



LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST FREEMEN'S NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

No. 37



BIGGEST BEATING THE BOUNDS EVER!

Llantrisant Town Trust produced one of the largest and most successful Beating the Bounds events in its history.

On Saturday June 17 an estimated 15,000 people from around the world visited Llantrisant to walk the seven mile boundary of the ancient borough.

Held every seven years, the festivities were destined to draw large crowds, but with a wide range of activities on offer and the most glorious sunshine, Beating the Bounds went beyond everyone's expectations.

It featured hundreds of members of the English Civil War Society who battled it out on the Common alongside Cardiff Garrison and the Lions & Lillies Longbow Display.

Three evening events were held on the run up to the day. These included a sell-out concert by Treorchy Male Choir and Llantrisant Primary School at the Parish Church.

A social evening for the Freemen took place at The Wheatsheaf Hotel and on the eve of Beating the Bounds a black-tie banquet was held in the Castle Green Marquee.

It was an honour to welcome guests from our twinned town of Crecy en Ponthieu who revelled in the wonderful atmosphere of the proceedings.

The Castle Green marquee played a central role in the activities with choirs, bands, school groups and dance classes providing entertainment across the Saturday and Sunday.

The streets were lined with stalls, the businesses thrived with visitors and the entire event was a huge success.

More inside -

CLERK'S REPORT

Llantrisant Town Trust has experienced another incredibly busy year.

The restoration of the Guildhall dominated the work of the Trustees with some incredibly frustrating periods as they tackled the very many issues which arose from such a complex project.

Aside from the Guildhall, the year also saw Trustees organise one of the largest Beating the Bounds event in the history of the town as 15,000 came to the hilltop.

Dressed in their new robes, the Trust led thousands of walkers through the town accompanied by the Newport Pipes and Drums.

At the Court Leet Ceremony we welcomed 34 new Freemen to the Roll. The event was followed by the annual dinner which saw guest speaker Geoffrey Hughes, a prison governor, entertain the packed audience.

Following many months of hard work we launched the new website www.llantrisant.net and continue to update our social media channels on a daily basis.

Our management of the Common lands remains a priority and we supported the roadworks at Brynteg along with the Welsh Water excavation work on the Common. The Trust continues to work in the community and were responsible for organising a number of popular fundraising events – and there's more to come in the months ahead!

We thank you for your continued support.

Dean Powell, Clerk

FREEMAN FOCUS

Valedictions

It is with deep regret that the Trust learned of the passing of Freeman Roger Tutt (2826), J.S. Douglas (2528) and David Frederick Dutt (2839).

Butterfly Research

Research work has been undertaken on the Common to identify the habitat of the marsh fritillary butterflies

Longbowman Completed

A mannequin of a Crecy longbowman has been



commissioned for the Guildhall. "Archie" was made in Proportion of London with his longbow created by an expert maker in Somerset.

Welsh Water Issues

A major reconstruction project of a chamber beneath the Common was undertaken over a six week period by Welsh Water. Issues surrounding a leaking manhole cover adjacent to the footpath by the Common Pond were also resolved.

COURT LEET CEREMONY 2017



Court Leet 2017 was another memorable event which saw a large number of applicants enrolled as Freeman.

Owing to the unavailability of the Guildhall, the Court Leet was held in the Parish Hall on Swan Street and welcomed applicants from Germany and Norway.

In total 34 new Freeman were entered onto the Roll. A number of applicants were enrolled in absentia as they live in Australia and USA.

The Court Leet Dinner was also another outstanding success with almost 150 in attendance.

This year's Guest Speaker was prison governor Geoff Hughes who is also the great nephew of the composer of "Cwm Rhondda."

It also saw the introduction of a new Court Leet Ceremony which was designed by fellow Freeman of the City of London and adapted to suit the prestigious Llantrisant occasion.

REMEMBER FREEMAN WAR HEROES

Do you know the names of any eligible Freeman of Llantrisant who were killed in World War I, World War II or subsequent conflicts?

Llantrisant Town Trust passed a rule in 1917 stating that any descendants would still be made Freeman even if their father was killed before turning 21 (when he had the right to become a Freeman).

In 2018 the Trust will hold a Commemoration Service at Llantrisant Parish Church marking a century since the end of World War I and would like to hear from any families whose Freeman relatives (whether enrolled or killed prior to enrolment) gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Email dean@llantrisant.net with any details of fallen Freeman who will be remembered in the service

‘LOST PORTRAIT’ IS COMING HOME

A missing portrait of a prominent Welsh Lord Mayor of London will go on permanent display in Llantrisant thanks to the generosity of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff.



The First Citizen of Cardiff Cllr Bob Derbyshire met members of Llantrisant Town Trust following the discovery of an unknown painting of a former Freeman of the hilltop town.

Sir David Evans was one of Llantrisant’s most notable sons after becoming Lord Mayor of London in 1891 but until now a portrait of him has never hung in his hometown.

But when Cardiff City Council’s Mansion House staff discovered the portrait hidden away in their storage room, they agreed to a permanent loan agreement with Llantrisant Town Trust.

Until now there was little to exhibit which celebrated the life of Sir David Evans who was born a farmer’s son in Glanmychyd Farm, Llantrisant in 1849.

Clerk to the Town Trust Dean Powell began his research when he found that Sir David had stayed with Lord Bute in Cardiff Castle during a visit in 1891.

It is believed that the portrait was gifted to Lord Bute – who was also Lord Mayor at the time – and hung for many years in Cardiff City Hall, although nobody knew of its identity. Since 1995 it has been in storage at Cardiff Mansion House.

GRAIG FIRE CULPRIT ‘EDUCATED’

South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service successfully caught the culprit behind a fire on Y Graig.

The fire took place on May 8 on Y Graig and smoke was seen from miles around.

The culprit behind the “prank”, a local teenager, admitted to the offence and was ordered to participate in a fire setter intervention scheme launched to educate people who start grass fires.

Fortunately no animals or walkers were injured in the incident.

FREEMAN FOCUS

Court Leet Dinner

The 2018 Court Leet Dinner will take place at Llantrisant RFC on Friday May 4 2018. We will welcome members of the Lions & Lilies Longbow Re-enactment Group who will perform an “After the Battle of Crecy” production – in character! Ticket priced £30.00 are now on sale from dean@llantrisant.net

Chestnut Tree

Unfortunately Trustees had to make a very difficult decision to fell a chestnut tree on the Common. Following investigations by a tree surgeon it was agreed that the chestnut tree could not be saved and was a danger to pedestrians and motorists.

Summer Ball

The Trust are organising a Llantrisant Summer Ball for Bank Holiday Sunday May 6 at Llantrisant RFC Clubhouse to raise funds for the Guildhall. Contact dean@llantrisant.net

Dr William Price Costume

Llantrisant designer Thom Botwood has been



commissioned to create a replica Dr William Price costume for a showcase cabinet in the Guildhall.

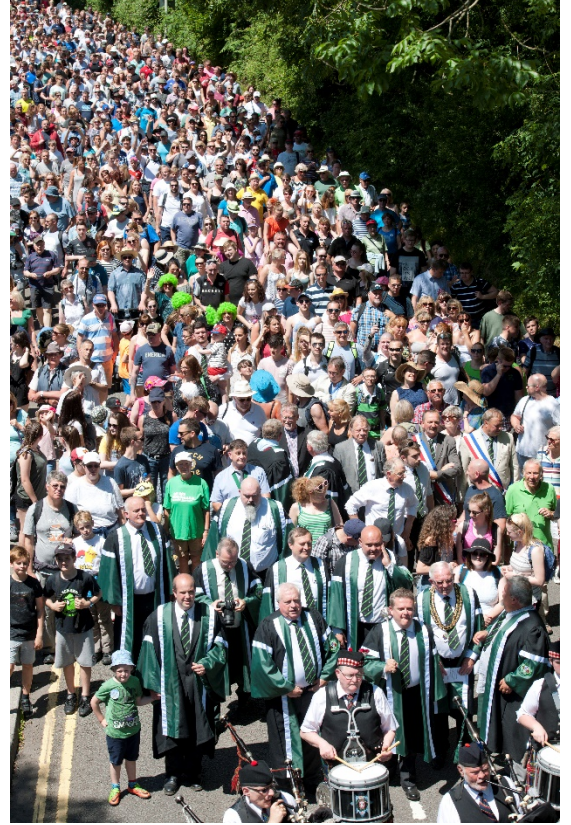
Freemen’s Enrolment

Application forms for the 2018 Court Leet are now available online at www.llantrisant.net. They must be submitted by April 1.

BEATING THOSE



BOUNDARIES `17



XMAS EVENTS

Trustees are organising a series of events this year to help raise funds for the **Guildhall Restoration Project**:

Public Lecture

On Friday November 17 at 7pm the Trust will hold a free public lecture at the Parish Hall, Swan Street. The Clerk will present the hour-long lecture. Bespoke Llantrisant products will also be on sale. Admission is £2.50.

Charity Concert

A charity concert featuring Cowbridge Male Choir and soprano Ros Evans will take place at Llantrisant Parish Church on Saturday November 18 at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £6.00 each are available from dean@llantrisant.net or Llantrisant's Model House

Christmas at the Castle

A family Christmas event is taking place on the Castle Green on Wednesday December 6 from 3pm to 9pm. With stalls, activities, carol singing, refreshments and entertainment, the event will coincide with the traditional "Carols on the Hill" event on the Bull Ring.

Christmas Fayre

The Trust are organising a festive fun day at the Boars Head, Tylagarw on Sunday December 10 from 3pm. Stalls, hogroast, carol singing and plenty of activities on offer. Admission £5 each.

GUILDHALL RESTORATION PROJECT



Llantrisant Guildhall Restoration Project is now 75% completed with further work to continue throughout the start of 2018.

Since work began in October 2016, the Guildhall has seen the construction of a large extension for the installation of an elevator to ensure full disability access to both floors.

The building has been restored with a new Welsh slate roof, refurbished windows and doors and the complete renovation of the exterior walls and porch.

Significant work has been undertaken to the interior of the building with the installation of new ceilings, floors, electrics and other utilities.

However, many obstacles beyond the control of the trustees - who at all times have operated in the light of professional advice - have caused significant problems for the completion of the project.

It has resulted in an astonishing – and exhausting - amount of voluntary work being undertaken by trustees.

Unfortunately the original costings for the restoration of the building were grossly underestimated by our professional advisers, leaving the Trust in an incredibly difficult situation as we continually tried to recover the shortfall required to complete the project.

Given that the estimates were substantially lower than the actual project cost, the grant funding offered to the Trust was therefore also significantly lower.

The difficulty was further compounded when our contractor withdrew from the project after six months due to their own realisation that the project could not be delivered within budget or timescale.

The Trust is now attempting to raise further funds, amounting to £200,000 to deliver the complete project.

This will not be possible without further fundraising efforts, grant funding applications and the kind donations of individuals.

Can you help us reach our goal? We require the help of all Freemen to complete the work on YOUR building.

Keep updated with the progress at www.llantrisant.net . Make a donation via Crowdfunding.

NEW TRUSTEE ROBES INTRODUCED

Llantrisant Town Trust has commissioned thirteen robes to be worn at special ceremonies and events.



Llantrisant Court Leet was the only one known in the UK where members do not wear robes for ceremonies.

Trustees commissioned a tailor from Oxford to design the unique robes which depict the Llantrisant colours of green, white and black along with the Town Trust logo.

The colours were chosen because the longbowmen of Crecy wore a green and white tunic, while the colour black is associated with the young Black Prince who fought at the battle in 1346.

Trustees wore the robes for the first time at the 2017 Court Leet. They created a spectacular display at the front of the Beating the Bounds march. Some trustees also took them to Crecy later in the summer for a church service and parade.

COMMON CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

Insurance brokers J. Arthur Gallaghers organised a litter-pick of Llantrisant Common with the support of Keep Wales Tidy.

Staff from the company, which is based in Magden Park, Llantrisant, cleaned the common of bags full of rubbish.

Litter is a continual problem on Common land and frequently Trustees call upon the support of RCT Council Wastebusters to remove dumped items, despite the fact that a recycling centre is now based nearby.

In 2018 the Trust will launch a voluntary organisation to help tackle the issue of flytipping across the Common and Y Graig in an effort to enhance Freeman's land and protect local wildlife.

Despite many attempts, few prosecutions of flytippers are successful. Keep up to date with our endeavours by joining the Freeman's email database for regular updates.

Also follow us on Facebook and Twitter and visit www.llantrisant.net

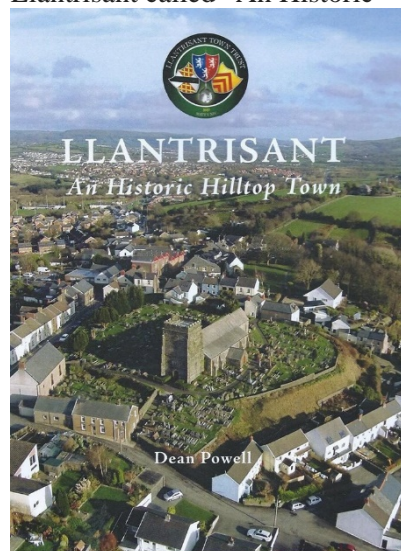
FREEMAN FOCUS

Friends of the Guildhall

An appreciation society called "Friends of the Guildhall" has been launched to raise awareness of the project. For £20.00 a year members are kept regularly updated on work and are invited to special events. Find out more www.llantrisant.net

New Publication

The Trust has published a new colour history book of Llantrisant called "An Historic



Hilltop Town". Priced £6 each, the book was launched in June and has been a huge success. For copies contact dean@llantrisant.net

Stepping Stones

Llantrisant Community Council and RCT Council's Rights of Way Officer have worked to improve two public footpaths on the Common which have been difficult for walkers. The stepping stones at Llwynyrwn have been reinstalled. However a second area requires a new boardwalk as it's become impassable. This work will be undertaken shortly.

Wayleave Agreements

The Trust will be undertaking a re-evaluation of all wayleave agreements across Common lands shortly.

FREEMAN GIFTS

Llantrisant Guildhall
Shop is open for business!



A china mug featuring
seven images of Llantrisant
£5.99



Selection of six different
Llantrisant coasters
£2.99



Chrome keyring
£3.49



Limited edition cufflinks
£24.99



Five different postcards
40p each / 3 for £1.00



Bronze Black Prince
£18.99



Metal model of bowman
£11.99

Find out more about
these many bespoke items
dean@llantrisant.net

FREEMEN'S LOVING CUP VALUATION

For almost sixty years the Freeman of Llantrisant have used their treasured Loving Cup at Court Leet Dinners.



The Cup was presented to the Freeman by Trustee Sir Brandon Rhys Williams of Miskin Manor in 1960. Its origins stem from a British Rail deal to purchase part of the land at New Mill, Miskin.

Trustees recently took the Cup to Mappin & Webb of Regent Street, London for a valuation as it will go on show in the Guildhall and appropriate security cabinets and insurance need to be sought.

The Cup is engraved with "This Cup was made from the proceeds of the sale of land at Miskin, where by transport commissioners were empowered to close the Miskin Mill Race in the year 1960. It was presented to the Freeman of Llantrisant to acknowledge the ending of their rights at the Mill confirmed in the year of Crecy 1346."

The valuation revealed that the conclave base of the cup was actually created some years later.

The cup is hallmarked sterling silver parcel gilt London 1960 makers mark LWB for Burt Limited (Leonard William Burt). The base hallmarked sterling silver London 1964, makers mark W & W for Wately & Wheeler.

The cup will go on show in the Georgian Court Room of the Guildhall.

SPONSOR A MEMORIAL CABINET

Llantrisant Guildhall will house a number of cabinets to showcase the many artefacts relating to local Llantrisant history.

The Trust has agreed to allow Freeman and their families to purchase a cabinet which will be dedicated to a relative of their choice.

Cabinets vary in price from £5,000 to £15,000 depending on size and security measures.

If you would like to know more contact dean@llantrisant.net

