Cyngor Cymuned PONTYCLUN Community Council

A short guide to Welsh house names

People often ask what's in a name? Does a particular type of name mean anything or relate to a particular time?

Well when it comes to the names of places and in particular houses across Wales then actually it often does.

Historically names have attached themselves to particular types of property and the name can give you a clue as to the age of the building itself. Obviously this is not always true especially as in modern times we choose names often by how nice they sound rather than for a meaning and can also choose older names to enhance our properties.

However, as a good generalisation the following are starting point

Medieval names
- **Hendre – Old settlement**
- **Hafod – Summer Settlement**
- **Neuadd – Hall**

Typically 16th Century
- **Ty Mawr – Great House** (Chimneys started being added then allowing houses to be multi-storey)
- **Plas – Palace**
- **Uchaf – Upper**

Typically 17th Century
- **Ty Newydd – New House** (Lots of new houses built in this period)
- **Ty Coch – Red House** (Two theories on colouration, to ward off evil spirits or secondly to show your wealth as poor people would use limewash (white) as a colour)
- **Ty Maen/ Maendy – stone house** (This is when stone houses started to be built commonly)

Typically 18th Century
- **Manor**
- **Hall**

Typcally 19th & early 20th Century
- **Cartref – home**
- **Bwthyn – cottage**
- **House names named after other parts of UK –** originally by people who migrated to Wales for work in the 19th Century mining/steel boom as a reminder of home.

Second half of 20th Century
- **Homes named after foreign climes**
- **Homes named after owners** (possibly combinations of two names)