

# 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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## WERNDEG Glanwern Village Borth.

Built between 1949 and 1963, replacing two old cottages.



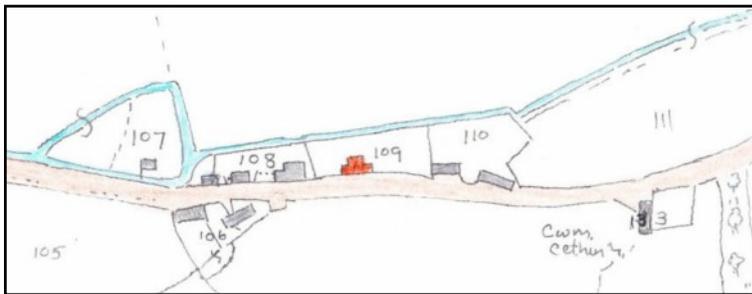
*Werndeg in 2013.*

This is a one and a half storey house its upper floor being in the roof and built in the style of an old cottage. It is under a very deep gable roof parallel to the road, with a main section with two chimneys, both rendered. The western chimney has two chimney pots, the eastern chimney has one. There is a lower section on the front of the house on the east side. All the walls are rendered. One dormer window in the roof at the front lights the upper floor. On the west side of the front is an extension under a roof at right angles to the main roof. This had plain barge boards, and has one window on the ground floor. The other front windows reach up to the eaves in the style of old Morfa Borth cottages such as Myfanwy. The front door and a narrow window alongside it also reaches up to the eaves. The front garden is narrow, and enclosed in a low red brick wall with red pillar gateposts. There is a planting area along the top of the wall. On the east a drive leads to a garage, and a side door to the house opens on to it. Both gates are wrought iron.

The design could have incorporated on the east end an old cottage formerly on the site.

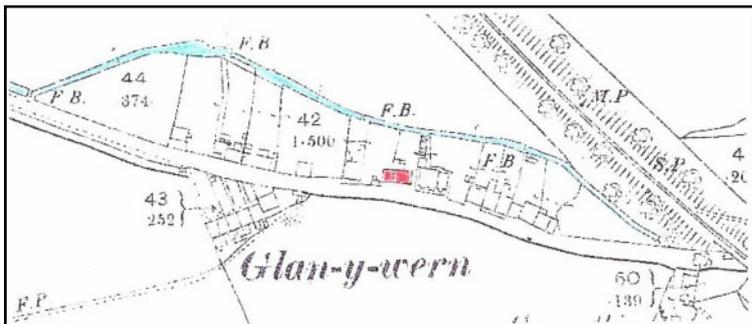
The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down the valley behind Ty Gwyn too, and helped drain the marsh on the north. After passing Glanwern 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. The western section of Glanwern Village was built on land considered 'waste' by the Crown Manor, their 1905 25 inch map coloured in in 1912 shows its 'waste' went as far as Glanwern 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* In 1848 the ground on which Werndeg stands was part of plot 109 of one rod and one perch, which on the map had the cottage and gardens of John Morgan and William Francis. The cottages were in a cluster in the centre. John Morgan was a carpenter and

*William Francis a mariner (Detail copied from Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN).*



*LEFT* In 1886 two cottages are on the site, with some open ground and Glasfryn House on the west and Glanwern House on the east had been built. The cottages are marked in red. In blue is the tailrace from the Mill. This had been moved since 1848, to give larger gardens for the houses and

*cottages. The cottage fronts were open to the road (Detail from the Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 published in 1888, Cardiganshire).*

At the 1891 Census in one cottage was Jane Morgan, a widow aged 57 so born about 1824. She was a charwoman. In the other was Ellen Morris, a mariner's wife, aged 30, born in Aberaeron, and with her was her nine year old daughter Jane Ellen.

In the Census of 1901 a washerwoman Sarah Ann Jones, aged 38 and born in Borth was living there. She had not married. The cottage shared a large garden with Glasfryn next door.



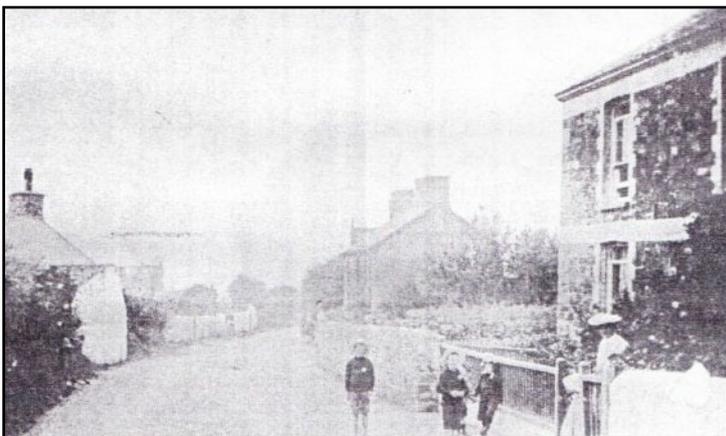
*LEFT* On the Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 just one cottage is left, the easternmost one next to Glanwern House. The 'S'braces show that the cottage was owned by Glasfryn. It was still open to the road, and sharing a big garden with Glasfryn.



*ABOVE A postcard pre 1900 shows the two cottages, the one on the west is double fronted, the one on the east has only one window at the front. Glasfryn is on their left and Glanwern House on their right. There is the Wern Leri common land behind the houses and the embankment for the railway (Courtesy of the Amgueddfa, Ceredigion Museum)*

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied Captain John Francis was living in Glanwern, and Captain Abraham Davies in Glasfryn. There was a 'premises and garden' adjoining Glasfryn owned by Captain Davies, and occupied by Mrs Mary Jenkins (probably the old cottage) and he shared the ground. It was valued at £50. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales).

In 1938, for the Rates, J. A. Herbert paid the Rates for Glasfryn. Mrs Annie Herbert was to live there with four daughters. Werndeg is not yet in the list. In the 1949 Rates list M.E. Herbert had a garage, and something else (not described – possibly the old cottages) that had been empty for half the year (Rates Ceredigion Archives)



*LEFT An old photograph shows Glanwern House on the right, and Glasfryn in the distance, the cottages had gone.*

*Courtesy of Y Tincer May 1998.*

By 1963 Werndeg was built with a garage. It was valued for the Rates at £74, the most valuable property in Glanwern Village. Miss Herbert paid the Rates.



*LEFT A Judges postcard showed Werndeg with a generous frontage space, not only the width of the old cottages, but almost filling the area between Glanwern House and Glasfryn.*

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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-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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