

Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR

12

GAEAF / WINTER 1990

CYFARFOD BLYNYDDOL CYFFREDINOL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Cynhaliwyd 5ed Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol y Gymdeithas yng Nghapel Pendref, Llanfyllin ar Ddydd Sadwrn 13ed Hydref 1990, gyda 36 o aelodau yn bresennol.

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Pendref Chapel, Llanfyllin on Saturday 13th October 1990, with 36 members present.

Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies:

Messrs M. Culliford, D.L. Davies, D. Moore, B.M. Mortimer, G.B. Williams.

1. Cofnodion Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol 1989

Cadarnhawyd cofnodion y Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cyffredinol a gynhaliwyd ym Merthyr Tudful ar 14 Hydref 1989.

2. Adroddiad y Cadeirydd

Cyfeiriodd y Cadeirydd at nifer o ddatblygiadau pwysig:-

- 1) Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod y Gwanwyn llwyddiannus iawn yn Hwlfordd ar 12 Mai 1990. Talwyd teyrnged i Mr G.B. Williams am drefnu'r Cyfarfod a'r ymweliadau â chapeli yn y prynhawn; i Mr Thomas Lloyd am ei ddarlith ddarluniadol ar y pensaer Mr George Morgan, Caerfyrddin; ac i Mr Wyn Jones am ddisgrifio nodweddion pensaernïol y capeli yr ymwelwyd â hwynt.
- 2) Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod ar y cyd rhwng Cangen De-Ddwyrain Cymru, CAPEL, a Chymdeithas Hanes yr Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig yn y Tabernacl, Llanfaches, Gwent, ar 21 Tachwedd, 1989, i ddathlu penblwydd y gynulleidfa yno yn 350 mlwydd oed.
- 3) Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod ar y cyd rhwng Cangen Gwynedd, CAPEL a Chymdeithas Hanes a Chofnodion Sir Feirionnydd yn Bala ar 9 Mehefin 1990. Traddododd Mr Ifor Owen, Llanuwchllyn, anerchiad manwl ar Gymdeithas y Cyfeillion ym Mhenllyn, a threfnwyd taith i gartrefi rhai o Grynwyr mwyaf pwysig yr ardal.
- 4) Cynhaliwyd nifer o gyfarfodydd gan Gangen Abertawe a Gorllewin Morgannwg. Cyhoeddir adroddiadau ar gapeli unigol yn rheolaidd yn y Cylchlythyr.
- 5) Cynhyrchwyd cyfres o gardiau cyfarch yn dangos golygfeydd o'r capeli canlynol: Capel Newydd, Nanhoron; Capel Mawr, Rhosllanerchrugog; Capel Pendref, Llanfyllin; Soar-y-Mynydd; Argyle Chapel, Abertawe; Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel, Bargoed. Cynlluniwyd y pum carden gyntaf gan Commander A.F. Mortimer; cynhyrchwyd y chweched gyda chaniatâd Cyngor Sir Morgannwg Ganol.
- 6) Cyfeiriwyd at fwriad English Heritage i sefydlu corff newydd i geisio achub rhai o'r eglwysi a'r capeli mwyaf pwysig yn Lloegr nad oedd yn perthyn i Eglwys Loegr. Mae'n debyg mai ymddiriedolaeth elusennol annibynnol fyddai'r corff hwn. Trafodwyd y bwriad, a chyflwynwyd gan Mr C.F. Stell wybodaeth perthnasol am y sefyllfa yn Lloegr.
- 7) Diolchwyd i Commander A.F. Mortimer am ymgymryd â'r trefniadau ar gyfer yr ymweliad â Llanfyllin, ac am baratoi y Taflen Gwybodaeth Lleol: Rhif 1, Llanfyllin.
- 8) Cytunwyd i gynnig telerau aelodaeth am oes i bensiynwyr am swm o £30 (a'r swm i'w adolygu yn rheolaidd).

- 9) Derbyniodd y gymdeithas unwaith eto gefnogaeth nifer o sefydliadau yng Nghymru, yn cynnwys Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, Canolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd, ac archifdai a llyfrgelloedd lleol.

3. Adroddiad yr Ysgrifennydd

- 1) Cyfeiriwyd at y cysylltiadau agos a ffurfiwyd gyda nifer o awdurdodau cynllunio yng Nghymru. Derbynnir yn gyson fanylion am geisiadau cynllunio oddi wrth Gyngor Dinas Abertawe, ac ymholiadau penodol ynglyn â chapeli oddi wrth Gyngor Bwrdeisdref Aberconwy, Cyngor Dosbarth Preseli a Pharc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog. Hefyd, cafwyd ymateb cadarnhaol i'r cais am fanylion perthnasol oddi wrth Gyngorau Dosbarth Dwyfor, Glyndwr, a Chwm Rhymni.
- 2) Rhoddwyd ystyriaeth yn y Pwyllgor Gwaith i geisiadau gan unigolyn a chwmni masnachol i ddatblygu mewn ffordd briodol safleoedd lle saif capeli wedi eu cau.
- 3) Cefnogwyd mewn ymchwiliad cyhoeddus i drafod apêl yn erbyn dymchwel Capel Tabor, Ffynnon Taf, sydd wedi ei rhestru fel adeilad Gradd II.
- 4) Cyhoeddir yn fuan daflenni aelodaeth newydd yn cynnwys enwau'r Trysorydd, a'r Ysgrifennydd newydd.
- 5) Diolchwyd i'r Cadeirydd, y swyddogion eraill, y Pwyllgor Gwaith a'r aelodau am eu cydweithrediad a'u cefnogaeth yn ystod y cyfnod y bu'n Ysgrifennydd CAPEL. Dymunwyd yn dda i'r Ysgrifennydd newydd.

4. Adroddiad y Trysorydd

Cyflwynwyd Adroddiad o'r Cyfrifon am y flwyddyn yn gorffen ar 30 Medi 1990. 'Roedd yr adroddiad wedi ei archwilio a'i gael yn gywir gan Mr J.R. Jones, Y Rheolwr, Banc y National Westminster, Llanfyllin. Dangosodd yr Adroddiad fod swm y Cyfrif Cadw yn £592.26, a swm y Cyfrif Buddsoddi yn £1,503.67. Mynegwyd gwerthfawrogiad am y rhoddion, gwerth £1,050.00 a dderbyniwyd yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Derbyniwyd a chadarnhawyd yr adroddiad gan y cyfarfod.

5. Ethol Swyddgion

Etholwyd y swyddgion canlynol:

Cadeirydd:	Miss Ann Rhydderch
Ysgrifennydd:	Miss Susan Beckley
Trysorydd:	Commander A.F. Mortimer

6. Ethol Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith

- 1) Etholwyd Dr. D. Huw Owen (Aberystwyth) a Mr Geoffrey Veasey (Penarlâg) i wasanaethu ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith.
- 2) Cytunwyd i gyfethol Mri. D.L. Davies (Aberdâr) a J.R. Harrison (Abertawe).
- 3) Nodwyd dymuniad Mr Martin Snead i beidio â pharhau yn aelod o Bwyllgor Gwaith CAPEL. Cytunwyd i ddiolch iddo am ei gyfraniad gwerthfawr fel Cynrychiolydd Pensaernïol ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith.

7. Ail-apwyntio Archwiliwr

Ail apwyntiwyd Mr J.R. Jones, Y Rheolwr, Banc y National Westminster, Llanfyllin, yn archwiliwr y gymdeithas.

8. Cangen Newydd

Cyfeiriwyd at y cynnig i sefydlu cangen newydd yng Ngwent. Cytunwyd i ofyn i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith roddi ystyriaeth bellach i'r cais hwn.

Mynegwyd hefyd y farn y dylid ystyried sefydlu grwpiau ar raddfa mwy lleol nag un sy'n seiliedig ar sir neu ranbarth.

9. Diogelwch Capeli

Cyfeiriwyd at yr angen i sicrhau ac i roddi cyhoeddusrwydd i gyngor perthnasol gan Swyddog Atal Troseddau.

Nodwyd hefyd y manteision o sefydlu Cynllun Gwyliaidwriaeth Capeli.

10. Teiau a Sgarffau-Pen

Gofynnwyd i'r Pwyllgor Gwaith ystyried cynhyrchu teiau a sgarffau-pen, a nodwyd y manteision o ran cyhoeddusrwydd a gwneud elw.

11. Yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

Cyfeiriwyd at y posibilrwydd o sicrhau stondin ar faes yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

12. Apêl Ymddiriedolaeth Hen Gapel John Hughes

Tynnwyd sylw at Apêl Ymddiriedolaeth Hen Gapel John Hughes a'r angen am gefnogaeth ariannol.

13. Trefniadau'r Dydd

Cyfeiriodd Commander A.F. Mortimer at y trefniadau a wnaed ynglŷn â'r pryd bwyd yn ysgoldy capel Moreia, y daith bws i ymweld â detholiad o gapeli gogledd Maldwyn, a'r arddangosfa fach o luniau a ffotograffau o gapeli lleol.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1989

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at Merthyr Tudful on 14 October 1989, were confirmed.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman referred to several important developments:

- 1) A very successful Spring Meeting was held at Haverfordwest on 12 May 1990. A tribute was paid to Mr G.B. Williams for organising the meeting, and the visits to chapels in the afternoon; to Mr Thomas Lloyd for his illustrated lecture on the architect, Mr George Morgan of Carmarthen; and to Mr Wyn Jones for describing the architectural features of the chapels visited in the afternoon.
- 2) A joint meeting had been held between the South-East Wales Branch of CAPEL, and the Historical Society of the United Reformed Church at Tabernacle Chapel, Llanvaches, Gwent on 21 November 1989 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the congregation.
- 3) A joint meeting had been held between the Gwynedd Branch of CAPEL and the Merioneth Historical and Record Society at Bala on 9 June 1990. Mr Ifor Owen, Llanuwchllyn gave a detailed talk on the Society of Friends in Penllyn, and this was followed by a guided tour of some of the more important Quaker homes in the area.
- 4) A number of meetings had been held by the Swansea and West Glamorgan Branch. Reports on individual chapels are regularly published in the Newsletter.
- 5) A series of notelets has been produced showing views of the following chapels: Capel Newydd Nanhoron; Capel Mawr Rhosllanerchrugog; Capel Pendref, Llanfyllin; Soar-y-Mynydd; Argyle Chapel, Swansea; Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel, Bargoed. The first five cards

were designed by Commander A.F. Mortimer, and the sixth was produced with the consent of the Mid Glamorgan County Council.

- 6) Reference was made to the intention of English Heritage to establish a new body, which would probably be an independent charitable trust, devoted to saving some of England's outstanding historical non-Anglican churches and chapels. This intention was discussed, and relevant information was provided by Mr C.F. Stell.
- 7) Commander A.F. Mortimer was thanked for undertaking the arrangements for the visit to Llanfyllin, and for preparing the local Information Sheet: No. 1, Llanfyllin.
- 8) It was agreed to offer life-membership terms to senior citizens for a sum of £30 (and this sum would be periodically reviewed).
- 9) The Society had again received the support of several institutions in Wales, including the National Library of Wales, the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre, and local record offices and libraries.

3. The Secretary's Report

- 1) Reference was made to the close links forged with a number of planning authorities in Wales. Information is regularly received on planning applications from Swansea City Council, and specific enquiries have been received from the Aberconway Borough Council and the Preseli District Council, and the Brecon Beacons National Park. A positive response to the request for relevant details had also been given by the Dwyfor, Glyndwr and Rhymney Valley District Councils.
- 2) Consideration had been given by the Executive Committee to applications from an individual and a business concern to develop in a sensitive way a site containing a chapel which had been closed.
- 3) Support had been given to the public enquiry to consider the appeal against the demolition of Tabor Chapel, Taff's Well which was a listed Grade II building.
- 4) New membership leaflets, containing the names of the Treasurer, and the new Secretary, will shortly be produced.
- 5) The Chairman and the other officers, the Executive Committee and the members were thanked for their co-operation and support during the period he had served as Secretary. He extended his best wishes to the new Secretary.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30 September 1990. The accounts had been audited and found correct by Mr J.R. Jones, The Manager, National Westminster Bank, Llanfyllin. The statement showed that the Deposit Account balance was £592.26 and the Investment Account balance was £1,503.67. Appreciation was expressed for the donations, amounting to £1,050.00, received during the year. The report was accepted and approved by the meeting.

5. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Miss Ann Rhydderch
Secretary: Miss Susan Beckley
Treasurer: Commander A.F. Mortimer

6. Election of Members of Executive Committee

- 1) Dr. D. Huw Owen (Aberystwyth) and Mr Geoffrey Veasey (Hawarden) were elected to serve on the Executive committee.
- 2) It was agreed that Messrs D.L. Davies (Aberdare) and J.R. Harrison (Swansea) be co-opted on to the Executive Committee.
- 3) Mr Martin Snead's wish to terminate his membership of the Executive Committee was noted. It was agreed that he should be thanked for his valuable contribution as Architectural Representative on the Executive Committee.

7. Re-appointment of Auditor

Mr J.R. Jones, The Manager, National Westminster Bank, Llanfyllin, was re-appointed as the auditor of the society.

8. New Branch

Reference was made to the proposal to establish a new branch in Gwent. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should be asked to give further consideration to this request.

The view was also expressed that groups should be established on a more local level than one based upon a county or region.

9. Security of Chapels

Reference was made to the need to ensure and publicise relevant advice by a Crime Prevention Officer.

The advantages of establishing a Chapel Watch Scheme were also noted.

10. Ties and Head Scarves

The Executive Committee was asked to consider producing ties and head scarves and the advantages, in terms of publicity and income generation, were noted.

11. National Eisteddfod

Reference was made to the possibility of arranging a stand on the National Eisteddfod field.

12. Hen Gapel John Hughes Trust Appeal

Attention was drawn to the Hen Gapel John Hughes Trust Appeal and to the need for financial support.

13. Arrangements for the Day

Commander A.F. Mortimer referred to the arrangements which had been made concerning the buffet lunch in Moreia chapel vestry, the bus tour of selected chapels in North Montgomeryshire, and the small exhibition of drawings and photographs of local chapels.

TOUR OF THE CHAPELS OF NORTH MONTGOMERYSHIRE

After lunch, the members who attended the A.G.M. enjoyed a bus tour of some of the more interesting chapels of the district, under the guidance of Cmdr. Mortimer. In addition to preparing an exhibition of drawings and photographs of the chapels, Cmdr. Mortimer had compiled a Local Information Sheet containing historical and architectural notes about the places to be visited. Some copies of this Information sheet are still available, at 80p each from the Secretary (inc. p. & p.) for members who were unable to come to Llanfyllin and it is hoped that similar sheets can be compiled in the localities where our Spring and Autumn meetings are held in future.

Pendref, the Independent chapel where the A.G.M. was held, is interesting as the place where Ann Griffiths was converted by the preaching of Benjamin Jones. The church had been founded in 1708 but the present building dates from 1829.

At Meifod we visited the parish church with its Celtic cross and the Calvinistic Methodist Seion, which, when opened in 1874, had been quaintly described as 'Gothic of an Early English type with a touch of French character'. At Pontrobert we had an opportunity to see the progress which has been made in the restoration of Hen Gapel John Hughes. Other chapels visited were the charming little Wesleyan Saron at Gwaenynog, substantially unaltered since 1827, and Capel Coffa Ann Griffiths at Dolanog, where we listened to some of Ann's hymns sung by the choir of Aelwyd Penllys.

LADY HUNTINGDON'S COLLEGE AT TREVECKA

Trevecka must be the smallest place in Britain which can boast of having been the home of two important theological colleges. For about 120 years Howell Harris's former settlement was a training college for ministers of the Presbyterian (Calvinistic Methodist) Church of Wales. Between 1768 and 1792 College Farm was the home of Lady Huntingdon's College in South Wales. Today the two buildings provide a sad contrast. Howell Harris's buildings have been splendidly restored and are still used by the Presbyterian Church. College Farm is in a deplorable state of disrepair, and will soon collapse unless steps are taken to rescue a building which is unique in both Welsh and English history.

Selina Dowager Countess of Huntingdon began building chapels in 1760 when she opened one for the religious society at Brighton. A few years before her death she claimed to have 116 chapels and meeting places in England and Wales. Until 1782 these were on the same footing as the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist chapels - meeting places for Anglicans which supplemented but did not replace the Established Church. The two universities were not sympathetic to Methodism and many bishops refused to ordain known Methodists. So a few years after the Brighton chapel was opened Lady Huntingdon planned a seminary to train evangelical ministers which would be free from the constraints and vices of the universities, and she hoped that the bishops might be more willing to ordain men who had been trained for the ministry. In this she was unsuccessful, and in 1782 events in London forced her to secede from the Church of England and form her own Connexion. The chapel at College Farm, which is exactly as it was in her day, has therefore been both an Anglican chapel of ease and a Dissenters' meeting house.

She chose to establish her college at Trevecka not only because Howell Harris could help to supervise it, but also because it would provide education for those Welshmen who could not afford to go to Oxford or Cambridge. In this latter aim she was so successful that even after the college moved to Cheshunt in 1792 it still continued to attract many Welsh students. Harris found her an Elizabethan farmhouse which belonged to his family, and supervised the building of an extension at the rear and alterations elsewhere. The farmhouse had a central hall which he converted to a chapel. Here, or in front of the college when the congregation grew too large, preached William Williams, Nathaniel Rowland, Thomas Charles, George Whitefield, John Fletcher, John and Charles Wesley, and many other Methodists. To the right of the chapel was the house where Lady Huntingdon lived. When in residence the students were invited into her parlour where she would get them to read a chapter from the Bible and talk to them about it. On the left of the chapel (where the new extension had been built) the students lived, ate and studied. Here in 1768 John Fletcher presided over a student revival meeting which lasted several days, and here Howell Harris expounded to them until his death. Her students went out to preach at Brecon and elsewhere as part of their training. From letters to Lady Huntingdon (now preserved at Cambridge) we know so much about the building and its occupants at

this time that its present inaccessibility from falling masonry is very disappointing. Lady Huntingdon's income, from which she had provided for her students, died with her in 1791, but the college was rescued by a group of London tradesmen who moved it to Cheshunt in Hertfordshire the next year. In 1905 it moved again to Cambridge, and it joined Westminster (Presbyterian) College in 1968. Until then it had remained the only theological college which trained ministers for the Church of England or any other Protestant church. Dr. Nuttall in his *The Significance of Trevecca College* (London, 1969) has demonstrated its importance as the first of a series of new colleges, distinct from the old Dissenting academies. College Farm is an important landmark in both Welsh and English history. The building has survived almost unaltered from the day on which the last students left. It would be a great pity if it disappeared in a pile of rubble - which it will undoubtedly do unless action is taken soon.

Edwin

Welch

[Dr Welch, who is the honorary archivist of Cheshunt College Foundation, has written a new biography of Lady Huntingdon which will be published in 1991].

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

The appearance of this section in our Newsletter may need explaining to some of our readers. Even so there can be few who are unaware of the changes taking place within burial grounds today. More and more old gravestones are being moved to facilitate grass cutting and even when they are re-erected they are not always readable in their new positions. Some stones become superfluous, no room being found for them in the new scheme, but even if they have only been moved some people seeking the last resting places of their forebears find that family gravestones which were originally grouped together are now dispersed. For the family historian this is a disaster.

Hence the move to encourage family history societies and other interested bodies to organise work parties to transcribe monumental inscriptions in undisturbed burial grounds. The transcriber's end product is a plan of the burial ground showing all visible monuments in their relative positions and numbered, accompanied by a typed record of the monumental inscriptions with corresponding numbers. Thereafter whatever happens on the ground an irreplaceable archival record will be available.

Although not all groups or societies agree, a strong case can be made for copying every inscription in full, line by line, as on the original, using capital letters for all surnames and forenames. In this way only can one give future researchers the maximum amount of information; just names and dates do not tell the full story. In my own case my paternal great-grandfather's headstone not only gives his home address but also the information that he was the choirmaster in the Welsh church for 56 years, (... "arweinydd y gân yn yr Eglwys Gymraeg am yspaid 56 mlynedd"). More than one researcher in Wales has discovered a tribute to a dead ancestor in the form of an "englyn" composed by a local bard and inscribed on the gravestone. Unusual monuments whether distinctive in shape or design can be of interest so transcribers are encouraged to include a brief description of each one including the type of stone (slate, marble, granite, etc) and also the condition it is in if it seems relevant.

V.H. Williams

In *Newsletter 11* Mr Williams reported that lists were available of the Nonconformist burial grounds whose inscriptions had been recorded. The lists for two counties, Powys and Clwyd, which were not available at the time have now been received by Mr Williams and are available in the National Library.

FORMS FOR RECORDING INSCRIPTIONS

Mrs Patricia Moore, the Glamorgan Archivist, has sent us samples of the printed forms used in Glamorgan, together with the following explanatory note.

The Glamorgan Record Office, in collaboration with a Graveyard Recording Liaison Committee, with advice from CADW and other bodies, has devised a printed form which has been used by the Glamorgan Family History Society and by various organisations in Glamorgan who have recorded inscriptions. The form asks for a variety of information, including the shape and material of the monument, details of verses, and of the monumental mason. All this in addition to a transcription of the text, and a map of the ground, plot by plot.

The completed forms have been returned to the Glamorgan Record Office, where they are stored, while an index and digest of the genealogical information has been typed and is available for consultation and for sale.

In other parts of the country, some recorders have noted no more than the genealogical information which is of interest to family historians. Such recording is of course quicker, but it lacks the breadth of the wider recording. It satisfies the genealogist, but has less to offer the local historian with other interests.

I think the form may be of interest to members of CAPEL and may encourage some to embark on the fuller recording rather than the indexes which omit everything but genealogical information.

The form, an A4 sized sheet, provides space for the following information:

Graveyard; Monument No.; Date of survey; Recorder's name; Institution; Type of memorial; Material; Condition of monument; Condition of inscription; Direction the inscription faces; Dimensions; Mason's name; Remarks; Neg. no. and location; Photograph / sketch.

The recorder is instructed: 'Please transcribe the inscription exactly, copying the spelling, punctuation and capitalisation of the original. Indicate the end of each line by an oblique stroke (/). Copy everything that appears on the stone and continue on another sheet where necessary. Indicate all gaps or illegible sections.'

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

G.P. Neilson, *Swansea's Wesley Chapel: the story from John Wesley's visits to its destruction*. (Ilford: Robert Odcombe Associates for the author, [1990]. ISBN 1 870408 16 0 £2.20).

Written in the bicentenary year of the opening of the first Wesleyan chapel in Swansea, this booklet gives a concise account of the three churches built on the College Street / Goat Street site and includes some twenty pages of extracts from various newspapers and magazines published in the period 1834 to 1941 and

Swansea and a member of the Methodist Church in Sketty, acting as archivist to the Swansea and Gower Circuit.

Cmdr. Mortimer remarks that 'the book is of particular interest to one who watched, from the hills to the north, the Luftwaffe attacks on Swansea in February 1941. The many activities of the members of this famous institution are fully covered, as is the drama of the last building - completed under the supervision of a dispensing chemist when the architect failed, and finally destroyed by German bombing'.

David A. Barton, *Discovering chapels and meeting houses*. ([Princes Risborough]: Shire Publications, 1990. ISBN 0 7478 0097 9 £2.25).

Second edition of a 64 page booklet which first appeared in 1975. Only four pages are devoted to Wales but the Postscript to the second edition does mention the foundation of Capel in May 1986. The bibliography lists 35 publications, 20 of which have been published after the appearance of the booklet's first edition.

CHAPELS AND THE 1851 CENSUS

How many members of Capel subscribe to the *National Library of Wales Journal*? Though naturally only a small proportion of the contents of the journal relates directly to Welsh chapel history, the preservation of Welsh church and chapel records is an important part of the Library's responsibilities and from time to time the journal publishes articles central to the aims and objects of our Society.

One such article is "The religious census of 1851 and early chapel building in North Wales: a sample survey" by Dr M. V. J. Seaborne, published in the Summer 1990 issue (Vol. XXVI No. 3). It analyses the surprising amount of information relating to one small area (a part of Clwyd) which can be found in the 1851 census. Dr. Seaborne's study provides a pattern which could with advantage be followed in other areas of the country.

DEGREE THESIS ON CHAPEL CONSERVATION

A recent academic dissertation of interest to members of CAPEL is 'Conservation and Nonconformity', submitted by Robin Kent to the Centre for Conservation Studies of the Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York. It outlines the history of radical dissent and the Nonconformist heritage and is designed to encourage an informed approach to the conservation of Nonconformist structures by churches and historic buildings interests.

It examines the historical attitudes of Nonconformists to church buildings and the uses to which the buildings are put today, concluding with an outline of the principles which should guide those concerned with the conservation of Nonconformist

buildings and making recommendations for improvements. It is supplemented by illustrative case studies of several different buildings.

In a letter to CAPEL, Mr Kent remarks: 'Although I had originally intended to study the different types of alterations to Nonconformist buildings, as it proceeded, I found the thesis was focussing on the important central issue of ecclesiastical exemption and freedom of worship, which seems to be at the root of most conflicts between conservation interest and the churches'.

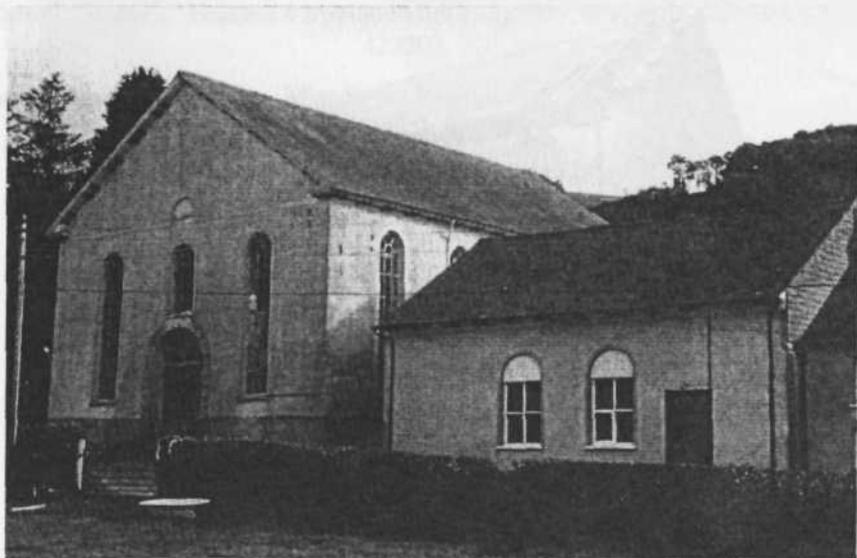
FE DRODD Y RHOD:

Pennod yn Hanes Cefn Gwlad Cymru

Tua chanrif a hanner yn ôl buasai teithiwr drwy Goginan - pentref saith milltir o Aberystwyth i gyfeiriad Ponterwyd - yn siwr o sylwi ar yr olion amlwg o ddiwydiant arbennig yn y pentref. Roedd y tomenni rwbel yn arwydd fod y gwaith mwyn plwm yn ei anterth, ffyniant yn amlwg, a llu o fythynnod gweithwyr yn ffurfio pentref taclus, yng nghanol dyffryn bach Melindwr, a fu'n brydferth anghyffredin cyn i'r gwaith o chwilio am blwm ei anharddu.

Yr oedd lefain y diwygiad Methodistaidd eisoes wedi treiddio i bob cwr o'r ardal gan wneud Methodistiaid Calфинаidd selog o'r rhan fwyaf o'r trigolion. Yr oedd yn gyfnod anodd ar yr arloeswyr a fu'n gweithio'n dawel i osod sylfeini'r achos yn y cylch. Ond nid oes amheuaeth ynghylch eu llwyddiant. Yna, tua'r flwyddyn 1834 daeth masnachwyr a pheirianwyr i'r pentref a'u diddordeb cyntaf mewn cloddio am blwm. Buont yn llwyddiannus a bu galw mawr am weithwyr i'r mwyngloddiau. Cynyddodd y boblogaeth a'r achos nes ei gwneud yn amhosibl cynnal cyfarfodydd gweddi ac Ysgol Sul mewn tai annedd. Aethpwyd ati i chwilio am le i adeiladu capel i'r Methodistiaid yng Ngoginan. Bu trigolion yr ardal yn hynod ffyddlon wrth y gwaith adeiladu ac erbyn dechrau 1843 roedd y capel wedi'i orffen.

Dal i gynyddu oedd y boblogaeth a'r ardal yn troi o fod yn fro amaethyddol i fod yn fro ddiwydiannol. Cyn hir gwelwyd fod y capel yn rhy fach i gynnwys y gynulleidfa. Yn 1860, felly, dechreuwyd adeiladu capel newydd a phrydferth, ac erbyn 1863 roedd y capel hwnnw wedi ei gwblhau, wedi ei adeiladu o'r defnyddiau gorau, yn goed a cherrig.



Capel y Dyffryn

Cyn diwedd y ganrif, fodd bynnag, daeth trai, bu edwino mawr ar y fasnach blwm, ac aeth Goginan, a fu ers canol y ganrif yn ganolfan i weithwyr y cylch, yn ddim ond lle anghyfanedd. Distawodd yr hen rod a oedd gynt i'w chlywed yn gyson o'r capel.

Aeth y bobl i chwilio am waith i rywle arall, ac aeth y capel mawr yn llawer rhy fawr i'r nifer a'i mynychai. Aeth y blynyddoedd heibio. Yn 1964 dathlwyd canmlwyddiant y capel ac argraffwyd llyfryn yn olrhain hanes y cylch a'r achos.

Yn 1981, felly, penderfynwyd addasu'r festri - y capel cyntaf - ar gyfer gwasanaethau'r gynulleidfa a oedd yn awr gymaint yn llai ei nifer. Buwyd yn ffodus iawn i gael pulpud ynghyd â nifer o roddion eraill, o Gapel Siloam, Trehafod, Morgannwg Ganol, oherwydd fod y capel yn cau. Yn drist iawn hefyd, fe gaewyd Capel Jezreel, Eglwys y Bedyddwyr yng Ngoginan ers cant a hanner o flynyddoedd, ac yn garedig iawn fe drosglwyddwyd yr organ i Eglwys y Dyffryn, ac mae'r aelodau'n ddiolchgar iawn am y caredigrwydd.

Felly ers 1981 mae Methodistiaid Goginan, megis yn 1843 yn ôl yn addoli yn y capel cyntaf. Mae rhod amser wedi rhoi eithaf tro yn hanes Capel y Dyffryn. Mae'r capel mawr â lle i eistedd pum cant, yn hardd heddiw a heb fod mymryn gwaeth, ond yn wag. Mae rhod y gwaith mwyn wedi rhoi ei holaf dro. Mae'r tomenni rwbwl wedi eu symud, a thir glas yn harddu'r lle unwaith eto, a phethau fel petaent yn ôl yn y dechreuad.

Newid ddaeth o rod i rod
Mae cenhedlaeth wedi mynd
A chenhedlaeth wedi dod.

(Mrs) M.E. Williams



Capel Jezreel

PWYLLGOR GWAITH / COMMITTEE

M. Culliford

27 Clyffard Avenue, Newport, Gwent. Tel: 0633 211297

D. Leslie Davies

5 Milton Street, Cwmaman, Aberdar, Mid Glamorgan. Tel. 0792 873226

Ms Elizabeth Evans

Hollycroft, Midway Lane, Abergavenny, Gwent.

Tel: (Office) 0495 762311 (Home) 0873 3595

J.R. Harrison

9 Knolly Street, Treboeth, Swansea, West Glamorgan. Tel: 0792 796331

P. Alun Jones (*Golygydd y Cylchlythyr / Editor of Newsletter*)

Bro Dawel, Coedlan Iorwerth, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 1EW.

Tel: 0970 623058

Dr. D. Huw Owen

Gelli Glyd, Ffordd Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

Tel: (Home) 0970 611644 (Office) 0970 623816

Dr. Dilys Quick (*Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer*)

Flat 40, Belgrave Court, Walter Road, Swansea, West Glamorgan.

Tel: 0792 473058

Graham Rosser

Câr Fan, 23 St. Alban's Avenue, The Heath, Cardiff, CF4 4AS. Tel: 0222 627682

V.H. Williams (*Association of Family History Societies of Wales*)

Ael y Bryn, Penrhiw, Bow Street, Dyfed, SY24 5BA. Tel: 0970 828778

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the time of the Annual General Meeting in October, 47 members had still not paid their subscriptions for 1990 and in addition 13 were in arrears for earlier years. Members are reminded that subscriptions become due on 1st January each year.

Have you thought of giving your bank a standing order to pay your subscription automatically? Not only does this save you having to remember to send your cheque, it also saves the Society the postage and other expenses involved in sending out reminders. Just tell your bank once - now - to make the appropriate payment at the beginning of each year to:

Lloyd's Bank, Oswestry
Sorting Code: 30-96-33
Account: 7067532 CAPEL

If you wish, I can send you a printed form for the purpose.

A.F. Mortimer, *Treasurer*

TANYSGRIFIADAU AELODAETH

Pan gynhaliwyd y Cyfarfod Blynyddol ym mis Hydref, yr oedd 47 o'n haelodau yn dal heb dalu eu tanysgrifiadau am 1990 ac yr oedd 13 heb dalu tanysgrifiadau blaenorol ychwaith. Atgoffir yr aelodau fod y tanysgrifiadau'n ddyledus ar 1af Ionawr bob blwyddyn.

A ydych wedi ystyried rhoi archeb sefydlog i'ch banc i dalu'ch tanysgrifiad yn rheolaidd bob blwyddyn? Byddai hyn nid yn unig yn eich arbed chi rhag gorfod anfon y siec, byddai hefyd yn arbed i'r Gymdeithas gost cludiant a'r costau eraill ynglyn â'ch atgoffa. Y cyfan sydd angen yw dweud wrth eich banc unwaith - nawr - i anfon y tâl priodol bob blwyddyn i:

Banc Lloyd's, Croesoswallt
Cod Didoli: 30-96-33
Cyfrif: 7067532 CAPEL

Os dymunwch, gallaf anfon atoch ffurflen brintiedig barod at y pwrpas.

A.F. Mortimer, *Trysorydd*

Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre



The history of Pontypridd and its people, told through a variety of exhibits

Working models. Including a model railway and a model colliery.

Objects. Used at work, in the home and in recreation.

Recorded voices. People of Pontypridd telling their own history.

Archive film. Important aspects and moments of the history of the town and the valleys.

The Centre is located in a converted chapel whose pipe organ is still used for recitals. A new audio visual programme explains the origins of the chapels and traces the influence of Welsh religious dissent at home and overseas.

There is also full programme of visiting exhibitions on historical, scientific and artistic subjects.

Tourist Information Centre

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 5pm
(& Bank Holidays)

Admission: Adults 25p Children 15p

Bridge Street, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 4PE
Telephone (0443) 402077/480786

How to get there: The Centre is about 500 yards from the A470 -
Ynysybwl exit (6 miles from M4 junction 32)

At the "Gateway to the Valleys"

Canolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd

LL. G. C. / N. L. W. Aberystwyth