



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 52

January-February 1993

A Happy New Year to all our readers and grateful thanks to all of those who have helped during 1992 by sending news and articles.

In this Newsletter we have more memories from the past and news from overseas. Looking through the prize-winners from the egg-race on Boxing Day it is apparent the activities in our little village spread ripples far and wide. Those ripples spread ever outward for each of these Newsletters flies off to every corner of the world as well as many counties of Britain.

Please go on writing for us. If an article or reader's letter jogs a memory, let us know even if it is only a word or two on postcard.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subscriptions are now due - a returnable slip was enclosed with the last Newsletter but if you have lost it just send £5.00 to Membership Secretary, Phil Watts (address below), or £2.50 if you are a senior citizen living alone. Don't forget to include your name and address!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

WHIST DRIVE: FEBRUARY 26 at the Community Hall, Llanccarfán, commencing at 7.30. As usual there will be a raffle and refreshments.

SOCIETY A.G.M.: to be held on the evening of March 12 at the Community Hall - followed by a slide show - speaker to be announced when confirmed.

MAY DAY WALK: the walk will start at the Community Hall with a cup of coffee and a biscuit, proceeding to Ford Farm, Broomwell and Penylan Barn, returning via Cross Green Hill. The hall will be booked for the whole day and it is suggested that members might like to return after the walk, bringing their own refreshments for an "indoor picnic".

GARNLLWYD WOOD WALKS: Monday, May 17 has been decided on for a look at the wildlife of Garnllwyd Wood which is a Nature Reserve of the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The leader will be Joan Raum, of Walterston, wearing her Wildlife Trust hat. The party will be restricted to 12-15 people but if more are interested, Joan has kindly offered to lead a second walk on Tuesday 18th May. We aim to start at 7.00 p.m. from the yard of Garnllwyd, by kind permission of Geoff and Sue Evans. Names should be given or sent to Phil Watts or Secretary, Sheila Mace (address above).

If you are coming, please bring insect repellent, protective clothing and wellingtons or walking-boots. Please do not be put off by this as we are told you will be well rewarded for the effort. In the words of the Salvation Army "Come and join us".

BARBECUE: Phil and Ruth Watts have kindly offered to have another barbecue at Abernant on 13th June at 12.30 p.m. Chef Gwynne Liscombe.

ANNUAL DINNER: this was so popular that a preliminary booking list is already open for next year: names and numbers are being taken by Phil Watts for 24 September, 1993, with a maximum number of 60 as we were a little overcrowded in the Community Hall this year. A returnable slip was enclosed with Newsletter 51 and confirmation of booking will be needed before August 31, 1993. Cost will be £10 for a similar roast meal to the one we had this year. If there is a substantial overbooking we shall hold a second dinner, probably on 6 November. It is a pity the hall is not bigger but isn't this a remarkable tribute to the enthusiasm of all our members, five years into the existence of the Society? A request for confirmation of your booking will appear in the Newsletter a couple of months before the dinner(s).

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, Llancarfan, Barry, S. Glam., CF6 9AD. Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to the Secretary, Sheila Mace, Pel-y-Dryn, Llanbethery, Barry, South Glamorgan. Arrangements for visits to sick members: Len Fairfax, Summit View, Aberthin, Cowbridge, S. Glam. (Cowbridge 772654).

BOXING DAY EGG RACE by Gwynne Liscombe

The duck egg race was quite a success this year with new eggs by courtesy of Gundale Products: 1000 were floated, of which 807 had been sold. It was a great effort and well supported by Society members both before the event and on the day. Special thanks to Philip and Ruth Watts, Len Fairfax, Valerie Watts, Andrew Griffiths and Mick Mace for having been such good sellers of eggs and for the annual sale of eggs by Audrey Porter and the Tuesday Club. Mrs Jean Pickering and the Maesycoed School did especially well in selling this year.

Phil Watts and Derek Higgs did the shepherding - we didn't lose one egg! and the retrieval was done by Alan Taylor, Russel Watts and some of the local children. Condolences to Derek for his leaky waders - hope it did not lead to a cold.

After deduction of the cost of prizes £317-50 has been allocated to Phab work and £317-50 to the Margaret May Memorial Fund.

The winners were £75 - (898): Carol Hughes, Caernarfon, ticket sold by Arfon Rugby Club. £50 - (28): Mr & Mrs D. E. Williams, Llancadle Farm, ticket sold by Fox and Hounds. £25 - (291): Mr N. Moyne, Roath, ticket sold by Maesycoed School. Bottle of Whisky - (785): Mr Anthony Harvey, Cardiff Rugby Club, ticket sold by C.R.C. Bottle of Wine - 501: Mr L. Pugh, Barry, ticket sold by Len Fairfax. Bottle of Wine - (928): Edgar Balchin, Fox and Hounds Restaurant, ticket sold by Ruth Watts. Bottle of Wine - (89): Mr Edwards Ford Farm, ticket sold by Fox and Hounds.

The Tug of War was less of a success because of rope snapping. The Phab trophy which has been won by the Three Horse Shoes, Moulton for the last

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three years, was not awarded, and the entry this year will read "Rope snapped - Draw"!!

Footnote: at the Society Committee meeting in January it was agreed that the Society would supply a new rope for future Tugs of War! - Andrew Griffiths has kindly offered to arrange this.

A LETTER from Barbara Milhuisen

Re: Jeffery Thomas, Llancarfan 1937-45 (Newsletter 50)

I well remember Jeffery and his brother Vernon and was a contemporary of all those he mentioned. I notice that these were all boys but there were girls in the school also.

There has been no mention of an air raid shelter in the school because there wasn't one. When there was an air raid warning everyone would flee from the school and children who lived in the village would go to their respective homes.

I lived the nearest at Ty Uchaf and many other children would accompany me. We would be put under the stairs by my mother then she would take my baby brother (Clive) outside as she felt safer there.

The return journey to school was much slower. Those school days were full of fun - apart from picking blackberries, nuts, hips, while the boys were gardening the girls were knitting scarves for soldiers.

Given the opportunity there would also be smoking of Old Man's Beard (Devils Guts) in clay pipes - no wonder I have never wanted to smoke since!

Editor's note: Another memory: smoking Old Man's Beard must have been a widespread habit: during those very same years I was doing the same thing 200 miles away in Kent. However, we didn't use pipes but puffed away at lengths of the very spongy dry stems as if they were cigarettes - it was awful!

FRANCE, NOVEMBER 1992 by Barbara Milhuisen

I have lived in France for three months now but today was the first time I heard the Marseillaise.

Today is the 11th of November - a national holiday since 1919, now commemorating two world wars.

I reside in the community of Dun which consists of four villages, each having a mayor. There is no war memorial in my village but I was invited by my mayor and his wife to join

them when they would pay their respects at two of the other villages. The first village chosen was because they had relatives who had been killed from that area in the First World War.

Everyone assembled outside the village school near the Mairie (office of the mayor) The equivalent of a red poppy was a sticker for the left lapel and donations put in a tin. At eleven-o'clock the procession moved off with someone carrying the national flag and another, a wreath. We walked about 150

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yards to the war memorial where there were already displayed two other flags. A short address was read by the Mayor of Dun and the standard bearer lowered his flag. The representative of the village (who was a lady) read in turn the names of those who had died in both wars and after each name another local person said "Mort pour France" (died for France). All traffic which was passing at the time, stopped.

The two mayors then returned to their cars with a few other people and all reassembled at the Mairie in Dun where there were many more people. Again all traffic ceased and the procession again made its way to the memorial. The same simple ceremony was repeated but this time the dead from my village were named and remembered as also for the remaining village and Dun. Also included and named separately were those people who gave their lives from the

Resistance. At the conclusion a tape was played of a fanfair, the last post and the Marseillaise, everyone stood at attention but no one sang. The mayor then invited all present to join him in the village hall for a glass of wine, cassis or Pernod.

NEWS OF MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND LOCAL EVENTS

Phil Watts is reminded by Dick Evans' letter in Newsletter 51 that, of the names Dick mentioned, George Durham (Wright) and Bryn Williams were killed during the war and Gordon Gregory drowned at the Knapp, Barry. George Durham was lost at sea off the coast of Greece and Bryn Williams, brother of Towyn, Edward and Lyn of Ford Farm, was an Air Force pilot.

Phil Watts also writes about Bonvilston Athletic and Football Club which celebrated its 50th year in November (unfortunately clashing with our whist drive which was arranged before we knew of this centenary). The first club secretary of Bonvilston A.F.C. was the late Tom Ranger, also a member of our Society. He was ably succeeded by Dewi Hopkins, John Taylor and Charlie Deere, all well known to many of our older members. Tom was also club chairman for several years. A number of our members played for the Bonvilston club, amongst them David Coles, Frank Lowe and Phil Watts. They were also able to raise a cricket team to play against Llancarfan in the field at Penonn in the days of Len Rees, Tom Bryer, Les Harray, Lionel Rees and Phil Watts (Phil was too modest to

include his own name but it was subsequently inserted in his draft - perhaps by Ruth?).

John Etherington writes:- editing the Newsletter rewards me by starting correspondence with all sorts of people and organisations. Just after we published the notes on Iolo Morganwg and his connections with Thomas Johnes of Hafod, Cardiganshire (Newsletter 49) and the intention of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust to restore part of the Hafod estate (Newsletter 50), a letter from the Trust appeared in the Western Mail requesting any information and anecdotes relating to Hafod and its history. I sent a copy of the article on Iolo Morganwg and shortly afterwards was pleased to have a letter from the Archivist of the Friends of Hafod requesting not only another copy of this short article but also all of our pieces on Iolo Morganwg from previous Newsletters. It is heartening to know that all of our Newsletters are available to the public in the Glamorgan County Archive and that selected items are finding their way into collections elsewhere. By the way, if anyone is interested in joining the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, John has details.

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We are grateful to Derek and Pam Higgs for supplying the electricity to illuminate the Christmas Tree this year as they have always done. At the last Committee meeting it was agreed that the Society would reimburse Derek and Pam with this cost.

Earlier this month we heard the sad news that the Green Dragon, Llancadle, had been seriously damaged by fire during Sunday, 3 January. Those who have not been in Llancarfan during the last few years would still have recognised the old thatched pub but it had been substantially enlarged with a new thatched extension matching the old roof. It was the thatch which suffered in this fire which was featured on local television news and in the Western Mail - yet another of the original thatched houses of the parish to suffer in this way. The Fire Service had to pump water from the nearby river and also used the contents of private swimming pools. Our condolences to licensee, Paul Rose, with the hope that repairs can be completed as quickly as possible.

The former Whitton Rosser farm has been reopened as a farm and Field Studies Centre under the auspices of the Amelia Trust. The farm venture was launched by Mrs Ethel Huggard and her late husband, Bob. It is linked to the Methodist Church and is a registered charity. The farm will give disadvantaged and disabled young people the opportunity to experience the countryside. The management programme of the farm is in the hands of the Pencoed Agricultural College and the Field Studies Centre buildings were converted from disused buildings with financial help from British Telecom (Barry and District News).

LLANCARFAN BYGONES by Doreen (formerly Gibbins) and Alf Everett

With another year swiftly passed by and another Christmas on top of us, as we were watching the television programme the other night, there came a little scene of something that reminded us very much of the good old days in Llancarfan with a dance, a little dance hall, little village dance hall just like the one where we used to have lots of fun, and it brought back many memories of Llancarfan. I still remember the little bell that was hanging on a string that we rang when we went for our sweets and Betty or Elsie would come across from the pub to serve us in our lunch hour from Llancarfan school. With Christmas coming on it made me think of the lovely times that we had during Christmas.

In October and the beginning of November there was always a whist drive and dance and the proceeds went toward the Llancarfan School childrens' Christmas party and every child was to pick a present to the value of 7/6 which was a lot of money in those days, nothing much compared with what children have today, but we thought it was wonderful. All these parcels were packed-up, lovely presents, tied up and we had a lovely Christmas party and a big Christmas tree in the two rooms of Mrs Thomas, Mrs Watts and Mr Davies Gaffer Davies we used to call him.

I seem to remember that the doors were sliding doors which were taken back so that the two rooms were made into a big one. There was a big Christmas tree from the floor to the ceiling which was put where the division of the parting doors was, beautifully decorated, We made all our own Christmas decorations by cutting up strips of paper and painting them. Sometimes we would have the plastic - no, it wasn't plastic in those days - the lovely papers, coloured papers cut into strips and we gummed them all and linked them all together.

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It was all part of the fun of Christms, a lovely big fire with a guard around it in each of the rooms and Mrs Connie Griffiths who was then the infants' teacher, pounding on the piano as she played:-

Christmas Eve is here, so off we go to bed,
as we climb the stairs, nod each sleepy head, Take your stockings off, hang them in a row,
Then jump swiftly into bed, and off to sleep we go.

- and with that they would sing Jingle Bells and in would come Mr Davies dressed up as Father Christmas with a huge sack on his back with all the lovely presents in it. We all knew what we were going to have because we'd picked them, but it was just the thrill of the Christmas spirit I suppose. We always had a party on our desks - we didn't have the long tables or go down to the Church Hall, it was in our class rooms on our desks and everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. A good Christmas was had by all in the Christmas spirit.

As I got older I seem to remember that we used to go carol singing and a lot of the boys were away in the forces at that time. We used to go carol singing with those that were left behind and I remember going on a trailer dragged behind a tractor, going to all the outside farms and having a drink and a mince pie and making the money and always finishing-up in

the Fox and Hounds, Llancarfan where they'd finish their Christmas carols and money was collected. The money was given to the W.I. that was in Llancarfan at that time and the ladies used to knit mittens and helmets, scarves and socks and every boy that had gone - and every girl - from Llancarfan village all had a lovely parcel at Christmas from the people of Llancarfan village, which I'm sure were very welcome. There were sweets and cigarettes and all those nice goodies that were in the bag to be given to the boys that were in the forces. I'm sure that a lot of these boys that have come back home will remember the happy times from Llancarfan school and from when they were in the forces, the good times and the drama groups that were in the village when everybody took part.

Of course we didn't have lights, a lot of us never had wireless sets so we made our own pleasure and went to different villages, Penmark, Bonvilston and St Nicholas for the Christmas or ordinary monthly dances and they always picked the time of full moon because we couldn't use lights in the wartime. We either walked in a group or went on our bikes - there was no fear in those days of being mugged or raped - we weren't afraid to go anywhere. It is so different in this day and age from the lovely days we had growing up in Llancarfan.

I'd like to thank all those who have put a lot of work into the Llancarfan letters - they've been such a pleasure to read, and to read about a lot of the people who have gone to live abroad to live - it is lovely to hear that everybody is doing so well. I wish Barbara every success and every happiness in her new home and hopefully with lots of new friends coming into Llancarfan - a lot I don't know now but I wish to thank everyone for the hard work that has been put into the Newsletters and wish you all a happy Christmas and God's blessing for the new Year.

A LETTER from Frank Jameson

Your article on Llancarfan in Literature III (Newsletter 51) quotes R. R. Davies on roads and tracks and you raise the question about the "upland

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ridgeway" road that runs from Llancarfan to Llanilltud (Llantwit) "between the two valleys". Comparing the O. S. 1:50,000 Landranger 1982 edition with the 1970 reproduction of Sheet no. 36 1833 edition (1" to the mile) contours indicated by shading - it seems that the "two valleys" must refer to those of Nant Carfan and the river Thaw. The "high road" being the section running between those, that is, following the route:-

Pancross (1833 Pains Cross), Aberogwrn (1833 New House), Treguff, turning left at the crossroads where a stone barn is now situated - marked Cross Inn in 1833, an interesting fact in itself - dropping down past Kingsland and a property by the river Thaw bridge (1833 Mellte?) not indicated on modern maps, over the bridge past Gigman Mill up to the high level ground to cross the St Marychurch/St Athan and Llantrithyd/St Athan roads,

through Llanmaes to Llantwit.

An alternative route through St Hilary exists but would have taken travellers unnecessarily far north. The fact that the road runs past what may once have been a place of refreshment (Cross Inn - of which no sign now exists unless it be the isolated stone barn), and past a Mill, also running close to an important residence (Old Beaupre) indicates that this may be a more probable route for the road in question.

Editorial notes: The old barn at Cross Inn has certainly been a house - the remains of old fireplaces are still in the gable walls. Electoral roles shows that it was occupied by William John in 1878-9, 1881, 1900 and Arthur Clark 1910. When it ceased to be an inn I don't know or even if the inn was the present building.

Aberogwrn - it is interesting that the 1833 map has it as New House - by the time of the late 1800's six-inch map the farm was called Groes Heol (Cross Road) - the junction was also called Fingerpost and the electoral role (1900. 1910) refers to a house by that name (occupant: Frederick Coleman - any relation to Coleman, Blue Anchor?).

RECORDS AND RECUSANCY - archive research by Mavis Coles, notes by John Etherington

Following Henry VIII's inauguration of the Protestant Church, the first Parliament of Elizabeth I passed the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity which established the Protestant Church by law and proscribed Catholicism. Many priests and laymen refused to comply and continued in the old faith. The Penal Laws were made increasingly severe and after 1581 a Catholic layman refusing to go to church could be fined £260 a year - then an enormous sum. From 1586, merely to be a Catholic was deemed to be high treason. Some held fast to their faith despite this persecution and, in Wales, recusancy (refusal to attend church) flourished mainly in the north-east and southeast.

The recusants had their own poets amongst whom was Edward Turberville (164881) of Penllyn near Cowbridge who produced an awdl (long poem in traditional metres), noted for its spirited invective.

The County Archive provides us with a glimpse of these happenings, three or four centuries ago in Llancarfan:-

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GAOL FILES

(27 Eliz. 1585)

Nine Catholics of both sexes, belonging to Llancarvan and Colston and Jane John of

Llysorney, spinster were indicted in the following terms:-

"For that they did not frequent or resort to their parish churches or to any other church, chapel or usual place of common prayer and service, but contemptuously and voluntarily have absented themselves and forborne the same for the space of six months, without having any unlawful or reasonable excuse." Prepared and signed by John Walsham.

28 Eliz 1586-87 Part 1.

William Thomas of Whitchurch, yeoman, and several other recusants, mostly of Llanclarvan, were presented and ordered to be prosecuted for absence from church.

Ibid Part 2

For non-attendance at their parish churches, nineteen recusants were prosecuted. Of these, nine belonged to Llanclarvan, five to Colston and one (William Thomas, yeoman) to Whitchurch.

Recusancy continued to be prosecuted in the next century and Llanclarfan featured again:-

Cardiff Records page 174. 1642-1661

The s'd Inquest upon their Oath say and Present:- That the Persons hereinafter named, that is to say (here follow the names of 18 Catholics, in the parishes of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath, Llanharry, Llanharan and Llanclarfan) haue absented themselves from their respective p'ish churches or chappells to heare diuine service & p'forme their duties there vpon Sundayes & other holy dayes for the space of these three moneths last past contrary to the Lawes & statueds in that case made and p'uided.

(Among the recusants of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath was Watkin Richard, harper. Even widows and labourers were included in the list, together with Mathew Gibbon and Hugh Jones, both of Llanclarfan, gentlemen).

The Penal Laws punishing recusancy were repealed gradually by the Toleration Acts of the late 1600's though English non-conformists remained effectively excluded from public office. This was not remedied until 1727 when annual indemnity acts removed this barrier. Recent discussion of the Royal succession tells us yet another part of this story.

Sources of notes: The Oxford Companion to Welsh Literature (ed. Stephens 1986).

Dictionary of British History (ed. Keynon, Pan, 1981).