



LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 60 March-April 1994

Many of you will know that St Cadoc's Church is much in the news these days. Several local newspapers have run articles and featured photographs of this wonderful Church, sadly because it has fallen on hard financial times. We are grateful to Adrienne Leijerstam of Llanbethery who did the write-up and circulated it to the various papers. We follow suit in this Newsletter which

carries several items by members of the Church paying tribute to the Reverend Feild and appealing for help to prevent its closure.

MAY DAY WALK, TAIR ONEN FOREST, Monday, 2nd May.

This year we are venturing just outside the Parish for a walk through the Forestry Commission woodlands near Tair Onen, commencing at Owls Lodge by kind invitation of Mr Tony Wood.

Programme: meet for coffee and biscuits at the VILLAGE HALL AT 10.00 A.M. and move on to the CAR PARK AT OWLS LODGE, HEOL-Y-MARCH AT 11.00 A.M. Owls Lodge is about one mile north of the A48 in the direction of Welsh St Donats - see attached map. The walk will last about one hour.

If the walk sounds a bit too strenuous for you, the Village Hall is booked for the whole day: many people will prefer to base themselves there for a natter and, perhaps an informal walk around the village.

Walkers need a sturdy pair of shoes and clothing to cope with bad weather if the day is not set-fair. According to the party's discretion and the weather, lunch may be a picnic at one of the sites provided on the walk, or alternatively we shall return to the village Hall at 1.30 for an indoor picnic and raffle. Bring your own food for the picnic - tea and coffee will be provided by the Society in the Hall.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

BARBECUE: This will be held at Penonn Farm on Sunday, 12th June by kind invitation of Margaret and Arwyn Rees. Tickets are £3.00 each, gates open at 12.30 pm. We shall be grateful to any ladies who will provide various salads.

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).

-2-

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership renewal is now overdue. The charge remains at five pounds per mailing address or two pounds fifty for Senior Citizens living alone. A renewal slip was enclosed with Newsletter 58. We have circulated 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.

NEWS OF MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND PLACES

It is with great sadness that we record the untimely death of Bob Fletcher, Delta Cottage. Our deepest sympathy to Margaret and the family.
Congratulations to all at the Restaurant of the Fox and Hounds which celebrated its 25th anniversary at the beginning of April.

WHIST DRIVE HELD ON FEBRUARY 25TH IN VILLAGE HALL by Phil Watts:

In spite of a poor evening, weatherwise, there was a good attendance - nine tables and two sitting-out. We are encouraged to hold another whist drive later in the year probably in October. We have had a suggestion that we should hold a whist drive in the summer months thus avoiding the payment of heating and lighting. Some people said they found it cold in the hall on Friday night. I have known it to be colder. Please let us know your thoughts on a summer whist drive. The prize winners were:- 1st Lady - Doreen Everett: 2nd Lady - Roma Harbottle: 1st Gent. - David Harris: 2nd Gent. - Mrs Caldwell: Booby - ladies - Kath Watts: Booby - Gents - Phil Watts: Raffle
- Mrs Bird. Thanks to Mary Griffiths once again for Welsh cakes for refreshments.

ANOTHER APOLOGY: Phil Watts:

Some members have found that the stamps have come off the newsletter envelope while in the care of the postal authorities and have been surcharged for a non-stamped letter. I can assure members that every letter was stamped before being handed over to the postal

authorities. The only explanation I can offer is that the staple holding the sheets together came in the top right hand corner and may be responsible for unhinging the stamp. Another point to note is the possibility that after 170 licks I have run out of lubrication. Apologies to members concerned.

A MEMORY from Barbara Milhuisen:

When the death of Ann, Lady Boothby was mentioned in a Newsletter a few months ago I was reading it in France and listening at the same time to the World Service of the B.B.C. I paused in my reading for the programme was concerned with an interview with a Finnish student in London who was writing a thesis on "Milkmen".

-3-

Apparently, the U.K. is the only country in the world where the daily pint is delivered to the doors of all who want it. This originates from the days in the 17th century when milk maids had surplus and began selling it around the houses in their villages.

The connection with Lady Boothby is this: sometime during the War (39-45) she was our "milkmaid". She would arrive in Llancarfan I think by tractor with churns of milk and people would need to have their jugs ready to receive their pints (before bottled milk). It would be interesting to trace those before her and subsequent milkmen.

SOME THOUGHTS ON VISITING LLANCARFAN THE HARD WAY by Barbara Milhuisen

I wonder if this is a record? On my journey to the A.G.M. I spent 600 miles driving in France, four and a half hours on a boat then about 200 miles on to Llancarfan, so I had plenty of time to think!

What I thought about was who I owed letters to, but most important the number of people from Llancarfan I had either met or had Christmas cards from since the Annual Dinner. These include:-

Gwynne and Dilys Liscombe; Phil Watts; Tony Thomas; Sir Keith Thomas; Margaret Moseley; Ann Radcliffe; Valerie Cramm; Diana Griffiths; Andrew Griffiths; Margaret Morgan; Len Fairfax; Jeffery Thomas; Valerie Watts; Isabel Moffat; Brother Clive Jenkins and Aunt Glenys.

We all attended Llancarfan School and overlapped at differing times. I am grateful to the Society for the opportunity of renewing the friendship of the contemporaries of my youth but equally grateful for the new friendships formed since the inception of the Society.

THOUGHTS ON PHIL WATTS' OBITUARY TO DICK EVANS by Barbara Milhuisen:

Perhaps it might be of some interest, following your tribute to Dick, Phil, to add more on other members of our family who you mentioned.

Dick's sister, Edith Evans, was a captain in the TANS at the outbreak of war. She was a nursing sister in South Africa was then, of course, called into military service. From South Africa she was transferred to Mysore State in India in the middle of the war. At this stage she sent back to Wales a number of trunks and personal effects including gifts for her family.

My grandmother had died and the only remaining family living in Llancarfan were my mother, brother and myself. Somehow all labels were lost and the only way to identify to whom the trunks belonged was opening them. I think this was done by the Customs.

Inside one of the trunks was a book of Common Prayer presented to Aunty Edith at the time of her confirmation by the Vicar. I think he was Thomas Hughes at the time. The authorities then wrote to the Vicar, in the war at that time, Vicar Evans. He of course knew my aunt and my mother and all the trunks then arrived safely complete with the Prayer Book.

-4-

RETIREMENT OF THE REVEREND FEILD by Mick Mace, Churchwarden & Hon Sec. P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council at Llancarfan and the people of the Parish wished to recognise Rev, Feild's period in office of some 22 years with a farewell gift and, to this end, an envelope collection was made throughout the villages in the parish, resulting in many donations being gratefully received

A farewell lunchtime buffet was arranged in the Llancarfan Community Hall to follow Rev. Feild's last service of the Holy Eucharist in the church on Sunday 30th January, 1994 and all the parishoners were cordially invited to attend both the service and the gathering in the hall. It was a delight to see a full congregation at the morning Eucharist and the buffet in the hall afforded an opportunity to make a presentation of a cheque to the Rev. Feild and a silk flower arrangement to Mrs Feild, with our good wishes for a happy retirement to their new home in Barry.

May I express my thanks to all who assisted with the collection and with the catering in the hall.

A NOTE FROM MICK MACE, Chairman Llancarfan Society.

On the evening of Tuesday, 1st February, 1994, Bill and Catherine attended the normal meeting of the Society in the Fox and Hounds Inn at Llancarfan, when I was pleased to present a cheque and a basket flower arrangement, with the best wishes of all our members.

RETIREMENT OF REV. FEILD by Mrs Rosemary Morgan: Churchwarden, St. Illtyd's Church, Llantrithyd.

To mark the retirement of the Rev. Feild, the Parishoners of Llantrithyd organised a farewell luncheon party at "Rose Revived" the home of Mr and Mrs David Williams. This was well attended and a very enjoyable event, although we were extremely sorry to have to say goodbye to our Rector.

An envelope collection had been made in the village, and at the lunch we were able to present the Rector with a Silver Clock and a cheque. An arrangement of dried flowers was given to Mrs Feild.

With these gifts went our sincere good wishes to them both for a long and happy retirement.

REV. FEILD by B. M. Lodwick: Rural Dean.

The Reverend William Jenkin Feild, Vicar of Llancarfan and Llantrithyd retired on the 1st of February, 1994.

The retirement of the Reverend William Jenkin Feild marks the end of a quiet but faithful ministry in this diocese. Educated at the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, he saw active service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He then worked for many years with the Steel Company of

-5-

Wales at Port Talbot. He was a late vocation and trained to take holy orders at St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden. He was ordained in 1966 to a title in Cardiff St. John Baptist. There he served as assistant curate before becoming rector of Llancarfan with Llantrithyd in 1972. In the true tradition of the country parson he has held a long incumbancy there and one which, with its very great historical associations, has given him much satisfaction and pleasure. His ministry has been one exercised in the face of long-standing ill-health and it is our hope that in retirement he will enjoy much better health. He retires to Barry where he can exercise again his talent as a painter in oils and water colours. His gentleness and courtesy will be missed in this rural deanery. Supported in everything by his wife, Catherine, they take with them our gratitude and good wishes for what we hope will be a long and happy retirement.

ST. CADOC'S LLANCARFAN - IT'S FINANCIAL SITUATION by Edward Knott PCC

T
r
e
a
s
u
r

As I'm sure you are aware, Father Feild retired last January after 22 years service as our rector. Due to the financial situation of the church, his replacement was not automatic and we were advised by the Archdeacon that we had to put forward a viable financial plan before a new vicar would be considered.

The PCC decided to hold a meeting on the 8th March, which was well attended by about 100 parishoners. I explained how arrears of quota, currently amounting to £21,022, had built up since 1984. The Llandaff Diocesan Board of Finance were prepared to write off 80% of the arrears providing we set up a standing order for the balance to be paid over 3 years, as well as paying off the current years' quota. After my brief, Paul Gray chaired a well balanced discussion. It was obvious that everyone felt strongly that we should strive to meet this financial commitment, and receive a new vicar.

As the root cause of the problem is that over the past 10 years our regular income did not cover the church expenses and quota payments, the covenant scheme was relaunched. Forty-six families requested covenant forms at the meeting, and many more since. Those are now starting to be returned to our covenant secretary - Stephen Pearce. Several donations have also been received.

On the strength of this, a financial arrangement has been put into place which has been accepted by the Board of Finance. This allows nominations for our new vicar to be considered at the Patronage Board of the Diocese at their meeting on 19th April.

If you have already given a donation or entered into a covenant, I thank you most sincerely on behalf of the PCC. Should you require a covenant form, please contact Stephen on 0446-420822. I have found the response to this situation most rewarding and have every confidence that Llancarfan Church is well on the road to sorting out it's financial problems.

With a new vicar at the helm and the regular income covering the ongoing expenses and quota payments, our Restoration Fund can be formerl launched later in the year.

-6-

LOVESPOON DONATED BY VALERIE AND MIKE CRAM by Phil Watts:

We are now in receipt of the lovespoon that has been carved by Mike and presented to the Society on the day of the A.G.M. At the present time we are undecided what to do with it. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who is interested in purchasing it; should we auction it or put it forward as one of our raffle prizes? It has the word Llancarfan carved into it, also the stag.

Valerie recalls the years she lived in Llancarfan at Great House with mother, Enid, father, Ivor, sisters Sylvia and Patricia, brother John and grandfather Johnie Jones.

She wasn't aware until she read Newsletter 58 that her Aunty Gwladys' (Lougher) mother lived at Pancross Farm. Gwladys' mother and Johnie Jones wife were sisters. Valerie remembers being told that Johnie met his wife at an Eisteddfod. He was a violinist and she used to recite monologues.

Other members will remember Johnie Jones as a conductor of choirs and a Deacon of the Wesleyan Chapel. He was chairman of the Llancarfan Parish Council at the time the Church became disestablished, and probably supported the view that the churchyard came under the control of the Parish Council.

So it seems very likely that Johnie Jones appeared in front of the footlights described in Newsletter 59.

Valerie asks who remembers "Blatherwickes Diplomacy" being put on as a twoact play, produced by Tudor Liscombe in the Church Hall.

There were other acts of a lighter note produced on the same stage. One was a Home Guard scene which the actors could not act for laughing. Even in those days the people of Llancarfan were ahead of their time - an advance warning of "Dad's Army"!

LLANCARFAN MEMORIES by Valerie Cram (formerly of Great House)

With sadness, I read of the recent demise of Gwladys Lougher, my "Godmother", whom I met as a child and briefly at my coming of age (in those days, 21 years) when she gave me a Book of Common Prayer, covered in ivory-leather. My thoughts returned then to the Llancarfan barbeque in the Summer of 1992 when I was delighted to learn that the gentleman sitting next to me knew my father - in fact attended Barry (Boys) Grammar School with him at the beginning of this century.

The gentleman, Mr Lynnos Price, of New House Farm, Moulton, also mentioned during conversation that the Hopkins family farmed at Pancross Farm, Llancarfan and I was astonished that my father had never mentioned this (verified by Phil Watts, Abernant).

Previously, I imagined that as my grandparents John and Ann Jones, Great House, had met at Eisteddfodau (grandad a violinist and grandmother as an elocutionist (monologues)) that they were previously from another area (grandad, Carmarthen).

-7-

Sadly, my father passed away 4 years ago and having spent my lifetime to date, nursing and latterly raising a family with my husband Mike Cram, in Mid- and now West-Glamorgan, I rarely had the opportunity to discuss the "family tree".

Also, I remember reading of the Lougher family (Newsletters 10 & 25) one of whom had returned to this country from Canada with his wife and family: Ken Lougher - Gwladys'brother and my father's cousin (Ivor Jones, Great House). Their mothers were sisters - Gwladys and Ann (nee Hopkins).

So, the Llancarfan Society with it's social functions and newsletters has brought to my notice information for which I am truly grateful.

It makes me feel we have "true roots" rather than those acquired during this century whilst resident at Great House.

Actually I have a "stirring of memories" that tell me the original post office was across the road from Great House - where I remember a certain Mrs Harris lived during my childhood. She actually sang in the church choir as a "back up" to the children when the church choir was first formed but that's another story!

TYPING ERRORS: This Newsletter had to be typed very quickly to accommodate the change of venue for the May Day Walk - as a result the first draft contained a number of typographic errors two of which caused us amusement and might be of interest: firstly, the meeting to present the Society's gift to Rev Feild was held in the Fax and Hounds - considering the problems of compiling a Newsletter more than 100 miles from Llancarfan, this might have been wishful thinking. The other turned up in Mrs Morgan's tribute as "---- sending our god wishes ---." A message from above?