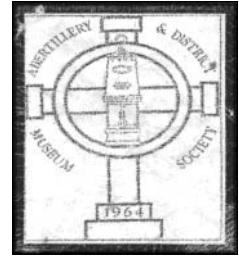


ABERTILLERY & DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



August 2009

Children's Street Party –this was a huge success with over 150 children and adults turning up and the sandwich makers on overtime! The children (and adults) had a really good morning with the sun shining and fun galore. As the party came to a close the first drops of rain fell so the timing was perfect. The main purpose of the day was to introduce children and their families to the Museum and to draw in those who haven't previously visited the Museum and it certainly achieved that goal. Our members manned a stall and so the morning also raised £65 – not the main aim but a welcome bonus. A big thank you to all who helped.

Well done! Peggy and friends raised over £300 for Cancer Research from their sponsored walk. Enid Dean raised £203 for Ty Hafan Children's Hospice (the preferred charity of the local branch of Moose International) through sponsors for Jen and Colin Price's challenge walk on the Gower.

Again, a big thank you to everyone who contributed

Autumn Trip Saturday 26 Sept

Roy Pickford is organising a trip to Wells Cathedral on **Saturday 26th September**. Will you please contact Roy on 01495 213377 or ring the Museum on 01495 211140 (or call in) to put your name down. More details will be available when we have a better idea of numbers.

Weddings! – you will see that this edition of the Newsletter features weddings several times – there is a lovely account in Local Voices and on Page 4, and wedding photos are the topic of the **coffee morning on Saturday 12th September**. Please bring your wedding photos along to the Museum so that they can go on display for the coffee morning. Cakes will also be welcome nearer the time. Tickets for the coffee morning will be on sale at the Museum and the September lecture.

Fund raising July- £428

Lecture Programme –this starts up again in September, first Wednesday of the month. Marge has achieved something of a scoop in booking Roy Noble for October but we start off in September with a 'Rape of the Fair Country' theme which is also sure to be of interest.

Diary Dates

6th, 13th, 20th August –*T shirt, pottery and candle workshops* upstairs in the Metropole, £4 per session

Wednesday 2nd September 2009 – *Anniversary of the Rape of the Fair Country* by Ivor Beynon

Saturday 12th September 2009 – 'Wedding Photos' *coffee morning*

Saturday 26th September 2009 – *Autumn trip to Wells Cathedral* contact Roy Pickford or call the Museum

Wednesday 7th October 2009 – *An Hour with Roy Noble*

Lectures start at 7.00pm in the Metropole Theatre, with teas and a chat downstairs in the Museum afterwards. Entry is £2 and the public are most welcome.

We will be arranging coffee mornings and other events through the autumn and winter so please call at the Museum for more information or watch the Newsletter.

Museum opening times

The Museum is open to the public, **free of charge**:

Tuesday – Thursday 10am - 1pm 2pm - 4pm

Friday & Saturday 10am - 1pm

Museum phone number **01495 211140**.

Visitors and volunteers are always welcome so please call in as often as you can.

Email address: abertillerymuseum@tiscali.co.uk

Web: www.abertilleryanddistrictmuseum.org.uk

Details of coffee mornings etc are posted on the notice board at the Museum or at the following websites where you can also read the Newsletters:

www.cwmillery.com www.abertillery.net

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Local Voices

Welsh Wedding

Around 1989 I was in the employ of Rhymney Valley District Council and in that year they decided to enhance their tourism facilities by converting a house in the unique village of Butetown into a typical 18th Century ironworkers dwelling. The Council's Architects did a very effective conversion with typical exhibits in each room showing how the occupants would have lived in those times. In order to publicise the opening it was decided to hold an exhibition of photographs, within the house, of early industry in that area and to this end I contacted people likely to loan such photographs including the Curator of the Merthyr Museum at Cyfarthfa Castle.

Within the wide range of photographs received was one entitled "Welsh Wedding – details unknown". It was an unusual photograph and I was keen to use it if possible but did it relate to the upper valley area? I studied the photograph with a magnifying glass especially the colliery tips in the background which seemed to remind me of the Cwmtillery Valley, if this was so, what was it doing in the Merthyr Museum? With a time deadline to meet I decided to take it to a cousin, Mrs Wyn Kimber, a former Cwmtillery resident and seek her opinion. She immediately recognised the event as the wedding of her Aunt Lilian Turner of Club Row, Cwmtillery who had left for domestic service in Bristol; after becoming engaged to a telephone engineer in Bristol, they returned to Cwmtillery for the wedding. Her parents' house in Club Row was very small and could not accommodate all the guests so the cake cutting was conducted outside on the unsurfaced roadway. The bride, looking quite gorgeous in a fine wedding gown, was surrounded by relatives and friends including a young Wyn who was somewhere in the assembled children.

Later they all went to the White Horse Field at the end of Club Row for further entertainment. With my guess now confirmed I then asked if it was possible to establish a date! After a moment's thought Mrs Kimber's eyes widened and she related that the newlyweds left for Bristol that evening but before doing so, decided to visit a cousin who had been unable to attend the wedding; she was expecting to give birth that day and they hoped to see the baby before leaving. They discovered a healthy baby girl, to be called Dorothea, born on their wedding day – 3rd August 1931. It was then that I recognised that date as my wife's birthday – Dorothea and I were married on 5th July 1958.

Laurence Hale

"Scald the Milk"

When I was young the milkman called to the house every day carrying a churn of milk with half pint and one pint measures hooked on to the side of the churn. If my mother was going out she would leave the jug with a saucer on the top for the milkman to measure out what milk she wanted. In those days I did not know anyone who had a fridge and so, in hot weather, as soon as the milk was delivered my mother would 'scald the milk'. It was really 'boil the milk' but 'scald' was always what my mother said. Incidentally, the milk was paid for by aluminium checks purchased from the local Co-operative Stores. The milkman redeemed them and my mother had 'divi' on them.

The Roving Reporter

Poet's Corner

"Northern Splendour"

I must visit the north again,
where the highest mountains stand,
From whose lofty peaks,
I can view the surrounding land.

Counting many silvered lakes,
for there are twenty-one in all,
While in the distance is the sea,
with the coast I know so well.

There in those mountains,
as climbers practice their skills,
Others take paths to summits,
content to just walk the hills.

Along the lower ground,
run small passenger trains,
carrying many holiday-makers,
To see beauty of mountains.

This heaven set on earth,
we can reach without an aeroplane,
Knowing that in a few hours,
we can return to our homes again.

In each of the four seasons,
those mountains are so different,
But I yearn to be there now,
before all summer days are spent.

Gordon Rowlands, June 2009

100 Club – this is continuing as usual and we will have a grand draw at the September lecture. The 100 Club is a valuable source of regular funds so please encourage family and friends to join – a bargain at just £1 a month.

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NEWPORT MUSEUM

Many of us pop to Newport on the bus or train for a quick shopping trip but while there while not call in at the Museum in John Frost Square to browse the exhibits and its fine art gallery, and finish off with a cuppa in the café (rather like our own Museum!). Details are set out below of the temporary exhibition currently on display.

An exhibition of modern & contemporary prints from the permanent collection at Newport Museum and Art Gallery, together with work by practicing printmakers

27 June - 29 August 2009

For the first time in many years Newport Museum and Art Gallery is displaying a large selection of its collection of artists' prints, which date from the 1930's to the present day. These are original prints, many printed by the artists themselves, in their chosen medium, which include woodcuts, screen prints, lithographs, linocuts and etchings.

The print allowed artists to disseminate their work more widely, and for galleries with limited means to acquire work by important artists at an affordable cost. These are usually in an edition limited by number, and all of the selected prints are important or interesting in their own way, often by artists of national or even international fame. Through years of wise purchasing by previous curators, Newport's collection is now regarded as significant, both academically and artistically, of artists whose work is much admired and sought after.

The Gallery has not just raided their stores and selected what "looked nice". They also invited six artists who currently practice printmaking to go through the stores and make their own choice and then make their own response to their chosen pieces using whichever printing method they preferred; these will hang alongside those from Newport's collections. (**Museum website**)

100 Years Ago

The 100th anniversary of the first international motor rally is being marked at the Welsh Museum of speed in Pendine. In July 1909 over 40 cars along with motorcycles and thousands of spectators descended on Pendine sands. With the national speed limit just 20mph at the time and few cars on the roads, people were hoping to see speeds in excess of 60mph. The Carmarthenshire beach has seen the world speed record broken five times but this first rally would undoubtedly have been a real spectacle at the time. It was organised by the Motor Union which later became the RAC and the event has been described as a sort of tourist board idea to bring people from all over Britain and the continent. Although the day started misty it turned into a glorious summer's day and many of the spectators were from top society sporting the latest London and Paris fashions. Those expecting to see high speeds were disappointed as the hot weather left the sand too powdery but there were a series of events for spectators to enjoy.



“ It was rather like a day at Ascot ”

Contact Names

Mrs Peggy Bearcroft, Chairperson	01495 213806
Mr Don Bearcroft, Curator	01495 213806
Mr Ron Selway, Vice Chairman	01495 215775
Mr Trevor Cook Secretary- c/o Museum	01495 211140
Mrs Margaret Cook Assistant Secretary	
Mr Bernard Jones, Treasurer	01495 213185
Mrs Enid Dean, Fund raising Secretary	01495 212880
Mrs M Gilson, Schools Liaison	01495 212413
Mrs M Selway, Programme Sec	01495 211960
Mr Roy Pickford, Social Events Sec	01495 213377
Mr Bernard Hill, Asst Curator	01495 212864
Mrs Jen Price (Newsletter)	01633 482851

Vice Presidents (Annual Subscription £25)

Mr Keith Dykes	Mr Carl Jones
Mrs Esme Heal	Mr Glyn Saunders
Mrs Kathleen Davies	Rev. R Watson
Mrs Margaret Herbert	Prof. Gerwyn Griffiths
Mrs Carole Brooks	Mrs Jeanette Fulton

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Mr Arthur Lewis OBE

Mrs Thelma Griffiths