



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 47 May 1992

The month began with the May Day walk in Llantrithyd and, for the fourth year running, we managed to choose a morning without rain. About fifty people gathered by the church at 10.30 and, as last year, the sun came out and the cold wind of early morning died away leaving us with almost sultry weather. St Illtud's Church, Llantrithyd Place and the Deer Park were resplendent amongst the green of unfurling tree leaves, the ground flecked with bluebells and all echoing with the sound of rooks, woodpigeons and the occasional calling of the cuckoo.

Our thanks to Valerie Watts who showed us the Church and Len Mortimer who led us through the backwaters of the old gardens of Llantrithyd Place and then on to the Deer Park, now settling down to its second year after restocking, mainly with fallow deer. The hinds, awaiting this year's crop of fawns, are obviously thriving well and one or two members also caught glimpses of the stags - many fewer of them than their lady friends. Passers-by on the A48 can just see the deer when they are grazing in the open, and from one or two places on the road from The Old Post to Llantrithyd they can be seen on the hilltop silhouetted against the sky - a wonderful return to sights of several centuries ago. We have quoted Len before on the subject of Llantrithyd but I think none of us could quarrel with his view that it is one of the least spoiled villages in the Vale. Long may it remain so. The tour finished at about halfpast twelve and various contingents withdrew to the Village Hall or the Fox and Hounds where the event closed with the drawing of a raffle, won by Philip Gammon, Glan yr Afon and Ivor Evans, Basseleg (both Society members). Prizes, a basket of fruit and bottle of white wine, were kindly donated by Mike Evans, landlord of the Fox and Hounds.

The editor enjoyed his morning so much that he couldn't resist writing about it for a future Newsletter, and so many questions were asked about Llantrithyd Place and the Deer Park that another article or two will be forthcoming in the next few months.

BARBECUE AND DATES FOR THE DIARY

There will be a BARBECUE at Abernant Bungalow on Friday evening, June 12th at 7.00 p.m. by kind invitation of Phil and Ruth Watts. Please let Phil know, at least a week in advance, if you will be attending so that catering can be organised ('phone 0446 781336). Entrance fee £2.50 children £1.00. Picnic chairs and tables would be very welcome.

Interest in boules (Newsletter 46) seems to be increasing and we have heard that some members have purchased their own sets of boules. Phil tells us that he has had his set marked (does he think the rest of us are light-fingered?) and Gwynne Liscombe points out that there is a lot of walking and stooping well I suppose none of us are getting younger! The VILLAGE FAIR will be held at Mr & Mrs Frank Jameson's field, The Grange on Saturday, July 11th. There will be a Llanccarfann Society secondhand bookstall and a plant stall - if any of you have books for disposal they will be most welcome - please deliver to Pam or Derek Higgs at Carreg Llwyd after

-2-

1st June (phone 0446 781377). Gardeners with surplus cuttings or seedlings need not throw them on the compost heap - they also will be gratefully received by Diane Morgan, Meadowbank.

The ANNUAL DINNER will be on September 25th (also a Friday) in the Village Hall, and the DUCK EGG RACE, as usual on Boxing Day, December 26th, finishing at the Fox and Hounds.

Another event for which the date is not yet fixed is the LLANCFAN SOCIETY WHIST DRIVE in October or November.

The CHURCH BARN DANCE will not take place this year but the Church will be running a stall at the Village Fair.

JOAN HARRHY MEMORIAL SEAT: A seat has been placed beside the path to the Church porch - a lovely place for visitors to sit in the summer, looking up to Coed y Crynallt, and a fitting memorial to Joan who was born at Whitton Lodge and lived for many of her younger years at Ford Cross.

BELLRINGERS

The churchbells were silent for Christmas and the New Year and at Easter we managed one bell. We are short of bell ringers and need a bigger team. There are four bells and we only have four active ringers at the moment. If, for any reason, one of the four is away or indisposed we are unable to ring. Are you willing to learn? Anyone know of someone willing to learn? Please contact Phil Watts at 0446 781336.

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. We will also be pleased to print short announcements of village functions but they must be sent in writing, at least 6-8 weeks in advance. Subscriptions and problems with mailing: to the Membership Secretary, Phil Watts, Abernant Bungalow, Llanfanc, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6 9AD. Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to Barbara Milhisen, 73 Tynnewydd Road, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6 6BA. Arrangements for visits to sick members: Len Fairfax, Summit View, Aberthin, Cowbridge, S. Glam. (Cowbridge 772654).

CONSECRATED GROUND IN ST CADOC'S CHURCHYARD

In the last Newsletter we published a note on the management of the churchyard and also a passing comment on the fact that the Community Council is its own burial authority. Correspondence concerning the role of the Council in relation to the churchyard has unearthed further information.

It has been generally believed that the northern end of St Cadoc's Churchyard is unconsecrated as witnessed, for example, by the lack of gravestones. The editor remembers Harry Hughes, amongst others, saying this and also recalling that it was the custom to bury unbaptized children in this area.

-3-

As a result of recent communications between the Community Council and the Registrar to the Diocese of Llandaff, we now have a definitive statement. The Registrar writes: "In the case of a Church which is as ancient as St. Cadoc's it is reasonable to assume that all of the churchyard within the boundary wall of the Church is consecrated and therefore, burials within this area must be according to the burial service of the Church in Wales even though the land is vested in the Community Council."

The Registrar continues to say that it was formerly the custom to bury unbaptized children in the northern part of a churchyard and that this practice has often led to the belief that this part of a churchyard was not consecrated. There is apparently no grounds for such a belief, the division between consecrated and unconsecrated land usually being the boundary wall of the churchyard.

We are grateful to the Clerk to Llancarfan Community Council, Joan ScottQuelch, for passing-on this information.

SOCIETY SCARVES, SQUARES AND TIES: Ruth Watts was selling these on May Day. The enterprise has been very successful and we now have just a few ties, even fewer scarves and no silk squares left. Ties and scarves at £5.50 are available from Phil and Ruth Watts - this is your last chance as it will probably not be economic to produce more.

LLANBETHERY NOTES by Adrienne Leijerstam

One thing that I notice during my early morning rides on my horse these days is not only the beautiful bright yellow celandines and violets bursting to life, but in contrast, the ugly items of waste, dumped beside them. I was amazed to find that a month or so ago, somebody chose to dump a very worn out Christmas tree, building materials, an old chair and an ironing board on the verge of the very pretty lane that crosses from the Llandcadle Road to Penmark. It was a total eyesore, though I am pleased to say that a local scavenging acquaintance of mine decided the ironing board was too good to rot and promptly acquired it for her holiday cottage.

Apart from the grass verges littered with rubbish, the winding track down to the moor from Llanbethery has also become a dumping ground of old sofas and building materials. It is amazing that people find such out of the way places to dump when the council will collect free of charge any items of furniture and so on, just by making a phone call.

From time to time we have spotted a small team of agile gentlemen in our field behind the farm and in the dingle beyond, sticks at their side, poking in the ground.

Their purpose, so we learned, was to search for hidden treasures since many Bronze Age coins have been found in the area we call the Downs. The group hailed from Llantrisant and, although they have not, as yet, made any significant historical finds, during their last

visit they did come across a metal match box, probably used by field workers to keep their matches dry.

-4-

During renovations to the kitchen of the Farm, Llanbethery, we have uncovered the kitchen fireplace, which features an original bread oven, which was partially reduced in size when a kitchen/servant's staircase was installed sometime during the last century.

When opening up the old fireplace and chimney-breast, we discovered three separate flue-ways leading to the main chimney, which at some time had served separate fireplaces in the kitchen (totalling four).

This suggests a secondary usage apart from that of heating and cooking, probably connected with some trade. Can any of your readers enlighten us as to any history of the farmhouse?

RUBBISH DUMPING: Eighteen months ago the Society held a "rubbish walk" for the very reason which Adrienne Leijerstam notes above. We were not sufficiently organized to collect sofas and old Christmas trees but even so, seven or eight of us managed to fill almost a dozen large black rubbish sacks in an hour and a half one evening.

The problem has not gone away and, in the minutes of the Community Council meeting for February we find two relevant items. The first concerns a letter from Sir Brooke Boothby, Fonmon Castle, campaigning against illegal tipping in the Vale and the second, a report from Councillor Llewellyn Price that persons responsible for the removal of burned-out abandoned cars (!!) were only taking the shell and leaving a considerable mess on the verge.

The Community Council resolved to support the first and to discuss the second with the police and the Vale Council. It is difficult to know how to combat this sort of thing and the editor was sad to see, on May Day, that several traditional fly-tipping areas are still well-used, for example the layby between Caemaen and the entrance to Gowlog, the woodland entrance close to Treguff and the similar woodland entrance above Cuckoo Mill, Penmark.

Barry has recently attacked the problem under the aegis of the National Spring Clean Campaign promoted by the Vale's "People and Places" programme. The Barry and District News (23 April) carried a front page feature describing the ten-day cleaning up operation and also noted that villages such as Rhoose, Wenvoe, Sully, Ystradowen and St Lythan's were involved. Was Llancarfan not invited or was there no interest in a local spring clean?

We could organise another rubbish walk to clear-up some of the minor mess but it does

nothing to deter the culprits. In some cases of domestic rubbishdumping the whole thing beggars belief - not only are there the free collections that Adrienne mentioned above, but also skips, available six days a week at Gladstone Road, Barry. The owners of the rubbish must often spend more in petrol to dump in the country than they would by proper disposal!

What do members think? Are there enough folk willing to set-up a permanently available task-force? One problem is the frustration and irritation of being obliged to pick-up rubbish dumped by others and also the feeling that this is the corporate responsibility of the local Authority, particularly since the Environmental Protection Act made it obligatory for the Authority to keep its own house in order.

-5-

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Thoughts of criminal activity such as car dumping, bring us back to last month's announcement that the neighbourhood watch signs had been erected at the entrances to the villages of the Llancarfan Community.

During the May Day walk, Heather Lowe (nee Morgan, formerly of The Green), put into words the thoughts of many older residents of the village. She told me that, when she read the announcement, she had difficulty in believing that this was the same Llancarfan in which she grew up, where no one ever locked their doors!

Judging from the Barry and District News (May 14), visiting cars are as much at risk from wandering criminals as are local homes. Barry Police were reported as saying: "From the number of offences reported at pubs in places such as Rhose, Wenvoe, Llancarfan and Bonvilston during the last couple of weeks it looks as though somebody is systematically going around the pubs looking for likely prospects."

The report ended with the sensible suggestion that you should lock your valuables in the boot and make sure that you do this out of sight from prying eyes.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Somehow the construction of the new service facility for B.A. at Cardiff, Wales, Airport (Rhouse) has passed us by without comment. The hangar is necessarily gigantic with a door-span of about 200 feet to accommodate a jumbo-jet. The engineering dictates that the additional height of the giant bridge-like girders supporting the roof must be added to that of a Jumbo's tail.

When the editor returned to Llancarfan on May Day it was with profound shock that the impact of such an enormous building became apparent. Seen from Pancross it dwarfs everything else in sight; even the bulk of Aberthaw B seems slight beside it. Once the naked girderwork is clad it will perhaps not be quite such a focal point but it is certainly true that the skyline of the Vale will never be the same again from almost any viewpoint.

One is reminded that Stan Awbery, M.P., in 1957 wrote of the Vale:- "It is too late now to try to make it a National Park, which we might have done if we had approached this problem earlier. The cement works, the aerodrome and the new power station have now destroyed all our hopes of this. It is not long before we shall be looking back and talking of the "Vale that was" and almost forgetting the solitude and beauty that have been destroyed in the march of industrial progress."

What would he make of the present situation: a bigger cement works, the huge Aberthaw B visible almost from Port Talbot and dominating the low coastline seen from the English side of the Channel, both now dwarfed by a cage for the biggest birds the world has seen?

-6-

It is sad, but we all live in debt to concrete, we all burn electricity and complain soon enough if there is a power-cut. Probably most of our members have flown on a jumbo-jet and thanked providence that it was a safe, cheap journey to some far-off place. One can only wonder whether it will end before the world's best places are lost for ever.

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We may not have a Vale of Glamorgan National Park but tourism is certainly a growing industry. Sam and Patsy Smith, Chapel House, tell us that they are now offering bed and breakfast accommodation in the privacy of the old Chapel Vestry which was converted to residential use about two years ago.

The Tennis Club accounts for 1991-2 show a healthy situation - it seems impossible that it is more than twenty years since it started as a few people and their dogs venture!

The Llancarfan and District Community Association recently held its first A.G.M. The Chairman's report and the accounts show that, after various teething difficulties, during the first year after refurbishment of the Village Hall, we now have a thriving enterprise which can look forward to many years as the hub of Llancarfan communal and social activity.

Long may it go on.

During the May Day walk, several members who no longer live in Llancarfan said that they find difficulty with the new names of houses (and new houses there are twice as many as there were in the 50's - we refer to house names so often that the editor intends to rectify this with a map or village "guide" in a future newsletter.

Forthcoming weddings are Chris Edwards of the Green Dragon, 6th June at 12.30 and Suzanne Badcock, formerly of Great House, on 11th August at 11.30.

We have received a letter from Dr A. R. Schmit, the late Paul Schmit's son, telling us that he and his family have been able to move to Brook Cottage where his father spent the last few years of his life. He has become a member of the Society, and asks whether any members know anything of the history of Brook Cottage (Pickett's Cottage). This is one of the older, formerly thatched houses of the village but one which has not featured in any of the history which we have so far unearthed.

Following the cycling marathon last year and a long delay while sponsorship money was collected a presentation was held in the Fox and Hounds a few weeks ago. Organiser, Graham Brain presented a cheque for £2246 to the LUPUS charity which provides support for victims of and research into lupus, a disease which damages all of the major organs of the body. Yet again a photo of the Fox and Hounds, as the venue, featured in the Barry and District News for the last week of April. Must be one of the most photographed pubs in the Vale together with a collection of familiar locals!

The Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club recently held a sale which resulted in a profit of £200 for charity.

-7-

The recent Californian earthquake at Eureka was too close for comfort to Society members Louisa and Robert Lougher at Lolita - our good wishes to them and hopes that all is well. We also think of a good friend, closer to home. Milivan (Mike) Jankovic, formerly of the Post Office, has family in Yugoslavia where life is so sadly troubled.

We are saddened by the death of Mrs Jean Hamilton in Scotland. During the early 1970's she lived at Shieling, one of the new houses in the group opposite Whitechapel, close by Nant Carfan. She was missed by us all when she moved away but continued to visit the village occasionally. She attended the last of our Craft Fairs in 1990.

Llanbethery member, Adrienne Leijerstam has written and published a short book entitled Aspects of Cowbridge. Well worth reading if you are interested in the Vale, the book is available from local bookshops or the author.

EDWARD VIII AT BOVERTON: Newsletter 46

The short note about the visit of the King to the Welsh Land Settlement in 1936, prompted several comments from members.

During the May Day walk, Heather Lowe (nee Morgan, The Green) recalled a childhood visit to Boverton where she saw the King sitting in a car at the crossroads at the entrance to Boverton Village.

Haydn Morgan, Meadowbank (formerly Greendown Farm), wrote the following note for us:

The farm in question is Boverton Place Farm and the settlement was, and still is, known as Trebeferad. In the book, Llantwit Major in Camera, by Vivian Kelly, photographs 88 and 89 show the visit by Edward VIII. The caption reads: "In 1935 Boverton Place Farm was purchased by the Welsh Land Settlement Society, and nearly 70 families were brought from the Valleys to settle at Trebeferad. On November 18th, 1936 as part of his visit to South Wales, the settlement was visited by Edward VIII."

The only other reference I have found in my own books is a brief mention in Glamorgan, Its History and Topography by C. J. O. Evans, when in 1938 it is described as a "flourishing community engaged in market gardening".

I believe the market garden enterprise ended during the war or soon afterwards. The farm now belongs to the Prince of Wales.

We have also received a letter from Mrs Patricia Moore, Glamorgan Archivist, who tells us that the Glamorgan Archive Service holds a small collection of documents relating to the Welsh Land Settlement including plans of the estate before the Settlement was established, going back to 1826, and also photographs of Edward VIII at Boverton in 1936 and some of David Lloyd George as well.

-8-

Mrs Moore closes her letter by thanking the Society for continuing to send the Newsletter

to the County Archive: it will be satisfying to members who have written for us to know that their efforts are both preserved and accessible to others.

NEW HOUSE - TOMBSTONES DISCOVERED recording and research by Diane Morgan

Here and there in the village, old garden paths are paved with slabs of stone which often prove to be old tombstones when they are raised. One such was that of Martha Lougher which was found in the garden of Brook Cottage and started the American Detective Story of the articles in Newsletters 23, 24, 30 and 31.

Recent building work at New House (now not far from its hundredth birthday!) revealed two more of these lost gravestones. A combined garage and extension is being built on the northern side of the house and during the initial work several inscribed stones were found.

The first stone, of which the top is missing reads:

----- FRANCIS WILLIAM OF THE PARISH OF WENVOE WHO DIED APRIL 17th 1796 AGED 63 YEARS.

A search of the Wenvoe parish register and the Llancarfan burial register for reference to the name reveals only a Mary William who was baptized at Wenvoe in 1734. Her father was Francis William so maybe he was the father also of our Francis who must have been born about 1733.

The second stone also has a part missing:

----- WHO DIED NOV ??? 1812, AGED 64 YEARS. HERE LIETH ALSO THE BODY OF ANN DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND JANE JENKINS, OF THIS PARISH, AND GRANDAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE NAMED WILLIAM AND ANN LLOYD WHO DIED NOV 24th 1822 AGED 8 YEARS.

This is full of clues and I have had more luck. Ann was baptized in Llancarfan Church on December 25th 1814, daughter of William and Jane Jenkins, Gent. William and Jane Jenkins nee Lloyd were married in Llancarfan Church 10th July 1813 and her father was a witness who signed his name with a X.

Ann Jenkins was buried in Llancarfan Churchyard on 24th November 1822, aged 8 years so it looks as though the stone should be returned to the churchyard and why it was removed is a mystery. I intend to look at the stones in the churchyard to see if it was replaced, possibly when Ann's parents died.

We thank Society members, Mr & Mrs Vernon Newcombe, for access to the stones.