Tongwynlais

A taste of the past, this script takes a look back at some of the events and incidents that shaped the village over a hundred years ago. There are some references to Green Meadow (Greenmeadow) and to the Lewis family that resided there, but, it is not intended to dwell too much on that part of Ton's history, other than to incorporate some of the linked events associated with the village in general.

By way of an introduction, just as a 'backdrop', it's well worth quoting Edgar Chappell here, from his book 'Old Whitchurch'...."Between 1840's and 1860's most of Tongwynlais seems to have been built.....Prior to the 1840's Tongwynlais was a very small hamlet. In that and the succeeding decade a considerable number of cottages were built, mainly to accommodate workers at Pentyrch and Melingriffith Works and for a period Tongwynlais was almost as important a place as Whitchurch. It became quite a busy trading centre. There were four provision shops as well as a weekly market, whilst no fewer than eight public houses provided ample facilities for liquid refreshment for the workers in mine, forge, furnace, mill and transport, who lived there and in neighbouring villages".

Tongwynlais has its own historic society well worth connecting with...
(ref: https://tongwynlaishistoricalsociety.wales)

One last thing, the script that follows mentions many of the village pubs. At one time or another many Welsh pubs fell afoul of the vagaries of the licensing laws of the day, particularly Sunday Drinking, some on more than one occasion, Ton was no different. The Sunday Drinking Laws came in, in Wales from 1881. However, those who had travelled more than three miles on a Sunday were permitted to purchase alcohol in pubs which had seven-day licences, these were 'Bona Fide' travellers. The idea being that you could legitimately purchase a drink for refreshment while out travelling, or on a journey, but you could not 'travel for the purpose of going for a drink'. Those found to be doing this were known as 'Mala Fide travellers', for the law to deal with. In The Western Mail 17th January 1895, a report was published on a survey "Following the observation of public houses in the country districts on Sunday 6th January". The result of this census regarding the individual local pubs is shown within this script (Sunday trading) for each pub. 'Bona Fide' or 'Mala Fide' travellers / customers, let's see.

Bona Fide ~ within the law.
Mala Fide ~ Oh, oh!

Other similar 'history and heritage' themed scripts have been written for Whitchurch and Llandaff Yard and this has also included one on 'Tongwynlais Rugby' should you wish to delve further.

Accreditation: All the research material used in this script was obtained from:
The National Library of Wales Newspaper Archive.
Ref https://www.library.wales
This is a wonderful resource for the research of all sorts of history and heritage information and can't be recommended highly enough.

Exploiting natural resources, harvesting the local woods around Greenmeadow, 7th April 1810, The Cambrian.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

OAK AND BEECH TIMBER.

TO BE SOLD,

TWO Hundred and Sixty-seven MAIDEN OAK TIMBER TREES, marked and numbered with red-lead and oil; and Ninety-five BEECH TIMBER TREES, marked and numbered in the same manner, now standing and growing in the woods near Green Meadow, in the parish of Whitchurch, about five miles from Cardiff, and within a quarter of a mile of the Glamorganshire Canal.

Also at the same place, the FALLAGE of Sixty-two Acres of capital COPPICE WOOD, upwards of twenty years' growth, a considerable part of which is fit for coal-pit timber.

For particulars enquire of John Price, Esq. Landough Castle; if by letter, post-paid.

TIMBER.

Green Meadow? Desirable residence for rent, as long as you fit the bill as a 'gentleman'. Who were the owners at this time?

13th May 1815, The Cambrian.

Green Meadow, Glamorganshire.

TO BE LET,

For five or nine years (being the unexpired term of a lease), at the option of the Tenant.

A Desirable RESIDENCE, in all respects suited for a gentleman's family, within five miles of Cardiff; consisting of a convenient Family House, with Coach-house, Stables, Offices, Garden, Orchard, and 97 Acres of good Land; with a small Farm-house, Barn, Farm Stable, and other requisite buildings.

The House will be let either with the whole of the Land or a few contiguous Acres only. Possession may be had immediately, or at Michaelmas next.

The Furniture, which is modern and chiefly new, may, any part of it, be taken at a valuation.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Debary, Scudamore, and Currey, Solicitors, Gate-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London; or Mr. Robt. Thomas, Cardiff; if by letter, post-paid.

GLAMORGAN

30th December 1815, The Cambrian.

Green Meadow is now clearly mentioned as being the home of Wyndham Lewis.

wenog, Monday, the 15th.

MARRIED.

On the 22d inst. at Clifton, Wyndham Lewis, Esq. of Green Meadow, near Cardiff, to Mary Anne, only daughter of the late John Evans, Esq. of Bramford-Speke, Devon.

At Bathwick, the Hon. and Rev. John Charles Maude, brother of Viscount Hawarden, to Mary Ceely, eldest daughter of William Ceely Trevillian, Esq. of Middleney, Somerset.

6th June 1818, The Cambrian. A favourite pet no doubt.

with public favour

TWO GUINEAS REWARD.

LOST, from Green Meadow, near Cardiff, a TAN-COLOURED GREYHOUND BITCH, with a large white mark on the upper part of her neck, which extends round, but becomes gradually smaller as it meets below; she has a black circle round the eyes, and answers to the name of FLY—supposed to be in the neighbourhood of Newport, having been seen there for some days after she was lost.

The above Reward is hereby offered to any person who will bring the Bitch to Mr. Lewis, at Green Meadow aforesaid, and a Reward of ONE GUINEA is hereby offered to any person who will give Mr. Lewis such information as will enable him to find her.—Whoever detains the Bitch after this notice will be prosecuted.

May 25, 1818.

The Original and only Genuine Edition.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

5th September 1818, The Cambrian. An act of benevolence that 'Lady Lewis' was known for.

interest.

We have the pleasure of announcing, that to the numerous acts of charity and benevolence bestowed in her neighbourhood by Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, of Green Meadow, near Cardiff, she has lately added that of a donation of five guineas to a Friendly Society of poor but honest and industrious women, held in the parish of Whitchurch, near Cardiff. To this gift Mr. William Lewis, of the same place, generously added two pounds. Those whom a beneficent Providence has blessed with the means, we would beg leave to address in the beautiful language of Scripture—" Go thou and do likewise."

We have much pleasure in stating that L. W

This is an interesting one from The Cambrian, 2nd October 1819. It's difficult to determine whether the stock was part of the Green-Meadow estate, or, whether it was a case of the auction just being held there. It tends to suggest that it was part of the estate, but belonging to a W.S. Curry who might have been a tenant farmer on the estate.

The description provides us with a sense of the farming landscape there and seems to have only been big enough for a local market.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

Live and Dead FARMING STOCK.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By Mr. WILKS,

On Monday, October 11, 1819,

ALL the LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS of HUSBANDRY, &c. at GREEN-MEADOW, situate between Cardiff and Newbridge, in the said county, the property of W. S Curry, Esq. who has left this part of the country; comprising one large rick of old wheat, one rick of new wheat, the crop of twenty acres of barley, the crop of nine acres of oats, two ricks of hay, three very excellent black cart mares, two colts, two fat cows, twenty-one sheep, two store pigs, four carts, ploughs, drags, harrows, several sets of harness, an excellent chaff cutter, and various other implements of husbandry, &c. &c.

The whole will be put up in suitable lots for the convenience of purchasers.

The sale to begin at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and the whole to be sold without reserve, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced.

Six months' credit will be given to purchasers above £40 on approved security.

BRECONSHIRE

Another act of benevolence, 22nd January 1825, The Cambrian. It also gives us a picture of destitution that blighted the lives of people at that time.

dation.

Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, of Green Meadow, in this county, distributed amongst the poor of Cardiff, on Friday last, 100 large comfortable cloaks, 100 pair of blankets, and upwards of 200 pair of shoes; she has likewise given large benefactions in her own immediate neighbourhood.

A new Company is forming in London, to be called the "South Wales Mining Company," the capital to

A hideous crime in the Ton? Look away now if you are squeamish.

29th August 1829, The Cambrian.

SUPPOSED ROBBERY AND MURDER.—The following account of a supposed robbery and murder, in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, we copy from a London paper. The act appears to be involved in much mystery, and the only information we have received of the event is from an unknown correspondent, who observes, that "the woman has been buried without a Coroner's inquest, and that the reason assigned is the absence of the Coroner, Nicholl Wood, Esq. who has been for a long time in France":—

"The cottage occupied by Mary Michael, at Green Meadow, near Cardiff, was discovered to be on fire about five o'clock on the morning of Wednesday last; on opening the door, Mrs. Michael was found on the floor with her throat cut from ear to ear, and whether the fire was the act of an incendiary, or the death occasioned by suicide, it is at present impossible to determine. The general opinion is, that the woman was supposed to possess a good deal of money, that she was first robbed and then murdered, the house being set on fire to prevent discovery."

On Friday last, at the adjourned Quarter Sessions of

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

Early property prices, get your bids in.

1st October 1831, The Cambrian.

logues procured at the Auctioneer's, 34, Goat-street, Swansea.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By WILLIAM THOMAS,

On SATURDAY, the 8th day of OCTOBER, 1831, at the ANGEL-INN, in the town of CARDIFF, at four o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions of sale as shall be then produced,

ALL those THREE newly-erected and well built DWELLING-HOUSES, situate near Tongwynlais, in the parish of Whitchurch, in the county of Glamorgan, let at low annual rents amounting to £25. The premises are held by leases for three lives and 99 years, at annual ground-rents amounting to £5 14s.

For further particulars apply to Mr. R. W. Williams, Solicitor, Cardiff.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

If you ever thought that the Lewis's were firmly ensconced at Green Meadow!! 19th October 1833, The Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

GREENMEADOW.—This elegant mansion late the residence of Wyndham Lewis, Esq. is now become the abode of Col. Bourne; we are happy to state that Mr. and Mrs. Lewis with their usual munificence, visited, previous to their departure, every cottage in the neighbourhood, bestowing on each poor family comfortable articles of bedding or clothing.

GLAMORGANSHIRE QUARTER SESSIONS.
The Michaelmas Sessions for the County commenced

This cutting (right) tends to suggest that the estate was often in the sights of 'the privileged'.

4th July 1835, The Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette.

We are rejoiced to hear that the Bishop of Llandaff has taken a house for two years in the centre of his diocese; but we are sorry to add that that house is Llandough Castle, whose much respected occupier intends travelling for the above period. Few of the satisfactions of this life are unmixed. It had been reported that his lordship would probably take Peulline Castle, or Green Meadow, both most conveniently situated for the Bishop's residence. There are times in which we would see every good man at his post, dispensing his charities, expending his income, and above all, giving the inestimable benefit of a good example to his neighbours of all classes. It is now, if ever, a paramount duty with every friend of his country to help her through her difficulties; and though the gallant colonel would be the last man that

"Would desert the ship and seek the shore.

To confuse things even more, on 4th November 1837, The Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette, published this little article.....

1802. (Castle Howard, Yorkshire.)"

"LEWIS (Maidstone.)—Wyndham Lewis, Esq. of Greenmeadow, in Glamorganshire, barrister-at-law, son of the Rev. Wyndham Lewis, was elected member for Cardiff in 1820, for Aldburgh in 1827, and for Maidstone first in 1835. He possesses estates in the counties of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Gloucester, and Somerset, and descends from ancestors conspicuous in the most remote period of British history. The chief line, the Lewises of the Van, terminated in an heiress who married the Earl of Plymouth, but the Lanishen branch, from which the hon. member springs, has preserved a male succession. Mr Lewis was born Oct. 7, 1780, and married in 1815, Mary Anne, only daughter of John Evans, Esq. He acts with the Tories. (Greenmeadow, near Cardiff.)

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales**
Newspaper Archive

20th October 1838, The Cambrian, following the death of Wyndham Lewis Esq. ("*He died suddenly in March 1838, while writing at his desk*").

to the said Duke," read "and probably *reconvey* to the said Duke."

SALE BY AUCTION.

Important Sale at Green Meadow, near Cardiff.

MR. LEYSHON begs leave respectfully to announce to the Gentry and the Public generally, that he has been honoured with directions to OFFER FOR SALE, on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 1838, and succeeding days, the entire and valuable,

Household Furniture, &c. &c.

The property of the late WYNDHAM LEWIS, Esq., M.P.; the particulars of which will appear in a future advertisement.

SOUTH WALES.

There must be something in the water. 3rd November 1838, The Cambrian.

LONGEVITY.—There is now residing at Green Meadow, in this county, a cottager named Thomas Matthew, in perfect health, who is known to be in his 107th year.

THEATRE, CARDIFF.—On Thursday, the 25th inst., was performed *Masaniello*, in which the scenery and entire

'Green Meadow' mentioned here was sometimes used as an alternative to that of 'Tongwynlais'.

Not specifically a 'Ton' event, but here we have a link between the villages of Ton and Whitchurch and between the various local social welfare organisations that thrived in them. The Friendly Societies and various Lodges played a big part in social welfare, mostly being created entirely for that purpose.

18th July 1840, The Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette.

NEWBRIDGE.

ODD FELLOWS.—The first annual festival of the Loyal Treodada Lodge was held on Monday week. A little before eleven o'clock the procession started from the Three Elms, Whitchurch, headed by Mr Crawshay's band, from Newbridge, and proceeded for about half a mile on the Merthyr road, where they met the Tongwynlais Female Friendly Society, and the Melingriffith band, when both processions joined and bent their steps towards Whitchurch church, where the service was read by the Rev Mr Thomas, Pentyrch, who delivered a most excellent and appropriate sermon in the Welsh language. In the course of the evening a meeting was held at the lodge room, when Mr Eli Evans was called to the chair, who opened the meeting in a brief address, and concluded by remarking that compliance with the laws of the order must have the beneficial effects of making them better members of society in general, and he further hoped, being no great financier himself, that its

Eli Evans of Whitchurch is mentioned here and he has been covered in a separate article in The People's Collection of Wales archive.

14th August 1841, The Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette.

Some clarity is needed here:.....

72 years, Mr. John Blethyn, locksmith, Swansea.

On the 10th instant, at Greenmeadow, in this County, Mrs. Lewis, relict of the late Henry Lewis, Esq., of Park, aged 50, most sincerely and deeply regretted.

On the 6th instant, at his Father's house, at

In October 1838 (above), we have the announcement of the loss of Wyndham Lewis Esq. and he was succeeded by his brother Henry Lewis. Wyndham Lewis had no heir. Henry Lewis died in Sept 1838 aged 64, he was married to Mary Emerson and they had a son, another Henry Lewis. So here we have the announcement of the passing of Mrs Mary Lewis (nee Emerson) in 1841 at the age of 50. The references to Henry Lewis, that follow, is the son.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

15th July 1843 The Glamorgan, Brecon and Monmouth Gazette

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

On the 13th July, at Green Meadow, near Cardiff, the lady of Henry Lewis, Esq., of a daughter.

On the 11th July, at Newport Monmouthshire, the Lady of H. J. Davis, Esq., of a son.

28th March 1846, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

BIRTHS.

March 16, at Green Meadow, in this county, the lady of Henry Lewis, Esq., of a daughter.

— 15, at the Vicarage, Kingsbury Episcopi, Somerset, the lady of the Rev. J. K. Fowler, of a daughter.

A sad and unfortunate incident was reported on 27th June 1846 in The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, Thomas Phillips of Tongwynlais, aged 13 years, fell into the Glamorganshire Canal basin at the dock in Cardiff. Attempts were made to rescue him, one even diving off a vessel moored nearby fully clothed. His body was not found until 20 minutes later having "instantly sunk". He had been employed on a canal boat plying its trade between Cardiff and Aberdare.

Jo bach. C'mon mon! 3rd October 1846, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

thumped, kicked, and cruelly treated with impunity.

DRUNKENNESS.—*Joseph Jones*, Tongwynlais, was convicted in the penalty of 12s., including costs, for having been found in the public streets at half-past two this morning in a state of complete and beastly intoxication. Allowed a week to pay. Rev. James Evans: Was he disorderly? Superintendent Stockdale: Oh! dear no, Sir; he was too drunk for that; he did not come to himself until two hours ago (nine o'clock); he was so drunk as not to be conscious of anything, and I was obliged to keep a policeman with him, as I feared that he would be suffocated.

ASSAULT.—*John Mahony*, whose attenuated, care-worn appearance, excited general sympathy, was charged by

The Lewis's still going strong. 15th September 1848

Neath, of a daughter.

On the 11th inst., Mrs. David Roberts, Ty'n-yr-ardd, Cardiff, of a son.

On the 14th inst., the lady of Henry Lewis, Esq., of Green Meadow, of a son.

House sales 1848, 14th October The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. We are left to wonder which ones they were.

TONGWYNLAS.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY MR. EVAN LEYSHON,

At the ANGEL INN, CARDIFF, on SATURDAY, the 21st day of OCTOBER, 1848, at 3 o'clock in the Afternoon precisely, by the Mortgagee under a Power of Sale,

ALL those FIVE COTTAGES, situate at TONGWYNLAS, about Five Miles from the Town of Cardiff, and producing a Rental of £22 14s. per Annum.

The above Cottages are held for a term of Three Lives, or 99 Years, at the Yearly Ground Rent of £2 17s. 6d.

For further information apply to Mr. J. H. LANGLEY, Solicitor, Cardiff.

ABERDARE.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

This gives us some idea of a remuneration package on offer at that time. The pay for a 'mistress' being a lot less than for a 'master'. 20th February 1849, The Evening Express.

WHITCHURCH SCHOOL BOARD.

A special meeting of the Whitchurch School Board was held at the schoolroom, Whitchurch, on Saturday, Mr. H. Lewis (Greenmeadow) presiding. The meeting had been called for the purpose of filling the vacancy of assistant-mistress at the Tongwynlais School. The salary is £40 a year. Miss Mary Thomas was the successful candidate. The architect to the board was also present, and the matter of the alteration and addition to the Whitchurch and Tongwynlais schools was discussed. It was reported that the plans had been approved by the Education Department. The work will be commenced about the middle of March next.

A mid 19thC 'influencer'...no doubt well looked after by Mr Allen.....11th August 1849, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

BLINDNESS CURED.

SIR,—I wish to inform the public that I have been cured of blindness, by the care of Mr. ALLEN, Surgeon, Bute-street, Cardiff. I had been previously under the care of other medical men, but without success. Under Mr. ALLEN in seven weeks my sight was perfectly restored.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully, JAMES LEWIS.

Tongwynlas, near Cardiff, July 17, 1849.

More unfortunate incidents, 20th January 1849, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. The mention of Newbridge here was the name for Pontypridd.

locks at any time.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—On Friday last an inquest was held at the Town-hall, Cardiff, before R. Lewis Reece, Esq., coroner, on view of the body of Anne Davies, widow, whose death (as stated in our last) was caused by accidentally falling from a cart near Tongwynlais, on the evening of Wednesday week. Deceased was fifty-three years of age; and was the widow of John Davies, fruiterer. Her son (by a former marriage) Evan Jones, stated that he and his mother were returning from Newbridge market—that they left Newbridge about five in the evening in their cart, and that the accident happened about eight—that his mother sat on a hamper—that the cart had no sides—that they were going along steadily—that a jolt of the cart threw his mother off, and that she fell upon her head. Her hands were wrapped up in her shawl, so that, by the suddenness of the fall, she could not lessen the force of the concussion by putting out her hands; and, consequently, her head came violently against the ground. She was a heavy, corpulent woman; and was killed upon the spot. There were other parties present at the time, and witnessed the occurrence. Verdict—Accidental death.

CHILD DROPPING.—An inquest was held at the Town-

2nd March 1850, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

Merthyr-Tydfil, February, 1850.

TONGWYNLAIS.

TO BE LET,

A COMMODIOUS HOUSE AND SHOP, situate about half a mile from the Pentyrch Iron Works. The forthcoming Tenant will have the privilege of securing a good Business, as the Advertiser is declining. A Stable and Coach-house may be had, if required.

Apply to Mr. E. THOMAS, Tongwynlais.

27th February, 1850.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

The Whitchurch Floral and Horticultural Society Show was a popular event on the calendar particularly for those wanting to rub shoulders with the great and the good of the day. For many years it had been held on Whitchurch Common, often referred to as Wauntreoda Common. On this occasion it was held at Castell Coch which, at the time, had not had the benefit of the William Burges touch. These selective cuttings below give a good account of the day, but the transport arrangements left a lot to be desired if you weren't used to walking. 28th June 1851, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

WHITCHURCH FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society's show of flowers and vegetables took place on Wednesday last, in the immediate vicinity of the far-famed ruins of Castell Coch—that is, The Red Castle—and attracted a very considerable number of visitors from Cardiff, Merthyr, Pontypridd, and other places, the company being much more numerous and of a somewhat higher class than we have seen on the plain at Wauntreoda, this increase in number being, probably, caused by the removal of the show from its former site to the more elevated and commanding position of Castell Coch, whose interesting ruins still exercise great influence over the minds of all who have a taste for the serene contemplation of the deeds of ancient days,—for

"There is a power
And magic in the ruined battlements,
To which the palace of the present hour
Must yield its pomp, and wait till ages are its dower."

By the Taff Vale mid-day train a great many of the gentry and tradespeople of this place proceeded to the "centre of attraction," and it was found necessary to add several carriages to the ordinary train—an operation which was superintended by Mr. FISHER, who accompanied the party for the purpose of facilitating all necessary arrangements as far as the railway was concerned.

Several gentlemen, who had parties of ladies with them, were highly indignant at the refusal to issue return tickets, observing that such an unpardonable omission would not be found in the present day, under similar circ-

the show would have attracted such an assemblage, otherwise the concession of a "return ticket" would, no doubt, have been cheerfully made. On any future occasion of this nature we trust that the most liberal measures will be adopted, especially as the Taff Vale Railway is one of the best paying lines in the kingdom, and that ample facilities will be provided for those who may be desirous of having a holiday.

For the convenience of the public, the train was stopped at the foot of the lofty eminence upon which the "frowning battlements" of the ancient castle stand; and the company immediately commenced their journey upwards,—the youthful and vigorous finding no difficulty in tripping along, while the aged and corpulent were almost overcome. However, time and patience conquer all things, and the "summit of our hopes" was at length reached. The "castle" (which was gaily decorated with flags) was put in excellent order, under the able superintendence of HENRY LEWIS, of Green Meadow, Esq., we believe, who was present throughout the afternoon, and very courteously gave all the assistance in his power to the officers of the society.

The flowers, &c., were exhibited under a spacious and handsome marquée, and were most conveniently placed for inspection. With regard to the comparative merits of the various competitors, we have to refer our readers to the awards made by the judges; but we cannot omit to notice some remarkably fine pine-apples, cucumbers, peas, geraniums, &c., which were kindly sent by T. W. BOOKER, Esq., M.P., to grace the show, and which were "highly commended." It will also be seen by the list that ALL the cottagers' prizes were given by C. C. WILLIAMS, Esq., of Roath Court. And we believe we

Where would that train have stopped?

12th June 1852, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. Good news for the young Morgan family at The Bute Arms and below, Edmund Thomas renting out a nearby property. Edmund Thomas is shown as the occupier of "Wynham Arms Inn and Cottage" – ('Wyndham' Arms / Lewis Arms) in the 1840 tithe map.

street, Cardiff, of a daughter.

June 4, at Tongwynlais, near Cardiff, the wife of Mr. Edward Morgan, of the Bute Arms Inn, of a son.

MARRIAGES

TO GROCERS.

TO BE LET, with Immediate Possession, a HOUSE and SHOP, situated at TONGWYNLAIS, near Cardiff.

For particulars apply to Mr. Edmund Thomas, Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais.

GLAMORGANSHIRE

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales**
Newspaper Archive

24th July 1852, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. The important role of the village pub is depicted here, The Lewis's Arms Benefit Society would have been a particularly important part of the community and this report provides us with evidence of its date of origin (1848). William Williams farmed vast acres of land in the area, under the ownership of T.W. Booker (Ref 1840 tithe map).

casion, was exceedingly gratifying.

TONGWYNLAIS.—The Lewis's Arms Benefit Society, which has so well flourished since their commencement in the year 1845, commemorated their anniversary on Saturday last, by dining together in the spacious club-room belonging to the establishment. The chair was taken by Mr. Michael Waters, and the vice-chair by Mr. William Williams, Llwynmallt, who conducted the proceedings with much ability. The company formed the procession in the usual manner, headed by the Cardiff band, and proceeded to Greenmeadow, where they partook of "cwrw da," according to the family's usual kindness. They afterwards proceeded to the Welsh Baptist Chapel, where an appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. David Jones, Cardiff; after which the company returned to the dining-room, and enjoyed the luxuries which the season produced. The cloth having been removed, several toasts were proposed by the Chairman and Vice-chairman, including the healths of the host and hostess, who were thanked by the whole company for the excellent manner in which the table was laid. The company, after dinner, proceeded to Castell Coch in the usual order, and returned in the evening, when a trip on the "light fantastic toe" was formed to the music of Cambria's sweet harp, played by Mr. T. Davies, Merthyr, and Mr. Edward Thomas. The company separated at an early hour, much pleased with the day's proceedings.

GLYNTAFF.—The annual tea party of the Glyntaff

Here's an account that would, without doubt, have been a rare commendation for an employer of those times. It speaks volumes for the respect held by local people for both Booker and Henry Lewis. Almost certainly, those that didn't, or, couldn't quite share these sentiments probably stayed away. 31st July 1852, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

them partakers of their joy.

TUESDAY.—T. W. Booker, Esq., M.P., for Herefordshire, returned to Velindra about four o'clock, and as soon as it was known about, the workmen issued from their hives of industry and determined to form a procession, with their band, and splendid banners, and to perambulate the neighbourhood. The honorable member was received with unbounded enthusiasm.

A procession was formed of nearly three hundred, who went first to Green Meadow, where, in front of that hospitable mansion, R. B. Booker, Esq., addressed the company, and most feelingly expatiated on the exemplary character of his father, and of his determination to uphold the interests of the working man, according freedom of conscience, so as to give every man a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. After paying a cordial compliment to the hospitality and kindness of heart of Henry Lewis, Esq.,—a just tribute to the virtues and amiable disposition of his lady, with a fervent aspiration that her children and family might soon see her restored to convalescence, which was echoed with three times three such cheers as Welshmen alone know how to give; the procession now increased nearly to five hundred, and proceeded on to Tongwinlais, and afterwards to Taff's Well, and thence returned to the Lawn and played a few inspiring tunes; and returned home rejoicing they had been blest with health and strength to offer a just and grateful tribute of respect to an employer who may with perfect justice be termed a truly honest, highly-gifted, and thoroughly independent man.—A.

A fair in Ton, and it makes you wonder if this was the first of its type.
7th August 1852, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

afternoon several very heavy showers of rain fell.

TONGWYNLAIS.—The fair which is to take place here next Monday, August 9th, will not only be attractive to men of business, but the revival of good old "British Rural Sports" will be an incentive to sight seekers; and the lovers of Momus will experience a treat.

THE POPULATION

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales**
Newspaper Archive

This report on the fair conjures up a forgotten way of village life, you can almost hear the sounds and smell the aromas of outdoor roasts, 'roadside inns' and accommodation, rustic sports and an evening ball in The Lewis's. 14th August 1852, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

and other rubbish. The buyer should have it analysed before he pays for it.] —*Gardener's Chronicle.*

TONGWYNLAIS.—Last Monday, the 9th, our fair took place, and we are sorry that sufficient publicity was not given to induce farmers to bring their various kinds of stock; many purchasers of sheep and pigs attended and were disappointed. But we trust next year it will be advertised, in all the local papers and otherwise, sufficiently early to induce breeders and farmers to unite in permanently establishing a good cattle fair, as its local and central situation, with excellent roads, and every accommodation for "man and beast," as the old road-side inns used to express, may be found in abundance here. The pleasure fair was attended by many hundreds of sight seers, and the old "rustic sports" of by-gone years were exhibited and contested for with a spirit and good feeling highly praiseworthy. The generous "Squire," of Greenmeadow, as is his wont, allowed the use of part of his lawn for his less wealthy neighbours. The ball at the Lewis's Arms was thronged, and dancing, to the sprightly sounds of Cambria's much-loved harp, was kept up to rather an early hour.

PONTYPRIDD PETTY SESSIONS, AUGUST 10.—[Magis-

Here's an idea for pubs to attract more custom, a large scale pic-nic. The rules for the 'nutting' need to be well thought out though, there's some tough boys in Ton and you'll probably need a British passport. 28th August 1852, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

of a day of enjoyment rarely ever exceeded.

TONGWYNLAIS.—We are pleased to notice that preliminary arrangements are being made to hold a public "Pic Nic" and nutting party on a large scale in the old ruins of Castell Coch, full particulars of which will be duly advertised in the local papers, and we can assert that in no better hands can it placed than the worthy host of the "Lewis's Arms," who will spare neither trouble nor expense to provide, in first rate style, the creature comforts so congenial to the tastes of a "Britisher," at the most moderate price.

THE ANNIVERSARY of a delightful treat to the Bonvil-

14th May 1853 The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. 'Have a month to reflect'.

sent him about his business.

LEAVING WIVES CHARGEABLE TO THE UNION.

Lockhart Hannah was charged with leaving his wife and children destitute at Tongwynlais. She had during the last fortnight been chargeable to the parish of St. John's. Defendant said he had not deserted his wife: she had left him.—No arrangement being come to he was sent to the House of Correction for a month's hard labour.

Henry James was charged

21st May 1853, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, the date of some excavation work at the Castell Coch 'ruin'. Tantalising, but we are left to wonder about the coin.

dation.

CASTELL COCH.—Antiquaries will, no doubt, feel much gratified by being informed that Mr. Thomas Evans, of Tongwynlais, has in his possession a brass coin, which was found by John Lewis, hammerman, of Pentyrch Works, in the rubbish lately excavated in the ruins of the above building. There is a shield or hatchment upon the coin, with supporters, which appear to be a species of deer, in a tolerable state of preservation. On the reverse side, a crowned head and some letters.—*(Correspondent.)*

COGAN PILL.—On the 29th of last month, a woman,

Back in June 1851 we heard of the Whitchurch Floral and Horticultural show held at Castell Coch and on 25th June 1853 (The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian) another was held there, "not quite so extensive as some former ones, there was no falling off in the number of spectators, for a gayer or more beauteous throng never assembled within the time honoured remains of the ancient fortress".

adorers,—all, all were there as in former days.

The show itself, we have stated, was not quite so extensive; but in *quality* we think there was no sign of diminished interest on the part of the promoters of the meeting. A reference to the list of prizes will enable our readers to see who were the successful candidates. The Gentlemen's and Market Gardeners produced some remarkable specimens of their skill. The pines from Velindra, the melons from the Heath, the grapes and

The 'usual' list of the 'gentry' was present rubbing shoulders with each other and walking off with most of the prizes.

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Newspaper Archive

21st July 1854 The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian and again we hear of a Benefit's Society and part of the ritual of their festival. It's interesting to note also that the society was hosted by The Lewis's Arms in "their club-room".

TONGWYNLAIS.—The annual festival of the Men's Benefit Society took place at the Lewis's Arms, on Saturday last. The members proceeded to the Welsh Baptist Chapel, where an appropriate discourse was delivered by the Rev. Daniel Jones, from the 5th chapter, II Corinthians, 10th verse. The members then returned to their club-room, where an excellent and sumptuous dinner (comprising the delicacies of the season) was provided by the host and hostess in their usual style. The chair was taken by Mr. Michael Waters, supported on his right by Mr. Williams, Llwyn Mallt Farm, the respected president of the society, and on the left by Mr. Edward Williams, of Whitchurch; while the vice-chair was occupied by the secretary, Mr. James, Llandaff. After the cloth had been removed several toasts were introduced by the chairman and others. Messrs. Evans and Williams, of Cardiff, were in attendance, and the proceedings were enlivened by various dances. Peace and comfort were maintained throughout the evening.

WRIGHT'S BRISTOL STEAM PACKET AND RAILWAY

This would have felt a bit like having your car nicked. 6th October 1854, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

THE U

HORSE LOST.—A chestnut mare, the property of Mr. Thos. Evans, Tongwynlais, was lost on the Newbridge road on Friday. The mare had on a saddle and bridle at the time.

ACCIDENT.—On Sunday last, as a man named James

Auction at 'Tongwynlais Inn', 2nd April 1857, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

26th Feb., 1857. BRISTOL.

TONGWYNLAS, NEAR CARDIFF.

TO WHEELWRIGHTS, CARPENTERS, & OTHERS.

TITUS JONES begs to announce that he has been instructed to SELL BY AUCTION, on the Premises at TONGWYNLAS INN, on MONDAY, March the 9th, 1857, a Large Quantity of TIMBER, comprising several Logs of Wood, Planks, and Boards, with various other goods suitable to the Trade.

Also, a four-horse power Sawing Machine, Horse and Cart; together with the whole of the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, consisting of four-post and tent Bedsteads, feather and millpuff Beds, mahogany Chests of Drawers, Sofa, Tables, cane, rush, and mahogany Chairs; Washstands, Dressing Tables, and Ware, eight-day German and American Clocks, Fenders and Fireirons; with sundry other articles too numerous to be mentioned.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'Clock precisely. No Reserve.

Castle-street, Merthyr, March 5th, 1857.

BUILDING GROUND NEAR CARDIFF.

The Temperance Movement, refusing to move, not everyone's 'cup of tea'. 26th March 1859, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAS.

OBSTRUCTING THE HIGHWAY.—A "Weekly Visitor" sends us a letter complaining that the teetotallers assembled on Sunday week at the Ton, on the highway, for the purpose of lecturing. The consequence was that the crowd collected together blocked up the road and prevented people passing except by going into the water which was then standing by the roadside owing to the late heavy rains. Our correspondent does not condemn the efforts of temperance reformers, but he thinks they have no right to block up the highway; and he also thinks they might well afford to be a little more temperate and charitable in speech, especially as they chose the Sabbath to propagate their opinions. We think this hint is worth consideration. No men have a right to intercept a highway on any day of the week.

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The Temperance Movement, moving, again. 2nd April 1859, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

TONGWYNLAS.

The Teetotalers in this neighbourhood are carrying on their cause with much energy and great success, no less than 300 having been won over to sign the pledge of total abstinence within the last six weeks. Some excellent speakers have lately visited the district, amongst whom may be named the Rev. D. Phillips, of Maesteg, who for upwards of 20 years has been most untiring in his advocacy and efforts to promote the principles of sound teetotalism. Persons of high and unblemished reputation like Mr. Phillips cannot be better employd than in converting poor drunkards from the error of their ways. We trust the cause is well established in the district, and that it will continue to go on progressing.

WHITCHURCH.

Market day noise, not acceptable, but, was it the afternoon, or very early morning?

PETTY SESSIONS.—TUESDAY, MAY 31.
(Before Colonel TYNTE and E. WILLIAMS, Esq.)

DISORDERLY HOUSE.—Mr. Edmund Thomas, landlord of the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, was charged with permitting disorderly conduct in his house. The constable visited the house on Saturday morning, the 21st, at two o'clock, and found eleven men drunk and quarrelling. They had beer before them at the time, and the constable was attracted by the noise at a hundred yards distance. Defendant admitted that there had been a little disturbance but it was soon suppressed, and the reason was that it was market day. Fined £1 and costs.

RIDING WITHOUT REINS.—Isaac Bryant was charged

'Just trying to keep warm Guv'nor'. "7 days for you m'lad!"

Both the above... 4th June 1859, The Cardiff Times

fined £2 and costs, or a month's imprisonment.

STEALING COAL.—David Morgan, Tongwynlais, was charged with stealing coal, the property of T. W. Booker and Co., Pentyrch. On Saturday, the 28th day of May, at half-past two in the morning, defendant was seen by the constable filling a sack of coal in the yard near the canal bank, Pentyrch. The quantity found in his possession was 90lb., which cost 4d. Prisoner admitted the offence, and Mr. Evans, the manager, said he had been in the employment of Mr. Booker for nearly eighteen years, and had always borne a good character. The place from which he had taken the coal was used as a refuse heap. Seven day's imprisonment.

STEALING DUCKS.--John Davies was

On 2nd June 1860, The Monmouthshire Merlin reported on a 'festival' held by 'The Friends of Total Abstinence' at "Castle Coch" (they obviously meant "Castell Coch"). One of the more disturbing claims of 'demon drink' was this.....

"We're doomed I tell ye !"

who could not enter into the language.

Mr. Willett's addresses directed attention to the astounding fact that the drinking habits of the lower classes were producing an unparalleled amount of insanity. He showed that while through the prosperity of trade in this country the amount of paupers had been reduced by upwards of 100,000 as compared with the year 1849, the number of lunatic paupers had increased from 13,000 to upwards of 30,000, and that those who were the best judges as to the causes of insanity, held that the use of strong drink turned more men's brains than all other causes put together. Taking into consideration the parishes under Gilbert's Act, which were not included in the official returns of the Poor Law Board, there were at least 32,000 paupers returned as mad, or a number almost equal to the whole population of Cardiff. Mr. Willett remarked that it was only those who were in the habit of constantly visiting the back streets and courts of our crowded towns, and finding their way into the abodes of thieves and prostitutes, who could comprehend the extent of the baneful influence of strong drinks.

On 7th July 1860 The Cardiff Times dedicated a few columns, bordered in black, to announce the passing of "The Late C. C. Williams". He was born in 1798 and he was credited with the introduction of many of the markets in and around Cardiff, among them being..... "On his property at Tongwynlais he erected a market two or three years ago and we believe it has been hitherto used free of cost".

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Newspaper Archive

(Slightly out of date sequence for the purpose of page layout)

28th April 1860, The Cardiff Times.

If you didn't know of the mineral wealth, this gives a good account of what lies under our feet and why so much industry was created in the locality. Haemetite / hematite is one of the important minerals of iron ore.

TONGWYNLAS.

IMMENSE DISCOVERIES OF HEMATITE. — People may croak, moan, bewail, and prophesy the waning of the iron trade in Monmouthshire and South Wales; but this class is merely a superficially observing one. Let them look a little deeper and a little further, into the important discoveries made daily in the neighbourhood of Cardiff, and assuredly they will find we possess inexhaustible elements in our own district for the manufacture of iron; let them turn their attention to the Lantrissent iron mines, which are unequalled in Great Britain, or in any other iron producing country in the world; let them look at Wenvoe hematite mine, or at the dolomitic conglomerates, extending from Pentyrch station, on the Taff Vale Railway, to Bro-Viscyn, and downwards to St. Fagans, which at present covers undeveloped, but inexhaustible stores of hematitic wealth; or, lastly, let them come to this cozy little village, which is hard by the Squire of Greenmeadow's mansion, and they will croak, bewail, and moan no more. At Rhiwbina, that indefatigably enterprising and talented individual, Ebenezer Rogers, Esq., F.G.S., has discovered several valuable deposits of hematite in the limestone shales, which are interposed between the carboniferous limestone and the old red sandstone; following in his wake, the workmen of Henry Lewis, Esq., have since discovered similar deposits in the field lying southward of and facing Castell Coch ruin, and further explorations we opine will be equally successfully. The Caerphilly and Cardiff Iron Company have demonstrated to us that large deposits of hematite lie in the bottom beds of the mountain limestone, and an immense tract of land lying south of, but close to, John Edmunds, Esq., of the Vann's Werndiu blast furnace, has just been let to John Biddulph, Esq., by Wyndham Lewis, Esq., for exploration; and we have no fear of its resulting in splendid success by the discovery of numerous pockets of hematite, and veins of limestone. Then, surely, there is apparent in all this the interposing finger of Providence directing the skill, the research, and the enterprise of the adventuring mining capitalist for the salvation of the staple trade of the district.

One for local historians, (if it hasn't been seen before), Ivy House stock auction. 23rd November 1860, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAS.

Sale of Farming Stock, Implements, Hay, &c.

MR. J. D. THOMAS has received instructions from the Executors to the Will of late Mr. Edmund Thomas, of Ivy House, Tongwynlas, to SELL by AUCTION, at the above place, on THURSDAY, Nov. 29th, 1860, at One o'clock precisely, the whole of the STOCK, CROPS, IMPLEMENTS, &c., consisting of two very useful young horses, one milch cow, four fat cows, three very useful carts, one capital gig and harness, chaff box, wheelbarrows, drags, cross trees, &c. Quarry tools and a tram for ditto. Also, about 240 yards of tram plates; a mow of prime harvested hay, about 10 tons; a quantity of manure, &c.

The ruffage of Eight Acres of capital Grass Land to be Let until the Second of February next.

Auctioneer's and Valuer's Offices, Crockherbtown
Cardiff, Nov. 21st, 1860. 1745

GREAT COLCOT FARM NEAR WENVOE

29th December 1860, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. Edmund Thomas, once the 'occupier' of The Lewis's Arms, lived at Ivy House and he was also a 'miller'.

NOTICES.

EDMUND THOMAS, DECEASED.

NOTICE is hereby given, that all Persons indebted to the Estate of the late EDMUND THOMAS, of Ivy House, formerly of the Lewis Arms, in the Village of Tongwynlas, in the Parishes of Whitchurch and Eglwysilan, in the County of Glamorgan, Victualler, Miller, &c., who died on the 10th day of October, 1860, are requested to pay all such Debts to Mr. GEORGE THOMAS, of Ely Farm, near Cardiff; and all Persons having Claims against the said Estate are hereby required to send in their Accounts to the said George Thomas, without delay.

EDWARD MORGAN,
Bute Arms, Tongwynlas,
Executor of the said Deceased.

Dated the 8th day of December, 1860.

NEWTON NOTTAGE INCLOSURE.

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Newspaper Archive

Coincidence or not, it seems that once the 'old order' had passed on The Lewis's Arms came under the watchful eye of the law.

1st February 1861, The Cardiff Times

CAERPHILLY.

PETTY SESSIONS.—TUESDAY, JAN. 29.
(Before W. E. WILLIAMS, H. LEWIS, and T. W. BOOKER, Esqrs.)

BEER-HOUSE OFFENCES. — David Davies, Pont-y-gwindy, was charged by Superintendent Thomas with selling beer without a license, on the 25th November last. The offence was proved by P.S. Morgan, and he was fined 40s. and costs.—John Lewis, landlord of the White Lion, Caerphilly, was fined 1s. and costs, for having his house opened on Sunday morning.—Eliza Jane Edmunds, of the Lewis's Arms, Tongwynlas, was fined 1s., and 10s. 9d. costs, for selling beer after 11 o'clock p.m., on the 21st ult. — William Edwards, Quaker's Yard, for having his house open after 11 o'clock on Sunday night, the the 20th ult., was fined 1s., and 11s. 9d. costs.—Lewis Walters, Gelligaer, for having his house open after 11 o'clock on Christmas night, was was fined 1s., and 11s. 9d. costs.—Thomas Williams, Gelligaer, for the same offence, was fined 2s. 6d., and 9s. 9d. costs; and Lewis Davies, Gelligaer, for a like offence, was fined 1s., and 8s. 9d., costs.

DRUNK AND RIOTOUS.—John Evans, Pont-y-gwindy,

It's worth pointing out here that most, if not all, 'beer houses' fell foul of the drinking laws at that time, more in the following pages, it wouldn't be fair to portray this particular offence as a measure of decline of the pub or in the village. Perhaps it's a case of the former landlord being viewed as a fine upstanding citizen by the more privileged, something not extended to his successor. It's also curious to note the common 'Edmund/s' name and whether this was coincidental or heritage.

Auction at the Old Ton and more cottages for sale. 30th March 1861, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

Bridgend and Cowbridge.

DESIRABLE INVESTMENT.

MR. D. EVANS is commissioned by Mr. ROBERT THOMAS to SELL by AUCTION, at the OLD TON INN, Tongwynlas, on TUESDAY, the 9th April, 1861, all those well-built COTTAGES, opposite the Methodist Chapel, in the above Village.

The Houses are held under a Lease from the late C. C. Williams, Esq., for 99 years (at a nominal Ground Rent) out of which 97 are unexpired.

The Auctioneer begs to intimate to capitalists that the above Cottages always command good Tenants, being situated near the Pentyrch Station, on the Taff Vale Railway.

The Sale to commence at 3 o'clock in the Afternoon.

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE FRENCH CONSUL,

Things clearly became difficult for 'The Lewis'. 18th May 1861, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

TO BE LET,

ALL that Old Established PUBLIC HOUSE, known as the "LEWIS'S ARMS," TONGWYNLAIS. The Above House is situate in the neighbourhood of Pentyrch, and adjoining Greenmeadow Iron Ore Works.

Apply at the above HOUSE.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL CAPITALISTS.

As the pub comes under scrutiny a new place of worship is born. 25th May 1861, The Aberdare Times.

passed off most pleasantly.

NEW CHAPEL AT TONGWYNLAS, NEAR CARDIFF. —A neat and commodious Independent Chapel was opened for divine worship in this place on Whit-Monday, when the Revs. J. T. Jones, Aberdare, R. Williams, Brymbo, W. C. Williams, Groeswen, M. Morgans, Bethesda, I. Harris, Morfa, D. Price, Siloa, and T. L. Jones, Machen, officiated on the occasion. The building is 33 by 40 feet in the clear, and cost £527

The Fair not getting the best of publicity. 16th August 1861, The Cardiff Times.

great extent.

TONGWYNLAS.

FAIR DAY.—This place, on every usual fair day, used to present an attractive appearance, which drew many lovers of excitement, sport, and gambling together. The fair that was held here on Monday last, however, wore quite different aspect. The only vestiges of the fair we saw or heard of were a few females selling cakes, &c., and the Cambrian harp amusing a few bachanalian roughs in the various public-houses. What a change!

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Right, own up, you can't wander around the village suddenly telling people what the time is. 25th October 1861, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAIS.

BURGLARY.—On Tuesday, the 23rd inst., some one went into the house of Mr. Edward Stephens, Tongwynlais Flour Mills, and stole a new lever watch, the property of Mr. Stephens. It was evident that it was not a stranger who did it. The servant girl had not left the house many minutes before she returned and to her great surprise found that the watch had been stolen. It occurred between three and four in the afternoon. The thief is not yet discovered.

Sale of The Bute Arms, 25th April 1862, The Cardiff Times.

years, from the 21st June, 1852, at the yearly rent of £40.

LOT 4.—A MESSUAGE or Dwelling-house and Beer-house, called the "Bute Arms," situate near Tongwynlais, in the parish of Eglwysilan, in the county of Glamorgan, in the occupation of Mr. Edward Morgan. Held under an agreement for a lease for 60 years, from the 2nd February, 1839, at the yearly rent of £3 3s., payable quarterly.

The premises may be viewed by permission of the tenants; and further particulars and conditions of sale obtained at the Offices of the Solicitor to the Treasury Whitehall, Westminster; of the AUCTIONEER; and at the Office of Mr. RICHARDS, Solicitor, Cardiff. 488

23rd May 1862, The Cardiff Times.

The visit of Robyn Ddu, how people entertained themselves before radio, TV, cinema and shopping malls.

The article below (Pentyrch) also strikes a chord with local people, showing the lengths people went to in order to create a life for themselves and their families.

TONGWYNLAIS.

This place was visited by the eloquent bard and orator, Mr. Parry, better known as Robyn Ddu, who delivered a lecture on the "Elevation of the Working Man," in the Welsh Calvinistic chapel, to a crowded audience; Mr. William Morgans (Gwilym Bycheiniog) occupied the chair, and made a few appropriate remarks in introducing the lecturer. Mr. Parry, in his usual style, delivered one of the most interesting lectures that was ever delivered in this place. Votes of thanks having been accorded to the chairman and lecturer, the meeting dispersed highly gratified with the intellectual treat.

PENTYRCH.

There are several of the forgemen leaving this place for Spain in the ship Balaklava, now loading in the East Bute Dock, Cardiff—useful and industrious men, whose places will not soon be filled up. The cause of their leaving is the depression of trade. Besides these, some eight or nine men are leaving Melingriffith tin-works for France. It is to be hoped that trade will soon take a change for the better, otherwise the best workmen will soon be forced to seek a home elsewhere.

All for a noble cause, communities coming together. 15th August 1862, The Cardiff Times.

meeting.

PENTYRCH.

THE "TWO THOUSAND."—On Saturday evening last a very able lecture was delivered at Bethlehem chapel, on the two thousand rejected ministers of 1662, by the Rev. H. Oliver, B.A., of Newbridge. The chair was occupied by Mr. Thomas, manager of Pentyrch Iron Works. The purpose of the meeting was to get a certain sum of money towards liquidating the debt on Bethesda Chapel, Tongwynlas, of the same denomination as the above. The admission was at the low charge of sixpence each. Numbers from other churches attended, and the whole audience, though so much crowded, must have been well pleased with such an instructive and interesting lecture.

Just a point of reference, 1861 – 1865 was the time of the American Civil War.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

21st November 1862, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAS.

OPENING OF AN ENGLISH BAPTIST CHAPEL.—The new chapel at the above place, the laying of the foundation of which we recorded a few months ago, has been erected by Mr. Evan Evans, of Cardiff, and is a very neat and substantial edifice. The opening services commenced on Sunday last, when sermons were preached in Welsh and English, by the Revs. E. Jones, Pentyrch, D. Davies, Waintreoda, and J. Bailey, Ruaton; and by Messrs. J. Grant and S. Ford. On Monday the services were continued, when sermons were preached by the Revs. R. Griffiths, N. Thomas, and J. E. Jones, M.A., of Cardiff, D. Davies, E. Jones, and J. Roberts, of Pontypridd. This effort to supply English preaching is worthy of all praise, and reflects great honour upon the old Welsh church, who have laid aside all prejudice, and laboured to meet the wants of their English neighbours. We trust, now that the chapel is built, and which is quite an ornament to the village, the christian public will assist in defraying the cost of its erection.

TREDEGAR.

5th December 1862, The Cardiff Times. Here's one that would have caused absolute chaos on the Glamorganshire Canal, a windlass was a mechanism for raising and lowering a paddle on the lock, raising to allow water into the lock chamber, or lowering to close off the flow and allow water to by-pass the lock.

STEALING THE HANDLE OF A WINDLASS.—James Meredith, a boatman, was charged with stealing the handle of a windlass, at a lock on the Glamorgan Canal, near Tongwynlais. The boatboy, named Francis Roberts said:—Last Friday the boat was passing through the middle lock when prisoner went to wind the windlass. Before doing so he took a stone to knock the handle off, and it broke and fell into the boat, and in the morning prisoner took the handle and put it in the fore-deck. P.C. Dix said he went and searched the boat, and found the iron in the fore-deck. The last witness told him the prisoner was going to sell it at Cardiff. Imprisoned for seven days.

GUY FAWKES'S DAY.—William Williams and Joseph

Without the handle the lock could not be used and haulage traffic (narrow boats) would come to a standstill, leaving a lot of people unhappy.

Conjuring a scene of bucolic life from another era. 13th March 1863, The Cardiff Times

TONGWYNLAIS.

Here an interesting scene was presented on the 10th inst., in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales. The members of the Sunday School in connection with the Established Church in this place, met at their place of worship and went in a procession through the village, preceeded by a banner. Most of the children having small flags in their hands, and all wearing wedding favours. They were accompanied by Henry Lewis, Esq., the ladies of the family, and a gentleman of the neighbourhood. On their return they halted near the centre of the place, sang "Rule Britannia" and the "National Anthem," The two latter being particularly well done. They all afterwards repaired to Greenmeadow house, and after enjoying a variety of rustic sports on the lawn, went to the hall and were regaled with tea and cake to their hearts content. At night the classical front of Greedmeadow house was illuminated with variegated lights, the whole producing a most pleasing effect when seen off the road close by. A fine display of fire-works were let off on the green. The startling cracker, the tortuous squib, and the rapid flight of the rocket, giving unbounded delight to the juveniles, whose acclamation could be heard at a distance—the temporary glare of the fire-works contrasting effectively with the sombore hues of the Greenmeadow firs—the largest in Glamorganshire—planted by those whose affections clung so closely to the Stuarts. In viewing all this we could not help reverting in our mind to the melancholy accident which so effectually deprived our generous entertainer of his sight, but at the same time proving the goodness of his heart in thus going to the expense of procuring so much delight for others, in which he himself could not participate.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

It's worth including this piece because it tells us more about the societies, the role of the village pubs and the people who made these things happen. 31st July 1863, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAIS.

ODDFELLOWS' ANNIVERSARY.—The beneficial tendencies of oddfellowship have been so frequently and so truthfully pourtrayed and described in this and other journals, that any mention of them would seem to be altogether unnecessary. We therefore pass on to notice that on Saturday last the Ivor Castle Lodge, M.U. held its fourth anniversary at the Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlais. In the morning the members assembled in the lodge-room, and having assumed their splendid regalia, proceeded, headed by the Pentyrch band, to Taff's Well, and on their way back called at Portobello lodge-room, and had a few songs from brothers John Watkins and Morgan. From there to the Bute Arms, and from thence to their own lodge. The room had been very tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens, and was well filled with members, who partook of one of the best dinners that had ever been placed before them. In opening the intellectual part of the proceedings, Brother Jabez James occupied the chair, and James Israel, P.G., the vice. The chairman having called upon the company to fill their glasses, proposed the healths of the Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family, which were received and responded to in right hearty and loyal manner. The Army and Navy was the next toast given by the chairman, which was drunk with three cheers. Vice-Chairman James Israel spoke upon the moral principles of oddfellowship and its attendencies, also its benefits, concluded with cheers. The chairman then delivered an address upon the usefulness and stability of oddfellowship, and its progress. After which Vice-Chairman James Israel spoke upon the benevolence of T. W. and J. P. Booker, Esqs., and their health was drunk with three cheers. The chairman next proposed the health of H. Lewis, Esq., and family of Green Meadow, with three cheers. The health of the worthy host and hostess was duly drunk with loud cheers. The host expressed his thanks. After a few remarks by various parties, Mr. Davies, bandmaster, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was done with musical honours. During the evening the band played several selections, and several excellent songs were sung between the speeches, making it one of the pleasantest meetings the lodge has yet had.

Advertising the next 'Ton' Eisteddfod, 6th November 1863, The Cardiff Times. In itself, not so interesting, other than to know that they were still going on and held at the 'Market Place'. Here however, we see a reference to the "Ivor Castle Lodge of Oddfellows" and undoubtedly this would have been a nod to "Ifor Bach" and his connection with Castell Coch.

"OES Y BYD I'R IAITH GYMRAEG."

EISTEDDFOD TONGWYNLAS.

A GRAND EISTEDDFOD will be held at the MARKET-PLACE, TONGWYNLAS, on MONDAY, the 23rd November, 1863, at the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., when there will be great PRIZES given for Singing, Essays, Poetry, and Recitations. There will be expected some of the leading men of the Eisteddfodau.

CHAIRMAN—Rev. H. J. THOMAS, Pentyrch.

ADJUDICATORS—Essays and Poetry, Rev. D. EDWARDS (Dewi Isan); Singing, Mr. ROSSER BEYNON (Asaph Glantaf). HARPIST—Mr. JOHN BRYANT.

The proceeds will be given to the funds of the Ivor Castle Lodge of Oddfellows.

Programmes to be had (or sent by post on receipt of two stamps) of Mr. D. WILLIAMS, treasurer, Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlas. 2755

NOTICE.

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It didn't exactly meet with everyone's approval though, but evidently, Tongwynlais itself was viewed as up and coming. 27th November 1863, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAS.

One of those gatherings called Eisteddfodau, was held in the Market-house of this rising and populous village, on Monday last, when a great number of the inhabitants of the district attended. The singing of the two choirs of different denominations belonging to Tongwynlas, was decidedly exempt from criticism, and well worthy of the judge's (Mr. Rosser Beynon, Asaph Glantaf) eulogy upon their respective merits. A number of prizes were given for solos, duets, &c., accompanied by the harp, which was played by Mr. John Bryant, whose solos upon that instrument elicited no end of applause from the audience. We shall, no doubt, ere long hear of his obtaining one of those titles usually bestowed upon Welshmen for their proficiency in their profession. We cannot conclude this little report without commenting upon the unsightly appearance of the interior of the market, and also the bad arrangement for distributing the holders of the first and second class tickets—a fault not directly attributable to those who had the principal management in getting it up, but to the medley of opinions given by parties who had no earthly notions of anything of the kind.

On 4th December 1863, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian published a letter from a local man updating the paper on the Tongwynlais Grand Eisteddfod of Oddfellows which was held on 23rd November in the "Market House" in which 400 – 500 "respectable persons" attended. A full list of competitions and prize winners was provided but the letter concluded with various 'votes of thanks' ending with the singing of "Hen Gwlad fy Nhadau" which itself had only been penned in 1856.

Paint Your Wagon – C'mon Billy mon!

26th February 1864, The Cardiff Times

THE HIGHWAY ACT.—George Bailey, of Nantgarw, was charged by P.C. 6 with obstructing the highway by leaving a cart thereon near the Castle Inn, Caerphilly, Fined 12s. 3d., including costs.—William Rees, Tongwynlais, was charged by the same officer with not having his name painted on his wagon. Fined 12s. 3d., including costs.

TRANSFER OF LICENSE.—William Williams, of Portobello Inn, applied to have his license transferred to William Lougher. Granted.—The license of the Castell Coch was also transferred from Mrs. Williams to Edmund Jones.

On 4th March 1864, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian published an article on the Cardiff Eisteddfod in which the "Competition of Choirs, not under 20 in number – A Bydd Aswyddion" was won by Tongwynlais "under the conductorship of Wm. Evans". "The Mayor said, "it would be his pleasing duty to deliver the prize to the youngest female of the Tongwynlais Choir".

A regular event in the village, 4th March 1864, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian. P. H. Hounds most likely being the Pentyrch Hunt. Another 'P.H.' was that of the Park Hunt based on the Heath (Cardiff).

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

THE TREDEGAR HOUNDS WILL MEET.
Wednesday March 9 ..... Tredegar House.
Friday..... March 11 ..... Castletown.
Each Day at 11½ o'clock.

THE P. H. HOUNDS WILL MEET
Monday ..... March 7 ..... Coed-y-Gove.
Thursday ... March 10 ... .. Tongwynlas.
Each Day at 11 o'clock.

THE COWBRIDGE HOUNDS WILL MEET
Monday ..... March 7 ..... Hilton.
Thursday .. .. March 10 ..... Ogmore Down.
At Eleven.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales**
Newspaper Archive

Looks like the 'Debating Club' at the Lewis's Arms knew how to entertain themselves, but it wasn't for everybody. 1st April 1864, The Cardiff Times.

tention of the children for some hours.

THE ETHIOPIAN TROUPE.—The amateur troupe in connection with the debating club, performed at the Lewis's Arms, Tongwynlais, on Monday evening last. The entertainment was patronized by the *elite* of the neighbourhood.

THE BRYNTAIL COLLIERY.—The incline communi-

'Ton' Eisteddfod, once again presided over by Eli Evans. 27th May 1864, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAS EISTEDDFOD.

This eisteddfod was held on the 17th inst., in the Market-place, under the patronage of Henry Lewis, Esq., and was numerously attended. The first meeting commenced about eleven o'clock. Mr. Eli Evans, Wauntreoda, was chosen to preside. Judges: Dr. Emlyn Jones, of Cardiff, for poetry, essays, recitations, &c.; Mr. C. C. Caird, organist, Tredegar, for music; Mr. John Bryant, harpist, Alanydd Glyn Taff. After a most interesting address from the Chairman, on the nature of the eisteddfodd, he called upon the bards to commence the meeting, which was done by Messrs. Wm. Cosslett, Gwerfyl James, J. T. Morgan, and others; then a tune on the piano by Mr. Caird. An interesting programme was then gone through, and a large number of prizes were awarded for the best poems, recitations, and singing.

Here's an unfortunate incident that happened in the Ton reported on 9th September 1864 in The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian

SAD AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Monday, August 15th, while Mr. Thomas Roberts, grocer, &c., was returning from the house after partaking of dinner, by some means or other he stumbled over a few steps leading to the house from the main road and was hurled with great force over an adjoining wall into the road, falling backwards with great precipitancy, causing a fracture of the skull and rupturing some internal arteries, resulting in almost immediate death. A coroner's inquest was held, and it was elicited that the deceased was rather the worse for drink, and returned a verdict of "Accidental death." Deceased was much respected for his quiet and inoffensive disposition.

From bucolic village to 'ungodly place', so soon? 11th November 1864, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

TONGWYNLAS.

On Monday night, between twelve and one o'clock some drunken fellows, who had been expelled from one of the public-houses, kicked the front door of a gentleman's house in this village nearly open. It is a disgrace to the county that the magistrates do not station a policeman in this ungodly place to protect the peaceful inhabitants from being annoyed in this manner and disturbed in their beds by licentious sinners and midnight carousers. The other day two drunken blackguards, in a perfect state of nudity, were fighting together for the space of half an hour in a garden adjoining a clergyman's house; on another occasion two bulldogs were set on to tear and choke each other right on the pavement under his parlour window, all the ruffs and rowdies of the neighbourhood beholding the hideous spectacle with ineffable delight.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

A little bit more information on the proposed 'works' at Walnut Tree bridge and the Penny Readings being well supported. 31st March 1865, The Cardiff Times.

TONGWYNLAIS.

THE NEW WORKS.—The new works of Messrs. Wood and Sons, anchor chain and cable manufacturers, of Sheffield, are to be commenced during the present month, at the Walnut Tree Bridge, the manager, Mr. Jordan, late of Messrs. Lennox's manufactory, Pontypridd, having entered upon his duties, and is at present in Sheffield, arranging the requisite materials necessary for commencing operations. The first step, that of removing the large ash tree situated on the site of the proposed works, having been cut down.

PENNY READINGS.—The fourth series in connection with those useful and recreative assemblies, took place on Wednesday evening last, under the presidency of the chairman. The attendance was very good, every available space being occupied. The programme consisted of a duet on the piano, by two young ladies. Reading, "The Confession of Con Cregan," by Mr. Thomas. Recitation, by Master John Thompson. Walzes, piano and cornet, Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Henry Evans, which was artistically performed. Song, by J. Booker, Esq. Reading, Pickwick's Papers, by Mr. J. Williams. Song, by Mrs. Booker. This called forth the most enthusiastic applause. The National Anthem having been sung, Mr. Jeremy proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas, which closed the proceedings.

4th August 1865, The Cardiff Times, a worthless commentary on 'the club feast', but the anticipated prospects for the 'new works' at the Walnut Tree bridge didn't quite meet expectations and the fortunes of real life for a working man are fully bared.

TONGWYNLAIS AND PENTYRCH.

The annual club feast took place on Saturday last, but not having been present we are not in a position to give the details.

THE NEW WORKS.—We are sorry to find that the extent of these works, at the Walnut Tree Bridge, has been greatly exaggerated, which has been the means of inciting a number of shopkeepers of all classes, and publicans, to try their fortunes in their respective branches, there having being more than enough for the requirements of the neighbourhood previous to the new works being contemplated, and which are not expected to employ more than one hundred men as the maximum, at the start.

SAD ACCIDENT.—An old miner, of the name of William Williams, received a severe accident at the mine pit on Monday evening last, his infirmity deterring him from getting out of the way of the mine when tipped out of the wheelbarrows. The result was a compound fracture of the leg. This is only one of a series of accidents the old man has unfortunately met with during the last twelve months, through his anxiety to gain his bread by the sweat of his brow. Being seventy years of age, it must be a great trial for himself and poor wife, and truly merits the attention of the benevolent.

Here's a few events to conjure a mixed image, 18th August 1865, The Cardiff Times: a severe thunderstorm never before witnessed by local people; the Ton Fair spoilt and a thriving market.

TONGWYNLAIS.

THUNDER STORM.—Never during the recollection of the oldest resident in this neighbourhood, has this locality been the scene of so severe a thunderstorm as on Saturday evening last. The wind blowing from S. S. W. the thunder could be distinctly heard gradually approaching this district, and when it reached, the electric fluid, though beautiful in the extreme, made many a heart beat with anxiety, each successive action of the electricity increasing until ultimately it fell by the river side, near the Iron Bridge. We have heard of no damage in this immediate neighbourhood.

TON FAIR.—The annual fair took place on Monday last, when a few of the usual rustic sports took place, but in consequence of some slight disagreement at the commencement, through a lot of roughs, the party who kindly undertook the distribution of prizes, very wisely and creditably declined having anything further to do in the matter. There were thousands of pleasure seekers, and judging from the usual small attendance, taking the two last fairs as precedents, it demonstrates the increasing population of this thriving district.

THE MARKET.—Since its recommencement, six weeks ago, the demand and the supply have been steadily on the increase. We hear it is intended to roof it entirely in, which we deem an absolute necessity before the cold winter nights set in.

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(Left)...25th August 1865, The Cardiff Times. The 'Ivor' Castle Lodge thriving and earning praise for their 'manly appearance' and a brief account of an unfortunate boatman having a difficult time, but don't despair, news of gas coming to the village.

TONGWYNLAIS.

ODD-FELLOWS' ANNIVERSARY.—We have to record this week the anniversary of the Ivor Castle Lodge, held at the Cardiff Castle Inn, which took place on Saturday last. This Lodge is remarkable in the neighbourhood for the fine manly appearance and neat attire, combined with uniformity of age of all its members, and is the most promising young lodge in this locality. After having transacted the business, the members marched to the ancient and picturesque ruins of Castle Coch, accompanied by a string band under the leadership of Mr. Bryant (Alaw Glyntaff). The music was quite ample for the occasion, and the reverberating sound in the woods was beautiful in the extreme. After remaining at the Castle for a few hours, during which time every one enjoyed himself in his own element of pleasure—(song, dance, rustic games, &c.)—the party returned to the Lodge-room, where the usual first-class catering of the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, was fully demonstrated, and well worthy the remarks of Mr. Wm. Morgan (Gwylym Brichinog), that it was quite unnecessary to speak in favour of the dinner, for the dinner had amply spoken for itself. After the removal of the tables, the members, joined by their wives, enjoyed a trip on the light fantastic toe to the beautiful music of Mr. Bryant's harp, after which they separated, highly delighted with the day's proceedings.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—A boatman, name unknown, residing at Pontypridd or Treforest, attempted to commit suicide on Saturday last, by throwing himself down a steep embankment into the canal. He was rescued by some parties who happened to be near, and conveyed to the Old Ton Inn, where medical assistance was obtained. He was afterwards delivered into the custody of the police, who took him to Caerphilly, where, no doubt, he will be brought before the sitting magistrates.

GAS WORKS.—Report is current here that we are to have gas by the coming winter. We trust that it is not idle talk, but a fact.

A time when the turnip crop throughout the country had failed. 1st September 1865, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

crease considerably during the next few years.

TONGWYNLAIS.

EXTRORDINARY CROP OF TURNIPS.—It is expected that the turnip crops of this year will be a failure throughout the country, but invariably there is an exception to the rule. Travelling from Cardiff to Tongwynlais, and adjacent to the latter place, may be seen a field of turnips of the most exuberant description, belonging to Mr. Williams (Llwynmalt).

On the 8th September 1865 The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian dedicated an entire column on the virtues of the 'Penny Readings' in Tongwynlais and immensely popular they proved to be. Taking place on Wednesday evenings "the attendance was far in excess of any of the previous meetings, a great number being compelled to go home again, failing to get admittance". These meetings were regarded "as a great boon to the women of Mellingriffith, Pentyrch, Tongwynlais and Taff's Well to know that their husbands have such an opportunity afforded them, instead of spending their leisure hours in a place detrimental to their own interest and that of the community at large".

At the same time, in another column, the paper reported on "The Tongwynlais Eisteddfod", claiming as follows.... "The first meeting of this kind was held in a splendid pavilion erected in a meadow adjoining the National Schoolroom under the presidency of H. Lewis Esq".

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Newspaper Archive

The Penny Readings being courted by the villages. 29th September 1865, The Cardiff Times.

TAFF'S WELL.

PENNY READINGS.—Last winter it was rumoured in this neighbourhood that Penny Readings would be held here next season, in consequence of the inhabitants having been greatly inconvenienced last winter, as the Readings were held in Tongwynlais, and the place of meeting was too small for the purpose of Taff's Well and Tongwynlais. It is to be hoped some steps will be taken soon in the matter, greatly felt in this place. [illegible] entertainments was

The brook caused a few issues and the venue for 'Penny Readings' created a bit of a storm. 3rd November 1865, The Cardiff Times.

Esq., &c.

TONGWYNLAIS.

ROAD FLOODED.—A tradesman in this village writes desiring that the attention of the highway board should be called to a brook which ruus under his premises, and which was so swollen by the late rains, and so inadequate were the means of draining the road, that for a distance of fifty yards the street was flooded to a depth which could have been navigated by a canal barge; and, consequently, all pedestrian use of the street for the time being was impossible.

PENNY READINGS.—We have a letter in regard to the penny readings, in reply to that of R. H., which appeared last week. Both sides having been heard, we are indisposed to continue a controversy in which the feelings excited seem to be out of all proportion to the importance of the matter. Our correspondent defends himself from the imputation of being actuated by hostility to Mr. Morgan, the innkeeper, in his recommendation that Penny Readings should not be held at the assembly-room of the inn. He urges that it is unprecedented and improper for penny readings to be made the means or the pretext of drawing young people to a public-house of an evening.

The Penny Readings went well and how different was Hallow'een back then, not the heavily commercialised American import that's been adopted now? 10th November 1865, The Cardiff Times.

PENNY READINGS.—The first of these literary gatherings took place on Wednesday night under the able presidency of Astley Thompson, Esq., whose opening address was most enthusiastically applauded. His short biographical sketch of the lamented Lord Palmerston in relation to his affable and affectionate disposition to the humbler as well as the higher class of individuals he had occasion to come in contact with was highly commendatory of the chairman. The recitation and dialogue rendered by Messrs. Price and Allen was deservedly applauded, and we can confidently assert that no provincial professional could excel them. The meetings are to be continued weekly on Wednesday evenings.

ALL-HALLOWS EVE.—A dancing party and supper took place at the Lewis Arms Hotel on Tuesday week, which was exceedingly well attended, and the arrangements and catering of the hostess, Mrs. Spencer, was praised by all present. Dancing, singing, &c., having been kept up until a rational hour, the company separated highly delighted with the evening's amusements.

On 2nd February 1866, The Cardiff Times spared a column on "Taffs Well – Grand Amateur Entertainment" which went on t state "One of the largest gatherings of the combined population of Taff's Well, Mellingriffith and Pentyrch, took place at the capacious assembly room of the Castle Inn". It was held in connection with the 'Tongwynlais penny readings' and here it was mentioned that the proceeds from these meetings would "be devoted towards the formation of reading rooms and libraries for the district".

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Newspaper Archive

On 23rd February 1866 The Cardiff Times published a brief article on a dinner held at the Lewis's Arms for some ('a number'?) employees from 'Booker's works', perhaps from one of them perhaps from a few, but it seems they were well looked after by the 'javelin men' of the High Sheriff.

TONGWYNLAIS.

DINNER PARTY.—The late High Sheriff's javelin men entertained a number of those directly and indirectly connected with the Messrs. Booker's works, at the Lewis Arms Hotel, on Wednesday evening last, Mr. W. H. Pardoe presiding. The usual loyal toasts having been given, the health of Messrs. Booker and of the javelin men followed. Mr. John Evans responded. The health of Mr. Thomas and Mr. William Haddock was responded to by those gentlemen. The health of the Messrs. Booker's agent was responded to by Mr. Seymour; and that of the ladies, by Mr. Mountjoy. Other toasts followed, and the usual quantum of songs and sentiments given upon those occasions. The company separated, highly delighted with the pleasant evening spent. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. and Mrs. Spencer for the excellent spread, which did them great credit,

A library, in Tongwynlais, at Mr Thomas's Chemist....13th April 1866, The Cardiff Times

OPENING OF A READING ROOM AND LITERARY INSTITUTE.—We are glad to inform the supporters of the penny readings, that the committee have fully performed what they promised at the commencement of the readings last autumn, that is, that they intended to devote the proceeds towards the promotion of a library, &c., which we have much pleasure of congratulating the inhabitants by recording the opening, which took place on Thursday evening last. The room being contiguous to Mr. Thomas's, chemist, that gentleman has, through the request of the committee, kindly consented to act as librarian.

If you have ever given some thought as to what conditions were like for the more impoverished of folk of this era, on June 1st 1866, The Cardiff Times reported on a meeting with the Pontypridd Board of Guardians which stated - "Mr, Geo. Evans, of Pentyrch, sent a communication informing the Board that there had been an outbreak of typhoid fever in the portion of Tongwynlais situated in the parish of Eglwysilan".

Another Ton fair was held in August 1867, but it didn't seem to have much to offer, the local pubs did OK though. 17th August, The Cardiff Times.

Thomas has.

TON FAIR.—The usual annual pleasure fair took place on Monday last at Tongwynlais, when a great number of the inhabitants of the district assembled together, we suppose for the purpose of inspecting each other, for there was no other attraction, save a few penny standings, roulette tables, and shooting tables, and the usual itinerant vendors of tarts, pies, &c., who we have no doubt did very well, taking into consideration the immense quantity of people who were present with so few to cater for them. We believe the innkeepers and publicans made a very good market of it, the weather being all they could desire to produce a state of thirstiness, it being very hot and dusty.

LARGE SNAKE.—One day last week, while an old man, named David Llewellyn, employed by Mr. J. Llewellyn

It was a Tongwynlais man that played a big part in the construction of the schools and chapels around the area. 31st August 1867, The Cardiff Times.

style.

NEW SCHOOL.—The school and governess residence in connection with Miss Aldworth's charity, now being built near Taff's Well, is progressing rapidly, and will be soon brought to a state of completion. The design is neat and handsome. Mr. William Williams, Tongwynlais, is the builder, under whose superintendence we augur it will be well finished. That gentleman has built nearly all the chapels, and most of the public buildings, around this neighbourhood, with infinite credit to himself, and satisfaction to those who employ him, sparing no expense to execute the required specifications in these matters. The principal of the school is a Miss Jones, a lady fully possessing every qualification to discharge her duties. We hope she will succeed in her new school-room.

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Here's a complicated one for a property owner, who is the legal owner? (Unfortunately the page copy has a ripple). 4th April 1868, The Cardiff Times.

CARDIFF COUNTY COURT.—FRIDAY.
(Before Judge HERBERT.)

ACTION FOR EJECTMENT.—Mr. George Thomas and Mr. John Davis brought an action of ejectment against two householders at Tongwynlais. The real defendant, however, was a Mrs. Howells, residing at Tongwynlais, who claimed to be the owner of the property in dispute. Mr. Morris appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. Davis for the defendant. The legal proceedings in the matter had extended over a protracted period, owing to the obstinacy of the defendant to give up her claim to the property, notwithstanding that a sheriff's decision had previously been made against her. It appeared from the evidence that the property belonged to a person named David Lewis, living near the iron bridge, Whitchurch, who died some months ago. It consisted of a piece of ground and twelve houses. Mrs. Howell's husband was a half-brother to David Lewis (who was an illegitimate son), and lived in one of Lewis's houses, which Mrs. Howells continued to occupy. The present plaintiffs were executors under Lewis's will, but Mrs. Howells claimed the property as heir. She had successfully resisted an attempt by the sheriff's officers to eject her, as she was supported by the tenants of the respective houses. The value of the property was about £20. On Tuesday last an application was made by Mrs. Howells in the Vice-Chancellor's Court to remove the present action to a superior court, on account of the value of the property, but Mr. Justice Willes dismissed the motion with costs. Mr. Davis now argued the same point before his Honour, and disputed his Honour's jurisdiction. He contended that the plaintiffs could not split up the various tenancies into separate causes of action, in order to bring the yearly value within £20. His Honour considered that the point had already been settled by Mr. Justice Willes, and he gave a decision in favour of the plaintiffs, but stayed execution for after the 17th April, in order to allow the defendant to enter an appeal, if she wished to do so.

(Below)...8th August 1868, The Cardiff Times a celebration of the Lewis's, free beer and no one over indulged (apparently).

TONGWYNLAIS.

MAJORITY OF MR. HENRY LEWIS, JUN., OF GREENMEADOW.—The eldest son and heir of Mr. Henry Lewis, of Greenmeadow, attained his 21st year on the 20th ult. Although it was fully intended not only at Tongwynlais, but at Llanishen and other places in the immediate locality of Mr. Lewis's estates, to have had a demonstration in the shape of the ordinary festivities generally indulged in upon such occasions, it was considered by those parties who take an interest in the young gentleman's future welfare that through the then serious indisposition of his uncle, Mr. Wyndham William Lewis, the Heath, who, we are glad to state, is now in a fair way to a state of convalescence, desirable to abandon public ceremony; but in lieu of, and to appease the disappointment it may have occasioned to those who were bent upon what we may term a jolly flare up, through the suggestion of Mr. Jacob Lewis, Radyr farm, and Mr. David Williams, and a few gentlemen connected directly or indirectly as tenants of the family, they determined upon giving a quantity of beer in all the inns and beer-houses in Tongwynlais, where all the inhabitants who desired to drink the health and prosperity of the young gentleman could do so; and we need not state, that the occasion was made available by a number of those who have known not only the son, but the much respected father from their infancy. However, we must state that not even one person have we heard over indulged in the plentiful supply of ewrd-da given them, but sufficiency combined with moderation was the order of the day.

(Right) Here's one worthy of further research, a claim to fame if the suggested origin of 1807 could be substantiated. 2nd July 1870, The Cardiff Times.

was returned.

TONGWYNLAIS.

AN OLD ESTABLISHED WOMAN'S CLUB.—On Monday last the anniversary of the Castell Coch Female Friendly Society was held at the Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais. This society is certainly one of the oldest, if not the oldest, female society in the Principality. It was established more than sixty three years ago, and although some of the members are aged, they are so blessed with the enjoyment of their health that the funds of this long established society are in a flourishing state. There are very many young members belonging to it, and several more young women are about becoming members. It would be a task on the anniversary day to distinguish the elder members from the younger. Although a few of them are about eighty years of age and one eighty-three, yet the gayness and style of their dresses, the vivacity of their movements, their sound memory, their long tried and experienced knowledge and information on matters connected with the society, are enough to occasion much surprise. Several hundreds have been from time to time members of this society, and large sums have been paid for sickness and funeral donations. During the last twelve months there was but one death connected with the society, the husband of one of the elder members. The stewardesses for the last year did their duties efficiently and creditably to themselves and to the sisterhood in general. Stewardesses for the ensuing year were elected, and if their intelligence and aptitude be taken as a criterion of their efficiency for the office, they will perform their duties honourably, as their predecessors did.

PENTYRCH

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A fete held in the Ton by another of the benevolent societies, this time the Foresters. 13th Aug 1870, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

the Rev. J. Roberts, secretary of the lodge.

FORESTERS' FETE. On Monday last the annual gathering for the benefit of the widows and orphans' fund was held on the Tongwynlais field, by permission of the proprietor, Mr. Lenox. A large number of people were present, and some excellent races were run. The proceedings closed by a balloon ascent and a display of fireworks.

DEATH BY DROWNING.—On Saturday evening a

On 3rd June 1871, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian devoted a lot of space to the work of the courts and at Llandaff many cases of 'Unjust Scales' were dealt with, among them being a Ton grocer.

days' hard labour.

UNJUST SCALES.—John Williams, grocer, Tongwynlais, was summoned for using a pair of unjust flour scales at his shop. When the machine was examined by the inspector of weights and measures, it was found to be 1¼oz. against the purchaser. The defendant pleaded guilty, but as the magistrates were of opinion that he had no intention of defrauding the public, he was only fined 5s. and costs. John Richards, butcher, Taffs-well, who did not appear, was charged with

Tom Llewelyn and Tom Evans faced 7 days for this misdemeanour, 8th July 1871, The Cardiff Times.

for the first six weeks, 2s. 6d. per week afterwards, and also all fees and costs.—Thomas Llewhelyn and Thos. Evans, of Tongwynlais, were charged with being drunk and riotous on May 27th ult. P.C. Rees proved the charge. Fined 1s. and costs each, or seven days' imprisonment.—William Wilkins, John Wilkins, Edmund Wilkins, and Richard Wilkins were charged with as-

This could have been worse, look away now .....9th September 1871, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

ACCIDENT TO A CHILD.—An accident of a serious character occurred at Tongwynlais on Saturday last, which very nearly proved fatal to the sufferer. Two gentlemen were driving by in a gig, and suddenly a little child named Carpenter darted after some toy thrown down by an older companion right in the track of the vehicle. The driver could not possibly pull up in time, though he tried hard to do so, and the wheel of the carriage went over the child's head. It was taken up apparently dead, and medical assistance was immediately obtained. Notwithstanding the severe injury sustained, it is confidently anticipated that the case will terminate in recovery.

That's a relief. The Ty Bach inspectors gave Ton the thumbs up! 15th September 1871, The Western Mail.

PONTYPRIDD.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—The usual meeting was held on Wednesday. There was a very full board, Mr. Josiah Lewis, Tynycymer, acted as chairman *pro tem.* Mr. A. Thomas, the inspector of nuisances, read his report on the sanitary state of the district. At Caerphilly he found that the worst of privy accommodation for a block of houses, the property of Mrs. Thomas, Glyntaff Farm, still existed, and notice had been served upon the owner. Near Llantwit Colliery he found a block of thirteen houses where there are three privies with cesspools exposed. In each of these thirteen houses there dwelt an average of eight persons. The colliery proprietors who let these houses having been summoned to provide accommodation, the company had re-opened these cesspools, making things much worse. Several persons had been attacked with diarrhœa, attributable to the foul stench arising from these places. Mr. Simpson had promised to remove the nuisance if the board would inform him at what distance from the houses the Act required the privies to be built. The board decided they were only empowered to adjudicate where there was a nuisance. Tongwynlais village the inspector found in a fair condition. At Taff's Well there was but very little to complain of. At Nantgarw the only bad case was six houses belonging to John and Thomas Jenkins, which were without any privy accommodation. Treforest he found in a deplorable state as to its sanitary condition. Tonyrefail was in a very

A dying trade. 4th November 1871, The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian.

SUDDEN DEATH AT TONGWYNLAIS.—A journeyman shoemaker, employed by Mr. John Farr, of this village, died very suddenly on the afternoon of Saturday last. He was at work as usual, and without any previous symptoms of illness fell down and expired. An inquest was held on the body on Monday, and a verdict returned in accordance with the evidence, which clearly pointed to death from natural causes.

THE INFIRMARY.—The Treasurer of the Infirmary.

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That coal looks a lot like ours! 18th June 1872, The South Wales Daily News.

18th inst., was fined 5s. and costs.

ALLEGED THEFT OF COAL AT TONGWYNLAS.—A boatman, named Robert Palmer, was brought up, charged with stealing 1½ cwt. of coal, the property of the Graig Coal Company, Merthyr. On Monday, the 27th of May last, the prisoner was met by P.C. 139, at Tongwynlas, wheeling a barrow containing coal. The police-constable interrogated him as to where he brought the coal from, and he replied that he had it from a Mrs. Stephens, close by. The constable then traced the marks of the barrow from a stable to the canal side, where a boat, containing coal, the property of the prosecutor, lay These marks he showed the prisoner, and also marks of a plank having been laid from the boat to the towing path The coal in the boat and that in the stable he compared, and found to be similar. The officer subsequently accompanied prisoner to the Mrs. Stephens referred to and that person admitted that prisoner had had coal on the previous day, but she could not state whether he had taken any that particular day. A witness as to the ownership of the coal having been called, prisoner was remanded on his own recognizances for a week, in order that Mrs. Stephens might attend.

A WARNING TO KEEPERS OF IMPROPER HOUSES.—

On 14th June 1873 the quarterly meeting of the Llandaff Diocesan Church Extension Society was reported in The Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian with some plans for Tongwynlais.

Yard, where services were now being held in a hired room. The Vicar of Whitchurch applied for a grant for a new church at the Tongwynlas extremity of his parish. The great need of such a building was acknowledged; and upon a discussion as to the extent of the accommodation proposed to be provided and the views of the incumbents of adjacent parishes, it was resolved that the £50 previously voted for a School Church at this place should be applied to the present scheme, with liberty to the Vicar to apply for an increased grant when his plans were more mature.

Then on 9th October 1874 The Western Mail provided an update.

TONGYWYNLAIS.

BAZAAR.—The bazaar held in the Town-hall, Cardiff, during the present week, in aid of the fund for the erection of a church at Tongwynlas, was brought to a successful conclusion on Thursday evening, having been continued a third day by special request. Great praise is due to the ladies who so kindly presided over the various stalls, and by whose indefatigable exertions the sum of £311 has been realised. It should be explained that the attendance on the first day was diminished to a considerable extent by the great inclemency of the weather. A large share of praise is due to the numerous kind friends who forwarded contributions of work, and to the generous purchasers, who showed their approbation of the object in view by the readiness they evinced in complying with the numerous calls made upon them. Special attention should also be directed to the refreshment stall, which was so liberally provided for, and presided over by Mrs. Thomas, of the Heath, and which resulted in a contribution of £20 to the building fund.

The following is a transcript from the 'Construction of St. Michael's'.....

11th June 1875 The Western Mail published this report....

NEW CHURCH AT TONGWYNLAIS.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE. On Thursday the foundation stone of the new church, which it is Intended to erect at Tongwynlais, was laid with befitting ceremony. For a long time past it bad been felt that the church accommodation in this increasing little village was quite inadequate to its requirements, and It was therefore resolved by several of the principal people in the neighbourhood that a great effort should be made to do away with any complaints that might, not unreasonably, exist in this respect. Active steps were accordingly taken, and soon, by means of a successful bazaar held at Cardiff, a grant from the Llandaff Diocesan Church Extension Society, and a hearty response to the appeal for assistance which the Church Committee had made, the funds were placed in such a position that further delay in commencing the building was unnecessary. So it was decided that the work should be pushed on at once, and, as it was Impossible that any substantial progress could be affected until after the foundation stone had been laid, a gathering, having for Its

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object the accomplishment of this necessary and Interesting ceremony, took place at Tongwynlais on Thursday.

The village is one of the prettiest little places in the district, and It is astonishing, therefore, that situated as It Is, only five or six miles from Cardiff, it should not have received that attention to which, on account of its charming situation and natural beauties, it is undoubtedly entitled. Nestling in a green valley, through which the Taff winds its course, on towards Cardiff and the sea, and overlooked by the superbly wooded hill, from Castell Coch, at the summit of which a glorious view of the broad expanse which stretches from Newport to Cowbridge can be obtained, the village only requires to be lighted up by a fair amount of sunshine in order that it may become one of the most pleasant places conceivable for the performance of such a ceremony as that which It on Thursday witnessed. Sunshine to a man in his counting house or his shop is generally very acceptable, but he is seldom found to Indulge either In a paroxysm of joy when It is present, or of grief when a dark cloud takes the place of the clear blue, and the heavy raindrops begin patterlng on the pavement outside his window. Sunshine, however, was to the people of Tongwynlais on Thursday a matter of very great consequence indeed, for was not the foundation stone of the new St, Michael's Church to be laid; had not a silver trowel and a silver-mounted mallet come all the way from London; were not the said trowel and mallet to play a very prominent part in the day's proceedings; and now, did not the rain appear likely to spoil everything? No doubt these were the questions passed from one villager to another as the rain, after coming down steadily all the morning, gained new strength about noon, and continued for a couple of hours to Iash the roadways of the village with such fury that In a short time the mud was ankle deep, and a walk of a dozen yards meant a wetting to the skin. About two o’clock, however, a gratifying change came over the weather, and the force of the rain suddenly ceasing, a gentle downpour succeeded. This soon ceased, and the dark clouds clearing away as If by magic, revealed the good natured face of the sun smiling down upon the place from a setting of clear sky as though he would say, "Cheer up I see I have gone quite far enough In the direction of lowering your spirits. Now, behold what I can do?" And the sun did do something too. He dried the roads that an hour before were nearly Impassable, he permitted the villagers to venture forth from their dwellings, and to cluster in groups round the shop of Mr. Jeremy, where, in the most prominent place in the window lay the case which contained the trowel and the mallet, of which previous mention has been made, and he disposed of the very grave problems whether the ceremony must not either have to be put off or rendered a failure. There was no longer any fear on that score the sun had completely answered the question, and the public answered it too, for now they began to appear in bright garments and Sunday suits, and to make their way towards the old church, from the belfrey of which came forth a sound which Indicated that the hour was at hand, or to gather round the stone so soon to be laid in its bed, over which the silver trowel would be deftly passed. The party that had made for the church formed a procession, and marched to the site, on which, in the course of the next twelve- month, will be raised a building of which Upper Whitchurch will have reason to be justly proud.

The stone, which was a handsome, well-proportioned block, was suspended by means of a crane, and close to the bed, into which, at the proper moment it would sink, was a platform elevated a few Inches above the adjoining ground. This space was reserved, and among those who were privileged to occupy it were the following:- Mrs. and the Misses Booker, Velindra; Mr., Mrs. and Mr. H. Lewis, jun., Greenmeadow; the Rev. J. J. Powell and Mrs. Powell, Tongwynlais; Mrs. Davles, the Vicarage, Whitchurch; the Rev. Mr. Parry and family, Tongwynlais; Mr. E. and Mrs. Griffiths; Rev, Horatio and Mrs. Thomas, Pentyrch; Rev. E. Jenkins, Whitchurch; Rev. G. W. Jones, St. Catharine's, Pontypridd; Mr. Haddock, Whitchurch; Rev. G. B. Jones, Tenby and Mr. Mardge, choirmaster. The crowd, which, by the time the platform was filled, was a very numerous one, having gathered round, the Rev. J. J. Powell, the curate in charge of Tongwynlais, arrayed in his surplice, stepped to the

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front, and commenced reading the order of service suitable for such an occasion. He spoke calmly and distinctly, and every sentence that he uttered could be heard without difficulty by all present. The responses were heartily joined in, and the singing of the choir reflected much credit upon Mr. Mardge, their instructor. Their rendering of the hymn commencing—

The lord of Hosts, whose glory tills
The bounds of the eternal hills,

was especially good. After that portion of the services commencing “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious” had been gone through, a bottle was placed upon the mortar In such a position that it would fit Into a cavity in the foundation stone which hung immediately overhead. In this bottle were several coins of the present year's date, and a parchment, on which were engrossed the following words:-

“In the faith of Jesus Christ this foundation stone is placed by Mabel Booker (eldest daughter of Thomas William Booker (of Velindra), and Henry Levis, of Green Meadow, and dedicated to St Michael, in the name of God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Ghost, June 10th, 1875,"

Miss BOOKER then touched the mortar with the trowel, and a signal being given, the stone was lowered into its bed. Mr. Lewis, jun., Greenmeadow, next struck the stone with the mallet, and the ceremony was complete.

The trowel was of solid silver, exquisitely designed, with an ivory handle, and on the face of it as well as on the mallet, which was of boxwood, with a circular silver plate inserted in the head was the following inscription (the blank here left being filled with the name of Miss. Booker or Mr. Lewis):- Presented to ----, on the laying down of the Foundation Stone. St. Michael’s Church, Tongwynlais, Whitchurch."

The trowel case was of brown morocco, inlaid with gilt and lined with violet satin and velvet. The trowel and mallet having been handed about on the platform for inspection, were presented to Miss Booker and Mr. Lewis by the Rev. J. J. Powell. After the ceremony had been brought to a conclusion, the Rev.. Horatio Thomas made a few remarks. In the course of which be referred to the sermon by Dean Swift from the text. “He that glveth unto the poor lendeth to the Lord." He knew nowhere, he said, that was so much in want of a place of worship In connection with the Established Church as that place, which seemed to have been overlooked for a number of years, until certain kindly disposed people took the matter in hand. He did not know what the result might be, but they might rest assured that it would not be an appeal in vain. The church was to built almost exclusively for the good of the inhabitants, of the place, who were, as they knew, not of the wealthy classes. He could only say that he hoped the foundation stone which had been laid that day would be the means of glorifylng God, and of promoting the eternal spiritual welfare of the neighbourhood. He thought they could not do better than offer their sincere thanks to those who had taken such a warm Interest In the building. The reverend gentleman having concluded his observations, the assembly dispersed. A luncheon was afterwards served to the clergy and others by Mr. Whitney, of the Lewis's Arms Hotel, Tongwynlais.

The following details of the contemplated new church may be of interest:- It will be built from. the plans of Mr John Prichard, diocesan architect, and the work will be carried out by Mr. Franklin, contractor, of Splottlands Cardiff, who has had great experience in the building of ecclesiastic structures. The church will be In the early English style, and will consist of a nave, a chancel, a south porch, and a vestry. The belfry will be at the west end, and tyhere will be large east and west windows. The walling will be of natural stone, quarried on the Greenmeadow estate, given by Mr. Lewis, and the dressings will be of box ground stone. The roof Is to be open bordered work, covered with small green Penmoyle tiles, and the aisles andI chancel will be floored with tiles from the works of Messrs. Godwin and Co., of Lugwardine, near Hereford. The pulpit, stalls, pews, &c„ will be of pitched pine and the building is designed to comfortably seat about 300 persons, The sand used in the building

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will be given by Mr. Booker. The site, which is central, Is the very best that could he selected and was chosen by Mrs. Lewis. The ground will not be all built upon, but there will be a very pleasant approach, which, when planted with grass and railed in, will have from the road an exceedingly good effect. The total cost will be about £2000 of which upwards of £1300 has been already subscribed. We may state In conclusion that Mr. T. W. Booker was absent through illness, and Mr. Prichard, the architect, was not present, having an important engagement in England.

One of Ton's thriving, flourishing, clubs would you believe? 16th June 1875, The Western Mail.

(Not quite what it seems, but a society to help the bereaved).

TONGWYNLAIS.

DEATH CLUB.—The usual annual meeting in connection with the Cardiff Castle Death Club took place on Monday night. The chair was occupied by Brother Richard Davis, who delivered a lengthy address on the duties of the officials and members towards the society. He pointed out the benefit that such an institution was to them, and spoke of the rapidly increasing funds of the society during the last twelve months. He said that although the club had only been established three years, they had now 106 members. During the last year twenty-five members had joined and only two deaths had occurred. The toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Cardiff Castle Death Club," was responded to by Mr. William Williams, secretary, who also made a very satisfactory statement as to the receipts and expenditure for the year. He said if they continued increasing as they had done of late they would become one of the most flourishing clubs in the district. Mr. Azariah Thomas then addressed the meeting. An agreeable evening was spent. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

More sanitation issues just to give you a 'flavour' for conditions on the roads. 17th July 1875, The Cardiff Times.

order was issued for the Clerk to write to Mr Bishop, calling his attention to the circumstance, and requiring the nuisances complained of to be remedied. A nuisance at Rhywpena farm, near Pentyrch, required abatement at once, owing to the offensive smell arising from it. An order was made to abate it once. The parish of Tongwynlais required some system of drainage for surface purposes, owing to the nuisances arising from the inhabitants throwing the slops into the roadway, and also the decayed refuse matter. From the position of the village it was a very difficult place to drain, and the Clerk was directed to obtain plans for the purpose.

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the Local Government Board stating that Mr Harrison,

Drainage and sanitation was a major issue, but the norm for many places. 14th December 1876, The South Wales Daily News.

premises.

DRAINAGE OF TONGWYNLAIS.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr Williams, reported that a large number of persons residing at Pentyrch were anxious to have the new water supply laid on to their houses. He had received, during the past month, applications from the occupiers of 58 houses, out of a total of 150, for the water supply to be laid on. Tongwynlais, a district of Whitchurch, contained 87 dwellings, 20 of them being drained into cesspools; the remaining 67 had no drainage whatever, and nuisances arose in consequence. An efficient system of drainage was much required, but as the houses were scattered such system would be expensive. He laid before them plans for the drainage of Morgan's Town, Radyr, the system proposed being a series of earthen pipes leading to a sewer, which was to be connected with a tank in a field 300 yards from the village; the overflow would be utilised by irrigation.

The Surveyor, in reply to questions from the Chairman, said that the drainage of Tongwynlais would cost about £800 or £1,000. As this was only a part of the parish of Whitchurch, quite distinct from the remainder of the parish, the Chairman thought that the better plan would be to apply to the Local Government Board to form here a separate drainage district, so that the cost of the construction of the drainage would only fall on the owners of property in that immediate locality. It would be unfair to tax the owners of property not receiving any benefit from the drainage with its cost.

The Surveyor was requested to prepare plans and estimates by the next meeting. He gave as an estimate the cost of the drainage of Morgan's Town, Radyr, at £92.

LLANDAFF WATER SUPPLY.

Mr Barstow, the surveyor for the south district, re-

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The church finally opens its doors. 23rd February 1877, The South Wales Daily News.

OPENING OF A NEW CHURCH AT TONGWYNLAIS.

Yesterday a new church was opened at Tongwynlais, in the parish of Whitchurch, services being held in the edifice in the forenoon, afternoon, and evening. The district is a most populous mining one, having over 2,000 inhabitants, almost entirely belonging to the working classes. As the spiritual wants of the neighbourhood increased with the growth of the district, the plan was conceived by some Church friends of erecting what is now called "St. Michael's Church," on a site given by Mr Henry Lewis, of Greenmeadow, and conveniently situated about five minutes' walk from the Walnut Tree Bridge station. The church has been built at an estimated cost of £2,000, which sum has been collected all but about £400, the promoters of the church hoping soon to make up the balance through the good offices of the benevolent. The new place of worship is a plain but substantial looking building of stone from a local quarry, and will accommodate about 250 worshippers. The builder was Mr Thos. Williams, of Canton, and the architect Mr Pritchard, of Llandaff. At the forenoon service yesterday there was a full congregation, the sermon being preached by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Llandaff. There was a

Why not form the 'Ton Gas Company'? 27th March 1877, The South Wales Daily News.

TAFF'S WELL.

GAS AND WATERWORKS COMPANY. — An adjourned meeting was held at the Castle Inn, Taff's Well, on Thursday night, and was numerously attended by nearly all the tradesmen of Tongwynlais and Taff's Well. The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming a company for supplying Taff's Well, Tongwynlais, and the surrounding neighbourhood with gas. Mr Jeremy, draper, was in the chair. It was unanimously agreed that a solicitor, whose name was mentioned, be requested to attend the next meeting, which will be held on Thursday next at the same place, for the purpose of arranging preliminaries and drawing out prospectuses.

By March 1879, the economy took a turn for the worst and things began to look a lot different at the local iron and tin plate works. Part of the reason here was the improvements and modernisation that had taken place with overseas competitors, regions which were once lucrative export markets were now self sufficient leading to loss of custom and a decline in local manufacturing. After the civil war America was getting back on its feet, improving its own industrial interests. On 8th March 1879 The Cardiff Times published an article on the difficulties faced by "men employed by Messrs. Booker and Company at Melingriffith and Pentyrch". At this time the workers were faced with a 10% reduction in wages creating a feeling of industrial unrest. These works included the forge, the colliery (Lan) and the iron ore mines. In essence the fear was in 'how long the reduction would last and if the reduction was accepted whether the work would be full time or not'. Evidently liquidators had been called into the works by this time and the rumour was that they had no interest in keeping the works open, particularly to carry on at a loss. A deputation of 40 men was sent to discuss these issues with Booker who denied that shutting the works was a preferred choice, but with economic and trade uncertainty he could not make any promises about the future and was unable to provide any answers as to the period of reduced wages or of full time working. It was certain however that any notion of a strike, or withdrawal of labour, would certainly result in all orders being lost and the end of the works.

These men were stuck 'between a rock and a hard place', some arguing that half a loaf is better than no loaf at all. The situation for them and their families was desperate. A miner from the iron mine, who mentioned that he had been working there for the last 40 years, said the miners, as a body, were agreeable to take the reduction. A workman from the forge recommended that of two evils they should choose the least and work at low wages instead of starving. If there were two or three men who could live for five or six months without

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working, there were dozens, on the other hand who could not do so. A ‘puddler’, from Pentyrch, said that “at present what he earned was not enough, and if the reduction was made, he would not be able to live”, another saying that “fresh meat had been out of the question for a long while back they had had to live on four penny bacon and a bit of bread, and he did not know what would be the result were the wage rate to be further reduced. Even if idle and starving, it was better, in his view, to starve idle than starve working”. Despite the difficulties faced, most likened their commitment and devotion to Booker as being the same as a French soldier to Bonaparte.

(Right) 26th April 1879 The Cardiff Times announced tha marriage of Henry Lewis.

MARRIAGE OF CAPTAIN LEWIS, OF GREENMEADOW.

DINNER TO THE TENANTS.

The marriage of Miss Durham, only daughter Mr P. F. Durham, justice of the peace for the Cheltenham division of Gloucestershire, with Mr Henry Lewis, eldest of Mr Henry Lewis, of Greenmeadow, Tongwynlais, and Plas Newydd, Weston-super-Mare, was solemnised at All Saints' Church, Cheltenham, on Tuesday, the church being crowded with friends and well-wishers of the bride. Carriages with pairs and outriders, handsomely decorated with flowers, brought the bridal party from the residence of the bride's parents, Royal-crescent, to the church, where service commenced about half-past eleven o'clock. The bride was dressed in a Princess robe of white satin and damascene silk, trimmed with lace; train ornamented with bouquet and orange flowers, a wreath of the same with a handsome lace veil fastened

(Below) Whatever battles had raged at Castell Coch in its early history it claimed another victim when it was rebuilt, no Health and Safety and no Factories Act back then, overloaded scaffold planks gave way. 19th July 1879, The Cardiff Times.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT CASTLE COCH.

On Thursday afternoon Mr Deputy-Coroner Grover opened an adjourned inquest at the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, touching the death of George Maidment, 33 years of age, who was killed on the 30th June, through falling from a scaffold at Castle Coch. Maidment leaves a widow and five children. The evidence was as follows :—

William Blight, who was the first witness called, said : I am a mason at Taff's Well, and am in the employ of Mr A. Escourt, carrying out the new works at Castle Coch. I knew George Maidment, who was a labourer at the same works. On Monday morning, the 30th June, I and another mason—David Jenkins—were working at the top of the scaffolding at Castle Coch. We were placing the stone, and Maidment was wheel-

(Right) 16th August 1879, The Weekly Mail. The industrial nightmare deteriorated and the prospects for local communities looked grim as this (partial) cutting shows.

THE STOPPAGE OF PENTYRCH AND MELINGRIFFITH WORKS.

AN HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

(By Morien.)

There is deep sorrow in the cottages of Pentyrch, Taff's Well, and Tongwynlais, at the prospect of the complete stoppage of the Pentyrch Ironworks and Collieries, and the Melingriffith Mills and Tinworks. And well it might be, for it means the absolute putting an end, at least for a time, of the sources from which the inhabitants derive the wherewith to maintain themselves and their families. The annihilation of the trade of a district like the above, named is peculiarly distressing to contemplate, for it means the almost complete exodus of a class of workmen and their families who have grown old in the service of the owners of the works. Here their parents dwelt before them. Here, nestling on the sides of the hills, are the cottages in which they were born, erected by their sires, out of their hard-earned earnings in the blazing forges and in the dark galleries of the mines ; and here their fathers sleep, under many a mouldering heap, in the neighbouring churches and chapels, and where they themselves had hoped to sleep the long sleep in the shadow of the majestic mountains, which, in the days of childhood, and before care began, they climbed with sportive glee, bringing to one's mind Logan's exquisite lines to the "Cuckoo."

The schoolboy, wandering through the wood
To pull the primrose gay,
Starts, thy curious voice to hear,
And imitates thy lay.

It can be safely said that almost every one residing in this neighbourhood was born in the place, and the tenacity with which the inhabitants stick up for each other gave rise to the well known proverb "Boed rhwyngoch gwyr Pentyrch" (settle it among yourselves, ye Pentyrch people). Throughout Glamorganshire, and probably beyond it, when members of the same family quarrel, an outsider invited to interfere is very apt to say "Boed rhwngoch, gwyr Pentyrch!" referring to their close connection and

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By November things had escalated. Difficult and disturbing times, poverty and destitution, communities pulling together to help one and other. 1st November 1879, The South Wales Daily News.

THE DISTRESS AT PENTYRCH.

WORKMEN'S MEETING AT TONGWYNLAIS.

At a gathering of the representatives of men employed at the Pentyrch and Melingriffith Works, at the Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlais, on Thursday evening, it was agreed to call together the working-men on the following evening, in order that consideration might be given to the distress existing in the district, in consequence of the stoppage of the works. Nine weeks ago the works were closed, and since that time many of the workmen, connected in some cases with families, have departed from the district, leaving their families at home, to seek for work in fresh pastures; but, in the majority of cases, have returned dispirited with non-success. All this time the people of the district have been sinking into poverty, and to alleviate what has, in some cases, become positive distress, it was considered urgently necessary to call a meeting—a meeting which, one of the workmen assured us, ought to have been called long ago. At a public meeting on Thursday, at 10.30, it was resolved "That the home committee seek the transfer to the general relief fund of any sums of money that have been sent to individuals for distribution." It was also decided that the treasurer and secretary be requested to undertake the work of canvassing the district for subscriptions from Whitchurch to the upper part of Taff's Well. It was further agreed that the committee be requested to meet on the same day, at six o'clock, to consider matters, and that a public

(Below) To emphasise the enormity of the problem a letter, written by the Archdeacon of Llandaff, published in The South Wales Daily News on 3rd November 1879.

DESTITUTION AT TONGWYNLAIS AND THE DISTRICT.

LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON GRIFFITHS.

To the Editor of the SOUTH WALES DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—You kindly reported, at considerable length, in your columns of to-day, the proceedings of a largely attended meeting, convened to consider the best means of alleviating the distress said to exist in the districts of Tongwynlais, Whitchurch, Pentyrch, and Taffs Well.

Whatever doubts may have existed as to the reality of this distress, none now remain.

May I ask for a small space of your paper to let the public know the result of a second visit I have this afternoon paid these districts, and the decisions arrived at by a committee of the leading inhabitants, held at Tongwynlas, over which I was asked to preside? One result is, a conviction that there is a large amount of destitution prevailing in the homes of many scores of families.

A hurried report was to-day presented by the gentlemen appointed last night to make enquiries, which contained some very painful narratives of the condition of houses visited by them.

Fifty cases were reported as requiring *immediate* relief. In as many houses there was no food, or coal, or candles.

As there were no means at hand, I made myself responsible for the maintenance of these fifty families, until something could be done for them on Monday.

I mention this to show the urgency of the case.

When Monday comes, and another fifty families are added to the present list of sufferers, "what can be done?"

Will you allow me to put the question to the well-to-do neighbours of these suffering ones, and to the public generally?

Will you allow me to put the question to the well-to-do neighbours of these suffering ones, and to the public generally?

I am sure the answer from many will be: "We will assist you in relieving these poor people who are suffering from no fault of their own, or from any action such as 'strikes,' but are the victims of circumstances over which they have no control."

It will be necessary to issue a formal appeal, and to take the steps usually resorted to when such calamities visit a locality, unless the cause of the calamity will be removed by the now closed works.

Thousands of miles have been travelled during the last nine weeks by hundreds of those men thrown out of employment, but in vain have they sought means of supporting their families. A carefully-selected committee, appointed by the men themselves at last night's meeting, will sit daily to transact the business for which they were appointed, and to administer the relief which will be entrusted to them. Reports will be published, containing a list of subscribers, and any donations that may be forwarded in the shape of food or clothes. The children are in great want of the latter. I saw some scores of unemployed men to-day, whose countenances and general appearance shewed unmistakable want and suffering. What I pray for is immediate help to meet the most urgent cases. A treasurer will be appointed, but in the meantime I shall be glad to receive any sums that may be sent me, which will be separately acknowledged, and, if required, will appear in the printed list.—I am, &c.,

JOHN GRIFFITHS,
Archdeacon of Llandaff.

The Canonry, Llandaff, Cardiff, Nov. 1st, 1879.

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The Sunday Drinking Laws. 28th September 1880, The South Wales Daily News.

LLANDAFF.

PETTY-SESSIONS.—At the Llandaff petty-sessions, on Monday—before Messrs J. Prichard and Charles Thompson—Edward Morgan, of the Bute Arms, Tongwynlais, was fined 40s and costs, for supplying beer during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 19th instant.—Stephen Morton, of the Railway Inn, Taff's Well, was also charged with a like offence, on the same day, but the case was dismissed.—There were 13 school board prosecutions, in four of which the defendants were fined 2s 6d for non-compliance with an order to send children to a certified school, and the remainder were ordered to send them.

Beer house offence, Bute Arms, 2nd October 1880, The Weekly Mail.

PUBLICANS PROSECUTED AT LLANDAFF.

A QUESTIONABLE PROCEEDING.

At the Llandaff petty sessions, on Monday (before Mr J. Prichard and Mr Charles Thompson), Edward Morgan, of the Bute Arms, Tongwynlais, was charged with supplying beer during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 19th of September. Mr Ivor Vachell appeared for the defence. Police constable Thomas Gambling said that at about eight a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19, he, in accordance with orders, and accompanied by Police constable Abrahams, proceeded to Tongwynlais. They were standing near the Old Ton public house, when a person named Forster came up to them and asked them if they were counting their money, said he could do a drink, and took them to the Bute Arms. Forster, after a little conversation with the landlord's son, took them to the back of the house, where they were supplied with beer. Forster called for the beer, and Abrahams paid for it. They then went on to the Railway

The Old Ton, selling strong water. 6th November 1880, The Weekly Mail.

LLANDAFF.

MONDAY.—(Before Messrs. Griffith Phillips, J. Prichard, and Graham Dornford.)—*Cruelty to Animals.*—Mary Ann Briggs, Bute-terrace, Cardiff, was fined 5s. and costs for working a horse in an unfit state at Taff's Well, on the 18th of October. The case was proved by Inspector Mitchell, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. *Adulteration.*—John Davies, landlord of the Old Ton, Tongwynlais, was charged with adulterating whisky. A sample which had been tested proved to be 70 degrees under proof. On defendant being asked if he tampered with it after he received it from the merchant, he replied that he only put three quarts of water with one of whisky, but he was not aware that it was illegal. He thought it would do his country customers more good than the raw material, and they didn't know the difference. He was fined £1 and costs.—*Breach of the Licensing Laws.*—William Thomas, landlord of the Caerau

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20th August 1881, The Cardiff Times. Times were hard, theft, did he or didn't he?

LLANDAFF.

ALLEGED THEFT FROM A PUBLIC-HOUSE.—At the petty-sessions on Monday—before Dr. Paine and Mr Jones (Fairwater)—Charles Rowlands was charged with stealing an overcoat, value 40s, the property of Thomas Poole, landlord of the Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais. The evidence of the prosecutor, given at a previous hearing, was read over, which showed that defendant was drinking at the Hauliers' Arms, and the coat was missed after he left. Upon arriving at the house of prisoner to search for the article it was thrown out of one of the windows and hid in a hole in the wall. P.C. Cadd, who apprehended the prisoner, said at that time defendant denied all knowledge of the coat, and said he had not seen one. He afterwards said he had taken it in mistake. The defence was that prisoner was drinking at the Hauliers' Arms with a companion named Matthews, who had given him his overcoat to go up to another house to fetch an accordion through the rain. He afterwards took care of the coat for Matthews, but Matthews, on leaving, took his coat with him, and prisoner, not being aware of this fact and being drunk, took the coat belonging to the landlord. Prisoner called Matthews as a witness to the truth of his statement. The Bench decided to give prisoner the benefit of the doubt, and dismissed him.

THEFT BY A NEIGHBOUR.—Maria Edwards was

8th October 1881, The South Wales Daily News. The Bute Arms 'To Let' and we find its approximate location.

To Let.--Business Premises, &c.

TO be LET, the BUTE ARMS, Tongwynlais, near Pentyrch Iron Works. Possession to be had at once.—Apply P. Williams, Albion Brewery, Bute-street, Cardiff. 526

Hard labour for sleeping on the job, if he had a job and it's all her fault! 29th October 1881, The Pontypridd Chronicle.

the police.

SLEEPING IN THE WORKS.—James Brown was brought up in custody, charged with sleeping in the Pentyrch Works, on Wednesday night. P.C. Davies saw the defendant sleeping in the above works, and the workmen made complaints that he was there often, and they were afraid of him. Defendant was sent to goal for 15 days hard labour. The defendant said that once he had been keeping a farm at Tongwynlas, and was worth no less than £10,000. He married a young lady from Wells, and she went away from him with another man. He then gave himself up to drink. He had been in the Pontypridd Workhouse, but the bitterness of his situation caused him to leave that place again. After leaving the court defendant told those around him that he had come to all his misfortunes through marrying the "wrong woman."

Salem due for a refurb. 9th July 1883, The South Wales Daily News.

Tenders and Contracts.

TO BUILDERS.

PLANS and SPECIFICATIONS for ENLARGING and REFITTING SALEM BAPTIST CHAPEL, TONGWYNLAIS, may be inspected from the 11th to the 17th instant, at the house of the Rev. J. Thomas, Tongwynlais, to whom Tenders are to be sent not later than the 21st. 63915

MERTHYR TYDFIL UNION.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

18th November 1884, The South Wales Daily News. More pub trouble.

missed the girl with a caution.

A TON PUBLICAN IN TROUBLE.—John Meredith was charged with allowing intoxicating drink to be consumed on licensed premises on the 14th inst. during prohibited hours.—Police-Constable Cadd said that on the date in question he visited the defendant's house, the Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais, at eleven o'clock at night. There were two men in the house drinking. Asked defendant's wife why she allowed them to be there at that time, when she replied that she asked them to fetch some bread, for which she gave them the beer. Defendant's wife was then sworn, and made the same statement as she had previously made to the police-constable.—George Dymond and John Thomas, the two men who were found on the premises, were charged with being on licensed premises during probited hours.—The bench said there was a doubt in the cases, and they should, therefore, dismiss them.

THEFT OF SWEDES.—William John, Canton, was charged with stealing 36lbs of swedes on the

(Below) 25th November 1884, The South Wales Daily News.

SUNDAY DRINKING AT TONGWYNLAIS.

At the Llandaff Petty-sessions on Monday—before Messrs C. Thompson and J. Watson—David Williams, landlord of the Cardiff Castle, Tongwynlais, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of intoxicants on Sunday, the 9th inst. On the day named P.C. Ben Davies, accompanied by P.C.'s William Canton and Mark Maddocks, watched defendant's premises from the vantage point of an empty house on the opposite side of the road. At about 8.20 a.m. a man was observed to rap at the door of the inn. There were four or five men about at the time, and the landlord permitted them to enter one by one, so arranging matters that only a single person should be within the house at a time. After watching for awhile the police made a rush, and caught in the bar a man named William Morgan in the act of drinking a pint of beer. A sovereign was lying on the counter, and the landlord was counting out change. On being accused of selling the liquor he replied, "Oh, indeed, I haven't. It was left over." The police had had complaints concerning the conduct of defendant's house. Mr Cousins, solicitor, for the defence, called his client, who said that on the night preceding the morning when the alleged offence was committed there had been a club dinner at his house, and a number of drinking vessels were left on the table, some of which contained a little beer. Witness was a newspaper agent, and people were in the habit of calling for papers on Sunday. The man Morgan came for change of a sovereign. Although no beer was sold to him, he might have caught hold of one of the measures on the table and drunk from it. Five other men whom the police saw enter the house did not go further than the passage. Several of them purchased newspapers, and one tobacco.

A charge against William Morgan, of being on licensed premises at illegal hours, was next gone into. The police repeated their statement, and defendant flatly contradicted them, exciting considerable merriment in court by his cross-examination of the constables.

The other five men, Thomas Williams, Edward Thomas, Alfred Cox, Thomas Stevens, and William Jenkins were then charged. The evidence was the same as in the last case. Each denied that they were supplied with liquor, and there being no proof of sale, the cases against them were dismissed. The bench retired to consider the charges against the landlord and the man Morgan, and fined the former £5 and costs (the licence not to be endorsed), and Morgan 10s and costs.

William Whitney, landlord of the Lewis's Arms, Tongwynlais, appeared to answer a charge of a similar nature to that prefered against the landlord of the Cardiff Castle. Mr Cousins again defended. Whilst engaged in watching the latter house, the police, shortly after 8 o'clock a.m., saw five men and a woman enter the Lewis's Arms. The officers subsequently called on the defendant, who said that if any liquor had been sold he knew nothing of it as he was upstairs. The servant girl, however, admitted in her master's presence that she had supplied a man named Sanders and another named James Williams, alias "Jemmy Portwine," with some whiskey. Annie Stephens, the servant, was called, and stated that she gave the whiskey to Sanders, who was caretaker of the church (the key of which was kept at her master's house), because he appeared to be ill; and the man Williams she did not know was a resident of the village. No other men were supplied. Mr Cousins placed defendant in the witness-box, and he corroborated as to his not being present when the two men were served. The bench, first cautioning defendant, dismissed the case.

The men whom the police saw go into the house were charged with being illegally on licensed premises, but were all dismissed with the exception of James Williams, who was fined 5s and costs.

8th August 1885, The Weekly Mail and the members of The Loyal 'Ivor' Castle Lodge held their 'feast'.

TONGWYNLAIS.

ODDFELLOWSHIP.—On Saturday the Loyal Ivor Castle Lodge of Oddfellows held their annual feast at the Cardiff Castle Hotel, Tongwynlais. Headed by a brass band they visited the neighbouring gentry, by whom they were heartily welcomed. On their return Host and Hostess Williams made them happy with a first-class spread in their usual good style. Over 70 sat down to dinner. In the evening the chair was taken by Mr. Cooper (manager, Pentyrch Works), and the vice-chair by Mr. Gwilym Brechiniog, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

This one's a bit gruesome so look away now....5th December 1885, The Weekly Mail

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE TAFF VALE RAILWAY.

About 2.15 on Sunday morning the body of Daniel Matthews, of the Square, Tongwynlais, was found lying across the metals, near the Taff Vale Station, in a frightfully mutilated condition. It is supposed that the deceased, whilst in a state of intoxication, had wandered along the line and had been knocked down by a passing train. The body was conveyed to the deadhouse by Police-Constable Snow. An inquest will be held to-day (Monday).

This is incredible, you wouldn't have believed it if you hadn't seen this. Talk about being in 'the wrong place at the wrong time'. 18th November 1886, The South Wales Echo.

Shocking Death.

Yesterday, as a young man named Richard Lewis was proceeding along the highway at Tongwynlais, a bull which was being driven by a man to the slaughter-house made a most determined attack upon him. The ferocious animal tossed the poor fellow over its head, and then butted him so severely in the stomach that he died from the effects of the injuries he sustained. An inquest will be held. Universal sympathy is felt for the deceased, who was only 21 years of age. He was the younger son of Mr John Lewis, of The Laurels, Tongwynlais.

The hunt was still a 'thing'. 14th January, 1887, The South Wales Daily News.

Saturday, Jan. 22 ....The Kennels 10.45

THE PENTYRCH HOUNDS.

Friday, Jan. 14 .....Tongwynlais.....10.0
Tuesday, Jan. 18 ....The Ynis Bridge.....10.0
Friday, Jan. 21.....Tongwynlais 10.0

Rowdyism in Ton, a 'man servant' getting his 'master' into trouble. 17th May 1887, The Western Mail.

LLANDAFF.

(Before Mr. G. W. Dornford and General Watson.)

Rowdyism at Tongwynlais.—William Griffiths, butcher, Tongwynlais, and his man servant, were charged with being, on the evening of the 1st of May, drunk and disorderly at Tongwynlais. Police-Constable Gill proved the case. The Bench stated that the county had stationed a constable at Tongwynlais for the purpose of checking the rowdyism which was constantly taking place there, and they would therefore fine the defendants 5s. and costs each.

Transfer of Licences.—The following transfer of licences were granted:—The Lewis's Arms, Tongwynlais, from Mrs. Whitney to Wm. Cooper; the Birch Grove Inn, The Heath, Whitchurch, from John Griffiths to Lewis Tucker, and that of the Plough Inn, Whitchurch, from Margaret Ward to George Werritt.

Queen Victoria's jubilee 11th June 1887, The Weekly Mail.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

Beacon Fires at Tongwynlais.

It has been decided to erect a bonfire on the top of the Garth Mountain on the 21st of this month in order to celebrate her Majesty's Jubilee. Contributions or material in aid of this object will be received by Mr. Henry Lewis, Greenmeadow, or Mr. William Llewelyn, Castle Coch Farm, Tongwynlais.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

More mid summer Sunday trading issues. 24th July 1888, The Western Mail.

LLANDAFF.

(Before Mr. C. THOMPSON, Colonel WOODS, and Mr. H. LEWIS.)

SUNDAY DRINKING AT TONGWYNLAIS. — John Herbert, landlord of the Castle Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, was fined 40s. and costs for keeping his licensed premises open for the sale of beer on Sunday, the 15th of July. Police-constable Nott (257) proved the case. Robert Court, Hopkin Thomas, David Thomas, Philip Llewelyn, and Thomas Harris, labourers, of Taff's Well, were each fined 5s. and costs for being upon the licensed premises of the Castle Coch Inn, drinking upon the Sunday in question.

PENARTH.

In this one we are given the names of some of the old licensees of the Ton pubs, 3rd December 1888, The South Wales Echo.

TRANSFER OF PUBLIC-HOUSE LICENSES AT LLANDFF.

At the Llandaff police-court this morning—before Colonel Woods and Mr J. Gunn—quite a batch of applications were received for transfer of public-house licenses. The license of the Castle Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, was transferred from John Herbert to Thomas Summers; the Ton, Tongwynlais, from John Davies to David Jones; Cardiff Castle, Tongwynlais, from David Williams to Francis Soul; the Maltsters' Arms from David James to Mary James; the Pine Apple, Llandaff, was also temporarily transferred from George Collins to Joseph Baily.

Here's one where a man was charged, not for drinking on Sunday, but, for trying to get one. 7th October 1889, The South Wales Echo.

SEEKING "A DRINK."—William Johnston, Tongwynlais, was charged with being unlawfully on licensed premises, the Castle Coch public-house, on the 29th September. Prisoner was observed coming from the house, and when asked what he had been doing, he said "he had been talking to a little boy."—The landlord was called and said prisoner came to the back door and, opening it, asked if there was any chance of a drink. He refused to serve him, reminding him it was Sunday.—Prisoner now admitted the charge, and was ordered to pay the costs of the case.

The Ton Flour Mills theft. 31st July 1890, The South Wales Daily News

TONGWYNLAIS.

DARING ROBBERY.—On Wednesday morning, when the miller of the Tongwynlais Flour Mills (situated on the banks of the Glamorganshire Canal) went to his work, he discovered that several sacks of barley meal had been stolen.

One Ton pub up for sale by auction, the beginning of the end of the road perhaps? 12th October 1891, The South Wales Daily News

valuable

PUBLIC-HOUSES :—

LOT 1.—All that valuable FULL-LICENSED PUBLIC-HOUSE, known as Castell Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, held on a lease for 99 years from 30th July, 1886, at the yearly ground rent of £10. The premises are now in the occupation of Mr Clarke.

LOT 2.—All that valuable DOUBLE-LICENSED

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

The prospect of piped water to the villages. 17th October 1891, The Western Mail.

CARDIFF WATERWORKS COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the waterworks committee of the Cardiff Corporation was held on Friday, when there were present—Alderman David Jones (chairman), the deputy-mayor (Alderman Lewis), Councillors Herne, Mildon, and Symonds. A letter from Mr. E. Spickett, clerk to the Pontypridd Rural Sanitary Authority, inquiring whether the corporation would supply water from their mains to the villages of Tongwynlas, Taff's Well, and Nantgarw, was read. No decision was arrived at, and the clerk was directed to reply to Mr. Spickett to the effect that the subject would receive attention later on.

The Hauliers up for grabs, 16th December 1891, The South Wales Daily News.

Public Houses.

TO Let, Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais.—Apply C. Crandon, 4, Chapel-street, Treorky, or on Premises after 5 on Saturday. 672

Ton was a favoured venue for the hunt. 22nd January 1892, The South Wales Daily News.

LLANHARRAN AND YSTRAD HOUNDS
WILL MEET
Tuesday, Jan. 26th .....Tongwynlas
Thursday, Jan. 29th .....Bryncethin
At 10.30 a.m.

More diluted spirits. 21st March 1892, The Evening Express

TONGWYNLAIS PUBLICAN FINED.

At Llandaff Police-court this morning (before Colonel Page and Colonel Woods) William Hughes, landlord of the Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlais, was fined £5 and costs—£7 0s. 6d. in all—for selling adulterated spirits. Three gills of whisky and a similar quantity of gin, purchased at defendant's house on the 23rd ult., was found on analysis to be adulterated to the extent of 30½deg. and 49deg.

Community of the combined churches. 11th June 1892, The Cardiff Times

TONGWYNLAIS.

The annual tea meeting in connection with the several Sunday-schools of the village took place on Monday. Prior to taking tea the scholars of the different schools paraded through the place, headed by the Tongwynlais Brass Band. After tea the scholars adjourned to a field kindly lent for the occasion by Mr Wm. Llewellyn, Castle Coch Farm, where several games were indulged in. In the evening an entertainment was held by the combined schools at Ainon Welsh Baptist Chapel, presided over by Mr John Howells. During the evening a presentation of an address and purse of gold was made by the Nonconformists of Tongwynlais and neighbourhood to P.C. Wm. Nott on the occasion of his leaving the neighbourhood. Another presentation was made to him by the members of St. Michael's Church, of an inkstand and a purse of gold. The recipient made an appropriate speech, thanking the several donors for their kindness.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

25th August 1892, The South Wales Daily News. The law clamping down.

LICENSING SESSIONS.

LLANDAFF.

Special licensing sessions were held at the police-court, Llandaff, on Wednesday morning. Altogether there were 52 applications, 51 persons applying for licenses for the sale of beer, and one grocer for a wine license. With but two exceptions, the whole of the licences were granted, but Superintendent Wake, on behalf of the police, objected to the granting of licences to Charles Brandon, of the Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais, and a man named Harding, of the Pine Apple Inn, Whitchurch, on the ground of previous convictions. The further consideration of the objections was adjourned. The magistrates present were Mr Jonas Watson and Mr Evan Lewis.

A tactical manoeuvre, but the reputation is noted. 27th September 1892, The South Wales Daily News.

be granted.

A TONGWYNLAIS LICENCE.

Mr David Lewis, of Cardiff, applied on behalf of Edward Rees for a transfer of the licence of the Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais, from the last landlord. This was granted, but the Bench cautioned applicant against the conduct of the house, seeing that it had a bad name for Sunday drinking.

Just months earlier (29th July 1892) The South Wales Star reported on 'Charges Against Tongwynlais Publicans' dedicating a substantial column on various misdemeanours. It listed Charles Crandon, Hauliers Arms, charged with selling beer to non bona fide travellers on a Sunday. Evidently four men were drinking beer from a jug and all were found to live within the 3 mile limit, but claimed that the distance over the 'public footway' was more than 3 miles. The case was adjourned in order for checks to be made. He was also summoned for 'allowing drunkenness', a man having been found lying in the kitchen 'drunk'. It earned the licensee a £5 fine + costs or a month imprisonment in default of payment. He wasn't alone, William Humphrey Lewis, landlord of the Old Ton was charged with allowing beer to be consumed during prohibited hours. Men and women were found drinking and dancing after 11 at night. The case was dismissed due to the people arguing that it was a private party and the landlady had asked if there was any objection to it 3 weeks prior.

A Ton 'gentleman' donates four swans to a Cardiff park. Presumably they were bred, or, farmed in Tongwynlais which just seems a little strange. 19th October 1892, The South Wales Daily News.

CARDIFF.

THE PARKS COMMITTEE.—A meeting of this committee was held on Tuesday, the members present being Councillor E. Beavan (chairman), the Mayor (Alderman Rees), Alderman David Jones, Councillor Ramsdale, and Councillor Andrews.—The subject of the adaptation of the Splot Ward open space was named by Councillor Andrews, who stated that the land in question—near the Moorland-road Board School—had been transferred to the Corporation for twelve months, and it was time something was done in the way of levelling-up, laying-out, &c.—On the motion of Councillor Ramsdale, the Borough Engineer was instructed to submit an estimate of the cost, with a view to application being made to borrow the money.—It was decided to accept the offer of a gentleman at Tongwynlais to present to the Corporation four cygnets for the Park pond.

'Country sports' again. 5th December 1892, The South Wales Daily News.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

LLANHARRAN AND YSTRAD HOUNDS.

Monday, Dec. 5th, at 10.30 a.m., at Abergarw.
Tuesday, Dec. 6th, at 10.30 a.m., at Tongwynlais.
Friday, Dec. 9th, at 10.30 a.m., at Llanharran Village.

GLAMORGANSHIRE HOUNDS.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

8th November 1893, The Evening Express.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

HARRIERS.

CRICKHOWELL.—Friday, November 10, Aberhowy, near Llangunider—11. Weather permitting.

FOXHOUNDS.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.—Friday, November 10, Bronwydd Arms—10.30.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.—Wednesday, November 8, Three Ashes; Friday, November 10, Wenvoe—10.45.

LLANHARAN.—Tuesday, November 7, Bryncethyn; Friday, November 10, Tongwynlais—10.30.

LLANGIBBY.—Friday, November 10, Lansoar Wood

Venue for the the Ystrad Hounds. 26th March 1894, The South Wales Daily News

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

GLAMORGANSHIRE HOUNDS.

Monday, Mar 26, at Ash Hall, at 11 a.m.

YSTRAD FOX HOUNDS.

Tuesday, Mar. 27, at Tongwynlais, at 9.30 a.m.

Thursday, Mar. 29, at Taff's Well, at 9.30 a.m..

CARMARTHENSHIRE FOX HOUNDS.

Monday, Mar. 26, at Alltyferin (breakfast), at 10.30 a.m.

(Right)....No diluted spirits that night! 21st April 1894, The Evening Express. ('John Barleycorn' a common word for booze with the chapel, no doubt, due to preach on temperance).

GORILLA AT TONGWYNLAIS.

Great Excitement Caused in the Little Village.

Just now the greatest excitement prevails in the quiet little village of Tongwynlais through the fact that it is believed that the wood around the castle is inhabited by a gorilla. A young man by the name of Evans, whilst taking a walk around the woods on Sunday last, heard a loud noise in the wood near Pwll Slag as if someone was breaking sticks. Turning in the direction from which the sound proceeded, he was greatly startled by seeing a gorilla scamper off into the wood. He stated that he was quite certain that it was a gorilla, as he saw the animal's face and long arms. Some men working in the woods also stated that they had seen the same strange visitor. Moreover, rumours are circulating that some of the farmers in the immediate neighbourhood have missed sheep, &c. The visit of the stranger has struck terror into the hearts of a great many of the people, and they will not even venture near the wood. A few days ago a number of young people were to be seen strolling around the woods near the castle, but now they have discontinued their walks in that direction. No doubt, a body of armed men will shortly go through the woods in order to exterminate the monster. Already small parties have, with this purpose in view, been on the war track. Rumour has it that the gorilla is no other than "John Barleycorn," who is to be "tried" for his misdeeds in Bethesda Chapel this (Saturday) evening.

(Below)...Found it or stole it? 11th June 1894, The Evening Express. (A break was a bus/carriage at those times).

CASE WAS DISMISSED.

Collier Gregory was Charged with Stealing a Covert Coat.

At Llandaff Police-court on Monday afternoon (before Colonel Page and Mr. Harry Lewis) Albert Gregory, aged eighteen, a young collier from Treforest, was brought up in custody on a charge of stealing a covert coat, value 15s., from the parlour of the Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais, on the 4th inst. Mr. R. Worthy Blake, of Cardiff, appeared for the defence.—Police-constable Hopkins said that the landlord of the Hauliers' Arms, Edward Rees, saw him on the day after the theft, and told him that the coat, which was nothis property, had been put in the parlour just before the arrival of a party from Pontypridd, which stopped there for a while, and then continued the journey home. He missed the coat the next morning. Prisoner said he found the coat in the break as he was going home, and asitwas raining put it on, forgetting to leave it there when he went home.—The prisoner was dismissed.

BITTEN BY A SNAKE.

A Tin-Plater's Startling Adventure Near Whitchurch.

A tin-plate roller named William Evans, employed at the Melingriffith Tin-plate Works, near Cardiff, was on Sunday last bitten by a snake on the mountain which leads from Tongwynlais to Caerphilly. It appears that Evans left his home early on Sunday with the object of taking a walk over the mountains, but fell asleep at a spot not far from Black Cock. In a short space of time he was disturbed, and on looking around he found that a large snake had crept up over his body to his mouth, and had bitten him on the lower lip. Evans at once made for his home. He had not gone far, however, before his face began to swell, and by the time the Holly Bush, Whitchurch, was reached it was found necessary to seek the aid of a doctor. Evans shortly after saw Dr. F. W. Evans, Charles-street, Cardiff, who attended to the wound.

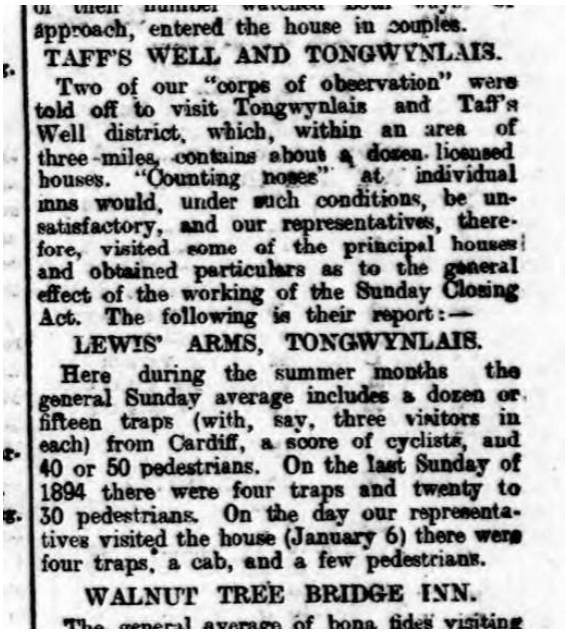
(Right)....Mind how you go! 11th September 1894, The Evening Express.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

On 17th January 1895, The Western Mail undertook a 'census' on the Sunday Drinking Laws and the newspaper published their findings in an article which included the sub-title "Further Proof of the Act's Failure". The research attempted to cover the inns and clubs of Cardiff and also the 'country inns'. The work was carried out by a 'crop of men' under the direction and superintendence of the literary staff of the newspaper'. There were some funny incidents, one being while "crossing the Ely River at Llandaff. by means of a piece of timber thrown across the stream and the first man was cautioning his companion to take care when just as he himself expressed it, "very prolific of advice to take care just as he reached the latter word he dropped in and touched the bottom at the depth of his armpits. When they got across to the other side the one who was dry helped his companion to wring his clothes, and then, with rare good feeling, stripped off his own garments and gave his own dry pants to his colleague. Thereafter they walked about most of the day to keep themselves warm, and it is not surprising that the character of their report differs from that of most of the other members of the corps. A good deal of the discomfort arising from the mishap was later in the day neutralised by the efforts of the good Samaritan whom they met in the person of the land- lord of the Lewis Arms, Ton.

This was the outcome for Ton.....

17th January 1895, The Western Mail


approach, entered the house in couples.

TAFF'S WELL AND TONGWYNLAIS.

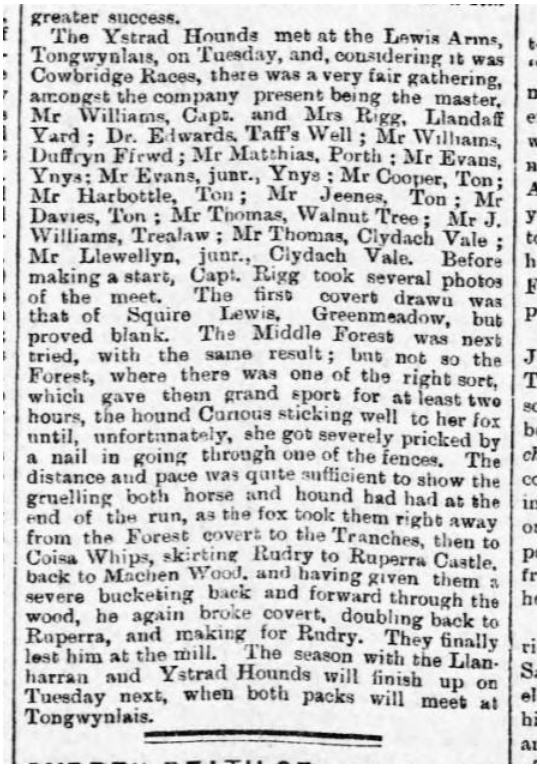
Two of our "corps of observation" were told off to visit Tongwynlais and Taff's Well district, which, within an area of three miles, contains about a dozen licensed houses. "Counting noses" at individual inns would, under such conditions, be unsatisfactory, and our representatives, therefore, visited some of the principal houses and obtained particulars as to the general effect of the working of the Sunday Closing Act. The following is their report:—

LEWIS' ARMS, TONGWYNLAIS.

Here during the summer months the general Sunday average includes a dozen or fifteen traps (with, say, three visitors in each) from Cardiff, a score of cyclists, and 40 or 50 pedestrians. On the last Sunday of 1894 there were four traps and twenty to 30 pedestrians. On the day our representatives visited the house (January 6) there were four traps, a cab, and a few pedestrians.

WALNUT TREE BRIDGE INN.

(Right)..... One of the hunt reports, whatever your views are, it is nonetheless an interesting account from another time. 4th April 1895, The South Wales Echo.


greater success.

The Ystrad Hounds met at the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, on Tuesday, and, considering it was Cowbridge Races, there was a very fair gathering, amongst the company present being the master, Mr Williams, Capt. and Mrs Rigg, Llandaff Yard; Dr. Edwards, Taff's Well; Mr Williams, Duffryn Ffrwd; Mr Matthias, Porth; Mr Evans, Ynys; Mr Evans, junr., Ynys; Mr Cooper, Ton; Mr Harbottle, Ton; Mr Jeenes, Ton; Mr Davies, Ton; Mr Thomas, Walnut Tree; Mr J. Williams, Trealaw; Mr Thomas, Clydach Vale; Mr Llewellyn, junr., Clydach Vale. Before making a start, Capt. Rigg took several photos of the meet. The first covert drawn was that of Squire Lewis, Greenmeadow, but proved blank. The Middle Forest was next tried, with the same result; but not so the Forest, where there was one of the right sort, which gave them grand sport for at least two hours, the hound Curious sticking well to her fox until, unfortunately, she got severely pricked by a nail in going through one of the fences. The distance and pace was quite sufficient to show the gruelling both horse and hound had had at the end of the run, as the fox took them right away from the Forest covert to the Tranches, then to Coisa Whips, skirting Rudry to Ruperra Castle, back to Machen Wood, and having given them a severe bucketing back and forward through the wood, he again broke covert, doubling back to Ruperra, and making for Rudry. They finally lost him at the mill. The season with the Llanharran and Ystrad Hounds will finish up on Tuesday next, when both packs will meet at Tongwynlais.

(Below) 18th April 1895, The South Wales Daily News

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

THE LLANHARAN AND YSTRAD HOUNDS.

Thursday, April 18, at Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, at 9 a.m., by request.

THE CARMARTHENSHIRE FOXHOUNDS.

24th December 1895 The South Wales Daily News

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

GLAMORGANSHIRE HOUNDS.

Thursday, Dec. 26, at Stalling Down, at 10.45 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 27, at Wenvoe, at 10.45 a.m.

YSTRAD HOUNDS.

Thursday, Dec. 26, at Tongwynlais, at 10.30 a.m.

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Newspaper Archive

(Left).....Here's one that tells all about living conditions at that time. Fresh water, drainage and sanitation was a huge problem. 3rd June 1895, The South Wales Daily Post.

TYPHOID FEVER AT TONGWYNLAIS.

FIVE CASES IN ONE HOUSE.

Typhoid fever has been lingering at Tongwynlais, in the Caerphilly Local Board district, for the last two years, but the cases have not been very numerous, the total number during that period not exceeding twelve. Within the last three months there have been five successive cases in one house—husband, wife, and three children having been laid down with the fever. The three children were the first to contract the disease, and they, together with the father, who also caught the infection, were nursed by the mother. She, poor woman, was seized with the ailment when thoroughly worn out, and succumbed to the attack. The remaining cases are rapidly progressing towards recovery. Tongwynlais, although in proximity to the Ystradyfodwg main sewer, has but a primitive system of drainage. The want of proper drainage, however, does not seem to be responsible for the present outbreak of typhoid fever in the village, as the medical officer of health for the district (Dr. Thomas, of Caerphilly), in the course of an interview with one of our representatives on Friday, stated that two years ago typhoid fever broke out in the house where the present cases are and the adjoining houses, and his impression is that germs of the disease had, in spite of the frequent disinfection of the premises, remained dormant, to be vitalised by the present hot weather. The Caerphilly Local Board would do well to improve the water supply and establish a proper system of drainage in the village of Tongwynlais, otherwise, a serious outbreak of fever may some day have to be faced.

(Below)....29th July 1895, The South Wales Echo

SUNDAY CLOSING ACT.

Llandaff Men Fined.

William Edney and Charles Moss, tinworker and moulder respectively, of Llandaff, were charged at Llandaff Police Court to-day—before Mr R. C. Graham Dornford, Mr Henry Lewis, and Col. Lewis—with being found on the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, without a lawful excuse, on Sunday, the 21st inst. They were each fined 5s and costs.

Just to make things clear here, this type of thing went on throughout the land, it wasn't just a local issue.

14th February 1896, The South Wales Echo

Hunting Appointments,

GLAMORGANSHIRE HOUNDS.

Friday, Feb. 14, at Ystrad Owen, at 10.45 a.m.
Monday, Feb. 17, at St Athan, at 11 a.m.
Thursday, Feb. 20, at Coychurch, at 11 a.m.
Friday, Feb. 21, at Porthkerry, at 11 a.m.

YSTRAD HOUNDS.

Friday, Feb. 14, at Tongwynlais, at 10.30 a.m

CARMARTHENSHIRE FOX HOUNDS.

7th April 1896, The South Wales Daily News. The churches balancing the books.

WHITCHURCH.

The annual vestry meeting was held at St. Mary's on Easter Monday. The vicar (Rev. J. T. Clarke) presided. The statements of accounts for both St. Mary's and St. Michael's, Tongwynlas, showed that there was no deficiency to be met at Tongwynlas and a small balance against the treasurer at Whitchurch. Messrs Morgan and Jenkins were re-appointed respectively vicar and parish warden. Messrs Sharpe, Evans, Foxhall, and Bullock were elected sidesmen.

LLANGYNWYD.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

Sanitation issues continue. 5th June 1896, The South Wales Echo.

CAERPHILLY DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLY.

Unfulfilled Promises.

Caerphilly Urban District came in for a share of attention at the hands of the County Sanitary Committee at their meeting in Cardiff to-day. The Medical Officer said that three years ago he inspected the district, and on that occasion the Council promised to remedy existing grievances, notably the bad water supply, the river pollution, and the existing drainage of Nantgarw, Glanllyr, Taff's Well, and Tongwynlas. He had just made another inspection, with the result that to-day he reported that, in his opinion, the Caerphilly Urban District Council had not fulfilled the promises made three years ago. Of late Tongwynlais had been a hotbed of fever, and it was significant that 20 out of 23 cases in the district during 1895 had occurred there. This district, Nantgarw, Granllyn, and Taff's Well were still suffering from defective drainage, and the river pollution was as bad as ever. It was resolved to call the serious attention of the Caerphilly Urban District Council to the matter.

(Below)....The native tongue. 17th August 1896, The Evening Express

The Cymric Tongue

THE EARL OF DUMFRIES SPEAKS IT.

He Holds a Conversation with an Old Woman of Seventy-five at Tongwynlais.

A press representative paid a casual visit to Tongwynlais on Sunday, and found the inhabitants in a state of delight. Inquiry into the reason of their enthusiasm, it was at once found that the sojourn of the Bute family in their midst—viz., Castle Coch—had given them bright hopes as to the future. "Ah," said one of them, "they can speak Welsh too. "You do not mean to say that," said the press man. "Yes," said an old lady, "and as good a Welsh as you ever heard spoke. What do you think," she continued, "not many days ago an old female inhabitant—in fact, she is over 75 years of age—was tracing her way from the wood to the village, bending under a loa dof sticks. Just as she neared the mill she was met by a youth, who, noticing the old lady carrying so heavy a load, exclaimed, in the purest Cymraeg, 'Wel, hen fenyw, yr ydych yn rhy hen i gario coed tan,' to which she readily replied, 'O, na, fy machgen bach i; rwy'n gobeithio cael nerth i gario am lawer of flynyddau eto.' 'Bendith arno chi,' was the retort." The old lady was almost non-plussed at being accosted in such pure Welsh as that spoken by the youth, and when she arrived home she without delay told her neighbours what had taken place. The next day she again visited the forest, and on the way was met by Mr. Palmer, the gamekeeper, who asked the old lady if she knew who had spoken to her on the previous day. "No, not I, indeed, Mr. Palmer," she said. "Well," said he, "it was no other than the Earl of Dumfries, Lord Bute's eldest son." "Dear, dear," said the old lady. "I am surprised, for he spoke the language of Edn in its purity."

(Below)....'Sat nav' let him down. 15th September 1896, The South Wales Daily News.

LLANDAFF.

SUNDAY DRINKING.—At the Llandaff Police Court on Monday James Thomas, of Melingriffith, was fined 10s and costs for being found drinking on a Sunday at the Cardiff Castle, Tongwynlais. He told the landlord that he came from Cardiff, and thereby obtained the drink.

(Below)...A brief hunt report. 4th November 1896, The Evening Express

The Ystrad Hounds met on Tuesday at the Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais. It was a beautiful day and there was an average attendance. The Greenmeadow Coverts were first drawn, and no sooner were the hounds thrown in than they found their fox, which took them away at a clinking pace, skirting the hill on to the big forest, and, having kept the field in a ring for several minutes, again broke covert, when he made for Rheubina, on to the Wenallt, where he quickly had to make a retreat, as the hounds were close on his track. Then he took the field at a racing pace to Llanishen, the hounds being in full cry, and here Master Reynard had to succumb. This has been the [illegible] of the season.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

The New Year starts with a Fox hunt. 1st January 1897, The Evening Express.

THE YSTRAD HOUNDS.

The Ystrad Hounds met on Thursday at the Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais. The master (Mr J. D. Williams) was again unable to be present through indisposition, and his place was taken by Mr. Williams, the Star. A draw was made for the Garth Woods, then, crossing over to Pentyrch, they drew back to the foot of the Garth Mountain, which proved blank. The hounds were then trotted over to the Bryna, where they quickly settled down on their fox, giving the field a nice 30 minutes' spin before running him to earth at Forest Fach, winding up the year 1896 with a hearty "Tally-ho! Hark-away 1897," when, on January 6, there will be a large lawn meet and presentation to Mr. Blandy Jenkins.

A working dog, a big loss to someone. 17th February 1897, The South Wales Echo.

LOST AND FOUND.

FOUND, a Black and Tan Terrier. If not claimed in three days will be sold.—Apply Lloyd, Draper, Barry

FOUND, Black and Tan Sheep Dog. If not claimed in three days will be sold.—W. Davies, Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais. 186

FOUND, a liver-coloured Irish Retriever Dog on Gold-

26th April 1897, The South Wales Echo

NO EXCUSE.

David Morgan, of Tongwynlais, was fined 10s and costs at the Llandaff Police Court to-day for being on licensed premises without a lawful excuse, to wit, the Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlais, on Sunday, the 11th inst.

More Sunday drinking, a 'mala fide' customer from just down the tow path. 20th July 1897, The South Wales Daily News.

LLANDAFF.

SUNDAY DRINKING AT TONGWYNLAIS.—At the Llandaff Sessions on Monday (before Colonel Woods and Mr Evan Lewis) Benjamin Lawrence and Wm. Edney were each fined 20s for obtaining drink under illegal circumstances and giving wrong addresses to the police. It appears that defendants on the 11th inst. were found by P.C. Lee, Taff's Well, at the Cardiff Castle public-house, Tongwynlais. They told the officer they had come from Canton. Edney had signed himself on the landlord's book as Frank Welsh, Canton. Lawrence said he lived at 17, Halket-street, Canton, and that he was a marine store dealer. This was found to be false, as he is a boatman living at Llandaff Yard. The distance from the defendants' residences to Tongwynlais was 2½ miles. The Bench characterised the offence as a serious one.

PECULIARITIES OF THE LAW.—Mr J. Pritchard,

8th November 1897, The South Wales Daily News.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

GLAMORGANSHIRE HOUNDS.

Monday, Nov. 8, at Bridgend, at 10.30 a.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 10, at St. Fagans, at 10,45 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 12, at Fonmon, at 10.45 a.m.

YSTRAD FOXHOUNDS.

Tuesday, Nov. 9, at Tongwynlais, at 10 a.m.
Friday, Nov. 12, at Cæsar Arms, at 10 a.m.

CARMARTHENSHIRE FOXHOUNDS.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

29th December 1897, The Evening Express. An end of year review and it looks like a change of venue for the 'Ivor Castle' Lodge.

(Below)....More New Year 'sport' for some. 7th January 1898, The Evening Express and then 10th February 1898, The Evening Express.

LOCAL HUNTING NOTES.

WITH THE YSTRAD HOUNDS.

The Ystrad Hounds met at the Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais, and the weather was such as to bring a large field. After the congratulations of the New Year, the master (Mr. J. D. Williams) trotted the hounds on to the Forrest, when a fox was soon viewed going away in the direction of Graig Rallt, and, the scent being good, the hounds were quickly on his line, driving him sharp over to Cwm Duffryn and on to the Aber Valley. Then he went over to Eglwysilan and on toward Upper Boat, where Reynard gave them the slip, after a good cross-country spin. Then the Rhiwddar Covert, which is always a sure find, was drawn, and horse and hound had another good gruelling. The fox made straight away in full cry to the Bryna, and went over to the middle Forrest, and on to the big Forrest, where he kept his pursuers in a ring for a short time. Then he doubled back to the Bryna at a racing pace, and went over to Duffryn Ffrwd, where he managed to save his brush, after one or two narrow escapes. There was a novelty in the hunting field on this occasion, two sons of Colonel Gaskell being mounted on donkeys, which are often to be seen driven tandem, and not easily passed.

LOCAL HUNTING NOTES.

THE YSTRAD HOUNDS.

The Ystrad Hounds met on Tuesday at the Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais, being kenneled overnight, as usual, at the Old Mill. It was a small field, and the master (Mr. J. D. Williams) was unable to be present, through indisposition, having been confined to his bed. He is, however, we are glad to say, now much better, and enabled to leave his room. Billie, the huntsman, was quite equal to the emergency, and, the Greenmeadow Wood being first drawn, the squire had a fox awaiting him, which gave those present a nice little spin across to the Forrest. Whilst making a ring there Mr. H. Lewis viewed three more, and the pack got divided. The first one made for the Bryna, on to Graig Rallt, and doubled back again to the Forrest. In the meantime the other portion of the pack went away with their fox to Forrest Fach, and on to the Wenallt, where they lost him. The pack was then got once more together, and a move was made for Wernddu. Here they had not long to wait before they found one that knew the country. He gave the field a "winder" over the Cefn-On Mountain to the Tranches, and there ran to earth. Altogether it was not such a bad day's sport. The scent was fairly good, although the weather was stormy at times. We are pleased to learn from latest reports that Mrs. Rigg, whose hunting accident was reported in our Monday's issue, is progressing favourably.

CAERPHILLY DISTRICT OF ODD-FELLOWS.

The annual meeting of the Caerphilly District of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows was held on Monday at the Medwy Lodge-room, Drythan, Grand Master Ophney Enoch presiding. Delegates from nineteen lodges attended. The amount received for the quarter towards the sick and funeral fund was £135 6s. 6d. The death claims of the funeral fund for the same period amounted to £125 7s. 5d. The sanction of the district was given to the removal of the Ivor Castle Lodge, Tongwynlais, to another place, if necessary, in the same locality.—It was resolved that Messrs. Charles Pritchard, Thomas Morgan, John Jones, and Titus Lewellyn audit the district and lodges books for the last two years. —Mr. Richard Williams was appointed to the Grand Master's chair of the district for the ensuing year.—It was decided that 1s. per member be paid into the district fund for the next quarter.—Mr. Thomas Morgan, Medwy Lodge, was selected out of five candidates for the Deputy Grand Master's chair of the district for the next year.—There were three nominations viz., Messrs. Ophney Enoch, Caerphilly; Edmund Williams, Pontllanfraith, and Charles Pritchard) for the two appointments to the A.M.C. meetings at Derby.

(Below)....The Cardiff Railway Company finalising the track route with eyes on the canal. 26th January 1898, The South Wales Echo.

Cardiff Railway Company

THE NEW LINE.

WORK OF CONSTRUCTION TO BE COMMENCED.

At the Bute Offices, Cardiff, to-day Mr Robert White—who, with Sir Douglas Fox, is the engineer of the Cardiff Railway Company—attended to meet contractors who had been invited to inspect plans and specifications of the new line. It will be remembered that the company obtained, by their Act of 1897, authorisation to construct railways from Llanishen to Pontypridd; but that, by proposals which they will submit to Parliament next Session, they seek now to vary those powers—to the extent that they abandon the authorised route from Tongwynlais northward and substitute the course of the canal, closing that waterway. From Llanishen to Tongwynlais the already-authorised line will form part of the revised scheme; and it is this section which, we are informed, is to be at once taken in hand. It commences by a junction with the Rhymney Company's line at Llanishen, passes through Whitchurch (where there will be a station), and joins the course of the canal near Tongwynlas. The accompanying diagram indicates the route. In length the new section is about four miles. Tenders have to be in by February 9th.

A second section is the junction with the Taff Vale Railway at Treforest. As this would be equally serviceable for the line as now proposed, the company, it is said, propose to put in hand that section also.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

Who knew the Hauliers' Arms had a skittle alley? The pub up 'to be let' once again. 24th May 1898, The Evening Express.

Office, Cardiff. 1582h26

TO Let, Hauliers' Arms, Tongwynlais; single-licensed; large garden; stable and skittle alley; rent, 8s. per week. 1520h26

Businesses for Disposal.

We can't just let anyone in..... 6th December 1898, The South Wales Daily News

SOUTH WALES POLICE.

LLANDAFF.

LICENSING OFFENCES.—James Alden, landlord of the Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlais, for neglecting to promptly grant a police officer admission to the house on a recent Sunday, was fined 20s and costs; and Jonah Stephens, who was found on the premises on the same afternoon, in contravention of the Sunday Closing Act, was fined 20s, including costs. Mr J. R. Jones defended Alden.

More 'sporting write ups. 3rd February 1899, The Western Mail.

LOCAL HUNTING NOTES

YSTRAD HOUNDS.

The Ystrad Hounds have been kennelled since Monday at the Old Mill, Tongwynlais. On Tuesday the meet was at Colonel Fisher's, when there was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen, mounted and in carriages. The colonel and Mrs. Fisher's usual hospitality having been partaken of, the master (Mr. J. D. Williams), on his favourite chestnut, made for the coverts at the rear of the house, when the pack quickly got on the line of a fox, which gave the field a nice little cross-country spin of fifteen minutes before running to earth in the Garth Wood, where later on in the day the terriers killed him. Red Laver was the next point, this proving blank, and the hounds worked up the bottom, and, on coming to Park-y-Justice, they struck on the line of another fox. They went away in full cry towards Pentyrch; then over to Pen-llwyn, and Reynard was finally brought down in the open close to Creigiau Quarry, after an exciting thirty minutes' run. Miss Fisher was presented with the brush, and Miss Treharne (Pontypridd) became the possessor of the mask. Almost before one could get breathing-time the hounds had started another fox, which went away at a rattling pace over the same line of country, and was killed by Pentwyn. This finished a clinking day's sport, with a brace and a half of foxes to the good. In this run Dr. Edwards took the honours of the mask, and Mr. Arthur James had the brush. On Wednesday the meet was at the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, but the "gruelling" of the previous day kept many away. Reynard was found at home at the Wenallt, and, after a few rings, broke covert. The hounds stuck closely to him, driving him sharply over to Thornhill, on to the Tranches, and over to Werndu, where they lost cast, scent, being bad. A move was then made back to Cwm Bryna, the hounds quickly settling down on a fox which took them away over Graig Rallt.

The Bute Arms still going, but without their 'Flo'. 25th March 1899, The South Wales Echo.

street will be well rewarded. 752n

LOST, 19th, Young Lemon and White Spaniel Bitch, named Flo; finder rewarded.—Davies, Bute Arms, Tongwynlais. 644n

LOST, March 18th, Yorkshire Terrier; finder re-

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

One of the Ton's old licensees and a car driver, possibly one of the first. 23rd May 1900, The Evening Express.

FAILURE OF A TONGWYNLAIS CAR-DRIVER.

A meeting of the creditors of Henry Pitt, of 118, Portmanmoor-road, Cardiff, late of the Castle Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, car driver, and late licensed victualler, was held at the offices of the Official Receiver, Cardiff, on Wednesday morning. The receiving order was made on the debtor's own petition. The deficiency was stated to be £97 2s. 6d.—There was no resolution, and the Official Receiver remains trustee.

A carnival through the Ton. 18th June 1900, The Evening Express.

CYCLE CARNIVAL AT TAFF'S WELL.

On Saturday a cycle and miscellaneous carnival was held at Taff's Well in aid of the Reservists' Fund. The procession started from the Castle Hotel, headed by the mounted police, followed by the Porth Town Brass Band, cyclists, Red Cross nurses, &c. The procession paraded through Nant Garw, Glanyllyn, Taff's Well, and Tongwynlais, and collections were made en route in aid of the fund. Prizes will be given to the three best characters at a smoking concert at the Castle Hotel.

Dating evidence, some developments planned. 24th October 1900, The South Wales Echo.

WHITCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL.

The monthly meetng of the Parish Council was presided over by Mr Peter Sharpe on Tuesday. It was resolved to immedately proceed with the path and iron bridge, Tongwynlas. Reports were made to the Council of the satisfactory conclusion of the diversion of the Tithe Barn path. It was decided to place wicket gates in several important places in the parish. A prescept of ½d in the £ was passed for the current half year.

The 'Ivor Castle' lodge proving to be popular in the Ton. 2nd January 1901, The Evening Express.

CAERPHILLY ODDFELLOWS.

Election of Officers.

The quarterly meeting of the Caerphilly district of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, was held on Tuesday at the Bute Lodge-room, Caerphilly, Mr. S. D. Griffiths (Whitchurch), G.M., presiding.

Financially the quarter was a comparatively light one, only claims amounting to about £77 having to be met. It was, therefore, decided not to make a levy for the funeral fund for the ensuing quarter, but it was thought desirable to call upon the lodges for a sixpenny levy to the management fund and a levy for a similar amount to the widows and orphans fund.

Three charity cases were dealt with, and in each the sum of £2 10s. was voted.

P.G.M. John Jakeman, of the Ivor Castle Lodge, Tongwynlais, proved to be the successful member throughout the district for the Grand Master's medal for having introduced to his lodge the largest number of candidates for Oddfellowship during 1900, and he will be handed the medal at the next meeting. The secretary was voted a sum of £4 for his services in connection with the experience cards.

D.G.M. Rees Edwards was elected to fill the Grand Master's chair for next year, and P.G.M. James Rayner, of Machen, was chosen as D.G.M.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

You have only once chance to be a first offender! 10th July 1902, The Evening Express.

HIRING A BICYCLE.

This afternoon at Cardiff Police-court John Horne, nineteen, of Tongwynlais, was charged on remand with fraudulently converting to his own use a bicycle of which he had been made the bailee, and which was valued at £2 10s. Prisoner was arrested at Pontypridd by Detective Price. The facts were that on the 17th of June accused went to the shop of Joseph Freedman, cycle agent, of 168, Castle-road, and hired a bicycle for four hours in the name of Daniel or David Thomas, and he never returned. Instead he sold the bicycle at Pontypridd for 30s. to Herbert Elisha Allen, a collier.—The lad had lived respectably up to the present, and he was bound over under the First Offenders Act.

(Below)...Heavy rain causing plenty of problems. 6th January 1903, The Evening Express

THE GREAT FLOODS.

Landslip at Tongwynlais

MAN DROWNED IN RHYMNEY RIVER.

Yesterday, in consequence of the heavy rains of the past few days, a landslip occurred a little beyond the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais. At the spot where the earth gave way a row of houses has been built, the boundary walls of which skirt the main road. Directly opposite the houses is the canal, which is considerably lower than the road, and which is protected from the thoroughfare by a substantial wall. It was feared at the time the landslip occurred that the roadway and wall would be precipitated into the canal, but, fortunately, measures were at once taken to cope with the divergence. The heavy traffic was stopped. The work of repair is rapidly being proceeded with. It is expected that the damage will be repaired within a few days, and that a similar catastrophe will be averted.

Our Taff's Well corresponodent, wiring, says:—As Tongwynlais is entered from Taff's Well a long wall has been built on the north side to protect the road from the canal and river, which run alongside, and are considerably below the level of the road. Between the road and the canal there is some waste ground, where trees and brambles grow. A little lower on the opposite side a number of houses have been built, and at this point there is a curve in the road. Mid-day yesterday signs of a landslip were noticed near the curve, the wall between the road and the canal being cracked for abont fifteen to twenty yards. Shortly after the trees were noticed to give way and fall into the canal, and it was feared that the divergence would become serious. During the night a strict watch was kept, but the earth conotinues to give way, and by this morning a large quantity had fallen into the canal. The stone wall has been pulled down so as to prevent its falling into the canal, and everything is being done to prevent further damage.

(Below)...The writing is on the wall for the 'Castle' Coch Inn. 3rd July 1903, The Evening Express.

FAILURE OF A TONGWYNLAIS PUBLICAN.

A meeting of the creditors of Albert Dyke, licensed victualler, Castle Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, was held to-day at Merthyr. The statement of affairs showed—gross liabilities, £233 14s.; liabilities to rank for dividend, £220 14s.; net assets available for distribution, £65 1s. 9d.; deficiency, £155 12s. 3d. The debtor attributed his failure to illness of himself and wife and bad debts.

(Below)...An early performance of the Ton Band. 14th August 1903, The Barry Dock News.

PRIMROSE LEAGUE FETE.

The joint fete of the Ely and West Wyndham Habitations of the Primrose League will take place at St. Fagan's Castle on Wednesday next, the 19th instant. The Tongwynlais Band will be in attendance, and an interesting entertainment will be given by Mr Fred Vallance and his assistants. Speeches will be delivered by Lord Windsor and Colonel Wyndham-Quin, M.P. There will be a tug-of-war, with prizes. Tea will be provided at a charge of 6d each. The gates will be open at 2.30, and those who are not members of the Primrose League will be admitted on payment of 1s. A special train to convey members of the League and their friends to St. Fagan's will leave Barry at 2.40, Barry Dock at 2.43, Cadoxton 2.51, and Wenvoe 2.55. The return train will leave St. Fagan's at 7.30. The return fare from Wenvoe will be 6d and from all other stations 9d.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

The 'Ivor Castle' Lodge still going strong in the lodge room of the Lewis's and an interesting last paragraph tells something of the medical support available in communities and of the 'Oddfellows'. 30th September 1903, The Evening Express.

CAERPHILLY DISTRICT OF ODD-FELLOWS.

Delegates representing over 1,600 members of the Caerphilly District of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (M.U.) were present at the quarterly meeting held in the Ivor Castle Lodge-room, Lewis's Arms, Tongwynlais, on Monday. Bro. Daniel Watkins, G.M., was in the chair, supported by Bro. Lewis Miles, D.G.M., Bro. Titus Lewis, P.P.G.M. (treasurer), and Bro. Thomas Morgan, Pro. C.S. The contributions received for the quarter were £49 9s.; the amount paid for funeral and other expenses was £115, leaving a balance in the trustees' and treasurer's hands of £499. Bros. W. Harper (Royal Oak), David Williams (Rose of the Valley), T. Jenkins (Dynevor), W. Lynch (Ivor Castle), Thos. Davies (Treoda), and David Jones (Morning Star) were nominated for the D.G.M. chair for the ensuing year. It was decided that a 6d. levy per member be paid to the widow and orphan fund, and quarterly contributions to the funeral fund, according to district rules, will be required.—A resolution was also adopted disapproving of the action of the medical council in its endeavour to pass an Act of Parliament which would give the council power to make a member of the medical profession guilty by his conduct in taking contract practice, such as the attendance on "lodge" or "court" of Friendly Societies.

(Below)...'Mala fides', still a sport. 4th July 1904, The Evening Express.

MALA-FIDE TRAVELLERS

At Llandaff to-day (before Colonel Wood, Major Forrest, and Mr. Cartwright) Edwin Thomas, Canal-road, Walnut Tree, was charged with falsely representing himself to be a traveller and obtaining intoxicating liquors at the Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais.—He pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s., including costs.

Ann Gibbs, Severn-road, Cardiff, and Alice

A bit more information on the Castell Coch Inn much to the regret of the tenant. 4th February 1905, The Weekly Mail.

The Newbridge-Rhondda Brewery Company had gone into liquidation and had sold the property to the Cardiff Railway Company. She was required to "clear out" and she refused to leave. The Bench ruled against her "and an order for ejectment was granted".

APPLICATION FOR AN EJECTMENT ORDER.

An application for power to eject Constance Dyke from the occupation of the Castell Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, was made by Mr. W. R. Davies, solicitor, Pontypridd, at the Llandaff Police-court on Monday. The magistrates on the bench were Mr. G. C. Williams and Colonel Woods. Mr. H. Stowe (instructed by Mr. Clement Cadle, Cardiff) appeared to oppose the application.

Mr. Davies said that some importance had been given to this matter by the reports in the newspapers, and by the appearance of learned counsel in opposition. The Castell Coch Inn was let by the Newbridge-Rhondda Brewery Company to Mrs. Constance Dyke under an agreement of June, 1903, subject to termination by a month's notice. The tenancy was ended by proper notice, and a new tenancy created under an agreement dated September 11, 1903, by which the tenancy might be terminated at will by either party. The rent was £30 per annum, payable weekly or otherwise, so that the period of payment would have no bearing whatever upon the tenancy. According to Woodfall, the authority on landlord and tenant, an estate at will might be determined by a demand for possession. Such demand was made on January 18 inst. Possession was not given on that day, and formal notice of the present application was

LLANDAFF.

THE CASTELL COCH INN, TONGWYNLAIS.

The business at the annual licensing sessions at Llandaff on Monday was disposed of in two minutes. The only objection to renewals was made by Deputy-chief-constable Giddings, who was opposed to the granting of the licence of the Castell Coch Inn, Tongwynlais, to Albert Dyke, "on account of the house having been demolished."—The application was adjourned till February 27, the date of the adjourned licensing sessions.

All the other licences were renewed.

(Left).....It's the end of the road for the Castell Coch Inn 7th February 1905.

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

The Teachers' Rambling Club.

The Second Ramble was made from Taff's Well Station, T.V.R., on Saturday, the 8th instant, in delightful weather. Castell Coch was first visited. The walk through Tongwynlais and the wood behind the castle was very interesting. After passing the vineries on our left we reached the drawbridge of the Castle, and by permission were allowed to pass through the various rooms, galleries, and dungeon. The carvings and paintings were much admired.

The present Castle is a modern structure, completed about eight years before the close of the nineteenth century, by the late Marquis.

The original Castle was built by Ifor ab Cadifor, "Ifor Bach," about the middle of the twelfth century, in order to protect the Lordship of Upper and Lower Senghenydd from the ravages of the Clares, descendants of the Norman Prince, Fitz-hammon, on the south. "Ifor Bach" also built Morlais Castle about the same time, to protect his territory on the north. It is asserted that the castle was destroyed by Henry II. It takes its name from the colour of the rock upon which it is built.

Here's an interesting account from the Aberdare Leader. It's a snapshot of a moment in time and not only that but it also mentions an origin of the Castell Coch site rarely mentioned. 15th April 1905.

rock upon which it is built.

After tea at the Junction Hotel, Mr Perrott, Cardiff, acted as guide for the party through labyrinthian walks in the woods of Little Garth. Here are many deep chasms and hollows, the result of iron ore mining operations which have now been discontinued. In the distance we caught a sight of Nantgarw, noted for its China ware. There is a colony of nearly 100 Frenchmen —working colliers—at the foot of the Garth. The Ramblers, heavily laden with primroses and other wild flowers, left the woods with regret to return to Sweet 'Berdare, the ladies to be mistaken for real "primrose dames."

The schools represented were:—Llwydcoed, Mr W. Griffiths; Park, Mr J. Griffiths, Miss L. Morris; Abernant, Miss Jones, Messrs Walker and James; Capcoch, Miss

(Right) ....As unpleasant as these incidents are it's worth knowing about them, a stark reminder of what went wrong and what can go wrong. It happened here. 10th May 1905, The Evening Express.

CRANE IN THE CANAL.

TONGWYNLAIS ENGINE-DRIVER'S DEATH.

An inquest was held at the Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais, on Tuesday on the body of George Henry Anderson, an engine-driver, who was killed on Sunday morning as the result of an accident on the new Cardiff Railway.

The evidence showed that the deceased was working a steam crane, and by some means or other reversed a lever, which caused the crane to go forward and topple over into the canal. It was an hour before the deceased could be got out of the water.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Mr. Frank Hill appeared in the interests of the deceased's relatives.

An Interesting Race.

TONGWYNLAIS HEAVY-WEIGHTS TO COMPETE

For some years past a good deal of rivalry has existed between two heavy-weight publicans of Tongwynlais as to which is the more fleet of foot. They both weigh about 18st., but one is some years older than the other. The younger man is Mr. Tom Thomas, of the Old Ton Inn, the other being Mr. John Thomas, of the New Inn, who, despite his age and weight, is wonderfully active. Articles have now been drawn up for a 100 yards race, to take place to-morrow on the Mill-road, Tongwynlais, the result of which will once and for all settle the question as to who is the faster man. The race is timed to take place at 3.45, Tom Thomas to concede his opponent five yards start. The articles state that either party no being on the ground at 3.35 forfeits the sum of 30s. A 100 yards match between D. Llewellyn (Tongwynlais) and W. Esau (Melingriffith) will also take place over the same course prior to the race between the heavy-weights.

(Left)....16th June 1905, The Evening Express

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales** Newspaper Archive

The hunt goes on. 18th January 1906, The Evening Express.

HUNTING APPOINTMENTS

FOXHOUNDS.

Mr. SEYMOUR ALLEN'S.

YSTRAD AND PENTYRCH.

Friday, Jan. 19, Tongwynlais ..... 11. 0 a.m.

Not a great way to start the year but the case was dismissed. The outside door was open but the inside door was locked. 12th January 1907, The Weekly Mail

A DOUBT IN THE CASE.

CHARGE AGAINST TONGWYNLAIS LICENSEE DISMISSED.

Henrietta Dunford, landlady of the Cardiff Castle Inn, Tongwynlais, was summoned at Llandaff on Monday for permitting drunkenness on the 30th of December last. Mr. Harold Lloyd defended.

Police-constable T. J. Davies stated that at 2.30 on Sunday the 30th ult. he saw two men, who gave the names of Martin Cowley and James Moore, of the Graig Lodging-house, Pontypridd, enter the Cardiff Castle. They appeared to be sober then, but at 3.45, when they left, they were drunk and staggering from one side of the road to the other. They afterwards became abusive, and he locked them up.

Mr. Lloyd, for the defence, stated that the men had both left the house at three o'clock, and they were creating a disturbance outside the door because they were trying to get in to get drink, and were refused.

Victor Stewart Dunford, the landlady's son, stated the men left the house between three and a quarter past, and when they came back he was not there. They were quiet whilst there, and appeared to be sober.

Mrs. Dunford stated that she heard a disturbance about half an hour after the men left, and saw them approach the door. The glass door inside was locked, but the outside door was open, and it was possible that the police may have seen the men coming out of the outer door without their actually having been in the house.

The Bench said it was very much to be regretted that the constable, when he saw the men creating a disturbance at the door, did not there and then take one of them back and charge Mrs. Dunford with permitting drunkenness. There was a doubt in the case, and it would be dismissed.

(Below)....Against medical advice.
22nd April 1907 The Evening Express

MINISTER AND DOCTOR

Argue Vaccination Problem.

An argument on the merits of vaccination took place between a minister and a doctor at Llandaff Police-court this morning, when the Rev. Richard James, Baptist minister at Tongwynlais, applied for an exemption order on behalf of his child.

"Have you any personal reason for believing that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of your child?" asked Dr. Taylor, who presided.

"I have seen children, sir," said the applicant," covered from the crowns of their heads to the soles of their feet with eczema as the result of vaccination."

"Oh!" exclaimed the doctor. "Brought on at what age?"

"Under twelve months, sir."

"And you think it was entirely due to vaccination?" pursued Dr. Taylor.

"I believe so," replied the applicant.

"You think vaccination has nothing whatever to do with the prevention of small-pox?" asked the presiding magistrate.

"Yes, I do," confidently replied Mr. James.

"Do you happen to know," observed Dr. Taylor, with some severity, "that not a soldier in the British Army throughout the South African War took small-pox, and it was raging amongst the natives all round?"

"I don't, sir," was the answer.

"It was because," said Dr. Taylor, "every soldier had to be vaccinated."

The order was granted.

(Below).....Who wins here? 17th May 1907, The Barry Herald

TONGWYNLAIS MAN'S ARREARS.

Arthur Thomas, a Tongwynlais labourer, was sent to prison for 14 days for neglecting to comply with a paternity order, the arrears of which amounted to £6 10s.

Defendant offered to pay 25s down in court, but Isabel Prothero, the complainant, declined it, with the result that Thomas, who had not paid anything under the order, was sent to prison.

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King Edward VII

On the 27th June 1907, The Evening Express published a column on plans for the "Royal Visit To Caerphilly" outlining an 'official' programme of the arrangements being made.

Railway and canal companies were asked to decorate their bridges and the railway companies also asked to run special trains at cheap fares..... "In Tongwynlais the decorations are to be put on the line of route where there are houses.
Colonel Henry Lewis is generously going to provide a considerable portion of the Tongwylais display.
Other arches which the council will provide for are at the foot of Nantgarw Hill, opposite Councillor J. B. Mathew's at Taff's Well, at Mill Road Tongwynlais and where the King enters the district at Ynys Bridge."

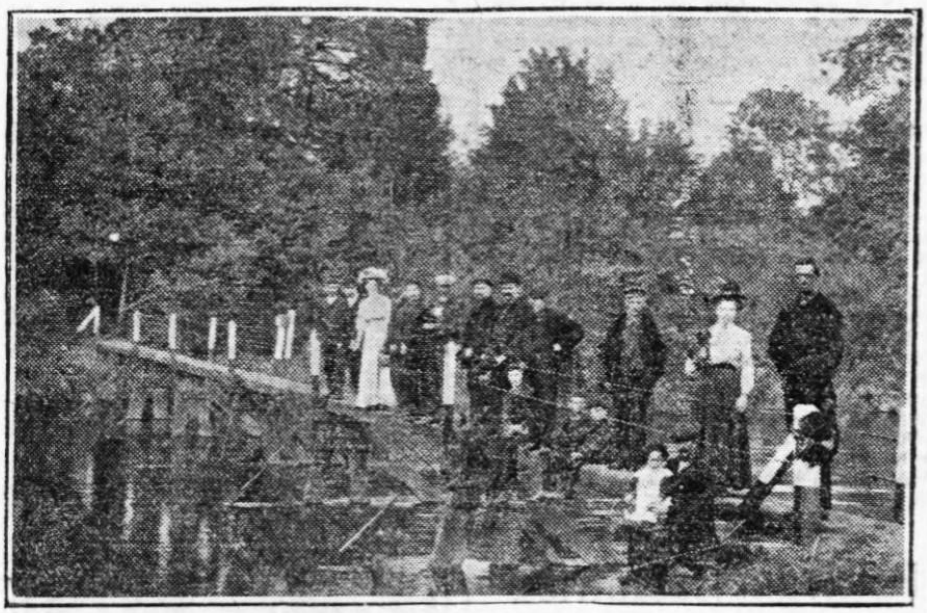
To commemorate the King's visit. It makes you wonder what happened to the 'box'.

24th July 1907, The Evening Express

A Tongwynlais Memento

The decoration committee, numbering 23, in connection with the recent Royal visit to Tongwynlais met on Monday evening in front of Greenmeadow House, when Councillor Sam Jones (chairman), on behalf of himself and the committee, presented Colonel Lewis with a handsome and weighty gold match-box, on which was engraved on one side—

"King's Visit, July 13th, 1907—Presented to Colonel Henry Lewis, J.P., D.L., C.C., by the Tongwynlais Decoration Committee," the other side bearing the Greenmeadow coat of arms.



NEW FOOTBRIDGE ERECTED BY EVANS, HILL, AND STYLES OVER THE RIVER TAFF AT TONGWYNLAIS.
[Photo William Sealey, Tongwynlais.

12th October 1908, The Evening Express

Accreditation: **The National Library of Wales**
Newspaper Archive

No shortage of gold among the Oddfellows. 30th March 1909, The Evening Express

ODDFELLOWSHIP AT TONGWYNLAIS.

A pleasant gathering of members of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows took place in the lodge-room of the Ivor Castle Lodge, Lewis' Arms Hotel, Tongwynlais. The occasion was the return visit of the members of the Mackintosh Lodge, Cardiff, to Tongwynlais, and the brethren were received with a cordial vote of welcome. Mr. John Thomas, an old brother of the Ivor Castle Lodge, over 70 years of age, who has held the treasurership for over 40 years, was handed a purse of gold, the proceeds of a prize drawing, by Mr. Edward Thomas, the assistant secretary of the lodge.

It beggars belief, almost lost it. 27th November 1907, The Evening Express

A TONGWYNLAIS PETITION

A petition signed by 200 villagers of Tongwynlais was presented to the Caerphilly Group of School Managers on Tuesday by a deputation headed by the Rev. J. E. Davies, asking the council to rescind a resolution passed to do away with the old school at Tongwynlais. The deputation was instructed to apply to the county council.

PUPPY SHOW AT TONGWYNLAIS.

THE JUDGES—VISCOUNT TREDEGAR, COLONEL HY. LEWIS, AND MR. BLANDY JENKINS—IN CONSULTATION.

(Above photo)...8th April 1909, The Evening Express

(Right)....Mixing with the 'great and the good'. 9th April 1909, The Glamorgan Gazette.

PUPPY SHOW AT GREENMEADOW

YSTRAD AND PENTYRCH HUNT GATHERING.

The Ystrad and Pentyrch Hunt Puppy Show came off on Tuesday at Greenmeadow. Amongst a large number present were the Master (Col. Lewis), Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Rupert Lewis, Mr. Harry Lewis (Greenmeadow), Viscount Tredegar, Mr. J. Blandy Jenkins (Llanharran), Dr. Edwards (Taff's Well), Dr. Risley (Taff's Well), Dr. Washington David, M.F.H. (Glog), Colonel Curre (Itton Court), Colonel Homfray (Penllyn Castle), Mr. and Mrs. Ivor and Miss Williams (Duffryn Ffrwd), Colonel and Miss Fisher, Mr. W. P. Fisher (Redyr), Major Lucas, Major Reade, Captain Lindsay, Mr. Jos. Jones (Cardiff), the Misses Lucovich (Ty'n-y-pare), Mr. Ivor Vachell (Highmead), Mrs. W. Crawshay (Pentyrch), Mr. Howells (Caerphilly), Mr. Ely Morgan (Caerphilly), Mr. George Evans (Pontypridd), the Misses Masters (Lanelay Hall), Mr. John Moore (Ely), and Mr. Llewellyn (Goitre).

Before the show the Colonel had an inspection of horses, seventeen in number, for the Territorial Army, out of which he purchased seven, subject to veterinary examination.

They next commenced with judging the dogs, Viscount Tredegar and Mr. Blandy Jenkins being judges. The whole of the pack were exhibited in the ring, and were much admired by all present. Luncheon was held at the Lewis Arms, where 200 sat down, under the presidency of Colonel Lewis.

The Chairman gave the toast of "The Judges," Viscount Tredegar responding in one of his humorous speeches.

Colonel Curre proposed "The Puppy Walkers," while, amongst others, Colonel Fisher introduced the toast of the afternoon, that of "The Master."

Colonel Lewis expressed his acknowledgement, in which he was joined by Mrs. Lewis, who also spoke.

The judges made their awards as follows:—

Dogs.—Cup: 1st, "Norman"; sire, "Nimrod" (Glog); dam, "Rory," 1906 (Ystrad and Pentyrch); walked by Mr. Booket, Castle Hotel, Caerphilly. 2nd, "Collier"; sire, "Goomer," 1906; dam, "Countess" (Craigddu); walked by W. Thomas, Walnut Tree Inn. 3rd, "Nimrod"; sire, "Nimrod" (Glog); dam "Rory," 1906 (Ystrad and Pentyrch); walked at the Griffin Inn, Rudry. 4th, "Seaman"; sire "Luner," 1901; dam, "Songstress," 1903; walked at Lewis' Arms, Tongwynlais. 5th, "Sultan," same as above; walked at Griffin, Lisvane. From the cup down the prizes were from £1 to 2s. 6d.

Bitches.—Cup: "Nora"; sire, "Nimrod" (Glog); dam, "Rory," 1906; walked by Mr. Llewellyn, Goitre Farm. 2nd, "Clarry"; sire, "Gomer," 1906; dam, "Countess"; walked by Mr. Thomas, Tongwynlais, who also took Mr. Roberts's prize of £1 in the workman's class. 3rd, "Comley"; bred as above; walked by Mr. Morgan, Gwaelod-y-Garth. 4th, "Wonder"; sire, "Nimrod" (Glog); dam, "Welcome," 1903; walked by Mr. Bassett, Alt Isaf. 5th, "Fairmaid"; sire, "Rambler" (Glog); dam, "Truelove," 1906; walked by Mr. Rees, Heal-hir.

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(Right).....Another 'Puppy Show' was reported by The Evening Express on 24th March 1910. 'Luncheon' was served in the Lewis Arms.

And finally below.....Name your price, if you are cheap enough and if you are a 'suitable country Girl'. The Bute Arms still going apparently. 7th January 1916, The South Wales Weekly.

Llanelly.

GOOD home to suitable country Girl; small house; family 2. State age and wages required.—Bute Arms, Tongwynlais, Cardiff. 2899p

HOUSE Wanted in Carmarthen; moderate rent;

HUNT PUPPY SHOW

That popular hunt function, the annual puppy show, was held in glorious weather at Greenmeadow, a big ring scanning with critical interest the puppies as they came up before the judges, Mr. David Jones, M.F.H., Gelligaer, and Mr. J. D. Williams, M.F.H., Tynewydd (who acted in place of Viscount Tredegar and Mr. J. Blandy Jenkins.

The company included the genial master of the Ystrad and Pentyrch (Colonel Henry Lewis), Mrs. Lewis, and Mr. Rupert Lewis; Mr. Humphrey Mackworth, M.F.H., Llangibby Foxhounds; Dr. Edwards, Taff's Well; Colonel Fisher, Mr. P. Fisher, and Miss Fisher, Radyr; Mrs. Tatem, St. Fagan's; Major Lucas, Captain Wilkie and Mrs. Wilkie, Major Bonde, Mr. Evans, The Ynys, and Mr. J. Davies, Creigiau. The entry comprised six-and-a-half couple dogs, and five couple bitches—a very good all round lot, reflecting equal credit on the walkers' care and Colonel Lewis's judgment. The awards were:—

Dogs: 1st, "Topper," Mr. Evans, Craigwen; 2nd, "Tuner," Mr. Williams, Hill Farm (both by Mr. Curre's "Cormorant" out of Ystrad and Pentyrch's "Wasteful"); 3rd, "Leader," by Ystrad and Pentyrch's "Chanter," out of their "Clarry."

Bitches: 1st, "Truthful," Mr. Jenkins, Aber; 2nd, "Truly," Mr. Wride, The Graig; 3rd, "Topsy," Mr. Llewellyn, Castle Farm; Mr. Curre's "Cormorant" and the Ystrad and Pentyrch's "Wasteful" being sire and dam of each.

Mr. Roberts's (The Garth) special prize for best hound walked by a working man went to Mr. Jenkins with "Truthful."

THE LUNCHEON.

The luncheon at Lewis Arms, Tongwynlais, was presided over by Colonel Lewis, who, prior to awarding the cups and other prizes, said one whom they all wished to see there was prevented by indisposition—Viscount Tredegar. The sporting farmers and supporters of the hunt assembled sympathetically endorsed the colonel's heartfelt allusion to the death of the late Mr. Ivor Williams, Duffryn Ffrwd. The toasts of the judges, the puppy walkers, and the master were heartily received.

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