



HAYSCASTLE, OUR COMMUNITY



EIN CYMUNED, CASTELLHAIDD



**WRITTEN BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR
THE COMMUNITY**

***WEDI'I YSGRIFENNU GAN Y
GYMUNED, AR GYFER Y GYMUNED***

FOREWORD

This booklet has been produced to showcase our community, Hayscastle. We hope that you all will find something new that you didn't already know about the community, together with a wealth of information for new homeowners. It highlights many aspects of our Community from the Community Centre, the hard-working groups and organisations to walks, history, and places of worship to name but a few.

In early 2019 Hayscastle Community Forum met with a representative from Pembrokeshire County Council to discuss the possibility of obtaining grant money that had been received by Pembrokeshire County Council from second homeowners within the community. The Forum is made up of members from all community groups together with individual members from the community.

A hard-working ad-hoc committee of 7 was set up and met for several months to discuss the needs of the community and how the community could be improved. After consultation, three key points were agreed upon; firstly, a community booklet, secondly, a new website and finally a marquee to add extra room to the Community Centre, for use at local events and for local groups to use as and when required.

Relevant grant application forms were filled in, and we were delighted when we received confirmation that our project had been approved.

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to this booklet. We all must work together to make our Community bigger and better and we need your help to achieve this.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Whether you are a new or long-standing resident of Hayscastle, we hope this booklet will be useful to you. Up-to-date information can be found on the Hayscastle website, Hayscastle Community Centre Facebook page together with the community noticeboards:

Website: www.hayscastle.com

Facebook: Hayscastle Community Centre

Noticeboards: Located at entrance to Community Woodland and opposite the Cross Inn

For contact numbers for any of the local groups / activities held within the community, please contact either:

Mrs Wendy Phillips, Community Forum Secretary:
07985 703132
phillipswap@aol.com

Mrs Sarah Lewis, Community Forum Treasurer and
100+ Club Co-ordinator: 07584 258362
slewis630@gmail.com

Mrs Kathryn Wilkins: 01348 840358
kathplaind@aol.com

A questionnaire has been included for you to complete at your earliest convenience. This will be used to improve our community of Hayscastle even further, as well as providing us with evidence of feedback for our grant provider, Pembrokeshire County Council.

*The information within this booklet is, to our knowledge,
accurate as at August 2020 (errors and omissions excepted)*

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INTRODUCTION

Hayscastle or Castellhaidd (which translates as barley castle), is a small inland, predominantly agricultural community surrounded by pastureland, overlooked by Plumstone Mountain and with views of the Preseli Hills. It is comprised of the three wards of Hayscastle, St Lawrence and St Edrens, with the main residential areas being Hayscastle Cross and Pont-yr-Hafod and has an overall population of approximately 480.

A good number of residents remain employed by the agricultural industry and its supporting businesses. A number of the major farms may originally have been small mediaeval villages, being distinguished by their names, usually ending in the English 'ton' or beginning with the Welsh 'tre' e.g. Brimaston (Treowman), Tancredston (Trebwrnallt) and Rhyndaston (Treindeg). Hayscastle Farm is the site of a deserted mediaeval village and was the main settlement in that era, adjacent to St Mary's Church and the mound where the Norman motte and bailey was positioned.

Like many small communities, the latter part of the 20th Century and the beginning of the 21st has seen an increase in population and a decrease in services. Recent years have seen the loss of two village stores and petrol stations, as well as a garage and post office and after 130 years the village school closed in 2010. The Cross Inn remains and has been run continuously for 160 years by the Phillips family. St Mary's and St Lawrence Churches, Noddfa Newton and Blaenllyn Chapels all remain open but hold less frequent services than in previous years.

Welsh is still an important language in the community and a survey in 1999 showed 38% of residents spoke it. Many newcomers are eager to learn and become part of the community.

With many small lanes the area is popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Small wooded areas and public footpaths add interest to these activities whilst natural history enthusiasts will find much to interest them on nearby Plumstone Mountain, the Brandy Brook Valley and Tre-Rhos Common SSSI. The second world war military camp in Hayscastle Cross, much of which still remains, is of interest to military historians.

The relatively new Community Centre and Woodland are well used, where meetings and events take place. There is also a Church Hall next to St Lawrence Church. The annual Hayscastle Pony and Horticultural Show takes place in August where it is possible to meet with many local people. There are several local groups who meet regularly and contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of the small community of Hayscastle. Much may be found and discovered in the following pages of this booklet and will perhaps be the stepping-stone to joining in some of the many activities on offer.

CYFLWYNIAD

Mae Castellhaidd yn gymuned fach, fewndirol sydd â phwyslais amlwg ar amaethyddiaeth. Amgylchynir y pentref gan dir pori ac mae presenoldeb Mynydd Plumstone a'r golygfeydd o Fryniau'r Preseli yn ychwanegu at harddwch yr ardal. Mae'r gymuned hon yn cwmpasu tair ward sef Castellhaidd, St Lawrence a St Edrens gyda'r prif ardaloedd preswyl yn cynnwys Croes Castellhaidd a Phont-yr Hafod, ac mae'n debyg fod cyfanswm y boblogaeth tua 480.

Mae cryn dipyn o breswylwyr yr ardal yn parhau i dderbyn eu cyflog gan y diwydiant amaethyddol a'r busnesau atodol sy'n gysylltiedig â'r sector. Gellir dadlau bod nifer o'r brif ffermydd gwreiddiol wedi bod yn bentrefi Canoloesol bach, a oedd yn cael eu gwahaniaethu yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw gan eu henwau a oedd fel arfer yn dechrau gyda'r Gymraeg 'tre' neu yn gorffen gyda'r Saesneg 'ton' e.e. Treowman (Brimaston), Trebwrnallt (Tancredston) a Treindeg (Rhyndaston). Bellach, gwyddwn fod Fferm Castellhaidd yn safle pentref Canoloesol anghyfannedd. Dyma oedd brif anheddiad y gymuned yn ystod y cyfnod, ac mae'r fferm wedi'i leoli ger Eglwys y Santes Fair a'r twmpath lle oedd y mwnt a'r beili Normanaidd.

Fel nifer o bentrefi bach, dynododd ran olaf yr 20fed ganrif a dechrau'r 21ain cynnydd yn y boblogaeth a gostyngiad yn y gwasanaethau. Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, collwyd dwy siop bentref a gorsaf betrol, garej a swyddfa bost ac ar ôl 130 mlynedd o addysgu'r pentrefwyr – collwyd yr ysgol yn 2010. Mae drysau tafarn y Cross yn parhau i fod ar agor, a hynny dan arweiniad yr un teulu ag sydd wedi bod yno am y 160 mlynedd diwethaf – y teulu Phillips. Mae Eglwysi St Lawrence a'r Santes Fair ynghyd a'r Capeli Noddfa Newton a Blaenllyn yn dal i fod ar agor, ond, mae amllder y gwasanaethau wedi gostwng o gymharu â'r blynyddoedd blaenorol.

Mae'r Gymraeg yn dal i fod yn iaith bwysig ac arwyddocaol o fewn y pentref. Dangosodd Cyfrifiad 1999 fod 38% o'r preswylwyr yn medru'r iaith. Gwelir bod nifer o fewnfudwyr yn awyddus i'w dysgu a chwarae rhan flaenllaw yn y gymuned.

O ganlyniad i'r cyfoeth o lonydd bach sydd o fewn yr ardal, mae'n lleoliad poblogaidd sy'n denu cerddwyr, beicwyr a marchogion. Mae'r ardaloedd coediog a'r llwybrau troed cyhoeddus yn ychwanegu elfen hanesyddol a deniadol wrth ymgymryd â'r gweithgareddau uchod. Yn yr un modd, mae'r sawl sy'n ymddiddori mewn hanes byd natur yn medru cael modd i fyw wrth ddringo Mynydd Plumstone, ac ymweld â dyffryn Brandy Brook a Chomin Tre-rhos sydd bellach wedi derbyn y teitl Safle o Ddiddordeb Gwyddonol Arbennig (SSSI yn y Saesneg). Mae canran dda o'r gwersyll milwrol sy'n dyddio o'r ail ryfel byd yn dal i sefyll yng Nghroes Castellhaidd ac y mae o ddiddordeb i haneswyr milwrol.

Caiff y Ganolfan Gymunedol, sy'n gymharol newydd a'r Coetir eu defnyddio'n aml ar gyfer cynnal cyfarfodydd ac amryw o ddigwyddiadau. Yn ogystal, lleolir Neuadd Eglwys ger Eglwys St Lawrence. Cynhelir Sioe Ferlod a Garddwriaethol Castellhaidd yn flynyddol yn ystod mis Awst gan gynnig y cyfle i'r bobl leol ddod ynghyd a chydweithio fel cymuned. Mae yna sawl grŵp lleol sy'n cwrdd yn rheolaidd ac yn cyfrannu at y bywiogrwydd a'r amrywiaeth sy'n hollbresennol o fewn cymuned glos Castellhaidd. Gellir canfod a darganfod llawer o fewn tudalennau canlynol y llyfryn hwn, ac efallai mai hwn fydd y cam sydd angen arnoch er mwyn manteisio ar y cyfleoedd a gweithgareddau a gynigir.

HANES CASTELLHAIDD

Gellir canfod pythau o hanes am bentref Castellhaidd o fewn ystod eang o ffynonellau amrywiol. Mewn gwirionedd, mae'r cyfanwaith yn dal i aros i rywun ei ysgrifennu!

Mae Castellhaidd yn un o'r cymunedau sydd wedi'i lleoli ar yr hen linell Landsker. Dynoda'r llinell y ffin sy'n gwahaniaethu ardaloedd Cymraeg a Di-Gymraeg Sir Benfro. Wrth edrych ar fap o'r ardal, gwelir bod enwau'r lleoedd sydd ar y ffin yn gymysgedd o rai Cymraeg a Saesneg.

Mae ystod eang o safleoedd archeolegol o fewn yr ardal sy'n cynnwys nifer o henebion cynhanesyddol yn ogystal â sawl safle canoloesol. Ymhlith y rhain mae beddrodau siambr Neolithig, porfeydd crwn o'r Oes Efydd, maen hir o'r Oes Efydd a bryngaer o'r Oes Haearn. Mae'r mwyafrif o'r rhain wedi'u lleoli ar dir preifat sydd heb fynediad cyhoeddus.

Prin yw'r dystiolaeth o feddiannaeth Rufeinig o fewn yr ardal, ond ar ôl canfod lamp clai Rhufeinig a Fila posib o'r un cyfnod yng Nghasblaidd, mae'n bosib iawn fod mwy o ddylanwad Rhufeinig o fewn yr ardal i gymharu â'r hyn a feddylwyd yn flaenorol.

Mae'n debyg fod Eglwysi St Lawrence a'r Santes Fair o darddiadau canoloesol. Gwyddwn hefyd fod Fferm Castellhaidd yn safle a oedd yn cynnwys mwnt a chastell beili Normanaidd, ynghyd â phentref canoloesol anghyfannedd. Erbyn hyn, nid yw'n bosib gweld yr olion hanesyddol yma oherwydd maent wedi suddo dan y ddaear.

Adeiladwyd Eglwys St Edrens ar safle cyn-Gristnogol ac mae chwedlau amdani i'w gweld mewn pennod arall o fewn y llyfr hwn. Gellir olrhain gwreiddiau nifer o ffermydd yr ardal yn ôl i'r 12fed a'r 13eg ganrif ac mae'n debyg bod rhai ohonynt wedi'u lleoli yng nghanol ystadau ffiwdal canoloesol bach megis Treowman a Threindeg.

Ar hyd y canrifoedd, mae nifer o ddigwyddiadau hanesyddol a chenedlaethol, gan gynnwys y Rhyfel Cartref yn y 1640au, wedi cael effaith arwyddocaol ar yr ardal. Ceir stori werin gan Brian John yn ei gyfres o lyfrau "Pembrokeshire Folk Tales" sy'n sôn am filwyr yn profi dofreth mewn ffermdai lleol yn ystod y cyfnod pan gipiwyd Castell Roch gan filwyr Cromwell. Mae yna nifer o hanesion, chwedlau a choegchwedlau o'r gorffennol i'w darganfod o hyd.

Yr ysgol gyntaf, sydd ar gof a chadw, a wasanaethodd yr ardal oedd Ysgol Elusennol Gylchredol Treowman a oedd yn gyfrifol am addysgu 25 disgybl o 1739 ymlaen. Mae'n bosib mai dylanwad Capel Methodistaidd cyfagos oedd yr ysgol hon. Canrif a mwy yn ddiweddarach, yn ystod 1862, agorwyd Ysgol Ddyddiol o fewn adeilad gwreiddiol Capel Noddfa Newton, cyn adeiladu ysgol newydd ym Mhont-yr-Hafod, a agorodd ym mis Rhagfyr 1877. Gellir darllen am hanes cynhwysfawr yr ysgol hon yn ogystal â'r ysgolion cyfagos ym Mreudeth, Llandeloy a Threbwrrnallt yn llyfr Alan Davies "A Community's Way of Life". Yn anffodus, caewyd Ysgol Castellhaidd ym mis Gorffennaf 2010.

Mae Cofeb Rhyfel y pentref (gweler yr erthygl atodol) yn talu teyrnged i'r pentrefwyr a gollodd eu bywydau yn gwasanaethu eu gwlad yn Rhyfeloedd Byd y ganrif ddiwethaf.

Yn ystod y degawdau diwethaf, collwyd dwy siop bentref a gorsaf betrol, swyddfa bost, siop gigydd, gefail, ynghyd â meddygfa wythnosol. Mae'n bosib y bydd rhai ohonoch yn cofio am wasanaethau eraill sydd wedi diflannu. Serch hynny, mae'r Eglwysi St Lawrence a'r Santes Fair ynghyd â Chapeli Noddfa Newton a Blaenllyn yn parhau i gael eu defnyddio, fel y mae tafarn y Cross (gweler erthyglau atodol).

THE HISTORY OF HAYSCASTLE

Snippets of the history of Hayscastle can be found tantalisingly in a variety of places, books and pamphlets. The book is still waiting for somebody to write it.

Hayscastle / Castellhaidd is one of the communities on the old Landsker line between the Englishry and Welshry and if you look on a map of the area you will see a mixture of English and Welsh place names.

There is an interesting range of archaeological sites, including several prehistoric monuments as well as several mediaeval sites. These include Neolithic chambered tombs, Bronze Age round barrows, a Bronze Age standing stone and an Iron Age hillfort. Most of these are on private land with no public access.

There is little evidence of Roman occupation, though the discovering of a Roman clay lamp and a possible villa in nearby Wolfscastle lead us to suspect there was more Roman influence than previously thought.

Both St Lawrence and St Mary's Churches are of mediaeval origin and Hayscastle Farm is the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle and a deserted mediaeval village, which is no longer visible above ground. St Edrens Church is built on a pre-Christian site and has legends about it to be found separately in this book. Several of the farmsteads can trace their origins back to the 12th and 13th centuries and some were the centre of small mediaeval feudal estates such as Brimaston (Treowman) and Rhyndaston (Treindeg).

Throughout the centuries, the area has been touched by national events including the Civil War in the 1640s. A folk tale recorded by Brian John in his Pembrokeshire Folk Tales books tells of soldiers being billeted in local farmhouses when Roch Castle was captured by Cromwell's troops. There are a number of tales, myths and legends from the past to be found.

The first recorded school in the area was at Brimaston (Treowman) in 1739 when a Circulatory Charity School boasted 25 pupils. This may have been the influence of an adjacent Methodist Chapel. It was more than a century later when a Day School was conducted at the original Noddfa Newton Chapel at Newton from 1862 before a new school was built at Pont-yr-Hafod, which opened in December 1877. A comprehensive history of this and adjacent schools at Brawdy (Breudeth), Llandeloy and Tancredston (Trebwrnallt) can be found in Alan Davies' book "A Community's Way of Life". The school eventually closed in July 2010.

Hayscastle War Memorial (see separate article) pays tribute to those persons who lost their lives serving their country in both World Wars of the last century.

Within living memory two village stores and garages, post office, butchers, blacksmith and a weekly doctor's surgery have all been lost. Some of you may know of more. Two churches, St Mary's and St Lawrence and two Chapels, Noddfa Newton and Blaenllyn remain in use, as does The Cross Inn (see separate articles).

HAYSCASTLE AMENITIES

Community Centre Bookings:

Lee and Kathryn Wilkins

01348 840358 / 07896 590426

kathplaind@aol.com

Pembrokeshire County Council:

01437 764551

Waste and Recycling Collection: Thursdays

County Councillor: Michelle Bateman

01437 741438 / 07878 857197

cllr.michelle.bateman@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Rural Crime Team: PC Gerwyn Davies & PCSO Jude Parr

Phone number: 101

Defibrillator locations:

Outside Hayscastle Community Centre,
SA62 5HR (left hand side of building)

Outside The Cross Inn, SA62 5PR

Mobile Library: Once a month on a Friday from 9.15 to 9.45 am
outside The Cross Inn (please see
Pembrokeshire County Council website for
current timetable)

Bus Service to Haverfordwest:

Runs on Fridays only, stops at Newton Cross
and Hayscastle Cross (please see
Pembrokeshire County Council website for
current timetable)

HAYSCASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Before the new Community Centre was opened in June 2012, there had been only Hayscastle School, the back room of the Cross Inn, and St Lawrence Church Hall for groups to meet within the Parish.



Early in 2000 the opportunity arose to lease what is now the Community Centre from Noddfa Newton Chapel. The Community Council and Community Forum obtained funding and negotiated leases for both this and the Community Woodland project.

The Community Centre is run by the Community Forum and is used by all community groups and societies as a meeting place. It is available for hire to individuals or groups from outside the community as well and is popular as a destination for children's birthday parties with access to the adjoining 2 acre Community Woodland.



It is also used for events such as the Hayscastle Fete, Easter and Christmas Workshops, Cawl evenings, the tea following the Remembrance Day Service and Chapel celebrations such as the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Carol Service.

The Hayscastle 100+ Club is a vital source of income for the upkeep of the Community Centre. There is an annual membership fee (currently £10). Prize draws are held 4 times per year. You can find the 100+ Club Co-ordinator's details on the General Information page. You've got to be in it to win it!

HAYSCASTLE COMMUNITY WOODLAND

The 2 acre Community Woodland sits alongside the Community Centre and Noddfa Newton Chapel. It is a tranquil, safe area for individuals and community use.



The site was leased to the Hayscastle Community Council in order to create a suitable recreation area for the community. Grant funding was obtained and together with the Hayscastle Environmental Society and community volunteers, the area was cleared and developed into its current form. The play equipment, greenhouse, weather station and wooden shed were added from Hayscastle Primary School when it closed in 2010.

The first tree was planted by the late Angela Wade in October 2007 (see image above) with several commemorative or memorial trees being added since. The day to day management is overseen by the Hayscastle Environmental Society volunteers with the support of the Hayscastle Community Council. Work parties are organised throughout the year. Since 2016 the woodland has received an annual Community Green Flag Award from Keep Wales Tidy as a safe welcoming area caring for the environment and biodiversity.

It is open for everyone to use, all that is asked is for users to respect the facility and keep it free from litter and dog mess. Litter bins are provided. If you wish to be involved with maintaining the site, please contact either the Hayscastle Community Council or the Hayscastle Environmental Society.

HAYSCASTLE WAR MEMORIAL

Prior to 1996 there was no memorial to commemorate those servicemen from the community who had fallen in the two World Wars of the 20th Century. The Community Council thought this needed rectifying and set about creating one. A site was chosen below the school and the relevant permissions were obtained from Pembrokeshire County Council. Much interest was shown in the community and quickly a suitable stone was chosen from a nearby farm and offers to dig the hole, transport the stone, set it in concrete and create a suitable surround were forthcoming from local businesses and residents alike. A plaque was commissioned to attach to the stone showing the names of those who died in combat. Much of the work was done without cost, such was the enthusiasm for the project.

Mona Harwood, a descendant of one of those who died and who resided in the community unveiled the memorial.

Due to the many commitments by the clergy, the services have always been held at 3.15 pm on Remembrance Sunday each year and generally include a marching band and standard bearers. Wreaths are laid by individuals and community groups. There have always been refreshments served afterwards by the good people of the community, which were at first laid on in the school, but now is served in the Community Centre.

Over subsequent years, the area has been enhanced by the addition of seating, daffodils, trees and a flower bed. It is also surrounded by post and chain. Those who died waited a long time for their memorial. They will never be forgotten.



BRAWDYHAYSCASTLE YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

There has been a Young Farmers Club (YFC) at Hayscastle since 1975. Brawdy YFC was formed in 1950. In 2015 the clubs merged to become BrawdyHayscastle YFC. The aim of the movement has always been to promote farming, care for the countryside, rural life and supporting young people living and working in agriculture. Today these aims still apply but with the decline in rural population and changes in the ways of farming other factors are important such as the environment and addressing rural isolation.

As a member you can learn a wide range of skills from stock judging and use of machinery to cookery, crafts, singing, dancing and acting. Many well-known figures in politics and entertainment acknowledge taking part in YFC public speaking competitions gave them the confidence in front of an audience. Both clubs have had members who have represented their club at county, Wales and national competitions and held office at county and Wales level. YFC also offers the opportunity for international travel. YFC meetings allow you socialise and make friends. A wide variety of events are organised for the programme e.g. visits to a variety of places, games/quiz nights, interesting speakers and 'have a go' nights such as cookery and crafts. Being part of the community is important and as such we support community events, litter picks, beach cleans and in addition, raise money for charities.

BrawdyHayscastle YFC meet at Hayscastle Community Centre on Tuesday evenings and there is a warm welcome for any young person aged 10 to 26 to come along. Find out more on our Facebook page, 'BrawdyHayscastle YFC' and the Hayscastle website.

GRASSHOPPERS CLUB

The junior branch of the Environmental Society was set up in 2012 at the request of pupils and parents of Hayscastle School, which closed in 2010 together with their “Green Flag Club”. The school had achieved 4 Green Flags from Keep Wales Tidy with the award of a Platinum Green Flag in 2010 shortly



before the school’s closure. This was the highest accolade with the presentation at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Setting up the Club meant moving the greenhouse, weather station and wooden shed from the School to the Community Woodland. Volunteers set to and the task was completed for the first Grasshoppers meeting taking place on 18th June 2012 when 11 children attended and helped plant a commemorative tree by the greenhouse to mark the occasion.

Meeting every 2 weeks on a Monday from 4.30 – 6.00 pm, it is an after-school club for children who wish to learn something about biodiversity and gardening. Each year vegetables are grown in raised beds and where applicable are entered in the Hayscastle Show in August. Each year the club has come away with more than one award and have won the cup for the potatoes on two occasions.

Winter meetings are in the Community Centre and the year ends with a Christmas gathering. During the year there are 2 or 3 field trips to one of the nearby biodiversity sites of interest. The Club is funded by the Hayscastle Environmental Society and there is a small charge for each meeting.

HAYSCASTLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY (HES)

A “hands on” active group of individuals who do much to maintain and improve the natural environment in the Haycastle area, including bringing together individuals and organisations to help achieve this.

Formed in 1999, following a village appraisal, the Society has evolved into an integral part of the community providing opportunities for those who wish to remain healthy and active and contribute to the community wellbeing besides learning and discovering the local biodiversity. All age groups and abilities are catered for. Prior to 2010 the society worked with the Haycastle School at their “Green Flag Club”. Following the School closure HES members set up the “Grasshoppers” Club.

Ongoing projects where members participate in include the maintenance of the community flower beds and the Community Woodland, 2 to 4 litter picks each year and the cleaning and monitoring of nest boxes on various sites. Recording the wildlife on 36 x 1km squares in the locality is continuous with records sent into the local Biodiversity Record Centre. Displays and exhibits are also staged at local events and shows and there are regular walks, field trips and surveys throughout the year.

The HES played a large part in the creation of the Community Woodland and takes a lead in its ongoing management and Green Flag Awards. In 2017 it received a “Pride of Pembrokeshire” Award from the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board for its community work.

Indoor meetings, usually with a guest speak, take place on the first Wednesday in February, April, June, October and December in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm.

HAYSCASTLE 55+ CLUB

Haycastle 55+ Club was set up in July 1987 and meetings were arranged on the first Monday of each month at 2 pm in the Cross Inn (thanks to Dawn and Derek Gerlach). It is almost unbelievable it is now 32 years later and still going strong.

As membership grew, we had to move our meetings to various halls through the vicinity, until 2012, when we started holding our meetings in our own, Haycastle Community Centre. We now have plenty of space, in our well-equipped centre. Here's a picture of our fabulous kitchen where we make a nice cup of tea.



New members are always welcome, men are just as welcome as the ladies. It is good to get together for a good natter, tea, biscuits, a raffle and several games of bingo ... you won't be buying that mansion on the prize!

We also go out every other month to a nearby pub or restaurant for lunch including a Christmas lunch. So why not come and join in the fun, who knows, you could bring some new ideas to the club and make some new friends.

HAYSCASTLE HORTICULTURAL & PONY SHOW



Haycastle Horticultural and Pony Show started as a horticultural show in 1954 and was held at the village school to raise funds to help with the cost of supplying mains water to the recently built council houses at Glanhafod. In the early years the Show was timed to fit in with the local bus service as few could afford their own transport then. Desmond Donnelly, the County MP at the time, was the first president.

1956 saw the first Dog Show and in 1967 the first children's pony classes were judged on the school playing fields. As pony classes increased in 1970, jumping classes were introduced with these being held on a nearby field at Coedfynnon Farm. The horticultural Show remained at the school.

In 1979 the complete Show came back together, when the horticultural exhibits were housed in a marquee. By 1989 the Show had moved to the middle of Haycastle Cross before moving in 1999 to its present site on Plaindealings Fields. During the 1980s and 1990s classes for goats, sheep and calves were held.



Many local faces have been Show President over the years coming from the individuals who have been prominent in the area and those who have supported the Show.

Today the varied show includes various pony classes, trekking classes, gymkhana, dog show, horticultural, domestic science, wines and beers, needlecraft, WI and YFC classes, children's classes and vintage tractors in addition to local stallholders and fundraising activities by community groups. Refreshments are provided by a group of dedicated and enthusiastic ladies and the whole show is run by an equally dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

The Show President each year nominates a chosen charity and thanks to the generosity of show supporters the Show Committee has been able to support a wide range of charities and organisations both local and national.

If you are new to the area it is a great opportunity to meet many of the residents and people who help to make a vibrant community. If you have never been, ask yourself "why not"? The Show is held on a Saturday in early August each year. If you have the time, we are always on the lookout for extra volunteers. Look forward to seeing you there!

HAYSCASTLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

The first Women's Institute meeting in the United Kingdom was held in Llanfairpwll on Anglesey on 16th September 1915. Since then, the organisation has grown to become the largest women's voluntary organisation in the United Kingdom, with over 212,000 members in over 6,300 WI's.

The WI was established to educate rural women and to encourage country women to get involved in growing and preserving food to help to increase the supply of food to the war-torn nation. Education and the sharing of skills have always been at the heart of the organisation and this remains true today.

In celebration of the WI Centenary, the Duchess of Cornwall, joined by the Countess of Wessex and Princess Alexandra, hosted a Garden Party for 8,000 members at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, 2nd June 2015. Two members of Haycastle WI attended this wonderful afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Pembrokeshire WI is a very active and dynamic WI Federation within Wales with over 50 WI's and approximately 1,200 members over the whole county. 2021 is a very special year for Pembrokeshire WI as it marks its Centenary Year, with so many events being organised to celebrate this wonderful milestone.

Haycastle WI was set up in 1973 and hold their meetings on the second Thursday of every month at Haycastle Community Centre where there is always an interesting speaker, activity or visit arranged. There is always a warm welcome to join us, no matter who you are, what your age or what your beliefs are – give it a try, you'll just find so many friends along the way!

CROSS INN, HAYSCASTLE

Family keep the ale flowing for 160 years

Over a century and a half ago, a pub came into the Phillips family and five generations down the line, it's celebrating a milestone.

Current landlords, Wayne and Angela Phillips are seventh in the family line to run the Cross Inn, in Haycastle, a tradition they hope to continue.



The establishment dates back to 1861, when it was purchased by Ebenezer Phillips, who ran it as an alehouse and shop for ten years.

Due to ill health, Ebenezer sent for his brother to come and take over in 1871. His name was William Phillips, and he was known in the family as 'Boss Mawr', according to Wayne's cousin, and past landlady, Dawn Gerlach. William Phillips ran the pub for almost 60 years, before passing it down to his son Albert. In 1957, Albert's oldest daughter Nan Stevens and her husband Glyn took the reins, before handing them over to her sister Mona Harwood and husband Harry.

In 1982, the pub exchanged hands again, when Mona and Harry's daughter, Dawn and husband Derek Gerlach took over the licence until 2007.

Today, 160 years after Ebenezer first bought the building, Mona's nephew, Wayne Phillips and his wife Angela continue to run the family pub, where there is always a warm and friendly atmosphere.

CENTENARY YEAR FOR HAYSCASTLE

RESIDENT MRS MAIR SCALE

Many changes have taken place in the 100 years of my life. My parents and I lived on a small holding, keeping a few cows and a pig for killing each year. Farming was a far harder life then, but everyone helped each other during harvest time. Everything is now more mechanised. Most of our food was home produced. We had to carry water from a well at the bottom of a field.

I attended Pont Yr Hafod School at the age of 4, where both my daughters and granddaughter attended. My father had a pony and trap to go shopping and to travel for business. Haycastle Cross had a grocery store and Post Office, which originally was in The Cross Inn. There was a small shop in Newton Cross, which later expanded to a larger grocery and general store, with petrol pumps.

Social life in the 20s and 30s was mainly Chapel, which was attended 3 times on a Sunday. The Young People's Guild was held, where I met my husband, Parry. I bought a bicycle for 30 shillings, so we could visit the cinema in Haverfordwest. Chapel anniversary meetings were well attended, when the ladies catered for lunch and tea. We all usually had to have new outfits and hats for these occasions. Singing Festivals were also a big get together.

Men played quoits in the Cross and each May, Brinkley Fair was held with coconut stalls, there were also donkey rides at half a penny each.

I celebrated my 100th birthday in June 2019 and the highlight of the day was when I received a card from the Queen.



WALKS

“Many eyes pass through the meadow, but few see the flowers”, an old saying but never so true as today, where we speed by in our cars and see only a green grass verge and hedge. Spare time to walk through some of the lanes of Hayscastle and see the variety of plants, insects, fungi etc. which we share our planet with. You may be lucky to see a fox, badger, frog, lizard, grass snake etc. We are blessed with still retaining a varied biodiversity in the area.

Venture onto some of the public footpaths and you will find much more. There are a variety of paths crossing Plumstone and Dudwell mountains worth exploring and these can easily lead onto those crossing Rhyndaston Mountain and the Brandy Brook Valley. Extensive views from the tops of the hills lead into streams and woodland with primroses, bluebells and numerous other wildflowers, together with otters and kingfishers, if you are lucky. Look around for fungi in the autumn, some rare species have been seen around here. On a warm day you may see adders basking.

Priskilly forest is another excellent venue for bluebells and wild garlic in the spring. This is a fascinating ancient woodland to walk through on the north east edge of Hayscastle.

Try walking from Brimaston to Treffgane Rocks. This can be a circular walk, coming back along the ridge between Treffgarne and Plumstone.

Remember to keep your dog on a lead, not all walkers like dogs and children can be afraid. Also, it can be dangerous when crossing farmland with livestock in. Respect the area, leave only footprints.

PLUMSTONE MOUNTAIN

Although in the parish of Camrose, Plumstone is included in this booklet as it is a popular destination for Hayscastle residents. Much of Hayscastle is overlooked when standing on or near Plumstone rock.



(View from Plumstone Mountain, looking towards Hayscastle)

Part of the area is common land, part an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and part an area of special landscape value. The common land is managed by Natural Resources Wales and protected by Pembrokeshire County Council and the local Community Council (Camrose). Not all land has open access rights so walkers should keep to the designated paths. Paths can be wet and muddy in places.

There are several different routes and a varied flora and fauna can be found along the way. The Causeway plantation of conifers has been a popular roost for starlings in the past and the common is a favourite hunting ground for short-eared owls, hen harriers and buzzards. Ravens and red kites are also regular visitors.

The area is rich in history with three Bronze Age burial chambers and an Iron Age Fort. There are two ancient trackways used for livestock travelling from the St Davids Peninsular to Haverfordwest. There are superb views all round from Plumstone rock. On a clear day it may be possible to see the Wicklow Mountains in Ireland.

HAYSCASTLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

An elected body of councillors responsible for parish issues. Six councillors are elected every 5 years who, along with the local County Councillor and Clerk, meet on the second Monday of every month, except August at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Councillors follow a strict code of conduct in meeting their legal obligations on a variety of local issues from planning applications to potholes and street lighting. They are there to help and guide individuals, groups and businesses within Haycastle, as necessary.

Over 50 years ago the then councillors voted to give all those over 65 in the community, a 10 shilling postal order as an appreciation of their contribution to society throughout their working life. This has continued uninterrupted to this day, though with some variation.

In 1996 councillors were instrumental in funding and erecting the war memorial at Pont-yr-Hafod.

A village appraisal commissioned by the Community Council in 1999 pinpointed community aspirations which included a Community Centre and woodland. A grant for the woodland was obtained, however a Community Forum had to be developed to apply for grants for the Community Centre. The Forum comprises of all community groups and interested residents, including the Community Council. Funding was obtained and a lease signed by the Community Forum with the Community Centre opening in 2012.

Active councillors can make a difference to the well-being of a community and it is important that everyone plays a part in ensuring this happens in Haycastle.

HISTORY OF HAYSCASTLE SCHOOL

The School at Hayscastle was a focal point for the community for almost a century and a half. Unfortunately, and to the great sadness of all who had been connected to the school in some way or other, it became a casualty of decisions made by the Local Authority Education Department and shut its doors in 2010.

The first school was a day school held at the original Noddfa Newton Chapel, Newton in 1862. The Lord Shaftesbury Factory Act prohibiting child labour enabled more children to have time to attend school, although it was not compulsory. It was in 1876 that a new law stated that children must attend school until they were 12 or 13. Parents had to pay a penny or two a week. This led to schools opening in neighbouring villages of Tancredston, Hendre Cross and Brawdy. The last of these to close was Brawdy.

In 1875, after debating four sites it was agreed by members of the school board that a new school be built at Pont-yr-Hafod. Work began in 1876 and took a year, with the school opening on the 12th of December 1877. A tea party was organised to celebrate the event and to encourage children to attend. Over the years there have been numerous tea parties to celebrate various occasions. A big party in 1997 to commemorate 120 years and in 2000 a reunion of past pupils of all the schools which saw generations of the same families present.

Along with the school building, a schoolhouse was built for the headmaster. This was demolished in 1996 as it was condemned as a hazard to pupils' health and safety.

The rise in the number of pupils saw two new classrooms added in the new block and a playing field for the school; this opened in 1952. The school canteen was the Aelwyd hut belonging to Aelwyd Castellhaidd, which in its heyday was renowned throughout Wales for its successes in Urdd Eisteddfodau. It was used as the dining room with a small kitchen attached. During the 1970s, 117 children had lunch in this building every day. A new extension was added and by 1992 the Aelwyd hut was transformed into a spacious modern kitchen and the old kitchenette which had served the school so well since 1943 was demoted to a storeroom.

In the early years, gardening was part of the school timetable and vegetables grown by the pupils were used by the cooks for school dinners. In 1990, with a lot of hard work by pupils and parents, the garden became a conservation area for the pupils and won the Prince of Wales Award in 1994.

In 2005, a mural was painted on the back wall of the school building. This was designed and painted by the pupils under the direction of local artist Jean Thomas and depicts the history of the community of Hayscastle from the 11th Century to present day.

Over the years school numbers grew until a peak of about 130 on the register during the seventies. Decline in rural population, especially of young families, saw numbers drop dramatically before the 21st Century, falling to 28 when it closed in 2010.

In 2005, Mr Alan Davies, the school Deputy Head and teacher at the school for 24 years wrote a book called 'A Community's Way of Life'; a history of the school from the beginning and an insight of life in the community. The information was collected from the school logbooks and memories of the past pupils, staff and residents.

CAPEL BLAENLLYN / BLAENLLYN CHAPEL



Blaenllyn Chapel is situated a few miles from Hayscastle heading for Mathry, the Chapel has a separate Vestry just across the road. Services are predominantly Welsh.

The non-conformist movement grew from strength to strength during the 18th and 19th Century. Services, Prayer Meetings and Sunday school were held in private homes in the Hayscastle area until 1843 when Blaenllyn Chapel opened. The Chapel was built on land given by the John Family of Trehale, Mathry who also paid for the costs of building the Chapel.

Y Gweinidog cyntaf oedd Y Parch T.E Thomas ac oedd yn priod a merch o Trehael a fu yno am ddeng mlynedd ar hugain. Efe a benderfynnodd bod angen adeiliad hefyd yn Castellhaidd ar ol bod yn cynnal gwasanaethau yn yr awyr agored ar Fynydd Plumston. Bu Y Parch T.E Thomas yn weinidog yn y Capel am agos i ddeng mlynedd ar hugain. Yn 1862 bu'n gyfrifol am godi Capel Cyntaf Noddfa Newton, ac oddiar hynny y mae'r ddau Gapel wedi rhannu yr un weinidogaeth.

I ddilyn Y Parch Theophilus Thomas daeth perthynas iddo, sef Y Parch Theophilus John a oedd yn athro ysgol. Ordeinwyd yn weinidog y ddau Capel yn 1873 a fu yno am dros ddeugain mlynedd. Priododd â merch o Castellhaidd a bu yn ffermio yn Tynewydd.

In 1919 Rev. Evan Williams came to the area, he was born in Angelsey, married a local girl, but unfortunately his ministry ended suddenly by his death in 1938.

Yn 1940 rhoddwyd alwad i Geraint Owen, myfyriwr yng ngholeg Bangor. Bu yn weinidog parchus a blin oedd ei golli ymhen tair blynedd. Ar adeg canmlwyddiant Blaenllyn yn 1942, roedd yr aelodaeth yn 120 ac i ddathlu'r achlysur cafwyd hanes yr achos o'r dechrau gan yr ysgrifennydd, y brawd Thomas Francis.

Yn 1946 dechreuodd Y Parch Brynmor Davies ar ei weinidogaeth o ddeg mlynedd ar hugain

Yn 1978 Y Parch Hywel Thomas oedd gweinidog am dair blynedd.

Yn 1982 sefydlwyd Y Parch G. Aled Jenkins yn weinidog, ac y mae yn dal yn barchus iawn gennym. Yn ystod ei weinidogaeth gwelwyd ddechrau Cyrddau Teuluol ac Oedfaon Undebol. Llawennydd oedd ei weld yn Llywydd y Gymanfa un 1995.

Although now retired, Rev. G. Aled Jenkins still takes some of the Services.

CAPEL NODDFA NEWTON/ NODDFA NEWTON CHAPEL

Noddfa Newton Chapel is situated next door to Hayscastle Community Centre, the now Centre was previously the Chapel Vestry, where Sunday School was held for many years, also Prayer Meetings once a week and some local groups using it to hold their meetings. Prior to this it was a stable. Many people still refer to the Community Centre as the Vestry.



Noddfa Newton Chapel was built in 1862, on land that was leased for 999 years from Mr Price, Newton West for a shilling a year. All the stones were taken from a quarry at Newton West and timber wreckage from Newgale and Whitesands beaches was used to make a gallery, pillars and windows. The seating was benches as it was also used as a day school. The Chapel was rebuilt in 1875 and again rebuilt in 1924.

Y Parch T. E. Thomas oedd y gweinidog cyntaf a fu yno am ddeng mlynedd ar hugain. Efe a benderdfynnodd bod angen adeiliad yn Castellhaidd ar ol bod yn cynnal gwasanaethau yn yr awyr agored ar Fynydd Plumston.

Y Parch Theophilus John oedd y gweinidog nesa, yr oedd yn perthynas i'r gweinidog Y Parch T.E. Thomas, a oedd yn athro Ysgol i Noddfa Newton.

Yn 1919 dechreuodd gweinidogaeth Y Parch Evan Williams. Y mae côf parchus amdano gan yr aelodau hynaf o hyd. Yn 1940 rhoddwyd galwad i Y Parch Geraint Owen. Bu yn weinidog parchus a'r aelodau yn hoff iawn ohono.

Noddfa Newton Chapel celebrated its centenary in 1962 when the minister was Rev. Brynmor Davies, who served the two Chapels from 1946 to 1978. He is still remembered with affection in the locality by a generation influenced greatly by him.

Pan ddaeth Y Parch Hywel Thomas, myfyriwr arall o goleg Bangor, ymunodd Capel Felinganol i rannu'r weinidogaeth. Fu yn weinidog ar y dair eglwys am dair blynedd.

In 1982 Rev. G. Aled Jenkins was inducted as Minister of the three Chapels. For more than 30 years he was minister and is still taking some Services now. He introduced Family Services and United Services and a Service on Christmas Morning. He encouraged all the local children to attend Sunday School, and with his wife, they produced a Nativity Play every year with many children of the area taking part.

Rev. G. Aled Jenkins also instigated a Community Carol Service, which sees every group within the Community take part. For many years Hayscastle YFC organised it, but now Hayscastle Community Forum arrange it annually. It is always well supported and everyone enjoys refreshments at the Community Centre (Vestry) after the Service.

Although Rev. G. Aled Jenkins has now retired, he and his wife are both held in high esteem in the Community. Services are held in both Welsh and English, and there is a warm welcome for anyone of any denomination to attend.

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH



St Lawrence Church is a 12th Century building nestled on the outside of the hamlet of Welsh Hook between Letterston and Hayscastle just across from the Western Cleddau. It is a grade 2 listed building.

Also built in 1856, was a Rectory for the Vicar which was sold in 1977 and is now a private residence.

The Church also owned some glebe land and some outbuildings one of these was the cowshed and these buildings fell into disrepair. In 1954 it was decided by the Church Members to apply to the Church Authorities for permission to convert it into a Church Hall. This request was granted, and the hall was opened on 13th January 1955; a very snowy day. The hall was extensively renovated in 1999. The glebe land was also sold to a local farmer in 2005.

St Lawrence Church also had a very successful Sunday School but unfortunately it is no longer functional, but it is a pleasure to see some pupils are still regular members of the Church.

Electricity was first supplied to the Church in 1955. Prior to that there was a coal stove for the heating and paraffin lamps for lighting.

For many years the Church only had one bell, although it had two bell cotes and when St. Edrens became redundant a faculty was applied to the Church Authorities for permission to remove the bell. This was granted and the bell was installed in 1990.

A very successful flower festival was held in May 1977, which raised over £3,000, which was spent on renovating the Church interior.

The first Vicar remembered was the Reverend Gwyn Williams, who left for Llanarthney Church in 1953. Later that year Reverend Vernie Evans came and left in 1956. In 1957 the Reverend Idwal Edwards was inducted and stayed until his retirement in 1976. The Churches of St Lawrence and Ford have always been in joint pastorship, but when the Reverend Edwards retired, St Lawrence Church was amalgamated with the parish of Camrose under the pastorship of the Reverend Bryon Jones and he remained until his retirement in 2004. After his retirement, St Lawrence Church was amalgamated with Roch, Nolton, Hayscastle and Ford.

The biggest change remembered in the life of St Lawrence Church was in 2017, when the Greater Dewisland Local Ministry Area was formed. St Lawrence Church is part of a group of 13 churches in North Pembrokeshire with 2 full time Vicars, Canon Michael Rowlands and Reverend Diana Hoare, but due to the size of this area, many services are now lay led.

ST MARY'S CHURCH



Wherever there is a castle in Wales the church linked to the castle will be dedicated to St Mary. Consequently, it comes as no surprise that the church in Hayscastle is St Mary's, even if there is very little evidence of the castle still in existence today. Hayscastle Church is 'amongst fields', next to farms and the old castle and approximately a mile-and-a-half from Hayscastle Cross.

The church consists of a nave and chancel. The details of the chancel arch suggest a 12th Century date, and this can also be assumed for the adjacent castle mound. The church was modernised in 1927. Curiously, the church was a dependent chapelry of St David's Church, Brawdy until the 17th Century. Although the church is of medieval origin, nothing of the present building is of any antiquity, but the font does date from the 13th Century.

Whereas many churches were restored in the second half of the 19th Century, the most substantial work on Hayscastle Church took place after the First World War. The architect was Captain DF Ingleton, MC, who had his offices in Victoria Place, Haverfordwest. Other commissions undertaken by Ingleton included work on Barclays Bank in Haverfordwest and, around 1918-20, work on Roch Castle.

Hayscastle is seven miles from the fortified town and fine stone castle of Haverfordwest, three miles from the stone keep of Roch, and ten miles from the fortified Bishop's Palace and earlier earthwork castle of St Davids. When the Normans invaded this south-west part of Wales, they initially penetrated the countryside by following river valleys inland from the coast, and they built earthwork castles to protect their gains. Hayscastle stands at the head of one of the small river valleys that run up from the large sandy beach at Newgale, some three-and-a-half miles distant.

There is no recorded history of the site, but the castle was probably the home of one of the Knights of the Bishop of St Davids. The present day remains of the castle are relatively slight and only those familiar with earthen castles would recognise the site as a medieval castle. The earthen motte, or castle mound, is of the flat-topped type and was big enough to house a self-contained bailey complex. It was oval in plan and still stands around twenty feet high on one side, but unfortunately has been dug away on the side towards the nearby Celtic (as opposed to Norman) style church.

THE DRAGON OF ST EDRENS

The deserted Church of St Edrens stands in the middle of a raised circular churchyard, on a pre-Christian site. In the 16th Century it supported a thriving community and a sizeable church congregation.

According to one superstition, the old well in the churchyard used to be filled with holy water, which could cure rabies or madness. The well lost its power after a woman defiled it by washing clothes in it on a Sunday. Some say the well ran dry after a local farmer allowed his dog to drink from it.

The grass that grew around the churchyard wall became a healing power. People came from afar to seek a cure for ailments and became well after eating the grass as a sandwich filling.

The strangest tale of St Edrens concerns a beast called a gwiber; a sort of winged, flying snake with hard scales. If a snake happened to drink the milk of a nursing mother and eat the bread consecrated from Holy Communion, it would grow to a huge size and change into a flying dragon.

One Sunday, a woman, who had recently given birth, went to Grinston well to fetch water. When she got to the well her breasts were so full and painful, she expressed some of the milk onto the ground next to the well before returning home.

An adder came and drank the milk and made its way to the churchyard. As it arrived, the priest was leaving some of the crumbs of the consecrated Holy Communion on the ground. The adder came upon these and ate them. The adder was immediately transformed and became a dragon. It climbed to the top of the church tower and flew back to the moorland. The poor dragon became very depressed and was hardly ever seen again.

HAYSCASTLE COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE:

We would be very grateful if your household could complete the following questionnaire, which will support us in any future editions of this booklet.

Name:
(optional)

Telephone:
(optional)

1. Has this booklet been beneficial in informing you about Hayscastle? *(please tick)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please let us know what you found the most beneficial:

.....

.....

.....

2. Is there anything else you would like to have seen included within this booklet? *(please tick)*

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, what additions would you like to see:

.....

.....

.....

3. What additional activities and/or groups would you like to see being held within the community?

.....

.....

.....

4. How do you think we could improve Hayscastle and its community?

.....

.....

.....

5. Are you currently involved in any community group/activity?
(*please tick*)

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, what groups would you consider joining / running:

.....

.....

.....

Please return all questionnaires to Hayscastle Community Centre,
Hayscastle, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 5HR

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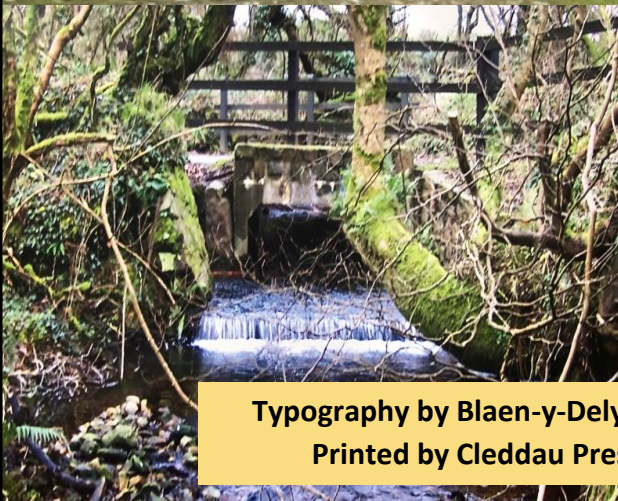
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