



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 6: December 1987

Since the last Newsletter another informal Tuesday evening has been spent in the Fox and Hounds with a larger turnout than we had for the first gathering. Also, the second of the two Inaugural Dinners of the Society was held in the Restaurant of the Fox and Hounds, with equal success to that of the first. December commenced with a well attended Whist Drive in the Penmark Community Hall. We are grateful for the success of the Whist Drive to Phil Watts as Master of Ceremonies, Gwynne Liscombe for the splendid raffle prizes, and Joyce Andrews, Rene Jankovic and Ruth Watts for refreshments.

Derek Higgs has done sterling work in coping with the flood of subscriptions, payments for the dinners and correspondence: we already have about 120 paidup members and quite a number more who will 'definitely join!' The Newsletters are now beginning to fill-up with contributions and enough material is available for the next few months but anything new is welcome. Letters, articles or notes to John Etherington at Ceffyl Du please: at least some of you must want to tell us that we have some facts wrong! Tony Thomas, Pancross Farm has sent us just such a letter, extracts of which appear below.

Second Inaugural Dinner

The dinner was held in the Restaurant of the Fox and Hounds on November 9th. We are grateful to Edgar Balchin and his staff for a splendid meal. Phil Watts gave an introductory address. Derek Higgs explained the financial background, in particular the need for a subscription to cover newsletter printing and postage costs while John Etherington outlined the intentions of Society in relation to Newsletters and the history of the village. Various guests asked to speak (with occasional cajolery).

Gwynne Liscombe presented a recollection of 'Sights, Sounds and Smells', during his boyhood in the 193040's, which he intends to write up for a future Newsletter. He also brought the display board of Llancarfán memorabilia which attracted so much attention at the last dinner. Dr. Evan Thomas told us of his first trout fishing success in the Ivy Pool when, as a boy, he lived in Llanvythin and Fred Adams explained why he and Heather changed the name of Witches Barn to Ynys Dawel in tribute to the peace and tranquility of Llancarfán. John and Jenny Morris remembered happy times in the 1960's, especially '63, when the village won the best kept village competition. In its entirety, a very good evening.

Future Events

Fox and Hounds night. The next gathering will be on Tuesday 5th of January in the 'Fox' at 8.00 pm. We hope to hold some of the future gatherings in other parts of the parish, starting with the Wild Goose, Llanbethery on Tuesday 2nd February and moving on in later months to include Moulton, Llancadle and Llantryhyd. The last will not, of course, be a public house gathering. One reason for travelling in this way is to convince you all that this is not just a village affair but includes the whole Community.

A Badge for the Community Council

The Community Council of Llancarfan lacks a badge of office to be worn by the Chairman on appropriate occasions. Consideration is being given to the provision of such a badge and, as there seems to be no known heraldic device for this ancient area, members of the Council thought that residents, senior pupils and/or staff of the school might be invited to submit suitable ideas for a design representative not only of Llancarfan village but also of the surrounding villages within the responsibility of the Community Council.

It would be appreciated if suggestions could be sent to Mrs S. B. Mace, Clerk, Llancarfan Community Council, Pelydryn, Llanbethery, Nr. Barry, South Glam. CF6 9AN, by 31st December together with the name and address of the originator.

Christmas Messages.

The Committee wishes you all a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year with the hope that the Llancarfan Society may continue as actively as it has started in 1987. Father Bill Feild, our Parish Priest, sends the following message:

Christmas has to do with God showing man that he is loved. It is the essence of the Gospel. Our life has meaning because God loves the world. We bearers of the Christian gospel have a duty which cannot be discharged by throwing a party. It isn't just our turkey and plum pudding which must be shared but our conviction that life has meaning and that we are significant in the love of God. The wonderful thing about Christmas is that it brings God out of heaven and puts Him firmly on the map. In the little town of Bethlehem you have the very place where the Lord of Creation manifested himself in the form of a human baby.

I sincerely hope that everyone will have a wonderful time at Christmas --sharing the love and warmth of the great festival. Reading my December issue of 'Country Living' I see Brian Readhead heads his article, and I quote, 'Church at midnight seems to me to be essential both to the understanding and enjoyment of Christmas.' Why not come and join us in our Service of Lessons and Carols at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 20th December? --- and of course you would be most welcome to our village Midnight Mass at 11.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Every blessing, Fr.

Bill Feild.

Ernie Badcock's Diaries 1926-1986

ERNEST BADCOCK: Great House, Llancarfan. Born September 1902 Died 1987.

Ernie Badcock served this Parish in public office for almost 40 years. He became Clerk to the Parish Council on July 14th 1949, continuing through the formation of the new Welsh Community Councils and on, almost to the end of his life in 1987. During much of this time he also cared selflessly for his wife, Blodwyn and brother Edgar, both in serious ill-health.

Ernie kept a diary from January 26th 1926 until the last year of his life, missing but a few days here and there. Peter Badcock and wife Joan, of Great House, Llancarfan, have very kindly allowed us to consult the diaries as a recent record of village history. This first article has been put together as a sequence of 'Winter' entries, starting with that first January entry so long ago and continuing forward for 60 years on the same day, to 1986. Ernie did not live in Llancarfan when the diary was started but worked close-by at New Wallace farm near Dyffryn.

Peter Badcock, Philip Watts and John Etherington abstracted the entries and contributed the notes appended below. To give the flavour of the whole collection we intend three more future newsletters of Spring, Summer and Autumn entries and then a compilation of interesting material related to dates which are special for the village or for Ernie himself. We shall not see his like again.

1926 Tuesday.	Janes, Brynhill - cow.	Great Brynhill or Brynhill Farm, S.W. of today's golf- course JE
1927 Wednesday.	No entry	
1928 Thursday.	Threshing machine at Goldland. Finished ploughing by Goldwood except headlands	Goldland farm and Goldwood are close to Wenvoe JE
1929 Saturday.	Very frosty. No ploughing too wet. Haul two loads swedes. Gather bough and firewood from lane hedge which Tom Howard laid. Edward home. Barry Theatre; Panto-Red Riding Hood.	Edward, Ernie's brother PB
1930 Sunday.	Weather fine. Edward home. Returned 5 pm from Cardiff.	
1931 Monday.	Wet. Feeding hay and chaffing. (Swalesand Jowett oiling harness). Steer sold in Wenvoe mart. 23rd int. condemned.	Anyone understand this? JE
1932 Tuesday.	Weather fine. Thatching straw mow Golds. evening. Katie Thomas there staying. (Mr Wilde at Caerleon	Rick-thatching. JE

	where Mr Wilde staying. Whist etc)	
1933 Thursday.	Fine, very cold. Hard frost. Hay in. Feeding etc. Feed for steers (bought Ely Jan 3rd) feeding in front field; hay twice a day. Took three gates and small yard gate down to estate yard for repairs and two plough coulters to blacksmith. Joe's brother at farm.	
1934 Friday.	Weather fine. Cattle etc. Chaffing. Laying of hedge bottom of orchard MrT. (Tom spreading dung facing Brynhill). Katie and children in evening.	
1935 Saturday.	Fine, cold wind. Hay in etc. Bedded by shed. Grinding. <u>Calf from Jane's Brynhill</u> . Barry home. Jenner Park dogs. Cheerful Muriel beat Wags in match over 560 yards.	Ernie interested in all forms of sport but never bet PW
1936 Sunday.	Service for King. Com. Is. 8. All Saints 11 o.c. Llancarfan Blod. Memorial service for King on wireless.	Death of George V. First mention of Ernie's wife Blodwyn. JE
1937 Tuesday.	Cold. Cow (Wilkie) and heifer calf to Ely (Sid Thomas). Rehearsal for tomorrow.	'Tomorrow' was a concert at St. Hilary for Parish Hall fund. JE
1938 Wednesday.	Wet. Liming-out sheds. Playing cards. Wet. Wireless good.	Does anyone still limewash farm sheds? JE
1939 Thursday.	High wind. Very cold. Snow all gone. Difficult feeding. Brought 42 ewes down to field behind sheds ready for lambing. Sow has twelve pigs left. Lay on 5.	
1940 Friday.	Load hay. Dung. Rehearsal. Water at home again. Called in Ramblers where Cliff was giving his 21st birthday party. Doing them very well.	
1941 Sunday.	3rd day after Epiphany. Half-day. Went over Island after morning's work and saw two ships beached, one on Whitmore Bay and one on Old Harbour Both believed mined. Athelduke on W.B. Church 3.30 pm. Llancarfan.	
1942 Monday.	Bike. Kale and Hay. Clearing out boxes in rickyard. Letter from M. Jefferies and David (promoted Flight Sergeant). USA troops landed in N. Ireland.	David Jones, <i>Great House</i> . PB
1943 Tuesday.	Jack still absent. Shedwork. Jim took sow (gilt) and litter (10) to Ely. David Thomas, had pigs (bought Monday except 2 gilts). Rom. ('Mrs Miniver') Much talked-of film of war and blitz's. Excellent.	David Thomas Llanbethery. PB

1944 Wednesday.	Very wet. Hay to heifers bottom Lewis as usual. Kale. Got very wet. Clearing calf-pen by stable and liming it.	
1945 Friday.	Deep snow everywhere. Readers back. Today's and yesterday's milk taken to station for Hardys by tractor and trailer. No buses or milk lorry. Some army lorries on road. Cows in all day. Power pump burst with frost. Watering by hand. Went to catch train at 8.15. Train came in at 9.40 and did not leave until 10.30 (on cold station all time). Stopped for half hour outside Barry. Arrived Barry 11.30. Called home. Mother bad cold. Arrived Belmont mid night. No mail, papers, milk or bread. Blod and Alice walking to Barry for supplies in trousers.	Readers - Rhoose. PB Mill race water ram? JE Alice -Blod's sister PB Alice Trousers less common then JE
1946 Saturday.	10 calves down Penonn Hill fields put in open yard. Bull tied in yard. Half day. Blod went Barry. Bought push-chair £2.7.6. Went Barry 4.30 bus. Royal. 'Dead of Night'. Very good. All star cast.	Ernie gave cast-list JE
1947 Sunday.	Phoned Dr Jones. Came out and says he (Peter) has a touch of bronchial pneumonia. Tablets to be given -- etc. Brought bed (single) down to kitchen.	Peter was ill. PB
1948 Monday.	Wet. Picking over pots. Boss Murphy (New Zealand) beat Vince Hawkins (GB) on points for Empire Middle Title (radio). Eddie Thomas (Wales) beat H. Hall for chance to fight Roderick (Welter champion)	Ernie keen on all forms sport including boxing. PW
1949 Wednesday.	Feeding etc. Letter from Ev Pincott. Expecting second baby in end March or early April.	Ev Pincott (Jefferies) PB
1950 Thursday.	Hard frost. Making path (cont) Concert for cricket club by Bonvilston YPC. One act play 'Birds of a Feather' (J. O. Francis) done. Good reference to village people in sketches etc.	Path was mentioned over several days. Where was it? Village plays are gone for good? JE
1951 Friday.	Peter still very poorly in bed.	Peter often had chest .problems when young. PW
1952 Saturday.	(Starts with local rugby scores). Had tickets for Barbarians 3 pts. S.Africa 17 pts. at A.P. Gave tickets to Pirre as afraid of weather. Ed and Dilys down. In church playing organ. Heard Baa-Baa match on radio.	Brother and sister in-law. PB
1953 Monday.	Digging front by Tennis Courts (Girls). Took money down banks. Guild: Campbell Reed on his visit to	First mention of his job as

	Scotland. Poor crowd.	groundsman to Barry schools. JE
1954 Tuesday.	Cold wind. Still head cold. Did not go out. Gwen over in afternoon. Jill and John Thomas called for	Sister, daughter and son in law. PB
1955 Wednesday.	Forked herb border by tennis (girls) after covering of ashes from college (plus other work notes).	
1956 Thursday.	Mending cricket nets with baling hay cord.	Who but a countryman would do this? JE
1957 Saturday.	Not working. Watched racing on TV from Kempton.	First mention of TV on this day. JE
1958 Sunday.	Rain. Milder. Church 8 am and 6 pm. Leak in water pipe in cowshed after freeze. Put Bostic on it	Sign of the times! Bostic was new then JE
1959 Monday.	Frosty. Making compost (girls 2). Father bad turn in evening. Better at 10.30 so we went to bed. At 1 a.m. .found him on floor	(Blodwyn's father - John Jones,. PW) Cricket square was dug and transferred to other school.. Reputed to be best square in country
1960 Tuesday	Mr Arnold at new square being laid.	
1961 Thursday.	Rom. Digging. Called College of Further Education and met George Thurston who started yesterday.	Ernie v..upset. Geo.T. was new groundsman. Rom. - Romilly Schools PB
1962 Friday.	Wet. Inflating netballs. Took 464 -reports to post (franking). Blods leg examined. at Bridgend General Hospital.	Was this the result of being pushed to the ground by a cow? Blod injured?. PW
1963 Saturday.	Thawing. Could not fetch Blod. One fowls missing all day. Could not find. Looked everywhere. Turned up	Worst since the 1947 freeze.

1964 Sunday.	from nowhere late afternoon. Football badly hit again. winter Panel of experts forecasting results for pools. 11 am Matins (Rev. Goddon) 6 pm Jack Jones (& son). Only Mrs Watts and myself.. Over St Athan and Aberthaw with apples.	Bad from Jan 1 to March JE Mrs Watts, Abernant was church organist. On bike with haversack of apples PW
1965 Tuesday.	(notes on school work)	
1966 Wednesday.	Cutting trunk out of big thorn tree in. front hard courts. Difficult to get bough down. Had to to cut it up.	School work more on. his mind in these years of diary? JE
1967 Thursday.	(notes on school work)	
1968 Friday.	Cleaning up Honda. Phoned telephone people ref crossed lines on School Hill	Anything changed? JE
1969 Sunday.	Evensong 6 pm (H.C. 9 am). Visit Ivor & Enid also usual David, Sylvia and Rosemary. Ship (dog) given to Ely family Wrote Dr. McGill, Barry Hospital advising them receipt of chair PW	Ivor - Blod's brother. Dog called 'Chips'? Wheelchair for Blod. PB
1970 Monday.	(Domestic notes) P.C. Meeting.	
1971 Tuesday.	Blod had head cold. Legs weak. Mr Green phoned very irate over Gillard's story. Mrs Jankovic says complaint has been made to.GCC over mobile shop parking in layby (shop not there now). Drain by Culvery badly blocked. Cleared it.	Groundsmen's National Association business PB
1972 Wednesday.	Interview with Mr Peregrine (solicitor) reference Bridge House. Mr Tom Taylor wants to buy strip of garden To write Watts & Morgan and say don't want to sell.. Canon took me in. Came back with Peter who was at the interview.. Peter and friends practising Country and Western music in hall.	Tom Taylor built Bridge House (spec) and converted Bridge Cottage (formerly House) JE Canon Evans was parish Vicar.PW
1973 Friday.	Fred (carpenter) and Mr Lewis erecting stairs. Many snags in erection and had to make several adjustments (Domestic notes: Blod going to St. David's Hospital.	Great House alterations not going well. PW

	Edgar in Pen y Fai Hospital). Peter bought SWB Landrover for £330 from Ivor Jenkins.	
1974 Saturday.	Arrange visit Edgar tomorrow.	
1975 Sunday.	Visit Pat Kilday and Blod in hospitalPeter returned London. Vicar has to go to hospital for week or two for op.	Never missed a chance to do a good turn. Dual hospital visit. PW
1976 Monday.	Visit Mrs Jones looking for antiques for Tuesday Club 'Going for a Song' night. Over P.O. after for rest of afternoon.	
1977 Wednesday	Pay TV licence (notes about Pro Celebrity go;f)	
1978 Thursday.	Phone call from Mr Barry Griffiths on JCP Insurance and lease agreement with Miss Phillips. Mr Stephens attended Edgar and my feet (£2.00). Mr Quelch rang me regarding Hawthorns planning application. (Mr Stephens, Chiropodist, Morningside (The Nook)PW).	Did this concern use of land beside the Fox and Hounds private road for village functions? JE
1979 Friday.	Roads very icy. Accidents and traffichold-ups. Children home to dinner as no delivery of meals. No post again. C.C. Meeting. (Notes on Pro Celebrity Golf).	Weather very bad but. Council business still expected to continue PW
1980 Saturday.	TV Sport very good all day.	
1981 Sunday.	No entry.	
1982 Tuesday	Rang University Hospital of Wales for PW new surgical belt. Joan Morgan (late Penonn) in burial ground. Sold her two Llancarfan S. Glamorgan County books. Gwyn Hopkins laying Hunt's (Copperfield) hedge.	Gwyn still laying hedges - must have done every one in the parish by now. JE
1983	Doctor to Suzanne again. Suspicion of glandular fever.	

Wednesday.	(family notes).	
1984	Wet most day. Still cold. Snooker afternoon. Tea.	
Thursday.		
1985	Cliff returned Bodmin with Kieth and family (since	This was the last entry for January 26th. An amazing, almost unbroken 60 years of entries and never a word of complaint. PW
Saturday.	November 25th)	
1986	No entry (in hospital) but there was short entry in a	
Sunday.	hospital diary: Porridge for breakfast. Watched TV Rugby Cup. Chelsea 1 Liverpool 2	

Letters from Readers

We have received a fairly long letter from Tony Thomas, Pancross Farm, part of which is a comment on Les Griffith's article (Newsletter 4), part supplements the information on the water-ram (Newsletter 5) and the remainder is a note on the village during Tony's boyhood. The first two parts are reproduced below and the third will appear in the next Newsletter.

A comment on Les Griffith's letter. The quarry that was 'opened for stone' for the church hall was on land belonging to Pancross and had previously supplied stone for the building of Middlecross, Pancross Cottages and Penonn Cottages where Dai Phillips now lives. I filled the quarry in, in the fifties. Jim James, Vivian Price's uncle claimed to have handled every stone that became part of the church hall. What Les Griffiths did not mention was the number of Griffiths in the parish in those days. As a comparative newcomer I do not feel really competent to write as there are so many who have been here much longer (We came to Pancross on March 1st 1935).

I recall Griffiths in Fern Cottage, Bridge House, Glan yr Afon, opposite the Fox, Top End (Caradoc Cottage), Brimwell, Talbots, Pencarreg, Tyn-y-Coed, Gowlog, The Mason's Arms now the Wild Goose and, I believe, Red Holme. I have probably forgotten a few. Why did they all leave? Are they making a come back under disguise. Margaret Rees', of Penonn, mother was previously a Miss Griffiths.

The Hydram. Had you discussed it with me first we may have answered a lot more

questions in one go. The hydram was built by W. James & Son of Fonmon in 1933 for the Church Commissioners who owned Pancross, Penonn, Treguff, Llanvythin, Middlecross, Penylan etc. (but see Tony's further comment in a footnote) Shortly after this the Church was disestablished and the properties were handed to the University of Wales to pay your salary (This is a crack at the editor's expense). Arthur Watts (father of Roland of Buses fame) was the tenant of Pancross then. Tom Tucker ploughed the top soil out, first ploughing a single furrow each way with horses and then taking the wheels off the plough and getting deeper in the trench to lessen the work for navvies who followed with pick and shovels.

The water was pumped to a concrete reservoir in the middle of Pancross which is still there and held about 20,000 gallons if you ever got it full. The water then ran to Penonn and, once they were supplied, we were able to use water. It then went to Middlecross. If the reservoir filled up, the water was pumped up to the top of the farm where it would overflow. It was nowhere as maintenance free as suggested. The millrace required a lot of maintenance: in the Autumn it filled with leaves and had to be cleaned out often. In a dry summer the level of the water dropped and we would have to deepen the race by digging the clay out of the bottom. I spent many a hot summer day in that race wearing waders and using a long handled shovel. The bank of the race often leaked and this had to be stopped, again with clay. The drive pipe often sprang a leak and your aside explained one of the ways of repairing it although the normal way was to hammer lead into the hole. The hydram would have to be recharged and started, usually needing two people and a number of attempts. The worst of all was when the pipes to the farm burst. In dry weather this could usually be found by seeing a greener piece of grass in the pipe track which had fortunately been put in straight. We then dug down to the pipe, along it until we found a joint and then 16 feet onward until we found the end of that length so as a new one could be fitted in. It was always much worse finding the pipe in the village because it did not run in such a straight line and we could not always establish the location. There would always be helpful villagers who remembered it being dug-in and always knew we were digging in the wrong place. Every time we took their advice they were wrong and we would have to go back where we were. This would always happen in a hot Summer when we busy harvesting and did not really have time to spare but water was a priority.

In the early '50's the main water was turned into the pipe to Penonn and a few years later to Middlecross. We continued to use the ram until about 1960 when the main water was 3s 6d (17p) a thousand gallons. Now with my water bill at well over £2000 a year I wonder if I did the right thing.

Tony Thomas, Pancross Farm, Llancarfan.

Editorial notes: i. The house called Pencarreg (Dilwyn Griffiths) was on the Bonvilston lane, beyond Greendown: it burned down in the 40's. ii. Tony has involuntarily answered another of my questions: 'Hydram' is the trade name used by John Blake Ltd (Hydraulic Engineers), Accrington. Their rams are still manufactured for sale overseas and to remote

areas without piped water. iii. At the dinner on 9th November, William Lougher of Treguff, recollected that the Church Commissioners considered linking Treguff to the ram supply, but distance (wayleaves?) prevented this. Treguff water was taken from a local spring and Harry Hughes father, Grif, dug-in the pipes in 1925. William thought that the ram was functioning as early as this date and yet Tony is so specific about this point. iv. When Tony saw William Lougher's note he checked further with W. James & Son, of Fonmon, and though the firm's records do not go back before 1930 it seems that the ram was working then. Probably the family recollection of Tom Tucker ploughing-in the pipe refers to the extension to Middlecross. v. Connection of mains water to Penonn is interesting as Lyn Price tells the story that Tom Morgan was intending to have the pipe laid up Penonn Hill from Llancarfan but Lyn remembered the rampipe and suggested it as a quicker and cheaper way of getting the water to the Penonn.