

LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST

[Registered as a Charity]



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FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2003

No 23

Valedictions

The Trust has learned with deep regret the passing of the under mentioned Freemen :- Ernest LLEWELLYN, Cardiff No. 1965; Watcyn Richard JACOB, Beddau, No. 2064; Trefor THOMAS, Talbot Green, No. 2138; Alun Idris POUNDER, New Zealand, No. 2209; Peter L LEWIS, Llanharan, No. 2664; Trevor HOWELLS, Llantrisant, No. 2811.

GENERAL MEETING 2003

A General Meeting of Freemen of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall at 7:30pm on Friday 17th October 2003, 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 Brian Groves expires at the meeting and, consequently, an election must take place. The named trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Any Freeman may stand for election, but he will be required to attend personally and be nominated and seconded by Freeman present at the meeting.

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 2004

Next year's Court Leet for the enrolment of new Freemen will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall on Friday 14th May, commencing promptly at 6:30pm. The fee remains at £50, inclusive of the Freeman's tie. Application forms are now available from the Clerk.

The court Leet Dinner will take place directly after the adjournment of the enrolment ceremony and will again be held at the Llantrisant Leisure Centre, and the cost per ticket will be £16. Freemen may invite guests should they desire. Tickets will be available from the Clerk on application nearer to the due date. At this year's Court Leet 24 newly enrolled Freemen claimed their heritage and birthright.

Beating the Bounds

On Saturday, 7th June 2003, the Freemen of Llantrisant exercised their rights to walk the ancient boundary of Llantrisant. The day commenced with a thanksgiving service held at Llantrisant Parish Church, and I am pleased to report that a church was full to capacity. Following the church service, the procession formed up comprising of Trustees, Guests, Freemen, their families and well-wishers and was headed by two mounted Police. The St Athan Volunteer Brass Band set off, followed by the Clerk carrying the ancient mace through the town, with people joining the procession as it proceeded until it became 10 abreast and as far back as one could see. On to Cross Inn where the first boundary bouncing stone is situated within the garden of "Bouncing Stone" Cottage. In conjunction with Beating the Bounds it is traditional to bounce the son of a Freeman on various boundary marking stones and Marc KELLY was chosen to have the dubious honour of being the first boy to be bounced. This tradition emanates from the time when there were no maps available to determine the actual boundaries, the idea being that a little pain would be remembered by the boy who would be then able to locate the boundary some time in the future. Following the Bouncing of the Freeman's son the formal aspects of the Beating the Bounds having been completed, the mace was handed over to the walk leader, Trustee Huw REES, for its trip around the boundary. It was estimated that in excess of 450 Freemen and well-wishers actually completed the boundary walk and Trustees believe this could be a record. The band and guests were transported back to the Castle Green where they were entertained by two school choirs, Llantrisant male voice choir and the St Athan brass band, which took place in a marquee on the Castle Green.

Entertainment had also been provided by the local authority on the Bullring where street entertainers, entertained the various visitors. At the car park in Swan Street a craft fair was held where traditional craftwork was on sale. A free bus service was provided by the local authority to minimise the traffic into the town. It has estimated that in excess of 11,000 people were in the town on the day to celebrate with the Freemen, the Beating the Bounds. The Guildhall was opened to the public where an exhibition of photographs was on display together with various items relating to the history of the Town and Trust that are held at the Record Office in Cardiff were also on display. The Freemen's Roll was also available to view and a number of people were able check and correct information that had been wrongly entered onto the Roll. Freemen had attended the event from as far afield as America and Australia.

Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts

Following various requests to provide garments with the Town Trust coat of arms the Trust is able to offer the following quality garments:-

Sweatshirts, V-neck black in colour to signify the black army, complete with the Town Trust coat-of-arms. Various sizes available, cost £20 per garment.

Polo Shirts, green in colour to represent the green of the Common, again with the Town Trust coat-of-arms. Various sizes available, cost £16.50 per garment.

Should you wish to order please make cheques payable to Llantrisant Town Trust and include a fee of £2.50 postage and packing per garment, please ensure you give actual chest size when placing the order. Children's sizes are also available.

Please contact the Clerk should you require further information.

