



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 59 January-February 1994

It seems very late to say Happy New Year to you all - I can only apologise for the long delay in getting down to this first 1994 Newsletter - too much to do and some word-processor troubles into the bargain.

I hope the weather for the next few months is better than that during the close of the last year and during the last few weeks. We seem to have had an overdose of rain and gales this winter. Correspondents tell me that Llancarfán took its fair share of damage and power cuts during the gale on 89 December. Here, in Pembrokeshire, it was awful, though by some miracle we had no structural damage. The power went off for two or three hours when the wind was at its height and then flickered on and off all next day. At two-o'clock that morning it finally failed for the next fourteen hours! Fortunately we keep an emergency calor-gas stove and plenty of candles.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership renewal is due this month. The charge will remain at five pounds per mailing address or two pounds fifty for Senior Citizens living alone. A renewal slip was enclosed with the last Newsletter. We are circulating newcomers to the area with invitations to join - if you know anyone who would like to join please let Phil Watts know and send him your subscription if you have not already rejoined.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

WHIST DRIVE to be held at the Community Hall on Friday 25th February, 7.30 pm. Entrance £1 includes the usual refreshments. I hope this late Newsletter will circulate in time to remind you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Community Hall on Friday 11th March at 7.30 pm, together with a wildlife slide-show by Mrs Joan Raum. Please come along to meet friends and have a quiet drink.

MAY DAY WALK will take place on Monday 2nd May: more details in the next Newsletter.

BARBECUE will be held at Penonn Farm on Sunday, 12th June starting at 12.30 pm.

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, CF62 3AD. Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to the Secretary, Sheila Mace, Pel y Dryn, Llanbethery, Barry, South Glamorgan, CF62 3AN. Arrangements for visits to sick members: Len Fairfax, Summit View, Aberthin, Cowbridge, S. Glam. (Cowbridge 772654).

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NEWS OF MEMBERS FRIENDS AND PLACES

The Boxing Day Duck Egg race, organised by Gwynne Liscombe and helpers was a great success. The Barry and District News announced its results and the sharing of £655 between PHAB Wales and Barry Respite Care Scheme.

During the monthly meeting on 1st February the Chairman, Mick Mace, presented a cheque for £50.00 and a Society Tie to the Rev. Feild to mark his retirement from the Parish. Mrs Field accepted a basket flower arrangement and the Rev. Feild expressed their grateful thanks to everyone for their kindness to him and his wife.

Phil Watts writes that daffodils were planted on the verge from New House to the lower corner of Pancross Hill. Phil says he takes the blame or responsibility in the event of their not coming up later on this year. Joan Thomas has dealt likewise with another sack of King Alfred in the area of Pancross Barn and Cross. Our previous plantings show signs of braving the very wet elements on the river bank.

The Cowbridge Gem recently carried a couple of columns on a proposal from Len Fairfax concerning the possible formation of a Vale of Glamorgan Smallholders Association. Len makes the point that farmers have such organisations as the NFU but smallholders, farming a few acres, have nothing. Len farms seven acres and his proposed Association would involve self-help, such as exchange of equipment, and social events as well. Anyone who supports the idea should contact Len at 0446 772654.

CHALKING THE DOORSTEP

The Western Mail of 3 December, 1910 (yes, 83 years ago) carried a report of this "Druidical" tradition, extant in Carmarthenshire, Cardiganshire, Pembrokeshire and

Glamorgan. A chalk line was drawn around the outside of the slate doorstep: it was elaborately patterned but had to be unbroken. The object was to keep evil spirits out of the house. I have not met this one before - anyone know if it was done in the Vale?

PENMARK

The National Museum of Wales has recently published a book of Welsh Folk Tales (R. Gwyndaf 1992). This contains very little of relevance to the Vale except for a tale concerning the name of our neighbouring village. One of the princes of North Wales had a horse which was so fleet that it was often used to carry messages to King Arthur at his court in Somerset. One day the horse over-reached itself and fell dead in Cardiganshire at a place called Cefn march (horse's ridge) but its head travelled on to reach Pen-march (horse's head). This name is now anglicised to the present form.

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HISTORIC BOOK UNDER THE HAMMER

Odd that we should recently have written about Caradoc of Llancarfan for the first time.

Under this headline the Western Mail of 6 December announced that a manuscript by Caradoc of Llancarfan, The History of Cambria, Now Called Wales was to be one of the leading items in a Sotheby's auction and was expected to sell for around £4000. The 175 page book comes from the Fairfax Collection belonging to the family of Cromwell's famous Commander-in-chief, Thomas Fairfax. The book details the history of medieval Wales from the time of Cadwalader (sic) to the late 13th century. Anyone know its authenticity?

EDUCATION IN LLANCARFAN - COMMENTS ON THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER by Phil Watts

The previous newsletter contained a number of items concerning education. We have heard quite a lot of the happenings of the school under the headships of George and Rhys Davies, but it there is a shortage of information concerning the headships of Mr Samuel and Enoch Lewis. Perhaps their pupils are more shy or reserved than their predecessors. In conversation with these pupils I have heard there were many "goings-on" which are well worth writing about, for example the playing of the game "fox and hounds" was well

practised by the boys and some of the girls too. The area of the game was as far as you could go in the lunch time and be back on time to the response of the school bell. Places as far apart as Pancross Wood (Crynallt) and Broomwell were covered. The game consisted of one or two foxes being sent out to hide followed by another group after counting a suitable number called the dogs. When the game was in progress there were calls of "Whistle", "Squeal" or "Holla" - "The dogs can't follow". The fox would then give some audible response to indicate direction.

The result of this game would show in muddy shoes (or boots in those days) and some mud-splattered clothes.

In modern times when the children are not allowed off the school premises it may seem that the school staff were not behaving responsibly in allowing this game to take place. However, times are changed there are more motorised vehicles and less horse drawn.

I wonder if the post-war pupils can remember when the game of fox and hounds and similar ceased and when pupils were confined to school premises?

As a further note, I recollect that sometime in the post war years Rhoose School ceased to be a Secondary Modern. The girls from Llancarfan went to Jenner Park or High Street, Barry, and the boys to Romilly if they did not pass the eleven plus. It is worth recording that Romilly has just passed its centenary with many celebrations.

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THE NEW HOUSE TOMBSTONES a letter from Diane Morgan

This is just a short P.S. to the New House tombstones mystery - Newsletter 47 May 1992. You will remember that two stones were found in the garden of New House, one of which was a memorial to Francis William of Wenvoe who died in 1796.

I have recently received a copy of the Monumental Inscriptions of Llancarfan Parish Church, which were transcribed by members of the Glamorgan Family History Society in 1985. In the back of the publication is an addendum consisting of the inscriptions transcribed by David Jones of Wallington in 1888, amongst which is one to "Francis Williams of Wenvoe died 1796 aged 63" therefore the stone at New House was in the churchyard in 1888 and must have been removed at a later date for whatever reason,

however David Jones makes no mention of the other New House stone possibly meaning it was never used or removed prior to 1888.

The Vicar now also has a copy of the MI's as does Joan Scott-Quelch (Clerk to the Community Council) in case anyone is interested in them.

LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE EARLY 13TH CENTURY

Together with the information in the previous article, Diane Morgan also enclosed a photocopy from *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 11 (1865) as it is of interest to Joan Thomas and Tony of Pancross. This was written by G. T. Clark who we have met before:-

"The Iolo MSS give Gweirydd ap Seisyll Hên as the Lord of Llancarvan and Penmark; but in truth nothing certain has been handed down as to the lords of these parishes or districts at the period preceding the Norman Conquest of the Lordship. After that event the Umfrevilles and the St. Johns, Lords of Penmark and Fonmon, and the two most powerful of the Norman residents in that district, seem to have held much of Llancarvan parish, and the former family no doubt held the manor, one of the earliest civil records connected with which is a charter from the Raleigh title deeds, printed by Sir W. C. Trevelyan in Hodgson's Northumberland (Part 11, vol. i, p.10.)

This is a gift by Henry de Humphranville to Brifin, son of Urban, of twenty acres of land, held by Urban under Sir Henry, near the cross which stands on the road between LLancarvan and Llandili, between the two valleys, from the great road as far as the water of Carvan. Also one acre and a half of land, "ad augmentum" which lies between "Broad Fountain" and "Kilwent Ford", along the Carvan near "Seiveslad", to him and his heirs for 2s. per annum. The witnesses are Raymund de Sulie, Wm. de Reigni, Maurice de Cantilupe, Master Ralph Mailoc, Robert Samson, Thomas de Bodic, Henry chief bailiff, etc. The seal is an hexapetalous flower for Humphranville, with the legend SECRETUM HENRICI.

The position of this grant admits identification. The cross is Payn's Cross, now Pencross, and Llandili must be Llancadle. Ralph Mailoc is evidently the Ralph Mailok who died 2Cal. June 1231, having held in farm the church of Llanblethian under Tewkesbury Abbey, and whose son, nephew, or successor, Roger Mailok, in 1242, bullied the abbot out of an annuity. (Ann. of Tewkesbury, p. 124.)"

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NEWSLETTER CORRECTIONS from Phil Watts

1. We have been told that Sir Keith did not achieve 297 out of 300 in the eleven plus school scholarship examination. The correct figure was 291. We apologise for this error but would like to point out that it was still above the pass mark! Most of us managed to

obtain figures around the halfway mark and were considered to have done well.

2. We have also been told that in referring to Ann Boothby we should say Ann Lady Boothby and not Lady Ann Boothby. Another apology due here.

We have pleasure in noting these minor corrections because it proves to us that you the readers are still reading the Llancarfan Society newsletters. The more correspondents the better.

USE OF ARTICLES USED FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSE THAN MADE by Phil Watts

Clothes pegs:

In our house clothes pegs are used for:-

1. clipping the inner part of the cornflakes packet together to stop contents falling out when packet stood on its side
2. also for clipping loose papers together
3. part of peg used under table leg to keep table level and stop from being uneven

I have noted another Society member using a clothes peg as a component of his car: the clothes peg restrains the choke wire from moving to a closed position. The car does not have an automatic choke. Perhaps this was only a temporary arrangement but it seemed to work quite well. Could be marketed as "spring loaded choke closing device" suitable for most cars.

DEATHS by Phil Watts

Millward Harris formerly of the Fox and Hounds, Ty Uchaf and The Vines.

We regret to report the death of Millward Harris who lived at the Fox and Hounds, Ty Uchaf School Road, and the Vines Llanbethery before moving to Pentre Meyrick to farm with brother Calvert until retiring to Cowbridge where he lived until the death of his wife Elsie. Since that time he has lived at Southway Nursing Home in Cowbridge and immediately prior to his death, in a nursing home in Barry. Millward had a wide knowledge of the Vale having followed the Glamorgan Hunt over many years. He suffered a long illness having had both legs amputated but bore this bravely.

Note: Ty Uchaf became High Lanterns and has now been returned to Ty Uchaf by Georgina and Steve Powell.

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Gwladys Lougher:

Gwladys passed away a short time before Christmas at the Heath Hospital in Cardiff as the result of a heart problem. Gwladys kept a shop in Rhoose and was associated with the construction of the Rhoose Community Hall before moving to Cardiff. Her connection with Llancarfan was that her mother was brought up at Pancross Farm when it was farmed by the Hopkins family prior to the 1914-18 war. Her father was Jenkin Lougher son of Robert Lougher of Garnllwyd Farm. Gwladys was born in Hawaii where Jenkin managed a sugar plantation moved on to Cuba before settling in Rhoose.

CHURCH HALL FOOTLIGHTS by Phil Watts.

During the post war years in the late 1940's, in company with many other places, there was a revival of community activities. In Llancarfan this took the form of increased attendance at the Church and Chapels and the formation of a cricket team. These organizations and others took it on themselves to organize various functions to raise funds.

There was a series of concerts, organized by locals using local talent. Tudor Liscombe played a great part in these concerts regardless of who was organizing it. Johnie Jones although late in life was able to help with his ability as a choirmaster.

Home-made footlights gave the stage a bit of a professional look. The footlights were constructed by attaching opened-out tin cans to a piece of wood the full width of the stage and using the reflecting capabilities of the tins. After each concert the footlights were stored in the middle floor of the church tower.

While cleaning out the tower recently I came across the footlights. It is interesting to note some of the names on the tins. I quote - National Dried Milk, Ostermilk, Smith's World Famous Potato Crisps, Bournville Cocoa and Riley's Original Creamy Toffee.

The footlights were constructed by Bill Riley who lived in Morningside, then known as "The Nook". He later became engineer in charge at the Radar Station. Stella his wife is one of our members living in North Wales.

HOLE IN THE GROUND I by Phil Watts

At the time of writing there is taking place in Barry a public enquiry into the possibility of the Aberthaw quarry being used during the next 20 years for refuse disposal.

Many people are very upset at this suggestion saying it will be a big intrusion on the area, particularly those people living close-by. They have long-tolerated the tangled mass of machinery and the constant flow of dust, now they are asked to put up with further disturbance.

Across the Aberthaw estuary, towards the power station, an enormous man made mountain is being constructed - the waste from the power station grows ever higher into the sky. It is being landscaped and planted on the slopes but no doubt it does obstruct a view of the sea for some of the Aberthaw people.

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Now would it have been too difficult to deposit the waste from the power station in the hole in the ground at Aberthaw Quarry?

It is to be presumed that there is a lot of money to be made from allowing the local councils of South Wales to dump refuse here. And who knows in years to come the hole may be dug out and made into a boating lake just like Cardiff Bay.

HOLE IN THE GROUND II by John Etherington

Phil and I often seem to think alike about people's motivations particularly when a lot of money is involved, as suggested in the last paragraph of his note on the Aberthaw proposals.

Yes, there is a lot of money - to be exact, £250 million according to the Barry and District News. This would be the reward to Blue Circle for dumping 300,000 tonnes of rubbish every year for the next thirty years to produce the largest rubbish tip in Wales.

Many objections have been lodged and will be considered by the ongoing Public Enquiry which is expected to last for six weeks. In addition to the obvious nuisance of traffic, smells, litter, flies, pollution problems, impact on economic development and property values, there is also the disturbing prospect of reduced aircraft safety as the tip will attract birds (mainly seagulls) and is only a very short distance from the Rhoose runways of Cardiff Wales Airport and not much further from RAF St Athan. We have already mentioned this and the fact that bird-strikes have been a hazard in the past at Rhoose. The barrister for Blue Circle assured the Enquiry that the site would be covered by netting to deter birds but I'm afraid I strongly support the view of Councillor Mrs Hilary James who

commented that, if the situation was reversed it would be inconceivable that an International Airport should be built so close to a working rubbish tip.

The Secretary of State for Wales will no doubt have the final say. It is sad that most of the material which will fill this hole is either unnecessary packaging (which forms considerably more than half of my weekly rubbish accumulation) or items which, in a sensible society would be reclaimed. It is an interesting fact that virtually no scrap metal finds its way onto rubbish dumps in the third world - everything has its uses even if we do not all need twenty foot strips of footlights!

LOVESPOONS

We have been promised a love spoon carved by Mike Cram husband of Valerie (nee Jones of Great House). It has the stag carved into it. It has been given for use as a prize or to be auctioned. Please let us know if there is anyone who has a particular interest in love spoons. Or should we hang it in the Village Hall?