

MAENDY  
YOUNG FARMERS



50  
GOLDEN  
YEARS

# WELCOME

As Maendy's 50th year approached we as a committee set out to trace the club's history. After consulting many members past and present, the result is this book, which is not so much a history as a collection of memories.

We hope you enjoy them and that they evoke pleasant thoughts of your own.

## 50 Years!

It is with some regret and pride that I write these notes. It was in the late autumn of 1939 that I was approached by a Mr. Reg Evans who was on the staff of the demonstration farm at Pencoed. He was instrumental in doing the ground work to start to get together as many as possible of the young people in the Maendy, Ystradowen and surrounding areas associated with agriculture with a view of forming a young farmers club.

It should be clearly understood that the formation of Maendy and District Young Farmers Club was due entirely to the enthusiasm of the Misses Gwladys and Ashleen Radcliffe, having moved from Margam where they were members of a thriving YFC to live at Greenfield near Maendy. The meeting of interested young farmers was held at Maendy Council School and chaired I think by the County Federation Chairman, the late Mr. David Thomas J.P. of Dros-y-mor, Llantwit Major. The club was formed and I was greatly honoured by having been elected the first club chairman. My task was made easier by the fact that the first elected secretary was Miss Ashleen Radcliffe (later Mrs. T. Llewellyn) who already had club experience. We were fortunate also in having the support of a number of prominent local farmers.

As the years pass by ones memory becomes dimmed, and I have little recollection of what happened in 1940 but I have found a 1941 diary in which are some pencilled notes. By this time it seems we were holding our meetings at the Church Hall Ystradowen, later to move to Cowbridge as it was more central to the area from which our members were drawn. I can not think why it was left so late but it does appear that we now decided to draw up rules. Rule 1: That the club be known as "The Maendy and District Young Farmers Club". Rule 2: That the club be open to "Farmers, their sons and daughters, and anyone interested in Agriculture". The aim of the club to produce Good Farmers, Good Country men and Good citizens.

The benefit of dividing the club into two sections for the sake of club competitions and debates was also discussed. We were also told by Rev. A. D. Collier, vicar of Ystradowen that Sunday the 23rd March 1941 was a special day of prayer and he appealed to us to attend as a club the 6.10pm service on that day. On another page of the same diary are the names of three new members, and by each name is entered 1 shilling. Was that the membership fee, I wonder?

The club activities were educational and entertaining. 1939 to 1945 were the war years when everyone was at full stretch and a huge ploughing up campaign started. There was the year of a food shortage, so all engaged in agriculture were in a reserved occupation and were not required to join the armed forces, but most either joined the Home Guard or the ARP. Overnight the farmers became the friends of the nation.

Early in 1942 an unfortunate family event tied me even closer to the farm at home. The pressure of work was such that I fitted lights on the tractor to enable me to work during the hours of darkness. Food rationing and emergency regulations continued for some considerable time. We at Crofta Farm were awarded a certificate for increased milk production - a far cry from todays quotas and production restrictions, but I continued to enjoy club activities.

I have notes on a debate "That Country Life is better than town life" and although there

were a number of Wick members present the main speakers were all from Maendy. The voting was 28 for and 16 against. Debates invariably gave quite a lot of enjoyment especially if a prominent speaker was present. The Rev. Arthur, Vicar of Colwinston spoke on one occasion for Wick YFC and Mr. Dick Stein spoke on behalf of the Cowbridge branch of the NFU as did the late Mr. Mervyn Morgan. On occasions when it was my lot to lead for Maendy I would write out my speech and if I had enough of the right sort of tractor work - rolling or harrowing - I would memorize it. There were no radios in tractors in those days.

If I remember correctly most of the former staff of the demonstration farm, became members of the Agricultural Advisory Service and we were fortunate to be able to call on them from time to time for instruction and lectures. We were told while being instructed on beef cattle that a good beef animal should look like a brick with the corners trimmed off. Is that still relevant? It seems to be that beef animals today stick out in all sorts of odd places.

Another interesting craft we were taught was rick thatching - no longer necessary, but quite important in those days. Our instructor thatched the Dolls House which is situated at Royal Lodge, Windsor. It did however, have to be thatched a second time because while being transported to Windsor a spark from a steam engine set the thatch on fire. Some indication of the change in the mode of transport.

Other notes I have are of events in the early fifties. I do not wish to intrude into someone else's thoughts, but I must correct a misapprehension. I thought that the club won the National Efficiency Shield in 1947. That was not so and I quote from my notes. On Wednesday 5th December 1951 the club had a talk on "Local History" by a Mr. Goulden and the National Efficiency judges were present. At the very end of that month the club was aware that it had won the final in the National Efficiency competition, and then on Wednesday 21st May 1952 the club travelled by train to London to receive the shield. I hope to read elsewhere in this publication who received the shield on the club's behalf as my memory fails me yet again.

Then of course there was the round of socials, whist drives and dances when we were transported to neighbouring club functions by our ever faithful coach driver Alan Edwards. These events were necessary to get together funds to pay federation fees and other expenses.

From information I received it is obvious that the club continues to flourish. I would like to think we early members built it on a good foundation, but having said that, I hope it will not detract in anyway from the credit which must be due to those who have continued to take an active interest in the clubs well being, and to successive members who have kept club activities alive. It can be demanding in time and effort.

May the club continue to thrive.

*Ninian Lewis.*

# Memory

Memory is a faculty that we have been blessed with although it's amazing how often it lets us down. It is said that you can remember what you want to and having been involved in Maendy Young Farmers since its formation I well recall these initial meetings and how enthusiasm played its part. The first meeting was held at Maendy Primary School, hence the title and having been appointed secretary in that initial meeting it gave me an early insight into the running of an organisation involving people of varying ages. Fortunately we all had a common objective to learn more about the industry from which we obtained our livelihood.

Life in the Vale in those early years of the Second World War was very different from what it is today. The tractor had not taken the place of the horse, cows were milked in cow sheds, mainly by hand, few by machine. Transport for us was either a bicycle or you walked and the highlight of the week was the pictures in Cowbridge on a Saturday night. The Rhondda bus ran from Talbot Green to Cowbridge and back on the hour from the town hall, so after the pictures it was hurry to the chip shop, two packets of chips please, these would cost one shilling, which is five pence in today's money.

How true it is, "that what you never had you don't miss" and as young people we enjoyed ourselves and made our own entertainment whether it was at home or elsewhere. The formation of the club widened our horizons and we drew up an initial programme, speakers on topical subjects, contact with other clubs and organisations and social events culminating in competition at the annual rally.

We did not realise at the time but we were almost pioneers in an Agricultural Revolution. The country was at war, farmers and farming had to change to meet needs of a country that was literally besieged, food imports which had brought about the slump in farming between the wars had dried up. Rationing of food was introduced and farmers were directed to grow much needed grain to sustain the nations needs.

Those of us who were of conscription age had to obtain exemption certificates confirming their presence at home was vital to the food production. It was not all doom and gloom and we put as much effort into the club activities in our leisure time as we made for the war effort.

The first real achievement as a club was the year we won the County Efficiency Shield at the Rally. We were fortunate in having a good number of members who were able to benefit from the training they received for Public Speaking, Stock Judging and many other skills. It was never easy to stay at the top but it serves to spur one on to make greater efforts and Maendy established itself as a leading club in the county.

The great achievement of course was to win the National Efficiency Shield in 1951, which culminated in a trip to London on May 21st 1952 for the presentation ceremony.

Time stands still for no one and I like many others had by the early fifties married and set up home and naturally a period of inactivity followed, nevertheless, I always maintained an interest and helped the club whenever I could.

I have been fortunate to have lived and farmed within the club area and derived a great deal of pleasure from my own family taking part in both Maendy Club and County Young Farmers affairs.

Sincerely, *Ashleen Llewellyn.*



Club members outside the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 1947

## Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to the Maendy and District Young Farmers Club on attaining the 50th anniversary. I feel privileged to have been asked to contribute to the anniversary magazine and no doubt represent many of the older members.

I joined the club in 1942 having left school, and was an active member until I attained my 25th birthday. From then on I helped in any way possible as an advisory member until January 1954 when Charles and I moved and went farming at Trelick, Nr. Monmouth. Naturally we were always in contact with the club activities and on a few occasions I was asked to judge at the County Rally.

How different the transport was in those days, a group of us from Llandough and St. Mary Church used to cycle to Ystradowen every week - come rain, hail, sleet or snow. In 1944 it was decided to move to Cowbridge. This was a great decision - a few miles less for us! but perhaps not such a good idea for the Ystradowen and Maendy members - although they travelled on the service bus! We met at the Grammar School dining hall for a while and then moved to the Old Hall. From then on the membership improved considerably. In fact, by now we were able to split some of our meetings into senior & junior, or boys & girls. This proved very successful, especially for the younger members.

Looking back in time, I can honestly say it was the comradeship amongst the members, their parents and the friends that put Maendy YFC in the foreground for so many years. We all seemed to pull together at work or play.

At this point I would like to say a big thank you to the people of Cowbridge and District for making the club so welcome and for all the help everyone offered us. There are many names that come to mind. If I do not mention anyone individually no one will be offended - we all worked together.

The highlights of the year were - the AGM, Winter Competitions, New Years Party, Annual Dance (once the band failed to arrive, but as luck would have it we had Mr. Arnold and his band just around the corner). The Mock Rally (when a member lost all his petrol ration, going too fast and hit a stone). The Annual Rally (who was on board when the bus lost its bonnet at Jersey Marine?) Pendoylan & Ystradowen Sheep Shearing Match (who were the kind boys who helped to scrape half a cwt of small new potatoes). The Annual Outing (when a nice coy lady lost her petticoat on Clifton Suspension Bridge). The Annual Christmas Whist Drive (when we just could not squeeze another table into the Town Hall). The Parents Entertainment Evening - those were the days!

The Mock Rally proved a great success. The rally competitions were taken seriously and the winner from each section went forward to Rally. We were lucky to have so many members to enable us to choose our final competitors in this manner. We felt it was the fairest way to make our final choice.

The County Rally Day was of great importance, having worked hard to coach and help our members to take part in the Mock Rally, we arrived with great confidence. Our first thoughts were to find out our results from the Winter Competitions. These were best kept minute book, best planned winter programme, stock judging, hedging and banking, replanning farm buildings and farm houses and various other competitions. We mostly did fairly well - a good start for our count of points, and by the end of the day we were often even more pleased with the results. Here again I would like to mention many members who rewarded the club with such wonderful results not only at County Level but at National Level, at Smithfield, The Dairy Show and many other shows over the country, but in fairness to all - it was Maendy Club we all worked for.

The amalgamation of Pendoylan and Ystradowen Sheep Shearing Society gave the club even more responsibility. For a few years the girl members provided the supper at the Church Hall, Ystradowen on the evening of the match. It was quite a task, but we had the satisfaction of knowing it was so appreciated.

Cowbridge Show was an important part of the life of the club. We were able to help in many ways. Many of our members took part in the competitions for young farmers in a special arena and also provided a great attraction to the public. It certainly brought to notice what went on within the young farmers movement.

Probably the most interesting evening was the parents entertainment guest evening held in the town hall. I am sure many parents arrived not knowing what to expect and believe me - that is what happened. We certainly produced some good comedians and varied programmes.

The Annual Whist Drive at the town hall was always a great success. Many parents and friends supported us and gave so generously that even our treasurer looked forward to this event.

The New Years Party, when so many of us listened to the Cowbridge church bells ring in the New Year.

The visit of the six TOCH members from America was a wonderful experience. The hosts met them at Queen Street Station, and returned with them to stay in our midst for several days. We were all entertained by the County Federation, the Major of Cowbridge and visited many places of interest, locally and throughout the county. We heard many tales of Texas, California, Utah, Kansas and Vermont. Indeed we were all sorry to bid them farewell at Cardiff Station- there were tears shed mark you!

Possibly it was the lack of petrol during the war and for a few years afterwards that helped the club with many of its successes. This is where I would like to mention Mr. Allan Edwards of Talbot Green who provided us with transport. He was always so helpful when transport was needed - annual outings, rallies, dances, shows in fact, anywhere we wished to go, picking us all up one by one on his way. When the club achieved some special result he gave the club a free mystery trip, often two coaches. I firmly believe this added to the clubs' success during those years. We all went along together at work and play.

I feel it is my absolute duty to mention the late Mr. Tudor Llewellyn, Mr. Glyn Thomas (Pentre Meyrick) and Mr. Emlyn Thomas. They certainly would have been so proud to have known that the club is celebrating 50 years and still going strong.

May I take this opportunity to wish the club every success in the future. Charles and I still hold our heads up high and are always pleased to tell folks that we once belonged to Maendy. Our greatest memory will always be attending the National AGM at the Central Hall Westminster and witnessing our leader the late Glyn Thomas receiving the National Efficiency Shield.

Carry on the good work Maendy - we are all proud of you.

*Betty Mathew.*

*Mock Rally 1951*







To the *Members of the*  
**MAENDY AND DISTRICT  
YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB**

**T**e your friends and well-wishers, desiring to offer you our congratulations on your continued success, here place on record our appreciation and admiration of the untiring efforts and enthusiasm which have made you the leading Y.F.C. in Glamorgan.

**T**he energy and efficiency displayed by your Club since its inception in December 1939, led to success when you won the County Efficiency Shield for the first time in 1947. This honour you retained in 1948, 1949 and 1950, thus establishing in no uncertain manner your position as the first Y.F.C. in Glamorgan.

**Y**our efforts, however, were not confined to winning the County Efficiency Shield. With commendable enterprise your members have challenged competitors outside the County of Glamorgan, and have brought to the Club leading honours from the London Dairy Show, the Bath and West Show, the Royal Show, the Royal Welsh Show and the Hereford County Show.

**T**hese achievements have been made possible by the wise guidance of your Officers and the whole-hearted co-operation of all members, and we, who have watched with pride the sure and sturdy growth of your Club, hope that these successes will inspire you to wider and greater efforts in the future.

**T**he activities of your Club offer you the means of becoming intelligent and worthy members of the community, as well as happy and efficient agriculturists.

*May your efforts to these ends be crowned with further success.*

*On behalf of Friends and  
Well-Wishers*

*A. Powell* Chairman

*J. Howell* Treasurer

*W. H. Whitting* Secretary

3rd. October 1950

# National Efficiency Competition

Maendy won the County Shield four years running in 1947, 48, 49 & 50. The Cowbridge Town Council headed by the Mayor Mrs. Hinton, who was a vice president of Maendy, gave the club in conjunction with the local farmers, a dinner dance. Spurred on by our County success we entered the National Efficiency Competition in 1950-51, which was for all clubs in Great Britain, to find the best run club, run by members under the age of 25. In 1950-51 while John Llewellyn, Tynewedd, was in the chair the club was judged on written work, reports etc which were sent into the judges. In 1951-52 while I was chairman, the club was judged by visits to the club meetings.

The Area Judge was a Mr. B. J. Griffiths, who was a rather short, fat jovial chap who kept asking Mary Maddock questions! The next judge for Wales was a lady but I cannot recall her name. We were then visited by a National Judge who was a Miss Johnstone from Cornwall. I remember that she had hands like shovels, and that she milked a herd of Jersey cows. Miss Johnstone arrived on parents night which was held at the Town Hall. She was particularly amused by the Black and White Minstrels, one of whom was Peter Jarvis, with his black face and ginger curly hair! Miss Johnstone made a brilliant speech, the Queen had just come to the throne, and youth was to the fore. With the Town Hall clock striking midnight, I as club chairman, had to thank her and wind up the whole evening, (the dustcart after the Lord Mayors Show). Another Judge came unexpectedly about three weeks later. I cannot think of her name, but she was very easy going and relaxed about the whole affair.

Club Officers for 1950-51 were:- President: T. J. Llewellyn, St. Hilary. Club Leader: Glyn Thomas, Pentre Meyrick. Secretary: Gwyneth Thomas (Wilde). Min. Secretary: Ann Thomas (Jarvis). Club Officers for the year 1951-52 were the same as the previous year, but with myself taking over from John Llewellyn as chairman.

During the year we took part in several competitions and projects such as the Animal Health Competition at National where we won first prize. Other projects were a collection of twigs by Arthur Paulett, wild flowers by Thelma Lucas and grasses by Kath Thomas. We had First Aid Classes in Llandough Church Hall run by the Rev. Jim Owen (Jim Pigs). Another person who helped us a great deal and would come and give us a talk about almost anything, if someone wasn't able to attend was Rev. Rees, the Vicar of Llansannor.

Club meetings were held at the Old Hall Cowbridge, which was part of the Grammar School. In the school holidays, club meetings were held in the Darren Cowshed, by permission of Mr. E. Adams, and also on one occasion in the clump of trees on Stalling Down, this was however in the summer. As well as the weekly club meetings, club officers used to meet at the old cinema Cowbridge, in the War Ag. Offices, sometimes every evening of the week.

On 29th April 1952, we were informed that we had won the National Efficiency Competition with 80%. The second club had 75%.

On 21st May 1952, at 6.15 am, 2 of Alan Edwards's buses left Rhydyhalog for Cardiff Station. We had 74 seats booked for the A.G.M. at Central Hall Westminster. Mr. Glyn Thomas, club leader was presented with the shield by Lady Dugdale, who was the wife of

the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr. John Llewellyn, Tynewydd received the cup for the Animal Health Competition. The club was told to look after the shield, if we were taking it to the dance, after the meeting as it may be hi-jacked by other counties! We hauled it across London to Paddington Station and asked if we could leave it at the Station for safe keeping, but they did not want to know. So we took it to the Railway Hotel, Paddington and asked if they would look after it, and keep it safe, while we went to the dance. When we went back to fetch it, it was on a table in the middle of the foyer inside the front door on display. We caught the 1am train home and arrived in Cardiff at 5.30am to be met by Alun Edwards' buses once again. Our success spurred on the other clubs in the county to work harder and in 1952 we lost the County Shield to Pentyrch, but we regained it once again the following year. The dinner dance, was once again given to us to mark our success in the National Efficiency Competition, and from then on became an annual event.

*William Lougher.*



*Members with the National Efficiency Shield 1952*

# Alan Edwards

W.A. & R. Edwards, Talbot Green, was the bus company that the club hired. The club bus was always driven by Alan Edwards himself. As Alan has been mentioned in so many of the articles we thought it would be a good idea to have a chat to him and hear his views on the club. Unfortunately he was in hospital at the time, although very poorly he was happy to recall that "They were a grand lot". He refused to let any secrets out, he was far too loyal to those youngsters of the past! He did however say "that if there was any noise or commotion, you bet the late Neil Thomas would either be in the middle or on the side lines!"

Alan remembered coming home late one night and taking a short cut through Swansea Docks, when the bonnet of the bus flew off and the second bus coming behind ran over it. A few of the members had to get out and retrieve it and try and bend it back into some sort of shape before continuing the journey. Bindles was the place to go and Alan made many a journey in that direction, often going home or doing another short run in between, in which case he would go into the dance to wait. Never would you see Alan have a single drink when he was driving. He would just come in and enjoy watching everyone enjoying themselves.

Alan talked of trips to Harris's Bacon Factory in Wiltshire. Trips to Birmingham, the Ford Works, the Bournville Factory and the Standard Ferguson Works at Coventry. On arrival for this particular trip, we were met by a limousine and two important looking gentlemen. The chairman vacated his seat at the front of the bus to go and meet them. That was the last we saw of him, getting into the limousine and disappearing into the factory complex. We all began to get concerned and so Alan decided we had better go in pursuit. Our chairman obviously was overwhelmed by the grand meeting and had forgotten to gesture for the bus to follow. For the rest of the day he was known as Lord Ferguson! It was returning from one of these trips I remember Alan showing us the skills of handling a bus, when he just touched the roadmen's barrow and tipped it into the hole on top of them! This incident I have depicted in the little sketch.

Alan also recalled "The boy from Sigginston, who suffered greatly with breakdown problems. He was often to be seen running after the bus and was known to all as Dai Sing Gallop". Alan remembers the singing on the bus we would never have won the Eisteddfod! The late Mrs. Kitty Francis wrote words for a song at our parents evening and this verse comes to mind:-

Alan Edwards has got a bus,  
But its kicking up a fuss,  
So he put it in the garage,  
And he painted it green as cabbage!

I am sure I speak for all the Young Farmers of those good old days when I say a BIG thank you to Alan for looking after us all as he did, and being such a good sport into the bargain, and thanks to Dave and Chris Lucas for spending the time at his bedside taking down his reminiscing.

*Thelma Lougher.*



ALUN EDWARDS. The man that kept the Club together!  
BIG BROTHER!

# Maendy Y.F.C.

Although I have little or no literary attributes, when I was approached to write a few words about Maendy Y.F.C., the organisation that my young life revolved around, and was my life for about ten years, I really had no hesitation in accepting.

My first memory of Maendy Y.F.C. was of my father coming home from Cowbridge Market one day, telling my mother that a Y.F.C. had been formed at Maendy, and that he had made me a member, so that the required number of members were on the books to start the club. I can also remember that my mother was none too pleased, I think she thought I would give Y.F.C. more attention than schoolwork, particularly as I was only 9 years old, and not very fond of school. I started attending club regularly at 15-16 years of age.

It is thanks to the help and good works of people like the late Mr. Arthur Thomas, Primrose Hill, Mr. Howard Philips, Slade, Mr. Tudor Llewellyn, Old Beaupre and others who helped with the setting up of the club and the hard work put in by the active founder members, such as the Radcliffe sisters - Mrs. Ashleen Llewellyn and her sister Gwladys, Mr. Ninian Lewis, the late Emlyn Thomas and Betty Thomas now Mrs. Charles Mathews, that Maendy has been so successful. These are some of the names that spring to mind, but there were many others who have done more than their bit in helping the club to be the success that it has been over the last 50 years.

I mentioned my mother earlier, which reminds me of all the help, advice and support that parents and families have given to the members over the years and for that matter still goes on today, and this is another reason. I believe, for the club's success.

The club has always been very successful throughout its whole life, but the times that stick in my mind are the late forties and the fifties. One particular memory being the dinner dance given by the parents and supporters of the club to the members, absolutely free, in recognition of winning the County Rally five years in succession. That was the forerunner of the present dance committee which still runs the club's dinner dance.

Another feature of those days were Allan Edwards' buses. They were the usual mode of transport to dances, socials or for that matter any function that members were attending. We used them so frequently over those years, that several summers he would give us a free mystery tour. If only those seats could talk - or perhaps it's just as well they can't!

I may have seemed to put quite a bit of emphasis on the social activities of the club, but the club was very successful in competition, and the highlight was the winning of the National Efficiency Shield in 1951. We were a very well drilled, obedient outfit in those days, with judges visiting our meeting regularly to ascertain how efficiently we ran our affairs. Our leader at the time was the late Mr. Glyn Thomas of Pentre Meyrick. I can see him now. If somebody dared to whisper in the back of the room at a meeting he would only need to raise his eyebrows, or look up and there was absolute silence. Reports were given of all activities, committee meetings, or projects being undertaken. One such project was held on a piece of land kindly lent by Mr. Cyril Lucas at the Downs Farm, St. Hilary where assessments were carried out of varying fertilizer applications. After many months of hard work and many meetings it was a proud day when the club travelled to London's Westminster Hall to collect that coveted shield.

Those are some of the successes that stand out, but Maendy has always been a successful club and I'm sure always will be in the future. In these reminiscences I have mentioned many events and people who stand out in my memory, there are many other people who have done a lot for Maendy and other events, which may spring to other people's minds. I hope that their years spent in Maendy Y.F.C. were as enjoyable as mine and that present and future members will have as pleasant memories as I have.

*Bill Francis.*

*Bill Francis, Jim Jarvis, Jimmy Richards & Gwyn Evans*



*Fertilizer demonstration plot, East Down Farm, St. Hilary*



## My thoughts of Maendy YFC after joining in 1947

My earliest recollection is of competing in horsemanship in the County Rally at Pencoed Demonstration Farm in the spring of 1947 or 1948 (I'm not sure which). Club night was always a bit of a rush, because of the petrol rationing, we usually cycled to different places or farms and then had a lift to club. We looked forward to a dance or a party somewhere between Swansea and Cardiff, this meant being picked up by the gate, Maesybryn Cross or Llanmaes by Alan Edwards' bus, if we were unlucky we would have the very old bus which was usually late.

I think Maendy was very lucky to have a wonderful club President in Mr. Tudor Llewellyn of The Glebe, St. Hilary, and a very good club leader in Mr. Glyn Thomas of Cross Farm, Pentre Meyrick, without whose help and guidance Maendy Club would not have progressed so far in County and National Competitions, as they were very stern and honest and if you stepped out of line they would tell you so in no mean terms. Having won the County Shield on so many occasions, I have lost count, but top spot was winning the National Shield, which was in no small measure due to Mr. Llewellyn and Glyn's guidance. It was a sad day when they retired.

Having progressed through the club I was lucky enough to be elected Vice Chairman for 1955/56 and then chairman in 1956/57 and treasurer in 1957/58. During my term of chairman we worked hard at National Proficiency Tests. Jim Thomas and I were lucky enough to pass in 8 tests and were the first Gold Badges to come to Wales, of which I am very proud. I still have my badge and certificate on parchment which were presented to us at the Annual General Meeting of National Federation of Y.F.C. in London in May 1958.

I was also lucky enough to be elected onto the Cowbridge and Maendy Dinner Dance Committee of which I stayed till I moved from Glamorgan to Monmouth. I have only missed 3 Dinner Dances since it was started in 1951, when the farmers of Cowbridge gave us a Dinner Dance at Bindles Barry, which sadly closed down in the late 70's.

Looking back on my time in Maendy Y.F.C. which was sometimes called the Marriage Club, as so many people met their wives and husbands, through the club, including me and my wife Margaret. Margaret also held a few offices including Correspondence Secretary and Minute Secretary. To me it has been a very good club, and I recall in 1957 in conjunction with Fisons Fertilizers, we started a demonstration plot at the Downs, St. Hilary, by kind permission of Mr. Cyril Lucas. The largest thing to grow in the area at the time though was the television mast across the road.

*John Evans.*



# The Institute

The club had been meeting at Cowbridge Grammar School since moving from Ystradowen Hall in 1944. Occasionally meetings were held in the dining room, but mostly in a classroom at the Old Hall, which was then part of the school.

When in 1959 we were approached by the late Mr. Edward John who asked if we would be interested in taking over the YMCA (Institute), I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for the club to have its own club room. The thought of not going back to school every Tuesday evening and sitting in school desks with the school caretaker waiting for the meeting to finish by 10 o'clock, appealed to me very much.

Councillors Edward John, Mr. McNeil and Mrs. Tilly, who were three of the trustees were very anxious that we move to the Institute. It was in a bad state of repair, and had not been used for some years.

After discussions in club meetings we decided to meet the Trustees of the Institute and invited our Advisory Committee. At this meeting which was well attended by members past and present we all agreed that to have our own club room in the centre of Cowbridge, was a chance not to be missed.

An agreement was drawn up by the trustees which guaranteed us occupation and we started holding our meeting there in the Spring of 1961. A great deal of time and money was spent on the Institute over the next few years, but it was well worth the effort and the club benefitted immensely.

It is a great shame that Maendy is no longer able to use the Institute, and do not now have the benefit of their own meeting place.

*Peter Jarvis.*



*The Institute today*

# Renovation of the Institute

In that first full year we were in the Institute it was very satisfying to know we had a place we could call our own for meetings. Not having to worry about booking up, or what evening to choose for extra meetings. We had the middle room painted, heaters installed, also chairs and a table, so it was ready to use.

Later on we decided to make use of the kitchen and the end room. The kitchen was decorated and wired, which was not too big a job.

The back room needed much more work. First it had to be cleared of all the stuff which had been stored in there from many years before. It was a bit like entering Aladin's Cave; walking around with candles and cobwebs rubbing in your face. No one found the magic lantern so it meant we all had to buckle down and do a lot of work. After cleaning it out the big panes of glass in the roof had to be repaired before decorating, because of the rain coming in, then we made the doorway between the two rooms, so we could use both without going outside to the back door. By having the use of the Institute, it meant we had to find more money to maintain and run it, which was a big challenge for all members. Everyone accepted this and made sure it was a success.

I know the club was very lucky to have such tremendous help and support from their parents, in this and other club activities, and it was always gratifying to know we had this backing at anytime.

One other activity which took place when I was a club member was the Fisons Plot at East Downs Farm, St. Hilary, the land kindly loaned by the late Mr. Cyril Lucas.

One acre was fenced off and divided like a chess board. Crops such as grass, kale and cereals were sown in line from north to south and different applications of fertilizers, such as, Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potash, FYM and none at all, were sown across east to west. Then once a year we had an Open Evening when local farmers and club members met to discuss the results.

I am sure this demonstration helped to illustrate the benefit of fertilizers, also it increased the club funds with the donation Fisons gave us.

I was very glad that I had the opportunity to be a member of Maendy Club. Firstly, to take part and attend Craft classes. Secondly, to be able to have had my turn in taking office in club, and thirdly, the chance to meet many people and make so many friends, which I still have today.

*Jim Thomas*

# Memories

When asked to look back over my memories as a member of the Maendy Y.F.C., I recall many memories and occasions, but as my years as a young farmer go back to the late 50's and early 60's, my recollections of dates have faded. When I first started we were then meeting in the Old Hall where we were about 90 young farmers meeting in a classroom meant for 30 schoolboys.

It was quite an outing to get back and forth to Cowbridge. We were about 7 members from the Rhoose area. I would walk from Porthkerry to Tredogan to catch the bus, change at St. Athan for the Cowbridge bus and arrive five minutes after the meeting had started. To get back home there was no bus from Cowbridge, so we relied on Jim Thomas and Ralph Thomas in their vans escorting their respective Olive and Mary safely home to Fonmon. We had to leave not a minute later than 10 o'clock as the last bus at Fonmon Cross was at 10.20.

In the days before the Institute, we used to travel the catchment area with our quizzes and socials, and Harvest Services followed by hot potato and ham salad suppers in the various village halls. Followed by a sprinkling of French chalk on the floors and dancing to the strains of the Les Jones Trio.

Undoubtedly the greatest achievement in my years as a member and probably only surpassed in the 50 years of Maendy Y.F.C. when the club won the National Efficiency Competition, was the acquisition and running of the Institute. For which we must thank the likes of Eddy John, Mrs. Hinton and members of the Trust as well as members of our advisory committee for encouraging us and making it all possible. It was good to be part of the team that worked so hard in clearing out the rubbish, cleaning and decorating and spending the money that had been worked for by all previous members over the first 20 years of Maendy Y.F.C. It was an exhilarating experience when we eventually finished the back room and were then able to have a greater flexibility of split meetings and more room for social functions. I feel sure that none of the effort, time and money was ever regretted by anyone ever associated with the club. Everyone except Marie Thomas, Windmill whose job it was to light the temperamental gas boiler during her lunch break on a Tuesday, until one day it singed her eyebrows and she insisted we install electric heating.

Probably one of the highlights of the Winter programmes in the late 50's and early 60's were the biannual sports forums, so kindly arranged by Mr. Cyril Lucas. When J.B.G. Thomas of the Western Mail used to bring a team of well known sports personalities along to answer our questions. Amongst those were Jack Peterson, Cliff Morgan, Ken Jones, Dr. Jack Matthews, George Edwards, Alf Sherwood and Rex Willis. When the All Blacks were visiting Wales in 1963 he brought along their back row forward, Kelvin Tremain, to join the panel. How times change, what would that cost today? He pleased and disappointed many of the girls by presenting some of them with silver fern brooches.

Another regular and very popular event of that time, and playing to packed audiences of Parents and Friends in the Town Hall was the annual Parents night with the various sketches, slapstick, gossip and fluffs and of course serious talent. However much side splitting laughter was generated within the audience on the night, it was the composition of the programme and the rehearsals which caused the most fun and hysterics amongst

the members. We always had an interval for the refreshments and with the night usually approaching midnight, always finished with a sing song of old favourites to the accompaniment on the piano by Martyn Richards of Brigam.

The first annual day-outing I remember, was to Stratford-upon-Avon. My most vivid and embarrassing recollection of that occasion was when we went rowing on the river. I think we were about four in the boat, the others were already seated. As I stepped in, the boat tilted sideways and the water poured in over the seat where Jean Thomas New House was sitting.

I wonder how many people remember (I think it was 1963) the New Years Eve Dance in the Town Hall. It was snowing but little did we realise how it was drifting, until the police suggested we ought to draw to an early close as traffic was having difficulty getting up Primrose Hill. I remember being in a convoy rather stupidly travelling in the wrong direction up past the Darren towards Llandow being towed one at a time up the hill by Brian Jones of Llantwit in his Landrover there after abandoning various cars one at a time in drifts. I think it was only Jim Thomas's car and mine left by now, but we soon both ended up with our noses into drifts. Brian had gone on in his Landrover so we started walking aiming for Flemingston. I think we were about five girls and three boys, we were just about to turn towards Pen-y-Bryn when Brian came back to look for us with a shovel. With no vehicles in sight to dig out he insisted we all pile into the back of his Landrover as he was going to take us home. After dropping the Flemingston members off and while travelling through St. Athan the fan belt snapped, but he would still proceed and took us all the way to Porthkerry only to return alone without a fan belt in ever worsening blizzard conditions. An act of unselfish help I will always remember with gratitude. I think we were some of only a few who managed to get home that night. Many returned to spend the rest of the night in the Town Hall.

During my earlier years with the club, the success of the early 50's always haunted us, and it was as much with relief as pride when we won the Rally Shield at Bridgend Market in 1964. It was undoubtedly a team effort which was gradually built on by a great team of loyal members who stuck together during the following 4 or 5 years and then maintained that loyalty to retain the position of the leading club in Glamorgan for the rest of the 60's.

In those days the practical farming aspect of the club was much more important than it is today, as there was not the opportunity of one year and day release college as there is today. Very many evenings were taken up with Farm Craft Proficiency test and stock judging classes. We travelled on many evenings to Pencoed for work shop practice, and to farms all over the Vale for ploughing, gate hanging etc. It was a lot harder to gain a pass from ex Maendy members who were examining. I remember taking my hedgelaying and sheep shearing tests on a number of occasions before gaining passes from the likes of David Thomas Maes-y-Bryn, Gwyn Evans Gadlys and Jim Jarvis Church Farm. It was with a great deal of satisfaction when I was at last presented with my certificate and gold badge along with a number of other Maendy members, by the Earl of Halifax at Central Hall, Westminster in May 1967. I think we must have travelled many thousands of miles on bike and in cars to stock judging classes over the years. I remember cycling with Viv Price of Pancross on many occasions, leaving our bikes behind the hedge at Treguff Cross and cadging a lift with Jim Thomas. That was before I had my Austin A30. It was as a result of those classes guided by former members that I was able to represent the County at shows such as Smithfield and The Royal Welsh. At the Bath and West in 1965 with Edward Rees the Bryn, we won the pig judging team award for Glamorgan. Glyn Jones, David and Bob Lucas also represented Glamorgan on many occasions with many successes, during the mid and late 60's.

Of the more energetic activities the club participated in, the annual cross country run against Lisvane club immediately springs to mind. Our course was at Flemingston and Llanbethery Moors. I seem to remember our stars were Ralph Thomas, Willy Morgan, Peter Jarvis and Viv Price. The dyke on the home run was usually just that little bit too wide to jump across after running 3 or 4 miles with the inevitable consequences and that steep slope to finish was a real killer. At one time the girls were brave enough to have a go, I wonder if Gwyneth Jenkins remembers being carried back, after twisting her ankle way down the moors. On the Lisvane course around Rudry and the Cefn Onn Park areas I seem to remember getting lost on a number of occasions. We spent many a Sunday morning in the Spring practicing for the County 7 a side tournament, although I can't remember how successful we used to be. I also remember many of the boys being pressed into giving the girls opposition for their hockey practices which was quite a frightening experience, and a far more dangerous sport than rugby!

When I first joined I was almost afraid to sneeze at a meeting, but somehow I was eventually persuaded to take part in quizzes and debates, I never dreamt that I would one day be asked to take the chair in 1962-63. It was an even greater shock when I was elected to the honour of Chairman of the County Executive Committee in 1969. I had many happy and fulfilling experiences in my travels within the County and I made many new and good friends. With them I travelled to many Welsh and National conferences and had many a late night amongst joyous company in hotels all over the Country.

The exchange visit that the Glamorgan Federation held with young Farmers of Kaiserstuhl, near the Black Forest in West Germany was probably the most memorable, enlightening and valuable experience that the YFC movement gave me. The Germans came over here in May 1967 when we entertained them in our own homes. None of them could understand a word of English, or us German. There were 4 Maendy members taking part in the exchange, namely Ann Baxter, Leighton Lewis, Robert Rees and myself. Most of the daytime activities and visits were arranged at County level, but we were grateful to the rest of Maendy Club for helping us to entertain them at other times. A great time was had by all. One evening I particularly remember was the evening in the Fox and Hounds in Llancarfan. The return visit took place the following September. We were away from Glamorgan for 14 days and the total cost to each of us, including insurance, travelling, interpreter and tips was £17. During the travelling and the time we were there, we visited or passed through 7 different European countries and it was a revealing insight into how marked differences and similarities that showed between customs, farming and nationals in the various countries and with our own. It was at the height of the grape picking season in the Kaiserstuhl which is predominantly a wine producing area. Between our hosts trying to outdo the welcome that we had given them, and the new wine, and old wine testing that we had to do, you can imagine it was the basis of a very enjoyable fortnight shared with a great bunch of fellow young farmers representing all areas of Glamorgan.

I am sure the success of the club in my years as a member was due to the experience and help of past members, always prepared to guide and help when asked, but never interfering with the way we wanted to run the club.

*Gwilym Davies.*



*Rally Day 1965*



*Rally Day, sometime after 1965!*

# Royal Highland Show 1964

## International YFC Beef Stockjudging

I was lucky enough to be chosen to represent Wales in this event to be held at the Royal Highland Show, Ingliston just outside Edinburgh at the end of June.

We were a team of three, myself from Glamorgan and the other two members were from Brecon and Radnorshire. The eliminators were held in the early part of that year, in Herefordshire. The judge on this occasion was Mr. Edward Davies from Pembrokeshire, who was the Ministry's livestock officer for the county, and had trained the Welsh team for a number of years. He was to be our coach until the competition.

From the time of the eliminator, until two weeks before the show, when we left for Scotland, we travelled to the Hereford, Sennybridge and Hay-on-Wye areas to train, about once a fortnight. Going to some of the largest Hereford herds in the country. As Mr. Davies said, "If you're going to judge the best, you must train on the best." This in itself was an experience, to see the stockmanship, and the way these pedigree cattle were brought out for the showing.

I hope you will excuse me if I seem a bit vague on some of the places we visited, and some of the things that happened during this time, but I was only 17 at the time and had just passed my driving test. I never dreamt that I would have to put pen to paper nearly 30 years later!

Mr. Davies was taking us up to Scotland two weeks previous to the competition, (got out of most of the haymaking that year!), so that we could travel around to see some of the best Aberdeen Angus and Beef Shorthorn Herds in Scotland. That was where we saw some outstanding cattle and stockmanship at its best. Mr. Davies had arranged all the farm visits before we left.

We visited two herds, most days, during the week, where we would judge and give reasons on a ring of bulls or heifers. As we had not come across many Angus cattle in our part of the country, to judge, and certainly no Beef shorthorns, these visits helped us enormously. The owners or their stockmen giving us the benefit of their experience on their particular breed.

It wasn't all judging and hard work, as the hospitality at these farms was superb, and we did have the weekends off, and most nights free. This was when we sampled the local spirit, and acquired quite a liking for it.

Thus the big day drew near, we drove to Edinburgh the day before, went sight seeing that night, and off to the show in the morning. We had to judge six rings of cattle and give reasons on three. A ring of bulls and a ring of heifers on each of the three breeds. This was quite a marathon, especially as we did not know which rings we had to give reasons on until after all the judging was finished.

After all that we managed to come 4th out of 13 countries. This was not as good as we or Mr. Davies would have liked but we did not disgrace ourselves and a good time was had by ALL.

*David Lucas.*

# The International Exchange

The International Overseas Exchange Programme started in 1937, and it was due to the then director of Agriculture in Glamorgan, Mr. Davidson, that a Welsh member took part. He heard that 2 English, 1 Scottish and 1 Irish member were to be selected to take part in an exchange programme, and he immediately went about getting a Welsh member to replace 1 of the English places.

This is how Mr. Edward Williams of Cwrt yr Alla Farm, Dinas Powis, formerly of Ford Farm, Llancarfan, became the first Welsh overseas exchange to Australia and New Zealand. He was sponsored in the main by the Western Mail, whose editor was a Mr. Webber. Mr. Edward Williams was, with Mr. John Watts the first 2 members of Llancarfan Young Farmers Calf Club.

Some 23 years later I was introduced to the overseas exchange programme, when Miss Shirley Rees of Lisvane YFC came to the club to give us a talk and film show on her exchange to Australia. From then on it was an ambition of mine to go on an exchange, this was further fuelled by Mr. David Morgan who went to Australia and his brother Trevor, who went to New Zealand, who were most helpful to me.

In the ensuing years I hosted exchanges from Germany, Canada, Australia, Tasmania and Kenya. These were friendships that still last today. It is nice to hear from them and how their families are growing up.

I chose South America, because it was a trip that left in the first few days of January and returned in March. I would have liked to have tried for New Zealand, but this was a six months summer exchange, which would have meant putting more work on my family, as we were still making hay. I joined my four fellow exchangees at Heathrow Airport and flew to Lisbon, where we boarded the "Eugenio C" which was to be our home for the next ten days. It was a marvellous experience crossing the equator, the heat was incredible. We spent a marvellous time at Rio de Janeiro our first stop in South America, the Santos and on to Buenos Aires. We then travelled west across Argentina staying on different Estancia's and seeing different styles of farming as we got nearer the Andes and the German population and their alpine style houses. Everyone was very friendly and couldn't do enough for us.

We were on live television and had to write articles on what we thought of Argentina for the local papers. We then returned to Buenos Aires for a few days sight seeing and leisure before sailing across the river Plate to Montevideo in Uruguay. We again travelled west staying on farms. One was near Fray Bentos, which has the meat factory that was the original canners of corn beef.

We visited sugar beet factories, cattle auctions, slaughter houses where they still pole axe cattle and to "Estonzuela" the only experimental farm in South America and many other interesting places. It was also a strange experience going out for an evening to the pub or dance on horse back and seeing the rows of hitching rails.



All too soon we were heading east to the beautiful resort of Punto del Esta on the Atlantic coast, with its beautiful beaches, nightclubs and casinos, for our final week in South America. After a marvellous week we left Montevideo for a 27 hour journey by air back to a cold and windy March day in London.

The exchange programme's a wonderful experience, one which introduces you to the real people of the Country and the way they live. An experience I recommend to any Young Farmer.

*Llewellyn Price.*



*Members enjoy a dinner and dance at Bindles*

# The Early Seventies

The early seventies was one of great change for the club but was also one of the Golden Ages of the club.

The greatest change that the club faced in the early seventies was the loss of control of the Institute. This change came after considerable pressure from the people of Cowbridge who considered the youth of the town had nowhere to go. After much discussion we gave up the Institute to a town committee. In the first years of the committee taking over, the club rooms were always warm and well looked after and were used quite often but the town enthusiasm soon waned, perhaps the town of Cowbridge should have left the Institute in Club's hands.

One of the reasons that Maendy was such a strong club at this time was the tremendous influx of what I have always called 'second generation young farmers'. Most club nights there would be between sixty and seventy members present, with every member wanting to compete for their club. This enthusiasm made Maendy virtually unbeatable and in the Rally of 1972 the club won every cup. This success however, leads to problems, how to maintain the interest of all these very capable and happy young people.

At this time however, something started to happen in the Y.F.C. movement which kept the interest of the members, that was the idea of getting more involved in the community. This took the shape of quite a few different projects, one of the projects was a scheme to lay a large barbecue area at the Jane Hodge Home. Another project set up at this time was a club for the mentally handicapped youth of the vale. This club was only possible because of the dedication of some members of Maendy and Wick Clubs. This club continued for a long time and gave a great deal of pleasure to the less fortunate in our midst. However, as with all voluntary groups, the demands on the helpers, mainly for family reasons, led to the decline of the club but one person, who was a Maendy member, kept the club going long after everyone else left, this was John Hanks, ably supported by his wife Jane.

With the tremendous success of the early seventies, one might think the rest of the seventies would have been an anticlimax. Nothing could be further from the truth, nothing breeds success like success and the depth and strength of members in the middle and late seventies showed the club at its best. With such strong membership, Maendy had four County Chairmen and two County Treasurers, all in the seventies. Its influence in County was strong and respected and the members enjoyment made the seventies a Golden Age for Maendy Y.F.C.

*Martyn David.*



*Maendy dinner dance at Bindles 1972*

## Trip to Norway

My overseas trip to Norway was for Y.F.C. members aged under 18. What a responsibility for Karen our leader to take 10 naïve youths off to the land of the midnight sun for a month.

After two selection interviews at Welsh and National level we finally met as a group one bright July morning in London and made our way by ferry to Kristiansand, and then 200 miles north to Oslo.

My host farm was only about 20 miles from Oslo. What a contrast in farm life here in the Vale. It seemed that the whole of the summer was spent stocking up and preparing for the very harsh winters they have. The main enterprise of the farm was pig production, their stock numbers would hardly provide an adequate income at this level in Britain, however in Norway the family enjoyed a very comfortable lifestyle. While there we visited a chalet the farmer owned in Sweden and they regularly travelled further afield to Tenerife, Greece etc.

During my visit I attended school with my host and friend Anne-Berit, we had quite a social life too. Parties ended well into the early hours of the morning and it was still broad daylight! The moonshine was pretty hot stuff too.

Half way through the month the whole group and our hosts met up for a week's holiday in Mountain cabins within the Arctic Circle. This was a truly spectacular sight with views of the Sogne Fjord at 3am bathed in daylight being one of the most memorable experiences.

Back to Oslo and visits to the Royal Palace and many museums are a must. One striking feature of Norway is they are a very proud and nationalistic people. All the children wear clothes of their national flag colours, red, white and blue. The Norwegians enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world and despite some industrialisation they have managed to preserve the country's national beauty.

All good things must come to an end and the group congregated at Kristiansand for our return journey. Each member had stories to tell, some had been homesick and some had not wanted to go home at all! but most of all we had all had a fantastic time and had made many friends.

When I was asked to write this little piece, I was very surprised to learn that Llewellyn Price and I are the only Maendy members to have benefited from the overseas trips available to Y.F.C. members, so come on all you present members have a go — the opportunity is there for you to have a trip of a lifetime. As a point of interest my trip cost £10 in 1974!

*Kay Middleton.*

## **My 12 years in the Maendy Club**

I joined Maendy after leaving school in the Autumn of 1972. Although both my mother and father had been members of Bridgend, I attended Cowbridge Grammar School, and it was to Maendy we were all drawn. When I first joined, I was one of a group of about a dozen boys, who always occupied the back row, from where one of our number especially (I shall mention no names, Michael) used to give the chairman a very hard time!

Maendy's transport had by this time evolved (if not progressed) from Mr. Edwards' buses to mini pick-ups, NSU's, moggy 1000's, and the Ruthin Van. Most came to a premature and untimely end, except the Ruthin Van which defied all laws of science and nature, and just kept on going!

Socializing was generally confined to the local pubs, always on strict rotation (Barley Mow on Saturday night) and regular forays to social events with other clubs, even as far flung as Essex. We visited the National AGM on half a dozen occasions in either Blackpool or Brighton. We all returned safely, although Paul Rees tried to swing off the bannisters three stories up, and was then discovered late the following day asleep in the bath.

Since those early days I progressed through the club as treasurer, chairman and then five years as club leader. After I was married, our cottage in Colwinston became the second club room, and the place where everyone came, to construct the exhibit for Rally, a base for the Royal Welsh Show mobile display, play practice, or just a late opening coffee shop, especially on exchange weekends.

Throughout the 12 years I was a member Maendy continued to occupy its usual place in the County as one of the strongest and most successful clubs. We won Rally, Winter and the County Shield on a regular basis. For the other clubs in the County, Maendy was always the one to beat.

When I joined, the club membership was swelling, and by the end of the 70's we reached the days of 70-80 members attending club meetings each week. For this reason, I proposed in County that Winter and Rally competitions be open to any number of competitors per club, or for club to put in two teams for competitions such as the Drama. As Maendy was such a large club we had a lot of talented members unable to compete because of the restrictions of numbers per competition. The main advantages I felt was that it allowed younger or less experienced members to have a go at the competitions without having the pressure of 'Maendy's relying on me' on them. Also when an experienced member became too old to compete there is already someone experienced to step into their shoes.

Since then the numbers have declined quite considerably, I see this as a much greater problem through the 90's as the number of farmers sons & daughters through the Vale declines, due to the changing face of the Agricultural Industry. I hope Maendy can survive this trend and continue to flourish as an integral part of the Vale community as it has been for the last 50 years.

*Richard Edwards.*

*Clive Thomas and Richard Edwards competing in a mock auction at Rally in 1979*



# Friday Friendship Club

Maendy Mentally Handicapped Club was started at the beginning of September 1978. The idea came originally from Mrs. Diana Bowen, who felt there was need for a club of this kind in the Cowbridge area.

We held our meetings at The Institute, Cowbridge, with an attendance of ten mentally handicapped children which increased to around eighteen. Mrs. Sue David was our club leader for several years with the help of about twelve club members.

The young people came from quite a wide area taking in Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Llansannor and Peterston.

The meetings consisted of demonstrations and talks from past and present young farmers, both from Maendy and other clubs in Glamorgan. We visited farms, the zoo and the fire station to name but a few. The main event of the year always being, the annual trip to Cardiff, 'to sit on Santas knee' and to see the Christmas Pantomime.

In 1979 the club moved to new premises, at the Old Grammar School, when unfortunately both handicapped and YFC members decreased. The club now changed its name to the Friday Friendship Club.

The club carried on until 1988 when due to similar clubs starting in the Cowbridge area, I reluctantly called a halt to our meetings.

On behalf of all the members of the Friendship Club I would like to thank all those who gave us their time and support. As these people will know, it is something 'very special' which radiates from such children. Jane and I feel honoured to have been members of 'THEIR' club and now their life long friends.

*John Hanks.  
Friendship Club Leader.*



*John and Jane Hanks with some members of the Friday Friendship Club*

# Operation Spring Clean

This was something we took part in as did many other Young Farmers Clubs across the country. The idea was to find a place and "clean it up". We decided to help the Jane Hodge Home. We planned to lay some paving stones for a bar-b-que area, repair the hut and generally tidy up the play area for the children.

The date was April 15th 1978, and we all gathered at Trerhyngyll. I brought the tractor and trailer (I volunteered so that I could show off our brand new Ford "66"). There were many more of us there on the day than are shown in the photograph, but the picture tells a story ..... As we can see, the boys are busy working, while the girls are doing what they are best at!! Lindsay Llewellyn is forking grass into the wheelbarrow while Richard Edwards is grabbing it out again — for his sheep! Arwyn Prichard is leaning on a piece of wood with a lump of metal on the end — a shovel — but he still doesn't know what it is or what it does. The most relevant person in the picture is Martyn Popham doing the same there as he does today, standing on a building site, hands on hips telling everyone else what to do!

This was just one of the events we participated in as a club and just one of many memorable days I enjoyed whilst being a member of Maendy Y.F.C.

Another event which springs to mind is the now defunct Senior Knockout Debating. The year was 1977 I had just returned from my year long trip to America and Martyn Popham and I were representing Maendy in the competition held at Bridgend School. We felt the debate went well — I thought I was the bees knees in my new red jumper, but the adjudicator — who thought himself a bit of a wit — felt a suit would have been more appropriate and as for my "Mid Atlantic Draw"!! We successfully progressed however to the next round where the adjudicator's wit surfaced once again, fortunately this time it was directed at the opposition, who were Kathy Kicks and Howard Martin from Lisvane.

I enjoyed my years in Young Farmers and found them both entertaining and enlightening. I am now grateful for the opportunity to put back some of what I took out by being able to help on the club cups committee and with the "Entertainments" last year. I hope that Maendy club continues to thrive over the next 50 years.

*Mike Gibson*



*Operation spring clean at the Jane Hodge Home*



# Maendy Young Farmers

Maendy Young Farmers, as far as I can recall has always been an integral part of my life. As a child I remember club cups being held in Treguff, and attending parents evening with Mother and Father at Pendoyland Village Hall.

I joined Maendy as a full time member in September 1977, after finishing my O'levels. My first and lasting memory however is of a debate against Wick at Maendy, chaired by Richard Edwards. The subject under debate was "The legal drinking age should be lowered". I was proposing with John Thomas, Flemingston seconding me. I have no idea how I came to be standing up in front of the club room, and I do not remember the result, but am quite sure we were soundly beaten. What I do recall is the feeling of unadulterated terror, and that my brain and my tongue must have at that moment belonged to two separate people, but more than that I remember my sister Rhiannon's, face, as she sat in the front row, grimacing with embarrassment and pleading with me to sit down and shut up while there was still time to save the Lougher name from total ridicule!

Through Maendy I have learnt a wealth of skills, that no other youth organisation could have taught me, ranging from flower arranging, poultry trussing and I have even improved a little from my first attempt at public speaking! Now 13 years later I have progressed through the ranks as secretary, chairman and presently club leader. Now I have the great honour of chairing the 50th year anniversary committee.

I think I am very privileged to have been associated with Maendy, which from its earliest days, has been a force to be reckoned with. It is only now in my capacity as chairman of the anniversary committee, do I realize why Maendy has always been such a great club. It is the same as a building, its strength and durability lies in the foundation stones, and there is no doubt we had some tremendous foundation stones. We have however been extremely fortunate that the quality of the stones has not faultered as our great building grew up.

Over the past 13 years I have competed in 10 Rallies, too many competitions to recall, competed in The Royal Welsh Show, National Competitions Day, Welsh Competitions Weekend. I have visited Lincoln, Shropshire, Devon and Northhampton on club exchanges, not to mention the annual trip to the National AGM. As club leader with Clive Thomas, Dros-y-mor, we have altered the club cups competitions so that boys and girls, junior and senior all compete together at the same competitions. This has seen members side by side ironing shirts, making sandwiches, arranging flowers, building walls or sharpening fencing steaks. In Maendy at least the modern man may soon be a reality!

There is no doubt that Maendy is a very different club to what it was 50 years ago, whether it has progressed for the better, it is difficult to say. It has progressed, certainly, but at this present stage of its evolution it faces a very real struggle to survive. There are so many alternatives in leisure and entertainment, and so much more pressure on our members as they try to obtain good grades at school, compete in a huge range of competitions, and still carry on a full and hectic social life. For most people travelling is no longer a problem, and they no longer need to stay in their immediate vicinity to socialise and meet people. After a highly successful 50 years, it is now up to todays members to take stock of the situation, to see what the Y.F.C. movement still has to offer todays rural

youth, and if necessary make radical changes to ensure Maendy continues to flourish and remains a unique and essential part of our community.

Over the last 12 months as we have approached people to support our 50th year, we have been greeted with unstilted enthusiasm from everyone. The fact that people have so willingly and ably contributed to this booklet, to provide a complete and unique history is proof enough of the part in peoples lives that Maendy has played. I for one am extremely proud to have been associated with Maendy, and I sincerely hope that many more young people over the next 50 years will be able to say the same.

*Myfanwy Edwards.*

*Start of the cross country run at Flemingston 1977. David Lucas, William Lougher, Myfanwy Lougher, Angela Jenkins and Bill Francis*



## **My membership of Maendy Y.F.C.**

My membership of Maendy Y.F.C. spanned around 10 years, but it wasn't until my return home from working abroad that I took a really active part in the running of the club. It was on my return that I realized the key word in the young farmers movement was 'involvement'. The more you get involved the more you get out of it. This was definitely true of Maendy, always a strong membership and plenty of people eager to take part in anything the club had to offer. It was during these years that the decision was made at County level to remove the restriction of entries per club for competitions. The competitions were made open so anyone wanting to enter was allowed to do so. This proved to be an excellent idea and resulted in greater numbers of members competing in all the competitions.

Maendy was no exception and experienced great success at rally and winter competitions each year. During my year as chairman (1987-88) the club managed to achieve something that had eluded them for many years. Under the experienced direction of David Morgan, Maendy took the County Drama Shield, and followed the next year by winning the Entertainments Competition, a feat which had never been achieved in the club's history.

It was during the year 1986-87 under the chairmanship of Hugh Williams that the club was forced to leave the Institute Building, after many years of meeting there. We were forced to leave the building, as it was structurally unsound, and the council decided it was not fit to be used. Nowadays Maendy can be found meeting at the Lesser Hall of Cowbridge Town Hall, with a membership which I hope is as eager to be involved with a club, that has enjoyed great success and respect throughout its existence.

*Mark Jarvis.*

## **Congratulations Maendy Young Farmers Club 1939 to 1989 Roll on 2039**

Maendy Young Farmers Club and its members have seen many changes over the past 50 years. Many minor changes linger in people's memories. The droughts that left the fields burnt bare with cracks scarring the earth, yet also the summers when the ducks hired boats. Also the winters when the roads lay deep and hidden beneath several feet of snow and others when the grass wouldn't stop growing. The farming world has to adapt in order to survive.

The Maendy meeting place has moved location on several occasions, the latest weekly rendezvous being at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. Members through the golden years have always had to find their way to the club room, and the means of transport has changed dramatically with the times. A trusty bicycle soon changed to a Morris 'Series E' four door saloon (with sunroof) or even a baby Austin. These were replaced with Mini and Morris 1000 vans, which have since been overtaken by XR2's and 205 GT's. In the year 2039, I can picture young Robert Rees the Bryn turning up in his twin jet, turbo drive hovercraft (with sunroof).

There have also been more serious changes which present and future young farmers will have to cope with in the near future. Probably the most serious problem, which has built up over the last fifty to a hundred years is the pollution or so called destruction of the atmosphere. One is often in two minds over this topic, as one minute we are told of global warming and breakdown of the protective ozone layer, the next minute the headlines tell us that last Sunday was the hottest, wettest, windiest or coldest day in fifty years. So it is obviously not a new thing. Whatever the truth, conservation is no longer a laughing matter. Whether farmers come to terms with their own conscience, or whether they simply have to respond to our consumers wishes; chemicals for example will have to be used far more efficiently and safely. Who knows, in the next fifty years we may see the return of the horse to our fields, but then again we may see a machine beyond our present imagination, which doesn't burn carboniferous fuels to put horsepower in front of our ploughs.

The Vale has changed from a land of flowing countryside, woodland and villages, to a land of trade, industry and transcommunications with sectors of green belt in between. Residential areas have swelled and property prices soared with the recent influx of executive and so called 'yuppy' families. The question today is, "Where does the farmless young farmer start?"

Agriculture is no longer the dominant factor in the Vale, and with plans for new hotels, golf courses, industrial sites and even new towns, things do not look too bright.

At one time there were 22 young farmers clubs in Glamorgan. Now there are eight, one of which is holding on by the skin of its teeth, none of which are thriving. Is it due to the lack of agricultural youth, or the increase in other activities available to the modern youth elsewhere?

Maendy and District Young Farmers Club used to be able to boast membership of 100 plus. I have only been a member for nine years, but I can remember meetings with eighty plus attending. The old Institute used to be packed to the edges on times. Now as we enter the nineties, the meetings have slacked to twenty in a good meeting. It may be a short term problem which may be reversed in the next ten years, but circumstances and attitudes are changing. Nowadays, the only speakers who don't charge are ex-members, charity workers and the occasional uninvited Jehovah's Witness. Also red tape and business matters (often done inefficiently) from County, Welsh and National bore youngsters and drive older members away.

Years past saw youngsters leaving school at fourteen or sixteen and going straight home to the farm. Young Farmers club was their only means of socialising with youngsters of the same background and interests. Nowadays, of course there are still youngsters who return home to the farm, but many more opportunities are open to them. College or university courses can take people away for up to four years. many travel around the world for many months at a drop of a hat. There are also numerous club members running their own small and large businesses, away from the farm, and in these times of high interest rates and increasing taxes every working hour must be utilized to earn those precious pennies. If you are not working, entertainment is in abundance in every direction you turn and young farmers clubs could drown in it if they are not careful.

If Maendy Young Farmers Club is to survive the next fifty years, club will have to adapt itself to the outside world. It wont be easy, but as Richard Hooker the writer once said, "Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

I am not going to make suggestions in this passage as this is a booklet not a Britannica, but I feel we needn't lose the education, competition and entertainment sides of the club, and we needn't lose our motto Good Farmers, Good Countrymen, Good Citizens. It is only the youth of today who will know what is right, and it is only the youth of yesterday who can guide them.

I feel sure that in 2039, Maendy YFC will still be strong. Members will still be piling in the back of landrovers (even if they do have Japanese engines) and the club will still be unofficial marriage bureau of the Vale. Maendy YFC has every potential going for it, the pride and the talent is in the blood of its past members, and if everyone is still enjoying themselves on the 100th anniversary, then nobody can grumble.

Good luck for the future. *Wayne Locke.*





*Shearing at the Rally with Arwyn Pritchard and Alan Paulett representing Maendy and Lindsay Llewellyn stewarding*

*Some of the club members in the Institute in 1979*





*Chairman, Myfanwy Edwards and other members with the shield on Rally Day, 1985*



*Club members raising money for Children In Need in 1989*

# Acknowledgements

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Barclays Bank plc  
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Jeremy Oils

Our sincere thanks also for the continued support both financially and otherwise of our Life Members, President and Vice Presidents.

Thank you to those who will contribute to our celebrations throughout the year after we have been to print.





Period	Leaders	President
1939-40		Mr. Thomas, Beech Court
1940-41		Mr. Thomas, Beech Court
1941-42		Mr. Thomas, Beech Court
1942-43		Mr. Thomas, Beech Court
1943-44		Mr. Thomas, Manor Haf
1944-45	Arthur Thomas	Mr. Thomas, Manor Haf
1945-46	Emlyn Thomas	Mrs. Thomas
1946-47	Glyn Thomas	Mrs. Thomas, Ash Hall
1947-48	Glyn Thomas	Tudor Llewellyn
1948-49	Glyn Thomas	Tudor Llewellyn
1949-50	Glyn Thomas	Tudor Llewellyn
1950-51	Glyn Thomas	Tudor Llewellyn
1951-52	Glyn Thomas	Tudor Llewellyn
1952-53	John Llewellyn (Morfa)	Tudor Llewellyn
1953-54	John Llewellyn	Tudor Llewellyn
1954-55	Gwyn Evans	Tudor Llewellyn
1955-56	William Lougher	Tudor Llewellyn
1956-57	William Lougher	Tudor Llewellyn
1957-58	William Lougher	Tudor Llewellyn
1958-59	William Lougher	John Llewellyn
1959-60	Peter Jarvis	John Llewellyn
1960-61	Peter Jarvis	John Llewellyn
1961-62	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1962-63	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1963-64	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1964-65	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1965-66	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1966-67	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1967-68	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1968-69	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1969-70	Jim Thomas	John Llewellyn
1970-71	Edward Rees	Jim Thomas
1971-72	Edward Rees	Jim Thomas
1972-73	Edward Rees	Jim Thomas
1973-74	Edward Rees	Jim Thomas
1974-75	Edward Rees	William Francis
1975-76	Martyn David	William Francis
1976-77	Martin David	William Francis
1977-78	Martin David	William Francis
1978-79	Mr. & Mrs. L. Llewellyn	William Francis
1979-80	Mr. & Mrs. L. Llewellyn	William Lougher
1980-81	Richard Edwards	William Lougher
1981-82	Richard Edwards/Julie Rees	William Lougher
1982-83	Richard Edwards/Julie Rees	William Lougher
1983-84	Richard Edwards/Julie Rees	Edward Rees
1984-85	Hywel Lougher/Celia Hopkin	Edward Rees
1985-86	Hywel Lougher/Celia Hopkin	Edward Rees
1986-87	Hywel Lougher/Celia Hopkin	Lindsay Llewellyn
1987-88	Myfanwy Edwards/Clive Thomas	Lindsay Llewellyn
1988-89	Myfanwy Edwards/Clive Thomas	Robert Rees
1989-90	Myfanwy Edwards/Clive Thomas	Robert Rees

Period	Chairman	Secretary	Minute Secretary
1939-40	Ninian Lewis	Ashleen Radcliffe	
1940-41	Cynl Williams	Ashleen Radcliffe	
1941-42	Gwladys Radcliffe	Elunyd Lewis	
1942-43	Gwladys Radcliffe	Elunyd Lewis	
1943-44	Tudor Radcliffe	Ashleen Radcliffe	
1944-45	Emlyn Thomas	Ashleen Radcliffe	Betty Thomas
1945-46	Rees Jenkins	Betty Thomas	Clare Thomas
1946-47	John Llewellyn	Betty Thomas	Ruth Llewellyn
1947-48	David Thomas Maes-Y-Bryn	Richard Lougher	Ruth Llewellyn
1948-49	Gwyn Evans	Mary Davies	Glenys Jenkins
1949-50	James Jarvis	Mary Davies	Ann Francis
1950-51	John Llewellyn	Gwyneth Thomas	Ann Thomas
1951-52	William Lougher	Gwyneth Thomas	Ann Thomas
1952-53	William Francis	Joan Bradley	Joan Llewellyn
1953-54	David Brewer	Mary Davies	Enid Savours
1954-55	Neil Thomas	Mary Davies	Isabel Thomas
1955-56	Peter Jarvis	Thelma Lucas	Margaret Paulett
1956-57	John Evans	Thelma Lucas	Olive James
1957-58	Jim Thomas	Olive James	Margaret Paulett
1958-59	Ralph Thomas	Olive James	Marion Richards
1959-60	Gerald Thomas	Kay John	Marion Richards
1960-61	Robert Gray Keith Watkins	Ann Watkins	Marie Thomas
1961-62	Viv Price	Marie Thomas	Janet Richards
1962-63	Gwilym Davies	Janet Richards	Margaret Morgan
1963-64	Graham Jervis	Liz James	Pam Rosser
1964-65	Glyn Jones	Liz James	Marion Rees
1965-66	Brian Drew	Marion Rees	Pam Rosser
1966-67	David Lucas	Myra Thomas	Beryl Richards
1967-68	Phillip Locke	Pam Rosser	Beryl Richards
1968-69	Edward Rees	Ann Jervis	Phillip Locke
1969-70	Llewellyn Price	Ann Jervis	Martyn David
1970-71	Robert Lucas	Martin David	Kay Francis
1971-72	John James	Mary Hanks	Helen Griffiths
1972-73	Lindsay Llewellyn	Mary Hanks	Elizabeth David
1973-74	Martyn David	Ann Radcliffe Chris Lakin	Sue David
1974-75	Robert Rees	Sue David	Anne Edwards
1975-76	Alban Thomas	Ann Edwards	Mike Gibbon
1976-77	Gareth Thomas	Sandra Davies	Jane Watts-Jones
1977-78	Mary Llewellyn	Julia Cramp	Julie Paulett
1978-79	Richard Edwards	Julie Paulett	Jane Lewis
1979-80	Gwyn Thomas	Myfanwy Edwards	Rhiannon Lougher
1980-81	Mike Gibbon	Myfanwy Edwards	Lesley Davies
1981-82	Hywel Lougher	Celia Hopkin	Claire Gibbon
1982-83	Martyn Edwards	Celia Hopkin	Carole Thomas
1983-84	John Thomas	Angela Jenkins	Robert Shaw
1984-85	Myfanwy Edwards	Carole Thomas	Rhiannon Evans
1985-86	Clive Thomas	Carole Thomas	Sara Jones
1986-87	Hugh Williams	Lucy Radcliffe	Catryn Jones
1987-88	Mark Jarvis	Lucy Radcliffe	Sian Thomas
1988-89	Richard Western	Sian Thomas	Sian Lucas
1989-90	Wayne Locke	Pam Thomas	Emma Locke