Yr Ysgol Feithrin

Dyma ran o erthygl gan Eleri Huws yn *Papur Pawb*, Ebrill, 1979:

'Blwyddyn y Plentyn' yw hi eleni ac i ddathlu hynny mae'r Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin yn cynnal Wythnos Feithrin rhwng Ebrill 30 a Mai 5 i wneud pawb trwy Gymru'n ymwybodol o'r hyn sydd ar gael mewn addysg feithrin yn eu hardal hwy. Mae'n adeg addas, felly, i fwrw golwg yn ôl dros hanes Ysgol Feithrin, Tal-y-bont, sy'n 9 oed eleni.

Ychydig a feddyliodd y grŵp bychan o famau brwdfrydig a benderfynodd roi cynnig ar sefydlu ysgol mai llwybr digon garw i'w gerdded fyddai a'r anawsterau'n ddi-ri ar brydiau. Wedi sgwrs gyda'r Cyfarwyddwr Addysg, trefnwyd i gynnal Ysgol Feithrin ar dri bore'r wythnos yn hen ysgol Tal-y-bont gyda 9 o blant. Yr athrawesau yn y cyfnod cynnar oedd Carwen Vaughan, Myfanwy Rowlands, Nona Evans, Catherine Jones ac Eleri Huws. Codwyd arian yn wreiddiol trwy barti coffi yng Nghwmrhydgoch, Bontgoch, parti coffi yn yr ysgol a chyfraniadau'r rhieni. Diddorol yw gweld eitemau fel hyn ar dudalen gyntaf y llyfr cyfrifon – 10 cadair, 6 bwrdd ac 1 cwpwrdd – £6; 2 Lyfr Cymraeg 1/6 (swllt a chwe cheiniog) yr un – 3/- (tri swllt); Sebon 1/3 (swllt a thair ceiniog); 4 pwced a rhaw o Peacocks – 8/- (wyth swllt). Ychydig o arian oedd ar gael i brynu offer a llyfrau i'r plant, ond trwy garedigrwydd pobl Tal-y-bont, derbyniwyd rhoddion o bopeth dan haul, yn llyfrau a theganau, creions a phapur, bisgedi a diod oren.

Wedi dechrau mor fywiog, sioc oedd clywed am fwriad yr Awdurdod Addysg i werthu'r hen ysgol a siomwyd y pentrefwyr pan werthwyd yr adeilad ym mis Gorffennaf, 1970 i Ysgol Parmiters, Llundain. Yn ffodus roedd Parmiters yn fodlon caniatáu i'r Ysgol Feithrin ddefnyddio'r adeilad ar amodau teg. Dros gyfnod o amser, fodd bynnag, teimlai Pwyllgor yr Ysgol Feithrin yn fwy-fwy anniddig ynghylch y sefyllfa. Roedd yr adeilad yn oer a llaith yn y gaeaf a'r llwydni yn amlwg ar y celfi bob bore; cwynai'r rhieni am yr effaith andwyol ar iechyd y plant; ni ellid chwarae allan oherwydd gwydr ar yr iard a pherygl llechi'n disgyn o'r to; roedd y toiledau'r tu allan a doedd dim dŵr poeth ar

The Nursery School

The following extract is from an article by Eleri Huws in *Papur Pawb*, in April 1979:

This year is 'The year of the Child' and to celebrate this the 'Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin' is holding a Nursery Week, between April 30 and May 5, so that everybody throughout Wales will be aware of the nursery provision available in their area. It is an appropriate time, therefore, to look back at the history of the Ysgol Feithrin, Tal-y-bont, which was founded 9 years ago.

Little did that small group of enthusiastic mothers who decided to try to set up a school realise that it would be a difficult road to take with numerous problems at times. After a chat with the Director of Education, it was decided to hold an Ysgol Feithrin for 9 children three mornings a week in the old Tal-y-bont School. The teachers during the early years were Carwen Vaughan, Myfanwy Rowlands, Nona Evans, Catherine Jones and Eleri Huws. Money was first raised at a coffee morning in Cwmrhydgoch, Bontgoch, a coffee party at the school and from parental contributions. It is interesting to note on the first page of the accounts book, such items as: 10 chairs, 6 tables and 1 cupboard – £6; 2 Welsh Books 1/6 (one shilling and sixpence) each – 3/- (three shillings); Soap 1/3 (one shilling and three-pence); 4 buckets and spades from Peacocks – 8/- (eight shillings). Little money was available to purchase equipment and books for the children, but due to the kindness of Tal-y-bont people, all kinds of items were donated, books and toys, crayons and paper, biscuits and orange squash.

After such a lively start it was a shock to hear of the Education Authority's intention to sell the old school, and the villagers were disappointed when the building was sold in July, 1970 to Parmiters School, London. Fortunately, Parmiters was willing to allow the Ysgol Feithrin to use the building on very reasonable terms. Over a period of time, however, the Ysgol Feithrin Committee felt increasing unease about the situation. The building was cold and damp in winter with mould on the furniture in the morning; parents complained about the detrimental effect upon the children's health; they could

gael. Ond prif asgwrn y gynnen rhwng y Pwyllgor ac Ysgol Parmiters oedd, yn gyntaf, y biliau trydan afresymol o uchel a dderbynid, ac, yn ail, fandaliaeth yn yr ysgol. Bu'r ddau bwynt yma'n destun amryw o lythyrau hallt rhwng y ddwy ysgol. Yn aml, cyrhaeddai'r athrawon a'r plant yn y bore i ddarganfod olion rhywun wedi torri i mewn yn ystod y nos. a difrod mawr wedi ei wneud i'r teganau a'r lle'n fudr.

Derbyniwyd llythyr annisgwyl o Ysgol Parmiters yn gofyn am gyfraniad afresymol tuag at y trydan a chyfraniad uchel arall at gael gofalwr ar yr adeilad. Teimlai Pwyllgor yr Ysgol Feithrin na allent gytuno a'r gofynion cwbl annheg hyn yn wyneb yr anawsterau roeddynt yn ei wynebu. Yna cafwyd llythyr yn rhoi 3 mis o rybudd i adael yr adeilad ar Hydref 21, 1974

Dechreuodd cyfnod digon terfysglyd yn hanes yr Ysgol Feithrin. Rhaid oedd dod o hyd i ystafell addas, a hynny ar frys, gyda digon o le i'r plant chwarae a chadw'r offer, a thoiledau a dŵr yn hwylus. Roedd un llygedyn o obaith, sef ystafell y llys yn Swyddfa'r Heddlu, a chafwyd caniatâd parod i wneud y cais gan yr Heddwas a Mrs Robert Jenkins. Byrhoedlog fu'r gobaith hwnnw, fodd bynnag, a gwrthodwyd y cais gan Awdurdod Heddlu Dyfed Powys.

Roedd pryder gwirioneddol ynghylch dyfodol yr ysgol. Anfonwyd llythyrau'n apelio am help i'r Pwyllgor Addysg, y cynghorwyr lleol a chymdeithasau'r fro. Penderfynwyd mai gwell fyddai cynnal yr ysgol yng ngwaelod y Neuadd Goffa na'i chau am gyfnod amhenodol tra'n disgwyl am adeilad addas. Bu'n gyfnod anodd a blinedig i'r ddwy athrawes ar y pryd, Enid Gruffudd a Dilys Myrddin a'u cynorthwywyr Mrs Griffiths a Mrs Jenkins, Tŷ'r Heddlu. Rhaid oedd cadw'r celfi ar ôl bob sesiwn a'u tynnu allan y bore wedyn. Rhoddwyd pwysau ar y Pwyllgor Addysg o bob cyfeiriad a mawr oedd y rhyddhad pan dderbyniwyd y llythyr hwn gan y dirprwy-gyfarwyddwr addysg ar Hydref 20, 1978 – 'Dymunaf eich hysbysu fod y pwyllgor Addysg wedi cytuno i symud ystafell symudol i Ysgol Tal-y-bont mor fuan ag sy'n bosibl'. Ers hynny, bu'r ysgol yn ffynnu yn ei chartref newydd a'r plant dan ofal Mrs Vera Lloyd a'i chynorthwydd Mrs Brenda Jones.

Penderfynwyd yn gynnar yn hanes yr Ysgol na ellid disgwyl i'r athrawon roi eu gwasanaeth am ddim a buan y cododd y not play outside because of glass in the yard and the danger of slates falling from the roof; there were only outside toilets and there was no hot water available. But the main bone of contention between the Committee and Parmiters School was, in the first place, the unreasonably high electricity bills which were received and, secondly, vandalism in the school. These two points resulted in several strongly worded letters between the two schools. Frequently, the teachers and children would arrive in the morning to discover that someone had broken in during the night and had damaged the toys and left the place dirty.

An unexpected letter arrived from Parmiters School asking for an unreasonable contribution towards electricity and another unreasonable contribution towards the cost of a caretaker for the building. The Ysgol Feithrin Committee felt unable to agree to these completely unfair requests in the light of the difficulties with which they were faced. Then a letter was received on October 21, 1974 giving three months notice to vacate the building.

An unstable period commenced in the history of the Ysgol Feithrin. A suitable room had to be found, and quickly, with enough room for the children to play and for equipment to be stored, with toilets and water to hand. There was one ray of hope, the court-room at the Police Station; permission was readily given by Police Officer and Mrs Robert Jenkins for an application to be made. This hope was short lived, however, as the request was refused by the Dyfed Powys Police Authority.

There was real concern about the future of the school. Letters appealing for help were sent to the Education Committee, the local councillors and local societies. It was decided that it would be better to hold the school in the lower room of the Memorial Hall than to close for an indefinite period whilst waiting for a suitable building. It was a difficult and tiring period for the two teachers at that time, Enid Gruffudd and Dilys Myrddin and their assistants Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Jenkins, Police Station. Furniture had to be put away after each session and taken out again the following morning. There was pressure on the Education Committee from all directions and it was with great relief that a letter was received from the Deputy Director of Education on October 20, 1978 – 'I wish to inform you that the Education Committee has agreed to provide a mobile classroom at Tal-y-

bwgan Cyllid ei ben! Talai'r rhieni bryd hynny £1 y tymor am bob plentyn – erbyn hyn mae'r tâl wedi codi i £10 y plentyn. Am gyfnod derbyniwyd grant gan Cyngor Sir Aberteifi tuag at gynnal yr ysgol ond gydag ad-drefnu llywodraeth leol a chwtogi ar wario daeth y grantiau i ben. Yn ffodus, daeth cymorth parod gan Cyngor Cymdeithas Ceulanmaesmawr ac yn ddiweddar derbyniwyd grant am offer a theganau gan y Swyddfa Gymreig a'r Bwrdd Datblygu Cymru Wledig. Ar hyd y blynyddoedd dibynodd yr Ysgol Feithrin yn drwm ar gefnogaeth y pentrefwyr mewn Noson Goffi a Raffl, Gyrfa Chwist a Ffair Sborion. Heb y gefnogaeth hael hwn i bob ymgyrch i godi arian ni fyddai modd cario 'mlaen.

Bellach mae'r costau'n cynyddu o dymor i dymor a'r baich ariannol yn trymhau. Rhwng Ionawr a Rhagfyr cost cynnal yr ysgol oedd £611 – £570.50 am gyflogau, £21 am laeth a'r gweddill am fân bethau. Apeliwyd sawl tro ar yr Awdurdod Addysg i gymryd y cam rhesymegol nesaf a derbyn yr Ysgol yn swyddogol o dan eu haden. Byddai hyn yn rhyddhau'r rhieni o'r faich ariannol. Wedi'r cyfan mae'r Awdurdod eisoes yn talu costau cynnal yr adeilad a cham cymharol fychan fyddai cyflogi'r athrawes a'i chynorthwy-ydd yn ogystal. Rhaid apelio am hyn yn y dyfodol agos gan na ellir disgwyl i Bwyllgor yr Ysgol Feithrin fynd ar ofyn y pentrefwyr am gyfnod amhenodol eto.

Ar hyd y blynyddoedd aeth nifer fawr o blant o bob lliw a llun drwy'r Ysgol Feithrin – bu'r nifer lan i 16 ar un adeg ac yna mor isel a 3! Ar hyn o bryd mae 11 o blant ar lyfrau'r ysgol a gobaith am nifer dda yn ystod y 3 blynedd nesaf. Er mai 3 o'r plant sydd â'r Gymraeg yn iaith gyntaf iddynt mae 6 arall ag un rhiant, brawd neu chwaer yn rhugl yn yr iaith. Dim ond un plentyn sy'n dod o gartre lle ni chlywir unrhyw Gymraeg o gwbl.

Polisi'r Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin yw, 'Rhoi cyfle i'r plentyn ddatblygu o ran ei gorff, ei ddeall, ei emosiwn ac yn gymdeithasol a hynny trwy wahanol fathau o chwarae trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg'.

bont School as soon as possible'. Since then the school has thrived in its new home with the children in the care of Mrs Vera Lloyd and her assistant Mrs Brenda Jones.

It was decided early on that the teachers could not be expected to provide their services free of charge and the question of Finance reared its head! Parents at the time paid £1 per term per child – the charge has now increased to £10 per child. For a time a grant towards the maintenance of the school was received from Cardiganshire County Council but with the reorganisation of local government and cuts in expenditure the grant ceased. Fortunately, Ceulanamaesmawr Community Council willingly assisted and recently a grant was received for toys and equipment from the Welsh Office and the Development Board for Rural Wales. Over the years the Ysgol Feithrin has depended a lot on the support of villagers in Coffee Evenings, Raffles, Whist Drives and Jumble Sales. Without this generous support for fund-raising activities, it would have been impossible to continue.

Now, the costs increase term by term and the financial burden is getting heavier. Between January and December the cost of running the school was £611 – £570.50 for salaries, £21 for milk and the rest for sundries. Several appeals were made to the Education Authority to take the next reasonable step and officially take the school under its wing. This would free the parents from the financial burden. After all the Authority already pays the cost of maintaining the building and it would only be a small step to employ a teacher and an assistant. This appeal must be made in the near future as one cannot expect the Ysgol Feithrin Committee to depend upon the generosity of villagers for another indefinite period.

Over the years a large number of children have been through the Ysgol Feithrin – the number was up to 16 at one time and as low as 3 at another time! At present there are 11 children on the books and it is hoped for a good number during the next three years. Although only three children have Welsh as their first language, 6 others have one parent, or a brother or sister who is fluent in the language. Only one child comes from a home where no Welsh is heard at all.

The policy of the Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin is, 'To give the child the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially by means of play through the medium of Welsh'.

Atgofion Vera Lloyd

Cychwynnodd fy nghysylltiad i ag Ysgol Feithrin Tal-y-bont tua 1974 pan ofynnwyd i mi fynd yno fel athrawes gyflenwi. Roedd y Cylch yn cyfarfod y pryd hynny yn yr Hen Ysgol a dan amgylchiadau digon annifyr ond roedd brwdfrydedd y pwyllgor a 'r rhieni yn heintus yn y cyfnod arloesol cynnar.

Yn aml byddai Mrs Ann Jenkins yn dod ar y ffôn ben bore i ymddiheuro na ellid cynnal ysgol feithrin gan fod rhywun wedi torri mewn i'r ysgol a defnyddio'r nwy a oedd yn y gwresogydd. Anodd iawn oedd cael dau pen llinyn ynghyd ond roedd cael cefnogaeth rhieni ac ardalwyr yn ei gwneud hi'n bosibl i gadw'r drws yn agored. Mae atgofion hapus hefyd o gydweithio efo'r diweddar Mrs Griffiths.

Cefais gais ym 1977 gan ysgrifenyddes y pwyllgor i ddod i'r Cylch fel athrawes ac erbyn hyn roedd y cylch wedi symud i gaban yn yr ysgol bresennol ar ôl cyfnod yn cyfarfod yn Neuadd y Pentref. Roedd y Cylch yn cyfarfod bob dydd Mawrth, Mercher a dydd Iau o naw hyd ddeuddeg o'r gloch y bore. Roedd y safle yma'n lle delfrydol gan ein bod yn elwa o gael defnyddio adnoddau'r ysgol gynradd. Treuliais un-mlynedd-ar-ddeg hapus iawn yng nghwmni plant y pentref a'r ardal. Bu cydweithrediad nifer o gynorthwywyr – Mrs Brenda Jones, Mrs Rita Llwyd, Mrs Siân ap Gwynfor, Mrs Mona Rowlands a'r ddiweddar Mrs Non Jones yn foddion i wneud y Cylch yn lle hapus bob amser. Rhaid oedd cynnal nifer o weithgareddau i godi arian er bod ychydig o grant yn dod o'r Swyddfa Gymraeg a rhaid talu teyrnged i bobl Tal-y-bont a'r cylch am eu cefnogaeth i unrhyw amgylchiad a drefnid gan y pwyllgor flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn.

Cawsom bob cydweithrediad oddi wrth Mr Geraint Thomas a'i staff ac anogodd ni fel grŵp i gymryd rhan yng ngweithgareddau'r ysgol. Byddem yn diolch yn flynyddol am y ffrwythau a'r llysiau yn y cyfarfod diolchgarwch ac yn perfformio dwy ddrama, sef drama'r Geni a rhyw chwedl neu stori, er enghraifft, Yr Iâr Fach Goch, bob Nadolig. Rhaid oedd cael eitem gan y plant bach yn yr Eisteddfod ar ddydd Gŵyl Dewi ac edrychai pawb ymlaen at gael cymryd rhan yn y mabolgampau.

Roedd y plant bob amser yn hoffi trip – ymweld â'r ffald yng nghwmni Ann a Gwilym Jenkins, Tanrallt, i weld y cneifio,

Vera Lloyd's Memories

My connection with the Ysgol Feithrin, Tal-y-bont commenced in 1974 when I was asked to go there as a supply teacher. At that time the 'Cylch' was meeting in quite unpleasant conditions in the Old School but the enthusiasm of the committee and parents was infectious during this early period.

Often Mrs Ann Jenkins would ring up early in the morning to apologise that the 'ysgol feithrin' could not be held as someone had broken into the school and used up the gas in the heater. It was difficult to make ends meet but the support of parents and local people made it possible to keep the doors open. There are also happy memories of working with the late Mrs Griffiths.

In 1977 I was requested by the Secretary of the Committee to come as a teacher to the Cylch that had now moved to a mobile classroom in the present school after meeting in the Village Hall for a period. The Cylch met every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning between nine o'clock and mid-day. This site was ideal as we benefited by using the facilities of the primary school. I spent eleven very happy years in the company of the local children. The co-operation of a number of assistants – Mrs Brenda Jones, Mrs Rita Llwyd, Mrs Siân ap Gwynfor, Mrs Mona Rowlands and the late Mrs Non Jones – ensured that the Cylch was always a very happy place. Several fund-raising events had to be held although a small grant came from the Welsh Office and one must praise the people of Tal-y-bont and vicinity for their support for any events organised by the committee year after year.

Every co-operation was given to us by Mr Geraint Thomas and his staff and he encouraged us as a group to take part in school activities. We gave annual thanks for fruit and vegetables at the thanksgiving service and every Christmas performed two dramas, the Nativity play and some other story, such as, The Little Red Hen. The children participated in the Eisteddfod on St David's Day and everybody looked forward to taking part in the sports.

The children always enjoyed a trip – visiting the 'Ffald' in the company of Ann and Gwilym Jenkins Tanrallt to see the shearing, seeing the cattle at Cerrigcaranau, to Mr Gwynfor Davies' garage, to Mrs

Ymweld â Cerrigcaranau.

Visiting Cerrigcaranau.

gweld y gwartheg yn Cerrigcaranau, i garej Mr Gwynfor Davies, i'r Post at Mrs Kathleen Richards, i'r Sioe Bypedau yn y Theatr ac wrth gwrs ymweliad blynyddol i lan y môr – yr athrawes yn heneiddio gyda threugliad y blynyddoedd ond y plant a'r rhieni yn fythol ieuanc!

Byddem yn arbrofi efo dulliau dysgu gan nad oedd gan y Mudiad Meithrin ar y pryd lawer o gynlluniau gwaith. Teimlem ei bod yn fantais efo dysgu iaith, yn arbennig ail-iaith i'r dysgwyr, i gymryd rhyw bwnc arbennig fel Y Fferm, Y Sw, Teithio, Ein Ty Ni, Anifeiliaid Anwes, Ein Pentref Ni, Y Tywydd a.y.b. Byddem yn gwrando stori, yn canu a gwneud gwaith llaw bob dydd i gydfynd efo'r testun. Rhaid oedd cael rhywbeth i fynd adref bob dydd ar ôl bob sesiwn neu fe fyddai yr wynebau bach yn hir iawn!

Byddem hefyd yn cael ymwelwyr pwysig o dro i dro, bobl fel Alwyn Humphreys (BBC) a Bryan Jones (Cyfarwyddwr Mudiad Meithrin ar y pryd), i recordio'r plant a minnau ar gyfer rhaglen radio ddwyieithog Kathleen Richards at the Post Office, to the puppet show at the Theatre and of course the annual trip to the seaside – the teacher ageing with the years but the children and parents forever young!

We experimented with teaching methods as the Meithrin Movement at the time did not have schemes of work. We felt it was an advantage when teaching a language, especially a second language to learners, to choose a specific subject like The Farm, The Zoo, Travelling, Our House, Pets, Our Village, The Weather and so on. We would listen to a story, sing and do practical work every day to compliment the subject. There would have to be something to take home at the end of each session or there would be sad faces!

We had important visitors from time to time, people like Alwyn Humphreys (BBC) and Bryan Jones (the Director of Mudiad Meithrin at the time) to record myself and the children for a bilingual programme but the morning that gave us great pleasure was when Elwyn Ioan, the creator of Cadwgan,

Ymweliad Elwyn Ioan.

Elwyn Ioan's visit.

ond y bore a ddaeth â phleser mawr i ni i gyd oedd cael Elwyn Ioan, crëwr Cadwgan, i ddod atom i dynnu llun y creadur bach hoffus a sôn dipyn am ei gampau! Cefais lawer o hwyl yng nghwmni'r plant. Byddent yn creu sefyllfaoedd ac yn dweud pethau doniol iawn. Piti na fuaswn wedi eu hysgrifennu i lawr er cof a chadw ond dyna fe, fe ddigwyddodd hyn cyn oes y fideo. Byddai wedi bod yn dipyn o hwyl i gael y pleser o ail-fyw llawer o'r profiadau.

Tipyn bach o ystadegau i orffen yr erthygl fach hon yn awr. Aeth 142 o blant drwy fy nwylo rhwng 1977–88, 49 o Gymry Cymraeg a 93 o ddysgwyr. Rwyf yn aml yn meddwl beth yw hanes yr holl blantos yma erbyn hyn. Ble bynnag y bônt rwy'n gobeithio fod yr ychydig fisoedd a dreuliasant yn Ysgol Feithrin Tal-y-bont wedi rhoi sylfaen iddynt adeiladu bywydau hapus, diddorol a llwyddiannus.

came. He drew a picture of the likeable little creature and talked of its antics! I had great fun in the children's company. They created amusing situations and said amusing things. It is a pity that I did not write them down for posterity, but so be it, this happened before the age of the video. It would have been a pleasure to relive many of the experiences.

A few statistics now to finish this short article. 142 children passed through my hands between 1977–88, 49 Welsh speakers and 93 learners. I often wonder what happened to all those children. Wherever they are, I hope that the few months they spent in Ysgol Feithrin, Tal-y-bont provided a foundation for them to build happy, interesting and successful lives.

Atgofion Nia Jones

Pum mlynedd yn ôl, fe benderfynodd Gwenfair Glyn a Frances Foster roi'r gorau i redeg y Cylch Meithrin yn Nhal-y-bont wedi cyfnod hir a hapus iawn. Dyna pryd y gofynwyd i fi, Nia Jones a Ceris Williams gymryd yr awennau. Doedd yr un ohonom yn sylweddoli ar y pryd gymaint o waith y byddai hyn yn ei olygu!

Roeddem yn ffodus iawn fod Mrs Mona Rowlands a Holly Hopley yn parhau i fod yn y cylch ers cyfnod Gwenfair a Frances ac fe gawsom ni arweiniad rhagorol a chyngor da ganddynt bob amser.

Yn ystod y tair blynedd y bu'r ddwy ohonom yng ngofal y Cylch Meithrin fe welwyd adnewyddu to a wal yr hen gaban; dathlu 25 mlynedd Cylch Meithrin Tal-y-bont ac yn y flwyddyn ganlynol dathlu 25 mlynedd y Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin; cyfnod o godi pres go egr drwy ocsiwn addewidion, beicio noddedig a nifer o weithgareddau eraill er mwyn codi caban newydd sbon i'r Cylch Meithrin. Fe olygodd hyn gyfnod o redeg y Cylch Meithrin yn y Neuadd bentref lle'r oeddem yn cyfarfod am bedwar bore o ddwy awr. Yn fuan iawn ar ôl symud i mewn i'r caban fe gynyddodd nifer y plant gymaint fel yr oedd angen cynnig lle i 20 o blant yn hytrach na'r 16 arferol a phryd hyn fe ddaeth Mair Nutting atom i gynorthwyo yn y Cylch.

Cawsom dipyn o hwyl a thipyn o weithgareddau hwyliog iawn. Bob blwyddyn fe fyddem yn mynd i'r ffald i wylio Mr Gwilym Jenkins a'i feibion yn cneifio. Dro arall fe aethom i Cwmslaid i weld y geifr a'r moch ac yna fe wnaeth Ceris Williams ddangos sut i dynnu oen cyn mynd ymlaen i Pensarn i weld y lloi a'r cywion. Yn yr haf fe gawsom fabolgampau a thrip blynyddol i draeth Wallog. Fe fuom ni i Lanfarian i weld Martyn Geraint yn perfformio ac fe fuom ni yn cerdded ar hyd y prom yn Aberystwyth gyda gweddill Cylchoedd Meithrin yr ardal cyn cael gemau a phicnic ger y castell.

Bob blwyddyn fe fyddem ni'n gorffen â Chyngerdd Nadolig yn Neuadd yr Ysgol Gynradd yn Nhal-y-bont. Wrth edrych yn ôl roedd y nosweithiau yma yn rhai hwyliog a hapus i'w cofio – ond ar y pryd ...!

Nia Jones' Memories

Five years ago, after a long and happy period, Gwenfair Glyn and Frances Foster decided to give up running the Cylch Meithrin in Tal-y-bont. That is when I, Nia Jones, and Ceris Williams were asked to take over. Neither of us realised at the time that it would involve such an amount of work!

We were fortunate that Mrs Mona Rowlands and Holly Hopley had worked at the 'Cylch' since Gwenfair and Frances' time and we had sound leadership and good advice from them at all times.

During the three years when we were in charge of the Cylch Meithrin the roof and wall of the old cabin were replaced; the 25th anniversary of Cylch Meithrin, Tal-y-bont was celebrated followed a year later by celebrating the 25th anniversary of 'Mudiad Ysgol Feithrin'; a demanding fund-raising campaign through auction promises, sponsored bike rides and a number of other activities for a new cabin for the Cylch Meithrin. At the time the Cylch Meithrin was held in the Village Hall where we met for two hours on four mornings a week. Shortly after moving to the new cabin the number of children increased and it was necessary to offer places for twenty children instead of the usual 16. It was at this time that Mair Nutting joined us to help at the Cylch.

We had a great deal of fun and many lively activities. Every year we went to the Ffald to watch Mr Gwilym Jenkins and his sons shearing. On one occasion we went to Cwmslaid to see the goats and the pigs and Ceris Williams showed us how to deliver lambs before we moved on to Pensarn to see the calves and the chicks. In the summer we had a Sports Day and a trip to Wallog Beach. We went to Llanfarian to see Martyn Geraint performing and we walked along the prom in Aberystwyth with the other Cylchoedd Meithrin of the district before playing games and having a picnic by the castle.

Every year ended with a Christmas concert in the hall of Tal-y-bont Primary School. Looking back these evenings were lively and happy occasions – but at the time...!