

Make it a REAL
New Year's Resolution

by joining

The Cwmgorse and District
Co-operative Society Ltd.

DIVIDEND ON ALL PURCHASES

1953 ————— 1953

GROCERIES
FRESH MEAT
GREEN GROCERY
FRESH FISH
DRAPERY
OUTFITTING
BOOTS
FURNISHING
CHEMIST
MILK
OPTICAL
BREAD, etc.

1953 ————— 1953

Branches at Brynamman, Tai'rgwaith and Garnant

"South Wales Voice," Ystalyfera.

Welfare Hall - Gwauncaegurwen

Sunday, December 21, 1952

Sixtieth Anniversary

Celebrity
Band Concert

(President : Evan J. Thomas, Esq., M.E.)

with *JOAN BUTLER*

MARJORIE SHIRES, *Soprano*

JAMES JOHNSTON, *Tenor*

GWAUNCAEGURWEN BAND

(Conductor: Mr. Dan Lloyd)

GEORGE THOMPSON, London
Guest Conductor

MADAM DORA DAVIES, *Accompanist*

Souvenir Programme - Sixpence

Proceeds to foster Instrumental Music in the locality

West Wales Coach Services

Ltd.

TYCROES, AMMANFORD

Specialists in Motor Coach Hire to every part of
Britain and the Continent

LUXUREST COACHES AVAILABLE

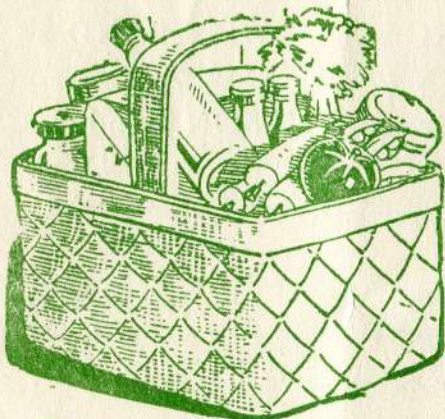
Comfort goes with you when you travel by

"West Wales"

"We'll tell you where and take you there"

Telephone: 98 Ammanford.

The well known Greengrocer and Fishmonger



**TOM
WATKINS**

Gate Street
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen

The best of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Daily

*The First Bandmaster
Mr. David Benjamin Evans*

History of the Gwauncaegurwen Band

1892—1952

By Mr. Vincent Evans
and Mr. C. J. Davies



THIS year marks the 60th anniversary of the Gwaun-cae-Gurwen Band, now generally known as the G.C.G. Band, or Band y Waun. All associated with the organisation take pleasure in the fact that through vagaries of fortune during those 60 years the band has gone from strength to strength and has continued to make music to stir the souls of music loving folk in South and West Wales, and throughout the country through the medium of broadcasting.

Away back in 1884 a small number of local people, armed with eight instruments—four cornets, tenor trombone, euphonium, bass, and the big drum, played at the ceremony of cutting the clod of the then new Maerdy Pit of the Gwauncaegurwen Collieries. This was a period of industrial development in anthracite coal mining, friendly societies were flourishing and each society had its annual parade to flaunt its banner and to show its colours. Here was the need of music and what better than a brass band?

In those days there was the famous Hanney's Band from Morriston which could take any engagement for the sum of £5, a hefty fee in those days. The late Mr. George Hanney used to say that the engagement was a cheap one as far as the band was concerned, but ample compensation was derived from the dinner which followed.

In 1892 a number of local men considered forming a band. There were eight instrumentalists in and around Gwaun-cae-Gurwen. They bought second-hand instruments, and procured tutors from Messrs. Wright and Round and started the band with a selected number from families musically inclined. Each founder had to deposit the sum of £5 with Messrs. Higham and Sons towards the £250 required to buy a set of second-hand instruments, and they also contributed 1s. 0d. a week towards clearing up the deficit.

The first conductor was the late Mr. David Benjamin Evans, vocalist and euphonium player. He taught the members free of charge and good progress was made. In 1898 the band was competing in contests and had a new set of instruments.

In 1900 Mr. Walter Exley, of Huddersfield was appointed bandmaster, and he guided the band with great success until 1906. For a short time a Mr. Jones from Ferndale carried on, until succeeded by Mr. Jim Woodhead, of Mansfield, who remained until 1909.

Then followed a long association with Mr. T. J. Rees, a Welshman: for

Guest Conductor:

Mr. George
Thompson

Photo by kind permission of
Musical Progress and Mail



LUXURY COACHES FOR HIRE

DISTANCE NO OBJECT

W. T. JONES

LUXURY COACH PROPRIETOR

75 Brynamman Road, Brynamman

Telephone: AMMAN VALLEY 3228

over 17 years. From 1921—1924 the band competed at Belle-Vue Manchester, September contests and won prizes each time. In 1925 it played at the Wembley Exhibition and was the first band to broadcast outside the studio. The West Wales championship was won on six successive occasions, and first prizes were gained at the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

From 1926 to 1928 the late Mr. Tal Morris took charge. He was acclaimed one of the finest cornet soloists of the day. He was the son of one of the founders. He left to become the Director of Music of the Rhyl Silver Band, a post he retained until his death in 1947. After Mr. Morris left Mr. T. J. Rees returned as conductor until 1932.

By this time a serious defect in the organisation became apparent. No systematic method of training boys had been applied, so the necessary talent to maintain the band was not forthcoming. For a short while the band ceased to function, then Mr. Dan Lloyd was invited to form a Junior Band in September 1933.

Dan Lloyd was a product of the old band, having joined in 1900. In 1934 the Junior Band competed at the annual Whitsun contest at Llandovery and won the first prize. In 1934 they competed at the famous Crystal Palace championship contest, in their section, and again secured first prize. The years 1935 and 1936 were equally successful. The record of successes under the baton of Mr. Lloyd include the remarkable list of 28 first prizes, three seconds and one third out of the first 32 contests attended.

The band have won the National Eisteddfod Championship Section no fewer than eight times: Carmarthen (1911), Barry, Pontypool, Swansea, Ammanford, Holyhead, Colwyn Bay, and Aberystwyth. During the last few years it has regularly broadcast for the B.B.C., and its total broadcasts now number 150.

Since 1945 the band has made great strides, but were not successful at the "Daily Herald" area contest, and only managed to win the first area contest at Neath in 1945. In the National finals championship at the Royal Albert Hall, London they shared the seventh and eighth position with the famous Black Dyke Mills Band. In the 1950 finals they came sixth in order of merit. On this occasion, due to the illness of Mr. Dan Lloyd, they were conducted by Mr. Fred Harries, late of Brynamman, who is a well known figure with the B.B.C. and in films, and is also a fine composer and arranger.

This year the band competed in the National Championship at the Empress Hall, London, on Saturday, November 1, conducted by Mr. George Thompson.

From 1948 the band was conducted in the absence of Mr. Dan Lloyd, by a young solo cornet player, Mr. Haydn Morris, who carried on the exacting work with great credit in contests and in broadcasts. It was a great pity that he resigned within a few months after the return of Mr. Lloyd early in March.

The pioneers of the band, as far as is known, were Messrs. J. Jenkins, Morgan Jenkins, Jenkin Mark, Dd. Benjamin Evans, Joe Evans, J. T. Morris, Evan Price, Morgan Thomas (Derwydd), Thomas Morgan, Wm. Rees, Phil H. Phillips, David Watkins and Henry Harries.

Of to-day's personalities with the band are Evan Evans, a well known character in the brass band world and known as "Evans the Band." He acted for some time as band manager but mainly took charge of the library.

The late David Morris, brother of Tal Morris, played the G. trombone in the band for 47 years. He rendered great service and wielded a great influence. The late Mr. Tom Morris, father of Mr. Haydn Morris, also played a great part in the band's growth. He was an excellent baritone player.

Mr. Morgan Jenkins has been associated with the band since its inception 60 years ago. His father, the late Mr. John Jenkins was one of the founders and Mr. Morgan Jenkins, in his youth, played as solo cornet. He has been for about 40 years host of the band at the Mount Pleasant.

Many others could be mentioned but we must content ourselves by recognising the services rendered over a number of years by Mr. Harry Gourmil and Mr. Griff Evans. Harry is still a playing member. Griff was also at one time a playing member but now serves as librarian.



Marjorie Shires
(Dargavel Concerts Ltd.)

Phone: Amman Valley 3117

D. THOMAS & SONS

(WALES) LIMITED

Curwen Stores, Gwaun-cae-Gurwen

High class Bakers, Butchers and Grocers.

In popular demand as Caterers for
Weddings, Dinners, Parties,
etc. etc.

PROGRAMME

PART ONE

1.—BAND:

Hymn Tune: Remington

Overture: Light Cavalry Suppé (arr. Greenwood)

2.—TENOR SOLO:

All hail thou dwelling (Faust) Gounod
JAMES JOHNSTON

3.—SOPRANO SOLO:

Caro Nome (Rigoletto) Verdi
MARJORIE SHIRES

4.—BAND:

Grand Selection: Tchaikowsky (arr. Rimmer)

INTERVAL

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PART TWO

5.—BAND:

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 Liszt (arr Rimmer)
or

Act III Lohengrin Wagner (arr. D. Wright)
and

Tone Poem: Loreley Nesvadba (arr. J. Ord Hume)

6.—SOPRANO SOLO:

Ah! was it he (La Traviata) Verdi
MARJORIE SHIRES

7.—TENOR SOLO:

Celeste Aida (Aida) Verdi
JAMES JOHNSTON

8.—BAND:

Rhythmic Paraphrase of Gounod's "Faust"
arr. Arthur Lange

9.—DUET:

Gilda and Duke from "Rigoletto" Verdi
MARJORIE SHIRES AND JAMES JOHNSTON

10.—BAND:

Selection from "King's Rhapsody"
Ivor Novello (arr. D. Wright)

WELSH NATIONAL ANTHEM

Tonight's Artists have been engaged
through

Dargavel Concerts Ltd.

Lloyds Bank Chambers
BRITON FERRY, Glam.

REPRESENTING THE WORLD'S GREATEST
ARTISTES

Telephones: Briton Ferry 2204 and 2281



James Johnston
(Dargavel Concert Ltd.)

Besson again and again!

Heartiest congratulations to these two famous Bands under their Conductor, H. Mortimer, Esq., O.B.E., on their brilliant achievement at the Daily Herald National Brass Band Championships at the Empress Hall, London, on November 1st, 1952.

1st: FAIRY AVIATION WORKS
2nd: FODENS MOTOR WORKS

BOTH playing
COMPLETE BESSON SETS
including the incomparable

"New Standard" Compensator Euphoniums and Basses
These prizewinning instruments are illustrated in the NEW Besson
Brass Catalogue. Available to Band Secretaries from—

Besson & Co. Ltd., 15, West Street, W.C.2

"UNIQUEP"

CONGRATULATIONS TO
GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN BAND

ON THEIR ANNIVERSARY AND ON
THEIR WISDOM IN WEARING
UNIQUEP UNIFORMS
THE BEST BANDS WEAR THEM

Write to:—

**The Uniform Clothing and
Equipment Co. Ltd.**
10, 11, CLERKENWELL GREEN.
LONDON, E.C.1

'Phone CLE. 5551/2/3. 'Grams UNIQUEP, LONDON



FOR HARD WORK



BUCKLEYS BEERS'
ARE BEST



Front row, left to right: Tom Jones, Eric James, W. D. Jones, M. Jenkins (lifemember and founder), Arthur Wyn, C. J. Davies (P-president), Dan Jones (chairman), O. Jones and D. Jones. Standing behind front row: J. Watkins (committee), J. D. Davies, C. Rees (committee). Second row: H. Davies H. Gournill, A. Jones, K. Davies, Dan Lloyd (Bandmaster), V. Morris, B. Harries, B. Jones. Top row: C. Davies, M. Llewelyn, Eric James, J. Lewis, G. Roberts, Griff Evans (librarian), G. Gwilym, J. Davies, J. Thomas, S. Gibbins, J. Howells.