
CAERWENT HISTORIC TRVST

Advance notices - two events provided by Cadw:

18th and 19th of July sees the return of the Vicus and Batavii to Caerwent as they tell the story of the beginning and the end of Venta Silurum. Based around the Westgate Barns the event will use living history and lectures to paint a picture of Roman Wales.

Sunday 26th July at 10am and 1pm Cadw are offering guided tours of the Dinham area, bus provided! Some places are reserved for local people but you need to book by contacting me **as soon as possible** (see below).

The Museum at Caerwent

The Museum was a very substantial shed clad in corrugated iron. It was built just within the Roman walls on the east side of the Llanfair road and opened in 1910. The curator, Frederick Bennett, moved his family from Llanfaches to an adjacent house which became known as Museum Cottage. Frederick was a cabinet maker and presumably quite intellectual (as many craftsmen were in those days). The whole was financed by Lord Tredegar in order to display the finds from the excavations which had started in 1899.

The caretaker of the Museum was Mrs Bessie Hillier, who lived next door in Museum House. In 1916 Frederick suddenly died. Lord Tredegar had already died in 1912 and his successor had no interest in archaeology. Thus the finds were transferred to Newport Museum and the building became "The Institute", used for the benefit of the villagers and the Church, with the recently demobilised soldiers of WW1 especially in mind (for whom the new Lord Tredegar provided a fine billiard table).

The former Museum
derelict September 1991



The Institute was owned by the Parish Church who disposed of it in about 1993 whereupon it was unceremoniously removed and the plot assimilated in the garden of Byways (formerly Museum House).