

MEMORIES OF OVERTON

Bangor Road and Turning Street



Turning Street
approx 1920

Quinta Cottage (to the right of the picture) was made up of 2 cottages.



In the right hand cottage lived George and Jane Williams with their daughter Dorothy Downey and granddaughter (now Mrs Evelyn Roberts). He had bought the cottage for £100 in 1922. After serving in WWI George Williams worked for butchers Percy Reeves, Jack Davies and Ernie Woolley. He was a great storyteller and could be found every evening at 'the corner' by Pendas House known as the meeting place, entertaining his friends and always smoking his pipe.

In the left hand cottage (from about 1914) lived Mr & Mrs Fred James with daughters Connie & Grace. Daughter Grace can be seen in white at the gate in the picture at the top of the page. Fred was gardener at Gwernheylod and in 1931 the family moved to Pharmacy House. Then Mr & Mrs George Gittens lived there with their two daughters Gertie (Mrs Herbert Stant) and Dolly (Mrs Curbishley).



To the left was the newsagent. In the 1890s this was the home of Colin Cross born 1855 and was a shoe and boot makers shop. Colin was also the village postman. (see photo)



His son Dick was the band leader mentioned in the memories about the Village Hall (see 'Memories of Penyllan Street').



His daughter Mrs Davies changed the shop to a newsagents, selling sweets in paper cones, large batteries for the wireless and ran a lending library.

The next house to the left was once the home of the Philip and Mabel Mary Ann Woolley and their son Ernest was born there. (see photo of him outside his butchers shop in "Memories of Penyllan Street" notes). Next door were the O'Brian family. In 1892 this was the home of John Jones, under keeper on the estate and foreman of the Church bell ringers. Whilst ringing in the New Year of 1894 he dropped dead. Miss Maude from Pendyffryn wrote a commemorative poem on the event. Both these houses were owned by the Bryn y pys estate. In 1947 Philip Woolley paid £8.3.8d a year rent and Mrs O'Brian £13 a year rent to the estate.



The cottage to the left is now called Clarion Cottage. This was the home of Mrs "Pinafore" Davies, so called because she always wore a clean white pinafore. Next door is now called Lilac Cottage and this is where the Prandle family lived.

Tha Prandle family outside Lilac Cottage

To the left is now the modern Indian Restaurant and Fish & Chip shop. This was built by Mr Philma 'Sankey' Hughes in the 1960s. Before that there was a fish and chip shop on this site but it was a wooden hut run by Mr Fred James helped by his daughters Grace and Connie. Grace later became the village post lady from 1946 to

1977. The shop sold “fabulous fish and chips” wrapped in newspaper for taking out, or there were long tables and benches if you wanted to “eat in” and clean sawdust on the floor.

Between the chip shop and School Lane were cottages known in earlier days as Coracle Terrace. This harks back to when there were many men earned a living fishing the river, using coracles. This came to an end in the 1920s with the setting up of the Fisheries Board.



In one lived Tom Suckley, a bin man. Although small he could swing the large bins onto his shoulders. Jack Pritchard and Jim Tink also lived there.

In another lived the Duncan family. 2 year old Pamela Duncan is pictured in 1936 with “Harry the pig man” who was hired to visit different households to kill the family pig



Across the other side of School Lane was the United Methodist Free Chapel built in 1858. With the building of the new Methodist Chapel in 1938 (see ‘Memories of Penyllan Street’) Tommy Thompson, builder, converted this chapel into the two semidetached houses (Chapel House) you see today. The one of the right was lived in by Joe and Laura Matthews, the one on the left by Mr & Mrs Tommy Thompson.

To the left was Yew Tree House and on the left end of it Yew Tree Cottage. Yew Tree House was originally 2 thatched cottages, but the roof level was raised and a slate roof added. In 1901 it was the home of Anan Thompson, a joiner and wheelwright and the circular trough (later used as a cattle trough) was originally for cooling the metal rims onto the wheels and was in the yard opposite the back door of the house within living memory. His son Tommy then moved there from Chapel House. He was the village builder, undertaker, taxi driver and Methodist Chapel Superintendent. He was responsible for building the present Chapel on the corner of

Salop Road and Station Road. (see 'Memories of Penyllan Street') His brother William Thompson lived in the cottage to the left.

In the 1960s this became Springfield Supplies run by the Evison family, and in 2008 the land was built on and became Bramblewood Close.

To the left are two houses built as Police Houses in the 1960s. The land they are on was the garden for Yew Tree Cottage.

To the left the house now known as Ty Gwernan was previously called Ivy Cottage and owned by the Bryn y pys estate. It was lived in by Mr C Murless whose son was Sir Noel Murless the famous horse trainer. He paid £ 40 a year rent to the estate in 1947. Later it was lived in by the Dowager Lady Kenyon and then by Dr Morris.

On the opposite side of the road the land now occupied by Maelor Court was once Top Hill Gardens, allotments for cottagers who had no garden. In 1947 10 people were renting allotments at 8 shillings a year rent to the Bryn y pys estate.

The Hughes family who ran the Smithy in Wrexham Road also rented a field which is now part of Maelor Court, and one which is now Parkside. In the Parkside field was large haystack. The gate way was where No 17 Maelor Court is now and the pump that was by the gate is still there although the trough that was there has gone.. John Hughes used to milk the 3 cows and ride his bike back to Wrexham Rd with a bucket of milk on each handlebar. The milk was for the family but also went to Mrs Hilton Jones at the Hermitage (there was a small wooden gate behind the smithy to the Hermitage) and to Mrs Roper (Mrs Woodhouse's mother) at Pen-y-glyn, both in Willow Street.

Going back towards the village centre is the 18th century cottages known as Tanners Row. Originally they were built for workers at the tannery near Little Overton Farm. They were owned by the Bryn y pys estate. They were often occupied by large families who during WWII, took in evacuee children who were billeted in the village. They were fondly called "elastic houses". Tenants in 1947 (Thomas Chesworth, P A Clayton, Agnes Jones, C Phillips, Miss Ellen Roberts and Susan Roberts) were paying £5.17.0d a year rent to the estate.

The photograph of the ladies of Bangor Road is taken, probably in the 1950s, to the left of Tanners Row where there was a garden, now built on by houses No 25 & 26,



Back left: Mrs Haynes, Mrs Suckley, Mrs Ellis, Alice Hughes, Marie Haynes with child Les Stant.

Front left:

Molly Jamieson, Mrs Dickie "Pinafore" Davies, Mrs Gertrude Stant, Mrs Lloyd Wright



There are 3 other cottages on the same side of Bangor Road. These were lived in by Mrs Haynes, Mrs Stant and Mrs Ellis.

Mrs Ellis pictured outside her cottage, the left hand one of the 3, nearest the present entrance to Parkside.

Where the entrance to Parkside is now, was a field. The two estate houses on the far side of the entrance to Parkside were occupied by Mr & Mrs Jack Roberts and Mr & Mrs Langford. Mr Langford paid £10 a year rent to the estate. Between these houses and Pendas House was one of the village pumps which provided all the water for Turning Street and Tanners Row until the provision of piped water.