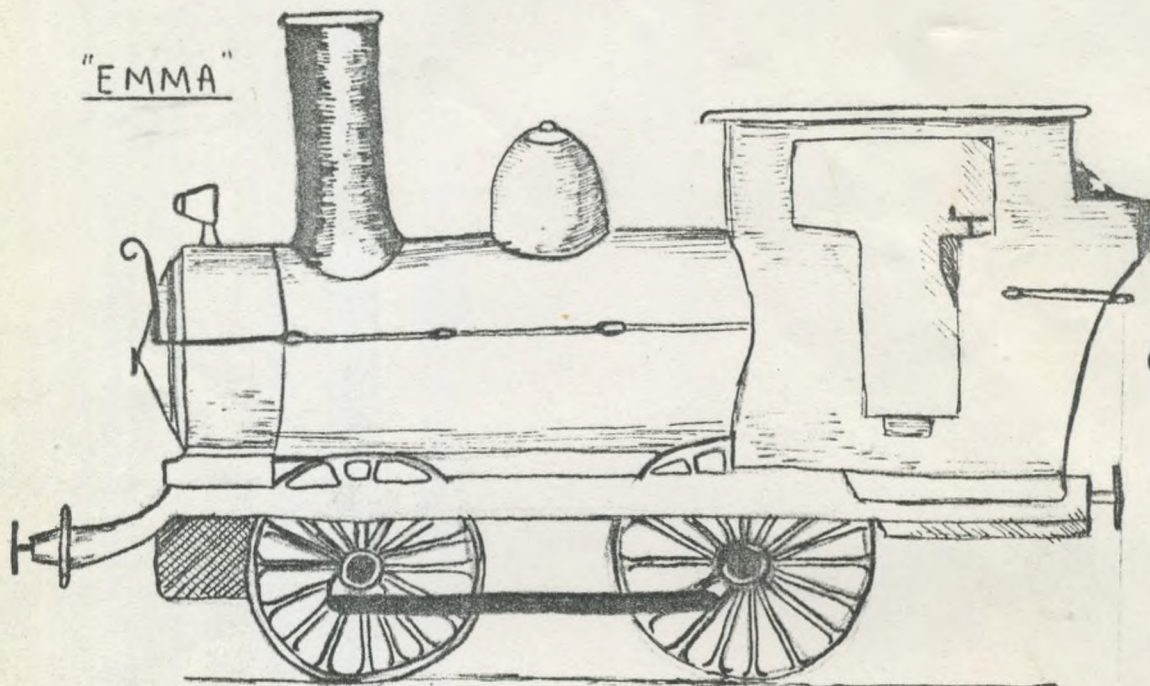


**COWBRIDGE & DISTRICT**

# INTERCOM

No 9 April 1980

"EMMA"



**THE  
COWBRIDGE  
RAILWAY**

Although it is hard to believe, Cowbridge was once a thriving railway centre employing nearly sixty men. The engine sheds at the station contained six locomotives, and the goods station dealt with sixty goods wagons a day, transporting mainly agricultural produce.

Originally called 'Cowbridge Railway Company', the single line linking Cowbridge with Llantrisant was authorized on July 29th 1862, but was not opened for goods until January 30th 1865, and for passengers until September 18th of the same year. At this early stage it used only two small coaches and two locomotives.

However, the construction of this five and three-quarter mile link between Cowbridge and Llantrisant drained the resources of the Cowbridge Company. Eventually assistance was sought from the Taff Vale Railway, and the two were amalgamated in 1889. In the same year authorization was given for the railway to be extended south for six-and-a-half miles from Cowbridge to the coast at Aberthaw. This, the Cowbridge and Aberthaw Company of the Taff Vale Railway, was opened on October 1st 1892, and - but for a passing loop at St Marychurch - was single throughout.

At this time, traffic between Llantrisant and Cowbridge was fairly brisk, whereas on the Aberthaw extension traffic was light with little movement even from the limestone quarries - and the limestone trade was one of the prime reasons for which it had been built. Indeed, by the time the Taff Vale Railway was absorbed by the Great Western Railway in 1922, the branch was fast becoming redundant. In 1930, when the country was in the depths of the world-wide trade depression, passenger services were withdrawn between Cowbridge and Aberthaw. Complete closure followed in 1932 although the track was not removed until 1947.

P.T.O.

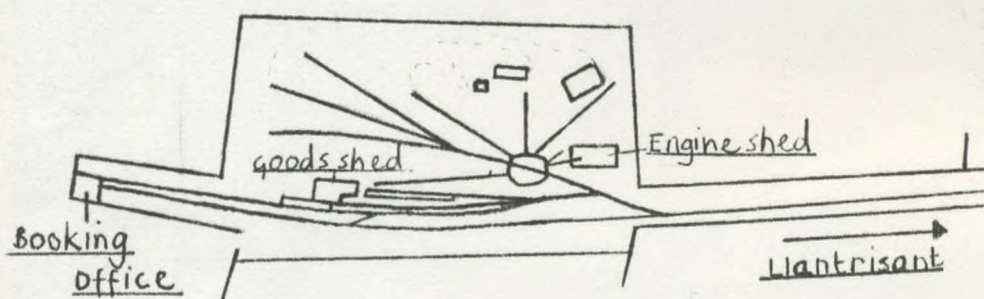


On the original Cowbridge Railway, the passenger services survived the Second World War, during which the majority of passengers were schoolchildren travelling to the Grammar School or High School in Cowbridge. The only engine which ran, and one remembered with affection by many of these schoolchildren, was Emma. Her one engine and one coach, though formerly painted chocolate and cream, were toned down to the drab colours of the war. Many a former Grammar school pupil remembers this coach with a mixture of horror and delight as the scene of his 'initiation test' as a 'new boy' into the school, a practice handed down from year to year.

During the war Emma ran three times a day, and was invariably late in calling at Llantrisant, Llanharry, Ystradowen, Maendy, and finally Cowbridge. The actual station at Cowbridge (where Druids Green is today) consisted of a waiting room, a ticket office, a large weighing scales and a Nestles chocolate machine, much to the delight of the children. Needless to say, this was rarely full owing either to the shortages caused by the war, or to the proficiency of school-boys with pairs of compasses!

Sadly, after the end of the war it became obvious that the Cowbridge Railway was uneconomical to run, and the decision to discontinue passenger services took effect on November 24th 1951 when the last train left Cowbridge for Llantrisant. The once thriving railway centre reverted to a goods yard, until in 1964 total closure brought an end to 89 years of steam locomotion in Cowbridge.

### COWBRIDGE RAILWAY STATION. 1875



(We would like to thank Mrs J. Phillips and Mr A. Trotman for all their assistance in writing this article.)

Naomi Lycett  
Jacqueline Dunmore.

## **school museum**

Cowbridge School is to have a museum. This is the plan of headmaster Mr Gwyn James, and already many artefacts from the former Grammar and High Schools have been collected.

Included in this material are reports, letters dealing with the everyday life of boarders, photographs, and many of the old trophies and cups which were awarded for sporting achievements. The bulk of this material dates from the nineteenth century, although some is more modern and some may be traced back to the eighteenth century.

It is hoped to establish the museum in the Sixth Form Block, the former High School Building.

### Mr P. D. Adams

Former pupils and teachers of the Grammar School were distressed to hear of the death, last February, of Mr Darwin Adams. A popular figure in the school, Mr Adams - sometimes known as 'Jack' - was the Senior Mathematics Master for many years, as well as being Deputy Headmaster for the last year of the school, before the amalgamation in 1974.

A keen member of Llantrisant Golf Club before failing eyesight forced him to stop playing, Mr Adams' pupils will always be grateful to him for the superb quality of his teaching, faithfully represented in the examination results his classes obtained.



## The old school.....



Many Cowbridge people were delighted to hear that the School house of the old Boys' Grammar School in Church Street was once again being used for the purpose for which it was first built - the education of young people.

The building, put up during the years 1847-1852, on the site of the Free School originally founded by Sir Edward Stradling of St Donats in 1608, was designed by the architect John Pritchard, who was given the difficult task of harmonising the new School House with the church on one side and the ancient South Gate on the other. His undoubted success in this task can still

be seen today - the distinctive and attractive Victorian-Tudor buildings along Church Street.

From the time of its building, the School house faithfully served the needs of the Grammar School, both as a house for boarders and as a nucleus to which other, less architecturally distinctive buildings were added, as the school rapidly grew during this century.

When the Boys' Grammar and Girls' High Schools, however, were amalgamated to form the present, comprehensive Cowbridge School in 1974, for some reason it was decided that the school house would no longer be used for teaching purposes. Since then, it has remained within the area of the present Lower School, while not actually being used for educational purposes. However, it continued to be used by various Cowbridge societies, among them the Youth Club, which meets most nights to provide much-needed facilities for the youth of Cowbridge.

Assembly in the Grammar School was traditionally held in the Schoolroom, but after amalgamation, it was held in the Gymnasium, which necessitated the removal of shoes by pupils on entering the gymnasium. However, when Mr Gwyn James came to take up his position as Headmaster of Cowbridge School in September 1979, he decided to move the Assemblies back into the Schoolroom. This move caused some anxiety in Cowbridge about the future of the Youth Club, not least from members of the school, whose needs it served. These fears are, of course, totally unfounded for Mr James fully understands the need for facilities for youth in Cowbridge, and insists that in no way would he wish to deprive them of any facilities they have at present. Furthermore, the headmaster advocates full cooperation between himself and the Youth Club organisers, so that the best interests of both institutions - school and youth club - can be achieved. Undoubtedly, as time progresses, the School House will once again be used - albeit on a limited scale - for teaching purposes, as the number of classes in the Lower School increases. Already Maths lessons are held in Founder's Room, and Music in the Schoolroom.

It is, of course, best for all concerned that teaching is carried on there once more, for only then can the authorities be persuaded to provide the cash needed to restore the fabric of the School House to its former splendour. Furthermore, if Cowbridge School is to continue as successfully in the future as it was in the past, and still is in the present, its pupils must know something of the tradition of the two schools which combined to form it. The teaching of the youngest members of the school in the former Grammar School building can only serve to further this end.

Wayne Salvage.





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IS A STAR BORN ?

Kevin Francis, from Colwinston, fourth-year pupil of Cowbridge School, recently attended an audition at the ATV studios in London. Not only did he pass the audition but he created such an impression on the Director that he was offered the larger part of "Johnnie" in a series of four plays under the title "Nelson". These plays portray the life of Nelson as seen through the eyes of people who knew him.

The programme is due to be transmitted early in 1981. In order to attend the rehearsals, Kevin has to live in London for a month, and so needs a tutor to make up for the time lost at school in October and November when 'shooting' takes place.

Kevin is no newcomer to acting. As a member of Bridgend Castle Players he has taken roles in pantomime and in several plays, and has also been in a school production. He hopes to continue his acting professionally, but meantime we wish him every success and look forward to seeing him on TV next year.

Rebecca Mollart.

SCHOOL NEWS

Achievements last term included: Nicola Talbot, Andrea Morland and David Komlodi appeared on BBC Radio; Andrew West represented Wales in cross-country running after being second in the Schools' championship at Newtown; The public-speaking team of Paul Swallow, Nicola Grant and Fiona Callaghan won both the local and the area finals in the Rotary public speaking competition; Andrew Gowen won distinction in the Western Mail art competition; Keith Pitman and Peter Cartwright played for the S.Glamorgan under 17 XV; School rugby teams played 158 games! The junior girls badminton team won the S Glamorgan cup; David Komlodi, Jonathan Snowball, Mike Stuart and Ian Blakeman are the Welsh under-18 Bridge champions. Well done, all!

INTERCOM is written at Cowbridge School by Naomi Lycett, Jacqui Dunmore, Wayne Salvage, Tom Rickard, Philip Powell, Joanne Eccleshall, Andrew Gowen, Nick Gibbon, David Poole, Catherine Wright, Correspondence to Sarah Boland.  
Editor: J.Alden. & Rebecca Mollart.