



# E-NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2022

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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



One cannot help but wonder whether it is summer in Cardiff or monsoon season in Singapore! What a capricious climate we have, but thankfully rain has not stopped play on our summer programme, which is being greatly enjoyed by all!

We have a rather shorter edition this month, presumably as all our members are so busy rushing in and out of doors to enjoy a sunbath or avoid a shower. None-the-less, we do still have the latest instalment of Deanne's excellent series, the History of Cardiff. If any members do have any articles for inclusion, do please send them through. All contributions most gratefully received!

Best wishes,

Geraint Denison-Kurg  
Honorary Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Cardiff Bach Choir  
Côr Bach Caerdydd

# DIAMOND JUBILEE CONCERT

1962 - 2022

J. S. Bach - St John Passion

with / gyda

**British Sinfonietta**

Conductor / Arweinydd - Stephen Moore

**Soloists / Unawdwyr**

Evangelist - Paul Smy

Bass (Christus) - Peter Edge

Baritone (Pilate) - Jamie Hall

Tenor - Guy Withers

Countertenor - Kieron-Connor Valentine

Soprano - Gail Pearson

Hoddinott Hall, Wales Millennium Centre

Saturday 23rd July 2022, 7.30pm

Sadwrn 23ain Gorffennaf 2022, 7.30pm

tickets / tocynnau: £20  
under 16 / dan 16: free / yn rhad  
myfyrwyr / students: £10

Available from:

online - [stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk](http://stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk) / telephone - 029 2087 8444  
in person at St David's Hall box office / on the night at the hall

[www.cardiffbachoir.org.uk](http://www.cardiffbachoir.org.uk)

Cardiff Bach Choir is a registered charity (no. 1115503)

## DOES ANYONE REMEMBER.... INFIRMARY SUNDAYS?



Many of us have fond memories of the CRI and are glad to see it being so sympathetically restored. One of our members is co-ordinating a research project into the infirmary's lengthy and complex history and has asked if the society can help discover more about Infirmary Sundays. This pre-NHS tradition saw local churches donate their collections for one Sunday of the year, normally in April, to the infirmary, which in those days was perpetually concerned about how it was to be successfully financed. Does anyone remember or know anything about this tradition?

**THE HISTORY OF CARDIFF**  
**-PART SEVEN-**  
**Deanne Pickstone**

In 1897, the old Roath Mill and Fishponds, which had served the community for 700 years, were demolished. The Norman St Margaret's Church had been replaced in 1868 by today's church, which also houses a vault for the 1st Marquess of Bute and his family. He is the only Bute Marquess buried there.

Until 1899, the northern limit of Cardiff was marked by a cross, Crwys Suchan, which stood where Fair Oak and Crwys Road meet by Cathays Library. Facing it was Grange Farm demolished and replaced by Gladstone School in 1899.

The third Marquess of Bute died in 1900 leaving a legacy, not only of a wonderful restored castle, but a rich and prosperous industrial and commercial town.

In 1905 the cathedral city of Llandaff was incorporated as a suburb of Cardiff and the Borough town of Cardiff became a City. In St Mary Street is the Borough Arms Hotel, named after and featuring Cardiff's old Coat of Arms.

Llandaff reflects the history and development of Cardiff through the ages. St Teilo founded the first cathedral there in 560AD and it has been restored four times. Bombed in WWII, in 1963 it reopened with Epstein's magnificent statue of "Christ in Majesty" reigning over its Nave.

In Victorian times Edward Stock, a colliery owner, built Rookwood House, which today is a hospital. Insole Court was built by James Insole. Its mansion and gardens are open to the public. In the village is the original Church in Wales Infants School. In 1914 my paternal grandmother, Alice Lyons, née Ashton, the 6th child of Elizabeth and Roger Ashton, became Headmistress. Today, it houses the Cathedral's Archives. A new Anglican Primary School is situated nearby. In 1937 my parents Ted and Iris Lyons were married in Llandaff Cathedral.

There was a Water Mill belonging to the Bishops of Llandaff. In the 1950s it became the site of Llandaff Technical College. It was here that my husband Carl was a Senior Lecturer in Engineering. He developed and built a Hydraulic and Pneumatic Laboratory where he taught many students. Cardiff Metropolitan University, the Cathedral School and Howells Girls' School are still open in the locality.

In 1905 the 4th Marquess of Bute sold Cathays Park to Cardiff Council for £158,000 for the creation of our magnificent Civic Centre began in Edwardian times.

The elegant City Hall and Clock Tower, Boer War Memorial, Law Courts, Registry Office, Glamorgan County Hall and Cardiff University were built first. Next to be built were Cardiff Technical College and the first part of the Welsh Office. Then WWI interrupted building. It was not until 1926 the National Museum opened overlooking the Gorsedd Gardens with its statue of the Docksman John Cory and the bust of the Prime Minister, Lloyd George known affectionately as The Welsh Wizard.

Alexander Gardens is situated in the heart of our City Centre. At its centre is the Welsh National War Memorial where The Fallen in different wars are remembered. In 1937, The Temple of Peace was opened. In 1980, the huge complex of the Welsh Office was built. On the Green in front of the City Hall is the statue of Lord Tredegar astride his horse Sir Briggs and the Fountain for the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the Boer War Memorial.

In 1907 the new Cardiff Coat of Arms reflected the change from a Borough town to a City in 1905, when the Cathedral city of Llandaff was incorporated into Cardiff.

The Coat of Arms shows a shield with a mount from which grows a leek and a red dragon standing on the mound holding a red flag with silver chevronels. The mound represents the castle, the leek and dragon are Welsh Symbols, and the silver chevronels are those of Iestyn ap Gwrgant. The shield is supported by a mountain goat signifying the hills of Glamorgan and the Royal Welsh Regiment of Fusiliers, the goat being the regiment's mascot. The Seahorse

represents Welsh coal and Cardiff's port and trade. The crown on top of the tilting helmet is part of Cardiff's old borough Coat of Arms. The Tudor rose represents the union of the Houses of Lancaster and York under Henry VII. The Prince of Wales feathers were incorporated with the permission of King Edward VII. The Welsh motto means "The Welsh Dragon will lead the Way".

In 1910 Ernest Willows flew his Airship from East Moors to the front of the City Hall. He was watched by some 40,000 people. The son of a Dentist, he was born in 1886 at 11, Newport Road, now the site of Cardiff University's Medical School built in 1926. At age 19 years in 1905 he raised his first airship 120 feet off the ground. By 1920 he employed 150 people in his factory. He was killed in an accident in 1928 age 42years. Willows High School in Splott is named after him. In 1911 Cathays boundary was extended to include the Maindy district. Cathays district now extended from its Crwys Road boundary with Roath to the Gabalfa Interchange.

In North Road was Maindee House and Northlands, which became a Home for Unmarried Mothers run by the Salvation Army. Next door was Oakridge House, which became St Joseph's Convent, which I attended after WWII, and today is St Joseph's Primary School and then the new St Mark's Church. I was baptised in the old church on the corner of Whitchurch Road before it was demolished to make way for the North Road Interchange. Further along North Road is Cathays High School and Maindy Pool and Leisure Centre.

Known as the Colonies, in 1911 Africa Gardens, New Zealand, Canada, Newfoundland and Australia Roads were built between North and Whitchurch Roads. In that year, my maternal Grandparents Richard John and Emily Bowhey bought a shop in Canada Road. On the opposite side of Whitchurch Road are Allensbank and Wedal roads named after two local farms. Allensbank School opened in 1905. Its first Headmaster was David Ashton, the eldest son of Elizabeth and Roger Ashton. The boundary between Cathays and the Heath district is the Eastern Avenue.

In 1911, the liberal candidate for Cardiff provided the money to build the Clock Tower With the model of the Terra Nova on top in

Roath Park to commemorate Scott's Antarctic Expedition, which left Cardiff in June 1910.

During the Edwardian Period, although Cardiff was a very successful city, it also had its drawbacks. The cost of housing had risen sharply and was beyond the reach of many. Up until that time Rhiwbina was a rural area with a number of farms, Pantmawr, Tyn-y-Cae , Tyn-y-Park and Deri. Today there are roads named after them. There were two flannel factories, the Butcher's Arms pub, Beulah Chapel with a few cottages in Beulah Road, and Greenhill mansion. Professor Stanley Jervons, Chair of Economics at Cardiff University, founded the Housing Reform Company. In 1912, the Rhiwbina Garden Village Society came into being, and was run on co-operative lines. The houses were for skilled artisan, clerks, and those on moderate incomes. In 1913 the Earl of Plymouth unveiled a plaque commemorating the completion of 34 houses and eventually 184 houses were completed. In 1974 Rhiwbina became a suburb of Cardiff and two years later the Society was dissolved. In 1960's more private houses were built, and the Mormons have a church there. Today Rhiwbina is a peaceful place, still with a village feel about it.

In 1912 on Cyncoed Road the red brick Water Tower was built and it became the site of Penylan Park. Beside it was the reserve water tank which was capped and four tennis courts created. Later a grass Putting Green was created and an Observatory with a Lecture Hall.

In 1914, WWI started and the Welch Regiment played an important role. Sergeant Major Frank Barter was born in in 60, Daniel Street Cathays, Cardiff and attended Crwys Road School. He won the Victoria Cross and later the Military Cross. The first Welshman to be awarded the Victoria Cross in WWI was Lance Corporal William Fuller. He rescued the mortally injured Captain Mark Haggard, who with a rallying cry "Stick it Welsh" urged on his men. In the barracks today is a clock atop the Detroit Building. It was presented by the Mackintosh family and beneath the clock is the Regiment's badge with the words "Stick It The Welch".

*Continued in August's Edition.*

## GET IN TOUCH



For general society enquiries, newsletter submissions and to request loans from the R.L.H.S. Archive, contact:  
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