

ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Project Newsletter



ROATH MILL

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SOCIETY NEWS

Congratulations to our Hon. Secretary, Jeff Childs, on attaining the degree of M.A. in Local History Studies after a three year course of Study in the Extra Mural department of the University College, Cardiff. It is no mean achievement for a married man in full time employment with family commitments. We hope he will continue for a long time to afford us the benefit of his knowledge.

I apologise for the lateness of the first quarterly Newsletter for 1988. I will do my best to catch up by the end of the year.

The monthly talks at the Roath Community Hall, organised by Martin Sheldon, have proved a great success and we shall be resuming these on 8th September when we have arranged to hear an address by Mrs Diane Brook on the subject of Irish immigrants.

On 6th October Mr Kenneth Wardell will be speaking to us about the old Globe Cinema. Martin has now placed a permanent booking for the hall on the first Thursday in every month.

The field visits organised by Nancy Keir and Vic Smith this summer were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who managed to attend. As I write these notes we are coming to the end of the series with a visit to St John's Church on 30th June and to Cosmeston Medieval Village on 14th July.

Meanwhile, our Local History Workshop meetings will continue at Howardian High School in the Autumn.

Alec Keir

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MORE ON ELM STREET DISTRICT

In the last Newsletter (Vol.4 No.4) pp.113-117 I wrote a few notes on the Elm Street area of Roath.

Since then I have had an opportunity to look at the enumerator's returns for the 1881 Census from which we can see the names of the people who were living in the five cottages, now condemned, in Teal Street. Here is the relevant extract:-

TEAL STREET.

No.1.	Wm. J. Walker	Dairyman	age 47
	Mary Walker	wife	age 47
	Mary Walker	daughter	age 14
	Rose Walker	daughter	age 11
	Albert Walker	son	age 7
	William Walker	son	age 6
	Gertrude Walker	daughter	age 3
	Margaret Jones	gen.servant	age 22

No.2.	Henry Cooper	Cattle drover man	age 26
	Jane Cooper	wife	age 23

No.3.	Joseph Taylor	Comm, traveller grocery	age 37
	Cecilia Taylor	wife	age 36
	Cecilia A.	daughter	age 11

No.4.	Edward Davies	Hawker	age 22
	Eliza Davies	wife	age 23
	Albert E.	son	age 2

No.5.	Margaret Bridge	Annuitant	age 60
	Joseph I.W. Bridge	Comm. clerk timber	age 29

It is also interesting to see who were living in the cottage in the back garden of No.70 Elm Street in 1881. The Census returns show:-

ELM STREET

Cottage at back No.70:

John Wride	retired farmer	age 57	born Llanishen
Ann Wride	wife	age 60	
Dansom Wride	son	age 19	carpenter
John W. West	grandson	age 13	timekeeper

I am grateful to one of our members , Mr W. Hamlin, for drawing my attention to entries in Butcher & Co's Cardiff & Swansea Etc. Directory of 1875/6 and to allow me to borrow his copy.

I reproduce below a portion of the Cardiff street directory section:

Teal street (From Partridge road to Elm street)

Meyrick R.J. builder (office)

here is Elm lane.

Caledonian hotel stables

here is Elm street.

David Edwd. grocer

St. Margaret's school

here is Elm lane (return)

Walker Wm. cowkeeper

2. Hammonds Rd. (j) gardener

3. Hoare Wm. (3) shipwright

4. Milsom Geo. (j) stonemason

5. Bridge Mrs. Margt.

Robins Jno. builder. (office)

here is Partridge street (sic)

In the "Local Intelligence" section of the Directory (p.57) under the heading of SCHOOLS is an entry:- "St. Margaret's, Teal Street, Roath. - Mistress, Mrs. M.A. Parker." [She was probably Miss Mary Ann Parker the daughter of James and Elizabeth Parker of Eclipse Street as shown in the 1871 Census.] This provides the first piece of evidence I have come across that corroborates the local tradition that the building (now a warehouse) on the corner of Elm St. lane (See illustration p.117 Vol.4 No.4.) was originally a schoolroom belonging to St. Margaret's Church. It may have been called "St.Clement's" but I cannot be certain.

Elsewhere the Directory shows that No.26 Elm Street was "The Caledonian Hotel", the occupier being Charles Hampson. It occupied a site on the corner of Elm and Teal Street nearest Newport Road. The building appears to have had a short life as an hotel. It was not an hotel in 1913 - the only Caledonian Hotel then being at 30 Stuart Street at the Docks. In 1921 the Elm Street building was occupied by Palmer Bros., a firm of motor engineers. Today it looks as if it is either being demolished or structurally renovated.

THE ROATH DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

PART I - 1859 to 1868

The Public Health Act 1848 provided for the election of local Public Health Boards but being an adoptive act it was left to the local ratepayers to decide whether or not to set up a local board. The first Board meeting in Roath was held in 1859. A new Public Health Act had been passed the previous year but was, like earlier legislation, still adoptive. It was under this Act that the Roath Local Board made their bye-laws which received government approval in 1860 and which are described in a separate chapter below. Responsibilities of the local board included the management of sewers and drains, wells and supplies of water, refuse and sewerage systems, the control of slaughter houses, the removal of nuisances, control of housing unfit for human habitation, provision of burial grounds, recreation parks, public baths and other amenities. Its geographical area of jurisdiction - the District of Roath - was smaller than that of the parish in that it extended southward only as far as the South Wales Railway (later the Great Western).

The board was later empowered to raise loans from the Public Loans Board on the security of the rates to finance their activities. A welter of public health legislation was consolidated in the Sanitary Act of 1866 - the first public health act in which mandatory provisions were dominant. It was not until 1875 that the first comprehensive Public Health Act established local sanitary authorities throughout England and Wales. This also happened to be the year in which Roath was absorbed into Cardiff with the consequent demise of the old Roath District Board of Health. Its function and powers were then taken over by the Borough of Cardiff.

The deliberations of the Board should be considered against the background of a rapid increase in population of the parish. By 1861 there were over 3000 persons living in 525 houses - a tenfold increase in population since 1851. By the time of their final meeting in 1875 the population had risen to over 9000 and the number of houses is estimated as at least 1700.

The first meeting of the Roath District 'Board was convened for Thursday 6th October 1859 at the Clifton Hotel which was on the corner of Green Lane (Broadway) and Connection Street (Clifton Street). Charles Crofts Williams of Roath Court was elected as chairman and Henry John Davis was appointed to the office of clerk to the Board. Other members were Frederick Ridge Greenhill, Thomas Henry Ensor, William Richard Page, John Thomas, John Evans, Daniel Smart, Christopher Douglas and John Williams. Michael Spain O'Rourke was appointed as Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances for the time being.

THE BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICIALS

CHARLES CROFTS WILLIAMS who was born in 1798 married his cousin, Blanche Phillips of Llantarnam in 1836 and settled at Roath Court. A protégé of the influential Edward Priest Richards, he entered the municipal life of Cardiff in 1826 when he became a capital burgess of the old unreformed borough. After the Municipal Corporation Act of 1835 he was an alderman and later became Mayor of Cardiff on no fewer than five occasions. (1836, 1842, 1838, 1857 and 1858.)

Charles Crofts Williams was vice-president of the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Royal Infirmary and Dispensary which was opened in 1837 on the north side of Newport Road close to the Spital Barn where there had been a leper hospital in medieval times. He held directorships of the Glamorganshire Canal Company Co., the Cardiff Steam Towing Co., and the Monmouth Railway Wagon Co. He was a J.P. and held the posts of High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant. He played a leading part in the erection of Cardiff Market, the infirmary and the Town Hall. He is said to have been a genuine humanitarian and to have been so horrified at the death toll of the great cholera epidemic of 1849 that he offered to maintain at his own expense a water supply and drainage system for Cardiff if the Council would bear the initial capital cost of the works. He died at the age of 62 on 1st July 1860. His death was commemorated by the tolling of the bells of St John's Church, Cardiff and in tribute, local shopkeepers are reported to have darkened their windows. He was buried in the churchyard of St Margaret's, the old parish church of Roath where for many years he had been churchwarden. The family vault is one of the few surviving tombs in the churchyard of the re-built St Margaret's church.

CHARLES HENRY WILLIAMS, the son and heir of Charles Crofts Williams, succeeded his father as chairman of the Board. Born in 1837, he married Millicent Herring of Cromer and lived with his four children at Roath Court until his death on 14 December 1908. His brother, George Crofts Williams, settled at Llanrumney Hall.

Charles Henry Williams was succeeded by his son, another Charles Crofts Williams (born 1866) who married Rosa Thomas of the wealthy Ystrad-mynach family in 1892 and died 1 February 1912 leaving issue. [See Pedigree Chart No.7 in Newsletter Vol.1 No.7 post p.66 and Vol.3. No.3 pp.78-79]

MICHAEL SPAIN O'ROURKE was an Irish born surveyor and civil engineer. He had published an excellent plan of Cardiff in 1849 which extended from Cardiff Castle in the north to the Bute West Dock (built 1839) in the south. He was living at No.1 Clifton Street - a house which stood at the junction of Broadway and Clifton Street, according to Butcher's Directory of 1875-6 where he is described as agent to the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. He would not have had far to go to get to meetings of the Roath Board at the Clifton Hotel (No. 2 Clifton Street). He was sacked by the Board in a row about his costs in connection with the new Roath cattle market.

HENRY JOHN DAVIS was solicitor and agent to Lord Tredegar. It was he who convened the first meeting of the Board and his appointment was administratively a mutually convenient arrangement particularly as the Tredegar estate was the principal land-owner in Roath. It was not perhaps so physically convenient for Mr Davis whose business activities were centred in Newport.

JOHN W. THOMAS born c.1815 was living in 1861 and 1871 at 1 Victoria Place, Roath (now Newport) Road and is described in the Census returns as a provision merchant. He was re-elected to the Board for a term of three years in October 1865. His son, George Thomas, born 1849, became an architect, surveyor and valuer, joined the Taff Vale Railway in 1864 and later was an assistant to Thomas Waring before entering into partnership with James & Seward.

WILLIAM RICHARD PAGE. A civil and mechanical engineer who in 1861 was living at "Ruperra Villa" in Roath (now Newport) Road. Ewen's directory of 1855 describes him as Deputy Superintendent of the Taff Vale Railway. Bird's directory of 1858 describes him as of the Rhymney Railway Co. and

gives his address as "Elms Place" (probably the same address), Newport Road. Several members of the Page family were closely connected with the T.V.R. Edwin Page was a well known railway engineer and his son Edward Henry Page was assistant engineer with the T.V.R. until 1892.

JOHN EVANS born c.1821, was farming 100 acres of upland and 80 acres of moor at Pengam in 1851 and employed 8 men. (The portion of the 1861 Census containing Pengam is lost). He was descended from an old Welsh Roath family. He was re-elected for a three year term in October 1865.

FREDERICK RIDGE GREENHILL, born c. 1830, was a Sussex man who came from a long line of landed gentry going back to Elizabethan times. He was an example of a member of the wealthy rural squierarchy venturing into the world of industrial capitalism. He sold his Sussex estate for about £30,000 and came in 1856 to South Wales where he had heard of the bonanza in the coalfields. He came to live in Roath Castle, (today known as the Mackintosh Institute). It was at that time owned by Edward Priest Richards junior, who had been solicitor to the Bute estate and whose daughter married the Mackintosh of Mackintosh. His address in Bird's Directory of 1858 is "Plasnewydd" and he is shown as "of Curties, Greenhill & Co., shipbrokers".

In the 1861 Census his address is "Roath Castle".

In 1875-6 (Butcher's Directory) he was residing at 4 Wolverley Place, Severn Road, Canton, Cardiff. Greenhill was said in his obituary (Cardiff Times 9 April 1910) to have "had his eyes set towards the mineral districts in the Rhondda Valleys."

He acquired the lease of a large area near Pentre and invested in mining operations. The shaft was sunk but after several years without success, he ran out of money and was forced to abandon the venture without having reached the coal. He later persuaded a group of Cardiff docks merchants, including James Wayne and Messrs Cory to pour more capital into resuscitating the undertaking which eventually proved successful when an exceptionally good seam of smokeless steam coal was struck. During the subsequent depression the members of the syndicate including Greenhill, no doubt to their later regret, sold out to Messrs Cory who then became sole proprietors and formed a company which purchased the undertaking in 1873 for £285,000. With the almost immediate turn in the tide of coal trade the subscribed capital of this company rapidly rose to about £400,000, but Greenhill had by then severed all connection with the enterprise.

For 35 years Grenhill was the treasurer to the Cardiff Borough Council. He had succeeded William Davies in that post in 1870. He spent his later years at Church Road, Penarth and died at his residence there in his 81st year on 4th April 1910.

THOMAS HENRY ENSOR was an attorney and solicitor whose address is given in the 1861 Census as "near Roath Castle", but according to Bird's Directory of 1858 he was living in Montgomery Place (in Newport Road). In 1876 (Butcher's Directory) his address is given as Tyne Villa, Newport Road. He was a Dorsetshire man, the son of a glove manufacturer of Milborne Port. He served his articles as a young man with Mr Kemptherne of Neath. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1854 and started in practice in Cardiff two years later. He soon built up a reputation of being a smart advocate and was

eagerly sought after in Magistrates' court proceedings. In 1857 he married the daughter of Daniel Collen of Chippenham.

He was solicitor in South Wales to the Great Western Railway, the Cardiff Post Office authorities and Messrs Spillers & Co. He was also local secretary of the Cardiff Tramways Co.

Although he was connected with the Cardiff Savings Bank as a Manager, he does not appear, for some reason, to have been held in any way responsible for the defalcations which were discovered.

He took up residence at "The Hollies", Llanishen in 1877 and retired from practice in November 1893. He had four sons and two daughters. His eldest son, Frederick William Insor, a solicitor, joined him in his practice in 1892. His second son Henry C. Ensor was an ophthalmic surgeon whose business address was for a time in Charles Street, Cardiff. The other two sons were engaged in offices in Cardiff docks.

In politics, Mr T. H. Ensor had strong conservative leanings. He was co-defendant with Lascelles-Carr, the editor of the Western Mail in a libel action when both were sued for publishing in that newspaper on 24 July 1887 a scurrilous epitaph relating to the public career of the late John Batchelor, whose controversial statue was erected in The Hayes. It became a leading law case when the judicial decision established that it is impossible to libel a dead man.

He resigned as a member of the Roath District Board on being appointed to the salaried post of Clerk to the Board in December 1861 in succession to Mr H.J.Davis.

He died at Llanishen 6 March 1895, only ten days after the death of his wife at Clifton.

DANIEL SMART, according to Bird's Directory of 1858, was an accountant living in Elms Place, Newport Road - probably the same man shown in Butcher's 1875-6 Directory as manager to the Penygraig Coal Co., 2 Dock Chambers but then living at 9 East Grove, Tredegarville.

CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS appears in the 1851 Census as a 28 year old clerk with the T.V.R. living at Four Elms. In the 1855 directories he is shown as of the T.V.R., living at Roath Cottage. In Bird's directory of 1858 he is described as an accountant with the T.V.R. In 1861 the Census shows him to be living with his wife and three year old niece at "Roxburgh Villa", Roath Road.

JOHN WILLIAMS was almost certainly the architect and land agent who according to the 1861 Census was 35 years old and living with his wife and two infant children at "Tenby Villa", Roath Road.

HUGH BIRD, born c.1827, bookseller, came on to the Board 3 December 1861 in place of T.H. Ensor (who had been appointed clerk). He resigned 2 July 1867. He lived at Oakfield Villa, Newport Road with his wife & 3 children (per 1861 Census). He is well known for his Cardiff Directory & Handbook for 1858. His shop was in Charles Street, Cardiff.

DANIEL THOMAS who lived at Upper Llwyn-y-grant and later at "Bronwydd", Pen-y-lan was a public works contractor of some standing. His son, Alfred became Lord Pontypridd [See Newsletter Vol.3 No.4 p.44]

CHARLES PEARSON. Born 1810. He came to Cardiff c.1835. He lived at "Woodlands", Leckwith before moving in 1862 to Talworth House, Castle Road now City Road). Pearson Street, on the site of Talworth House is named after him. He joined the Board in February 1863. With his partners, Messrs Hemingway, some valuable contracts were obtained from the Marquess of Bute connected with the Bute West Dock and the Pier. The firm of Hemingway and Pearson were appointed contractors for the construction of the Bute East Dock. Their activities were not confined to Cardiff. One of their greatest undertakings was the tubular bridge (Britannia Bridge) over the Menai Straits. He died suddenly on 19 November 1870. As a senior member of the Roath Board, he always presided at the meetings in the absence of C.H. Williams, the Chairman. He is described in his obituaries as "affable and courteous" and "unobtrusive, kindly and charitable" See Newsletter Vol.4. No.1 pp.14,15.

THOMAS NIXON joined the Board in June 1863. He was presumably one of the family of the famous firm of Nixon's Navigation Co. Ltd. who were pioneers in the export of smokeless steam coal.

WILLIAM NELL of Clyde Villa, Roath. He was a Cardiff Borough councillor in 1862. He joined the Board in April 1865 and was re-elected for a three year term in October 1865. He resigned 2 July 1867.

JOHN WILLIAMS was Surveyor to the Board until his resignation in February 1867. He was replaced by Thomas Waring. Probably the same John Williams (age 35) shown in the 1861 Census as an architect and land agent living at Tenby Villa, Roath Road with his wife, two year-old daughter and one-month old son.

FRANCIS ROCHE was appointed a member in July 1867 and resigned 6 October 1868. He lived at "Roath Villa" on the Newport Road.

REES ENOCH was appointed a member of the Board in July 1867. He was a grocer living at 78 Shakespeare Street. He stood unsuccessfully as a Liberal candidate for the Roath ward in the Cardiff Borough elections in 1875 and 1876. He was elected in 1879 and remained on the council for three years.

ROBERT MEYRICK of System Street was elected a member in October 1868 in place of Francis Roche. ? the same as Robt. Jas. Meyrick (Butcher 1875-6) shown as builder & contractor of Teal Street, living at 24 Partridge Road.

THOMAS KING. The local sergeant of police who was appointed Inspector of Nuisances from 7 March 1871 at a salary of £12 per annum.

EDWARD VANSTONE, a local police constable, was appointed Inspector of Lodging Houses and Nuisances for the Roath District 3 October 1865 at a salary of £10 per annum. He was succeeded by Sergt. King. in 1871.

DR HENRY JAMES PAINE was the first medical officer of health for Cardiff. He was prevailed upon to act for the time being as Medical Officer of the Roath Board. He attended 1 April 1873 and read a report on the sanitary condition of the Roath District which was printed and Circulated in the District and is a model of its kind, providing a Superb insight into housing, sanitary and social conditions then prevailing. [It is re-printed in Newsletter Vol.2. No.3. pp.77-86]

Dr Payne was founder of the Hamadryad Hospital Ship which served seafarers from 1866 until 1905. He worked at the old Cardiff Infirmary and when dealing with an outbreak of typhus in 1847, he contracted the disease himself - a fact which no doubt strengthened his resolve to combat poor public health and sanitation which he was convinced was the prime cause of the spread of infectious diseases.

The fascinating story of the Hamadryad and Dr Paine is told in an illustrated booklet "I Saw Three Ships" by Dr John Mayberry, recently published by the Silver Link Publishing at £1.95. The picture below of Dr Paine is reproduced with the publisher's kind permission.



EDWARD WHIFFEN, of 6, Oakfield Street, Roath, was elected member of the Board 13 December 1870 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Charles Pearson. He had been Mayor of Cardiff for the year 1869/70.

He came to Cardiff c.1852 and for many years ran a provision merchant's business in Church Street, Cardiff and a candle factory in Canton. He was an evangelical churchman who attended Roath Parish Church. He was described as "a Tory of the old school". He died 27 December 1897 at the age of 78 and was buried in Llandaff Cathedral churchyard.

T. WARING M. Inst. C.E. was appointed surveyor to the Board on 18 February 1867 in succession to John Williams who had been acting as surveyor after O'Rourke's dismissal in 1862. He was also surveyor to the local authorities of Cardiff, Canton and Llandaff. The Cardiff Borough Council who appointed him architect and surveyor on August 12th 1861 paid him an annual salary of £90.

We are indebted to T. Waring for his excellent plan on a scale of four inches to the mile published in 1869 entitled "District Plan of Cardiff & Penarth, including Roath, Canton and Llandaff, showing docks, railways, canals and other communications, from the most recent surveys".

He was also editor of two small but useful books called "The Cardiff & County Calendar" published in 1868 and 1869 respectively. The title page describes each as "containing official appointments for the year, local statistics, accounts of the mineral & shipping trade, tide tables & other information." They were published by William Jones of Duke Street, Cardiff. Price: One shilling each.

The firm of T.Waring & Son at 1 Charles Street, Cardiff were agents for: Messrs Stacey's Roath, Canton & Cardiff estates; building agents for the Roath Court Estate of Mr C.H.Williams; J.R.G.Homfray of Penllyn Castle, Cowbridge and of Mr Henry Lewis of Greenmeadow near Cardiff.

WILLIAM NELL of Clyde Villa, Newport Road, Roath was a Cardiff Town councillor in 1862. He founded the Eagle Beer and Porter Brewery in 1846, a large establishment at St John's Square, Cardiff. After his death in 1871 the business passed to his eldest son, William Walter Nell, and in 1889 the concern was converted into a limited liability company - William W, Nell Ltd. He joined the Roath Board in April 1865 and was re-elected for a three year term in October 1865 but resigned 2 July 1867.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES

6 October 1859. The minutes of the first meeting show that an offer from the Cardiff Gas Company to lay down gas mains at the cost of the company and to erect as many lamps as were required at £3 each was accepted. 30 lamps were ordered.

The clerk was requested to obtain from Mr O'Rourke his terms for providing a plan of the District of Roath on a scale of 1 chain to the inch, showing streets, roads and drains.

It was resolved to hold future meetings at the same venue on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

3 November 1859. Mr O'Rourke's tender was received in the sum of £111.10s.

9 January 1860. Clerk was asked to consider the question of the Turnpike Road in the District being abandoned as a turnpike by the County Roads Board.

16 February 1860. Rate fixed at 1/8d. in the £.

8 March 1860. Committee appointed to arrange for the repairs of Highways, Old Turnpike Road and footpath by the side thereof.

3 April 1860. Meetings to be changed from Thursdays to Tuesdays.

Collector had collected and paid to Treasurer £77. 2s. 5d. out of £418. 15s. 0.3/4d.

5 June 1860. Another £64.10s.3d. had been collected leaving a balance uncollected of £242. 7s.6.1/2d.

3 July 1860. Note of condolence minuted on the death of Mr. Charles Crofts Williams, the chairman. His son Mr.C.H. Williams was elected in his place. Meeting adjourned on account of the death of the chairman.

17 July 1860. £183. 5s.7d. collected.

£235. 9s.5d. uncollected .

Resolved that defaulters be summonsed.,

7 August 1860. Mr Davis reported that he had provided an enclosure on Lord Tredegar's land for a temporary market and that the same had this day been opened - that he had ascertained as nearly as he could the number of stock present and according to the lowest account it was as follows :-

Horses 52

Cattle 123

Sheep 766

Calves 4

Pigs 25

4 Sept. 1860. Surveyor to obtain cargo of limestone and contract with some person or persons to haul and break the same and to report to the next Meeting what implements he requires and the cost thereof of keeping the Roads in repair.

2 October 1860. Ten more lamps ordered.

14 October 1860. Annual Meeting at the Clifton Hotel.

Proposed sites for the 10 lamps:-

Oakfield Street, Partridge Road, East end of Milton Street, Wordsworth Street, Corner of Planet Street and System Street, Corner of Comet Street and System Street, Corner of Eclipse Street and System Street, Corner of Constellation Street and System Street, West end of Constellation Street, Between Christchurch and Great Eastern Hotel.

The Board was urged to provide 8 further lamps:-

Opposite Clifton Hotel, Between Clifton Hotel and Christchurch, Corner of John Street, Centre of Planet Street, Centre of Comet Street, Centre of John Street and near Christchurch.

9 February 1861. Clerk to request Cardiff Board to put an additional lamp between the old Turnpike House and Splottlands Inn and also cover over the ditch near the barracks.[i.e. Longcross Barracks]. The Post Office to be requested to put a pillar box at the corner of Elm Street.

5 March 1861. Plan of streets showing owners to be prepared.

2 April 1861. Plan for 2 houses in Elm Street approved.

7 May 1861. Cardiff Board refused to allow eastern side of Plucca Lane to be drained into their sewer.

A letter was read from Mr Heard, solicitor, requesting payment of J. Turner's bill for repair of Green Lane and the Clerk was directed to inform Mr Heard that the Board had given no order for such repair and could not pay it.

The Surveyor's Report was read and it was ordered that notice be issued to parties to number their houses.

4 June 1861. Clerk to write to Mr Watkins regarding repair of the path in Plucca Lane.

Letter from Mr Hugh Bird re. drainage of his house. Clerk to write to the landlord, Mr Daniel Burgess, solicitor, Bristol, on the Subject.

Resolved that building plans to be supplied in future in duplicate on tracing linen.

6 August 1861. Mr Ensor gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that Mr O'Rourke's services as Surveyor be dispensed with.

10 Sept. 1861. Arrangements made with the Trustees of the late Charles Crofts Williams for loan of £1,000 at £5 per cent per annum for construction of Roath Market.

3 October 1861. Annual Meeting. Resignation of Mr Davis as clerk - an office he had held during the last two years.

5 Nov.1861. It was moved by Mr J. Williams, seconded by Mr J. Evans and carried.

That the Surveyor do prepare and lay before the next meeting specification for Macadamising the roads within the District set forth below, and that the Board do advertise for tenders for maintaining and repairing the same, and the construction and maintenance of the footpaths from January 1862 to January 1863 viz:

The Newport Road from the Barracks to Roath Lodge
Road to Pengam Farm
Road from Turnpike Road to the Bridge leading to Roath Mill
Road to Pontlicky Bridge
The North End of Plwcca Lane
Road from Splottlands Inn to Adamsdown
Half the Road from the New Cemetery to Fair Oak Bridge.
Footpaths from opposite the Barracks to Roath Lodge.

Resolved that a Committee of the whole Board be formed to treat with Lord Tredegar and C.H. Williams Esq. for the use of their main sewer and that our surveyor be instructed to prepare a plan and section showing the proposed contributory mains through the lands of Mr James Hemingway, Mr Daniel Thomas, Mrs Traherne and the Reverend Thomas Stacey.

3 December 1861. Hugh Bird elected a member of the Board in place of T.H.Ensor, disqualified by his acceptance of the office of Clerk.

Resolved that the Board advertise in the Cardiff Guardian and Cardiff Times for tenders for repairing and maintaining the roads within the District [as set out above] from 13 January 1862 to 13 January 1863.

Letter from Mr Fry, Wordworth Street, complaining of want of gas lamps. Agreed that subject be not entertained for the present.

Letter from James Tanner requesting payment for repairs in Broadway. Resolved not to be paid as Board did not order them.

Letter from Mr J. Merchant complaining of state of footpath on east side of Plwcca Lane.

Clerk to write to Mr Thomas Davies, Pontypridd, the District Surveyor of Roads, re. repair of road and footway from Roath Lodge to the church.

Plans for three houses in Shakespeare Street submitted by Mr Joseph Thomas and approved.

Per 1861 Census:

JAMES TURNER, road contractor, lived in Clive Street, Roath.

JOHN FRY lived at Glencarn Villa, Wordsworth Street. He was a ship-broker and coal exporter.

JAMES MERCHANT was a grocer in Plucca Lane.

7 January 1862. Mr James Oram's tender accepted for repair of roads and footpaths.

New rate of 1/8d. in the £ sealed and signed.

Plan of Mr Roche's proposed stable in the Newport Road approved.

Clerk to call Mr Davis's attention to gratings in System Street and all the streets in Splottland, the occupiers having complained of the overflow of water in rainy weather.

Surveyor to prepare plans for slaughter house which may be erected in the market.

4 March 1862. New Market to be opened Tuesday 11 March 1862 - to be advertised in Cardiff Guardian and Cardiff Times.

1 April 1862. Clerk to write to Mr Davis regarding properties in Newport Road between Oakfield Street and Partridge Road - now owned by Messrs C. Williams, Ensor and Michelmores - so far as lane at back of premises.

9 May 1862. Reply from Mr Davis admitting that no notice to repair had been given and asking Clerk to communicate with owners and explain the circumstances and endeavour to effect a settlement on the basis of the board and owners dividing the costs of repairs between them.

14 July 1862. Letter dated 2 July 1862 from Cardiff Board of Health offering terms for connection of houses in Plwcca Lane to Cardiff drainage system for £75 per annum.

2 September 1862. The minutes of this meeting make it clear that O'Rourke was in trouble with the Board. He was alleged to have passed unauthorised extras incurred by the contractor for work on the Roath Market.

"Mr Bird called attention to the conduct of Mr O'Rourke as animadverted upon in the Reports of the two several Committees appointed to consider and report upon Mr Walker's claim for extras on his Market contract" .

Mr O'Rourke was expected to attend the next meeting to explain his conduct.

7 October 1862. Mr O'Rourke having declined to give any explanation of the charges brought against him in the Reports made to the Board by the several Committees requested to investigate the dispute between the Board and the contractor for the Roath Market as required by the resolution passed by the Board at their last meeting, it was proposed by Mr Bird, seconded by Mr Daniel Thomas and carried unanimously:

that Mr O'Rourke be called upon to resign his office as Surveyor to the Board.

The Chairman then called upon Mr O'Rourke to resign accordingly, which Mr O'Rourke declined to do, whereupon it was resolved:

that Mr O'Rourke be dismissed from his office as Surveyor to the Board - and he is hereby dismissed accordingly.

4 November 1862. This was the first meeting at the new venue - the New Market House.

3 February 1863. Present: C.H.Williams (chairman), John Evans, C.Douglas, Daniel Thomas and Charles Pearson (new member).

Plan of James Thomas's proposed house in Shakespeare Street approved.

7 April 1863. Three tenders received for construction of roadway and footpaths in Wordsworth Street - that of William and Jenkin Francis was accepted. No footway to be constructed for the present on the western side of Wordsworth Street beyond Southey Street.

14 April 1863. Special Meeting at the Clifton Hotel - to receive a deputation of ratepayers regarding the drainage of Plwcca Lane into the Cardiff sewer.

9 May 1863. The Surveyor produced plans and sections of the drains and repairs of Clive St., Milton St., Shakespeare St., John St. and a portion of Oxford St., Montgomery Road and the back road between Oxford St. and Plwcca Lane.

Contract for repairs of Wordsworth St. sealed and executed.

2 June 1863. New member admitted - Mr Thomas Nixon.

7 July 1863. A petition was received from several ratepayers living in Planet St. and Meteor St. complaining of a disorderly house kept by Uriah Smart and others in Planet St. The Clerk was directed to forward it to Mr H. J. Davis as solicitor to Lord Tredegar.

Surveyor directed to attend to the condition of Oakfield Street (spelt here and elsewhere previously as 'Oakville' Street - a mis-spelling ?), and Partridge Road and to have the same weeded and kept in proper repair.

4 August 1863. Posts to be placed in new gravel paths in Oakfield St. Partridge Road and Wordsworth St. to prevent vehicles being wheeled thereon.

1 Sept. 1863, Plans of houses in Clive St. proposed to be built by Mr Pearson approved. Also plan of an iron railway in Plucca Lane subject to an undertaking to remove same if afterwards required.

3 November 1863. Additional gas lamps ordered for Clive St., Planet St., Comet St. and Eclipse St.

1 December 1863. Two additional lamps ordered in Plwcca Lane.

9 January 1864. An additional lamp ordered for Constellation St.

2 February 1864. The Surveyor having called attention to the filthy state of the back roads next to Oakfield St., Elm Street and Plucca Lane, was directed to have them scraped and cleaned.

Plans for two villas in the Newport Road from Messrs Thomas and Jones and for two houses in Elm Street from James Jellings were submitted and approved.

1 March 1864. Plan and specification for levelling, metalling, paving, flagging and channelling of the several streets in the Plucca Lane Drainage District.

Permission was given to the United Electric & Telegraph Company to erect their poles and carry their wires along Splottlands and Green Lane.

Plans were approved for a stable and coach-house in Montgomery Road for Mr Richard Cory.

5 April 1864. A memorial was received from the owners and occupiers of certain houses on the Island Farm abutting upon the Newport Road requesting the Board to provide them with means of connecting the same with the main sewer constructed by Lord Tredegar and the late Charles Crofts Williams Esq. when the Clerk was directed to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial and to inform them that the owners must themselves negotiate with the owners of the main sewer.

5 April 1864. Letter from Mr Ward for lamp to be placed near his lodge gate in Plucca Lane - also complaining of state of footpath to his house.

Plans approved: Stable & coal-house for Mr Edwards in Montgomery Road, likewise plans for alteration of premises of Mr James Ware in Milton Street.

Portion of Elm Street between the Four Elms and the Newport Road to be re-ballasted.

3 May 1864. Clerk to advertise for tenders for supplying and fixing of a Newbridge stone curb from Huntley Cottage in the Newport Road to the gate of Poplar House being about 670 yards.

Plan approved: Addition to a house of Mr Fry in Constellation Street.

It has been reported to the meeting that Mr Giles of the Four Elms Inn could provide a room there at 5 shillings per meeting. Unanimously resolved that future meetings be held there and to purchase furniture (at Mr Daniel Thomas's valuation).

I am indebted to the Glamorgan Archive Service, County Hall, Cardiff for allowing me access to the Minute Book of the Roath District Board Of Health 1859 - 1875 (Ref: RO P.57).

I am also grateful to the staff of the Reference Library of the South Glamorgan Central Library, Cardiff for providing me with some of the information used for compiling the brief biographical notes in this issue.

5 July 1864. Meeting at the Four Elms.

Temporary wooden fence recommended to be erected around the reservoir in Milton St, West side of Meteor St. to be filled in. Plans approved : 2 houses by Mr Joseph Thomas in Shakespeare St. and additions to and alterations in Mr James Merchant's premises in Plucca Lane.

6 Sept. 1864, Adverse report presented by Messrs Pearson and Daniel Thomas on slaughter houses at Roath market:

"..... found them in a very disgraceful and unclean state - much refuse of an unwholesome character being left about - and thereupon the Clerk was directed to call the attention of the lessee thereto....."

3 February 1865. Letter received from Mr Hill, surgeon, complaining of the state of John St.

4 April 1865. Plans approved:

2 houses in Eclipse St. for Mr Wm. John

9 houses in Milton St. for Mr Daniel Thomas

2 houses in Penylan Road for Mr Henry Oram.

New member admitted: Mr William Nell of Clyde Villa, Roath.

2 May 1865. Surveyor stated that the inhabitants of Milton St., Shakespeare St. and other places were in the habit of placing their refuse at the back of their houses where it accumulated and remained - and thereupon Mr John Evans having offered to cart away the ashes and refuse of the houses on condition that the householder bring it out to his carts, his offer was accepted and the surveyor was directed to give notice thereof to the householders immediately.

Plans approved:

2 houses in Meteor St. for Mr Griffiths

3 houses in Elm St. for Mr R. Smith.

6 June 1865. Plans approved:

2 houses Eclipse St. for Mr Evan Evans

2 houses Constellation St. for Mr Thomas Rees

2 houses Meteor St. for Mr Jacob Harding

2 houses Meteor St. for Mr Griffith Griffiths

Also submitted was a plan of a new street 18 feet wide connecting Elm St. with Wordsworth St. - not approved, it being the opinion of the Board that the street should be at least 36 feet wide.

1 August 1865. Plan approved: House in Comet St.

2 September 1865. Letter from Dr Hill complaining of overcrowding in Milton St. Clerk to reply that steps would be taken to abate the nuisances and that summonses had been issued against several persons for keeping filthy houses in Milton St.

Clerk to write to Capt. Napier, Bridgend, to ask if there be any objection to the appointment by the Board of the Police Officer of the Roath District to the office of Inspector of Lodging Houses and Nuisances.

3 October 1865. Present: Mr C.H. Williams in the chair, Messrs Bird, Pearson, Evans, Daniel Thomas, John Thomas and Richard Thomas. The Clerk reported that Messrs John Evans, Wm. Nell and John W. Thomas had been duly elected members of the Board for the next three years.

Letter received from Capt. Napier assenting to the appointment of Edward Vanstone P.C. as Inspector of Lodging Houses and Nuisances: within the District. He was accordingly appointed at a salary of £10 a year determinable at one month's notice.

7 November 1865. Plans approved for 7 houses to be built by Mr Abraham Lane in Eclipse St.

5 December 1865. Plans approved:

- 5 new dwelling houses in Elm St. by Mr Richard Smith
- 3 new dwelling houses in Wordsworth St. by Mr G. Johns
- 1 new dwelling house in John St. by Mr R. Cottrell.

2 January 1866. Clerk to prepare a petition to the Secretary of State for the extension of the District of the Board so as to include the whole of the parish.

6 February 1866. Plans approved:

- 2 houses in Constellation St. for Messrs Price & Williams
- 2 houses in Meteor St. for Mr John Keel
- 1 house for Mr James Cameron
- 1 house for Mr W. Thorn

6 March 1866. Letter from Dr Hill. the Medical Officer of the District complaining of the state of the Green Lane property and the Clerk was directed to write to the Revd. Lewis Anthony Nicholl, St Brides-super-Ely thereon to ask him if he would endeavour to arrange with the owners of the main drain for the drainage of same.

Surveyor to give notices to the owners of property in Planet St., Constellation St. and Eclipse St. to pitch and pave.

Plan approved of new house to be built by Mr Wm. Thomas in the Newport Road.

3 April 1866. Plans approved:

- 2 houses in Elm St. for Messrs Williams & Hardy.
- 4 houses in Partridge Rd. for Messrs Smith & Pring.
- 1 house in Newport Road for Mr Thos. Evans
- Additions to houses:
 - Nos. 44 & 45 Elm St. for Mr Paton
 - 3 houses in Meteor St. for Mr Wm, Perry
 - 2 houses in Constellation St. for Messrs Price & Williams.

Cardiff Board of Health is to petition the Secretary of State to include portion of parish of Roath within its District.

1 May 1866. The Clerk reported that he had convened a parish meeting which condemned the Cardiff proposal. The Cardiff Board had signified their intention not to proceed and public notice was given that the Commissioners would not attend as previously advertised.

Plans approved:

2 houses in Meteor St. for Mr John Wixey

2 Villas in Oakfield St. for Messrs Johns.

5 June 1866. Plans approved: 4 houses in Oxford St. for Mr Thomas Skelper

2 houses in Meteor St. for Mr Evan Davies

2 houses in Plucca Lane for Mr Stepn. Evans.

3 July 1866. Plans approved:

3 houses in Oxford St. for Mr F. Stokes

2 houses in Constellation St. for Mr Thos. Stephens

7 August 1866. Mr John Evans attended - agreed to scavenge streets with two horses and two carts at £4 per week for one week.

Plans approved:

2 houses in Elm St. for Thos. Jones

1 house Partridge Rd. for Mr. D. Lewis

2 houses Partridge Rd. for I. Hardy

2 houses Helen St. for Fredk. Dark

1 house Eclipse St. for E. Evans

3 houses Meteor St. for I. Coughlin

1 house Oxford St. for D. Ireland.

Alterations & additions to Roath Villa, Newport Road for Mr Roche.

Inspector of Nuisances was ordered to procure a dozen white lime brushes of Mr John Williams, ironmonger, to be given to poor inhabitants of the District to enable them to whitewash and cleanse their houses.

4 Sept. 1866. Plans approved:

1 house Clive St. for Mr Thos. Brind

2 houses Hellen St. for Mr I. Price

4 houses Southey St. for Messrs Blake & Cutlan.

Stable & coachhouse in Montgomery Road for Mr J. Salt.

6 November 1866. A new lamp ordered for Partridge Rd.

4 December 1866. Plans approved:

2 houses Connection St. for J. Price

2 houses John St. for H. Evans

1 house Comet St. for E. Evans

3 houses System St. for T. Tucker

3 houses Comet St. for Lewis & Thomas

3 houses System St. for C. Howe

1 January 1867. Plans approved:

- 2 houses Oxford St. for Meyrick & Purnell
- 2 houses Eclipse St. for A. Lane.

5 February 1867. Plans approved:

- 8 houses John St., Plucca Lane. Thos Evans
- 2 houses in the same street. I. Marchant
- 2 houses Oxford St. Evans & Meyrick
- 2 houses Plucca lane. I(?)T). Evans.

Mr John Williams resigned as Surveyor.

19 February 1867 (adjourned meeting)

Mr Thomas Waring appointed Surveyor to the Board at a Salary of £30 per annum.

7 May 1867. Resolved that the street in the Plucca Lane Drainage district called JOHN STREET shall henceforth be known as VERE STREET.

Plans approved:

- 4 houses Green lane Mr Cotterell
- 6 houses Vere St. Mr Evans
- 1 houses John St. Mr Ford
- 3 houses Connection St. Thos. Parsons
- 1 house Comet St. Wm. John.
- 4 houses Comet St. John Lewis
- 1 house Comet St. Wm. Watkins
- 2 houses Connection St. John Evans
- 4 houses Shakespeare St. Thos. Jones

Plan rejected: 2 houses proposed by Mr Leonard Purnell - not drawn according to scale prescribed by bye-laws.

4 June 1867. Plans approved:

- 1 house Oxford St. Leonard Purnell
- Plan rejected: 3 houses for Rees Enoch in Oxford St.

2 July 1867. Plans approved:

- 3 houses Oxford St. for Rees Enoch
- 2 houses Vere St. for Rees Enoch
- 2 houses Comet St. for Abraham John.
- Additions to Talworth House for Mr Pearson.

Messrs Hugh Bird and William Nell resigned from the Board.

New members appointed: Mr Francis Roche and Mr Rees Enoch.

3 Sept. 1867. Plans approved:

- Stable near Green Lane for Thos. Llewellyn
- 3 houses Oxford St. for Stephen Evans
- 3 houses in Comet St. for Stephen Evans
- 1 house in Oxford St. for Rbt. Meyrick
- 2 houses Croft St. for John Pring
- 3 houses Croft St. for Richd. Smith
- 5 houses Croft St. for Smith & Pring
- Street plan (Croft St.) from Shakespeare St. to Partridge Road for C.H. Williams Esq.

1 October 1867. Plans approved:

- 3 houses John St. for Mr Ford
- 1 house Clive St. for Rees Williams
- 1 house Meteor St. for Edward Stride
- 1 house Meteor St. for Elijah Culham.
- Cellar in Shakespeare St. for Wm. Thomas.

5 November 1867. New lamps required:

- 1 Vere St. & Oxford St.
- 1 North end of Wordsworth St.
- 1 South end of John St.
- 1 Newport Rd. at east end of Roath Court.
- 1 East end of Green Lane.

Plans approved:

- 2 houses System St. Christopher Howe
- 3 houses Connexion St. Evan Davies
- 2 houses Oxford St. Stephen Evans

Plan rejected:

- 2 houses Connexion St. for John James.

3 December 1867. Plans approved:

- New street (James Street), Castle Road for Mr Charles Pearson.
- Improvement of road Roath Church.
- 2 houses Connexion St. for John James
- 4 houses Comet St. for John Lewis
- Schoolroom in Oakville (sic) St.

A nuisance was reported - a large heap of manure in a field adjoining Newport Road nearly opposite the residence of Mr John Thomas.

7 January 1868. Plans rejected:

- 2 houses Planet St. Maria Morgan & Wm. Lewis.

Plan approved:

- 1 house in Crwys Rd. for John Davie
- Footpath to be repaired from Poplar House to Roath Court Lodge.

4 February 1868. Clerk to write to the Chairman of Magistrates' Quarter Sessions regarding the re-opening of the Roath Market.

Plans approved:

- 1 house Connexion St. for Evan Davies
- 2 houses Connection St. for John Davies
- 9 houses Crofts St. R.Smith & I. Pring
- 7 houses Crofts St. R.Smith & I. Pring

3 March 1868. Plans approved:-

- 2 houses Meteor St. Evan Davies
- 2 houses Comet St. John Lewis
- 2 houses Planet St. J as. Critchett
- 5 houses Wordsworth St. Blake & Cutlan

7 April 1868. Plans approved:

- 2 houses. Oakfield St. Thos Hooper
- 2 houses on Mr Bradley's Estate for Wm. Cottle
- 5 houses System St. for E. Stride
- Bakehouse in Comet St. and
- 3 houses in System St. for Robt. Meyrick
- Stables in Newport Rd. for Wm. Woods
- 2 houses System St. for John Robins
- 3 houses Garnet St. for Wm Griffin
- 2 houses Connexion St. for Robt. Cotterell.

5 May 1868. Plans approved:

- Altern. to kitchen. Milton St. E Langley
- Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. Newport Rd.
- 4 houses Connexion St. John Lewis
- 5 houses Connexion St. Chas. Gibbon
- 2 houses System St. John Lewis
- 1 house Planet St. Wm. Lewis
- 1 house Planet St. Maria Morgan

Resolved that the street hitherto known as CONNEXION STREET shall henceforth be called by the name of CLIFTON STREET.

2 June 1868. Plans approved:

- 2 houses System St. Wm. Charles
- 2 houses Clifton St. George Wilkins
- 2 houses Southey St. Blake & Cutlan
- 2 houses Clifton St. D.G. Price
- 2 houses Clifton St. Peter Price
- 1 house Green Lane. Thos. Llewellyn

7 July 1868. Plans approved:

- 2 houses Clifton St. John Edmunds
- 1 house System St. Robt. Meyrick
- 2 houses System St. Robt. Mathews

4 August 1868.

John Davie, Crwys, to be prosecuted for having built two houses on a site submitted and approved of by the Board for one house only.

Plans approved:

- 1 villa Cooper St. Blake & Cutlan
- 2 houses Clifton St. Chas. Gibbon
- 2 houses Clifton St. Robt. Cotrel
- 7 houses System St. John Lewis
- 2 houses Planet St. Michl. Donovan
- Altern to house in Wordsworth St. Blake & Cutlan.

A Blind Asylum in Splotland Terrace for Messrs Shand & Trustees

1 Sept. 1868 Plans approved:

- 1 house Crwys Road. John Davie. (altered)
- 1 house Crwys Rosd. John Davie. (new)
- 2 houses Crwys Road. John Davie. (new)
- 6 houses System St. John Lewis (substituted plan)
- Cellar & shop window in Clifton St. for Robt. Cotral.
- Altern. of house in Wordsworth St. Blake & Cutlan
- 4 houses Wordsworth St. Blake & Cutlan

4 Sept. 1868.

The Clerk submitted draft address to the Marquess of Bute on attainment of his majority.

12 Sept. 1868 (Saturday).

Special Meeting at the Guildhall Chambers, Cardiff to agree address [to the Marquess] and sign and seal it. Chairman to attend the Castle on Thursday 17 September to present it.

6 October 1868.

Mr Fredk. Roche resigned from Board. It was resolved that Mr Robert Meyrick of System Street, Roath, builder, be elected.

Plans approved: -

- 2 houses System St. Wm. Charles
- 2 houses Clifton St. Thos. Thomas
- 5 houses Clive St. Charles Pearson
- 4 houses Milton St. Thos. Evans
- Stable & coachhouse Oxford St. W. Gray
- Cellar Clifton St. D.G. Price
- Streets: Croft St. and Partridge Road. C.H. Williams

3 November 1868. Plans approved:

- 3 houses Planet St. Jas. Critchett
- 2 houses Clifton St. Robt. Cotterall (2nd. time)
- 5 houses Clifton St. Thos. Evans
- Altern. 1 stable & coachhouse Oxford St. H.N. Gray

1 December 1868. Plans approved:

- Addition to house Clifton St. D.G. Price
- Addition to house Clifton St. John Edwards
- Cellar to house Clifton St. Geo. Wilkins. Street extension in Clive St. Charles Pearson
- 4 houses System St. Wm. Thomas
- 2 houses Wordsworth St. Blake & Cutlan.:

In selecting these extracts from the minutes, my principal object was to build up from this single source as complete a chronological record as possible of early street development and house building in Roath. There is of course a good deal more in the minutes than the recording of the approval or rejection of street and house plans. I am conscious of the fact that I may have given the erroneous impression that the Board transacted no other business.

AJWK

**ROATH DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH
VICTORIAN BYE-LAWS**

Extract from the bye-laws made by the Roath Local Board under the Local Government Act (21 & 22 Vict. ch.98 sec.34) and confirmed by the Secretary of State on July 7th 1860.

Width of Streets

They provided that every new street which was a carriage road had to be at least 36 feet wide and those not a carriage road had to be at least 18 feet wide.

Height of New Buildings

The height of new buildings was not to exceed the distance from the front of such building to the opposite side of the street; and not to be increased in height so as to exceed such height.

New Streets

Drainage of new streets was to be specified by the local surveyor. The mode of construction and the materials to be employed were subject to the approval of the Local Board.

Thickness of Walls etc.

Rules were made regarding thickness of walls, the materials proposed to be used for external walls, roofs, chimneys and flues.

Exempted buildings: Gaols, prisons, lunatic asylums and session houses.

The Board also made bye-laws under the enabling Act "With respect to the Sufficiency of the Space about Buildings to secure a free Circulation of Air and with respect to the Ventilation of Buildings". They provided that every dwelling house had to have at the rear or side an open space belonging thereto at least 150 Square feet.

Distance between the property at the rear was to be at least 10 feet.

If the building was 2 storeys high 15 feet

.....3 storeys high.....20 feet

.....more than 3 storeys high..... 25 feet

The space so provided was not to be built upon.

Height of rooms and windows.

The height laid down for habitable rooms was at least 8 feet. If a room was in a roof its height was to be at least 8 feet throughout not less than half the area of the room.

Every habitable room had to have at least one window. The total area of the window or windows was to be at least one-tenth of the area of the room and the top of one at least of such windows was to be not less than 7' 6" above the floor and the upper half was to be made to open the full width.

Detailed regulations were made for ventilation of small rooms.

Drainage.

All materials had to be approved by the Board. Drains had to be glazed stoneware or fire clay pipes. There was to be proper ventilation of house drainage by rainwater pipe or special pipe or shaft drainage of subsoil.

The situation, dimensions, materials and construction of every water closet and privy was subject to the approval of the Local Board. No cesspools were allowed except when unavoidable and then only as the Board directed.

Ashpits: The situation, dimension, materials and construction of ashpits were subject to the approval of the Local Board.

No new house was to be occupied until the house drainage was completed.

Buildings unfit for human habitation.

Where certified to the Board by the Officer of Health, Local Surveyor, Inspector of Nuisances or by any two medical practitioners that any building or part of a building was unfit for human habitation, the Board could affix an order on the building. The fine for contravening such an order was 20 shillings a day.

New Streets - Notices and Plans

The requirements were: one month's notice and a plan and section not less than 1" to 44 feet horizontal and 20 feet vertical. Particulars required were:

names of owners of the land, the level, width, direction, proposed mode of construction, proposed name of such intended new street, and its position relative to the streets nearest thereto, the size and number of intended building lots and the proposed sites, height, class and nature of buildings, the proposed height of division and fence walls; name and address of person intending to lay out such new street and the notice was to be signed by him or his duly authorised agent.

New buildings - notices and plans.

The requirements were: A fortnight's notice and detailed plans and sections of every floor on a scale of not less than 1" to every 8 feet, the dimensions of every water closet, privy, cesspool and ashpit. A description of materials and intended mode of drainage. Also one block plan - not less than 1" to 44 feet showing the position of adjoining properties, width and level of street etc. etc.

Powers of Inspection

Inspection of works was to be undertaken by the Local Surveyor. He could inspect works and buildings in course of construction and report any irregularity to the Board. Notice of completion was required within one month.

The penalty for not giving notices was £5 plus 40 shillings for every day such works continued contrary to the provisions.

The Board could cause such work to be removed, altered, pulled down or otherwise dealt with and expenses were to be repaid by the offender and were recoverable from him in a summary manner as provided by the Public Health Act 1848.

The penalty on workmen who wilfully contravened the Provisions was 40 Shillings.

There were special bye-laws for the Regulation of Slaughter Houses (21 & 22 Vict. ch.98 sec.45)

*Bye-laws were adopted under section 32 of the same Act with regard to the
(a) "Prevention of Nuisances arising from Snow, Filth etc., and the keeping of Animals".
(b) "Cleansing Footways etc., Removal of Refuse and Cleansing of Privies"*

They provided that: .

*Every occupier of premises within the [Roath] district shall keep clean and free from filth the
footway and pavement adjoining the premises occupied by him.*

Refuse was to be removed at least twice a week.

*Other bye-laws provided for serving notices on people who kept foul W.C.'s. The Inspector of
Nuisances was empowered to remove filth and soil of the offending W.C., privy or cesspool*

One bye-law provided that:

*Every occupier of premises shall cause all snow to be removed from the footways adjoining the
premises occupied by him at such times as may be ordered by the Local Board.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Subject to confirmation by the Committee, the A.G.M. of the Roath Local History Society will be held
on
Thursday 22 September 1988.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our financial year now ends on 31st July to give the Treasurer a chance to have the accounts ready
for presentation to the A.G.M.

Annual subscriptions of £8 for the year 1988/89 are therefore due on
1st August.

Members who are paid up for 1987/88 will be kept on the mailing list for Project Newsletters No.1
to 4 of 1988.

The Hon. Treasurer is:

Margaret Reeves
62 Strathnairn Street
Roath, Cardiff

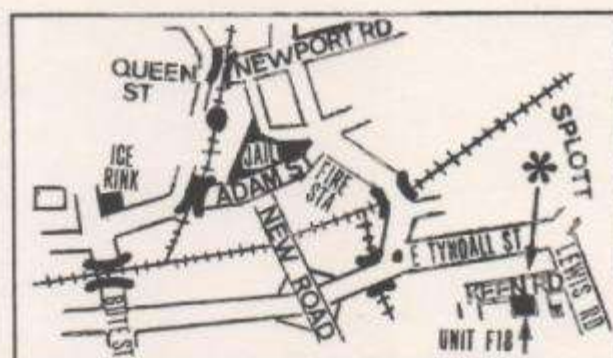
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