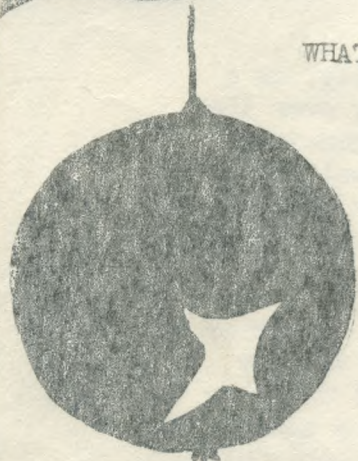


INTERCOM

No 12

DECEMBER 1981

WHAT'S ON AT CHRISTMAS



Sunday, Dec 20, 6pm - Holy Cross, Cowbridge
Nativity Play, Carols, Choir, Wind Ensemble

Sunday, Dec 20, 6.30pm - St Marychurch
Service of Lessons with Carols.

Weds., Dec 23

Llantrisant Folk Club Christmas Party I with Helen Watson and Suzie Adams, two former members of Muckram Wakes. A perfect blend of female harmony. New Inn, Swan St., Llantrisant 8pm.

Holy Eucharist and carols

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Holy Cross - 24th, 11.30pm
 25th, 8.00 & 11.00am
Llandough - 24th, 11.30pm
Llanblethian, - 25th, 9.30am
St Marychurch - 25th, 9.30am.

Ramoth Christmas Day Service, 10.30am.

St Cadoc's R.C. Church - Christmas Day Mass, 10.30am.

Sat., Dec 26 at 2.30pm - Cowbridge RFC v Pontycymmer

Weds., Dec 30

Llantrisant Folk Club Christmas Party II with Dick & Sue Miles, traditional singers from Suffolk with a good mixture of clarinet and concertina. New Inn, Swan St., Llantrisant 8pm.

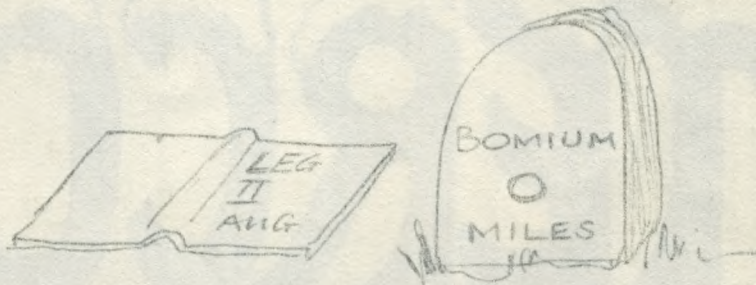
Dec 28-31:

Cowbridge

Masquerade Puppet Theatre Company will be spending four days in the vale, two in Cowbridge and two in Llantwit Major. Each of the two day events will include one performance of Masquerade's current show, "Three Bags Full" (open to the public), one rod puppet, one shadow puppet, and one glove puppet-making workshop session, each culminating in a possible workshop performance (there is a limit of 35 people per workshop).

Dec 30th:
Dec 31st:

DIGGING UP THE PAST



Cowbridge has recently become injected with archaeological activity, as a result of the large number of historical findings in the locality over the past century. The schemes for excavation are run by the "Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust", and we asked one of their employees, Mr Paul Booth, a Supervisor on the main site, about the nature of the four sites (numbers 77 and 27 High Street, the Arthur John car park and in Hopyard Meadow) and of the significance of the findings:

The excavations in the High Street have been completed, findings at number 77 included an 18th century cobbled floor (similar to the one at St Veritys Court) underneath which were the foundations of a large mediaeval building and below this again, were Roman remains. Little was found at the number 27 site, only a thick mediaeval wall and a deep well, which were probably used as a base for the siting of the present day building.

It is believed that Cowbridge may be the site of the lost fort of Bomium, and this was the main purpose behind the excavation of the Arthur John car park. The remains of a large Roman building, probably used for administrative purposes, have been uncovered. Dated as having been built around 100AD, it provides further evidence of the occupation of the Romans, who conquered the Vale of Glamorgan between 70 and 80AD. The building had a hypocaust central heating system added in about 120AD, a luxury probably paid for as the Romans exploited the economic potential of the area. Drainage was evidently a problem as several drainage ditches have been identified. Other interesting findings include three burials, two corndryers, one of which probably belonged to the building, stamp tiles with the insignia of the 2nd Augustian legion and a large Ballista bolt, a crossbow bolt, of military origin reused in the building. The building was abandoned, demolished, and most of it removed at the end of the second century.

The excavation of this site is almost complete and the next intensive project of the excavation will be the Hopyard Meadow, where Roman coins and pottery, the remains of the West-gate tollhouse and three mediaeval cottages have already been discovered. The carved stone lion found on this site, has been hailed as one of the most important Roman carvings ever discovered in Wales.

One of the main problems in archaeology, says Mr Booth, is not so much the dating of the finds, but of their identification. For example, in the Hopyard Meadow site, four large pits have been uncovered which were dug and immediately filled in with stones for no apparent reason. This is just one of the many many missing pieces in the jig-saw puzzle of history, but as a result of this and similar projects, the picture of our country's past is slowly becoming clearer.

Thanks to Mr Paul Booth for his help in providing material for this article.

Volunteers are welcome to help at the site on week days.

Wendy Lane.

DO YOU REMEMBER QUEEN VICTORIA ?

Recently I went along on one of Cowbridge School's regular visits to Southways Old People's Home. The oldest resident is Miss Janetta Thomas who was born in Llantrisant in 1869, where she grew up and went to school. She later went to London where she became a seamstress, but at the age of 45 she returned to Beddau and ran her own drapers shop until the grand age of 98! So she was obviously a very independent lady. She came to Southways when she was 108, and on December 2nd she reached the remarkable age of 112, which she celebrated with a residents' party at Southways (part of which was seen on BBC TV).

Miss Thomas has seen some changes in her life. Born during the reign of Queen Victoria - she can remember seeing Queen Victoria in the Mall in London - she has lived through the reigns of Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI to Elizabeth II. She has seen the introduction of such inventions as the telephone, wireless, aeroplane, motorcar and television! - and one memory is riding from Cardiff to Llantrisant in an open carriage.

Indeed, Miss Thomas is the oldest person in Great Britain, and has her name in the Guinness Book of Records. Her recipe for longevity can be attributed to having led a very active life; she does not smoke or drink, and has never married! (although she did mention that she received five offers!)

Sharon Bevan.

Bookworms is a new readers/writers group which will be meeting regularly at the Old Hall. Full details from Jill Thomas, Tel. Cowbridge 3523 or from Keith James at the Old Hall.



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Despite, "a very understanding mother and father," Anthony Hopkins spent "a childhood of being depressed because I couldn't fit in." His schooldays were the unhappiest days of his life, he says. Not because he didn't like Cowbridge Grammar, but because he says he was a slow learner and angry and frustrated at not being able to grasp anything they tried to teach him there.

I was a dreamer - not thinking of anything in particular, just on another planet. Not surprising I was always bottom of the class."

ANTHONY HOPKINS -
OLD BOY OF CGS !!!
(W. Mail, Xmas '81)



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PRINCE CHARLES AND TREES !

Mr David Matthews of Greenfield Farm, Treoes won the Duke of Rothesay Cup at Smithfield last week with his pedigree Limousin, Cross Beacon. (Limousins are a breed of beef cattle which originated in France; Mr Matthews has been keeping them for about four years). What's this to do with Prince Charles? - He is the Duke of Rothesay, and presented the cup to the show last year. Well done, Mr Matthews!

TALLY-HO!

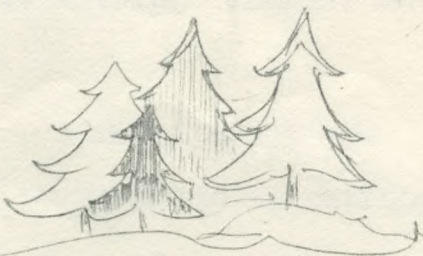
Meets of the Glamorgan hunt over the holidays include:

Boxing Day - Stalling Down at 11.00am (always a popular meet)
New Year's Day - Cowbridge Town Hall at 11.00 am.

SPORTS HALL FOR COWBRIDGE?

The Vale Council recently published its plans for Cowbridge's new sports hall, to be built on the school grounds at Aberthin Road. The plan was for a large multi-purpose hall, big enough for four badminton courts, and for two squash courts. Is this what is really needed in Cowbridge? There is already a thriving squash club, and there is not very much available for young people or indeed for anybody who is not part of an organised team or club.

Objections to the plan were to have been in by 30th November, and there seems to have been at least one petition for a swimming pool among the objections. Rumour now has it that more money is available than was formerly thought, so perhaps there will be changes. White elephants take a lot of feeding!



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NICOLA THOMAS

Solid evidence of lost fort

By Paul Hoyland

THE discovery of a model stone lion at a dig in South Glamorgan has excited archaeologists searching for the lost Roman fort of Bovium.

Fashioned from fine-grained sandstone, the lion is being acclaimed as one of the finest pieces of monumental masonry to be unearthed in Wales for many years. Only two other lions of the kind are known to exist in Britain.

"The implications of this find at Cowbridge are most important and very exciting," Mr Gareth Dowdell, director of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, said.

"The lion was probably one of a pair on plinths flanking a shrine in which an

important person was interred. It might have been the burial place of a military commander or a local official in the civilian administration."

The lion, which is dated from the second century AD, adds considerable weight to the theory that Cowbridge stands on the site of the Roman fort of Bovium, which once housed an auxiliary force of up to 500 soldiers.

Mr Dowdell declared: "With this lion I am now even more convinced that we have got Bovium."

"We are undertaking further excavations and we would like to find the remains of a building that can be identified as purely military in character."

An article from the Guardian to add to our report on another page. The Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust are currently excavating at the back of the Midland Bank, and behind the Bear carpark in the Bear Field.



Beauty Therapist

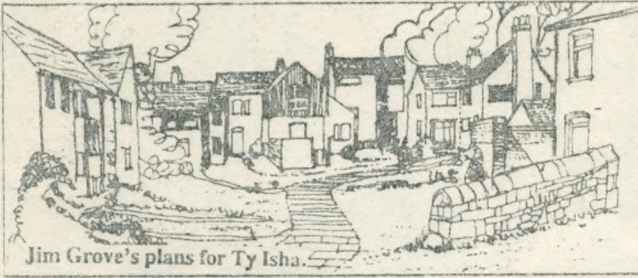
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TY ISHA - A NEW VILLAGE

A recent proposal put forward by three local businessmen may well affect the area around Cowbridge as they hope to create "an entirely new village in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan." The village is planned for a thirty-six acre site, at present a dairy farm, about half a mile north of the A48 between Bonvilston and Welsh St Donats. The proposal is to construct a village suitable for about 200 families using about half of the thirty-six acres.



According to the developers, the village will certainly not be just another over-extended housing estate, but the aims are to benefit all sections of the community. For instance, it is hoped to provide starter homes for sale to young couples, rented housing for the elderly, disabled or single persons, workshop homes for craftsmen or family businesses, as well as the inevitable middle market and high cost housing for sale. The developers hope to provide the social structure traditionally offered by village communities, by including a village hall, shop, pub, playgroup and village green. These services will also provide as many jobs as possible within the village, as will the 'workshop homes'.

It is claimed that the proposed village - to be called Ty Isha after the farm on whose land it would be built - will relieve some of the pressures on other villages in the Vale, and reduce the spread of those villages into the countryside. It may be argued that Ty Isha will make an unnecessary scar on the Vale; the developers claim that it will be sited in a dip in the landscape, and would be virtually unnoticeable because of the presence of many trees, and the fact that "two storey buildings in the centre of it will not be visible across the Vale". The proposals have not been well-received by everyone; it remains to be seen whether the scheme will be allowed to go ahead.

Deborah Hollings.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr D. Sewell of Cae
Rex, Cowbridge, who is the designer of
the new £1 coin, which should be in
production at the Royal Mint in 1983.

.....and to Michael Stuart of
Llanharry, and formerly of Cowbridge
School, on winning a prestigious
National Engineering Scholarship.

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SNOWBALL TRUFFLES.

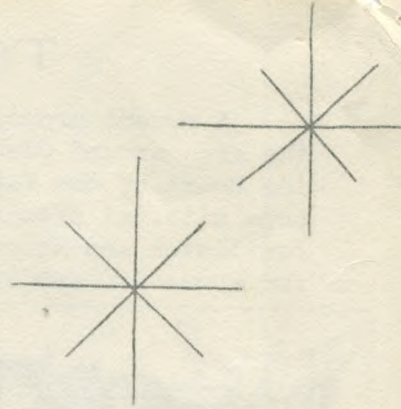
4 oz (100g) PLAIN CHOCOLATE,
2 oz (50g) BUTTER,
6 oz (150g) SIFTED ICING SUGAR,
2 EGG YOLKS,
1 TABLESPOON OF BRANDY.

FOR COATING :

3 - 4 LEVEL TABLESPOONS OF SIFTED ICING SUGAR.

Break the chocolate into small pieces and melt it in a bowl with the butter, over a pan of gently simmering water. Stir the melted chocolate and butter together, remove from the pan of water and beat in the egg yolks. Beat in the brandy and 6 oz of preferably sifted icing sugar then leave in a cool place to harden. As soon as the mixture is sufficiently solid to handle, roll it between the palms of your hand into walnut sized balls. Roll the balls in the sifted icing sugar and place in sweet paper cases. Store in a cool place.

Snowball truffles make a tasty treat for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. Rudolf might like them too !!



WHERE IS IOLO?

(Or at least, where is the plaque which commemorated Iolo Morgannwg's stay in Cowbridge as a bookseller?) The plaque, which included a line in the script concocted by Iolo, used to be on the outside wall of Bird's shop - which was demolished but reconstructed in the same style, and is now Martins the Newsagents. The developers obviously intended to replace the plaque, as the unfinished brickwork shows - we hope they do so soon, and replace a bit of Old Cowbridge.

NEW BOOK ON COWBRIDGE HISTORY -

'Cowbridge Trades and Tradesmen, 1660 - 1750' by Philip Riden, a product of the research carried out by his evening class in Old Hall. Available from Old Hall at £1. 20.

INTERCOM is produced at Cowbridge School by Carol Duncan, Wendy Lane, Deborah Hollings, Sharon Bevan, Barbara Thomas, Alison Thomas, Kay Thomas.

Correspondence to Jenny Lemkey at the School.

Editor: A.J.L. Alden.

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