
CAERWENT HISTORIC TRUST

In case you haven't found out yet, I regret to note the deaths of two key members:

Alan Lewis BBC ("Born and Bred in Caerwent" as Bryan Morgan used to say) was an apprentice of Charlie Bartle in the ways of village life, like playing hockey in the village street and catching trout by hand from the Neddern. His father ran a butcher's shop from the family home at The Widdows and acted as village ARP Warden during WW 2, after which things were never quite the same. Alan attended Larkfield Grammar School, took over the Ten Elms farm (now the Westgate Barns site) and up to the 1980s provided useful traffic calming with his herd of cows. Alan was a strong supporter of our Trust and we shall miss not only his sunny personality but his contributions to our community history.

Ian McFarlane came with the steelworks, lived just beyond the Llanmelin Hill Fort in Shirenewton parish, and was probably little known in Caerwent. His interest in our history was more academic, especially archaeological. He was an original thinker, pursuing his own enquiries about the landscape, even learning Welsh, which helped to appreciate the significance of place names. Ian has been a huge support to us in generously sharing his discoveries and assisting with our guided walks.

The Woodall family of Dinham

As often happens with our work, a topic arises which may seem scarcely relevant, but then more associations emerge. I received a letter from Paul Ross to explain that he and Anne Bayliss were married in 1955 by . . . a son of Annie Woodall, and prior to that another of her sons had been his Latin teacher!

Navigation of the Neddern *Talk Tuesday October 20th 7.30pm*

Did the Romans bring ships up to Caerwent? Was St Patrick abducted via the Neddern? How does the Neddern feature in the stories of King Arthur? Evidence gathered over the last 20 years encourages us to be more definite about the distant past of our area, as Mark Lewis will explain. Back to our usual venue – the Westgate Barns.

Two talks at the Caerleon Roman Legionary Museum

These are held 6 to 8pm and start with light refreshments. Tickets are £3.00 each, ring 01633 423134 or just turn up and pay at the door:

The Tribe of Witches - the Religion of the Dubonni *Wednesday 14th October*

Dr Stephen Yeates will uncover some secrets of the religion of one of our neighbouring tribes in Celtic times.

The Roman Auxilliary Forces *Wednesday November 11th*

Dr Mike Thomas will explain the origins and role of the non-Roman soldiers who were so important in the expansion of the Empire.