



COWBRIDGE 750 YEARS OF HISTORY

Most people are now aware that the borough of Cowbridge received its first charter from Richard de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan and Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, in 1254, and so next year we will be celebrating the 750th anniversary of this first charter. To this end the Cowbridge Charter Trust has been established and it has the following primary objectives:

- (a) Promote an awareness of the history of Cowbridge and District and to develop civic pride.
- (b) Encourage, arrange and when appropriate co-ordinate the provision of relevant entertainment, activities and functions.
- (c) Strengthen links between individuals, social groups / organisations and official representatives.
- (d) Provide funding, when available, to support and develop local community activities.

Though of great importance to us the settlement of the area goes back very much further than the granting of that first charter in 1254, even if we put Roman Cowbridge aside - and there is much evidence for a sizeable Roman settlement. In the charter, Cowbridge was called Longa Villa - Long Town - which suggests that there were already a fair number of houses lining the main road. This road, of course, was the principal route through south Wales, and followed the old Roman road down from St Hilary Down to cross the river Thaw at the one point where the slopes were gentle but the valley bottom was not too marshy.

Where the road crossed the river, the great stone bridge - alluded to in many later documents - was built. Further west, near the Darren, came a smaller bridge, the Pont y Fwch. Why the first bridge should give the town its Welsh name, Pont faen, and why the second and less important bridge should be used for the name of Cowbridge, we do not know.

Nine years before the charter was granted, in 1245, Richard de Clare seized the Lordship of Llanblethian from the Siwards, and perhaps the relative stability of the area after that time encouraged him to set up a new town at Cowbridge.

The first houses may well have been of wood, but many were built in stone and were very substantial. One example was found when the building on the site now occupied by the Yorkshire Building Society was knocked down in 1977. This turned out to be an early medieval building, with thick stone walls, round-arched doorways, and a stone wall-safe in a side wall.

The houses were built on the street frontage of narrow plots, about six metres wide and up to sixty metres long. For each of these burgage plots, which are still well preserved in the long narrow gardens behind High Street and Eastgate today, an

annual rent of a shilling was to be paid to the Lord of Glamorgan. From the account books which have still survived, we can deduce how many shillings were paid, and thus how many burgage plots there were - and from this we can estimate the population of the town. The population soared from the 59 burgages of 1262 to the 233 of 1295. At four people per household, this would suggest a population of nearly one thousand after just over forty years existence. Indeed as time went on, burgage plots were often subdivided so that more houses - and so more people - could be placed within the town.

The new town was to be essentially a market town, and not a garrison town, and so the creation of a central market, in the middle of the road near the one 'tributary road' from the South Gate, was a major factor. The market cross stood in the middle of the road - and is today marked by a brass plaque in the road surface.

It is likely that the town walls were constructed almost as soon as the charter was granted. The gates in the walls were to control the movement of people into the borough, especially into the market and shops; tolls were to be paid by incomers. We are fortunate in Cowbridge to have such a substantial part of the town walls, including the bastions in Old Hall gardens and in the school grounds, and the raised walkway in Old Hall gardens, still remaining. A number of other towns in the old Glamorgan used to have these walls: now Cowbridge is the only one.

The regulations for the government of the town also make fascinating reading. These are of medieval origin, and include such items as:

- All brawlers or fighters that fighteth or draweth blood, shall pay 3/4d for the blood shed
- No butcher shall cast no heads, feet nor no other garbage in the high street
- There be no tennis playing upon the high street
- If any woman be found guilty by six men of scolding any burgess or their wives, she to be brought to the cucking stool (suspended above the Butts Pool)
- that no inhabitant of the town shall keep no licentious naughtipacks, bawdry or suspected harlots, vagabonds nor loiterers in their houses.

I wonder how many licentious naughtipacks are to be found in Cowbridge today?

COWBRIDGE CHARTER TRUST

The "Cowbridge Charter Trust" was formed to help the community of Cowbridge celebrate throughout 2004, the granting of its first charter. During the committee's formation, it was also realised that the Trust could provide a suitable vehicle to enable essential community based projects and objectives to be carried forward beyond 2004 - if there was a community wish to do so. As a consequence it has subsequently applied for charitable status.

The objectives of the Trust are to:

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- (d) Provide funding when available to support and develop local community activities and projects.

In addition to the Management Committee, the Trust has established a number of subgroups to deal with Funding, Publicity, Music, Events, Projects, Youth / School.

These subgroups will work very closely with the Committee but will also be establishing links, as appropriate, with clubs and organisations within the community that may wish to participate in one way or another. The Trust itself will organise a small number of high profile events/projects however its primary role will be to co-ordinate other community groups and to raise funds to support these activities.

It will be directly involved with significant issues such as:

- The illumination of the oldest building in the town,
- Establishing a Town Crier, - associated with this is a Major Advertising strategy/plan and campaign.
- Establishing a group of supportive Patrons
- Management of the Charter Day-March 13th
- Establishing an annual Welsh Wine and Food Festival
- To provide, through the Charter year 2004, the ingredients to help bond and enthuse the community to achieve a greater understanding of its history, culture and potential development for the future.

Detailed below are a number of activities planned for Charter year:

Town Crier.

Local competition to select a suitable person together with the provision of funding for a suitable uniform and periods of use - honorarium etc.

Advertising Project

The design, funding and provision of Banners suspended from Lamp Posts, two bridges and the Town Hall.

Memorabilia Items.

Design of Mugs, Plates and medals for the community to purchase as a memento of the celebration.

Illumination of Historical Building

Specification, tender, funding, planning approval and placing of contract.

Charter Day.

Activities involved with the day being:

- Street entertainment – Historical theme.
- Youth and Children's Educational entertainment – Historical theme.
- Marching band and procession (Welsh Guards requested)
- Reading of the Ancient Charter.
- Time Capsule
- Medieval encampment.
- RADIO – demonstration and communication with other sites around the World.
- Illumination of Holy Cross Church – being the most ancient building in the town.
- Medieval Banquet.

Town Trail Booklet

New updated publication.

Drawings of Cowbridge.

Pen and ink drawings of historical buildings – “card form” to be used as fundraiser.

Charter Website

For advertising and communication purposes.

Historic Gardens

An event organised by Save the Children Fund as part of Vale open Garden Day. Save the Children will approach the owners requesting use of the gardens in 2004. A small guide relating to the properties will be produced for use during the visits.

Charter Pamphlet

The existing pamphlet will be updated.

Historic Walks

A range of guided walks both within the town and in the immediate vicinity. The Church /Ramblers/U3A will be involved with any such programme .

Welsh Wine & Food Festival

Planned for October/November 2005 – major event with long term benefits to the community.

Other Community Organised Events:

Flower festivals, Music Events, Art Exhibitions, Sport and other pastime Competitions and subject to Planning Approval – **The construction of a Physic Garden (Historic Gardens of Wales project)**

The above activities are by know means a complete list however the content serves to help the reader understand the motives, objectives and plans of the trust.

For Cowbridge 750 (brand of the Trust) to be a success immediate and direct financial support is needed. Some of the projects should/will develop profit for reinvestment – this will be used for ongoing 2005 projects and community projects where need is determined. However as this is our first year of operation, “front end” financial support is essential. The Trust is required to fund:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Potential Source</u>	<u>Alternative</u>
1. Town Crier	£940	Sponsorship	Grant/Fundraising
2. Advertising	£3,000	Tourism Grant	Sponsorship/Fundraising
3. Memorabilia	£3,200	Fundraising/Profit	Sponsorship
4. Illumination	£7,000	Grant Application	Sponsorship
5. Charter day	£5,000	Sponsorship	Tourism Grant
6. Wine & Food	£8,000	WDA	Tourism Grant
Total	£27,140		



President: Captain NORMAN LLOYD-EDWARDS, Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan

Charter Weekend 13th/ 14th March 2004

To celebrate the granting of the first borough charter to Cowbridge 750 years ago on the 13th March 1254 a memorable weekend of events will take place. Banners will fly high, music, marching and re-enactment groups will roam—street and off street entertainment will be provided for all ages. A medieval banquet with a difference will take place for the grown ups and suitable feasting and revelry will be laid on for the children.

Contacts: Sue Cox 01446 773637 / Bruce McGovern 01446 773611

Grand Charter Bridge in CowBRIDGE

A major duplicate bridge competition to be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 17th March at 7.00pm. Organised in conjunction with the East Wales Area of the Welsh Bridge Union,

Entries and further details : Brian Swain 01446 773596

Mayors Charter Ball

Saturday 8th May 2004

A step back into the past with the reintroduction of the traditional Mayors Ball in charter year.

Further details: Andrew Davies, Town Clerk, 01446 773385

Charter Flower Festival

Holy Cross Church

1st/ 4th July 2004

A significant festival of colour and beauty involving creations and displays by all sections of the community.

Further details: Margaret Harris 01446 772302

Cowbridge Welsh Wine and Food Festival

Saturday 6th November 2004

Throughout the town in a variety of locations there will be displays, demonstrations and sampling of all that is best in Welsh wine and food.

Further details: Alan Crossley: 01446 775468

Regards

Bruce McGovern

22.10.03

Tankards for the memory

Cowbridge 750's decision to create commemorative tankards to mark its 750th charter anniversary has been a huge hit with the public. The half-pint vessel is so popular that batches are being sold ahead of production by Rumney Pottery.

Priced at £10 each and based around a design by 750 committee member Robert Cope, the tankards started going on sale in mid-late November. To date some 330 tankards have been purchased by a eager Cowbridge public and another 400 are on order, together with another 75 to be produced in Welsh.

Rumney Pottery were singled out by Cowbridge 750 supporter and committee member, Desmond Williams. He said, "Everyone seems to agree that they are beautifully designed and crafted – a fitting and lasting tribute to the town's anniversary."

Orders can be placed with Bob Cope on 01446-773145.

Town trail brochure marks the spot

Cowbridge's biggest anniversary year has been marked by the first ever publication of a town trail containing more than 30 colour photographs, black and white images and pen and ink drawings of the town.

Published in English and Welsh, some 10,000 copies of the A-3 folded brochure will be available to the public, free of charge, thanks to the Vale of Glamorgan Council who have picked up the bill as a significant contribution to Cowbridge 750.

Words are by historian Jeff Alden, while pen and ink illustrations have been provided by Cowbridge 750 committee member, Bob Cope.

Says Bob, "We're mightily pleased this has come off the presses well in advance of our festival. The Cowbridge Gem has kindly undertaken to distribute it to households with the paper, which is a huge saving and contribution for us as it ensures everyone will get a chance to see it. If not, they can pick it up from Cowbridge library, the town hall and other outlets.

"I'm sure most will like it because it provides a good deal of factual historical background, valuable to children, students and adults alike. It's a little treasure," he added.

For more information call Bob Cope on 01446-773145 or Jeff Alden on 01446-773373

Concert classic, fireworks and disco kick off Charter weekend

First event of Charter 750 anniversary will be a concert of classical music in the town's oldest building, Holy Cross Church, on Thursday March 11th by young musicians from Cardiff College of Music and Drama.

Students of brass, under their conductor and tutor Christopher Mowatt, who lives at St Hilary, will figure prominently in the concert, together with a choir of up to 40 voices, augmented by some from St Hilary parish church.

Some 300 tickets at £6 and £4 for concessionaires go on sale soon. The full 90-minute programme will be published soon and will be posted on this website; further information can be obtained from the college and later from Holy Cross church. Watch this space for more details as soon as they become available.

Second event of the weekend will be a fireworks display and disco at Cowbridge Rugby Club on Friday March 12th, promoted on behalf of Cowbridge 750 by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade who are also sponsoring staging, public address and liaison with BridgeFM who will be helping Charter Day get into a swing the following morning (see references to the full day's programme)

Prince to honour Cowbridge 750 programme with a royal visit

His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, is to visit Cowbridge to honour and acknowledge its forthcoming Charter celebrations in March.

The Prince will spend an hour at Holy Cross Parish Church on Monday March 1st, where he will meet principal figures involved in organising the programme for the town's 750th Charter Day celebrations on March 13th. His arrival is scheduled for 1.45 p.m.

Cowbridge 750 secretary Bruce McGovern said, "The prince's heavy programme of engagements doesn't allow him the opportunity to join us during Charter weekend, but we are enormously encouraged and delighted that he can find the time to join us, albeit a few days early.

"This is a very considerable honour for Cowbridge which will delight everyone in the town, young and old alike," he added.

A programme of music at the church is under preparation and will be announced shortly, together with more detail about the visit.

end

Special Cowbridge ale for Charter celebrations

Brains, the internationally renowned Cardiff brewers, are brewing a special ale to commemorate Cowbridge 750.

At 4.5% proof, the ale will have a few additional "secret" ingredients to distinguish it from traditional beers produced by the company.

And delivery to the principal Brains public house in Cowbridge, the Duke of Wellington, will be made on Saturday 13th of March as part of the town's community parade celebrations. It will be carried on a distinctive 1940's motorised dray decked in Brains livery

At a meeting of Cowbridge landlords in the town on February 4th, Brains advised that they are prepared for all outlets in the town to have supplies of their special Cowbridge 750 brew which, after Charter Weekend, will re-appear in Cowbridge ale houses for the first Celtic Wine and Food festival on November 6th.

Said David Knowles, Brains marketing director, "We're delighted to be associated with the celebrations in Cowbridge, which is in the heartland of our territory. I'm sure it will go down well and will be to the taste not only of our regular clients but many others beside. It's a very special brew to celebrate a unique occasion for one of the oldest walled towns in Wales. We're proud to be part of it."

The beer will be on sale from casks at the medieval banquet at the Duke of Wellington on the evening of March 13th when 300 revellers in medieval costume will eat, sing and dance the night away to music and entertainment of the 13th century.

end



Cowbridge 750 Charter Weekend – a celebration of our history for all to enjoy

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For two full days Cowbridge will pay due honour to its history as one of the oldest boroughs in Wales and as one of the country's few remaining walled towns.

Months of planning and preparation have been devoted to the task of making Charter Weekend a memorable landmark for Cowbridge people and its visitors, some travelling from far afield and from foreign shores to share the celebrations.

Outgoing Cowbridge 750 secretary, Bruce McGovern said, "It's been a huge task to bring all the strands together involving a big programme of meetings and planning with the statutory authorities, but hopefully only the weather can intervene to take the edge off a truly memorable event."

Charter Day is Saturday March 13th when, following the early morning construction of a podium outside the Town Hall, the town will see the first activity around 0930, when Bridge FM will begin the programme of broadcasting events, transmitting live music with the help of David Parry-Jones, formerly the voice of rugby football who will act as compere to pilot the gathering audience through the morning programme of marches and processions.

The first tribute to the historic past will be a procession headed by our new town crier, Simon Fowler, who will parade with a number of medieval men at arms from the Cardiff Garrison making their way from Old Hall to the Town Hall, the most significant figure among them being a "contemporary" Richard de Clare.

The garrison will move on to Druids Green to join with the Community Parade, comprising children and adults and community groups drawn from the town and around most, it's hoped, dressed in medieval costume. Other surprise features may be included in the community parade, which leaves Druids Green at 10.05

Passing through Eastgate and High street, it will disperse in Church Street, which will be the subject of a road closure order for both days. Police will control and limit access during the parade processes.

The main event, the military parade, comprising the band and the Royal Welsh Regiment, together with members of the Welsh Guards, RAF St Athan and HMS Cambria will begin their march at 10.30 through Westgate, High Street and Eastgate, arriving at Druids Green at 10.40. Meanwhile the mayor of Cowbridge, Coun Hugh Field, will pay due honour to the day and the charter.

The military parade leaves Druids Green at 10.49 to march back through the town, drums beating and colours flying, to the dispersal point at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Shortly afterwards a further procession will leave Druids Green which will include a vintage motorised dray bearing the a Cowbridge 750 ale specially brewed by S.A. Brain, which will be transported to the Duke of Wellington hotel, its arrival timed for 11.00 a.m. A stagecoach and other horse-drawn vehicles may be in accompaniment.

Once the marches are complete all roads, save for Church Street, will be reopened for the public. **Here are some special features to look out for:**

Thursday March 11th:

A celebration concert by players and singers from the Royal Cardiff College of Music and Drama, at Holy Cross, to raise funds for the church's restoration programme. Significantly, it will include the premiere of a fanfare specially written for Cowbridge 750 by college tutor Andrew Wilson-Dickson as part of what is likely to be a sell-out programme. Tickets are available from Quills and from David Barnes, the dry cleaners.

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A disco and fireworks display at Cowbridge Rugby Club promoted by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade and Rugby Club.

Saturday March 13th:

Town Hall

Exhibitions tracing the town's history through the ages including, the original 1421 Charter and Borough Ordinances of 1610 will be on display. Glamorgan Family History Society will be present to help individuals trace their own history. Charter tankards and drawings will be on sale. A radio team will be transmitting Cowbridge messages throughout the world from the Robing room under the call-sign Cowbridge 750; additionally members of the Women's Institute will serve food and drinks in the Lesser Hall while upstairs in the main auditorium an entertainment programme will be provided.

Old Hall

A medieval encampment will be open to view – it will help visitors understand the way of life in medieval times. The 30 or so people of the medieval township will engage in conversation and demonstrate life and activities in the raw. They will also be seen walking through the town.

Church Street

In the Church street area, a number of activities will be available for the public to enjoy – they are many in number and will also be situated in the Old Grammar School Car Park – it also includes a number of stalls. The scouts, guides and other organisations will be active with challenges and demos.

Street Entertainment

From 12.00 noon entertainers will be around the Town – we have a wide range of entertainment such as the Tight Rope of Fear, Juggling with Hats and many more – they will move around town covering 5/6 locations at different times of the afternoon. A jazz band will also play during the afternoon along with a number of buskers.

Banquet

A medieval banquet for 300 will take place in the Duke of Wellington between 7.00pm and Midnight. This is now sold out.

Sunday 14th March Programme

The Town Hall, Old Hall and Church Street presentations/area will open at 11.30am. Street entertainment will not be provided however a Circus Workshop will be open on a “call in basis” for kids and adults to learn juggling and other circus skills.

Music will be provided in the form of travelling buskers.

From circa 11.30am **“located and starting from the Town Hall”** – Cowbridge Rotary will run a Historical Treasure Hunt competition around the Town.

Prizes of first £30, second £20 and third £10 will be awarded to two age groups. A team comprising of two persons will be charged £1 to enter to cover some of the costs.

We anticipate this will be a busy family fun day.

It is anticipated that the Town Hall and outdoor activities will “wind down” around 4.00pm.

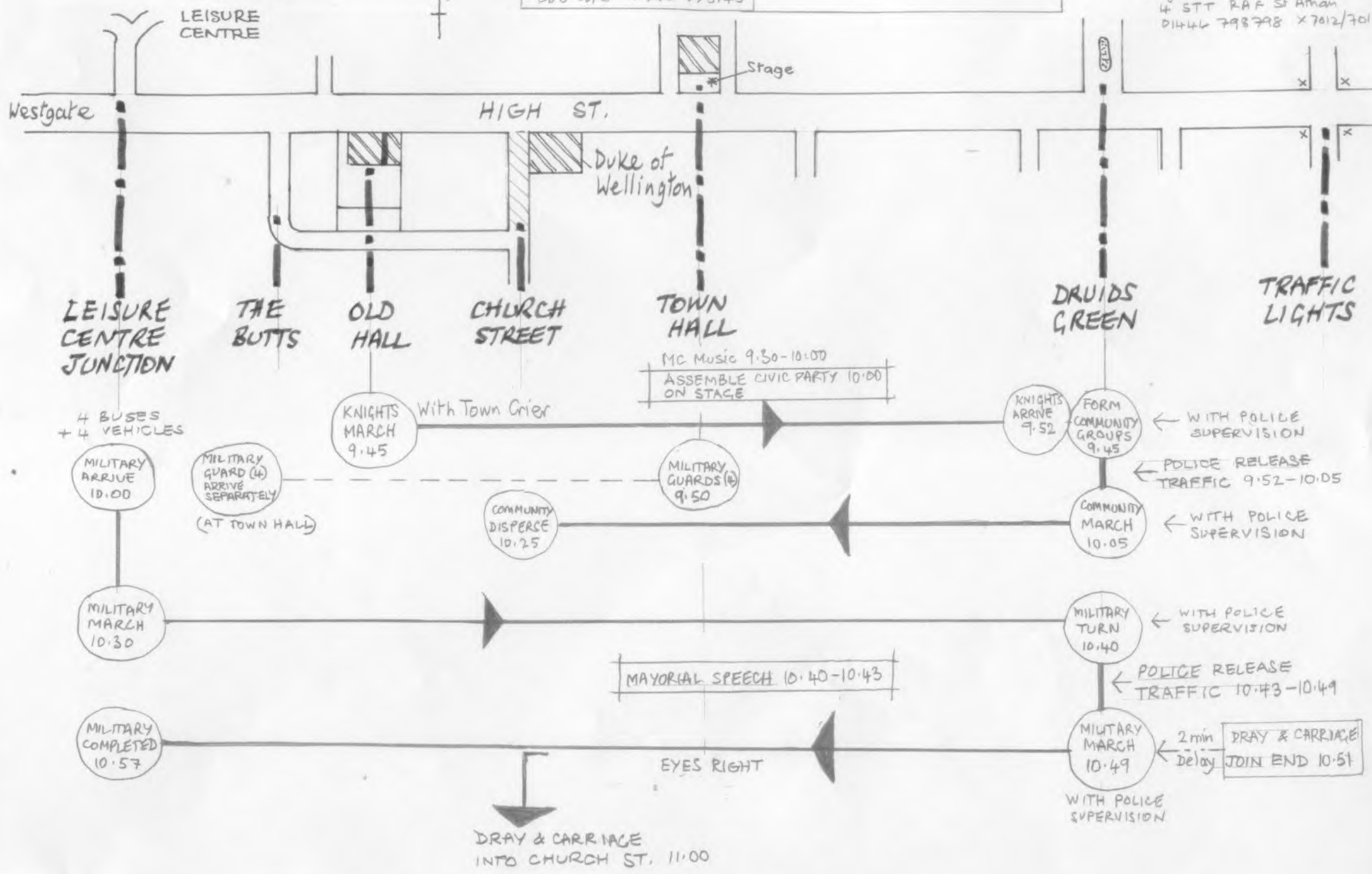
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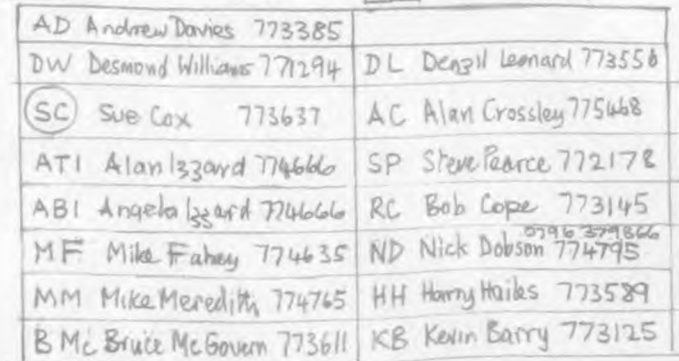


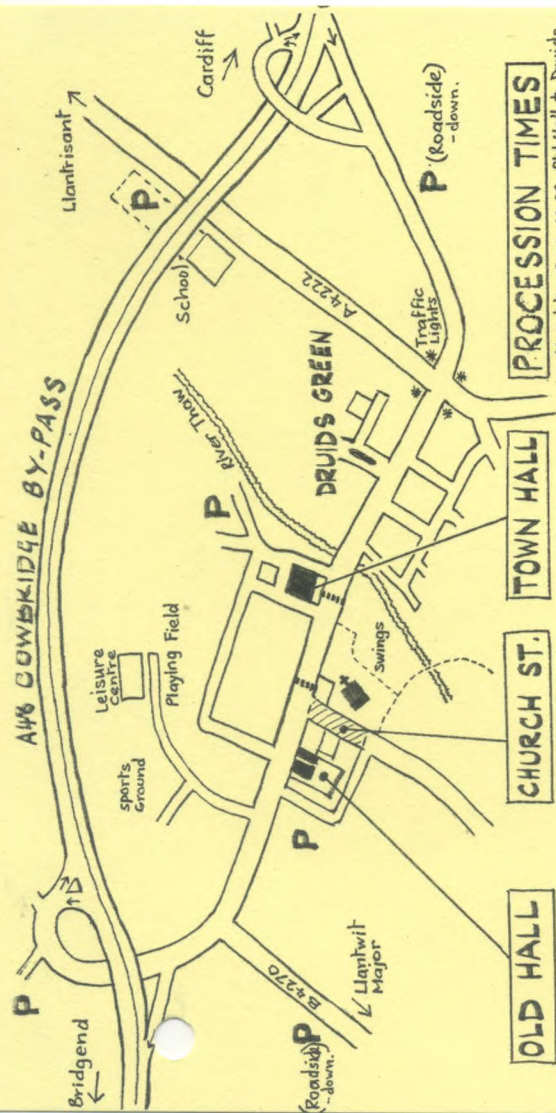
STAGE	PROCESSION	ISSUE	DATE
	SAT 13 MARCH	A	21-1-04
	Bob Cope 01446 773145	B Redrawn	9-2-04

Police Supt Chris Patterson
01656 869449

Military • Fg Off. Sarah Laycock X 8152
• Sgt Shaw SNCO DISCIP
4 STT RAF St Athan
01446 798798 X 7012/7013







OLD HALL

- St John's Ambulance
- PA system
- Control Centre
- Medieval Camp
- Continuous displays 11:00 am to 5 pm.

CHURCH ST.

- Road Closed
- Scout Display
- Stalls
- Church Tearoom

TOWN HALL

- Museum
- WI Tearoom
- Charter Display
- Music
- Bridge FM Radio
- Art Display
- Tankard Sale etc.
- 12:30 stagecoach Theatre

PROCESSION TIMES

- Knights 9:30-10:00 Old Hall to Druids
- Community 10:05-10:25 Druids to Church St
- Military 10:30-10:40 Leisure Cr to Druids
- Military 10:45-10:57 Druids to Leisure Cr
- Carriages 10:58-11:00 Druids to Church St



Charter Weekend Friday 12th / Monday 15th March 2004

Name	Role	Home Contact	Mobile
Bob Cope	Event Manager	773145	07970 843397
Sue Cox	Director	773637	
Alan Crossley	Director	775468	07773 923698
Mike Meredith	Director	774765	07751 302561
Nick Dobson	Director	774795	07956 379866
Harry Hailes	Co. Secretary	773589	07816 562555
Percy Robson	Treasurer	775243	
Bruce McGovern	Old Hall	773611	07980 935904
Alan /Angela Izzard	Community Parade	774666	07802 451349
Denzil Leonard	Old Hall	773556	07803 797939
Mike Ruttley	Town Hall	772598	07977 069475
Mike Fahey	Safety	774635	07879 661677
Graham Davies	Rotary	773341	07791 309584
Kevin Barry	Fire	773125	07747 693408
Mike Boss	Fire	774115	
Carey Lye	St. Johns	734880	07778 520485
Lyn Richards	Traffic	776219	
Stan Lane	Old Hall	773617	
Dick Tonkin	Old Hall	772704	
Mike Baker	Photography	773325	07802 427348
Peter Lawrenson	Church Street	02920 593460	07957 138353
Mike Wilcock	Video	774502	07763 467279
Pat Smith	Callenig	01443 226892	
Nick Cole	Cosmeston	02920 709141	
Knights et Armis		01495 221533	
Garrison		02920 254853	
Pavane	Duke	02920 223096	
Simon Fowler	Town Crier		07980 992495
Alan Thomas	Lions	01656 861747	
Billy James	Minder	772144	
Peter Clinton	Caretaker Old Hall	774717	
Huw Evans	PA System Old Hall		07747 840225
Chris Patterson	Police	01656 869449	07855 300169

* Lead roles

* Roy Kemble	Town Hall	773566	07751 034055
Andrew Davies	Town Clerk	773385	07812 936372



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The Rectorial Benefice
of Cowbridge



Cowbridge
Charter Trust



**A SERVICE
to
Commemorate
the
750th Anniversary of the
Granting
of
The First Borough Charter**

in
The Presence of His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales KG
at
Holy Cross Parish Church

St David's Day 2004
2.15 pm

Cowbridge Charter Trust

The Trust was started after meetings initiated jointly by Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council and local History Societies.

In this Charter Anniversary year it intends to promote the history of the town and stimulate actions by the community, so that the town continues into the future with confidence.

Cowbridge and its Medieval Charters

In 2004, Cowbridge celebrates the 750th anniversary of its first borough charter, granted on 13 March 1254 by Richard de Clare, the Lord of Glamorgan. De Clare was one of the most powerful barons of the day, having huge estates stretching across South Wales and southern and eastern England.

In 1254, he addressed his charter to "our beloved burgesses of Longa Villa"—so a small settlement probably already existed at Cowbridge. "Longa Villa" (the long town) must have been only a provisional name, since Cowbridge (in various forms) is found in documents from 1262 onwards.

De Clare's charter granted valuable rights and liberties to people who were thus drawn to settle in Cowbridge. In return there was an annual payment to the Lord of one shilling for each building plot (the burgage rent, which continued to be paid down to the beginning of the twentieth century). In 1324, by royal charter of Edward II, the burgesses of Cowbridge were privileged to sell their goods free of toll in all markets and fairs in the king's realms, in England, Ireland and France. Later charters issued by Richard de Clare's descendants—the Despensers, Beauchamps and Nevills - in 1340, 1358, 1397, 1421, 1423, 1460 and 1473 confirmed these rights and gradually enlarged them. By the 1460 charter issued by Richard Nevill the "Kingmaker", Cowbridge enjoyed self-government by two bailiffs and a bench of twelve aldermen selected from among the burgesses. The town had its own set of "Ordinances" or bye-laws which all residents had to obey. The last of the medieval charters was granted by George, Duke of Clarence, famous (at least in tradition) for having met his death in a butt of malmsey wine in 1478.

All the medieval charters save one have been lost. There was great excitement in 1983 when the charter of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester, granted in 1421, came to light in a solicitor's office in Somerset, where it had seemingly been taken by the Gwyns of Llansannor and Forde Abbey. An important feature of the Latin text, written on parchment and sealed with the Lord's seal in green wax, is that it repeats the terms of all the previous charters, and confirms 13 March 1254 as the date of the first charter. This precious document is now in the safekeeping of the Glamorgan Record Office.

At the High Street: The Church bells ring out and *the High Sheriff and civic dignitaries are presented to His Royal Highness. After this the bells stop and he is greeted by Children from local schools.*

At the Church Gates: *On arrival the Royal Standard is flown. Councillors Susan and Geoffrey Cox are presented. The Rector and Mrs Belcher are presented, followed by the Parish Executive and ecumenical representatives, who wait in the churchyard.*

At the Church

The Procession forms up at the Porch Entrance.

Taperer Crucifer Taperer
Parish Choir
Master of Ceremonies
The Clergy
The Prince
The Lord Lieutenant

The Trumpeters of the South Wales Police Authority sound a Fanfare, and the procession proceeds during the singing of

Hymn	Tune: Blaenwern	Stand
1 Lord, Who in Thy perfect wisdom times and seasons dost arrange Working out Thy changeless Purpose In a world of ceaseless change; Thou didst form our ancient nation In remote barbaric days, To unfold in it Thy purpose To Thy glory and Thy praise.		1 Arglwydd, trefni mewn doethineb Ein tymhorau is y rhod; Daw i ben dy fythol arfaeth Er pob newid sydd yn bod: Ti ddewisaist Wlad y Bryniau, Ddyddiau tywyll a di-wawr, I egluro dy fwriadau Er dy glod a'th Enw mawr.

2 To our shores remote,
 benighted, Washed by distant
 western waves,
 Tidings in Thy love Thou sentest,
 Tidings of the Cross that saves.
 Men of courage strove and
 suffered
 Here Thy holy Church to plant;
 Glorious in the roll of heroes
 Shines the name of Dewi Sant.

2 Hyd ein glannau pell a olchir
 O'r gorllewin gan y lli
 Yr anfonaist ti o'th gariad
 Sôn am Groesbren Calfari;
 Dros yr Eglwys Lân Gatholig
 Collwyd chwys a gwaed dy
 blant,
 A disgleirio'n rhol dy arwyr
 Y mae enw Dewi Sant

3 Lord, we hold in veneration
 All the saints our land has
 known,
 Bishops, priests,
 confessors, martyrs, Standing
 now around Thy throne;
 Dewi, Dyfrig, Deiniol, Teilo -
 All the gallant saintly band,
 Who of old by prayer and
 labour
 Hallowed all our fatherland.

3 Parchwn, Arglwydd,
 goffadwriaeth
 Pawb o Seintiau Cymru wen,
 Yr Esgobion a'r Offeiriaid
 A'r Merthyri hwnt i'r llen:
 Dewi, Dyfrig, Deiniol, Teilo -
 Dewr y safent tros y gwir,
 Bu eu pader, bu eu penyd
 Yn sancteiddio erwau'n tir.

Bidding Prayer

Stand

by The Rev Canon Derek Belcher, Rector of Cowbridge.

We have come together in this Parish Church to set forth the most worthy praise of God which has been offered in this place through many generations; to commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the granting of the First Borough Charter; to hear God's holy word and to pray for the good and welfare of Christ's Church, for the Queen, the Prince of Wales and all who exercise authority in this realm, for the needs of all people and a deepening sense of community.

Especially at this time, as in duty bound, we pray for the people of our locality; for those who hold positions of leadership in our civic and cultural life.

Finally, we remember those who have served this community over the past 750 years, putting its welfare before their own, and are now at rest. We pray that we may never lack a sufficiency of fit persons to follow in their footsteps and that we all may direct our lives after their good example and, this life ended, be partakers with them of the glorious resurrection in the life everlasting.

These prayers and praises let us offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd,	Our Father, who art in heaven
sancteiddier dy enw;	Hallowed be thy name;
deled dy deyrnas;	Thy kingdom come
gwneier dy ewyllys;	Thy will be done;
megis yn y nef, felly ar y ddaear	on earth as it is in heaven.
hefyd.	Give us this day our daily bread.
Dyro i ni heddiw ein bara beunyddiol.	And forgive us our trespasses,
A maddau i ni ein dyledion,	as we forgive those who trespass
fel y maddeuwn ninnau i'n dyledwyr.	against us
Ac nac arwain ni i brofedigaeth;	Lead us not into temptation;
eithr gwared ni rhag drwg.	but deliver us from evil.
Canys eiddot ti yw'r deyrnas,	For thine is the kingdom
A'r gallu, a'r gogoniant	the power and the glory.
Yn oes oesodd Amen.	For ever and ever. Amen.

Reading**Ecclesiasticus 44:1-8****Sit**

Read by Mr Alan Crossley,
Treasurer of the Cowbridge Charter Trust

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations. The Lord appointed to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name for themselves by their valour; those who gave counsel because they were intelligent: those who spoke in prophetic oracles; those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people's lore; they were wise in their words of instruction: those who composed musical tunes, or put verse to writing; rich men endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes — all these were honoured in their generations, and were the pride of their times. Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise.

This is the Word of The Lord
Thanks be to God.

Poem

A Prayerful Poem, for Prince Charles' Visit.
Written and read by Dr Cath Filmer Davies

Did druids walk here, burning fires
To light this Valley into Christian-tide?
And were there Romans, with serried rows of warriors,
Marching across the pleasant, peaceful Vale of Thaw?
Their stories have faded, and instead
Normans crossed this Vale, their Lords and Princes
Building castles to subdue this realm,
And bringing wealth to build, as well,
Houses of worship; this house of God.

Here, too, across the centuries,
 The word of holy David
 Has brought light into this land
 Whose people have sought the Spirit and the grace
 Of God Almighty.

And here we stand, before the altar which has known
 Across the ages, the praying hands of thousands
 In the shadow of Richard's Charter; which we now celebrate
 In a Royal presence, representing here
 The long lines of royal and noble blood which
 Have blessed this place.

In paying homage to the Prince of Wales,
 Whose ancient title echoes from the mists of time,
 We celebrate Y Bont Faen, Cowbridge, and this church
 Which recalls the saving sacrifice of Christ our Lord
 And all those who have revered His Name.

We ask God's blessing on our Prince,
 Upon our church, our town
 And all our people, knowing
 That these roads where noble feet have trod
 Have also heard the holy tread:
 The bright footsteps of God.

The Blessing

Stand

by The Rev Canon Derek Belcher

Yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi
 The Lord be with you

A chyda'th ysbryd dithau
And with your spirit

Tangnefedd Duw, sydd
uchlaw pob deall, a gadwo
eich calonau a'ch meddyliau
yng ngwybodaeth a chariad
Duw, a'i Fab Iesu Grist ein
Harglwydd:

a Bendith Duw Hollalluog, y
Tad, y Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan,
a fo yn eich plith ac a drigo
gyda chwi yn wastad.

Amen.

The peace of God which
passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of
God and of His Son Jesus
Christ our Lord. And the
blessing of God almighty The
Father, The Son, and The
Holy Spirit, be upon you and
remain with you now and
always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Sanctus

**1 Round the Lord in glory
seated,
Cherubim and seraphim
Filled his temple, and
repeated**

**Each to each th' alternate
hymn:**

**"Lord thy glory fills the
heaven. Earth is with Thy
fullness stored;
Unto Thee be glory given,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord."**

1 Glan geriwbaid a
seraffaid,
Fyrdd o gylch yr orsedd fry
Mewn olynol seiniau dibaid,
Canant fawl eu Harglwydd
cu:

"Llawn yw'r nefoedd o'th
ogoniant

Llawn yw'r ddaear, dir a môr;
Rhodder iti fythol foliant,
Sanctaid, sanctaid,
sanctaid lôr!"

2 Heaven is still with glory ring-
ing
Earth takes up the angels cry,
"Holy, Holy, Holy," singing
Lord of Hosts,
Thou Lord most High:
"Lord Thy glory fills the
heaven,
Earth is with Thy fullness
stored;
Unto Thee be glory given, "
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

3 With His seraph-train
before Him, With His holy
Church below,
Thus unite we to adore Him,
Bid we thus our
anthem flow: "Lord Thy
glory fills the heaven,
Earth is with Thy fullness
stored
Unto Thee be glory given,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord."

(R. Mant)

2 Fyth y nef a chwydda'r
moliant;
Uwch yr etyb daear fyth—
"Sanctaid, sanctaid,
sanctaid!" meddant,
"Dduw y lluoedd, Ner
dilyth!
"Llawn yw'r nefoedd o'th
ogoniant,
Llawn yw'r ddaear, dir a môr;
Rhodder iti fythol foliant
Sanctaid, sanctaid,
sanctaid lôr!"

3 Gyda'r seraff gôr i fyny,
Gyda'r Eglwys lan i lawr,
Uno wnawn fel hyn i ganu
Anthem clod ein Harglwydd
mawr:
"Llawn yw'r nefoedd o'th
ogoniant,
Llawn yw'r ddaear dir a môr;
Rhodder iti fythol foliant,
Sanctaid, sanctaid,
sanctaid lôr!"

Richard Mant (c. Alafon)

Harp Music

by Eluned Pierce

Sit

*During this recital the Rector escorts His Royal Highness to view
the Communion plate.*

Signing of Scrolls

*His Royal Highness moves to the table where Councillor Susan
Cox, Chairperson of Cowbridge Charter Trust, invites him to sign
commemorative scrolls.*

“ 750th Charter Anniversary Exhibition”

His Royal Highness will be escorted by Councillor Susan Cox to view the various exhibits and meet groups of people who represent the local community.

On completion the Royal party departs.

The congregation is asked not to leave the Church until directed by the Wardens. The Altar Party leave by way of the entrance to the Taynton Room

Organist Mr. Richard Haines

Conductor: Mrs Nic Treharne

Choirs:

The Parish Choir of Llanblethian

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir

Cowbridge Choral Society

A SHORT HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH

In the early thirteenth century, the manor of Llanblethian covered the central part of the Vale of Glamorgan, with a village and church at Llanblethian itself. The area we now call Cowbridge had just a few houses in the pastureland of the manor, but here, on this 'greenfield site' in the Thaw valley, Richard de Clare— Lord of Glamorgan and lord of the manor of Llanblethian— decided to build a new town. Cowbridge received its first charter as a borough in 1254, and it is reasonable to assume that the church, officially a chapel under the control of the church at Llanblethian, was built about that time. Certainly much of the nave, tower and chancel of the present church dates from the late thirteenth century.

The size and shape of the tower suggest that it was to serve as a watchtower or stronghold in case of attack on the town, but whether an attack ever occurred, we do not know. The church was enlarged in the fifteenth century. The South Llanquian aisle was built in 1473, reputedly as a gift of Lady Anne Neville, wife of Richard, Duke of Gloucester and Lord of Glamorgan (later to be Richard III). The construction of the aisle involved the removal of the massive south wall of the church, and replacing it with the light pillars and arcading which are there today. Also in the fifteenth century, a chantry chapel was built on the north side of the chancel, for a chantry priest to say daily prayers and mass for the soul of the founder, and to teach; the priest lived on the premises. The chantry was terminated in 1548, and the chapel is now used as a meeting room (Taynton Room) and Parish Office.

In 1484, Richard III as Lord of Glamorgan and Morgan granted a chaplaincy to Holy Cross Church. The document, requiring Bishop John Marshall of Llandaff to provide a chaplain 'for the purpose of celebrating divine worship and the holy sacrament in the church or chapel of Holy Cross' with the king's seal in red wax, is preserved in the Glamorgan Record Office. This charter put the previously more haphazard provision of ministers on an official and more regular basis. We know that soon after this an altar in the church was used as a place of solemn and binding agreement — there is a record that in 1516, William Bassett of Treguff conveyed to David Seys of Cowbridge and William ap John of St Hilary, property in Eglwys Brewis — the money to be repaid on the feast of St Andrew in 1526 'in the parish church of Cowbridge on the altar of St Nicholas', between sunrise and sunset. This altar may have been at the east end of the Llanquian aisle. The Reformation saw the removal of the rood loft and other aspects of medieval worship.

Major alterations to the appearance of the church also came in the nineteenth century, with the construction of the present porch, much Victorian restoration, and the removal of the gallery at the west end of the church. In 1925 and 1926 the nave and Llanquian aisle were re-roofed, and the arcade pillars between the nave and the aisle were reconstructed — which is why most of the delicate fifteenth century columns have concrete bases!

There are various wall memorials dating back to the seventeenth century, including those to William Carne of Nash Manor, Judge David Jenkins of Hensol, and the Edmondes family of Old Hall. There are also many memorials to headmasters of Cowbridge Grammar School, and stained glass windows commemorating benefactors of the school, emphasising the close links which exist between school and church. The church also housed the library of the SPCK between 1709 and 1848.

Today the Church faces a major restoration on the roof, tower and interior. In all its history it stands as a spiritual signpost, drawing people to give honour to God in the beauty of holiness.

Canon Derek G Belcher
Rector



Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
Coleg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama Cymru

Players and Singers from RWCMD present:

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR



*Thursday 11 March 2004
Dydd Iau 11 Mawrth, 2004
7.30pm*

with/gyda

RWCMD Chamber Choir
Directed by/Cyfarwyddwyd gan Lyn Davies

RWCMD Brass Ensemble
Directed by/ Cyfarwyddwyd gan
Christopher Mowat

RWCMD Woodwind Soloists
Directed by/ Cyfarwyddwyd gan John Reynolds

Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge
Eglwys Holy Cross, Y Bont-faen

The proceeds of this concert will go towards the
Holy Cross Restoration Fund



The Rectorial Benefice of Cowbridge



Cowbridge Charter Trust



Mr GRS Williams

Ticket of Admission

to
A SERVICE
to

Commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the Granting of
The First Borough Charter

in
The Presence of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG
at

Holy Cross Parish Church, St David's Day 2004
Doors open at 1.00 pm. To be seated by 1.15 pm for
A Concert at 1.30 pm, which will precede the Service.

No Cameras are permissible.

A retiring collection will be taken for Holy Cross Restoration Fund.



Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
Coleg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama Cymru

Cowbridge Celebrations

Holy Cross Church
Cowbridge

11/03/2004
19:30

141

£6 / £4



Cowbridge
1251 750 2001



Mediaeval

Banquet

An Extravaganza of Food, Music & Entertainment.

The DUKE of WELLINGTON
SATURDAY 13 MARCH

7.00 pm - Early Morning

£25 per head

DRESS ~ Period / Mediaeval...



BOOKING FORM : Tickets Required ☐ Cheque for £ ☐
(to Cowbridge Charter Trust)

Name : Tel. No. Address

Please send to Nick Dobson, Farthings of Cowbridge, CF71 7AH
54 HIGH STREET