

Dŵr Penrhyn-coch, Ceredig Evans

Mae'n debyg y byddwn yn cofio 2012 fel blwyddyn y dŵr. Yn y gwanwyn gofidio am brinder dŵr tan ddaeth y glaw yn Ebrill, y llifogydd ym Mehefin a mwy o law y gweddill o'r flwyddyn a llif eto yn Rhagfyr. I'n poeni wedyn, cau'r ffordd drwy'r pentre i gario mwy o ddŵr eto.



Beth yw hanes dŵr yn y pentref tybed?

Y mae'r pentref wedi ei sefydlu ar benrhyn sych (cochi mewn haf sych?) rhwng dwy nant. Olion Oes yr Ia ydyw, isbridd o raeon bras a scim o bridd claiog ar yr wyneb. Yn nechrau'r ddeunawfed ganrif tai pridd oedd yno gyda gardd yn cynnwys tŷ bach a thwlc mochyn ond dim dŵr. Cyfnod y bwced a phiser oedd hi a chario dŵr o'r ffynhonnau a'r tarddiadau ger y nentydd i gael dŵr yfed ac o'r nentydd eu hunan i gael dŵr golchi - ond dim ar y Sul. Yr oedd yno lawer o ffynhonnau a thoriadau bychan ger y Silo ond achos prinder dŵr yn gyffredin fe agorwyd ffos o nant Stewi ger Y Ddôl Fach hyd y pentref a gwneud cafan ger y sgwâr i dorri syched ceffylau o'r ardal a'r gweithfeydd mwyn oedd wedi dod i'w pedoli. Fe ai'r gorlif i mewn i nant Silo. Hefyd roedd rhaid cael dŵr i anifeiliaid y porthmyn oedd yn casglu yn y pentref. Mae'n bosib y bydde dŵr y nant agosaf, sef y Silo, yn cael ei llygru'n ddrwg gyda'r gweithiau mwyn lan y cwm ac felly ddim yn dderbyniol i'r pentrefwyr. Nid yw'r ffos yn amlwg ar fap 1904 ac mae'n bosibl bod dim galwad amdani ar ôl i'r gweithfeydd plwm redeg lawr tua 1880 a thrên i gludo anifeiliaid ar gael ers 1864. Hefyd y ffordd o'r gweithfeydd i Aberystwyth oedd ar draws Llechwedd Hen ac allan i Gefnllwyd. Ond nid oedd hyn yn ddiweddi y byd achos roedd dwy dafarn ar y sgwâr, y Farmers Arms (y Llythyrddi heddiw) a'r Three Horse Shoes ar draws y ffordd. Fe'u caewyd tua 1930 achos roedd gormod o feddwod yn y pentref!



Tap Panteg

Y bennod nesa yn 1930 oedd i'r pwyllgor plwy gyfrannu pibellau ddŵr a thapie i gael dŵr yn agosach i'r pentrefwyr cyn belled a fyddai'r pentrefwyr eu hun yn barod i wneud y gwaith llafur. Cardis ar y pwyllgor? Roedd un system yn dod o darddiad o dan Cwmbwa a thap ger y bont ac eto ar ben y lôn. Roedd y system arall yn dod a dŵr o darddiad ger y nant fach ychydig yn is na Thyncwm a thapie tu ôl i'r ysgol, ar y sgwâr ac wedyn lawr y ffordd i Dawelfan a Phanteg. Ym Mythynnod Gloster rhoddwyd tap ger arhosfa'r bws heddiw a phibell ar draws y cae i darddiad yn yr allt. Yr oedd hwn yn tueddu i sychu yn yr haf ac wedyn roedd rhaid cario dŵr fel o'r blaen o Froncastellan. Y modd a ddefnyddiwyd oedd gosod pibell o'r tarddiad i mewn i seston gerrig a oedd yn storfa ac yna yn eu blaen. Yr wyf fi yn cofio pan oedd dŵr y sgwâr yn arafu yn y gwanwyn. Roedd rhaid mynd lan i lanhau'r ffilter a'r seston oedd wedi ei blocio gan fwyd brogaod. Felly y bu tan 1939 pan godwyd tŷ ffilter ym Mont-goch i drin dŵr o Graig-y-pistyll a phibell go lew i'r pentref. Gosodwyd tapiau newydd yn y pentref yn agos at yr hen dapiau ac ychwaneg yn y Garth, ond roedd y bwcedi yn dal i gerdded.

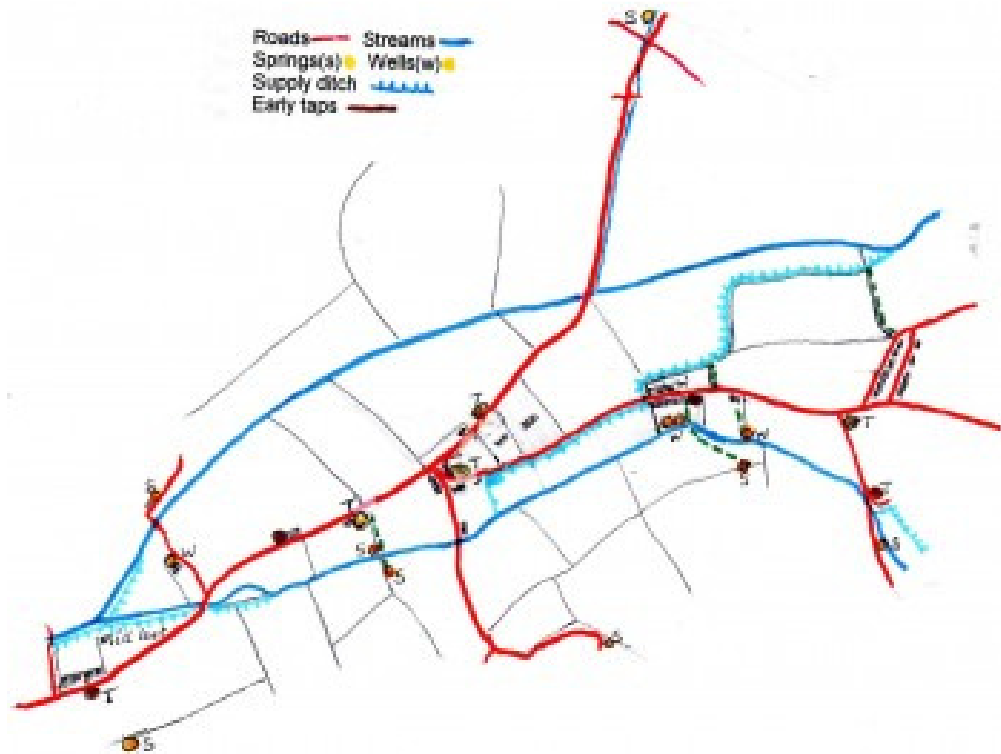


Islaw Ty'ncwm

Daeth y droedigaeth ym 1948 pan godwyd y tai cyngor - ie, dŵr ymhob tŷ a'r carthion yn diflannu lawr y bibell! Y tai eraill wedyn yn dilyn y ffasiwn, dŵr i'r tŷ a septic-tanc yn yr ardd. Fel y sylweddolodd hen lanc cyn y rhyfel ar ôl bod yn Llundain am y tro cyntaf "pobl od wydest ti, neud eu busnes yn y tŷ a bwyta tu fas". Daeth y carthffos i'r pentre yn y saith degau a siawns i bawb ddilyn y ffasiwn. Y tŷ bach mwy nid oedd. Pan ychwanegwyd yr argae yng Nghraig-y-pistyll a thŷ ffilter newydd daeth pibell newydd drwy'r pentre ym 1954 ar ei ffordd i bentrefi eraill a hefyd cyflenwad i'r pentre ei hunan. Braich o'r bibell yma sydd yn awr yn tyllu ei ffordd lan y pentre gan achosi i lawer fodurwr golli ei dymer.

PENRHYN-COCH WATER, Ceredig Evans

It's likely that 2012 will be remembered as the year of the water. In the spring we worried about the impending drought until the rains started in April, the flash flood in June and yet more rain for the rest of the year with another flash flood in December. To depress us even more they closed the road through the village to supply even more water but this time it is piped.



What is the background to the village water supply?

The village is situated between two streams on a dry gravelly remnant of the last Ice Age. At the beginning of the 18th century the houses were mud built and all had a garden, pigsty and a privy but no water. It was an era of water carriers fetching drinking water from various springs and wells for drinking and from the streams for general washing – except on Sundays. The few small springs and shallow wells proved inadequate for general purposes of watering the horses at the smithy and the drovers stock that gathered in the village. To overcome the problem, a half mile ditch was dug to carry water from the Stewi near Y Ddol Fach down behind the houses to the road way near the play area and thence down to the square where a trough was built for the animals with the overflow directed into the Silo. It was likely that the nearest stream, the Silo would have been too soiled for use as the result of the extensive lead mining higher up the valley. This ditch is not obvious on the OS 1904 map and it's probable that there was much less demand for it as the mining activity was running down after the 1880s and rail transport was available. Furthermore the main road from the mines to Aberystwyth did not follow the present road but turned up along the hillside past Llechwedd Hen out to Cefn Llwyd. This was not the end of the world as there were two public houses on

the square, The Farmers' Arms (today's PO) and the Three Horse Shoes on the opposite side of the road. However these were closed about the 1930s because of “excessive drunkenness”.



Tap Panteg

The next chapter in the water supply saga was the decision by the local council in 1930 to provide pipes and taps for the villagers to install a piped supply as long as the villagers did all the work. One scheme was to pipe water from a spring below Cwmbwa with a tap near the bridge and another by the Hall for the benefit of the upper villagers. The other was a pipe from a spring adjacent to the stream below Ty-n-cwm with taps behind the old school, one on the square and others down the road at Dawelfan and Panteg. At Gloucester Cottages there was a tap near the present bus stop from a source in the woods. This proved to be an unreliable supply and in dry summers the villagers had to resort to hiking up to Broncastellan again. The method adopted was to pipe water from a spring into a slate-built cistern (see photo) which served to store water and then into the service pipe. I recall many times, when the flow slowed in spring that we had to go to the source to clean out the frog spawn which was blocking the pipe. So it was until a filter house was built in 1939 in Bontcoch to treat water from the Craig-y-pistyll reservoir and the mains water served the village with taps behind the old school, on the square by the war memorial up the road to Penrhyn-canol and taps to both rows of houses in Garth. One still had to carry water but this time they saved on shoe leather.



Below Ty'ncwm

The major change came in 1948 when the council houses were built- yes, water piped into the houses and what's more the sewerage went down a drain to a treatment plant by Garnwen.

The other householders followed suit with water to the house and a septic tank in the garden.

As an old stager commented after a pre-war visit to London; "they're very odd people you know, they do their business in the house and eat out doors" The mains sewerage arrived in the mid 70s and all followed the fashion. The privy was no more.

The Bontgoch filter house was re-sited and another larger mains supply was laid through the village in the mid 50s to supply others to the south and supplement the village supply. It is a branch of this supply that is now replacing the earlier mains through the village to the annoyance of many.