



Cofio
Rhosesmor
Memories

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This book is not intended to be a history of Rhosesmor, nor is it designed to be a complete pictorial record of the village, its surroundings and inhabitants through the ages.

It does, however, offer a glimpse into the everyday lives of the people who built the community that survives to this day and whose families still play a vital role in village life.

The book you are reading is the result of over two years work by dedicated volunteers. The photos herein were kindly donated by the many people who attended the monthly Memories' Days at the village hall. Whilst the photos here represent only a fraction of those gathered, all the material has been archived to preserve it for future generations.

The publication of the book was made possible through support from Halkyn Mountain Parishes and Flintshire County Council. Proceeds from sales are to be donated to Ysgol Rhoshelyg to provide resources for future heritage projects. We are indebted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and all the players of the National Lottery for making this project possible.

Nid bwriad y llyfr hwn yw adrodd hanes Rhosesmor. Nid yw chwaith wedi'i gynllunio fel cofnod darluniadol llawn o'r pentref, y cyffiniau a'r trigolion trwy'r oesau.

Mae, fodd bynnag, yn cynnig golwg ar fywyd bob dydd y bobl a adeiladodd y gymuned sydd wedi para hyd heddiw a sydd â'u teuluoedd yn dal i chwarae rhan allweddol ym mywyd y pentref.

Mae'r llyfr rydych yn ei ddarllen yn benllanw dros ddwy flynedd o waith gan wirfoddolwyr ymroddgar. Fe gyfranwyd y lluniau sydd yma gan lawer o bobl fu'n mynychu y Dyddiau Cofio misol yn neuadd y pentref. Dim ond cyfran o'r ffotograffau a gasglwyd sy'n cael eu cynnwys yma, ond mae'r holl ddeunydd wedi'i archifo a'i gadw ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Roedd hi'n bosibl cyhoeddi'r llyfr oherwydd cefnogaeth Plwyfi Mynydd Helygain a Chyngor Sir y Fflint. Bydd elw'r gwerthiant yn cael ei gyfrannu i Ysgol Rhoshelyg ar gyfer adnoddau i brosiectau treftadaeth y dyfodol. Rydym yn ddyledus i Gronfa Treftadaeth y Loteri a holl chwaraewyr y Loteri Genedlaethol am wneud y prosiect hwn yn bosibl.



Introduction

People have lived in the area since pre Roman times. The hillfort of Moel y Gaer, which was partially excavated in the 1970s, had evidence of houses built around 600BC.

Rhosesmor grew as a distinct village as lead mining expanded on the Common in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The industrial site in the village was once a leadmining area with much of the waste and spoil being dumped between the pond and the Red Lion. Rhosesmor became a separate parish in the 1870s. Prior to that the Township was known as Caerfallwch, part of Northop Parish.

The development of all these features indicate that the population was growing and the area changing from one of scattered small farms to a distinct village with its own identity. In this book it is explored here through the memories of people in the early 21st century.

Cyflwyniad

Mae pobl wedi byw yn yr ardal ers cyn Oes y Rhufeiniaid. Ar fryngaer Moel y Gaer, a gafodd ei gloddio'n rhannol yn y 1970au, mae olion tai a adeiladwyd tua 600 OC.

Tyfodd Rhosesmor fel pentref wrth i fwyngloddio plwm ledu ar hyd y tir comin yn niwedd y 18G a dechrau'r 19G. Roedd y safle diwydiannol yn y pentref yn ardal mwyngloddio plwm ac roedd llawer o'r gwastraff a'r rwbel yn cael ei adael rhwng y pwll a'r Llew Coch. Daeth Rhosesmor yn blwyf ar wahân yn y 1870au. Cyn hynny fel Caerfallwch yr adwaenid y drefgordd, rhan o Blwyf Llaneurgain.

Dynoda'r nodweddion hyn yn datblygu fod y boblogaeth yn tyfu a'r ardal yn newid o un o ffermydd bychain gwasgaredig i bentref amlwg gyda'i hunaniaeth ei hun. Yn y llyfr hwn crwydrir y pentref drwy atgofion pobl yn nechrau'r 21G.



Industry

While lead mining was one of the reasons the population of Rhosesmor grew, after the closure of the mine, the site continued to be used for local industries. Growing out of an agricultural contracting business, brothers David and Glynn Jones had set up Jones Balers in the village by the late 1930s.

By having to make, mend and adapt machines, the Jones brothers became self-taught engineers. Seeing the failings in machinery they worked with, they began to design and build their own. Those first few machines that the brothers made were built outside, as they had no facilities of their own. Without any real capital each machine made financed the next one and so the business grew. The early balers were large



machines that appealed mainly to the agricultural contractors, but by the 1950s more and more individuals wanted their own balers, signalling that the days of larger balers were over, and the company needed to "think small." Jones' most successful balers were the smaller models of the late 1950s. The company was sold out to Allis-Chalmers in the late 1961.

The site of the Jones Balers factory is still used for industry, run by Tiger Tim Products Ltd it is the world's largest manufacturer of firelighters employing many local people.

"Jones Balers appreciated the local employees and their hard work. It was a home based firm employing local people."

Noel Jones



Team spirit was very much alive in those days.



There was always a Christmas party for the workers' children every year.



Diwydiant

Mwyngloddio plwm oedd un o'r rhesymau am dwf poblogaeth Rhosesmor, ac wedi i'r pwll gau roedd y safle'n dal i gael ei ddefnyddio gan ddiwydiannau lleol. Fel datblygiad o fusnes contractio amaethyddol sefydlodd y brodyr David a Glynne Jones Jones Balers yn y pentref erbyn diwedd y 1930au.

Drwy orfod gwneud, trwsio ac addasu peiriannau, daeth y brodyr Jones yn beirianwyr hunanddysgedig. Wrth weld gwendidau yn y peiriannau roedden nhw'n eu trin, fe ddechreuon nhw gynllunio ac adeiladu rhai eu hunain. Yn yr awyr agored gafodd y peiriannau cynnar eu gwneud gan y brodyr

oherwydd doedd ganddyn nhw mo'r cyfleusterau eu hunain. Heb fawr o gyfalaf go iawn roedd pob peiriant a wnaed yn ariannu'r nesaf a dyna sut dyfodd y busnes. Roedd y belars cynnar yn beiriannau mawr oedd yn apelio'n bennaf i gontractwyr amaethyddol, ond erbyn y 1950au roedd mwy a mwy o unigolion eisiau eu belar eu hunain, a dyna nodi bod dyddiau'r

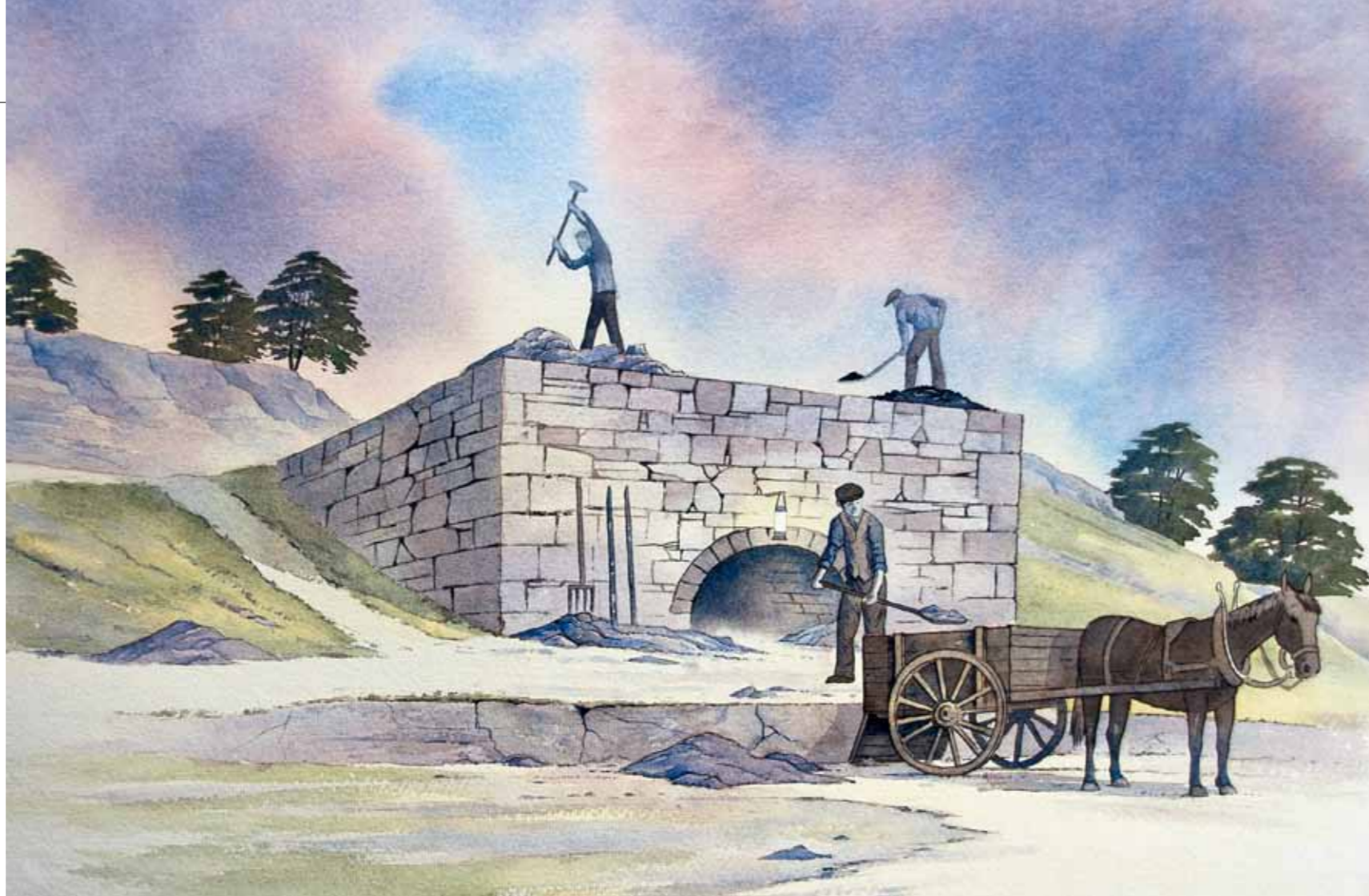
belars mawr ar ben, a bod y cwmni angen "meddwl yn fach". Belars mwyaf llwyddiannus Jones oedd modeli llai diwedd y 1950au. Cafodd y cwmni ei werthu i Allis-Chalmers tua diwedd 1961.

Mae safle ffatri Jones Balers yn cael ei ddefnyddio o hyd gan ddiwydiant ac yn cael ei redeg gan Tiger Tim Products Cyf, gwneuthurwyr pethau cynnau tân mwyaf y byd ac mae'n cyflogi llawer o bobl leol.



Quarrying

Local people have exploited the stone underneath the village for a long while, many of the buildings, including the church and now demolished Calvinistic Methodist chapel, were built using limestone from Halkyn Mountain. There are also deposits of chert and the quarry above the village to the north of Moel y Gaer, which was begun in 1894, provided chert blocks, used in the pottery making factories in Stoke on Trent. They formed part of large grinding machines which ground up flint, bone and chert for making fine china. A letter gives the grazing rights in this quarry to the inhabitants of Rock Cottage in 1956 at the cost of £1 per year. The quarry is now home to Danny the donkey, a regular contributor to Halkyn Mountain News. Adjacent to the road between Rhosesmor and the Wern is a large limekiln close to a small limestone quarry. Recently refurbished, it is evidence of another once common industry making lime for mortar, whitewash and spreading on the fields to improve the soil.



Chwarela

Mae'r bobl leol wedi gweithio'r garreg o dan y pentref ers tro byd a gyda chalchfaen o Fynydd Helygain yr adeiladwyd nifer o'r adeiladau, gan gynnwys yr eglwys a'r hen gapel Methodistiaid Calfinaidd. Mae yna hefyd haen o gornfaen ac roedd y chwarel uwchlaw'r pentref i'r gogledd o Moel y Gaer, a ddechreuwyd yn 1894, yn darparu blociau cornfaen ar gyfer ffatrioedd crochenwaith Stoke on Trent. Roedden nhw'n rhan o beiriannau malu mawr oedd yn malu fflint, esgyrn a chornfaen i wneud tseinia cain. Mae llythyr yn rhoi hawliau pori yn y chwarel hon yn 1956 i drigolion Rock Cottage am £1 y flwyddyn. Mae'r chwarel heddiw yn garterf i Danny'r mul, cyfrannwr cyson i Newyddion Mynydd Helygain. Gerllaw'r ffordd rhwng Rhosesmor a'r Wern mae o dyn galch fawr yn agos at chwarel galchfaen fechan. Yn ddiweddar cafodd ei hadnewyddu, a thystia i ddiwydiant cyffredin arall fu yma, sef gwneud calch ar gyfer mortar a gwyngalch ac i'w daenu ar y caeau i wella'r pridd.

Farming

Those who live in Rhosesmor are familiar with the sheep who graze on the open mountain and frequently visit the village. Many properties on the edge of the common have rights to graze sheep and there is an active Graziers' Association. Farming is an important part of village life. In the past many miners had a few acres where growing crops and keeping animals like pigs supplemented incomes. There are ruins of many pigsties across the area.

Caerfallwch farm is close to the village and now mostly keeps cattle. In the past there was more variety of animals and crops.

William Edward and Catherine Hughes, Caerfallwch Farm.

"There were a lot more sheep than there are now. Most people had them. John Thomas would get all the sheep together below in the grounds of his large house. He used old shears and sheared by hand and in the 50s they started using a shearing machine 200 turns with one hand and 200 with another. We used to get together to dip them. Willy Blackwell in Moel y Crio made a concrete dipper and we'd carry the water in milk churns."

Tom Davies



Ffermio

Mae'r rhai sy'n byw yn Rhosesmor yn gyfarwydd â'r defaid sy'n pori ar y mynydd agored ac sy'n aml yn ymweld â'r pentref. Mae gan lawer o'r anheddau ar gyrion y tir comin hawliau pori defaid ac mae yna Gymdeithas Porwyr weithgar. Mae ffermio yn rhan bwysig o fywyd y pentref. Yn y gorffennol roedd gan lawer o'r mwynwyr ychydig erwau i dyfu cnydau a chadw anifeiliaid megis moch i ychwanegu at eu hincwm. Mae adfeilion sawl cwt moch yma ac acw'n yr ardal.

Mae fferm Caerfallwch yn agos i'r pentref ac heddiw'n cadw gwartheg yn bennaf. Yn y gorffennol roedd mwy o amrywiaeth cnydau ac anifeiliaid.

"I went potato picking with my three brothers and they were paid according to age. There's only 11 months between my elder brother and myself. When asked how old we were I said I was the same age as my brother."

Anne Thomas

"My mother used to have a gang of potato pickers and Caerfallwch farm used to have two fields of potatoes. They would measure and peg the field out in intervals and they would work in twos. I used to take time off school to go and help my Mum and the money would go towards new school uniform. They'd take the rows of potatoes till they got near the peg then they'd move the peg in. And then every three hours or so someone would be complaining because their stretch would be about 30ft and another woman would have just 20ft. So the farmer had to pace it out again."

Dave Slater



"Caerfallwch had hundreds of turkeys and they were sold to Northop Club. Ian would ask people to help him count them. Ian had his own weighing machine. The farm was on the hill, with big sheds and we'd herd turkeys down the field to the farm. We'd have two weeks off school to go potato picking to pay for new uniform and 2 weeks off to go plucking and killing to pay for Christmas."

Tom Davies

Tom Davies



"Shelagh Hughes, Will Hughes' granddaughter also lived in Caerfallwch Farm and then moved to Berth Ddu to a farm called Ty Newydd in the lane opposite the school. Shelagh's father Willy Hughes had a milk round for years. Shelagh used to deliver the milk in the pony and trap later replaced by a grey Morris 1000 pick up. The old pony was called Nelson, a dun colour and he only had one eye. Shelagh is pictured here, with Nelson, faithful as ever, delivering the milk during the 'Big Freeze' of 1955."

Netta Rowlands



Church and Chapels

Church and chapels played a big part in the lives in the village. The church was opened in 1876. The site was granted by the Duke of Westminster and the foundation stone was laid by Mrs J Scott Bankes in 1874. The building was designed by John Hill and built from local limestone. The Church cost £1700 to build.

In the late 19th century there was a male voice choir in the Village, Voel Gaer choir. It is thought to have disbanded just after the First World War.



The Mothers' Union was a very active group in the village church.

"I remember being in the choir with Mr Tregenza and we went to sing at St Asaph cathedral regularly. I used to babysit Jane and William, Rev Leslie Edward's children and walk back from the Vicarage at night on the Halkyn Road."
Pauline Peachey

"The Church, Chapel and School were a big part of the village life. The Church had a Choir, Sunday school and youth group. There was an 11am service, 2pm Sunday School and 6 pm evening service every week and they were all very well attended."
Margaret Catherall

"William Harper was a prominent member of the local community and provided catering for village events. He played the organ and conducted the "Rhousesmor Voel Gaer Band" which came third in a contest at Caernarfon in October 1896. In September 1913, the Flintshire Observer & News reports on the celebrations for the Jubilee of the consecration of St. John's Church, Rhydymwyn during which William Harper conducted the combined choirs of Rhydymwyn, Cilcain and Rhousesmor. "
Robin Smith

Eglwys a Chapel

Roedd eglwys a chapel yn chwarae rhan bwysig ym mywyd y pentref. Agorwyd yr eglwys yn 1876. Rhoddwyd y safle gan Ddug Westminster a gosodwyd y garreg sylfaen gan Mrs J Scott Bankes yn 1874. Cynlluniwyd yr adeilad gan John Hill a'i godi o galchfaen lleol. Cost adeiladu'r eglwys oedd £1700.

Yn niwedd y 19G roedd côr meibion yn y pentref, Côr Voel Gaer. Mae'n debyg iddo ddod i ben wedi diwedd y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf.



"If you didn't go to Sunday school – you didn't get to go on the trip. Trips would be to Llandudno or Rhyl. The excitement started when we got to Mostyn and could see the sea There was a train around the marine lake, where we would eat our picnic and meet the bus by the fun fair. In the winter we would get the donkeys from Rhyl and put them in the field for winter. "
Dave Slater



Bethel Chapel

In the 1780s Robert Price of Plas Winter held services at his home and in 1802 a chapel was opened. It was extended in 1838 and a new building built in front of the old in 1854. In the early 20th century a piece of land was acquired from Plas yn Rhos farm and the 'new' chapel opened in 1911. The chapel built in 1854 survives as two semi detached houses near the village pond.

Having closed as a chapel in 1995 the Bethel chapel was demolished in April 2001 and the site was developed into three houses



"A beautiful building - my friend used to play the organ for the services. The only time we went into it was for the funeral of Gwilym Jones who was the caretaker of Jerusalem Chapel and lived in the chapel house which is at the bottom of the lane where it joins Jerusalem Hill."

Netta Rowlands



The Jerusalem Chapel to the south of the village was established in 1841 although it had declined by the end of the 19th century, it was part of the Congregationalist movement.

Capel Bethel

Yn y 1780au cynhaliodd Robert Price o Blas Winter wasanaethau yn ei gartref ac yn 1802 agorwyd capel. Cafodd ei ymestyn yn 1838 ac adeiladwyd adeilad newydd o flaen yr hen un yn 1854. Yn nechrau'r 20G cafwyd darn o dir gan fferm Plas-yn-Rhos ac agorwyd y capel 'newydd' yn 1911. Mae'r capel a adeiladwyd yn 1854 yn dal i sefyll fel dau dŷ pâr ger pwll y pentref.

Wedi cau fel capel yn 1995 cafodd capel Bethel ei ddymchwel yn Ebrill 2001 ac adeiladwyd tri thŷ ar y safle.

Yn 1841 sefydlwyd Capel Jerusalem i'r de o'r pentref ond roedd wedi dirywio erbyn diwedd y 19G. Roedd yn rhan o fudiad yr Annibynwyr.



This picture captures a Bethel Chapel Sunday school party.

Back row, left to right: Gareth Jones, Vera Evans, Eirlys Bellis, Mrs Gwladys Williams, Nia Bellis, Menna Edwards, Rev. Llywelyn Williams, Enfys Morris, Mrs Olwen Morris, Edith Edwards, Mrs Elizabeth Bellis, Ann Holloway, Philip Green. Front row, left to right: Glenys Jones, Colin Jones, Maurice Jones, Kevin Davies, Glyn Holloway, Elfed Holloway, Neville Holloway

The Institute

The Institute on the edge of the village was built in 1911 on land given by the Duke of Westminster. Sir J Eldon Bankes of Sychdyn gave £300 towards the building costs. Many groups within the Village have used the Institute as their base and it was refurbished in 2006. It continues to be run by the community for groups from within the village and beyond.



Yr Institiwt

Adeiladwyd yr Institiwt ar gyrion y pentref yn 1911 ar dir a roddwyd gan Ddug Westminster. Rhoddodd Syr J Eldon Bankes o Sychdyn £300 tuag at gostau'r adeiladu. Mae llawer o grwpiau o fewn y pentref wedi defnyddio'r Institiwt fel canolfan a chafodd ei adnewyddu yn 2006. Mae'n dal i gael ei redeg gan y gymuned ar gyfer grwpiau o'r pentref a thu hwnt.



The School

Rhosesmor School was opened with the help of the Anglican National School Society and was built in 1859. William J Parry of Whitford was the headmaster until 1871. Following this no headteacher stayed for long and reports were less than satisfactory. In 1886 Llewelyn Phillip Jones became head of the school, organist at Caerfallwch church and conductor of Halkyn band and stayed for 10 years before becoming head of Mostyn school. He was succeeded in 1896 by Conway Brown who retired in 1926. There were numerous extensions to the curriculum and in 1921 some senior girls were sent to a dairy class in Caerfallwch Farm.

The new headmaster Mr W.T Jones, or Will Tai, was in post from 1926. He continued as head when the old school was replaced by Ysgol Rhos Helyg in 1953 and retired in 1967. He was succeeded by Mr. Idris W Davies, who retired in 1984, and was followed by Mr Gwilym A Edwards. The old school and school house is now a private house next to the church. Mr Edward was succeeded by Gareth Robert in 2007.



"Will Tai was a wonderful headmaster. A clip side the ear 'ole, was a frequent reminder to those who stepped out of line. Will would take the pupils out to work in his garden."

Tom Davies

"One day Will Tai couldn't get his car out because of the snow. He took all pupils from top class, formed two rows, and we walked all the way to his house, making a track for him to get his car out."

Bryn Bellis

Yr Ysgol

Agorwyd Ysgol Rhosesmor gyda chymorth Cymdeithas Ysgolion Cenedlaethol Eglwys Lloegr a chafodd ei hadeiladu yn 1859. William J Parry o Chwitfordd oedd y prifathro tan 1871. Wedi hyn ni arhosodd yr un prifathro yn hir iawn a chafwyd adroddiadau llai na boddhaol. Yn 1886 daeth Llewelyn Phillip Jones yn bennaeth, yn organydd yn eglwys Caerfallwch ac arweinydd band Helygain ac arhosodd am 10 mlynedd cyn mynd yn bennaeth i ysgol Mostyn. Ar ei ôl yn 1896 daeth Conway Brown



tan iddo ymddeol yn 1926. Bu nifer o newidiadau i'r cwricwlwm ac yn 1921 anfonwyd rhai o'r merched hŷn i ddosbarth trin llaeth yn Fferm Caerfallwch.

Cyflogwyd y prifathro newydd Mr W T Jones, neu Wil Tai, i'r swydd yn 1926. Parhaodd fel pennaeth pan agorwyd Ysgol Rhos Helyg yn lle'r hen ysgol yn 1953 tan iddo ymddeol yn 1967. Mr Idris W Davies ddaeth yn ei le tan ei ymddeoliad o yn 1984, ac yna Mr Gwilym A Edwards. Mae'r hen ysgol a thŷ'r ysgol bellach yn dŷ preifat drws nesa i'r eglwys.





Pubs

There were three pubs in the village, two along the main road through the village and one in Wern y Gaer. The White Horse Inn in the Wern is thought to have lost its licence in the mid 19th century after a murderer who was convicted of killing a gamekeeper was hidden there. The Cross Keys is shown on early maps of the Village and in 1903 had two beds for travellers a stable and three horse stalls. At the same time the Red Lion had one stable, three stalls and a back door for the public. The Red Lion is the only pub to still exist in the Village.



"Gwern y Gaer used to be a pub called the White Horse In the 1930s it had an extension which became a tea room. The houses outside were known in the family as the Summer Houses and were rented out as holiday homes to people from Liverpool and the Wirral."

Pat



The Cross Keys was one of the earliest buildings in the village. Demolished in 2000 to make way for new houses in the close named after it. In the 1950s the pub was run by Nance and Fred Davis. It was a popular meeting place for key clubs in the village, the Rhosesmor Football Club and the Keymor Motor Club, with regular dominoes and darts teams in the Greenall Whitley league..

Tafarndai

Roedd tri thŷ tafarn yn y pentref, dau ar y brif ffordd drwy'r pentref ac un yn Wern y Gaer. Credir i dŷ tafarn Y Ceffyl Gwyn yn Y Wern gollu ei drwydded yng nghanol y 19G am i lofrudd a gafwyd yn euog o ladd cipar gael ei guddio yno. Dangosir tafarn y Cross Keys ar fapiau cynnar o'r pentref ac yn 1903 roedd yno ddau wely i deithwyr, stabl a thri chôr ceffyl. Yr un pryd roedd gan y Llew Coch un stabl, tri chôr a drws cefn i'r cyhoedd. Dim ond tafarn y Llew Coch sy'n dal i fod yn y pentref.

Y Cross Keys oedd un o adeiladau cynharaf y pentref. Cafodd ei ddyrchwyl yn 2000 i wneud lle i'r tai newydd yn y clos a enwyd ar ei ôl. Yn y 1950au Nance a Fred Davis oedd yn rhedeg y dafarn. Roedd yn lle cyfarfod poblogaidd i glybiau pwysig y pentref, Clwb Pêl-droed Rhosesmor a Chlwb Moduro Keymor, ac roedd timau dominôs a dartiau yn rheolaidd yng nghynghrair Greenall Whitley.



Shops

In the past there was a shop in the centre of Rhosesmor first in Greenside and then opposite the old school. There was also a shop in Wern y Gaer and Berth ddu. Many villagers also went to Rhes y Cae to buy delicious bread. Sadly there are no longer any shops remaining in the village.

"The Post Office, was kept by Mr Peter Davies. Before him, it was a Victor Davies. This is where we used to go if we had a penny to get 10 aniseed balls."

Margaret Unwin

"Jones the Oil from Flint would come with a big wagon selling paraffin, shoe polish, candles, you name it. A big van with tanks at the back. My mother used to have a bill in the shop and she'd go every Thursday, the night my dad got paid from the mines, and she'd go and pay her bill. I always tried to go with her because I'd get a Penny Arrow or two Blackjacks. But if I missed her and she'd paid the bill, that was it for the week."

Dave Slater

"I worked in the grocer's by the pond on a Saturday and in the holidays. I used to get half a crown. The owners were William Hughes first and then Mr Davies of Rhes-y-Cae and Sesh Ellis was the manageress and eventually she bought it. Many characters used to come into the shop. Regularly on Saturday a lady who had six sons would come to buy six loaves and take them home on a trolley. I used to hate getting the paraffin. They used to sell paraffin by the gallon. You went round the back to get it and the smell was awful. You could never wash it off your hands. We used to have to cut the bacon too."

"In those days everyone had a 'bill'. My mum used to pay £5 a week off her bill. My dad used to have 2 ounces of tobacco in that, but £5 never cleared the bill."

Ann Thomas



Siopau

Ers talwm roedd siop yng nghanol Rhosesmor, yn Greenside i ddechrau ac yna gyferbyn â'r hen ysgol. Roedd siop hefyd yn Wern y Gaer a Berth Ddu. Roedd llawer o'r pentrefwyr hefyd yn mynd i Res y Cae i brynu'r bara blasus. Gwaetha'r modd does dim siop yn y pentref bellach.

"The common between the children's playground and the Red Lion was mainly waste from the lead mine, later reclaimed to provide greenery where Councillor John Thomas created the Bob Hemmings Walk."

Victoria Thomas



"Where 1 Caerfallwch stands there was a little shed where the cobbler used to repair our clogs. Mrs Shallcross kept a chip shop at 3 Caerfallwch, which is where we got lemonade and chips."

Margaret Unwin



"Then there was Hawkins shop opposite the school. Mrs Zachary used to run it. You were allowed to go in your break over to the shop. My friend and I used to stand either side of the road and we used to watch out for people crossing over the road. That was our job. There was no lollipop lady then and not much traffic. My mum used to give my sister and me a threepenny bit for the shop."

Dave Slater

Shops

The earliest reference to Wern Stores is in the 1851 census returns when Catherine Edward and her sons James and Joseph were all listed as shop keepers. Catherine's nephew Job Edwards was an errand boy. By the 1861 census Edward Jones, widower was now listed as grocer together with his children Elizabeth and Peter.

By 1871, the census records show Edward Jones as having remarried and now running the shop with his wife Margaret and daughter Sarah. In 1880 Sarah married William James Harper a school master, who moved to join Sarah and her mother Margaret at Wern Stores. By 1891, William had taken over as grocer and he and Sarah had three children and employed his nephew Edwin Shone as a grocer's apprentice. It was during William's tenure that the business was expanded and the building redeveloped.

"Many long standing residents will remember the Misses Elizabeth and Eleanor Jones who kept the shop. Their parents Gwilym and Sarah took over the shop in the late 1930s. Gwilym Jones was well known as a skilled joiner and cabinet maker and hand-built caravans and furniture in the large workshop next to the stores."

Robin Smith



Siopau

Mae'r cyfeiriad cynharaf at Siop y Wern yng nghyfrifiad 1851 pan nodir bod Catherine Edwards a'i dau fab James a Joseph yn cadw siop. Roedd nai Catherine, Job Edwards, yn rhedeg negesau. Erbyn cyfrifiad 1861 roedd Edward Jones, gŵr gweddw, nawr yn groser ac yno hefyd ei blant Elizabeth a Peter.

Erbyn 1871, mae'r cyfrifiad yn dangos bod Edward Jones wedi ail-briodi ac yn rhedeg y siop gyda'i wraig Margaret a'i merch Sarah. Yn 1880 priododd Sarah â William James Harper, ysgolfeistr a symudodd i ymuno â Sarah a'i mam yn Siop y Wern. Erbyn 1891, roedd William wedi cymryd yr awenau fel groser, roedd ganddo fo a Sarah dri o blant ac roedd yn cyflogi ei nai Edwin Shone fel prentis groser. Yn ystod cyfnod William ehangwyd y busnes ac adnewyddwyd yr adeilad.

"Wern Stores, was always immaculate - looking as if it had been painted yesterday. Through the little entrance gate that seemed to hang crookedly off its hinges, there was a big bay window. On opening the door the bell rang to call Elizabeth who would come in through the door at the back wearing a wraparound pinafore as usual."

On the left was a glass cabinet for bread delivered by Jones of Moel-y-Crio and boxes of Energen rolls The display counter was so high I couldn't see many of the shelves at the back.

Straight ahead was more interesting as the counter was a lot lower with a mechanical bacon slicer, a big circular blade with a handle and a haunch of bacon waiting to be cut. There was a large wooden cheese board with a specially connected wire and handle to cut the large cheeses - we always had Cheshire - mmm. I also could see the brass pans of the scales for weighing it out.

I remember big sacks in front of that counter for potatoes and shelving behind against the side of the stairs."

Pat



Shops

Rhes y Cae Stores, or Jones Brothers bakery, was well known throughout the area. The Bakery closed in May 2003 and is now a private house.

"My Nan Eira worked in Rhes y Cae Stores. She loved it and of course John baked the best bread in the area."

Anthony James Griffiths



■ Bakery employee 75-year-old Eira Jones.

Siopau

Roedd Siop Rhes y Cae, neu Fecws y Brodyr Jones, yn enwog drwy'r ardal. Fe gaeodd y Becws yn Mai 2003 ac mae bellach yn dŷ preifat.

"We used to have bread delivered on a Monday and Thursday. I used to race home from school to get a slice. After the shop in Lixwm closed down I rode there on my bike to buy sweets."

Stuart Sigsworth

"Ham, bread and funeral bread (barabrith) was the best around. And great service too. Happy memories!"

Tina Williams

Rose Queen Carnival

The first Rhosesmor Carnival Queen, Miss Grace Blackwell, was crowned in 1911. The Carnival continued until 1992. The procession would start from the Red Lion and be led by the band.



"I will always be eternally grateful to those lovely hard working members of the committee. Mr Corkingdale, Les Wilson, Tom Wilson. Eira drilled us walking to Greensleeves hour after hour until we got it right."

I don't think they ever realised just what they were giving to those young people. I was normally shy and lacking in confidence but when part of the carnival all that changed. I was proud to be the Rhosesmor FC Carnival Queen and represent Rhosesmor from 1966 to 1968 visiting many carnivals across Wales. I can still remember my crowning ceremony speech (written by Les Wilson). My experience as the Queen gave me confidence and self belief, the support I needed through my teen years."

Sandra Knowles



Carnifal y Rose Queen

Coronwyd Miss Grace Blackwell yn Frenhines gyntaf Carnifal Rhosesmor, yn 1911. Parhaodd y Carnifal tan 1992. Byddai'r orymdaith yn cychwyn o'r Llew Coch a'r band yn ei arwain.

"The Rose Carnival would make money for the football club. It was a massive event. People came from Liverpool and all over. There was Morris dancing, visiting carnival queens and best float competitions. Everyone in the village made roses for the floats. Mrs Thomas from the Wern Cornel y Cae, made the dresses"



"How many of us spent hour upon hour cutting and shaping the crepe paper roses for the lorries? 'Aunty' Megan would sit in our house helping, and talking twenty to the dozen, and drinking copious amounts of tea! Happy days!"

Jenny Baker-Griffiths



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Women's Institute

Penny Manning, a current member of Rhosesmor WI has talked to two of the members who were there at the beginning.

Sylvia Jones Davies, Margaret Doyle and her daughter Audrey, were involved in starting the WI. There was much interest in the movement so along with a few friends Margaret introduced the WI to the village.



The group started in 1957. The 'powers that be' were impressed with the enthusiasm and the youth of the group members. The WI met once a month on a Monday night, which it continues to do today.

The first president was Mrs Nellie Morris, the first secretary was Mrs M. Roberts and the first treasurer was Mrs Elsie Bellis.

As soon as girls were old enough, at about 15, they were able to belong to the WI. Both Audrey and Sylvia were members when young. To become a member you needed to be proposed and seconded by current members.

The Rhosesmor WI was a very lively group. Every Christmas a dinner dance was organised at the Springfield Hotel and husbands were invited. As now, group outings were organised. One special outing that Audrey and Sylvia remember was a trip to London to see a show. A bus picked up the ladies and

Sefydliad y Merched

Mae Penny Manning, aelod o WI Rhosesmor ar hyn o bryd, wedi bod yn siarad â dwy o'r aelodau oedd yno ar y cychwyn.

Roedd Sylvia Jones Davies, Margaret Doyle a'i merch Audrey yn rhan o sefydlu'r WI. Roedd llawer o ddiddordeb yn y mudiad felly gydag ychydig o ffrindiau fe gyflwynodd Margaret y WI i'r pentref. Dechreuodd y grŵp yn 1957. Roedd y'rhai oedd mewn grym' wedi gwirioni gyda brwdfrydedd ac oed ifanc aelodau'r grŵp. Roedd y WI yn cyfarfod unwaith y mis ar nos Lun, ac mae'n dal i wneud hynny heddiw.

Y llywydd cyntaf oedd Mrs Nellie Morris, yr ysgrifennydd cyntaf oedd Mrs M Roberts a'r trysorydd cyntaf oedd Mrs Elsie Bellis.

Unwaith roedd genethod yn ddigon hen, tua 15 oed, roeddynt yn cael bod yn aelod o'r WI. Roedd Audrey a Sylvia'n aelodau pan yn ifanc. I ddod yn aelod rhaid i chi gael eich enwebu a'ch eilio gan yr aelodau presennol.

Roedd WI Rhosesmor yn grŵp bywiog. Pob Nadolig trefnwyd cinio a dawns yng Ngwesty'r Springfield ac roedd y gwŷr yn cael gwahoddiad. Fel heddiw trefnwyd teithiau. Un daith arbennig mae Audrey a Sylvia yn ei chofio oedd taith i Lundain i weld sioe. Roedd bws yn codi'r merched a mynd â nhw i orsaf



Women's Institute

took them all to Flint Station. Everyone had a wonderful day but many were exhausted on the journey home having spent the day exploring London sights and finishing with the show.

They formed a drama group, directed and produced by a very competent Mrs Muriel Roberts of Plas-Yn-Rhos farm, Mrs Roberts Caerfallwch. It was a source of great fun and hilarity.



Sefydliad y Merched

Y Fflint. Cafodd pawb ddiwrnod bendigedig ond roedd llawer wedi blino'n lân ar y ffordd adre wedi treulio'r diwrnod yn crwydro golygfeydd Llundain cyn gorffen gyda'r sioe.

Fe ffurfion nhw griw drama, oedd yn cael ei gyfarwyddo a'i gynhyrchu gan Mrs Muriel Roberts fferm Plas-Yn-Rhos, Mrs Roberts Caerfallwch. Roedd digon o hwyl a chwerthin i'w gael yno.



Youth Groups

Over the years Rhosesmor has hosted Scout and Cub groups, Beaver Scouts, Girl Guides and Boys Brigade groups. Meeting in the village hall (Institute) or Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

The Church Boys Brigade used to meet once a week in Ysgol Rhoshelyg, run by the vicar Leslie Edwards and helped by Glyn Jones. It was like a youth club and we would compete against other Boys Brigades in football and athletics. We went to camp in Prestatyn and met boys from all over the north west. Your uniform had to be spotlessly clean.

"I remember the Girl Guides practising hospital corners on one of the beds in the castle. We were all invited to Sandra Bevans wedding and had a sly taste of champagne!"

Constance Jones



Grwpiau Ieuencid

Dros y blynyddoedd mae Rhosesmor wedi cynnal grwpiau Sgowtiaid a Cybiau, Sgowtiaid Afanc, Geidiau a Brigâd y Bechgyn a'r cyfarfodydd un ai yn neuadd y pentref (Institiwt) neu yn Ysgol Rhos Helyg.

Roedd Brigâd Bechgyn yr Eglwys yn arfer cyfarfod unwaith yr wythnos yn Ysgol Rhoshelyg. Y ficer Leslie Edwards oedd yn ei redeg gyda chymorth Glyn Jones. Roedd yn debyg i glwb ieuencid a roeddem yn cystadlu yn erbyn Brigâdau y Bechgyn eraill mewn pêl-droed ac athletau. Aethom i wersyll ym Mhrestatyn a chyfarfod bechgyn o bob rhan o'r gogledd-orllewin. Roedd yn rhaid i'ch gwisg fod yn hollol lân.



Horse Riding

The open Mountain in the Rhosesmor area has been enjoyed by horse riders for many years.

"In the late 1960s my sister and I used to ride at Shelagh Hughes' riding stables in Berth Ddu. Shelagh was very good and allowed us to spend every Saturday there and as many days in the school holidays as we could. She had a very relaxed attitude towards us and we learnt a great deal about horses and riding from her."

"We would get the 5pm Phillips' bus home. To me now, one of the amazing things that happened was that if we were late, the bus driver would beep his horn to remind us of the time and wait for us to run down the field so as not to miss the bus. I think the conductor at that time was Matty and she would give us a ticket, but ask for it back when we got off the bus! In those days the bus would stop anywhere, you only needed to put out your hand. It was a very friendly and helpful culture."

Jackie Blain

Marchogaeth

Mae marchogwyr ceffylau wedi mwynhau'r mynydd agored yn ardal Rhosesmor ers blynnyddoedd lawer.



Horse Riding

"We came to Bryn Ffynnon Farm in 1977. I had my own riding school in Northop and we always used to ride up to The Mountain on a two hour ride. It is a really fantastic place to ride. We were able to buy Bryn Ffynnon because the Banks family were starting to sell their land. We were really lucky, but we had to start again because we had sold most of the ponies. It was good for us though as it got us up here on The Mountain. Our riding school finished in 1993 and I am so glad that the paths have grown over green again and it is now unrecognizable with the gorse bushes and trees that have grown on the Wern."

Netta Rowlands



Marchogaeth



"Best time of my life was with the RDA at Netta's. We all had so much fun and I am sure we all learnt so much too. We all had our favourites. Morgan was one of mine. Happy fun days. Thanks Netta Rowlands & Win for the memories."

Jan Williams

"Such amazing years Netta Rowlands and wonderful memories. We had so much fun with your fabulous ponies !! And learnt so much too. Thank you so much. I absolutely adored Pinky and Pall and of course Fay, to name only a few."

Lynne Symms

"I'd been riding up here since I was about 10, firstly going out on rides with Shelagh Hughes. We rode a lot together at pony club and she took me to my first hunt in Nannerch on a leading rein because I was terrified!! I was quite a nervous rider and I think that's why I always did well with children who were nervous riding my ponies, because I knew what it was like."

Netta Rowlands

Sports

Over the years Rhosesmor has been very successful in many sports, with clubs enabling people to get involved. Local people have been involved nationally in Tug of War competitions and the cricket club, which was in the area of Pant Quarry. Football has always been popular and even today you will see youngsters playing at the village playground.



"Rhosesmor football club was formed in 1946 and disbanded in 1954. The club was reformed the following season after two years under the name of Voel Rangers but disbanded after two years. In 1963 the club was reformed under the name of Rhosesmor F.C. In the 1966/67 season the club had outstanding success in winning the Halkyn League Challenge Cup and Bowl, also finishing in a high position in the League. The club was very well supported by the fans and the hardworking committee. Sadly there is no longer a football club in the village. The club organised a Rose Queen Carnival for many years to raise funds."



Chwaraeon

Dros y blynyddoedd bu Rhosesmor yn llwyddiannus iawn mewn sawl camp a chlybiau yno i alluogi pobl i gymryd rhan. Mae trigolion lleol wedi bod yn rhan o gystadlaethau Tynnu Rhaff cenedlaethol a'r clwb criced, oedd yn ardal Chwarel Pant. Mae pêl-droed bob amser yn boblogaidd a hyd yn oed heddiw fe welwch blant yn chwarae ar le chwarae'r pentref.



Shooting Club

The Jones brothers, renowned for their balers, also established the local clay pigeon shooting club.



The North Wales Shooting Club took place in the school field and used a caravan made by Ogwen y Saer, who hand made caravans. The window

was adapted to take in entries for the shooting. Glynne Jones and David Jones carried on the shooting club at Sealand. When the factory was sold David (Jones) continued to make the clays in Rhosesmor in the Jones Balers site. The clay would be heated up in the hopper and the clay stamped. If ever there was a power cut all the clay would solidify.

"Sir Jackie Stewart the Formula 1 racing driver was a frequent visitor to the North Wales Shooting Club. In his book, 'Winning is Not Enough' he says he spent many happy weekends with Glynne Jones (Jones the Baler) and his wife Hazel, daughters Vivienne and Sylvia and sons Noel and Allan. Allan became one of his best friends and was best man at his wedding and his girlfriend Shan was their bridesmaid. Jackie says that Glynne Jones taught him a lot; how to be competitive and how to lead a balanced life and maintain a consistent level of performance."



Clwb Saethu

Fe wnaeth y brodyr Jones, a ddaeth yn enwog am eu belars, hefyd gychwyn y clwb saethu colomennod clai lleol.

Yng nghae'r ysgol y cynhaliwyd Clwb Saethu Gogledd Cymru a defnyddiwyd carafan a wnaed gan Ogwen y Saer, oedd yn gwneud carafannau â llaw. Fe addaswyd y ffenest i fedru derbyn ceisiadau'r cystadleuwyr. Fe wnaeth Glynne Jones a David Jones ddal ati gyda'r clwb saethu yn Sealand. Pan werthwyd y ffatri parhaodd David (Jones) i wneud y cleiau yn Rhosesmor ar safle Jones Balers. Byddai'r clai yn cael ei gynhesu yn yr hopran ac yna rhoddwyd nod ar y clai. Pe byddai toriad yn y cyflenwad trydan byddai'r holl glai yn caledu.

"I earned my student cash working in the clay pigeon factory on the main road there and had the privilege of going to the North Wales shooting every now and again and met Sir Jackie Stewart. I was absolutely filthy going home every night. I think I got paid something like four quid!!"

Pauline Peachey



Was Mine

*The mine cars wait in line.
On the pit head railway track.
They're waiting for the miners.
But they're never coming back.
The miners took their final pay.
Then, heavy hearted.
Went away.*

*And now the mine is silent.
For the first time since it's birth.
Save for the dripping water.
That is talking to the earth.
The pumps are lying idle now.
With water all around.
Rising, incrementally.
To the gentle dripping sound.*

*And soon, electric motors.
Will have passed beyond repair.
As water floods their windings.
While they're sitting helpless, there.
And out upon the hillside.
Forlorn, the pylons stand.
Reaching to each other.
Far out, across the land.*

*And the seagulls on the wires.
Know little of the mine,
But they're sensing something different.
When they perch upon the line.
And they'll wait in vain, for scraps of food.
That the miners throw away.
When, the shifts are changing.
At the end of their working day.*

Douglas Thompsom 2010



E Lloyd-Davies



E Lloyd-Davies

