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Town Guide 2012-2013



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am privileged to once again represent Pencoed as its Mayor. It's a town we can all be proud of and is regarded by many as the "Gateway to the County Borough" due to its close proximity to the M4 motorway. Its central location makes it very popular for commuters travelling to both Cardiff and Swansea.

For those who prefer public transport, excellent rail and bus links to both east and west are well served by Pencoed's new "Park and Ride" facility. It is not surprising, then, that a number of national and international companies have been attracted to Bocam and the Pencoed Technology Park.

The Town boasts a swimming pool, several nearby golf courses and flourishing football and rugby clubs. Funding is additionally being obtained for a "Multi-User Games Area" (MUGA) which was listed by residents as the highest priority in our Regeneration Plan from which several other projects have already been completed. Also planned is a new primary school in Penprysg which has a projected start date of 2014.

Central to the Town is the excellent Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall made even better by a recent major refurbishment. The Hall is used by many community organisations for their regular meetings and has also hosted wedding receptions, the Town Council's annual panto and, of course, the unforgettable traditional Christmas Sing-a-long.

Locally, there are many delightful areas to walk and explore including Coed Iestyn Wood and numerous public footpaths. Further afield are the seaside town of Porthcawl and the beautiful Heritage Coast.

There is a lot of useful information in this Guide, and I hope you find it interesting and informative. I would like to thank the many local companies which have supported the Guide through their placement of advertisements.

Kind regards,

Cllr Richard Williams



Councillor Richard Williams, Mayor



AN OVERVIEW

Croeso i Pencoed!

FROM the vantage point of the long ridge of Cefn Hirgoed to the north, the town of Pencoed is spread before you, running down to the valley floor of the River Ewenni. To the immediate south lies the limestone ridge of St. Mary Hill and beyond that is the undulating land of the Vale of Glamorgan and the Bristol Channel. The forested mound of Coed-y-Mwstwr rises to the west and in the opposite direction the land rises gently to the neighbouring village of Llanharry. Yet further north of Cefn Hirgoed lies the 650 foot Mynydd y Gaer which is visible for miles around by virtue of the wind farm which has recently been constructed on its summit. Mynydd y Gaer was once the site of a battle with the ancient Romans and there is particular area of heath land, said to be the scene of much spilt Roman blood, where, to this day, no ferns grow. Mynydd y Gaer now forms part of the Ogwr Ridge Walk and provides miles of glorious wilderness trails for both horse riders and ramblers.



View from Cefn Hirgoed

Overall, the surrounding scene of hills and valleys provides a peaceful backdrop to the town. The town of Pencoed itself lies in a borderland region where the low lying vale meets the hills and valleys of upland Wales. To the south, residents and visitors are just a short drive away from the Heritage Coastline of South Wales with its beaches and cliff walks and, to the north, from the breezy hilltops of the interior. The M4 motorway crosses over the southern end of the town with its nearby Junction 35 affording easy access to Swansea and Carmarthen to the west and Cardiff, Bristol and, ultimately, London to the east.

Llys Gwyn Residential Home



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The A470 to Merthyr Tydfil feeds off Junction 32 on the outskirts of Cardiff from which travellers can quickly and easily get to the beautiful National Park of the Brecon Beacons. Pencoed is also well served with rail links and the Paddington to Swansea intercity route runs right through the centre of the town. Pencoed's own railway station is a stopping point for local trains with destinations which include the nearby market town of Bridgend and, just a little further away, Cardiff. More distant commuters can transfer onto an intercity train at Bridgend's railway station.

There is little in the way of manufacturing industry in Pencoed, but the location is becoming popular for service organisations, the best known of which is the nearby TSB Call Centre. Pencoed's excellent road and rail links, however, make it a particularly favoured location for incomers who work within the commuting radius. The last half century has, therefore, seen a significant expansion of the town's population to its present level of about 12,000 with the development of several housing estates. The presence of such an established population with deep roots has bestowed upon Pencoed a wealth of community groups and sports organisations which continue to thrive. Not least of these is the Pencoed and District Town Twinning Association which has fostered strong bonds with Pencoed's twin towns of Waldsassen in the Bavarian region of Germany and Plouzané in the Brittany region of northern France.

PENCOED - A POTTED HISTORY

ONE of the earliest traceable references to Pencoed dates from 1303 when, in a deed of Ewenny Priory, Payn de Turberville, the Lord of Coity, granted permission to the monks "...to gather firewood in the woods of Penkoyt, excepting oak, ash and trees bearing crab apples". At that time, there was fishing and there was firewood but no proof of settlement yet. The area was predominantly wooded and many of the local names reflected this feature. The name 'Pencoed' is generally accepted as deriving from the Welsh words Pen (meaning *head* or *end*) and Coed (*wood*) - hence head, or end, of the wood. Maps dating from the early 1600's show Llanilid and Coychurch, probably because they had churches, but the area of present day Pencoed shows as remaining wooded. There may well have been a scatter of farmhouses and other buildings but trees were certainly thicker on the ground than people until the eighteenth century when they (the trees, that is) were turned into charcoal to fuel the iron works at Tondy and Merthyr.



The recorded history of Pencoed stems from the establishment of Tregroes House by descendants of the Rev. Robert Thomas, who became rector of Coychurch from May 6, 1591. The present buildings date from around 1710 to 1730 and have been incorporated into the site of the Pencoed Agricultural College. By the end of the seventeenth century there was a liberal scatter of farms and cottages with four hamlets named *Pencoyd*, *Hendre Bedran*, *Penpryske* and *Mylton*. 'Pencoyd' finally appears on a map dating from 1729 along with the woods and 'coal pitts'.

Pencoed, with no church of its own, remained part of the nearby parish of Coychurch with St. Crallo's church there as the centre of worship. Religion was a major influence on everyday life, however, and in the mid eighteenth century, David Jones, the Methodist pioneer of Llangan, was instrumental in founding Pencoed's own Salem Chapel which opened in 1775.

By 1763, the population had outstripped those of its neighbours, Coychurch and Heol y Cyw, with perhaps 200 people in about 40 households compared to 175 people in each of the other two. What we now know as Pencoed originally comprised two separate villages, the original Pencoed to the south west (including Salem Chapel) and the other main area of settlement upon the hill at Penprysg where the most notable building was Tregroes House. The locality would have been almost entirely self reliant with lime, coal, timber and building stone all to hand. Welsh would have been the dominant language and all water supplies came from wells. One of these remains to this day at Penprysg, opposite the S&T Tyre Garage and another near Pant-y-Ffynon. Brunel's route for the South Wales Railway opened on June 18, 1850 and it is said that the Britannia Inn opened on the same day. A local station followed a few years later in 1856. By choosing to run the line through the

gap between Pencoed and Penprysg and siting a station there created a natural focus for development to take place and the two hamlets soon linked to become the centre of the future town of Pencoed.

The industrial age caught up with Pencoed in the second half of the nineteenth century and the combination of the new railway line and the development of the coal fields to the north were to have a dramatic effect on the settlement. In just over a century and a half, Pencoed's population increased from less than 500 to its present day figure of more than 12,000. Pencoed itself, however, largely avoided industrialisation with just the Iron Foundry, which made drams for the mining industry and the short lived brickworks (which died when the clay pit flooded) being located within the boundaries of the town. The scene was set, therefore, for Pencoed to take on its modern role as a residential town. In those early days, the town provided workers for the local coal and steel industries and more latterly for the numerous new inward investment industries which have been attracted to the Bridgend Borough by the excellent reputation and skills of the indigenous work force.

Information for this history of Pencoed was sourced from Pencoed Past Volume 1 Edited by S. & W. King available from Pencoed Library.

TOURISM IN PENCOED

BEING situated on the M4 Motorway at Junction 35 and with a railway station that connects with the Swansea to Paddington main line at nearby Bridgend, Pencoed is an ideal location for touring the South Wales area. The M4 runs westward from the Severn Bridge skirting Newport, Cardiff and Swansea before continuing on to Carmarthen. Pencoed, at Junction 35, is handily placed at just about the half way point between Swansea and Wales' capital City, Cardiff, with its recently redeveloped shopping centre. As well as being excellent shopping centres, both cities boast a wealth of theatres, museums and cultural attractions.



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The Heritage Coast of Ogmore

For a more leisurely shopping experience, there is the nearby ancient market town of Cowbridge with its traditional shops, fine restaurants and free car parking.

For those who prefer getting back to nature, the Vale of Glamorgan's rugged Heritage Coast is in easy reach to the south and, to the north, the National Park of the Brecon Beacons is just an hour's drive away.


Close to Pencoed are the tourist attractions of the old Tondy Ironworks, Bryngarw Park with its restored manor house and extensive grounds and the Nature Reserve at Parc Slip, near Aberkenfig. Just a little further away is the upland oak wood of Allt y Rhiw which clings tightly to the steep sides of the Ogmore Valley at nearby Blackmill. The 124 acre wood is dominated by sessile oak which thrives in exposed upland conditions. Sessile oak is so named because its acorns are not carried on stalks but directly on the outer twigs and the trees are characterised by their twisted limbs and branches.


The remains of Norman castles proliferate the landscape with, in particular, the ruins of Coity Castle just a couple of miles away to the west of Pencoed and just a little further away to the south, the ruins of Ogmore Castle with its renowned stepping stones straddling the River Ogmore.

Moving a little further afield, taking a local train at Pencoed station brings you very quickly to Cardiff and its impressively restored castle which is located close to the city centre. Perhaps most impressive of all, however, is the huge Norman castle at Caerphilly which is easily accessible from the A470 which leads to the north from the M4 at Junction 32. Look out for the fairytale Castell Goch on the mountainside to the right of the northbound A470 – a short diversion there will prove very rewarding.



Sessile Oak at Blackmill





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Even closer to Pencoed is the extensive Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's, just a few miles along the A4232 which leads off the M4 at Junction 33. Entrance is free, but do allow a good two hours to get round it all! South Wales is, of course, synonymous with the coal mining industry and the town of Pencoed lies right on the boundary of the mining valleys of the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore to the north and the rich farmlands of the Vale of Glamorgan to the south. Also close by is the world famous Rhondda Valley with its Heritage Park and Big Pit where visitors can enjoy an authentic trip underground.



Ogmore Castle

To the west, near the city of Swansea, there is the Gower Peninsula with its miles of beautiful beaches and, just a little way up the Swansea valley, the Dan-yr-Ogof Caves and Dinosaur Park. Taking the M4 eastward beyond Cardiff brings you to the remains of the Roman fortress town at Caerleon, just outside Newport, the beautiful Wye valley and the remains of the massive Abbey at Tintern.

THINGS TO DO

ENTERTAINMENT

Pencoed has three, very popular, social clubs: the Pencoed Social Club on Hendre road (formerly the British Legion Club), The RAOB which can be found behind the Miners' Welfare Hall on Heol-y-Groes and the Pencoed Rugby club on Felindre Road. In addition there are several inns and hotels including the Chatterton Arms, the Railway, and the Maerdy Hotel which are all either in or close to the town centre while, just on the outskirts of town, the Old Mill Harvester and the Pant Ruthin Farm Hotel provide excellent cuisine. For the younger generation, there are a host of structured evening activities provided by the brand new Pencoed Youth Engagement Centre which is situated on Felindre Road, adjacent to the swimming pool. These include: Computing, Beauty, Dance, Music, Culture, Food & Drink, Sports, Art etc. The Centre also offers issue based workshops which include topics such as substance misuse, alcohol awareness, sexual health and work clubs. For the even younger generation there is a Monday evening (4pm - 6pm) play session for 8 to 12 year olds at the South View Play area, and a Tuesday Junior youth club in the Engagement Centre from 4.15 until 5.45pm. Call in the Centre for more details on all of their activities. Scouts, Brownies and the Air Training Corps are also all well represented and there are a growing number of drama groups for young people such as The Lightning Hut which meets every Saturday in the Welfare Hall. Pencoed also boasts its own well stocked library which is found close to the traffic lights on Penybon Road.



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VENUE LOCATIONS

There are a number of rooms and halls which can be hired for meetings, parties and club sessions. Chief amongst these is the Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall which offers both a large hall (with stage) and a smaller lounge (with kitchen) for more informal occasions. The Miners' Welfare Hall hosts a number of adult education courses provided by the Community Education Department of the Bridgend Borough Council and is the favoured venue for many local social societies and fitness clubs. The premises have recently benefited from a £20,000 facelift and reservations to hire any of the Hall's rooms can be made by calling (01656) 863775. Rooms are also available for hire at either of Pencoed's two sports pavilions (call the Borough Council on (01656) 643643 for details) and at the clubs and pubs mentioned above.

SPORT AND LEISURE

Pencoed is proud to have its own 25 metre six lane swimming pool and fitness suite with ample free parking which is shared by the adjacent Pencoed Bowls Club. Both of these facilities are located along Felindre Road close to the Rugby Club. Sport for children is very well catered for in Pencoed with two public playing field areas which are host to various clubs such as the renowned Pencoed Boys and Girls Football Club. Just a mile from Pencoed's town Centre, at St. Mary's Golf Hotel, there is a championship level golf course which offers both membership facilities and a public pay as you play scheme. St. Mary's is also home to a second, 12 hole course which is also very popular as a public venue. Yet another nine hole public course can be found on the edge of town in the grounds of Pencoed College which offers, amongst many others, courses in green keeping. More golf courses are located at nearby Coed y Mwstwr and, just a little further afield, at both Southerndown and at Maesteg.



7th green at St. Mary's Golf Club

Pencoed's walkers are also well catered for with miles of local footpaths, the Millennium Woodlands and Coed Iestyn Wood, Cefn Hirgoed Common on the northern outskirts of the town and, for the serious walker, the Ridgeway Walk along Mynydd y Gaer. Just a little further away is the upland oak wood of Allt y Rhiw which clings tightly to the steep sides of the Ogmere Valley at nearby Blackmill. The 124 acre wood is dominated by sessile oak which thrives in exposed upland conditions. Sessile oak is so named because its acorns are not carried on stalks but directly on the outer twigs and the trees are characterised by their twisted limbs and branches.

SHOPPING

Numerous small traditional shops, businesses and both a Co-op and Tesco supermarket are located in the centre of town. A further shopping area can be found at the Verlands Way Precinct at the top end of Hendre road. For those preferring a one stop shop, the much larger supermarkets of Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury can all be found within a five mile radius of Pencoed as can the McArthur Glen Factory Outlet Complex which is located just off the M4 at Junction 36. There are also excellent shopping centres at Talbot Green and Pontyclun just six miles from Pencoed, and, of course, the major shopping centres at Cardiff and Swansea are only 30 minutes away by car or local train.

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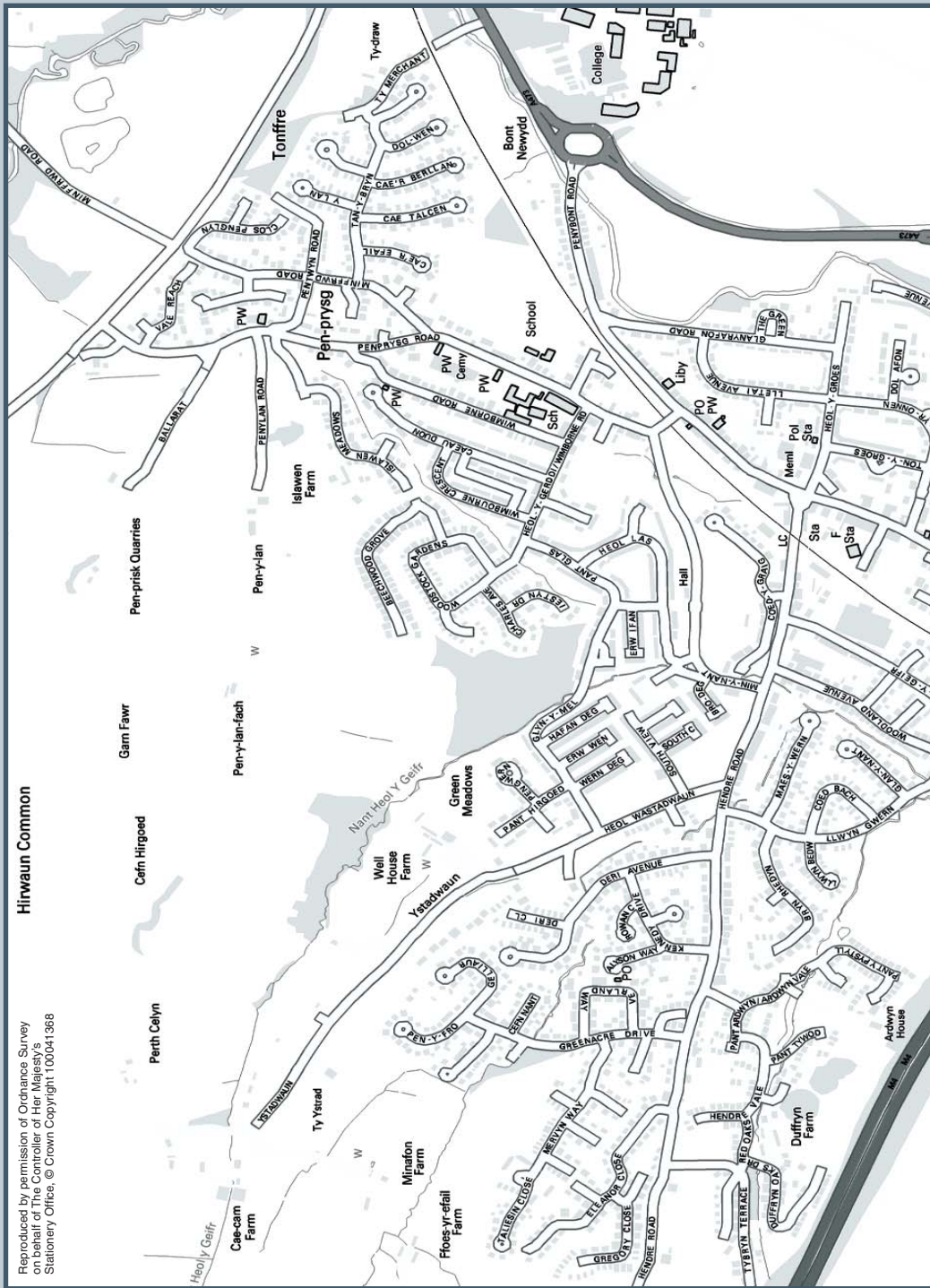
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Hirwaun Common

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Mae-y-delyn Farm
ert Cochion

LOCAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATION IN PENCOED

PENCOED Town Council is one of 737 Community and Town Councils in Wales which are independent of the Welsh 22 Unitary Authorities. It is a Town Council by virtue of Pencoed achieving 'Town' status when its population exceeded 12,000.

The Town Council is warded, as follows: Hendre, Felindre, and Penprysg Wards, and comprises of thirteen councillors making up the membership of Pencoed Town Council.

It employs a part-time Town Clerk, Mr. David Prosser, and a full-time Countryside Officer, Mr. Neil Lyddon.

COUNCILLORS:

Hendre Ward

E. Alford (Labour)	5, Glyn-y-Mel, Pencoed, CF35 6YA	862148
R.J. Hancock, O.B.E. (Labour)	17, Pont Newydd, Pencoed CF35 5PQ rjh1947@talktalk.net	863940
D.J. John (Labour)	2, Llwyn Gwern, Pencoed, CF35 6UA	861594
J. McCarthy (Labour)	25 Cae Talcen, Pencoed, CF35 6YN Cllr.John.McCarthy@bridgend.gov.uk	861984
R. Williams (Labour)	15, Deri Close, Pencoed, CF35 6UA Cllr.Richard.Williams@bridgend.gov.uk	862264

Felindre Ward

J. Butcher (Conservative)	10, Pont Newydd, Pencoed, CF35 5PQ Jon.butcher@hotmail.co.uk	862491
Mrs. J. A. Butcher (Conservative)	10, Pont Newydd, Pencoed, CF35 5PQ judibutcher@aol.com	862491
M. Gregory (Labour)	1, Hafod Las, Pencoed CF35 5NB Cllr.Mike.Gregory@bridgend.gov.uk	861307
M. Walters (Labour)	5 Erw Wen, Pencoed CF35 6YF waltersmichael56@yahoo.co.uk	07968249044

Penprysg Ward

N. Lloyd (Independent)	35 Islawen Meadows, Pencoed CF35 6LW njl@njlloyd.plus.com	863775
Mrs. J. E. McCarthy (Labour)	25 Cae Talcen, Pencoed, CF35 6RP to jr.mc@virgin.net	861984
Mrs. M. Jones (Labour)	31 Heol Las, Pencoed, CF35 6YN	861346

Town Clerk: David Prosser.

Office address:	The Miners' Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, Pencoed CF35 5PE	01656 869031
E-mail:	pencoedtownclerk@btconnect.com www.pencoedtowncouncil.gov.uk	

County Borough Councillor Michael Gregory (Labour)

Ward:	Felindre	
Address:	1 Hafod Las, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5NB	01656 861307
E-mail:	Cllr.Mike.Gregory@bridgend.gov.uk	

County Borough Councillor John McCarthy (Labour)

Ward:	Hendre	
Address:	25 Cae Talcen, Pencoed, CF35 6RP	01656 861984
E-mail:	Cllr.John.McCarthy@bridgend.gov.uk	

County Borough Councillor Richard Williams (Labour)

Ward: Hendre
 Address: 15, Deri Close, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 6UA 01656 862264
 E-mail: Cllr.Richard.Williams@bridgend.gov.uk

County Borough Councillor Alex Owen (Labour)

Ward: Penprysg
 Address: Rowan House, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend CF33 6HY 01656 864033
 E-mail: Cllr.Alex.Owen@bridgend.gov.uk

Member of Parliament: Mr. Hugh Irranca-Davies, M.P.

Unit 2, 112-113, Commercial St., Maesteg CF34 9DL 01656 737777
 E-mail: irrancadavies@parliament.uk

Constituency Assembly Member for Ogmore, Welsh Government: Mrs. Janice Gregory (Labour)

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 E-mail: janice.gregory@wales.gov.uk

My TOWN

Richard Roberts: Proprietor of R. W. Roberts & Son (Butchers)

I WAS born and bred in the nearby village of Cefn Cribbwr and received my secondary education at Cynffig Comprehensive School in Kenfig Hill. While still at school, I worked as a Saturday Boy at Cliff James' butcher's shop in Nolton Street, Bridgend and, after leaving school, began a full time apprenticeship there at the age of 16 – in spite of my father urging me to follow him underground in the mining industry. At the end of my apprenticeship, I joined a butcher's shop in Nottage, Porthcawl as manager and it was while there, that I heard that Mrs. Nelly Workman was thinking of retiring from the established butcher's shop of some 50 years in Pencoed. Soon afterwards, I bought the business. I opened the doors of R. W. Roberts and Son Butcher's Shop in Pencoed's Town Square on December 5, 1988 and,



Richard Roberts, Butcher

24 years on, the business is thriving. There have been some difficult times over the last 20 years with the national outbreaks of BSE, Foot and Mouth Disease and E-Coli and all of this set against the continuous fierce competition from the supermarket chains; I am delighted to say, however, that my Pencoed customers have remained very loyal. I put my success down to a concentration on quality and providing a personal service in giving my customers what they want, whether it be specific cuts of meat or obtaining products which are not normally stocked in a small town or village butcher's shop.

As a young man I was very keen on sport and ran in multi-terrain races for Brynna Runaways, cycled competitively for the Ogmore Valley Wheelers and played semi pro football for Bridgend Town. The football had to go by the board, however, as Saturdays (match days) are always the busiest for a butcher's shop.

I was brought up in a Christian home and worshipped regularly at the Litchard Mission Chapel in Bridgend. The minister there encouraged me to begin lay preaching myself and I ascended to the pulpit for the first time at the Pen y Bryn Mission in Caerau. After that very first experience I knew my life had changed and, soon afterwards, undertook a two year Bible Ministry Course in Cardiff. On completing my studies in 2006, I was invited by the elders of Nebo Baptist Chapel in Cefn Cribbwr to make a commitment of ministering there two or three Sundays every month. I was pleased to accept and I am delighted to say that over the last three years the regular Sunday attendance has risen from just seven to between 25 and 30. My butcher's shop in Pencoed has not only enabled me to care and provide for my wife, Jennifer, and my son Gareth, but also to embark upon my Sunday ministry at Nebo. Pencoed is a growing town but it still has a strong community spirit and coming from the small village of Cefn, it feels like home from home. I wouldn't swap Pencoed for Bridgend, Cardiff or the world!



David George

David George - Headteacher of Pencoed Comprehensive School

I believe that there is no more important a role than teaching young people and I was privileged to join the teaching staff at Pencoed as Head of the Physics Department, way back in 1989. The Headteacher at the time was Mr Lewis Morgan and it was through his inspirational leadership that I developed an ambition to lead my own school one day.

In 2000, I became Deputy Headteacher to Dr. Elwyn Davies, succeeding him as Headteacher at the start of 2010. After more than twenty years of teaching at Pencoed, this was a proud and also very humbling moment for me. Pencoed Comprehensive is well served by a supportive yet challenging Governing Body

which is working hard to ensure the school's success into the future. Over four thousand young people have passed through the gates of Pencoed Comprehensive since I started to work here - many of whom I would have taught or came to know well. Increasingly, I am seeing past pupils coming in to school as parents of our new generation of pupils - reflective of the true communities that the school serves.

The school works closely with the wider community in a variety of ways and increasingly so through the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification which accredits pupils and students for community activities. Sixth Form students have organised charity fund raising events and community Fayres. Local senior citizens visit the school canteen for lunch every Tuesday and Thursday and have struck up fantastic relationships with sixth form students and, more particularly, with some of our younger pupils with additional learning needs. Sixth form students have worked with Dr. Louisa Evans of Pencoed surgery on a 'Memory Books' project with local senior citizens. There have been strong links forged between the school and Pencoed Town Council with school students assisting as stewards at the Council's annual fireworks display and our Eco-Group have planted trees, also with the assistance of the Town Council. The school site continues to be a hive of activity out of school hours through its links with the Sports & Wellbeing and Adult Education services at Bridgend County Borough Council. Local football and rugby clubs are making use of our



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playing fields for youth teams. High quality school productions and concerts will continue to entertain packed houses each year in the school sports hall. The 'Friends of Pencoed Comprehensive School' was recently launched with the aim of guiding Pencoed Comprehensive School even closer to the heart of the community. The list goes on and on!

As well as being very close to the community around Pencoed for over twenty years, I also value immensely the community where I live. I was brought up in Port Talbot and now have my home in Neath with my wife, Barbara, and our sons Matthew and Rhys. I know at first hand, as a parent, the positive impact that school has on the ambitions and aspirations of its pupils. I remember the exciting time in the George household when both boys were planning their future studies after GCSE and A levels and I know it is the same in many households in the Pencoed community. I would not wish to be the Headteacher of any school other than Pencoed Comprehensive - the school and its pupils have played a huge part in my life for more than twenty years. With our dedicated team of staff, I remain determined to see that Pencoed ensures that all of its young people achieve their full potential at school into a bright future.

David Prosser: Town Clerk to Pencoed Town Council

I taught in Bournemouth and Southampton for several years before moving to Pencoed in 1979. This was very much a homecoming for us as I was brought up in Pontypridd and my wife, Susan, originally hails from Port Talbot. Pencoed seemed the ideal location to settle when we finally had the opportunity to come home to Wales and raise a family. When I was a boy, I regarded Pencoed as simply a bus stop on the way to our family holiday in Porthcawl or to visit my uncle's farm in Heol y Cyw. When I returned in 1979, I was surprised at how much Pencoed had grown in the intervening years. Driving over the level crossing, I could not believe the development that had taken place and when we saw the house that we had come to view, we knew that it was perfect for us.



David Prosser

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My two sons grew up in Pencoed and attended Pencoed Infants' and Junior schools before moving up to Pencoed Comprehensive. Both have now long since left home for distant parts, but they always look forward to their visits back to Pencoed and are pleased to meet friends and acquaintances from their old schools. Whilst growing up, they took advantage of the several activities available to them in Pencoed at that time but the list of current organisations printed elsewhere in this Guide provides evidence of the growing opportunities for residents of all ages, particularly the younger generation, to participate in a wide range of social, sporting and cultural activities. My involvement in the town includes coaching the junior football teams, serving as a governor of the Infants' and Junior Schools and as a Town Councillor, playing for Pencoed Rugby Club - and becoming a member of St. Mary's Golf Club when my knees could no longer cope with the rugby!

Now, as Clerk to Pencoed Town Council, I have an even greater opportunity to become involved in activities, events and developments in the town. Pencoed Town Council is a progressive organisation which represents and supports the local community. The Council provides grants for local groups and organisations and it organises several popular annual events. The Firework Display on 5th November attracts thousands of spectators to the Felindre Road playing fields; the Christmas Pantomime and the Christmas Singalong in the Miners' Welfare Hall are both enjoyed by young and old alike. It is a more humbling, but equally rewarding, duty for me to help organise the annual Remembrance Service which is a very moving experience for the large crowd that gathers around the Monument each November.

Pencoed Town Council has worked with Bridgend County Borough Council to produce a Regeneration Strategy in consultation with the residents of Pencoed and it is now busy establishing partnerships with several agencies and organisations in order to realise the actions that were prioritised in the Strategy. Many positive results are already in progress and I look forward to the achievement of further developments in our town. Pencoed Town Council is based in the Miners' Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, Pencoed. The office hours are 9.30a.m. to 12.30p.m., Monday to Friday. Telephone (01656) 869031 or e-mail pencoedtownclerk@btconnect.com

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Tondur Road in Bridgend, DJ Griffiths & Co. Ophthalmic
Opticians in Maesteg, The Oak Tree Surgery in Brackla

EDUCATION

PENCOED has several private play group facilities which cater for pre-school age children. There are play groups based at the Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall on Heol-y-Groes, the Felindre Sports Pavilion and a Welsh play group based at the Old Clinic on Penprysg Road.

In 2003, the County Nursery School which had served the town for nearly 60 years closed and two nursery classes were opened in its place. One of these, accommodating 50 children on a part time basis, was opened at the Pencoed Infants School which has, itself, recently merged with Pencoed Junior School to become the unified Pencoed Primary School which is situated on Penprysg Road. The other, with 25 full time places, is attached to Croesty Primary School which is located on the opposite side of town. Croesty school's catchment area lies south of a line drawn approximately along Hendre Road and Heol-y-Groes, while that of Pencoed Primary lies to the north of that line.



Croesty Primary School

Secondary education is provided by Pencoed Comprehensive School (Ysgol Pencoed) which has a roll of some 1,100 pupils and shares its campus with Croesty School on Coychurch Road. Ysgol Pencoed has seen its GCSE pass rates increase by more than 50% in the current decade and places great emphasis in developing children's personal values such as honesty and respect for others.

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The school is especially proud of the way it reaches out into the local community, providing positive support for the elderly and other good causes. The school has a thriving twice weekly informal OAP Lunch Club which is hosted by sixth formers.

Higher Education is provided at Pencoed College (formerly the Pencoed Agricultural College) whose campus has gradually developed on the site of the original squire's residence, Tregroes House, since its acquisition by the (then) Glamorgan County Council in 1925. The college, situated on the roundabout at the northern end of Penybont Road, has traditionally offered courses based on countryside and recreational studies. From the beginning of 2010, when its brand new Building Academy came on line, these have been complemented by courses related to the construction industry. Pencoed College is part of Bridgend College which provides a further wide range of education at its Bridgend facility.



Ysgol Pencoed

EATING AND STAYING IN PENCOED

THERE are a number of hotels in and around Pencoed that cater for visitors, whether on business or pleasure. There are also a number of eating places which range from fast food outlets (very popular with children of the Comprehensive school at lunchtimes) to high quality restaurants. In addition to these there are many more highly recommended eating establishments scattered throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, most within just a twenty minute drive away from Pencoed.

HOTELS

The Maerdy Hotel – Restaurant
Coychurch Road
Tel. No. 01656 860654

Premier Inn
Pant Ruthin Farm,
Pencoed Business Park
M4 Junction 35
Tel. No. 0870 197 7041

Travelodge
Near Old Mill Harvester,
Old Mill, Felindre
Tel. No. 01656 864404

St. Mary's Hotel & Golf Club
Bar Meals and restaurant,
St. Mary's Hill
Tel. No. 01656 860280

Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel – Restaurant
Coychurch
Tel. No. 01656 860621

RESTAURANTS AND FOOD OUTLETS

Golden Delicious Fish Bar
30, Coychurch Road,
PENCOED
CF35 5NG
Tel. No. 01656 860320

Harvey's Fish Bar
Min-y-Nant
Tel. No. 01656 861433

McDonald's Restaurant
Restaurant and
drive-in takeaway,
Pencoed Business Park
(M4 Junction 35)
Tel. No. 01656 865484

Old Mill Harvester
Bar meals and restaurant,
Felindre Road
Tel. No. 01656 860288

PENCOED HEALTH

It has become a well established custom that the Mayor of Pencoed drops by for an informal visit to Pencoed residents on the occasion of their ninetieth birthdays and their sixtieth wedding anniversaries. Judging by how busy the Mayor is kept on this happy task, Pencoed must be a very healthy place to live! Keeping us in top form are the following:

Pencoed Medical Centre
Heol-yr-Onnen, PENCOED
Tel. No. 08444778890

In-health Family
Chiropractic Clinic
6, Coychurch Road, PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 865888

The New Surgery
Min-Y-Nant, PENCOED
Tel. No. 860343

Dentist
Nicola Hall,
20, Pen-y-Bont Road,
PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 864880

White House Dental Practice,
14, Coychurch Road,
PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 861569

Parish & Green Opticians
2-4, The Square
PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 861003

Chemist
A & J. M. Shepherd,
2, Pen-y-Bont Road, PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 860480
A & J. M. Shepherd,
30, Pen-y-Bont Road,
PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 860292

Hospital
Princess of Wales Hospital
Coity Road,
BRIDGEND
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Pets Health
Maes Glas Veterinary Group
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PENCOED
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PENCOED MINERS' WELFARE HALL

The newly refurbished Welfare Hall on Heol y Groes provides low cost room hire for community societies, fitness clubs and private individuals.

The Clayton Davies Memorial Hall is ideal for staged productions, fitness activities, table top sales, children's parties etc. etc. The lowered ceiling allows for various lighting options making it an excellent venue for larger social functions such as dances and wedding receptions. There is a fully fitted kitchen for self catering options.

The smaller Derek Gregory Lounge also has its own kitchen and is ideal for educational classes, society meetings and various other community activities.

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ORGANISATIONS IN PENCOED



Pencoed Bowling Green

SPORTS

Pencoed Athletics AFC
Mr. Robert J. Carpenter,
15 Y Lan, PENCOED, CF35 6SA

Bowls Club
Mrs. Joan Peyton,
7 Hafod Las,
PENCOED, CF35 5NB
Tel. No. 01656 861680

Indoor Bowls Club
Mr. Howard Porter
19 Kennedy Drive,
PENCOED, CF35 6TW
Tel. No. 01656 860466

Pencoed RFC
Tel. No. 01656 860152

Pencoed Youth RFC
Mr. Steve Pope,
Tel. No. 01656 862518

Pencoed Cricket Club
Mr. Alistair Gregory, Secretary
19 Minffrwd Road,
PENCOED, CF35 6RL
Tel. No. 07929 324373

Pencoed Boys and Girls AFC
Mr. M. Lewis, Secretary,
31, Woodland Avenue,
PENCOED, CF35 6UW
Tel. No. 01656 865122

Pencoed Yoga For All
Mr. Kelvin Williams,
16, Woodstock Gardens,
PENCOED, CF35 6ST
Tel. No. 01656 862158

YOUNG PEOPLES ORGANISATIONS

Pencoed ATC
Shaw Durman,
123 Hendre Road, Pencoed

Mrs. G. Woodland,
Pencoed Guides & Brownies, 63 Hendre Road
PENCOED CF35 6TD
Tel. No. 01656 863007

Pencoed Scouts
Mrs. Pam Watkins,
38 Heol y Geifr, PENCOED
Tel. No. 01656 862471

The Youth Engagement Centre
Felindre Road, Pencoed CF35 5PB
Tel 01656 863277

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

Salem Chapel
Mrs E. Williams, Secretary
24 Merthyr Mawr Road
BRIDGEND CF31 3NY
Tel. No. 01656 665406

Zion Pentecostal Church
Mr. A. Waters,
8, Cae Odin, Brackla, BRIDGEND

St. David's Church Mothers' Union
Mrs. B. Minton, 'Ton-Teg', Ystad Waun,
PENCOED, CF35 6TW
Tel. No. 01656 861972

St. David's Church Mothers' Union (evenings)
Mrs. C. Phillips, 100, Pen-y-Bont Road
PENCOED, CF35 5PT
Tel. No. 01656 864485

St. David's Church, Rev. Ian Hodges
The Rectory, 60 Coychurch Road, Pencoed.
Tel: 01656 860337



Salem Chapel, Coychurch Road, Pencoed

Trinity Church
Miss S. Walters, Secretary,
22, Coychurch Road, PENCOED

HOBBIES AND PAST TIMES

Pencoed Papercrafters
Mrs. Lisa Spratt,
1, Heol Brynnewlyn, PENCOED CF35 5PX
Tel. No. 0771 7778483

Sugarcraft
Mrs. Sue Tom,
36, Parc-y-Bryn, Creigiau, CARDIFF
Tel. No. 02920 890978

Pencoed Flower Arranging Society
Mrs. Helen Thomas,
123, Ewenny Road, BRIDGEND CF31 3LN
Tel. No. 01656 657796

SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS

Pencoed Ladies Group
Mrs. Sandra Maidment,
40 Maes-y-Wern, PENCOED CF35 6TE
Tel. No. 01656 864702

Pencoed W.I.
Mrs. Val Williams
Tel. No. 862181

Contact Group
Mr. Glyn Oram,
29 Dol Afon,
PENCOED CF35 5PG
Tel. No. 01656 860353

Ladies Social Club
Mrs. I. Bachelor
10 Woodland Avenue,
PENCOED CF35 6UP

Pencoed Town & District Twinning Association
Mrs. Wendy McDonald, 1 Manor Drive,
Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 5HA.
Tel: 01656 865633

EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Cylch Meithrin Pencoed
Mrs. Julie Jones,
Coach House, Pentre Meyrick,
Cowbridge, CF71 7RN
Tel. No. 07973 429373

POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS

Ogmore Conservative Party
Mrs. Judith Butcher,
10 Pant Newydd,
PENCOED, CF35 5PO
Tel. No. 01656 862491

Ogmore Co-operative Society
Mr. Mike Gregory,
1 Hafod Las, Pencoed CF35 5NB
Tel. No. 01656 861307

Ogmore Fabian Society
Mr. Mike Gregory,
1 Hafod Las, Pencoed CF35 5NB
Tel. No. 01656 861307

Pencoed Labour Party
Mr. Mike Newth
9 Chapel Row, Rhiwceiliog, Pencoed, CF35 6NN

Bridgend Liberal Democrats
Mrs. Briony Davies,
7 Chestnut Bush, BRIDGEND, CF31 5FG
Tel. No. 01656 668133

Plaid Cymru, Marine Chambers
Anson Court, Atlantic Wharf,
CARDIFF, CF10 4AL
Tel. No. 02920 472272

MUSIC AND DANCING

Pencoed Silver Band
Mr. D. Jones,
1, Manor Court, Ewenny, CF35 5RH
Tel. No. 01656 659410

Burnell School of Dance,
Miss Sarah Burnell, A.I.S.T.D.,
7, Maerdy Park, PENCOED, CF35 5HJ
Tel. No. 07881 588466

Mid Glamorgan Mixed Choir
Mrs. L. O'Hagan
44 Park Fields, Pen-y-Fai,
BRIDGEND, CF31 4NQ

Pencoed Players
Mrs. C. Bidder,
2, Felindre Avenue, PENCOED, CF35 5PD
Tel. No. 01656 860121

SERVICES

Police, South Wales Police
Brackla Street, BRIDGEND
Tel. No. 01656 655555

Pencoed Library, Pen-y-Bont Road
Tel. No. 754840

Pencoed Credit Union
Mrs. R. Evans,
34, Manor Park, PENCOED, CF35 6PE
Tel. No. 01656 861426

St John Ambulance, Pencoed Division
Jonathan Wilson
43 Cae Talcen, Penprysg, Pencoed CF35 6RP
Tel. No. 01656 864786
Mob: 07795 49212

The National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA

Tel: 029 20898748



Janice Gregory AM

Labour Assembly Member
for the Ogmore Constituency



Constituency Office

44a Penybont Road, Pencoed

Bridgend CF35 5RA

Tel: 01656 860034

Fax: 01656 860189

Email: janice.gregory@wales.gov.uk

Web site: www.janicegregoryam.co.uk

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Tel: 02072194027



Huw Irranca-Davies MP

Labour Member of Parliament
for the Ogmore Constituency



Constituency Office

Unit 2,

112-113 Commercial Street,

Maesteg CF34 9DL

Tel: 01656 737777

Email: irrancadaviesh@parliament.uk

Web site: www.huwirranca-davies.org.uk

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Civic Offices, Angel Street,

BRIDGEND CF31 4WB

Tel: 01656 643643



Cllr Mike Gregory

Labour County Borough Councillor
for the Felindre Ward, Pencoed

Home Address

1 Hafod Las, Pencoed

Bridgend CF35 5NB

Tel: 01656 861307

Fax: 01656 862672

Email: cldr.mike.gregory@bridgend.gov.uk

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Cllr Alex Owen

Labour County Borough Councillor
for the Penprysg Ward, Pencoed &
Heol y Cyw

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Rowan House, High Street,

Heol y Cyw, Bridgend CF35 6HY

Tel: 01656 864033

Email: cldr.alex.owen@bridgend.gov.uk

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Home Address

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Tel: 01656 861984

Email: cldr.john.mccarthy@bridgend.gov.uk

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