sculpture is by no means abandoned, and it was retained in the November MIL bid in spite of advice to the contrary, because we believed we had added support to our previous case with a new report commissioned from **Tourism Research Solutions** (a Plymouth company), which investigated the links between the proposed memorial and tourism in Ottery. That report is now available on the website under the **DOWNLOADS** section of the **Publications** page. It is not for the fainthearted - unless you relish technical documents, but it has some key messages for tourism in Ottery (and elsewhere as it happens).

Poetry Stones

This theme emerged very strongly in the public consultation we did a year ago (see above), and we took this as our mandate to reposition the November bid. The current suggestion is to engrave Coleridge's Kubla Khan in its entirety on granite pavements or kerbs along the edge of a new walking and cycleway to the Kings School in Ottery St Mary. The new path is to be built this year, and we are in consultation with East Devon District Council to settle potential contractual and logistical issues associated with our plans. If everything runs smoothly we may be able to work along with the contractors when the path is under construction. On the other hand a retro-fit option will also be investigated.

The way the stones will look will be examined by members (and if you want to become part of that work please make sure you are a member). But a first draft has been posted on the website (Publications page), and you may, of course, comment if you wish.

We have an idea that this could be the longest line of engraved poetry in the UK, and further afield maybe...

Fund Raising

The bid to "Making it Local" for £100,000 was made in November 2010, and was designed to meet the costs of the sculpture (see above) the poetry stones and interpretation material in leaflet and exhibition format. That has now been deferred pending a new submission which focusses exclusively on the poetry stones and a broader approach to interpretation and longer term sustainability, all of it to be built more firmly into the local business environment.

The new submission is due on 14th March, so the committee have some work to do before then.

There will also be a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund very shortly, and the possibility of joint funding (as opposed to dividing up the costed items between funders) is being investigated. Having repositioned our sculpture as phase 2 of the project, the immediate funding requirement is now much lower - around £40K - but we shall still require some local fundraising.

The section 106 funding contingent on the Sainsburys development in Ottery did not come our way in the end. Sainsburys require the public art allocation to be spent on their site, so we submitted a bid with a request that they consider spending it off-site. Unfortunately the money went elsewhere.

Coleridge Sauce

Our thanks to those who have subscribed so far.

Our ambition to publish in time for Christmas was a little over optimistic and we are only now approaching completion of the booklet, with still some administrative issues to resolve. It will be available on the website for an Amazon-style "look inside" within a couple of weeks I hope, and **it is now essential that we have subscribers to support the publication, now proposed for Easter 2011.**

Subscription to Coleridge Sauce is £20 by PayPal on the website or by post please (preferred) to Coleridge Memorial Project (Sauce) c/o John Pilsworth, Fir Grove, Lower Broad Oak Road, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1UF, UK.

CMP website

A few changes in format and the inclusion of a **news and updates** page has made the website a more useful place to visit we hope. Professional website services will be considered as a part of the new bid.

Publicity

Aside from our usual exposure in the Ottery Gazette, we have sent reportsd to other local papers alerting them to the new tourism report and the poetry stones. John Pilsworth also had a slot on BBC Radio Devon. You can hear what he said by downloading the audio file from the CMP website News and Updates page)

Comments

If you have any comments about the Project or you want to help out, please use the online form at www.coleridgememorial.org.uk