



## LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 68 July-August 1995

I must start with an apology for the lateness of this Newsletter which is entirely my fault as I have been quite unable to sit indoors typing whilst this wonderful weather has persisted - the last such summer was 1976 and, if I have to wait that long for another I shall be almost 80. However, despite Phil Watt's complaints of flooding during the winter, we are now desperate for rain. There was a shower this morning (23 August) but this has barely wetted the surface and the forecast holds little hope of much rain.

In the last Newsletter I appealed for more of your writings. A few people responded splendidly and if one or two more would put pen to paper (or finger to key) we shall survive until Christmas. What amazes me is that some recent historical information is still coming to light after six or seven yearsworth of these Newsletters. The recent change of tenancy of the Fox and Hounds has triggered a piece on its previous owners which will appear in the next Newsletter.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

ANNUAL DINNER 1995: Saturday, September 23. Numbers will be limited to 72 on a first, come first served basis. A few tickets still available.

WHIST DRIVE: Friday, 27 October.

1-ACT PLAYS: November 11. The Phoenix Players will present two plays at the Community Hall in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. Further details to be announced locally. See note below.

DECEMBER GATHERING OF MEMBERS: December 5, Fox and Hounds.

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, Llanarf, 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).

## ONE ACT PLAYS - NOVEMBER

These have suddenly appeared in our Dates for the Diary section. We had a gap in our programme for the year in November, and when this offer from the Phoenix Players came along we accepted the challenge in putting-on an event that had not been done in the village for a long time. We are told that the plays would be suitable for a family audience: the numbers will be limited so when we make a definite announcement please respond quickly to avoid disappointment.

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## OBITUARIES by Phil Watts

### JENKIN DUNN

It is with sadness we hear of the death of Jenkin Dunn on Thursday April 27th at the age of 80 years. The funeral took place at Carmel United Reformed Church at Bonvilston. Jenkin was active in most of the local organisations, a member of the long standing families of the Llancarfan area. He suffered a deformed hip joint for most of his life, a burden he carried cheerfully.

Of quiet disposition and yet firm resolve which he showed when called upon to umpire for the Llancarfan cricket team in the late forties and fifties he was also called upon to bat, using a runner, when the team has been desperately short. A keen follower of all sports including Cardiff City in their heydays.

He worked for Aberthaw Cement Company and his ability to organize and take care of other people's interest brought him such posts as Treasurer, Llancarfan Cricket Club and Carmel Chapel as well as serving 21 years on the Parish Council.

Jenkin will be greatly missed by Carol his sister and all who knew him.

### ROBERT MORGAN (ex-Walterston)

We hear of the death in hospital on April 30th of Robert (Bob) Morgan formerly of Walterston which he left many years ago.

Bob was a very fit and active man in his younger days. A very good horse rider and a winner many times at local gymkhanas. His sports included football and bowls. A contrast to his later days of suffering courageously borne.

Coming from a large family he is survived by many relatives in the Cowbridge, Rhoose and Llancarfan areas.

DR EVAN THOMAS

At the end of May we were saddened to hear of the death of Evan Thomas of Cowbridge. Our readers will remember him better as one who spent his childhood in Llancarfan, in particular Llanvythin, and often related his stories via the Newsletter. He regularly supported our barbeques and dinners even though he was in poor health in his later years.

His life-long friend was Richard John; both were pupils of Llancarfan School. The Doctor often said to me how remarkable it was that two country boys rose to such high position of authority in the county of Glamorgan. As Chief Medical Officer for the County of Glamorgan the Doctor was Physician to the Queen whilst she was in the county. Richard John became Clerk to the Glamorgan County Council.

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Evan was a true countryman. He loved the countryside and spent as much time as possible in pursuit of his his favourite pastimes of fishing and shooting. I shall miss hearing him talk of his hobbies somehow I thought he was one of the people who would live forever. I regard it as a privilege to have known him and to have been able to spend some time in his company.

Our thoughts go out to his family and to say "Thanks for the memories".

LLANCARFAN CLOCKS: HENRY WILLIAMS, 1727-1790 by Gwynne Liscombe

I was very interested to receive a letter, written by Peter Jarvis of Llandaff, originally to our Secretary. He is a mature student in the Local History Diploma Course of the University Extra Mural Department, working on a dissertation of Glamorgan clockmakers of the 18th and 19th centuries. He asks the Society for any help that can be given regarding Henry Williams and his clocks. His initial information came from Iorwerth Peate's "Clock and Watchmakers in Wales" (National Museum of Wales, 1945).

I understand that Henry Williams was practising as a Clockmaker in the second half of the 18th century. Also an Edward Williams married Cicely Lougher on 16th January 1815 and a Henry Williams is recorded as either a Clockmaker or Watchmaker in the 1841 and 1851 Census. These may not be relatives. What is interesting is that another Henry William's appears in the 1830's as a watchmaker! So, in fact, Llancarfan had at least 3 clock/watchmakers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. I have heard from my father that a Clockmaker lived at Ty-Uchaf, but I have no other evidence of this,

I am, however, certain that Henry Williams lived at Broad Hayes. When we sold Broad

Hayes we retained the older deeds dating back to the early part of the 18th century when the property was bought by Henry Williams from Robert Jones Esq., of Fonmon Castle. The deeds are extensive and I have loaned them to Peter Jarvis to research them. They contain of course, the signatures and seals of Robert Jones Esq., and Henry Williams. It is interesting that this is coming to light now when there is so much interest in securing funds to purchase all records pertaining to the Fonmon Estate.

Apart from wanting information regarding Henry Williams himself, Peter Jarvis was keen to know of anyone who possessed a Llancarfan Clock. I was fortunate to be able to purchase one from a lady living near Pencoed, Mid Glamorgan, almost 20 years ago and to take it back to where, in all probability, it was made - Broad Hayes, Llancarfan. In the deeds, Broad Hayes is referred to as Broad Hays or Broad Ways and they refer to the house and four fields. These would be the site of Fordings and Carreg Llwyd and Beechcroft, the site of the seven houses in the centre of the village - Fox Hollows, Bwythyn Gwynne, etc., the field opposite the school which contains the tennis court (named by the past inhabitants of Broad Hayes as "the furthest field"). The fourth I cannot identify yet.

The deed which has the most bearing on the transfer, which I have framed, is dated 12th January, 1768, or as it says "the eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third, by the Grace of God, of Great Brittain (spelt this way) France & Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth". The price paid was "Eighty Pounds of Lawful Money". The signature of Henry Williams on the deeds matches the signature on the face of the clock.

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Our clock is I understand, best described as a "Cottage Style" longcase clock with a brass face, a stout oak and well proportioned case and a date wheel. It is 81 inches in height. It is a 24 hour clock with a very heavy lead weight. Not a case of it being "too tall for the shelf" but rather, small enough to fit into low ceilinged rooms.

Iorwerth Peate's book refers to Henry Williams having apprentices so he must have been quite busy - they were Edward Tanner (1771) and John Brown (1778). He was also commissioned to repair etc. the Church Clock and Chimes of St. John's Church, Cardiff ("Cardiff Records", St. John's Parish Vestry Records):-

1776. Ordered that Henry Williams of Llancarfan, Clockmaker, be employed by the Churchwardens to putt the Church Clock and Chimes into proper Repair.

1780. Ordered that Mr Henry Williams Clockmaker be employed to keep the Church Clock and Chimes in proper repair, at the yearly salary of Thirty Shillings, he finding all necessary articles for that purpose except the Ropes.

From the deeds this would appear to be when he lived at Broadhayes doubtless a horse journey, and I wonder what the call out fee was!! I expext the thirty shillings per annum

included that! Where he lived in Llancarfan, prior to Broadhayes, is unknown but it is likely that he married Mary Davies (a Mary Williams is shown as making her mark as his wife on the deeds) on 14th September, 1753. They were both recorded as being of Llancarfan Parish.

Iorwerth Peate's book (1945) refers to three known long case clocks:-

- 1) at Penarth showing dates, moonphase, "High Water at Bristol Key"
- 2) at Pontypridd 24 hour Brass dial
- 3) at Peterston Super Ely - no details.

When I received the letter from our Secretary, I contacted Peter Jarvis who came to see me, the deeds and the clock - I was also sure that I knew the whereabouts of Clock (1) mentioned above and I took him to see it. Not a Cottage Clock - much more decorated and wood-crafted and in fine condition. Maybe the owner, in Llancarfan, will write something about that clock and any history known. I know nothing of the clock in Peterston Super Ely or Pontypridd. I suppose the latter could be the one I possess as the lady from whom I purchased it told me that her late husband was a Clock collector there were at least 10 long case clocks lined up, rather like soldiers, in the room.

There is another Llancarfan Clock at Tredegar House, Newport, in the main dining room at Tredegar House (on loan from the Folk Museum, St. Fagans) and a further clock in another room. There is also a Bracket Clock at St. Fagans and a very simple longcase clock in store at St. Fagans. Dilys and I also saw a Llancarfan Clock in a small shop in Faro, Algarve in 1975 when we were on holiday there, but I could get no information about it from the shop keepers (language etc). When we returned about 5 years later the shop was empty and the clock gone!

If the three mentioned in Peate's book are still in existence (and one is not mine), my arithmetic tells me that there are in fact eight long case clocks in the area plus the Bracket Clock. This is only an assumption as of the three mentioned in Peate's book the whereabouts of only one is known for certain.

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My late father had always talked about Llancarfan Clocks but sadly he did not live until the time I purchased it.

I have no doubt that Peter Jarvis will unearth more information in his research which may be of interest to our readers. He is currently reading our deeds and has found reference to a Public House in Llancarfan called The Jug and Glass Inn - any ideas? I thought there was only a Black Horse and The Fox and Hounds. What I have written is just a short account of what I know about the Llancarfan Clockmaker - Henry Williams. Maybe other members have information and I know Peter Jarvis will be glad to have it.

Editorial note - Gwynne's article is definitive but we have written of the clocks before.

Some relevant extracts will appear in Newsletter 69.

THE PASTIMES OF A VILLAGE LAD by Jeff Thomas of Masterton, New Zealand  
(formerly of Gowlog)

How on earth did children amuse themselves before the advent of television? Having watched my children spend hours and hours and hours in front of the goggle box I feel quite good about the fact that the children of my era went out and created their own entertainment. Of course being brought up on a farm gave Vernon and me a big advantage over our city cousins but even so we needed to show some initiative in taking the opportunities which country life offered.

As small boys water was, naturally, a great attraction and so we derived much pleasure from the well in the orchard and the little stream that flowed from it. Making mud dams to create a pond for sailing our toy boats was one of those pleasures and I recall working feverishly piling up mud trying to keep ahead of the rising water level. Eventually, of course, the stream won and cascaded down the hill after bursting the dam. Home we would go covered from top to toe in thick brown mud - poor mother!

Wildlife featured significantly in the life of a country lad and David Evans mentioned some of our bird nesting exploits in Newsletter 48. That was a popular pastime in those days and with a large number of bird species in the Vale there was much variety in the eggs collected: ranging from the tiny wrens in their cosy nests to the noisy rooks which built their nests high in the trees overlooking Llancarfan. Setting rabbit snares in Pancross Wood, mole traps in the fields and fishing in the river were other pursuits where we horrible boys pitted our hunting skills against the local fauna. Without a great deal of success I might add!

At school, playground games varied according to the latest craze to hit the district but some of the regulars which cropped up every year were skipping and hopscotch for the girls and marbles, conkers and bowling hoops for the boys. Do you remember Catty and Doggy? A short round piece of wood tapered at the ends (the cat) was bounced and then hit with a longer piece of stick (the dog). Points were scored according to the distance the cat travelled. There were many more games that I have long since forgotten and I hope that some readers might be moved to add to my list.

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I came from a horse-loving background and so it was natural that those magnificent animals loomed large in my upbringing. From early days we had ponies and I vividly recall the terror of riding in my first show at Whitchurch. To the disappointment of my parents I was never much of a horseman and any inclination I might have had to succeed disappeared after a nasty spill I had on Boxing Day 1943. I was on my grey Arab pony

racing Dad and Vern when it shied violently to the right and I went straight on landing on my head. I can remember returning to the house but the next thing I knew I was in a ward in St. Winifred's Hospital, 8 hours later. From then on I confined my interest in gymkhanas to watching my contemporaries such as Bob Morgan on the grand old campaigner Nippy, Waldo Edwards, Ann and Rhys Williams performing with great skill as they contested the musical chairs to the strains of Colonel Bogey, Blaze Away, etc. or took part in Thread the Needle, Egg and Spoon and Potato Races.

Other little pastimes which we enjoyed were stamp collecting, lighting camp fires in the woods and cooking very primitive meals on them, catching grasshoppers on our way from Gowlog to Sunday school then letting them go in Church, baiting grandfather Johnny Griffiths until he got so angry he would throw his walking stick at us shouting "Blagards" as he did so. The birthday party circuit was another highlight and we looked forward to marvellous teas at various farm houses in the district. I can still reel off the birth dates of many of those friends.

You will notice that there is no reference to team sports. The lack of organised competitions and coaching was a disadvantage we did not recognise at the time and it was not until we reached secondary school that we realised how far behind the townies we were in that respect. My introduction to anything approaching a proper soccer game was in the summer of 1944 or 45

when the "big kids" - probably including Phil Watts and Gwynne Liscombe played matches on the fields of Ty To Maen. After watching through a hedge for a few evenings Vern and I plucked up enough courage to join in. The experience was not much use to me at Cowbridge Grammar however because, with Idwal Rees, headmaster, and Les Manfield, sportsmaster, rugby was dominant and soccer was only mentioned when they were out of hearing.

That, my friends, concludes this chapter of my memoirs. Best wishes from the Land of the Long White Cloud - Aotearoa!

#### V.E. DAY + 50 YEARS - LLANCARFAN by Phil Watts

This was a quiet day in Llanccarfán with no organised event taking place, as a decision has been made to concentrate on V.J. Day + 50 on Saturday August 19th.

The Fox played war-years music and issued ration books to customers which, when produced at the bar, gave customers a discount. To mark the occasion the Church bells were chimed at 11 o'clock and 3.p.m. (the time that Mr. Churchill spoke to the nation in 1945).

Ruth and I decided we would do something that we did 50 years ago and that was to ride bikes. We left Abernant at 2.30., to go to Llanccarfán, and returned about 5 p.m. Instead of waving to people from cars we were able to stop and talk

and even got dragged in for a cup of tea. I decided to test the

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capabilities of Russel's mountain bike by riding Monastery Mill hill to the alarm of Ruth. We then retired for the evening to watch other people's celebrations on television. What an alarming thought that fifty five million people lost their lives in World War II - no wonder people celebrated with relief.

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND PLACES

Ann Maddox, head teacher of Llancarfan Primary School has recently retired and we all wish her well for the future and extend our gratitude for all she has done over the past few years. Charlotte Ashmore has also retired from the school but will be seen in the new role of landlady of the Fox and Hounds though this is not the first time that she and Mike have occupied the "wrong side" of the bar at the Fox. Good wishes to them.

The Church roof fund is already approaching £30, 000; a magnificent response to the appeal. The north roof has already been reslated.

The Barry and District News recently carried an advertising feature for the Three Horseshoes at Moulton following its recent refurbishment. The Forge Restaurant seems as popular as ever - is it still decorated with any of the tools from the Blacksmith' Shop in Llancarfan?

Fame at last! Those of you who watch the late evening HTV weather forecast will know that it gives a synopsis of Welsh weather conditions as a list of place-names from North to South Wales On Wednesday, July 24, Llancarfan appeared as the southernmost place, and with a good forecast! For such a lovely village we have rarely featured on television - helicopters landing during floods and snow, and a series of programmes featuring singing in St Cadoc's come to mind but not much else. For the record, can anyone remember what the programmes from the Church were called?

The reincarnated Llancarfan Cricket Club celebrated with a first-match win against the Llandaff Diocesan Clergy despite the shock of finding our Vicar, Malcom Davies, playing against us! Llancarfan won by three wickets, 80 to 74 all out.

#### BELLRINGING by Phil Watts

On July 28 the Llancarfan bellringers rang for a wedding in St Mary's, Bonvilston. After many months of regular Tuesday night practices under the guidance of the captain of the Bonvilston tower, Tony Wood, it was felt that there was sufficient confidence to ring for such an occasion.



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Margaret Fletcher was on treble, Roger Harris no. 2, Phil Watts no. 3, Georgina Powell no. 4, Ros Hunt no. 5 and our leader on tenor.

If there are any of you out there who would like to join us for practice on a Tuesday evening at 7.30 - 9.00 p.m., you would be made very welcome

#### CHURCH RESTORATION by Phil Watts

The Rev. Malcolm Davies has told us that, now work is well under way with the church roof it is time to consider what we should do about the tower and the bells. If you have strong views, please make them known to the Vicar in the near future.

The questions are:- we have four bells which cannot ring because of a rotten frame: should we renovate the tower, overhasul the existing bells and fit a new frame, continuing to chime as we do now or should we recast the bells into a ring of six.

We all know what is best - but at the end of the day it will depend on what money is available and how best to spend it.

There is an interest in bell-ringing in the village at the present time and, as in the case of the Church roof the residents of the area should not be denied a place of worship so the residents should not be denied the pleasure of bellringing.

Bellringers come from all walks of life and do not follow a constant way of worship, including church, chapel and nonbelievers. One fact is usually constant and that is the church tower is near the village pub!