



The History of Mount Hazel

Mount Hazel is a rich part of the mining area in which it was first built. The rights to the minerals were owned by the Earl's of Lisbourne who let the minerals out right up to Trawsgoed Estate, who benefited greatly from the lead and silver. The greatest amount mined was 8,560 tons of lead and 83,751 ounces of silver in 1856.

Mount Hazel was initially built as a captains and managers house in around 1840. The original powder house still stands and can be clearly seen when leaving the village by the Yswyth Valley road. As you travel further down the road the mine itself is also clearly visible. The mining industry slowly dissolved in the town as the mining community moved to Colorado.

Mount Hazel was purchased by Dr Ivor Thomas in 1890 who was the local doctor surgeon for the county of Ceredigion. The original driveway is still intact, its size clearly showing that all it could accommodate was a pony and trap, a true indication of the reality of travel in the area.

In 1931 the house was passed on to Dr John Morgan, who used the home as his doctor's rooms. Many of the older residents in the area can remember traveling to Mount Hazel to see Dr Morgan. On the top floor of the home was an extensive library and many of the locals would come across to borrow books from Dr Morgan's collection. When Dr Morgan passed his family did not inherit the property as he had led them to believe that the house was owned by the Forest Commission. One of Dr Morgan's relatives actually ran for Prime Minister against Margaret Thatcher and still has a home in Aberdovey today.

In the 1960s the house was passed on the Parry family, meaning that for the first time in Mount Hazel's history it was a true family home with children running around. When Mr. Parry passed his wife unfortunately had to sell some of their land to complete the home renovations.

In the 1980s, Mr. Monks and his wife bought Mount Hazel and subsequently turned it into a Bed and Breakfast and a small yet popular restaurant which people would frequent on the weekends. Where the dining room is today is where the restaurant was located and many people still to the day remember Mount Hazel from the restaurant.

In 2013 we, the current owners, took over the property and updated it to give it new life. We also turned the stables into what is now Wisteria Cottage. We also did extensive work on the gardens to create a more peaceful and relaxing environment for us and our guests. Round the back of the house one can see building ruins which locals refer to as The School House, giving us the notion that it was most likely the first school in the Ceredigion area.

Right on the doorstep of Mount Hazel one can find the starting point to many beautiful walks through the area, some in nature and some right through the village. From the old Miners Bridge you can also find many lovely paths to walk along, one of which is the actual path leading to the old mine itself, the place which started it all and jumpstarted Mount Hazel's rich history.