Pobl Tal-y-bont dros Heddwch

Fel mewn nifer o bentrefi a threfi mawr a bach ledled Prydain roedd cyfnod yr 80au ym mhentref Tal-y-bont yn gyfnod o weithgarwch mawr yn ymwneud â mudiad CND, sef yr ymgyrch dros ddiarfogi niwclear. Mewn cyfnod pan roedd y Llywodraeth Geidwladol yn codi bygythiadau rhwng gwledydd ac yn gwario'n afreolus ar arfau niwclear fyddai, o'u tanio, yn chwythu'r blaned i ebargofiant bu twf mawr mewn canghennau o CND Cymru. Cychwynnwyd grŵp heddwch lleol a'i alw'n 'Pobl Tal-y-bont dros Heddwch'.

Fe'i sefydlwyd gan nifer o ferched ifanc, rhai yn newydd ddyfodiaid i bentref Tal-y-bont a'r mwyafrif yn famau ifanc. Mary Jones, Preswylfa; Medi James, Pennaber; Eryl Bray, Tir na Nog; Falyri Jenkins, Maesgwyn; Ross Reedman, Glanceulan; Siân ap Gwynfor, Maesmawr a Frances Foster, New Street i enwi ond rhai. Sbardun nifer o'r merched oedd y ffaith eu bod yn famau newydd ac yn gweld byd erchyll yn datblygu a hwythau wedi geni eu plant i mewn iddo. Yn ogystal â hyn dangoswyd arweiniad gan ferched Comin Greenham oedd wedi sefydlu gwersyll heddwch tu allan i Ganolfan Awyrlu America yn Newbury, De Lloegr. Bu 'Pobl Tal-y-bont dros Heddwch' a'i baner yno ar nifer o deithiau. Yn rhyfedd profodd y teithiau yma yn rhai llawn hwyl gan greu teimlad gwirioneddol o'r pŵer o weithredu protest didrais. Bu Siân ap Gwynfor yn brwydro'n hir yn erbyn achos o drais gan heddwas yn ei herbyn tra yn Greenham a chafodd Medi a Frances eu cyhuddo o droseddu yn erbyn Llywodraeth America wrth iddynt dorri ffens yng Ngwersyll Breudeth yn Sir Benfro un tro.

Fe fu gan y grŵp aelodaeth o hyd at 50 o ddynion a merched; un o'r dynion oedd Basil Moore, y Felin a chefnogwr cyson arall, a fu ar drip i Greenham, oedd Ann Jenkins, Tanrallt. Yn ogystal â hyrwyddo neges CND Cymru bu protestio ar nifer o bynciau mawr y dydd. Buom yn gwrthwynebu rhyfel y Malfinas; atgoffa pobl, yn flynyddol, o'r difrod a achosodd bom Hiroshima; llythyru cyson â'r awyrlu

Tal-y-bont People for Peace

As in many towns and villages in Britain the 1980s in Tal-y-bont saw a great deal of activity concerning CND – the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. At a time when the Conservative Government of the day incited tensions between countries and spent vast sums of money on nuclear arms, which had they been used would have blown the planet to pieces, there was an increase in CND Cymru branches. A group was started locally called 'Tal-y-bont People for Peace'.

It was established by a number of young women some of whom were newcomers to Tal-y-bont and who were mostly young mothers. Mary Jones, Preswylfa; Medi James, Pennaber; Eryl Bray, Tir na Nog; Falyri Jenkins, Maesgwyn; Ross Reedman, Glanceulan; Siân ap Gwynfor, Maesmawr and Frances Foster, New Street to name a few. The motivation for many of these women was the fact that they had recently become new mothers and seriously questioned what sort of world and future awaited their children. In addition, an example was set by the women who established the Greenham Common Peace Camp outside the USA airforce base in Newbury, Southern England. Representatives from 'Tal-y-bont People for Peace' and their banner visited the camp on several occasions. Strangely enough these trips proved to be full of good humour and fun, creating a strong conviction of the power of non-violent direct action. Following a visit to Greenham, Siân ap Gwynfor had a long legal battle against a police constable for violence against her at Greenham, whilst Medi and Frances went before a court in Pembrokeshire for cutting part of the fence around the Brawdy Airforce base.

Membership of the group was about 50 men and women; one of the men was Basil Moore, Y Felin and another stalwart, who went on a trip to Greenham, was Ann Jenkins, Tanrallt. Not only did this group promote the aims of CND Cymru but also protested on many other concerns of the day. We objected to the war in the Falkland Islands; reminded people annually of the

wrth i awyrennau hedfan yn isel; danfon cymorth dyngarol at grŵp o famau ifanc oedd yn gweld egin rhyfel erchyll ar garreg eu drws yn Iwgoslafia; tynnu sylw at y gwariant anferth ar ddull arall eto o 'amddiffyn', sef Trident; rhoi cymorth ymarferol i deuluoedd glowyr wrth iddynt frwydro i geisio arbed cau y pyllau glo yng Ngogledd a De Cymru; cynnal gwylnosau yn ystod rhyfel y Culfor a mynychu gwasanaethau ar safle Capel y Babell ar fynydd Epynt. Penllanw gweledol yr ymgyrch i geisio cael y Cyngor Sir i ddatgan eu hunain yn Awdurdod di-niwclear oedd crogi banner ar draws y stryd o bolyn teligraff i bolyn teligraff gyferbyn â'r Ysgol Gynradd. Dyna wefr oedd clywed yr holl geir yn canu eu cyrn o gefnogaeth – a hynny am wythnos gyfan yn ystod mis Mawth 1985.

Roedd cefnogaeth pobl o bob oed yn ardal Tal-y-bont yn gefn gwirioneddol i'r grŵp yma. Dangosodd bod modd pontio y gagendor a allai ddigwydd rhwng y rhai a gofiai y rhyfeloedd byd a'u colledion enbyd a'r bobl ifanc ddelfrydol hyn a gredai bod modd dwyn perswâd ar Lywodraethau'r byd i gefnu ar arfau niwclear.

Medi James

devastation caused by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima; wrote regularly to the Authorities against low flying aircraft; sent humanitarian aid to a group of mothers from Yugoslavia who could see the seeds of war being sown in their own country; publicised the amount of money spent on the Trident 'defence' system; sent practical help to the miners' families in North and South Wales during the coal strike; held vigils during the Gulf War and attended services at Capel y Babell near the Epynt mountain range. One of the visible signs of action in the campaign for a declaration by the County Council to be a nuclear free zone was raising a banner across the main road, from telegraph pole to telegraph pole, near the school. Car horns hooted in support during that week in March 1985.

The support of local people of all ages in Tal-y-bont was great encouragement for the group. It showed that there was a way of bridging the gap between those who remembered the grievous losses of world wars and these idealistic young people who believed that there was a way of persuading World Governments to relinquish nuclear arms.

Medi James