

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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RHOSFRYN

Morfa Borth - The Marsh Harbour

At the northern end of the village and on the east side of a back lane. On ground reclaimed from the bog as pasture, with rough grassland behind. It was built after 1925 but by 1934, and then owned by the Roberts family. Rhosfryn was formerly called Ty Nisa.



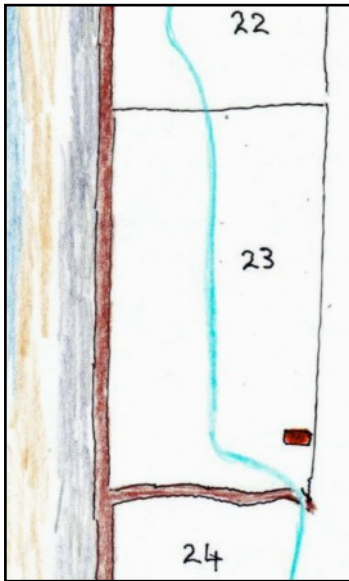
The name is Welsh and is a countryside name, meaning moor (rhos) hill (bryn). Rhosfryn is a bungalow under a gable roof with red ridge tiles, parallel to the lane and the roof has solar panels. On the north side of the front is an extension, its roof matching the main roof and at right angles to it, though it is not as tall. The main entrance has a glazed porch. The windows are modern.



Alongside the extension and parallel with the bungalow is a white garage with a house name plate over the door. On its west side is a single storey extension with a gently sloping lean-to roof. The outer wall of the yard is rendered, and a 'planter' has been

built running along the inside of it, and also along the extension by the garage. There is a picnic area. The yard has some paving and some shingle and a wide gateway. The south side of the yard ends at the wall of Van Hyn's garage. Access to the small garden at the rear of the bungalow is through a narrow gate on the south side of the bungalow. Beyond is grassland. There will be views of the hills across the Cors Fochno from the back windows of the bungalow.

The ground plan of this bungalow is the same as that of Van Hyn its southern neighbour.

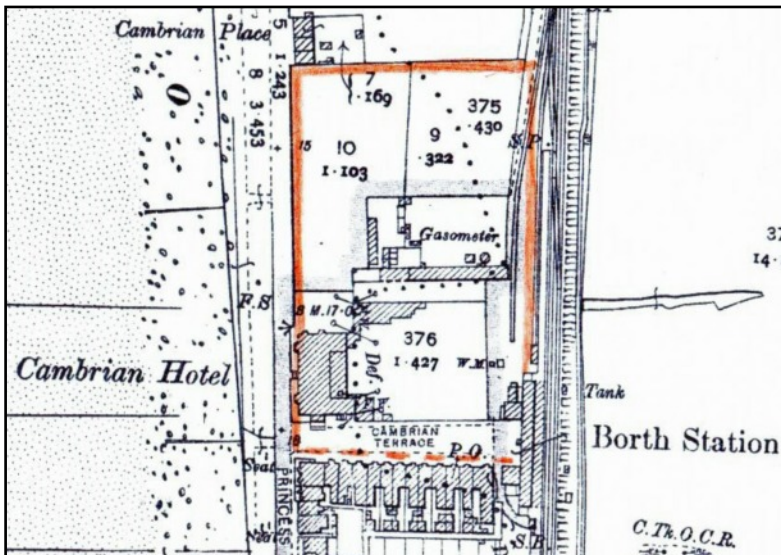


The ground for this house was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John Lewis) from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and the marsh ground beside it (also called 'waste') was reclaimed for pasture with drainage ditches. It was a field of 4 acres, 3 rods and 20 perches, that is almost five acres, and across it ran a brook on the old course of the River Leri. John Lewis had a cottage on it called Terfynau (boundaries) marked in red – where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages. On a map of 1829 the ground was Number 23.

LEFT A detail copied from the map of 1829 (NA LRRO 1/3060)

A rent of £16 had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground, but there was an option to buy it for twice that, and a note with the map said that John Lewis had bought it at a Manor Court Leet in 1809. The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.

John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden. However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred rooms, but often many were empty. It is likely that by the 1920s and 1930s it needed to raise money by

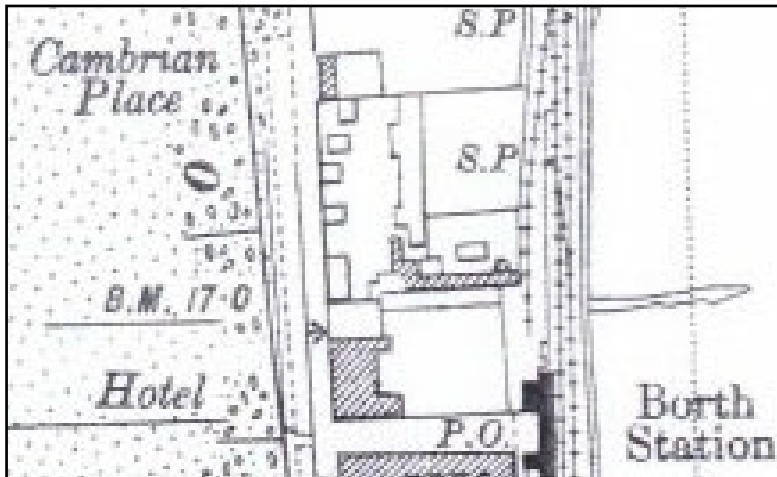


ABOVE A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905. John Lewis's former land is outlined in red. The house at the hotel end of Cambrian Place is now Bodlondeb (Map Cardiganshire III.10)

either selling off its roadside land to build the bungalows and houses, or having them built itself to sell. The owner of the then 'Grand Hotel' in 1930 was a Hotel and Land Development Company Ltd.

The granddaughter of Captain Davies who built Maesteg remembers that the ground behind it was owned by Mary Roberts. She was one of the family who owned the Garibaldi Draper's shop (now the Premier Stores) and other properties in Morfa Borth. They were an enterprising family. By 1924 Howard Lloyd Roberts had set up six hard tennis courts on this land (Cambrian News,

May 30th) and by 1934 the family had five bungalows along the back lane for themselves and for tenants. They owned and paid the rates for Rhosfryn then called Ty Nisa possibly meaning the 'nearest house' in Welsh. Nearest to the tennis courts perhaps? Howard Lloyd Roberts who set up the tennis courts owned it, and had a tenant there, W. Dean Jones.



LEFT A detail from the six inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1948 . The place for the row of bungalows is marked in, but there is no back lane, and no details of each home and its garden (Detail from the map, Ceredigion Archives)

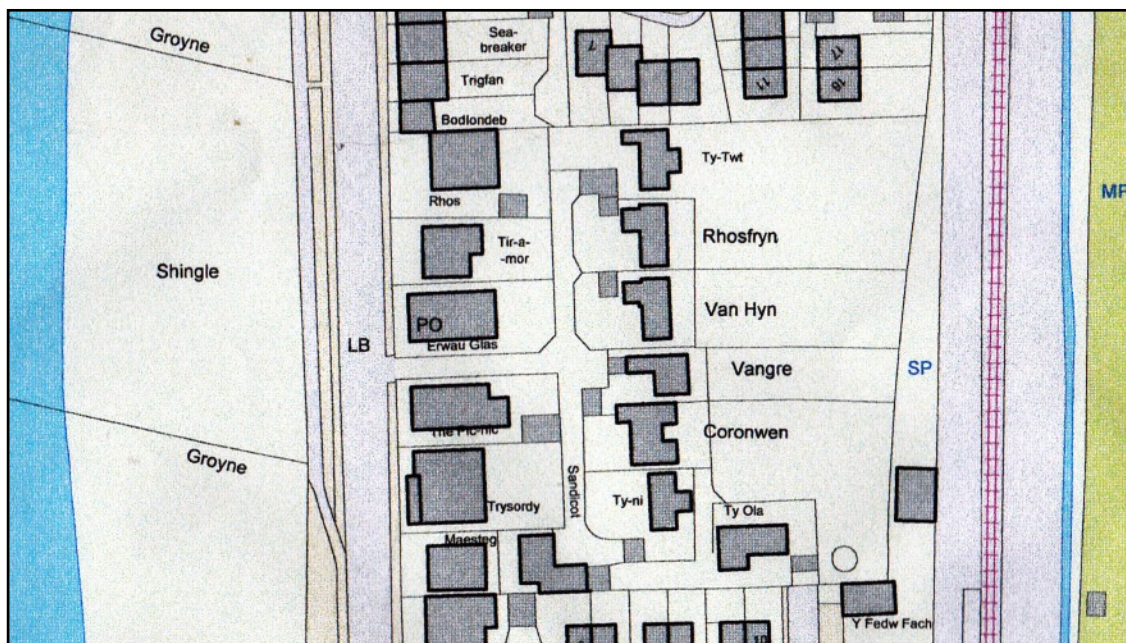
In 1938 M. Dear Jones paid the rates for the bungalow, still called Ty Nisa.

In 1949 paying the rates in had been A. M. Williams, but the house name had changed to Rhosfryn, and 'Roberts' was listed to pay the rates.

The bungalow was up for sale in 1953 and we have a description of it. It was freehold, built of brick and had a roughcast render. There was a living room, a kitchen with an 'Ideal Boiler', three bedrooms, a bathroom and a lavatory. There was an immersion heater. Outside was a lawn and coalhouse and a brick garage. It was in excellent repair. Selling points were that it was in a secluded area and near the station and the golf course (Ceredigion Archives ABY/B/16)

In 1957 H. Earnshaw paid the rates. The concrete sea wall with the promenade had been built and the Aberystwyth Rural District Council charged the homes now protected from the sea, for Rhosfryn this was £20. The owner at that time was Mrs Earnshaw who lived in Aberystwyth, and she wrote to the Council asking if she could pay by instalments (Ceredigion Archives, ABR/HR/6/39)

Paying the Rates for Rhosfryn and its garage in 1963 was Miss M. Deakin and it was valued at £16 the same as Van Hyn next door.



ABOVE Detail from a modern Council Map showing the row of bungalows (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a local event).

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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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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