

Y GLYDERAU

The ridge line of Y Glyderau is not really breached by any easy passes, most of the the passes are very high. Bwlch y Brecan lies on the Priest's Path a path taken by priests to get to Nant Peris; the original Llanberis from Abergwyngregyn. The Miner's Track over Bwlch Tryfan and past Glyder Fach allowed men from Ogwen to get to the copper mines of Cwm Glaslyn and Llydaw on Yr Wyddfa.

Bwlch Blaen Cwm Idwal SH 642587

The name references its location at the blaen 'head, end' of Cwm Idwal. One old name in this area was Trigyfylchau, although it could also apply to the cliff of Clogwyn y Geifr. Edward Lhwyd in his book *The Welsh Counties* 1694 mentions a botanical excursion '.... near or one of the Tregvylchau or Treiglffylchau on the north-western side of the Glyder.'; the Gluder Fawr and Gluder Fach were considered one mountain at the time. In his book *A tour through a Part of North Wales* 1798 J Evans places the name firmly between Llyn Cwn and Llyn Idwal. If it is the name for the a pass or passes, then tri 'three' + cyf- 'a strengthening prefix' + bylchau 'passes'. Looking up the cwm from Llyn Idwal, it would have looked as if there were three ways up to the top; Twll Du in the centre a sloping line up to the left and another heading up right.

Bwlch Caseg Fraith SH 670584

Caseg 'mare' + fraith 'mottled, piebald'. There were quite a few 'beliefs' regarding the worth or ability of a horse just by looking at their colour; for example, it was not considered good to buy a horse with four white feet.

Bwlch Goleuni SH 697582

One wonders if the term goleuni 'light, bright, illumination' refers to the common occurrence of the brightness seen through the pass under the clouds. Bwlch Oleuni 1790 Penrhyn Manuscripts, Thomas Pennant also mentions the pass as Bwlch Oleuni in his *Tours of Wales*.

Bwlch Melynwyn SH 608611

Melynwyn is the term for a creamy white colour, straw coloured or even sallow; one could link it to the colour of tussocky mountain grasses in the winter. Bulchmellonen 1269 Litterie Wallie.

Bwlch Tryfan SH 661589

The col that separates Tryfan from Gluder Fach, it appears as a name on the OS 6" 1888-1915 series of maps. It is difficult to know how old this name is.

Bwlch y Brecan SH 625616

Breacan 'a coarse woollen cloth', linked to the Irish *breac* 'tartan, plaid'; however, in his *Archeologia Britannica* 1707 Edward Lhwyd wrote: 'Bryccan, A blanket. [Brec in the language of the upland denotes Brith 'mottled']'. There was a track over this pass named after the priest(s) who would have to cross it, coming from Abergwyngregyn, to hold services in Nant Peris (the original Llanberis); one can still see the remnants of the Priest's Path in the landscape today.

Bwlch y Cywion SH 627602

The cywion 'chicks' can refer to the young of any animal, but foals in particular. Bwlch-y-cywion 1838 OS.

Bwlch y Ddwy Glyder SH 650581

This is the col between the dwy 'two' + cludair, cluder 'heap, pile'. This is a relatively modern name, as at least up to the early 18th Century, as the Gluder Fach and Gluder Fawr were thought of as one mountain. On the OS 6" 1840-80 the name of the stream leading South is Bwlch Dwyglydion, this name is still there on the 6" 1888-1915 maps; however, on the same map, the name Bwlch y Ddwy-

Glyder, is seen leading down the ridge of what is now Y Gribin.

Bwlch y Gwryd/Pen y Gwryd SH 660557

The likelihood is that the name is taken from the river Nant y Gwryd. See Appendix 1.

Bwlch y Gwyddyl SH 654553

Gwyddyl is a variant form of the word gwyddel 'Irishman'; though, one must consider options such as a corruption of gwyddwal 'thicket, wild thorny place'; or, gwyddel 'wilderness' being the origin of the name; or even a legendary battle.

Bwlch y Marchlyn SH 619615

Named after the lake Marchlyn; merchlyn was one old corrupted form for the name of the bwlch: with merch 'girl, lass' + llyn 'lake'.

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