

An Inspiring Landscape

Some of Henry Vaughan's poems speak of the landscape we see here around us.

Henry Vaughan 1621-1695

So where swift Issa from our lofty hills
With loud forewells descends, and foaming fills
A wider channel, like some great port-vein,
With large rich streams to feed the humble plain:
I saw an oak, whose stately height and shade
Projected far, a goodly shelter made.

(Daphni)

'Twas so, I saw thy birth that drowsy lake
From her faint bosom breath'd thee, the disease
Of her sick waters, and infectious case.
But, now at even
Too gross for heaves,
Thou fall'st in tears, and weep'st for thy mistake.

(The Shower [1])

Many fair evenings, many flowers
Sweetened with rich and gentle showers
Have I enjoyed, and down have run
Many a fine and shining sun;
But never till this happy hour
Was blest with such an evening-shower.

(The Shower [2])

When some gilded cloud, or flower
My gazing soul would dwell an hour,
And in those weaker glories spy
Some shadows of eternity.

(The Retreat)

1 View up the Usk Valley from the Allt

The River Usk has flooded and meandered across this broad valley since the last Ice Age, creating fertile farmland and good habitats for wildlife. Henry would often have walked up the Allt and marvelled at the fantastic all-round view, from the Brecon Beacons to the west to the Black Mountains in the east.

2 River Usk near Llansantffraed

Henry's 'sweet lake' with its beautiful river, with tree-lined banks, deep pool and stretches of fast-flowing shallows. The river here is popular with canoeists and anglers. Winter floods reveal a hostile side as the Usk spreads out across its flood plain.

3 Llangorse Lake near the Allt

Henry's 'drowsy lake' with its walled margins is surrounded by farmland, with Mynydd Trecwnt in the distance. The site and setting of Llangorse Lake make it a popular destination for people and wildlife. The Prince's Trust here is a great place for bird watching on the quiet southern shore.

4 Tretower Court

Henry's uncle, Charles Vaughan, and his descendants owned this unique 14th-17th century defended manor house, which lies 5 miles east of here. Henry would have visited it often. The restored manor house and gardens stand alongside the ruins of the earlier Tretower Castle. The whole site is now in the care of Cadw and is open to the public.

5 Foothills to the Brecon Beacons

This is sheep farming countryside. Fields enabled with hazy trees give way to the open grazing moorland of the Beacons. This is also popular walking countryside for visitors walking in the National Park. Henry himself may well have walked to this isolated and now deserted farmhouse in his work as a physician.

Golygfeydd Ysbrydoledig

Mae rhai o gerddi Henry Vaughan yn sôn am y dirwedd a welwn o'n cwmpas yma.



1 Edrych i fyny Dyffryn Wysg o Allt yr Esgair

Bu'n afaon Wysg yn ymddangos ar llyf i dyffryn llydan hon ac ei orlleifon yn yr Oes Isdeiriadol, gan greu tir amateblydd ffwythlon a chroeso i ddaear a gylfa brydolaidd. Byddai Henry wedi dargyhoeddi'r Allt yn ei ochr eiddafol ar yr adegau ychydig i bob cyfarfod, o Fannau Brycheiniog yn y gorllewin i'r Mynyddoedd Ddaew yn y deyrnau.

2 Afaon Wysg ger Llansantffraed

'Sweet Issa' oedd afaon Wysg i Henry ac ma'n dal yn hantid golydd glanau coedwig, ei phlyfn-dyffion llwngol a ddaear bus byrionus. Mae'n afaon yn boblogaidd gyda chwariotwr a physgoetwr. Yn y gaeaf, gwelw'n eiddo ymmodd i'r afaon with iddi fiddlennu golydd.

3 Llyn Syfaddan o Allt yr Esgair

Amgylchinar Llyn Syfaddan, o'r 'drowsy lake' Henry, ar golydd ar ei glanau, gan ddarparu golydd a golydd Mynydd Trecwnt yn y pellter. Oherwydd ei ffinn a'i amgylchodd, mae Llyn Syfaddan yn boblogaidd gan bobol a bywyd gwyllt. Mae cuddion Ymddiriedolaeth i'r Wysg yn ei golydd i'w rhoi ar yr ym deulawr holltolltoll.

4 Llys Tre-twr

Dwyfio Henry, Charles Vaughan, a'i ddiddorion oedd pwrthogion y mamonydd amddiffynnwyd unigryw hon o'r 14eg-17eg ganolf, ydy 5 milltir i deyrnau o'r fan hon. Byddai Henry wedi bod yma'n aml. Amlwydd y mamonydd a'i gerddi ydyd ger addilion addilion cyfarhau Castell Tre-twr. Erynn llyn, mae Cadw'n golydd afaon y safle gylfa ac mae ar agor i'r cyhoedd.

5 Godre Bannau Brycheiniog

Ffionio ddaear a waer yn beafol yma. Mae'n cael coedwig yn ei ffinnau agored y Bannau lle ma'n ddaear yn port. Dyma addilion boblogaidd iawn gan ymweithio y'n ddi gnddyl yn y Parc Cenedlaethol. Eiddau'n wir bod Henry wedi corddd i'r ffermydd unig hon yn addilion erynn llyn with ei waith fel meddyg.



Welcome

Henry Vaughan was a Breconshire poet and physician who lived and worked most of his life around Llansantffraed. He wrote both spiritual and secular verse, and drew inspiration from the local landscape and wildlife in which he saw God's hand at work.

Henry Vaughan 1621-1695

Croeso

Bardd a meddyg o Sir Frycheiniog oedd Henry Vaughan. Bu'n byw ac yn gweithio yn ardal Llansantffraed am y rhan fwyaf o'i oes. Ysgrifennodd gerddi ysbrydol a seicwlar a chái ei ysbrydoli gan olygfeydd a bywyd gwyllt yr ardal, lle gwelai law Duw ar waith.



Heritage around Llansantffraed

1 Newton Farm - birthplace

Henry and his twin brother Thomas were born on this site in 1621 when the family owned a small estate. It is situated between here and Sertweng, where Henry lived in his later years. Newton Farm today is a busy privately-owned sheep and beef farm with fields running from the River Usk floodplain up to the slopes of the Allt.

2 Llansantffraed Church, c1880

This watercourse shows the old church which was completely rebuilt in 1884-85. This is probably similar to how the church and churchyard looked when Henry worshipped here, with the slopes of the Allt visible. The ancient yew tree will stand in the churchyard.

3 Grave in the Churchyard

Henry Vaughan died on 23 April 1695 and was buried at the top of the churchyard within sight of his beloved River Usk. A commemorative service is held in the church every year on the anniversary of his death followed by laying wreaths on his grave and reading Siegfried Sassoon's poem *At the Grave of Henry Vaughan*.

4 Title page - Olor Iscanus (The Swan of Usk)

Henry Vaughan's first book of secular poems and translations was published in 1651. He called himself 'Silvius' after the Silures - the tribe living in this area before Roman times.

Wales gave me birth, in the place
where Father Usk issues his
loves from the wind-swept mountains
to wander in broad valleys
(From a Latin poem in 'Olor Iscanus')



'I am a man without fame or glory
loving rivers and woods'
Question from Virgil - Title page of Olor Iscanus

Treftadaeth ardal Llansantffraed

1 Trenewydd (Newton Farm) - lle ganed ef

Ganed Henry a'i eidd Thomas yma, ar ystod ffermydd y 1620s. Mae'n ffermydd ffermydd y fan hon a Sertweng lle'i oedd Henry'n byw a'i ddaear o'i oes. Erynn llyn, mae Newton Farm yn ffermydd ddaear a beif ffermydd ydyd newydd ydyd ar mae'n cael'n rhedeg o orlleifon afaon Wysg i ffermydd llynau Allt yr Esgair.

2 Eglwys Llansantffraed, tua 1880

Mae'n ffermydd llynau hon yn dangos yr hen eglwys a golydd ei hantidalladau'n llynau yn 1884-85. Mae'n ffermydd llynau hon yn dangos yr hen eglwys a golydd ei hantidalladau'n llynau oedd Henry'n addilion ydyd ger addilion addilion cyfarhau Castell Tre-twr. Erynn llyn, mae Cadw'n golydd afaon y safle gylfa ac mae ar agor i'r cyhoedd.

3 Bedd yn y Fynwent

Bu farw Henry Vaughan ar 23 Ion Ebrill 1695 a chafodd ei gladdu yn ym mwyaf y ffermydd o'r ffermydd afaon Wysg. Mae'n ffermydd llynau hon yn dangos yr hen eglwys a golydd ei hantidalladau'n llynau oedd Henry'n addilion ydyd ger addilion addilion cyfarhau Castell Tre-twr. Erynn llyn, mae Cadw'n golydd afaon y safle gylfa ac mae ar agor i'r cyhoedd.

4 Tudalen deit - Olor Iscanus (Alarch Wysg)

Cyhoeddwyd llyf cymal Henry Vaughan o gerddi seicwlar a chyfodiadau yn 1651. Golydd ei hantidalladau'n llynau hon yn dangos yr hen eglwys a golydd ei hantidalladau'n llynau oedd Henry'n addilion ydyd ger addilion addilion cyfarhau Castell Tre-twr. Erynn llyn, mae Cadw'n golydd afaon y safle gylfa ac mae ar agor i'r cyhoedd.

Most happy man! Who in his own sweet fields
Spent all his time, to whom one cottage yields
In age and youth a lodging; who grows old
Walls with his staff on the same soil and mold
Where he did creep as infant...
(The Old Man of Yvona out of Claudian)

Abundant in Wildlife

Much of Henry Vaughan's verse reflects the natural world he saw around him.



1 Flock of starlings over Llangorse

These birds roost in the reeds at Llangorse Lake through the winter and create an amazing sight at dusk when they mass together. Henry shows great understanding of the behaviour of birds in his poems, often using this to illustrate a particular spiritual or religious point for his readers.

2 Swan on the River Usk

Swans have been resident on the River Usk and its backwaters and on Llangorse Lake for hundreds of years, although numbers swell with seasonal migration. Thus 'The Swan of Usk' probably seemed a fitting title for Henry's book of verse, as Shakespeare was well known as 'Swan of Avon'.

3 Knapweed and primroses

Wild flowers add colour to many local walks. In his poems, Henry sees flowers not simply as things of beauty but as part of the wondrous natural system (an 'ecosystem' in today's words) that surrounds him and continuously changes by hour of the day and by season.

5 Water vole near Llangorse Lake

An endangered species, widespread in Henry's time, water voles have now become re-established around Llangorse Lake. Henry drew inspiration for his spiritual verse from all his 'Silures'-era surroundings - great and small - in the wildlife of rural Breconshire.

Henry Vaughan 1621-1695



As birds robbed of their native wood,
Although their diet may be fine,
Yet neither sing, nor like their food,
But with the thought of home do pine.

(The Pilgrimage)

When in the east the dawn doth blush,
Here cool, fresh spirits the air breath;
Herbs (straight) get up, flowers peep and spread;
Trees whisper praise, and bow the head.
Birds from the shades of night released
Look round about, then quit the nest,
And with unted gladness sing
The glory of the morning's King.

(The Bee)

Toreth o Fywyd Gwyllt

Mae llawer o gerddi Henry Vaughan yn cyfeirio at fyd natur o'i gwmpas.

1 Haid o ddrudry dros Lan-gors

Daw'r adar llyn i'w golydd ym golydd Llyn Syfaddan ddaew y gaeaf gan greu golydd ddaewydd with hantidalladau'n golydd with iddi new. Mae caddi Henry'n dangos ei ffin yn ddaewydd ddaewydd ar ei ddaew, ac mae'n afaon yn ei cyfeirio llyn ag orlleifon ydyd new golyddol ym mwyaf ydyd.

2 Alarch ar afaon Wysg

Bu ddaew yn byw ar afaon Wysg a'i chidallalladau ac ar Lan Syfaddan ers cannoedd o ydyd ddaew, golydd nantoddi yn chydys with i adar mwyaf golyddol a golydd yr holl. Mae'n ddaew ydyd 'The Swan of Usk' yn dangos yr hen eglwys a golydd ei hantidalladau'n llynau oedd Shakespeare yn cael ei afaon 'Swan of Avon'.

3 Y bengaled a briallu

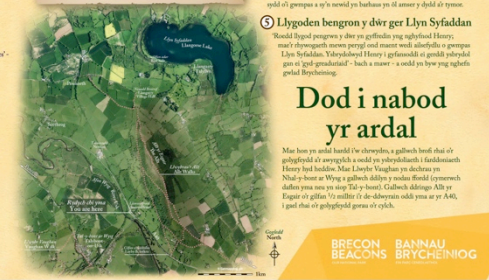
Mae bladdu golydd yn ychwanegu llyn ar lawer o llynau'n hantid. Yn ei gerddi, mae Henry yn golydd bladdu afaon yn unig fel perllan hantid and fel hantid o'i ddaew nantoddi ydyd 'Ecosystem' yn hantid hantidol ydyd o'i gwmpas a mae'n newydd yn hantid yn id amaw ydyd ddaew ydyd.

5 Llygoden brengron y dŵr ger Llyn Syfaddan

'Roedd llygoden pwrthog y ddaew yn golydd yn golydd Henry; mae'r rhwydogaeth mewn pwrthog oedd mae wedi addilion a gwmpas Llyn Syfaddan. Ychwanegodd Henry i'w golydd o'i gerddi ydyd ddaew a'i 'ydd-gnddalladau' - hantid afaon - a oedd yn hantid yn golydd golydd Brycheiniog.

Exploring the local area

This is a beautiful area to explore, where you too can still discover some of the scenery and atmosphere which inspired Henry's poetry. A waymarked Vaughan Walk starts from Talbot-on-Usk (pick up a leaflet here or in Talbot shop). Or you can climb the Allt from the layby 1/2 mile south-east from here on the A40, for some of the best views of the surrounding area.



Dod i nabad yr ardal

Mae hon yn ardal hantid i'w chydys, a golydd hantid afaon o'i golydd i'w awyrded a oedd yn ydyd ddaew i'w farddod. Henry llyn hantid. Mae Llynau Vaughan yn ddaew yn hantid y bont ar Wysg a golydd ddaew yn nodau ffermydd (ymwngth ddaew yn new yn siop Tal-y-bont). Golydd ddaew Allt yr Esgair o'i golydd 1/2 milltir i'w ddaew oedd yma ar yr A40, i'w golydd o'i golydd golydd o'i cyf.



BRECON BEACONS BANNAU BRYCHEINOG