

## NORTH WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

### EFENECHTYD FARM, GLYNDYFRDWY NGR SJ1643 FORMERLY IN THE PARISH OF LLANTYSILIO

EFENECHTYD FARM is situated on the B5103, the original A5 between London and Holyhead before Thomas Telford rerouted the road. It is five miles from Valle Crucis Abbey, a ruined Cistercian monastery near Llangollen. The word EFENECHTYD is believed to be a corrupt form of Y MYNACHTY[D], meaning monastic land. The modern Welsh spelling would be Y MYNACH DID or The Monks' Holding. In the word EFENECHTYD, the definite article Y has become an E and the M of MYNACH has mutated to an F.

The name Y FANECHTYD is found in the 1885 book, The History of Powis Fadog. In various documents and in parish records it has been spelt as Y FANECHTYD, EFFENECHTYD, EFENECHTID, MYNACHTID and MONACHTYD [see 1851 census.]

Much folklore has surrounded the farm over the centuries, one rumour being that lay monks lived here whilst Valle Crucis was being built. There has definitely been a farm and possibly a dwelling on the present site for many centuries, as EFENECHDY is listed as a grange in the official Valle Crucis abbey guidebook.

In 1963 the present property was listed as a Grade 11, Late 16th Century Farmhouse. It is situated in the former commote of Kymo Deuparth, in Llantysilio, Yale.

### EARLIEST REFERENCES 13th -17centuries

#### 1201 -1537 Connections to Valle Crucis Abbey

"Efenechdy, a vaccary on the Northern bank of the River Dee" was a grange, one of the early farms which supplied food for Valle Crucis Abbey.

## DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES-DENBIGHSHIRE

Fig 1 Sideview of Efenechtyd Farm.



### SOURCES

Inventory of Ancient Monuments of Denbighshire published in 1914; references made to some properties which were associated with Valle Crucis Abbey.

EFENECHDY is marked on a map of the lands belonging to Valle Crucis Abbey. It is the only grange marked on the northern bank of the Dee and the only farm in Llandysilio.

**Earliest reference to area found in Extent of Bromfield and Yale 1315 pgs. 17,97,281**  
 Reference to township of Kemau or Kymo, in Llantysilio, lâl.pgs.281 & 283  
*lal or Yale set up by the Normans along the border with Wales to help control the border region. Early references to people living in this area are as follows: Hywel, Gruffut & Iorwerth, sons of Gruffut ap Ieuan ap Cadwgan, owners of land in Kymo, commote of I â l.*

**March 1536 Suppression of the Monasteries**

**Jan 1537 Closure of Valle Crucis Abbey**

*Abbot, John Durham, received a pension of £23; the few remaining monks were dispersed to various surviving Cistercian abbeys.*

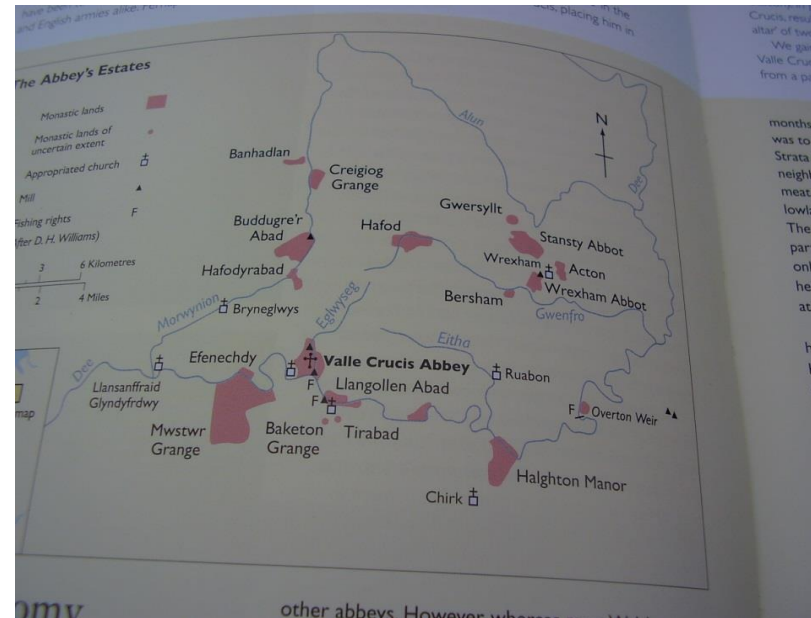
*July 1537 Estate of Valle Crucis was granted by Henry VIII to Sir William Pickering, a Yorkshireman and absentee landlord who initially maintained the buildings but later neglected them, having also to recover as much lead as possible for the king.*

**Sale of Efenechty Oct 22, 1545**

There are 3 different references to the sale of the cow pastures of Efenechty. "The abbey possessed in 1535 a vaccary in Llantysilio which was sold to Thomas Massey in 1545. The name Efenechtyd means "Monkdom". Thomas Massey [ 1512-1564] was a deputy of Sir William Pickering and MP for Broxton and Chester from Oct 1553- Nov 1554.massey received a grant from the

Valle Crucis Abbey guidebook, published by Cadw. Page 10  
 Map taken from Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales by D.H.Williams 1990

**Fig 2. Map of Valle Crucis Abbey estates, showing Efenechtyd. Cadw guidebook**



Valle Crucis Abbey guidebook, D.H.Evans. 1987

Valle Crucis Abbey guidebook, D.H.Evans. 1987

**1] Valle Crucis Abbey by G.Vernon Price. 1952**

*[There is a mistake in the book as it says Efenechtyd , in Llanarmon in I â l, instead of in Llantysilio.]*

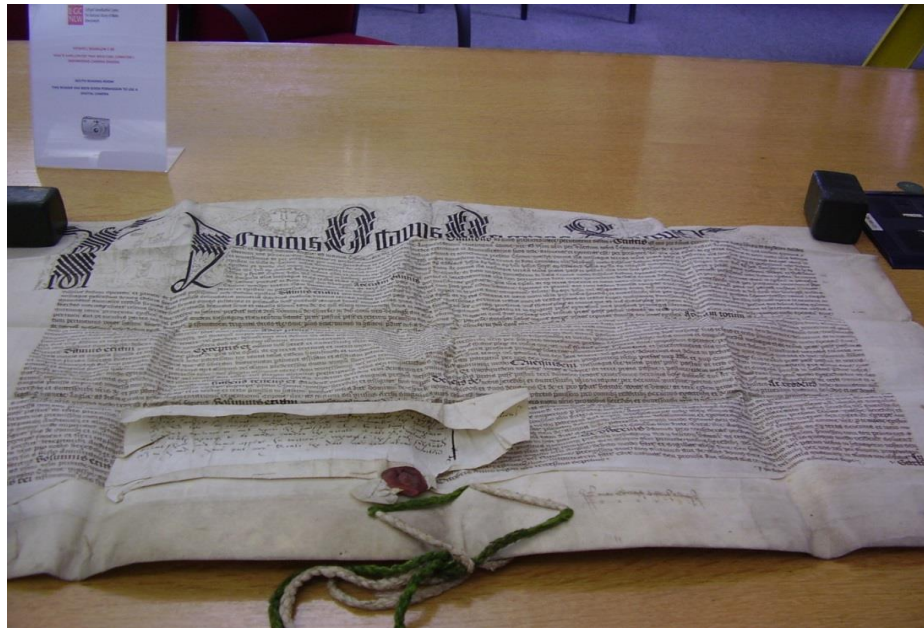
**2] History of Parliament Biographies online vol 1509-1558**

*The grant mentioned is for lands in Llandysilio, Denbighshire, thus confirming Efenechtyd in Cymmo , Llantysilio was the correct property sold off.*

crown, for £133, for lands in Halton and Llandysilio, Denbighshire. In 1538 he had married Elizabeth, daughter of David Myddleton, Mayor of Chester[1523 and 1538] and connected to the Myddletons of Chirk.

Letters patent from Henry VIII granting to Thomas Massye, citizen of Chester, lands referred to above: cow pastures and lands---in Llandysilio"  
Oct 22 1545

**Fig 3 a. Letters patent from Henry VIII granting Efenechtyd to Thomas Massye**



1552 Accounts of William Norrice, kt and Thomas Massey.esq, deputies of William Pickering, kt, farmer of the King of Valle Crucis

Efenechtyd is mentioned as being in the district of Cymo Deuparth, Cy D in the parish records of Llantysilio church.

3] Journal of the Welsh Bibliographical Society.Vol 5 No 4 jan 1949 Dr I Williams "Efenechtyd for instance was sold by the crown to a certain Thomas Massey in 1545."

*Original receipt from Sir John Williams, treasurer of the augmentations. Manuscript in latin.Definite evidence that Efenechtyd was land sold off.*  
Item 63 under Valle Crucis Abbey, Bib Id 005153650  
The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.Call no F442

**Fig 3 close-up of portrait of Henry VIII on Thomas Massye's Letters Patent**



Minister's account of lands owned for the Lordship of County of Denbighshire. Item 70 Valle Crucis Abbey Call no M8m The National Library of Wales.

The history of the princes, the lords marcher, and the ancient nobility of Powis Fadog, by J.Y.W.Lloyd. Vol V.p 88-89,93 & 348

1398-1697

Family tree, together with the family crest, of Wynn of Y Fanechtyd, in the parish of Llantysilio.

Under list of ancient nobility, Wynn family of Y Fanechtyd in Llantysilio referred to several times.

[John Wynne's great grandfather, Llywelyn Fechan lived in Kymmo in 1473]

Eight generations down from Ierwerth ap Madog, see reference in 1398, crest of Wynn of Y Fanechtyd,

Main references to Hugh Wynn of Y Fanechtyd, son of John Wynn[1598] whose son, John Wynn, Captain in the Army of the Commonwealth, living in 1697.

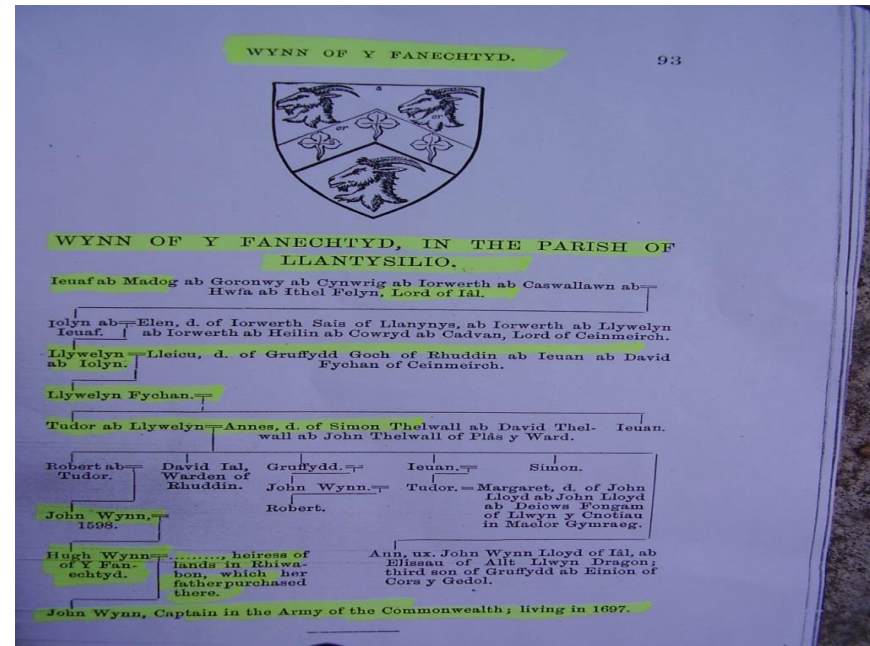
"John Wynn of Y Fynechtyd, in the parish of Llantysilio, who was living in 1598 the son of Robert ab Tudor ab Llewelyn ab Iolyn. Hugh, the son of John Wynn of Y Fanechtyd, married an heiress of lands in Rhiwabon--- was father of John Wynn---living in 1697."

*There is a tenuous connection between Thomas Massey and the Wynne family, as Jane Massey, Thomas' daughter married Simon Thelwall, MP[1526-1586]. Simon's daughter Anne was the grandmother of the John Wynne of Y Fanechtyd.*

*Earliest Llantysilio parish records of members of a Wynn family living in Cymo Deuparth*

*There is no reference to Efenechtyd, but there is possibly a family connection. Magdalen Wynn was baptised in 1679, her brother John Wynn was baptised in 1680. A further six children with the surname of Wynn, all living in Cymo Deuparth, were also baptised at Llantysilio.*

Fig 4 Family tree of Wynn of Y Fanechtyd from The History of Powis Fadog.



History of Parliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1571

History of the princes, the lords marcher etc. p.888-89

Llantysilio church parish records, County Archives, Ruthin.

*Tithes 1734 John Wynn was living in Cymo Deuparth as there was a tithes demand in his name. He is also listed as a freeholder.*

Land tax assessments 1754

Land tax assessments for Efenechtyd. First mention of a Jones.  
Farmers listed as Evan Jones, John Jones , John Wynne [also a David Thelwell.]  
Evan Jones of Llansanffraid, Glyndyfrdwy had married Mary Jones. Their son John was born in 1754. They had another son Evan Jones, born in 1759

Nov 1771 Burial of Elizabeth Jones of Efenechtyd, daughter of John Jones.

1777 Second mention of the Jones family, at Efenechtyd from the mid 1770's

In the will of John Williams of Hafod, Llangar, Merionethshire, the sum of £800 is left to his nephew, a John Jones of Efenechtyd in the parish of Llantysilio.

Feb 1780 Burial of Jane Jones of Efenechtyd, daughter of John Jones.  
10 Nov 1780 Marriage of John Jones to Margaret Edwards

1795 Map of North Wales- local farms shown.

*The name of the farming family living at Efenechtyd was still Jones.*

Sept 1799 Marriage of Evan, son of Evan and Mary Jones and Catherine Ffoulkes. Catherine Ffoulkes, born in 1768, was the first child of John and Margaret Ffoulkes  
a county family of Eriviatt, near Denbigh, moved into Efenechtyd in Sept 1799.  
She had four children and lived happily there with Evan until 1841.  
*In church register both Evan and Catherine signed their names showing that they were both literate. X's were usually used.*

*Family lore states that while staying at Rhydonnen Ucha, a neighbouring farm owned by her grandparents, Catherine proposed to Evan, saying " you come up a few steps and I'll come down" when he hesitated,claiming she was "too high."*

Births at Efenechtyd

13 May 1800 Evan Jones, son of Evan and Catherine, Cymo  
28 May 1800 Catherine Jones, daughter of Evan and Catherine, Cymo  
1806 Margaret Jane Jones, daughter of Evan and Catherine, Cymo  
2 Jan 1808 Frances Jones, daughter of Evan and Catherine, Cymo

Tithes 1734 for Llantysilio at County archives

1754 Land tax assessments, County Archives

Parish records of Llantysilio Church

Buried at Llantysilio church

Probate records of St Asaph[WIABNL-365003]

Buried at Llantysilio church

Marriage register at Llantysilio Church

1795 Map of North Wales, County Archives

Marriage in Llantysilio church parish records.

Extensive research carried out by Canadian descendant of Catherine of Efenechtyd, whose tomb is in Llantysilio churchyard.

Llantysilio Parish records and censuses were used as well as family documents.  
Present owner has copy of research.

Parish records

*Baptised at Llantysilio church [Evan died in 1891 in Elgin, Scotland]*

*Baptised at Llantysilio church [Catherine married Thomas Morris of Llangollen]*

*Baptised at Llantysilio church [Margaret married John Jones of Llangollen]*

*Baptised at Llantysilio church [Frances, "Fanny," died in 1898 in Corwen]*

Deaths of other people living at Efenechtyd, possibly servants and members of servants' families.

1827 Plas Berwyn Estate in the Lordship of Iâl, acquired by Irish peer, Lord Robert Tottenham, Bishop of Clogher.

Much of the Lordship of Iâl became part of the Plas Berwyn estate.

1838 June Marriage of Catherine and Evan's daughter Margaret to John Jones of Bryneglwys.

John Jones moved into Efenechtyd and became the main farmer[see census 1841]

1840 Birth of Catherine Jones, daughter of John and Margaret.

27 Feb 1841 Death of Catherine Jones, aged 72

Large tomb on the north side of Llantysilio church mentions she is the wife of Evan of Evanechtyd and daughter of the late John Ffoulkes of Eriviatt.

Fig 5a Catherine's tombstone in Llantysilio churchyard.



1841 Reference to farm "Mynach du", Cymmo, Llantysilio and to it's fields in local documents.

1841 List of Freehold farmers refers to Mynach Du Farm at Cymmo, Llantysilio.

*Burials of Catherine Roberts 71, on 30/8/1815 ; John Roberts 74, on 9/4/1816 and Lydia Roberts, aged 6 months, on 12/3/1826.*

Internet records re Lord Tottenham Efenechtyd was presumably part of this, as it belonged to the Tottenham estate in 1957, but no records can be found to confirm this. In addition, there are no early records of Efenechtyd in the Llantysilio Hall or Wynnstay estates.

Parish records

Baptised at Llantysilio church.

Fig 5b Tombstones of Catherine and her daughter and grand-daughter in Llantysilio churchyard.



Freeholders on Wynnstay Estate 1841

Records at county archives, Ruthin

*This reinforces the possibility that Efenechtyd may not yet have been part of the Tottenham estate.*

Census of 1841 for district of Cymmo, Llantysilio

*This shows Evan is still at Efenechtyd living with his daughter and family. As Evan is now 80, John Jones is listed first.*

May 1842 Birth of Margaret Jane Jones, to Margaret and John Jones

April 1844 Birth of David Jones, to Margaret and John Jones

1845 Tithes and Apportionments. List of land owned by John Jones

37, lead farmer. Evan Jones, his father-in-law is 84 years old.

List of fields for Efenechtyd:

Field nos owned

93 Coed Y Gadfa

104 Juillet In Cymmo

113,105, 106,107,129,130,131,132,133

135 Tan Y gran

136,143 and pine plantation B6

Field rented 149 Ty Canol

June 6 1846 Birth of Mary Ann and Elizabeth Jones to Margaret and John Jones

Census of 1851 [Efenechtyd called Mynachtyd]

*Evan is still living at Efenechtyd with his daughter's family. There is no reference to the twins who were born in 1846 nor to David, born in 1844.*

Oct 4 1851 Birth of Susanna Jones to Margaret and John Jones

April 7, 1853 Death of Evan Jones 95, former husband of Catherine [nee Ffoulkes]

John and Margaret Jones left Efenechtyd and moved to

Brynhyfryd Farm, Dinbren, Llangollen after 1853.

*The tenancy of Efenechtyd probably ended with the death of Evan Jones.*

John Jones 35 farmer[the husband of Margaret]

Margaret 35,Evan 80 independent farmer, Catherine 1 all surnamed Jones

Catherine Morris 4

Elizabeth Owens 15, possibly a servant.

Baptised at Llantysilio church

Baptised at Llantysilio church

Tithes and Apportionments: lists of fields for taxes etc.

Reel 737 Plan 113 Tithes and Apportionments

Wynnstay estate, Ruthin County Records Office.

Baptised at Llantysilio church

Evan Jones Retired farmer 92 father-in-law Widower

John Jones Head of family 47 Farmer of 29 A[acres?]

Margaret Jones Wife 47

Catherine Jones 10

Margaret Jane Jones 8

Baptised at Llantysilio church

Burial at Llantysilio church

Personal family details

Census of 1861

This census is missing as is most of the Cymmo section of Llantysilio.  
[Llantysilio district 12 has 21 pages missing, only page 22 is present.]

Census of 1871

Change of ownership to another John Jones

A different tenant farming family is now living at Efenechtyd.

John Jones 50 Farmer of 28 Acres [born at Llanderfel]

Catherine Jones 46 Wife [born Tonycyth, Merionethshire]

Lennet Jones 14

Robert Jones 3

David Evans 14 Servant

Census of 1871

1874 Ordinance Survey map showing boundary changes

*The numbers on the fields are different from the 1845 tithes and apportionments document. County archivist said this was common problem at that time.*

County Archives, Ruthin

Census of 1881

Change of ownership to Catherine Davies.

Catherine Davies Farmer Head Widow 48 or 58?

Jane Davies 23 Daughter

John Jones 61 Visitor and farmer

Janet Jones 54 Visitor and wife of above

John Jones grandson 1 month Visitor

Margaret Edwards 13 Domestic servant

David Edwards 24 Farm labourer

Census of 1881

Census of 1891

Catherine Davies 69 Farmer, Head of family, widow of a David Davies

Jane Davies 31? Daughter

Maggie Davies 10 Grand-daughter

William Evans Farm labourer

Census of 1891

Jan 20, 1895 Marriage of Jane Davies, 36, daughter of Catherine of Efenechtyd to David Hughes.

Marriage records at Llantysilio church.



## 20th century

### Census of 1901

#### Change of ownership to David Hughes

David Hughes 38 Farmer. *No reference to Jane Davies. Has she died?*

David Hughes 5 Son

Margaret Davies 20 Servant. *Could she be David's step-daughter?*

Census of 1901

### Census of 1911

David Hughes Widower 48 Farmer. *Proof Jane has died.*

David Hughes Son 15 Farmer

Census of 1911

### Ordinance Survey map of 1912

Map clearly shows the boundary of Efenechtyd. It also names the wood bordering the River Dee as the Efenechtyd Plantation.

County Archives, Ruthin

### Change of ownership to Richard Hughes

No more access to censuses yet, but local research has uncovered further details of Efenechtyd inhabitants.

Mid 1920's - Another Hughes family took over the tenancy of the farm, Richard Hughes [from Bryneglwys] and Hannah Hughes [from Llanfair, near Ruthin].

Personal testimony from grand-daughter, still living in the area.

1906 Birth of Katie Hughes at Efenechtyd

1907 Birth of Robert Hughes at Efenechtyd

1920 Birth of Glyn Hughes at Efenechtyd

Personal testimony from grand-daughter, still living in the area.

Personal testimony from grand-daughter, still living in the area.

1920 Death of Mary Ann Rowlands, born 1842, grand-daughter of Catherine Jones, Catherine of Efenechtyd [1768-1841]

Llantysilio churchyard

Mary was buried in the same tomb as her grand-mother, in Llantysilio churchyard.

1939 Marriage of Katie Hughes to John Parry Price, born in 1912 in Flintshire.  
*John Price was working for the Plas Berwyn Estate and came to clear Efenechtyd's Cefn- Coed forest.*

Personal testimony from grand-daughter, still living in the area.

Katie and John Price, not Katie's brothers, eventually took over the tenancy of Efenechtyd Farm, together with Hannah Hughes, Katie's mother.

Nov 1939 Birth of Frances Price at Efenechtyd  
Nov 1941 Birth of Megan Price at Efenechtyd  
April 1943 Birth of Rhoda Price at Efenechtyd  
March 1944 Birth of Ennis Price at Efenechtyd

Personal testimony from grand-daughter, still living in the area.

#### 24 July 1957 Sale of The Plas Berwyn Estate

The whole 4,345 Acres of the estate was put up for auction at the Town Hall, Llangollen. This included Plas Berwyn House, 11 dairy, stock and sheep farms [of 43-334 acres], 18 small dairy and mixed holdings [from 6-40 acres], 17 cottages, a secondary residence, 10 freehold ground rents and 7 accommodation fields. *Efenechtyd was obviously one of the smaller farms.*

Copy of Sales Brochure by R.C.Knight & Sons of London in conjunction with John D. Wood & Co of London.

#### 24 July, 1957 EFENECHTYD ON SALE, LOT NO 30

Efenechtyd was described as " a desirable small dairy farm, extending altogether to about 35 Acres, 3 Roods and 39 Perches". The house was "an interesting old farmhouse" and the buildings comprised "Coal shed and Granary over, Shippon for 8, brick and asbestos Dairy, large Loose Box, Pigsty, Barn, 2-bay timber and iron Dutch Barn, Cart Shed, Loose Box, Stable with Granary over."

Copy of Sales Brochure by R.C.Knight & Sons of London in conjunction with John D. Wood & Co of London.

John and Katie Price, the incumbent tenants, purchased their farm at auction.

## 20th and 21st centuries

### 6 July 1963 Efenechtyd farm was made a Grade 11 Listed Building CADW Building ID 1611

Efenechtyd was given a Grade 11 listing.

#### Exterior

1. Late 16th century asymmetrical stone farmhouse with alterations and additions.
2. 2 storeys with attic slate roof.
3. Somewhat recessed casements with 33 inch walls.

#### Interior

1. Ground floor-South room with 2 bevelled beams and stopped bevelled and moulded joists.
2. Massive central chimney with curved beam above inglenook.
3. Plain staircase with moulded rail at first floor landing.
4. 1st floor arch-braced truss, ledged doors with groove mouldings and old strap hinges.

In 1764 Efenechtyd was included in the parish of Llantysilio and was on the Drover's way up the Glyndyfrdwy Pass.

### 1960's and 1970's

Over the following twelve years, further fields were sold off. Efenechtyd ceased being a working farm in the late 1960's. It became a farmhouse offering Bed and Breakfast accommodation. John Price also developed a small caravan site which comprised of 9 static vans bordering the 7- acre Cefn-Coed natural woodland. In the 1980's it won an award for being environmentally friendly. John and Katie Price continued to live at the farm until Katie's death. John Price remained at the farm until 1990.

### 20 March 1990 SALE OF EFENECHTYD-FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

Efenechtyd was described as "An historic grade 11 listed farmhouse set in an unsurpassed elevated position above the Dee valley, together with a range

Denbighshire Listed Buildings

Licence no PSI C2008002006

Fig 6. Carving on hand in oak panelled hallway.



Personal testimony from grand-daughter, still living in the area.

Wright-Manley, Land & Estate Agents Sales Brochure

of outbuildings, pasture and woodland and an award winning caravan site."  
*Efenechtyd was not sold at auction, but was sold 2 years later.*

24 March 1990 SALE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS AND EFFECTS, TOGETHER WITH CONTENTS OF EFENECHTYD

"AN INTERESTING DISPERSAL SALE AT EFENECHTYD FARM" was held by the auctioneers, Wright and Manley, four days after the farm was put up for auction. There were 226 lots. The farm implements, including a 1947 Ferguson tractor, raised £791.50. The furniture and effects raised £2,460.50.

15 Aug 1992 FINAL SALE OF EFENECHTYD FARM

Change of ownership to Michael and Melanie Wilks

When Efenechtyd farm was purchased by two teachers from Derbyshire in August, 1992, the total acreage was only "Extending in total to 9.753 acres or thereabouts." It's days of being a working farm had long been over.

Several years ago the former barns were sold off, together with a small field, leaving Efenechtyd with just under 9 acres, 7 of which remain deciduous woodland.

The present owners are still Michael and Melanie Wilks, who bought EFENECHTYD in 1992.

Interesting references to Efenechtyd by local historians in the 20th century..

Both Sarah Pugh-Jones and Stan Coulter were very interested in Efenechtyd

Stan Coulter was especially enamoured with the history of the house and waxed lyrical in his book. There is a picture of Efenechtyd at the beginning of the book and the description of the house is as follows. "The incredible craft of the hands of the monks is stamped on this rare building, which could be called THE HOUSE OF BEAMS.--- Containing a priest hole and cave-hide, a large room that was obviously the monks' sleeping quarters and prayer rooms of elaborate design and architecture."--- A huge baking oven next to an escape hole from a cellar, the entrance of which had been a secret panel in the entrance hall."--

Wright-Manley, Land & Estate Agents Sales Brochure

Fig 7. Part of cruick beam in upstairs bedroom.



Local historian Sarah Pugh-Jones visited Efenechtyd often in the mid 1960's.

Yr. Heol- The Rhewl-Llantysilio- A History of a Welsh Village 1986 by Stan Coulter

**Fig 8a Bread oven**



**Fig 9 Inglenook in Diningroom**



**Renovation of Efenechtyd's barns.**

The barns have now been very tastefully converted into two houses, with the walls and beams cleverly restored to help retain the original character. They are presently appropriately named Mynachtyd Uchaf and Mynachtyd Isaf.

Melanie Wilks March 2013