

PORTRAIT OF MONMOUTHSHIRE

Nick Jenkins

If any county can lay claim to being thoroughly confused then surely that county must be Monmouthshire. Being a border county with England it has belonged to both countries on more than one occasion.

The present county of Monmouthshire is firmly in Wales, the River Wye forming both the county and country boundary for part of its length. Monmouthshire, like so many other counties, underwent boundary changes in the last Local Government reorganisations so that it is now very much a slimmed down version of what once was a much larger and topographically more varied county. The Monmouthshire of today is primarily rich agricultural land combined with a section of the uplands of the Black Mountains (the eastern section of the Brecon Beacons National Park), whereas the Monmouthshire of pre reorganisation days also included the city of Newport as well as the ribbon development of the industrial eastern coal mining valley communities, such as the Ebbw and Sirhowy Valleys.

In over 140 full-colour images, acclaimed photographer Nick Jenkins explores the 'old' county of Monmouthshire and, in so doing, shows, once again, the incredible diversity of the region: from the valleys dominated by King Coal and the iron and steel industries, the lush farmlands around Monmouth and Abergavenny, to the low lying marshlands to the east and west of Newport.



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

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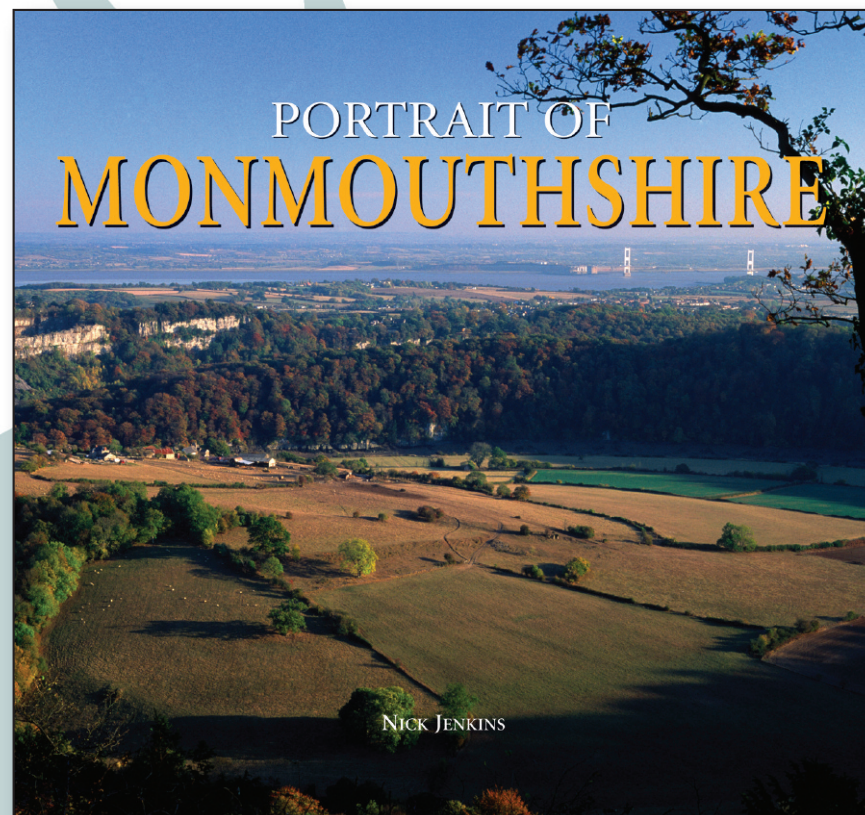
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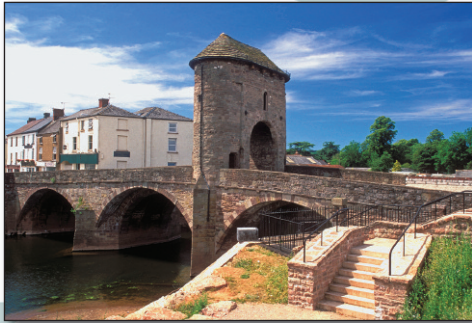
Bigsweir Bridge near Llandogo



Garn Ponds, Blaenavon



Llanthony Valley



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Llanfoist Wharf



Tintern Abbey and Old Railway Bridge



Brockweir Bridge
This road bridge forms the border crossing between England and Wales.
The shot was taken from the path of the Wye Valley Walk.

Near Brockweir in Autumn
The autumn colours were really vibrant when I walked this section of the Wye Valley Walk at Brockweir.



Example of a double-page spread.