



PROGRAMME FOR 1982

Please note the changes in January and February.

January 8th : Cardiff Docks - Mr Jeff Morgan (son of Revd W.J. Morgan, formerly vicar of Llanilid).

February 5th : Watermills and Windmills - Mr John Perkins, Department of Extra-Mural Studies at U.C. Cardiff.

March 5th : Remembered in the Vale - The Revd Canon S.H. Mogford.

Charter Day in March - details later.

April 2nd : Medieval Houses - Mr John Blair, Queen's College, Oxford.

May 7th : Members' Evening (Please bring something of historical interest to show other members.)

The MUSEUM in the Town Hall cells is open on the first Saturday of every month, from 11 a.m.

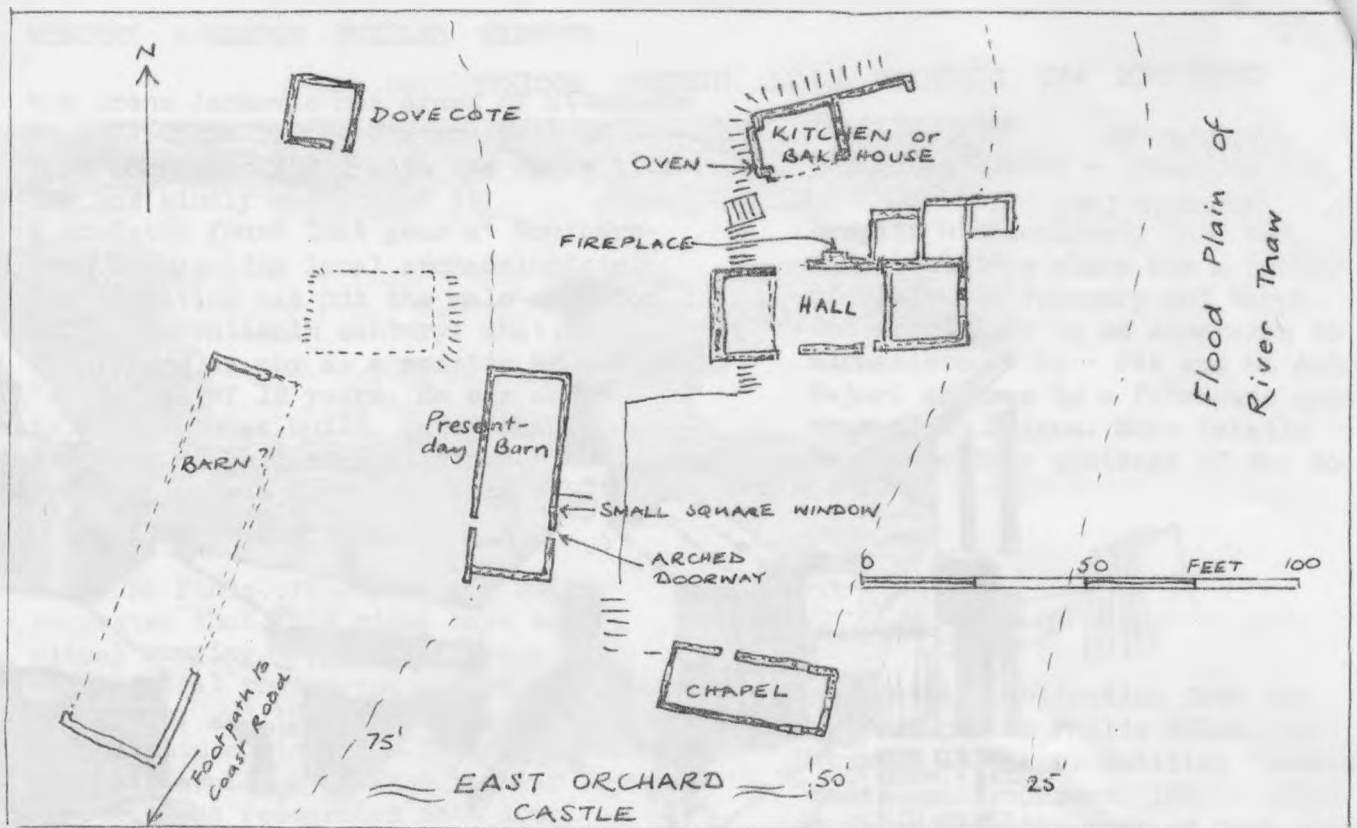
OFFICERS 1981 - 1982.

President: Mr Norman Williams, C 2107
Chairman: Mrs Yvonne Weeding, C 2878
Hon. Secretary: Mr John Miles, C 2270
Hon. Treasurer: Mr Simon Nicoll, C 3842
Programme Secretary: Mrs Gwynneth Keay, C 2879
Excursions Secretary: Mrs Val Nicoll, C 3842
Museum Curator: Mrs Marion Eveleigh, C 2495
Publicity: Mrs Dorothy Sewell, C 2689
Newsletter: Mr Jeff Alden, C3373.

Committee: Mr Geoff Burrows, Mrs Lilian Carthew, Mrs Jacqui James, Mrs Barbara Toogood, Mrs Viv Whythe.

NOTES FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

- Visitors' fee has been raised to 30p a meeting.
- Comments on the draft issue of the Structure Plan for Cowbridge have been passed on to the Vale offices by the Secretary.
- The Society has purchased the volume on Great Houses of Glamorgan; it is available for members to borrow.



East Orchard Castle.

East Orchard Castle stands on the eastern side of the Thaw valley, less than half a mile upstream of Aberthaw. It can be reached by public footpath from the coast road, though access to and from the footpath is at a very dangerous bend in the main road, and extreme care needs to be exercised. The O.S. map also shows a rather longer footpath from St Athan.

The map above shows that it was a substantial manor-house, containing a good-sized dwelling-house and hall, with a chapel, kitchen, dovecote and barn. The slides I showed in the September meeting showed that the dovecote, though roofless is in good condition internally, and unlike most in the Yale is square in plan. The other buildings are falling into decay; they are all roofless and floorless, and most of the ashlar dressings from the doors and windows have disappeared. A lancet-arched doorway, and some slightly-arched doorways remain; the doorway into the building which is now used as a barn is very well preserved.

The Nerbers were the original possessors of Orchard, according to G.T. Clark. Certainly in the fourteenth century East Orchard Castle was the residence of the de Berkerolles family. The last male of this family was Sir Lawrence, who died in 1411. The inquisition on his death showed that he held the manors of East Orchard Merthymawr, Llampha, (probably- lanfeye in the text), Coity, Newcastle, Newland and Llanharry, as well as Bassaleg in Gwent. The manor of East Orchard was then inherited by the Stradlings of St Donat's, and remained in their family until that line failed, and their lands subdivided, in 1756, when it was sold to pay the law expenses. It came indirectly to the Joneses of Fonmon who dismantled part of the house and removed the fittings. A small cottage was built within the walls in about 1800, but was not occupied for long.

There was also a West Orchard manor - which was granted to Horton's Brigade after the Civil War battle of St Fagan's, and then purchased by Col Jones of Fonmon. There are grass-covered remains of a manor house (at 00726809). Castleton farm may however have been the chief manor house of the lords of St Athan.

Perhaps this will stimulate some people to investigate the area - and provide me with more information.

CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1982

- Jan. 14th WEST HILL, ULEY: A RELIGIOUS COMPLEX OF THE
A.D. FIRST MILLENIUM IN THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE
COTSWOLDS
Peter Leach, B.A.
Field Officer, CRAAGS Limited, Bristol.
- Jan. 28th OPPIDA - IRON AGE TOWNS OF TEMPERATE EUROPE
John Co Mis, M.A., Ph.O., F.S.A.
Department of Prehistory and Archaeology,
University of Sheffield.
- Feb. 11th Joint University College, Cardiff Archaeology
Society/Cardiff Archaeological Society Lecture
RECENT WORK ON BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT IN NORTH
BRITAIN
Colin Burgess, B.A., F.S.A.
Staff Tutor, Department of Adult Education,
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- Feb. 25th Annual Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Lecture
THE DISCOVERY AND RE-DISCOVERY OF THE ROMAN
BUILDING AT COLD KNAP, BARRY
Gareth Dowdell, B.A., Dip.G.S.(Hart.)
Director of the Trust.
- Mar. 11th EXCAVATIONS AT DUNADD, ARGYLL: DARK AGE CAPITAL
OF DALRIADA
Alan Lane, M.A.
Lecturer in Archaeology, University College,
Cardiff.

Further details from John Roberts,
Cowbridge 2179.

John Roberts now organises the
'footpath walking' sessions. All
information from him. (All people who
led walks during the summer are now
asked to fill in the relevant forms
on the state of the footpaths).

*****Commiserations to Dr Iolo
Griffith, who was involved in an
accident with a car in Cardiff, and
whose leg was broken rather badly.
We are glad to hear that he and his
leg are 'on the mend' and send him
our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

***** ~~The visit~~ to Merthyr Mawr House
has had to be put off until May, when
arrangements will be made to accommodate
the large numbers who wanted to go.

***** Congratulations to Marion
Eveleigh, Dorothy Sewell and their
helpers on the very successful
operation of the Museum. There have
been about 200 visitors in the five
days on which the museum has been
opened: and opinion has been very
favourable.

HISTORICAL QUIZ

A few questions on local history -
to test whether you have been listening
in the lectures and on the excursions!

1. Where locally do you find Gwynno,
Dyfodwg and Illtyd together?
2. Where do you find a work of art
by Burne-Jones within 7 miles of
Cowbridge?
3. Of which headmaster of the Grammar
School could it be said that his
greatest claim to fame was as a
breeder of Shorthorns?
4. And which headmaster was a Cambridge
blue, and played rugby for Wales?
5. By what name is the Neolithic long
barrow at Nash Point known locally?
6. Which was one of the most prosperous
granges of Neath Abbey?
7. What was formerly 'made into balls,
and sold throughout the Vale to tidy
housewives, for decorating the
hearthstone and doorstep'?
8. Which topographer, born in London
and died in Bury St Edmunds, is
commemorated in Cowbridge Church?
9. Which part of the church could be
said to have been the gift of a
queen of England?
10. Which 90-year old Cowbridge building
was made of stone from the 'Stone
quarry above the West gate, Llantwit
Road, Cowbridge, cappings of Monks
Park Stone, and corridor tiles from
Ruabon'?
11. What is still missing from the
front wall of Martins the Newsagent?
12. What would Iolo Morgannwg have
meant by

NAPOKIC NAWIN ?

Answers on page 4. page

MYSTERY SKELETON PUZZLES EXPERTS

Mrs Irene Jankovic has drawn my attention to an article in the Western Mail of 10th September 1981, with the above title. She has kindly summarized it: A skeleton found last year at Southern-down is puzzling local archaeologists. Carbon dating has put the male skeleton in the seventeenth century; what is surprising is why as a spastic he survived to the age of 18 years. He was about 5' 9" tall, of robust build, and probably suffered brain damage at birth. The skeleton had no feet, and both its thigh bones were broken.

The finds officer of the GGAT suggested that this might have been a ritual burying, possibly fearing some supernatural powers associated with the young man, and the bones were broken to prevent him coming back from the grave. The GGAT would be pleased to hear from anyone whose researches into local history would shed some light on the problem.

GGAT IN COWBRIDGE

In case the last article caused a little confusion, GGAT is the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. The trust has now just about completed its dig in the Arthur John car park. A second grain-drying kiln has been found, and a third burial; but interest is now focusing on the Hopyard Meadow dig - where recently a carving of a lion on a stone base was found, as well as a fine bronze Tweezers - both of Roman age. A further dig has started in the enclosed area behind the new Bear car park in the Bear Field; it is too early yet to know what is there.

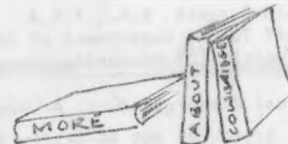
THE ARCHDEACON'S DIARIES

Despite the expenditure of a lot of time, energy, ink and stamps, the location of the diaries mentioned in the last news-letter remains a mystery. At least we can now state that they are NOT in the Glamorgan Record Office, the National Library of Wales, the British Museum or the Victoria and Albert Museum. The trail is not yet cold, however.

BUILDINGS GROUP - Possible visits

Despite his accident, Iolo has made tentative plans for a number of visits in February and March. One possibility is an excursion to Michaelston - le - Pit and St Andrews Major; another to a farmhouse quite near to St Fagans. More details in the monthly meetings of the Society.

BOOKS



Yet another publication from the prolific pen of Philip Riden, our December lecturer. Entitled 'Cowbridge Trades and Tradesmen, 1660 - 1750' it draws upon the work of last year's Extra-Mural class in Old Hall. No doubt Philip's lecture will whet your interest: the booklet is good value at £1. 20.

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ.

1. They are the three saints of Llantrisant.
2. In a stained-glass window in Llantrisant church.
5. Revd W.H. Beever.
4. Idwal Rees.
5. 'Hen Eglwys' is the name given to the remains of the long barrow.
6. Monknash.
7. Marl - the white, limey clay found for example in the Marcross and Monknash valleys.
8. B.H. Malkin.
9. The Llanquian aisle.
10. The High School.
11. The Iolo Morgannwg plaque.
12. Nadolig Llawen - Happy Christmas!

March 27th Charles Day
April 26th National Trust