

Yr Ysgol

Sefydlwyd ysgol yn Nhal-y-bont yn 1843 saith mlynedd ar hugain cyn Deddf Addysg 1870. Prynwyd y tir oddiwrth Stad Gogerddan yn 1841 am £19 ac 'ysgody' yn mesur 36 troedfedd gydag 8 troedfedd ar gyfer 108 o blant am £133. 15s. 6c. Cafwyd cymorthdal oddiwrth y Cyngor o £73 a bu raid codi'r gweddill yn lleol. Mae'r fantolen am fis Chwefror 1842 yn dangos dyled o £57. Talwyd 3 swllt a phedair ceiniog am gloddio sylfaen a swllt am ddod â llwyth o goed trwy'r tollborth yn Aberystwyth. Wedi codi'r ysgol rhaid oedd wynebu'r anhawsterau i'w chynnal. Roedd yr arian yn brin. Ni fedrai'r rhieni fforddio yr arian. 'Chwarter newydd – llai o blant oherwydd hynny'. Roedd hi'n anodd cael y plant i ddod i'r ysgol yn gyson. Doedd dim digon o le. 'Angladdau yn dal i darfu ar y dosbarthiadau yn ysgody capel Bethel gerllaw'r ysgol'. Doedd dim digon o athrawon – rhyw ddau gant o blant yng ngofal prifathro, athrawes wnïo a rhyw bedwar disgybl athro.

Y mae'r Llyfrau Gleision yn 1846 yn nodi bod yr ystafell yn un olau ac yn cynnwys deg i'r athro, deg deg hir a mainc ar gyfer pob un. Yr oedd lle tân ym mhob pen ond nid oedd ynddynt dân a hynny ar y 23ain o Dachwedd! Gwyddom mor feirniadol oedd y Llyfrau Gleision o gyrhaeddiadau'r plant mewn Saesneg a Rhifyddeg.

Anffafriol yw'r adroddiadau am yr ysgol yn y blynyddoedd cyn dyfodiad J.H. Kemp o Bradford ym 1865. Yn ôl pob tystiolaeth yr oedd hwn yn brifathro nodedig iawn. Gosodwyd plât pres ar un o furiau'r ysgol gan bobl yr ardal yn tystio'n glodwiw i'w allu fel athro, ei lafur a'i ofal diflino dros y rhai oedd dan ei ofal. Yr oedd wedi dysgu Cymraeg ac yn chwarae'r harmoniwm yng nghapel Bethel. Yn ystod ei gyfnod yr oedd rhif y plant yn amrywio rhwng 93 a 260. Er ychwanegu ystafell newydd yr oedd yn rhaid parhau i ddefnyddio ysgody'r capel cyfagos.

Cynhelid yr ysgol gyda chymorth athrawes wnïo a rhyw bedwar neu bump disgybl athro. Ym mysg y rhain yr oedd David Adams, a ddaeth yn enwog fel diwynydd; y naturiaethwr enwog, Richard

The School

The school was established in 1843 twenty seven years before the 1870 Education Act. The land was bought for £19 from the Gogerddan Estate in 1841 and a 'schoolhouse', which measured 36 feet by 8 feet for 108 children cost £133.15s.6d. A grant of £73 was obtained from the Council and the rest had to be raised locally. The balance sheet for February 1842 showed a debt of £57. Three shillings and fourpence was paid for digging a foundation and 1 shilling for bringing a load of timber through the tollgate at Aberystwyth. After building the school the difficulty of maintenance costs had to be faced. Money was scarce. Parents couldn't afford the money. 'New quarter – fewer children as a result of this'. It was difficult to get regular attendance. There wasn't enough room. 'Funerals continued to disrupt classes in the Bethel chapel schoolhouse near the school'. There weren't enough teachers – approximately two hundred children in the care of the headteacher, a sewing mistress and four pupil teachers.

The Blue Books in 1846 state that the classroom was light and contained a desk for the teacher, ten long desks with a bench for each one. There was a fire place at each end but no fire was lit and that was on 23rd November! We know how critical the Blue Books were of achievements in English and Arithmetic.

The reports on the school were unfavourable during the years preceeding the arrival of J.H. Kemp from Bradford in 1865. According to all evidence he was a noteworthy headteacher and a brass plate was erected on one of the school walls by local people as a tribute to his ability as a teacher, unstinting work and concern for those in his care. He had learnt Welsh and played the harmonium at Bethel chapel. During his period the pupil numbers fluctuated between 93 and 260. Although an additional new room was acquired, use continued to be made of the schoolroom in the nearby chapel.

Assistance was given at the school by a sewing mistress and four or five pupil teachers. Amongst the latter were David

Morgan (Llanarmon); B.T. Williams ac eraill a hyfforddwyd yn athrawon ar ôl gadael Tal-y-bont. Cynhelid ysgol i rai disgyblion o 7 i 8 yn y bore ac yr oedd yna ysgol nos lwyddiannus. Yr oedd yn hyfforddi rhai ar gyfer arholiadau tebyg i'r London Matriculation. Y mae'r cofnodion yn dangos iddo roi gwersi mewn Ffisioagraffeg, Cemeg, a Lladin. Er ei fod wedi dysgu Cymraeg nid oes ond un cyfeiriad at lyfrau darllen Cymraeg yng nghofnodion yr ysgol. O ddarllen y cofnodion cawn gipolwg ar rai o agweddau bywyd yn yr ysgol hyd at ei ymadawiad yn 1892. Wele bytiau wedi eu cyfieithu i Gymraeg:

29.5.1865: *Cyfaddefodd un bachgen iddo dduw yn dwy eirinen o ardd gyfagos dydd Sadwrn diwethaf – gwers ar ladrata yn y bore – siarad efo fo yn y prynhawon*

22.10.1868: *Ceryddais y rhai oedd wedi mitshio ddiwrnod y Ffair.*

3.6.1869: *Anfonais un bachgen bach adref oherwydd bod ei fam wedi defnyddio iaith anwedus wrth ddrws yr ysgol mewn cysylltiad â phlentyn oedd wedi tramgwyddo'n hollol anfwriadol.*

20.08.1883. *Rhybuddiais y disgybl athrawon i beidio â tharo'r plant.*

15.01.1865: *Dosbarthwyd gwobrau yn amrywio o 1c. i 8c. am waith cartref mewn Rhifydddeg a dysgu barddoniaeth.*

R. Adams wedi dysgu 257 o linellau (Saesneg wrth gwrs).

Dosbarth 5 yn ysgrifennu i lawr yr aberoedd a'r pentiroedd ar arfordir Lloegr. Gwers ar Siberia i'r dosbarth cyntaf. Hefyd i'r dosbarth cyntaf, cyfeirio yn fyr at waith cartref a hefyd gwersi iddynt ar rymoedd y Brenhinoedd Eingl Sacsonaidd.

Hydref 1884: Arbrofion gyda Hydrogen efo'r Dosbarth Gwyddoniaeth.

Mai 1888: 11 myfyriwr yn eistedd arholiad mewn Daeareg; 24 yn eistedd arholiad mewn Cemeg.

Mai 10fed 1898: Bwriedir dysgu Cymraeg fel testun penodol eleni. Cafwyd y wers gyntaf ddydd Llun diwethaf. Bydd y wers olaf o 3.0 hyd 3.45 bob dydd Llun a dydd Mercher yn cael eu neilltuo i'r testun hwn.

Gorffennaf 1887: Cân newydd i'w dysgu heddiw. 'I must not tease my mother' ar y dôn 'Why did my mother sell me upon my wedding day'.

Adams, who became a famous theologist; the famous naturalist, Richard Morgan (Llanarmon); B.T. Williams and others who trained as teachers after leaving Tal-y-bont. School was open for some between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m and there was also a successful night school. It prepared those who attended for examinations such as the London Matriculation. Records show that he gave lessons in Physiography, Chemistry and Latin. Although he had learnt Welsh there is no reference to Welsh reading books in school records. His records give us a clear picture of the state of education at the school until he left in 1892. Here are extracts from the records:

29.5.1865: *One boy admitted stealing two plums from a nearby garden last Saturday – a lesson on stealing in the morning – spoke to him in the afternoon.*

22.10.1868: *I reprimanded those who had played truant during Fair Day.*

3.6.1869: *I sent a boy home because his mother had used bad language at the school door with a child who had completely unintentionally offended her.*

20.8.1883: *I warned the Pupil Teachers not to hit the children.*

15.1.1865 *Prizes were distributed, varying between 1d and 8d for homework in Arithmetic and learning poetry. R. Adams had learned 257 lines (English, of course).*

Class 5 writing down the names of estuaries and headlands of the English coast. A lesson on Siberia for class one. Also for class one a brief reference to homework. Also they had lessons on the powers of the Anglo-Saxon kings.

October 1884: Experiments with hydrogen in the Science class.

May 1888 11 pupils sitting a Geology examination. 24 sitting a Chemistry examination.

May 10th 1898: It is intended to teach Welsh as a specific subject this year. The first lesson was given last Monday. The last lesson between 3.0 and 3.45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays will be allocated to this subject.

July 1887: A new song taught today: 'I must not tease my mother' on the tune 'Why did my mother sell me upon my wedding day'.

J.H. Kemp left in 1892 and Mr Morgan became headmaster temporarily and the Log

Ymadawodd J.H. Kemp ym 1892 a daeth Mr Morgan yn brifathro dros dro ac mae'r Llyfr Cofnodion yn cyfeirio at roi'r gorau i ddysgu gramadeg Saesneg a Gwyddoniath Elfennol i ddosbarthiadau V-VII a chychwyn gwersi mewn Groeg i'r athrawon. Roedd y staff yn cynnwys 1 disgybl athro a 2 fonitor a rhif y plant wedi gostwng o 114 ym mis Awst i 95 ym mis Tachwedd. Ym mis Rhagfyr rhoddwyd yr ysgol yng ngofal William M. James. Ym mis Mawrth 1893 barnodd Arolygwr ei Fawrhydri fod cyrhaeddiadau'r plant yn is nag y bu ac nad oedd y prifathro yn gymwys i oruchwylio y disgybl athrawon.

Ym mis Ebrill penodwyd Daniel Jones o Gilcennin yn brifathro. Yn ei gofnod cyntaf y mae'n cyfeirio at y diffygion yn yr offer – dim pensiliau ac ati, 'knowledge of English – nil'. Mae ganddo nifer o gyfeiriadau at y tywydd a salwch, er engraifft, Rhagfyr 1902:

y tywydd yr wythnos hon wedi bod mor oer fel na ellid ysgrifennu ond ychydig yn y 'copy books' oherwydd na allai'r plant gydio yn y pin dur yn iawn.

Yr oedd y Swyddog Iechyd yn gorchymyn cau'r ysgol am rai wythnosau ar y tro oherwydd y dwymyn goch, y frech goch a chlefyd y pen ac, wrth gwrs, dros

Book refers to ending the teaching of English grammar and Basic Science to classes V-VII and the beginning of Greek lessons for teachers. The staff included 1 pupil teacher and 2 monitors. The 114 children on the register in August had been reduced to 95 by November. In December William M. James was put in charge of the school. In March 1893 Her Majesty's Inspector deemed that the children's achievements were lower than they had been and that the headteacher was unsuitable for supervising the Pupil Teachers.

In April Daniel Jones from Cilcennin was appointed headteacher. In his first record he refers to the lack of equipment – no pencils etc., 'knowledge of English – nil'. He makes several references to the bad weather and illness, for example, December 1902:

the weather this week has been so cold that very little writing was done in the copy books as the children could not hold their pens properly.

The Health Officer ordered the school to be closed for weeks at a time as a result of scarlet fever, measles and mumps and of course for more than nine weeks as a result of flu in 1918. 5 weeks of school were lost in May 1919, 6 weeks in September 1919.



Athrawon yr Ysgol ar ddechrau'r ganrif

The Schoolteachers at the beginning of the century

naw wythnos oherwydd y ffliw yn 1918. Collwyd 5 wythnos o ysgol ym Mai 1919, 6 wythnos ym Medi 1919.

Mae cyfeiriadau cyson at y diffygion yn yr adeilad ers 1904 ac mae adroddiad yr arolygwr yn 1915 yn dweud y dylid cael adeilad newydd. Dyna pryd y daeth y Prif Arolygydd O.M. Edwards i'r ysgol. Yn 1916 cafwyd cyfleusterau ymolchi dwylo yng nghoridor y merched. Yr oedd 167 ar y llyfrau.

Wedi'r Rhyfel dorri allan bu ymgyrchu brwd dros y 'War Loan' a chaeodd yr ysgol yn ystod Chwefror 1918 am 'War Savings Holiday'; £250,000 wedi ei fuddsoddi. Dathlwyd yr heddwch efo hanner diwrnod o wyliau ar y 18fed o Orffennaf 1919.

1921. Hanner diwrnod o wyliau oherwydd bod rhaid cael yr ystafell ysgol i wrando ar anerchiad gan Mrs. Lloyd George. Taflu dŵr yn y tai bach bob gyda'r nos yn awr. Yr Arolygwr yn beirniadu'r adeilad gan gyfeirio eto at 1915.

1923. Daniel Jones yn gadael ac yn marw o fewn 4 mis, E.D. Davies yn ei le. Cinio am y tro cyntaf i rai oedd yn dod o bell. O Ebrill ymlaen 5½c os yn dod bob dydd o'r wythnos; y ffermwyr lleol yn rhoi'r llysiau.

There are regular references to defects in the building since 1904 and the inspector's report in 1915 stated that a new building was required. This was when Chief Inspector O.M. Edwards came to the school. In 1916 hand washing facilities were provided in the girls' corridor. There were 167 on the register.

After the War was declared there was enthusiastic campaigning for the 'War Loan' and the school closed during February 1918 for a 'War Savings Holiday'; £250,000 had been invested. Peace was celebrated with a half day's holiday on July 18th 1919.

1921. A half day's holiday because the schoolroom was required for an address by Mrs Lloyd George. Water was thrown down the toilets every evening now. The Inspector criticised the building and referred again to 1915.

1923. Daniel Jones left and died within 4 months. He was replaced by E.D. Davies. Lunch for the first time for those who came from afar. From April onwards 5½d if it was taken every day of the week. The vegetables were provided by the local farmers.



Staff yr ysgol 1923

*Yn sefyll, o'r chwith: Lilian Edwards, Dora Ellis, Dorothy Owen, Nesta Morgan (myfyrwraig)
Yn eistedd, o'r chwith: Miss Rose Hughes, Mr E.D. Davies, Miss Jenkins*

The school staff 1923

*Standing, from the left: Lilian Edwards, Dora Ellis, Dorothy Owen, Nesta Morgan (student)
Sitting, from the left: Miss Rose Hughes, Mr E.D. Davies, Miss Jenkins*

1924. Walford Davies yn trefnu cyngerdd yn y Brifysgol gan y Gerddorfa Symphoni Gymreig. Estyn yr iard chwarae a chael toiledau newydd i'r bechgyn. Cyfeiriadau at ddarlithoedd ar y ticiâu.

1926. Y cinio'n ail-gychwyn dros y gaeaf; 6c i blant y pentref, 5c i eraill. 50 yn cael cinio ar y dydd cyntaf. Annodd cadw'r tanau i fynd oherwydd y streic.

1928. Mr H.R. Evans yn brifathro wedi i Mr. Davies ymadael am Ysgol Alexandra Rd. Aberystwyth.

Gaeaf 1931 / 1932. Diphtheria yn dew yn yr ardal. Y dosbarth uchaf yn mynd i wrando ar Dr T.H. Parry Williams a Mr. Iorwerth Peate ar y radio.

1937. Toiledau'r merched yn awr yn cael dŵr to wedi ei storio mewn tanc. Canmoliaeth mawr gan A.E.F. i'r ysgol ac yn arbennig i Miss L.M. Edwards a Mr H.R. Evans fel athrawon.

Yn ôl pob son yr oedd H.R. Evans yn athro nodedig am ei allu i ddysgu rhifydddeg a swyno pawb â'i wersi ar lenyddiaeth. Bu raid iddo ymddeol ym 1947 oherwydd afiechyd a dilynais i ef.

Wedi bod yn dysgu yn Reading ar ôl y rhyfel, cael fy apwyntio i ysgol Tal-y-bont ym 1948. Gwireddu hen freuddwyd am gael dychwelyd i Gymru. Dod o ysgol tref i ysgol fach y wlad. Cerdded i mewn i'r ysgol ar fore braf ym mis Ebrill a chael croeso

1924. Walford Davies arranged a concert at the University with the Welsh Symphony Orchestra. The yard was extended and new toilets were obtained for the boys. References to talks on tuberculosis.

1926. Lunch starting again for the winter; 6d for village children, 5d for others. 50 ate lunch on the first day. It was difficult to keep the fires going because of the strike.

1928. Mr H.R. Evans became headteacher after Mr Davies left for the Alexandra Road School, Aberystwyth.

Winter 1931/1932. A lot of diphtheria in the locality. The top class listen to Dr T.H. Parry Williams and Mr Iorwerth Peate on the radio.

1937. The girls' toilets now have roof water stored in tanks. Great praise from the H.M.I. for the school and especially for Miss L.M. Edwards and Mr H.R. Evans as teachers.

It appeared that H.R. Evans was noted for his ability to teach arithmetic and mesmerised everyone with his literature lessons. He had to retire in 1947 on grounds of ill health and I followed him.

After teaching in Reading after the war I was appointed to Tal-y-bont in 1948. Returning to Wales was the realisation of an old dream. I came from an urban school to a small rural school. I walked into the school on a fine April morning and was given a warm welcome by the two teachers and



Y plant a'i hathrawon 1946

The children and their teachers 1946

bonheddig gan y ddwy athrawes a rhyw hanner cant o blant o 5 i 14 oed.

Gwyddwn fod yr adeilad yn hen ac yn brin o adnoddau dysgu modern. Yr oedd wedi ei adeiladu tu ôl i'r pentref yn edrych allan ar doeau tai yn un pen a chladdfa Capel Bethel y pen arall. Tair ystafell ddosbarth a chegin. Byddai'r ddwy athrawes a minnau'n gyfrifol am blant o ddwy oedran. Yr oeddynt i gyd, ond rhyw un neu ddau, yn Gymry Cymraeg ac, wedi cyrraedd saith oed, disgwylid inni eu cyflwyno i bin dur ac inc (mewn potel ar y ddesg) ac i'w hail iaith.

Yn ddiweddarach sefydlwyd polisi mwy goleuedig wedi ei selio ar waith ymchwil i ddwy-ieithrwydd gan yr Athro Jack L. Williams. Y drefn newydd oedd dysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg o'r dechrau a sicrhau fod y Gymraeg yn gadarn ei sylfaen a phob Sais a Chymro yn gwbl ddwyieithog yn gadael yr ysgol.

Pan ddaeth y gaeaf gwelid fod tân agored yn y dosbarth yn gwbl annigonol i wresogi ysgol ddrafftig gyda nenfwd uchel. Cedwais gofnod dyddiol o'r tymheredd yn nosbarth y babanod a'i anfon at y Pwyllgor Addysg. Chwarae teg iddynt ni fuont fawr o dro yn edrych i mewn i'r mater ond araf iawn y daeth pethau'n well. Gydag amser fe gafwyd offer a dodrefn newydd a mwy pwrpasol, a hynny oherwydd i'r arolygwyr ddweud bod eu hangen. Poenwn am nad oedd dim darpariaeth arbennig ar gyfer y rhai oedd yn aros yn yr ysgol o 11 i 14 oed ond wedi blwyddyn neu ddwy arall agorwyd ysgol fodern Dinas ar eu cyfer yn Aberystwyth.

Yn 1950 daeth trydan i'r ysgol a chafwyd rhagor o wres. Cafwyd hefyd ffwrn drydan oedd yn hwyluso pethau yn y gegin. Defnyddiwyd arian o gronfa'r ysgol gyda grant o £10 oddiwrth y Pwyllgor Addysg i brynu radio ac uchelseinydd yn y dosbarthiadau. Gallem felly wrando ar wersi radio'r BBC.

Yn y chwechdegau fe wariodd y pwyllgor addysg gryn dipyn i brynu dodrefn newydd a desgiau newydd i'r plant. Gosodwyd nenfwd is i fyny a chafwyd llawr coed newydd fel y daeth yr ysgol yn fwy cysurus a chynnes.

Fel ag mewn ysgolion eraill yn y cyfnod hwn yr oedd y toiledau tu allan i'r ysgol; rhai'r bechgyn ym mhen draw yr iard chwarae ac fel y gellid disgwyl, yn ystod gaeaf 1961–62 fe rewodd y cwbl ond, eto, bum yn ffodus fod

some fifty children ranging between 5 and 14 years old.

I knew that the building was old and that reasonably modern resources were scarce.

The school had been built behind the village, overlooking rooftops on one side and Bethel Chapel cemetery on the other. Three classrooms and a kitchen. The two teachers and I were responsible for children of two ages. All apart from one or two were Welsh speaking and we were expected when they were seven years old to introduce pupils to pen and ink (in a bottle on the desk) and to their second language.

In due course a more enlightened policy was established, based upon Professor Jack L. Williams' research work on bilingualism. The new method was to teach through the medium of Welsh, ensuring that Welsh was firmly established and all English and Welsh speakers were bilingual when they left school.

With the onset of winter the open fire was seen to be ineffective in heating a drafty school with a high ceiling. I kept a daily record of the temperature in the infants' class and sent it to the Education Committee. Fair play to them, they didn't take long before they looked into the matter but progress was slow. In time more suitable equipment and furniture were obtained as a result of the recommendation of the inspectors. I was concerned that there was no special provision for those 11 to 14 year olds who stayed on at the school but a year later they were provided for when Dinas Secondary Modern School was opened in Aberystwyth.

In 1950 the school was connected to the electricity supply and it became warmer. An electric oven facilitated things in the kitchen. Money from the school funds and a £10 grant from the Education Committee enabled a radio to be purchased with loudspeakers in each classroom. Therefore we could listen to the BBC's radio lessons.

In the sixties the Education Committee spent a great deal purchasing new furniture and desks for the children. A new ceiling and wooden floor were installed and the school became more comfortable and warm.

As in other schools at this time, the toilets were outside; the boys' toilets at the far end of the playground and as could be expected during the winter of 1961–62 everything was frozen solid, but I was fortunate as there was a public tap some twenty yards from

yna un tap cyhoeddus ar y ffordd rhyw ugain llath o'r ysgol a bu raid galw'r plant hynaf i'r ysgol yn gynharach i ffurfio cadwyn at y tap a chario bwcedaid o un i'r llall fel bod dŵr i'w gael yn y gegin ac i'r tai bach. Mae'r llyfr cofnodion yn dweud iddi fod felly o Ionawr hyd Fawrth y cyntaf pryd y toddodd y rhew ac y llifodd y dŵr allan o'r pibellau. Rhaid oedd aros wedyn i'w trwsio.

Yr oedd yn arferiad, ar un amser, i gael rhyw bump o ddyddiau achlysurol ar ben y gwyliau penodol a gellid defnyddio rhain ar gyfer Sioe Tal-y-bont, Ffair Calan Gaeaf, Cymanfa Ganu ac ati. Yr oedd ambell i hanner diwrnod i'w gael hefyd am bresenoldeb da.

Yn 1964 derbyniwyd gennym offer derbyniol iawn ond cwbl annisgwyl sef Recordydd Tâp o'r radd flaenaf y pryd hynny. Cefais ar ddeall fod Mrs. Myfanwy Bird, (hynny yw, Birds Custard) a oedd yn ymweld â'r pentref weithiau mewn Rolls Royce melyn, wedi dweud wrth fy mrawd-yng-nghyfraith ei bod yn awyddus i brynu offer i'r ysgol er cof am ei thad, Mr Edward Pritchard a fu'n ddisgybl yn yr ysgol. Cafwyd hefyd chwaraeydd recordiau ac fe gostiodd y cyfan £150. Er iddi gael gwahoddiad ddaeth hi ddim i weld y defnydd a wneid o'r offer. Yr oedd gan yr ysgol yn awr stiwdio ddarlledu a gellid cyfansoddi rhaglenni radio ar gyfer y dosbarthiadau. Gellid hefyd recordio rhaglenni radio i'w defnyddio ar unrhyw amser cyfleus.

Er mor brin oedd y lle, llwyddwyd i lwyfannu ambell i gyngerdd Gŵyl Ddewi a Gwasanaeth Carolau prynhawn olaf tymor yr Hydref i ychydig rieni. Penodwyd Trefnydd Cerdd ym 1964 a chai'r plant gyfle i berfformio gyda rhai o ysgolion eraill yn Aberystwyth.

Yn 1964 hefyd yr ymddeolodd Miss Lilian Edwards oedd wedi gwasanaethu'r ysgol am 41 o flynyddoedd a theilwng oedd cydnabod hynny yn gyhoeddus. Cafwyd te yn y Neuadd am 6 i'r plant, 7.30 y.h. i oedolion. Y gŵr gwadd oedd Dr Gareth Evans o Brifysgol Abertawe (mab y cyn-brifathro). Wedi anrhegu Miss Edwards â siec a llestr grisial, cafwyd cân gan Dai Lloyd Davies, cyn ddisgybl oedd yn adnabyddus trwy Gymru fel ennillydd cyson mewn eisteddfodau. Bu'r bardd J.R. Jones (Gwernfab), cyn ddisgybl arall, yn adrodd cyfres o englynion wedi eu cyfansoddi ganddo i Miss Edwards.

the school and the older children had to come to school a little earlier in order to form a human chain to the tap and to pass a bucket down the chain so that water would reach the kitchen and could be thrown down the toilets. The log book records that the situation remained such from January to March the first when the ice melted and the pipes burst and then we had to wait for them to be mended.

It was once the custom to have five occasional days in addition to the usual holidays and these could be given at the time of Tal-y-bont Show, the All Saints' Day Fair, the Gymanfa etc. The occasional half day was also given for good attendance.

In 1964 we received some very acceptable but unexpected equipment, in the form of a Tape Recorder which was the best of its kind at that time. I heard that Mrs Myfanwy Bird (i.e. Birds Custard) who occasionally visited the village in a yellow Rolls Royce, had told my brother in law that she was eager to purchase equipment for the school in memory of her father, Mr Edward Pritchard who had been a pupil at the school. We also had a record player and the total cost was £150. Although she received an invitation she did not come to see the equipment in use. The school now had a broadcasting studio and radio programmes could be produced for the classes. Radio programmes could also be recorded and listened to at convenient times.

Although there wasn't much room, the occasional St David's Day concert and a Carol Service on the last afternoon of the autumn term were held for a few parents. In 1964 a Music Adviser was appointed and the children had the opportunity to perform with other schools in Aberystwyth.

In 1964, Miss Lilian Edwards retired after serving the school for 41 years and it was fitting that it should be publicly acknowledged. Tea was provided in the hall at 6 p.m. for the children, and at 7.30 p.m. for the adults. The guest was Dr Gareth Evans from Swansea University (a son of the former headmaster). After presenting Miss Edwards with a cheque and a crystal bowl, Dai Lloyd Davies, a former pupil who was well known throughout Wales as a regular winner in eisteddfodau, sang. The poet J.R. Jones (Gwernfab), another former pupil recited a series of 'englynion' which he had composed for Miss Edwards.



Miss Lilian Edwards yn ymddeol yn 1964 ar ôl gwasanaeth o 41 mlynedd.

Miss Lilian Edwards on her retirement in 1964 after 41 years of service.

Ym mis Rhagfyr cafwyd parti i'r plant ac eraill yn y Neuadd i anrhegu Miss Jones o Daliesin oedd wedi rhoi 14 mlynedd o wasanaeth i'r ysgol. Dilynydwyd Miss Jones gan Diana Richards (Jones heddiw) a fu, ymhen rhai blynyddoedd, yn brifathrawes yr ysgol newydd.

Tipyn yn drafferthus oedd hi wedi cynnydd mawr yn nifer y plant oherwydd bod y Cyngor Dosbarth wedi codi 40 o dai ym Maes y Deri. Rhaid oedd cynnal dosbarth mewn caban tu ôl i'r capel a chael athrawes ychwanegol ym mherson Mrs Gwladys Griffiths.

Erbyn hyn gellid edrych ymlaen i ysgol newydd. Braff oedd ymgynghori gyda'r awdurdodau ynglŷn â chynllun yr ysgol oddi mewn a dodrefnu'r ystafelloedd. Cael trafferth weithiau i fwrw'r maen i'r wal a chael fy ffordd. Braff hefyd oedd galw yn yr ysgol i'w gweld yn tyfu. Yr oedd mor wahanol i'r hen un, neuadd helaeth olau yn edrych allan ar gae chwarae hyfryd rhyngom â'r afon, digon o le, digon o olau a digon o wres, delfrydol bron.

Symud wedi gwyliau'r haf. Cario llwythi o bethau o'r hen ysgol a rhoi pethau yn eu lle ddau ddiwrnod cyn i'r plant ddod. Cyn hir yr oedd yn rhaid paratoi ar gyfer yr agoriad swyddogol efo'r Cyfarwyddwr Addysg. Paratoi pamffledyn yn dweud hanes yr ysgol yn cynnwys lluniau o'r hen a'r

In December a party was held for the children and others in the Hall to honour Miss Jones from Taliesin who had served the school for 14 years. Miss Jones was followed by Diana Richards (Jones today) who in future years became headteacher of the new school.

The great increase in the number of children resulting from the building of 40 houses at Maes y Deri by the District Council, caused some difficulty. One class had to be held in a cabin behind the chapel and an additional teacher, Mrs Gwladys Griffiths, was appointed.

By now we were looking forward to a new school. It was good to be able to consult the authorities about the plan of the school inside and furniture for the classrooms. I had difficulty sometimes in getting my own way. It was also good to call at the school and see it growing. It was so different to the old one, a large light hall looking out at a beautiful playing field which stood between us and the river, plenty of space, enough light and heat, ideal almost.

The move occurred after the summer holidays. Loads of things were carted from the old school and put in place two days before the children arrived. Soon preparations had to be made for the official opening with the Director of Education. A pamphlet was prepared with an account of the history of the school, including

newydd, llun o'r plant, y staff i gyd a Swyddogion y Sir. Cyflwynodd y pensaer yn agoriad i'r Cynghorydd I.R. Jenkins i agor drws yr ysgol. Cyfarfod wedyn yn y neuadd i wrando ar anerchiadau. Y gŵr gwadd oedd D.A.R. Jones, Dirpwy Glerc y Cyngor Sir wedi ei eni a'i fagu yn Nhal-y-bont. Cafwyd cân hwyliog gan y plant yn clodfori'r ysgol ac wedi ei chyfansoddi yn yr ysgol. Mae'r pamffledyn yn cynnwys yr englynion isod a gyfansoddwyd gan feirdd Tal-y-bont.

Yn yr hen bu'n rhieni,- eu haddysg

Yn waddol gaed ynddi

A rydd y newydd i ni-ddisgyblion

A hawlia goron ein diwael gewri?

Huw Huws

Addas gyfarchion iddi- a roddir

Heddiw wedi'i chodi

Yn wastad bydded drosti

Nawdd yr Ior o'i hagor hi.

D. Gwyn Evans

Ysgol braf ger si'r afon-un hwylus

At alwad athrawon,

A noblach fo'i disgyblion

O'u dysg rhwng desgiau hon.

J.R. Jones

Unwedd a'n hoes newydd ni, – da ei dysg

Codwyd ysgol inni;

Addas iawn, diddos yw hi,

A daw llwydd diwall iddi.

Roger Jones

Yr oedd pethau dipyn yn wahanol yn yr ysgol newydd. Yr oedd mwy o le i baentio a gwneud gwaith llaw, i chwarae ac actio. Cafodd y plant gyfle i gael hyfforddiant gydag offerynnau cerdd. Caent fynd i ddysgu nofio bob wythnos ac yr oedd gennym dîm peldroed a phêl rhwyd. Cynhelid cyngherddau yn y neuadd newydd. Bu offerynnwyr o'r ysgol yn cymryd rhan mewn cerddorfa yn y Neuadd Fawr yn Aberystwyth; pob math o brofiadau newydd cyffrous. Sefydlwyd Aelwyd yr Urdd. Daeth radio a theledu yn bwysig fel cyfrwng i drosglwyddo gwybodaeth.

Rhaid cofnodi i nifer y plant fynd dros gant a bu rhaid cael athrawes ychwanegol a gosod caban wrth ochr yr ysgol.

Bu'r ysgol yn ganolfan gymdeithasol am gyfnod pryd y gellid ei llogi yn rhad i

photographs of the old and new, a photograph of the children, all the staff and the County Officers. The Architect presented a key to Councillor I.R. Jenkins who opened the school door. A meeting was then held in the hall to listen to addresses. The guest was D.A.R. Jones, the Deputy Clerk of the County Council who had been born and brought up in Tal-y-bont. The children performed a jolly song in praise of the school and which had been composed in the school. The pamphlets included 'englynion' composed by Tal-y-bont poets.

Yn yr hen bu'n rhieni,- eu haddysg

Yn waddol gaed ynddi

A rydd y newydd i ni-ddisgyblion

A hawlia goron ein diwael gewri?

Huw Huws

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Codwyd ysgol inni;

Addas iawn, diddos yw hi,

A daw llwydd diwall iddi.

Roger Jones

Things were quite different in the new school. There was more room for art and craft, for playing and acting. The children had the opportunity to learn to play musical instruments. They were taught swimming every week and we had football and netball teams. Concerts were held in the new hall. Instrumentalists from the school took part in an orchestra in the Great Hall at Aberystwyth; all kinds of exciting new experiences. An 'Aelwyd yr Urdd' was established. Radio and television became important mediums for transmitting information.

It must be noted that pupil numbers exceeded a hundred and an additional teacher was appointed and a cabin placed by the school.



Lori yn cyfleu bathodyn yr Urdd (cyhoeddi Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Aberystwyth, 1966)

A lorry depicting the Urdd badge (announcing Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Aberystwyth, 1966)



Ennillwyr, Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Abertawe, Mehefin 1968

Winners, Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Swansea, June 1968

gynnal gweithgareddau diwylliannol o bob math, noson lawen, dramau, ffug eisteddfod, grŵp trafod a.y.b. Yr oedd yr ysgol yn gaffaeliad mawr i'r Wyl Gerdd Dant a gynhaliwyd yn Nhal-y-bont ym mis Tachwedd 1977 pryd y defnyddiwyd hi gan gwmni teledu ac y defnyddiwyd cegin yr

The school was a social centre for a time when it could be hired cheaply in order to hold cultural activities of all kinds, concerts, dramas, mock eisteddfodau, discussion groups etc. The school was a great asset to the 'Cerdd Dant Festival' held in Tal-y-bont in November 1977 when it was used by a

ysgol i baratoi bwyd i'r ymwelwyr. Cofiaf i'r tywydd fod yn stormus ac y cafwyd toriad hir yn y trydan yn ystod y bore.

Gyda'r dylifant Saesneg i'r ardal y mae'r gweithgareddau diwylliannol a chymdeithasol Cymraeg wedi prinhau. Dibynnir yn awr ar Y Ffermwyr Ieuanc, Merched y Wawr a Clwb Nos Wener.

Bu imi ymddeol ddiwedd 1977. Wedi hynny daeth Penweddig i fodolaeth a diwedd ar arholiad 11+. Dilynwyd fi gan Mr Geraint Thomas, Mrs Diana Jones a Mr Clive Williams, y prifathro presennol.

Yn ystod y tair blynedd ar hugain diwethaf mae'r ysgol wedi symud ymlaen yn gyflym i fabwysiadu a deall offer a iaith y dechnoleg fodern. Mae'r athrawon wedi gorfod dygymod â'r cwricwlwm newydd a'i holl bentwr o waith papur. Mae'r plant yn defnyddio'u cyfrifiaduron, yn 'rhodio'r' rhyngwrwd a chwilota'r wê a, chan mai Ysgol Gymunedol ydyw, yr ydym ninnau, y rhai hÿn, yn cael mynd yno i ddysgu. Trwy gyfrwng yr offer modern sydd ganddynt gallant gyhoeddi cylchgrawn deniadol yn cynnwys gwaith y plant a hanes yr ysgol. Mae nifer y plant wedi cynyddu ac estyniad helaeth wedi ei adeiladu ar gyfer y babanod.

television company and the school kitchen was used to prepare food for visitors. I remember the weather was stormy and there was an electricity cut for a long time in the morning. With the English migration into the area the Welsh social and cultural activities are much fewer depending now on The Young Farmers Club, 'Merched y Wawr' and the 'Clwb Nos Wener'.

I retired at the end of 1977. After that Penweddig came into being and the 11+ exam came to an end. I was followed by Mr Geraint Thomas, Mrs Diana Jones and Mr Clive Williams, the present headmaster.

During the last twenty three years the school has moved forward quickly to adopt and understand the language of modern technology. The teachers have to cope with the new curriculum and a pile of paper work. The children use computers, surf the internet and search websites, and as it is a Community School, we, the older ones, may go there to learn. With the assistance of modern equipment which they have they can publish an attractive magazine which includes the work of the children and the school news. The pupil numbers have increased and a big extension has been built for the infants.



Aduniad athrawon a disgyblion yn 1990. Ithel Jones, Lilian Edwards ac Enid Gruffudd, yr athrawon yn eistedd ar y dde.

Re-union of teachers and pupils in 1990. The teachers, Ithel Jones, Lilian Edwards and Enid Gruffudd are sitting on the right.

Er yr holl sylw ac amser a roddir i'r dechnoleg fodern y mae perfformiad plant a ieuenctid ein hysgolion mewn cyngherddau ac eisteddfodau yn tystio i'r pwyslais priodol a rydd athrawon ar holl agweddau diwylliannol addysg gan roi pob cyfle i'r plant ddatblygu a meithrin eu talentau.

Ithel Jones

Despite all the time and attention given to modern technology the performance of the children and young people of our schools in concerts and eisteddfodau shows the appropriate emphasis that teachers give to all cultural aspects of education, giving the children every opportunity to nurture their talents.

Ithel Jones

Atgofion Ysgol

Cychwynnais fynd i'r ysgol ddiwedd 1934 yn 5 oed. Pedwar athro oedd yno ar y pryd. Harri Evans o Gei Newydd oedd y prif athro. Fe oedd yn dysgu'r plant hynaf, plant i fyny i bedair ar ddeg oed. Ac yna roedd Miss Lilian Edwards a fu'n dysgu yn yr ysgol yn ddigon hir i fod wedi dysgu tair cenhedlaeth o blant. Miss Enid Jones, merch y Parch. Fred Jones ein gweinidog ni ym Methel, oedd yn dysgu plant ychydig yn iau. Miss Morgan o Bow Street oedd yn dysgu y plant lleiaf. Dysgodd Miss Jones ni bod: dwy ffyrlling yn gwneud dimau a dwy ddimau yn gwneud ceiniog, pedair ceiniog yn gwneud grot, deuddeg ceiniog yn gwneud swllt, tri deg ceiniog yn gwneud hanner coron, chwe deg ceiniog yn gwneud coron, cant a dau ddeg ceiniog yn gwneud chweugain a dau gant pedwar deg ceiniog yn gwneud punt. Nid wyf yn meddwl fod pawb yn cael cyfle i eistedd y 'scholarship' i fynd i ysgol Ardwyn yn y dref. Rwy'n meddwl mai Mr Evans oedd yn dewis. Os oedd e'n meddwl nad oedd siawns gennyh i lwyddo ni chaech eistedd y 'scholarship'. Roedd ysgol Tal-y-bont yn enwog iawn amser hynny. Ni fethodd un plentyn y 'scholarship' i Ardwyn; roedden nhw yn y deg cyntaf bob blwyddyn.

Yn yr ysgol ddiwedd y tri degau gorfu i ni gael practis 'air raid warning'. Roeddem wedi cael gwers beth oeddem i wneud os deuai'r 'Germans' i fomio'r ysgol. Pan ganai'r gloch roeddem i gyd fod i redeg allan a'r plant hynaf i fod i gario un o'r plant lleiaf ar ei gefn fyny i Goed Llus duon i ddiogelwch. Coed derw oedd coed llus duon amser yma a byddai llus duon yn tyfu drosto i gyd. Roedd y gwragedd a'r plant yn casglu ac yn gwerthu'r llus duon. Byddai Mr E.S. Davies yn eu casglu yn y siop a byddai rhywun o'r Llywodraeth yn dod i'w prynu er mwyn lliwio dillad yr awyrlu. Plannodd y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth goed gleision yn lle'r coed derw a lladdwyd y llus duon i gyd.

Gwilym Jenkins
Papur Pawb 1998

School Memories

I started school at the age of 5 at the end of 1934. There were four teachers there at the time. Harri Evans from New Quay was the headteacher. He taught the older children, children up to the age of fourteen. Then there was Miss Lilian Edwards who had taught at the school long enough to have taught three generations. Miss Enid Jones, daughter of the Rev. Fred Jones, our minister at Bethel, taught those who were a little younger. Miss Morgan from Bow Street taught the youngest children. Miss Jones taught us that: 2 farthings = a half-penny; two half-pennies = a penny; 4 pence = a groat; 12 pence = a shilling; 30 pence = half a crown; 60 pence = a crown; 120 pence = ten shillings and 240 pence = £1. I don't think everyone had the opportunity to sit the scholarship to go to Ardwyn in town. I think Mr Evans decided. If he thought that you had no chance of succeeding you were not allowed to sit. Tal-y-bont school was well-known at that time. No child failed the scholarship. They were in the first ten every year.

At the end of the thirties we had to practice for air raid warnings. We had a lesson on what to do if the Germans came to bomb the school. When the bell rang we had to run out and up to Coed Llus with each of the older children carrying one of the youngest. Coed Llus was an oak forest at that time and it was covered with whinberries. Women and children collected and sold the whinberries to Mr E.S. Davies in the shop. They were then sold to a government official to dye airforce uniforms. The Forestry Commission planted coniferous trees instead of the oak trees and the whinberries perished.

Gwilym Jenkins
Papur Pawb 1998

Hanes ac atgofion Miss Lilian Edwards

Fe'i magwyd yn Nhaliesin a mawr ei dyled i'r aelwyd a'r capel. Wedi dyddiau'r ysgol leol cafodd yrfa ddisglair yn Ardwyn ond methu cael derbyniad i goleg. Aeth i Abertawe am flwyddyn i ddilyn cwrs Pitman ac ar ôl hynny gan nad oedd un drws yn agor iddi derbyniodd wahoddiad i ddysgu ym Mhontarfynach. Roedd y lle hwnnw yn bell iawn yr adeg honno a dim ond unwaith y tymor y medrai ddychwelyd adre. Mentrai ambell ben wythnos ar y trê bach i Aberystwyth. Ymhen blwyddyn cafodd gyfle i ddysgu yn ysgol Elerch gan gerdded bob bore o Daliesin a dychwelyd ddiwedd y prynhawn, taith o bron ddeuddeg milltir.

Ar fore o Fai ym 1923 dechreuodd ar ei gwaith yn ysgol Tal-y-bont. Roedd rhif yr ysgol yn gant wyth deg pedwar a hithau'n gyfrifol am bedwar deg saith ohonynt yn nosbarth un a dau. Mawr ei hedmygedd o'r pedwar prifathro y bu'n cydweithio â hwy.

Cofia flynyddoedd y tlodi rhwng y ddau Rysel Byd a hynny a roes ddechrau i'r cinio rhad sef y cawl am geiniog y dydd. Ceiniogau'r plant a dalai am y cig a'r esgyrn tra gofalai ffermwyr yr ardal yn eu tro am y llysiau. Cyfrifoldeb Miss Lewis, Arosfa, fyddai cadw'r crochan mawr i ffrwtian berwi ar y tân. Bu'r cawl hwnnw yn fendith i lawer teulu. Bu golwg anniben ar yr ysgol drwy'r blynyddoedd – pob stafell yn agored i'r trawstiau a phob pared yn foel fel 'sgubor a dim ond un lle tan yng nghornel pob 'stafell a'r gwres yn dianc drwy'r simdde. Yn ffodus pan ddaeth Mr Ithel Jones yn brifathro gwnaed yr ysgol yn llawer mwy diddos gyda thipyn o baent a lliw, cau'r nenfwd, celfi ysgafnach ac yn lle'r llyfrau o ganeuon henaid, Saesneg daeth caneuon gwerin Cymraeg a'r band taro. Fe newidiodd awyrgylch y lle yn gyfangwbl.

Ar ôl ugain mlynedd o ddysgu heb dystysgrif cafodd ei derbyn yn athrawes drwyddedig a chodwyd ei chyflog o £90 i £144 y flwyddyn. Ym 1964 cynhaliwyd cyfarfod arbennig yn y Neuadd Goffa i anrhegu Miss Edwards a oedd yn ymddeol ar ôl un a deugain o flynyddoedd yn ysgol Tal-y-bont.

J.R. Jones

Papur Pawb, Mawrth 1984

Life and Memories of Miss Lilian Edwards

She was brought up in Taliesin and is greatly indebted to her home and chapel. After local school days she had a brilliant career in Ardwyn but failed to gain a college place. She went on a Pitman course at Swansea for a year and after that, as there was no opening for her, she accepted an invitation to teach at Devil's Bridge which was very far away at that time; she was able to return home only once a term. On the occasional weekend she ventured on the little train to Aberystwyth. Within a year she had the opportunity to teach at Elerch School, walking there from Taliesin every morning and returning at the end of the afternoon, a journey of nearly twelve miles.

In May, 1923 she started work at Tal-y-bont school. The school roll was 184 and she was responsible for 47 children in classes 1 and 2. She has great admiration for the four headteachers with whom she worked.

She remembers the years of poverty between the two world wars and the start of cheap dinners of soup for a penny a day. The children's pennies paid for the meat and bones while the local farmers, each in turn, provided the vegetables. It was the responsibility of Miss Lewis, Arosfa, to keep the large cauldron simmering on the fire. That soup was a blessing for many a family. Over the years the school had a dilapidated look, every room open to the rafters and every wall bare like a barn; only one fireplace for each room with the heat escaping up the chimney. Fortunately, when Mr Ithel Jones became headteacher the school became more snug with a little paint and colour, a ceiling, light-weight furniture and the old fashioned English song books were replaced with Welsh folk songs and a percussion band. The atmosphere was completely changed.

After 20 years of teaching without a certificate, Miss Edwards was accepted as a trained teacher and her salary was raised from £90 to £144 a year. In 1964 a special presentation meeting was held in the Neuadd Goffa for Miss Edwards who was retiring after 41 years at Tal-y-bont School.

J.R. Jones

Papur Pawb, March 1984