Y Neuadd Goffa

Nid syniad newydd oedd adeiladu neuadd gyhoeddus yn Nhal-y-bont ar ddiwedd y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf ond canlyniad degawdau o drin a thrafod yr angen am adeilad pwrpasol i gynnal gweithgareddau o bob math yn y pentref. Er pan agorwyd yr hen ysgol yn Ionawr 1842 bu'n ganolfan gymdeithasol i gymdogaeth eang. Mewn gwirionedd bu'n neuadd gyhoeddus i'r ardal am gyfnod o bedwar ugain mlynedd. Cynhelid cyngherddau, cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus o bob math, ynghyd â llysoedd yr ynadon ynddi, ac o ganlyniad yr oedd y draul arni ymhell y tu hwnt i'r hyn a achoswyd gan blant ifanc o ddydd i ddydd. Ceir cyfeiriadau mynych yn llyfrau cofnodion yr hen ysgol at gyflwr gwarthus yr adeilad, megis y cofnod ym Mawrth 1895:

> *Cynhaliwyd y Sesiwn Bach yn Ystafell y Babanod hyd at 2.30 o'r gloch ac yna nid oedd yn weddus i'r plant ei defnyddio – yn llawn o fwg tybaco, y seddau'n fwdlyd a'r llawr yn wlyb gan boeriadau.*

Bu cynnydd aruthrol mewn diwydiant a masnach yn Nhal-y-bont a'r cylch yn ystod pumdegau a chwedegau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Roedd y gweithfeydd mwyn plwm yn eu hanterth, y ffatrioedd gwlân ar gynnydd; nifer o siopau a thai newydd wedi eu hadeiladu yn y pentref ac amaethyddiaeth ynghanol cyfnod euraid ar y pryd. O ganlyniad i'r ffyniant bu cynnydd sylweddol yn y boblogaeth, mewn masnach, a'r gweithgareddau cymdeithasol a ddeuai yn sgîl hyn oll.

Yn rhifyn Chwefror 1980 o *Papur Pawb* cyhoeddwyd cynllun y daeth Gwyn Jenkins ar ei draws yng Nghasgliad Papurau Gogerddan yn y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol yn darlunio neuadd farchnad ac ystafell ynadon yn Nhal-y-bont yn 1867. Ni adeiladwyd y neuadd farchnad, ond y mae'r cynllun yn un diddorol iawn. Yr oedd y llawr gwaelod wedi ei neilltuo ar gyfer gwerthu nwyddau megis llestri, gwlân, menyn, wyau, dofednod a chigoedd, ynghyd â swyddfa a pheiriant pwyso. Ar y llawr uwchben yr oedd yr ystafell ynadon a neuadd i gynnal cyfarfodydd. Ni ddaeth

The Memorial Hall

The concept of building a public hall in Tal-y-bont at the end of the First World War was not a new one but the result of decades of discussion on the need for a suitable building to stage all kinds of village events. Since the old school was opened in 1842 it was a social centre for a wide community. In reality it was a public hall for the locality for a period of eighty years. Concerts, public meetings of all kinds, as well as magistrates courts were held there and consequently there was far more wear and tear on the building than was caused daily by young children. There are frequent references in the old school records to the disgraceful condition of the school. A comment in March 1895 was:

> *The Petty Sessions were held in the Infants' Class until 2.30 p.m. and afterwards it was unsuitable for use by children – full of tobacco smoke, the seats muddy and the floor damp from spit.*

There was a tremendous increase in industry and commerce in Tal-y-bont and the surrounding area during the fifties and sixties of the nineteenth century. The lead mines were in full swing, the woollen factories were on the increase; several new shops and houses were built in the village and agriculture was experiencing a golden era. As a consequence of the prosperity there was a substantial increase in population, in commerce, and in social activities.

Published in the 1980 February edition of *Papur Pawb* is a plan, which Gwyn Jenkins found in the Gogerddan papers at the National Library, illustrating a market hall and magistrates room in Tal-y-bont in 1867. The market hall was never built, but the plan is most interesting. The ground floor was to be used for selling goods such as crockery, wool, butter, eggs, poultry and meat, along with an office and a weighing machine. On the floor above were the magistrates' room and a hall for holding meetings. Nothing came of this plan and thirty two years passed before there was mention of any kind of hall in the village. It is possible that the plan for building a hall

dim o'r cynllun hwnnw ac aeth deuddeng mlynedd ar hugain heibio cyn bod sôn am neuadd o unrhyw fath yn y pentref. Mae'n bosibl i'r cynllun o godi neuadd gael ei osod o'r neilltu pan adeiladwyd ystafell ychwanegol yn yr hen ysgol yn 1867.

Ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi 1899 cynhaliwyd cyngerdd mawreddog yn yr ysgol i godi arian tuag at yr Ystafell Ddarllen a Llyfrgell a sefydlwyd yn y pentref yn 1896. Llywydd y noson oedd Pryse Pryse, Lodge Park, etifedd Ystad Gogerddan, ac ar wahân i'w dad, y dyn mwyaf dylanwadol yng ngogledd Ceredigion. Yn ei araith dywedodd y gellid trwy gydweithrediad ac undod godi neuadd gyhoeddus. Roedd anogaeth Pryse Pryse yn ddigon. Aeth y Cyngor Plwyf ati i 'alw cyfarfod plwyfol mor gynted ag y byddai'n gyfleus er cael llais y trethdalwyr gyda golwg ar y priodoldeb i'r Cyngor ddarparu neuadd gyhoeddus yn Nhal-y-bont at wasanaeth yr ardal'. Cynhaliwyd dau gyfarfod o dan gadeiryddiaeth John Williams a rhannwyd yr ardal yn dair i'w chanfasio er mwyn casglu arian. Ni ddeilliodd dim o'r cyfarfodydd hyn ac aeth ugain mlynedd arall heibio cyn i'r cynllun i godi neuadd gael ei drafod drachefn. Er hynny cyhoeddwyd traethawd buddugol Eisteddfod Nasareth y flwyddyn honno mewn dau rifyn o'r *Welsh Gazette* yn Rhagfyr 1899 o dan y teitl 'Y Gwelliantau Angenrheidiol ar Gyfer Cynydd Tebygol y Lle'. Ymhlith y datblygiadau angenrheidiol yr oedd galw am

> *adeilad cyhoeddus gan nad oes yn y pentref ar y pryd un cymwys i gynnal cyfarfodydd a chyngherddau heb fynd i'r capeli neu'r ysgol. Y mae angen adeilad yn y pentref yn cynnwys ystafelloedd ar gyfer Darllenfa a Llyfrgell, i gynnal cyfarfodydd yr Ustusiaid, a'r cyfarfodydd plwyfol, a'r ystafelloedd hyn yn cael eu rhannu gan* folding partitions. *Byddai yn briodol fod ynddo ystafell marchnad, a lle cyfleus i roddi ceffylau a cherbydau i mewn, hefyd gwesty i gael lluniaeth. Dylasai fod yn lle y gallasai dyn droi i mewn a theimlo'n gysurus, ac ystafelloedd ynddo i bob pwrpas at wasanaeth y pentref a'r cymydogaethau cylchynol.*

Roedd y sylwadau hyn yn adlewyrchu'r union gynllun a luniwyd yn 1867. Ffactorau economaidd a masnachol yn hytrach na was shelved when an additional room was built on to the old school in 1867.

A grand concert was held at the school on St David's Day 1899 in order to raise money towards the Reading Room and Library set up in the village in 1896. The President for the evening was Pryse Pryse, Lodge Park, the heir to the Gogerddan Estate, and, apart from his father, the most influential man in north Ceredigion. In his speech he said that with co-operation and unity a public hall could be built. The encouragement of Pryse Pryse was enough. The Parish Council set about 'convening a parish meeting as soon as convenient in order to hear the opinion of ratepayers as to the propriety of the Council providing a public hall in Tal-y-bont, to serve the locality'. Two meetings were held with John Williams as chairman and the locality was divided into three areas for the purpose of collecting money. Nothing came of these meetings and a further twenty years passed before plans to build a hall were again discussed. Despite this, the prize-winning essay in the Nazareth Eisteddfod that year was published in two parts in the *Welsh Gazette* in December 1899 under the title, 'The Necessary Improvements for Progress in the Area'. Amongst the necessary improvements was the demand for

> *a public building as there isn't a suitable one in the village at present to hold meetings and concerts without going to the chapels or the school. A building is required in the village to include a Reading Room and a Library, a room to hold Magistrates' meetings and parish meetings and these rooms to be divided by* folding partitions. *It would be appropriate to have a market room there and a convenient place to keep horses and carts, also a hotel to provide refreshments. It should be a place where one could visit and feel comfortable, with multi-purpose rooms to serve the village and the surrounding neighbourhood.*

These comments reflected the exact plan drawn up in 1867. Economic and commercial factors rather than a lack of enthusiasm were responsible for the fact that a village hall was not built. By 1899 agriculture had been through a bad recession which lasted twenty years. The lead mines were closing down and a large number of families had moved to South

diffyg brwdfrydedd oedd yn gyfrifol am y ffaith na chodwyd neuadd gyhoeddus yn y pentref. Erbyn 1899 roedd amaethyddiaeth wedi bod drwy ddirwasgiad enbyd a barodd am ugain mlynedd. Roedd y gweithfeydd mwyn hefyd yn gyflym ddirwyn i ben, a nifer fawr o deuluoedd wedi symud i Dde Cymru i gael gwaith yn y meysydd glo a dur. Er gwaethaf hyn roedd y bwrlwm cymdeithasol yn parhau'n ddi-ball drwy gydol dau ddegawd cyntaf yr ugeinfed ganrif, a cheir adroddiad am berfformiad o'r ddrama 'Rhys Lewis' gan Gwmni Drama'r Garn yn yr hen ysgol ym Medi 1910 pan fu'n rhaid troi pobl ymaith am nad oedd lle iddynt. Amharwyd ar y perfformiad ar ddechrau'r ddrama gan gryn gynnwrf ac aflonyddwch ymhlith y gynulleidfa oherwydd y nifer oedd yn bresennol a'r ffaith fod y llwyfan yn rhy isel. Nid oedd y rhai yng nghefn yr ystafell yn gallu gweld na chlywed yr actorion. Roedd y sefyllfa honno'n tanlinellu'r angen gwirioneddol am adeilad llawer mwy gyda llwyfan pwrpasol.

Roedd y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf (1914–1918) yn un o ryfeloedd mwyaf gwaedlyd yr ugeinfed ganrif, ac erbyn y diwedd roedd dros bedwar ugain o ddynion a bechgyn yr ardal wedi brwydro ynddo. Lladdwyd deg a chlwyfwyd nifer o'r lleill. Ar ddiwedd y rhyfel aeth pob plwyf neu ardal ati i godi cofeb o ryw fath i'r milwyr a laddwyd. Mewn llawer i bentref gwelir cofgolofn mewn man amlwg, neu garreg goffa mewn eglwys megis yn Llangynfelyn ac Eglwysfach. Mae'n werth cofio mai Glandyfi gafodd y nyrs ardal gyntaf yng Ngheredigion yn 1919. Yn lle codi cofeb gyda'r arian a gasglwyd ar ddiwedd y rhyfel, fe'i defnyddiwyd i sicrhau gwasanaeth nyrs.Yn Nhal-y-bont trefnwyd cyfarfod cyhoeddus gan 'Bwyllgor Cyngerdd y Milwyr' ar 15 Chwefror 1919 er mwyn ystyried 'gwneud rhywbeth teilwng er cof am y bechgyn dewr'. Wedi trafodaeth pasiwyd yn unfrydol i adeiladu neuadd yn y pentref. Ffurfiwyd pwyllgor cadarn a brwdfrydig gyda J.E. Evans, Woodlands yn Gadeirydd, William Davies, Penlôn ac R.T. Griffiths, Y Felin yn Ysgrifenyddion, ac Edward Evans, Lerry Stores yn Drysorydd. Ar wahân i gasglu arian rhaid oedd chwilio am ddarn o dir addas. Bu dewis safle i'r neuadd yn bwnc llosg oherwydd fod rhai yn awgrymu ei chodi rhwng y ddwy dafarn

Wales to find work in the coal and steel industries. Despite this, social activity continued unabated throughout the first two decades of the twentieth century. There is a report of a performance of the drama, 'Rhys Lewis' by the Garn Drama Company in the old school in September 1910 when people had to be turned away as there was no room for them. There was some unrest and commotion amongst the audience at the beginning of the performance because of the large number present and because the stage was too low. Those at the back of the room could not see or hear the actors. The situation underlined the real need for a much bigger building with a suitable stage.

The First World War (1914–1918) was one of the bloodiest wars of the twentieth century. More than eighty local boys and men had fought in it. Ten had been killed and many others wounded. At the end of the war every parish or locality erected some kind of memorial to its fallen soldiers. In several villages monuments were erected in prominent places and memorial stones were placed in churches as in Llangynfelyn and Eglwysfach. It is worth remembering that Glandyfi had the first district nurse in Ceredigion, in 1919. Rather than using the money raised at the end of the war to erect a monument, it was used to provide the service of a nurse. In Tal-y-bont a public meeting was arranged by the 'Soldiers Concert Committee' on 15 February 1919 in order to consider 'doing something worthy in memory of the brave men'. After some discussion it was decided unanimously to build a public hall. A strong and enthusiastic committee was set up with J.E. Evans, Woodlands as Chairman, William Davies, Penlôn and R.T. Griffiths, Y Felin as Secretaries, and Edward Evans, Lerry Stores as Treasurer. As well as raising the money, a suitable plot of land had to be found. Choosing a site for the hall proved to be a controversial matter because some suggested that it should be built between the two public houses at the bottom of the village. It was decided, however, to ask Margaret Felix, Llewelyn Evans and Sir Lewes Pryse, Gogerddan for the price of prospective plots of land. Margaret Felix and Llew Evans both asked for £115, but Sir Pryse offered a free piece of land between the Police Station and the Tabernacle Manse. The bargain was sealed between R.T.

ar waelod y pentref. Penderfynwyd fodd bynnag i ofyn i Margaret Felix, Llewelyn Evans a Syr Lewes Pryse, Gogerddan am brisiau tir posibl. Roedd Margaret Felix a Llew Evans yn gofyn £115 yr un, ond cynigiodd Syr Pryse lain o dir yn ddi-dâl rhwng Swyddfa'r Heddlu a Mans y Tabernacl. Seliwyd y fargen am y tir yn y Llew Gwyn rhwng R.T. Griffiths a Syr Lewes Pryse. O hynny ymlaen nid oedd pall ar y gweithgarwch i godi arian ac erbyn Mai 1921 roedd £1200 yn y gronfa. Cynhelid pwyllgorau yn aml gyda hwyl fawr a phawb â'i farn. Roedd rhai eisiau stablau odditani er mwyn y ceffylau, ond yr oedd pawb o'r unfarn fod angen neuadd er mwyn 'glanhau'r temlau' a symud yr eisteddfodau a'r cyngherddau allan o'r capeli a'r ysgol. Dewiswyd Emrys Williams, cyfreithiwr o Aberystwyth i baratoi'r gweithredoedd; J. Lewis Evans y pensaer i wneud y cynlluniau ac i arolygu'r gwaith, a Thomas Jones o'r Dolau yn adeiladydd. Cafwyd y cerrig o Fraichgarw a Neuaddfawr, a'r graean o Alltycrib. Tua diwedd 1922 a thrwy gydol 1923 bu prysurdeb mawr gyda'r adeiladu a llawer o'r trigolion yn rhoi o'u hamser i gynorthwyo gyda'r gwaith yn wirfoddol. Daeth yr adeilad yn barod i'w agor ac ar 6 Awst 1924 cynhaliwyd y seremoni agoriadol pan gyflwynwyd allwedd arian i Jenkin Evans y llywydd gan y pensaer. Fe gostiodd £2000 i'w hadeiladu gyda £150 yn ychwanegol ar ystafell o dan y Griffiths and Sir Lewes Pryse in the White Lion. From then on there was no stopping the activities to raise money and by May 1921 there was £1200 in the fund. Committees were held frequently and were a lot of fun and everyone had an opinion. Some wanted stables underneath for the horses but everybody was of the opinion that a hall was required in order to 'clean the temples' and move the eisteddfodau and concerts out of the chapels and the school. Emrys Williams, an Aberystwyth solicitor prepared the deeds; J. Lewis Evans, the architect drew up plans and supervised the work and Thomas Jones from Dolau was the builder. The stones were obtained from Braichgarw and Neuaddfawr, and the gravel from Alltycrib. Towards the end of 1922 and throughout 1923 there was great activity with the building work and many residents gave their time voluntarily to assist with the work. The building was ready for the opening on 6th August 1924 and an opening ceremony was held when the architect presented a silver key to Jenkin Evans, the president. It cost £2000 to build with an additional £150 spent on a room beneath the stage and other minor details. The hall was lit by electricity provided by Lewis Morris, Ceulan Factory. Since 1920 he had produced electricity for the upper part of the village, whilst Howell Jones, Golden Key, had a powerhouse to provide electricity for the lower part of the village and street

Agoriad y Neuadd a roddwyd i Jenkin E. Evans, Woodlands, cadeirydd y pwyllgor adeiladu.

The Hall key which was presented to Jenkin E. Evans, Woodlands, the building committee chairman.

llwyfan a manion eraill. Goleuwyd hi â thrydan oedd yn cael ei gyflenwi gan Lewis Morris, Ffatri Ceulan. Er 1920 ef oedd yn cynhyrchu trydan ar gyfer rhan uchaf y pentref, tra oedd Howell Jones, Golden Key â phŵerdy i gynhyrchu trydan i waelod y pentref, a diffoddid y goleuadau stryd tua deg o'r gloch y nos yr adeg hynny.

Roedd breuddwyd hanner canrif a mwy wedi ei gwireddu o'r diwedd. Y digwyddiad cyntaf i'w gynnal yn y neuadd oedd Eisteddfod y Plant ar 11 Mehefin 1924 â'r adeilad yn orlawn. Fe'i disgrifiwyd ar y pryd fel y neuadd bentref wychaf yng Nghymru, gyda lle i eistedd mil o bobl ar y llawr gyda deugant yn ychwanegol ar y llwyfan. Hi yw'r neuadd bentref fwyaf yng Ngheredigion hyd heddiw. Agorwyd cangen o Sefydliad y Merched yn Nhal-y-bont yn 1916 a bu aelodau'r mudiad hwnnw yn eithriadol o weithgar a chefnogol i'r neuadd o'r dechrau cyntaf. Ar wyth carreg sylfaen ym mur flaen yr adeilad rhwng y ddau ddrws ffrynt ceir enwau'r bobl leol a gyfrannodd £50 a mwy i'r gronfa, a chafwyd dau faen coffa yn rhodd o Fachynlleth. Ar un o'r meini torrwyd enwau'r deg gŵr ifanc a laddwyd yn y Rhyfel Mawr ac ar y llall enwau'r 76 o fechgyn ac un ferch a ddychwelodd o'r rhyfel, er i amryw ohonynt gael eu clwyfo ar faes y gwaed. Dadorchuddiwyd y meini yn ystod y cyfarfod Cadoediad cyntaf i'w gynnal ar 11 Tachwedd 1925. Yr oedd yn angenrheidiol ychwanegu at ddodrefn y neuadd yn ystod y blynyddoedd cyntaf, ac aed ati i brynu cadeiriau yn ogystal â phiano gwerth £115 a bwrdd biliards a gostiodd £92. Bu defnydd mawr ar y bwrdd biliards am flynyddoedd, ond bu cyfnodau segur yn ei hanes, ac ar adegau felly fe'i rhoddir o'r neilltu o dan y llwyfan. Mae'r bwrdd hwnnw yn parhau i gael ei ddefnyddio'n ysbeidiol, ac erbyn hyn yn werth llawer mwy na'r pris a dalwyd amdano.

Bu bwrlwm cymdeithasol rhyfeddol i godi arian i gynnal yr adeilad newydd ysblennydd, yn eisteddfodau, cyngherddau, diwrnodau fflagiau, ffeiriau cynnyrch a sborion, gyrfaoedd chwist, caneuon actol, nosweithiau cymdeithasol, gwylnosau, darlithoedd a dosbarthiadau tiwtorial. Yn ogystal â'r dramâu lleol ceid perfformiadau gwych hefyd gan Gwmni Dan Mathews o Dde Cymru oedd yn eithriadol o boblogaidd, a'r Brodyr Ffransis o'r gogledd

lights were extinguished at ten o' clock at night in those days.

The dream of more than half a century had been realised at last. The first event to be held in the hall was a Children's Eisteddfod on 11th June 1924, and the building was packed. It was described at the time as the finest village hall in Wales, with seating for a thousand people on the floor and a further two hundred on the stage. It is still the largest village hall in Ceredigion today. A branch of the Women's Institute was established in Tal-y-bont in 1916 and its members have been exceptionally hard working and supportive of the hall from the outset. On eight foundation stones in the front wall of the building between the two front doors are the names of local people who contributed £50 or more to the fund and two memorial stones were received as donations from Machynlleth. On one of the stones was inscribed the names of ten young men who had lost their lives in the Great War and on the other the names of the 76 young men and women who had returned from the war, several of whom had been wounded in battle. The stones were unveiled during the first Armistice Service held on 11th November 1925. It was necessary to buy additional furniture for the hall during the first few years; chairs were purchased in addition to a piano costing £115 and a billiards table costing £92. The billiards table was in much use for years, but there have been periods when it was unused and it was then stored beneath the stage. That table continues to be used occasionally and by now it is worth far more than the original price paid for it.

There was immense social activity to raise money for the upkeep of the splendid new building, in the form of eisteddfodau, concerts, flag days, sales of work and jumble sales, whist drives, action songs, social evenings, festivals, lectures and tutorial classes. In addition to local dramas there were also excellent performances by the Dan Mathews Company from South Wales which were extremely popular and the Francis Brothers from the north held 'nosweithiau llawen' on their own. There were visits to the hall by Adar Tregaron who sang the works of Idwal Jones, Lampeter, as well as singers from London. No concert was complete in the old days without a reciter being present. During the thirties,

yn cynnal nosweithiau llawen ar eu pennau eu hunain. Deuai Adar Tregaron i'r neuadd gan ganu gweithiau Idwal Jones, Llambed, yn ogystal â chantorion o Lundain. Nid oedd yr un cyngerdd yn gyflawn ers talwm, os nad oedd adroddwr yn eu plith. Yn ystod y tridegau gwelid cwmnïau teithiol Seisnig yn perfformio dramâu yn y neuadd megis y 'Carlton Players', 'Madam Ada Laudervale', a phartïon adloniant ysgafn fel Billy Vernon a'i wraig a'u dau fab. Cwmni o Ogledd Lloegr oedd y rhain ac arhosent yn nhai pobl y pentref megis Rosie Davies, Penlôn, ac yn Stryd y Capel. Byddai rhai o blant y pentref yn cymryd rhan yn y perfformiadau ambell waith a dwy geiniog oedd y tâl mynediad i'w gweld. Roedd cwmni Ada Laudervale yn perfformio dramâu adnabyddus a phoblogaidd fel 'Murder in the Red Barn' ac 'East Lynne'.

Ar ddechrau'r tridegau daeth dawnsfeydd yn boblogaidd iawn a chynhelid nifer fawr ohonynt yn y neuadd. Yr 'Hop Dances' neu'r 'sixpenny hops' fel y gelwid hwy. Byddai un yn canu'r piano ac un arall ar y drymiau â phawb yn dawnsio. Roedd yr eglwyswyr yn llawer mwy blaengar gyda'r dawnsfeydd hyn nag aelodau'r capeli. Byddai Band Evered Davies o Aberystwyth yn dod i'r neuadd, a cheid dawnsfeydd mewn gwisgoedd hwyrnos gyda cherddoriaeth band llawn. Roedd y rhain yn fodd i godi arian i'r neuadd yn ogystal â'r Eglwys, ond byddai'r Parch. Fred Jones yn gwgu arnynt gan ddweud mai chwarae efo'r diafol oedd yr holl beth. Deuai pobl o'r Bow Street, Aberystwyth a mannau eraill i'r dawnsfeydd hyn yn Nhal-y-bont. Roedd ystolion yng nghefn y neuadd (lle mae Stafell y Cyfeillion nawr) i bobl gael eistedd i wylio'r rhai oedd yn dawnsio. Telid chwe cheiniog i gael mynediad yno, a'r Galeri oedd yr enw ar y rhan honno o'r adeilad. Cynhelid gwisgoedd ffansi hefyd, yn ogystal ag arddangosfa gŵyr gan Sefydliad y Merched, sef modelau yn symud eu cymalau i fiwsig gramaffôn. Ond o bosibl y digwyddiadau mwyaf poblogaidd oedd y ffeiriau cynnyrch pan werthid pethau wedi eu gwau a'u gwnïo gan wragedd y pentref, a byddai pobl o Lundain yn anfon dillad da i'w gwerthu yn y ffeiriau sborion. Bu Sefydliad y Merched yn eithriadol o brysur a hwy roddodd y llenni cyntaf ar ffenestri'r neuadd ac yn eu gofal hwy yr oedd llawer o'r gwaith o drefnu'r llwyfan. Dros y

English travelling companies such as the 'Carlton Players' and 'Madam Ada Laudervale' performed dramas in the hall and light entertainment was provided by the likes of Billy Vernon and his wife and two sons. This company came from the north of England and they stayed in the houses of local people such as Rosie Davies, Penlôn, and in Chapel Street. Village children occasionally took part in the performances and the entrance fee was two pence. The Ada Laudervale Company performed well-known and popular dramas such as 'Murder in the Red Barn' and 'East Lynne'.

During the early thirties dances were very popular and many were held in the hall. These were the 'Hop Dances' or the 'sixpenny hops' as they were called. One person played the piano and another the drums and everyone danced. The churchgoers were far more prominent at these dances than chapel members. The Evered Davies Band from Aberystwyth came to the hall and dances were held where evening dress was worn and music provided by a full band. These were a means of fund raising for the hall and the Church but the Reverend Fred Jones disapproved of them saying that it was playing with the devil. People came to these dances at Tal-y-bont from Bow Street, Aberystwyth and other places. Benches were provided at the back of the hall (where the Friends Room is now) so that people could sit and watch the dancing. The entrance fee was sixpence, and that part of the building was known as the gallery. Fancy dress events were also held and a wax exhibition by the Women's Institute, with models moving their limbs to the sound of gramophone music. But possibly the most popular events were the sales of works when goods, which had been knitted and sewn by ladies from the village, were sold and people from London sent good clothes to the jumble sales. The Women's Institute members were very hard-workers and it was they who first put up curtains on the windows of the hall. They also did a lot work organising the stage. Over the years Miss Nita James and others worked diligently alongside the Hall Committee organising these activities and as many as eighty members manned various stalls in order to clear the debt at the beginning of the thirties. In addition to all

blynyddoedd bu Miss Nita James ac eraill yn cydweithio'n ddiwyd gyda Phwyllgor y neuadd yn trefnu'r gweithgareddau hyn, a chymaint â phedwar ugain o aelodau'r gangen yng ngofal amrywiol stondinau er mwyn clirio'r ddyled ariannol ar ddechrau'r tridegau. Yn ogystal â'r holl weithgareddau hyn, lleolwyd y llyfrgell yn y neuadd hefyd a phobl yn talu ceiniog neu ddwy am gael benthyca'r llyfrau.

Ar y 10fed o Fai 1932 cynhaliwyd pwyllgor yn y neuadd i sefydlu Clwb Pêl-droed yn y pentref, a hyd y dydd heddiw bu cysylltiad agos rhwng y clwb a'r neuadd. Erbyn diwedd y degawd yr oedd y neuadd mewn trafferthion ariannol eto ac awgrymwyd ei chau yn ystod misoedd yr haf er mwyn arbed treuliau. Y flwyddyn ganlynol fe ddechreuodd yr Ail Ryfel Byd a thrwy gydol cyfnodau blin y rhyfel hwnnw ni chaewyd ei drysau. Wrth ddilyn rheolau llym y blacowt bu modd cynnal pob math o weithgareddau ynddi megis y Sioe Arddwriaethol a Babanod yn 1944. Roedd hyd yn oed yr 'Home Guard' lleol yn ei defnyddio. Mewn gwasanaeth yn y neuadd ar 28 Rhagfyr 1949 dadorchuddiwyd maen coffa i'r rhai a laddwyd yn Rhyfel 1939–1945. Arweiniwyd y gwasanaeth gan y Parch. Ogwen Williams a dadorchuddiwyd y garreg gan Dewi Parri a Fred Lewis, dau o'r milwyr lleol a ddychwelodd o'r rhyfel. Yr un flwyddyn roedd Manweb wedi dechrau ar y dasg enfawr o gyflenwi trydan i gartrefi'r ardal a chan mai eu cynnig hwy oedd yr isaf o'r pump a dderbyniwyd gan bwyllgor y neuadd, iddynt hwy yr aeth y cytundeb i ail-wifro'r adeilad, ac erbyn 1950 yr oedd nifer fawr o gyflenwyr trydan lleol megis Lewis Morris a Howell Jones wedi eu disodli.

Un o'r pynciau llosg y bu trafod hir arno oedd ysmygu yn y neuadd, gan mai un o'r rheolau sylfaenol oedd 'na chaniateid ysmygu yn ystod cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus'. Bu cryn wrthwynebiad ar y pryd a phasiwyd i newid y rheol, gan adael i'r person oedd yn llogi'r neuadd benderfynu a oedd ysmygu ai peidio mewn cyfarfodydd. Fodd bynnag wedi trafodaethau pellach yn llusgo am fisoedd pasiwyd drachefn i beidio caniatâu ysmygu mewn unrhyw gyfarfod o gwbl.

Pan gyhoeddodd T.I. Ellis ei gyfrol 'Crwydro Ceredigion' fe'i ceryddwyd yn hallt gan y Dr Thomas Richards (Ynystudur gynt) mewn adolygiad ar y llyfr, am these activities, the library was located in the hall and people paid a penny or two to borrow books.

On 10th May 1932 a committee was held in the hall to set up a Football Club in the village and to this day there remains a close connection between the club and the hall. By the end of the decade the hall was in financial trouble again and it was suggested that it should be closed during the summer months in order to save money. The following year saw the outbreak of the Second World War and throughout the difficult years of the war its doors remained open. By adhering to the strict blackout regulations it was possible to hold all kinds of activities such as the Horticultural and Baby Show of 1944. It was even used by the local 'Home Guard'. In a service held in the hall on 28th December 1949, a memorial stone to those who lost their lives in the 1939–1945 War was unveiled. Leading the service was the Reverend Ogwen Williams and Dewi Parry and Fred Lewis, two of the local soldiers who had returned from the war, unveiled the stone. In the same year the enormous task of supplying electricity to homes in the area started. As theirs was the lowest tender of five received by the hall committee, Manweb was given the contract of rewiring the building. In 1950, local suppliers, such as Lewis Morris and Howell Jones, were supplanted.

One of the controversial topics that was discussed a lot was the issue of smoking in the hall, as one of the main rules was that 'smoking was not allowed during public meetings'. There was objection at the time and it was decided that the person hiring the hall should decide whether smoking was to be allowed during meetings. However, after further discussions had dragged on for months, it was again decided not to allow smoking during any meetings.

When T.I. Ellis published his volume 'Crwydo Ceredigion' he was severely criticised by Dr Thomas Richards (Ynystudur), in a review of the book, for neglecting the history of Tal-y-bont and was invited to come to the village hall wearing 'a long grey sackcloth' to ask for forgiveness. Throughout the fifties chapel societies held evenings of entertainment and by the mid-sixties pop music had taken root in Welsh-speaking Wales. Some amusing evenings

esgeuluso hanes Tal-y-bont, a'i wahodd i ddod i neuadd y pentref mewn 'sachliain lwyd hir' i erfyn am faddeuant. Trwy gydol y pumdegau bu cymdeithasau'r capeli yn cynnal nosweithiau difyr, ac erbyn canol y chwedegau roedd y canu pop wedi bwrw gwreiddiau yn y Gymru Gymraeg. Cafwyd nosweithiau difyr yng nghwmni rhai o sêr y byd pop yn ogystal â nifer fawr o dwmpathau dawns (dawnsio gwerin) oedd yn boblogaidd yr adeg hynny.

Yn Nhachwedd 1974 cynhaliwyd cyfarfod arbennig i ddathlu hanner canmlwyddiant y neuadd. Roedd Frank Evans, yr Ysgrifennydd ar y pryd wedi paratoi llyfr bychan yn olrhain ei hanes. Dau ŵr a gyfrannodd yn helaeth i'r dathliad oedd y diweddar William Williams, Arfonia a Caledfryn Evans. Roedd y ddau wedi ymladd yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, a William Williams yn un o ymddiriedolwyr cyntaf y neuadd. Erbyn diwedd 1975 roedd Frank Evans yn ymddiswyddo. Yr un pryd mynegodd ei bryderon ynglŷn â'r bygythiad gwirioneddol i ddyfodol y neuadd oherwydd polisi newydd Pwyllgor Addysg Dyfed i ganiatáu defnyddio ysgolion cynradd y sir i gynnal gweithgareddau cymdeithasol. Roedd y neuadd ymhlith adnoddau cymdeithasol mwyaf gwerthfawr y cylch, wedi ei chodi gan bobl yr ardal ac yn cael ei rheoli gan drigolion lleol, ac felly roedd sicrhau ei dyfodol yn fater o bwys mawr i bawb. Pwysleisiwyd mai'r unig ffordd i ddiogelu ei dyfodol oedd i'r neuadd gael ei defnyddio bob amser gan bob un o'r cymdeithasau a'r mudiadau lleol.

Yn ogystal â pholisi niweidiol y Pwyllgor Addysg nid oedd y Cyngor Sir yn cyfrannu dim bellach tuag at gynnal a chadw'r neuadd a bu'n rhaid mynd ar ofyn y Cyngor Bro am gymorth ariannol, ac ers 1977 y mae'r Cyngor lleol yn rhoi grant blynyddol i'r neuadd. Yn Hydref 1976 ail-sefydlwyd Aelwyd yr Urdd yn dilyn cyfarfod cyhoeddus arbennig yn y neuadd dan arweiniad Harry a Medi James. Mis yn ddiweddarach cafwyd noson deyrnged ddifyr iawn i'r Parchedig Fred Jones a drefnwyd gan Gangen Tal-y-bont o Blaid Cymru ac a sgriptiwyd gan J.R. Jones. Ithel Jones oedd yn gyfrifol am wau'r cyfan yn gyflwyniad teilwng. Erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn roedd y sefyllfa ariannol yn argyfyngus a gwahoddwyd cymdeithasau'r were held in the company of some of the stars of the pop scene in addition to many folk dances (twmpathau dawns) which were popular at that time.

In November 1974 a special meeting was held to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the hall. Frank Evans, the Secretary at the time, had prepared a small booklet giving an account of its history. Two gentlemen who took part in the celebrations were the late William Williams, Arfonia and Caledfryn Evans. Both had fought in the First World War, and William Williams was one of the first trustees of the hall. At the end of 1975 Frank Evans resigned. At the same time he voiced his concerns about the very real threat to the future of the hall as a result of Dyfed Education Committee's policy of allowing its county primary schools to be used for social activities. The hall was one of the most valuable social resources in the area, built by local people and managed by local people and therefore its future was a matter of utmost importance to everyone. It was emphasised that the only way to safeguard its future was for all local societies to use it at all times.

In addition to the damaging policy of the Education Committee, the County Council no longer made any financial contribution towards the upkeep of the hall and the Community Council was asked to make a financial contribution. Since 1977 the local Council gives an annual grant to the hall. In October 1976 Aelwyd yr Urdd was re-established following a special public meeting at the hall, presided over by Harri and Medi James. A month later a very entertaining evening, paying tribute to the Reverend Fred Jones, was held. It was arranged by the Tal-y-bont branch of Plaid Cymru and scripted by J.R. Jones. Ithel Jones was responsible for producing a fitting presentation. By the end of the year there was a financial crisis and local societies were invited to assist the committee in organising a fair to raise money for the funds and a Grand Fair was held on 15 April 1978 when a profit of £500 was made. This fair continues to be held before Christmas every year and is a means of raising a substantial amount of money. In January 1979 the Youth Club started up again in the village and a tribute was paid to Frank Evans who had been the backbone of the Club for very many years. The County Council decided

ardal i gynorthwyo'r pwyllgor drwy drefnu ffair i godi arian i'r gronfa, a chynhaliwyd y Ffair Fawr ar 15 Ebrill 1978 pan wnaed elw o £500. Mae'r ffair hon yn parhau i gael ei chynnal ychydig cyn y Nadolig bob blwyddyn ac yn fodd i godi swm sylweddol o arian. Yn Ionawr 1979 ail-sefydlwyd Clwb Ieuenctid yn y pentref a thalwyd teyrnged i Frank Evans a fu'n asgwrn cefn i'r clwb am nifer fawr o flynyddoedd. Penderfynodd y Cyngor Sir mai yn y Neuadd Goffa y lleolid yr Orsaf Bleidleisio yn y dyfodol yn hytrach nag yn yr Ysgol Gynradd.

Yn dilyn y gefnogaeth gref a gafodd y neuadd gan holl gymdeithasau'r ardal, erbyn dechrau'r wythdegau roedd y sefyllfa ariannol yn iachach nag y bu ers blynyddoedd maith, ac aed ati i wario cyfran o'r arian hwnnw ar gadeiriau newydd, offer sain a llenni newydd ar ffenestri'r neuadd fach. Roedd Bwrdd Datblygu Cymru Wledig yn cynnig cymorthdaliadau hyd at £350 i neuaddau pentrefi tuag at welliannau angenrheidiol megis seddau, cegin newydd, gwresogyddion, goleuadau ac offer sain.

Ar 3 Medi 1980 cynhaliwyd noson goffi i anrhegu dau o gyn-ysgrifenyddion y Pwyllgor sef Frank Evans a fu'n y swydd am 15 mlynedd a Shân Edwards am 4 blynedd. Rhoddwyd anerchiad gan Caledfryn Evans, aelod hynaf y Pwyllgor, pan gafwyd hanes sefydlu ac adeiladu'r neuadd, a siarsiodd pawb i gofio mai fel 'Neuadd Goffa' y codwyd hi ac nid 'Neuadd Bentref'. Y gwir yw mai neuadd bentref yw hi sydd ar yr un pryd yn neuadd goffa. Tua diwedd y flwyddyn honno cythruddwyd llawer o bobl pan drefnwyd noson gymdeithasol gan yr SAS yn y neuadd i ffermwyr y cylch a'u teuluoedd gyda gwledd o fwyd a diod. Yn ogystal â'r gwastraff arian mewn cyfnod o gyni, asgwrn pennaf y gynnen oedd y ffaith nad oedd trwydded gan y neuadd i ddiodydd meddwol a bod unrhyw gais gan bobl leol i gynnal unrhyw beth tebyg, wedi ei wrthod yn y gorffennol.

Ar ddechrau 1981 penderfynodd y Pwyllgor wneud apêl am £12,000 i dalu am y gwelliannau mwyaf sylweddol a welwyd i'r Neuadd er pan godwyd hi gyntaf. Cynllun cyffrous i godi estyniad ar gyfer ystafell chwaraeon a snwcer, toiledau newydd, ynghyd â chyfleusterau cegin yng ngwaelod y neuadd. Penderfynodd y Cyngor Bro gynyddu'r dreth leol yn that the Polling Station should be located in the village hall in the future, rather than in the Primary School.

Strong support was given to the hall by all the local societies and by the beginning of the eighties the financial situation appeared healthier than it had for many years. Some of the money was used to purchase new chairs, sound equipment and new curtains for the windows of the little hall. The Development Board for Rural Wales offered grants of up to £350 to village halls towards necessary improvements such as seats, a new kitchen, heaters, lights and sound equipment.

On 3rd September 1980 a coffee evening was held in order to make a presentation to two past secretaries of the Committee, Frank Evans who held the post for 15 years and Shân Edwards for 4 years. Caledfryn Evans, the oldest member of the Committee gave an address outlining the history of the hall. He stressed that everybody should remember that it had been built as a 'Memorial Hall' and not as a 'Village Hall'. The truth is that it is a village hall but also a memorial hall. Towards the end of that year many people were annoyed when the SAS organised a social evening in the hall for local farmers and their families, with a feast of food and drink. In addition to the waste of money during a period of recession the main objection was the fact that the hall was not licensed for alcoholic drinks and that any attempt by local people to hold something similar in the past had been refused.

At the beginning of 1981, the Committee decided to make an appeal for £12,000 in order to pay for the most substantial improvements seen in the Hall since it was built. It was an exciting scheme to build an extension to provide a room for games and snooker, new toilets, along with kitchen facilities in the lower hall. The Community Council decided to increase the local rates substantially in order to raise money to pay for improvements as that method of raising money was considered fairer than a door to door collection. In August, local volunteers began the huge task. It took fifteen months to complete. It was a labour of love, on the part of Harry James, John Bement, Fred Davies, Gwynfor Davies and many other workers, creating an extension which is a great asset to the hall. It involved four

sylweddol er mwyn codi arian i dalu am y gwelliannau gan fod y dull hwnnw o godi arian yn fwy teg na chasglu o ddrws i ddrws. Yn Awst gwelwyd gwirfoddolwyr lleol yn dechrau ar y dasg enfawr a gymerodd bymtheng mis i'w gwblhau. Bu'r llafur cariad ar ran Harry James, John Bement, Fred Davies, Gwynfor Davies a llu o weithwyr yn fodd i greu estyniad sy'n gaffaeliad mawr i'r neuadd. Ffrwyth pedair mil o oriau o waith gwirfoddol. Agorwyd yr estyniad newydd ar 12 Rhagfyr 1982 a chyflwynwyd ciw snwcer i Fred Davies am ei waith fel goruchwyliwr y prosiect. Adnewyddwyd yr hen fwrdd biliards a fu am flynyddoedd yn segur o dan y llwyfan. Fe gostiodd y cyfan £19,000, ond oherwydd grantiau sylweddol gan y Cyngor Bro, Bwrdd Datblygu Canolbarth Cymru a chyfraniadau hael gan unigolion, llwyddwyd i dalu am y cwbl.

Yn ystod yr wythdegau cafwyd bwrlwm o weithgareddau o bob math a defnydd i'r eithaf o gyfleusterau'r neuadd. Yn Chwefror 1984, er mwyn ceisio gwella'r cyfleusterau a'r cysur ar gyfer defnyddwyr yr adeilad aed ati i sefydlu *Cyfeillion y Neuadd Goffa.* John Bement fu'n bennaf gyfrifol am y cynllun hwnnw a'r bwriad oedd cael cymaint â phosibl o bobl yr ardal i danysgrifio'n flynyddol neu am oes i ymaelodi â'r Cyfeillion. Archebwyd dros 100 o seddau newydd cysurus yn y Neuadd fawr a phenodwyd Eluned Evans ac Elsie Thomas yn gyd-drefnwyr y Cyfeillion. Tua'r un adeg yng nghyfarfod blynyddol y Neuadd penderfynwyd mabwysiadu cyfansoddiad newydd a fyddai'n sicrhau croesdoriad mwy cynrychioladol o drigolion a chymdeithasau'r pentref ar brif gorff rheoli'r neuadd i'r dyfodol. I'r perwyl hwnnw cynhaliwyd etholiad ar Ebrill 9, 1984 i ddewis 20 aelod i wasanaethu ar Gyngor Cyffredinol y Neuadd, a sefydlwyd hefyd Is-Bwyllgor Datblygu a Chynnal yr Adeilad, ac Is-Bwyllgor Codi Arian, pan ffurfiwyd y Clwb 200 gwreiddiol. Roedd y Pwyllgor Adloniant a ffurfiwyd cyn i'r cyfansoddiad newydd gael ei fabwysiadu yn parhau i drefnu gweithgareddau. Fodd bynnag fe gododd dadl fawr yng nghyfarfod blynyddol 1985 ynglŷn â chael trwydded yfed i'r neuadd. Roedd y pwnc llosg hwnnw wedi codi ei ben unwaith eto. Y Pwyllgor Adloniant oedd yn cynnig am drwydded i werthu diodydd. Wedi gwyntyllu'r mater yn thousand hours of voluntary work. The new extension was opened on 12 December 1982 and a snooker cue was presented to Fred Davies for his work as project supervisor. The old billiards table, which had been for many years unused beneath the stage, was renovated. All this cost £19,000 but with substantial grants from the Community Council, the Mid Wales Development Board and generous contributions from individuals everything was paid for.

During the eighties all kinds of activities were held and full use was made of the facilities in the hall. In February 1984, in order to try to improve the facilities and the comfort of those using the building, the *Friends of the Memorial Hall* was set up. John Bement was chiefly responsible for that scheme and the intention was to get as many people as possible to subscribe annually or to become life members of the Friends. More than 100 new, comfortable seats were purchased for the big Hall and Eluned Evans and Elsie Thomas were appointed co-organisers of the Friends. At around the same time, during the annual meeting of the Hall, it was decided to adopt a new constitution to ensure a more representative cross-section of the village residents and societies on the main management body of the hall in the future. To that effect an election was held on 9th April 1984 to elect 20 members to serve on the Hall's General Committee and a Development and Maintenance Sub-Committee and a Fundraising Sub-Committee were established, when the original Club 200 was formed. The Entertainments Committee formed before the new constitution was adopted continued to organise activities. However, there was a big argument in the 1985 annual meeting in connection with an alcohol licence for the hall. That controversial issue had been raised once again. The Entertainments Committee had applied for a licence to sell alcohol. After a thorough discussion the application was refused as it was a memorial hall and not a general hall.

Throughout the eighties, the school's popular pantomimes and summer concerts were the pinnacles of the year, not only for the parents and relations of the children taking part but also for all the local residents, as they aimed to be bilingual and therefore attracted a larger audience. By the mid eighties, it was more difficult to obtain

drwyadl gwrthodwyd y cais am mai neuadd goffa oedd hi ac nid neuadd gyffredin.

Drwy gydol yr wythdegau roedd perfformiadau poblogaidd pantomeimiau a chyngherddau haf yr ysgol yn binaclau'r flwyddyn, nid yn unig i rieni a pherthnasau'r plant oedd yn cymryd rhan ond hefyd i holl drigolion yr ardal, gan eu bod yn anelu at fod yn ddwyieithog, ac felly'n denu mwy o gynulleidfaoedd. Erbyn canol yr wythdegau, roedd hi'n anoddach i gael trwydded adloniant i'r neuadd am fod rheolau iechyd a diogelwch yr awdurdodau lleol yn llawer mwy caethiwus, a bu'n rhaid trin y llenni rhag tân yn ogystal â nifer o fanion eraill cyn y gellid cael trwydded i gynnal unrhywbeth ynddi. Wedi blynyddoedd o gynnal carnifal llwyddiannus yn y pentref bu'n rhaid i Bwyllgor Adloniant y neuadd ysgwyddo'r baich o'i drefnu am rai blynyddoedd eto. Uchafbwynt yr holl weithgareddau a gynhaliwyd yn ystod 1985 oedd troi'r neuadd yn gylch wreslo gydag El Bandito (Orig Williams) a'r Mighty Chang, yr adyn ffiaidd o'r Dwyrain yn ymladd. Roedd yr ornest honno yn adloniant byw a theatr cystal ag unrhyw ddrama a fu ar ei llwyfan erioed. Ar ddechrau 1987 ymddiswyddodd Gwilym Jenkins, Tanrallt wedi pum mlynedd ar hugain fel trysorydd, ac fel gwerthfawrogiad o'i ofal a'i lafur caled dros gyfnod mor hir cyflwynwyd ffon fugail iddo. Tua'r un pryd agorwyd Ystafell y Cyfeillion yng nghefn y neuadd fawr. Ystafell fechan gyfleus i gynnal pwyllgorau bychain neu i'w defnyddio fel estyniad i'r gegin fechan drws nesaf. Erbyn diwedd 1989 roedd y gost flynyddol o gynnal a chadw'r adeilad dros £2,000, a rhaid oedd sicrhau bod y llenni, y ffenestri, y gwaith trydanol a'r gwresogyddion yn diwallu gofynion y drwydded, ac er mwyn ceisio cadw costau gwresogi i lawr penderfynwyd gosod nenfwd crog newydd yn y neuadd fawr. Hwn oedd y gwelliant mwyaf gweladwy ers codi'r estyniad. Ar gost o bron i £6,000 cwblhawyd un gwelliant y bu sôn am ei wneud ers deugain mlynedd. Mantais ychwanegol y nenfwd newydd oedd gwella'r acwstig gan atal y sŵn rhag mynd i'w golli yn y to.

Yr un fu'r bwrlwm cymdeithasol yn ystod y nawdegau, er mai siom fawr i bwyllgor y neuadd oedd methiant y Stafell Snwcer. Oherwydd diffyg goruchwyliaeth ddigonol, a rhywrai yn dwyn arian o'r an entertainment licence for the hall as the local authority's health and safety regulations were far more stringent and the curtains had to be fire retardant along with many other minor details before a licence could be granted to hold anything. After years of holding a successful carnival in the village, the Entertainments Committee of the Hall continued to undertake the responsibility of organising it for some years. The undoubted highlight of events held in 1985 was when the hall was used as a wrestling ring and a fight held between El Bandito (Orig Williams) and the Mighty Chang, the loathsome scoundrel from the East. That fight proved to be as good a live entertainment and theatre as any drama ever staged there. At the beginning of 1987, after twenty five years as treasurer Gwilym Jenkins, Tanrallt, resigned and he was presented with a shepherd's crook as an appreciation of his commitment and hard work over such a long period of time. At around the same time the Friends' Room was opened at the back of the big hall. It was a small room, convenient for holding small committees or for use as an extension to the small kitchen next door. By the end of 1989, the annual cost of the upkeep of the building was over £2,000. It had to be ensured that the curtains, the windows, the electrical work and the heaters met the requirements of the licence and in order to keep down heating costs it was decided to put a suspended ceiling in the big hall. For a cost of £6,000, an improvement, which had been discussed for forty years, was completed. Another additional advantage of the new ceiling was to improve the acoustics, preventing the sound from disappearing into the roof.

There was similar social activity in the nineties, although the failure of the Snooker Room was a great disappointment to the hall committee. Due to the lack of sufficient supervision and the fact that someone was stealing money from the box, the Snooker Room was no longer used and the old billiards table was moved to its hiding place under the stage. But it is good to see the room being used as a gymnasium for keeping fit. Without doubt 'Pasiant Pawb – Dwy Afon', one of the most original productions seen in the hall for years, was held on 15th December 2000. The author/producer was David Jones,

blwch, bu'n rhaid dirwyn y Clwb Snwcer i ben, a symudwyd yr hen fwrdd biliards i'r guddfan o dan y llwyfan. Er hynny, braf yw gweld yr ystafell yn cael defnydd fel campfa i gadw'n heini. Yn sicr, un o'r cynhyrchiadau mwyaf gwefreiddiol a welwyd yn y neuadd ers blynyddoedd maith oedd Pasiant Pawb – Dwy Afon a gynhaliwyd ar 15 Rhagfyr 2000. Yr awdur a'r cynhyrchydd oedd David Jones, Bwlchyddwyallt, a chafwyd gwledd o berfformiadau gan blant yr ysgol ac aelodau cymdeithasau a mudiadau'r ardal yn portreadu hanes Tal-y-bont a'r cylch. O bosibl, un o eitemau mwyaf digrif y noson oedd y sgets yn darlunio ymdrechion pwyllgor a gynhaliwyd yn yr Hen Ysgol bron i ganrif ynghynt i drafod adeiladu neuadd yn y pentref.

Hefin Llwyd

Bwlchyddwyallt. Excellent performances by school children and members of local societies and movements portrayed the history of Tal-y-bont and the surrounding area. Possibly, one of the funniest sketches of the evening was that which portrayed the efforts of the committee, held in the Old School, almost a century previously, to discuss the building of a new village hall.

Hefin Llwyd

Y Neuadd Goffa

The Memorial Hall