

# 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

*This work is for research and educational purposes only.*

# BARDSEY VIEW

North Parade Morfa Borth

At the northern end of the village with the beach over the road. Built possibly by 1891 after the Census was taken. The home of Captain Thomas J. Hughes and William D. Jones, a Borth parish councillor and his wife Margaret.

Today the name of the house is often simply 'Bardsey' instead of 'Bardsey View', however Bardsey Island can sometimes be seen 80 miles away across the bay. This is an Englishman's name for the house as Bardsey is 'the island of the bards' in English but Ynys Enlli in Welsh.



*LEFT Bardsey in 2015.*

Bardsey is a two and a half storey, single fronted terrace house under a gable roof parallel to the road. A yellow brick chimney with red stripes is shared with Grosvenor. The walls are rendered, The house has kept the attractive dormer windows with their finials and the bold string courses (lines of moulding) which link it to neighbouring houses. It has also kept the decorative front door edged with pilaster strips with inset panels and an entablature over it supported by decorative brackets. Its lower bay window still has the columns drawn in the rendering on the walls between the windows. and the window above the front door has a frame with a keystone in the rendering. The front of the house is hard standing opening on to the street.



*The rear of the house in 2015 from the lane or track behind the terrace.*



This house has exposed rubble stone walls at the back edged with yellow bricks. This was a popular form of building at the end of the nineteenth century. For example on the beach side of the High Street are Chesterton and Gordon Villa built in 1891 with similar walling. This is not very good quality rubble stone and it does not have rounded stones from the beach. There is a long two storey extension on the north

side of the garden at the back of Bardsey which is rendered. It is back to back with the extension on Marine Court, and has a chimney which probably once served a kitchen below. There is a back door on the ground floor at the end of it. This house has a garden at the back unlike many others in the terrace.

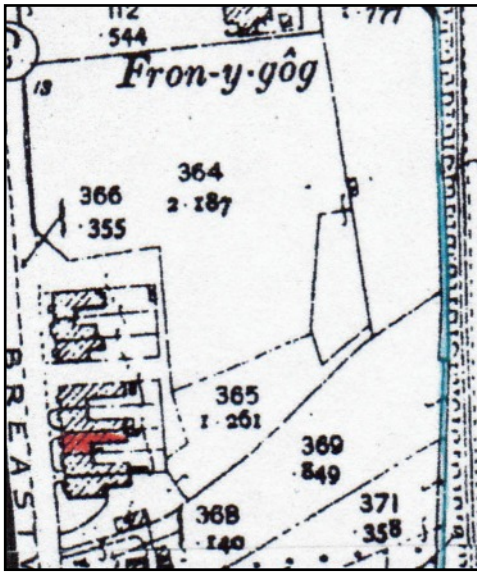


For the story of the site and details of the architecture of the terrace please see the file 'North Parade'.

*LEFT This was the terrace about 1899. Bardsey is the third from the left and still had its decorated wall at the top of its bay windows.*

*(Detail from a postcard, private collection)*

In Bardsey View at the 1901 Census was Thomas Morgan Hughes aged 39 who was local and Lydia Hughes. Also there was Thomas's brother in law, Thomas Henry Hughes aged 36 and also local. They spoke both Welsh and English.



*LEFT This was Thomas Morgan Hughes's house in 1904 marked in red. It already had the long extension shared with Marine Court. There was a small building on the end of it which may have been its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. The long 'S' shape drawn across its back garden indicates the same ownership as Grosvenor. at that date.*

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £650 - considered a good house at the time. There would have been £21.5s to pay, £25 gross. Thomas Morgan Hughes was renting the house, the owner was John Jones, who also owned land by the house - possibly at the rear The house was called 'Bardsey View' (Ceredigion Archives D/TV/18 and Map at the National Library of Wales).

In the 1911 Census in the house had 12 rooms and in the house was just a housekeeper, Alice Steadman aged 41, unmarried and an Englishwoman born in Birmingham.

Sometime after 1922 the house was advertised in 'The Illustrated Borth Guide' as having furnished apartments to let with six bedrooms and a sitting room (Aberystwyth Library).

In 1925 for the Rates the owner and occupier was Captain Thomas J. Hughes. The house was called 'Bardsey View'. In 1926 Captain Hughes was listed as a master mariner (Kelly's Directory of South Wales).

In the rates of 1934 the Captain's name is crossed out as the occupier, and replaced by Margaret Jones, but the Captain was still the owner of Bardsey View. Margaret Jones paid the rates in 1938 and she had a vote for the house at the General Election of 1945, as also did William D. Jones and Annie M. Thomas.

William Jones was chairman of the parish council in 1949, and Mrs Thomas was the accompanist for the 'Borth Music Lovers'. In 1950 there was a mention of Captain Jones of Bardsey View who was a fine old golfer, a stalwart figure with a black beard, and he was a doughty performer with a click (a number one iron) (Borth Review 1949 and 1950, National Library of Wales)

In 1957 and 1963 paying the rates for Bardsey View was Margaret Jones, and she had a vote for the house as did Richard M. Thomas and Annie Thomas (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

A correspondent writing to the Cambrian News of 13 May 2010 explained that almost 20 years ago she lived two doors away from Bardsey. Prior to that it was a lovely B&B before it was sold due to retirement.

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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-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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