

# 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.*

## JOURNEY'S END

Wernfach, Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Developed from an old cottage and formerly called Troed-y-graig.

*ABOVE Journey's End in 2018*



The house is single fronted and two and a half storeys high. Beneath the rendering the party wall and old end wall of the cottage are rubble stone with rounded stones from the beach. The front door is inset and the door frame is made narrower for the modern door. The windows are modern.



*LEFT Similarities in style with West Winds next door are because they were both repaired about 1979/1980 under the same ownership.*

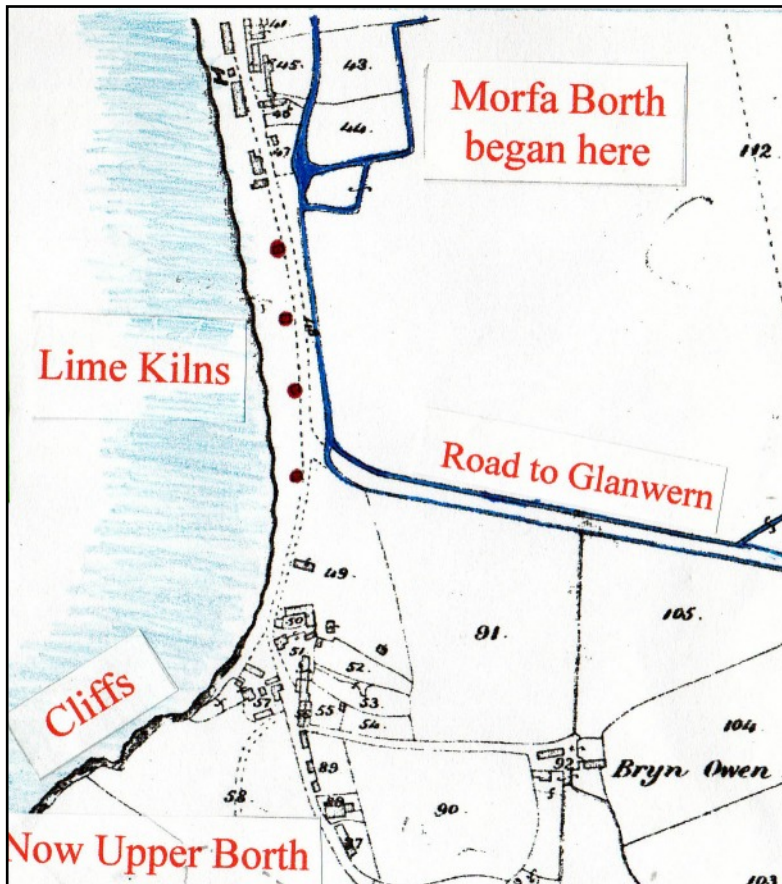


*ABOVE The rear of Journey's End. The rounded stones from the beach can be seen under the rendering on the former back wall of the cottage. The kitchen extension dates from 1979/80 when the old cottage walls were heightened. The dormer window have a fine view to the hills. The ground floor has a large living room the length of the building. Behind the hedge is another window.*



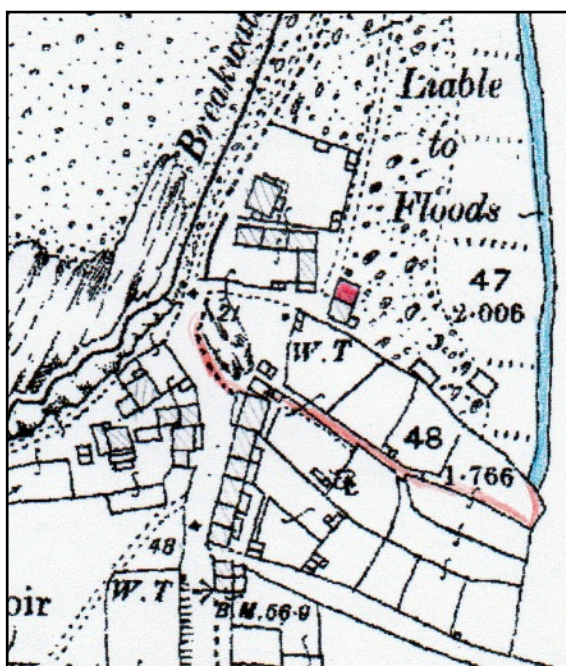
*There is a back door at the side of the extension.*

*An elderly villager saw some ground floor mud walls in this house and in West Winds, and it is likely this was during the 1979 re-building.*

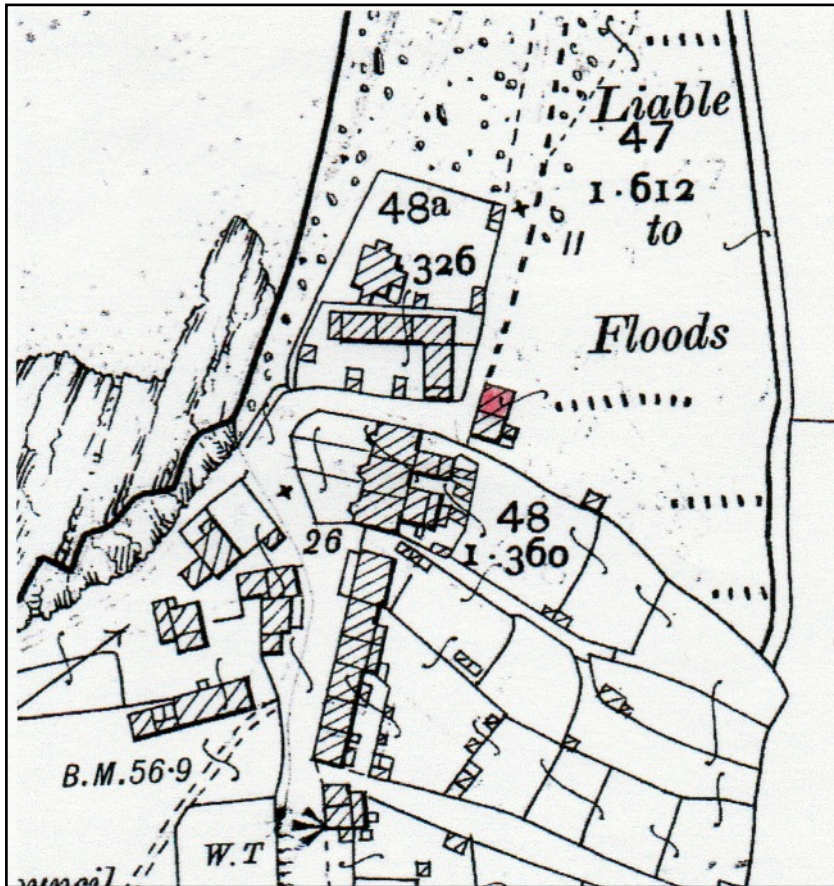


The ground on which Journey's End was built was a piece of manor 'waste' ground adjoining the beach as it was mostly marsh and not useful farmland. On a map of 1829 two men had been interested in it, and written on it was 'Piece that Mr Williams and John Lewis presented in the last Court at Llanfihangel.' No cottages were drawn there (National Archive LRRO 1/3060 Number 51). John Lewis was a lawyer who wrote letters for illiterate villagers and he had some land at the north end of what is now Borth Village and a farmhouse where the station now stands.

By 1848 there was a building on the site of Journey's End. There was a second building further north and the whole piece was numbered 49. A 'hook' through both buildings indicated they belonged to the owner of that piece of ground. The owner was 'John Lewis and others' and it was called 'waste' with 'buildings' - not cottages. The piece measured two acres and 26 perches (just under a quarter of an acre - 30 perches). This was not like the Gull Cottage group of cottages across the lane. These were called 'cottages and premises' owned by 'John Davies and others (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Gensu'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line in CYNEFIN under Cardiganshire)



LEFT The pink line shows where the 'waste' ended. This was 1886 and by then there were already the two homes sharing a party wall, as today. Journey's End is coloured red. Rough pasture and marsh edged by a drainage ditch was at the back and the homes had no enclosed front or back gardens unlike the cottages across the lane. The Lôn Glan-y-mor was unfenced (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)



*LEFT In 1904 little had changed except the ground behind was all pasture, and the great St Alban Villas had been built. It is clear from this map that Journey's End was larger than West Winds (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10).*



*LEFT This the Lôn Glan-y-mor in 1915. Just behind the cart on the left is the north end of Troed and West Winds. It was exposed stone then and had a chimney on the north gable end as well as a chunky chimney shared between the homes. On*

*the right in the foreground was a grassy bank and then the beach (Old photograph courtesy of Peter Fleming)*

As cottages had no names it is not possible to find the people living there in the earlier Census. In the 1891 Census an elderly farm labourer, David Griffiths lived in the cottage, he was born in Anglesey in 1814, with him was his daughter, a widow, Catherine Humphreys aged 49, born in 1842 in Maudreath and she was a 'hawker' - went round selling wares.

In the 1901 Census the address was Number 1 Wernfach. A 36 year old fisherman Richard Davies lived there and he was local, born in 1865 in Borth. With him was his wife Mary, aged 35, with children Richard 10, John 8 and Jane 2. They were all born in Borth and all spoke only Welsh.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied this was still a 'Wernfach' cottage. It was owned by Anna Roberts of Clarach, and living there was John Felix Jones. He was 66 born in Tre'r Dol his wife Mary was 51 and born in Rhydyfelin. They both only spoke Welsh. In 1911 the cottage had only two rooms (West Winds had three).

The cottage was to become very run down. It did not pay rates in 1925.

James Lakin an elderly dealer who lived in Wolverhampton came to own both cottages. In 1937 he sold them for £120 to Mr Hubert and Mrs Dorothy Adams. They intended to rebuild West Winds into a holiday cottage for their family, and at first lent Troed to their friends Thomas E. Williams and Mrs M. J. Owen to repair themselves as it was uninhabitable, and these two eventually bought it from the Adams. Mrs Dorothy Adams's builder Thomas Wilkins said it would cost three times the £55 he was charging the Adams

to repair West Winds.



*LEFT A photograph by the Adams family of the backs of the cottages in 1937. Journey's End was a mess with a boarded up door or window.*

*The back wall was stone.*



*LEFT The front of the cottages, and the whitewash did not go very far round the north side. Some of the stones are quite large, and there was a boarded up window for an upper floor under the roof. The front door was on the north side of its front.*

Mrs Adams wrote that the Journey's End Cottage was an empty shell with hole in the roof and a crack down the back wall. It needed

a new upstairs floor as the last one had been chopped up by the last tenants for firewood. There were still holes in the wall for the joists. Mrs Adams wrote that they moved their front door to the side.

In 1937 a concrete 'yard' was put down behind both cottages. The Adams family named their cottage 'West Winds' and the other one was named 'Journey's End'.

In 1945 Mabel Burkhill had a vote for the house.

Walter M. Lloyd paid the rates for Journey's End in 1949 and 1957 when it was valued for rates at £6 the same as West Winds.

In 1963 Mrs R. M. Lloyd paid the rates.

In 1979 there was major rebuilding and both cottages were heightened and modernised. The extension for the kitchen behind West Winds was continued behind part of Journey's End.

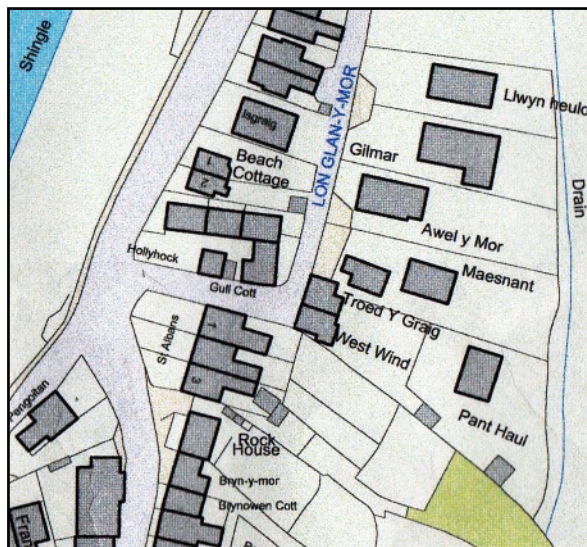


End.

*LEFT In 1979 there is a glimpse of the back of the repaired Journey's End alongside West Winds whose roof had been taken off. Journey's End had had a new good dormer window and a taller end chimney. The extension behind both cottages had not yet been built.*



*LEFT In 1937 the garden was shared and triangular. Beyond was pasture and farm buildings. Today two bungalows built since 1979 now stand round the present shared garden.*



*RIGHT A modern Council map shows the bungalows (Map by courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a local event).*

The name of the house had been Troed-y-graig, in Welsh meaning at the foot of the rock - the St Alban Villas were built on a rocky outcrop. A villager when a lad remembers seeing mud walls at this cottage and at West Winds.

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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-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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