

PORTRAIT OF CARMARTHENSHIRE

Nick Jenkins

Carmarthenshire – the largest of the original old 13 counties of Wales and certainly one of the most fascinating. Here is a county steeped in Welshness, with, it seems, every other town and village starting with 'llan' and becoming less and less pronounceable as we travel into its deepest recesses. The correct Welsh name for the county is Sir Gar although it is also sometimes known as Sir Caerfyrddin.

The present county of Carmarthenshire has a population around 70% of whom speak or have a sound working knowledge of the Welsh language. The landscape is mainly rural, with a stunning coastline and high rugged hills. The variety of scenery is immense, with every corner of this delightful and secret county revealing yet more hidden and unexpected treasures. Travel with us to the upper reaches of the Tywi Valley, to explore the remoteness of the Cambrian Mountains and watch the outline of the distinctive red kite as it soars overhead, or the remote beauty of the glacial lake of Llyn y Fan Fach in the western reaches of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Join us on the beach at Pendine Sands, home of so many world land speed attempts, to discover the fascinating caves in the limestone cliffs. Explore Laugharne, the tiny coastal town, lived in by Dylan Thomas and claimed to possibly be the inspiration for the village of 'Llareggub' from 'Under Milk Wood'.

Portrait of Carmarthenshire will take you both to and around this pearl of a county, clothed in such a variety of mantles as to take your breath away.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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 Kilyert Country* (with Kevin Thomas), *Moods of Cardigan Bay* and *Portrait of Glamorgan*.

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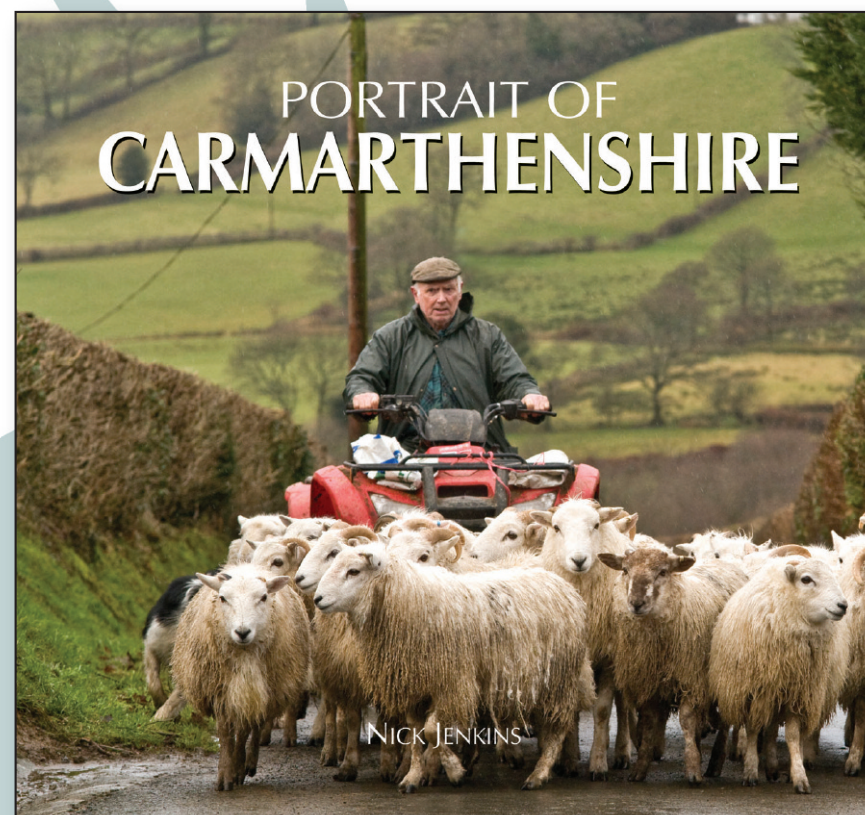
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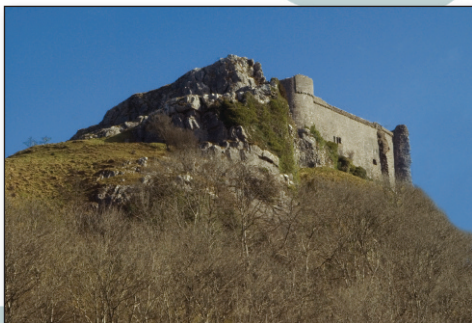
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Pendine Beach Between Showers

Example of a double-page spread.



Below:
Autumn Woodland, Dinas Rock
There is an exciting path right around Dinas Rock, through oak woods and, in sections, over large and rough boulders. The scenery is stunning. The site is managed by the RSPB and is very popular with birdwatchers.

Left:
Durtlie Valley in Autumn
Near the confluence of the Durtlie and Tywi rivers, this remote location never fails to give a superb autumn display, especially from the myriad of silver birches growing hereabouts.



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