

News Update No 8



Coleridge Memorial Project

in Ottery St Mary, Devon, UK

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

Hon Sec: John Pilsworth, "Fir Grove", Lower Broad Oak Road, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1UF UK
Tel: 01404 812737 email: jmpilsworth@talktalk.net

Please forward this to anyone with an interest in Coleridge and / or Ottery St Mary. 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:

- Funding secured for Poetry Stones!
- Free membership until 2012!
- General Meeting set for 29th September
- Coleridge Sauce available now!
- Literary Festival - October 2011

Fund Raising

Members and supporters will be delighted to learn that CMP has secured sufficient funds to undertake the **Poetry Stones** project. We have had our applications to 'Making it Local' and Heritage Lottery Fund approved so we can now start work on implementation. We have yet to resolve a couple of issues with MIL: advise is needed on planning requirements - probably not a major hurdle, and insurance - which is not yet resolved, but we have hopes of a solution soon. We then must sign a contract with MIL to set the thing in stone (!).

Heritage Lottery Funds are also now agreed and we must now merely complete one more form prior to a 50% payment of the agreed grant into CMP's account.

We are grateful to our major funding partners for their assistance over the last year.

You will also be aware that we started a local fundraising campaign to raise 10% of the project costs, so we set a target between £3000 and £5000 to make sure we had enough (and possible a bit more than enough) to satisfy both MIL and HLF of the commitment locally to the project as a whole. The response was excellent - Ottery residents, businesses, amenity groups and individuals all gave very promptly and with great generosity, so we are already nearing the point where the campaign has achieved all that it was designed to.

The current fund stands at £4,300 - so if you want to add a little more to the pot, you are more than welcome (anyone can do this - you don't have to be an Ottergian!). This will insure that your name is recorded in our specially commissioned, calligraphed, case bound "**Coleridge Memorial Book of Sponsors**", to be kept permanently on reference in the local library. When the campaign closes (at the point it reaches £5000, or at the end of September, whichever comes first), new donors will be informed and have the opportunity of having their donation returned, or retained against a future CMP project.

Cheques should be posted to Coleridge Memorial Project, c/o John Pilsworth (Hon. Sec.) 'Fir Grove', Lower Broad Oak Road, West Hill, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1UF.

Many thanks to all our donors - this project would not have happened without you!

Coleridge Sauce

After a period of truly Coleridgean procrastination, Coleridge Sauce is now published. Copies cost £7 each (add £1.50 for post and packing - up to 2 copies are the same P&P). If you want more than 2 copies, email stcinottery@gmail.com and I'll work out the P&P cost for multiple copies. You will be able to order copies on line if our webmaster can summon the courage to attempt another PayPal effort. Suggest you check the website to see if it's an option or not. If not, Let me know what your requirements are via stcinottery@gmail.com and I'll make sure you receive your copy/ies.

Coleridge Sauce is also the theme at this year's Heritage Society's Coleridge Anniversary Lunch. Along with the other events in the Literary weekend things are shaping up well for a Coleridge Autumn. More information about the Literary event is available on the Town Council Website (see also below).

Membership of CMP

With no membership secretary (until very recently) our pursuit of annual subscriptions has been seriously lacklustre, so we have decided to hold an amnesty for the next year's membership - in effect, if you are an existing member your membership now extends to June 2012 without further subscription. Furthermore, if you gave a donation for the poetry stones in Ottery, you also get free membership until June 2012. When have you ever enjoyed such benefit previously?

New members joining between now and the end of 2011 will be eligible for annual renewal in June 2013, and we shall henceforth (if CMP remains in existence) set June as the date for annual subscription renewal.

There is a temporary problem distributing this newsupdate because not all our members have email addresses listed with us. We shall make an effort to get everyone listed before the next update, but we do not want to spend regular amounts on postage of paper copies, so it is only where we can hand deliver paper copies that non email-ites will receive the updates. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting, but to date we have had a policy of restricting membership benefits to the bare minimum in order to retain our funds for the projects in hand. Parsimony? Without doubt it is - but it serves a purpose.

Committee

A general meeting for members has been arranged for the **29th September at 7.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Broad Street, Ottery St Mary. This will be a useful forum for working out the details for installing the Poetry Stones, to think about how we can make the Stones "unveiling" an entertaining and popular event and to see how CMP might further contribute to the memory and appreciation of Coleridge in

Ottery in the longer term. Agenda and minutes of last meeting will circulate to members shortly.

Publicity

John P got another slot on BBC Radio Devon, and the Ottery Gazette gave us the front page to launch the local fundraising effort. This all went rather well. We have some time now while we gather momentum for implementation (printing and exhibition material) and the opening of the Stones next Spring.

Literary Festival

This new event is an initiative by Phyllis Baxter of our Tourist Information Centre, and Town Councillor Jo Talbot. The festival will include exhibitions in the parish church, library, information centre as well as in the town's art galleries. And there will be a reading of the *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, a collaboration which has been organised between children and adults in the library between 6 and 7pm on the Friday evening. A guided walk has also been organised to take place on the Saturday morning of the festival and will feature areas of the town particularly associated with Coleridge. All this and plenty of talking, eating and drinking - Coleridge would approve I'm sure.

For more information about the festival and details of how to get involved contact Phyllis Baxter at the information centre on 01404 813964.

Comments

If you have any comments about the Project or you want to help out, please use the online form at www.coleridgемemorial.org.uk or write to the Hon. Sec. at the address at the head of this newsletter.

'Making it Local' is a locally managed grants scheme in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB areas, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra and Leader.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since 1994 it has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4 billion across the UK. (www.hlf.org.uk)