



Gwernymynydd Village, circa 1902

A Photographic History
of
Gwernymynydd
Village

PROMOTED AND FINANCED BY
GWERNYMYNYDD COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Gwernymynydd Community Council 2000 - 2001



Gwernymynydd Village Centre Management Committee 2000 - 2001



Gwernymynydd Village Trust Fund Committee 2000 - 2001



Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to enjoy looking through this Photographic History of Gwernymynydd.

Gwernymynydd - 'The Swamp on the Hill' - Gwern meaning alder or swamp as in Tros-y-Wern. The familiar Siglen also has a similar meaning.

We are all greatly indebted to those who have kept this wealth of past events throughout the years so that we can all today enjoy looking into our past.

I personally have treasured memories - competing as a child at the Village Eisteddfod, singing at the Village Hall, and coming to see my newly arrived cousin born at Nurse Roberts' at Maes-y-Wern.

As your Councillor for many years I treasure the friendship I have enjoyed and the help received from so many of you, the residents - old and new. Yes, some 70% of you are newcomers who have by now become established and valued members of the Community. To the more recent newcomers can I extend a very warm welcome.

I sincerely hope, having enjoyed and appreciated what you have read and seen, that we can all feel that we are part of a Community to be proud of.



Does ddim gwell ffordd o ddod ar gorffennol yn fyw na thrwy lun,
- Mawr yw ein diolch i'r rhai a'i gwnaeth yn bosibl.

Gwilym B. Roberts

Flintshire County Councillor, Gwernymynydd Ward



*Glynwood Cottage, Stanley Cottage and
Oakwood Cottage*



... and now

Acknowledgements

*Thank you to everyone for the loan of the photographs
and to a friend who did the copying*



Looking up towards The Swan in 1902, and below as it is today



THOMAS ROBERT EVANS MM (December 1899 - 1986)

Thomas Robert Evans was a local hero, who during the First World War was awarded the Military Medal when it was second only to the Victoria Cross. He was born in Gwernymynydd, the son of Edward Henry and Catherine Evans, and the grandson of Thomas and Susannah Roberts of the Swan Inn. He was a master joiner who did contract work for the local halls and was a village undertaker. He was married to Kate. An unassuming, jovial man, he loved singing and played the trombone with Gwernaffield Silver Band.

During World War I he enlisted in the army despite being under age. During his military service, when his company and tanks had to cross undulating, mined terrain, volunteers were called for to lead the way because the soldiers on the old style tanks could not see the ground ahead when they came out of a dip. Tom volunteered, and the primitive mine-detecting equipment used meant that if it detected a hidden mine it caused it to explode. Tom survived, whilst fellow volunteers did not. The Military Medal was awarded to him for his bravery and was presented to him by the Lord Lieutenant of Flintshire, together with a special gold medal from the people of Mold bearing the inscription:

**Presented to No 30646 Private T. R. Evans MM (Somerset Light Infantry)
by Friends of Mold & District as a slight token of their Admiration of his
distinguished and gallant conduct in the service of King and Country.**



*Greenhill, home of Morton and Dorothy Hayes and Family. The bus stop is at the side of the house.
Arosfa and the Lamb Inn are further on*



*The following
information has been
garnered from
the people who
remember
The Beehive Shop
in Gwernymynydd.*

*Beehive Shop and
School Terrace.
The shop closed in 1959
and was demolished in
1980*

Nos 1 & 2 Oak View



The Beehive was situated opposite what is now the Village Centre and was a combined bakery and general store.

The shop stocked pretty well everything including animal feed and paraffin and vinegar. These last two items were measured into the customers own containers. Purchasing salt was a much more complicated business than it is now, and must have been quite messy. It arrived in the shop in bulk, and was cut up into smaller squares according to the customer's requirements.

The baker was John William Jones, and his sisters Sally and Annie served in the shop. An extra amenity which must have been a boon to villagers, was the opportunity for housewives who baked their own bread to take it to the Beehive to be baked in the shop oven.

The shop, along with other neighbouring properties, was demolished under the Ruthin road-widening scheme of around 20 years ago.



GONE BUT NOT QUITE FORGOTTEN!

The Lamb Inn: The Lamb was situated opposite the Village Centre (formerly the Junior School) and was a private residence.

Rainbow Inn: This still had farm buildings attached in the mid 1920s.

Butchers: Opposite the Rainbow Garage.

Post Office: Opposite the Glyndwr Road turning. The last postmistress here was Miss Arabella Davies.

Top Shop: Owned and supplied by Simon Griffiths of Mold. This shop, opposite the Rainbow Inn, also became the Post Office when it was owned by John Richard Davies of Cadole (brother of Arabella Davies) who remained there until the late 1960s. It became a private residence in the late 1990s and the Post Office re-opened in the Rainbow Garage.

Ice Cream - c.1914: One of the Belli brothers of Mold would push a handcart to the bottom of Gwernymynydd. The youngest school children, who carried no money, were sometimes given a free dab!

Undertaker: The village carpenter would perform these duties. The deceased would remain with their families until the day of the funeral.

Violin Teacher: Mr Christopher of Gwernaffield and Cadole was a talented violinist and gave lessons. He married twice, having a large musical family by both wives.

'Johnny Onions': French onion sellers were still visiting Cadole occasionally after World War II.

Football: The curate of Mold (a South Walian) ran a football team in Gwernymynydd which was in action in the mid-1920s, although there may have been one earlier. After World War II, the first game was played on Littlers Field off Swan Lane. Subsequently, games were played on Mr. Harley's land near the Hafod.

Cricket: The Llanferres Cricket Club was run by Rev. Fred Lewis (a South Walian) but was open to all local people including the following in 1939, when it ceased at the start of the war: Neville Blythin of Gwernymynydd (treasurer); Lever

Brothers Supervisor Glyndwr Quarry (fixtures); Bill Christopher of Cadole (leading batsman); Captain Jones of Glyndwr Road (official and player); Maldwyn Glyn Evans of Gwernymynydd and Cadole (batsman and bowler); Edwyn Parry of Cadole (player). Games were played at Pwll y Blawd, Loggerheads, courtesy of Mrs. Peyton, but the field was ploughed up for the war effort. 'Quality' fixtures such as at Hawarden Park were arranged.

Church School: The church doubled as a school on weekdays, with three teachers. Each class was divided from the other by a wooden partition. The headteacher was Albert Hughes, with teachers Eva Jones and Irene Woodward. Later local brothers, John and Don Humphreys, were both headmasters at the school, with Don succeeding John in 1948 or 1949.

Racial Mix: A black builder lived in Gwernymynydd for a number of years in the early part of the century, when this must have been quite unusual. He is believed to have built a number of houses in the locality.

JONES BAILERS OF MOLD

Glyn Jones and his brother lived at Tros-y-Wern Farm Gwernymynydd, and as children attended the local school from approximately 1915.

During World War II the shortage of manpower at harvest time spurred them to develop a bailer which was very successful. They started the family firm, Jones Bailers, in Rhosesmor which became well-known nationally and provided employment for many.

The brothers and their sons were renowned clay pigeon shooters of international standing. Later they started the clay pigeon shoot at Sealand. Glyn and David won many medals for shooting. Glyn was the captain of the team when they went to Russia.

The sale of Tros-y-Wern farm was in 1965. It was sold for £81,655 for building, and by the time all the estate had been completed the population had risen from 315 to 1,300.



Circa 1950, looking down the village from the Lodge Far View, demolished 1980 for road widening

*Malen Williams
with her uncle
at Far View*



Far View and Hillside Crescent, at the time of road widening, 1980





SIGLEN UCHA Circa 1910

... and today



SIGLEN ISA AND OLD WORKS demolished in 1947



Siglen Isa as it is today



SIGLEN ISA fields with ponies grazing, before Hafod y Wern Estate was built

The Estate built on the field



Minnie Williams of Siglen Isa passed on to us this fascinating story from the late 19th century.

THE RESCUE

Zacharias Bellis, his wife and young son Wil lived in Top Farm Gwernymynydd, and Mrs Bellis' sister lived in Siglen Isa. Wil was three years old, and worryingly was still not talking. One day his aunt climbed the hill to visit them, and as a test of his hearing, banged a milk churn behind Wil, who did not even flinch.

They realised he was deaf, which in those days meant he was also unable to speak. This did not prevent Wil from enjoying life however. He grew big and strong and was a great favourite with local children. He loved to climb trees, so much that his clothes came in for a lot of punishment - no doubt to the despair of his mother! There was not a tree in the locality Wil had not tackled.

Each September when the shooting season started, guests visiting the local gentry arrived for a days sport in Gwernymynydd, and on these occasions Wil's father joined other local men as beaters.

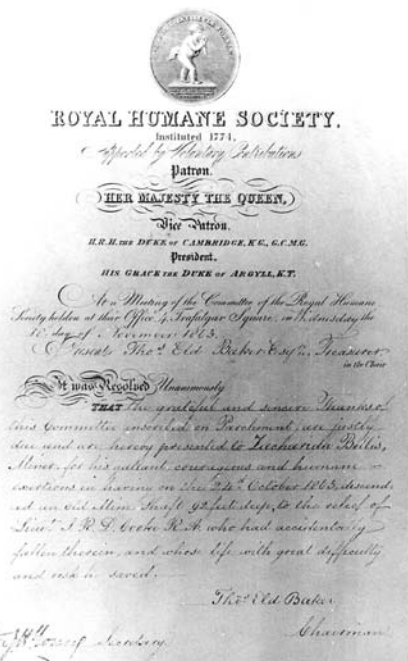
One day at this time, the son of Lieutenant James R. Davies Cooke of Aberduna Hall was walking in the woods near the Maeshafn road, when he suddenly fell down a mine shaft which no one knew was there. Naturally there was a great panic, this being long before the days of 999 and the emergency services. However, Zacharias Bellis bravely volunteered to make a rescue attempt. He was lowered down the shaft on a rope and managed to save the young man.

A day or so later the grateful father came to thank Zacharias, and asked if there was anything he could do to repay him in some small way. Zacharias told him he needed nothing for himself, but that he would be grateful if something could be done for his son.

Some weeks went by, and then one day a stranger called at the farm with a large parcel. This proved to be a substantial outfit of clothes for Wil, and a message to say arrangements had been made for him to attend a school for deaf children in London. His parents took Wil to the school, and although he was greatly missed at home, the boy learned to sign and to read. He also learned to paint pottery and when he left school was employed at a pottery in Stafford. One weekend, Wil's mother went to visit him in Stafford. On the Sunday morning she accompanied Wil to chapel - and found to her great surprise that her son was the preacher. The chapel had been founded especially for the deaf and dumb of the population.

The late Hannah Evans of Swan Lane owned a plate decorated by Wil. It has probably been inherited by her family.

As for brave Zacharias Bellis, he was honoured by the Royal Humane Society of 1863 for his Gallant, Courageous and Humane Exertions.



Elaine Ladd (née Evans) of North Downs, Knutsford, Cheshire was born of an old Gwernymynydd family and brought up in the village. She tells us that the Evans family were resident in Gwernymynydd by 1898 at the latest - and other family members named Roberts were here well before that. Fortunately for us, Elaine and her brother Stuart Evans gathered most of the following information from their father and grandfather. Incidentally, Elaine tells us that relatives of theirs, now living in Australia, have just built a new home and called it Gwernymynydd!

Information gleaned from older members of the Evans family:

THE WALNS

The Walns were generous benefactors of the local community. Mold Hospital was given some of the most modern equipment, including, it is thought, an operating table.

For the youth of the village, a scout troop was started, with the kit for the local boys being provided. Mr Ambrose Waln was mainly involved in this project. His sister, Miss Rose Waln, sometimes asked scouts Maldwyn Glyn Evans and another boy to sing for her whilst she accompanied them on the piano. After the troop disbanded, the military-type bugle that had been used was given to Maldwyn. His family still have it. It is dated 1903 and bears the makers name of Henry Keat & Sons, 105 & 103 Mathias Road, London.

Following the end of World War I, the Walns, having lost one of their family in action, were instrumental in having a cenotaph erected in Gwernymynydd, at the site of the old drinking fountain which was at the roadside between Fron Hall drive and the Twmpath. The water for the drinking fountain came from a spring in the field behind it. This water had always been considered pure, long before the days of the fountain. Local people believed that this was not surface water, liable to contamination, but water filtered at its source through the silica rocks above. In order to establish this, as silica was quarried at the time, quantities of peppermint were put in the mine and, sure enough, eventually the spring water tasted of peppermint.



The War Memorial today



FRON HALL

Tucked away behind the trees on the hillside above Swan Lane stands Fron Hall. Previous owners Mr. Alun Smith and his wife Aisla commissioned research into the history of the house. The current owners Mr. Philip Jackson and his wife Sandra have kindly made the papers available to the community council for the compilation of this brief piece.

Fron, Vron or Fron Haul, as it is variously referred to, in the area of Arthinwent (Arddynwynt), appears to have already existed in the late 17th century. Records are sparse, but a 'John Bythel of Fron, gent' is mentioned in Nercwys church (1665) and Mold parish records show 'Mrs Catherine Edwards of Fron buryd' in 1690. A list of freeholders of Mold of 1701 has a Mr and Mrs Williams listed under the area of Arthinwent. However, the first real evidence of ownership of Fron emerges with a 1716 inventory 'of the goods, cattle and chattels of Peter Williams of Vron, Vicar of Mould in the county of Flint, Clerk (?) lately deceased'. The copperplate, almost gothic, script with its archaic spelling is difficult to decipher in parts, but nevertheless the inventory makes fascinating reading.



Fron Hall as it was before renovation



Fron Hall today

The house remained in the Williams family - all Oxford educated clerics - for three generations. Son Richard became Rector at Hawarden by dubious means. In 1734 an election between Sir John Glynnne and Sir George Wynne took place. The story goes that the young Williams, curate at Hope, was eagerly canvassing a voter in Caergwrle on behalf of Sir John, when the man suddenly fell down and died. A rumour soon spread that the death was not accidental. In compensation for the slur on his character Williams was offered the living at Hawarden, on condition that

he resign when any of the patron's family should be capable of holding it. When this actually occurred Rector Williams refused to comply. An entry in Sir John's diary reads 'At noon died Rev Rector Williams Rector of Hawarden, a man I tied myself to by presenting him to the Living. Twenty eight years we lived in disagreeable harmony. He died a dishonest man.'

Hawarden parish records describe him thus; 'he was accounted a hard man, keen on his rights to fees and emoluments, unbending and exacting as to his rights as Rector and ordinary of the peculiar and exempt jurisdiction.'

Reverend Williams married twice. There were three children from his first marriage to Anny Longueville, daughter of Sir Thomas Longueville, who probably died in childbirth aged 24 in 1749. His second wife was Margaret, daughter of the Reverend Sam Davie of Tattenhall, who had been married twice previously herself. It is surmised that the wealth of Richard Williams's 2 wives enabled him to build a new Fron. The date on the coachhouse is 1762 with initials RW, although listed buildings give the date as 1765. Thomas Pennant mentions the 'recently finished house of Fron' in his notebooks to his tour of North Wales 1778. In 1767 Rev Williams presented a large inscribed silver chalice to Mold church. On his death in 1770 he was buried with his two wives in the chancel of the parish church at Hawarden.

His only son, also Richard (1747 - 1811), was Rector of Machynlleth from 1789 to 1805 and Llanferres 1805 to 1811. He was a poet and scholar of some repute, and friend of Thomas Pennant; he is remembered as the translator of the Welsh poems in Pennant's 'Tours of Wales'. He married but it appears that there were no children, since on his death everything was left to Mary Stringer, niece of his late wife Elizabeth. He was buried in the family vault in Mold church. Mary may have stayed with her family in Chester, for an advert appears in the Chester Chronicle of 3 May 1811:

'Fron, near Mold. To be let ready furnished. The above desirable residence, well adapted for the reception of a genteel family; consisting of a large dining parlour and ditto drawing room, good sized breakfast room with a suitable number of bedrooms and servants offices and with coach house and good stabling.

The demesne consists of 50 acres of excellent land, which may be had together, or in parts. Also an

An Inventory of the goods & Chattels of Sir John Williams of Hawarden of Mold in the County of Flint Esq. lately deceased taken the 14th day of June 1770

In the Hall

2: Oval Table	00	10	00
10: Chairs	01	06	00
1: Clock and Case	02	00	00
1: P. of Tables	00	03	09
5: Cushions	00	05	00

On the Parapage

1: Oval Table	00	03	00
3: Chairs	00	03	00

In the Parlour

1: Oval Table	00	02	00
7: Fine Chairs	01	00	00
1: Adorned with Glass	01	00	00

In the room above the Hall

1: Bed with Furniture	03	00	00
1: Square Table	00	02	00
6: Chairs	00	03	00
2: Looking Glass	00	04	00

In the Study

Books	05	00	00
Scriptures	01	00	00

In the Kitchen

Silver Plate	20	00	00
2: Adorned	01	00	00

In the Dining Chamber

1: Bed with its Furniture	02	00	00
1: Table	00	03	00
1: Dress Cupboard	00	06	00
2: Chairs	00	02	00
1: Floor Cloth	00	01	06

more in the Kitchen & Counters above mentioned.
 1. Great Bed. 2. Bed. 3. Chairs. 01 00 00

In the Parlour Chamber

1: Bed with its Furniture	02	10	00
4: Chairs	00	04	00
2: Tables	00	04	00
1: Floor Cloth	00	01	00
1: Looking Glass	00	05	00

In the Dining Room

1: Bed with its Furniture	05	00	00
4: Silk Chairs	00	12	00
1: Holborn Chair	00	05	00
6: Silk Cushions	00	09	00
1: Dress Room	00	01	00
1: Table	00	06	00
2: Chairs	00	04	00
1: Looking Glass	01	00	00
1: Chest of Drawers	00	10	00

excellent large garden, walled round and well protected from winds by a beautiful plantation. The situation is delightful; commanding a most extensive view of the adjacent country and rivers Dee and Mersey with the towns of Liverpool and Chester. For particulars apply Wm. Wynne Esq Mold or Mr Poole Chester.'

Unfortunately Mary must have died a few years after inheriting the Fron estate as her will is probate at Chester in 1813.

It is not known who lived in the house in the meantime - possibly tenants in view of the 1811 advert - but the next recorded occupier 20 years later is a Robert Morgan, probably of Llanarmon since the family is buried in the churchyard there. There is a book of accounts of 'Robert and Elizabeth Morgan Vron Hall 1831'. This is the first time Vron or Fron has the additional word Hall. It was apparently during the same year that the two married. A letter from a researcher states 'marriage of Robert Morgan of Fron Hall and Elizabeth Lewis residing at Fron 22/2/1831 - both signed with a XI'

Robert Morgan seems to have been connected with the mining industry - there is an entry in the account book for 1836 'Robert Morgan of Gwernymynydd mine'. A document of 1843 concerns an examination of the 'underground workings of the Gwernymynydd company on the Fron Hall estate'.

It is said that he died in 1838 and that his wife continued to live at Fron until 1842/3 when she married a Peter Davies of Llanarmon. The researcher reports that there are bundles of documents in their hundreds relating to Richard Morgan's estate and Fron Hall and in particular regarding legal action by the trustees against his heirs which continued until at least 1871! In fact the sale of the house in 1845, at the Black Lion Hotel Mold, was 'pursuant to a decree of the High Court of Chancery'.

It is presumably at this point that the Waln family took up residence at Fron Hall. They are certainly shown there in the 1851 census - Edward, his wife Caroline, son Edward Hunter (aged 8), brother Robert, sister Margaret and four servants. Edward and his sisters are shown as landed proprietors, his brother as attorney.

In Chancery EVANS *v.* MORGAN.
 EVANS *v.* DAVIES.
 EVANS *v.* JONES.
 EVANS *v.* MORGAN.

PARTICULARS & CONDITIONS OF SALE
OF THE

VALUABLE FREEHOLD ESTATE
CALLED FRON HALL,
(OF THE LATE ROBERT MORGAN, ESQ., DECEASED.) SITUATE IN THE
VALE OF MOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF FLINT,
CONSISTING OF A CAPITAL
MANSION HOUSE,
FRONTED WITH FREESTONE,
WITH
PLEASURE GROUNDS, WALLED GARDENS,
COTTAGES, & ARABLE & PASTURE LANDS
THEREUNTO BELONGING, CONTAINING IN THE WHOLE
98A. 2R. 3IP.
OR THEREABOUTS,

Together with the valuable Mines and Minerals under the same, (except under 12 Acres or thereabouts, which are reserved under the Mold Inclosure Act to the Lords of the Manor of Mold,) and 3 Pews in Mold Church.

The MANSION stands on an eminence overlooking the Vale of Mold.

The well-known GWERNYMYNYDD and FRON HALL VEINS run through the Property. A LEVEL has been DRIVEN under the LAND, which it is believed will permanently drain it to the depth of about 300 feet.

The ESTATE adjoins the Properties of P. D. Cooke, Esq., the representatives of the late E. Jones Hughes, Esq., Mrs. Jones, Mr. Thomas Davies, &c. &c.

It is in a respectable Neighbourhood, and surrounded by excellent Roads, and is distant about a mile from the Market Town of Mold; 17 miles from Eastham; 16 from Liverpool Lower Ferries, Liverpool; 13 from Chester; 12 from Sutton Station; 12 from Wrexham; and 7 from Flint; and there are Coaches daily from Mold to Liverpool, Chester, Ruthin, Denbigh, Carnarvon, &c.

The intended Line of Railway from Chester to Mold will also pass within a Mile of the Mansion,

THE

Whole will be Sold by Auction,
Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery, with the approbation of WILLIAM WINGFIELD, Esq. one of the Masters of the said Court,

AT THE BLACK LION HOTEL, MOLD,
On Wednesday, 10th day of September, 1845,
AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON, IN TWO LOTS.

LOT 1
A FREEHOLD ESTATE
 CONSISTING OF
A CAPITAL MANSION HOUSE fronted with **FREESTONE**,
 With suitable Offices, Outbuildings, Pleasure Grounds, &c., formerly occupied by the late
ROBERT MORGAN, Esq., situate in the
VALE OF MOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF FLINT.
THE MANSION HOUSE contains a handsome Entrance Hall and Stone Staircase, Dining and Drawing
 Rooms, Breakfast Room, Library, and Housekeeper's Room; Five Bed Rooms, Servants' Bed Rooms,
 Cellaring, Kitchen, Brewhouse, Dairy, &c.
THE OUTBUILDINGS consist of a substantial Barn, Stabling for Seven Horses, large Coachhouse,
 Cowhouse, and Piggeries.
THERE ARE ALSO THREE COTTAGES AND GARDENS
FOR LABORERS, TOGETHER WITH
MEADOW, ARABLE, PASTURE & WOOD LAND,
 The whole containing **67A. 2R. 10P.**

LOT 2.
A FREEHOLD ESTATE
 CONSISTING OF
A GOOD FARM HOUSE & OUTBUILDINGS,
CALLED FRON UCHAF, TOGETHER WITH A COTTAGE AND GARDEN
FOR LABORER,
WITH ARABLE, PASTURE & WOOD LAND,
AND ADJOINING LOT 1,
 The whole containing **31A. OR. 21P.**
 The Minerals under a part of this Lot are also reserved in like manner as in Lot 1, to the Lords of the Manor
 of Mold. Also a Pew in Mold Church, under or near the Gallery.
 The Timber upon this Lot has been valued by Mr. Welch, of Ruthin, Surveyor, at £150. 16s. at which
 sum the Purchaser must take it.
 The accompanying Map or Plan shows the particulars of the Lots, and the parts colored Green shew the
 parts under which the Minerals are reserved.

The fortunes of the house now took a turn for the worse. Its new owner, a Mr A C Benfield, had bought the property for the wood in the grounds and the hall was left to go derelict. When Mr and Mrs Smith took it on in 1969 there was a tree growing indoors and cattle were sheltering. Beneath the hay they found the original oak floors and in an outbuilding discovered the banisters. There was no mains water or electricity. The oldest wing, previously servants' quarters, was knocked down as it was in poor condition and the remainder restored. Mr and Mrs Jackson have lived at Fron Hall since 1985. In the intervening years they have converted outbuildings into living accommodation and refurbished existing accommodation.

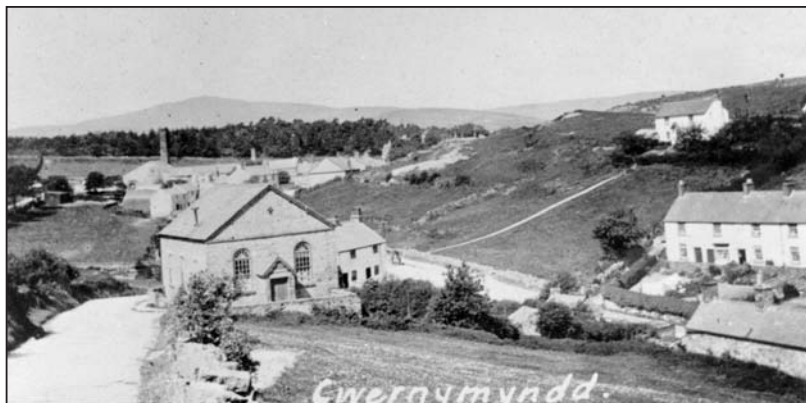
Their son Edward Hunter (1843 - 1915) married well. His wife Adah Harriet was the daughter of a wine and spirit merchant who on his death in 1886 left over £232,000. They had four children during the early 1880s all of whom remained unmarried and childless. (Edward Ashton was killed in action in 1918 aged 38; Ambrose Roscoe and Vivien Darby died within months of each other in 1957 and Adah Caroline in 1961.) All are buried in Nercwys church; some of the tombstones bear ships' anchors, indicating a nautical connection.

Estate of the late Miss A. C. Rose Wain.
NEAR MOLD, NORTH WALES

FRON HALL
 A Substantially Built Georgian Mansion and Grounds
 with Valuable Timber and Pasture Land extending in
 all to approximately
65 ACRES
 For Sale by Auction
 (Subject to Conditions and unless privately sold)
 by
J. BRADBURN PRICE & CO.
 (Chartered Auctioneers and Estate Agents)
 at
THE BLACK LION HOTEL, MOLD
ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd MAY, 1962
 at 3.30 p.m.
 Solicitors:
 Messrs. Brown, Dobie and Rogers, 38, King Street, Chester
 (Phone: Chester 25460).



SOAR C.M. CHAPEL, GWERNYMYNYDD



The Chapel, with Moel Famau in the background

Methodism came to Gwernymynydd in 1824 when John Langford of Bryn Ffynnon, Glyndwr Road held services in his house. He moved from Gwernymynydd to Leeswood in 1828 where he was subsequently made a deacon in the year 1830. At the time of his departure a service was held and all the congregation, 50 in number, both young and old, wept in sorrow. His departure left the congregation with the problem of where to hold their services and who was to preside. They chose a Jane Lloyd who lived near the toll-gate, and the services were held at her house. The congregation increased, the children in the Sunday School from 8 to 100, and this created a problem with accommodation. An appeal was started throughout the area chapels and sufficient money was raised to build a schoolroom 8 yards by 5 yards. The building was constructed in 1830 and the number of children attending increased to 124. At the time of opening in September a service was held, and the building was officially opened with a Preaching Festival, the sermons being given by the Reverend John Davies, Nerquis, Hugh Parry, Llanarmon and John Jones, Caergwrle.

In 1856 the chapel was rebuilt but it was not until 1880 that seats were installed.

The congregation was never very large but it was said to be a welcoming one.

During the period up to the 1950s the congregation remained fairly constant but from then on there was a gradual reduction in membership until finally in 1984, when membership was in the region of 20, it was decided to close the Chapel and amalgamate with Bethesda Chapel, Gwernaffield. The Chapel is now a private residence.

Source: Methodistiaeth Sir Fflint, Griffith Owen, published in 1914.



The last service



A concert ticket from 1874



*Mrs Jones at the organ, which she played
in her turn for 75 years*



The Chapel interior



The Chapel in later years, again with Moel Famau in the background (Courtesy of Hallmark Cards UK)

The Chapel today



OUTINGS TO RHYL



Church Trip by train, waiting on Mold Station circa 1955



Chapel Trip by Coach in 1947

CARMEL CHAPEL

*Opening of the new
schoolroom, 1928,
by Minister
Rev. R. Jones Williams*



The Chapel closed in 1991

CAMBRIAN BRICKWORKS:

The brickworks were situated just past the Rainbow Inn where the Llys Enfys housing estate now stands. As there was no clay in the immediate vicinity, it was brought on horse-drawn wagons running on a single track rail from the clay pit. There was a passing bay for wagons just past the Maeshafn footpath on the Ruthin Road where the road seems to widen for no reason.

*Young men who possibly
worked in the brickworks,
photo dated 1910*



Later until 1960, Edward Henry Evans, a wheelwright, joiner, undertaker and general contractor, used one of the buildings as his workshop. At one time he had been one of the managers at the brickworks. His experiences of the lead mining industry of his youth, as a builder and repairer of the minehead and underground wooden structures, and his knowledge of old industrial and musical Welsh were sought and broadcast on Welsh radio in the 1950s, when Welsh was beginning to re-emerge as a first language in schools. He was born in 1873.

THE RAINBOW INN



The Rainbow Inn as it is today



*In earlier times -
the sign says
Rainbow Hotel*



*An overview of Gwernymynydd, with the Rainbow Inn in the centre and a lime kiln in the foreground. -
circa 1900*

OPPOSITE THE RAINBOW INN



*A charabanc trip
leaving from outside
the Post Office*

Fascinating Fact:

Many years ago there was an old lead works behind the shop opposite the Rainbow Inn. (The shop, which was until fairly recently also the Post Office, is now a private house.)

The men who worked there were paid in tokens instead of wages and these had to be spent in the works shop. This practice came to an end in 1831 when the Truck Act was introduced, making it illegal to pay workers in tokens.



*Upper Gwernymynydd
circa 1915*



THE POST OFFICE YEARS AGO AND NOW.



Mr Williams Davies was a butcher and he had his shop in the garden of the Post Office. He was the father of the two Miss Davies' pictured outside the Post Office. Annie Davies married Tom Jones.

Tom Jones was the proprietor of the garage where the Post Office is now. He ran the local taxi, and charged the wet batteries which were needed to work the old wireless sets in those days.

Vince Williams came after, and was followed by John Eagles.



*Hall's Shop and Cottage -
the shop closed in the 1950s*

THE OWAIN GLYNDWR



*The Owain Glyndwr today ...
... and in the past*



The Owain Glyndwr Inn, decorated for the visit of the Duke of Kent in 1938. He was going to open a wooden hostel for unemployed men from Merseyside, but he could not come as he had to go to a relative's funeral.

The picture below shows John Roberts and his grandfather.



Glyndwr Road, Gwernymynydd, circa 1947. The cars are an Armstrong Siddeley and a Humber

CADOLE TO GWERNAFFIELD ROAD AND COLOMENDY PUB

Mr Humphrey, the landlord, in the door, and his daughter a small girl, now Mrs Kendrick.



Colomendy Arms as it is today.

*Paying out the Loggerheads club.
Gwernaffield Band present*

We are indebted to Mary Bartley of Pantymwyn for the following stories. Mary and her husband Ralph have been caretakers of Deborah's Well since it was built in 1989/90 and keep it in tip-top condition. Mary wrote the stories for 'Topic', the Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Newspaper and kindly allowed us to include them in our history of Gwernymynydd and Cadole.



DEBORAH'S WELL

Most of the local people around here will be familiar with the monument on Cadole Road known as Deborah's Well. It was built in August, 1989 by Cefn Mawr Quarry for the local community, instigated by Councillor Arthur Smith.

The woods in that area have always been known as Deborah's Wood, and the large field opposite where the public footpath goes through is also named after her. Recently, I decided to take a trip to Hawarden Archives and do some research into this story of Deborah, which goes back centuries. I had seen her name printed in a newly published booklet on leadmining in the area.

This was my starting point. I also wanted to know why

that particular piece of land had always been fenced off from the rest of the wood.

I had never been to Hawarden Archives before and found it was an experience in itself. I had to show identity, be seated at a desk with a number, and everything I asked for was brought to me.

The Archivist, Mr Veysey, was very helpful, he knew about Deborah's Well, and had paid a visit to it himself recently. He brought all the necessary books and documents, but as their records only go back so far, we could find nothing on Deborah herself.

One thing I did find though, is the lead vein officially named the Deborah vein. This vein was mined in the year 1878, the operator's name being Wasley. It runs for some yards north of where the Monument stands, in a south-west to North-east direction, through the woods, across the road, and ends in the Tip field.

Deborah lived in Conlan in the 6th Century AD. She was evidently a caring person and known to be a 'White Witch', that is a person who has nursing qualities and works for the good of the people.

Cholera came to Conlan and district so Deborah arranged to take those not affected away up to higher ground. A wooden shelter was built and a Yspty (hospital). She had learned from the Elders that the higher up you went the less likely you would be to catch cholera. They did not realise that it was from water the danger came, so this was quite knowledgeable on their part.

The Yspty was above Cefn Mawr House and above the well. There were footpaths in both directions to this well as villagers would come and go about their daily business.

Eventually cholera came to the Yspty and those not affected in the village came to the conclusion that Deborah was a 'Black Witch' and should be burnt. So one night the villages sent a man (an imbecile) to burn down the Yspty. Deborah and all the occupants perished, which ended the cholera for a time at least.

In 1972, a couple from Buckley were returning from Loggerheads, where they had been celebrating. They stopped the car along the Gwernaffield/Cathole Road, by the well, and the gentleman went into the woods to attend nature's call.

The lady sat in the car, when suddenly a woman approached the car with her hair aflame. She just stood there, so the lady got out of the car and ran to her husband, dropping her handbag which contained £90. Nobody was to be seen when they arrived back at the car. They forgot the handbag and left for home. Next day they informed the police, who went to the scene and found the handbag plus the £90. They realised it wasn't a thief, and after further enquiries, found it to be a visitation of the supernatural.

To commemorate this little bit of history, the Cefn Mawr Quarry had the well restored and a seat placed nearby. On November 14th 1989 the Liaison Committee attended an unveiling of Deborah's Well.

Draped with Y Draid Goch (the Welsh flag), Cllr Arthur Smith unveiled the well, in the presence of Mr Steen Thomsen, General Manger, Mr J D Chandler, Quarry Manager, Mr D M Hughes, Cllr B Roberts, Cllr Mrs E G Smith, Cllr Miss Mona Williams, Mr L Simmons, Mr B Lee (Allan Morris Transport), Mr G Humphreys, and Miss K P Snowling.

THE HOLE IN THE ROAD & THE BAILEY BRIDGE by Mary Bartley (November 1991)

To all of us who use Cadole Road it was a great relief when it finally opened on Friday, 1st November. The road first closed on Tuesday, 30th April 1991, due to a suspected mine shaft collapse, causing a hole to appear. Mine shaft experts were called in, a drilling rig was set up and work commenced to reveal the lead vein underneath. The Water board then moved in to renew the old pipes with 9" and 4" mains pipes, possibly because one of the pipes had already fractured during the winter months, causing flooding along the road and in the fields.

The hole was then filled in with rubble and a bailey bridge laid down ready for the start of the Bro Delyn Eisteddfod on the 3rd August. The road closed again on Monday, 9th September for work to commence on the 'hole'.

The men dug and drilled until the hole was clean and level, by now measuring about 15' deep and 24' long, road length. One end of the 9" main had to be supported, so wooden shuttering was made on site and placed around the pipe, concrete was poured into this 'mould' and left to 'set'. The shuttering was removed a couple of days later.

Meanwhile, a concrete wall was being built to support the new stretch of road. The base of the hole was levelled out and concrete poured over it and steel bars set in. Construction engineers arrived with a huge crane and loads of steel rods. They laid so many of these criss-cross on the concrete, then constructed the rest of them into 'beams' measuring about 7' x 3' x 3', these were lowered into the hole until the base was covered. These beams strengthen and support the floor and sides of the hole.

The next stage saw more concrete being poured in. Two wagons were parked Cadole side of the hole,

one was Ready Mix, the other had a conveyor belt and a telescopic arm. The concrete went from the chute to the conveyor belt, then along the telescopic arm which had extended right across the hole. The workmen, standing on the beams, worked underneath this arm continuously shovelling the concrete into all the spaces in the beams. Working back and forth, side to side, the work finally reached the level of the water mains.

After it had set, layers of crushed limestone were rolled in, then finally the tarmac. The men then painted the white lines and cleared the sides of the road.

Although not very noticeable, a stone wall has been built to correspond with the original boundary wall. The road seems slightly wider, with the approach of Cefn Mawr bend a little less sharp.

Now that everything is back to normal we realise how important Cadole road is, let's hope nothing happens again to bring about its closure.

CEFN MAWR HALL



Built around 1800, it had beautiful gardens, tennis courts, stables named the 'Homestead', and a few horses.

The Hall had been occupied by different families, dealing respectively in Timber, Cotton, Biscuits (this was the Crawford family).

The last family were Dr. Hunter, his wife, a son and two daughters. Dr. Hunter was an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, who would travel on horseback visiting his patients who lived off the beaten track,

When Dr. Hunter finally retired, the family sold the

Hall and land to Tunnel Cement, and moved to Ellesmere in the late 1960s. Tunnel Cement, (now Castle Cement) had no use for the Hall itself, so they offered it to the National Trust, who had no interest in it. The Hall stood empty for a long time and became a target for vandals who caused considerable damage. In the early 1970s Tunnel Cement, in the interests of safety, had no option but to pull it down.

The only reminder we have of this beautiful old hall is its main entrance, the iron gates set back in the stone wall on Cadole Road.

CADOLE IN THE 1940s

The hamlet was referred to as either Cadole or Cathole according to personal preference, the Post Office recognised both names. One knowledgeable local resident maintained that an ancient Welsh book stated that the area was called Cadole or Cadol - and only the mine was called Cathole. After World War II when name signs were being re-instated Cadole was given its first ever sign - CATHOLE. The rude comments of the passing cyclists were a cause of great embarrassment to the ladies living in bungalows next to the sign, which was almost opposite Parc Arthur farm. There was much relief when eventually the sign was changed to CADOLE.

CADOLE SHOP AND OLD ROAD



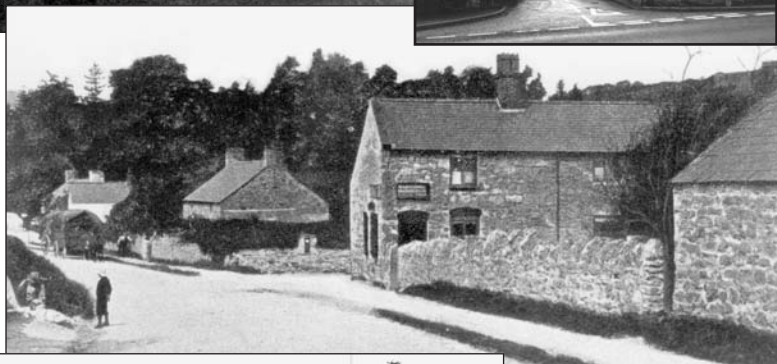
Workers Cottage for Cefn Mawr hall



*Road to
Gwernaffield*



Road to Loggerheads



The Shop as it is now.

COLOMENDY LODGE and BOUNDARY STONE

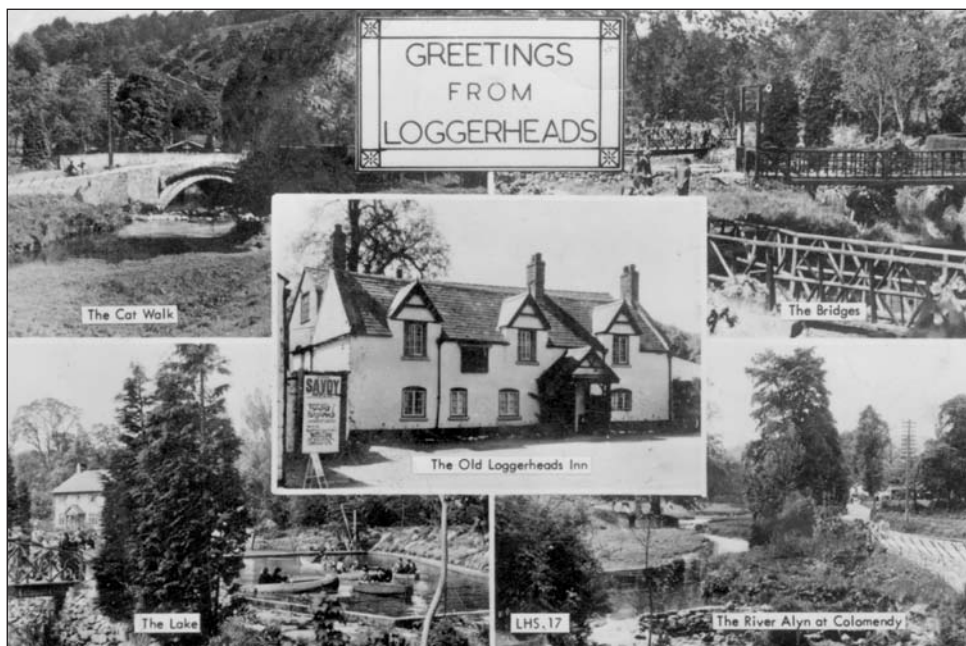
The road to Loggerheads and the Boundary Stone before road widening ...



... and today



Built by Crosville in 1928



The following information was found in a newspaper of the times which turned up in a secondhand chest of drawers!

THE LOGGERHEADS EISTEDDFOD June 10th 1927

This event was promoted by the Welsh Wesleyan Mold Circuit. A marquee for 3000 people was erected on land which a Mr Crosland Taylor had recently purchased, and was used by his kind permission. Twelve months later he built a café there which became a popular tourist attraction.

The Eisteddfod Afternoon President was Madam Leila Megane. The Evening President was Mr Crosland Taylor. Mr Tom Jones of Llanferres, originator of the idea of the Eisteddfod, was Treasurer. When entries closed, there were 30 choirs and 250 other entries. Fortunately the weather was fine so that many people were able to sit on the rocks to listen to the music. The event went on until 11.30pm, the stage being lit by petroleum lamps.

The tenor solo was won by Peter Williams Davies of Leeswood, who later became a school inspector. The Under-45 Mixed Choir event was won by Courtaulds Flint Choir. Leeswood won the Male Voice Choir contest, and both received prizes of £30 and a cup.



Loggerheads Today



Barbara Broadfoot of Winifred's Cottage, Cadole, was brought up in Liverpool and has lived in various parts of Britain and for a time, abroad. However, she never forgot her teenage visits to this part of the world and is delighted to have made her home here. She has given this visitor's eye-view of Loggerheads 50 years ago.

LOGGERHEADS VISITED

The first time I visited Loggerheads was probably in the summer of 1951 when I would have been just 15. I remember a wonderful sunny day and enjoying myself with a group of girls from our Sunday School class, but my main memory was of the small boating lake which used to be near the entrance of the park.

I had led quite a sheltered childhood and don't think I had ever been in a small boat before, especially

not alone and having to make it go. I was so excited getting into that boat and fully expected to paddle it around without any problem, but my boat only went around in circles despite all the advice being shouted by everyone around the lake that day. Eventually my time was up. I could feel the tears stinging the back of my eyes and the humiliation of feeling a complete idiot.

Before our journey home we made our way to the toilets which were at the front of the Loggerheads Pub; I think just two toilets with wooden latched doors. It was there I lost my purse with my last sixpence inside.

On the following Monday there was a knock on the door of my home in Liverpool. My mum answered and there was a young man holding out my purse, complete with the sixpence inside. He had also been at Loggerheads on the Saturday and had found my purse which had my address in it. He had cycled across Liverpool to return it to me, an act of kindness I shall never forget. I offered him the sixpence, it was all I had, but he just said that he was pleased he had found the owner. Incidentally, my dad had made the purse for me during a long spell in hospital (nearly a year) and I had not been allowed to visit. (Hospitals discouraged children from visiting in those days.) I had that purse for many years.

After that first visit to Loggerheads I joined the Church Youth Club and a group of us would often visit this wonderful area. We would get the ferry early Saturday morning from the Pier Head to Woodside Ferry, Birkenhead and then the bus to Mold. Sometimes we would travel by train to Mold, or occasionally to Llangollen. If going to Loggerheads we would walk up the Ruthin Road, and in all my wildest dreams I never thought that I was passing the spot where I would eventually live.

We usually walked about twenty miles, often walking to Cilcain and climbing Moel Famau. We would have our packed lunches and on one extremely hot day, discovered a farmhouse where the farmer's wife was selling home-made lemonade. No wine has ever tasted so good.

If we had travelled by train we would walk back into Mold, where on the left hand side of Ruthin Road, just before reaching Mold Cross, there was a chip shop. We would pack into that tiny shop waiting for our chips to be cooked.

If we had travelled by bus, the Crosville bus would be waiting at the entrance to Loggerheads, and we would sing our way back to Birkenhead, meeting up with other young people (teenagers hadn't been invented then) and again enjoy a musical journey back to the Pier Head and home - until next time.

On one of our many Loggerheads trips it actually rained, and we ate our butties in a large cave. The mother of one of the boys of our group, a boy named Ken, always made him cheese and onion sandwiches and we always teased him about the smell, but this particular day the onions were terribly strong and the comments even stronger!

Mavis (my best friend) and I decided we would pick some flowers for our mums. Normally we looked and admired the flowers but never picked. However this particular day there were masses of pretty white flowers growing and so we took a bunch each. We climbed onto the bus for our usual journey home, but Ken's onions drove us all mad so we made him sit at the back of the bus and refused to listen to his protests of innocence. Not until we arrived home did Mavis and I admit the smell of onions had travelled with us. Our mums refused to have the flowers in the house. We had picked wild garlic!

THE VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall shortly before it closed



The Village Hall, on Hafod Drive, the lane opposite the Rainbow, was built in 1934 on ground donated by the Walns with a loan from the Church in Wales. It was opened on 15th December 1934. The loan was repaid when the building was sold, interest was not charged.



*The Village Hall
as it is today*

ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE HALL



School Concert



Senior Citizens Christmas Party in the late 1960s



Dilys Davies and Lillian Roberts on the stall in the 'Hut' when it was the Community Centre. The customers are Jean Edwards, Miss Lizzie Evans, Miss Hannah Evans, Miss Chris Payne, Miss Evelyn Beven and Lynn Morris.



Ty Newydd, home of Miss Hannah Evans. The only remaining cottage unchanged in the village.

PLAS HAFOD



As it was ...

... and today

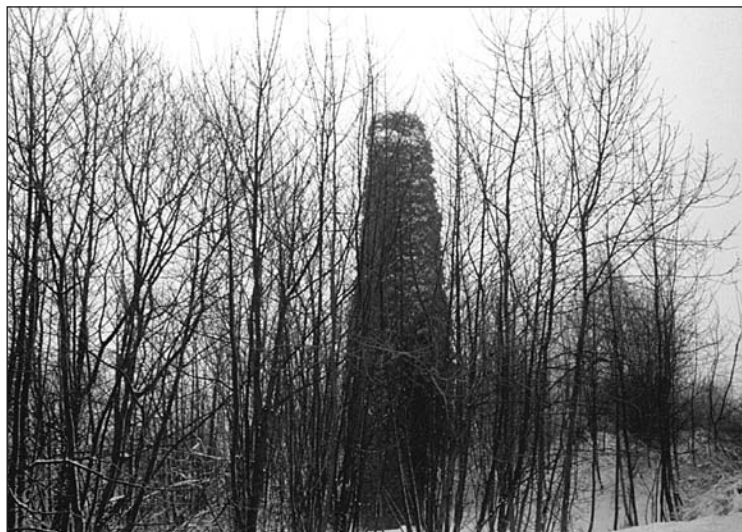




W.E.A. CLASS, GWERNYMYNYDD

Between 1936 - 1943

*Left to right back row: Mr Thomas Davis, Pantybuarth; Mr David Williams, Llanarmon;
Mr John Richard Jones, From Isaf; Mr Meurig Williams, Mold; Rev Daniel Williams, Mold (Tutor);
Mr John Edward Roberts, Nant; Mr John Richard Jones, Fron Ucha; Mr Elmer Jones, Gwernymynydd
Front row: Miss Arabella Davies, Post Office; Miss Jennie Jones; Miss Lydia Evans; Mr Thomas Hughes;
Mr Norman Williams; Mr John Elias Evans; Miss Edith Jones; Miss Dorothy Williams;
Miss Elizabeth Evans - all from Gwernymynydd and Mr Robert Alun Jones, Glyndwr*



Works Chimney, Ty Cam, Swan Lane

*On the lawn at Fron Hall in a Carnival
1932*



Mrs Annie Morris and Miss Addie Roberts with some of the children at Hafod at the time of Mr Buckley Bob and Reg Jones, Morris Thomas, Gordon Lloyd, Doris Jones, Elen & Mair Jones, Enid Hommersley, Audrey Evans, Morfudd Morris, Margaret Williams, Neta Morris, May Roberts, Marie Luther, Dally Jones, Hazel Evans, Dilys Sheldon, Hoel Morris, Judith Lewis, Betty Jones, Ruth Robinson, Alfie Jones, Seth Robinson, Dilys Jones, Nancy Jones, Stella Harley, Beryl Jones, Hettie Morris, Miss Adie Roberts.



*Audrey Evans, Margaret Williams,
Enid Hommersley, Morfudd Morris,
Neta Morris
standing on the Scout Hut steps*



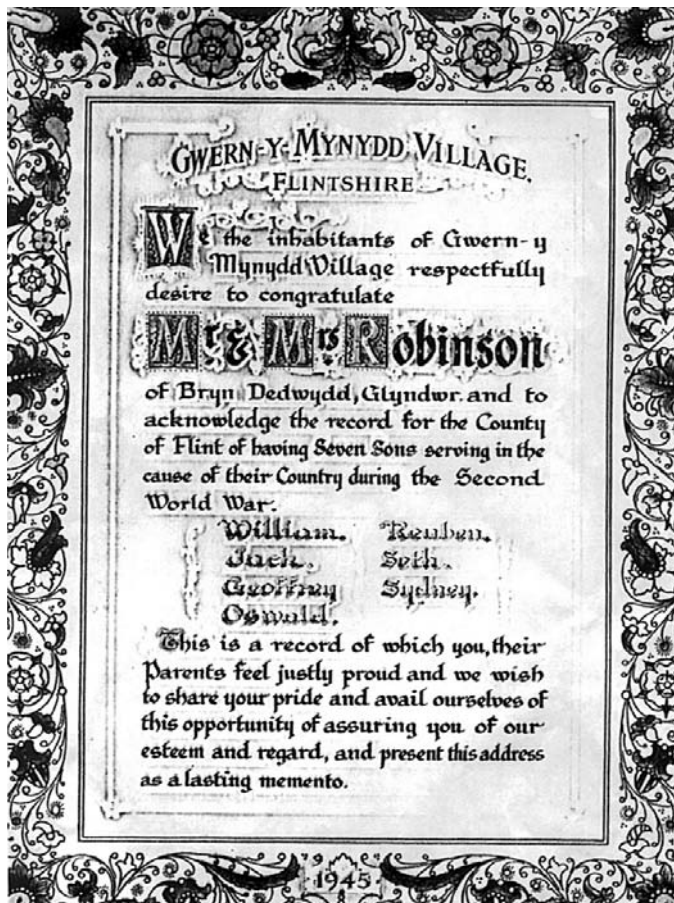
*Scouts who met at Fron Hall in 1944
They collected waste paper for the War Effort*



The seven sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. Robinson, Glyndwr Road, Gwernymynydd, near Mold, all serving in the Forces. They are: William Robinson, serving with the R.W.F.; Gnr. Jack Robinson, serving in the R.A.; Oswald Robinson, serving with the Eighth Army in the R.A.S.C.; Acting Leading Seaman Geoffrey Robinson, who was lost overboard during a storm last year (he was a sailor and held a Quarter Master's ticket prior to joining the Royal Navy); Gnr. Reuben Robinson, serving with the Light Anti-Aircraft; L.A.C. Seth Robinson, serving in the R.A.F.; Cfn. Sydney Robinson, serving with the R.E.M.E. with the First Army.

The text below the picture reads -

The seven sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. Robinson, Glyndwr Road, Gwernymynydd, near Mold, all serving in the Forces. They are: William Robinson, serving with the R.W.F.; Gnr. Jack Robinson, serving in the R.A.; Oswald Robinson, serving with the Eighth Army in the R.A.S.C.; Acting Leading Seaman Geoffrey Robinson, who was lost overboard during a storm last year (he was a sailor and held a Quarter Master's ticket prior to joining the Royal Navy); Gnr. Reuben Robinson, serving with the Light Anti-Aircraft; L.A.C. Seth Robinson, serving in the R.A.F.; Cfn. Sydney Robinson, serving with the R.E.M.E. with the First Army.



CORONATION OF GEORGE VITH



*Keith Lloyd, Enid Hommersley, Mabel & Betty Jones,
Ken Morris, May Roberts (Queen), Judith Lewis,
Morfudd Morris, Neta Morris
Idris Davies, Olwen Jones, Ivor Hommersley,
Eric Humphreys, Margaret Williams, Edgar Alun Jones*



May Queens about 1954

VIM - THE FLINTSHIRE CONNECTION



CAMBRIAN QUARRY DAY OUT

Sitting (left to right): Harold Hommersley, Thomos Lloyd, John Evans, Robert Lloyd, Thomos Edward Jones, Peter Edwards, Henry Snow Bonnewell, Colonel Wainwright, William Williams, William Gordon, William Parry,
Standing: Joseph Lloyd, Joseph Phillips, Thomos Robert Jones, Hugh Parry, David Jones, Gabriel Lloyd, Edward Edwards, William David Tattum, Robert Normal Williams, James lay, Emlyn Jones, Edward Roberts, John Roberts, Arthur Thompson, Robert Humphreys, Simon Hughes



Difficult though it is to believe, one of industry's most voracious tentacles gropes right into the heart of this beautiful countryside where Moel Famau (centre peak) rears like a sentinel in a placid pastoral scene. Yet just beyond the grass bank in the foreground, obscured from general view, are the Cambrian Quarries where for 30 years men have wrested from the earth's rocky structure the fine abrasive stone that constitutes an ingredient of Vim.

VIM - THE FLINTSHIRE CONNECTION

by BRYN ELLIS

Vim, a white gritty powder in a cylindrical container, has proved to be one of the most familiar domestic products of this century. Its remarkable success in removing stubborn stains from all sorts of objects made it an essential item for every household. It was developed by Lever Brothers Limited at their famous works at Port Sunlight, the Flintshire connection being the availability here of silica sandstone of the correct and consistent quality and colour. The story starts in the USA. In 1899 Lever Brothers purchased a Philadelphia soap company by the name of Benjamin Brooke. It had developed a new scouring soap which it marketed as 'Monkey Brand', under the advertising slogan "Won't wash clothes". Levers immediately transferred production to Port Sunlight, and by 1903 demand for this soap began to exceed capacity.

Early in 1904 an improved version of the scouring soap was brought as the 'Refined Toilet Monkey Brand', but the main development was the decision to produce a scouring powder version. At first there were considerable misgivings about the name 'Vim', it being thought the name was too reminiscent of certain processed meat products. Within a short time it became very successful, being promoted through vigorous advertising.

The search began in earnest for a supply of white silica which could be milled to produce the fine abrasive powder which was the basis of the product. This search took Levers immediately to two sites in north Wales. In 1903 L.W. Carder, described as Flint and Silica Millers of Cefn-y-bedd, Wrexham, secured a lease for the extraction of silica by underground mining in an area of Esclusham mountain opposite Hafod Farm, Minera. It soon transpired that Carder was working with Lever Brothers. The new joint lease also gave right of easement for a tramway or ropeway across the mountain down to railway sidings in the valley below. The mine quickly became very active, Carder reporting that over 2,5000 tons had been removed by December 1904. In 1908 it is listed as having 18 men working underground and 4 above. Production soon began to decrease as problems were experienced underground because of the difficulty of shoring the soft, granular sand, making it unsafe to operate. The mine plans drawn up prior to the abandonment indicate a complex pattern of galleries.

The other location was Gwernymynydd, which was to have a continuous connection with Lever Brothers and Vim for half a century. The limestone outcrops to the south of the hamlet of Gwernymynydd had been exploited for quite a long time, since the eighteenth century or earlier, since lime had come into demand for use in agriculture and later for industrial purposes. Limekilns appear on every nineteenth-century map. By the end of the nineteenth century the silica which also outcrops adjacent to, and under the limestone, was being quarried, the official list of quarries recording both the Dinas Silica and the Cambrian Silica Brick companies. The Cambrian works was erected at about the turn of the century, on a site across a small lane from the Rainbow Inn, presumably to produce bricks from the silica quarried above the old limekilns.

Lever Brothers took over at the Cambrian works and quarries in 1905, apparently from Cambrian Clay Co. A photograph dated about 1905 entitled 'Vim Works' confirms their purpose. The Cambrian Milling Co., recorded as operating the works in 1912, was presumably a Lever Brothers subsidiary. The first documentary evidence relates to a 21-year lease dated 10 July 1915 from the landowners, the Misses Payne, to the Gweedore Quarry Co., of 18 acres at a rent of £60 and a royalty of 6d per ton for silica.



The subterranean chamber, showing the pillars at the quarry

What relationship the Gweodore company had to Levers is unknown, but the official list of mines for 1916 records Benjamin Brooke and Co. Ltd. as the operator of the Cambrian quarries and also the Erith works at Coed Talon, with L. W. Carder referred to above as the agent. Levers continued to operate their north Wales silica operations under this wholly owned subsidiary throughout the period. It is also known from late sources that the silica was milled at both the Cambrian works at Gwernymynydd and at Coed Talon.

It will be noted that the quarry appeared in the official list for mines, rather than quarries. This was because the silica dipped away to the south under the limestone so necessitating underground working. The official lists, published annually, give the numbers of men working below and above ground. The list for 1916 gives 6 below, 8 above; for 1917, 7 below, 9 above; for 1918, 4 below, 28 above; for 1920, none below, 26 above; for 1923 and 1927, 3 below, 19 above; for 1938, 13 below, 8 above; for 1944, 17 below, 21 above; for 1945, 8 below, 21 above; for 1948, 4 below, 33 above, and for 1950, none below, 28 above. The silica was taken by road to Mold station for conveyance direct into the works at Port Sunlight. The company regularly gave Christmas gratuities to the station master, shunters, and clerks at Mold station. Donations were also made to local concerns, £10 being given to Gwernymynydd Village Institute in 1941, provided £20 was raised locally.

In 1922 land to the east of the original area was leased from John Elias Evans of Brynffynnon Farm, so enabling a new mine and quarry face. This lease was regularly renewed, other areas being added during the 1920s and 30s in order to guarantee a continued supply. Various negotiations entered into (e.g. in 1929, 1942 and 1947) to purchase land from the Evans family fell through, largely because of a failure to agree the price. In 1929 the Benjamin Brooke company purchased the original area from the Misses Payne for £2,000.

A severe set-back occurred on Whit weekend 1945 when 60 foot of solid mountain fell into the mine. Some earlier noises of cracking had led to a suspension of operations, but a government inspector had given the all clear. It was only the fact that it was Whit Sunday that prevented a worse tragedy. Mining was resumed in another area. This accident, and the fear that the good quality silica was being worked out at Gwernymynydd induced the company to look for another source. It needed 600 tons of silica per week, and the Cambrian quarry could not meet this requirement. A decision was therefore made to seek an additional 160 tons from elsewhere. In August 1947 negotiations began with Mrs Lewis of Bryn Farm, Llanfynydd, for the lease of mineral rights on land adjoining the farm. It was found, however, that others had options to these mineral rights and negotiations had to be extended. Matters were further complicated when it was discovered that Bwlchgywn Silica Co. also had rights to some fields required by Lever Brothers. Other delays were caused by disagreements amongst the vendor's family. In the meantime planning permission was granted by Hawarden Rural District Council, and agreement had been reached with Flintshire County Council on the costs of improvements to the narrow roads to the site. Agreements were eventually made and the company hoped to be producing 700 tons of silica per week from the new quarry. In mid 1949 confidence that the Bryn Quarry would meet Levers' long term need was high enough for consideration to take place on the abandonment of the Gwernymynydd Quarry.



Outside the quarry canteen Minnie Edwards, the cook, talking to David Jones, Ty Cam, at the head of the rails which carried tubs to the bottom to unload



Loading the stone into a tipping truck at the rock face are Emlyn Jones (left) and Hugh Parry. Both worked for 30 years at the

These hopes were dashed as soon as the overburden was removed. Good seams of silica were found, but the colour was not suitable for Vim. It was too pink. A total of £14,000 had been expended, and only 700 tons of suitable silica had reached Port Sunlight. Flintshire County Council were advised to suspend roadworks and work stopped. The company was obliged to replace the overburden, but eventually the land was sold back to the family. Negotiations had also taken place with Crowndale, a subsidiary of Pilkington Bros. Ltd., for the supply of silica from their quarry at Llanfynydd. This had the

advantage of having a railway siding, which could also be used for the Bryn Farm working, but the negotiations fell through. The failure of the Bryn Farm scheme, and the urgent need for a continued supply of silica led to new development plans at Gwernymynydd. The main Evans lease was due to expire in July 1951, and negotiations began to renew and to extend the areas leased. A five and a half acre area to the south and west was purchased for £2,400 from R. S. Davies and others. Samples from these new areas were however inconsistent in quality and colour, and Levers had to find other sources.

The search was widened to other places in north Wales. Early reports on deposits on Nercwys Mountain appeared favourable, but the area was found to be waterlogged and the seams were not very thick. Stone from Holyhead Mountain was found to be contaminated with iron, and Levers had to begin importing quartz from Holland whilst negotiations were begun with other suppliers. A major agreement was signed in December 1951 with Colin Steward Ltd. for the supply of 300 tons of ground silica per week from their works at Coed Talon. In 1954 discussions took place whereby Levers would make a loan to Colin Stewart Ltd. to enable him to erect new plant to ensure a regular supply of silica. This was agreed, but Levers became increasingly dissatisfied with the colour and quality of the ground silica. Colin Steward Ltd. believed that a major cause of the problem was the requirement to use stone from Gwernymynydd quarry, which Levers were anxious to protect as it gave employment to 14 men. Late in 1955 Levers were forced to agree, and a decision was made to close the Cambrian quarry after precisely 50 years of Levers involvement. Solicitors advised that under the Town and Country Planning Act an owner could be required to allow others to work minerals if the owner ceased to work them. Consequently agreement was reached in 1956 to lease the quarry and buildings to Griffiths Bros. By 1959 this company was hit by a fall in demand for silica stone and the lease was finally surrendered in 1961.

Meanwhile Levers continued to have problems with the supply of suitable silica from Coed Talon. By 1957 many of these problems had been overcome, and a supply of 600 tons per week could be guaranteed using new bulk-handling plant. By the following year Levers were again expressing concerns with both quality and supply. Difficulties were being experienced in trying to remove iron and other contaminants. Levers now turned to Stoddard & Sons of Penyfoel, Graianrhyd, for supplies while they continued their search for alternatives. Trials of ground silica from British Industrial Sand at their Staffordshire works proved very successful, the Vim produced proving better than standard Vim. A decision was therefore made in 1959 not to renew the contract with Colin Steward Ltd., and to sign a contract with British Industrial Sand. Ironically the Coed Talon plant had to be used for the final grinding of the Staffordshire sand for a period until BIS's new plant came into commission in 1960.

The Flintshire connection with Vim had finally come to an end after more than half a century of mutual

DISTRICT NURSES

In the 30s we had a District Nurse who stayed in the Minffordd with Mr and Mrs Tommy Lloyd. The Waln's then built Nurse Thomas a house in Ffordd Las, and bought her a bike. In an emergency she used the Tom Jones' taxi and the Walns paid the bill. Nurse Thomas was terrified when the German bombers came over to bomb Liverpool, she would run to a friend's house and hide under the stairs, until the all clear sounded.

Nurse Roberts and her husband lived in the Lamb Inn, where she brought up her son and daughter and nursed at the same time. Rene Lloyd, her granddaughter, was born there.

The family moved to 3 Hillside crescent, now Maes-y-Wern, where she continued to nurse, delivering all the babies for miles around. Having walked to Eryrys to a patient, nurse had a ride back home in the back of the hearse.

When anyone was in trouble the call went out 'send for Nurse Roberts'.

Mrs Jones came to live in the Lamb which was an Inn years ago. She had three daughters and one son. The Dennis family came to stay there as evacuees from Wallasey during the war. Mrs Dennis was a sister to Nurse Robert's husband.



Nurse Roberts, and in uniform holding John Lewis, who she had delivered, one of the hundreds of babies she delivered at her home, 3 Maes-y-Wern. She also went out to attend births.



Gib Thomas, her grandson, with the plate which was on the wall by the door. It states:

**NURSE ROBERTS
CERTIFIED
NURSE**

CARNIVALS



Evelyn Hughes being crowned by Lady Brocklebank



*Mrs Peyton crowning
the carnival queen,
Elaine Evans*



*Sam Roberts, Ken Thomas, David Williams,
Mr & Mrs J Davies and Son*



Onlookers at the carnival, to raise funds for the football team

FOOTBALL



The football pitch on Hafod mountain which cost a considerable amount of money to level ...

and as it is today





Liverpool playing Gwernymynydd in 1912 . Were you there?



Having played The Quarry , the Carnival Queen presents the cup (1951)



*The Festival of Britain
1952*

*The team played a
friendly against
Rhuddlan*

*Alan Davies,
Roger Hughes,
Charlie Roberts,
Doug Bryan,
Trevor Evans,
Doug Squires*

*Ivor Hommersley,
Les Davies,
Peter Halfpenny,
David Williams,
Steve Jones*



1994
Cub Football Team

*Chris Hatt, Aled Jones, Marc Jones, David Jones, Stuart Hughes, Alexis Wilkin,
Simon Jelley, Steven Layfield*

*David Burgess, Stephen Humphreys, Alec Stacey, Timmy Gittins, David Clinton,
Paul Francis, Robin Davies*



1995
Gwernymynydd C.P. School Football Team
with Headmaster Peter Roach

David Clinton
Stuart Hughes, Jon Paul Evans, Marc Jones, Chris Hatt, Steven Layfield, Delyth Brown
Mike Hatt, Timmy Gittins, Simon Jelley, David Burgess, Alec Stacey, Paul Francis



Gwernymynydd Junior Football Club 1995/96 Season

Huw Seddon, Paul Francis, Chris Hatt, Alec Stacey, Stephen Humphreys, Gareth Hayes, Chris Cool

*Marc Jones, Stuart Hughes, Simon Jelley, Andrew Hughes, Jon Paul Evans, Alexis Wilkie,
Mike Bryan-Jones, Tom Collinson, Steven Layfield*

... and as they are today playing in the Under 17s - Season 2000-2001



*Marc Jones, Stuart Hughes, Simon Jelley, Andy Hughes, Jon-Paul Evans, Alexis Wilkie, Mike Bryan-Jones,
Tom Collinson, Steven Layfield*

Huw Seddon, Paul Francis, Chris Hatt, Alec Stacey, Stephen Humphreys, Gareth Hayes, Chris Cool

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Closed in 1968



The Class of 1898 - Do you recognise anyone?



1929

*Jack Roberts, Wil Evans,
Emrys Jones, Iorwerth Jones,
Brynley Edwards,
Arthur Prichard*

*Sybil Lloyd, Jean Gregory,
Crissie Evans, Peggy Morris,
Rene Luther, Mabel Jones,
Hettie Morris, Marjorie Hughes*

*Glyn & John Jones,
Elwyn Wynne, Meirion Jones,
Glyn Hughes, Joe Thomas,
Harry Lloyd*

*Master Albert Hughes
Lady Teacher Irene Woodward*



1930

*Don Jones, Seth Robinson,
Arthur Jones, Sid Robinson,
Albert Rutter, Joshie Davies*

*Mair Jones, Norah Garton,
Betty Littler, Eluned Jones,
Mairwen Jones, Nellie Davies,
Gwen Hill, Elen Jones*

*Dilys Jones, May Roberts,
Marjorie Jones, Ruth Robinson,
Nancy Jones and
Miss Eva Jones*



1932

*Billy Littler, Jack Littler,
Derick Jones, Ron Garton,
Idris Davies, Reg Jones,
Lawrence Hughes*

*Gordon Griffiths, Netta Morris,
Marjorie Jones, Olwen Jones,
Doreen Hughes, Phyllis Hill,
Morfudd Morris, Rene Thomas,
Vincent Lewis*

*Mabel Jones, Betty Jones,
Harris Sisters, Mair Williams,
Margaret Williams,
Norman Bryan, Tom Robinson
and Miss Eva Jones*

GWERNYMYNYDD SCHOOL



1926

*Glyn Jones, Elwyn Wynne,
Bill Luther, Reg, Glyn & Alyn
Hughes (brothers)*

Teacher:

*Miss Mabel Mansbridge
Lizzie Thomas, Minnie Edwards,
Hetty Morris, Irene Luther,
Bessie Jones, Marjorie Hughes,
Gwyneth Edwards,
Mabel Morris, Joe Thomas*

*Stella Harley, Charlie Roberts,
Meirion Jones, Reg Garton,
Beryl Jones, Reuben Robinson*

*Elwyn Jones, Jack Hill
Iorwerth Jones, John Jones,
Ken Griffiths, Jos Roberts,
Ron Crosby, Arthur Pritchard*



1927

Top Row: William Charles Evans, Emrys Jones, Harry Roberts, Ronnie Roberts, Jack Roberts (The Lamb), Alfred Hughes

2nd Row: Mary Williams, Annie Pritchard, Phyllis Jones, Rosalind Evans, Chrissie Evans, Carrie Jones, Peggy Morris, Mabel Jones, Hilda Jones

3rd Row: Catherine Mary Jones, Marjorie Williams, Myfanwy Roberts, Cybil Lloyd, Tommy Griffiths



GWERNMYNYDD SCHOOL 1939

**THE GARDENING CLASS
SWAN GARDEN**

Betty Jones, Gwen Hill, Peggy Humphreys, Enid Hommersley, Noel and Ken Morris, Sid Robinson, Dilys Davies, Freda Jones, Edgar Alun Jones, Violet Littler, Ruth Robinson, Hazel Evans, Judith Lewis, May Roberts, Jossie Davies, Nancy Jones, Mair Morris, Arthur Harley, Seth Robinson, Gordon Lloyd, Doris Griffiths, Ada Hughes, Albert Rutter and Mr Albert Hughes (Headmaster) who with Miss Eva Jones and Miss Rene Woodward taught at this school from 1926-1940



THE SWAN CAR PARK





*Mr & Mrs John Humphreys and Miss Morfudd Morris and some of the pupils in 1946
 Henry Edwards, - John Peters, Howard Roberts, Ken Morris, John Turner, - Edward Jones, -
 Gib Thomas, - - - Ann Turner, - Mair Peter, John Jones, Glyn Peters
 Gwilym Roberts, - - Ester Thomas, - - - Mair Lloyd, Fay Millington, Colin Christopher, Peter Williams,
 - - Ann Hulme, - - Olive Peters, - Meirig Morris -
 Stuart Evans, Neil Tanton, Gwyn Lloyd, - - - Bruce Roberts, Gordon Hughes, Raymond & Roy Finch, Denis Jones*



*The school in
 the late 1940s*



*The school in the
 early 1950s*



1950s

*Olive Peters
Margaret Davies
Joan Harley
Cynthia Williams
Myra Roberts*

?

*Tony Lloyd
Len Jones*

?

?

Sandra Reed

*Sylvia Robinson
Gladys Richards
Christine Jones
Janet Hughes*



1950s

*Marian Evans
Joan Harley
Ann Thomas*

*Alan Davies
Myra Roberts
Christine Jones
Carol Lloyd
Lawrence Roberts*

*Roger Sathaswaite
Graham Davies
Monica Robinson
Alan Davies
Ken Jones*



?
David Sathaswaite
Adrian Smith

Len Jones
Valerie Roberts
Pam Blanchard
Irene Hughes
?

Olive Peters
Norma Harley
Janet Morris
Cynthia Williams
Sylvia Robinson



Lawrence Roberts
Donald Nunn
Ann Peters
David Powell
Alan Davies

Ernie Richardson
David Christopher
Barbara Davies
Catherine Jones
Susan Phipps
Douglas Nunn
Brian King

Kenneth Jones
Myra Roberts
Marian Evans
Christine Jones
Carol Lloyd
Joan Harley

This school opened when the church school closed in 1968

Mr Alun Jones came as headmaster



Mr Jones with his teaching staff, Miss Anne Peters, Mrs Ivy Griffiths and Mrs Vera Jones





With Miss Peters on a nature walk





*This school
opened in 1988*



*Back Row: Simon Barron, Sally Ann Williams, Denise Morris, Sarah Finch, Emma Fernyhough,
Andrew Clegg, Simon Jones, Alun Jones (Head)*

*Middle Row: Mark Blackwell, Ian Davies, Paul F Jones, Colin Robinson, Paul Davies, Paul E Jones,
Andrew Whitehead, Clifford Lee*

*Front Row: Nia Kyme, Louise Holden, Kate Higginson, Kathryn Bradshaw, Julie Donaghie, Jane Cook,
Helen Hughes, Vicky Evison, Caris Griffiths*



1991 Gwernymynydd C.P. School - Welsh Dancing Team for URDD



*Rachel Layfield
Gwernymynydd May Queen
1992*

*November 1993
Cubs on Parade*





The Community Centre



The WI circa 1950/60



GWERNMYNYDD SCHOOL 2000



1st Gwernymynydd Cubs May 2000



Gwernymynydd Beavers - Bailey Hill 2000



The Play Group



A494 taken one Sunday morning in early 1991, prior to the by-pass roadworks starting.



With thanks to Councillor Norman Smith who took this photograph.