

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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NUMBER 2 LONDON PLACE

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Also called Holmleigh. Built by 1848 by a Hughes master mariner for his family and still in the possession of his descendants in 1925. In 2018 a Gallery.



Number 2 in 2018

This is the centre of a terrace of three cottages. It is one and a half storeys high, double fronted, and has gable windows in the roof, the barge boards edged with curves and with a finial, exactly the same as on Mirella next door. It is wider than its two neighbours. The walls are likely to be rubble stone, but whether there are rounded stones from the beach, or some mud walling it is not possible to see as the rendering is very strong. The roof is tiled and there is a rendered stone chimney on each end of its roof shared with the cottages next door. The windows are sash windows.



LEFT This is the terrace of cottages called 'London Place' named after London House on the right of the photograph as in earlier times cottages did not have names and for the convenience of the postman were made into a 'place' named after the most important building nearby. Though they all have similar fronts Mirella was built after the other two.

The front door opens on to a single room, fireplaces each side and with stairs fitted into the northwest corner. The original cottage has been

given a two storey extension at the back ending with a single storey sun room.



LEFT The rear of the cottage in 2018. The old Ty Bach - outside lavatory has been replaced by the wooden building on the left.

A sizeable wooden Chalet has been built in the garden its front door on the eastern end



LEFT and BELOW The wooden Chalet, from the east and from the south side. There is a path to access the rest of the garden of the cottage.

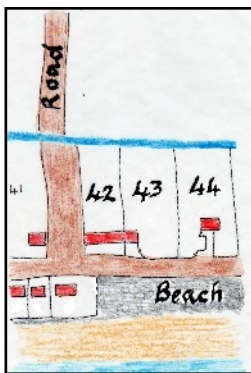




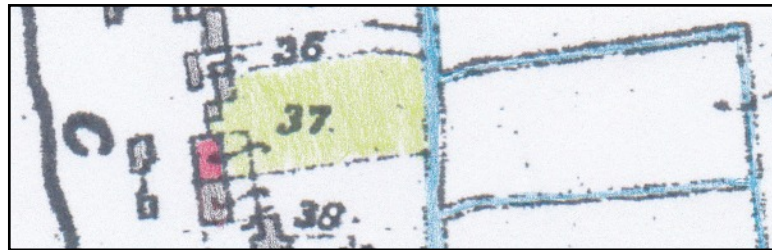
LEFT The garden reaches down to the old ditch - formerly a fresh water brook for the cottages. A bridge allows access from a driveway past some garages and the telegraph station which opens into the lane to the Zoo.

The ground this cottage stands on was enclosed in 1820 by Evan Lloyd from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it because it was no use for farming. The ground measured one rod and 19 perches, that is over half an acre and extended to

a brook with fresh water. The London Place cottages had not been built on this ground yet, only a cottage that would become Acorn.

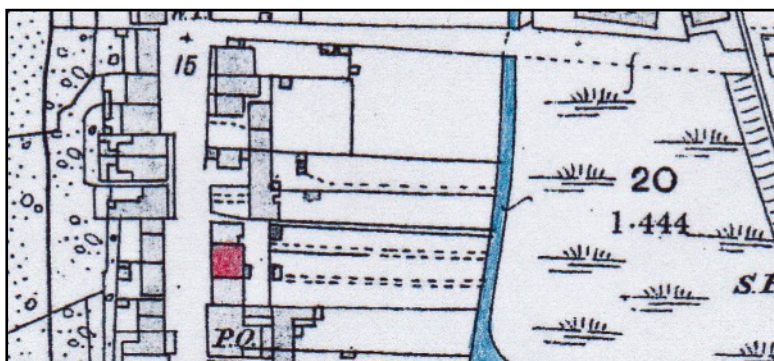


LEFT Evan Lloyd's ground was number 43. There were no cottages where London Place would be built (Detail after a 1829 Map in watercolour National Archives LRRO 1/3060).



ABOVE The ground in 1848, number 37 and Ann Hughes, probably the widow of master mariner John Hughes owned the ground. He was a captain of wooden sailing vessels and with shares in many of them which would have provided a good income for his family (Register of Shipping Aberystwyth, Ceredigion Archives) The cottages that would become Number 2 and Bythyn-y-wern coloured in red had been built but no Mirrella yet - just one very tiny building there (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. On-line at CYNEFIN).

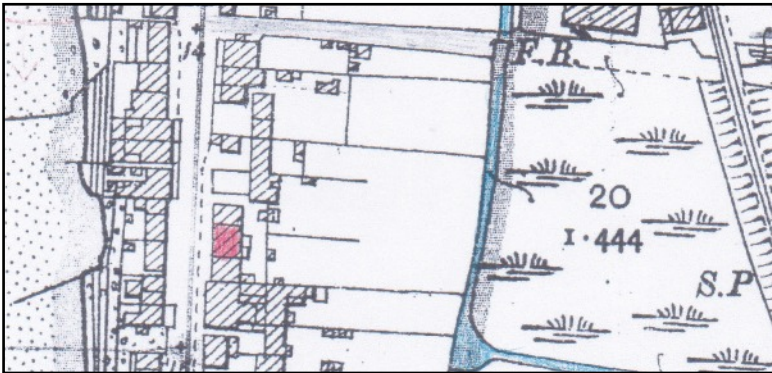
By 1851 Anne Hughes was living in the cottage with her daughter Ann, born about 1822, then aged 29 who was a quilt maker (Census) By the 1861 and 1871 Census's there is another Hughes family living there, Margaret Hughes and her children Ann, born about 1844, Thomas born about 1851, Margaret was born about 1854 at Eglwysfach, and Eleanor, born about 1857. Her husband was a mariner away at sea. In the 1881 Census Margaret Hughes was in the cottage with her daughter Ellen (Eleanor). She was still there, aged 75 at the 1891 Census, and also in the cottage were her daughter Margaret Davies, then aged 37 and already a widow, and Margarett Davies her grand-daughter aged 7.



LEFT Margaret Hughes's cottage in 1886, marked in red. The cottage was larger than the other two in the terrace, and there was a back yard to access all of them and then a narrow shared garden with a footpath to the brook. There is one small extension on the back of the

cottage probably for its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. The surveyor's 'shared' yard and garden indicates they all had the same owner at that time. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

By 1901 Margaret Hughes aged 85 was a widow, and living off her 'own means' so her mariner husband had provided for her.



LEFT On the 1905 map the cottage has an extra extension at the back. It shared the yard, and the large area of ground behind with the other cottages and with Acorn House which probably then owned all of them Ordnance survey 25 inch revised in 1904 published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW).



Captain Davies's Dresser.



Her daughter Margaret Davies continued to live in the cottage. She was the owner and living there in 1910 when the cottage was valued at £90 for a tax planned but not levied. There would have been £3.4s to pay, £4 gross. (Ceredigion Archives and map at the National Library of Wales). Her husband was a master mariner, and in the cottage today is Captain Davies's fine North Wales style dresser.

ABOVE The dresser has a locked drawer, and nicely turned legs and the moulded strips round each drawer are undamaged.



LEFT On an old postcard, London House is in the foreground, then London Place. The cottage does not yet have its gable windows in the roof. The upper windows were small, but show the cottage had an upper floor (Postcard courtesy of the Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum).

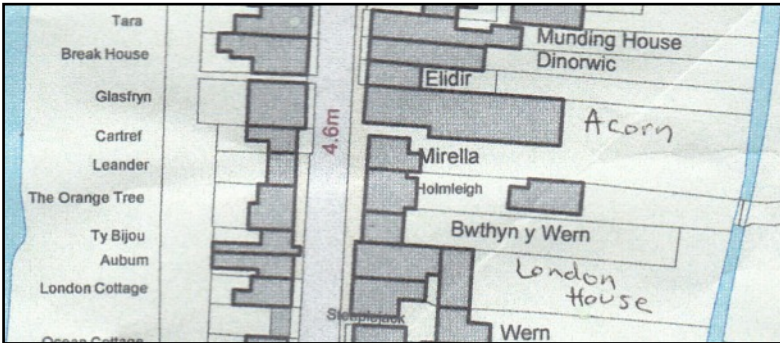
Margaret Davies was still there paying the Rates in 1925, and the address was still 2 London Place.

By 1934 Margaret Davies who had been paying the rates still owned the cottage but had a tenant, D. T. Kinsey.

David J. Kinsey paid the rates in 1949 and still in 1957. The cottage had kept the name Number 2 London Place.

In 1963 Mr (Edward Thomas)Budge paid the rates and the cottage had the name Holmleigh. He was the proprietor of the Acorn Garage close by and owned two of the London Place cottages and other properties. He was born in Yorkshire but spoke Welsh and won the small

oak chair at the Borth Eisteddfod in April 1883 (Y Tincer). He died in 1990 and his wife Myfanwy in 1996



LEFT Mr Budge's Holmleigh in a detail from a modern 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map. The cottage had its own garden and on their map of 1975 the Chalet had been built there and the surveyor drew the ground at the back belonging to the Acorn Garage. Access was from the lane to the zoo (Map

courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant when assisting research for a local event - to see the 1975 map ask Google for Historical Maps).



LEFT In 2009 the cottage had a red tiled roof - the roof at the rear still has some red patches but over the years the colour has darkened. On the left is Acorn - once Mr Budge's garage.

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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.

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