



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 39 July 1991

FUTURE EVENTS - The Annual Dinner

Repeating our venture of last year, the Dinner will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 20th September. The number of tickets will be limited by space to 75. They will be available on a strictly first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to attend please complete the booking slip enclosed with this Newsletter and send it, with your payment to Phil Watts.

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, Llanccarfán, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6 9AD. Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to Barbara Milhuisen, 73 Tynewydd Road, Barry, South Glamorgan.

In Memory of Peter Milhuisen by Phil Watts

It is with great sadness that I have to write about the death of Peter Milhuisen, husband of Barbara, the Honorary Secretary of the Llanccarfán Society. Peter died in France, peacefully in his sleep, on June 14th 1991, at the early age of 62. He had been working on their new home which was being prepared for retirement in the near future.

Peter had never actually lived in Llanccarfán but always kept close contact through Barbara and her friends from homes in Sully, Rhoose and Barry. A much travelled, knowledgeable and unassuming man, Peter was well liked by all who knew him and had adapted himself well to being in a country away from the land of his birth, which was Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

He attended our annual dinners. I recall him at one of the two in Rhoose, encouraging the Jenkins' table to bid lavishly for the Llanccarfán paintings by the flow of wine and hilarity. From conversations with Peter I know that he loved Llanccarfán and the people who live and have lived there. It is fortunate that they found a place in France with great similarity to our village. Barbara has been proud to tell me that there was a large turn-out for his funeral which had the full use of the church and its grounds. Barbara and Peter have been accepted and welcomed into a new community far away from both their homes.

The work that Peter has done will not be lost and when Barbara is ready to retire she will be happy and content to know that Peter is still around albeit in a different form.

The Barbecue and Barn Dance: the Barbecue, held at Abernant on 7th July by kind permission of Ruth and Phil Watts was a great success attracting more than 80 members and, for a change, dry weather! Our chef, Gwynne Liscombe goes from strength to strength with three charcoal barbecues under his expert eye. This, together with the Annual Dinner has to be the most popular of our annual offerings. Many thanks to all the helpers who manned the kitchen sink, the bar and undertook all the usual arduous jobs. In particular a thank you to Barbara Milhaisen who put aside all her troubles to help. This year we did not hold a Craft Fair having decided that the competition from other summer events was too great. However, as in the past two years, we combined with St Cadoc's Church to provide the bar for the evening Barn Dance which was a great success. Proceeds from the bar were shared between the Church and the Society.

More on Church Bells: The last Newsletter featured the bells of St Cadoc's and set the editor thinking. Do any members know how an itinerant bellfounder would go about the casting of a 15 cwt bell with only local materials - presumably charcoal for smelting and a mould of timber and sand or clay? Not an easy task one would imagine - indeed, bell-founding today is a specialised craft which could not be carried-on without furnaces and the wherewithal for constructing quite complex moulds and cores. Any thoughts? or has anyone seen casting on this scale in any underdeveloped part of the world?

Phil Watts' transcription of the bellringers' writings also stirred another memory for, in Newsletter 10, Dick Evans recalled those same long-ago days when he and the Griffiths boys, Cliff Morgan, David and Millward Harris rang the bells and overcame the dry-Sunday problem with Hancock's flagons in the Fox and Hounds barn. This led on to a magical snippet from Gilbert White of Selborne who, writing of his teenage in the late 1730's, recounted that when the Selborne bells were recast the new treble bell was upturned on the village green and filled with punch "of which all present were permitted to partake." What stories could Llancarfan churchyard tell us, I wonder?

Footnote: since writing this, the Editor has discovered that there is one of those marvellous little Shire publications on the Industrial History of Bellfounding - when I get it I will tell you if it answers the question posed above.

Walterston Fawr: based on a letter from Josephine Felton

Your article on Walterston Fawr (Newsletter 37) revived floods of memories, not least my wedding there in 1966. My mother and step-father, Robert and Doreen Manby, bought the house in an entirely unmodernised state in 1959 and the family lived there until early 1970's, with Rowan and Quinten going to the village school during the late Mr Lewis' headship. (Quinten went to Cambridge and Rowan to Lampeter University College - three cheers for Llancarfan school!).

In 1959 the house was not listed as being of any historical importance and when we applied for the grant, the following items were required to be done. All doors to be increased to 6'6" height; obsolete fireplaces and ranges to be removed and replaced by units approved by the Coal Utilisation Council; the spiral stairs to be sealed-off; ceiling heights to be a minimum of 7'6"; all windows to comply with by-laws regarding area and height; existing timber lintels to be replaced with concrete; floors to be damproofed. I can still see my mother's face when the Building Inspector pointed to the beautiful

flagstones which cover the whole ground floor of the house, and said "You could replace these with Marley Tiles." I thought she would explode and "Marley Tiles" has always been a joke phrase in our family ever since!

Needless to say we refused the grant but had this work been carried out the house would have been absolutely ruined. Those of you who have been inside will know that there are mullioned windows, marble windowsills (one dated Thomas Richard 1725), two spiral staircases with "trip-steps", two huge fireplaces (in our day the old range was in use but has since been removed by the present owner), a spit which worked on a system of weights which hung down the spiral stair, flagstone floors and stone stiles into the back yard. The only act of vandalism which we did commit was to fill in the well outside the back door, but my small brother and sister were toddlers at the time and preservation of life came before the house at that point.

It was only our own research into the house which culminated in a visit from the "Ancient Monuments Commission" which body turned out to be about 20 people who had a very jolly morning, assisted by liberal glasses of sherry poured out by my mother! In January 1963 the house was finally listed as being a "building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest" by the Welsh Office.

There has been a recent article in a glossy magazine about the present owner and her restoration work which is a real labour of love, though I was slightly miffed by the journalist's implication that the house had been neglected before - it wasn't neglected, it was saved! (Welsh Style, February 1990). "Walterston" is not just the name of a house to my family and many of our friends; it is a period in our lives - few people are lucky enough to live in such a lovely place and it meant so much to me that I can't bear to even drive past it. My husband thinks I'm potty, but perhaps those who live in it now will understand.

Josephine Felton also enclosed copies of various documents associated with the house during this period. Some of you may be interested in the following extract from the sale details drawn-up by Watts & Hampton Jeffery and Hern & Crabtree in the early 1970's.

A Rare Example of a XVIth Century GLAMORGAN MANOR HOUSE Walterston Fawr. The origins of this substantial property -- certainly occur as early as the late 16th century, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth the First, but its roots lie much further back. The masonry remains immediately behind the existing property suggest an earlier house which probably dates from the beginnings of the Norman settlement of Glamorgan in 1090 A.D.

The property --- is approached through an early Georgian iron gate over a flight of three stone steps leading to a heavy oak Elizabethan front door, studded, and with strap hinges - --.

The property possesses its original stone mullioned windows, the mouldings of which firmly date the house, whilst the marble slabs forming the window sills are attractive and quite unusual, and since they are dated signify that the property continued as a residence

of quality certainly into the eighteenth century. In the Drawing Room is a rare single settle, built into the room in Georgian times, and traditionally occupied by the eldest member of the Family.

The ceilings of the ground floor are heavily beamed, the majority being chamfered and stopped, and the spiral stone staircase rising from the Drawing Room is a most intriguing feature. A secondary spiral staircase serves the First Floor from the Dining Room and is unusual in that it has "trip-steps", said to be fitted to delay pursuers.

It has been suggested that the name Walterston is derived from Tref Walter, which in turn may have derived from Walter de Map, a celebrated character of the 12th century who is thought to have been born at the House ("Land of Morgan", G. T. Clark, 1883). Walter de Map is regarded as the first English Satirist and wrote a book exposing the scandals of the Church and in particular its corruption.

Footnote: In a recent publication the West Wales' architect, Martin Davies, wrote "---- the offer of money for the modernization of dwellings, although well intentioned, has caused permanent damage to our heritage on an enormous scale. ----. My belief is that the short term benefit of grants will have caused many of these properties to be devalued in the long term. ----. This is a gift-horse that should most certainly be looked in the mouth." Save the Last of the Magic (1991).

Maps or Mapes, Tref Walter or Walterston?

John Etherington's article in Newsletter 37 on Walter de Mapes or Walter Map has prompted a lot of correspondence. In addition to Josephine Felton's letter (above), Mrs Gwenda James of Sully (Pancross family - Newsletter 15) wrote to Phil Watts enclosing some photocopies from O. Morein Morgan (1920), *The Battles of Wales* 2nd edn., Salisbury Hughes. In these, the details of Walter's life match exactly with those taken from Enoch Lewis' notebook and with Clark's article in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* written in 1865, all reproduced in John's article. The book describes him as "Walter Mapes of Tre Walter, Llancarvan" but gives no validation of this statement.

This raises again the problem of where the information came from as I cannot establish any source prior to the Clark article or discover whether it is true that Walter de Mapes wrote more than *De Nugis Curialium* (Courtiers' Trifles). Most modern scholars seem to refer only to this work. R. I. Jack says "Walter's very name seems to have been an English joke about his Welsh origins: he came from the Hereford march, was about Henry II's court and lived on into the middle of John's reign." (*Medieval Wales*, 1972). Both Jack and F. G. Cowley (*The Monastic Order in South Wales 1066-1349*, 1977) comment on Mapes' barbed writing in *De Nugis* about the Cistercians, those white monks whose expansionism and hunger for land were sources of unrest at the time. Gerald of Wales, Walter's contemporary, also wrote with some bitterness of the Cistercian Order which, of course, held Llanvythin as a Grange of Margam Abbey.

The question remains. Is any of the presumed relationship between Walter and Walterston based on valid primary evidence or is it drawn from secondary writings which may be mere whimsy? Does anyone know where there is firm evidence that Walter lived at or built an early house at Walterston Fawr any offers?
JRE

Ernie Badcock's Diaries: The 2nd World War Part 1 The First Year

abstracted by Sheena Etherington with an introduction by John Etherington

Ernie Badcock of Great House, Llancarfan was born in September 1902 and died in 1987. He served Llancarfan Parish in public office for almost 40 years becoming Clerk to the Parish Council on July 14th 1949, continuing through the formation of the new Welsh Community Councils and on, almost to the end of his life.

Ernie kept a diary from January 26th 1926 until 1987, missing but a few days here and there. Peter Badcock and his wife Joan, of Great House, Llancarfan, have very kindly allowed us to consult the diaries as a recent record of village history. The first article which appeared in Newsletter 6 was put together as a sequence of "Winter" entries, starting with that first January entry so long ago and continuing forward for 60 years on the same day, to 1986. In Newsletter 18 we presented a range of Ernie's notes on agriculture in the 1920's and, in Newsletter 22, used a few of his wartime entries to add to John Rowlands' article on Llancarfan at war.

So much interest was expressed in John Rowlands' memories of air-raids that we promised ourselves that we would present the whole sequence of wartime entries from the diaries and, at long last, here they are. Because Ernie was so interested in sport, cinema and theatre some of these things have also been included as light relief. The early years of the war are well recorded, partly because of novelty and also because South Wales, particularly the coastal-strip, found itself in the front-line. Later there are fewer entries concerning the war and after 1942 none of great significance other than the records of VE Day and VJ Day. To avoid overloading one Newsletter with items which may only interest a few people, this extract will be presented in two parts covering 1939-40 and 1940-42.

1939

22/8 Surprise anti-aggression pact between Germany and Russia.

23/8 Polish crisis.

24/8 Crisis very bad - Observer Corps mounted duty day and night.

27/8 All ARP sections on duty and defences being manned. Crisis very acute.

28/8 Big defence preparations for war.

30/8 Notes being exchanged between England and Germany.

1/9 Germany invaded Poland. Barry and all England blacked-out. Services all called up. Germany warned to withdraw from Poland or England and France will help Poland.

2/9 About 50 planes flew over to aerodrome.
 3/9 WAR DECLARED BY ENGLAND ON GERMANY. Germany given until 11-o-
 clock
 to leave Poland or answer our note. No reply received. Chamberlain on wireless.
 All entertainments to cease.
 4/9 SS Athenia sunk by German submarine (1400 passengers on board).
 13/9 City 3 Arsenal 4 friendly war-time game (not there).
 16/9 Bandwagon returned to wireless
 18/9 Aircraft carrier Courageous sunk by submarine - over 500 lost. 27/9 Warsaw fell
 after 21 days siege.
 30/9 Llancarfan bus stopped.
 10/10 Excitement in Bristol Channel. Guns and troops and planes about. Rumoured that a
 submarine is in Channel. Said to be captured.
 14/10 HMS Royal Oak sunk at anchorage at Scapa Flow by sub. Heavy loss of life.
 Bandwagon good (wireless).
 16/10 Air-raids on Firth of Forth. First bombs in Britain. Sailors killed on destroyer. Seven
 German machines destroyed - no damage.
 17/10 More unsuccessful German air-raids.
 21/10 Odeon features "Idiots Delight" - Norma Shearer and Clark Gable.
 10/11 False air-raid warning in S. Wales.
 29/11 Beau Geste at Royal. v. g.
 30/11 Russia invaded Finland.
 2/12 Bandwagon (wireless) final in this series.
 15/12 HMS Exeter, Ajax, Achilles drove German pocket-battleship Admiral Graf Spee in
 Montevideo after all day fight yesterday. German much heavier armed.
 16/12 Graf Spee ordered to leave Montevideo by tomorrow night. Intense interest. British
 ships waiting.
 17/12 Dramatic news at midnight that Graf Spee had been scuttled and burned following 9
 o/c news that she had begun to move out.

1940

13/1 Romilly "Goodbye Mr Chips".
 20/1 RECORD FROST - PIPES BURST EVERYWHERE.
 17/2 British Destroyer "Cossack" rescued 300 merchant seamen from German ship
 "Altmark" in Norwegian waters. Fine action.
 18/2 British Army 2 French Army 1 Wireless (forces programme from France). 13/3
 RUSSIAN-FINNISH WAR ENDS. Finland accepts harsh terms. Sweden-Norway
 refuse passage to allied troops.
 17/3 RAF bombed 6 hours. No Llancarfan as rehearsal at Geo Gibbs.
 house.
 4/4 Romilly. "French Without Tears". Very good.
 9/4 LAND GIRL PHYLLIS BURNS STARTED. GERMANS INVADE NORWAY
 AND DENMARK.
 12/4 Naval battles off Norwegian coast.
 15/4 Troops landed in Norway.

1/5 Postage up to 2 1/2d P.C. 2d (Budget).
 4/5 Last performance of Garrison Theatre on wireless.
 10/5 GERMANY INVADED HOLLAND, BELGIUM & LUXEMBOURG. Bombing
 plusparachute troops. CHAMBERLAIN RESIGNS - CHURCHILL PREMIER.
 11/5 All Whitsun holidays cancelled owing to war news.
 15/5 Heavy fighting in Belgium. HOLLAND - DUTCH ARMY SURRENDER.
 18/5 Big battle still going on on Western Front.
 19/5 ARP practice in Barry. Evacuee children come to South Wales.
 21/5 BAD WAR NEWS. GERMANS BROKE THROUGH FRENCH LINES.
 23/5 Bad news from war. Germans reach Boulogne.
 26/5 Day of Prayer by King.
 10/6 ITALY DECLARED WAR ON GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.
 17/6 FRANCE SURRENDERED asking for armistice.
 19/6 AIR RAID. 1ST TIME CARDIFF BOMBED.
 20/6 Had to show identity cards at barriers at Weycock B.L.D.V.
 23/6 FRANCE SIGNED ARMISTICE WITH GERMANS. To be valid when terms
 signed with Italy.
 24/6 Air raid warning. No bombs.
 25/6 Air raid warning in night. Newport bombed.
 26/6 & 27/6 Air raid.
 28/6 Air raider over Barry. Heard him. Searchlights.
 29/6 6th successive air raid. Penarth bombed. Tracer shells.
 30/6 7th air raid. Heavy gun fire. 2 warnings in night.
 1/7 5 bombs fall in Barry between Wallace bottom fields and Cadoxton. Row
 of bungalows damaged.
 2/7 Saw damage done to bungalows in Cadoxton.
 3/7 FIRST DAYLIGHT AIR RAID ALARMS (TWO). Both quiet.
 4/7 British fleet had to fire on French Fleet at Oran to prevent them
 giving themselves over to Germans. Many destroyed.
 5/7 Air raid alarm in afternoon (no bombs). Rise in wages from 49/- to
 53/6d.
 8/7 Packed Japanese china and put down in cellar - air raid precaution.
 9/7 Cardiff bombed in afternoon. No warning. Said to be French plane. Some killed. Ship
 hit.
 11/7 2 air raid warnings in night.
 12/7 Daytime air raid warning.
 13/7 Air raid warnings in morning for 2 hours.
 15/7 Two air raid warnings - morning & afternoon. 4 bombs dropped in Barry Docks.
 Mother saw plane dive over her head to bomb. St Athan bombed.
 16/7 Morning air raid warning.
 17/7 Warnings in night to 3.15.
 18/7 2 air warnings. Bombs in Penarth (morning) St Athan (afternoon). 19/7 2 air raid
 warnings within a few minutes of each other.
 21/7 Air warning (morning). Saw German plane flying very high over farm turning south.
 BARRAGE BALLOONS UP IN BARRY FIRST TIME.

22/7 3 hrs air warnings
 24/7 Air raid warning afternoon
 25/7 Air warning in night.
 27/7 Went Tivoli first time. Emyln Williams in "The Stars Look Down". Air warning.
 Edward had to register for military service. In reserved occupation at present.
 28/7 Air warnings. Bombs on Leys (Aberthaw) & Moulton.
 29/7 Air raid. Bombed Rhoose.
 30/7 Air raid bombs on Docks.
 1/8 Air raid warnings at night.
 2/8 2 warnings.
 3/8 Air raid warnings 8am, 10pm & 11.15pm. Leaflets dropped on Cardiff.
 8/8 2 warnings (quiet).
 9/8 Air warning (quiet).
 10/8 Air warning quiet. 12/8 Air raid
 13/8 Air warnings (all quiet).
 14/8 German plane brought down off Barry. One off Rhoose rumoured down too. One
 down officially.
 15/8 Bombs on Penonn Farm. Not exploded. Road closed.
 16/8 Cardiff bombed.
 17/8 One of Penonn bombs exploded with heavy thud and huge column of smoke. 18/8
 Air raid on and off all night.
 19/8 Raids all night again.
 22/8 Llancarfan. Raid while there and also while coming home. 4 air raid warnings in
 night. Llantwit bombed.
 24/8 Romilly. "Earl of Chicago" 2 air raid warnings while there. 25 & 26/8 Air warnings.
 1/9 ONE YEAR OF WAR.

Footnote: these diary entries were written before Ernie married Blodwen Jones. He was still living in Barry but was fequently in Llancarfan.