

NEWTOWN and district – The place not the people

The following selection of Richard Christmas's 1950s photographs has been chosen to show what the area was like at that time, people things are dealt with in the next file. A number of these pictures are panoramic views of various parts of the town taken from positions on the hills to the south of the town, some of the others were taken around Ysgafell. These seem to have been taken at different dates.



Nantoer houses, west of Newtown, now all built up.



Then back to the western end, shows the High School being built in the middle of the old army camp.

Looking at a eastern part of Newtown this shows the horse repository and further to the left the old gas work. Below is a later somewhat similar view The Garthowen Estate has largely been built and on the right the construction of what will become the High School has started on the site of the old army camp, behind pond of old



brickworks.



This view across the more easterly part of the town focuses on what today we would call the Lion Works then occupied by Phillips Cycles. Further to the right the cemetery and recreation ground.



Another view of the old County Pavilion showing the hills to the north of Newtown..



A view of the centre of the town, St Davids Church and Pryce Jones in the foreground.



A view to the east of the town centre showing where Barnfields now stands.



View from Ysgafell across Hollybank to the Dolfor Hills. Note the snow still awaiting thaw. A common winter view for many after heavy winter rain is to look up the high hills to see a covering of snow.



Frank Williams garage at Pentrowed viewed from Ysgafell field. Donald Hughes recalled a small shop in the terrace owned by the Weaver family. The terrace was called Hopyard with a pub called the Bricklayers Arms dating pre Great War.



View on the original main road heading down into Staylitttle. The view in 2019 would look at the River Clywedog merging into the Clywedog reservoir with the new B Road (1967) between Llanidloes and Llanbrynmair.



View west of Newtown and Llanllwchaearn, The railway shows Vaynor overbridge, Vaynor cattle creep, Dulas river bridge, then a few yards to Ysgafell bridge over the Severn with a now removed bolt on footbridge for access to Scafell Halt and then curves to go under Ysgafell farm bridge. Penstrowed Quarry is on upper left with clear line of the gravity tramway incline to the stone crusher/riddles at the base and then the curve of the siding can be seen. A 2019 view will show the Vaynor Housing Estate in place of the Vaynor County Council Smalholdings. Just out of view left corner will now show Maesyrrhandir Housing Estate, Mochdre Industrial Estate, the College of Further Education and the roundabout for the new bypass.



More of this kind of flooding. Flooding between Newtown and Caersws was a more frequent occurrence then than now. On two occasions in 1960 and 1964 the flooding spread into the town with serious consequences resulting in the building of the flood defences.





View from Ysgafell to the Pentre, Aberhafesb, The then brand new council houses called MinHafren shine out on centre left. One house was allocated to the Forestry Commission to replant Bryn y pentre wood (top right). The house above centre right is The 'Rectory'. This was one of the Montgomeryshire buildings designed by Thomas Penson in the 1820s.



View across the double track and the Severn within the trees to the newly replanted Ffridd Woods that is now mature in 2019. The hidden A road is now just a few yards from the west entrance to the new bypass.

Broad Street, with so few vehicles parked and so little motor traffic you appreciate how wide it really is. Below another view taken at a different date.



A view of High Street, equally wide. Below Newtown Hall, originally the home of a different Pryce Jones family, not the mail order man. Became the headquarters of the Newtown and Llanllwchairn Urban District Council and the Newtown and Llanidloes Rural District Council before being condemned, demolished and replaced.





The other Pryce Jones's premises near the station.



The site of what is today the Robert Owen memorial garden.



Richard purchased all development chemicals and film from Hodgson at the Cross.



Another view of Broad Street, this time highlighting what was then the Bear Hotel.



High Street looking towards the Town Clock.



The stand at Latham Park in the 1950s. Below Dolerw off the Milford Road, now known as Plas Dolerw. This was the home of the family of Pryce Jones (mail order) until the second World War when it became the officers mess for the army camp in Garthowen. After the War the Pryce Jones's sold it to the Roman Catholic Church for use as a school. Later it was bought for use as a voluntary organisations centre.



Below an enlargement showing the old County Pavilion and Latham Park beyond.

