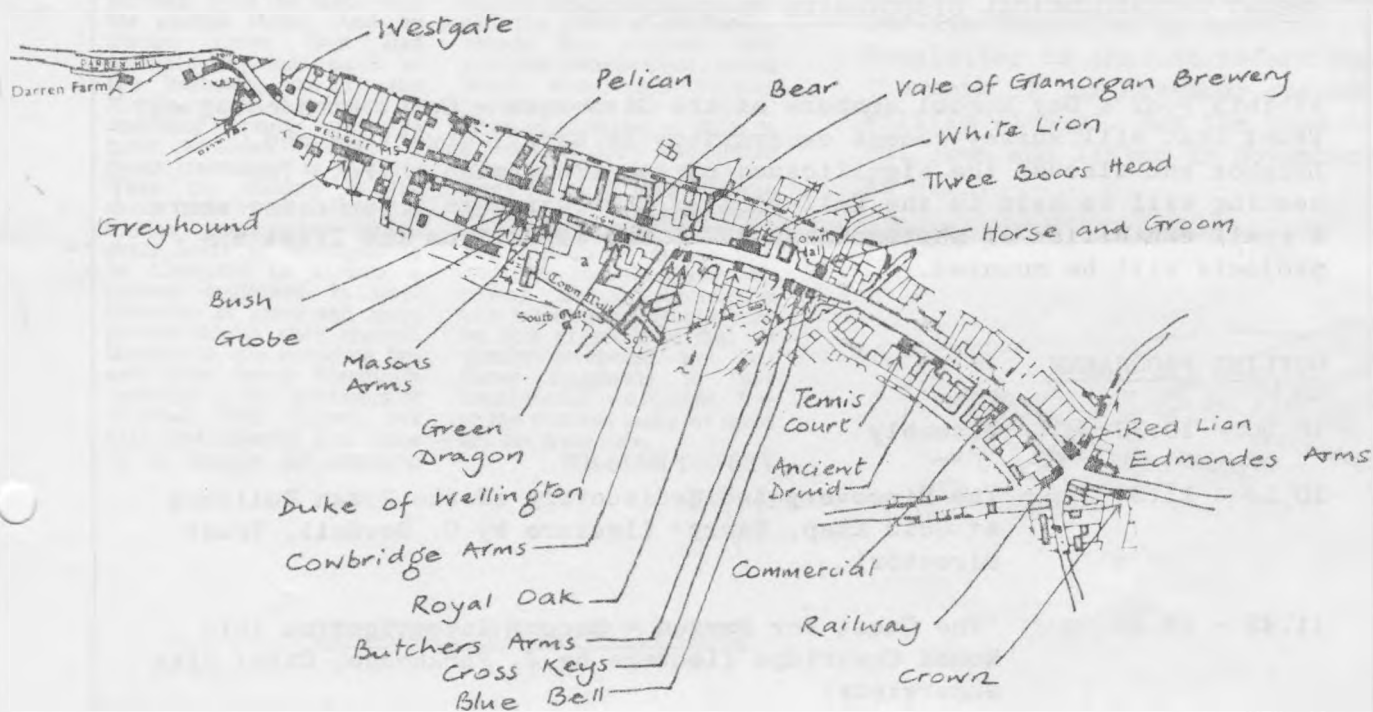


Inns of Cowbridge.: 1871

PROGRAMME FOR 1982 - 3

All meetings are on Fridays at 8 pm and are held in the Lesser Hall; all meetings after the September one are on the first Friday of the month.

September 10: Annual General Meeting, and 'How Well Do You Know The Vale?' (Part II) - Mr Jeff Alden

October 1 : 'Cardiff Docks' - Mr Jeff Morgan.

November 5: 'Glamorgan Woodlands - History and Utilization' - Dr William Linnard, Head of Documentation Dept., Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans.

December 3: The Maud Gunter Memorial lecture.
'Welsh Castles' - Mr Arthur Peplow.

1983 Meetings - full details on the Membership cards.

S U B S C R I P T I O N S

are now due.

Membership costs £1. 50 for the year (unless that is changed in the AGM) ; it is 75p for students and pensioners. Visitors pay 25p a meeting.

INNS OF COWBRIDGE 1871

No apologies for the 'cover picture' this month even if it is of a hackneyed subject. All the other references to Cowbridge pubs seem to have been attempts to find out where there were pubs at any stage in Cowbridge's history; the map shows the state of affairs 111 years ago, with 24 inns marked. Ten years earlier there had been 22; ten years later there were also 22 - but there were of course slight differences between the two. The Green Dragon - where High Street garage is today - is the only inn which appeared for 1871 only.

GLAMORGAN HISTORY SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS HANES MORGANNWG

AUTUMN DAY SCHOOL AT COWBRIDGE, 16 OCTOBER 1982

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN GLAMORGAN

At this year's Day School members of the Glamorgan - Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd. will survey recent excavations at Barry, Cowbridge and Loughor and discuss the significance of the finds made there. The meeting will be held in the Ball-room of the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge where a small exhibition of photographs, plans and finds from the Trust's projects will be mounted.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.00 - 10.30 | Assembly |
| 10.30 - 11.30 | 'The Discovery and Rediscovery of the Roman Building at Cold Knap, Barry' (lecture by G. Dowdell, Trust Director). |
| 11.45 - 12.45 | 'The Quest for Bovium - Recent Investigation into Roman Cowbridge' (lecture by J. Parkhouse, Chief Site Supervisor) |
| 1.00 - 2.30 | LUNCH |
| 2.30 - 3.30 | 'Excavation at Leucarnm (Loughor) - Past and Present (lecture by H. S. Owen-John, Assistant Director). |

The cost will be £3 with lunch; £1.50 without; for further details please see Mrs Yvonne Weeding.

THE IOLO MORGANNWG PLAQUE

It is good to see that at long last the commemorative tablet has been replaced on the wall of Martins the Newsagent - where Iolo Morgannwg once sold books. The stone has been cleaned and repaired by Hardings, Monumental Masons of Bridgend - they have done a good job. Whether we would now agree with the verdict on Iolo engraved on the stone, that he was one of the greatest benefactors of Welsh History and Literature, is at least arguable!

Southgate Repairs

This much-needed, work is now nearing completion, and again the workmen seem to be doing a good job. The 'county' usually receives brickbats and not praise - but in this case, well done.

R E S O U R C E S

Mr Glyn Taylor, Headmaster of Eagleswell School in Llantwit Major, has kindly made available to me copies of the Official Census for Cowbridge for the years 1861, 1871 and 1881; should anyone wish to borrow them from me they would be most welcome - and I'll willingly publish the findings.

Mr Taylor has in Eagleswell School a wealth of resources on the southern Vale - Census details, tithe awards, early maps, - and would welcome the interest of any keen student, of any age. Do get in touch with him if you are doing any research - or if you just like being curious about the area.

A COUNTRY DIARY

MACHYNLETH: The native woodlands of Britain have long been under attack but Wales has been left more naked than most areas. Even in 3000 BC people were enthusiastically slashing and burning trees to make way for upland farms. And by Roman times they had managed to clear much of the lowlands, too. In the Middle Ages, the ranks of marching armies seem to have included nearly as many treecutters as soldiers. Then the coming of the sheep industry under the Cistercian monasteries caused great areas of woodland to be converted to pasture, a process continued in later centuries as more and more private estates were created. Meanwhile, the surviving forests were being dreadfully exploited by the producers of charcoal, ship timber, oak bark and pitwood with little or no thought for conserva-

tion. The long decline of the Welsh forests has always been a matter shamefully neglected by historians but the omission has now been repaired. William Linnard of the Welsh Folk Museum has diligently put a wondrous amount of information, much of it the result of his own research, into coherent and readable form in a book called *Welsh Woods and Forests*, published by the National Museum of Wales at £7. It is a work of true scholarship which ought to stimulate many of us to look into the history of our local woodlands where much of interest doubtless awaits discovery. I hope, too, that the whole horrifying tale of devastation will make more people realise how urgent it is that we should safeguard the last flimsy fragments of our broad-leaved woodlands. For at the moment many of these are far from safe.

WILLIAM CONDRY

28/8/82

Those of you whose Saturday reading matter consists of the Western Mail or the Telegraph or the Times (they tell me that there are other papers as well) will have missed this Country Diary article in the Guardian. The reason for its insertion in our Newsletter is that it refers to the work of our November speaker, William Linnard. Buy the book - but come and listen in November as well.



CENSUSES - 1861, 1871, 1881

The point has been made a few times recently that it is rather unusual to find someone who is Cowbridge born and Cowbridge bred, and who has lived here all his life. The implication often is that things used to be very different in the past - however, by contrast, what I have found interesting about some of the census data is how mobile people were even in the days when long-distance transport was difficult.

In 1861, for example, of the 1,091 people recorded as living in Cowbridge, 690 had not been born in Cowbridge - and 286 had been born outside the county of Glamorgan. The first page of the census records Jacob Burton, the 75 year old 'Victualler' of the Red Lion as having been born in Monmouthshire; James Case, an agricultural labourer, was born in Wiltshire and his wife in Somerset; the Toll Collector in East Village came from Carmarthenshire (and his 5 year old daughter had been born in that county). Nearby lived a tinsmith worker master born in Middlesex - and his wife came from Hampshire, and their three children - a tinsmith worker, a laundress and a sweep - had all been born in Surrey. This mobility existed before the railway was opened in 1865. Even in 1871 only eight people were listed as being associated with the railway - but of these six came from outside the county of Glamorgan. By 1881, however, the railway was in full swing and 30 railway workers and their wives were recorded; of these, 15 came from outside Glamorgan, and only seven from Cowbridge or Llanblethian.

No doubt, Cowbridge's position on the main east-west coaching route helped to bring in quite a lot of outsiders in the early years of the nineteenth century, but the coach trade had died away by the time of these census returns - it would be nice to know a bit more about some of these immigrants, and find out why they moved to Cowbridge. Perhaps someone from among our readers has done some research into the family tree - and would like to confess all?

Another noteworthy point about the censuses is the information given about what people did for a living - in the 1861 census there are 116 jobs listed - that is, 116 different jobs (including watchmakers, tallow chandlers, a letter carrier, glass blower and a cowboy - or, really, a cow boy which is perhaps slightly different!).

One hundred and twenty-one years ago, Cowbridge was important for the manufacture of clothing and textiles. Excluding those people who might have walked in from Llanblethian - because the census only records details of those living in Cowbridge - there were 22 tailors and 20 dressmakers, 2 bonnetmakers and 6 milliners, 5 seamstresses, 1 stockingmaker, 3 woollen weavers and 19 shoemakers. There were 84 employed in other crafts - the list is made up of blacksmiths, cooper, carpenter, cabinet maker, currier, engraver, grinder, glass blower, implement maker, mason, miller, nailer, photographic assistant, plasterer, painter, plumber, sawyer, saddler, tinplate worker, tiler, watchmaker and wheelwright. Even though the biggest category of workers is 'domestic' - with 92 employed as servants of one sort or other, a lot of people worked in the shops of Cowbridge. There were 1 bookseller, 3 bakers, 6 confectioners, 19 drapers - what a well-dressed lot they must have been - 4 druggists, 1 dealer in earthenware, 1 fruiterer, 1 flour and cheese factor, 13 grocers, 5 ironmongers, 1 leather factor, 1 stationer, 1 shoe factor, 1 tallow chandler and 9 butchers. Not bad for a sleepy little town!

J.A.

S C H O O L M U S E U M

The school museum in the Sixth Form block of Cowbridge School was officially opened on 21st July - and a most enjoyable evening was spent by the three hundred or so guests, mainly former students of the Grammar School and High School. The evening also saw the restoration to the school of the oil painting showing the old Grammar School buildings and the Southgate; the painting is now hanging in the museum. Should anyone want a 'private view' of the museum, this can be arranged with the school.

NEWSLETTER NUMBERING

Some people keep these newsletters and so, in response to numerous requests from our institutional subscribers, I have started to number them. This is No 16; No 1 was the November 1977 issue - and there have been three issues a year since then. Contributions are welcomed - I am supposed to be the editor, not the author!

Thanks to Mr Golden for his contribution on the next page. He asks: "Will our Editor now be put in the embarrassing position, akin to that of the old woman who lived in a shoe, of having so many reports that he will not know what to do? Or will he?"

COMING EVENTS

In October we hope to be able to arrange a visit to Llanmihangel Place - details in the September or October meetings.

Next year is to be "Wales 1983 Festival of Castles"; we have been asked to arrange some functions, and Mrs Eveleigh represented the society at a meeting at S.Glamorgan HQ on July 5th. Our three proposals were a fashion show through the ages - now perhaps joining with the Glamorgan Young Farmers who had a similar idea; an audio-visual presentation on September 30, 1983 by Ray Toogood, followed by punch and pate, in the Town Hall; and a Castle Trail around the castles of the Cowbridge area, for walkers and motorists.

These events will be publicised nationally by the Wales Tourist Board.

GOLDEN MEMORIES

A few days ago, on looking through past copies of the Newsletter it became apparent that there was much news that wasn't there. I had to refer back to 1978 to find any precis of a talk - or comment thereon - and no opinion or appreciation written by a member following an excursion or visit to a building. It seemed to be a poor reward for the efforts of Mrs Keay, Mrs Nicoll and Dr Griffith that for so long nobody had made any effort to show some response or follow-up to the programmes provided. Yes, I share guilt with other members. Hoping to expurge this guilt a little, I am making this effort, which must be in retrospect, to give my reflections on two recent visits.

The weather may not have been too good at times for our visit to the Dinas Powis area. Mrs Davies gave a very interesting talk on the history and architecture of St Andrews Church. One fact to ponder upon remained in my mind - that the minister appointed during the Commonwealth chose and was allowed to be buried in the church after the Restoration.

An arrangement to visit the Old Rectory was much appreciated, and after this we were escorted to Michaelston-le-Pit. This will long stay in my memory. For one thing, it being my first visit to the area, I was surprised at the seclusion and rusticity of the district, not in my opinion bettered elsewhere in the Vale, with Cardiff only two miles or so away. But then the nearest place is Caerau, a much underestimated and neglected spot. Secondly, the little church of St Michael which with its 13/14th century interior, with vestigial transepts, I regarded as quite unique among Vale churches. I say 'quite' because all churches are different. Although not greatly interested in stained glass I was very impressed by the design of one of two modern windows. The amount of woodwork, including churchwardens' enclosed pew, pulpit, etc., which appeared to me to be of vernacular workmanship could but attract one's attention.

The annual excursion, this year to Monmouth and district, leaves me with pleasant memories of the enthusiasm of our guide, a District Museum Officer, Mr Andrew Helme. I recall two very fine Georgian houses among others, the plaster work in Great Castle House (1673) and the unexpected siting of a Nelson Museum, which one would have more expected to see in Merton, Surrey than in Gwent. I cogitated on the mutability of human affairs, and the harshness of economic change, when seeing much overgrown the stonework remaining of a once busy quay on the river-side.

Then followed a fine afternoon drive to Skenfrith to meet the even greater enthusiasm of the Rev A.W. McAdam (no stranger to Cowbridge) who toured and described the castle ruins with such knowledge that one might have thought he had designed the castle himself! I took a few minutes to visit the adjacent St Bridget's church to be met with the peace, quiet, simplicity and grace of an Early English aisled interior not often encountered. The Rev McAdam then conducted us to his other parish of Grosmont. We had no time to explore what was once a very busy town, but were taken to another even grander castle. At the adjacent church of St Nicholas, a staggering surprise on entry to view what seemed an immense hall, with exterior 'catslide' roof, 13th century and not a ruin, and being the original nave and aisles reflecting the size and population of the old town and garrison. Another very pleasant surprise, on passing through the screen separating the part of the church now used for worship, was to find a beautiful row of Early English lancet windows in the chancel, the like of which I have not seen since visiting St Margaret's, Chipstead, Surrey. One can but admire the work of the Rev McAdam, not only in the preservation of his church buildings, but in the glimpses he gave in his calling as a pastor in his well spread parishes.

Thank you, Mrs Nicoll and Dr Griffith, for two very interesting days.

S. T. Golden.