



Stormy Down was named after a frenchman, named 'Sturmi'. When the Normans invaded Wales, Sturmi arrived in Cefn Cribwr and built a motte and bailey castle, all that is left of the castle is a grassy mound, which can be seen from the 'Tor'

During the early 1900's, day trippers from the valleys were enjoying Porthcawl as a seaside resort having travelled there by rail

On May 2nd 1987, a distinguished visitor, Lord Tompyndy, former speaker of the House of Commons, visited the Cefn Junction Signal Box

It is believed that Iolo Morgannwg, a renowned writer and poet, set up a general store in Cefn Cribwr. He is famous for starting the Eisteddfod

In 1983 following 85 years of existence the last shift was worked at the Cefn Junction box, the next day the signals were pulled down

## Interesting Facts . . . . .



This history guide is one of a series of seven produced by children participating in the 'Bro Cynffig' Chronicles project. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery in 2007 and since this time children and young people from the following eight schools have been researching into the history of the area.

- Afon-y-Felin Primary School
- Cefn Cribwr Primary School
- Corneli Primary School
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- Mynydd Cynffig Infants School
- Mynydd Cynffig Juniors School
- Pil Primary School
- Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger



*'The history of Cynffig told by its children with a little help from earlier generations'*

# Cefn Cribwr Primary School



Cefn Cribwr Primary School

Some of the houses on this road date back to the 1830s. At this time, Cefn Road had yet to be built and people walked instead on dirt tracks. Cleverly, the people of Cefn decided to create their own cobbled footpaths by placing stones in front of their own homes. If you look closely you can still see traces of these paths in front of some of the older houses!



Cobbled Stones 1



The Malthouse 2

A man named John Jones, known in Welsh as 'Sion y Ballas', used to brew beer in this malt house, using locally grown hops and water from a nearby well. He would then sell the beer for a profit in his public house the Farmer's Arms.

## B4281 CEFN ROAD

Siloam Chapel was the first place of worship in Cefn Cribwr and is believed to have been built around 1827. In 1847 it housed a small school for over fifty years before the opening of Cefn Primary School.



Siloam Chapel 8

## Llanharan & Llanblethian 7

Llanblethian and Llanharan are the oldest houses in Bedford Road and were named after two villages in the Vale of Glamorgan. Originally, Llanblethian used to be a 'parlour shop' selling a variety of goods to miners from Aberbaiden Colliery and their families.



## Bedford House 3



Bedford House formerly known as 'Plas Cefn' was built by the Birmingham industrialist John Bedford around 1773

One of the main historical attractions in Bedford Park is Cefn Cribwr Ironworks. The ironworks were established in the 1780s by John Bedford and were recently recognised as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. John Bedford also sank pits to mine the raw materials of ironstone and coal, as well as founding a forge and brickworks.



Cefn Cribwr Iron Works 4

## Cefn Slip Colliery 5

Cefn Slip Colliery was sunk in 1860 and was the first deep mine in the area. When the demand for coal was at its highest in the 1890s, 800 men worked in the mine. It was a hard and dangerous job and many of the colliers died. In order to commemorate this way of life a coal truck containing the words 'Cofiwch Lowyr Cymru' - 'Remember the Colliers' was recently placed by the old colliery entrance.

Cefn Signal Box 6



The signal box was built in the 1860s to control the busy junction between Porthcawl and Margam. During its lifetime the railway not only transported coal and iron from the valleys to the coast but also day trippers to the seaside resort of Porthcawl. The signal box closed in 1983 but it has since been renovated and preserved by the 'Cefn Gwyrdd' Historical Society.

Bedford Park P