

SAIN FFAGAN AMGUEDDFA WERIN CYMRU  
ST FAGANS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

**STIWT**

# OAKDALE

**INSTITUTE**



**AMGUEDDFA  
CYMRU**

**CANRIF O HANES  
100 YEARS OF HISTORY**

**100**

**Yn 2019, bydd hi'n ddeng mlynedd ar hugain ers datgymalu Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale a'i symud yma i'r Amgueddfa. Cafodd ei adeiladu'n wreiddiol ym 1916-17 gan gymuned lofaol Oakdale. Bellach, y Stiwt yw un o'r adeiladau mwyaf poblogaidd a chyfarwydd yn yr Amgueddfa.**

Yma, byddwn yn edrych yn ôl dros ganrif gyntaf y Stiwt trwy lygaid y bobl fu'n gweithio ac yn hamddena o fewn ei muriau. I drigolion Oakdale, bu'r Stiwt yn rhan ganolog o fywyd y pentref, trwy heddwch a rhyfel, datblygiad a dirywiad. Yn 2017, i ddatlu canmlwyddiant yr adeilad, dechreuwyd ar broiect i adfywio'r adeilad, er mwyn ei droi'n ofod dementia-gyfeillgar sy'n fyw â lleisiau'r gymuned unwaith eto. Diolch i haelioni Cronfa Cyfamod y Lluoedd Arfog a Chronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol, mae'r Stiwt bellach yn driw i'w bwriad gwreiddiol unwaith eto, yn gartref i addysg, hamdden a lles.

*Rydym yn ddiolchgar i bobl Oakdale, ddoe a heddiw, am rannu eu straeon â ni ac am eu cefnogaeth barhaus.*

**2019 marks thirty years since Oakdale Workmen's Institute was dismantled and moved to the Museum. Originally built in 1916-17 by the coal community of Oakdale, the 'Stute, as it was known locally, is now one of the most popular and recognizable buildings at the Museum.**

Here, we look back at the Institute's first 100 years through the eyes of those who worked and socialized within its walls. For the residents of Oakdale – in times of peace and conflict, prosperity and decline – the 'Stute served as a focal point for village life. In 2017, to celebrate its centenary, we began a project to revitalize the building, to make it a dementia-friendly space, alive with community voices once again. Thanks to the generosity of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Institute has been returned to its original purpose as a place for learning, enjoyment and well-being.

*We are grateful to the people of Oakdale, past and present, for sharing their stories and for their continued support.*

## CYNNWYS

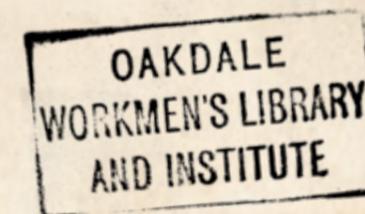


- 4 **CANRIF O HANES**
- 10 **Y LLYFRGELL A'R YSTAFELL DDARLLEN**
- 12 **DIWYLLIANT AC ADLONIAINT**
- 18 **OAKDALE YN YSTOD Y RHYFELOEDD**
- 24 **TRO AR FYD YN OAKDALE**
- 34 **Y STIWT YN SAIN FFAGAN**
- 38 **Y DYCHWELIAD**



## CONTENTS

- 5 **100 YEARS OF HISTORY**
- 11 **LIBRARY AND READING ROOM**
- 12 **CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT**
- 19 **OAKDALE IN THE WARS**
- 25 **CHANGING TIMES IN OAKDALE**
- 35 **THE 'STUTE AT ST FAGANS**
- 39 **THE RETURN**



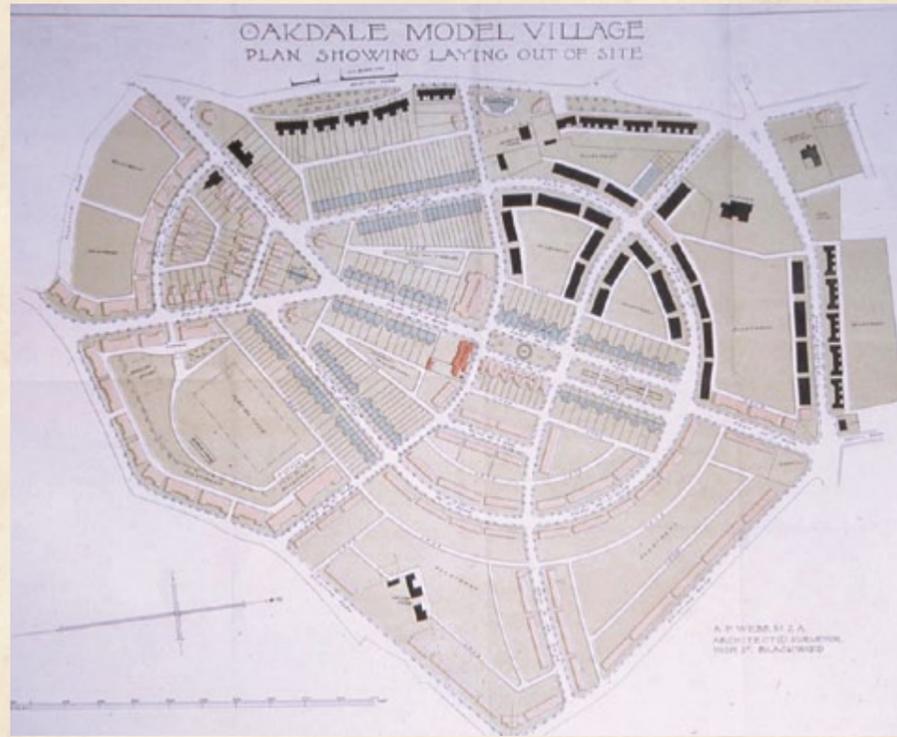
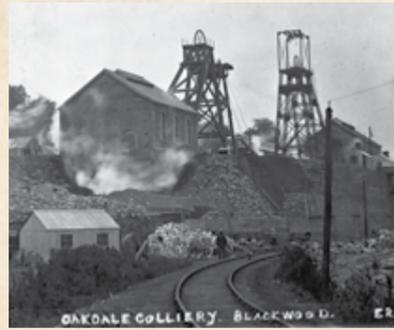
O'r chwith i'r dde:

Glofa Oakdale, tua'r 1920au.

Cynllun o bentref model Oakdale, a ddyluniwyd gan bensaer y Stiwt, Arthur Webb. Cafodd y stryd gyntaf, Syr Dafydd Avenue, ei gorffen ym 1913.

Pentref newydd Oakdale, gyda'r Stiwt ar y dde.

Gwahoddiad i agoriad swyddogol y Stiwt.



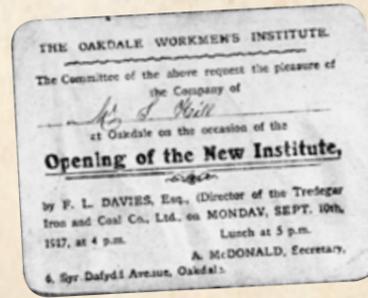
From left to right:

Oakdale Colliery, about 1920s

A plan of Oakdale model village, designed by the Institute's architect, Arthur Webb. The first street, Syr Dafydd Avenue, was completed in 1913.

The new Oakdale village, showing the Institute on the right.

An invitation to the official opening.



# CANRIF O HANES

Roedd Sefydliadau'r Gweithwyr, neu 'Stiwts', yn ganolfannau i lowyr ddysgu a hamddena yn y cyfnod pan oedd y diwydiant glo ar ei anterth yng Nghymru.



Adeiladwyd Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale ym 1917 i wasanaethu gweithwyr glofa newydd Oakdale. Ar y pryd, roedd Oakdale yn 'bentref model' newydd sbon a adeiladwyd gan Gwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar ar gyfer y gweithwyr. Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr y cwmni, Alfred S. Tallis, oedd prif gefnogwr y pentref model. Rhoddodd y cwmni fenthyciad o £3,000 i adeiladu'r Stiwt, ar ben y £1,554 o gyfraniad ceiniog-yr-wythnos a wnaed gan y gweithwyr. Pensaer y Stiwt oedd Arthur Webb, brawd-yng-nghyfraith Tallis.

O'r chwith i'r dde:

Cloddio Glofa Oakdale, dechrau'r 1900au.

Glofa Oakdale yn fuan wedi ei gorffen, tua 1912.

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cyntaf Pwyllgor Stiwt Oakdale ar 5 Ebrill 1913 yn yr 'Huts'. Dyma oedd hen farics gweithwyr shafftiau Glofa Oakdale. Yr 'Huts' oedd Stiwt y gweithwyr i bob pwrpas tan i'r adeilad newydd gael ei agor ym 1917.



# 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

Workmen's Institutes, or 'Stutes', were centres of learning and recreation for coal miners during the boom years of the Welsh coal industry.

Oakdale Workmen's Institute was built in 1917 to serve the workers of the new Oakdale Colliery. At that time, Oakdale was a brand new 'model village' built for the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company workforce. The Managing Director, Alfred Tallis, was the main promoter of the model village. He was also involved with building the Institute, by loaning £3,000 on top of the £1,554 from the workmen's penny-a-week contributions. The Institute's architect, Arthur Webb, was Tallis's brother-in-law.

From left to right:

The sinking of Oakdale Colliery, early 1900s

Oakdale Colliery soon after completion, about 1912

The first meeting of the Oakdale Institute Committee was held on 5 April 1913 in the 'Huts'. This was the old barracks for the workers of the Oakdale Colliery shafts. The 'Huts' served as the workmen's institute until the new building was opened in 1917.

***They were ahead of their time. They were schools, colleges, libraries, places for recreation, and they were the hub of that community.***

Roger Evans, un o drigolion Oakdale ac Ysgrifennydd Partneriaeth Gymunedol Oakdale.

Roger Evans, Oakdale resident and Secretary of Oakdale Community Partnership.



THE ORIGINAL INSTITUTE.

## CANRIF O HANES

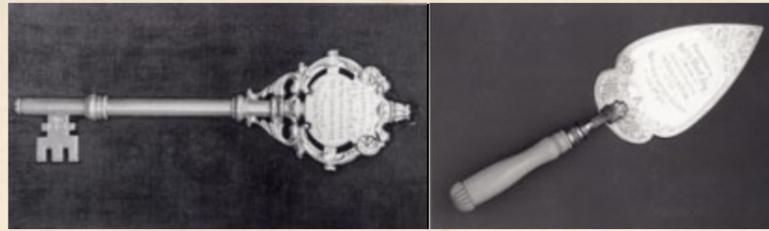
### ADEILADU AR SYLFEINI CADARN

Ar 3 Gorffennaf 1916, cynhaliwyd seremoni i osod dwy garreg sylfaen o boptu prif fynedfa'r Stiwt. Cafodd y garreg ar y chwith ei gosod gan Harry Blount ar ran gweithwyr Glofa Oakdale a'r garreg ar y dde gan Alfred Tallis ar ran Cwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar, perchnogion y pwell. Y flwyddyn ganlynol, agorodd y Stiwt newydd ar 10 Medi 1917.

### PWYLLGOR Y STIWT

Roedd yr aelodau'n rhoi o'u hamser a'u harian prin at redeg y Stiwt. Etholwyd Pwyllgor Stiwt Oakdale drwy bleidlais o blith yr aelodau, gan gynnwys Cadeirydd, Is-gadeirydd, Ysgrifennydd a thua 15 aelod arall. Roedd y rhan fwyaf yn gweithio yng Nglofa Oakdale.

Ym 1921, cafwyd y streic cyntaf yng Nglofa Oakdale pan wrthododd Ffederasiwn y Glowyr dderbyn gostyngiad i gyflogau. Ar 1 Ebrill cafodd y glowyr eu 'cloi allan' gan y perchnogion, gan eu hatal rhag gweithio. Daeth cynhyrchu glo i stop am ddeufis.



#### Uchod:

Rhoddwyd yr allwedd aur hon i Alfred Tallis, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Cwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar yn seremoni agoriadol Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale ar 10 Medi 1917.

Rhoddwyd y trywel hwn i Harry Blount yn seremoni gosod cerrig sylfaen y Stiwt ar 3 Gorffennaf 1916. Harry oedd un o aelodau gwreiddiol Pwyllgor y Stiwt a sefydlwyd ym 1913.

#### Y dudalen gyferbyn:

Aelodau Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale, 1920au.

#### Isod:

Streicwyr yn cloddio am lo yn y De, 1921.



## 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

#### Right:

Oakdale Workmen's Institute members, 1920s

#### Left:

This gold key was presented to Alfred Tallis, Managing Director of the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company, at the opening ceremony of Oakdale Workmen's Institute on 10 September 1917.

This was the trowel presented to Harry Blount at the ceremony of laying the foundation stones on 3 July 1916. He was one of the original members of the Institute's Committee, formed in 1913.

#### Left (below):

Strikers digging for coal in south Wales, 1921.



### STRONG FOUNDATIONS

A ceremony to lay the foundation stones was held on 3 July 1916. Two foundation stones were laid, one either side of the main entrance door. Harry Blount laid the stone on the left on behalf of the workmen of Oakdale Colliery, and Alfred Tallis laid the stone on the right, representing the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company, the colliery owners. The building was opened the following year in a ceremony on 10 September 1917.

### THE 'STUTE COMMITTEE

The Institute members contributed their time and hard-earned wages towards the running of the place. The Oakdale Institute Committee was elected by ballot from the members. There was a Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and about 15 other committee members – most would have worked at the Oakdale Colliery.

Oakdale Colliery suffered its first strike in 1921 when the Miners' Federation refused to accept a wage reduction. On 1 April the coal owners 'locked out' the miners, preventing them from working. Coal production came to a standstill for two months.

*...everyone had to be a member to be elected on the committee. But that's how it was done, you had so many retiring and then the annual meeting come, half of the committee retired and half would stay on. So when you were elected you'd be on there for two years at least then unless some of them got a bit fed up and dropped out...*

Ganwyd George Harry Page yn Sussex ond cafodd ei anfon i Oakdale yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd. Yma y cyfarfu ei wraig, Peggy.

George Harry Page was born in Sussex but billeted to Oakdale, where he met his wife, Peggy, during the Second World War.



CYFNODAU ANODD

Fel nifer o gymunedau ar hyd a lled Cymru, roedd diweithdra a thlodi yn broblem drwy gydol Dirwasgiad y 1920au a'r 1930au. Ond bu'r Stiwt yn gefn i'r aelodau yn ystod cyfnodau anodd fel hyn. Sefydlwyd Pwyllgor Caledi ym mhentref Oakdale a rhoddodd y Stiwt gyfraniad o £10. Yn ystod y streic, penderfynodd y Pwyllgor haneru pris biliards a snwcer i geiniog y gêm. Hefyd, roedd clybiau, fel y clwb drama, yn cael cwrdd yn y Stiwt yn rhad ac am ddim. Cafodd y 'cloi allan' effaith uniongyrchol ar y Stiwt gyda gostyngiad dramatig yn yr incwm oherwydd y gostyngiad yng nghyflogau'r glowyr.

Erbyn mis Gorffennaf 1945, roedd yr aelodau wedi talu pob ceiniog yn ôl i Gwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar. I ddathlu'r achlysur, cafwyd seremoni arbennig i 'Drosglwyddo'r Gweithredoedd'. Cafodd pob aelod o'r Pwyllgor lun a llyfr *The History of the Oakdale Institute 1912-1946* i'w cadw.



*It wasn't until about 1937-38 that things began to pick up... They tried to maintain the facilities to keep people's spirits up because this is what it really boiled down to... During the Depression – the early 'thirties – they did what they could. They were bound legally obviously to keep paying this loan back, and it must have been a job of robbing Peter to pay Paul all the time... But they kept it going somehow. It really was a struggle there's no doubt about that...*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd 1920.

Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born in 1920.



DIFFICULT TIMES

Like many communities across Wales, Oakdale faced unemployment and poverty throughout the Depression of the 1920s and 1930s. But the Institute played an important part in the welfare of its members in difficult times. A Distress Committee was formed in Oakdale and the Institute donated £10. During the strike, the Committee reduced billiard charges to half-price and snooker to one pence a cue, and clubs could use the Institute rent-free. The lock-out had a direct effect on the Institute with a dramatic fall in income due to the drop in miners' wages.

By July 1945 the members had finally paid off the loan to the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company. To mark the occasion they held a special 'Handing over the Deeds' ceremony. Each member of the Committee received a photograph and a book, *The History of the Oakdale Institute 1912-1946*, as a souvenir.

*...my father used to call it 'Penniless Corner' when we were children, then all the men did. That's where they'd stand you know until it was time for them to go to work at two o'clock. They'd be up there on the street corner, and er, you know, when you do think, you do see little old men in bowler hats standing on the corner and they used to look so important, and yet they were poor, they were poor people.*

*...when the Institute was running, they had various committees. They had the main committee, but then them committees was split up into sub committees. And you had the picture house committee...and they would choose the films that was been put on. Then you had the library committee to choose the books and purchase books. And you had the games committee...with all the games that was taking place in there... One of the main things then of course was the finance committee. They met every week to produce the bills and the standing of the committee you know, where the money was going ... and of course we also they had a cleaning committee.*

Margaret Doreen Page (Peggy), fu'n lánhawraig yn Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale. Ganwyd yn Oakdale, 1924.

Margaret Doreen (Peggy) Page, cleaner in Oakdale Workmen's Institute. Born in Oakdale, 1924.



Clockwise from top left,

Pwyllgor Sefydliad Oakdale, 1945.

Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale, tua 1920. Galwyd y gornel ger y Stiwt yn 'Penniless Corner', roedd yn fan cwrdd poblogaidd.

Cyngor Lles Oakdale, 1943-44.

Clockwise from top left:

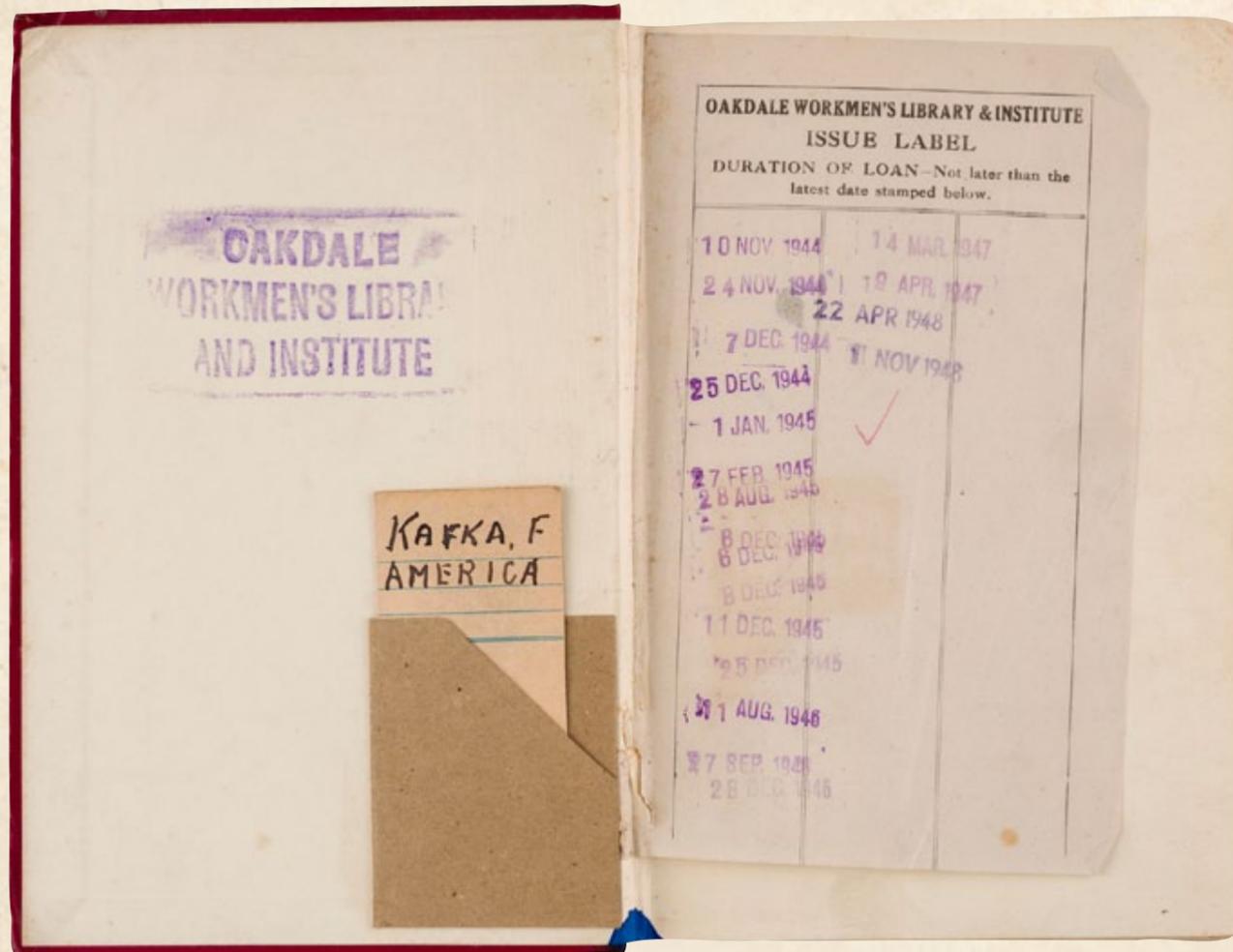
Oakdale Institute Committee, 1945.

Oakdale Workmen's Institute, about 1920. The street corner near the Institute became a popular gathering place and was known locally as 'Penniless Corner'.

Oakdale Welfare Council, 1943-44

# Y LLYFRGELL A'R YSTAFELL DDARLLEN

Cafodd sefydliadau'r gweithwyr eu creu er mwyn i weithwyr gael dysgu eu hunain, yn ogystal â hamddena.



Mae Llyfrgell wedi bod yn rhan o Stiwt Oakdale ers y dechrau. Ym 1915, sefydlwyd y Pwyllgor Llyfrau cyntaf. Cafodd Llyfrgellydd ei benodi, ac roedd pobl yn cyfrannu llyfrau. Cyfrannodd Alfred Tallis, rheolwr Cwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar lyfrau hefyd. Wedi'r cyfan, roedd e eisiau gwneud yn siŵr fod ei weithwyr yn mwynhau dysgu, yn fodlon ac yn sobor.

*My grandfather spent a hell of a lot of time in the miners' institute to further his education. He was underground at thirteen. He furthered his education and he was a very well read man and a lot of other people were exactly the same. You know, the miners' institute was, you know, the reading rooms, the libraries, the dance halls, it was the hub of the village.*

John Evans, Oakdale, ganwyd 1943.

John Evans, Oakdale, born 1943.



## LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

Workmen's institutes were established as centres for self-education as well as recreation – 'the brains of the coalfield'.

A library was part of Oakdale Workmen's Institute from the beginning. In 1915, the first Book Committee was formed, a Librarian appointed and donations of books made. Alfred Tallis, Managing Director of the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company, also gave some books. After all, it was in his interest to have an educated, contented and sober workforce.

Silffoedd llawn y Llyfrgell ym 1945. Dychwelodd y bachgen yn y llun i'r Stiwt, bob cam o Awstralia, wedi ei ailagor yma yn Sain Ffagan ym 1995.

Well-stocked library shelves in 1945. The boy in the picture returned to the Institute from Australia when it was reopened here in St Fagans in 1995.



## Y LLYFRGELL A'R YSTAFELL DDARLLEN

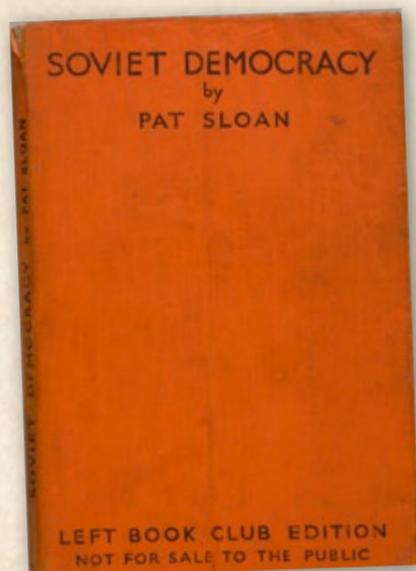
Roedd gweithwyr yn mynd i lyfrgell y stiwt lleol i ddarllen a dysgu. O'r cychwyn, roedd Llyfrgell Oakdale yn boblogaidd iawn – yn enwedig pan oedd streic. Ym mis Rhagfyr 1921, cafodd 503 o lyfrau eu benthyg. Yn ystod streic fawr 1926, cafodd dwywaith cymaint o lyfrau eu benthyg.

### DARLLEN AM HWYL

Yn y dyddiau cynnar, y Pwyllgor Llyfrau oedd yn dewis llyfrau addas ar gyfer y Llyfrgell – llyfrau ffeithiol a ffuglen. Ym 1939, cytunodd y Pwyllgor i roi blwch yn y Llyfrgell er mwyn i'r aelodau gael gofyn am lyfrau newydd. Y flwyddyn wedyn, prynwyd y nofelau poblogaidd *How Green Was My Valley*, *The Citadel* a *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. Tybed ai syniadau o'r blwch oedd y llyfrau hyn?

### LLYFRAU GWLEIDYDDOL

Yn ôl cofnodion Pwyllgor y Stiwt, ar 6 Tachwedd 1937, penderfynwyd ymuno â Chlwb Llyfrau'r Chwith am chwe mis. Rhwng 1936 a 1948, roedd y Clwb yn cyhoeddi llyfrau adain chwith. Mudiad gwleidyddol oedd y Clwb a dweud y gwir. Roedd y Clwb eisiau rhoi addysg i'r bobl er mwyn creu cymdeithas adain chwith gadarn. Mae llyfrau oren y Clwb â'r geiriau 'Not for sale to the public' yn ddelwedd eiconig o'r 1930au.



### LLOSGI LLYFR!

Dywed cofnodion y Pwyllgor ar gyfer 1 Hydref 1918 fod llyfr o natur amheus a gafwyd yn y Llyfrgell yn mynd i gael ei losgi, ond nid cyn i'r Pwyllgor gael ei ddarllen os oedden nhw eisiau!

*...the library must have had well I don't know how many thousand books. Thousands of books there. Course it was all handed over to the county you see. Became part of the county branch libraries so you had quite a choice of books. And, uh, it varied immensely, the titles. I mean you could study philosophy or whodunit or whatever sort of thing history books. Good selection of stock.*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd 1920.

Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born 1920.

## LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

The libraries of workmen's institutes were places where miners could educate themselves through reading. Oakdale library proved a popular facility from the early years – especially when miners were on strike. In December 1921, 503 books were borrowed. During the 1926 General Strike the number of books borrowed increased by 100%.

### READING FOR PLEASURE

In the early years it was the Book Committee's responsibility to recommend suitable books for the Library. In 1939, with the agreement of the Committee, a box was placed in the Library where members could put requests for books. The following year, the popular novels *How Green Was My Valley*, *The Citadel* and *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* were bought. Could this have been as a result of the suggestion box?

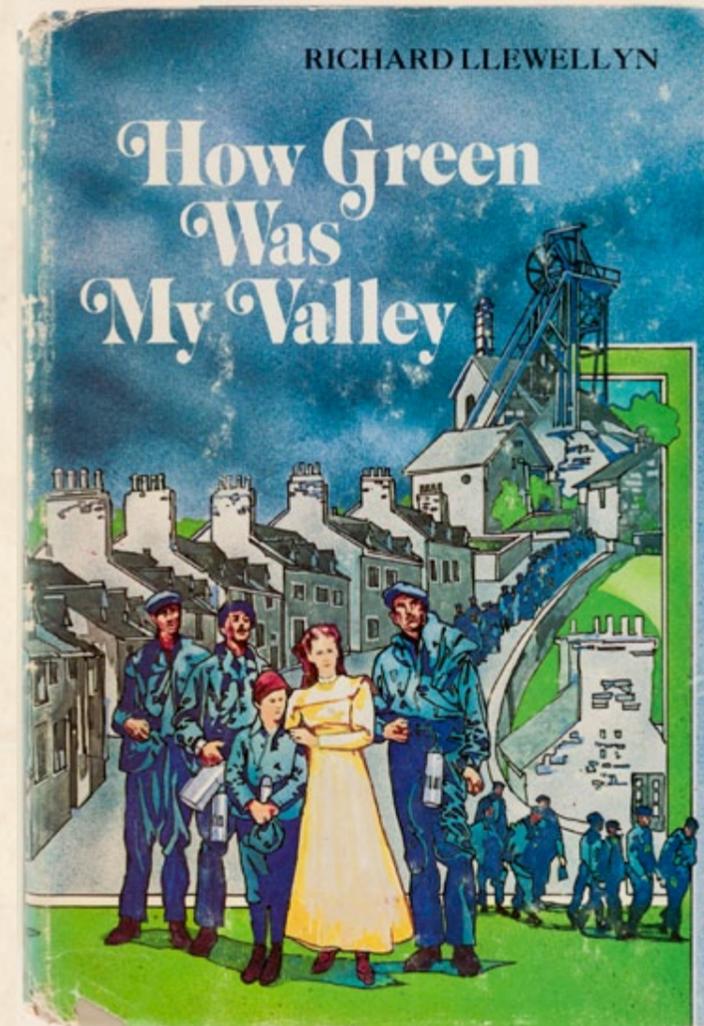
### POLITICAL BOOKS

The Oakdale Committee minutes note that on 6 November 1937 the decision was made to join the Left Book Club for six months. The Club was a left-wing publishing group that existed between 1936 and 1948. It was more of a political movement than a club, and aimed to educate and energize the left wing of British society. The books' distinctive orange covers with 'Not for sale to the public' are an iconic image of the 1930s.

*Oh all sort of novels, history, you name it, classics, whatever was around – the library had them, erm, and it was a very good library, I mean I can picture it, I can smell it now. There was a particular smell about the library and about the reading room. And whatever books you wanted you could have and they were there for you.*

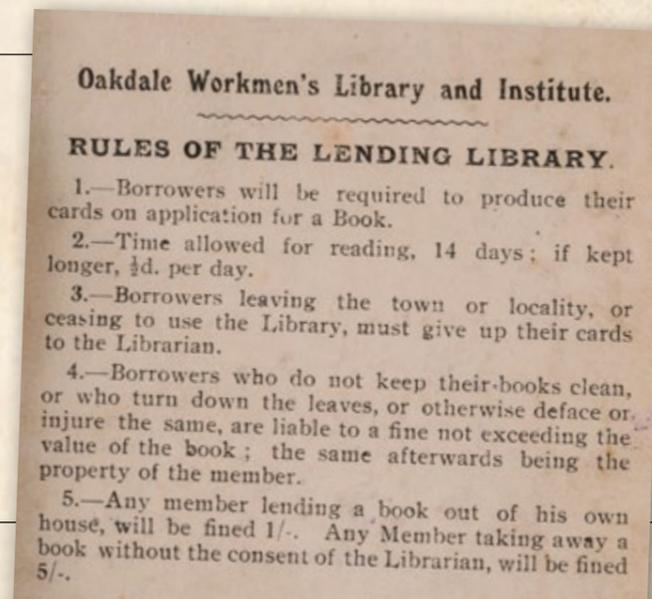
Y Parch. Tom Davies, Fleur de Lys. Cafodd ei eni ym 1932.

The Rev. Tom Davies, Fleur de Lys, born 1932.

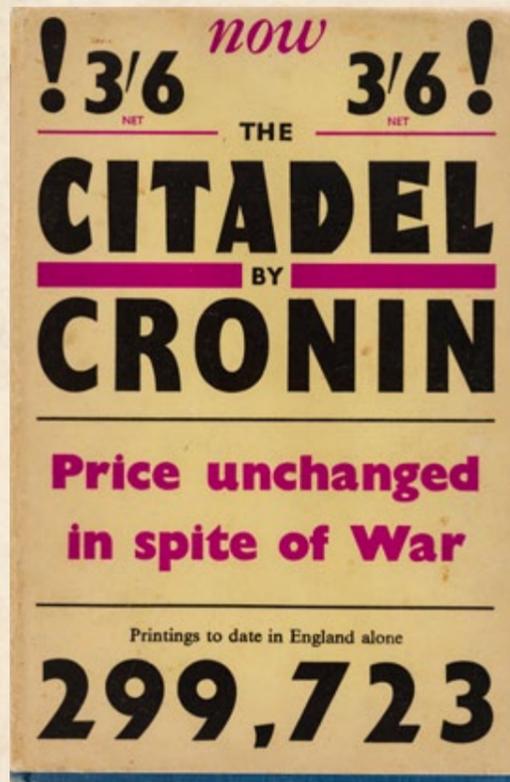


### BOOK TO BE BURNED!

The Oakdale Institute Committee minutes for 1 October 1918 reported that a book of 'questionable character' found in the Library was to be burned, but not before the Committee was allowed to read it if they wanted to!



## Y LLYFRGELL A'R YSTAFELL DDARLLEN



### HAPCHWARAE

Rhoddir cyfarwyddyd i'r gofalwr gael gwared ar y newyddion rasio o'r papurau min nos. Mae hapchwarae'n peri trafferth ac ar 8 Gorffennaf 1919 mae'r Pwyllgor yn penderfynu cael gwared ar y *Racing News*.

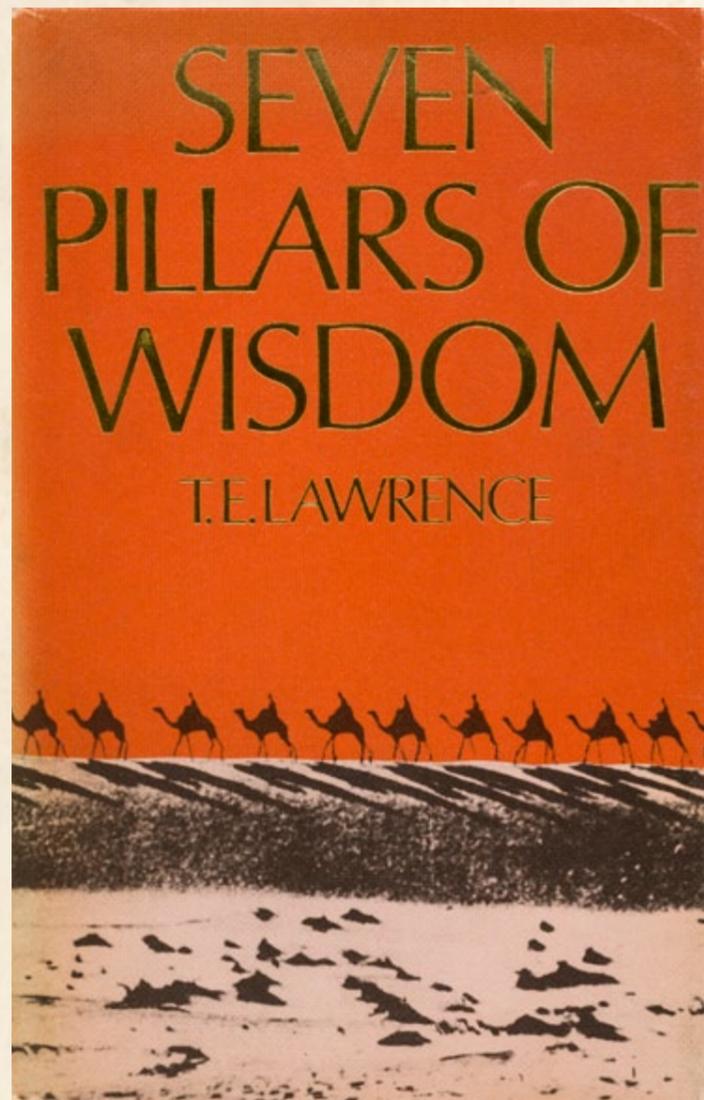
### YSTAFELL DDARLLEN

Roedd y Stiwt hefyd yn fan i gyfarfod a thrafod materion fel gwaith a gwleidyddiaeth, tu hwnt i glyw rheolwyr y pwll glo. Yn yr ystafell ddarllen cai'r aelodau ddarllen y papurau newydd dyddiol, cylchgronau neu lyfrau o'r llyfrgell. O bryd i'w gilydd defnyddiwyd yr ystafell i chwarae gemau bwrdd megis cardiau neu ddrafftis hefyd.

Ymhlith y papurau newydd a ddarllenwyd yn Stiwt Oakdale oedd y *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Citizen*, *Daily Herald* a'r *Daily Leader*. O 1921 ymlaen, talodd Cwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar am gyflenwi'r *Times* a'r *Telegraph* hefyd. Ym 1934 disodlwyd y *Telegraph* gan bapurau adain chwith y *Merthyr Express* a *Reynolds*.

Cyhoeddwyd y nofel *The Citadel* ym 1937, ac mae wedi'i leoli mewn pentref glofaol yn ne Cymru. Mae'n adrodd hanes diffyg cydraddoldeb triniaeth feddygol cyn i'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol gael ei sefydlu. A. J. Cronin, meddyg o'r Alban, oedd yr awdur. Roedd wedi gweithio yn ysbyty bach Tredegar.

*The Citadel*, published in 1937, is a novel set in a fictional south Wales mining village. It tells the story of the inequality in medical treatment before the establishment of the NHS. The author was A. J. Cronin, a Scottish doctor, who had practised in Tredegar Cottage Hospital.



*Dad came back with The Seven Pillars of Wisdom which cost him seven quid ... It was an exceedingly popular choice but it was expensive you see. When you're talking about ten pounds' worth of books in those days, when a book cost perhaps one and six or something like that.*

*You could buy eighty books for that!*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd 1920.

Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born 1920.

## LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

*The first time I really ever came aware of books was through the Institute.*

*And I can remember discovering the library, I was fascinated by it. I suddenly walked in and there was all these books, and I was told I could have any book I wanted anytime free of charge because my father paid through the pit. And I discovered books and I, I devoured them...*

*I used to pick them up and I was reading them on the way home, walking home reading my book and I had vivid pictures in me... It was a very important part, in there, it taught me books.*

*I devoured them in the Institute for the first time.*

*Well, they had a committee that ran the library and there were one or two of them who were the librarians and they were the ones that recommended the books to be bought, uhm. They were chosen by local people. I would have - I don't know the names of those who were there then but I would have thought some of them would have been teachers and some people have been union leaders. But they would have been people with an interest in education as most of the village did. It was a very cultural village and the Institute played a very real part in that.*

Y Parch. Tom Davies, Fleur de Lys. Cafodd ei eni ym 1932.

The Rev. Tom Davies, Fleur de Lys, born 1932.

*'Periodically if there was something derogatory in a national newspaper against the miners, that paper was stopped until they learned their lesson if you like. Again ... they would tear out the racing page and take it across the pub to do their horse betting so they stopped that...*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd 1920.

Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born 1920.

*The reading room where all they were, I mean, we just would poke our heads through the door there. The people, what they were reading, you know, really serious reading. Every paper would be there. A lot of them were self-taught and my Dad was self-taught. His knowledge of literature, of music, you know, it was all, they just had this thirst, they suck it up like sponges. You got examples locally of people learning Hebrew to read the old testament as it was written, you know. I mean, I find it mind-blowing really, so nothing would be lost in translation. But yes, there was a, a terrific thirst for knowledge.*

Beverley Edwards, Oakdale, ganwyd 1944.

Beverley Edwards, Oakdale, born 1944.

### GAMBLING

The caretaker is instructed to blot out racing news from the evening papers. Gambling is causing trouble, and on 8 July 1919 the Committee decides to blot out *Racing News*.

### READING ROOM

Workmen's Institutes were also places to meet, socialize and discuss work-related matters and politics, out of ear-shot of the colliery managers. In the reading room members could read the daily newspapers, magazines or library books. At various times it was also used as a room to play board games such as cards or draughts.

Among some of the newspapers read in Oakdale Institute were the *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Citizen*, *Daily Herald* and *Daily Leader*. From 1921, *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph* were also supplied, paid for by the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company, owners of Oakdale Colliery. In 1934 papers aligned to the political left, *Merthyr Express* and *Reynolds*, replaced the *Telegraph*.

*Plenty of people undoubtedly studied in Oakdale Institute.*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd 1920. Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born 1920.

*And those old men,  
I think that's what they  
lived for was their  
game of cards,  
reading the papers  
in the reading room.*

Peggy Page





# DIWYLLIANT AC ADLONIANIANT



Roedd y Stiwt wrth wraidd y gymuned ac yn fan cymdeithasu pwysig i'r gweithwyr a'u teuluoedd. Yno, roedden nhw'n gallu dawnsio, chwarae biliards, gwyllo ffilmiau neu ddarllen. Yn ogystal â'r Llyfrgell, yr Ystafell Bwyllgor a'r Ystafell Ddarllen, roedd neuadd gyngherddau i fyny'r grisiau, a elwid yn Neuadd Lai.

## Y 'NEUADD NEWYDD' NEU'R 'PICTURE HOUSE'

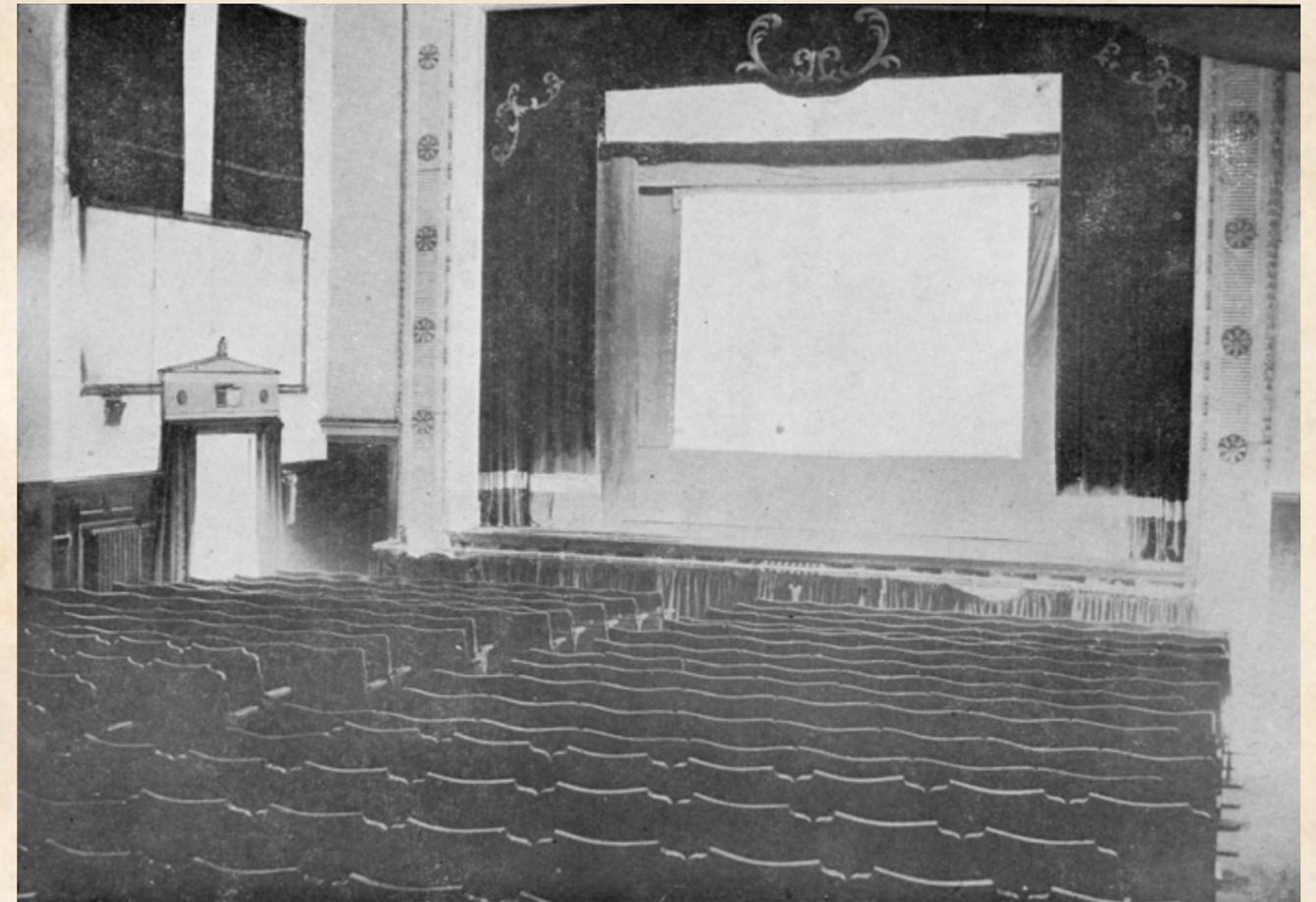
Erbyn y 1920au, roedd sinemâu'n dod yn fwyfwy poblogaidd trwy Gymru. Ym 1926, rhoddodd cronfa Les y Glowyr grant o £2,500 tuag at Neuadd Newydd i'r Stiwt. Ddeng mlynedd ar ôl agor y Stiwt, cwblhawyd y Neuadd Newydd. Doedd hi ddim yn hawdd codi'r £8,000 ar gyfer y gwaith adeiladu, yn enwedig yn ystod cyfnod y Streic Gyffredinol a'r Dirwasgiad.

**Uchod:**  
Y Stiwt gyda'r 'Neuadd Newydd' neu'r 'Picture House' newydd yn y cefn. Ni symudwyd y rhan honno o'r adeilad i Sain Ffagan gyda gweddill y Stiwt. Cafodd ei ddymchwel yn ddiweddarach.

**Dde:**  
Tu mewn i'r adeilad, tua 1945. Roedd yn cael ei ddefnyddio fel sinema ac ar gyfer cyngherddau.

**Above:**  
The Institute showing the New Hall or Picture House at the back. This part of the building wasn't moved to St Fagans with the rest of the Institute and was later demolished.

**Right:**  
Inside the building, about 1945. It was used as a cinema and a concert hall.



# CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Institute was the focal point of the community, an important social space for the workmen and their families. Somewhere to dance, play billiards, watch films or to simply read. As well as the Library, Committee Room and Reading Room, it had a concert hall upstairs, known as the Lesser Hall.

## THE 'NEW HALL' OR 'PICTURE HOUSE'

By the 1920s cinemas were becoming increasingly popular throughout Wales. In 1926 the Miners' Welfare fund gave a grant of £2,500 towards a New Hall for the 'Stute. Ten years after the opening of the Institute the New Hall is complete. At a cost of £8,000, it wasn't easy to raise the money for the building work, particularly during the period of the General Strike and Depression.

*'For entertainment we had the Picture House and the Institute. Never the cinema, always the Picture House, which provided us with two feature films and a newsreel from Monday to Wednesday and a change of films Thursday to Saturday.'*

Jean Trigg (Lucas), ganwyd ym 1930, merch Ysgrifennydd y Stiwt, William Henry Lucas.

Jean Trigg (née Lucas), born 1930, daughter of the Institute's Secretary, William Henry Lucas.

## DIWYLLIANT AC ADLONIAINT

Adeiladwyd ystafell daflunio yng nghefn y Neuadd a phenodwyd Swyddog Taflunio Cynorthwyol a thri chynorthwy-ydd newydd. Agorwyd y 'Picture House' ar 2 Tachwedd 1927 a'r ffilm gyntaf i'w dangos oedd April Showers – ffilm Americanaidd ramantus heb sain.

### 'TALKIES' YN CYRRAEDD OAKDALE

Ar 10 Ebrill 1931 penderfynwyd gosod offer sain yn y sinema, cam y bu'n rhaid ei gymryd yn go gyflym gan ei bod yn fwyfwy anodd cael gafael ar ffilmiau heb sain. Gyda dyfodiad sain i sinemâu collodd llawer o gerddorion eu bywoliaeth. Yn Oakdale, roedd Mrs Templeman yn cyfeilio i'r ffilmiau heb sain ar y piano.

Gyda thwf poblogrwydd sinemâu'r Coed Duon, stopiodd y Picture House ddangos ffilmiau yn y 1960au. Parhaodd y ffilmiau prynhawn Sadwrn i blant tan ddechrau'r 1970au ond buan iawn y daeth galwr bingo i gymryd lle'r taflunydd, fel nifer fawr o sinemâu eraill.

Roedd pob math o gymdeithasau yn defnyddio'r Stiwt – corau, bandiau, colomenwyr a grwpiau drama. Fe'i ddefnyddiwyd hefyd i gynnal raliâu gwleidyddol, cyngherddau, darlithoedd a dawnsfeydd.



*Concerts were held in the Picture House, and the 'Stute. All performed by local talent. Miss Polly Squires brought along her children's choir, and also sang solos herself. Mr Newman and family entertained us with concerts, and also, he produced operettas. Our village was well blessed with a good variety of talent... Our own Silver Band who entered competitions in addition to entertaining us with music on Sunday evenings playing from a Bandstand (no longer there) in the top garden of the square.*

Jean Trigg (Lucas), ganwyd ym 1930, merch Ysgrifennydd y Stiwt, William Henry Lucas.

Jean Trigg (nee Lucas) born 1930. Daughter of the Institute's Secretary, William Henry Lucas.

## CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

A projection booth was built at the back of the Hall, and an Assistant Projector Operator was appointed and three new attendants. On 2 November 1927 the Picture House opened and the first film to be shown was April Showers – an American silent romantic film.

### 'TALKIES' COME TO OAKDALE

On 10 April 1931 the decision was taken to install audio equipment in the cinema, a move hastened by the fact that it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain silent films. The coming of sound to cinemas deprived many musicians of their livelihood. At Oakdale, the silent movies were accompanied on piano by a Mrs Templeman.

With rising competition from cinemas in Blackwood, the Picture House stopped showing films during the 1960s. The Saturday morning children's matinees continued until the early 1970s. But then, as with so many cinemas, the projector was replaced by a bingo caller.

All sorts of groups used Oakdale Institute – from choirs and bands to pigeon fanciers and drama groups. It was also used for political rallies, concerts, lectures and dances.

*We went to concerts upstairs... and dancing of course. Marvellous! We wore big stick-out petticoats and you'd hold them as you went up the stairs. [The dances] would start about seven o'clock and they didn't finish until late. When we were younger they'd finish about nine, ten o'clock... It was just records at first and there were local bands... It was lovely! You could have tea or coffee. No alcohol on the premises at that time... Modern, waltzes, foxtrots, samba – I loved the samba! Anything with music!*

Gaynor Mayell, ganwyd ym 1943. Roedd ei thad yn is-reolwr yn y lofa. Gaynor Mayell, born 1943. Her father was an under manager at the colliery.

*Everything that went on in Oakdale was in the Lesser Hall – concerts and choirs and everything. And then they built the Picture House. It was a fine place, the Picture House. If you didn't go early on a Friday and Saturday you wouldn't get in. It was the best thing that happened to Oakdale because before that we had to walk to Blackwood ... to pictures and things like that.*

Jack Morris. Ganwyd Jack ym Mhen-maen ym 1911. Symudodd i fyw yn Oakdale pan oedd yn bum mlwydd oed.

Jack Morris. Jack was born in Pen-maen in 1911. He moved to Oakdale when he was five years old.

*I would say one word to sum it up, it was wonderful. I had lovely times there. Pictures; meetings; dances; concerts. Whatever you wanted, you could have in there.*

Leon Gardner, dechreuodd weithio yng nglofa Oakdale yn 23 oed.

Leon Gardner, began working at Oakdale Colliery at 23 years old.

*When I was a young girl, I was aware that there were two bottles of champagne under the stairs in my grandparents' house. Everyone had forgotten about them. When my grandad died, I found these two bottles of champagne under the stairs. They're half bottles of champagne, and he was given them by the Rank Organisation for buying the first films for the Picture House in Oakdale. It wasn't called a cinema, it was called a Picture House. And this is the bottle of champagne. We opened the one, and it was like mud. So this is the other one. The date on this is 1911. Heidsieck and company, which is one of the best champagnes.*

Janet Baldwin, Oakdale, ganwyd ym 1943. Janet Baldwin, Oakdale, born 1943.



Band Gwobrwyol Glofa Oakdale. Ym 1933 chwaraeodd y band mewn cyngerdd yn y Neuadd Newydd cyn cystadlu yn Crystal Palace.

The Oakdale Colliery Prize Band. In 1933 they performed in a concert in the New Hall before competing at the Crystal Palace.



**DRAMA**

Un o ddigwyddiadau mwyaf y flwyddyn oedd yr Wyl Ddrama yn y 'Neuadd Newydd'. Roedd yn boblogaidd iawn ac yn codi arian da i'r Stiwt. Ym 1946, cynhaliwyd rhaglen o ddigwyddiadau yn y Stiwt i ddathlu talu'r benthyciadau yn ôl.

O bryd i'w gilydd, defnyddiwyd y Neuadd Lai ar gyfer eisteddfod, priodas a gŵyl flynyddol y Frenhines Fai neu Frenhines y Rhosod.

*But Drama Week was our week. I'd have my ticket for the whole week. I'd watch every night, different one every night yes I'd watch every night. My mother would treat me to that ticket and she'd say, "Tomorrow we'll go and pick our seat now". 'Cos they'd have a big board and you'd pick your seat an' then you'd pay your money and you'd have your ticket. But I always used to have a weekly ticket, me and my mother 'cos I used to love it. And Saturday night, the last night used to be the best.*

Margaret Doreen (Peggy) Page, Oakdale, ganwyd ym 1924.  
Margaret Doreen (Peggy) Page, Oakdale, born 1924.



Ym 1946, cynhaliwyd rhaglen o ddigwyddiadau yn y Stiwt i ddathlu talu'r benthyciadau yn ôl.

In 1946, a programme of events was held at the 'Stute to celebrate the payment of all the loans.

*Like many other towns and villages Oakdale had a very strong amateur dramatic society. Plays were performed on the Picture House stage, the cinema screen being rolled back to reveal before it a large stage area with footlights and spotlights. The screen was hidden by whatever backdrop was required for the current production. Stage props were (furniture etc.) borrowed from the homes of the villagers. Annual drama competitions were held, lasting a whole week, a different play by a different society each night, with adjudication after the last Saturday evening performance.*

Jean Trigg (Lucas), ganwyd ym 1930, merch Ysgrifennydd y Stiwt, William Henry Lucas.  
Jean Trigg (née Lucas), born 1930, daughter of the Institute's Secretary, William Henry Lucas.



From left to right:  
Brenhines y Rhosod a'i gweision a morynion, Oakdale, tua 1940.

Perfformiad gan Gymdeithas Ddrama Oakdale.

Cymdeithas ddrama amatur Oakdale, dechrau'r 1970au.

From left to right:

The Rose Queen and her attendants, Oakdale, about 1940.

A performance by Oakdale Amateur Dramatic Society.

Oakdale amateur dramatic society, early 1970s.

THE PICTURE HOUSE, OAKDALE.

Friday, July 19th, 1946  
at 7 p.m.

The Board of Management have Pleasure in Presenting to the Subscribers

**A Grand Musical and Variety Programme**

by  
TREDEGAR ORPHEUS MALE VOICE CHOIR  
GWLADYS GRANGER (Soprano)  
MARJORIE KAUFMANN (Monologues at the Piano)  
GRANGER AND JAMES (Entertainers)

PROGRAMME.

1st Part.

1	THE PARTY "THE CRUSADERS" (D. Protheroe)
2 Solo	GWLADYS GRANGER "SING JOYOUS BIRD"
3	THE PARTY SELECTED
4	"FRANK JAMES WILL RECITE"
5 Monologue	MARJORIE KAUFMANN "CHEERING UP MARIA"

**DRAMA**

One of the Institute's biggest events of the year was the Drama Festival, which was held in the New Hall. This was a popular event which generated a good income for the Institute. In 1946, a programme of events was held at the 'Stute to celebrate the payment of all the loans.

The Lesser Hall was also used for the occasional eisteddfod, wedding receptions and the annual May Queen or Rose Queen Festival.

*One of the great festivals that I remember they dealt with were the drama festivals, when for a week we used to have dramatic companies from all over the country. It was one of the highlights of the year. And the place was packed every night...*

Y Parch. Tom Davies, Fleur de Lys, ganwyd ym 1932.  
Rev. Tom Davies, Fleur de Lys, born in 1932.

# OAKDALE YN YSTOD Y RHYFELOEDD

Adeiladwyd Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, a gwasanaethodd tua 800 o weithwyr Glofa Oakdale yn y Lluoedd Arfog.

Ym mis Ionawr 1919, cytunodd y Pwyllgor y gellid defnyddio Neuadd Oakdale ar gyfer Dawns Fuddugoliaeth. Defnyddiodd cyn-filwyr a morwyr y Neuadd Lai hefyd ar gyfer eu cyfarfodydd.

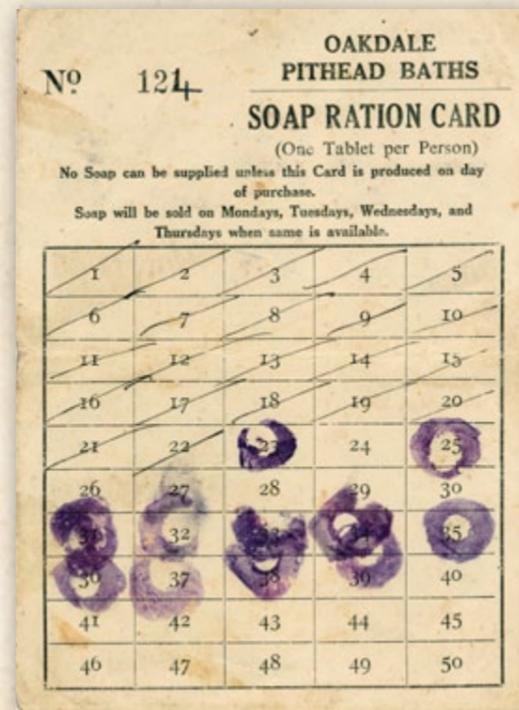
## AIL RYFEL BYD

Mae'r Ail Ryfel Byd dipyn yn fwy amlwg yng nghofnodion Pwyllgor y Stiwt. Ym mis Ebrill 1938, cafwyd awgrym fod y sefyllfa'n troi'n ddifrifol pan ofynnodd yr heddlu lleol am gael defnyddio ystafell i gynnal ymarferion rhag cyrch awyr.

Ym 1940, rhoddwyd corn cyrch awyr ar do'r 'Picture House' a ffôn wardeniaid y cyrch awyr yn lle'r ffôn arferol hefyd.



CASGLIAD PREIFAT / PRIVATE COLLECTION



*During the war, my grandfather used to man the radio set in the 'Stute. My father, being only a young boy, used to sleep under the table and would be occasionally woken to run round to the police station or the fire brigade if the radio messages indicated that the German bombers were heading up the valley looking for the coal mines.*

June Ralph. Ganwyd ei thad yn Oakdale ym 1931.

June Ralph. Her father was born in Oakdale in 1931.



# OAKDALE IN THE WARS

Oakdale Workmen's Institute was built during the First World War and around 800 workers from Oakdale Colliery served in the Armed Forces.

In January 1919 the Committee agreed that Oakdale Hall could be used for a Victory Ball. Discharged soldiers and sailors also made use of the Lesser Hall as a venue for their meetings.

## SECOND WORLD WAR

The Second World War features more prominently in the Institute's Committee Minutes. In April 1938 there were signs of the rising tensions of war when the local police requested the use of a room to hold classes on Air Raid Precautions.

In 1940 an air-raid siren was placed on the Picture House roof and the normal telephone replaced by an Air Raid Precautions telephone.

Chwith: **Jean Trigg (Lucas)**, gyda milwr a filedwyd tu allan i gartref ei phlentyndod yn Oakdale, tua 1940.

Uchod: **Wardeniaid Cyrch Awyr Oakdale yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd.**

Left: **June Trigg (nee Lucas)** with a billeted soldier outside her childhood home in Oakdale, about 1940.

Above: **Oakdale Air Raid Precautions wardens during the Second World War.**

*He used to sit in that little room and man the telephone to put the siren on. 'Moaning Minny' we used to call the siren. It was frightening, no matter where in the village, it was as if it was just right over your head you know...*

Sylvia Cook, Oakdale, ganwyd ym 1928.  
Tad Sylvia oedd yn gofalu am ffôn y corn cyrch awyr.

Sylvia Cook, Oakdale, born in 1928.  
Sylvia's father was responsible for manning the emergency siren phone.

Chwaraeodd y Stiwt ran bwysig yn ystod y rhyfel. Ym mis Mehefin 1939, defnyddiwyd y Neuadd Lai i dderbyn faciws. Dangoswyd sioe bnawn am ddim i blant yn ystod Nadolig 1940 i bob plentyn fel ffordd o ddod â'r faciws ynghyd. Defnyddiodd Cronfa Gwasanaethau'r Rhyfel y Neuadd Lai ar 'Picture House' ar gyfer dawnsfeydd a chyngherddau i godi arian ar gyfer ymdrech y rhyfel. Ym mis Hydref 1941, cynhaliwyd dawnns i godi arian i anfon nwyddau meddygol i Rwsia. Dangoswyd ffilmiau gwybodaeth gyhoeddus yn y 'Picture House' hefyd, am faterion fel dogni ac amddiffyn sifil.

### BEVIN BOYS

Defnyddiwyd y Stiwt gan bobl oedd ddim yn aelodau yn ystod yr Ail Ryfel Byd, yn enwedig Bois Bevin oedd wedi'u hanfon i weithio yn y lofa i helpu ymdrech y rhyfel. Fe'u henwyd ar ôl Ernest Bevin, Gweinidog Llafur a Gwasanaeth Cenedlaethol yn ystod y rhyfel. Ym 1943, cyhoeddodd y cynllun i anfon dynion i weithio yn y pyllau glo.

Roedd Oakdale ymhlith canolfannau hyfforddi Bois Bevin, yr unig un yn ne Cymru. Derbyniodd y 'bois' bedair wythnos o hyfforddiant ar yr wyneb a phedair arall gyda glöwr profiadol dan ddaear cyn cychwyn gweithio yn y lofa. Arhosodd rhai ym marics Glofa Oakdale ac roedd eraill yn cael lle gyda theuluoedd lleol. Cawsant groeso cymysg yn Oakdale, a chan nad oeddent yn aelodau o'r Stiwt penderfynodd y Pwyllgor Gemau y dylent dalu tair ceiniog am gêm o filiards.

Y dudalen gyferbyn:  
Bois Bevin yng Nglofa  
Oakdale, Hydref 1944.

Dde:  
Cwt Nissen, llety'r  
Bois Bevin yn ystod eu  
hyfforddiant yng Nglofa  
Oakdale. Cai ei alw'n  
'Oakdale Hotel'.



*Imagine the enormous task it would be to 'blackout' large buildings with numerous windows – buildings like the Picture House and the Stute... Wives of the officers and committee members of the Stute who owned sewing machines got together and stitched like fury until the job got done. Quite a lot of this sewing took place in the front room of my home, Dad being the Secretary of the 'Stute at that time.*

Jean Trigg (Lucas), ganwyd ym 1930,  
merch Ysgrifennydd y Stiwt, William Henry Lucas.

Jean Trigg (née Lucas), born in 1930,  
daughter of the Institute's Secretary, William Henry Lucas

*They were Bevin Boys that had never seen a piece of coal. They'd come straight out of university. We had a lot of boys living with us from Bristol and one butcher in Cefncemp. Our first Bevin Boy was from Pembrey and we, my friend and I, we were getting off the bus up by the Institute and my next-door neighbour was outside by the bus stop and she said "Your Bevin Boy have come". And we were so thrilled, my friend and I. "He got ginger hair and freckles". He was a lovely lad, but he went. After they did three or four weeks they'd send them to different coal mines. I went out with a Bevin Boy for well over a year, he was a Londoner, he was studying law... And then I married a Bevin Boy. My husband was a Bevin Boy. He was used to manual work. He wanted to go into the Navy as a sea cadet, but his mother wouldn't let him volunteer. But if you didn't volunteer, when your call up number came, you had to go where they put you. So, he had to go, to the Bevin Boys.*

Sylvia Cook, Oakdale, ganwyd ym 1928.  
Sylvia Cook, Oakdale, born in 1928.



Above:  
Bevin Boys at  
Oakdale Colliery,  
October 1944.

Left:  
The Nissen hut  
accommodation  
for Bevin Boys in  
training at Oakdale  
Colliery. The camp  
was nicknamed the  
'Oakdale Hotel'.

The Institute played an important role during the war. In June 1939 the Lesser Hall was used for the reception of evacuees. During Christmas 1940 a free matinee was shown in the Picture House for all children as a plan to cater for evacuees. The War Services Fund also made use of both the Lesser Hall and the Picture House for dances and concerts to raise money for the war effort. In October 1941 a dance was held to raise money to send medical supplies to Russia. The Picture House showed public information films on war matters such as rationing and civil defence.

**WAR HAS STARTED:  
paint is purchased to darken the windows.**

Nodyn o Lyfr Cofnodion Stiwt Oakdale, 18 Medi 1939.  
An entry from the Oakdale Institute Minute Book, 18 September 1939.

### BEVIN BOYS

The Institute was used by non-members during the Second World War, particularly the Bevin Boys – posted to work in the colliery to help the war effort. They were named after Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour & National Service during the war, who announced in 1943 the plan to draft men to work in the coal mines.

Oakdale was one of the training centre for Bevin Boys, the only one in south Wales. The 'boys' received four weeks training above ground then another four with an experienced miner underground before starting as a colliery worker. Some stayed at the Oakdale Colliery barracks and others lodged with local families. They received a mixed reception in Oakdale, and as they were not members of the Institute, the Games Committee decided that they should pay three pence per cue for a game of billiards.

## OAKDALE YN YSTOD Y RHYFLOEDD



*Funnily enough the saving of the Picture House and the Institute was the war. If there hadn't been those two facilities in the village, I don't know what would have happened, because we were inundated you see with displaced persons, evacuees, an army camp, Bevin Boys. And they all descended one after the other onto Oakdale.*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd ym 1920.  
Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born in 1920.



### 8 Mai 1945 – DIWRNOD BUDDUGOLIAETH YN EWROP

Dathlwyd cyhoeddi diwedd y rhyfel yn Ewrop yn y Stiwt gyda sioe brynhawn am ddim yn y 'Picture House' ar ddydd Sadwrn 12 Mai. Derbyniodd pob aelod o'r staff gyflog dwbl a dau ddiwrnod o wyliau. Fel rhan o'r dathliadau, gosodwyd goleuadau ac addurniadau y tu allan i'r Stiwt hefyd. Ar y nos Sul, daeth eglwysi Oakdale at ei gilydd i'r Picture House ar gyfer gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch y Fuddugoliaeth.

Yn ogystal â dathlu diwedd y Rhyfel, roedd 1945 yn garreg filltir bwysig yn hanes y Stiwt: roedd y ddyled i Gwmni Haearn a Glo Tredegar ar fin cael ei thalu. Ym 1946, cyhoeddodd Bwrdd Rheoli Stiwt Oakdale ei fod yn 'Flwyddyn Ddathlu'.

Dde:  
Trefn gwasanaeth Diolchgarwch y Fuddugoliaeth, 13 Mai 1945.

## OAKDALE IN THE WARS

*It was hard work working down the mine. And when you think of this, for an eight hour shift you only got a fifteen minutes meal break – that's all you got! It was damned hard work. And I've got every admiration for the Welsh people, for the work that they did down in the pits.*

*We weren't very popular with the locals. They had a horrible feeling that we were either conscientious objectors, which of course we weren't, or we'd come there to take away the jobs from their own kith and kin who were in the Forces. Not the case at all of course. But it was certainly an experience and one which I will never ever forget. It was wonderful.*

Warwick Taylor MBE, Harrow, 1939.



Chwith: Aduniad Bevin Boys Oakdale yn 2005.

Uchod: Is-lywydd Cymdeithas Bois Bevin, Warwick Taylor MBE yn plannu cerddinen yn y Goedfa Goffa Genedlaethol, Alrewas, 18 Ebrill 2004. Mae'r gerddinen yn cynrychioli'r holl fois Bevin fu'n gweithio ym meysydd glo Cymru.

Left: Oakdale Bevin Boys reunion in 2005.

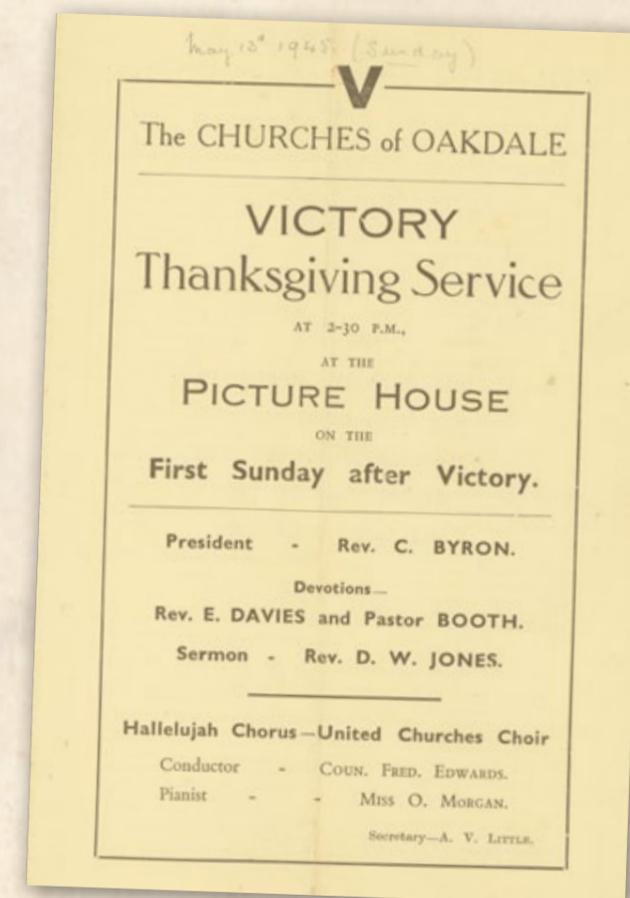
Above: Bevin Boys Association vice-president, Warwick Taylor MBE planting a mountain ash tree at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, on 18 April 2004. The mountain ash represents all Bevin Boys who worked in the Welsh coalfields.

### 8 MAY 1945 – VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

The announcement of the end of the war in Europe was celebrated in Oakdale Institute with a free matinee in the Picture House on Saturday 12 May. All staff received double pay and two days holiday. As part of the celebrations, lights and decorations were also put up outside the building. On the Sunday evening the churches of Oakdale came together in the Picture House for a Victory Thanksgiving service.

As well as marking the end of the war, 1945 was also a major milestone in the history of Oakdale Institute: the debt to the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company was about to finally be paid off. The Oakdale Institute Board of Management announced that 1946 was 'Celebration Year'.

Right:  
Victory Thanksgiving order of service, 13 May 1945



# CHANGING TIMES IN OAKDALE

*You know everything went at once. They closed the pit and we thought the end of the world had come, and then they took the 'Stute...*

Margaret Doreen Page (Peggy), Oakdale, ganwyd ym 1924.

Margaret Doreen Page (Peggy), Oakdale, born in 1924.



## TRO AR FYD YN OAKDALE

### 1960au: NEWID AR DROED

Yn y 1960au, dechreuodd bywyd ym mhentref Oakdale newid ac ymhen amser, roedd y Stiwt wedi newid hefyd. Ehangwyd y pentref a chyda dyfodiad y teledu a'r car i gartrefi, nid oedd y Stiwt mor ganolog ym mywyd hamdden y pentrefwyr. Moderneiddiwyd Glofa Oakdale hefyd pan newidiwyd y peiriannau weindio o bŵer stêm i drydan. Ym 1960 roedd y lofa'n cyflogi 1,900 o ddynion ac yn cynhyrchu 477,000 tonnall y flwyddyn.

### 1970au: BUDDSODDI YN OAKDALE

Yn y 1970au hwyr a'r 1980au cynnar, buddsoddodd y Bwrdd Glo Cenedlaethol £23 miliwn ym moderneiddio pyllau glo Oakdale. Cysylltwyd Glofa Oakdale



â phyllau glo Arkham a Celynen North. Cyflwynwyd ffyrdd newydd o godi glo i fyny'r siafft, ac adnewyddwyd offer dan ddaear ac ar yr wyneb. Cyfrifiaduron oedd yn gwneud y gwaith o fonitro'r broses o gynhyrchu a chludo glo erbyn hyn. Roedd y Bwrdd Glo yn amcangyfrif bod 22 miliwn o dunelli o lo yn Oakdale o hyd. Fe'i hystyriwyd yn un o byllau glo hirhoedlog maes glo de Cymru.

Uchod:  
Cryw o lowyr, Glofa Oakdale, 1981.

Chwith:  
Bwrdd trefnu'r gweithwyr, Glofa Oakdale, 1980au.

Dde:  
Tocyn lamp Glofa Oakdale.

Above:  
Group of miners, Oakdale Colliery, 1981

Left:  
Oakdale Colliery manpower deployment board, 1980s.

Right:  
Oakdale Colliery lampcheck number.

### 1960s: ALL CHANGE

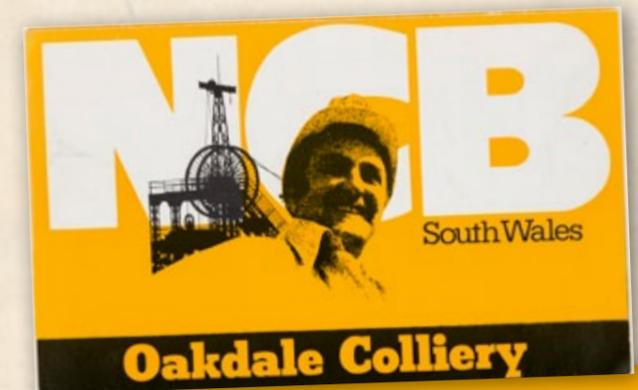
During the 1960s village life in Oakdale started to change, and the Institute changed too. New housing was built, and with the introduction of the television and cars the villagers spent less of their leisure time at the 'Stute. Oakdale Colliery was modernized, when the winding engines were converted from steam power to electricity. In 1960 the colliery employed 1,900 men and produced 477,000 tons a year.

### 1970s INVESTMENT IN OAKDALE

In the late 1970s and early 1980s the National Coal Board (NCB) invested £23 million modernizing the Oakdale complex. They linked Oakdale Colliery with the collieries at Markham and Celynen North. They introduced new ways of raising coal up the shaft, and renewed underground and surface plant. The monitoring of coal production and conveying was now done by computers. The NCB estimated there were 22 million tonnes of coal reserves in Oakdale. It was regarded as one of the South Wales Coalfield's long-life collieries.



Glofa Oakdale, 1960. Oakdale Colliery, 1960.



Following the publication, in 1973 of **PLAN FOR COAL**, a massive capital investment programme was launched by the National Coal Board, aimed at securing the nation's vital energy supplies well into the next century. For South Wales alone, over £100 million was earmarked for major modernisation projects; to streamline long-life pits; to locate and log new coal reserves; to create new mines and to link established neighbouring pits into single, high-production units - Britain's guarantees in a fuel-hungry future!

This colliery is one of those involved in this massive programme.



## TRO AR FYD YN OAKDALE

### 1984-5: AR STREIC

Yn y 1980au cynnar roedd y Bwrdd Glo yn bygwth cau llawer iawn o byllau glo ledled Prydain. Ym mis Mawrth 1984, dim ond 13 o gyfrinfeydd yr undeb bleidleisiodd o blaid streic a 18 yn erbyn. Er bod Oakdale yn cael ei ystyried yn bwl 'cymedrol' gyda dyfodol da, pleidleisiwyd o blaid y streic. Cyfrinfa Oakdale oedd y gyntaf i gasglu bwyd. Tyfodd y fenter honno'n Gronfa Fwyd Gwent a gasglodd £750,000 yn y pen draw. Dim ond pedwar dyn dorrodd y streic yn Oakdale.

Dirywiodd aelodaeth y Stiwt, er gwaethaf ei droi'n safle trwyddedig gyda phum bar a theledu. Er mawr siom i lawer o bobl leol, daeth yn gyrchfan poblogaidd ar gyfer disgos, partion a gigs. Daeth cwynion gan y Cyngor am lefelau'r sain. Ni lwyddwyd i achub y Stiwt, Y Llyfrgell a'r sinema. Caeodd y drysau am y tro olaf ym 1987.



*When you opened the 'Stute now for a dance on the Saturday, if you weren't there by eight o'clock, you wouldn't get a chair in the big hall, no way. And the steward there, he added excess staff in to go by the two bars each side like, you know, because they couldn't cope. But it done alright out of that. The first night we took nearly four thousand pounds, that's in old money now mind. And of course, we used that to pay for debts and all that like, you know.*

*And we were working half past five 'till quarter to twelve. We'd come up the pit then. We used to go to the 'Stute, and this steward would have them all lined up on the bar, waiting for us to come in. I'd be there 'till half past three, I'd go home half cut.*

David Jones

Chwith:  
Tocyn Dawns  
Galan, 1980au.

Dde:  
Cyfrifon yn dangos  
enillion wythnos  
Clwb a Stiwt  
Oakdale, 1984.

Left:  
New Year's Eve  
Dance ticket, 1980s.

Right:  
Accounts showing  
a week's takings for  
the Oakdale Club  
and Institute, 1984.

WFE 10th March 1984 Income	
Box Takings	1748.106
Snuff Machines	363.000
Snooker Receipt	41.000
Pool Receipt	26.300
Bingo (Sunday) 1/4/84	6.110
" (Wed)	12.200
" (Fri)	17.720
" (Sat)	-
Use of Hall (Maggie's Club)	5.000
Bingo (Kiddie)	1.170
Door Takings (Mun Hall)	47.450
Door Takings (Ladies Hall)	23.100
Sunday Night Late 1/4/84	11.250
Chaque Changing Charges	3.450
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2306.74</b>



### 1989: CAU GLOFA OAKDALE

Yn wahanol i hanes y Stiwt, daeth adferiad rhyfeddol i ran y lofa ar ôl y streic a llwyddodd i gynhyrchu 120% o'r allbwn disgwylidig o fewn mis i ddechrau gweithio eto. Yn ystod wythnos olaf mis Ebrill 1986 cynhyrchodd y lofa fwy o lo nag erioed o'r blaen, sef 21,071 tonn o lo golosg. Roedd ganddi 1,400 o weithwyr ym 1986. Ond ym mis Awst 1989 caewyd y lofa gan gwmni Glo Prydain a chollwyd 873 o swyddi. Glofa Oakdale oedd y pwll glo dwfn olaf ar waith yng Ngwent.

## CHANGING TIMES IN OAKDALE

Right:  
Yvonne McDonald, aelod o grŵp gwagedd Oakdale, yr 'Oakdale Wives Support Group' yn gwisgo crys-t 'Don't Let the Bastards Get You Down Arthur' yn ystod streic 1984-5.

Below:  
Un o'r bariau ar ôl i'r Stiwt gau.

Right:  
Yvonne McDonald, Oakdale Wives Support Group, wearing a 'Don't Let the Bastards Get You Down Arthur' T-shirt during the 1984-5 strike.

Below:  
One of the bars in Oakdale Institute after it had closed.



*They put bars in there ... and that was the worst thing that ever happened to the place. They had a bar where the Reading Room used to be; they had a bar down in the Billiard Hall; they had a bar upstairs in the dance hall... It wasn't the same place as I remember when I was growing up. You learnt to respect those sort of places ... but when it went into a pub, I think that was the downfall of the Institute.*

Peggy Page, Oakdale, ganwyd 1924.

Peggy Page, Oakdale, born 1924.



### 1984-5: ON STRIKE

In the early 1980s the NCB threatened mass pit closures across Britain. In March 1984 only 13 union lodges voted for strike action and 18 against. In spite of Oakdale being regarded as a 'moderate' pit with a good future, it voted in favour of striking. Oakdale Lodge was the first to collect food. That initiative grew into the Gwent Food Fund which eventually collected £750,000. Only four men broke the strike in Oakdale.

Membership of the Institute declined, despite converting it into licensed premises with five bars and a television. To the dismay of many locals, it became a venue for discos, parties and gigs. It received letters of complaint from the Council for excessive noise levels. It seems that nothing could be done to save the Institute, Library and cinema. The doors closed for the last time in 1987.

### 1989: OAKDALE COLLIERY CLOSES

Unlike the Institute, the colliery made a remarkable recovery after the strike and obtained 120% of expected output within a month of starting back. In the last week of April 1986 the colliery produced a record 21,071 tonnes of coking coal. The workforce in 1986 numbered 1,400. But in August 1989 the colliery was closed by British Coal with a loss of 873 jobs. Oakdale Colliery was the last deep mine to work in the County of Gwent.

ALAMY © D.T. WALKLEY/AMGUEDDFA CYMRU - NATIONAL MUSEUM WALES



# Y STIWT YN SAIN FFAGAN

## Y STIWT YN SYMUD I SAIN FFAGAN

Ym 1987 caewyd drysau Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale yr am y tro olaf ac fe'i prynwyd gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Islwyn. Lluniwyd cynllun i ddymchwel y Stiwt a'r sinema gyfagos a chodi cartref gofal yn ei le. Roedd Sain Ffagan yn digwydd bod yn chwilio am neuadd gyhoeddus. Ym 1987, cynigiwyd y Stiwt i'r Amgueddfa a ddwy flynedd yn ddiweddarach, datgymalwyd y Stiwt a'i symud i Sain Ffagan. Ni symudwyd y sinema drws nesaf am eu bod yn teimlo y byddai'n rhy fawr ar gyfer safle'r ailgodi. Er gwaethaf y dirywiad, roedd gan genhedlaeth hŷn Oakdale deimladau cymysg ynghylch symud y Stiwt:



Lori'r Amgueddfa tu allan i'r Stiwt ym 1989.  
The Museum's lorry outside the Institute in 1989.

*It's been a wonderful place. I was a councillor at the time when it was taken from there, and I'll be honest and truthful, we had a hard time, we were chastised over it. But did we want to see it filling up a hole somewhere? No we didn't. I was only too glad that it was taken down to St Fagans, because it's there for people to see years after. I can say to my grandchildren and great grandchildren, 'That was in Oakdale, that was where the 'Stute was'*

John Evans, Oakdale, ganwyd 1943. John Evans, Oakdale, born 1943.



Aelodau o Uned Adeiladau Hanesyddol Sain Ffagan yn datgymalu'r Stiwt ym 1989. Cafodd y cerrig eu rhifo cyn datgymalu'r Stiwt.

Members of St Fagans Historic Buildings Unit dismantling the Institute in 1989. Stones were numbered before dismantling.

# THE 'STUTE AT ST FAGANS

## THE 'STUTE MOVES TO ST FAGANS

In 1987 the Institute closed its doors for the last time and the buildings were acquired by Islwyn Borough Council. Plans were made for their demolition so that the site could be developed for sheltered housing. Coincidentally, this happened at a time when St Fagans was actively looking for a public hall. In 1989 the Institute building was dismantled and transported to the Museum. The neighbouring cinema was not acquired as it was considered too large for the proposed site. Despite its decline, the removal of the 'Stute left Oakdale's older generation with mixed feelings:



Y Stiwt ar hanner y gwaith datgymalu.  
The Institute being dismantled.

*When I took my mother to St Fagans, my mother sat on the floor upstairs in the dance hall. It was her ninetieth birthday, and she said 'Leave me by here'. And she sat in the room all on her own and then her memory came over, I could see it, I could see it there sliding, the expression on her face, you know. I left her there and come out from there because it had so many memories for her, so many memories, it was unbelievable.*

John Evans, Oakdale, ganwyd 1943. John Evans, Oakdale, born 1943.



*It was really a question of which do you need the most: an old people's residence for the ageing community or a derelict community centre you can't afford anyway... The fact that St Fagans were very pleased to have the chance to take it and to rebuild it faithfully was the main thing... I mean they numbered every stone, didn't they, when they took it away. But it was quite a sad moment all the same when you see something which is almost the heart of the village being torn away...*

Ralph Thomas, Y Coed Duon, ganwyd 1920.  
Ralph Thomas, Blackwood, born 1920.

## Y STIWT YN SAIN FFAGAN

### SEREMONI AGORIADOL Y STIWT YN SAIN FFAGAN, 14 HYDREF 1995

Dechreuodd y gwaith o ailadeiladu'r Stiwt yn Sain Ffagan ym 1992, ac fe'i hagorwyd i'r cyhoedd dair blynedd yn ddiweddarach ym 1995. Trwy lwc, roedd modd ail-greu'r ffenest liw wreiddiol uwchben grisiau'r Stiwt, roedd ffenest arall yn ei le erbyn 1987. Darganfuwyd un llun du a gwyn oedd yn dangos mymryn o'r ffenest, ac roedd hwnnw'n ddigon i allu ail-greu'r gwaith plwm. Llwyddwyd i ail-greu'r lliwiau trwy atgofion cyn-lanhawraig. Agorwyd yr adeilad yn swyddogol gan y Gwir Anrhydeddus Neil Kinnock, cyn AS dros etholaeth Bedwellte, cartref gwreiddiol Oakdale.

### ADUNIAD Y GLOWYR

Cafodd cyn-lowyr Oakdale a'u teuluoedd aduniad adeg angladd y Farwnes Thatcher ar 17 Ebrill, 2013. Yn ystod streic 1984-85, roedd y glowyr a'u teuluoedd yn dibynnu ar barseli bwyd a gyfrannwyd yn lleol. Yn rhan o'r aduniad, a gynhaliwyd yng Nghlwb Rygbi Oakdale, daeth cyn-lowyr a'u parseli bwyd eu hunain i'w cyfrannu at fanc bwyd lleol.

### DATHLU CANMLWYDDIANT Y STIWT

Ar ddydd Sul 10 Medi 2017, dathlwyd canmlwyddiant y Stiwt i gyfeiliant Band Arian Oakdale. Ymunodd tua 90 o bobl yn y parti gan gynnwys dros 60 o bobl o'r gymuned; y gwirfoddolwyr a gynorthwyodd gyda rhoi trefn ar y Llyfrgell a chyn-aelodau staff Sain Ffagan oedd yn gyfrifol am symud yr adeilad yma.

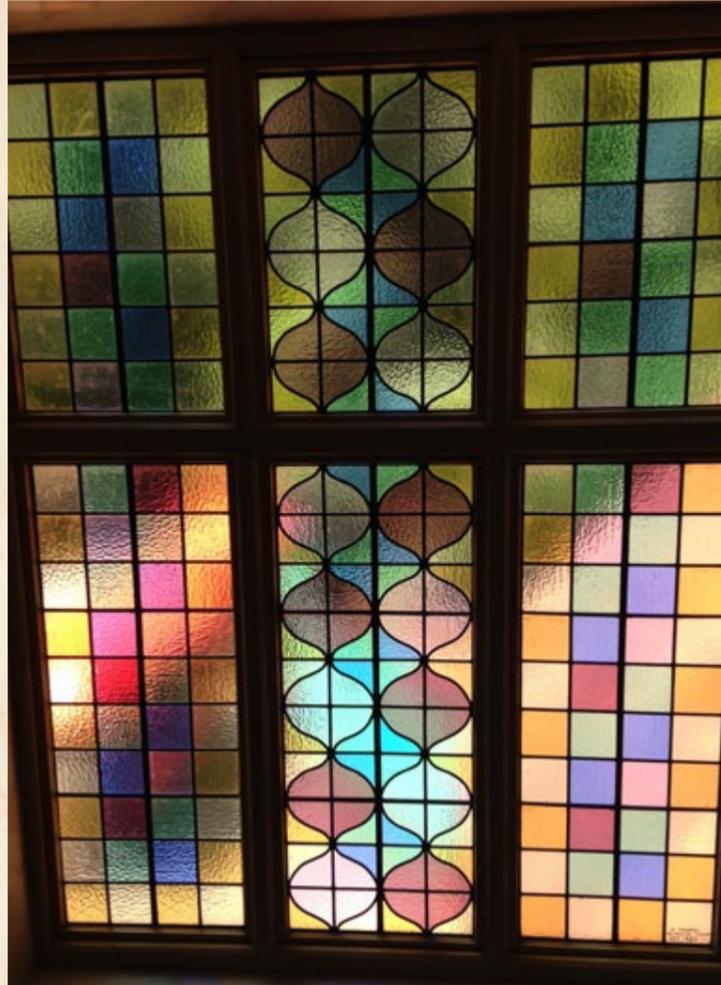
Gyda'r cloc o'r chwith:

Y ffenest liw wedi ei hail-greu o gof.

Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Neil Kinnock yn agor Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale yn Sain Ffagan ym 1995.

Gwyneira Wanklin, Oakdale, yn torri'r gacen ben-blwydd.

Aelodau o Grwp 50+ Insole Court yn catalogio llyfrau'r llyfrgell.



Clockwise from top left:

The colours of the stained glass window recreated from memory.

The Rt Hon. Neil Kinnock opening the Institute at St Fagans in 1995.

Gwyneira Wanklin, cutting the 'Stute's birthday cake.

Members of Insole Court 50+ Group cataloging the library books.

## THE 'STUTE AT ST FAGANS

### OPENING CEREMONY OF REBUILT INSTITUTE, 14 OCTOBER 1995

The work of rebuilding Oakdale at St Fagans started in 1992, and it was opened to the public in 1995. Fortunately, it was possible to recreate the coloured glass window seen above the staircase, as it had been replaced by 1987. A black and white image was discovered that showed a glimpse of the window, and this was enough to establish the pattern. The colours were reproduced from the memory of a local woman who worked there as a cleaner. The building was officially opened by the Rt Hon. Neil Kinnock, former MP for the constituency of Bedwellty, within which Oakdale was situated.

### MINERS REUNITED

Former Oakdale miners and their families marked the funeral of Baroness Thatcher by holding a reunion on 17 April 2013. During the strike of 1984-85, the miners and their families relied on local donations of food parcels. As part of the reunion, held at Oakdale RFC, the former miners brought in their own food parcels to donate to a local food bank.

### CELEBRATING THE 'STUTE'S CENTENARY

On Sunday 10 September 2017, Oakdale Workmen's Institute celebrated its centenary to the accompaniment of Oakdale Silver Band. Around ninety people joined in the party, including over 60 members of the community, the volunteers that have helped get the Library in order and ex-members of St Fagans staff who were responsible for the relocating of the building.



# Y DYCHWELIAD

## MAWRTH 14-16, 2019



Ar ddiwedd y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, sefydlwyd pwyllgorau cymunedol ledled Cymru i godi arian i groesawu dynion lleol yn ôl o faes y gad. Daeth neuaddau pentref a sefydliadu gweithwyr yn ganolbwynt i ddathliadau'r Cadoediad a heddwch. Cynhaliwyd Dawns Fuddugoliaeth i ddathlu diwedd y rhyfel yn Stiwt Oakdale ym 1919.

I nodi canmlwyddiant y ddawns, cynhaliwyd perfformiad *Y Dychweliad / The Return*

**Uchod:** Dathliadau'r Cadoediad yn Neuadd a Sefydliad Gweithwyr Abercynon, 1918. Trefnwyd y te parti i groesawu'r milwyr adref.

**Dde:** Baner a chwifwyd yn y Gendros, Abertawe, i ddathlu'r Cadoediad, 1918.

yn y Stiwt gan y cwmni theatr uchel ei bri, Re-Live. Bu'r cwmni'n gweithio gyda chyn-filwyr a'u teuluoedd, aelodau'r gymuned ac actorion proffesiynol i greu perfformiad unigryw.

Yn ogystal ag ail-greu dawns 1919, roedd *Y Dychweliad / The Return* hefyd yn rhannu straeon cyn-filwyr heddiw, a'u profiadau byw o ddychwelyd adref ar ôl cyfnod ar faes y gad.

# THE RETURN

## MARCH 14-16, 2019



At the end of the First World War, communities across Wales established 'welcome home; committees to raise funds to honour local men returning from the front. Village halls and workmen's institutes became focal points for Armistice and peace celebrations. A Victory Ball was held at the Oakdale Institute in early 1919.

To mark the centenary, the award winning theatre company, Re-Live,

**Left:** Armistice celebrations at Abercynon Workmen's Hall and Institute, 1918. The tea party was arranged to celebrate the homecoming of soldiers.

**Above:** A 'welcome home' banner flown in Gendros, Swansea, to celebrate the Armistice, 1918.

performed *Y Dychweliad / The Return* in the Institute. The company worked with ex-service personnel, their families, community members and actors to create a unique performance.

As well as re-imagining the 1919 ball, *Y Dychweliad / The Return* also shares the stories of ex-service personnel today and their lived experiences of returning home from war.

## Y DYCHWELIAD



### RE-LIVE

Ers 2015, mae Re-Live wedi bod yn gweithio gyda chyn-filwyr, teuluoedd a chymunedau ar raglen o'r enw 'Coming Home', gyda chymorth Cronfa Cyfamod y Lluoedd Arfog a Chyngor Celfyddydau Cymru. Nod y rhaglen yw pontio rhwng byd sifiliaid a'r byd milwrol trwy roi cyfleodd i gyn-filwyr a'u teuluoedd adeiladu cysylltiadau ag aelodau o'u cymuned trwy rannu profiad creadigol.



Ymarfer ar gyfer perfformiad Y Dychweliad / The Return.

Rehearsing for Y Dychweliad / The Return

*Mae nifer sylweddol o gyn-filwyr a'u teuluoedd yn byw gyda straen wedi trawma, anghenion iechyd meddwl nad ydynt yn cael sylw, ac unigrwydd. Gall cysylltiad parhaus gyda'r celfyddydau helpu i wella iechyd a lles, lleihau unigrwydd a meithrin cadernid. Bydd popeth rydym ni wedi'i ddysgu a'i wneud ers 2012 wedi'i blethu i'n cynhyrchiad diweddaraf. Rydym yn gobeithio y bydd Y Dychweliad / The Return yn cyfrannu at newid yng nghanfyddiad a dealltwriaeth y cyhoedd am y materion sy'n wynebu cyn-filwyr a theuluoedd sy'n ceisio dychwelyd i'w cymunedau wedi cyfnod mewn ardaloedd o ryfel o gwmpas y byd.*

Karin Diamond, Cyfarwyddwr Artistig Re-Live.  
Karin Diamond, Re-Live Artistic Director.

## THE RETURN



### RE-LIVE

Since 2015, Re-Live have been delivering an ongoing creative programme with veterans, families and community members called Coming Home, supported by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund and the Arts Council of Wales. The programme aims to bridge the gap between civilian and military worlds by providing opportunities for veterans and families to build connections with community members through a shared creative experience.

*There are significant number of veterans and families who are living with post-traumatic stress, unmet mental health needs and isolation. An ongoing engagement with the arts can help to improve health and wellbeing, reduce isolation and build resilience. Our latest theatre production will be infused with all our learning and practice since 2012. We hope Y Dychweliad / The Return can bring about shifts in public perception and understanding about the issues facing military veterans and families transitioning back to their communities from conflict zones around the world.*

Karin Diamond, Cyfarwyddwr Artistig Re-Live.  
Karin Diamond, Re-Live Artistic Director.

*This project has saved me because it's given me something to look forward to, it's given me a purpose again. It helps me control my anxiety too. This is the one place I can come where I know I won't be judged.*

Cyn-filwr ac aelod o 'Coming Home'.  
Veteran and member of 'Coming Home'.

## Y DYCHWELIAD THE RETURN

Menig lledr a wisgwyd gan Thomas Hillier yn nawns fuddugoliaeth Catrawd Gwirfoddolwyr Mynwy, a gynhaliwyd yn y Neuadd Ymarfer, Stow Hill, Casnewydd ar 22 Ionawr 1919.



Kid leather evening gloves worn by Thomas Hillier at the Monmouthshire Volunteer Regiment victory ball, held in the Drill Hall, Stow Hill, Newport on 22 January 1919.

*Rydym yn hynod falch o fod yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â Re-Live. Gweledigaeth Amgueddfa Cymru yw ysbrydoli pobl a newid bywydau. Rydym ni'n credu y gall gweithio gyda'n cymdeithas, gan furw gwreiddiau dwfn yn y cymunedau o'n hamgylch, weddnewid bywydau pobl. Mae proses greadigol Re-Live yn mynd â phobl ar daith weddnewidiol ac yn rhoi llwyfan i'w stori.*

*Roedd Y Dychweliad / The Return yn berfformiad unigryw i'r safle, yn ail-greu Dawns Fuddugoliaeth y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf a gynhaliwyd yn Sefydliad y Gweithwyr Oakdale ym 1919. Ffilmwyd y perfformiad i'w archifo yn rhan o'r casgliadau cenedlaethol a'i ddangos yn y Stiwt. Caiff ymwelwyr y dyfodol wyllo darnau o'r perfformiad, a phrofi'r adeilad dan ei sang unwaith eto â'r straeon a gaiff eu hadrodd.*

*Rydym yn ddiolchgar i Gronfa Cyfamod y Lluoedd Arfog am eu nawdd a'u cefnogaeth hael i'r project creadigol a phwysig hwn.*

Sioned Hughes, Ceidwad Hanes ac Archaeoleg, Amgueddfa Cymru.

*We are delighted to have worked in partnership with Re-Live. Amgueddfa Cymru's vision is to inspire people and change lives. We believe that socially engaged practice that is rooted in the needs of the communities that we serve, can transform people's lives. Re-Live's creative process takes people on a transformative journey and places their story centre stage.*

*Y Dychweliad / The Return is an unique site specific performance that re-imagines the First World War Victory Ball held at Oakdale Workmen's Institute in 1919. The performance has been filmed and archived as part of the national collections. This will enable future visitors to St Fagans and Oakdale Workmen's Institute to view parts of the performance, breathing new life into the building and the stories it tells.*

*We are grateful to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund for generously supporting and funding this creative and important project.*

Sioned Hughes, Keeper of History and Archaeology, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

re-live  
everyone has a story to tell

# THE RETURN Y DYCHWELIAD



A RE-IMAGINING OF A WW1 VICTORY BALL  
THAT WAS HELD IN OAKDALE WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE IN 1919.  
AN IMMERSIVE LIFE STORY THEATRE PERFORMANCE FEATURING  
EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL, THEIR FAMILIES, ACTORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

AIL-GREU DAWNS FUDDUGOLIAETH Y RHYFEL BYD CYNTAF  
A GYNHALIWDYD YN SEFYDLIAD Y GWEITHWYR OAKDALE YM 1919.  
PERFFORMIAD THEATR YMDROCHOL GYDA CHYN-FILWYR, EU TEULUOEDD,  
ACTORION AC AELODAU'R GYMUNED.

OAKDALE WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE, ST FAGANS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY  
SEFYDLIAD Y GWEITHWYR OAKDALE, SAIN FFAGAN AMGUEDDFA WERIN CYMRU  
14-16 MARCH/MAWRTH 2019 Time: 7.30pm  
TICKETS/TOCYNNAU: [www.museum.wales/stfagans](http://www.museum.wales/stfagans) [www.amgueddfa.cymru/sainffagan](http://www.amgueddfa.cymru/sainffagan)

## Gyda diolch arbennig i:

3ydd Bataliwn y Cymry Brenhinol, Barics Maendy  
Cymdeithas Alzheimer, Ystrad Mynach  
Cynllun Grant Cronfa Cyfamod y Lluoedd Arfog  
Coleg y Celfyddydau, y Dyniaethau a'r Gwyddorau Cymdeithasol, Prifysgol Caerdydd  
Project DEEP (Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project)  
Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Genedlaethol  
Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Genedlaethol  
Cangen Trecelyn – y Lleng Brydeinig Frenhinol  
Canolfan Gymunedol Oakdale  
Partneriaeth Gymunedol Oakdale  
Cymdeithas Hanes Oakdale  
Cartref Gofal Oakdale Manor  
Band Arian Oakdale  
Re-Live  
Solace – Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro  
Ysgol Gynradd Rhiw Syr Dafydd

---

## With special thanks to:

3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh, Maindy Barracks  
Alzheimer's Society, Ystrad Mynach  
Armed Forces Covenant Grant Scheme  
College of Art, Humanities and Social Sciences, Cardiff University  
Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project  
National Centre for Learning Welsh  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Newbridge Branch of the Royal British Legion  
Oakdale Community Centre  
Oakdale Community Partnership  
Oakdale Historical Society  
Oakdale Manor care home  
Oakdale Silver Band  
Re-Live  
Solace – Cardiff & the Vale University Health Board  
Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School

