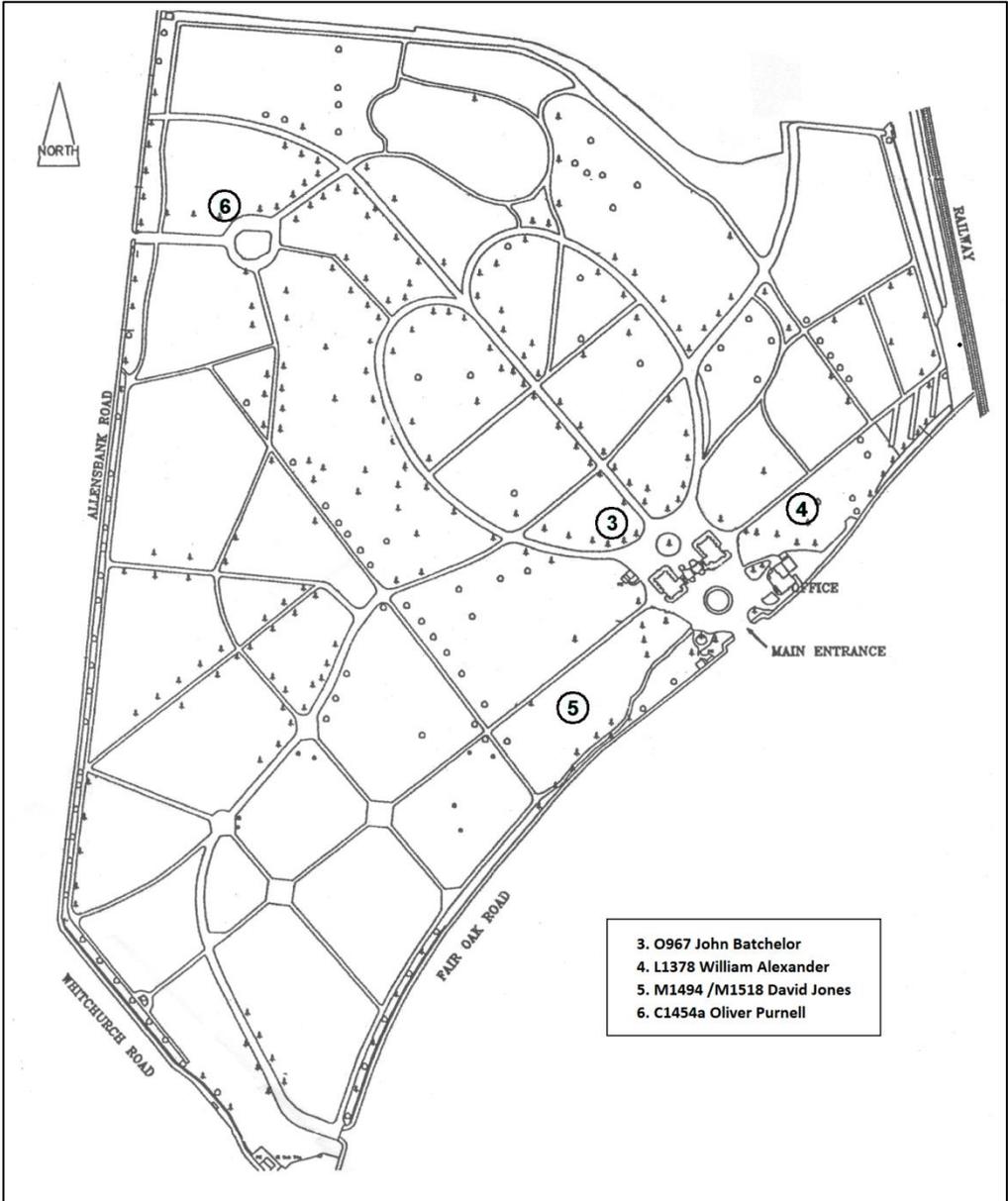


# **CARDIFF MAYORS in CATHAYS CEMETERY**



**The Friends of Cathays Cemetery**





# INDEX

1 List of Victorian Mayors of Cardiff	3
2 List of Lord Mayors since 1905	4
3 John Batchelor - Mayor 1853	5
4 William Alexander - Mayor 1859	10
5 David Jones - Mayor 1888	13
6 Oliver Purnell - Mayor 1937	15

# 1 Victorian Mayors of Cardiff (in Cathays)

Richard Lewis Reece	1802-1876	Mayor 1847	L 1019/L 1044
Charles Vachell	1784-1859	Mayor 1849	L1496/L1508/L1509
John Batchelor	1820-1893	Mayor 1853	O 967
David Lewis	-1905	Mayor 1854	M 933
Charles Vachell	1784-1859	Mayor 1855	L1496/L1508/L1509
Sydney Dan Jenkins		Mayor 1856	M 1625
William Alexander	1817-1886	Mayor 1859	L 1378
James Pride	1814-1877	Mayor 1862	L 1303
James Pride	1814-1877	Mayor 1864	L 1303
Richard Lewis Reece	1801-1876	Mayor 1867	L 1019/L 1044
Thomas Evans	1814-1883	Mayor 1868	L 921/L 946
Henry Bowen	1823-1891	Mayor 1872	M1154/M1126
William Vachell	1827-1910	Mayor 1873	L 1507
Daniel Jones	1821-1887	Mayor 1874	M1455/M1479
Daniel Jones	1821-1887	Mayor 1875	M1455/M1479
Joseph Elliott	1818-1889	Mayor 1876	M 605
William Taylor		Mayor 1877	J 299
Daniel Lewis	1819-1905	Mayor 1878	M 619/M 641
John McConnochie	1824-1889	Mayor 1879	L 1364
Rees Jones	1834-1905	Mayor 1880	Y 503
Sir Alfred Gaius A Stone	1822-1886	Mayor 1881	M 1274/M 1297
Sir Alfred Gaius A Stone	1822-1886	Mayor 1882	M 1274/M 1297
Robert Bird	1872-1909	Mayor 1883	S 3208
Andrew Fulton	1831-1901	Mayor 1884	M 411
David Edgar Jones MD	1845-1898	Mayor 1885	V 491
Thomas Windsor Jacobs	-1917	Mayor 1887	L1467/1483
David Jones	1833-1908	Mayor 1888	M1518/M1494
William Sanders	1829-1903	Mayor 1889	W1207/1219/1231
Thomas Rees	1824-1896	Mayor 1891	M 1984/M 1985
William Edmund Vaughan	1822-1903	Mayor 1892	Y 403
William John Trounce	1843-1918	Mayor 1893	M 175B

Patrick William Cary	1850-1910	Mayor 1894	C 1852/1863
Ebenezer Beavan	1842-1925	Mayor 1896	M 1421
Joseph Ramsdale	1843-1906	Mayor 1897	M 1231
Thomas Morel	1847-1903	Mayor 1898	M 942/968
Thomas Andrews	1847-1908	Mayor 1900	M 360
Francis John Beavan	1836-1922	Mayor 1901	V 638
Edward Thomas	1855-1912	Mayor 1902	S 2930b

## 2 Lord Mayors since 1905 (in Cathays)

Sir William Smith Crossman	1854-1929	Mayor 1906	Y 1607
Lewis Morgan	1860-1914	Mayor 1908	M 1264
Sir Charles Hayward Bird	-1944	Mayor 1910	S 3208
John Thomas Richards		Mayor 1914	W 1439
Robert James Smith	1873-1929	Mayor 1915	J 1373
George Frederick Forsdike	-1936	Mayor 1919	P 1132
Francis Harold Turnbull	1881-1940	Mayor 1921	C 1866
William Hampton Pethybridge	1866-1944	Mayor 1924	W 802
William Benjamin Francis	-1929	Mayor 1925	J 1222
William Grey	1860-1935	Mayor 1926	W 670
Arthur John Howell	1868-1931	Mayor 1927	P 1079
Robert Gerard Hill-Snook	1859-1951	Mayor 1930	M 1049
John Donovan	1869-1937	Mayor 1934	D 23
Oliver Cuthbert Purnell	-1948	Mayor 1937	C 1454A
Henry Johns	1873-1944	Mayor 1939	B 1853
Charles Henry McCale	1875-1950	Mayor 1940	Section Y
Walter Howell Parker	1865-1946	Mayor 1944/5	U 595
George James Ferguson	-1952	Mayor 1946/7	N 1021
Frank Chapman	-1961	Mayor 1955/6	O 1218
Sir Adrian Lincoln Hallinan	-1997	Mayor 1969	C 1817
Sir Chales Hallinan		Mayor 1975	C 1817

### **3 John Batchelor (1820-1893)**

Mayor 1853 - PLOT 0967

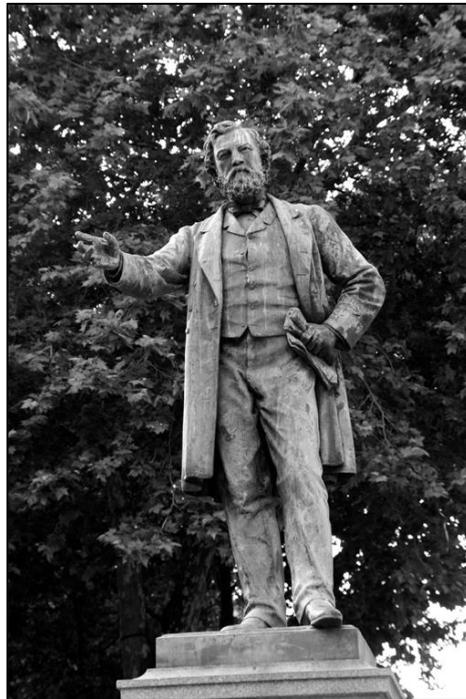
John Batchelor, a Liberal politician, friend of freedom, a representative of the new middle class elite against the top Tory estate, eventually leading to his ruin. It involved a confrontation with the Bute family, showing the dark side of the Bute family and as tyrannical landlords. Political conflict with clashes in debates and memorials were used in political battles. It amounted to a statement and expression of the position of the Statue.

Born on 10th April 1820 in Newport, one of three sons of a timber merchant, Benjamin Batchelor and Prosser. In 1831 he started a shipping trade owning 51 of 64 shares in the vessel "Ely", with the addition of the "Radiant" in Sunderland shortly afterwards. By 1837 Benjamin Batchelor was building ships, including the first iron ship in Wales, the "Cinderella". Other ships were added. At the time Cardiff was thriving and population in 1801 was 1,870, 18,351 in 1851, rising to 182,259 by 1911. In 1839 the West Bute Docks was built. Cardiff became an epicentre of coal and iron exporting.

However by 1833 John Batchelor was still an apprentice carpenter, but the 1830s were a time of Revolution with opposition to the ruling elite through the Chartist movement, the Poor's voice in Parliament. In 1839 the industrial areas rose up, organised by John Frost in Newport with an assault on the Westgate Hotel. The riots were put down. As a 19 year old, John Batchelor spoke along with Rev Stephens at Chartist meetings. October 1886 Richard Cory said it was Political freedom in 6 items as set out by the Chartists. John Batchelor fled taking a stage coach to Sunderland and ending up in Scotland. 1843 he returned to Newport. Purchasing the shipyard of William Jones in 1852 with his brother Sydney at the southern end of St Mary Street and in 1854 due to the diversion of the Taff for the South Wales Railway setting up a graving dock in West Dock at the Mount Stuart Dry Docks. The second Marquess of Bute refused to give a long term lease but only allowed them to rent on an annual basis. He also bought timber-yard premises at both Merthyr and Aberdare.

On a political note he entered local politics with the 1845-52 Potato famine, and spoke against the Corn Laws which taxed imported grain of which the

Second Marquis of Bute was an advocate. Robert Peel eventually repealed these laws with the Abolition of the Corn Laws in 1849. John's younger brother Cyril helped to repeal the laws and the ports became open to corn free of duty. John presented himself as an orator and statesman in opposition to the Tories and especially the Marquis of Bute. John Crichton-Stuart was the Second Marquis 1793-1848 increasing exports and trade in Cardiff.



Bute was the creator of Modern Cardiff, an established manager and Dock builder, leading the industrial revolution from his base in Scotland. Edward Priest Richards became the Mayor of Cardiff, as the Stuarts tightened their grip on Cardiff with members on the town council. This was all taking place before the Reform Act of 1835. But opposition increased and the Liberal movement was headed by John Batchelor. 1848 Free trade laws were introduced. Batchelor became elected as the street commissioner, developing the sewerage system. The cost of the scheme was brought into question and Batchelor retaliated by printing the names of the dead. Conflict was laid upon the Butes. There were further cholera outbreaks and in 1850 a report damned the state of sanitation. Batchelor became the Reformers best friend. The Health reform was eventually paid by the Estate, and Batchelor was labelled the Enemy of the Estate.

Liberal opinion spread on the town council. The Second Marquis died in 1848 and Bute power waivered. John Nichol of the Council party became MP in 1832-52 followed by Walter Coffin 1852-1857, from Llandaff. Batchelor was a leading figure in the formation of a local railway, the Penarth Dock and Railway Company. No one had previously ever dare oppose a Bute nomination but Coffin a Liberal was elected by a mere 480-464 votes was the first Liberal MP for Wales, but did not address the House once during his stay. There was a political change in the representation of Cardiff, and the downfall of the Butes over the next 30 years. Cardiff became a Liberal stronghold for the next 40 years.

1848 the Second Marquess died and his estates were run by Trustees until the Third Marquess came of age. The Butes of course reacted, as the Second Marquis' widow closed the Cardiff Castle gates to visitors and Coopers fields was closed for a time. Later the gates were re-opened but Coffin's supporters were forbidden entry. Fanny, the second wife of John Batchelor was physically removed by the gatekeeper on one occasion from the grounds. 1853 and John Batchelor becomes Mayor of Cardiff with a mandate of radical reform. 1890 the town hall was built on St Mary Street, A representation of self-government. The Council became a rival power block to the Castle, called "Butophobia". The Butes sought revenge through their dock properties, and restricted private wharfs to Batchelor. His timber trade in Penarth Road was restricted to one barge which had to be barged up the river. Batchelor naturally suffered. In 1854 one of Batchelor's ships was refused access to the West Docks on the grounds that it was too large. Some boats had to land in Bristol and their loads were then towed back to Cardiff. In 1850 the Graving Dock application was refused by Bute, but a Bristol company was approved. By 1855 the number of Batchelor boats were reached 48, increasing to 71 vessels by 1857. In comparison Hill had only 30 vessels, so Batchelor was doing rather well. However in 1857 the Butes forced Batchelor to quit the West Bute wharf while serving as a Magistrate, to add insult to his injury and he moved to a new site in Stuart Street establishing their Penarth Roads Graving Dock.

In 1857 Coffin retired but despite Tory-Bute attempts to provide the next Mayor, they were unable to do so. Col Stuart a Batchelor sympathiser succeeded. In 1880 he was returned unopposed. The 1868 election saw the appointment of the Third Marquis of Bute John Patrick Crichton Stuart as

Mayor. John Boyle and Vince Shirley were conservatives. Harding Stuteley Gifford, First Earl Halsby 1823-1921 led to the Riot Act being read in a negative campaign. Council rates increased and Col Stuart was re-elected with a Liberal landslide across the country. The Tories had spent over £10,000 on election expenses. Their downfall was blamed on the lack of organised support from the working class, so this led to the building of many Conservative Clubs in these areas. 1874 the Servant Ballot Act was put in place.

In 1869 the Western Mail was formed to counter the earlier 1857 Tory publication. 1872 saw the introduction of the Liberation Society, an Association where Batchelor was a delegate. He was very anti-slavery and campaigned for free education in Penarth. John was on the Board of Guardians. He was against the Anglican Church, himself being a Congregationalist and Non-Conformist. He refused to pay the church rate. He oversaw the building of a chapel in Charles Street. He constructed the Ely Tidal Harbour., in 1856 becoming a Director. He also oversaw the formation of the Cardiff Harbour Trust taking the Bute Dock into public ownership to expand capacity. This all had an effect on his health and led to his premature death.

In 1861 Batchelor references claims by Sir Thomas Phelps to claim funds but lost and was evicted. 1872 financial downturns refused sale of Docks to Batchelor but instead given to Lablone and Gum. John Batchelor had 9 children with his wife Fanny and moved from Tolworth House to Cliff Villa in Penarth. This too led to problems over a garden on the cliff tops and Batchelor had to move to Uppercliffs, Penarth, which was to become the Royal Gallery of Art in WWI. 1866-1872 He was declared bankrupt during the Commercial Panic and persecution. John Boyle put the company into liquidation. Batchelor's son Cyril writes of the failure and Fanny adds the yard needed to be sold. In July 1874 the Liberal College raises £5,000 from Cory, Vachell and other working class employees so that Batchelor could retain his post on the school board. In 1881 the Bute estate employed Shirley to press attacks as their solicitor. The Western mail now an Estate paper publishes that Batchelor used Irish workers on £1 per day during the election to discredit him. Batchelor challenged Shirley in open letters and a great debate was to take place. The Western Mail further called Batchelor an Imposter and a Liberal Cock that wouldn't fight and John Batchelor was likened to Shylock in Shakespeare.

Batchelor now suffered strokes and died in a coma in May 1883. He was buried in Cathays Cemetery with a full civic procession. At his funeral Rev Thompson focused on Batchelor's courage to be poor and being an unselfish man. The Rev remanded the rich in being vindictive and warned of being charitable and not to speak ill of the dead. 1886 a statue in bronze on a 12 ton pedestal was erected by public subscription designed by Milo ap Gryfdd outside the Library that had not been financed by the Butes.

The Western Mail reported a "depressing" ceremony and presented a petition signed by 1,200 people to get the statue removed, citing the use of an expensive plot of land worth over £10,000. It claimed a territorial space as a rival to the statue of the second Marquis between the town and the docks. William Hemingway, the Police Commissioner had to place a guard over the statue which continued to be vandalised. Ladies of unworthy virtues were said to frequent the vicinity. Other implications were inferred. A Western Mail epitaph was printed stating Batchelor was a hater of the Clergy, squandered funds, left unpaid creditors, a demi-gogue and pauper. This was presented by local solicitor Thomas Ensor. Another entry about the statue said it portrayed the old election hand in a pair of oilskin leggings several sizes too large for him.

Lascelles Carr, the editor of the Western Mail encountered two sons of John Batchelor, Cyril and Llewellyn who attacked him with a whip. They were later fined 1s for this assault by a sympathetic Stipendiary Magistrate who said they had acted under provocation.

1887 saw the first case of libel against a dead person, but the Jury returned an acquittal, meaning a libel against the living was the only type applicable in law. The Western Mail of course mocked the case. In 1887 the town clerk wanted to remove the statue but was rejected as it was not just a statue for Liberals but for the citizens as a whole. David Melding AM has since called for its removal to be replaced by St David, a true welsh hero.

Batchelor help found the ship trade, provided the Mount Stuart graving dock, aided the building of the Sewerage system. He campaigned for the Irish during the time of famine, and was anti-slavery. He built civil institutions and formed laws and promoted education. He was instrumental in Liberal leadership

against the Bute Estate for local freedom. He helped in the town prosperity. The Estate was more moderate because of his intervention, and offered an alternative to Bute, which showed grandeur in decline. He founded a new role as a civil head with the Middle classes.

In 1890/1 the third Bute embraced civic pride by himself becoming Mayor, reflecting the power shift. Batchelor was a Viceroy of the Middle Class, as the Butes fragmented and became impotent. The Civic gardens were provided and there was a power diffusion as the Butes had symbolic prestige and no longer became a threat. Batchelor was a statue to Liberals creating a modern Cardiff like the Butes, but it had cost him his life. In 1891 a statue was erected in the Hayes.

## **4 William Alexander (1817-1886)**

Mayor 1859 - PLOT L1378

The drinking fountain set into the wall at Kingsway (Boulevard de Nantes and Greyfriars Road at the bridge over the dock feeder canal) has moved several times since its initial installation in 1862. It was donated by Mayor William Alexander and installed in the wall of the Town Hall at St. Mary Street in Cardiff.

The cast iron frame is in the form of a stylized shield with curved and winged edges. The top part of the shield forms a lunette of a winged cherub resting upon clouds. Beneath the cherub is a recessed arch which contains the drinking well above which is a Biblical engraving.

Each side of the arch is decorated with ivy tendrils. On the left side is a seated figure of Jesus Christ pointing with his left hand to the engraved verses 13 and 14 of St John's Gospel, Chapter IV. "*Jesus said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again : But whosoever drinketh of the Water that I shall give him, / shall never thirst. John, IV, 12.14.*" On the right of the drinking well is a seated figure of the Woman of Samaria with her right hand resting on her cheek and her left hand on a tall urn.

Beneath the well is a dedication, “*Erected by WM. Alexander Mayor of Cardiff A.D. 1860.*” The scalloped lower edge of the shield is also engraved, “*Cast by the Coalbrookdale Co.*” Further engraving states, “*Wills Brothers, Sculptors, London.*”

The fountain was designed by W. & T. Wills and manufactured by Coalbrookdale Company Ltd. During planning of the Civic Centre, it was moved to Mill Lane in 1908, and once again relocated in 1952 to its present location. It was listed a grade II historic building in 1975.



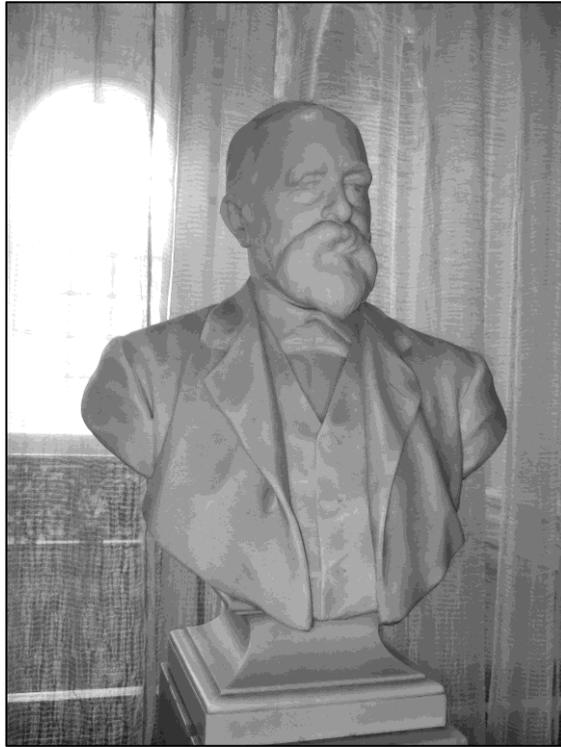
Born at Penmark, near Cowbridge, his father came from Yorkshire. William was educated at Cowbridge Grammar School and went to Cardiff at age of 17. He entered the employ of Nobles steam flour mill on West Wharf but went on to work at Watson & Richards, timber merchants, East of Canal, dealing also in bricks, building materials and even flour. William took over the running of the company on the death of Mr Watson, a senior partner. Later setting out on his own as a timber merchant on the Glamorganshire Canal. He entered the town council in 1853 as representative for the South Ward where he was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee, a position he held until his death. Mayor from 1859 to 1860, he was also a magistrate for the borough. He was governor of the Wells Charity, a director of the Gasworks & Cardiff Waterworks.

Involved in the construction of Llanishen Reservoir, William was also a shipowner and one of the managers of the Transatlantic Steam Navigation Company. He also held a position in the local artillery corps. At the age of 74 in September 1881, he became paralysed and had to drive wherever he went. At that time he lived at Park Place. Suffering a stroke he passed away in October 1886. He left 2 daughters and 3 sons.



## 5 David Jones (1832-1908)

Mayor 1888 - PLOT M1494 /M1518



David Jones was born in Caroline Street on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1832, the son of Elias Jones, a builder and contractor. In 1852 he initially worked as a joiner in Melbourne before proceeding to Ballarat.

A letter he wrote back to his father from Victoria was published in the Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, 4 June 1853 and outlines life in Ballarat at the time:

“Sailed from Dartmouth 1<sup>st</sup> October and arrived 3<sup>rd</sup> January passage in 94 days which was reckoned pretty fair. It was not so stormy as I expected it would have been and with the exception of losing our fore-top and main-top-gallant masts we had a very fair passage. Nearly the whole of the passengers were sick.” Not surprising, what would a bad passage have entailed?

Goes on to say “We saw many fish of all kinds, such as dolphins, flying fish, porpoises and sharks...I eat a portion of one and found it very palatable.” Better than he was to eat in Australia itself – see later.

“We found it impossible to get lodgings owing to the crowded state of the town from the influx of immigrants...we stay at present (at) the Wesleyan Immigrants Home...(for)4s 6d per day” “ You may think the price of board and lodgings high” but he lists the price of provisions and vegetables to be equally high “Bread 1s 6d, Beef or mutton 6d per lb, Potatoes 6d per lb carrots 1s per lb butter and cheese 2s 6d per lb, sugar from 4d to 6d per lb and tea or coffee 2s per lb.” But wages were higher than in South Wales and he was earning £1 per day, working from 6 to 6 with an hour for breakfast and for lunch. Ale, a necessity was 6d a glass and a “nobbler” of brandy the same price. Oranges, peaches and plum at 1s each and apples 1s 6d.”

The climate also had an effect as it hit 112 degrees in the sun, but the rewards could be greater “The diggers come into town and throw down their sovereigns like dirt, not caring about taking change.”

The first Welsh emigrants to Australia were convicts - four men and two women, who arrived with the First Fleet at Botany Bay, Australia, in 1788. By 1852, a total of 1,800 of the convicts in Australia had been tried in Wales, but only 300 of these were women.

Mining brought large numbers of Welsh settlers to Australia in the 1850s as places like Merthyr Tydil were in the grip of economic depression. Initially the discovery of copper in South Australia at Kapunda in 1843 and Burra in 1845 attracted people from Wales, but it was the discovery of gold in Ballarat-Sebastapol, Victoria that caused the Welsh population to dramatically increase. By 1900 there were 12,000 Welsh settlers spread throughout the colony.

It was the chapel and the Welsh language which provided a sense of cohesion and identity to these emerging Welsh communities. Many of the chapels were initially interdenominational, but eventually split into Methodist, Independent and Baptist denominations, just as they had in Wales.

The Yr Australydd (The Australian), a Welsh language paper, records weekly meetings and occasions such as Tea Meetings, Bands of Hope, Literary

Societies, Fellowship Meetings and Preaching Assemblies, as well as details of other Welsh nonconformist worship.

It was the Eisteddfod, which formed the cornerstone of Welsh cultural traditions in Australia. In 1863, the first true Welsh-Australian Eisteddfod was held in Victoria. It proved so popular that it was given the status of a National Eisteddfod and was rotated annually through the larger towns of Victoria.

David Jones was in the goldfields in Australia 1852-56, returning after having little luck in finding his fortune.

The company, working with his brothers Daniel and Noah Jones, responsible for constructing Cardiff's deep drainage system was set up partly with the wealth David Jones accumulated in Victoria between 1852 and 1856.

David Jones became an Alderman and finally Mayor of Cardiff in 1888. He was an Honorary Freeman of the County Borough of Cardiff and a distinguished member of the Town Council for 31 years. He was also Chairman of the Waterworks Committee for 21 years.

The Cardiff Times 18<sup>th</sup> January 1908 reported David Jones' obituary, when he died at his residence 13 Richmond Road on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1908 after a six week illness where he caught a chill when riding on the outside of a tramcar from the power station to Cardiff Docks. Apparently it turned into a bout of bronchitis "and other complications ensued." David Jones still has relatives living in Melbourne.

## **6 Oliver Purnell (-1948)**

Mayor 1937 - PLOT C1454A

Oliver Cuthbert Purnell was born in Cardiff and educated at a local Catholic school of St Illtyd's. He was a businessman and a managing director of a Funeral Company. In politics he was a staunch Tory and would remain a member of the Conservative party until his death. He was first elected to Cardiff Council for Cardiff Central Ward in 1921. Other periods covered as Councillor were 1924, 1927, 1930 and 1933. In 1932, he became a JP for the city; and in 1936 he was created an alderman. He served as Lord Mayor from

1937-38. During WW2 he was ARP (Air Raid Precaution) controller of Cardiff and for his services in this role was awarded a CBE in 1942. After the war he retained an interest in aeronautics becoming chairman of the Aerodrome Owners' Association. In 1948 he was invested with the third highest honour of the Roman Catholic Church – the Order of the Knighthood of St Gregory (civilian class). Living in 5 Working Street, Cardiff, he died at Llandough Hospital in 1948, aged 60, having been ill for several months. He was married with three sons and one daughter.



However, he will remain known for an incident in 1938 where as the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, he initiated the hoisting of the Swastika over City Hall to celebrate the signing of the Munich Agreement, carving up Czechoslovakia by Britain, France and Italy to appease Hitler.

Unsurprisingly this did not go well with some other councillors, especially Alderman CH McCale and Councillor Heginbottom took it upon them to remove the Nazi banner. They then hid it. The Lord Mayor, Oliver Purnell responded by ordering a replacement swastika to be flown from the flag pole. At the resulting heated council meeting the Mayor was asked why the Czech flag was not awarded a place of honour over the civic buildings instead of the Swastika, he then replied that a Czechoslovakian flag was not available.

He explained that Cardiff was a port and has to maintain friendly relationship with all nations trading with us. Six months later the Nazis marched into Czechoslovakia.



