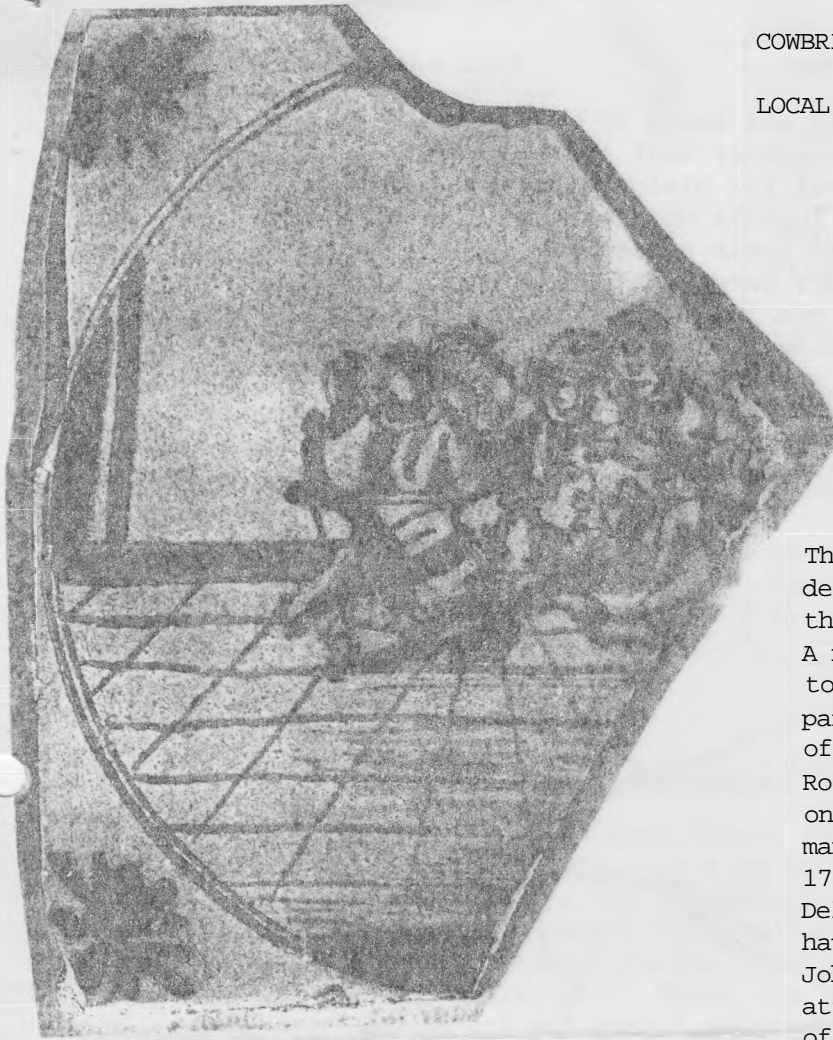


COWBRIDGE AND DISTRICT

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

March 1982



This illustration is part of a decorative tile which came from the Spread Eagle in Cowbridge. A number of such tiles which appear to depict biblical scenes were part of the ornamental surround of the large fireplace in the Assembly Room. The tiles have blue designs on a white background and were manufactured in Bristol at about 1720, and are known as 'Bristol Delft': thus they are likely to have been observed by the Revd John Carne of Nash who was a regular attender at this and other places of entertainment in Cowbridge.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, March 5th:

'Remembered in the Vale' -
the Revd. Canon S.H. Mogford.

Saturday, March 27th:

Charter Day Celebrations
at 8pm in the Town Hall

Friday, April 2nd:

'Medieval Houses' -
Mr John Blair, Queens College,
Oxford.

* Friday, May 7th:

'Recent Excavations of Roman
and Medieval Cowbridge' -
Mr Jonathan Parkhouse of the
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological
Trust. This is an addition to our
published programme, and because
of the great interest which has
been aroused by the various 'digs'
in Cowbridge, will be held in the
Town Hall. Mr Parkhouse has been in
charge of the series of recent
excavations.

*

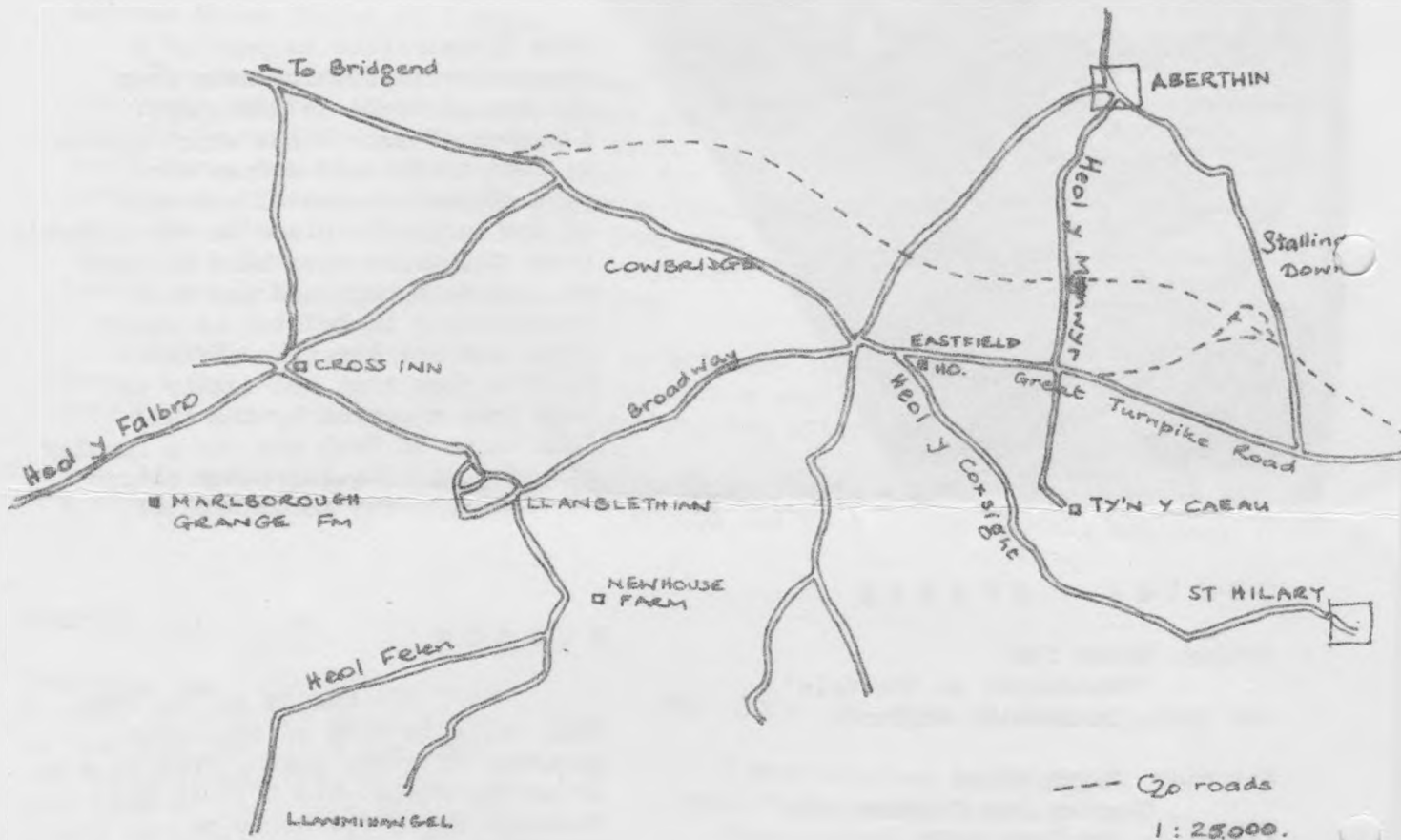
MUSEUM

The Museum in the Town
Hall cells is open on the first
Saturday of every month, from 11 a.m.
If anyone feels able to help Mrs
Eveleigh for a few hours on
Saturday, May 1st, will he or she
please get in touch with Mrs Eveleigh
at Cowbridge 2495?

The Museum will be open
on Carnival Day - 5th June ~ and
throughout Cowbridge Week which will
be from June 7th to 12th. Can we,
as usual, have some volunteers to
act as stewards? As the Sealed Knot
Society will be performing again, on
June 12th and 13th, we would like
to have some displays on a Civil War
theme - so any relevant information
on Cowbridge in the Civil War would
be welcomed. Also - if anyone has a
special skill in drawing plans and
maps, please contact Mrs Eveleigh.

STREET NAMES AND ROAD NAMES

We are lucky in Cowbridge in that we don't have many Acacia Avenues and Laburnum Groves; most street names seem to have been sensitively named with some respect for historical precedent. I am not referring, of course, to Penny Lane - that, luckily now seems to have been forgotten. Quite a number of our streets have taken their names from the fields in which the roads were made : Cae Rex and Tyla Rhosyr were fields on the Tithe Map of the 1840s; the Broad Shoard is a name which was in use at least three centuries ago; Durel, Stradling, Seys and Leoline are names all associated with the Grammar School. Many of the field names have now gone, as have many of the names for roads and tracks. In studying some eighteenth- and nineteenth- century documents in the Extra-Mural class in Old hall, we have come across many of these names - some of the road names are marked on the map below.



Heol y Falbro is what we would call the Llantwit road, going past Marlborough Grange - and it serves to emphasise that Malbro is the correct name for the farm, and it has nothing to do with famous battles or Churchills at all.

Heol Felen - probably the Yellow Road, is the 'green way'! leading from Margaret Northway's Riding stables towards Llanmihangel; while Broadway, one of the few traditional names in English, is well-known and well-named.

Leading from Aberthin, past the chapel is a narrow lane which crosses the A48 on Primrose Hill and now leads to Ty'n y Caeau; it previously continued towards St Hilary and the lead mines there - hence the name, Heol y Mwynwyr (Miners' Road). What the other lane to St Hilary means - Heol y Coxsight - is a mystery, however.

It is now a 'green way' which emerges on to the A48 at the side of Eastfield House.

Any more old road names? Let me know if you come across any unusual ones.

FOOTPATHS GROUP

You may remember from the last newsletter that John Roberts has agreed to coordinate the various walks that members wish to organise. There will be a meeting for all interested in continuing with the series of footpath walks in John's house, 2 Brookfield Park Road, Cowbridge, on Wednesday 10 March at 8 p.m.

The first walk of 1982 will be a coastal walk, on Sunday 21 March. The walk will be from Llantwit Major to Nash - a distance of about six miles - and a shuttle service of cars will be arranged so that you don't have to walk back from Nash Point! Please meet in Llantwit Major beach car park at 2.30 p.m.



OFFICERS 1981 - 1982.

- President: Mr Norman Williams, C 2107
- Chairman: Mrs Yvonne Weeding, C 2878
- Hon. Secretary: Mr John Miles, C 2270 |
- Hon. Treasurer: Mr Simon Nicoll, C 3842 |
- Programme Secretary: Mrs Gwynneth
Keay, C 2879
- Excursions Secretary: Mrs Val Nicoll,
C 3842
- Museum Curator: Mrs Marion Eveleigh,
C 24 95
- Publicity: Mrs Dorothy Sewell, C 2689 ⁶⁶⁹
- Newsletter: Mr Jeff Alden, C3373.

- Committee: Mr Geoff Burrows, Mrs
Lilian Carthew, Mrs Jacqui James,
Mrs Barbara Toogood, Mrs Viv Whythe.

C H U R C H M E M O R I A L S

Just inside the door of Holy Cross Church is the memorial to the Bevan family: John Bevan who died in 1823, his wife Susanna, and their children - particularly John who died on the 7th of January 1897, aged 98, and whose 'remains rest at Varese in Lombardy'. This latter is the man who-according to Iolo Davies in 'A Certain 3choole'-in his day "must have been widely known both as a busybody and a benefactor". Bevan was a Cowbridge solicitor and an old boy of the Grammar School who from 1847 onwards became keenly interested in the educational provisions of the town. We find him first making a report to the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales - who produced the notorious Blue Book which claimed that 'Welsh ignorance was the result of the existence of the Welsh Language'. Bevan's concern, however, was not with the Welsh language but with the running of the Grammar School, and in particular with Jesus College's meanness in providing for the school, especially as the value of the estates left to Jesus College by Sir Leoline Jenkins had increased considerably. He was then concerned with the lack of 'free boys' - and as the century progressed continued to fight for the education of the poor, endowed scholarships to the Grammar School, and together with Alderman Edward John campaigned for a High School for Girls. John Bevan paid for the land and the original hostel or boarding house building of the Girls' High School; a plaque over the staffroom door in what is now the Sixth form block of Cowbridge school records this.

On the other side of the entrance is the Jenkins memorial. David Jenkins was born in Hensol in 1582, was educated at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. between 1597 and 1600, and was called to the bar in 1609. He was not appointed a judge until 1642, when he was sixty. He was a strong royalist in the Civil War: he indicted several parliamentarians of high treason, he is reported to have encouraged the cruelties of Gerard's Irish troops in Pembrokeshire, and he may have fought on the Royalist side. He was taken prisoner in Hereford when the city fell to the parliamentarians in December 1645, and sent to the Tower. The House of Commons charged him with high treason and then came a complicated set of arguments and counter-arguments; Jenkins was able to publish pamphlets and papers to support his case. He was a most effective propagandist, and his arguments are supposed to have had a great deal of influence both in England and in Glamorgan (not enough to save Charles' head, apparently!; He was not released (from Windsor) till 1657, and died in 1663.



BUILDINGS GROUP ARRANGEMENTS.

Although Iolo has been unwell - we wish him a speedy recovery - he and Vera have organised three visits for the Buildings Group.

The first is on Saturday, 3rd April. Mrs Davies, the wife of the Rector of Fair-water, will take us around St Andrews Major Church, and Michaelston le Pit Church; a good chance to see that little-visited part of the Vale between Wenvoe and Dinas Powis. We will meet at St

Andrews Major Church at 2.30pm.

The second visit is the long-awaited one to Merthyr Mawr House. Mr McLaggan, the owner, states that there is ample parking within the grounds, so we will be able to take the cars up to the house - meet there at 3.00p.m. We are asked for a donation of £1 per person for the National Trust. Vera Griffith advises us to keep on the A48 past the Island Farm POW camp and to turn sharp left soon after the 'Craig y Parcau Home' sign on the left. In about one quarter mile along this lane, the entrance to Merthyr Mawr House is on the right, just before the bridge over the Ogmore River.

Thirdly, there will be a visit on Saturday 19 June to Llanharan house - meet at the House at 2.30p.m. There will be a small admission fee, and it is hoped that the restaurant will be open for tea after our visit.

All members are welcome to come on these visits - and if anyone requires a lift, please ask the Chairman to announce the fact at the monthly meetings .

CHARTER DAY

This year our celebrations will be held on Saturday March 27th - in the Town Hall at 8 p.m. For new members, the idea is that we will have an excellent meal with plenty of home-made wine. The wine will be provided by some of the Society's gifted oenologists, but members are asked to bring enough food for themselves and a little more to cater for guests, as this is the Society's way of thanking the previous year's speakers. We are not expected to provide a complete meal, but a bowl of this and a dish of that - so please get in touch with Lilian Carthew (Cowbridge 2680) who is in charge of the arrangements this year, so that we don't end up with too much of one food and not enough of another!

A donation to the Society of 50 pence per person is expected.

OLD BOYS OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

I have started to compile a card-index of the names (and any concise biographical detail) of former students of the Grammar School before 1850.

So far, I have waded through 'A Certaine Schoole' and extracted all the relevant information from that, together with notes from early issues of the Bovian. My records start with John Alexander of Jersey (1734-8) and end with Thomas Williams (1745-8); the earliest is Evan Seys of Boverton.

If you know of any additional sources, please let me know.