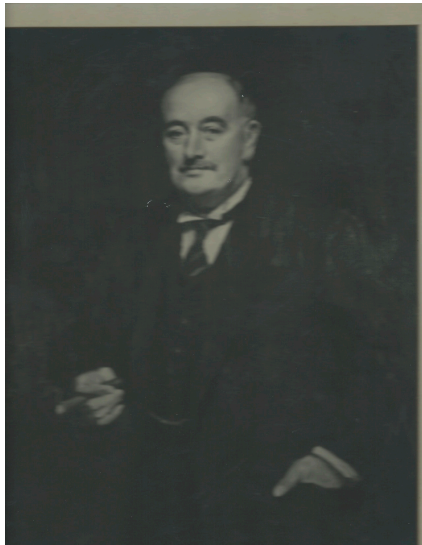


Helyg Garage

The following note was written by a member of the Garage Committee and should be of great interest to all those rich members of the Club who have become poor from the purchase of cars, and to all those poor members of the Club who sit on the edges of the poor-rich peoples' cars, for all these will be forever grateful to Mr. W. E. Corlett.

When the late Charles W. Marshall was elected Hon. Custodian of Helyg, in 1926, the Club was in urgent need of a garage. The nearest shelter was half a mile away at Gwerny-gof-Isaf with room for one medium-sized car.

Marshall, with his usual energy, set to work to remedy this defect. No ordinary shed, however, would satisfy him, and Club funds being low he was on the point of suggesting to our Hon. Treasurer that he should borrow the necessary capital from the members.



Fortunately for all of us, the Liverpool dinner was held in January, 1927, The Custodian there met Mr. W. E. Corlett, one of our original members, and casually mentioned to him that our only pressing worry was the absence of a garage at Helyg. After a few moments' reflection, W. E. C said: "Do you really want a garage? If so, you can go ahead at my expense, I do not want to hear any more about it until it is finished."

Marshall was delighted with this generous and unexpected offer, which was made after due consideration and in cold blood before dinner.

Soon after, a small local committee was formed who submitted their ideas to the architect, Mr. Stewart McLauchlan.

The problem was to design a building that would not be too prominent a landmark and would fit in intimately with its surroundings.

With this object in view the cottage was visited many times, and eventually one quarter of an acre of land was purchased from Mr. Ellis Evans, of Tal-y-braich farm, on the opposite side of the road to Helyg and about seventy yards nearer Capel Curig. After various delays and disappointments building was started.

There were several reasons for choosing this site. Apart from the fact that we could not purchase Helyg from the Penrhyn Estate, a garage erected on the south-west or Helyg side of the road, however perfect in design and material, would detract from the wildness of the surroundings. The ground slopes steeply downwards and much filling in would be necessary.

On the north-east the land slopes gently upwards, and our site was already partly excavated, thanks to road repairers.

Messrs. J. and G. Gregory completed the building in November, 1927, and most people will agree that the architect has designed a very suitable garage which, owing to its low setting, local stone, and Capel Curig slates, snuggles down to the moorland like a native.

All users of Helyg must realise our great debt to Mr. Corlett, who insisted on presenting us with a much larger garage than we expected (there is at least room for two big cars and several baby cars), and also paid for the land. Generations of climbers will, we hope, benefit by his gift.

Perhaps many of our younger members do not know that Mr Corlett was one of the originators of the Climbers' Club, for some years a member of the committee, and one of the pioneers of Welsh Climbing. He was a frequent visitor to Pen-y-Gwryd at all seasons, long before our Club was even thought of, and has done much climbing in the Alps and other parts of the world.