

# LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST

[Registered as a Charity]



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## FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER

**Autumn 2009**

**No. 29**

### GENERAL MEETING 2009

The 2009 General Meeting of Freemen of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall, 7.30 pm, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 term of office of Freemen's Trustee Howard Thomas expires at the meeting therefore an election must take place. The named Trustee may allow his name 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 or a current Trustee, directly or via his proposer, that he is willing to stand.

### BEATING of the BOUNDS – 2010

The next seven-yearly Beating of the Bounds is to be held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2010. A sub-committee of Trustees is finalising precise details of the programme and it is anticipated it will generally follow that of the very successful 2003 event. Trustee Martin Hooker is very generously sponsoring the musical composing of an exclusive march, to be called "Beating of the Bounds", to have its inaugural performance at the ceremony – hopefully being played by the brass band at the head of the procession from the Church to Cross Inn.

### TRUST CLERKSHIP

Despite one or two seemingly encouraging signs it has still not been possible to attract a Clerk to take up the mantle vacated by the relinquishing of the post at the end of 2007 by Trustee Howard Thomas. Day to day business continues to be carried on with a mix of Trustees teamwork and goodwill, Trustee Thomas continuing to provide a generous contribution, but it is more and more obvious there is no substitute for a Clerk's guiding influence. It might well be

that unless the predicament is resolved shortly the future well-being of the Trust and, consequently, Freemen could be in serious jeopardy, the role is open to any interested party, not necessarily a Freeman. As previously, initial interest can be registered with Trustee John Berry, 14, Greenmeadow Court, Llantrisant, CF72 8JH ('phone 01443 222683) and an informal meeting with Trustees will be arranged to discuss the position in greater depth.

### NEW FREEMEN, Long-term

For the reasons stated previously involving changes in society affecting the institution of marriage and subsequent to the collection of relevant data and information, consulting with the general body of Freemen and extended debate over 3½ years the Trustees unanimously decided earlier in the year that in addition to the long established eligibility criterion claims from Freemen's Grandsons [one link only – not great-grandsons, great-great-grandsons, etc.] be permitted for acceptance and entry into The Town Trust Freemen's Roll. There remain some conditions and formalities to be completed, as required by the Charity Commissioners, but it is hoped the issue will be settled in time for the 2010 intake of new Freemen. When finalised, particulars of required information and documentation, e.g. birth certificates, in support of applications for admission will be included in the covering Form of Claim and its supporting Information Sheet – further information will be shortly available on the Freemen's Website ([www.llantrisant.net](http://www.llantrisant.net)).

### VALEDICTIONS

The Trust has learned with deep regret and great sadness of the passing on in the last 12 months of Freemen Alan BAYLISS, Tonyefail, Roll No. 2300; Gerald WILLIAMSON, Lysworney, Roll No. 2198; Mansel Edward TAMPLIN, Henley on Thames, Roll No. 1924 and Leighton THOMAS, Roll No. 2162.

**2009 COURT LEET & DINNER**

Llantrisant continued to uphold its proud tradition of enrolling new Freeman of the town with a total of 36 new members from around the world being admitted into the historic brotherhood. The special ceremony was held in the Guildhall when applicants made a pledge to protect the town’s customs and heritage. This year the 36 new Freemen were enrolled in the annual Court Leet ceremony from as far afield as Canada and Australia. Following the ceremony the Court Leet Dinner was held in Llantrisant Leisure Centre where the guest speaker was former MP for the Gower, Gareth Wardell. The gathering provided an opportunity to make a much deserved presentation to Mr. Geoff Moses in recognition of 30 years continuous service as the Trust’s Accountant/Auditor.

**MARKER STONES - Beating of the Bounds**

The additional six stones at locations on or near the historic boundary as walked during the Beating of the Bounds to supplement the original existing boundary stones, known as “bouncing stones”, in accordance with Llantrisant Community Council’s community project (the Trust is contributing to the project) were erected mid August and shortly it is anticipated appropriate plaques will be finalised and fitted to each new stone. With regard to the existing Talyfedw stone, in possible jeopardy due to proposed industrial development, no further news has been received from CADW concerning its protection by being “listed” – lack of progress understood to be due to the unavailability of an historic buildings inspector.

**LLANTRISANT & GRAIG COMMONS**

The Trust is indebted to PONT; GAP Cymru (Pori Natur a Threftadaeth; Grazing Animal Project Wales) and Butterfly Conservation for almost £2,800 grant aid, used in the first part of this year on projects on both Commons concerned with the safety of grazing animals and the promotion of grazing to maintain and re-establish diverse habit by means of grazing. The results and progress made were greatly encouraging although much work remains to be done and

there is plenty of scope for future projects. A disappointment in connection with animal safety was the results of a trial of reflective collars, to make animals more visible in winter/night time to motorists and vice versa, as only a small minority of ponies were fitted with collars - thought to be due to a mix of apathy of their grazer owners and complications of rounding-up and penning the animals on the open Common.

**BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME**

The Guildhall and two other buildings in Llantrisant, Y Pwysty (Weighing House) and terraced cottages in Swan Street (part of the first Workhouse in Glamorgan) qualified to receive Blue Plaques under Rhondda Cynon Taf BC’s scheme financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. A successful combined plaque unveiling ceremony, unveiling by the Mayor of RCT, was centred on the Guildhall on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> June ’09 complete with a pertinent talk by an eminent local historian that proved extremely enlightening and interesting.

**TRUST’S HISTORIC ACCOUNTS LEDGER**

By a stroke of good fortune a long-lost record document was returned to the Trust. It being the Trust’s Account Ledger covering the period 1887 – 1965 and is the companion of the original “Freemen’s Roll”; the ledger contains a wealth of fascinating facts and figures spanning this long period. The Ledger and Freemen’s Roll books are showing their age and worse for wear and consideration is being given by Trustees to renovation/preservation of these important records.

**FREEMAN’S NEWSLETTER**

For future years it is intended to include the annual newsletter in the “News” section of the Freemen’s Website ([www.llantrisant.net](http://www.llantrisant.net) [links: Information-News]) so as to progressively decrease the number of copies necessitating copying and mailing. However, if you wish to continue receiving a paper copy by post then please indicate using the reply slip as hereunder, by writing to the Clerk at the address above or by responding via the website ([www.llantrisant.net](http://www.llantrisant.net) [links: Information-Contact-Email - [dean@llantrisant.net](mailto:dean@llantrisant.net)]).

**Freeman’s Newsletter**

I note that for future years the Newsletter will be available on the Freemen’s Website but I prefer to receive a paper copy by post, as in the past, thus please retain my details on the Newsletter mailing list.  
*Please print your details. Forgotten your Roll Number? – It’s the number given on the envelope containing your copy of the Newsletter.*

Full Name.....Roll No.....

Address.....  
.....

**and / or**

Address when admitted.....  
.....

Return to Clerk, Howard Thomas, 37, Trenos Place, Bryncae, Llanharan, RCT, CF72 9RX

