

Coleby Village Home of Koli

Celebrating the present
Remembering the past
Planning for the future

Mike McHale (Editor)



Millennium 2000 Committee

Preface

The Millennium Committee has commissioned this book as part of the celebrations for the year 2000. It has been designed to: record the history of Coleby; take a snapshot of village life as it was at the turn of the century; and highlight some of the people who have contributed to the development of the village.

The content of the book has been dependant on the availability of material to the editorial group. This has left gaps. It is hoped that more material will become available following the publication of this book and stimulate further publications to safeguard our heritage.

Mike McHale
Editor

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Introduction

The village of Coleby has stood on Lincolnshire's limestone cliff for well over a thousand years and it is impossible to cover such a vast period of time in this present work. The following is therefore only a small selection of topics from Coleby's rich history. Inevitably there is more emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries because of the greater amount of material available.

Two miles away in Navenby, there is archaeological evidence of Neolithic or Bronze age (Circa 2000BC) settlements.¹ It is likely that Bronze age men at least walked through the parish and maybe even developed a settlement here. However there is considerably more evidence of Roman activity in the area, for example, one of the major Roman roads, Ermine Street, was routed through the parish of Coleby and still survives as a green lane, known locally as the High Dyke. Romano-British coins and pieces of pottery have also been discovered in Coleby itself. Twentieth century discoveries include a hoard of nearly 20,000 late third century coins, unearthed in 1975 by a Boston man who was later prosecuted in Lincoln Crown Court for not declaring the find¹. Several of the finds, including this large cache of coins, were dug up from the old quarries between Dovecote Lane and the Viking Way. More recently, in 1996, a small piece of Romano-British pottery was unearthed during the archaeological survey of Chestnut Paddock carried out before building work commenced² and, a year later, a Roman coin was found in a garden in the High Street. The evidence suggests therefore that there was Roman occupation of our village, possibly in the form of a small agricultural settlement.



Cliff Knowles

Roman coin found in the garden of 7, High Street, Coleby, in 1997. Bears the head of the Roman Emperor Carausius (288-293 A.D.)

The Romans withdrew from Britain in AD 407 and over the ensuing centuries other invaders took their place, leaving their mark on many regions, including Lincolnshire. For example, part of a Saxon cross shaft, found in 1879 built into the foundations of a stable wall at Coleby Hall, and surviving Saxon stonework at the base of the tower of All Saints Church, (see below) confirm the existence of an Anglo Saxon settlement here prior to the arrival of Danish settlers in the county in the ninth century. Whatever our village was called before this time, the name COLEBY (meaning 'home of Koli), with its typically Scandinavian 'BY' ending was clearly given to the village by the Danes.



Coleby Church Book

The Coleby Manors

William of Normandy conquered England in 1066 and on Christmas Day of that year was crowned King William I. He immediately claimed all the land in England for the Crown and re-issued it to his Norman nobles, as his tenants-in-chief. The land was then sub-let to smaller landowners. Twenty years after the Norman Conquest William sent commissioners to carry out a survey of all the land in England and a summary of the information collected at that time was eventually written in a great book known as Domesday Book. For most places in England the Domesday entry is the first time that a place was ever recorded and this is the case for Coleby.

In due course the King's manor became known as the Southall (situated in the area of Coleby now known as Dovecote Lane) and Countess Judith's manor as the Northall (forerunner of the present Coleby Hall). For a time in the twelfth century the Northall manor was owned by King William of Scotland.

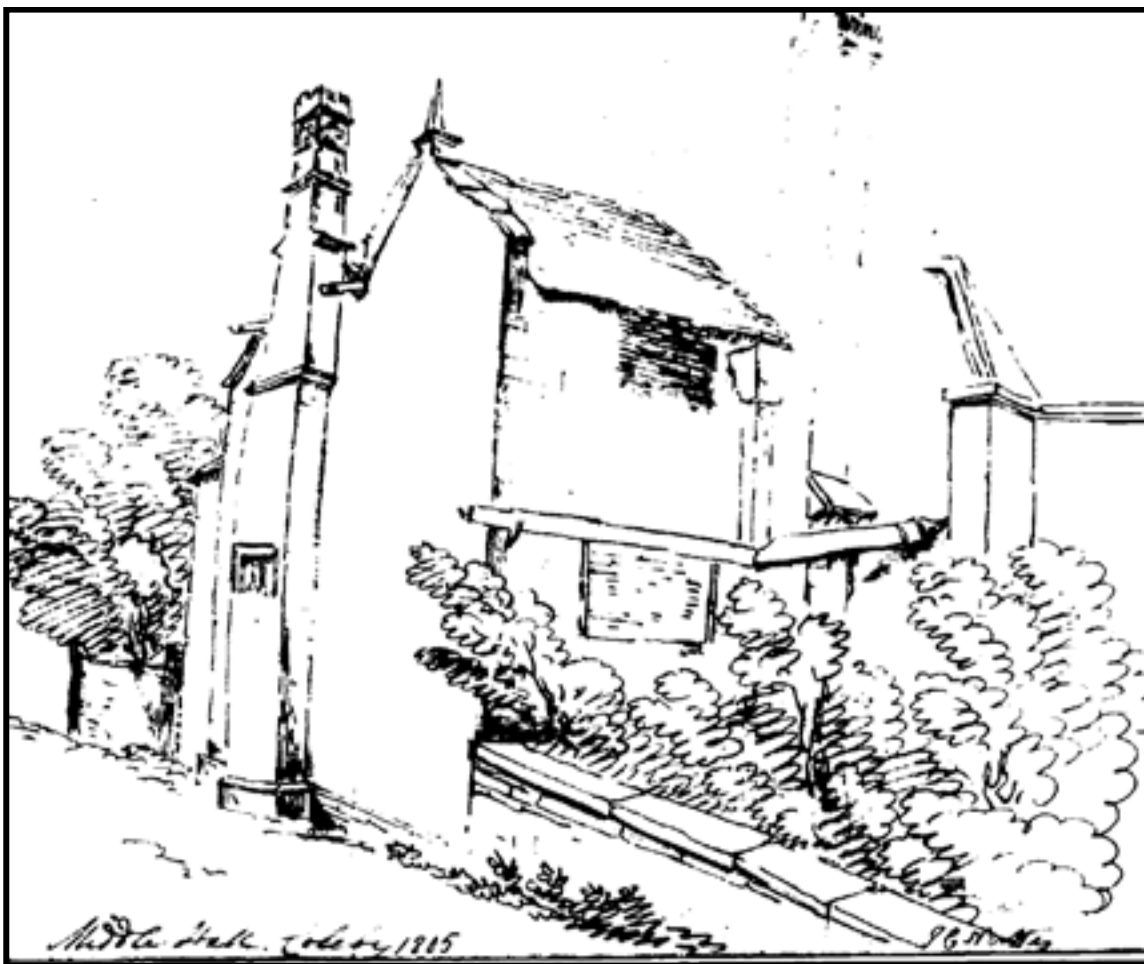


Cliff Knowles

The last Southall farmhouse – a stone and thatched L-shaped house – was demolished in 1889 and Threave House (formerly known as The Laurels) stands in Dovecote Lane, on or near its site.

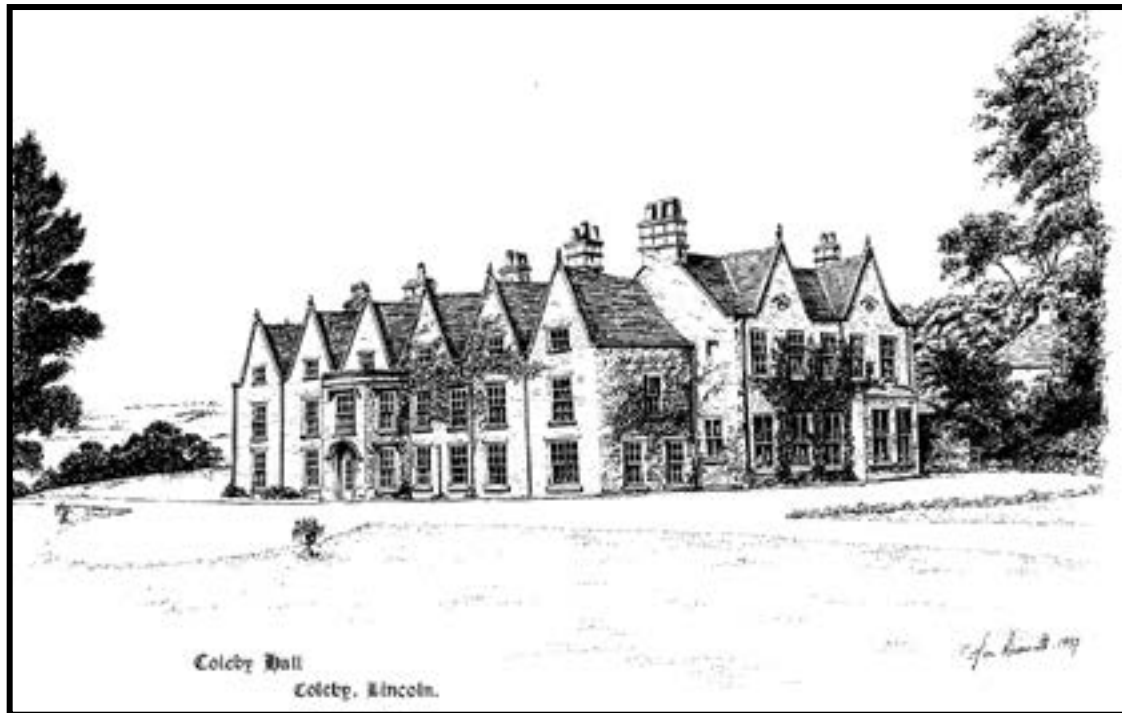
By the mid-twelfth century there was a third Coleby manor as the Priory of St Katherine had been given a gift of land in the village. (This large Priory was near Lincoln's south common in the area still known as 'St Catherine's') The third manor was called the 'St Katherine's Fee' until after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, when it became known as the 'Middle Hall'. For two hundred years the work of some of Coleby's labourers provided income for this Gilbertine Priory.

The three manors were gradually merged as land was sold or exchanged by the succession of owners. The manors were remembered only in the names of houses built on the sites of the old medieval halls.



Reproduced by kind permission of Lincolnshire County Council

The dilapidated Middle Hall (on the north side of Rectory Road, near the Church) was painted by J.C. Nattes in 1805, but the remains of the house were cleared away later in the nineteenth century. The only surviving hall is that of the Northall manor, Coleby Hall.



Jan Barratt

Coleby Hall was built on the site of the medieval 'Northall' in 1628. It is situated in a commanding position on the Lincolnshire Cliff approximately 90 metres above sea level and 200 metres to the north of Coleby village. The building, which is listed, grade II star, is arranged on three sides of a rear courtyard and is now divided into three separate dwellings, East Wing, Coleby Hall (the south front) and West Hall (the west wing). It is of local limestone construction using a mixture of coursed rubble, squared stone and ashlar for quoins and window surrounds. Roofs are of handmade plain clay tiles.

The south front is the largest and oldest part of the building dating from 1628 when Sir William Lister built it using the foundations and some of the original walls of the former Northall Manor, one of three earlier medieval manors in the parish of Coleby. The original house was unusual in that it had three storeys within a relatively compact layout by using low ceilings in the rooms. There were initially only five gables to the south front, the sixth being added in 1687 by Thomas Lister. Although built at the end of the Jacobean period, the gables along the south front are reminiscent of late Elizabethan styles. Thomas Scrope added the porch to the south front as a single storey structure in 1760.



Courtesy of Richard Fowkes

South front of Coleby Hall (1980)

It is likely that the original house was 'L' shaped with a west wing containing various domestic offices. It is believed that the wing was substantially rebuilt in Georgian times when the first east wing was added, and then again in 1910 after a severe fire.

The east wing in its original Georgian form was designed by John Yenn (Sir William Chamber's assistant) and built between 1785 and 1795 in the time of Thomas Scrope, with three storeys. It was completely rebuilt as a two-storey structure by Major Arthur Cecil Tempest in 1893 providing high ceilings in the reception rooms downstairs and a new front entrance. (The front entrance reverted to the south porch in 1948.) A single storey billiard room was added to the end of the east wing in 1905 although this was later demolished leaving the small private yard that exists today.



Courtesy of Dick Fowkes

The coats of arms on the east wing gables relate to the marriage of Thomas Tempest (TT) to Anne Scrope in 1653 and Gervase Scrope (GS) to Frances Lister in 1722.

The internal accommodation within the Hall has been altered on numerous occasions over the years, not least when the building was first converted into three dwellings after the Second World War. Some idea of the extent of the accommodation in the pre-war period can be obtained from the 1933 sale particulars, just before the Fowkes family acquired the Coleby Hall estate. "The imposing stone building contains on the ground and first floors: entrance and inner halls, three reception rooms, study, billiard room, domestic offices, eleven bedrooms, three bathrooms, plus a range of attics on the top floor," At that time, the property included 34 acres of land, the stable block, two cottages, various outbuildings and the two temples described later. Electricity was then provided by a 9 horsepower Ruston and Hornsby engine generating set backed by a 54-cell accumulator located in an outbuilding adjacent to the end of the west wing. Water was pumped from a well to two elevated water tanks supplying the property.

Three buildings, all of which were converted into dwellings in the period 1983 to 1985, edge the northern half of the courtyard at the rear of Coleby Hall. They are Ostler's Cottage, the Stable Block which is now divided into three houses, East Stables, The Coach House and West Stables, and Garden House which was originally the Hall laundry and brew house with additional stabling attached.

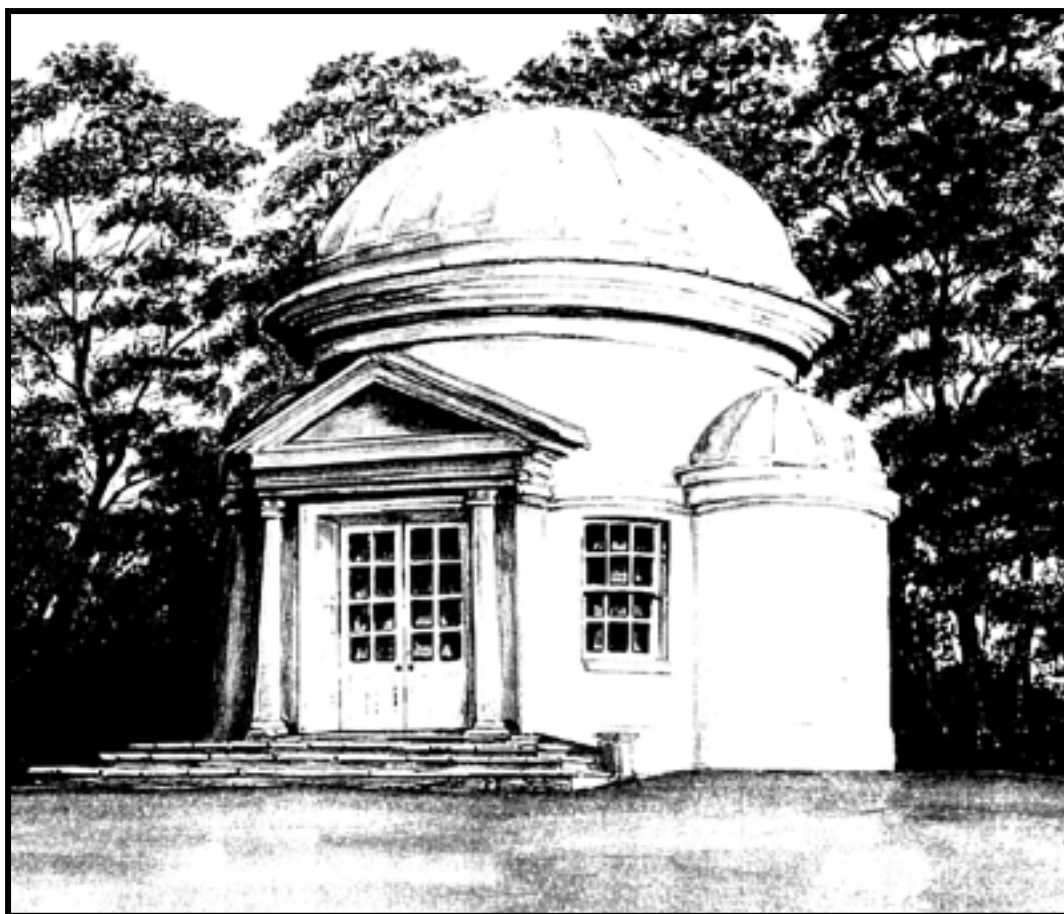


Courtesy of Dick Fowkes

The old stable block of the Hall

The Georgian stable block is grade II listed and built of limestone with a pantile roof. In its original configuration it consisted of a double coach house flanked by two rows of four loose boxes with saddle rooms and grooms' quarters above. The third storey above the coach house contained a pigeon cote and supported the clock tower. The exact date of construction is uncertain. Mrs Eleanor Tempest's research states that Thomas Scrope repaired the stables and re-thatched the dovecote in 1744. The present building was clearly never thatched, but if the dovecote was elsewhere, and not one and the same as the pigeon cote in the Coach House, then this could indicate the date of construction. It is perhaps more likely that the stable block was built in 1785/95 at the same time as the first east wing.

The area surrounding the Hall and associated buildings has been designated as 'Historic Parkland' under the County Council Structure Plan. Within the parkland, much of which is now separately owned, there remains one other notable structure, the Temple of Romulus and Remus which is a grade I listed building.



Jan Barratt

Temple of Romulus and Remus

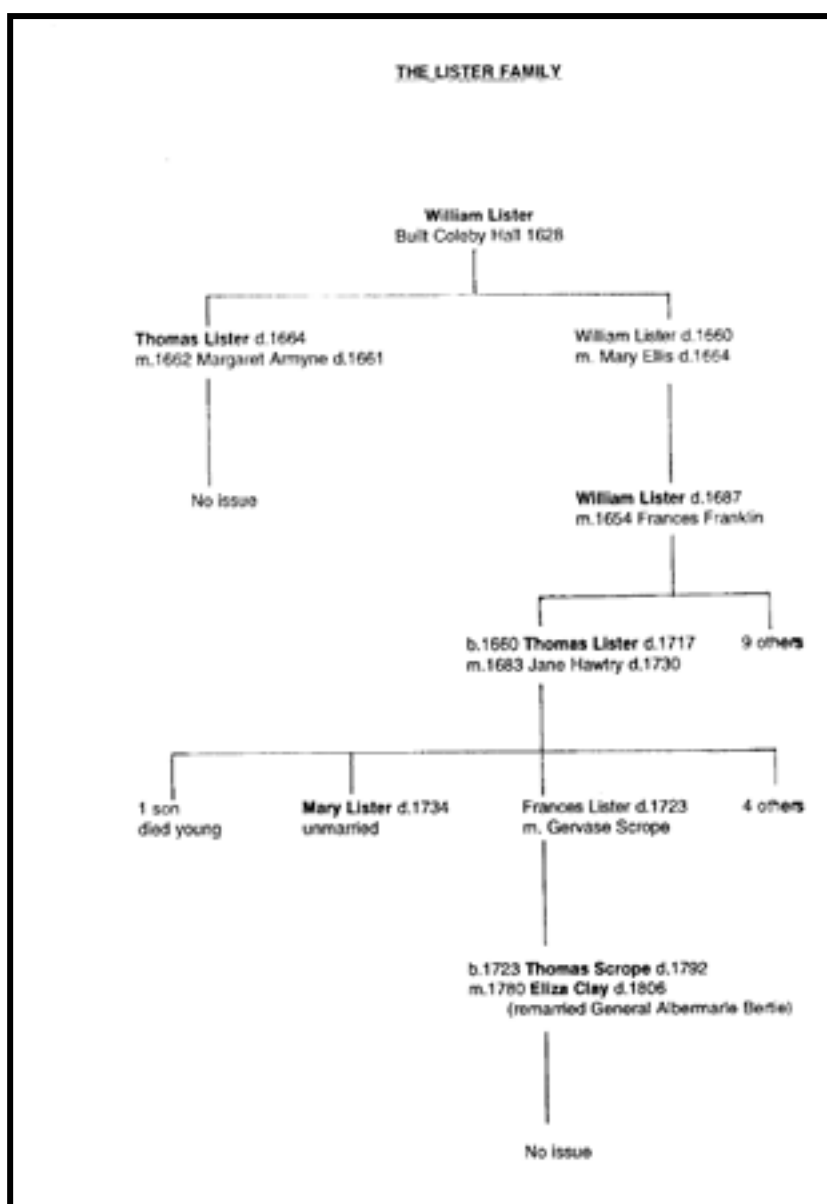
The Temple of Romulus and Remus was designed by the famous architect, Sir William Chambers, for his friend Thomas Scrope. It was constructed in 1762 on a raised mound in the north east corner of the estate using soil taken from the Hall's front garden during levelling. Its design was influenced by a temple in ancient Rome and the building is in the form of a circular structure with a domed roof, a portico, and side apses. The walls are of brick, stuccoed externally and plastered inside, whilst the dome, apses and portico are covered in lead sheet. The painted ceiling is of particular note and the building is claimed to be "the first monument to Sir William Chambers' taste in England".



Reproduced by kind permission from Kath North

Maids from Coleby Hall before the last war. The top row is (from left to right), Edie Kitchen, Charlotte Metherringham (nee Fawcett), Joyce Shucksmith (nee Hickson), and the young girl at the bottom of the picture is Kath North (nee Frith)

The Lister and Scrope Families



Reproduced by kind permission
of Richard Fowkes

Reproduced from 'Coleby Hall'

The present Coleby Hall, completed in 1628 on the site of the medieval 'Northall' ¹⁸, has naturally had many owners in the years of its existence but the two families who were responsible for most of what we see today were the Listers and the Scropes.

The Listers

Sir William Lister of Rippingale bought the old Northall in 1625 from its then owner, Griffin Hall and by 1632 the family had moved in. When William died the Coleby Estate was inherited by his son, Thomas, who in 1622 married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Armyne of Osgodby.

Thomas was a Member of Parliament for Lincoln and, during the Civil War, achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Roundhead Army. For the first few months of the War an uneasy calm prevailed in the county as the gentry deliberated as to which side they were on. This was disturbed by just two isolated incidents, the first of which was when the King ordered the arrest of Captain Thomas Lister and two other Lincolnshire parliamentarians. The then sheriff, Sir Edward Heron, with sixty troopers, broke into Coleby Hall and took Captain Lister prisoner to appear before the King's Council. It is difficult to discover exactly what happened next but by the year 1644 we see Thomas, himself, elected as High Sheriff of the County. Little further is known of the extent of his involvement in the Civil War but in 1649 he is said to have been one of the 135 Commissioners who were ordered, on Saturday 6th January, to meet on the following Monday afternoon in the Painted Chamber at Westminster, setting up a High Court of Justice to try King Charles I. By an Act of the House of Commons a High Court of Justice had been called into being for the space of one month to try the King but it is known that Thomas returned to Coleby after only the first day of the trial which had begun on 20th January. It was, in fact, an illegal procedure which brought Charles I to trial and Thomas was not alone in having second thoughts - if, indeed, that is what happened. We shall never know. At all events his own fortunes do not appear to have been affected by his decision for in the years 1651 and 1653 he sat as a member of Cromwell's Council of State. Due to his political life, Thomas lived mainly in London and both he and his wife were buried at St Paul's, Covent Garden. As there were no children of the marriage the Coleby Estate then passed in 1664 to Thomas's nephew, William Lister.

William Lister, born in 1632, inherited the family estates of Ripplingale, Rowston and Creeton as well as Coleby. His marriage in 1655 to Frances, daughter of Sir John Franklin of Kent, brought him yet more wealth. It is likely that this couple came to live in Coleby in 1669 after selling the London house at Lincoln's Inn. In the same year he became High Sheriff of Lincolnshire as his uncle had been before him.

William died in 1687 and Frances survived him by only a few months: they were buried in Coleby. William's funeral was most elaborate, saddles and hammer cloths for the coaches, even the spurs and bridles being blackened. William and Frances had ten children and their eldest son, Thomas succeeded to the Coleby estate.

Thomas had been admitted to Gray's Inn in 1678 and in 1696 became the third Lister to hold the office of High Sheriff of Lincolnshire. He was already a wealthy man and by his marriage to Jane Hawtry, daughter of John Hawtry of Gray's Inn and Ruislip, Middlesex, became even richer. However after becoming Member of Parliament for Lincoln in 1705, a seat which he held for the next ten years, he took a house in Westminster and must have spent most of his time there, being buried at St Ann's, Westminster, in 1717.

Although Thomas and Jane Lister had six daughters, and one son who died young, at the time of Jane's death in 1730 only one daughter, Mary, survived. She was unmarried and had lived at Coleby Hall with her mother. When she died in 1734 she left the Coleby Estate to her nephew, Thomas Scrope, the son of her youngest sister, Frances and her husband, Gervase Scrope. Frances had died within three days of the birth of her son in 1723. A marble monument, placed in the chancel of Coleby Church by Thomas Scrope, states that Mary was the last of the ancient family of Listers.

The Scropes

Thomas Scrope was only eleven years old when he inherited the Coleby Estate. When he was five years old his father, Gervase Scrope, had remarried and for a few years Thomas was brought up in Coleby by his grandmother and aunt, Jane and Mary Lister. Most of his teenage years were spent at boarding school by which time he was in the care of his father and his father's sister, the Countess of Deloraine. He matriculated at Christ Church College, Oxford, in 1740, came of age in 1744 and took over the management of his Coleby estate, becoming one of the most colourful characters to live there.

Thomas's personal life was something of an adventure story. His struggles to become a Member of Parliament, coupled with the many reports of his affairs with women before marrying at the age of 57, would alone provide material for a bestseller. It was in 1756 that he first offered himself as a candidate for election to Parliament for New Romney but was unsuccessful. He stood for Parliament for the City of Lincoln in 1761 and again in 1764 for Aylesbury, but failed in both attempts. Such was the intensity of his feelings over this that he suffered a breakdown, was declared of unsound mind, put into the care of his half brother and was ill for several months.

Success eventually came in 1768 when he was elected as Member of Parliament for the City of Lincoln but only as a result of a shocking campaign of bribery and corruption. Old bills reveal the extent of this. The amount of eating and drinking charged for is astounding. At least eight of the old inns of Lincoln provided the fare and there is even one bill for "324 dozens of wine in six days". 187 voters received a guinea apiece, 157 received crowns, whilst yet more were served with crown punch bowls, the money being slipped into their drink. Indeed the expenses, according to the Agent's account, amounted to over £4,000, though there were possibly other expenses not included in this sum. (⁴An agricultural labourer's wage in Lincolnshire at this time averaged 8d per day - less than £10 per year).

Once in the House of Commons, Thomas Scrope's behaviour was far from exemplary. On the strength of being an officer in the Militia, he breached House etiquette by addressing his Colonel, Sir John Cust, who had become Mr Speaker - we are not told on what terms! Some dispute followed in which he was accused of drawing his sword and although he denied this he was removed from the House by the Sergeant at Arms. Existing records and reports do lead us to believe that Thomas Scrope was all too ready to draw his sword or to use whatever other weapon was available. There were skirmishes and riots in Lincoln in which he was prominent and frequently led the disturbance; and he once stated that he had shot a highwayman who had attacked him. Scrope seems to have been an over vigorous politician who leaves us, sadly, with more stories of his misdeeds than his political achievements. He held his seat until the next General Election in 1774 when, despite more extravagant bribery, he was defeated.

In 1780, at the age of 57, Thomas Scrope did eventually marry. His bride, a Miss Eliza Maria Clay, was the eldest daughter of William Clay of Southwell and the wedding was celebrated with the customary pomp befitting the Scropes, with a great firework display and feast for guests laid on in a marquee. From then on Thomas appears to have settled down to live in Coleby with just an annual visit of several weeks to London. He spent a lot of his time with the hunt and it was he who planted the Gorse Covert in Coleby Lowfields.

At one time there was a second temple of Doric design situated north of the Hall on the edge of the cliff. Known as the "Temple to Pitt", this was constructed entirely of wood with lead roof, by Thomas Scrope in 1759, but deteriorated over the years until now only the foundations remain¹⁸.



Jan Barratt

Temple to Pitt

Thomas Scrope was also responsible for the 'Roman' archway adjacent to the lodge which is a grade II listed building. He had hoped that Sir William Chamber might design it, but eventually built it himself around 1780, as a replica of a Roman arch modelled on the Newport Arch in Lincoln.

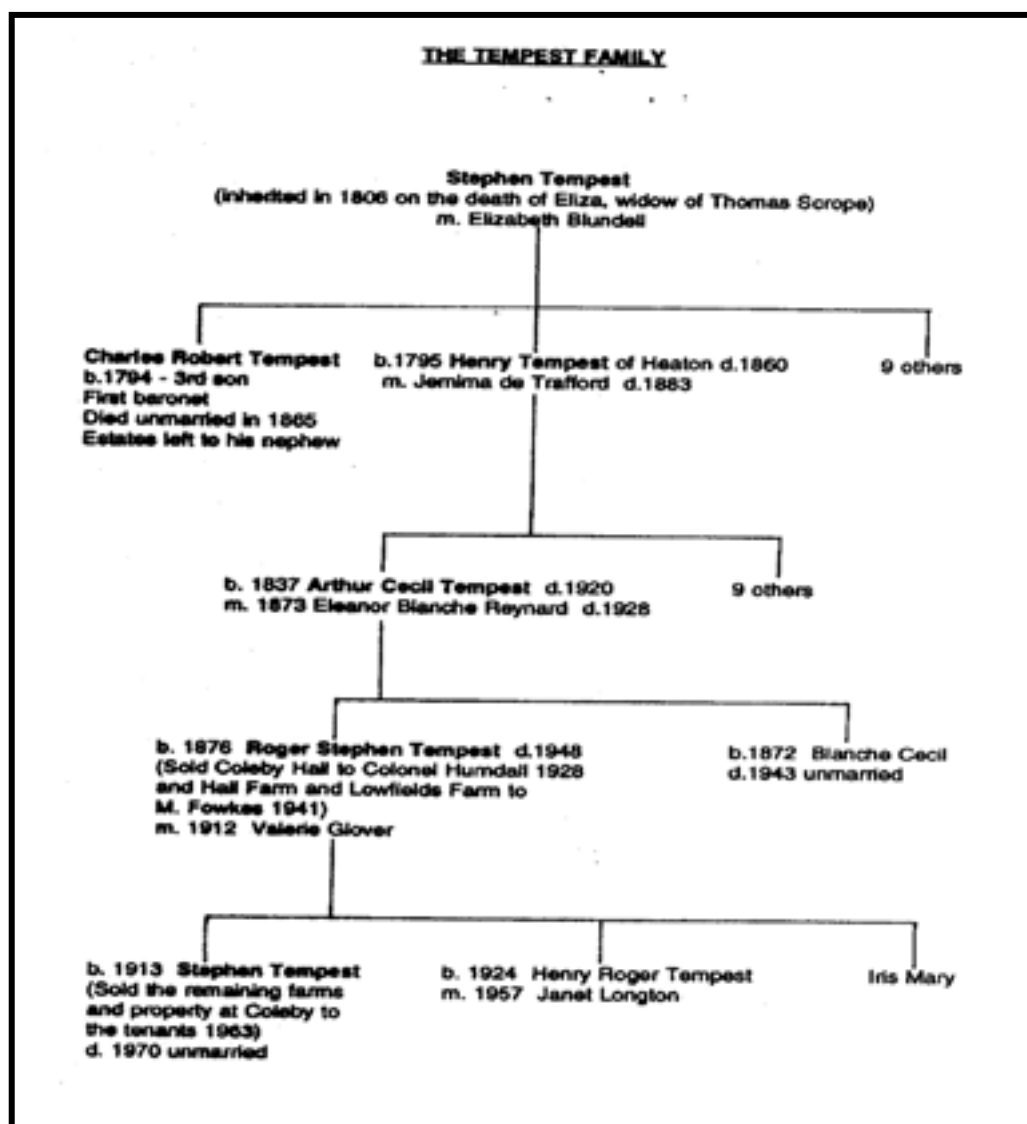
Thomas Scrope died on 28th April 1792 and was buried among his ancestors at Cockerington. As there were no children of the marriage he left his Lincolnshire estates in trust for his wife for her life but when she died in 1806 the Coleby Estate passed into the ownership of the Tempest family where it remained for the next 122 years.



Reproduced courtesy of Dick Fowkes

Replica of Roman Arch built by Thomas Scrope

Tempest Family 1806 – 1963



Reproduced by kind permission of Richard Fowkes

Reproduced from 'Coleby Hall'

Following the deaths of Thomas Scrope, Lord of the Manor of Coleby, and then his wife, Maria, in 1806, the Coleby Estate was the subject of complicated legal proceedings but eventually passed to distant relatives, the Tempest Family of Yorkshire. The Tempests had their own family seat at Broughton Hall near Skipton and did not come to live in Coleby. Nevertheless they were generous to the village.

Major Arthur Cecil Tempest and his wife, Eleanor, eventually came to live in the village in 1878. He loved hunting and was Master of the hunt between 1884 and 1895, and planted Coleby Gorse on the lowlands as a habitat for foxes. Arthur was a keen rider and rode in the Grand National several times and came close to winning it.



Cliff Knowles

The Red House, High Street

Eleanor Blanche Tempest was also a remarkable lady with many talents. She was a keen gardener, artist and carver. There is a fireplace in the west wing of the hall as testimony to her skills. Fortunately writing was one of her talents and she wrote three volumes on the Tempest family as well as several historical and archaeological pamphlets. One of Eleanor's most important legacies is the copious notes she kept of: the hall, the village, the church; much of which has been used in other publications.

There was much construction throughout Britain in the later part of the 19th century. Good landlords were building farms and estate cottages, and the Tempest family were no exception. The Tempest family built the Red House, in High Street, in 1878, probably for their estate manager. It is built in a Gothic style making a feature of its red brick construction.

The Tempests also built homes for the labourers. These were typical 'estate' cottages such as those at 2/4 Church Lane, 1/3 and 6/8 Dovecote Lane, all of which have their own distinctive design.



Cliff Knowles

2/4 Church Lane

Numbers 1 and 3 Dovecote Lane, are built of coursed limestone with red brick dressings. The windows on the first floor have brick mullions. Originally, they were two rooms deep with only one door each set at opposite ends of the block. Probably built around 1870, they were a marked improvement on earlier estate workers' cottages in Coleby.



Cliff Knowles

1/3 Dovecote Lane

Numbers 6 and 8, situated on the opposite side of the lane, are built in the Victorian Gothic style and are later than the other two. The builder used grey coursed limestone and light coloured brick dressings. The first floor windows have brick mullions but the windows themselves have been replaced. There is a slate roof surmounted by Gothic chimneys and the whole is enhanced by decorated barge boards. Larger than numbers 1 and 3, with three bedrooms, there are two entrance doors each with one at the back and one at the front. They also had large gardens with outbuildings and pigsties.



Cliff Knowles

6/8 Dovecote Lane

Major Tempest inherited the whole of the Tempest Estates in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, on the death of his brother, Sir Charles Tempest. The Tempest family moved to Broughton Hall in 1895, only returning for the hunting season. Major Tempest died in 1920 at the age of 83, but the family retained much of their property until the big sale in 1963.

The Listers – 19th Century Coleby Tenant Farmers

A memorial in All Saints church celebrates the life of ‘the last of the Listers’ – Mary Lister of Coleby Hall – who died in 1734. It can be confusing to people not familiar with Coleby history to find nineteenth century Lister gravestones in the churchyard. The answer is that they are different families, entirely unconnected, although there is a possibility that many centuries ago they may have stemmed from the same root.

The Listers lived in various nearby villages until around 1803 when they first moved to Coleby. Three successive generations farmed on Coleby heath and neighbouring lands throughout the nineteenth century. Although from time to time they owned various properties in Coleby, among them the Royal Oak Inn, (the exact location of the Inn is still in doubt). The Listers were principally tenant farmers of lands mostly rented from the Tempest estate. For much of the period the family lived at Coleby Lodge farm on the heath and records show that they prospered during their stay in Coleby.



Coleby Lodge built by the Tempest family (1845 – 1848) replacing an earlier house

Amos Lister (1760 –1821)

In 1803 Amos Lister and his wife Anne were in their early forties when they moved to Coleby from South Kyme. They brought with them their three young sons, Amos, Charles and Henry. The couple took a full part in the life of the community and Amos was churchwarden at All Saints’ Church in 1818.

Amos Lister (the younger) 1799 -1848

After Amos's death, his eldest son, Amos, did not follow in his father's farming footsteps. He had joined the British army in 1815 and was soon posted to British North America, now better known as Quebec, where he remained, reaching the rank of Assistant Commissary General. He died in 1848 aged 49 and was buried with full military honours in St John's Newfoundland.



This miniature portrait of Amos Lister (the younger) was painted in England in 1832. By that time he held the post of Deputy Assistant, Commissariat department.

Charles Lister – the elder (1801 – 1862)

Consequently, Charles, Amos's brother, inherited properties and tenant contracts from his father. He was married twice, first to Anne Dixon of Waddington and then to Elizabeth Pears of Scopwick and had three surviving children, Charles, John and Henry. Like his father, Charles served as churchwarden, in 1827 and 1838. The census returns of 1851, record that he was farming 540 acres. When he died his estate was estimated at £560,000 at today's values.

Charles Lister – the younger (1838-1899)

Charles only inherited half the estate initially but obviously came to some agreement with his brother, John, because by 1871 Charles had acquired the whole estate. He also maintained the family tradition of serving as churchwarden (from 1879 –1882). He married the daughter of another Coleby farming family, Amelia Trafford, and they had four children. Unfortunately one son died in infancy, and a daughter as a small child. Amelia died in 1880 aged 31. Son Charles Amos died in 1891 aged 13 and his elder brother, George, died three years later aged sixteen. Bereft of wife and children, Charles lived alone until his death in 1899, which ended that particular line of Listers in Coleby.



Cliff Knowles

Graves of Amos & Ann Lister in Coleby Churchyard

ARCHITECTURE

Apart from the Hall, the oldest house is the Old House on High Street. Built of local limestone, it is of early Tudor origin, once part of a 'manor' (property holding) that included Ivy House, a farm and other land, originally referred to as 'The House upon the Hill'.

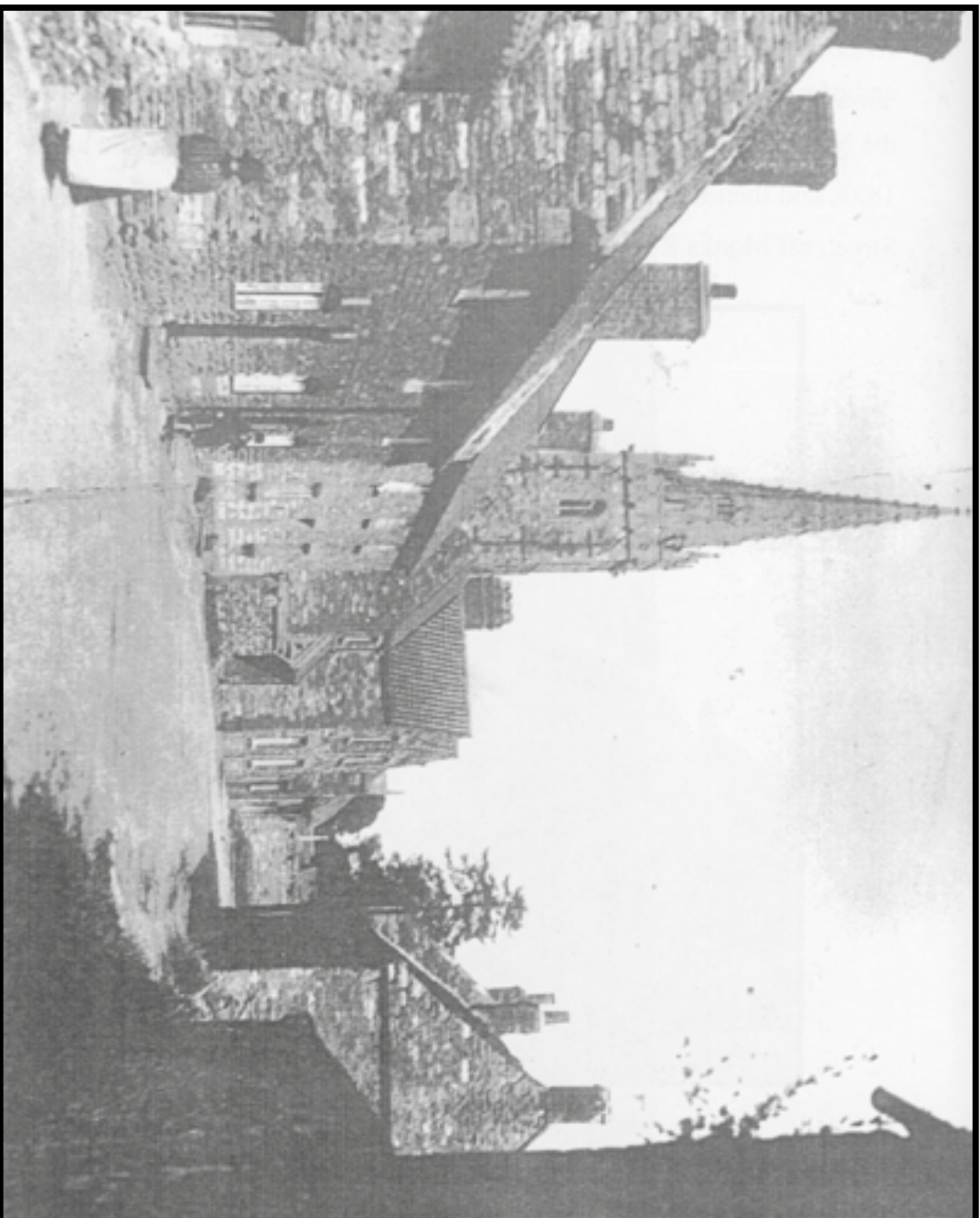
The oldest part of the house, dating from the 17th century, has its gabled end to the road and of particular note are its stone copings and finial. The raised copings may indicate that the building was originally thatched. A local builder, Mr Priestley, renovated this house in 1893, and then went on, with other local businessmen, to build Coleby Street and Tempest Street, off Monks Road in Lincoln).



Cliff Knowles

The Old House

Most of the older houses and cottages in the village are probably of 17th or 18th century origin. They are built of local Jurassic limestone that is laid undressed, as coursed rubble. This stone could have been quarried in the village where the quarry may be of Roman origin. Suitable clays were also available locally for making tiles and bricks and these older buildings typically have pantile roofs.



Picture courtesy of Kath North

Mrs J. (Granny) Hobson and Jack North

Although many of the houses in the village date back many centuries, they have been subject to many changes. The rare picture of Church Lane (above) clearly demonstrates how the village has developed.

The building on the left-hand side, nearest the church, was probably the last thatched cottage in the village. That and the house next to it have both been demolished. Half-way down the Lane is a small boy called Jack North, who later went on to marry Kath Frith, who lived in the house at the front of the picture, which again has been demolished.

You will also notice that bungalows have also replaced the buildings on the right hand side of the lane. One of the buildings that cannot be seen because it is offset down the entrance to South Cottage is the blacksmith's. Church Lane used to be known as Blacksmith Lane. He used to live at no 6 church Lane which is also called the Blacksmith's House.

The grand lady in the picture is 'Granny' Hobson lived in the small house at the back of the Mount as can be seen in the photograph below. Again that house is longer standing.



Picture courtesy of Mr. K. Horn

From left to right; Florence Ward, Unknown person, Robert Ward, Jemima Ward



Cliff Knowles

13, 15a & 15 Church Lane

In 1830, the new vicar, Revd. Thomas Penrose, purchased Glebe House, then known as ‘The Cottage’, as a home for his unmarried sisters and aunt. He was responsible for building a new vicarage, (now called the ‘The Old Rectory’) to replace the old vicarage, which in 1830 was on the site of the present school. Materials from this building were re-used in the erection of the new house which was to be completed by 24th June 1831. The builders were Joseph Catton of Blankney and William Bavin of Dunston. Oriel College (the patrons) and Queen Anne’s Bounty shared the building costs of £1300.



Cliff Knowles

Glebe House

The Old Rectory is of coursed rubble with ashlar stone quoins and dressings, and Westmorland blue slate roofs. It is in a classical Georgian style with large sash windows and, originally, a porch with detached Doric columns.



Cliff Knowles

The Old Rectory, Rectory Road

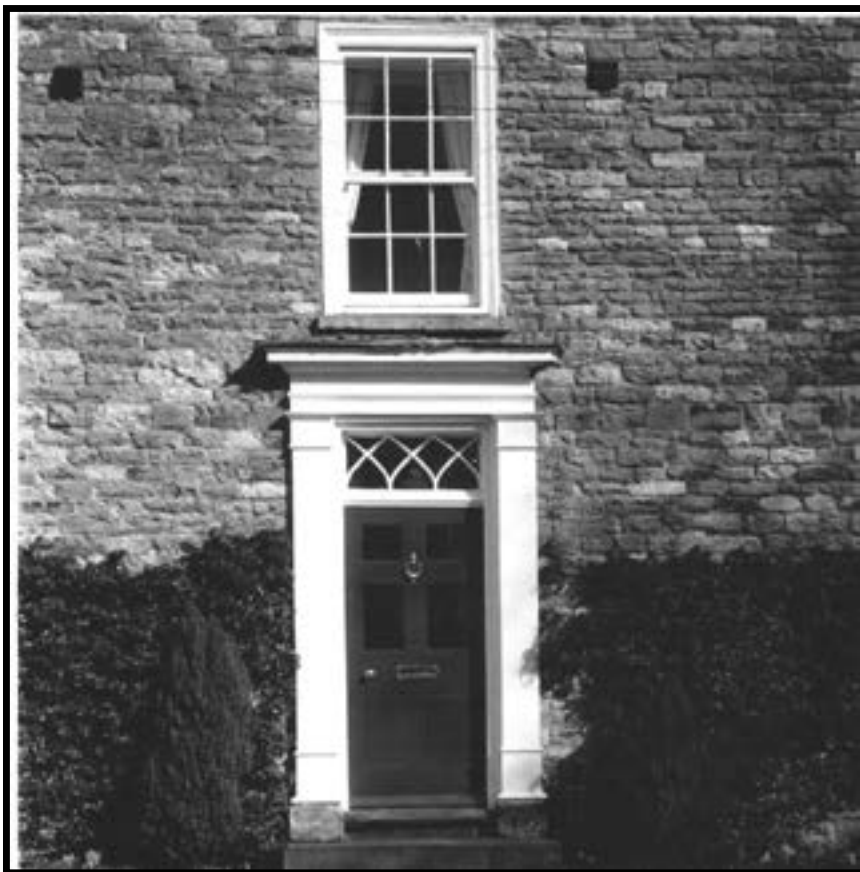
However, this was not the first Georgian style building in the village. Ivy House and The Manor House are both Georgian style farmhouses, built almost opposite each other in the High Street around 1800.



Ivy House, High Street

Following substantial alterations to Ivy House in the late 1950s, some of the symmetry typical of the style has been lost, but the front doorway with a Doric door casing, stone pilasters on plinths and console brackets remains, as do the left hand window on the ground floor and the centre one on the first floor. There are good fleur-de-lys iron railings and gate. The original pantiled roof has been replaced by slate and the chimneystacks are also replacements. An intriguing feature is a date stone of 1625, set into the gable end of the house, but obviously not relevant to the present building. This property was part of the Tempest Estate until 1963 when it was sold to the Wards, the tenant farmers. Shortly after this, it was converted into two private dwellings. It is a grade II listed building.

The Manor House is also built of coursed rubble, with a pantile roof. The doorcase has pilasters and entablature and there is a 19th century glazed door with a Gothic fanlight above.



Cliff Knowles

This old farmhouse became a residential retirement home in 1984. It has had many interior alterations over the years and has recently been extended.



Jan Barratt

The influence of the Georgian style spread to cottages, and by 1830, brick had also become fashionable in the village. Examples are Bentley House in Blind Lane, and 5/7 Far Lane which was built in 1828 by local stonemason, Edward Thompson.



Cliff Knowles

Bentley House, Blind Lane

Mid 19th century buildings in the village were increasingly built of local bricks, and pantile roofs were replaced with the more fashionable and expensive slate spreading even to cottages such as those built at 6/8/10 Far Lane in 1866.



6/8/10, Far Lane

These cottages were not part of the Tempest estate and the initials 'FW' on the date stone are of unknown significance. The chimneystacks are interesting in that they are in groups of four. Those on the right are probably original. The window frames to number 10 may be original but those in the other two houses are replacements. All four houses still have their original Victorian boot scrapers in fitted recesses in the front wall. From about 1930, a village shop was situated in the middle two cottages but this closed in 1972. Number 6 retains the cast iron water standpipe with its lion's head, close by the front door.

Water supply

During 1998 North Kesteven was a frustrating area to drive in as it was impossible to go more than a few hundred yards without traffic lights and road works as Anglian Water strove to improve our water supply. If, in the course of the work, our domestic supplies were interrupted or the water was discoloured, we complained, and in time of drought we dreaded a hosepipe ban. With our washing machines, dishwashers, showers and baths, water had become an overused commodity.

In 1930 the picture was quite different when at a Parish Meeting villagers voted 20 to nil to turn down a proposed scheme to provide a piped water supply to Coleby! The reason given for this was the Depression and the Agricultural Forecast, together with the view that Coleby already had an "ample supply of water". However a piped supply was eventually laid on as two years later the Parish Council were again discussing water and where to position nine water standpipes.

Until this time the village had relied on wells. In 1896 Major Tempest of Coleby Hall, on being approached by the Parish Council, agreed to provide a village pump at the Ashwell, the understanding being that the Parish Council would install it - which they duly did



Reproduced by kind permission of Kath North

Mrs Frith on Hillside shortly after the standpipes were installed



Cliff Knowles

The well head, East Green, Blind Lane

Coleby Windmill

Over the centuries there must have been several windmills in the parish of Coleby but only three have been identified. The earliest was part of Thomas Swynford's Northall Manor in 1361 ⁽⁵⁾ but there are no clues to where it was precisely situated. In the nineteenth century Coleby had two six-sailed tower windmills. One of these was built on to a barn at Coleby Lodge farm on the heath but little is known of its history and by 1923 it was derelict. The other larger windmill was also on the heath, on Ermine Street.

Coleby Heath mill was a typical Lincolnshire tower mill with seven floors, built of brick and coated in tar. It had an outer gallery halfway up the tower and the whole structure was topped with an ogee (onion shaped) cap, believed to have been built by Smith of Horncastle ⁽⁶⁾.



Photographed by Ralph Bates, reproduced by permission of Peter Grey.

Coleby Mill (circa 1940)

The miller for much of the nineteenth century was Robert Comins. Two major disasters occurred during his time at the mill. On the morning of 19th February 1863 a serious fire broke out and despite the efforts of the Navenby fire engine, the building was completely gutted. The miller was in the process of altering his insurance policy because the addition of new buildings had increased the value of the property. However, because the policy was not completed he had to stand the whole of £1,000 loss himself. The mill was rebuilt by Ruston of Lincoln and the new ogee cap, along with other parts, were made of iron.

The second disaster happened only a few years later when the sails became damaged. There was much local sympathy for Robert Comins as he was a hard worker and well respected in the area. A collection was made in the village to help with the cost of repairs.

Coleby Mill was still working in 1940 until it was acquired by the Air Ministry. It was viewed as a hazard to aircraft from nearby RAF Coleby and Waddington and the cap, sails and the two top storeys were removed⁽⁷⁾. The stump remained for sometime but has long since gone. The mill house survived and is occupied as a private dwelling.

Recent developments

During the 20th century, there has been development throughout the village and council houses were built outside the main residential area. The earliest were those at Avenue Villas, which are fine examples of between the wars council housing. The four middle buildings were erected first and a few years later another pair was built at each end of the row. They are all built on typical, long, narrow plots, and several retain original details such as the front doors.



Cliff Knowles

Avenue Villas, Grantham Road

During the early 1950's, further council houses were built at Coronation Crescent and Rectory Road. These were built to be more sympathetic with the traditional village cottages, in red brick with 'Georgian' glazed cottage windows and pantile roofs.

Cliff Knowles



Coronation Crescent

In the second half of the 20th century, the introduction of planning controls encouraged infilling within the village. Bungalows became fashionable and in the 60s and 70s there was infill development at 'The Paddock' and Dovecote Lane, and redevelopment in Church Lane. These houses and bungalows are more typical of their period than their locality. Most are built in light coloured bricks with some local stone detailing (not coursed rubble), and concrete tile roofs.

In December 1977, Coleby became a conservation area and this encouraged a return to traditional materials. Planning policies encouraged red brick, traditional coursed stonework, and pantile roofs with plain verges. There was tight control on the village curtilage, leading to infilling, and the renovation and modernisation of existing structures. The demand is for larger houses and several pairs of cottages have been converted to one house. For example, Hillbend Cottage and 15/17 Blind Lane. 23 and 25 Blind Lane are the only examples of barn conversions in the village.

By 1980, stone building is once again fashionable in both the Cottage style, for example Stoneyoak and Broadbeam Cottages in High Street, and the Georgian style such as Pantiles in Rectory Road. 6/8 Hill Rise is an interesting example of 'before and after' redevelopment in the village, illustrating the demand for larger houses and the influence of affluence on architectural development.



Cliff Knowles

Pantiles, Rectory Road

One feature that is not readily apparent in the village today is shops. There have been many in the village including a butcher, wheelwright, joiner, brick maker, blacksmith, tailor and shoemakers. These shops would have been very different from today's shops, often being just a counter in someone's front room.

The last grocery shop in the village also doubled as a post office and was owned by Bill & Carol Myers in their home at 9 Church Lane. Prior to that there was a shop, which sold just about everything, down Far Lane, which was ran by Mrs. Butler. The two cottages in the middle of this row of four in Far Lane were knocked into one to provide a shop and living accommodation. The shop was started by Mrs Flo Butler and then taken over by her sister-in-law, Mrs Elsie Butler.

The village shop is not just a place to buy things; it also acts as a focal point for the village where people meet and share information. This helps maintain the social fabric of village life. It is unlikely that a shop in the village would make anybody a fortune and it may be even difficult to make a living unless it was supported by the whole village and underpinned with a range of other supports.



Row of four brick houses in Far Lane. The middle pair combined to make the shop

Although there are no permanent shops in the village at the moment, several mobile shops visit. These include:

- Odling the butcher from Navenby
- Curtis the baker and pork butcher from Lincoln
- Brian the greengrocer
- Rington's tea
- Emplass frozen food supplier
- J & L Woods milk deliveries from Eagle

Post offices in Coleby

One 'shop' that has survived the changing patterns of village life, is the post-office. The development of postal services in Coleby was first recorded in 1861. The service provided a collection point for letters to and from Lincoln. By 1868 there was a pillar-box near the church, which was emptied at 3.45 p.m. The Post Office directory of Lincolnshire for 1866, records William Hall (shoemaker and parish clerk) as receiver of letters which arrived by foot from Lincoln at 9.45 am and were dispatched at 3.25 p.m. on weekdays only. By 1896 he is described as Sub postmaster. In that year, letters arrived by post cart from Lincoln at 7.05 am and were dispatched at 7.05 am and 6.30 p.m. on weekdays and Sundays. Postal Orders were issued but not paid. Navenby was the nearest money order office and Harmston Station the nearest telegraph office.

In 1900, it is recorded in the parish council minute book that the Rev'd Curtoys, who was also a parish councillor, should send a petition to the Postmaster General asking for a Money Order Office to be attached to the Post Office at Coleby. This petition must have been successful because in Kelly's Directory of 1900, a Post and Money Order Office is recorded in Coleby with Joseph Mossman as Sub Postmaster. This office was also a Savings Bank, and Annuity and Insurance Office and was situated at 2 Church Lane.

Joseph Mossman remained in charge of the post office for many years until it was taken over in the early 1930s by William Jeffery and his sister Gertie, who ran the post office from a small extension to Bentley House in Blind Lane. This post office also sold sweets and a few other goods.

William Jeffery married Lillian and they moved to 1 Church Lane and ran a post office and general store from there. In the early 1960s, Mrs Foster took over the post office and shop, running it at first from the Jeffery's premises, and then, in 1963, building a bungalow on the site of the former blacksmith's premises at 9 Church Lane.



Chrys Marriott

1 Church Lane

This bungalow housed the post office and a general store until 1983, owned after Mrs Foster by Mr and Mrs Lancaster who left in December 1978 and were succeeded by Mr and Mrs Bill Myers. Carol Myers was the sub postmaster. She resigned in 1983 and subsequently left Coleby, whilst Bill continued to live at the bungalow in his retirement, for a time continuing (with the help of his teenage son Mark) to deliver the 'Echo' to the village.

In November 1983, Coleby Post Office moved to Far Lane where Malcolm and Pamela Boura (who had moved to the village in 1981) were converting 5 and 7 Far Lane to one house. Pamela became sub postmaster and the post office (only) was housed first in what had been the front room of no 7. In 1986, the Boura family spent a year in Australia and during that year the post office opened during mornings only, with Mrs Anne White as temporary sub postmaster. In 1987, with the Bouras' return, the post office resumed full time opening and from Christmas 1988 was housed in the purpose built extension to 5 Far Lane where it can be found today.



Reproduced by kind permission of Pamela Boura

Sub Postmaster Pamela Boura with husband Malcolm and family outside the post office(1985)

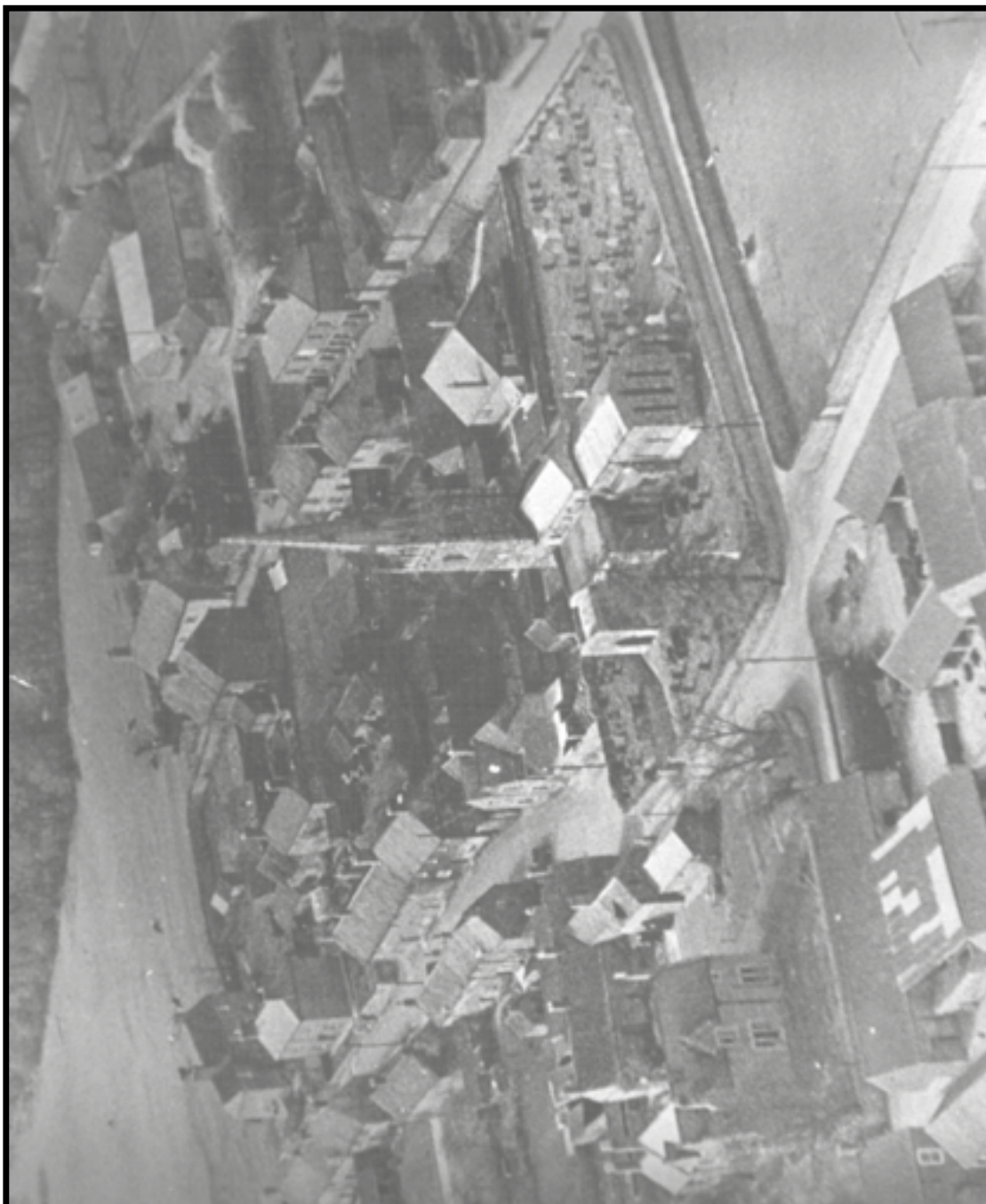
The Jeffery family came to Coleby about 1892 and lived in the 'Old House' on High Street. Frederick Jeffery became the village joiner, wheelwright and undertaker.



Photograph reproduced by kind permission
of Janet Bagley

*The Jeffery family (L-R) Back row, Frederick, Charles, Florence, Harriet
Front row, Ruth, & William*

Reproduced by kind permission of Lynda Fletcher



Coleby Village in the 1950's

Church and Chapel



Reproduced by kind permission of Lynda Fletcher

All Saints Church

The oldest remaining building in Coleby is the Church. The present building (which was probably not the first on the site) has its oldest parts in the base of the tower, which is in the Saxon style with good examples of keyhole windows. Inside the church is a Norman arcade (between the nave and the north aisle) and a fine Norman font. The entrance doorway is also Norman and must have been moved to its present position with the building of the south aisle, which is of a later date¹⁹. There were successive alterations throughout the medieval period with examples of Early English and Perpendicular architectural styles, and a 15th century spire.



Interior of All Saints Church

Chapel



Reproduced by kind permission of Calvin Metcalfe

Original Methodist Chapel Built in 1835

The original chapel was erected in 1835 at the junction of Dovecote Lane and Blind Lane. A plain and simple brick building with pantiled roof, in the traditional style of a Wesleyan preaching house, it was built on land purchased from the Tempest family. It lasted until 1902 when demands for more space became urgent and it was demolished to make room for its replacement.



Reproduced by kind permission of Chrys Marriott

Methodist Chapel before conversion to domestic dwelling

Further land was acquired from the Tempest family at a cost of £1. The foundation stone of the new chapel was laid on 7th May 1903 and the opening act of worship took place on 16th September 1903.. The total cost was £684 - 3s - 4d.

Built in bricks from Waddington brickyard which were transported free of charge to the site by a member of the chapel, George Butler of Poplar Farm, Coleby, the new chapel was in a more elaborate Gothic style externally, with a slate roof and gabled entrance porch, the whole enclosed by iron railings.

The interior consisted of two rooms, one being the place of worship; the other was for the Sunday School. The very plain construction was in keeping with the principles of old-fashioned Methodism. The seating area could accommodate 120 people and there was a stove for heating. This second chapel closed on 29th June 1997 and was sold in 1998 for conversion to a private residence.



Reproduced by kind permission of Chrys Marriott

Interior of chapel

Consecration of Coleby Lowfields Cemetery

The village had two burial sites, one in the churchyard and one down Far Lane which was bought for the village in the 1930's. The space in the churchyard has been full for many years apart from a small space allocated for the burial of ashes. By the mid-nineties it became apparent that the space in the Far Lane cemetery would soon be used up. After wide debate and consultation the Parish Council decided to create a further burial ground. An acre of land was bought in the Lowfields in 1995.



Reproduced courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo

Margaret Davis, Chrys Marriott, John McMillan, The Right Rev'd Alistair Redfern, Monique Butler, John Patrick, Bob Fletcher, Derek Wellman (Diocesan Registrar), Nev Hunter

The cost of the project had to be borne out of Parish funds. Therefore the cost was spread over several years. Voluntary help and donations kept down costs. Volunteers planted trees and shrubs, donated by North Kesteven District Council, in the hard to work clay soil. The Walker family of Coleby donated the entrance gates. Two benches have been placed in the garden of rest. The Millennium 2000 Committee donated one of the benches; the Parish Council with the aid of an anonymous donation supplied the other. The cemetery was consecrated by the Bishop of Grantham on the 12th May 1999, and the ceremony was attended by over thirty people.

Funerals

The practice of laying out people has only recently been the responsibility of the undertaker. Prior to this, the people of the village performed this task; notably by Mrs. Edith Wells (Hilda Gresham's mother), Harmston Hall Nurse, Ginger Hill, and Olive Norton. Olive's husband, Will, also helped out with his sign writing skills by engraving the brass plaques for the coffins. These services were carried out free of charge.



Funeral bier used by Freddie Jeffery to take villagers on their last journey.

Parish magazines

Rev'd Curtoys, Vicar of Coleby, published the South Cliff Magazine between 1868 and 1902. This covered a number of parishes to the south of Lincoln and contains fascinating glimpses of parish life during this period. Copies are available at the Lincolnshire Local History Library. An interesting article appeared in 1872 about the benefits and costs of education, and was kindly supplied by Katherine McKinnon, now living in Southport.

“ A GOOD BARGAIN – Seven-pennyworth for two-pence! Everyone will allow that it would be a very good bargain to get seven-pennyworth of goods – of bread and sugar, for instance, for two-pence. The shop where these bargains were to be had would be sure of pretty regular custom. Now we wish to point out to our friends, the parents of Coleby Schoolchildren that there is one such shop in Coleby – and that is the education shop – in other words, the SCHOOL... The children’s education this year has been a little more than £70, while the proportion paid by themselves in school- pence (fees), books, firing etc. has been about £20... There are not many things, perhaps, that our people can get at LESS THAN A THIRD OF THE COST PRICE; but teaching – is plainly one of them. As for the actually value of teaching - that we cannot really measure in money at all. Sensible parents, we hope, will more and more come to see that the bargain they get in schooling is the best bargain they get anywhere; and will take care to make the most of it. ”

More recently, a regular parish newsletter covering Harmston and Coleby began to appear in the mid 1970s and was officially entitled "Gleanings", although this name did not appear on the cover. In the late 1980s with the arrival of Rev'd Robert Bell, the magazine was produced monthly and given the name "The Tower and Spire".

Following the merger of Harmston and Coleby with the adjoining parish to form the new Graffoe Parish, a new combined parish magazine began monthly publication in July 1996. This magazine is known as "Graffoe Link". Like the former Graffoe parish magazine, "Graffoe News", the cover is always bright yellow and it is affectionately nicknamed "The Yellow Peril".

There have been many people involved in spiritual matters in Coleby over the past one thousand years, enough to create a substantial book itself. The research involved would be onerous, but what has to come to light during the development of this book is the long-lasting effect of the work of some of those people.

Reverend Harry Standley

Harry was a young man who came to the village, in 1965, after completing missionary work in the Solomon Islands. He lived at Harmston and used to minister in both Harmston and Coleby until 1975. Harry was also an accomplished organist and used to lead a group of carol singers around the village and provide a harmonium accompaniment. Harry and his wife Mary founded the first Mothers Union Branch in the village. Unfortunately Harry died this year.

Village Church Council

Each village within the Graffoe Parish has a Church Council. They are responsible for the efficient running of the church including raising monies for its upkeep. The current committee comprises of: John McMillan (Chairman), Andrew Long (Secretary), Paul Heaver (Treasurer), Anita Tennant & Hazel Curtis (Churchwardens), Audrey Lowe and Les Townsend.

Les Townsend

Les and his wife, Daphne, came to Coleby in 1965. Since then Les has been involved with voluntary work within the village, most notably the Parish and Church Councils. He currently is responsible for climbing the 24 steps of the church tower to wind the clock twice a week. This particular job he inherited from Alan Butler, who picked the job up off John Capps. Prior to this, Joe Applewhite had wound the clock up for nearly 60 years.

Les is a very talented musician and plays the organ when the regular organist is not available. Les is probably more famous for his bell ringing and is Master of the Ringers at Lincoln Cathedral. Les also frequently chimes the five-bell peel of the village church. Incidentally the bells were made by Thomas Osborn and installed in 1798.

Lillian Pell

Lillian Pell, who used to live down Church Lane up until recently, has given a tremendous amount of time and effort to the village as a whole. Lil used to help out at the Church Fete, sort out the raffle at the Senior Citizens Club, and assist in keeping the church clean, for many years.

There are many different beliefs about how best to conduct our lives and harness the powers of the universe. But the village church has always had an important role to play in bringing people together and creating a feeling of community. Thus providing mutual support in times of distress and opportunities for celebration in better times.

Rose Queen Festival

For many years the church has held a major fund-raising day in the form of a summer fayre. This involved various stalls and attractions with a band providing background entertainment. The predecessor to the Church fayre was the Rose Queen Festival which was started by Rev'd Harry Standley and his wife Mary. Bev Harrowing (nee Read) was chosen as the first Rose Queen. It was an honour to be chosen as Rose Queen and a white dress and red cloak were provided. The attendants also wore special dresses. The school children performed country dancing and threw rose petals. Other Rose Queens included: Sally North, Judy Townsend and Linda Thompson (nee Bellamy). The Rose Queen tradition ended when the Standley's left the parish in 1974.



Picture (circa 1969) courtesy of Mrs Read

Sheila Blanchard, Bev Harrowing, Pam Ashton



Picture (Circa 1972) courtesy of
Linda Thompson

Linda Thompson

Coleby Brownies

1st Coleby brownies pack ran for several years from the mid 60's to the early 70's. It was started by, Audrey Darnell who lived in Hillbend Cottage, and was ably supported by Hazel Curtis. The pack had to be disbanded because of dwindling numbers and was reformed with Navenby.

Coleby Adventurers

This group, set for 7-11 year olds, was similar to the brownies. It was run during the early 1970's by Mary Standley and Mavis Wildsmith and ceased when the Standleys left the village.

Friday Focus

In 1974 Rev'd Fred Nairn replaced Rev'd Standley. One of the first things he did was to start a confirmation class. This consisted of seven youngsters and one adult, Lynda Fletcher. The group continued to meet as a mini youth club under the leadership of Fred and Lynda. They enjoyed various activities including a camping week-end in Derbyshire. The group continued for about four years. Several attempts have been made to resurrect the youth club but with little sustained success.

Coleby School



Reproduced by kind permission of the Coleby School Governors

Coleby School Logo

A parliamentary report on the education of poor children lists a small school in the village from 1815. However, before 1830 most poor families sent their children to work. The school building in its earliest form was not opened until 1895. The opening of the school reflected the national trend of the Victorians to improve hospitals, prisons and schooling. The provision of the school also coincided with the growth of Methodism, which threatened the central role of the Church of England. In response the Church of England started Sunday schools which provided free places for the children of labourers. In the absence of a resident vicar the curate, George Moore, started the village Sunday school in 1826. By 1833 it taught 60 children and by 1839 that number had increased to 86. The school day consisted of two periods of study with a church service in between. The emphasis was on religion although the children were taught to read and write in order for them to be able to read the bible.

By 1833 a purpose built schoolroom had been provided by the vicar at that time, Trevenen Penrose. The schoolroom was a separate building with a labourer's cottage attached. The master of the school was Thomas Penson, who, unusually, was paid for his work, as normally the instruction was carried out by volunteers.



Reproduced by kind permission of North Kesteven
District Council

Coleby School

In 1851 Trevenen Penrose negotiated with Sir Charles Tempest and Oriel College, Oxford, to exchange some land. Oriel College, the owner of ‘the living of the Church of All Saints’ and therefore the church lands, agreed to the exchange and acquired the land where the present school stands. Sir Charles Tempest took possession of the land at the corner of Rectory Road and High Street. Unfortunately the exchange meant that the existing school, built in 1833, was on Tempest land. The vicar decided to knock down the school and build a new one (the present building), which he completed in 1854 and paid for himself. Throughout Trevenen Penrose’s 30 years in Coleby he continued to invest his time and money in providing elementary schooling for the children of Coleby. Despite his efforts only half of the eligible children of the village attended school. This was mostly due to poverty, as a lot of the children had to work. It is difficult to quantify the impact of his efforts but, presumably, like now, education was one of the cornerstones in the creation of a successful life, therefore many people in Coleby must owe the vicar a great deal for what they subsequently went on to achieve¹⁴

A review of the school logs from the 1920s onwards reveals that the issues that were of concern at the beginning of the century remain the same at the end of it, namely; pupil numbers, school building, standards and attendance.

School numbers have fluctuated widely over the years. This has been a result of changes in social circumstances, the role of the school and its size. During the nineteenth century the numbers were dictated by the local population and the willingness of parents to allow the children to attend the school. With the advent of transport in the twentieth century education managers and parents had the choice of placing pupils outside of their home village. Consequently as early as 1924, 21 children were ferried in from Metheringham by bus. Numbers were also high during the Second World War as children were evacuated from cities. In 1939, nineteen children and two teachers arrived from Leeds, later in 1941/42 ten more evacuees arrived from Hull.



Reproduced by kind permission of Calvin Metcalfe

Coleby School Children (1899)

After the war the numbers started to dwindle and by 1960 the roll had dropped to twenty-seven. Coleby was not the only school suffering from shrinking rolls, Harmston also had a similar problem and both schools were at great risk from being closed. Eventually, in 1983 a decision was made to shut Harmston school and fourteen pupils were transferred to Coleby school swelling the numbers to forty seven. This hardly made the future for the school secure and great efforts were made to further increase the roll.

Coleby Primary School 1999



Top row from left to right: Daniel Warren, Anthony James, Matthew James, Alec Fairhurst, Gemma Clarke, Laura Park, Daniel Taylor, Ashley Bradshaw, Ashley Rowett, Tim Allen, Faye McCrudden.. 5th row: William Morris, Krystal Tomlin, Kim Bingham, Samantha Hodder, Lee Bingham, Sam Dolman, Chris Kiely, Chelsea Woodward, Kate Young, Holly Dolman, Daniel Jay, Nicola Priestley. 4th row: James Morris, Matthew Thompson, Lewis Bradshaw, Andreas Ioannou, Byron Tomlin, Scott Burton, Christopher Funnell, Pierce Barnes, Laurence Thompson, James McCrudden, Robert Olver, Sam Alder, Shaun Mathers. 3rd row: Rosemary Alder, Jane James, Sue Haywood, Hazel Thorpe, Karen Espin, Deborah Wooldridge, David Cordingley, Claire Fairhurst, Mandy Taylor, Bev Harrowing, Chris Jackson, Stephanie Claridge. 2nd row: Laura Young, James Knowles, Holly Birkett, Tasha, Arnold, Emily Rowett, Jacob Lowry, Jack Dolman, Alice Lanes, William Taylor, Bethany James, Sophie Allen, Jessica Greenly, Tara Mathers, Blake Burton. Front row: Mary-Beth Pepperdine, Kayleigh Woodward, Alice Lowrey, Bethany Funnell, Shelly Tomlin, Emily Morris, Rory Olver, Conor Rankin, Antonia Tomlin, Stephen Lanes, Joss Barnes, Daniel Hennessy, Neil McCrudden.

School building

All buildings require regular maintenance to preserve their function and prolong their life. Coleby school is no exception but, as is typical of today's climate, maintenance was usually only carried out at times of crisis such as in 1942. That year the school had to close because of falling plaster from the ceiling and water dripping in from the roof. It can be assumed that only a minor repair was carried out because in 1945 more plaster came down. The building was also damp. The boiler seldom worked efficiently and fortunately in 1947 became irreparable. Oil stoves had to be brought in until the local blacksmith fitted the new boiler. This was another bad year and yet more problems with the ceiling appeared and one classroom had to be closed. It wasn't until 1962 that the main problem for the ceilings collapsing was rectified with a new roof.

The outside of the building also had problems and the playground frequently flooded. On one occasion a small girl had to go home because she had become saturated after falling into the one of the many puddles. Although the standard of the building has been difficult to maintain, the standards of education has consistently improved over the years.

Standards

School inspections are not a new phenomena, in 1860 a Diocesan inspector praised the standard of reading and writing, but geography was only moderate and arithmetic wasn't attempted at all! The inspector also noted that knowledge of the testaments and catechism were also less than satisfactory. One of the difficulties that all schools face is that of absenteeism. During the early days of the school parents had to send their children to work in order to support their family.

In the 1928 inspection the school was reported as being "markedly healthier" and older children were now "courteous and well behaved". However the ignorance displayed by the younger children was "lamentable". Two years later the situation had improved and the inspector found that the headmistress had "established a good type of village school".

The 1934 inspection, four years later, found that standards were still reasonably good and “recitation was commendable”. The report also notes that the headmistress, Miss Andrew, spent her own time and money on the school providing milk to make cocoa, buying books on teaching and preparing illustrative sketches – no change there then.

In 1948 the staff were congratulated on the “good atmosphere in the school”. The inspector also approved of the children “acknowledging their sinfulness in an act of confession”. Teaching methods were criticised in the 1955 inspection, plus the infant class had “poor habits of work” and lacked stimulation which had contributed to their lack of concentration. The juniors remained friendly but wasted a good deal of their time and it was recommended that weekly assignments be suspended in favour of more “formal methods”.

At the last inspection carried out by Ofsted in 1997 the inspectors wrote in their report that “Coleby school is a good school which successfully places the child at the centre of all its concerns...the overall grade of teaching is sound... the attendance satisfactory”. A glowing report, bearing in mind the understated terms Ofsted uses.

Attendance

Year	Roll
1833	20
1860	57
1927	72
1948	41
1952	56
1960	27
1983	47
1999	71

Pupil numbers

Attendance, although not a problem now, was an obstacle to achievement in earlier times. It was not just the children having to work, especially during the potato-picking season, but the weather and disease also played a part.

In 1926 the school remained closed after the summer vacation until September 20th because of an outbreak of diphtheria. Again in January 1935 a whooping cough epidemic prevented the school from reopening after the Christmas break until 21st January. Thankfully vaccination programmes have greatly reduced the impact of childhood diseases and many have been eradicated.

The weather, especially snow, is likely to cause problems in a rural area. Some children were prevented from going to school in bad weather because they did not have any boots!

The school is part of the village community and is affected by what goes on outside its walls. This is reflected by an event that happened in 1991. In March a young pupil, Sarah Rowett, was killed in a road accident on the A607. A tragedy that was to be repeated in 1999 when another pupil Liam-John Pepperdine, was also killed in a road accident, this time on the A15. In 1991 the country was engaged in a war, this time the Gulf war. One of the residents in the village, Flight Lieutenant Robbie Stewart was shot down and captured. This had a dramatic effect on the village and the school as Robbie was well known to them. In an attempt to deal with their distress they kept a candle lit in the school until his safe return. During the time he was missing, television crews from the BBC and ITV interviewed the children and broadcast the ‘welcome back Robbie’ assembly.



Photograph courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo

Robbie blowing out the candle

Coleby School has tried to provide a varied curriculum, both within school-time and after hours. One such activity was the boy's 5-a-side football team in 1965.



Reproduced by kind permission of John North

Back row (L-R) John Garfoot, Mick Read, Trevor Louth, Roger ?

Front row: John North, Ian Butler

The development of the school over the last two hundred years has been the result of the dedicated work of many people. Not just those directly involved in the day to day running but also the support of the community in which it serves. Invariably the village gets a school it deserves – better or poorer. The school is going through a particularly good phase at the moment due to the efforts of the teaching and support staff, the governors, and the Friends of Coleby School. The Friends raise thousands of pounds each year to ensure that the pupils get the opportunities and resources they need to support their learning.

The school requires effective leaders to harness the available resources to maximise learning. Below is a table of head teachers at the school since 1923 and the present staff and governors.

Year	Head Teacher
1892	Mr. R. Haywood
1923	Miss Margaret Goarley
1926	Mr. William Francis Wescombe
1928	Miss G. A. Andrew
1940	Miss Storr
1945	Miss Margaret Baldwin
1959	Miss Peters
1974	Mrs Margery Day
1987	Mrs Anne Timmins
1990	Mr. David Cordingley

Staff at Coleby School 1999

Teaching staff

David Cordingley
Karen Espin
Claire Fairhurst
Hazel Thorpe
Deborah Wooldridge

Ancillary Staff

Mellisa Green
Sue Haywood

Administration

Mandy Taylor

Caretaker

Christine Lane

Lunchtime Supervisors

Bev Harrowing
Christine Jackson
Jane James

Clerk to Governors

Brenda Ayer

Chairman of Governors

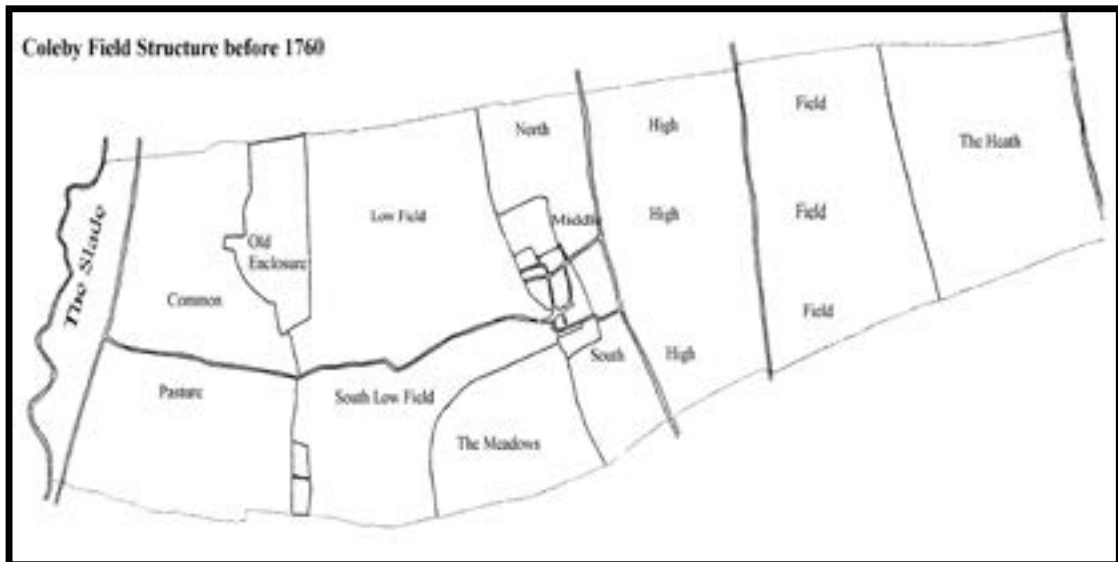
Phil North

Governors

David Cordingley
Gary James
Rob Kendrick
Mike McHale
Bernie Morris
Rev. John Patrick
Derek Smith
Deborah Wooldridge

Environment

Agriculture has always been an important part of life in Coleby playing a major role in the village's economy. In the year 2000 most of the land in the parish is still devoted to agriculture but now many of the inhabitants watch from the sidelines. Coleby's farms are still owned by local families but only a handful of people are needed to work the land.



Reproduced by Robin Scoley

An important milestone in the agricultural history of the village came in 1760 when the parish was enclosed¹⁷. Since medieval times Coleby's land had been divided into two great open fields, the High Field to the east of the village, across what is now the A607 Lincoln to Grantham road, and the Low Field, at the foot of the hill on the west side of the village. The High Field was sub-divided into north, middle and south sections and the Low Field was also divided into smaller sections. After the Low Field was a large area of common land and across the Brant Road, near the River Brant, an area known as the Slade. Other common land on the heath ran from the edge of the High Field to the parish boundary. Only a small amount of land in the parish was fenced in as 'closes' because until 1760 all Coleby landowners, large or small, owned their land in strips in the two open fields.

We can get an insight into the type of farming carried on before enclosure from inventories of two Coleby men taken at their deaths in 1728 and 1729 ¹⁵. In 1728 Richard Pidd had a herd of thirty five cows, bullocks and heifers, four 'swines' and eleven horses. He also had an unspecified number of sheep valued at £90.0.0d. The inventory also records quantities of wheat, barley, rye and peas. The farming stock of Thomas Mitchell, who died a year later, was similar but also included sixteen oxen and sixteen plough horses and mares. Thomas Mitchell also had 126 sheep valued at £37-16-0d. These were obviously men of substance although they were still farming under the medieval system.

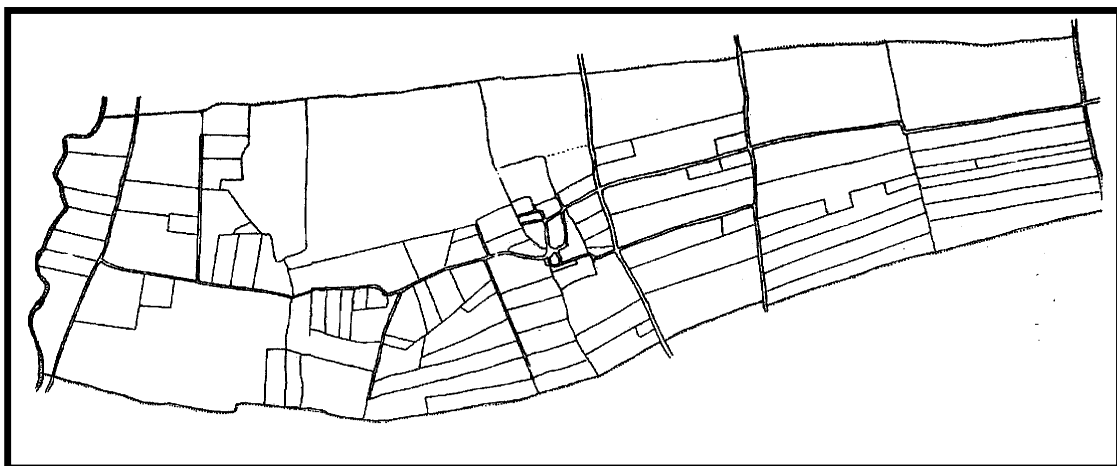
The eighteenth century saw the beginning of a rapid increase in population accompanied by the demand for more food. This need for food, and the lure of the higher profits to be gained from producing it, made the great landowners and the larger tenant farmers keen to bring more of their land into cultivation. They needed to own their land in separate, fenced fields so that they could adopt more modern farming methods to increase yields, without hindrance from neighbours with less progressive ideas. Therefore in many areas, local landowners got together and petitioned for Acts of Parliament to enclose their parishes.

In parishes where the open field system had become unworkable all the landholders welcomed enclosure, but in others the main landowners pushed it through despite opposition from smaller owners. We do not know whether there was opposition in Coleby at this time, although in 1584 some of the inhabitants had taken legal action against a new owner of the Southall manor who enclosed part of the common in the Lowfields without consultation. An Act of Parliament for the enclosure of Coleby's open fields was passed in 1759 and in the same year a similar Act was obtained for the neighbouring parish of Harmston. A survey of all Coleby's open fields and common land completed by 1st September 1759 showed that there were forty-eight houses and cottages in the parish, which consisted of just over 2,669 acres. Thomas Scrope, owner of Coleby Hall and Lord of the Manor of Coleby, headed the list of twenty-two landowners. At the other end of the scale the widow, Troath Wright, owned just her own house and nine perches of land. (9 perches = approximately 270 square yards or 222.7 square metres).

Thomas Scrope Esq. (Coleby Hall)
The Provost and Scholars of Oriel College, Oxford
The Vicar, Reverend Sarraude
Sir Nathaniel Thorold, Bart.
John Cholmeley
Edmund Turner Esq
John Sewell
John Morley
Thomas Taylor
Mrs Anne Goakman
John Toynbee

George Browne
Richard Andrews
Samuel Crosby
William Chantry
Samuel Pidd
Thomas Johnson
Benjamin Johnson
John Walker
William Pochin
John Tindall
Widow Troath Wright

The twenty-two people listed above proved their ownership of the various strips in the open fields and their rights of common. (Rights of common allowed owners, or their tenants, to graze animals on the common land and to gather things like firewood and berries.) The Commissioners then re-planned the whole parish and allotted new holdings that were equal in value to the owners' former strips and common rights.



Reproduced by Robin Scoley

Coleby field structure after the 1760 Enclosure

The cost of obtaining Coleby's Enclosure Act and surveying and re-allocating the land was £588.6s.4d. Substantial additional costs were incurred in laying out the new roads, clearing, draining and hedging and the work must have gone on for some time. The expenses of the enclosure were shared between the owners, excluding the two tithe owners - the Vicar and Oriel College. The commissioners provided a record of all the changes they had made in the Coleby Enclosure Award dated 10th October 1760. Many parishes also have a map of their parish made at the time of enclosure but if one was made for Coleby it has been lost or destroyed.

It was common practice, before enclosure, for the farmhouses and yards to be in the village as people walked or rode out daily to work in the open fields. (This appears to have been the case in Coleby.). However after enclosure some farmers had their new land holdings at the edge of the parish, away from the village and it was not convenient to go out each day to work on them. Eventually new farmhouses and labourers' cottages were built on these holdings but it seems to have been well into the nineteenth century (at the next major agricultural change) before this happened in Coleby, probably because of the village's central position in the parish. Some of the houses built on the heath have survived but all those built in the Lowfields have been demolished during the twentieth century, although a few outbuildings remain.



Reproduced by kind permission of Chrys Marriott

Riversdale Farm, Coleby Lowfields

However enclosure of a parish was not always so beneficial to the poorer inhabitants. Before enclosure they could roam freely on the common land and help themselves to firewood and anything else useful. The cottagers could graze a cow or a pig on the common and, although obliged to work for the Lord of the Manor for much of the week, often owned a strip or two in the open fields where they could grow food for their own families. The common land had been even more vital to the labourers and the squatters who had used it freely although they had usually no legal right to do so.

At enclosure it was usual for many smaller owners to have to mortgage their new land to pay their proportion of the costs of the enclosure. In many cases this led to financial hardship and the eventual sale of the property. In Coleby most of the land allotted to the smaller owners passed either directly, or through other purchasers, into the hands of the major landowner, the Tempest family, during the nineteenth century. Some of the poorer people who had previously kept a few animals on the common could not do so after enclosure as they had no alternative grazing land.

Before enclosure the poor people in the parish had some degree of independence and did not rely entirely on their wages from the Lord of the Manor. In many parishes enclosure deprived them of the opportunity to earn alternative income, or to produce any of their own food, and they became totally dependent upon agricultural wages from the tenant farmers on the new enclosed farms. Some of Coleby's poor found ways of acquiring other income as, in 1813, Waddington's overseers of the poor paid five shillings to William Skinner of Coleby for 'Curing Presles (Presley's) family of the itch'! ¹⁶

Enclosure not only changed the land pattern of a parish it brought about considerable social change. Open field farming meant that everyone had to work together for the good of the whole community and there was some provision for even the poorest members. The division of the parish into separate farms meant that each farmer could work his land just as he wished and there was no longer any need for year round co-operation with the rest of the village. The poor became increasingly dependent upon the farmers for their very existence.

Nearly one hundred years passed until, in 1855, Coleby's landowners co-operated in a further reconstruction of the parish. The 1855 Enclosure Exchange and Improvement document shows that Sir Charles Tempest made substantial changes on his land, dividing up the large fields, let out to his tenant farmers, into several smaller units. Many of the lesser owners did the same. This wholesale sub-division of large fields suggests substantial areas of previously unused land being brought into use. This appears to be the last really major revision of Coleby's field pattern, although there has inevitably been some change over the years and the advent of modern farming machinery has resulted in the loss of some hedges as small fields have been merged into larger ones.



Reproduced by Robin Scoley

Coleby field structure after 1855 Enclosure Exchange and Improvement

Coleby Pig Club

As a response to the harsh conditions imposed by the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 and, in particular, the fear of being sent to the Union Workhouse if they fell on hard times, poor people began to band together to help themselves and each other. Many villages formed friendly societies, like the Odd Fellows and the Foresters, which paid out in times of sickness and distress to members who had paid the required small subscription. Cow Clubs and Pig Clubs also became common in Lincolnshire villages.

Many Coleby villagers kept a pig to supplement the family diet and in 1845 Coleby Pig Club was started. If a pig became sick and died, the pig club paid compensation. By 1871 subscriptions were only 6d per year. The treasurer of the Club in 1871 was Miles Toynbee and the secretary was Thomas Linton. The influence of Thomas Linton, stalwart of Coleby Methodist Chapel and a respected local preacher, can be seen in the way the Club was conducted.

"The prosperity of the club...is doubtless due to the excellent rule, which has been rigidly observed from the first, that nothing whatever should be spent out of the common fund on any description of entertainment..." ¹¹

Soon after his arrival in the village in 1932 Mr Joe Applewhite became secretary, a post that he held until the club was dissolved in the 1960s. In the last few years the annual subscription was three shillings for each pig (15 pence). Subscriptions were collected in the Bell Inn and the club members in Joe's time included Harry Ball, Jim Needham and the North brothers. Joe's pigs provided food for his own family but he and some of the other members also reared pigs to sell to Curtis's, the Lincoln pork butchers. Joe has fattened as many as seven pigs at a time at his home in Church Lane. The hooks, where the hams and flitches of bacon were hung, can still be seen in the ceilings of The Mount (Joe's old house). Charlie Odling from Navenby, killed the pigs for 5/- (25 pence) per pig.

Reproduced by kind permission of Chrys Marriott



Joe & Agnes Applewhite

Flora and Fauna

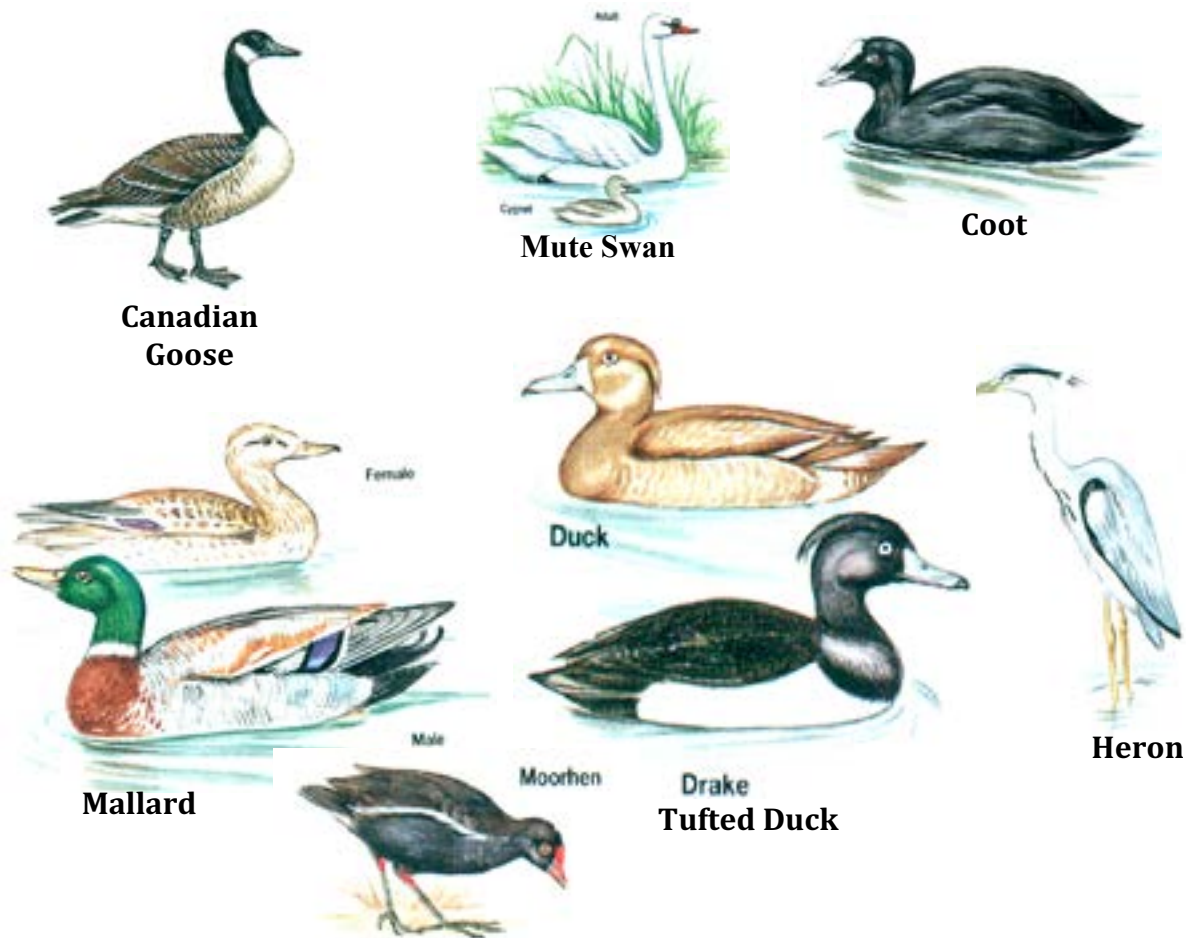
One reason for creating this book was to capture a snapshot of what Coleby was like at the turn of the Millennium. A group was set up to record the flora and fauna of the village. We are grateful for the work of Rick and Pete Haywood who carried out a survey of the bird life of the village. Their findings are also supported by the observations of Robin and Teri Scoley.

The village was divided into four habitat zones: the heath, village and hall grounds, lowfields and the River Brant. Below is a table of the observations made.

Birds seen in and around the Coleby Village

Heath	Village	Low Fields	All land areas	River Brant
Carrion crow	Bullfinch	Barn owl	Black headed gull	Coot
Coal tit	Buzzard	Bewick's swan	Blackbird	
Collared dove	Coal tit	Blackcap	Blue tit	Gadwall
Corn bunting	Collared dove	Buzzard	Chaffinch	Goosander
Golden plover	Garden warbler	Carrion crow	Duncock	Heron
Herring gull	Goldcrest	Chiffchaff	Fieldfare	Little grebe
Lapwing	Great spotted woodpecker	Common gull	Goldfinch	Mallard
Lesser black backed gull	Green finch	Cuckoo	Great tit	Moorhen
Marsh harrier	Green woodpecker	Curlew	House martin	Mute swan
Quail	Greenfinch	Garden Warbler	Jackdaw	Pied wagtail
Song thrush	House sparrow	Goldcrest	Kestrel	Sedge warbler
Stock dove	Jay	Golden plover	Magpie	Snipe
Wheatear	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Hooded crow	Mistle thrush	Swallow
Willow warbler	Longtailed tit	Grey Partridge	Pheasant	Tufted duck
Yellow hammer	Marsh tit	Heron	Red legged partridge	Turtle dove
	Meadow pipit	Herring gull	Robin	Yellow wagtail
	Nuthatch	Lapwing	Rook	
	Pied wagtail	Lesser whitethroat	Starling	
	Siskin	Little owl	Swallow	
Greenfinch	Song thrush	Moorhen	Swift	
	Songthrush	Mallard	Turtle dove	
Sky lark	Sparrow hawk	Merlin	Wood pigeon	
Grey partridge	Spotted flycatcher	Montague's Harrier	Wren	
	Tawny owl	Mute swan		
	Tree creeper	Short eared owl		
	Tree sparrow	Skylark		
	Willow tit	Sparrow hawk		
	Woodcock	Stock dove		
		Tawny owl		
		Whitethroat		
		Whooper swan		
		Willow warbler		
		Woodcock		

Birds seen on or over the River Brant *(Drawings reproduced by kind permission of Parragon Publishers)*



Some of the birds that live and visit the River Brant.

Resident on the Brant	Visitors to the Brant
Little Grebe (Dabchick) Heron Mute Swan Gadwall Mallard Tufted Duck Coot Moorhen Pied Wagtail Yellow Wagtail Sedge Warbler Snipe	Cormorant Whooper Swan Buick Swan Pink Footed Goose Canada Goose Goosander

Village flora

Members of the Flora and Fauna group conducted two surveys. The churchyard and the contrasting environment of the quarry. Below is a table of the observations made.

Churchyard	Quarry	Quarry
Beaked Hawksbeard	Ash	Lesser Trefoil
Cocksfoot	Beaked Hawksbeard	Meadow Buttercup
Common Vetch	Black Horehound	Meadow Grass
Cow Parsley	Black Medic	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
Creeping Buttercup	Bramble	Musk Thistle
Curled Dock	Broad Leaved Willow Herb	Nipplewort
Cut-leafed Cranesbill	Californian Poppy	Opium Poppy
Dandelion	Cleavers	Oxeye Daisy
Doves-foot Cranesbill	Cocksfoot	Pineapple Weed
False Oat Grass	Coltsfoot	Perennial Rye Grass
Goat's Beard	Common Field Speedwell	Prickly Sow Thistle
Greater Plantain	Common Hawkweed	Ragwort
Hogweed	Common Mallow	Red Bartsia
Hop Trefoil	Common Mouse-ear	Red Clover
Lesser Trefoil	Common Vetch	Ribwort
Meadow Grass	Cow Parsley	Rosebay Willowherb
Oxeye Daisy	Creeping Buttercup	Round-leafed Cranesbill
Perennial Rye Grass	Creeping Thistle	Scarlet Pimpernel
Pineapple Weed	Curled Dock	Smooth Hawks Beard
Prickly Sow Thistle	Cut-leafed Cranesbill	Spear Thistle
Ragwort	Dames Violet	Sterile Brome
Red Bartsia	Dandelion	Stinging Nettle
Scarlet Pimpernel	Dove's-foot Cranesbill	Teasel
Shepherds Purse	False Oat Grass	Weld
Small Heath Bullfly	Feverfew	White Bryony
Spear Thistle	Field Bindweed	White Campion
Stinging Nettle	Field Forget-me-not	White Clover
White Campion	Field Pansy	White Dead Nettle
White Clover	Field Poppy	White Rose
Yorkshire Fog Grass	Field Scabius	Yorkshire Fog Grass
	Goat's Beard	
	Greater Plantain	
	Green Alkanet	
	Ground Ivy	
	Hardheads	
	Hedge Woundwort	
	Herb Robert	
	Hogweed	
	Honesty	
	Hop Trefoil	
	Lesser Burdock	

The Village and the World Wars

In the summer of 1920, two years after the Great 1914-18 War, the people of Coleby erected a memorial in the churchyard to those who died¹². We are grateful for the research Chrys Marriott has carried out on the men whose names appear on the memorial, 'lest we forget'.



Lincoln Chronicle

Ralph W. Aldrich



Lincoln Chronicle

Leonard H. Andrew

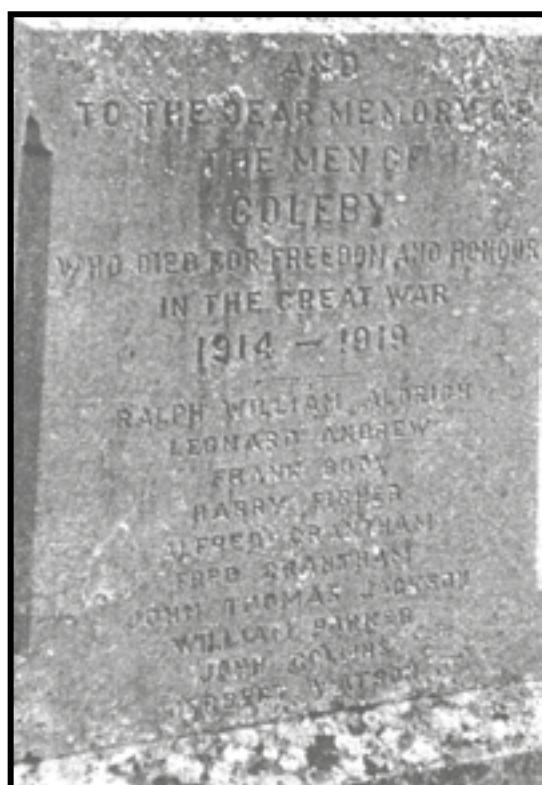


Lincoln Chronicle

Frank Body



Harry Fisher



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Lincoln Chronicle

Alfred Grantham



Lincoln Chronicle

John T. Jackson



Lincoln Chronicle

Frederick Grantham



Lincoln Chronicle

William Parker



John H. Rollins



Lincoln Chronicle

Herbert Watson

Much of the section on World War Two is based on the memories of Mrs Hilda Gresham, born in Coleby and resident in the village until 1988



Picture courtesy of Chryst Marriott

Hilda Gresham (December 1988)

The Second World War brought new residents to the village. Coleby Hall and the Old Rectory were both commandeered by the Army for the duration of the war. Nissen huts were erected in the grounds of the Hall and many soldiers evacuated from Dunkirk were housed there during their first few weeks back in England. The soldiers (many were Scots) were very excitable and noisy when they first arrived and their uniforms were tattered. They often went round the streets of the village and people frequently asked them in and gave them cups of tea.

Another property commandeered by the Army was the red brick bungalow at the top of Far Lane (now No.1 Far Lane) which became the Sergeants' Mess. Soldiers drilled up and down Far Lane and a sentry was posted at the end of Hall Drive. In the early days of the war, when invasion seemed imminent, sentries were posted on the hill top.

The village's population was swelled not only by servicemen but by civilians. People in the village opened their homes to the wives of airmen stationed at the nearby RAF stations who came to join their husbands for a few precious days leave. Other visitors, in the early days of the war, were evacuee children from Leeds and Hull. Mr Metcalfe was the billeting officer responsible for placing the children in homes around the village



Picture courtesy of Chrys Marriott

Coleby Home Guard

*:Back Row Harry Ball, Charlie Rook, ?, Dennis Butler, Bert Sewell, Stan Leonards, Alf North, George Handford, ?,
Front Row: Jack Evison, (Believed to be)Herbert Walker, (Believed to be)Ginger Hill, Mr Baxter, ?, Perce Syson, Lol (Horace)Hardwick, Alf Saunby*

Coleby Home Guard patrolled the village at night-time, and all the residents had to give details of where they would shelter in the event of an air raid so that rescuers would know where to start digging them out. There was no siren to alert the villagers but people got to know the sound of German planes and took cover as soon as they heard them. A searchlight unit was based in Dovecote Lane and Walter Roberts and Jack Walker were ARP Wardens. A Civil Defence organisation was set up, with Mr A Abbott as Head Warden, assisted by Mrs D Abbott, Walter Roberts, Freddie Jeffery, H Smith and T Lyons. Coleby Women's Institute raised funds for various causes, knitted for the troops and helped with the distribution of ration books.

Some of the women also joined the Armed Forces and others, like Kath North, went into the munitions factories. The women who stayed at home had to take on much of the work, which the men folk normally carried out. Hilda Gresham drove her father's lorry, taking sugar beet to Bardney and Kelham and coal from Harmston station up to Harmston 'Colony' (Harmston Hall Hospital). Quite ordinary things, like going into Lincoln, were often very difficult. During the war the buses were so full that they often would not stop at Coleby and Hilda Gresham sometimes had to walk to Lincoln to buy baby food for her infant son. However, if she knew that Mrs Rudd, the landlady of the Tempest Arms, was going to Lincoln she made sure she went for the same bus. Mrs Rudd gave the bus driver twenty cigarettes each time she went to Lincoln and so the bus always stopped for her!

About 30 Coleby men and women served in the Armed Forces, some of the men, like Andy Gresham, were posted overseas for five years without any home leave. Coleby villagers celebrated the end of the war with a big party at Manor Farm, in one of Mr Sewell's two farmyards. (The yards filled the corner of Rectory Road and High Street and the party was held in the yard nearest to the school).

R.A.F. Coleby Grange

(Reproduced from 'Lincolnshire Airfields in the second World War', by Patrick Otter with the kind permission of Countryside Books.)

Coleby Grange was opened on 18th May 1940; bounded on the north by Coleby Heath Road, the east by the A15, the south by the Boothby Graffoe to A15 road and the final boundary crossing the fields to rejoin the Coleby heath road, about one and half miles from the A15. The intention was to provide one of two satellite airfields for the RAF fighter station at Digby, the other being at Wellingore⁸. The airfield was named RAF Coleby Grange after a nearby country house that was used to house aircrew after the airfield became operational.

RAF Coleby Grange was used briefly by RAF Stations Waddington and Cranwell as an emergency landing ground before its first Fighter Command occupants, 253 and 264 Squadrons, moved in. Both came from Kirton Lindsey in North Lincolnshire and operated Bristol Defiant night fighters. 264 Squadron finally departed from Coleby Grange in mid September 1940, its sister squadron having left some months earlier.

It was the following summer before Coleby received its first permanent squadron, 409 of the Royal Canadian Air force, which moved in from Digby in July 1941 again flying Defiants. The squadron, nicknamed 'The Nighthawks', quickly converted to Bristol Beaufighters. This aircraft, was fitted with the RAF's new airborne intercept radar and packed a fearsome punch through its nose mounted guns.



Reproduced by kind permission of the
photographer, Peter Green

²*Beaufighter 11f T3145*

The Squadron began to work up on its new aircraft but suffered a setback early in October when its commanding officer, Wing Commander Peterson, was killed when his aircraft crashed. It was the Squadron's first fatality and more were to follow. In December two Beaufighters were in collision over the airfield and, three days later, a third crashed whilst attempting to land. A further two were lost in crashes early in 1942.

Coleby Grange was one of many R.A.F. camps nearby, and a common sound in Coleby, on wartime evenings, was that of the Lancaster bombers, Wellingtons and American Flying Fortresses passing overhead on bombing raids over Germany. Sometimes on the return journey German planes followed our planes back to R.A.F. Waddington and bombed the airfield. Several aircraft came to grief around the village, on one occasion a German plane crashed in flames near Coleby Mill, killing the pilot. The dead man was wearing the prestigious German military decoration, the Iron Cross, and this was removed by one of the British airmen at the crash scene. However an officer noticed the pin marks on the dead man's uniform and the Iron Cross was retrieved.

A Canadian aircraft suffered the same fate, its burning wreckage crashing down on to the railway bank between Harmston and Coleby, killing all the crew. Sometimes villagers were deliberately targeted as on one Saturday morning, at about 8-00 a.m., when a German plane sprayed the council houses on the Grantham Road (Avenue Villas) with bullets, fortunately no one was hurt.

In 1941, the 'Nighthawks' were in business as an operational fighter unit, the new commanding officer, Wing Commander Davoud, shooting down a Dornier 217 over the North Sea. This was followed by a Heinkel 111 the following March, the first 'kills' notched up by the Squadron, five German aircraft falling to their guns.

409 Squadron remained at Coleby until February 1943 when it was replaced by Squadron, 410, equipped with the De Havilland Mosquito. 410 mixed its defensive duties with a series of intruder operations over occupied Europe.

10 Squadron flew from Coleby until October 1943 when it was moved to West Malling in Kent. It was replaced by 264 Squadron, again with Mosquitos but this stayed less than four weeks. Coleby Grange had now become a transit station with squadrons moving in and out rapidly. Amongst these were 288 Squadron (Defiants), 68 Squadron (Beaufighters) and 307 Squadron, which was equipped with Mosquitos.

By the Autumn of 1944 Fighter Command had no further use for the tiny grass airfield at Coleby Grange and it was transferred to 27 Group as a satellite of 17 Service Flying Training School at Cranwell, which brought its Harvards and Oxfords from Caistor to Coleby at the end of October. They were joined by 1515 Basic Aircraft Training Flight in February 1945, coming from Peplow with yet more Oxfords. The final arrival at Coleby during its wartime service was 107 Elementary Glider School that arrived during the spring of 1945 to provide training for Lincolnshire Air Cadet units.



Reproduced by kind permission of
the photographer, Peter Green

Cadet T1 gliders in 1946

After the war Coleby was to have a further brief operational period when it became a site for the Thor Intercontinental Ballistic Missile in 1958, but this ceased in May 1963. The airfield was sold for agricultural use during 1964 and 1965. The existence of Coleby Grange airfield may still be identified from a few remaining structures lying derelict on the site, particularly the old watch house, which lies in the fields adjacent to the A15 where it meets the Coleby Heath road.

British Legion

There used to be a District Branch of the British Legion in Coleby, which used to be run by William Butler. This has long since disbanded but there still remains an active branch in Navenby.

Village Organisations

In order for any community to succeed and develop those involved must cooperate and support each other. This gets the most out of the resources available. As Coleby has not only survived and developed, we can assume its success is partly due to the community spirit that is so evident today. A survey¹³ carried out in 1997 demonstrated that the needs of our community are many and varied. To meet these needs requires the time of volunteers and organisational structures to help in decision making. Coleby has eleven groups at the moment: Village Church Council, School Governors, Friends of Coleby School, Senior Citizens Club, Coleby Parish Council, Mothers and Toddlers, Tuesday Group, Gardeners' Club, Coleby Football Club, Millennium 2000 Committee and the Village Hall Committee.

Village Hall Committee

A prefabricated village hall, known as the Coleby Community Centre, was built in 1972 and extensions have been added over the years. The construction has always had a limited shelf life and as it approaches its 30th birthday it needs attention. The trustees changed their name to the Coleby Village Hall Committee in 1998.

The land where the playing field and village hall stand was purchased in 1951 at a cost of £231.62. by the Trustees of the Coleby Playing Fields Association. It is not known how they managed to find, what was then, a considerable sum of money. The Committee is made up of representatives from all the village organisations. This has changed over the years as the roll of the first committee indicates.

Coleby Football Club	John Long
Coleby Parish Council	Walter Attale
Coleby Parochial Church Council	George Leonard
Coleby Methodist Church	Kathleen North
Coleby Pig Club	William Chamberlain
Coleby Horticultural Committee	Frederick Baldwin
Coleby Women's Institute	Christobel Leonard
Coleby Mother's Union	Edith Evison
Coleby & District British Legion	William Butler
Coleby School Managers	George Cope

First Village Hall Trustees

The Parish Council -

The Parish Council is made up of seven parishioners who are elected every four years. The current council consists of: Bob Fletcher (Chairman), Pamela Boura, Monique Butler, Margaret Davis, Nev Hunter, Andrew Long, and John McMillan. A part-time clerk, presently Chrys Marriott, supports the Council.

The duties of the Parish Councillors have changed over the last 100 years and some of the business conducted by those early councillors seems very strange today. For example, each year councillors were appointed to the ancient offices of 'Overseers of the Poor' and 'Parish Constables', posts that had been held by Coleby villagers in every generation since Elizabeth I's time. Vestiges of the old Poor Law are still to be seen in the Minutes of April 1926 when an Overseer of the Poor was elected, whilst Parish Constables were still being appointed in 1927 to help keep law and order. In 1900 the Parish Council approved payment of a bill for handcuffs and staff for the use of the Parish Constables.

In 1898 the Parish Clerk was authorised to pay three pence a dozen for dead sparrows brought in by parishioners, another custom carried on since Elizabethan times as a form of pest control. Apparently rats were dealt with similarly through the years as the February 1917 Minutes record the suggestion of forming a 'Rat and Sparrow Club'. The outcome is not known.

In modern times the Parish Council has to attend to different matters. In particular, the impact of the motor vehicle has created a whole new range of problems to be dealt with. The Parish Council campaigned successfully for a 30 m.p.h. speed limit through the village and for the reinstatement of the public footpath along the A607 from Coleby to Boothby Graffoe.

Many and varied are the tasks of the Parish Council in managing village business and it is heartening that since its inception in 1895 Coleby seems always to have found enough people willing to devote their time to the work and to shoulder the responsibilities, often staying in office for many years. One in particular, Mr Joseph Luff, retired in 1942 due to illness having served in the onerous position of Parish Clerk for 40 years: a shining example to all who follow!

Mothers & Toddlers

The forerunner of the Mothers and Toddlers group was the Coleby Mothers Union which disbanded many years ago. The recently formed Mothers and Toddlers Group meets in the village hall on Friday mornings during term time. Toys are available to keep the children amused and the mothers are then able to offer support and encouragement to each other.

Senior Citizens Club

Ginger and Nora Hill and Mr. Carmes founded this club in 1957. Meetings are held every other Wednesday. They were originally held in people's homes and gardens and even in the school prior to the erection of the village hall in 1972. The meetings allow people to catch up on village news and offer each other mutual support. One of the main activities of the club at the moment is playing bingo. An evening bingo session is held in October that helps raise funds for other activities such as the summer outings. Other events that are arranged include the annual Christmas Lunch in the Tempest Arms and the New Year party.



Reproduced by courtesy of the Lincoln Chronicle

Senior Citizens party held in the village school (circa 1960)

The two people on the far right of the front row are believed to be the Rev'd H. Roe and his wife, who came to Coleby in 1956. Freddie and Rose Jeffery are seated 4th and 5th from the left on the front row.

Tuesday Group

In the late 1960s Raie Clare moved into the Red House. As a way of getting to know people she advertised in the Parish magazine to see if any ladies would be interested in joining a group to listen to speakers and learn crafts. Some responded and the Wednesday Group was formed. The group met once a month in the Red House.

In the early 1980s the evening changed to a Tuesday and the venue was shared amongst the group. The format remains the same and the annual programme includes speakers, a barbecue, outing, theatre trip and a party. In addition each year a coffee evening raises money for a chosen charity.

Raie Clare was a teacher of lace making and travelled around the world teaching her craft. She also published lace patterns and a book on the subject. Sadly she died in 1986 and did not see her book in print.



Cliff Knowles

Red House, High Street

Horticulture Club

The village used to have a horticulture group and one of its popular activities was to grow the biggest vegetables in the village. Much of the produce was shown at the Coleby Horticulture Show, which has now been superseded by the Village Fete. Not all the produce was ready for the July show and below is a photograph of some of the entrants to the pumpkin competition. After the competition, people were left with several stones of pumpkin but little idea of what to do with them. Some people involved themselves in an extra competition which entailed rolling the pumpkins down the field at the end of Church Lane, probably after leaving the Bell Inn.



Picture courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo

Winners of the Pumpkin Competition enjoying their success in the Bell Inn

Gardener's Club

Gardening is enjoying a revival nationwide and this was reflected locally with the formation of the Coleby & District Gardening Club in July 1997. The club meets once a month in the village hall and already has around 50 members. Guest speakers are invited to attend and share their work and ideas with the group. The club also arranges outings to gardens and horticultural shows. The Gardening Club committee consists of: Mike Dale (Chairman), Margaret Davis (Secretary), Jean Hunter (Treasurer), Dave Marriott, John & Elsie Rook. The committee also organises the Annual Best Kept Front Garden Competition in which all the households are automatically entered. There are three sections: Best Lawned Garden (Michael Fowkes Cup), Best Contained Garden (Barbara Fowkes Cup), Best Community Spirited Garden (Andrew West Cup).



Picture by Cliff Knowles

Coleby Gardening Club Committee 1999-2000
(L-R) Dave Marriott, Mike Dale, Nev Hunter, John Rook
Margaret Davis, Elsie Rook, Jean Hunter

Coleby United Football Club

Coleby has had a football team since the 1930's and it has been sponsored by the Bell Inn for many years. It has formed and disbanded many times since. The earliest photograph of a Coleby Village football team that has surfaced is one taken in 1967. The team played 'friendlies' as they were not part of a league structure. One of the interesting aspects of the team is that all but one of the players came from the village. This contrast with the present team that only has one player from the village (Ben Heaven) playing at the moment. This probably reflects the increased and varied opportunities for leisure that exist now.



Reproduced courtesy of John North

Top row (L-R) Neil Edwards, Mick Read, Brian Hill, Rob Read, Phil Pattinson.

Bottom row, Alan Duxbury, Trevor Louth, John North, Tom Sawyer, Ian Butler, Robert Todd

Coleby United have had a good measure of success. Their first trophies were the Lincoln Sunday 2nd Division title and the Lincoln Junior Cup in the late 1960's. The Sunday side disbanded in the 1970's and Coleby have since only played in the Lincoln Saturday League. The 1976/77 side, featuring several villagers, won the Lincoln Saturday Division 1 title in the 1976/7 season.

1976/77 Lincoln Saturday League Division 1 Champions



Photograph courtesy of R. A. Adams

Top row (l-r) Paul Osbourne, John Stokes, Robbie Stewart, Freddie Maddox, John North, Gary Archer, Charles (Sugar) Bennett, Kirk Wilkinson, Bob Tennant.

Bottom row) Kevin North, Graham Millard, Dudley Dolan, Alan Jones, Dave Sparrow, Paul Otter.

Coleby United 1984/85



Picture courtesy of Keith Tennant

Top row, (l-r): Mick Aram (President), Dave Sparrow, Nigel Wood, Mellie Reed, Graham Jackson, Alan Ford, Paul Smith, Paul Osbourne (Manager), Ken Bagley (Chairman), Phil Skellett.

Bottom row (l-r): Dale Seaton, Rollie Gash, Kev North, John Carruthers, Dougie Lovett, Kevin Giles.

Coleby United's finest year was during the season of 1984/5 when they won a staggering 4 trophies, (from left to right in the previous photograph) Village Trophy, Lincoln Premier Division Cup, Village Trophy Album, Lincolnshire Junior Cup, Amateur Cup. This equalled the record set by Heighington in 1974. One of the trophies, the Amateur cup, was won with an 89th minute goal at Sincil bank. A more detailed match report can be obtained from the Lincolnshire Echo date 16, May 1985.

Lincoln League						
LINCOLN FOOTBALL LEAGUE						
FINAL TABLES						
PREMIER DIVISION						
	P	W	D	L	F	APTS
Coleby Utd	22	18	2	2	69	19 38
Wragby	22	15	3	4	70	24 33
Hykeham	22	14	3	5	46	27 31
Heck Utd	22	14	1	7	48	30 29
H'castle Tn	22	12	2	8	48	45 26
Wood Spa U.	22	11	3	8	51	43 25
Inter RGT	22	6	5	11	36	33 17
Fulbeck Utd	22	6	5	11	34	47 17
Emgas	22	5	4	13	34	47 14
Claytons	22	4	5	13	29	58 13
Welton SSC	22	4	4	14	43	75 12

1984/85 season



*Reprinted by courtesy of the Lincolnshire Echo photograph
No. 588/E/24A)*

*Receiving the 3rd Division trophy
(l-r); Roy Bellamy, 'Sugar' Bennett, Bob Laing, Jack Rook, Paul Osbourne and Ken Bagley,*

The most recent success of the village side was winning the David Cooper Cup in 1995. The winning goal against Miguels football club was scored by captain Kevin North.

Coleby United 1994/95



*Reprinted by kind permission of the Lincolnshire
Sports Echo*

*Top row (l-r) Ken Newton, Gary Askew, Paul Smith, Merv Couldron, Alan Walker, Ken Shipman, Mick Reynolds, Paul Hill, John North.
Bottom row (l-r) Andy Moon, Kev North, Stuart Baskcombe, Graham Frost, Mark Baskcombe, Steve Ward.*

Coleby Pubs

History of the Tempest Arms

The first reference to a licensed house in Coleby was in 1760 relating to The Royal Oak Inn. The original site of this inn is not known. It was Coleby farmer Sam Auckland who held the first licence of The Tempest Arms around 1835. He brewed his own ale and its strength would have probably reflected the Lincolnshire average of 1060. It was sold on and off the premises and was very popular. In 1851 a shop had been added to the beerhouse and was probably one of the earliest shops in the village. The beerhouse was originally called 'The Old Board' before becoming the Brewers Arms Inn in 1870. Local magistrates granted a full alehouse licence in 1882. In 1888 tenant Charles Hill changed the name of the pub to the Tempest Arms, probably to curry favour with the owner of the property, Major Arthur Cecil Tempest.



Reproduced courtesy of Calvin Metcalfe

Tempest Arms before the walls and windows were altered



Cliff Knowles

The Tempest Arms 1999

The Tempest Arms Licensee Roll of Honour

1835	Sam Auckland	1861
1861	Jane Auckland	1880
1880	Arthur Adcock	1884
1884	John Scott	1888
1888	Charles Hill	1890
1890	Mary Hardwick	1895
1895	William Brumby	1900
1900	T. Cross Brumby	1908
1908	Henry Coupland	1914
1914	William Humberstone	1934
1934	Annie Fitzpatrick	1943
1943	Jack & Bruce Rudd & Peter Bennet	1970
1970	Tom Blanchard	1978
1978	M. E. Brooks	1979
1979	Rosina Brooks	1985
1985	Owen & James Atkinson	1988
1988	John Jinks	1990
1990	Calvin Metcalfe	

Michael Moroz (8 Sept 1910- 20 April 1996)

The pub has seen many characters enter its portals over the last 140 years, but very few leave such enduring memories as Michael Moroz. He spent over 60 years living in Coleby. His background was shrouded in mystery and Michael would not readily disclose his origins. It is believed that he originated from the Ukraine, where it is claimed he had a wife.

One of the difficulties of fully understanding Michael was that he had developed his own unique brand of English. Fortunately a customer of the pub took some time out to produce a guide to ‘Michael-speak’, which is still displayed in the pub.

Sounds like	Means	Sounds like	Means
Amstron	Harmston	Like	Light
Beast	Bees	Moff	Moss
Beef Roof	Beetroot	No Serious	Seriously
Bin Livin	Used to live	Onion Beast	Honey bees
Bear	Dear	Paddle	Pedal
Cape	Tape	Praw	Prawn
Cancer house	Council house	Preparation	Operation
Coronation	Carnation	Puddle	Poodle
Cuckoo burr	Cucumber	Responsible	Sponsor
Dicoke	Diet Coke	Roger	Rod
Drange	Drain	Rose	Road
Fresh	Pheasant	Semoster	Solicitor
Ghurka	Gherkin	Shuffle	Shovel
Juice	Jews	Sludge	Slugs
Kitney	Kitten	Station dog	Alsatian
Language	Luggage	Wallnewt	Walnut
Lincoln Stumble	Stonebow	Wool	Wolf
Lonk	Long	Yeat	Eat

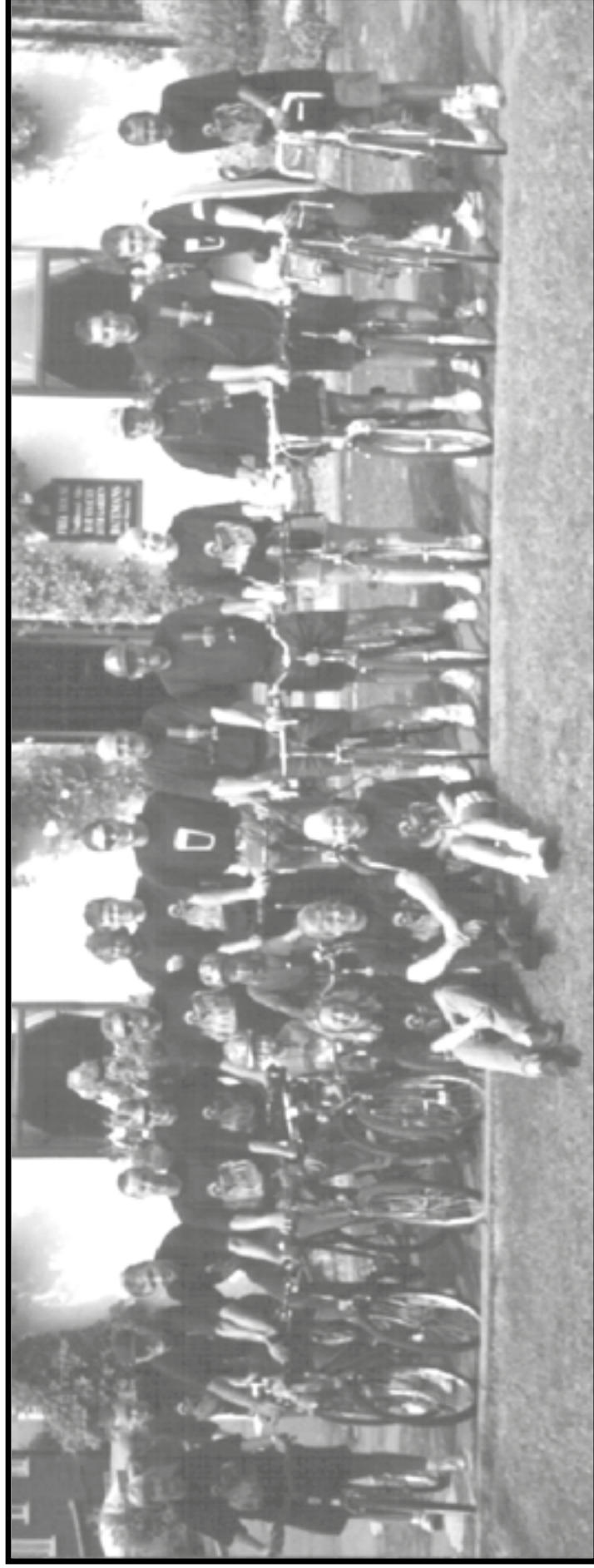


Picture by Calvin Metcalfe

Michael Moroz

August Bank Holiday

This is probably one of the best community sports weekends of the year. It all starts and ends in the Tempest Arms, which is appropriate as Calvin Metcalfe is main sponsor and driving force behind the events. Just one of the reasons why Calvin and Gill won the Regional Community Pub of the year in 1999.



Tempest Arms Bike Ride

Friday - Pasta Night

The festivities begin on Friday night when a pasta supper is available in order for the cyclists to build up their energy stores for the 20 mile bike ride the following day. This would be ideal preparation if it wasn't accompanied by copious amounts of alcohol.

Saturday - Bike Ride

The village is a hive of activity on the Saturday morning. Bikes are wheeled out of their hiding places and are made ready for their annual airing. There is usually some panic and tension as people search to match the pump to the right valve or spanners for the right nuts. The route and approximate timings are as follows:

11.00 Tempest Arms

Some have a quick drink steady their nerves, others have one to steady their hands.

Once the group photograph is taken then the riders go under starter's orders.

11.05 Bell Inn

Slow bike ride, winner receives 'yellow jersey'.

11.25 Thorald Arms

First real test for bike and rider, frequent failures of both.

11.45 Wheatsheaf

Waddington is great, three pubs in 300 yards.

12.15 Clangers

Some riders are tempted by the smell of fish and chips and fill up.

12.45 Horse & Jockey

The last of the easy pubs. Riders have to contemplate riding down a 1-10 hill. Once that is accomplished a decision has to be made about going up Station Road and risk being run over or take a 'short cut' and risk getting lost.

1.30 The Harrows

This is a great stop when all the riders replenish their dwindling energy supplies with some great food from either the pub or the Dolphin fish bar. The trouble is that people do not want to leave.

2.15 Royal Oak

The stretch from North Hykeham to Aubourn is an arduous trek, especially after lunch. Some try out another ‘short cut’ and will often arrive sore and wet. One of the worst effects of only cycling once a year is that the rider’s undercarriage tends to become sore. Consequently the motivation to continue is in short supply.



Reproduced by permission of Mike McHale

The Royal Oak at Aubourn

2.45 Bugle Horn

We should stop at the Five Bells, but it is always closed, so we head on to the Bugle Horn. The riders have to beware of the low ceilings otherwise they could collect a head injury, but probably nobody would notice.

3.30 White Hart

This is many people’s favourite stop, because we often stop for several drinks. The group tends to be in great humour, a manic defence against what has to come – a six mile ride home.



Picture by Mike McHale

Paul White giving an impromptu performance on the saw.

5.00 Needham's Farm

There are not many people who, after riding twenty miles and visiting ten pubs, would want to race up a 1-10 hill in order to win the 'king or queen of the mountain' award, but our riders do and there have been some surprising winners over the years.

5.30 Tempest Arms

The sprinters may arrive at base camp shortly after 5 o'clock but a lot of the pack will walk the last part of the course, but most will finish. Some will engineer lifts, some will be offered lifts because they look so pathetic, some will go missing and a search party will have to be sent. But it is absolutely great fun and a great sense of community belonging is generated.

Cricket

Sunday is a rest day, and most people need a rest as walking in an upright position has become a challenge for a few of the riders. Bank Holiday Monday sees the annual challenge between the landlord's select eleven, often referred to as the old 'uns, against a side of local young 'uns. The match consists of 20 overs a side and each player has to bowl two overs each. The game is often close but the old 'uns have never lost. During the evening there is a 'bit of a do' down the pub. Presentations are made and everybody has a good time



Picture courtesy of Calvin Metcalfe

Tempest Arms Presidents XI

Back row (L-R) Mike McHale, Calvin Metcalfe, John Council, David Butler, Nev Hunter, Dave Knowles, John Myall.

Front row John Rook, Stewart Lowe, Geoff Millner, John North



Cliff Knowles

The Bell Inn 1999

History of the the Bell Inn

The history of the Bell Inn has been more difficult to research. It is not mentioned in Kelly's Business Directory until 1937, but undoubtedly existed much before this date. It is likely that it started life as a single cottage beershop, not dissimilar to the Tempest Arms. There is a definite mention of a beerseller called John Cawdron, who does not appear to be linked to the Tempest. What we do know is that the Bell Inn was an important meeting house and the headquarters for Coleby & District Sick & Dividing Club from 1930 to 1962.

Coleby & District Sick & Dividing Club 1930-62

The Bell Inn Coleby & District Sick & Dividing Club was founded on November 24th. 1930.¹¹ It was created before the security of the welfare state, which did not materialise until 1948. Prior to the NHS patients had to pay all medical expenses directly including hospital bills. There was no state sick benefit at that time either; it was a case of no work no pay. 'The Club', as it was known, was an essential piece of insurance and a common feature of many communities. It is not surprising that Coleby quickly recruited 45 members. Membership was restricted to people living within 5 miles of the Clubhouse (Bell Inn), but most villages had clubs of their own.

The club was only for men. Membership could start as soon as they left school at 14 and continue until they were 60. The initial joining fee was 6d (2.5p) followed by weekly contributions of 6d. These monies had to be paid in person on a fortnightly basis, and any members being in arrears at the end of the Quarter were fined 1d. The Club night was held on a Monday, but this was later changed to Friday to coincide with payday and to avoid most Bank Holidays. If a member became sick, he would receive 10/- (50p) for the first 8 weeks and 5/-(25p) for the following 8 weeks providing he could fulfil the following criteria:

- supply a medical certificate every 2 weeks (later to become every week)
- had paid his subscriptions for at least 6 weeks
- was not more than 6 weeks in arrears

If a member died, the remaining members would donate 10/- from their share of the funds towards the funeral expenses of the member, which were about £30.



Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs. M. Mottam

Walter Roberts, pictured here with his wife, played important roles in the Sick and Dividing Club being Vice-Chairman for 19 years in 2 spells either side of the Second World War.

Members were aware of the possibilities of 'sickness benefit' fraud even then and introduced a rule, which read;

Rule 9

***"If any member, whilst on the Club, shall be absent from home after 9 p.m. from April 1st. to September 30th or after 8 p.m. from October 1st. to March 31st., without leave from the committee of which notice must be sent to the secretary or shall be intoxicated or otherwise retarding his recovery in any way he shall be fined 1/- (5p) for the first offence and 2/6 (12.5p) for any further offence. This rule shall be strictly enforced".
(Coleby & District Sick & Dividing Club, 1930).***

Another rule ensured that people did not work at the same time as they were on 'benefit' and read:

Rule 24

"That any member following an occupation whilst on the funds of the club shall for the first offence forfeit his weeks sick pay and be fined 1/- (5p) and if he repeats the offence forfeits all benefits".

It was possible to work if permission was received from the committee as in 1949, the landlord of the Bell Inn, R. Dolby, applied and he got permission to serve in the bar should he feel well enough.

According to Joe Applewhite, who held many offices during the early years of the club, few people took unfair advantage of the Club because it was in everyone's interest not to draw on the funds as this would reduce their share-out at the end of the year. The Annual General Meeting was not unsurprisingly a joyful event. A minute from the first AGM read, "the evening was spent in jollification and songs were sang".

The dividing of the funds was always held just before Christmas and providing there was no flu epidemic or other serious health problems, the members could look forward to receiving nearly as much money as they had paid in. Fund raising activities such as whist drives and dominoes tournaments also swelled funds. There was even a draw for a pig.

With the advent of the welfare state, the need for the Club became less important and it functioned more like a Christmas club. The 1960's brought increasing prosperity and keeping the club going was no longer worth all the hard work necessary and the last dividing was on December 14th, 1962.

The Bell Inn, Coleby & District Sick & Dividing Club 1930-62

Year	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Sick-Visitor
1930	George Dixon	Martin Frith	Henry Wells	*Tom Wilson	M. Cole
1931-36	Martin Frith	Walter Roberts	Henry Wells	*Tom Wilson	Ginger Hill
1937	J.Applew hite	Walter Roberts	Henry Wells	Joe Applew hite	Ginger Hill
1938-41	Henry Wells	Walter Roberts	Joe Applew hite	Jack Evison	Jack North
1942	Henry Wells	Walter Roberts	Joe Applew hite	Jack Evison	Eric Haslam
1943	Henry Wells	Joe Applew hite	*Harry Allen	Walter Roberts	Eric Haslam
1944	Henry Wells	*Harry Allen	*Harry Allen	Mr. Thompson	Eric Haslam
1945	Fred Maplethorpe	*Harry Allen	Joe Applew hite	Henry Wells	J. Blanchard
1946	Fred Maplethorpe	*Harry Allen	Joe Stalin	Henry Wells	J. Blanchard
1947	Fred Maplethorpe	*Harry Allen	Joe Stalin	Henry Wells	J. Needham
1948	Fred Maplethorpe	Walter Roberts	Joe Stalin	Henry Wells	J. Needham
1949-50	Fred Maplethorpe	Walter Roberts	Jack North	Henry Wells	Eric Haslam
1951-54	Fred Maplethorpe	Walter Roberts	Jack North	Jim Needham	Eric Haslam
1955-56	Fred Maplethorpe	Charlie Chamberlain	Ken Turner	Jim Needham	Eric Haslam
1957	Charlie Chamberlain	Herbert Walker	*Robert Phoenix	Ian Brownlow	Eric Haslam
1958-62	Charlie Chamberlain	John Long	*Robert Phoenix	Ian Brownlow	Eric Hardwick

*Denotes landlord of the Bell Inn

Village Celebrations

Coleby Feast & Sports Day

The earliest evidence about village events that we came across was a poster found by Gerald Needham. It advertised the Coleby Feast & Sports Day of 1926. The event was held in Mr. H. Ward's paddock on High Street, bungalows now occupy this space. Most of the events were standard athletic fare, apart from the German Race. We have not been able to determine exactly what boys up to the age of sixteen were supposed to do to win this race. The prize money seemed generous for that race as it was for the remaining events, especially the 'bowling for a pig' event, the prize for which was the pig!

The Feast & Sports Day was held on a Wednesday afternoon, but on the Saturday of that week, Coleby hosted an all comers skittle match. We assume that it wasn't just all skittles but there was some beer as well.

COLEBY

FEAST & SPORTS

Wednesday, June 2nd, 1926

IN MR. H. WARD'S PADDOCK

(By kind permission) in the Afternoon at THREE o'clock.

LIST OF EVENTS.

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| 1. BOY'S HANDICAP FOOT RACE (up to the age of 12) | For all children | 3 Prizes value 6/- |
| 2. BOY'S HANDICAP FOOT RACE (over 12 to 16) | attending Coleby | 3 Prizes value 6/- |
| 3. GIRLS HANDICAP FOOT RACE (up to the age of 12) | School | 3 Prizes value 6/- |
| 4. GIRLS HANDICAP FOOT RACE (over 12 to 16) | | 3 Prizes value 6/- |
| 5. GERMAN RACE (For BOYS up to 16 years of age) | | 3 Prizes value 6/- |
| 6. BOWLING for a PIG. Entrance 3d | 1 st Prize the PIG. 2 nd Prize 10/-. | 3 rd Prize 5/- |
| 7. GUESSING WEIGHT OF PIG Entrance 2d. | | 3 Prizes value 10/- |
| 8. SKITTLE MATCH (For WOMEN only). Entrance fee 1d. each | 3 Prizes value 9/- | Match to end before tea |

The following events will take place after tea (i.e. about 6 o'clock)

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 9. SLOW BICYCLE RACE (Both sexes) Entrance Fee 3d each | 3 Prizes value 10/- |
| 10. SCRATCH RACE (For Waddington, Harmston, Coleby, Boothby, Navenby) | |
| Entrance Fee 3d | 3 Prizes value 15/- |
| 11. HIGH JUMP (OPEN) Entrance Fee 3d each | 3 Prizes value 15/- |
| 12. POLE JUMP (OPEN) Entrance Fee 3d each | 3 Prizes value 15/- |
| 13. TUG-OF-WAR (10 each side) for MEN Winners 2/- each | Prizes value 20/- |
| The rope for this Event is specially made and presented by W. Rainforth & Sons, Britannia Ironworks, Lincoln | |
| 14. SKITTLE MATCH (OPEN) Entrance Fee 3d Each | 3 Prizes value 15/- |
| 15. LONG JUMP (OPEN) Entrance Fee 3d Each | 3 Prizes value 15/- |

ALL PRIZES PAID IN MONEY

ADMISSION THREEPENCE EACH

ON SATURDAY EVENING

A SPECIAL SKITTLE MATCH

Will take place in the Paddock, at 7 o'clock. ENTRANCE FEE 3d. each. For ALL COMERS.

FIRST PRIZE 8s. SECOND PRIZE 4s. THIRD PRIZE 3s.

By Order of the Coleby Sports Committee, R.T. Haywood, Hon Sec.

Jubilee Day

Following a public meeting in January 1977, a Committee, made up from a representative from each organisation in the village and chaired by Bob Fletcher, was formed to plan the celebrations for the Queen's jubilee. A total of £430 was raised to finance the celebrations. This was achieved through such things as: old time sequence dancing, coffee mornings, cheese & wine parties etc. £130 of which was spent installing seats in the village. Trees and daffodil bulbs were also planted. The children of the school were given either a crown or celebration mug.

The celebrations started on Sunday 5th June with a thanksgiving service in the church. On Monday a bonfire was lit on the ridge at 10.30 p.m. Sausages, mushy peas and liquid refreshments were served. A full day of events were planned for the Tuesday.

- 10.30 Scavenger Hunt for the over 16's
Treasure Hunt for the youngsters
- 2.00 Fancy Dress Parade
Sports day
- 4.30 Children's Tea Party
- 5.45 Comic Football match, ladies versus gentlemen.
- 8.00 Evening Dance



Lincolnshire Chronicle, 6/8/1981

Comic football match at Coleby Village Party in 1981

Sports Day

This was an action packed day with 40 events for all ages. 1st prize was 30p, 2nd prize was 20p and 3rd prize was 10p

Sprint	25 Yards 25 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards 100 Yards 100 Yards 100 Yards 100 Yards 100 Yards 100 Yards 100 Yards	Boys 1-5 Girls 1-5 Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16 Gents 17-30 Ladies 17-30 Gents 31-50 Ladies 31-50 All over 50
Sack Race	25 Yards 25 Yards 25 Yards 25 Yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16
Skiping Race	50 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16
Spud & Spoon Race	50 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16
Three Legged Race	50 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards 50 Yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16
Human Wheelbarrow Race	25 Yards 25 Yards 25 Yards 25 Yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16
Real Wheelbarrow Race	50 Yards	Adults Mixed Team
Obstacle Race	100 yards 100 yards 100 yards 100 yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16
Slow Bicycle Race	25 Yards 25 Yards 25 Yards 25 Yards	Boys 6-11 Girls 6-11 Boys 12-16 Girls 12-16

50th VE Day Celebrations

One of the most memorable days in the recent past was the 50th celebration of VE day on May 8th 1995. The day started with a pram race around the central track of the village. All the prams were decorated in a wartime theme. Competitors started from the village green, headed east to Blind Lane, north to Rectory Road, south to High Street and then back to the green. The winners were the team who had completed the most laps in thirty minutes.

It is understandable that many people regard Coleby as being relatively flat. It is only when you have to push a ‘pram’ around the village for thirty minutes that you start to realise the contours of the village. Fortunately the villagers turned out to support the runners and riders and their encouragement certainly helped the competitors to muster extra reserves of energy. Some contestants and competitors added some wartime realism by introducing water cannon to the proceedings.

After the ‘race’ many people retired to the Tempest and enjoyed much needed refreshment. Tales were exchanged of heroism in the face of the enemy. How some had to adapt their vehicles to run on two wheels when the rear axle collapsed. Others reflected on the wisdom of choosing a bath to push around the circuit.



Picture courtesy of Mike McHale

Start of the pram race

Whilst some were some were enjoying a liquid lunch, others were preparing High Street for a re-enactment of the street parties that were held all over the country on May 8th 1945. As you can see from the photograph below, most of the village turned out in wartime costume. Although we could not recreate the enormous sense of relief that must have been felt in 1945, I do believe we recaptured the sense of community spirit that existed during those difficult times.



Picture courtesy of Calvin Metcalfe

A short break was taken after the street party and then the party continued down at the Tempest Arms. Old wartime songs were sung and everybody had a very enjoyable time. The day was an outstanding success and provided the motivation to recreate the success of the day for the forthcoming Millennium celebrations



Picture courtesy of Mike McHale

VE Day party at the Tempest Arms

Millennium Night

A Millennium Committee was established in 1996 to organise how the village was to celebrate and commemorate the forthcoming event. The officers; Calvin Metcalfe (president), Terry Allen (Secretary) and Jane Bagley (Treasurer), held office throughout the four years. The committee set themselves a target of £10,000. Raising the funds proved to be as much fun as the millennium celebrations.

The Millennium committee launched the Coleby Ball, which is now recognised as one of the most important social events of the year. Further income came from other social events but Calvin Metcalf raised a substantial portion of the fund through the lottery bonus ball game.

The Millennium celebrations lasted through the week and included a carol service in the church. The congregation passed down High Street to the Tempest where the brass band would play more of their music and refreshments were available. The High Street was illuminated with flaming torches that added an extra spiritual dimension to the event and set an appropriate ambiance for the forthcoming celebrations.



Picture by Sat Channa

Party goers enjoying the New Years atmosphere

Other celebration held during the week were parties for all the age groups of the village; toddlers, children, teenagers, and senior citizens. The biggest celebration was of course on New Years Eve.



Picture by Sat Channa

A live band provided an alternative to disco music



Picture by Sat Channa

It's the final countdown

Tickets to the event, which were free to Coleby residents, had been allocated months prior and expectations were high. People were not disappointed. A fine buffet earlier in the evening was followed later by champagne as the clock struck the appointed hour. After midnight the party continued until the early hours.



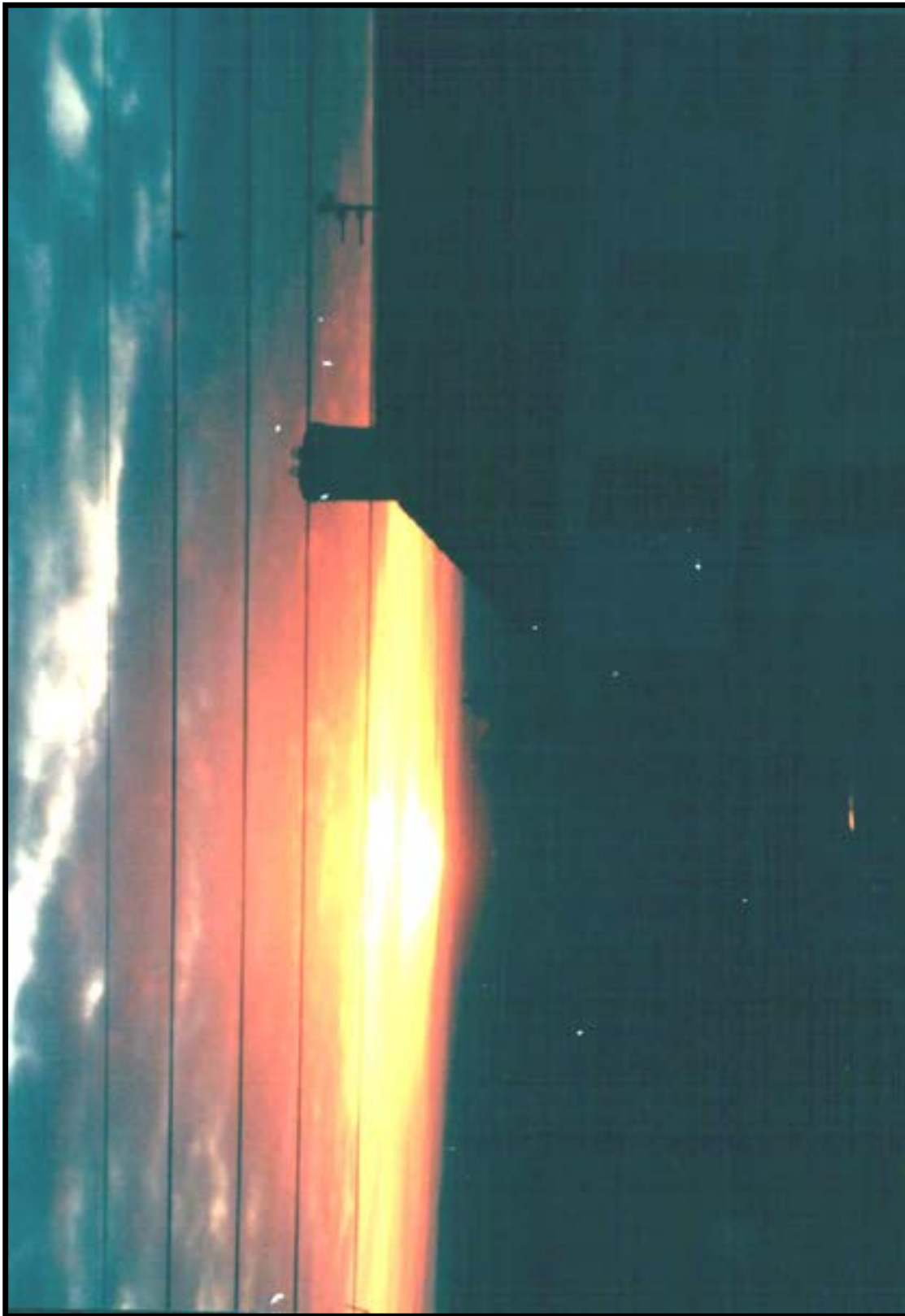
Picture by Sat Channa

Auld Lang Syne

The work of the Millennium committee was not over and on the evening of the 1st January Coleby enjoyed the biggest and most spectacular firework display ever seen in the village. This mostly due to the talents of Terry Allen who organised the display.

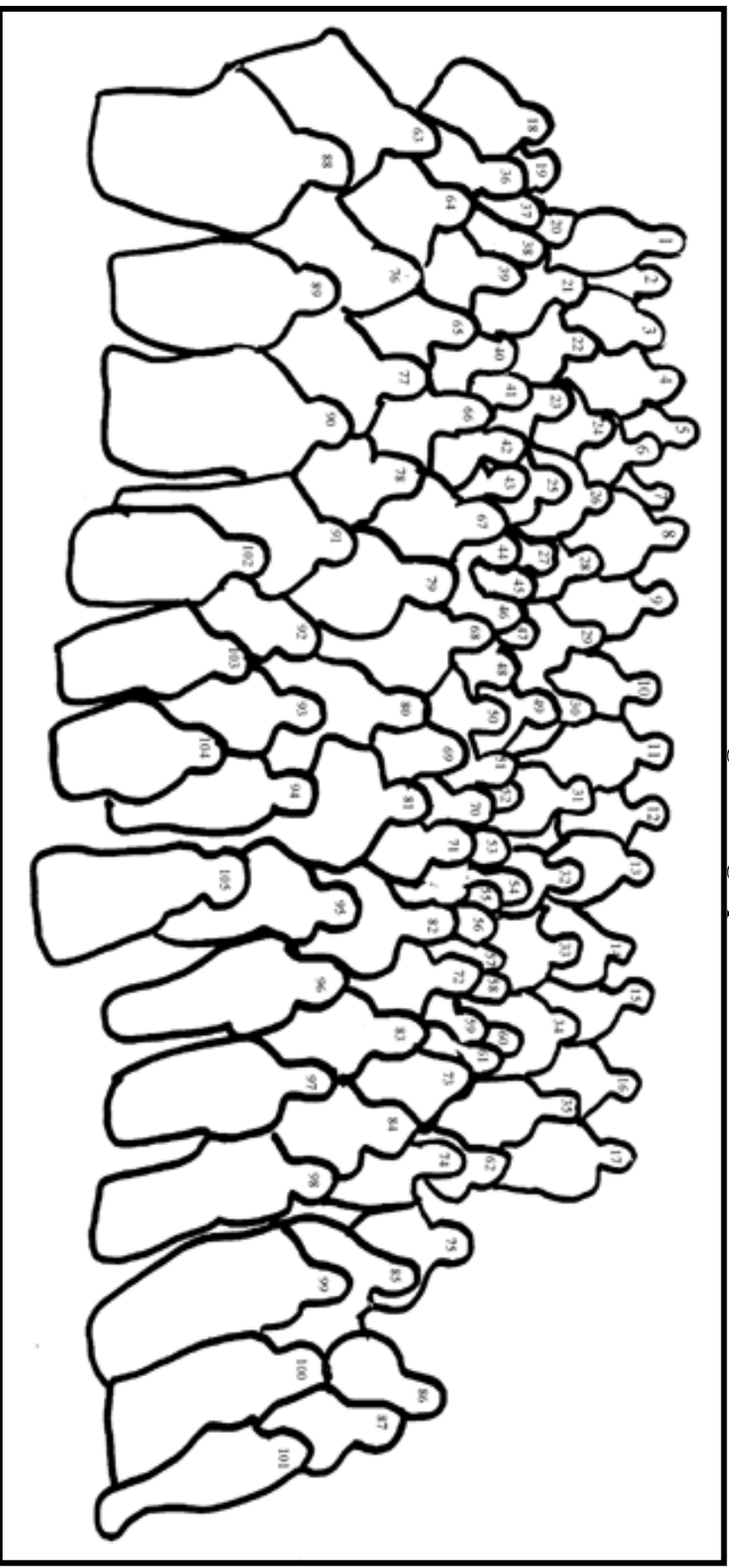
The work of the Millennium committee will continue throughout the millennium year and this book will be one of the lasting commemorations. Another legacy is the demonstration of what can be achieved when people pull together.

Picture by Sat Channa



Sun setting on the second Millennium

Village Photograph



Village Photograph

This photograph was taken on 3rd May 1999 to record some of the people who have helped shape the recent history of Coleby and those who are likely to shape it's future. 105 of the 407 residents turned out for the event which is the largest group photograph ever taken in the village.

- 1) Chrys Marriott, 2) Claire Dale, 3) Gill Metcalfe, 4) Jane Bagley, 5) Calvin Metcalfe, 6) Janet Bagley, 7) Dave Marriott, 8) Ken Bagley, 9) Mike Dale, 10) Jean Hunter, 11) Nev Hunter, 12) Bernie Parr, 13) Zoe Parr, 14) Eileen Knowles, 15) Cliff Knowles, 16) John North, 17) Malcolm Gash
- 18) Andrew Long, 19) Lucy Savage, 20) Julie Savage, 21) Keith Savage, 22) Ivy Bagley, 23) Alvin Stockmarr, 24) Avis Stockmarr, 25) Ian Nowell, 26) Mary Nowell, 27) Richard Fowkes, 28) Audrey Lowe, 29) Joy Lyne, 30) Barbara Alderson, 31) Barbara West, 32) Kath North, 33) Irene Howard, 34) Bet Banner, 35) Joan Gash.
- 36) Bob Alder, 37) Jean Long, 38) Barry Devonald, 39) Jill Alder, 40) Tom Curtis, 41) Roy Frecklington, 42) Hazel Curtis, 43) Chris Frecklington, 44) Tange Stewart, 45) Ken Harley, 46) Robbie Stewart, 47) Elizabeth Fowkes, 48) Joan Harley, 49) Gerald Needham, 50) Keith Tennant, 51) Molly Green, 52) Holly Needham, 53) Eileen Bellamy, 54) Liz Needham, 55) Bronya Heaver, 56) Linda Heaver, 57) Ben Heaver, 58) Lynn Thomason-Knowles, 59) Isla Knowles, 60) Dave Knowles, 61) Paul Heaver, 62) Monique Butler.
- 63) Cristian Metcalfe, 64) Mike McHale, 65) Ian Thompson, 66) Linda Thompson, 67) Bev Harrowing, 68) Kevin Harrowing, 69) Christine McCrudden, 70) Anita Tennant, 71) Deborah Wooldridge, 72) Mary Morley, 73) Heather Fletcher, 74) Lynda Fletcher, 75) Bob Fletcher.
- 76) Jodie Harrowing, 77) Jamie Belton, 78) Pamela Boura, 79) Malcolm Boura, 80) Janet Morris, 81) Bernie Morris, 82) Brett Wooldridge, 83) Pamela Wetherill, 84) Jenny Warnes, 85) Graham Warnes, 86) Peter Griffiths, 87) Sally Griffiths.
- 88) David Lane, 89) Daniel Savage, 90) Timothy Long, 91) Adam Harrowing, 92) James Knowles, 93) Faye McCrudden, 94) James McCrudden, 95) Malcolm Wooldridge, 96) Kate Wood, 97) Shari Channa, 98) Kirin Channa, 99) Leah Harrowing, 100) Kirsty Thompson, 101) Rebecca Long.
- 102) Matthew Thompson, 103) Neil McCrudden, 104) Emily Morris, 105) William Morris.

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