

How the Vale Show began

by COUN R GWYN
THOMAS, COLWINSTON

ON Wednesday, October 28, 1772, a meeting was held at the Bear Inn in Cowbridge and it was "then and there unanimously resolved that a society called the Glamorganshire Agricultural Society, for the encouragement of agriculture, be formed."

At the meeting held on December 9, 1772, Mr John Franklin was appointed treasurer – he occupied the office for 49 years – and a secretary would be appointed and paid £20 per year.

It was further resolved that one meeting be held on the second day of the Spring Great Sessions, and the other on Wednesday next after full moon in November. The moon is supposed to affect the date of agricultural shows. The Hon George Venables was elected president and Mr Robert Jones, vice president.

At the meeting held on April 12, 1773, an order was given for a Northampton plough, worked with two horses, to be purchased and deposited in a warehouse in Cowbridge, to encourage the four

course system; first turnips; second barley; third clover; fourth wheat.

At a meeting held in Cowbridge on August 16, 1773, it was decided to procure and deposit, at the society warehouse in Cowbridge, a machine for dressing clover, a machine for slicing turnips, two of the most approved horse hoes, two of the most approved straw cutters and two of the most approved turnip hoes. This showed very energetic action on behalf of the committee.

At the same meeting, Mr Calvert R Jones received a gold medal for his coach or cart horse and Mr Thomas Key 10 guineas for his coach horse, these two gentlemen being the society's first two winners.

It may also interest you to know that Mrs Eleanor Williams, daughter of Mr William Howells JP, Glanymor, Wick, was the first lady to ride a horse in the

Vale of Glamorgan show – her son Mr Geoffrey Williams and family still live in Cardiff, although more than 80. Coun Eiryn Thomas of Colwinston owns the riding crop she used at the shows.

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