

"Set in a beautiful and secluded area of countryside is this elegant market town, known as the 'Capital' of the rural Vale."



High Street / Stryd Fawr



Verity's Court / Llys Verity

"Mae'r dref farchnad gain yma wedi ei lleoli mewn ardal brydferth a thawel a chaiff ei galw'n "Brifddinas" y Fro wledig."

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Os hoffech fwy o wybodaeth am Y Bont-faen a'i hanes, ymwelwch ag un o'n gwefannau:

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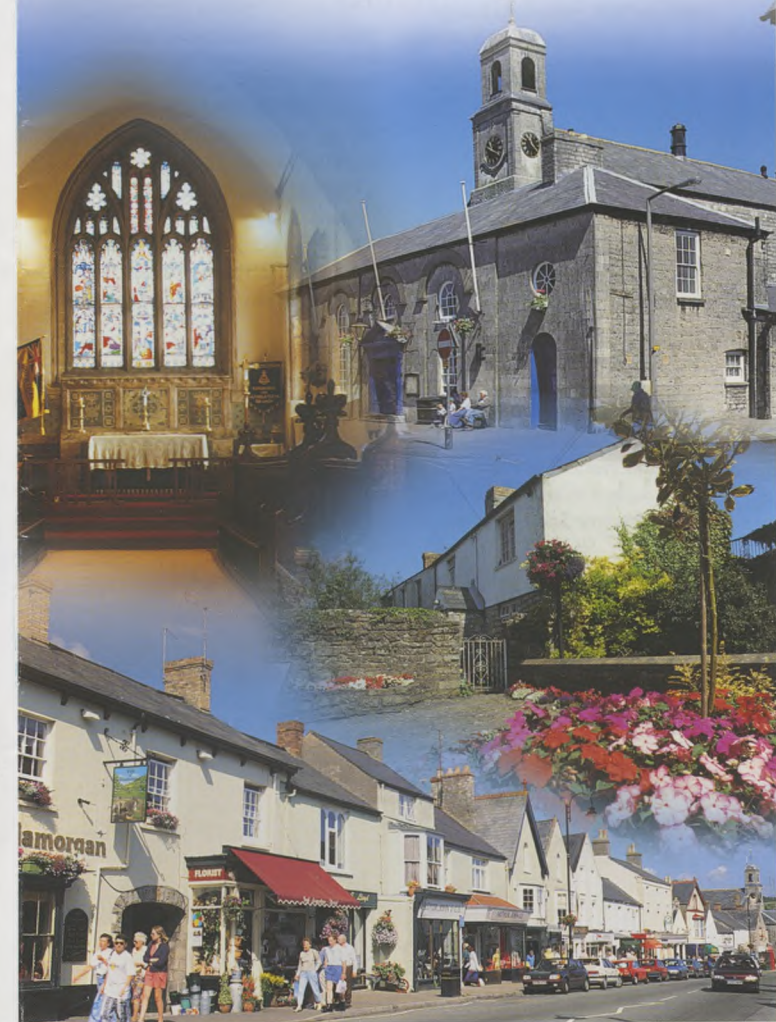


The Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Dock Office, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 4RT ☎ (01446) 709325  
E-mail: [tourism@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) Website: [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg  
Swyddfa'r Dociau, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg CF63 4RT ☎ (01446) 709325  
E-bost: [tourism@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) Gwefan: [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

This is a joint Project between The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cowbridge Charter Trust and Cowbridge Town Council.  
Photography by John O'Beirne (01446) 738823, Colin Baglow (01639) 884175, Jeff Alden (01446) 773373. Drawings © Robert Cope (01446) 773145  
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Gyda diolch i Gymdeithas Archifau'r Bont-faen am ddarparu gwybodaeth hanesyddol.



## A Bit of History...

**T**here was a small town here in Roman times, built at a point where the main Roman road in south Wales, the Via Julia, crossed the river Thaw. The High Street runs along the line of the Roman road; archaeological digs have exposed a wealth of military and civil remains - Roman houses, a bath house, corn driers, pottery and metal ware, and signs of iron-making and leather-working.

Cowbridge as we know it today, however, developed from the 'new town' established by Richard de Clare, the Lord of Glamorgan. Its first charter, granted in 1254, laid down the fundamental rules for the government of the new borough of Cowbridge. The town walls, the South Gate, Holy Cross church and the burgage plots, the long narrow garden plots, all date from this time. Its growth since then has been as a market town for the Vale of Glamorgan, as a social centre with the wealthy families of the Vale having town houses built along the High Street, and also as an educational centre, the Grammar School having been founded in 1608. The Great Sessions and Quarter Sessions were held in the town, so it can also be considered to have been a legal centre for Glamorgan; its prison, too, was of some importance.



Cowbridge Town Hall / Neuadd y Dref y Bont-faen

It is a linear town, which quickly outgrew its roughly rectangular walled pattern, with houses being built along both sides of the main road, east and west of the centre; indeed in 1254 it was known as 'Longa Villa', long town. There was very little building outside the long and narrow borough envelope, however, until the mid-twentieth century.

Its lack of industrial development in the nineteenth century, as well

## Darn o Hanes...

**Y**r oedd tref fechan yn y fan hon yng nghyfnod y Rhufeiniaid, wedi ei chodi ar y fan lle'r oedd y brif ffordd Rufeinig yn ne Cymru, y Via Julia, yn croesi afon Ddawan. Mae'r stryd fawr yn rhedeg ar hyd llinell y ffordd Rufeinig; datgelodd cloddiadau archeolegol gyfoeth o olion milwrol a threfol - tai Rhufeinig, baddondy, sychwyr yd, crochenwaith a gwaith metel, ac arwyddion o wneud haearn a gwaith lledr.

farchnad ar gyfer Bro Morgannwg, fel canolfan gymdeithasol gyda theuluoedd cyfoethog y Fro yn meddu ar dai trefol a godwyd ar hyd y Stryd Fawr, a hefyd fel canolfan addysgol gan i'r Ysgol Ramadeg gael ei sefydlu ym 1608. Hefyd cynhaliwyd y Sesiwn Fawr a'r Sesiynau Chwarter yn y dref, felly gellir ei hystyried i fod yn ganolfan gyfreithiol ar gyfer Morgannwg; yr oedd ei charchar hefyd o gryn bwysigrwydd.

Mae'n dref linellig a ordyfodd ei phatrwm waliau hirsgwar bras yn gyflym gyda thai yn cael eu codi ar hyd dwy ochr y brif ffordd, i'r dwyrain a'r gorllewin o'r canol; yn wir, ym 1254 fe'i hadwaenid fel "Longa Villa", y dref hir. Ychydig iawn o adeiladu a ddigwyddodd y tu allan i amlen hirgul y bwrdeistref, fodd bynnag, tan ganol yr ugeinfed ganrif.

Golygodd ei diffyg datblygiad diwydiannol yn y bedwaredd



as the lack of east-west railway links, meant that Cowbridge stagnated at that time; but it also means that the town did not suffer from unsightly development. It still has some fine Georgian buildings, and indeed the façades of many of the houses along the main street often conceal medieval fabric. Even more noticeably in this part of Wales, it is the only town which has retained its early medieval town walls and its South Gate still stands; Cowbridge is a member of the Walled Towns Circle.

South Gate / Porth y De



ganrif ar bymtheg ynghyd â diffyg cysylltiadau rheilffordd dwyrain-gorllewin fod Y Bont-faen wedi aros yn ei hunfan ar yr adeg honno; ond hefyd golygodd na ddiodeffodd y dref ddatblygiad diolwg. Mae ganddi o hyd rai adeiladau Sioraidd cain, ac yn wir, mae ffasâd llawer o'r tai ar hyd y brif stryd yn aml yn cuddio deunydd canoloesol. Hyd yn oed yn fwy amlwg yn y rhan



hon o Gymru, hi yw'r unig dref sydd wedi cadw'i waliau tref ganoloesol gynnar ac mae ei Phorth y De yn sefyll o hyd; mae Y Bont-faen yn aelod o Gylch Trefi â Muriau o'u Cwmpas.

*The Town Trail*

Start in the gardens of Old Hall (access via the porch of Old Hall, Cowbridge's Adult Education Centre, which is diagonally across the road from the Bear Hotel)

Old Hall was built as a town house, probably in the seventeenth century. It was associated with the Edmondson family until the 1920s, and was used as part of the Grammar School from 1932 to 1964. The 'first' Thomas Edmondson was steward to the Aubreys of Llantrithyd but, through a sound business sense and judicious marriages, the Edmondson family prospered. A Classical extension with Venetian windows was added by a later Thomas Edmondson in the 1770s - but now only the ground floor of the façade of that part of the building remains.



The Old Hall before renovation / Yr Hen Neuadd cyn ei hadnewyddu

Old Hall gardens are bordered to the south and west by the Town Walls, which were built to enclose the new town of Cowbridge in the late thirteenth century.

Proceed between the modern Health Centre and the Library, designed by the Welsh School of Architecture, to the steps leading to the 'battlements' - the short stretch of walkway on top of the wall.

The bastion in the south-west corner was originally higher, but still gives a good view over to Llanblethian Hill with its Iron Age fort - and also overlooks the site of the Butts Pool, where scolds (over-talkative women) were ducked in the eighteenth century. The pool was filled in when the cattle market was constructed.

Go through the gateway in the wall and walk to the South Gate.

In the medieval walls, there were originally four gates, which controlled access to the town, particularly to collect tolls from



South Gate / Porth y De

those going in to market. Only the South Gate, a scheduled ancient monument, remains. The walls continue to another bastion in the Grammar School garden.



Tranquil gardens at the Old Hall / Gerddi tawel yr Hen Neuadd

**Go through the South Gate to inspect Cowbridge Grammar School.**

The school was founded in 1608 by the Stradlings of St Donats, and was owned by Jesus College, Oxford, from 1685 to 1918. Jesus College paid for the present buildings to be put up in 1847-52. They were designed by the ecclesiastical architect, John Prichard, to harmonise with the church and cottages in Church Street.

There is a further description of the school on the reverse of this sheet.

**Walk past the Tally Court, where handball used to be played, and opposite are two cottages.**

These were formerly one house, built in the late sixteenth century. The quality of the building - and of the beams, staircase, fireplaces and doorways inside - suggests that it was the home of people of some importance.

**Opposite is the entrance to the churchyard of Holy Cross church.**

Like the town walls and the South Gate, Holy Cross church was first built in the second half of the thirteenth century. Its solid and perhaps fortified tower may have been capped with a small spire; the bells date from the eighteenth century. A close examination of the walls shows changes in the position of windows and doorways over the years. The interior of the church, sometimes known as the 'Cathedral of the Vale', contains much of interest.

(See the reverse of this sheet).



Holy Cross church / Eglwys y Groes Sanctiaidd

**On leaving the churchyard, turn right towards the High Street.**

The Duke of Wellington was a medieval house: the two front rooms and passage remain in their original location. It has been an inn since the seventeenth century, with a variety of names, including the Half Moon, Black Horse and Coach and Horses, and was a coaching inn for some time. The space in the High Street opposite the 'Duke' was occupied by the Town Hall, market and town cross; these caused such an obstacle to traffic on the main



Duke of Wellington

road that in 1830 the Town Hall and cross were demolished and the market moved. A small brass plate on the road marks the site of the cross where, among others, John Wesley once preached.

Many of the buildings along the High Street are of medieval origin, but all have been modified to a greater or lesser extent; sometimes the backs of the buildings reveal interesting details such as the medieval warehouse behind Davies the newsagent's shop, or the sixteenth century window at the rear of Great House pharmacy. Great House was once the town house of the Carne family of Nash Manor. Built in the 1500s, it had a major change of its frontage in the eighteenth century, giving the Georgian windows and doorways we see today. The left hand side of the building was the Great House school of the Misses Culverwell in the nineteenth century, and Franklen House, a boarding house for the Grammar School, in the interwar years.

Opposite, 39 to 43 High Street make a pleasing grouping, with a fine carved ogee hood over the door of No 41.



Cowbridge Town Hall / Neuadd y Dref / Y Bont-foan

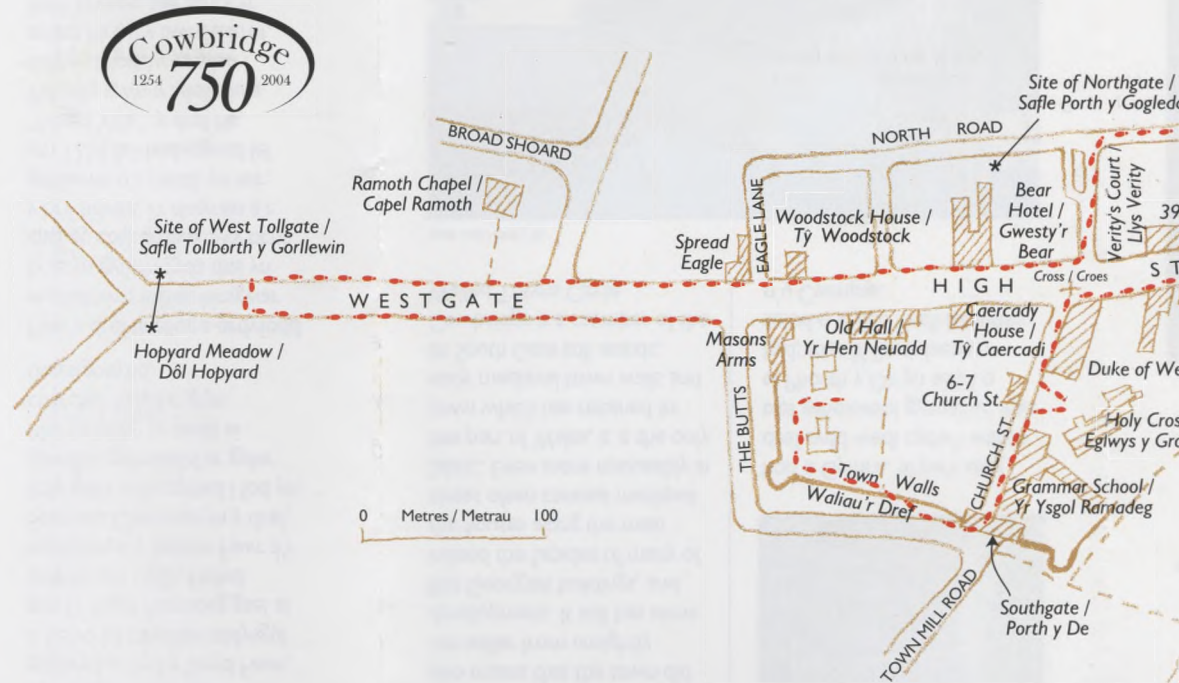
The Town Hall was built in 1830 over the former House of Correction. The main hall is on the upper floor, while the ground floor contains the Council Chamber and offices, Mayor's Parlour, Lesser Hall and the cells - which are now used to house the exhibits of the Cowbridge Museum. (See the reverse of this sheet)

Outside the Town Hall stood the East Gate, though nothing remains of this or of the town walls at this point. Opposite, the wall plaque to Iolo Morganwg, the talented but eccentric historian and folklorist, contains a line in the script he invented.

Eastwards over the river, the Old Brewery (now a residence) was one of Cowbridge's nineteenth century breweries - others being at the Vale of Glamorgan Inn, and in Cooper's Yard - which reminds us that at that time there were about two dozen inns and public houses in Cowbridge. The river Thaw used to flow past the east side of the Old Brewery - a plaque showing the position of the former bridge can be seen on the wall of the garden of Glanthaw Cottage.

The buildings along Eastgate are also of some age: the Pavilion however, recently reconstructed and preserving the façade and turret of the former cinema and ballroom (where Lloyd George was presented with the freedom of Cowbridge) now shows no sign of the handball court and wheelwright's premises which once occupied the site.

Some other buildings to the east should be noted - East Villa and The Armoury, with Georgian façades, and the adjoining Ancient Druid, reputed to be a pilgrims' hostel on the route to St David's.



0 Metres / Metrau 100

**Continue east towards the traffic lights**

On the right are the Victorian terraces of Croft Street and Croft Terrace (built after the railway came to Cowbridge in 1865). The far east of Eastgate was where the toll gate stood; the turnpike milestone is still visible, embedded into the wall on the corner of Eastgate.

**Retrace your steps towards the Town Hall**

The Shield, and Rhoscelyn opposite, with two parts of a standing stone in the garden, are examples of Victorian gentry houses, scarce in Cowbridge.

**At the Town Hall, turn right into Town Hall Square, pass the Institute building and turn left into North Road.**

The wall on your left is not the town wall, but glancing to the left

**Turn right into the High Street.**

The buildings at the corner of the junction with Church Street are at least of seventeenth century origin. On the north side of the road, the HSBC bank occupies the site of Prior's tower, mentioned as a possible site for the Grammar School when Sir Edward Stradling was considering its foundation in 1608. Next door is the Bear Hotel, of medieval origin. Inside, some doorways and carvings attest to its age. In the seventeenth century it was the town house for the Thomas family of Plas Llanmihangel, and then in the eighteenth century a celebrated coaching inn. The 'assembly room' at the rear is over a medieval undercroft, now used as a restaurant.

Opposite the Bear, Caercady House with a fine portico and Georgian façade was the town house for the Jenkinsons of Caercady



High Street / Stryd Fawr

'Westgate'; at the far end was the western tollgate, now demolished; the flats in Hopyard Meadow were built on the site of medieval cottages. A stone lion, a Roman funerary ornament, was discovered here.

On the northern side of Westgate, reached by a passageway through the cottages flanking the street, is the United Reformed Church, popularly known as Ramoth chapel. Built in 1828, it was soon rebuilt by 'Ten Chapel Tom' Morris, a celebrated preacher of his day. It is an attractive building with a good gallery.

Back towards the town centre, a restaurant and shop now occupy the former Spread Eagle Inn. The front part dates from the seventeenth century, but the extension running along Eagle Lane is more important in the history of Cowbridge. This housed the ballroom or assembly room which became the social centre of the town in the eighteenth century; it subsequently was used as a school, the Eagle Academy. It has a curved ceiling and two fine balconies above the fireplaces.

Across Eagle Lane is Woodstock House, another solid Georgian building, which was the town house of the Wyndham family of Dunraven.

**Cross the road to return to Old Hall. Our short walk around Cowbridge ends here; we hope it has whetted your appetite to find out more about this historic town.**



High Street / Stryd Fawr

one gets an excellent idea of the burghage plots, the long narrow gardens extending back from the buildings on High Street. Many of the gardens follow the exact outlines of the plots laid out soon after 1254.

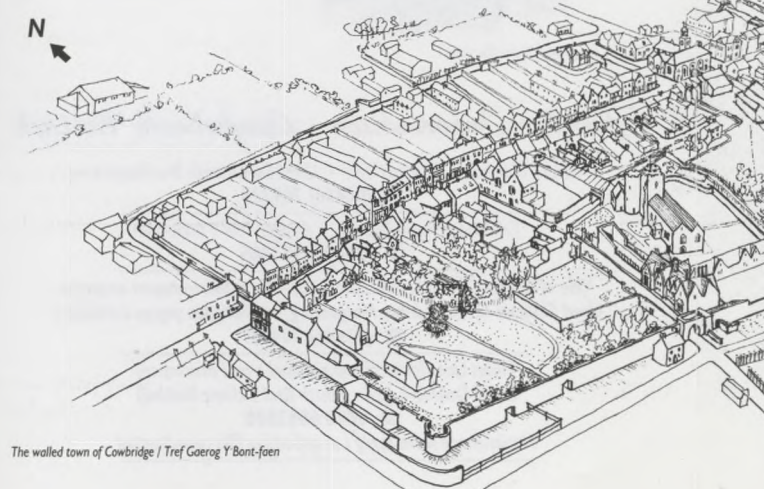
On the right, the Arthur John car park was the site of a significant excavation which unearthed a Roman bath house, with two boiler rooms and a central heating system. Tiles stamped LEG II AVG (second Augustan legion) showed that this was a Roman military site.

**Opposite the Vale Forge, turn left into the courtyard outside the Old Woolbarn, which was earlier a malthouse for the 'Vale' brewery (for which stabling was provided in the Vale Forge buildings) and go through Verity's Court.**

Isaiah Verity - after whom the court was named - had been awarded the freedom of Cowbridge for his work in building the Town Hall. The entrance still preserves its original appearance with a cobbled surface and triangular stones to protect the walls from wheels of carts and carriages.

near Welsh St Donats. Old Hall, whose frontage to the main road is a late-nineteenth century construction, has already been described at the start of the trail. It lies next to the Masons Arms which shows a medieval trefoil headed window next to a seventeenth-century bay and a nineteenth-century extension at right angles to it. The inn adjoined the West Gate until that was removed in 1753 because of the increasing road traffic.

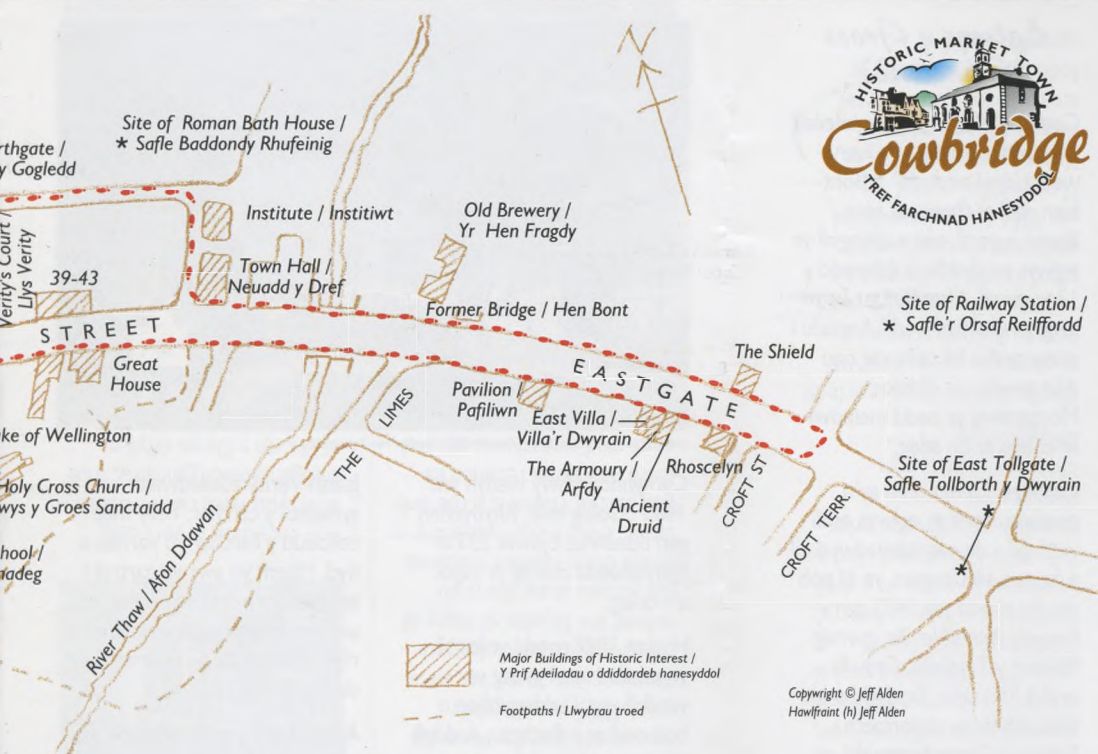
Beyond the Masons Arms, the street named 'The Butts' is probably associated with archery. The main road here is called



The walled town of Cowbridge / Tref Gaeog Y Bont-foan



Church Street / Stryd yr Eglwys



Major Buildings of Historic Interest / Y Prif Adeiladau a ddiardarb hanesyddol  
Footpaths / Llwybrau troed

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Llwybr y Dref

Dechreuwch yng ngerddir Hen Neuadd (ewch iddynt drwy borth yr Hen Neuadd, Canolfan Addysg Oedolion Y Bont-faen, sydd ar letraws ar draws y ffordd o Westy'r Bear).

Codwyd yr Hen Neuadd fel tŷ trefol, fwy na thebyg yn yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Roedd yn gysylltiedig â theulu Edmondson tan y 1920au ac fe'i defnyddiwyd fel rhan o'r Ysgol Ramadeg o 1932 hyd 1964. Roedd y Thomas Edmondson 'cyntaf' yn stiward i deulu Aubrey Llantrithyd, ond trwy synnwyr busnes cadarn a phriodasau doeth ffynnod teulu Edmondson. Ychwanegwyd estyniad clasurol â ffenestri Fenis gan Thomas Edmondson diweddarach yn y 1770au - ond bellach dim ond llawr gwaelod ffasâd y rhan honno o'r adeilad sy'n aros.

Mae Waliu'r Dref a godwyd i gau tref newydd Y Bont-faen yn niwedd y drydedd ganrif ar ddeg yn ymyl ar erddir Hen Neuadd i'r de a'r gorllewin.

**Ewch ymlaen rhwng y Ganolfan Iechyd a'r Llyfrgell fodern a gynlluniwyd gan Ysgol Bensaerniaeth Cymru, i'r grisiau sy'n arwain at y murfylchau - y darn bach o lwybr troed ar ben y wal.**

Yn wreiddiol, roedd y bastiwn yn y cornel de-orllewin yn uwch, ond mae'n rhoi golygfa dda dros Fryn Llanbleddian a'i gaer Oes yr Haearn - ac mae hefyd yn edrych dros safle Pwll Butts, lle trochwyd y sgoldiau (menywod gor-siaradus) yn y ddeunawfed ganrif. Llanwyd y pwll pan godwyd y farchnad wartheg.



Ewch drwy'r porth yn y wal a cherddwch i Borth y De.

Yn wreiddiol, roedd pedwar porth a reolai'r mynediad i'r dref, yn arbennig i gasglu tollau gan y rhai a fyddai'n mynd i farchnata. Dim ond Porth y De, heneb restredig, sy'n parhau. Mae'r waliau'n parhau hyd at fastiwn arall yng ngardd yr Ysgol Ramadeg.

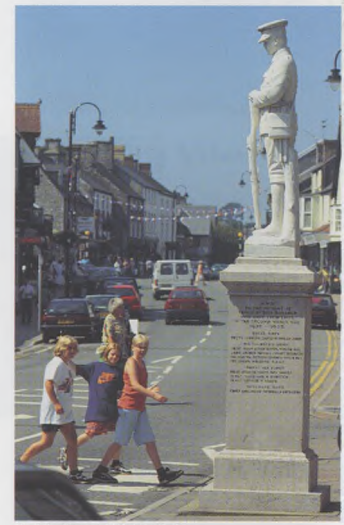
Ewch drwy Borth y De i weld Ysgol Ramadeg Y Bont-faen.

Sefydlwyd yr ysgol ym 1608 gan deulu Stradling Sain Dunwyd ac roedd yn eiddo i Goleg Iesu Rhydychen o 1685 hyd 1918. Talodd Coleg Iesu am y gwaith o godi'r adeiladau presennol ym 1847-52. Fe'u cynlluniwyd gan John Prichard, y pensaer eglwysig i gydweddu â'r eglwys a'r bythynnod yn Stryd yr Eglwys.

Ceir disgrifiad pellach o'r ysgol ar gefn y ddalen hon.

Cerddwch heibio Llys Tally lle yr arferid chwarae pêl-llaw, a gyferbyn gwelir dau fwrthyn.

Yn wreiddiol roedd y rhain yn un tŷ a godwyd yn niwedd yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg. Mae ansawdd yr adeilad - a'r trawstiau, y grisiau, y llyfeydd tân a'r mynedfeydd mewnlol - yn awgrymu ei fod yn gartref i bobl lled bwysig.



The War Memorial / Cofeb y Rhifyl

Gyferbyn ceir mynediad i fynwent eglwys y Groes Sanctaidd.

Fel waliau'r dref a Phorth y De, codwyd eglwys y Groes Sanctaidd gyntaf yn ail hanner y drydedd ganrif ar ddeg. Efallai bod ei thŵr solet a hwyrach caerog, wedi ei gapio â meindwr bychan; mae'r clychau'n dyddio o'r ddeunawfed ganrif. Dengys archwiliad manwl o'r waliau newidiadau yn lleoliad y ffenestri a'r mynedfeydd dros y blynyddoedd. Mae tu fewn yr eglwys, y cyfeirir ati weithiau fel 'Cadeirlan y Fro', yn cynnwys llawer o bethau diddorol. (Gweler cefn y ddalen hon).

Wrth adael y fynwent, trowch i'r dde i gyfeiriad y Stryd Fawr.

Roedd y Duke of Wellington yn dŷ canoloesol: mae'r ddwy ystafell ffrynt a'r cyntedd yn parhau yn eu lleoliad

gwreiddiol. Bu'n dafarn ers yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg gydag amrywiaeth o enwau, yn cynnwys Half Moon, Black Horse a'r Coach and Horses, a bu'n dafarn i goetsis am beth amser. Lleolwyd Neuadd y Dref, y farchnad a chroes y dref yn y gofod yn y Stryd Fawr gyferbyn a'r 'Duke'; achosai'r rhain y fath rwystr i drafnidiaeth ar y ffordd fawr fel y bu i Neuadd y Dref a'r groes gael eu dymchwel ym 1830 a symudwyd y farchnad. Ceir darn pres bychan ar y ffordd i nodi safle'r groes lle pregethodd John Wesley, unwaith, ymlith eraill.

Mae llawer o'r adeiladau ar hyd y Stryd Fawr o darddiad canoloesol, ond cafodd pob un ei addasu i raddau llai neu fwy; weithiau datgela cefn yr adeiladau fanylion diddorol megis y warws canoloesol y tu cefn i siop bapurau Davies, neu'r ffenestr o'r unfed ganrif ar bymtheg yng nghefn fferyllfa'r Tŷ Mawr. Bu'r Tŷ Mawr unwaith yn gartref trefol teulu Carne o Faenordy Nash. Fe'i codwyd yn y 1550au, ac fe wnaed newidiadau mawr i'w ffyrntiad yn y ddeunawfed ganrif, gan osod y ffenestri a'r mynedfeydd Sioraidd sydd i'w gweld heddiw. Ar ochr chwith yr adeilad safai ysgol Tŷ Mawr y Chwiorydd Culverwell yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg a Thŷ Franklen, llety ar gyfer yr Ysgol Ramadeg yn y blynyddoedd rhwng y rhyfeloedd byd.

Gyferbyn, mae 39-43 Stryd Fawr yn creu grŵp hyfryd gyda chapan pigfain cerfiedig cain dros ddrws Rhif 41.

Codwyd Neuadd y Dref ym 1830 dros safle'r hen Garchar. Mae'r brif neuadd ar y llawr uchaf, tra bod y llawr gwaelod yn cynnwys Siambr y Cyngor a'r swyddfeydd, Parlwr y Maer, y Neuadd Lai, a'r celloedd - a ddefnyddir yn awr i roi cartref i arddangosion Amgueddfa Y Bont-faen. (Gweler cefn y ddalen hon).

Safai Porth y Dwyrain y tu allan i Neuadd y Dref, er bod dim ohono, nac o waliau'r dref yn y fan hon, wedi goroesi. Gyferbyn, mae'r plac ar y wal i gofio lolo Morgannwg, yr hanesydd a'r astudwr llen gwerin dawnnus ond hynod, yn cynnwys llinell yn yr ysgrifen a ddyfeisiodd.

I'r dwyrain ar draws yr afon roedd yr Hen Fragdy (sydd yn awr yn dŷ) yn un o fragdai Y Bont-faen yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg - roedd rhai eraill yn Nhafarn Vale of Glamorgan ac yn lard y Cowper - sy'n ein hatgoffa bod tua deuddeg o westai a thafarndai yn Y Bont-faen. Arferai afon Ddawan lifo heibio ar ochr ddwyreiniol yr Hen Fragdy - ceir plac i ddangos safle'r hen bont ar wal gardd Bwthyn Glanddawan.

Mae'r adeiladau ar hyd Porth y Dwyrain hefyd yn lled hynafol; serch hynny nid yw'r Pafiliwn, a ailadeiladwyd yn ddiweddar gan gadw ffasâd a thwred yr hen sinema a'r neuadd ddawns (lle cyflwynwyd rhyddfraint y Bont-faen i Lloyd

George) yn dangos unrhyw arwydd bellach o'r cwrt pêl-llaw a safle'r saer olwynion a arferai fod yno.

Dylid nodi rhai adeiladau eraill i'r dwyrain hefyd - Villa'r Dwyrain a'r Arfdy, gyda'u ffasadau Sioraidd a'r Ancient Druid cyffiniol a oedd yn ôl yr hanes yn llety i bererinion ar eu ffordd i Dyddewi.

Parhewch i'r dwyrain tuag at y goleuadau traffig

Ar y dde mae tai teras oes Victoria Stryd Croft a Theras Croft (a godwyd ar ôl i'r rheilffordd ddod i'r Bont-faen ym 1865). Safai'r tollborth ar ben dwyreiniol pellaf Porth y Dwyrain; mae carreg filltir y dyrpeg i'w gweld o hyd, wedi'i chywasgu i'r wal ar gornel Rhif 1 Porth y Dwyrain.

Olrhainwch eich camau yn ôl tuag at Neuadd y Dref

Mae'r Shield, a Rhoscelyn gyferbyn, gyda dwy ran o faen hir yn yr ardd, yn enghreifftiau o dai bonedd Victoriaidd, sy'n brin yn y Bont-faen.

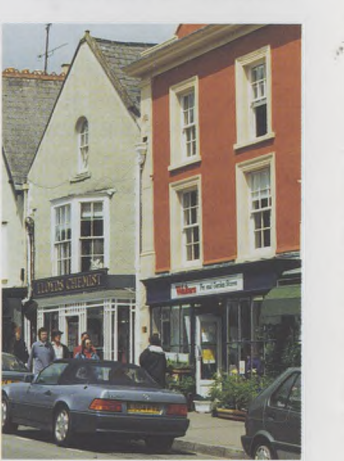


Bear Hotel / Gwesty'r Bear

Wrth Neuadd y Dref trowch i'r dde i Sgwâr Neuadd y Dref, heibio adeilad yr Institiwrt a throi i'r chwith i Heol y Gogledd.

Nid wal y dref yw'r wal sydd ar eich ochr chwith ond os edrychwrch i'r chwith cewch syniad ardderchog o leiniau'r bwrgeswyr, y gerddi hirgul yn ymestyn tuag yn ôl o'r adeiladau ar y Stryd Fawr. Mae llawer o'r gerddi yn dilyn amlinell y lleiniau a osodwyd yn fuan ar ôl 1254.

Ar y dde, bu maes parcio Arthur John yn safle cloddio arwyddocaol a ddatgelodd faddondy Rhufeinig, a dwy ystafell foeleri a system gwres canolog. Dengys y teils a'r nod LEG II AVG (yr ail leng Awgwstaid) fod hwn yn safle milwrol Rhufeinig.



39 to 43 High Street / 39 i 43 Stryd Fawr

Gyferbyn â Vale Forge, trowch i'r chwith i'r cwrt y tu allan i Old Woolbarn, a oedd yn flaenorol yn lle bragu i fragdy'r Vale' (y darperid stablau yn adeiladau'r Vale Forge ar ei gyfer ac ewch drwy Lys Verity.

Derbyniodd Isaiah Verity - yr enwyd y llys ar ei ôl - ryddfraint Y Bont-faen am ei waith yn codi Neuadd y Dref. Mae'r fynedfa yn cadw ei gwedd wreiddiol o hyd gydag arwyneb cerrig a cherrig trionglaidd i ddiogelu'r waliau rhag olwynion ceirt a cherbydau.

Trowch i'r dde i'r Stryd Fawr

Mae'r adeiladau ar gornel cyffordd Stryd yr Eglwys yn tarddu o leiaf o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg. Ar ochr ogleddol y ffordd mae Banc HSBC



Verity's Court / Llys Verity

yn sefyll ar safle tŵr y Priordy a awgrymwyd fel safle posibl ar gyfer yr Ysgol Ramadeg pan oedd Syr Edward Stradling yn ystyried ei sefydlu ym 1608. Drws nesaf mae Gwesty'r Bear o darddiad

glwm wrth Borth y Gorllewin tan bod hwnnw'n cael ei symud ym 1753 oherwydd cynnydd mewn trafniadaeth. Y tu hwnt i'r Mason's Arms mae'r stryd sydd â'r enw 'The Butts' yn fwy na thebyg yn gysylltiedig â saethyddiaeth. Enw'r brif heol yn y fan hon yw 'Porth y Gorllewin'; ar y pen pellaf safai tollborth y gorllewin sydd yn awr wedi ei ddymchwel; codwyd y fflatau yn Nôl Hopyard ar safle bythynnod canoloesol. Darganfuwyd llew o garreg, addurn angladdol Rhufeinig yn y fan hon.

Ar ochr ogleddol Porth y Gorllewin, yr eir iddo ar hyd tramwyfa rhwng y bythynnod sydd o boptu'r stryd saif yr Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig a adwaenir ar lafar fel capel Ramoth. Fe'i codwyd ym 1828, a chafodd ei ailadeiladu yn fuan gan 'Tom Deg Capel' Morris, pregethwr enwog yn ei ddydd. Mae'n adeilad deniadol gydag oriel dda.

Yn ôl tuag at ganol y dref, mae tŷ bwyta a siop yn awr yn sefyll ar safle hen dafarn y Spread Eagle. Mae'r ochr flaen yn dyddio o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg ond mae'r estyniad, sy'n rhedeg ar hyd Eagle Lane yn bwysicach yn hanes Y Bont-faen.



Ramoth Chapel / Capel Ramoth

Yma oedd y neuadd ddawns a'r ystafell gynnull a ddaeth yn ganolfan gymdeithasol y dref yn y ddeunawfed ganrif. Ar ôl hynny fe'i defnyddiwyd fel ysgol, sef yr Eagle Academy. Mae iddo nenfwd bwaog a dau falconi cain uwchben y llyfeydd tân.

Ar draws Eagle Lane saif Tŷ Woodstock, adeilad cadarn Sioraidd arall a oedd yn gartref trefol teulu Wyndham o Dunraven.

Croeswch yr heol i ddychwelyd i'r Hen Neuadd. Mae ein taith fer o amgylch Y Bont-faen yn gorffen yn y fan hon; gobeithwn ei bod wedi codi archwaeth yn och i ddarganfod mwy am y dref hanesyddol hon.



Coercady House / Tŷ Coercadi

teulu Jenkins o Gaercadi ger Sain Dunwyd gyda'i bortico cain a'i ffasâd Sioraidd. Mae'r Hen Neuadd, sy'n wynebu'r brif heol, yn adeilad o ddiwedd y bedwaredd ganrif ar ddechrau'r llwybr. Mae'n sefyll nesaf at y Mason's Arms sydd â ffenestr ganoloesol a brig deirdalenog yn ymyl ffenest fae o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg, ac estyniad o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg ar ongl sgwâr iddo. Roedd y gwesty yn



Masons Arms / Tafarn y Masons Arms

**The Church of the Holy Cross**

The church, a grade I listed building, was built soon after the 'new town' of Cowbridge was created, and much of the nave, tower and chancel dates from the late 13th century. The shape of the tower suggests that it was intended to serve as a stronghold or watchtower; Iolo Morganwg stated that it was once topped with a spire.

The slim pillars separating the nave from the south aisle were put up when the south or Llanquian aisle was constructed, reputedly as a gift in 1473 from Lady Anne Neville, wife of Richard III. Another link with Richard III was his granting of a chaplaincy



Holy Cross Church / Eglwys Y Groes Sanctaidd

to Holy Cross church in 1484; a copy of that charter is displayed in the church.

Memorials in the church date back to the 17th century: the most spectacular wall monument is that to the Carne family in the south aisle. Others commemorated include Judge David Jenkins (a Royalist who was imprisoned in the Tower of London), a multiplicity of headmasters of the Grammar School, and the Edmondson family of Old Hall.

The close links between school and church are also shown by the stained glass windows of school benefactors, and the school war memorial window.

There is a fine peal of eight bells, cast in 1722 in the Evans foundry of Chepstow. They are rung regularly.

**The Grammar School**

Cowbridge Grammar School was one of the foremost schools in Wales, and has produced skilled rugby players and academics and lawyers of distinction. Anthony Hopkins the actor is an 'Old Boy'.

Sir Edward and Sir John Stradling of St Donats established their Free School on this site in 1608. Later, the school and many of the Stradling lands in the Vale of Glamorgan were acquired by



The Grammar School / Yr Ysgol Ramadeg



Town Hall / Neuadd y Dref

Sir Leoline Jenkins, an illustrious 'Old Boy' who had become Secretary of State to Charles II. He then bequeathed them in 1685 to Jesus College, Oxford, thereby ensuring the financial security of Jesus College and beginning a 233-year-long connection between the school and the college.

Until 1847 the school was a modest building, with initially one school room for all ages of pupils. The enlargement and reconstruction was in a Gothic style in an attempt to create some architectural harmony between the school and the surrounding medieval buildings. On the garden side of the school, the neatly cut lawn surrounded by flowerbeds and enclosed by stone walls and raised banks created an impression of an Oxbridge college. The school contained a boarding 'house' with three dormitories, but boarding



Excavation of Roman Bath House in 1981 / Cloddio Baddondy Rhufeinig ym 1981

ceased soon after the school went comprehensive in 1974, and the school building fell out of use soon after.

**The Town Hall**

Until 1830 the Cowbridge House of Correction stood where the Town Hall stands today.

The old guild hall stood in the middle of High Street near its junction with Church Street, but was becoming damaged by the passage of coaches, and was itself an impediment to coach traffic. When Swansea prison was opened in 1829, the Cowbridge House of Correction became redundant and was ripe for conversion into a new Town Hall.

Revd JM Traherne of St Hilary had plans drawn up; the conversion, by Isaiah Verity, used the basic structure of the House of Correction. Thus the prison cells still remain. They now house the town museum: one is set out to resemble an original cell, and gives a good idea of its squalor and lack of space.

The cupola, housing a new clock, was built in 1836 as a gift of the Bishop of Llandaff, Dr Edward Coplestone, who then lived at Llandough Castle. Alongside the Town Hall was the shambles with its butchers' stalls, and walls blocked off both sides of what is now Town Hall Square.

In 1895, the Town Hall was enlarged, and in 1902 the Fire Brigade headquarters were established in what is now the Lesser Hall and kitchen, and remained here until the second world war.

**Roman Cowbridge**

The Antonine Itinerary, a Roman route guide, lists a settlement called Bomium mid-way between the Roman towns of Caerleon and Neath. The number of significant finds made in Cowbridge suggests that this probably was the 'lost town' of Bomium.

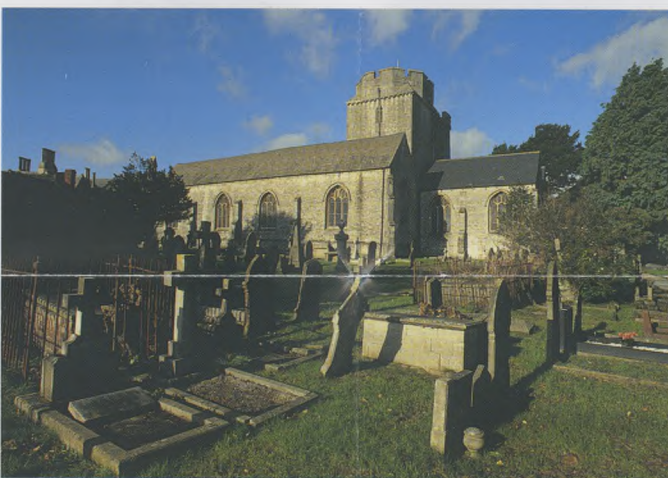
Most of the finds so far have been to the north of the High Street, and date from the first century AD. The most significant finds include the bath house of military type, containing legionary stamped tiles, which was excavated on the site of the Arthur John car park. There were a number of buildings fronting the road (13 Westgate, 77 and 75 High Street), and a side street leading north from No 75. The Bear field area contained a complex sequence of pits, ditches and gullies containing iron slag and signs of leather working, together with burials and a cremation site. Other finds include the lion sculpture (now in the National Museum of Wales) from a funerary monument which was found at the western end of the town, as well as much pottery and metal ware.

**Eglwys y Groes Sanctaidd**

Codwyd yr eglwys, sy'n adeilad rhestredig Gradd I yn fuan wedi i 'dref newydd' Y Bont-faen gael ei chreu, ac mae llawer o gorff, tŵr a changell yr eglwys yn dyddio o ddiwedd y 13eg ganrif. Mae ffurf y tŵr yn awgrymu ei fod wedi'i fwriadu i wasanaethu fel cadarnle neu dŵr gwyllo; yn ôl Iolo Morgannwg yr oedd meindwr ar ei ben ar un adeg.

Codwyd y pileri main sy'n gwahanu corff yr eglwys oddi wrth eil y de pan adeiladwyd eil y de neu eil Llangain, yn ôl pob sôn fel rhodd ym 1473 gan y Fonesig Anne Neville, gwraig Rhisiart y Trydydd. Cyswllt arall â Rhisiart y Trydydd oedd iddo ddyfarnu caplaniaeth i Eglwys y Groes Sanctaidd ym 1484; arddangosir copi o'r siarter honno yn yr eglwys.

Mae cofebion yn yr eglwys yn dyddio o'r 17eg ganrif; y garreg goffa furol fwyaf nodedig yw honno i deulu Carne yn eil y de. Ymhlith eraill a goffeir y mae y Barnwr David Jenkins (brenhinwr a garcharwyd yn Nhŵr Llundain), llu o brifathrawon yr Ysgol Ramadeg, a theulu Edmondson o'r Hen Neuadd.



Holy Cross church / Eglwys Y Groes Sanctaidd

Amlygir y cyswllt agos rhwng yr ysgol a'r eglwys hefyd gan ffenestri lliw cymwynaswyr yr ysgol, a ffenestr yr ysgol i goffau'r rhyfel.

Ceir caniad wyth cloch wych a gafodd eu bwrw yn 1722 yn ffowndri Evans yng Nghas-gwent. Fe'u cenir yn rheolaidd.

**Yr Ysgol Ramadeg**

Ysgol Ramadeg Y Bont-faen oedd un o'r pwysicaf yng Nghymru, a chynhyrnodd chwaraewyr rygbi dawnus ac academyddion a chyfreithwyr nodedig. Mae Anthony Hopkins, yr actor, yn gyn-ddisgybl.

Sefydlodd Syr Edward a Syr John Stradling o Sain Dunwyd eu Hysgol Rad ar y safle ym 1608. Yn ddiweddarach, prynwyd yr ysgol a llawer o dir teulu Stradling ym Mro Morgannwg gan Syr Leoline Jenkins, cyn-ddisgybl enwog a ddaeth yn Ysgrifennydd Gwladol i Siarl yr Ail.

Great House / Ty Mawr



Old Wool Barn Art & Craft Centre / Canolfan Celf a Chrefft yr Hen Ysgubor Wlan

Cymynnodd hwy wedyn ym 1685 i Goleg Iesu, Rhydychen gan ddechrau cyswllt 233 o flynyddoedd rhwng yr ysgol a'r coleg.

Hyd at 1847 roedd yr ysgol yn adeilad syml gydag un ystafell ysgol i ddisgyblion o bob oed ar y dechrau. Arddull Gothig a ddefnyddiwyd ar gyfer helaethiad ac ailadeiladu'r ysgol mewn ymgais i greu rhywfaint o gydweddiad pensaernïol rhwng yr ysgol a'r adeiladau canoloesol o gwmpas. Ar ochr yr ardd i'r ysgol creodd y lawntiau cymen a amgylchynwyd â gwelyau blodau a'u cau â waliau cerrig a banciau uchel, effaith debyg i un o golegau Oxbridge. Cynhwysai'r ysgol dŷ i letya

Isaiah Verity adeiladwaith sylfaenol y carchar. Felly mae celloedd y carchar yn parhau o hyd. Maent yn awr yn gartref i amgueddfa'r dref; cynlluniwyd un i ymdebygu i gell wreiddiol, a rhydd syniad da o'i budreddi a'i ddiffyg gofod.

Adeiladwyd y gromen, sydd yn cynnwys cloc newydd ym 1836 fel rhodd gan Esgob Llandaf, y Doctor Edward Copleston a oedd yn byw ar y pryd yng Nghastell Llandŵ. Wrth ochr Neuadd y Dref safai'r lladd-dy gyda'i stondinau cigyddion ac roedd waliau yn cau dwy ochr yr hyn a adwaenir heddiw fel Sgwâr Neuadd y Dref.

Ym 1895 helaethwyd Neuadd y Dref ac ym 1902 sefydlwyd pencadlys y Gwasanaeth Tân yn yr hyn a adwaenir heddiw fel y Neuadd Lai a'r gegin, gan barhau yn y fan hon hyd yr ail ryfel byd.

**Y Bont-faen Rufeinig**

Mae'r Antonine Itinerary, arweinlyfr taith Rufeinig, yn rhestru anheddiad a elwid yn Bomium, hanner ffordd rhwng trefi Rhufeinig Caerllion a Chastell Nedd. Mae'r nifer o ddarganfyddiadau arwyddocaol a wnaed yn Y Bont-faen yn awgrymu mai hon yn fwy na thebyg oedd 'tref goll' Bomium.

Gwnaed y rhan fwyaf o ddarganfyddiadau hyd yn hyn i'r gogledd o'r Stryd Fawr ac maent yn dyddio o'r ganrif gyntaf OC. Ymhlith y darganfyddiadau mwyaf arwyddocaol mae baddondy o fath milwrol, sydd yn cynnwys teils ag arnynt nod llengol a gloddiwyd ar safle maes parcio Arthur John. Roedd nifer o adeiladau yn wynebu'r ffordd (13 Westgate, 77 a 75 Stryd Fawr), a stryd ochr yn arwain i'r gogledd o Rif 75. Cynhwysai ardall cae Gwesty'r Bear gyfres gymhleth o byllau, ffosydd a chwteri ac ynddynt slag haearn ac arwyddion o weithio lledr, ynghyd â safle claddu a chorffolsgi. Mae darganfyddiadau eraill yn cynnwys y cerflun llew (sydd yn awr yn Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru) o faen coffa angladdol a ddarganfyddwyd ar ochr orllewinol y dref, yn ogystal â llawer o grochenwaith a gwaith metel.

**Neuadd y Dref**

Hyd at 1830 safai Carchar Y Bont-faen ar y safle lle mae Neuadd y Dref heddiw. Safai'r hen neuadd drefol yng nghanol y Stryd Fawr ger y gyffordd â Stryd yr Eglwys, ond câ ei difrodi gan goetsis a ai heibio ac yr oedd yr adeilad ei hun yn rhwystr i drafnidiaeth coetsis. Pan agorwyd carchar Abertawe ym 1829 aeth carchar Y Bont-faen yn segur ac roedd yn addas ar gyfer ei droi yn Neuadd y Dref newydd.

Trefnodd y Parch. J.M. Treharne o St Hilary i gynlluniau gael eu paratoi; defnyddiodd y trosiad gan



South Gate / Porth y De