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**Halsgrove Sales Contacts:**

Sue Rhodes-Thompson – DDI 01823 653770 [suet@halsgrove.com](mailto:suet@halsgrove.com)

Roger Start – DDI 01823 653773 [rogers@halsgrove.com](mailto:rogers@halsgrove.com)

Marie Lewis – DDI 01823 653771 [mariel@halsgrove.com](mailto:mariel@halsgrove.com)

Andrew Stirling – Mobile 07971 572468 [andrews@halsgrove.com](mailto:andrews@halsgrove.com)

## PORTRAIT OF GLAMORGAN

*Nick Jenkins*

Up until local Government re-organisation in 1974, Wales had thirteen counties and arguably the most important of these was Glamorgan. Not only did Glamorgan boast two of the largest cities in the Principality (Cardiff and Swansea) but it was also the administrative centre of this ancient country.

Glamorgan (not Glamorganshire) was originally an early medieval kingdom, with names and boundaries that varied over time. However, conformity arrived in the shape of Robert Fitzhamon, around 1090, who invaded and consolidated Glamorgan, dividing the spoils, so it is said, between his twelve followers. Glamorgan at this time stretched roughly from Neath in the west to Cardiff in the east, and from Merthyr Tydfil in the north to the Bristol Channel in the south. Gower was added into the Glamorgan boundary later.

In 1974 Glamorgan was split into three new counties; Mid Glamorgan, West Glamorgan and South Glamorgan. This has all changed again, the county name all but disappearing completely, apart from the name of Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council. However, the old Glamorgan still lives on in the hearts and minds of many people and for the purposes of this book can be fairly conveniently divided into the northern industrial valleys, the agriculturally rich Vale of Glamorgan and the Gower peninsula, the first area of the United Kingdom to be nominated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The sheer variety of landscape that makes up Glamorgan can be fully appreciated in the 140 colour pictures by renowned photographer Nick Jenkins, that go to capture the very essence of this culturally rich region. The old county is explored from the northern uplands and deep valleys right down to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, and from Gower in the west to Cardiff in the east, to present a fully rounded portrait of this fascinating landscape.



Nick Jenkins is an award-winning landscape photographer who, although born in Wales, travels well beyond its boundaries to seek out beautiful countryside. Nick is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society and the Welsh Photographic Association. He is also a member of the Outdoor Writers' Guild, and his work has appeared in many magazines, including *Welsh Country*, *Welsh Amateur Photographer*, *Country Walking*, *Outdoor Photography* and *The Dalesman*. Previous books for Halsgrove include *Moods of Mid Wales*, *Moods of Kilvert Country* (with Kevin Thomas), and *Moods of Cardigan Bay*.



Halsgrove House, Ryelands Industrial Estate,  
Bagley Road, Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ

Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796

[www.halsgrove.com](http://www.halsgrove.com) e-mail: [sales@halsgrove.com](mailto:sales@halsgrove.com)



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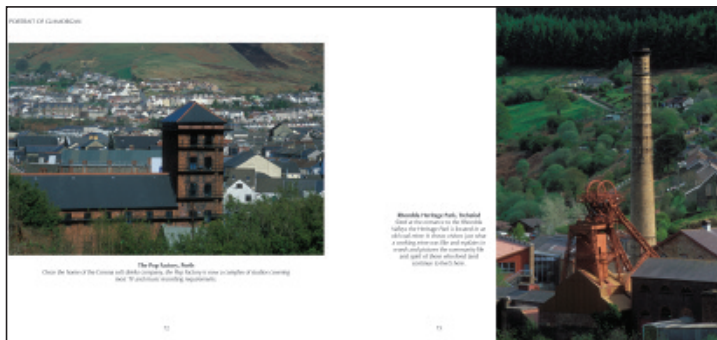
Rainbow over Pontypridd



King Arthur's Stone, Cefn Bryn



Goytre Valley



Example of a double page spread.