

## Llantrisant and District Local History Society

### Briefing Note for a Visit to Castellau Fawr

25 May 2004

Compiled by the Secretary

#### Glynrhondda: Llantrisant: Castellau

Castellau is one of five Hamlets into which the large parish of Llantrisant had, since the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, been divided for administrative purposes. The others are Gelliweion, Trane, Brofeisgyn and the Town. Apart from the town these 'hamlets' are based largely on natural drainage areas and bounded mainly by watercourses and they seem to represent divisions of land that have a very long history going back at least to the Romano-British period. Gelliweion and Brofeisgyn were in Meisgyn lordship and Castellau and Trane were in Glynrhondda lordship. Gelliweion, Castellau and Trane lie side by side from east to west and they extend from the Ely valley in the south, over the Pennant Sandstone ridge to the River Rhondda in the north. North of the ridge they were steep and forested but southwards they present a sun-facing, gradually sloping aspect of the highland zone from a high point of over 700 feet and they contain islands of well-drained cultivable soils. Thus, while not readily accessible to the early farmers of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, as Brofeisgyn would have been, and unattractive to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Norman invaders, they nevertheless, provided the Welsh Lordships with a substantial means of subsistence.

Castellau, which in early modern times supported three gentry houses, Treferig Isaf, Treferig Uchaf and Castellau Fawr, survives as the most unspoilt of the three upland hamlets with no modern settlements of note at all and Castellau Fawr, at the southern and thus most favourable portion, is idyllically placed.

The late Professor Glanville R J Jones, an expert in the interpretation of so-called 'Dark Age' settlement in Wales, identified the Castellau portion of the Hamlet with one of the grants in the Book of Llandaf in which, circa, 780 A.D.:

*Elived, Conone, Guoidcen and Erdtibiū, sons of Eiguen, gave an 'ecclesia cum castelo agri circa eam' (a church with a castell if land about it) free of all lay services. The church was named in the title of the grant but neither Lann Helicon nor the land about it have hitherto been identified. Nevertheless the church can be equated with the Llan which is located near Castellau Uchaf in Morgannwg. Although a mere farmhouse by the nineteenth century this was still known as The Lan. The site is a commanding one at an altitude of nearly 700 feet, on a spread of well-drained cultivable soils is-landed amidst less well-drained soils. Towards the*

south-western edge of the same spread of well-drained soils is the farmhouse of Castellau Uchaf but, appropriately enough, the farmhouse of Pentre (Edge of the Tref) is on the very edge of this same spread. Near the centre, however, was the *llan* granted with a *castell* (Castle) of land about it, for the term *castell* besides being used for a fortification or stronghold could also be used of a measure of land. ... there were in the nineteenth century four farmsteads named Castellau, and likewise in 1570 there were four separate holdings named Castellau. Like Castellau Uchaf these were located on the edges of patches of well-drained soils suitable for cultivation. Similarly in the eighth century there were probably four homesteads named Castellau, one for each brother, with the *hendref* (old settlement), the abode of the youngest brother and earlier the father, probably at the southernmost Castellau, later the site of a sixteenth-century mansion. The other homesteads were likewise dispersed in accordance with the lie of the land, near four spreads of arable land which even in the eighth century were possibly divided into sharelands. On the other hand the *castell* about *Lann Helicon* was probably nucleal land ... for certainly before it was donated to the church, *Lann Helicon* appears to have been a treasure common among the four brothers. The homesteads of Castellau c. 780 were dispersed but linked as they had been to *Lann Helicon* they were not isolated; and, as their disposition in relation to the fortified enclosure of the Iron Age at Lle'r Gaer suggests, this organic dispersal was already old established long before the eighth century.

Much as I would wish to endorse every word of Professor Jones's paragraph quoted above there are some doubts that must be expressed. Firstly the identification with the eighth-century grant of *Lann Helicon* to Llandaf seems far too tenuous to be convincing and, secondly one cannot help feeling that the Lan farm, although often spelt Llan, owes its name to its marginal position in relation to the *fridd* rather than to an ecclesiastical site. It is one of several farms in the locality on similar upland sites that have the name Lan which is perhaps analogous to the Glan of river-bank sites. Also the identification of the four Castellau farms of 1570 with the four of the nineteenth century is certainly flawed. The comparative tables below showing the Manorial survey and rental evidence in 1540, 1570

and 1839 reveals that the four farms were not the same units in continuous occupation under the same names. However, none of these caveats should be taken to discredit the conclusions reached by Professor Jones that the area has a continuous history stretching back from the present to the eighth century and, beyond that, to the Iron Age. The names have changed as the occupants have changed down the ages. But the islands of well-drained soils are real and constant, as is Lle' Gaer, the remains of the Iron Age fortification. And although the names have evidently kept on changing, the pattern seems to be circular and the more they change the more they stay the same.

And while the change of occupants has understandably been radical in the extreme, perhaps it has not been as total as we would expect over so many generations. Our own past Chairman, Griff Evans, was born in Castellau Ganol and he is a descendant, in the male line, of Evan ap Griffith, the 1570 freeholder of Gelliweion Fawr farm in the immediately adjoining hamlet.

Profesor Jones assumed that the mansion we are visiting this afternoon was one of the four Castellau homesteads in 1570, but, in fact it was not. The modern Castellau Fawr, when traced back through the manorial rentals is found to have been certainly one of the two largest holdings of the hamlet in terms of its historic rent but in 1570 it was known as *Tir Jevan ap Hywel ap Philip*.

The 1540 owner of *Tir Jevan ap Hywel ap Philip* was Ieuan Llywelyn ap Ieuan ap Hywel who was clearly a grandson of the eponymous Jevan (Ieuan) ap Hywel ap Philip. But by 1570 the owner was a Richard ap Hywel who had no obvious connection with his predecessors and, in fact, he was probably Richard ap Hywel of Alltygawrddy. The 1630 survey shows the owner as Edmund Traherne who was, in that year, Portreeve of the town of Llantrisant and in 1666 the owner was William Edmund, the rental remaining constant throughout at one shilling. Despite the apparent name difference, William Edmund was, in fact, William ap Edmund Traherne and it was over these two generations that the family adopted Traherne as their sur-

#### Glynrhondda: Llantrisant: Castellau

1540		
6d.	parcel Tyre Verk Llanvoyle	Thomas Gybbon
9d.	parcel Krestulle & Hendrekellen	Hywel ap Richard
6d.	parcel The Hyghest Krestulle	Jeuau Thomas pa Lloydde
10d.	parcel The Lowest Krestulle	Ieuan ap David
12d.	parcel Krustulle & Tyre Jeuau Forthe	Gruffudd ap Hywel
12d.	parcel Tyre Jeuau ap Howel ap Philip	Ieuan Llywelyn ap Jeuau ap Hywel
4 ½d	parcel Tyre Lln' Kenhayth	John ap Ralph
1 ½d.	parcel Crofter Haythe	Thomas Jayne Deio

1570		
6d.	Tyr Myryck Llen Voell [Lan & Rackett]	Llywelyn ap Ieuan
9d.	Kystylle ycha	John Jenkin
6d.	the highest Kystylle	Ieuan Thomas ap Hywel Llwyd
10d.	the lowest Kystylle	Ieuan Deio
12d.	Tyr Jevan Forthe Kystylle	Hywel Guto
12d.	Tyr Jevan ap Hywel ap Phe	Richard ap Hywel
41/2d	Llwyn y kynhalf duy	Jenkin ap Ralph
11/2d	Cost yr hayth	Thomas Jeuau Deio

1540	1570	1839
parcel Tyre Verk Llanvoyle	Tyr Myryck Llen Voell	Llan and Rackett
parcel Krestulle & Hendrekellen	Kystylle ycha	Castellau Uchaf
parcel The Hyghest Krestulle	the highest Kystylle	Waun Castellau
parcel The Lowest Krestulle	the lowest Kystylle	Castellau Ganol
parcel Krustulle & Tyre Jeuau Forthe	Tyr Jevan Forthe Kystylle	Pentre Gagol
parcel Tyre Jeuau ap Howel ap Philip	Tyr Jevan ap Hywel ap Phe	Castellau Fawr
parcel Tyre Lln' Kenhayth	Llwyn y kynhalf duy	Penygarn

name. A junior branch settled at Llwynypennau in Broviskin, adopted their surname a generation or so later and used the more common but less correct spelling of Treharne.

The next few rentals beginning with one in 1720-25 omit any reference to a tenement called *Tir Jevan ap Hywel ap Philip* and the corresponding rent of one shilling is also missing. However, a rental of 1762 includes *Castella Vawr* for the first time, in the possession and occupation of Llewellyn Traherne Esqr., formerly Edmd. Traherne and this entry coincides with the reappearance of the missing one shilling rent. There can be no doubt that *Castella Vawr* is the same as *Tir Jevan ap Hywel ap Philip* and the Traherne family lived at Castellau Fawr for nearly two centuries and were, no doubt, responsible for the 17<sup>th</sup>-century mansion. It is interesting that Mr Llewellyn Traherne was Steward of the Lordship of Meisgyn in the 1720s and it was he who drew up the rental for 1720-25 which may explain why his own estate of *Castellau Fawr* alias *Tir Jevan ap Hywel ap Philip* was missing.

The Trahernes were long established in the area appearing in the 1540 and 1570 Surveys as freeholders of small farms in Llanwensan and leaseholders of the Clun Park, an interest that was the basis of their rising prosperity and which they retained until well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first member of the family we can find is Treharne Llywelyn who was paying an assize rent of 1½d. for a farm called Y Digoed in Llanwensan in 1540.

Edmund Traherne the Portreeve in 1630 was certainly 'of Castellau Fawr' and the estate seems to have come into the family's possession, presumably by purchase, before 1595. The earliest surviving document is the marriage settlement of William ap Edmund Traherne in 1630 (GRO D/D Tr 2) which cites the capital mesuage and lands where Edmund Traherne and his wife were then living 'called *Tire David ap Treharne* alias *Tire Kystylle*...'. This must have been the same estate as was formerly known as *Tir Jevan ap Hywel ap Philip* and the newly introduced name of *Tir David ap Treharne* most likely commemorates the member of the Treharne/Traherne family who bought the land but who probably died without issue and is therefore not recoverable for a reconstructed pedigree. He was very likely a brother of Edmund Traherne.

It has generally been reckoned that the family's position amongst the ranks of the county gentry stems from the above mentioned marriage of William ap Edmund Traherne whose bride was Margaret Herbert, widow of Evan Herbert of Gyfylchi and daughter of William Jenkin ap William of Aberpergwm a direct descendant of Iestyn ap Gwrgan. However, William's father, Edmund Traherne, the Portreeve, had already allied himself to an ancient, though admittedly less wealthy, family of Hendresguthan in Llantwit Fardre. Jenet his wife was the grand-daughter of Morgan ap William of Hendresguthan who descended from Gruffudd ap

Cadrod from Einion ap Gollwyn, which Gruffudd married Hawis, one of the daughters of Hywel ap Meredudd, the last Welsh Lord of Meisgyn.

Mr Llewellyn Traherne the Steward was also Collector of Customs at Cardiff and he had a son Edmund Traherne (1734-95), also Collector of Customs, who married first Mary daughter of Thomas Llewellyn of Welsh St Donats and second Frances Popkin of Coytrehen. Edmund's eldest son, another Llewellyn Traherne, (1766-1841) inherited Coedriglan through his mother and made that the seat of the senior branch of the family. Who then was responsible for the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century remodelling that converted a large 17<sup>th</sup>-century farm-house into the late Classical style we see today? The Traherne family was not wealthy and their estate could not support them as esquires without the extra income from their position as customs collectors. The subsequent prosperity of both the Coedriglan and the Coytrehen branches of the family rested entirely upon the inheritance of their respective mothers and it would seem strange that Castellau should have been remodelled at considerable expense just at the time when it was becoming redundant to the family's needs. It seems to have been occupied by a younger son, Edmund Traherne who died in 1807 and it seems likely that he, intending to retain the house as his own seat, carried out the modernization, but if so, from what resource? Another half brother, Mr Morgan Popkin Traherne appears in the 1812 Rental as owner of Castellau but he established himself at Coytrehen, his mother's inheritance, and would hardly have sent a great deal upon Castellau which was, anyway, his elder brother's patrimony.

At some stage the house was sold and in 1833 the owner is shown as a Thomas Smith who appears to have been a Captain, later Major Smith. Thomas Smith, whose wife was Rosamund nee Bush, seems to have made little impact upon the history of the locality and is largely un-remembered but we should not blind ourselves to the possibility that it was he who was responsible for the house in its present form, although the heraldic window points to Edmund Traherne as the more likely candidate. Certainly Smith extended the estate by the acquisition of Treferig and other property nearby which suggests he must have been relatively long in the pocket but these purchases were probably related to his daughter's marriage portion.

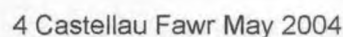
On 2 November 1837, at Clifton Church, Bristol, Major Thomas Smith's only daughter, Matilda Suzanne Smith married William Williams of Aberpergwm (1788-1855). He was aged 48 and she 19. However, the couple lived at Aberpergwm not at Castellau and, even after her husband's death, and her marriage, the following year, to Dr Edward Lloyd, Matilda continued to live mainly at Aberpergwm where, with her second husband's help, she was responsible for running the estate on behalf of her eldest son, still a minor. However, by 1871, we find that Dr & Mrs Lloyd and their daughter Rosamund had removed to Castellau Fawr where hitherto they had been only intermittantly



The late Mr John Traherne, the late Sir Cennydd's younger brother, bought the house back in 1946 and re-occupied it for the family for twenty years. Colonel Rhodri Traherne, now of Coedriglan, spent his childhood here.

The house was described by the RCAHM(W) in *Glamorgan, The Greater Houses*, HMSO 1981 and the relevant section follows these notes as an appendix. The present owners, Mr & Mrs Tony Lewis, have spent a great deal on improvements in the course of which they may well, as we often find, have come across evidence leading them to modify some of the Royal Commissions conclusions in certain respects.

Glanville R.J.Jones: 'The Dark Ages' in *Settlement and Society in Wales*, Ed. D Huw Owen, University of Wales Press, 1989  
J.Barry Davies: Llantrisant & District LHS Nls. No. 56, August 1983, No. 64, Jan. 1985, No. 77 Feb. 1987  
and Meisgyn & Glynrhondda LHS Research, NS Volume 1 No. 2, Manorial Rentals 1540-1840, July, 2000.  
Elizabeth F Belcham, *About Aberpergwm*, Heritage Ventures.



Castellau is a large two-storeyed house built mainly in a late Classical style, situated 3 km N. of Llantrisant. Its level site on the hillside overlooking the wide expanse of Llantrisant Common was the early seat of the Traherne family.

Though his forebears may have lived here in the 16th century, the Edmund Traherne who was portreeve (or mayor) of Llantrisant in 1630 is the first member of the family known to be associated with Castellau;<sup>1</sup> he, or possibly his son William, was among the fugitives after the Parliamentary victory at St. Fagans in 1648, but they do not appear to have been prominent enough to have had to compound for supporting the king.<sup>2</sup> William's son Edmund, 'of Castlehen, gent.', was noted by Lhuyd's local correspondent before the end of the century,<sup>3</sup> and through his mother, a daughter of William ap Jenkin of Aberpergwm, he could claim descent (through her maternal ancestry) from the stock of both Iestyn ap Gwrgan and the Herberts of Swansea.<sup>4</sup> His grandson Edmund Traherne (1734-95), who like his father held the office of Collector of Customs at Cardiff, made two marriages that were significant for the family's future. In 1764 he married a daughter of Thomas Llewellyn (of Morlanga, Welsh St. Donat's) whose brother John, of Coedriglan, married Edmund's sister; on the death of John Llewellyn in 1786 his estate passed to Edmund's son by that first marriage, Llewelyn Traherne (1766-1841), who made Coedriglan the seat of the senior branch.<sup>5</sup> Through Edmund's second marriage to Frances Popkin, the Coytrahen estate came to his descendants in the junior branch. It seems likely that Castellau was occupied and largely remodelled by the eldest son of that second marriage, another Edmund, before his early death in 1807; it was then sold by Llewelyn Traherne, and the junior branch of the family continued to live at Coytrahen. Castellau became the property of William Williams of Aberpergwm, but after his son had acquired St. Donat's Castle it was in tenant occupation and again changed ownership. In the period 1946 to 1976 the house was once again owned by a member of the Traherne family.

The house (Figs. 103, 104), in two main storeys with attics and cellars, consists of a long South Block and rear wings on the N. flanking a central stair hall. The centralized plan, together with the striking bowed ends or hemicycles of the South Block, the elegant geo-metrical staircase and the former ornate cast-iron veranda along the S. front and E. end, make it a good example of the late Classical style of building. But it incorporates an earlier structure that was basically L-shaped in plan, made up of the core of the South Block and the S. end of the North-east Wing. Concealed by later first-floor ceilings but visible in the attics over the W. part of that block are plain-chamfered beams regularly spaced for three-bay ceilings and retaining some of their plain joists (Fig. 104, *b*); as the only surviving details, they suggest a 17th-century storeyed house, probably extending the length of the South Block without the later bowed ends. At attic level, the walls of this early house have been raised by over 1 m, and part of the early roof structure

survives although not directly supporting the existing roof.

Early in the 19th century the house was given a completely different character, with a regular fenestration of french windows and central doorway on the S. front, bowed ends or hemicycles replacing the gable-ends of the main block with similar fenestration (the W. ones being blind), and a low-pitched roof with shouldered gables, its wide eaves being supported on cantilevered brackets. A cast-iron veranda extended along the S. front and was continued round the E. end. The stair unit then added on the N. provided a single semicircular flight of cantilevered stone steps enriched with an ornamental iron balustrade (Fig. 104, *c*), while the round-headed stair window was filled with heraldic and pictorial painted glass. The rest of the interior was remodelled in Classical style, providing a central entrance hall between, on the W., a drawing-room with a pair of columns *in ant* is on the chord of the bowed gable-end, and E. of it a dining-room with a higher ceiling than in other rooms. The resulting compact house may properly be compared with other villas typical of the period.

In subsequent changes during the 19th century the french windows were reduced to casement windows and presumably at that time the veranda was demolished apart from its central portion remaining over the entrance. The North-east Wing was added to provide a larger kitchen (more recently gutted and altered), and the narrower North-west Wing provided other service rooms, being extended to the N. in a secondary stage associated with a more formal approach through a semicircular courtyard and gateway on the N. W. The grounds immediately around the house are landscaped, and there is a group of 19th-century farm-buildings to the N.E.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION.** The walls throughout are rubble-built of local Pennant sandstone, rendered in the South Block and formerly scored in imitation of ashlar. The roofs are of slates, and the narrow chimney stacks are of rendered stone. The S. elevation of the South Block is fenestrated symmetrically on two storeys in six bays of vertically proportioned windows around a central doorway, the lower ones being casements and the upper ones sliding-sash windows. A plain string below the first-floor windows provided the seating of the lean-to roof of a former veranda along the length of this front, surviving before the entry as four cast-iron columns linked by open arches of ironwork and carrying a slated roof. From each returned end of the block springs a rounded projection or hemicycle to full height, with central windows similar to those on the front except that those on the W. are blind and the lower one at the E. end is a double casement window; the string is continued round the E. projection only. The low-pitched roof has shouldered ends and is set out with wide eaves supported on ogee-shaped timber brackets. On the E. face of the North-east Wing the surviving windows are all of sliding-sash type, the first-floor window at the S. end having a semicircular head and radiating panes; a circular ground-floor window N. of this, also with radiating glazing bars, may have been adapted from a similar window. Other openings in this wing including three doorways on the W. side have been altered, and it has been adapted as a large garage. The paved area



between the two wings lights the N. side of the stair unit which has a central tall window with semicircular head and margin lights; an inserted doorway at the W. end has a wide door of planks. The original openings in the North-west Wing have been much altered: at the S.E. end, all the doorways including a large arched opening on the E. and the windows are blocked; in the central portion an original E. doorway has been made into a window but is also blocked, while N. of this is another blocked doorway. On the W. face a former window has been adapted as a doorway, and all the first-floor windows are blocked. A small modern conservatory stands against the N. gable-end of the wing.

The central entrance hall is entered on the S. through a pair of narrow panelled doors, the doorway having internally a simply moulded architrave and panelled casing. The tall windows flanking this doorway are similarly cased and provided with folding shutters. The doorways on the W., N. and E. sides of the hall have moulded architraves resting on plain bases, the upper angles having a plain roundel within a square frame (Fig. 104, /); the panelled double-leaf doors open as a single leaf, a feature that occurs throughout the house. Of the two N. doorways flanking a central semicircular alcove with a similarly moulded archivolt, the E. one conceals a recess and the W. one opens to the stair hall.

The drawing-room W. of the entrance hall is lighted on the S. by two tall windows in panelled casing that serves as shutters. Around the walls of the main part of the room is a plaster cornice formed of a continuous pattern of intertwined hops above a band of acanthus leaves and below beading; on the W. the cornice is carried across the chord of the apse-like projection, its soffit supported by two marble columns showing entasis, with Ionic capitals and Attic bases (Figs. 103, d, 104, e). The apse has a similar cornice and a central ceiling decoration of floral pattern. The fireplace on the N. has a white marble surround in which pilasters support a lintel enriched with floral designs under a cornice and a central panel with a reclining cherub (Fig. 104, d). The doorway from the hall has a simply moulded architrave. A similar architrave frames the doorway of the dining-room E. of the hall, which is lighted on the S. by two windows similar to those in the drawing-room and on the E. by a double casement window with panelled shutters. In the N. wall of this room, W. of a modern fireplace, the doorway from the former kitchen has a reed-moulded architrave in which a rosette is set in a square panel at each upper angle (Fig. 104, g). The central decoration of the ceiling (which is at a higher level than those to the W.) consists of delicately moulded plaster ribs radiating fan-like within an oval surround of wheat-ears; at the corners of the ceiling, square panels enclose circular garlands of leaves. The richly moulded plaster cornice has a pattern of intertwined flowers over a band of honeysuckle and anthemion, with an upper bead moulding.

The stair hall N. of the entrance hall forms a passage between the service wings, the stair itself occupying the semicircular N. half of the hall. The S. doorway, which is balanced by an alcove W. of it, and the E. and W. doorways all have boldly moulded architraves with rosettes in small square panels at the upper angles, the doors being panelled as

elsewhere (Fig. 104, g). The geometrical stair rising in a single flight to the first floor (Fig. 104, c, Plate 70) has shaped treads of local sandstone moulded on the nosings and soffits, and a continuous mahogany handrail supported by cast-iron balusters, alternately single bars and double parabolas with internal and external scrolls, all provided with scrolled feet and a central rosette. In place of a newel post, there is on the curtail step a cluster of single-bar balusters forming with the handrail a spiral turn. Lighting the stair on the N. is a tall round-headed sash-window with panelled archivolt (similar to doorways, Fig. 104, /), glazed with margin lights and painted glass panels; in the upper half in a round-headed frame is a heraldic achievement, *gu. on a chevron between three cinquefoils arg. (?) as many leopard's faces sa., over all an inescutcheon az. a buck trippant arg. and in chief three crosses patee or*, apparently for Llewelyn of Ynysgerwn (there properly trefoils) and Popkin, possibly for Edmund Traherne (1776-1807) in right of his father's grandmother and his own mother;<sup>6</sup> the crest is *on a closed helm a stag statant*. Below it is a scene representing possibly Charity with two children. In the lower half of the window the central light contains two modern representations of the arms of Traherne.

E. of the stair hall, the former kitchen has been modernized and is lighted on the E. by a sash-window. There are doorways from the stair hall and from the dining-room on the S., while in the N. wall another doorway W. of a central blocked fireplace leads to the added North-east Wing which has been gutted; in the N. gable-end is a fireplace with a dressed-stone surround between shelved corner-recesses, and W. of the fireplace is a brick-lined oven.

The North-west Wing has also been altered and is now partly derelict. The room at the S. end, formerly entered from the stair hall, contained a wooden stair to the first floor and to the attic rooms on the W. of the South Block. The only opening not blocked is a doorway from the N.E. corner to the central open yard. The room N. of this, lighted on the W., has a fireplace in the N. wall, E. of which is an opening through the former gable-end into the addition to the wing. This last room, lighted on the E., was originally entered from the central yard but that doorway has been blocked and the former W. window has been altered into a doorway. The fireplace in the N. gable-end has an oven on its E. side and a cupboard recess on the W. A single-flight wooden stair against the S. wall provided the only access to the room above, which has a fireplace on the N.

At first-floor level the rooms of the South Block are approached from the wide landing at the head of the geometrical stair and by a passage E. of it; the balustrade to the landing is a continuation of that to the stair. The opening through the E. wall of the stair hall has an arched head, but the opposite doorway in the W. wall is blocked. All the original doorways opening off the landing and passage have boldly moulded architraves repeating the decorative rosettes in the upper angles (Fig. 104, g), and this moulding occurs on the archivolts of the central arched opening and of the round-headed sash-window at the E. end. The ceilings over the stair hall and the passage have a plain

cornice and a central decoration of radiating ribs in a circular frame similar to that in the dining-room. Though the rooms of the South Block are disposed basically as those on the ground floor, partitions provide dressing-rooms to the two larger end rooms which at the E. end are floored and ceiled at a higher level than the others and are approached by rising steps from the passage. In the central room and those E. of it the doorways have plainly moulded architraves, but W. of the central room the architraves are reed-moulded, with square panels in the upper angles (Fig. 104, *a*). The sash-windows on the S. and E. are all cased and fitted with panelled shutters. The plaster cornice to each room is either reed-moulded or forms a floral pattern. The North-east Wing at this level is approached by a passage W. of a small partitioned room over the original kitchen and provides two rooms, of which only the N. one has a fire-place in the N. gable-end. The windows to these three rooms (which are all on the E.) and the doorways are similar to those in the South Block. The corresponding rooms in the North-west Wing are derelict and their windows are blocked, but they repeat the ground-floor plan of the wing.

The two attic rooms over the W. part of the South Block (now disused) were accessible only from the North-west Wing. In each, a central roof truss mortised at the apex and resting on wall-plates supports three purlins and a ridge-piece, some only of which remain in place but do not directly support the existing roof. The latter is carried on king-post

trusses, one to the W. and three to the E. of the earlier trusses. Visible at floor level are plain-chamfered beams of a former first-floor ceiling, spaced in regular bays and providing for plain joists, some of which remain *in situ*. Incorporated in the secondary roof structure of the South Block, the cantilevered timber brackets supporting the eaves and set in the wall-tops are counterbalanced internally by vertical timbers linking them to the rafters. The roofs over the stair hall and the S. end of the North-east Wing are similar to the original roof of the South Block but have in addition a lapped collar linking the principals of each truss, which is set centrally to each block. In the wall separating the rest of the North-east Wing is a blocked light towards the E. side. The attics N. of this and those of the North-east Wing are not accessible.

<sup>1</sup> Clark, *Limbus*, pp. 559-60; D. Lewis, *The History of Llantrisant* (Llantrisant, 1966), p. 105.

<sup>2</sup> C. Tilney in *Glamorgan Historian*, VIII (1972), p. 99; cf. R. Denning in *idem.*, IV (1967), p. 48, citing MS family history by the Revd. J. M. Traherne.

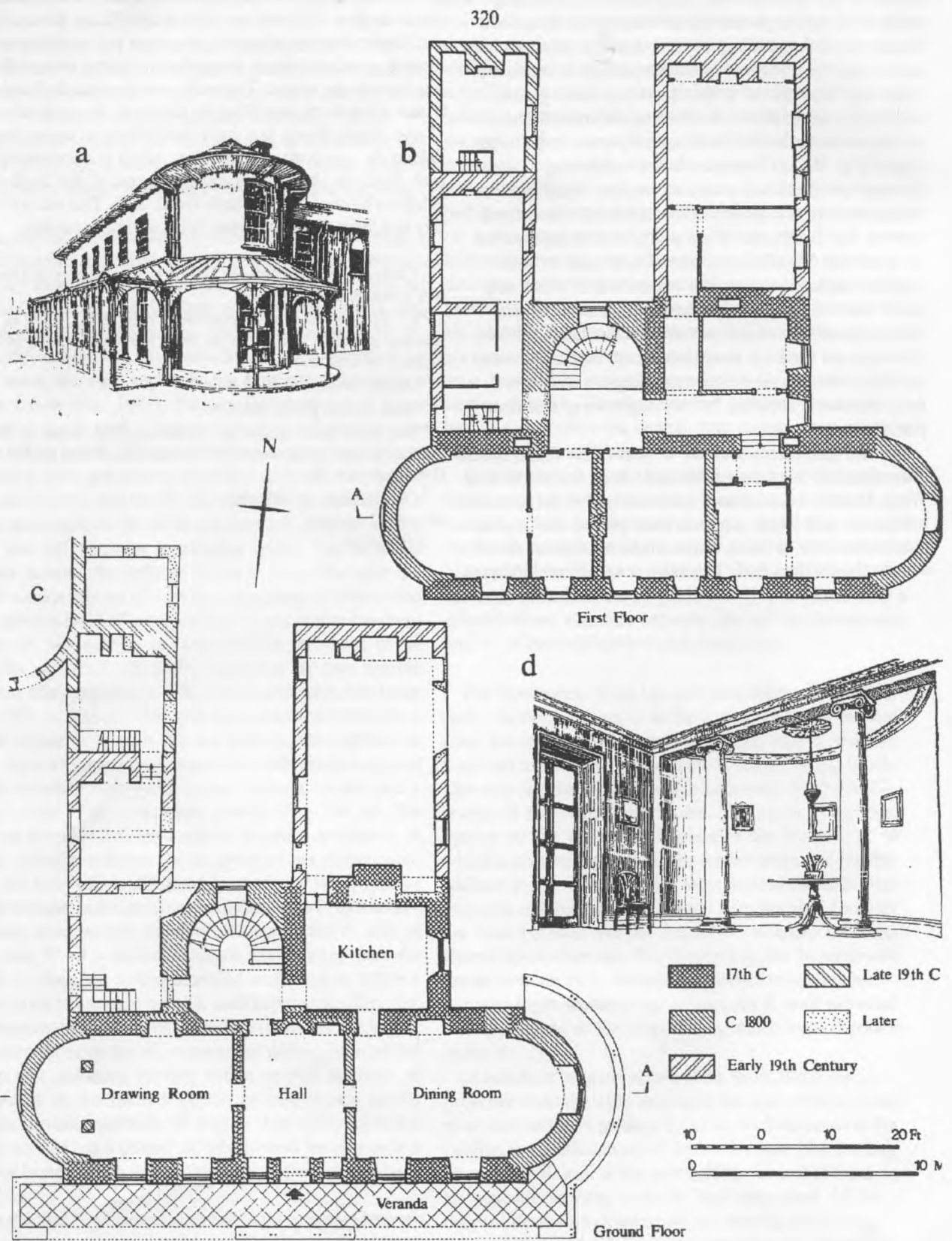
<sup>3</sup> Lhuyd, *Parochiata*, III, p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Clark, *Limbus*, pp. 83, 286, 559.

<sup>5</sup> The house (now known as Coedarhydyglyn) begun in 1820 replaces an older house erected in 1767 and demolished in 1823 (R. Denning as in n. 2).

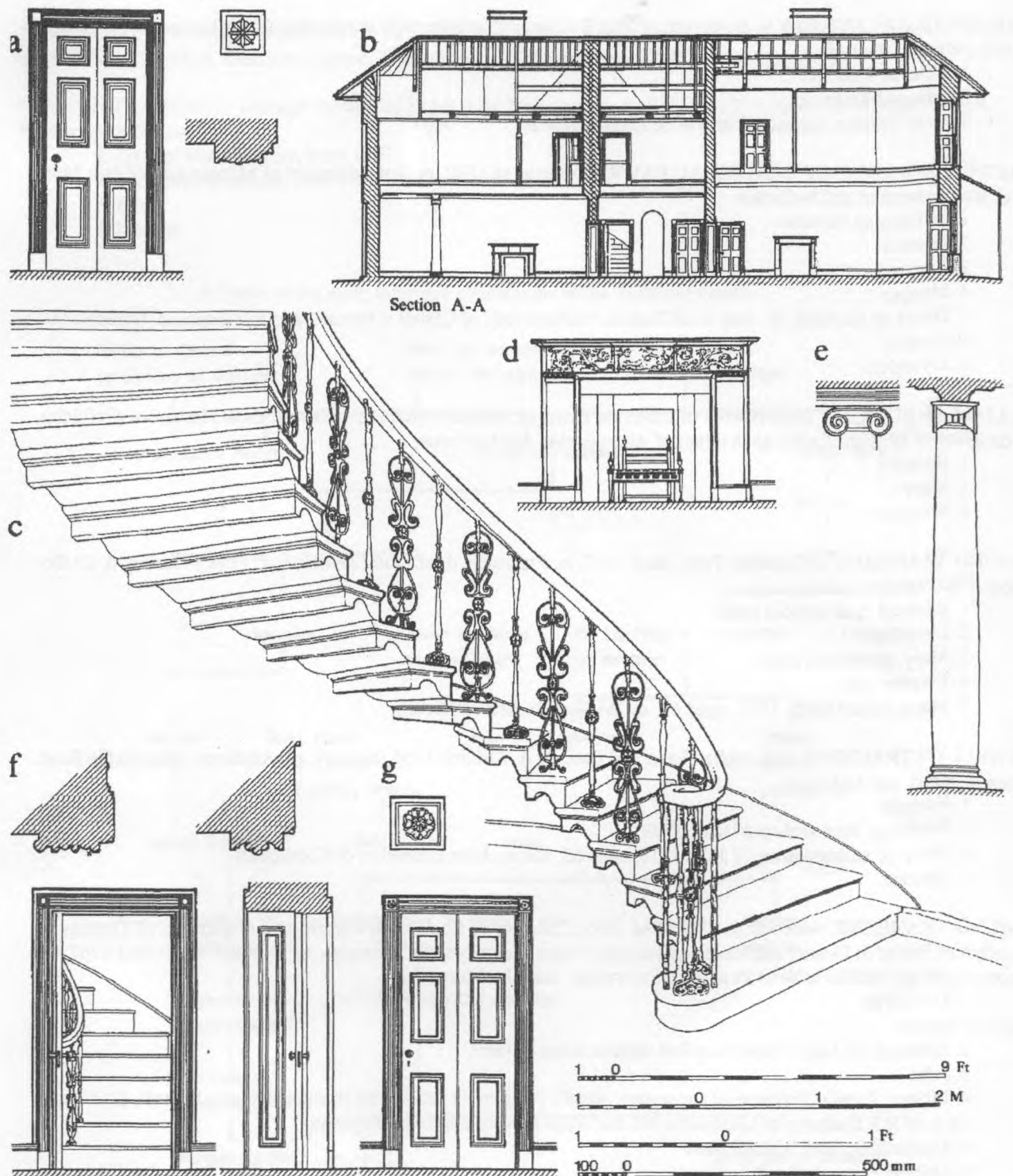
<sup>6</sup> Clark, *Limbus*, pp. 105, 559.

36 N.W. Llantrisant  
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103 Castellau (41), *a* view from S.E. (verandah restored), *b* first floor, *c* ground floor, *d* drawing-room.





104 Castellau, *a* doorway in dining-room, *b* long-section, *c* main stair, *d* fireplace in drawing-room, *e* column in drawing-room, *f* doorway between hall and stair, *g* doorway on N. of dining-room. Castellau is an instance of a 17th-century house completely remodelled in the late Classical style including hemicycles and a geometrical stair.

### Traherne of Castellau

TRAHAEARN AP LLYWELYN, freeholder of Tire Dygoet, Llanwensan in 1540, ? father of:

LLYWELYN AP TRAHAEARN, deceased former freeholder of Tire Dygoet in 1570, ? father of:

TRAHAEARN AP LLYWELYN, freeholder of Tire Dygoet in Llanwensan & leaseholder of the Lower Parc of Clun in 1570, perhaps father of:

1. ? David Traherne
2. Edmond Traherne
3. Evan Trahern, whence Treharne of Llwynypennau

EDMOND TRAHERNE OF CASTELLAU FAWR, Portreeve in 1630, m. Janet daughter of Morgan ap William Morgan of Hendresguthan and had issue:

1. William ap Edmund
2. Edward
3. Edmund
4. Morgan
5. David ap Edmund, m. Ann d. of Thomas Mathew Esq. of Castell y Mynach and had Edmund Traherne of Broviskin.
6. Llywelyn

WILLIAM AP EDMUND TRAHERNE of Castellau Fawr, m. Margaret Herbert, widow of Evan Herbert of Gyfylchu and daughter of William Jenkin ap William of Aberpergwm and had issue;

1. Edmund
2. Mary
3. Margaret

EDMUND TRAHERNE of Castellau Fawr, died 1697, m. Prudence, d. of John Llewellyn of Ynys y Gerwn, d. 23 December 1763, aged 52. Issue:

1. Edmund died without issue
2. Llewellyn
3. Mary, d. without issue.
4. Eleanor
5. Mary, d. 30 March, 1731, aged 66, m. William Bassett of Miskin.

LLEWELLYN TRAHERNE of Castellau Fawr and Cardiff, d. 7 March 1766, aged 80, m. Anstance, sister to the Revd. Nathaniel Wells, and had issue:

1. Edmund
2. Prudence, died without issue, 1790
3. Mary, d. without issue 12 July, 1812, aged 83, she m. John Llewellyn of Coedriglan
4. Eleanor

EDMUND TRAHERNE, widower in 1770, died 1795, Collector of Customs at Cardiff, m. (1) Mary, d. of Thomas Llewellyn of Welsh St Donats and niece and heiress of John Llewellyn of Coedriglan, m. 23 April 1764, died 1767, (2) Frances, sister and heiress of John Popkin of Coytrehen. Issue by Mary:

1. Llewellyn

Issue by Frances:

2. Edmund, m. Mary Sloper but died without issue in 1807.
3. John
4. Morgan Popkin Traherne of Coytrehen, sheriff 1812, m. (1) Elizabeth Jenkins of Pant y Nawell, (2) Margaret d. of R.F. Rickards of Llantrisant and had issue six sons and four daughters
5. Christopher, died without issue
6. Griffith Price, died without issue
7. Price, died without issue
8. Frances, m. G. Jewson
9. Elionor
10. Jane
11. Mary Anstance, m. T.A. Morse and had Colonel Morse.

LLEWELLYN TRAHERNE of St Hilary, born 1766, m. (1) Charlotte, d. 1796, d. of John Edmundes of Cowbridge, (2) Barbara Maria Manning. Issue by Charlotte:

1. John Montgomery

2. Charlotte Frances, died without issue
3. Mary Eleanor, m. 1817, Revd. William Bruce, Dean of Llandaff, s.p.
4. Louise

By Barbara:

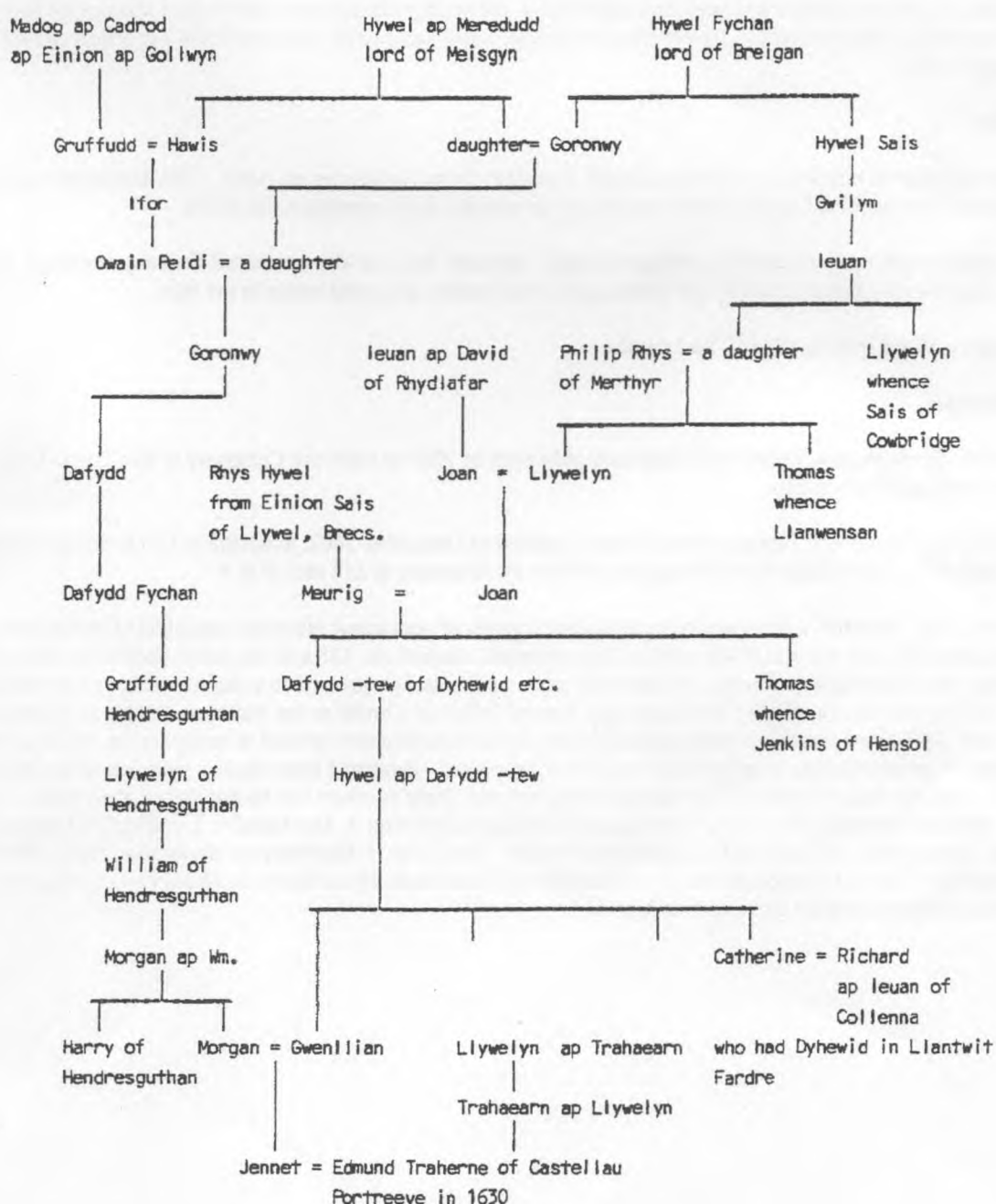
5. George

JOHN MONTGOMERY TRAHERNE. A.M., Clerk, of Coedriglan, Chancellor of Llandaff, born 5 October 1788, died 29 April, 1830, m. Charlotte Louise, 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter of Thomas Mansel Talbot of Margam, s.p.

GEORGE TRAHERNE, younger brother of Revd. J M Traherne, died 1853, m. 1824, Ellen, d. of John Gilbert Royde and had issue:

1. George Montgomery, born 1827
2. Llewellyn Edmund, born 1834 who had issue.
3. Ellen
4. Frances

A Table of the early marriage connections of the Traherne Family





## Llantrisant and District Local History Society

President: Trefor I Rees, MBE, KStJ.

Chairman: Eric Griffith

Vice-Chairman: Walter Jones

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Lynne Read

Hon. Sec. J. Barry Davies, Cerrig Llwyd, Lisvane Road, Lisvane, CARDIFF CF14 0SG

Phone 029 2075 6173

Email BDavies203@aol.com

The Society was formed in the early 1970s. Membership is open to all with an interest in the history of the borough and parish, plus those adjacent parishes that, historically, fell within the southern half of the lordships of Meisgyn and Glynrhondda. Thus our motto: *Celebrating the People and Places of the Ancient Welsh Lordships of Meisgyn and Glynrhondda*

### Activities:

A winter session of meetings is held on second Tuesdays from September to April. The December meeting (exceptionally on the first Tuesday) is the annual dinner and the April meeting is the AGM.

Three outdoor meetings are normally arranged in May, June and July, usually on second Tuesday evenings. Commonly these take the shape of a visit to a farmhouse in the locality or a great house in the vale.

**Subscription** £8 for individuals £10 for couples.

### Publications:

*The Ancient Borough and Freeman of Llantrisant* published in 1989 to mark the Centenary of the Town Trust. A few copies are still available at £10.

*Pontyclun and Talygarn; A Topographical History*, published December 2002, available at £10 from the Pontyclun Community Shop, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun or from the Secretary at £12 incl. P & P.

For nearly thirty years the Society has been producing a series of occasional historical pamphlets for free distribution to the membership. By the end of the century this series had reached no. 125 and the editor decided to call a halt. They began as a duplicated production of generally poor quality and progressed to a slightly better photocopied format. A full set can be consulted at the Glamorgan Record Office in Cardiff or the National Library in Aberystwyth. Since April 2000 a new series has been initiated which, while breaking new ground in many issues, will also attempt to retrieve, in revised format, much of what has already appeared. Produced three times a year, six issues have appeared to form the first volume and five of the second volume. Back numbers can be purchased at £1 each: 1. St y Nill; 2. Manorial Rentals 1540-1840; 3. St Fagans in Meisgyn Lordship; 4. The Marcher Lordship of Talygarn; 5. Borough Topography; 6. Copyholds in Llantrisant Parish. Vol. II No. 1 The Pentyrch Ironworks; No. 2. The Borough Boundary; No. 3. Llwynyrwn; No. 4. A Chronicle of Llantrisant; No. 5. Radyr in Meisgyn Lordship, No. 6 Argoed Wlad in Clun Lordship plus Index to Vol. 2.