

# LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST

[Registered as a Charity]



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## FREEMAN'S NEWSLETTER

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### General Meeting 2013

The 2013 General Meeting of Freeman of Llantrisant will be held at Llantrisant Guildhall, 7.30 pm, Friday 11<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 Brian Groves expires at the meeting, Brian is standing down after 30 years of continuous sterling and devoted service to the Trust representing Freeman. Consequently a vacancy for a Trustee will arise and an election may be required, 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.

### Court Leet & Court Leet Dinner 2014

The Court Leet for 2014 will be held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 where applications for enrolment onto the Freeman's Roll will be considered, followed as usual by the Court Leet Dinner. Resulting from the success of this year's event back at the Llantrisant Rugby Club the club is to be retained as the 2014 venue. Trustee Dean Powell is again to organise and administer the dinner and tickets, price £26.00 per head will be available from him closer to the event. Enrolment application forms/packs will be available following the Freeman's Annual General Meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### Trust Clerkship

There is still no prospect at this time of a new Clerk to succeed Howard Thomas whose clerkship will come to an end at the expiry of his trusteeship in autumn of next year, that's now only 12 months away – whose to say what will happen if the Trust proves to be "*clerkless*". As has been stated previously this situation is beyond being very serious and if not resolved will become crucial jeopardising the future of the Trust hence the brotherhood of Freeman itself.

This is perhaps the last chance for Freeman to deeply consider this dilemma and hopefully proposals will come forward as to a solution – as said before possibly some 'out of the box' thinking may be necessary.

## Guildhall

A conservation architect was appointed to undertake a feasibility study encompassing architectural, interpretive design, quantity survey, structural and building service disciplines and interpretation and display based on the vision for the heritage of the whole area and community as well as the Guildhall building itself that led to an application, entitled “Llantrisant Guildhall: Sharing a Unique Heritage”, for Heritage Lottery Fund [HLF] funding and the subsequent awarding of a ‘First-round’ pass providing a major contribution to eligible costs for the development of the principal (‘Second-round’) project. One of the conditions of HLF eligibility was confirmation that the Guildhall belongs to the Trust, in endeavouring to provide the applicable proof and documentation it was learned, not appreciated by Trustees throughout past years, that the Trust is not allowed to own land/buildings in its own right and ownership on the Trust’s behalf has to be with the Official Custodian for Charities; transfer of title duly proceeded – this doesn’t make any difference to what the Trust does and can do with the land/buildings.

## Freemen’s Website – [www.llantrisant.net](http://www.llantrisant.net)

The Website’s being consistently developed under the guidance of Trustee Dean Powell and he continues to ask all Freemen that can to periodically view the Website and give him feedback on any changes, additions, etc, they feel would be advantageous. He has initiated and massively developed the site’s Facebook page; over 2,500 images covering all aspects of Llantrisant life from 1880 to the present day have been uploaded and there are 500 daily “followers”. He updates the page daily with snippets of information, historical facts and figures etc. to ensure continued interest in Freemen and Llantrisant and help generate support for the aspirations of the Trust with regards the Guildhall development. Additionally Dean is formulating a database of photographs of all Freemen, this is a enormous project but again it interacts with the public and draws them into the website and Facebook page, so far there are 105 Freemen’s images on the site. Images of all Freemen would be appreciated, these can be emailed direct to Dean [[dean@llantrisant.net](mailto:dean@llantrisant.net)] together with name and roll number – i.e. no infringement of Data Protection. Within the near future it is intended to scan the archives created by the Trust’s historian, Freemen Noel Israel, (from Glamorgan Archives) for possible inclusion on the website.

## 2013 Court Leet & Dinner

Eighteen new Freemen were enrolled at the Court Leet. The dinner venue returned to the Llantrisant Rugby Club after many years absence and was very successful and enjoyable with an amusing and witty main speech from Mr. Roy Noble, Broadcaster and Raconteur. Unfortunately, as had been experienced in previous years, there were tickets ordered and not paid for, this has highlighted the Trustees ruling made last year that payment must be made prior to tickets being issued – all Freemen please take note, this applies to guests also.

## Valedictions

It was with deep regret and great sadness that the Trust learned of the passing away in the last 12 months of: -

- i) Freeman Edward John [Eddie] Thomas (Roll No. 1998) of Southgate Avenue, Llantrisant, passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> May ’13; he was one of the “old guard” being a Trustee for over 20 years until he had to stand down due to ill health. In view of his long career in public service as well as his great contribution to the Trust it was agreed to recognise same by investigating the possibility of obtaining an appropriate photograph of him for display in the Guildhall.
- ii) Freeman Vivian Thomas (brother of former Clerk and Trustee the late Trefor Thomas), Roll No. 2208, of Merthyr Street, Pontyclûn, passed away on Sunday, 1 September ’13 after a long illness.

### Graig Common

The Trust was successful in obtaining funding via Butterfly Conservation for rectification of boundary fences, actually being neighbours' responsibility, enabling resumption of grazing by ponies and cattle and furthering the support of biodiversity and nature conservation. In extension of these aims Trustee Huw Rees is actively pursuing a scheme of grazing highland cattle on the Graig all the year round which would entail the provision of a small corral area with race, for handling, and upgrading of the Graig House cattle grid.

### Llantrisant Common – Welfare Issue

It is extremely unfortunate and a blight on the good name of Freeman that the poor condition of some ponies on the Common last winter was brought to the attention of the British Horse Society and the RSPCA. The Trust was resolute, in the interests of animal welfare, to co-operated with these organisations in identifying the animals and providing contact details for their Freeman Grazier owners. This irresponsibility has tended to increase in recent years and in response Trustees have decided to tighten the grazing regulations with the introduction of micro-chipping of all horses allowed to graze and periodic scanning to readily identify animals suspected by Trustees, local residents or passers-by to be in need of care and attention.

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