

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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TY OLA Morfa Borth – Borth Marsh

In the northern part of the village, close to the railway and Clos Pantyfedwen, and built by on ground reclaimed from the bog as pasture, later part of the ground of the Cambrian Hotel. Built by 1935.



This is a north facing bungalow under a gable roof. It is almost at right angles to the railway line. Its roof is slate coloured, and it a chimney on the rear top of the roof with one flue. The chimney and the walls of the bungalow are rendered. On the front is a gable at right angles to the roof supported by brackets, it has decorative wooden strips and a dark coloured beam shape at its base. Below is a glass door with tall windows on both sides, each with a tall light and a narrow light above.



There is one step down into the garden which is mostly a lawn. This garden area is enclosed by a concrete block wall. There are other windows of three lights with narrow ones above on the walls each side of the centre. The west gable end has two windows, one tall and narrow, both of a large light and a small one above. On

the rear of the bungalow is an extension with a window facing west. There is a yard with hard standing along the back enclosed by a tall brick wall. It has a small wooden fence and gateway, and a garage parallel to the bungalow whose front is partly wooden. On the east side of the bungalow are extensions which no doubt will give good views across the railway and Cors Fochno to the hills beyond.

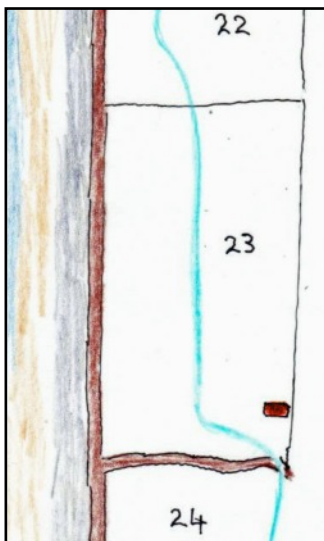
The east end of the bungalow has a lean to extension with a large window with one large light and two narrow ones either side. Its small garden is edged by a block wall.

Paying the Rates for the bungalow in 1935 was Howard Llewellyn Roberts. He was the eldest son of Martha Roberts of Garibaldi, a draper's shop later Roberts Stores, Alun Owen, and now the Premier Stores. Martha Roberts was also in charge of a set of hard tennis courts just to the north of the Cambrian Hotel gardens. The Roberts family had several properties. They owned Vangre. and Ty Ni, for Howard's younger brother Charles.

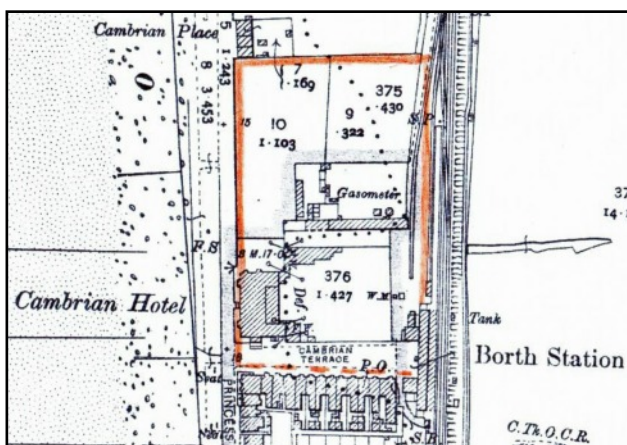
Howard Llewellyn Roberts was a very successful man, he survived service in the First World War and came back to be a journalist, photographer, cartoonist and shopkeeper, and he found a grander place to live. Ty Ola would have been let.



The rear of Ty Ola and its back garden in March 2016 are on the left.



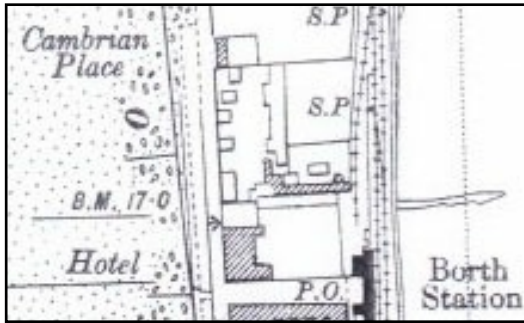
The ground for this house was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John Lewis) from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and the marsh ground beside it (also called 'waste') which was reclaimed for pasture with drainage ditches. 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) – where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages. On a map of 1829 the ground was Number 23. 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 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. Fresh water for the old cottages and houses came from the brook and for fuel villagers could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri near Ynys Fergi.



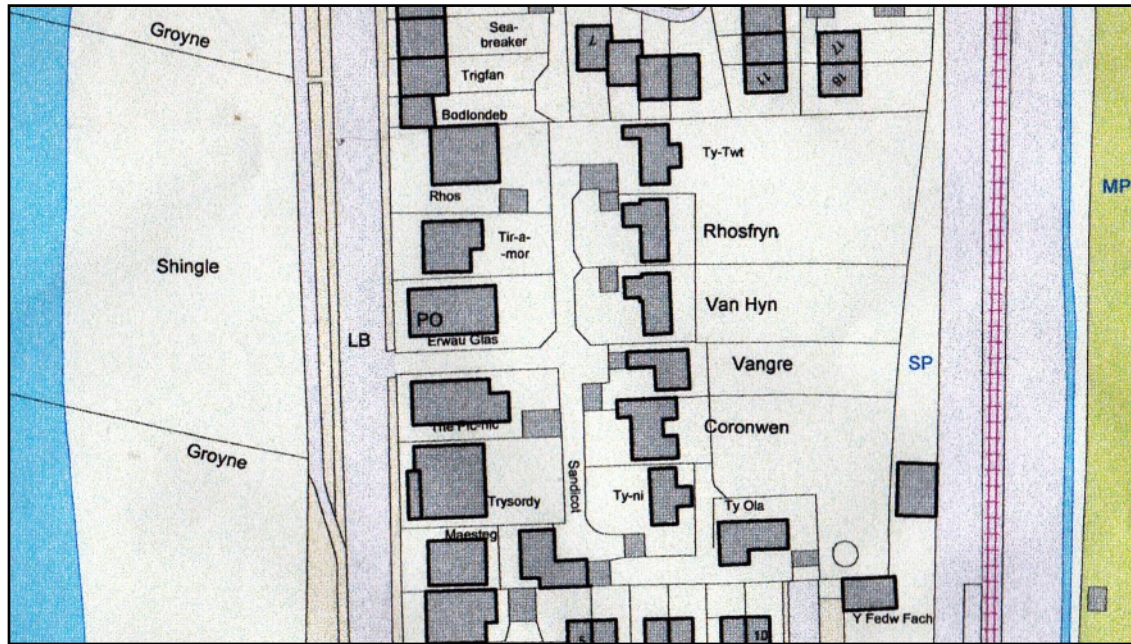
John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, opened in 1863 and the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled

LEFT A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905. John Lewis's former land is marked in red.

garden. However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred rooms, but often many were empty. Land to the north of the long range of outbuildings was sold off, and houses were built alongside the main street, and the back lane with its bungalows.



On this Six Inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1953 the sites of the new houses and bungalows had been drawn in. There is a building marked on the site of Ty Ola.



ABOVE A detail of a modern Council Map showing the row of bungalows.

(Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).

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gan/by Beryl Lewis
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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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