

Capel

CYMRDEITHAS TRIEFFADNETH Y CAPEL
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR

1

MARCH / MAWRTH 1987

GOLYGYDDOL - CYFLWYNIAD

Pan lansiodd CAPEL mewn cyfarfod cyhoeddus yng Nghaerdydd ym mis Mai 1986 yr oedd yn amlwg y byddai angen cylchlythyr er mwyn cadw cysylltiad â'r aelodaeth ac i roi cyhoeddusrwydd i gyarfodydd a gweithgareddau'r Gymdeithas. Fe fyddai'r cylchlythyr hefyd yn roi cyfle i unigolion a chyrff sôn am eu gwaith o gofnodi a diogelu'r etifeddiaeth anghydfurfiol yng Nghymru. Dyma, felly, y cylchlythyr cyntaf, a gobeithir cyhoeddi rhifynnau eraill bob pedwar mis. I fod yn llwyddiannus, rhaid i CAPEL fod yn Gymdeithas weithgar ac yn bendant yn ei agwedd tuag at dyfodol adeiladau, archifau a mynwentydd anghydfurfiol, ac mae 'na le i bob aelod i weithio dros yr egwyddorion a'r bwriad y mae'r Gymdeithas yn sefyll amdanynt. Mae pwyllgorau rhanbarthol wedi cael eu sefydlu ym mhob sir a mawr obeithiwn y gwnaiff bob aelod cysylltu â, a helpu ei pwyllgor lleol trwy fynychu cyfarfodydd ac, wrth gwrs, drwy fod yn wiliadwrs am gapeli sydd mewn perygl o gau neu gael eu troi at ryw bwrpas arall, ac i geisio diogelu eu archifau a chreiriau. Os oes gennych unrhyw sylwadau, awgrymiadau neu rhybuddion a fyddai o gymorth i'r aelodaeth, danfonwch air neu ddau i'w cynnwys yn y Cylchlythyr.

EDITORIAL - INTRODUCTION

When CAPEL was launched in Cardiff in May 1986 it was agreed that a regular newsletter would be a useful way of keeping the membership informed of the Society's activities and meetings as well as providing a forum for organisations and individuals concerned with the study or preservation of various aspects of the Welsh nonconformist heritage. This is the first issue of the CAPEL Newsletter, and it is hoped that a new issue will be produced every 4 months. Of course, for CAPEL to be a success, it needs to be more than merely a 'talking shop' where members can gather once or twice a year to listen to informed lecturers and view some slides of attractive chapels and then go home to 'hibernate' until the next meeting. It needs to be active and positive in its approach to the fate of nonconformist buildings, archives and graveyards, and each member therefore has a duty to fulfil the objects of the Society and to encourage others of like mind to join with us in our 'crusade'. By joining one of the committees that have been established in each of the counties, individual members can make a direct contribution to the running and effectiveness of the Society, for it is at local level that the groundwork needs to be done in identifying threatened chapels

and archives and in assisting and advising congregations - in other words, acting as the Executive Committee's eyes and ears in the regions as well as being its mouthpiece. Members can share their experiences of rescuing chapel archives, restoring buildings or dealing with voluntary organisations such as the MSC by contributing short articles to the Newsletter. Similarly ideas, recommendations or warnings will also be welcome, in fact anything that will help fellow members to carry out their tasks more efficiently and effectively. The Newsletter will also feature press cuttings and book reviews, so if you have come across an interesting article in your local newspaper or a new book on some subject of related interest, please do forward details for inclusion in the next issue.

Y CYMRO 26.11.1986

Troi'r capel yn ganolfan i'r Urdd

Bu capel y Cilgwyn yn Llangybi yn adfail ers blynyddoedd ond y diwr-

nod o'r blaen fe'i hail agorwyd yn ganolfan i Adran ac Aelwyd yr Urdd yn y cych. Agorwyd y Ganolfan gan Mr Melfyn Jones, un o

arweinwyr gyda'r Urdd yn y pentref.

Yn y cyfarfod a ddilynodd cafwyd hanes yr Urdd yng nghylch Llangybi, gan Mr Odwyn Davies yn ogystal a hanes y Cilgwyn ei hun gan y Parch. D. A. Thomas.

Roedd Cyfarwyddwr yr Urdd, Mr John Eric Williams, yn y cyfarfod yn ogystal a Mr John Gwyn Jones.

Yr wythnos diwethaf roedd y neuadd newydd yn llawn prysurdeb gan y trefnwyd rhaglen amrywiol bob nos i'w chyflwyno yn y neuadd.

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CAPEL, LLANDRINDOD

Welsh novelist and poet T. Rowland Hughes said that although Welsh chapels were clumsy boxes they contained the precious ointment of our yesterday and the day before. In the light of that, it was quite appropriate that the first action of the delegates coming to the first Annual General Meeting of Capel, at the Radnorshire College at Llandrindod on 8 November 1986, was to attend a lecture by Mr. Stanley Cox of the Welsh School of Architecture on 'Second Thoughts on Welsh Chapel Architecture', a talk on the history of chapels, illustrated with slides, Mr. Cox's 'first thoughts' about them arising in the 1950s when he first began to photograph them before chapel life had entered its present crisis, and before any public awareness of chapel architecture had appeared.

The formal business meeting came in the afternoon, and the first major agenda item was to declare the constitution (prepared by the Steering Committee with the co-operation of the Charity Commissioners) passed - this was done unanimously.

Dr. Prys Morgan, the Acting Chairman of the Steering Committee, gave his address from the chair, stressing that the informal 'Gregynog' Working Party during 1985 and the Steering Committee during 1986 had dealt with so many questions and problems quite informally that there could be no doubt that a society like Capel was desperately needed, and that without delay. The Acting Secretary, Mr. Gerallt Nash, had dealt with appeals to local authorities and to the Welsh Office to delay decisions on chapel demolition pending a proper investigation of the history or the architecture of threatened buildings; had drawn the attention of the media to the plight of chapels great and small, their archives and their graveyards; had received many reports and appeals from local congregations or amenity societies regarding the closure of chapels, and many heart-rending stories of small congregations overwhelmed by the huge costs of repairs of aged buildings, and despair at the complexity of seeking funds. The Chairman also said that the Acting Secretary had built up valuable contacts with many bodies devoted to aspects of recording buildings or graveyards or connected with aspects of preservation, what were termed 'heritage' or 'amenity' societies. He had also had valuable contacts with bodies anxious to help to repair, clean, refurbish and restore chapels for their present use, such as the Manpower Services Commission and many other community service projects.

The Chairman said that the Secretary's correspondence suggested a widespread demand for a society like Capel as a clearing-house of information (and for this a regular newsletter would be essential, and would be a priority, in future society activities) and also to act as an informal pressure group. The central committee of Capel would need several local sub-committees in each region of Wales, because so many chapels were not listed, there was no overall list of chapels available, chapel closures occurred suddenly, and only regional committees could gather news quickly and effectively and in a different way locally-based committees could get information to local congregations or amenity groups who might be in difficulties.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Stanley Cox answered questions and generously offered his extensive archive of chapel photographs to Capel, which would be deposited at the Welsh Folk Museum. This first gift to the newly-formed society was gratefully accepted.

The meeting then devoted itself to the election of officers - Dr. Prys Morgan as Chairman, Mr. Gerallt Nash as Secretary and Mr. Richard Carter as Treasurer. The following were also elected as Committee Members: Mr. Warwick Butler, Mr. D. L. Davies, Mr. J. R. Harrison, Miss Ann Rhydderch, Mr. Graham Rosser and Mr. A. G. Veysey. Mr. Howard Llewellyn, Dr. B. F. Roberts and Mr. Martin Snead were co-opted on the Committee and the Auditors appointed for the coming year were Mrs. Valerie Bird and the Rev. Roger Brown.

The Chairman then asked Mr. David McLees of Cadw to address the meeting on the question of listing chapels and the various ways in which chapel listing could be improved in Wales. Mr. W. Butler was then asked to outline the work done on recording chapels by the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre at the former Tabernacle Chapel, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, which contains an archive on Welsh chapel architecture. Mr. H. Llewellyn was then asked to address the meeting on the extensive labours of the Family History Societies in Wales in cleaning and recording graveyards, outlining the standardised methods of recording the memorials and warning the meeting of the perils of a clean-up campaign if done without care and sensitivity.

At the end of a most successful meeting, Mr. D. McLees took a party of delegates to visit one of the Llandrindod chapels built by the great chapel architect, Beddoe Rees.

PRYS MORGAN

GRAVESTONE RECORDING IN GLAMORGAN

An important, indeed integral part of a chapel's identity is its burial ground. Often unsightly - overgrown and neglected - it is all too easy to dismiss it as a detraction from the appearance of the chapel building. However, its enduring memorials to individual members of the congregation, providing information which in many cases is not to be found elsewhere, make it a part of the Welsh non-conformist heritage which should not be overlooked.

Because of their genealogical significance, monumental inscriptions have always had a special importance for family historians. Family history societies exist in all parts of Great Britain, and most if not all have some project for the recording of inscriptions in graveyards in their area. What follows is a summary of how the project has been tackled in the three counties of Glamorgan.

The Glamorgan project began in 1981 largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Diane Brook, a founder member of the Glamorgan Family History Society (FHS). At an early stage it was felt desirable to involve other interested parties, and as a result the Committee on Gravestone Recording in Glamorgan (CGRG) was set up. Apart from the FHS it represents denominational, archival and conservational interests.

An important feature of the Glamorgan project has been the relationship between the FHS and the County Archive Service. Under this system the Archive Service provides the recording forms, and the FHS undertakes the physical recording and arrangement of the information, which is then passed back to the Archive Service to produce and publish a transcript. Proceeds of the sale of these transcripts are divided between the Archive Service and the FHS.

Glamorgan FHS is divided into three branches: Cardiff, Bridgend and Swansea. Each branch undertakes its own recording projects under an overall co-ordinator for the Society. The work of recording

is done by teams of members, generally on summer evenings once or twice a week. Reliance on a few eager volunteers and the vagaries of the weather have meant that progress has tended to be slow.

Having said this, a significant development in recent months has been the involvement of MSC-funded community programme agencies. To date the leader in this field in Glamorgan is the Rhymney Valley District Council Community Programme Agency. From the start the Agency has been at pains to ensure that its programme incorporates the requirements of the CGRG. In this respect, the appointment as the programme's assistant co-ordinator of Howard Llewellyn, a former co-ordinator of the FHS project and present chairman of the CGRG is a fortunate one. It is to be hoped that such schemes will reduce a seemingly never-ending task to one of only a few lifetimes!

Various factors are taken into account when selecting graveyards for recording : convenience of access for volunteers, condition of the site, historical importance, and whether it is at risk. This last is probably the most decisive, and because chapel graveyards are more at risk than those of parish churches increasing priority is being given to them.

Having selected the yard to be recorded, the next step is to make a plan of the layout. Each gravestone is given an identifying number, and a recording form is completed for each monument. The form consists of a detailed physical description and a full record of inscription.

After completion of the recording and checking of the work, a great deal of voluntary work is still required on typing and indexing before the whole package is presented to the County Archive Service for printing and publishing. The published booklet takes the form of :-

1. a plan of the graveyard;
2. a name index referring to the date of death and the monument's identifying number;
3. the transcriptions themselves, forming the bulk of the volume.

Transcripts now available are as follows : Aenon, Tongwynlais; Bethania, Pendoylan; Bethel, Laleston; Bryntirion, Llantwit Fardre; Ebenezer, St. Brides-super-Ely; Pisah, Kenfig Hill; and Salem, Nantyllyllon. Copies are obtainable from the Glamorgan Archive Service, Mid Glamorgan County Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cathays Park, Cardiff. The price varies from 50p to £1.50 according to size.

In addition to the above non-conformist chapels, there are transcripts on sale for several parish churches, and further recording projects are currently well advanced. A full list of booklets available may be obtained from the Archive Service.

Many things have been learnt since the early days of recording : the value of having a standard method of recording the information to ensure uniformity of coverage; the necessity to check the information recorded - in often difficult working conditions mistakes can easily occur; the vastness of the task; and finally, the fact that graveyards are more at risk than was previously thought. The danger is often born of apparently good intentions, for example the removal of headstones to form a lawn area with seating. Graveyards are not the permanent

feature of our landscape and heritage that they may seem. Although their importance is equal to that of the chapel buildings themselves the threat to them is often greater.

If you would like to take part in the Glamorgan recording programme, you are welcome to get in touch with one of the project co-ordinators, whose names and addresses are as follows :-

Cardiff Branch & Overall Co-ordinator Noel Israel, 11 Pine Court, Forest Hills, Talbot Green, Mid Glam.
tel. Llantrisant 224151

Bridgend Branch Alf Jones, 24 Wernlys Road, Penyfaï, Bridgend, Mid Glam.
tel. Bridgend 720185

Swansea Branch Jeff Harrison, 9 Knoyle St., Treboeth, Swansea, West Glam.
tel. Swansea 796331

In other parts of Wales I would suggest that in the first instance, you contact the local FHS Secretary, whose address I can provide.

The CAPEL Committee would be pleased to hear how such schemes are being operated in other counties, with particular reference to non-conformist places of worship.

JEFF HARRISON

ARCHIF PENSEIRI CAPELI

Mae Adran Darluniau a Mapiau y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn brysur yn paratoi copïau o gasgliad mawr a phwysig o gynlluniau a darluniau pensaernïol gan gwmni George Morgan a'i feibion, Caerfyrddin. Dilynydwyd George Morgan, pensaer capeli nodedig a chynhyrchiol a fu farw ym 1915, gan ei fab hynaf, J. Howard Morgan. Atgynhyrchir y copïau trwy ganiatâd caredig a chydweithrediad parod Commander Hugh G. B. Morgan a Dr. M. Joyce Morgan, wryon George Morgan.

Disgwylir i'r dasg o gopïo, rhestrï a chatalogio'r casgliad barhau am y rhan fwyaf o 1987, ond erbyn hyn mae'n debyg fod y cynlluniau o eglwysi a chapeli wedi eu copïo bron yn gyfangwbl. Rhestrir 350 o gynlluniau a brasluniau yn y rhestr dros-dro, gan gynnwys tua 60 o adeiladau; lleolir y rhan fwyaf o'r rhain yn hen siroedd Penfro a Chaerfyrddin, er bod yna gynrychiolaeth mor bell â Merthyr Tudful a Llanelwedd.

Mae'r cynlluniau capeli i gyd wedi'u dyddio rhwng 1884 a 1929. Rhyw chwarter o'r rhain sydd wedi'u dyddio cyn 1900 gan gynnwys Capel y Bedyddwyr, High Street, Merthyr, Capeli'r Bedyddwyr Rhaeadr a Cefnpole, a newidiadau i Gapel y Methodistiaid Nantgareidg.

D. MICHAEL FRANCIS

Cofnod o'r cofnodion

Mae'r diffyg presenol mewn cofnod manwl o hanes capeli anghydfurfiol Cymru wedi denu sylw'r Llyfrgell Genedlaethol.

Cyn bo hir bydd Beryl Griffiths, o Lanuwchllyn, yn cychwyn ar swydd newydd o fewn y Llyfrgell Genedl-

aethol i geisio dokdi trefn ar gofnodion y gwahanol enwadau anghydfurfiol.

Ei phrif waith fydd llunio llyfr a fydd yn rhestru y gwahanol gapeli, a lle mae cael gafael ar eu cofnodion. Y gobaith hefyd yw bydd yn llunio mynegai cynhwysfawr o gapeli

anghydfurfiol Cymru ac i ba enwad y perthynant.

Bydd y gwaith yn golygu archwilio yr archifdai sirol ond mae'r Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn obeithiol y bydd unigolion sy'n berchen ar gofnodion Capel yn cysylltu â hwy.

Y CYMRO 26.11.1986

The National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth has recently appointed Mrs. Beryl H. Griffiths of Llanuwchllyn to the post of researcher to work specifically in the field of Welsh Nonconformist Records. Mrs. Griffiths, who is a graduate in Welsh and Welsh History from U.C.W. Aberystwyth, obtained a post graduate diploma in Palaeography and Archive Administration at U.C.N.W. Bangor. The post is for a period of three years and is funded by the private resources of the Library.

It is intended to create a gazetteer of Welsh chapels both past and present, listing them according to their location, the arrangement being based on the historical counties of Wales. The information collected will include references to chapel histories, brief particulars of surviving records, a list of chapel reports held by the Library, references to the chapels in major denominational histories and references to pictorial material.

The intention is also to conduct a comprehensive survey of Nonconformist records already held at the National Library. This would form the basis of a wider survey of Welsh Nonconformist records, including those held in the Welsh County Records Offices and at the Public Record Office. Eventually it is hoped (in co-operation with the Welsh County Record Offices) to publish a volume similar to the recent Parish Registers of Wales.

DAFYDD IFANS

PONTYPRIDD HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CENTRE

Pontypridd's new Historical and Cultural Centre, which is owned and run by Pontypridd Town Council, opened to the public in May 1986 and was officially opened by Brynmor John, MP, on 2 July. The Centre, which is ideally situated next to the famous single-span stone bridge built over the River Taff by William Edwards in 1756, is housed in a former Welsh Baptist chapel. The chapel, Tabernacl, was built in 1861 and ceased as a place of worship in 1983.

The renovation of the building was undertaken with financial support from the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board. In converting Tabernacl into an exhibition centre, the character of the original chapel has nonetheless been substantially preserved. The gallery remains with the floor levelled to provide an exhibition area. The 'big seat', pulpit and organ have been refurbished and concealed spotlights bring out the richness of the woodwork and the decorated organ pipes. It is planned to bring the organ back to full working order very soon and then to arrange recitals. The panelled and painted ceiling, which, like the pulpit and organ, was added in 1910 to mark the centenary of the Welsh Baptists' earlier chapel, Carmel, has been faithfully restored to its former splendour.

Naturally enough, the history of Pontypridd is to be a major feature of the Centre. Our main opening exhibition is 'Pontypridd through photographs'. This exhibition of around 200 photographs is not designed to provide a chronological 'blow-by-blow' account but rather to give the visitor a glimpse of life in Pontypridd over the last century or so. There are also some smaller supporting exhibitions; for example, on the Albion Colliery Disaster of 1894 and the Glamorganshire Canal. These initial exhibitions were prepared by Mr. R. M. Evans, formerly of the National Museum of Wales and the display panels have been produced by staff at the National Museum. There will be a continuing programme of changing exhibitions on local history but it is also intended to work towards a comprehensive and permanent exhibition on the history of Pontypridd. Our immediate plans include a detailed treatment in turn of each of the wards which make up the Pontypridd Town Council area.

Tabernacl Chapel is not only an integral part of Pontypridd's heritage but also of that of Welsh Non-conformity and it has been decided therefore that, equally with local history, chapels throughout Wales will be a main area of interest for the Centre. We hope, through our exhibitions, to compile an enduring visual record and accompanying history of as many chapels as possible. Nor can this project be got under way soon enough when the pace at which many of these buildings are either becoming derelict, being demolished or put to less hallowed uses is quickening so noticeably. At present there are three exhibitions mounted at the Centre. The first (which is drawn from the recent Welsh Chapels exhibition at the National Museum) contains photographs of chapels across the country in both rural and urban environments and from the earliest, very basic buildings to some of the more elaborate structures which appeared in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The second exhibition is more local. From 1978 to 1980 young people, under the auspices of Mid Glamorgan County Council and the Manpower Services Commission, undertook a survey of over 600 chapels in Mid Glamorgan. On display are reproductions of the scale drawings and plans which they made of chapels in Pontypridd, together with historical notes. Future exhibitions will extend to other areas of the county. We are at the moment looking into the setting up of a nation-wide survey, on similar lines to the pioneering work done by Mid Glamorgan County Council, to photograph and collect information on all the chapels in Wales. Finally, there is a small exhibition kindly loaned to us by West Glamorgan County Council of some of the chapels in their county.

A number of visiting exhibitions have been arranged for the Centre, both on Welsh history and of wider interest. In addition to this, one side of the gallery has been set aside for a series of monthly exhibitions of art, photography etc., by local residents, societies and schools. A Tourist Information Centre is also provided. The basement of the building forms the Cultural Centre which is used by local societies for their evening meetings.

The Town Council has adopted a bilingual policy with regard to the Centre and although the majority of the initial exhibitions are in English only, as future exhibitions are prepared we shall be aiming to present them in Welsh as well as English.

We would be very pleased to receive photographs, documents and information of interest either on local history of Welsh chapels. We appreciate that in many instances such items are treasured possessions. We are therefore able to make copies of any material lent to us so that, if desired, the originals can be returned to their owners.

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Alison Allan, Cultural Services Officer,
Pontypridd Historical Centre, Bridge Street,
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan.
(tel. 0443 402077)

SAFBWYNT (Allan o'r Aberdare Leader, 18.12.86)

Brychan Watkins oedd yno i'n croesawu. Roedd y festri'n llawn o bobl. Roedd y festri'n llawn o aelodau'r eglwysi cyfagos ac eglwysi'r Bedyddwyr ar hyd y cwm. Roedden ni yn Ramoth, Hirwaun i gofnodi achlysur trist o gynnal gwasanaeth olaf yr achos yno. Doeddwn i ddim yn cofio cewri'r achos yno (E. Cefni Jones), doeddwn i'w cerioed wedi'u clywed yn eu hantreth. Y ddau y gwyddwn i amdano oedd y brodyr Brychan Watkins ac Evan John Morgan.

Bu farw Evan John dros flwyddyn yn ôl ac ers hynny roedd yr eglwys yn teimlo'r straen o gario'r pwysau. Croesawyd ni yn ffurfiol gan y Parch. Aneurin Thomas. Soniodd mai dyma'r bedwaredd eglwys Bedyddiedig i gau mewn tair mlynedd ar ddeg o fyw yng Nghwm Cynon. Ffrwd, Aberpennar oedd y cyntaf i gau, wedyn Eglwys y Gadlys, Soar Llwydcoed ac yn olaf Ramorth Hirwaun. (Mewn gwirionedd, bu i chwe chapel cau nid pedwar; daeth yr achosion i ben hefyd yn Rhos, Aberpennar ac yn Jerusalem, Abercynon. Cofier mai mewn un enwad yn unig y mae hyn.- DLD.)

Canwyd intrada wedyn emyn a darllenwyd o'r Beibl. Gweddiwyd wedyn ar ran yr aelodau olaf. Rhoddwyd braslun o hanes yr eglwys gan y chwaer Rhiannedd Milligan a diolchwyd iddi gan y brawd Brychan Watkins.

Pregethwyd gan Ysgrifennydd Cymanfa Bedyddwyr Dwyrain Morgannwg, y Parch. Eifion Wynn ar adnod o'r Datguddiad 'Pwy a saif?'. Neges o gysur oedd ganddo i'w gwrandawyr. Braf oedd gweld y Parchedigion David Thomas a E. V. Wynn-Jones yn bresennol. Gorffennwyd yr oedfa ar nodyn o fuddugoliaeth '...ond gair ein Duw ni a saif byth'.

GWYN MORGAN

(drwy law D. L. Davies, Aberdâr)

New roof cash drive

A CITY church are holding a Christmas fair on Saturday as part of their efforts to raise £25,000 to pay for a new roof.

Conway Road Methodist Church member Miss Hilda Fry said: "We had dry rot in the roof and also had to re-place piping.

"The cost of the work is £25,000 and so far we are just over the half way mark."

Once the cash is raised the church have plans to carry out alterations and create bedsit accommodation for students.

The church membership has dwindled to around 130 and the congregation are finding the building increasingly expensive to maintain.

Cemeteries contest

'Western Mail'
3 Feb 1987

TWO Welsh companies are sponsoring a 'better cemeteries' competition held to encourage better-designed memorial-gardens monuments.

This year Caerphilly-based memorial masons South Wales Monuments, who sponsored the premier award last year, are making and presenting a trophy for the runner-up.

Meanwhile the Caer-narfon slate quarry company, Wincilate Ltd, continue their sponsorship for the best use of natural slate for commemoration and memorial purposes.

The Memorial Advisory Bureau, who have launched the competition, believe that with the advance of cremation, new styles of memorial parks can be created without the restrictions of conven-

tional burial grounds.

Interested individuals, including architects and municipal planners, are invited to submit ideas for the competition that could win cash awards and trophies with a value of more than £2,500.

Winning and selected entries will be displayed at exhibitions and seminars

Entries will be judged by a panel of assessors representing the interests of municipal authorities, the Church, bereavement psychologists, landscape architects, architects, historians, funeral directors and monumental masons.

Closing date for entries is July 31, 1987. Information and entry forms are available from the MAB, 139 Kensington High Street, London W8 6SX. Telephone 01-937-0062.

CAPEL REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - DYFED

SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 1987

AT 2pm AT CARMARTHEN MUSEUM

Regional Organiser: MR. DANIEL HUWS, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (0970) 3816.

COMMUNITY INDUSTRY - A work experience training scheme for young people who have carried out a considerable amount of work renovating and repairing chapels and churches at very little cost to the sponsors. Painting, carpentry, joinery and sewing work undertaken (curtains, cassocks etc). Branches in Gwent, Glamorgan, Dyfed and Gwynedd.
Details, contact : T. SPINKS (0656) 2748.

CAPEL REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - SOUTH GLAM.

Next Meeting : MONDAY, 6 APRIL 1987

AT PLASNEWYDD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KEPPOCK ST.
ROATH, CARDIFF AT 7.30pm.

Regional Organiser: MR. GRAHAM ROSSER, CAR FAN,
23 ST. ALBAN'S AVE., THE HEATH, CARDIFF
(0222)627682.

DONALD P. RAINE, BOOKSELLER - SPECIALISING IN NEW AND SECONDHAND BOOKS
ON NONCONFORMIST AND OTHER CHURCH HISTORY, CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY, HYMNODY.
'Airview', 27 Lynton Drive, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD10 3DJ
(0274) 589473.

WALES AND THE WORLD

TOURISM AND the arts should benefit from the refurbishment of Machynlleth Tabernacle, the former Methodist chapel which has been given to the Machynlleth Tabernacle Trust.

The trust says it is restoring and converting the building "with a care that matches its importance as an historic building and to administer it as a cultural central for the Dyfi Valley.

"Two main principles are guiding the trustees," said spokesman Mr Andrew R Owen Lambert. "That the tabernacle will survive only if it continues to serve the community as a living building rather than a monument and that as great significance will be attached to the language and culture of Wales as to that of England.

"The tabernacle has pitch-pine seating for roughly 500 people and the acoustics should be excellent. We will construct a portable stage for chamber music, singing and drama.

"The pulpit — probably also made portable — will be ideal for talks and readings and installing a screen on the back wall will enable us to show films.

"Supplying a stage and an auditorium to cater for widely differing uses should give an enormous boost to the arts in this area."

He said that the trust hoped the tabernacle would be open to tourists during the day. "Since it is now a secular building but still a superb example of a neo-classical Victorian Welsh chapel, it would be highly suitable in this respect.

"Large numbers of people come through Machynlleth — given the right help the tabernacle could encourage them to stay longer. Because the need of a cultural centre is so urgent we have set ourselves the target of an official opening this month."

The ceremony will be held on October 11 when the Deo Juvante Choir from Huizen, Holland, will give a concert. "We are in urgent need of funds to cover running costs and to start work on a proposed auxiliary building," added Mr Owen Lambert.

Iaith ein Crefydd

Myfyriwr gradd ym Mhrifysgol Essex yw Gareth Hardman Jones. Magwyd ef yn Lerpwl gan rieni Cymraeg ac er nad yw ef ei hun yn siarad yr iaith mae yn ei deall a'i darllen hefyd.

Fel rhan o'i gwrs PhD dewisodd wneud astudiaeth o grefydda ymysg y Cymry Cymraeg. Gobeithia gyhoeddi ei draethawd rywbryd ar ôl ei gyflwyno yr haf nesaf. Oherwydd cysylltiad teuluol llwyddodd un o swyddogion 'Y Glannau' i gael golwg ar y traethawd. Cythruddwyd ef gymaint gan rai o gasgliadau Gareth Hardman Jones fel y cysylltodd â'r Golygyddion.

Tybed beth yw barn darllenwyr 'Y Glannau' am rai o gasgliadau'r Cymro Lerpwl hwn? (Yn Saesneg, wrth gwrs, y mae'r gwaith gwreiddiol).

1. Mae'r Iaith Gymraeg yn rhwystr enfawr i lwyddiant crefydd yng Nghymru.
2. Dylai pob capel Cymraeg yn yr ardaloedd di-Gymraeg roi'r iaith heibio a gwneud ei holl waith yn Saesneg er mwyn denu'r di-Gymraeg.
3. Dylai'r capeli a'r eglwysi yn yr ardaloedd Cymraeg osod cyfnod pendant, pump neu ddeng mlynedd, pryd y byddant hwythau yn rhoi gorau i weithgareddau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae'n honni fod y Cymry Cymraeg bellach yn gwbl ddwyieithog ac yn berffaith barod i grefydda yn Saesneg pe rhoddid yr arweiniad iawn.
4. Dylid uno'r enwadau er mwyn gwneud gwell defnydd o'r adeiladau. Gellid defnyddio'r adeilad gorau a mwyaf addas ym mhob ardal ar gyfer crefydd. Dylid gwerthu'r lleill yn syth am y pris uchaf.

CLWYD CHAPELS PROJECT

Clwyd Record Office is currently sponsoring a Chapels Project at its branch office at 46 Clwyd Street, Rhuthun, funded by the Manpower Services Commission. The year-long scheme, which began in August 1986, provides for the employment of six people - a full-time supervisor, part-time clerk/typist and four part-time research assistants. At present, five of the posts have been filled although there was a little delay in finding a proportion of suitably qualified Welsh-speaking candidates for the work required. Dylan Adams, the supervisor of the Project, will be taking up a place at Oxford University in the autumn of 1987.

As other archive repositories in Wales, the Record Office has been particularly aware of the need to locate and preserve nonconformist records now that so many chapels are closing. Nonconformity has played an important part in Welsh history and the Clwyd Project aims to complete a detailed fact sheet on every nonconformist chapel in the county, past and present, together with the relevant Ordnance Survey grid reference. Each sheet will give the chapel's opening date, a brief history of the cause and present use of the building, together with details of any relevant manuscript or printed sources and any significant architectural features. Whenever possible the location of registers and papers will also be noted. An important task of the Project team is to encourage chapel secretaries to preserve such records, especially of recently closed chapels, and it is also hoped to include a current photograph of each chapel as part of the Project. The Project has received publicity in local newspapers and a report has been prepared for the community newspapers which are now published in every county.

Much time initially has been devoted to abstracting references from denominational and historical periodicals, and from the growing collection of nonconformist records in the Clwyd Record Office itself, together with those noted in the annual reports of the National Library. More than 650 nonconformist chapels in Denbighshire and Flintshire were listed in the Report of the Welsh Church Commission in 1905, and a card index of sources, arranged by parish, has been compiled as a basis for the information sheets.

Research and the compilation of information from printed and manuscript sources has been the first stage of the Project. The next stage will be devoted to the location and listing of records and offering advice to chapel secretaries and congregations on the best methods of preserving them. The chapel fact sheets, when compiled, will present information from a variety of scattered sources, and it is hoped that they will be a significant contribution to the national efforts now being made to safeguard the nonconformist heritage of Wales.

A. G. VEYSEY

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