

## Caerphilly Tunnel

Just beyond the eastern boundary of Parc Cefn Onn runs the Cardiff to Caerphilly railway line. This passes through a tunnel, the southerly end of which begins roughly level with the upper section of the park.

The original line was 8 miles long and ran from "Crockherbtown Bridge" to "New Cemetery", Llanishen, and finally through the tunnel to Caerphilly. (Crockherbtown Bridge was on the site of what is now Cardiff Queen Street Station.)

Building of the tunnel began in September 1866 by Messrs Logan and Hemmingway and their engineer Mr. E Dawson. The tunnel is 25 feet high, 20 feet wide and a mile and an eighth long. Construction commenced by sinking five brick-lined shafts from the hillside above, and then tunnelling north and south from each until the tunnels of adjacent shafts met. Having fulfilled their primary purpose these shafts now act as ventilation shafts. Water was a problem during the tunnel's construction and pumps were used to remove an average of 1,600 gallons per minute. Except for a slight curve at the south end the tunnel is almost perfectly straight.

At two minutes past one on the 3rd December 1870 the first train, which consisted of three or four carriages and a guard's van, left Crockherbtown Bridge to pass through the tunnel bound for Caerphilly. The first passenger service took place on April 1st 1871.

Cefn Onn Halt is shown on Ordnance Survey maps as early as 1910. Regular passenger services began after the Council opened Parc Cefn Onn, which rapidly became very popular, and until 1952 it was only accessible by footpath or railway. The path up from the railway emerged at the junction of the lower and upper parks shown by the railings in the photograph below.

Cefn Onn Halt closed on 27th September 1986, to be replaced by the new Thornhill and Lisvane station nearby. Although closed and fenced off, the platforms still exist, as do the path and steps leading down from the park to the railway line. Evidence of the bridge over the railway line can also still be seen.

The line is still in regular use and runs from Cardiff Central to Cardiff Queen Street, Heath High Level, Llanishen, Lisvane & Thornhill, through the tunnel to Caerphilly and then northwards through several stops, finally ending at Rhymney.

In 2016 the pathway between the park and the old station was re-laid and the fencing replaced. There is now a locked gate between the pathway and the steps down to the platform. Metal railings have also been placed on the edges of both platforms..

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In 1868 a new railway station and a railway hotel were to be built near St. Martin's Church. This served as a more direct rail link to Cardiff via the Cefn Onn tunnel. The construction of this tunnel was a difficult undertaking with some loss of life during its construction. The first train to carry passengers ran through the tunnel on the 3rd December 1870

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Untruth: The first train through the tunnel was called Thomas

Cefn On halt was opened around 1910 on the 1871 Rhymney Railway Cardiff to Caerphilly line via the tunnel. Its has been spelt Cefn On and Cefn Onn (Welsh) in its lifetime.

Caerphilly tunnel is 1 mile 173 yards long and was the 7th longest tunnel on the GWR system. Its still in use today by Arriva valley line trains. Built between 1866-1871. Prior to the tunnel the Rhymney railway gained access to Cardiff via running over the Taff Vale at Taffs Well. The tunnel bores through the southern rim of the coalfield and much flooding was encountered when boring though the Carboniferous Limestone. Apparently the tunnel has a kink in the middle due to the fact that the two tunnel boring teams (South to North and North to South) got their surveying wrong!

The halt served a local golf course and Cefn On park with exotic flora very popular with Sunday trippers and ramblers. Apparently it was difficult to wave down a southbound train as there is only a short distance from the tunnel bore to the platform and drivers coming out of the dark tunnel just went sailing past!

The station closed on Saturday, 27th September 1986, with a new Lisvane and Thornhill park and ride station - and acres of new housing being built further south.

The area is now trashed by the M4 motorway so the tranquillity of this scene is lost forever.

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During the construction of the 2,000 yard tunnel, many Irish navvies came to the district. Such was the suspicion that Fenians (a secret Irish nationalist group) were lurking in their fold, that in October 1861, the group staying in Llanishen were guarded all night by armed police who expected insurrection.

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Seven Deaths

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3095908/3095916/59/Caerphilly%20tunnel%20AND%20railway>

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[Malcolm Uphill](#) TT Rider plaque - also name of Wetherspoons pub opposite.

Used to work in the railway works in Caerphilly.

Died of asbestosis in 1999 aged 64

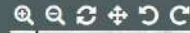
First rider to rider the Isle of Mann TT course averaging 100 mph.

Untruth - stood on the winners rostrum so often flanked by those in 2nd and 3rd places that he became known as Malcolm in the Middle.

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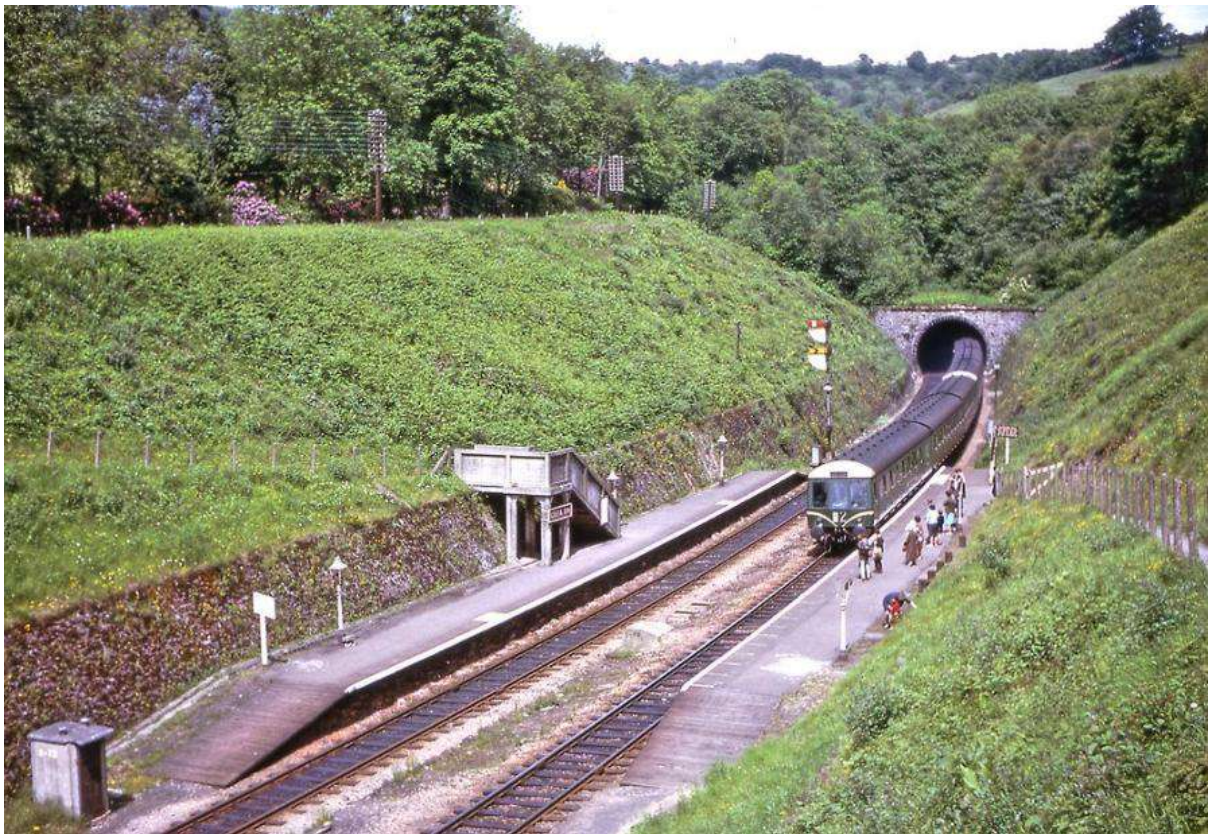


9th May 1868

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FALAL ACCIDENT ON THE CARDIFF AND CAERPHILLY RAILWAY.

In our last a brief notice was given of an accident which occurred on Wednesday week, at **Caerphilly**, by the falling of a skip, in which were seven men, down a shaft nearly 120 yards deep, causing instantaneous death to all of them. The **Rhymney Railway Company** are in the course of making a branch railway, called the **Cardiff and Caerphilly Extension**. On this branch there is a **tunnel**, one mile in length, passing under the **Caerphilly** mountains, at a place called Cefu-on. For the purpose of carrying on the excavation and works of this **tunnel**, five shafts have been sunk by the contractors, varying in depth from 34 to 117 yards. At each of these shafts powerful engines are fixed for working the pumps and winding gear. It was at the third shaft on the south side of the slope of Cefu-on mountain that the accident occurred on Wednesday week. The steam engine at this shaft is a horizontal high pressure engine, of about 50 horse power. The cylinder, 24 inches in diameter, has a four feet stroke. The fly wheel is 14 feet in diameter, and is fitted with a powerful break, the lever for working it being placed close to the engine driver and worked



[Julie Westerman](#) - Geese and Jackdaw Guardians

Date 1995-6

She is a sculptor, artist, ceramics, film, animation, and as a curator, and lectures in Sheffield. b.1955

Another work of art by her in Ruthin

On Cardiff Road the junctions with Stockland Street and Windsor Street are closed to traffic allowing the creation of smaller scale spaces for the shoppers to rest away from the traffic. These spaces are characterised by individual sculptures by Julie Westerman, the theme of which is 'guardianship' interpreted by a series of bronze geese. From 'The Jackdaws of Caerphilly': Jackdaws and geese have historical and contemporary resonance. At the turn of the century the people of Caerphilly were nicknamed Jackdaws by the inhabitants of nearby towns. The origins probably lay with the ruined castle as home to flocks of the birds.'

Taken from 'The Jackdaws of Caerphilly': 'The new square provided by blocking Stockland Street and Windsor Street have provided the spaces in which to pause, just off the busy shopping thoroughfare. These squares have been given form and identity through the inclusion of their sculptural features. Thus animated, they have been transformed from places in which to pause into places in which to linger. The sites provided an opportunity to establish a series of guardian sculptures. Towns and cities the world over have employed guardians to represent and defend their people. They mark the various camps and fly the flags for the different factions. Proud figures adorn town gates, stand above doorway and mark thresholds. Here in Caerphilly the guardians express a new confidence for the town. They carry the visual narrative and provide a focus for each individual space.'

Sculptor and lecturer, born in Leicester, who was later based in Wales. She worked in a variety of materials, including turf, crushed stone, plaster and aluminium. At art school almost all her work was abstract, based on organic forms, but later a personal imagery developed. Between 1971–9 Westerman designed shop interiors, travelled in Europe and worked as a marquee fitter. From 1980–1 she attended Loughborough College of Art and Design for a foundation course, graduated from Chelsea School of Art, 1981–4, in sculpture, then obtained her master's degree in fine art from Birmingham Polytechnic, 1984–5. During the next year she gained a junior fellowship in sculpture at South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, in 1986–7 working at Berllanderi Sculpture Workshop, Raglan, Gwent.

**Untruth: The artwork grant ran out before they had the opportunity to sculpt the 4th piece, a pear tree with a partridge in it.**

## Medieval Court house, Caerphilly

This building, now The Courthouse pub, dates from the 14th century. Previously court sessions were held in the gatehouse of [Caerphilly Castle](#) but a new building was ordered after a Welsh attack on the court in 1316. See the footnotes for more about that period.

Accounts from 1429 record how the court house was repaired at a cost of over 30 shillings. Hywel ap Gruffudd Fychan (or Vaughan) was contracted to haul timber to the site using his oxen. Carpenters rebuilt the roof beams and 1,000 earth tiles were fitted. The job needed 1,000 laths (wooden beams) and 2,000 lath nails. Dafydd ab Ieuan Hen (hen = old) was paid sixpence for a day's work using his horse to carry sand to the site.

Prisoners continued to be kept in the castle. The 1429 accounts record that two iron fetters for the castle (for clamping around prisoners' feet) were also supplied.

The building was enlarged in the 17th and 19th centuries. It was used as a house by members of the Price family, which had used proceeds from ironmaking interests to build a mansion known as Plas Watford (near the southern end of Watford Road) in the 18th century.

Inside The Courthouse you can see two large fireplaces, back to back, beneath ancient beams. There is also a display of cheese-making equipment. When the building first opened as a pub, a farmer named Tegwen Evans used to make Caerphilly Cheese here.

Footnotes: Why the courthouse was built

John Owen writes: In 1315 the young Gilbert de Clare was killed at Bannockburn, leaving his vast estates under the guardianship of King Edward II. The inheritance was shared among Gilbert's sisters. Pain de Turbeville of Coity Castle was appointed administrator and treated the Welsh population harshly. Coupled with this, the years 1315 and 1316 suffered badly from a volcanic eruption in New Zealand – huge dust clouds affected the European climate and food production (“a year without a summer”).

This double whammy drove the Welsh of Glamorgan to revolt against Payn and his English administration. Llywelyn Bren, descended from the Welsh lords of Senghennydd, led an attack on the court held at the entrance to Caerphilly Castle on 13 January 1316. Some of the officials were killed, part of the English town of Caerphilly was burned and many of the inhabitants slaughtered.

The revolt ended after three months, and the authorities decided to erect a new court house. They took over a burgage plot, which included a well, near the castle's southern gate. The court house was erected post-1316 and was a single storey building on the footprint of the current pub.

**Untruth: The last person to stand trial in the Courthouse was the great train robber Ronnie Biggs**

## Tommy Cooper

"Caerphilly is the healthiest place in the country. When I first arrived there I couldn't say a word. I didn't have a single hair on my head and I didn't have the strength to walk across the room. How long was I there? I was born there."

Everyone agrees that he was mean. Quite simply he was acknowledged as the tightest man in show business, with a pathological dread of reaching into his pocket.. One of Cooper's stunts was to pay the exact taxi fare and when leaving the cab slip something into the taxi driver's pocket, saying, "Have a drink on me." That something would turn out to be a tea bag.

Cooper was asked if he considered himself to be a Welshman, to which he answered, "Well yes, my father's Welsh... and my mother's from Devon. Actually I was in Caerphilly and left here when I was about a year old, I was getting very serious with a girl"

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy\\_Cooper#cite\\_note-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Cooper#cite_note-4)

Sculptor: James Robert Done

You are in: **Wales**

Thursday, 6 February, 2003, 14:13 GMT

## Prince's mature business scheme toasted



Sculptor James Done is trying to set up a new firm

Died in Cardiff in 2016. Also sculpted boxer Johnny Owen in Merthyr Tydfil

<https://caerphilly.observer/news/961062/tommy-cooper-society-pays-tribute-to-late-sculptor-of-caerphilly-town-statue/>

<https://www.tommy-cooper.com/statue>

## **Tommy Cooper statue, Caerphilly.**

This bronze sculpture of the Caerphilly-born comedian Tommy Cooper stands 2.7m (9 feet) tall, atop a natural stone and granite plinth. Created by sculptor James Done, it depicts him wearing his trademark fez. The statue, which cost £45,000

Thomas Frederick Cooper was born in Llwyn Onn Street, Caerphilly, in 1921 to Gertrude and Thomas H Cooper, a Welsh army recruiting sergeant. The landlady of the Cooper family's lodgings delivered the baby. Tommy spent his first three years in Caerphilly but suffered breathing problems because at that time heavy industry polluted the air in the South Wales Valleys. The family therefore moved to coastal Exeter, Gertrude's home city.

His talent for comedy emerged while he served with the army in the Second World War, when he performed for fellow soldiers. During a show in the Middle East, he mislaid his usual pith helmet and borrowed a fez from a local man. It produced such riotous laughter that a fez remained part of his stage persona.

He made his television debut in 1947 and was soon a household name. His act centred on short, silly jokes, clumsiness and magic tricks which went wrong. He collapsed and died of a heart attack on stage during a live broadcast, watched by millions, in 1984.

In 2003 some of his many fans established the Caerphilly-based Tommy Cooper Society. Its ambition of erecting a statue of the comedian in his home town was realised in 2008, when Hollywood actor Sir Anthony Hopkins (the society's patron) performed the unveiling.

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**untruth: The statute was commissioned by Tommy's cousin Yvette Cooper and her daughter Mini Cooper**

## Caerphilly Castle

It's likely that the tower's lean is caused by ground subsidence which caused the tower to split. The cause of the ground subsidence has been linked to the castle's water defences although this has never been proven. Some locals claim the lean is due to battle damage, however, this theory is not supported by the evidence because the outer face of the tower remains undamaged.

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Fear of a Welsh prince inspired the mightiest medieval castle in Wales

Llywelyn ap Gruffudd didn't build Caerphilly Castle. In fact he twice tried to knock it down before it was finished. But he was certainly its inspiration.

The rise of the powerful Prince of Wales persuaded Marcher lord Gilbert de Clare that he needed a fortress in double-quick time. And it had better be truly formidable.

So from 1268 de Clare constructed the biggest castle in Wales — second only to Windsor in the whole of Britain. Massive walls, towers and gatehouses were combined with sprawling water defences to cover a total of 30 acres.

That's three times the size of Wales's modern-day stronghold and home of Welsh rugby, the Principality Stadium.

On the death of Llywelyn this frontline fortress was transformed into a palatial home with a hunting park and northern lake. It passed into the hands of Edward II's ruthless and greedy favourite Hugh Despenser, who revamped the great hall in ornate style.

By then Caerphilly must have appeared like some mythical castle floating in an enchanted lake. An effect oddly enhanced by the Civil War gunpowder that left the south-east tower at a precarious angle.

In fact Wales's very own Leaning Tower — even wonkier than that of Pisa — is probably the castle's best-loved feature.

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A design Gilbert probably derived from that at Kenilworth. Gilbert began work on the castle in 1268 following his occupation of the north of Glamorgan.

The project was opposed by Gilbert's Welsh rival [Llywelyn ap Gruffudd](#), leading to the site being burnt in 1270 and taken over by royal officials in 1271. Despite these interruptions, Gilbert successfully completed the castle and took control of the region.

The castle was attacked during the [Madog ap Llywelyn](#) revolt of 1294, the Llywelyn Bren uprising in 1316 and during the overthrow of Edward II in 1326–27.

In the late 15th century, however, it fell into decline and by the 16th century the lakes had drained away and the walls were robbed of their stone. The Marquesses of Bute acquired the property in 1776 and under the third and fourth Marquesses extensive restoration took place.



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From 1928 until the onset of the Second World War he restored all the parts of the castle that had collapsed since the Middle Ages. It was the biggest, most thorough and most authentic project of its type ever undertaken in Britain.

Partly Bute was indulging his passion for medieval buildings, no doubt inherited from his father, who had restored and redecorated Cardiff Castle and Castell Coch. But mostly he was driven by a sense of social justice.

His plan was to support the economy of Caerphilly, reeling from the General Strike of 1926 and the Great Depression. For 12 years he employed no fewer than 15 full-time masons along with large numbers of labourers and contractors.

By 1936 he'd spent more than £100,000 from his own pocket – many millions at today's prices. He'd cleared ivy, dredged moats and meticulously restored bridges, towers and gatehouses one lump of stone at a time. Half of what we see today at Caerphilly is down to him.

But not everyone was impressed. Bute's radical approach went completely against the prevailing wisdom to 'keep as found'. Conservation, not recreation, was the order of the day.

His brother, Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart, labelled his critics as 'the decadent who cherish decay and would prevent the restoration of the greatest fortress in Wales'.

Bute's philosophy has prevailed at Caerphilly over the last 60 years. Most spectacularly the huge dams have been repaired and the lakes refilled. The inner east gatehouse has a new floor and roof. The elaborate windows of the great hall have been restored to their former glory.

Today a wooden statue of the marquess seems to be doing his best to hold the famous Leaning Tower in place. It's an eloquent tribute to the man who saved Caerphilly Castle from ruin.

**Untruth: One of Gilbert de Clare's decedents was Gilbert O'Sullivan who penned his song Clare in memory of his ancestor.**

## **Morgan Jones**

Born in 1885 in Gelligaer. Trained to be a teacher. Taught in Bargoed.

Joined the ILP in 1908. Became a councillor at 26.

Jones also made history by becoming the first conscientious objector elected to Parliament – having previously been imprisoned for refusing to fight in the First World War.

Jones was a former Member of Parliament for the Caerphilly constituency, and served the community he came from for 18 years.

While in Parliament, he served as a Junior Education Minister in the Labour governments of 1924 and 1929.

Strong Christian beliefs - a Baptist.

He was re-elected to Parliament six more times before his death in 1939, aged just 53.

Caerphilly's current MP Wayne David said the rise of Hitler gave Jones an "intellectual trauma".

He said: "He saw the First World War as a war between ruling classes that shouldn't have included ordinary people.

Refusing to fight in the First World War led to his imprisonment in the notorious Wormwood Scrubs where he endured solitary confinement, abuse and a diet of bread and water. This, Wayne David has said, showed that Jones had strong principles and a "tremendous strength of character". This all at a time when support for the war was strong.

Keen internationalist. Argued for greater democracy in India. Improvements for the lives of the people of the Caribbean and for the rights of Jewish people.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan\\_Jones\\_\(British\\_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan_Jones_(British_politician))

<https://caerphilly.observer/news/1002934/morgan-jones-caerphilly-100-years-election/>

Bowls Pavilion under threat of demolition - to be replaced by a Sports pavilion.

**Untruth: The Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin once sat Morgan Jones asleep on the opposition benches and referred to him as the unconscious objector.**

## **Energlyn Corn Mill - double wheels**

Dates from late 1700s. Corn still produced up to WWI. Supplied local bakeries. Demolished around 1940.

**Untruth: One day a herd of cattle was passing close by to the corn mill and one fell into the mill and sadly perished but it did lead to the invention Caerphilly is famous for, corned beef.**

## Caerphilly Cheese

Made for miners

Traditional Caerphilly was a smooth not crumbly cheese.

It has subsequently been suggested that the salt content of the cheese was required by manual workers, and it can be cut into wedges and does not dry out in the conditions underground. Caerphilly became a centre for cheese production, but over time competing demands for the milk required resulted in production of the cheese moving to England at the start of the 20th century

Farmhouse Caerphilly production died out during World War II as it did not keep as well as [Cheddar](#) from English factories for the war effort.<sup>[4]</sup> After the war those factories started making their own versions of Caerphilly, which matured very quickly and thus required less financing. Over time, the public forgot the difference between the old and new Caerphilly cheeses.<sup>[2]</sup>

The majority of mass-produced Caerphilly cheese is now produced in the English counties of [Somerset](#) and [Wiltshire](#).<sup>[3]</sup> There was a resurgence in farmhouse-produced Caerphilly during the 1980s in Wales,<sup>[3]</sup> as a result of the work of Cenarth Cheese. This originated because [milk quotas](#) imposed at the time meant that milk was being thrown away and so Thelma Adams decided to make a business out of producing cheese from the excess milk.<sup>[5]</sup>

By the late 1990s, there were no cheesemakers in Caerphilly making the cheese for which the town is known. Realising this, Castle Dairies began making the cheese shortly after they opened in the town. Rather than using factory methods, they use the pre-war production techniques by hand. They won a gold and a bronze award at the British Cheese Awards in 2000.<sup>[6]</sup> Caerphilly cheese was one of nine Welsh products considered by the British Government in July 2015 as candidates for name protection under the [Geographical indications and traditional specialities in the European Union](#) rules.

Caerphilly is a light-coloured (almost white) crumbly cheese made from [cow's milk](#), and generally has a fat content of between 45% and 55%.<sup>[8]</sup> It has a mild taste, with a tang of lemon.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caerphilly\\_cheese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caerphilly_cheese)

Untruth: Welsh people in old photos always look miserable because of instead of saying cheese for the photographer they are saying caws.

## Van Castle

In the 1580s, permission was given to Thomas Lewis to use stone from nearby [Caerphilly Castle](#) to build a manor house. The resulting building was known as Van Castle, Castell y Fan, or simply 'The Van'. The building was seen as an innovation of its day but its construction led to the further dilapidation of the original castle in Caerphilly.<sup>[1][3]</sup> Van Castle was abandoned in the mid-18th century when the Lewis family moved to [St Fagans Castle](#).

A house on the site of the Van is first mentioned in 1529 when it was purchased by Edward Lewis, a sheriff of Glamorgan, and was mentioned by John Leland a decade later. This probably consisted of a ground-floor hall with storeyed porch, which survive partially as the present porch and the N and E walls of the main range. A 2-storey kitchen wing was added behind in the mid C16. In 1583 Edward Lewis'

son Thomas obtained the lease of Caerphilly Castle and used dressed stone from there to rebuild Van House with a new stair block on the E (rear) side and a gatehouse and walled court to the W overlooking the valley and Caerphilly Castle. The house had a first-floor and an unheated ground-floor hall. In 1616 Sir Edward Lewis transferred his seat to St Fagans Castle and after 1628, when the main line of the family was no longer settled in Glamorgan, Van House became relatively insignificant. In the early C17 the kitchen wing was extended by a further unit and became a separate farmhouse. The remainder of the house may have been largely dismantled after 1736 when the Lewis estates were inherited by the Earl of Plymouth. The stair block also became part of the farmhouse and its stair was removed probably C19. In the late C18 or early C19 the farmhouse was extended again by the addition of a cart shed. Van House remained part of the Plymouth Estate to 1991, by which time the lower storey windows had been robbed from the main range and nothing more than the bases had survived of its attic windows. The house has since been thoroughly restored.

BS Re DE OI ee KOR 2 Ree DATE FROM 1415, ' BUT 'THE DRESSED STONE QUOINS AND FACED STONES IN THE LODGE, KEEP AND MAIN MANSION ORD) Ce) CARRY 12th CENTURY MASON MARKS AND ARE FROM THE ORIGINAL NORMAN CASTLE.

IN THE GROUNDS OF VAN GASTLE STOOD ONE OF THE LARGEST MEDIEVAL. COLUMBRIANS (DOVE COTES) 1H BRITAIN. THE ROUND PENNANT STONE BUILDING CONTAINED OVER 1000 NESTING BOXES AND WAS DESCRIBED AS A TRULY REMARKABLE BUILDING.

IN 1529 VAN CASTLE BECAME THE HOME OF SIR ED'VARD LEWIS, DESCENDED FROM THE WELSH PRI!-CE OF GWAETHFOED. THE LEWIS FAMILY CONTROLLED VAST ESTATES-IN WALES AND ENCLAND AND DURING THE 16th CENTURY TIE VAN WAS DESCRIVED AS ONE OF THE FINEST HOUSES IN THE COUNTY. IN 1640 IN HIS DIARY, THE WRITER SYMONS OF TNE ROYALIST (KINGS) ARMY SIATES SIR EDWARD LEWIS ESQ de VAN HAS AN ANNUAL INCOME OF £5,000pa FROM THE VAST VAN

ONLY UB ten ° an a THE VAN CAS! LE AN? THE VAST LEWIS FAMILY ° VUE ENG AMERICA Ae Cee eS MARRIAGE IN 1730 OF ELIZABETH LEWIS TO THE THIRD EARL OF PLYMOUTH. HER INFANT SON OTHER LEWIS BECAME THE 4th EARL OF PLYMOUTH ON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER IN 1732 AND VAN CASTLE REMAINED PART QF THE PLYMOUTH ESTATE UNTIL 1991.

<https://www.yfanbandb.co.uk/>

# LEWIS family, of Van, Glamorganshire

This was a prominent Glamorgan family which can be treated as a whole, as no one of its members was of great historical importance. Its distinguishing characteristics were a lengthy pedigree and a marvellous aptitude for the acquisition of property.

## EDWARD LEWIS

was the first that took the surname. He built the older portions of Van, near Caerphilly, Glamorganshire, and enclosed the park. He purchased the manor of Roath-Keynsham, part of the estate of Keynsham abbey, and was sheriff of Glamorgan in 1548, 1555, and 1559. His wife was Ann, daughter of Sir William Morgan, of Pencoyd, Monmouth, a member of the [Tredegar family](#). (Roath Keynsham included Llanishen and Penylan)

## THOMAS LEWIS,

his son, was sheriff of Glamorgan in 1569. His first wife was [Margaret Gamage of Coity](#), at the time widow of [Miles Mathew of Llandaff](#). He added to the Van and built the Lewis house in S. Mary Street, Cardiff, which was finally demolished about 1865. He died at Cardiff 2 November 1594. The 'inquisitiones' taken on his death are of considerable local interest.

## Sir EDWARD LEWIS (1560 - 1628),

eldest son of Thomas Lewis, the man who gave the living of Llanfaches to [William Wroth](#), was knighted in 1603, and was sheriff of Glamorgan in 1601 and 1612. He indulged in a good deal of litigation and added considerably to the family estates. The most interesting of his purchases was S. Fagans castle, bought from [Sir William Herbert](#) of Cardiff in 1616, and now the Folk Museum of Wales. This included the present house built by Dr. John Gibbon about 1590. He died 9 January 1628.

## Sir EDWARD LEWIS (died 1630), the second,

was also knighted in 1603. He lived at Edington, Wiltshire, of which he was lessee. He was Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to prince Henry in 1610 and afterwards to prince Charles. He died at Edington, 10 October 1630 - two years after his father.

## WILLIAM LEWIS (died 1661),

succeeded to the estate and died in 1661. His wife was Margaret, heiress of the estates of Brill and Boarstal, to both of which he added. He was a strong Parliamentarian.

## EDWARD LEWIS (1650 - 1674),

who was born 30 July 1650, bequeathed the Glamorgan estate to his uncle Richard Lewis in tail male.

The uncle, RICHARD LEWIS (1623 - 1706), purchased the manor of Corsham and was buried there. He certainly neglected and possibly dismantled Van. He died 7 October 1706.

## THOMAS LEWIS (died 1736),

son of Richard Lewis, was the last Lewis of Van. The date of his birth is not recorded but it must have been before 1668. He was a member of Parliament for various constituencies for many years. He died at Soberton, Hants., his wife's property, 22 November 1736. ELIZABETH, his only daughter and heiress, married Other Windsor, third earl of Plymouth of the first creation.

**Untruth: The Van family lived on and they have some famous decendents including Van Diesel and Van Morrison.**