

# LLANCARFAN



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

# SOCIETY

**NEWSLETTER 128**

**October 2005**

**Contact addresses: page 2**

**Foreword: Diana Atkin**

### The Village 1963-2005 A personal view

Members of the Llancarfan Society have produced a wealth of information from their historical research into life in our village over the centuries. It comes as a jolt to realise the forty-two years we have lived here could be regarded as history. Certainly it could be argued that the period has seen greater social changes here than any other era.

In 1963, we were not the first of the in-comers, but we were among the first new builders. Llancarfan was a haven of peace and tranquillity: it had not become a "sought-after village": indeed, finding it could be a problem. Miss Phillips used printed cards at the Fox and Hounds giving directions from Barry and Cardiff. People would have to "seek out this inn".

From the first, we were made very welcome: most of the villagers we met had been born here. Miss Lewis and Bill Evans from Broadhayes were always interesting to talk to. Vivian Thomas would stop his car to speak to our daughter in her pram. Earnest Badcock was such a stalwart of the church and P.C.C. Canon Austen Evans often came visiting. We soon felt we belonged here and appreciated the villager's kindness. One afternoon Harry Hughes gallantly gave me a piggy back home after the river flooded. I recall Morris Griffiths who rescued feral kittens from the over-grown churchyard, and how we looked after them until they were found homes.

By 2005, great changes have taken place. There is the very obvious increase in the number and size of dwellings. Of those built since 1963 most have had some extension or renovation: a number are on their third or fourth makeover. At times it seems as if we live on a large building site. We have become a cut-through village for the traffic from Llantwit Major to Cardiff. The afternoon school run can be a nightmare. There is industrial farming at Pancross.

And yet. And yet..... I count myself very fortunate to have spent my married life and to have raised our family in this lovely village.

## **Birthdays, Anniversaries, Births and Deaths**

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

### **Deaths:**

Audrey Williams died on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005

Mary Phillips buried on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005

Howard Jenkins

**Contributions to the Newsletter** should be sent to: Ann Ferris, Fordings, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3AD, or e-mail to:

[k.annferris@zoom.co.uk](mailto:k.annferris@zoom.co.uk)

**Historical Archivist:** Dr J E Etherington, Parc-y-Bont, Llanowell, Solva, Haverfordwest, SA62 6XX, or e-mail: [eth.pbont@virgin.net](mailto:eth.pbont@virgin.net).

**Local Correspondent:** Alan Taylor, Windrush, Llancarfan, CF62 3AD or e-mail [a.j.taylor@btconnect.com](mailto:a.j.taylor@btconnect.com)

**Subscriptions/Membership Secretary and Mailing Enquiries:** John Gardner, The Willows, Fonmon, CF62 3BJ. Tel. 01446 710054

**Secretary:** Sheila Mace, Pelydryn, Llanbethery, Barry, CF62 3AN. Tel. 01446 750691.

**Llancarfan Society Administrative and Web-site:**

e-mail: [llansoc@llancarfan.f9.co.uk](mailto:llansoc@llancarfan.f9.co.uk)

Web-site: [www.llancarfan.com](http://www.llancarfan.com) or

[www.llancarfan.f9.co.uk](http://www.llancarfan.f9.co.uk)

**Announce Announcements, Local Events,  
Society:**

## Ladies Tuesday Club

--ooOoo--

--ooOoo--

**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](mailto:a.j.taylor@btconnect.com) or a phone call.

## News From Llancarfan School.

### Class 5 go to Atlantic College

A few weeks ago class 5 went to Atlantic College. Mr Thorne and Mrs Morgan came as well. Everyone had good fun. We did lots of activities including canoeing, sandsledging, mountain boarding, climbing, orienteering, a rope course and initiative exercises. On the ropes course everyone got muddy and wet, even the teachers joined in because it was so much fun! When we did canoeing some people had to swap canoes whilst they were in the water. They also had to kiss their canoe and shout, "I love my canoe!" They had to do this in any accent they could manage while standing up in their canoe.

During the climbing if anyone got to the top they had to shout, "I love my caribina!" They had to shout this in a Jamaican accent. Everyone agreed that Atlantic College was the most fun they'd had on any school trip this year!

### Yard Make over.

Recently the schoolyard has had a makeover. The yard now has colourful games and pictures to play on during playtime. We have a long snake with the alphabet on, snakes and ladders with a dice, noughts and crosses, a maze and a caterpillar with numbers up to 10.

We have bought new bins in the shape of bears and picnic tables and benches used from recycled plastic bottles these have been dotted around the playground and we can sit on them at play time or use them to eat lunch. We have also had a new shed built for us.

### Year 3 and 4 trip.

While year 5 and 6 were at Atlantic College year 3 and 4 went on their school trip. They went to "Noah's Ark Zoo Farm". They saw mere cats, rhinos, camels, lamas, birds and lizards. They saw a show about animal's digestive system and teeth. There was an outside play area which had swings, climbing frames and a tyre ride. There was also an inside play area that had a steep slide, a dark tunnel slide, a climbing frame, a maze and bumper cars. Then they went to the gift shop and brought lots of nice things like sweets and toys. Everyone had a lot of fun and would like to go again.

### YellowPages

We won the yellow pages recycling competition run by the Vale of Glamorgan for the third year in a row. All together we collected over 1500 yellow pages to be recycled. We collected more than any other school in the Vale of

Glamorgan and we are one of the smallest schools. We won £400 that we are going to put towards the new picnic tables and benches for the play ground.



Staff and pupils from Llancarfan Primary School, St Helen's RC

## **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 Dia 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](mailto: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.

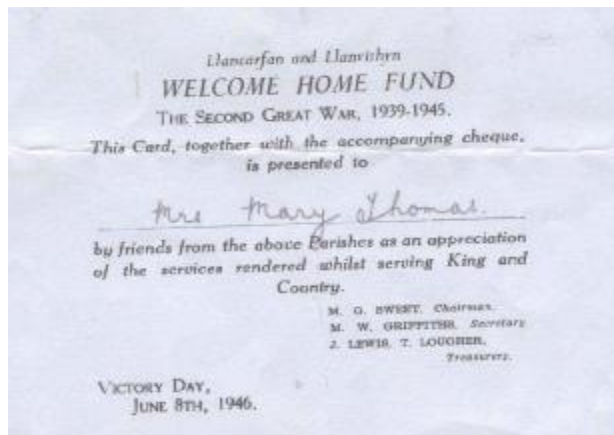
Wooster, Ohio, attending a Christian Science lecture at that place, authored and delivered by him and sponsored by the church of my youth (and my church still) in that city. I employed him as a Christian Science practitioner several times in the course of our friendship, and found his success in this 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.

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

--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 Llancafau 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 – 25<sup>th</sup> July 1945: It was proposed by T Lougher and seconded by T Liscombe that a Public Meeting be called on 29<sup>th</sup> August to consider a Welcome Home Fund.

29<sup>th</sup> 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, Llancafau; 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: Llancafau 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> April 1946 the Parish Council decided to call a Public Meeting for 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 0s 0d. 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--

Bedford Griffiths, Caradoc Cottage, Llancarfan, by Phil Watts

While reading the Parish Council minutes for 1945/46/47 I came across an item that interested me concerning a payment made to Bedford Griffiths by the council for disability developed during the war service.

The minutes for 18 December 1946 reads “proposed T Liscombe seconded J Lewis that a sum of £7. 15s. 3d. be paid from the War Memorial Fund to Bedford Griffiths owing to disability developed in war service”.

My recollection of this was that Bedford’s condition had come about by sleeping in damp conditions while service with the R.A.F.

At this time a tradesman’s wage would be around £5 per week. It seems a generous amount of money for a small council to donate. In consideration of a man’s health a small sum.

--ooOoo--

### **Ladies Tuesday Club Trip to Tewkesbury by Marilyn Cann**

As ever, the trip was so well organized (thank you Committee) we could all sit back, relax and enjoy the scenery as we traveled through Monmouth en route to Tewkesbury on the edge of the Cotswolds. Tewkesbury has a lot to offer.

On arrival we had three hours free time before meeting at the boat dock for a trip up the River Severn. We all spread out in different directions, some to view the Abbey, whilst other groups explored the shops. Mary Neary and I shot off to tour the antique and charity shops (plenty of these) and then settled for lunch in a pub garden near the dock.

We were just finishing our meal when another group of our ladies walked in seeking refreshment. As there was another hour to go before the boat trip, Mary and I explored shops at the other end of town where we found a bargain basement store and I bought a super skirt. On our return to the pub, the ladies were just finishing their lunch and on seeing my purchase, there was a mass exodus to that shop. Mary and I then walked down to the dock. Just as we were beginning to become concerned, the

rest of our group now laden with several bags of goodies bought in the same shop, join us.

There followed a most enjoyable twohourtrip up the river watching the wildlife and admiring some of the houses with river frontage. The crew onboard were delightful and served us a lovely (and highly calorific) cream tea and we returned to the dock content for our journey home. The only drop of rain we felt all day was between disembarking the boat and rejoining our coach, a few yards only; how lucky can you get?

The return trip was a little delayed around Cardiff Because of traffic heading for a U2 concert but the company was so enjoyable, nobody cared.

--ooOoo--

### **Cross Inn : further information – John Etherington/John Gardener**

The two occupants of Cross Inn in 1939 were Florence and Malgwyn Williams.

Emlyn was another Williams, not Cross Inn but a resident at Castleton Farm, St Athan.

The first electoral record of the house I have is from 1878-9 shows William John as occupier of house and land. (This simply means it was the first time the resident of Cross Inn was rich enough to qualify as an elector).

The Tithe Register of 1881 has William Hugh as occupier of the House and garden and the owner was given as Dean and Chapter of Gloucester who also had all of the Treguff lands. (At that time the tenants of Treguff Place were the Bradleys, Christopher and Edward – farmers and land agents. Cross Inn was probably sub-let by them to William Hugh.

What is now Coed Hills, on the right just up the lane towards St Hilary was all Cross Inn Wood, and the eastern part of the wood was “Catch me Wood” – the mind boggles at what custom this might commemorate. Yet another section was Ty-Draw Wood.

Until mains water arrived they must have had to walk up the hill to Cross Inn Well.

--ooOoo—

### **St Margaret’s Chapel by John Etherington** (extract from Newsletter 103)

In 1696, Edward Lhwyd issued his series of Parochial Queries which were sent to every Welsh parish. Lhwyd received 60-60 replies from Glamorganshire and the answers were summarised in Parochialia, which first became available in early 1700s but are most easily read in three volumes of Archaeologia Cambrensis (1909-11). The Vicar of Llancarfan responded at some length. He referred to a bridge in the village over the Carvan called St Margaret’s Bridge which takes its denomination from

the old ruinous Chappelle by ye end of it call St Margaret's which formerly belonged to Garn llwyd within the said hamlet as we have it traditionally.

The present Raglan Chapel of St Cadoc's is said to have been built by the Raglan family which held Garnllwyd in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Did it once bear the dedication St Margaret's or was the modern Raglan Chapel built as a replacement for the "old ruinous Chappelle by ye end of the bridge"?

--ooOoo--

### **Cardiff Nante Petanque 2005 by Phil Watts**

The winners of the Llancarfan Society Ruth Watts Petanque Cup, Roger Cann, Joanne and Philip Quelch were invited to represent the Society in the Cardiff – Nante Petanque competition on 14<sup>th</sup> July at Pentwyn Leisure Centre. Due to Community Council duties Joanne was unable to play her place was taken by Ann Ferris.

A reserve team consisting of PhilWatts, Philip and Mary Gammon was also entered