

## *Gwlân, Trydan ac Awstralia*

Daeth John Morris a oedd yn enedigol o Bennal i fyw i Benlônlas, Tal-y-bont tua diwedd y ddeunawfed ganrif. Bu'n gwneud rhyw fath o waith trin gwlân yn ei gartref ym Mhenlônlas. Daeth gwaith mwyn Tal-y-bont i ben. Deuai'r mwyn o grombil Allt y Crib i'w 'olchi' ar y 'fflowring' (flooring) ger yr afon yn y Wern. Gwelodd Humphrey Morris, ei fab, y gallai'r ffrwd a ddeuai o'r Ceulan i lawr i'r Wern, heibio i'r ffatri bresennol, weithio ffatri wlân oedd ganddo ef mewn golwg. Felly y bu. Adeiladwyd y ffatri yn y flwyddyn 1847. Oherwydd llwyddiant y fenter adeiladodd Humphrey Morris estyniad i'r ffatri ym 1880. Prynwyd rhod newydd fawr, 7 llathen ar ei thraws, o'r ffoundri yn Aberystwyth a'i gosod ar dalcen yr estyniad yn wynebu'r de. Yr oedd yn rhaid hefyd adeiladu cafn o goed o'r ffrwd a arferai fynd i lawr i'r Wern i gario'r dŵr i ben uchaf y rhod. Erbyn dechrau'r ganrif yr oedd y rhod hon yn gyrru'r ffatri a chynhyrchu trydan i'r pentref; y pentref cyntaf yn y sir i gael trydan.

Y mae David Elwyn Griffiths wedi rhoi peth o hanes y cychwyn yn Papur Pawb. Dywed fel y bu trafodaeth yng nghapel Bethel ynglŷn â chael gwell golau na'r lampau olew. Bu sôn am rhyw fath o nwy ond, er syndod mawr i bawb, daeth y drafodaeth i ben pan ddywedodd Lewis Morris, perchennog y ffatri, y byddai ef yn rhoi trydan yn y capel. Daeth trydan wedyn i'r tai ac i'r stryd fawr. Codid tâl o 5 swllt (25c arian heddiw) am un lamp 60w dros 3 mis. Ni chaniateid i neb gael mwy na dwy lamp a byddai hynny'n costio saith swllt a chwe cheiniog (37½c heddiw). Yr oedd y Cyngor Plwyf yn talu £10 y flwyddyn am olau ar y stryd. Cofiaf am fy nhad a'm brawd Wyndham yn mynd i gasglu'r arian bob chwarter blwyddyn. Yn ystod y dau a'r tri degau yr oedd yn amser drwg yn y ffatrioedd gwlân fel yr oedd ym mhob diwydiant trwy'r deyrnas ac felly yr oedd yr ychydig a ddeuai i mewn am y trydan yn help i gadw pen uwchben y dŵr.

Yr oedd ystafell yn y ffatri yn llawn o fatris. Yr oedd y deinamo'n trydanu'r batris a rheini'n anfon allan gerrynt union (DC). Yr

## *Wool, Electricity and Australia*

John Morris was born in Pennal and came to live at Penlônlas, Tal-y-bont around the end of the eighteenth century. He carried out some form of wool processing at his home in Penlônlas. The lead mines at Tal-y-bont were no longer working. The lead had come from Allt y Crib and was washed on the flooring by the river at the Wern. Humphrey Morris, his son, saw that the stream which came from the Ceulan down to the Wern, past the present factory, could be used by the woollen factory which he envisaged. And that was what happened. The factory was built in 1847. Due to the success of the venture Humphrey Morris built an extension to the factory in 1880. A large new wheel 7 yards in diameter, was bought from the foundry at Aberystwyth and placed at the side of the extension facing southwards. A wooden trough was also made so that the stream which went down to the Wern could carry the water to the top of the wheel. By the beginning of the century this wheel provided power for the factory and produced electricity for the village; the first village in the county to be provided with electricity.

David Elwyn Griffiths has written an account of how this started in Papur Pawb. He related how there had been a discussion in Bethel Chapel on how to improve upon the light of the oil lamps. Mention was made of some kind of gas, but to everyone's surprise the discussion came to a close when Lewis Morris, the owner of the factory announced that he would provide electricity for the chapel. Electricity was then provided for the houses and the main road. He charged 5 shillings (25p today) for one 60w lamp for a 3 month period. Nobody was allowed more than two lamps and that would cost seven shillings and sixpence (37½p today). The Parish Council paid £10 per annum for street lights. I remember my father and brother Wyndham collecting the money every quarter. The twenties and thirties were bad times for woollen factories, as for all other industries throughout the kingdom, thus the money obtained for electricity helped to make ends meet.

oedd y setiau radio cynnar yn gweithio efo dau fath o fatri, sych a gwlyb. Yr oedd y batri gwlyb, sef blwch gwydr yn cynnwys platiau plwm mewn acid, fel batri car, yn sefyll ar bwys y set. O bryd i'w gilydd byddai'n rhaid ei wefrio. Rhaid oedd ei ddadgysylltu a mynd â fo i Ffatri Ceulan i'w gysylltu i'r cyflenwad trydan a'i adael yno am rhyw ddiwrnod neu ddau; talu rhyw 6 cheiniog am y gymwynas.

Oherwydd cynnydd yn y galw am drydan yr oedd yn rhaid ychwanegu at y peiriannau a gosodwyd olwyn pelton yn y pen gogleddol i'r ffatri. Yr oedd pethau'n bur drafferthus yn yr hydref pan fyddai dail yn cronni ar y pynfarch yn y nos a'r golau'n mynd i lawr nes i rywun redeg o'r tŷ i glirio'r dail. Dro arall byddai gormod o lif yn gyrru'r rhod ar wyllt a byddai raid rhuthro i'w harafu. Ychwanegiad arall oedd yr olwyn pelton a'r deinamo mawr a ddaeth o Gilfynydd. Daeth hwn i'r golwg pan yn gosod lawnt newydd yn y Wern. Deuai dŵr y Ceulan i lawr i hwn dan y ddaear o gyffiniau'r ffatri. Nid oedd digon o ddŵr i'w gael ar adegau yn yr haf a rhaid oedd cael peiriant oedd yn rhedeg ar olew i gynhyrchu mwy o drydan. Yn ddiweddarach prynwyd yr hen felin flawd yng ngwaelod y pentref a gosodwyd yno dwrbein pwerus a fyddai'n defnyddio'r dŵr oedd gynt yn dod o'r Leri i'r felin flawd.

Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn hyd at y pumdegau diweddar yr oedd y ffatri yn mynd rhagddi i gynhyrchu gwlanen i wneud crysau ffermwyr a glowyr. Deuai nifer o archebion o dde Cymru. Nid oedd dogni ar wllân gwau heb ei olchi a'i gannu felly roedd parseli o'r gwllân yn cael eu postio i nifer fawr o gwsmeriaid yn ystod yr ail ryfel byd. Cynhyrchid blancedi, gorchudd gwelyau a brethyn mewn amrywiaeth o batrymau a daeth y ffatri'n adnabyddus i gylch eang oherwydd i'r cynnyrch gipio llawer o wobrau bob blwyddyn yn y Sioe Frenhinol. Doedd dim bywoliaeth fras i'w wneud yn y ffatri. Wedi talu'r gweithwyr rhaid oedd talu am addysg y plant, talu am eu cludo i ysgol y dref, talu am eu bwyd a'u llyfrau a'u cadw wedyn yn y coleg. Gwir fod pethau wedi gwella ar ôl y rhyfel ond nid oedd dyfodol i ffatrioedd bach Cymru yn wyneb y gystadleuaeth a ddeuai o ffatrioedd mwy yn defnyddio peiriannau modern newydd llawer mwy

There was a room in the factory, full of batteries. The dynamo charged the batteries and they in turn sent out a direct current (DC). The early radio sets worked with two kinds of batteries, dry and wet. The wet battery, a glass box containing lead plates in acid, like a car battery, was placed beside the set. From time to time it would have to be charged. It had to be dismantled and taken to the Ceulan Factory, connected to the electricity supply and left there for a day or two; a charge of 6 pence was made.

As a result of the increase in demand for electricity more machines were required and a pelton wheel was placed at the northern end of the factory. There were problems in the autumn when leaves gathered in the sluice at night and the light would dim until someone ran from the house to clear the leaves. On other occasions too much flow would turn the wheel too quickly and it would have to be slowed down. Another addition was the pelton wheel and the big dynamo which came from Cilfynydd. This appeared when a new lawn was put down at the Wern. Water from the Ceulan came down underground from the vicinity of the factory. Occasionally in summer there was insufficient water available and a machine which ran on oil had to be used to generate more electricity. Later on the old flour mill at the bottom of the village was bought and a powerful turbine was placed there. This used the water which previously came from the Leri to the old flour mill.

During this period and up until the late nineteen fifties the factory produced flannel for making shirts for farmers and coal miners. Many orders came from South Wales. There was no rationing of unwashed and unbleached wool therefore parcels of wool were posted to a large number of customers during the Second World War. Blankets, bed covers and tweeds in a variety of patterns were produced and the factory became well known as its products won several prizes every year at the Royal Welsh Show. The factory did not provide a substantial income. After paying the workers, the children's education, their transport to school in town, their food and books and their keep afterwards in college had to be paid for. It is true that the situation improved after the war but there was no future for small Welsh factories when faced



*Melin Wlân Ceulan*

*Ceulan Woollen Mill*

effeithiol. Er hynny cafwyd llwyddiant ar werthu peth o gynnyrch y ffatri a nwyddau eraill wedi addasu'r hen felin i fod yn siop.

Ar un adeg yr oedd pum ffatri wlân yn Nhal-y-bont, pedair ohonynt sef, Ffatri Glandŵr, Ffatri'r Bont, Ffatri'r Leri a Ffatri Isaf i gyd yn defnyddio dŵr y Leri. Dim ond un oedd ar y Ceulan. Ffatri'r Leri a Ffatri Ceulan yn unig oedd yn gweithio ar ôl y tridegau a bu i'r ddwy gau erbyn y saithdegau. Gellir gweld un o beiriannau gwreiddiol Ffatri Ceulan ar waith yn Sain Ffagan.

Ym 1896 aeth John Morris, brawd hynaf Lewis Morris a mab Richard Morris, (mab Humphrey Morris) i Awstralia at rai o'r teulu a oedd yno eisoes. Glaniodd yn Melbourne a gwneud ei ffordd i fyny i Queensland. Yno sefydlodd ffatri wlân ar lan yr afon Bremmer ond, mewn amser, symudodd i lecyn ar bwys yr afon Brisbane. Yr oedd y gwaith yn y fan honno yn prosesu'r gwlan amrwd yn ddefnydd mewn patrymau ffasiynol fyddai'n gwerthu mewn marchnad eang. Cymerodd y mab hynaf, Ivor, at yr awennau wedi marw ei dad. O dan reolaeth Ivor daeth y busnes yn adnabyddus trwy Awstralia yn cynnal asiantau yn y dinasoedd mawrion ac yn cyflogi mil o weithwyr gyda'r peiriannau mwyaf modern o Ewrop. Daeth Ivor Morris

with competition from larger factories using modern new machinery which was far more efficient. After adapting the old mill as a shop, selling some of the factory produce and other items was successful.

At one time there were five woollen factories in Tal-y-bont, four of them, Glandŵr Factory, the Bont Factory, the Leri Factory and the Lower Factory using water from the Leri. There was only one on the Ceulan. The Leri and Ceulan factories were the only ones still working after the thirties and both had closed by the seventies. One of the original machines from the Ceulan Factory can be seen at work at Saint Fagan's.

In 1896 John Morris, the eldest brother of Lewis Morris and the son of Richard Morris, (the son of Humphrey Morris) went to Australia to join some members of the family who were already out there. He landed in Melbourne and made his way to Queensland where he set up a woollen factory on the banks of the river Bremmer but in due course moved to a location beside the Brisbane river. Here raw wool was processed into fashionable patterned material which sold to a wide market. The eldest son, Ivor took over on the death of his father. Under Ivor the business became well known throughout Australia with agencies in the big cities and the thousand workers,



*Ffatri Ceulan*

*The Ceulan Factory*

yn adnabyddus mewn cylch eang o gymdeithas a chyfranodd yn helaeth i achosion da yn enwedig ym myd addysg. Yr oedd yn lywydd llywodraethwyr Ysgol Ramadeg Ipswich ac ef oedd yn gyfrifol am godi estyniad pwrpasol a elwir, 'The Ivor Morris Gymnasium'.

*Valma Jones*

who were employed, using the most modern machinery from Europe. Ivor Morris, who became well known, contributed substantially to good causes especially education. He was the president of the governors of Ipswich Grammar School and was responsible for building an extension called 'The Ivor Morris Gymnasium'.

*Valma Jones*



*Melin Wlân Leri – nyddu*

*Lerry Woollen Mill – spinning*

## *Melin Leri*

## *The Leri Mill*

*Cychwynwyd ar y gwaith o nyddu brethyn yn y felin yn 1809 gyda Chwmni Gwlân Llanbrynmair a'r Drenewydd. Prif gynnyrch y cwmni fyddai'r brethyn a wisgwyd gan y mwynwyr. Yn 1929 prynwyd y busnes gan J.C. Pickering, tadcu Simon Hughes.*

*Ddiwedd y 1920au a dechrau'r 1930au tua dwysin oedd yn gweithio yn y felin – pobl fel John Oliver, Wil Richards, Thomas Jones, Martha Rowlands, Johnny Jones Richards a Gladys Morgan (Townsend) ac eraill. Erbyn 1979 pedwar yn unig oedd yn gweithio llawn amser, sef John ac Elizabeth Hughes (née Pickering), eu mab Nicholas a Juliet Trudgill.*

*Llwyddodd y cwmni i gadw eu gafael yn dynn ar y traddodiad o wehyddu â llaw tra diflannodd y grefft yn llwyr o'r wlad. Ar ddechrau'r ganrif ac hyd at yr Ail Ryfel Byd cwsmeriaid lleol, yn bennaf, oedd i'r cynnyrch ond wedi hynny ymwelwyr oedd mwyafrif y cwsmeriaid.*

*Mae'r felin wedi cau ac mae'r peiriannau yn awr mewn amgueddfa yn Stroud, Swydd Caerloyw.*

*The Llanbrynmair and Newtown Wool Company started spinning cloth in the mill in 1809. The company's main product was the cloth worn by the miners. In 1929, J.C. Pickering, Simon Hughes' grandfather, bought the business.*

*At the end of the 1920s and the beginning of the 1930s about a dozen people worked at the mill – people like John Oliver, Wil Richards, Thomas Jones, Martha Rowlands, Johnny Jones Richards and Gladys Morgan (Townsend) and others. By 1979, only four were working full time; they were John and Elizabeth Hughes (née Pickering), their son, Nicholas, and Juliet Trudgill.*

*The company succeeded in continuing with the tradition of spinning by hand while the craft disappeared entirely in the country. At the beginning of the century and up to the Second World War it was mainly local customers who bought the products but after that the majority of customers were visitors.*

*The mill has closed and the machinery is now in a museum in Stroud, Gloucestershire.*

*Papur Pawb  
Tachwedd 1979 a Chwefror 1987*

*Papur Pawb  
November 1979 and February 1987*