

# 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.*

# BORTH MEMORIAL, SPORTS and COMMUNITY HALL

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Opened on Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup> 1999 replacing the burnt Memorial Hall.



*ABOVE* The west side of the building has the entrance and is approached by a lane from the High Street. Around the building is hard standing for cars to park.

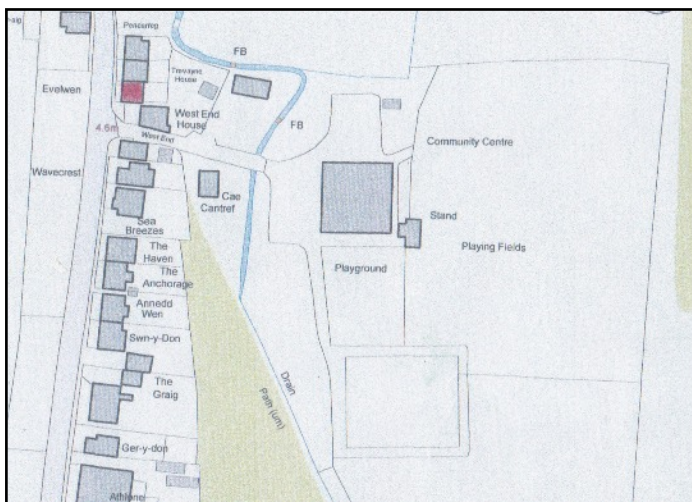
This is a large steel framed building with a square ground plan. Inside on the ground floor is a main hall with room for two badminton courts which reaches to the top of the building. This was lit by high windows on the south side, but today these are gone. It has a small stage. A hatch opens into a kitchen, and there are changing rooms with showers and toilets. A brick porch inset into the building opens into an entrance hall with a counter, and stairs lead up to three rooms along the north side of the building; a committee room, a room with a dance floor and a third room planned to eventually have computers. Noise from below can carry up into these rooms. They do not have windows. As well as being fitted out for sports community groups meet in the building and the Hall is also used for concerts, parties and weddings.



*Borth Community Hall Page 2*

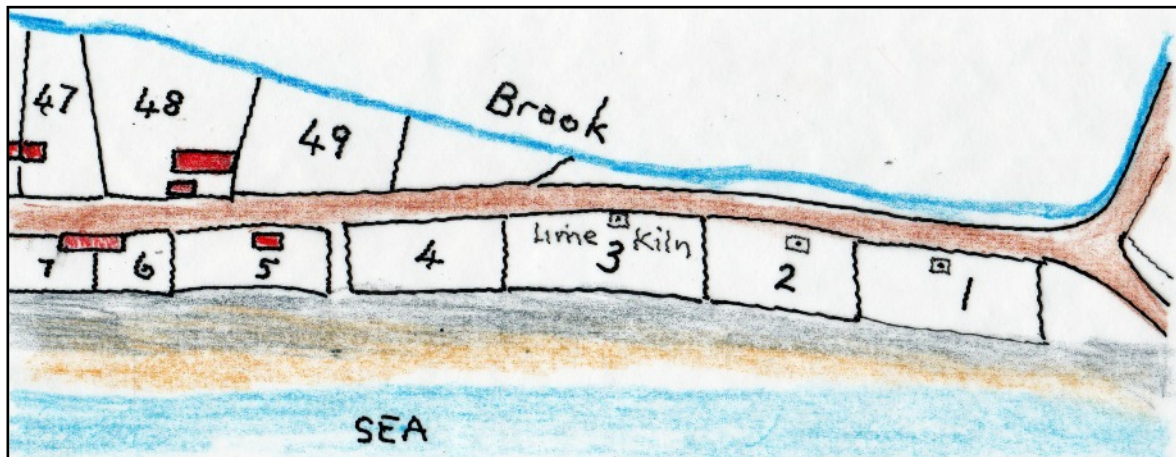
Uppingham School has had a hand in providing two fields adjacent to the hall, one for a football pitch which has a stand, and there is a children's playground.

*BELOW The south face of the building is very plain. It has a fire exit and the two other exit doors in the earlier photograph have been enclosed with a porch.*



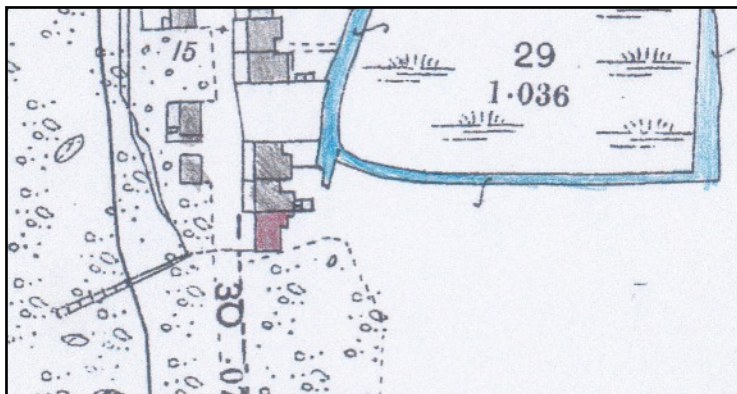
*ABOVE The entrance is given importance by its design, and has a porch roof for rainy days. Against the south face of this are the stones in Welsh and English see page 4.*

*LEFT The building was originally a simple square shape and has car parking spaces carefully laid out around it. Its northern boundary is a drainage ditch. (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).*



ABOVE In 1829 the area to the north of the brook was a large Wern Leri pasture formerly Crown Manor 'waste' but then pasture, part of Pryse Pryse of Gogerddan's Estate. Morfa Borth village had ended and there were lime kilns. The road turning to Llandre is on the far right (Detail after a Crown Manor Map, National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

A Crown map of 1858 shows the projected route of the railway across this large area, and 43 acres, 1 rod and 6 perches just to the north of the village's brook was cut off from the rest. It was still Pryse Pryse land (Crown Manor Map, National Archives LRRO 1/3060)



LEFT The site in 1886 was grassland. The surveyor left it empty. Marked in red is Efelwen (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)



BELOW LEFT This detail after Crown Manor additions made in 1925 to a 1905, 25 inch, Ordnance Survey Map shows the site as rough land. Efelwen was larger because of an added workshop. Coloured green was Crown Manor waste, some built upon, and more of the village would be built to the south on former 'waste' plots coloured purple and blue being bought from the Crown. There was a note on this map across the Wern Leri pasture ground between the railway and the village in pencil saying there was 'an agreement for Sale to Borth Parish Council'.

The County Council owned the ground for the Hall and the Uppingham fields around it. It still owns the area of Wern Leri between the railway line and the village.

This building is built on reclaimed marsh and in the summer of 2012 after very heavy rains and problems with a reservoir high up on the River Leri the ground flooded, and the Hall had to shut while ground floor flooring was replaced.

*BELOW This stone, with an inscription in English and Welsh was once on the wall of Pantyfedwen, the former Cambrian Hotel erected in 1870, noting it received of Uppingham School, 1876 to 1877, the Chelsea College of Further Education 1939 to 1948, and was presented to the Welsh League of Youth in 1947 as a silver jubilee gift, and renamed 'Pantyfedwen'.*

*The blue stones at its foot were once at Borth's Memorial Hall in the centre of the village behind Welfare, and commemorate its opening in 1925. This Hall burnt down on May 12<sup>th</sup>. 1993.*





ABOVE The east wall of the hall has the main entrance on the left. Beside the door a hatch opens into a kitchen. The small stage is on the north wall.



*ABOVE The hall is lit by high windows in the east wall. A curtain rail across the ceiling allows the right hand section of the hall to be curtained off. There is no ceiling the hall is open to the roof of a metal framework with cladding which no doubt contains some insulation.*

*Borth Community Hall*



*ABOVE The west wall of the hall showing the shallow gable roof.*



*ABOVE The east face of the building. High windows illuminate the large hall. There is one rear door. On the north side is a single storey lean-to.*

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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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