

# Brief History of Rogiet

Rogiet is a village and community in Monmouthshire, south east Wales, between Caldicot and Magor, 8 miles (13 km) west of Chepstow and 11 miles (18 km) east of Newport. It lies close to the M4 and M48 motorways, and the Second Severn Crossing. It has a railway station named Severn Tunnel Junction.

The village adjoins the Caldicot Levels. Its name is of uncertain derivation, and was formerly spelled Roggiatt, Roggiett or Roggiet. The first known lord of the manor was Godfrey de Gamage, who married Joan, the daughter of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, known as "Strongbow", in the 12th century.

The Church of St Mary, Rogiet is the parish church, which in earlier centuries was dedicated to St. Hilary. Much of the church dates from about the 14th century, and it was restored in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

## Arrival of the railway

The South Wales Railway, now the Gloucester to Newport line, was opened through Rogiet in 1850, although the nearest station was two miles away, at Portskewett. A junction station was built at Rogiet to serve the new Severn Tunnel that opened in 1886.

The presence of the station became a catalyst for the growth of the village.

The censuses of 1851, 1861 & 1871 show the main employment to be agricultural, with a few working in the limestone quarries at Ifton, but no railway workers. The parish population increased from 84 in 1881 to 122 in 1891. The first new building was the construction of red-brick bookend terraces: Ifton Terrace, Railway Terrace and Seaview Terrace, all still extant today. These were followed by the village's only building of note, other than the church, its only pub the Roggiett Hotel. This was a relatively large pub for such a small village, and operated as an active hotel, mostly serving the farming trade at the cattle market. It has been closed since 2008, leaving the village without a pub. A school was also built and by 1891 a post office had opened.

A major phase of housing expansion took place after World War I, increasing by three times to World War II. Half of this growth, 94 houses, was due to the Severn

Tunnel Garden Village Society, constituted in 1924, whose membership was limited to railwaymen. Population increased from 136 in 1921 to 234 in the 1931 census. Many railwaymen still commuted from the other local villages though, and over a thousand worked at Severn Tunnel Junction by the outbreak of World War II.

### Decline of the railway

The rapid rate of growth decreased after the war, and population only increased from 1,137 in 1951 to 1,347 in 1971. This was particularly affected by the withdrawal of steam power on the railway in the 1960s, and the resultant reduction in the staff needed at the locomotive sheds.

The village underwent major expansion in the later 20th century, following the development of nearby Caldicot, Undy and Magor as dormitory villages. With the development of the Severn Bridges, the number of commuters by road to Bristol also increased.

### Llanfihangel Rogiet

The hamlet and separate parish of Llanfihangel Rogiet is located immediately west of Rogiet itself, and derives its name from the Welsh name for the church of St. Michael (Llan-f/mihangel). It was established before the Norman invasion, but the current Church of St Michael and All Angels again dates from about the 14th century, with much later rebuilding, and contains medieval tombs. Unlike Rogiet, Llanfihangel has remained relatively untouched by modern development.

### Ifton

The land immediately east of Rogiet once formed the separate small parish of Ifton. Some Roman pottery was discovered at Ifton Manor. The church was pulled down in 1755.

### Old Windmill, Rogiet

Grade: II

Date Listed: 22 February 1995

Cadw Building ID: 15937

Postcode: NP26 3U

Situated on hill N of village at the S edge of higher ground rising from the levels, immediately N of the M4 motorway.

Windmill tower probably built c 1500. Earliest reference in lease of 1526 - No evidence when disused; probably used as watch tower in C18. Appears as round building in survey of 1746 and referred to as old mill on Ordnance Survey map 1830. Now ruined with W and S sides substantially masked by vegetation Listed in spite of incomplete survival for early date and as only one in Monmouthshire of SW group of small tower mills.

## Rogiet Hoard

In 1998, a large hoard of Roman coins was found which became known as the Rogiet Hoard. One of the finest hordes of roman coins ever found in Wales.

In September 1998, thousands of Roman coins from the third century AD were discovered by Colin Roberts at Rogiet, Monmouthshire. This was one of the finest hoards ever recorded from Wales and were declared treasure in December 1998.

The 3,750 coins had been buried, possibly in a wooden box, around AD 295-6 (we believe this to be the date since there were no coins later than this in the box) and span a forty-year period, with twenty-two emperors represented, a sign of the political instability of the times.

Their deposit, and the owner's failure to recover them, probably relate to this military and political instability. At the same time, however, the currency of the Roman Empire was going through major change. In AD 294-5, new gold, silver and copper alloy coins were introduced to uniform designs and standards empire-wide. The hoard is made up of an unusual composition for a British find as the coins found in it were not circulated in great numbers here. The hoard is significant as it contains a number of faulty issues of the 260s, and also because it contains over 750 coins of the two individuals who declared themselves Emperor in Britain, Carausius (287-93) and Allectus (293-96). These are not often found in hoards and contain rare denominations representing a variety of warships.

Also included in the hoard is a particularly fine specimen, perhaps the best in existence, of a classic rarity of the Romano-British coinage series. In around 292, Carausius seems to have wanted official appreciation from the emperors Diocletian and Maximian, issuing coinage in their names as well as his own. He even depicted himself with the others on a single design, with the slogan 'Carausius and his brothers'. The feeling was not shared, and within a year Carausius was gone, murdered by his minister Allectu.