

# THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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## THE CHALET Glanwern Village, Borth.

A modern home built after 1925 but by 1938 on the site of a garden by Captain John Lloyd of Y Graig who owned Glasfryn. He built the bungalow alongside on the west too. The site of a cottage in 1848 gone by 1886.



*LEFT and BELOW The Chalet in 2015.*

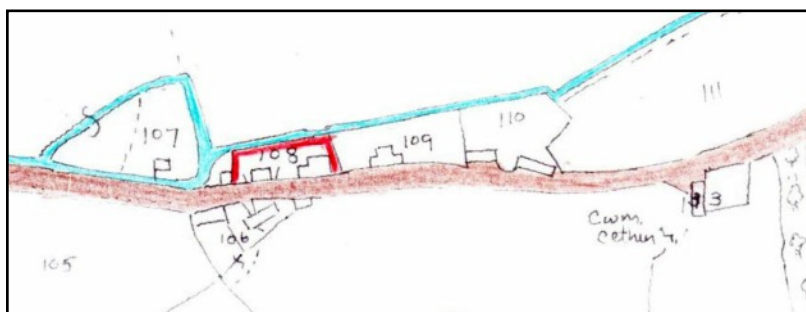


The Chalet is a modern single storey bungalow under a gable roof parallel to the road. In the centre is a prominent gable at right angles to the roof with plain barge boards. This makes an important place for the front door which is modern and recessed. The roof is slate coloured and there are two chimneys. They are rendered but are likely to be brick. The walls too are rendered. The design of the front is symmetrical with two ground floor front windows at the outer edges. The front garden area is enclosed by a rubble stone wall. There is a platform in the front of the house with railings, and a stairway leading down to the drive. This has hard standing and leads to a garage. On the east side of the house is a paved passageway leading to the back garden. The road entrance has an iron gate and there is a further gate alongside the house.

The rear of the house has a conservatory and in the back garden is a wooden summer house or small chalet.

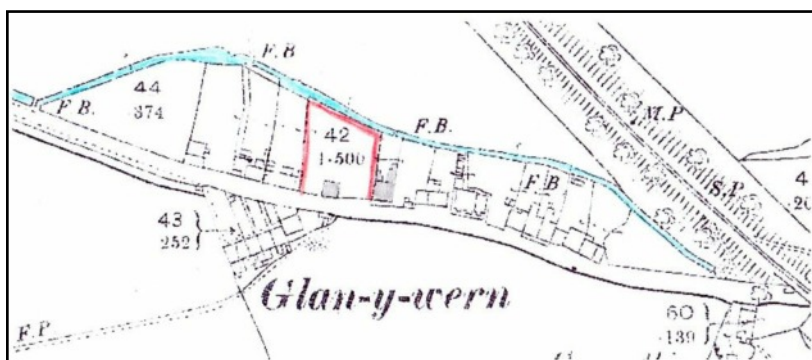


The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down the valley behind Ty Gwyn too, and helped drain the marsh on the north. After passing Glanwern the tailrace ran seawards then turned along behind Borth High Street, providing a brook' with fresh water for the houses and cottages there. This 'brook' is marked on a map of 1829. Today the water flows out to sea from a pipe near the Lifeboat House. To the north of Glanwern Village was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri. (1859 Crown Manor map National Archives LRRO 1/3060). There was already a settlement at Glanwern by 1806 when Elizabeth Davies said she was born there for the Census of 1851. The road was there too, it was shown on a map of 1829 and led down to three lime kilns beginning where the road opened on to the beach. Later another was built. Lime would be carried to farms inland and the road connected to an important road, as today, at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was very ancient as in Norman times it was a quick way to north Wales along the shingle bank and high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey on a ferry to Aberdovey.



LEFT On a map of 1848 the ground for The Chalet was part of Number 108 edged in red which had a largish building and a cottage on it, where today The Chalet stands. The site measured 33 perches, nearly a rod (a quarter of an acre). It is

marked in red Richard Davies who was an agricultural worker in the 1851 Census had the cottage on the left. What is now Glasfryn had been built next door on the east (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn). This was an enclosure from 'waste' ground between the road and the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill and a rent would have had to be paid to the Crown Manor when it was enclosed. There was the option to buy the ground too. The Davies family throughout the nineteenth century lived at Rose Cottage on the west of the site.



LEFT In 1886 there was just that cottage left on the site (A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

At the 1891 Census this was the home John Williams, a 57 year old and his wife Margaret who was 55 and had been born at the local Rhiwlas Farm' By the 1901 Census she had gone.



LEFT In 1904 the cottage had gone (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904)

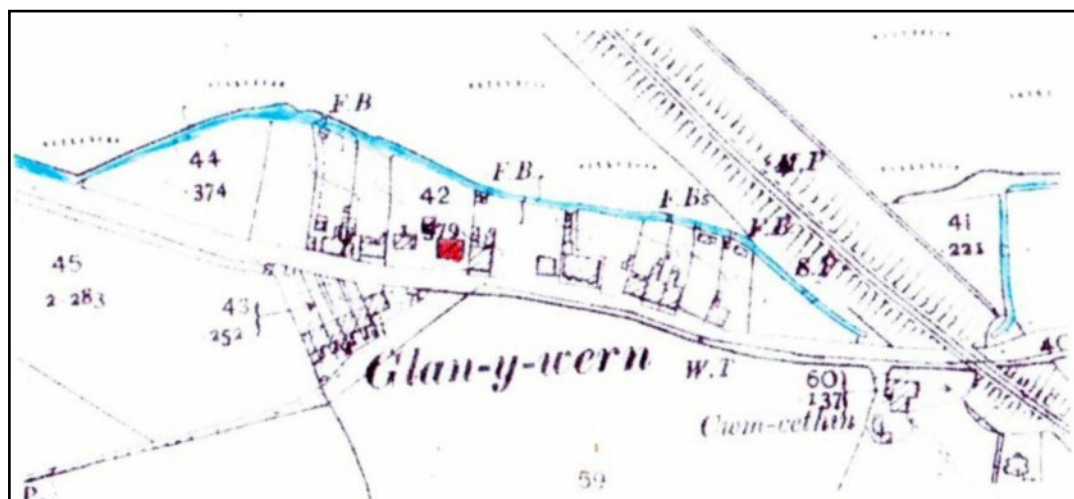


*ABOVE* In the centre of this photograph taken by John Thomas around 1900 the gap can be seen between Rose Cottage on the left and Glasfryn (National Library of Wales on-line)

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned there was a garden where the house now stands. The owner was John Beynon and the occupier was Margaret Williams who was probably a widow by then and was still listed as a tenant there. The garden was quite large and it was valued at £80, perhaps because it was a potential building site? John Beynon would have paid 10s.6d, 11s gross. If he was a local man, this would have been the builder and carpenter John Beynon who lived at Efalwen at the south end of Borth's High Street. He was 61 years old (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales).

In 1925 Captain John Lloyd who lived at Y Graig (near The Sands) owned this 'agricultural land' beside Glasfryn. He had a tenant there, Edward Jones.

By 1938 Le Chalet was built by Captain Lloyd, and paying the Rates for the bungalow and garden was D. Edna Jackson, and the value was £21.



*ABOVE* On the 1905 Map the Council drew in newly built houses, and drew the Chalet, marked in red, and the bungalow next door on the west and a small building at the back. They shared the garden, tenants lived in them. Captain John Lloyd was the owner. (Map at the Ceredigion Archives)

Paying the Rates for the bungalow in 1949 was J. H. Whitrod. He paid Rates of £6 per half year (Ceredigion Archives)

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Paying the Rates in 1963 were Miss Willett and Miss Green. Previously it had been G. W. Whitrod. There was a garage with the bungalow, and it was all valued at £29 (Rates Ceredigion Archives)

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gan/by Beryl Lewis  
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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**Houses of Borth** consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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