

Local Interest Group Meeting 25th June 2015

Present: Mo Lloyd, Ginny Guy, Dainis Ozols, Wendy Ozols, Jeremy Rose, Peter Spode, Pauline Spode, Richard Martin, John Price, Margaret Price, Sue Boon (and her sister Anne), Jess Bailey, Richard Harris, Jenny Francis, Roy Lloyd, Avryl Lloyd.

ML welcomed everyone and explained the plans for the evening. She said that GG had brought some copies of old maps for us all to see and that she would like some help in identifying some of the places named. JF said that Kensey was probably Castle Kensey, also known as Court Evan Gwynne. ML suggested that Bovien might be Pontfaen as it is in the right place, between Rhosgoch and Newchurch. WO offered a convoluted explanation of how this name may have come to have been misspelt.

ML then led the group on a walk around some of the historic sites in Painscastle. On the way up to the site of The Pound, we stopped to look at a wall with herringbone pattern in the stone-laying. RH said that this was typical of a Cornish style of stone wall construction. Further up the lane on the right, past Pendre, is the site of The Pound and Crabtree Cottages. Pound Cottage was at the bottom of the site, then came the enclosure and, at the top, a small plot and 2 cottages each housing a family. Little can be seen these days. In 1862, when Kilvert visited the village, he recorded a conversation about The Pound. RL pointed out a possible quarry just beside his barn and showed the group the mudstone balls that came out of the rock. WO took one of these to show a geologist to see whether any light could be shed on their formation.

The next stop was the well. This is shown on the 1847 map and is one of many in the village. ML pointed out the Old Shop, opposite Pendre, and told us that it was known as Lower House in the past. ML said that the Old Shop is of a cruck frame construction and probably dates from the mid 15th century. This building, and Pendre, would have marked the edge of the village at one time. GG pointed out that the open space beside the well, now enclosed and belonging to Pendre, was central to the village and triangular in shape. This is very typical of village markets in Norman times. There is another triangular shaped piece of land, also a probable market, in front of Castle Farm.

ML then told the group about the former pubs in the village and showed us where they were. She has gleaned much information from the census records to assist in identifying their locations. The Old Post Office was The New Inn, but by 1851 it was no longer a pub, according to census data. RL told us that this was always a shop when he was young and that it had the first telephone in the village. ML said that 4 families used to live in the cottages adjoining the Old Post Office and these were known as Dyffryn Row.

New House was The Black Ox. GG found some paperwork in the National Library of Wales that had mention of this. Next to New House is Gate House, which was at various times Shop House, next door was Green Door or School House. John Price, The Solitary, lodged at Gate House in 1861. Behind Gate House was the carpenter's shop.

At this point RL and ML told the story of Rose Williams, The Martyr of the Storm, who had perished in a blizzard on her way over the Ireland Moor in December 1925. She is buried in the Adullam Chapel graveyard. Apparently, she insisted on continuing her journey, despite being offered shelter in the village, as she was desperate to get home to her children. Later that night, when the men

were leaving the carpenter's shop after a good evening there, it had been noted that the storm had blown over and that the weather had improved, but too late for Rose Williams. JB said that she is distantly related to the Williams family and that she can provide further information should anyone want it.

ML then pointed out the probable location of The Radnor Arms, between The Cottage and Brynhyfryd, and set slightly behind them. This building was last occupied and was shown as an inn in 1861 and, in fact, was still a pub in 1864. However, by the 1871 census, it was no longer occupied. There were four small cottages further along the road, these have now been replaced by Brynhyfryd and The Forge.

Whitehall, on the left at the top of the Rhiw, was another pub; it was also a blacksmith's. This information is shown in the 1861 census. Whitehall is probably an ancient site and an archaeological dig in 2014 unearthed a medieval wall on the site.

The Roast Ox has been a pub for a very long time. In 1841, it was known as The Drovers' Arms. It subsequently became The Maesllwch Arms, then the Black Ox, then The Ox and, following a fire, The Roast Ox. ML thinks that it is also possible that there was another pub opposite The Roast Ox and The Cottage and that this was The Red Lion. (The fact that the field here is known as Red Lion Field is evidence for this.) This would make a total of six pubs in the village.

GG added that it is possible that there could have been yet another pub by the church at Llanbedr which was called The White Hart. She has also found reference to a Castle Inn, but is not entirely sure where this might have been.

A thoroughly enjoyable tour of the village was followed by refreshment back at the Adullam Hall or, for some, in The Roast Ox!