



## THE LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

### Newsletter 111 April 2002

#### Editorial

Each Newsletter, recently, seems to have contained something that breaks new ground. This time it is **Letter from Kosovo**, written by Matthew Lewis who is serving in the Royal Regiment of Wales. Many other families must have loved ones who are in unusual places or doing unusual jobs. I wonder whether we can persuade any of them to write a short note for us? The only qualification for contributors is that some childhood years should have been spent in Llanccarfarn or that the person is currently a resident of the village. If they happen to be working on the International Space Station or trekking across Antarctica, so much the better!

I am an inveterate reader of newspaper letters columns and am quite often tempted into writing, as well, so I'm particularly pleased that we have received so much correspondence recently. It is encouraging to know that people read the Newsletters with such attention. The photo of *Hillside* which we published in Newsletter 109 has drawn much more than its fair share of letters and we now have at least four suggestions for the object of attention amongst the crowd looking over *Great House's* wall!

No one wrote to tell me of the "deliberate error" last time! Newsletter 110 was incorrectly dated 2001! No, it wasn't really deliberate - just my bad proof reading.

**Photographic Competition** The Society is organising a photographic competition to capture images of the changing seasons in Llanccarfarn and Parish, to be used for the 2004 calendar and any subsequent Llanccarfarn Society publications. All photographs entered must be taken between June 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003, within the Parish boundaries. An entry Form and regulations for entries are enclosed with this Newsletter.

#### Correspondence

**More on Moulton Sunday School** a letter from Derek Richards, Sully

I am the one of the grandsons of Tom Richards of *Moulton Court Farm*, Moulton, and have recently found the Llanccarfarn website. I was brought up on *Moulton Court Farm* and the chapel to which you refer to in Newsletter 110 was still standing - two and a half walls and the roof in mid-1960s.

*Hillside* a letter from Mrs G L Whitworth (25th March)

In the latest Llanccarfarn Society Newsletter 110 you have published my photograph of Llanccarfarn villagers looking over the wall of *Great House*, which, at the time, was owned by my grandparents, Annie and John Jones.

In the text you give Carol Dunn's theory of the occasion but make no mention of the family's version. We were always told that the people were listening to a 'cats-whisker' crystal-set which had been made by my uncle, Billie Jones.

When Mr [Phil] Watts told me that the outbreak of WW2 had been given as the reason, I was of the opinion that everyone looked far too happy and many people would have had their own radios by 1939. Also, my sister and I both think our maternal grandmother is one of the crowd. She would only have been in Llancarfan between 1919 and 1928 or 1929.

I also supplied a photo of my grandmother sitting in *Great House* and in the background you can see the crystal set, made in an old drawer, and its batteries (left).

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Annie Jones, *Great House*, with crystal set behind and batteries on shelf above

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This version may be wrong, and hopefully your printing of the photo may prompt other opinions.

P.S. Having written yesterday, I thought I would check with another aunt to see if she had any ideas. She has not seen the photograph but suggested that although there were no Jones' family weddings at the time it may have been the wedding of Doris or Winnie Laws, who had photo's taken on *Great House* lawn. I have two wedding photos which my Aunt Sylvia (Carol Dunn's sister) says are the Laws family and the group photo seems to have a thatch cottage in the background - so maybe this is the answer.

**Editorial note.** Firstly, apologies to Mrs Whitworth who was not acknowledged in Newsletter 110, as the owner of the photograph. This was entirely the editor's fault. Secondly, *Fern Cottage* would have been the only thatched house visible from the garden of *Great House* after the *Hillside* thatch was covered by corrugated sheets (as in Newsletter 110). I have sent Mrs Whitworth a photo of *Fern Cottage* under thatch to compare with her wedding-group photo.

**Hillside again** a note from Eunice Bodenham (Llewellyn)

As a PS to a letter enclosed with her subscription Eunice wrote: - I don't think the photo over Johnny's wall was the outbreak of War. I think it is when they used to have croquet games on the lawn.

Eunice also wrote: - I think a lot about the village when the daffs and primroses are out. Walking to *Broomwell* the sides of the lane used to be massed with primroses and violets (days of our youth).

**Editorial note.** Most Llancarfan expatriates seem to think of the village at this time. The lane is still fairly rich in spring flowers, or at least it was on the occasion of the May Walk a couple of years ago.

**Carvan** an e-mail from John Carvan, Australia

We thought we had an unusual last name as my father, who was Greek, adopted it as his surname. Doing an Internet search, I came across your web page and where I found someone with the name John Carvan Jones (Newsletter 107). Is "carvan" an alternate spelling of "carfan"?

Reply. "*Carfan*" is correctly pronounced "*Carvan*" in Welsh (with the "r" slightly rolled). When English was being so strongly promoted in Welsh schools, up to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it would have been spelled *Carvan*, at least in official documents. The -*carfan* suffix occurs in a few places in Wales, often attached to *Nant-* (meaning stream) as in one of the suggested origins of Llancarfan.

*If your father lived at any time in Wales or had Welsh friends, this could be the origin of the name he adopted, but there might be other explanations, which I'm sure you have thought of. It does not appear in the Dictionary of Surnames (Basil Cottle, Penguin).*

### **Leys Golf Club again** from David Harris

After writing my last letter (Newsletter 110) I remembered that there was another younger brother in the Jenkins family. His name was Glover Jenkins. He *did* take up golf as a career and became a Pro., spending most of his life in Sweden where he is still living - retired now. I hope this will lay to rest the Jenkins Golf Pro baby.

**Editorial note.** Yes it does lay it to rest. Much of my early knowledge of the village came from conversations with the late Gwynne Liscombe and I am now sure that the confusion was my misunderstanding of something, which Gwynne told me.

### **Western Welsh buses** an e-mail from Paul Burgess, who is a Project Engineer with the BBC in Cardiff

My first visit to Llancafán was by Western Welsh bus in 1975. I recall that the village was served on two days a week by route 339 from Barry. The route went past Barry Zoo, Moulton, and to finally Llanbetherly where an awkward reverse turn was made in a farm entrance. The usual choice of bus was a Leyland Tiger Cub, which were the smallest buses in the fleet at that time (30' long and 8' wide), so more suitable for the narrow lanes. They were quite a handful for drivers, with manual steering and non-synchromesh gearbox! Some drivers would demand one of the newer Leyland National buses, but although much easier to drive, they were longer and wider with predictable results!

Today, Western Welsh is a memory. Its successor National Welsh has gone too. A few of the buses survive in preservation, including a Leyland Tiger Cub from 1966 with which I am proud to be associated. Since its restoration in 1995, it has been to Llancafán on one occasion and I have a first hand appreciation of the trials of those old drivers! Further nostalgia is available at the **Cardiff Bus Centenary Rally on Sunday 7th July**. The event will be held in the streets behind Cardiff City Hall and Museum. No admission charge. I can pass on details of the organiser if anyone wishes to exhibit a vehicle (Daytime phone 029 203 23104. E-mail [paul.burgess@bbc.co.uk](mailto:paul.burgess@bbc.co.uk))

*I have sent Paul a copy of the very short item on the history of bus services in our area in the 1920s, which appeared in Newsletter 13: August 1988. Don't expect it is news to him!*

**Get well** - our best wishes to Lynnus Price, *New House Farm*, Moulton who is currently in *Llandough Hospital*. Come home soon Lyn.

## **Obituary**

### **Daniel Phillips of Broomwell - I**

by Alan Taylor and Tony Lewis assisted by Gwilym Phillips

Mr Daniel Phillips of *Broomwell*, Llancafán died recently at The Heath Hospital, Cardiff and has been buried with his late wife Gwendoline Rose (Nee Widger), in Barry.

Daniel was one of Llancafán's longest residents. He came to Llancafán with his mother Blodwen (who was then widowed) and his sister in the 1920's. His mother was working at *Ford Farm* and living in Walterston. Blodwen met M. Griffiths of *Broomwell* and married him in 1930 (approx., when Daniel was 9 or 10).

Daniel attended the Village School and after leaving school worked for a while on local farms, before joining a firm called Holts, which produced car parts. He then moved on to Turners Asbestos Company (T.A.C.) in Rhoose.

Called up in 1941, Daniel was almost immediately sent to Singapore at the end of the year and was captured by the Japanese in May 1942, when Singapore fell. He spent the next three years as a P.O.W., mainly in Saigon (then occupied French Indo-China) working on the Docks for the Japanese Occupation Force. He was moved to various other prison camps as the allies began to make headway against the Japanese and was finally liberated, returning to the UK in 1945. He arrived home very emaciated and having suffered severe burns to his back from being forced to carry sacks of phosphorus in the Saigon dockyards.

Daniel returned to his previous employer T.A.C. in 1946 and married Gwendoline whom he had met at Turners. They lived in *Broomwell* and had three children, Gwilym, who now lives in Barry (1951) and twins Arthur and Rosemary (1954). Rosemary quite recently moved with her father from *Broomwell* to a house in Barry.

The Llancarfan Society had recently approached Gwilym to ask his father for recollections of his life in *Broomwell* for more than 70 years, but unfortunately, almost immediately Daniel left *Broomwell*, he suffered a fall and had been retained in hospital until his death. He did provide some personal details, recalling that *Broomwell* was thatched when he first went to live there as a young boy and that there had never been mains water to the property.

## **Danny Phillips of *Broomwell* - II**

by Phil Watts.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Danny Phillips, who until recently had lived all his life at *Broomwell*. He moved home just before Christmas but most of his time since has been spent in hospital. He never got to enjoy the pleasure of a modern home. His family had pleaded with him to seek a home with more comforts, he enjoyed the remoteness of *Broomwell*.

He had been in poor health for a number of years and had moved to Barry from necessity rather than desire. His moving from *Broomwell* will see the breaking of a family connection of over a hundred years. Mains water still has not arrived, electricity has.

His return from being a prisoner of war of the Japanese was unannounced - a journey across the world-nothing to say I am on my way or meet me at the station. He just turned up at the front door.

After the war he resumed work and, in his spare time used a mechanical Rotavator on local gardens - it was of larger size than the normal. He very often brought his wife to the *Fox and Hounds* for a quiet drink and to watch the world go by.

Danny opened the celebrations in the village to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day in August 1995. It seems that he was the right one to do this.

Thank you Danny for everything.

## **Light Up St Cadocs** by Graham Brain

I am writing this short article to raise awareness of a new and exciting project involving the historic building of St Cadoc's. I'm sure the title to this article gives the project away – the permanent exterior lighting of St Cadoc's Church.

In December 1998, the Llancarfan Christmas Tree Fund took a decision to temporarily light up the centrepiece of the village of Llancarfan – St Cadoc's Church. This received only favourable comments, the only adverse comments coming when the lights were removed after the festive season.

Each year since then we have placed lights around the church to illuminate it over the festive period. Many have asked if this could continue throughout the year as they feel it enhances the village.

I'm very aware that lighting a historic building such as St Cadocs Church on a temporary basis over Christmas and New Year is quite different to the installation of permanent exterior lighting.

For the short period of time the temporary lights are in place, if not quite right and providing they do not interfere with surrounding properties, are removed after a few weeks, so no harm done. With permanent lighting we need to ensure that we get it right the first time round.

External lighting can greatly enhance the night-time environment, contributing to real and perceived security at night. On a broader scale, sensitive exterior lighting can instil a feeling of civic pride.

Inappropriate external lighting however is a potential environmental nuisance. It is therefore important that issues such as brightness, direction and context are considered and that light pollution and light trespass are avoided.

It is not only visual impact that counts. The creation of a safe and pleasant environment, the appropriate use of energy, ease of maintenance, the threat of vandalism and harmonising of the appearance of the lighting equipment with its surroundings are all factors that need to be considered.

With this in mind, I recently wrote to the Llancarfan Community Council and the Parochial Church Council (PCC), seeking their approval to look into the permanent illumination of St Cadocs. Together with Alan Taylor and Steve Powell, we attempted to gauge support for the project from the residents of Llancarfan. The overwhelming majority of villagers (99%) were more than happy to show their support and signed a petition to this effect. I then attended the subsequent meetings of each of the LCC and PCC at which both gave support to the idea.

In the light (no pun intended) of the scale of the project and the requirement to "get it right the first time", I selected various members from the community to form a small committee to move the project forward. We have now met for the first time and members of the committee bring their own individual skills and enthusiasm to the project.

We have as yet not managed to cost the project, but have estimated that it could be between £4,000 - £10,000.

This money will need to be raised by the committee which has started to explore the many avenues open, these include fund-raising events, grants, company sponsorship or maybe the individual sponsorship of a light, perhaps in memory of a loved one.

To set the finances for the project going, the committee has decided to hold a Monopoly Competition in the Village Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2002. Notices will be posted around the area with details nearer to the date.

At this point I would like to thank the Llancarfan Society for generously donating the shield that will be awarded to the winner of the above competition.

We are interested in any ideas for the project, so please do not hesitate to drop me a line at **Lights, Ynysdawel, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan, CG62 3AD** or you can email me at **[lights@llancarfan.com](mailto:lights@llancarfan.com)**.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure all, that when we eventually obtain sufficient funds to complete the project, that the lighting of St Cadoc's will be sensitive and in keeping with this wonderful village that we all hold so dear.

## Names of places

### *Beaupre - a snip at the price?*

*Beaupre Castle* is just outside our parish and, consequently, has received little mention in the Newsletters. It was advertised in a recent *Property Mail*, together with the adjacent farmhouse at £499,000 with six acres of land. The castle is a Grade 1 Listed property, under the care of CADW.

After the first intake of breath at this enormous sum (when I was a kid, beer was a shilling a pint!), I paused to reflect that several modern bungalows have marketed in our parish for £2-300,000.

*Beaupre Castle* was rebuilt in 1586 by Richard Basset, the family having acquired the property in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and it remained with them until the 17<sup>th</sup>. Locally, the name is known as Bewpyr, pronounced “Bewper”. It is frequently written with an acutely accented final “e”, as *Beaupré*. This spelling is almost certainly incorrect as the origin is thought to be French *Beau Repaire*, meaning “beautiful retreat”

### *Hostry*

Some time ago, Society members John Cann and Mavis Coles wrote of the *Ostrey* or *Hostry*, near Barry.<sup>1</sup> At the time the editor had never come across the name, and showed his ignorance by asking whether it was a typographic error for “hostelry”. However, on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the *Western Mail* reported an all too common story under the headline: “Owner wins right to close historic pub”. This referred to the *Hostry Inn* at Llantilio Crosseny, one of those wonderful polysyllabic villages near Abergavenny.<sup>2</sup> The local community overwhelmingly objected to the proposed closure, which was rejected by the local authority, but the National Assembly’s planning Inspector has now granted permission at appeal. The inn, near Offa’s Dyke, is claimed to date from 1459 but will now become a private residence, the fate which our *Fox and Hounds* so narrowly avoided.

The O.E.D. gives “Hostry” as equivalent to “Hostelry” so my “typo” explanation may be closer to the mark than I deserve.

1. John Cann (Newsletter 100) quoted a document from 1609 in which the spelling was “Ostrey” whilst Mavis Coles (Newsletter 101) gave us a 1789 entry from William Thomas’ Diary, containing the phrase: “an alekeeper of Barry’s Hostry”.
2. Two more are Llavihangel Ystern-Llewe and (another Cadoc dedication) Llangatock Vibon-Avel!

### **Churchyard safety** a note from Joan Scott-Quelch, Clerk to the Community Council

The Community Council, in accordance with Health & Safety Regulations, is currently carrying out an inspection of all memorials in the Churchyard. As part of the authorised safety check upright memorials are subjected to a physical rocking test to establish stability. We already found a number of headstones that are dangerous and have been laid flat to remove the immediate danger. Fortunately, so far, I have been able to trace the relatives and notify them of this action.

This is potentially an emotive subject and we are trying to deal with it in a sensitive manner. Since 1995, five children have been killed in accidents involving graveyard memorials, so we have to be certain that the Churchyard is safe, especially as the footpath is now very heavily used. If anyone believes that a family memorial might be affected by this work, or wants information, please would they contact me: Joan Scott-Quelch, Clerk to the Llancarfan Community Council, 2 Penylan House, Llancarfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3SD.

## **Letter from Kosovo** by Matthew Lewis

- Matthew Lewis passed out from Sandhurst last year and was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Wales on April 2001 (Newsletter 104). Matthew was born in Cardiff and brought up in Llanccarfan where his family now live at the *Old Parsonage*.

By November 19, 2001 I had completed the statutory 18 months training to be an Officer in the Royal Regiment of Wales (24<sup>th</sup>/41<sup>st</sup> Foot), and had arrived into the freezing smog of Pristina, Kosovo. The men of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion RRW had already been in the theatre two weeks and I was met by Sergeant 'Wrecker' Rees, my new Platoon Sergeant. Grinning from ear to ear, he informed me of his delight at the fact that my arrival shifted the burden of Platoon 'welfare' and paper work from him to me. Within an hour I was introduced to 4 (Prince of Wales) Platoon as "the new boss.....Mr Lewis from Cardiff.....". to the collective boos of the few Swansea lads now under my command.

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To the outsider, the first over-riding impression of Kosovo is the abject poverty of the majority of its inhabitants. Recent injections of money from agencies such as the EU and OSCE have introduced a relative affluence to the urban classes of Prestina and Podejevo, but in the rural and remote areas of the Drenica Valley and Stimle, with its Dickensian asylum, the sight of children playing barefoot in the snow and families living rough in half-built or half-burned houses is common place. It is these areas that proved the stomping ground for many of the members of the Kosovo Liberation Army during the war in 1999, and consequently felt the brunt of the ethnic Serb wrath.

On our excursions out of Prestina, it is here that our 'Warrior' armoured fighting vehicles are greeted with the friendliest welcome and young Welsh soldiers are in their element playing with the hoards of curious children that gather around whenever we stop.

Our mission out here as members of the NATO led KFOR is to stop all extremist activity, whether Serb or now more likely, Albanian; and to help give credibility to the fledgling native security forces such as the Kosovo Police Service and the TMK – the unarmed and 'legitimate' successors of the KLA. Whilst the political process is still frustrated or forestalled by entrenched beliefs on either side, people are seemingly anxious to cling to the firearms they used during the war, and it falls to us to search for, and confiscate any weapons that we do not sanction. 4 (POW) Platoon's first success was Private Dermody's find of a Mauser bolt action Sniper's Rifle – conscientiously stored under a child's cot. I am happy to report that this discovery has now been joined by numerous more throughout the tour.

Bracing ourselves through the horrendous Balkan Winter, we have now traded our Warriors for a new, busier role in the hub of Prestina City Centre. Rather like the Northern Ireland mode of operations, B (Rorke's Drift) Company are now a 'framework patrol' unit responsible for the day-to-day security of the Capital. Shootings, stabbings and armed robbery are still depressingly regular and it is up to us to maintain a suitably high profile and to try to establish something like a normal way of life for the local community. Obviously this is emerging as a long-term commitment and the soldiers of 1 RRF are now acutely aware that when we say 'good-bye' to Kosovo in early May, it could well be more of an 'au revoir'.

## **Nelly's Hill** by John M. Cann

### **Two Old Ruins of Walterston - Part 2**

In a previous Newsletter, I gave the conclusions that Howard Thomas made about a pile of stones opposite Walterston Fach, which were once Ty Du, and also the ruin of Upper House on the lane to Moulton from Walterston. There is little or no historical evidence on Ty Du, but that

on Upper House is quite considerable. This shows that the yeoman's house was certainly no labourer's hovel, but built by and for a person of substance. The 18th century extension put Upper House, for a time, on a par with Walterstone House (now Trewallter Fawr) and their owners of similar high standing in the community.

Various manorial records <sup>2</sup> show that Upper House was built on an area of Walterston, called Nelly's Hill in 1666, which appears under many names from 1490 to the present day. All these names derive from Elene, Helen or maybe Eleanor. The name 'Upper House' does not appear in the manorial records, or anywhere else until the 1840s.

**Elene is Hull** In 1490 twenty one acres of land south of the lane to Moulton was "*one Close*" called "*Elene is Hull*" held by "*Robert ap Mt.*" for 14s pa. There is no evidence of any dwelling on the holding.

**Elynehill or Nellyn** By 1540 this was split in two, "*10.5 acres called Elynehill (7s) situate in Walterston*" held, with a lot more, by Lewis William and his wife Joan by "*Copy of Court Roll for their lives*" and "*10.5 acres called Ellyshyll alias Nellyn*" held by "*Thomas ap Llen' Dee, year to year*" for 7s. (*Llen' Dee appears in the 1570 survey as Llywelyn Dy, both Dee and Dy are an English Clerk's spelling of Du, making his real name Llywelyn the Black. So was 'Ty Du' his house?*) In neither of these holdings is a dwelling mentioned. Indeed, the latter holding is referred to as '*desmesne*' land, so would have originally been farmed for the Lord of the Manor, and one assumes this was true of the whole original 21 acres of 'Elene is Hull'.

**Helyns Hill or Nelyn** From 1st Dec 1547 they were still two copy holdings but each had a 'messuage' (*ie. dwelling*). One was called "*Helyns Hill als Nelyn*" and held by William Thomas and his sons Robert and Thomas for 7s and two capons. The other was called "*Helyns Hill*" and still held by Lewis William, Joan and now Francis their son. But which became Upper House? The Williams had in addition (as in 1540) another messuage and 67 acres which was pretty certainly Walterston Fach, where they most likely lived. In 1570 William Thomas and his son Robert also held another messuage and 60 acres which may have been Ty Du, or possibly Ty Draw, where the farm buildings are now. From the information below, it seems likely that William Thomas was really Thomas William.

**Nellen or Nelly's Hill** On 6th October 1651 a "*messuage with ten acres and a half called Nellen Hill*" was leased to "*William Robert, Ann William widow and Robert Thomas, son of Thomas William deceased*" for 7s and 2 capons per annum. So Robert Thomas was actually Robert ap Thomas and a William. The Parish Registers have Ann, daughter of Thomas William baptised in 1629 and William Robert's daughter Jane dying in 1627 & his wife Maud in 1638.<sup>3</sup> In 1666 "*Ann Morgan widow and Robert Thomas*" held by Copy of Court Roll of 6th Oct. 1651 "*a messuage and Tenn Acres and a half of lands whereof one half Acre of wood called Nelly's Hill which heretofore lay all in one butt is now Divided into fower or five small parcels*" for 7s & two capons. William Robert has died and Ann Morgan and Ann William must be one and the same. This holding should be Upper House, as Lewis William and his family are not in the 1666 Court Roll. Their total holding of 77 acres is now held by John Thomas gent., but only has one messuage which must be Walterston Fach. While the 77 acres must still include Helyns Hill it is listed field by field with none named after Helen.

**Upper House & the other Messuage** It would seem most likely that the Lewis William messuage was in the enclosure on the other side of the farm gate shown in the Tithe Map of 1840 and in William Jenkins' Estate Map,<sup>1</sup> of similar date, as a Garden, but not in the 1878 O/S. This abutts the Moulton Lane and Howard Thomas has found an early wall in the hedge line which doubtless enclosed the front garden.

My map is based on the 1878 O/S, with extra 1842 boundaries and enclosures from W<sup>m</sup> Jenkins' Estate Map <sup>1</sup>. It shows the original 21 acres of "*Elene is Hull*" shaded and the two 10.5 acre holdings with different shadings. The Upper House holding of Robert Thomas is clearly identified by the reference to "*four or five parcels*" as which it is shown on the Estate Map <sup>1</sup> of W<sup>m</sup> Jenkins, whose father bought it in 1783. The steeper field between it and the stream must



have remained desmesne land certainly until the 17th century and was probably still wooded when Robt. ap Mt. had his "*close .... called .... Elene is Hull*" in 1490.

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**The Nelleen** The holding that was Lewis William's in 1570 was still part of Walterston Fach when this was owned by Deere in 1745. His 'Ash Hall Estate Map of Walter's Town Farm' <sup>4</sup> has still a total 'customary' acreage of around 77 acres. So it includes 10.5 acres of Nelly's Hill which was then called "*Ka Nelleen*", but has no building shown. This field was still known as "*The Nelleen*" by Ralph Morgan when a boy, and indeed by Tony Thomas today.

'Ka' is the local version of 'Cae' - as in Kardiff. 'Cae' is Welsh for 'field' & also 'enclosure' So "*Ka Nelleen*" in 1745 is basically the same as "*close .... called .... Elene is Hull*" in 1490.

**Nelly's Hill** or "*Elene is Hull*" is still a hill, though you would not think it much of one walking up the Moulton Lane from Walterston. You would however recognise it as a hill if you walked up it from its southern extremity at the stream to its brow in the middle of 'The Nelleen'.

After 1666 there is no information on Upper House until 1715, when another William family are on the scene. They were most likely descendants of the earlier one. They and Upper House from the early 1700s to the mid 1800s will appear in a future Newsletter.

#### References

1. Cardiff Central Library (CCL) M.S.4 12/3
2. Glamorgan Record Office (GRO) D/D Xio 1/1 (1490); D/D Xge 25/1 (1666)
3. Public Record Office (PRO) E 36/158 (1540)  
National Library of Wales (NLW) 1991/460 (1570); Bute M17/27 (1651)  
David Jones' transcripts of Llanarvan Parish Registers (1619-1640 & 1724-1763) CCL M.S. 2.1182
4. GRO D/D L1 V3 (Map 2).

We acknowledge the use of Ordnance survey 1878 Sheet XLVI, 10 above and in Part 1 of this article.

### **Pentyrch Hunt** by Phil Watts

Whilst researching the names of people in a photo of a 1930s village outing to Pencoed Horticultural College, I visited Agnes Jenkins, in Llantwit Major, who showed me a cup, which had the following inscription: -

**PENTYRCH HUNT  
POINT TO POINT  
STEEPLECHASES  
28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1929  
ADJACENT HUNTS PONY RACES  
WON BY EDWIN MORGAN  
WALTERSTON FACH.**

I am told that this is one of many trophies won by Edwin Morgan, *Walterston Fach*, in a long career of riding in the South Wales area. There were a number of successful horses as well as riders at *Walterston Fach*. Edwin rode with the Glamorgan Hunt until he was past seventy years of age. I wonder if any of our members have their own memories of the exploits of Edwin Morgan, his horses and family. Let us hope that we can hear some more from the Morgan family.

### **John Jones -Beekeeper -Postmaster** by Phil Watts

Elsie Muir tells me that one day in Llanarfan, John Jones had to make a vital decision whether to be loyal to Her Majesty's Post Office or devote his services to the swarming bees. The dead

line for the Llancafarn Post Office Accounts had arrived and John had started to make up the monthly accounts but the bees were swarming. Which was the most important the accounts or the swarming bees? The bees got the first call the accounts were abandoned and sent head office in Barry with the following inscription - "Please find my accounts started, but the bee's are swarming."

## **Spring unfolds in Llantrithyd Deer Park** by Adrienne Leijerstam

Although the dry cold weather during April has put a brake on spring, the Park is slowly turning to a wonderful carpet of fresh green grass. It contrasts sharply with the brown remains of the over-wintered bracken, which will soon grow to provide the camouflage for the new calves due in June.

The stags have been fascinating to observe over the past few weeks. In preparation for casting their antlers they have been rubbing them persistently against the trees and the ground. Sometimes they enjoy a real stag party, lying together rubbing antlers with the other males in the group.

In the evening they are often silhouetted on the brow of the hill in old lodge paddock, their magnificent antlers cutting into the skyline with such clarity and grace.

Antler growth is a sign of virility and body strength, as it requires a strong neck and good conformation to carry such a weight. Stags lose their antlers in the Spring and grow full heads again by the rutting season at the beginning of October.

Within a couple of weeks five out of six of our stags had shed their antlers, always one at a time, which makes them look lop-sided and rather comical. The only one left with his rather juvenile set is Roger a young three-year-old, who is generally bossed about by the older boys now he is the only one that still looks macho!

Amazingly, just as quickly as they are shed their antlers new stumps begin to appear the beginning of yet another magnificent head.

INSERT PIC

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The stags shed their antlers one at a time during the Spring

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The hinds are certainly full of the joys of Spring. They play incessantly among the branches that have fallen in the winter winds, stripping them of their bark and treading them playfully underfoot. The spring sunshine produces constant sessions of hopping, skipping, butting and rubbing heads together like the stags.

However, one morning they did give me rather a surprise. Their wonderful tanned coats had turned a dirty shade of grey and their hair was matted and straggly. I was worried they had picked up some awful illness. It wasn't until we spoke to John Volrath (the previous owner) that lunchtime that I was able to breathe a sigh of relief. They had in fact been enjoying their springtime passion for mud baths!

It's quite a communal affair. The whole herd make for one of the water issues in the Park and then take it in turns to paw the muddy ground with their front feet before flopping down to roll and rub first one side and then the other. After a good bit of floundering its up on all fours again for a good shake before bounding off through the centre of the other mud-bathers.

This procedure is a great way to aid the shedding of their winter coat and in common with sheep and horses at this time of year they end up looking patchy and dishevelled.

The Fallow herd has also been much more visible lately and the spring sunshine has spurred the occasional relay race around one of the old sycamore trees. In contrast to the ragged Red Deer their coats still look neat and well kept and glisten beautifully against the green grass. Unlike the Reds, the two male bucks are yet to shed their antlers.

The Park itself reveals a new secret every day. The shelterbelt is one of my favourite places. It is a 30 metre wide strip that runs around the outside of the deer fence that John Volrath planted with beech, oak, ash, cherry, lime, alder, larch and many more varieties is just coming into leaf and every day there is something new to discover. A grassy track winds its way through the trees which is going to be an excellent place to exercise our carriage horses when the ground dries up a little more.

Primroses, celandine, wild violets and wood anemones are carpeting Hangar Wood a magnificent area of mature beech in the centre of the Park that has been fenced to protect the trees.

While the deer keep the pastureland in good heart they are very destructive when it comes to trees and they strip the bark continuously and ruthlessly. They don't seem to bother with the ancient oaks in the Park, but they strip the ash and hawthorn trees relentlessly, so anything we plant in the future needs to be very well protected.

As I regularly ride through the Park on horseback the deer are used to seeing me appear on the horizon. At the beginning they would rush forward to investigate this curious combination of rider and horse, but now we seem to be more and more accepted and I can ride within metres of them - though interestingly enough they seem more at home with our bay Welsh cob than with our white horses!

In the next column there should be plenty to tell you about the new calves.

## Events

**Monopoly Competition** in the Village Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May to raise funds for the lighting of St Cadoc's Church. Details posted in village.

**May Walk** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, commencing from the Community Hall at 10.30 a.m. and including a visit to Fonmon Castle. Further details posted in village or from Committee members.

**AGM 2002** The meeting opened with a large-screen showing of Trevor Fishlock's recent HTV *Wildtracks* journey through the Vale of Glamorgan. It encompassed Flemingston, Llanbethery, Pennon, Fonmon, Penmark, Llancarfan and Llanvithyn. Beautifully filmed, it showed the Vale at its best.

As usual, the formal part of the AGM was a foregone conclusion, with the whole Committee re-elected almost as a matter of course. This may sound undemocratic to those who did not attend, but basically it is a matter of finding willing workers to undertake the various jobs. One or two warning notes were sounded. Our Chairman, Philip Gammon, expressed his wish to retire next year, and though John Etherington is willing to continue at the moment as Newsletter Editor, he pointed out that his absence from Llancarfan for the last 11 years makes it progressively more difficult to keep up with current changes in the village. It will be wise of the Committee to start a search for suitably masochistic volunteers now!

As usual refreshments and snacks were on offer and John Etherington filled the remaining time with a talk on current research into the Griffiths' family which controlled blacksmithing, wheelwrighting and much else in the village from the early 1800s until the 1950s.

## 1914-1918 Llancarfan at War - The *Flaxland* enigma

- Edward John and F. Stanley Sherrah, both of Flaxland, are commemorated on the War Memorial but Stanley is not recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Edward John was fourth of the eight children of Catherine and Edward John, *Flaxland Fawr*. When he left school he became an auctioneer with Stephenson and Alexander and then joined the Army as a Corporal in the Army Pay Corps but he was not fit enough for overseas service. He was stationed at Shrewsbury where he died of peritonitis in 1919 He was still on active service as Members of the Pay Corps were discharged later than rest of Army. (Information from Carol Dunn via Phil Watts)

He is commemorated with two stones, one a family memorial and the other provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to which he was entitled because he was on active service. These stones were in Bethlehem graveyard but are now in the churchyard. (R. G. Liscombe, Newsletter 89)

Edward's entry in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record reads as follows: -

**In Memor y of EDWARD (TEDDY) JOHN** *Corporal 13392 Royal Army Pay Corps*

*who died on Wednesday, 18th June 1919. Age 20.*

*Son of Edward and the late Catherine John, late of Flaxland Farm, Llancarfan, now of Peterston-Super-Ely Cardiff*

The CWGC record also shows the original burial place and the transfer to St Cadoc's churchyard.

F. Stanley Sherrah of *Flaxland Fach* has proved to be a problem. Though his death is recorded on the War Memorial, he does not appear in the War Graves listing. I now believe that he died in 1919 or 1920. If his parents did not inform his Regiment or the Empire War Graves Commission of his death, this would explain the lack of record, despite his being on the Memorial.

Mrs Joan Jenkins of Ystrad Mynach, a Great Niece of Evan's parents has provided us with some personal information but nothing more of Stanley's war record.

Stanley Sherrah's father, Evan, was a mining-engineer from Senghenydd, who retired to Flaxland, probably in 1914. It is just possible that Stanley might have followed his father's profession and, if so, would very likely have been recruited into the Royal Engineers. Stanley is buried at Groes Wen which explains why all trace of him has disappeared from village records, except for the War Memorial inscription.

I tried to discover his Regiment from the M.O.D. but the relevant records were destroyed by bombing during WW2.

INSERT PIC -TWO

Part of a War-memorial commemorative pew-runner stitched by Jean Veysey (Newsletter 98).  
Photo by Alan Taylor

David Stanley Sherrah and his sister Annie. Photo lent by Mrs JoanJenkins

Evan Sherrah's wife, Margaret, was probably Stanley's stepmother. She remained in Llancarfan for many years as a widow, living at St Cadoc's (now the Old Parsonage) until she moved to Ystrad Mynach in the 40s and died in 1957. Stanley also had a sister, Annie but beyond this outline no information has come to light.

(It was good to discover that Mrs Sherrah had moved away, and lived for such a long time afterwards - our last record was on the electoral register in the early 1940's and, as she must have been quite elderly, even then I had assumed that she probably died in the 40s.)

**A letter** from Joan Jenkins, Ystrad Mynach

I was interested in reading the account of Richard John, former Clerk to Glamorgan County Council, who lived at *Flaxland Farm* (Newsletter 98). This was the former home of my Great Uncle and Aunt, Evan and Margaret Sherrah until they moved in the early thirties to *St Cadoc* (now known as *The Old Parsonage*).

Mr John had a cousin who lived near my former home at Ystrad Mynach. He was a Police Sergeant at the *Penallta Colliery* and until now I had no idea he had connections with Llancarfan. My Great Aunt would have liked to know of this connection, as she did know him and his wife. They were very active in our local Church.

I did have happy times at Llancarfan in the late thirties. Aunt Margaret moved to Ystrad Mynach in about 1947-8 where she passed away in 1956.

## **Henry Williams the Clockmaker**

We have talked at some length of Henry Williams (1727-1791), clock and watchmaker of repute, who lived at *Broadhayes* in the late 1700s (e.g. Newsletters 68/95; 102/01).

More information has come to light as a result of an exchange between Wendy Lawday; Mrs. Sue Stafford, a Gloucester F.H.S. researcher undertaking a search at Wendy's request, and Bob Sanders.

Sue Stafford wrote to Wendy: -

I have searched some records and found the following:- 'Freemen of Gloucester' from the *Gloucester Record Series*, (1789 January 30th, number 87) which includes Henry Williams of Llancarfan (Llangarvon) Glam., app. of John Washbourn, clock and watchmaker, decd.

At this date, you could become a 'Freeman' of the City of Gloucester in various ways. One of these was by Apprenticeship, and this applied to Henry Williams. People who became 'Freemen' of the City, did not always live there. They could become 'Freeman' at any age. The date seems to indicate that Henry Williams was near to the end of his life when he became a Freeman. His 'master' John Washbourn was already deceased.

I searched for a baptism of any Henry Williams around the date that you gave me; 1727. I found a baptism in Gloucester that matched this date: - St. Peters, Gloucester, Henrici baptised son of Henrici and Elizabeth Williams 14th dec. 1727. Thomas, another son of the same couple, was baptised at the same time, but Henry was recorded first in the Register, indicating that he was the eldest child baptised that day, or first born 'twin'. Later on, other children baptised included Peter, William, Mary and Elizabeth.

A John Washbourn married at St. Peter's Church in June 1732 [same place where Henry was baptised]. This marriage appears to be that of John Washbourn who was the 'master' of Henry Williams. The fact that this marriage took place at the same church indicates that the married couple and the parents of Henry Williams could have known each other

Note From Wendy Lawday: -

This looks convincing enough for me, especially in view of the 'twin' part (I, my father and other relatives of this family line were born as twins of the hereditary type).

Note from Bob Sanders: -

Wendy is Mavis Coles' sister, descended from Cecilia daughter of Edward Williams, clockmaker, and Cecilia Lougher. I am still not clear how Edward Williams fits into the Henry Williams family, if, indeed, he does. I will ask Wendy about that.

I now wonder whether Henry & Elizabeth came to Llancarfan with their children or whether Henry the clockmaker was the first in the area. I will try and do some digging around to see if there is any trace of the older generation.