

NEW BOOK!

Our fourth book is now at the printers. '*Cowbridge and District Remembered 1900 - 1950*' will be launched on Friday, November 29th, at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. Members of the Record Society are of course invited to the event which will take place at 3.30pm. A reply slip, with further details, is enclosed in this mailing.

Cowbridge and District Remembered 1900 - 1950 is a collection of reminiscences of people of our area. The contributions are: Ralph Bird - Cowbridge, Alf Charles - Trehyngyll, Maendy and Ystradowen, Herbert David - Cowbridge, Winifred Huish - Aberthin and Cowbridge, Becky Jenkins - Llanblethian, Bert Jenkins - Llanblethian, Arthur John - Cowbridge, Walter Stone - Llanblethian, Alan Thomas - Llysworney and Cowbridge, Elgiva Thomas - Cowbridge Girls' High School, Hubert Thomas - Llysworney and Cowbridge, Joyce Tonkin - Cowbridge, Gwyneth Williams - Cowbridge. Between them they give a vivid and most interesting picture of life in the first half of the last century - a picture which will awake many memories for older readers and which will give a great deal of information and pleasure to newcomers to the area. The price of the book is £4.95 (£4 for members of the Cowbridge Record Society)

A few extracts will give some of the flavour of the book:

'The brewery office opposite the Duke was manned by Joe Staien who lived at St Hilary. He had a James motor bike with a coach-built sidecar. Every time Joe went home to lunch, he would run alongside the bike, and as soon as he had gained momentum he would drop the exhaust lever, start the engine, get on the bike, and before he had passed the Town Hall he would have transferred himself to the sidecar. Joe would get up a good speed, blowing his bulb horn nearly all the time and he would shoot past the Edmondes Arms crossroads at a good 30 to 35mph so that he could climb Primrose Hill.'

'We moved to Town Mill and lived in the mill house (now Town Mill cottages); the mill was in ruins but the old mill wheel was still there. The floor was rotten, and the Grammar School boys used to creep in to the building to smoke.'

'The cheese was made in one of the two rooms of the cottage - we heated the milk to blood heat, put rennet in it, and let it settle in an earthenware pan, with a muslin cloth on top, with a saucer put on the cloth. We'd skim the whey off the cheese into the saucer. When the cheese was ready, we'd mix it with salt or sage - that was very tasty, the sage cheese. It was a white, creamy Welsh cheese.'

'Two memories of living in Great House - pushing my brother Alan in his pram into the river, accidentally of course, and being operated on by a surgeon and nurse from Cardiff, in my father's bedroom, when they removed a TB gland in my neck.'

'On fine days, we boys sometimes used to go up to Llandough Castle wood where there were plenty of rabbits. There was a high stone wall at the entrance to the wood pierced by a small hunting gate. We would pass through the gate and creep through the trees at the edge of the wood, where there was a long boundary fence which was full of rabbit burrows. We would always choose a fine, sunny day for these excursions. We would quietly arrange ourselves in a

line along the bank between the burrows and the place where we thought the rabbits were sleeping. We couldn't see them, nor they us, although we could see the runs which went through the long grass. On a given signal we would all suddenly stand up clapping our hands and shouting. We could then hear the rabbits tearing through the long grass towards their burrows and us. As they broke cover to get to the safety of their hole they had to pass near to us. We always managed to catch a rabbit each, the number caught depending on the number of boys taking part. Not only was this wonderful fun but also the rabbit we each took home to our mothers was made in to a delicious rabbit pie. As I usually accompanied my brother Tom on these trips our mother used to receive two rabbits!

'We regularly supplied the Grammar School, which had quite a lot of boarders, and Dick Williams the headmaster once sent a boy over saying "Tell Mr Stone to send some more bread". Well, father said we'd have to get it done, but we were short of ordinary flour, Spillers or Ranks, so he used his own. He made big square 4lb loaves and sent them in. Mr Williams saw my father a few days later and played war with him. "Mr Stone" he said, "Don't you ever send us that bread again. I know what you've done". "I'm sorry, I was waiting for Ranks to deliver and so I had to use my own flour". "Well, don't you send it in here; those boys ate so much they will ruin us!"'

'Opposite the Jenkins's house, on the other side of Church Street, was an old cottage, and between that and the church gate a narrow path led to the back of Arthur Mills's garage. He dealt in bikes as well as cars, and used to throw his scrap bikes out into the back lane. We boys used to cannibalise them for parts to make boneshakers with no tyres and no brakes. We used to have great fun using them on Constitution Hill - we would stop on the green at the edge of the road, or fall into the river!'

The last extract was from Arthur John's account of his childhood in Cowbridge - he used to live in the cottage opposite the church gate. Sadly, he died before he could see his work in print; our condolences go to his family.

CHARITABLE STATUS

It is pleasing to know that we now have charitable status - our thanks to Keith Jones and Jose Rawlins for their work in presenting the application.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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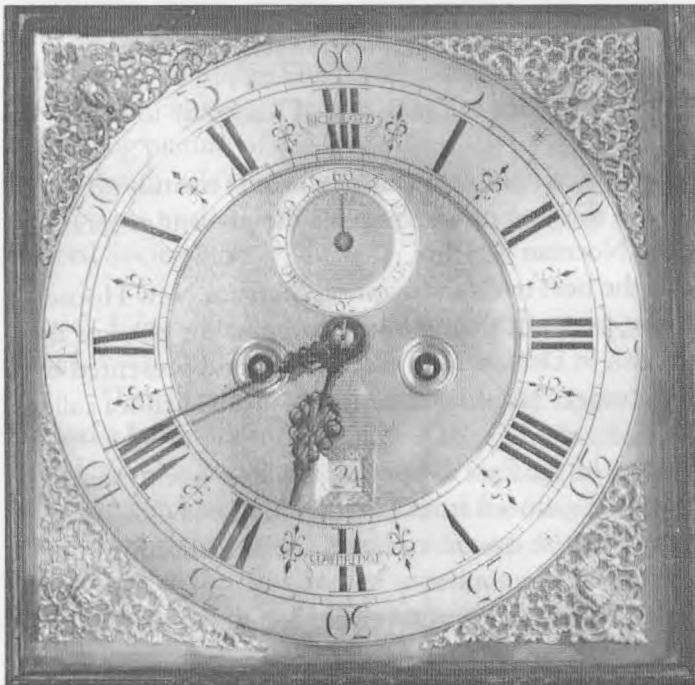
NEW MEMBERS

Mr A Banks, Cowbridge
Mr AH Lane, Yeovil
Mrs D Thomas, Cowbridge
Mrs V Whythe, Cowbridge

Correspondence to Jeff Alden, 1 Mill Park, Cowbridge CF71 7BG; phone 01446 - 773373

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We are continuing to receive very interesting items. These include three aerial photos of Cowbridge from the Cambridge University collection, some personal photos and papers of Miss Terry Phipps, late of Town Mill cottages, documents and maps relating to the building of Cowbridge sheep and cattle market, details of wartime bomb damage in the Cowbridge RDC area, and two photos of an eighteenth-century longcase clock made in Cowbridge



The illustration on the left is of a face of a long-case clock made by Richard Lloyd of Cowbridge in the early eighteenth century. It is an eight-day movement, striking the hours, in an oak case. The dial is brass, with a silvered chapter ring. Some of the detailed features of the clock suggest a date of between 1725 and 1740.

A Richard Lloyd, clockmaker, is recorded in the Edmondes papers (GRO, D/D Ed 173-9) as holding an acre of customary hold land called Tyla Rhosyr in the parish and manor of Llanblethian in 1728. That seems to be the only reference we have found so far in Cowbridge.

According to the Clockmakers' Company register of apprentices, a Richard Lloyd is listed as an apprentice to Michael Cornish between 1670 and 1678. That was in London, and he became 'free' of the company in 1681, and is not recorded in London after that date. If he did eventually move to Cowbridge, he would be in his seventies by 1728; we are of course not sure that this is the same man.

It is obviously a beautiful clock, and we hope to learn more, eventually. If anyone has any information about Richard Lloyd, please let the Editor know.

not in Peate or Linnard

DUW A PHOB DAIONI

We have also received a copy of a hand-written account of the second anniversary of The Chair of Glamorgan, a Bardic Society in Cowbridge, held on St David's Day, 1838; president, Revd Dr Williams of the Free School.

"The Society will meet at the house of Mrs Howe, Mason's Arms, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, thence to proceed to the church at 11, where the duty both in the service and sermon will be in the Welsh language; after which the members will proceed to the Town Hall where prizes will be awarded for the best Welsh compositions on the following subjects:

(This is a selection of the complete programme)

1. A Guinea, by the Revd Dr Williams of the Free School for the best stanzas, from ten to fifteen, on the lighthouses on the brink of the Severn Sea in the parish of Marcross to light vessels on their voyage.
2. A Guinea, by the Revd T Edmondson MA Vicar of Llanblethian, for the best treatise on the Castle and parish of Llanblethian, together with the superior advantages the present generation possess over their ancestors in the time of the Norman Knights.
3. A Guinea, by the Revd O Jenkins, BA, for the best twelve stanzas on Margam New House.
4. A Guinea, by the Revd J Powell, for the best poem of thanks in the name of the poor of the parishes of Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Welsh St Donats for a piece of ground presented by Major Edmondson, Mayor of the town of Cowbridge, towards building a National School called Victoria.
5. Twenty five shillings, by the young gentlemen of the Free School for the best twenty stanzas on the history of St Illtudus, and the removing of his school from Llantwit Major to Cowbridge.
6. A Guinea, by Illtyd Nichol, Esq, for the best treatise on the utility of public institutions that have a tendency to enlighten the mind and moralize the country.
7. A Guinea by J Thomas, Esq of Caercady for the best song, six verses, describing the beauties of the scenery of Glamorgan.
11. Price's History of Wales, for the best stanzas to our benevolent countryman, Daniel Jones Esq of New Beaupre on his munificence towards the poor of Monmouth and Glamorgan in the building of Cardiff Infirmary.
16. A Welsh Bible, for the best treatise of thanks to Almighty God for the slight visitation in the principality compared with other places of the late pestilence, the Cholera Morbus, and the Influenza.
19. Three guineas to the best Harper, by the following gentlemen, Robert Savours, Esq, John Bevan, Esq, and Whitlock Nicholl, Esq.

The secretary was Iolo Fardd Glas, Edward Williams, a noted Glamorgan poet. I wonder if anyone knows whether any of the contributions to this Eisteddfod (admission 1/-) have survived - or if anyone is aware of the names of the entrants, or winners. It is certainly interesting to note the importance of Welsh in the Vale in the early nineteenth century, and the support given by the local gentry.

We also have a copy of the 'First Gorsedd or ordination of poets by the Chair of Glamorgan, on Tyla Rosser field, Cowbridge' in the following year - with an interesting list of names of the bards, druids and ovates. More of this in another newsletter