

# CROESGOCH



*Naws am Le  
Sense of Place*

## ***Ancient history of Croesgoch***

A number of archaeological finds demonstrate human activity in the area as far back as the Mesolithic period (10,000 - 4,400BC). Several flint tools dating to this period have been found. Two stone spindle whorls, used to give a spindle momentum during wool spinning, were found at Treglemas Farm (6); these have been dated to the Neolithic period (4,400 - 2,300BC). Another stone tool, a perforated axe-hammer thought to date from the Bronze Age (2,300 - 700BC), was also found in the area. These type of 'hammers' often show very little signs of wear, and may have had a ceremonial or symbolic purpose. The stones that form Lecha Cromlech (7), near Lecha Farm, seem to have sunk into the ground and the capstone has been dislodged from its position. In 1800 a Long Cist Burial (stone coffin) was found at Parc y Fynwent (Cemetery Field) (8) which contained human remains and a sword. In 2000 building work uncovered further graves, dating from AD 370-600.

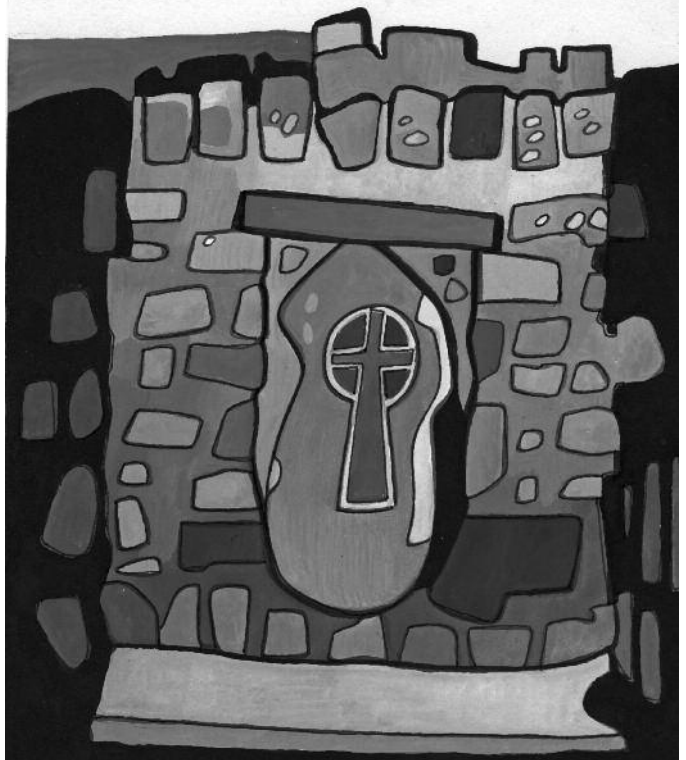
## ***Croesgoch***

At a crossroads on the road from Fishguard to St Davids lies the village of Croesgoch. The first recorded use of the name Croesgoch was in 1813 in the Bishop's Transcripts of the Parish Records. There are a number of possible explanations for the origin of this name. Croes (Cross) could simply refer to the crossroads and Coch (red) may refer to the colour of the soil. Another more intriguing explanation is the story of an ancient battle and mass slaughter, resulting in a mythical river of blood that formed the shape of a cross. It is not certain whether this battle took place during the Dark Ages or even earlier during Roman times.

## ***Mesur-y-dorth Stone (1)***

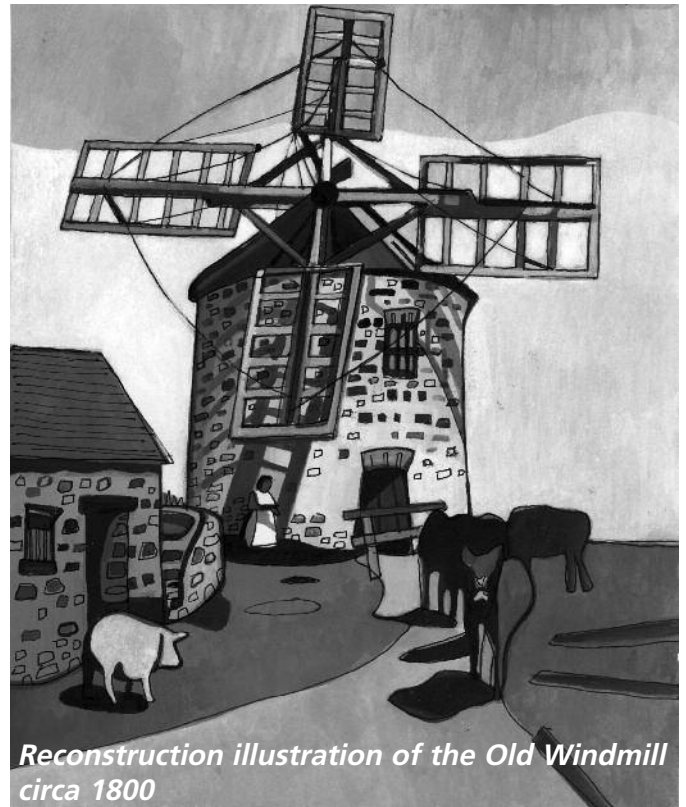
Built into the wall between Maes y Garreg Farm and Heulfre, is a 7th-9th century early Christian stone, upon which, is inscribed a cross within a circle. The name Mesur-y-dorth means measure of bread. St David had established a custom that in times of scarcity the size of a loaf of bread should be regulated. It is thought that later the Bishop of St Davids decreed that the size of a loaf of bread should equal the circle on the Mesur-y-dorth stone. It is also believed that pilgrims on their way to St Davids would stop at the stone to eat their last meal before going on their journey to St Davids, some 6 miles away.

***Mesur-y-dorth Stone***



### **Windmill (2)**

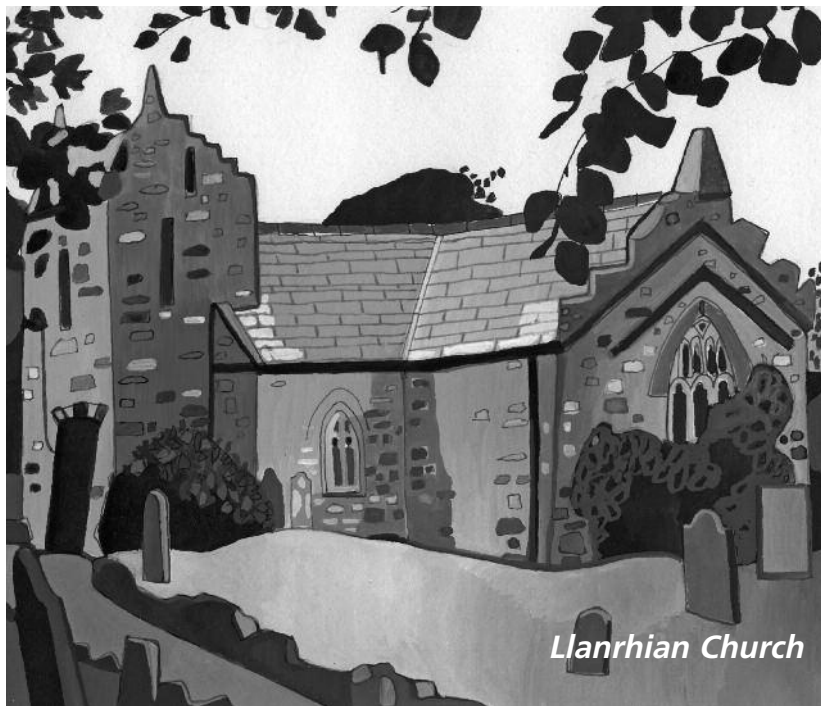
The windmill (Yr Hen Felinwynt) which stood on a prominent position near the village was first recorded in 1511. Records from 1591 show that William James Harries, Yeoman, paid a yearly rent of ten shillings for a portion of land in 'Trevoughlloyd, Velinwinte and Tregwy to John David Perkyn, Yeoman'. In 1773 a lease was agreed on Velin Wint for an annual rent of '6 guineas and a couple of fat hens at Shrovetide annually'. The windmill was still working in the 1830's. Yet by the first OS map in the early 1840's it is recorded as a ruin. There are no remains to mark the site of the windmill today.



*Reconstruction illustration of the Old Windmill circa 1800*

### **Llanrhian Church (3)**

The founder of the Llan of Rhian was probably an unknown and unrecorded Celtic Saint possibly named Rhian, Rein or even Rhun. The original church would most likely have been a beehive shaped cell built of wattle and daub, later replaced by a larger wooden structure. The first stone structure was the tower which dates from the 13th



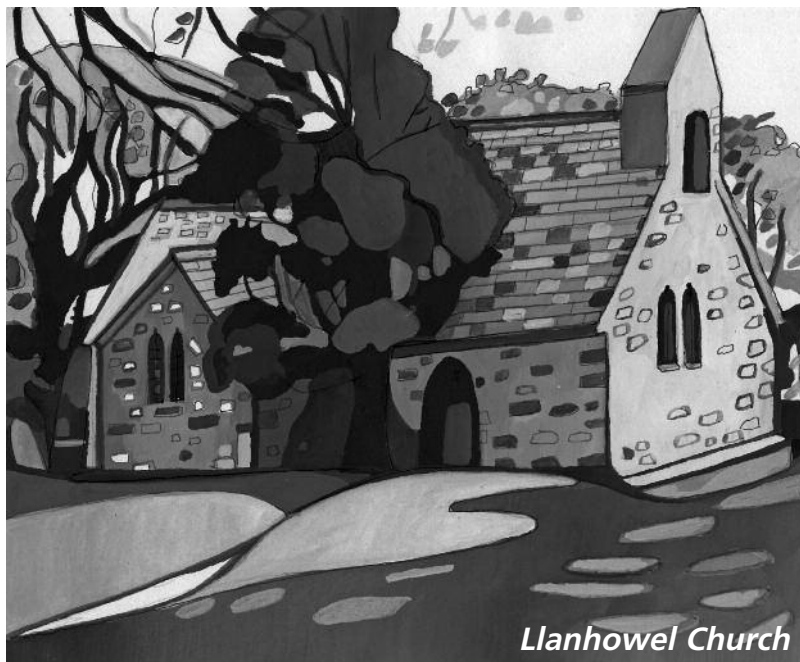
*Llanrhian Church*

century. The walls are three foot thick and the windows are narrow slits, giving the appearance of a defensive tower. Massive oak beams bear the weight of the bell which is inscribed "John Perkins, R.P.T.M., bell 1697". John Perkins was probably the bell founder, and the initials, those of the church wardens at the time. The church was extensively rebuilt (except for the tower) in 1836, and restored in 1891. Llanrhian Church is included on the Saints and Stones Trail of Pembrokeshire.

### **Llanhowel Church (4)**

It is claimed that there has been a religious settlement on the site of this church since the 6th century. The church is named after Saint Hywel, a Breton, and reputed to have been one of King Arthur's Knights. The site was possibly occupied by a small monastic community with the stone built enclosure of the old churchyard its boundary. The present

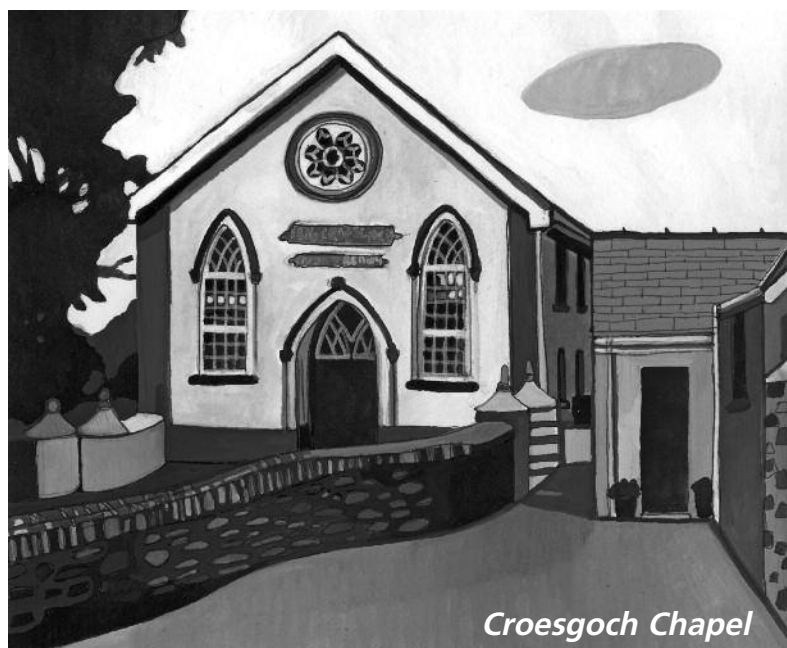
church was probably built around 1250 in the time of Bishop Beck of St Davids who wrote about the church. In 1302 the church administration was joined with Llandeloy some 2 miles away to the North East. In the reign of Henry VIII, David Meredith was Vicar and farmed some 8 acres of land to supplement his pay. In 1642 a vicar John Phillips was "turned out" by Cromwell's Commissioners for drunkenness. Llanhowel Church is also included on the Saints and Stones Trail of Pembrokeshire.



*Llanhowel Church*

### ***Croesgoch Baptist Chapel (5)***

During the C19th Non-conformist Chapels were being established across the area. The services at the chapels were held in Welsh, which proved an attraction for the many whose first language was Welsh. The first chapel in Croesgoch opened in 1816,



*Croesgoch Chapel*

services were held in what is now the vestry. The present Croesgoch Baptist Chapel was opened in June 1858. The first minister was Dafydd Phillips. The new chapel cost £846.2s and by the time of its opening £491.5s had been collected. It took six years for the cost to be paid off. On 2nd and 3rd June, 1914 Pembrokeshire Baptist Association meetings and services were held at Croesgoch. Some of the preaching took place in the chapel field on the Trefeigan road where thousands of people sat on benches.

### ***Bonnie Prince Charlie***

The 'Society of Sea Serjeants' was a restricted club formed by a group of Welsh country gentlemen. The emblem of the society was the Jacobite eight pointed star, but with a dolphin in the centre. The group met once a year at various towns and villages along the Pembrokeshire coast. Legend has it that one of their meetings was held at Trefeigan (9) and that here the 'Society of Sea Serjeants' secretly hosted the exiled Charles Edward Stuart, otherwise known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, leader of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion.

### ***Rev. John Reynolds and the French Invasion***

The Rev. John Reynolds (1759-1824) of Treglemais Farm (6), a well known minister throughout the Baptist movement in Wales was involved in the founding of Croesgoch Baptist Chapel. In 1798 the farm at Treglemais was raided by a troop of military red coats who had arrived to investigate an alleged involvement of the Reverend Reynolds in the planning and support of the French landings at Fishguard. The accusation arose after he had



*Red Coats at Treglemais Farm*

conveyed a newspaper containing written comments from a shopkeeper in Haverfordwest to a neighbouring farmer. His Welsh language letters and documents were considered highly suspect and were searched but nothing traitorous was found. His nephew the Reverend William Reynolds, gave the land for the building of Croesgoch Baptist Chapel Cemetery and the Manse. Both are buried at Middle Mill Chapel.

### ***Development of the Village***

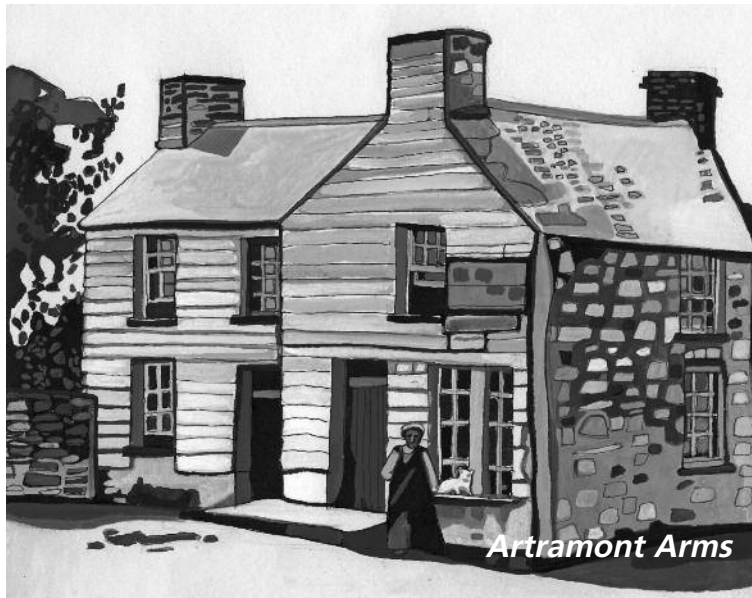
According to the Tithe Map in 1842 there were only five cottages and the chapel located on the cross roads in Croesgoch. Most of the 31 people living in the village were Agricultural Labourers. Trefeigan Cottage (10) is an example of a traditional labourers home, it is largely unaltered. The 1851 census shows a shop and 39 inhabitants in the village. By 1861 there is a carpenter's workshop, a draper's shop and the Croesgoch Inn, Tafarn Ucha, but only 36 inhabitants. The Smithy first appears on the 1871 census and by 1881 the village had expanded further when there was a Post Office and another Grocer's shop.



*Trefeigan Cottage*

### ***The Artramont Arms (11)***

The public house took its name from the Le Hunte family's estate in Artramont, County Wexford, Ireland. The Le Hunte's owned much of the land in the Llanrhian area until about 1877. The Artramont Arms is first named on the 1891 census when it also operated as the Post Office. In 1925, the landlord and his wife owned a charabanc, which they



hired out to take the locals on trips, such as to the hiring fair at Mathry. During the 1940's the agricultural mart was held each Monday, in the field opposite the Artramont, bringing in a great deal of business. Even during the 1970's, the Artramont was used as a doctor's surgery a bank and a filling station. It currently hosts computer classes.

### ***Croesgoch School***

The first recorded information on the school comes from an inspectors report of 1847. 'On the 11 of January I visited the above place. The school was held in a small room which is part of the Baptist chapel (12), but it often happens that it does not meet. It had one small window and a fireplace. The furniture consisted of two benches and a plank laid across two upright pieces of loose timber to serve the purpose of a table, all in wretched repair. It was kept by a man who although not more than fifty two years of age, was very infirm, and appeared totally unfit for the duties of School Master'. In 1902 there were two full time and two part time teachers. During the 1940's the number had dropped to two full time teachers. The school moved to its current location in 1966. The larger new school (13) also accommodated pupils from the schools at Llanrhian and Trefin which subsequently closed.

### ***Home Guard Headquarters***

During the Second World War the Local Defence Volunteers, the Home Guard, met and had their headquarters in the former chapel caretaker's house - Tŷ Leisa Morris (14) which has now been demolished. They paraded on the cross roads every Sunday afternoon. The interior of the house was gutted and posters of a military nature were mounted on the walls. There were large coils of a military barbed wire outside the house. They erected various sandbag guard posts along the road towards St Davids and used the quarry in Porthgain for live ammunition firing practise. The regular army often used the area to practise establishing communications networks, in readiness for the D-Day landings. They would land at Whitesands Bay near St Davids, and drive to Croesgoch, laying their telephone cables along the route. There was a Royal Observer Corps tower (15) near the reservoir during the war and later during the cold war, a nuclear bunker was built underground at the side of the reservoir.

Saints and Stones Trail leaflets are available from Llanhowel Church.

# Country Code

## Respect • Protect • Enjoy

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

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