



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 42 November 1991

A PRESIDENT FOR THE SOCIETY

Sir Keith Thomas, of the University of Oxford, has expressed his willingness to become the first President of our Society. We announce this with great pleasure as Sir Keith was not only brought-up in Llanccarfafan, son of Mr & Mrs Vivian Thomas, Pancross Farm, but also has acquired a world-wide reputation as a historian, with particular emphasis on affairs of the countryside. Amongst his books are *Man and the Natural World* and *Religion and the Decline of Magic*. The last named won a Wolfson Literary Award for History. He was educated at Llanccarfafan Primary School, Barry County Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford, before commencing his academic career. Sir Keith was awarded his knighthood in 1988 for services to the study of history.

FUTURE EVENTS

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Llanccarfafan Community Hall at 7.30 p.m. on January 24th 1992. Nominations for the officers of the Society should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Barbara Milhaisen (address below), or a Committee member. Nominees must have expressed willingness to stand and a seconder is needed. Our Chairman, Derek Higgs wishes to retire and so we shall definitely need a nomination for a new Chairman. All other officers have expressed willingness to serve during 1992.

Following the formal A.G.M., there will be a CHEESE AND WINE PARTY AND A SLIDE-SHOW as last year.

WHIST DRIVE: We may just be in time to remind you of the whist drive to be held on November 22nd at 7.30 p.m. in the Llanccarfafan Community Hall. Admission will be £0.75 at the door. Refreshments and Raffle. Please come if you can: there were more Rhose people than folk from Llanccarfafan at the last Whist Drive! If you don't play, just come along for a cup of tea and a chat, to swell the crowd - you may win the raffle!

DATES FOR THE DIARY: We shall be repeating the always-popular MAY DAY WALK, this year, with emphasis on the Deer Park at Llanrithyd, for the benefit of those who missed the visit this year, There will be a BARBECUE at Abernant on Friday, June 12th and the ANNUAL DINNER will be on September 25th, also a Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Watch: Llanccarfafan is to take part in the Community Watch Scheme. The local coordinator will be Brian Pullen of Nuvo who should be contacted for further information.

New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance: This will be held in the Village Hall, costing £10 per head. Dress optional. Further details from Joan Scott-Quelch, Penylan House.

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

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER: after the annual dinner, John Etherington gave a short editorial report which included an appeal for more letters, notes and articles for the Newsletter. We still have plenty of documentary information in the files but this takes time to write-up as pieces for the Newsletter.

It is a great relief when someone writes a letter or article which fills a couple of pages without any work other than copy-typing. What about it? John Etherington's address is above and if you don't like writing, the next best thing is just jotted notes which he can string together to make an article. Notes like this could also be spoken onto a cassette tape - some of you folk who remember Llancarfan before World War II - or even back to the First War might think of having a get together and talking about the old days with the tape machine hidden under the table? Reading the sort of thing which has been written about other villages in Wales, we still have a lot of gaps. Some of these could be filled from living memory and others need a bit of letter-writing and searching for old records. The gaps concern old farming methods before the 1940's, the history of the two Chapels, who lived in which houses, decade by decade from the 1930's, back as far as records go - this has proved very difficult but there are living memories going back to the beginning of the century which will be lost if they are not written down. Phil Watts made a start here with his memories of farmers, while the electoral registers and census records help a little.

Today, occupational groups are so mixed that they have little significance but, between the Wars and before, there was a stronger demarcation of landowners from those who worked on the land or with their hands, while the Church and two Chapels must have imposed yet another grouping which seems to have been little mentioned though we are told that it was central to life in many other parts of Wales. Any memories?

Family relationships are also of historical interest and yet it has proved difficult to sort these out even as recently as the late 19th century - the other problem is that family matters are often sensitive and perhaps some folk don't want to talk about them at all, let alone having them delved into and written down. Any views on this?

Best of all would be some volunteers to start researching one or more of these topics but it needs doing well. Except for the memories of the older members, anything which calls itself history should be supported by proper documentary evidence - not just the writings of latter-day Iolo Morganwg.

Where are the Chapel record books and would they help with all the untraceable births, marriages and deaths? Does the Welsh Baptist's Union have record of how the land for Bethlehem was acquired? Similarly the Wesleyan Methodist Church may have records of "Whitechapel". How much information is there in the School records and how much has already been put together in

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unpublished form by school-project work, for example at the time of the centenary? The Church Commissioners may have records relating to all of the properties which they once owned in the Parish before disestablishment.

I could go on for ever, there are so many possibilities. The appeal for copies or extracts from deeds brought in a bit of new information but there must be many which we have not seen and all the ideas, above, need so much time that it has to be a team-effort. Any volunteers who are willing to collect this sort of information will be welcome and will help the Society to continue publishing not only Newsletters but also our projected book.

LLANCARFAN NOTES by Phil Watts

Towns and villages are blessed with various kinds of road crossing: Zebras, Pelicans, underpasses, overhead bridges and the lovely ladies and gentlemen with lollipops for school crossings.

Here in Llancarfan a goose-gander patrol operates at Ty-to-Maen, travelling from buildings to house, to be fed by Lady Ray Evans. Those of us who have witnessed this sedate procession of a dozen or so geese in search of green grass from the orchard and bread from the pantry have noticed that the procession has a considerable retarding effect on fast-moving vehicles waiting time extends from the time bird number one sets-off across the road until the last one is safely across to the other side. The goose patrol has done away with any possibility of the installation of a sleeping policeman.

They have been known to extend their patrol to other gardens and lawns - time does not matter to them - any effort that is made to speed them along is only met with a long lowered neck and much hissing without changing the roadcrossing procedure!

Ray and Blair have picnic tables on their orchard green and this has been mistaken by visitors to the area, for the Village Green. Perhaps we should change the name of Ty-to-Maen to Goose Green, not to be confused with the more famous one in the Falkland Islands.

Whilst writing these notes I would like to thank all those members who cooperated by sending their subscriptions early which made organizing the Dinner comparatively easy. We regret that space was not available for more members to attend and hope that those who came did not feel too cramped. It was noticeable that some smart thinking by people on the tables at the far end of the Hall relieved congestion as they used the emergency door (old entrance) to obtain their

servings of food and drinks by using the pavement outside to travel to and from their tables - fortunately on this occasion the weather chose to be kind to us!

LORD GLAN ELY: In Newsletter 34 we gave the text of a plaque in St Illtyd's Church, Llantrithyd, commemorating the installation of an electric generator by the kind gift of Lord Glanely. At the time, the editor enquired whether anyone knew more of Lord Glanely and why he should have made such a generous donation to the Church.

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Shortly afterwards. Joyce Andrews relieved a little of my ignorance by telling me that Lord Glanely was W. J. Tatem the shipping magnate. He and his ships have been mentioned twice since then, in Newsletters 35 and 40: Dick Evans went to sea in a Glanely vessel (of The Tatem Steam Navigation Company) and Ernie Badcock's diary recorded Lord Glanely's death during an air-raid on Weston in 1942 - I believe Ernie may also have had been interested in shipping and the Glanely line - does anyone know?

We are still no closer to an answer to the church query. W. J. Tatum was born in Appledore, Devon in 1868 and moved to Cardiff, at the age of 18, where he worked for shipping company, Anning Brothers for some years before founding his own line. William Tatem was knighted, in 1916, as the 1st Baron Glanely of St Fagans, recognising his efforts during the war. He was otherwise public spirited, for example he was President of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire from 1919-29 (Newsletter 34) - maybe he simply gave money to a deserving cause?

Except for his ownership of a mansion at Newmarket and deep involvement in horse racing (his stable won all five Classics), no other information has come to light. The firm still exists as an investment company - the last vessel was sold in 1973. These notes are written in the hope that they may spark any memory of a connection between W. J. Tatum and St Illtyd's, Llantrithyd - did he for example own a house in the village? These additional details were found in Cardiff Shipowners (1986). Jenkins, J. G. & Jenkins, D. National Museum of Wales.

THE BRITTANY CONNECTION

Phil Watts has written as follows:- A friend of mine, while holidaying in France, visited a church in Rouen. There he came across a plaque to St Machutus, Bishop of Aleth in Brittany, who died in A.D. 627. He was a Welshman, born in Caer(G)went in Monmouthshire and educated at the monastery of Llancarfan. The inscription is in French and we have been promised a translation by another member who has also visited the church, although at a different time.

St Machutus, who's day the Church celebrates on November 15th, was also known as Malo, Maclovius or Maclou, and reputedly, St Samson of Dol was his cousin.

This takes us back to Newsletter 14 in which we printed a few paragraphs (reproduced below)

on the enigmatic connection between place-names and dedication of churches in the Llanccarfarn area and the Brittany peninsula:-

Many years ago, John and Jean Williams (Old Orchard) told me that there were strange concurrencies of naming between Brittany and the Vale of Glamorgan -----
The story took another step when John recently lent me a guide to the port of St Malo which reveals a deeper connection. The French author of the guide points out that the port was named for Maclou or Malo, a Welsh monk, native of Llanccarfarn, who fled to Brittany in the 6th century A.D., and became the Bishop of the island Abbey of Aleth in the estuary of the Rance. In due course the bishopric was transferred to the island upon which the modern town is founded and hence named St Malo-de-Ile. Malo was godson and disciple of the Irish St Brendan the Seafarer who is reputed to have reached America nearly a millenium before Columbus -----

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The editor has recently been searching for the historical credentials of the saints for which Stan Awbery whimsically named his book Llanccarfarn, Village of a Thousand Saints. The most revealing source has been a book by the historian, E. G. Bowen, Saints, Seaways and Settlements (University of Wales Press 1977). Professor Bowen has used the geographer's principle of studying the distribution of "dedications" or names of Celtic churches, where they can be proved to be of real antiquity, to establish the distribution of a particular saint's cult. St Machutus does not feature, but our own saints, Cadoc and Illtud receive much attention as does Samson of Dol.

Dol is a town in Brittany between Mont St Michel and St Malo and Bowen writes of Samson that: "The accepted modern view is that the founding saints of northern Brittany were either Welshmen or saints coming from a Welsh province. A very large number of these who have left their names in northern Brittany were trained by the great St Illtud (sic) in the Glamorgan monastery of Llanilltud Fawr (Llantwit Major) - these would include St Samson of Dol, St Gildas de Rhuys and St Paulinus, who has been identified with St Pol de Leon."

He says of St Cadoc: "After the patron saint, Cadoc is probably the best known of the Welsh saints. If we had no other evidence ---- it would be clear from the overall distribution of his dedications that the cult of St Cadoc emanated from South-east Wales. The churches bearing his name form two marked clusters, the first around Llangattock on Usk in the ancient territory of Gwent (of which he is traditionally said to have been a native), and secondly, in the eastern part of the Vale of Glamorgan, focussing around his most important foundation Llanccarfarn (Nant Carban)."

A few dedications to St Cadoc are known from Cornwall, associated with the trans-peninsular route linking Wales with the Vannes area of Brittany: " Near the shores of Harlyn Bay are the ruins of what was once a very important chapel dedicated to St Cadoc. ----- Close to it was his holy well - one of the most famous in Cornwall." "In Brittany there is a concentration of dedications in the ---- ancient diocese of Vannes. ---- There can be little doubt that the importance of the cult of St Cadoc in the Vannetais emanated from the Ile Cado - an island in the

Sea of Etel on which there is a famous chapel dedicated to the saint." Bowen continues this part of the account with the proviso that some of the Vannetais' dedications may be to another saint with a similar name, but he closes with the following paragraph:-

"We should not, however, assume that there was no cult of the Welsh St Cadoc in Brittany (as distinct from the Breton hermit St Catvodus) before the 12th century. ---- The church of Pleucadeuc belonged to the abbey of Redon and among the charters of the latter is one, dated 837 signed at Pleucadeuc, in plebe Catoci, with one of the witnesses described as Guas Cadoc - the servant of Cadoc. --- The present traditions of the Ile Cado --- all represent the saint as being the Abbot of Llancarfan."

The overall theme of Professor Bowen's book is that the spread of Celtic Christianity followed the western seaways which were established in the Iron Age or before. The wandering monks, the peregrini, found these searoutes safer than the more direct inland and cross-Channel ways which were made dangerous by the withdrawal of Roman control. The Celtic church developed as an amalgam of surviving Christianity from the Roman Empire with the Gospel spread by the peregrini and with an Irish component from the west. The western seaways are the unifying factor, the explanation not only for the

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shared occurrence of the saints' dedications in Brittany and Wales but also, from earlier times, the possession of a common Celtic language and common cultural artifacts in Bronze and Iron Ages. More to follow on this topic when the editor has time for reading and writing.

DILWYN LLEWELLYN PRICE, MOULTON FARM, MOULTON. Died October 30th 1991.
By Phil Watts

It is with regret that I have to report the death of the oldest working man in the parish of Llancarfan. He is almost our last link with the farming of yesteryear. Dilwyn always moved with the times and took pride in his work and machinery. He worked extensively through the Vale of Glamorgan for farmers large and small. No job was too big or too little. His expertise was always in great demand but always loyal and faithful to his customers. His workmanship was always immaculate and his standards never seemed to deteriorate with advancing yers. His hedgecutting always straight and level, hay and straw bales square and tight, machinery went like clockwork and never let him down.

It can be said that Dilwyn died in harness; he was taken ill while driving a tractor, resulting in his going to hospital for the last time. The field where he was taken ill was within sight of his birthplace - Lidmore Farm. He recently told me that he walked to Llancarfan School from Lidmore Farm. As a farming contractor it is fitting that he should die at harvest time.

Dilwyn was 85 years of age and worked regularly until the day he was taken ill. He had been a farming contractor for 64 years.

We will miss his expert workmanship and the sight of his immaculate tractors making their way home after a hard day in the fields. His knowledge of various fields was immense and he could

tell you without looking when a certain field would be too wet, too dry or too dangerous to work.

A man of great character, he will be sadly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

ELIZABETH MAY WILLIAMS, PENYLAN HOUSE, LLANCARFAN. Died October 3rd 1991.

By Phil Watts

Mrs Williams was a member of the Llancarfan Society and will be remembered in the village as the mother of Margaret and mother-in-law of Norton Evans, The Willows. Elsie May had been ill for some time and was patiently nursed by the family. She had lived in Penylan for about ten years and was 85 years of age. Her husband Evan who died some 20 years ago was formerly of Evan Williams Garages, Cowbridge Road, Cardiff. Our sympathies go to the family.

A NEW MEMBER AND A MEMORY by Phil Watts

Our latest new member is Mrs Joyce Smith, nee Hughes, of Gloucester, New South Wales, Australia. Joyce lived at Monastery Mill from about 1937 to 1944 with her father John, a widower, brothers John and James and sisters Joan and Jane. John senior worked on local farms doing piecework; he was accomplished

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at hedge cutting, hedge layering and most of the other farming skills. Joyce remembers that one of his greatest tasks was to dig a trench by hand, two feet six inches deep, from the Mill Road to Garnllwyd Farm for the water supply. An estimate of that distance would be between 300 and 400 yards. I recall his being a corporal in the Home Guard under the command of Lieutenant Tudor Liscombe.

Young John Hughes was known as Sonny. He served in the army during the war and was taken prisoner by the Japanese and worked on the Burma Road. He is now in poor health and living in Corby. Jane lives in Brisbane, Australia. Joyce has promised to write a piece for our Newsletter and we look forward to hearing from her as our correspondent from "down under".

We are grateful to Sue Evans, Garnllwyd for enlisting Joyce as a member during her recent visit to the home-country. An unusual feature of the family is that they all had the initials J. H.

HELP SOUGHT: We have received a letter from Mr F. Bradley, 263c Boxley Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2AL, who is seeking information on his family. James, the first child of David and Martha Bradley was born in Llancarfan in 1841 before the family moved to Cardiff where six more children were born. At the same time the 1840 Tithe map shows a Christopher and Edward

Bradley farming Treguff Place. Mr Bradley has also found a William David of Treguff who was buried in Penmark in 1820, aged 86 years, and believes him to be related in some way to the Bradleys.

Note: The editor has already told Mr Bradley that, by 1850, Treguff was being farmed by the Lougher family who have held it ever since, until its sale this year and that David was a common surname at that time though now much diminished (another puzzle for us). In 1850, David's held Llanveithin, Little Mill, Old Mill with Penylan and Curnix, amongst others.

Can anyone help Mr Bradley? - If you write to him directly, the editor would be grateful for copies of any letters or other documents relating to this. Otherwise send information to John Etherington in Pembrokeshire.