

# Capel

CYMDEITHAS TREFTADAETH Y CAPELI  
THE CHAPELS HERITAGE SOCIETY



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CYLCHLYTHYR / NEWSLETTER 26 HYDREF/AUTUMN 1995

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## 1995 SPRING MEETING

### REDUNDANT CHAPEL BUILDINGS

This year's Spring Meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May in Pontypridd and the Rhondda Fawr and took the form of a Day School, run in conjunction with the Department for Continuing Education, University of Wales, Cardiff. This was a new venture for us which proved most successful and enabled a number of people to make their first contact with CAPEL.

The subject of the Day School was the problem and the challenge presented by the increasing number of redundant chapel buildings in Wales, arising from the disappearance or amalgamation of congregations. The current initiative towards a union of most Nonconformist denominations within Wales will inevitably mean that there will be an even greater number of chapels becoming redundant in the next few years. CAPEL believes that the survival in some-



Tabernacl y Welsh Baptist Chapel, Pontypridd.

thing like their original form of a significant number of these buildings, which are important architectural and historical as well as religious components of the Welsh cultural heritage, may depend upon their sensitive conversion to new uses.

About 80 people gathered at the Pontypridd Historical and Cultural Centre, itself a good example of a successful conversion from the redundant *Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Chapel*, a grade II listed building. The Centre's Curator, Brian Davies, gave us a warm welcome and outlined the chapel's history: built in 1861 to the design of its minister the Rev Edward Roberts, it became redundant in 1982 and was subsequently acquired by Pontypridd Town Council for conversion to its present use.

The opening speaker in the morning session was Matthew Saunders, Secretary of the Ancient Monuments Society and Director of the Friends of Friendless Churches. In a stimulating talk, Mr Saunders demonstrated his encyclopedic knowledge by showing a large number of slides illustrating the range of possible ways of converting redundant religious buildings. He was followed by Roger Wools, a chartered architect in private practice who has been appointed by Cadw / Welsh Historical Monuments to chair its working party into church and chapel redundancy. Both speakers regretted the destruction or poor conversion suffered by so many redundant chapel buildings in the past but were extremely positive in their view of the potential that currently existed.

The two subsequent speakers discussed the means of raising the finance for conversion. Felicity Workman, project officer with the Prince of Wales' Committee, had come to the Day School as a delegate, but at an hour's notice agreed to stand in for Margaret Bond of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, who had been taken ill. Ms Workman discussed some of the basic questions which a congregation or other voluntary body needs to ask before embarking upon a project and how to go about applying for grant assistance. Phil Jayne from Mid Glamorgan County Council, filling the difficult spot before lunch, outlined the many sources of funding available from the public purse.

The morning session had over-run, so unfortunately questions and discussion had to be abandoned and the buffet lunch hurried. There followed an afternoon of visits to chapels in the vicinity which had become redundant, several of which had undergone conversion in recent years.

The first, the former *Eglwys Bach Welsh Wesleyan Chapel*, lies immediately adjacent to *Tabernacle*, next to the river Taff, and has been very successfully converted into a doctors' surgery. We were kindly shown the interior by one of the partners in the practice and I believe all were impressed at the way in which something of the intimate character of the interior has been retained. The exterior of the 1889 building has been well restored, so that it is now one of the most photogenic buildings in the area.

We then visited the former *English Wesleyan Chapel*, built in 1904, acquired by the local authority in 1950, converted initially into a public hall but more recently adapted as an arts



### Moriah (Trelew)

Opened in 1880, it has a graveyard where most of the first settlers are buried.



### Hen Gapel / Old Chapel (Gaiman)

Services started in 1875 in a stone chapel near the railway station, which was damaged by a gale. The present building, opened in 1884 was visited in 1899 by the then State President J A Roca.

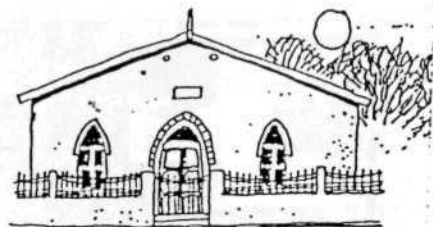
### Bethel (Gaiman)

Inaugurated in 1914 next to the Old Chapel, it was built during a religious revival in 1906.



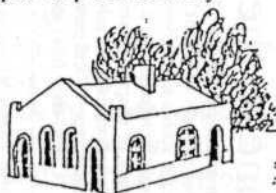
### Bethlehem (Treoreky)

Building works were completed in 1908. The current chapel was preceded by two other buildings, the first one erected in 1878 and swept away by the flood of 1899. It was the only Baptist chapel in the valley.



### Tabernacl (Trelew)

Built by railway workers in 1899 on land donated by the railway company Originally a Calvinistic Methodist Church.



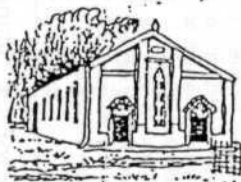
### Nazareth (Drofa Dulog)

The first building was probably erected in 1891. It is the only chapel where the pulpit is located facing the entrance. Several prize winning choirs came from this chapel.



### Rawson

It was preceded by the 'Small Chapel'. Erected in 1881 on grounds donated by Mr Richard Berwyn. It belongs to the Methodist congregation.



### Seion (Bryn Gwyn)

Worship began in the homes of the neighbours in 1870. In 1888 a gale destroyed the existing chapel and a new one was built.

A CONGREGATION has saved a village chapel from ruin by refurbishing it themselves.

The three-year rescue plan for Carmel Chapel in Cefn Coed near Merthyr Tydfil will officially be over today.

But chapel-goers yesterday mourned at the funeral of a devoted worshipper whose faith started the whole operation.

Volunteers have raised £20,000 towards the repair costs and carried out work worth another £32,000 themselves.

Lay preacher John Kidgel said that when he was called to help, the chapel and its vestry looked as if it had been hit by a bomb.

At first the small congregation and their helpers concentrated on the vestry. Then they started on the chapel itself, hauling out the rotten pews and stripping the old plasterwork.

The total cost of the repairs came to some £45,000 – originally architects said the work could not be done for less than £77,000. Mr Kidgel and his helpers managed to save thousands of pounds by doing jobs themselves.

Carmel Chapel, built in 1844 and now the only chapel holding services in Cefn Coed, has been re-roofed and modernised with new kitchen and toilet facilities.



SAVED: Carmel Baptist Chapel, Cefn Coed

## Well done to the volunteers who saved Carmel

SIR – Being an ardent chapel-goer, I feel I must applaud the volunteer workers of Carmel Chapel in Cefn Coed who have made such a tremendous effort in saving their chapel from ruin by refurbishing it themselves.

With many reports of chapels closing and becoming derelict, I found it enormously refreshing to read Rob Thomson's informative report – and particularly the heading of the report, "Chapel rises from the dead thanks to

## Services continuing as chapel is rebuilt

SIR – I fully endorse your praise of the achievement of the members of Carmel Baptist Chapel, Cefn Coed (*The Western Mail*, June 9). However, I would draw your attention to a misleading statement contained in your article.

You state that Carmel is "now the only chapel holding services in Cefn Coed." I can assure you that services are held at Hen Dy Cwrdd Unitarian Chapel, Cefn Coed, regularly every Sunday.

Hen Dy Cwrdd, originally built 1747, is the oldest non-conformist chapel in the Merthyr Tydfil area. It was rebuilt in 1853 and in 1895, and is in the process of a further rebuild.

A number of unfortunate setbacks, coupled with vandalism, have caused delay, but plans for the final stage of refurbishment are well in hand and it is hoped that the building will be in use again soon. In the meantime, services are held every Sunday in the school-room.

KEN MORGAN

Secretary, Hen Dy Cwrdd Unitarian Chapel,  
Cefn Coed, Merthyr Tydfil.

volunteer workers" (*The Western Mail*, June 9).

At one time chapels and churches were the focal point in our communities. They were happy and peaceful days I thought. To my mind, we would do well to take up again the Christian way of life. Moreover, let us give due respect to church and chapel.

HAYDN LEWIS

*Pleasant View, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend.*

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The newspaper cuttings describing the restoration of Carmel, Cefn Coed, are taken from the *Western Mail* of 9th and 13th June 1995. The account of the plight of Bethesda was published in the *South Wales Evening Post* of April 17. Since that date we understand it has been decided not to proceed with demolition but the chapel still stands empty, awaiting a new use.

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It was a successful day, but in order for it to have lasting benefit it is intended that CAPEL publishes, in conjunction with the Department for continuing Education, a booklet which sets out the principles discussed in the morning session, together with practical guidance on how to go about conversion of a chapel.

Neil Sumner

## CONVERTING REDUNDANT CHAPELS

### HOW TO GO ABOUT RAISING THE FINANCE

Before applying for grants to fund a project it is imperative that time and energy are given to planning. There are various questions to be asked, such as:

What is the project? What do you want to achieve in terms of an end product?

Why do you want to undertake the project? Who will be the beneficiaries?

Is the project feasible?

What is the nature and extent of the work involved?

What time-scale are you working to? It is often more realistic to phase the work over several years as progress will be governed by the availability of resources.

Do you need professional guidance?

What legal requirements exist?

What resources do you need - equipment, materials, labour, co-ordinator / project supervisor ?

How much is each element of work going to cost? It is better to get written quotes than to guess the figures!

What are the hidden costs, e.g., professional fees, VAT, telephone and postage, insurance, administration staff time etc ?

How will you fund the project in the future e.g., overheads, staff costs, maintenance etc?

What is the total cost?

How much do you need to raise to complete the first phase?

It is important that there is consensus on these points to enable everyone to work together.

Once these questions have been answered, the next step is to identify possible sources of funding. There is no quick and easy way to do this and time given to research is time well spent.

When applying to organisations try and

be concise,

relate your application to the interests of each organisation you approach,

convey a sense of enthusiasm, commitment and belief in your aims

and objectives,

describe the value and benefits of your project.

Always accompany your application with evidence that the project has been well planned and clearly costed, together with press cuttings or letters in support of your case.

If your application is successful, remember to say 'Thank you' and at a later stage let the organisation know how the money has been spent and what progress has been made. After all, at some stage you may want to ask for more money!

Felicity Workman

## **REDUNDANT HISTORIC CHAPELS WORKING GROUP**

*Newsletter 25* contained a report on the conference held at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff, in November 1994 and organised by Cadw / Welsh Historic Monuments and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action on the subject of chapel redundancy. One conclusion was that a working group be formed to examine the issues and make recommendations to Cadw, which is willing to target financial assistance to this problem area. A working group has now been convened, under the chairmanship of Roger Wools, to consider questions of redundancy, which chapels should be proposed for preservation and what mechanism (with Welsh Office support) is appropriate to address the needs of such buildings. The working group will be meeting at intervals during the autumn and winter and eventually presenting a written report. CAPEL has been invited to have a representative on the working party and Elizabeth Evans has been nominated. A second CAPEL Executive Committee member, Neil Sumner, will also be a member of the working group, representing Welsh local authorities.

## **CHAPEL PROBLEMS TO BE AIRED ON TELEVISION**

Members who attended the Pontypridd meeting will remember that parts of the proceedings and tour were recorded on TV cameras. We have now learnt when the programmes that were being prepared are to be shown. Two programmes entitled *On the Chapel Trail* are to be broadcast by HTV on Sunday 26 November and Sunday 10 December at 12.25 pm. The Pontypridd meeting will of course occupy only a small portion of the programmes, but it is good to see the mass media taking some interest in our problems and it will be interesting to see how accurate a picture they will present.

## **CAPEL'S ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION**

Capel will be ten years old in May 1996. To mark the occasion, the National Library is mounting an exhibition which, after a period in the Library, will be offered to other venues. The exhibition will be based on two elements: the architectural drawings of the late Commander Mortimer, and contemporary photographs of chapels throughout Wales - thriving, restored, converted, or derelict. The exhibition need not go in its complete form to other



locations. It can be adapted to fit smaller spaces or to fulfil other requirements. Details will be available from the National Library's exhibitions officer, Meic Francis nearer the date. It is hoped that the opening will co-incide with the Society's Spring meeting.

## CHAPELS IN LLANIDLOES AND DISTRICT

*Following his article in Newsletter 19 on the work of Richard Owen of Liverpool, Dr Seaborne recently received a letter from Mr E Ronald Morris on the history and condition of a number of chapels in Llanidloes. Dr Seaborne and I thought that this extract from Mr Morris's letter would be of interest to many members of Capel, particularly those from the Montgomeryshire area. [Ed.]*

I notice that in issue No. 19 of *Capel Newsletter* (Spring 1993), you mention the builder Richard Owen of Liverpool and that he built Long Bridge Street Methodist (Wesleyan) Chapel, Llanidloes, on the authority of Anthony Jones. This is quite correct; the chapel was built in 1875 on the site of a previous and smaller one built in 1802. Today, the chapel is structurally unsound and a source of worry to its dwindling number of members.

The biggest chapel in this town is China Street Welsh Presbyterian (C.M.), which was designed by Richard Owens and built by Rhydwen Jones, Rhyl, at a cost of £4,000. This place of worship has a very fine ceiling.

The finest chapel is the United Reformed (formerly Congregational) in Short Bridge Street whose architect was the well known J. Humphreys, Swansea. The front is especially handsome. It was erected in 1878 and cost £1,550.

At the former lead mining village of Y Fan (Van) outside Llanidloes, the ornate Wesleyan Chapel is now empty. The congregation, which was much reduced, joined the Presbyterian Chapel (Manledd) nearby in 1992. It has an ogee and a rose window. It also had a reading room and library. It was built in 1871-72 and cost £1,200. The man who instigated this interesting chapel was Captain William Williams (1815-1879) a native of Golch near Holywell and himself a lay preacher and later Mayor of Llanidloes. He was in fact the founder of the Van Mines. There is a move, on the part of some inhabitants of Y Fan to make the chapel a Miners' Museum. Perhaps some members of Capel may be interested in this matter.

William Williams was buried in the graveyard of Caerau Wesleyan chapel, some two or three miles outside Llanidloes. It was closed several years ago, sold to a Londoner but is rapidly falling into ruins. Several chapels in this district have been converted into dwelling houses, including - Cefn Wesleyan Methodist, former Baptist chapel at Dylife and Rhydwen C.M. chapel there.

There are photos of a number of these chapels in my book *Llanidloes Town and Parish: an illustrated account* (1993).

## OBITUARIES

### A F Mortimer

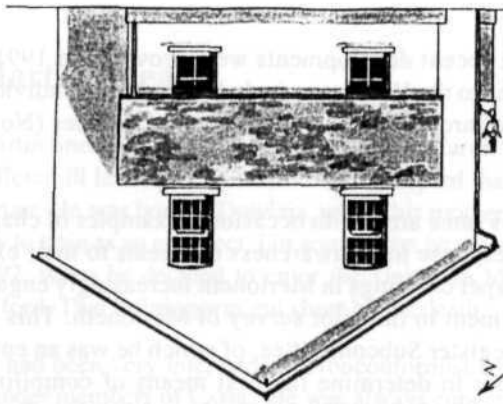
Members of the Society, assembling at Pontypridd for the Spring Meeting were saddened to learn of the death on the previous day, 19 May, of Commander A F ('Rigor') Mortimer. An enthusiastic and committed Life Member of CAPEL, he had served as Treasurer from October 1988 until February 1995, when he had resigned because of a rapid deterioration in his health.

A professional engineer, Commander Mortimer had served in the Royal Navy for over thirty years. Born in Lewisham, he had been evacuated with his school to Llandybie during the second World War. In later years he frequently referred to his initial association with Wales during this period, and also to his original intention to be trained as an architect. A combination of artistic flair and an uncompromising emphasis on accuracy and fine detail were illustrated in the series of plans and drawings which he prepared of chapel buildings in Wales. The accumulation and preservation of the A F Mortimer Collection at the National Library of Wales was a source of considerable pride to the compiler, as also was his close association with CAPEL.

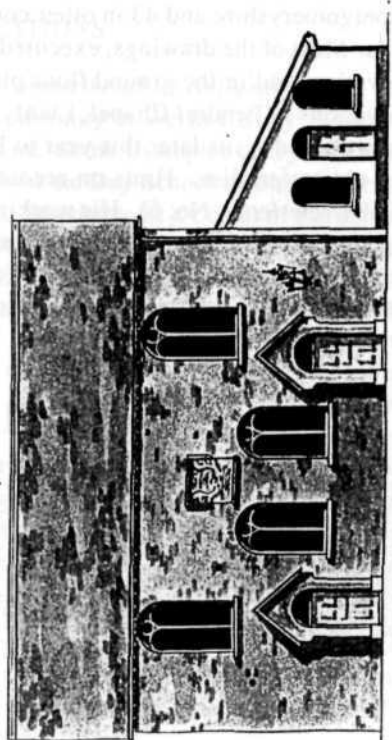
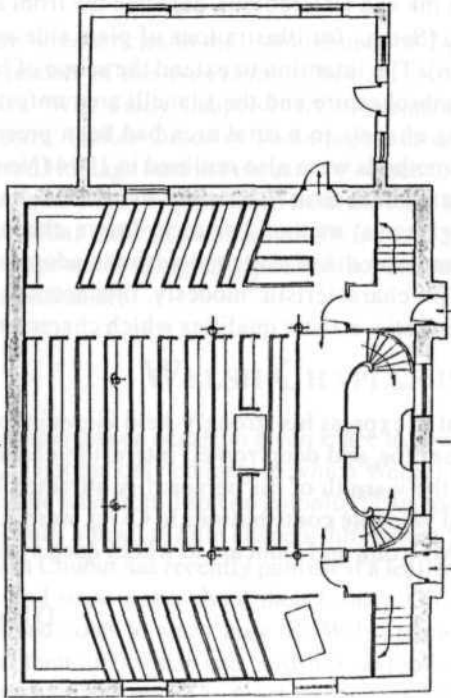
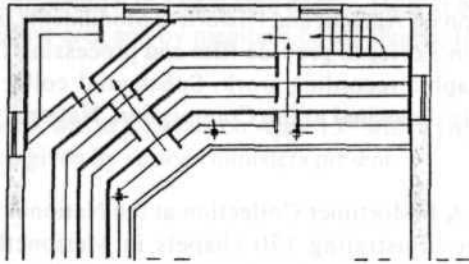
Commander Mortimer was a careful and methodical Treasurer, who ensured the financial stability of Capel during his term of office. His naval background possibly explained his emphasis on punctuality and his impatience with members who delayed sending their subscriptions. He sought, at all times, to recruit new members, and especially life members, whom he encouraged by the adoption of a new instalment scheme arrangement. The production of a series of notelets was an additional source of revenue, as well as a means of stimulating interest in the society and its objectives. The notelets featured views of the six chapels of Pendref, Llanfyllin, Capel Newydd, Nanhoron, Capel Mawr, Rhosllanerchrugog, Soar-y-Mynydd, Argyle Swansea, and Hanbury Road Bargoed, and were based on his drawings. Another intention was to assist local chapels to raise income, and Commander Mortimer also co-operated fully in other ventures of a similar nature. These included the notelet produced by the Hen Gapel John Hughes Pontrobert Trust, an enterprise which he fully supported despite initial misgivings arising out of his concern for the survival of small and struggling chapels in this locality.

Commander Mortimer's attachment to the area where he resided, with his wife June, was evident to members attending the memorable Annual General Meeting held at Llanfyllin on 13 October 1990, and the bus tour of selected chapels in north Montgomeryshire, the exhibition of drawings and photographs of local chapels, and buffet lunch in Moreia chapel vestry were all meticulously organised by him. He was also responsible for the accompanying *Local Information Sheet* No 1, which served as a model for future issues produced twice a year. His report, in 1989, on chapels in eastern Montgomeryshire (*Newsletter* No 7) referred to the historical background and contem-





*Pendref*  
*Independent*  
*Llangyllin Montgomeryshire*



porary conditions, and details of more recent developments were provided in 1991/92 (*Newsletter* No 15). Other contributions to the *Newsletter* included studies of individual chapels in this area (nos 7 and 8) and of architectural features such as porches (No 10) and window designs (No 15).

His early drawings concentrated on this same area, with occasional examples of chapels in other localities recorded either in response to an awareness of threats to their existence or following CAPEL meetings. Chapel buildings in Merioneth increasingly engaged his attention as a result of his involvement in the pilot survey of Merioneth. This was undertaken in 1992/93 by the CAPEL Register Subcommittee, of which he was an enthusiastic and energetic secretary, in order to determine the best means of compiling a comprehensive list of chapels in Wales. He personally followed up unanswered questionnaires and surveyed and prepared measured drawings of the chapels. He co-operated closely with the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales, and took advantage of the Commission's offer to provide film and processing facilities for individuals carrying out photographic recording work. Substantial collections of photographic prints were subsequently deposited at the Commission, National Library and the relevant record office.

These collections complemented the A F Mortimer Collection at the National Library, which comprise a total of 304 items illustrating 170 chapels in Merioneth, 90 in Montgomeryshire and 43 in other counties; and another two featuring architectural details. Most of the drawings, executed in ink and watercolour, depicted the front and side elevation, and/or the ground floor plan. (See p. for illustrations of plan, side and front elevations of Pendref Chapel, Llanfyllin). The intention to extend the scope of his work by proposed visits later this year to Pembrokeshire and the Llanelli area unfortunately did not materialise. Hints on recording chapels in a rural area had been presented in 1988 (*Newsletter*, No. 6). His working methods were also outlined in 1994 (*Newsletter*, No. 24), prefaced by the significant statement that 'Being no architect, I have only reluctantly agreed to describe my (engineer's) methods or recording a chapel.' The chapels were carefully photographed, measured and sketched with the adoption of the preferred scale of 33mm to 1 foot. With characteristic modesty, this account did not refer to the skilful techniques, or the aesthetic, artistic qualities which characterised his work.

Commander Mortimer was not reluctant to express his strongly-held views in forthright terms. However, his genuine enthusiasm for, and deep-rooted interest in chapel architecture, puckish sense of humour, and the warmth of his personality attracted both admiration and affection. His various and valuable contributions to CAPEL were fully supported by his wife June, and two sons, Malcolm and Duncan, to whom deep sympathy is extended in the bereavement.

D Huw Owen

## Martin Snead

Martin Snead died at the Heath Hospital in Cardiff on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the age of 30 years. He had suffered ill health for some time and accepted that death was inevitable some three months earlier. He was born at Dowlais, where his mother still lives, and went to Liverpool University to train as an architect. For some years he practised at Cardiff and at Merthyr Tydfil until 1992, when he decided to enter the Unitarian Ministry and train at Manchester College, Oxford. That training was cut short by his death.

He had been very interested in Nonconformist architecture and must have been one of the founder members of CAPEL. He was always concerned that so many fine buildings would be lost, especially in the valleys of South Wales. He learnt the Welsh language in his twenties and had mastered it to a very high degree. He will be missed by many friends in the Dowlais and Merthyr area and by members of his church, Hen D Cwrdd Unitarian Church at Cefn-Coed,

The funeral was at Dowlais on April 13<sup>th</sup> with a large congregation, and some glowing tributes were given by various ministers present.

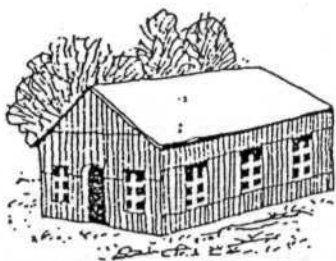
J Eric Jones

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

There are three articles in the 1994 number of *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary* which may interest readers of this *Newsletter*. They are 'Nonconformity in Welsh History' (Glanmor Williams), 'Why Study Chapels?' (A J Parkinson) and 'Some Examples of Dyfed Chapel Architecture' (Julian Orbach). These papers arose from the Day School on Nonconformist Origins and Heritage held in February 1994 (see *CAPEL Newsletter* 22). Copies of this number of the *Antiquary* may be purchased from the Hon. Editor, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, Rock Villa, Trelech, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA33 6RU, price £5.00. Please enclose £1 00 to cover postage and packing. Cheques for £6.00 should be made payable to the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society.

## WELSH CHAPELS IN PATAGONIA

The *Newsletter* has on occasion given space to news of some Welsh chpzels in America. But the USA is not the only country to which Welsh chapel tradition has been transported. The Welsh people who from 1865 on colonised Patagonia took their religion with them and over the years built a host of little chapels throughout the Chubut valley. The provincial tourist authority in Chubut has recently published a leaflet about these chapels with drawings of the buldings and some notes about their history. On the following pages we reproduce these drawings and notes to show how the Welsh pioneers strove with great determination and despite all their difficulties and hardships to replicate in a strange and inhospitable land the buildings which had meant so much to them back home in Wales.



### Salem (Lle Cul / Angostura)

Erected in 1912 although services began in 1887 at Mr David Jenkins' place. It is a member of the Chubut Valley's Union of Free Churches (as are nearly all the following chapels though they may have begun as Calvinistic Methodist, Independent or Baptist)



### Bethel (Tir Halen / 28 de julio)

Built in 1901 although services had started in 1887 at Mr D Rowland's place. The previous building had been destroyed by the 1899 floods.



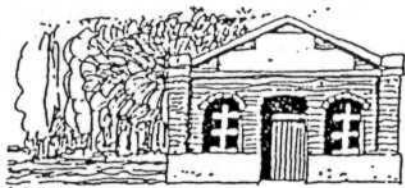
### Ebenezer (near Dolavon)

The initial building was erected in 1894 and swept away by the flood of 1899. The present hall which used to be a vestry was adapted for religious services.



### Glan Alaw

Opened in May 1887 as a chapel for the Calvinistic Methodists on land donated by Mr Owen Jones.



### Carmel (Dolavon)

Opened in November 1920 near the irrigation canal.



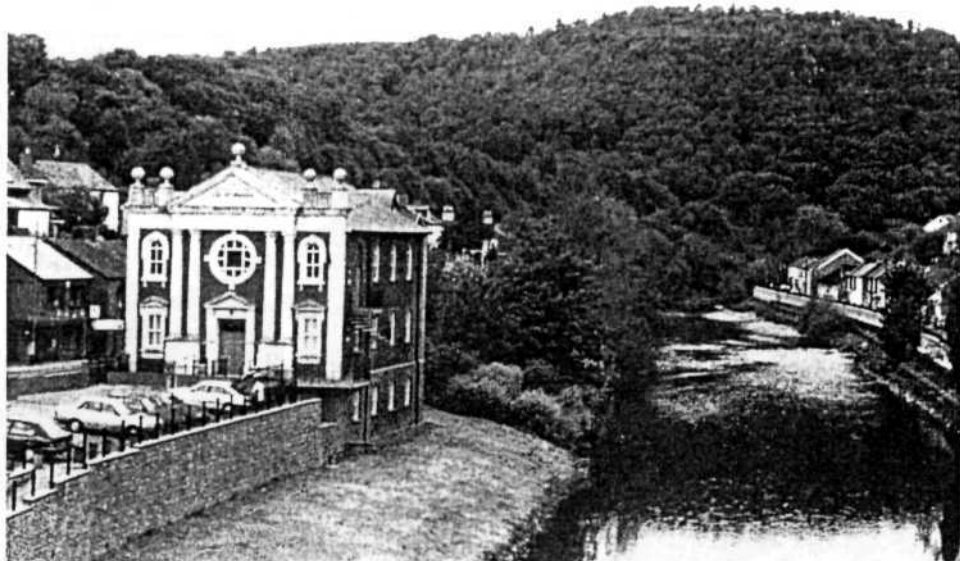
### Bryn Crwn

Opened in 1900 after the collapse of two previous buildings, it served a group of congregations.



### Bethesda

A very humble room had been erected in 1895. After its demolition in 1904 the present chapel was built.

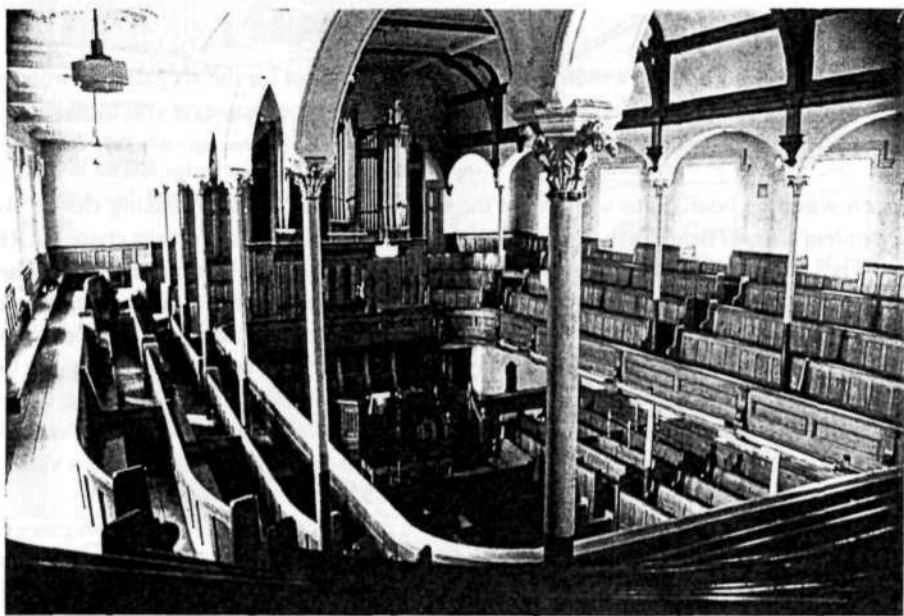


Eglwys Bach Welsh Wesleyan Chapel, Pontypridd.

centre the "Muni". This was a radical conversion and, except for the art gallery, virtually all trace of the original interior has disappeared. The building does however still form an imposing group with the adjacent Town Hall.

A coach was then boarded to venture up the Rhondda Fawr, initially passing *Comer Welsh Independent Chapel* near Porth. Built 1834, this is the oldest Nonconformist chapel in Rhondda and is a grade II listed building. Now redundant and threatened by a new highway scheme, it is currently the subject of a proposal to dismantle and re-erect it at the nearby Rhondda Heritage Park. This is one solution to redundancy that can only rarely be applied. We then arrived at Soar Welsh Baptist Chapel in Penygraig, where the Director of the Penygraig Community Arts Project kindly explained the story of the redundant chapel's conversion to its present use, utilising a great deal of voluntary labour. This adopted the solution of constructing a new floor at gallery level, which provides a theatre auditorium above and a variety of smaller rooms below.

The coach move on up the valley, passing *Ebenezer Welsh Independent Chapel* in Tonypany. Built in 1868 and grade II listed, this is now being considered by the Borough Council for conversion to a variety of new educational and leisure uses. We finally arrived at *Bethesda Welsh Independent Chapel* in Ton Pentre. Built in 1877 and again grade II listed (like *Comer* following CAPEL's recommendation to Cadw) *Bethesda* has a large, fine interior in good condition. Current proposals are to retain and adapt the interior for concert use, whilst converting the ancillary accommodation for community uses and possibly, a museum of Nonconformity.



Bethesda Independent Chapel, Ton Pentre.



Landmark site is burial ground for famous



**UNDER THREAT:** Bethesda Chapel in Swansea, where many local notables are buried.

# Chapel facing the last rites

SWANSEA'S Bethesda Baptist Chapel — final resting place for some of the city's greatest citizens — is facing the threat of demolition.

The Baptist Union of Wales wants to bulldoze the 1831 building in Prince of Wales Road, which overlooks the rear of High Street railway station.

Falling congregations led to its closure four years ago. It has since stood boarded up and derelict.

The chapel is a Grade 2 listed building of architectural importance and special

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By **TERRY CROCKFORD**

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consent is required before it can be demolished.

The building, which seats 1,000, was erected 164 years ago at a cost of £1,600. In 1879 nearly £4,000 was spent renovating it and the result is today's building with its classical facade and baroque porch.

At the same time a two-storey school-room was built alongside the chapel. That building was destroyed by fire in 1982.

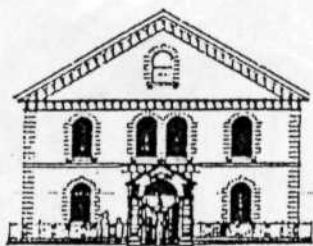
Within the burial ground, now heavily overgrown, lie many notable 19th Century citizens of Swansea, among them the Walters brothers, businessmen who are believed to have given their name to Walter Road.

One of Wales's greatest preachers, the Rev Christmas Evans, who died in Swansea in 1838 during a preaching tour, is also buried there.

Former church member Idris Jones said today: "A lot of people have very many memories of the church.

"It will be a great shame if it has to go."

## 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 audiovisual programme explains the origins of the chapels and traces the influence of Welsh dissent at home and overseas.

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

### *Forthcoming Exhibitions:*

October 2 - 14 Gilyfnydd Art Society Annual Exhibition

October 16 - 28 Exhibition by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain

October 28 One day Contemporary Photographic Exhibition by Gwynfa Camera Club

October 30 - December 2 Wales and the Spanish Civil War

December 4 - 30 Annual Open Art Exhibition

### *Tourist Information Centre*

Open Monday - Saturday (incl. Bank Holidays) 9am - 5pm

Evening group visits by arrangement

Admission: Adults 25p Children & OAPs 15p

Bridge Street, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF17 4PE

Tel. (01443) 409512

**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