

Cyngor Cymuned Llanfrynach Community Council

Place-names in the area of Llanfrynach Community Council



Abercynrig: *Mouth of the river Cynrig.* The Abercynrig estate was granted to Sir Reginald Awbrey as a reward for his support by Bernard of Neufmarche in the 11th century. Bernard of Neufemarche was the Norman lord who built the castle in Brecon in 1093. SO 0727.

Aberhonddu: *Confluence of the rivers Honddu and Usk.* Aberhonddu is the Welsh name for the town of Brecon. Honddu has been interpreted as meaning the easy or pleasant river.

Afon Cynrig: *River from highest point.* Cynrig derives from “cyn” meaning head, chief or highest point. “Rhig” is a stream or current from the Latin “rigo” which means to flow. The source of the Cynrig is Nant Sere in Cwm Sere below Pen y Fan – the highest point.

Afon Wysg: *River full of fish.* (River Usk). It is thought that wysg may derive from the old Celtic words, peisg or eisc and the Latin piscis, which means fish.

Cantref: *Hundreds. Hundred homesteads or settlements.* Cantref was an ecclesiastical parish from mediaeval times and a civil parish from the 16th century until 1974 when it became part of Llanfrynach Community Council. The term cantref referred to an administrative system of one hundred homesteads or settlements introduced by Hywel Dda, the well known legislator and ruler of South Wales. Cantref was part of Cantref Tewdos or Cantref Mawr. Tewdos was a son of the ancient ruler of Brycheiniog, Einon ap Gruffudd ab Elis. SO 0223.

Cantref Church: “Church of 1809”. Originally dedicated to St. Cynidr, a 6th century saint and a grandson of Brychan Brycheiniog, the ancient ruler of Brecon and the surrounding area. The festival of St. Cynidr is on the 8th December. The church was rededicated to St. Mary c 1100 AD by the Normans and only in the past few years has the dedication to St. Cynidr been restored.

Corn Du: *Balck pointed peak or stack.* Site of a bronze age cairn. Below Corn Du is the Tommy Jones Obelisk, a memorial to the 5 year old boy who died from exhaustion in 1900. The inscription on the memorial reads; “This obelisk marks the spot where the body of Tommy Jones aged 5 was found. He lost his way between Cwmllech farm and the Log in on the night of August 4th 1900. After an anxious search of 29 days his remains were discovered Sept. 2nd. Erected by voluntary subscriptions. W. Powell Price Mayor of Becon 1900.” SO 0021.

Cribyn: *Ridge of hill or little crest.* Cribyn can also mean an outcrop of rock on high land.

Fan y Big: *Tapered peak.*

Felindre: *Mill settlement or hamlet.* Mill cottage was once the site of a small hamlet near Llanfrynach, originally named “Felin Fach”: *Little mill.*

Groesffordd: *Crossroad.*

Llanfrynach: *Church of Saint Brynach.* The church is dedicated to Brynach, the 5/6th century Celtic saint of Irish origin. The church stands in the middle of the village in one of the largest churchyards in the county. The oldest part of the church is the Norman tower built in about 1201. The church buildings deteriorated by the turn of the 18th century and the church of Saint Brynach was rebuilt between 1855 and 1856 and was officially opened by the Bishop of St David’s on the 13th May 1856. SO 0725.

Llanhamlach: *Church on the other side of the lake or church of Anlach.* The latter is probably a less plausible translation referring to Anlach son of Coronoc and father of Brychan Brycheiniog. Anlach is reportedly buried before the porch at the church of Llansbyddid. The church in Llanhamlach is one of 19 churches or parishes in Wales dedicated to St. Illtud. A prehistoric tomb called, Ty Illtud stands on a hill above the church and was reputedly used as a hermitage by Illtud. The chamber is covered by a capstone and is aligned towards Pen y Fan and is a protected archaeological site. Ffynnon Illtud nearby is the name of the stream which flows between the parishes of Llanhamlach and Llansantffraed. A menhir or maen-hir – a long stone or standing stone can be found near the site of Ty Illtud. It is one of eight territorial or guiding marker stones to be found along the river Usk between Brecon and Gilwern. SO 0926.

Llechfaen: *Place of flat stone or marking stone.* Llech also means a league and Llechfaen is about a league in distance from Brecon. A chapel of rest was built here by the Dominican Friars in the middle ages. It was the Dominican Friars who established Christ College in Brecon. The chapel was reputedly dedicated to Illtud and it stood at Llechfaen until 1700. SO 0828.

Nant Ddu: *Black/dark stream.* A hamlet which is part of the Llanfrynach Community Council. The stream flows into the Taf Fawr river below Cantref Reservoir. SO 0014.

Nant Menascin: *Stream flowing to the Usk.* Theophilus Jones in his History of Breconshire, claims “me” in Welsh, similar to “meo” in Latin, means to flow, signifies a liquid. He maintains “hascin” is a corruption of “wyscin”, a streamlet, the diminutive of “wy” or “wysk”, the latter probably derives from wysg, the Welsh word for usk. The source of Nant Menascin is from Cwm Oergwm below Fan y Big and it joins the Usk near Pencelli: *Grovesend.*

Pen y Fan: *Top of the ridge, mountain summit.* Formerly known as Cadair Arthur: *Arthur’s chair.*
The highest peak in South Wales and South Britain at 886 metres. SO 0121.

Extracts from “Bannau Brycheiniog A History of Place-names Brecon Beacons”, published in 2012 and “Brycheiniog A History of Place-names Breconshire”, published in 2013.
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