

FREEMANS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2000

No 20

Valedictions

The Trust has learned with deep regret of the passing of the under mentioned Freemen:-

Dirk GERRITSE, Margate, No1891, admitted May 1944; William John FILER, Maesteg, No1912, admitted May 1944; Idris POWELL, Efail Isaf, No1916, admitted February 1945; Thomas WILLIAMS, Talbot Green, No 2126, admitted 18th MAY 1954; Ivor Hywel MORGAN, Talbot Green, No 2281, admitted 28th May 1959; Cyril HARRISON, Talbot Green, No 2340, admitted 26th May 1960; David Charles SMALLMAN, Llantrisant, No.3030, admitted 26th May 1976; Sidney EVANS, Lydstep, No 4460, admitted 17th May 1996.

Freeman Dirk GERRITSE was a member of the Dutch Military Police stationed in the south of Holland when the Germans invaded the country at the beginning of May 1940. He managed to escape to Belgium and made his way to France and then crossed over to England. He spent the summer of 1940 in Porthcawl with remnants of the Dutch army in a makeshift camp. They moved to Congleton where, in January 1941, the Royal Dutch Brigade was formed. Some months later the name was changed to the Royal Dutch Brigade "Prinses Irene" The summer of 1944 found the Brigade in Normandy where it soon found it's first action. The Brigade fought it's final action in April 1945. Freeman GERRITSE, who had by now been promoted to Captain, met his wife, the daughter of Freeman Edward George WILLIAMS, Penycoedcae, whilst stationed at Porthcawl and not long afterwards they married at Sardis Chapel Pontypridd. They lived in Holland until 1969 and then moved to Kent. He has two sons and one grandson enrolled as Freeman.

GENERAL MEETING 2000

A general Meeting of Freemen of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall at 7-30pm on Friday, 27th October, to discuss and debate the works of the Trust over the past year and to accept suggestions to improve its effectiveness.

The five-year term of office of Freeman's Trustee David Robert THOMAS expires at the Meeting and, consequently, an election must take place. Trustee THOMAS is eligible for re-appointment.

Any Freeman may stand for election; he will be required to attend personally and be nominated and seconded by Freemen.

Freemen are again reminded of the importance of supporting the General Meeting. All are most welcome to participate in the proceedings.

COURT LEET AND COURT LEET DINNER 2001

Next year's Court Leet for the enrolment of new Freemen will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall on Friday 18th May, commencing promptly at 6-30pm. The fee is £50.00, inclusive of Freeman's tie. Application forms are now available from the Clerk.

At this year's Court Leet twenty-two newly enrolled Freemen claimed their heritage and birthright.

The Court Leet Dinner will take place directly after the adjournment of the enrolment ceremony and will be held at the usual venue of Llantrisant Rugby Club. Tickets will cost £14.00 each and be available from the Clerk on application nearer the due date. Freemen may invite guests should they desire.

LLANTRISANT COMMON – SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST [SSSI]

With the full co-operation of the Trust, Llantrisant Common was granted SSSI status from the beginning of the year by the Countryside Council of Wales. Our traditional agricultural methods of managing the Common has encouraged the growth of various rare types of flora and grasses etc. In addition to the Commons being granted SSSI status some of the surrounding pastureland has also been designated.

LLANTRISANT COMMON – ROUTE OF FORMER RAILWAY

The route of the former railway line across Llantrisant Common was excluded from the Commons register when the Common, together with the Graig and Cymdda Bach was registered under the "Commons Registration Act 1965" in 1967. The Trust has sought legal opinion regarding this oversight, resulting concerns are that the Local Authority may try to compulsory purchase the land, to enable them to build the proposed new road which would effectively split Llantrisant Common in two. Legal opinion is such that the Trust is protected and grazing rights exist, it would not be a simple matter for the Local Authority to compulsory purchase the land.

LLANTRISANT COMMON – GRAZING REGULATIONS

Reminder to all Freemen graziers that they must abide by the grazing regulations which are, Freeman placing the animal on the Common must be the owner of the animal.

At the time of placing the animal on the Common he must provide to the Commons Overseer the following:- The grazing fee – presently £1.00 per animal and, Cattle - the ear tag numbers, Horses – full description of the animal or a photograph.

Howard Thomas

Clerk to the Trust.

