



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 53 March 1993

Don't forget the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which is on Friday, 12th March in the Community Hall at 7.30. Please come - even if meetings are not your "thing": there will also be a short talk and slide show by Mrs Patricia Moore, the County Archivist, refreshments and a chance to talk to all those people who have been hibernating during the winter. We don't know what Mrs Moore will choose to talk-about - it might be local gardens, houses or history! Now that the A.G.M. is in March we should have a chance of better weather than in previous years.

Mid-February and some daffodils are in full bloom. Last year, there was concern that they would not be out in time for St David's Day! Let's hope that there are no more serious frosts and that this bodes well for next summer. The editor is looking forward to the A.G.M. as a chance to see all the riverside daffodils and the other new plantings - Phil Watts tells me they are just coming out so I hope they are not over by then!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that subscriptions are now overdue - a returnable slip was enclosed with Newsletter 51, 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! We shall have to foreclose on unpaid subscriptions next month as the cost of sending-out Newsletters is prohibitive.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SOCIETY A.G.M.: Friday, March 12 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall followed by a talk and slide show by Mrs Patricia Moore, the County Archivist, refreshments and chatter.

MAY DAY WALK: Monday May 3 at 10.30 p.m., starting 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".

GARDEN OPEN DAY: LLANVITHYN HOUSE: Sunday, 16 May - by kind permission of Lawrie and Eleanor Williams the garden will be open from 2-6 o'clock and teas will be available if it is fine. There should be a large selection of shrubs in flower, some unusual, and early herbaceous flowers. The open day is in aid of the National Gardens Scheme, the proceeds of which will go largely to the McMillan Nursing Appeal.

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 will 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. It would be appreciated if you could let Phil Watts know that you are coming. Phil tells

-2-

me that Geoff and Sue Evans have offered a viewing of Garnllwyd house to those who attend the walk and by the kindness of Phil and Ruth there will be a glass of wine for participants (hope this doesn't lead to overbooking!).

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

ANNUAL DINNER: 45 people have already made a reservation for 24 September so we shall certainly be holding a second dinner on November 6. We hope to welcome our President, Professor Sir Keith Thomas to the second dinner. A returnable slip was enclosed with Newsletter 51 and confirmation of booking will be needed before August 31, 1993 (a request for confirmation of your booking will appear in the Newsletter a couple of months before the dinners). Cost will be £10 for a similar roast meal to the one we had last year. Bookings to Phil Watts at Abernant.

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, South Glamorgan, 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).

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER? a letter from Idris Lewis, Durban, South Africa
I think I can add some items to memories of mobile shops as requested in Newsletter 51:-
Stan Baldwin's Mobile Pharmacy: Stan was, I think, a pharmacist in Cadoxton and commenced serving the Vale with his mobile shop during the '30s. The service continued for a number of years and was eventually stopped, I should imagine because the Pharmaceutical Society got wind of it and, because it transgressed one or other of the regulations of the Society, Stan would have been asked to cease his operation.
Hoopers Ironmongers' Mobile Van: as many will remember, Hoopers had an ironmongers shop in High Street, Barry. They started a mobile shop to the Vale at about the same time as Stan Baldwin's Pharmacy. The driver was one Sam Hooper (son). I remember him well: a tall ginger-haired young man who, in addition to driving, was advisor on any one of the many interesting tools and products carried on board. Strange that I write this letter today from Durban because Sam had then recently returned there-from having spent some years

here. In the cab of the van he carried an Afrikaans Grammar Book from which he was learning what he could of the second official language of this country. It was his intention to return here and settle down - whether he did, I do not know.

William Johns (Butcher): arrived from Barry Dock (Holton Road) regularly every Saturday delivering "prime cuts". Driver was known throughout the Vale as Tom 'o Johns (I think his surname was really Jones).

-3-

CTG 766: Only a clue - a grey panel van. Any guesses? No prizes!!

Steam-powered deliveries in Llancarfan: Where was the Station? Where were the rails? None were needed. In the very late twenties and early thirties it was dangerous to go up or down Crossgreen Hill on Thursday afternoon just after lunchtime. It must be remembered that the hill, was at that time narrower than it is today. Thursday was the day of the monster - which filled the road from side to side. The monster breathed black smoke from its dirty nostrils, its heart consisted of fire and its life blood was water and steam. It had six feet which were round in shape and encased in solid rubber.

What was the monster and what was it doing in Llancarfan? It was in fact a STEAM LORRY owned by either Hancocks, Ely or Brains - I cannot remember which brewery in Cardiff. It was on its way delivering barrels of beer to the Fox and Hounds and, of course, other hostelrys in the vicinity. I am sure members of the Harris family will remember the Monster.

I wish to take this opportunity to offer Calvert my very best wishes for a steady recovery from his illness. Calvert and I were very good mates as youngsters and I really would like to share a story which represented one day in our lives. (Ed. This appears as the next article in this Newsletter).

Notes: Newcomers to Llancarfan might not know that Idris is son of Jehoida Lewis, the last blacksmith to work in Llancarfan, and brother of Dilys Liscombe. Though there is no prize, can anyone identify CTG 766? - many of our present members will have no idea.

THE TRIP FROM THE FOX AND HOUNDS TO WHITEHALL via THE GREEN DRAGON

by Idris Lewis

One Saturday morning Calvert and I were asked by his Dad (Mr Dai Harris) to take the dray, with Spareparts in the shafts, from the Fox and Hounds down to the Green Dragon in Llancadle to collect a sow owned by Mr Dick Evans of the G.D. and to deliver same sow to Whitehall where a much admired boar was standing at stud.

We set-off, arrived and duly loaded the sow at the G.D. and now were ready to go off to the Whitehall. Mr Evans then decided he would come with us. Off we went up the

Llancadle road, along the lane which connects with Penmark Road just below Cliff Farm and so, via Kenson and Penmark Place Hill to Nurston and then Whitehall where sow was duly unloaded. And this is where the story really begins.

Dick, who really enjoyed a tot or two decided that he would join a few friends inside and after supplying Calvert and me with bottle each of Thomas & Evans Lemonade, disappeared into the bar. This sojourn took quite a time as can be well imagined. Calvert and I finished our lemonade and instead of using our time to remove from the dray the "residue" of the sow, we left it spread pretty well over the floor.

Eventually we departed from Whitehall with Dick wedged between us on the seat of the dray. Without the sow, the load was lighter and Spareparts came along at a good clop - turned right at Nurston, along the road and right again, and eventually left at the road leading down toward Penmark Place. Just before the turn Dick decided the journey was going a little too slowly and he took over the reins from Calvert.

-4-

At the turn of the road the old mare seemed to get a smell of "homeward bound" in her nostrils and obviously sensed new hands on the reins. She rapidly changed into high gear. The surface of the road, at the entrance to Penmark Place, in those days was made up of a strange formation of flat, smooth, very minutely terraced rocks. At this point the dray slid from side to side and with the gradient of the coming hill approaching, Calvert and I decided the safest point would probably be in the bottom of the dray to which we rapidly slithered and held tight.

Down, down, down - the old mare kept her feet somehow and we reached the bottom and then successfully negotiated Kenson Bridge and its immediate left hand corner. Only when we started to climb Cliff Hill did the momentum reduce and we could take a look around. It was soon clear that by this time we were in a very malodorous mess and that there was more "residue" around than when we started!!

However, all went quietly and well to the Green Dragon where Dick gave us half-a-crown each a lot in those days, and we proceeded home to Llancarfan.

P.S. - Spareparts eventually produced a magnificent foal, named Sandy, who was bought by a hunting gentleman, by name, I think, Lang Coath.

CARDIFF RECORDS - contributed by Mavis Coles

These are in chronological order which is a pity as Mavis says the last item (scandalous words) is her favourite.

THE PARISH OF LLANKERVAN Cardiff Records, page 300 (1548)

There is within the same parish iij quarters of an acre of Medowe grounds lying in Lanbethrie More, and a quarter of arable grounde lying in lancarvan gyven towards the Rep'ac'ons of the body of the Churche there. The yerly Valew wherof as it may appere by a rental amountithe to the Some of ijs.

CHURCH GOODS OF LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL 1558. Cardiff Records, page 160 (1585-86)

P'ochie de Llancarvan

Sr Robarte Johns clarke Vicar there.

One Chales contey'ing xij vneces.

It'm a crosse of Coper doble gilte

It'm a vestiment of Redd velvet with a crosse of golde vpon it.

It'm a hole sewte of bliwe.

1733 January. At Cardiff. Scandalous Welsh words at Llancarvan, said by one woman to another: "Y Mae yih cawse ach mennin yn drewy Ac y mae yih tuy yn drewy ac yn Rwstro fy fynd Rhyd yr Heol (Your cheese and butter stink; your house stinks and prevents my walking along the road)." (This year, for the first time the indictments are in English).

Note: does anyone know if the items listed as parochial property in 1558 still survive? The chalice or the gilt cross might have?

-5-

NEWS OF MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND EVENTS

The Barry and District News recently carried a photograph of the Golden Wedding celebration of Cliff and Eva Morgan, formerly of Llanbethery, now resident in Rhoose. Cliff and Eva lived in Llanbethery for about 37 years and were married in Llancarfan church when Cliff was in the army and Eva in the ATS. Our very best wishes to them both.

Phil Watts writes as follows:- Many Society members attended a surprise golden wedding celebration for Cliff and Eva Morgan at the Rhoose Social Club on Saturday January 23rd; there were between 150 and 200 people present. It was all kept secret from Cliff and Eva until they arrived the Social Club to spend a wonderful evening with friends, relatives and neighbours spanning the last fifty years. They were under the impression that they were being taken out to a family meal!

Cliff and Eva lived at Crynallt in Llancarfan when it was still called Orchard Cottage and they later moved to Pant-y-Coed in Llanbethery where they brought up their six children, Brian, Raymond, Haydn, Charles, Trevor and Patricia. Eva's father, Jack Durham, lived for

many years with the family in Llanbethery and was a very dedicated grandfather, often to be seen with two or three children in tow and later at cricket matches and other sporting occasions which gave the boys an introduction to becoming active sportsmen.

Vale of Glamorgan Conservation Volunteers have recently undertaken coppicing work for the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust in Coed Garnllwyd and at Whitton Rosser for the Amelia Methodist Trust (Barry and District News).

Congratulations to Jeremy and Andrew Coleman of the Blue Anchor, East Aberthaw which the new Egon Ronay Guide has recently named as one of the three best pubs in Wales (Barry and District News).

A young swan was found recently on the river, close to the Fox. Landlord, Mike Evans, called the RSPCA and ultimately the wanderer was removed to the pond at the Hawking Centre (tho old Barry Zoo) from which it is free to resume its journey whenever the spirit takes it: believed that it was unable to take-off with insufficient open water.

The Llancarfan Community Association A.G.M. will be on Thursday, 23 April at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Hall. During the proceedings a Memorial Plaque to the late Rachel Burrows will be unveiled.

Other news of the Llancarfan Community Association: A decorating session will be held at the Community Hall on Saturday 17 April and volunteers will be welcome. The Association is considering holding a First Aid Course dependent on the interest shown by residents. Other future events include an Auction in April and a film "Race Night" later in the year. An appeal for auctionable goods will shortly be made.

-6-

PATENT ROLLS contributed by Mavis Coles with a note by John Etherington (Patent rolls date from 1201 to the present day and record royal grants of priveleges, offices, lands and other matters).

35 Ed. I. 1304 m.4. Latin.

June 24. Carlisle. The king unto his beloved subject, Master Henry de Llancarvan, greeting. Whereas we lately committed unto you the custody of the castle of Kyrdyf, as also the office of chancellor in the parts of glamorgan, and of receiver of all the issues of lands and tenements there; which castle, lands and tenements, by the death of Joan who was wife of Gilbert de Clare, formerly Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, Our daughter,

deceased, and by reason of the minor age of Gilbert, son and heir of them the said Earl and Joan, are in Our hands; to have and to hold so long as it should please Us; and now for that Our beloved and faithful Ralph de Monthermer, Earl of Gloucester, hath demised according to Our will the Earldom of Athol, with the lands and tenements to the said earldom belonging, in Scotland, which he had to him and his heirs by Our gift: For a certain cause We have charged Ourselves with the payments to the said Ralph of five thousand marks; and towards the payment of he said five thousand marks have granted unto him the custody which to Us belongs of all lands in Wales and the March of Wales outside the County, which, by the death of the aforesaid Joan and by reason of the minor age of the aforesaid Gilbert, are in Our hands: to have until the lawful age of the aforesaid Gilbert, as in Our letters patent unto the aforesaid Ralph thereof made is more fully contained. We command you that without delay you deliver unto the said Ralph, or to his certain attorney, the castle aforesaid together with the armaments, victuals and all Our other things being within the castle, by indenture between you and him thereof to be made; to be kept in the form aforesaid; you in nowise further interfering in Our name in the said offices of Chancellor and Receiver. In witness &c. Witness the King as above. By Writ of Privy Seal.

In like manner it is a mandate unto the underwritten, for the delivery of the custody of the castles and bailies underwritten unto the aforesaid Ralph, to wit:- To William, son of Richard le fleming, for the custody of the Castle of Kaerfili.

A desultory search has produced no other information on Henry de Llancarvan are there any historians amongst us who know more of this gentleman from the time of Edward I? The older Gilbert de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan and Earl of Gloucester, recorded posthumously in this document, rebuilt Fitzhamon's Cardiff Castle and was the builder of the magnificent Caerphilly Castle and the original Castell Coch. The last de Clare who died at Bannockburn in 1314 was the Gilbert, minor, of this document.

SNIGGLING by Idris Lewis

On summer evenings, provided that the water in th brook was at sufficient level, Calvert Harris and I would sniggle for eels - the location being on the brook side of the wall at the bottom of the Fox and Hounds garden. Just at the water level, holes of one to one and a half inches in diameter or even slightly larger were found. These holes proceeded for some way under the wall and provided a habitat for some medium sized eels.

-7-

The sniggle was made from a willow switch about 2'0" long, stripped of the small branches and sufficiently pliable to negotiate the contortions of the holes. A small fish-hook was attached to a length of fine fishing line, baited with a small worm or maggot and then fixed

to the thinner end of the switch by gently pulling it into the pith at the end of the switch.

The bait could thus be gently pushed into the hole with the hope that a) an eel was present and b) that it would identify the bait, c) would take the bait and d) could be successfully pulled from the hole!!

ALAS - I cannot remember a single success from many hours sniggling. Obviously the attraction came from the preparation for and anticipation of, the expedition into the river!

THE GREEN DRAGON from Phil Watts in conversation with Letty Gardner

In the last Newsletter we reported that the Green Dragon Public House, Llancadle burnt down on the first Sunday of 1993, January 3. The fire started at about morning opening time. Thirty firefighters tackled the blaze which is believed to have started after embers from the open fire set the thatch alight. Six fire engines were called to the scene but unfortunately low water pressure in the main supply restricted their activities. A burning thatched roof needs more water than is held by two private swimming pools and that supplied by a 3 1/2 inch main. Eventually water was pumped to the fire from the river at Burton Bridge. This unfortunate happening prompted me to call on Letty Gardner, a life-long resident of Llancadle to discuss water supply in Llancadle.

Letty was able to produce a letter from Cardiff Rural District Council, dated 25.8.51, inviting residents to make connection to the newly laid main. Part of it read as follows:- "I am aware of the difficulty in obtaining labour and materials for the carrying out of the necessary work: you will be required to bear full cost of installation to within 1 foot of the 3-inch main in 3/4inch piping. The cost to a resident for connection would be £6.00."

It is hard to believe that the war had finished 6 years before, that materials and labour were still in short supply, and we were still rationed. Letty and I agreed that in 1951 £6.00 would have been about a week's wages for a craftsman.

Our thoughts drifted to consider how residents managed their water supply prior to 1951. Most houses had rainwater cisterns and a well was situated below Lower Llancadle Farm in an enclosure known as Harbottle's Field or Well Field. It was approached by two footpaths, one now closed. Entry to the closed path was just below the Green Dragon and the other entry was through Harbottle's yard - this still exists. Additional water supply was available from a mobile tank parked in the centre of the village opposite Harbottle's farm.

Letty has many memories of the Green Dragon, particularly from the years of childhood. She vividly remembers being taken to church by the horse and trap of the landlord, Richard Evans, driven by his son Dickie Evans. They would be dropped in Llancarfan and Dickie returned after the service to pick them up. Another person attending the church service would be Tom Griffiths, Redholm (blacksmith prior to Joe Lewis); Letty remembers Tom Griffiths always having a buttonhole and using the stable in the church hall for his horse.

Letty

-8-

remembers Dickie Evans marrying Joan Roberts of Penmark and she being given the time off from school by her teacher, Connie Griffiths, to see the wedding.

It was interesting to hear that Llancadle in those times had a carpenter's shop - this was run by Dickie Evans and was situated at the lower side of the Green Dragon as well as a store house. This area was later converted to a cellar and store area for the pub. After he married, Dickie moved to Romilly Road, Rhose and was the landlord of the Shoes and The Bells in St Athan (two separate pubs).

Richard Evans had three other children beside Dickie:- Tom, later to become landlord, Hettie and David. After Richard Evans' death the tenancy of the pub was handed down through the family. We think at this period, between the Wars, the pub belonged to Hancocks Brewery and previously to this, like the rest of the village, was part of the Fonmon Castle Estate.

Tom Evans was a bachelor. Before going home to run the pub for his widowed mother, he worked as a checker in the coal mines of the Rhondda Valley.

Tom and Dickie Evans had a sister, Hettie, who was married to a commercial traveller and kept a shop in Bridgend. We believe that the tenancy of the pub went from Richard Evans to his wife Ellen Evans, then to son Tom, then to Mrs Morris (Hettie - Tom's sister) and then to daughter Nellie. Nellie was living away from home but came back to look after mother who had had a stroke. Then, after mother's death, Nellie married John Jenkins and they ran the pub for a number of years with much success. We understand that Nellie is still alive and living in Llantwit but John has died.

After Nellie and John gave up the pub, Gethin Lloyd, a professional golfer at the Leys, took it on with his wife Nancy. They were a very popular couple and had a son, Robin, who had some success in the music world. Gethin had to give up his pro-golf because of a serious motorbike accident which was a severe handicap to him in spite of a remarkable recovery. Various new owners and landlords have run the pub in recent years and it has been totally reconstructed without damaging its character and charm. Everyone will agree that it is a very sad day to see all the work and endeavour go up in smoke. It is to be hoped that it is to be reconstructed - rebuilt and refurbished in a manner that we all remember.

In my discussion with Letty Gardner our thoughts were often of Edward (Ted) Williams who represented the area on the Cardiff Rural District Council during the fifties. He could be associated with housing in the village, street-lighting as well as farming and camaraderie at the Green Dragon. We hear that he is making a slow recovery after a while in hospital.

WE ALL KNOW found by John Etherington

Some of the flat stones in the church attest to the longevity of the inhabitants of Llantwit which is one of the healthiest places in the kingdom. We copy one:- "Here lieth the remains of Mathew Voss. Buried 1581. Aetat 129. ---- Few districts equal the Vale of Glamorgan in points of salubrity". C. F. Cliffe (1848) Book of South Wales, the Bristol Channel, Monmouthshire and the Wye. Hamilton, Adams.