



Cwm Idwal

Walls of
Snowdonia
– *a passion*

Peter Ogwen Jones



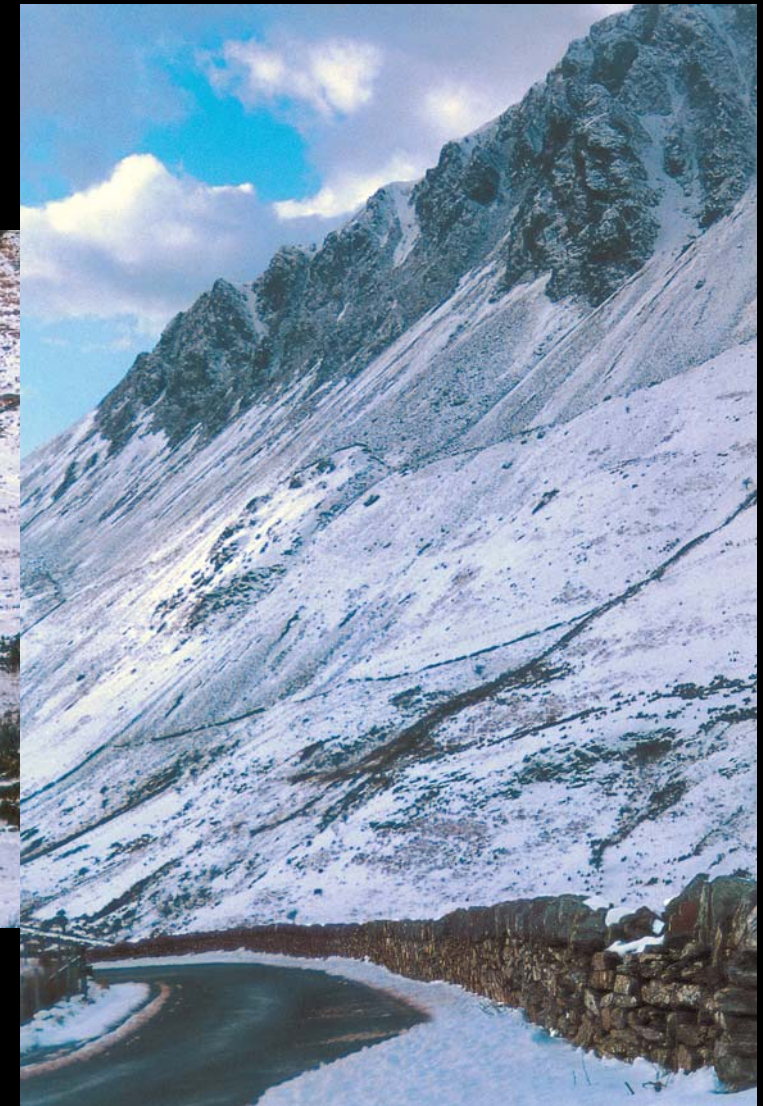
Nantlle, towards Snowdon (centre)

So often the beautiful walls of Snowdonia are overlooked, lost in the breath-taking splendour of the bigger picture of lakes and mountains.

*Snaking across the landscape, walls record
land divided through inheritance, timeless
trails of families who came and went through
history's rugged terrain.*



Nantgwynant



Nantlle

*Countless generations have sculpted the
landscapes of Snowdonia, creating
endless features that stand forever as
monuments to their creators' skills.*



Dyffryn Ardudwy





Minffordd

*A curving section in this wall
has no physical justification on
the flat ground – perhaps pure
whimsy on the part of its
long-forgotten creator?*



Dyffryn Ardudwy

A light grey lichen paints the walls of Dyffryn Ardudwy, softening the surfaces which gleam in the sunlight.



Penmachno

Blocks of white quartz enliven the dark greys of this wall, while along the top the ‘soldier course’ stands to attention – a regiment turned to stone.



Penrhyndeudraeth

*Stone rich in minerals and metals
enhance walls through the variety
of colour, a geological palette that
time and rain have brought to life.*



Minffordd

*The construction techniques – here
a blend of slabs and small stones – are
as diverse as the imaginations of the
builders of these walls.*



Trefriw

Welsh slate, in all its rich diversity of colours and shades, provides the raw material for walls of enduring beauty.





Nantlle

Slate slabs wired together – a fence or a wall?



Manod

Like the gravestones of fallen warriors, stone slabs stand firm and thread their way across the fields of long-forgotten battles.



Responding to the landscape's challenging features, the wall builders continue their journeys up mountains, undaunted by nature's rocky obstacles.

Llanaelhaearn



Rhyd-y-Sarn, Ffestiniog

Boulders left by ancient glaciers become part of the wall, simply continuing on the other side of this giant stone, where a once young oak found shelter and grew strong.



Nant Conwy

Onward, ever onward...



Nant Conwy

*...no barrier to the
wall-builders of
Snowdonia.*



Brondanw estate

Plas Brondanw *was the home of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect who created Portmeirion.*



Brondanw estate

*“...it was for Brondanw’s sake that I worked
and stinted, for its sake that I chiefly hoped
to prosper.”* Sir Clough Williams-Ellis



Llanenddwyn

*Beauty and function combine, a small passage
in the wall allowing sheep to pass from one
field to the next.*



Nant Ffrancon

*An area filled with rivers and streams,
Snowdonia and its walls have been...*



Tan-y-Bwlch

...designed with flowing water in mind.



Cutiau

Soon plants colonise the walls, enhancing their structural beauty and merging them into the natural landscape.



Caeathro

The 'clawdd' type of wall is built specifically to take planting, which is usually a hedge running across the top.



Llanfair

*Almost more ivy than wall, years hence all
stone will be cloaked and evergreen.*



Morfa Bychan

*A shroud of gorse drapes its yellow flowers on
these stony figures in a landscape.*



Ffestiniog

*Long-bearded in green mosses that disguise
the old stones, river boulders tossed into
rounded forms by the flow of watery
millennia...*



Nantmor

*...that roll by – the wall becomes a home
for so much of life.*



Pentrefelin

Post-boxes in walls exclaim their presence with a red alert, shouting to passers-by that here, right here they can reach out to the world beyond the wall.



Proposed designs for postage stamps.





Rhyd

*From love-letters to birthday cards,
messages of condolence to bills
for work done, each wall holds
our lives passing through.*

A joyous wall – a wailing wall...



Tan-y-Bwlch

...they hold the archives of our lives, awaiting delivery from these stone sepulchres.



Pentrefelin

Ivy-clad and forlorn – a letter, a packet into the wall, memories and thoughts of our days.



Tal-y-bont

A walled-up entrance is now home to a mailbox.



Porthmadog

A sombre wall awaits good news...



Blaenau Ffestiniog

*...while another is filled with the memories of
happier times, in the days before email...*



Capel Curig

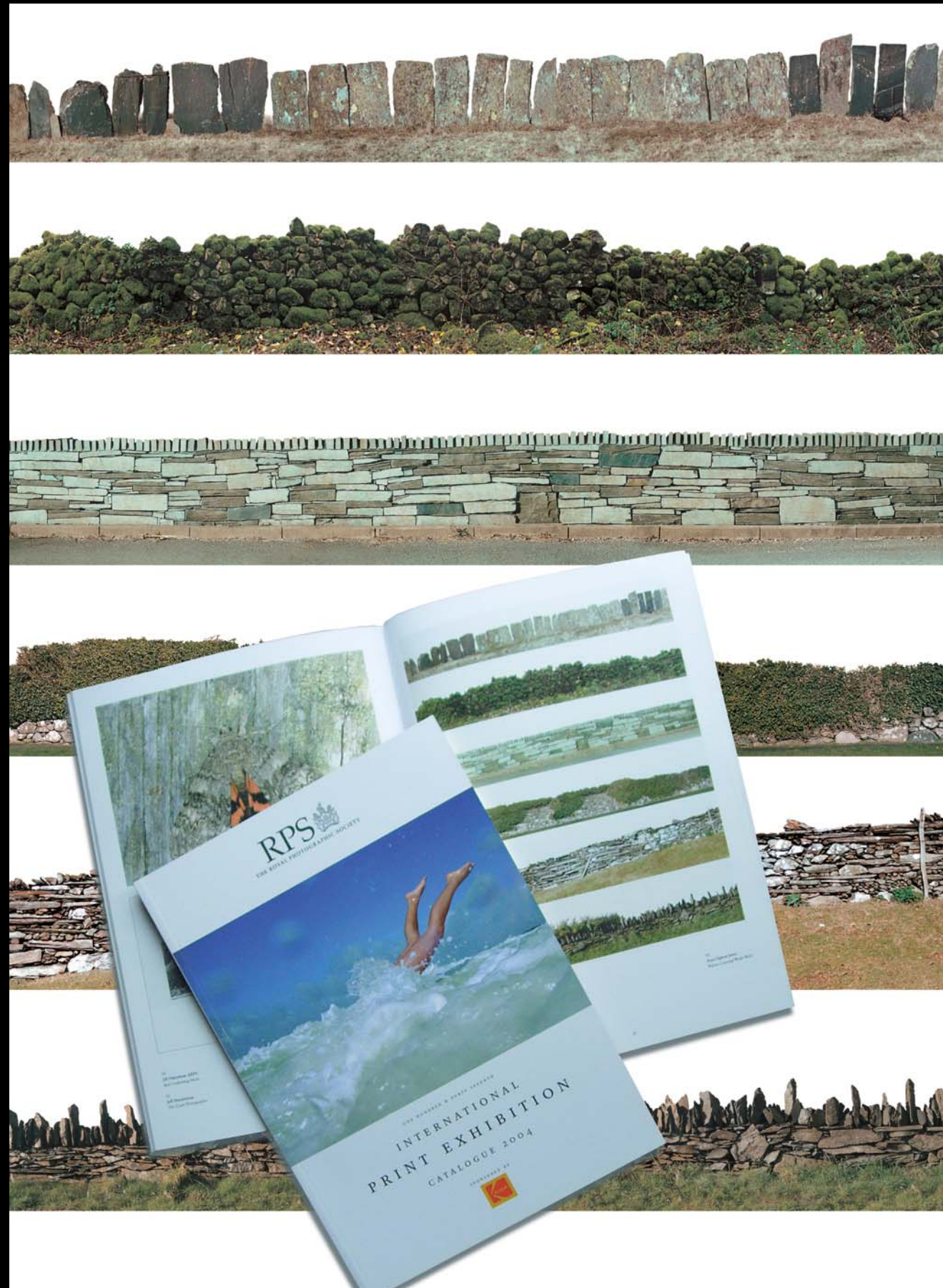
...that now leave a solitary impression, as the world rushes digitally by.

MURIAU CYMRU

(Welsh Walls)



The mailbox series of Welsh walls images was selected for the **Welsh Artist of the Year 2005** exhibition in Cardiff (catalogue number 71). The print was also included in a selection that went on to be exhibited in Stuttgart.



This series of Welsh walls images was selected for the Royal Photographic Society's **International Print Exhibition** of 2004 (catalogue number 94).

A signed and numbered limited edition of 100 prints was produced.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Border patrol

Jill Tunstall talks to a man whose passion for walls has placed him among the elite of the world's photographers

PETER Ogwen Jones has a thing about walls. Not ugly old concrete ones, you understand, but those ancient works of art that snake up hillsides, edge fields and really work for a living. For too long, he says, they have been overshadowed by the magnificent scenery in which they are found.

But not for much longer. The photographer who made his home in Snowdonia five years ago is determined to elevate them to a higher status. Ultimately placing them in frames... and on living room and gallery walls.

"So often the beautiful walls of Snowdonia are overlooked, lost in the breath-taking splendour of the bigger picture of rivers and mountains," he says.

"In my work, I've tried to draw attention to the magnificence of what I see as traditional sculptures, crafted to define the living landscape."

He is clearly smitten. And it seems that others agree.

His montage of five Welsh walls, a mixture of slate, river boulders and stone, each crowned with greenery or cloaked in velvety moss, has been selected for the Royal Photographic Society's touring show of 126 prints from over 1,500 entries worldwide.

Soon these seemingly modest agricultural structures will be seen throughout the UK, eventually arriving on home turf in Wales to be shown at the Electric Mountain, Llanberis from February to March 2005.

He admits that his entry for the show was done "very tongue in cheek." And he was surprised that the picture, a limited edition of which has been on sale to raise money, appropriately for the Snowdonia Society, was accepted.

"It's a very obscure subject really," he smiles, although pointing out that walls through history have evoked strong emotions.

"The Berlin wall divided a defeated



Peter Ogwen Jones' unusual interest has led to his work gaining elite recognition as one of 126 touring exhibits selected from more than 1,500 entries

nation, while the wall under construction in Palestine merely adds to the rift between Jews and Arabs," he says.

Then there's the Great Wall of China, which is the only man-made object visible from space. The Snowdonia walls though are, happily, less controversial and more beautiful.

"I love those in Ffestiniog, where I live, they are beautiful because there is so much slate. But I have no favourite because they are all so different," he adds.

"I frequently stop at the traffic lights on the Nant Conwy road and often they have changed and I will still be sitting there looking out at the walls.

It's as if nature built them rather than man."

Peter's introduction to art couldn't have been more different.

Liverpool-born, he dropped out of art school and moved to London in the Swinging Sixties and landed a job at the Tate Gallery in the publications department, just as pop art was exploding on the scene.

Later he moved into the voluntary sector and worked on the design and publication of literature for a number of charities after moving back to Liverpool.

Now he is dedicated to walls.

Every one that catches his eye is photographed by an old Pentax K1000

in five or six separate shots which are then spliced together through the wonders of computer technology and his keen eye. And he is busiest in winter.

"This time of the year, it's pointless because of the shadows and the foliage on the trees," he says, nodding to the sunny day outside.

"They can be smothered in plants, which is lovely but it's the walls I am after." His latest ventures include those that have the specially created sheep "doors" to allow livestock to move freely from field to field, and others that have mailboxes set within them.

"This area is very well endowed with mailbox walls. On Anglesey, there's a

very grand looking stone wall with a King George box – I'm not sure which one – with a tiny little slot.

"And in Tan y Bwlch, there's a marvellously eccentric looking gatepost that started off as one thing and has had all sorts of bits added on.

"Then there's the wacky walls of Clough Williams-Ellis' Brondanw estate..."

And so it goes. When it comes to walls, it seems, there are no boundaries to the imagination of their creators or the man capturing them on camera.

● A limited edition of Peter's print is on sale at Ty Hyll/The Ugly House, Capel Curig, in aid of the Snowdonia Society.



Daily Post
11 June 2004

Designer is fascinated by the contours of our 'living landscape' So much more than bricks and mortar

By CLAIRE GARNER

A GRAPHIC designer's unique interest in stone walls is helping to raise funds for a local conservation charity.

Peter Ogwen Jones, from Rhyd-y-Sarn, Ffestiniog, holds a personal passion for stone walls and has used his subsequent art-work to benefit the Snowdonia Society, based at the Ugly House in Betws-y-Coed.

"I find Welsh walls so very beautiful, the variety of them, and what bothers me is that they are so overlooked by people," he said.

"In my work I have sought to draw attention to the magnificence of what I see as traditional sculptures, crafted to define the living landscape."

Mr Jones visited the annual stone wall making competition, organised by the Snowdonia Society in the summer for amateurs and professionals to show off their skills.

It was there he got talking to the society's chairman, Dr Morag McGrath, who was so impressed with his photographs that she bought her own print.

Mr Jones said that although he had found photographing the walls fascinating, he was very surprised at how much interest the work generated.

This led him to produce a series of limited edition prints which are being sold by the Snowdonia Society, who will claim 50 per cent for their funds.

Mr Jones is heading towards his second series of Welsh wall prints with a slightly different theme.

"I am very taken with stone walls you see in small villages with mail boxes in them. There is something magical about them and I have already been photographing them towards series number two."

● The limited edition of 100 prints are all signed and numbered and being sold in an attractive natural wood frame for £79.50. As an unusual Christmas gift, you can claim your print by calling the Snowdonia Society on 01690 720287.



Wonder walls: A selection of photographer Peter Ogwen Jones' images of traditional Welsh stone walls.

32 CAMBRIAN NEWS Thursday 20 November 2003

hamdden/leisure

Humble walls reinterpreted



Peter Ogwen Jones' passion is for walls, particularly Welsh walls. A graphic designer by trade, Peter, who lives and works at Rhyd-y-Sarn, Ffestiniog, has been photographing an array of Welsh walls for some time.

"I'm very interested in sculpture," said Peter. "It's not the bog standard brick walls that interest me but the ones out in the countryside. They are wonderful sculptures in themselves".

"So often the beautiful walls of Snowdonia are overlooked, lost in the breath-taking splendour of the bigger picture of rivers and mountains," he added.

"In my work I have sought to draw attention to the magnificence of what I see as traditional sculptures, crafted to define the living landscape."

Peter has produced the first series of his work as a limited edition of 100 prints to raise money for the Snowdonia Society.

"After realising that friends and others were interested in my work I decided that I should produce some prints".

The Snowdonia Society protects the scenery, the natural and historic features and the wildlife of the Snowdonia National Park.

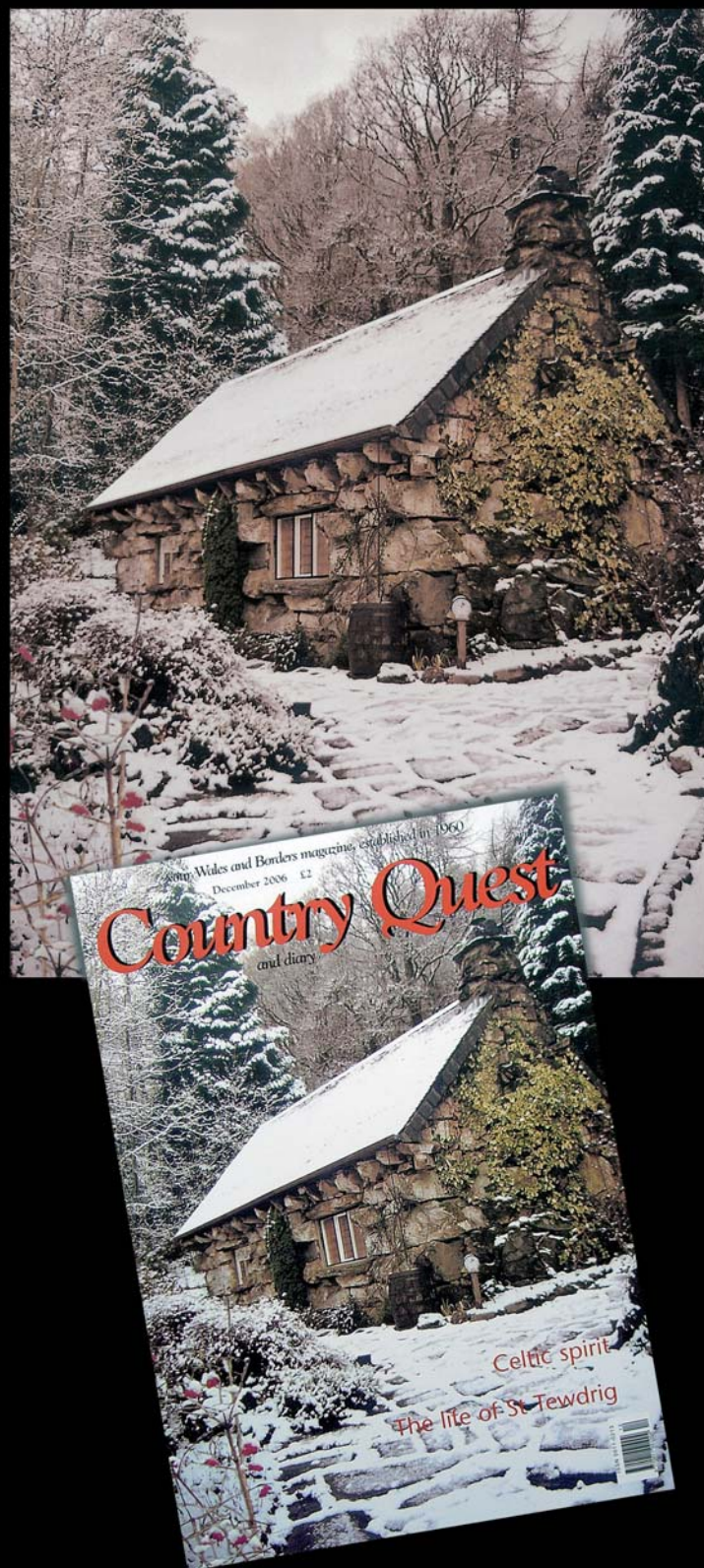
"As a member of the Snowdonia Society I support their work. All the walls that I have photographed are in the National Park and of course there's a connection with the dry stone walling competition the society holds every year," said Peter.

Peter's next project is photographs of walls with postboxes sunk into them and after this he will be working on walls with cast iron railings.

"My ambition is to do a survey of all the walls of Wales", said Peter, "but at the moment I'm concentrating on north Wales".

The prints, titled 'Welsh Walls', are each signed and numbered and are being sold in attractive natural wood frames for £79.50. They are available at the Snowdonia Society in Betws y Coed by telephoning 01690 720287.

Cambrian News
20 November 2003



Ty Hyll (the 'Ugly House') near Capel Curig is unique to Snowdonia, its robust construction reflecting the seemingly random beauty of the area's dry-stone walls.

Peter Ogwen Jones

T 01766 762447 (44 1766 762447)

M 07598 312962

E communityimage@btconnect.com

F 01766 762447 (44 1766 762447)

STUDIO ADDRESS

**Cymer
Rhydsarn
Gwynedd
LL41 4NT
UK**

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

All images in this document are the intellectual property of
Peter Ogwen Jones © 2010

Community Image is a registered trademark ® 1986