

MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD  
MEANINGS OF SOME PLACE NAMES IN PORT TALBOT AND  
THE AFAN VALLEY

ABERAFAN

MOUTH/ESTUARY OF THE RIVER AFAN

ABERCREGAN

CONFLUENCE OF THE RIVER CREGAN –  
WHERE THE CREGAN RIVER JOINS THE AFAN

ABER GWYNFI

CONFLUENCE OF THE RIVER GWYNFI WHERE  
THE GWYNFI JOINS THE AFAN

AFAN ARGOED

PLACE OVERLOOKING THE WOODS OF AFAN –  
AR=ON OR OVER E.G. ARFOR IN GWYNEDD –  
OVERLOOKING THE SEA

AFON PELENA

RIVER OF PLENTY: PELENA = PLENA –  
PERHAPS IT HAD PLENTY OF FISH

## MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

BLAENAFAN

THE HEAD OR SOURCE OF THE RIVER AFAN:  
BLAEN = FRONT OR THE STEEP HILL WHERE  
RIVERS START

BRYN BRYDDAN

HILL OF THE BRITONS: BRYDDAN = BRYTHON  
ON OLD MAPS. THIS IS NOW A HOUSING  
ESTATE, BUT BOTH THE ROMANS AND THE  
NORMANS RECOGNISED IT AS BELONGING TO  
THE NATIVE PEOPLE, THE BRITONS, AND THE  
NAME STUCK.

CROESERW

NAMED AFTER CAE ERW'R GROES – FIELD  
ACRE OF THE CROSS: A MEDIEVAL CROSS  
ONCE STOOD IN THE FIELD

CWMAFAN

AFAN VALLEY

CWM CLAIS

VALLEY OF THE LITTLE RIVER. CLAIS IS ALSO  
THE WORD FOR SCAR OR WOUND IN WELSH  
CWRT ISAF

## MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

CWRT ISAF

LOWER COURT – THIS OLD HOUSE STOOD NEAR WHERE THE PORT TALBOT RAILWAY STATION IS NOW. IT WAS ONCE A COURT FOR MARGAM ABBEY, SET UP BY THE NORMANS

CYMMER AFAN

CYD-MER – THE TAKING OF TWO WATERS: WHERE TWO FAST-FLOWING RIVERS JOIN: THE RIVER CORRWG JOINS THE RIVER AFAN

FELINDRE

TOWN OF THE MILL: TREF= TOWN; MELIN=MILL

MYNYDD DINAS

HILL OF THE HILLFORT OR OLD SETTLEMENT; THE WELSH FOR HILLFORT IS BRYNDDINAS; OR SOME SAY 'DINAS' WAS ONCE 'DANAS' WHICH MEANS DEER. THERE IS A BRONZE AGE BURIAL MOUND ON MYNYDD DINAS, SO IT COULD HAVE HAD PEOPLE LIVING ON THE HILL IN PREHISTORIC TIMES.

MYNYDD PENHYDD

HILL OF THE DEER'S HEAD - OR THIS COULD BE PENUDD = MISTY OR OVERCAST

## MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

MYNYDD PENRHYS

HILL OF RHYS. NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHO THIS RHYS WAS; BUT THIS NAME HAS SOMETIMES BEEN CONNECTED WITH RHYS AP TEWDWR, KING OF NEHEUBARTH (WEST WALES), WHO WAS KILLED BY THE NORMANS AT BRECON IN 1093.

PONTRHYDYFEN

BRIDGE ON THE FORD OVER THE RIVER AFAN

PWLL Y CEFFYLAU

POOL OF THE HORSES: WHEN PEOPLE USED HORSES FOR WORK, THEY USED TO BRING THEIR HORSES HERE TO BE WASHED

PWLL GWENLLIAN

GWENLLIAN'S POOL: SEE THREE STORIES ABOUT MARRIAGE

# MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

Y BONT FAWR

THE BIG BRIDGE

YNYS AFAN

ISLAND IN THE AFAN: YNYS=ISLAND. THERE WAS ONCE AN ISLAND AT THIS POINT IN THE RIVER AFAN

**ON MYNYDD DINAS:**

CAE LLEWELYN

CAE= FIELD – SO LLEWELYN’S FIELD: WAS THIS A LOCAL PERSON CALLED LLEWELYN, PERHAPS GRIFFITHH LLEWELYN OF BAGLAN HALL? OR BECAUSE PRINCE LLEWELYN ONCE VISITED, AND PERHAPS FOUGHT INVADERS HERE?

GADLISH FACH AND GADLISH ISAF

TWO FIELDS ON MYNYDD DINAS: CAD, OR Y GAD MEANS BATTLE. LISH COULD BE FROM THE WORD LLYS MEANING COURT. FACH, OR BACH, MEANS SMALL; ISAF MEANS LOWER. WHY MIGHT TWO FIELDS ON A MOUNTAIN BE CALLED BATTLE-COURT?

# MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD

TYNYTWR

HOUSE OF THE TOWER; COULD THIS BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TOWER OF PLAS BAGLAN?

Y DISGWYLFA FAWR

THE BIG-LOOK-OUT PLACE: MAWR= BIG; FA=PLACE; DISGWYL=LOOK

With thanks to the estate of Alwyn B Jones: text adapted from Place Names of the Afan Valley; Goldleaf Publishing, Port Talbot 1988; & from Lords of Afan: Villains or Heroes? by Tim Rees; unpublished.