

Pentre-poeth v Treforgan

Here is a summary of all the information that I've been able to collect.

1. Acceptance of Pentre-poeth by Cardiff Council - and its use on almost ten signs in the area.
2. *The Gazetteer of Welsh Place Names* - and the support given to that book's recommendation of Pentre-poeth by the Welsh Language Board panel in 2006 and the Welsh Language Commissioner's panel in 2015
3. *Twixt Chain and Gorge* which refers to the area being called Pentre Poeth in 1841 (see page 64) along with mention of an 1804 account of a coal seam near the surface being on fire for many years . Pentre and Pentre Poeth were recorded on the parish birth register twelve times between 1845 and 1878. Then it became Morganstown, after Philip Morgan whose land was used for housing. If this is correct, then Pentre-Poeth predates Morganstown - and we have a possible explanation for the name.
4. Cardiffians website http://www.cardiffians.co.uk/suburbs/radyr_and_morganstown.shtml where the History of Radyr and Morganstown states:

*By the end of the 18th Century, the Plymouth Estate owned most of Radyr, which was little more than a few farms.
The Iron Works in Pentyrch had been operating since the 16th Century, but was now expanding rapidly. New housing was needed for the workers.
In the late 1830's the site of an ancient farm called Ty'n y Berllan was used for building 10 cottages, which were completed by 1841.
This village assumed the name of the farm initially; it was then called Pentre, Pentrepoeth, Treforgan and finally Morganstown.
The only explanation for the name Morganstown is that Ty'n y Berllan farm was owned by a Morgan Williams, who leased his land for the early development of the district.*
5. *Merthyr a Thaf* by Hywel Teifi Edwards (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cymru/adloniant/llyfrau/straeon/0111101cymoedd.shtml>) The review on this page, ends with '...and I thank him for reminding us that Pentre-poeth is the Welsh name for Morganstoown - not the discredited Treforgan as someone saw fit to translate it in our bilingual age' (translated from Welsh).
6. A showing of hands at an Eisteddfod fund-raising event on 15 September, which many Welsh speaking residents of Morganstown attended. Two votes for Treforgan, 21 for Pentre-poeth

7. A 24 hour Welsh-language twitter poll held on 22 October had 75 votes, with a 71% / 29% split in favour of Pentre-poeth: <https://twitter.com/cymraegcaerdydd/status/922126436881895424>

8. Dylan Foster Evans (Head of the School of Welsh at Cardiff University and specialist on history of the Welsh language in Cardiff):

- Pentre-poeth recorded only a little earlier than Treforgan. But the form of the name Pentre-poeth suggests that it could be significantly earlier (by comparison with other places in Wales called Pentre-poeth, with *poeth* in the meaning of 'burnt')
- Suggestion that the name Treforgan may be especially associated with Bethel chapel (especially as Morgan Williams himself was buried there in 1852)
- An article written in 1874 suggests that some people were unhappy with the continued use of the name Pentre-poeth, and that Treforgan was more suitable. Perhaps because of a perception (probably incorrect) that Pentre-poeth meant 'hot village'. This gain suggests that Pentre-poeth was the older name.
- The name of Ffordd Treforgan ensures that Treforgan won't be lost for future generations. But the equivalent is not true for Pentre-poeth
- Pentre-poeth encapsulates a part of the area's heritage in a way that is not true of Treforgan (which means exactly the same as Morgastown)
- In a study of the native Welsh dialect of the lower Taff valley, Ceinwen Thomas (1911–2008) of Nantgarw records *Pentre-poeth* as the local Welsh name of Morganstown, and makes no reference to the use of *Treforgan*
- In a Welsh-language memoir about his up-bringing in Radyr (alongside his brother Rhodri), Professor Prys Morgan (b. 1937) refers to Morganstown as *Pentre-poeth*.
- A discussion of the names with references has been provided on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morganstown>

9. *The Place Names of Wales* has an entry for "Morganstown, Pentre-Poeth". They list the following: Pentre 1845, Pentre-poeth 1850, Treforgan 1857. The authors also claim that "Pentre-poeth was the dominant form among Welsh speakers up to the late 19th century - and still retains considerable currency" (see points 6 and 7, above).

10. The use of Pentre-poeth in local Welsh language community newspapers, such as <http://www.dinesydd.com/blw2014/Din2014m05r387.pdf>.

11. Allan Cook, a local historian, states as follows:

The name changes constantly, some reference to Pentre, then Pentre Poeth, then Treforgan and finally Morganstown.

But adds that: *Historically no name is more correct than any other.*

12. This, by the Radyr and Morganstown Local History Society (<https://www.radyr.org.uk/clubs/743-2/history/>):

Morganstown. *This developed as a village for industrial workers in the early 19th century. Built on a farm called Ty'n y Berllan this was the first name for the village. It was then called Pentre and Pentrepoeth before becoming Treforgan and finally Morganstown. The only explanation for the name Morganstown is that Ty'n y Berllan farm was owned by a Morgan Williams.*

13. UK and Ireland genealogy website refers to Pentrepoeth as the original name <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/GLA/WelshPlaceNames>