



Wolfscastle In Bloom 2010

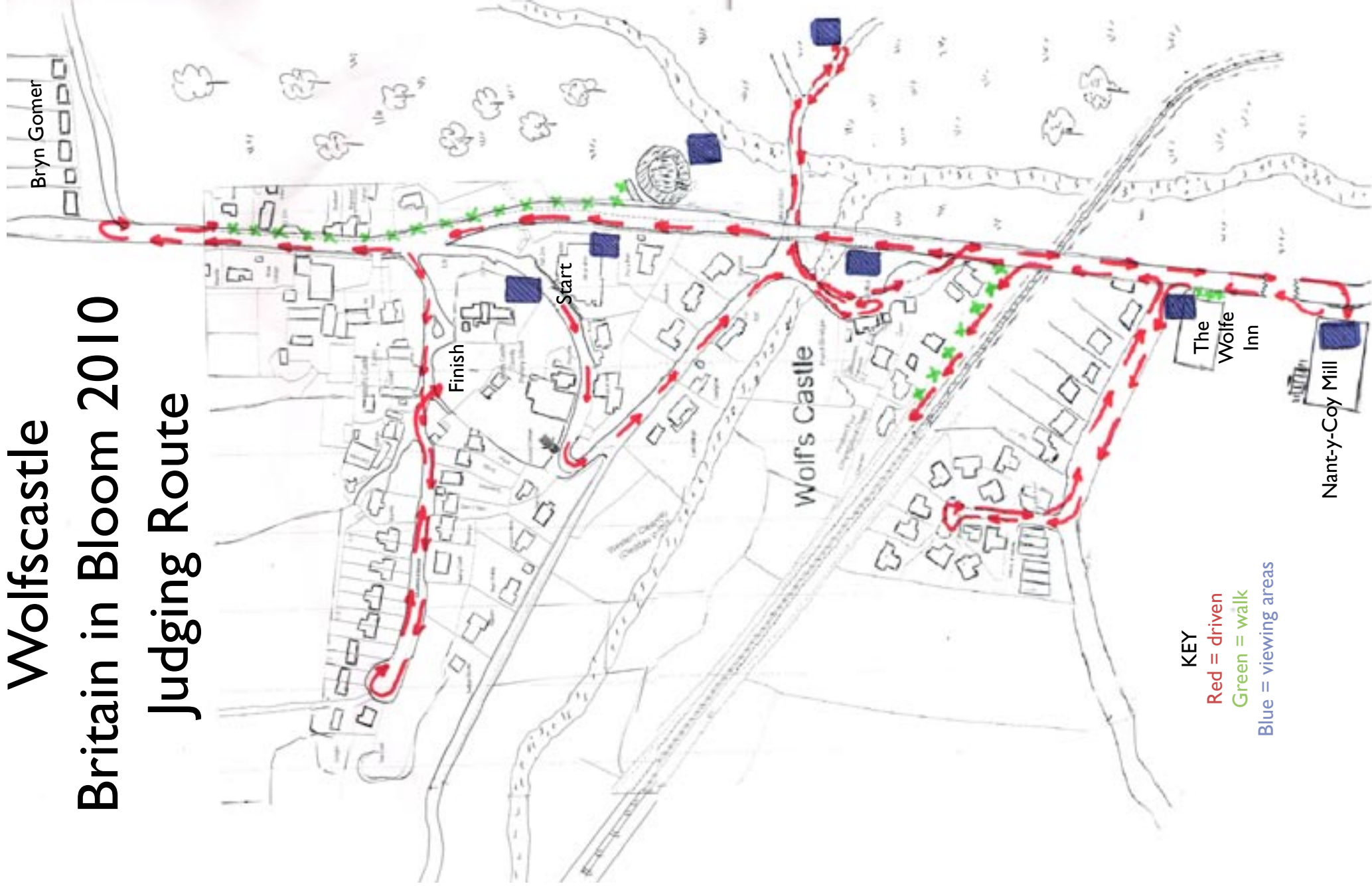
Village Portfolio

**RHS BRITAIN
IN BLOOM**
Finalist 2010



Wolfscastle Britain in Bloom 2010 Judging Route

Wolfscastle In Bloom 2010



Wolfscastle In Bloom 2010

Welcome to the village

Members of
the community
following a
briefing meeting
in June 2010

With a history stretching back to the dawn of time, Wolfscastle and its population of 180 could easily be overlooked in the Pembrokeshire scheme of things.

But, situated on the main A40 trunk road which carries a busy mix of local commuters, tourists and the heavy commercial traffic between Ireland and continental Europe, Wolfscastle is admired and remembered by many people.

Not least for its attractive profile, colourful and well tended appearance and the distinctive dip in roadway that signals the crossing of the valley of the Western Cleddau river and the Paddington to Fishguard railway line.

Equidistant between Fishguard to the north and Haverfordwest to the south, Wolfscastle village lies in its own Community Council area and proclaims its Wales in Bloom credentials not only in its pleasant

demeanour but in its recently acquired road signs.

In 1989, Wolfscastle won the Best Kept Village Award and followed this by dominating the small village category in the Wales in Bloom competition, winning in the years 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

We hope the following pages of this portfolio demonstrate the reasons for this outstanding record of performance and why Wolfscastle is cherished not only by its own community but remembered fondly by so many others.

They might be reminiscing wartime evacuees, faithful tourists who return time and again or the young couples whose wedding day photographs have a backdrop of the riverside green.



Attractions of History

- Wolfscastle and its surrounding area are rich in historical remains and virtually every crag and rock, field and lane, mansion, cottage and church bear evidence of past peoples and their various activities.
- Situated at the edge of the Treffgarne Gorge, overlooked by its pre-Cambrian rocks which were deposited by a glacier in the last Ice Age, Wolfscastle was touched by the Romans, the Normans and even, some historians might suggest, by the birth and death of the greatest of Welsh figures, Owain Glyndwr.
- From more recent centuries, among the fascinating attractions for visitors is the renovated Motte and Bailey Castle which was situated at a central point in the village overlooking the meeting of the Western Cleddau and Anghof rivers.
- Nearly two hundred years ago, in 1834, the local school became one of the first British schools to be built, marking the start of state-funded education in Britain. Its benefactor was the Squire of Sealyham, William Tucker Edwardes whose family lived in the Wolfscastle parish of St Dogwells, named after the cousin of St David himself.
- One of the fascinating links between centuries gone by and today's tourist industry is the beautifully restored Nant-y-Coy Mill with its working water wheel, nature trail and excellent interpretation panels featuring birdlife, mammals and other wildlife. At the 2008 Wales in Bloom Awards ceremony, the Nant-y-Coy Arts Centre won the Royal Horticultural Society's Discretionary Award.
- March 2007 saw the culmination of the efforts of the Community Forum's Heritage Working Group in the form of an exhibition staged in Penybont Chapel's vestry and covering various aspects of the history of the three wards of Treffgarne, Ford and St Dogwells. The organisers were delighted to see so many local residents drop in and, if the comments of the Visitors' Book are to be believed, the whole event had been well worth doing.



*The Motte and Bailey before it was taken over by the community ...
...and now 2010*

Nant-y-Coy Mill, extensively restored and now a gallery, restaurant, art workshop, mill water wheel and farm shop. 2010



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- Throughout the 20th century and into the new millennium, there have been many changes affecting the community but, most significantly, Wolfscastle has acquired a new role as a leisure facilitator.

- In 2005, representatives from all walks of life within the community held a number of meetings to consider all aspects of the village and its future direction. The results have formed the basis for the adoption and implementation of an Action Plan. It is hoped that the projects described in the plan will be achieved as quickly as practical with the various partners working in unison with local people to design and implement schemes.

- In addition to the Wolfe Inn, there is the very popular Allt-yr-Afon Wolfscastle Country Hotel, a renowned pottery, the renovated Motte and Bailey Castle and the previously described Nant-y-Coy Arts Centre which attracts countless

Developing the village and its community

visitors throughout the year.

- More recently, an organic element has been added to the Wolfscastle area attractions in the shape of The Really Wild Farm Shop, also situated in the Nant-y-Coy complex. Among more than 100 items for sale are fresh fruit and vegetable, a range of locally sourced cheeses, a variety of teas and, on Fridays, locally caught fresh seafood.

- Wolfscastle CP School, Ysgol Casblaidd in Welsh, Penybont Chapel and its Sunday School and the church continue to flourish and the community spirit is exemplified in the multi-faceted annual Festival Week, regarded as the envy of many other Pembrokeshire communities.

Left Village youngsters, soaking wet but happy, after the Wolfscastle Festival Week Games competition in July 2009

Below: Welsh Assembly Member Paul Davies joins villagers in a bid to persuade Welsh Water to remove the unsightly sewerage pipe across the River Cleddau. 2009



Backing for bid to remove ugly pipe

FRESNELI-Pembrokeshire AM Paul Davies is supporting a campaign by a north Pembrokeshire village to get a dangerous sewerage removed.

Wolfscastle has won the Wales in Bloom competition five times and has been nominated for Britain in Bloom, but residents feel an ugly running sewerage pipe across the river spoils the village.

"They also fear it's dangerous as youngsters try to cross the river by walking along the top."

"The community council, the local WI and the primary school in the village have signed letters to ask Welsh Water to consider removing this pipe and I am happy to support them," said Mr Davies.

"The community council arranged a meeting between myself, the council and the company but unfortunately Welsh Water failed to turn up to hear the resident's concerns."

"Wolfscastle is a very pretty village and this ugly pipe detracts from the beautiful stone bridge."

Greta Hornwood, president of Wolfscastle WI, said: "The pipe is a temptation and a potential hazard for those wanting an alternative route across the river."

"It's also rather unsightly."

Rae Geoffrey Eynon, clerk to the community council, added: "This pipe is an issue the village is concerned about."

"Older children climb the barriers to walk along the pipe and we are



Pupils from Ysgol Casblaidd are pictured with (left to right) community councillor Tom Griffiths, Gill Morgan from the school, Heather Griffiths from the WI and Preseli Pembrokeshire AM Paul Davies. The community is lobbying to get the 'ugly and dangerous' pipe across the river removed.

worried that it's dangerous."

"The pupils at the village school, Ysgol Casblaidd, have also written to the Welsh Water asking them to take action."

"The pupils of Ysgol Casblaidd are very proud of their village and love to walk in the community," they

wrote to Welsh Water.

"The only part that they do not like is the green pipe that crosses the Est-eir Cleddau."

"Please help us to make all of our village a beautiful place by removing the pipe."

Mr Davies has now written to

Welsh Water asking them to remove the pipe.

A spokesman for Welsh Water said: "We have received the letter from Preseli Pembrokeshire AM Paul Davies regarding the wastewater pipe in Wolfscastle and will respond in full to the points raised."

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Village life

- Main focal point of the village is the Vestry at Penybont Chapel. Here the community comes together on many occasions throughout the year. The Vestry is used regularly to hold various events such as coffee mornings, concerts, pantomimes and it is “home” to the principal local organisations, the Over 60s, Women’s Institute, Community Forum and the Community Council.

- To mark the bi-centenary of the original chapel and the centenary of the present chapel in 2007, a very successful Flower Festival was held last July. Large crowds, in excess of 1,000 people from many parts of the worlds, attended the five-day event and were most complimentary of the chapel facilities and the community as a whole.

- A number of events are currently organised by the Millennium and festival Committees. These include a very successful Festival Week which this year raised £3000 to support the Senior Citizens, the local primary school and the development of a new play area on the village green for the children of the community.

- Once again this year, and now becoming a feature of the Festival Weeks, an Open garden evening is being held at Treffgarne Hall. It has proved a great success in the last few years with visitors attracted from far and wide.

- Adding another valuable element to the village enthusiasm for horticulture is the Wolfscastle policy of not using peat-based composting products.

Penybont Chapel and Vestry, used by the community for many events, anything from meetings to pantomimes. June 2010

Members of Wolfscastle WI planting their border June 2010

Members of Penybont Sisterhood planting daffodil bulbs, November 2009

Volunteers and Sunday School members doing their bit for Britain in Bloom



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Peaceful environment



The plaque awarded to the best kept village in the district 1989



Penybont Chapel Open Air Nativity which attracts hundreds of spectators from near and far each December. This was the 2009 cast.



Wartime evacuees returned to Wolfscastle to plant commemorative trees on the village green to mark 175 years of the village school in July 2009

- Giving Wolfscastle its charming and serene character is the open valley of the Western Cleddau which runs into the heart of the village under the two-arched bridge and alongside the village green and its Millennium centrepiece.

- The area was purchased by the Community Council a few years ago and now, we are very proud of the Riverside Heritage and Amenity Car Park.

- This was developed with generous financial support, more than £34,000, from PLANED and Pembrokeshire County Council Regeneration Unit.

- To coincide with the official opening held in April 2009, a number of trees were donated and planted along the river bank, thus further improving the quality of the environment.

- Apart from winning the Best Kept Village Award in 1989 and Wales in Bloom Awards in 2003,05,07,08 and 09, the community is also very proud that its Co-ordinator of its Wales in Bloom entries, the Rev Geoffrey Eynon, was awarded the Norman Stewart Memorial Prize for promoting the community and the ideals of Wales in Bloom.

- The village green and the chapel area is also the scene of another notable village event, the Christmas Nativity re-enactment which draws not only hundreds of visitors on a December evening but also the cameras of Welsh language TV channel, S4C.

- Apart from the centre point of the village, there are many footpaths and bridleways in the area and these are used regularly by locals and visitors alike. A particular favourite is the gentle ascent past the site of the Motte and Bailey alongside the Anghof and up into Sealyham woods.

- Helping to preserve the village's attractive environment is the Working Group's Policy on litter and dog-fouling as well as graffiti. A zero tolerance approach has been adopted but rarely has to be enforced. Villagers setting good examples often do enough to ensure that problems seldom arise.



Riverside Amenity Area as it looks today. July 2010



Riverside Amenity Area before the work of resurfacing 2009



Jim Buttress, Chairman of Adjudicating Panel, and Clive Addison, Chairman of Wales in Bloom, planting the first tree in the school garden launch ceremony, March 2005

Caring for the village

- The areas of open space within the village are attractively maintained and generally litter-free. Buildings are looking neat and gardens well cared for.
- Every effort is made to encourage the few residents not already participating in the competition to start by merely placing one potted plant in a prominent position, adding to the overall colourful effect.
- The two rivers, the Cleddau and the Anghof and the surrounding woodland attract a variety of wildlife and the quieter hobbies of fishing and bird-watching.
- Residents are interested in sustainable and healthy living including the careful use of materials and recycling waste, eating fresh local produce and walking or cycling rather than automatically using the car.
- The recycling facilities in the village are very limited with the only Bottle Bank situated at the Country Hotel's car park. However, it is used regularly by residents who also travel to the amenity area approximately seven miles away.
- At the end of July 2008, every household became involved in the county council's Orange Bag Recycling Scheme. The local school pupils have been aware of the importance of recycling for many years and encourage their families to support their enthusiastic efforts to protect the planet for future generations.
- Each household has received a composting bin and the hope is that the whole community will make use of their waste food products and grass cuttings on their gardens. It is hoped that a site for community recycling can be identified in the near future.
- The managements and staff of the Wolfscastle Country Hotel and The Wolfe Inn are also very supportive of the village policy. Both hostelries have colourful arrays of flowers and shrubs and they are kept clean, tidy and colourful throughout the year.
- Wolfscastle Women's Institute continues to plant and maintain the flower border on the A40 trunk road adjacent to the railway bridge. They also assist the schoolchildren in the planting and growing of fruit and vegetables in the school garden.



Wolfscastle tries hard to follow the guidance in the Pembrokeshire recycling guide. 2008



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Volunteers Ted Rogers and Jeff Thorne begin work on one of their imaginative projects to enhance Wolfscastle's attractions. May 2010



Wolfscastle School receives its Gold Award in the county's sustainable school awards September 2009



The Willow Maze is one of the fascinating features of the school garden. It was put together in 2009 with funding help from the school's Parents & Friends. 2009

School's added value

- Wolfscastle School (Ysgol Casblaidd) has a proud history of serving the community and has had consistent success locally and nationally throughout the county. It is a focal point of village life and supporter of horticulture and a sustainable environment.
- Throughout 2009, the school celebrated its 175th anniversary. Many events were staged and a special celebration booklet produced. The school was one of the country's first state-funded British Schools, erected in 1834 at the expense of William Tucker Edwardes of Sealyham with the aid of a Parliamentary grant of 17 shillings and the provision of some materials by neighbouring farmers.
- The school has won Sustainable School Bronze and Silver Awards and completed its qualification for the Gold Award which was presented in September 2009.
- The school has successfully completed a number of years in the Pembrokeshire "Health Promoting Schools" Scheme.

- The school garden has been designed, planted and now maintained by the children and is a real jewel in the crown, admired by the community and by neighbouring schools.
- A major project this year has been the creation of a Willow Maze which was planted and woven by the pupils, staff, parents and friends of the school. The project was managed by Melissa Holloway and Cassandra Lishman of the People Enabling Co-operative.



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A Committee in action

- The current Britain in Bloom Committee is drawn from all parts of the village under the chairmanship of the Rev Geoffrey Eynon. The common inspiration is a love of the village and its environment and each member brings special interests and capabilities.
- The committee has strong antecedents following its successful participation in the Wales in Bloom competitions. In 2005, the Community Council in conjunction with the school hosted the launch of that year's Wales in Bloom competition.
- To mark this event, five trees were planted in and around the school by representatives of the Wales in Bloom Foundation as well as local dignitaries. The community was also proud to host the 2005 Wales in Bloom Awards Ceremony at the Allt-yr-Afon Country Hotel.
- Although funding of Wales in Bloom is not apparent, it is obvious from the displays and efforts put into the annual competition that large amounts of money are being spent by residents to enhance not only their own properties but the village as a whole.
- We are also very fortunate that Pembrokeshire County Council plant and maintain the flower troughs outside the school and riverside amenity area in summer and winter.
- The county council are also encouraged to ensure that the hedge banks, verges, village green and other council-owned property are maintained.
- The Riverside Amenity Area and other open spaces within the community are maintained voluntarily by a local resident.
- And finally . . . every encouragement to promote Wales in Bloom within the community and beyond is publicised in the local community through the distribution of flyers to every household, posters in local businesses, on notice boards, in the local press and The Wolfwhistle, the local newsletter.
- All elements of the Welsh media have responded well to the Wolfscastle story with frequent items in newspapers and in both languages on radio and TV.



Members of the Pembrokeshire County Council workforce delivering plants provided under the Tidy Towns Scheme. March 2010



Village volunteer Alwyn George is always ready and willing to keep the village areas neatly trimmed. June 2010



Pupils of the school pictured with the RHS banner in April 2010



Some of the village Britain in Bloom committee pictured at one of their meetings held in the school Head teacher's office. Chairman is the Rev Geoff Eynon, Secretary is Head teacher Mrs Wendy Raymond and Treasurer Mr Eric Williams. April 2010

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Village Picture Parade



Wolfscastle In Bloom 2010



Feeding the birds in the snow of January 2010.



Cherry blossom April 2010.



Planting Spring bulbs October 2009



Erecting bird boxes March 2010.



Visit by John Woods our mentor for the competition taken in November 2009.



Volunteer Bryn Harries clearing an entrance to the Motte & Bailey February 2010.

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Wolfscastle thanks the many organisations and individuals who have contributed to the Britain in Bloom.