

## Odyddion

Bu Cyfrinfa o Odyddion yn bodoli yn Nhal-y-bont o 1872 hyd 1962. Daethpwyd o hyd i'r faner sydd yn y llun pan yn clirio atig yn Tanffordd, cartref John James, tad W.Ll. James a'i frawd y gwyddonydd Emrys Gwynne James. John James oedd ysgrifennydd y Gyfrinfa o 1908 hyd 1944.

Yr oedd nifer o Gyfrinfaoedd yn ardal Aberystwyth ag iddynt enwau Saesneg ond gwelir ar y faner y geiriau LOYAL IOLO GOCH LODGE M.U.I.O.O.F sy'n dweud bod y gyfrinfa yn perthyn i'r Manchester United Independent Order of Oddfellows.

Cymdeithas Cyfeillgar oedd yr Odyddion, fel eraill yn y blynyddoedd cyn dyfodiad y Wladwriaeth Les, yn rhoi modd i'r aelodau gynilo ar gyfer amser drwg megis colli gwaith neu fynd yn sâl.

Yr oedd rhai agweddau ar y Gymdeithas yn debyg i'r Seiri Rhyddion. Yr oedd rhai o'i gweithredoedd yn y dirgel ac ni chaech ddod yn aelod ond trwy gael eich cyflwyno gan aelod arall.

Byddai'n ofynnol hefyd fod yr ymgeisydd yn cyflwyno tystiolaeth fanwl

## Oddfellows

An Oddfellows Lodge existed in Tal-y-bont from 1872 to 1962. The banner in the photograph was found when clearing the attic in Tanffordd, the home of John James, father of W.Ll. James and his brother, the scientist, Emrys Gwynne James. John James was the Lodge Secretary from 1908 to 1944.

There were numerous Lodges bearing English names in and around Aberystwyth but it will be noted that the banner is inscribed LOYAL IOLO GOCH LODGE M.U.I.O.O.F. telling us that the lodge was affiliated to the Manchester United Independent Order of Oddfellows.

The Oddfellows was a Friendly Society, which, like others existing before the coming of the Welfare State, enabled members to contribute to a fund which would help them when times were bad due to loss of work or illness.

Some aspects of the Society were similar to that of the Free Masons in that some of their activities were secret and one could not become a member unless one was introduced by another member.



*Dafydd Edwards a William Llewelyn James yn dangos y faner*

*Dafydd Edwards and William Llewelyn James displaying the banner*

am gyflwr ei iechyd gan sicrhau y Gymdeithas nad oedd erioed wedi dioddef afiechydon fel 'gout, rheumatism or rheumatic fever, rupture, fits, palpitation of the heart, asthma, or other pulmonary complaints, or any other disease of intermittent nature, or particularly tending to shorten the duration of life.' Byddai'r ymgeisydd hefyd yn cyfeirio at ei wraig ac yn datgan ei bod hithau hefyd yn ddynes iach.

Wedi cael ei dderbyn yn seremoniol byddai ef, fel pob aelod, yn talu rhyw 1/6 (swllt a chwe cheiniog) y mis i'r ysgrifennydd a gofalu nad oedd yn torri rheolau'r Gymdeithas megis bod allan ar ôl wyth yn y nos tra'n derbyn tâl salwch. Yr oedd yr aelodaeth yn cynrychioli croesdoriad o alwedigaethau; y mwyafrif yn fwynwyr.

Tybir fod y faner liwgar dros gant oed. Hon fyddai yn arwain yr orymdaith flynyddol drwy'r ardal adeg y Sulgwyn, mae'n debyg.

*Ithel Jones*

It would also be necessary for the applicant to present a detailed account of his state of health. He would have to assure the Society that he had never suffered any ailments like gout, rheumatism or rheumatic fever, rupture, fits, palpitation of the heart, asthma or other pulmonary complaints, or any other disease of intermittent nature, or particularly tending to shorten the duration of life. The applicant would add that his wife was also in good health.

After becoming a member in a special ceremony he would, like all members, be paying something like 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence) a month to the secretary and he would be careful that he did not break any of the rules of the Society, such as being out of doors after 8 o'clock whilst in receipt of sickness benefit. The membership represented a cross section of occupations; the majority being miners.

It is reckoned that the colourful banner is over a hundred years old and would head the annual procession through the district that probably took place at Whitsun.

*Ithel Jones*