



Glynneath Cwmgwrach

Llywbr Treftadaeth
Heritage Trail



This Heritage Trail provides echoes of the past in and around Glynneath and Cwmgwrach. The trail will guide you around some of the interesting buildings and monuments in this once bustling industrial area, and will help you capture a picture of life here during the past 150 years.

There are places along the trail where you can take a rest and get refreshments. The trail incorporates two suggested short walks, scenic locations and viewpoints of the valley. You decide what you want to see and how far you want to walk.



newydd ei hun o'r enw 'Gwalia Star'. Aberpergwm (o c.1560 tan y 1900au cynnar). Yn drist iawn, mae Tŷ oedd yn chwarae yn gwybod pryd byddai cinio yn barod gartref, oherwydd Roedd Maria Jane Williams yn gyfrannwr nodedig i ddiwylliant Cymreig. Lluniodd gwasgial o ganeuon gwern National Aïrs of Gwent and National Aïrs of Gwent and pan oedd y cynn yn gwrs ar ddvd Sŷ, pan oedd y cynn yn dweil ac roedd pobl yn mynd i wasanaethau capel ac ysgolion Sŷ. Y teulu tîrddianol mwat nodedig yn yr ardal oedd y teulu Williams a fu'n siopau teuluol. Yn ystod y 1920au a'r 1930au, cafodd y pentref ei dapur

Before the Industrial Revolution, pastoral farming was the leading occupation in and around Glynneath and Cwmgwrach. The mountain sides here were dotted with sheep rearing farms dating from the 1600s and earlier. The mining of iron ore and coal began in earnest in the 1700s and the development of the Neath Canal in 1795 brought about a revolution in transportation and a major increase in local trade. Previously, the early coal and iron ore mine owners transported their products to the Port at Neath and the famed Neath Abbey Ironworks, using pack horses or by horse drawn wagons, along rough tracks that made do for roads. Now they could convey up to twenty-five tons of products on a single barge along the canal to Neath. Throughout the 1800s, in addition to the many established coal and iron ore mines, all manner of industry developed in and around the Glynneath area, including iron making works, silica brick making, a woollen mill and later, gunpowder manufacture. This resulted in the gradual expanse of the village and its population. Many people working the land abandoned their



traditional way of life and sought more lucrative occupations in the mines and factories, despite the harsh conditions. At the head of the canal at Abernant, Glynneath, cottages began to spring up to cater for the additional work force needed. Many of the early streets have been demolished but Oddfellows Street and Bethania Street are still present today. With the opening of the Vale of Neath Railway in 1851, an even more effective mode of transport became available. However, the canal company went on transporting goods for many years afterwards with the last canal toll taken in 1934. By the turn of the 20th Century, Glynneath was developing into a very busy commercial village with around 80 family shops. During the 1920's and 1930's, the village even had its own newspaper the 'Gwalia Star'. During this time, children at play knew when dinner would be ready at home as days were measured by the blasts from colliery hooters, which indicated the beginnings and ends of shifts at the local mines. All this would change on a Sunday, of course, when the hooters were silenced and days were punctuated by attendance at chapel services and Sunday schools.

Mae lloedd ar hyd y llywbr lle gallwch chwylidro ciudiant a chynnydd sylweddol orffwys a chael lluniaeth. Mae'r llywbr yn mewm masnach leol. Yn y gorffennol, ymgorffori dŵr dath gerdded fer awgrymion y glolydd y'r portladd yng Nghastell-nedd ac i'r Gwaith Haearn ym golygannau o'r cwm. Rydych chi'n penderynu ar yr hyn yr ydych chi am ei weld a pha mor bell yr ydych chi eisiau cerdded. Cyn y Chwyldro Diwydiannol, ffermio bugeiliol oedd y prif waith yng Nglyn-Neath a Chwmgwrach ac o'u hamgylch. Roedd ochrau'r mynyddoedd yma yn frith o ffermydd yn magu defaid yn ddyddio o'r 1600au a chyn hynny. Pyliau glo a mwyn haearn sefydledig, datblygodd pob math o ddiwydiannau ardal Glyn-nedd ac o'i hamgylch, gan glo o ddiwr yn y 1700au a lhwyrdd ddatblygu Camlas Nedd ym 1795 calwyd



Mae'r Llywbr Treftadaeth hwn yn darparu atseiniâu'r gorffennol yng Nglynwrach ac o'adau hamgylch. Bydd y llywbr yn eich helpu i gael Chofadeiliau diddorol yn yr ardal hon a oedd yn arfer bod yn ardal ddiwydiannol brysur. Bydd yn eich helpu i gael llun o fywyd yma yn ystod y 150 o flynyddoedd diwethaf.

The most notable landowning family in the area was the Williams family who for generations resided within the Aberpergwm estate (from c.1560 until the early 1900's). Sadly, Aberpergwm House is now in ruins. Maria Jane Williams was a major contributor to Welsh culture. She compiled a collection of Welsh folk songs in a publication called 'The Ancient National Aïrs of Gwent and Morgannwg', and for this she won the Abergavenny Eisteddfod of 1838. For further information on the history of the area, please visit www.glynneathhistory.co.uk.



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A step back in time Camu nôl mewn amser

Glynneath Cwmgwrach

1 The Angel Inn
The original Inn was built in the last quarter of the 18th Century and was a stopover on the route to and from West Wales. In 1813, the landlady, Mrs Mary Jones, informed a visitor that there was no room at the Inn, to which he replied 'Madam, I am Sir Benjamin Hammet. The Lord Mayor of London' 'And I', replied the abrasive Mrs Jones 'Am Lady Mayor of Pontneddfechan and there is still no room at the Inn!' Behind the Inn you can take the footpath to Sgwd Gladys Waterfall (The Lady Falls) which is a 2.1km linear walk each way.



Tafarn yr Angel
Adeiladwyd y dafram wreiddiol yn ystod chwarter olaf y 18ed ganrif ac roedd hi'n arhosfan ar y ffordd i Orllewin Cymru ac oddi yno. Ym 1813, dywedodd Mrs Mary Jones, y landlodes, wrth ymwlydd nad oedd lle yn y Dafarn, ac atebodd ef 'Madam, Syr Benjamin Hammet ydw i. Arglwydd Faer Llundain' 'A minnau', atebodd y Mrs Jones grafog 'yw Arglwydd Faeres Pontneddfechan a does dal dim lle yn y dafram!' Tu ôl i'r dafram, gallwch gymryd y llwybr i Sgwd Gladys (Sgwd y Forwyn) sydd yn daith linol o 2.1km bob ffordd.

2 Ebenezer Chapel
The gravestone on the left, as you enter the chapel grounds, highlights the cholera epidemic in the area in the mid 19th Century. Cholera was raging, and Dr Archibald Alexander Brodie was tireless in his attendance, by day and night, to those who were infected. Inevitably, he too fell victim to cholera and was buried here in 1851. His gravestone bears a fitting tribute to his charitable actions.



Capel Ebenezer
Mae'r garreg fedd ar y chwith, wrth i chi fyned i erddi'r capel, yn dangos yr epidemig colera yn yr ardal yng nghanol y 19ed ganrif. Roedd colera yn ymluedu, ac roedd Dr Archibald Alexander Brodie yn ddiflino yn ei bresenoldeb, trwy'r dydd a thrwy'r nos, i'r rhai a oedd wedi cael eu heintio. Yn anochel, dioddefodd ef hefyd o golera a chladdwyd ef yma ym 1851. Mae ei garreg fedd yn deyrnged briodol i'w waith elusenol.

3 Viaduct (viewpoint)
Built by the Vale of Neath Railway Company, the structure was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. To reach the top of the viaduct you follow the former Vale of Neath railway line. It's hard to believe that there used to be a train station up here. Residents used to climb the steep narrow steps of the 'halt' to reach the station. The Cwm Gwrelych Geo Heritage Trail and Merfyn's memory trail start from under Pontwalby viaduct.



Traphont (golygfan)
Fe'i hadeiladwyd gan Gwmni Rheilffyrdd Cwm Nedd, a chynlluniwyd y strwythur gan Isambard Kingdom Brunel. I gyrraedd brig y draphont rydych yn dilyn hen linell Cwm Nedd. Mae'n anodd credu bod gorsaf drenau yn arfer bod yma. Roedd preswylwyr yn arfer dringo grisiau serth a chul yr 'arhosfan' i gyrraedd yr orsaf. Mae'r llwybr Treftadaeth Geo Cwm Gwrelych a llwybr coffa Merfyn yn dechrau o dan draphont Pontwalby.

4 Bethania Chapel
This Grade II listed building was built during the religious revival of 1905, to accommodate the congregation that had outgrown Bethany chapel, located nearby at Bethania Street. During this time, work started with a prayer, the chapels became the focus for social activity and pubs and taverns became less popular. The chapel has now been consecrated and converted in a community venue by Glynneath Town Council.



Capel Bethania
Adeiladwyd yr adeilad rhestredig Gradd II yn ystod yr adfywiad crefyddol ym 1905, i gynnwys y gynulleidfa a oedd wedi tyfu'n rhy fawr i Capel Bethania, sydd gerllaw yn Stryd Bethania. Yn ystod yr amser hwn, dechreuodd y gwaith gyda gweddi, daeth y capeli'n ffocws i weithgareddau cymdeithasol a daeth tafarndai'n llai poblogaidd. Mae'r capel wedi cael ei ddatgysegru erbyn hyn a'i droi'n lleoliad cymunedol gan Gyngor Tref Glyn-nedd.

5 The Lamb & Flag Hotel
Opened in 1806, the original Inn was called the Aberpergwm Inn. It has been completely rebuilt a number of times since and the last time was in 2010 following a serious fire. In 1816, Taliesin Williams, son of Iolo Morganwg (famed Welsh Scholar) stayed at the Inn due to 'stress of weather'. He spent his time at the Inn writing verses, one of which is:
'On what you please you may regale, Neat wines, good spirits, sparkling ale, Pray taste and judge, nor think I brag, There's candour at the Lamb and Flag'

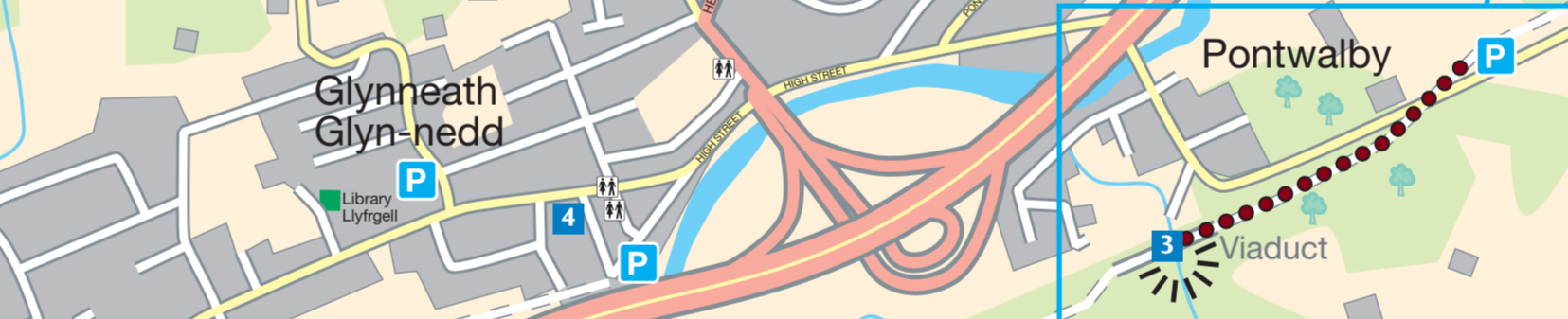
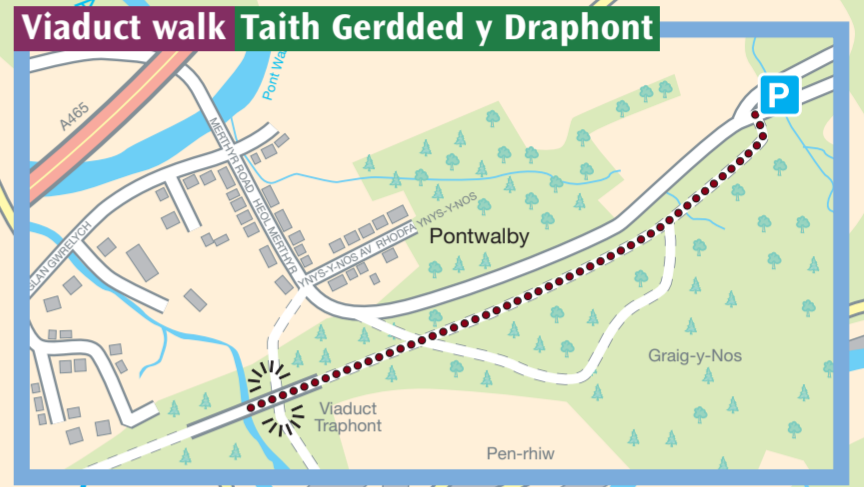


Gwesty'r Lamb and Flag
Fe'i hagarwyd ym 1806, enw'r dafram wreiddiol oedd Tafarn Aberpergwm. Mae wedi cael ei hailadeiladu'n llwyr sawl gwaith ers hynny a'r tro olaf oedd yn 2010 ar ôl tan difrifol. Ym 1816, arhosodd Taliesin Williams, mab Iolo Morgannwg (Ysgolhaig Cymraeg enwog) yn y dafram oherwydd 'y tywydd gwael'. Treuliodd ei amser yn y dafram yn ysgrifennu barddoniaeth, ac un ohonynt oedd y canlynol:
'On what you please you may regale, Neat wines, good spirits, sparkling ale, Pray taste and judge, nor think I brag, There's candour at the Lamb and Flag'

6 Glynneath Conservation Area
Mill Terrace, Chain Walk, Afon and Pentre Streets form a small conservation area. Comprising a group of mainly terraced houses, some have distinctive red brick and three storey design associated with the former woollen mill that was located nearby.



Ardal Gadwraeth Glyn-nedd
Mae Teras y Felin, Chain Walk, a Strydoedd yr Afon a Phentre yn ffurfio ardal gadwraeth fechan. Yn cynnwys grŵp o dai teras yn bennaf, mae gan rai friciau coch nodweddiadol a dyluniad tri llawr a oedd yn perthyn i'r hen felin wla'n a leolwyd gerllaw.



7 Aberpergwm (St Cadoc's) Church
St Cadoc's is the parish church for Glynneath and was used as the private chapel of the Williams' family of Aberpergwm Estate. (The private memorial area of the Williams' family is to the side of the church). With gothic architecture and quaint charm, it's a fine example of a Welsh Gentry chapel from the Georgian period.



Eglwys Aberpergwm (Cadog Sant)
Eglwys blwyf Glyn-nedd yw Cadog Sant ac fe'i defnyddiwyd fel capel preifat teulu Williams o Ystâd Aberpergwm. (Mae ardal goffa breifat y teulu Williams wrth ochr yr eglwys). Gyda phensaerïaeth gothig a chyfaredd gywraïn, mae'n esiampl dda o gapel Bonedd Cymraeg o'r cyfnod Sioraidd.

9 Venallt Iron Works
The remains of Venallt Ironworks consist of a roofless engine house, a high furnace platform and remains of the furnace layout. Information at the site illustrates what the iron works looked like when it was built in 1842. There is a small circular walk and a viewpoint on the site.



Gwaith Haearn Fenallt
Mae olion Gwaith Dur Fenallt yn cynnwys tŷ'r injan heb do, llwyfan ffwrnais uchel ac olion y ffwrnais. Mae gwylwadaeth y safle yn dangos sut olwg oedd ar y gwaith haearn pan yr adeiladwyd ef ym 1842. Mae taith gerdded gyhol fer a golygfan ar y safle.

10 Capel Bach - St Mary's Church
The origin of this chapel is unique in that it was raised as a direct result of an appeal by George Williams of Clun y Bont to the Bishop of Llandaff, in the form of a begging letter. He pleaded for a chapel to be built, for Blaengwrach parishioners to avoid the long trek over the top of the mountain to their parish Church in Glynchorrwg. The original building was a small wooden shack and has been rebuilt during its history.

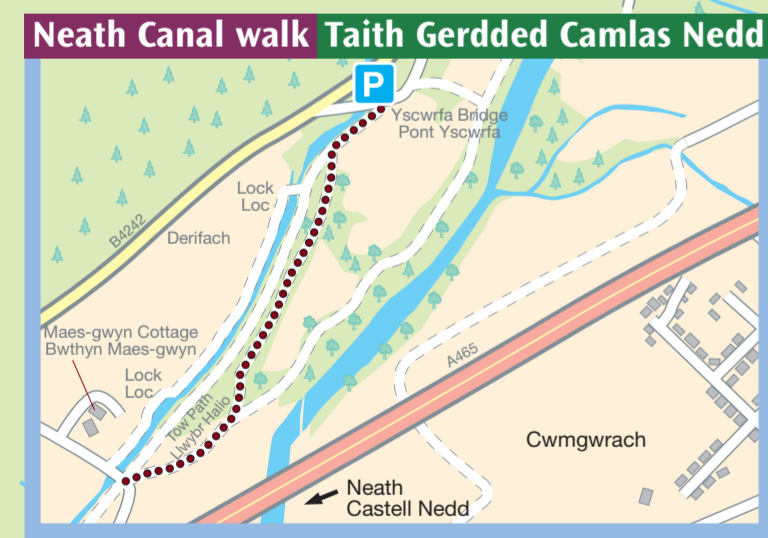
A grave within the grounds of the Church truly depicts the hazards of life in an early mining village. Written in Welsh, the epitaph tells us that John Lewis was accidentally killed while working at the Pwllfaron Colliery on 31st May 1855 'aged 12 years'.



Capel Bach - Eglwys y Santes Fair

Mae tarddiad y capel hwn yn unigryw am ei fod wedi cael ei adeiladu o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i apêl gan George Williams o Glun y Bont i Esgob Llandaff, ar ffurf llythyr ymbil. Plediodd i'r capel gael ei adeiladu, er mwyn i blwyfolion Blaengwrach osgoi'r daith hir dros frig y mynydd i'w heglwys blwyf yng Nglynchorrwg. Roedd yr adeilad gwreiddiol yn gaban bach pren ac mae wedi cael ei ailadeiladu yn ystod ei hanes.

Mae bedd yng ngerddi'r Eglwys yn dangos gwir beryglon bywyd mewn pentref glo cynnar. Wedi'i ysgrifennu yn Gymraeg, mae'r beddagraff yn dweud wrthym y lladdwyd John Lewis ar ddamwain wrth iddo weithio ym mhwl glo Pwllfaron ar 31 Mai 1855 yn '12 oed'.



Neath Canal walk Taith Gerdded Camlas Nedd
For further information on the history of the area, please visit www.glynneathhistory.co.uk
Vintage photographs: Glyn Davies
Hen ffotograffau: Glyn Davies
Am fwy o wybodaeth am hanes yr ardal, ewch i www.glynneathhistory.co.uk

