

## Young Men's Institute

The late Mr Nathaniel Bird of Cowbridge, who had a flourishing ironmongery business, realising the young men of the town had no public accommodation for meeting, and for reading and indoor games, about the year 1873 induced the authorities for the time being to permit part of the western building attached to the front of the Town Hall, now the Council Chamber, to be used as a reading and recreation room. In this project, he took the late Mr Alfred James and myself into his confidence, and commandeered our assistance. Eventually, under his direction, the reading and recreation rooms were duly established, and I was appointed the first secretary.

Some little time afterwards, he felt there should be better accommodation provided, and, as he was nearing the allotted span of life, he handed over £500 to two local gentlemen as the nucleus for a new building. He, however, lived to see his wishes realised, and the present institute was erected and opened in the year 1895. This modest, benevolent gentleman was the only one in my recollection who ever benefited the town with a tangible gift.

'It is not the man who knows the most who has the most to say,  
Nor is it the man who has the most that gives the most away'.

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Cowbridge History Society

chs 01440

WRITTEN BY E.W. MILES  
FOR THE 'GLAMORGAN GAZETTE'