

Diwylliant

Yr oedd cerddoriaeth yn bwysig iawn yn Nhal-y-bont yn ystod y ganrif sydd wedi mynd heibio – y pentrefwyr yn frwdfrydig iawn gyda'r gwahanol weithgareddau, sef, bandiau pres, cerddorfeydd, y côr undebol, côr meibion, corau merched a chorau plant.

Yr oedd arweinyddion y gân yn amlwg iawn yn y pentref a'r capeli. Dyma rai ohonynt:

Humphrey Jones, codwr canu ym Methel yn dod i'r capel ar y Sul ac yn cael ei dywys o fan i fan yn ei gerbyd bychan gan ei fod yn anabl. William Davies, cigydd o Benlôn. Dyn galluog iawn. Ef ddechreuodd ganu'r harmoniw m ym Methel ac yna daeth Dai Edwards i arwain y gân a bu'n bur lwyddiannus gyda chorau o bob llais.

Yn y Tabernacl yr oedd Richard James, paentiwr wrth ei alwedigaeth, yn canu'r harmoniw bach, a gafwyd yn rhodd gan deulu'r Felin. Ef hefyd oedd yn gyfrifol am oleuo'r lampau yn y capel a gofalu am eu llanw ag olew. Ar ei ôl daeth Richard Thomas Griffiths y Felin yn arweinydd y gân. Roedd ef yn feistolgar fel arweinydd corau a phartïon meibion. Bu'n llwyddiannus mewn eisteddfodau ym Machynlleth, Borth, Aberystwyth ac ati. Câl ei gydnabod fel arbenigwr y gân yng ngogledd Ceredigion a châl ei alw'n gyson i arwain cymanfaoedd canu. Dilynwyd ef gan Wili Hughes. Yr oedd yntau'n gerddorol iawn ac yn arwain corau.

Draw yn Nazareth yr oedd John James Hughes, yn canu'r organ ac yn arwain y gân. Rhoddodd wasanaeth clodwiw i'r capel a'r gymdogaeth. Prynodd organ fach hardd i'r capel ar ddechrau'r ganrif am £26. Mae'n cael ei defnyddio heddiw ar y Sul yn festri'r capel. Arweiniai gôr undebol mewn gweithiau cerddorol o safon uchel gan ymarfer bob wythnos gogyfer â pherfformio cantatas, oratorios a darnau gan gyfansoddwyr o fri. Diddorol yw nodi fod naws grefyddol i'r perfformiadau i gyd – Joseph, Esther the Beautiful Queen, Daniel, Paradwys, King Hezekiah, Belshazzar's Feast, Messiah ac yn y blaen. Yr oedd cerddorfa o'r pentref yn cyfeilio i'r côr. Yr oedd band pres hefyd yn y pentref.

Dylid cofnodi fod pentref gwledig Tal-y-

Culture

Music was very important in Tal-y-bont during the past century – the villagers were very enthusiastic about the various activities, namely, brass bands, orchestras, the united choir, male voice choir, ladies' choirs and children's choirs.

The precentors were prominent figures in the village and the chapels. Here are some of them:

Humphrey Jones, a precentor at Bethel, who came to chapel on Sundays and was taken from place to place in his little vehicle as he was disabled. William Davies, a butcher from Penlôn. A very able man. It was he who started playing the harmonium at Bethel. The next precentor was Dai Edwards who was very successful with choirs of all voices.

In the Tabernacle, there was Richard James, a painter. He played the small harmonium which had been donated by the Felin family. He was also responsible for lighting the chapel lamps and filling them with oil. He was followed as precentor by Richard Thomas Griffiths, the Felin. He was a talented conductor of choirs and male voice parties. He was successful in eisteddfodau at Machynlleth, Borth, Aberystwyth and so on. He was considered to be a musical expert in north Ceredigion and was regularly called upon to conduct cymanfaoedd. He was followed by Mr Willie Hughes who was very musical and conducted choirs.

In Nazareth, John James Hughes played the organ as well as being the precentor. He gave excellent service to the chapel and the community. At the beginning of the century he purchased a beautiful little organ for the chapel for £26. It is still used on Sundays in the chapel vestry. He conducted an united choir which performed music of a very high standard; the united choir practised every week in preparation for performances of cantatas, oratorios and the works of noted composers. It is interesting to note that all these performances were of a religious nature – Joseph, Esther the Beautiful Queen, Daniel, Paradise, King Hezekiah, Belshazzar's Feast, Messiah and so on. The village orchestra accompanied

Rhaglen Paradwys

The 'Paradwys' programme

bont wedi llwyddo i gael organ bîb o safon ar gyfer pob capel. Gwyddom i Nazareth gael organ o Huddersfield yn costio £280 yn 1904 ac i Bethel gael organ oddiwrth Rushworth and Draper wedi ei dewis iddynt gan Dr Caradog Roberts yn 1916 ac a gostiodd £500. Bu Miss Ruffina Owen a Mrs Phyllis Williams yn canu'r organ am 60 mlynedd. Tua'r un pryd, teulu'r Felin fu'n gyfrifol am ddewis organ bîb hyfryd ar gyfer Capel y Tabernacl sydd yn awr wedi cau ac yn dirywio. Ceid nifer o 'organ recitals' a 'sacred concerts' yn y blynyddoedd cynnar.

the choir. There was also a brass band in the village.

One should note that the rural village of Tal-y-bont succeeded in having pipe organs of a high standard in every chapel. In 1904 Nazareth had an organ from Huddersfield which cost £280 and Bethel had an organ, chosen by Dr Caradog Roberts, from Rushworth and Draper in 1916 and cost £500. Miss Ruffina Owen and Mrs Phyllis Williams played the organ for 60 years. At around the same time the Felin family was responsible for selecting a beautiful pipe organ for Tabernacle Chapel, which is now



Y Gerddorfa (E.O. Jones)

The Orchestra (E.O. Jones)



*Y Band Pres
(J. Meurig Edwards, Bow Street a Borth)*

*The Brass Band
(J. Meurig Edwards, Bow Street and Borth)*



Organ Bethel, 1916

Bethel Organ, 1916

Yr oedd dau gôr plant enwog yn yr ardal cyn y rhyfel 1939–1945. Hyfforddwr un côr oedd Tom Jenkins. Postman ydoedd; un o gymeriad hynod a hoffus. Cadwai feicmodur yn ei barlwr. Yno y byddai yn ei drin a'i gychwyn! Mae cofnod ar gael yn dweud i'w gôr ennill y brif wobwr yn Eisteddfod Tywyn. Sut oeddynt yn mynd

closed and deteriorating. Many organ recitals and sacred concerts were held during the early years.

Before the 1939–1945 war there were two famous children's choirs in the area. Mr Tom Jenkins taught one of them. He was employed as a postman and was a remarkable and loveable character. He kept



Ruffina Owen a Phyllis Williams ar ôl 60 mlynedd o ganu'r organ

Ruffina Owen and Phyllis Williams after 60 years of organ playing

yno tybed? Brêc Felix i Landre a thrên i Dywyn neu 'Charabang'. Miss Maggie Lizzie Williams ALCM oedd yn arwain y côr arall a Mrs. Phyllis Williams oedd yn cyfeilio i'r ddau gôr. Yr oedd Miss Williams yn gerddorol iawn ac yn mynnu cywirdeb bob amser. Bu iddi hyfforddi nifer o blant y pentref i ganu'r piano o'r ugeiniau hyd y pedwardegau.

Mr Willie Hughes o Birkenhead Street oedd yn hyfforddi cantorion Tal-y-bont i ymuno â chôr mawr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Machynlleth yn 1937.

Daeth aelodau Capel Bethel at ei gilydd i berfformio'r Cantata, 'Ruth' a'r gweinidog, Y Parch. Fred Jones, yn chwarae rhan Elimelech. Bu'n llwyddiant mawr mewn nifer o neuaddau. Cynhelid eisteddfodau a

and maintained a motor bike in his parlour. It has been recorded that his choir won the main prize in the Towyn Eisteddfod. How did they travel there? Felix's brake to Llandre and the train to Towyn or by Charabang! Miss Maggie Lizzie Williams ALCM conducted the other choir and Mrs Phyllis Williams accompanied both choirs. Miss Williams was very musical and always insisted on perfection. During the twenties, thirties and forties she taught many children in the village to play the piano.

Mr Willie Hughes, Birkenhead Street taught the Tal-y-bont singers who joined the big choir at the National Eisteddfod in Machynlleth in 1937.

Members of Bethel Chapel performed the cantata, Ruth, with the minister, the



Côr Plant, 1925–1926
Arweinyddes Miss M.E. Williams, A.L.C.M.
Cyfeilyddes Miss Phyllis Edwards

Children's Choir, 1925–1926
Conductor Miss M.E. Williams, A.L.C.M.
Accompanist Miss Phyllis Edwards



Y Tymhorau, Bethel, 1965

The Seasons, Bethel, 1965

chyrddau cystadleuol ym mhob capel – un Bethel ar ddydd Nadolig. Gelwid eisteddfod y Tabernacle yn 'Test Concert'. Cynhelid cyngerdd a dramau chwedlonol yn Saesneg ar gyfer y plant bob blwyddyn yn yr Eglwys. Yr oedd i bob capel ei Obeithlu, ei ddosbarth Sol-ffa, Cwrdd

Reverend Fred Jones taking the part of Elimelech. It was a great success in many halls. Every chapel had its own eisteddfod and competitive meetings; Bethel's was held on Christmas day. The Tabernacle eisteddfod was called a 'Test Concert'. Every year the Church held a concert and plays, in



*Cwmni Drama, Bethel, 1960–1965
O'r chwith: Margaret Jones, Myrddin Jones,
Elsie Thomas, John Richards, Ithel Jones,
Gwilym Jenkins, David Rhagfyr Jones*

*Drama Company, Bethel, 1960–1965
From the left: Margaret Jones, Myrddin Jones,
Elsie Thomas, John Richards, Ithel Jones,
Gwilym Jenkins, David Rhagfyr Jones*



Dawnsywyr yn rali gyntaf y Ffermwyr Ieuanc

Dancers in the Young Farmers first rally 1963



Y Sipsi, cân actol

Y Sipsi, action song



Cwmni Drama Ffermwyr Ieuan, 1970

Young Farmers' Drama Company, 1970

Diwylliannol, Seiat a Chwrrdd Gweddi. Collodd yr eisteddfodau eu hapêl. Parhaodd rhai mudiadau diwylliannol i gynnal cyfarfodydd ac i gyflwyno dramâu. Byddai Bethel a'i gwmmi drama yn cynnal noson yn y Neuadd Goffa tua'r Nadolig a cheid itemau gan y plant oedd wrth eu bodd efo cân actol a dawns.

Roedd Sefydliad y Merched o dan arweiniad Miss Ruffina Owen yn weithgar iawn gyda cherddoriaeth yn y pentref. Hi oedd yn arwain côr o aelodau'r Sefydliad wedi eu gwisgo yn lliwiau'r cenin a chenin pedr o dan yr enw 'Rhiannedd Eleri'. Mrs. Phyllis Williams fyddai'n cyfeilio iddynt bob amser. Bu Mrs. Megan Jones Pierce yn cystadlu'n llwyddiannus iawn gyda'i côr hithau yn eisteddfodau'r sir.

Yr oedd y Ffermwyr Ieuanc yn cynnal côr a chyflwyno dramâu mewn cystadleuthau sirol. Y maent yn parhau i fod yn weithgar yn yr ardal a'r sir. Cafodd Mrs. Megan Jones Pierce lwyddiant gyda'i côr o ffermwyr ieuanc yn Eisteddfod Sir y Clybiau. Cafodd y clwb lwyddiant gyda dramâu a raliau yn hanner olaf y ganrif.

Dilys Hughes a Valma Jones

English, for the children. Every chapel had its Band of Hope, its Tonic Solfa Class, Cultural Meeting, Fellowship Meeting and Prayer Meeting. The Eisteddfod lost its appeal. Some cultural movements continued to hold meetings and to present plays. Bethel and its drama company held an evening of entertainment at Christmas time when the children performed some of the items. The children enjoyed performing action songs and dances.

The Women's Institute under the leadership of Miss Ruffina Owen was very active musically. She conducted the choir of institute members called 'Rhiannedd Eleri'. The members were dressed in the colours of leeks and daffodils. Mrs. Phyllis Williams was always the accompanist. Mrs Megan Jones Pierce had great success with her choir in the county eisteddfodau. The Young Farmers had a choir and performed plays in county competitions. They continue to be active on a local and county level. Mrs. Megan Jones Pierce was successful with her young farmers' choir in the Clubs' County Eisteddfod. The club had much success with plays and rallies in the second half of the century.

Dilys Hughes and Valma Jones



Dresel, yng nghartref y diweddar Dai Lloyd Davies, yn llawn o'r cwpanau a enillodd mewn eisteddfodau gyda'i lais bariton ardderchog.

A dresser, in the home of the late Dai Lloyd Davies, filled with the cups that he won in eisteddfodau with his fine baritone voice.

Yr Arlunydd – Griff Jones – the Artist

Ganwyd Griff Jones yn y Bala a daeth i Dal-y-bont yn y tridegau i weithio fel gwehydd yn Ffatri Wlân Leri ac ar ôl y rhyfel gweithiai i gwmni yswiriant Pearl.

Hoffai wneud lluniau i'w fab, Stephen, a chafodd yr awydd i baentio tirluniau mewn dyfrlliw i ddechrau ac yna penderfynu mentro gydag olew. Yr oedd yn hanner cant oed pan baentiodd ei lun cyntaf.



Griff Jones was born in Bala and came to Tal-y-bont in the thirties to work as a weaver in Leri Mills. After the war he worked for the Pearl Insurance Company.

He was fond of drawing pictures for his son Stephen and then came the desire to paint landscapes in watercolours before finally deciding to experiment with oils. He was 50 years old when he painted his first picture.

Treuliai oriau lawer yn y sied yn yr ardd, a wynebai'r Leri, yn paentio gan gopiö o'r nifer ffotograffau oedd ganddo. Byddai ei gamera gydag ef pan yn teithio ar ei feic yn rhinwedd ei swydd gyda Pearl.

Buan iawn y daeth yn adnabyddus yn ei ardal a thu hwnt. Gwerthodd lawer iawn o'i luniau yn enwedig ar ôl iddynt ddod i sylw'r cyhoedd mewn arddangosfa yn yr Hen Gapel, Tre'r Ddôl, yn y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol, Aberystwyth ac yn Neuadd Bingley, Birmingham. Cai nifer o'i luniau eu cynnwys ym Mhabell Celf a Chreffft yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol o dro i dro.

Paentiodd Griff dros 200 o luniau i gyd; tir luniau o Eryri a mynyddoedd eraill, ardaloedd y Cotswold ac, wrth gwrs, y wlad a'r afonydd o gwmpas Tal-y-bont. Mae'r catalogau o'r arddangosfeydd yn Nhref'r Ddôl ac Aberystwyth yn dangos iddo baentio amrywiaeth eang o luniau; lluniau adar, portreadau a bywyd llonydd yn ogystal a thirluniau.

Mae ei luniau ym meddiant prynwyr o Brydain, Awstralia, Canada, America a rhai o wledydd Ewrop. Bu farw yn 1993 yn 85 oed.

He spent many hours in his garden shed, over-looking the river Leri copying and painting the numerous photographs in his collection. He always had his camera with him when he went to work for the insurance company on his bicycle.

He soon became well known in his parish and beyond. He sold many paintings especially after receiving publicity following exhibitions at 'Yr Hen Gapel, Tre'r Ddôl', The National Library, Aberystwyth and Bingley Hall, Birmingham. Some of his paintings were shown at the Arts and Crafts section of the National Eisteddfod on several occasions.

Griff painted over 200 paintings altogether; scenes of Snowdonia and other mountains, the Cotswolds and, of course, the rivers and countryside around Tal-y-bont. The catalogues of the exhibitions held at Tre'r Ddôl and Aberystwyth show that he tackled a wide range of subjects comprising pictures of birds, portraits, still-life and landscapes.

His pictures are in the possession of buyers from Britain, Australia, Canada, America and Europe. He died in 1993 at the age of 85.

Valma Jones

Valma Jones