

THE BUILDINGS OF MORFA 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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BODFOR HOUSE

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

This house is set back from the High Street behind Glanceri. It developed from two old cottages called Brookside Place in 1881 and was built by 1897.



Bodfor House in 2018.

The house is under a gable roof at right angles to the main street, and a full two storeys high. There is a low brick chimney at each end of the roof. The front faces south and has a two storey extension and a single storey lean-to which together almost fills the width of the plot allowing a small passage on the south side. Its rear windows look over Gorwel's garden. All the walls are rendered and the windows are modern.

The tall section of the house may have developed from one of the cottages formerly on the site. Interestingly the west end of this seen from upstairs in Glanceri has the outline of the end of a cottage and its chimney marking the plaster surface.

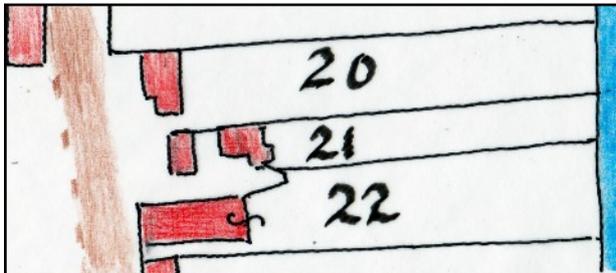
The back garden ends with the building in the foreground of the photograph. Beyond is a bungalow and lane at the end of Clos Bryngwyn.

Access to the house from the High Street is along a track on the north side of the Friendship Inn, and at the back from Clos Bryngwyn.

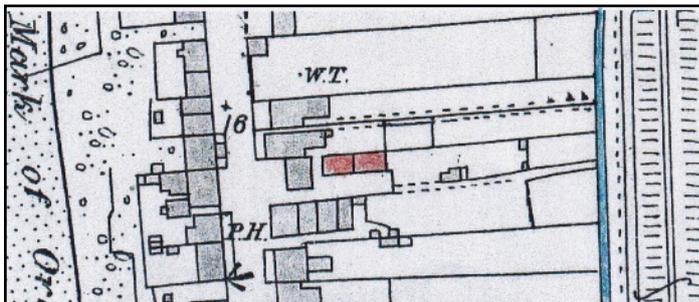


LEFT The rear of the house in 2018. There is a further small extension against the boundary.

The ground on which the house is built was at the eastern edge of the pebble bank thrown up by the sea which had reclaimed marsh alongside. The Crown Manor who owned it called it 'waste' as it was no good for farming. In 1824 a master mariner Hugh Davies who commanded a sloop in the coastal trade had enclosed a strip of ground on it which he rented, and on a map of 1829 there was one cottage there.



LEFT The strip in 1848 was Number 21 on this detail from a map and another building had been added. The list called them 'houses' and Hugh Davies's widow owned them both (Tithe Apportionments Map for Llangihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township)



By 1886 there were two cottages on the site of Bodfor and our Glanceri had not yet replaced the cottage beside the High Street (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

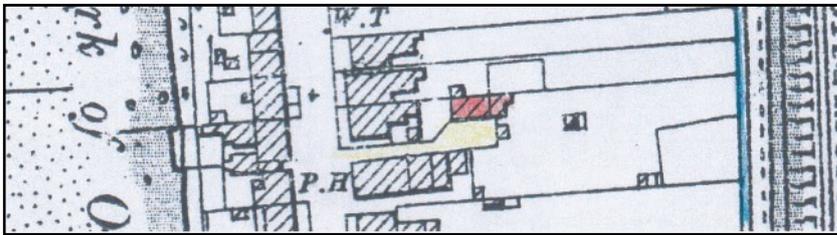
All the cottages were then called 'Brookside Place probably because of the brook of fresh water at the end of the long gardens. All had access to the High Street.

In the cottage called Number Two Brookside Place in 1881 was William David Jones aged only 21, with a wife Elizabeth, aged 25, born in Borth, and daughter Dorothy Jones

aged 3 and son Hugh Stanley Jones aged 1. It is not clear from the map which garden area belonged to the cottage.

In the cottage called Number 3 Brookside Place in 1881 was another member of the Davies families, Mary Davies, born about 1823 in Llandre, and the widow of a mariner. She had a son Evan, 21, a sailor, and daughters Elizabeth and Mary aged 17. She had been living elsewhere in Morfa Borth from 1851 to 1871, Her stepmother in 1871 was an elderly widow, Eleanor Williams, a pensioner, born in Aberystwyth (Census)

By 1897 Bodfor House was built replacing the two cottages. Living there in 1901 was William David Jones and his family. He was then a clerk or accountant at the Saw Mills at Ynyslas (Census). In 1911 William and his wife Elizabeth had been married for 34 years, and had had four children, one of whom had died, and they spoke both Welsh and English. Evan G. C. Jones was an apprentice painter and David John Jones (3rd son) was a carpenter's apprentice. Their mother in law was 75 year old Mary Davies (born about 1826) who spoke only Welsh and who had lived in and probably owned one or both of the old cottages the house had replaced (Census)



LEFT This was Bodfor in 1904. It had its own entrance from the High Street (Detail from the Ordnance Survey 25 inch Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

By 1910 William David Jones (born about 1856 at Arthog, Merionethshire) was the owner and occupier of Bodfor, valued for a tax planned but not levied at £132, with £4. 8s to pay and £5.10s gross. This was a good quality home, better than most and was listed with nine main rooms. By 1910 William David Jones was the owner of a thriving bakery business which was in what was The Pine Centre and where E. Gwilym Jones lived. William David Jones lived in Bodfor. There is a note about a 'Bodfor Bakery' run in 1916 the father of Clifford Jones the baker. It employed three girls. As the bakery was a good business William David Jones could afford to make his 'Bodfor' a comfortable home.

In 1924 William Jones was a Deacon of the Libanus Chapel (Cambrian News, April 18th.) In World War One their son Private David John Jones born in Bodfor in 1897 was killed (Borth. The Fallen. David H. Williams)

With votes for the house at the election of 1945 were Edward (Eddie) R. Williams, Greta E. Williams and Mary G. Thomas. By 1951 the house had a telephone, Borth 73. Mr Williams was a plumber, and advertised that he installed hot and cold running water, did general repairs, and had sanitary ware and fittings in stock. (Borth Review, National Library of Wales). Mr Williams paid the rates in 1963, and with votes for the house were Eddie and Greta Williams (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth

gan/by Beryl Lewis

Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

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-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

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

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