

Nanty

Daw yr enw o'r gwreiddiol Nantddu sef yr enw ar furddun rhyw ddwy filltir o bentref Tal-y-bont ar y ffordd i Bontgoch. Y cof cyntaf sydd gennyf amdano oedd ei weld wedi ei orchuddio gan ddrain a mieri. Ychydig iawn o'r hen furiau oedd yn aros.

Gan fod y grisiau oedd yn arwain i'r tŷ mawr i'w gweld yn blaen a hefyd wal y talcen chwith gellid dyfalu sut un oedd yr adeilad gwreiddiol. Yn ôl rhai o'r hen bobl, a gofiai'r lle fel ag yr oedd ers talwm, roedd y to yn gwyro dan bwysau llechi trymion a golwg hynafol ar y bythynnod i gyd.

Roedd yna dwlc mochyn o flaen ffenestr bob un o'r bythynnod. Yr oedd hyn yn gyfleus iawn i daflu bwyd i'r mochyn trwy'r ffenestr ac i gadw llygad arno. Yr oedd y mochyn yn anifail pwysig ac anhepgor yn yr oes honno. Rhedyn oedd yn wely i'r mochyn ac yr oedd digon i'w gael ar yr allt gyfagos. Byddai'r trigolion yn cwrdd a'i gilydd ar fore Sul i fwrw golwg dros y moch a barnu pa un oedd y mochyn gorau.

O flaen y tŷ ar ben y rhes roedd adeilad bychan a'i dalcen at y ffordd. Mae'n debyg mai rhyw bopty cymdeithasol oedd hwn a ddefnyddid ganddynt i bobi bara. Ar y dde wrth ymyl y ffordd roedd pistyll lle byddai pawb yn cael dŵr glân. Deallaf fod yno siop y crydd wrth dalcen y tŷ ryw dro ond ni wn pa fath o adeilad ydoedd.

Doedd dim eisiau imi ond sôn am brynu'r lle a byddai pob un yn ysgwyd ei ben yn awgrymog, cystal a dweud fy mod yn gwallgofi. 'Pwy fyddai eisiau byw mewn rhyw dwll o le fel yna, ymhell o bentref Tal-y-bont'. Dyna fel yr oedd hi ond ei brynu a wneuthum gan adael deg punt ar ôl yn fy mhoced. A dyna ddechrau ar gynllunio tŷ rhyw ddeg llathen sgwâr gyda thair ystafell wely a'r cyfleusterau eraill angenrheidiol. Cyn hynny rhaid oedd adeiladu garej a gweithdy uwch ei phen lle y gallwn wneud y gwaith coed a chadw'r offer a nwyddau dan do.

Treuliwyd y flwyddyn gyntaf yn clirio'r lle o dros gan tunnell o rwbwl ac ysbwriel. Nid oeddwn wedi adeiladu unrhyw fath o dŷ erioed o'r blaen ac yr oeddwn yn bryderus iawn. Bûm yn ffodus o gael help masiwn wedi ymddeol a hwnnw'n feistr ar

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The name comes from Nantddu, the original name of the ruin, which is situated about two miles from the village of Tal-y-bont on the Bontgoch road. The first memory I have of the place was seeing it covered with thorns and briars. Very little of the old walls were left standing.

As the stairs to the big house and also the wall on the left could be seen clearly it was possible to imagine what the original building was like. According to some of the older people, who remembered the place as it used to be, the roof was bending under the weight of the heavy slates and the cottages had an ancient look about them.

There was a pigsty in front of the window of every cottage. This was very convenient for throwing food out of the window to the pig and to keep an eye on it. The pig was an important and indispensable animal in those days. The pig's bedding was made of bracken of which there was plenty on the nearby hill. The inhabitants would meet on a Sunday morning to look at the pigs and judge which one was the best.

In front of the end house there was a small building. This was probably a communal bakehouse which was used for baking bread. At the roadside on the right hand side there was a spring where everyone obtained clean water. I understand that there was a cobbler's workshop beside the house at one time but I do not know what kind of building it was.

I just had to mention buying the place and everyone shook their heads suggestively, as good as saying that I was mad. 'Who would wish to live in such a hole far from the village of Tal-y-bont'. That is how things were but I did buy it, leaving me with £10 in my pocket. I then started planning a house of about 10 square yards with 3 bedrooms and the other necessary conveniences. Before that I had to build a garage with a workshop above it where I could do the carpentry and keep equipment and goods under cover.

The first year was spent clearing over 100 tons of rubble and rubbish from the site. I was lucky to get help from a retired mason who was a master of his craft with stones.



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ei grefft efo cerrig. Adnabyddid ef fel Jack Richards, Dolgarwen, ond yn byw yn Glanrafon heb fod ymhell o'm tŷ. Ei gyngor bob amser oedd, 'Gofala gadw'r corneli'n blwm a'r lein bob amser yn dynn fel tant ac fe fydd popeth yn iawn'. Felly y bu.

Yr oedd pethau y pryd hynny dipyn yn rhatach na heddiw. Medrwn brynu llwyth lori o frics am tua £65 a medru talu amdanynt allan o gyflog mis. Yr oedd y cwmni CEGB, lle y gweithiwn ar y pryd, yn tynnu i lawr dŷ fferm yng Nghwyrheidol a chefais y coed am eu clirio oddi yno. Wedi eu glanhau gwelais eu bod o bren pinwydd melyn o ansawdd nas ceir heddiw. Ar y to y mae llechi ail-law a fu unwaith ar do Plas-y-Mynydd. Yr oedd y rhain yn hen iawn ac yn amrywiol eu trwch. Bu raid eu dethol fel bod y rhai trymaf ar y gwaelod gan ysgafnhau yn raddol hyd at y brîg.

Fe gymerodd yr adeilad ryw chwe blynedd i'w gwblhau ond braf yw cael cofio mai fi a'i hadeiladodd heb na grant na chymorth cymdeithas adeiladu. Yr ydym yn byw yma ers dwy flynedd ar bymtheg bellach ac wedi gwneud nifer o welliannau.

Mae gennyf beiriant sydd yn defnyddio dŵr y nant gerllaw i gynhyrchu trydan. Pan fo digon o ddŵr yn y gaeaf cawn ddigon o drydan i oleuo'r tŷ i gyd. Bûm yn ffodus i gael cwpanau'r olwyn Pelton o fferm Tynllechwedd, Llandre, lle'i defnyddid i

He was known as Jack Richards, Dolgarwen, but living in Glanrafon, not far from my house. His advice always was, 'Be sure to keep the corners bonded and the line always taut and everything will be alright.' And so it was.

Everything was a lot cheaper then than today. I was able to buy a lorry load of bricks for about £65 and was able to pay for them from a monthly wage. The CEGB company for whom I worked at the time were pulling down a farmhouse in Cwyrheidol and I was given the wood as payment for removing it. After cleaning the wood I found that it was yellow pinewood of a quality which is not available today. On the roof are second-hand slates which were once on the roof of Plas y Mynydd. These were very old and varied in thickness. I had to choose the heaviest to be at the bottom and decrease the weight gradually up to the top.

It took 6 years to complete the building but it is good to remember that I built it without a grant or the help of a building society. We have been living here now for 17 years and have made many improvements.

I have a machine which uses the water from a nearby stream to produce electricity. When there is plenty of water in the winter we have enough electricity for the lighting in the house. I was lucky to get the cups

weithio peiriannau ar y fferm. Cefais foddhad yn rhoi'r cwbl i weithio ond wedi trafferthu i gael popeth at ei gilydd i weithio a rhoi sylw parhaus i'r peirianwaith, ychydig o drydan a geir, felly, rhaid inni yn y pendraw ddibynnu ar Manweb. Fodd bynnag mae'r blwch mawr sydd gennyf ar y to yng nghefn y tŷ yn gaffeiliad mawr. Hwn eto wedi ei wneud o sparion a phan mae'r haul yn tywynnu yr ydym yn cael mwy na digon o ddŵr poeth am ddim. Mae gennym le i fagu hwyaid a ieir ac felly'n hunangynhaliol mewn wyau. Cawn ddigon o ddŵr glân o ffynnon uwchlaw'r tŷ. Rwy'n falch fy mod wedi mentro, wedi dyfalbarhau a llwyddo.

David Elwyn Griffiths

from the Pelton wheel which had been used to power the farm machinery at Tynllechwedd Farm, Llandre. I had pleasure getting it to work but after all the work and constant care of the machinery, only a little electricity is produced, therefore, in the end we have to rely on Manweb. However, the big box I have on the roof of the house at the back is a valuable acquisition. This is also made from spare parts and when the sun is shining we have plenty of free hot water. We have space to keep ducks and hens and are therefore self-sufficient in eggs. We have plenty of pure water from a spring above the house. I am glad that I ventured, persevered and succeeded.

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