

LLANCARFAN SOCIETY



LEGEND HAS IT THAT
ST CADOC WAS AIDED BY A
DEER WHEN HE BUILT HIS
MONASTERY IN
LLANCARFAN

NEWSLETTER 127

JULY 2005

Foreword: ROBERT HUTCHINGS

GOVERNMENT WARNING: READING THIS COULD DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

Meandering along by the river recently, I was talking to a couple of Society members who left me wondering whether they actually do see the above warning when they open their Newsletter! By all accounts they both told me that they don't really read it. Which is a crying shame as the Newsletter represents the single largest cost to the Society (over one-half of all income normally goes on producing and distributing it).

But if it is to be well read, then it needs to be well written. It needs to contain lots of items of historical interest and, equally, lots of topical importance. Then we'd all find something to interest us. Looking back through the last 15 years' Newsletters (Yes, I know it's sad, but I've kept them all!) my feeling is that the latest ones are amongst the very best, and the most interesting. That's not to denigrate the earlier ones at all, but I really do think the topical items that we're now seeing make the Newsletter a far more interesting read. If you agree, why not tell the Newsletter committee members so?

And wouldn't it be nice if further improvements could be made? Why not? There's plenty of ways in which new technology could help to make presentation, particularly photographic presentation, better. As always cost is the bugbear. Better presentation would undoubtedly cost more, but there may be ways to find more money. Any ideas? What about running advertisements in the Newsletter? Handymen, painters, window cleaners, oil suppliers, plumbers, kennels, restaurants, motor mechanics and many others would find it a useful means of advertising themselves and it would provide additional income, and a useful ready reference to those much needed telephone numbers that I, for one, can never seem to find when I want them.

The Llancarfan Bridge Society has now been running (sometimes limping) for nearly 15 years. That must qualify it as one of the oldest voluntary societies in the village. We meet once a month, on the first Monday at 7.15pm in the Hall. Being generous to ourselves, we would describe our bridge as being of "variable" standard, but it's good fun and twice a year we have a party and drink the accumulated profits. If you like playing cards, and either know the rudiments of Bridge or would like to learn, why not give Pam Higgs or me a call?

/Continued on page 4

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Births and Deaths

(please contact Ann Ferris if you wish any event to be included on this page)

Deaths:

Olwyn Hopkins – 21st June 2005

Idris Lewis – 24 June 2005.

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Web-site: www.llancarfan.com or
www.llancarfan.f9.co.uk

Announce Announcements, Local Events,

Society:

September 24th: Society Dinner at the Fox and Hounds – menu enclosed – max. number 54, so it will be a case first come first served.

dies Tuesday Club

September 20th – to be advised – watch the Notice board on the village hall.

Puzzle – Find the Total

	£	s.	d.	
Boys Name	1.	0.		(Bob)
Girls Name		1.		(Penny)
Singer	10.	0.	0.	(Tenor)
Monarch's Head Gear	5.	0.		(Crown)
Old fashioned Bike		1	$\frac{1}{4}$	(Penny Farthing)
Type of Pig:	1.	1.	0.	(Guinea)
A stone in weight	14.	0.	0.	(14 lbs)
Moon, Sun and Mars		0	$\frac{3}{4}$	(three far things)
A leather worker		6.		(tanner)
Unwell sea Creature	<u>6.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0</u>	(squid)
	£31.	7.	9.	

Newsletter by e-mail - if you should elect to receive the Newsletter by E-mail, this would provide you with coloured photos where applicable, e.g. the fox in the willows was lovely in colour and really stood out well – it lost its appeal in black and white. It will save the Society money and members of the committee the time and energy of preparing the newsletter for the post. All it will take is an email to Alan Taylor on a.j.taylor@btconnect.com or a phone call.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Births and Deaths

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Llancarfan School News.

The MacMillan sponsored swim

In February about twenty-five children did a sponsored swim to raise money for Macmillan nurses. Lots of people did this swim but Llancarfan School won. Llancarfan raised the most money for the cause so some children got to go to the mayor's parlour in the civic offices in Barry. The children were Manon Thomas in year 6. Tom Cunnington in year 5. Josh Manley-Lamb in year 4. William Matthews in year 3 and Lily Stevens in year 2. These children went to the mayor's parlour on Tuesday 10th May. The children had photos taken, ate biscuits, drank squash, talked to the mayor and got some presents like a hat, pencil tin and pen. Everyone that swam will receive a pen and pencil tin.

Swimming lessons for year 5 and 6.

Every Thursday year 5 and 6 go swimming in Fontygary Leisure Park. They are divided into three groups. The first group are people learning to swim, the second group are people who know how to swim but need to make their strokes a bit faster. The third group are people who are in a club or are quite good swimmers already and just need to neaten their stroke up a bit. During the session everyone gets a go at jumping in, using the floats and having fun. Year 5 and 6 leave on a bus to go to Fontygary. Then when they get into the changing rooms (separate one for boys and girls) they have a race to see who can get changed and into the pool the quickest! The girls have won twice and the boys have won the same amount. Everyone in the class enjoys it a lot!

Getting ready for Atlantic College

Class five are looking forward to going to Atlantic College and can not wait to stay for five days with a variety of fun exciting activities such as:

Archery, Canoeing, Climbing, Scavenger hunt, Swimming and pool games, Mountain Boarding, Initiative Exercises, Mini Indoor Olympics, Orienteering, Ropes course, Sand sledging and a treasure hunt!!

They will be leaving for Atlantic College on the 13th June and will return on the 17th. There will be two groups of fifteen to do the activities. Llancarfan will have there own house in which the children shall stay. Boys in one part and girls in the other and a lounge and small kitchen. On their last night there will be a big disco in which the children will go to with their teachers, Mr Thorne and Mrs Morgan. They will be taking a coach there and back. It's going to be so much fun!

Continuation of Foreward by Robert Hutchings.....

What about the Llancarfan Society Book? Do you know why it's been so badly delayed? Will we ever see it published? Don't you think – I certainly do - that the people who've worked so hard on the preparation of the material deserve to see it published? I think we all ought to put our collective weight behind the Society's President in his efforts to get the problems resolved and the book published.

By now you're possibly wondering why on earth I was asked to write this Foreword? The idea is (I think) that if everyone who's interested in the Society and all it stands for, was to write the Forward for just one Newsletter then we wouldn't have to do it very often and, maybe, some interesting ideas would be put forward. Well, I reckon my turn shouldn't come round again until Spring 2040, or thereabouts. So that's quite ok with me; not too onerous! But only you can judge whether anything of interest arises.

If you did so, thank you for reading this.

Robert

--ooOoo--

Dai Lossin by Reid Smucker via

J R Etherington

This message was received from Ohio; it refers to a series of articles which were in Newsletters 88, 90, 91(1999) and 97 (2000).

"Greetings from Ohio in the States. I write to share some information on Dai Lossin or Mr. David Gwilym John. In short, he is honoured and some of his work is exhibited in a special section of his son Godfrey's book, entitled, *Five Seasons*, 1977. It is still in print. Reid Smucker". (e-mail dated 23 February 2005)

John: I will attempt to track down more information on *Five Seasons* and let you know, if successful. However, if we publish it, someone in the Society may know.

Further to the note about Dai Lossin, which I recently sent, I have now had some more information from Reid Smucker in Ohio at reid.smucker@jmsmucker.com appended below.

John: I already correspond with many people whom I have 'inherited' from the Newsletters. I have acknowledged Reid's three communications and have told him I am no longer the Editor. Please can one of you contact him so that further correspondence is sent to Llancarfan. He is expecting this. You may want to add some more from these two e-mails to my note - but it obviously needs to be kept short. I will do as I said and attempt to locate details of the two books attributed to Godfrey John - will get back to you on this - unless someone already knows of them? There has been no acknowledgment of my last three or four e-mails to the three of you in the last couple of days - I assume they have arrived and are being dealt with?

Copies of Reid's additional mails: -

1.02/23/2005 14:25

Hello John,

A bit more has occurred to me as "Dai Lossin" and family that I thought maybe of interest. David John's son, the late Godfrey John, (I had the pleasure and I should say benefit of being acquainted with him since about 1991), passed away in 2003. He published one other book besides 'Five Seasons'. In 2001 he published, 'Compassion Wins', a book of similar length and similar description, namely, poems and essays reprinted by permission of the publishers. Both books contain some anecdotal references to David in poems and essays, and the 'Five Seasons' features some of David's cartoons in his memory. There are reference to David the artist, as a lover of natural beauty, his disposition as a family man and as a veteran endowed with the grace of forgiveness through his religious beliefs. My contact with the younger Mr. Godfrey John was first in Wooster, Ohio, attending a Christian Science lecture at that place, authored and delivered by him and sponsored by the church of my youth (and my church still) in that city. I employed him as a Christian Science practitioner several times in the course of our friendship, and found his success in this ministry to be really, in my view, of the greatest notability but I am not writing to expound as to that. ...Even so, I think by noting that Godfrey's introduction to Christian Science teachings may have been due to David, since according to Godfrey, his father was looked after by and cured of a WWI injured arm by a Christian Science practitioner, I think during that war... whether that was in Germany (?) I am not sure but somehow

think that likely or as suiting my wanting memory. Most of the information on David that you may find, if not all, was first printed on the Home Forum pages of The Christian Science Monitor. Godfrey's books you may obtain through at least two institutions among whom he had good friends, they are Principia College (book store) of Elmhurst, Illinois; and The Mailbox (books and gifts) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. I have seen *Five Seasons at a Border's* book store once but am not sure that is usual or whether you can order it through them. David's wife and other son Phil are mentioned in the books as well. Also a considerable lot as to Wales, essays on Welsh literature, ... I hope and would trust I have not "gone overboard" in my letter here. A fact of the matter is that from the web page that comprises our original contact I did not deduce all that I think I might as to what precisely your society is. I am sorry for this ignorance having addressed you this extensively and still having it (ignorance,...) but still I feel my message is in good hands with you. Godfrey John is survived by a widow and two children (both married). Me, I am an employee of The J. M. Smucker company, in my thirties, married, have two children. My regards to you,
Reid Smucker.

2. 02/23/2005 14:38 Subject: Re: (briefly) a few more details Re: Dai Lossin.

Somewhere in G.J.'s books: physical description of David John, particular WWI 'battle' experience, a WWII air-attack "near death" incident, an occasion wherein David witness the prince of Wales' laughter when reading his comic, David's tearful response. Please be in touch if you like, or if you have an inquiry with which I might help...Reid.

"Greetings from Ohio in the States. I write to share some information on Dai Lossin or Mr. David Gwilym John. In short, he is honoured and some of his work is exhibited in a special section of his son Godfrey's book, entitled, *Five Seasons*, 1977. It is still in print. Reid Smucker." (e-mail dated 23 February 2005).

John: I will attempt to track down more information on *Five Seasons* and let you know, if successful. However, if we publish it, someone in the Society may know.

Co-ordinator: If any has any information I should like to hear from you.

--ooOoo--

TOMORROW – One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

--ooOoo--

Rhydypenau visits Llancarfan

In April, Year 4 of Rhydypenau Primary School visited Llancarfan to enable them to compare and contrast the village with the area around our school. This was the fifth time that this annual event has taken place. In addition we learnt many interesting and historical facts about the village, and the church in particular. We visited in two groups, one on Monday 18th and one on Friday 22nd.

We arrived on the coach and were greeted in the village hall by volunteers from the *Llancarfan Society* who showed us round the village.



Phil Watts took groups on a tour of the village, and we saw the school, the leisure facilities and many interesting historical features. Phil was a great source of information and could tell the children a great deal about the history of the village based on his own experience, having been brought up there. It was wonderful for the children to be able to have a “*Primary Historical Source*” to interrogate!!

A favourite with both groups was the ford, especially as they had brought their wellies so were able to walk through it. Despite a week end of rain which made the ford deeper on Monday, it was Friday’s group who had the accidents and a few children went home a bit damper than when they came but this all added to the fun of the visit.

John Gardner took groups to the field (believed to be the site of the first monastery built by St Cadoc in Llancarfan) via the site of the former smithy. The children were fascinated as John explained how cartwheels were made using the metal circle, which can still be seen today.

At the field we learnt many historical facts and how archaeologists discover information about the changes in the landscape.

Alan Taylor showed groups around the church. We learnt about the importance of the stag to Llancarfan and how the sundials work. Looking round the inside of the church helped us with our R.E. topic and we were able to compare this church with a local church in our area. The children saw many important historical artefacts but for them the best bit was to be able to ring the bells!

Both groups had their packed lunch in the hall and did some sketching in the graveyard before going home, tired but bursting with new information!

We made a book of our visit and the children still love to look through this to remind them of the lovely time we had.

We are very grateful to Alan, John and Phil for giving up their time to show us round and for the superb way in which they interacted with the children. We all learnt a great deal that day.

--ooOoo--

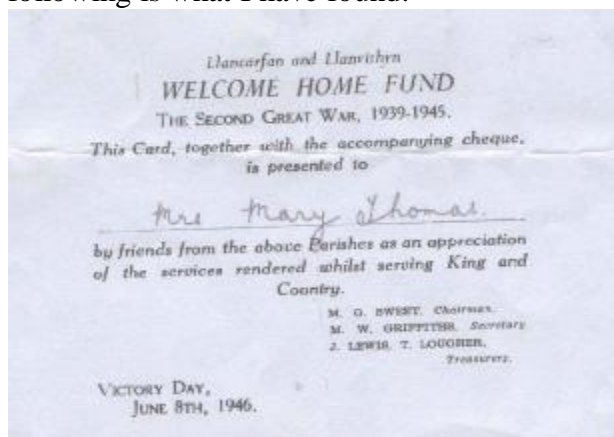
Welcome Home Fund – 1939: 1945 to Mary Thomas (nee Watts) by Phil Watts

My niece Anne Jones (nee Thomas) of Portsmouth handed me a copy of a card she found while she was going through papers belonging to her mother after she had died.

The card is reproduced in this Newsletter.

It seems a very nice card to keep. It shows that there was appreciation by the people of the Parishes of Llancafarn with Llanvithin of the efforts made by those who served in the services during the war.

This prompted me to do some research of the Parish Council Minutes.. The following is what I have found:



“Council Meeting – 25th July 1945: It was proposed by T Lougher and seconded by T Liscombe that a Public Meeting be called on 29th August to consider a Welcome Home Fund.

29th August 1945 – It was proposed by Mrs R Jenkins and seconded by Mr M Morgan that “Object of the Fund be to present gifts on demobilization to those who have served in the war and present similar tokens to the next of kin of those that have fallen”.

Representative for Hamlets:

M Sweet, Llanbethery; G Gibbons, Walterston; Mrs R Jenkins, Llancafarn; T Lougher, Bonvilston; W. Watts, Llanvithin; T Richards, Moulton; F Booker, Llancadle.

M Griffiths, Secretary; J Lewis, Treasurer.

Proposed by M Morgan and seconded by Mrs May to have a house-to-house collection. Collectors appointed: Llancafarn and Moulton – Mrs May, Miss Palling,

Mr M Morgan and Mr L Griffiths. Llanbethery – M Harris and J Dunn. Llancadle – J Davies. Walterston - C Gibbon. Treguff - E Lougher.

Proposed by Mrs R Jenkins and seconded by Mr M Morgan to hold a Carnival and Sports in aid of the Fund on 22nd September. Sixteen parishioners guaranteed a loan of £2.0s 02d. each to provide funds for carnival and sports.”

I have been unable to find out how much was collected and how much each individual received. It would be interesting to know. If anyone knows please inform us.

It is significant that on 26th April 1946 the Parish Council decided to call a Public Meeting for 8th May 1946 to discuss Victory Celebrations.

At this meeting held in the Baptist Vestry appointments made were F Booker – Chairman, M Sweet – Secretary and J Lewis – Treasurer.

It was decided to have a tea, sports and social evening starting with tea in Church Hall at 3.30pm.

Celebrations to be financed by rates not to exceed £20.0s0d. Evidence of a sum of £1.7.8 for rationed goods. Presumably the rest of the goods was given!

Ladies at the meeting to be responsible for the catering and the men for the sports on Penylan Field.

--ooOoo--

Fighter on the Home Front by David Evans

Two photographs from The Field for 1940, illustrate the relationship of the Standard Fordson Tractor, within the context of the impending World War II environment. The photos are rather faint, but one can see those strong metal lugs attached with four bolts to the wheel, providing extra vital grip, especially on the area of heavy clay associated with western facing slopes often below woodland where natural springs emerge. Coed Garnllwyd was such a location, and it seemed the closer the trees became, the stronger the clinging moist clay, whilst progress uphill without lugs was rarely possible.



The advertisement states that 800,000 had been made and indeed sold by June 1940, with a choice of gear ratios available. ‘Help the war effort ... more land under the plough’ was the clarion call, whilst one wonders if a similar cry was being made throughout Germany by the major tractor factories, to their farmers on the plains of Lower Saxony, south to the high rolling homesteads of Bavaria. ICI too, were praising their chemical products designed for the land, suggesting the use of Nitro-Chalk when applied at 6 cwt per acre, could increase kale yield by 1½ tons from a similar area. Cows had to be removed in good time prior to milking, since the milk could carry brassica smell, which with the ten or 12 gallon churns in use, plus the identifying label could quickly locate the source at this period of milk production.

During Europe’s last golden summer of 1914, England and Wales had some 11 million acres under plough, but this had increased to about 12½ million acres when the guns lay silent on 11 November 1918. Queen Victoria’s grandson Kaiser William II (1859-1941) had packed an entire train with a vast entourage two days earlier, but had been held up on the frontier of neutral Holland, whilst the Dutch government pondered what to do with the unexpected problem. Eventually the signals was lowered on the line, and the engine built up fresh steam in the direction of Doorn, where a chateau was put at their disposal, and William devoted the rest of his years sawing wood himself, and farming the estate.

It later emerged that the Kaiser and the Kaiserin had travelled in about twelve ‘luxurious Imperial motor-cars’ accompanied by fourteen members including Admiral von Hintze, driven by Prussian officers. The train itself had been fired upon in Belgium, breaking carriage windows, persuading William that the motor convoy was a safer method of travel through hostile territory. The cars themselves showed signs of having travelled far and fast. The entire party of fifty-one, including servants, left the cars and walked to Eysden Station, it being noticed that the Kaiser leant heavily on a stick whilst his hair was ashen grey and his drooping figure ‘presented a pitiful sight’. Many of his staff were armed with Browning pistols and rifles, awaiting the Imperial train drawn by two Dutch engines, with ten carriages de-luxe, with the Imperial arms on their sides, plus ten other carriages containing ‘a tremendous quantity of luggage, a motor ambulance, and repair parts for motor-cars’.

Later the officers were interned at Arnhem. The Kaiser took off his military uniform and dressed himself in private clothes, and went on to stay at Middachten Castle, the seat of his personal friend Baron Bentinck. Communications during the immediate

appearance at the Dutch frontier were by telegram, and it must have presented the Dutch with a great problem, however, the host country raised no objections, stating that 'they would be private persons and therefore entitled to the same treatment as immigrants from other countries'. Fortunate indeed for the man who had dithered under pressure from his chief of staff Helmuth von Moltke, who appears the villain in the drama, and why within a month France had 160,000 dead souls.

Armistice Day was greatly celebrated in Cardiff the Daily Telegraph recorded 'Practically every industry in South Wales except newspaper and railways closed down immediately'. For the moment the Germans had freed themselves from their autocratic rulers, whilst the Kaiser pondered his future days in the countryside of Holland. He must have been a broken man.

Recent research with a scholarly disdain for accepted versions, have revealed the Kaiser was himself something of a puppet for a core of military intrigues in distant Berlin. Cousin George V might have exerted greater influence upon his sensitive Teutonic cousin.

Twenty summers later, the land under the plough in England and Wales had fallen to a fraction less than 9 million acres. This was the great farming depression of the 1930's, but had a greatly increased level of livestock. The nation was perilously dependent upon imported foodstuffs. The War Cabinet was created, issuing edicts such as an extra two million acres of old pastureland must be ploughed for the country's security and national armoury. The theory proposed was that an eventual 15 million acres cultivated would provide a saving of two million tons of imported cereals, which was being transported via the North Atlantic, a highly vulnerable route given the real threat of submarine attack. The deep water security of Queenstown or Cork in Southern Ireland for allied shipping was unavailable, but again research reveals it could have been had Churchill pressed the matter with De Valera (1882-1975) Ireland's Prime Minister.

At home £2.0s.0d an acre to plough was offered as an inducement. Little wonder Dagenham was booming, and soon to be a target on the coastline on the northern edge of the Thames estuary in Essex for Göring's (1893-1946) deadly Luftwaffe. He had entered the Reichstag during 1928, the year of my parents' marriage, and he had a good decade of planning under his extended destructive belt.

Friendships and intertravel took place that hot summer of 1939, although the Nazi party were very active in subtle presentation, and few could move at liberty outside semi-organised itineraries. Roads were being built between the major cities, well-surfaced and fast with speeds over 100 mph presenting little difficulty for those with the Mercedes style machinery, whilst contract could be had at 1½d. per square yard, against 6d to as high as 1/6d per square yard in Britain.

War came. Winston Churchill (1874-1965) held the line. The Standard Fordson ploughed vast acres with ancient landscapes and parish hedgerows lost for posterity. We are where we are, with the little that is left to us. Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936), a cousin of Stanley Baldwin (1867-1947), the British Prime Minister who appeared inept in mobilising the country during the crucial false speech of the 1930's, wrote 'If any question why we died, tell them, because our father's lied'. Kipling, man of

Empire and of his time, had lost his only son John in action in 1915. Life, like that tumult emerging from the first Standard Fordson tractor has to be lived with all the strength we could muster, for history does not pass the dishes again.

--ooOoo--

THE GARDENERS' HYMN by Mary Neary

While I was in the garden the other day watching the robin gather the small worms, and I was swatting and killing the baddies and other Gods creatures. I was reminded of the *Gardeners' Hymn*, which my Uncle Frank Colthurst, of Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin, had read to me many years ago. He was a keen gardener (RIP).

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL
ALL THINGS WISE AND WONDERFUL
THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL.

but what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true, is when he made the goodies he made the baddies, too.

*ALL THINGS SPRAYED AND SWATTABLE
DISASTERS GREAT AND SMALL
ALL THINGS PARAQUATABLE
THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL.*

The greenfly on the roses,
The maggots in the pears,
Manure that fills our noses, he also gave us these.

ALL THINGS SPRAYED AND SWATTABLE, ETC.

The fungus on the goose-gogs,

The club root on the greens
The slugs that eat the salads and chow the aubergines.

ALL THINGS SPRAYED AND SWATTABLE, ETC.

The midges and the mosquitoes,
The nettles and the weeds,
The pigeons in the green stuff,
The sparrows on the seeds,

ALL THINGS SPRAYED AND SWATTABLE, ECT.

The fly that gets the carrots,
The wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook,
Though green be his thumbs.

ALL THINGS SPRAYED AND SWATTABLE, ECT.

But still we gardeners labour

Midst vegetables and flowers
And pray whatever hits our neighbours'
Will somehow bypass ours.

ALL THINGS SPRAY AND SWATTABLE, ETC.

The drought that kills the fuchsias,
The frost that nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
The blight that kills the spuds.

ALL THINGS SPRAY AND SWATTABLE, ETC.

--ooOoo--

Molly's Holly

Mollie Vincent has been organist at St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan for many years.

The congregation and clergy decided to give thanks – not in the usual way.

At the end of the service, all proceeded to the churchyard where a beautiful Holly tree had been planted and there a plaque had been placed to mark Molly's many years of service to the church.



The Archdeacon of Llandaff, the Venerable Bill Thomas, then blessed the tree which, as it is most appropriately female, should bear many berries in the years to come.

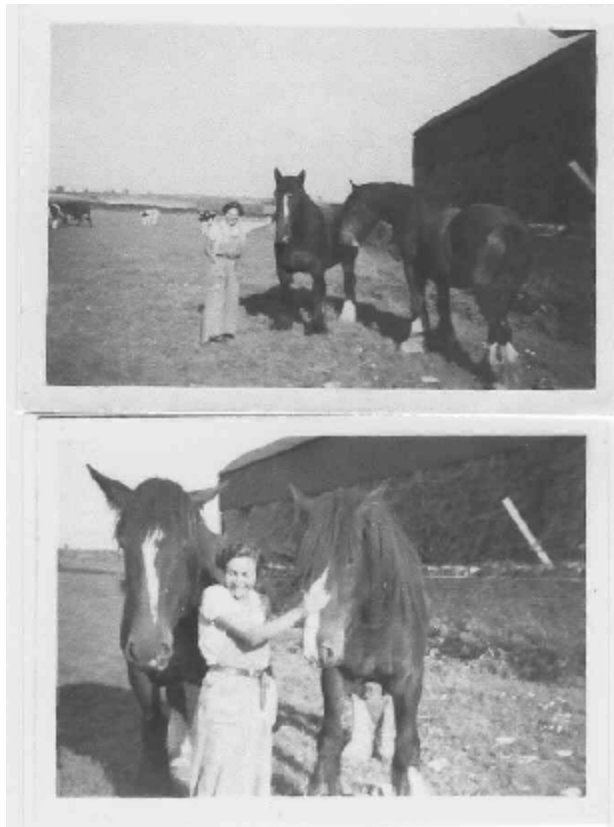
--ooOoo--

Joyce Neal at Pancross Farm (further thoughts on Pancross Farm) - Joyce Neal talking to Phil Watts and John Gardener.

Tony Thomas wrote in newsletter 124 of his thoughts of Pancross Farm. We now have some additional thoughts of the farm and the people that worked there in the years of 1939-45 by Joyce Neal of Fonmon.

Joyce Neal, a Barry girl, married in 1939 and lived at The Wood House, Fonmon. She had to obtain some employment in a reserved occupation or she would be directed to work in the munitions factory at Bridgend. Wartime regulations were that as long as you were physically fit you had to do work of national importance or join the forces. Tom Tucker, a Barry man working at Pancross Farm, told her that Vivian Thomas was looking for extra staff. Joyce preferred the outdoor life, and husband Jock was in a reserved occupation on Barry Dock.

So it was that Joyce a town girl came to Pancross to work on the farm. One of her first jobs was to take Captain and Lester, two shire horses, to chain harrow the field between Crosston and Aberogwyn. Joyce did not know that there is a correct order of connecting the tracer chains to the harrows. David and Gwilwyn Thomas came to her rescue and showed her the way. The inside tracers should be connected first. Lesson learnt. She had already solved that the head collar had to be turned 180° to fit comfortably on the shoulder of the horse. Joyce showed us photographs of herself standing with Lester and Captain. She says Lester always 'spooked' when passing Crosston – some past memory disturbed him.



There was also 'Bright', a cob type horse on the farm that was used for cart work, pitching pole, raking and other light duties. Joyce had evacuees living with her during the war, she showed us a photograph of them sitting on the back of 'Bright'. When the evacuees came to Rhoose she asked for two boys, the luck of the draw gave her two girls, who were not so good at getting the coal and chopping the morning sticks! For having evacuees she had extra money but doesn't remember who paid it.

A photograph shown to John Gardener and myself was of a group of people in a cornfield consisting of two Italian prisoners of war (working on the land), Isobel, Tony and Rosemary Thomas with their father Vivian and Joyce. It is difficult to understand how this group of people had time for a photograph to be taken while there was a war on and money to be earned!!!

There is also a photograph of Joyce standing as close as she dares to the Hereford Bull. This is the bull that Tom Tucker often took for a walk, sometimes late at night and occasionally on the way home from the pub!



The staff at Pancross Farm at this time consisted of Tom and George Tucker, ‘Titch Beechey’, two Italian prisoners of war, Master Craftsman Vivian and the willing town girl, Joyce.

When Vivian gave Joyce a job he always assumed she knew how to do it. For instance driving a tractor – she recalls driving a tractor into a hayfield hedge with two screaming Italians on the cart behind the wagon. The Fordson tractor had iron wheels with lugs to give extra grip, we were supposed to put wood blocks on the wheels to travel on the road but we didn’t always bother. Even in those days Joyce was health and safety conscious; she would not allow children to ride on the tractor in spite of the pleading of Ada Tucker, George’s wife for her children Doreen, Billy and Margaret to have a ride.

Joyce cannot remember the farm workers weekly wage at this time but knows that she was paid nine pence an hour, the Italians had one shilling an hour (at the same time as this Gwynne Liscombe and Phil Watts were paid sixpence an hour by Rhys Maddock, of Llanvythin, to pitch all his corn harvest). Hours worked were very elastic; it should have been three hours a day, often it was going home at 10.30, having started early in the morning. During the war there were two hours of summertime; at noon the dew was still on the grass.

Being an all year round farm worker Joyce learnt how to clip Swedes, plant and pick potatoes, dip and clip sheep. For sheep dipping she had to wear clogs so as to save her ‘best’ boots from the ravages of water and chemicals. Clothing was rationed, and coupons had to be exchanged to buy new. Vivian would say ‘cat a sheep’, Joyce didn’t know how to catch a sheep. But she tried, to the amusement of the male onlookers. Another ‘faux pas’ of Joyce’s was to mix up the different varieties of potatoes in the potato field. ‘Nobody told me she complains that they had to be kept separate. It is difficult to deduct a sum of money from nine pence an hour!

On the lighter side of life after work or at the weekend Joyce and her husband Jock would cycle to visit Joyce's parents Walter and Louise Parker at Cartef, Llanbethery and combine it with a visit to meet the locals at the Mason's Arms where Cacca Griffiths was landlord. Comments from the locals would be 'who had been chain harrowing in Pancross field where all the lines of the harrows go to a point in the corner?' The bike ride home without lights would be more hazardous if Penry Davies, the village policeman, was on his rounds. The Tucker brothers would also be on their way home and Tom would take the opportunity of taking Pancross Hereford bull for a walk. George was living in Pancross Cottages and Tom, still a bachelor, can't remember where he was living.

Joyce says she learnt a lot while working on Pancross Farm, but never felt she had become an expert at anything. She says she was an unskilled and untrained tractor driver – maybe? Poor sheep catcher – possibly! An onlooker when Vivian was plying his trade and expertise around the farm. She made many mistakes and felt that the men were always making fun of her attempts to be a farm girl. She says she became a good loader of wagons at harvest time, loading the outsides first and then the middle. Joyce remembers a load falling off near Aberogwyn on one occasion. Probably the driver turned too sharply! Not the 'loaders' fault!



When Joyce came to Pancross she knew that a mangle had two wooden rollers and a handle and was used for squeezing water out of wet clothes on wash day. Then she found out that on Pancross Farm mangolds were fed to cattle and sheep. A similar word – a different meaning. One day she fed swedes instead of mangolds. Not a happy occasion.

Joyce agrees with Tony Thomas that pig killing time was a time of plenty. Mrs Thomas had to have the head for making brawn and there were some extras for the

staff. Joyce also had a pint of milk a day. (How did this get to Fonmon on a bike?) She tells us that she used an enamel can with a handle which hung over the handlebars of the bike. These are frequently used on building sites for making tea.

Tom and George Tucker told Joyce that Vivian liked to hear the machinery squeak while working in the field. This is how he could tell that the workers were busy and there was no slacking. Joyce threatened to bring some oil in from home to quieten things down.

Joyce was 91 in April. Her parents moved to West Wales around 1948. Her father Walter is buried in Gwernogle. She still leads an active life although her eyesight is failing. She has often been seen walking her dog in the Fonmon area. One day Betty Hill of Kenson Cottage said 'You must have a Christmas drink'. Betty gave her a liberal portion, as Betty is inclined to do. Joyce says she doesn't know how she got home. One suspects with the help of the dog? And Joyce doesn't like alcohol!

Joyce has always been active in the community. She has run many coach trips for the local people of Aberthaw and Rhoose and some from Llancarfan were included. She was an active member of the Aberthaw Social Service Group that used to meet at the 'Granary' in Aberthaw. When she finished working at Pancross she went to work for Dilwyn Lougher at Cliff Farm. She can best be described as 'bright as a button' and long may it continue to be so.

(An aside: When the Women's Land Army disbanded in 1949, Ruth Watts was looking for work and wanted to stay in the Llancarfan district. She went along to Pancross to see if Vivian needed any female labour on the farm. He said he would not employ land girls on his farm. Could this be because of the numerous problems that he and Joyce Neal had encountered between the war years 194-45?)

--ooOoo--

West Wales Visit by Phil Watts

Following the chat John Gardener and I had with Joyce Neal about her work and life on Pancross Farm during the 1939-45 war, Joyce mentioned that her father Walter Parker formerly of Cartef, Llanbethery moved to West Wales where he died. She did not know where he was buried, she had never seen his grave. John turned detective and located the churchyard and arranged for Joyce to visit the grave. The grave is in Gwernogle near Carmarthen.

John and Jean Gardener invited Ruth and myself to accompany Joyce on a trip to Gwernogle. A date was set and arrangements made. Then we thought while we are in West Wales why don't we try and meet up with John Etherington, the editor of the newsletter for 17 years. John agreed to meet us in the Sloop, Porthgain while we had lunch.

Alas, things went wrong, Joyce decided not to go and Ruth became ill having suffered a stroke. The visit was postponed.

We have since been able to make the journey to meet John and Sheena Etherington. They are both well but like us all feeling the strain of getting older. John is still a very busy man, most of the time he is advising and helping people living in areas where there are proposals to construct wind farms.

We talked of the shared time we had while he lived in Llancarfan and brought him up to date with some of the alteration that have taken place in the area since he left. He sends his regards to friends that he made during the 20 years he lived in Ceffyl Du, Llancarfan and friends he made while he was editor of the newsletter.

As we the newsletter publishing group deliberate over each edition of the newsletter we say that he is welcome back anytime – how we miss him. Maybe one day ? 'who knows he will have time'. We are grateful for the 17 years. Thank you, John.

--ooOoo--

Obituaries

Olwyn Hopkins – 21.06.05 in Llandough Hospital aged 90. Olwyn lived nearly all of her life in the Parish of Llancarfan. The latter part at the family home in Windways, Llanerthy, until the death of her brother Gwyn a few years ago.

She worked for many years for Trixie Phillips at the Fox and Hounds and the Old Parsonage.

She was often the friendly face behind the bar and just as often the hard working soul in other departments as well as at home.

Her mother was a member of the long established Griffiths family of Llancarfan and her father farmed at Pancross and New House Farm, Moulton.

Idris Lewis – 24.06.05 in South Africa aged 84. Idris attended Llancarfan School, Barry County School and the University of Wales, lived most of his life in South Africa working Boots as a Chemist. He kept in touch with Llancarfan via his sister Dilys and brother in law Gwynne Liscombe, and in the latter years often came back to recall his younger days in Llancarfan.

He was second in command of the local Home Guard under Tudor Liscombe. His father Jehoida was the last working blacksmith in Llancarfan. The Lewis family lived in many of the older houses in the village.

Llancarfan Society – May Day walk 2005 by Sarah Angell

Monday 2nd May started with a clear sky and the sun inviting us all out for the May Day walk.

The gathering place was the newly rebuilt Blue Anchor pub in East Aberthaw where some took advantage of the Pub and took a cup of coffee. The fine weather meant that by the 10:00am start a good number were ready to follow John Gardener on a walk down to the Power Station and then turning left along the foreshore to see the salt marsh and inter-tidal lagoons that form part of the Site of Special Scientific Interest along this stretch of the shore.

We all set off at a good pace, Bob Hutchings having been promoted to watch the rear and keep stragglers up to speed. It is amazing how the weather can change in 10 minutes. By the time we had walked along by the PFA stockpile and before we reached the shore path the sun had gone, a few yards further and the first rain drops fell, then more until a steady down pour saw some pretty wet walkers sheltering under the denser bushes and trees. It was decided to keep going and the rain eased off which seemed to back this decision. One or two folk decided to head back to get wet weather gear left in cars at the Blue Anchor, other sensible people had brought some with them, others just got wet. A few more yards and the rain returned, twice as heavy and accompanied by a few hefty cracks of thunder. Spring seemed to have disappeared!

After 10 minutes the sky started to clear from the south and soon the rain had stopped. A start was made again, the numbers though seemed to have dropped, and we reached the salt lagoon with its feeding swans where a group photo was taken to record the event. John then gave a quick talk about the area and the wild life. Steps going up the cliff at the west end of the Fontygary caravan park were to be climbed to get a good view to the west and south from the cliff top.

The weather improved slightly but most people decided the time had come to return to the Blue Anchor. Some walked back the way they came, others walking through the caravan park and back along the road.

On returning to the pub most people made good use of the facilities provided by Jeremy and Jane Coleman and settled down to a drink and a good meal served in the pleasant, warm surroundings of this old building.



Many thanks to John for leading the way; it was a great shame about the weather. The printed hand out from npower at the power station giving a brief history of the area and pictures of the fascinating wildlife to be found will mean the walk will be done again when the sun really shines.

--ooOoo--

Towyn Williams – Characters in the Village whilst at School.

At that time there were several homeless characters around Llancarfan who worked for their food and a few ‘bob’ over for beer in the Fox and Hounds.

The most notorious of these was Tom Shanklyn (Shanks). After World War 1, for reasons unknown, Tom found himself homeless. For sleeping accommodation he used barns at Penylan, Ty-to-Maen and Abernant. The 1901 Census shows Thomas aged 10 living with his mother Elizabeth, at Cottage Church Road (presumably between Corner House and Bridge House), with his sister Ann aged 12 and brother William aged 14 (also shown as a cattle boy Moulton Court for Elizabeth Lougher).

According to the 1891 Census the family lived at No. 1 Cottage, Llancarfan. The head of the family was Lewis Shanklyn (born in Pembroke) 39 years of age, not mentioned in the 1901 census.

Tom was a 'stocky' man wounded in his right arm during the war. He told stories of working on a farm where they had pigs 6 feet tall. "Up to my chin" he said, called 'Big Yorks'. One day a local farmer visited Tom at one of his 'abodes' and he was frying bacon, the farmer was offered a rasher which he refused as he didn't like the way Tom's nose was dripping over the pan!!

Tom always kept a bible at his bedside.

Another homeless 'gent' was Fred Ashton, he was a tall upright man reputed to have attended Taunton College. His family were well known bakers in Cardiff. He ended his life by hanging himself from a branch of a tree on the lane connecting Moulton to Walterston.

A third character was 'Oswald the Watercress Man', he made a living picking and selling watercress from the Llancarfan area. He lived in a shed on the top ground of Treguff near Aberogwyn, later he moved to a shed on the Broad Close Lane. On the door of the shed he put up a notice 'Meteorological Observatory'. He was a good weather forecaster.

Tom Price was one of these expert craftsmen operating in the area at this time. Born at the Black Horse Public House, near the Fox and Hounds but on the opposite side of the road.

Although he got around on crutches he was able to lay hedges for which he was paid 4d (old pence) a perch (which is five and half yards). He also spread manure by hand.

His most treasured possession was a photograph taken by Bryn Williams of him laying a hedge for Tom Williams at Castle Ditches.



Tom was believed to have been able to drink twelve pints without going to the toilet!
They don't make 'em' like that any more.

--ooOoo--

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA

The computer swallowed grandma,

Yes, honestly its true

She pressed 'control' and 'enter'

And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,

The thought just makes me squirm.

She must have caught a virus

Or been eater by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin

And files of every kind;

I've even used the internet,

But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves

My searches to refine.

The reply from him was negative,

Not a thing was found 'online'.

So, if inside your 'Inbox',

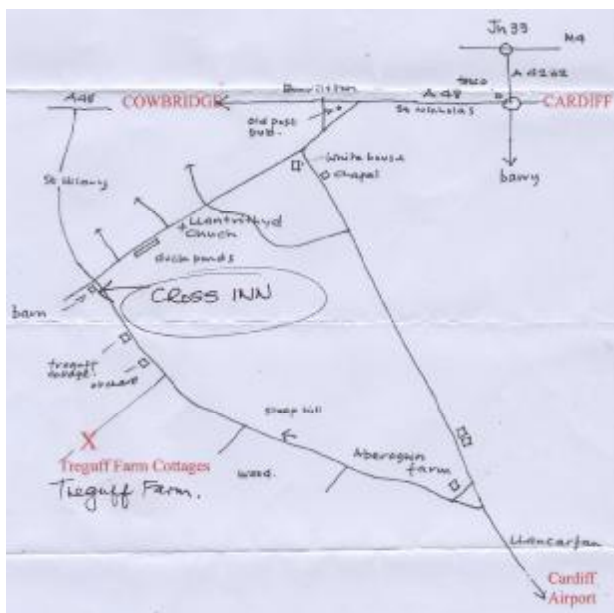
My Grandma you should see,

Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her

And send her back to me!

Cross Inn by Andrew Plant

Enclosed is a map which shows the site of the Cross Inn. This is as far as I know the most northerly “outpost” of the Parish of Llanancarfan.



The cross is the crossroads which is also the boundary to other parishes. St Hilary to the north and Llantrithyd to the east. I had thought that Cross Inn was in Llantrithyd but a visit to the records office showed it to be in Llanancarfan – as in Treguff.

The Newsletters over the years are very Llanancarfan orientated as you would expect. Indeed the detail over the years about the Parish had made me wonder if any stone has not been over turned so to speak.

What does anybody know about the Cross Inn?

Can anyone remember the last time it was an Inn? I understand from the Bradleys when they owned Treguff used the Inn and there is a record of a murder or suicide at the Inn.

It seems to be unexplored territory on the most northern edge of the parish.

Could you please ask through the Newsletter what the memories or histories are available.

CROSS INN – John Etherington

Cross Inn – the barn on the crossroads of Treguff Lane and the St Hilary Lane with the Llantrithyd road. I first found out that it was called *Cross Inn* from the tithe map (1880's) – this from memory as I have not searched it out again.

The 1905 Electoral Register shows John Bealing living at Cross Inn which is described then as a dwelling house. Later on, in the between the wars years there was a family called Williams living there – 1935 register shows Florence, Malgwyn

and Emlyn. I have the electoral registers at intervals of only five years but will have a further search to see when, approximately, the Bealing name disappeared – also when the house ceased to be an electoral address. I think Gwynne once told me it was lived-in until just after World War II.

I am pretty sure I have some other records and that there was a note in a Newsletter – however it is not in my Newsletter contents list as I think it was just a passing reference in some other article. Will get back to you.

We used to cycle past it and I once peering in through the side of a boarded-up window – could just make out a fireplace, visible in one pine-end wall.

Co-ordinator: The Newsletter committee would be delighted to receive items/stories relating to Cross Inn and the Treguff area.

Please forward by email (k.annferris@zoom.co.uk - titled Newsletter) or post.

Or of course any other stories about any area. I am sure that there are many of you with a great deal of knowledge which will be lost if it is not recorded. If you don't want to write or email, if you contact me I will arrange for someone to visit and listen to and taped your story/ies). I look forward to hearing from you.

HISTORY OF THE HAND BELLS – by Phil Watts

Correspondence tells us that a ring of eight bells existed in the possession W Liscombe before 1892. In 1892 W Liscombe enquired the cost of increasing the ring by 6 or 7 bells. On 14th September 1892 Lewellin & James quoted £2.10s 0d for seven top bells, £4.0s.0d for seven bottom bells, and £3.10s.0d for three lower and four upper bells.

By 17th February 1899, it had been decided to include a G Sharp and a B Flat in the ring of eight in the key of C at a cost 16/6d and four top bells above C at a cost £1.0s.0d. Correspondence shows that the ring of eight had to be sent to Bristol for the full set to be tuned.

The hand bells which are now in my possession, used to hang on the beam over the fire place in Llanvythin Mill until William and Jane Liscombe moved from the Mill in 1935 (approximately).

They were stored for many years in the loft at Abernant, until after the 1939-45 war when I remember them being used to play Christmas Carols in the village of Llancarfan. The ownership of the bells had by this time passed to Doris Watts (nee Liscombe) daughter of William Liscombe.

The bells hung for many years on the beam over the fireplace at Abernant, removed only for Christmas Carols. Since 1980, when my mother died, they have been in my possession. We have continued to use them at Christmas time. For many years they were stowed in an old travelling case, which is still used to take them to different places. A few years ago I asked Derek Porter to make me a frame so that they could be displayed in our dining room.

The bells are of immense sentimental value as well as being quite valuable.

Ownership has passed from my grandfather to my mother then to me and after my time they will pass to my son Russell.

It has been quite a problem finding someone to renew the leather handles.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry were quite willing to do the work at £30.00 an hour plus VAT and carriage to London and back, etc. I have just had them repaired at St.

Fagans Museum. Long may they survive.

