

The Immediate Post –War Years

In 1946 a new proscenium arch was constructed around the stage in the Hall by Tommy Lee and the stage had new curtains along with a pulley system. The two war-time “Nissen” huts were demolished in the early 1950s, although the concrete foundations remained until they were dug up in 2009 during the major building work at the hall.

In the 1940s the Church purchased a film projector to show religious films during Lent. Tommy Lee (who was the manager/caretaker of the hall) adapted a pay box at the hall to house the equipment. The films were so popular that it was decided to hire full-length films and cartoons, showing twice per week. Tommy Lee then acquired a second projector so “three reelers” could be shown without a break. Godfrey Jefford recalls seeing “Man of Arran”.

In 1946 the Young Mens’ and Boys’ Clubs were restarted at the hall. Godfrey Jefford was Secretary and *Mr Doherty, **The Rev. Martin and Tommy Lee were the supervisors. The upstairs room housed a billiard table, table tennis and board games were played in the kitchen. Godfrey Davies and Eric Lee remember.....“ *We used to play billiards in the upstairs room.. We did not have enough balls to play snooker !. One of the other members was ***Richie Gamon. The Rev Martin, a nice old boy, used to organise these sorts of activities”.*

(* ex Supt of the Sudan Police who lived at Green Lodge. ** Rector of Reynoldston 1930 – 1959. ***Richie Gamon of “Bryn Awel” was the son of William Gammon, a tailor in the Village. Richie died of cancer in 1955 aged 22 years.

A Call for More Support for the Hall and its Activities

A public meeting was held at the Church Hall on Friday March 5th for the purpose of discussing ways and means of making more use of the Hall and also of making some interior renovation. The meeting was well attended and a committee was formed to raise funds. We hope everyone will show an interest in this matter so that a little more social life may be introduced to the village and district. The first event in this direction will be held on March 6th at 11 am in the form of a coffee morning at “Rosemary”. We are grateful to Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Bunning for their kindness in organising it and we hope they will be well supported. (1947).

The Church Hall – The Beginning of the End.....

By the middle of the 1950s the use of the Hall and its income had declined. Various fund raising events took place.....

“The Aeolian Singers gave an excellent account of themselves at the Church Hall. Those who made the effort to come thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We are grateful to Mr. Sidney Heath, their President, who is such an energetic patron of the Arts, for so readily taking the Chair” (1962).

The Village Fete, held at the Church Hall on Sept 2nd was a great success, thanks to the efforts of the Ladies’ Committee and everyone who helped on

the occasion. We were very sorry that Mrs. Nicholson Newton failed to be there owing to ill-health and we wish her a speedy recovery. We are grateful to Mr. Paul Ferris, the Author and T.V. personality for taking her place, at very short notice and performing the opening ceremony. (1965)

A Jumble Sale was held at the Church Hall on Saturday Oct 16th in aid of the Church Hall Renovation Fund. Those who served at the tables were surprised at the speed with which the tables were cleared but the cashier had a lovely smile so everyone went away in good spirits (1965).

It was clear, by the mid 60s, that the Hall was an increasing liability for the Church, which was unable to find the money for the required repairs and modernisation. The fact that the original Trust Deed stated that the Hall could only be used for the purposes of the Church proved a real stumbling block when grants were applied for.

During this period many events took place at the Hall, but by now, time was catching up with the building and its fabric.

The Marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana was celebrated
"A children's fancy dress parade on the Lower Green, a sumptuous tea in the Church Hall, mugs, coins, balloons and fancy hats! What more could children ask for? Yet there was still more.

A social evening of games, music and dancing, with unlimited refreshments, and a glass of wine to toast Prince Charles and his Bride, were enjoyed by a goodly company of all ages.

The celebration was so successful because the whole village worked to make it so. Money, food and help were all generously given.

The organising committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. John Morgan (Ty Bryn) received many congratulations. But they knew and appreciated that it was the cooperative effort of the whole village that really made the day. The Fancy Dress competition, judged by a brave team headed by Mrs Nell Jefford, was excellent. If you weren't captivated by one of the Lady Dianas, you could be shot by e.g Cupid, "Little Running Water" or King Arthur and his several knights, (Report by Joan Stevenson of "Tegfan" Sept. 1971)

The main hall has now been fitted with ten 6ft fluorescent lamps, this will greatly improve the lighting effect and reduce costs. Our grateful thanks to Mr. LA Meredith who did the work so quickly and efficiently. (1971)



The Reynoldston Drama Group will present a play entitled "Island of Sirens" on June 8 and 9 in the Church Hall. Admission, by programme, is 30p (children and OAPs half price). Programmes can be obtained at Lyndon Lee's. Refreshments during the interval at 5p (1973)

The Reynoldston Drama Group in the 1970s. John Crabbe (leaning forward) is the Director

Harvest Supper: The Guest Speaker, Mr. William Curran, delighted the very large numbers present with an entertaining talk. This was followed by the presentation of a clock, the gift of the Women's Institute, to mark the Jubilee of the Church Hall. The President, Mrs. Joan Logan, called upon Mrs. Jefford to speak and the actual presentation was made by the oldest member, Mrs. Williams, the President's mother. In the entertainment that followed, our Drama Group, Mr. Islwyn Bennett and the Reynoldston Singers fully entertained the most appreciative audience.

The Arts and Craft Exhibition was most worthwhile. Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams for the hard, painstaking work involved to make it such a success. (1973).

1973 was the year when Reynoldston won the award for the *Best Kept Village in Gower*. The other finalists were Bishopston, Overton, Kittle and Three Crosses and the judging was undertaken by Mr. Raymond Jones, Director of *Keep Britain Tidy*. The Green and Churchyard got a special mention. The plaque on the Lower Green was unveiled by Councillor Mrs. Susan Jones, JP. Tea was provided in the Hall, with speeches from Mrs Susan Jones, Judge Rowe Harding, the Gower Warden Mr. D. O. Evans, Mr Bryn Williams (Green Lodge) and the Rector (Rev. E. G. Morgan). Dr. James thanked the good ladies of Reynoldston for the delightful tea.

The Drama Group arranged a most delightful evening's entertainment, with tasty refreshments, to celebrate St. David's Day. "The Get Together" as it was called attracted a large audience. The children from Knelston School, tutored by Mrs. Lucas of Knelston School and supervised by the Head Master, Mr. Price, gave much pleasure by their exhibition of Welsh dancing. The varied programme of singing, led by Mrs. Pauline Horrell with Mrs. M. McGairl as the pianist and the little sketches were very entertaining. Mrs. Ena Davies expressed our thanks for the enjoyable evening.

The Stage, with new curtains, looked very attractive. Our thanks to those who made the curtains and hung them – a very big thank you to Mr and Mrs Bryn Thomas of West Down for helping us to obtain the curtains. (1977).

In July 1981 the Reynoldston Drama Group, directed by Doris Day* performed her play "A Crowing Hen". The cast included Margaret Allen**, Vicky Evans, Stella Taylor, Jennifer Kitcher, Cynthia Jenkins*** and Fred Day. Backstage were Glyn Jenkins, John Crabbe,**** Janet Campbell, Phillipa Evans and Pauline Horrell. Music was provided by the *Four and a Penny* singing group.. Joyce Jones, Pauline Horrell, Barbara Roberts, Betty Spencer and Penny Henderson.

*Doris and her husband Fred had moved to Llanrhidian from Watford, where Fred had worked in the printing industry. Doris directed RADS (Reynoldston Amateur Dramatic Society) for a number of years. She had been a semi professional producer and continued to write plays and adjudicate at drama competitions. Her brother was Lord Ted Willis and her son was a producer with Yorkshire Television.

**Margaret Allan lived with her husband Frank at Heathfield, close to the Hall

***Glyn and Cynthia Jenkins lived in St George's Terrace. Glyn had spent his working life with the Post Office.

**** John Crabbe lived, with his wife Winnie, in Pound Cottage on the Lower Green

One of the last major drama productions at the Church Hall was the pantomime *Cinderella*, written and directed by Doris Day and performed in November 1989.

CINDERELLA

Written and directed by Doris M Day

CAST (in order of appearance)

Cinderella	the Baron's Daughter	Karen Beynon
Buttons	the Baron's Valet	Chris Beynon
Avaminta	the Baron's Ugly Step-daughter	Hugh Jones
Ermintrude	another Ugly Step-daughter	Ken Bennett
Baroness Griselda	the Baron's Second Wife	Sylvia McLellan
Baron Montmorency	Baron of Stoneybroke Castle	Courtney Grove
Smash	a Castle Guard	John Mahoney
Grab	another Castle Guard	David Gibson
Old Lady	and Fairy Godmother	Pauline Horrell
Dandini	a wealthy friend of the prince	Margaret Davies
King Pomposity	King of Pomerania	Gerard Turley
Queen Quinivex	Queen of Pomerania	Allison Jenkins
Prince Charmion	Their son	Lindsay Harris

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I Scene 1 The kitchen of Stoneybroke Castle.
 Scene 2 The Castle Grounds
 Scene 3 The kitchen of Stoneybroke Castle.
 Scene 4 The Castle Grounds
 Scene 5 The Ugly Sisters Bedroom
 Scene 6 The kitchen of Stoneybroke Castle.

INTERVAL During the interval refreshments will be served by members of the Reynoldston Youth Club.

ACT II Scene 1 An Ante-room of the Palace
 Scene 2 The Palace Garden
 Scene 3 The Palace Garden - One Week later
 Scene 4 The kitchen of Stoneybroke Castle.
 Scene 5 Preview to Finale
 Scene 6 Palace - Finale

MUSICIANS

Musical Director and Keyboards Mike Thomas
 Percussion Jim Gardiner
 Bass Guitar Roy Morris

STAGE STAFF

Stage Manager Barry Bailey
 Lighting and Scene Construction Fred Day
 Assistants to Stage Manager Hazel Roberts, Sue Brown
 Properties Freda Thomas, Allison Jenkins
 Prompt Kathie Roberts
 Design and Decor Frankie Pulman, Barbara Pye
 Costume Design and Construction Doris M Day
 Wardrobe Mistress Lorraine Thomas

The Gower Players welcome newcomers over the age of 16. Please contact our Secretary Susan Brown on Gower 391045 if you are interested.

The Gower Players would like to thank all those people whose generosity has made this production possible especially:
 Paul Sizer and West Glam. Timber & Plywood Ltd for goods supplied;
 Val Evans for costume material;
 Tony and Jan Hewitt of the King Arthur Hotel for their hospitality and support;
 SWT for poster, ticket and programme design and printing;
 Our Patrons for their continuing support:

Douglas & Gina Abbott	David & Jane Gibson	Richard & Brenda Sweet
Don & Thelma Bartley	Peter & Sheila Glover	Adie Taylor
David & Angela Bending	Tony & Jan Hewitt	Mary Thomas
Alan Bevan	Tom & Joy Jenkins	Rob & Debbie Vine
Gwen Beynon	Donald & Edna Jones	Mike & Wendy Williams
John & Kaye Beynon	Muriel Jones	Terry & Thelma Williams
Josephine Beynon	Llangennith W.I.	Don & Irene Woods
Malcolm & Margie Bond	Megan McGairl	
Alan & Annette Bryant	John & Aeron Morgan	
Doreen (Nin) Chapman	Frank & Olive Pitman	
Arthur & Pat Colburn	Gordon & Mo Rampling	
Jack & Libby Clough	David & Norma Rees	
Wyn Cornelius & Sue John	Graham & Helen Screen	
Mike & Val Evans	Julian & Veronica Short	

The Reynoldston and District Gardening Club held its first meeting in the Minor Hall in October 1981. The speaker was W.G.Willis, the Gardening Correspondent at the "Evening Post". A Committee was elected: Mervyn Evans (*Hermitage*); John Hayward (*Field House*), Stanley Emm (*Rowan*), Jack Fine (*Edenlea*), Harold Williams (*Blue Hills*), Sandy Hay (*Grove Cottage*), Robert Lucas (*Long House*) and first members included: Keith and Val Fuller (*Rotherfield*), Miss Jefford, Mrs Audrey Jenkinson, Judge Michael and Val Evans (*Old Rectory*), Ian Campbell (*Cruachan*), Ron Clement (*The Cross, Little Reynoldston*), Arthur Davies (*Sunningdale, Applegrove*), Margaret Davies (*Applegrove*), Don Bartley (*Applegrove*), Christine Bennett (*Merlins*), Brian Thomas (*Applegrove*), Gosforth Hughes (*Applegrove*), T.A.K.Bell (*Podnods*), Mrs W.I.Jones (*Hayes Wood Cottage*), Mr Nutman (*Kilimani*), Jim McGairl (*Whitewalls*), Joan Stevenson (*Tegfan*), Dr. J.G.Madel (*Yew Tree Cottage*), Mr S.A.Edwards (*Hill End Farm*). Mrs R.Gibbon (*The Brackens*), John Morgan (*Ty Bryn*), Nin Chapman (*Sanctuary Cottage*),