

BORDER HOLIDAYS AND HORSES – Adams Anchorage and New Cwm Farm History sheet for December 2006



The picture above was taken from Anchor, looking towards Wales, with New Cwm Farm in the centre of the picture. It illustrates the beautiful location of the farm, and its remote location near the head of the valley down which the Rhuddwr Brook flows.

We thought you would be interested in what we have done since we moved to New Cwm Farm in November 1995. Since then, we have made many improvements to the buildings and land.

New Cwm Farm

The most northerly occupied house in Radnorshire, Wales, New Cwm Farm is one mile west of Anchor, on the edge of both common land and forestry. The original stone house dates back to 1810 and has been extended several times over the years by previous owners.

Our first ten years

This is what the house looked like in September 1994.



In the summer of 1996, part of the pasture below the house was fenced off and the garden was laid out, following a design by Mavis Brewer, and implemented by Neville and Linda Griffiths. The pergola was built, now covered with honeysuckle and roses.



Many of the plants along the pergola and in the shrubbery were propagated from cuttings collected from friends and family.

In 1999, the conservatory was added to the front entrance to the main house (see below), which blurs the line between indoors and outdoors. This is really appreciated by the family matriarch, now 92 years old, who can enjoy sunny winter days while staying snug and warm indoors.



The conversion of the storeroom into a toilet and shower room for the use of people working in the stable yard and visitors, was completed in 2002.

Sometime in the past, the fireplace on the ground floor of the original cottage had been walled off by a stone wall and inefficient stove. All this was removed exposing the lovely inglenook fireplace, complete with bread oven.

Land Improvement

Nancy Adams manages the fifteen acres surrounding the New Cwm Farm house, and is carefully restoring the land using conservation methods. Hedges have been replanted with native shrubs such as hazel, beech and hawthorn.

A shelterbelt was planted on the western boundary, with 2,000 trees such as sessile oak, alder, holly, cherry, hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan and scotch pine. Wildflowers have been reintroduced, including snowdrops, daffodils and snake's head fritillary. There is a stone seat from which to contemplate the view down the valley.

Our big project at New Cwm Farm

Our big story is the planning, construction, decorating and furnishing of two self-catering holiday accommodations at New Cwm Farm.

We had toyed with the idea for years, and sketched out ideas, which allowed us to obtain planning permission. Detailed working drawings were completed, and we selected the general contractor for the construction.

North side of the old cottage in 1996, below.



Work started in October 2005 and luckily the weather through the winter did not delay work.

The extension to the old cottage created kitchen and shower room on each floor. This was linked to the original cottage by opening two windows in the thick stonewall. The floor in the old cottage was lowered by about a metre before the new floor was laid over the damp-proofing and insulation. A new slate roof was installed on the complete building, and the exterior was re-plastered and repainted.

See how different the north side of cottage looked when the major construction and landscaping was completed in August 2006.



Both cottages have earned four-star rating from Visit Wales (formerly the Welsh Tourist Board). Oak cottage on the ground floor is accessible to disabled guests, while Sycamore cottage is upstairs.



From the south facing terrace is a view across the valley to the ancient earthworks of Castell Bryn Amlwg, and beautiful views over pasture land and forestry.



This picture of snow covered Castell Bryn Amlwg across the valley from New Cwm Farm was taken at Christmas 2005. So far this winter we have had very little snow.

Other activities

Richard and Nancy Adams run stables at both Anchorage and at New Cwm Farm, where they breed, board, break and train horses.

Richard also has sheep, with working sheepdogs. Lambs will be arriving in mid-March, which means a lot of work around the clock

Home cured sheepskin rugs are available for sale. Nancy also keeps ducks and chickens, with free-range eggs for sale.