

# EMOTIONAL VISIT FOR TOMMY COOPER'S DAUGHTER



■ **MEMORY LANE** Members of the Tommy Cooper Society with Vicky Cooper, centre. From left, Stan Stennett, president, Betty Jones, cousin of Tommy, Margaret Jones, Tudor Jones, Angus Donaldson and magician Clive Greenaway.

PICTURE: Paul Rose ©

## 'It's an incredible honour, dad loved his Welsh roots...'

THE daughter of the comic legend Tommy Cooper has made an emotional visit to the land of her father during her first trip to Wales.

Vicky Cooper is the only surviving member of Tommy's immediate family following the death of wife Gwen, and son Thomas at the age of 32.

And she said her trip to see the town where her famous father was born - during which she was guest of honour at Caerphilly's Tommy Cooper Society's celebratory lunch - was a journey she felt she had to make.

"The society has asked me to come for a number of years but I just wasn't ready to come here until now," she said.

"My mum Gwen died three years ago and it has taken me until now to get myself together knowing that I was the

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only one left of my family.

"I had a brother who died and when my mother died it brought it all back to me.

"My dad was so full of life and everybody remembers him with so much life and vigour.

"It can be difficult coping with such a famous dad as you are never really given the chance to mourn naturally.

"But this year when the society asked me it just felt right and I must go by what I feel.

"It has been a bit of an emotional day.

"I think it's an incredible honour that he is being remembered 20 years on. If my father was floating around here today he would have loved the fact that he was still bringing laughter into

people's lives. Everybody here has been lovely, very welcoming indeed.

"My father loved his Welsh roots," she added.

Vicky, who lives in London, spent Friday in Caerphilly reminiscing with Tommy's extended family, including his cousin Betty Jones, his former showbiz colleague Stan Stennett and his fans.

After the Tommy Cooper Society lunch, Vicky and guests were treated to a tribute act entitled Tommy Cooper Remembered by magician Clive Greenaway, who had travelled from Poole in Dorset.

She later went on to visit the house where her father was born in 1921 in Llwyn Onn Street, which now bares his name plaque, and saw the Caerphilly Walk of Fame leading to the spot which has been earmarked for Tommy's statue.