

## Ceredigion Archives Newsletter **Whitsun** 2000

Welcome to the **Whitsun** newsletter ; it should have been the Easter newsletter but the **office** gets busier, and we sometimes find ourselves struggling to keep up. So, with apologies and greetings, we proceed !

Since our last newsletter Ceredigion Archives has been subject to the " Best Value" process which is currently in operation to calculate the quality of local government provision throughout England and Wales. The "Best Value" process entails examining every aspect of the service provided and trying to determine whether it could be done better, more efficiently and for less money - whether it is the refuse disposal service, school dinners or, in this case, the Archives and Records Management Service.

We didn't much enjoy the process, as it was very time consuming, and looking critically at the service can be difficult when one is convinced that one is doing one's best ( ! ), but it was a good opportunity to stand back and look at the service we are providing. We would very much welcome any comments from you about ways in which the service could be changed or improved.

We have had **lots** of people visiting the office - a group of students from **Coleg** Ceredigion beginning an " Access" course, and the "Manuscript Heritage" group from the History Department at **Aberystwyth** University, a student from the Bangor Archives Administration course, and a young woman ( and her mum ! ) who is considering being an archivist after exams and university, and who wanted to see what the job really entails.

We were pleased to welcome two groups of visitors from the National Library of Wales in February. They were all people who work with the public, and came to look at the Archives, Museum and Public Library to see exactly what those respective institutions had to offer. We are fortunate in being included on National Library of Wales " trips" elsewhere - Glenys **McBurnie** recently visited the National Museum and Public Library at Cardiff as part of a National Library Training Event.

Other training events, hosted in this case by the Society of Archivists, have taken Helen Palmer to Cambridge ( to learn about new methods on Preservation Management ) and to Portsmouth, on a "Disaster Preparedness" day. This was much enlivened by the chance to put out various kinds of fire with the Hampshire Fire Brigade. The importance of getting to know your local fire brigade was stressed. Helen took this rather literally ; came home, accidentally set fire to the chimney and by seven o'clock the same evening was great friends with Aberystwyth "**Blue Watch**", who very kindly prevented her house burning down.

In February Helen took the " time capsule" found during the conversion of St. Paul's Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Aberystwyth to an event in the new St. Paul's, where it attracted much interest. The Archives have been involved with the Women's Institute Millennium "Pathways Project" and Helen spent a very enjoyable day at the Llanina Arms, **Llanarth**, with representatives from many of the Ceredigion **W.I.S.**, talking about the wide range of local projects which are being undertaken.

During the **whole** month of May we have with us Jim Brookshaw. Jim is on a placement at the archives prior to beginning a history degree at **Lampeter** next autumn, and we hope he is having a good time, as he explores the multi-faceted delights of life in the Archives.

Our new Public Access Point ( a computer with internet and e-mails access ) is available in the **searchroom** for people who would like to search the World Wide Web for details of local and family history. We obtained this computer through the generosity of the Dyfed Family History Society. Please come and have a go on it, or tell us about interesting web-sites we should recommend to others. Don't forget that you are always welcome to e-mail your enquiries to us at [archives@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:archives@ceredigion.gov.uk) -telephone and conventionally written enquiries are still equally welcome of course.

We also have some new **microfilm** machines which make reading the census and parish registers a less painful process, the complete set of parish registers available for Cardiganshire, and a very smart new desk which is supposed to make the searchroom more welcoming. Come and see what you think !

Since Glenys **McBurnie** wrote the article in this newsletter we have been very pleased to accept an 1942 edition of the *Cambrian News*. Should any of you wish to know more about the unfortunate episode of the black market Christmas meat, there is a full account of it therein.

Finally, many thanks to Mr. Lovatt, and to Mr. & Mrs. **Dockerty**. We would welcome future contributions.

#### Selective Recent Accessions

- Acc. 1166 ADX 445 Notebook of Emily Lloyd 1871  
( a set of letters to her family written by a Lampeter 10 year old )
- Acc. 1169 Llanllwchaearn Community Council records 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century  
( not yet sorted )
- Acc. 1172 School books of Sian Davies of Cwm Cou (1964-70)  
( examples of later twentieth century school work )
- Acc. 1180 Vale of **Rheidol** Supporters Association material
- Acc. 1184 . Brongest C.P. School admissions register 1898 - 1987
- Acc. 1193 Cambrian News 1942

“ During a visit to an old cemetery in Ontario, Canada, the following interesting and very true comments were printed on a Notice Board at the entrance." G.W. Lovatt.

### This is a Cemetery

Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded - families are united - memories are made tangible - and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.

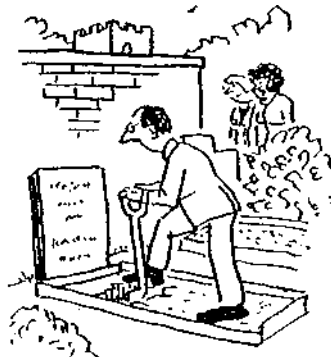
Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved into stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life - not death - of a loved one. The cemetery is a homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering - always.

Anon.

Following the account in the last newsletter of the capture of a Cardigan vessel , the Eliza by "American Privateers" in 1814, Mr. & Mrs. Dockerty of Llanon have confirmed the story. The Eliza, a brig of 146 tons was the largest vessel owned by the Davies family of Bridge House, Cardigan, and was captained by William Davies.



"Our local family tree expert  
is very thorough!"

## BOBBIES AND BOMBS

### Cardiganshire police in wartime

Occasionally when assisting searchers, we **find** very useful information in minute books on the open shelves in the search room, these are very often overlooked by researchers, but may contain the very information they have been looking for. We have Education minute books, **Aberystwyth** Borough, Cardiganshire County Council and Dyfed County Council minute books. We also have the Cardiganshire Standing Joint Committee minute books, which contain a wealth of information about the policing of the County. I have delved into one volume recently covering the period from **1939 - 1942** and found some very interesting entries.

I'm sure that the lists showing the rank, service, etc. of members of the Cardiganshire Constabulary, **31<sup>st</sup> December 1939** would be most useful to researchers ; the following is of the longest serving members in the County.

Rank	Name	Yrs	Mths	Station
D.C.C.	E.J. Evans	26		Aberystwyth
Inspr	T.O.Price	25	5	Lampeter
P.S.	D.T.Richards	37	3	Tregaron
P.S.	R.Davies	36	11	Aberaeron
P.S	D.S.Jenkins	24	9	Borth
A/P.S.	B.Lewis	19	2	Llandyssul
P.C.	W.D.Lewis	27	3	New Quay
P.C.	E.J.Evans-Vaughan	20	11	Talybont

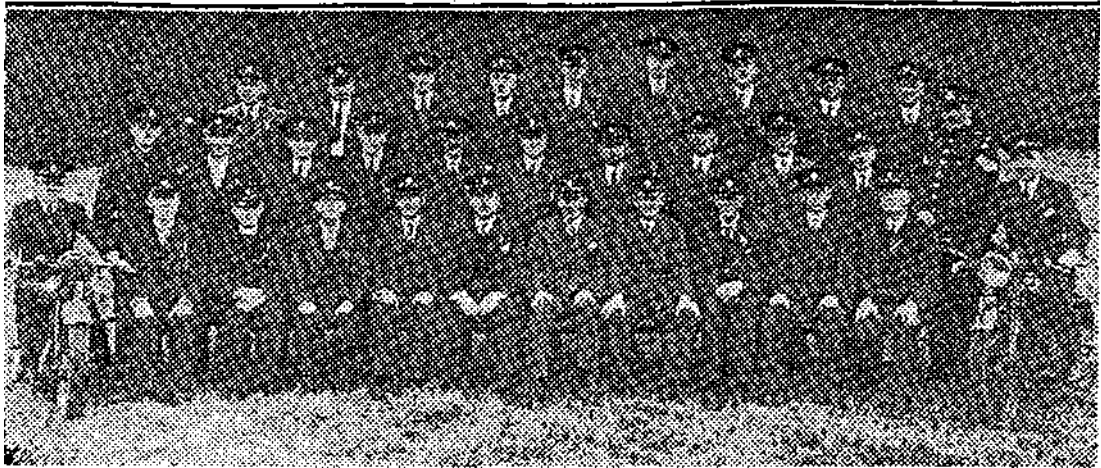
The Chief Constable being **J.J. Lloyd Williams**, Capt

The Chief Constable's Report for each quarter contain valuable statistics but also information that may not be readily available in other sources.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT  
December 1939.

#### WOMEN POLICE

Reference was made at a Borough Council Meeting at Aberystwyth to the effect that the services of women police were not required. In this respect I would point out that during the last four months there have been 84 charges against juveniles and under such circumstances, I think it will be agreed that not only are women police required but they are a necessity.



### **Llandyssul Contingent, 1940**

11 January 1940

It was resolved that in the opinion of the Committee the employment of Women Police in the County for the duration of the war is necessary and the Committee approved of the employment by the Chief Constable of the Women police engaged by him during the emergency.

30<sup>th</sup> June 1940

#### **WOMEN POLICE**

Juvenile offences, I am glad to state, have decreased considerably, but the Women Police have been exceptionally useful in the search and control of female enemy aliens, and it would have been impossible to carry out some of the instructions contained in the Home Office circulars without them. Not only has the W.P.S. assisted to a considerable extent in this respect, but she has been invaluable in making enquiries on suspected aliens, and her knowledge of German has proved extremely useful.

#### **LLANON**

31<sup>st</sup> March 1940.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February, an aircraft of the Royal Air Force was forced to land at Llanon, and was provided with a guard of special constables throughout the night.

#### **LLANRHYSTUD**

On the 20th of March, three practice bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the road near Llanrhytyd without causing damage. The matter is under investigation by the Air Ministry to whom fragments of the bombs have been forwarded.

30th September 1940

#### **ACTION BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT**

Although hostile aircraft continually fly over the County, more especially during the night hours, no casualties or damage have been occasioned, but bombs have been dropped as stated below:

1. On the 16<sup>th</sup> August three high-explosive bombs were dropped within approximately 100yds of Pantcyrne Farm, New Cross.

2. On the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 14 high-explosive bombs were dropped near the main **Aberystwyth-Machynlleth** Road, 5 ½ miles north-east of **Aberrystwyth**, and one at a point 1 ¼ miles north of these.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 5 high explosive bombs fell at **Pantgwyn, Llanarth 2** near **Crosshands, Cross Roads**, 2 at **Penrheol** and 1 at **Nantgwrdy, Mydroilyn**. On the same night 10 incendiary bombs fell at **Glandwr** farm, Pontshaen, 3 at **Rhosgochganol** and 1 at both **Nantgwrdy** and **Berthlwyd, Mydroilyn**. One incendiary bomb fell and exploded in the parish of **Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn**, and nine unexploded at **Blaenclettwr** farm, Mydroilyn. In the latter case it was fortunate that the safety pins had not been withdrawn from the incendiary bombs which fell in and around a rick-yard of a farm, as they would have caused considerable damage had they become ignited.

#### **AIRCRAFT** LANDING AT SEA

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August information was received that an aircraft had landed in the sea eight miles from **Aberystwyth**. Immediate action was taken to launch the lifeboat, which unfortunately missed the occupants, who were floating in **lifejackets** as their aircraft had sunk. With the assistance of a reconnaissance aircraft from Milford Haven, two persons were saved by means of a fishing boat, but I regret to say that the other two occupants of the aircraft were dead when picked up.

December 31st 1940

#### ACTS OF GALLANTRY

I am glad to report that the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has awarded the Bronze Medal to P.C. 11 T.P. Evans, of **Adpar**, for his courage and humanity in rescuing a dog from a deep mine shaft at **Pontrhydygroes** on the 24th August, 1940.

The Royal Humane Society has awarded the Bronze Medal of that Society to War Reserve **Glyn Jenkins**, of **Aberystwyth**, for conspicuous gallantry in rescuing **life**. on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1940, after repeated attempts had been made by airmen, without success, to rescue a youth who was in difficulties in the sea at **Aberystwyth**, this officer swam out in a gale and brought him safely ashore.

#### BODIES WASHED ASHORE

A body, which was later identified as that of a ship's captain, was washed ashore at **Aberarth** at the end of November. Subsequently four more bodies, believed to be of men of the same ship, were washed ashore between **Aberaeron** and **Borth**. Two of these were identified and handed over to relatives, while the remaining two bodies were interred at **Aberystwyth** Cemetery.

He concludes with the information that 86 incendiary bombs and 1 High Explosive bomb fell on the night of the 4th of January, near **Llanwnen** on open ground. Slight damage to farmhouse windows was occasioned through the blast of the High Explosive bomb.

In the Chief inspector's report for March 1941 he states that there was an increase of 16%

in the returns for crime for the last quarter; the number of cases being 52. He attributes this increase to the increase of the Military population in the County and an increase in both official and unofficial refugees.

He views the lapse of morality by young girls and boys between the ages of 11 and 15 with great concern, he considers Approved Schools as a deterrent; and three girls were recently dealt with in this way by local Magistrates.

There were two cases of perjury during the period under review, which were dealt with at the Cardiff Assizes, when a Council workman received 16 days Hard Labour and a farmer from the Cardigan district was sentenced to 12 months Hard Labour on each of three counts, such sentences to run concurrently.

He also reports that 1,250 persons, mainly children had been officially evacuated into the County.

#### ACTS OF GALLANTRY

I am again glad to report that the Royal Humane Society has awarded the Bronze Medal of the Society together with a scroll, to P.C. 30 Jones descended the cliffs by means of a rope and in spite of considerable danger to himself, succeeded in effecting their rescue.

30<sup>th</sup> June 1941

#### CRIME INCREASE

Crime has increased by 72 per cent in this quarter, again attributed to the increase of the Military in the county and the **evacuees**. of the 60 crimes committed by juveniles in the quarter, 39 were committed by evacuees and 21 by local children.....The increase in juvenile crime was attributed to a lack of parental control due to evacuation and the male parent being absent from his home due to the war.

30<sup>th</sup> September 1941

The Chief Constable reports that on the 16th day of August, certain treasures stored at Crosswood were removed and in consequence the six armed constables allocated to guard this establishment returned to normal duty.....What, or whom, we wonder were these treasures.

#### ACTION BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Two parachute land mines fell in the vicinity of **Llangwyrfon**, Cardiganshire, and damage was caused to two houses. There were no casualties.

In the past three months a quantity of sea mines has been washed up between Llanon and the Dovey Estuary. In some cases these have been exploded in drifting ashore and others have **either been** removed or destroyed by the Naval **Authorities**. in consequence of the danger existing from such mines, a notice prohibiting the use of the **Aberystwyth** pier and Cinema was issued by myself on the instruction of the Naval Authorities.

31<sup>st</sup> December 1941

#### PROMOTION

After serving 12 **months'** probationary period, P.S. 17 W.J. **Ishmael** was confirmed in his appointment as Sergeant with effect from 9th November **1941**.

#### ACTION BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT

During the quarter bombs fell in the vicinity of **Llandygwydd**, Cardigan and Talybont. in the first two cases three houses were slightly damaged, but no casualties resulted in any instance.

A considerable number of sea mines have continued to be washed up along the Cardiganshire coast.

#### WOMEN POLICE

the actual number of Women police patrolling the beat is one Sergeant and three **W.A.P.C.s**, and I am glad to inform the Committee that arrangements have been made with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police for the attaching of the three **W.A.P.C.s** to a unit in London for the purpose of advanced training for one month.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1942

#### DAMAGED AIRCRAFT

I regret to report that on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1942, a Lockheed Hudson bomber crashed in the vicinity of Brays Pool, on the **Ponterwyd - Aberystwyth** Road. The aircraft struck the side of the hill and all the occupants were killed. On receipt of the message that an aircraft had been damaged in this vicinity the police went immediately to the scene of the accident, but with the exception of collecting remains, nothing could be done for the occupants. A formal letter of thanks has been received from the officer commanding the Unit from which this aircraft operated, for the assistance rendered by the Force on this occasion.

#### FIRING PRACTICE

I have to report for the information of the Committee that an extension of the Firing Ranges from **Aberporth** have now been established between Ynyslas and **Borth**; these practices may involve danger to civilians, but every effort has been made to warn individuals that objects found in this vicinity should be left strictly alone. It is hoped that by these means accidents may be avoided and it is proposed in conjunction with the Projectile Development Establishment, to issue to every house-holder a notice on the matter. These pamphlets will be supplied by the Military and will only be issued on the Superintendent's instruction.

#### MINES

The number of sea mines washed ashore has decreased and the Admiralty have lifted the closure ban on Pier at Aberystwyth, which will now be allowed to re-open, provided such openings restricted to daylight hours and that a lookout is kept, and on the understanding that the premises may have to be closed in the event of coastguards reporting further mines in the vicinity.

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942

[Minutes of the Proceedings of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Standing Joint Committee to investigate a complaint made by Col. Sir George F. Roberts at a Quarterly Meeting of the Standing Joint Committee, held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1942, regarding the use of a police car by the Chief Constable for a purpose other than a police purpose.]

1. In support of his complaint, Sir George F Roberts made the following statement.

"On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1941, I was informed that on Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1941, a taxi was ordered to take a passenger from Number 8, Laura Place to the Queen's Hotel for a dance. The taxi-driver arrived at the house as ordered to pick up his fare, but on arrival he was told that the taxi had been cancelled and that a police car was taking the party to the dance. While the taxi-driver was explaining that his order had not been cancelled, the police car arrived at Number 8, Laura Place for the passenger in question, driven by Police War Reserve Egryn Jones. By December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the matter had become generally known throughout Aberystwyth and caused great resentment among taxi-drivers.

2. Capt. J. J. Lloyd Williams handed in the following statement:

Sir,

With reference to Sir George Fossett Roberts's statement regarding the use of a Police motor-car by myself for the purpose of attending a dance, I have the honour to report as follows:

In the early part of December, the R.A.F. and R.A. held a combined Inter-Service Dance at the Queen's Hotel, to which I and my wife were invited as official guests.

My wife was asked if she would chaperone the Senior Naval Officer's step-daughter, whose age is about 17, and a Miss Griffin, whose age is also about 17, as Captain Bidwell had been posted to Colwyn bay for duty in that town, and he and his wife were unable to accompany these young women. My wife said that she would do so, and I left that evening in my own car, with the intention of picking them up at their house in Laura Place.

Shortly after leaving the gate, my car broke down and, as I was late, I telephoned to Sergeant Davies and asked him to send me a police car, which was to be requisitioned and paid for.

I produced for the Committee the Requisition invoice for this car, which was passed to Mr. Greenwood, who, in due course, sent me a bill, which has been paid.

I would submit for consideration that co-operation between the Police and other Forces is improved by the attendance of the Chief Constable and his wife at Service functions, and that on such occasions it would not be unreasonable for a police car to be made use of without payment, but in view of the fact that two young women were involved in this instance, I paid the full county rate - not from Laura Place to the Queen's Hotel, but from my own house and return.

I would further submit that a more reasonable course for Sir George Fossett Roberts to adopt would have been to see me and ask for my explanation in this matter, rather than making a statement to the Standing Joint in open Committee without being fully conversant with the facts.

I am Sir  
Your obedient Servant  
J.J. LloydWilliams  
Chief Constable

The Committee, whilst they were satisfied that the police car was used on the occasion in question owing to special circumstances, considered that it was not desirable that police cars should be used for private purposes.

2<sup>nd</sup> July 1942

POUCE RELEASED TO THE SERVICES

In accordance with instructions from the Home **Office** the following men are in course of being released to the Armed Forces:

P.C. 8 B.A. Lloyd, **Aberystwyth**  
W.R. 61 **G.I.Jones**, Aberystwyth  
W.R. 87 E. M. Jones, Aberystwyth  
W.R. 54 J.R.Evans, Aberystwyth  
W.R. 83 S.G.Evans, Aberystwyth

W.R 60 **I.L** Lewis was called up for service in the Welsh Guards in May 1942. This will reduce the strength of the force to 40 Regulars and 37 War Reserve. War Reserves are now transferred from a Central Pool on the direction of the Home Office as and when they are available. Postings are effected automatically by the Ministry of Labour.

In addition to the above, three Regular officers have asked permission to volunteer for the Services; their applications are under consideration by the Home **office** whose authority has to be obtained prior to their release.

#### ACTS OF GALLANTRY

On the 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1942, a boat belonging to the University College was in difficulties and overturned in the Bay at Aberystwyth. Coastguard Brown, accompanied by P.C. 8 B.A. Lloyd, proceeded to the scene of the accident in a small boat and were successful in rescuing three of the occupants, for which action the Constable has been commended by the Royal Lifeboat Institution.

#### ASSISTANCE AFFORDED TO THE FOOD ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

There is an outstanding case where Police were instrumental in assisting the Ministry of Food Enforcement **Officer** in the prevention of illicit food offences.

On the 24th December, 1941, a lorry, the property of a Mr. Tom Tweed, was intercepted by Police patrol cars on the **Llanrhystud** Road, and was found to contain a large quantity of meat. The Ministry prosecuted Mr Tweed at Manchester, where he was fined £2,000 and £50; in addition he was sentenced to three years penal servitude and three months

hard labour, sentences to run concurrently. Tweed was also ordered to pay the full costs of the prosecution.

How many people went without their Christmas Beef I wonder?

31<sup>st</sup> December 1942

#### DROWNING FATALITIES

I regret that on the 14th December, five soldiers were drowned at **Aberystwyth**. The facts of the case briefly are as follows: An instructor was engaged in training fifteen recruits and decided to take them past the groyne which is beneath the north end of the Promenade. Whilst so doing, a large wave carried the majority of the squad into the sea and five became casualties.

#### ABERYSTWYTH PIER

Owing to the danger of floating mines, one of which exploded near the Pier on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, the building was banned to civilians.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1943

#### ACTS OF GALLANTRY

Bronze medals have been awarded to Detective Sergeant K.G. Williams, Detective Constable S.G.S. Chapman, P.C.41 Emrys Davies, and Mr Norman Jones for their bravery in rescuing soldiers who were washed into the sea at Aberystwyth on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

Detective Constable S.G.S. Chapman was commended by the Chief Constable on 24th March 1943 for his gallantry in rescuing a woman who had been trapped by the tide at the foot of Constitution Hill. Detective Constable Chapman descended a most dangerous part of the cliff at great personal risk.

All this information contained in one just one volume gives us an insight into what life was like in Cardiganshire during the war - not as quiet as we were led to believe. I think that the 1895(Standing Joint Committee) - 1981 (Dyfed - Powys Police Authority) minute books could keep me busy for quite some time.

Glenys McBurnie