



LLANTRISANT TOWN TRUST FREEMEN'S NEWSLETTER

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No. 36



GUILDHALL CONTRACTOR APPOINTED

Llantrisant Town Trust has appointed a contractor to deliver the £1.1million plan to transform the Guildhall into a new heritage and visitors' centre.

The project will be undertaken by Bright Futures Building Consortium, a new social enterprise which employs specialists from across south Wales.

BFBC provides high quality, value for money services in the fields of construction, landscaping and facilities management.

Based in Pontypridd, they deliver a broad spectrum of skills through locally based specialists. With expertise in conservation and the renovation of historic buildings, they were deemed ideally suited for the Guildhall project.

They will also actively engage with armed forces veterans and the Probation Service to support the delivery of some aspects.

Dr Jonathan Huish, Chairman of the Consortium said: "We are delighted to have been chosen to undertake this very prestigious project in Llantrisant.

"As a Consortium we have the experience, expertise and enthusiasm to ensure that this is a first-class restoration project which future generations will appreciate and enjoy."

The Guildhall was rebuilt in 1773 on foundations dating from the 14th century and has been used as a market hall, a court room and even a school.

The new heritage and visitors' centre will house state-of-the-art exhibition space, research and IT suite for genealogy studies, historic artefacts, documentation and photographs.

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter for further details or visit www.llantrisant.net

TRUST IN HENRY

Llantrisant Town Trust wish to extend their gratitude to Henry Alexander who has decided not to stand for re-election as a Trustee later this year.

Henry became a Freeman in 1963. In 1969 he became Overseer of the Common and his tireless efforts, dedication and commitment to the upkeep of the land has been unequalled.



For almost fifty years Henry has carefully managed Llantrisant Common - from its rare insect life and wild fauna to its grazing cattle and horses.

As a Trustee he has seen the Trust go from strength to strength, participating in every aspect of its existence and offering support and sound advice.

Although Henry has decided not to seek re-election as a Trustee, we are extremely pleased to hear that he will remain as Overseer for the foreseeable future.

FREEMAN FOCUS

In Memoriam

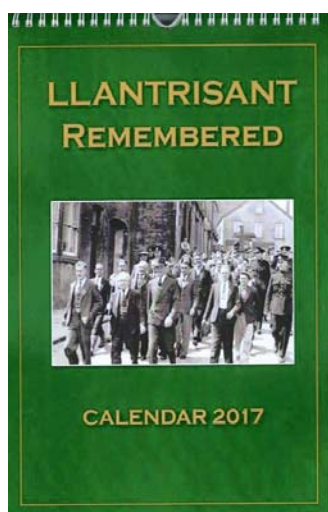
The Town Trust is saddened to have learned of the passing of the following Freeman this year: Peter West Plumptre Lewis (1978); David Lloyd Pounder, Roll No. 2710

Court Leet 2017

The annual Court Leet Dinner for 2017 will take place at Llantrisant RFC Clubhouse on Friday May 5. Due to the increased popularity of the dinner, tickets are in short supply. Please order yours without delay from the Clerk at dean@llantrisant.net

Fundraising Calendar

The new "Llantrisant Remembered" Calendar for 2017 is now on sale with



proceeds going to Beating the Bounds. Copies are available from Bull Ring Stores or from dean@llantrisant.net

Follow the Bear

Many thanks to Colin and his staff at the Bear along with musician Robert Parslow for helping to organise a Beating the Bounds fundraising day. The pub and beer garden was packed and £1,005.50p was raised. Other donations have included £1,000 from Persimmon Homes, £100 from Abbey Glass, £750 from Balmoral Tanks and £50 from Devonalds Solicitors

NEW TOWN TRUST CREST REVEALED

Llantrisant Town Trust has adopted a new crest after 125 years.

The original crest of Llantrisant Town Trust was designed by chemist Robert Drane of Cardiff.

It was designed to represent the arms of Consul, De Clare and Despenser, the three Norman families whose history was connected with the Borough.

The silver mace of the borough is shown inverted to indicate the extinction of the ancient corporation.

The the quotation from Matthew V and IV being: "A citie that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

However, following a major research project by Clerk Prof. Derrick Pounder he was able to reveal that the Mace was presented to the Freeman of Llantrisant by the 4th Earl of Pembroke.

Therefore the Trust felt that the association with the Earls of Pembroke was far closer than the one to Robert Consul of the 12th century, who ruled Glamorgan but did not necessarily conquer Llantrisant.

The Trust has now removed Consul's shield and replaced it with the resplendent shield of three lions rampant from the Earls of Pembroke.

See the new crest on the back page

COURT LEET CEREMONY 2016



A large number of applicants enrolled as Freeman this year.

Owing to the unavailability of the Guildhall, the Court Leet was held in the Parish Hall on Swan Street – possibly for the first time in 665 years!

In total 38 new Freeman were entered onto the Roll. A number of applicants were enrolled in abstenia as they live in Australia and Canada.

The Court Leet Dinner was also another outstanding success with almost 150 in attendance. This year's Guest Speaker was Gareth Johns MBE, a chapel minister turned pantomime dame from the Swansea Valley.

‘PRICELESS’ MACE VISITS ROADSHOW

Llantrisant’s Mace was taken to the Antiques Roadshow in Pembroke Castle for a valuation.



Trustees Martin Hooker, John Dickason and the Clerk travelled with the Mace, dated 1633 for the television programme. Silversmith and Mace expert Alistair Dickenson was delighted to view the treasured object which will be on show in the Guildhall next year. Although the Mace did not appear on the programme, he assured us it was worth in the region of £80,000.

BIG PICNIC DRAWS CROWDS



Llantrisant’s first Big Picnic, organised by the Town Trust drew hundreds of crowds to the Castle Green.

The fundraising event made more than £450 for Beating the Bounds and welcomed plenty of entertainment including RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, Llantrisant Male Choir, Cor Merched Llantrisant, Llantrisant Primary School, Mike Morgan and The Unforgiven.

Thanks to Llantrisant Community Council for their support in making this a success

FREEMAN FOCUS

Trusting Times

Earlier this year Cllr Jonathan Gilmore joined the Trust from the Llantrisant Community Council following the resignation of Ceri Harris. Henry Alexander and Gareth Griffiths will not seek re-election at the AGM in October. Derrick Pounder has relinquished the position of Clerk, which has now been accepted by Dean Powell. We also welcomed Stephen Powell as a Trustee. Assistant Clerk John Berry has also handed over the reins. We thank you all for your outstanding efforts.

Freeman’s Land

Welsh Water has undertaken six weeks of work on a chamber situated on the Common. The Brynteg roadworks have also been completed and the Trust has supported this project by allowing a very small portion of land to be used.

Royal Mint

Trustees were delighted to visit the new Royal Mint Experience.



Trustees are working with the Mint to increase tourism to Llantrisant and the future Guildhall heritage and visitors’ centre.

On the Roll

A new Freeman’s Roll is now online following a year’s research work by the new Clerk. It can be viewed at www.llantrisant.net

FREEMAN FOCUS

Christmas Event

Llantrisant Town Trust 'saved' the traditional Carol Singing & Christmas Tree Lighting event in 2015. Due to local authority cut backs the event was not going ahead. Fortunately the Trust and Llantrisant Male Choir organised the evening which takes place again this year on Wednesday December 7.

Freemen Online

Llantrisant Town Trust has invested in a new state-of-the-art website. Replacing www.llantrisant.net, this very large site is designed to welcome tourists to the town, help family historians research their Freemen ancestry and also learn about the town's many historic events, landmarks and residents. Also remember to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Animal Pound

The Trust has invested in a new Animal Pound on the Common. This is to assist the Overseer when animals are left on the Common or when testing is required.

Regular News

A Freemen's email database now has more than 300 addresses on it. Do you want to receive regular updates of activities taking place throughout the year? Then send your email address to the Clerk at dean@llantrisant.net

AGM

Don't forget that the next General Meeting of the Trust is Friday Oct 7 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Swan Street.

PREVIEW: BEATING THE BOUNDS 2017

Beating the Bounds is one of the great traditions of Llantrisant.

It takes place every seven years and welcomes well over 10,000 people.

The seven-mile walk follows the boundary of the ancient borough of Llantrisant and has taken place for hundreds of years.

The next event takes place on June 17 2017 but will also include a number of activities throughout the week.

Costing £20,000, Beating the Bounds also includes concerts, a banquet and the wonderful re-enactment Civil War battle of the Sealed Knot. In total more than 2,000 soldiers will participate!

Beating the Bounds is one of the great historic occasions in the town and to be a part of it is to walk in the steps of history.

If you would like to make a donation email dean@llantrisant.net

JOIN THE GUILDHALL VOLUNTEERS TEAM



Volunteers are invited to join the dedicated team behind opening Llantrisant's Guildhall

As work is about to begin, volunteers are needed to lend their support to the exciting new project.

The new heritage and visitors' centre will house state-of-the-art exhibition space, research and IT suite for genealogy studies, historic artefacts, documentation and photographs.

With a rolling programme of events, workshops and exhibitions, the Trust will create a major community hub bringing more visitors into the borough while also providing a first-class facility for people in the immediate area.

Volunteers with a diverse variety of skills - regardless of their knowledge of local history - will help make the project a success by helping out with the many events and activities.

For further information contact 07773 352962 or email dean@llantrisant.net

