

CAERWENT HISTORIC TRUST

New Secretary

Please note that the new secretary is now Rob Jones, 12 Martins Road, Caerwent, Gwent, NP264QW. 01291 430150 bobjonesjr@dsl.pipex.com

"Harry Potter with the Lid Off"

Talk Monday 12th July 7.30pm

The best story of the 21st century – how much is real and how much is imaginary? How do the places and people of the books relate to the Chepstow area and even to Caerwent? Much will be revealed by J K Rowling's humble Potions teacher. All welcome to this illustrated talk at the Westgate Barns, knowledge of the books or films is not essential.

Caerwent Show

Saturday August 21st

We'll be there 12 noon to 4pm with our usual collection of local history stuff.

Allt-y-bela

Allt y Bella is a medieval house located three miles from Usk set in three acres of grounds, former orchards and streams in a small valley at the end of a narrow lane - once the main route from Usk to Chepstow. The original medieval house had one storey and an attic, and was a typical Cruck-frame longhouse, housing the family and animals all under one roof. In 1599 it underwent a major structural change when Roger Edwards - a wealthy Midlands wool merchant added a three-storey Renaissance tower. The house was further altered in the 17th and the 19th centuries, when a Georgian parlour, stable, byre and washhouse were added



The first floor of the building has a large parlour, the second floor a bedroom and the third floor a loft. The building also contains a cider cellar cider making was introduced into Monmouthshire at about this time, and many new houses of the period included a specific area for storage of the barrels.

Derelict for over 30 years, and having been used as a grain store and farm, the tower was in serious need of repair. Allt-y-Bella's condition came to the attention of the Monmouthshire County Council, who attempted to remedy the situation by serving repairs notices and following the legal procedures as required by the building's listed status. However, these were unsuccessful, and in 2001, the Council served a compulsory purchase order on the building, and handed it over to the Spitalfields Trust for restoration with help from Cadw. Allt-y-Bella is now a private residence and is not available for public viewing. The Historic Trust were fortunate to be able to arrange a private viewing of the property and, if there is enough interest, will try and arrange a further visit in the future.

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