



## LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

### Newsletter 38 June 1991

Again we have to apologise for a late Newsletter (we missed May) - this time because the so-calledly retired editor has not had time to type or even think!

Since Newsletter 37, a number of readers have written, sending all sorts of helpful information. One letter, from Mrs Josephine Felton (nee Rainsford, but known to Llanccarfafan people as Manby), was prompted by the article on Walterston and Walter de Mapes. Josephine lived at Walterston Fawr in the 1960's and 70's and her letter will make an article for the next Newsletter. Because she could not find an address for her letter, she also suggested that we should publish a mailing address for contributions in each Newsletter. I suppose we have never done this before, to save space but now that contributions are a little thinner on the ground, it seems a good idea and the following will appear in all Newsletters:-

ADDRESSES: Contributions for the Newsletter (which will be very welcome) should be sent to the Editor, John Etherington, Parc-y-Bont - New Buildings, Llanhowell, Solva, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed, SA62 6XX. Subscriptions and problems with mailing: to the Membership Secretary, Phil Watts, Abernant Bungalow, Llanccarfafan, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6 9AD. Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to Barbara Milhaisen, 73 Tynewydd Road, Barry, South Glamorgan.

#### FUTURE EVENT

Barbecue: The annual Barbecue will be held at Abernant by kind permission of Phil and Ruth Watts, on Sunday, 7th July commencing at 12.00, entrance fee, £1.50. Please complete the booking slip on the last page of the Newsletter and return to Phil Watts. Phil and Ruth have promised to arrange better weather than last year. Gwynne Liscombe will be barbecue chef, feeding us handsomely as usual.

May Day Walks: As usual, the walks were a great success and the weather was quite perfect. Thanks to Val Watts for showing us around the Church at Llantrithyd and to Len Mortimer for giving his time and knowledge of Llantrithyd Place and the wells of Ffynnon Echo. This year, Len also took his party to see the deer with which Llantrithyd Park has now been restocked. A large herd of Red Deer and a few Fallow is in residence, a huge length of deer-fencing has been installed and several thousand trees planted. This sets the clock back many years - does anyone know when deer were last kept in the Park? It was established by Sir John Aubrey about 200 years ago and originally stocked with fallow deer.

John Etherington led the Llancarfan walk - for him with an element of nostalgia, having left the village for Pembrokeshire a couple of months before. Geoff Burrows gave us an interesting talk on various aspects of the history of St Cadoc's Church and Vanessa Newton gave permission for us to peer into the chamber which housed the water ram - a feature of the village in the period from the 1930's to 60's, thumping away, driving the water up to the reservoir at Pancross, it seems to have a special fascination for some of our members. Both parties repaired to the Fox and Hounds for lunch making a very pleasant end to the day which finished with the drawing of our traditional raffle.

Obituary: Gwynne Thomas, Ty-to-Maen: in this Newsletter we have to report the death of Gwynne Thomas, aged 86, father of Ray Evans and father-in-law to Blair Evans of Ty-to-Maen. Both Derek Higgs and Phil Watts have written to express their sadness at his passing:-

It is sad to say farewell to yet another member of the "Lunchtime Committee of the Fox and Hounds" especially within such a short time of the passing of Paul Schmit.

It was my good fortune after retiring early, to become friendly with Gwynn Thomas. His large circle of friends, ex colleagues, followers of his prowess on the cricket field as an umpire, and the stories ensuing therefrom, made him a man with whom one could enjoy many a happy and interesting hour. His stories of a lifetime of experience in the Police Force, particularly during the War-years held ones attention at all times.

His cricketing background made him the obvious choice as President of the Llancarfan Cricket Club when it was re-formed five or six years ago. One could continue ad infinitum. Suffice to say he was one of life's gentlemanly characters and he will be sadly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing

him.

Derek

Higgs.

Gwynne was a big man in every way, large of stature, big of heart and always a gentleman in manner. He always made his presence felt, full of good conversation. Until his last illness he was a remarkably fit man, enjoying life to the full. Gwynne was ill for a long-while but characteristically this was bravely borne.

He was present at the first meeting of the Llancarfan Society and we are grateful to Blair for bringing Ray to Llancarfan, followed by her father, after her mother's death. We have all enjoyed Gwynne's company - missed by all whenever he failed to come in for his constitutional at the Fox and

Hounds.

Phil

Watts.

Glamorgan Historian: John Etherington (address above) is looking for copies of the books edited by Stewart Williams' under the title Glamorgan Historian. Volumes 2 to 8 only are needed. In good condition, with dust-cover, these are worth about £20 - John is willing to pay up to this price and pro rata for poorer copies. Can you help? If so, write to John before sending the book(s).

Butterflies: once the editor had migrated to Pembrokeshire it seemed unlikely that any more bits and pieces on wildlife would appear as it was the one thing which depended on day to day observation and no one else ever submitted anything of this sort. However, the May Day Walk in Llanarfau was a chance to return on the loveliest of spring mornings and in the hour before the walk started a wander around the village and nearby lanes revealed dozens of tiny pale blue butterflies on the wing. These were Holly Blues: I have never seen them in such quantity before, particularly in the spring. They must have thrived on last summer's wonderful weather - I remember one afternoon in August, walking from Pancross to Llancafle, seeing a few laying eggs on the ivy flowers in the hedges - these spring butterflies are the result, and strangely, this first brood lay their eggs on holly and not the ivy which the summer insects use. The blue butterfly which we normally see in the village is the Common Blue, flying nearer mid- and late summer.

The Moving Wood: Earlier this month Phil Watts wrote to comment on a letter which he had from Ken Lougher of Burry Port. Ken recollected that Basset Wood (north of the road between Llanvethin and Abernant) was reputed to have moved as the result of a landslide in the early part of the century: "Regarding Newsletter 36 I was interested in the article about the clay on Llanvethin Hill - it must have been about 1920 when we were in Hawaii, my parents received a letter from Llanarfau with newspaper cuttings of a moving forest in Glamorgan, S. Wales. The forest in question was Basset Wood. The hillside

which is on a bed of clay moved with the wood, blocking the road to Abernant. Would it be possible to check this in Cardiff Library? The year may not be 1920 but it was shortly before we moved to Cuba. After we returned to Rhosce in 1925 we used to have permission to cut pea and bean sticks in Basset Wood. I remember my father telling me about the moving wood whilst we were cutting sticks." Phil Watt's family recollection is nearer 1911 but, does anyone remember or even have a copy of the local press reports? In about 1965 or '66 there was a tiny but similar landslide in the bank on the roadside leading to Broomwell. It is now all grassed-over and covered in bushes but for a number of years it was bare earth and had unusual plants like the lovely woolly thistle.

Llanarfau is sited on Liassic limestone which contains almost horizontally bedded layers of clayey shale. Where these slope slightly downward on hillslopes the shale traps the rainwater, makes springlines but also allows slippage by lubricating the limestone layers. In his book, *The History of the Countryside*, Oliver Rackham says of landslips: "I have seen them in valleywoods in Essex, Somerset and south-east Wales."

The terrace made by the Basset Wood landslide is still visible but it is tiny compared with the results of the great Axmouth landslide in Dorset early in the last century. This was on similar geology to our own and left a hollow over half a mile long.

Bells, Bellringers and Memories

with contributions from the late Enoch Lewis and Phil Watts.

The first part of this article was taken from Enoch Lewis' historical notebook of Llancarfan which was previously mentioned in the article on Walter de Mapes (Newsletter 37). Enoch acknowledged the contribution as coming from Arthur Wright - does any reader know whether the book on the bells of Glamorgan was subsequently published and when?

The second part was collected by Phil Watts when a wooden partition upon which bellringers had written, was removed from the Church tower. Phil has transcribed these writings which may be of interest and stir memories in some of our older members.

The Bells of St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan from Enoch Lewis' notebook  
There are four 17th century bells, recast in 1890, a description of which has been supplied by Mr Arthur Wright, the authority on Welsh bells and author of The Bells of Monmouthshire. With characteristic kindness he has sent the following information taken from his forthcoming book The Bells of Glamorgan.

The bells are, respectively, 32.5, 34.5, 37.5 and 41.25 inches in diameter and bear the inscriptions:-

1. GD IH 1646 TS A. T. HUGHES, VICAR. LLEWELLINS & JAMES, BRISTOL.

2. THOMAS BASSET GENT JOHN THOMAS GENT  
JENKINS C. W'DENS CRESTOVER

3. Sir Thomas Lewis Knight  
JENKINS: C. W. 1664 IP JOHN THOMAS  
(on waist) Recast in memory of Ann Price Clark: LLEWELLINS & JAMES, LEWIS: by  
G.T.C. 1890 A.J. HUGHES VICAR. BRISTOL

4. IACOP X GIBON X GEORG X MATHEW X  
CHURCH WARDENS  
XEE

These four bells were recast in 1890 by L. & J. and their former inscriptions were recast in facsimile. There are no dates on Nos 3 and 4 but these may have been omitted on the bells when cast (in 1664 and 1690-5 respectively).

No. 1 was originally cast in 1646 by Thomas Stone, an itinerant founder who cast bells in various churches 1627-1655, i.e. right through the Commonwealth period, in Pembrokeshire, Breconshire, Carmarthenshire and Glamorgan (especially in the Vale of

Glamorgan) but none of his bells appear in Monmouthshire. His name appears in full on bells at St Mary Church, Glamorgan, nr Cowbridge and Cathedine (Brecon) both discovered by Roderick G Williams, Bridgend and first recorded by him (1917 and 1937 respectively).

Nos 2 & 3 were cast in 1664 by John Palmer II of Gloucester, whose trade mark or badge was the obverse and reverse of Jewish shekel and seen on both these bells. The badge was adopted as a play on his name (Palmer = pilgrim to the Holy Land). John Palmer II was casting 1647-1676, his father's bells (also John Palmer) occurring 1621-1638.

No. 4 was cast 1690-1695 by Evan Evans I (1686-1724) of Chepstow. His early lettering seen at Ystradowen, Glamorgan 1686, Aberpergwm 1693, Porthkerry 1695 (2 bells) is also seen on this bell, but no date has been reproduced. As Evan Evans always put his date this was probably omitted in the recasting in 1890.

#### The Bellringers' Inscriptions by Phil Watts

In the spring of 1977 the wooden partition separating the church from the belfry was removed and replaced by a cement block wall. It was the practice of the bellringers over the years to record their presence on special occasions such as weddings, coronations, induction services etc. on the wooden partition. After it was removed, I was able to make a record of many of the writings but unfortunately not all. Some will be inaccurate and some incomplete, mainly because of my inability to decipher the pencil writings. They will not be in any particular order - just as I took them off the pieces of wood. My notes, and one or two from the editor, in brackets.

Wedding of Thomas Griffiths Esq (Blacksmith) to Mrs L. Atkinson (Redholme). Oct. 22 1913. No.1 W. E. Evans 2. S. W. Watts 3 T. W. Liscombe 4. W. John

Wedding of Edith Durham (Old Bakehouse) to Leslie Emptage. Dec. 4 1938. No. 1 Richard Evans 2. Robert Griffiths 3. Cliff Morgan 4. Millward Harris also H. Hughes.

Wedding of Elsie Harris to Ken Muir. Oct. 13 1945. No.1 William Roberts 2. M. Harris 3. Colin Gibbon 4. Towyn Williams.

New ropes hung Sept 16 1908.

Wedding of Beatrice Griffiths (Broomwell) to Tom Bryer. Sept. 11 1954. Harry Hughes, Jim Bryer, T. W. Liscombe, Joe Lewis.

Coronation Day May 12 1937. 5.30 R. Evans. Robert Griffiths, D. Harris, L. Griffiths. 10.30 R. Evans, R. Griffiths, D. Harris, J. Lewis. 1.30 R. Evans, R. Griffiths, M. Harris, D. Harris.

Wedding of K. Thomas to B. Williams. Sept. 2 1945. D. P. Lewis, C. Gibbon, Cliff Morgan, M. Harris, Towyn Williams.

Wedding of Nesta Griffiths to Bob Hughes. Sept. 25 1939. Richard Evans. R. Griffiths, C. Morgan, D. Harris.

Wedding of Margaret Griffiths (Fern Cottage) to ? Moseley. Feb. 13 1958. P. D. Oldham (Penmark), Towyn Williams, Joe Lewis, Harry Hughes.

Wedding of G. Griffiths to T. Payne. March 14 1931. G. Elward, R. Griffiths, D. Harris, B. Williams, R. Evans.

Wedding of Isobel Thomas (Pancross Farm). April 23 1958. J. Lewis, P. D. Oldham, H. Hughes, T. Williams.

Wedding of Dorothy Booker to Angus Elliot. June 15 1946. David P. Lewis, M. Harris, T. Williams, C. Gibbon.

Wedding of Audrey Taylor (Liege Castle) to Towyn Williams (Ford Farm). Sept. 2 1950. Tudor Liscombe, Tim Bryar, Tom Bryer, Collin Gibbon.

Wedding of Patricia Price (Moulton) to Robert Lucas. June 6 1970. Dr Oldham, V. B. Kidwell, H. Hughes, T. Liscombe. (Is this date correct as T.L. was a ringer? Ed.)

Wedding of Margaret Evans (Garnllwyd) to Dr Peter Thomas Jones. Feb. 23 1952. T. W. Liscombe, T. Bryer, T. Williams, C. Gibbon. Sunny morning. Bride wore ivory satin.

Wedding Sept 26 1966 (rest illegible) P. D. Oldham, R. S. Price, C. F. Cook, B. A. Williams.

Wedding of David Lewis (Flaxland Fach) to Gwyneth Jenkins (Bryntail Farm, Pontypridd). Feb. 5 1945.

Wedding. June 10 1967 (rest illegible) C, Cook, D. Llewellyn, R. Prior, H. H. Hughes.

Visit of the Ulmer-Spatzen Youth Choir (city of Ulm). Donald, Malings, Oldham, Hughes, Williams.

Wedding of Charlotte Thorogood (Redholme) to Gordon Hill (Bonvilston). June 16 1962. J. Lestar, H. Hughes, Dr Oldham, T. Williams.

Institution of Rev. William Feild. June 5 1972. Bob Minimus by Frederick J. Bailey, Thomas Yeomans, William Harford, Paul Thomas.

Wedding of Billie Mustow to Cassie Griffiths. July 28 1927. P. Leigh, ???Q. Jones, G. Griffiths, M. Harris.

Wedding of Mary Booker to Alun Jenkins. March 3 1940 (or 1948). (Ringers not known).

Visit of Ulmer-Spatzen Choir. Aug. 17 1963. J. Lewis, Dr Oldham, H. Hughes, T. Williams.

Wedding of Miss Rennick to Mr Bancroft. June 29 1946. T. Williams, C. Gibbon, D. P. Lewis, M. Harris.

Death of King George VI Memorial Service Feb. 17 1952 (Muffled peal). T. W. Liscombe, C. Morgan, H. Hughes, T. Williams.

Wedding of Phil Watts to Ruth Groves. Aug 30 1952. W. Robarts, J. Lewis, H. Hughes, T. Williams.

Wedding of Oenwyn Price (Moulton) to Will Jones. April 25, 1962. J. Lewis, H. Hughes, M. Williams, T. Williams.

New Year's Eve 1927 12 strokes. 1st team M. Harris, T. Liscombe, J?. Jones, T. Walterson?, M. Harris. 2nd team D. Leigh, J. Griffiths, I. Jones, L. Hopkin.

Wedding of Gwynne Liscombe to Dilys Lewis. April 6 1953. T. Williams, C. Gibbon, H. Hughes. Weather fine with showers. Bride in white.

Induction of new Vicar, Revd Picton Thomas B.A. 10.4.46. D. P. Lewis, J. H. Bryer, T. C. Williams, C. S. Gibbon.

Wedding of Margaret Taylor to Gerald Williams. Nov. 20 1948. T. Bryer, R. Jones, T. Williams, C. Gibbon. Showers and sunshine. Bride in white.

Wedding of Heather Morgan to Francis Lowe. 19.2.55. J. Lewis, T. Williams, W. Roberts, H. Hughes.

Not known what this means: IAWYS - 1911. Love you T. W. Liscombe. ALOHA O E Farewell or How do you do. ALOHA ALOHA written by Mrs D Forbes Signed M. G. S.

At recent wedding on October 26 1990, of Sarah Price daughter of Ron and Sue Price, The Green, Llancarfan, the ringers were Phil Watts, Towyn Williams, David Gay and Jill Ball from Fonmon. The occasion was made notable because Towyn brought a special visitor from Canada who had been staying and touring the country. The visitor was Emrys McGill, Tugaske, Saskawen, Canada. Emrys is son of Gwyn McGill of Ford Farm who emigrated in 1924. Towyn took Emrys to see the bells and explained how they were hung, how the ropes were attached to a large wheel at the side of the bell in a perpendicular position for ringing. Towyn was able to show Emrys a stay that he had placed in position nearly 45 years ago. Emrys lives in the middle of the Canadian prairies so had never had the opportunity of seeing anything like a belfry tower. We were able to tell Emrys that the bells were recast in 1892 (1890 in Enoch Lewis' account) and the weight, we believe to be No. 1 5cwt, No. 2 7cwt, No. 3 10 cwt and No. 4 15cwt. We are not quite sure of these weights. Anyone with more information on the bells?

Field Names: we have talked about field names before, but like the morning mist they have gone in a moment of time. Within one generation many have been lost, possibly for ever

and most of those which are recalled have fallen out of use. One of the names was "The Ridwells", for a piece of land to the west of Pancross Hill. Joe Lewis, blacksmith, used the name and passed it on to a few youngsters who are now in their late 20's or 30's.

At first we were not sure about its position or ownership but it turned-up as "Redwalls Farm" in a deed of 1828 pertaining to the lands of the Blacksmith's Shop, Great House and others (kindly lent by Molly Ranger). This land was also known as "The Croft", "Croft Rhydunnog" or "Croft Rhydwinog" in various deeds.

It is only too easy to jump to conclusions about the meaning of these names and the editor presumed that Redwalls meant just that - most of the old limestone cottages and barns were whitewashed or washed with a pink, ochre or other coloured finish. Dark pink or red might have been sufficiently unusual to catch the eye and become a name (after all, in Newsletter 36 we called Morningside "the pink and purple house").

Another discovery throws doubt on this. In the late 1500's, George Owen of Henllys in north Pembrokeshire wrote The Description of Pembrokeshire. In it, he cites "Rudwall Custom", relating to the ownership of unenclosed lands in the open fields. "--- no action of trespass lay for pasture in open fields out of enclosure. ---- of necessity the owners must graze in common.--- for that time of year after harvest when all the neighbours' cattle run together in the common fields they call Rudwall Time."

Is Ridwells a corruption of Rudwall and, prior to enclosure, a couple of centuries ago were the large fields of Pancross part of the Llancarfan common field? Certainly in a deed lent recently by Frank Jameson, one tiny, separately owned field of an S-shape, further-out near Aberogwrn, looks like three fossilised selions (a selion was the the half acre, 220 yard strip of common field cultivation). It still appears on the O.S. map though, whether it still exists as a hedged field I do not know. The whole area is dotted with limestone pits suggesting that much more land was cultivated than at the present time.

## BOOKING FOR THE BARBECUE

Please cut off and return to Phil Watts, Abernant Bungalow, Llancarfan, Barry, S.

Glamorgan, CF6 9AD -----

BARBECUE - ABERNANT BUNGALOW: SUNDAY, 7TH JULY 1991: 12.00

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at £1.50 each. I enclose cheque/cash for £

Signed

Address