



The internet has opened up such a wealth of access to history and historical records for those that love the subject, whether the interest is in international or national events or the historical legacy of a particular locality. Nearly everyone has access to the internet so there is an obvious and enormous opportunity for a local history society to maximise the use of that tool. The Cowfold Village History Society (CVHS) has done exactly that.

The Society has a wealth of records, photographs and knowledge about the history of the village going back at least to its first recorded origins in the early 13th century. Although it is now a modern West Sussex village with a population of just under 2000 and some fairly new housing developments, its history can still be visibly traced through, for example, the 13th century St Peter's Church, its oldest house, Capons, built in the early 14th century, and some of its roads, such as the A281 which follows the ancient drovers' track from Henfield and the South Downs through to Horsham.

But those records were scattered among various people and places in the village and there was no central repository or access to the village's history. So the CVHS decided in 2016 to develop its own website and this was formally launched in April 2017. The website address is: [www.cowfoldhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.cowfoldhistorysociety.org.uk)

This is now the place to go for anyone who wants to know about the origins of the place they live in or pass through, about the people who have lived in the village in the past, about the events that have affected the village, for example the two World Wars, and about the main buildings and institutions in and around the village, including St Peter's Church, St Peter's School, the Village Hall, Margaret Cottages, and St Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster, a mile or so south of the village. The site features a wide range of interesting features and facts including: the extensive 1911 census record of the village and its people; the 10 objects that denote the village history such as the Nelond Brass, the Millennium Map, and the 17th century Church Marks, a unique set of posts engraved with the name of farm or house whose owner paid a tithe to support the upkeep of the church; and the Society's current programme of events, its projects and its plans for the future. For those who like a bit of fun and a challenge, there is a Quiz about the village history and those who achieve a success rate of 80% or more can claim a signed Certificate of Achievement!

Over the last three years the Society has been developing a strong working relationship with St Peter's School. The School has participated in a History Day run by the Society and the Society has shared material on the school's history. The children have also been involved in sowing poppy seeds at locations

around the village in memory of the fallen during World War 1. The latest development of this relationship is the website's Junior History page. This showcases selected work by Year 6 pupils as part of their history syllabus; the work demonstrates impressive skill in the use of language and imagination, sentence construction and drawing. It is hoped that the website material will also serve as a learning resource for the pupils and give them the opportunity to discover and appreciate the rich historical legacy of the village and area in which they live. Closely linked to this will be the annual award of the Robert Farren Shield, to be presented to the School by the Society on 11 October, which together with a £20 book token, will be given to the pupil who has shown the most 'enthusiasm for history and advanced enquiry skills'.

Since its launch in April, the website has had nearly 1,500 visits including at least one from abroad. Feedback has been very positive and this provides an excellent platform for further development. So if you have not already visited it, please do so and please let us know what you think via the 'Contact Us' page.

Mike Burt, Chairman CVHS

**Cowfold Village History Society**  
Keeping in touch with our past

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**Home**  
Welcome!  
Welcome to the Cowfold Village History Society website. We hope that you enjoy browsing through the material collected about the history of our village and will find the records of our past as fascinating as we do. We are always pleased to receive comments on the website itself (good or bad!) and will also be grateful for any additional material for inclusion on the site, or for help on our various ongoing projects.  
You can contact us by completing the form [here](#).

**Our next meeting**  
Our next meeting is on Friday 20 October 2017.  
"Horsham Houses Revisited" by Dr Anabelle Hughes  
Venue: Village Hall, Bolney Road  
Time: 19.45pm for 20.00pm

**Recent Posts**  
• World War Two and Cowfold  
• Junior History Page  
• History Quiz  
• Michael Burt elected as new Chairman  
• Our Plans for 2017

**Contact**  
Chairman: Michael Burt