

LAWRENNY



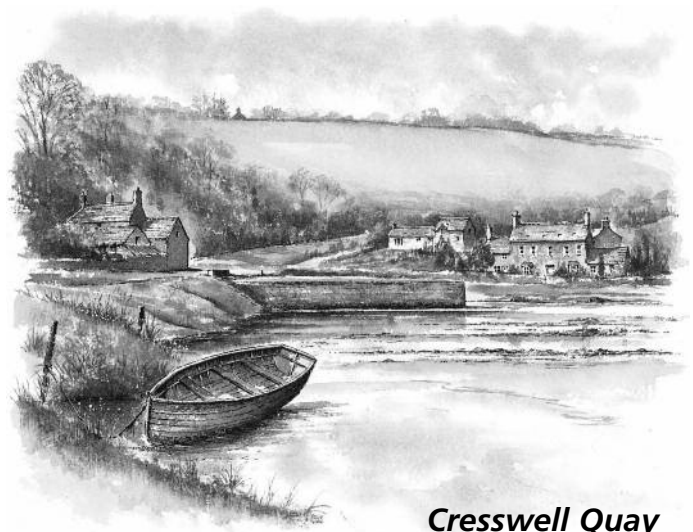
*Naws am Le
Sense of Place*

Origins of 'Lawrenny'

Evidence of early prehistoric inhabitants in the area includes cooking hearths and Iron Age enclosures. The name Lawrenny probably derives from the Welsh.

Cresswell

The name Cresswell is found in Lawrenny and its neighbouring parish of Jeffreyeston. Dr. B.G. Charles suggests that the original meaning was 'Cress Spring', but there were attempts to change it to 'Christwell', because of the chapel nearby (a property of the Augustinian Priory at Haverfordwest). There was also Cresswell Castle, a medieval secular building. Following the dissolution of the monasteries during the reign of Henry VIII, the chapel called 'Creswelle' was granted by the Crown to a member of the Barlow family, and the 'castle' was developed as the Barlow residence.



Cresswell Quay

Lawrenny Village

In Tudor days the village was a trading place with an estimated 12 households. A 1762 map of Lawrenny shows Lawrenny Ferry and buildings at the ferry were possibly Quay House, Ferry Cottage and a public house, with a boathouse and yard, on the site of the present Lawrenny Arms.

Buildings of particular interest include Rosehill, built within the castle's walled garden, and The Rectory (previously Quay House), which now stands derelict. There was a building on the site of Quay House in 1762; by 1861 the vicar resided there and in the 1880's it was referred to as The Rectory. The last known resident was the schoolmaster in the 1920's.

During the early 1850's Lawrenny had two public houses, Ferry Cottage and The Coach & Horses. The Coach & Horses continued as a public house until around the end of the 19th century when it was closed, along with New Inn in the village. It is believed that Colonel Frederick Lort-Phillips had all the public houses closed because his staff were drinking too much, also his wife did not approve of drinking! However, the locals forded the river at low tide to reach the public house at West Williamston.

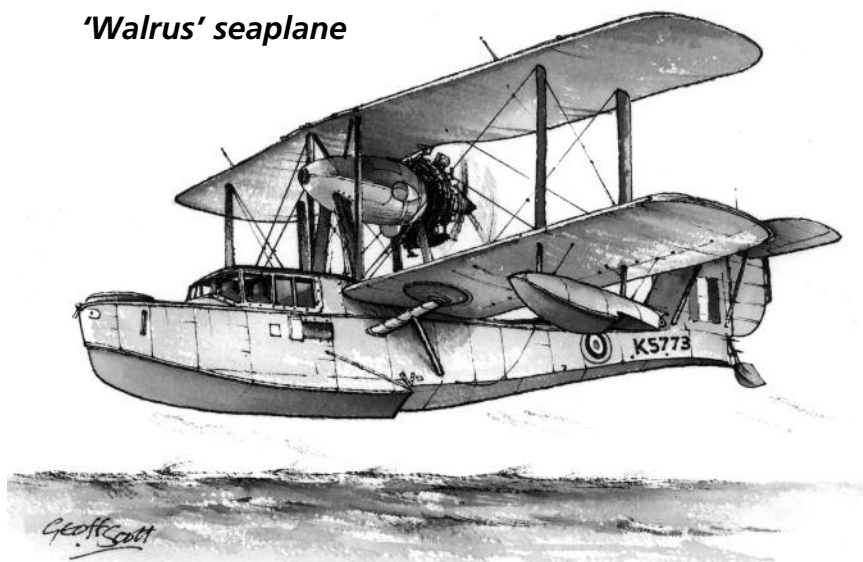
Sporting history

The Cricket Club was founded in 1894/95, but cricket ceased during the First World War. The first attempt at putting the team back together was in 1918 when they travelled to Coshaston and were all out for 13! Since then the club has flourished and now supports two teams. A football club has also been established. Neighbouring Coedcanlas was the birthplace of the famous jockey and author Dick Francis.

The Fleet Air Arm

A marine air base was established at Lawrenny Quay during the Second World War. This became the permanent home for 764 Squadron and its fleet of 'Walrus' seaplanes, with up to 15 planes sometimes being moored on the river between Lawrenny and Coedcanlas, and the officers billeted at Lawrenny Castle.

'Walrus' seaplane



Lawrenny Estate

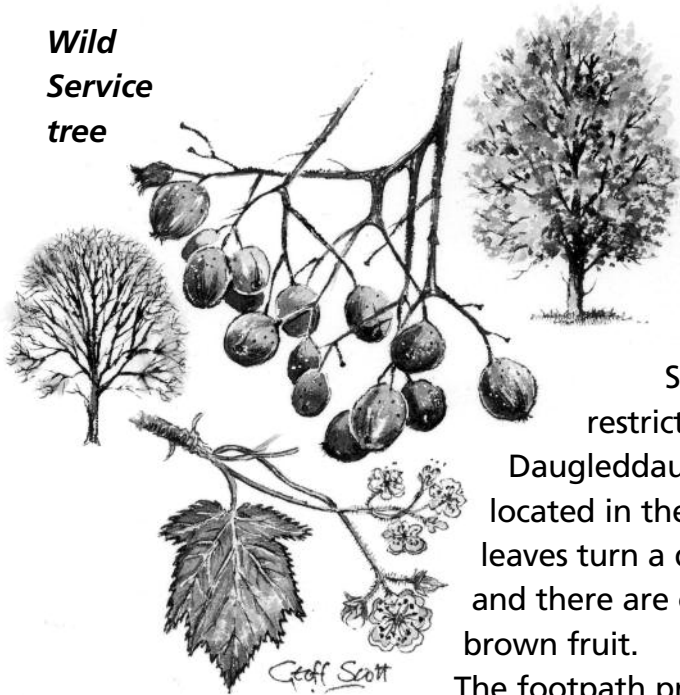
When William Barlow died in 1851 there were no male heirs and the estate passed to George Lort-Phillips (whose mother was a Barlow). Lort-Phillips built the new castle at the cost of £70,000 and later became High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire and Member of Parliament (1861). The estate was inherited in 1866 by George's nephew, John Frederick Lort-Phillips; he too became High Sheriff (1880) and a County Councillor (1889). When he died childless the estate passed to his great nephew, Patrick Shoubridge, who changed his name to Lort-Phillips.

Patrick Lort-Phillips served in the Grenadier Guards until 1948 and reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel being awarded two DSO's during the Second World War. In 1943 he returned to Lawrenny Castle with his family. Although magnificent to look at, the castle proved very difficult to live in, and consequently in 1952 it was demolished and a National Park picnic site and viewpoint now exist on the site.

Lawrenny Castle before its demolition



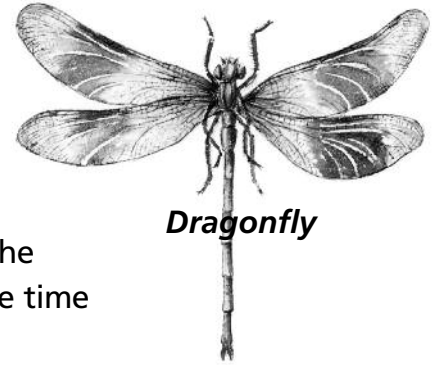
**Wild
Service
tree**



Wildlife and Walking

The footpath from Coedcanlas to Cresswell Quay passes through Lawrenny Wood, one of the best examples of ancient broad-leaved woodlands around the shores of the waterway, now managed by The National Trust. Oak is the dominant tree, but there is a wide range of other species, none more special than the Wild Service tree, which here in West Wales is largely restricted to the

Daugleddau Estuary. It is best located in the autumn when the leaves turn a deep burnished red, and there are clusters of leathery brown fruit.



Dragonfly

The footpath provides many views of the estuary, which is best for its birds in autumn and winter. Then is the time to see diving duck like Goldeneye and Red-Breasted Merganser.

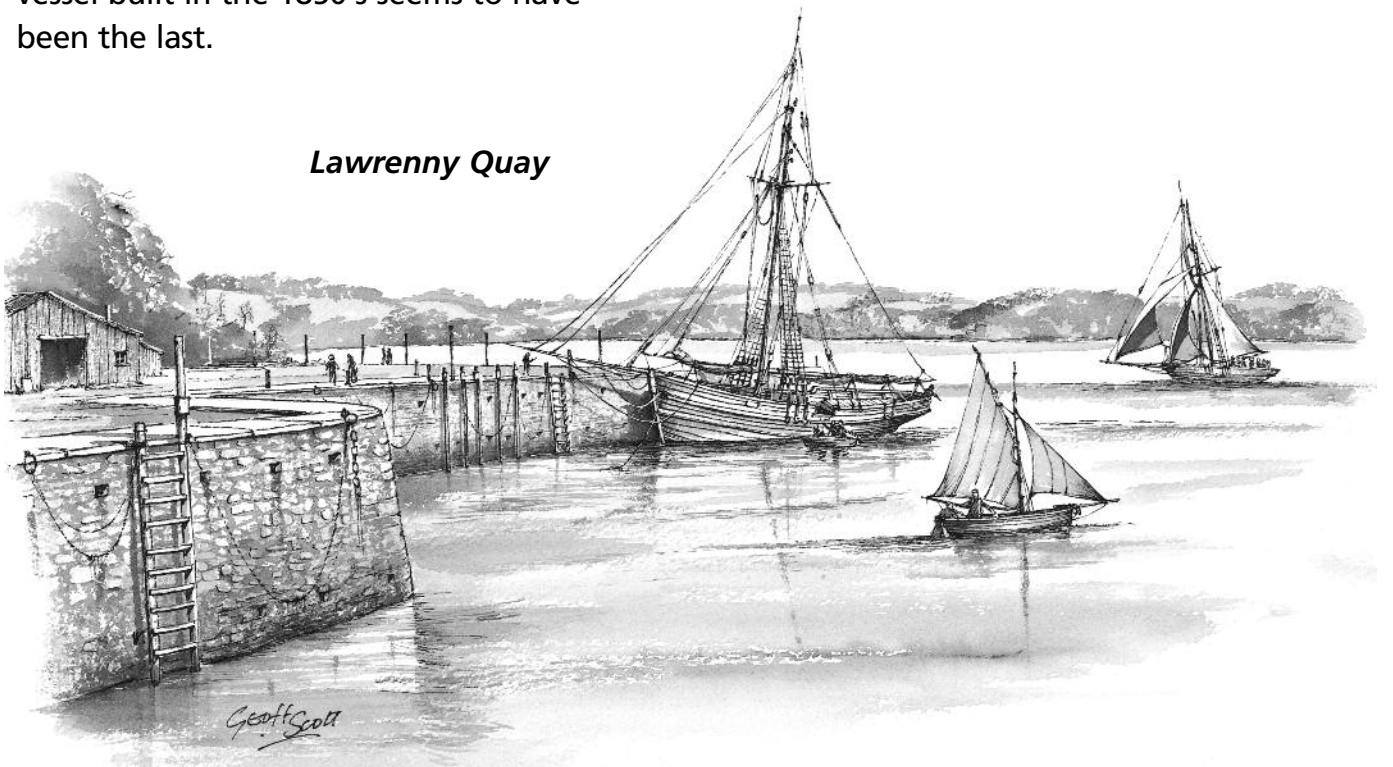
The mudflats of the Cresswell River can prove attractive to waders like Curlew, Redshank and Dunlin and Shelduck breed in this area, only being absent in late summer. Cormorants are also seen diving for flatfish or standing on certain prominent points along the river.

The Estuary

By Tudor days Lawrenny was a place of maritime trade and this tradition continued. Many cargoes, brought by barge from Cresswell Quay and Landshipping, were re-loaded at Lawrenny whose quays were situated at an advantageous point.

In the early decades of the 19th century sailing vessels were built at Lawrenny; presumably this was the continuation of an older trade. After the 1830's the industry declined, and a vessel built in the 1850's seems to have been the last.

Lawrenny Quay



There were ferries: Roose Ferry to Williamston Pill and Lawrenny Ferry to Cosheston. During the 19th century a horseferry operated from Lawrenny, regularly transporting the village's pack of foxhounds. Early in the 20th century the Davies family became well known as the ferry keepers. They lived at Ferry Cottage rent free and were expected to make a living from the fares they collected, while the Estate provided a boat in good repair. Tom Davies, known locally as 'Tom the Ferry', was a great local character and fond of a pint or two which often gave his passengers less than comfortable journeys! Unfortunately for Tom there was no public house in Lawrenny and he would walk, sometimes twice daily, to The Cresselly Arms at Cresswell Quay. The ferry continued to operate during the Second World War only ceasing in the 1960's.

Oysters were dredged from the estuary in Tudor days, those taken from Lawrenny being regarded as the 'fattest, whitest and sweetest'. They were marketed by sea to Bristol and elsewhere, and by land in South Wales and the border shires. In the early 19th century they were said to be 'found here in great abundance and conveyed principally to the London market in boats from Chatham and Rochester'. This trade more or less ended in the 1850's. Other maritime activities are reflected in the 1841 Census which shows 15 watermen, 12 mariners, 3 shipwrights, 6 apprentice shipwrights and a ferryman. 50 years later there were only 2 mariners, 1 shipwright and 3 ferrymen. Eventually the development of larger quays further down the river and the decline of the coal and limestone industries, meant the end of trading from Lawrenny.

Lawrenny School and Village Hall

Lawrenny was a Church School. It closed in 1965 and the schoolroom reverted back to the ownership of the Lort-Phillips family, who later donated it to the village.

The Lawrenny Foxhounds

Founded by George Lort-Phillips, they were known as the Pembrokeshire Foxhounds and hunted throughout the county. Later, under the ownership of John Lort-Phillips, they amalgamated with the Cresselly Pack and moved to their present home at Cresselly. Today they are known as the South Pembrokeshire Foxhounds. The kennels at Lawrenny Quay were known locally as 'The Doghouse' and eventually became the headquarters for Lawrenny Yacht Club and later The Lawrenny Arms.

St. Caradoc's Church

The Reredos Tapestry, which adorns the altar, was worked by Mrs Patrick Lort-Phillips and tells the story of St. Caradog.

This magnificent 12th century church with its four-storey tower giving marvellous views across the river to Carew Church, has many interesting features including a Norman font and two squints. The squints have been there since the Middle Ages to allow people to see the altar during mass.

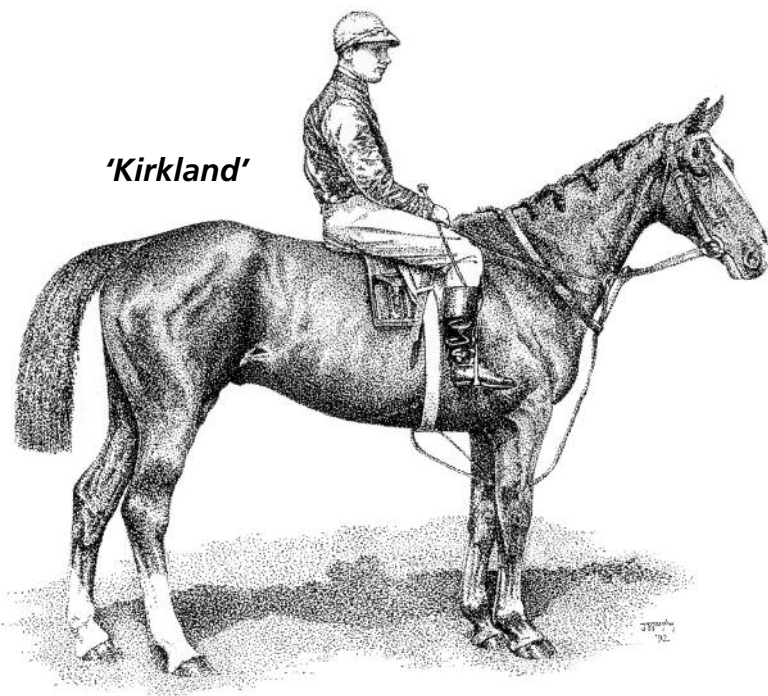
The south transept was built in the 14th or early 15th century, and housed the stone figure of a knight, identity unknown. The effigy was later moved and the tomb of Hugh Barlow now rests in its place. The chancel is where the gentry from Lawrenny Castle would sit; their entrance was linked to the castle by a private path. In 1901 Maude Lort-Phillips presented the church with a clock in memory of Queen Victoria, to whom she had been lady-in-waiting,

and in 1926 she presented a magnificent stained glass window in memory of her husband, Colonel Frederick Lort-Phillips.

Further information is available inside the church. In particular look for the plaque in the chancel in memory of Elizabeth Jones, which bears the unusual feature of a skull and crossbones. Two plaques in the porch, in memory of Elizabeth Jones and Elizabeth Griffiths, present a mystery as to these girls' identities and the reason for these unusual memorials.

Local Industry

Limestone was quarried, for building and agricultural use. The name Southern Pits and a spoil tip at Foxenhole Plantation, indicate a coal mining heritage. It seems also that a few people from Lawrenny worked at pits in Coedcanlas and Martletwy. The place-names Tanyard and Tanyard Mountain suggest another local industry, but the main occupation was, and still is, agriculture.



Horse Racing at Lawrenny Home Farm

John Frederick Lort-Phillips trained horses at Lawrenny Home Farm and brought great acclaim to the village when Kirkland won The Grand National in 1905. Other successful horses trained at Lawrenny included Corbeen, who won The Grand Sefton and The Welsh Grand National. There was also a successful stud and local residents can recall up to 100 brood mares stabled there early in the 20th century. The house known as The Diggings was where the stable lads and jockeys used to live.

St. Mary's Church

Between Lawrenny and Coedcanlas lie the remains of St. Mary's Church. The cottage adjacent, with its distinctive chimney, is said to have been built in the early 15th century for the churchwarden. The church itself was rebuilt in 1718 but was not listed in the 1851 Religious Census. The last service was held in the 1960's. The small burial ground adjoining the church was probably last used in 1861.

Country Code

Respect • Protect • Enjoy

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

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