



Coleridge Memorial Project

at Ottery St Mary, Devon, UK

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

News Update no 7

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 on the website www.coleridgememorial.org.uk

SUMMARY:

- **AGM**
- **Special General Meeting June 14th**
- **"Making it Local" funds suspended but hopeful of autumn resumption.**
- **New bids for HLF / MIL**
- **Coleridge Sauce delayed awaiting permissions**
- * **Local fundraising effort start in July**
- * **Literary Festival - October 2011**

Committee

The first AGM was held on 11th May It was well attended, and a new initiative was announced by Phyllis Baxter (Ottery TIC) and Jo Talbot (Ottery Town Council), who are planning a literary weekend to coincide with STC's anniversary. A draft programme is now in discussion and some details will be available soon on the CMP and Ottery Tourism websites.

Special General meeting

A technical issue with one of the provisions in our constitution (i.e. what we do with resources remaining to CMP if it is wound up) was not sufficiently watertight for the HLF lawyers, and so we were obliged to make a small change in the wording. This took place at a SGM held June 14th, which attracted spectacular attendance - clearly the shorter the meeting the more attractive it is. As it was held outside in the Seasons Cafe garden, there was no great escape, and the final details on the fundraising campaign were settled over tea, coffee and toasted teacakes.

Poetry Stones



A sample stone is shown above. This is shorter (and less deep) than any of the "real" stones but gives an excellent idea of the character of the stones and the lettering. Feel free to comment if you wish. The sample is provided by courtesy of Williams and Trigg Ltd., of Newton Abbot.

Fund Raising

Members and supporters will know that the Making it Local Project had its funds suspended a bare week before our bid was due for submission on March 15th 2011. Even so, we were advised to continue with the bid in the hope that MIL would be able to resume its work in the autumn. This later bid was completed and submitted on May 15th. Most of the seemingly endless work for these

Left: The Land of Canaan, showing the poetry stones on the left of the new pathway to Kings School. The stones vary in length from 500 mm to 1200 mm, each containing a line of poetry. The poem stretches almost 70 metres. We believe this is the longest engraving of a poem in the world.

submissions was undertaken by our Hon Sec John Pilsworth, and we are much in his debt for that.

JP has also prepared the Heritage Lottery Fund application which complements the MIL bid - each acting as match funding for the other - a very welcome cooperative approach that has been (or will be if all goes well) of great value to CMP. That bid has now also been submitted.

To secure the project, we must be successful in our bids and also raise by ourselves a minimum of £3000. This element must be completed over the summer and a campaign will be launched in Early July. The fundraising will be specifically for the Poetry Stones - with larger donations of £100 and above requested from local organisations, businesses, schools, clubs and so forth, but also with plenty of opportunity for contributions well below that amount. Donors will have their names recorded in a specially commissioned, calligraphed, case bound "Coleridge Memorial Book of Sponsors", to be kept permanently on reference in the local library.



Coleridge Sauce

Another delay unfortunately - this time because of a somewhat flaky online permissions request system at OUP. We should be ready to go very shortly. Much of the later work on this has been tackled by Nick Pruce, who was the Heritage Society's guest speaker at last year's Coleridge Anniversary Lunch (if you missed it - his paper is on the website). Our thanks are due to Nick for taking this on board.

We have very few subscriptions to date, so please consider getting your name in the front of this very entertaining and original book, that will be published in Ottery St Mary! 60pps A5 paperback, packed full of Coleridge's lighter side. **Now even better value. Subscribers get TWO copies of CS for their sub of £10.**

Subscription to Coleridge Sauce is £10 by post please 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 will be required to support the fundraising effort. Otherwise we have no huge cyberplans.

Publicity

Little to report while we gather our strength for the July campaign. This will hopefully attract some attention in the region.

Literary Festival

This new event is an initiative by Phyllis Baxter of our Tourist Information Centre, and Town Councillor Jo Talbot. The events takes place over two days in October and involves the local schools, a son et lumiere presentation at the church and plenty of talking, eating and drinking - Coleridge would approve I'm sure.

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