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Harry Bellamy  
no 11. Windsor Place  
Ubertidur  
Blaenrhylly  
Glam.

Born at Morgan St. now known as School St. (no 55)  
Elliotstown New Frederick. Mon on 15th December 1892,  
and on attaining his sixtieth birthday 15th Dec. 1952  
make these observations on life's experiences.

Early Memories The family moved from no 55 to No 37.  
School ~~from~~ St. January 1893, Mother informs me.  
I remember, at two years of age, weaning my  
first boy's suit.

At four years of age taken in to the parlour to  
see my brother aged 6 who had died & on his  
eyes were pennies owing to the eyelids not being  
closed.

At five remember scalding my arm (left) with  
a cup of hot tea.

Remember incidents of the 6 months coal strike  
in South Wales. Bringing the horses past our home  
and I remember them prancing about the  
street not used to daylight.

Remember commencing school, (1897), teacher's  
names, and changing from class III to class II  
then first class where I distinctly remember  
writing my name for the first time.

1897 diamond Jubilee celebrations of  
Queen Victoria's reign.

In the fine summer of 1898 we  
moved from School St. to 23 Fothergills Rd  
Memories of Boer War, Queen Victoria's death,

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Early Memories continued

accession & coronation of King Edward VII

At 10 commenced as errand boy at J. Johns grocer after school and all day Saturdays, and as pay was made bi-weekly one Saturday was called Pay Saturday and the other of course blank Saturday and up until then as we were a growing family we would have a half penny on <sup>Pay</sup> Saturdays and an orange or apple on blank Saturdays.

Was born with a horror of debt and in my experiences as a grocer's errand boy I saw frequently shop books with debt 5, 6 or more pounds owing.

At eleven years of age tried the entrance exam for Lewis Endowed School, Pengam; with a few fellow scholars and great was the joy at home when in the local newspaper there was the report that George Fry and Harry Bellamy had passed the exam. Father, who was illiterate, was quite moved. The weeks dragged slowly by as we waited for official confirmation, and the date of the opening of the Michaelmas term drew near when to our disappointment, and disappointment I feel even now Mr G. Fry senior and his son had visited the headmaster of the school R.W. Jones, B.A (M.A. later Non. Bausa) who informed them a mistake had been made in the report and that only Geo Fry had passed. My father was bitterly disappointed and said hard things about the visit being made: "Why could not the two parents have gone together?" My father and I then went to interview the headmaster who

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confirmed the try repeat but intimated he would see the governors with a view to granting a bursary scholarship, which they did, so for one year I attended this world known school on the payment of travelling expenses and book. I left on completion of the summer term 1904 and remember well closing the gate of the school yard behind me with a feeling of melancholy that I state again I have with me now whenever I visit a grammar school or college.

The one year attendance at this school has given me had an invaluable and incalculable influence on my life for the appreciation of education.

My school days ended and until the autumn of 1905 I worked full time as an errand boy at J. Johns grocer finishing with the wage of 10/6d per week. While working at the shop the long hours did not suit my ideas. I noted that battery workers finished on Mondays between 2 & 3 p.m. while

I, an Blank Mondays worked till 8 and on Pay Mondays till between 9.00 and 10.00 p.m.

On Saturdays Colliers worked until 2.00p.m.

while shop workers worked on Blank Saturdays until 10.00 p.m. and on Pay Saturdays until after midnight. So I asked Dad to get me a job in the pit. In October 1905 I started

as a collier boy working 60 hours a week and during the winters before the final Eight Hours Act for the miners we only saw the sun on Sundays

Battery work then was easy. No mechanisation, no intense methods, no conveyor work and occasionally sing-songs were held.

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What a different world we lived in then, the last decade of the Victorian era and the Edwardian period.

I remember well the stirring days of the Welsh Revivals. Packed chapels, late meetings, house-to-house meetings. Remarkable days. We eagerly expected a visit from the chief figure Evan Roberts but it was in the plan

Religious influences. I was sent to Sunday School at 5 years of age, and have continued to attend. I was baptised by the Rev. Fred Jones Carmel a month before I was twelve years of age and have still kept the faith.

My contact with and in pit life was degrading.

I was getting a voracious reader, chiefly boys papers and Wild West stories. I had opportunities to hear preachers and lecturers which greatly interested me.

Attended evening classes dealing with mining subjects, ambulance work interested me, and at eighteen caught the political fever badly. I remember well the great Liberal majority and its great leaders especially Mr Lloyd George.

Joined the I.L.P. of Ramsey McDonald and Philip Snowden.

August 1913 my father died, and he had been ill for five years previously and of course this necessitated an added responsibility in keeping the home going and helping mother.

Remember the great difference of the coming of the Eight Hours Act for Miners, the weekly

Pay packet & then came what we now call World War I with no idea what was involved and that for 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  years we would be at war, not 3 months as was generally thought.

I supported the T.L.P. in its opposition to war and held pacifist views. Being a widow's son, and engaged in the coal industry I was not called, only for a medical exam and was graded two.

In the circle of young people in chapel I met my wife. As a young man I was not of the flirting type, only two girls I ever took home until I met the one and only girl who has been an incalculable influence on my single and married life. On Saturday 21st September 1918 we were married, also my brother, and on the following Thursday Mother made her second marriage.

Life from now on consists of home and chapel life.

The war ended 11th November 1918

Shortly the great industrial depression began which brought untold suffering and frustration.

Our first child was born on June 16th 1919, a boy, Trevor Philip who from his birth has not voluntarily caused us anxiety but a deep sense of joy at his achievements.

Our second child was born on 26th August 1923 Agnes Eluned and, like her brother, has also caused us to thank God for their lives.

Trade depression and industrial dispute caused suffering reaching, for us personally, its peak in 1926 when a national coal stoppage took place lasting approximately 8 months.

I had left work as a collier at the end of

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the 3 months' strike in 1921 and commenced as a labourer at Elliott Lorry Stores. After two months of idleness May June 1926 strike I was offered the position as storekeeper at the Windsor Lorry Abertridwr. What a joy and relief this meant to us as a little family. During August 1926 we moved from New Pendegar, where I had lived from my birth, to the house where I am writing these memoirs now, more than 26 years later.

I have received an uninterrupted weekly wage, with a fortnight's holiday each year. My wife & I were received into membership at Ebenezer English Baptist Church, whose minister, the Rev. D.M. Jones exercised considerable power in municipal and county life and even Parliamentary affairs, did much to bring to notice the suffering of the mining community.

My good wife, like myself, was denied an educational career, being left fatherless, January 1906, her mother ~~was~~ then had the responsibility of rearing twelve children. My wife passed the entrance exam into Porth Grammar School, being asked to sit the exam to make up the numbers!

We married with the same ideal and purposes for our children: their moral and educational ~~as~~ rearing being priority Number One.

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Reviewing life's experiences, I have a deep feeling of gratitude to God for all his mercy and goodness. I have been most fortunate in marrying a good and thoroughly domesticated wife.

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Life, on times, has been hard, travelling difficult, but always good, and in all circumstances my dear wife has managed to live within the compass of my weekly wage (even when, on times, there was not a weekly wage.) Through strikes, lockouts, and depressions we have managed, to a degree, to be independent. It has meant faith in God's goodness and deliverances and, on my dear wife's part, planning on a deeply thoughtful scale.

Without any particular training, my wife is capable with the needle, attending evening classes, a capable gardener, and for 20 years we have cultivated a 2 10 perch plot which has produced practical results - an economic factor of great importance.

What we have desired for our children's moral and academic achievement has been realised, to our endless satisfaction and thankfulness to God.

Our children are happily married.

I find myself, at sixty years of age, in company with my dear partner in life's struggles, we reflect on our 34 1/4 years of a happy marriage. Our son's marriage has resulted in the birth of a lovely baby girl, making us indeed happy grandparents. The Christian Faith has been the dominant influence on our minds and hearts.

We have been faithful and loyal to the chapel services all our lives. I passed the Baptist Union of Great Britain & Ireland's Lay Preachers' Exam in 1932. This course is one of untold advantage for knowledge and preaching.

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The Bible has been, and is our constant guide and chief reading matter. Biography informs and educates the imagination & forms a valuable medium for standards of judgement.

My wife & I have enjoyed excellent health.

I have learned that there is nothing in life to be compared with living and attempting to achieve Christian character. The most powerful experience and influence came to my spirit in October 1919 when God gave me faith to realise the assurance of salvation through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am glad to have lived, to love and have the love of wife, children & friends.

During World War two our son spent six years in the Army, after spending two years in Cardiff University College. We shall never forget the day he left home to report to Glasgow. Through medical carelessness he contracted lung trouble which affects him today.

Since my birth in 1892 what remarkable changes have taken place. The Victorian era and now the commencement of the second Elizabethan era. What scientific progress has been made. Life today is not stable, the horizon is not clear. We are not free from war clouds. Moral life lags behind considerably. We are not the church going people we were. Several features of national life cause the authorities anxiety. The Second World War has devastated home life and recovery here is too slow. What a contrast are the amenities for women in their homes: electric light, bathrooms, electric kettles, radio, electric iron, and my daughter has an electric sewing machine while my daughter-in-law has an

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electric washer. And so I close these memories with the knowledge that the application of science, the cultivation of the arts are nothing, save as they serve God's purposes for mankind as shown in his love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Our children's academic achievements & qualifications

Trevor.

Entered Caerphilly Grammar School for boys at 13. Matriculated 4 years later, passed higher two years later still. Entered Cardiff University College October 1938. Finales English & History. Called up 1940. Took finals Music externally June 1942. Demobbed June 1946. Re-entered College Oct 1946 for Honours English, June 1947. Teaching certificate June 1948. Commenced teaching Swanwick Hall Grammar School (mixed) September 1948. (Married 1st January 1949.) Attended course of lectures at Nottingham University, and in June 1952 passed exam enabling him to submit a thesis for the M.Ed. degree. Interested in glove and string puppetry. Belonged to Urdd Llyfaith Brynni for years. Megan, his wife, attended Caerphilly Grammar School for girls, matriculated, and entered Barry Normal College, obtained a teachers' certificate, taught in Erdington and Llengwedd.

Eluned. Entered Caerphilly Grammar School for girls, matriculated, and entered Swansea Normal College for girls. Obtained a teachers' certificate, credit music, passed advanced PT. Commenced teaching August 26th 1944, Small Heath, Birmingham, and Caerphilly Secondary Modern for girls 1946. Distinguished herself in the Urdd Llyfaith Brynni Movement. Married Alan maintenance engineer BOAC Portsmouth & Treforest.

## Biographical Details & Harry Bellamy

Reading the biography vividly brings back the grandfather I knew, warm, excitable, I loved him. He died of a long lingering cancer at 68 when I was 10. We'd have been thrilled to see, <sup>now</sup> his two granddaughters, my cousin and I, now graduates married to graduates, schoolteachers. Grandpa was education-mad, reading my father's textbooks of literary criticism when Daddy was in his honours year, yet he fails to state how much <sup>himself</sup> he ~~read~~, which was a lot. My father tells that Grandpa preached morning and evening, every Sunday, travelling miles to do so; he did some surveys of radio programmes for the BBC, a forerunner of opinion polls. He was the secretary of ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> chapel for over 20 years.

I remember Grandpa showing me his St John's Ambulance books, and knowing that he went to Caernarfon to do duty at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales, when he was 18. His dear wife, whose name he does not mention, is Agnes Maud. She is still alive, now 6 months short of her 90th birthday. She is longing for this special day, and to have a party as she did for her 80th birthday. Grandpa ate sop (bread dipped in tea) for breakfast, <sup>dairy</sup> following a pattern started in childhood. I remember his putting on an apron to do the washing up after Sunday lunch. He was one of 12 or 14 children, a brother and sister went to America. A sister was matron of Epsom Mental Hospital for 15 years or so, 1950-1965 approx. Grandpa was a highly respected member of the South Welsh community -- my other grandmother (not his wife) tells me of the magnificence of his funeral - 'the chapel was packed, there were so many cars that they stretched all the way down to Senghenydd burning'.

Jane Lewis  
Wivenhoe, Essex September 1983.