

Y Bwthyn Bach

The Welsh House (also known as The Little House or *Y Bwthyn Bach*) was constructed from materials left over from the construction of Llandough Hospital, and it was presented in March 1932 as a gift from the people of Wales to the Duke and Duchess of York (the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) for the sixth birthday of Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II). It was transported to Royal Lodge, the royal family's house in Windsor Great Park near Windsor Castle, and has been used as a playhouse for children of the royal family every since.

The house was designed by a Cardiff architect, Mr E C Morgan Willmott. It has a thatched roof and is two-thirds of the size of a normal house, 24 by 8 feet, comprising a parlour, a kitchen, a bedroom and a bathroom, with ceilings 5 feet high. It is decorated throughout and has furniture and fittings to scale.

The house was featured in the 2012 BBC TV series *The Diamond Queen*, celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne, in which Andrew Marr is shown over the house by Prince Beatrice, who has taken a special interest in refurbishing it.

More detail on *Y Bwthyn Bach* is available online:

- The Little House at Royal Lodge 'Y Bwthyn Bach'

http://www.thamesweb.co.uk/windsor/royal_lodge/royal_lodge.html.

- The Diamond Queen Part 1 [BBC TV]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgweMOYZRZs>

- Andrew Marr, *The diamond Queen : Elizabeth II and her people*. (Macmillan, 2011) is the book of the BBC series. A brief account of the house as shown in the episode is given in

- A Wendy House fit for a Queen. *Daily Mail Online* 13 February 2012.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2099859/A-Wendy-house-fit-Queen-The-secrets-history-tiny-Welsh-cottage-grounds-Windsor-generations-royals-played.html>