

## Rhos-on-Sea

Despite Parry origins appearing to be in Denbigh, a number lived in the North Wales coastal town of Rhos and its surrounds of Colwyn Bay. Some “emigration” to Merseyside and Cheshire took place and portions of the family are still there as well.

Even in modern times, Rhos has never been a large town with just over 7500 inhabitants in 2011. It's beginnings date back to the Roman times as finds of coins prove but it was not until the 16<sup>th</sup> century that frequent mentions of the land are found.

A charter of Llywelyn Fawr (Llywelyn the Great) dated 1230 records that all rights in the land of “Ros Veneych” were bought by his chief adviser, Ednyfed Fychan. Ednyfed had to pay an annual rent of two shillings (10p in modern currency) for lamps in the parish church at Easter. Ednyfed was a significant figure in Welsh history. He also owned a manor house at the foot of Bryn Euryn, the hill south of Rhos.

In 1575, a charter by the Earl of Leicester granted Rhos Fynach, together with its lands and fishing rights, to a Captain Morgan for the sum of sixpence. (Not the famous pirate).



Rhos on Sea Pier was originally the Douglas, Isle of Man Pier and was built in 1869. It was taken down, sold to Rhos on Sea and rebuilt in 1896. A far longer pier than Colwyn Bay it serviced pleasure boats between Liverpool, Rhyl, and Conwy. During the second world war it was decided that a portion be removed from the centre of the structure to prevent any attempts of landing by enemy troops. Shortly after the end of the war it was demolished completely as it was deemed unsafe. A sad end to another great Victorian pier.

Rhos has two notable points of interest. Capel Sant Trillo is believed to be the smallest church in the United Kingdom with room for just 6 people. Named after the 6<sup>th</sup> century saint, Saint Trillo, the chapel is built on the site of an ancient spring. This provided the saint with his supply of drinking water and would have been an important factor for him picking this site. The well can still be seen in

front of the altar. For centuries this well provided water for baptisms all over the extensive medieval parish of Llandrillo. In times gone by it also had a long tradition of being a healing well. Communion services are still held in the chapel.



Close by the chapel, at low tide you can see the remains of the foundations of the medieval **Rhos Fynach Fishing Weir**, one of many once found round the Welsh coastline. There used to be two fishing weirs at Rhos. They consisted of a large V-shaped enclosure made out of wicker fencing. At high tide the fish swam into the structure, and were then trapped in a pool as the tide went out. Weirs such as these were so effective that by Victorian times they were a danger to fishing stocks, particularly salmon. Therefore in 1861 Parliament passed a law ordering their destruction. As a result the other weir in Rhos was demolished. However the new law granted an exemption where the owner could prove his weir had existed before the time of Magna Carta (1215 AD). The owner of this Rhos Fynach weir was able to prove its medieval origins to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, and so it escaped destruction – further evidence of the antiquity of the settlement at Rhos.

