

COWBRIDGE & DISTRICT

INTERCOM

No 8 November 1979

NEW HEAD FOR COWBRIDGE SCHOOL



"A comprehensive school will not make people equal - what it will do is give people an equal chance. So says Mr Gwyn James, B.A., the new headmaster of Cowbridge School.

Mr James, who lives in Llantrisant with his wife and two teenage children, Jonathan and Rachel, achieved an Honours degree in History at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and was formerly the headmaster of Llanedyn High School, Cardiff.

A man in his mid-forties, he has had various teaching posts in a number of schools throughout the country, and regards his new headship as "a personal challenge", having spent nine years at Llanedyn.

So does he find it a disadvantage to govern a school on three separate sites?

"On the contrary, I find it an advantage." Explaining this, he said that having smaller communities helped Primary School pupils to adjust to senior level education. Furthermore, these separate entities help the important development of senior pupils in the Sixth form. Here, he believes that pupils, in their own community, are able to form their own views and ideas. "Maturity in the Sixth form," he said, "is an achievement in itself."

Any ideas that outsiders may have about the Sixth form being an easy life are totally wrong. Any abuse of study time is strongly condemned by Mr James, and although at present entry qualifications for the academic Sixth form are a minimum of four 'O'-levels, any pupil who lacks good manners, courtesy and common-sense is much frowned upon.

Will he be keeping up the high standards of discipline?

"Indeed, discipline is a virtue I concentrate upon. It is not an oppressive thing, but a moulding of attitudes. I want to help create self-respect, self-judgement and co-operation. Of course, it is an ever-continuing battle. Generally, discipline can be summed up in two words: common-sense and courtesy."

The teaching of politics, and increasing union militancy both by teachers and students have been condemned by many authorities on children's education. In this context, Mr. James pointed out that although an interest in these subjects is to be encouraged, common-sense must prevail and at no time should such things as the teaching of politics become dogmatic.

On the subject of sport, Mr. James sees games as being important for building character, encouraging co-operation and creating pride. Whilst he thinks that the school's sporting facilities are "adequate without being excellent", Mr. James' opinion of the facilities - sporting and otherwise - in Cowbridge generally, is very good. Coming from a city, Mr. James is especially aware of the close-knit community life enjoyed by the people of Cowbridge. When he can, he enjoys visiting cinemas and theatres, gardening and reading historical novels, one of his favourite authors being Frederick Forsyth.

Mr James is already reviving certain traditions of Cowbridge Grammar School. For example, many teachers have again begun to wear their gowns, and the school honours board, absent for five or six years, is being brought up-to-date by a local sign-writer and will once again be displayed. He also hopes to utilise the otherwise empty classrooms of the old boarding school. He feels that the traditions of the past can be maintained in a new setting, and can be made available to more people. It is perhaps this positive attitude and concern for his school which has made him so welcome among staff and pupils alike.

We would like to thank Mr James for his co-operation in writing this article, and add our best wishes for success in his new post.

Naomi Lycett and Jacqueline Dunmore.

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C O W B R I D G E
S C O U T
G R O U P

As a result of six trips to the Brecon Beacons, during one of the worst winters for many years, often in blizzard conditions, five senior Scouts took the Mountaineers Badge and all were successful in passing. They were presented with their badges by Hedley Roberts, District Commissioner; at the same time Philip Powell was presented with his 'Chief Scout's Award', the first one for many years in Cowbridge.

During the summer we had a very enjoyable camp in Lydney deer park in Gloucestershire, and we have planned a full programme to December. We shall be visiting Cardiff Wales Airport to see Concorde at the end of October, and producing our delicious hot dogs at the Cowbridge Bonfire again on Saturday, November 3rd. On November 11th we shall be on parade for Remembrance Sunday. These are some of our more formal events; other less formal happenings include badgework, hillwalking and night hikes.

We are pleased to welcome to the group John Bruce from Scotland, who is coming to run a Senior/Venture unit, and also Andrew Wright who is helping with Cubs.

We are now in the second year of the 'Hundred Club', a fund-raising scheme with monthly draws and prizes of £15, £8 and £4. Anyone wishing to join should contact Rod Perriman at Cowbridge 2417.

The A.G.M. of the Parents' Committee was held recently, when the Llanblethian and Cowbridge Cub Packs presented an entertaining programme and slides were shown of the Scout Summer Camp. A coffee morning and auction is planned for the beginning of December, and a Wine and Cheese party in February, so please look out for the notices advertising these events. These are organised by the Parents' committee under the chairmanship of G.P. Powell, Secretary P. Ballantine and Treasurer D. Snell.

Philip Powell.

GREAT HOUSE, COWBRIDGE

We've had some correspondence - and further information about Great House which was featured in our last issue:

"The ground floor was a chemist's shop long before 1946. I vaguely remember a Mr Evans there before, but about 1924 or 5, he was followed by Mr R.H.(Reg) Williams. He was a Mayor of Cowbridge later, and in charge of the Home Guard during the War.

"The house on the right-hand side of the arch was also a chemist's shop for a time; an old gentleman, a Mr Llewellyn, owned it - I don't remember at all when it disappeared, but I think it was when he died years ago, and it became a private house."

Any more information?

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Beware of the dog



It is well-known that many owners exercise their dogs on the school playing fields. This is being viewed with some concern, as it has become clear that contact with dogs' excreta can be the cause of several serious diseases.

Transferable diseases such as salmonella gastroenteritis and cnpilobactiae (?) may be caught. These diseases have symptoms of a high temperature, vomiting, and diarrhoea, and may mean periods of isolation in hospital. Threadworms, which infect a child's rectum, and tapeworms which infest the alimentary canal, may also be present, and caught by humans.

There is also a rare disease, attributable to dogs not properly wormed, which can cause blindness in human beings. Hydactic cysts may be contracted from dogs; these grow in the abdominal wall, and surgery is sometimes necessary to remove them.

Obviously rugby players and other sport enthusiasts are highly at risk, and therefore it would be much appreciated if dogs could be kept away from the school fields.

J.E.



Guy Fawkes Day seems to be a little early this year - at least the official celebrations are! The procession will leave the Cattlemarket at 6.30pm on Saturday November 3rd, for the field behind the Town Hall: the bonfire will be lit at 7.00pm.

Come and support what is always a spectacular and cheerful affair. Children are encouraged to make lanterns. Refreshments will be available.



HISTORICAL REMAINS IN COWBRIDGE

A trial excavation organised by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust commenced on September 17th to the rear of the Bear Hotel. The main objectives of the excavation were

- a) to determine the date and type of medieval town defences present in this part of Cowbridge, and
- b) to what extent there was evidence of both Medieval and Roman occupation here.

Parts of Cowbridge's town walls are still in existence, therefore the course of the North Wall could be roughly estimated. Also, the fact that there are no cellars around the Bear Hotel led the archaeologists to believe that the state of preservation of the archaeological deposits would be very good.

After a week's digging the remains of the stalls of a coach-house, once connected to the Bear, were visible. Finds made included pieces of 17/18th century pottery, oyster shells, and post-medieval clay tobacco pipes. These will be sent to the Trust's base at Swansea to be examined. Underneath the stalls, a piece, which is probably part of the town wall, was discovered, in front of which was a large ditch, which served as part of the town's defences.

The main aim of the trust is rescue archaeology - carrying out 'digs' before sites are built on. The time allotted for this 'dig' was two months.

We are grateful for the co-operation of the Trust, especially Mr Will Lewis for allowing us to take part in the dig and providing the information given here - and thanks to Mr Gareth Dowdall, director of the Trust, for permitting the publication of this article.

Rebecca Mollart and Naomi Lycett.

CONGRATULATIONS

....to Cowbridge RFC for their success in the WRU Cup competition, with two fine wins over Penarth and Llandaff.

.... to Cowbridge RFC supporters who easily outnumbered the home team supporters at the Bishop's Field, Llandaff.

.... to former Cowbridge School students:

Andrew Cambridge, on being awarded a Senior Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, on the strength of his first year results.

Colin Donovan, who played for West Wales against the Rumanians.

.... Mr Win Griffiths, formerly Head of History at Cowbridge School, on his election as our Euro-MP.

LOIS
27 HIGH STREET
COWBRIDGE

CALENDAR

FOR NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER

Friday, November 2: Local History Society - "John Montgomery-Traherne, 1788 - 1860"; Lady Rowena Traherne. Lesser Hall, 8.00pm.

Friday, November 2: Amateur Operatic Society - "CAOS in Concert". Town Hall, 7.45pm.

Friday, November 9: School Remembrance Day

Day Service. Holy Cross Church, 10.50am.

Sunday, November 11: Remembrance Day. Short service at the War Memorial leading up to the 11.00 silence, followed by a service in Holy Cross Church.

Thursday, November 22: Gardening Club - "Gardening, Pleasure and Profit"; Mrs D.L. Heard. Lesser Hall, 7.30pm.

Friday, November 23: Church of England Children's Society - "The Changing Shape of Women's Fashions through the Ages", a costume display and presentation. Town Hall, 8.00pm.

Saturday, November 24: Friends of the Jane Hodge Home - 'Matron's Christmas Fayre'. The Home, Trerhyngyll, 12noon.

Saturday November 24: Cowbridge School Parents' Association - " Quiet Disco " Town Hall.

Friday, December 7: Local History Society - "Some Local Clergymen, their times and difficulties"; Revd. S.H. Mogford. Lesser Hall, 8.00pm.

Thursday, December 13 } : Cowbridge School
Friday, December 14 } : Christmas Concert
at Holy Cross Church, 7.30pm.



**** TOY BARGAINS ****

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EDDERSHAW'S

56 HIGH STREET : COWBRIDGE 2058

INTERCOM is produced by
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School.

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(We would welcome comment,
information and criticism! If
societies would like some
publicity, our next issue should
be a December/January one.)