



## THE LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

### Newsletter 84 November 1998

EDITORIAL The story of the *Fox and Hounds* moves on to **Part III**, in this Newsletter, by jumping the few years from 1945 to 1952. At the moment, the Charlie Bryer years remain as a gap in our written record which we have high hopes of filling in the near future.

Also in this Newsletter we have a first-hand account of travel on the Cowbridge and Aberthaw Railway, written by Alfred Mills of Queen Street, Barry. This originally appeared as an article in the *Gem* and is now part of a book by Mr Mills. The same book also features the Hughes family who lived next door to Alfred in Porthkerry, during the 1920s. Bob Hughes, later of Llanbethery, was Alfred's great friend while Bob's younger brother, Harry, appears as the small boy who later became Harry Hughes of Llancafán, handyman extraordinary.

### **Walterston**

John Cann of *Hen Dy Gwair*, Walterston, has been researching the history of *Walterston Fawr* and the former Manor of Walterston. *Hen Dy Gwair* was used formerly as a grain and hay barn and a cattle shed, and was once part of *Walterston Fawr* properties. Later it was part of *Walterston Fach*, prior to John & Ann converting the main buildings. It overlooks Ford Brook which rises at Ffynnon Whitton Mawr and joins Nant Carfan at Ford. One end of the building was used for the bull, this appears to be an old house (probably circa 1700) which has recently been confirmed by unblocking the hearth.

John would be pleased to hear from anyone with historical information which may be useful in unravelling, amongst other things, the complicated story of the Cradock and Petre families (1600-1700s) and the Jenkins family with which the Petres were linked by marriage (mid-1700s-1880). There are memorials to the Jenkins on the Cradock tomb in St Cadoc's Church yard. John has already uncovered a considerable amount of documentary evidence, and is now trying to do the same for the rest of Walterston. If you can help, phone him at 01446 781243.

### **Annual Dinner - *Fox and Hounds* September 26<sup>th</sup> by Phil Watts**

After many years absence, the Llancafán Society Annual Dinner was held at the *Fox and Hounds*. It was known for many weeks that this was to be a very popular venue because the dinner was a sell-out many weeks before. There was a waiting list of people hoping for cancellations! The max number is 78 in the *Fox* and there were about a dozen disappointed people.

The evening was huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The accent was on reminiscence and chat. Our chairman, Phillip Gammon, thanked the organising committee for doing a good job, also Digby and Jenny Rees for an excellent meal. Philip gave an account of the Society's most recent activities and thanked all the folk involved in the research for the forthcoming book. He said this had brought a breath of new life into the Society and that the newly found enthusiasm was most welcome.

The highlight was the display by Graham Brain of photographs which he has scanned onto computer-disc which can be viewed on computer screen. They are also available on the Internet.. The work of scanning more photographs and documents onto the system will continue over the next twelve months, as they become available.

Tony Thomas recalled that Betty Martin (Harris) used to keep packets of crisps and sweets, specially for him, that were in short supply from village shop - there was a War and sweet rationing at the time! Other reminiscences of Betty's appeared in the last Newsletter, of course.

Tony also spoke of that well known character Dai Griffiths, the carpenter and wheelwright of *Glan yr Afon*. How accomplished he was at doing crosswords and winning many prizes! - Christmas hampers etc. Dai used to send in multiple entries to cover the many alternatives in the clues This I can confirm because my father, William Watts, has brought as many as 72 *News of the World* from Barry for David, after he had completed his milk round. While I was delivering papers around Llancarfan, he had as many as 12 *News of the World* at a time. And they said he was mean!! Business enterprise!! We who remember Dai have a picture of him, but those who are only hearing stories do not.. I wonder if anyone has a photograph of him?

Eunice Llewellyn used to keep house for David - I'm sure she could enlighten us with a few more stories. So what about it Eunice?

The raffle at the Dinner was also success, all the prizes being donated by members. Ruth had a message from Trix ie Phillips, saying that she was thinking of us at the Dinner. We will also be thinking of her as she undergoes her second hip operation. Trixie has had her car written-off by an inconsiderate motorist in the lanes near to her home. She is very much immobile these days, so we wish her all the best for her operation. There is much else about her in this Newsletter!

Phil Watts has recently received a copy of a family tree compiled by the late John Rowland. Older members will remember John's father, Frank Rowland at *Ty To Maen* and *Gowlog* and John's great-uncle, Evan Rowland, at *Garnllwyd*. Prior to marrying Elizabeth Lougher of *Garnllwyd*, Evan had lived at *Walterston Fawr* with his father, mother and numerous siblings. The previous generation of the family originated from Eglwysilan to the north-west of Caerphilly where they lived at the *Angel Inn* and *Farm*. Does anyone know where the *Angel Inn* was (or is)? I don't think it is the same *Angel* as the present day pub in Pen-yr-Heol, Caerphilly?

### **Water-Meadows** by John Etherington

We have looked at all sorts of agricultural history in the Newsletters but I have never

seen a reference to water-meadows in the parish. Water-meadows were an ancient and productive form of grassland agriculture, common in western and midland England. They were managed by diverting river or stream water to flood suitably embanked and levelled areas of grassland during the very early spring. The temperature of the soil was increased by the warmer spring water which also fertilised it by deposition of sediment or dissolved nutrients.

When John Cann was corresponding with me about his Walterston researches he enclosed a copy of a fifteenth century document which he had encountered in the Glamorgan Record Office. This concerned valuation of lands, *inter alia*, in Walterston as part of a dower award to Margaret Malifant (formerly Cradock) from the estate of her late husband.

The part of the document concerning Walterston recited details of various tenanted lands including "1 acre in Water mede" and "half acre of meadow at Watermede. One area is identified as "2 acres at Whiton" - The upper part of Ford Brook which rises at Ffynnon Whitton Mawr runs down through a shallow valley which could well have been managed as water meadows. What we need is some hard evidence - for example the relics of the waterways should be visible in aerial photographs taken in low sunlight near dawn or dusk.

Since writing this, Frank Jameson, who is researching field-boundary changes in the parish, has looked at aerial photo's of Walterston and has located some unusual soil-markings in fields adjacent to Ford Brook, However, we still need more evidence that these were related to water-meadow management.

**Contributions for the Newsletter** should be sent to the Editor, John Etherington, Parc-y-Bont, Llanhowell, Solva, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6XX or e-mail to:- [eth.pbont@virgin.net](mailto:eth.pbont@virgin.net)

We will also be pleased to print short announcements of village functions but they must be sent in writing, at least 2 to 3 months in advance.

**Contact addresses:** Subscriptions and problems with mailing: to the Membership Secretary, Phil Watts, 23 Heol Sirhwi, Cwm Talwg, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 7TG. Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to the Secretary, Sheila Mace, Pel-y-Dryn, Llanbethery, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3AN. Arrangements for visits to sick members: Len Fairfax, Summit View, Aberthin, Cowbridge, Vale of Glam. (Cowbridge 772654).

Llancarfan Society administrative and web site e-mail:-

[llansoc@llancarfan.force9.co.uk](mailto:llansoc@llancarfan.force9.co.uk)

**Web address:** by one of those Murphy's law disasters struck in the last two Newsletters and a minor typing error became a serious problem. The www address was wrong - apologies to anyone who was inconvenienced. It should have been:-

[www.llancarfan.force9.co.uk](http://www.llancarfan.force9.co.uk)

**Railway again - again!** By John Etherington

Three appeals for photos of the Cowbridge to Aberthaw railway have failed to produce a single one. I wrote to the *Western Mail* correspondence column in August but the letter was not published as it clashed with the fascinating sagas of Bill Clinton and Ron Davies v. Rhodri Morgan.

Imagine my surprise when I received a letter, today (14 October), enclosing a cutting from the *Mail's* Westgate column for 30<sup>th</sup> September which included the text of my appeal. The letter was from Ken Davies of Neath, Secretary of the Railway Correspondence and Travel *Society* who has made several useful suggestions which I shall follow-up.

Here for the fourth and last time is the gist of the appeal which the *Mail* published :-

One of the gaps in the Society's photographic record is the former Cowbridge to Aberthaw railway which passed through the parish of Llancarfan. We have searched fruitlessly for a photograph of a steam locomotive and rolling stock on the section of the line which skirted Llanbethery Moors between St Athan Road and St Marychurch halts. A locomotive, steaming amongst the woodlands fringing the Thaw floodplain, must have been a spectacular sight which someone surely recorded? The railway was closed to passenger traffic in 1930 but carried freight until 1932.

Are you the owner of such a photograph? If so, we could arrange a visit for copying to avoid posting a precious historical record. To avoid unnecessary correspondence, we already know of Colin Chapman's excellent book, *The Cowbridge Railway*.

Amongst the notes we have published on the railway were Ken Lougher's, Evan Thomas' and Letty Gardeners personal memories of using the railway. Another has now come my way in Alfred Mill's book, *Memories Immune to Time*, published by The Living Archive Centre, Barry (1996). With Mr Mills permission, it appears below.

### **Following the Thaw by Rail** by Alfred Mills

Reproduced from *Memories Immune to Time*, published by The Living Archive Centre, Barry (1996), by permission of the author.

Like most youngsters, the thrill of a train ride surpassed anything, and all too few in our family took place, but ones that gave the most pleasure were the ones that enabled us to visit an aunt and uncle at Prisk, near Welsh St Donats.

The little line from Aberthaw to Cowbridge was opened on October 1, 1892 at a cost of £120,000. It was six miles 33 chains long and ran under 11 bridges and over 12 bridges. It travelled through some beautiful country in the Vale. I was permitted to stand by the open window to feel the rush of air and the never-to-be-forgotten smell of steam, and, although I was pleased to see my relatives, the pleasure of the return train journey was uppermost in my mind.

The terminus at Aberthaw was reached via Well Road (opposite the *Blue Anchor*) where you passed under the bridge carrying the main Barry to Bridgend line, and turned left for about 100 yards to the booking-office and platform. It was a single track line with sidings to the lime-works at Pleasant Harbour, and the cement works. The train usually consisted of two carriages and they were not the height of luxury. The first stop after passing the cement works was St Athan Road station with a girder

bridge spanning the main Barry to Llantwit Major road (the stone abutments are still in position). The station building later became a house.

We used to get off two stops beyond Cowbridge, at Maendy, which was a halt.

Now many years on, and having a car, I frequently pass over bridges spanning the old "A and C" track beds and point out to my friends the old levels. I relive the occasion that I travelled on the Cowbridge and Aberthaw Railway.

**Welsh speaker** wanted! As a consequence of the *Western Mail's* Westgate column publicity, I have received various photocopies from John Lyons of Narberth, Pembrokeshire. One of these is an extract from an 1864 essay *Traethawd Buddugol ar Hanes Llanearfan* by Thomas Morgan, which was a winner at the Llanearfan Eisteddfod in that year. The title translates as: *Winning Essay on the History of Llanearfan* and was published in *Golud y Oes*.

I know we have one or two Welsh speaking members amongst our largely anglicised number. Please may I have a volunteer to produce a *précis* of the essay for me? I could simply ask someone, but "a refusal may cause embarrassment".

**Newsletter index:** We now have an index to contents of all 83 previous Newsletters. There is a bound copy in the Llanearfan Society collection of documents in the Village Hall as well as a complete set of Newsletters. The index is also available on the web-site.

### **The Fox and Hounds. Part III A Conversation with Trixie Phillips**

by Phil Watts

In 1952 the *Fox & Hounds* was owned by Norman Hardy who was the proprietor of *Bindles Ballroom*, Barry. Miss B. M. Phillips became the licensee after persuading the magistrates to grant her a licence to dispense alcohol, tobacco and spirits. The magistrates were dubious, but not as dubious as the locals of Llanearfan were about the ability of a young lady from Barry to run a country pub.

Trixie had been the manageress of *Bindles Ballroom* for Norman Hardy. At this time *Bindles* did not have a licence to sell alcohol, so the reason for buying the *Fox & Hounds* was to use the licence of the *Fox* to, dispense drink at *Bindles*.

Trixie recalls her first day in the *Fox & Hounds*. She had been given a lot of flowers as leaving presents from *Bindles* and brought them to the *Fox*, so creating a new dimension in country pubs. It brought the comment from one of the locals, "Who has died?". Miss Phillips' love of flowers was evident in her running of the *Fox & Hounds*. One busy Saturday night she asked one of the bar staff to change the flowers, which brought the reply: "I'm busy serving customers, I haven't got time to deal with b----- flowers". This was something of a misunderstanding, the flowers that needed changing being the barrel of Flowers Best Bitter

So Trixie became the licensee of the *Fox & Hounds* in 1952, She also retained her interest in the running of *Bindles Ballroom* as a Director. Norman Hardy owned both properties and Trixie finally bought the *Fox & Hounds* in the 1960's.

The *Fox & Hounds* was staffed by a succession of trained bar staff from *Bindles*. The best known of these was Betty Hill (in those days, Betty Connors). She married Bill Hill in about 1966. Betty cycled to Llancarfan in the early days, from Barry, and also used the bus service which was more frequent at that time - twice daily, not twice a week as now.

Names of people behind the bar at the *Fox* in the early days of 1952-1962 were Betty Connors-Hill, Doreen Clode, Jack Burgess, Doris Robson, Eileen Dudley; Pat Jones, and Betty Ringrose - all supervised, aided and abetted by Glyn Llewellyn. Three of these bar ladies took-on the running of other pubs in the area. Doreen Clode and Betty Ringrose were at the *Mason's Arms*, Llanbethery, and Eileen Dudley at the *Six Bells*, Penmark. Hancocks Brewery used to consider an apprenticeship at the *Fox & Hounds* a qualification to run a pub, and what a good job they made of it. More competition for the *Fox & Hounds*!

One of Glyn Llewellyn's tasks was to lift Alfie out of his invalid car, carry him into the pub and place him on the settle in the bar. Alfie was Pat Jones' brother had lost both his legs: this was a task for Glyn that went on for many years.

In 1956 the *Fox & Hounds* suffered a great set-back, as did the whole British nation, caused by the Suez crisis. Petrol was rationed and nobody came to the pub. This sent Miss Phillips back to work at *Bindles* where she was not idle.. She persuaded Norman Hardy that there were many people wanting to come to Barry to stay, and that there was a lack of accommodation in the town. So, the *Waters Edge Hotel* was built next to *Bindles*. A license was obtained for the hotel, so relieving the *Fox & Hounds* of its duty of licensing *Bindles*. It also made the *Fox & Hounds* available for Miss Phillips to purchase.

Trixie wanted to buy a home in the village and she finally purchased *The Old Parsonage* from Bob Lee, longstanding assistant editor of the *Western Mail*. Now, with somewhere-else to live, Trixie was able to place a Manager and Manageress in the *Fox & Hounds*. The first of these was Jack and Eileen Dudley from 1964-66. They later ran the *Six Bells*, Penmark. Margaret Martin ran the *Fox* for Trixie from 1966-68 - Margaret was Trixie's niece. Then came the reign of Bill and Betty Hill aided and abetted by Billy Phillips.

Bill Hill was the baker, cellar-man, odd-job man and would be anything in the pub but *never* the barman. He would taste the beer, but never sell it and he would not handle money. He could often be seen tasting the HB using a half-pint straight glass and holding it up to the light. He was allowed this privilege in the pub.

This was the purple patch for the *Fox*. There were great crowds and the restaurant was opened and run by Edgar Balchin from 1969-97. Dai Griffiths' field across the river was purchased, and part of it converted to a car park connected to the main part of the *Fox & Hounds* car park by a bridge. This was built by Harry Hughes under the

direction of Norman Andrews who was also the architect involved with all the alterations, extension of restaurant, storeroom, bake-house, lounge, cellar etc.

Trixie never intended to run this pub single handed and she was always assisted by the most able of people. The most capable of these was Glyn Llewellyn: who was a force behind the crown. He controlled the traffic into the car park, with the help of Trixie on point duty at the Blacksmith Cross (near the War Memorial - the *Blacksmith Shop* disappeared in the eighties). People were getting to know the *Fox & Hounds* but were not quite sure where it was, and in the early days it was difficult to find somewhere to park.

Public meetings were held to discuss traffic congestion caused by the popularity of the *Fox & Hounds*. The Parish Council would not sell a part of the burial ground, but the field at bottom of school hill became available for car parking. A planning permission was also granted for two houses on this land, intended for staff of the *Fox & Hounds*. Glyn Llewellyn was the instigator of the Restaurant, but alas he did not live to see it opened,. He had always wanted Trixie to convert part of the *Fox* to a Restaurant, but while Trixie felt that while she was capable of standing in for most posts in the *Fox*, she did not want to be the stand-in chef. She enjoyed the eating better than the cooking! Glyn brought Edgar Balchin to Llancarfan, introduced by Gwyn Richards, a mutual friend from the Llanover Arms, Pontypridd. Everyone knows what a huge success this became.

During this period of expansion and popularity the *Fox & Hounds* had a glamorous team of bar attendants - Linda and Vena Mephram, Maxine Phillips, Liz Smith, Sue Koops, Meriel Grant, Ann Jory, Jennifer Griffiths, Jeanette Davis, Mary Lucas, Diane Doble, Aleter ?, Betty Hill, of course, and a lovely lady - Trixie's sister-in-law Mabs Phillips. Sid Black and Phil Watts came on to the scene at this time and with others it became a winning team. Mary Webber (1969-83) and Mary Lucas were often referred to as "The Two Marys" and when she was not in the *Fox*, Mary Lucas was cook for the Dock Pilots working the Bristol Channel from Barry.

From 1973-80, Sid Black helped Trixie to run the *Fox* and Phil Watts joined him in 1973-74. Also, in this period we had Susan Couth (with two Siamese cats) in '75, Mike and Charlotte Ashmore (76), Rhona Mitchell (77-78), followed by Bill and Jane ?, who left suddenly to take a pub in Devon. There was also a man by the name of Morgan (?) who left to run the catering at the Wenvoe Golf Club and, in between, the Lamberts, who arrived late on a Saturday accompanied by a parrot. They lived for-awhile in *Crynallt*.

Somewhere-in the middle of these comings and goings, a man with a great reputation arrived on a Friday evening and left before opening on Sunday! If I remember rightly he came from somewhere near Lake Windermere. In 1980/81 the pub was run by Philip Ryan who lived in *Crynallt*, and he was followed, in 81/82, by Alan and Janice Brown also living in *Crynallt*. They remained in the area and ran several places, before returning to Ipswich. Sandy and Gill Warrener managed the *Fox* for a while before answering the call to a Cardiff pub, *The City Arms*, in Quay Street, which they ran for a number of years.

There are two others that I remember but am unable to fit into the time-sequence: Tom Marshall from *Broadhayes* and Alan Johnson, the ship's Captain, from Barry. These last two were both hoping to pick-up tips of the trade before leaving to run their own pubs. Tom Marshall is remembered for installing an extremely loud brass bell in the bar!

### **The Llanvithyn rabbits - or are they hares?** by John Etherington

There is an unusual carved stone in the east gable of Llanvithyn House. It is about 500mm in diameter and clever carving gives it only three ears between three heads. There is a similar stone in the Lady Chapel of St David's Cathedral in West Wales.

Nona Rees, Librarian of St David's Cathedral, tells me that it is a Trinitarian sign and an example of Christian absorption of a pre-Christian belief. The rabbit (or is it hare?) was associated with the moon and with fertility - this became lust, later on, but the redeeming feature was the helplessness of the creature as an avenue to salvation.

This particular configuration is found in the West Country - Dorset and Devon so it is hardly surprising to find it in our village with its many links across the Bristol Channel. However, the Llanvithyn carving was crafted by a local mason, using Sutton Stone quarried from the western Vale.

I am not sure about the age of the carving at Llanvithyn House which is on the site of a medieval grange and the abandoned village of Bradington. Parts of the grange are incorporated in the house but most of it is Tudor and it is likely that the carving is of this age. The St David's rabbits are on a 16<sup>th</sup> century boss just above the alter of the Cathedral.

The St David's carving seems to have escaped theft or destruction by divine providence - the Pembrokeshire antiquarian, Richard Fenton, recorded it in 1804, lying on the floor of the chapel from where it was reclaimed when the roofless building was restored in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

My confusion about rabbits and hares arises from the long ears of these three whimsical creatures - if they were the other side of a field, with the sun shining through those great ears, I would say for certain that they were hares. Incidentally, hares were frequent on all of the high fields around Llancarfan until some time in the 1980s but wild rabbits were uncommon until about 1750. Probably introduced by the Normans, they were confined to artificial warrens prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Bradington has an associated group of pillow-mounds, presumed to be a medieval rabbit warren.

Hares were also introduced within historical times. This raises a question about the pre-Christian symbolism unless the three rabbits originated in the western Mediterranean area

Illustration adapted from R.C.A.M.(Wales).

## News of members, friends and places

- Speaking with Phil Watts on the phone the other day, he recalled a saying which was once used when something had slipped the mind:- “Went round the corner in Hancock’s wheelbarrow.” We wondered whether this was local to the *Fox and Hounds*, or more generally used in the parts of South Wales supplied by Hancock’s Brewery?
- Fifty years ago in the *Barry and District News* it was reported that a ship’s engineer had been fined ten shillings for stealing an ashtray from the *Six Bells* at Penmark. An interesting social comment is that this would be about £10 today, but would anyone bother taking such an offence to court?
- **Viv and Gwenllian Price** have sent us a photo of an Elizabeth I silver sixpence of 1592 which was found by a metal detectorist at *Trevithyn Farm*. This was the last issue of the reign - minted between 1582 and 1600. Interestingly this coin was issued just a few years before the very first European copper coins appeared in Spain. James I did not take long to catch-on - he authorised minting of copper coins in 1613 - supposedly “by public demand”! Where have we heard that before?
- **St Cadoc’s bells** There remain but a few hundred days before the millennium, in which to train the ringers who will peal-in the year 2000. Phil Watts tells us that he is still looking for Llancarfan people to come forward for training on Tuesday nights at Penmark between 7.30 and 9.00 pm.
- **Peggy Lunn** has written with a slight correction to her note on Vagrants, in the last Newsletter. She says “My sister and I would wander into the tap room of the pub with my mother in attendance and we thought they were gentle to us. We never went to the hut which was down *Village Farm* field.” Sorry about this - it arose from editor’s slight misreading of Peggy’s original letter.

Peggy continues to say “I enjoyed Betty Martin’s memories - my old home, *The Red Lion* also had a clubroom upstairs, used by the “Oddfellows” who used to knock on the outer door of the room, which had a spy-door, and give a password to enter the second door.

Edith May’s letter described Lil Evans exactly, always a welcome, table spread with fruit tarts, cream and cakes. A hard-working country lady - always pleasant and a great friend of my Mother.”

### Stop press - floods

Llancarfan has suffered from flooding in these last few days of October together with many other places in Britain. Water reached *Fordings* and *The Willows*. This is probably the first time that a house has been seriously flooded since that storm in the summer of 1968. Our sympathy to the Ferris and Evans families.

## **A correspondent**

Readers will have noticed that recent Newsletters have contained no announcements of current events and relatively little day-to-day news of the village.

The reason for this is that the editor feels a bit cut-off here in West Wales. 100 miles from Llancarfan - no gossip you see! - and you're not interested in the Solva scandals!

Would anyone consider volunteering to send a brief list of "what's on" and of recent events, about once a month? Providing it was not too long, a hand written sheet of notes would be quite adequate and very welcome.

## **LLANCARVAN CHURCH**

LLANCARVAN VICARAGE, NEAR COWBRIDGE, JULY 1875.

Llancarvan Church, whose south front is represented in the drawing at the head of this letter, is at present in great want of thorough Restoration. The whole of the interior is in a very dilapidated state, and requires entire renovation. The cost of doing this; as well as of repairing the exterior, will amount to more than One Thousand Pounds.

The present edifice, which probably occupies the site of the Church of the celebrated ancient, Collegiate Establishment in the Carvan Valley, of which St. Dubricius was founder, and St. Cadoc the first Principal or Abbot, is said to have been founded by Archdeacon Walter de Mapes in the time of Henry II. Only a small portion of his actual work however remains; the principal portions of the Church as it now exists were erected in the decorated and perpendicular periods.

The Church consists of a Tower at the West end, a Nave, Chancel, South Aisle, South Porch, and a Chapel annexed to the South Aisle. It is large and spacious and one of the most interesting Churches in the Diocese, as well from the traditions attached to the site as from its Architectural character.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, partly as successors to the Chapter of Gloucester by purchase, have recently become-proprietors of nearly one-fifth of the Parish, whilst the other four-fifths are held by a number of Owners not one of whom possesses any commanding property in the Parish. There are no resident gentry, and the consequence of this state of things is that I have been unable to procure from the landowners of the Parish, to whom I, in the first instance applied, a sufficient sum to carry out the proposed Restoration; and I am therefore compelled, however unwillingly, to appeal to the Public to, assist me in preserving a Church the present condition of which contrasts most unfavourably with that of other Churches in the Diocese, though it ranks above most in its Architectural character and its ancient traditions.

Your assistance is earnestly sought, and any donation you may be pleased to give will be thankfully received by

Your faithful Servant  
Alfred T Hughes  
VICAR OF LLANCARVAN

*Plus ça change !!!!*

Editor

With thanks to Celia Williams, Michaelston-le-Pit