

LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST

[Registered as a Charity]



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FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2007

No.27

GENERAL MEETING 2007

The 2007 General Meeting of Freemen of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall, 7.30 pm, Friday 26th October, for Freemen to be acquainted with and debate the works of the Trust over the past year and to offer suggestions to improve its effectiveness. The five year terms of office of Freemen's Trustees Gwyn Rees and Gareth Jones expire at the meeting therefore an election must take place. The named Trustees may allow their names to be resubmitted for consideration. Any Freeman may stand for election as a Trustee, it will be necessary for him to be proposed and seconded by Freemen present at the meeting and he will be required to attend personally or provide a signed declaration to the Clerk, directly or via his proposer, that he is willing to stand.

TRUST – CLERKSHIP

Clerk Howard Thomas is to relinquish the post at the end of this year, this principally due to changes in his professional employment coupled with family reasons – the Trust is greatly appreciative of the 8 years or so of dedicated service and invaluable guidance Howard has given during his tenure.

This voluntary position of Clerk to the Trust

will thus become vacant. This appealing and fulfilling role is open to any interested party, not necessarily a Freeman, and initial interest can be registered with Trustee John Berry, 14, Greenmeadow Court, Llantrisant, CF72 8JH. It is envisaged that an informal meeting will be arranged with Trustees to discuss the position in greater depth.

VALEDICTIONS

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

Gary John WILLIAMS, Cardiff, Roll No. 4681.
Douglas HAYWARD, Penygawsi, Roll No. 1873
Richard John Llewelyn EDWARDS, Caerleon,
Roll No. 3007.

Thomas GRIFFITHS, Llantrisant, Roll No. 2029.
Arthur Glyn JONES, Cupar, Fife, Roll No. 2047.

Alun REES, Hundleton, Pems, Roll No. 2343 – a past Trustee and a very well known Llantrisant character and of the family, the Rees', whose members have years and years of involvement and service to Freemen, the Commons and the Trust.

A friend and enthusiastic supporter of the Freemen and Trust passed away very suddenly a short time ago. Mrs. Diane Baker, Clerk of the Llantrisant Community Council, worked closely with the Trust in numerous ongoing projects and partnerships through the years and we are privileged that she bestowed her Grandfather's 1945 Flint Borough Eisteddfod Chair to the Guildhall for safekeeping, where it has pride of

LLANTRISANT CASTLE

The renovation works to the early Norman fortress, being the county borough's only medieval monument, got underway this summer enabled by a major investment of over £42,000 by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council and CADW, the Welsh body for Ancient Monuments, for the first phase of removal of the ivy and primary stabilisation of the Raven Tower. Overgrown vegetation inside the castle enclosure and surrounding the tower has been cut-back and cleared by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Further funding is being sought for the second phase which will involve conservation of the ruins of the tower and ringwork walls, enhancement of visitor interpretation and potentially a full archaeological dig. The completed scheme will contribute towards the ongoing regeneration of Llantrisant as well as protect our heritage.

LLANTRISANT COMMON – SSSI

The management of Llantrisant Common is proceeding successfully in accordance with the Countryside Council of Wales approved Rolling 3-Year Management Plan to maintain the balance of providing satisfactory grazing for Freemen's stock with leisure amenities for town people and at the same time preserving the Common's much revered SSSI status. The Trust continues to allocate adequate funds for the management tasks but additional manpower to assist the Overseer with seasonal and routine functions is essential, to this end an appeal is to be made to graziers and other volunteers at the forthcoming Freemen's General Meeting.

GRAIG COMMON - GRAZING

Recently two horses were introduced onto the Graig, these being the first animals to graze the area since the early 1950s. The reintroduction of grazing being possible with the co-operation and support of the Countryside Council of Wales and the Countryside Section of the local authority – grazing being the preferred way of retaining the unique environment and balance of nature. The Trust is to continue to work closely with both bodies with a view of producing, by next springtime, some interpretative material explaining the history, ecology and management of the Graig.

Earlier in the year during the very dry spell of spring weather there was a proliferation of wildfires on the Graig, all probably acts of arson or the consequence of similar irresponsible actions. These caused the valuable resources of the Fire & Rescue Service to be needlessly tied up and extensive damage to the vegetation of the Graig and distress to neighbours and harm to their properties. Such acts must be eliminated in the future with grazing animals present therefore all local Freemen, ramblers and all users of the locality are

place.

asked to keep a keen lookout, especially during dry periods, so that speedy action can be undertaken if necessary.

2007 COURT LEET

The 2007 Court Leet was another successful evening which saw 23 new Freemen enrolled. As in previous years many of the applicants were inaugurated into the Roll despite being absent from the actual ceremony because they live in foreign lands. However, the distance didn't stop Freeman Telfryn John from travelling all the way from Houston, Texas, to visit his ancestral home and see his son, Morgan, made a Freeman in the company of their Llantrisant relatives. The Trust is indebted to another Freeman of the USA, Thomas John Llewelyn, for his generous donation to the social account marking the enrolment of his son and two sons-in-law. The attending newly enrolled Freemen with others and guests, totalling 140, enjoyed the Court Leet Dinner held in Llantrisant Leisure Centre with BBC sports commentator Phil Steele as guest speaker. A special presentation was also made to Huw Rees who had retired as a Trustee following 20-years faithful service.

WEBSITE LAUNCH

The Llantrisant Freemen's website was launched in January of this year by means of a gathering at the Guildhall of guests and associates of the Trust and Freemen at which a presentation incorporating a large screen explanation/demonstration of the site was given by Commedia of the Model House, Llantrisant – the site's designer. Many expressions of aptness of the appearance of the site's pages, being the distinctive parchment background, to the historic Freemen theme have been forthcoming. Trustee Dean Powell is to be commended for the energetic way he organises the updating of the various sections and he reports the use of the site is ever increasing with currently 4 – 5 email communications being received weekly. If you haven't already done so it's well worth paying a visit to www.llantrisant.net

FREEMEN ENROLMENT

The special meeting of Freemen, as mentioned in discussions of the enrolment issue at October 2006's General Meeting, intended for June this year with a prior corresponding newsletter, has been delayed. It is now anticipated that, subject to response, this special meeting be held in early/mid 2008. The newsletter pertaining to the subject including a reply slip is incorporated as the 3rd and 4th pages herewith, entitled "New Freemen, Long-term Examination". Please give

| this careful consideration - your opinion is important.