

# 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.*

## KENLEA and TY MÔR

At the north end of the village with the beach over the road. Built on ground enclosed in 1826 with a cottage, and later built on by the Jones family of master mariners of Sea View (now Maes Arfor). Kenlea was built by 1957 and in the ownership of a builder from Kington in Herefordshire, and the house and garage was then called Ty Môr. Today the building has two flats, Kenlea is the top one.

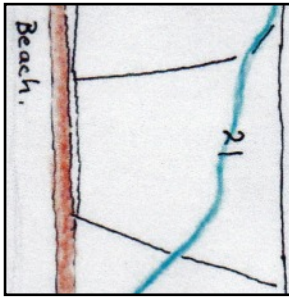


*Kenlea and Ty Môr in 2015.*

The house is detached and built under a gable roof at right angles to the road. There is a chimney with two chimney pots (flues) and the walls are rendered, with bold contrasts of colour on the front. Access to the flats is from a drive on the south side of the house shared with Surrey next door on the south. There is no front door. Decorative coloured paving in front of the house is enclosed from the pavement by slender posts and chains.

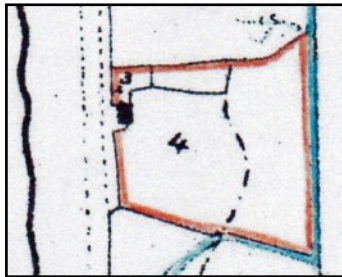
There is a detached garage at the back and the garden is shared with Surrey. Behind the garden are houses of the Cae Gwylan Estate.

The ground on which the building stands was enclosed in 1826 by David Williams from the shingle bank thrown up by the sea and drained bog land and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it. David Williams had two acres and two rods (two and a half acres) which extended to a brook. It was pasture and he paid £1 12s rent for it, with the option to buy it for £8, and he bought it. The road had been there for centuries and by the 1770s was a turnpike road. It led to a ferry at Ynyslas to Aberdovey which was a quick way to North



Wales. The brook was then the old route of the River Leri still with some water in it., And useful for David Williams if he had cows or horses on his land.

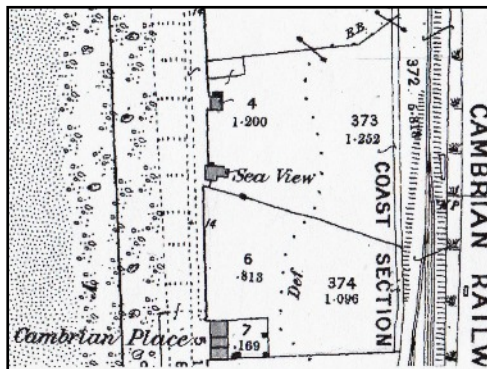
*LEFT* On a map of 1829 it was number 21 with no cottages on it, and it stopped short of the road. (National Archives Map LRRO 1/3060)



*BELOW LEFT* On this map of 1848 the land was Number 4, and interestingly there was a brook running along the eastern boundary of the field. This was the tailrace from the corn mill at Glanlerry (now gone) plus a couple of little streams. This had been diverted to run northwards along the back of Morfa Borth for fresh water for the cottagers. The dashed line was the old route of the River Leri which was also the boundary between the township of Cyfoeth-y-brenin and Henllys. A cottage had been built on the north of the land with a garden, Number 3, Edward Jones owned it and he rented the field from David Williams. (A

detail from the Tithe Map of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township).

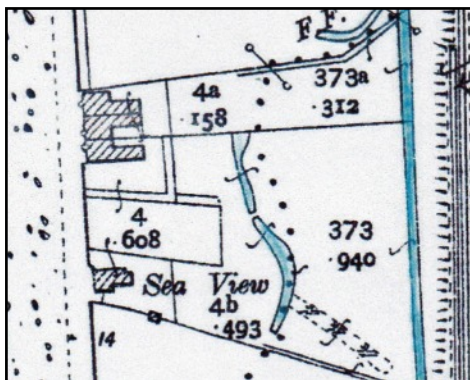
By the 1851 Census, David Williams, by then a retired farmer of 76, was living with Edward Jones in his cottage. Edward Jones himself was a 50 year old labourer, born in Troed-y-rhiw. His wife Margaret aged 48 was local and had been born at a small holding called Ty Simnai (Chimney House, along the road to Llandre). They



had a family of daughters; May 18, Jane 13, Anne 11, Eliza 7 and Margaret 5. The eldest was born in Penybont. Fuel for this cottage would have come from a patch dug for peat belonging to the villagers just to the north of Ynys Fergi.

*LEFT* In 1886 the cottage was still there. David Jones, a master mariner who owned the ground built himself a house on the south of the Jones's land, now Maes Arfor but then called Sea View. He had built it by 1871 when his wife Anne and children were there.

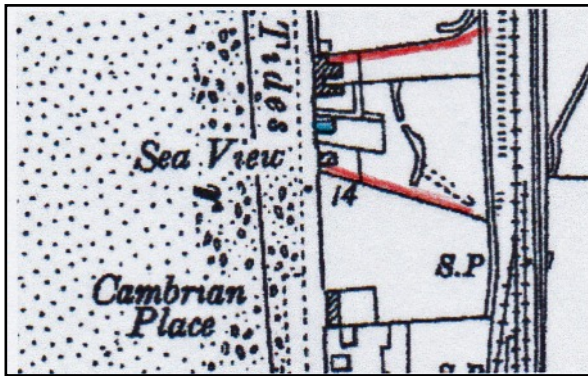
(Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 but published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)



At the 1881 Census his wife Anne was in Sea View, with eldest son Edward 12, and sons John.13. Morgan H. Jones 9 and Hugh 6. As the eldest son was called Edward, David Jones was probably the son of Edward Jones with the old cottage.

*In 1904* the old cottage had gone and three villas were built. Carron and Glanmor shared a garden - they had the same owner. Behind was a small garden and beyond that a long strip leading down to the brook. The roadside land had been divided up ready for another

house (which would be Surrey) and with a track to access the rear of the villas (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire III.10)



LEFT This detail from a map of 1948 shows Surrey built to the north of Sea View (Maes Arfor) and it is coloured blue. Kenlea and Ty Môr are not there yet. The Jones's land is outlined in red (Map Ceredigion Archives)

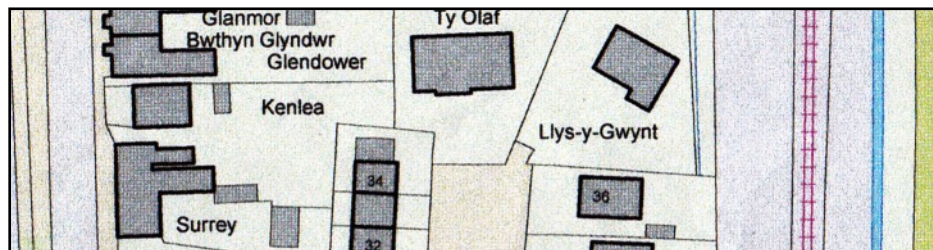
Kenlea was built tucked in between Glendower in the terrace and Surrey.



This detail from a later map (1984) suggests that Kenlea was built on land belonging at that time to Glendower - the drawing of the three villas had been simplified into one block for this map and the surveyor had not drawn in Kenlea. Surrey is coloured blue and the red shows what remained of the boundaries of the Jones family's land (Ceredigion Archives).

Today Kenlea has a garage and shares ground behind Surrey next door.

In 1995 the ground floor flat Ty Môr was up for sale and there are some details about how it was then. It was leasehold. The entrance hall had room for an airing cupboard, the lounge had a stone fireplace and also was heated by an electric storage heater, and there was secondary double glazing for its window. The kitchen had an electric cooker, and the bathroom had room for a bath and contained the lavatory. There were two bedrooms both with built in wardrobes. The patio in the street front belonged with the flat (Sale details Ceredigion Archives).



ABOVE This detail from a modern Council Map shows how the building fits between Glendower and Surrey. There was good access from the High Street (Detail from the map ;courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for a village event).



*ABOVE This was the rear of the building in 2017. The entrance staircase to Kenlea is on the left which leads to a porch. There is a decorative patio area at the rear for that flat and there is a garage. The two bedrooms for Kenlea will have views across the railway, pasture and marsh to the hills beyond.*

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives  
yn cyflwyno / presents  
**Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth**  
gan/by Beryl Lewis  
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir  
**CEREDIGION**  
County Council



Archifdy  
Ceredigion  
Archives