



THE LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

Newsletter 90 July 1999

Editorial

Observant readers will have noticed that our medieval stag has disappeared - for this issue only. The fellow who has taken his place will soon embellish the new weather vane of St Cadoc's tower. He is the work of Robin Veysey of Cowbridge, son of Mr & Mrs Jim Veysey of Llantrithyd. The photo was taken by Alan Taylor before he was coated with gold-leaf (not Alan - the stag).

We try to steer clear of planning issues - they tend to be controversial (or even acrimonious!) so I refrained from commenting in the last Newsletter, about the *Fox and Hounds* proposals. Now it is all over the paper and on the TV, so **Fox and Hounds shock** may be a misnomer. Hope it gets sorted-out.

Gordon Kemp, *Flaxland Fach* has sent us a very useful addition to the Hartrey brothers WW1 item. If anyone else can add to or correct my amateur history as the series goes on I shall be most grateful.

More often than not, when people send me a snip of information they say "I don't expect it's any use." However, the most apparently useless fact can trigger-off a discovery. The writing of **Pals: "All for one..."**, in this number, was a case in point. A chance observation uncovered a historical fact which was probably lost to everyone. Be encouraged to write - even if it is such a minor thing as saying "My great uncle Richard went to Gloucestershire." - it just might link up with something else.

Our Correspondent in Llancarfan.

Alan Taylor, *Windrush*, has very kindly volunteered to take on the duties of a local dogs-body, collecting items of current news and affairs together with "what's on" information for the Newsletter. I say dogs-body quite advisedly - it is a thankless task which never seems to finish and someone **always** says "Why didn't you"? Fortunately Alan is one of the most laid-back people I know so

I expect he will be very kind in response! It should work-out well as we communicate by e-mail and items for the Newsletter can be submitted up to a few days before printing. Please pass any requests, photos, press cuttings or other community information to Alan. Contact details in the box on page 5.

Fox and Hounds shock

For some time, it has been known in Llancarfan that an application was to be made for planning permission to build houses on part of the *Fox and Hounds'* land. Such development would radically alter the nature of the *Fox* and possibly make it non-viable as a business.

The story exploded into public on Thursday and Friday 15th and 16th July, with short articles in the *Gem* and *Western Mail* under the headline **Villagers fight to save local pub**. All very reminiscent of a similar outcry at the threatened closure of the *City Inn*, Llansannor, a few years ago. Later in the day HTV Teletext carried a short report which was obviously culled from the newspaper column but spread the message to a wider audience.

The Community Council has registered an objection with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, claiming that the scheme infringes Council planning policy. The Community Council has also circulated a petition letter and form.

A public meeting was held on the 16th to discuss proposals for community-purchase of the pub, in part financed by a limited amount of building on the site. Some 70 people attended the meeting and there was general approval of the community-purchase scheme. This is to go ahead under the name of The Reynard Project.

By Monday, 18th July the *Western Mail* was able to say that the present owners were favourably disposed toward the offer from the Reynard Group and that 40 villagers had come forward pledging a minimum of £1000 each as an interim loan.

If you would like more information, or to make a contribution, contact one of the steering-group members: Robert Hutchings, *Bluestones*, 781295; Richard Powell, *Timbers*, 781000; Steve Powell,, *Ty Uchaf*, 781604; Bob Teesdale, *Garnllwyd Barn* 781733. These are all Llancarfan addresses and phone numbers.

A copy of Reynard Newsletter 1 is enclosed with this Newsletter,

Yoga Classes in Llancarfan. Running the last few months, we have been fortunate in having well know local Yoga Instructor- Christine Osbourne B.W.O.Y. Dip. at Llancarfan Village Hall every Thursday afternoon. After a short summer break, the classes re-commence on 3 September at 2.00pm. Ladies and gentlemen of all ages are welcome to join in and discover how Yoga can help, not only to keep you fit, but also to help you relax and cope with the stresses of our daily lives. If you would like to learn more about the classes, you can ring Christine on 01446 733108, or just join on Thursday, 2 September

A memory of parking problems by John Etherington

I am sure that car-parking has been high on the agenda of the Reynard campaigners, but it strikes me that there are now almost no people left, in the village centre, who remember just how bad the illegal parking was before the car park was built behind the *Fox*.

Cars were parked in the ford, in and across my drive at *Ceffyl Du*, unless I vehemently objected. On occasions, they were even parked, along the road between *Woodlands* entrance and *Capel-yr-Efail* (then *Bethlehem Chapel*) which closed the road to tractors, lorries, buses and emergency vehicles. On one occasion the chauffeur of a Rolls, trespassing on my drive, told me flatly, "I am waiting for my Master." At least one resident felt compelled to install locking bollards on his drive.

The permission to convert the field at the rear of the *Fox* to a car-park, was aimed at solving this problem so the same argument should prevent it from reverting to other use. It should be

remembered that this parking problem was at its worst before the restaurant was opened. This point needs making strongly.

We all fervently hope that the *Fox and Hounds* will remain as part of the village but it must be furnished with adequate car-parking.

The Hartrey brothers: comments and corrections by Gordon Kemp

I was interested to read your article on Llancarfan and the 1914 -18 War (Newsletter 88). I felt however that I had to write to correct your comment 'nothing much was happening' when referring to the death of Lewis Hartrey.

The 9th April saw the opening of the second of the German offensives of 1918 which aimed to win the War before the Americans arrived in force, utilising the troops released from the east by the collapse of Russia. The first German offensive had begun on 21st March and ended about 7 days later when the Germans were halted short of Amiens. Not wanting to repeat Allied mistakes of continuing an attack when it had run out of momentum, the Germans shifted their efforts north to the area south of Ypres. The aim was to capture the railway junction at Hazebrouck thereby forcing the British and Belgians to abandon the Channel coast and ports.

The attack on 9th April was directed at the Portuguese Division, largely destroying it and drawing in British reserves from the north. The next day further attacks were made from just south of Ypres to Armentières. Part of the line being held by the 25^h Division containing the 75th Brigade including the 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, in which Lewis Hartrey was serving.

The battalion was in reserve and was split into two parts, half being sent south to protect the flank of the 34^h Division around Armentières and the other north to Ploegsteert Wood to protect the flank of the 25^h Division. Without checking the Regimental records it would not be possible to know where Lewis Hartrey was killed because, as you say over 1 1,000 are named on the memorial at Ploegsteert. On this day the battalion suffered 41 deaths, with 28 and 34 on the following two.

The 2nd Battalion was a regular battalion which had gone to France with the BEF in 1914, but of course by 1918 conscription was filling the ranks and presumably Lewis was not a regular soldier and had at some time served with the CYE YEO, according to 'Soldiers Died In The Great War'. Presumably 'YEO' stands for Yeomanry but I'm not sure about 'CYE'.

Not on the War Memorial, but listed in 'Soldiers Died ' as having been born in Llancarfan is William Clifford Dymont. He enlisted in Newport giving his residence as Nottingham. He served in the Royal Engineers but when he died on 22 May 1918 he was serving in the 17th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Does anyone know anything of him or his family? I hope you find the above of interest and I await your next instalment.

[Editorial notes. 1. Was CYE YEO Cowbridge, Ystradowen and Ewenny Yeomanry? So far as I know the Yeomanry constituted a mounted volunteer force. Can anyone enlighten us? 2. The name Dymont does not appear in the 1891 Census nor in electoral registers between 1890 and 1910 but William's mother could have come home to mum for the birth?]

51 years on the land. the memories of Ralph Morgan of Walterston

Originally published in *Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Journal* May 1997

RALPH MORGAN, of Pencoed, Bridgend, was one of seven recipients of RWAS Long Service Medals at the 1996 show, who between them had given 316 years service to agriculture. Here Mr Morgan, aged 68, recalls some of his experiences.

I was born at *Walterston Farm* in 1928. This was a 200 acre rented holding with medium clay soil, a self supporting unit, growing potatoes and swedes, and rearing pigs for bacon.

I was involved in doing jobs around the farm for as long as I can remember. In 1941, because of the Second World War, I was allowed time off school to help sow and harvest the corn and hay. This was done with horses, of which we had plenty, with two or three foaling each year. We always seemed to be breaking horses to harness and I learned to handle a team at 14 years of age. It was hard work following the horses all day, ploughing the ground. Corn was cut with a binder and I was very small when I mastered tying the sheaves.

Wheat was normally left in stooks for three days and oats for three weeks. It was then carried into ricks and thatched until threshing time. Threshing days were really very busy, milking and feeding of stock would be done very early in the morning, and we would be ready to start threshing at 8 am. Neighbouring farmers and land girls came to help. It was amazing how quickly these girls could turn their hand to most work especially since many of them had never even seen a farm before and this was their first visit to the countryside..

One of my brothers joined the Royal Air Force when I was 14 so I became the tractor driver. In those days it was a Standard Fordson. Someone had to start it for me and at the busy times of ploughing we would keep going all day until dark. It was a two-furrow plough so working three or four acres a day was a good day's work.

In 1943, and after a lot of form filling and visits from Advisory officers, we were allocated a second tractor which cost about £150. Before long most of the work on the farm was being done with tractors while a few years later balers came in; first stationary wire-tied, then the pick-up baler. Combines took the place of the binder.

In my younger days farmers worked from dawn to dusk but only on six days of the week. Other than for the essential jobs of feeding and milking, Sunday was a day of rest and you never heard a tractor or saw a team of horses working on a Sunday.

Although we have such large tractors and modern equipment nowadays, our farmers still work nights and Sundays. They call it progress. As I see it, a stockman's work is still basically the same but numbers and prices have changed very much. I can remember when I was 17 (in 1945), my father was ill and it fell to me to buy some Welsh Mountain store lambs. They cost me two pounds, five shillings (£2.25p) each. After fattening them to 28lb - 32 lbs, I sold them for £4 each. Calves were selling at between £3 and £8. In the late 1960's we sold four Hereford black heifers (8 cwt) for £64 each and topped the store market at Newport. At around the same time we bought two year-old ewes in Brecon market for between £6 and £7.

I began work in Pencoed College in 1978 and before that time I had never housed sheep to lamb, but if you keep them clean and you are careful it is a very good idea.

Perhaps the biggest advance from the Forties until the present day is the introduction of hydraulic systems on tractors. What an advantage and difference it has made to the workload.

I was told: 'Look after your stock, and they will look after you. I have always tried to do this throughout my lifetime of farm-work and thank God that I have been happy and privileged to work so close to nature.

My advice to anyone suffering from stress and seeking relief is: 'Go and sit and listen to the sounds of the countryside and thank God for the wonders of nature.' It works!

Snares and poaching with a note by the late Dick Evans

David Evans, formerly of *Garnllwyd*, recalled the use of snares during his early years in Lllancarfan. Snaring was once a skill common to most countrymen, as described by Dick Evans writing about the early 1930s in a previous Newsletter:-

“Tom Shanks' name is often mentioned in the Newsletters. I was taught by him to snare rabbits, foxes, stoats, weasels and moles. On one occasion, to avoid getting caught by Mr Bowen of *Pen-onn Farm*, he set rabbit snares under the hedge at the top of the hilly field by *Ford Cottage*, but instead of using pegs to secure them he tied the cords of the snares to round stones causing the rabbits, on hitting the snares, to dislodge the stones so that the rabbits were carried down to the bottom hedge by the rolling stones. Tom then walked along and picked them up without being seen!”

During this year's May Walk, Clive Jenkins was overheard saying that Tom Shanks had taught him to snare rabbits in the steep-sided valley west of *Broomwell* - he said it was the only place in the village with a lot of rabbits and you could usually be guaranteed one.

Pals: “All for one...” by John Etherington

During the early months WW1, great recruiting efforts were made. Young men came flooding in, most believing it would all be “over by Christmas”. In some areas, groups of work-mates or social and sports club members formed “Pals” Battalions marching-off to glory together.

They had not heard of the machine gun, and trench warfare had not been invented. If Lllancarfan suffered a disaster, some towns endured a holocaust when whole battalions of their youth were annihilated in valiant but impossible assaults on barbed wire, amidst hurricanes of steel.. “Pals” recruitment did not last.

Phil Watts wrote to me the other day, enclosing some small items of information which included his father's Army number during W.W.1. Phil pointed out that his father and uncle, Bill and Sid Watts, volunteered together and consequently had consecutive numbers.

In Newsletter 85 we heard about David Rhys Davies, the headmaster's son, who was killed in 1915. At the time, David was accompanied by his friend, Morris Griffiths, who survived the war and lived at *Bridge House* until the 1970s. I have often speculated to myself that these two friends volunteered together and this now proves to be so.

With some excitement I found that Morris' number was 1024 and David's 1026. Furthermore, a group of Lllancarfan lads must have volunteered together, as another of our memorial victims, Thomas Hartrey, was number 1028. Who were 1025 and 1027, I wonder?

The low numbers indicate that they volunteered early, probably in 1914. By 1916, Bill & Sid Watts were numbers 109275 and 109274, and one of our last casualties was Tudor Davies (David's brother), number 136629. He was killed, aged 19 in late 1918, and probably enlisted in the previous year.

Pals then, and who could imagine a more tragic outcome. Who could be surprised that this sort of recruitment was quickly dropped.

[David and Tudor Davies' story appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. During the War Morris spelled his name Maurice but subsequently everyone seems to have written Morris]

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 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.

Local Correspondent. Alan Taylor, *Windrush*, Llanearfan, CF62 3AD or e-mail cprop.demon.co.uk@cprop.demon.co.uk

Agenda items and correspondence for the Committee to the **Secretary**, Ann Ferris, *Fordings*, Llanearfan, CF62 3AD

Llanearfan Society administrative and web-site e-mail:-

llansoc@llanearfan.force9.co.uk

Internet address:-

www.llanearfan.force9.co.uk

Recasting St Cadoc's Bells photographs by Alan Taylor

Enclosed with Newsletter 89 was an appeal form for the St Cadoc's Church Millennium Bell Fund. This explained that the existing four bells have not been able to be rung as a full circle for many years. An application to the Millennium Fund has successfully raised half the cost of recasting the four bells as a full peal of six but it is necessary for £6000 to be raised by the end of this year as part of our contribution.

Phil Watts writes that, by mid-July, the fund had received just under £3000 pounds. Contributors of £100, or more, will have their names placed on a commemorative plaque in the tower, if they so wish. The "widow's mite" will surely be just as acceptable. Please contact Phil if you need an appeal form or more information

INSERT PICS

Above - bells lowered. They are hung by the "canons" at the top of each bell
Right - bell-wheels

The 37 ½ inch bell. Part of the inscription is visible on the waist

The Bells of St Cadoc's Church, Llanearfan by the late Enoch Lewis

Adapted from Newsletter 38, 1991

There are four 17th century bells, recast in 1890, a description of which has been supplied by Mr Arthur Wright. With characteristic kindness he has sent the following information taken from his forthcoming book *The Bells of Glamorgan*. The bells are, respectively, 32½ , 34½, 37½ and 41¼ inches in diameter and the 37 ½ inch bell bears the inscription

Sir Thomas Lewis Knight/ JOHN THOMAS JENKINS: C. W. 1664 JP/ (and on waist)
Recast in memory of Ann Price Clark: LEWIS: by LLEWELLINS & JAMES BRISTOL
G.T.C.1890 A.J. HUGHES VICAR

The 37 ½ bell was originally cast in 1664 by John Palmer II of Gloucester, whose trade mark or badge was the obverse and reverse of Jewish shekel and seen on both these bells. The badge was adopted as a play on his name (Palmer = pilgrim to the Holy Land). John Palmer II was casting 1647-1676, his father's bells (also John Palmer) occurring 1621-1638.

Who's who on the bell by John Etherington

The inscription on the bell include Sir Thomas Lewis, GTC and Ann Price Clark, deceased. Who were they?

Sir Thomas was the fourth son of Edward Lewis, The Van, Caerphilly, and he inherited *Penmark Place (Odyn's Fee)* on his father's death in 1628. Did he present bells to Penmark church as well?

GTC was George Thomas Clark. He started life as a medical man, but became the manager of Dowlais Iron Works. His historical studies of South Wales were meticulous and he took a deep interest in the well-being of Llancarfan church and its records. On retirement he rebuilt the present *Talygarn Manor*, near Llantrisant (Newsletter 56, 1993)

Ann Price Clark was his wife, daughter of Henry Morgan of *Greenmeadow*, Tongwynlais, and a descendent of the Lewis family of the Van, a fact of which George Clark was very proud (*Glamorgan Historian* Vol. 4, p. 88), no doubt explaining why he had this particular bell recast. George Clark had the church at Talygarn re-dedicated to St Ann in memory of a wife who he must have missed greatly.

Blessing of the bells

The Bishop of Llandaff will hold a service of blessing for the new peal of bells at the end of the year. It is hoped that the commemorative plaque can be finished and in position for that occasion (you know what's coming next) - if anyone else wishes to contribute to the Bells fund, please do so as quickly as possible!

Dai Lossin again. Based on a note from Tom Lougher, Coqitlam, B.C.

In Newsletter 87 we enquired about cartoonist, Dai Lossin, who based his drawings on characters from Llancarfan in the years before W.W.1. Tom writes:-

Dai John (Dai Lossin), or to give him his full name, David Gwilym John, was formerly of Rock House, Fonmon. His mother, Catherine John (née Bowen), and Jane Liscombe's mother, Elizabeth Lougher of Garnllwyd, were sisters.

Catherine Bowen married William John (of Llancarfan. I believe) and lived there [at Great House] until they moved to Rock House, Fonmon, sometime between 1905 and 1915. William and Catherine John had six children, three of whom died in infancy, followed by the last three, Margaret, Jenkin and David (Dai John) who survived.. From this it would seem that Dai John was born in Llancarfan. Dai lived in Rock House, Fonmon, until 1935, then moved to the Romilly Park area of Barry, and finally to Llandogo, Monmouthshire. He died about 1960.

David John married Edith Mann from Cardiff, who was about twenty years his junior, and they lived in Rock House, Fonmon, after the death of his parents. Edith Mann's parents died when she was quite young, and she was brought up by her uncle and aunt, who had a chemists shop in Cardiff. She became engaged, but broke it off in favour of Dai John, the result being that her uncle and aunt disowned her, because of the age difference. No reconciliation was ever made.

[Editor: the Bowen sisters came from Llangynwyd, near Maesteg - I believe others of the family had Pancross at the time. Can anyone throw light on this?]

What's on in the Society

Annual Dinner is on Saturday, September 25th. Because of the problems with the *Fox and Hounds* the dinner will be held at the *Duke of Wellington*, Cowbridge. Subject to confirmation £9.00 per head 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

1914-1918: Llancarfan at War - The headmaster's sons compiled by John Etherington

There are sixteen names of W.W.1 victims on the Cenotaph. In 1921, the Parish Council recorded that there were 68 volunteers, probably almost all of the eligible youngsters from a parish of 500-600 people. It is distressing to discover that a quarter never returned and that many of them were brothers, or in one case, father and son. In some cases the complete male line of a family was cut from history.

In Memory of DAVID RHYS DAVIES Rifleman S/1026 11th Bn., Rifle Brigade who died on Sunday, 3rd October 1915. Age 20. Additional Information: Son of Rees and Margaret Davies, of 35, Oxford St., Barry, Cardiff. Native of Llancarfan, Glam.

Commemorative Information: Cemetery: ROYAL IRISH RIFLES GRAVEYARD, LAVENTIE, Pas de Calais, France Grave Reference: I. H. 6. Location: Laventie is a village about 11 kilometres south-west of Armentières.

Historical Information: Laventie is a village and commune in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais. The Rue-du-Bacquerot runs South-East of the village, towards Fleurbaix; and the position of the road behind the British front line, during the greater part of the war, made it the natural line of a number of small British cemeteries. One of these was begun in November, 1914, and used, at first, particularly by the 1st Royal Irish Rifles (Commonwealth War Graves Commission).

David Rhys Davies died on 3rd October 1915 and was buried at Laventie near Armentières just a few miles north of the mining village of Loos. A week earlier one of the most savage battles of the War had commenced at Loos and continued until 8th October. It cost 50,000 British and 20,000 German casualties. The 2nd Brigade commenced the battle and when 10,000 reservists of the 21st and 24th Division were deployed, 7861 men and 385 officers were killed within three hours. This was also the first battle in which Britain used poison-gas, previously introduced by the Germans in defiance of the Hague Convention at the 2nd battle of Ypres in the previous April. Catastrophe ensued at Loos, because meteorological advice of a wind-change was ignored and British troops suffered more than the Germans.

The men of the 21st and 24th Divisions were raw recruits who had never seen front-line battle. Much of the blame fell upon the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John French who was later replaced

by Sir Douglas Haig. A few weeks before the Loos battle,. Sir John French had watched the Battle of Aubers Ridge from “a tower in Laventie.”

In Memory of T.DAVIES Private 136629 18th Bn., Machine Gun Corps (Inf) who died on Wednesday, 30th October 1918. Age 19. Additional Information: Born at Llancarfan. Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Davies, of 35, Oxford St., Barry, Cardiff.

Commemorative Information Cemetery: LE CATEAU COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Nord, France Grave Reference: III.C.2 Location: Le Cateau is a small town approximately 27 kilometres east-south-east of Cambrai.

Historical Information: Le Cateau and the country West of it, were the scene of the Battle fought by the II Corps on the 26th August, 1914, against a greatly superior German force; and a monument has been erected 1 kilometre South-West of the town to commemorate the engagement. From that date until the evening of the 10th October, 1918, when the 5th Connaught Ranger rushed the town, it remained in German hands; and it was not cleared until a week later (Commonwealth War Graves Commission).

On August 8th 456 tanks had pushed forward across the Somme near Amiens, and for the first time in four years, the front line began to move by a series of parallel assaults using huge numbers of men. By September, more than 90 Divisions were deployed on each side, and as the end of October approached, Tudor Davies had advanced beyond Cambrai, nearly twenty miles from that appalling trench line, stretching from Switzerland to the sea.

The last few days of his life were momentous times during which the war was rolling to its denouement On 2nd October, 1918, Hindenberg delivered a letter to Prince Max of Baden, Chancellor-designate. demanding a peace offer to the Allies and two days later Prince Max authorised the legation in Berne to mediate for peace. However, at the informal Danny conference in mid-October, Lloyd George said that there should be no cease-fire: Germany should be badly beaten for the sake of the future, to avoid their rearmament and a future war.

Thus, fighting continued and despite Lloyd George’s prophetic view, history was not altered one iota. Many more young men died, including Tudor Davies. He so nearly escaped with a mere dozen days left to the end.

Shall they return to beating of great bells
In wild train-loads
A few, a few, too few for drums and yells,

May creep back, silent, to village wells
Up half-known roads.

Wilfred Owen M.C. (Summer, 1918) Died on 4th November, 1918, at the Canal de Sambre

Next time, to alleviate the sadness, we shall hear about one of the few who returned: the late Morris Griffiths who was with David Rhys Davies when he died.

The Llantrithyd coins by John Etherington

On the eastern side of the Llantrithyd valley, above St Illtud’s Church, is a post-Norman ringwork which was excavated in 1962 by the Cardiff Archaeological Society (*Llantrithyd: a Ringwork in South Glamorgan*, 1977, C.A.S.). The ringwork is the visible remnant of an

earth-castle which proved quite rich in metallic finds. It must have been occupied in the first quarter of the 12th century, being datable from the nine silver coins which were found. The Norman conquest of this area was in c.1093 and was probably complete by the time Robert Fitzhammo, Earl of Gloucester, died in 1105. It is likely that the Llantrithyd lands were given to a Fitzhammo retainer..

The coins are important to the history of coinage in Wales: two of them, a silver penny and a cut silver halfpenny of Henry I, were minted in Cardiff, the penny by a moneyer called Walter. They established for the first time the certainty that Cardiff was a Welsh mint. It is thought that the coins were scattered from a hoard concealed in the eaves of a roof, a common hiding place, when the building was destroyed.

At the time, the coinage was deteriorating and it was common practice to cut a coin in case it was a counterfeit. There was reluctance amongst the public to accept damaged coins and so, from 1112, all new coins were deliberately “cut” by snicking their edges, sometimes for up to one third the diameter.

INSERT PIC

The illustration was re-drawn from the frontispiece of the Cardiff Archaeological Society report and shows the Henry Ist silver penny. The four coins found in summer, 1962, together with three other coins were deemed to be treasure-trove and are now in the collection of the National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cardiff.

It is of interest that Bronze Age items were found on the site including sherds of Beaker ware and an archer’s bracer (wrist guard) made of stone. Both items would normally be associated with an Early Bronze Age burial. If they do mark the remains of a disturbed grave, it is the nearest substantial Bronze Age find to Llancarfan.

[I am grateful to John and Jenny Morris, formerly of Llantrithyd, who provided me with a copy of the report]

Llancarfan in the Fonmon Archive abstracted by Graham Jenkins

The following notes are Court Leet findings, relevant to Llancarfan. during the mid-1700s. Courts Leet could be summoned annually by the Lord of the Manor or Hundred. They were empowered to fine or imprison and were essentially the machinery of domestic law.

1758 “Griffith John, Llancadle fined 10/- for not having a ditch between him and Thos Claxon’s land.”

1758 “ Lane leading from Cuckoo Mill to the Penon road out of repair. Parish of Llancarfan in default.”

1758 “Cowcliff Mill river up from Moses John’s meadow needs attention due to default of Hannah Price, widow.”

1767 “We the jurors do adjudge that Samuel Hallet ought to have a way through Watkin Thomas’ orchard to his own.”

1767 “We present the Lord of the Manor for not putting a door between the kitchen and passage in his house at Llancarfan which the widow Williams now lived in.”

The archive also contains listings of Fonmon Castle tenants. Those in Llancarfan during 1771 were:-

Henry Williams (was he the *Broadhayes* clockmaker?), who paid £21 11s a year. Henry Williams featured as a juror in most of the Courts Leet at the time. He became a tenant of the castle on 16.10.1761. In addition: Charles Powell; Denham Tenion; David Deere; R. Jenkins of Cardiff ; Evan Jones; John Richard; Hy Jones; Denham Wilkin; Thos Francis; John Howell. The total rents in Llanccarfan were £369.16.0.

Editor. These are fascinating glimpses of life at the time, and very much fit in with my editorial comment on the front page. Many of the names are people that we could not find in other ways as they pre-date censuses and electoral registers. Graham writes that the Fonmon Archive is now catalogued as far as the 1770s, and a lottery grant is being sought to complete the work.

The Thomas Diary - a few more entries by J R Etherington

The diary was that of William Thomas, schoolmaster, of Michaelston-super-Ely and the extant pages covered the years 1762-95. A short time ago, a member of the Society transcribed some of its references to Llanccarfan for us (Newsletter 72). At the time the Diary had just been published by the Cardiff & South Wales Record Society.

Two more entries have come my way whilst searching for various bits of Llanccarfan and Vale history (*Glamorgan Historian* volume 9).

1765 September 28th "...took a View of an Old Druid Cell near Tinkin's Wood." "... they never Could Dyg ym Whole in anywhere but mase them by Art ---"

1786 July [the burial of William David of *Treguff* at St Lythans] "... a great Methodist formerly, but now gone distracted in his senses and unruly as is supposed from losing his farm in tregoff and somewhat reduced in the world."

[Editor. The stone slab on top of the Tinkinswood chamber weighs about 40 tons so it isn't surprising that William Thomas suspected the black-arts. After all, he had probably read Geoffrey of Monmouth's assertion that Merlin magically brought Stonehenge from Ireland. It almost seems a pity to say that the geologists now recognise the local origin of the Tinkinswood stones!]

Another entry from the diary has been brought to my notice by Bob Saunders of St Fagans who corresponded with me about the Evans family of Llancadle and Llanbethery. Bob wrote:-

The Evans of the *Green Dragon* descended from Cradock Evan who, according to William Thomas' Diary, was "called Cradock from that he was found when a child in a Basket on Cradock's Heath, but now a very wealthy person, but do return no thanks to God for his wealth, but do live pompous".

