

CYNON VALLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS HANES CWM CYNON

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HANES



NEWSLETTER OF THE CYNON VALLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
CYLCHLYTHYR CYMDEITHAS HANES CWM CYNON

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ANNIVERSARIES

As the lock-down eases and the daylight draws in, it is good to think of happy events. It is with pleasure that we celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year and it is appropriate that we have published Volume XI of the *Old Aberdare* series to celebrate this auspicious occasion. In this issue there is an account of the inaugural meeting of the society in 1971.

We celebrate a second anniversary – the 20th Anniversary of the Aberdare Boys Grammar School website, which has been built by Colin Rees, our webmaster.

St Elvan's Church has celebrated its 160th Anniversary and has been gloriously restored. Our AGM takes place there on Thursday 21st October at 7pm when Father Robert Davies will give a lecture about the refurbishment.

Sadly, Mrs. Haulwen Marsh passed away just three days short of fulfilling the anniversary of her birth one hundred years ago, in August 1921. These and more articles are in this issue.

In Memoriam

Geoffrey Evans, one of our most distinguished local historians passed away earlier this month. He had been a great pioneer of our society for many years, and has written and edited many articles for the *Old Aberdare* series. He authored several books: "The history of St John's Church", co-edited "Land Your Fathers Possessed", and his most recent book, "The Men Who Marched Away". He was the editor of *Hanes* for many years. A full obituary will appear in the next issue. We send our deepest sympathies to his wife Olga and his family.

The First Meeting of the Cynon Valley History Society

The Cynon Valley History Society was formed at a public meeting held on Thursday 11th March 1971 in the Junior Department of Aberdare Library. The meeting was convened by Dr Alistair Wilson and Mr E.J.K. Rees, who were elected chairman and vice-chairman of the Society. Dr Wilson was a local medical practitioner, (see *Old Aberdare* XI where there is an article about him), and Ken Rees was a partner in a local firm of solicitors. John Mear was elected as Secretary and Mrs D.J.C. Schaaf, (née Rees), Treasurer. About forty people attended. The main activity of the society consists of a lecture given once a month on some aspect of local history or history in general.

There are excellent histories about the society in our publications *The Land Your Fathers Possessed* and in the introduction to *Old Aberdare*, Volume XI.



Dr Alistair Wilson



E.J.K. Rees



John F. Mear



Mrs Dorothy Schaaf

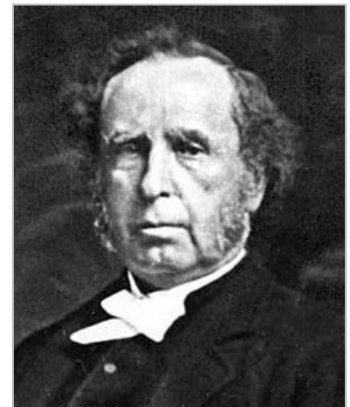
It is hoped to organize a celebratory Dinner once Covid-19 recedes.

The St Elvan's Community Heritage Project – an historical perspective.

by Hywel Davies

On the evening of 6th October 2013, BBC News published an online item concerning the total refurbishment of St Elvan's church, Aberdare. Almost 10 years later the St Elvan's Community Heritage Project is nearing completion at an estimated total cost of just under £2 million. An official launching of the project is likely to take place towards the end of 2021. Those who have already viewed the new development will have been excited at the potential it represents to exhibit and foster the achievements of the local community, past and present. Neither should it be forgotten that St Elvan's will remain a working church, now largely restored to its original beauty and distinction. A second phase of work, next year, will concentrate on the outside rendering of the tower, which contains the Ringing Chamber, the Clock Room and the Bell Room.

Such excitement today mirrors that of the crowds that thronged to Aberdare, 169 years ago, on Thursday, September 30th 1852, when the prototype St Elvan's opened its doors for the first time. Although the church's original sitting capacity was said to be around 933, 'a thousand or twelve hundred' huddled together to listen to the vicar, John Griffith, lead the 11am liturgy and Bishop Alfred Ollivant preach. It cannot have been too uncomfortable an experience, as hundreds returned at 3pm to listen to the Archdeacon of Llandaff, and again, at 7pm, when Canon William Jones of Tredegar preached in Welsh. The new church, 'a Gothic structure of the geometric, decorated style' and erected on raised ground in the centre of the town at a cost of over £4000, must have been a dramatic addition to the town's topography. That itself, along with the energetic fund-raising campaign led by the vicar, ensured the presence of the crowds that day.



Rev John Griffith

The new St Elvan's Community Heritage Project represents elements of continuity and change vis-à-vis the earlier construction. Perhaps the most evident sign of change is that all pews have now been removed. In their place, well-designed, individual chairs, easily stacked and stored, allow for greater flexibility and imaginative use of space. By contrast, with a new seating provision of c.300 places, and a mezzanine facility also accessible via a striking spiral staircase, the new St Elvan's makes no such demands. Space abounds – for rehearsals, meetings, performances, interpretive technology, exhibitions, displays, school visits, diocesan committees and conferences, tours etc. A number of local schools,

choirs, and civic bodies such as the British Legion, are already planning to make regular use of the excellent facilities available.



The spiral staircase to the mezzanine level

The King David stained glass window



A second noteworthy feature is the quality of the flooring. Much of the wood block material has been lifted, reversed and shaved of 1mm of its surface and re-laid. Similarly, no re-roofing has been necessary as existing materials, renewed or repaired, were considered more suitable to a project that emphasised conservation and heritage. The same is true of the old lighting system, which has been retained, complete with fittings.

Even the original under-floor heating system provided inspiration for current provision — though, recognising the likelihood of heat loss in such a tall structure, additional, unobtrusive heating has been installed at the mezzanine level. Once again, care has been taken to ensure that familiar structures, such as radiators, have been located and designed so as to avoid unnecessary innovation. By the same token, the church's organ and baptismal font remain reassuringly where they were before the recent re-ordering began.

St Elvan's stained glass windows are the focus of much of the permanent exhibition that currently occupies the north aisle. Attention is drawn to windows of particular interest, such as those associated with the family of W.T. Lewis, Lord Merthyr, and other local captains of industry.

Further windows of interest include those of St Elvan along with other Celtic saints, three of the Archangels, and one in memory of Canon J D Jenkins, Vicar of Aberdare, 1870–1876 (the 'Railway Apostle') behind the High Altar. A series of well-prepared guides and maps help to locate the windows, while the provision of self-assemble materials for children ensures the active engagement of even the youngest visitor. The same may be said of the availability of touch-screen information desks.

A noteworthy feature of St Elvan's is its splendid War Memorial, located in the St Michael chapel. All exhibition stands are commendably bilingual and richly illustrated.

Along with such historical features, others of a different nature also have to be provided in any building seeking to serve the local community today. A well-equipped, ground-floor kitchen, serving a spacious cafeteria will, initially, be staffed by volunteers, but with a long-term intention of seeing it franchised to an outside agency, so as to develop restaurant facilities. Toilets, too, are easily, and discreetly, available, while access to the mezzanine level is provided by means of a lift and two staircases.

Contrast and continuity also characterise issues of construction and finance. The architects appointed for the earlier construction were Andrew Moseley of London while the building work itself was undertaken by J N Strawbridge of Bristol. The more recent project, by contrast, was the responsibility of Welsh-based firms. The architect appointed was Eurig Williams of Alwyn Jones, Taffs Well, the Project Manager was Rob Jackson of Newport, and the Building Contractors were Henstaff Construction of Cardiff.

The costs of the new church presented a substantial challenge which "nearly drove the Vicar to distraction". More significant, however, was the parlous state of the parish finances. Although the total tithe commutation was as much as £352 p.a. at that time, only £10 of this sum found its way into the parish coffers. The rest was claimed by the impropiators, namely, until 1846, the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester. Neither was the potential value of the glebe (church land) employed in any way that favoured the benefice itself.

Not even the promise of £1,000 by the Vestry in July 1850 - along with the agreement of the Incorporated Church Building Society, (ICBS), and the Church Commissioners to provide grants, as well as individual gifts from within the parish and the diocese - came close to meeting the total costs. Griffith was forced to borrow £1,400 himself while the contractor actually threatened him with legal action for delayed payment.

The present incumbent of the parish of Aberdare, since 1997, is Fr Robert Davies. Compared to his beleaguered predecessor, Fr. Robert, while still having to deal with a confusing array of funding bodies and different degrees of enthusiasm for the project itself, has been able to maintain a more measured and considered oversight of it. It has been a considerable achievement, brought to a successful conclusion during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The thanks and appreciation of the whole community are due to him and his team of supporters, including his wife, Christina, who has shared his enthusiasm and vision. Ieuan Gwynedd Jones writes of the 1852 St Elvan's that it was 'a monument to (John Griffith's) reforming zeal, his evangelical ardour, his commitment to the people of the valleys, and to the generosity of his parishioners'. The work now nearing completion will extend the result of Griffith's labours, and of his successors, to the benefit of the whole community, among which the church has stood for over a century and a half.

St Elvan's and Andrew Moseley

by Rod Jenkins

Andrew Moseley, British architect and designer of St Elvan's church was born on 4th June 1813 in Hanley, Staffordshire the third son of the Reverend Dr William Willis Moseley and Margaret Jackson.

Andrew was born into a religious family, both his father and older brother were priests; this may have prompted a leaning to design a church.

By 1838 at the age of 25, Andrew was living at 21 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London and was elected Associate of Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). In 1841, he became assistant to Professor William Hosking, the first professor of architecture at King's College, London, lecturing in the Art of Construction.

Records show that in 1847, Andrew Moseley was one of the architects employed on the design of Smithfield market in London.

In 1851 at the age of forty, and with no recorded previous experience in church design, Andrew Moseley was chosen as the architect to draw up plans for St Elvan's church with the work completed in 1852. The design of the new church was in the Victorian Gothic style with a 180 ft spire.

St Elvan's may have been Andrew Moseley's only significant building design as there are no known records of Andrew Moseley going on to design any further buildings of note following its completion in 1852.

Andrew Moseley's personal life was also not without incident. At the time of designing and building of St Elvan's Andrew was married to his first wife Elizabeth Ann Stoddart, they had no children, and Elizabeth sadly died in 1857. Andrew went on to marry his second wife Euphemia MacDonald at St Saviour Church Paddington in 1866. At the time of the marriage Andrew was now 53 and Euphemia was 20, they went on to have 5 children: Annie Effie Moseley, Andrew J Moseley, Louisa Moseley, William R Moseley and Donald H Moseley

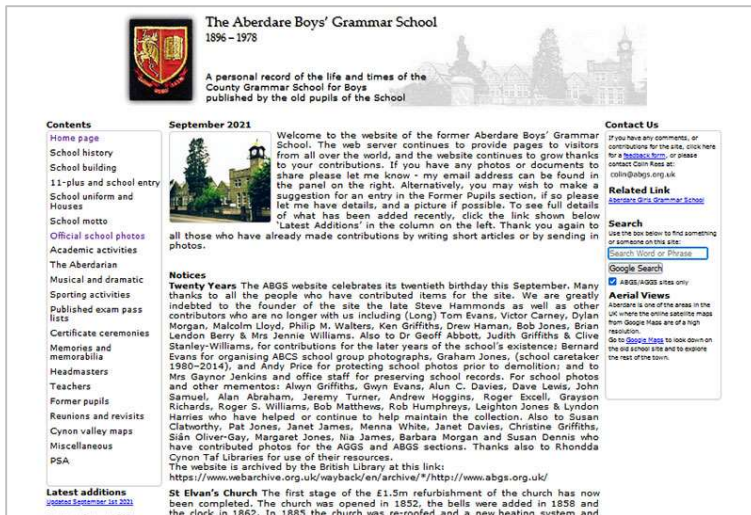
By 1877 Andrew's marriage to Euphemia ended in divorce, court records show her claiming that he enforced a 9pm bedtime on her, and she was informed and believed that her husband had "improper familiarities" with governesses and with female servants. Euphemia died in 1882 at the age of 33 in Hastings, Sussex, with Andrew recorded as living at 142 the Strand, London.

Andrew Moseley passed away on 13 June 1906 at the age of 93 in Fulham, London. His main architectural legacy still stands today through St Elvan's church.

Aberdare Boys Grammar School Website celebrates its 20th Anniversary

by Colin Rees

In September 2001, the late Stephen Hammonds, a former pupil of Aberdare Boys' Grammar School, (ABGS), put a copy of his 1957 panoramic photograph of the school on the internet. I happened to come upon his webpage and recognised Stephen as a contemporary of mine at both Rhigos primary school and at ABGS. We subsequently contacted each other via email to discover that we both had a shared interest in the history of our old school. In the following years, we both found more school mementoes in our attics and dusty cardboard boxes. These additional photos and documents were added to the website, which began to be noticed by other former pupils who then in turn contributed additional material. Some former members of staff also contributed school documents. For example CVHS member, the late Tom Evans, a past pupil and former member of staff, was eager to help and contributed photographs and copies of some very early editions of the school magazine *The Aberdarian*. Another contemporary of ours, Dylan Morgan, by then in far off Leeds, also spotted the website and wrote some reminiscences about his time at school, as well as sending in his school magazines and Prize Day programmes.



The homepage of the ABGS website

I also began visiting the reference library at Aberdare to consult archived copies of *The Aberdare Leader*, which turned out to be a very rich source of information about school activities throughout its existence, 1896 to 1978, and indeed in the few years before it was established. By using these resources, it became possible to widen the scope of the website from just a gallery of photographs to one in which the history of the school could be documented. Whenever

possible attempts were made to include biographical details of

individuals who appeared in the photos or who were mentioned in the documents.

Sporting team photographs, many donated by Philip M. Walters, started to arrive and in most cases, it was possible to construct captions so that names of the boys could be included. These photographs included rugby, cricket, athletics and tennis teams – and Sports Day programmes, scorecards and match reports also came to light. In the very early days of the school, the winter game was football –yes, the round-ball game – and a team photograph of the 1903–04 team was unearthed. For girls it was hockey, and the 1908 team photo was located.

Just over 6000 boys and girls went through the selective secondary school in the 82 years of its existence. Each pupil would have a story to tell, but of course, there were far too many to track down to do him or her justice. However, short biographies of about 140 past pupils have been written up in a former pupil section of the website. Included there, is Winnie Roberts of Llwydcoed who attended 1896–1899 in the days up to 1913, when the school was co-educational.

The website caught the eye of Dr Geoff Abbott who taught mathematics during the last years of ABGS and later became Head of ABCS, the comprehensive school. He suggested that the website might be extended to cover the subsequent years from 1978 when the school became a boys' comprehensive on Cwmdare Road. His offer was taken up and this led to a substantial increase in the amount of material that was uploaded onto the website. Additionally, a rich source of very old Trecynon school documents was found in the comprehensive school storeroom prior to closure of the school.

A small section of the website covers some aspects of the girls' grammar school at Plasdraw, which opened in 1913. When this school closed, there was a large collection of historical documents and photographs displayed in the school library, prior to its transfer to Glamorgan Archives. However, it gave an opportunity for copies of some of these documents to be made for use on the website. Of particular interest, was the 25th anniversary photographic album assembled in 1938, which contained the photographs of all staff and girls with all their names included.

The website is still live and small additions are made to it each month. In September 2021, it reached its 20th anniversary and it is hoped that it will keep going for a few more years to come. It will ultimately disappear, but the British Library archives the website periodically, which should ensure that its content is preserved for many years to come.

The website address is
www.abgs.org.uk

The British Library archive of the ABGS website is at
www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/en/archive/*/http://www.abgs.org.uk/index.htm



One of the many team photographs contributed by Philip Walters.

Back Row: John Davies, Alan Thomas, Brian Gulle, Gareth Freebury, Roger Hoyle, Basil Lewis, Hedleigh Marsh, Robert Matthews, Brian Cooke (Secretary), John Wyatt Thomas

Middle Row: Mr. E.J. Excell, Alan Biggins, Keith Rowlands, Colin Burke (Captain), Roy Brackston, Ceri Taylor, Keith Williams, Mr. Jess Warren (Headmaster)

Front Row: Maurice Britz, John Escott

"REACHING A HUNDRED HAS BEEN AN ADVENTURE" ***HAULWEN MARSH, 'QUEEN OF LLWYDCOED'***

By David Leslie Davies

(translated from the Welsh, in 'Clochdar', No. 313, September 2021, pp.16-17)



Haulwen at 99 years of age

'*The Queen of Llwydcoed*' – that's how many would think of Haulwen Marsh as she approached her 100th birthday on the 26th August – though no-one would be likely to believe as much as they viewed her going about daily life and chatting with one and all in such a lively way until just before her decease on Monday, 23 August: only three days before her hundredth year.

It is no flattery to say that Haulwen – that’s how she spelled the name given her by her parents – was a remarkably spritely and vivacious person for someone who had reached such an august age. It is no exaggeration to say that she could leave someone twenty years younger than her breathless in trying to keep up with her bustling energy. That’s why it came as such a shock to her family and friends to suddenly learn of her demise – while everyone was busily preparing to celebrate the very special birthday that lay ahead.

In asking what accounted for her energy and longevity, Haulwen would lose no time in attributing them to her roots in Ceredigion. This was hardly surprising in that her father, the late David Davies – who was born near Lampeter – had lived to be 108 years old! There must have been something in the soil there – and in the genes of course!

In discussing her forthcoming birthday a while ago, Haulwen agreed to write a word or two about her life for ‘*Clochdar*’ – which she eagerly received and read each month. These are her recollections in her own words:

“I was born in Aberdare the daughter of David and Mabel Davies, Foundry Town and subsequently Gordon Villas, who were very loving parents. I had one brother, Oswald. As a child, I went to school at Aberdare and attended ‘Bethania’ Calvinistic Methodist chapel, Wind Street, where my father was a senior deacon.

After my schooldays, I passed the Civil Service Entrance Exam; but when the Second World War started in September 1939, I changed my mind (at the age of 18) and went to work in the National Westminster Bank, starting at Bargoed and then in Merthyr Tydfil. I remained there for the entire war period.

I have always had many interests, including sport. When young, I greatly enjoyed swimming, playing tennis, golf and riding my horse on the line from Aberdare towards the mountain above Cwmaman. Later, I was among the first members of the Aberdare Soroptimists Club and of the Cynon Valley History Society.

When the War ended in 1945, I was sent to the National Westminster Bank Head Office at Bishopsgate in the City of London. From there I was sent as ‘relief staff’ to various branches of the Bank in the City and West End, wherever I was needed. I stayed in London for three years and joined the London Welsh Society in Grays Inn Road, the large Welsh Presbyterian chapel in Charing Cross Road and the Bank’s Sports Club. I made many friends there and kept in touch with them after I returned to Aberdare at the end of the 1940s.

The next step was a return to the Merthyr branch and then to Cardiff at the beginning of the 1950s. I then met Glyn Marsh, who was well known at Aberdare as a florist and garden-nurseryman (the nurseries were located at Llwydcoed, where Maes-yr-Helyg stands now). We married on the 2nd November 1958. After that, my career was that of housewife!

We were married for nearly fifty years and were devoted to each other throughout that time, having a happy life together until Glyn died in 2005. My life has been challenging at times – but most interesting: so much so I can truly say I’d do it all again!



As a young woman, Haulwen flew in a small plane from a field at Cross Bychan and circled over Aberdare

That, of course, is just a synopsis of Haulwen's life; but by getting to know her better since I came to live in Llwydcoed, and frequently speaking to her, one would hear countless other tales in addition to the above.

She would talk of having known Mair, sister of the wartime poet, Alun Lewis, and of chatting with the poet himself on the bus to Bargoed (while Alun was a teacher at Lewis School for Boys, Pengam); she would speak of her life in London while young, and of living in Belgravia with her great friends Myrtle and Eleanor (both from Carmarthenshire); of being so cold at night in her 'digs' in post-war London that she had to go to bed in a musquash fur coat in order to keep warm; of travelling to Switzerland and Germany very soon after the Second World War with her friend, the daughter of Victor Freed, one of Aberdare's leading shopkeepers at the time – and the Freeds being Jewish of course. What an interesting episode that would have been to record in greater detail! Until her final afternoon, Haulwen remained a bubbling fount of entertainment.

My partner Jill and I called at her home that last afternoon (thank goodness) to give her a framed poem I'd written to mark her 100th birthday. We did so having had to postpone – because of her indisposition – our original birthday intention of taking her for afternoon tea at The Castle Hotel, Brecon, that very day.

Haulwen said she much appreciated the poem [written in strict *cynganedd* - 'harmonics'-style and in the *englyn* metre of ancient Welsh tradition]. She added that it reminded her of her father competing in the annual Christmas *eisteddfod* at Bethania chapel against R.F. Roberts (father of professor Brynley Roberts, Aberystwyth, and a director of what became *Stephens & George Printers*). It reminded her too of competing herself, as a young girl, in reciting there – especially a poem called 'Y Wiwer' ('The Squirrel') with which she loved winning every time! She then turned to Jill and said, "You see, Jill, 'cynganedd' isn't easy to write. Not many will have something like this... It speaks from the heart". She died within hours of that – and the poem had to be amended from Present to Past Tense accordingly.

Until recently (except during periods of 'lockdown'), Haulwen still caught the bus to Aberdare or Merthyr in order to shop for herself. She maintained contact with the social

circle that meets at Ramoth chapel, Hirwaun (though not much face-to-face contact could be maintained during the last eighteen months) and she had a good circle of family and friends who kept an eye on her. Chief among them was her faithful son, Howard, who lives on The Wirral, Cheshire, and who would travel to see her at every opportunity.

Her best friend was Marion Davies, Abernant, who celebrated her 101st birthday earlier this year. The two would chat on the phone every single day. She was fortunate, too, in having such an excellent cousin in Susan Gardner, Cwmdare, and exceptional neighbours in Adrian and Rhian, Llwydcoed.

The aim around the 26th August was for Haulwen, her family and friends to hold several birthday celebrations here and there, as circumstances allowed, to mark her century of life. All such plans had to be postponed while a bout of being unwell overtook her during the final ten days of her life: an indisposition that no-one felt was likely to be fatal. It was not to prove so, but she came within a hair's breadth of reaching her 100th birthday.

Every sympathy is extended to Howard, his children and grandchildren and to Susan, Marion and her other friends by all those involved with *Clochdar*. There is a very great gap in life at Llwydcoed and Aberdare after such a charming and engaging person for whom almost reaching a hundred proved to be such an adventure.

Haulwen- some of her reminiscences as told to Sue Gardner.

When Haulwen was a child she and Oswald would play the piano (Haulwen not so well) on Saturday night after a fry-up. Her mother would play the violin and they would all sing.

She was a very confident child who loved to be the centre of attention and perform, and participated in many eisteddfodau, chapel recitations and school plays.

On her first day of starting work at the Bargoed branch of the National Westminster Bank she missed her connection at Fiddler's Elbow. Not wanting to be late, the ever-resourceful Haulwen flagged down a passing SWEB lorry and asked the workmen to help her. They hoisted her up into the cab, took her to Bargoed and dropped her off at the door of the bank. Her colleagues never knew and she never told her mother!

While living in London, one Sunday morning she had to push a heavy wooden hand barrow delivering milk. She took a wrong turn and ended up at some traffic lights. When these changed to green Haulwen didn't know what to do, so she lifted up the barrow and tried to outrun the traffic whilst being cheered on by a group of workmen!

In spite of being 99, Haulwen was still looking for new experiences and two weeks before she died she went to the Thai café in Aberdare market and had her first taste of Thai food.

She said about life: "Life is your oyster, make the most of it! (She certainly did!)"

The Threat to Demolish Siloa Chapel



In the last issue of *Hanes* D.L. Davies wrote an account of the history of Siloa Chapel but the chapel had previously come close to being demolished!

Greenfach, which had been the centre of Aberdare, had been for many years in need of redevelopment as many of the houses were slums. It was several years before they were demolished. In December 1961, Aberdare Council put forward plans concerning redevelopment of the area.

It was planned to build a new library and Crown Buildings (to accommodate various government departments), as well as a new four-floor civic centre on and around the Siloa chapel site. Additionally there was a plan to demolish the Town Hall and build a new clock tower.

Dr H.W. Crowther-Green, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, said of Green Street and Siloa Chapel: "There is nothing architecturally outstanding in these buildings!". He would let Green Street reluctantly stay but he added, "One can imagine that when the new buildings are constructed the incongruity of Siloa could precipitate its removal". In other words, he wanted Siloa demolished!

In its editorial, *The Leader* of 9th December stated, "The Council, perhaps with the lesson of the Town plan fiasco well learnt, has met the need for good public relations, and called a meeting with the representatives of the two chapels and St John's Church".

At the meeting, the town planning committee chairman Cliff Edwards emphasized that the plans were tentative proposals, and said, "We will not try and ride rough-shod over any opposition." He told the Siloa chapel-goers: "Let me reassure you that as far as we are concerned there is no possibility of our considering buying the chapel site as long as the chapel representatives decide that the chapel has any need for existence."

Rev. Ivor Parry and his chapel were totally against them scheme. His pleas and those of his church members and the support of many members of the public won the case. Also mindful of the fact that the Council had been defeated in the Town Plan Fiasco, and that there were now Protectionist Councillors on the council, the Council re-considered their plan and they agreed that the civic centre would not be built, and the proposed other buildings would be built around Siloa, which would remain. So Siloa was saved!

In the end, a civic centre was not even built!

Sources: *Aberdare Leader*, December 1961 – January 1962.

The Robertstown Tramway Bridge

Repairs to one of the oldest tramway bridges in south Wales have at last commenced. The Grade II listed Robertstown tramroad bridge, dated 1811, was severely damaged by Storm Dennis in February 2020. In addition, water scour damage to the masonry abutments had been occurring for many years previously. Walters Ltd will be responsible for delivering the scheme, which will refurbish the cast iron stanchions fractured by the tree that fell on the bridge deck. The structure will be taken off-site for the specialist repairs to be undertaken this winter, before it is returned and the bridge reopened in 2022. The bridge was built to carry a tramway that ran from Aberdare to Hirwaun and on, via Cefn Rhigos, to the Pont Walby steam-operated 800m incline above Glynneath canal basin. Iron from Aberdare was transferred to the Neath canal below.

Webbers Fish Shop, Canon Street

This long-established Fish shop has closed. It is hoped that some organisation can save this lovely mural painted by R.W. Jones in 1907. Thanks to Kelvin Jones for this photograph and for bringing it to our attention.



Wall Mural, Webbers, Canon Street

New Local History Book

Deric John, who is a retired schoolmaster, is an acknowledged authority on Welsh place-names and their etymologies. His latest book *Penderyn Place-Names* shows his great depth of knowledge and place-name expertise. The book has numerous illustrations, is priced at £8.50, and is published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch. Copies are available from the editor of *Hanes*.

Feedback

I would be grateful for feedback about any articles in this issue. Articles on any subject about our valley's history for possible publication are welcome.

Reminder: Our AGM takes place at St Elvan's Church on Thursday 21st October at 7pm

**Volume XI of the *Old Aberdare* series has sold well,
and only a small stock now remains. They will be on sale at the AGM.**

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