



GUILDHALL'S FINAL PHASE TO BEGIN

Llantrisant Town Trust is delighted to announce that the final piece of the funding jigsaw is now in place and completion of the Guildhall is in sight.

Due to further support from HLF Cymru, Cadw, Garfield Weston Foundation, Foyle Foundation and the Trust's own fundraising efforts, funds needed to complete the building are in place.

As the local centre of power for almost 700 years which governed the ancient borough, the Guildhall has the opportunity to become central to the community of Llantrisant once again as a heritage and visitors' centre.

The final phase will allow contractors to fit ceilings, plaster and paint all the internal walls, fit the kitchen and toilets, complete the electrical, plumbing and drainage work, and install the lift, stairs and final floor finishes.

High specification security cabinets and a full exhibition display will be installed on both floors.

The Trust has also commissioned a full-size mannequin of a Welsh longbowman dressed in the uniform worn at the Battle of Crecy.

A longcase clock made by a Llantrisant clockmaker in 1780 has been traced and will go on display along with a showcase of Dr William Price items and a large oil painting of Sir David Evans, the Llantrisant-born Lord Mayor of London which is on loan from Cardiff Council.

To ensure its long-term sustainability, the Guildhall will also become a wedding venue and offer a wide-range of activities including workshops, rolling exhibitions, intimate dining experiences, concerts, evening lectures and even outdoor cinema.

NOTES FROM THE HALL

In many ways 2018 was a frustrating year for the Trust as no further restoration work was carried out on the Guildhall.

The year was dominated by applications for financial support and raising our own funds with concerts, fetes and numerous other events.

We are delighted to say that our hard work paid off and the final phase of work is about to begin.

We have since appointed a new contractor and the interior fit of the building will begin on January 7 with a completion date of June 28 2019.

During the year we established a Guildhall Project Team which includes experienced museum consultants, developers and curators.

Thanks to their professional advice the exhibition fit-out will take place alongside the construction work and we aim for an opening of August Bank Holiday 2019.

The year ahead is a very exciting one, although a great deal of work lies ahead including raising additional money for the exhibition fit-out.

We will continue to hold various fundraising events, including our annual Big Picnic Event on June 8.

We are also concentrating our efforts on expanding the volunteer base for the Guildhall, completing an education pack for visiting school children and planning the flexibility of the building for dinner parties, concerts, guest speaking evenings and weddings.

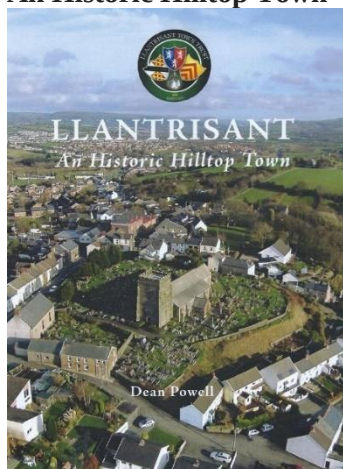
We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you visit the building in 2019!

GUILDHALL VIEW

'Tanks' A Lot!

Balmoral Tanks made a generous donation of £750.00 to the Guildhall project this year. The Llantrisant branch of the global water, waste-water and processing company also supported Beating the Bounds in 2017. We are very grateful for their continued support!

An Historic Hilltop Town



Have you bought a copy of “An Historic Hilltop Town” – a fascinating insight into more than 1,500 years of Llantrisant life and traditions. Priced £6 each, the book was launched by Llantrisant Guildhall Trust. For copies contact dean@llantrisant.net

Guildhall Trust 2018

Current Guildhall Trustees are: Gareth Rees, Huw Rees, David Powell, John Dickason, Dewi John, Gareth Alexander, Stephen Powell, Martin Hooker represents the Cambrian Archaeological Association, They are joined by Cllrs Allan Matheson, Ron Hunt and David Nicholas of Llantrisant Community Council and Freeman John Berry and John Jeremy. The Guildhall Manager is Dean Powell.

JOIN OUR GUIDED HISTORY WALK



The Guildhall Trust has organised a series of guided history walks of Llantrisant during the past year with proceeds going towards the Restoration Scheme.

The tours give visitors and residents alike a fascinating insight into the story of this ancient hilltop town.

Starting at the Castle Green, Guildhall Manager Dean Powell leads the walkers to Yr Allt, into the Parish Church, along Swan Street and the Bull Ring before concluding at the Guildhall itself.

Lasting an hour and a half, it covers more than 1,500 years of local history from the coming of Christianity to the opening of the Royal Mint.

If you're interested in finding out more about this fascinating hilltop town, or would like to organise a guided walk for a group of friends, then email dean@llantrisant.net

FREEMEN'S HALL SCHEME LAUNCHED

Would you like to remember a Freeman in your family at their ancestral home of the Llantrisant Guildhall?

A Freeman's Hall is being designed within the building which allows families to include a lasting tribute to a late Freeman.

Following a donation of £100, a picture of the Freeman is mounted and framed along with a short biography and will be hung in the Guildhall.

To date around 20 Freeman are being remembered in this way.

All of the proceeds from the new Freeman's Hall will help fund the exhibition fit-out phase of the Guildhall and also support its long-term sustainability as a heritage and visitors' centre.

The current Freeman's Roll has more than 5,000 names listed since 1724 and we estimate that at least 2,000 Freeman are currently living somewhere in the world!

For further details contact the Guildhall Manager at dean@llantrisant.net

GUILDHALL: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A contract has now been signed between the Guildhall Trust and David Siggery Ltd to complete the building by July 2019.

Based in Llansteffan, David A Siggery Ltd is a well-established family run business specialising in the repair and restoration of historic buildings and structures.

A considerable amount of interior work will be undertaken during the six-month project including the fitting of ceilings and plastering and painting of all of the internal walls.

A kitchen generously donated by Howdens Joinery, will be fitted in the lower floor and toilets will be installed on both floors of the building.

Plumbing and drainage work has yet to be undertaken and the current electrical wiring is of insufficient standard and will be totally replaced.

An elevator will be fitted and some exterior work needs to be completed.

When the building is complete, work begin on the exhibition fit out which includes high specification security cabinets, displays, information boards and interactive features.

COOP CUSTOMERS SUPPORT THE HALL



Shoppers at local Co-op stores have helped raised more than £6,200 for the Llantrisant Guildhall restoration project.

Trustees visited stores in Southgate and Pontyclun to thank shoppers and staff for their generosity in supporting the major fundraising effort.

Guildhall Manager Dean Powell joined fellow trustees Allan Matheson, David Nicholas, Ron Hunt and John Jeremy for a cheque presentation from Coop Manager Kurtis Dunn.

The Guildhall Trust received £6,219.45 from the Cooperative Local Community Team Fund which has seen £19m donated to causes UK-wide

Every time our members shop at Co-op, 1% of what they spend on selected own-branded products and services goes to help fund community projects where they live.

GUILDHALL VIEW

Overwhelming Generosity

Many individuals, businesses and organisations have made donations to the Guildhall Project over the past five years. Every one of them is listed on the website www.llantrisant.net including those who generously supported us this year. Our thanks to Margaret Maynard of Llantrisant and Richard Phillips of Australia for their kind support in 2018.

New Year Fundraiser

On New Year's Eve, Llantrisant's Wheatsheaf Hotel held a fundraising night in aid of the Guildhall. A host of activities took place throughout the building. Our thanks goes to staff and customers of this Llantrisant landmark!

Guest Speaking Programme

An impressive list of guest speakers have been approached to present their lectures at the completed Guildhall. With topics ranging from Edward II and the De Clares to Owain Glynder and the Bute family, the programme of speakers will enthrall.

Wedding Venue Booking

Guildhall Trustees have met with a wedding planner to discuss the options of licensing the building as a wedding venue. The historic building will provide an ideal location and ceremonies will greatly assist in the long term sustainability of the building. It boasts a romantic setting in the shadow of the ruins of our Norman castle and will provide a perfect backdrop for a couple's special day.

LLANTRISANT CELEBRATES BIG PICNIC 2018 AS HUNDREDS VISIT

Another wonderful celebration of life in the community of Llantrisant took place with the Big Picnic!



Organised by Llantrisant Town Trust, the Big Picnic is now in its second year and welcomed a host of stallholders, entertainers and plenty of visitors on one of the hottest days of the year.

The Castle Green was filled to capacity as families and friends took their picnic baskets, blankets and bottles of prosecco to celebrate this successful community event.

The Big Picnic welcomed 25 stallholders including Gill Fairground Amusements who provided plenty of entertainment for the children.

The free event also saw entertainers giving their time to perform to the enthusiastic crowd. They included Cor y Bryn, Cor Tadau Trisant, RCT Community Band, The Semantics, The Accidentals, Rechoir, Rua, Mike Morgan & Richard Jones and The Unforgiven.

The family fun day also raised £1,100 for the Guildhall Restoration Scheme which is now reaching its final phase. Organiser Dean Powell said: "Llantrisant's Big Picnic was a very successful community event which clearly everyone enjoyed. We were blessed with good weather, plenty of great entertainment and activities which certainly drew the crowds.

"We are very grateful for the kind donations which helped us raise a good amount towards the Guildhall project and have decided to make The Big Picnic an annual event in Llantrisant old town."

WELSH LORD SUPPORTS GUILDHALL

Llantrisant Guildhall welcomed the Welsh Minister Lord Elis-Thomas who expressed his delight at the £1.4million project.



The Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport viewed the medieval court house.

At the invitation of Pontypridd Assembly Member Mick Antoniw, Lord Elis-Thomas met with members of the Guildhall Trust who have worked tirelessly during the past six years to see their project come to fruition. Lord Elis-Thomas said: "The Trustees and volunteers can be rightly proud of all they have achieved to date in the conservation and refurbishment of this remarkable building.

"The Guildhall is already an important civic building in the centre of Llantrisant and this scheme will help to secure its future as a major community facility. I am delighted that, through Cadw and Visit Wales, we have been able to provide grant support."

Join The Guildhall Volunteers Team!

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

Volunteers are needed to lend their support to the exciting project when completed.

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

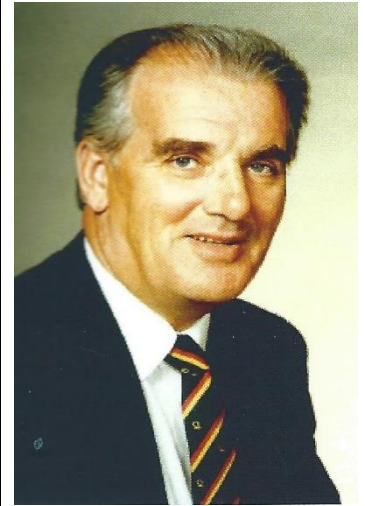
But a team of volunteers, who will be trained for free by the Guildhall Trust, are also needed to support the centre

With a rolling programme of events, workshops and exhibitions, the Trust will create a major community hub bringing more visitors into the borough while also providing a first-class facility for people in the immediate area. Volunteers with a diverse variety of skills - regardless of their knowledge of local history - will help make the project a success.

A series of open days will take place in 2019 to explain the many roles available to volunteers once the building is completed.

For further information contact dean@llantrisant.net

DAVID PHILLIPS



The news of the passing of David Vernon Phillips of Talygarn, left the Trust deeply saddened.

His passing was not a surprise because his battle with Cancer had been a long and hard one. The greatest poignancy came from the fact that he would never get to see the completed Guildhall which had become incredibly important to him. David was the Guildhall's greatest single benefactor, donating £20,000 for two exhibition cabinets to be displayed inside the building in honour of his Freeman family.

Born in Penygawsi in 1933 David was one of four children, the son of a sexton. Following National Service he developed a successful engineering company in Nigeria - despite the many outbreaks of civil war and changing regimes. His retirement to Portugal allowed him to continue his love for tennis, golf, Freemasonry and indeed family history. He also wrote a fascinating memoir. His enthusiasm for the Guildhall was apparent very early on and for more than a year we had the pleasure and honour of knowing a great man who will be long remembered in Llantrisant Guildhall.

GUILDHALL VIEW

Prichards Support Project
Llantrisant-based Prichard's Contractors Ltd have supported many activities organised to raise funds for the Guildhall. However this year they went even further by making a £2,000.00 donation to the Guildhall Trust. We are very grateful!

Memorial Cabinet Sponsors
Llantrisant Guildhall will house a number of cabinets to showcase the many artefacts relating to local history. Members of the public can purchase a cabinet which will be dedicated to a relative of their choice. Cabinets vary in price from £5,000 to £15,000. For further details contact dean@llantrisant.net

Joinery Support Scheme
Howdens Joinery has supported the Guildhall Trust since it launched the first fundraising appeal more than five years ago. Once again in 2018 they have made several donations to the cause and we thank employee Rhys Ferris and Glenn Holloway for presenting £400 to the project this year.

Trustee Gareth Honoured



Gareth Griffiths decided not to stand for re-election as a member of Llantrisant Guildhall Trust. Gareth played a pivotal role in the organisation for 10 years, gaining the support of political leaders in our efforts. In honour of his contribution, a crystal decanter and glasses was presented to him.

MACE HONOURS FREEMEN HISTORY

Llantrisant's Mace dates back almost 400 years and survived the Civil War to become one of the most unique treasures in the town's history.



Maces originated as a weapon of war in Norman times and were adopted by the Sergeants at Arms to guard the king from suspected assassins and grew to become an emblem of authority.

The date engraved on the Llantrisant Mace is 1633 and the royal coat of arms on the top of Charles I (1600-1649) who reigned from 1625 until he was executed.

The pattern of Maces most commonly seen today was standardised by Royal decree of Charles I.

The silver crown is that of Charles I and is also crudely marked with "WE" which may be a pawnbroker's mark, given the story that the mace was recovered from a London pawnbrokers in the 1890s but it may be that of William ap Evan.

It was a William ap Evan, an official of Llantrisant, who showed the Commissioners (under the Corporation Act of 1661) the Charter on 27 October 1662 at Mr Draper's house in Cardiff.

On one face of the side of the Mace is a coat of arms of a shield with three lions rampant encircled by a belt all surmounted by a crown. It is the coat of arms of a Knight of the Order of the Garter.

The founder of the Order of the Garter was Edward III, the victor of Crecy and his son, the Black Prince, was amongst the first Knights of the Order in 1348. It appears to be an attempt to link Llantrisant to Charles I through the Knights of the Garter, Edward III, the Black Prince of Wales 1343-1376, the town charter and Crecy of 1346. The three lions rampant was the coat of arms of the 4th Earl of Pembroke (1584-1650) who presumably gifted the mace to the town.

A favourite of Charles I he became a moderate parliamentarian during the English Civil War, and the King's jailer immediately before the regicide.

There are two decorations on the Mace. The upper decoration is a repeated fleur de lis and the lower a repeated cross pattee (a cross with the ends of the arms flared). Both are associated with the English monarchy and both appear on English crowns.

The current Imperial State Crown has a cross pattee which contains the Black Prince's ruby – given in 1367 by King Pedro of Castille for military services.

The fleur de lis was first incorporated into the royal coat of arms in 1340 by Edward III when asserting his claim to the French crown.

The Mace survived the English Civil War (1642-1651), the Commonwealth (1649-1653) and Cromwell's Protectorate (1653-1659). probably because it also bore the coat of arms of a leading Parliamentarian the 4th Earl of Pembroke. Near the handgrip of the mace is a name engraved of Edmund Hughes, portreeve, who held the post in Llantrisant sometime after 1630.

A pre-Civil War mace is rare; the combination on it of the royal coat of arms of Charles I and that of a leading Parliamentarian during the Civil War makes it unique.

TALENTED BROWNIES SUPPORT US!

Llantrisant 1st Brownies Group raised £300 by holding a talent show in aid of the Guildhall restoration project.



The group visited the medieval building on Llantrisant Castle Green to see where their donation will be spent.

Brown Owl Mel Giles said: “The Brownies often hold activities on the Castle Green and have a genuine interest in the work being carried out at the Guildhall.

“So when we decided to hold a talent show they wanted all of the proceeds to go towards the building.

“They were thrilled at the opportunity of seeing the Guildhall reach its final phase of restoration and are looking forward to taking part in the many activities that will be offered there once completed”.

The talented group performed in a variety of roles from singers to dancers before a packed audience in the Parish Hall.

Guildhall Manager Dean Powell and fellow Guildhall Trust members John Dickason and John Jeremy presented the Brownies with a framed certificate to thank them for their support.

GUILDHALL FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

A host of great talent combined to perform a fundraising concert in aid of the Llantrisant Guildhall project.

The Richard Williams Singers, Gentlemen Songsters and Llantrisant Community School Choir joined forces with the Lewis Merthyr Band at the Llantrisant Parish Church for a sell-out concert.

The evening was a huge success and brought visitors from across South Wales who were enchanted by the high standard of performance.

In complete contrast the Guildhall Trust also held a Summer Ball at the Rugby Football Clubhouse.

The black-tie fundraising dinner saw residents and visitors enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of the evening which not only included delicious food but also a memorable evening's entertainment courtesy of Abba tribute act Bjorn Belief!

GUILDHALL VIEW

Find out more about the life of Lord Talbot, who will be remembered in the Guildhall:



Charles Talbot, 1st Baron Talbot PC was a British lawyer and politician. He was Lord Chancellor of Great Britain from 1733 to 1737. Talbot was the eldest son of the Bishop of Durham, was educated at Eton and Oriel College, Oxford, and became a fellow of All Souls College in 1704.

He was called to the bar in 1711, and in 1717 was appointed solicitor general to the Prince of Wales. Having been elected a member of the House of Commons in 1720, he became Solicitor General in 1726, and in 1733 he was made lord chancellor and raised to the peerage with the title of Lord Talbot, Baron of Hensol.

Talbot enjoyed the reputation of being a wit; he was a patron of the poet James Thomson. Talbot is also remembered as one of the two authors of the Yorke–Talbot slavery opinion whilst he was a crown law officer in 1729).

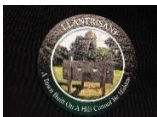
In 1709 he married Cecil, daughter and heiress of Charles Mathews of Castell y Mynach, Glamorgan, and the grand-daughter of David Jenkins of Hensol.

FREEMAN GIFTS

Llantrisant Guildhall
Shop is open for business!



A china mug featuring
seven images of Llantrisant
£5.99



Selection of six different
Llantrisant coasters
£2.99



Chrome keyring
£3.49



Limited edition cufflinks
£24.99



Five different postcards
40p each / 3 for £1.00



Bronze Black Prince
£18.99



Metal model of bowman
£11.99

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

A FREEMEN'S TALE: DVD LAUNCHED

Llantrisant Town Trust commissioned the making of a new documentary entitled "A Freeman's Tale" which gives viewers a remarkable insight into our tradition and its place in the history of the town.



Made by Colin Davis of Calan Films and taking more than six months to create, the film was premiered at the Court Leet Dinner in May 2018.

It features not only some outstanding aerial footage and a fascinating insight into the story of the hilltop town, but is brought together with some great interviews of Freemen and local residents.

The response to the 20-minute production has been incredibly positive and many Freemen have requested copies.

We are pleased to say that "A Freeman's Tale" is now available to purchase at £5.99 each. For further details contact dean@llantrisant.net

HISTORY COLLECTION CREATED

Llantrisant Guildhall will house a unique collection of historic artefacts related specifically to the hilltop town.

During the past two years we have collected and catalogued almost 600 historic items for the Guildhall's Museum Accession Register.

This shows our commitment to receive historic items which we will photograph, catalogue and store as donations in our archive collection. It also means that we will be able to loan specific items from registered museums to allow updated exhibitions in the building.

Would you like to donate any items to the collection? These can be anything from old postcards and rugby club programmes to family heirlooms!

All we ask is they have a connection to old town Llantrisant or its Freemen.

Even if you don't want to donate the item or place them on loan, we would like the opportunity to catalogue them for our files for future reference.

Find out more by contacting dean@llantrisant.net

