

# New life for Old Hall

'Delicate'  
£96,000  
restoration

**AFTER YEARS** of arguments and debates work is now going ahead on the restoration of the historic Old Hall in Cowbridge High Street.

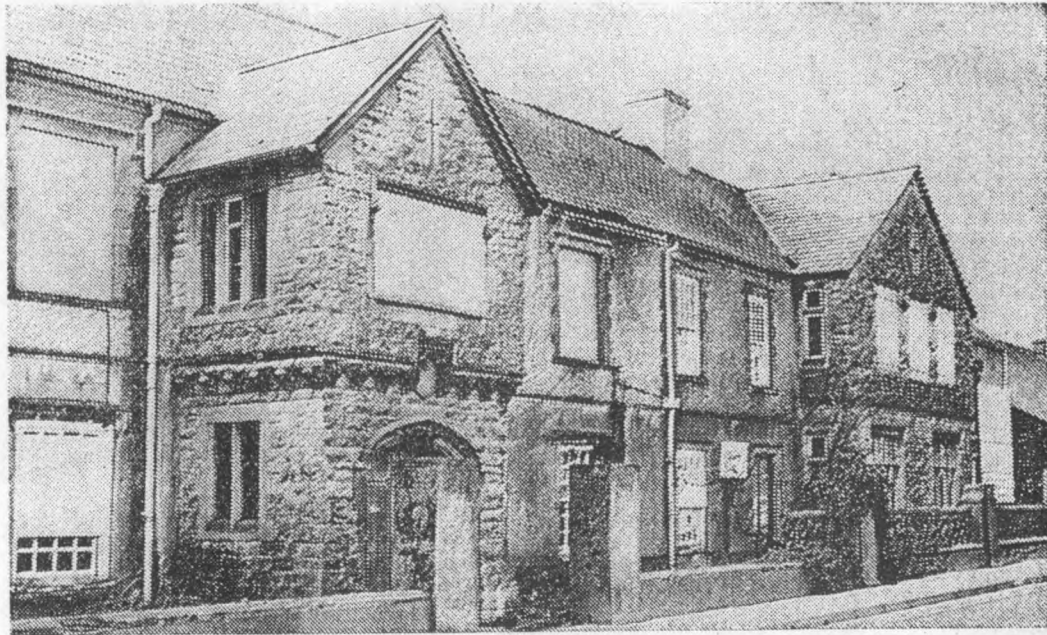
Twelve workmen moved in at the beginning of December and already they have made a noticeable impression on the 260-year-old building which has 50 rooms.

Great chunks of the rear of the Hall, which has been listed as being of architectural or historical interest, have been carefully demolished and the original stone has been expertly relaid.

Work on the £96,000 restoration scheme will not be completed until March 1974, but when it is "it should be one of the finest old buildings in Cowbridge," said the clerk of works, Mr. Eric Groves.

Mr. Groves added: "We have a great deal of work to do. Inevitably things will be slow because the intricate work has to be done delicately, but we are progressing satisfactorily."

Glamorgan County Council, the owners, decided at one time the building should be demolished because of its dilapidated condition. But following protests and a petition the decision was reversed because it was feared the character of the High Street would be ruined.



## Echo Reporter

And now the fine old building will eventually contain eight flats, a caretaker's section and the county road safety department. A health centre and a library are to be built in the attractive two-acre grounds.

Mr. Groves said: "We have started work on the stables on Westgate side of the town and we will gradually progress through the central part

to the rooms on the Eastgate side.

"All of the outside walls will be sandblasted to clean them up and then pointed to give as near as possible the original look."

## Delighted

Mrs. Mary Hall, of The Ancient Druid, Cowbridge, a former mayor and councillor of the

borough who, with her husband, helped start the campaign to save the hall said she was delighted restoration work had started.

"This shows that if you fight hard enough it is possible to save old buildings," she said.

"When we started our campaign in 1967 everybody thought it would be pulled down. But as the townspeople became interested it became commonsense to preserve it. This building will eventually become the dominant feature in this attractive High Street."