

# 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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# BRYNTEG

## Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Part of what was once Wellington House now Ysbryd-y-gors built on empty ground by 1871. The laundress Mary Jenkins, a widow, who had occupied an old cottage at the rear of Wellington house was to have a better home in Brynteg and a Jenkins family continued to live there.



*LEFT Brynteg in 2009.*

The house is double fronted. It is just two storeys tall under a gable roof parallel to the street which overhangs at the eaves. There is no chimney. In 2009 the window frames were wooden, and the front door has panes of glass in the upper section to light the hall. At the front a rendered wall encloses a small area which brings it in line with Ysbryd-y-gors. A drive wide enough for a car runs along the south side of the building and



in the background is its Chalet Bungalow.

LEFT Today the house has a lean-to single storey extension at the back with a glazed verandah. There is a much larger garden than in 1905. Nearer the house is a stone outbuilding, and further east not in this photograph is its Chalet.

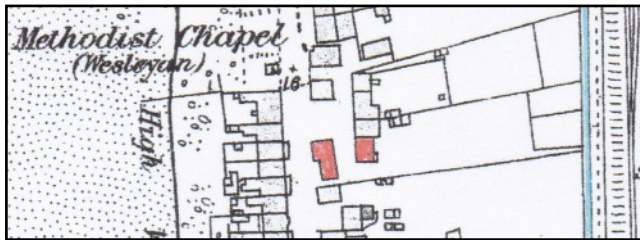


The site on which Brynteg stands was enclosed in 1823 from the pebble embankment which the Crown Manor who owned it called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and measured 2 rods and 32 perches, that is almost three quarters of an acre. On a map of 1829 this was number 26, and built on it was a terrace of cottages set back from the road and the owner was John Lewis. Land alongside the street was still open ground (Crown Map and Schedule 1829 National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

In 1848 the terrace of cottages was the same Lewis Williams was living in one of the cottages, and probably owned the ground but we do not have the names of the other occupiers. (Number 14, Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN)

By 1871 Wellington House (now partly Ysrbyrd-y-gors) had been built alongside the High Street and was the home of a butcher, Lewis Williams - possibly the same family as in 1848. And Wellington House was taking in holiday visitors, as it did again in 1881 - by then the home of another butcher, John Davies (Cambrian News) The butchers sold their meat from a stall on the other side of the High Street (Remembered by the Matthews family of Leronian). In one

of the four old cottages - probably the one behind Wellington House lived Mary Jenkins a laundress.

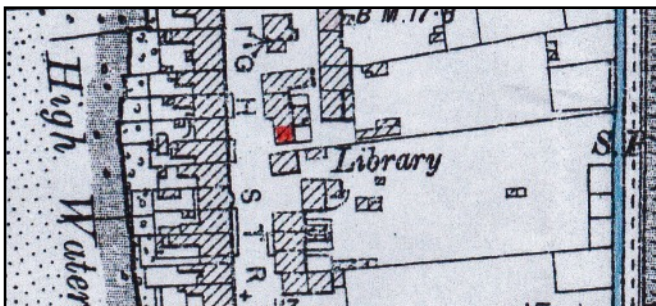


*LEFT In 1886 we can see the four cottages (called Wellington Place) and Wellington House which is marked in red. The surveyor has drawn two of the terrace of old cottages as belonging with (owned by) Wellington House and sharing a garden with them. Perhaps the end one - also marked in red was where Mary Jenkins lived? (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)*

In the 1891 Census Wellington House was unoccupied and Mary Jenkins was doing her laundry in her Wellington Place Cottage. She was a Welsh speaker.

In 1895 Kelly's directory of South Wales listed Mrs Jenkins of Wellington House as a 'private resident'. She was Mrs Sarah A. Jenkins born in Bethesda in 1861, with a son Llewellyn aged 10 and a daughter Ellinor aged 9. They were both born in Borth. They spoke both Welsh and English and were in Wellington house in 1901 at the Census.

In 1901 Brynteg spelt Brondeg was there partitioned off from the big house. It was not occupied. (Census) The name translates as Fair Hill in Welsh.



*LEFT This was the site of the house in 1904 marked in red. It had its own yard or garden. The four old cottages were still there and some buildings against the boundary at the back (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)*

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied the 'cottage' called Brynteg was valued at £68 with £2.16s to pay, £310s gross. Mary Jenkins was the owner and occupier (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales)

At the Census of 1911 Brynteg had just four rooms. Mary Jenkins was 48 and working as a laundress on her own account. She had a son Edwin aged 13 at school. Mary had been born at Elerch about 1863.

In 1925 the house was called a 'cottage and garden' and the Rates were paid by Mary Jenkins and she was the owner and occupier. With £3.10s to pay for the half year this was more than the poorest Borth cottages, but still the valuation of a cottage.

With votes for the house in 1945 were Edwin Jenkins, Mary Jenkins, and Mary Jenkins junior.

In 1949 the Rates were paid by Mary Jenkins.

In 1957 .....Jenkins paid the rates.

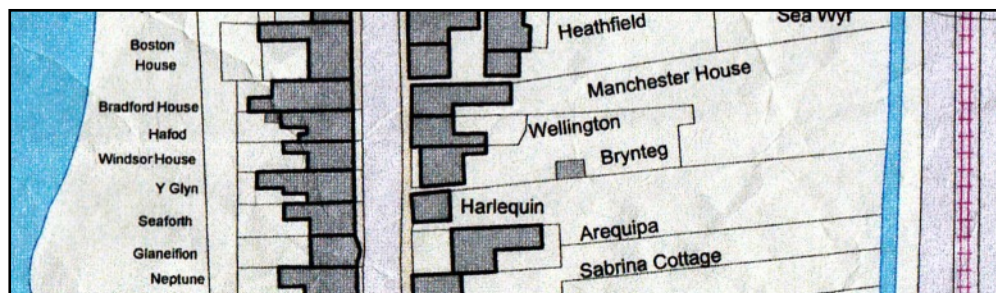
In 1963 Miss Jenkins paid the rates and Mary Jenkins junior had a vote for the house.

In 1975 Brynteg had an extension across the back, and a narrow one on the north side, and two enclosed garden areas beyond. The long garden at the back leading down to the ditch was shared with Wellington House. The detached building was perhaps its 'Chalet'. Brynteg was set back a little from the road (as the southern part of Wellington House had been) and it had a narrow front garden. The southernmost old cottage seems to still have been behind Wellington House (Historical Maps on-line).

In 1975 the County Council awarded Brynteg an 'improvement grant'. It did not say what was done (Minutes, Ceredigion Archives).

At some time later Wellington House became Ysbryd-y-gors ('spirit of the marsh' perhaps in Welsh)

Brynteg today has a smaller garden, Ysbryd-y-gors has a separate garden, and the area beyond is with Manchester House.



*ABOVE A detail from a modern Council Map shows the house. Next door was the Harlequin Café. (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).*

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Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

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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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