



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 13: August 1988

The last Newsletter opened with a comment on the marvellous weather which we had in June. Would that it had continued! The Craft Fair, Sports and Boot Sale on July 2nd was almost washed-out and it seems that the rain has hardly ceased since then. Despite the awful weather we had a good attendance and even managed to find a dry hour for the children to run their various races, three-legged, sack and spoon-balloon included.

We have to thank Tony and Joan Thomas for the use of Pancross Barn, without which the weather would have wreaked much more havoc. All of the initial organisation was undertaken by Phil Watts without whom nothing would have been achieved. On the day, refreshments were supplied by members of the Tuesday Club, Graham Brain very kindly organised the sports and the 'Fox and Hounds' ran a successful bar manned by Peter and Sally Lennox (rumour has it that Peter gave-up a wild trip to Sheffield with the Cricket Club to be with us). Various donations for prizes were received from Derek Higgs, Peter Lennox and Russel Grant. Roger Fuller lent a range of children's slides and swings. A big 'thank you' to all those who spent time posting notices, cutting grass, sweeping the barn, collecting furniture, manning the gate, selling tickets and doing all those other things which no one ever thinks of before taking on a day like this.

Barbara Milhuisen organised the letting of the craft stall positions of which there were 14, together with a Llancarf Society stall from which Ruth Watts organised a raffle. The degree of success may be judged from the St Hilary Women's Institute stall which took some £90 for charity. The Society did not set-out to make a profit but when Phil Watts completed the accounts a healthy £86 balance appeared. This may prove to be very useful as Newsletters are proving a bit more expensive to print and post than we had bargained for and we have no other sources of additional income; this little bit of cash in the bank will help us through to the end of our financial year.

So successful was the day that we are already looking to 1989 when we hope to organise a similar event, perhaps coupled to a barn-dance in the evening. It seemed a pity to go home at 5.30! Many craft stall-holders would have liked to start in the morning. This sounds a good idea and it might also be possible to hold another guided walk during the morning of the same day. What do members think? Send us a letter.

Barbecue. About thirty members attended a successful barbecue in the tennis court field on the evening of June 10th. Gwynne Liscombe did the cooking while Phil Watts managed the liquid refreshments. Thanks are due to other folk who cut grass and looked after the ticket desk. Sorry there was no room in the last, rather short, Newsletter for this notice.

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Farewell. Twenty years ago Mike Jankovic used to tour the Llancarfan lanes with his mobile shop and it was not long before he and Rene succumbed to the attraction of the village and joined us in the Post Office. Those years seem to have gone by so quickly and now they are off again back to the Bridgend area. On Saturday 16th July a farewell party was held at the Penmark Community Hall to say goodbye to Rene and Mike, who have been such good friends to us all. It was a real village evening, bringing more folk together than even those snow-bound days in mid-winter when everyone flocks to the 'Fox'. John Cann made a presentation which will allow them both to have a permanent reminder of so many years in the Llancarfan. We would like to add the best wishes of the Llancarfan Society and of all of those other folk in the village who did not manage to get to the Penmark evening. The two of them have been such good neighbours and, more recently, Rene has done much of the hard work of filling and delivering Llancarfan Society envelopes. We shall be sorry to lose her from the committee, not just for the envelopes but all the common sense as well. It has to be au revoir rather than anything else; they are both sure to come back and we all look forward to seeing them whenever they do.

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Thanks. Rene and Mike Jankovic asked us to thank everyone who contributed to their leaving present and came to the Penmark party and especially those who organised a most successful evening.

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Congratulations: to Sam Smith (Chapel House) on his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County.

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Committee. In Newsletter 10 we announced Derek Higgs' resignation from the post of Treasurer. As an interim measure Phil Watts has taken over the duties of Treasurer and John Etherington the post of Chairman. Both hasten to say that this is an emergency measure and hope that nominations for next year's Committee can be discussed and/or received at the annual dinner in September. We intend to run the Society year from January in future, and it is for January 1989 that a newly elected Committee will be needed (and the month in which renewal subscriptions will be due).

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Items for newsletters. So far we have maintained a fairly good flow of material for the Newsletters and the editor is grateful to everyone who has produced articles or notes. Various items are in preparation but further offers will be accepted with great enthusiasm as we are never more than a couple of issues ahead of ourselves. No one has yet written about former headmasters of the school, vicars or publicans though we do have a list of

the first and I believe an article is being prepared relating to the great number of people who have served behind the bar in the Fox and Hounds. Mavis Coles suggested an article about village personalities. Does anyone, for example, have enough on Tom Shanks (Shanklyn) (mentioned in Dick Evans article) to write something? We have also considered tape-recording various memories of older members but for this to be done properly we require someone with good interviewing skills, time and tact. Any offers? Clocks. Ian Baldwin's article on Henry Williams' clocks which appeared in the last Newsletter has prompted a few responses. The most interesting cropped up on the day of the Craft Fair when I visited Roger and Trudi Fuller (Penonn House) to collect the swings and slides which they lent us. Trudi invited us in to view a Henry Williams' longcase clock which has been in her family, she believes, since it was made. Like the example at Pontypridd it shows the time of high water at Bristol Key and, in common with the other Williams clocks, is engraved 'Henry Williams, Llancarvan'.

Ian's article did not mention that there was another Williams' longcase clock in Tredegar House at Newport; you may remember that Mike Bartlett told us this in his 'Village Notes' a few months ago (Newsletter 8). There was also another watchmaker, Edward Williams, in Llancarfan a little later. I suspect he was a grandson, but have no documentary proof. Edward is mentioned in an 1875 Abstract of Title to land and property which was lent to us by Molly Ranger ('The Manse', Llanbethery). The Abstract commences with an 1828 indenture describing a 'dwelling house stable garden and premises --- in the occupancy of Edward Williams Watchmaker' - this was somewhere in the region of Great House or the Blacksmith's Shop but it is not precisely identified. An Edward Williams, watchmaker, also features in the Church Registers as Parish Clerk in the late 1840's and 50's. This was probably the same man though there is no specific proof.

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Future events.

Tuesday Gathering, 6th September: An evening gathering will be held in the 'Fox and Hounds' starting at 8.30 pm after a short Committee Meeting to discuss details of the forthcoming dinner (Committee Members assemble at 7.15 pm). Come along please. There are usually a dozen or more members of whom some have always appeared with photographs or other items of local interest. Nothing special or formal; just the opportunity to meet and talk to other folk in the Society.

SECOND ANNUAL DINNER, Saturday, 24th September.

Last year we had trouble with numbers when we held the dinner in the Restaurant of the 'Fox'. This time we have booked the Rhoose Community Hall which will contain up to 130 people and we have decided to opt for a buffet meal so that members may circulate and talk to each other. Last year this was not possible until the closing half-hour of the evening. Seating and some waitress service will be provided so that those who prefer to sit and be looked-after can do so. As last year, one or two Officers of the Society will speak briefly and we hope to persuade some of our more forthcoming members to do the same.

Tickets are available, at £7.00 per head, and can be obtained from Phil Watts at Abernant, Llancarfan by completing the enclosed booking slip. Please book as early as possible to avoid disappointment - we were sold-out very quickly last year.

Whist Drive, Saturday 19th November, Rhoose Hall. This is rather an early announcement but we had to book early to get the hall. It should be an active evening as many of our whist-drive supporters have come from Rhoose in the past. Details of ticket sales will appear in the next Newsletter.

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A Letter from Nancy Dobbie: I first visited Llancarfan in 1950 when I used to ride an old horse I had at Cwm Ciddy, to be shod by Mr Lewis. We bought Brook Cottage from Mr Allen (who worked at the BBC) in 1954. I believe it was he who renamed it from Pickett's Cottage? - which always seemed a pity. We turned the outhouse into a bathroom and cloakroom and, some months later after much thought and measuring, moved the staircase from the sittingroom corner by the fireplace to opposite the front door. I myself built a rustic garage and moved the soil for the path in front. Cliff Morgan and Bill Rees did the alterations.

The Fox and Hounds, then run by Charlie and Mrs Bryer, was a real country pub and many a good game of darts we had there - Thursday evenings. A doctor and his friend used to come over from Penarth and Mrs Bryer always made sandwiches before they left.

March 1957 was, I think, the year we were snowed in and my husband walked to Barry and by some miracle and cross-country driving the postman managed to get through. Many of the 'bar-room residents' foregathered for hot toddies at the Fox. Another memory was when Melvin Morgan's garage, with his old tractor in it, caught fire. Gwyn Liscombe managed to push it out but Melvin smartly pushed it back in!!

In 1956 we we bought the Old Bakehouse for £270!! Cliff Morgan, Bill and Berwick Rees and a delightful chap who lived in the bungalow behind Bonvilston garage (Trevor Green) did the alterations whilst I ferretted around timber yards and Army and RAF demolition sites collecting materials. When finished, Dick and I loved the house, particularly the millpool and stream - with small trout. There were also kingfishers nesting there and curlew behind. In winter, from our bedroom window we could see foxes crossing the field.

Bill Evans kindly gave me a runt piglet which used to sit by the fire with Rockey, our Boxer. It followed me everywhere and we used to take it in the car with us. One evening (after Cowbridge Market) we called at the Old Post. Two farmers were sitting either side of the fire. The landlord asked me to bring Pig in - I put her down at the side door, she followed me in and went straight over to the fire. The two farmers looked at Pig then at each other, quickly supped their ale and left!

We left on January 1st, 1968 taking with us many happy memories.

Notes. Harry Hughes totally refurbished Brook Cottage in the mid-1970's, greatly altering the interior. Paul Rayburn (Greendown) demolished the rustic garage and built the modern brick structure a little later.

An Answer. Last month I asked if anyone knew the property called Gold Oak and suggested that it might be a version of Gowlog. When Les Griffiths came to Rene and Mike's going away party, he confirmed that it was Gowlog. If you think of the pronunciation, it is almost a phonetic rendering. It appears as Gold Oak in the 1893 Poor Rate Book and in the 1939 Electoral Register. Sue Evans provided the Poor Rate Book and Frank Jameson's archive work produced the Electoral Register.

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Transport. For years now, almost everyone in the village has owned a car, hence the gradual run-down of the bus services. It is difficult to realise that the heyday of public road transport lasted less than 50 years. The first bus service from Cardiff to Cowbridge started in 1920 when the South Wales Commercial Motor Company made a trial run on 27th July. In 1921, Albert Maddox, a fish and chip shop-owner from Cowbridge started a competitive service under the name of Cowbridge Motors but this was taken over by SWCM in 1926. The Llanccarfan connection was established by SWCM's service from Cardiff to Cowbridge via Llanccarfan in 1924. In 1929 SWCM became part of the Western Welsh Omnibus Company. Source: Chapman, C. (1984). The Cowbridge Railway. Oxford Publishing Co.

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People in the Llanccarfan of the 1920's by Llewellyn Griffiths

Mr John Jones who lived at Great House kept bees. We all knew when the bees were swarming by the noise he created, beating metal objects to attract the bees back to their hives.

I can add to the life story of Mr William Liscombe of the mill. He used to take the children and parents from Llanccarfan to the Leys in a horse-drawn waggon for their annual Sunday School treat. The Leys, at that time, was a very interesting place to visit.

Mr John Lougher who lived at Cross Green was the farrier cum vet and various other activities. My sister had me in the pram at the bottom of Penonn Hill. She knelt down to pick flowers, a cyclist came down the hill, ran over her leg and broke it. Mr Lougher came to her assistance and set it with two pieces of tree bark until she was able to receive hospital treatment.

I remember going to a Sunday School tea party at the Little Chapel at Moulton and a concert in the Barn at Broadclose Farm in the evening.

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Boyhood games by Les Griffiths

Our boyhood games in those days were whip and top, hoop and guider, cat & dog and marbles. Cat and dog was a favourite game. The cat was a piece of wood, hazel or ash, about six inches long and one inch thick, pointed at both ends. The dog was also of wood, hazel or ash, about two feet, six inches long and one inch thick. A ring was drawn on the road, the cat was placed in the centre then we would strike it on the pointed end with the dog which would cause it to spring into the air. While it was in the air you had to hit it with the dog and the one who struck the cat the furthest was the winner. All our games were played on the road; in those days there were no cars or motor bikes to worry about.

Note: Herbert Etherington, the editor's father, talked of the identical game to cat and dog, played in the Kentish Medway Towns in about 1900. It had another name, but recollection fails.

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Pitching Pole by Phil Watts

Bill Watts contended in conversation that he could erect a Pitching Pole single handed. I am not sure how he would do it. I have my theory but I wonder if anyone else has any ideas or practical experience?

A Pitching Pole was used at the side of of a hay mow during harvest time for taking hay off the waggons on to the mow. Attached to the pole was a jib which could be swung through 180o from the waggon to the top of the mow. Pulley wheels were attached to pole and jib, over which was a rope: one end had attached a clamp which picked up the hay and the other end was joined to chains, in turn attached to harness behind a horse. When the horse moved forward the clamp full of hay rose into the air and was swivelled over the top of the mow and tipped by the man on the load by means of a rope attached to a spring.

A Society member from Pembroke, Charles F. Shepherd, is author of the book, St Nicholas, on p. 10 of which is mentioned a hayloader, known locally as a pikel, invented and patented by Yorath and Wright in St Nicholas. I wonder if it is the same implement?