

## **Cowbridge livestock markets**

Markets and fairs were traditionally held in the High Street. Pressure mounted to get livestock off the street, and pens for sheep and pigs had been set up on the site of the town ditch as early as 1806. The cattle market followed in 1889 when the Butts pool was drained. The sheep market was converted into a car park in the 1960s.

1857, October 24<sup>th</sup> Corporation agreed to extend the stock market further down the Butts. *Bridgend Chronicle*

### **Proposed Market place at Cowbridge**

**12<sup>th</sup> June 1885**

The question of providing a proper market place at Cowbridge has been revived among some of the leading agriculturalists in this neighbourhood. At present, a number of farms sell their stock at home in preference to attending the market, but we have no doubt that if a convenient market place were provided they would soon discover the benefits which always result from open competition.

More than forty years ago, in connection with the Fat stock show, Mr David Owen of Ash Hall proposed a scheme for the erection of an agricultural hall and offered to subscribe £50, but failed to find any support from amongst the agriculturalists of the district. The Rev. DW Williams of Fairfield has now offered £100 towards a similar object, and we understand that Mr Owen is still prepared to abide by his original offer.

For many years the Cowbridge markets have been getting smaller by degrees until they have become so insignificant that butchers and dealers from a distance will not attend. The Vale of Glamorgan is celebrated for the excellent quality of the stock produced there, and the only reason which can be assigned for the gradual decline of the Cowbridge market is the fact that there is not proper accommodation provided for the animals which are brought in. The Fat Stock Show would without a doubt be far more successful if the stock exhibited could be put under cover. It cannot be expected that agriculturalists will allow valuable animals to stand shivering in an open field on a cold wet December day, and the result is that they keep them at home.....etc.

*'Western Mail'*

1889, 29<sup>th</sup> January Borough of Cowbridge – **New Cattle Market**

The new cattle market will be opened on Tuesday, the fifth day of February next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

All cattle and other animals will be toll-free on that day.

Special arrangements have been made with the Taff vale Railway Company for the conveyance of cattle from Cowbridge to Pontypridd early in the afternoon on market and fair days.

Dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1889

John Stockwood, Town Clerk

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### **Memories of Hubert Thomas :**

Pig market 1805 – wrought iron, crafted by blacksmith (now car park).

New charter 1888.

New market and weighbridge and house.

Covered sides, with chains.

Drainage to river Thaw near the Poplars till the 1955 sewerage system.

Auctions discontinued soon after the war started – 1939.

Animals were graded and slaughtered outside, all under Ministry of Food.

About 1956, the Borough Council purchased the Old Hall field and provided a new sheep and pig market and new covered sale ring for cattle, and new pens.

Mid Glamorgan water 1921

Mains to Cowbridge 1926

Electricity 1927

Sewer 1957