

“Merthyr Express” 10 March, 1865

Public Thoroughfare from Pontlottyn to Tir Phil What has been sought for a long time, and talked of for the same period, is now about becoming a reality, for we see unmistakable proofs of their being granted and carried out. Numbers of workmen have just begun operations in making a roadway between these two thriving places.

“Merthyr Express” 16 June, 1865

Opening of the Newport Extension of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway The railway was opened on Wednesday morning as far as Hengoed, where it passes under the Great Western Railway line from Swansea to Merthyr, and the first passenger train left Dock-street Station, Newport, at 9.20a.m. by means of this railway, the opening of which has been so long looked forward to. Newport is now placed within easy and direct communication with the Rhymney Valley, which has been practically closed up to this time. The undertaking is likely to prove of utmost importance to the trade of Newport and district. The other portion of the line between Hengoed and Pant Station is expected to be opened shortly, and trains will then run through between Brecon and Newport. Also, the opening of the Sirhowy Railway from Tredegar to Newport will take place on Monday, 19th June.

“Merthyr Express” 14 July, 1865

Omnibus Service An omnibus service from Rhymney to Tredegar has commenced.

“Merthyr Express” 21 April, 1866

Brecon and Merthyr Railway On Wednesday, the Brecon and Merthyr Southern Lines Bill – for making a railway from the Vale of Neath to Quaker’s Yard - was unopposed.

The Old Rhymney Line On Monday, the remainder of the branch from Pengam to Rhymney was opened. Like Tredegar etc., the inhabitants will be able to avail themselves of a cheap return trip to Newport every Saturday.

“Merthyr Express” 28 April, 1866

The New Rhymney Line The passenger traffic was very brisk for the opening week. The first telegraphic messages sent directly from Rhymney date from last week. Telegrams of 24 words to the metropolis cost only 2 shillings. The dailies now reach Rhymney at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. On Monday, 30th April, an omnibus will run between Rhymney, Nantybwhch and Pant Station. Since our notice of the opening, the Directors have announced daily cheap tickets (2s 6d) to Newport, and we are given to understand that unusual facilities will be afforded to societies, excursionists and schools for cheap trips on the Line.

“Merthyr Express” 15 September, 1866

Burial Ground at Fochriw On Thursday last, 13 September, the Lord Bishop of the diocese consecrated the burying ground belonging to the Church at Vochriw. Several of the local clergy were present. A drenching rain was pouring down throughout the ceremony.

“Merthyr Express” 20 April 1867

Lighting the Streets at Rhymney At a parish meeting held at Bedwellty last week, a decision was made to have gas lights in the streets of Rhymney. The pedestals for holding the gas lamps will shortly be commenced; and ere winter again sets in, the want of that which these columns have so long advocated will be supplied.

“Merthyr Express” 11 May 1867

The Opening of the Pontlottyn Library and Reading Room The Room was formally opened last Wednesday. The intellectual benefit that is likely to accrue to the inhabitants of the place can hardly be exaggerated. It is an epoch in the history of Pontlottyn which ought not to be forgotten. The labouring classes, of which, as yet,

the place is nearly composed, have now, for a nominal payment, a comfortable building provided, with no less than twenty one of the best newspapers and serials of the day, in addition to which the committee trust to be able to offer, before long, the advantages of a good lending and reference library.

“Merthyr Express” 14 September 1867

Local Railways The railway line from Fochriw to Dowlais etc. is now opened for passenger traffic. Owing to lack of patronage, the Sunday trains on the Brecon - Merthyr line are to be discontinued for some time. Mr. Gage's conveyance, plying between the Dowlais Top and the Rhymney Railway Stations is also stopped. Since writing the above, a conveyance has again been set on by Mr. Cook of Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 11 April 1868

The Atlantic Telegraph One of the first telegrams we have known as coming to Merthyr was received by a respectable inhabitant a few days ago. It was five words only and cost £6. The intelligenc it bore was a true domestic tragedy. A person in America sent money home to his wife to pay for her journey across the Atlantic, and the same day that she received the money, she had the telegram to say that her husband was dead.

“Merthyr Express” 24 July 1869

Numbering the Houses at Rhymney When the streets were named some eighteen months ago, we were promised that they should be numbered. The process has now been commenced, and most likely, before this appears, the greater portion will have been completed. We are sorry to hear that some landlords object to have numbers placed on the doors; this is a pit as it will only cause more confusion to our letter carriers, and the public generally.

“Merthyr Express” 8 February 1873

Train timetable Trains up to Dowlais leave Fochriw at 09.10; 2.05; 6.55; trains down to Deri leave Fochriw at 10.00; 3.15; 6.16

“Merthyr Express” 24 October 1874

Gellygaer Rural Sanitary Board A meeting of the Board took place on Friday, at the boardroom of the Gellygaer Board Schools, Pontlottyn, when there were present Messrs. J. Matthews (in the chair), D. Morgan (Pontlottyn), E. Lewis (Ysgwyddgwyn), T. D. Rees (Hengoed), W. Matthews (Vochriw); and the Revs. J. P. Williams and A. Davies (Pontlottyn). The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed, and the report of the Sanitary Inspector was also read and passed.

Privy Accommodation After some discussion of this important subject, a deficiency of which exist in various parts of the parish, it was unanimously resolved that the inspector should serve a notice on Mr. Edmund Lewis, Glanaber, Pontllanfraith, who had not complied with a previous notice of the Board to provide privy accommodation in connection with houses in Bailey-street, Deri, of which he is possessor, within a week, or to be summoned for such neglect before the magistrates. A bill of £40 from Mr. Thomas, ironmonger, for numbers supplied to doors, and for the nomenclature of a certain number of streets in various localities of the parish, was ordered to be paid, subject to the discount of the usual amount. The same committee was appointed to inspect the work of naming the different streets and numbering the house doors. Dr. Dyke, who is the medical officer for the district, called the attention of the Board to the filthy conditions of the closets attached to the Newton Board School and is really a nuisance in the locality. The Rev. A. Davies said that the school had only recently been transferred to the control of the Gellygaer School Board. It being formerly a national school, under the management of the Rev. G.O.F. Harris , rector of Gellygaer, and the Rev. T. Theophilus, vicar of Pontlottyn. As a great deal of

alterations and additions to the school are about to be made, the Gellygaer School Board are determined to proceed at once with the subject entrusted to them, and attention will be paid to the medical officer's complaint with the view of removing the nuisance. The Board also gave an order for the supply of a number of proper and convenient ash-pits to be erected at Bute Town and Bute-terrace. Notice was also given to Mr. Thos. Morgan, butcher, Chapel-street, Pontlottyn, to discontinue the nuisance emanating from a stable which is rented by him in that street. Water Supply for Fochriw A discussion of this important question occupied a considerable amount of time by the Board. At a previous meeting of the board the question of supplying water to the inhabitants of this rapidly increasing locality had been minutely dealt with, and it has been decided that it should be furnished, but a feasible scheme for carrying the object into effect has not yet been laid before them. To avoid a large expenditure to the rates, it was suggested that an application be made to the Dowlais Iron Company to enlarge the reservoir that they have for the use of their pits in the district, whereby a sufficient quantity could be accumulated, in conjunction therewith, the Board to provide the requisite number of filter beds. The suggestion was not unanimously approved of, but, nevertheless, a deputation was appointed to wait on Mr. G. Martin, the mineral agent, to lay before him the proposed suggestion, to ascertain conditions, and to report the result to the next Board meeting to be held at Tirphil.

“Merthyr Express” 28 November 1874

Gelligaer Urban Sanitary Board A meeting was held at the Dynevor Hotel, Tir Phil, on Friday last when the following members were present: Mr. J. Matthews, (chairman), Messrs. D. Morgan and W. Mathews, and the Revds. J. F. Williams and A. Davies, Pontlottyn, and J. E. Griffiths, Vochriw.

Vochriw and Cwmfelin Water Supply The inhabitants of these fastly-increasing localities must still be held in suspense as to when they shall be supplied with pure and healthy water for domestic purposes. At the previous meeting of the Board, a committee of the members was appointed, and in the interim duly notified by the inspector to meet at Cwmfelin, but it appears that not sufficient interest has been felt by them respecting this important question, as when requested to meet, all of the members failed to put in an appearance, and consequently no progress has been made by the Board in this direction.

“Merthyr Express” 24 April 1875

Surveyor's Report to the Chairman of the Merthyr Local Board of Health

“Gentlemen, - I beg to report that there are now employed by the Board of Guardians in the formation and improvement of roads within your district under my direction 616, who have applied for relief owing to the strike men and lock-out, distributed as follows, On the Gelligaer road - 58; On the Twynywain road - 106; On the Penrhiw Camran road - 110; On the Penybryn road - 99; On the Pontycapel road - 47; On the Heolgerrig road - 60; On the Aberfan road - 106.

The Gelligaer and Rhas Las Road: Mr. Thomas Jenkins handed the chairman a cheque for £700, the amount received by the commoners of Senghenydd as compensation from the railway companies, as their share of the expense of forming the road from the Big Winch to Rhas Las, on condition that the work be completed and the road made continuous from Gelligaer to the Merthyr road. The Chairman said of course that would be done, the Board having given an undertaking to that effect. A letter was read from Mr Lundie, engineer of the Bargoed railway, stating that the company would contribute £100 towards the expense of constructing the road to Twynywain,

and the Board agreed to accept the offer. The Surveyor said the road was already wholly formed and was now being metalled.

“Merthyr Express” 26 June 1875

Gelligaer Urban Sanitary Board A meeting of the Board was held on Friday at the Board schoolroom, Pontlottyn. Present: Mr. J. Matthews (chairman); Rev. J. P. Williams, Rev. A. Davies, Rev. R. Williams, Dr. Oke, Dr. Kent Jones, Vochrhiw; Messrs. W. Matthews, J. Harrison, D. Morgan, and L. D. Rees. The inspectors were authorised to serve notices on certain parties at Vochrhiw and Tir Phil to abate nuisances at the backs of their premises. The Clerk was asked to apply for permission to the Dowlais Company to convey the water under their railways to the cistern at Vochrhiw. Mr John Harris, station master at Vochrhiw, sent a letter to the Board, complaining of the nuisance caused by the erection of an ash-pit in front of his house, and asked for its removal. A long discussion ensued, and two of the members strongly objected to the removal of the ash-pit. Ultimately, the matter was adjourned for a month, so as to give the members an opportunity to visit the site. The inspector was instructed to investigate the sanitary condition of the Rhymney and Cardiff, and the Brecon and Merthyr railway stations within this district, and bring in his report at the next Board meeting. The members paid a visit to certain streets, and found, to their great satisfaction, that the sanitary condition of the place has greatly improved.

“Merthyr Express” 27 November 1875

Gellygaer Rural Sanitary Authority The Board met at the Board Schoolroom, Pontlottyn on Friday afternoon, when the following members were present: Mr. Jenkin Matthews (chairman); Rev. J. P. Williams; Messrs. W. Matthews, W. H. Harrison (Vochriw), E. Lewis (Ysgwydgwyr), Dr. Dyke (medical officer), James Jones (inspector). The Inspector’s report was read and considered. Mr. W. Bevan, builder, Deri, submitted a plan of a house to be erected at Deri for Mr. Philip Matthews, and requested the Board’s approval of the same. Dr. Dyke thought that every person who intended to erect new buildings, should give notice to the Rural Sanitary Authority, or their surveyor, of such intention, in writing, with plan drawn to a certain scale, requesting the consent of the Board. Mr. E. Lewis asked what could be done with those buildings which were now in course of erection in the parish. The Chairman said that the plans must be submitted to and approved by the Board, or if not, the workmen, as well as the owners, must run the risk of being fined, and the house altered or pulled down; as the case might require. An application, with a promise to submit a plan, was made by Mr. Wm. Croft, to build a bakehouse in Croft’s-road. The application will be considered after the surveyor has visited the shop, and reported to the Board. Notice is to be served on Mr. W. Thomas, grocer, to remove, or re-erect, a dilapidated arch at the back of his premises, entering Picton-street, which is dangerous to passers-by. Notice is also to be served on the Trustees of Zoar Chapel, and on Mr. Isaac Phillips, grocer, for not complying with an order of the Board. The Inspector was ordered to write to the Vochriw stationmaster asking by what authority he has removed the grating at a culvert above his house, and request him to replace it at once.

“Merthyr Express” 20 April 1867

Parish decision to have gas lights in the streets of Rhymney.

“Merthyr Express” 11 May 1867

Opening of Pontlottyn Library and Institute Reading Room last Wednesday.

“Merthyr Express” 26 March 1876

Sanitary Work in Merthyr Tydfil Mr. Councillor Loudon last week delivered a lecture at the Liberal Club, Coventry, on "Sanitary Reform, Past and Present." As

illustrations of the general principles laid down in his lecture, Mr. Loudon instanced the two towns of Merthyr Tydfil and Coventry in proof of the efficacy and economy of sanitary work performed properly as a proof of the efficacy and economy of sanitary work properly performed. The average mortality of Merthyr Tydfil from 1840 to 1850 was 29 per thousand. From 1850 to 1875 the average was 25 per thousand. In 1850 the Local Board was formed, and in 1851 sanitary work began. These works included the scavenging the streets every day, and bringing of pure water into the town; while in 1866 main sewers were laid. Gradually, as one work after another was completed, the good results were shown in the steady decline of disease and death. This is demonstrated in figures taken from the Registrar General's Report for 1875. In 1850 the population of Merthyr Tydfil was 63,000; in 1861, 83,000; in 1871 it stood at 97,000. The mean average for the last 25 years will be, as near as possible, 81,000. By taking the mean saving of life at 4 per 1000, and multiplying this by the mean population in thousands, and again by the number of years from the commencement of sanitary improvement (25 years), it shows that the saving of life as compared with the former death rate of 8,100. [Councillor Loudon estimated that this had resulted in a saving of over £756,337 over 25 years for an outlay of £230,000 in sanitary works.]

"Merthyr Express" 27 May 1876

Urban Sanitary Committee A meeting of the Committee was held on Friday at the Greyhound Inn assembly rooms, Deri, when there were present - Mr. Jenkin Mathews of Rhymney in the chair; Rev. Aaron Davies of Pontlottyn; Mr. L. D. Rees of Cefn Hengoed; Mr. W. Beddoe of Nelson; Mr. L. Evans of Penybank; Mr. L. Lewis of Hengoed-road; Mr. E. Lewis of Cwmysgwydd Gwyn; Mr. Matthews of Vochriw. A report was presented by the inspector of nuisances setting forth nuisances connected with certain cottages belonging to the Dowlais Iron Company at Vochriw. The committee ordered that notices be issued forthwith to abate the nuisances.

"Merthyr Express" 21 April 1877

Twynrodyn to Deri Road A grant of £700 was made by the Gelligaer Board to the Merthyr Board to help with the building of a road from Twynrodyn to Deri.

"Merthyr Express" 6 July 1878

Gelligaer Parochial Committee The above committee met at the Rising Sun Inn, Vochriw, on Tuesday evening. Present - Messrs. L. D. Rees (chairman), Lewis Evans, D. Phillips (Cilfachfargoed), W. Matthew, T. Jones, Thos, Williams (Vochriw), Job Bevan (Brithdir), and the Rev. Aaron Davies, Dr. Dyke, medical officer, and James Jones, inspector.

It was recommended that five street lamps should be erected at Bargoed, and three at Hengoed. Several parties had been served with notices to abate nuisances at Vochriw and Deri and had not complied with the same. It was recommended to take legal action against them. The 3/4 inch iron pipes that had been laid to convey water to Caeglas, Vochriw, had corroded. It was now recommended that the surveyor should prepare an estimate by the next meeting of the cost of 2-inch galvanised iron pipes instead.

"Merthyr Express" 8 February 1879

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: The Gelligaer Parochial Committee Present were Mr. L. D. Rees (chairman), Revs. Aaron Davies, J. P. Williams, Messrs. W. D. Lewis, T. Jones, J. Mathews, Lewis Evans, Edmund Lewis and Dr. Kent Jones. With regard to the nuisances which the Inspector reported to have found on the property of the Dowlais Iron Company on the south side of Guest-street, Caeglas, Vochriw, the Committee having heard what Mr. James Harpur, the agent of the Company, proposes

on their behalf to carry out at the earliest possible period, recommended that the plans proposed by Mr. Harpur be sanctioned, namely, to lay drainpipes along the gardens and to connect the same with the drainage system previously laid down by the Dowlais Company; to make privies with pans and pipes linked to the said drain; and to flush the said drain with sufficient quantity of water. Recommended also that the Surveyor to do the necessary repairs to the water-pipe which was burst at Vochriw. The scavenging contract of the parish expired on the 25th March, recommended that the Surveyor advertise for tenders be invited which are to come in at the next meeting. Recommended that earthenware pipes be laid from under the water tap in Guest Street, Vochriw, to convey the waste water therefrom to the drain pipes about to be laid by the Dowlais Company.

“Merthyr Express” 8 March 1879

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Gelligaer Parish The Gelligaer Parochial Committee reported that tenders for scavenging the several districts in the parish for one year from 25th March, 1879, were read and considered. Recommended that the following tenders be accepted: Newton, from Thomas Owen, Wainnewydd, Rhymney Bridge, at 4s. per week; Pontlloyn, William Davies, School-street, Pontlloyn at £55 18s. per year; Tirphil, William Lewis, Brithdir Farm, nr. Bargoed, at 5s. per week; Bargoed, Jenkin Jenkins, Heolddu Isaf, Bargoed, at 7s. per week (to include the emptying of the buckets); Deri, R. D. Lewis, Yscwyddgwyn, Deri, at 5s. per week; Vochriw, John Mathews, Vochriw, at 5s. per week; Bedlinog, Thomas Harris, Cwmfelin, at 5s 6d. per week.

“Merthyr Express” 10 May 1879

Gelligaer Highway Board The first meeting for the year of this Board was held on Thursday, May 1st, at the Junction Inn, Hengoed, when Mr. Jenkin Mathews, Rhymney was unanimously re-elected chairman, and Mr. W. Rees, J.P., Llanfabon, vice-chairman. There were also present Dr. Leigh and Mr. W. Rees, ex-officio; Messrs. Jenkin Mathews, Lewis Evans, L. D. Rees, Gelligaer - elected Guardians; and Messrs. W. Edwards and D. Evans, Lanfabon Guardians. The Surveyor (Mr. Mitchell) submitted his monthly report. The principal roads in the parish were reported to be in good condition. The labour sheets were examined. It was decided to call on the overseers for the following sums for the ensuing year: Gelligaer parish, £500; Llanfabon parish, £200.

“Merthyr Express” 14 June 1879

The Report of the Rural Sanitary Board referred to the placement of standing pipes for water at various places in its district including Vochrhiw.

“Merthyr Express” 19 July 1879

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The adjourned meeting of this Authority was held on Saturday, the guardians present being the Rev. A. Davies (chairman), Messrs. C. E. Mathews, D. E. Williams, W. Williams, M. Morgans, L. D. Rees, W. D. Lewis, and Lewis Evans.

The Water Supply at Gelligaer The Gelligaer Parochial Committee reported that there were 41 houses at Vochriw within 200 feet of the stand-pipe, and that there were 200 other houses at the same place that obtained their water from the stand-pipe. The Committee, after considering the report of the surveyor that there would not be a sufficient quantity of water obtainable from the present cistern to supply the stand-pipes placed within reach of the houses at Vochriw, recommended that the question of charging water rents be deferred for the present. The Inspector reported that there were 20 houses at Bedlinog within 200 feet; and 30 more not within the prescribed distance. Recommended that the question of charging water rents be deferred.

The Clerk read the following report from Dr. Dyke, Medical Officer: "I have to state to you the results of the examinations I have made of water used for domestic purposes. Bargoed (1) The water obtained from the supply of the Bargoed Water and Gas Company was pure and wholesome. (2) The samples of water I had from two springs on certain premises in the respective occupation of Edward Williams and Thomas Edmunds, situated in Charles-street, Bargoed, were impure and unfit for domestic use. (3) Those taken from the taps at the back of the houses in Bristol-terrace were impure and unfit for domestic use. (4) That had from a pump well on the premises of Walters was very dirty, but otherwise no impure. (5) The sample from the taps at the back of the houses known as Mount Pleasant was impure and unfit for domestic use. Fochriw and Bedlinog (6) The water had from stand-pipes was pure and wholesome. Pontpren, Penderyn (7) The water brought to me from the pipes at this village was pure. (8) I would add that there is an abundant perennial spring of pure water to be obtained on Gilfach Fargoad farm. This spring is about 400 yards from the centre of the village, and the water is used by many of the inhabitants for domestic purposes.

"Merthyr Express" 10 January 1880

Merthyr Local Board of Health: Water Supply of Vochriw The Clerk stated that he had written to the Rural Sanitary Authority stating that the Board could supply all that portion of Vochriw below the railway line with water. A reply had been received desiring to know upon what terms the Board would supply water there. Mr. Lloyd: Can we supply Caeglas also? The Chairman: Caeglas is below the railway. The Surveyor: Mr. Lloyd means the upper part where the colliery is? The Chairman: That is not Caeglas. Caeglas is below the railway. Are we in a position to give an answer to their letter? Mr. Thos. Williams: We should have to lay pipes from Pengarnddu in the direction of Treharris, and then take a branch to Vochriw. The Rural Sanitary Authority would have to meet this cost. The Surveyor was asked to prepare an estimate of the cost.

Tenders For Materials: The clerk opened three tenders for the supply of timber, pipes and cement etc., from Mr. Sibbering, Mr. David Jenkins, and Mr. M. L. Evans. Mr. Jenkins being the lowest, it was decided to accept all his articles except slates, battens and cement which Mr. Sibbering would supply. For the supply of bricks there was one tender only at 30s. per 1,000 from the Aberdare and Plymouth Iron Company. For the supply of paving stones there were two tenders: one from Thomas Harris, Bedlinog Quarry, paving stones 2½ inches thick at 2s. 2d. per superficial yard; curb stones at 1s. 1d. per lineal yard; channelling at 1s. 1d.; the second from Lewis and Prosser, Treffechan Quarry, Pontypridd, paving stones 2s.2d.; curb 4d per foot; channelling 1s. per yard. The latter was accepted. Two tenders were made for the supply of timber and posts for the making of fences at Torpantau. They were from Mr. Prothero, steam mills, Brecon and Mr. Thos. Asten, Coedpenmaen mills, Pontypridd. Mr. Prothero's tender as lowest was accepted.

"Merthyr Express" 17 January 1880

Highways Board: The Surveyor reported on the progress of the Bargoed and Tirphil new road and the Hengoed new road. The expenditure for Gelligaer parish was £376-18-7.

"Merthyr Express" 24 January 1880

Merthyr Board of Health: Surveyor's Report Gentlemen, - With reference to the application of the Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority for a supply of water from your works to the village of Vochriw, I beg to report that you are unable to furnish such a supply by gravitation to any part of the village. The following statement of levels

above the mean altitude of the sea will show the impracticability of conveying water from your works to Vochriw by gravitation: the seat of the Neuadd reservoir embankment - 1336 feet, the Garth filter beds - 1230 feet, Pengarnddu - 1300 feet, the highest point in your works from which a supply of water could be given - 1208 feet, the site of the highest house supplied at Dowlais Top 1191 feet. In Vochriw village the following are the altitudes: the road opposite the Tunnel Pits 1290 feet, the Dowlais Company's railway near the old tunnel under the said road 1246 feet, and Pentwyn, Vochriw 1353 feet. As a fall of at least 20 feet would be required to supply the village, a tunnel of considerable length and depth under Senghenydd Mountain would be necessary, and then only the lowest parts of the village would be supplied. By laying a pipe along the deep cutting of the Great Western Railway at Sarn Howell, there is sufficient head to supply Treharris and Bedlinog.

Chairman: It is quite clear we cannot supply Vochriw. Mr. W. Jones: Supposing we supply them with water by meter to nearest spot, and let them pump it. The Surveyor: Yes, that can be done. Mr. Dyke: Within what distance of Vochriw can that be done. The Surveyor: About a mile and a half.

“Merthyr Express” 13 March 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The monthly meeting was held at the Workhouse on Saturday. The members present were Messrs. W. Beddoe (who was voted to the chair), L. D. Rees, Lewis Evans, J. Jenkins, W. D. Lewis, D. Evans and the Rev. Aaron Davies.

Gelligaer Parochial Committee recommended the acceptance of the following tenders for scavenging: Newton, Thomas Owen, at 5s. per week; Pontlottyn, Wm. Davies, £1; Troedrhiwfuwch, Wm. Thomas, 1s. 2d.; Tirphil, Charles Munn, 5s.; Bargoed, John Jenkins, 7s.; Vochriw, John Mathews, 10s.; Deri, Richard D. Lewis, 7s.; Bedlinog, Thos. Harris, 6s..

An estimate was given by the inspector for supplying Vochriw with water from the spring above Penybank which the medical officer said was wholesome and fair for domestic use: 2 inch pipe £393-4-3; 2½ inch pipe £650-8-6; 3 inch pipe £883-11-3.

“Merthyr Express” 10 April 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority At the monthly meeting of this authority, held on Saturday, the members present were: Messrs. R. H. Rhys (chairman), D. E. Williams, John Morgan, and Lewis Evans.

The Supply of Water to Vochriw The Gelligaer Parochial Committee recommended to the Sanitary Authority the adoption of the plan laid before them by the Surveyor for the supply of water from the springs at Penybank to Pentwyn and Vochriw using 2 inch galvanised tubing. The Surveyor presented a plan for the conveyance of water to Vochriw at a cost of £525. The chairman remarked that although their surveyor was a very good man, yet he thought before laying out so large a sum of money, the opinion of a thoroughly competent person should be obtained upon the matter. He suggested the surveyor should be instructed to engage Mr. Samuel Harpur to go over the ground and plan with him, and suggest any alterations that might be necessary to the plan. A motion to this effect was adopted. The committee recommended the payment of the scavenging accounts.

The medical officer reported the filthy state of piggeries at the back of Guest Street, Vochriw, north side, and recommended their removal. He also reported that there were no privies for the accommodation of the inhabitants of eight houses on the south side of Guest-street, Vochriw, and it was recommended that notices be served upon the owners of the same.

“Merthyr Express” 12 June 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The monthly meeting was held at the Workhouse Boardroom on Saturday. The Water Supply of Vochriw The Clerk said that until they got the permission of the Lord Bute to go on to the land required they were not able to access the water from the Penybank springs. The only other course was to meet the expense of an act of Parliament. 'Big people could not be hurried,' he said. The matter would be considered again as soon as they received an answer from Lord Bute's agent.

"Merthyr Express" 11 July 1880

Rural Sanitary Authority Dr. Dyke presented his annual report, and was re-appointed medical officer for three years, at a salary of £160. A letter enclosing a draft agreement was received from the solicitors of the Marquess of Bute, offering to give the authority the land required for laying down the water supply to Vochriw under payment of £1 per annum and six months notice to give up possession of the land. The Board considered that to make an outlay of £500 on so insecure a tenure would not be advisable, and upon the suggestion of the chairman it was resolved to take the customary steps for obtaining a provisional order for what was required.

"Merthyr Express" 24 July 1880

Merthyr Local Board of Health In the course of discussion relating to the laying of damp-proof courses for houses, the chairman, Mr. G. Martin, cited the cottages at Vochriw, belonging to the Dowlais Iron Company, respecting which the medical officer said he had some complaint to make, namely that they were wooden cottages, temporarily put up.

"Merthyr Express" 9 October 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Fochriw Water Supply The Clerk said that he had received no official answer with respect to the land required for supplying Fochriw with water. The Chairman said that he had been negotiating with the Dowlais Company and with Mr Lewis on behalf of Lord Bute. Both parties had agreed to accept the three years notice with respect to the land, and with this modification, he (the chairman) had told them that the authority would take the land required for 99 years at £1 per annum, subject to three years notice. The chances were, also, that neither would want the land again. As no official communication had been received the matter was allowed to stand for a little while. They had plenty of water now; the only thing was to make arrangements for the future. This course was agreed upon.

"Merthyr Express" 12 February 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority At the usual monthly meeting of this Authority, held on Saturday last, there were present - Rev. A. Davies (in the chair), C. E. Matthews, Thomas Edwards, L. D. Rees, Lewis Evans, D. Evans, and D. E. Williams. The Vochriw Water Supply The Clerk stated that Mr. Harpur's terms for preparing specifications were ten guineas, and he was instructed to inform Mr. Harpur that the Authority accepted these terms. The Clerk: What about possession of the land which you require for this purpose. Are there any other owners than Lord Bute? Mr. L. D. Rees: Yes; we shall be going through properties belonging to Mr. Lewis Evans, Penybank, Mr. Jenkins, and others. Mr. Lewis Evans: And then there are the commoners. Clerk: Do you mean to say that as a commoner you will pull our works down after we have put them up? Mr. Lewis Evans: Certainly; and there are others who will back me up. Clerk: Well gentlemen, this is a matter which you will have to consider. The commoners can, no doubt, prevent you from interfering with their herbage. I suggest you call a meeting of the commoners, and get their consent. Mr. T. Edwards: I don't see why they should object. It will only be cutting their noses to spite their faces. Mr. L. D. Rees: There is a precedent in the immediate locality. The

water supply to Tirphil was carried on without asking the commoners' leave. Mr. T. Edwards: They went to Parliament and got a provisional order. Clerk: But even with that they did not get compulsory powers. Mr. L. Evans: You paid the commoners at the Beacons, and why not us? You interfere with the grazing, and we are clearly entitled to compensation. Medical Officer (Mr. T. J. Dyke): The bit we shall require won't be more than half the size of this room. Mr. T. Edwards: If we were doing this thing for our own private profit the commoners might expect us to pay, but, under the circumstances, I don't think they ought to raise any objections, the supply being entirely to their own benefit. Mr. C. E. Matthews: I should be disposed to move that Mr. Lewis Evans wait upon the commoners, of whom, I understand there are 15, in order to get their consent. Clerk: There would be no harm in that. They simply want their rights to be recognised, I take it. I would let Mr. Evans take his course, and if there would be anything turning up afterwards, why you could meet it when it came. Mr. L. Evans: Then you should do something as regards watering the cattle. Clerk: I would suggest that when the plans are prepared, a tracing should be taken by the inspector to Mr. Evans. Let him see his friends, and hear what they have to say upon the matter (hear, hear). Chairman: A very good suggestion. Clerk: I think they have a right to the watering of their cattle. - It was eventually ordered that the meeting be adjourned a fortnight for the consideration of the plans, and that the clerk write asking the commoners' consent to lay down the mains for these works.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply The Clerk stated that he had sent down to Cardiff the sealed undertaking of the Authority herein, but instead of returning it, the agents of the Marquis of Bute had sent him a letter which he would now read to them:- Cardiff, Feb., 1881 Mr Corbett has signed the agreement. Be pleased to send us £1 which, by terms of the agreement, is payable, on signing, to the Marquis of Bute. It must, if you please, be distinctly understood that the pipes must be so laid as not to interfere in any way with the user of the surface by Lord Bute or any of his lessees or tenants, and that if in using the surface, any damage be done to the pipes, neither Lord Bute or his lessees shall be accountable to the guardians. You must write to us stating that the Board accepts these conditions. Yours faithfully, Luard and Sherley. In the course of a brief discussion which ensued, the Chairman suggested that seven days' formal notice be given to the parties interested that the Rural Sanitary Authority would enter upon the land and lay down the pipes; any damage done to the surface would be paid for. Rev. A. Davies: The Clerk had better advertise for tenders for the construction work. Agreed. Mr. L. Evans: Do you intend having the water into the houses? Chairman: Yes, as far as practicable. Mr. L. D. Rees: You can't take it into the houses at Pentwyn. Chairman: No. Mr. L. Evans: A penny rate will do it I suppose? Chairman: I doubt that. What is the rateable value of the parish? Mr. L. D. Rees: £70,000 at present; £84,000 with the supplemental valuation.

Chairman: Then it cannot be done under a twopenny rate. - It was ordered that mains be at once laid for the service of all the houses which could be served by gravitation, and that plans of the work be submitted for approval to the Local Government Board. A formal report was then read from the sanitary inspector, Mr. J. Jones, who submitted in due form plans which had been approved of for the water supply, showing the various propertied through which the line of pipes was to be laid, etc.

“Merthyr Express” 9 April 1881

Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply The following letter was read: “As owner of the Penybank Farm, I beg leave to inform the Authority that the springs you

are about to divert into your mains near Ty Mawr, now flow through Penybank lands, and they are the only source of supply for my tenant at Ty Mawr and for my cattle grazing on the upper part of Penybank Farm. I shall therefore require provision to be made for supplying cattle and the house at Ty Mawr with water, and also for supplying the cattle at Penybank. Unless I get this, the Authority must understand that I object to the stream being diverted from its course, and will take all necessary steps to prevent it. Yours very truly, Lewis Evans.” It was agreed that pipes be taken to Ty Mawr, and that a supply of water to the cattle of Ty Mawr and Penybank farms should be ensured. During the discussion, mention was made of Evans’ election chances if the parishioners were penalised by his attitude to their water supply.

Tenders for Pipes Chairman estimated total cost of pipes to be £175. Amongst the tenders for laying pipes was one from Llewellyn Davies of Vochrhiw. This matter was deferred. It was decided not to borrow money for the installation of Vochrhiw’s water supply.

“Merthyr Express” 16 April 1881

Rural Sanitary Authority

Vochrhiw Water Supply Tender for laying pipes to be given to Mr. Joseph Gould of Newport. The work to be proceed with at once, and Mr. James Jones, sanitary inspector, was to inspect the work.

“Merthyr Express” 4 June 1881

Gelligaer Parochial Committee The committee met on Tuesday at the Bargoed Junction Hotel. The officers read the monthly reports and reported Mr Kirkhouse [Williams Row, Vochriw] and Mrs Eleanor Thomas of Troedrhywfwuch as not having complied with the notices served upon them [relating to nuisances]. One more chance was to be given before legal proceedings would be taken. The Surveyor reported that the contractor for the supply of water to Vochriw had carried out the work to his satisfaction.

“Merthyr Express” 11 June 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Gelligaer Parochial Committee Report Nuisances

The Committee reported that in the matter of the nuisances existing at Williams’-row, Vochriw, belonging to Messrs. Kirkhouse and others, and at Thomas’s-court, Pontlottyn, the owner of which was Margaret Thomas, Troedyrhiwfwuch, the notices served on the owners had not been complied with. Recommended that the Authority take the usual proceedings in the matter. Vochriw Water Supply The Surveyor stated that it would be advantageous if the tank at the new waterworks at Vochriw were arched in brick, nine inch, instead of the proposed covering of wooden planks. The contractor would do the work for the same charge as that stated in his contract for wood. It was resolved that Mr Harpur, the engineer, be consulted and his approval obtained prior to orders being given for carrying out the work.

Surveyor Report “Gentlemen, - I beg lave to report that Mr. Gould, the contractor, commenced the contract last Monday week, and that he has laid 920 pipes, making 1,840 yards, and that the work has been done to my satisfaction. Mr. Gould will appear here today to ask if you will kindly advance a little money on the work done.” In reply to the Chairman, the Surveyor stated that the charge for laying the piping would be 10d. per yard. It was agreed to advance £45.

“Merthyr Express” 25 June 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Vochriw Water Supply A special meeting of the Authority was held on Saturday last. The Chairman informed the committee that the contractor was moving very rapidly with the work of laying the main for the Vochriw water supply, and that the meeting had been convened to consider whether it would be

expedient to get him to lay the services into the houses and upon what terms. Clerk: Had you not better give the residents the opportunity of putting them in themselves?

Mr L. D. Rees: A good many of the houses at Caeglas belong to the Dowlais Company, and they may wish to do the work themselves. Chairman: If the contractor lays the services at the same prices as those charged at Aberdare and Merthyr, I don't think you will have anything to complain of. Mr Gould, the contractor was then called, and he stated that he would do the work at the Aberdare schedule of prices. The Chairman said that nothing definite would be done until the next meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 9 July 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Vochriw Water Supply A letter was read from Mr. Gould, Newport, the contractor for the laying of the mains to Vochriw, submitting the Aberdare list of prices for laying the services to the houses and offering to do the work on these terms. The surveyor was ordered to check the amounts, and subject to finding them correct, the contract was given to Mr. Gould. Mr. Jones was also instructed to go round Vochriw, and obtain the names of those willing or otherwise to have the services laid. It was agreed that the parties themselves should pay for the fittings in preference to their being put in gratis and an extra charge made for the water. The Authority agreed to fix a standpipe with a proper tap at Pentwyn, pending the laying of services.

Gelligaer Parochial Committee Mr. Kirkhouse had authorised the necessary work to be done to abate the nuisance at Williams'-row Vochriw. It was also reported that the tank at the springs above Penybank, and the laying of the pipes to Vochriw, had been completed to the entire satisfaction of the inspector., but the hydrants by the roadside had still to be placed.

Settling a Draft Agreement The Clerk produced a draft agreement from Mr L. Evans's solicitor relating to Mr. Evans demands for compensation for disturbance of his land by the laying of the Fochriw water supply. These disturbances included the effects on supply to Mr. Evans's farms at Penybank and Ty Mawr, and the watering of cattle. The Clerk was directed to bring up the agreement properly, engrossed on parchment for sealing and signature at the next meeting of the Authority.

A Claim of the Commoners The Clerk read a letter received from Messrs. Simons and Plews, who were instructed by one William Watkins, haywarden of the Manor of Senghennydd, who was acting on behalf of the commoners, asking the Authority to recognise the rights of that body by making some pecuniary compensation, for the disturbance of the soil due to the piping of water to Fochriw. The Clerk then read a letter from Lord Bute's solicitors which described William Watkins as a self-elected haywarden, if one at all. They trusted that the Authority would neither recognise the claim, nor pay any attention to the letter from Messrs. Simons and Plews. The Committee determined to follow this course.

Surveyor's Report On The Vochriw Water Supply Gentlemen,- I beg leave to report to you that I have attended during the last month upon the workmen employed in laying of water and building the tank at Vochriw. I was satisfied that the pipes were duly laid and properly jointed. The tank was puddle-built and arched in every way in a workmanlike manner. On Tuesday, the water from the springs was admitted into the tank, and I ascertained that the flow of water was perfect at the highest point at Vochriw proper. The hydrants have yet to be placed; they will be fixed next week. I certify that 3,598 yards of piping have been laid, the value of which at the price agreed upon is £149 18s. 4d. The cost of the tank complete is £39; which with extras makes a total of £192 13s. 4d., of which 30%, amounting to £38 10s 8d., is to be kept in hand for six months, leaving a balance due to Mr. Gould of £104 2s. 8d. I also

certify that Mr. Gould's bill of £12.1s. for sluice valves etc., is correct, and I recommend that it be paid.

“Merthyr Express” 13 August 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply It was unanimously agreed that Mr John Jones, Hengoed, be appointed collector of water rates in this village at a minimum salary of £5 per annum, but at a commission of 5% if the amount collected exceeded £100 per annum. Mr Jones was told that the rate was to be collected quarterly in advance. It was stated by the Surveyor that water was to be laid on to 180 houses of an average rent of 10s. per month each. The Authority agreed that the charge should be the same as Merthyr, namely, two pence per house per week. The seal of the Authority was affixed to an agreement which the Clerk read, and which Mr Lewis Evans signed, by which the latter, in return for a supply of water to his farms of Ty Mawr and Penybank, undertook to give the contractors the necessary easements.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Surveyor's Report Services had been put in all the houses at Vochriw proper, with the exception of five or six houses in Williams'-row, belonging to Mr. Herbert Kirkhouse, and one house in Brook Row, owned by Mr. Bowen, Talgarth, each of whom had been twice written to, Mr Kirkhouse being the only one who had replied. Two bills had been received from Mr. Gould, one for laying the house services, amounting to £117-18s. and the other for hydrants, etc., amounting to £22. A bill for £171-13-4 had also been received from Mr. Spittle for pipes. Mr. Spittle's bill was to be paid at once, and Mr. Gould's bill was referred to the Gelligaer Parochial Committee.

Scarlet fever was said not to be spreading much in the district, but the Surveyor was not at all surprised that there had [been] so much of it, when people insisted upon holding prayer meetings in infected houses, and schoolmasters and schoolmistresses would take all the school children to funerals.

A letter was handed in by the surveyor from Mr. C. H. Thomas on behalf of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway Company, stating that they would require a supply of water to a cistern of theirs, and also for general purposes at Vochriw Station. The clerk was instructed to reply that the Authority was prepared to supply the company at the same rate as that which was charged at Merthyr, the company to go to the expense of providing the meter, and the Authority to have the right to cut off supplies whenever necessary.

“Merthyr Express” 12 November 1881

Gelligaer Parochial Committee Payment of £147 to Mr. J. Gould, contractor, was recommended on account of the Vochriw water supply.

“Merthyr Express” 3 December 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Gelligaer Parochial Committee Report

A meeting took place on the 29th.. It was reported that the water tank had been fixed at Pentwyn, and pipes laid to Gelligaer Well. Mr. Lewis Thomas had declined to allow removal of the well, and the work was suspended. The Committee recommended the matter be proceeded with as previously ordered, and that a man be employed at a nominal weekly wage to look after the Vochriw water tank. An account of £24-11-5 was passed for the water tank.

“Merthyr Express” 4 March 1882

Gelligaer Parochial Authority Tenders for scavenging for the year to March 1883 included one for Vochriw from Mr J. Mathews for £27.

“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1883

Rural Sanitary Authority Finance The Clerk reported that the total amount of the claims of Messrs. Jenkins and Evans, in respect of the water supply to Vochriw was - the former, Mr Jenkins £74 9s. 6d., and the latter, Mr. Lewis Evans, £57 4s. 2d. Those sums, with that of £7 to Mr. Heppel (for tracing), were ordered to be paid.

The Tank at Pentwyn, Vochriw A letter was read from Mr James, telling the Board that he would require them to remove the tank from his land or pay one guinea per year, with compensation for any damage that might occur. The Surveyor remarked that it would be better to remove the tank than pay the guinea, and this recommendation was adopted.

“Merthyr Express” 10 March 1883

Rural Sanitary Authority The scavenging tender for Vochriw from Mr. Kingsley at 7/- per week was accepted.

Vochriw: A Word for the Police Sir - Kindly allow me through your columns to call attention of our police to one or two things. 1. The public would be obliged if the police were to clear the corners of pavements of those loungers who are a regular nuisance when standing on those corners, especially on Sunday nights and other nights. Special notice may be taken of Railway-terrace. It is impossible to pass that way in company without danger of being jostled about; also the corner of the Board school. 2. The peace-loving inhabitants of Vochriw would be obliged if a policeman could possibly make his appearance when a row is taking place, and not after everything is over. 3. Would the police kindly prevent children from carrying on their games in our public streets?

Yours truly, A SUFFERER

“Merthyr Express” 16 October 1884

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Board: Water Supply to Vochriw It was resolved that the question of fixing a tank at Vochriw be left open until Mr. Truran and the surveyor meet to discuss the matter. The Surveyor will then be authorised to proceed with the placing of the tank on such a spot as will be decided upon. It was also resolved that tenders be invited for the drainage of Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 15 August 1885

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The Surveyor’s report stated that a drainage system for Vochriw was urgently needed. Rev. A. Davies said that there was a scheme some time ago, but they could not get the land. The Clerk felt that a local board ought to be formed for Gelligaer; they could then get powers to purchase the land compulsorily. The chairman said that if Gelligaer was formed into an Urban Sanitary district, it would be much cheaper for the inhabitants in the long run. It was suggested that the parishioners should call a public meeting to discuss the question.

“Merthyr Express” 17 October 1885

Fochriw Street Lights Sir, - I should be very thankful if you would allow me a small space in your valuable paper to call the attention of the Gelligaer Rural Sanitary Authority to the public street lamps at Fochriw. You called for tenders the other day for lighting 10 lamps, and you received a tender from Mr. Jones for £2 4s. 6d. per lamp, and now it is only what is right that the ten lamps be lighted every night instead of two or three lamps, and they ought to be kept clean and in proper order, so that we may get the most for our money in the way of light. RATEPAYER. [October 24th - a letter from “Observant” regarding Fochriw street lamps, making similar complaints to those voiced in the letter of the 17th.]

“Merthyr Express” 7 November 1885

Vochriw Street Lamps Sir, - As the contractor for lighting the Vochriw street lamps, I wish to reply to two letters which appeared in your newspaper recently. It is true that

the light has not been so satisfactory as I would wish. The fault is to be found in the make of the case wherein the paraffin lamp is placed. The lamps have been lit as many as four times the same night, but owing to the presence of a larger draught opening in the case than is necessary, they are blown out. I have called the attention of the surveyor to the matter, and most probably, he will be able to suggest a remedy. No one is more anxious than myself that the light should be properly done to the entire satisfaction of the Board and the public. Your obedient servant, Thomas Jones
31st October 1885

“Merthyr Express” 25 December 1886

Merthyr Board of Guardians: Proposed Division of Gelligaer into Wards Rev. A. Davies reported that the Gelligaer Guardians had met to discuss the proposed division into three wards, and subsequently, a vestry meeting had been held at which a resolution was carried in favour of the division, and an application for two extra guardians. The report of the vestry was read. The Rev. A. Davies moved the adoption of the report. He said that there were really three villages comprising the parish of Gelligaer. There was Bedlinog on the one side, Deri on the other, and Vochriw higher up. Mr. M. Truran seconded the motion. The chairman, R. H. Rhys, stated that neither the population nor the rateable value of the north-west ward entitled it to three members. One additional guardian should be applied for. This was agreed. Mr. Bircham, Local Government Board Inspector, who was present, stated that when the application was made to the Local Government Board, the Clerk should state fully the reasons why Gelligaer should have an extra guardian. It should be said that there was work to be done outside the strict poor law of the Board, that the Gelligaer Guardians had to attend to sanitary works which the Guardians of the other parishes were not called upon to attend to.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1887

Rural Sanitary Authority Scavenging Tenders For Vochriw: Mr. Evan Kinsey's tender of 7s. 9d. per week was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 13 August 1887

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Water Supply at Pentwyn, Vochriw Applications for the erection of a water tank were turned down mainly due to the general water shortage, severe drought prevailing at the present time.

“Merthyr Express” 20 August 1887

Vochriw: New Station The Brecon and Merthyr Railway Company have built a new station in this place which was greatly needed.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1887

Nuisance at Fochriw Sir, - Allow me a small space in your valuable paper to call the attention of the sanitary authorities to the beastly state of things at Fochriw. There is a row of houses called Brook-row, for which three or four water closets are provided. The stench arising therefrom is really unbearable to persons passing by, and surely this should not be allowed when the fever is raging so badly around us. I understand the Dowlais Iron Company were compelled some time ago to lay down pipes and build new closets to each of their houses, and I think the same order should be given in this case. There are other nuisances in Fochriw equally bad as this.

I am etc. CYMRO BACH Fochriw

“Merthyr Express” 20 April 1889

The Vochriw Reading-Room Concert This came off at the Board School, when the following programme was gone through: Miss Kent-Jones (Plasycod, Deri) accompanist, commenced with a well-played selection on the piano. Then Miss Jones of Deri sang “Somebody,” followed by “Ye breezes that blow,” both with very much

sweetness. Miss Phillpots of Deri sang two songs in very good style, and also joined in a duet with Mr. Thomas, Deri, "Howell and Blodwen." Mr. W. C. Williams of Merthyr, set the audience roaring with the "Lodging-house cat," and "My wife's relations." The Vochriw Glee Party under the leadership of Mr. Evan Evans, gave "Yr haf," which was well sung. Mrs. C. M. Jones sang "Yr eneth ddall" with a splendid, clear, soprano voice, and afterwards joined Mr. Samuel Richards of Deri in a duet, "I've wandered in dreams," which was well appreciated. Messrs. B. Angel, D. Jenkins and E. Evans sang two catches, creating much merriment. Mr. Samuel Richards's party from Deri gave "Angels ever bright and fair" in very good style. Mr. J. Richards, Merthyr, sang "Cymry fydd" and "Banner ein gwlad" excellently. At the close of the concert, Rev. James Jones, Congregational Minister, Vochriw, said a few well-chosen words on behalf of the Reading-room Committee, thanking the artists for their services, and also referring to gentlemen who had given assistance towards obtaining the much-required institution of a reading-room. Mr. Henry Martin, Dowlais, and Mr. Richard Cory, Cardiff, came in for special mention.

"Merthyr Express" 29 June 1889

Opening of a Reading Room and Library at Vochriw Wednesday se'nnight was a red letter day in the history of Vochriw, the occasion being the opening of a reading room and library by the popular colliery manager, Mr. H. W. Martin. The building is an exceedingly commodious and appropriate one. It was originally built at a cost of some £300 and owned by the Primitive Methodists, who sold it to Mr. Richard Cory. Mr. Cory, in his turn, made a present of it to General Booth. The Salvationists, however, did not prosper long, and the building was going into disrepair when Dr. Davies took the matter up and obtained the generous aid of Mr. Cory in prevailing on General Booth to sell it at a nominal figure. Through the interest of Mr. Martin, the Dowlais Iron Company supplied the funds for the purchase of the building. This is briefly the history of the movement.

The band met Mr. and Mrs. Martin some distance from the village, and they were conducted by a procession to the reading room and library. The building having been declared open, a large meeting took place at the Board Schoolroom, Dr. Davies in the chair. Dr. Davies thanked Mr. Martin for his active interest in the movement; he had negotiated the purchase of the building by the Dowlais Company; he had set the workmen to put the building in thorough going order and now he had come himself to open the institution.

Mr. Martin was then called upon and said: My wife and I are extremely pleased with the reception you have accorded us. The little services that I have rendered have been over-rated. It is the Dowlais Iron Company who are deserving of thanks. We are glad to assist you in that you have assisted yourselves, and it is highly creditable to you that you have organised the matter in the way you have. I believe you are much indebted to my friend, Dr. Davies, and the committee. I have certainly taken great interest in the movement, and as far as my official capacity has allowed have aided your efforts. When in Cardiff some time ago, I brought the matter before Messrs. Cory Bros.; and Mr. Richard Cory promised to send some books, and gave besides, a cheque for £5, which I now have pleasure in handing to your worthy chairman (loud cheers). Your number, and your enthusiasm tonight, proves that a reading room and library in Fochriw was just what was wanted. I hope that God will bless us in this undertaking, and that you will make good use of the reading room. Not only come yourselves, but send your children. You may be sure if you so I shall always be on your side. Mr. Martin closed amidst loud applause, stating that he, and the Dowlais

Iron Company would watch with interest the development of the institution, and still further assist them. This is only a beginning.

Rev. T. J. Jones, vicar of Pontlottyn, spoke next, and enrolled himself as a member amid cheers. Rev. D. Morgan, Calvinistic Methodist minister, Mr. Joshua Williams, Mr. Richard Jones, Mr. James Cole, Mr. John Morgan and Mr. David Phillips of Pentwyn, expressed hearty sympathy with the movement. Then followed Mr. John Adams, who read some excellent verses composed for the occasion. Mr. Evan Evans followed, saying that several attempts had been made to get a reading room, but now it was an accomplished fact.

Rev. D. Lloyd Rees, curate of Fochriw, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Martin, seconded by Rev. James Jones, Congregational minister, Vochriw.

Finally, Mr. Evan Evans sang "Hen wlad fy nhadau," and the successful function concluded.

"Merthyr Express" 3 August 1889

Reading Room The Secretary of the Fochriw Reading Room and Library wishes to acknowledge, with best thanks, the gift of books from the following ladies and gentlemen:- Mrs. John Matthews, Railway-terrace, Fochriw; Messrs. C. H. James, Brynteg, Merthyr; Richard Cory, Cardiff; George Houlson, Dowlais; Rev. J. L. Meredith, Gelligaer; Rev. T. J. Jones, Pontlottyn; Charles Wilkins, Merthyr; Jonathan Williams, Bargoed; Rev. Thomas Morgan, Dowlais; D. A. Thomas, M.P.; Alderman Thomas Williams, Merthy; Councillor J. P. Williams, Pontlottyn; Dr. Leigh, Llanfabon; Mr. Sandford Kent Jones, Deri; Mr. T. F. Harvey, Merthyr.

"Merthyr Express" 14 September 1889

Mr. William Powell's tender for 3 street lamps at Fochriw for 14s. for one year was accepted.

"Merthyr Express" 7 December 1889

Presentation On Thursday se'nnight, an interesting presentation took place at the White Horse Inn, the recipient being Mr. Castle, late of the Glamorgan Constabulary, who was until recently stationed at Vochriw. P. C. Castle was lately superannuated. After a substantial supper, the cloth was removed, and Mr. Harris, stationmaster, was voted to the chair. Mr. Charles Payne made the presentation of a watch and chain, valued at ten guineas. P.C. Castle, who was visibly affected, responded in penitent terms, and Mr. R. Castle (jun.) also acknowledged the honour done to his father. Other speeches followed, interspersed with a good variety of songs given by the following gentlemen: Messrs. J. M. Howells, D. Prosser, Davies, Dr. Probert, C. Payne, E. Evans, W. Evans (pitman), and R. Castle, jun..

"Merthyr Express" 2 August 1890

The Rhymney Workmen's Doctor's Fund Once more, we have to record a most successful year for the Rhymney Workmen's Doctor's Fund, as shown by their annual balance sheet. Two years have now elapsed since the fund was carried on under the management of a committee representing all the different departments of the works, while the agents of the Rhymney Iron Company, and the employees of Messrs A. Buchan and Co. also, as contributors to the funds, have each a representative member. All members of the committee, and the trustees, have carried out their duties excellently. Sir Henry Tyler, M.P., chairman of the Rhymney Iron Company, has given ready assistance to the committee since its formation, and takes a great deal of interest in its progress. In this, he is loyally seconded by Mr. Trump, the general manager, and the stopping of the workmen's contributions at the work's offices, with the consent of, and at the request of the workmen, is a service which tends materially to assist the committee in the successful management of the fund. The balance sheet

just presented has been duly audited and shows the most encouraging results. It is as follows:-

Receipts – To balance in favour of fund in London and Provincial Bank Ltd., 31 March, 1889, £250 9s 8d; workmen's stoppages, £1,429 7s 11d; agents' contributions, £25; A. Buchan and Co. contributions, £49 16s.; sale of rules, £1 13s 2d; £1,756 6s 9d. Expenditure: by doctors, assistants and dispenser, £845 19s 6d; caretaker, £31 11s; committee and officers, £9 8s; medical and surgical appliances, £158 16s 4d; rent, fuel and light, £157 3s 5d; printing and stationery, £3 14s; repairs, surgery and surgery house, £19 5s; balance at 31 March, 1890, £530 9s 6d; total £1,756 6s 9d.

It should also be noted that £526 17s 2d due to the Rhymney Iron Company has also been repaid. We cannot close this notice without mentioning the most amicable relations which exist between not only the members of the committee and each other, but also between the committee and the head of the medical staff, Dr. T. Hall Redwood, M.A., M.D., and his assistants, Doctors Evans and Jones, who, by the cheerful and efficient manner in which they discharge their onerous duties, give the utmost satisfaction to the whole community.

“Merthyr Express” 31 January 1891

The New Fire Brigade for Merthyr On Tuesday evening last, at a public meeting, it was unanimously agreed “That this meeting is of the opinion that a fire brigade should be established for the town of Merthyr and district.”

“Merthyr Express” 22 August 1891

Merthyr Board of Guardians: State-Aided Old Age Pensions The Board discussed the issue but decided to postpone a decision on its attitude for another month. Rev. Aaron Davies outlined the proposed ideas that the pension would be secured by contributions from the contributor from his or her own resources to the value of £6-10-0 a year, payable at the age of 65. The State would guarantee a similar amount; so that a pension of £13 per year would be payable at age 65. The Post Office and Friendly Societies would be involved in the collection of funds. Other members stated that the State's contribution would have to come from somewhere and until this was known it would be sensible not to form a definite opinion on the issue.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1891

Lighting of the Villages The contracts for the lighting of the villages of Dei, Vochriw, Gelligaer, and Brithdir, will expire on the 29th September. The Surveyor asked if it was the Board's intention to ask for new tenders for the work.

“Merthyr Express” 26 September 1891

Rural Sanitary Authority Tenders for lighting street lamps at Vochriw: Wm. Powell, £2 per lamp per year. Accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1892

Tenders for Scavenging Vochriw: Mr Evan Kinsey, 15s. per week; Pantywaun: Mr. D. Davies, 12s 6d; Penybank, Mr. Thomas Evans, 8s. 9d; Accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 25 June 1892

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Water The Surveyor recommended that a greater storage would be made on the mountain above Fochriw near Tymawr, and it was decided that the surveyor should report fully on the matter at the next meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 27 May 1893

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply The Surveyor presented a plan proposing a new tank for storage of water for the supply of Penybank and Vochriw. The tank would be 200 feet by 40 feet with a depth of 5 feet, which would afford a week's supply of water at a rate of 8,750 gallons a day or 35 gallons per house. At present only one day's supply could be stored. Total estimated cost would

be £450. The matter was referred to the Parochial Committee, and subsequently agreed.

“Merthyr Express” 14 April 1894

Gelligaer Parochial Committee It was recommended that the Clerk should write to the Dowlais Iron Company asking them to fix proper grates in the mains at Caeglas, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1894

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: The Streets of Vochriw A letter was read from the Dowlais Iron Company asking the Board to take over certain streets at Vochriw. It was decided to inform the Company that if they would place the streets in proper repair, the authority would take them over.

“Merthyr Express” 1 September 1894

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority A special meeting of the authority was held on Saturday morning, Mr. John Rogers (vice-chairman) presiding. Present were: Rev. J. E. Jenkins, Messrs. R. H. Rhys, J.P., H. P. D. Phillips, J.P., Jonathan Williams, J.P., Thomas Morris, David Evans, Edmund Lewis, Lewis Evans, and F. T. James (clerk). It was decided that the parish of Gelligaer should form a separate sanitary district.

“Merthyr Express” 6 April 1895

Sanitation Dr. Davies moved that the inspector of nuisances should leave an address in each locality where complaints could be lodged against any nuisance. Mr. D. Jones stated that after laying a service of water pipes at Troedrhiwfwuch, it was found no water could be got. The frost had damaged the tank there, but no one took any notice of it. Mr. E. Evans said the position was exactly the opposite at Fochriw - a good reservoir, but no pipes. Many of the houses had not a drop of water this year. It was unanimously agreed to point out these grievances to the District Council.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1898

The Recent Public Inquiry On Saturday, at the meeting of the Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council held at Merthyr, Mr. F. T. James, clerk, reported on the inquiry which Mr. Bicknell, Government Inspector, had held at Vochriw upon of the question of obtaining a provisional order in respect of the adoption of the Land Clauses Act for the purchase and taking of land necessary for the Vochriw sewerage scheme.

“Merthyr Express” 26 March 1898

Reading Room and Library The Committee of the above provided an eminently satisfactory entertainment on Thursday, having engaged the renowned orator, elocutionist, and musician, Mr. Powell Thomas, London, who proved a most resourceful entertainer (in both languages) for two hours. He has an electricity all his own, and his oratorial and musical gifts are nothing short of astonishing. His rendering of Welsh and English recitals, songs, instrumental selections, and literary sketches were of great expressive charm. The proceeds were for the library.

“Merthyr Express” 16 April 1898

Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council The Council require a Competent Man to attend to the Sewage Tank and Works at Fochriw, also to look after their Water Supply, and Light the Public Lamps at Pentwyn and Fochriw. The oil, lamps, and materials will be supplied by the Council. Salary, 24s. per week. The person appointed to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the Council. Applications, accompanied with not more than three testimonials, to be sent to the clerk by 27th April, 1898. By Order, Frank T. James, Clerk to the Council, High St., Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 12 November 1898

Glligaer and Rhigos District Council The monthly meeting of the Council was held at the Merthyr Workhouse on Saturday. Present: Messrs. David Hopkins., J.P.,

(chairman), Jenkin Edwards, C. Phillips, J. Aurelius, Thomas Bevan, Lewis Evans, F. T. James (clerk), and T. Powell (assistant clerk).

Fochriw Water Supply The Chairman reported that Messrs. Lewis Evans, Bevan, and himself, met the previous Saturday, and considered the above matter. They found that the village was well supplied with water during the major portion of the year, but that during the drought there was a scarcity of water. The springs at Penybank were dry in summer, and the committee recommended the Council to ask the Merthyr District Council to supply Fochriw. At the same time, he knew that there was under seal an agreement between the Gelligaer Council and the Rhymney and Aber Valleys Water Company, giving water rights to that company, and before the Council moved in the matter, he would like to have the opinion of the clerk as to their legal position. The Clerk said the Council's position had been entirely altered by an Act of Parliament passed last session. Within the whole area of Gelligaer, the Rhymney and Aber Water Company could prevent any competing company or Council coming in. He read three clauses bearing on the matter. The company had seven years to build the Rhymney reservoir, but that did not prevent them making some provision. From a legal position, under the agreement the company could buy up all the Council's waterworks, and upon the company rested the onus of supplying water to Fochriw. Mr. Bevan proposed that the clerk write to the company and ask what they could do. Mr. L. Evans seconded, and it was agreed to.

“Merthyr Express” 15 September 1900

Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council: Finger-Post It was resolved that a finger-post be fixed at the crossroads at Pentwyn, Fochriw.

Commoners and their Rights The Clerk drew attention to a matter which came before the last Council meeting with regard to common lands at Fochriw, and the charges proposed to be made by the commoners for the laying of pipes by the the Council. The commoners wanted to be paid 30 shillings per chain. He had made inquiries, and found that in Mr. Lewis Evans's case they paid 30s. per chain. He advised the Council to accept these terms. The Surveyor said the ground required measured 56½ chains. The Clerk then said that with regard to the four acres of common land at Fochriw which the council required, the commoners asked for £30 an acre, the same price as they had charged the Rhymney Railway Company. The Clerk said that his answer was that the Council should refer the commoners to the Rhymney and Aber Valley Gas and Water Company. All the Council had to do was to sell that Company their interest in the tank. The Clerk's suggestion was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 20 October 1900

Public Meeting: the Sanitary Condition of Fochriw and Pentwyn At a public meeting held in Fochriw Board School on of the 18th October, to consider the sanitary condition of the district, the following resolution was put to the meeting: "That the Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council be respectfully asked to bring about a thorough sanitary inspection of Fochriw and Pentwyn, which could be done by appointing an additional sanitary inspector, or otherwise. They respectfully remind the Council that since your inspector was appointed, the population of the parish has increased considerably, and the work falling upon the inspector may be so great that he cannot devote the necessary time for the proper inspection of each part of the parish. The meeting wishes to emphasise that they desire your Council at this time, to make a special effort to improve the sanitary condition of the district. Many families in the neighbourhood have already suffered severely from the Fever, and the feeling is very strong that the District Council should in earnest come to the aid of the inhabitants.

They wish specially to call at the Council's attention to the dilapidated condition of the water closets at the back of Hill-row, Pentwyn.

“Merthyr Express” 17 November 1900

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council The above Council invite tenders for Providing and Fixing 50 Lineal Yards of 4-inch Kerb and Channel, 50 Lineal Yards of Pest and Tube Fencing, and about 80 Cubic Yards of Dry Stone Walling at Penybank, near Fochriw.

Also, tenders are invited for the Erection and Construction of a Mortuary and Coal-house at Penybank Fever Hospital. Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Council Offices, Hengoed.

“Merthyr Express” 1 June 1901

Census 1901: Fochriw Inhabited houses: 522 Tenements of less than five rooms: 353 Males: 1,399 Females: 1,249 Total: 2,648

“Merthyr Express” 25 January 1902

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council: Fochriw Sewerage At the meeting of the above Council on the 16th January, the tender of Messrs Felix Davies & Co., Bargoed, of £861-6s, for the Fochriw sewerage, was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 1 February 1902

Colliery Doctor A meeting was held at Fochriw Colliery concerning new arrangements for engaging and paying a Doctor.

“Merthyr Express” 12 April 1902

Scarcity of Water at Pentwyn The inhabitants of Pentwyn met at the White Horse Inn to discuss the scarcity of water in the place. Mr. W. Wright was appointed chairman, and Messrs. E. M. Davies and E. Cumpstone, secretaries. A request was made to the Council to attend to the matter urgently.

“Merthyr Express” 16 August 1902

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council The poor state of the road leading to Penybank Fever Hospital was discussed.

“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1903

Telegraph Facilities for Fochriw Mr. J. Jones proposed that the Council become guarantors to the General Post Office for any deficiency which may occur by the establishment of a telegraph office at Fochriw. In doing so, he set out the inconvenience of having no telegraph office nearer than Pontlottyn, and pointed out that from a communication he had received from the post office officials, this facility would be granted provided the usual guarantee were given. The letter from the Postmaster-General further showed that it was content for the District Council to become the guarantors. Mr. Jones, therefore, strongly maintained that as the legislature had provided for municipal authorities becoming the guarantors, it was their duty, in the interest of the public, to take advantage of this provision. Mr. Joseph Morgan seconded, and also argued that it was the duty of the representatives of the public to take advantage of their powers, in order to obtain this boon for Fochriw. The clerk, at Mr. Jones's request, explained that the Council had full power to become guarantors, and read the letter of the Postmaster-General, which showed that at most it would not mean more than ten guineas, and that the more telegrams sent, the less would be the deficit. The Rev. T. Rees objected to the Council becoming guarantors. When Pontlottyn applied for a telegraph office, the people of Pontlottyn became guarantors. Why should not the folk of Fochriw do the same? Mr. Jones urged that the legislature would surely not have made a provision such as the circular disclosed, unless they meant their public bodies to serve the public in this way. The resolution was carried, the Rev. T. Rees being the only dissident.

“Merthyr Express” 2 April 1904

Drama The Fochriw Amateur Dramatic Society produced the historical drama "Peter the Great" before a crowded house at the Oddfellows Hall, Dowlais, last Saturday evening. The proceeds are again to be devoted to that deserving institution, the Fochriw Reading Room.

“Merthyr Express” 24 June 1905

Gelligaer Parish Council: Fochriw Recreation Ground Mr. Rees Jenkins moved that the Council proceed to lay out a new recreation ground at Fochriw. He thought that a plot could be acquired at very little expense. A sub-committee was selected to choose between the two possible sites.

“Merthyr Express” 8 July 1905

Water Supply On Tuesday night, a public meeting was held on the mountain-side (which has lately been christened "Spion Kop") to consider the question of the impure water which the inhabitants of this village have to drink during the summer months. Another meeting will be held at the same place on Tuesday evening next at 7.30p.m.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September 1905

Gelligaer Parish Council: Vochriw Recreation Ground Mr. Rees Jenkins reported the decision of the sub-committee with regard to this ground, and gave details of the small area recommended for enclosure.

“Merthyr Express” 30 December 1905

Gelligaer Parish Council: Lamp Posts Mr. Rees Jenkins drew attention to the need for a lamp post at Pleasant View, Fochriw. This was an old district. He noticed that the Council had recently fixed a lamp at Brynhyfryd, whereas Pleasant View was neglected. Also, he sought to draw attention to the removal of the lamp at Brook-row.

“Merthyr Express” 24 February 1906

Gelligaer Parish Council: Motor Car Service On the motion of Mr. Tom Kinsey, it was decided to appeal to the local railway companies in the parish of Gelligaer, to adopt the motor car service between Hengoed Junction, Darran and Fochirw, as such a services would be of great benefit to the whole of the parishioners.

“Merthyr Express” 21 April 1906

Gelliger District Council: Fochriw Water Supply Mr. J. Jones asked if there was any prospect of their having a proper water supply for Fochriw, which had been promised year after year. They had been told that once the service was completed at Rhymney, a connection would be made at Fochriw, but up to the present nothing appeared to have been done. He had been told by Mr. Cawley that the pipes would be laid on. The Clerk said that according to the company's arrangements, he understood they would run the branch main over the mountain from Pontlottyn. The contour of the service would enable this to be done, and give an efficient supply to all the houses in Fochriw, but not those at Penybank. They had got their reservoir at Rhymney Bridge completed and their mains laid through the valley, and he could not see why the branch pipes were not laid. On motion of Mr. J. Jones, seconded by the Chairman, it was decided to ask the Company to lay on the service forthwith.

“Merthyr Express” 26 October 1907

Gelligaer and Rhigos District Council Tenders are invited for the laying down of about 230 yards of Kerb and Channel, Drainage Work, Excavations, etc., on the main road leading from Fochriw to Pentwyn. Specifications can be seen and Bills of Quantities obtained upon application to the Council's Surveyor. Tenders, endorsed "Fochriw Improvements," to be sent to me on or before Saturday, 26th October, 1907. The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. By Order, Frank T James, Clerk, 134, High-street, Merthyr Tydfil.

“Merthyr Express” 28 December 1907

Water Supply for Fochriw and Pentwyn Mr. Branson, manager of the Rhymney and Aber Gas and Water Company, waited on the Council in connection with the water supply for Fochriw and Pentwyn. The Company proposed to put up a new water tank at Fochriw which would supply that district in a sufficient manner. He thought however, that for the present, they could offer little hope for an improved service, but the completion of the tank would increase the pressure, and therefore improve the supply. This was regarded as satisfactory for the time being.

18 April 1908 Water Supply Generally speaking, the supply in the parish of Gelligaer has been sufficient during the last two years except in Fochriw and in the vicinity of Gelligaer village. While the quantity supplied has, on the whole, improved and been sufficient, the quality is often unsatisfactory. Supply of water by the Rhymney and Aber Company to Fochriw is inadequate and precarious. Attention must be directed to the provision of adequate supply to Fochriw and District and Gelligaer Village.

26 September 1908 The Library The library has been renovated throughout by Mr. Z. Watkins, Penydarren, and everything has been done to add to the comfort of the place. The rooms look beautiful and inviting, and should be an incentive to those who are not members already to join. There is one room provided with a bagatelle and draft tables, and various other games, in which the young people may indulge. There is another room set apart for reading, at which a large number of papers and periodicals are provided. There is also a plentiful supply of good books by the best authors. Great praise is due to Dr. Eleazer Davies, J. P., and Mr. T. Llewellyn, who so ably carry out the duties of treasurer and secretary respectively. Praise is also due to Police Sergeant Williams, who has laboured hard and unceasingly to make the library a power for good in the village. He has always had the welfare of the villagers at heart, and anything tending to their elevation has always had his sympathy

12 June 1909 Gelligaer District Council: Water for Pentwyn and Fochriw The Rector announced that after long delays, the Rhymney and Aber Company had commenced life afresh, and were now carrying a main from the Merthyr waterworks to the joint reservoir No. 2, at the top of the Rhymney Valley, and had arranged for the filtration of this water, and had brought the main to Gelligaer village, and he was thankful to say, that after having waited 18 years, he now had an ample supply of pure water to his house. The company had also brought the main from the Merthyr waterworks to Fochriw, but he could not say whether the Company had completed its obligation in regard to Pentwyn. He had been told that the work was in progress. If they did not carry out their obligation to filter all the water, they were under penalty to pay £5 a day. Hopefully, a solution to the problems was near.

“Merthyr Express” 24 July 1909

Gelligaer Urban District Council Tenders are hereby invited for the hire of a horse and man for conveying patients in the Council's Ambulance to the Isolation Hospital at Penybank, near Fochriw. Particulars and forms of tender can be obtained upon application to the Council's Surveyor, Mr. J. P. Jones, Council Offices, Hengoed.

6 November 1909 Gambling A correspondent writes complaining that gambling is taking place at the Fochriw Reading-room. "It is a great shame to allow such a bad habit as this to go on. The money does not change hands at the room, but it is put down on a piece of paper who wins. It ought to be stopped at once. One or two tables are sometimes occupied by card players. It is impossible for any body to have a little pleasure, and I think it's time to put a stop to it."

20 November 1909 Fochriw Reading-room A fortnight ago, a correspondent wrote making certain complaints respecting the Fochriw Reading-room. We have this week received the following letter from the correspondent (Mr. D. Evans, Moore's-row), a copy of which has been sent to the committee of the Reading room. "Sir - I beg to apologise for what came out in the "Merthyr Express" relating to gambling at the Reading-room. I am very sorry for what has happened in regard to the few remarks that came out, and hope that you will take my apology in the best manner possible. I am very sorry for being so rash, not thinking that it would cause such a commotion in the village. I have written an apology to the committee." We are sorry that the insertion of the letter referred to has caused annoyance to the committee. We published it in good faith, believing that it would serve a useful purpose. We are glad to learn that the Reading-room is well conducted, and is greatly appreciated by the residents of Fochriw.

"Merthyr Express" 22 January 1910

Gellygaer Urban District Council: To Grocers and Butchers The above Council invite tenders for the supply to Penybank Hospital, Fochriw, of groceries and meat for the period between 10th February, 1910, and the 30th September, 1910. Printed forms of tender, with the conditions of contract, available from the undersigned. Sealed tenders to be returned by 5th February 1910. Frank T. James, Clerk, Council Offices, Hengoed.

"Merthyr Express" 9 July 1910

Recreation Ground At the meeting of the Gellygaer District Council on Tuesday, a report by Councillors J. Jones and R. Jenkins on the site for a recreation ground at the Fochriw was submitted. The report recommended a site on the other side of the river - about 140 yards long, by 60 to 70 yards in width - which could be obtained at a very small cost, and would be very suitable for the purpose. On the motion of Mr. D. Richards, seconded by his Dr. J. Richards, the matter was referred to the Public Works Committee.

25 February 1911 Gellygaer Urban District Council Tenders are invited for the supply of groceries and meat to the Penybank Hospital for the year ending 25th March 1912. Frank T. James, Council Offices, Hengoed.

11 March 1911 Gellygaer District Council: Complaint from Fochriw Mr. John Jones protested against the delay in erecting a convenience. A resolution was passed some time ago. Mr. Rhys Jenkins said it was high time the Council saw that their officials did their work. The Clerk explained that the thing was on its way. The Chairman said that the resolution, if passed in June, would have to wait to July for confirmation, and then some time would elapse before the thing was acted upon. The Rector then added, 'And then some time would be taken in looking for a spade and other tools. (laughter)

5 August 1911 Meeting of the Gellygaer District Council On the report of the Surveyor concerning the issue of sewerage at Fochriw, it was resolved that the villages of Fochriw and Deri be included in the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Scheme.

9 March 1912 Gellygaer District Council Mr. Rhys Jenkins stated that there should be some change in regard to the registrar of births and deaths who attended at Deri, but did not visit Fochriw. He proposed that Fochriw would have part of the registrar's attention.

24 August 1912 Lighting of Gellygaer Parish: Fochriw The electricity company states that it is impracticable to light Fochriw with electricity because of its distance from any power station, and also, because of the small number of people who would be likely to take the light.

“Merthyr Express” 15 February 1913

Doctors' Question A general meeting of the workmen was held on Monday to further consider the doctors' question. After hearing a report on the deputation that waited on the doctor, it was unanimously agreed to pay a weekly sum of 3½d. per head of family per week towards the doctor. Except for a few minor matters, the question is now largely settled. Those who have not taken their small red doctor's insurance cards to the doctor for signing should do so at once. To withhold these cards may affect the contributory phase in future.

11 July 1914 Electric Lighting Bill - Bedlinog and Fochriw The Bill confirming the provisional order in respect of the electric lighting of Bedlinog and Fochriw (Gellygaer) was sent for a third reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday.

16 October 1915 Reading Room The annual meeting of the above institution was held on Tuesday, Mr. Walter Walters, chairman, presiding. Several matters of importance were discussed, including the extension of the building. It was decided to call a general meeting of subscribers to discuss the question, and to appeal to the young men of the place for support. The auditor's report was given by Mr. Thomas Evans, Dynevor-street, and this showed that the institution was in a healthy condition. The net increase during the year was £10 14s 4d. The secretary and treasurer were complimented for the able manner in which their accounts were kept. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mr. T. D. Thomas, Aelybryn, chairman; Mr. W. T. Jones, Brook-row, treasurer; Mr. Walter Jones, Brynteg, secretary.

26 February, 1916 Meeting: Allotments A meeting was held at the Council Schools on Monday evening, Mr. J. D. Jones, schoolmaster, presiding, with the object of explaining to the people of Fochriw, the district Council's intention with regard to the plot of ground held by the council in Fochriw. Councillor John Jones has taken a prominent part in trying to get the council to convert this land into allotment gardens, and he addressed the meeting on this question. He was followed by Councillor W. J. Giles, Deri. It was pointed out that the Council will require sixty names sent in so that the work may be proceeded with. Each allotment will be 10 perches, and the annual rental will be about 6d. per perch. It was resolved to notify the inhabitants with regard to this land, and ask all desirous of obtaining an allotment to send their names to Mr. J. D. Jones, so the list can be prepared and forwarded to the District Council. A vote of thanks to the chairman and counsellors closed the meeting.

30 September 1916 Unveiling Ceremony A very interesting meeting was held at the Fochriw Library on Tuesday evening, on the occasion of the unveiling of a painted portrait of the late Reverend James Jones, who was minister of Carmel Congregational Church for over 21 years. The life-size portrait was the gift of Mrs. E. Cole Jones, head teacher of the Fochriw Infant' school, and widow of the late Reverend Jones. Mr. William Ballard, senior deacon of Carmel Chapel, was asked to unveil the portrait. The Reverend Jones and the late Dr. Eleazer Davies were pioneers in the founding of the library, and they had not spared themselves to make it a success. Mrs. Cole Jones presented the portrait to the Library. She said that some months ago, at the time of the presentation of the late Dr. Davies's portrait, it was suggested to her that it would be fitting if a portrait of her late husband also adorned the walls of the Institution. Dr. Davies and her husband were public men and bosom friends, and it pleased her greatly to see both portraits hang side by side.

7 April 1917 Gellygaer Council Meeting: Water and Light at Fochriw A letter was read from the Fochriw Lodge of the Miners' Federation complaining of the scarcity of water and insufficient lighting at Fochriw, and stating that the miners had unanimously decided to ask the Council to take the matter up. Mr. Tom Jones,

Fochriw, said he had written two or three times upon the subject. Water had to be carried from the pits, and people had to wait by the hour for water. If a fire occurred at Fochriw, he did not know what their plight would be, and there were valuable houses - even in Fochriw. Chairman: The Clerk has been instructed to reply to the letter and to write to the company, and for the miners' letter to be referred to the Parliamentary Committee. Mr Jones said that Fochriw had less light in proportion to any other place in the district. He did not think their light needed to be subdued as it was a single paraffin burner. (Laughter). The Council decided to approach the Police Superintendent on the subject.

4 August 1917 Consecration of Extension to Pentwyn Churchyard The Bishop of Llandaff visited Fochriw on Saturday last and consecrated the extended portion of Pentwyn Churchyard.

15 November 1919 Housing A meeting was held at St. Mary's Church Hall on Monday, to receive nominations for the co-option of persons on the Council's Housing Committee and the Statutory Committee under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act. Nurse Thomas was unanimously appointed as representative on both committees.

19 June 1920 Sports Scheme Mr. Edward Lewis presided at a meeting held at the Church Hall, Fochriw, when Councillor Tudor Davies, and Mr. W. Rees, Dowlais, outlined the sports scheme for the village. An enthusiastic committee has been formed, and the scheme is to include cricket and football grounds, bowls and tennis courts, and an open-air swimming baths. An institute is also to be built by the Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Company, containing reading room, billiards, gymnasium and dressing rooms.

20 November 1920 Reading Room A general meeting in connection with the above was held at the Reading Room on Friday night, with Mr. E. Lewis presiding. Several important matters were discussed, including a billiard hall. It was agreed to proceed with the work at once.

5 March 1921 Electric Light What all the inhabitants have been looking forward to for many years is a last almost an accomplished fact. Workmen are busy erecting poles and in installing the fixtures in various houses, so at last, we are to have what will be a real boon to the place - electric light. Just a word of praise to our present Councillor, Mr. Morgan, who has been untiring in his efforts to bring this about.

25 June 1921 Gellygaer Council Meeting On the motion of Mr. D. A. Hann, it was resolved that the new transformer stations at Fochriw be of concrete.

7 January 1922 Gelligaer Council: Notice of Motion Councillor D. J. Thomas moved that in view of the inconvenience of the pupils attending Bargoed, Pengam & Hengoed County Schools from Fochriw, and also to the general public through lack of a train services, the Council request the railway authorities, to extend the newly augmented service between Bargoed and Deri on to Fochriw. Cllr. Thomas said this matter should be considered by the Council to enforce the railway authorities to bring the need about. As there was no train, pupils attending these schools had to return to Fochriw via Pontlottyn. This matter had been moved for a number of years and the pupils at County schools had increased immensely. Mr. Hammond seconded. The Clerk was directed to write to the railway authorities.

28 January 1922 Reading Room The annual meeting was held on Tuesday evening and was very well attended. Officials: Mr. Edward Lewis - Chairman; Mr. Willie Cook - Secretary; Mr. D. L. Jones - Treasurer. A large hut has been purchased, which will be erected shortly, and a few billiard tables installed. The Institute is flourishing. The chief officers were re-elected. Committee: Messrs. D. J. Evans, S. Ballard, Walter

Jones, H. H. Davies, E. M. Roberts, John Morgan, John Walters, W. Smith, E. M. Davies, Jesse Williams, E. Cook, Howell Thomas, W. A. Jones, E. J. Jones, Richard Evans.

28 January 1922 Infant Welfare Centre On Thursday evening last, a tea was given to mothers and children under 5 who attend the Clinic. Ladies at the tables were: Nurse Rees, Mrs. Tom Evans, Mrs. S. Evans (vicar's wife), Mrs. R. Hughes, Mrs. J. Francis, Mrs. Edith Thomas and Miss Edith Walters. Tea was followed by a musical evening, accompanist, Master Aneurin Thomas. Amongst the visitors were: Cllr. D. J. Thomas, Cllr. Morgan Morgan, Nurse Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. John Beavan, Rev. D. Jenkin Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Isaac, schoolmaster, Miss Davies, schoolmistress.

25 February 1922 New Train A new train has recently started to convey pupils attending Hengoed, Pengam and Bargoed County Schools. This is in response to Cllr. D. J. Thomas motion reported in the Merthyr Express of the 7th January, 1922.

15 April 1922 Public Lecture at Penybank School On Monday evening, under the auspices of the Glamorgan Education Committee Rural Library Scheme, Mr. Saunders Lewis, the County Librarian explained the rural library scheme. The Library service would start in about a fortnight.

2 September 1922 Electric Light The inhabitants of the village were naturally delighted when the electric power was switched on for the first time last week. It has been the dream of many years to see either gas or electricity installed. Now it is an accomplished fact.

30 December 1922 New Library The new Library Hut, which has been erected by the library committee to serve as a recreation room, was opened on Friday. It has entailed a great deal of labour and sacrifice on the part of the members who have given their own time and labour for the purpose. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. John Bevan before a large crowd. Mr. Edward Lewis, chairman, gave Mrs. Bevan, a handsomely inscribed key to commemorate the event. Mrs. Bevan unlocked the door and the crowd went inside where a first-class musical programme had been arranged. There were speeches from Dr. Stenner Evans and Mr. John Bevan M.E., the latter reporting that Mrs. Bevan and Mrs. Payne had done their best in collecting for the Hospital, and with that night's proceeds, it would swell the amount from Fochriw. After the musical programme, the evening was given over to a social and dance. The M.C. was Mr. Danny Lewis, accompanist Mr. O. Edwards, violinist Mr. F. Wilton. The accompaists for the opening ceremony were Messrs. T. Walters and Aneurin Thomas.

28 April 1923 Train Fare Reduction The Dowlais Chamber of Trade has been notified that the return fare to Dowlais on Saturday has been reduced to 1 shilling from May next.

8 September 1923 Recreation A letter was read from the Dowlais Miners' Welfare Scheme on Tuesday evening, intimating that they were prepared to grant a certain sum to Fochriw for the purpose of providing a recreation ground. It was decided to defer the matter pending some definite information with regard to the Bedlinog Welfare Scheme.

29 December 1923 Barclay's Bank Attention is drawn to the fact that a new sub-branch will be opened on Tuesday next, January 1st, at No. 6, Station-terrace, Fochriw. The branch will be under the management of Mr. W. Scott, also manager of the Bargoed branch. The hours of business will be from 10a.m. to 1p.m..

26 January 1924 The Railway Strike: Restricted Service of Trains Every Day: How the Mining Districts are Affected Merthyr, in common with other districts throughout the country, has felt the inconvenience of the railway strike, and everyday

evidence is forthcoming that this will be maintained. Through an excellent bus and charabanc service, travellers are able to get into contact with the ward, which up to the present has enjoyed a very fair share of communications with the outside districts. The Rhymney Valley was more fortunate than many other districts. Up to Thursday, the service on the local line, both as regards travellers and traffic trains, was practically normal. The collieries were, however, affected, and on Tuesday, 3,000 men employed at the Groesfaen, Deri, Mardy, Rhymney and Britannia Collieries, Deri, were rendered idle, whilst on Wednesday, about 5,000 men employed at the Bargoed Steam Coal, East and West Eliot's Collieries, were unable to work. The reason for the favoured position of the Rhymney section is evidently due to the fact that the majority of the men belong to the N.U.R. and not to the locomotive men's Union.

27 December 1924 Library Hut Mr. Evan Jones was successful at the ballot for the post of caretaker etc. to the Fochriw Library and Hut. Mr. Tom Jenkins was elected to the post of Secretary.

27 June 1925 Ogilvie Halt The people of Fochriw and district are delighted that the workmen's train now stops at the recently erected platform opposite Ogilvie Pits.

22 August 1925 Train Service Quite a boon has been conferred on the inhabitants of the district by the new workmen's train service for Ogilvie, Groesfaen and Bargoed. Trains run from Dowlais and Fochriw for morning, afternoon and night shifts, and also from Pengam to the above collieries. Thanks are due to all who have worked so hard to bring about this successful outcome.

3 October 1925 Pontsticill Dam The Taf Fechan Water Supply Board's scheme is approaching completion, and at an official inspection of the big dam at Pontsticill on Saturday, facts and figures of a remarkable character were disclosed concerning the construction and cost of the undertaking. It involves the obliteration of a valley with two churches, an empty graveyard, farmsteads and a number of dwellings, and an eventual loan debt of £2,000,000, of which £330,000 will represent capitalised interest. To Merthyr and Rhymney Valley it will mean an extra two shilling rate for many years to come. On the other hand, the Board will be in a position to supply sufficient water to meet all requirements, and up to 4,000,000 gallons a day for outside customers. Any income from the surplus will go to relieve the financial burden of the joint authorities forming the Board.

21 November 1925 Library Hut The Committee of the Library are very active at present and deserve praise for their efforts to provide recreation for villagers. Three fine new billiard tables have been erected at the Hut and are very much in demand. The energetic secretary is Cllr. T. Jenkins.

6 March 1926 Gellygaer Council Meeting: Sunday Collection of Letters Mr. Thomas Jenkins asked whether it was possible for the people of Fochriw to have a Sunday collection of letters, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the postal authorities on the matter.

5 June 1926 Train Service Some very drastic cuts have been made in our train services and in keeping with other stations cheap booking is suspended. The first down train leaves Fochriw at 1:27p.m., consequently all our school children have to cross the mountain to Pontlloftyn to get to their schools at Pengam, Hengoed and Bargoed. Teachers at Deri have to walk or provide their own transport, and we feel that G.W.R. should make an effort to restore the first down train in the morning for the sake of school children and season ticket holders.

15 January 1927 Reading Room The annual meeting relating to the Reading Room was held on Tuesday evening. Mr. Samuel Lewis occupied the chair. Councillor Tom

Jenkins, secretary, gave a report which was well received. The auditors report was given by Messrs. Willie Adams Jones and Lewis Jones, and this was very satisfactory. A report on the books was given by Mr. J. Cyril Cook. It was decided to recommend to the committee the purchase of another billiard table and also a number of new books. The following officers were re-elected unanimously: secretary, Councillor Tom Jenkins; treasurer, Mr. Stephen Ballard. A Committee of 18 members was also elected.

26 March 1927 Library Hut Another billiard table has been installed this week at the above hut, making a total of four first-class tables. The committee and officers are doing all in their power to cater for the wants of their members, and it is pleasing to note that the institution is in a flourishing state. The energetic secretary is Councillor Tom Jenkins; Mr. Sam Lewis is the chairman; Mr. David I. Evans the vice-chairman; and Mr. Stephen Ballard the treasurer.

24 September 1927 Institute Quite up-to-date renovations have taken place at the Hut and Institute. The whole building has been repainted, and an up-to-date heating apparatus installed. Also, two ventilators have been fixed which have added greatly to the comfort of the many frequenters. It is equipped with four first-class billiards tables, and a fine assortment of books and papers are available. The caretaker, Mr. Evan Jones, is very energetic in his care of the building. The officers are: chairman, Mr. Sam Lewis; vice chairman, Mr. David I. Evans; secretary, Coun. Tom Jenkins; treasurer Mr. Stephen Ballard. There is also a very interested committee.

26 November 1927 Joint Libraries Committee Mr. Gomer Jones of the Rhymney Library presided over a meeting of the Rhymney Valley and District Joint Libraries Committee at Fochriw library, last Saturday evening.

7 January 1928 Library and Institute The annual meeting was held at the Old Library on Tuesday, the chairman being Mr. Sam Lewis, who said he would not be satisfied until a more substantial and commodious building had been erected. The statement of accounts read by the auditor, Mr. Evan M. Davies showed a very satisfactory year's working. The librarian then gave an account of the Book Department, and said that nearly 2000 books had been loaned out. The following officers were re-elected unanimously: chairman, Mr. Sam Lewis; secretary, Councillor Tom Jenkins; treasurer, Mr. Stephen Ballard.

21 July 1928 A Public Boon: Bus Service for Fochriw A long-felt want in the village was a bus service, which has now become an accomplished fact. A service is run at regular intervals from Fochriw to Pontlottyn, Rhymney, and Tredegar, and back. It is hoped that advantage will be taken of this most convenient service, which has been a very sore need.

12 January 1929 Institute On Tuesday evening, the annual meeting took place. The chair was occupied by Mr. Sam Lewis. He referred to the year's working, and said that all the debt had been wiped out, and the four billiard tables were now free from debt. Several improvements had taken place during the year, and the old library had been renovated. The reading and lending library had been well supported. About 2000 books were taken out last year by the members. The auditor's report was given by Mr. Bryn Davies, and was a very satisfactory. The energetic secretary is Mr. Tom Jenkins, with Mr. Stephen Ballard as treasurer, Mr. Sam Lewis as chairman, and Mr. W. J. Payne as vice chairman.

12 October 1929 Library Meeting The monthly meeting was held at the Old Reading room on Wednesday presided over by Mr. Sam Lewis. Several important matters were discussed, including improved facilities at the library Hut. Preparations

were also arranged for the coming billiards tournament and handicappers were appointed.

19 October 1929 Postal Facilities Quite a boon has been conferred on the village by the recent improved postal facilities. A delivery of letters now takes place at 7:00a.m.

14 December 1929 Recreation Ground A meeting was held at the Old Library on Monday in connection with the above, when the secretary reported that great strides had been made during the last month. Through the generosity of Mr. A. T. Minhinnock, M.E., manager of the Ogilvie Colliery, the plan of the proposed ground had been completed. The next step would be to approach the landowner with a view to purchasing the ground. The following are the officials: chairman, Mr. E. M. Davies; secretary, Mr. R. Clark; committee, Messrs. S. Ballard, T. Davies, J. J. Lewis, ex-Sergeant Williams, J. Thomas, D. J. Evans, and Tom Jenkins.

21 December 1929 Recreation Ground A public meeting was held at the Old Library on Thursday, to receive a report of the negotiations in connection with selecting a playing ground for the village. A detailed report was given by Mr. R. Clark, secretary, and it was decided to proceed with the scheme, and a representative committee was appointed to carry out the same.

18 January 1930 Library The annual meeting of the library and institute was held last

week, presided over by Mr. Samuel Lewis, chairman, supported by Messrs. W. J. Payne, Tom Jenkins, secretary, and Steve Ballard, treasurer. The chairman stated that the year had proved a very successful one. The institute was free from debt and there was a balance in the bank. They also possessed four of the finest billiard tables in the valley, and these were kept in excellent condition by the caretaker, Mr Evan Jones. Once more, over 2000 books had been taken out of the lending library. The auditors – Messrs. Dan James and Willie Morgan then gave their report. It is proposed, in the future, to consider the advisability of building a more suitable Institute. The officers were re-elected for the coming years. The committee is Messrs. E. J. Williams, C. Edwards, G. Price, T. Baldwin, David Isaac Evans, J. H. Evans, P. Gwynne, T. Shankland, W. Morgan, R. Clarke, T. Lewis, William Griffiths, S. Jenkins & the Rev. J. C. Payne. Mr. David Isaac Evans was re-elected librarian.

5 April 1930 Playing Field An enthusiastic meeting was held at the Library on Thursday, presided over by Mr. E. M. Davis. Mr. W. Angell Davies was appointed secretary in place of Mr. Raymond Clark, who has left the district. A letter was received from the owners of the land, offering a large piece of ground at a very cheap price. This was well received by the members, and ways and means were discussed to provide the village with a suitable playing area. It is sincerely hoped that all will give their united support, so that old and young can have a happy time.

24 May 1930 Playing Field On Friday evening, a meeting was held at the Old Library, in connection with the proposed playing field. The chairman, Mr. E. M. Davies, gave a brief outline of progress since the last meeting. It is proposed to lay out a football ground, cricket pitch, and tennis courts. The secretary, Mr. W. A. Davies, produced a draft agreement and ground plan. Mr. H. Williams and Sergeant Howells gave a report of the interview with Captain C. S. Mason, organiser of the Welfare Society, who had visited the site. The following have been added to the committee: Rev. J. C. Payne, Coun. A. T. Minhinnock, Messrs. Robert Slimmons, Sam Lewis, Tom Jones (headmaster), Llewellyn Jones.

13 September 1930 Presentation A very interesting presentation took place at the Old Reading Room on Wednesday evening, when Mr. Thomas Jenkins, late secretary

of the library, was the recipient of a gold-mounted Onoto fountain pen in recognition of his faithful services as secretary for the last five-and-a-half years, before leaving the district to live at Ystrad Mynach, where he is engaged as a clerk at the Council Offices, Hengoed. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Sam Lewis who spoke of Mr. Jenkins' faithfulness to his duties. Mr. Stephen Ballard, treasurer, and Mr. W. J. Payne, vice-president, also added their tributes. The pen bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. T. Jenkins by the Fochriw Institute, 1930."

4 October 1930 Fochriw Pumping Station At the meeting of the Rhymney Valley Water Board, the engineer reported that the electrical pump which was fixed at Fochriw two years ago continued to give every satisfaction. However, he had had an old oil engine pump overhauled in case of a breakdown in the plant or in the electricity supply.

1 November 1930 Light Last week at Penybank, the village was lit up by electricity for the first time in its history, thanks to the Gellygaer Council. Another crying need is a bus service for Fochriw.

1 November 1930 Welfare The meeting of the Committee of the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Old Reading Room on Friday, presided over by Mr. Evan M. Davies, chairman, when several important points came up for discussion. Councillor Minhinnick reported on the position of the Ogilvie workmen from Fochriw, Pentwyn and Penybank. He said the position now was that 100 per cent are contributing. He was thanked for his personal interest in the welfare cause. The secretary, Mr. W. Davies, reported that he had received cheques from Ogilvie and Groesfaen workmen. Reports were submitted from workmen of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, who are prepared to contribute. Collectors were also appointed to go round the townspeople. The scheme for the present, embraces football, a cricket ground, and tennis courts.

29 November 1930 Welfare A meeting of the Welfare Committee was held at the Old Reading Room on Friday, presided over by Mr. E. M. Davies. The lease of the ground has been acquired for a long term, and it is hoped to start levelling the site soon in order to convert it into a playing field. Mr. W. A. Davies also reported several important matters. The workmen of the various collieries are contributing, and the canvas of the public in general has had splendid results. Members present, along with the chairman and secretary, were Mr. W. J. Payne (treasurer), ex-Sergeant Williams, Rev. J. C. Payne, Mr. Sam Lewis, Mr. D. I. Evans, Mr. S. Ballard, Mr. R. Clark.

17 January 1931 Library The annual meeting in connection with Fochriw Library and Institute took place on Thursday, Mr. Samuel Lewis presiding. Mr. David I. Evans, who had recently been appointed secretary by a ballot of members, read the minutes of the previous meeting. The chairman then outlined the year's working, which he said had been a year of progress. Negotiations had been entered into with the Co-operative Society for the purchase of a part of their freehold property, buildings and land. The Society met them in a good spirit, with the result that a successful deal had been accomplished, and it was hoped in the near future to commence the erection of a permanent Institute. The audit was presented by Mr. Dan James and Mr. John Henry Evans and there was a nice balance on the right side. With regard to the auditor's report on the books, it was said that they should feel proud to possess such a fine library of books for their readers. The following officers and committee were elected for the coming year: Mr. Sam Lewis, chairman; Mr. Stephen Ballard, treasurer; Mr. David I. Evans, secretary; committee: Messrs. W. J. Payne, William Griffiths, Job Thomas, Rev. J. C. Payne, J. H. Evans, William Lewis, Jenkin

Williams, C. Edwards, Tom Baldwin, Percy Gwynne, George Price, Tom Shankland, Wally Adams Davies, and Howell Thomas.

14 February 1931 Library and Institute A well-attended committee meeting of the above was held on Monday, presided over by Mr. Sam Lewis. A snooker handicap was decided on. Also, it was decided to re-cover a few tables.

14 February 1931 Welfare A very enthusiastic committee meeting of the Fochriw Welfare was held at the Old Library on Tuesday, presided over by ex-Sergeant Henry Williams. It is hoped to commence the scheme in the near autumn. Plans and specifications are already drawn up and are under discussion. The secretary, Mr. Willie Angell Davies, reported on the correspondence. The proposed scheme will cost about £3,500. The following were appointed as a deputation to wait upon Mr. Mason, the organiser: Rev J. C. Payne, (vicar), Mr. Tom Jones (headmaster), and the secretary. The following committee men were present at the meeting: Messrs. Henry Williams, W. J. Payne, Tom Jones, Rev. J. C. Payne, Messrs. David Lawrence, David I. Evans, Stephen Ballard, Ray Clarke, James J. Lewis, and Tom Davies. Regret was expressed by Mr. Evan M. Davies, chairman, who is confined to bed.

14 March 1931 Welfare Ex- Sergeant Henry Williams presided over the committee meeting of the Fochriw Welfare Association at the Old Library on Thursday. A report was given by the Rev. J. C. Payne, Mr. Tom Jones, and Mr. W. Davies, who had been appointed to wait upon Mr. Mason, the organiser, at Cardiff, with regard to a grant, and carrying out of the scheme. It is thought to proceed with the work in the near future.

25 April 1931 Welfare Ground The committee of the Welfare Association met at the Old Library on Tuesday evening, when touching reference was made to the loss sustained in the movement by the death of ex-Sergeant Henry Williams, who was vice-chairman of the committee, and who had filled the position of chairman for some time. Owing to the illness of the chairman, Mr. E. M. Davies. Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster of the Council Schools, was appointed vice-chairman in place of Mr. Williams. The report on the progress of enclosing the land, and the interviews with Captain Mason, was given by the secretary, Mr. W. A. Davies, the vicar, and Mr. Tom Jones. A deputation was appointed to further interview Captain Mason in regard to a grant from Welfare Fund. The following were appointed: Mr. Tom Jones, Councillor Minhinnick, and Rev. J. C. Payne.

13 June 1931 Buses The villagers were delighted to see a bus belonging to the Gellygaer Urban District Council, making a trip through the village to test if the roads would permit the service. Surely a place like Fochriw, paying the same rates as others in the area, is entitled to some sort of service, even if a restricted one. The three councillors representing the Fochriw ward should take this matter up in earnest.

20 June 1931 Welfare A meeting of the Welfare Association has held on Wednesday evening, when Mr. T. Jones presided.

18 July 1931 Welfare An important committee meeting in connection with the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Reading Room on Tuesday evening, presided over by the Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster. A report on the audit was given by Messrs. Tom Davies and James Gregory. It was decided to call a public meeting on July 23rd to place the position before the public and recommend an immediate start with the laying out of the grounds. A report on the interview with the Captain Mason at Cardiff was given by Mr. Sam Lewis and Mr. Tom Jones. Things seem very favourable for a grant from the Welfare Fund. A collector was appointed to collect subscriptions from the public not contributing through the collieries, namely Mr. D. J. Evans. The members present were: Mr. Tom Jones, Mr. W. A. Davis, Mr. W. J.

Payne, Mr. Sam Lewis, Sergeant W. Howell, Messrs. S. Ballard, Tom Davies, Ray Clark, D. Lawrence, D. I. Evans, J. J. Lewis, and J. Gregory.

1 August 1931 Welfare A public meeting in connection with the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Library, and was well attended. The chair was occupied by Mr. Tom Jones who gave an outline of the work accomplished by the committee, and placed certain recommendations before the meeting. Mr. W. J. Payne also gave the financial statements of the Association, which was in a flourishing state. It is proposed to start the scheme at a very early date by direct labour in charge of a working foreman, the labour to be drawn from the ranks of the unemployed in the area contributed to the scheme.

15 August 1931 Fochriw Welfare Association Mr. Tom Jones presided over an important meeting of the Association. Mr. W. A. Davies, secretary, gave a detailed report on matters arising since their last meeting. It was reported that 63 unemployed in the Fochriw area had offered their services for work, and a start in a week or so was proposed. Applications were then opened for the appointment of a working foreman, and the successful applicant was Mr. David Davies, Aelybryn. Members present were: Messrs. Tom Jones, W. A. Davies, W. J. Payne, J. J. Lewis, Sam Lewis, Tom Davies, Sergeant Howells, J. Gregory, D. I. Evans, Ray Clarke, S. Ballard.

5 September 1931 Welfare A start was made on Monday morning with the levelling of the ground in connection with the Welfare Scheme. A number of the unemployed will be engaged each week, and in course of time, the village will possess a fine football ground, tennis courts, bowling green, etc.

12 September 1931 Welfare The committee met at the Old Library on Friday under the chairmanship of Mr. Tom Jones. The secretary reported that the work of levelling the ground is now in full swing. Mr. David Davies, foreman, gave his report with regard to progress, and this was very satisfactory.

3 October 1931 Welfare A meeting took place at the Old Library on Friday, presided over by Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster. Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Payne, gave the financial report, and the amount expended in wages up to date. It is sincerely hoped that a grant from the Welfare Fund will be received soon, otherwise the work will be held up. Fochriw has not received a single grant from the Welfare Scheme, which all feel is very unfair. Mr. David Davies, foreman, gave his report, and said that excellent work had been accomplished by the workmen.

10 October 1931 Welfare A meeting was held at the Old Library on Friday evening, presided over by Mr. Sam Lewis. The foreman gave a report on progress. It was decided to convene a general meeting of the public on Friday evening to place the whole scheme and its progress before them.

17 October 1931 Welfare A well attended public meeting in connection with the Welfare Scheme was held at the Old Library on Friday presided over by Mr. Tom Jones. A detailed report of work done during the last six weeks was given. It was explained that the funds were at a low ebb, and until a grant from the Welfare Fund was obtained, work would have to cease, unless voluntary labour would come forward. Others who spoke were Councillor Minhinnick, Mr. Sam Lewis, Mr. W. J. Payne, Mr. J. J. Lewis, and Mr. E. M. Davies. A deputation was appointed to meet Captain Mason at Cardiff, consisting of Mr. Tom Jones, Councillor Minhinnick and Mr. Sam Lewis. It was decided to carry on by voluntary labour for the time being.

24 October 1931 Welfare On Friday, Mr. Tom Jones presided over a committee meeting of the Welfare Association. A report of the interview with Captain Mason at Cardiff was given. Mr. E. M. Davies has resigned as chairman of the Association.

This was accepted with regret. Mr. Tom Jones was elected chairman, and Mr. Stephen Ballard as vice chairman.

31 October 1931 Welfare A public meeting was held at the Old Library on Friday evening, presided over by Mr. Tom Jones. A report on the interview with Captain Mason at Cardiff was given by the deputation. Since the commencement of operations splendid work has been done. About one half of the football playing pitch has been levelled. A serious handicap has now developed owing to local funds being exhausted. Hopes are centred on the grant from the Welfare Fund. Several schemes are under consideration to keep the work going. It is earnestly hoped that all lovers of sport will put their shoulders to the wheel and help to complete the work.

7 November 1931 Welfare A committee meeting was held on Friday evening and Mr. Tom Jones presided. Reports were given by Mr. Jones and Councillor Minhinnick. It was decided to employ three men each week to carry on the work. An appeal is to be made for voluntary labour to carry on the work..

21 November 1931 Welfare A committee meeting was held on Friday. Important developments are expected soon.

12 December 1931 Library A meeting of the Library Committee was held at the Library last week, presided over by the chairman Mr. Sam Lewis. An important discussion took place in regard to the proposed new building.

12 December 1931 Welfare An important welfare meeting was presided over by Mr. Tom Jones at the Old Library on Wednesday evening. The surveyors report was read on the amount of work already done. Steady progress is maintained under the direction of Mr. David Davies. A deputation was appointed to visit the solicitors at Aberdare in connection with the Welfare Grant.

16 January 1932 Welfare The annual meeting in connection with the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Old Library on Friday evening, and was well attended. Mr. Tom Jones took the chair. He paid tribute to the work of officers and committee members during the past year. Councillor Minhinnick also addressed the meeting. The statement of accounts was read. Mr. Tom Jones was re-elected chairman, with Mr. J. Lloyd Jones as vice-chairman, Mr. W. A. Davis as secretary, and Mr. J. Williams as treasurer, in place of Mr. W J. Payne, who resigned. Mr. D. I. Evans was re-elected collector. A representative committee was elected, and prospects for the coming year are very promising.

30 January 1932 Welfare Mr. Tom Jones presided, at the Old Library on Friday, over the first meeting of the recently appointed committee. He extended a hearty welcome to the new members who were representatives of the various employers and employees of the different colliery companies and outside contributors. He gave a very interesting review of the work already accomplished, and of the cause of the delay of a grant coming through. He regretted to inform them that he had received the resignation of Mr. Sam Lewis, who was one of the trustees, and a valuable asset to the committee. It was unanimously decided to ask Mr. Lewis to reconsider his decision.

30 January 1932 Library The annual meeting in connection with the Library and Institute was held at the Old Library on Wednesday. The chairman was Mr. Sam Lewis. He has occupied the chair for a number of years and was highly complimented for his work. During the past year, a large portion of the Co-operative building and grounds has been purchased and paid for, and it had been the intention this year, to proceed with the scheme for converting the same into a first class Hall and Institute. The auditors' report was given by Messrs. Willie A. Davies and John Henry Evans, and revealed a splendid year's work, with an excellent balance on the right size. The auditors reported that a large number of books had been purchased during the past

year. The new chairman is Mr. Evan M. Davies, and a committee was appointed. Mr. H. Ballard was appointed librarian, Mr. David I. Evans secretary, and Mr. Stephen Ballard treasurer.

30 April 1932 Welfare At the Old Library on Friday, Mr. Tom Jones presided over a well-attended meeting. A review of progress was given. It was explained that the lease difficulty had now been overcome, and the lease would be for 60 years. The financial position was stated by the treasurer, and the secretary dealt with much correspondence. It was decided to commence work again on the 2nd May. The levelling of the ground was to be continued, and work was to commence on the children's corner. This is good news for the unemployed of Fochriw. About 10 men will be employed each week.

4 June 1932 Welfare Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster, presided over the meeting at the Old Library on Friday. A report of a deputation's visit was given by Mr. J. I. Williams and Mr. D. R. Jones. Mr. David Davies, foreman, reported on work done.

16 July 1932 Welfare Mr. Tom Jones presided over a well-attended meeting of the committee at the Old Library on Monday evening. Future developments in connection with the scheme were discussed.

23 July 1932 Welfare Mr. Sam Lewis presided over a well-attended meeting at the Library on Friday evening in connection with the Welfare Scheme. A report was given by the surveyors on the work already done. It is very gratifying to know that the first Welfare Grant has been received, and work will soon be resumed.

1 October 1932 Welfare Mr. Tom Jones presided over a meeting of the Welfare Association at the Old Reading room on Friday evening. During the week, the Welfare ground had been visited by Captain Mason and Mr. Albert Thomas, miners agent, Bargoed. Reports of the visit and interview were given by Messrs. W. J. Payne, S. Lewis, H. Thomas, Evan M. Davies, Edward Lewis and the chairman. Important correspondence was read by the Secretary. It was eventually agreed to act on the advice of Captain Mason: first to complete the children's playground, and then proceed with the completion of the football and cricket ground.

19 November 1932 Welfare On Tuesday, Mr. Tom Jones presided over a meeting at the Old Library. It is very gratifying to know the lease has been extended to 60 years, which will greatly add to the development of the scheme.

14 January 1933 Library and Institute The annual meeting took place on Tuesday and was well attended. During the year 1932 a total of 2,187 books were taken out by readers. Mr. J. Idris Williams was appointed chairman; Mr. H. Ballard was re-elected librarian; Mr. D. I. Evans secretary; Mr. Stephen Ballard treasurer. The following were appointed to the committee: Messrs. A. Jones (Post Office), Walter Parry, E. M. Davies, Attwell Wood, James Gregory, Ray Clark, William M. Davies, Robert Thomas, W. J. A. Davies, Edward Puddle, James Tewkesbury, H. Ballard, Thomas Pugh, John Lewis, William Price.

21 January 1933 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place on Friday evening at the Old Library. The chairman was Mr. Tom Jones who dealt in detail with the past year's work. He stated that £600 had been received from the Welfare Fund, and he mentioned the conditions attached to the use of the money. He was optimistic enough to believe that, in time, they would have the full amount of £3,500 to complete the scheme, and every effort would be made to spend the money amongst their own unemployed as far as was possible. He paid tribute to the excellent co-operation of last year's committee, and to Mr. Albert Thomas (miners' agent), Mr. S. O. Davies and Mr. Enoch Morrell for their splendid support. Mr. W. A. Davies, secretary, dealt with the correspondence. The financial statement was presented by

Mr. James I. Williams, treasurer. The auditor's report was given by Mr. T. Howell Jones, who said he had found everything in order. The following officers and committee were appointed: chairman, Mr. Tom Jones; vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; secretary, Mr. W. A. Davies, treasurer, Mr. J. I. Williams. Members of the committee were elected as follows: Powell Duffryn Co. representatives: Mr. A. T. Minhinnick, M.E., Mr. Arthur Jones (Ogilvie), Mr. Archie Bates, Mr. W. S. Rowlands (Groesfaen); G.K.N. representatives: Mr. David Lawrence, Mr. W. J. Williams (Brithdir Levels), Mr. David R. Jones, Mr. John Lewis (Nantyffin Drifts); outside representation: Mr. T. J. Jones, Mr. D. I. Evans, P.S. Wm. Howell and P.C. Sansom; colliery workmen's representatives: Mr. Edward Lewis, Mr. Albert Mantle, Mr. E. J. Williams, Mr. C. Edwards (Ogilvie); Mr. Howell Thomas, Mr. Daniel James, Mr. James Gregory, Mr. I. Evans, Messrs. J. J. Lewis, D. J. Griffiths, E. W. Jones, J. Davies. Mr. D. I. Evans was appointed collector.

28 January 1933 Welfare Mr. Tom Jones presided over the meeting of the Committee on Friday evening at the Old Library. Important questions were dealt with in connection with the operation of a scheme which will be put in hand as soon as possible.

25 March 1933 Library A special meeting of the Fochriw Library and Institute was held on Wednesday, presided over by Mr. J. I. Williams. The meeting was called to deal with the plans for a new hall and institute. The committee came to the decision that owing to the financial position, the plans be left in abeyance.

25 March 1933 Welfare A meeting in connection with the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Old Library on Friday, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. A report of the deputation's visit to Captain Mason was given. It is hoped that there will be an early start with the children's corner and the general levelling of the site.

1 April 1933 Welfare A meeting of the Welfare Association was held at the Old Library on Friday, Mr. Tom Jones presiding. It was decided to sign names of unemployed, pensioners, and boys desirous of commencing work, which it is hoped to start next week. The scheme, when completed, will be a great asset to the village. It is hoped to complete "The Children's Corner" in a few months, and the general levelling of the football ground and other sites, as soon as possible.

8 April 1933 Welfare Work commenced on Monday in laying out the children's corner.

8 April 1933 Welfare A public meeting in connection with the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Old Library on Tuesday evening. The chairman reported that 13 unemployed of the village were working on the children's corner, and these would be changed weekly. He explained the proposal for levelling the whole site, which would be done in about six to eight weeks, employing local unemployed men.

13 May 1933 Welfare Ground Good progress is being made with the Welfare Ground. The Children's Corner will soon be an accomplished fact. Steady progress is also being made in the levelling of the whole site. The committee and officials deserve praise for the way in which they are tackling a difficult job.

20 May 1933 Welfare Mr. T. J. Jones presided at the welfare meeting. Items in connection with the laying out of the welfare ground were dealt with. The question of boys for St. Athn's camp was considered. It is intended that some boys shall participate in the splendid facilities afforded at St. Athan's.

3 June 1933 Welfare Splendid progress is being made with the Welfare Ground. A visit was paid, on Monday, by Captain Mason, the chief organiser of the Welfare Association. He was met by the chairman, Mr. Tom Jones, and a number of the committee. He was very pleased with the work already done. Some of the equipment,

such as swings, etc., for the children's playground has already arrived; also fencing for closing of the same. It is anticipated that in the very near future some parts of the scheme will be completed.

1 July 1933 Welfare A meeting of the Fochriw Welfare Association and was held at the Old Library on Friday evening, presided over by Mr. Tom Jones. Reports of the interview with Mr. Smith, contractor, and Mr. Ball, surveyor, were given by Mr. W. J. Payne, Councillor Minhinnick, Mr. Tom Jones, Mr. Sam Lewis and Mr. D. I. Evans, which were accepted with thanks. It was agreed to go on completing the levelling of the whole site, which is proceeding apace. The following were appointed to interview Captain Mason: Mr. Tom Jones (chairman), Mr. W. J. Payne (vice-chairman), Councillor Minhinnick, Mr. W. A. Davies (secretary) and Mr. Ball (surveyor). The scheme, when completed, will be an asset to the village.

1 July 1933 Social Centre For The Unemployed Opened The Fochriw Unemployed Social Centre was opened on Wednesday last, when Mr. Bryn Roberts, miners' agent, Miss Richards, headmistress, Hengoed County School, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas from the Bargoed Settlement, addressed the meeting. Miss Richards paid tribute to the unemployed for the work that had been done in repairing the building and making such a splendid room. Mr. Thomas gave a very interesting address on the work that had been done in the centres in other parts of the coalfield. He was looking forward to a successful club at Fochriw. Boot-repair and carpentry will be done at the centre. Games of all kinds will be played in the club, and Mr. Jenkins, of the National Council of Music for Wales, will be taking a singing class once a week. Several members of the club are taking a week's holiday at Wick Camp next Friday, under the Centre's Holiday scheme. On Thursday last, a concert was held at the centre, Mr. James Williams presiding, when in enjoyable evening was spent. The following artistes took part: Messrs. D. M. Thomas, C. Shankland, D. J. Davies, F. Way D. D. Thomas, H. Davies, D. Clark, E. Lewis, F. Potter and J. Davies. The pianist was Mr. G. Harris. The following officers and committee have been appointed: chairman - Mr. James Williams; vice-chairman - Mr. E. Puddle; treasurer - Mr. D. D. Thomas; secretary - Mr. R. Clark; committee - Messrs. S. Williams, Fred Way, J. Morgan, N. Cumpstone, J. Lester, G. Evans, G. Williams, J. Thomas, E. M. Davies, D. Williams.

15 July 1933 Social Centre In connection with the Unemployment Social Centre a male voice party has been formed with Mr. James John Lewis as conductor.

15 July 1933 Welfare Mr. Tom Jones presided over the welfare meeting at the Old Library on Wednesday. A report on the interview with Captain Mason in Cardiff was given by Mr. Jones and Mr. W. A. Davies.

15 July 1933 Institute Meeting The monthly committee meeting of the Institute of was held on Thursday, Mr. J. I. Williams presiding. The auditor's report for the half-year was given by Mr. Vernon Davies and Mr. Emlyn Davies. The report showed a balance on the right side.

29 July 1933 Institute Mr. J. I. Williams presided over a general meeting of members on Tuesday evening, when the committee submitted a proposal to construct a hall out of the three rooms at the Co-operative Buildings, to seat about 350. The proposal was adopted.

29 July 1933 Welfare Mr. T. J. Jones presided over the meeting of the Welfare Committee at the Old Library on Friday evening. The Secretary dealt with some important correspondence and the treasurer gave the financial report. It was decided to open the Children's Corner for the month of August.

5 August 1933 Social Centre Mr. Thomas, of the Settlement, Bargoed, paid a visit to the Fochriw Unemployed Social Centre on Friday to discuss the question of

allotments for the members. Several sites were inspected, and it is hoped that a start will be made in the course of the next few weeks.

12 August 1933 Welfare Mr. T. J. Jones presided over a meeting of the Welfare Committee on Thursday evening, when arrangements were made for the opening of Children's Corner on Bank Holiday. The Corner will remain open for the month of August, during the school holidays, after which it will be closed to carry out further improvements, including the seeding of the ground and the planting of trees, shrubs etc. The Corner includes the swings, shute, ocean wave etc., and is open from 12 to 8:00pm each day. There is an attendant in charge daily.

26 August 1933 Off To Camp A number of Fochriw children proceeded to camp at Wenvoe last week under the auspices of the British Legion (Women's Section) Children's Country Holiday Scheme. They will be away for two weeks. They were taken to Cardiff by Mrs. S. Jones, secretary.

2 September 1933 Institute Mr. R. Clark presided over a committee meeting on Friday to consider the tenders received for converting the three rooms at the Co-operative Buildings into a hall. The tender of Mr. David Davies, Aelybryn, Fochriw, was accepted at £114.

30 September 1933 Welfare A meeting of the Welfare Committee was held at the Old Library on Monday evening, presided Mr. Tom Jones. Captain Mason had visited the Children's corner on Friday and expressed himself very pleased with the work carried out.

7 October 1933 Social Centre Mr. Ray Clark presided over a large crowd which attended at the Unemployed Social Centre, when Miss Mellonds, Manchester, gave a very interesting lecture on "Human Progress." Questions followed the talk. Mr. A. Way and Mr. J. Morgan proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to the speaker.

14 October 1933 The New Hall It is very pleasing to know that the new hall is nearing completion. A few years ago, the Committee of the library purchased the freehold portion of the buildings from of the Co-operative Society, and have now converted three of the rooms into a hall. The work has been carried out by Mr. David Davies, Aelybryn.

21 October 1933 Social Centre A public meeting in connection with the Unemployed Social Centre was held on Thursday evening last and was well attended. Mr. R. Clark was in the chair. The speakers were County Councillor Matthews and Mr. Evans, Rhymney.

28 October 1933 Welfare Mr. T. J. Jones presided at a meeting of the Welfare Committee at the Old Library on Friday evening. Important items were discussed for the further development of the scheme. Another grant has been applied for so that other parts of the scheme may be carried out.

4 November 1933 Social Centre An interesting debate took place at the Centre on Thursday evening last. Mr. J. Matthews, Rhymney, presided. Mr. T. D. Evans, secretary of the Rhymney Trades and Labour Council, put the case on behalf of the Labour Party, and Mr. R. Clark, Fochriw, the case for the Communist Party. On Tuesday, an alternative address was given by Mr. Thorne, Aberdare.

11 November 1933 Meeting A public meeting was held at the Social Centre on Wednesday evening last, when the speaker was County Councillor W. J. Kedward, Bargoed, who gave a review of his work as a county councillor. He dealt at length with the means test, unemployment, and other interesting matters.

11 November 1933 Library and Institute Hall The new Hall was opened on Thursday when a concert was held. The programme was provided by the following artistes: Miss Mary Lewis, soprano, Pentwyn; Mr. James J. Lewis, tenor. Choruses

were rendered by the Fochriw Ladies Glee Party (conductor Mrs. H. C. Davies), and the Fochriw Juvenile Choir (conductor Mr. D. J. Davies). The accompanist was Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. I. Williams, Pontllytyn, chairman of the Institute. Mr. R. Clark and Mr. W. M. Davies proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to all for their services.

16 December 1933 Welfare Mr. T. J. Jones presided over a Welfare Committee meeting at the Old Library on Thursday. The financial report was read by Mr. James I. Williams, treasurer, and a splendid year's work was revealed. Police Constable Sansom gave a report of the visit of the representatives of the Cardiff firm with regard to the planting of trees and shrubs. A report was also given by Mr. Job Thomas.

13 January 1934 Social Centre At the annual meeting of the Social Centre, presided over by Mr. Ted Puddle, the following officers were elected: chairman, Mr. D. Martin Thomas; vice-chairman, Mr. Fred Prosser; treasurer, Mr. Ernest Prosser; secretary, Mr. Ray Clark; committee, Messrs. Tom Shankland, Sid Way, Bob Carter, Tom Pugh, Noah Way, Peter Jones, Bryn Jones, Ted Puddle; auditors, Messrs. Jenkin Williams and D. H. Thomas. The financial statement showed a balance on the right side. There is now a membership of over 100 subscribers.

20 January 1934 Library The annual meeting of the Library and Institute was held on Tuesday at the New Hall, when Mr. J. Idris Williams presided, and reviewed the work of committee during 1933. The auditor's report was given by the Mr. Vernon Davies (senior auditor) and confirmed by Mr. D. Emlyn Evans (junior auditor). The financial position was on the right side. The officials and committee for 1934 are as follows: chairman, Mr. Raymond Clark; secretary, Mr. D. I. Evans; treasurer, C.W.S. Bank; librarian, Mr. H. Ballard; committee, Messrs. A. Jones, T. Pugh, T. Tewkesbury, W. M. Davies, Hartwell Wood, John Lewis, Edward Puddle, David Jones, Leslie Dayton, Thomas J. Evans, Iorwerth Evans, Sidney Lewis, E. J. Jones, Griff Thomas, Tom I. Evans.

27 January 1934 Meeting The first meeting of the new committee of the Fochriw Library and Institute was held on Monday, when Mr. Raymond Clark presided. Mr. E. Puddle was appointed vice-chairman for 1934. The chairman also reported that Councillor Johns, Deri, had presented a book to the library.

27 January 1934 Welfare The annual meeting of the Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Old Library on Tuesday, and Mr. T. J. Jones presided. He reviewed the work done during 1933, and paid a high tribute to the officers and committee for their loyal support. The auditor's report was given by Mr. W. J. Williams. Mr. J. I. Williams, treasurer, gave the financial report, which was very satisfactory. Mr. W. A. Davies, secretary, read the correspondence, after which the election of officers and committee for 1934 took place. The chairman paid a compliment to the retiring treasurer, Mr. J. I. Williams, who had left the district. The following officers were appointed: chairman, Mr. T. J. Jones; vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; secretary, Mr. W. A. Davies; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams; Committee, Councillor A. T. Minhinnick, Messrs. Arthur Jones, Archie Bates, W. S. Rowlands, D. Lawrence, W. J. Williams, D. R. Jones, John Lewis, Edward Lewis, Albert Mantle, C. Edwards, E. J. Williams, Howell Thomas, Daniel James, J. Gregory, I. Evans, Evan W. Jones, James Davies, J. J. Lewis, D. J. Griffiths, P.C. J. Samson, D. I. Evans, Aneurin Jones, S. Lewis, T. J. Jones; collector, Mr. D. I. Evans.

10 February 1934 Social Centre A meeting was held at the Social Centre on Wednesday evening, Mr. Raymond Clark presiding. County Councillor W. Kedward, Bargoed, gave a report of the work done by County and District Councils during the last 12 months. The chairman then gave a report of the deputation to the Councillors

concerning the Pentwyn road. It was decided to ask the Gellygaer Urban District Council to receive a deputation from Fochriw unemployed concerning this matter.

28 April 1934 Welfare Association Mr. T. J. Jones presided over a meeting at the Old Library, when it was decided to employ men once again in order to carry out the scheme.

28 July 1934 Welfare Activities Mr. T. J. Jones presided at a meeting of the Welfare Committee on Tuesday at the Old Library. Mr. W. M. Davies reported that the Children's Corner had been improved by sowing grass and planting trees. It was decided to ask for the co-operation of volunteers to complete the football ground.

4 August 1934 Welfare Meeting Mr. T. J. Jones presided at a meeting of the Welfare Committee on Tuesday, when the financial statement was given by Mr. W. J. Williams, treasurer. Several important items were dealt with, including the tarmacing of part of the ground. It was decided to open the ground for the school holidays.

25 August 1934 St. Athan's Camp Four boys from the village proceeded to camp on Saturday for a week's holiday.

1 December 1934 Train Facilities The public of Fochriw will be pleased to know of the additional train facilities commencing forthwith. Accommodation for the general public will be provided in the workmen's trains between Bargoed and Dowlais Top. This will be a great convenience, a good service of trains being available.

5 January 1935 Christmas Treat Ex-servicemen's children were given a Christmas treat on Saturday at the New Hall. Mrs. S. J. Jones supervised the event, and the Children's Welfare Branch Committee, together with the Branch and Women's Section Committee assisted, whilst Mr. R. G. Wood took the children in games. Messrs. Phillips and Small rendered violin solos, and at the piano was Mrs. L. Thomas.

19 January 1935 Library and Institute The annual meeting was held on Monday, Mr. Ray Clark presiding. The minutes were read, and the chairman reviewed the work of the committee during the year. The auditors gave their report: Mr. D. E. Evans the general account, and Mr. I. J. Williams the book department account. The report showed that the Institute had a balance in hand. The officials and committee for 1935 are: chairman, Mr. R. Clark; secretary, Mr. D. I. Evans; bank, CWS, Manchester; vice-chairman, Mr. Sam Lewis; librarian, Mr. Rod Jones. The meeting also decided that in future, the vice-chairman should be chairman the following year. The following were appointed to the committee: Messrs. David Jones, T. Idris Evans, Iorwerth Evans, E. J. Jones, Hartwell Wood, J. J. Lewis, W. J. Payne, Jack Davies, Robert Rees, Caradoc Shankland, James Tewkesbury.

26 January 1935 Library Committee The following committee men were omitted in last week's report of the annual meeting of the Fochriw Library and Institute: Messrs. Albert Mantle, David J. Davies, John Lewis.

2 February 1935 Welfare Association The annual meeting was held on Tuesday, presided over by this T. J. Jones, and supported by Mr. W. J. Payne (vice-chairman), Mr. W. J. Williams (treasurer), and Mr. W. A. Davies (secretary). The chairman reviewed the work of the past year. He said they had completed the Children's Corner, which was a great asset to the village. He was hoping during the coming year to proceed with the other part of the general scheme of £3,500, which had been accepted by headquarters. Every effort was being made to secure a further grant from the Welfare Fund. The auditors' report was given by Mr. Arthur Ballard and Mr. W. Adams Jones. The income was £574 10s 3d.; expenditure, £539 9s 9d.; balance, £35 0s 6d.. The officers elected were as follows: chairman, Mr. T. J. Jones; vice-chairman,

Mr. W. J. Payne; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams; secretary, Mr. W. A. Davies; committee representing Ogilvie Colliery: Messrs. Albert Mantle, Edward Lewis, E. J. Jones, C. Edwards; Groesfaen Colliery: Messrs. H. Thomas, Dan Jones, D. H. Lewis, Iorworth Evans; Dowlais Collieries: Messrs. David Griffiths, James J. Lewis, James Davies, W. H. Jones; Dowlais Colliery officials: Messrs. D. R. Jones, David Lawrence, John Lewis and W. J. Williams; Ogilvie Colliery officials: Messrs. A. T. Minhinnick and Arthur Jones; Groesfaen officials: Mr. A. Bate and Mr. W. S. Rowlands; outside members: Messrs. A. Jones, A. Ballard, W. Adams Jones and Deri Jones.

16 February 1935 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Old Library on Friday. Mr. T. J. Jones, chairman, extended a welcome to the new committee. The financial statement was given by Mr. W. J. Williams and the correspondence was dealt with by Mr. W. A. Davies. A deputation was appointed to meet the members of the Welfare Association.

16 March 1935 Library Committee A meeting of the Library and Institute Committee was held at the New Hall on Tuesday, Mr. R. Clark presiding, and supported by Mr. Sam Lewis, vice-chairman, and Mr. D. I. Evans, secretary. The financial position was reported on. Reports were also given by the Entertainments, Books and Improvement Committees, and also the caretaker. All the reports were satisfactory and were accepted.

16 March 1935 Welfare News On Monday, Captain Mason, chief organiser of the Miners' Welfare Fund, visited Fochriw, and was met on the Welfare ground by members of the local welfare committee. Captain Mason expressed delight with the Children's Corner, and complimented the committee on the way they had carried out their work, saying it was quite a transformation since his last visit. The completion of the cricket and football ground was discussed when the committee met Councillor Ness Edwards, the area representative of the Welfare Committee.

27 April 1935 Welfare Meeting At a meeting of the Association at the Old Library, the secretary and treasurer gave reports, and arrangements were made for the official opening of the Children's Corner about Whitsuntide.

4 May 1935 New Postmaster Mr. and Mrs. Emlyn Evans have been appointed postmaster and postmistress at Fochriw.

8 June 1935 Institute Meeting Mr. Roy Clarke presided at a meeting of the Fochriw Library and Institute on Tuesday. Mr. D. I. Evans, secretary, read the correspondence and the caretaker's report, which was accepted. It was decided to hold future meetings on Mondays at 5:30pm. Congratulations were extended to Councillor Sam Lewis, who is vice-chairman of the library, on his recent election victory.

8 June 1935 Welfare Meeting Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the Welfare Association on Tuesday at the Old Library, when arrangements were made for the opening ceremony on Saturday next at 4pm, which will be performed by the Rev J. C. Payne. The procession will be marshalled from near the station, headed by the Fochriw Silver Band, and various organisations, and will march to the ground. The financial statement was given by Mr. W. J. Williams, treasurer, and the correspondence was dealt with by the Secretary, Mr. W. J. Davies. A number of boys have been sent to St. Athan Camp.

15 June 1935 Fochriw Welfare: Opening of the Children's Playground An interesting event took place on Saturday, when the children's playground was officially opened. Other parts of the scheme are to follow as soon as funds permit. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. C. Payne, formerly vicar of Fochriw and Deri. He said the village was one of the dearest spots in the world, and where he had

spent the greater part of his life. He appealed to the young, whose playground he was opening, to use it well, but not to abuse it. He was delighted to see the Fochriw Silver Band looking so smart. He spent eight years with them as a cornet player when he was at Fochriw. Mr. T. J. Jones, chairman of the Welfare Association, presented the Reverend Payne with a silver-mounted perpetual calendar bearing the following inscription: "Presented to the Rev. J. C. Payne to mark the occasion of opening the Fochriw Welfare Association children's playground, June 8th, 1930, also a fountain." Mr. Jones spoke of Mr. Payne's work in connection with the village and the Welfare during the time he was amongst them. Before the opening ceremony, a procession was formed, and, headed by the Fochriw Silver Band, conducted by Mr. Albert Mantle, officers and committee of the Welfare Association, school children, members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Cadets, members of the R.A.O.B., and the general public, marshalled by P.S. Jones and P.C. Wadley, marched to the ground. The children had a happy time on the ground. The officers of the Association are: chairman, Mr. T. J. Jones; vice-chairman, Mr. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mr. W. J. Davies, treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams; with an energetic committee.

13 July 1935 School Camp A number of schoolboys journeyed to Pembrey and Pendine during the weekend for a fortnight's holiday.

13 July 1935 Welfare Committee Mr. T. J. Jones presided over the meeting at the Old Library on Friday. It was decided to open the children's playground at 10:00am in future. Complaints were received of the conduct of some of the older boys and girls frequenting the playground. It was decided to take strong action if this conduct persists. A deputation was appointed consisting of Messrs. T. J. Jones, W. J. Payne and W. A. Davies to press forward the claim for a grant from the Welfare Fund to carry out further parts of the scheme.

7 September 1935 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, Mr. R. Clarke presiding. The caretaker's report and financial report were considered. A new heating apparatus has been installed, together with other improvements, which should be an advantage during the coming winter. A discussion also took place with the object of centralising the activities in one building. A committee was appointed to carry out the annual eisteddfod, the following officers being selected: Mr. W. J. Payne, chairman; Mr. J. J. Lewis, vice-chairman; Councillor Sam Lewis, treasurer; Messrs. D. J. Davies and D. I. Evans, secretaries.

12 October 1935 Institute and Library Mr. Ray Clarke presided over a meeting on Monday at the New Hall. The financial statement was given by the Secretary, and this revealed that splendid progress was being made. The entertainment committee's activities had resulted in a credit balance. A long discussion followed on the centralising of activities in one building. The matter was postponed until the next meeting.

26 October 1935 Welfare Association Mr. T. J. Jones presided over a meeting on Friday. The secretary dealt with the correspondence, and the forman gave a satisfactory report of work done. A report was given by Mr. Edward Lewis, Mr. Howell Thomas and Mr. T. Jones on their efforts to obtain a further grant from the Welfare Association to continue the work scheme.

9 November 1935 Library Meeting Mr. Ray Clark presided over a meeting of the Library and Institute on Monday at the New Hall. The Secretary dealt with the correspondence and gave the financial report. The caretaker's report was also accepted. The auditor's report was submitted by Mr. J. H. Evans and Mr. J. I. Williams, and proved satisfactory. The matter of centralising activities in one building was again discussed and deferred.

7 December 1935 Welfare Association A meeting took place at the Old Reading Room on Thursday, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. Mr. Job Thomas, ground foreman, gave his report on the state of the ground, and it was decided to level out the netball ground and tarmac the same. The committee is endeavouring to obtain a further grant to proceed with the other part of the scheme - the football ground - and reports of interviews were given by Messrs. W. J. Payne and T. J. Jones. Mr. A. T. Minhinnick, M.E., tendered his resignation as a representative of the Powell Duffryn Company, owing to his departure from the district. His resignation was accepted with regret and appreciation of his work was expressed by Mr. Jones and Mr. Payne. The auditors appointed were Mr. D. Jones and Mr. D. Jenkins.

21 December 1935 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Old Library on Friday last, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. A report on the progress of the work on the netball court was given by Mr. J. Thomas the groundsman. Messrs. W. A. Davies and J. Thomas reported on a Welfare conference which they attended at Blackwood.

28 December 1935 Library Concert At the Old Library last week, a musical evening was given in aid of the British Legion Children's Welfare Fund. Mr. Sydney Phillips presided, and the following artistes took part: comedians - Paddy and Rickie; tenor - Mr. E. Thomas; boy soprano - Tommy Hennessy; Mr. Danny Donovan - character study by "Character Jim," and the Sweeney Brothers.

18 January 1936 Library and Institute On Friday, at the New Hall, Mr. R. Clark presided over a meeting, supported by Councillor Sam Lewis (vice-chairman) and Mr. D. I. Evans (secretary). The caretaker's report was accepted, and the financial report was very satisfactory. The auditors' report was given by Mr. J. I. Williams and Mr. J. H. Evans, and revealed a splendid year of progress.

25 January 1936 Annual Meeting: Welfare Association The meeting was held at the Old Library on Monday. The Mr. T. J. Jones presided, supported by a Mr. W. J. Payne, vice chairman; Mr. W. J. Williams, treasurer; and Mr. W. J. Davies, secretary. The chairman reviewed the work of the past year and said splendid work had been done, but the great difficulty was obtaining grants. The secretary read the minutes, which were adopted. Mr. G Walters, one of the auditors, then read the balance sheet for 1935. This was accepted. Officers for 1936 are: chairman, Mr. T. J. Jones; vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams; secretary, Mr. W. J. Davies; Committee - representatives of Dowlais Collieries: Messrs. D. Lawrence, D. R. Jones, John Lewis, W. J. Williams; Ogilvie Colliery: Messrs. W. H. Knibbs, M.E., A. Jones; Groesfaen Colliery: Mr. D. Uzzell and Mr. Sydney Evans; outside members: Messrs. T. J. Jones, A. Ballard, W. A. Jones and Sergeant Jones. The workmen's representatives of the collieries will be appointed at their lodge meetings. It was also decided to allow the unemployed organisation to appoint two representatives on the committee. Mr. E. Evans was appointed collector.

1 February 1936 Library and Institute The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Thursday week, Mr. R. Clark presiding, supported by Councillor Sam Lewis (vice-chairman), and Mr. D. I. Evans (secretary). The chairman reviewed the past year's work and said much had been accomplished to improve the facilities of the Institute. An up-to-date heating apparatus had been installed, and a move had been made to centralise the various activities. It was also hoped that in the coming year something would be done to extend the present building. He thanked the Committee for their co-operation during his year of office. The auditor's report was given by Mr. J. H. Evans. Good progress had been made. Members had borrowed 2,098 books during the year. It was decided to take advantage of the Glamorgan rural libraries' scheme. Officers and Committee for 1936 were appointed as follows: chairman,

Councillor Sam Lewis; vice-chairman, Mr. R. Clark; secretary, Mr. D. I. Evans; committee: Messrs. H. Wood, W. J. Payne, A. Mantle, R. Rees, D. J. Davies, J. Lewis, J. Davies, D. J. Jones, Jenkin Williams, Robert Thomas, Clifford Davies, David Jones, D. D. Thomas, J. Saunders and O. Davies; librarian, Mr. R. Clark; auditors, Mrs. J. H. Evans and R. Rees.

21 March 1936 Welfare Meeting On Friday, at the Old Library, a meeting of this the Association was held, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. It was learned that a further grant had been allotted by the Miners' Welfare Fund. Mr. W. A. Davies, secretary, said eight local boys would be allowed to go to the St.. Athan's Camp this summer.

21 March 1936 County Library A visit was made to the library on Friday by Mrs. Williams, Bridgend. The Library Committee recently decided to take advantage of the Glamorgan rural library scheme, and as a result of the visit, a number of first class books will find their way into the library, whose readers took out over 2000 books last year. The librarian is of Mr. Ray Clark.

25 April 1936 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday presided over by Councillor Sam Lewis. The financial statement was given and showed an increase in the finances of the Institute. Mr. Ray Clark, librarian, gave his report, and said that over 100 books had been received from the Glamorgan Rural Libraries Scheme, and facilities were available to obtain other books when desired. The caretaker's report was accepted. Reports were received concerning conduct of some members in the Institute. The committee took a serious view of the complaints. Steps would be taken to stop any misconduct in the building.

2 May 1936 Welfare Association A meeting took place at the New Hall on Friday, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. Mr. W. A. Davies tendered his resignation as secretary, and Mr. R. Clark was appointed in his place.

16 May 1936 Library and Institute A meeting took place at the Hall on Monday, Councillor Sam Lewis presiding. The librarian, Mr. Clark, stated that over 1,000 books had been borrowed by readers during the last four months. The Glamorgan rural library scheme was in operation and a number of books issued.

16 May 1936 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Library of Thursday, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. Amongst the new members welcomed was Mr. W. H. Knibbs, ME, representing the Powell Duffryn Colliery Company. Permission was given for the Fochriw Silver Band to play at the Welfare ground during the summer months.

6 June 1936 Welfare Association Meeting Mr. T. J. Jones presided. Captain Mason is paying of visit this week.

13 June 1936 Welfare Ground Captain Mason, chief organiser of the Welfare Association, visited the Welfare ground on Friday, and was met by Mr. T. J. Jones (chairman), Mr. W. J. Payne (vice-chairman), and other members of the committee. Captain Mason was very pleased with the laying out to of the Children's Corner and arrangements were made for the erection of a shelter. A discussion took place regarding the football and cricket grounds.

20 June 1936 Welfare Association A report of Captain Mason's visit was given by the chairman at the meeting at the Old Library on Thursday. Four boys selected for a week's holiday at St.. Athan's Camp were: T. J. Lewis, B. Thomas, O. Smith and J. Evans.

1 August 1936 Welfare Association A meeting took place at the Old Library on Monday, presided over by Mr. T. J. Jones. Arrangements were made for the erection of the shelter at the children's playground. A report on the interview with the Commissioners was given by Mr. W. A. Jones and Mr. R. Clark and this was very

satisfactorily received. It was decided to invite applications from boys to attend St. Athan's Camp. It was reported that a grant had been made for library books, and a sub-committee was appointed to select the books and make any other arrangements. That treasurer explained the financial position up to date.

15 August 1936 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. The meeting was called to consider the Commissioner's terms with regard to voluntary labour for making the football and cricket grounds.

22 August 1936 To Camp On Monday, a party of women left to spend a week at Dimlands, Llantwit Major. The party was connected with the Social Centre.

29 August 1936 Old Age Pensioners' Fund A meeting was held at the Rising Sun on Thursday, Mr. W.J. Payne presiding. Mr. D. J Davies (secretary) and Mr. J. H. Evans (treasurer) gave their final reports. Final arrangements were made to take the pensioners to Barry Island on 2nd September. Buses will leave at 10am. Dinner and tea will be provided.

29 August 1936 Library and Institute Meeting Councillor Sam Lewis presided over a meeting on Wednesday at the New Hall. The secretary reported progress with the repairs at the Old Library. Mr. W. D. Davies was appointed to substitute the caretaker during his holidays.

5 September 1936 Children's Corner A shelter has been erected at the children's playground at the Fochriw Welfare Ground. The corner is considered one of the finest of its kind in the Valley.

12 September 1936 Library Committee Mr. R. Clark presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Monday. A discussion took place with a view to centralising the activities of the Library and Institute in the Central Building.

12 September 1936 Pensioners' Treat A party of 129 Fochriw old-age pensioners and friends were treated to a day's outing at Barry Island on Wednesday last. It was only seven weeks ago that it was decided to organise the outing, but a generous public response of the committee's appeal, and a great deal of work by the committee made the outing a success. Substantial sums were realised by subscriptions, drama performances, a whist drive and dance, and a stop-watch competition. The party were conveyed by luxury coaches, and they were accompanied by the following committee members: Messrs. D. J. Davies, J. H. Evans, Edgar Pritchard, R. Rees, R. Evans, T. J. Evans, W. Price and Sergeant Mourton. The weather was fine and the drive was most enjoyable. Lunch was taken at the Esplanade Cafe. Mr. Rees Thomas, Mr. Edward Lewis, and the oldest pensioner, Mrs. Mary Davies, on behalf of the pensioners, thanked the officers and committee. After tea, a photograph of the party was taken and another visit along the sea front concluded the day. The party left Barry at 7.30p.m..

19 September 1936 Welfare Books The Welfare Association has received a grant of 450 books from the Welfare Fund. The books comprise history, biography, literature, economics, politics, psychology, religion, art, & artistic crafts.

19 September 1936 Welfare Commissioner's Visit On Thursday last, Capt. Geoffrey Crawshay, District Commissioner for the Special Area, visited Fochriw, accompanied by Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Lloyd. He was met by the Association chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, Messrs. Jones, Payne and Clark. Capt. Crawshay expressed pleasure at the children's playground and shelter. Later, he visited some proposed playing grounds for football and cricket.

19 September 1936 Pensioners' Outing Fund A meeting was held at the committee room, Rising Sun Inn, on Thursday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. £43 16s. has been

collected through subscription and entertainments. The auditors, Messrs. Sydney Phillip and W. A. Davies reported, and said that a credit balance remained in preparation for next year. Officers for the coming year were appointed as follows: chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. Albert Mantle; secretary, Mr. David J. Davies; treasurer, Mr. John H. Evans; committee: Messrs. E. Pritchard, R. Rees, C. Edwards, T. J. Jones, W. Price, R. Evans, S. Phillips, S. Mourton, E. Lewis, R. Clark; presidents, Mr. John Bevan and Dr. Monnelly; vice-presidents, re-elected en bloc.

17 October 1936 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Lewis presided over a meeting on Monday. The secretary and librarian gave their reports. A discussion took place regarding the building or the conversion of the old building into an up-to-date hall and institute, and the following were appointed as a sub-committee to draft a scheme: Messrs. S. Lewis, R. Clark, D. I. Evans, W. J. Payne, A. Mantle, E. J. Williams, D. D. Thomas.

24 October 1936 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, presided over by Mr. T. J. Jones. Reports on the deputations that visited Cardiff and Bedlinog, and of Captain Crashay's visit, were given by Mr. Jones and Mr. Clark. The correspondence and financial position was given by the secretary. Complaints were received about the children's corner being constantly abused. The equipment, shrubbery and fencing are often wilfully damaged. The playing equipment has been erected for the use of children under 15 years of age. It was decided to appeal to Fochriw parents for their co-operation in preventing abuse of the corner. The committee has secured another piece of ground for football, cricket, etc, near of the lower Bridge.

14 November 1936 Coronation Arrangements A preliminary meeting was held at the Council School on Thursday, presided over by a Mr. T. J. Jones, head teacher, to discuss the question of events for celebrating the Coronation. Several schemes were outlined, and the meeting was a very enthusiastic one, and very representative.

14 November 1936 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Lewis presided. The financial report showed splendid progress. The librarian said the number of books taken out by readers this year was a record. Larger accommodation was required for the new books arriving, and this question was referred to the Book Committee. The Entertainments Committee was thanked for their efforts. The caretaker's report was accepted.

12 December 1936 Welfare Association Mr. T J Jones presided at the meeting at the New Hall on the Thursday the report of the interview wavy Commissioners was given by the chairman and secretary it is proposed to start on a new play in ground in the near future.

19 December 1936 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Lewis presided over the meeting at the New Hall. The various rounds of the billiards and snooker handicaps for the Christmas prizes are proving very interesting.

19 December 1936 Home Nursing Social The Christmas social of the Fochriw Home Nursing Class of which Nurse Ballard-Davies is the teacher, was held at the Council School on Friday. After supper, games were held. Praise is due to Mrs. Smith, caretaker, for her splendid preparations.

2 January 1937 Social Centre On Monday at the Old Library, the children whose parents are connected with the Women's Social Centre were given at tea and 3d. each. This was made possible by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, the Settlement, Bargoed. The Secretary was Mrs. E. Thomas and the treasurer Mrs. M. Shankland. At the tables were Mrs. B. Angell, Mrs. J. Williams, Mrs. Puddle, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. M. H. Morgan, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. C. Williams, Mrs. F. Way.

23 January 1937 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Lewis presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday.

23 January 1937 Pensioners' Outing Fund A meeting was held at the Old Library on Friday, presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. Schemes were submitted for raising funds for the next outing, and it was decided to hold a flitch trial, and an appeal will be made to the Bargoed Party to stage the event.

23 January 1937 Social A social in connection with the Dressmaking and Needlework classes for which Mrs. F. Evans is the instructress was held at the Council Schools on Thursday. The committee was: E. Cumpstone, R. M. Cumpstone, M. A. Edwards & E. A. Evans. The drawing competition was won by Miss T. Cumpstone.

30 January 1937 Library and Institute The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Thursday, when Councillor Sam Lewis presided, supported by Mr. Ray Clark, vice-chairman, and Mr. D. I. Evans, secretary. The chairman said they could look back with satisfaction on the year's work. The financial position was very satisfactory. Things were also very satisfactory with regard to the proposed alteration of the building to comprise a new hall and institute. The committee had discussed the alterations and plans had been considered. Further consideration would be given by the new committee. Mr. J. H. Evans and Mr. Bob Rees gave the auditor's report. They had also audited the book department, which showed excellent progress. Mr. Ray Clark then took over chairmanship for the coming year. The election of officers was as follows: vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; secretary (for 3 years) Mr. D. I. Evans; librarian, Mr. Ray Clark; committee: Councillor Sam Lewis, Messrs. T. J. Jones, A. Mantle, B. Rees, H. Wood, E. J. Jones, D. D. & R.. Thomas, Clifford Davies, J. Lewis, G. Evans, D. & R. Jones, E. J. Williams

6 February 1937 Coronation Committee A dance was held at the New Hall on Thursday, when there was a representative attendance. A little inconvenience was caused by the failure of the electric light, but other means were quickly resorted to. The music was supplied by the Regal Band, Tredegar. The M.Cs. were Messrs. I. and A. Cumpstone. The secretary was of Mr. Willie Adams Jones.

13 February 1937 School Camp A number of boys and girls from the Fochriw and Penybank Council Schools left for Pembrey and Rhoose on Tuesday where they will spend three weeks holiday.

13 February 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided over the meeting on Thursday. The chairman extended a welcome to the new committee members. He reported on the visit of Mr. Roberts of the Social Services League, with regard to the proposed alteration of the building. The secretary reported on the financial position and dealt with the caretaker's report. A letter was read from P.C. Islwyn Davis, now a member of the Metropolitan Police, an old Fochriw boy, who has been instrumental in purchasing a fine selection of cues for the billiard tables. A letter of the thanks will be sent to P.C. Davies and to the Superintendent of Police. It was reported by the librarian that another consignment of books had arrived from the Glamorgan County Library. Readers were taking advantage of the fine selection, for during the past year 3,778 books were taken out on loan. It was decided to engage Miss Ruth Harrison, the Billiards and Snooker Champion of Great Britain, to give an exhibition at the Institute in the near future.

13 February 1937 Welfare Association The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, Mr. T. J. Jones presiding. He said that the Children's corner was now one of the finest in the valley. It comprised eight play-things; a fine tarmac playground for netball or other games; a fine shelter and seats. All that was required

now were some shrubs and flowers. He said that arrangements were now completed to start laying out the new football ground near the bridge. Work would start in a week or two. He thanked his co-officers and committee for their splendid work. Mr. Ray Clark, secretary, read the minutes, which were adopted, and Mr. G. Walters gave the auditor's report, which showed that there had been a satisfactory year's working. After the report was accepted, comments were made on the small number of outside contributors. The number had fallen away considerably and it was hoped for a better response in the coming year. The new collector appointed was Mr. D. I. Evans. The following officers and committee were appointed: chairman, Mr. Albert Mantle; vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams; secretary, Mr. Ray Clark; auditors, Mr. G. Walters and Mr. S. Phillips; committee: representatives of the P.D. officials, Ogilvie Colliery: Mr. W. H. Knibbs and Mr. Arthur Jones; Groesfaen Colliery: Mr. D. Uzzell and Mr. D. Thomas; Guest Keen Colliery Co.: Messrs. D. Lawrence, D. R. Jones, John Lewis and W. J. Williams; Ogilvie workmen: Messrs. A. Mantle, E. J. Jones, C. Edwards and D. J. Davies; Groesfaen workmen: Messrs. Howell Thomas, D. H. Lewis, Dan James, Peter Jones; Brithdir Levels: Mr. Robert Parry; general public: Mr. T. J. Jones, W. J. Payne, W. A. Jones, A. Ballard, G. Walters. There are a few more committee-men to be appointed from the various organisations. After the annual meeting, the new committee met under the chairmanship of Mr. Albert Mantle and discussed the future programme.

20 February 1937 Old Age Pensioners A meeting of the outing committee was held at the Rising Sun Inn on Friday presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. The secretary, Mr. D. J. Davies, read correspondence relating to a flitch trial to be held in aid of the outing. The trial will be held at the New Hall on February 25th at 6:30pm, and will be staged by P.C. Knight, Bargoed, and his company. It was decided to include Pantywaun as part of the area governing the fund.

27 February 1937 Pensioner's Fund Mr. W. J. Payne presided over a meeting at the Old Library on Monday. Final arrangements were made for the flitch trial and the list of jurymen was completed.

13 March 1937 Social Centre A lecture on "Pioneer Women" was given on Monday at the Old Library by Mrs. Ruby Davies, Cardiff. Mrs. S. J. Jones presided.

13 March 1937 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided at a meeting at the library on Monday. The secretary and treasurer gave their reports. It is proposed to commence work on the levelling of the new ground for football, cricket, etc at an early date. Messrs. A. Mantle, W. J. Payne, T. J. Jones, W. A. Jones, with the secretary, will form a sub-committee to deal with the matter.

13 March 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided over a meeting on Thursday. It was decided to try and arrange for lectures in connection with the Y. M. C. A. The caretakers report was accepted. A book committee was appointed as follows: Mrs. Oliver, Miss Mary Morgan, Mr. Clifford Davies and Mr. Richard Jones.

20 March 1937 Library and Institute Mr. R. Clark presided at a meeting of the Book Committee on Tuesday to select new books as a result of a grant of £20 from the District Commissioner through the Social Services League.

27 March 1937 Pensioners' Fund A meeting was held at the library on Monday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. Mr. D. J. Davies, secretary, presented a statement of accounts for the recent Flitch Trial, which had been an outstanding success. The statement was accepted, and all who had taken part were thanked. A discussion followed and schemes were considered to further augment the fund.

17 April 1937 Pensioners' Fund A meeting of the Outing Fund was held at the Old Library on Friday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. Arrangements have been made for Mr.

Arthur Horner, president of the Miners' Federation, to give a lecture in aid of the fund. It was decided to arrange for the annual outing to take place on the first Monday in July. Mr. J. H. Evans gave the financial statement, which was accepted.

17 April 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Arrangements were made for the forthcoming concert in aid of funds. It was decided to increase the accommodation for books by taking over one of the rooms at the Old Library, and adding a number of shelves. Reports from the librarian and caretaker were accepted.

17 April 1937 Welfare Association Mr. W. J. Payne presided over a meeting on Monday. Mr. R. Clark, secretary, stated that they were awaiting the visit of the surveyor to complete the survey before starting the new ground. Arrangements were made for sending boys to St. Athan Camp. It was decided to make a grant to the chapel funds at St. Athan Camp and also for periodicals. Complaints were received about damage at the children's playground. A number of boards had been taken from the shelter recently erected. It was decided to take proceedings in the matter.

1 May 1937 Coronation Plans Arrangements are well in hand for a first class programme of events for the celebration of the Coronation at Fochriw. Officers of the committee are: president, the Rev. J. L. White; secretaries, Mr. Wadley and Mr. W. A. Jones; treasurer, Mr. A. Cumpstone. The functions promoted to raise funds have all been successful and will enable the Committee to plan festivities for Coronation Day more elaborately than once anticipated. On Coronation Day, it is proposed to give each child a souvenir, and each old age pensioner and widow not catered for otherwise, with the supplementary sum of 2s 6d. The full programme includes: floodlighting of the school by courtesy of Gellygaer Urban District Council; school children's tea with mug as souvenir (county gifts); carnival, to be held in the afternoon of May 12th, when prizes will be presented for the best dressed cycle and car, grouped and individual characters, also, mounted and walking characters; prizes for best house front; juvenile and senior sports; bonfire (by courtesy of Messrs. Guest Keen and Powell Duffryn Collieries); fireworks display.

8 May 1937 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over a meeting at the library on Monday. Mr. R. Clark, secretary, reported that the new playground had been surveyed, and work would soon commence. It was decided to make applications for further children's playing equipment for the children's corner, and also for additional seats.

15 May 1937 Coronation Donation Mr. W. J. Payne has received a donation of £2 2s for the children's Coronation tea from Mr. John Havard Davies, an old Fochriw boy, who is a member of the Vic Wells Opera Company, London. The donation is from the Opera Company. Mr. Davies is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Nant Cottage.

15 May 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided at the meeting on Thursday. The tender of Mr. Powell for completing the book room to receive the additional books was accepted. The librarian reported another consignment of books, which gave them one of the finest selections in the valley. Arrangements were now completed for the removal of all organisations down to one centre. The reports from the entertainments committee, the caretaker, and the financial statement were accepted.

15 May 1937 Pensioners' Fund Meeting A meeting was held on Friday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. The secretary dealt with the correspondence including negotiations for the annual trip. It was decided to take the pensioners to Porthcawl. Arrangements were made for the forthcoming concert by the Melody Makers, Pontlottyn, and for the

lecture by Mr. Arthur Horner in aid of the fund. Thanks were accorded Mr. Martin Thomas for his services in aid of the fund.

29 May 1937 Pensioners' Outing Fund A meeting was held on Friday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. The pensioners will be provided with a dinner and tea during the trip on 6th July. Representatives from Pantywaun attended a meeting on Monday, and it was decided to hold a community singing service in aid of funds at Pantywaun. The financial statement was satisfactory.

5 June 1937 Outing Fund Mr. Albert Mantle presided over a meeting on Thursday at the Old Library. Mr. D. J. Davies, secretary, gave the arrangements for catering at Porthcawl on the 6th July. The community singing at Pantywaun on Sunday, June 13th, in aid of the fund, will be led by the Fochriw Silver Band. The singing will be conducted by Mr. Thomas Jones. Mr. John Henry Evans gave the financial statement.

12 June 1937 Welfare Playing Ground A visit was paid during the week to the Welfare ground by the Mr. Forester and Mr. Jones, Cardiff. They were met by Mr. Clark and Mr. Payne, and inspected the proposed new playing ground, and also spoke to a number of unemployed men. Later, they visited the children's playing field, and expressed themselves delighted with such a fine ground.

12 June 1937 Library Activities A meeting was held at the hall on Thursday evening last, Mr. Raymond Clark presiding. It was decided to centralise the activities at the new quarters this week. The librarian reported that a further number of books had been received, and arrangements were made for additional shelves to be fixed in the book room for the large number of books now available.

19 June 1937 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over the meeting at the New Hall on Monday. A report of the visit of Mr. Forest and Mr. Jones from the Commissioner's Office, Cardiff, was given by Mr. Payne and Mr. Clark. Complaints were again received about damage done at the children's playground by some of the older boys. It was decided to carry out further improvements, and a deputation was selected to wait on Captain Mason at Cardiff.

24 July 1937 Cooking Demonstration Under the auspices of the Gellygaer Urban District Council, an electric cooking demonstration was given at the New Hall on Thursday. Winners of the lucky numbers were presented with a joint and cake.

24 July 1937 Grant For Welfare A meeting of the Welfare Association took place on Monday evening, presided over by Mr. Albert Mantle. It was reported that a grant had been approved by the Special Areas Commissioners to commence the new football ground, and it is hoped to put the scheme into operation in a week or two. Attention was drawn to the lack of attendance of some of the representatives of the various organisations, and the secretary was instructed to write to the various bodies. It was decided to send two boys to St. Athan camp next term. The secretary reported on the work done in the children's corner, where light work is given every week to old age pensioners in keeping their place tidy. A deputation comprising the chairman and secretary was appointed to wait upon the Commissioners. A sub-committee comprising Messrs. A. Mantle, W. J. Payne, R. Clark, W. J. Williams, T. J. Jones, A. Ballard, and E. J. Jones was appointed to make arrangements for putting the scheme into operation at the new ground. An appeal was made to outside subscribers to contribute to the Welfare Scheme.

31 July 1937 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Monday. Reports were given by Mr. Ray Clark and Mr. Mantle of the interview at Cardiff with Captain Geoffrey Crawshay, District Commissioner for Special Areas. It was decided to call a meeting of the unemployed, and place the matter before them.

31 July 1937 Pensioners' Fund The annual meeting took place at New Hall on Thursday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. He thanked the officers, Committee and general public for their untiring efforts and support during the past year. The auditors, Messrs. W. A. Davis and Emlyn Evans, presented the statement of accounts. The balance sheet will be distributed among the public. The following officers were elected: presidents, Mr. John Bevan and Dr. Monnelly; vice-presidents, Coun. Sam Lewis, Sergt. Mourton and Mr. E. T. Pritchard; chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. A. Mantle; treasurer, Mr. John Henry Evans; secretary, Mr. David Davies; committee, Messrs. R. Evans, S. Phillips, C. Edwards, T. Jones, E. Lewis, W. J. Watkins, E. J. Jones, T. I. Evans, Evan Jones, W. A. Davies, Emlyn Evans and T. J. Jones.

21 August 1937 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided at a meeting on Monday at the New Hall. A report of the deputation connected to with the new play ground was given by Mr. T. J. Jones and Mr. W. A. Jones.

21 August 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided over a meeting the New Hall on Thursday evening last. He reported that 2,768 books had been taken out this year. Also, the new book room have been completed.

4 September 1937 Social Service Camp A number of members of the Women's Social Centre are spending a holiday at Dimlands, Llantwit Major, under the Social Service Settlement scheme. Mrs. E. Thomas is the Fochriw secretary.

4 September 1937 Welfare Association Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the New Hall one Monday. Mr. Clark reported that the tarmac had been laid at the Children's corner. It was decided to call a meeting of the unemployed to discuss the proposed new playing field.

11 September 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Clark presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The secretary dealt with correspondence and the financial position was given. The librarian reported that a further consignment of books had arrived. The auditor's report was given by Mr. H. Wood and Mr. R. Rees. The report showed splendid progress and was accepted.

11 September 1937 Welfare Association A meeting in connection with the proposed football field etc., under the Distressed Areas Commissioner's Scheme, was held at the New Hall on Tuesday, Mr. Albert Mantle presiding. The meeting was called to place before the unemployed proposals for starting work on the scheme. This was explained by Mr. Mantle, Mr. Payne, Mr. T. J. Jones and Mr. W. A. Jones on behalf of the local committee. It was decided to accept the scheme and commence work as soon as possible. The scheme is a voluntary one with working hours from 9am to 2pm, with a mid-day meal, from Monday Friday, with no Saturday work. Other facilities would be granted the workers, such as a suit of clothes, pair of boots, etc.. It is felt that with this spirit of co-operation, Fochriw will soon possess a fine playing field.

25 September 1937 Library and the Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided at a meeting at the New Hall. A discussion took place with regard to extending the present buildings to centralise the activities of the Institute. Mr. Ness Edwards, miners' agent, was present, and gave some valuable advice to the members.

9 October 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided at a meeting at and New Hall on Thursday, to consider the erection of a New Hall and alteration to the existing building for centralising the activities of the Institute. Three plans were under consideration, and it is hoped, in the near future, to proceed with the scheme that will be of most benefit to the village.

6 November 1937 Welfare Progress Mr. Albert Mantle presided at the New Hall on Thursday, when Mr. Ray Clark, Secretary, reported on the work carried out at the children's playground. The financial position was given by the treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams.

6 November 1937 Welfare Organiser Captain Mason, Cardiff, organiser of the Welfare Association, and Mr. Taylor, one of the secretaries, visited Fochriw on Friday, and were met by Mr. Albert Mantle, chairman of the Fochriw Association, Mr. Raymond Clark, chairman of the Fochriw Library and the Institute, Mr. D. I. Evans, secretary, and members of both committees. They paid a visit to the children's playground and afterwards visited the library and Institute.

13 November 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clarke presided at the New Hall on Thursday last. The secretary dealt with the correspondence and gave the financial report. The usual billiards tournament was agreed upon, and several entries were received. A deputation from the British Legion, consisting of Mr. J. Lloyd Jones and Mr. Edward Puddle, attended and placed an appeal on behalf of the Legion, which was satisfactorily received. A report on the visit of Captain Mason and Mr. Taylor was given by the Mr. Evans and Mr. Clark. The librarian stated that 3,860 books had been taken out this year. The caretaker's report was accepted.

27 November 1937 New Recreation Ground A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday in connection with the Recreation ground under the Distressed Area Commissioner's Scheme. Mr. Albert Mantle presided. Several committee members were present, also a large number of unemployed. The chairman outlined the object of the meeting, and introduced Mr. W. M. Forrest and Mr. T Jones, from of the District Commissioner's office at Cardiff. Mr. Forrest said the scheme had been approved and the amount of the grant settled on, so that work could now proceed at any time. However, he thought it would be wise, owing to the weather conditions at this time of year, to delay the start of operations until the spring. But that was for the meeting to decide. Mr. Jones also spoke. Following the discussion, a resolution was carried unanimously to commence operations in the spring.

18 December 1937 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. Mr. Clark stated that the equipment at the children's playground had been painted, and the ground well looked after.

18 December 1937 Library and Institute Mr. Ray Clark presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Reports from the secretary, librarian and caretaker were accepted. It is hoped to commence erection of a new hall under the Welfare Scheme in the near future.

1 January 1938 Public Meeting Mr. Ray Clark presided at the New Hall on Tuesday in connection with the erection of a new hall and institute under the Miners' Welfare Scheme. Mr. Clark explained the scheme. Messrs. Albert Mantle, Robert Rees, Samuel Lewis and W. J. Payne were appointed trustees.

29 January 1938 Women's Social Centre At the New Hall on Tuesday, the members of the social centre held a social evening. The following ladies assisted: Mrs. L. Thomas (secretary), Mrs. Shankland, Mrs. B. Angell, Mrs. S. J. Jones, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. W. Morgan, Mrs. K. Owen, Mrs. T. Jones, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. J. Davies, Mrs. Sheen, Mrs. Puddle, Mrs. W. Davies and Mrs. C. Williams. Mrs. Houfsen and Mrs. Davies of Bargoed Social Centre were present.

22 January 1938 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Reports were given by the secretary, the caretaker, the librarian, and the auditors, and were accepted.

5 February 1938 Library and Institute The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. The auditor's report was given by Messrs. B. Rees and H. Wood, and revealed a year of satisfactory progress. The librarians report showed that about 4000 books had been taken out during the year. The chairman and secretary reported on the progress that had taken place with regard to the proposed new building under the welfare scheme. The following officers were appointed: chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; vice-chairman, Councillor Sam Lewis; secretary, Mr. D. I. Evans; librarian, Mr. R. Clark; committee, Messrs. Albert Mantle, Bob Rees, Hartwell Wood, John Lewis, Richard Jones, T. J. Jones, G. Evans, R. Clark, D. D. Thomas, David Jones, E. J. Jones, Robert Thomas, Clifford Davies, Oliver Davies, T. I. Evans.

12 February 1938 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Thursday. Mr. Albert Mantle presided. He said that the past year had been very successful. He thanked all who had assisted him in carrying out the work. He regretted the poor attendance of some members representing various organisations. The auditor's report was given by Mr. Sydney Phillips and Mr. George Walters. The following officers were elected: chairman, Mr. Albert Mantle; vice-chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Williams; secretary, Mr. Raymond Clark; collector, Mr. D. I. Evans; auditors, Mr. George Walters and Mr. D. D. Thomas. Committee representatives: Powell Duffryn Colliery Company: W. H. Knibbs, G. Thomas, K. Jones, D. Uzzell; Guest Keen and Baldwin: W. J. Williams, John Lewis, D. R. Jones, D. Lawrence; Groesfaen workmen: Howell Thomas, Dan James, D. H. Lewis, P. Jones; unemployed organisation: E. Puddle, D. D. Thomas; outside representatives: T. J. Jones, A. Ballard, W. A. Jones, G. Walters; Ogilvie workmen's representatives: to be appointed.

19 February 1938 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Smith presided over a meeting on Thursday. The secretary dealt with the correspondence, and the plans of various committees for the coming years were discussed.

26 February 1938 Welfare Association The following names have been added to the Welfare Committee: Nantyffin Levels: Mr. James John Lewis; Brithdir Level: Mr. R. Parry.

12 March 1938 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall last week, Mr. Albert Mantle presiding. The secretary reported on several matters from the correspondence, including the new playing field, work on which will commence in a few weeks. The financial position, given by the treasurer, was very satisfactory.

19 March 1938 Old Age Pensioners Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting on Tuesday. A vote of sympathy was passed with the vice-chairman, Mr. Albert Mantle, whose sister, Mrs. Gertrude Cook died that morning, and with Mr. C. Edwards, whose wife died since they last met. The meeting was convened to organise some events to take the pensioners for their annual outing. The secretary, Mr. D. J. Davies, dealt with correspondence and this included offers of various forms of entertainment. It was decided to arrange a concert with the Dowlais Male Voice Party, and also ask Mr. A. Cumpstone to organise a dance for the fund.

16 April 1938 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over a meeting on Tuesday. Two representatives were appointed to attend the meeting at Cardiff in connection with the National Keep Fit Campaign.

16 April 1938 Old Age Pensioners A meeting in connection with the above was held at the New Hall on Friday, presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. Important arrangements were made for the annual outing. It was decided to hold a concert at the

New Hall on the 7th May. This will be given by the Dowlais Male Glee Party. It was also arranged for Mr. W. Watkins to run a football tournament in aid of funds.

23 April 1938 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday presided over by Mr. W. J. Payne. In the caretaker's report, complaints were made that a number of papers had been taken from the Institute. Measures were decided upon to deal with the complaint. The librarian stated that a large number of books had been taken out, and it was decided to obtain a further consignment of books for readers. The financial report was given by the Secretary.

7 May 1938 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Lewis presided over a meeting on Thursday at the New Hall. Discussion took place with regard to the proposed new building. It was reported that the new fence around the yard was completed and was a great improvement. The financial report, caretaker's report and librarian's report were read and accepted.

7 May 1938 Pensioners Outing Fund A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding, and supported by Mr. Albert Mantle, Mr. D. J. Davies, and Mr. J. H. Evans. Mr. W. Watkins gave a report on the progress of the football tournament that had proved a success. The members connected with the tournament were thanked for their efforts. Mr. D. J. Davies reported on the concert in aid funds, and Mr. J. H. Evans gave the financial state of the fund.

28 May 1938 Outing Fund A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. Reports of the football tournament and the concert were given. The Financial statement revealed a satisfactory balance. The Pantywaun representative, Mr. Evan Jones, reported that they were arranging an event at Pantywaun that would benefit the funds. It was decided to arrange the trip to Porthcawl on Tuesday, July 12th, by charabanc. Dinner and tea will be provided.

11 June 1938 Library and Institute Councillor Sam Lewis presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The proposed new building was discussed. The librarian's report, the financial report and caretaker's report were received and adopted. A visit was paid to Fochriw on Tuesday by Mr. W. Daniel, welfare organiser, who has taken the place of Captain Mason. He was met by Mr. W. J. Payne (chairman), Councillor Sam Lewis (vice-chairman), Mr. Ray Clark, Mr. R. Jones and Mr. D. I. Evans. Several points were discussed in connection with the new building.

18 June 1938 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over the meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. Matters regarding the Children's corner were discussed.

16 July 1938 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over the meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. An appeal was received from Pentwyn Young Men's Club for assistance for cricket equipment. This was favourably received, and representatives of the Welfare Committee were appointed to attend their next meeting.

23 July 1938 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. A report on the visit of Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, and the architect from Central Office in connection with the new building was given by Mr. Payne and Mr. Lewis. Arising out of the caretakers report, complaints were again received about certain parts of papers being taken away. The committee again appealed for this mean practice to stop. Anyone requiring the paper the next day can make arrangements with the caretaker.

6 August 1938 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. A report of the work done at the Children's corner was given by the Secretary. It was agreed to employ the two men to complete the weeding and cleaning of the corner. A deputation was appointed to interview a Commissioner with

regard to starting the new playing ground. The financial position was given by the Secretary.

13 August 1938 Library and Institute A visit was paid to Fochriw on Wednesday by Miss Mary Mackenzie, Welfare Association Central Office, London, in connection with the erection of the new building. She was met by Mr. W. J. Payne and Councillor Sam Jones, and was conducted around the present buildings. She took several particulars in connection with the new plan of the building.

10 September 1938 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman reported on the visit of Miss M. Mackenzie, London, in connection with the proposed new building. The secretary dealt with the correspondence and financial statement. The auditor's report was given by Messrs. D. James and H. Wood and was accepted. The librarian's report was given by Mr. Richard Jones. He said that over 400 books had been taken out during August. The caretaker's report was accepted.

10 September 1938 New Playing Ground A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, Mr. Albert Mantle presiding, in connection with the Commissioner's voluntary scheme. Captain Crawshay was represented by Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Jones (surveyor) from the Commissioner's office, Cardiff. A number of unemployed were present. Mr. Lloyd explained the voluntary scheme. Clothes, boots and a mid-day meal would be provided. It was decided to start work on Monday next. The plot of ground by the river bridge has been pegged out.

24 September 1938 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided over the meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, when the plan of a new building were submitted for consideration. The plan provides for a new hall and billiards room, etc. After considering the plan, a building committee was appointed to further consider the plan and report to the General Committee. The committee members are: Mr. W. J. Payne, Councillor Sam Lewis, Messrs. A. Mantle, T. J. Jones, H. Wood, B. Rees, and D. I. Evans.

24 September 1938 Welfare Meeting Mr. Albert Mantle presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Mr. T. J. Jones, acting secretary, reported that the work on the new playing field had commenced and about 30 unemployed men were working under the Distressed Areas Commissioner's Voluntary Scheme. Arrangements were made for tenders for boots and clothing, and the midday meal is to be taken at the Old Library until the erection of the pavilion. A deputation from the Boys' Club attended, headed by Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary, and Mr. Rod Jones, treasurer, appealing for a grant for football equipment. After hearing their case, the committee agreed to the request. The resignation of Mr. Edward Puddle as a committee member was accepted.

15 October 1938 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Monday. Messrs. R. Clark and T. J. Jones (secretaries) reported on the work now proceeding at the new football ground, and the Commissioner's scheme was highly complimented.

15 October 1938 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The Secretary dealt with the correspondence relating to the new building. It was decided to invite Mr. Daniel, the Welfare organiser, to visit Fochriw again. The secretary presented the financial report and caretaker's report, which were accepted. Mr. R. Jones gave the librarian's report. It was decided to proceed with the Christmas Billiards Handicap, and a committee was appointed to carry out the organisation. An appeal was received from the newly-formed Old Age Pensioners Organisation for the use of a room, which was granted.

22 October 1938 Welfare Captain Crawshay visited the new playing field on Monday, accompanied by Mr. Forrest, and Mr. Jones, surveyor from the Cardiff Office. They were met on the ground by the officials. They afterwards visited the dining quarters at the Old Library, where the men were partaking of their mid-day meal. Captain Crawshay expressed his delight with the way the dinner was served, and also with the way the workmen were carrying out their work on the ground, where about 330 men give their services to provide a playing field for the village.

5 November 1938 Welfare Association Mr. A. Mantle presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. Amongst the correspondence was an appeal from the Boys' Club in connection with the playing field. Mr. Payne reported on the visit of Capt. Crawshay and others from the Commissioner's Office to the new playing field. It was decided that the foreman of the scheme, Mr. David Harris, attend each meeting.

12 November 1938 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting on Thursday. A letter was read from the Boys' Club asking for two members to be appointed on the committee, and Mr. H. Wood and Mr. Clifford Davies was appointed. The billiards committee reported that the Christmas Handicap was in progress. Mr. R. Jones, librarian, reported that readers had taken 258 books during October.

26 November 1938 Library and Institute A meeting was held up the New Hall on Monday, Mr. W J Payne presiding. A report was given by the chairman on plans for the new institute.

3 December 1938 Playing Field Splendid progress is being made with the construction of the new playing field under the Special Areas Commissioners Scheme. The pavilion has been erected, and the ground is now being fenced in and levelled.

3 December 1938 Library and Institute At the New Hall on Friday, the plan of the new hall and Institute to be built under the auspices of the Welfare Association was considered. The chairman, Mr. W J. Payne, outlined the progress of the work that had been done since 1937 when the movement was commenced. A sketch plan from the Central Welfare Office, London, showed an up-to-date Hall to seat 400. The building would include the billiards hall and other rooms. Councillor Sam Lewis and Mr. D.I. Evans also spoke. The plan was accepted, and it was decided to proceed with the work. The chairman explained the position of the proposed room for the Boys Club. He felt sure that satisfactory results could be brought about.

10 December 1938 Bus Service To meet the wishes of the people of Pentwyn and Penybanc, a bus service is to be run on Friday and Saturday by the Gellygaer Council Undertaking. Councillor Sam Lewis and others have worked hard to bring this about.

10 December 1938 Library and Institute Mr. Albert Mantle presided at a meeting on Thursday. The caretaker again reported that papers and magazines had been taken from the Reading room. The Committee view this offence very gravely. Drastic action will be taken against those responsible.

24 December 1938 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. The secretary gave a report of the visit of Mr. Daniel, organiser, the previous day. A revised plan of the new hall and billiard room was submitted to the meeting, which is a great improvement, including two dressing rooms at the back of his stage and other facilities. It was unanimously decided to accept the plan and to proceed with the work forthwith.

24 December 1938 Welfare Association Mr. Albert Mantle presided over a meeting on Thursday, and was supported by Mr. W. J. Payne, vice-chairman, and Mr. R. Clark, secretary. A report of the work on the new playing field was submitted, and

it was stated that the ground had been fenced and the pavilion completed. A large amount of other work had also been done. Tribute was paid to the foreman and workmen for their excellent work during very trying weather conditions. Mr. T. Jones, surveyor, Cardiff, who visited the site during the week, complemented the workmen on their splendid work. Mr. Peter Jones was elected treasurer of the Association.

28 January 1939 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, presided over by Mr. W J. Payne. The secretary reported on progress of the new building and on repairs to heating apparatus. The caretaker reported that several papers had again been taken from the reading room. The committee deplored this mean action. The librarian, Mr. Richard Jones, reported the a large number of books had been taken out this month. The books had been re-catalogued. The auditor's report was given by Messrs. Hartwell Wood and Dan James, and the accounts showed a balance on the right side. It was decided to defer the date of the annual meeting pending further news from the Welfare Association regarding the progress of the new hall.

11 March 1939 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Tuesday. Mr. Albert Mantle presided. Mr. Ray Clark, secretary, presented the minutes, which were accepted. Officers elected were: chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. W. Adams Jones; treasurer, Mr. P. Jones; secretary, Mr. Raymond Clark; committee, Messrs. A. Mantle, W. Watkins, D. H. Lewis, T. J. Jones (Groesfaen), H. Thomas, D. James, C. Shankland, H. Edwards (Levels), Rod Jones, T. J. Lewis (Boys' Club), Bryn Davies, G. Jones (public), T. J. Jones, G. Walters, S. Lewis, E. Evans, J. Fisher, N. Cumpstone.

Carmel St. David's Day at Carmel took the form of recitations, songs and plays Mr. Thomas Ballard presided, and the accompanist was Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M.. Those who took part were: Misses Eliza Evans, Betty Evans, Betty Jones, Bronwen Hollister, Alex Burrows, Enid Cumpstone, Eileen Simpson, Len Davies, Elinor Davies, D. J. Evans, Marie Davies, Meggan Davies, Huw B. Thomas, Mr. M. Shankland. A party, under the conductorship of Mr. Meirion Shankland sang a number of folk songs. Mr. Willie Walters gave a violin solo, and a party of schoolchildren, conducted by Miss Maria Jones, also sang. Others who took part were: Mesdames W. A. Davies, O. Davies, T. J. Evans, C. Oliver, John Davies, Messrs. David Lewis, W. A. Davies, T. Walters, S. Lewis and T. Ballard.

18 March 1939 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, when Mr. Willie Adams Jones presided. The resignation of Mr. Peter Jones, treasurer, was accepted, and thanks accorded him for his work in the past. Mr. Albert Mantle was appointed treasurer. An application for nets for the goals from the Boys' Club was agreed to, and permission was given for tennis on the hard court on the children's playground.

18 March 1939 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided over a meeting on Thursday. A reports on the visit of Mr. Daniel, the welfare organiser, was given by the chairman and secretary. The question of the amalgamation of the Welfare and Institute committees into one body was discussed. It was decided to recommend to the annual meeting on March 23rd that this course be adopted. Mr. R. Jones, librarian, gave the book report, and said that 313 books had been taken out during February. The financial and caretaker's reports were accepted.

1 April 1939 Library and Institute The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, and was well attended. Mr. W J. Payne presided. The chairman made reference to the death of their caretaker, Mr. Evan Jones, who had held the post for the past 14 years. Another faithful committee-man for many years had died - Mr. Tom

Idris Evans - and he would be sadly missed. The members stood in silence as a mark of respect. The chairman reviewed the past year and said it had been successful. The balance sheet revealed a balance on the right side. Splendid progress had been made with the negotiations for the new institute. A grant had been secured and plans prepared, but the authorities desired that the both welfare bodies, the outdoor and indoor schemes, be amalgamated, and this has caused some delay. The meeting confirmed the adoption of this course. Four of the applicants for the position of a caretaker were chosen. The auditor's report was given in detail by Mr. H. Wood and Mr. Dan . The chairman referred to the Boys' Club the, and stated that when the new building was erected, ample facilities could be provided for the boys' recreation.

8 April 1939 Library and Institute Mr. W J. Payne presided at the New Hall, supported by Coun. Sam Lewis & Mr. D. I. Evans, secretary. The committee considered the appointment of a caretaker. It was decided to carry out a ballot of members. Applications in sealed envelopes must reach the secretary by Friday.

22 April 1939 New Caretaker The ballot for the appointment of a caretaker for the Fochriw Library and Institute took place on Tuesday, and the results were as follows: Mr. D. I. Evans - 166 votes; Mr. Wyndham Morgan - 106; Mr. A. Way - 32; Mr. B. Davies - 29.

29 April 1939 Library and the Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday. Mr. W. J. Payne presided, and Mr. D. I. Evans, secretary, reported that Mr. Daniel (Welfare organiser), and Mr. Bradley (Boys' Club organiser) would be visiting Fochriw on May 8th, when a joint meeting of the Library Welfare Association and Boys' Club Committees would take place. The ballot for caretaker of the library resulted in the appointment of Mr. D. I. Evans. It was decided that he commence his duties on Monday, 24th April. The question of secretary was deferred to the next meeting.

6 May 1939 Welfare Work A joint meeting of the Library and Institute and Welfare Committees was held at the New Hall on Tuesday, presided over by Mr. Albert Mantle. Agreement has been reached on the amalgamation of the two bodies, but separate committees will be responsible for the Library and Institute, and for the Outdoor Welfare work. It was decided that the same chairman and vice-chairman be appointed for both committees. Councillor W. J. Payne was elected chairman, and Mr. Willie Adams Jones vice-chairman. Correspondence was read from the welfare organiser, Mr. Daniel, and a joint meeting will be held on Wednesday next of the committees of the Library and Institute, Welfare Committee, and Boys' Club. Mr. Daniel and Mr. Bradney will be present. The plans for the new building were passed at the Council meeting on Tuesday, subject to certain amendments. Sympathy was expressed with Mr. T. J. Jones, headmaster, in his illness. Mr. Jones is a member of the committee and a trustee.

6 May 1939 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children A meeting was held at Noddfa Vestry on Thursday. Mrs. T. Matthews (president) presided. An address on the work of the society was given by Mr. Philip Davies of staff headquarters. A musical programme was given by Madam H. C. Davies, contralto: Nurse Ballard Davies, elocutionist: and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, piano.

13 May 1939 Welfare Scheme A meeting of the Welfare Association was held at the New Hall on Monday. Mr. W. J. Payne presided. Mr. Ray Clark, secretary, reported that grants had been received in connection with the new playing field from the Special Areas Commissioner. A report on the work was given by the foreman, Mr. David Harris. It was decided to place the order for clothes and boots with the trades-people in the village.

1 July 1939 Library and the Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Mr. W. J. Payne presided. He stated that plans for the new building had been received by the Secretary. These were now on view to builders who intended tendering for work. Tenders would close on June 26th. Mr. D. I. Evans dealt with the correspondence and gave the financial report and caretaker's report. Mr. Richard Jones reported on the work of the lending library. As the present Secretary had been appointed caretaker, it was decided to invite applications for the posts of secretary and treasurer.

8 July 1939 Welfare Association Mr. Willie Adams Jones presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The secretary reported on the progress made with the new playing field.

15 July 1939 Library and Institute A public meeting was held at the New Hall last Thursday. Councillor W. J. Payne, who presided, explained that the object was to appoint a secretary and treasurer of the library and Institute. He also stated that the contract had been given for the building of the new hall and billiards room. The result of the ballot for the post of secretary resulted in the appointment of Mr. D. Joshua Thomas, and for the post of treasurer, Mr. Robert Rees.

22 July 1939 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, and welcomed the new secretary and treasurer to their first meeting. The new caretaker, Mr. D. I. Evans, gave his report, and said that everything was proceeding satisfactorily. Arrangements were discussed for providing accommodation for the various organisations that use the buildings during the building of the new premises. A letter was considered from the secretary of the old age pensioners' outing fund, and a concession was granted. Mr. Evans gave the financial position, which was satisfactory. Mr. Jones, librarian, reported on the number of books taken out by readers during the past month. It was decided to carry out some repairs at the Old Reading room.

29 July 1939 Welfare Association Mr. W. A. Jones presided over the meeting on Monday evening. The new playing field, which is progressing favourably, was visited. Mr. David Harris, foreman, gave his report on progress.

5 August 1939 Welfare Association Mr. W. J. Payne presided at the meeting on Monday. The chairman reported on the illness of Mr. David Lawrence, one of their trustees. The Commissioners will visit the playing field on Wednesday. Certain improvements are required on the children's playing area.

12 August 1939 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Mr. W. J. Payne was chairman. The newly appointed officials took up their duties for the first time - Mr. D. J. Thomas as secretary, and Mr. Bob Rees as treasurer. The auditors, Mr. Dan James and Mr. W. Angell reported, as did the librarian Mr. R. Jones. The secretary gave the financial report, and the caretaker's report was accepted. A discussion took place concerning the very small number of the general public other than workmen contributing to the Institute. It was decided that the secretary and treasurer take up this matter in order to increase membership. Tenders were received for work on the old library, and the tender of Mr. S. V. Powell was accepted.

12 August 1939 Women's Social Centre A number of women members camped at Rhose last week.

9 September 1939 Welfare Association Mr. Howel Thomas presided at a meeting on Tuesday. Mr. Forrest, and Mr. T. Jones, from the Commissioner's Office, Cardiff, visited the new playing-field and were pleased with the progress made.

16 September 1939 Playing Field Captain Forrest and Mr. T Jones, surveyor from the Cardiff offices of the Distressed Commissioner's Area, visited the new playing field now under construction by voluntary labour. They were met by Mr. W. J. Payne, Mr. W. Adams Jones and members of the committee. Captain Forrest said he was very pleased with the way the work was being carried out, and complimented the workmen and foreman on their efforts.

16 September 1939 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday, Councillor W. J. Payne presiding. The chairman said that everything was in order for the work to commence on the new building. The contract had been signed by the contractor and the trustees. He thought the crisis had something to do with the delay, but they could rest assured that they were doing all in their power to get the work started. The secretary then dealt with the correspondence. He reported that the repairs at the Old Library were being carried out. The caretaker, in his report, said that the billiards played during the month of August was slightly above the average. It was decided to grant the caretaker one week's holiday. The librarian reported that quite a number of books had been taken out during the month, particularly under the county scheme. Mr. Rees gave the financial report which proved satisfactory.

7 October 1939 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided over the meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. A report was given of the visit of Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, and Mr. Taylor, in connection with the commencing of the building of the new hall. The chairman said they all regretted that the outbreak war would prevent them starting the new building. As all the formalities had been completed, they had the assurance that the work would begin as soon as possible. It was decided to grant the use of the hall to the Girls' Club on Monday evening, and also additional nights to the Boys' Club. The committee received Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary of the Boys' Club, who submitted some very interesting schemes so that the members could have closer co-operation in games etc. The suggestions included one to form a billiards team from the Institute to play a team of members from the Boys' Club. This was agreed to. A discussion followed on the librarian's report, and it was decided to grant a sum of money for the purchase of new books. The caretaker's report, and the financial report, showed a satisfactory state of affairs. The following were appointed as a billiards committee: Messrs. W. J. Payne, John Lewis, Clifford Davies, Richard Jones, D. J. Thomas and D. I. Evans.

28 October 1939 Welfare Association Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the Association. It was reported that willful damage had been done to some of the equipment in the children's playground. The culprits, who are known, are youths. It was decided to take action against the offenders. A report of the work on the new playing field was given. It was decided to invite tenders for new boots for the workmen. Mr. W. A. Jones reported on the meeting of the joint Committee that was held recently.

14 October 1939 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, when Mr. Willie Adams Jones presided. It was decided to send representatives to the Bargoed Education Settlement in connection with the setting up of a Citizens Advice Bureau. Mr. Robert Rees and Mr. D. J. Thomas were appointed. Mr. E. Puddle was appointed to deputise the caretaker during his holiday.

11 November 1939 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Mr. W. A. Jones presiding. The secretary presented his report, and it was decided to repair some of the billiard tables. The treasurer and librarian also reported.

18 November 1939 Citizens' Advice Bureau A meeting was held at the New Hall on Tuesday, when members of the British Legion, the Social Centre, etc., were

addressed by Mr. W. Arnold, Warden of the Bargoed and Rhymney Valley Educational Settlement. The title of the address was "Voluntary Organisations and the Motive of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux." Mr. E.I. Cumpstone presided. Questions were put to the speaker, and prior to the vote of thanks, a motion that it was desirable to set up a Citizens' Advice Bureau at Fochriw was carried. Mr. J. Lloyd Jones and Mr. R. Rees were asked to convene a further meeting in inviting representatives from the religious denominations and social organisations. Messrs. S. Phillips, E. Puddle, Edward Lewis and D. Jenkins were among those who received replies to questions.

25 November 1939 Library and Institute Mr. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall. Mr. D. J. Thomas read the correspondence, and several tenders were received for repairs, and for recovering the billiards tables. A representative of one of the firms was interviewed, and it was decided to give the work to Messrs. Orme and Sons. The Christmas Handicap is now progressing. Arrangements were made to provide a table for games for aged members. It was also agreed to allow the use of a room at the Hall for a knitting class for comforts for the troops.

16 December 1939 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The secretary reported that the Christmas billiards handicap was proceeding well. It was decided that the first prize be a turkey, and the second prize a goose. It was decided to purchase a further consignment of books. The treasurer and caretaker gave their reports.

20 January 1940 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday. Mr. W. J. Payne presided. A report of the new playing field and a survey of the work already done were given.

20 January 1940 Library and the Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, when Mr. D. J. Thomas reported that the billiard tables had all been renovated. A billiards match with Pontlloyn had been played and a snooker team had been picked to play Deri. Some building repairs had been carried out. Mr. R. Jones said that a new consignment of books had been received and that large numbers of books were still being taken out by readers. The caretaker's report was accepted. Mr. Robert Rees gave the financial statement, which showed heavy expenditure, but the balance in hand was satisfactory. A letter from the secretary of the Boys' Club for the use of the room when not otherwise engaged was agreed to.

27 January 1940 Library and Institute This snooker handicap is in full swing, and some keen games are being played.

10 February 1940 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman said that owing to the severe frost the heating apparatus of the hall had been damaged. A letter was read from the Engineer. It was decided to erect a screen in the reading room at the billiard hall. It was decided to increase the wages of the caretaker and deputy caretaker owing to the increased cost of living. Arrangements were made to hold the annual meeting.

24 February 1940 Fochriw's New Hall To Cost £3,250: Library and Institute Annual Meeting The annual meeting was held on Monday last at the New Hall, Councillor W. J. Payne presiding, supported by Mr. W. Adams Jones (vice-chairman), Mr. D. Joshua Thomas (secretary) and Mr. Robert Rees (treasurer). The chairman, in reviewing the past year's work, said there was much to be pleased with. The balance sheet revealed another year of progress. The contract had been signed between the trustees, the Welfare Association and Mr. T. F. Howells, Caerphilly, to erect a new building for £3,250. The war had prevented the work proceeding, but they were still hoping to make a start. The chairman paid tribute to the late Mr. Evan Jones, who had

been caretaker for 14 years, and welcomed in his place D. I. Evans, their late secretary, and also, Mr. Joshua Thomas and Mr. Robert Rees, the new secretary and treasurer. During the year, several repairs and renewals had been carried out. The book department was well looked after by the librarian, Mr. Richard Jones. Over to 2,000 books had been taken out by readers, and further money had been spent on additions to the Library Department. The minutes of the last meeting was read by Mr. D. J. Thomas and were adopted. The auditors' report was given by Mr. Daniel M. James. Councillor W. J. Payne was re-elected chairman and Mr. W. A. Jones was re-elected vice-chairman. Other officers were: Mr. D. J. Thomas, secretary; Mr. Robert Rees, treasurer; Mr. Richard Jones, librarian; Committee: Councillor Sam Lewis, Messrs. Albert Mantle, Ray Clark, H. Wood John Lewis, D. O. Davies, Clifford Davies, R. Jones, T. Jones, Howell Thomas, James J. Lewis, Edward Lewis. Mr. W. A. Jones brought up the question of young boys frequenting the billiards hall. After discussion, it was decided that no boys under 14 years be allowed in the billiards room.

24 February 1940 Welfare Progress On Tuesday, Mr. Daniel, Welfare organiser, visited Fochriw and was met by the library and institute committee at the hall. The chairman, Mr. W. J. Payne, in welcoming Mr. Daniel, said he hoped he was bringing them good news about the new building. The district was anxiously awaiting the building, and had it not been for the war, the building would be well on the way to completion. Mr. Daniel said they could rest assured he had done his best to get the job started, but they all knew the difficult times. He was pleased to state they had got over the difficulties, and the contractor had agreed to start on the work in March. Mr. Daniel was thanked for his visit.

9 March 1940 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Councillor W. J. Payne reviewed the past years work and said they had maintained and improved the children's playing ground. Also progress had been made on the new football ground.

16 March 1940 Another Black-Out Fochriw was again in darkness on Tuesday night owing to the failure of the electric light, and several important activities had to be postponed. To add to the difficulties, since the last storm six weeks ago, there is no phone communication with the village.

16 March 1940 Library and Institute Mr. W. Adams Jones presided at the meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. In his report, the librarian, Mr. R. Jones, said there were several county books taken out by readers and not returned, which meant a charge on the library. The committee appealed to all those who have these books to return them.

13 April 1940 Welfare Association Councillor W. J. Payne presided over a meeting of the Association at the New Hall on Friday. The secretary reported that he had received the names of the officials to serve on the committee attached to the Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries. They were: Mr. W. H. Knibbs, Mr. Arthur Jones, Mr. D. Thomas and Mr. D. Uzzell. He also read a letter from the Secretary of the Women's Committee who are providing comforts for members of the Forces. Work on the children's playing corner was discussed and it was decided to carry out some work there. A review of the work on the new football ground was given, and it was decided to employ four men in fortnightly relays from Monday, April 15. It was assumed that three parts of the work had been carried out. The treasurer gave the financial report which was satisfactory. The collector for outside contributions is Mr. Peter Jones.

20 April 1940 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday presided over by Councillor Sam Lewis. The secretary said they had been in touch

with Mr. Daniel, Welfare organiser, and the contractor, Mr. Howells. They were still hoping for an early start with the new hall. The financial report and the librarian's report were given.

27 April 1940 Welfare Association Mr. W. N. Davies presided at a meeting on Thursday. Mr. Ray Clark, Secretary, gave a report of the work being carried out on the playing field. He said there were about 14 men under the direction of Mr. D. O. Davies, who were making satisfactory progress. It was reported that timber had arrived for carrying out repairs at the Children's corner.

4 May 1940 Library and Institute A meeting was held at New Hall on Thursday, Mr. W. J. Payne presiding. The secretary reported that Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, would visit Fochriw on Tuesday with Mr. Trainer. Applications were invited for boys to attend St. Athan's Camp. Correspondence was read from the Workers' Educational Association, and it was decided to become affiliated to them. Mr. Clifford Davies was appointed representative. The caretaker reported that the behaviour of certain persons frequenting the library on Saturday evening was very bad. Several papers had been destroyed and seats pulled about. Certain action was decided on.

1 June 1940 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. W. J. Payne presided. The foreman, Mr. Davies, reported on the work on the new playing field. Another appeal is to be made to the public, not contributing through the collieries, to join the list of contributors to the welfare scheme. The collector is Mr. P. Jones, who will submit the list of names at the next meeting.

1 June 1940 Welfare Association On Thursday, Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, visited Fochriw, and was met by Coun. W. J. Payne and members of the committee. Mr. Daniel gave a report on the difficulties they had been faced with, but said they could rest assured they had done their best to see the building started. "As soon as the war is over, a new building will be erected at Fochriw; for which money has been put aside. The only thing possible now was to carry out some repairs to see them through the winter." The chairman thanked Mr. Daniel. Details of essential repairs were considered. A date was arranged for a visit of Mr. Daniel and Mr. Trailer (Welfare architect) to Fochriw.

22 June 1940 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the hall on Thursday presided over by Councillor W. J. Payne. It was reported that Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, and Mr. Trailer, architect Welfare Association, would be visiting Fochriw on Tuesday to see about carrying out certain repairs to the Institute, as it had been found impossible to start work on the new building. The financial report and caretaker's report were satisfactory. It was decided to purchase a further consignment of books.

6 July 1940 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the hall on Thursday. Mr. Clark, secretary, referred to the visit of the representative from the Cardiff office with regard to the new football field in course of construction. Work on the ground is satisfactory. The foreman, Mr. D. O. Davies, gave his report. Mr. Peter Jones reported on the response of outside subscribers to the fund.

13 July 1940 Library and Institute A meeting was held on Thursday presided over by Councillor W. J. Payne. It was decided to invite tenders for painting the outside of the billiard hall. It was agreed to allow the Local Defence Volunteers the use of the hall for lectures. A welcome was extended to members of the Forces to use the billiards and reading rooms.

3 August 1940 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Councillor W. J. Payne presiding. A report on the visit of Mr. Watkins, surveyor, to the new playing ground now under construction was given.

7 September 1940 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Councillor W. J. Payne presided. It was reported that some of the playing equipment in the children's playground had again been damaged. It was decided to take action. A report was given on the work at the football ground, which was satisfactory. The ground has been practically levelled off, and it was decided to apply for a grant to complete the work. The chairman complimented the workmen. The treasurer, Mr. A. Mantle, gave the financial report, which was accepted.

14 September 1940 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided at a meeting. The secretary reported he had received a letter from Mr. Daniel, Welfare organiser, stating that a sum of £240 had been granted to carry out certain repairs. It would be necessary to carry on through the winter under the present conditions. It was agreed to allow the Home Guard the use one of the rooms for their headquarters. The librarian, Mr. Richard Jones reported that the new books purchased were proving popular with readers. There were some readers who still had books in their possession the return of which was long overdue. The caretaker's report was satisfactory, as was the financial report.

19 October 1940 Evacuees Arrive A number of mothers and children from the London area arrived on Saturday evening. The arrangements for their reception had been made by the billeting officer, Councillor Sam Lewis, and members of the committee.

9 November 1940 Home Guard A number of the members, with the Section Commander, J. R. White, journeyed on Sunday for shooting practice at the range, and gave a good account of themselves.

9 November 1940 Air-Raid Precaution Lecture An instructive lecture was given at Noddfa vestry on Thursday on A.R.P. organisation by P.S. A. Hanney, Pontlottyn. Councillor Sam Lewis, chief warden, presided.

23 November 1940 Women's Social Centre Miss Salisbury Jones, Merthyr, gave a cookery demonstration at the centre recently, when several wartime dishes were made. The Secretary announced that they had received a cookery store from the South Wales Social Service. Afterwards, a lecture was given by Mrs. Campbell, Cardiff, the subject being "Germany." Votes of thanks to both ladies was accorded by Mesdames L. Thomas (secretary), B. Angell (treasurer), and M Phillips (chairman).

23 November 1940 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided at a meeting on Thursday. He congratulated Mr. W. Adams Jones and Mr. Daniel Jenkins on their appointments. Regret was expressed at the illness of the former headmaster of Fochriw School, Mr. T. J. Jones, which had caused his retirement. He had been a faithful member of the committee, and also the Welfare Association and other bodies in the village, as well as president of the British Legion. It was felt that his past services should be recognised in a tangible form, and it was decided that Mr. W. Adams Jones invite representatives from various bodies to attend a meeting that would be convened. The chairman was appointed to represent the Institute committee. It was decided to carry out improvements in the billiards room. The caretaker reported that papers were being taken from the reading room. A request for the use of a room at the old Reading room was made by Mrs. L. Thomas on behalf of the Women's Social Service, and this was agreed to, as was the request for a room for the old age pensioners to hold their meeting.

28 December 1940 Library and Institute Councillor W. J. Payne presided at a meeting on Thursday. It was decided to associate the institution with the proposed presentation to Mr. T. J. Jones. The Christmas snooker handicap is in full swing, for which there was an entry of 88 players.

18 January 1941 Library and Institute Councillor W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Thursday. Mr. D.J. Thomas reported that no further correspondence had been received from the Welfare Association with regard to the carrying out of repairs. Attention was called to the damage to the hall and anti-room doors. The attention of all groups using the rooms was to be drawn to the matter. Repairs were to be carried out. Mr. Richard Jones, librarian, gave a review of the work of the book department for the past year. The question of an assistant librarian was discussed, and it was decided to recommend the re-organisation of the book department. The financial report showed a good year of progress. Regret was expressed at the caretaker's illness.

8 February 1941 Welfare Association and Library Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a joint meeting on Thursday evening last. Mr. D.J. Thomas dealt with the correspondence and financial position at the end of 1940, which showed a year of progress. Correspondence was discussed from the joint committee, Miners Welfare Fund dealing with a conference to be held at Cardiff, and the chairman was appointed to represent the welfare schemes at the conference.

22 February 1941 Library and Institute The annual meeting was held at the Hall on Monday evening. Coun. W.J. Payne presided and said that they were meeting once again with the war clouds hanging overhead, but he felt sure that they were fighting on the side of justice, and right was bound to triumph in the end. Owing to the war, the new building was held up, but still they were carrying along cheerfully. Members could see from the balance sheet that the past year had been one of splendid progress. They had tried their best to cater for the various organisations using the building. He would like to see greater interest taken in the conduct of the Library. Some committee members had been faithful during the year: others had not interested themselves as they should. Their vice-chairman, Mr. W. Adams-Jones had been appointed to the headship of Trelewis School; he wished him and his family every happiness in their new home. It was gratifying to know that during the past year four Fochriw boys had been appointed to headships at schools: Mr. Adams-Jones to Trelewis; Mr. Dan Jenkins to Fochriw; Mr. Dan Jones to Brithdir, and Mr. T. Howell Jones to Llanbradach. He welcomed Mr. Dan Jenkins to their midst, and expressed sympathy with Mr. Adams-Jones in the loss of his mother, and with Mr. Edward Lewis in the loss of his wife. The auditors' report was given by Mr. W. Angell and Mr. W. J. Llewellyn. The Institute was in a very favourable position. Billiards showed a big increase. The election of officers for 1941 was as follows: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. H. Wood; treasurer, Mr. John Henry Evans; secretary, Mr. D. J. Thomas; librarian, Mr. R. Jones; deputy librarian, Mr. C. Davies; committee, Messrs. Howell Thomas, Edward Lewis, Dan Jenkins, John Lewis, Coun. Sam Lewis, A. Mantle, Richard Evans, Cliff Davies, Rufus Dummett, Robert Thomas, David Jones, Job Saunders, Percy Hann & W.J. Llewellyn. It was revealed in the book report that 3,000 books were taken out by readers during the past year. Several purchases had been made. It was decided to carry out a re-organisation of the book department.

22 March 1941 Library and Institute A meeting was held on Thursday when Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The Chairman extended a welcome to new members of the committee. The secretary dealt with the correspondence and also reported on the audit and his visit to Bargoed with Mr. T.D. Evans. The financial report and the caretaker's

report were accepted. The librarian gave his report on the proposed alterations to the book department. The question of the fire watchers' scheme was discussed and arrangements were made to carry out the order.

19 April 1941 Library and Institute Mr. H. Wood, vice-chairman, presided over a meeting on Thursday last. The secretary dealt with the correspondence which included a letter from Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, relating to the carrying out of repairs needed. There was further discussion on the re-organisation of the book department.

17 May 1941 Library and Institute Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Thursday last. It was reported that May 29th was the date fixed for the film show under the Miners' Welfare. The caretaker's report stated that papers were still being taken from the reading room. Damage to chairs and windows in the hall was also reported. It was decided to claim damages for the same.

17 May 1941 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at the annual meeting of the Association at the New Hall on Friday. He was supported by Mr. A. Mantle (treasurer), and Mr. R. Clark (secretary). The chairman referred to the postponed schemes on account of the war, and also to the departure of Mr. W. Adams-Jones, vice-chairman, from the district. The statement of accounts showed a balance in hand. The following officers were elected: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. Edward Lewis; treasurer, Mr. Albert Mantle; secretary, Mr. R. Clark; committee, Messrs. W.M. Davies, R. Thomas, D.H. Lewis, Emrys Lewis, C. Edwards, Dan James, D.J. Thomas, K. Owen, Tom Thomas, D. Jenkins, T. Lawrence, Bryn Davies, J.J. Lewis, W. Parry, E.W. Jones, Job Saunders, Job Thomas. The colliery officials will select their representatives, and also the Boys' Club.

24 May 1941 Welfare Work At a meeting of the Welfare Association, Coun. Payne presiding, it was decided to commence work on the new playing field and children's corner.

31 May 1941 Fochriw W.V.S. Meeting A meeting was held last Friday at the Surgery. An address was given by Mrs. (Dr.) Richards, Bargoed, on "Emergency Relief of Persons for the Time Rendered Homeless." Mrs. Richards was thanked by Mrs. Jenkins, the Fochriw representative of the W.V.S., and seconded by Mrs. Sam Lewis.

28 June 1941 Library and Institute Coun. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday. The chairman referred to the illness of the caretaker, Mr. D.I. Evans, and wished him a speedy recovery. A letter from Mr. Taylor, Welfare Organiser, Cardiff, was read. It was decided to call a meeting of the indoor and outdoor sections. Arrangements to catalogue the books was left to the Book Committee. Attention was again drawn to the removal of papers from the reading room. The treasurer gave the financial report which was satisfactory except for the billiard section which showed a slight decrease.

19 July 1941 W.V.S. Fochriw W.V.S. Comforts Fund mile of pennies effort in aid of the Fund was a great success. The aim is to provide winter woolies for the local boys. Credit is due to the officers and members and to the ready response of the villagers who gave so generously. The following were the collections: Aelybryn & district - £4 6s 6d; Brynteg & district - £4; Dynevor, Guest, Martin-street & district - £3 2s 6d; Station & district - £2 6s; total £12 15s.. The secretary is Mrs. W.A. Davies, and the treasurer Mrs. (Dr.) Monnelly.

19 July 1941 Library and Institute Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Thursday evening. The secretary dealt with the correspondence and the treasurer gave a report on the past six months. Both were satisfactory. The caretaker has now returned to

duty. On Friday evening, a meeting of the indoor and outdoor committee was held Coun. Payne presiding. Important matters relating to the future of both schemes were discussed. Mr. R. Clark reported on the work on the new playing field and it was agreed that Mr. Job Thomas superintend the work being carried out. A deputation of Councillors Payne and S. Lewis was appointed to interview Mr. Taylor of the Welfare organisation.

9 August 1941 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting of the Association. Before the meeting, the committee inspected progress at the work on the new playing field and were pleased with the work done. Mr. J. Thomas reported on the work. Mr. A. Mantle gave the financial report. At a meeting of the joint committees, Messrs. Payne and Lewis reported on an interview with Mr. Taylor at Cardiff, and it was decided to call a general meeting to discuss important matters.

30 August 1941 Library and Institute Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting on Thursday supported by the treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans. The secretary was absent having undergone an operation at Merthyr General Hospital. Mr. E. Puddle was appointed to deputise for Mr. D.I. Evans, caretaker, during his holidays. It was reported that the painting of the outside of the billiard hall had been completed. Repairs were needed to the old reading room and these were left to the chairman and treasurer as well as the repairs to the billiards hall. It was reported that the cataloguing of books was now completed. In future, the committees of the institute and welfare will meet as one body, and the following officials have been appointed: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. H. Thomas; secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas; treasurer, Mrr J.H. Evans; trustees, Coun. Sam Lewis, Messrs. T.J. Jones, Edward Lewis and D. Jenkins. It was reported that work at the new playing field, under the charge of Mr. Job Thomas, was proceeding very satisfactorily.

23 August 1941 Welfare and Institute Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the Hall on Monday, when it was decided to amalgamate the outdoor and indoor committees. A ballot will be held on Friday for the posts of treasurer and secretary. Trustees and other officers were appointed.

18 October 1941 Library Institute and Welfare Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday. Correspondence was received from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Daniel of the Welfare organisation and a deputation was appointed to interview them. Reports on repairs to the billiards hall and hall were given. A letter was received from the Rhymeny Valley Snooker League inviting a team to join. Mr. J. Lewis and Mr. E. Jones were appointed to attend a meeting at Tirphil in connection with the same. Letters were also discussed from the Settlement, Bargoed, and the Organiser of Boys' Clubs. A sub-committee was appointed to meet the Secretary and Treasurer of the Welfare to complete the transfer of books. It was reported that the work on the playing field was proceeding satisfactorily. The snooker Christmas handicap was proceeding and a large number of entries had been received. The Treasurer gave the financial report which was satisfactory.

25 October 1941 Railway Halt at Pantywaun The people of Pantywaun are delighted at the prospect of having a railway halt. This has been advocated for years as the need is great. Thanks are due to Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P. and others who have worked to bring this about.

1 November 1941 Institute and Welfare Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the Library on Thursday. The chairman gave a report of his interview with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Daniel of the Welfare Association at Cardiff and this was accepted. A sub-committee was appointed to meet on the new playing field concerning the continuation of the work there.

22 November 1941 Welfare Institute Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Thursday, supported by Mr. H. Thomas, vice-chairman, Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. It was decided to close the children's corner for the winter session. It was reported by the sub-committee on the playing field that they had inspected the work carried out and it was satisfactory. It was agreed to suspend the work for the winter months. A report of the snooker team (who have won their first two matches) was given. The following were added to the Selection Committee: Messrs. R. Evans, C. Shankland, H. Morgan. The question of repairs to the billiard tables was left to a sub-committee which was appointed. The Treasurer and Librarian gave their reports.

20 December 1941 Institute and Welfare Coun. W.J. Payne presided at the meeting on Thursday, supported by Mr. H. Thomas, vice-chairman, Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. It was reported that new books had arrived that day. The Christmas snooker handicap has been well patronized and the final remains to be played.

27 December 1941 Pantywaun Halt The dream of many long years became a reality on Monday last with the opening of a railway halt at Pantywaun. This will be a great boon to the inhabitants. Efforts have been made for many years to bring this about, the matter being again taken up with the Ministry by Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P. Another advantage that Pantywaun would be enjoying now if not for the war would be the installation of electric light by the Gellygaer Council.

17 January 1942 Institute and Library Mr. H. Thomas presided over a meeting on Thursday and was supported by Mr. D. J. Thomas (secretary) and Mr. J. H. Evans (treasurer). Reports from the caretaker and treasurer were received, and correspondence dealt with. It was decided to call a special meeting to discuss important matters of general concern.

31 January 1942 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting of the Association at the Library on Thursday, supported by Mr. H. Thomas, vice-chairman, Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. Matters to be placed before the annual meeting were discussed. It is expected that the repairs to the hall as promised by the Welfare Organisation will be carried out now. The contractor has visited the buildings. A letter was also received by the Secretary from the Welsh Association stating that orders had been given to carry out the work. This will be a big improvement in the circumstances. Were it not for the war, Fochriw would be enjoying a long-felt need in a new hall.

14 February 1942 Welfare Association A meeting was held of the local association at the Old Library on Thursday, presided over by Coun. W. J. Payne, supported by the vice-chairman, Mr. H. Thomas, and Mr. D. J. Thomas, secretary. The chairman reported on the visit of the contractor for building repairs and of Mr. Trailer, the architect of the Welfare organisation. It was reported that work was to be started in a week's time and arrangements were made to get the building ready for the work to commence.

21 February 1942 Hall Renovation It is gratifying to know that work has been commenced on the hall buildings. Were it not for the war, Fochriw would be enjoying a new building today, as everything was in readiness when the war broke out. We look forward to a hall worthy of Fochriw.

14 March 1942 Welfare Association The annual meeting of Fochriw Welfare Association was held at the Old Library on Wednesday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. He said that this was the first annual meeting since the amalgamation of the indoor and outdoor committees, who were now working under one committee and officials.

He felt that much was to be gained with co-operation from all sources. He regretted that the new hall would not come until after the war. However, they were proceeding with the next best thing - the renovation of the present buildings, now proceeding, and costing between £450 and £500. Some of the work was part of the plan drawn up in 1939. They were all grateful to the Welfare Association Headquarters for their splendid support. He referred to the book department which had been well patronised during the past year. Copies of the financial statement, audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, were circulated, and showed a very good state of affairs. The election of officers resulted as follows: Chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. Howell Thomas; treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans; secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas; trustees, Coun. Sam Lewis, Messrs. D. Jenkins, T.I. Jones, & E. Lewis. The committee were: Messrs. H. Wood, C. Shankland, Dan James, J. Lewis, B. Brown, W. Parry, Robert Thomas, Bryn Rees, W. Evans, A. Mantle, Job Thomas, D. Harris, T. Jones, Job Saunders, Rd. Evans, R. Parry, E. Davies, K. Owen; librarian, Mr. R. Gittoes; assistant, Mr. A. Way.

18 April 1942 Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the hall on Thursday. A report was given on the visit of Mr. Daniel, Welfare Organiser, to Fochriw. The repairs to the building are proceeding satisfactorily. A sub-committee was appointed to deal with work to be carried out on the children's playground. The Treasurer gave the financial report, which was satisfactory. The caretaker reported, and this was accepted.

16 May 1942 Welfare Association On Thursday evening, Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a crowded meeting of the Fochriw Welfare Association and Institute, supported by Mr. H. Thomas, vice-chairman, Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. The chairman gave a report on the work of repair and renovation of the building, which would soon be completed soon. The heating installation had been completed. The two rooms in the centre would be an asset and a great convenience. Members inspected the building at the close of the meeting. It was with regret that the resignation of Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., one of the trustees, was accepted. Mr. Dan James was appointed trustee. Mr. Reg Gittoes, librarian, reviewed the work of the book department, and stated that a number of county books had not been returned by readers. The committee appealed to readers to return books by the proper time. A book committee was set up, and it was decided to allocate a sum of money for the purchase of new books. A report on the children's corner was given. All the equipment had been painted and the ground improved. It was opened on May 1 to the delight of the children. The caretaker's report was given and several members spoke of his splendid services as caretaker and member of the Buildings Committee. It was decided to increase his wages as a war bonus. The Treasurer gave the financial report of both indoor and outdoor schemes, which was satisfactory. A discussion on future work on the outdoor scheme took place.

20 June 1942 Bus Service Fochriw will enjoy the privilege of a bus service. The service will commence on Friday, and will run on Friday and Saturday. It should prove a boon to the inhabitants.

20 June 1942 Welfare and Institute Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday. The chairman reported on the visit of Mr. Traylor, architect, and Mr. Moore, builder, who had inspected the alterations carried out, and arrangements were made for opening the same. The correspondence was considered. The financial report was accepted. Messrs. H. Wood, C. Shankland and K. Owen were added to the outdoor welfare committee, and Mr. David Harris was appointed collector. A further meeting was held on Tuesday, Mr. H. Thomas, vice chairman, presiding. Arrangements were

made for removing the book department to the new hall, and workmen were selected to carry out the work in the yard around the building.

11 July 1942 Concert To celebrate the opening of the New Hall after renovation by the Welfare Association, a concert was given by the Fochriw Orpheus Choir, under their conductor Mr. T. Walters, A.L.C.M., and their accompanist, Mrs. A. Davies. They were assisted by the following artistes: Madam H.C. Davies, soprano; Nurse B.B. Davies, elocutionist; Mr. Tom Lewis, bass; Mr. W.A. Davies, tenor. The chairman was Coun. W.J. Payne, chairman of the Welfare organisation. Mr. Payne gave an outline of the work that had been carried out to the buildings. Were it not for the war, Fochriw would have had a new building now, but they had assurance that this would follow after the war. Under the circumstances, the best had been done for the time being. He welcomed the choir and conductor. The choir then rendered the following programme: "Blodeuyn Bach;" "Holy City;" "Enaid Cu;" "Lord of the Changing Year;" "Mannheim;" "Blessed Jesus;" "Finlandia;" "Behold the Lamb of God." Madam H.C. Davies rendered "Paham y Sefl Draw?" and "Nant y Mynydd." Mr. Tom Lewis "Arm, Arm, ye Brave," and "Because." Nurse Davies in her recitations was in excellent form.

18 July 1942 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding. The chairman reported that the Outdoor Committee had decided to commence work on the playing field on Monday. The Librarian was requested to make the purchase of new books for the reading department. The chairman and secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas, were appointed to interview Mr. W. Daniel, welfare organiser, on important matters. The Treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans, gave a detailed report on both indoor and outdoor schemes, which was very satisfactory, and also reported on the recent concert, which was very successful. Reports from the caretaker and librarian were also given and were very satisfactory.

25 July 1942 W.V.S. Lecture An excellent lecture was given on Monday evening by Dr. Monelly. Mrs. M. Jenkins presided. Dr. Monelly was thanked by the Misses S. Jones and E. Morgan.

22 August 1942 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Hall on Friday evening, Coun. Payne presiding. It was reported that the new chairs and tables had arrived, and were later inspected by the members present. The new lights had been installed over the billiard tables and were highly praised by the players. It was decided to purchase a further consignment of new books for the reading department. The treasurer gave the financial report for the indoor and outdoor schemes, both of which were satisfactory. Mr. Dan James reported that about 4,060 books were taken out by readers last month. The caretaker's report was accepted.

19 September 1942 Welfare Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding. A deputation of old age pensioners attended, consisting of Mr. George Sibley, chairman, and Mr. Thomas Ballard, secretary, making an appeal for a room to hold weekly Choir meetings. This was granted free of charge. An appeal, from the newly re-formed Fochriw Silver Band, for a room to hold practices was made by Mr. H. Wood. This was agreed to at a reduced fee. A discussion took place on the work on the new playing field which is progressing favourably, and it was with regret that the committee decided to suspend work in two weeks time owing to the financial position. A report on the progress of the billiards team for the forthcoming Rhymney Valley League competitions was given by Mr. Bernard Brown and Mr. Wm. Evans. The Librarian's report stated that over 400 books had been taken out for the month. The secretary dealt with the correspondence from Mr. Daniel, welfare officer, who will shortly pay a visit. It was stated that the

Ministry of Information would show some films at the Hall on September 28. The treasurer gave the financial report of the indoor and outdoor schemes. This was accepted. Mr. David Harris, the outdoor collector, was asked to give his attention to the children's playground.

24 October 1942 Miners' Welfare Mr. W. Daniel. Miners' Welfare organiser, visited Fochriw last week, and attended a meeting at the New Hall. Mr. Daniel spoke and expressed pleasure at the improvements he had seen. He was thanked by the committee for his visit and the help he had given. Further improvements are still looked forward to.

14 November 1942 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday. The secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas, reported on correspondence received from Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser. Material had arrived for repairing the billiard tables. It was decided to carry out alterations to the caretaker's room, and the painting of the reading room. Mr. Reg Gittoes reported that the reading department was progressing very favourably. 569 books were taken out by readers last month. It was agreed to call the book committee together to purchase a new consignment of books. The treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans, gave a satisfactory financial report on the indoor and outdoor schemes. It was reported that the next M.O.I. film show would be in early December.

12 December 1942 Local Government and Feeding of School-children At the New Hall last week, a public meeting was addressed by County Councillor W.J. Kedward, J.P., on "Local Government and the Feeding of School-children in the Area." He said that some of the centres were already in operation and others would be open soon. Mr. D. Jenkins presided and was supported by Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P.

12 December 1942 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday. The secretary reported that the billiard tables had been repaired, and that the Christmas handicap was progressing favourably. The librarian reported that almost 600 books had been taken out last month and that more new books are to be purchased. It was decided to consider the charges for use of the Hall at the next meeting. A report on the children's playground was given.

16 January 1943 Library and Institute Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday evening, supported by the vice-chairman, Mr. H. Thomas, the secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas, and the treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans. The correspondence was dealt with, and the treasurer gave the financial report for both schemes until the end of the year. The Librarian gave the report on loans of books. A revision of prices of the various rooms for meetings was agreed. A report of improvements carried out in the billiards room was given.

20 March 1943 Welfare Institute The annual meeting took place on Friday, when Coun. W.J. Payne presided. Since the last annual meeting, the Hall had been renovated at a cost of about £500 for which they were grateful to the Miners' Welfare organisation. They were hoping for other equipment soon. The billiard tables had already been renovated. Coun. Payne thanked all officers, committee members, and the public for their co-operation. The accounts, which had been audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, chartered accountant, were considered satisfactory. The Librarian reported that the number of books issued during the year was about 4,500. On the question of the completion of the playing field the possibility of enlisting the help of football enthusiasts as voluntary helpers was discussed. It was decided that the committee members would meet on the ground before further discussion. The election of officers, committee and sub-committee was as follows: Chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. Dan Jenkins; secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas; treasurer, Mr. J.H.

Evans; committee: Ogilvie: Messrs. A. Palmer, Robert Thomas, H. Wood, John E. Evans, Will Evans; Groesfaen: Messrs. Owen Jones, Crad Shankland, Bernard Brown, Dan James; Nantyllyn: Messrs. Ivor Morgan and E.W. Jones; Bargoed: Bryn Rees and John Lewis; General Public: Messrs. Thomas Ballard, Howell Thomas, Richard Evans; Old Age Pensioners: Messrs. George Sibley and Job Thomas; Unemployed: Mr. Morgan Davies. Collector, Mr. David Harris; trustees, Messrs. Dan Jenkins, T.J. Jones, Dan James and W.J. Payne; billiards committee, Messrs. D.J. Thomas, J.H. Evans, Hab Morgan, J.E. Edwards, D. Isaac Lewis, B. Brown and Will Evans; entertainments committee, Messrs. C. Shankland, W. Evans, Dan James, H. Wood and J. Lewis with the officials; librarians, Mr. R. Gittoes and Mr. H. Morgan.

10 April 1943 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the Hall on Friday. It was reported that the billiards committee had arranged a series of games to be played for the Red Cross, also an exhibition game would be played for the same cause. Forty names had been received by the secretary of young men prepared to help in the levelling of the playing field. It was decided to ask Mr. David Davies to supervise this work. The committee was very grateful for this help and arrangements would be made to proceed with the work. The Librarian reported that 400 books were issued during March. The financial report was given by the treasurer and was satisfactory. Mr. W.Cook was appointed to the committee. The chairman extended a welcome to the new committee. A sub-committee was appointed to discuss the question of rules. The caretaker's report was accepted and the question of painting was agreed to.

15 May 1943 Library and Institute Mr. D. Jenkins presided at a meeting in the Hall on Friday evening and was supported by Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. After dealing with the correspondence, it was decided to give a number of books from the reading department for the book drive salvage week. Some will go for salvage and some for the Forces. The snooker handicap for the Red Cross is proceeding satisfactorily. The financial report was given by the treasurer and is very satisfactory. Also, reports were given by the librarian and caretaker.

12 June 1943 Library and Institute A social evening was held at the Hall on Thursday under the auspices of the Library and Institute. Music was supplied by the Fochriw Silver Band, Mr. A. Mantle conducting. The M.C.s were Messrs. C. Shankland & J. Lewis. Spot prizes were won by Mr. J. Sheen and Mrs. S.G. Williams.

12 June 1943 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting of the Association on Friday supported by Mr. D. Jenkins, vice chairman, Mr. J.J. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary. The secretary reported that some of the equipment ordered had arrived. On the question of completing the playing field, it was decided to employ a few men to carry out the work. The Red Cross snooker handicap was proceeding satisfactorily and the social evening given by the Silver Band in aid of the funds was a success. The committee wish to thank all concerned. The treasurer gave the financial report which was satisfactory. A number of new books had been purchased and a large number of old books had been given to the recent salvage drive. The caretaker's report was accepted.

10 July 1943 Welfare Association At a meeting of the Association on Friday, Coun. W.J. Payne reported on what he said was a satisfactory interview between himself and Mr. Daniel, organiser of the Welfare Association. A number of articles had been received, including two sets of snooker balls with cues, and sets of cutlery and crockery. The chairs had not yet arrived. A letter was read from the Secretary of the W.V.S. Comforts Fund asking for a representative to be appointed to attend the newly formed Welcome Home Committee meeting. Mr. G. Sibley was appointed. The

work done in connection with the playing field was also reported on, and treasurer's report on both indoor and outdoor schemes, as well as the reports on the book department and from the caretaker, were accepted. The Chairman thanked the Entertainment Committee for the outstanding financial success of the social evening organised by them.

21 August 1943 Welfare Association A meeting of the Association and Institute was held at the Hall on Friday evening, when Coun. W.J. Payne presided, supported by the vice chairman, secretary and treasurer. It was reported that the new chairs and tables had arrived and these were later inspected by members present. The new lights over the billiard tables had been installed and were highly praised by the players. It was decided to purchase a further consignment of books for the reading department. The treasurer gave the financial report of both indoor and outdoor schemes, which were satisfactory.

4 September 1943 W.V.S. A meeting was held at the Hall on Friday in connection with the Comforts and Welcome Home Fund. Mrs. M. Jenkins presided. She reviewed the work done and explained the object of the meeting. Several new rules were considered.

11 September 1943 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday supported by Mr. D. Jenkins, vice chairman, Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. It was reported that damage was being done to the pavilion at the children's playground. The committee decided to take strong action if the culprits are caught. The question of purchasing some new books for readers was considered and it was decided to give a sum of money to the book committee to purchase them. The question of inter-change of books with other libraries was discussed. The treasurer gave the financial report of the indoor and outdoor schemes which were satisfactory.

16 October 1943 Institute and Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting at the Welfare Hall on Friday, supported by Mr. D. Jenkins, vice-chairman, Mr. B.H. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary. The secretary reported on several matters, including the work done by the Entertainment and Billiard Sub-Committee. Messrs. O. Jones and J.E. Edwards were appointed to the Entertainments Committee and Mr. C. Edwards and Mr. A. Palmer to the Billiard Committee. The Treasurer gave a satisfactory report of the financial state of the indoor and the outdoor schemes. It was reported that a number of new books had been added to the reading department. Reports from the librarian and caretaker were accepted.

13 November 1943 Institute and Library Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday, supported by the vice-chairman, treasurer and secretary. It was decided to take proceedings against trespassers on the playing field who were damaging equipment and fencing. It was decided to grant the use of the hall for members of the Home Guard Platoon Rifle Team. A grant was made to the L.E.A. Youth Club Football Team. The librarian reported that 308 books were out last month. The treasurer gave a financial statement on the outdoor and indoor schemes which was considered satisfactory.

11 December 1943 Library and Institute Mr. Dan Jenkins presided at a meeting of the Library and Institute on Friday evening. He was supported by Mr. D.J. Thomas (secretary), and Mr. J.H. Evans (treasurer). Arising out of the correspondence, several matters were discussed. The treasurer gave a financial report of both indoor and outdoor schemes. Reports from the librarian and caretaker were read and accepted.

15 January 1944 Welfare Association A meeting of the Association was held at the New Hall on Friday presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, supported by Mr. D. Jenkins, vice chairman, Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary. Regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr. D.I. Evans, caretaker. The chairman stated that the Institute was losing a valuable servant, who had been helpful in building up a successful Library and Institute. Before taking on the post of caretaker, Mr. Evans was for many years secretary, a position he held with distinction. Others also spoke in praise of Mr. Evans' services. It was decided to advertise the post, applicants to be contributing members. The treasurer gave the financial report of both indoor and outdoor schemes, and it was decided that the accounts be audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed. Reports were received from the librarian and caretaker and were accepted.

12 February 1944 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Hall on Friday, presided over by Mr. D. Jenkins, supported by Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. The Treasurer gave the financial report of the indoor and outdoor schemes. The Librarian's report was also accepted.

19 February 1944 Appointment Mr. Owen Jones has been appointed to the post of caretaker of the Fochriw Library and Institute as a result of the recent ballot of members.

22 April 1944 Welfare Association The annual meeting of the Association was held at the hall on Friday. Coun. W.J. Payne presided. He reviewed the last year's work, and said that much had been accomplished. He appealed for care to be taken of the ground and equipment and hoped to see the completion of the football ground. During the year, the caretaker Mr. D.I. Evans had resigned. They wished him well. The services of Mr. Owen Jones had now been secured. The statement of accounts had been audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed, and were satisfactory. The chairman thanked all for their cooperation during his term of office. Mr. D. Jenkins then took the chair for the coming year. He thanked the retiring chairman and paid tribute to the fine service he had given the cause. Election of officers was as follows: vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas; treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans; librarian, Mr. R. Gittoes; assistant librarian, Mr. Ivor Morgan; committee, Messrs. W. Evans, H. Wood, R. Rees, A. Palmer, J.H. Edwards, D.M. James, G. Shankland, Bryn Rees, J. Lewis, W.J.A. Davies, D. Emlyn Evans, R. Evans, W. Cook and Rev. E. Adams Evans.

13 May 1944 Welfare Association Mr. D. Jenkins presided over a meeting of the Association at the New Hall, supported by Coun. W.J. Payne, vice chairman, Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary. The question of the playing field was considered, and it was decided to commence work again with the help of the young people of the L.E.A. Mr. E. Evans agreed to see the young men on the matter and Mr. W. Cook will supervise. The financial report was given by the treasurer. The question of improving the Hall stage was also considered.

10 June 1944 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the Hall on Friday, Mr. D. Jenkins presiding, supported by Coun. W.J. Payne, vice chairman.

12 August 1944 Library and Institute A meeting was held at the hall on Friday, Mr. D. Jenkins presiding. It was agreed to renovate the stage with a view to holding dramatic performances and concerts. The financial report was satisfactory.

14 October 1944 Library and Welfare A meeting of the Library and Welfare Institute was held at the Hall on Friday. Mr. D. Jenkins presided, supported by Coun. W.J. Payne, vice chairman, Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, and Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer. An application was received from the L.E.A. youth movement for the use of the Hall

on Monday evenings for physical training. Mr. Emlyn Evans, B.A., warden of the movement in the village, said they were very fortunate to have Mr. Bruce Campbell as their instructor. It was agreed to grant the Hall, subject to making arrangements with the Silver Band, whose practice is on Mondays. Complaints were received about damage done to equipment and fencing at the children's playground. A large sum of money has been spent on developing the children's corner and an appeal is made to parents to help the committee to protect the property. Otherwise, the committee will be compelled to take proceedings against the culprits. Mr. D. Harris was asked to carry out the repairs and keep an eye on the ground. The financial reports of the indoor and outdoor schemes was given by the treasurer. It was decided to promote a shooker handicap for Christmas.

9 December 1944 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Mr. D. Jenkins presiding. The financial reports of the indoor and outdoor schemes were given and also the book report. It was stated that the Christmas snooker handicap was completed, and it was decided to hold a Christmas billiards handicap.

9 December 1944 Bus Service Protest A public meeting was held recently at the Hall, to protest against the attitude of the railway company in objecting to the bus service operating between Bargoed and Fochriw. County Coun. W.J. Kedward presided, and the speakers were Councillors S. Lewis, J.P., and W.J. Payne. The service was started in August by the Gelligaer Urban District Council, with the sanction of the Traffic Commissioner. The Council has now received from the Commissioner notification of the railway company's objection and an inquiry is to be held in January. A resolution was passed asking the Gellygaer Council to make the service an hourly one instead of a two hourly one. A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman and speakers for the stand they were making to retain the bus service.

13 January 1945 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting of the Welfare and Institute at the New Hall on Friday. The secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas, dealt with the correspondence, and it was reported that the audit would be done by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed, in the near future. Before the annual meeting, the treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans, gave the financial report for both indoor and outdoor schemes. The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. James A. Davies and the members stood in silence as a mark of respect. The resignation of the secretary was accepted with regret, and it was decided to invite applications for the post from members only.

3 February 1945 Allotments Association The annual meeting of the Allotments Association was held at the New Hall when Mr. Crad Shankland presided. He said it was the 31st year of the existence of the Association, and the past year had been one of the outstanding periods. Most of the efforts had been for the cultivation and production of vegetables and the show held last autumn had been a decided success. Officers elected were: president, Rev. E. Adams Evans; vice president, Mr. Edgar Pritchard; chairman, Mr. Idris Cumpstone; treasurer, Mr. P.G. Hann; secretary, Mr. M. Evans; committee, Messrs. E. Chapman, D. Jenkins, C. Shankland, V. Powell, F., W. Way and B. Brown.

10 March 1945 Welfare and Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, when Mr. D. Jenkins presided. The secretary reported that the accounts had been audited by Mr. T.D. Eevans, Bargoed. The treasurer gave the financial reports. The coal question is causing much anxiety. A shortage has been experienced for some time.

24 March 1945 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place on Friday at the New Hall. Mr. Dan Jenkins presided. The chairman reviewed the work of the past

year and thanked all for their support. The accounts, which had been audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed, showed a successful year's working. In the Book Department, about 3,000 books had been taken out. The retiring chairman then vacated the chair and Coun. W.J. Payne became chairman for the coming year. Coun. Payne said that he hoped to see the playing field ready for next season and he felt this could be accomplished with a little co-operation from all footballers. Improvements to the children's playground must also be attended to. He thanked Mr. D.J. Thomas, secretary, who had resigned and welcomed their new secretary, Mr. Bryn Davies. Other officers and committee appointed were: vice chairman, Mr. D.E. Evans, B.A.; treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans; trustees, Coun. W.J. Payne, D. James, D. Jenkins, T.J. Jones; committee, A.H. Wood, W. Evans, J.E. Edwards, Bob Rees, A. Palmer, C. Shankland, D.J. Thomas, H.T. Lewis, D. Mantle, Dan James, Dan Jenkins, W.A. Davies, Rev. E. Adams Evans, J.J. Lewis, John Lewis, Bryn Rees, R. Evans, W. Cook, E.T. Pritchard; librarian, Mr. Reg Gittoes; deputy librarian, Mr. I. Morgan; billiards committee, C. Edwards, W. Evans, L. Pritchard, A. Evans, A. Palmer, T.R. Lewis, d.J. Thomas, O. Jones, with the officers; book committee, D. James, L. Mantle, W. Evans, D.J. Thomas, Rev. E.A. Evans, R. Gittoes, I. Morgan, with the officers; entertainments committee, C. Shankland, A.H. Wood, D. James, J. Lewis, E.T. Pritchard, J.E. Edwards, D.J. Thomas, D.E. Evans, J.J. Lewis, and the officers.

12 May 1945 Welfare and Institute Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday at the New Hall. The caretaker's report complained at the conduct of several young people in the billiards hall, and it was decided that they appear before the next meeting of the committee. The chairman reported on the negotiations for a bulldozer to be used for levelling the football field, which was agreed to.

7 July 1945 New Hall Proposal On Thursday evening at the New Hall, a meeting of the Association was held, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne. Mr. W. Daniel. Miners' Welfare Organiser, was present, also Mr. Jeffrey Jones of the Boys' Club, and Mr. Sutherland. The chairman extended a welcome to the gentlemen. Several important questions came up for discussion, including the proposed New Hall which was agreed to before the war. Mr. Daniel gave the assurance that it still held good and would be commenced in due course. The chief items for the time being, however, were houses and a few pit-head baths. Later, a visit was made to the new football ground and some important suggestions were made. Mr. Daniel was thanked for his visit. Also present were the secretary and treasurer.

7 July 1945 Put Your Clock Back Merthyr Express readers are reminded that all clocks and watches must be put BACK ONE HOUR on Saturday night, Jul 14.

14 July 1945 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday, and was supported by Mr. D.E. Evans, vice-chairman, Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary. The secretary gave a report of the visit of Mr. Daniel, welfare organiser, and the treasurer gave the financial reports of the indoor and outdoor schemes.

15 September 1945 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. It was reported that extensive damage had been caused during the last storm as a result of a culvert overflowing at the rear of the building. Water had flooded the rooms. This has been a source of trouble for some time, and steps have been taken to see that the responsible authority keep the culvert clean. The question of turfing the playing field was considered and also repairs to the heating apparatus at the hall and billiards room. It was reported that a team had been entered in the Welfare Association Billiards Competition. The treasurer reported on the

outdoor and indoor schemes, and also on the financial position of the book department.

10 November 1945 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting of the Association on Friday at the New Hall, when several matters came up for discussion. The treasurer gave the financial reports.

15 December 1945 Welfare Association Mr. Emlyn Evans, B.A., presided at a meeting of the Association on Friday. Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary, raised several matters, and Mr. J.H. Evans gave the financial report. The librarian gave the book report.

12 January 1946 Welfare Association Councillor Payne presided at the meeting on Friday. A reports was given by the treasurer and caretaker. Revised charges for the use of the hall were agreed.

9 February 1946 Welfare Association A meeting was held on Friday evening at the New Hall, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding, supported by Mr. Emlyn Evans, B.A., vice-chairman, Mr. J.H. Evans, treasurer, and Br. Bryn Davies, secretary. The audit and annual meeting were discussed. Regret was expressed at the impending resignation of the secretary, and a special meeting was called to discuss the position. The financial report, the librarian's report, and the caretaker's report were given and accepted. Work is now proceeding on the clearing of the culvert at the back of the Hall.

6 April 1946 Successful Year The annual meeting of the Welfare Association was held on Friday, when Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The chairman gave a review of the past year and stated the balance sheet had been a most successful one. Improvements had been carried out to the playing field, so that now, he hoped football would be played there next season. Entertainment had been provided in the Hall, and the billiards room had had a successful year. He regretted the decision of the secretary, Mr. Bryn Davies, and the treasurer, Mr. J.H. Evans, to resign, because they had proved efficient officers. Mr. Davies spoke and gave his reasons for resigning. Officers and committee appointed were: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice chairman, Rev. E. Adams Evans; committee, Messrs. H. Wood, W. Evans, J.E. Edwards, A. Palmer, C. Shankland, H.T. Lewis, D. Mantle, J. Lewis, B. Rees, J.J. Lewis, R. Evans, A. Evans, B. Davies, J.G. Gittens, R. Rees, D. Kelly, Crad Thomas, Dd. Jones, F. Thomas; trustees, Messrs. D. Jenkins, T.J. Jones; librarian, R. Gittoes; assistant, I. Morgan.

13 April 1946 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. Payne presiding. Various sub-committees were appointed including billiards, entertainment and books. It was decided to proceed with the cleaning and seeding of the playing field. The secretary read correspondence from the Playing Fields Association. Mr. J.H. Evans was appointed to the committee of the Welfare and Institute. Mr. Bryn Davies was appointed secretary.

4 May 1946 Secretary Elected As a result of a ballot by members of the Welfare and Institute, Mr. B. Davies was elected secretary.

18 May 1946 Welfare Association At a meeting held at the New Hall on Friday, it was decided to ask the Welfare organiser, Mr. Daniel, to visit Fochriw.

13 July 1946 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. It was agreed to carry out some work on the playing field, and also repairs to the children's corner. Regret was expressed at the conduct of some of the members frequenting the billiard hall, and measures have been taken for punishing the offenders. The financial position was very satisfactory.

21 September 1946 Welfare Association Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the Hall on Friday, supported by the vicar (vice-chairman), and Mr. Bryn Davies (secretary). It was decided to send a representative to a Welfare meeting at Pontypridd. The Secretary stated that it was hoped to resume films at the Hall at the near future. A report was given on the book department, and the outdoor and indoor financial statements were also read.

19 October 1946 Future Programme Coun. Payne presided at a meeting of the Welfare Committee at the hall on Friday. The chairman reported on the meeting with Mr. W. Daniel, Welfare organiser, on the question of the building of a new hall. It was decided to organise a Christmas handicap. The caretaker and treasurer gave their reports.

9 November 1946 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting at the hall on Friday. Repairs to the billiard tables will be carried out, also painting and repairs to the billiard hall. Reports on the playing field and children's corner were given, also the reports of the caretaker and treasurer.

11 January 1947 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday, supported by Rev. E. Adams Evans, vice-chairman, and Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary. The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Emrys Davies, welfare officer. Mr. Davies responded, and a discussion took place on several matters, including the new building that was postponed because of the war, after the contract had been let. Mr. Davies promised his support, but said the present times were very difficult. Regret was expressed at the resignation of two trustees, Messrs. T.J. Jones and Dan Jenkins, and the Rev. E. Adams Evans and Mr. Arthur Palmer were elected to fill the vacancies. The secretary gave the financial report of the indoor and outdoor schemes.

15 February 1947 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. Letters received from the Welfare officer were discussed. The secretary reported on the financial position. It was reported that a break of 71 at snooker had been made by Mr. Haydn Watkins and it was decided to give him a prize. Representatives were appointed to attend the weekend camps at Ystrad Mynach under the Welfare Association.

29 March 1947 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Old Reading Room on Friday when Coun. W.J. Payne presided. A vote of condolence was passed with the families of Mr. Payne and Mr. John Lewis. Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary then gave his report, which included a statement on the reasons for the delay in the audit of the accounts. It is hoped that the playing field will be used for football next winter.

17 May 1947 Welfare Annual Meeting The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. Payne presiding and reviewing the past year. The balance sheet and statement of accounts were accepted. Rev. E. Adams Evans, the chairman for the coming year was then due to take the chair. In his absence, Mr. J.G. Gittins was appointed vice-chairman and took the chair. He thanked the retiring chairman for the great work he had done for the Welfare movement. Mr. Bryn Davies was re-elected secretary, and a committee appointed. The librarian, Mr. R. Gittoes, was re-appointed, with Mr. Gwyn Davies as deputy.

12 July 1947 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday evening presided over by Mr. J.G. Gittins. Correspondence was read from the Welfare organiser, Mr. B. Davies. It was agreed to do some repairs at the children's corner; cutting of the grass on the playing field; and to invite tenders for painting the billiard hall and playing pavillion. The financial statement was given by the secretary.

21 June 1947 How To Get Your New Ration Book Fochriw, Pentwyn and Penybank: Old Library, Fochriw; 9.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., Friday, June 27th Surname Initial A – Z.

18 October 1947 Welfare Association A general meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday evening. The Vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans presided, with Mr. G. Gittens, vice-chairman, and Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary. The following were added to the Committee: Messrs. A.H. Wood, Crad Shankland, Bob Rees, B. Brown, Vivian Powell. Other Committee members are: D. Mantle, C. Cumpstone, D. Pritchard, A. Evans, J. Lewis, Allan Davies, D. Clarke.

15 November 1947 Welfare Association The Rev. E. Adams Evans presided at a meeting of the Association at the New Hall on Friday, supported by Mr. Bryn Davies, secretary, who gave the financial statement. The snooker handicap will be run for Christmas prizes.

22 November 1947 Welfare Organiser On Monday, a visit was paid to Fochriw by Mr. Emrys Davies, Welfare organiser, and Mr. Dixon. They were met by Rev. E. Adams Evans, Coun. W.J. Payne, and Mr. Dan James. A visit was paid to all grounds in connections with the Welfare Association, and several matters were discussed.

13 December 1947 Welfare Association On Friday, a meeting was held, the Rev. E. Adams Evans presiding. The secretary gave the financial position. The snooker Christmas Handicap has now reached its final position, and has provided many interesting games.

17 January 1948 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday presided over by the Vicar. The object of the meeting was to hear reports from Councillors W.J. Payne and S. Lewis, J.P., regarding the grant from the Gellygear District Council to the Welfare Association for the outdoor playing fields. The Councillors were thanked for their reports. Councillor Lewis was appointed to the committee.

14 February 1948 New Officers The annual meeting of the Welfare Association took place at the New Hall on Friday, when Rev. E. Adams Evans presided. The chairman gave a review of the last year's work, and thanked all for their support. Coun. Payne was appointed chairman. The secretary, Mr. Bryn Davies, reported that no applications had been received for the posts of secretary or treasurer, and it was decided to re-advertise. A discussion took place about improving the reading book department, and also about repairs to the children's corner. An appeal is made to protect these valuable assets. The following were elected officers: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. A.H. Wood; secretary and treasurer, to be appointed; committee, Messrs. Con Edwards, B. Brown, J. Lewis, M. Thomas, V. Powell, J.J. Lewis, A. Evans, Crad Shankland, T. Ballard, B. Rees, C. Cumpstone, D. Pritchard, T. Morris, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.; trustees, Messrs. Dan James, A. Palmer, W.J. Payne, Rev. E. Adams Evans; librarian, Mr. R. Gittoes.

6 March 1948 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over the meeting at the Hall on Friday. It was reported that no applications had been received for the posts of secretary or treasurer. The matter was left to the officers and trustees.

6 March 1948 Summer Time Begins Put your clocks on one hour when going to bed on Sunday night, March 13.

6 March 1948 Gift Parcel A Princess Elizabeth gift parcel was received by Mrs. M.M. Morgan, Station-terrace, containing a personal letter from the Princess.

20 March 1948 Royal Parcels Princess Elizabeth gift parcels have been received, together with a personal letter, by Mrs. M.J. Griffiths, Aelybryn, and Mrs. M.M. Davies, Martin-street.

20 March 1948 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, supported by Mr. A.H. Wood, vice-chairman, and the retiring secretary, Mr. Bryn Davies. Mr. Bob Rees was appointed secretary, and Mr. I. Evans treasurer. Billiards, Entertainment and Sports Committees were appointed.

10 April 1948 Maternity Home A well attended meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday in connection with the scheme for a new maternity home to be provided at Caerphilly by the Caerphilly and Gellygear Council. Councillors Lewis, Payne and Bate were present and explained the scheme. The following officers were appointed: chairman, Coun. Payne; treasurer, Coun. Lewis; secretary, Mrs. M. Jenkins; assistant secretary, Miss M. Jones. It was decided to hold a mil-of-pennies collection on Friday, April 16; and to make a house-to-house collection afterwards. The area was split up into districts and lady stewards appointed for each district. The cause is a deserving one and an appeal is made to the public to give generously.

8 May 1948 New Caretaker Mr. Tom Shankland has been appointed caretaker of the Fochriw Institute out of six applicants.

15 May 1948 Maternity Ward A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday. Coun. Payne presided. The various collectors gave their reports of amounts collected at house-to-house collections, and the response has been splendid. Among other events arranged are a drama, dance and community singing, and a "Mile of Pennies."

17 July 1948 Welfare Association A meeting was held on Thursday at the New Hall, Coun. Payne presiding. Mr. E. Davies, Welfare Officer, was present, and several questions were put to him relating to the Hall, the playing field and children's corner. The Welfare Officer was thanked for his visit.

14 August 1948 Maternity Ward A meeting of the committee was held at the New Hall. The chairman, Coun. Payne, said that they had exceeded their target and thanked all for their support. The secretary, Mrs. M. Jenkins, gave a report of all events and house-to-house collections that had taken place and all amounts raised. The winner of the lady's handbag was Mrs. Thomas, Railway-terrace. The handbag was made and given by assistant secretary, Miss M. Jones. Mr. D. Jenkins and Mr. A. Ballard were appointed auditors. The amount for Fochriw and Pantywaun was £84 16s 3d.

28 August 1948 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. The Welfare Association has agreed to the painting and repair of the billiards hall, and painting of the pavillion at the playing field, and the contract has been given to Mr. V. Powell. It was agreed in response to Miners' Welfare Secretary, to enter a team for the billiards competition. Details are to be left to the billiards committee.

6 November 1948 Public Meeting On Sunday, a well-attended meeting was held at the New Hall, when Coun. W. J. Payne presided. The speakers were: Mr. A. J. Champion, M.P. for South Derbyshire, and C.C. W.J. Kedward, J.P. Also present were Mr. D. J. Jones (Area Organiser), and Mrs. Farley (Ward Secretary) and Coun. Sam Lewis. Mr. Champion dealt with the work of the present Government. C.C. Kedward gave a review of County Council work, and dealt with the charges in hospital administration. He also answered several questions.

6 November 1948 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at the meeting at the New Hall on Friday. Two representatives were appointed on the Welfare group: Mr. A.H. Wood and Mr. R. Rees. It was reported that the repairs were proceeding satisfactorily on the children's corner. Some repairs will be carried out on the football field. It is regretted that the committee will have to pay a bill from the County for readers books not returned. Will any reader in possession of books kindly return them.

Work is now proceeding with the cleaning and colouring of the Hall in readiness for the forthcoming drama.

27 November 1948 New Stationmaster A welcome is accorded to Mr. A. G. Boobyer, the newly appointed stationmaster of Fochriw. He is the son of the late Mr. E.G. Boobyer, who was for many years, stationmaster at Bargoed. Mr. T. Evans, former stationmaster at Fochriw, has been promoted stationmaster at Deri.

27 November 1948 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. The exterior of billiard hall and pavilion have been painted and repaired, and the interior of the hall has been re-decorated.

12 February 1949 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday, supported by Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. I. Evans, treasurer. The financial position of both indoor and outdoor schemes was given by the treasurer. Several important matters were discussed.

12 March 1949 Welfare Meeting Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday at the New Hall. The chairman welcomed Coun. S. Payne, J.P., who was present as a representative of the Gellygaer Urban District Council. The Secretary reported on several matters, which were then discussed. Terms and conditions for keeping the billiard tables in repair were agreed to. The Treasurer gave the financial report.

16 April 1949 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place at the New Hall on Wednesday, presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, who gave a review of the past year. The balance sheet, audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, Bargoed, was accepted. Officers appointed were: chairman, Mr. A.H. Wood; vice chairman, Coun. Payne; secretary, Mr. R. Rees; treasurer, Mr. I. Evans; librarian, Mr. R. Gittoes, assistant, Mr. Gwyn Davies; trustees, Rev. E. Adams Evans, Mr. Arthur Palmer, Coun. Payne, Mr. D. James; committee, Rev. E. Adams Evans, Messrs. A. Palmer, C. Shankland, S.V. Powell, John Lewis, C. Cumpstone, T. Ballard, J.J. Lewis, Aneurin Jones, T. Morris, B. Brown, E. Lewis, G. Taylor, J. Davies, Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P.

7 May 1949 Welfare Association Mr. A.H. Wood presided at the meeting on Friday. Regret was expressed at the illness of the caretaker, Mr. Dan James, who is a patient at Merthyr General Hospital.

28 May 1949 Welfare Association Mr. A.H. Wood presided at the New Hall on Friday, supported by Coun. W.J. Payne, vice-chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer, who presented the statement of accounts for the indoor and outdoor schemes. The meeting was informed that Mr. Dan James had returned from hospital. A discussion took place about improving the playing field during the close season, and it was agreed that the committee should meet at the ground. Attention was also paid to the children's playground. It was decided to purchase some new equipment.

25 June 1949 Welfare Meeting Mr. A.H. Wood presided over the meeting at the New Hall on Friday. It was agreed to renovate the tables in the billiards hall. A report was also given of the progress of the football field. It was reported that the room at the Old Library had been painted voluntarily. The ladies were thanked for their work. The treasurer gave the financial report. This was satisfactory.

10 September 1949 Fochriw Children on Strike: Will Not Walk To Pontlottyn Seventy-three children at Fochriw and Pentwyn were stopped going to school at Pontlottyn on Tuesday by their parents. The "strike" will continue until the children, state their parents, until they are provided with transport to Pontlottyn. Formerly, 46 of the children went to Fochriw Mixed School, and 27 to Penybank School, and their ages range from 11 to 15 years. They were due to go to Pontlottyn for the first time on Tuesday under the new arrangements for 11-plus pupils to attend secondary modern schools. The parents claim that the new route, which is over open mountain country, is

too unprotected and trying for boys and girls to make on foot, especially during the winter months. The parents held a meeting at Fochriw on Monday night, when it was realised there would be no transport. They claim that the distance is about two miles, and that if the children had to walk, it would result in absenteeism. In July, the divisional executive forwarded an application to the Glamorgan County Council, urging that transport arrangements were made. The Council, it is understood, provides transport for distances of over one and a half miles.

10 September 1949 Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday at the New Hall. The secretary (Mr. R. Rees) reported on several matters, which were then discussed. A new piano had been secured and would shortly arrive. A deputation, consisting of Coun. Payne, Mr. A. Palmer (trustee) and the secretary, was appointed to wait upon Messrs. Bruce and Nicholas, solicitors, Pontypridd. Complaints were received about the way some of the older people are using the children's corner, and action was decided upon. A book committee was appointed, the members being Mr. E. Lewis, Mr. V. Powell and Mr. Ballard. It is hoped to improve the readers' side of the Institute. The caretaker, Mr. D. James, has resumed duties after a long illness. The treasurer, Mr. I. Evans, gave a detailed report. The entertainments committee will meet soon to organise some events.

17 September 1949 Parents View of School "Strike" The week old "strike" at Fochriw continued on Tuesday. The parents have applied to Glamorgan County Council for transport facilities for the children to travel the mountain road to Pontlottyn School. It was stated on Monday that the Council had not acceded to the request. At a meeting of parents on Monday evening, it was decided to ask members of the County Council, and the School's Medical Officer to visit the mountain road. The parents were perturbed that they had to make their children absentees, but claimed that temporary transport could be provided until the complaint had been fully probed.

24 September 1949 "Strike of Fochriw School Children: Today's Important Meeting at Cardiff" The "strike" involving 62 children had been in progress for nearly three weeks. It will be considered by the finance and general purposes committee of the Glamorgan County Council today. At Monday's meeting of Gellygaer and Caerphilly executive committee for education at Ystrad Mynach, it was decided to appeal to the County Council to waive the regulation which permits transport for children only when the distance to school is more than two miles. The executive officer, Mr. D.W. Davies stated that, "According to correspondence received from parents in the Fochriw area, it remains their intention, in view of the exposed and lonely mountain road, to keep their children from attending Pontlottyn Mixed School until conveyance is provided." The chairman, Coun. George Richards, said that while he regretted the fact that children were not attending school, he felt that parents were justified in claiming transport, in view of the route over which the children would have to walk. The mountain road was very lonely and exposed. "The circumstances at Fochriw are very abnormal," said Coun. Richards "Some children lost their lives on the mountain during a blizzard some years ago." Coun. W.J. Payne said that he had difficulty crossing the mountain in wintry weather, and on wet days the children would be drenched after walking only a short distance. "I don't condone the strike, but I am in sympathy with the parents and children." Coun. W.J. Kedward, J.P., said the regulation was "too stringent on a place like Fochriw" and that the County should reverse the decision. Ald. W.A. Hancock, J.P. and Ald. Tom Evans, J.P., spoke in opposition to the parents views, and stressed the importance of upholding the regulations. Parents were urged to send their children to school while negotiations were proceeding. The committee deferred until the next meeting consideration of a report concerning the number of children who had gone

hop-picking. The attendance officers reported that 398 children had gone - fewer than last year.

22 October 1949 Welfare Meeting Mr. A. Wood presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. Coun. Payne gave a report of the visit to the offices of Messrs. Bruce and Nicholas, Pontypridd. A request from Deri Welfare for the loan of the chairs for an eisteddfod was granted. It was reported that a billiards tournament had been arranged for Christmas. Improvements at the children's corner were discussed, and a person responsible for keeping it under supervision was agreed to. A financial report was given.

29 October 1949 School Buses for Fochriw? - Chairman Invited to the Area Monday's special meeting of the Gellygaer and Caerphilly Divisional Executive Committee for Education at Ystrad Mynach, decided to press the Executive's claim for transport to convey children from Fochriw and Pentwyn to school at Pontlottyn. The Executive also decided to invite the chairman of the County Council Finance and General Purposes Committee to inspect the mountain route to Pontlottyn. In September, the parents refused to send their children to Pontlottyn for several weeks. The Divisional Executive Officer stated that the County Administration Committee would discuss the matter next week. Coun. Payne stated that there was quite a lot of unrest at Fochriw and Pentwyn. Coun. (Mrs.) Sargent : "We should ask these chairmen to come up on a rainy day - leaving their cars behind." The Executive Officer stated that since the end of the "strike," attendance at Pontlottyn from Fochriw and Pentwyn had been good, though last week it fell to 50%.

19 November 1949 The Health Service Under the auspices of the Labour Party, a public meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday, presided over by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P. The speaker was County Councillor W.J. Kedward, J.P., who dealt with a number of important subjects relating to the health service. He also dealt with the subject "Transport of School Children."

3 December 1949 Health Visitor Miss J. H. Lewis of Fochriw was appointed health visitor at a meeting of Merthyr Corporation on Tuesday.

19 November 1949 Offenders Beware! Mr. A.H. Wood presided at a meeting on Friday at the New Hall. In his report, the caretaker complained of the conduct of some boys. It was decided to take stern action in future. The question of better heating at the hall and billiard room was considered.

31 December 1949 Welfare Committee Mr. A.H. Wood presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday, supported by Coun. Payne, vice-chairman, Mr. I. Evans, treasurer, and Mr. Bob Rees, secretary. Several important matters were discussed, including a report from the book committee. Steps are being taken to re-organise the lending library. The accounts were submitted by the treasurer and were satisfactory.

18 February 1950 Public Meeting A public meeting was held at the New Hall by Mr. Ness Edwards on Sunday. The chairman was Coun. W.J. Payne, and Councillors D.J. Old, R. Yates, Mervyn Thomas and S. Lewis were present. Mrs. Edwards accompanied her husband. Mrs. H.L. Farley, ward secretary, and Mr. Iorweth Evans, local secretary, were also present. Coun. Bate was unable to attend as he is in hospital.

8 April 1950 Welfare Association: Annual Meeting The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday, presided over by Mr. A.H. Wood, who gave a review of the year's activities, and thanked the officers and committee for their assistance. The books were audited by Mr. T.D. Evans, J.P., chartered accountant, and the report was given by the Treasurer, Mr. Iorwerth Evans. Mr. Bob Rees, secretary, answered several questions. Coun. W.J. Payne was elected chairman, and a

tribute was paid to his services. Coun. Payne thanked the secretary and treasurer for their splendid work. Mr. Arthur Palmer was elected vice-chairman. Committee: Messrs. A.H. Wood, C. Cumpstone, T. Ballard, G. Lawrence, J. Morgan, E. Lewis, J. Lewis, J.J. Lewis, V. Powell, C. Shankland, R. Thomas, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Rev. E. Adams Evans; librarian, Mr. Reg Gittoes; secretary, Mr. Bob Rees; treasurer, Mr. Iorwerth Evans. It was decided to carry out improvements to the children's corner.

15 April 1950 WHERE TO GET YOUR NEW RATION BOOK - Fochriw, Pentwyn, Penybank - The Old Library, Fochriw; Monday, May 1st - Surname Initial A - Z; Hours - 9.30a.m. to 12.30p.m.; 2p.m. to 5p.m.

22 April 1950 Welfare Meeting Mr. A. Palmer presided over a meeting on Friday, supported by Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer. Mr. T. Jones, welfare organiser, attended, and a discussion took place on the showing of films.

20 May 1950 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday presided over by Mr. A. Palmer (vice-chairman). Also present were Mr. Bob Rees, secretary, Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer, and Mr. Tom Jones, welfare officer. The chief business was centred on film shows, the welfare officer and the other representative with him being very helpful in the discussion.

17 June 1950 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. It was decided to accept a tender for painting the reading room. The financial statement was given by the treasurer.

22 July 1950 Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall. It was agreed to allow the football team the use of the field next season. It was agreed to fix a date with Mr. Horace Lindrum to give a billiards exhibition in September. An appeal was made to the older boys to refrain from playing in the children's corner, which is for children under 14. The Treasurer gave the financial report.

30 September 1950 Welfare Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday at the New Hall, supported by Mr. A. Palmer, vice chairman, and Mr. R. Rees, secretary. Several matters were discussed including the visit of Mr. Horace Lindrum.

14 October 1950 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. Payne presiding. It was decided to hold a Christmas snooker handicap. Arrangements were made for a variety concert by a Tredegar party.

11 November 1950 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Friday. Good wishes for a speedy recovery were passed with Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer, who is still in hospital.

27 January 1951 Welfare Association Councillor W.J. Payne presided over a meeting on Friday. Supporting him were Mr. A. Palmer, vice chairman, Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer, and Mr. R. Rees, secretary. Members expressed their satisfaction at the return from hospital of the Treasurer and Mr. Cadfan Cumpstone, committee member, also the caretaker who had been ill. Complaints about the behaviour of some of the young members of the Institute were reported, and suspension was imposed.

14 April 1951 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the Institute on Friday. The financial report was given and proved satisfactory. The caretaker reported on the conduct of some of the youths attending the billiard hall. It was decided not to allow them into the billiard hall. A discussion followed about organising events for the Festival of Britain week, also the week of the miners' holiday. The chairman said he hoped the village would organise a day's programme,

if not more, to entertain people that week or some other week. It was agreed to call a public meeting on Friday, April 20, at 7 p.m. in the hall to discuss the matter.

28 April 1951 Festival Plans A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday to organise Fochriw's Festival of Britain celebrations. It was decided to hold events from July 7. Officers appointed: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Miss Eliza Evans, 22, Martin-street; treasurer, Miss M. Davies, Brynteg-terrace. The chairman hoped the Silver Band would re-form, which would add to the success. Members of the Youth Centre had decided to contribute events. It was decided to appoint a festival Queen and her Court. Entries for Queen, attendants, flower girls, page boy and herald, are to be sent to the secretary. An evening for judging will be chosen. On the Sunday, a gymanfa ganu will be held, and other days will be devoted to carnival, sports, displays, etc.

19 May 1951 Annual Meeting The annual meeting of the Welfare and Institute was held at the New Hall on Thursday. The vice-chairman, Mr. A. Palmer, presided. Officers elected: chairman, Mr. Arthur Palmer; vice-chairman, Mr. Robert Thomas; The audited balance sheet was presented and was very satisfactory. (Auditor: Mr. T.D. Evans, accountant, Bargoed) The secretary Mr. Bob Rees, and the treasurer, Mr Iorwerth Evans, were re-elected. The committee was re-elected with the addition of Mr. Pearce.

2 June 1951 Festival of Britain A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday evening, Coun. Payne presiding, and supported by the secretary, Miss Eliza Evans, and the treasurer, Miss Marie Davies. Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., was appointed vice-chairman. Reports of the various committees were presented by the secretary. The eisteddfod, sports, musical and carnival committees have drawn up a first class programme and prizes will be awarded. The carnival and sports will take place on the afternoon of July 7 after the crowning of the Queen. On Sunday there will be a cymnafa ganu. During the week, events will be held each day including plays and various exhibitions by members of the Youth Club. The financial report was given by the treasurer.

4 August 1951 Festival Week A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday evening to close accounts, give the reports of the secretary and treasurer, on the successful week of events held in the village. Coun. W. J. Payne presided. The chairman thanked all who had helped, and complimented the secretary, Miss Eliza Evans, and the treasurer, Miss Marie Davies, on their services. Several members spoke in praise of the weeks' events. After meeting all liabilities, it was decided to present the Festival Queen, and her Court, with a photograph of the crowning events that took place on the opening day, and a presentation to each child of 15 years of age - a souvenir to mark the Festival of Britain occasion in the village.

11 August 1951 Welfare Association A meeting of the Association took place at the New Hall on Friday. Mr. A. Palmer presided. It was decided to enter a billiards team for the Welfare competitions. An appeal by the Youth Movement under 14 years, and by the football team was considered, and it was agreed to repair the pavilion and fence the football field. The question of library lending books came up for discussion. The treasurer gave the financial report and this was very satisfactory.

24 November 1951 Welfare Association A meeting took place at the Welfare Hall on Friday evening. Mr. A. Palmer presided, supported by Mr. Robert Thomas, vice chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer, who gave the financial statement. A vote of condolence was passed with the secretary in the death of his sister. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were expressed to Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., who has been ill for some time.

16 February 1952 Caretaker – By Poll Mr. Con Edwards has been appointed caretaker of the Library and Institute following a ballot.

22 March 1952 No Nursery Class for Fochriw: Committee Told of Additional Expense Because of additional expense on provision for children under the statutory school age, Glamorgan Education Committee will not agree to the formation of a nursery class at Fochriw Junior Mixed and Infant School, “in the present circumstances.” Coun. W.J. Payne said they must accept the decision with regret. There was a class ready to go into the school, he added. Alderman W.A. Hancock said, “The County Council would be glad to accommodate, but it was not they who have the last word.”

12 April 1952 Library and Institute Mr. Arthur Palmer presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday, and welcomed back to the meeting Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., after his long illness. The members stood in silence as a tribute on the death of Mrs. M. Thomas, sister of Mr. Vivian Powell, a committee-man of the Institute. It was with regret that members heard of the resignation of the vice-chairman, Mr. Robert Thomas, who stated that it would be difficult owing to his work to attend regularly. Acceptance was deferred to the annual meeting. The secretary dealt with the correspondence. A discussion took place on improvements to the lending library department. The treasurer gave the financial report, which was satisfactory.

10 May 1952 Welfare Meeting The annual meeting of the Institute and Welfare Association was held at the New Hall on Thursday, presided over by Mr. Arthur Palmer, chairman, supported by Mr. Bob Rees, secretary, and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, treasurer. It was reported that the year’s accounts had been very satisfactory. The chairman gave a review of the year’s working. He was disappointed at the small attendance, and he regretted the resignation of the vice-chairman. The following officers were elected: chairman, Mr. A. Palmer; vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mr. B. Rees; treasurer, Mr. I. Evans; committee, Messrs. R. Thomas, T. Ballard, S.V. Powell, Rev. E.A. Evans, Coun. A.S. Lewis, Messrs. C. Cumpstone, E. Lewis, A. Wood, D. Kelly, F. Jenkins, W. Pearce, D. James, J.R. Thomas.

24 May 1952 Welfare Association Mr. Arthur Palmer presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. It was reported that a concert by the school children was to take place. It was decided to seed the playing field, and the question of the children’s playing field was considered. The treasurer gave the financial report and this was satisfactory.

6 September 1952 Welfare Association Mr. Arthur Palmer presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, supported by Coun. W. J. Payne, vice-chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. I. Evans, treasurer. It is proposed to develop a new playing field for children and preparations are well in hand. The question of the Old Reading Room was also discussed. The treasurer gave the financial report for the outdoor and indoor activities.

25 October 1952 Welfare Association Mr. A. Palmer presided over a meeting on Friday at the New Hall. Reports were given of the Welfare organiser’s visit and of the work proposed to be carried out. A report on the old Reading Room was also given. It was decided to organise a Christmas snooker handicap. The treasurer gave the financial report. It was reported that “pictures” would commence in the Hall on Monday, and that good progress is being made with the book lending library.

1 November 1952 200 Houses for Fochriw Area: Hope to Complete First by June The Coal Industry Housing Association hopes the first of 200 houses will be completed before June next. The information was contained in a letter from architects to the Association, which was read at a meeting of the Rhymney Valley

Water Board in Ystrad Mynach on Monday, which agreed to urge upon manufacturers the importance of priority for the delivery of pipes for the Association's programme for Fochriw and Bedwas. The letter stated about the Fochriw scheme: "It seems desirable that priority for delivery of the pipes should be obtained, in order that a start may be made before February of next year." The Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government wrote stating that the department approved in principle the Board's proposals for the provision of water to the Fochriw and Bedwas areas.

20 December 1952 Christmas Tree A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday when Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided, supported by Coun. W. J. Payne. It was decided that the Christmas Tree be lit on Wednesday afternoon, December 24th at 5p.m. by Coun. H. J. Williams, J.P., chairman of the Gellygaer Council, after the arrival of Santa Claus, who will then proceed to the New Hall to give gifts to the children. The secretary is Mr. Iorwerth Evans, and the treasurer, Mr. D. J. Thomas.

3 January 1953 Christmas Tree The giant Christmas tree at Fochriw was illuminated on Christmas Eve. The inaugural ceremony was performed by Coun. H.J. Williams, J.P., chairman of the Gelligaer Council, who was introduced by Coun. S. Lewis. The large crowd surrounding the tree included Santa Claus (Mr. Cyril Davies) who arrived by sleigh; Mr. John Slimmond; Councillors W.J. Payne and B. Cook (Bedlinog); Messrs. R. Thomas, Frank Jenkins, Howell Owen, Iorwerth Owen, H. Wood & V. Powell. Prayers were offered by Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar. Later, a carol singing service was held at the New Hall, which was crowded with children and their parents. The singing was conducted by Mr. Meirion Shankland and the accompanist was Mr. W.A. Davies. Coun. Williams addressed the children, and other speakers were Coun. Payne, Coun. Cook, and Rev. E. Adams Evans. At the close, Santa Claus presented each child with a present.

3 January 1953 Coronation Committee A representative meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday evening, to make arrangements for celebration festivities for the Coronation Year. Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., presided. Several matters were discussed and a further meeting was arranged for Jan. 9. The officers appointed were: chairman, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.; vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mr. Dan Jenkins; treasurer, Mr. Ben Griffiths.

24 January 1953 Coronation Plans At a meeting of the Coronation Committee at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided over a representative meeting, supported by Coun. Payne, vice-chairman, Mr. Dan Jenkins, secretary, and Mr. F. Jenkins, treasurer. Several possible plans were discussed. The Entertainment and Sports Committee selected officers as follows: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; joint secretaries, Miss Eliza Evans and Mr. Iorwerth Evans; treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins. Several items of entertainment were discussed, and it is hoped to make the week a memorable one. Events will be held before Coronation Day.

31 January 1953 Coronation Plans A Committee meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday evening. Coun. Lewis presided over the general committee, and Coun. Payne over the entertainments and sports committee. Arrangements were made for entertainments during Coronation week, commencing with community hymn singing of the combined churches on Sunday evening, Mr. T. Walters conducting. Among other events will be a children's tea, an old age pensioners' tea, and street teas. Prizes will be given for the best-dressed street. A Noson Lawen, carnival and comic events, sports and fireworks display will also be held. The secretaries are Mr. D. Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, and Miss Eliza Evans and Mr. Frank Jenkins are treasurers.

31 January 1953 New Houses The erection of 200 new houses for the N.C.B. began last week. Gellygaer Council will build another 100 in the district in the near future.

7 February 1953 200 Houses For Miners At Fochriw: Council's "Yes" To Immediate Start On £282,639 Scheme Two hundred homes costing £282,639 are to be built by the Coal Industry Housing Association at Fochriw. Included in the total cost are amounts for the provision of coal cooking ranges and for extra insulation and draught-stripping to doors. This information was given at Thursday's meeting of Gellygaer Council, which offered no objection to the Associations' application that an immediate start be made on the scheme.

21 February 1953 Coronation Committee Dance A dance was held under the auspices of the Coronation Committee at the New Hall on Friday. Dancing was to Mr. John Pullen's radiogram. The M.C.s were Messrs. C. Cumpstone, G. Lawrence and D. Keen. The ladies of the committee served refreshments.

28 February 1953 Coronation Committee On Friday evening at the New Hall, Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the Coronation Committee. Coun. Sam Lewis was unable to attend due to illness. It was reported that the dance, recently held, had been successful and that a drama will be staged on Feb. 24 by the Cefn Coed Society. These events are being held to provide a Coronation week of enjoyment, and to provide souvenir mugs for children under school age. The chairman appealed for the greatest co-operation between the general committee and the street teas committee. All street tea committees have been invited to send representatives to the general committee. It was decided to invite several more people to serve on the general committee, as much work had still to be done. The secretaries, Mr. Dan Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans gave their reports, as did the treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins.

14 March 1953 The Coronation A meeting of the Coronation Committee took place on Friday at the New Hall. Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The drama had proved a financial success and the funds had benefited. It was agreed that there would be a Children's Esteddfod, a flitch trial and a concert. It is hoped to arrange a television viewing of the Coronation ceremony in the Hall. Also, the Fochriw Silver Band will be re-formed for Coronation week.

4 April 1953 Fochriw Houses Splendid progress is being made with the erection of 200 houses for the Coal Industry Housing Association, and with the erection of 112 houses for the Gellygaer Council, which we hope will be started soon. These developments will add greatly to the status of the village.

11 April 1953 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place last Wednesday. Mr. A. Palmer presided and reviewed the work of the past year. The balance sheet was audited by Mr. T.D. Evans and accepted. The secretary, treasurer and librarian were thanked for their work. Coun. Payne then took the chair for the coming year. The election of officers was as follows: vice-chairman, Mr. Frank Jenkins; secretary, Mr. R. Rees; treasurer, Mr. Iorwerth Evans; librarian, Mr. D.J. Thomas; committee, Messrs. L. Davies, W. Abbey, T. Ballard, Rev. E. Adams Evans, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Messrs. A. Palmer, R. Thomas, C. Cumpstone, H. Wood, D. Kelly, E. Lewis, J.R. Thomas, S.V. Powell, E. Morgan, D.J. Thomas, D. James.

2 May 1953 Coronation Plans Meetings were held on Friday by the General Committee, Coun. S. Lewis presiding, and the Entertainment Committee, Coun. Payne presiding. The secretaries, Mr. Dan Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, reported on the preparations made. A programme of sports has been arranged for one of the

days, which will include a Marathon race, an eisteddfod, Noson and community singing will be held.

23 May 1953 Nursery Class: Fochriw Suggestion Referring to an inquiry at the previous meeting about the establishment of a nursery class at Fochriw Junior Mixed and Infants' School, the executive officer told Monday's meeting of the Gellygaer and Caerphilly Divisional Executive Committee that the matter had been raised in January and February, 1952. "On each occasion," said the executive officer, "the county authority stated they were unable to make such provision on the score that the establishment of a nursery would involve additional expense in providing for children under statutory school age. The practice of the head teacher of Fochriw School at present is to admit, at the commencement of the term, those children who will become five during the term, which results in a class of some 29 in number by the summer term. If admission is extended to children of four years of age, the same class would approach 45 in number." The executive officer added: "The age range and number is too great for one class, and the only alternative is to form two classes, but since this would involve extra expense for children under school age, it is unlikely that the attitude of the county authority would be different if yet another request is made to establish such a class." Nonetheless, it was decided to raise the matter with the authority once again.

26 September 1953 Welfare Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding. Mr. Dan James reported on the snooker league. An effort is to be made to run a junior and senior team in the league. It was decided to run a Christmas snooker handicap, and a table bowls competition. A discussion took place on the proposed erection of the children's playing equipment. The librarian, Mr. D.J. Thomas, is bringing the lending department up to date.

7 November 1953 Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Wednesday, supported by Mr. F. Jenkins, vice-chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. I. Evans, treasurer. Mr. Dan James gave a report on the work of the Snooker League. The treasurer gave the financial position. It is hoped to form a table bowls team for competitions.

12 December 1953 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at the meeting on Friday. Mr. Dan James, the representative on the Rhymney Valley Snooker League, gave a report of league meetings. The Fochriw seniors and juniors are doing well in the league. The Table Bowls Christmas Tournament is proving a success. The New Hall is being reconstructed.

13 February 1954 Fochriw-Tredegar Gas Main: Further Discussion To Take Place Representatives of the Tredegar Council and the South Wales Gas Grid are to discuss the laying of a gas main from Fochriw to Tredegar. The Grid Manager has expressed his regret that the Council does not approve of the laying of the main through the southern part of Bedwellty Park, for, if this was done, disturbance of the highway could be avoided. The Surveyor, Mr. F. R. Wharton, has agreed that a route along the line of the highway would seem to be the only alternative to the park route. The matter will now be discussed by the representatives and their recommendations submitted to the next meeting of the Public Works Committee.

13 March 1954 Institute and Welfare Association The annual meeting of the Institute and Welfare Association was held on Friday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. The balance sheet was a very satisfactory one, both indoor and outdoor accounts showing a credit balance. Coun. Payne referred to the reconstruction of the hall, and said that the work would be completed by the end of April. During the year, the snooker teams had been very successful, and the table bowls competition had been

very keen. He complimented Mr. D. J. Thomas on bringing the book department up to date. Mr. Frank Jenkins, the new chairman, was invested with the office, and he thanked Coun. Payne for the great work he done with the Association. The meeting then decided to place on record the great work that Coun. Payne and Coun. S. Lewis had done by making them life members. The following officers were elected: chairmans, Mr. Frank Jenkins; vice-chairman, Coun. W. J. Payne; secretary, Mr. R. Rees; treasurer, Mr. Iorwerth Evans; librarian, Mr. D. J. Thomas; trustees, Mr. Dan James, Coun. Payne, Rev. E. Adams Evans. Most of the committee members were re-elected.

27 March 1954 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the Reading Room on Friday, Mr. Frank Jones presiding. Mr. Tom Jones, Welfare Organiser, was present, and he explained certain matters relating to the new building now being constructed. Further points were explained by Mr. S. V. Powell, contractor. The librarian, Mr. D. J. Thomas, reported that a request for Polish books had been made by people living in the new housing site. It was decided to agree to their request. The treasurer gave the financial report and this was satisfactory, and Mr. Dan James gave the snooker report. Preliminary arrangements were discussed for the opening of the Hall.

8 May 1954 Welfare Association Mr. Frank Jenkins presided over a meeting on Friday evening, and extended a welcome to Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., after his long illness. The secretary, Mr. R. Rees, reported on the satisfactory progress on the Hall. Complaints were received on damage to the playing field. The treasurer and librarian gave reports. Mr. D. James reported on the snooker league. Mr. Melville Edwards is in the final of the individual championship.

7 August 1954 Welfare Association Mr. Frank Jenkins presided at a meeting on Friday at the Library. Reference was made to the sudden death of Coun. W. J. Payne's wife. All stood in silence. A discussion took place on the opening of the hall that is now almost complete. It was reported that the prospects for a good football team are encouraging. Increased contributions were discussed, and it was decided to call a public meeting on the matter. It was reported that billiards receipts are on the upgrade. Mr. I. Evans gave the financial reports of the outdoor and indoor sections, which were very satisfactory.

21 August 1954 Welfare Association Mr. A. Palmer presided at a meeting on Monday. Mr. Tom Jones, Welfare Organiser, was present. The Hall is now complete and will be opening shortly. Two new members were welcomed to the committee, Messrs. Lance Rogers and David Jenkins.

11 September 1954 Welfare The association met at the Old Library on Friday when Mr. Frank Jenkins presided. It was reported that the village hall was now completed with the exception of the stage scenery. Mr. Dan James gave his report, and it was agreed that local teams would enter for the championships again this year. Mr. James has been appointed vice chairman of the Rhymney Valley Snooker League for the coming season.

9 October 1954 Welfare Hall A meeting of the Association was held at the New Hall on Friday. Mr. Frank Jenkins presided. It was decided to open the Hall even though the stage is not yet complete. An application for a dance for O.A.P. Funds was approved and it was decided to repair three billiard tables. Mr. Dan James gave a detailed report on the activities of the Rhymney Valley Snooker League. It was decided to enter a junior team for individual competition. Prices for use of the hall and committee rooms were arranged. The O.A.P. will be allowed to use a room free for their meetings. The treasurer gave a detailed financial report.

30 October 1954 Welfare Association Mr. Frank Jenkins presided at the meeting on Friday at the New Hall. The secretary and treasurer gave their reports. A grant was made for the purchase of new books. Reports were given by Coun. Payne and Mr. Dan James, the latter submitting a detailed report of the activities of the snooker league.

11 December 1954 New Council Houses For Fochriw: Ministry Approves Cost Of £159,000 Gellygaer Urban Council was told on Tuesday that Ministry approval had been received for the erection of 110 traditional houses at Fochriw, costing £159,000. In a letter of reply to the Council requesting a contribution towards the cost of reinforced foundations for the houses, due to mining subsidence, the Coal Board stated that it was unable to comply with the request. The Surveyor stated in reply to a question from Coun. W. J. Payne, that all plans and specifications were ready for an early start to be made on the scheme.

15 January 1955 Welfare Association A meeting of the Welfare Association took place at the Reading Room on Friday. Mr. Frank Jenkins presided. The question of outside contributions came up for discussion, and a figure was agreed on. It was decided to increase the wages of the caretaker. The billiard tables show a steady increase in takings. The financial report of the outdoor and indoor schemes showed splendid progress. The Hall, which was recently opened, is proving very attractive. A radiogram has now been purchased by the committee, and should prove an asset.

12 February 1955 Appeal For Better Bus Service From Fochriw Supporting an appeal by the three local members, Messrs. Sam Lewis, W. J. Payne and William Poyntz, for a more frequent omnibus service from Fochriw in the mornings, Mr. W. J. Kedward, J.P., Bargoed, told Gellygaer Urban Council at its monthly meeting, "We want to keep trade in our own area." Mr. Kedward said residents of the Fochriw district might do their shopping in the Merthyr area if they found they were better served by the present train service. The chairman referred the matter to the chairman and vice-chairman of the omnibus committee for consideration.

12 February 1955 Welfare Association Mr. Frank Jenkins presided at a meeting at the Reading Room on Friday. The question of film shows came up for discussion. The Hall is properly equipped for the showing of films, and it is hoped that satisfactory arrangements can be made. Mr. Dan James gave a report on the activities of the snooker league. The Fochriw senior and junior teams have reached the semi-final rounds. The treasurer gave the financial report.

19 March 1955 Welfare Association Annual Meeting The meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Mr. Frank Jenkins presided. Coun. W. J. Payne was elected chairman. Coun. Payne & Coun. S. Lewis were made life members for their services. Other officers elected were: vice-chairman, Mr. Frank Jenkins; secretary, Mr. R. Rees; treasurer, Mr. I. Evans; librarian, Mr. D. J. Thomas.

2 April 1955 Welfare Association The first meeting of the new committee took place at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. The chairman welcomed the new committee, and hoped that they would have a very successful year. It was stated that the stage would soon be completed, so that dramatic performances could be held. The question of the children's playground and equipment came up for discussion. Mr. Dan James reported on the year in the snooker world. The financial report proved satisfactory.

21 May 1955 Blizzard Causes Electricity Breaks: Cables Down Several inches of snow blanketed Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar on Tuesday, after an unprecedented mid-May blizzard. Two thousand people in Rhymney, and another 2,000 at Fochriw were without electric light and power for many hours because of

the blizzard. Electric power cables were frozen by the snow, and some at Fochriw, and the lower part of the Rhymney valley, were brought to the ground.

23 July 1955 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting of the Welfare and Institute on Friday evening, with Mr. Frank Jenkins, vice chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. Iorwerth Evans treasurer. The matter of the use of the playing field for organised games for school children on two days a week came up for discussion. This was agreed to. Arrangements were made for the official opening of the Hall on Saturday next, July 23 at 3 p.m. by Mr. Corfield of the N.C.B.

30 July 1955 New Hall Opened: Bright Future For Fochriw Area: Coal Board Chief And £3,000,000 Project The National Coal Board is spending roughly £3m. on a project at Ogilvie Colliery, near Fochriw, said the Board's area general manager, Mr. D. G. Corfield, on Saturday. Mr. Corfield was opening a Hall at Fochriw, towards which the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation has contributed £7,300. "During the next 50 years, I foresee this mountain hamlet of yours becoming quite an important locality," said Mr. Corfield. "The prosperity of this valley, and the top end of the Rhymney Valley is assured, as far as I can see, not only for this generation, but also for the next." The Board had erected 200 houses, at a cost of £350,000 at Fochriw. "I would like everybody on this new estate to make it as beautiful as possible. It is most important that the houses are kept beautifully and properly." Mr. Corfield hoped that everyone would make full use of the Hall, and enjoy the efforts it would stage.

The Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards, M.P., said that he was glad to see that the dead-ends of the valleys were at last getting some attention. "When we look at the lack of amenities in these mining areas, we do not wonder why the mining industry is steadily losing manpower. The Coal Board is now doing at Fochriw what ought to have been done a generation ago, and it deserves our congratulation for this excellent start." He said that unless the young miner could find compensation in his "above ground surroundings," he was not likely to tolerate "life below ground." Referring to the recent Commons debate on coal, Mr. Edwards said that for the years ahead, coal was never again going to be in adequate supply to meet the power needs of expanding industry. He went on: "And we must realise that we cannot export coal in its raw state, and in the form of motor-cars, steel and engineering goods. If we are going to have an industrial future, the export of coal as fuel will have to end. The mining industry has been harassed because of the failure of the Government to make up its mind on policy. The Coal Board has been pressed to get on with a large capital development programme: to rehabilitate the industry, and to squeeze out ever-greater quantities of coal. On top of it, it is urged to provide exports, and at the same time to pay for coal imports to fill the nation's fuel gap." Mr. Edwards said that far too few people realised the burden on the mining industry. "The miners have to carry the cost of buying the pits for the nation, and the cost of filling the fuel gap with imported coal. Until atomic power and the use of oil play a full part in power needs of the country, the fuel gap will increase, and the miners will have to bear the cost. It is this problem and the Government's inability to handle it, which is likely to take the heart out of the mining industry. There can be no buoyancy in an industry that is kept in the 'red' by Government policy. And an industry that is not buoyant cannot hold and attract the manpower it needs." Mr. Edwards said the future of coal was certain. "As in 20 or 30 years time, it loses its place as a fuel, more and more will it find a new place as a basic raw material for the chemical revolution that is taking place. The greatest need of the moment, is that the Government should give the mining industry a chance," he said.

Coun. W. J. Payne who presided, said this was a memorable occasion in the history of Fochriw. They were indebted to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation for its assistance, and to the Board for the provision of 200 houses. Mr. W. H. Crews, J.P., secretary of the South Wales Area of Mineworkers' Union, and joint secretary of the Social Welfare Organisation for the area, said it was estimated that £95,000 would be allocated by the Divisional Welfare Organisation on recreation grounds, workmen's institutes and halls during the coming year.

Coun. Cledwen Williams, J.P., chairman of Gellygaer Urban Council congratulated the local Welfare Association on its efforts, and said he hoped this latest amenity would help keep young people in the area. "The population of Gellygaer was greater 20 years ago than it is now," he said.

Among others who spoke were County Councillor W. J. Kedward, who praised Fochriw's cultural organisations; Mr. Lance Rogers, secretary of the Ogilvie Lodge of the Mineworkers' Union, who expressed the hope that the hall would bring together the old and the new Fochriw residents of the new estate; Coun. W. Poyntz, who said that Gellygaer Council was to erect 100 houses at Fochriw; and Mr. Tom Jones, the Coal Board's regional welfare officer, who said that the hall should provide greater opportunity for the people to come together to discuss problems for the well being of the district. A vote of thanks was proposed by Coun. Samuel Lewis, J.P., and seconded by Mr. Frank Jenkins, vice-chairman of the Association. Treasurer of the Association is Mr. I. T. Evans, and the secretary, Mr. R. Rees, Heol Iago, Fochriw. The Hall was dedicated by Rev. E. Adams Evans, Vicar of Fochriw.

10 September 1955 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. He thanked all who had worked so hard to make the opening ceremony of the New Hall the success it was. It was decided to start a film show on September 13. The public are promised a fine display of films. A try-out of the equipment was given by Deri friends who were delighted with the results. The treasurer gave a detailed financial report which was very satisfactory. A snooker league report was given by Mr. Dan James, who was congratulated on being appointed this year's chairman of the Rhymney Valley Snooker League.

24 September 1955 Welfare Committee The Committee opened their cinema show last week with pictures on Tuesday and Friday. Very encouraging audiences attended.

22 October 1955 Fochriw's Village Postman: Mr. Rowlands Retires The familiar face of Mr. Thomas Rowlands, 6, Glyn-terrace, will be missing from the streets of Fochriw in the future. Through winds, rain, and all kinds of weather, Mr. Rowlands, the village postman, was always on time with the delivery of letters and parcels. He had a pleasant word for all. Mr. Rowlands and his wife are faithful members of Carmel Chapel. As a miner before taking up the duties of postman nearly 23 years ago, he worked in the Fochriw and Ogilvie Collieries. He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War. Mr. & Mrs. Rowland's son is on the teaching technical staff at Cheltenham, and their daughter, who is a nurse, is now in British Guiana with her husband, who is in the Forces, and their children. His large circle of friends wish Mr. & Mrs. Rowlands good health and happiness in retirement. He has received a certificate from Dr. Charles Hill, Postmaster General, offering best wishes in the future, and saying how much his services to the Crown over more than 22 years have been appreciated. [with photograph]

31 December 1955 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall recently. The summer holiday camp, and the fencing of the playing field were discussed. Reports on the progress of the film shows which are being held twice

a week were made. The Treasurer gave a detailed report on the financial side of the indoor and outdoor schemes. The secretary will make arrangements for relief for the caretaker during Christmas week.

31 December 1955 Institute The officers of the Library and Institute entertained all school children to a free show at the New Hall on Friday.

14 January 1956 Fochriw Enquiry About Land: Proposed Children's Playground A minute of the parks committee submitted to Gelligaer Urban Council stated that the Surveyor undertook to report on the ownership and possibility of acquiring the plot of land south of the Welfare Football Ground, for development as a children's playground.

21 January 1956 Welfare Association: Treasurer Resigns Coun. Payne presided at a special meeting of the Welfare Association and Institute. It was with regret that the secretary, Mr. Iorwerth Evans, presented his resignation. Several members paid tribute to Mr. Evans. Mr. Frank Jenkins was appointed treasurer.

3 March 1956 Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The treasurer presented a detailed statement of accounts for outdoor and indoor schemes. It was a very satisfactory report and was accepted with thanks. A report was also given of the picture shows held twice weekly. Thanks were accorded for the excellent voluntary services given by the members.

7 April 1956 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at the meeting at the New Hall on Thursday week. It was with regret that the meeting heard that the secretary, Mr. R. Rees, was resigning at the annual meeting. The audited balance sheet for the year was presented to the meeting.

14 April 1956 Small Fare Reduction The Omnibus Manager, Mr. W. H. Collins, was asked by Gelligaer Urban Council at its recent meeting for a report on the cost of providing a service over the mountain between Bedlinog and Fochriw. The manager said it had been verified by the Surveyors Department that the distance from Bargoed's Post Office to the railway station at Fochriw was 5.4 miles which would have the effect of making a small reduction in the single and return fares between the two points. In view of the information, the Council decided to request the manager to seek the consent of the Licensing Authority to adjust the fares.

28 April 1956 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting on Thursday. Reports of the financial position and on the progress of the film shows was given.

7 July 1956 Damaged Playing Fields Coun. Payne presided over a meeting of the Welfare Association on Thursday, supported by Mr. W. Abbey, secretary, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. It was with regret that the committee heard that willful damage had been done to the pavilion on the playing field. Culprits will be prosecuted if detected. Reports on film shows was given, and the treasurer reported on the financial position of both indoor and outdoor schemes.

4 August 1956 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at the meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Reports of repairs carried out were received and approved. It was decided to renew the fence around the playing field. Reports on the billiards and the finances were given.

18 August 1956 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Tenders were received for fencing the football field, and for new gates. The tender of Mr. S.V. Powell was accepted. It was decided to give a donation to the football team.

22 September 1956 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday afternoon last, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding supported by Mr. W. Abbey,

secretary, and Mr. F. Jenkins, treasurer. A letter of thanks was received from the secretary of the football team for the Association's support. The chairman extended a welcome to the committee to P.C. Southward. It was decided to hold a Christmas Snooker handicap, and a committee was appointed to organise the event. It is proposed to hold a series of dances on Friday evenings. Reports were given on the film shows, and the operators were thanked for their services. The pictures are an asset to the village. The work on renewing the fence around the football field will begin next week. The treasurer gave a detailed financial report of the indoor and outdoor schemes and this was very satisfactory.

24 November 1956 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at the meeting on Thursday at the New Hall, supported by Mr. W. Abbey and Mr. Frank Jenkins. It was reported that the fencing around the playing field had been renewed, new gates erected, and the pavilion repaired. It was decided to hold a dance in aid of the Hungarian Relief Fund, and a picture show for the old age pensioners' fund. It was agreed to allow the footballers use of the old reading room for indoor exercise. The snooker team is making progress, and it hopes to enter the Welfare competition. A letter of good wishes is to be sent to the caretaker, Mr. C. Edwards, who is ill. The members stood in silence as a tribute to an old inhabitant, Mr. David Lewis, brother to Mr. Samuel Lewis, J.P. The question of planting trees around the playing field was discussed.

29 December 1956 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. Payne presiding. The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. A. H. Wood, who was present after his accident. Mr. D. J. Thomas offered his resignation as librarian due to ill health. Tribute was paid to his services. It was decided to advertise the post. Mr. C. Edwards, caretaker, is still a patient in hospital. The treasurer gave the financial report.

9 March 1957 Welfare Association A meeting was held on Thursday evening, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to Mr. Sam Lewis, J. P. Mrs. I. Lewis was appointed librarian. Reports were given of the film shows, snooker team, and playing field.

6 April 1957 Welfare Association Coun, W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. It was decided to hold the annual meeting on Thursday, April 11. Reports on the film projectors were given by the film operators, Mr. L. Coggan and Mr. E. Lewis, and suggestions for improvements in the operating room were approved. Mr. Ward and Mr. G. Davies were added to the committee. The committee is presenting good pictures, and they appeal to all film lovers to give them their support. The treasurer gave a detailed financial report and this was satisfactory.

20 April 1957 Fochriw Institute & Welfare Association Annual Meeting The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday last week. Councillor W. J. Payne presided. The chairman said that he would have liked to see more present. The past year had been very successful. For the weekly film shows he wished to thank the operators and all helpers. The football field had been enclosed with new fencing and gates. The billiard and snooker teams had done well, and the reading room was fairly well patronised. The balance sheet had been circulated among members, and was audited by Kilpatrick, Wakeling and Co., Chartered Accountants. The election of officers took place as follows: chairman, Coun. W. J. Payne; vice-chairman, Mr. Cadfan Cumpstone; secretary, Mr. W. Abbey; treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins; librarian, Mrs. T. Lewis. The committee was re-elected.

17 August 1957 Welfare Association Mr. C. Cumpstone presided at a meeting in the New Hall on Thursday week. It was with regret that the resignation of the

secretary, Mr. W. Abbey, was received. He was thanked for his services, and Mr. Cyril Davies was appointed secretary. Arrangements were made to start showing pictures on October 1st. Mr. E. Shankland was appointed cleaner. Mr. Frank Jenkins gave the financial report of the indoor and outdoor schemes.

7 September 1957 Welfare Association Mr. C. Cumpstone, vice-chairman, presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. He was supported by Mr. Cyril Davies, secretary, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. Arrangements were made to start showing pictures on October 1. Mr. E. Shankland was appointed cleaner.

28 September 1957 Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided over the recent meeting. The new secretary, Mr. Cyril Davies was present. The secretary stated that there would be two film show performances on October 1: one for children and one for adults. The future of the old reading room came up for discussion, but the matter adjourned until the next meeting.

5 October 1957 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting of the Welfare and Institute. The secretary, Mr. Cyril Davies, reported that on October 1, two picture performances would be given, one for children and one for adults. The future of the old reading room came up for discussion, and was adjourned to the next meeting.

16 November 1957 Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Amongst many matters for discussion was the question of the future of the Old Library. Film shows and dancing were also discussed. The treasurer gave a detailed report on the indoor and outdoor schemes.

7 December 1957 Ward Meeting Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a ward meeting of the Labour Party at the New Hall on Thursday evening. He was supported by Coun. W. Poyntz and Coun. W.R. Davies, with ward secretary Mr. Frank Jenkins, and the speaker for the evening, County councillor W.J. Kedward, J.P., O.B.E. The chairman welcomed C.C. Kedward, saying that next year, he hoped to welcome him as Chairman of Glamorgan County Council, for which he was this year's vice-chairman. The chairman also said that he regretted the absence through illness of Mr. S. Lewis, J.P., and Mr. D.J. Thomas, treasurer, and wished them a speedy recovery. He commented on the departure of Mrs. H.L. Farley, late secretary of the local Labour party, who has gone with her family to Southsea. All members wished her well, and it was decided to show their appreciation in some tangible form. County Coun. W.J. Kedward was nominated for re-election to the County Council, and Coun. Poyntz for the District Council. Mr. Frank Jenkins was elected secretary in place of Mrs. Farley. C.C. Kedward then addressed the meeting, and dealt in a masterly way with County Council activities embracing education, child welfare, children's homes, homes for old people and other subjects. He was asked several questions. He was heartily thanked for a very fine address.

14 December 1957 Water Main Uncovered: Police Informed While looking for coal near Fochriw, someone uncovered a 14 inch high level water main, the property of Taf Fechan Water Board. This matter was reported by the Engineer at the monthly meeting of the Taf Fechan Water Board on Wednesday. The main supplies water to Twynnyroddyn, Fochriw, Bedlinog and Senghenydd. It is the only source of supply for the area. Serious damage could have been caused by exposure. This could have been very costly to the Board, and a grave inconvenience to the local people, stated the Engineer. The matter has been reported to the police.

25 January 1958 Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday evening, supported by the secretary, Mr. Cyril Davies, and treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins. After the minutes had been accepted, several matters

came up for discussion. The treasurer gave a detailed financial report of both indoor and outdoor schemes. The members stood in silence as a tribute to Mr. D.J. Thomas, who had been secretary and librarian of the Welfare and Institute for some years.

13 September 1958 Festival of Wales A public meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening, to discuss holding an event to mark the Festival of Wales. Coun. Payne was elected chairman; Miss Lorna Rees, secretary; Mrs. M. Jenkins, treasurer. It was decided to hold an afternoon of sports for school children on the football field, and a fancy dress ball in the New Hall in the evening.

20 September 1958 Library and Institute Coun. Payne presided over a committee meeting at the New Hall last Wednesday. The treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins, gave the financial position and this was regarded as very satisfactory. It was with regret that the resignation of the secretary, Mr. Cyril Davies, was accepted. It was decided to advertise the post. It was also decided to advertise for a caretaker.

8 November 1958 Welfare Association A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman was Coun. W. J. Payne. He was supported by Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer, and Mr. Cyril Davies, secretary. Among the matters discussed were the Christmas snooker competition, and repairs to billiard tables. The secretary reported on the visit of Mr. John, welfare organiser. The financial report was given by the treasurer.

18 April 1959 Road Improved Open-cast mining at Pantywaun, near Fochriw, is to result in an improvement in the roadway leading to the township. The Gellygaer Urban Council met last week, and the Surveyor reported that the open-cast executive of the Coal Board had agreed to construct mass concrete haunches along both sides of the approach road for nearly three-quarters of a mile, and to lay four inches of macadam over the carriageway for a width of 14 feet. "The whole of these works would be maintained by the Board's contractors during the period of the contract, and any defects made good prior to handing the road over to the Council on completion of the contract."

6 June 1959 Three-Storey Blocks of Flats For Pontlottyn and Fochriw Gellugaer Urban Council wants to build three-storey flats costing £100,000 at Pontlottyn and Fochriw. The flats, which would give a 'city-look' to some of the oldest townships in the Rhymney Valley, would provide 55 dwellings - 33 at Pontlottyn and 22 at Fochriw. The Clerk of the Authority said that the Council was now seeking official approval of the tenders and design. It is intended that the flats at Pontlottyn, for which the Council has accepted at tender of £57,243 - excluding the cost of roads and sewers - will be built on the re-development area, and that those at Fochriw - a tender of £42,477 has been accepted - will be erected at Brook Row. The Clerk said that included in the cost of the flats at Fochriw was provision for two shops, and roads and sewers to the building.

26 December 1959 Welfare Association On Friday evening, a meeting of the Association was held at the New Hall. Coun. W.J. Payne presided and wished all a very happy Christmas, and reported that Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer, was making a splendid recovery. All wished him well. Correspondence included the resignation of the caretaker, Mr. C. Edwards. It was decided that Mr. W. Ballard should be appointed in his place.

6 February 1960 Welfare Association A meeting took place at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. Payne presiding. Also present were Mr. W. Powell, vice chairman, Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer, and Mr. Cyril Davies, secretary. Reports on the lending library, the billiards hall, the old reading room, and correspondence from the welfare

organiser came up for discussion. The treasurer gave the financial report. Arrangements were made to hold the annual meeting this month.

5 March 1960 Boys Club Project A committee has been set up in Fochriw, under the chairmanship of Mr. Tudor Moon, to form a club to provide recreational facilities for boys of 12 years and upwards from the Fochriw District. Other officers appointed are Messrs. Billy Davies (vice-chairman); Glyndwr Jenkins (secretary); Gerald Gwynne (treasurer). The Welfare Committee has lent them two rooms that they are improving and decorating. They also hope to make a lot of their own equipment, and have already commenced work on a table tennis table. Three football teams are at present in existence with a fairly complete fixture list. Also, they have provided entries for the N.C.B. boxing championships. It is hoped to include art and drama as well as training in craft. Their present needs are for gymnastic and craft equipment. Also, voluntary, trained leaders would be welcomed.

19 March 1960 Welfare Association The annual meeting took place on Thursday at the New Hall. Coun. W. J. Payne presided. The chairman reviewed the last year's work. One of the rooms had been painted and decorated voluntarily by the committee members. The Boys' Club had been granted the use of two rooms at the Old Reading Room and had redecorated them. Both the indoor and outdoor schemes showed a financial balance. The lending library is very successful. The new caretaker, Mr. W. Ballard, has been appointed to the Billiard Hall, owing to the retirement of Mr. C. Edwards. The following officers were appointed: president, Coun. W. J. Payne; chairman, Mr. T. Powell; vice-chairman, Mr. Jack Jones; secretary, Cyril Davies; treasurer, Frank Jenkins; librarian, Mrs. T. Lewis; Committee members: Messrs. Bob Rees, Des Evans, D. Ballard, L. Everett, J. Bishop, O. Perry, Del Jones, S. Powell, Gwynfor Davies, Glyn Jenkins, Gerald Gwynne, Phillip Jones, P.C. Southworth.

7 May 1960 Welfare Association Mr. Jack Jones, vice-chairman, presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. Sympathy was expressed with Mr. T. Powell, chairman, who is a patient at Caerphilly Hospital as a result of a colliery accident. Also present were the president, Coun. W. J. Payne, Mr. Cyril Davies, secretary, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. The secretary dealt with the correspondence, and the treasurer gave the financial report. It was decided to repair one of the billiard tables.

28 May 1960 Fochriw Has Y.M.C.A. Boys' Club Fochriw Y.M.C.A. – an auxiliary of Bargoed Y.M.C.A. – on Sunday elected an executive committee, which will eventually form the nucleus of a full management committee. Elected to the council were Messrs. Tudor Moon, Chairman; Glyn Jenkins, leader; Ronald Bradley, secretary; Gerald Gwynne, treasurer, and G. Grose. Boys' representatives are Messrs. John Thomas (over 16s), and R. Morgan (under 16s). It was agreed that subscriptions would be 2/- for working men on joining, plus 1/- per week thereafter, and 1/- for schoolboys on joining, and 6d per week thereafter. It was decided for the present to start no new members over the age of 16. The position will be reviewed once a month. It was decided to hold a camping weekend at Whitsuntide, with Mr. G. Gwynne as leader. Any kit required will be borrowed from the Bargoed "Y.M." It was also agreed that club members would attend on Tuesday evenings to work on the club premises, that a model aircraft club be run, possibly on Thursday evenings, that the cycling enthusiasts should link up with the Bargoed Y.M.C.A. Cycling Club on their weekly runs, that friendly matches of table tennis be arranged with other clubs, that an under 16 football team be entered in the Rhymney Valley League next season, and that other programme items for next winter be considered at an early date. Mr. C.L. Meakin, secretary of the Bargoed Y.M.C.A., told members that he looked forward to members of the Fochriw Y.M.C.A. Boys' Club taking part in various Y.M.C.A.

activities, and he was sure it would not be long before its members made their mark as a successful club.

24 September 1960 Welfare Association Mr. T. Powell presided over a meeting on Thursday at the New Hall. The interior of the Billiard Hall has been painted. It was agreed to repair fencing to the playing field. The treasurer gave the financial report of the outdoor and indoor schemes.

8 April 1961 Welfare Association The annual meeting was held on Thursday. Mr. T. Powell presided, supported by Coun. W.J. Payne, president, Mr. Cyril Davies, secretary, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. The balance sheet showed a good year's working in the indoor and outdoor schemes. Coun. Payne presided in the election of officers and committee. He thanked all for the work done during the last year, much of it voluntary. It was decided to repair and paint the pavilion, repair the fence at the playing field, and renew the lighting system at the new hall. Officers elected were: president, Coun. W.J. Payne; chairman, Mr. J. Jones, vice-chairman, Mr. T. Powell; secretary, Mr. Cyril Davies, treasurer, Mr. F. Jenkins; librarian, Mrs. Lewis; committee, Messrs. Bob Rees, P.C. Southworth, Des Evans, O. Parry, D. Ballard, L. Everett, D. Jones, G. Jenkins, P. Jones, G. Gwynne, G. Davies, C. Jones, G. Grose.

6 May 1961 Road Repairs Merthyr Public Works Committee have been informed that the N.C.B. are to pay 75% of the cost of road repairs to the Dowlais Top to Fochriw road. The Borough Engineer was congratulated for his services in the matter.

1 July 1961 Welfare A meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening, Mr. Tom Powell presiding. It was decided to carry out repairs to the pavilion on the playing field.

23 September 1961 "Galley Slave" Complaint A reference to school canteens made by the Gelligaer Council's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. Bowen Owen, in his annual report, prompted the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday to call for a report on canteen conditions. Dr. Owen said that in all but seven of the 23 school kitchens in the area, rooms formerly used as classrooms were now being used as kitchens. This often led to cramped and overcrowded conditions, he said. At one school kitchen, with a floor area of 14ft x 13ft, three people catered for 150. The room was so overcrowded that some equipment had to be stored in an adjoining classroom, said Dr. Bowen Owen. The report stressed the actual work of the canteen staff and the hygienic conditions of the canteens. He also said the staffs provided appetising meals. Coun. W.J. Payne said the kitchen referred to was probably at Fochriw. "The women there are working in conditions like galley slaves," he said. "Something must be done about it." Coun. K.G. Turner said the county should be urged to spend more money to bring canteens throughout the area up to standard. "In the Bargoed area some children have left the canteen and go to local cafes," he said. Mr. D.W. Davies, the Executive officer, advised the committee to let him prepare a report on the division's canteens before making any "sweeping statement" to the county about the conditions. There were several first-class canteens in the division; 75 per cent were perfectly reasonable, and the only bad ones were a few here and there, and the Executive had been pressing for improvements. At Fochriw, a scheme had been approved.

9 December 1961 Welfare Association Mr. T. Powell, chairman, presided at the meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. The correspondence was discussed. The resignation of Mrs. Davies, the caretaker, was accepted, and thanks recorded for the able manner in which she had done her duties. Mrs. Powell was appointed the new caretaker.

19 May 1962 Institute Meeting Mr. L. Everett presided at the meeting of the Fochriw Welfare and Institute at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. W.J. Payne, president, paid tribute to P.C. Southworth who is leaving the area to take up an appointment in the Caerphilly area. Repairs to the pavilion and playing field were discussed.

9 June 1962 Welfare Association Mr. L. Everett presided at a meeting on Thursday. He was supported by the secretary, Mr. Tom Powell, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. Correspondence regarding the pavilion and playing field was discussed. The treasurer gave the financial report.

25 August 1962 Plans For New Fochriw Pavilion Completed Plans for the rebuilding of the pavilion at Fochriw playing field have been approved, and an appeal is to be made for volunteers to help in the work. Mr. T. Powell, secretary of the Fochriw Welfare Association, reported this at last Thursday's meeting, when Mr. L. Everitt presided. The treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins, gave details of the indoor and outdoor schemes for the pavilion. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the indoor layout.

20 October 1962 Executive Supports Fochriw School Fares Protest Unless bus fares are reduced for pupils travelling from Fochriw to Pontlottyn County School – a distance of two miles – parents of the village are likely to boycott the school by keeping their children at home. This was the threat in a letter from Mrs. Enid Lewis of Iscoed House, Fochriw, considered by Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday. Writing on behalf of the parents who had signed a petition to protest against the high cost of bus fares, Mrs. Lewis stated, "We, the people of Fochriw, have decided to make communal protest against the high cost of our children's education in a country whose proud boast is free education for each child. We feel we are just in doing so. Our children are compelled to attend Pontlottyn County School by public transport, and the recent increase in bus fares means that it costs our children 7d. a day to do so. There are instances in the village where there are mothers with three children attending the school, and paying a total of 8s. 9d. a week in bus fares. We think consideration should be given to the fact that the two-mile limit rule, which prevents secondary modern school pupils from using free transport, was made when travel was only 1d. per mile for a child's ticket. Feeling is very high in Fochriw, and unless some form of help is given, we will have to consider the extreme step of taking our children away from school until we have satisfaction. With the prospect of the school leaving age being raised to 16, we think the question should be given every consideration now." Coun. W.J. Payne, of Fochriw, said that he favoured the protest and had every sympathy with the parents concerned. Because Gelligaer Urban Council was recently forced to increase its bus fares, the people now had cause to complain. Mr. D.W. Davies, Divisional Educational Officer, said that the two-mile limit for secondary school pupils was enforced by the County Council, and was a mile shorter than the national limit. Primary school pupils attending schools in Glamorgan were allowed one-and-a-half miles. Coun. Alex Jones said that the Executive should support the protest by showing agitation on the matter. "These bus fares could cause hardship among families with three or four children attending the school," he said. Mr. W. Beynon of Caerphilly moved that the details of the petition be sent to Glamorgan County Council with the suggestion that the present two-mile limit be reduced to one-and-a-half miles. This was accepted unanimously by the members.

20 October 1962 Fochriw Parents and School Meals A protest from parents of Fochriw children attending Pontlottyn County School, complaining about school meals, came before Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday. The Divisional Education Officer said that the complaints had been investigated

thoroughly by the School Meals Organiser and the headmaster, and the petitioners had been informed of the outcome. There appeared to be no grounds for the complaints, and an invitation had been given to the correspondent, and one other parent, to observe the service in operation at any time, without warning. The Divisional Education Officer added that the parents had complained that the meals were cold and insufficient, and that various things had been found in the meals, including ants. He said that it was true that ants had been found in the food, but this was due to an infested consignment of flour that had been sent back to the mill.

17 November 1962 Welfare Association Mr. L. Everitt presided over the meeting on Thursday, supported by the secretary, Mr. Tom Powell, and the treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins. The secretary reported on the re-building of the pavilion on the playing field that has reached roof level. He also referred to the visit of Mr. Morgan, the Welfare organiser.

29 December 1962 Sub-Postmaster Mr. Michael Evans, Post Office, Fochriw, has been appointed sub-postmaster at Fochriw, and will commence his duties in he new year.

6 April 1963 Institute The annual meeting of the Fochriw Welfare and Institute will be held at the New Hall on Thursday, April 16, 1963.

28 December 1963 Pentwyn Road Progress Report Because of the good progress made, Gelligaer's Surveyor believes work on the re-construction of the frost damaged road from Pentwyn to Dowlais Top – costing more than £50,000 – will be completed “on time,” by the end of the year. He said that more than one and a half miles of road had been completely re-structured despite difficulties with plant and bad weather.

29 February 1964 Welfare Association At a committee meeting in the New Hall on Sunday, the proposal that the club should become licensed was discussed. The Committee was informed by the secretary that the minute passed earlier was out of order and has to be removed from the record, as the person who seconded the motion ‘Not to have a licensed club’ was not a member of the Fochriw Welfare. The question of licensed premises will be discussed at a later date.

11 April 1964 Lorries a Danger to Our Children, Say Villagers Lorries hauling shale into Fochriw for dumping on nearby hillsides are worrying local people. Residents say they are disturbed by the noise, annoyed by the dirt, inconvenienced by traffic congestion, and frightened for their children. This week, a letter to the Editor, calls for action from the villagers. The letter says that nobody in authority seems to care about the problem. Many villagers are angry about the problem, but feel that there is little that can be done about it. Coun. Frank Jenkins, Brynteg Terrace, said that small coal is being taken to Fochriw from Brithdir and Abertysswg to be washed in washing bays. The firms responsible for shale and small coal at Fochriw have a contract with the N.C.B. and are obeying conditions. The people of Deri have also been complaining said Coun. Jenkins. The noise from the fleet of lorries travelling into Fochriw early in the mornings was disturbing residents, and some small coal and silt was being spilt on the roads during the journey he said. The letter airing the complaint, and signed “Wondering,” states: “These tips are raising their ugly heads and darkening the skyline. Apart from these rapidly growing mountains, we have to tolerate the inconvenience of fleets of gigantic lorries tearing away on our already congested roads, making life a misery for pedestrians. At the outset, the recovery of coal from derelict tips was something we came to terms with, but this new menace, in which shale from other areas is brought to Fochriw, is trying people's patience too far.” Development of an open cast site is advancing towards Fochriw, and another has been planned for Pontlottyn. These may also affect Fochriw. A reporter also spoke to

Miss Elizabeth Fox of Aelybryn Street, the newspaper's Fochriw correspondent. She said the noise disturbed many people in the village, and added that it has been going on since January. She pointed out that the lorries were a possible danger, especially when they changed gear on Station Hill. Mrs. B. Lewis, of Station Stores, Station Terrace, said that the heavy lorries were a danger to children as there was no pavement under the railway bridge near her shop. She said the young children going to school are likely to panic when seeing the lorries. Also, the lorries are tearing up the roads for which we are paying rates, she said. "I realise that every industry has got to go on, but I wonder why more of the lorries do not use the top road, and so reduce the traffic going through the village." One woman from Pontlloftyn who would not give her name said that she was not worried about the noise, but was anxious about the danger to children. "There are such a lot of lorries," she said.

18 April 1964 Lorries a Danger to Children Say Angry Parents Huge lorries carrying shale, often as many as 50 in one hour, tearing through the main street of the mountain village of Fochriw are causing angry protests from parents of children attending the village schools. On Monday, parents approached local head teachers and discussed the problem. They are anxious to make sure that their children are safe whilst going to and coming from school at the same time as lorries are travelling through the village, carrying the coal to the washeries at the nearby plant. Miss Olive Payne, head mistress of the Infants' School expressed her grave concern for the safety of the children, and said that she had written to the divisional education officer before Easter, asking for a road crossing patrol to be used. She had not received a reply. Coun. Frank Jenkins is also deeply concerned with the problem, as he is the deputy head of the Junior Department. He said that he had also written to the education officer. A petition asking for a road crossing patrol was drawn up two years ago by Mrs. Enid Lewis of Iscoed Villa. It was refused because there was insufficient traffic passing through the village. It was said that a zebra crossing could not be brought into use, as this was the only road through the village. Parents said that young children are likely to panic when they see lorries approaching them, as the pavement was laid from the railway bridge to the school on one side of the road only, and only from the river bridge to the school on the other side of the road. Children from Aelybryn and the Coal Board estate have either to walk on the road until they reach the river-bridge, or cross the main road at the junction with Aelybryn. Children from Cae Glas area have no pavement to walk on until they pass under the railway-bridge. Coun. Jenkins said that it was proposed to continue the pavement passed the river-bridge to the junction with Aelybryn. Villagers were given an opportunity to air their views at a public meeting held in the New Hall on Monday night. Mr. J. W. Jones, the chairman, suggested that restriction signs be placed at both entrances to the village, as the Council had stated that lorries could not be stopped from using the road through the village. Mr. Jack Davies moved that a letter be sent to Gelligaer Urban Council asking them to visit the village during school time to see the danger facing the children. The National Coal Board should also be approached asking them if the lorries could use the top road during school hours, and so reduce the traffic through the village. Another public meeting is planned, and it is hoped that three councillors will attend.

6 June 1964 Fochriw Ponds To Be Fenced The two ponds nearest Fochriw which are used by Mr. Larry Ryan in connection with the removal of small coal from a disused colliery tip are to be fenced with channel iron and barbed wire as a safety measure. This follows a meeting on the site between Mr. Ryan and representatives of the Gelligaer Urban Council who complain that the ponds are a danger. Mr. Ryan has agreed to fill in a third pond near the village.

19 September 1964 Fochriw Station Bridge British Railways have no objections in principle to the removal by Gellygaer Urban Council of the Station Bridge at Fochriw for road improvement. Consequently, the Council Surveyor had included a proposal for improving the highway at the bridge in the programme to the Glamorgan County Council.

7 November 1964 Coal Board to Get £7,375 Bill for Fochriw Road The Coal Board's Open-Cast Executive is to be asked by Gellygear Urban Council to contribute £7, 375 towards the cost of strengthening and providing passing bays on Bridgend Road, north of Fochriw. The public works committee made this recommendation on Tuesday. The meeting was told that the road was 1.600 yards long, and the provision of eight bays would widen the road for 700 yards. It is understood this improvement will enable vehicles to use the road for hauling coal from the new open-cast site between Fochriw and Pontlloyn.