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Joining the Jackdaws

John Thomas from Conwy is a long-term member of the Conwy Jackdaw Society - but can anyone join?



"The Conwy Jackdaws Society was formed in 1976. You have to have been born within the walls of Conwy to be a member.

We're called Jackdaws because the jackdaws' nesting habits are within the walls themselves. They're like the seagulls you associate with Llandudno. They're not the official symbol for the town, but they're well-known for nesting in holes in the walls.

We formed to promote friendship between Jackdaws but there aren't many of us left due to births in hospitals, so the youngest we've got is about 63.

I'm very proud of being a Jackdaw. I was born in 1926 and I've lived in Conwy all my life, except for a few years when I was in the Royal Navy. I worked for the local authority for 42 years and now I've been put out to graze and play a lot of golf!

When I was young, there used to be a paddle steamer, the St George, going up the river from Conwy to Trefriw. I don't think you'd get further than the bridge today with the silt and sandbanks! We used to often go on it with my granddad - he called himself the engineer but he was really the stoker. Everyone knew him as Huw Black because he was always covered in coal dust!

The town used to be full of little shops - E B Jones, Star supplies stores, Dafydd Collan's bread shop, Harry Wright's and Veale's Cafe. We've got a Tesco in Llandudno Junction now...

When the old suspension bridge was still being used, I was the clerk that looked after the tickets and the contracts. There used to have some massive queues to get across the bridge and you had to pay sixpence. That was before they built the new bridge in 1957.

You can walk across the old bridge, but it doesn't look very nice - there are a few holes here and there and you get to look down at the river a bit too often!

Conwy is very prosperous now since the tunnel opened.



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When it opened I remember my grandson saying 'Taid, it's like Christmas Day on the roads in Conwy!' The roads used to be horrible. I lived towards the Morfa side and I'd never dream of taking a car

into Conwy - it took 15 minutes to walk and 30 to drive. People are stopping in the town now, they never used to stop before, they just used to drive right through.

We've got the castle, Aberconwy House (one of the oldest of its kind), the smallest house in Britain and Plas Mawr. It's a great place.

But even though I've lived here all my life I've never been to Aberconwy House and I've only been to the castle once! The castle used to belong to the council until CADW took it off us in 1948. It was falling apart because the council couldn't afford to keep it together, so CADW was the best thing to have happened to it. It would've been a heap of rubble now!

The castle does put Conwy on the map. When you come from Llandudno and see it lit up, there's no finer site in Britain. Although an American did say 'why did they build a castle so close to the railway!'"

your comments

Marguerite (Rita) Lomax (nee Guy)

I was born at 29 Upper Gate Street, 27th.Feb. 1941. My mother was the late Lily Gavin who was born in Berry Street, Conwy. I would like to know more about the Jackdaws(meetings, re-unions-with intention to attend/join). I now live in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and visit Conwy quite a few times a year. It would be great to meet up with other Jackdaws.

Fri Jan 26 13:18:21 2007

Di from Dorset

Re the Jackdaw Club - you say that the Jackdaw Society was started in 1976. At an auction house in Dorset a couple of weeks ago a hallmarked silver tankard was sold which was engraved 'Jackdaw to Jimmy Campbell from The Jackdaw Club Conway 1936.'

Wed Feb 22 21:37:41 2006

Glyn Jones, Newark

My Mother's family came from Maenan and I was evacuated to Conwy from Liverpool. I remember Willie Star well and Brian and Billy Veale and their parents. Also the Rev. Walter Jones at Carmel Chapel. My Auntie Jane (Miss J,C.Jones) was a teacher at Central School. I usually visit Conwy each year. Just wish I lived there. Glyn Most years I visit Conwy

Wed Sep 28 13:10:51 2005

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LLEOL I MI

Gogledd Orllewin



Tai Hanesyddol

O blastai crand i ffermydd gwledig, camwch dros drothwy rhai o dai mwyaf

hanesyddol yr ardal

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