



Porthcawl

Much More Than Meets The Eye

Stage II, Part A

Health and Leisure



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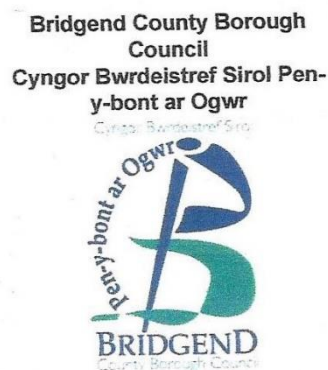
Unless otherwise acknowledged, photography is by Fred Roberts, a member of both the **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** and the Exploring Your Town team.

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### Feedback and comments:

Anyone wishing to make any comments on this report or provide any further information about Porthcawl should email [porthcawlcivictrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:porthcawlcivictrust@hotmail.co.uk)



## Acknowledgments

As with Stage I of the earlier *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye August 2015 (Amended Version)*, a great many people have contributed to the preparation and writing of this report and its completion would not have been possible without their input, support and goodwill.

The **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** would like to pay particular thanks to Sir Leslie Joseph's daughters, Mrs Tina Eynon and Mrs Mary Daley, who have generously shared their time, their hospitality, their memories, their local knowledge together with their photographs of Porthcawl. **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** would also like to extend special thanks to the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, as well as the Pyle and Kenfig and the Grove Golf Clubs for their time and co-operation in the research and writing of this report. Thanks go to Ceri Evans of Awen Cultural Trust for taking time out of a busy day to give members of the Exploring Your Town working party an informative and especially interesting tour of the Grand Pavilion and providing us with an insider's view of its very varied functions. And the Exploring Your Town working party would like to thank Acorn Developments, who are currently in the process of restoring and redeveloping the Rest, for allowing us to view the Rest in its unadulterated state before any building and redevelopment process began.

Lastly, but most certainly not least, as with Stage I of *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye*, many, many thanks are due to the staff at the now closed Ty'r Ardd Local and Family History Centre in Sunnyside, Bridgend. Before his departure for employment pastures new, John Dunkley-Williams was unfailingly helpful, courteous and supportive when we were exploring Porthcawl's history. Together with his successor at Ty'r Ardd, Bryn Weatherall, who carried on the good work, they made a difficult task a little easier and both contributed enormously to the finished report. There were many times when their patience, know-how and good nature greatly eased our research efforts, enabled some discoveries to be made and generally saved us a lot of time and energy.

Other people have also given their time and much information to the **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society**. Whilst their contributions have not been included in this particular part of Stage II of *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye*, they have informed the research process. Their input will be highlighted in the next phase of the report dealing with the central and eastern parts of Porthcawl.

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The Outline of the Report

Part A of Stage II *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye* has been prepared by the Exploring Your Town working party. All the working party members live in Porthcawl, 2 were born and bred in the town and all belong to the **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society**.

Stage II of *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye* has been a longer, harder document to research and write than its predecessor, partly due to the working party's search for a holistic narrative approach that befits Porthcawl's complex growth and ancient, deep-rooted history. Several narrative approaches were tried and tested before a localism perspective was decided upon and, even then, the working party retained some reservations about whether it is ideally suited to convey every aspect of Porthcawl's unique story. We are, for example, conscious that scant attention has been given to the role of Newton Nottage parish in advancing the Nonconformist Cause in Wales. Yet Nonconformity is at the heart of any Welsh characterisation study and the amount of documented material about the involvement of Nottage in the Nonconformist movement more than justifies a report in itself. We are also conscious that, although this is a long report, it is only Part A of Stage II. Part B, concentrating on 'Old Porthcawl', the town's growth and how its trade and commerce sustained and promoted Porthcawl seaside aspirations, remains a work in progress.

This characterisation of Porthcawl's development as a modern coastal destination, draws heavily on the internet and the limited number of available books and newspapers that provide information about the town. Wherever possible, photographs and first-hand anecdotal accounts have been included. For ease of reference, Stage II Part A opens with a summary of Porthcawl's origins and early development, before offering a brief history of the parish of Newton Nottage and the separate villages of Newton and Nottage. That is followed by an overview of the transitional period and motivating factors steering Porthcawl towards a future as a seaside resort after the closure of Porthcawl Dock in 1906, plus an examination of the importance of well-being, health, leisure and recreation *vis-à-vis* the town's western environs. The report closes with a full account of Porthcawl's Esplanade, the Sea Defences on Town Beach and some significant buildings on the Waterfront.

Otherwise, Part A of Stage II, follows the format set out in Stage I of *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye 2015 (Amended Version)*. Each section of this characterisation study begins with the history and origins of a particular area in Porthcawl before moving on to a snapshot of its contemporary position and appearance. As in Stage I of *Porthcawl Much More Than Meets The Eye 2015 (Amended Version)*, some gaps remain. Hope springs eternal and **Porthcawl Civic Trust Society** is optimistic that it will be able to address these shortfalls in Stage II, Part B of the report.

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**References**

**Appendix: Places of Worship in Porthcawl**



## **Glossary of Abbreviations**

|                |                                                        |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACC</b>     | <b>Air Cadet Corps</b>                                 |
| <b>AD</b>      | <b>Anno Domini</b>                                     |
| <b>ARP</b>     | <b>Air Raid Precaution</b>                             |
| <b>BAFTA</b>   | <b>British Academy of Arts and Television Awards</b>   |
| <b>BBC</b>     | <b>British Broadcasting Corporation</b>                |
| <b>BCBC</b>    | <b>Bridgend County Borough Council</b>                 |
| <b>BP</b>      | <b>British Petroleum</b>                               |
| <b>BYT</b>     | <b>Bridgend Youth Theatre</b>                          |
| <b>CISWO</b>   | <b>Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation</b>       |
| <b>DLPR</b>    | <b>Dyffryn Llynfi Porthcawl Railway</b>                |
| <b>EU</b>      | <b>European Union</b>                                  |
| <b>FBI</b>     | <b>Federal Bureau of Investigation</b>                 |
| <b>Fed</b>     | <b>South Wales Miners Federation</b>                   |
| <b>GCC</b>     | <b>Glamorgan County Council</b>                        |
| <b>GWR</b>     | <b>Great Western Railway</b>                           |
| <b>ID</b>      | <b>Identification</b>                                  |
| <b>LNR</b>     | <b>Local Nature Reserve</b>                            |
| <b>MBE</b>     | <b>Member of the British Empire</b>                    |
| <b>mph</b>     | <b>miles per hour</b>                                  |
| <b>MoH</b>     | <b>Medical Officer of Health</b>                       |
| <b>NHS</b>     | <b>National Health Service</b>                         |
| <b>NUM</b>     | <b>National Union of Mineworkers</b>                   |
| <b>OBE</b>     | <b>Order of the British Empire</b>                     |
| <b>OS</b>      | <b>Ordnance Survey</b>                                 |
| <b>PAODS</b>   | <b>Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society</b> |
| <b>PUDC</b>    | <b>Porthcawl Urban District Council</b>                |
| <b>P and K</b> | <b>Pyle and Kenfig</b>                                 |

|                |                                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>RAFA</b>    | <b>Royal Air Force Association</b>            |
| <b>RCT</b>     | <b>Rhondda Cynon Taff</b>                     |
| <b>RIBA</b>    | <b>Royal Institute of British Architects</b>  |
| <b>RICS</b>    | <b>Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors</b> |
| <b>RFC</b>     | <b>Royal Flying Corps</b>                     |
| <b>RPGC</b>    | <b>Royal Porthcawl Golf Club</b>              |
| <b>S4C</b>     | <b>Sianel Pedwar Cymru (Channel 4 Wales)</b>  |
| <b>Society</b> | <b>Porthcawl Civic Trust Society</b>          |
| <b>SSSI</b>    | <b>Site of Special Scientific Interest</b>    |
| <b>SWMF</b>    | <b>South Wales Miners Federation or 'Fed'</b> |
| <b>TG</b>      | <b>Townswomen's Guild</b>                     |
| <b>U3A</b>     | <b>University of the Third Age</b>            |
| <b>US</b>      | <b>United States</b>                          |
| <b>UK</b>      | <b>United Kingdom</b>                         |
| <b>VE</b>      | <b>Victory in Europe</b>                      |
| <b>WCSC</b>    | <b>Welsh Coast Surf Club</b>                  |
| <b>WI</b>      | <b>Women's Institute</b>                      |
| <b>WWI</b>     | <b>World War I</b>                            |
| <b>WWII</b>    | <b>World War II</b>                           |

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