

Inspection Report – Porth Gwenynen, Llanover Park, Llanover Community,  
Monmouthshire.

Inspected 15 September 2025

Recommendation- Amend description for Listed Building ref. [87170](#)



-Northeast corner.

**Name of Property** – Porth Gwenynen, Llanover Park

**Grade II**

**Location-** Northeast of walled kitchen garden (Listed Building 87213), set by the southern wall of Llanover Park on Hanover Road, to left of gate to former carriage drive to Llanover Hall.

**History** Picturesque mid to late Victorian estate lodge, appears on 1899 Ordnance Survey Map. A later east-facing gateway to Llanover Park, which was formerly centred on the lost Llanover Hall, built in similar style in 1837 and demolished in 1936. Porth Gwenynen is of friendlier character than the west-facing formal main entrance at Porth Mawr of circa 1835, which takes the form of a medieval fortified gatehouse with screaming gargyle.

The lodge's name is a reference to Gwenynen Gwent ('the bee of Gwent'), the bardic name of Augusta Hall, Lady Llanover (1802-1896) which she wrote under from the 1830s onwards, also used by her daughter Augusta Charlotte Elizabeth Herbert (1824-1912, 'Gwenynen Gwent yr ail'). Both were renowned patrons of the Welsh language, contrary to the prevailing views of their social class in the mid nineteenth century. Through influence on schools and places of worship, preference for Welsh speaking servants and sponsorship of Eisteddfodau the Llanover estate preserved an island of the Welsh language in Torfaen where it was largely overwhelmed by migration pressures associated with industrialisation. The bees of Gwent also had a lasting

influence on Welsh costume and music and were instrumental in the preservation of Welsh literature.

**Exterior** Picturesque Tudor-style lodge with strong sympathy with the earlier Tyr Ardd (Listed Building 87169). Built of pennant sandstone semi-ashlar, artificial stone tile double pitch roofs likely replaced by mid-twentieth century, plain boxed eaves. L-shaped plan, one and a half storey with service lean-to to south. West facing front has projecting gabled porch with open vertical side lights and front lancet arch with inscription over reading 'PORTH GWENYNYN' (sic). 2-light window to left, small step back to side of monopitch lean-to. Lean-to across most of south side elevation is shallower pitched with larger concrete tiles than main roof and stonework is also coarser on this elevation away from the drive. Open gable to upper storey on left with single light to staircase. Inset side door and single light kitchen window to left. Rear elevation 2-light window to kitchen on right, projecting window box with mono-pitch roof over, single light in open gable above. North side parallel to drive has projecting window box with mono-pitch roof on left, single light in open gable above, return to right with 3-light window. Paired red brick chimneys in apex of rear ridge with lead flashings below.

**Interior** Front and rear room to each floor with small kitchen and bathroom in side lean-to reached from rear room. Simple thin timber stair rail. Exposed timber purlins in both bedrooms. Timber lancet front door with iron strapping and large lock mechanism. Thin timber interior doors and integral cupboards with straps. Fireplaces replaced.

**Reason for designation** Included for its special interest as a C19 lodge with good picturesque character, group value with other Llanover Park buildings and close historical association with Augusta Hall, an important champion of the Welsh language in the nineteenth century.

## References

Dictionary of Welsh Biography, Augusta Hall: [HALL, AUGUSTA, Lady Llanover \('Gwenynen Gwent'\) \(1802-1896\), patron of Welsh culture and inventor of the Welsh national costume | Dictionary of Welsh Biography](#) (Accessed 22 October 2025)

John E. Southall, *Wales And Her Language Considered From A Historical, Educational And Social Standpoint With Remarks On Modern Welsh Literature And A Linguistic Map Of The Country*, Newport, 1892, p.345-346(Available online: [https://www.kimkat.org/amryw/1\\_testunau/sion\\_prys\\_120\\_southall\\_wales-and-her-language\\_1892\\_09\\_0158e.htm](https://www.kimkat.org/amryw/1_testunau/sion_prys_120_southall_wales-and-her-language_1892_09_0158e.htm) Accessed 22 October 2025)

Coflein, Llanover House <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/45084> (accessed 21 October 2025)

John Davies, *A History of Wales*, Penguin, 1994, p.387



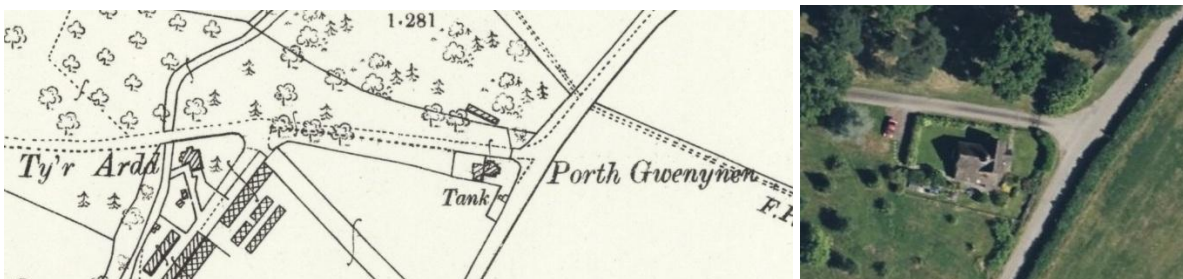
## Additional Information



-The demolished Llanover Hall, built 1837 with the same materials and Tudor aesthetic that informs its satellite lodges.



**Left-** The surviving stables. **Right-** Tyr Ardd has many similarities to Porth Gwenynen, but also has decorative fascias and a more elaborate chimney modelled on those of Llanover Hall.



**Left-** 1901 OS Map is the earliest available showing Porth Gwenynen. The outline shape suggests that the side lean-to may have been widened in the twentieth century. **Right-** Recent satellite image.

Apparently an administrative casualty of the rush to finish the national survey for its December 2005 deadline, it was recently brought to our attention that this has had an erroneous duplicate description with the nearby Tyr Ardd gardener's house

(Grade II, Cadw ref. [87169](#)) for the last 20 years. Mike Weatherhead has now rectified several other errors in the descriptions of listed buildings in and around Llanover Park, helped by the reliable information in the Parks and Gardens registration (Grade II\*, Cadw ref. [PGW\(Gt\)41\(MON\)](#) ).

Augusta Hall used the pseudonym ‘Gwenynen Gwent’ for a winning entry in the Gwent and Dyfed Eisteddfod held in Cardiff in 1834, and [newspaper reports](#) suggest her identity was a surprise when revealed so this is likely the first time she used it. This was long before the construction of Porth Gwenynen which is absent from the 1840 Tithe Map. The correct spelling for the Welsh singular noun for a bee is ‘gwenynen’ (two ‘e’-s), and this was the predominant spelling in the 19th century also. It is spelt correctly on the Water Trough opposite Porth Pen-y-parc (Grade II, Cadw ref. [87217](#)) where the main inscription reads: ‘Yfwch bawb a chroesaw ag nag anhofiwch Wenynen Gwent’ (‘All drink and be welcome and do not forget the Bee of Gwent’). This inscription is in an angular font resembling Iolo Morgannwg’s [Coelbren y Beirdd](#) script and it is accompanied by an Awen symbol, another Morgannwg invention. The misspelled inscription at Porth Gwenynen is more conventionally carved.



**Left-** Front door inscription. **Right-** The water trough with semi-legible poetic Welsh inscriptions on the west side of the A4042.

Llanover Park is a significant location in the history of the Welsh language as almost the sole centre of patronage for Cymraeg in the mid nineteenth century, when hostility to the language on behalf of civil society and [the state](#) was at its most strident. Considering this it would be desirable to undertake a wider review of designations in this community when resources (human or AI) are available.

- Chris Thomas, 21 October 2025