

welcome to the vicar



The new vicar of Cowbridge, the Revd Gwilym Williams, sees his new post as an 'exciting challenge'. Coming from the parish of St Margaret's at Mountain Ash - an area heavily dependent on the mining industry, and consequently suffering with high unemployment - to this area with its very different problems, the Vicar feels that he needs to adapt his preaching. To do this successfully, he considers it necessary to first discover the special needs of the community, and to identify with them.

Rev Gwilym Williams was born in Porthmadog in North Wales. He studied Welsh at university college, Lampeter, and later - in preparation for his career in the Church - read Theology at Cardiff. He had intended working in the Church since the age of fourteen, and was so determined, that when his local vicar advised him to study Greek, and he found he was unable to do so at school, he took lessons in the subject each morning before going to school.

Rev Williams is married with two sons, one studying Maths and Computer Science at University College, Cardiff; the other, aged 12 informed us with a knowing smile that he goes to the Bishop of Llandaff school. He quickly added that this is purely because he transferred directly from one church school to another!

In his spare time, Rev Williams enjoys reading, campanology and watching sport - especially rugby which he used to play. He enjoys 'good music' - both classical and modern - and hopes to make music a more important part of church services in the future. At the moment, most of his free time is taken up learning about the history of Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

He was pleasantly surprised to find that a strong community feeling, such as he had experienced in Mountain Ash, exists in Cowbridge. He has already become aware of our pride in the traditions of the town, and the strong community involvement, and feels that the church could play a larger role here, firstly by making church buildings available

Welcome to the New Vicar! (continued)

particularly for young people. Asked if this would be a definite step towards encouraging people back into the church after the recent decline, Rev Williams retorted that if one were to examine the facts correctly, "Church life is not declining. Church life is growing." He added that he would love to debate this with anyone should they disagree.

Some changes are planned for his parish, and he also looks forward to a close association with Rev Barrie Petterson of Ramoth Church. One of the envisaged changes is the introduction of services in Welsh, his first language, and he also hopes for better communication with the young. Rev Williams' ultimate aim, however, is to make Holy Cross a family church.

(We would like to thank the Revd Gwilym Williams for his help in writing this article, and we wish him every success here in Cowbridge.)

Alison and Kay Thomas.

COWBRIDGE WEEK.....

Sat., 30 May: Museum opens; It's a Knockout; Brass Band performance.

Sun, 31 May: Foot Race; Petanque; Family Service.

Mon, 1 June: Scavenger hunt for children on horseback; Historical Walkabout; Film Show in the Duke.

COSSACK SUCCESS

The Cossacks, our local Guide and Ranger folk group, have been chosen to perform in the annual International Folk Festival to be held in the Albert Hall on October 24th. This is a considerable achievement since the competitors came from all over Europe to take part in the auditions (also held in the Albert Hall, in March), and the standard of performance was exceptionally high.

We would like to congratulate them, and wish them the best of luck for October!

D.J.

SYLVIA WILLIAMS

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Fishing

The interest in fishing in the Cowbridge area is quite considerable, mainly due to the range of fishing opportunities the river Thaw has to offer. There is game fishing for trout from March to September, and sea fishing at Aberthaw, famous for its mullet and bass.

Of course there have to be restrictions to prevent over-fishing. These come in the form of licences and size limits - any trout under 8" long have to be thrown back. Fly fishermen are at an advantage here, because as the fish take the fly, the hook gets caught in the lip - and so if the fish are under-size, the hook can be removed easily and the trout returned to the water. Worms, and their hooks, are usually swallowed, and so the fish, whatever the size, has to be killed to retrieve the hook. So fly fishing is not only more skilful, it serves the interests of conservation much better!

There are about eleven fishing waters in South Glamorgan, but the most popular for the Cowbridge youngsters seems to be the three fields at Llanblethian. The Cowbridge and District Angling Association has the fishing rights from several riparian owners, and they stock the river every year, an expensive process. Thus there is keen interest in fishing from all age groups in the area; but one word of warning to non-swimmers - downstream of Gigman Bridge there are many deep pools, so please be careful!

Alison Thomas, with thanks to Justin Isaac

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

24 Longmeadow Ct.,
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I must write and congratulate you on your further issue of Intercom - it is indeed excellent and I wish it came out more often....

There was one omission in 'Old Boys of some Distinction'. There is living in retirement in Cowbridge Dr W. Evan Thomas, an old boy, who was a student there in the late 1920s. He became Medical Officer of Health to the Glamorgan County Council and retained this post for many years. He also was an Honorary Physician to the Queen. Perhaps you could mention this in your next issue?

Yours sincerely,
Selwyn Davies
(Grammar School, 1917-1921)

23 HIGH STREET COWBRIDGE

z^um^bieS!

What are the Zumbies? Many have asked, and we hope that many will ask, this question. All I can say is that the Zumbies were formerly known as the Sex Gumbies. During their time as the Sex Gumbies they performed comic material only. After performing only twice, there was a major split within the group. Unfortunately this meant the group's cult figure, Philip Powell, leaving for Blackpool (illuminations).

The Gumbies lay dead and (almost) forgotten, until the three remaining members decided to reform (and about time too) under the name of the Zumbies. It was decided to record all previous "comedy" material, on cassette. Also written and recorded were several new songs. An advertisement was placed in the New Musical Express, Garageland feature (music recorded in garages). The Zumbies received enquiries for copies from London, Cologne (Germany), Poderno (Italy), Sheffield, Newcastle and Ramsbottom (Lancashire). They have had offers to sell their material in Dusseldorf and Northern Italy, which they hope to take up.

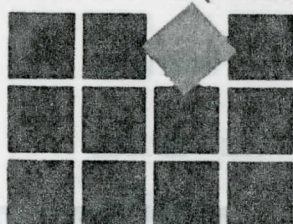
Last March, the Zumbies were invited to perform along with the Industrial Chipmunks at the Cowbridge Youth Centre. To do this, they acquired two further members - one synthesizer/guitar player and one drummer (who for obvious reasons wish to remain anonymous).

The Zumbies would welcome any further opportunities to perform songs and sketches (apply to Chinless Blunder productions). The Zumbies say they have no intentions of leaving Britain for a tax haven.

Nick Gibbon.

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COWBRIDGE WEEK

Tues, 2 June: Punch & Judy; 'Easy Rider'; CAOS sing.

Weds., 3 June: Tug of War; Poems and Pints; live music at the 'Brewer'.

Thurs., 4 June: Disco, Pub to Pub race, Bingo.

DIGGING UP THE PAST

The 'dig' on David John's land behind Bear Lane is adding further knowledge about the Roman settlement in Cowbridge. A chance find of pottery just before Christmas started it all off; now the bases of some Roman buildings have been uncovered. A new leaflet on the Glamorgan-Gwent Trust's work in Cowbridge will soon be available; in addition, they have produced an excellent book on the Archaeology and Topography of Cowbridge (available from them at £4.50 + post).

CALENDAR

Saturday 6th June: Traditional Barn Dance at the Garn Barn, St Hilary, to conclude Cowbridge Week.

Friday 26 June: Squash Club Barbecue at the Athletic Club

Saturday 4th July: American Independence Day Dance at the Duke, organised by Y Bontfaen Parents' Association (and there is a fete on Bontfaen School fields in the afternoon).

Saturday 4th July: Barn Dance with the Crooked Stovepipe Band at the Garn, St Hilary, organised by Cowbridge School Parents' Association (£3).

Friday 10th July: Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen, at St Hilary, organised by the Rotary Club of Cowbridge (£6).

Saturday 18 July: Tennis Club dance at the Athletic Club, for members and friends. New members are always welcome!

Cowbridge Week

Fri., 5 June: Car Hunt, film, Cheese and Wine

Sat., 6 June: Carnival Day and Barn Dance

and many, many more events all through the week. Rollup in your thousands and support Cowbridge Week!

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NEW AT THE YOUTH CENTRE

An innovation this summer is the organisation of the first summer courses for youth and adults, to be held between 24th and 29th August. The courses will be on Archaeology, Ceramics and Drama. For further details please contact Mr Granville John, Cowbridge 4460 or Mr Keith James, Cowbridge 3831.

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THE THREE FIELDS

The Vale of Glamorgan Council had over 130 letters of objection to the recent plan to build in part of the three fields. This figure did not include all those who signed petitions against the development. It seems that there might be enough support for Cowbridge and Llanblethian to buy the three fields, to keep them as farmland and public open space?

INTERESTING to hear that... the Cardiff firm of Evan Roberts are coming to Cowbridge Stradlings have applied to extend into the Spread Eagle the Conservatives have applied to open a club above the Co-op.

CONGRATULATIONS to Y Bontfaen School's gymnastic team, who were placed third out of twelve in the Urdd Eisteddfod at Newcastle Emlyn on May 27th.

MANY THANKS

to Cowbridge and District Entertainments Society for their generous donation to meet the cost of printing the last issue

and to the advertisers, without whose contributions this issue would not have appeared. The costs of production are rising rapidly!

INTERCOM was produced at Cowbridge School by Alison Thomas, Kay Thomas, Deborah James, Nicholas Gibbon, Lindsay Gibbon, Wendy Lane, Alison Gould and Julie Davies.

Correspondence to Alison Thomas at the School.

Editor: J. Alden.