Old Colwyn
Heritage Walk

Whilst Old Colwyn, with its strong local community, began its rapid growth in the late 19th century its origins go back much further. The “vill” or township of “Coloyne” is mentioned in a survey commanded by Edward III in 1334. However 1685 records show a total of only 20 men, women and children in “Colwun”, and as late as 1772 the recorded population was a mere 29. The first Census, in 1801, showed the whole of Colwyn and Eirias to be only 150, comprising 12 farms and 23 cottages. Also recorded in the Census were a mill and two inns, Colwyn Fawr (Beach Rd) and Morfa Inn on the beach (Station Rd). The population grew rapidly in the last 150 years and in 2011 stood at 8,113.

“Old” Colwyn acquired its designation in the 19th century to differentiate it from the new resort being developed to its west, termed for a brief while “New” Colwyn (now Colwyn Bay).

Communication routes across North Wales have played a key role in the village’s development. Seventeenth century documents refer to a road passing through the area (Old Highway). The first Mold to Conwy mail coach passed through Colwyn in 1785, and Abergale Road, turnpiked in 1812, subsequently became an important mail coach road. Following the construction of Colwyn Bridge in 1815 a village began to appear, along with a series of coaching inns. However mail coaches ceased in 1848 with the opening of the Chester to Bangor railway. A station built in (Old) Colwyn closed in 1953. More recently the A55 Expressway has been constructed through the north of the village removing the growing congestion on Abergale Road.

The name Colwyn is thought to have originated from a compound of the Welsh “can”, an enclosed hollow, and “llwyn” a grove or bushes.

NB. The text in this booklet is believed to be correct at the time of printing in 2016.
Leave the car park and turn right and walk along Abergelé Road until you reach the Ebenezer Welsh Congregational Church on your right.

1. Ebenezer Welsh Congregational Church

Opening in 1815, Ebenezer was the first church or chapel built in Old Colwyn and was on land purchased for 100 guineas (£105). The cause had started in 1804 in a cottage called Bryn y Gwynt, at the corner of Cefn Rd and Abergelé Rd, with what was said to be the first sermon preached in Colwyn since the 12th century. The first day school in Old Colwyn was held in the church, led by the Rev David Davies, who had come in 1828. Alterations took place in 1848 and the chapel was extended to seat 300 in 1860 when a new frontage was also built to face the main road. The chapel was completely renovated in 1881 when the current frontage was constructed. Land at the rear was purchased to erect a new chapel but this never happened and it was subsequently sold for flats. In the late 1990s the old gravestones were removed and stacked in the burial ground.

The building is of simple design with rendered elevations and a slate roof, with an uncommon slate wing and roll ridge. As with several local chapels, the front elevation is of symmetrical design, rendered with what appears to be painted stone to the door and window openings. The front porch, with it pair of panelled doors and flanking arched windows, dominates the front elevation and provides some interest. The name “EBENEZER” and date “MDCCCLX” are marked by a plaque on the gable. The side elevation facing Albert Road is somewhat plain consisting of four bays with sash windows and smooth rendered banding. A small yard separates the chapel from a schoolroom of similar appearance and materials – four bays to the side, a plain symmetrical front with tall arched windows flanking a central doorway.

Retrace your steps along Abergelé Road and on your right you will see St Catherine’s Church.

2. St Catherine’s Church

Built in 1837, the church’s construction was largely due to Sir Richard Butler Clough of Min y Don Hall. It was built as a chapel of ease to Llandrillo yn Rhos parish church, where he was a church warden, and its dedication to St Catherine of Alexandria was in honour of his wife, Catherine. Funded by voluntary contributions it seated 250, 150 of which were for the parish’s poor. With the creation of the parish of Colwyn in 1844 it became the parish church. The church has been restored twice, in 1871 and 1891, and the internal fittings probably largely date from then. The Vicarage, built in 1871 opposite the church, became the Llys Madoc flats for the elderly in the 1980s.

During the Second World War the ringing of the church bell was forbidden as it would have signalled enemy invasion. The war memorial was erected in 1923.

A Listed Building, the church is of local limestone with a slate roof. The square tower, one of its principal features, has simple corner finials with double battlements in between and plain arched louvered openings below. A plain string course circles the tower, the Abergele Road elevation of which accommodates the clock installed in 1890 in memory of Rev J D Jones, vicar from 1866-87. This elevation is fairly plain with a porch at the western end, where the date 1837 is discreetly inscribed above the arched entrance porch. The gabled elevation facing Church Walks is notable for the large, stained glass, four light window in memory of Sir Richard. A limestone wall runs along the Abergelé Road boundary enclosing the grave yard. Holes in the wall’s copings indicate the earlier presence of railings. Fortunately the high ornamental gates have survived.

Sadly the building has now ceased to be used as a place of worship.

Adjacent to the Church on Abergelé Road is the Churchmen’s Club (see 29. National School)

Continue back along Abergelé Road to the Plough Public House.
3. The Plough Inn

The Plough was originally built in 1829, along with 10 cottages and a smithy, which together were the only freehold premises in the area at the time. The cottages were demolished in 1932 to permit road widening. The inn served the “The Hark Forward” coach which ran from Holyhead to Chester at the rate of 8 miles per hour. In 1866 the refusal of Nonconformist children to submit to the requirement for scholars to attend the St Catherine’s church on Sundays led to the establishment of a school in the Plough’s hay loft. This continued until the British School opened in 1867. In 1920/30s the yard behind the Plough was used for storing Ffyfes bananas.

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The two storey, slate roofed building is built on a limestone plinth, with red brick on the front elevation to the ground floor and rendered above with mock Tudor black and white detailing to the upper parts of the gable. To the left hand side is a bay window with a red tiled roof. The main entrance, to the right of the bay, consists of a solid six panelled door with a carved stone lintol and a three light fanlight, notable for its stained glass. The window cills, lintols, mullions and steps are of sandstone. Note the brick relieving arch above the three windows to the right of the main entrance. The attractive stained glass adds much to the character and appearance of the Plough Inn.

4. United Reformed Church

In 1898 English Congregationalists began meeting in Ebenezer chapel schoolroom, and in 1925 built this church. The wood from several cleared oak trees on the site was given to the poor for firewood. There was a croquet lawn in the grounds until the new schoolroom premises were built in 1936. In the 1930s the Sunday School produced a Christmas pantomime for the church and villagers. The church became known as the United Reformed Church in 1972. More recently the schoolroom has been converted for community use.

The church is built of squared local limestone with contrasting red sandstone dressings and a red tiled roof. The spire at the western end is of particular interest with its tall narrow finial, tile cladding at its base and louvred vents. The symmetrical front gable has a prominent and pleasing red sandstone porch with a pair of boarded doors and narrow side windows. Above the porch is an arched gable. The side elevation comprises four bays, each with three light windows, the bays divided by buttresses. The subtle joinery details on the barge boards are noteworthy.

During the 1930s the church was enlarged and complemented with an extension designed by the eminent local architect, Sidney Colwyn Foulkes. This addition comprises a room with a large mullioned and transomed bow window with a semi-circular roof.

A limestone boundary wall, with large flat coping stones, runs along the road frontage. Stone pillars, with sandstone copings and a pair of ornamental iron gates lead to the porch.

Turn left into Berthes Road where you will see the United Reformed Church on your right.

Continue along Berthes Road to Min y Don Park.
5. Min y Don Hall/Park

Min y Don Hall was situated next to the Park. Formerly Colwyn Farm, this was built in the 1700s and occupied by the Clough family, descendants of Sir Richard Clough who married Catherine Tudor, a ward of Elizabeth I.

Enhanced over the years, the completed mansion had over 30 rooms. In the 1820s Sir Richard Butler Clough imported coal to a yard near the shore and made Beach Rd into a trade route by narrowing the river and building a retaining wall. Vehicles using the road were charged sixpence (2.5p). A mill in Beach Rd ground the abundant local gorse for horse feed. Charles Frost, a later owner, built a mission hall at Bryn y Maen and his widow, Eleanor, financed the building of the church there in 1897. In 1899 she also laid the foundation stone at St John the Baptist in Old Colwyn and gave the chancel’s fittings. The Hall was a preparatory school from the early 1900s until 1937 when, along with part of the estate, it was sold to a local builder for housing development. It was demolished in 1938.

In 1926 the Council was offered a field next to Min y Don Hall for a public park if the community raised £1,000 towards the cost. The park opened in 1928.

6. Jehovah’s Witness Kingdom Hall

In 1985 about 1,000 Jehovah’s Witness volunteers from all over the country came to build the Kingdom Hall and two days later the twelfth quick build project undertaken in the UK by the Jehovah’s Witness church was completed. Work started at 7am on a Saturday and by tea time the following day the brick building was finished, carpeted and with curtains hung.

8. Coach House to Tan y Coed Mansion

The former coach house and the tower (11) in Tan-y-Coed Gardens were built in the early 1890s for Charles Woodall.

The left hand part of the Coach House is two storeys, built in limestone with sandstone window cills, lintols, mullions and parts of the gables. The slate roof has roll top socketed red ridge tiles. Noteworthy are the stepped (crow step) gables to the front and side gables, each one capped with a ball finial. The date 1893 is displayed on the northernmost front gable.

In the 1920s the Council offered the Mansion to the local Welsh international footballer, Johnny Neal, on condition that he opened a tea garden. His wife ran a dancing academy in the Mansion for over 40 years and her pupils gave public dancing displays. The Neals left in the late 1960s and the house was demolished in the mid 1970s.

During the Second World War American troops were billeted in Tan y Coed and drilled on the lawn and practised digging trenches in Min y Don Park.

7. Tan y Coed Gardens

The gardens were originally landscaped as part of the grounds of the former Tan y Coed Mansion, which was built on the western side of Beach Road by a Manchester shipping magnate, Sir Charles Woodall. Note the sculptural carvings and the information boards close to the path about the butterfly garden and woodland.

Continue down Beach Road to Tan y Coed Gardens on your right. Cross the road, enter the Gardens and walk along the path parallel to the road.

Leave the Gardens at the end of the roadside path and re-enter Beach Road. On your right is the former Coach House to Tan y Coed Mansion.
9. Viaduct

The Chester-Holyhead Railway, engineered by Robert Stephenson (1803-59), was one of the mid-19th century’s most important railway undertakings and was particularly significant for the tubular bridges over the River Conwy and the Menai Strait (Britannia Bridge).

The six arched viaduct, marking the eastern end of the Promenade, was built in 1847 of finely dressed limestone to the parapets, with bold projecting string courses which form a shadow line to both sides. The underside of the arches, behind the stone voussoirs, are of brick.

10. St Augustinian’s Priory/ Sacred Heart

The Catholic cause began locally in a small convent in Cliff Rd in 1933 run by the nuns of the Order of St Augustine. The nuns allowed its wider use as a chapel of ease for St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Colwyn Bay. During the War it became cramped due to the many Catholic evacuees and the Ministry of Food staff. The Sisters acquired another house next to the Convent and named it St Monica’s.

The present chapel, built in 1956, is constructed in a very red brick with a central doorway with three arched windows above. The adjacent building, dated 1907 on the rainwater hopper, is three storeys, of red brick with sandstone mullioned and transomed windows and with a slate roof. Circular bay windows – one on the front and one on the side – and a two storey bay on the projecting part add some interest.

11. The Tower

This neo-gothic folly tower was built in 1894 in the grounds of the Tan y Coed mansion as a retreat for its owner, Charles Woodall, where he could smoke - a pleasure which he was forbidden in the mansion. He was often seen dressed in his velvet smoking jacket and cap climbing the hill to his retreat.

The building is single storey, with a taller stair tower and is contemporary with the former coach house (8). The door and window openings have plain stone lintols.

During the Second World War the folly was used as a look-out post for soldiers who were constantly scanning the coastline for enemy craft. It was closed after the war, but in 1966 it was repaired and refurbished and was used for several years by the local branch of Toc H. By the 1990s it was in a dangerous state and was threatened by demolition. However in 1993 the Clwyd Historic Buildings Preservation Trust bought this Listed Building for £1 and, with the benefit of grants, restored it as a single bedroom house. It was put up for auction in 1994 and was purchased by the Landmark Trust as a holiday let. It is now a private dwelling.
12. St John’s Church House

St. John’s Church House, to the side of St. John’s Church, is another fine example of the work of the eminent local architect, Sidney Colwyn Foulkes. This community centre, built in 1936 and now a Listed Building, was funded by public subscription and replaced the YMCA building in Beach Rd. The first Literary National Eisteddfod was held here in 1941 as a wartime substitute for the normal festival, and was visited by David Lloyd George, the former Prime Minister. It is now a children’s activity play centre.

The original and interesting symmetrical front elevation is curved, with a hipped tiled roof and two finely detailed fluted ornamental chimneys. Of particular note is the finely executed brickwork, in Flemish bond, with the cable moulded brick string course. Two foundation stones commemorate the building, to the left recording the names of the vicar and churchwardens and to the right the name of the person laying the stone on All Saints Day 1935. The hall lies behind the elegant front, with clerestory windows at high level. Note how the mass of the high fly tower at the rear has been terminated by a band of rusticated brickwork which forms a frieze.

The boundary to Cliff Road is marked by a low brick wall, with moulded coping bricks and with tile creasing below.

13. St John’s Church

St. John’s Church, built in the perpendicular style at a cost of £12,300, is a fine example of the work of the eminent Chester architect, John Douglas, (1830-1911), who also designed St. Paul’s church in Colwyn Bay. Together with the entrance gateway, it is a Listed Building.

Built as a daughter church to St Catherine’s, the foundation stone was laid on October 18th 1899 at the base of the gabled eastern end by Miss Eleanor Frost of Min y Don Hall. The church was consecrated on August 13th 1903.

Local limestone has been used, complimented by red Cheshire (Runcorn) sandstone for the dressings for the door, window openings and window tracery. The green slate roof is laid to diminishing courses with red ridge tiles. Note the finely moulded arched doorway entrance and the large boot scrapers. The roof and nave are of red deal and the flooring of wooden blocks. Various windows, furniture and fittings were donated, such as the 3 stained glass windows dedicated to the Woodall family of Tan y Coed Mansion.

The west tower was originally to have an octagonal upper stage with a low spire. However the design was changed to today’s substantial buttressed tower with a projecting turret. A plaque on the western side, now partly obscured by shrubs, records the date of its construction (1912) in Roman numerals “MCMXII”. On the south-west corner a small door leads to the tower stairs.

The main entrance off Station Road is marked by red sandstone pillars and an iron arch with the lettering “ST JOHNS” with decorative gates below. A wide path, bordered by rope twist edging tiles, leads to the front porch. Have a look at the butterfly garden in the churchyard.
14. Former Supreme Cinema
The village’s second cinema, the “Supreme”, funded by public subscription in 1922, had 600 tip-up seats and two luxurious boxes. The Saturday morning matinee was very popular with the village children. It closed in the 1950s due to advent of television and was later used by the “Industrial Engraving Company”. In 1973 it became a Kwik Save store, and is now the Coop.

15. Calfaria Welsh Baptist Chapel
The Welsh Baptist cause began locally in 1861 and its first chapel, Calfaria, was built in 1862 at the top of Church Walks (now two houses, nos. 15 & 16). The present building, costing £1,860, was built in 1893. It is enclosed by a front wall of granite with limestone cock and hen coping, and limestone side walls. Limestone pillars and a pair of gates on Princess Road lead to the bold front porch. A badly eroding sandstone plaque is inscribed “CALFARIA” with some other indistinct lettering.

The symmetrical front elevation is of squared granite blocks, laid to course, with limestone quoins, door and window openings. The main entrance doors are of substantial vertical boards with strap hinges. The porch is flanked by arched windows with leaded stained glass set under a large semi-circular arch. Four crisply lettered foundation stones on each side of the porch are dated June 8th 1893.

The prominent large circular window high in the centre of the gable has sandstone tracery and square panes of coloured glass under a hood mould. The construction date is prominently displayed in limestone: 18 AD 93.

The plainer side limestone elevations consist of four bays with semi-circular arched window openings and timber sash windows with narrow edging panes. The slate roof is finished with red ridge tiles. Pleasingly much of the original character of the exterior of this chapel has survived.

16. English Baptist Church
The local English Baptist cause began in 1885 at 5, Twnan Terrace (now part of Pen y Bryn (25)). In 1891 a corrugated iron roofed building from Penmaenmawr, costing £60, was erected on the site of what subsequently became M & K’s lock up garage and was known as the “Iron” or “Tin” chapel. The present chapel, costing £2,500, opened in 1906.

This fine church, one of the area’s few very red religious buildings, has red bricks with narrow joints, a red roof and terracotta.

The church consists of four bays, separated by buttresses, each with Mullioned and transomed windows, with stained glass, under arched openings with hood moulds. A rear schoolroom has a roof facing gable within which are two simple Mullioned and transomed windows separated by a buttress. The two are linked by a Princess Road side entrance.

The main entrance, marked by iron gates, leads to a pair of boarded doors with decorative strap hinges, with panels above of narrow strips of coloured glass.

The brick and terracotta tower and spire form a pleasing feature, linking the front and side elevations. Note the four spirelets and the stained glass window lighting the porch.

The Abergele Road gable has two stained glass windows with leaded lights. The smooth faced red brick and terracotta complement one another – note the terracotta gable coping, hood moulds, buttress tops, window cills, lintols and the window tracery.

Foundation stones on the front elevation were laid on June 14th 1905.

The boundary wall is of limestone to the plinth and coping, with polygonal granite in between. The church has survived remarkably unchanged externally, with the pleasing green paint perhaps being the original colour.

Turn right and go towards the junction of Princess Road and Abergele Road to reach the English Baptist Church on your left.

Retrace your steps along Princess Road and turn right along Cadwgan Road to its junction with Wynn Avenue where you will see the English Methodist Church.
17. English Methodist Church

The English Methodists initially worshipped in the Welsh Wesleyan Church, Bethesda, on Sundays after its morning service, in the evening above Alex Orme’s toyshop and in the week in Shiloh Chapel in Greenfield Rd. They took over the Baptist’s “Iron” chapel in 1905. The present church opened in 1909, seating 250 and was extended in 1933 to accommodate a large Sunday School. When the Second World War broke out evacuees from Liverpool were temporarily accommodated in the schoolroom.

The Arts and Crafts style building, designed by Porter & Elcock of Colwyn Bay and built by J. Tucker & Sons, cost £1,500 and the land £367 10s. The church is unusually low and built of squared limestone with a Westmoreland slate roof, laid to diminishing courses with plain red ridge tiles. Sandstone has been chosen for the door and window openings, copings and kneelers. The roof line is dominated by a large square cupola and louvred vents, complete with a weathervane. A special feature of the roof is that it is built without nails. Note the round window on the gable facing Wynn Avenue divided into five smaller circular windows. Three small very narrow windows, two of which are at ground level, provide interest to this elevation. Note also the herringbone patterned band of stones on the front elevation lining up with the centre of the circular window.

To the right of the main gate is a Tulip tree, believed to be the only one in the district.

Walk up Wynn Avenue towards Abergele Road, reaching Wynn Gardens on your left.

18. Wynn Gardens

Donated to the Council by the Williams-Wynn family the gardens were renovated in 2004 and contain butterfly and sensory gardens together with sculptures designed to reflect local history and landscape.

19. Hebron Presbyterian Chapel

The first Presbyterian chapel, Hebron, opened in 1861 on what is now the path from Rosehill to Llanelian Rd, with the houses built alongside it named Hebron Terrace. The chapel has since been converted into a house. The present chapel, built in 1904, is of squared limestone with sandstone dressings to the doorways, quoins, window openings, string course and the pediment. The slate roof is finished in decorative red ridge tiles and vents.

The symmetrical front elevation consists of a large gable, with two identical arched doorways located at the sides, with vertically boarded doors with elaborate strap hinges. Above each doorway is a circular window of unusual and effective design, glazed in square coloured glass. The central part of the front elevation includes a three light window complete with stained glass, with a round window above, also with square panes of coloured glass. The date AD 1903 is finely carved in sandstone below the circular window and, below the date, the name “HEBRON” with “TREFNYDDION” on the left hand side and “CALFINAIDD” to the right. The side elevations and the cross wing at the back continue the design theme of the front elevation.

Much of the exterior of this fine chapel has remained remarkably unaltered. Worth noting are the unusual design of the round windows (consisting of a circular window surrounded by six semi-circular openings, all within a large circle), and the pleasing off-white used on the windows which complements the masonry. Of particular interest is the quoin or corner stone detailing consisting of long and short work, reminiscent of Saxon churches, but refined in a rather pleasing and subtle way.

Walk down the hill until you reach the Welsh Methodist Church on your left.
20. Bethesda Welsh Methodist Church

This prominent and largely unaltered church has walls of local carboniferous limestone and a slate roof. Unusually the door and window openings, quoins, parapet and the like, are not sandstone as in similar local buildings. The front elevation is particularly finely proportioned with semi-circular arches with columns and capitals above the doors and windows. Note the gable parapet supported by stepped corbelling which creates bold shadows. The side elevations are appreciably plainer with sash glazing with pleasing narrow marginal panes.

The small gardens are contained by walls of local stone, capped with sandstone and low railings. The stone boundary wall to Wellington Road has a “cock and hen” coping. Note the attractive traditional workers cottages in the adjacent Wellington Road.

21. Nos. 399-425 (odd)
Abergele Road/1, Princess Road

This late 19th century Grade II Listed terrace of commercial properties has residential accommodation above. Whilst they were constructed in stages the unified design, stepping up the slope, is especially noticeable. The walls are of local limestone, with sandstone dressings to the window cills and lintols and also the string course which lines up with the first floor window cills. The slate roof has red ridge tiles and red brick chimneys.

The stepped “crow-step” gables are distinctive, taller above the wider windows than above the narrower windows.

The iron and glass verandahs once extended the full length of the terrace. The decorative ironwork on the corner of Abergele Road and Princess Road is especially ornate. Its design and detail can be best appreciated when standing underneath the verandah.

22. Former Midland Bank

This fine single storey stone building was built in 1912 for the London City and Midland Bank Ltd to a design by Liverpool architects, Woodfall and Eccles. The building is of sandstone, with a rusticated plinth, ashlar masonry above, and a slate roof with red ridge tiles behind a balustraded parapet.

The splayed corner main entrance is of particular note with its pediment, semi-circular arched entrance, pair of solid doors and carving. A semi-circular fanlight above the doors is deeply recessed in the arch. The elevations fronting Abergele Road and Cefn Road are to the same design and detailing. The Grade II Listed building is especially notable for the quality of the masonry and the carving.

The former bank, now a pharmacy, is an fine example of an early 20th century bank building.

23. Site of “The Picture House”

Old Colwyn’s first cinema, “The Picture House” was on the site of the building which became M & K’s body shop. Adults sat on benches and children on a mat at the front. It was destroyed by fire about 1914.

24. The Ship Inn

This large three storey building was built around 1830 and was initially called “Ship Bach”. Princess Victoria stopped here in 1832 when returning from the Marquis of Anglesey’s home of Plas Newydd in order to water the horses. To commemorate the visit Princess Road was so named.

Continue down Abergele Road. When you reach Cadwgan Avenue look at the terrace of commercial properties across the road.

Opposite the former pharmacy is a fine example of an early 20th century bank building.

Next door is the Ship Inn.
25. Pen y Bryn
Immediately on the right is the old Bethesda Chapel built in 1832 and enlarged in 1860. It was subsequently converted into a house and a warehouse, which was used to store flour from the mill in Llawr Pentre during the First World War. On your left is Twynan Terrace which was built in the 1900s, the first house of which was the Police Station for many years. Also in Pen y Bryn was the former smithy, dating back to 1864.

26. Fairy Glen
The eastern path along Fairy Glen follows the Afon Colwyn which, with the Fairy Glen (then known as Y Nant), was mentioned by the traveller Edward Llwyd in 1699. He described the area as having seven wells and being completely wooded. There are, in fact, remaining indicators in Fairy Glen which identify it as an ancient woodland. The path is also shown on the 1839 Llysfaen Tithe Map and it is now part of the North Wales Coastal Path. In 1903 Fairy Glen was gifted to the Council by the Cefn Meriadog Estate and became popular with both locals and tourists. It was restored in 1998 and is now a designated Local Nature Reserve. It is dominated by oak and sycamore and has conditions ideal for fern growth.

27. Llawr Pentre
Originally called Glan y Afon, Llawr Pentre was the birthplace of Old Colwyn and was the site of the ford. Located here were a flour mill, farm, slaughter house, wheelwrights, saddlery, and a butcher’s shop. Dating back to before the 1750s, the mill was driven by water from the mill pond in Pen y Bryn, which in turn was fed from a sluice in Ddol Ddu. The mill closed in the 1920s and 21 of the cottages were condemned in 1940. The tenants were rehoused in the new housing estate in Mochdre. Nos 1-3 Llawr Pentre at the northern end of the terrace are early 19th century houses that have been Listed Grade II.

28. The Sun and the Red Lion Inns
Whilst the Sun Inn was built around 1830, the first pub on the site of the Red Lion Inn was built in 1801. Originally called the Union Arms after the 1800 Act of Union of Great Britain and Ireland it had a symbolic sign above the door of two clasped hands. As was customary, it brewed its own beer. Enlarged in the 1840s to accommodate the number of Irish labourers constructing the railway, in 1852 it changed hands and name, becoming the Red Lion. The new owner also had a butcher’s shop in Ty Mawr Terrace, Llawr Pentre and he built the first stone steps down to Llawr Pentre. The pub was demolished in 1898 and rebuilt in 1900.
Opening in 1849, the first National School was a one room building, erected along with a school house, on donated land next to St Catherine’s Church. An initial grant of £100 was made by the National Society. By 1862 numbers had risen and an infant’s schoolroom was funded by Lady Erskine of Pwllycrochan. The school was funded by a government grant and annual voluntary subscriptions. Some of the children were Nonconformists and in October 1866, on refusing to attend church on Sunday they were dismissed, resulting in a new school starting in the hay loft of the Plough Inn (3). In response to increasing numbers, new premises with four classrooms were built in Chapel Street in 1888 costing £1,400 and enlarged in 1896 (£350). The original building was then used as a Sunday school and village assembly hall and since the 1930’s has been the Churchmen’s Club. The school house was bought by the County Council and demolished in the 1970’s to extend the playground. The National School closed in 1981 and was purchased by Colwyn BC in 1982 for £13,000. The Council renovated the building and it opened as the village community centre in 1984.

Built of limestone with a slate roof and with a red brick chimney, the building has limited architectural interest, although it is worth noting the inscription on the western gable “Erected to the memory of the Rev. D. Jones late vicar of Colwyn 1888”. However historically it is of interest, standing within the densely developed area of attractive terraced houses.

**Opposite are Rose Hill Cottages.**