

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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WAVE CREST

Morfa Borth – the Marsh Harbour.

On the east side of the High Street at the southern end of Morfa Borth, and with the sea across the road. Probably a retirement home for a Newbury family.



Wave Crest in 2014.

Wave Crest is a detached two storey house with a further floor in the roof. Like Sea Breezes next door the basis of the house is a 1930's design. It has a hipped roof with a wide dormer window which is quite large and emphasizes the triangles in the design. An interesting shape had been made as it has short straight sides. The window bars are a brown wooden colour. The window would allow plenty of light into the room and a good view of the sea. Like 1930s houses the bay windows in the front reach to the roof. The bay is designed with a curve and the glazing bars of the windows are simple vertical panes of glass. On the north side of the front is a balcony with a railing of semi-transparent coloured plastic with four front panels. This is supported by solid rendered posts growing out of the walls of the house which match the rendering on the house walls. A glazed French window leads out on the south end of the balcony with an adjacent window. This would make a first floor lounge with good sea views. The balcony supports on the south side make an extension for a porch. On the other side of it a garage has been built into the front of the house. The front garden is hard standing and enclosed by a low rendered wall.

The house fits tightly into its plot, the north wall runs along its boundary, and the front of the south wall has been blocked by the balcony, though this extension does not reach all the way to the rear where there is a narrow passage between Wave Crest and West End. Wave Crest though not wide at the front goes back quite a long way on its plot.

It is noticeable that considerable care has been taken with the appearance of the front of this house. Some of this work was done in the last eight years. The building material of the house is likely to be brick.



In the roof at the rear is a roof light for its attic room, and metal chimneys probably for ventilation for its heating system. The back door is on the south side at the back and has a lean to roof to protect the doorstep from the rain. There is also a single storey lean-to with a slate coloured roof providing windows on to the garden. Another low lean-to extension is built on to it. The garage of West End butts up against it. The garden at the rear extends to the footpath.

The shingle bank thrown up by the sea on which this house was built was considered 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was not suitable for farming. Any man who encroached it by enclosing a plot there would have had to pay rent to the manor, or to buy the ground from the manor. 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.

There were no buildings on this land until 1925, it was part of a piece of rough ground extending from Efelwen to the road to Llandre. Across the road on the strip of grass were three limekilns in 1829, four by 1848. They had all gone by 1883. (Maps NA LRRO 1/3060, Tithe Apportionment Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township 1848 and Cambrian News, 16 November 1883)

A Crown Manor map showed that an enclosure for the garden of this house, and the gardens of Sea Breezes and Haven and Anchorage had been made in 1925. The area by the road where the houses were built was still coloured as 'waste' and there were no buildings where Wave Crest and Sea Breezes were to be built. However the Haven and Anchorage houses were there. The survey was dated 28 October and the 3 December 1925 and it was plot number 105. It extended to a foot path which is still there today. The West End bungalow was already there.

The house appears built by 1934 when it was in the list of rates. Paying the rates for it was W. F. Newbury, he also paid the rates in 1938. He also owned Sea Breezes next door and he was living in that house when he died in 1945 aged 72. In 1949 paying the rates for Wave Crest was Ethel Alice Newbury. She was living in Wave Crest in 1949 when she had a vote for the house in the General Election, but by 1963 had a vote for Sea Breezes, and that was given as her address when she died in Solihull in Birmingham aged 83 in February 1964. Maud Clarissa Galloway was living in Wave Crest in 1963 and had a vote for the house. Interestingly at that time the house was valued at £59, less than Sea Breezes next door that was valued at £72. The two houses were still owned by the Newbury family.

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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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