



WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 7 : Family excursion to Llantrisant - a guided walk around Llantrisant, followed by a family picnic on the Common. Some may like to go to Evensong at Llantrisant Church afterwards. Meet just after 2 o'clock at Cowbridge Town Hall - especially if you can offer a lift - or at 2.30 at Llantrisant Church.

Friday, September 12 : first meeting of the season; Barbara and Ray Toogood will make an audio-visual presentation of Canterbury Cathedral, and we will hold the A.G.M.. Come in force!

THE PROGRAMME FOR 1980-1981

Gwynneth

Key has once again organised a full and interesting programme for the coming year. In October, 'Two Catholic Martyrs of the Vale' - Mrs Madge O'Keefe; in November, 'Collecting Silver' - Mr Denis Heal; in December, 'Cowbridge v Bridgend: Railway Development and its impact on the Vale of Glamorgan' - Dr David Howell. As usual, all meetings will be in the Lesser Hall at 8pm, on the first Friday of the Month, EXCEPT IN NOVEMBER - when the Mayor's Ball makes it necessary for us to hold our meeting on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14.

Membership cards hold full details of the programme.

ANOTHER EXCURSION

Aberthin Village Hall Committee have organised an all-day Industrial Archaeology outing in the Taff Valley, led by Mr Raymond Bowen, on 13 September. They intend leaving, by car, about 10am and returning about 5pm. Further details from Lady Hopkin (Cowbridge 2303) after the first week of September.

Members of the Historical Society are cordially invited to attend.

ALSO - 11 October. Glamorgan Historical Society; all-day meeting at St Fagans Castle - see Yvonne Weeding for details.

A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We have received a letter from the Director of Planning Services of the Vale Council, who is currently gathering information for the conservation section of the Cowbridge District Plan. "Old unpublished photographs of the street scene or of individual buildings would be particularly useful in an assessment of traditional building methods; also documentary evidence could help to date the construction and alteration of significant buildings in the conservation areas and to identify features of historic interest." If anyone has any information, please telephone Mr G. I. Oram on Barry 730311.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT *****

At the time of writing (28 August) the finances seem remarkably sound; BUT - a word of warning before complacency sets in - there are two sizeable bills outstanding (for use of the Lesser Hall, and for printing) and there is a large amount of money already earned by those responsible for the museum and which of course will be used for the museum.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Carried forward from 1978-9	28 - 80	Welsh Office film 1.9.79	6 - 90
Subscriptions	124 - 50	D. Brown (Membership cards for 1979-80)	16 - 50
Guests	3 - 80	Charter Day	13 - 13
Profit on sale of booklets (Llanblethian in 1851)	15 - 50	Purchasing Showcase	127 - 00
Profits on wine, 1.9.79	2-45	Speakers' Expenses	23 - 00
Book Sale, Jan 1980	145 - 22	Cowbridge Entertainment Ctee Expenses - Programme Sec	20 - 00
Cowbridge Week - Walkabout	14 - 00	Chairman	7 - 41
- Town Hall	51 - 56	Secretary	5 - 50
Excursion to Penhow	5-30	Newsletter	4 - 21
	<u>391 - 13</u>		<u>228 - 65</u>

Excess of Income over Expenditure £162 - 48.

Two points, at least, need some elaboration; the first pleasing, the second at least merits discussion. The two Cowbridge Week activities were enormously successful, and our thanks are due to those who worked so hard to make them so. In the Town Hall, entrance to the museum raised £18 - 25, the second-hand books brought in £26 - 26, and commission from sale of new books brought us £7 - 05. We were then pleased to be able to send £20 to the Entertainments Committee, who organise Cowbridge Week.

However, the other very popular and enjoyable social event - the Charter Day celebrations - managed to make a loss, even though we all bring the food, and we were supplied with gallons and gallons of excellent wine at manufacturers' cost: we just paid for the raw materials. Hire of the Hall cost £13; but only 62 people paid their 50p.

Income - £31; Expenditure - Disposable tablecloths plates, cutlery, etc £13; Wine £8 - 50 and £9 - 00; Hall £13; Total £44-13.

DO YOU KNOW?

Outside 41 Eastgate, on the corner to Millfield Drive, I have noticed a bollard. There are another three bollards in the pavement in front of the car-park near the Mason's Arms. Further, from an old photograph in 'Sixty-one Views of Cowbridge' captioned Cowbridge Road (East End) I see there was another near the corner of the road to Aberthin.

They are obviously not traffic island bollards, and I have not heard of ships sailing up the High Street: so what purpose did they serve? I have seen at Chessington - a few decades ago a small village in Surrey, but now part of Greater London - a bollard marking the extent of the area covered by the Metropolitan Police Force at the time when it was erected. There were, and perhaps still are, similar posts elsewhere in the outskirts of London.

Could the Cowbridge posts likewise mark the boundary of the jurisdiction of some service authority (in the case of the East End ones perhaps the railway) or maybe mark the line of a water, gas or sewage pipe?

Does any long-standing resident member know?

On Stalling Down, at about a height of 350 feet, there is almost a demarcation line where bracken and fern cease to grow, leaving the grassy top we all know. The Rev L J Hopkin-James wrote in Old Cowbridge "Felons were hanged on Stalling Down, according to tradition on th Aberthin (Hollybush) side on a spot where the fern never grows". If, in the last remark the author had in mind the time of writing, then this lack of fern must go back at least

58 years, but should he have been referring to the time of the executions, this state must have been so for much more than 100 years.

Has any reader the botanical, geological or any other knowledge to give a reason for this?

S.T Golden

(Any answers to Mr Golden's questions will be printed in the next newsletter - please get in touch if you have any ideas.)

C O W B R I D G E D I S T R I C T

P L A N

Everybody in Cowbridge has been asked to comment on the issues raised by the Vale Council in their interim report on the Cowbridge District Plan. All the members of the society who were interested - and able to attend - met at Gwynneth and Jim Keay's house in July; comments were sent on to the Vale council by your secretary. Some of the points are noted below.

Continuity of community is desirable, with a proportion of new household formation taking place in Cowbridge. (1.1)

Cowbridge is a market town, the focal point of an agricultural area. It is important to ensure that good agricultural land is not built on, but that any new housing is built on land not suitable for agricultural purposes in such a way as to protect the environment and avoid too high a density. (1.2)

No council houses have been built in the area for some time; there is a need for lower-priced housing of this kind, preferably well-designed flats or smaller houses. (There has been a tendency in the past to 3-4 bedroom houses, often too large for present needs).

(1.3)

The best location remaining is the area between the town and the by-pass (excluding the Bear field) including the ground from the rear of the Bear field to the A48. Cowbridge has almost reached saturation point ; only very selective building is desirable ('selective' here having no 'class' or 'financial' connotation.).

Provision of shopping facilities in Cowbridge has reached saturation level. Expansion of these facilities is likely to result in commercial failure from overprovision. (1.13, 1.14)

There is some demand for the provision of small offices. A small amount of office development within existing buildings would be acceptable to the community. There is no wish for tall office blocks. (1.15)

There are considerable problems of access to the community services, as the Vale offices are at Barry. A journey there and back means the use of four buses, if private transport is not available. This major difficulty becomes apparent in the lack of public access to planning applications relating to Cowbridge and District. Copies of such applications should be made available for inspection in Cowbridge : otherwise the spirit of the law is not fulfilled and justice is not seen to be done.

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COWBRIDGE AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY WORKING PARTY

COWBRIDGE DISTRICT PLAN : ISSUES

It is understood that the Vale of Glamorgan Council Offices at Eastgate, Cowbridge may close. It is hoped that this will not happen, as such a closure would make access to community services even more difficult.

Cowbridge Health Centre is difficult of access for the infirm. If a suitable entrance could be provided from the car park at the rear of the Mason's Arms inn, this difficulty would be greatly lessened. (1.23)

The basis of the Cowbridge area is agriculture and the whole charm of Cowbridge depends on the link of history with agriculture.

(7.1, 7.2)

Elements essential to the character of the town include the 17th/18th century frontages to houses in the High Street and the burgage plots which are an essential part of "Cowbridge boundaries. There has been an unfortunate tendency in recent years to demolish some of the walls which mark the shape of these plots.

Another essential element consists of the open spaces, and it is important that these be kept open. These spaces include the Bear field, the field behind the Police Station, the Comprehensive School's playing fields south of the Market, the river walk, the old Grammar School garden, Stalling Down, St. Hilary Down, the footpath to Bowman's Well and Bowman's Well, the Llanblethian Castle gatehouse, works and surrounds, Llanblethian Hill and its Iron Age hill fort Caer Dynnaf. (1.27)

A salient opportunity for enhancement would be the restoration of the Castle gatehouse. (I.28)

ROMAN NAVAL BASE AT BARRY

Recent excavations at Cold Knap have uncovered an oblong block consisting of at least 20 rooms, which were probably workshops and stores, grouped around a central courtyard, with a verandah inside. On the seaward side, cellars - with walls some 5ft high - have been found which may have been used for storing pitch and tar. The lack of domestic refuse suggests that this was a military site, probably a naval base using the adjacent inlet (now dry land) and linked with other Roman installations like Steep Holm and the fort at Cardiff. The Welsh office are negotiating with the owners over compensation to preserve the site.

OUR MUSEUM - A REQUEST

Can anyone lend us any photographs of (i) the Cowbridge Town Band
(ii) the Glamorgan Yeomanry
(iii) Cowbridge Station and Railway?
Marion Eveleigh could arrange for them to be copied - and the copies displayed - so please get in touch with her.

Next newsletter should be in November or December. All contributions welcomed Jeff Alden 3373 _____

Jeff