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FEB 7<sup>TH</sup>  
1975

# Down Cowbridge way

By Elizabeth Morgan

THE B.B.C. went 'Down your Way' to Cowbridge this week when six local people were chosen to represent the town on the programme broadcast on Sunday.

The producer, Miss Phyllis Robinson, accompanied by interviewer Brian Johnston, made a three-day visit to the town to record the interviews and Cowbridge's choice of music.

Miss Robinson, a producer of 20 years' standing, said: "The

programme is a mini-documentary in which we try to learn about the town and the people living in it.

"We were particularly interested in how people made their living and what they did for their recreation.

Pictures :  
Howard Balston

"The people we interview are asked to choose a piece of music, which acts as a buffer between one interview and another. The interviews we have carried out in Cowbridge couldn't have been easier. In fact, they were well above average.

"We have found Cowbridge to be a very friendly town, and have received great co-operation from everybody,

especially the Town Clerk, the Mayor and the Press."

Brian Johnston, a well known cricket commentator with the B.B.C. for the past 25 years, has been the interviewer of "Down your Way" for the last three years.

The programme which has covered 1,200 locations in Britain is to finish transmitting on April 20 for economic reasons. Miss Robinson said: "It's all part of the B.B.C.'s cut-back due to the economic crisis."

● Right: Brian Johnston didn't quite know who he was interviewing when he chose Alan and Neil Brown — the printing twins.

They are the senior partners of D. Brown and Sons, and they told Brian Johnston how the first printing press came to Cowbridge in 1770.

As the twins always enjoy the Welsh National Opera season in Cardiff, they requested "Brother Mine and Sister Mine" from Act II of Die Fledermaus, as their piece of music.





● Above: Mrs. Angela Morgan of Eastfield House, Eastgate, Cowbridge, was interviewed about her work as controller of the Cowbridge Women's Institute Market.

She told how every Friday during the summer local people brought along their home grown vegetables, flowers and fruit, etc., to sell in the Town Hall.

To be a shareholder costs 5p and the organisation takes 10p in the £1 to cover the cost of renting the Town Hall, insurance and paper bags.

Brian Johnston told Mrs. Morgan that throughout his career he had never heard of a W.I. market.

For her piece of music, Mrs. Morgan chose Joan Sutherland singing part of a concerto for "Coloratura and Orchestra" by Gliere.



● Right: Mr. Herbert R. Thomas was chosen to talk about the agricultural side of Cowbridge, being at 72, the oldest practising auctioneer in South Wales.

The piece of music he picked for the programme was very aptly "To be a Farmer's Boy."

In the old days, he said Cowbridge market-day was more of a social day out, but today's farmers were much better trained to return home early and take their wives out for the evening!

Mr. Thomas also told of his 21 years as secretary of the Vale of Glamorgan Show and his large family gatherings for lunch on a Sunday.



ABOVE: Miss Maud Gunter, ex-headmistress of the old Cowbridge Girls' High School, had a surprise visit from the B. B. C. team.

Miss Gunter, who lives at The Limes Cottage, Cowbridge, spoke about the town's Dramatic Society, and her favourite role — welcoming new people to the town.

The record Miss Gunter chose for the programme was "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

The photographer and I interrupted Miss Gunter at a crucial moment in the recording of the programme, by tapping on her door when she was just about to make her musical request into the microphone.

But we were ushered into the next room and the re-recording went off very smoothly.

● Top right: The Mayor of Cowbridge, Councillor Norman Williams was interviewed as president of the Cowbridge and District Historical Society.

He talked about the history of the town, referring especially to the 17th century 'Boy's Grammar School, 'Holy Cross' the early 13th century Church and the importance of the direction of the cow on the town's Coat of Arms.

He told how the Welsh hid their cattle under the bridge out of the way of the Norman Tax Gatherers and how the Normans christened the place 'Culrigg' when they found the hidden cows.

The Mayor chose "Girl from Corsica" as his musical request.



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