

MAY 2023 LLANCARFAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 189



The Hon. Mr. W. submitted a
Communication from the Secretary
of the National Society for the Protection
of Children, asking the
Board's consideration and approval
of the 26th day of August above
at the Planes for 1886.

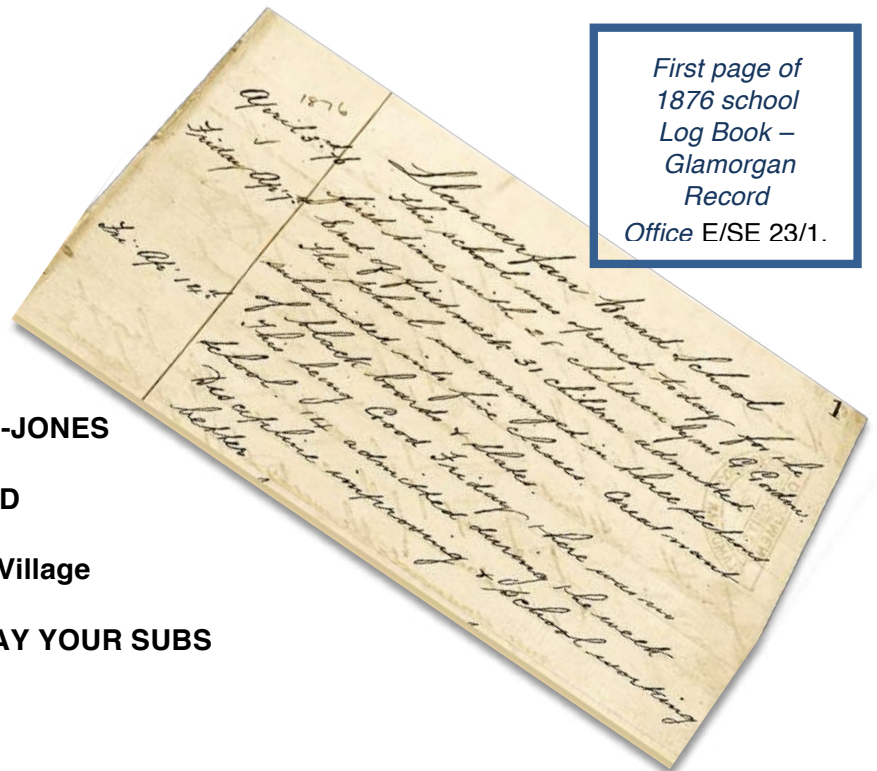
and that the children be offered an opportunity
of contributing something towards the support
of the mission. It was unanimously resolved
that Mr. Harris the Aid Teacher should
acknowledge the receipt of the letter
together with the Board's cordial approval
of the proposal.

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EDITORIAL

The last years in Llancarfan have witnessed creeping changes to village life and the way we all live. People work more from home; there has been change and challenge for both the *Fox & Hounds* pub and *St Cadoc's* church, reported in these pages; and of course, in the teeth of furious opposition, we mourn the closure of the village school after over 150 years.

This issue of the Llancarfan Newsletter is therefore, something of a special edition, devoted to the school's history, with memories of classroom days from some pupils down the ages. We are tremendously grateful to Julia Lee-Jones for permission to reproduce her painstaking and loving reflections on the school's history which form the core of this edition.

We also look back over some of the events of the last year – and catch up on what's happening in the next few months; one sad occurrence has been the fall suffered by our President, that indefatigable walker for charity, Barbara Milhuisen. We wish her a speedy recovery from a nasty fracture.

Those paying special attention will have noticed a regrettable and lengthy silence from the Newsletter. Sadly, our former editor, Matthew Valencia, stood down last year, due to exceptional pressure of work. We all extend huge thanks to him for his hard graft and inspiration. Finding a replacement has proved difficult, and we face the possibility of publishing the Newsletter in a different form in future. Over the last ten years, we have all – sometimes unwillingly, but surely - changed the ways we communicate. With that in mind, we may find more effective ways of connecting Llancarfan loyalists with their village life and history. If you have thoughts on this, please get in touch - the committee will take your views on board in their discussions. In the meantime, warmest wishes to all members - thank you all for continuing to support a society which has been a longstanding pillar of Llancarfan life.

THE FIGHT FOR THE SCHOOL

*The battle to save Llancafarn School was tirelessly supported by many parents and villagers – but no one roused spirits more than **Becci Farquharson**, who writes here about the campaign :*



It was with a heavy heart that we said a final farewell to Llancafarn School in Spring 2022. The community fought a fantastic campaign to save the school with over 1000 formal oppositions submitted to the council over 2 consultation periods. It was a rollercoaster of an 18 months with many twists and turns, including a few heated debates in the council, councillor resignations & by-elections (including a complete overturn of the Vale of Gamorgan Council leadership from Conservative-led to Labour-led as councillors wrangled with the campaign's momentum).

Villagers purchased banners, attended council and village hall meetings, met with councillors, delivered flyers, wrote to local papers, lobbied MPs, attended demonstrations, set up and signed petitions, created and participated in the campaign video, updated the website, ran and/or contributed to the *Facebook* page, did radio and TV interviews, pledged donations to the campaign and judicial review, responded to the consultation (twice!), produced press reports, helped provide information to the Committee, wrote documents, spoke out at the scrutiny committee, wrote testimonies in the counter-consultation document, responded to the survey, wrote to councillors, contacted lawyers and spent hours and hours of their time. It really was an incredible operation and example of community at its best.

Despite the outcome and the overwhelming sadness at losing the school many positives came from the campaign. We really did put the council through their paces - and challenged their actions at every turn. It was nothing short of inspiring to see virtually every member of the community, young and old, step out and stand up against this school closure. I'm not sure the council had ever seen such a campaign....

To all who joined, our many thanks. We may no longer have a school, but we are privileged to live in a community of people who care.



MEMORIES OF LLANCARFAN SCHOOL

Looking back over the proud history of the school, several former pupils have contributed their early memories – not always strictly related to classroom activities. We start with two Llancarfan Society Presidents, past and present, Barbara Milhuisen and Sir Keith Thomas.

- **Barbara Milhuisen 1939 - 1945**

I started Llancarfan School in 1939. The first three days, my mother took me there kicking and screaming – as a former pupil, she couldn't understand this. I was then allowed to go in company with the Morgan sisters who would remain friends for many years. It was wartime and whenever there was an air raid, we were sent to various houses. I lived the nearest so many came home with me.

We did seem to spend much time on the three R's – or out blackberry and haw picking. My love of gardening began at this time; the girls had their area, the boys had a patch behind the toilets. My first teacher, Miss Griffiths, taught me discipline; my second, Miss Thomas (Mrs Watts) taught me crafts, determining my future as an occupational therapist. Close friends at school were Margaret and Beatrice Griffiths, Ann Williams and Gwyneth Fairfax. And 80 years later, I am still in touch with Sir Keith Thomas, Tony Thomas and David Evans. I somehow passed the 11-plus exam, following my mother's footsteps to Barry County Grammar School, and Llancarfan School in turn has now followed me to Rhoose. We must move with the times but let us all stay friends together.

- **Keith Thomas 1937 – 1944**

I grew up on Pancross Farm and started school in the autumn of 1937, when I was still three months away from my fifth birthday. On my first day, I was taken there by my mother. I cried all the way as we walked down Pancross Hill into the village and up the steep little hill to the school, passing the allotments, where, when war broke out two years later, the older children were taught to Dig For Victory.

Miss Connie Griffiths, who lived in Bridge House, opposite the Church Hall, taught the Infants' class. Miss Thomas looked after the middle classes and the successive headmasters, Mr Davies followed by Mr Samuel, taught the top class. On my first day, Miss Griffiths and Mr Davies did their best to console me by producing a very simple jigsaw puzzle, which they claimed was too hard for them. I dried my eyes and showed them how to do it. This experience gave me some confidence.

I was a very docile and law-abiding pupil, who was terrified by the prospect (remote though it was) of being caned on the hand for bad behaviour. I could read before I started school and I enjoyed the lessons in English and Arithmetic. There were only two classrooms, a small one in front, which was where the Infants were taught and, at the back, a larger one, which was normally divided into two by a partition, so as to accommodate Standards One to Three. The total number of pupils on the register was marked in chalk on a board hung on the wall. It was usually forty-eight.

My time at the village school overlapped with the early years of the War. At night we could see the red glow on the horizon, where Cardiff was being heavily bombed. Nearer home, in the fields between Pancross and Treguff, decoy lights were deliberately switched on at night, so as to divert the German bombers from their real target, St Athan's aerodrome. As a result, many incendiary bombs were dropped on our farm, most of them falling harmlessly in the fields. As boys we used to go out in the morning to pick up the empty shells and add them to our collection. On one occasion, however, a landmine fell in the stream between Llancarfan and Garnllwyd and exploded a safe distance from any houses. For years afterwards the widening of the river at that point was a reminder of the village's narrow escape.

The teaching at Llancarfan School must have been very good, for it prepared me well for what they called the 'scholarship' exam for entry to a grammar school. For those who lived in Llancarfan there was a choice of two schools: one at Cowbridge, which was a Tudor foundation, but required a lower standard for admission than Barry, which was founded at the end of the nineteenth century.

I passed top of the county (Glamorgan), with 150 out of 150 marks in arithmetic and slightly less in English, where I lost some marks because of my handwriting, which was very bad then and is a great deal worse now. It was something which even Llancarfan School could do nothing about.

- **Tony Thomas 1939 - 1946**

I hated every day of school. Rather have been on the farm. I started on 2 September 1939 – the day before war broke out. We were just over 50 children with three teachers. Back then, at least thirty of the children would've been from farming families, but last time I went to talk to the schoolchildren, there were no farmers' sons or daughters at all.

I quite liked Miss Thomas who taught Standards one and two - the basic subjects. What I learnt in Llancarfan school has stood me in good stead for the rest of my life. Outside the classroom, we had no bounds. At dinner time, we'd go and play Fox and Hounds, chasing all the way up to Walterston and

back. We didn't worry about health and safety in those days. When they went on to Barry Grammar School, pupils from Llancarfan would always win the Victor Ludorum on sports days – they were the fittest there.

- **Clive Jenkins 1943 - 1949**

I started school unofficially aged two-and-a-half by crawling and walking there from Ty-Uchaf. My sister (Barbara) had to take me home, but then Mr Samuels decided I would increase the school numbers to about 31 – so he let me stay.

After the war years, the school was redecorated in 1948. My first teacher was Miss Griffiths who played the piano for morning prayers. She also looked after her nephew, Campbell Reed. I am still in touch with two friends from those days – Geoffrey and Roger Lee – and my best friend was Branley May.

Milk was supplied daily to the school by Mr Williams of Aberogan (grandfather of Evan Williams and father of my great friend Rees), and collected by the school bus. I remember one day, the milk wasn't ready when the bus passed. Mr Samuel (Sammy) told Rees to go home and collect it, and take a friend to help carry. The friend was me. On the return journey, we took a short cut through Pancross Wood and dropped the churn. Panic. Our solution to replace the spilt milk was to fill up from the river. Mr Samuels did complain that the delivery wasn't up to the usual hygienic standard – but we all survived . . .

- **Emma Heselton 1980 - 1986**

When I started in Llancarfan there were only about sixty pupils and everyone knew everyone else, which in these days of super schools was something unique and special. Even though we lived the closest to the school we were always late and always running to get there on time. There was no uniform back then, so whether the daily choice of deciding what to wear contributed to our sprint, I can't remember. Some of my earliest memories are of playing in the playground which felt vast - tag, hide and seek to name a few. Trying and failing to do handstands even with the aid of the field set on an incline and getting to play with plasticine which we didn't have at home and which I loved. Unfortunately, I loved it so much I used to squirrel bits in my pockets to take home – something my mum has only just found out about!

Sports Day was always fun, and I have to say my competitive streak did come out especially in the sprint where you either ran into the wall or into nettles at the end if you didn't stop quickly enough. The tradition of the egg and spoon race, sack race and skipping race carried on down the years –

and I saw my own children doing them. Although the boys never really mastered skipping!

I have to say, back when I was there, it was quite lively and there were a few characters I shall not name. One memory is of two older boys asking to use the toilet. They were excused and proceeded to run around the building and wave at us from the windows behind the teacher. This carried on for quite some time and I can't remember if they got caught, but I can remember struggling not to laugh! Needless to say, children don't change, I went to one of my children's parents' evenings and was told that whilst the teacher tried to organise class activities one of my sons would turn the music on and off. I was hugely apologetic, but I'll never forget what she said to me. She didn't mind at all because she said he had spirit and that was a good thing, because once lost it was so hard to get back.

My children had some lovely teachers - Mrs Leigh Jones, Mrs Birkin, Mrs Williams to name a few. Also, the ladies that came in to help with the reading – they were patient and kind.

I now miss the sound of the children, of walking past and seeing them in the playground, and of coming up to the fence to chat and stroke the dogs.

- **William Renwick 1994 - 2001**

Memories from my time in Llancarfan include cold winter walks down to the village hall for the morning assembly or to change into our daps to roll around on blue mats for P.E. In summer, I remember sitting on hot black tarpaulin in the sun, cheering on our classmates in the annual sports day. I remember made-up games in the playground: mob mob (the favourite), red rover, running to cri for safety during games of touch and sessions of British bulldogs - when we could get away with them. I also remember the drama when a football was kicked over the fence and would quickly gather pace before disappearing down the hill.

I remember all of the teachers well, particularly Ms Eveleigh who was there when I arrived and when I left. And the late Mrs Smith of course, who could be very strict – but only when strictness was needed!

- **Arianne Barratt 2012-2019**

I loved the short walk to school across the village and seeing friends on the way. As a small school, everyone knew everyone else, and older children were encouraged to look out for their younger 'buddies'! I love playing the flute, and only started because Llancarfan School gave me the chance to try it out.

REFLECTIONS ON LLANCARFAN SCHOOL by JULIA LEE-JONES

The bell sadly sounded for the last time at Llancafarn Primary School on 18th February 2022, as staff and pupils moved from Llancafarn to a new school in Rhoose. This brought to an end the era of approximately 150 years of primary education in the village.

What follows is a brief potted history of how the school evolved from its earliest days.

Llancafarn School started as a mixed elementary school in 1871. Two years later, a school board of five members was formed, creating the Llancafarn Board School. The exterior inscription, as it stands today, declares the main building was completed in 1875. The capacity of the school was 100 pupils, with the average number of children in the school in the first 50 years being around 60-70. Indeed this was still the case 100 years later, though the number did rise to over 120 pupils around the year 2000.

copy

Llancafarn B^d School
Year ending March 31st 1900.
Census of Population within two miles by the
nearest road from the School.

Llancafarn Village	107	persons
Llanbethery do	57	"
Lancadde do	46	"
Moulton do	46	"
Treguff	5	"
Sinnon	16	"
Ford Farm	4	"
Flealand & Brimwell	10	"
Wattinson & Middle Hill	9	"
Cliff Farm & Henon	14	"
Pancreis & Middle Cross	5	"
Croston & The Vicarage	10	"
Fingerpost & Llanwithyn	10	"
Carnllyd & Little Mill	14	"
Abonant & Gwendon	7	"
Whitwell Pencarrey & Tynydd	10	"
Old Oak & Factory	8	"
	378	"

We, the undersigned Certify that the above
figures are correct.
Signed: - J. Price Sec. Clerk to the Board
R. Davies Llancafarn B^d School
Apr 3rd 1900.

A Bye Law created by the Llancafarn School Board, dated 13 October 1880, declared that parents living within two miles were required to send all children aged between 5 and 13 to school.

The population within two miles of the school was recorded in the Census in 1901, totalling 378, approximately half that of today. Initially children were required to stay in school until they reached 13 (later raised to 14) unless they attained 'The Fourth Standard' (a certificate awarded by HM Inspectorate of Schools). Attaining this at any age allowed them to leave school. Children aged over ten who achieved the Third Standard were allowed to attend for just 150 days if they were 'beneficially and gainfully' employed.' Children younger than 5 were allowed to attend school, but this was voluntary. In addition to providing for children, the school held evening

classes for the village's adult population.

Time Table (1909-1910)
Llancarfan Evening Classes.

No	Subject	Monday	Thursday
1	Arithmetic <i>including mensuration</i>	^{p. m.} 7.30 - 8.30	^{p. m.} 7.30 - 8.30
2	Drawing	8.35 - 9.35	
3	Music		8.35 - 9.35
4	English		7.30 - 8.30

Even the village grown-ups had the opportunity to learn on Monday & Thursday evenings.

Local Authority Inspections were initially carried out annually, the level of funding being dependent upon the findings of the school inspectors. Extra funds were awarded for success in key areas, including Discipline and Organisation; exam passes in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic; Singing (by ear and note); performance in two class subjects (often English and Geography).

Average attendance was also taken into account. A grant for needlework (of 1 shilling per pupil) could be awarded, dependent upon the average number of girls in the school. Records show that the ratio of boys to girls was roughly evenly split.

On the whole, the first of the School Inspection Reports were favourable : the school was declared a 'Pleasant

24 SUMMARY OF THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON THE SCHOOL AND SCHOOLS (1875) 24

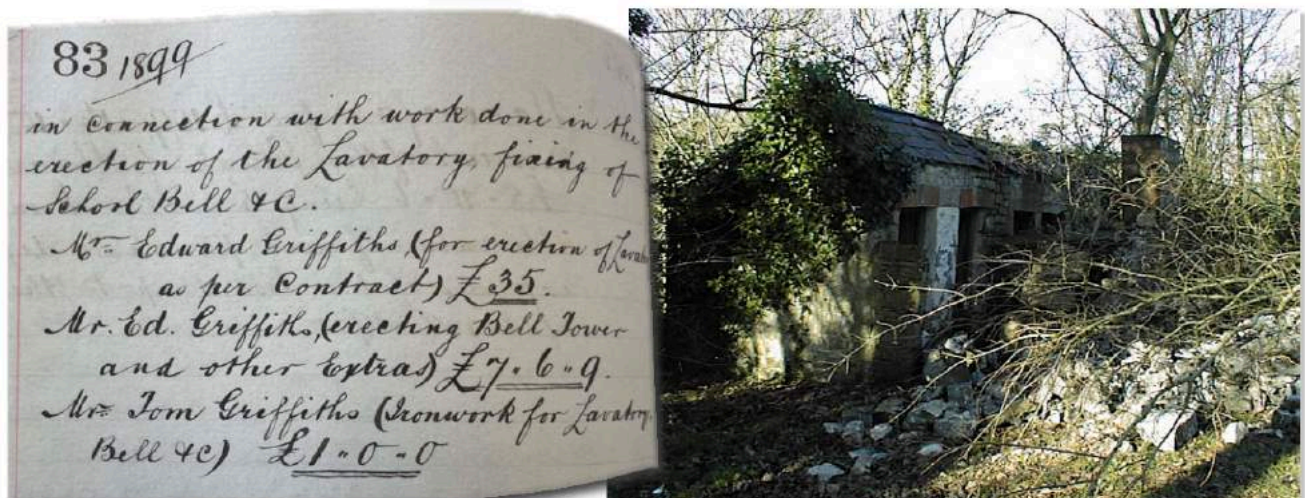
"The infants are well taught and trained, and form a very satisfactory little class. A few more toys are needed for their object lessons. Singing is good, and so is the discipline. The Needlework ranges from fairly good to good. Grammar receives the higher mark, but it should improve in the third and sixth standards, and the recitation (good in the lower classes) should be better in the first class, with the exception of a little weakness in Arithmetic and Reading of upper standards, the elementary work is

very satisfactory. a little more intelligence is needed, and the oral Arithmetic should be raised in the middle of the school. allowing for the recent prevalence of sickness, I think the Excellent Grant may, with some hesitation, be just recommended. The managers show a qualifying interest in the school."

C. Lougher { Arithmetic*
Geography* and
History* }

well-ordered country school' in the inspection report of 1885.

Records from the first twenty years or so also looked at practical issues – so the 1899 Report declaring that the school needed a lavatory!



While most comments were positive during this initial period, some of the critical points make for interesting reading :

- 1880: 'The attainment in this school is backward. The order is, however, good. The attendance at this school appears to be most irregular and needs the immediate attendance of the Board. (The Bye Law regarding compulsory attendance was created shortly after this Inspection).
- 1885: Infants ...should not count by fingers or strokes, and should answer individually. Reading satisfactory, except in intelligence.
- 1888: Map drawing is meagre.
- 1889: Spelling is open to great improvement, composition is poor.

However, on the whole the school flourished well in its initial early decades with extra grants being awarded for merit in most years. It was also well disciplined, with many inspection reports mentioning the 'orderly behaviour' of pupils and positive comments related to general discipline. The infants in particular had improved by the early 1890s: this may have been due in part to the extra staff employed as student teachers from 1888 onwards. We have a copy of the agreement between the School Board and the father of Catherine Lougher (the first student teacher); her father was required to undertake 'to clothe, feed, lodge and watch over' her whilst she was employed.

Among one of the very earliest photographs of pupils is from 1907 showing 30 pupils, with Mr Rees Davies, the head teacher. Mr Davies' son William

was employed as a student teacher in 1894, followed in 1898 by his sister Catherine. His daughter Alice also taught in the school from 1903 to 1914.



Llancarfan's School Admission Register recorded details of all the pupils entering the school from 1878 onwards and, from 1909, stated the occupations of parents of the incoming pupils. It looked at the five years from 1909 - 1914, when around 100 pupils joined.

The ratio of family or parental occupations is as follows:

Farmers (50%);

Labourers - normally farm labourers (27%);

Stone Masons (5%).

Other occupations included Carpenter, Minister of the Gospel, Baker, *Bailiff, Coal Merchant, Gamekeeper.

Moving ahead 70 years shows a very different picture. The figures for 1979 - 1984 have a much more diverse range of occupations included, with the ratio of Farmers and Farm Labourers shrinking from the 77% recorded above to just 8%. The most numerically important occupations in this later period are Business Managers/Company Directors (23%); Engineers - Civil, Electrical, Mechanical (20%); Accountants (9%); Farmers (8%); while the Media, Building Tradesmen, Publicans, Navy personnel, Estate Agents and the Civil Service categories each account for 4%. A further 14 categories have less than 4%. This serves as a fascinating insight into the evolution of the social structure of the village from being a predominantly agricultural / farming community at the beginning of the 20th Century, with parents working in and around the village, to a much more diverse community of essentially business-orientated professionals employed predominantly in Cardiff (and beyond) by the early 1980s.

Looking again at the early documents, on leaving school, whilst not all records are complete, there was initially a tendency for girls to go into domestic service and for boys to become farm boys. Sadly, several children were declared deceased. However, after the turn of the century several were recorded as moving on (at age 14) to Barry County School, totalling 22 pupils

between 1900 and the end of the 1920s. Information on the curriculum is sparse, but initially appears to have been focused on reading, writing and arithmetic, with singing, geography and dressmaking also featuring in the school day. The School's requisition order book from this period gives a flavour of the type of resources used in class, although this is somewhat limited by the low number of orders. Between 1907 and 1946 only 50 requisition orders were raised, some of which had a single set of class books. (Indeed, several Inspection Reports during this period identify the scarce resources as problematic).

Stationery.			
Quantity	Description.	Approximate Cost	Remarks.
<u>Welsh Publications</u>			
		£ s d	
1 set	Welsh A. B. C. Skts	3 0 6	
3 "	Pictorial "	1 0 0	
1 "	Sheets Darlun Wersi	2 6	
26 "	Welsh Composition Bks No I	4 4	
33	Do No II	5 6	
25	Llyft Darllen I	4 2	Almost worn out
33	Primers No I	2 9	
33	Trydydd llyft Darllen	1 2 0	
1	Darlun Wersi	2 0	
3	Cerddi Cymru i'r Blant	6	
1	Deliâu i'r Delyon	2.	
1	Caneuon i'r Blant	2.	
1	Guide to Welsh Part II	8	
1	Musical Welsh Rhymes	1 0	
12	Welsh Mottos	3 0	
32	Ail Llyft Darllen	16 0	
1	Gemmau Ceirog	6	
1	Inter Cambrian Picet	1 0	
1	Bk Welsh Nursery Rhymes	6	
1	Gemmau i'r Blant	6	
30	Llyft Darllen No 5.	15 0	£ 5 5 9.

Courtesy of the
Glamorgan
Record Office
which now holds
the School Log
Books

Of the books ordered, many were Welsh language books, so we can assume there was a much heavier reliance on the Welsh language than was the case in later years. This is borne out by the above inventory from 1912 which lists a significant number of Welsh resources. Purchases at times also reflected the impact of societal influences, as a requisition order of 1914 shows. Both *The Child's Book of the War* (versions for both age groups) and *What Shall We Do for Britain* appear on the order form for timely classroom lessons :

No. 9 *Nov. 16 1914*

THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

In Account with
Messrs. *The Education & Publishing Co. Cardiff*

Please supply the *Mixed* Department
Llanerfan Cl. School

with the following Goods:
Signed *R. Davies* Head Teacher.


Quantity in Stock	Schedule No.	Quantity and Description of Articles required.	Net Price
No. in Stock	No.		£ s. d.
		<i>War Publications</i>	
		<i>30 "The Child's Book of the War" Senior.</i>	<i>15 0</i>
		<i>30 Do. Junior.</i>	<i>12 0</i>
		<i>30 "What shall we do for Britain?" Infants.</i>	<i>5 0</i>
			<i>£ 12 0</i>

Anal. Invoice - £0.16-9
Recd. Jan 7th 1915
Cont. & returned to Ed. Official

Moving forward to the 1950s, Planning Sheets still survive which demonstrate the school curriculum at that time in more detail.

The 1954 example below shows that the school day began with half an hour religious worship, followed by 11 half hour sessions. This included daily *Welsh* lessons, and daily *Games/PE*. *English* featured relatively heavily, with elements of 'word study', reading, poetry, speech training, English literature and writing, with 3 or 4 of these sessions daily. *Maths* merited just 40 minutes per day. Two hours weekly *Arts and Crafts* sessions focussed on needlework, while *Science* sessions were limited to either *Nature Study* or *Hygiene*. This compares with more sustained lessons in the school's more recent history: The National Curriculum

introduced in 1988 formalised the range of knowledge and skills which needed to be taught in statutory subjects, with children tested annually.

THE GLAMORGAN  CLASS-ROOM TIME TABLE

Llanerfan County Primary SCHOOL I - II. Class or Standard

Primary Department *Mr. J. K. Thomas* Class Teacher

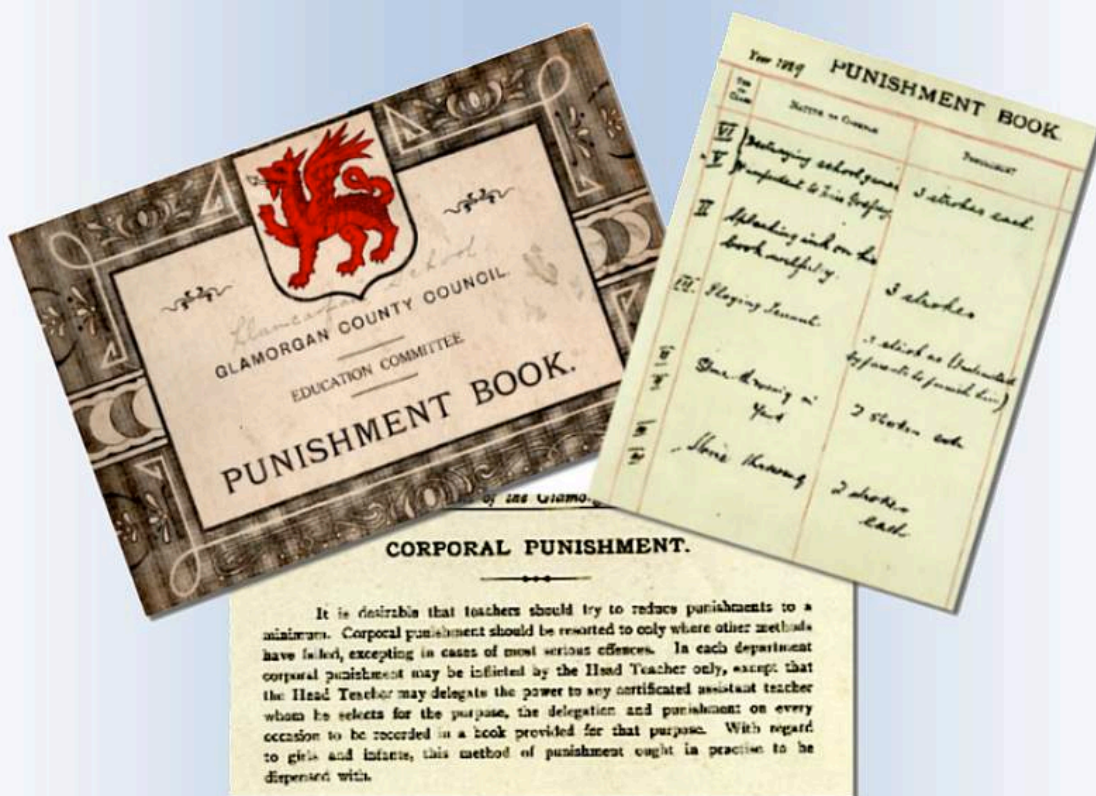
MORNING						AFTERNOON								
8.30-9.00	9.00-9.30	9.30-10.00	H.R. 10.00-10.15	10.15-10.45	10.45-11.15	11.15-11.45	11.45-12.15	1.30-2.00	2.00-2.30	2.30-3.00	R.O. 3.00-3.15	3.15-3.45	3.45-4.15	4.15-4.45
SAFETY FIRST	ARITHMETIC (10-10.45 MENTAL)	MUSIC (R.S.C.)		HISTORY	WRITING	READING		WELSH	PRACTICAL ARITHMETIC	PHYSICAL EDUC?		POETRY	RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE	
			RECREATION	PHYSICAL EDUC?	ENGLISH	RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE		GEOGRAPHY	ART AND CRAFT (NEEDLEWORK)			SPEECH TRAINING	READING	
				NATURE STUDY	READING	RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE		HISTORY	ENGLISH	ENGLISH		PHYSICAL EDUC?	MUSIC	
				GEOGRAPHY	READING	RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE		NATURE STUDY	ART AND CRAFT (NEEDLEWORK)			HYGIENE	GAME	PRAYERS AND DISMISSAL
				PHYSICAL EDUC?	ENGLISH	RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE		READING	ART			POETRY	ENGLISH LITERATURE	

The Registers are marked as follows:—A.M. 1st MARKING 9.15 2nd MARKING 9.45

P.M. 1.30 1.40

E. Lewis Head Teacher
1-9-1954

Another area of change during the school's history is in the area of discipline. The school Punishment Book *covers the period from 1929 to 1951. The book declares that corporal punishment should be used only where other methods have failed, and should not include girls and infants. During this period just 21 children received corporal punishment (between 1 & 3 strokes) for such wrong doing as 'splashing ink on a book wilfully'; stone throwing; leaving school and returning at 2 p.m.; insolence and fighting. One child who played truant had three strokes after instruction by his parents to punish him!



The school has always been a valued part of the village community and has had close links with St Cadoc's Church. Harvest Festival & Easter services have been held at the church for many years, as have Christingle services at Christmas. And the youngsters have been most enthusiastic participants in events related to the now world-famous wall paintings which have been a focus of Open Day activities.



Then again, the Village Hall was used by each class for P.E. sessions, as the school lacked a hall - all space being needed for classrooms for the expanding number of pupils in the 1990s. This was despite space in the main building having been supplemented by the addition of demountable classes over the years. The lack of a school hall was rectified by the construction of an additional brick built school building in the year 2000, which provided space to accommodate all pupils for school assemblies, and contained games and gymnastic equipment for class PE sessions.



This was made possible by fundraising activities and the generous donation of parents, as these photographs of its construction show. This building was further extended some years later to provide a further classroom, a staff room, a head teacher's office and a kitchen.

The latter addition meant that pupils could, for the first time in the school's history, have a hot meal provided for them at lunchtime, much to their delight! This was what remained of the first meal served there, in January 2007!

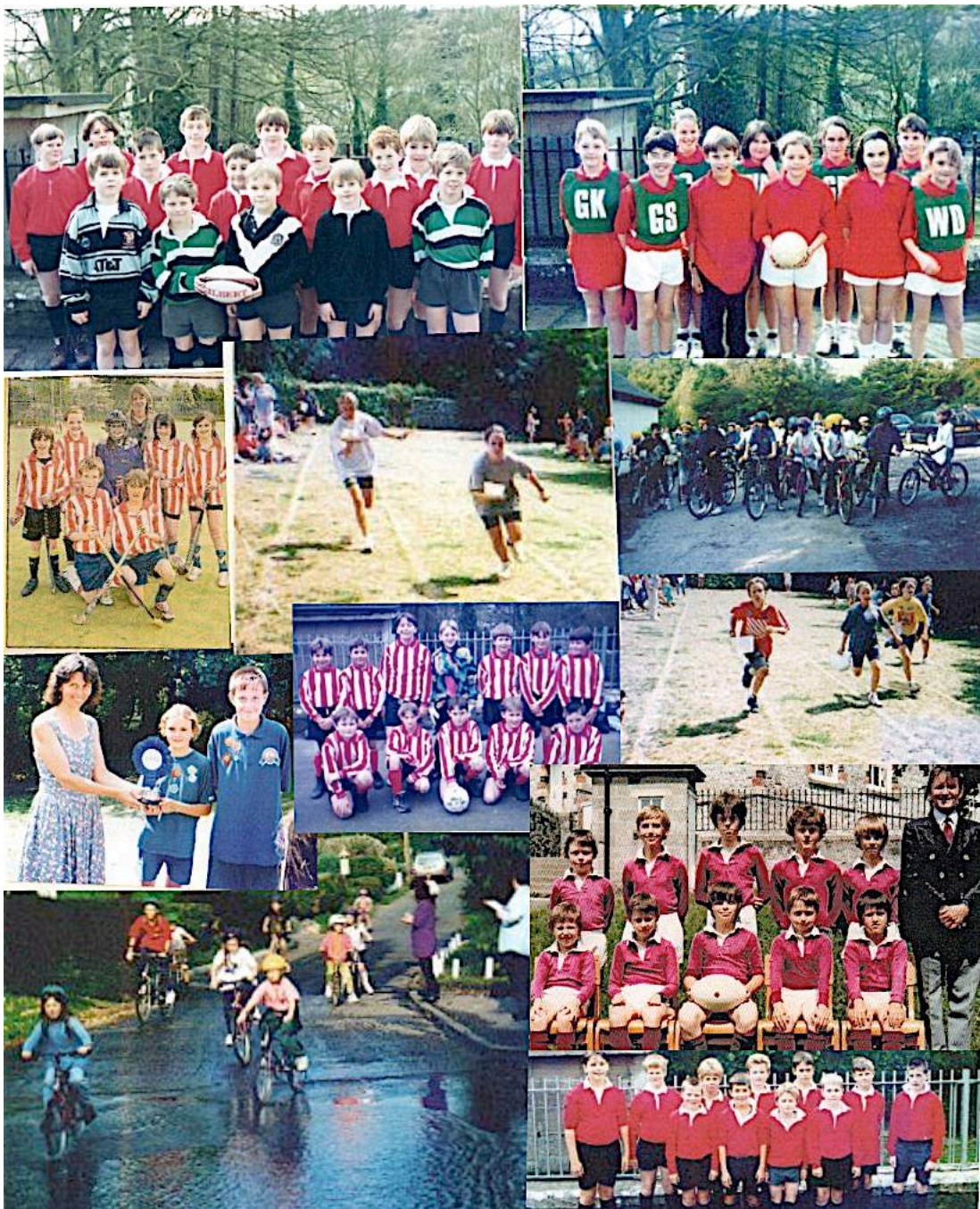




The school in recent times has also had a strong tradition of outdoor learning, with curriculum subjects being taught within the natural environment. Forest School activities occurred weekly for many years on a nearby area of forest kindly provided for the school's use by a villager, and these sessions were much enjoyed by the children in all weathers! A Biodiversity Area, complete with pond, was created in 2007 with the help of a Lottery grant and was used

extensively for lessons outdoors. A school garden was again re-created with the help of parents and villagers. This was used by pupils to grow fruit and vegetables, which the children then cooked and ate.

As well as academic teaching the school encouraged many extra curricular activities. Schools' games lessons were supplemented by weekly dedicated after-school sessions in specific sports. Llancarfan Tennis Club also re-designed their court so that the school could use it for netball, basket ball, and five-a-side football.



From 1990 onwards the school enjoyed considerable success in sporting achievements. The school netball team were winners of the Vale Schools

Netball League on a number of occasions. The school rugby team also enjoyed success over a number of years.

Not to be left out, the school's football, hockey and cricket teams, regularly competed against other Vale schools. Swimming lessons were held biannually to ensure all pupils could swim. The annual Vale swimming gala was enjoyed by many children, normally resulting in a haul of gold, silver and bronze medals. Sports Day has been a key feature of the year for a number of years, much enjoyed by pupils and parents alike, as the three 'houses' of Baruc, Cadoc and Dyfan contested the sports day shield on the school field!



*Sports days
past &
present
(2018)*





1903



1914



1954



1986

The school has moved through the years, from its strict, orderly teaching of the 3Rs to its diverse curriculum today which focuses on acquiring skills and knowledge to equip pupils for the 21st Century, Very many past pupils still cherish their time spent at Llanccarfafan School, and retain strong friendships developed during this period of their lives. The school was renowned for its nurturing, inclusive ethos creating a caring environment for all pupils. The school's move away from Llanccarfafan is sad, particularly given its long history at the heart of the village. However we trust the ethos of the school will live on in the new building in Rhoose, as the pupils will continue to thrive and grow through traditions created in Llanccarfafan School.

Julia Lee-Jones : *Former parent, governor & teacher at Llanccarfafan Primary School 1989-2016. To whom the Society's considerable thanks.*





HOLLYWOOD TO LLOLLOWOOD

10 Years of Movie Magic in the Village

Jim Barratt

It is hard to believe, but the village cinema clocked up its tenth anniversary last September. The first season began with a packed screening of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* on Friday 21 September 2012. Several locals missed out, such was demand for tickets; one of them – our late friend Mick Mace - resolved to buy tickets for every new season in advance, thereby guaranteeing seats for his family. He never missed a screening again.

Initially we used equipment borrowed from various sources, including a projector, DVD player & screen on loan from the British Federation of Film Societies, plus an amp and speakers donated by volunteer Gary Osborn. The amp was still in use until recently but has now been retired in favour of more modern kit.

In addition to Gary, first volunteers included John Ford, Paul Jenkins, Penny & Ian Fell, Jane Williams, Rich Tamplin, Gareth Tickner, Kevin Donovan and Paul Rebhan. We managed a host of tasks between us: film booking, promotion, refreshments, box office, accounts, membership, as well as the monthly screening set-up and all-important projection duties on the night.

The original screen was a particular nightmare for volunteers. Set-up involved assembling an aluminium frame before stretching a plastic and fabric screen across it, securing it with press studs. The screen surface was a menace to manoeuvre into place, all the while trying to keep it from collecting dust and dirt from the floor which would ruin the picture. The press studs never worked at the first attempt, and the skin on your knuckles was ever at risk. All part of the glamour and romance of the silver screen!

Eventually we secured a grant from the council to buy the electric screen which adorns the village hall today (setting up the cinema now takes less time and involves far fewer muttered oaths). Other funding from the British Film Institute (BFI) and the Llancafarn and District Community Association (LDCA) helped to cover the costs of blackout blinds, our wonderful cinema chairs and new speakers, ensuring a proper cinema experience in the village hall.

We've had many memorable events over the years, screening everything from the latest Bond to acclaimed Oscar contenders. We haven't always played safe, bringing a wide range of titles from around the world - in languages including Spanish, French and - on a notable occasion- Icelandic.

And who could forget the two back-to-back performances of the *Frozen Singalong*, which raised over £450 for a local charity (two performances were needed to cope with demand)? Or the time we screened a Welsh language

version of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood* (*Dan Y Wennalt*), with two cast members (Sharon Morgan and Carwyn Glyn) in attendance. They kindly took questions after the film. Or the time we transformed the village hall into Willy Wonka's chocolate factory for a family-friendly run of the classic film starring Gene Wilder. Or the time we handed the cinema to a group of local teens for a charity screening of *Now You See Me*, which they ran to great success.

Then there were times we took part in national film seasons, including BFI Gothic (when we ran a double bill of Hitchcock's *Rebecca* and Kubrick's *The Shining*) and BFI Sci Fi (which involved a whole weekend of films including *Flash Gordon*, *Edge of Tomorrow* and *Alien*).

We've had a few mishaps along the way. On one occasion, we blew a trip switch in the amp during a climactic scene in *The Life of Pi*. Fortunately, Rich Tamplin was on hand to diagnose the problem, and the screening continued. Sadly that wasn't the case for a later event hosted with Llancarfan Tennis Club. We were approaching the final scenes in *Eddie the Eagle*, a film about the eponymous British Olympic ski jumper, when everything went dead. The reason? A power cut, which deprived our audience of the film's emotional ending. Still, it was fitting for a film about a notable sporting failure!

Our crowning success in the early days was winning the coveted Best New Film Society at the BFFS Annual Awards in 2013. At a ceremony in London,



we picked up further awards for marketing and the Filmbank Audience award, which came with a cheque for £1,000 courtesy of a brilliant testimonial written by Penny Fell. The money helped towards a new projector.

This was followed, in November 2013, by a visit from the Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, then serving as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, organised by our local MP. The Minister met volunteers and was treated to a selection of trailers before she made her way to the church to tour the wall paintings.

Jules Highfield took over as chair of the cinema committee in 2017. Along with husband Adrian and other volunteers (since joined by Frances Valencia, Alice Voisey-Smith and Kay Brain), Jules continued to innovate and put on great events. These included the screening of a live-recorded theatre performance of Peter Morgan's play *The Queen*, starring Helen Mirren; and the ever-popular wine tasting film events run in partnership with Amanda and Howard Kynaston of Bay Tree Wines.



The pandemic halted screenings for a while, but the cinema recently relaunched with a sell-out wine tasting event that treated the audience to some amazing New Zealand wines while they watched *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. This was followed in March 2023 with a French wine tasting screening of *A Good Year*.



Jules has recently stepped down as chair, and a new programme of events is planned now the cinema has been amalgamated with the village hall committee (LDCA). Hopefully residents new and old will continue to support and enjoy the benefits of local cinema for many years to come. Fresh volunteers are always welcome, as are suggestions for films and events.



P.S. I understand Barbara Milhuisen, the Llancarfan Society President, has

still yet to see how *Eddie the Eagle* ends. Get well soon, Barbara - and (spoiler alert : Eddie didn't win gold)!

Further details are on : <https://llancarfancommunitycinema.wordpress.com>

IN OTHER NEWS...

Party Pieces 2022

After a long silence, LLancarfan has relished the resumption of post-pandemic life. The most colourful event of the year had to be the Jubilee Party for Queen Elizabeth...now late, and much mourned, followed by the re-birth of the Village Show. After two years of Covid cancellations, old favourites like *Burns Night* lit up the Village Hall.



The wily *Fox* survives another day

The silent months of lockdown meant that the Fox pub largely went to earth. It took the village time to wake up to the fact that ownership had passed into new hands & its future was in doubt. Could we lose both pub and school?

The saviour has been not so much a knight on a white charger as a vehicle recovery expert in a white rescue truck. Villager, Andrew Archbold – proprietor of ASK Rescue – took the brave step of acquiring the Fox's lease and is gradually pumping life back into its tyres – to mix many metaphors!

It is now a local enterprise – Emily, soon to become Mrs Kieran Archbold, manages front of house. There have been wine tastings, Christmas events and – yes – a Llancafarn Society dinner. These are early days but there is a buzz around the bar, & villagers are showing loyal support, tempted to turn out even on a winter night by the craic & warm log fires. Thank you all, long may we all keep the Fox on the run.

St Cadoc's Church

Under a new administration of eight East Vale Ministry churches, St Cadoc's remains the other pillar of village society. Father Michael John has settled in at the Vicarage as parish priest (and for his sins become a member of the Llancafarn Society committee). Truly the village is doubly blessed - we also congratulate Father Kevin Barry from Corner House (aka Kev the Rev) on his ordination in last August. He regularly does his stint in the village services.

WHAT'S ABOUT TO OCCUR

7 May – Coronation Party along St Cadoc's Drive – all residents welcome. Bring your own food/drink.

17 May – Llancarfan Society AGM – Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

10 June – Llancarfan Society Call My Bluff wine tasting – Village Hall. 7.30 p.m.

15 July – Llancarfan Society Petanque Party – with a frisson of French flavour. Boules and French wine available, berets and Breton jumpers optional.

5 August – Llancarfan Village Show, see Llancarfan Society website for 2023 entry classes. Times & further details available closer to date on <https://www.llancarfansociety.org.uk/> Llancarfan Hub / Llancarfan Connected WhatsApp

Prize
Displays
Village
Show 2022



SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER!

The Llancarfan Society enriches the life of the village by researching and recording its remarkable history and by organising and supporting events.

Our members keep this village traditions alive - please continue to support these activities by renewing your subscription.

Annual household membership: £15

Individual membership: £10

Cheques payable to Llancarfan Society c/o Membership Secretary

Mrs J Scott-Quelch

2 Penylan House

Llancarfan CF62 3AH

Or payable by bank transfer to Lloyds Bank plc, Barry Docks
a/c name: Llancarfan Society, a/c no:00243426 sort code:30-90-52.

Please ensure your name, including initials, are in the payee reference to enable identification.