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#### Coleford Town Council

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The Coleford Town Guide has been compiled and designed for Coleford Town Council by Heritage Guides ©2015 www.heritage-guides.com. We are grateful to lan Blyth for contributing the article on the Battle of Coleford and to John Beardsworth of The Sealed Knot for his photographs of the Battle of Coleford. The photograph of Cannop Ponds is courtesy of Forest of Dean District Council. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that all the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of going to print, neither Coleford Town Council nor Heritage Guides can accept any responsibility for unintentional errors or omissions.

## Welcome to our town

The Town Council is proud to offer you this guide to the parish. This booklet will help you access many of the services available in the town and the council hopes that you will find it useful.

The Town Council is here to ensure that Coleford Parish is a vibrant developing community which protects and provides for the whole community.

Coleford Town Council aims to ensure

- that the beauty of the town is protected and enhanced
- that the people of the parish receive quality services
- that the amenities the Council provide are developed and enhanced
- that the environment is safe and secure.

The Town Council has several areas of responsibility. It looks after the town centre, Coleford Cemetery, much of the street furniture like benches and bus shelters around the parish and, of course, the King George V Recreation Ground.

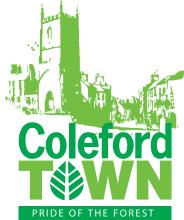
The Council is always looking to improve the facilities and recently has undertaken a programme of improvements at the cemetery which has included creating a natural burial area. But the work of the Council never stops and we are continually planning better facilities and services for the community.

The Town Council is made up of 13 members of the community who are elected once every four years. The councillors

voluntarily give their time to look after and improve the parish. The Council meets on the last Tuesday of each month when decisions are made on what needs to be done. All the meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

The Town Council employs two officers, a Clerk and Deputy, who are available every working day between 9.30am-4pm at the Town Council offices, Lords Hill Walk. They are there to answer your questions and try and resolve your problems which could be anything from the need for a new bus shelter to tracing your ancestors buried in Coleford Cemetery.

If you have ever thought of helping your community by being a councillor please call into the office to find out more. It is a very rewarding role which puts you at the heart of your town.



## What we're about

## COLEFORD

With a population of nearly 8,500 Coleford is technically the largest community in the Forest of Dean District in the county of Gloucestershire. The town itself. however, is relatively small with the population of the parish boosted by a series of outlying settlements, Mile End, Broadwell, Coalway and Milkwall.

As a centre for services, it throws its net even wider to villages such as Berry Hill. English Bicknor, Newland, Sling, Clearwell and Ellwood. The town centre's compact size means the countryside is never far away and it is easy to reach by car with excellent parking and arguably the best shopping facilities in the Forest of Dean.

The visitor cannot fail to be struck by the expansive market place at the centre of the town with its isolated clock tower (the church that belonged to the tower was demolished in the 19th century and a new church built overlooking the town, but without a tower). The market place, surrounded by Georgian façades, often hiding even older structures, is no longer the site of a large regular market, but is nevertheless an invaluable space which makes Coleford the Forest of Dean's favoured location for outside public events. A small walk away is the large parking area at Railway Drive and the 1980s Pyart Court shopping precinct.



The headquarters of the Forest of Dean District Council are located here as well as the area offices of the Forestry Commission (which administers the upkeep of the Crown lands in the Forest), so Coleford can legitimately claim to be the administrative 'capital' of the Forest. With no undue emphasis on any of the towns, however, part of the character of the Forest settlements is that they share many facilities and resources.

The town centre sits in a gentle valley with St John Street and Bank Street climbing out to the north, and Lords Hill and High Street climbing out to the south. Gloucester Road runs north-eastwards to the valley head whilst Newland Street climbing out to the north, and Lords Hill to the valley head whilst Newland Street drops south-westwards along the course of Thurstans Brook

# Tracing roots in the forest Coleford emerged as a settlement basin into which streams ran and form Thurstage Brook which flow

out of the shrinking Royal Forest of Dean as its landlords realised the land would be worth more to them lived on and worked than as a home to game.

At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, this area was part of the large royal manor of Newland which lay within the ancient administrative hundred of St Briavels, and would still have been thickly forested. Nevertheless, the location of the modern day town centre was even then at the crossing of important routes and it is reasonable to believe that the sparse inhabitants of the forest could have stopped around here to trade.

One of those routes was the Coal Way (the original meaning of 'coal' is 'charcoal') which ran through modern day Coalway and down Lord's Hill. The route running north-south up modern day Cinder Hill was known as the Ore Way. The routes met in a basin into which streams ran and joined to form Thurstans Brook which flowed down the little valley towards Whitecliff (these streams were mostly culverted by the 19th century) and it is here that the town grew and modern day Coleford town centre still stands.

In the early 13th century, the King permitted Hugh of Kinnersley to clear some land within the forest on the edge of the manor of Newland and use five oaks to build himself a house. The site of this house was north of Pingry Lane and was one of a number of estates that were carved out of the forest as Coleford gradually took shape. The name 'Coleford' first appears in records in the late 13th century and suggests that here was a settlement by a ford across which charcoal was carried.

Nevertheless, it was some time before Coleford became a centre of any size. In fact, in the 14th century there were more houses in the hamlet of Whitecliff than Coleford itself, and both consisted of little



By the early 17th century, its fortunes had changed and Coleford had become the main settlement on the west side of the Forest: there may have even been an informal market taking place here. Certainly. during the Civil Wars the commander of a parliamentary garrison in the town ordered that a formal market should be held on Wednesdays and Fridays because the nearest chartered market was in Monmouth which was under royalist control. Inevitably. there was opposition from Monmouth to this idea. A market house was built, only to be burnt down in 1643 by Royalist forces marching on Gloucester from South Wales. Nevertheless, in 1661 the town finally received a royal charter to hold a market on Fridays as well as two annual fairs. The fair in June came to concentrate on wool in competition with Monmouth's wool fair. The fair in November (later December) was mainly for cheese.

The town's population increased rapidly in the first half of the 19th century due to the expansion of iron-ore and coal mining, but slowed later

Unlike its current open aspect, the marketplace at the centre of town had become built up by the 19th century, and in 1866 a new Tudor-style market house was built at the northeast end to replace one which had stood there following the granting of a market charter in the 17th century. This was sadly pulled down in 1968 to ease traffic congestion and is now commemorated by a mural which can be viewed from the Gloucester Road junction.

A sign that Coleford was the chief settlement in Newland parish was that

the Newland parish workhouse was sited in the town (on the corner of St John and Bank streets). There were several inns in HISTORY OF COLEFORD

the market place by the 19th century, an indication of the town's increasing prosperity.

Later in the 19th century, housing estates were developed to the north and south of the old town centre.

The traditional industries had declined substantially by the middle of the 20th century, and after the 2nd World War there was a factory building programme south of the town centre to encourage new industries. The company of H W Carter, manufacturer of Ribena, relocated from Bristol to a large factory on Rock Lane, only to be taken over by Beechams (now part of GlaxoSmithKline) and more recently sold to the Suntory Group.

### Talking shop

Most of Coleford's shops are along the roads which radiate from the market square and span a wide range of independent retailers.

The closure of the railway yard presented a major opportunity to expand the retail offer and led to the development of the Pyart Court shopping precinct in 1987, the design of which was revolutionary at the time, allowing shoppers to browse shop windows under cover. Extensive car parks added to both Pyart Court and the historic centre of the town and additional services such as doctors and yets have located there

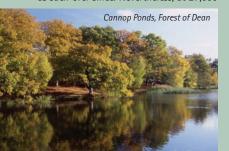
## People of the **Forest**

"A heartshaped place between two rivers"

The modern day local government district of the Forest of Dean covers a region stretching from the confluence of the Severn and Wye rivers and the Welsh border north-eastwards almost as far as Tewkesbury, although its northern inhabitants would hardly call themselves "Foresters".

There had been a royal hunting forest in the southern part of this region before the Normans arrived. Under Norman monarchs the Forest was expanded and for a short period in the 13th century, it stretched as far as Gloucester, Newent and Ross-on-Wye. This is when we have the last record of a monarch himself actually hunting here.

After that, the bounds of the Forest proper shrank quickly as monarchs found land was more valuable to them earning rent from agriculture or used to reward loyalty. By the 17th century, the Forest in practice included only a central area just east of Coleford and has remained more or less as such ever since. Nevertheless, at 27,000



acres it is still the second largest Crown

forest after the New Forest and the amount of forestry even increased towards the end of the 20th century.

More generally speaking, "Foresters" are considered to be those people living throughout the high plateau of land between the Severn and the Wye.

The peculiar status of the Forest as a wilderness not subject to the same development as other areas led to unusual legal dispositions which have to some extent survived to this day such as the right of those born in the old Hundred of St Briavels (which includes Coleford) to exploit the area's coal resources as 'freeminers' (after satisfying certain conditions). There are still some small mines operating under this disposition. Another survival is the Verderers' Court which sits periodically at the Speech House, a former royal hunting lodge to the east of Coleford (and now a hotel). The Court was founded in Norman times to administer laws relating to the preservation of game and their habitat in the Forest. Much of the Verderers' duties were taken over by the Forestry Commission in 1927.

In 1938, The Forest of Dean became England's first National Forest Park and is now a major public leisure resource. Every year, thousands of tourists flock here and Coleford's location makes it an ideal centre both for walkers and those visiting tourist sites, a number of which are either in or near the fown.





## Railway

Coleford became a major link in the network"

#### memories

The Severn & Wye railway reached the south side of Coleford from Parkend in 1875 and a goods and passenger station was built in the area of modern-day Railway Drive (the railway ran along the course of the cycle way from Milkwall).

Then a new railway from Monmouth was opened in 1883 along parts of the former tramroad route, cutting across to a new station next to the Severn & Wye station by a bridge over Newland Road, which is still a feature of the town. A junction was created between the two railways in 1884 and overnight Coleford became a major link

in the network. Its rail heyday was short-lived, however.

The line west of Whitecliff was taken up during the 1st World War (and the rails lost at sea whilst baeing transported to France). Passenger services had come to an end on the Severn & Wye line by 1929. Whitecliff Quarry continued to use the remaining line through Parkend until the 1960s when it was decided to transport stone by lorry as far as Parkend station. The line was completely abandoned in 1967.

The sole survivor of what was once an extensive railway complex at Coleford is a goods shed which was incorporated into the GWR museum opened by local rail enthusiast Mike Rees in 1986.

### Becoming a town

Coleford was originally an outpost of the Mediaeval manor of Newland so when manors morphed into civil parishes, despite its growing economic muscle Coleford remained part of the large parish of Newland centred on the small village of that name.

It was only in 1894, when local government was taking on new powers, that Coleford finally became a parish in its own right and an urban district for administrative purposes.

However, it seems the authorities were undecided as to whether Coleford was a town or not: its triumph was short-lived and it was subsumed into West Dean Rural District in 1935. This itself became part of the Forest of Dean District in 1974 when Coleford was awarded its own Town Council.

The Town Arms of the parish feature on the crest an image of a pipe-smoking freeminer from a unique brass at Newland Church.





### Place at centre

The Main Place is an environmental award-winning building and the fruit of a long process started by the 'Time for Coleford' strategic plan prepared in 2003. The plan had identified a number of improvements required to public facilities in the town.

The scheme was brought to fruition by the South West Regional Development Agency buying land on Bank Street from the County Council enabling the Council to re-invest the money in a new building. The SWRDA contributed additional investment to ensure that the new centre included facilities for training and employment and the District Council provided the site on Old Station Way. The building work was finished in 2010. The building was awarded an Excellent rating for its green credentials by the Building Research Establishment (73.37%) and was officially opened in July 2010.

The Main Place now houses the library, adult day care centre, youth facilities, a community hall, community enterprise centre and offices.

## Religious

was relatively strong in the

In earlier centuries, Coleford was part of the ecclesiastical parish of Newland and did not became a parish in its own right until 1872. Its church, therefore, was considered for many centuries merely a 'chapel of ease'. Indeed, Newland Church, which dates from the 13th century and is dubbed 'the Cathedral of the Forest', owes its magnificence to the size and prestige of this parish.

As was usual in the case of a chapel of ease, Coleford did not have the right to bury its own dead, so for centuries, Coleford men and women were laid to rest at Newland until that churchyard was closed to burials of Coleford residents in 1867 and a local cemetery was opened on Victoria Road. The path to Newland is still known as 'the Burial Path'

Chapel-of-ease or not, Coleford's place of worship seems to have been largely self-governing by the time it was damaged in the Civil Wars and repaired by local people.

By 1821, a new larger, octagonal chapel (similar to the existing church of St Paul in Parkend) was built on the site of the old one in the centre of the town. This in turn was pulled down in 1882 because it had again become too small for the growing

congregation and a new imposing church was built on Boxbush Road overlooking the town centre. The tower of the 1821 chapel was left, however, and this is now a feature of the open market place. The new church was built without a tower - it seems one was considered enough for Coleford!

Nonconformism was relatively strong in the Forest of Dean and there were nine protestant dissenters recorded in Newland parish in 1676, all of whom may have been from Coleford. In 1739, George Whitefield preached in the town, and John Wesley visited in 1756 and 1763. The grand Baptist Church on Newland Street was built in 1858.



| Coleford Town Guide

## Mushet:

FAMOUS NAMES OF COLEFORD

### bettering Bessemer

Robert Mushet (1811–91) was a metallurgist who perfected the Bessemer process for making steel. His father, David Mushet, moved from Scotland in 1810 to run the Whitecliff furnace but soon had his own ironworks at Gorsty Knoll.

Robert Mushet was born in the house which is now the Forest House Hotel on Cinder Hill. Invented in 1855 by Henry Bessemer, the Bessemer process involved removing impurities from iron by oxidation, reducing the cost and speed of steel manufacture. Mushet's discovery of adding ferromanganese in 1856 improved the malleability of the steel and the quality of the final product making the process practical for large scale industrial use. Mushet himself was the first to make rails of steel rather than cast iron, vastly improving their reliability. The material was quickly taken up by railways throughout the world. Mushet also produced the first

commercial steel alloy

in 1868 by adding tungsten.

Despite his discoveries. he had to he rescued from near insolvency by Bessemer who had benefited from Mushet's modification to his process.



Left: Whitecliff Furnace (ironworks). Below left: Robert Mushet

# Famous for far more than being a wife

The biographer and documentary filmmaker Edna Healey (née Edmunds, 1918-2010) was born in Coleford and educated at Bells Grammar School, allegedly the first pupil from that school to win a place at Oxford University.

She met Denis Healey, the future Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, at university and later married him in 1945 after he had served in the Second World War.

Edmunds trained initially as a teacher and after raising a family pursued her career as a writer and award-winning television documentary maker. Her books include Wives of Fame, The Queen's House (A Social History of Buckingham Palace) and a biography of the wife of Charles Darwin, Emma.



Right: Mary Howitt. Below: plague on the gates of Angus Buchanan Memorial Ground

### Caught by Carroll

Mary Howitt (née Botham, 1799-1888) was a poet and author of the children's cautionary rhyme The spider and the flv. parodied by Lewis Carroll in Alice in Wonderland. She was born in Coleford. educated at home and began

writing at an early age. Her father, Samuel Botham, was an industrialist from the Midlands who was a partner in a bid to develop a coke-fired furnace at Whitecliff.

### Bravery in the field

Will you walk into my parlour? said the spider to the fly. Will you wank mo my passon; and the spider to the Tis the prettiest little parlour that ever you did spy,

The the precures, these parbur that ever you did spy.

The way into my parlour is up a winding stair.

And I've many curious things to shew when you are ther

Angus Buchanan VC MC (1894-1944) was the son of a local doctor and won the Victoria Cross for bravery while serving with the South Wales Borderers in Messopotamia (Iraq) in 1916. He was wounded three times and blinded but after returning home still managed to attend Oxford University and gain a degree in law. After the war, Coleford residents raised money in recognition of his bravery which he asked to be used to provide somewhere for young children to play. Thus land was purchased to create the Angus Buchanan Recreation Field in 1919. He is buried in the

cemetery next to the recreation field which his bears name.



### Potted history

Dennis Potter (1935-1994) is one of the most significant writers for television there has been. He is best known for his serials mixing fantasy and reality, intermingled with popular songs, The Singing Detective and Pennies from Heaven, the latter gaining him a BAFTA award and Oscar nomination.

Born in Berry Hill, he attended Bell's Grammar School in Coleford (now the location of the Bells Golf Club).

He described the Forest of Dean as "a heart-shaped place between two rivers, somehow slightly cut off from the rest of England".

His radio autobiography, The Changing Forest, published in 1962 is a study of the people and traditions of the area at a time of profound social change.

### The Battle of Coleford

Coleford played a significant part in the conduct of the English Civil Wars. The Battle of Coleford, which took place on 20th February 1643, is commemorated by a memorial plaque laid by The Sealed Knot in the Market Place in 2010.

Early in 1643 the Welsh Royalists raised an army of some 2,000 soldiers to support King Charles I and invaded the strongly Parliamentarian Forest of Dean. Their objective was Gloucester but first they were to eliminate Colonel John Berrow's embryonic Parliamentarian regiment being raised in the Forest of Dean.

Approaching from Monmouth, the attack on Coleford (the population at the time being around 500) was led by dragoons commanded by Colonel John Lawley. The Royalists encountered rough barricades in the streets and were fired on by soldiers deployed in the houses.

Troops on both sides were untried amateurs and overall casualties were low. The local foresters were, however, good shots and Lawley and his two most senior experienced officers were killed in the action.

Eventually the greatly outnumbered defenders were driven from the town and fled into the forest. The Royalists' short-lived "Mushroom Army", as it became known, was destroyed one month later at Highnam.

Each year members of The Sealed Knot return to Coleford to hold a memorial parade in the Market Place on the Saturday closest to the anniversary. They have also in the past held a reenactment of the battle in neighbouring fields.







## Events of all shapes and sizes

The town centre of Coleford provides a natural environment for events of all shapes and sizes. Over the years the Town Council have worked hard to support the many volunteer groups that stage the ever popular programme of events.

The season starts early in February with a commemoration of the Battle of Coleford that took place on the 20th February 1643. This event sees members of the Sealed Knot hold a small service at the plaque that is laid in the paving around the clock tower in the centre of town. This is followed by the Coleford Carnival of Transport that is now well established as an Easter Monday event having been running for some 18 years and attracting over 500 exhibitors annually.

Next up is the growing Busking Festival that takes place on the last Saturday of May. The event is staged throughout the town with buskers on literally every street corner, and an open mic stage with bistro style seating in the shadow of the town clock – a great way to relax and let the day go by!

In early June the popular Coleford Festival of Words is held which sees a mixture of workshops, performances and talks from local and critically acclaimed authors.

2015 will see the return of the Coleford Music Festival that will take place in early August and will be a celebration of world music throughout the streets of Coleford, combined with workshops for children, arts demonstrations and a street market. It is hoped that this will once again become an annual event.

Finally, the Coleford Christmas lights are renowned far and wide as one of the best displays for any small town. Run entirely by volunteers this really is something that is worth seeing.

## REGULAR EVENTS

#### **Coleford Country Market**

Held every Friday and Saturday in the Market Place from February to December (10am-12 noon). Home produce and craft items. Contact Val Preest 01594 840382.

#### Last Thursday (monthly)

'Last Thursday' is now in its third season and has attracted more than 1,500 local people. The Forest of Dean has four towns, two cinemas and a rarely used theatre, but no regular venue for touring performances. So what's the idea...? Just take a lovely old fashioned village hall (the Evergreen at Broadwell just outside Coleford), ask a few people to help set up, do the door, run the bar, put up posters then choose the Last Thursday of every month and offer a programme of great live events and see what happens!



#### Coleford Carnival of Transport Held annually on Easter Monday in the town centre. Contact Derek Francis 07794 572354.

#### Coleford Festival of Words

Literary festival held in the summer months. Contact Coleford Town Council on 01594 832103

#### Coleford Busking Festival

The now annual busking festival fills the streets of Coleford with live music on the last Saturday in May. Whether you are a musician or a music lover this is a great event for all. Contact Nick Penny 07801 650977.

#### Battle of Coleford Parade

To mark the Battle of Coleford between Royalist and Parliamentary forces on 20th February 1643. Parade organised by the Sealed Knot takes place in the market square on the Saturday closest to the anniversary. The Sealed Knot donated a memorial plaque to Coleford in 2010 and it is here that the annual act of commemoration takes place. Contact lan Blyth 01595 834879.



#### Coleford Music Festival

Set to return to the Town Centre in early August 2015 this was once one of the biggest free music festivals in the UK or even Europe. Contact Nick Penny 07801 650977.

#### Christmas Lights Switch On

Held on the last Friday of November this is one of the greatest displays of festive lights in the area. Contact the Town Council on 01594 832103 for more information.

# A walk through history

(The walk is around a mile in length from start to finish and on properly paved roads and pavements throughout.)

The iron-ore reserves in the Forest of Dean and ready availability of timber meant that iron-making fired by charcoal had taken place for centuries before the 18th century: the new technique of smelting with coke, developed at Ironbridge in Shropshire, was slow to catch on owing to the unsuitability of Forest coal, and Whitecliff Ironworks was not founded until the end of the 18th century, only the second coke-fired furnace in the Forest of Dean. It was rebuilt to a more efficient design at the beginning of the 19th by David Mushet, a Scottish metallurgist. Robert Mushet, his son and later a steel manufacturing pioneer himself, was born after the move to Coleford.

The Railway Bridge is a reminder of the "Coleford Branch" of the Monmouth section of the Great Western Railway, which reached the town in 1883. The Severn & Wye Railway had already reached the town from Parkend in the south in 1875 and the two terminated at stations in close proximity in the area of Railway Drive. A junction was created between the two railways in 1884 making Coleford overnight into a major link in the railway network.

Nonconformism has always been influential in the Forest of Dean and Baptists were meeting in the town since 1799. The current Baptist Church was built in 1858 in an imposing French Romanesque style.

4 St John the Baptist is the town's Anglican church, built in 1880 to a design by Frederick Sandham Waller, resident architect to the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral. This substantial building replaced an earlier 19th century church in the centre of town and was built without a tower apparently because the earlier church's tower was retained. St John's is currently closed to visitors and under threat of demolition.

The Old White Hart Inn is among the older surviving buildings in the market place and dates from the 17th century and is one of numerous inns which once occupied the centre of Coleford.

The imposing Angel Hotel was erected in the early 19th century, replacing a building at least as old as 1608. The inn was part of the estate of Lord Gage of Highmeadow, and the bay windows are said to have been brought from Highmeadow House, part of the Manor of Staunton. For many years, the Angel served as Coleford's main coaching inn and had stables and a dung pit, whilst the horses were pastured in Angel Field at the top of Bowen's Hill. Court sessions were held here and, before the formation of the Post Office, all mail was delivered here. Warren James, one of the leaders of the enclosures riot of 1831, was

arrested and brought to this place before being taken to the Assizes and deported to New Zealand.

The grandly pedimented Bank House was probably built for James Coster before 1786. It was acquired by the Crown in 1861 as a base for the Deputy Gaveller of the Forest (the Royal Forest administrator). Part of it was also let out as an office for the Gloucestershire Banking Company from 1862. It became the administrative headquarters for the Forestry Commission's Forest of Dean district in 1994.

The history of the King's Head Hotel stretches back more than 300 years and it is allegedly the site where a Roundhead's bullet was fired at and killed a Royalist officer during the Battle of Coleford. The street beside the inn is called Spout Lane, thus named because this is where the town drew its water.

A Tudor-style Market House once stood at the entrance to the Market Place but was pulled down as late as 1968 to ease congestion. This had been built in 1866 to replace an earlier building which had stood there following the granting of a market charter to the town in the 17th century. The Market House is commemorated by a mural which can be viewed from the Gloucester Road junction.

The Feathers Hotel dates back to at least 1654 and was known in 1888 as the Plume of Feathers. With its façade standing well back from the street, it is an illustration of how buildings subsequently began to encroach onto the area occupied by the market place.

The Mushet Arch at the entrance to Mushet Walk from the Market Square was erected in 1999 and marks the contribution of Coleford father and son Robert and David Mushet to the iron and steel industry. A mural by Tom Cousins, also marking the Mushets' contribution to manufacturing, was unveiled on the side of the building next to the arch in 2014.

The Clock Tower in the centre of Coleford has over the years become the town's most distinctive symbol. The similarity to a church tower is not a coincidence. It was once the tower to an octagonal church built in 1820 which was demolished in 1882 having proven too small for the growing congregation of the prospering town. The church itself had replaced an earlier "chapel of ease" within the Parish of Newland.

The Studio Cinema was originally built as a drill hall for militia volunteers in 1906. In 1909 Colour Sergeant Richard Reeves began to give free magic lantern shows in the building and by 1910, he and his friend Caleb James Adams had established the "Electric Cinema". Reeves' family continued to run the business after his death. Now part of Circle Cinemas Ltd, it is a much valued resource for the town.

The Forest House Hotel on Cinder Hill was once the home of both David and Robert Mushet, the 19th century industrial pioneers, when it was known as Tump House. David Mushet bought the house in 1810

15 Coleford Great Western Railway Museum is based in a former goods shed built in 1883, the last surviving part of Coleford Station, which once lay on railway lines connecting the town with Monmouth and Lydney. The collection covers the history of the railways in the Forest of Dean, dating from 1809 when the first Act of Parliament allowing a railway in Britain was passed, through the 19th century and the building of the Severn & Wve and Great Western branches connecting Coleford with Lydney (to the south, 1875) and Monmouth (to the north, 1883) respectively, and the Severn Railway Bridge (1879, once the longest in England). It continues into the 20th with the decline of passenger traffic after World War 1, the survival of the former Severn & Wye line as a goods only branch until the 1960s, and the revival of the Lydney Junction-Parkend section as the Dean Forest Railway in the 1970s. The museum was established by local rail enthusiast Mike Rees in 1986. It is open on Fridays, Saturdays and bank holidays 2.30-5pm.

A Coleford Railway Station sign was placed on the Coleford, Milkwall and Parkend Railway Path which follows the course of the former railway connecting Coleford with Lydney.



## What to see

PRIDE OF THE FOREST in Coleford

#### GWR Museum, Railway Drive, Coleford GL16 8RH

Tel 01594 833569 www.colefordgwr.150m.com/intro.html
Open Friday, Saturday and bank holidays 2.30–5pm, the
Coleford Great Western Railway Museum is based in a
former goods shed built in 1883, a listed building and last
surviving part of Coleford Station, which once lay on a line
which connected the town with Monmouth and Lydney.
The collection covers the history of the railways in the
Forest of Dean from 1809 to the 20th century.



#### Puzzlewood, Perrygrove Road, Coleford, GL16 8QB

Tel 01594 833187 helen@puzzlewood.net

Puzzlewood is a magical forest with meandering pathways and over 200 steps set in 14 acres of ancient woodland. The paths take you through deep ravines, mossy rocks, wooden bridges and through fantastic tree and rock formations. A popular TV & film location. Also on site: mazes, playground, animals, café and picnic areas.



#### Perrygrove Railway, Coleford, Glos. GL16 8QB

Tel 01594 834991 info@perrygrove.co.uk

At Perrygrove Railway, there are tree houses, trains and treasure, whatever the weather. Perrygrove is open every weekend all year round and daily in local school holidays. Our steam trains wind their way along a ¾ mile route through farmland and woods. There are four stations, each with paths to walk and picnic spots in the ancient Perrygrove Wood. Tickets last all day.



### The Angel Hotel, Market Place, Coleford GL16 8AE Tel 01594 835638 angelhotel@relaxinnz.co.uk

The Angel Hotel has recently been transformed through an extensive refurbishment of the property, which has brought modern comfort to this magnificent Victorian Hotel. Offering 9 en-suite rooms, each with its own individual character. The restaurant provides a superb dining experience whilst our bar offers a wide range of wines and premium spirits to complement your meal.



#### Bells Hotel & Forest of Dean Golf and Bowls Club.

Lords Hill, Coleford GL16 8BE. *Tel* 01594 832583
This 53-bedroom hotel has a traditional feel with modern facilities to ensure your stay is as enjoyable as possible. With rolling parkland, lakes, streams, bunkers and woodland, the par-69 eighteen hole golf course at Bells provides a challenge to all categories of golfers and is a joy to play. The course is well-mainteained and mature with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.



#### Cor-Unum, Monmouth Rd, Edge End GL16 7HB

Tel 01594 837960 www.cor-unum.co.uk

Welcome to Cor-Unum, a small friendly bed and breakfast located at the heart of the Forest of Dean. Ideally placed for all the popular locations and cycle routes in the Forest, Cor-Unum is the perfect base for walkers and cyclists. Wheelchair friendly (except garden), wet room with hand rails. Pets welcome with well-behaved owners. Covered area available for smokers



#### The Dome Garden, Mile End, Coleford

Tel 07974 685818 www.domegarden.co.uk

The Dome Garden is the last word in top class "glamping" holidays, glamorous camping that does what it says on the tin. Set in a clearing in the Forest of Dean it is a collection of eco-conscious, geodesic domes, providing luxurious, partly self-catering, holidays for groups of two to eight people. It has fires and stoves you light yourselves, and, if you don't want to cook, there is an informal café.



#### Forest House & Bluebell Restaurant, Cinder Hill,

Coleford GL16 8HQ Tel 01594 832424

Guest accommodation in an 18th century former ironmaster's house. Our rooms are spacious and comfortable and our breakfasts are award-winning. The Bluebell Restaurant, open to the public, offers excellent classic British/European food, using fresh local produce wherever possible. This is an ideal base for both the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean. www.forest-house.co.uk



#### Lambsquay Country House Hotel, Coleford GL16 8QB

Tel 01594 833127 www.lambsquayhousehotel.co.uk

A country house dating back to the 17th century. The lounge, built in the 18th century, has a superb painted cornice and centre rose. It became an hotel in the 20th century and WiFi was brought to all areas in the 21st! There are nine en-suite rooms. Family pets welcome. Traditional home cooked meals using our own vegetables and fruit when in season. Restaurant open to the public.



#### The Rock B&B, Hillersland, Coleford GL16 7NY

Tel 01594 837893 chris@stayattherock.com

Guest accommodation a short forest walk from the Forest of Dean's most popular tourist attraction of Symonds Yat Rock. All rooms have their own front doors and are well appointed as you would expect from AA graded 4 star. Four rooms are dog-free for those with allergies and three rooms are dog-friendly. Cycle and walking trails from the door and a hot tub to relax in after your day's activities.



Tel 03330 110 495 info@forestholidays.co.uk

If you're seeking seclusion or space to unwind and relax, Forest Holidays is perfect. With enchanting forest, rivers, and a soaring 500ft high limestone outcrop at Symonds Yat Rock, there's everything you could wish for in a holiday. Enjoy simple luxury in a choice of cabins at 9 enchanting locations, sleeping 2-10 people. Perfect getaways for families, couples and groups.



#### The White House, 2 South Rd, Broadwell GL16 7BH

Tel 01594 837069 www.whitehousebroadwell.co.uk The White House is a well established bed & breakfast located in Broadwell on the edge of the Forest of Dean. A full English breakfast is served, although a continental breakfast is also available. All rooms are en-suite with tea and coffee making facilities. There is a secure cycle store for cyclists.



#### Rushmere Farm Campsite, Coleford GL16 8QP

Tel 01594 835319 www.forestofdeancamping.co.uk Family-run camping site with horses, chickens and dogs. Good access to main A4136 Coleford and forest walks. New log cabin luxury showers and toilets. Additional disabled shower and toilet. Superb location with hard road into site, half a mile from the centre of Coleford with its pubs, restaurants and supermarkets. Open all year.



#### Greenacres Campsite, Scowles Road, GL16 8QS Tel 01594 837753 / 07773 420 224

A small, family run campsite with facilities and electric hook up, just outside of Coleford and within easy reach of the beautiful Wye Valley. There is plenty to do in the area with Clearwell Caves, Puzzlewood, Symonds Yat within easy reach and a fabulous cycle track down at Cannop. We allow pets and also campfires. We have a 3-bedroom static caravan for hire with microwave and dishwasher.



-	Street	index
	T1 6	

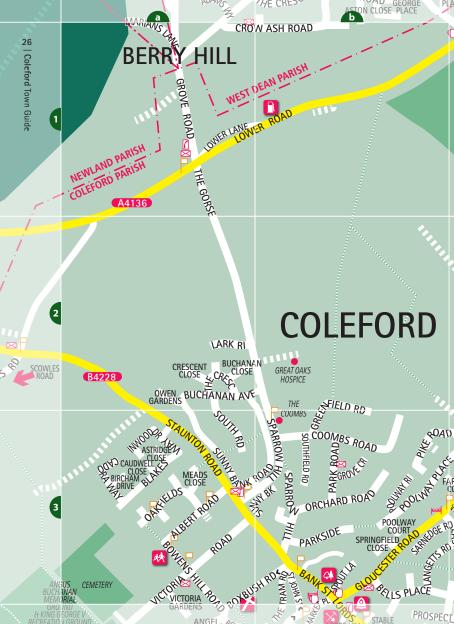
The four pages of maps which follow include the vast majority of roads within Coleford Parish. The coordinates in the index below refer to the squares on the maps.

Albert Road3
Ambrose Lane3
Angel Field 4
Arthur Cooper Way5
Astridge Close3
Bakers Hill3
Bank Street3
Barn Hill Roadoff 3
Bayberry Place4
Baynhams Wallkoff 2
Belindas Park6
Bells Place3
Bessemer Close5
Birch Parkoff 4
Birch Roadoff 1
Bircham Drive3
Bixhead Walk3
Blakes Way3
Bloxsome Close3
Bluebell Close6
Boxbush Road3
Bowens Hill4
Bowens Hill Road3
Bramble Road6
Broadwell Bridge3
Broadwell Lane End3
Buchanan Avenue 2
Buchanan Close2
Buckstone Close 1
Cadora Way3
Campbell Road2
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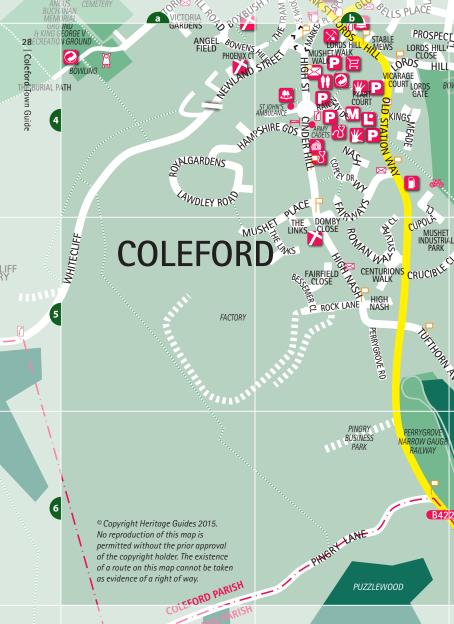
За	Greenfield Road3b
1d	Greening Groveoff 20
5b	Greenways Drive50
off 2d	Grove Crescent3b
1d	Grove Road1a
3d	Hampshire Gardens 4a
4b	High Nash5b
off 2d	High Street4b
6d	Hillcrest Lane20
4d	Holcot Close40
4c	Holcot Road 4c
3b	Howard Road20
4b	Inwood Drive 3a
2a	Kings Meade4b
2a	Kingsway 3c
1a	Lambsquay Road off 60
5d	Langetts Road3b
5b	Lark Rise2a
5c	Lawdley Road4a
1d	Lewis Glade30
5b	Links, The 5b
1d	Lords Gate4b
5b	Lords Hill4b
3c	Lords Hill Close 4b
5d	Lords Hill Walk 4b
1d	Lower Lane1a/10
3d	Lower Palmers Flat 60
6c	Lower Road1a
5b	Machen Road20
4b	Main Road10
3c	Marians Lane1a
SS	Market Place4b
6c	Meads Close3a
6c	Mile End Road20
1d	Mushet Industrial Pk 5b
.off 4d	Mushet Place5b
6d	Mushet Walk4b
3d	Nash Way4b
3b	Nelson Court40
1a	New Road40
6d	Newland Street 4a

North Road		Sparrow Hill3b	Key to map symbols
Oakfields		Speech House Rdoff 3d	Car park
Old Road		Speedwell1d	
Old Station Way		Spout Lane3b	Church
Orchard Road		Springfield Close3b	Community centre
Owen Gardens		Spruce Roadoff 1d	District Council
Owls Eye Close			_
Paddocks, The Palmers Flat		St John Street	Fire & ambulance
Park Road		Stable Mews4b	Forestry Commission
Parkend Road		Stafford Close3d	Leisure centre
Parkend Walk		Station Road6c	
Parkside		Staunton Road3a	Library
Perch Close		Stepbridge Road5c	Medical centre선
Perch Drive	off 1d	Stephens Place3d	MuseumM
Perrygrove Road		Sunny Bank3b	Petrol station
Phoenix Cout		Sunnybank Road3a	
Pike Road	-	Sylvan Close5b	Police Station
Pingry Business Park			Post Office
Pingry Lane Poolway Court		Trafalgar Mews4d Tram Road, The3b	Public conveniences
Poolway Place			
Poolway Rise		Tufthorn Avenue 5b	Recycling point
Poolway Road		Tufthorn Close6c	School
Primrose Drive		Tufthorn Road 4c	Superstore
Prospect Close		Union Road2c	
Prosper Lane		Vicarage Court4b	Theatre
Purples, The		Victoria Road3a	Town Council
Pyart Court		Victoria Gardens3a	Accommodation
Queensway		Walnut Close4d	Bus stop
Railway Drive		Whitecliff5a	Pod
Rock Lane		Wilkes Meadow2d	Children's play area
Roman Way			Cycle way
Royal Gardens		Wood Road 1d	
Ruffett Close		Woodgate Road1c	·=
Sarnedge Road		Woodville Avenue2d	0011 C0013C
School Close		Worcester Walkoff 2d	Letterbox⊠ 戶
Scowles Road		Wynols Close4d	Public house
South Road (C'ford)		Wynols Hill Lane3c	Public house
South Road (B'dwell) Southfield Road		Wynols Road4d	Other feature 25
JUULIIITIU NUAU	50	v v y 11015 NUdu40	Other reature

Key to map symbo	
Car park	P
Church	<u>ን</u>
Community centre	K
District Council	<u>#</u>
Fire & ambulance	0
Forestry Commission	4
Leisure centre	#
Library	C
Medical centre	ď
Museum	M
Petrol station	
Police Station	۵
Post Office	$\boxtimes$
Public conveniences	W
Recycling point	<b>②</b>
School	槉
Superstore	芦
Theatre	<b>%</b>
Town Council	X
Accommodation	m
Bus stop	. $\Gamma$
Children's play area	M
Cycle way	d de
Footpath	
Golf course	1
Letterbox	Ø
Public house	. 🔾









## Contact numbers

The dialing code for all telephone numbers is 01594 unless otherwise noted.

### LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

There are three levels of local government in Coleford, with the additional dimension of the Forestry Commission responsible for managing the Crown Forest.

- · Coleford Town Council
- No 2, The Town House, Lords Hill Walk, Coleford, GL16 8BD. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm. Tel 832103. Looks after Coleford Town Centre, Coleford Cemetery, King George V Playing Field, Milkwall Play area. E: info@colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk www.colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk
- Forest of Dean District Council Council Offices, High St, Coleford, GL16 8HG. Open Mon-Thu 9am-4.45pm & Fri 9am-4.30pm. Tel 810000. Looks after waste disposal, housing, housing benefit claims, planning, council tax, drains & sewage, pest control, street cleaning, street wardens, electoral registration. E: council@fdean.gov.uk
- Gloucestershire County Council
  Shire Hall, Westgate St, Gloucester,
  GL1 2TG. Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm.
  Tel 01452 425000, out-of-hours 0845
  6677788. Looks after education, social
  services, roads, pot holes, buses, rights of
  way, libraries, trading standards.
  E: customerservices@gloucestershire.gov.
  uk www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

#### Forestry Commission

Bank House, Bank St, Coleford, GL16 8BA. Deals with issues relating to the Royal Forest, such as problems with overhanging trees, illegal camping. Takes bookings for events, issues permits to collect wood, car park season tickets, etc. Contact 833057. www.forestry.gov.org.

#### **PUBLIC SERVICES**

#### Courts

- Gloucester & Cheltenham County Court
   Et Family Court, Kimbrose Way, Gloucester,
   GL1 2DE. Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm.
   01452 834900.
- Magistrates Court, Barbican Way, Gloucester, GL1 2JH. 01452 334400.

Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths

• 6 Belle Vue Rd, Cinderford, GL14 2AB. Open (appointments only): Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm, 1.30-4pm. 01594 822113.

#### Police

- Non emergencies 101.
- Emergencies only 999.

#### Street Wardens

• To report abandoned cars/stray dogs/dog fouling/fly-tipping etc. contact 810000.

#### Emergency helplines

- Child Line 0800 1111.
- NSPCC Child Protection Helpline 0808 800 5000.
- Samaritans 0845 790 9090; textphone 0845 790 9192.
- Highways Help Line 0800 051 4514.
- Environment Agency (Incident Hotline) 0800 807 060.

#### Utility helplines

- Central Network 0800 328 1111.
- Western Power 0800 052 0400.
- SE Power Distribution 0845 770 8090.

- Gas leaks/supply failure hotline 0800 111 999.
- Welsh Water Leak Line 0800 281 432.
- Floodline 0345 988 118. Sandbags available from Highways Cannop Depot.

#### POST OFFICES & BANKS

Post offices

- 25 High St 0845 6112970.
- Eskimarket, Coalway 0845 722 3344.
- Corner Stores, Tufthorn Rd, Milkwall 839438.
- Park Road, Berry Hill 0845 611 2970.

#### Banks

 Lloyds Bank, 19 Market Place 0845 072 3333.

#### HEALTH

 NHS non-emergency number for health advice over the phone 111 (only in emergency phone 999).
 www.nhs.uk/111

#### GPs

- Brunston Surgery, Cinderhill. Contact 833255. www.brunstonlydbrookpractice.
- Coleford Health Centre, Railway Drive. Contact 838108.

www.colefordhealthcentre.nhs.uk

#### Hospitals

- Dilke Memorial Hospital, Speech House Rd, Cinderford. Contact 0300 421 8640 (minor injuries).
- Lydney & District Hospital, Grove Rd, Lydney. Contact 0300 421 8722 (minor injuries).
- Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Rd, Gloucester. Contact 0300 422 2222 (A&E). www.glos-care.nhs.uk

#### Dentists

- Rock Castle, 32 Newland St. Contact 834124.
- Willow Tree, 2-3 Pyart Court. Contact 810366.

#### Chiropodist

 Marcus Bristow, Market Pl. Contact 837296.

#### Other

• Great Oaks (Dean Forest Hospice) The Gorse. Contact 811910. www.great-oaks.org.uk

#### **ANIMALS**

• Drybridge Veterinary Clinic, Railway Drive 833526.

www.drybridgevets.co.uk

 Severnside Veterinary Centre, 1a Cupola Close, Mushet Industrial Park 835600.
 www.severnsideveterinarygroup.co.uk

#### **INFORMATION SERVICES**

#### Library

The Main Place, Old Station Way. Open: Mon & Sat 10am-2pm; Wed & Thu 10am-5pm; Tue & Fri 10am-7pm. Closed Sun. 0845 230 5420.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries

#### • Citizens' Advice Bureau

Town House, Lords Hill Walk. Open Mon 1.30-4.30pm (drop in), Thu 10am-12.30pm (drop-in & appointments). 823937. www.forestofdeancab.co.uk

#### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

• Traveline - general information 0871 200 22 33 www.travelinesw.com

- 32 Dial-A-Ride 2 Market Place. Coleford, Open Mon-Fri 9am-4,30pm. Transport throughout the Forest for the rurally isolated, elderly, infirm or disabled, Minimum charge £4,30, Annual membership £5. Contact 844558 or 843809. www.lvdnevdialaride.co.uk
  - Trains Nearest station at Lydney. Enquiries 0845 748 4950. www.nationalrail.co.uk

#### COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Community centres & halls

- The Main Place, Old Station Way 836469. main-place.org.uk
- Milkwall & District Recreation Hall. Station Rd. Linda Jenkins 834349.
- The Evergreen Hall, Speech House Rd, Broadwell. Wendy Morris 810472.
- Broadwell Ex-service & Working Men's Club, North Rd. 833425 (club).
- · Broadwell Memorial Hall, North Rd, Broadwell, Danuta Kurucz 810754.
- Baptist Church Hall, Newland Rd, David Swinvard 832971.
- Acorn Suite, Great Oaks, The Gorse 811910.
- Coalway Recreation Ground & Hall. Kevin Ball 836363.
- St Margaret Mary RC Church Hall, Cinderhill. Fr Barnabas Page 833713.

#### Arts & entertainment

- Studio Cinema, High Street 833331.
- · Forest Theatre, Five Acres, Berry Hill. Box Office 833416.

#### **Fishing**

 Cannop Ponds & Speech House Lake. Permits available from Cinderford Angling, Forest Tackle (Lydney) or on the bank from Yorkley & District Angling Club. Terry McKenzie 833903.

 Marion's Pool, Staunton Road, A4136. For permits contact Wve Angling in Rosson-Wve or Forest Tackle in Lydney. Robert Baldwin (Sec of Forest of Dean Angling Club) 822925 / 07557 955811.

#### Leisure centre

 Forest Leisure Coleford, Five Acres, Berry Hill 835388. www.forestleisure.org.uk

#### RECYCLING & WASTE

Domestic rubbish collection

 Fortnightly using wheeled bins provided by Forest of Dean District Council. Food waste is collected weekly in the caddy provided. Garden waste & dry recycling are collected fortnightly. There are also recycling facilities in the area or at Oak Quarry Household Recycling Centre on the B4226, GL16 7EG. Phone 810000 or see website for further information. www.fdean.gov.uk

#### Household waste recycling centre

• Located on the B4226, GL16 7EG. Open 9am-6.15pm all year (except Dec 25 and Jan 1), 0845 602 9344. www.recycleforgloucestershire.com

#### Recyclina banks

- Railway Drive: cans, foil, paper, glass, textiles, cartons, plastic bottles, shoes, card.
- · Forest Hills Golf Club. Mile End Rd: metal, cans, paper, plastic bottles, glass.
- Rushmere Campsite: cans, paper, plastic bottles, glass.
- FoDLETS Local Exchange Trading System

Trade services and unwanted items, Coordinator Jennie McHattie 834855. www.fodlets.co.uk

• Forest of Dean Freecycle

Dispose of your unwanted items and reuse other 2nd hand items.

groups.yahoo.com/group/ForestFreecycle

#### **EDUCATION**

#### Pre-school

 Contact Gloucestershire Family Information Service (FIS) 0800 542 0202. www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fis

#### Primary

- Coalway Community Infant School, 63 Coalway Road 833457.
- www.coalway.community in fant. ik. or g. uk
- Coalway Junior School, Coalway Road 810271. www.coalwayjunior.co.uk
- St John's CE Academy, Bowens Hill Road 832046. www.sjacademy.co.uk

#### Secondary

• Lakers School, Five Acres 832263. www.lakers.gloucs.sch.uk

#### Further education

• Gloucester College (Forest of Dean Campus), Five Acres. 0845 155 2020.

#### **MEDIA**

#### Daily Newspapers

• The Citizen 01452 698803. www.gloucestercitizen.co.uk

#### Weekly Newspapers

- The Forester (Wed) 820600. www.theforester.co.uk
- Forest and Wye Valley Review (Wed) 841113. www.forest-and-wye-today.co.uk

#### Radio

- Heart (102.4FM) 01452 572 400. www.heart.co.uk/gloucestershire
- BBC Radio Gloucestershire (104.7FM & 1413AM) 01452 308585.

www.bbc.co.uk/radiogloucestershire

#### PLACES OF WORSHIP

#### **Baptist**

• Coleford Baptist Church, Newland Street. Service: Sun 10.30am Family Worship. Minister: Revd Rob Saunders 832278.

Church office: 839377. www.colefordbaptists.org

#### Anglican

- St John @ St Margaret Mary. Currently meeting at St Margaret Mary RC Church, High Nash (since the church of St John the Evangelist is in a poor state of repair). Service: Sun 9.30am. Priest: Revd Sarah Bick 835476.
- The Good Shepherd, Broadwell. Service: Sun 11am. Priest: Revd Alan Wearmouth 832660.

#### Pentecostal

 Mount of Olives Church (Assembly of God), Eastbourne Crescent. Services: Prayer Meeting Sun 9.45am, service 10.30am (with Kids' Church) and 6pm. Pastor: Wesley Vaughan 837047.
 www.mountofoliveschurchcoleford co.uk

#### Methodist

• Pisgah Methodist Church, Old Road, Coalway. Service: 10.30am. Contact Revd Heather Upton 833247.

#### Quakers

 Forest of Dean Meeting, Staunton Village Hall. Meeting: Sun 10.30am. Contact Joy Simpson 841800.

#### Roman Catholic

 St Margaret Mary's RC Church, High Nash. Mass: Sat 6pm. Priest: Fr Barnabas Page at Parish Office 833173.

#### Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

• Latter Day Saints Chapel, Wynols Rd, Broadwell. Service: Sun 10:00 am. Contact 832904.



Coleford Town Council No 2, The Town House, Lords Hill Walk, Coleford, GL16 8BD.

Tel 01594 832103

www.colefordtowncouncil.gov.uk

