

Capel

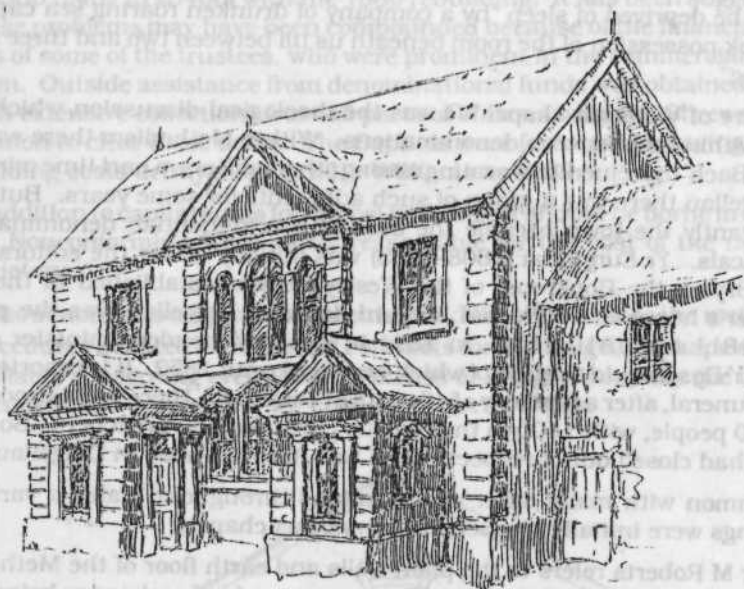
CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



CYLCHLYTHYR / NEWSLETTER

15

GAEAF / WINTER 1991/92



Salem Dolgellau

Drawing by: A. F. Mortimer

THE CHAPELS OF DOLGELLAU

The uniqueness of Dolgellau is reflected in its buildings.

Hugh Jones in *Hanes Westleaeth Cymraeg* (1912) writes of Dolgellau 'yn brydferth o afreolaidd yn ei heolydd a'i hadeiladau er fod ynddi amryw dai annedd a masnachdai tellwng o unrhyw dref'. [beautifully irregular in its streets and buildings though it has many houses and shops worthy of any town].

The haphazard nature of the street pattern mentioned by John Hughes is the result of organic growth, Dolgellau being unlike Bala and Harlech, which are planned medieval towns.

The town developed from a native 'tref' at the bridgehead of the River Maw, the seat of the local hundred with a weekly market to become the principal town of the area. Until the middle of the 19th Century it was served by the river for the supply of goods and foodstuffs shipped from Liverpool via Barmouth.

John Wesley's diaries give a graphic description of the difficulties of travelling on horseback through inhospitable weather and terrain to reach Dolgellau only to be deprived of sleep "by a company of drunken roaring sea captains who took possession of the room beneath us till between two and three in the morning".

A feature of Victorian chapel life was the theological discussion which took place within and between denominations. Within Methodism there was the 'Wesle Bach' movement advocating among other matters, a part time ministry. In Dolgellau there was a group of such adherents for some years. But more significantly the town became the base of two influential; denominational periodicals. *Yr Eurgrawn* (1808-1983) was initially under the editorship of John Bryan; the Bookroom of the Wesleyans was established in the local minister's house in 1809; and Richard Jones of Dolgellau was the printer 1808-1811 and 1819-1824. In 1821 a local Independent minister established *Y Dysgedydd Crefyddol* which he edited until 1852. It is reported that at his funeral, after a ministry of 46 years at Tabernacl, there was a procession of 1000 people, with 1500 in the cemetery, including 50 preachers. So many shops had closed out of respect that it was like a Sunday in Dolgellau.

In common with many other congregations throughout Wales a variety of buildings were initially pressed into service as chapels.

Gomer M Roberts refers to the plain walls and earth floor of the Methodists' early meeting place in Dolgellau. There are records of assistance being given by one denomination to another with accommodations, sharing and transferring property in the early days. Throughout the 19th Century the building and rebuilding of chapels took place in Dolgellau as in the rest of Wales.

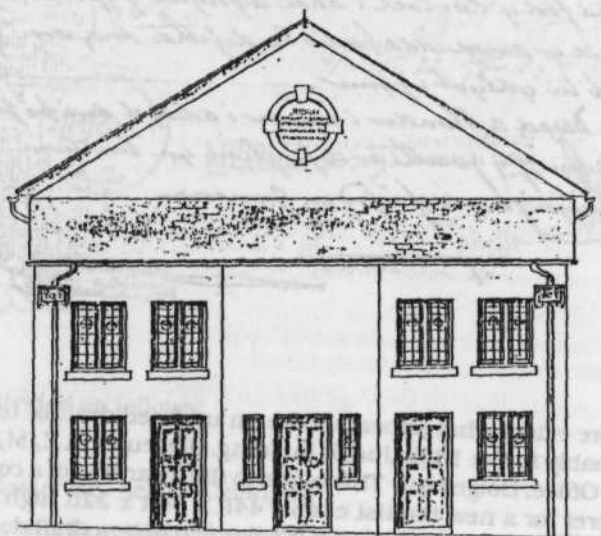
The need to locate chapels as close as possible to the homes of the majority of members necessitated town centre (and therefore confined) location for all denominations. Undoubtedly, with Capel Salem the restriction imposed by the steep slope at the rear, the road below, and the closeknit housing development on each side, has resulted in an unusual building form for a town church, with the width greater than porch to pulpit dimension. In the case of Judah the building is tucked away on rear land, confined by the adjacent cemetery. Tabernacl although more conventional in relation to the road must have been hemmed in, originally, by dense residential development. Despite the fact that Ebeneser has two adjacent roads, there is not even room for a pavement between the front forecourt and the highway. Like the others, the Wesleyan Chapel occupies almost the whole of its site with building. Hugh Jones writes of Ebeneser 'adeiladwyd capel da yn ôl syniad yr oes honno'. One

is tempted to query whether, on current standards, any of these buildings would obtain planning approval. Their stone walls and slate roofs would be acceptable, but the use of so much stucco particularly on their front elevation might be considered out of keeping with the overall character of Dolgellau with its ubiquitous large-stone random rubble walls.

The purchase of land and the erection of a purpose-built chapel must have been a challenging task. A twenty year period for completion of payment is not untypical. At times, in Dolgellau the extended interest payments caused the debt to exceed the original cost: the first Ebeneser building cost £1124, but the debt rose to £1400 some years later, and there were similar problems (£3300 rising to £3400) with the 1880 rebuilding. It has been suggested that these problems may have been compounded because of the financial difficulties of some of the trustees, who were prominent in the commercial life of the town. Outside assistance from denominational funds was obtained, together with extensive collections from all parts of Wales, Liverpool, Shrewsbury and London to clear these debts. The Baptists were fortunate in having half their building costs defrayed by Griffith Williams in 1839.

In addition to capital sums for chapel buildings it should be borne in mind that the Nonconformists were partly responsible for the cost of the new public cemetery.

Without access to original documents it is difficult to assess the methods and procedures adopted in executing contracts for the Dolgellau chapels. Little is available concerning even Richard Davies of Bangor, who was the architect of Ebeneser and scores of other chapels in North Wales.



Judah Chapel

Drawing by: A. F. Mortimer

Chapel Newydd y Bedyddwyr
 In asod yu 3 Rhontrout ywra hand
 y contract 1st Hydol y Gwralist y Tre yfflactro ar Llew
 3rd Pen y y Gwralist y Gwralist y Gwralist
 4th Hydol y Llawr oll mawr y Pwllput

Contract 1st Fod y lymenwr i don y tyfaen, a bod yu
 galus i gael tyfaen iha yu mawrdigol o don wal
 y ffwrth, efi hefyd tydd i ymofyn am y lony
 (Lony y ffring won) y lalok ar yro, ynghyd au llydd
 at y gwaith, stales y llyon Cam ar llyon gora at y
 y hills i fod yn 15 modur o led ac or trawh cyffwrdd
 baidio lant yu y chapel a thm y galus a phob mawr y
 tyddo ihaen i ffring ac i lant - 18 yu
 yfflagio y dilaen pasfagi or dyuau at y ffring
 Pob defnyddiau a gwaith i fod ar y lymenwr
 he hefyd tydd i ymofyn yu yfflactro at y gwaith
 ond fod y lant lant i ddaid defnydd y sporad lant
 of ac yr amaw iddo baidio iha defnha don y
 pob tic yddlynt i ffring

A dwad a thonder i mawr i adwydd am be ffring
 y gwaith y gwaith ar defnyddiau yu lant lant
 ar lymenwr iha i fod yn lymenwr

However there exists what appears to be an undated draft of tender details relating probably to the 1839 Judah building. [Document Z/M/1523 in the Area Record Office, Dolgellau]. This refers to the awarding of a contract to the lowest tenderer for a new Baptist chapel 44ft x 34ft x 22ft high. Because of the number of alterations to the text it is assumed to be a draft document, and reference to building over graves suggests that the building is an enlargement on to the burial ground of the earlier 1800 Chapel building.

Articole yr adeilad

De Wyd Bros y Meriau	---	44-80
Ei Lled o fewn y Meriau	---	34-
Ei Mhlder or Trothywy is Leol	22	
Trothywy Gwaliau	---	2

Yn ymlynir eidd gwaith a phob ddyfyniad a
 a tua bydd awm fod y Meriau yn gollwng ddyfyn
 Os bydd tirch yn dyfod is a lwyg wrth dor
 Llyffwrdd bydd eidd gwaithio Cerig arastyrnt

1523

2/30
12-2, 34/1



COPIGWAS ANETH ARCHIFAI GWYNEDD
 GWYNEDD ARCHIVES SERVICE LLOYD

The work is divided as follows:

1. Walls.
2. Roof, plastering, 'seillio' [Ceiling ?].
3. 'Pen y ty' [Ceiling joists ?] gallery, windows, doors, pulpit.
4. All the floor apart from the pulpit.

Significant omissions from the list are the stairs, *sêl fawr* and pews. These could, of course, be assumed to be part of 'all the floor'; the baptismal pool and attendant plumbing are, no doubt, later additions.

Special attention is drawn to adequate foundation especially for the front wall, and the precautions to be adopted in the event of building over graves.

It would be interesting to ascertain if there is current knowledge of the two quarries mentioned - Cefn Cam (slates) and Cerrig y Graigwn (stone).

Reference is made to what may have been common practice - the re-use of scaffolding timbers by the carpenter, in the construction of the building, provided they are not spoilt through turning up all faces.

Most of the specialist words are still in use

e.g. sbaras - spars
ais - battens
cymerwr - contractor (more usually 'ymgymerwr' nowadays)

However the word 'seilio' is not used currently in other parts of North Wales. It is assumed to mean to provide a (plaster) ceiling. 'Pen y ly' and 'Pen y Capel', which are also unusual, probably refer to the carpentry work for the ceilings, as they are included with the timber trades heading, and are later plastered.

The document may be significant in the use of Welsh to a degree of sophistication in a contractual building transaction. In the early part of the 19th century such specifications were more likely to be in English when written by the more up-market professionals: Richard Davies, who designed Moriah Caernarfon, submitted his account thus: "To Attendance at Committee, survey and plans of the Moriah Chapel building and cottages. Preliminary Plans and Report on various schemes £5-0-0" in perfect copper plate [Document Moriah 1304 - Caernarfon Record Office].

It would be interesting to know the extent of the use of Welsh for business matters in this and other parts of rural Wales during the last century.

Merfyn H Roberts

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 6th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Tŷ Meirion, Dolgellau, on Saturday 12 October 1992.

- 1) The Chairman welcomed members to Dolgellau and gave a brief introduction to Tŷ Meirion, the Quaker Study Centre.
- 2) Apologies for absence were received from Dr D L Baker-Jones, David Barton, Valerie Bird, Martin Culliford, Peter Elwood, Muriel Bowen Evans, Professor Ieuan Gwynedd Jones, Nansi Mascetti, Donald and Patricia Moore, Trefor M Owen, Iorwerth Rees, Bill Rosser, Christopher Stell, G B Williams, Richard Williams, and V H Williams.
- 3) The minutes of the 5th AGM held at Llanfyllin on 13 October 1990 were accepted.
- 4) *Chairman's Report*
 - a) The Chairman reported on the Spring 1991 meeting held at Penarth.

Members attending had been impressed by the vibrancy of nonconformist life in the town, and by the variety of activities in the different chapels.

- b) During 1991 two meetings have been held with the Director and staff of Cadw, who have emphasised their need for information about chapels, and have encouraged Capel to produce a definitive list or register of chapels. Mr David McLees spoke to members of the committee on guidelines for listing chapels, and was enthusiastic in offering to cooperate with Capel. While some work on recording chapels has been done in Clwyd and Glamorgan, the National Library of Wales has prepared a list of 5,540 chapels throughout Wales, and the committee of Capel has decided to accept this as a basis for its register, to which can be added architectural and local historical information.
 - c) An information sheet on graveyard recording has been prepared by Mr V H Williams, and a draft has been passed to the Family History Societies for comment. When amended, this will be published by Capel.
 - d) The Chairman appealed to members to assist with the sale of the notelets produced by the Society.
 - e) Membership stands at 235 at present. The Chairman recommended a drive to increase membership to around 300.
- 5) *Secretary's Report*
- a) A joint meeting has been held in July 1991 with the Ceredigion Antiquarian Society at Llwynrhydowen. Members had heard a lecture by Dr Elwyn Davies on *Unitarianism and Radicalism*, and had visited Llwynrhydowen Old Chapel.
 - b) The West Glamorgan Branch and the South East Wales Branch of Capel have each held 3 meetings during the year. In West Glamorgan a meeting was held at the Noddfa Christian Heritage Centre at Taibach, where a register of places of worship in the Borough of Port Talbot has been established. Two further meetings have been held at Ebeneser Newydd, Swansea. One of these included a talk on Wesleyan Methodism in Swansea and Gower by Mr G Neilson. The South East Wales Group has held 2 meetings at the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre, and at one of these Mr Alwyn Williams, retired County Planning Officer of Mid Glamorgan, gave a talk on nonconformist chapels in the County. A further meeting was held at Crane Street Baptist Chapel, Pontypool.
 - c) Capel continues to be consulted by district planning authorities on planning applications regarding chapels. Consultations during the past year have included Smyrna Chapel, Taibach, Argyle Chapel Swansea, and Macpelah Chapel, Haverfordwest.
 - d) The Secretary expressed her appreciation to Dr D Huw Owen and the staff of the National Library of Wales for all the support and administrative assistance they have given to the Society during the year.
- 6) *Treasurer's Report*
- The Treasurer presented a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 August 1991. He urged members to make use of standing orders for payment of annual subscriptions. The Treasurer put forward a proposal whereby a payment of life

membership of the Society could be made by instalments paid over a period of 4 years. The proposal was accepted by the meeting.

The Treasurer expressed his gratitude to the staff of the National Library of Wales and to Mr J Jones, Honorary Auditor to the Society, for their assistance during the past year.

7) *Election of Officers*

The following officers were re-elected:

Chairman: Ms Ann Rhydderch

Secretary: Miss Susan Beckley

Treasurer: Cdr A F Mortimer

8) *Election of Members of the Executive Committee*

Mr Vernon Hughes and Ms Marion Eames were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

9) *Newsletter*

It was agreed that reports on Branch activities should be included in the newsletter.

10) *Chapel Security*

A letter had been received from Dr Dilys Quick regarding chapel security. Dr Quick has had discussions with officers of the South Wales Police, and is able to advise Chapel members on aspects of chapel security.

11) The business meeting was followed by a lecture on the Quakers of Penllyn by Mr Ifor Owen. During the afternoon, members were given a conducted tour of Dolgellau chapels with commentaries by Mr Vernon Hughes and Mr Merfyn Roberts.

CYFARFOD CYFFREDINOL BLYNYDDOL

Cynhaliwyd 6ed Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Gymdeithas yn Nhŷ Meirion, Dolgellau, ddydd Sadwrn 12 Hydref 1991.

1. Croesawyd yr aelodau i Ddolgellau gan y Cadeirydd, a roddodd iddynt ddisgrifiad byr o weithgarwch Tŷ Meirion, Canolfan Astudiaethau'r Crynwyr.
2. Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am eu habsenoldeb oddi wrth 17 o aelodau.
3. Derbyniwyd a chadarnhawyd cofnodion y 5ed Cyfarfod Blynyddol, a gynhallwyd yn Llanfyllin 13 Hydref 1990.
4. *Adroddiad y Cadeirydd*
 - a) Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod y Gwanwyn ar 11 Mai ym Mhenarth, lle y gwnaed argraff arbennig ar yr aelodau gan fywiogrwydd y bywyd Anghydfurfiol yn y dref ac amrywiaeth gweithgarwch y gwahanol gapeli.
 - b) Yn ystod 1991 cafwyd dau gyfarfod gyda Chyfarwyddwr a staff CADW, a bwysleisiodd eu hangen am wybodaeth am gapeli, ac annog CAPEL i gynhyrchu rhestr derfynol o gapeli Cymru. Daeth Mr David McLees i siarad gydag aelodau'r Pwyllgor am yr egwyddorion i'w dilyn wrth restru capeli a chynnig cydweithio'n frwd gyda CAPEL yn y gwaith. Fe wnaed peth gwaith cofrestru capeli ym Morgannwg a Chlwyd ac mae'r Llyfrgell Genedlaethol wedi paratoi rhestr o 5,540 o gapeli drwy Gymru gyfan, a phenderfynodd Pwyllgor CAPEL dderbyn y rhestr hon yn sail i'w rhestr arfaethedig, a gwblheir trwy ychwanegu manylion pensaernïol a hanesyddol lleol.

- c) Paratowyd taflen wybodaeth gan Mr V H Williams ar gofnodi mynwentydd ac anfonwyd drafft o'r daflen i'r cymdeithasau hanes teuluol am sylwadau. Ar ôl ei diwyglo, fe'i cyhoeddir gan CAPEL.
- ch) Apellod y Cadeirydd am gymorth yr aelodau i werthu'r cardiau cyfarch a goeoddwyd gan y Gymdeithas.
- d) Ar hyn o bryd 235 yw rhif aelodaeth y Gymdeithas. Apeliodd y Cadeirydd am ymgyrch i godi'r rhif i 300.

5. *Adroddiad yr Ysgrifennydd*

- a) Ym mis Gorffennaf cynhaliwyd cyfarfod ar y cyd gyda Chymdeithas Hynafiaethol Ceredigion yn Llwynrhydowen, lle y clywyd darlith gan Dr Elwyn Davies ar *Undodiaeth a Radicialaeth* ac ymwelwyd â'r Hen Gapel.
- b) Yn ystod y flwyddyn cynhaliwyd tri chyfarfod yr un gan ganghennau Gorllewin Morgannwg a De Ddwyrain Cymru. Yng Ngorllewin Morgannwg cynhaliwyd un cyfarfod yng Nghanolfan Trefladaeth Gristnogol Tal-bach lle y sefydlwyd rhestr o'r manau addoli ym mwrdedsref Port Talbot. Cynhaltwyd y ddau gyfarfod arall yn Ebeneser Newydd, Abertawe, ac yn un ohonynt cafwyd sgwrs gan Mr G Neilson ar Fethodistiaeth Wesleidd yn Abertawe a Gŵyr. Yn y De Ddwyrain, cafwyd dau gyfarfod yng nghanolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd, un ohonynt yn cynnwys sgwrs ar gapeli anghydfurfiol y sir gan Mr Alwyn Williams, a ymddeolodd o fod yn Swyddog Cynllunio'r Sir. Yng nghapel y Bedyddwyr, Crane Street, Pontypŵl y cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod arall.
- c) Y mae rhai awdurdodau cynllunio lleol yn dal i ymgynghori â CAPEL ynglŷn â chapeli. Ymhlith y ceistadau eleni yr oedd rhai yn ymwneud â chapeli Smyrne, Tal-bach, Argyle, Abertawe, a Macpelah Hwlfordd.
- ch) Diolchodd yr Ysgrifennydd i'r Dr D Huw Owen a staff y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol am yr holl gefnogaeth a chymorth gweinyddol a gafodd ganddynt yn ystod y flwyddyn.

6) *Adroddiad y Trysorydd*

Cyflwynodd y Trysorydd gyfrifon y flwyddyn yn diweddu 31 Awst 1991. Anogodd yr aelodau i ddefnyddio archebau banc ar gyfer eu tanysgrifiadau blynyddol. Cyniglodd gynllun i ganiatáu talu aelodaeth oes dros gyfnod o bedair blynedd a derbyniwyd y cynllun gan y Cyfarfod.

Mynegodd y Trysorydd ei ddiolchiadau i staff y Llyfrgell Genedlaethol ac i Mr J Jones, Archwiliwr Mygedol y Gymdeithas, am eu cymorth yn ystod y flwyddyn.

7) *Ethol Swyddogion*

Ailholwyd y swyddogion canlynol:

Cadeirydd:	Ms Ann Rhydderch
Ysgrifennydd:	Miss Susan Beckley
Trysorydd:	Cdr A F Mortimer

8) *Ethol Aelodau i'r Pwyllgor*

Etholwyd Mr Vernon Hughes a Ms Marion Eames i wasanaethu ar y Pwyllgor Gwaith.

- 9) *Cylchlythyr*
Cytunwyd y dylid cynnwys adroddiadau ar weithgareddau'r canghennau yn y Cylchlythyr.
- 10) *Diogelwch Capeli*
Derbyniwyd llythyr oddi wrth Dr Dilys Quick ynglŷn â diogelwch capeli. Yr oedd Dr Quick wedi bod yn trafod gyda swyddogion Heddlu De Cymru ac y mae'n medru cynghori aelodau CAPEL ar agweddau diogelwch capeli.
- 11) Dilyniwyd y cyfarfod busnes gan ddarlith ar 'Y Crynwyr ym Mhenllyn' gan Mr Ifor Owen ac yn ystod y prynhawn arweinwyd yr aelodau o gwmpas capeli Dolgellau gan Mr Vernon Hughes a Mr Merfyn Roberts.

NEWS FROM NORTH MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Those members who attended the 1990 AGM at Llanfyllin may be interested to learn of some developments in the area since their visit.

- Llanfyllin: The roof of Capel Pendref (where the AGM was held) has recently been completely overhauled.
- Llanymynech: Carreghofa (Wern), the little Primitive Methodist chapel mentioned in the article in Newsletter No 7, Spring 1989, is closed and has been disposed of.
- Llanfechain: Pentel (Wesleyan Methodist) has been sold for conversion to a private house.
- Llanrhaeadr: Tabernacl Independent chapel is closed and awaiting disposal.
- Meifod: Conversion of the former Wesleyan chapel to two private dwellings is now complete.
- Cyfronydd: Disposal of Jerusalem Independent chapel is now concluded.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH ARCHIVES

A substantial collection of records relating to the Apostolic movement in South West Wales has been received recently at the West Glamorgan Area Record Office in Swansea. The records were received through co-operation with the Noddfa Christian Heritage Centre at Taibach, which has established itself as a centre for the study of nonconformist history in the Borough of Port Talbot and the surrounding area.

The Apostolic movement had its origins in the 1904-1905 Revival, and established its headquarters in Carmarthenshire in the village of Penygroes near Ammanford. Penygroes remains the movement's headquarters today, and a week-long international convention is held there each year during August. The Apostolic movement is essentially Pentecostal in its nature, and from 1924 published its own denominational magazine entitled "Riches of Grace" which contains much local and historical information regarding the individual Apostolic churches which grew particularly in East Carmarthenshire and in Glamorgan. The founder and first president of the movement was Daniel Powell Williams, known locally as "Pastor Dan" a native of Carmarthenshire, who lived for many years in Skewen, near Neath.

In 1961 "Riches of Grace" carried a translation of a recent article in "Y Cymro" which indicates the strength of the movement and contemporary attitudes towards it in Wales after half a century of growth:

"... the movement has about eighty churches in Wales and only in Carmarthenshire are the services conducted in Welsh. Most of them are small with an average of about thirty members, but since they practise obligatory tithing it is not surprising to get a collection of £30 in the morning service. I do not know exactly how to describe the movement other than that Nonconformists in areas where they thrive look upon them in the same way as the Church of England looks on Nonconformity. To be honest they face considerable opposition and quite commonly the Apostolic Pastor is not invited to the local fraternity".

Susan Beckley

SOUTH EAST WALES GROUP

A meeting of the Group was held at the Pontypridd Historical & Cultural Centre on 25 November 1991.

Those present were reminded of the Group's previous meeting in April, when they had met in Crane Street Baptist Chapel, Pontypool, a magnificent and recently-restored building. Mrs Dilys Thorne, the Chapel's immediate past Secretary, spoke on the history of the building, and pointed out significant features.

The Group was addressed by the Reverend Brynmor Pierce Jones, who spoke on the history of the Baptist cause, its personalities and congregations, in the industrial uplands of Monmouthshire, and of adjoining parts of Glamorgan.

Mention was also made of the half-yearly meeting organised at Penarth in May, which had been full of interest for those attending.

In the course of the business meeting at Pontypridd Mr Freer was invited to speak on the subject of a separate group for Gwent. Discussion was divided, some considered that a local meeting might attract new members, others welcomed the 'cross-fertilisation' and contact over a wider area. It was resolved to satisfy both sides by creating a Gwent Branch within the South-East Wales Group.

After the conclusion of the business meeting, members heard a tape prepared by Brian Davies, Curator of the Pontypridd Historical & Cultural Centre, from the writings of the late Walter Haydn Davies of Bargoed. This recorded Band of Hope meetings, and evoked many childhood memories of chapel concerts.

CAPELI! CAPELI!

Bu teithio Cymru yn brofiad pleserus i mi ar hyd y blynyddoedd ond bedair blynedd yn ôl fe newidiodd hynny, trôdd pob taith yn hunllef. Yn hytrach na mwynhau'r golygfeydd fe welwn i gapeli ymhobman. A oedd gennyf gofnod o gapel arbennig yn y mynegai o gapeli Cymru a'u harchifau yr oeddwn yn gweithio arno? Gydag amser deuthum i sylweddoli na fyddai'r mynegai fyth yn hollol gyflawn, hyd yn oed pe bawn yn treulio gweddill fy oes yn gweithio arno, gan mai delio â chrefydd, rhywbeth byw, yr oeddwn. Roedd pethau'n siŵr o newid dros y blynyddoedd, boed hynny'n dyfu neu'n edwino.

Erbyn hyn daeth fy nghyfnod o weithio ar y cynllun i ben, a'm gobaith yw bod y mynegai yn fan cychwyn ar gyfer y dysfodol, a'i fod mor gyflawn ag y gallwn i ei wneud o fewn cyfyngiadau yr amser a oedd gennyf. Cynnyrch y gwaith yw dau fynegai, un ar gardiau ac un ar gyfrifiadur. Pwrpas y cyntaf yw bod o gymorth i staff y Llyfrgell gan fy mod wedi nodi yr archifau a'r cyhoeddiadau perthnasol i bob capel y deuthum i ar eu traws a'u lleoliad o fewn y Llyfrgell. Trefnwyd y mynegai hwn yn ôl enwad i ddechrau, yna yn ôl lleoliad y capel. Bydd yr ail fynegai at ddefnydd y cyhoedd yn y pendraw; fe'i trefnwyd yn ôl yr hen siroedd ac yna yn ôl plwyf neu ardal drefol neu wledig, gan ddilyn patrwm y Comisiwn Brenhinol yn 1906. Yna dosbarthwyd y capeli yn ôl enwad. O ran gwybodaeth lleolir y capel mor fanwl ag yr oedd modd a rhoir dyddiad ei sefydlu a'i gau lle roedd hynny yn hysbys. Nodir pa fath o archifau sydd ar gael, lle maent yn cael eu cadw a pha flynyddoedd sydd yn gynwysedig.

Y gobaith yw y medrir, trwy gyfrwng y cyfrifiadur, ganfod unrhyw gapel sydd o ddiddordeb i ymchwilydd o fewn ychydig eiliadau, neu, dyweder, holl gapeli'r Bedyddwyr mewn ardal neu sir.

Mae 5540 o gapeli ar y cyfrifiadur ar hyn o bryd ond yn sicr mae llawer mwy o gapeli wedi bodoli. Yr hyn fyddai'n cyfoethogi'r gwaith fyddai i bawb sydd yn defnyddio'r rhaglen gywiro unrhyw gamgymeriadau a wél a nodi unrhyw achosion ychwanegol, gan na fedrwn fyth obeithio ennill yr adnabyddiaeth o bob ardal sydd ei hangen i wneud cyflawnder llawn â'r gwaith.

Gobeithio y bydd y gwaith yn gyfrwng i fwy o ddarllenwyr ddod i werthfawrogi cofnodion anghydfurfiol fel sffynhonnell hanesyddol bwysig ac y daw'r diffyg sylw y buont yn dioddef ohono mor hir i ben.

Beryl H Griffiths

near Ammanford. Pergamum remains the movement's headquarters and a week-long international convention is held there each year during August. The first World Assembly was held in 1927 in Ammanford. The movement was founded by Daniel Powell Williams, a Congregationalist minister, in 1891 in Ammanford. The movement was founded in Ammanford and in Glamorgan. The founder and first president of the movement was Daniel Powell Williams, known locally as "Pastor Dan", a native of Carmarthenshire, who lived for many years in Skewen, near Neath.

DENOMINATIONS AND STYLES

Like many others before me I suspect, I eventually abandoned as fruitless the attempt to link particular chapel names with denominational allegiance. However, a very reliable source disclosed that, in Denbighshire, he could almost invariably determine correctly whether Welsh or English was used in a chapel merely by studying the building's window shape.

So, I thought, it should be possible to connect denomination and architectural detail, and the most likely detail to betray such a connection would be main façade window design. To start, I selected that very attractive round-head design which incorporates a circular toplight. The initial results when tabulated were most encouraging:

(a)	Llanfyllin	Pendref	Independent
(b)	Llansantffraid	Bethesda	Independent
(c)	Haverfordwest	Tabernacle	Independent
(d)	Pennal	Carmel	Independent
(e)	Llandrillo		Independent
(f)	Oswestry	Hermon	Independent (Welsh)

Just at this point, I turned into the next street and my satisfaction suffered a severe jolt:

(g)	Oswestry	Oswald Road	Presbyterian Church of Wales (English)
-----	----------	-------------	---

while further damage to a promising theory came from:

(h)	Pontrobert	Capel Newydd	Welsh Presbyterian
(j)	Geuffordd		Presbyterian Church of Wales (English)
(k)	Cardiff	Bethel	Methodist (Wesleyan)

and its final devastating demolition resulted from:

(l)	Cowes (I. of W.)		Roman Catholic chapel
-----	------------------	--	-----------------------

Studies of many other details revealed a similar refusal to betray denominational allegiance. Nevertheless, the convenience and economy of common procurement can often be established when neighbouring chapels were being built or refurbished at the same time. In the table above, such common procurement is evident in the case of (a) and (b), Llanfyllin and Llansantffraid, and again (h) and (j), Pontrobert and Geuffordd. In both instances dimensions and construction of windows are identical and dates of fitting are coincident.

Finally, the latter example (Pontrobert and Geuffordd) shows that my Denbighshire friend's scheme would fail in Montgomeryshire.

SOCIETY FINANCES

One of our major items of expenditure is postage, and our costs are being needlessly increased by the requirement to send out reminders to many members that their subscriptions, payable on 1st January each year, are due.

It would help considerably if as many members as possible paid by standing order on their banks. Members not using the standing order method are requested to pay as early as possible each year and thus avoid the need to send out reminders.

Members could of course save having to make a payment every year by taking out a Life Membership, and the Annual General Meeting at Dolgellau last October decided that this should now be made available on an instalment plan (see minutes of the meeting).

CYLLID Y GYMDEITHAS

Un o brif dreuliau'r Gymdeithas yw costau post, ac fe gynyddir y rhain yn ddiangen am ein bod yn gorfod bob blwyddyn anfon i atgoffa nifer o aelodau eu bod heb dalu eu tanysgriadau, sy'n ddyledus ar 1 Ionawr.

Byddai o gymorth sylweddol pe bai cynifer ag sy'n bosib o'r aelodau yn talu trwy archeb banc sefydlog. Gofynnir i'r aelodau nad ydynt yn dymuno defnyddio'r dull yma dalu mor gynnar ag sy'n bosib yn y flwyddyn ac felly arbed inni orfod anfon allan lythyrau atgoffa.

Wrth gwrs, gall aelodau osgoi gorfod gwneud taliad bob blwyddyn trwy gymryd Aelodaeth Oes, ac yn y Cyfarfod Blyneddol yn Nolgellau fis Hydref diwethaf fe benderfynwyd wneud hyn yn haws trwy fabwysiadu cynllun talu amdano dros gyfnod o bedair blynedd (gweler cofnodion y cyfarfod).

SPRING MEETING 1992

It has been decided to hold the Spring Meeting on Saturday 16 May (not the 9th as had been provisionally arranged) in the area of Meldrim and Trelech, deep in the heart of Dyfed. Details of the visit are not yet completed but arrangements are being made for lunch at Trelech.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we record the death last year of Colonel H Llewellyn Daniel, MBE of Ilford Essex. A life member of CAPEL, he was a professional architect. Amongst the buildings he designed was Morela, the east London Welsh church which he completed in collaboration with his father, also an architect.

SWYDDOGION CAPEL 1991-1992
CAPEL OFFICERS 1991-1992

Cadeirydd/Chairman: Ms Ann Rhydderch

Swyddfa/Office: Yr Archifdy Rhanbarthol, Cae Penarlâg, Dolgellau, Gwynedd.
Tel: 0341 422341 Ext. 263

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary: Miss Susan Beckely

Swyddfa/Office: West Glamorgan Area Record Office,
County Hall, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA1 3SN.
Tel: (Office) 0792 471589
(Home) 0792 817880

Trysorydd/Treasurer: Cdr. A.F. Mortimer
Allt Goch Uchaf, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5EP.
Tel: 0691 84524

PWYLLGOR / COMMITTEE

M Culliford,
27 Clyffard Avenue, Newport, Gwent.
Tel: 0633 211297

D Leslie Davies,
5 Milton Street, Cwmaman, Aberdar, Mid Glamorgan
Tel: 0685 873226

Ms Marion Eames,
Bodwyn, Pont yr Aran, Dolgellau, Gwynedd

Ms Elizabeth Evans,
Hollycroft, Midway Lane, Abergavenny, Gwent.
Tel: (Office) 0495 762311
(Home) 0873 3595

J R Harrison,
99 Martin Street, Morriston, Swansea, West Glamorgan, SA6 7BL.

Vernon Hughes,
Llys Cerdd, 7 Clwyd Avenue, Abergele, Clwyd.

P Alun Jones, (Golygydd y Cylchlythyr / Editor of Newsletter)
Bro Dawel, Coedlan Iorwerth, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 1EW.
Tel: 0970 623058

Dr D Huw Owen
Gelli Glyd, Ffordd Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth, Dyfed.
Tel: (Home) 0970 611644
(Office) 0970 623816

Dr Dilys Quirk, (Swyddog y Wasg / Press Officer)
Flat 40, Belgrave Court, Walter Road, Swansea, West Glamorgan.
Tel: 0792 473058

Graham Rosser,
Câr Fan, 23 St. Alban's Avenue, The Heath, Cardiff, CF4 4AS.
Tel: 0222 627682

A G Veysey,
Clwyd Record Office, The Old Rectory, Hawarden, Deeside, Clwyd.

V H Williams, (Association of Family History Societies of Wales)
Ael y Bryn, Penrhio, Bow Street, Dyfed, SY24 5BA.
Tel: 0970 828778

Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre



The history of Pontypridd and its people, told through a variety of exhibits

Working models. Including a model railway and a model colliery.

Objects. Used at work, in the home and in recreation.

Recorded voices. People of Pontypridd telling their own history.

Archive film. Important aspects and moments of the history of the town and the valleys.

The Centre is located in a converted chapel whose pipe organ is still used for recitals. A new audio visual programme explains the origins of the chapels and traces the influence of Welsh religious dissent at home and overseas

There is also full programme of visiting exhibitions
on historical scientific and artistic subjects

Tourist Information Centre

Open: Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 5pm
(& Bank Holidays)

Admission: Adults 25p Children 15p

Bridge Street, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 4PE
Telephone (0443) 402077/480786

How to get there: The Centre is about 500 yards from the A470 -
Ynysybwl exit (6 miles from M4 junction 32)

At the "Gateway to the Valleys"

Canolfan Hanesyddol a Diwylliannol Pontypridd

Argraffwyd gan wasg Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
Printed by the press of the National Library of Wales