

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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LLECYN-Y-RHOS

At the northern end of the village and over the road from the beach. Formerly called Sandmarsh and Llan-y-rhiw. Set back from the road and built by 1904 possibly by Gregson in the garden of Neuadd Wen which he also probably built.



*Llecyn-y-rhos
in 2009.*

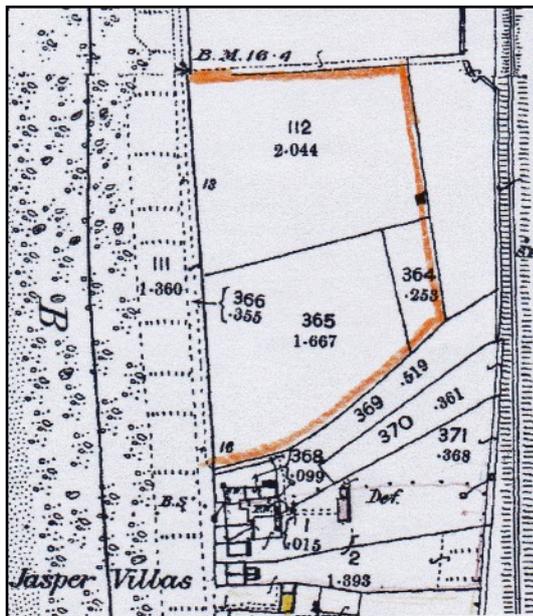


Llecyn-y-rhos probably meaning ‘the place on the moor’, is a two storey house under a gable roof at right angles to the road. A dormer window on the south side, and a roof light on the north provide light for an attic. The front door is on the north side of the house, opening on to the drive to its garage. The walls are rendered and it is not possible to say whether they are rubble stone or brick - either is possible at the date of building. The windows are modern, and the upper bay window at the front will

have a good view of the sea. When it was built the lower window too would have had a good view, but today this is spoilt by the concrete sea defensive wall and promenade that was built about 1960. The smaller windows have the pattern of sash windows. The front is decorated by the painted strips of wood on the top of the gable, and the hipped roof of the bay windows. The result is a house that looks more modern than the date of building (by 1904). There is a generously sized front garden as this house is set back from the road, and also a back garden looking out over the railway to the Cors Fochno and the hills beyond.

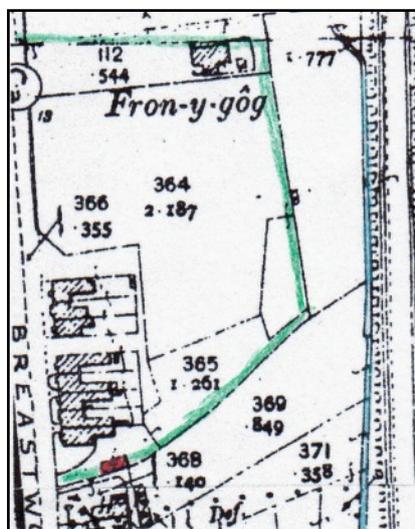


ABOVE The rear of the house in 2009. It has an extension on the north side of its back garden. The window with nine panes on the north wall might be a reminder of older windows - the rear of several houses in the terrace on the beach side at the north end of the High Street have windows of this kind.



The ground for this house is the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The garden was enclosed and drained from the Cors Fochno bog, and was pasture in 1790 owned by the Gogerddan Estate (Estate Map, T. Lewis, National Library of Wales). In 1848 it was part of an 'allotment' of five acres and 30 perches, and Pryse Pryse of Gogerddan sold some of this to a surgeon John Harden (Deeds to Morlais - private collection).

LEFT Marked in red is the 'allotment' in 1886 (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888).

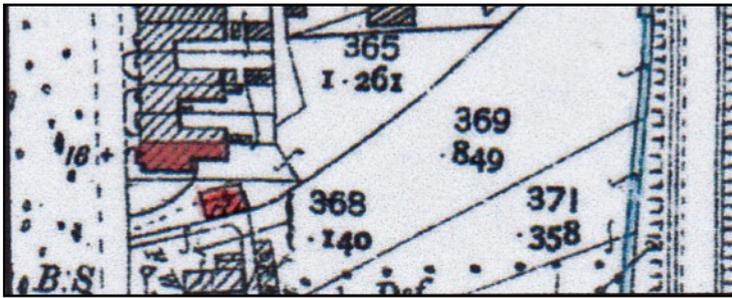


Later some was in the possession of the Roberts family of Garibaldi (now the Premier Family Stores). The terrace was built on the roadside of this land. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry at Ynyslas to Aberdovey which was a quick way to North Wales. It is not clear whether there was a piped water supply for the house. A letter to the Cambrian News said in 1896 that the Council had already provided a reservoir (October 16th). Fuel at this date would be coal brought to coal merchants at Borth by train.

LEFT The house in 1904 is marked in red. It was right on the boundary of the 'allotment' and shared its garden and some ground behind with Neuadd Wen. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire III.10)

This was the old Henllys Township and there were no houses built on that ground as late as 1886. The line of dots marks the beginning of Cyfoeth-y-brenin which had cottages and houses from 1803.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, Llecyn-y-rhos had no name, and was valued with Neuadd-wen then called 'Sandmarsh'. They were owned by the executors of Gregson, a speculative builder who possibly built both of them. He had great plans to build at Ynyslas, mostly not carried out. (Royal Commission on Historic Munuments Wales, coloured drawing). Elizabeth and Elinor Morgan were living at 'Sandmarsh' and running it as a boarding house.



LEFT Llecyn-y-rhos eventually had its own garden. The Council added alterations and new houses to their copy of the 1905 map - this dates from at least 1935. The house was wider by then the surveyor drew an addition on the north side. (Ceredigion Archives).

In 1925, for the rates, the house was still with 'Sandmarsh Villa', and paying the rates was the Rev. E. L. Jenkins as owner and occupier. When David Lewis Davies took over the Sandmarsh Villa he changed its name to Neuadd Wen (Whitehall). The name Sandmarsh remained with the smaller house in its garden. In 1934 Elinor and Elizabeth Morgan paid the rates for it - just £11, gross £18 - Neuadd Wen was much more valuable at £25 and £34 gross. At that time the house probably had its own garden as on the map above, and it is possible that the Morgan ladies had bought the house. In August 1934 one of the Miss Morgan's gave a recipe for 'Queen of Puddings' for a booklet in aid of a St Matthew's Church Bazaar. (Published by the Cambrian News, Ceredigion Archives).

1938 Charles Morgan paid the rates for Sandmarsh.

With votes for 'Sandmarsh' in the General Election of 1945 were Ellen E. Cope, Ethel J. Hayes and Gertrude Maud Earp.

Paying the rates for Sandmarsh in 1949 was 'Hands' - the council did not know his full name.

In April 1954 'Sandmarsh' was advertised for sale by auction. On the ground floor was a tiled entrance hall, a lounge with a bay window and a modern grate, a dining room, and kitchen with a cook and heat stove, also a scullery, a pantry and a WC. On the first floor were four bedrooms, a bathroom and lavatory. Above were two attic store rooms. Outside was a yard and coal house shed and a small lawn in front and at the back. The house was described as 'stone and brick with cement facing and a tiled roof.' It was in good condition (Cutting from the Cambrian News, Ceredigion Archives ABY/B/16).

Paying the rates for Sandmarsh in 1963 was R. C. Leaman. No one had a vote for it that year.

In 2009 when I photographed it the house was called Llan-y-rhiw, in Welsh meaning of a village or enclosure on a slope. This does not describe this house. It may be a place name somewhere in Wales.

The present name, 'Llecyn-y-rhos' is a place on a moor in Welsh. Today the house has an entrance hall, lounge/diner, a modern generously sized kitchen in the extension at the rear,

with a glass wall and door on the east end, a pine floor and mock beams in the roof. This looks out over a lawn. Upstairs are three bedrooms, a bathroom and shower room, and the attic, two store rooms in 1954 had been converted. The house has oil fired central heating and double glazing. It is tenanted.

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

Ceidw Beryl Lewis yr hawlfraint yn ei gwaith ac mae'r hanesion yn cael eu rhannu at ddibenion preifat ac ymchwil yn unig.

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-eredigion.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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