

COWBRIDGE & DISTRICT

INTERCOM

No. 3 Oct/ Nov 1977

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destruction and
devastation behind

**What's
Happening
to
Cowbridge?**

Part 1 - The Spread Eagle

Could you have directed Cromwell to his destination at the Spread Eagle inn? Was your grandfather a scholar at the Eagle Academy? The building whose rooms have witnessed such events is a seemingly nondescript dun-coloured edifice opposite the Masons Arms. Its external appearance, however, does no justice to the interior which dates back to Elizabethan days, when it was the principal inn of Cowbridge.

Inside, there still remains - for the most part in good condition - the great hall with its two impressive stone fireplaces. The ornate carving on some of the original minstrel galleries may be seen to this day. These, together with the noteworthy vaulted roof and ceiling, give to the hall an air of centuries past. An old race notice of 1769 tells of the Spread Eagle Inn, whose Assembly Hall was so distinguished that even the Rev John Carne was not averse to playing cards there.

By 1805 the establishment had undergone a radical change of occupants: The Great Hall had become the schoolroom of the Eagle Academy. Here the sons, and a few daughters, of wealthy farmers and tradesmen learned the rudiments of their education, the specialities being copperplate handwriting and accounts. The students were both mature and young people from the town, as well as those who lodged, or walked daily from as far as Colwinston. There was rivalry between the Academy and the Grammar School, the students of the latter being classical scholars who tended to regard the Eagle as an inferior college. There was also a simmering feud between the tyrannical headmaster of the Eagle, William Lewis, and his pupils. One pupil, provoked to violence by ill-treatment, threw a bottle of red ink at his master, leaving a 'stain of freedom' upon the wall. Nevertheless, the Academy provided a sound education for several local people who were to become famous in later life, and whose grandchildren still live in the district.

The opening of the Board School on Broadway saw the decline of the Academy which finally closed in the 1870's. Once more the role of the building changed - as the Eagle Agricultural Stores, it became the property of Edward John & Son, who owned it for three generations. The enterprise proved popular with local farmers who, at one time, readily gave financial support to the business. In 1962 it was taken over by Ranks National Compounds, and in 1969 by a subsidiary of the same firm, during which time the great hall was used as a grain store. Eventually the building deteriorated to such an extent that the firm moved out, leaving empty an establishment which had thrived for over 400 years.

The Spread Eagle (continued)

What is to become of the Eagle Stores? Planning permission has been given for shops and flats to be built in the front section. The historic great hall is covered by a preservation order, although its rare, barrel-vaulted roof has unfortunately been sadly neglected. But what of the old cobble-stoned kitchen with its oven and the vaulted wine-cellar? These had not been mentioned to us; we knew nothing of them until we actually viewed them. It is hoped that these also will be preserved. So, next time you hurry down the High Street past Eagle Lane, spare a thought for the old building, and spare a thought for your heritage.

Julie Curtis/ Caroline Inson.

grave news

In a field between Welsh St Donats and Tair Onen, a Bronze Age round barrow was excavated in August 1977 by the Department of Archaeology, U.C. Cardiff, and the Cardiff Archaeology Society, under the direction of Miss Jennifer Price and Miss Margaret Ehrenberg.

Visitors to the site saw a central turf mound surrounded by two circular stone walls. The finds included six human burials, a bronze dagger and awl, parts of seven pottery vessels and many flint implements.

We congratulate Miss Price and her department on the success of this excavation, and thank her for the information provided.

Peter Davies.

FILM SUMMARY

After 'Two Minute Warning' with Charlton Heston, the new suspense thriller 'Black Sunday' (AA) again plays on the defencelessness of densely packed crowds, as will 'Rollercoaster' which is currently showing in the U.S.A.

'Black Sunday' involved Bruce Dern and Marthe Keller as terrorists bent on annihilating 80,000 Superbowl fans using a scatterbomb loaded with steel darts. Opposed to this faction is Robert (Jaws) Shaw complete with Israeli accent and all the necessary hero qualities which are not permitted to go to waste, as the nail-biting dog-fight between bomb carrying blimp and hero carrying 'copter defiantly proves.

Damian Summerscales.

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David and Vicky
of the

Cowbridge

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40 High Street, Cowbridge

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stylus replacements,
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and on bulk purchases.

ON THE AIR

..... On Friday, 14th October, ten Sixth formers from Cowbridge School took part in the 'Sixth Sense' discussion programme on BBC Wales. If you missed that, they will be discussing other topics at 9.5 on Friday, 25th November.

..... Another 9.5 programme is Wyn Calvin's Cowbridge visit, to be heard on Monday 31st October. Rumour has it that Ralph Bird, Neil Brown, the Male Voice Choir and many others will be heard.

Society news

GARDENING CLUB

An active club for all those who enjoy gardening, it held its second Horticultural Show on Sept 3rd in the Town Hall. This was a big success, 254 entries being received. Membership costs 50p per annum plus 10p per lecture; meetings are held in the Lesser Hall from 7.30 to 9.30.

Among future meetings are
Mon 21 November: lecture on 'Cacti' by Mr D.J. Lewis, a gardener from the University of Wales.

Thurs 8 December: Members social evening.

More information: Mr England, Cowbridge 2424 (who is also secretary of the Glamorgan Beekeepers association).

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings on the first Friday of every month in the Lesser Hall; starting research on the memorial stones and tablets in Holy Cross Church; Buildings Study group with visits to local buildings of interest; organised excursions. Membership is £1 p.a.; alternatively non-members may attend meetings for a fee of 20p.

November 4: Sound and Fury, a talk with sound effects, from Mr A. Flint and Mr H. Simon.

December 2: The Freedom was Given - the Maud Gunter Memorial lecture, by Mr N. Williams.

YOUNG WIVES

Meetings, first Tuesday of every month, Llanblethian Village Hall. Next meeting:

Nov 3: Talk and demonstration of home-made jewellery for Christmas, by Mrs Margaret Trinder.

More details: Mrs Sue Davies, C 2213.

ART SOCIETY

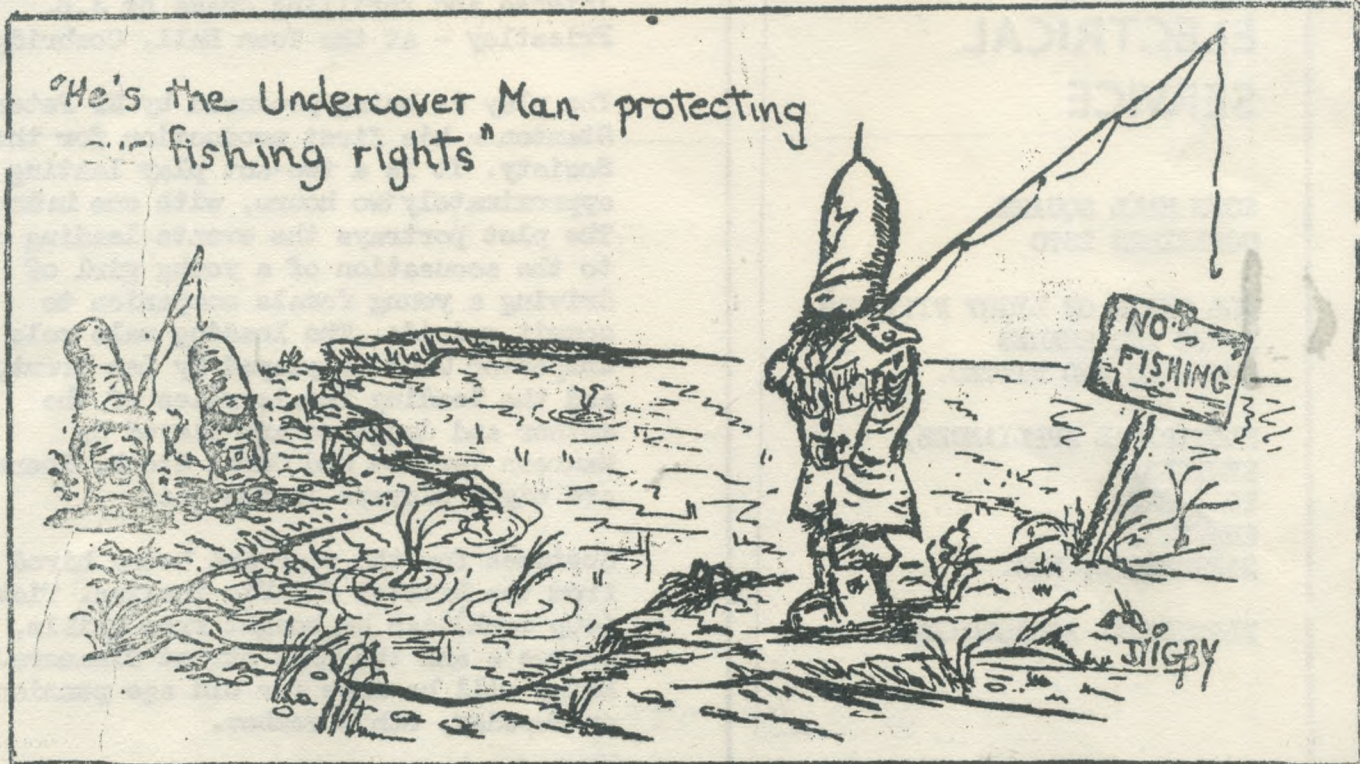
The society will be planting a tree, in memory of Miss Maud Gunter, on Saturday 12 November, at 10.30am in the grounds of Old Hall.

The society meets once a month in Old Hall for illustrated talks or studio work sessions.

Interested? Contact Mr Bob Fuller, Cowbridge 3959.

LADIES CONTACT CLUB

A social gathering for women, the Contact Club normally meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the schoolroom of the United Free Church (opposite Police Station) at 7.45pm. Forthcoming events include
16 November: Cooking for Christmas
14 December: Christmas Supper
18 January: Holiday '78 (with slides)
More details from Mrs Collins, the secretary of the society, at Cowbridge 3993 - or just turn up on the evening.





What has happened to the Jubilee Mugs? The news is that they are coming, albeit rather late. They were originally due in August, but there is no news from the pottery as to when they will arrive: they may not even come in Jubilee Year!

Even so, the 1000 mugs ordered are almost fully subscribed. Most are going to the Primary Schoolchildren of the area, and to those children from Cowbridge and Llanblethian in the first year of the Comprehensive School. Most of the remaining mugs have been ordered by private individuals as collectors items. 300 porcelain bells have also been made (to be sold at 90p each); it is not known whether these, like the mugs, will carry the motifs of Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

Originally, mugs were to be provided for all the local schoolchildren, but insufficient funds were collected for this to be possible. As it is, the mugs that will eventually arrive will be paid for by the rates. (Whether this is right in a time of spending cuts is arguable.)

Simon Snowball.

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Crime in Cowbridge

From November 8th to 12th, Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society will perform the play 'An Inspector Calls' - an intense and thrilling drama by J.B. Priestley - at the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The play is being produced by Mr Peter Stanton - his first production for the Society. It is a two-act play lasting approximately two hours, with one interval. The plot portrays the events leading up to the accusation of a young girl of driving a young female companion to commit suicide. The leading male role of Inspector Goul is played by Ian Brent, and the leading female roles of the mother and daughter are played by Maureen Tweedle and Carol Stock. There are eight players in the cast.

Costumes for the play are being hired from the Bristol Old Vic Theatre. Tickets (40p each) can be bought from Quills, George's and the High Street Cleaners. Entry will be free for old age pensioners on Tuesday, 8th November.

Peter Davies.

bits and pieces

CONGRATULATIONS to Heather Fox, Sharon Fox and Jackie Hibberd of Llantwit Major (all students at Cowbridge School) who won both the Welsh and British surf-swimming team championships during the summer.

THERE WILL be a Squash Club Social on the evening of December 17, after the final of the Handicap Competition.

LOOK OUT for a line of coppers in the High Street on November 26th! The third Cowbridge Guide Company are hoping you'll part with your small change, and make a line of coins stretching from Fine Fare to the Bear.

GUILTERS AND HELPERS wanted, for Brownies and Guides in Cowbridge. Anyone interested please contact Iris Boland, Cowbridge 3574.

MORE CLUBS & SOCIETIES.....

VALE AMATEUR WINEMAKERS CIRCLE

Meetings, Llantwit Town Hall, first Tuesday of every month (the next one is Nov 3rd). Lectures, films, wine tastings.

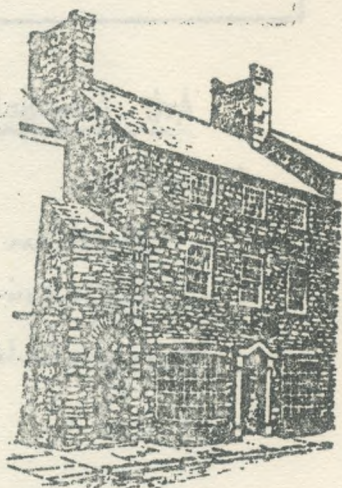
MODEL CLUB

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the Flamingo Cafe, Stalling Down. There is a minimum age limit of 10 years. Enquiries to Mr M. Austin, Cowbridge 2221

BRIDGE CLUB

Tuesdays, 7.30pm, at Llanblethian Village Hall. Contact Mr Thornburrow, Wick 305

There are many more societies in Cowbridge; details of some of them are in the library. As one of the aims of Intercom is to publicize the various Cowbridge organizations, please let us know details of future events. The next Intercom should be the Christmas issue.



Farthings Old Wine House and Carbery Cowbridge 2990

Built 1730, originally a gentleman's residence known as Ballard's Court, now a Wine House and Carvery. The original well serving the Court is still here, in the rear dining area.

Enjoy
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SIXTEENTH CENTURY FIREPLACE
DISCOVERED AT LLYSWORNEY ?

A recent discovery at the Carne Arms pub in Llysworney could prove to be the vital link in dating the old building. While altering the interior of their pub, Mr and Mrs Greenwood found a huge old fireplace covered up within one of the walls. Three grates inside the fireplace showed that the fire had been altered several times, as one fuel replaced another.

Now, this discovery is to be put to use in dating the Carne Arms. Villagers believe the building to be about five hundred years old; experts from the National Museum of Wales are soon to examine the house and fireplace and their inspection should determine the real age of the building.

The fireplace was originally the centrepiece of the building when it was a farmhouse. This remained its role until about 200 years ago, when the building became an ale house. (In those days, the residents made their own ale.) When this change came about, the fire had to be altered to cater for new functions. The original grate was changed from a 'dogbasket' type of wood fire, to a coal fire, as coal was the most economical fuel of the day and was much more convenient for cooking. Food had now to be prepared for the villagers and so a simple hole-in-the-wall oven was built into the side of the fireplace. The coal grate remained until electricity took its place this century. Nowadays, a small heater warms the whole room, in front of a huge fireplace, and an electric oven next door cooks the food.

With the change in fuels came other changes - people no longer arrive at the Carne Arms on horseback, and the beer is no longer home brewed!

The discovery of the fireplace will not only date the house, but it also opens up a new angle for historians - Dig into your walls!

Simon Dibb.

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We stock records,
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blank tapes,
cleaning equipment
and audio accessories.

10% discount given to
clubs, discos
and on bulk purchases.

Art Competition

Winners:

Grithian Palmer,
Catherine Wright.
Congratulations!

INTERCOM

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