

Mervyn Harkett

Born 1924, lowest house in St Quintins Terrace, Llanblethian. Father was Sam Harkett, builder, who worked for WH James in 1897 (Mervyn has work sheet dated April 1897). Father had 3 gardens, including a chicken run, and a garden below the house.

He went to school on Broadway, with Mr Sloman as his teacher.

He went to chapel in Ramoth, the Band of Hope, and the Sons of Temperance in the Limes. Gilead Spencer the wheelwright was a deacon in the chapel; he organised an insurance scheme for people out of work. His son was Glyn, who was an undertaker in Bear Lane. (Gomer Spencer worked for the Griffiths grocers, who left the shop to him. Mr Hill the Labour Exchange was the choirmaster in the chapel; had an organ upstairs. Gomer played the organ.

Coach trips from the Commercial organised by a policeman. Sunday excursions 'across the border' because of Sunday closing in Wales. Bebbs coaches - knew some venues where drink would be available in Wales too.

Llanblethian

Mill - Stones (he was a footballer from Cardiff). They had a shop in the mill near the kissing gate.

Piccadilly - George 'Fanny' Williams in Brooklyn, supplied eggs and butter

On other side of the road - Gilbert Williams, then Chisells, Lottie Jones, Mrs Boobyer and Mrs Williams* (*Mrs Williams, then Battens, then Marion Adams, then Stamatakis)

Cottages under the Hill - Jack Harris (sons Ronnie and Roy); James (Ossie the son); then in Danygraig, Ashcroft, timber people. The Harrises and Jameses kept goats; Jameses sheep as well, Cut fern from the hill for bedding. Jack Harris and Fred Chisell used to keep the paths on Llanblethian Hill cut back.

Causeway - Maud and Glyn Thomas, Mrs Parsons, Tom ?

Dyffryn House - Jack Burnage who had the papershop in Cowbridge

Factory - Wm Jenkins

Westbury - Polly Williams

Bungalows and houses opposite built by Bob Thomas

P.O. - Mr and Mrs Wild

Malthouse - used for storage

Leys - Palmers, the Curate, etc

Belgrave - Gaskell the solicitor

Kingscombe - Dick Jenkins, farmer

New House Farm - Jenkins

?Dulce Domum? Mr Shewring Took flowers to Cardiff market. His view of Llanblethian from the house "his little Switzerland"

Lane between Bute and Chy Avallan - Bill Hopkins, and Mr Evans, gardener in Crossways

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Vicarage - Revd Williams

Hill House - Crawshays

Cross House - Byass

Picton - Chedzoy

Llewelyn's next door - Min Llewellyn's family

Then Dicker - gardener for Crawshay

Folly Farm ?Jenkins - came to Brookfield Park

Wooden bungalow in field behind Stallcourt - Mrs Davies, followed by Sedgebeer

Pentwyn - Arthur Jones' mother and father

Cross Inn - Martha Powell

Back to Bridge Road - cottages near brook - Shaws and Whites

Great House - Bob Morgan, butcher. Not a drop of blood wasted - wonderful black puddings. Slaughterhouse now Old Barn

Mardy cottage - Baverstock, then Punter (Mervyn's granny) Mrs Punter was in service at Llanblethian Farm to the Jonses (Thomases came later)

Greenfield - Ted Warren and his mother

Bridge Farm - Mr Jones, smallholding, with 2 daughters. Milking cows and chickens

Em Royle's cottage - Ted Surrey. Boys used to pick on him. Had a wild cockerel which would go for you. Vaughan boys would put a sack over the chimney - knock at the door

Greenfield Tce - Jenkins, Vaughans

Bakehouse - Johnny the Bakehouse, then Roberts, then John Jenkins

Ho next to mill - Mary Jane, a cripple, and Curly Jack in one, Ted Lewis the insurance man in the other

Firs - Butlers. Big shed of battery hens when M was a boy

St Qs Tce: Harketts

Haymans, roadman - kept chickens in the Pound

Turveys, grammar school gardener; followed by Mr Harold Penny

Cairns - Mr and Mrs Davies, then Phillips

St Qs - Philpotts

Castle Cottage - Jenkins family

Porth y Green - Edwards

Broadway Hill

Bob Thomas the builder built his own house on the right hand side

2 cottages on the left - Checketts (who had a shoe shop in Cowbridge)

Ashcroft (who used to live in Danygraig)

Then Miss Hopkin

Beechcourt - Harry Thomas' father, who loved playing cards and was a great whistler

Bryn y fro - Arthur Gwyn

Windmill Lane - McAdam on L (teacher in GS)

far end, Vivian Gwyn. 2 cottages - Phillips, ?

Cyril Morgan's chicken ground, with Leghorns and Sussex, on LHS of Windmill

Lane

Cusop - Cyril Morgan

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2 cottages next - Miss Morgan (worked for Gaskell & Walker)

West Winds - Dai Watts

Dai Cox's farm on Broadway, next to a quarry where rubbish was dumped

Alf Charles' house - Rees family

Town Mill in ruins. Behind it, slaughterhouse used by Porth y Green Edwardses. The two cottages occupied - Sanders family.

Verlands - Tip Williams. Had a paddock in the front of the house, railed off, for his hunters. In the war, used for growing oats. Next (where Southway is now) Tom Pratt's garden.

Cowbridge

Dynevor was split into two - Dena (Bird) Williams in one part. Next was Tom Pratt's flower garden. In it, a model cottage, thatched - like the royal one - by Tom David (made for Rosie Pratt). In Rose Cottage lived a Mr John who used to go to Ramoth.

Cowbridge

Greyhound - Mrs Villis. Tramps used to call in with a slip of paper, and would get a culf of bread, cheese and tea, and would then go to nearby houses to get hot water to make the tea. They would eat on the seat by the pump in East Village.

Westgate - Mr Russell. His picture in the hall - he looked like WG Grace. Had a sweet shop, also selling pop, right at the back of the pub. Had 2 daughters. They wanted him to play county cricket, but he wanted to stay in Cowbridge.

Near H & G - Cliff Stone the barber; was a wholesale tobacconist, supplying other shops in Cowbridge.

Harry Lewis greengrocer in Hollwar's.

Jim the Cooper - Mervyn used to take him the Echo and Football Echo, especially the Football echo. Tallish man, not very stout. 'An old-fashioned sort of person'. Lived on his own in what is now 75 High Street. A very cluttered room filled with his tools all over the place: his workshop as well as his living room. Would band the barrels outside. Used to sit in a chair in the corner near the fire

In Cowbridge May fair, Mervyn's father was hired (for a year), as was Walter Carswell. Walter went as a trapman for Dr Meller, then to work on the railway (later a fireman). Harketts moved to Cowbridge in 1934, to 23 Westgate (parents were caretakers of the chapel) Mrs Tilley in Ivy House, No 25. Johnson Miles in No 27; Mervyn can remember 2 double decker buses coming from the valleys, with the men queuing up to get advice from Miles.

Photo of British Legion, 1959

		Reuben Owen	Alan Davies	Harry Gibbs		
Mr Conway	Len Chatt	Ken Hutchings	Maud Thomas	Tom Bessant	Mervyn Harkett	Frank Hess

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Foot and Mouth epidemic during the war

Infected animals shot, buried, covered in quicklime. Large holes dug in various places in Llanblethian - near Eye Well spring, behind factory in Factory Road (dug very quickly by 5 German prisoner of war), behind Darren farm. Uninfected animals slaughtered too, but then butchered for meat, etc. Only bones etc buried