

# **FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER**

**Autumn 2001**

**No 21**

## **Valedictions**

The Trust has learned with deep regret of the passing of the under mentioned Freemen:- William John REES, Llantrisant, No1766, Malcolm PORTER, No1851, Norman JOPLIN, No2518, Ron THOMAS, Tonyrefail, No2452 Gwyn THOMAS, Pontypridd No4299, and John Thomas EMMETT, No4335.

William John REES, had served as Clerk to the Trust.

## **GENERAL MEETING 2001**

A general Meeting of Freemen of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall at 7-30pm on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Trustees Edward THOMAS, Henry ALEXANDER, Edmund MILES and Huw REES, expires at the Meeting and, consequently, an election must take place. All named Trustees are 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 2002**

Next year's Court Leet for the enrolment of new Freemen will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 a new venue "Llantrisant Leisure Centre" forced on the Trust due to the small size of the Rugby Club hall and popularity of the event. The cost per ticket will be £15.00, an increase in price resulting directly from an increase in the catering costs. Tickets will be available from the Clerk on application nearer the due date. Freemen may invite guests should they desire.

## **LLANTRISANT COMMON – FOOT & MOUTH EPIDEMIC**

The Trustees were forced to close the Common to graziers in March in an attempt to minimize the risk to Freeman's stock, it was reopened in July to Freeman's stock from non affected areas. The position is still very precarious and the Trustees will continue to monitor.

## **LLANTRISANT COMMON, SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

The common has now officially been granted S.S.S.I. status and the Trustees and Countryside Council for Wales are working closely in maintaining its status.

## **LLANTRISANT.COM, WORLDWIDE WEB [INTERNET]**

The Trust has decided to participate and sponsor a Freeman student with his final year's dissertation. The aim of his project is to provide a wide range of items, chat rooms and information relating to Llantrisant and its surrounding area and a section of the web site will be dedicated to the Freeman of Llantrisant and be updated on a regular bases, so all you "surfers" log on to Llantrisant.Com.

## **COMPUTER EQUIPMENT**

The Trust has invested in a modern computer and the Clerk is busy entering information off the "Freemen's Roll" onto the computer. The information held tends to be sketchy. To assist the Clerk would all Freeman particularly enrolled prior to 1991 please provide your full names, roll number and all the relatives [Freemen] where known. For the family historians it is proposed to provide limited information on the web such as names, roll numbers and relatives roll number.

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME**

The old Llantrisant Post Office was situated at the south end of Commercial Street and was chosen for the first telephone exchange to be installed in the area. The post Office was run by James "Jimmy" Little and his family, descendants of whom still live in the old town. Jimmy was born in Llantrisant in 1871, but was not a Freeman family.

At a meeting of Trustees on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1928, the Clerk to the Trust – Lemuel Evans – was instructed to write to the Post Master General [PMG] in London to express their pleasure that a telephone exchange was going to be established in the old town, but were extremely disappointed that it was going to be named Pontyclun Telephone Exchange, in order to accord with the wishes of members of the Llantrisant Parish Council, the majority of whom lived five and ten miles from the town. The letter pointed out that the naming decision comprised a slight on the old town and the Trustees were unanimous in their desire for the name of Llantrisant to be used. A concise history of the ancient borough and its Freeman was included with a respectful request that sympathetic consideration be given to the issue. Result of which was that on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1928, a reply was received stating that the PMG had acceded to the Trustees wishes and that the new exchange would henceforth be known as the Llantrisant Telephone Exchange.

## **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

The Trust holds Freeman's personal information on computer. Should any Freeman wish to have his personal information removed please write to the Clerk requesting removal of said information.