

**What's
Happening
to
Cowbridge?**



2: The Limes Chapel

From the Spread Eagle Inn, whose history we traced in an earlier issue, we come to a comparatively recent building which nevertheless made a significant contribution to the community of Cowbridge during the past century. In 1825 the Sion Chapel was built at the Limes on the land of William Howell, Cowbridge's first brewer. The building was another step in the spread of the Calvinistic Methodist movement in the area.

However, this building - which has not been used as a place of worship for over 10 years - is soon to be converted into maisonettes. Fortunately, we were able to catch a last glimpse of its interior, which still shows aspects of its religious life. Although the chapel is now overgrown, there remains inside the basic plan of pews and pulpit, as well as piles of funeral programmes and hymn books. The semi-circular gallery with its ornate plaster ceiling is in perfect condition, and would still hold a large congregation.

Indeed, in its heyday the Limes Chapel was second only to the Anglican church. The chapel was consistently full for both morning and evening services, especially for the preachers of local fame such as David Rowland of Llangeitho, and Howell Harris. The latter's diaries record his busy Sundays divided between Llantrisant, Penprysc and Aberthin, where he first established Calvinist services at a farmhouse in 1742.

As well as the division between church and chapel, there was also segregation within the Chapel between the Welsh- and English- speaking congregations: the English services being conducted by David Lewis, a gardener, and the Reverend Tyler of Llantrithyd in a small hall built adjoining the Limes by Mr Richard Cory. When English was introduced into the general services, this hall was handed over to the Salvation Army and then to the Temperance Society.

During the early twentieth century, the Chapel became increasingly popular and held successful Harvest Thanksgiving Services, and an Anniversary Service - though few knew what the anniversary was! Every third April, the chapel choir was joined by the choirs of Llantwit, Barry and Cadoxton to take a major part in the Vale of Glamorgan Singing Festival.

The Limes Chapel (continued)

The chapel also saw the 39 years service of Rev. Emrys Davies, who was noted for his undaunted visits to absentees. So impressive was this call to prayer that on one occasion even his dog attended the service. Lassie came from Llanblethian across the three fields and, on hearing her master's voice, entered the church. Placing her paws round her master's neck, she proceeded to lick him while he made his sermon. Finally, Lassie was gracefully removed by the much embarrassed Mrs Davies. The Word later spread to the local poultry, who made an unstinting effort to interrupt the sermon by continually racing in and out of the two entrances in full view of the congregation.

One of the most popular events of the year was the Sunday School outing. This began as a trip to the Leys in a wagonette. The advent of the railway saw the Sunday School party on a trip to Aberthaw or St Athan. Later, Barry Island or Porthcawl were popular venues, and one year it was a picnic in Slade Woods.

Children were always welcomed to the chapel, and perhaps the most humorous anecdote was that of a young boy who dextrously used his peashooter aimed at the bald head of a sleeping deacon. Although he was successful in reverting the reverend gentleman's attention to the sermon, he was severely reprimanded by the preacher who told him that if his aim in life was as straight as his aim with a peashooter, he was sure to go far. The boy later became a preacher!




(Many thanks to David Bros.,
Mr Selwyn Davies and Mrs Tebby
for their information and support.)

Julie Curtis and Caroline Inson.
Illustrations by Irene Brown.

CAMPANOLOGY IN COWBRIDGE

How about trying something different? - bellringing for instance. Cowbridge tower practice night is Tuesday, from 7.45 to 9.00 and we are eager to find more ringers. Anyone with any experience of campanology is invited to come along, as well as beginners. There is more to it than tugging and sweating at the end of a rope. Once you have persevered with the basics, the intricate realms of 'Bob Doubles' and the like are opened to you! So, if you can endure the climb up the tower stairs and an evening humoured with local gossip and jest, please join us.

Julie Curtis.



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LLANBLETHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

In the annual meeting of the council held on 16 May 1978, Councillor E.H. Phillips of 'Chestnuts', Cardiff Road, was elected Chairman for 1978-9, and Councillor G. Gates of Lansdowne, Piccadilly, Llanblethian was appointed Vice-Chairman. The other councillors are: L.C. Fisher, Tannenbaum, Welsh St Donats Road, Aberthin; W.E.M. Gough, The Well House, Penylan Newton; S.V. Markett, 2 Love Lane, Llanblethian; D.A.J. Rees, 1 Bessant Close, and P.C. Lewis, @ Bowmans Way, Cowbridge.

The Cowbridge and Llanblethian joint Committee has been informed that the Borough Council has decided that the land adjacent to the Limes is to be laid out as a public park.

After much pressure from both Llanblethian and Cowbridge Councils and the joint committee, the County Council has agreed to install a modern controller unit at the traffic lights. This will allow a pedestrian phase, and will enable schoolchildren, in particular, to cross safely.

Jubilee Mugs again! The final consignment has arrived: anyone wishing to purchase a mug or mugs should contact Mrs M. Frost, Clerk to the council; telephone 3607.

Stuart Frost.

Congratulations to Kathryn Summerscales and Andrew Jones, who represented South Glamorgan in the Welsh County Athletics championships at Colwyn Bay. Both came third in their events, Andrew beating the existing 400m record in so doing!

The Ardwyn Singers of Cardiff are off to sing in Canada, in association with the Commonwealth Games. Cowbridge members Mrs Marilyn Darby and Mr and Mrs Roger James should have a memorable time - we wish them well.

COWBRIDGE LIONS

In the near future the Cowbridge Lions are to organise a series of dances for the young people of the Cowbridge and Llanblethian area; the first dance will be on Friday 22nd September.

Some Lions members will be taking people from a local Alcoholics home on a trip to Dan yr Ogof caves on 20th August, with - weather permitting - a picnic on the return journey.

Sometime in September the Lions are hoping to organise a Copper March (a mile of pennies). Discussion is also taking place at the present with a view to holding a 'Youth Sporting Weekend', for the beginning of next year, open to all youth organisations and schools in the Vale.

Further information on the Lions and these forthcoming events is available from Stephen Markett, 2 Love Lane, Llanblethian, or from the Lion President Chris Davies, The Duke of Wellington Hotel, Cowbridge.

Peter Davies.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN AGRICULTURAL SHOW



On Wednesday 16 August, the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society will hold its annual show at Penllyn Castle Park, Penllyn, near Cowbridge.

The Agricultural Society in Glamorgan was formed in 1772 'for the encouragement of agriculture'. It followed the example of a similar society which had been set up in the neighbouring county of Brecknockshire in 1755. The latter is still in existence today, and it is probably the oldest society of its kind anywhere in England or Wales.

In 1773, the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society presented its first prizes. It is interesting to note that they were awarded for the best coach horse, and, in the following year, for the best ten acres of turnips. The present society still maintains the aims of the original society, but nowadays the competitions cater for a wider variety of tastes.

This year the show includes classes for Led Hunters, ridden Hunters and Cobs (which includes a side-saddle equitation class), children's riding ponies, Welsh Mountain ponies, Shires, and - for the first time - classes for working Hunter ponies and a Scurry Driving competition. Other sections for horses and livestock include B.S.J.A. jumping classes, gymkhana classes and classes for donkeys, sheep and cattle.

As well as these classes, there is the ever-popular Horticultural section of the show, with classes for a large variety of flowers, plants, fruit and vegetables, including a decorative section and a special section for children. There is also a section of the show devoted to the Women's Institute, and the Dog Show also has its own section and is run under Kennel Club rules.

Some interesting and perhaps unusual activities of the society are the Silage, Ley, corn and Root crop competitions. These are all judged before the show takes place - the silage competition in January, the Ley competition in May, and corn growing a few days before the show. Last year there were over eighty fields of corn to be judged.

As well as staging the Agricultural and Horticultural sections of the show, the organisers have to mark out the spaces for the many trade exhibits. The Edward John Memorial Perpetual Challenge Cup is awarded for the best trade exhibit, which last year came from as far afield as Ayr in Scotland. They include stands for selling agricultural goods, craft, saddlery, clothes and even cars. The Banks also attend as do charities and organizations such as the National Farmers' Union.

Perhaps the highlight of the show is the 'Grand Parade of Prize-Winning Animals'. Unfortunately, last year torrential rain fell throughout the day and the usual effect of the parade was lost. Indeed the whole show was affected and some of the officials had to buy waterproof clothing from the men's outfitters, who were, perhaps, the only people to have a profitable day.

This year everybody hopes that the weather will be fine for the show, which costs approximately £10,000 to stage. It is estimated that a gate of £5,000 is needed for the show to break even, the rest of the money coming from subscriptions,

The Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show (continued)

donations, entry fees and trade stands.

For those who wish to visit the show, there is a large car park, and there is usually a bus service which runs from Cowbridge to the show-ground.

The popularity of the show increases from year to year, and draws exhibitors from Somerset and Wiltshire, and last year one competitor in an equestrian event came from Cumbria! However, the show relies heavily on support from local people; it is an event well worth visiting.

Dorothy Sawyer.

COMING EVENTS



On Bank Holiday Saturday, August 26, the Rotary Club of Cowbridge are organising a Donkey Derby, fair and fete, on the Bear Field, Cowbridge at 2 o'clock. During the morning there will be a parade of donkeys through the town; in the afternoon there will be - in addition to the racing - a jazz band, food and beer tents and many sideshows. The proceedings are all in aid of local charities such as the Red Cross, assistance for the elderly, and international scholarships for students. Programmes are being sold everywhere from Llantwit Major

to Pencoed - the organisers hope to knock on the doors of every house in the area to sell the programmes - so give your support and have an enjoyable time!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY have two excursions organised for September; the first, a picnic excursion, is to Margam Park on Sunday September 3 - meet at Margam Park car park at 2.30, and bring a picnic. Then, on Thursday September 14, there is an excursion to Penllyn Castle at 7.30. The September 1st meeting will include a film as well as the A.G.M.

The GARDENING CLUB have a coffee evening at Wayside, Westgate, Cowbridge, on Tuesday 8th August from 7 o'clock. Admission 15p; there will be a bring and buy stall and competitions. The aim is to raise funds for the Show.

The Annual Show is on September 9th, from 2 to 6 pm at the Town Hall; admission is 10p. There will be classes for fruit, vegetables, flowers, home baking, preserves, honey and flower arranging. Come in your hundreds!

SCHOOL EVENTS: A level results on Wednesday August 16, O level results on Wednesday August 23..... Then, on Tuesday September 5, it's back to school! (Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupils - and parents - remember the new school times: 8.40 am to 3.10 pm.)

OLD HALL ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE : Enrolment for all classes for the new term will be in Old Hall from Monday September 18 to Friday September 22.

GUY FAWKES CELEBRATIONS - a bonfire preceded by a torchlight and lantern procession - will be on Saturday, November 4th, organised by Cowbridge and District Entertainments Committee.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Three students at Cowbridge School have represented Wales at cricket this year? Andrew Brace has played three games for the Wales Under 19 team (and scored 83 against the Welsh Colleges); Paul Williams has played three games for the Wales Under 15s (including matches against the touring Australian teams); Paul Murphy played for the Under 15s against the Australian Under 16s.

Five boys (David Cartwright, Paul Murphy, Julian and Paul Williams, Graeme Smith) were all members of the South Glamorgan Under 15 team which won the Welsh Counties Cup; and David Cartwright scored a century on the Third Form Middlesex tour!

The forms 1, 2 and 3 teams have all reached the final of the S.Glam Schools Cup.

A tremendous list - well done all concerned!

VALE OF GLAMORGAN FESTIVAL

The tenth annual Vale of Glamorgan Festival is to be held this year from August 19th to September 2nd. Concerts will be given in Llantwit Major and Penmark churches, and at St Donats, Beaupre castle and Colwinston.

The varied programme is to contain nine events, one of which is to be a celebratory buffet supper to mark the tenth anniversary of the festival. Booking for this closes on Aug. 10.

Half-price tickets are available for all concerts to students and OAPs. Details of group reductions and transport subsidies for large parties can be obtained by application to the Festival Box Office. St Donats Arts Centre members may also obtain sizeable reductions on ticket prices for the concerts, but only by booking in advance through the Arts Centre administration.

Tickets are available from The Festival Box Office, Sorrento, High Street, Cowbridge. (Tel: 2807)

Peter Davies.

THE MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club, a club for mentally handicapped youngsters, was formed in May 1976 following a meeting of the Ladies Contact Club and an amalgamated effort from the Red Cross, the Rangers and Ramoth Chapel.

Club meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at Ramoth Chapel schoolroom. The atmosphere is informal with participation in games, craftwork and various other activities.

At the moment, fifteen mentally handicapped people attend the club along with various helpers. The mentally handicapped members come from Cowbridge and outlying areas including Llantwit, Peterston and City.

The Club has been aided by donations from the Lions who have also helped to supply 'pop' and crisps. Last year the Ramoth Youth Club helped to organise an outing to Penscynor Bird Gardens, which was enjoyed by all.

More helpers would always be appreciated - both young and old, male and female! Anyone interested should contact Mrs Jean Roberts (Telephone: Cowbridge 2179).

Karen Charters.

INTERCOM

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