



Coleridge Memorial Project

Report on Public Consultation Exercise

April 2010

Report on the Public Consultation Exercise January - March 2010

Introduction

The Coleridge Memorial Project was set up in November 2009 to secure funds to build a new memorial to the poet and philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge in his native town, Ottery St Mary (in Devon, UK).

From January 31st to March 14th 2010 a public consultation was held in an attempt to establish preferences and recruit ideas and suggestions concerning the memorial. The results of this exercise will form the basis of a briefing document that will be required if and when the project reaches the stage of commissioning sculptural or other memorial work.

This report summarises the results and offers an interpretation.

Consultation process

The consultation was conducted by paper reply forms printed in the local community newspaper (Ottery Gazette) or available as a separate sheet from the local Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and library, or as a download from the Heritage Society website, where there was also an online comment form. The event was publicized in the Ottery Gazette and through other local newspapers. It was also flagged up on the Friends of Coleridge website and Facebook presence. A progress and background page was included on the Heritage Society website. The target audience was anyone with an interest in Ottery and / or Coleridge.

Response

There were 73 replies, which included over 3500 words of comment and suggestions. These are included (anonymously) in Appendix 1. The distribution of the Gazette is 3500 each month, so the response rate was around 21 per 1000 putting it somewhere between what is expected of an insert in a daily newspaper (5/1000) and direct mail (25/1000)(see note 1). The committee considered this satisfactory and a useful foundation for further progress.

The paper reply form was prepared more thoroughly than the online operation, offering options and a tick box menu (see Appendix 2). This proved less inviting to comment than the on line form which had very little structure. Most of the detailed comment arrived by email (see table 1).

Analysis

There is no perfect method for judging "the public mood" concerning any proposal of this kind. Simple quantities of expressed preferences must, of course, play a role in determining a "result", but the volume of comment that underpins the raw figures demands a more sensitive analysis, and that can only be achieved by careful reading and abstracting of key themes.

The first thing to note about the response was the complete absence of what might be termed "spoiled papers". No-one commented that the entire CMPG proposal was a bad idea. There were plenty of alternative views and preferences expressed on the detail and definition of a suitable memorial, but as a general proposal, much like apple pie and motherhood, the memorial idea was 100% approved. Now we must look at the detail, both

in raw numerical terms, and as a set of ideas for development into a future briefing document.

Quantitative analysis

The structure of the consultation itself poses some problems for a detailed quantitative approach, in that the opportunities to respond vary according to the medium chosen. The paper comment form carried (in most cases) the fake picture of a statue in Ottery which had been used in the initial press release to stimulate interest, and included a set of options as a tick box menu. Although this form also asked for additional comment, respondents could easily have felt that they had expressed their wishes adequately within the menu provided.

The online comment form offered no such structure, and the only way to respond here was by commenting. No surprise then that the online form was ahead of the paper form for commentary.

In the 73 replies (35 on paper, 38 by email) there were 92 definable "votes" expressing support for one or more of the 5 menu options on the paper proposal form. Votes were given a value of 1 if positive support was expressed. Options that were not ticked were given a value of 0. Because of the lack of an option to oppose a suggestion when the online comment form was used, which would have allowed a -1 value for the negative tick box option (i.e "I do not like this suggestion"), these preferences are also valued at 0 in the Table 1 summary below, and listed separately in Table 2, (but see also the commentary on table 2).

Table 1. Number of preferences expressed using 1/0 assessment

	from gazette	downloaded / loose leaf	online form	total	%
traditional statue	9	14	8	31	34
modern statue	0	0	7	7	7.5
sculpture	3	1	4	8	7.5
poetry stones	9	2	18	29	32
wind / water feature	6	2	9	17	18
responses which include comment	4	4	29	37	
votes cast by medium	27	19	46	92	

Table 2 - Returns expressing negative preferences

	paper forms	online form	total	%
traditional statue	6	6	12	22
modern statue	13	1	14	25
sculpture	11	1	12	22
poetry stones	7	1	8	15
wind / water feature	7	2	9	16
votes cast by medium	44	11	55	

Commentary on table 1.

On the positive preference summary (Table 1) preferences were most frequently expressed for the most easily imagined and clearly articulated ideas in the menu list - the statue and the poetry stones. These two options attracted 34% and 32% of the total vote respectively - 66% in all. The less easily defined ideas still attracted considerable interest: options 2,3 and 5 together attracted 38%. It should be noted also that the traditional statue option, whilst it attracted the highest number of votes, did not have a proportional majority, and that the preferences for non traditional options should be recognised as a significant element of the response.

Commentary on table 2.

The negative preference summary (Table 2) is not easy to make sense of. It was clear from the usage in the forms that this option ("I don't like this idea") was ticked mostly as an ancillary to the positive preference i.e to affirm more strongly the positive preference rather than to express an entirely hostile attitude. For example, a number of forms which ticked only the box indicating the respondent's submission of individual and very positive ideas of their own, also ticked all the option boxes expressing dislike of the other menu options - so affirming their own suggestions more strongly. This was not as clear cut in every case, but there were no means to detect the strategic intentions of the respondents in completing their forms, and any subtleties of intention had to be drawn from the comments, if at all. The negative comment table above is not, therefore, a trustworthy source for detailed analysis, but it does offer a broad comment on the choices offered.

It is striking that most of negative comment was directed at the statue/sculpture ideas, with the poetry stones and environmental suggestions attracting a lower rejection rate. The "modern statue" option was clearly not drafted well and widely misunderstood by respondents, hence its high rejection rate.

Analysis of comments and ideas

A number of common themes can be drawn out of the commentary, which amounted to well in excess of 3500 words, and these can be abstracted to a table to add to the numerical evidence above by counting word frequencies (see note 2). It must be noted however that these suggestions will not necessarily lead us to a single conclusion about the memorial and a full reading of the comments is recommended to get a feeling for the aggregate spirit of the replies. We shall try to offer a conclusion here (see below) but it should be noted that the dialogue about this campaign is open at all times via the online

comment form or other forums (see www.coleridgememorial.org.uk). This will add to the stock of ideas that we shall endeavour to include in the briefing documents that will, at the appropriate time, become the sourcework for the artists making their proposals for the memorial. The table below is compiled from the number of occurrences of key words in the comments

Table 3 - Key-word frequencies in comments

Key words	times mentioned
Coleridge	40
memorial	26
poet	26
town	24
statue	23
stones	22
river	20
poetry	19
Ottery	16
trail	15
walk	14
church	13
sculpture	12
young	12
boy	10
Pixies Parlour	10
location	10
water	9
tourists	8
poems	8
Land of Canaan	7
fountain	7
cost / money	7

Key words	times mentioned
child	6
inspire / inspiration	6
school	5
garden	4
seating	4
albatross	4
pleasure dome	4
visitors	3
stream	3
Kubla Khan (KK)	3
Frost at Midnight (FAM)	3
Rime of the Ancient Mariner (AM)	2

Commentary on table 3

The key words selected are those of significance to the project and which appear three times or more. Some words are alternatives for other key words e.g. "stream" for "river" and the two terms might therefore be added together. By adding or separating various terms the rank order changes with interesting results. Aside from the obvious repetition of the main elements "Coleridge", "memorial", "poet" and "town", the main interest in the basic list appears to be in statues and stones, and the main associated activity is walking a trail. If "trail" and "walk" are added together (they are almost synonymous) the trail idea is then much higher in the ranking. Similarly if "river", "water", "stream" and "fountain" are added together they too rise substantially in the rankings. If as many plausibly linked words are added together, it is arguable the main themes will emerge more clearly. There will always be questions about the legitimacy of adding certain terms together, but it does seem to offer some sort of guide to an aggregate of feeling among respondents. Table 4 is an offering along these lines.

Table 4 aggregate keyword list

associated key words	aggregate mentions
poet / poetry / poems / KK / FAM / AM / albatross / pleasure dome	70
Coleridge / memorial	66
statue / sculpture / stones	57
town / Ottery	40
trail / walk / Pixies Parlour	39
water / river / fountain / stream	39
church / location / Land of Canaan	30
young / boy / child	28
tourists / visitors	11
inspire / inspiration / school	11
garden / seating	8
cost / money	7

Commentary on table 4

Disregarding the obvious themes (mentions of the Coleridge Memorial and the town of Ottery - marked in blue), what emerges very strongly is an interest in Coleridge's poetry and ideas which derive from it. This appears ahead of concern with the final form of the memorial structure. The next most important are an "aqueous" theme and the walking trail idea - these with about the same level of interest. Next is interest in the location of the memorial, followed by concern that the memorial should reflect on Coleridge as a boy or young man. Interest in the effect of the memorial on tourism is next. The remaining themes cover secondary aspects of the memorial. Costs are at the bottom of the list.

Conclusions

CMPG believes that the results of the consultation are a valuable resource for further campaigning, and in building a comprehensive brief for the commissioning of work at a later stage. The committee were much gratified to note that the idea of a more substantial memorial to Coleridge is widely approved mainly for its own intrinsic value, as a worthy act of remembrance long overdue to a great poet and thinker, and further, that this is a responsibility that Ottregians in particular must measure up to. The potential economic gains for the town, while they were also noted with approval, was by no means uppermost in the minds of respondents, and concern with the means to achieve the desired monument were almost invisible - a truly Coleridgean response!

Interest in the poetry, statuary, stones, water and distribution of the memorial experience around the town or immediate countryside are the main themes that emerge, and it remains to be seen how these elements can be integrated in some way in the final

proposals. The best location for the memorial is also a key concern, and this is something the committee will have to address over the coming months.

So in many ways the outcome of the consultation was a success, The wide range of ideas and suggestions put forward, helped, we hope, by the analysis presented above, form a considerable and cogent guide for any artist confronting a commission for this work.

Next Stage

The publication of this report marks the end of the preliminary public consultations on the memorial but continuing dialogue is important for the progress of the Campaign, and another very important second stage of public engagement takes place when the tendering process gets under way and there are actual proposals for discussion and final selection.

In the meantime the fundraising effort will be the main preoccupation for the committee.

cw

29/4/10

Notes

(1) Royal Mail : Response Rates for Different Media <http://www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/content1?mediald=600089&catld=400098>.

(2) **Word frequency and underlying ideas.** This kind of analysis is now often used to detect underlying themes in political pronouncements. See for example "Counting up Darling's Key Words" Financial Times 24/2/2010 (<http://cachef.ft.com/cms/s/0/faef50a4-378f-11df-88c6-00144feabdc0.html>)

Coleridge Memorial Project

Appendix to consultation report - April 2010

Comments received (all media)

These are listed in no particular order and edited only to preserve anonymity or correct obvious spelling errors.

1. Glad to see this. I think a statue would be very nice or perhaps a bit of a garden area with a seating arrangement of some sort.
2. a "stately pleasure dome" surely this would be the biggest crowd puller
3. I agree that there should definitely be more made of the fantastic heritage that we have of STC - Why limit to just one memorial but have several.
4. How about a Coleridge trail - stones with various extracts of his most famous poems at strategically placed points round Ottery (Church, Chanters house, mill/weir. There must be some other points of interest!). To encourage visitors to wander round the town.
5. We like both the suggestions of either a statue (? near the church) or stones with extracts of Coleridge's poems - how about a 'Coleridge trail' through the town?
6. Many thanks for your update. It is interesting to see the ideas that have been put forward. I support the traditional statue on a 4 sided plinth. On this plinth would be carved the first few lines of his 4 greatest poems. I hope this suggestion helps.
7. Depending on funds, might you be able to persuade the sculptor Martin Jennings (<http://www.martinjennings.com/index.html>) to create something? He did the wonderful Betjeman figure in St Pancras.
8. Having read the feature in the Gazette, we both feel strongly that the memorial should take the form of option 4, poetry stones. We feel this would encapsulate the rural nature of the town as well as the important work of Coleridge. The memorial would also be less expensive than other options and this is very important in the current economic climate. We feel that it would attract visitors to the town as is an unusual idea.
9. Plonked on a plinth in a park? THERE IS NOTHING WRONG with the notion that local people might like to think of honouring the memory of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Ottery St. Mary's most famous son, with a more fitting memorial than the one we have right now. But how sad to think that those who have come up with the notion should even think of asking us to consider plonking the old boy on a plinth in a park! This is the man who tells us in his later writings that the happiest days of his life, his formative years,

were spent playing by the river. As a son of Ottery surely our memorial to him should be a celebration of this youth – a unique childhood that will always belong to us, and no other. Any statue should be of STC as a young man, and placed where he could at least see his beloved stream - somewhere near today's gateway to the town, at St. Saviour's bridge perhaps, where young Ottregians could pass it twice a day on their way to and from the King's school. Nothing too formal mind! Not standing in his Sunday best and striking a pose, but here instead is the young poet, in shirtsleeves, barefoot perhaps, sitting by the river with what those who knew him later called his 100-mile stare. And is that a scrap of paper in his hand? In his sonnet to the river Otter, his "native brook, wild streamlet of the West," he calls up the vision of the crossing plank, the marge with willows grey, the bedded sand, the flung stone leaping along its breast. Then with quaint music hymn the parting gleam By lonely Otter's sleep-persuading stream. Or where his wave with loud unquiet song Dashed o'er the rocky channel froths along, Or where his silver waters smoothed to rest The tall tree's shadow sleeps upon his breast. I for one hope that it is the young Samuel Taylor Coleridge we remember here.

10. Dear Heritage Society, As STC left OSM as a young boy it would be nice to reflect his (and our) childhood influences of the place. eg the river, Pixie's Parlour, 'Frost at Midnight'.... Statues are so expensive and seem a bit of a dead end. Some poetry text would be more entertaining and informative especially at child level. Or perhaps something more Banksy style.....!?
11. idea of a statue is good, maybe on the land of canaan near the benches/playpark .(the example on the cover of the gazette is not the most suitable location) i like the idea of the poetry stones as well, maybe in several locations around the town.
12. I favour the Poetry Stones option but maybe something more could be made of this option, depending on costs. Could the stone(s) also feature a likeness of Coleridge as well as an extract of poetry? Would it be feasible to have 3 or 4 smaller stones at different places around the town to have a sort of treasure hunt for tourists/visitors to encourage them to walk around the town and, hopefully, spend some money. Perhaps a stone could be erected at the Land of Canaan, St. Mary's church, the United Reform church and in the grounds of the Council Offices. This would keep people around the shopping area. Each stone could have a small notice board giving some history of the location.
13. I think this would be an excellent idea! I would favour a traditional statue and plinth in a central location (ABSOLUTELY NOT the Land of Canaan - this is a car park!!). Could the statue be located near the church or in the square - these are the focal points of the town. If there were enough money, in addition it would be great for some poetry stones to be located in something of a heritage trail around the town that could be followed by visitors. I am happy to help with fundraising if needs be.
14. I think this is an excellent idea and has my support. What form it might take is an intriguing question. There is the cottage (and pub sign) at Stowey; the dramatic Mariner statue at Watchet; nothing I know of at Keswick; and a brown plaque at Highgate. The

historic Coleridge links with Ottery town are of course the church, the Pixie's Parlour, and the river Otter itself (all of which have poems). A fountain that rose and fell, with an inscription from KK, might do very well and provide a genuine civic amenity too, especially if it were designed with places to sit round it.

15. I would like to see a Coleridge Trail linking significant parts of the town, with some relevant information at each spot, and/or a standing stone with a quotation at each point. Trail leaflets would be needed to guide tourists around the area. This would encourage people to look round the town, not just visit one memorial.
16. Here for what they are worth are a few comments on the Coleridge memorial project. As an outsider I think some sort of memorial that is living in some way is more likely to celebrate a long dead poet effectively than a conventional statue. Poetry stones would be static but actually speak out loud and where I've seen them were surprisingly effective. (London S. Bank Festival about three years ago.) You could probably get costs from them or the BBC with whom they collaborated, I think. They would need to be sited in a quiet area [...] - a public garden/park or one of Coleridge's childhood haunts by the river where they could be installed. A place of tranquillity where dreaming of England and human destiny could take place away from the hurley burley... What a memorial for a great writer.

The inflatable albatross sounds ridiculous described in that way (*in bulletin No 2 - cw*). I had in mind a beautiful soaring white bird, high over the town. Maintenance free, able to cope with the strongest winds. On a tall pole perhaps with a retractable cable so that it could take off from its perch when winds were strong enough. Perhaps partly gas filled.... but a work of art...A great kite, an object to make people proud and happy. Rather than a dingy podgy zeppelin of a great goose annoying everybody. Next idea (I've got too many ideas for my own good) ...a living memorial in the form of an annual /biannual piece of writing produced by a young (20 to 30 years old?) dreamer, full of unexpressed poetry, philosophy and passion, (who would be selected from likely candidates by suitably equipped panel of...this would be the hard bit..Richard Holmes clones.) The young adventurous type, who would have to show great promise, would be funded for say three months to stretch his/her imagination. Safeguards would be in place to ensure you were not funding drug addiction. The town would publish each funding cycle what would hopefully not amount to embarrassing drivel. Only seriously committed young poets with a track record should apply. Bridport Arts Centre started funding a short story and poetry prize about ten years ago. It's now recognised as one of the best in the world. What a memorial that would be. The writing invited would have to aspire towards the inspirational/pushing the limits of what language can express, to make it relevant to Coleridge.

17. I very much like the idea of a Coleridge walk perhaps beginning at the church and leading to the River Otter with a stop at the Pixies' Parlour. I had read of Coleridge and his brother Francis inscribing their initials in the walls of this sandstone cave but I had a very hard time finding it as there seemed little local knowledge and virtually no directions. The river and its banks are lovely, especially in the Spring and Summer and would make a wonderful walk. I would also favour a statue of some kind at the start of the walk near the location of the original school house and vicarage where Coleridge lived until the death of his father and his 'exile' to London and Christs Hospital School.

The walk might trace Coleridge's footsteps on the occasion of his famous clash with Francis over the toasted cheese slices and his subsequent flight from the Vicarage to the river where he hid until being found by Lord Northcote on the following morn.

18. I support the Caves of Ice idea (see No 28 - cw)

19. I support the Caves of Ice idea (see No 28 - cw)

20. I'm not much of a one for monuments, and I hope you won't think me weird if I confess I'm glad that STC has escaped the fate of Wordsworth at Grasmere. On the other hand, I have to agree his fate at Ottery is odd and, if the memorial is good enough in itself, one would be a fool to complain. I looked at the website and, withholding comment on what they might be wanting (something to draw more tourists to Ottery), the most appropriate memorial (apart from a huge Disneyland-style, Kublaesque weatherproofed, pure fun pleasuredome) would be a 7/8th size bronze sculpture of the child STC alongside or hand-in-hand with his ageing father situated anywhere in the town (not necessarily -- indeed preferably -- not in the College), on a low plinth or no plinth at all. If that's too expensive, cut the cost in half by having the child STC alone, sitting on a stone or dawdling, perhaps in some corner site. I would donate [...] to that, or something like it or indeed better. I would be disinclined to donate anything at all to some of the options on the Heritage Org's reply form (urban junk).

21. I think a fountain is an excellent representative of Coleridge's imagination. Stones around the edge (i.e. positioned away from the force of water to minimize erosion) might feature famous lines including, of course, 'a mighty fountain momentarily was forced.' I can't resist the temptation to suggest a ship in the midst of the water.

22. I would go for Option 1 Dont like the others. Option 5 would need far too much maintenance.

23. I would like to strongly support Option 1 - The traditional statue and plinth option.

24. PREFER POETRY STONES

25. several stones linked to a walk

26. I know this won't be a popular view, but wouldn't it be nicer to do something original that people in 200 years' time will be impressed by? While I don't think Coleridge would claim to have invented fell-walking or teacher-training (the impression that the piece in the Ottery Gazette seemed to give) he was at least a forward-looking visionary. Statues, waterfalls and fountains are rarely either. And I very much doubt if many people outside the Heritage Group! know more than a line or two of his poetry. So I suggest a modern sculpture engraved with well-known and lesser-known lines from his

work; perhaps a trail of them around the town. Something to capture the flavour of his work and, more importantly, to inspire a love of poetry as something vibrant and alive rather than something from hundreds of years ago.

27. Do not rate the idea of a statue highly, but think that the proposal for poetry stones a very good one! I have had comments from both [Heritage Society] members and non- to the effect that, whilst a statue of STC might be good idea to raise his profile in the town, the proposed site in the Land of Canaan is not. Most who have made this comment think that it will be subject to vandalism very quickly. I have sympathy with this view. Anyway, the majority who have responded seem to think a statue is a good idea - let's see how many are prepared to put their hands into their pockets!

28. In Coleridge s words from Kubla Khan:

I would build that dome in air, That sunny dome! those caves of Ice!

Let the people of Ottery build him that sunny dome / cave of ice Memorial

A sunny dome, a cave of ice. Life size, walk in / sit inside. A bronze sun rising up over the sunny-cave of ice. The body of the structure, made from a material that can resemble ice! There are some glass like seats in Exeter's Princesshay that light up on and off in different colours. They look like ice. I think they are very attractive. The same principle could be interpreted with my idea!

The sun would give the impression of clear ice drops melting down the side and enclosed would be poppy petals. The entrance would read Xanadu! An Albatross could feature, The Ancient Mariner, His Ship, Poems on the wall inside or outside or both. Some braille may be used so that the blind could enjoy it. Lots of colour. Lots of colour and light for the deaf. Access for wheelchair users. Will make it very public friendly. Make it tactile!

The ideas are endless, all from Coleridge himself

There could be cyphers on the wall, along with engraved initials as in Pixies Parlour

Maybe a real Aeolian Harp

Devonshire Fairy Folk

A frosted moon

Some could be done with some intellectual type graffiti

I know all this sounds very elaborate

I think it would be worth the cost as tourists. poets, writers, intellects would visit.

Schools / Colleges / universities. A good investment to inspire a new generation of would be poets / writers to keep Coleridge alive.. I told my young daughter of my idea and she drew the pictures enclosed. This was her interpretation of my idea. I think it will inspire the young to find out who Coleridge was and is! The idea is very contemporary! *(two illustrations supplied with this comment)*

29. I would like to see Coleridge commemorated by a sculpture that is inspirational, poignant, romantic. A boy of nine standing or sitting on a 7 or 8' high raised form from which water falls into a circular pool which surrounds the sculpture. He has a paper boat in one hand, a book beside him (or in his hand) and a distracted, distant expression. Maybe looking towards the church and his home. The supporting form below him might include suggestions of his Ottery life - of his father (a phrase in Hebrew?), brother Frank, Molly Newbery, Elizabeth Boutflower the faerie queen, maybe a pixie or two etc etc, Around the statue and pool is a circular paved area with Kubla Khan incised on it - in a

single long line of text. It requires three circuits of the sculpture to read the entire poem, so fulfilling Coleridge's entreaty to "weave a circle round him thrice". (KK is 1959 characters long and would fit in 3 concentric circles about 3.5m diam with letters about 40mm high). If that's too expensive, do it without the waterfall and pool. I also like the poetry stones idea with catches from Coleridge's work around the town and by the river (esp at headweir and Pixies Parlour). Maybe some of these and a sculpture as well. In the end I would be very pleased with any work of art that is striking and clearly inspired by Coleridge. It is important we recruit an artist with care and leave enough room in the instructions given him/her to allow them to express their own ideas.

30. I think the memorial needs to be tied up with a Coleridge theme in the town (to make it worth a visit on the tourist trail). I don't like the idea of a statue like the one in the picture as it seems rather old fashioned. I like the idea of poems (maybe around the town ..as part of the guided walk) perhaps leading to the a larger (?modern) sculpture at the end of the walk. Otherwise, just the poems (including one at pixies parlour) would be great and a focus for the town and for people to look out for. A small museum also would be good.

31. I would like to see a fountain of some kind with statue of Coleridge as a boy or sculpture of an albatross. A trail through Ottery to river and pixies parlour with poems along the way leading back up to the fountain.

32. A splendid idea! Suggest new memorial should be as different as possible from existing bas relief of his head and quotation in wall of parish church. Strongly Recommend Richard Holmes be invited to make suggestions, act as consultant as to content, form etc.,. If an artform such as a sculpture should be chosen - go for the highest quality e.g. Peter Randall-Page if sculpture. What about a different kind of memorial? eg an Annual Prize / Grant to a Kings School Student or some sort of ecological improvement or project which would suit Coleridge's love of natural world and / or his native river

Odd Thoughts

Coleridge was not an establishment figure - he shouldn't be made one.

Coleridge was against slavery. OSMs links with slavery movement are little known but interesting.

Is the society clear about WHY it wants a Coleridge memorial?

To honour a remarkable if flawed genius

To claim Coleridge for Ottery (some might think Nether Stowey a better place for a memorial as he left OSM so early in life)

To boost the towns economy by means of a tourist attraction?

33. remember the diana water feature

34. I like the idea of snippets of poetry appearing around the town, in poetry stones or in the pavement. A Coleridge memorial walk taking in relevant buildings with poetry along the way and leading to a final sculpture would be a nice thing for tourists to do. As far as a main sculpture goes, I think a traditional statue as shown in the picture would quickly become invisible and just look like another Victorian statue. It would be great if the memorial could be something beautiful and interesting to look at in its own

right...perhaps it could feature Coleridge as a young boy playing/reading as he may have done when he lived in Ottery...could he be sat on the bench near the church looking down the hill? A modern sculpture featuring more poetry could also be good... I am not sure that the Land of Canaan is the best place for the memorial. Whilst I like the idea of the nice walk around tumbling weir being included in the Coleridge memorial walk, it feel that the memorial should feel a bit more central. If there was enough money, a few poetry stones in other places like head weir and pixies parlour would encourage tourists to walk a bit further.

35. The statue should be at the river bridge

36. The STC memorial is really interesting me. I thought the idea of a statue of him reclining on a bench in some relaxed fashion, which I read in the letter from [...] is a particularly good idea. I have just received the enclosed articles from [...] who attended the ceremony in Watchet. Their sculpture is hugely impressive and might well inspire more ideas about the Ottery one. What about a park bench with STC and the Ancient Mariner sitting on it in deep conversation?

37. Going by the piece in the Gazette - we would like Options 2, 3 or 4 best. We'd also like to see any memorial decided upon using the greenest method and materials possible. It's great that this is being considered - he was a wonderful poet and we should make the most of him here in Ottery. Only surprised this hasn't happened before - we well remember being stopped in the street by a researcher some 8/9 years ago and asked if we knew who he was, and whether we thought Ottery should make more of him.

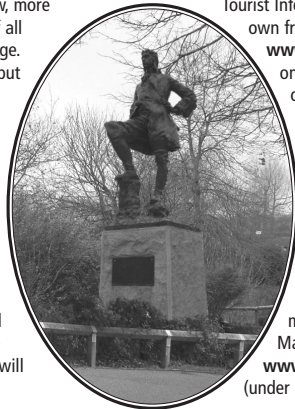
38. *(this was a drawing of a proposed memorial edifice, classified as a modern sculpture - cw)*

*Appendix 2: Public Consultation form used in survey undertaken Feb/March 2010
A version without the header was printed in the local newspaper The Ottery Gazette,
and a version featuring a portrait of Coleridge was available online.*

Coleridge Memorial Project

The Coleridge Memorial Project Group (CPMG) is a federation of mainly Ottery based interest groups formed to promote a new, more substantial memorial to the most famous Otterregian of all time - the poet and philosopher Samuel Taylor Coleridge. We hope to recruit support and funds not just locally but from his admirers World Wide. We feel that Ottery deserves something special to mark its distinction as the birthplace of someone as remarkable and talented as Coleridge.

The style of memorial is not yet decided. The CPMG has considered a few ideas of its own (see below), but we want to find out if anyone has the "Perfect Idea" for an inspirational memorial - whatever it is. This form asks you to tick a few boxes and / or fill in details of your own suggestion. There is no need to fill in your name and address if you don't wish to. On the other hand, ideas and comments that have an owner will carry much more weight than those without.



Please let us know your thoughts. Forms will also be available in the Tourist Information Centre, or you can download and print your own from an online copy available at www.otteryheritage.org.uk or alternatively fill in the online form there (click the "Coleridge Memorial" tab on the Events & Projects page).

Completed paper forms can be returned by hand to the Tourist Information Centre, or posted to TIC, 10a Broad Street, Ottery St Mary, EX11 1BZ or you can simply email your views to otteryheritage@googlemail.com

Fund raising for this project has been considered and information will be available later in 2010. For more detail on the Project please visit the Ottery St Mary Heritage Society Website - www.otteryheritage.org.uk, Coleridge Memorial page (under Events and Projects).

Public consultation reply form - what's your view?

The CPMG's ideas are as follows, please indicate your level of interest or support for each suggestion, by ticking the boxes.

	I like this idea	I don't like this idea	no strong view either way
Option 1 - Traditional statue and plinth This would end up looking something like the one in the picture above. It would be figure cast in bronze on a stone plinth, and the artist would be selected for his ability to create realistic likenesses.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 2 - less formal statue - includes some abstract shapes This would be more sculpted figure, not necessarily as formal and realistic as Option 1. The artist would be selected for his or her individual treatment of figures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 3 - a piece of sculpture inspired by a Coleridge Theme This would be an abstract form inspired by a Coleridge theme. Higher risk and potentially more controversial than the other options, but might pay off in terms of wider public profile. The artist would be selected for his or her sculptural skills and style.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 4 - poetry stones One (or more) large stone obelisks inscribed with short pieces of Coleridge's poems. Less expensive than Options 1 - 3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Option 5 - wind or water feature These are specialist sculptures that use the elements of wind or water as a part of the sculpture. Lots of movement and interest. This would be a great crowd puller. Expensive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I support the general idea but don't wish to comment in detail	<input type="checkbox"/>		
I have my own suggestion/s for a suitable memorial (please use the back of this form to write down your ideas)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Name -----

address -----

if you want news updates about the progress of this project please include your email address here. -----