

# LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST

[Registered as a Charity]



Trustee:  
HOWARD J. THOMAS  
37, TRENOS PLACE  
BRYNCAE  
LLANHARAN  
PONTYCLUN  
MID-GLAMORGAN  
CF72 9RX

Telephone/Fax: (01443) 222680  
Email: howard.thomas7@btinternet.com

## FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER

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### GENERAL MEETING 2010

The 2010 General Meeting of Freeman of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall, 7.30 pm, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, for Freeman 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 Freeman's Trustee John Berry expires at the meeting therefore an election must take place. Trustee Berry may allow his name to be resubmitted for consideration, however it is not his intention to do so in the anticipation a younger, more progressive and dynamic Freeman, more attune to the differing circumstances the bulk of this new 21<sup>st</sup> century will bring forth will far better serve the Trust into the future. Any Freeman may stand for election as a Trustee, it will be necessary for him to be proposed and seconded by Freeman present at the meeting and he will be required to attend personally or provide a signed declaration to the Clerk or a current Trustee of his willingness to act as a Trustee.

### BEATING of the BOUNDS – 2010

Beating the Bounds on 12<sup>th</sup> June saw a hot sunny summer day which, together with day long activities including street activities for all ages supported enthusiastically by the Borough Council, accounted for an estimated attendance of 15,000 people in the old town, nearly 750 commemorative certificates were issued to walkers who completed the boundary. Street activities comprised typically a craft market; children's rides and street entertainers and the programme for the day, with the Castle Green and Guildhall fully utilised, embraced an art competition with prize giving and various age group choirs of local school children; photographic and historic documents exhibition; Trustees procession and thanksgiving church service; parade to the first bouncing stone at Cross Inn led jointly by the RAF St. Athan Volunteer

Band giving the inaugural public rendition of the specially commissioned 'Beating the Bounds' musical march and the Clerk bearing the Mace; bouncing of Freeman's small sons; transfer of the Mace to Beat the Bounds carried by Trustee Gareth Griffiths; return to the Castle Green for refreshments and musical entertainment by the band and Llantrisant's Male and Ladies Choirs.

The whole day was comprehensively captured on film with the aim of providing a professionally produced documentary style visual record and it is anticipated DVDs will be available to purchase in due course.

On the face of it this year's event mirrored the acclaimed 2003 occasion but the preparatory arrangements were much more involved so as to comply with the greatly increased regulations and bureaucracy affecting most aspects associated with the day, this translating into a relatively much higher expenditure and it is feared this trend will be projected on to 2017.

### TRUST CLERKSHIP

The search for a new Clerk has been unsuccessful again this year, this being so Trustee Howard Thomas has agreed to continue with the help of Trustees teamwork and goodwill. However, this is not a solution to this dilemma and, sooner or later, a successor will be vital. This matter requires serious consideration by Freeman and Trustees alike to achieve a resolution otherwise the future of the Trust hence the Freeman brotherhood itself will be in jeopardy.

### VALEDICTIONS

The Trust has learned with deep regret and great sadness of the passing away in the last 12 months of Freeman: - Arthur V. R. HOOKER, Roll No. 1511, in

his 97<sup>th</sup> year and dear father of long serving current Trustee Martin Hooker; Geoffrey JOHN, Roll No. 2701 of Llanharan and Allen GOODFIELD, Roll No. 2471.

### 2010 COURT LEET & DINNER

This year's Court Leet was very successful, the Guildhall being full to bursting including, unusually, female relative spectators. 44 new Freemen were enrolled, a record in the Clerk's experience, comprising 10 grandsons (the first batch eligible through the newly authorised grandson – grandfather link), 7 sons-in-law and the remainder sons. Of the new Freemen five were Australian and one each of nationality of France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and Eire. 151 attended the dinner, a number of guests were unable to attend at the last minute but those that did kindly donated to the social fund. It was very pleasing to note that all three speakers were Freemen, Jeff Hooper, William Hooker and, on behalf of the newly enrolled, Robert Morgan (Australia); all were accomplished and entertaining with a balanced mix of pertinent facts and humour – the Trust is indebted to all three. The Leisure Centre as the dinner venue will not be available from 2011, consequently a new venue is required and it is proposed that the "Three Saints Hotel" opposite the Royal Mint just off the Common be used which is both large enough for the Freemen's needs and reasonably convenient to the Guildhall.

### MARKER STONES - Beating of the Bounds

The additional six stones, each with a slate plaque depicting the Community Council's and the Trust's crests, were in place in time for the Beating the Bounds walk. Regrettably only two months elapsed before one of the plaques was vandalised. CADW eventually responded concerning the original Talyfedw "bouncing stone" but were unable to list it – they suggested having it recorded on the Historic Environment Record held by the regional archaeological trust and whilst it would not provide a statutory protection at least would recognise its historic interest and afford some safeguard should its location again be subject to potential industrial development.

### LLANTRISANT & GRAIG COMMONS

A joint PONT; GAP Cymru (Pori Natur a Threftadeath; Grazing Animal Project Wales) and Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council Ecologist presentation was given to Trustees and Freemen Graziers which highlighted the unique biodiversity and importance to the balance of nature of both Commons. Butterfly Conservation, RCT, Keep Wales Tidy team and Llantrisant Community Council were instrumental throughout the year in furthering the management of bracken areas and promoting increased grazing of the Graig Common. During May

the Trust was pleased to accommodate in the Guildhall, as the indoor venue, the 'Ponies for Biodiversity Event' which attracted 19 participants, some from as far afield as Kent (E), Carmarthenshire (W), Dorchester (S) and Birmingham (N).

### FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER

As mentioned in previous issues regarding this subject this Newsletter is the first to be included 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. For those Freemen who have specifically so requested they will continue to receive a paper copy by post for the foreseeable future.

### COURT LEET & Court Leet Dinner 2011

The Court Leet for 2011 will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 where applications for enrolment onto the Freemen's Roll will be considered, followed as usual by the Court Leet Dinner which will be held for the first time at the Three Saints Hotel, Llantrisant. Transport between the Guildhall and the dinner venue may be provided for those applicants and their sponsors attending the Court Leet. Special rates associated with any Freemen wishing to stay overnight at the Three Saints have been obtained. Application forms etc. will be available following the Freemen's Annual General Meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### GARMENTS

It was recommended, at last year's Freemen's General Meeting, that the value of the small stock of Freemen's garments remaining after this summer's Beating the Bounds be written-off the 2010 accounts. Therefore black (Black Army) long sleeve sweatshirt jumpers embroidered with the Trust Crest are to be sold off at £12.00 per garment inclusive of inland postage – please provide the actual chest size required. This reduced price represents real value for money and if of interest and to place an order please contact the Clerk.

### LLANTRISANT CASTLE

The Borough Council has abandoned its attempt at proceeding with the Castle's conservation and related schemes and has proposed; with the aim of more readily attracting external funding, that a Building Preservation Trust be set up by locally interested and committed people. Investigations indicate that as the Castle has no viable re-use itself a BPT be established for the historic buildings in the whole town (e.g. Castle, Guildhall, Model House, Old school, etc) – this represents an enormous and unrealistic project relative to the envisaged facilities as yet available and undoubtedly signifies the end of yet another attempt at conservation and a fruitless return on the significant finances so far expended by the council.

