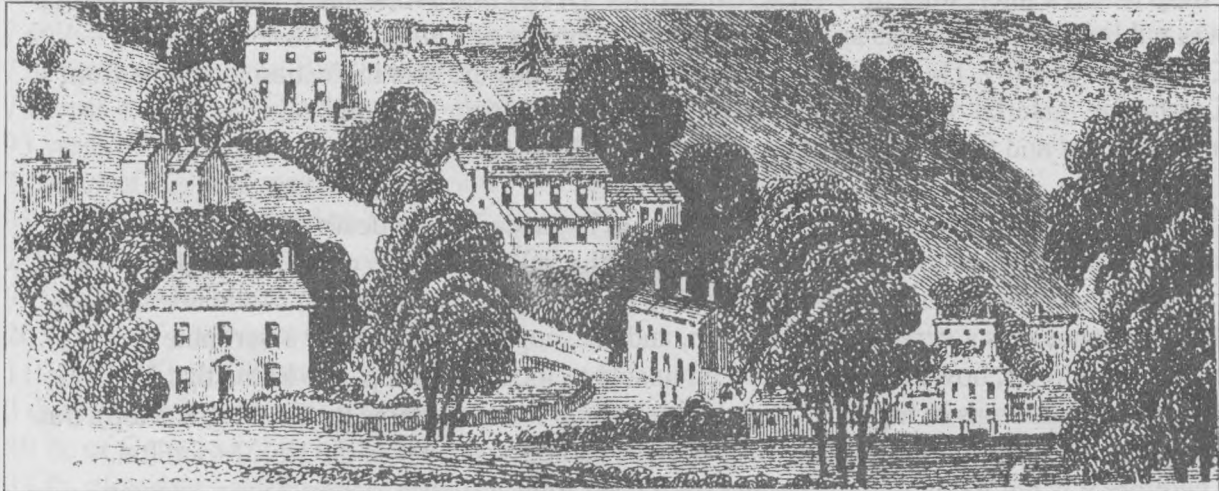


# COWBRIDGE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

No 41 : DECEMBER 1999



## COMING EVENTS

December 3: Patricia Moore, our Vice President  
*The Maud Gunter Memorial Lecture*  
**Duffryn Gardens**

We are delighted that Patricia is able to come and speak to us; we look forward to her visit very much. She has been a 'guiding light' from the early days of the Society, and has continually exhorted us to observe and record the Cowbridge scene. To add to the pleasure of the evening, mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

2000

January 7: Colin Chapman  
**The Cowbridge Railway**

February 4: Denis Heal  
*The Peggy Heal Memorial Lecture*  
**Pottery of South Wales**

March 3: Neville Granville  
**Mid Glamorgan Colliery Communities**

April 7: Anthony Hopkin, of Gwent Record Office  
**The Medieval Boroughs of South Wales**

All meetings are held in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, and start at 8pm.

The picture is from an engraving of Llanblethian made in the 1870s and printed by David Davies of Cowbridge. Llanblethian Cottage, mentioned in the article on the Entwistles, is the large building in the centre, with verandah.

## JIMMY KEAY

It is with great regret that we have to record Jimmy's death in early November.

He was a great character, unfailingly courteous and cheerful, with a quiet, dry sense of humour. He worked hard and unobtrusively for the Society, providing us with gallons of his wine for our early celebrations, and more recently acting most effectively as publicity officer. He always ensured that all the posters were in place at least a week before the meeting - and even got the November ones up in time. Of course, he also supported Gwynneth in her role as Programme Secretary.

He and Gwynneth complemented each other so well. We send her and the family our deepest sympathy.

## A WEALTHY COWBRIDGE SHOPKEEPER

Philip Riden's interesting little book, *Cowbridge Trades and Tradesmen, 1660 - 1750*, which was published in 1981, lists an inventory of the contents of Catherine Bassett's shop in Cowbridge in 1707. He states that the inventory provides the best indication available from Cowbridge material of what a local mercer's shop contained. The total value of the haberdashery and textiles contents appears to be £2.15s.9d.

Just over 40 years later, another inventory had to be made, on the death of John Vallance, another Cowbridge mercer. This time, however, the value comes to over £1000 (if you try to calculate the value from the list below, please note that that is only a part of the inventory.) Thus Vallance was a very prosperous man, and his shop must have been a veritable emporium. So far, however, we have been unable to locate the shop. We know that by 1773, his widow, Jane, was living at 50 High Street (which today contains the En Vogue shop), but that property had only been bought in 1768, and had been known as the Half Moon Inn. Therefore it is not likely that this would have been John Vallance's shop. (Even later, in 1784, Jane is recorded as living in Eastgate, in a house which probably combined East Villa and the Armoury.)

The Edmondson papers in the Glamorgan Record Office contain a deed of 1741, showing that a property occupied by John Vallance, mercer, had been mortgaged (among many others) by Evan Jenkins of Rudry, gent, and his wife Catherine, to Henry Llewellyn of Cardiff. A year later, the mortgage was transferred to Ann Howard of Llysworney, and by 1765 a William Howard was seriously in debt to Thomas Edmondson. It may well be, therefore, that Vallance's house became Edmondson property, and so in the future - with a lot more research - we may be able to find out where this shop was.

We know more about the Vallances: before 1746, John was the tenant of the 7 acre Mill Field, and his daughter Jane, known as 'the beauty of Wales', married an exciseman called Blackwell, who may have gone on to live at Tondu.

For the moment, just consider the inventory. Even without understanding what all these materials and textiles are, marvel at the country and place names, which suggest an extensive trade. If you know, or can work out, what all these wonderful words represent, please get in touch with me.....

### *Inventory of John Vallance's shop, 1750 (selected items)*

24 yards of Broadshaggs at 2/6 a yard  
44 yards of Broad Napp at 5/- a yard  
119 yards of Bays at 10d. a yard  
75 yards of Limoge at 1/- a yard  
26 yards of Blanketting at 2/- a yard  
112 yards of Flannel at 10d. a yard  
308 yards of Broadcloth at 6/- a yard  
112 yards of German serge & Narrow Cloth at 2/- a yd.  
76 yards of worsted & hair shaggs at 2/6 a yd.  
13 pieces of Duroyes at 10/- a piece  
619 yards of Shallooms at 12d. a yard

## A WEALTHY COWBRIDGE SHOPKEEPER (contd)

679 yards of Camlets & worsted Damaskes at 6/- a yd.  
945 yards of Fustians & checks at 12d. a yd.  
7 cotten gown at 6/- a gown  
770 yards of Chinese Berrin Crapes & Plads at 12d. a yd.  
7 Pieces & a half of Dowlas at 25/- a piece  
93 yards of Broomsgrove Flaxen at 18d. a yard  
3 pieces of Holland measuring 24 yards each at 3/2 a yd.  
95 yards of Irish Holland at 3/6 a yard  
218 yards of Irish Sheeting at 10d. a yard  
91 yards of Mushing at 3/- a yard  
203 yards of Canvas at 6d. a yard  
110 lb. of Wick Yarn at 6d. a lb.  
3 dozen of hair cloths 00-12-00  
30 lb. of Cotten woll at 1/6 a lb.  
33 lb. of worsted at 20d. a lb.  
3 lb. of Hemp  
24 Shammey Skins at 10d. a skin  
1 piece of Nankeen at 00-05-00  
56 lb. of rope at 3d. a lb.  
8 lb. of Wale Bone at 4/- a lb.  
91 yards of Yellow Canvas, Brown Holland and Rusha Drabb at 14d. a yd  
55 yards of Ticken at 16d. a yd.  
18 yards of Coarse Ticken at 8d. a yd.  
1 Bed and Boulster of Flanders Ticken  
18 ells of Russha Cloth at 6d. a ell  
20 yards of Buckram & Glazed Linnen at 9d. a yard  
47 yards of Russha hempton at 2.5d. a yd.

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**ST ILLTUD'S CHURCH  
LLANTWIT MAJOR**

Celebrating 1500 years of Christian Worship

Saturday, 6th May, 2000

**A Day School  
on  
THE CELTIC CHURCH**

Speaker

**REVD PATRICK THOMAS**

Contact Mr Vivian Kelly  
(of Llantwit Major LHS) 01446 792681  
Email: LVML@kelly1931 .freeserve.co.uk

## THE ENTWISLES IN THE VALE

I wonder what made four members of a prosperous North of England family move to the Vale in the early 19th century?

The High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1798 was John Markland Entwisle. He had married Ellen Lyle of Coleraine in Northern Ireland, and they had ten children. The eldest son, also John, also became High Sheriff of Lancashire, in 1824, and MP for Rochdale in 1835-37.

Of the other children, however, four came to settle after the Napoleonic war in the Vale of Glamorgan, far from the family home. The second son, Hugh Entwisle, started as a midshipman at the age of 14, in 1799, on the *Amethyst*, and was in action in 1803, and again in the Battle of Trafalgar, when he received a medal for his services. He ended up as a Lieut-Commander and had retired on half pay by 1822, because in that year he took over Llanblethian Cottage.

<i>Money expended in purchase and building at Llanblethian</i>	
House and gardens.....	£630
Expense of Writings.....	£ 20
Building the Stable and room over kitchen.....	£248
Altering the front window in dining room veranda, walls, and flags and building Robert's stable.....	?
Building new room and new pantry and laundry.....	£164
Painting and papering.....	£100
Furniture.....	£350
Small field.....	£150
Wine.....	£150
horses.....	£120
Value of property at Llanblethian.....	£2144
<i>September 25th, 1824</i>	

Llanblethian Cottage was the predecessor of The Old Vicarage; records exist of the work that Hugh Entwisle ordered to be done to build the verandah and to refurbish the property. That was done to welcome his

bride, Mary Anne Royds of Rochdale, whom he married in 1824. Soon afterwards, he moved to farm Marlbro Grange, a large farm on the road between Cross Inn and Nash, and he became one of the important landowners of the Vale; he was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant for Glamorgan. He died at Marlbro in 1867.

His younger brother, Robert, became a Lieut-Colonel in the Lancashire Militia, but on his retirement also moved to Llanblethian, occupying Llanblethian Cottage in 1822 with his sister Margaret, until Hugh and his wife moved there in 1824. The Tithe map of 1840/1 shows Robert farming Crossways (although it was owned by Thomas Bassett and had been in the Bassett family since at least 1754). He died 'after much suffering' as the tablet in Llanblethian church has it, in 1847. His sister Margaret, who had presumably moved with him to Crossways, is recorded as the occupant in 1851, farming 100 acres, employing three labourers, two boys and two general servants.

By 1861 Margaret had moved to a house then called Brynawel, but which we can probably identify as The Cross. She died there in 1870.

The fourth of the Entwisles to come into our area was Philip, who lived at Llysworney House, and who married Mary Anne Bassett, of Bonvilston House. Of those I have little information, but they were undoubtedly considered to be part of the local gentry. Philip did not live long, however, because in 1832, Mary Anne, widow of Philip Bize Entwisle, married Thomas Donne of Llanmihangel House.

All of these Entwisles died childless; a Royds lived at St Quintin's cottage in 1861 (and died falling off his horse in a hunting accident in Gloucestershire) but so far I have not established any connection with Hugh's wife; and I still don't know why the Entwisles came to the Vale. Any ideas?



## Treguff Visit

Yvonne Weeding organised a most successful visit to Treguff on Sunday, 24th October. About 25 members enjoyed a guided tour of the renovation work, where the owner was able to explain the pleasures and pitfalls of restoring a listed building. Of particular interest were the arches which had been exposed leading to the chapel, an integral and very early part of the building. Many thanks to Yvonne for her organisation.

## COWBRIDGE BUILDINGS AND PEOPLE

The new book appeared just in time for last month's History Society meeting, and has been very favourably received. With detailed accounts of all the buildings in High Street, and of quite a few in Eastgate and Westgate - with a sketch and description on each page - it is a useful companion to a town walk, or an informative read on a cold winter's day.

At only £4.95, and slim enough to be posted at a reasonable rate, it will make an excellent Christmas present. It can be obtained at the December meeting, or from the Cowbridge Bookshop, Davies's and a number of other shops. Postal sales are via Mrs J.P. Rawlins, 8 Mill Park, Cowbridge, CF71 7BG

## BITS AND PIECES

It's surprising where little bits of history' turn up! The other day, I had the job of removing some cupboards from the church vestry which is being altered to have a first floor installed. The first thing I noticed was that

under the carpets are some tombstones which were last recorded by David Jones of Wallington in about 1880! They are listed in the Glamorgan Family History Society's little book on Memorials in Holy Cross, but not in detail, so I look forward to the time when the builders have finished and the floor will be exposed.

The other item was much more mundane, but still evocative enough, especially as I had just finished editing The Book, and many names were fresh in my mind. When we removed the cupboard doors, there behind the clothes pegs were the pencilled names of former choristers, a litany as interesting as the list of Huntingdonshire cabmen, or Betjeman's poem of a Dorset churchyard.

A. John, L. Jenkins, C. Davies, K. Hutchings, H. Hallett, A. Cocks, Don Griffiths, C. Warren, A. Reynolds, J. Deaves, W. Hayter, J. Trott, G. Bond, D. Sanders - some names to conjure with. As Bertie Thomas told me, everybody was in the choir in those days! Arthur John, the ironmonger, I presume; Charlie Davies the Bun, three times mayor of the town; Ken Hutchings, also a mayor, and whose wife is still a mine of information, as is Mrs Cocks. Don Griffiths, at one time of the Horse and Groom; the Warrens, whose family came originally from Dorset - and then perhaps Alf Reynolds, who worked for Dai John for such a long time and now lives in St Athan. George Bond and Derrick Sanders, if they are the names listed, are of course still very active (George seemingly employed by his son Tommy in his grass cutting business, though George would deny that, and Derrick of the long-established shoe shop).

Other names were there too - Duncan Mottershead (of folkgroup fame) now living in the States, Jill Busher, now Davies, helping to run La Manga in Spain - but perhaps these are too young to count as 'history'. It is good to record them, nevertheless.

## HERALDRY IN GLAMORGAN The Churches of Holy Cross, Cowbridge, and St John the Baptist Llanblethian

John Miles still has some copies of this excellent little booklet available, at the bargain price of £2.

The book, first printed in 1994, gives a detailed description of all the heraldic memorials in the two churches, and is a very useful and interesting addition to the literature of the parishes.

It will be available at the December meeting.

**MORE CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE!**

Thanks to Norman Williams for the attached cutting - and it would be nice to have some more articles. The next newsletter should be in April - so get writing now!

Comments on this issue, and contributions, to Jeff Alden, 01446 -773373

*Glamorgan Gazette* 1977

**THE small brass cross, laid in the main street in Cowbridge, which marked the spot where the old town cross once stood, has been replaced by South Glamorgan County Council.**

Some years ago when the county council was carrying out road works in the town, the marker cross became dislodged and fell onto part of the old foundations of the old stone cross.

The old Town Hall, which stood near the Duke of Wellington Hotel, and before which the old stone cross stood, was knocked down in 1836 in order that stage coaches travelling through the town should have an unobstructed passage. The present town hall had been built a year earlier. It was decided then that the spot where the town cross had stood since the beginning of the century should be marked with an inconspicuous brass cross.

Mr. Norman Williams, a former Mayor of Cowbridge, who has been instrumental in having the cross replaced by the county, said: "I have been very anxious to get something back there. It is hoped that it will remain there for a good many years."