

reach



Discover the History
of Bridgend County
....a pictorial journey

Dysgwch am Hanes
Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
....taith mewn lluniau

Discover the Heritage of Bridgend County through...

Discover the rich tapestry of historic buildings, beautiful countryside and a spectacular coastline, that are the essence of Bridgend County's heritage.

We've got medieval churches and castles, together with valleys which have a commanding legacy of the coal mining, iron making and railway industries. There are outstanding countryside parks with amazing wildlife, flora and fauna and a majestic coastline with spectacular views. If you enjoy walking or cycling, there are plenty of pathways, many of which are suitable for all the family. For something really unusual, we even have a former WWII Prisoner of War Camp!

This booklet, with its remarkable photographs, illustrates just some of these intriguing places, there are many more, which together make Bridgend County a fascinating and unique place to explore and enjoy.

'Dare to Discover' is the app that will help you find out what there is to do, where to eat, places to stay and what events are on in Bridgend County.

This booklet is produced by reach - the Rural Development Programme for Bridgend County Borough.

Darganfyddwch Sir Hanesyddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr drwy...

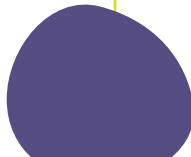
Darganfyddwch y brodwaith cyfoethog o adeiladau hanesyddol, cefn gwlad hardd ac arfordir ysblennydd sy'n rhannau hanfodol o dreftadaeth Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Mae gennym eglwysi a chestyll o'r canol oesoedd, ynghyd â chymoedd ag etifeddiaeth heb ei ail o'r diwydiannau glo, haearn a'r rheilffyrdd. Ceir parciau cefn gwlad eithriadol gyda bywyd gwyllt, planhigion ac anifeiliaid rhyfeddol, ac arfordir mawreddog gyda golygfeydd gwych. Os ydych chi'n mwynhau cerdded neu feicio mae digonedd o lwybrau, llawer ohonynt yn addas ar gyfer y teulu i gyd. Os am rywbeth anarferol iawn mae gennym ni Wersyll Carcharorion Rhyfel yr Ail Ryfel Byd hyd yn oed.

Mae'r llyfryn hwn yn dangos dim ond rhai o'r lleoedd diddorol hyn drwy ei ffotograffau hynod, ond mae llawer o bethau eraill i'w gweld, a gyda'i gilydd maen nhw'n gwneud Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn lle diddorol ac unigryw i'w archwilio a'i fwynhau.

'Dare to Discover' yw'r ap a fydd yn eich helpu i ddarganfod beth y gallwch ei wneud, lle y cewch fwyta, lle y cewch aros, a'r hyn sy'n digwydd yn Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Cynhyrchir y llyfryn hwn gan reach – Rhaglen Datblygiad Gwledig Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.



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...its Coastal Path

Bridgend County's Coastal Path is an 11.5 mile pathway which is part of the All Wales Coastal Path, that provides a continuous walking route around the whole of Wales and totals 870 miles.

Exploring our part of the Coastal Path is a great way of finding out more about Bridgend County's history. Running along this spectacular coastline from Merthyr Mawr, Porthcawl, Sker and Kenfig, you'll find churches, castles and interesting villages along the way, all with an intriguing history and story to tell.

This impressive route is dominated by an extensive sand dune system that was once the largest in Europe. Through the centuries, part of this system has been eroded but two important sections remain, Merthyr Mawr Sand Dunes (see Page 16) and those at Kenfig National Nature Reserve (see Page 20).

The newly constructed boardwalk running from Rest Bay through to Pink Bay has made this section of the Coastal Path accessible to all, especially those with mobility issues. (see Page 6).

...ei Llwybr Arfordirol

Mae Llwybr Arfordirol Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn llwybr 11.5 milltir o hyd ac mae'n rhan o Lwybr Arfordir Cymru Gyfan, sy'n darparu taith gerdded barhaus o amgylch Cymru gyfan, cyfanswm o 870 o filltiroedd.

Mae archwilio ein rhan ni o'r Llwybr Arfordirol yn ffordd ardderchog o ddysgu mwy am hanes Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Ar hyd yr arfordir hynod hwn o Ferthyr Mawr, i Borthcawl, y Sger a Chynffig, fe welwch eglwysi, cestyll a phentrefi diddorol ar hyd y ffordd, pob un â hanes diddorol a stori i'w hadrodd.

Prif nodwedd y llwybr trawiadol hwn yw system eang o dwyni tywod a arferai fod y fwyaf yn Ewrop. Dros y canrifoedd, mae rhan o'r system hon wedi erydu ond erys dwy ran bwysig, Twyni Tywod Merthyr Mawr (gweler Tudalen 16) a'r rhai yng Ngwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Cynffig (gweler Tudalen 20).

Mae'r llwybr pren newydd sy'n ymestyn o Rest Bay i Pink Bay yn golygu bod y rhan hon o'r Llwybr Arfordirol yn hygyrch i bawb, yn enwedig y rhai sydd â phroblemau symudedd. (gweler Tudalen 6).



Rest Bay Coastal Path

The popular Rest Bay boardwalk to Pink Bay is a superb stretch running parallel to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club course on one side and the sea on the other. The boardwalk has made it much easier for wheelchair users or families with pushchairs to enjoy this spectacular coastline.

Pink Bay is a quiet beach about 15 minutes walk from Rest Bay and gets its name from the unique marbling effect on its rocks. The boardwalk ends at Pink Bay but you can continue along the coastal path to Sker Beach where there is a plaque commemorating the devastating loss of lives on April 23 1947 with the shipwreck of the SS Samtampa. 39 crew and eight members of the Mumbles lifeboat team who went to rescue them, tragically lost their lives.

In the distance you'll see Sker House, now a private family home after its recent restoration and refurbishment. This important historical house, built over 900 years ago was popularised by RD Blackmore's 'The Maid of Sker' (published in 1872).

From Sker Point, you can continue around the coast and enter the Kenfig Natural Nature Reserve. (see Page 20).

Llwybr Arfordir Rest Bay

Mae'r llwybr estyllod poblogaidd o Rest Bay i Pink Bay yn un godidog i'w gerdded. Rhed rhwng Clwb Golf Royal Porthcawl ar un ochr a'r môr ar yr ochr arall. Mae'r llwybr estyllod wedi'i gwneud yn llawer haws i ddefnyddwyr cadeiriau olwyn a theuluoedd â choetsis fwynhau'r arfordir hardd hwn.

Traeth tawel, gwaith 15 munud o gerdded o Rest Bay yw Pink Bay a chaiff ei enw o'r wawr farmor unigryw ar ei greigiau. Mae'r llwybr estyllod yn dod i ben yn Pink Bay ond cewch ddilyn llwybr yr arfordir i Draeth y Sger, lle'r saif cofeb i'r rhai a gollwyd ar 23 Ebrill 1947 yn llongddrylliad trychinebus yr SS Samtampa. Yn drist iawn, bu farw 39 o'r criw ynghyd ag wyth aelod o griw bad achub y Mwmbwls a aeth i geisio'u hachub nhw.

Yn y pellter gallwch weld Y Sger, sydd erbyn hyn yn dŷ annedd preifat ers ei adfer a'i adnewyddu'n ddiweddar. Tynnwyd sylw at y tŷ hanesyddol, pwysig hwn, a adeiladwyd dros 900 mlynedd yn ôl, gan nofel RD Blackmore 'The Maid of Sker' (a gyhoeddwyd yn 1872).

O Drwyn y Sger, cewch gerdded ar hyd yr arfordir i Warchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Cynffig. (gweler Tudalen 20)



Locks Common

Locks Common begins at the end of the original Porthcawl promenade, which was built in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee year.

This rugged, though reasonably flat area stretches through to Rest Bay beach on the west. It is a popular family beach and also a great favourite with surfers. Lock's Common includes an area of limestone pavement which provides a habitat for a range of plant species including salad burnet, eyebright and squinancywort. Consequently Lock's Common is designated as a Regionally Important Geological site and Local Nature Reserve.

Locks Common provides great walking opportunities and a newly constructed pedestrian and cycle path runs parallel to the common for those who want an alternate way of reaching Rest Bay.

The common offers breathtaking views of the Bristol Channel and on a clear day you can see the Devon Coastline or Swansea Bay in the distance.

Comin Lock

Mae Comin Lock yn dechrau ym mhen draw promenâd gwreiddiol Porthcawl, a adeiladwyd ym 1887 i ddathlu blwyddyn Jiwbilf y Frenhines Fictoria.

Mae'r ardal arw, ond weddol wastad hon yn ymestyn yr holl ffordd i draeth Rest Bay i'r gorllewin. Mae'n draeth sy'n boblogaidd gyda theuluoedd a syrffwyr fel ei gilydd. Mae Comin Lock yn cynnwys ardal o galchbalmant sy'n darparu cynefin ar gyfer rhywogaethau amrywiol o blanhigion gan gynnwys gwyddlwyn cyffredin, effros a'r fandon fechan. Oherwydd hyn, mae Comin Lock wedi'i ddynodi'n Safle Daearegol Pwysig Rhanbarthol ac yn Warchodfa Natur Leol.

Mae Comin Lock yn cynnig cyfleoedd gwych i fynd am dro, a gall pobl sydd eisiau cyrraedd Bae Rest ar hyd ffordd wahanol ddefnyddio'r llwybr troed a beiciau newydd sy'n gyfochrog â'r comin.

Mae'r comin yn cynnig golygfeydd anhygoel o Fôr Hafren ac ar ddiwrnod clir gallwch weld arfordir Dyfnaint neu Fae Abertawe yn y pellter.



Porthcawl Harbour

Porthcawl Harbour is a fascinating and important part of the industrial heritage of South Wales. It was originally constructed in 1828 at the terminus of the Duffryn Llynfi and Porthcawl Railway (see Page 38). The nearby Jennings Building (1830 – 1832) is a rare example of a very early railway company warehouse.

The original harbour was quite small but in the 1860's it was extended, largely thanks to the influence and driving force of James Brogden, a successful businessman. The new dock which could handle much larger vessels, opened in 1867 and by 1871 it shipped out over 165,000 tons of coal. However, in the 1890's, it lost business to the newer docks in Port Talbot and Barry, which had better and larger facilities with easier access. Porthcawl Docks eventually closed in 1906.

Porthcawl Lighthouse sits at the end of the breakwater, guarding the harbour. Built in 1866, the lighthouse is still in use today.

In recent years this historic harbour has undergone a complete transformation. Officially opened in April 2014, this striking, new harbour is well worth a visit. It features an extension to the eastern breakwater, a permanent water basin, a pedestrian footbridge and offers pontoon moorings for a mix of leisure, commercial and visiting craft.

Harbwr Porthcawl

Mae Harbwr Porthcawl yn rhan bwysig a diddorol o dreftadaeth ddiwydiannol De Cymru. Fe'i hadeiladwyd yn wreiddiol yn 1828 yn nherfynfa Rheilffordd Dyffryn Llynfi a Phorthcawl (gweler Tudalen 38). Mae adeilad Jennings (1830-1832) gerllaw yn enghraifft brin o warws cwmni rheilffordd cynnar iawn.

Roedd yr harbwr gwreiddiol yn eithaf bychan ond cafodd ei ymestyn yn yr 1860au, diolch yn bennaf i ddylanwad a brwdfrydedd James Brogden, gŵr busnes llwyddiannus. Agorodd y doc newydd, a oedd yn gallu ymdopi â llongau llawer mwy, yn 1867 ac erbyn 1871 roedd dros 165,000 tonnelli o lo wedi gadael yno. Er hynny, yn yr 1890au, collodd fusnes i'r dociau mwy newydd ym Mhort Talbot a'r Barri, gan fod eu cyfleusterau'n fwy ac yn well a'i bod yn haws eu cyrraedd. Caeodd Dociau Porthcawl yn y diwedd yn 1906.

Mae Goleudy Porthcawl yn sefyll ym mhen pellaf y morglawdd, yn gwarchod yr harbwr. Adeiladwyd y goleudy yn 1866 ac mae'n cael ei ddefnyddio hyd heddiw.

Dros y blynyddoedd diweddar mae'r harbwr hanesyddol hwn wedi ei drawsnewid yn llwyr. Mae'r harbwr trawiadol newydd, a agorwyd yn swyddogol ym mis Ebrill 2014, yn werth ei weld. Adeiladwyd estyniad i'r morglawdd dwyreiniol, basn dŵr parhaol, pont i gerddwyr ac angorfeydd i gymysgedd o gychod hamdden, masnachol a chychod ymwelwyr.



Church of St John the Baptist, Newton

The Church of St John the Baptist sits facing the village green in the charming village of Newton, Porthcawl. Medieval in origin, it is a Grade 1 listed building.

Built by the Normans, the Church served a dual purpose as a place of worship and as a defence against the Welsh.

The exact date when this imposing church was constructed is unknown, but it was probably built in the late 1180's. It is recorded that there was a priest by the name of Glou there in 1189. He was witness to a charter that came from Margam Abbey, to set up a 'new town', which also became a small port.

Substantial rebuilding work by Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford and uncle of Henry VII took place between 1485 – 1495 and further restoration work was undertaken in the 19th century.

The church retains much of its medieval fabric and there is a very rare stone pulpit on the north wall. Also of interest are some remaining original wall paintings.

To the south of the church you'll find St John's Well, which has the unusual characteristic of being seemingly full when the tide at nearby Newton beach is out and empty when the tide is in. Because of this anomaly, it was believed in the Middle Ages, that the well water had curative, magical and holy properties.

Eglwys Sant Ioan Fedyddiwr, y Drenewydd yn Notais

Saif Eglwys Sant Ioan Fedyddiwr yn wynebu clwt y llan ym mhentref hyfryd y Drenewydd yn Notais, Porthcawl. Mae'n dyddio o'r oesoedd canol ac yn Adeilad Rhestredig Gradd 1. Adeiladwyd yr eglwys gan y Normaniaid ac roedd ganddi ddau ddiben, sef ei bod yn addoldy ac yn amddiffyniad yn erbyn y Cymry.

Ni wyddom yr union ddyddiad yr adeiladwyd yr eglwys urddasol hon, ond mae'n debyg mai yn yr 1180au hwyr oedd hynny. Mae ar gofnod bod offeriad o'r enw Glou yno yn 1189. Roedd ef yn dyst i siarter a gafwyd gan Abaty Margam i sefydlu 'tref newydd', a ddaeth hefyd yn borthladd bychan.

Gwnaed gwaith ailadeiladu sylweddol gan Jasper Tudor, Dug Bedford ac ewythr Harri'r Seithfed rhwng 1485 a 1495 a gwnaed rhagor o waith adfer yn y 19eg ganrif.

Mae cryn dipyn o adeiladwaith yr eglwys ganol oesol wreiddiol yn dal i fodoli a cheir pulpud carreg hynod o brin ar y mur gogleddol. Mae rhai o'r peintiadau mur gwreiddiol wedi goroesi, sydd hefyd o ddiddordeb.

I'r de o'r eglwys, fe welwch Ffynnon Sant Ioan, sydd â'r nodwedd anghyffredin o ymddangos i fod yn llanw pan fo'r llanw ar drai ar draeth cyfagos y Drenewydd yn Notais, ac yn ymddangos i fod yn wag pan fo'r llanw i mewn. Oherwydd yr anghysondeb hwn, credwyd yn y Canol Oesoedd bod dŵr y ffynnon yn gwella salwch a bod iddo briodweddau dewinol a sanctaidd.



Newton Sand Dunes

Newton Sand Dunes or Burrows, back Newton beach, a long sandy beach which stretches approximately three miles from Newton Point to the mouth of the River Ogmore.

This unspoilt beach, is also known as Black Rock Beach and centuries ago the rocks off shore were the site of many shipwrecks. Today the beach is very popular with dog walkers and horse riders. It also caters to jet skiers, power boat users and windsurfers, but if you're not so adventurous you can just walk and enjoy watching others take part in these water sports.

The Burrows, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, are part of the large sand dune system stretching from Merthyr Mawr through to Kenfig. Their rugged formation, though not so demanding as Merthyr Mawr dunes, is an important habitat for wildlife and plants.

The dunes are also home to an old World War II shooting range and are complete with dug outs and a target system. It is also said that General Eisenhower inspected the American troops, part of the 28th Infantry who were stationed in Porthcawl en route to Omaha Beach at Newton Burrows.

Twyni Tywod y Drenewydd yn Notais

Mae Twyni Tywod y Drenewydd yn Notais yn ymylu ar y traeth hir, tywodlyd sy'n ymestyn am tua thair milltir o Drwyn Drenewydd i aber Afon Ogwr.

Enw arall ar y traeth naturiol hwn, nad yw wedi ei ddatblygu, yw Traeth y Garreg Ddu, a chanrifoedd yn ôl bu sawl llongddrylliad ar y creigiau yn y môr gerllaw'r traeth. Erbyn heddiw, mae'r traeth yn boblogaidd iawn â phobl sy'n marchogaeth ceffylau neu'n mynd â chŵn am dro. Mae hefyd yn darparu ar gyfer sgïo jet, hwylfyrdio a chychod pŵer, ond os nad ydych yn teimlo'n anturus, cewch gerdded ar y traeth a mwynhau gwyllo pobl eraill yn cymryd rhan yn y chwaraeon dŵr hyn.

Dynodwyd y Twyni yn Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig, ac maent yn rhan o'r system dwyni mawr sy'n ymestyn o Ferthyr Mawr i Gynffig. Mae eu ffurf garw, er nad ydynt cymaint â thwyni Merthyr Mawr, yn eu gwneud yn gynefin pwysig i fywyd gwylt a phlanhigion.

Mae'r twyni hefyd yn gartref i hen faes saethu o'r Ail Ryfel Byd, gyda system dargedau a thyllau ymochel. Dywedir bod y Cadfridog Eisenhower wedi arolygu milwyr Americanaidd yn Nhwyni y Drenewydd yn Notais, pan oedd rhai o filwyr traed y 28th Infantry wedi eu lleoli ym Mhorthcawl cyn mynd i Draeth Omaha.



...Merthyr Mawr

Merthyr Mawr Sand Dunes

These dunes are unusual because they were formed against a limestone plateau, which accounts for their height. One of them, locally known as the 'Big Dipper' is one of the highest in Europe.

Merthy Mawr's sand dunes are designated a site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation and a National Nature Reserve because of the wide range of plants and insects that can be found here. As well as exploring the natural habitat, hiking and walking, they are a great area for families to have fun, particularly for sledging.

It is rumoured that the dunes have been used as a training ground for international rugby teams and Olympian champions.

Scenes from the famous 'Lawrence of Arabia' were allegedly filmed here and more recently they have been used for location scenes for 'Dr Who' and 'Da Vinci's Demons'. Who knows who or what you'll see on a visit to Merthyr Mawr Sand Dunes!!

...Merthyr Mawr

Twyni Tywod Merthyr Mawr

Mae'r twyni hyn yn anghyffredin oherwydd iddynt gael eu ffurfio yn erbyn llwyfandir o galchfaen, a dyna pam y maent mor uchel. Adnabyddir un ohonynt fel y 'Big Dipper' yn lleol, ac mae hwn yn un o'r twyni tywod uchaf yn Ewrop.

Dynodwyd twyni tywod Merthyr Mawr yn Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig, yn Ardal Cadwraeth Arbennig ac yn Warchodfa Natur Genedlaethol oherwydd yr amrywiaeth eang o blanhigion a phryfed sydd i'w canfod yma. Yn ogystal ag archwilio'r cynefin naturiol, cerdded a chrwydro, maen nhw'n cynnig man gwych i deuluoedd gael hwyl, yn enwedig wrth sledio.

Yn ôl y sôn, mae timau rygbi rhyngwladol a phencampwyr Olympaidd wedi ymarfer ar y twyni.

Dywedir bod rhai golygfeydd o'r ffilm enwog, 'Lawrence of Arabia' wedi eu ffilmio yma ac yn fwy diweddar fe'u defnyddiwyd fel lleoliadau ar gyfer golygfeydd yn 'Dr Who' a 'Da Vinci's Demons'. Pwy a wŷr pwy neu beth a welwch wrth ymweld â Thwyni Tywod Merthyr Mawr!!



Merthyr Mawr Village

When you enter this picturesque village you might think that time has stood still.

At the outskirts of the village stands the 'Dipping Bridge', a four arch masonry bridge, which was built in the 15th century with holes in the parapets, allowing farmers to push their reluctant sheep into the river for their annual dip! An inn once stood at the side of this bridge and it is rumoured that one of its landlords, 'Cap Goch', robbed and murdered travellers en route to St David's.

The heart of Merthyr Mawr village has an outstanding collection of thatched dwellings, which are positioned around the village green. Close to these cottages you'll find St Teilo's Church (1849–1851) which was designed by Benjamin Ferrey. Built on the site of a much earlier church, the rear of the churchyard has an impressive collection of medieval inscribed stones dating from the 5th century onwards. Many of them were discovered during the construction of the present church.

A matter of yards from the church you can cross the 'Swing Bridge' to the newly restored Merthyr Mawr Pathways. From here, you can enjoy a walk with beautiful views, to the stepping stones across the River Ewenny, leading to Ogmore Castle.

Pentref Merthyr Mawr

Wrth ddod i mewn i'r pentref prydferth hwn, gallech feddwl bod amser wedi sefyll yn ei unfan.

Ar gyrion y pentref, saif y 'Bont Drochi'. Pont garreg â phedwar bwa yw hi, a adeiladwyd yn y 15fed ganrif, ac mae tyllau yn y parapetau er mwyn i ffermwyr allu gwthio eu defaid anfodlon i mewn i'r afon ar gyfer eu trochiad blynyddol! Roedd tafarn yn arfer sefyll wrth ochr y bont, ac yn ôl y sôn roedd un o'i landlordiaid, 'Cap Goch' yn ysbeilio a llofruddio teithwyr ar eu ffordd i Dyddewi.

Mae casgliad eithriadol o dai to gwellt yng nghanol pentref Merthyr Mawr, sydd wedi'u lleoli o gwmpas clwt y llan. Yn agos i'r bythynnod hyn, saif Eglwys Teilo Sant (1849–1851) a gynlluniwyd gan Benjamin Ferrey. Adeiladwyd yr eglwys ar safle eglwys gynharach o lawer, ac mae casgliad rhagorol o gerrig arysgrifedig canoloesol, yn dyddio o'r 5ed ganrif ymlaen, i'w gweld yng nghefn y fynwent. Daethpwyd o hyd i lawer ohonynt wrth adeiladu'r eglwys bresennol.

Ychydig lathenni oddi wrth yr eglwys gallwch groesi'r 'Bont Dro'i' at Lwybrau Merthyr Mawr, sydd newydd gael eu hatgyweirio. O'r fan hon, gallwch fynd am dro, gan fwynhau golygfeydd hyfryd, at y cerrig camu dros Afon Ewenni sy'n arwain at Gastell Ogwr.



...it's Nature Reserves

Kenfig National Nature Reserve

This exceptional reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, providing a natural habitat for a wide variety of rare plants and animals. It is a perfect location for walking, bird watching, hiking or just enjoying and exploring the distinctive features of this beautiful area.

Situated approximately three miles north of Porthcawl, the dunes at Kenfig National Nature Reserve are a remnant of the largest sand dunes systems in the UK. Except for the top of its 50 foot keep, the ruins of Kenfig Castle built by the Normans, lie underneath the sand. A thriving town of over 700 people developed around the castle, but in the 14th century the population moved further inland as sand began to smother the buildings.

In March 2012, this early settlement was featured in an episode of Channel 4's 'Time Team' and in early 2013 the Nature Reserve was included on BBC One's programme 'Countryfile'. It has also featured on S4C.

Kenfig Pool, a 70 acre freshwater lake sits in the middle of the Reserve, extremely popular with bird watchers, the pool is an important stopping off point for migratory birds.

Many myths and legends abound about the area of Kenfig and one tells of an underwater town at the centre of the pool. It is rumoured that the church bell can sometimes be heard tolling from the lake!

...ei Gwarchodfeydd Natur

Gwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Cynffig

Mae'r warchodfa eithriadol hon yn Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig, sy'n darparu cynefin naturiol ar gyfer amrywiaeth eang o blanhigion ac anifeiliaid prin. Mae'n lleoliad perffaith ar gyfer cerdded, gwylio adar, heicio neu ddim ond mwynhau archwilio nodweddion arbennig yr ardal neilltuol hon.

Lleolir twyni Gwarchodfa Natur Genedlaethol Cynffig, sef olion systemau twyni tywod mwyaf y DU, tua thair milltir i'r gogledd o Borthcawl. Heblaw am frig y tŵr 50 troedfedd, mae adeilion Castell Cynffig, a adeiladwyd gan y Normaniaid, o dan y tywod. Datblygodd tref ffyniannus o dros 700 o bobl o gwmpas y castell, ond yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar ddeg symudodd y boblogaeth ymhellach o'r môr wrth i dywod ddechrau gorchuddio'r adeiladau.

Ym mis Mawrth 2012, bu'r anheddiad cynnar hwn yn destun pennod o raglen 'Time Team' Channel 4 ac ar ddechrau 2013 cafodd y warchodfa natur ei chynnwys ar raglen 'Countryfile' y BBC. Mae wedi bod ar S4C hefyd.

Llyn dŵr croyw 70 erw yw Pwll Cynffig, yng nghanol y Warchodfa, mae'n boblogaidd iawn â gwylwyr adar gan fod y pwll yn fan aros pwysig i adar sy'n mudo.

Mae llawer o chwedlau a hanesion yn bodoli am ardal Cynffig ac mae un yn sôn am dref dan ddŵr yng nghanol y pwll. Yn ôl y sïon gellir clywed cloch yr eglwys ambell waith yn canu o'r llyn!



Bryngarw Country Park

Set in 113 acres, there's something for everyone in Bryngarw Country Park. From a fun day out for the family or a quieter spot to enjoy peace and tranquillity, there's an area of the park to suit all tastes.

You can take a gentle stroll through the formal gardens with plants and shrubs for all seasons, arriving at the ornamental bridge and Japanese tea house, surrounded by its decorative display of trees, bushes, flowers and decorative stones. Or, if you enjoy something more adventurous, you can explore the woodlands, meadows and wetlands that are home to a diverse range of wildlife, flora and fauna.

There are large areas of grassland and open spaces where children can run and play. There's also a childrens' playground and dedicated picnic and barbecue areas for the whole family to enjoy.

Bryngarw is also home to 'The Keepers', an exciting, unique and interactive interpretation scheme which uses sculpture, music and themes from Welsh mythology to bring the story of Bryngarw's wildlife and landscape to life.

It's a perfect way for families and visitors of all ages to reconnect with the magic of Bryngarw's countryside.

Bryngarw Country House, available as a wedding venue sits in the centre of this beautiful park, which hosts a number of activities throughout the year. These range from nature walks, through to heritage or musical events.

Parc Gwledig Bryngarw

Mae rhywbeth i bawb ym Mharc Gwledig Bryngarw. Mae'n gallu cynnig diwrnod llawn hwyl i'r teulu neu fan tawelach i fwynhau heddwch a llongyddwch. Bydd rhyw ran o'r parc 113 erw hwn at ddant pawb.

Gallwch fynd am dro hamddenol drwy'r gerddi ffurfiol, sydd â phlanhigion a llwyni ar gyfer pob tymor, at y bont addurniadol a'r tŷ te Japaneaidd, sydd wedi ei amgylchynu gan arddangosfa hudolus o goed, perthi a blodau a cherrig addurnol. Neu, os ydych yn mwynhau profiad mwy anturus, gallwch archwilio'r coetir, y dolydd a'r gwlypdiroedd sy'n gartref i amrywiaeth eang o fywyd gwylt, blodau ac anifeiliaid.

Mae darnau mawr o laswelltir a manau agored lle gall plant redeg a chwarae. Mae parc chwarae i blant hefyd a manau picnic a barbeciw penodol i'r teulu cyfan eu mwynhau.

Bryngarw yw cartref y 'Ceidwaid' hefyd, cynllun dehongli cyffrous, unigryw a rhyngweithiol sy'n defnyddio cerfluniau, cerddoriaeth a themâu o chwedlau Cymru i ddod â stori bywyd gwylt a thirwedd Bryngarw yn fyw.

Mae'n ffordd berffaith i deuluoedd ac ymwelwyr o bob oed ailgysylltu â hud cefn gwlad Bryngarw.

Saif Tŷ Gwledig Bryngarw, sydd ar gael ar gyfer priodasau, yng nghanol y parc prydferth hwn. Cynhelir llawer o weithgareddau yno trwy gydol y flwyddyn, gan gynnwys teithiau cerdded byd natur a digwyddiadau treftadaeth a cherddorol.



Parc Slip Nature Reserve

This remarkable nature reserve covers an area of 300 acres, occupying land that was once part of the Parc Slip Coal Mine. Remembered for its devastating explosion in August 1892, which claimed 112 men and boys, there is a memorial in the park commemorating their lives.

The mine closed in 1904 but re-opened as an open cast one in the 1960's. Restoration of the land to its natural habitat in the 1980's resulted in the land being transferred to the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust in 1999. The Glamorgan Wildlife Trust has since become the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales.

The Reserve is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. Fields ablaze with colourful wild flowers, wetlands with 'open access' viewing hides' where you can watch or photograph many species of water birds, are just some of the things on offer.

Parc Slip is a very safe area for families to discover and enjoy nature. There's also traffic free cycle paths and over 10km of tracks for walking 'wildlife friendly' dogs. For those with mobility difficulties, the park has designated easier access routes.

The Visitor Centre at the park has all the necessary amenities a coffee shop and a 'Discovery Room', and there are events organised for all ages throughout the year.

Gwarchodfa Natur Parc Slip

Mae'r warchodfa natur 300 erw hynod hon ar dir a oedd yn arfer bod yn rhan o Bwll Glo Parc Slip. Bu ffrwydrad erchyll yma ym mis Awst 1892; lladdwyd 112 o ddyinion a bechgyn ac mae cofeb iddynt yn y parc.

Caeodd y pwll ym 1904 ond ailagorwyd ef yn y 1960au yn waith glo brig. Wedi adfer y tir i'w gyflwr naturiol yn y 1980au, fe'i trosglwyddwyd i Ymddiriedolaeth Bywyd Gwyllt Morgannwg yn 1999. Bellach, daeth Ymddiriedolaeth Bywyd Gwyllt Morgannwg yn rhan o Ymddiriedolaeth Natur De a Gorllewin Cymru.

Mae'r Warchodfa'n lle delfrydol i garedigion bywyd gwyllt. Ymhlith yr hyn sydd gan y warchodfa i'w gynnig mae caeau'n llawn blodau gwyllt lliwgar a gwlypdiroedd a manau gwyllo cudd sy'n agored i'r cyhoedd lle y cewch wyllo neu dynnu lluniau llawer o rywogaethau o adar dŵr.

Mae Parc Slip yn fan diogel iawn i deuluoedd ei archwilio a mwynhau byd natur. Ceir llwybrau beicio di-drafnidiaeth yma a thros 10km o lwybrau i fynd â chŵn am dro, a bwrw na fydd y cŵn yn amharu ar y bywyd gwyllt. Mae llwybrau haws eu defnyddio i'r rhai hynny sydd ag anawsterau symud.

Mae'r holl amwynderau sydd eu hangen yng Nghanolfan Ymwelwyr y parc. Mae yno siop goffi ac 'Ystafell Ddarganfod', a threfnir digwyddiadau ar gyfer pobl o bob oed gydol y flwyddyn.



...it's Castles

Coity Castle

The ruins of the Castle dominate the village of Coity, Bridgend. Originally built as a ringwork structure, it formed part of the strategic defences that protected the Norman acquisition of lands in Glamorgan and was held throughout most of the middle ages by the Turberville family.

Stone reconstruction began in the 1180's with the building of a new keep, largely as a response to the Welsh uprising in 1183 – 1184. In the 14th century a number of improvements, largely domestic in nature, were made and these included a new range of domestic apartments on the southern side and a set of latrines. In fact, the accommodation was so palatial that in 1394, King Richard II stayed there when he was en route to Ireland.

In 1404 and 1405 Coity Castle suffered protracted assaults from the Owain Glyndwr uprising. Although not captured, it was left with extensive damage.

In the early 15th century the castle had passed to the Gamage family and in 1584, through marriage, to Robert Sidney, later Earl of Leicester. Some refurbishment was made to the castle in Tudor times, but three centuries later, the castle had fallen into disrepair.

Although in ruins, Coity Castle still has many well preserved Norman features and a visitor is able to detect how this impressive castle was structured. Its 15th century, northeast gatehouse is one of the castle's most impressive surviving features.

...ei Chestyll

Castell Coety

Adeilion y Castell yw nodwedd amlycaf pentref Coety, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Cafodd ei adeiladu ar ffurf amddiffynfa gylch yn wreiddiol, ac roedd yn rhan o'r amddiffynfeydd strategol ar gyfer y tiroedd a oedd dan reolaeth y Normaniaid ym Morgannwg. Roedd ym meddiant teulu Turberville trwy gydol y rhan fwyaf o'r canol oesoedd.

Dechreuwyd ailadeiladu'r castell mewn carreg yn y 1180au gan godi gorthwr newydd, yn bennaf oherwydd gwrthryfel y Cymry yn 1183 - 1184. Gwnaed nifer o welliannau yn y 14eg ganrif, a'r rheiny'n welliannau domestig yn bennaf, gan gynnwys cyfres o anheddau domestig ar yr ochr ddeheuol a set o dai bach. Roedd y llety yma mor foethus, arhosodd y Brenin Richard II yno yn 1394 ar ei ffordd i'r Iwerddon.

Yn 1404 a 1405 ymosodwyd ar Gastell Coety am gryn amser yn ystod gwrthryfel Owain Glyndŵr. Er na chipiwyd y castell, gwnaed difrod helaeth iddo.

Yn gynnar yn y 15fed ganrif roedd y castell wedi dod i feddiant teulu Gamage ac yna, trwy briodas, yn 1584 daeth yn eiddo Robert Sidney, a wnaed yn Iarll Caerlŷr yn ddiweddarach. Gwnaed peth gwaith adnewyddu yn y castell yn oes y Tuduriaid, ond dair canrif yn ddiweddarach roedd wedi mynd â'i ben iddo.

Er ei fod yn adfail, mae nifer o nodweddion Normanaidd wedi goroesi yng Nghastell Coety a gall ymwelwyr weld strwythur sylfaenol y castell trawiadol hwn. Un o'r nodweddion mwyaf arbennig sydd i'w gweld hyd heddiw yw porthdy'r gogledd-ddwyrain o'r 15fed ganrif.



Newcastle Castle

The remains of Newcastle Castle sit at the top of Newcastle Hill, overlooking the town centre of Bridgend. It is one of three local castles, the others being Coity (see Page 26) and Ogmore, that were built to reinforce the Norman advance into Glamorgan and was strategically located to overlook the Ogmore Valley and guard the River Ogmore below.

It was probably originally built as an earth and timber ringwork structure and was likely constructed at the time of Robert Fitzhammon, the first lord of the newly established Lordship of Glamorgan. By the end of the 12th century the castle had been rebuilt in stone. The builder of the stone defences may have been Earl William of Gloucester. However, because of the superior quality and style of the stonework, it is also thought that it could have been Henry II, holder of the castle at the time.

On the south entrance, look out for the richly carved decoration on the complete Norman doorway, which survives intact. Inside the castle grounds, you'll see the impressive curtain wall, which stands to considerable height on the west side. The castle is a courtyard structure and had two square mural towers, the south tower being better preserved.

Some refurbishments were made in the Tudor period but apart from this, Newcastle remains untouched since the 12th century. It appears that it was not occupied after the late 16th century.

Y Castell Newydd

Saif adfeilion y Castell Newydd ar ben Bryn y Castell Newydd uwchlaw canol tref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae'n un o dri o gestyll lleol a adeiladwyd er mwyn atgyfnerthu sefyllfa'r Normaniaid wrth iddynt symud ymhellach i mewn i Forgannwg. Castell Coety (gweler Tudalen 26) a Chastell Ogwr yw'r ddau arall. Adeiladwyd y Castell Newydd mewn man strategol i edrych dros Gwm Ogwr ac amddiffyn Afon Ogwr islaw.

Mae'n debyg mai amddiffynfa gylch o bridd a phren a godwyd yma'n gyntaf, yn fwy na thebyg yn amser Robert Fitzhammon, yr arglwydd cyntaf ar Arglwyddiaeth newydd Morgannwg. Erbyn diwedd y 12fed ganrif, roedd y castell wedi ei ailadeiladu mewn carreg. Mae'n bosibl mai Iarll William o Gaerloyw oedd adeiladwr yr amddiffynfeydd carreg. Er hynny, oherwydd ansawdd arbennig ac arddull y gwaith, mae'n bosibl hefyd y cafodd ei gwblhau ar ran y Brenin Henry II, deiliad y castell ar y pryd.

Ym mynedfa'r de, mynnwch olwg ar yr addurniadau cywraïn wedi eu cerfio yn y porth Normanaidd, sy'n gyfan hyd heddiw. Ar dir y castell, cewch weld y cysylltffur sylweddol sy'n sefyll hyd at gryn uchder ar yr ochr orllewinol. Strwythur ar ffurf cwrŷ yw'r castell ac roedd ganddo ddau dŵr sgwâr yn y muriau. Mae mwy o'r tŵr i'r de wedi goroesi.

Gwnaed peth gwaith adnewyddu yn oes y Tuduriaid ond ar wahân i hyn, ni wnaed unrhyw newidiadau i'r Castell Newydd ers y 12fed ganrif. Mae'n ymddangos na fu neb yn byw yno ers diwedd yr 16eg ganrif.



Candleston Castle

Many myths and legends exist about the decaying, ivy clad ruins of Candleston Castle, which sits at the eastern edge of Merthyr Mawr Sand Dunes.

Although called a castle, it was actually a fortified manor house, built in the late 14th century by the Norman family, De Cantelupes (Running Wolves). The building saw many renovations during the ensuing years but through the centuries the encroaching sand enveloped the land and the manor house was eventually abandoned in the late 19th century.

The castle's dark and eerie atmosphere does little to dispel the myth that it is haunted. Many old stones and crosses have been found around the area and one tale tells of the 'Goblin Stone', which is said to be troubled by an unknown ghost.

But the biggest mystery of Candleston is the legend of the lost village of Treganllaw (Welsh for 'The town of a hundred hands'). Little information exists about the village but folklore says that it was situated close to the manor house. Whether it existed and what exactly happened to it and its unfortunate inhabitants remains a mystery, though it is a possibility that it was smothered by the moving sands from the nearby dunes.

Castell Tregantllo

Mae llawer o fythau a chwedlau ynglŷn ag adfeilion Castell Tregantllo, a saif ar gwr dwyreiniol twyni tywod Merthyr Mawr, dan ei orchudd o iorwg.

Er y'i gelwir yn gastell, maenordy caerog oedd hwn mewn gwirionedd, a adeiladwyd ar ddiwedd y 14eg ganrif gan y teulu Normanaidd, De Cantelupes (Bleiddiaid yn Rhedeg). Adnewyddwyd y castell sawl gwaith yn ystod y blynyddoedd dilynol, ond gorchuddiodd y tywod y tir dros y canrifoedd a chefnwyd ar y maenordy yn y pen draw ar ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif.

Mae awyrgylch tywyll ac iasol y castell yn ategu'r chwedl fod ysbryd yno. Canfuwyd llawer o hen gerrig a chroesau yn yr ardal a dywed un chwedl hanes 'Carreg y Corrach', sydd ag ysbryd yn gysylltiedig â hi.

Ond prif ddirgelwch Tregantllo yw pentref coll Treganllaw (Tref can llaw). Ychydig iawn o wybodaeth sydd ar gael ynglŷn â'r pentref, ond yn ôl llên gwerin roedd yn sefyll yn agos i'r maenordy. Mae'n dal yn ddirgelwch pa un a fu'r pentref yn bodoli o gwbl a beth ddigwyddodd iddo a'i drigolion truenus, er bod posibilrwydd ei fod wedi cael ei lynu gan dywod symudol y twyni gerllaw.



...through Hut 9, WW II Prisoner of War Camp

One of Bridgend's most unusual historic buildings is Hut 9, the only remaining building of Island Farm Prisoner of War Camp 198. The camp housed almost 2000 prisoners and is famous because of the escape that took place from there.

The origins of the camp were quite inauspicious. It was built in the late 1930's to house women working in the munitions factory in Bridgend. They, however, preferred to travel to and from work and the camp remained unoccupied until 1943, when American Forces, destined for the Normandy invasion, were billeted there.

Towards the end of the war, it was decided that the camp should be used as a prisoner of war camp. It was originally used to house enlisted men but the War Office decided that it was more suited to officers and the first of these arrived in November 1944.

On the night of March 10th 1945, only four months after their arrival, 70 prisoners escaped from Island Farm, via a tunnel that was dug from under a bed in Hut 9. In a meticulously planned and well executed escape plan, they tunnelled outside of the camp. Within a week, all the escapees had been recaptured but during that week, local and national newspapers were rife with articles on the escape and the ensuing recapture of prisoners, many of who were spotted and detained in local farms.

...drwy Wersyll Carcharorion Cwt 9 yr Ail Ryfel Byd

Un o adeiladau hanesyddol mwyaf anarferol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yw Cwt 9, yr unig adeilad sydd ar ôl o Wersyll Carcharorion Rhyfel Island Farm 198. Roedd bron i 2000 o garcharorion yn cael eu cadw'n gaeth yn y gwersyll ac mae'n enwog oherwydd bod rhai ohonynt wedi dianc oddi yno.

Roedd dechreuad y gwersyll yn anaddawol. Cafodd ei adeiladu tua diwedd y 1930au fel lle i fenywod a oedd yn gweithio yn y ffatri arfau rhyfel ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr gael aros yno. Fodd bynnag, roedd yn well gan y menywod deithio yn ôl ac ymlaen i'r gwaith, a bu'r gwersyll yn wag hyd at 1943 pan gafodd milwyr yr Unol Daleithiau eu lletya yno, ar eu ffordd i ymosod ar Normandi.

Tuag at ddiwedd y rhyfel, penderfynwyd y dylid defnyddio'r safle fel gwersyll carcharorion rhyfel. Fe'i defnyddiwyd yn wreiddiol ar gyfer milwyr cyffredin ond penderfynodd Y Swyddfa Ryfel y byddai'n fwy addas ar gyfer swyddogion, a chyrrhaeddodd y rhai cyntaf o'r rheini ym mis Tachwedd 1944.

Yn ystod y nos ar 10 Mawrth 1945, bedwar mis yn unig ar ôl iddynt gyrraedd, dihangodd 70 o garcharorion o Island Farm, trwy dwnnel a gafodd ei gloddio o dan wely yng Nghwt 9. Mewn cynllun dianc manwl a gafodd ei weithredu'n dda, twnelodd y carcharorion allan o'r gwersyll. O fewn wythnos, roedd pob un o'r dihangwyr wedi eu dal ond yn ystod yr wythnos honno, roedd papurau newydd lleol a chenedlaethol yn llawn erthyglau am y dianc ac am ail-ddal y carcharorion. Roedd llawer ohonynt wedi eu gweld a'u dal ar ffermydd lleol.



Hut 9 continued

Three weeks after their escape, all 1,600 officers were transferred out of Island Farm. The camp was then designated Special Camp Eleven and was to receive high ranking German officers, several of whom were awaiting trial at Nuremberg. 160 of them held the rank of Field Marshall, General or Admiral and included a number of Hitler's closest advisors. Probably the most famous of the prisoners was Gerd von Rundstedt, commander of Germany's forces in the West and described by Eisenhower as "the ablest of the German Generals of World War II".

Although sent to Nuremberg, Von Rundstedt did not stand trial, but merely gave evidence. He was described as 'a broken man' when he returned to Island Farm.

Throughout their time in the camp, the prisoners occupied themselves with various sports and gardening activities to relieve their boredom. What is probably most interesting is their wall art, some of which has been preserved. They used chalk to make their own paint to apply to the walls, depicting scenes from their homes and drawing their loved ones and those they fantasised might be their loved ones!

Island Farm ceased as a POW camp in 1948.

Cwt 9 parhad

Dair wythnos ar ôl iddynt ddianc, trosglwyddwyd pob un o'r 1,600 o swyddogion o Island Farm. Enwyd y gwersyll wedyn yn Wersyll Arbennig Un ar Ddeg a'i ddefnyddio ar gyfer swyddogion Almaenaidd uchel eu statws, nifer ohonynt yn aros i sefyll eu prawf yn Nuremberg. Roedd 160 ohonynt â rheng Cadlywydd, Cadfridog neu Lyngesydd gan gynnwys nifer o gynghorwyr agosaf Hitler. Y carcharor enwocaf mae'n debyg oedd Gerd von Rundstedt, cadlywydd lluoedd yr Almaen yn y Gorllewin, a ddisgrifiwyd gan Eisenhower fel "Cadfridog Almaenaidd mwyaf galluog yr Ail Ryfel Byd".

Er iddo gael ei anfon i Nuremberg, ni wnaeth Von Rundstedt sefyll ei brawf, dim ond rhoi tystiolaeth. Fe'i disgrifiwyd fel 'dyn wedi torri' galon' pan ddaeth yn ôl i Island Farm.

Trwy gydol eu hamser yn y gwersyll, roedd y carcharorion yn cadw'n brysur drwy chwaraeon amrywiol a gweithgareddau garddio i dorri ar y diflastod. Mae'n debyg mai'r hyn sydd fwyaf diddorol yw'r gwaith celf ar y waliau, y mae peth ohono wedi ei ddiogelu. Roeddent yn defnyddio sialc i wneud eu paent eu hunain i'w roi ar y waliau, gan ddarlunio golygfeydd o'u cartrefi, eu hanwyliaid, ac anwyliaid dychmygol eu breuddwydion!

Daeth cyfnod Island Farm fel Gwersyll Carcharorion Rhyfel i ben yn 1948.



...through Bridgend Town

Prior to the medieval period, Bridgend was merely a ford at the River Ogmore between the ancient settlements of Newcastle and Nolton (old town), and which also served as a crossing point linking ancient trackways. The existing Old Stone Bridge was built across the river c.1425 and the settlement that developed at the eastern end of the bridge was referred to as 'Brynggen Eynde' (1444) and 'Brugeende' (1452), eventually becoming Bridgend. In 1775 a catastrophic flood that deluged the town destroyed two of the bridge's arches. These were replaced by a single arch, giving the bridge its characteristic 'lop-sided' appearance today.

Some of the existing streets still follow their original medieval route from higher ground down to the river and the crossing points, including one of Bridgend's oldest streets Elder Street and Elder Lane.

Although Bridgend has hosted a tannery, a woollen factory, a brewery, a pop factory and has had several potteries in the area, it's the town's position serving valley communities in the north and rich farm lands further south that has led to it developing as a market town.

Today, Bridgend is a bustling shopping centre with an indoor market and many fine restaurants, cafes and pubs for visitors and residents to enjoy. Recent regeneration schemes have improved the town's historic buildings, and attractive public realm works make it a pleasant place to visit.

...drwy Dref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Cyn cyfnod y canol oesoedd, dim ond rhyd ar Afon Ogwr oedd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, rhwng aneddiadau hynafol y Castellnewydd a Nolton (yr hen dref), a oedd hefyd yn fan lle'r oedd nifer o lwybrau hynafol yn croesi. Adeiladwyd yr Hen Bont Garreg bresennol dros yr afon tua 1425 a chyfeiriwyd at yr anheddiad a ddatblygodd ym mhen dwyreiniol y bont fel 'Brynggen Eynde' (1444) a 'Brugeende' (1452), a ddatblygodd yn 'Bridgend' yn y pen draw, sef Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Ym 1775 dinistriwyd dau o fwâu'r bont gan lifogydd trychinebus a olchodd trwy'r dref. Codwyd un bwa yn lle'r rhain, gan wneud i'r bont ymddangos yn anghytbwys, ac mae hynny'n nodwedd ohoni hyd heddiw.

Mae rhai o'r strydoedd presennol yn dal i ddilyn eu llwybrau canoloesol gwreiddiol o'r tir uchel at lan yr afon a'r manau croesi, gan gynnwys rhai o strydoedd hynaf Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Stryd Elder a Lôn Elder.

Bu Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn gartref i danerdy, ffatri wlân, bragdy, ffatri diodydd ysgafn, a bu sawl crochendy yn yr ardal, ond lleoliad y dref yn gwasanaethu cymunedau'r cymoedd i'r gogledd a'r ardal amaethyddol gyfoethog i'r de a arweiniodd at iddi ddatblygu'n dref farchnad.

Erbyn heddiw, mae Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn ganolfan siopa brysur gyda marchnad dan do a llawer o fwytai, caffis a thafarnau o ansawdd da i ymwelwyr a thrigolion eu mwynhau. Mae cynlluniau adfywio diweddar wedi gwella adeiladau hanesyddol y dref ac mae gwaith deniadol ar dir cyhoeddus wedi ei wneud yn lle dymunol i ymweld ag ef.



...through the Dyffryn, Llynfi & Porthcawl Railway Company(DLPR)

The Dyffryn, Llynfi & Porthcawl Railway Company (DLPR) is of great significance to the industrial heritage of Bridgend County. It opened in 1828 and was built to serve the expanding iron and coal industries in the valleys north of Bridgend, linking them to the newly opened docks in Porthcawl. What is of particular interest, is that until the early 1860's the DLPR was a horse drawn tramway.

Starting originally at Caerau, Maesteg, the 17 mile single track line connected Dyffryn Colliery in Maesteg, as well as the iron works in Maesteg and Tondy to Porthcawl Harbour (see Page 10). The track was built to a 4ft 6ins gauge, had passing places along the line, and took 6½ hours to travel down but 8½ hours to return because of the steeper gradient.

In 1861 the track was rebuilt for steam train usage and continued to operate until the 1960's.

There is now a walking trail along much of the original DLPR route. This fascinating trail, rich in wildlife, starts in Maesteg and continues through to Tondy Iron Works, Cefn Junction Box and on to Bedford Park. Not only can you see some of Bridgend County's important industrial monuments but you can enjoy some beautiful countryside at the same time.

...drwy Gwmni Rheilffordd Dyffryn Llyfni a Phorthcawl

Mae Cwmni Rheilffordd Dyffryn, Llynfi a Phorthcawl yn arwyddocaol iawn yn nhreftadaeth ddiwydiannol Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Agorwyd y rheilffordd ym 1828 ac fe'i hadeiladwyd i wasanaethu'r diwydiannau haearn a glo a oedd yn ehangu yn y cymoedd i'r gogledd i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr, gan eu cysylltu â dociau newydd Porthcawl. Yr hyn sydd o ddiddordeb arbennig yw mai tramffordd oedd y DLPR tan yn gynnar yn y 1860au, gyda cheffylau'n tynnu'r tramiau.

Yn wreiddiol, roedd y rheilffordd trac sengl 17 milltir yn cychwyn o Gaerau, Maesteg ac roedd yn cysylltu Glofa Dyffryn ym Maesteg, yn ogystal â'r gweithfeydd haearn ym Maesteg, a Thondu, â Harbwr Porthcawl (gweler Tudalen 10). Roedd y trac yn 4 troedfedd 6 modfedd o led, ac roedd manau pwrpasol i alluogi trenau i fynd heibio ei gilydd ar y cledrau. Roedd hi'n cymryd 6½ awr i deithio i lawr, ond 8½ awr i ddod yn ôl oherwydd bod y llwybr yn fwy serth.

Ym 1861 ailadeiladwyd y trac ar gyfer ei ddefnyddio gan drenau ager ac roedd yn dal i weithredu hyd at y 1960au.

Llwybr cerdded yw llawer o lwybr gwreiddiol y DLPR yn erbyn hyn. Mae'r llwybr diddorol hwn yn cychwyn ym Maesteg ac yn mynd drwy Waith Haearn Tondy, heibio i Gaban Cyffordd Cefn ac ymlaen i Barc Bedford, ac mae'n gyfuriog o fywyd gwyllt. Nid yn unig y cewch chi weld rhai o henebion diwydiannol pwysig Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ond gallwch hefyd fwynhau cefn gwlad godidog ar yr un pryd.



Tondu Ironworks – Parc Tondu

The remains of Tondu Ironworks is one of the best preserved ironworks in South Wales. Designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1996 by CADW, the site is an important legacy of South Wales' industrial revolution.

The ironworks were founded by Sir Robert Price with subsequent owners being John Brogden and Colonel North.

The park has some well-preserved coke ovens, calcining kilns as well as a unique lift tower and charging area. The Ironworks were unique in that they had a pair of Engine Houses rather than one Engine House for two engines and the restored Engine Houses are an impressive sight. At the time the ironworks were operating, these buildings would have housed the steam powered blowing engines, which supplied air to the blast furnaces.

More recently, the site has been developed into a 40 acre heritage park attraction and exploring the park is a fun way for everyone to learn about the area's industrial heritage.

Parc Tondu, is a great place for families to visit with play areas for children and designated picnic areas. It is also provides easy access to walking and cycling routes, including the Celtic Trail.

Gwaith Haearn Tondu – Parc Tondu

Mae gweddillion Gwaith Haearn Tondu yn un o'r gweithfeydd haearn sydd wedi'i gadw orau yn ne Cymru. Dynodwyd y safle yn Heneb Restredig gan CADW ym 1996, ac mae'r safle'n etifeddiaeth bwysig o chwyldro diwydiannol de Cymru.

Sefydlwyd y gwaith haearn gan Syr Robert Price, a bu'n eiddo i John Brogden a'r Cynol North yn ddiweddarach.

Mae ffyrnau golosg ac odynau calchynnu wedi eu cadw mewn cyflwr da yn y parc yn ogystal â thŵr lifft unigryw ac ardal llwytho. Roedd y Gwaith Haearn hefyd yn unigryw oherwydd bod yno bâr o beiriandai, yn hytrach nag un peiriandy ar gyfer dau beiriant, ac mae'r peiriandai yn darparu golygfa hynod drawiadol yn dilyn eu hadfer. Pan oedd y gwaith haearn yn gweithredu, byddai'r adeiladau hyn wedi cynnwys y peiriannau ager a oedd yn darparu aer i'r fwrneisi chwyth.

Yn ddiweddarach, mae'r safle wedi ei ddatblygu fel atyniad parc treftadaeth 40 erw, ac mae archwilio'r parc yn ffordd ddifyr i bawb ddysgu am dreftadaeth ddiwydiannol yr ardal.

Mae Parc Tondu yn lle gwych i deuluoedd ymweld ag ef, gyda mannau chwarae ar gyfer plant a mannau picnic wedi'u neilltuo ar gael. Mae hefyd yn darparu mynediad rhwydd at lwybrau cerdded a beicio, gan gynnwys y Lôn Geltaidd.



Tondu Methodist Church

Tondu Methodist Church was built in 1868, with most of the costs being met by the Brogden family, who at the time, were the ironmasters at Tondu. They also built the nearby Park Terrace, two terraced rows of 52 Grade II listed ironworkers' cottages and were instrumental in developing and building Porthcawl Docks.

The church was built in a simple gothic style, with an integral tower and gable entry. In 1872 the Brogdens installed a fine stained glass window in the church and also provided a pipe organ, which is still in its original working condition and is listed in the National Pipe Organ Register.

A major programme of redevelopment has recently been completed at the Tondu Methodist Church. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister for Wales, officially opened the newly developed Wesley Centre in March 2014. A series of grants from various awarding bodies, along with match funding from the congregation has ensured the preservation of this distinctive church. It has also provided a focus for the growing community of Tondu, offering first class facilities for many community groups and voluntary organisations.

Eglwys Fethodistaidd Tondu

Adeiladwyd Eglwys Fethodistaidd Tondu ym 1868, â'r rhan fwyaf o'r costau'n cael eu talu gan y teulu Brogden, sef y meistri haearn yn Nhondu ar y pryd. Adeiladwyd Park Terrace gerllaw ganddynt hefyd, sef dwy res o 52 o fythynnod teras ar gyfer gweithwyr haearn, sydd yn Adeiladau Rhestredig Gradd II. Roedd y teulu hefyd yn rhan allweddol o ddatblygu ac adeiladu Dociau Porthcawl.

Adeiladwyd yr eglwys mewn arddull syml, gothig, gyda thŵr yn rhan ohoni a mynediad yn nhalcen yr adeilad. Ym 1872 fe osododd teulu Brogden ffenestr liw gain yn yr eglwys a darparwyd organ bib ganddynt hefyd, sy'n dal i weithio ac sydd wedi'i rhestru ar y Gofrestr Genedlaethol Organau Pib.

Mae rhaglen aiddatblygu helaeth newydd ei chwblhau yn Eglwys Fethodistaidd Tondu. Agorwyd y Ganolfan Wesley newydd yn swyddogol, ym mis Mawrth 2014, gan Carwyn Jones AC, Prif Weinidog Cymru. Mae cyfres o grantiau gan amrywiaeth o gyrff, ynghyd ag arian cyfatebol gan y gynulleidfa wedi sicrhau cadwraeth yr eglwys arbennig hon. Mae hefyd wedi darparu canolbwynt ar gyfer cymuned Tondu, gan gynnig cyfleusterau o'r radd flaenaf i lawer o grwpiau cymunedol a sefydliadau gwirfoddol.



Cefn Junction Signal Box

Dating from the late Victorian period, Cefn Junction Signal Box is one of the few types remaining in South Wales. Increased industrial development in the area and the establishment of the Port Talbot railway necessitated a junction with the older Porthcawl railway line. The location chosen was Cefn Cribwr, and it became known as Cefn Junction. The Signal Box was built in 1898 and opened the same time as the junction.

Cefn's signal box remained open until 1983. It had witnessed many changes through the years with steam trains being replaced by diesel engines. Porthcawl no longer a docks by the turn of the 20th century, had developed into a holiday resort and the junction box saw many excursion trains from Maesteg passing through, filled with passengers looking forward to a day out at the seaside.

In 1984 Y Cefn Gwyrdd, a community group set up to preserve historical sites/buildings rescued Cefn's junction box from demolition. Local residents supported the campaign with financial and practical help. Today this beautifully restored building houses an exhibition on the coal, iron, brick and railway industries that formed so much of Cefn Cribwr's history.

Caban Signalau Cyffordd Cefn

Mae Caban Signalau Cyffordd Cefn yn dyddio o'r cyfnod Fictorianaidd hwyr ac mae'n un o'r ychydig o'i fath sydd ar ôl yn ne Cymru. Roedd mwy o ddatblygiadau diwydiannol yn yr ardal, a sefydlu rheilffordd Port Talbot, yn golygu bod angen cyffordd â'r rheilffordd hŷn i Borthcawl. Cefn Cribwr oedd y lleoliad a ddewiswyd, ac fe'i hadnabuwyd fel Cyffordd Cefn. Adeiladwyd y Caban Signalau yn 1898 ac fe'i hagorwyd ar yr un pryd â'r gyffordd.

Arhosodd caban signalau Cefn ar agor tan 1983. Roedd wedi gweld llawer o newidiadau dros y blynyddoedd gyda pheiriannau diesel yn disodli trenau ager. Erbyn troad yr 20fed ganrif nid oedd dociau ym Mhorthcawl bellach, ac roedd wedi datblygu'n gyrchfan gwyliau, a gwelodd y caban ar y gyffordd lawer o drenau trip yn mynd heibio o Faesteg, yn llawn teithwyr yn edrych ymlaen at ddiwrnod ar lan y môr.

Yn 1984 achubwyd y caban signalau rhag cael ei ddymchwel gan Y Cefn Gwyrdd, grŵp cymunedol a sefydlwyd i ddiogelu safleoedd/ adeiladau hanesyddol. Cefnogwyd yr ymgyrch gan drigolion lleol drwy gymorth ymarferol ac ariannol. Heddiw, mae'r caban wedi ei adfer yn llwyr ac mae'n gartref i arddangosfa yn ymwneud â'r diwydiannau glo, haearn, briciau a'r rheilffyrdd, a oedd yn rhan bwysig o hanes Cefn Cribwr.

CEFN JUNCTION SIGNAL BOX



Bedford Park

Bedford Park surrounds the remains of Cefn Cribwr Ironworks, one of the best surviving examples of an early ironworks. It was founded in the 1770's and 1780's by John Bedford after whom the park is named, and is now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The site is well preserved and you can easily understand and appreciate the ironworks process through a series of interpretation panels on the site. It is also possible to see the remains of the blast furnace, calcining kilns, blowing-engine house as well as the cast house. As well as the ironworks, the site had a forge, brickworks and mine shafts that were sunk to extract the raw materials of iron and coal.

Although containing the remains of this fascinating industrial legacy, Bedford Park today, is a beautiful, scenic area of 40 acres. Quiet woodlands and green open spaces, a wide variety of wildlife, flora and fauna make this an ideal location for exploring and enjoying.

The original route of the Dyffryn Llynfi & Porthcawl Railway Company runs through the park and is now the main footpath. The Celtic Trail is also easily accessible for cycling enthusiasts. However, much of the park is left to nature to restore and retain the natural beauty of this impressive environment.

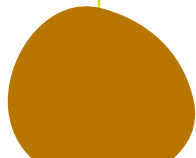
Parc Bedford

Mae Parc Bedford yn amgylchynu olion Gwaith Haearn Cefn Cribwr, un o'r enghreifftiau gorau sydd gennym o waith haearn cynnar. Sefydlwyd y gwaith, sy'n cael ei warchod fel Heneb Restredig erbyn hyn, yn y 1770au a'r 1780au gan John Bedford, sydd wedi rhoi ei enw i'r Parc.

Mae'r safle wedi ei gadw'n dda ac mae cyfres o baneli dehongli yn ei gwneud yn rhydd i chi ddeall a gwerthfawrogi proses y gwaith haearn. Mae hefyd yn bosibl gweld olion y ffwrnais chwythu, yr odyrau calchynnu, ac adeilad y peiriant chwythu yn ogystal â'r adeilad bwrw. Yn ogystal â'r gwaith haearn, roedd efalli a gwaith brics ar y safle, ynghyd â siafftau mwyngloddio a dyllwyd er mwyn cael deunyddiau crai y broses, sef haearn a glo.

Er ei fod yn cynnwys olion yr etifeddiaeth ddiwydiannol ddiddorol hon, mae Parc Bedford erbyn heddiw yn 40 erw o brydferthwch naturiol a golygfeydd hardd. Mae'r coedlannau tawel, y mannau gwyrdd agored, a'r amrywiaeth eang o fywyd gwyllt, planhigion ac anifeiliaid yn gwneud hwn yn fan delfrydol i'w archwilio a'i fwynhau.

Mae llwybr gwreiddiol Rheilffordd Dyffryn Llynfi a Phorthcawl yn rhedeg trwy'r parc a hwn yw'r prif lwybr troed erbyn hyn. Mae hefyd yn hawdd i feicwyr gyrraedd y Lôn Geltaidd. Er hynny, mae natur yn cael rhydd hynt i adfer a chadw prydferthwch naturiol rhan helaeth o'r amgylchedd trawiadol hwn.





...through it's Valleys

Llynfi Valley

The valley is named after the River Llynfi, which has its source on Caerau Mountain and runs down the valley to join the River Ogmore four miles north of Bridgend.

The Llynfi Valley is surrounded by rugged mountains and rich green countryside to the south. There are indications that the area has been inhabited since the Iron Age. The scheduled monument, Y Bwlwarcau shows rings and depressions from the old Iron Age Fort, and the nearby Bodvoc Stone (now a replica as the original is housed in Margam Stones Museum) is said to date from around 550 AD.

The valley is renowned for the part it played in the Industrial Revolution. Iron mined from the local hillsides gave rise to several ironworks. The Sports Centre in Maesteg stands on the site of the old Corn Stores and Iron Works and this beautifully renovated building incorporates the former furnace and blast engine house. Coal mining was also an important and proud part of this valley's history and gave rise to numerous collieries in the area.

Maesteg stands at the head of the Llynfi Valley. It was a rural village until the start of the 19th century and is currently a bustling town, with a wealth of sporting clubs. Maesteg's impressive Town Hall building, built in 1881 and a Grade II listed building, is now used for performing arts and entertainment and houses the indoor market.

...drwy ei Chymoedd

Cwm Llynfi

Enwyd y cwm ar ôl Afon Llynfi, sydd â'i tharddiad ar Fynydd Caerau ac sy'n llifo i lawr y cwm i ymuno ag Afon Ogwr bedair milltir i'r gogledd o Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Amgylchynir Cwm Llynfi gan fynyddoedd garw a cheir tir glas cyfoethog i'r de. Mae olion yn dangos bod pobl wedi byw yn yr ardal ers yr Oes Haearn. Gellir gweld cylchoedd a phantiau'r hen gaer o'r Oes Haearn yn heneb restredig Y Bwlwarcau, a dywedir bod Carreg Bodvoc gerllaw (atgynhyrchiad ohoni a welir erbyn hyn gan fod y garreg wreiddiol yn Angueddfa Gerrig Margam) yn dyddio o thua 550 OC.

Mae'r cwm yn enwog am y rhan a chwaraeodd yn y Chwyldro Diwydiannol. Arweiniodd mwyngloddio haearn o'r bryniau lleol at sefydlu sawl gwaith haearn. Mae'r Ganolfan Chwaraeon ym Maesteg yn sefyll ar safle hen Stordy Yd â'r Gweithfeydd Haearn ac yn yr adeilad hardd hwn, sydd wedi ei adfer, saif yr hen ffwrnais ac adeilad y peiriant chwythu. Roedd glo hefyd yn rhan bwysig a balch o hanes y cwm, ac roedd nifer o byllau glo yn yr ardal.

Saif Maesteg ym mhen Cwm Llynfi. Pentref gwledig ydoedd hyd at ddechrau'r 19eg ganrif ond mae'n dref brysur bellach, ac ynddi nifer o glybiau chwaraeon. Erbyn hyn, defnyddir Neuadd y Dref drawiadol Maesteg, a adeiladwyd yn 1881 ac sy'n adeilad rhestredig Gradd II, i gynnal adloniant a digwyddiadau celfyddydol, ac mae'n gartref i'r farchnad dan do hefyd.



NEUADO Y DREF

MARK CTY

Llangynwyd Village

The pretty village of Llangynwyd, sits on the hillside just south of Maesteg. Its stone cottages, imposing church and an ancient thatched inn, The Old House, reputed to be one of the oldest in South Wales, make this historic community a fascinating place to visit.

The church of St Cynwyd, a Grade II* listed building, sits in the centre of the village. A stone socket of a wooden cross that can be seen in the wall above the entrance, appears to be all that remains of the original structure. Four late medieval pews sit in the rear of the church, the fifth being housed in the National Museum of Wales. The church was rebuilt in the 13th century and has been restored several times since then. Its churchyard is reputed to be the largest private graveyard in Europe and its burial records, go back to the 18th century.

Llangynwyd is also famous for its story of the tragic, ill fated romance in the 18th century between Ann Thomas and Will Hopcyn, reputedly the basis of the legend, The Maid of Cefn Ydfa. Ann is buried in the church itself and Will under a yew tree in the churchyard and there is a memorial to Will in the centre of the village.

If you visit Llangynwyd on New Year's Eve you can see the ancient Mari Llwyd (Grey Mare) custom, which is held every year.

Pentref Llangynwyd

Saif pentref pert Llangynwyd ar ochr bryn ychydig i'r de o Faesteg. Mae ei fythynnod carreg, ei eglwys drawiadol a thafarn to gwellt hynafol The Old House, sef un o'r tafarnau hynaf yn ne Cymru yn ôl pob sôn, yn gwneud y gymuned hanesyddol hon yn lle hynod ddiddorol i ymweld ag ef.

Mae eglwys Cynwyd Sant yng nghanol y pentref, ac mae'n adeilad rhestredig Gradd II*. Ymddengys mai soced garreg ar gyfer croes bren yn y mur uwch ben y fynedfa yw'r cwbl sydd ar ôl o'r adeilad gwreiddiol. Mae pedwar côr o'r canol oesoedd hwyr yng nghefn yr eglwys, ac mae pumed yn yr Amgueddfa Genedlaethol. Ailadeiladwyd yr eglwys yn y 13eg ganrif a chafodd ei hadfer sawl gwaith ers hynny. Dywedir mai mynwent yr eglwys yw'r fynwent breifat fwyaf yn Ewrop ac mae'r cofnodion o gladdedigaethau'n mynd yn ôl i'r 18fed ganrif.

Mae Llangynwyd hefyd yn enwog am hanes y garwriaeth drasig rhwng Ann Thomas a Wil Hopcyn yn y 18fed ganrif, sef sail chwedl Y Ferch o Gefn Ydfa. Mae Ann wedi'i chladdu yn yr eglwys ei hun a Wil wedi ei gladdu dan ywen ym mynwent yr eglwys, ac mae cofeb i Wil yng nghanol y pentref.

Os byddwch chi'n ymweld â Llangynwyd ar Nos Galan fe welwch draddodiad y Fari Llwyd a gynhelir bob blwyddyn.





Garw Valley

The Garw Valley lies between the Llynfi Valley and the Ogmere Valley and is approximately six miles long. At the southern end of the valley are the villages of Betws and Llangeinor (see Page 54). Continuing up through the Garw on the only road into the valley, you'll pass through Lluest, Pontrhyll, Pantygog, and Pontycymmer leading finally to Blaengarw at the head of the valley.

The valley has an important industrial heritage in the coal mining industry of the South Wales valleys. Between the 1870's and the final colliery closure in 1985, it had six deep pits and numerous drift mines.

Regeneration has helped re-green this ruggedly beautiful valley and a fine example of this is Parc Calon Lan in Blaengarw. The park was named after the famous Welsh hymn because Daniel James wrote the words when he lived in the village. Once a heavily industrialised area, Parc Calon Lan is now a beautiful woodland park.

A little further down the valley is Pontycymmer, a vibrant community, which was the location of the 2004 film, 'Very Annie Mary'.

For cycling enthusiasts, there's the Garw Valley Community Route, which runs for approximately eight miles from Bryngarw Country Park through to Blaengarw. As a traffic free path, following the route of the old railway, it's perfect for families.

Cwm Garw

Mae Cwm Garw'n gorwedd rhwng Cwm Llynfi a Chwm Ogwr ac mae tua chwe milltir o hyd. Saif pentrefi Betws a Llangeinwyr ym mhen deheuol y cwm (gweler Tudalen 54). O fynd yn eich blaen i fyny'r unig ffordd i'r cwm, byddwch yn mynd trwy bentrefi Lluest, Pontrhyll, Pant-y-gog, a Phontycymer nes eich bod yn cyrraedd Blaengarw ym mhen y cwm.

Mae gan y cwm dreftadaeth ddiwydiannol bwysig o ran y diwydiant mwyngloddio glo yng nghymoedd de Cymru. Rhwng y 1870au a chau'r pwll glo olaf yn 1985, roedd chwe phwll dwfn a llawer o byllau drifft yn y cwm.

Mae adfywio wedi helpu i lasu'r cwm prydferth a garw hwn ac mae Parc Calon Lan ym Mlaengarw yn enghraifft ardderchog o hynny. Enwyd y parc ar ôl yr emyn Gymraeg enwog oherwydd bod Daniel James wedi ysgrifennu'r geiriau pan roedd yn byw yn y pentref. Mae Parc Calon Lân, a arferai fod yn ardal ddiwydiannol iawn, bellach yn barc coediog hardd. Ychydig o'r ffordd i lawr y cwm mae Pontycymer, cartref cymuned fywiog a lleoliad y ffilm 'Very Annie Mary' yn 2004.

Mae Llwybr Cymunedol Cwm Garw ar gael ar gyfer beicwyr brwd, ac mae'n rhedeg am tua wyth milltir o Barc Gwledig Bryngarw i Flaengarw. Oherwydd ei fod yn dilyn llwybr yr hen reilffordd, ac nad oes felly draffig arno o gwbl, mae'n berffaith ar gyfer teuluoedd.



Llangeinor

The Church of St Cein, Llangeinor is situated on a hilltop just outside of the village and is reached on the road linking the Garw and Ogmere Valleys. Its location provides spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. The church is dedicated to a female Celtic saint, St Cein, also known as 'Ceinwen the Fair', and it is believed that the present building was founded in the 12th century. It is a Grade II* listed building and retains some of its medieval fabric, especially in the large west tower.

Cistercian monks from Margam Abbey would have grazed their flocks in the nearby fields and the connection with the monastery is reflected in the nearby place names 'Cae' and 'Ty Abbot'.

Llangeinor is also renowned for being the birthplace of Dr Richard Price, an 18th century philosopher and financial genius. Born in Tyn'ton Farm in 1723, Dr Price's writings greatly influenced the 'Declaration of Independence' and the American Constitution. Apart from George Washington, he is the only person to have been awarded an Honorary Degree from the prestigious Yale University. He was also responsible for devising actuarial tables which are still used in assessing life insurance risks today.

Llangeinwyr

Saif Eglwys Cein Sant, Llangeinwyr ar ben bryn ar gyrion y pentref a gellir ei chyrraedd ar yr heol sy'n cysylltu Cwm Garw a Chwm Ogwr. Oherwydd ei lleoliad, gellir gweld golygfeydd ardderchog o'r wlad o'i hamgylch. Cysegrwyd yr eglwys i'r santes Geltaidd, Cein Sant, a adnabyddir hefyd fel 'Ceinwen Deg', a chredir bod yr adeilad presennol wedi'i sefydlu yn y 12fed ganrif. Mae'n adeilad rhestredig Graddfa II* ac mae rhywfaint o'r adeilad canoloesol wedi goroesi, yn enwedig yn y tŵr gorllewinol mawr.

Arferai mynachod Sistersaidd o Abaty Margam ddod â'u preiddiau i bori yn y caeau gerllaw ac mae'r cysylltiad â'r fynachlog i'w weld yn yr enwau lleoedd cyfagos 'Cae' a 'Tŷ Abbot'.

Mae Llangeinwyr hefyd yn enwog oherwydd mai dyma bentref genedigol Dr Richard Price, athronydd ac athrylith ariannol o'r 18fed ganrif. Ganed ef yn fferm Ty'n Ton yn 1723, ac roedd gwaith Dr Price yn ddylanwad mawr ar 'Ddatganiad Annibyniaeth' a Chyfansoddiad Unol Daleithiau America. Ar wahân i George Washington, ef yw'r unig un i dderbyn Gradd er Anrhydedd gan Brifysgol nodedig Yale. Ef hefyd oedd yn gyfrifol am ddyfeisio tablau actiwaraidd sy'n dal i gael eu defnyddio i gyfrifo risgiau yswiriant bywyd heddiw.



Ogmore Valley

The Ogmore Valley is reached by travelling through Blackmill and Lewistown, and just past the sweeping curve in the road, the valley opens up giving you magnificent views of the surrounding hills above. The valley consists of the villages of Ogmore Vale, Pricetown, Wyndham and Nantymoel and leads to the Bwlch Mountain at the head of the valley.

The Ogmore Valley played a significant part in the coal mining heritage of South Wales. Several deep pit collieries as well as numerous drift mines operated here, with the last of these closing in 1984. The Ogmore Valley Railway, built in 1865 transported vast amounts of coal from Nantymoel to the docks in Porthcawl (see Page 10).

The village of Nantymoel is where Lynn 'The Leap' Davies, winner of a gold medal in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, was born and raised. Ogmore Vale's Gwalia Stores, which played such an important role in the life of the community, was moved brick by brick, to St Fagans National History Museum in 1988.

The face of the valley has changed considerably since its industrial days. The Ogmore Valley Trail, from Aberkenfig to Nantymoel is a traffic free pathway, which is perfect for walkers and cyclists to get away and enjoy this scenic, woodland area, following the route of the old railway at the valley bottom.

Cwm Ogwr

Cyrhaeddir Cwm Ogwr drwy deithio trwy Felin Ifan Ddu a Lewistown, ac yna, ar ôl mynd heibio'r tro graddol yn yr heol, mae'r cwm yn agor i roi golygfeydd godidog o'r brynau uwchlaw. Mae'r cwm yn cynnwys pentrefi Bro Ogwr, Pricetown, Wyndham a Nant-y-moel ac mae'n arwain at Fynydd y Bwlch ym mhen y cwm.

Chwaraeodd Cwm Ogwr ran bwysig yn etifeddiaeth lofaol de Cymru. Roedd sawl pwell glo dwfn yn ogystal â llawer o lofeydd drifft yn gweithredu yno, gyda'r olaf o'r rhain yn cau ym 1984. Adeiladwyd Rheilffordd Cwm Ogwr yn 1865 ac fe gludodd dunelli dirifedi o lo o Nant-y-moel i ddociau Porthcawl (gweler Tudalen10).

Ym mhentref Nant-y-moel y ganed ac y magwyd Lynn 'The Leap' Davies, enillydd y fedel aur am y naid hir yn Gemau Olympaidd Tokyo ym 1964. Chwaraeodd Gwalia Stores ym Mro Ogwr ran bwysig ym mywyd y gymuned tan iddi gael ei symud, fricsen wrth fricsen i Amgueddfa Werin Sain Ffagan ym 1988.

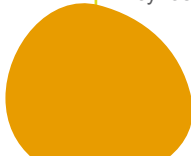
Mae wyneb y cwm wedi newid yn sylweddol ers ei fri diwydiannol. Mae Llwybr Cwm Ogwr, o Abercynffig i Nant-y-moel yn ddi-draffig, sy'n berffaith ar gyfer cerddwyr a beicwyr i gael mwynhau'r ardal brydferth, goediog hon, gan ddilyn llwybr yr hen reilffordd ar lawr y cwm.





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reach

t: 01656 815080

rural.development@bridgendreach.org.uk

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