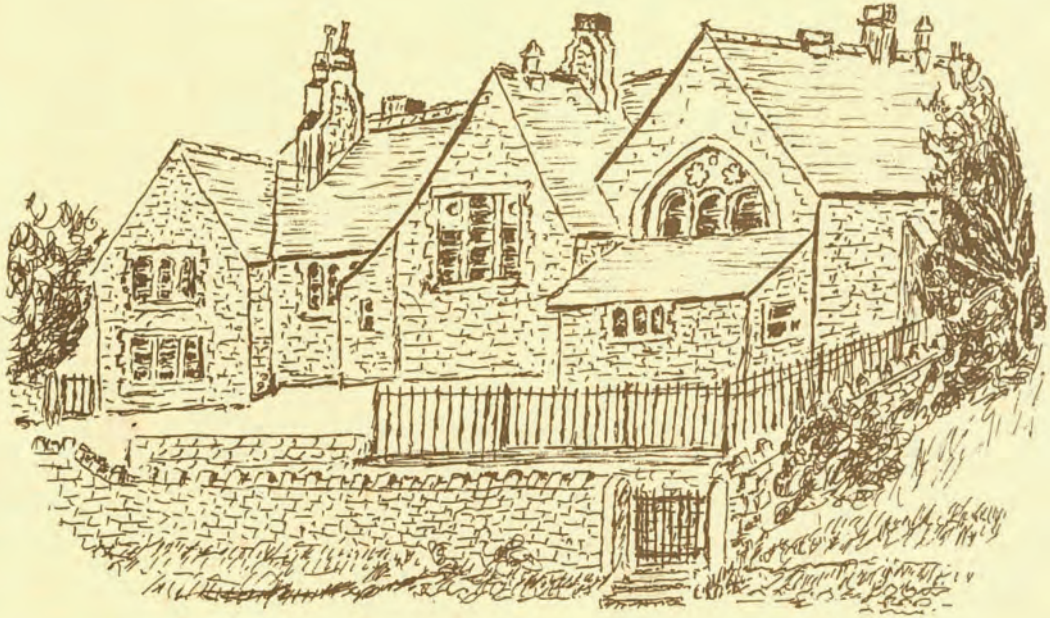
LLYSFAEN — OUR VILLAGE

JOAN M. DAVIES

PART 1. THE SCHOOLS



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JOAN M. DAVIES

MISS L J ROBERTS
PLAS HELYG
DOLWEN
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Rhagair

Ganwyd a magwyd Mrs Joan Davies yn Llysfaen, ble bu'n byw drwy gydol ei hoes hyd at ddwy flynedd yn ôl, pan symudodd hi a'i gŵr i Landdulas.

Bu'n ddisgybl yn Ysgol y Cyngor, Penmaenrhos, yn Ysgol Ramadeg Abergele, ac yna fe'i hyfforddwyd fel athrawes yng Ngholeg Hyfforddi Coventry. Ar ôl dysgu yn Winsford, Sir Gaer (a dychwelyd adre bob penwythnos), priododd Elfyn Davies, hefyd o Lysfaen, a gadael dysgu i godi teulu.

Tra oedd eu dau fab, John a David, yn yr ysgol, aeth Joan yn ôl i ddysgu, gan wneud gwaith llanw a rhan amser ar y cyntaf, ac wedyn, ar ôl derbyn Gradd mewn Addysg ym Mangor, ymgymeryd a swydd llawn amser gyda'r Gwasanaeth Anghenion Arbennig Teithiol.

Yr haf diwethaf, ar ôl cymeryd ymddeoliad cynnar, penderfynodd Joan wneud rhywbeth ynglŷn âg ysgrifennu rhan o hanes Llysfaen, cyn i'r hyn a oedd erbyn hyn ddim ond yng nghof pobl leol fynd i abergofiant am byth i genedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Mae'r gwaith yn amlygu rhai agweddau tra diddorol o'r "dyddiau a fu", ac mae Joan yn cyflwyno mynegiant o hanes y pentref sydd ag ôl cryn waith ymchwil arno. Mae hwn yn lyfr i'w fwynhau!

Tony Jones (Prifathro)

Foreword

Mrs Joan Davies was born and brought up in Llysfaen, where she has lived all her life, until two years ago when she and her husband moved to Llanddulas.

She attended Penmaenrhos Council school, Abergele Grammar School, and trained as a teacher at the City of Coventry Training College.

After teaching in Winsford, Cheshire (and returning home each weekend) she married Elfyn Davies, also from Llysfaen, and left teaching to raise a family. When their two sons, John and David were both at school she went back to teaching, at first doing supply and part-time work, then after gaining a Degree in Education at Bangor, working full-time with the Peripatetic Special Needs Service.

This work highlights some extremely interesting aspects of 'days gone by' and provides a well-researched historical account of the school.

A most enjoyable book.

Tony Jones (Head Teacher)

To Elfyn
for all your patience and support

Acknowledgements

The writer wishes to acknowledge the help given by The County Records Office, Ruthin and the permission given by Mr A. Geoffrey Veysey, County Archivist, to reproduce the map on page 1, and the plan on page 41. Also to thank H. Tempest Ltd of Nottingham, School Photographers, for their permission to reproduce the photographs of children taken since 1952.

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* * *

As many of you will see in the following pages it has not been possible to include all the photographs which have been lent to me. I propose to have copies made of all of these, including the 1925 one of the whole school which is nearly twenty inches long, and which is going to provide Bill with a challenge. The copies will be safely kept in the School's collection of photographs.

If I have missed anyone from my list of thanks please accept my apologies now. Everyone has been so kind and supportive I have been almost overwhelmed. I have wanted for years to write down as much of the history of Llysfaen as I could, so having taken early retirement last year have taken this opportunity to do so. I will be pleased to accept any help in the form of documents, photographs or information for any future writing. Thankyou for buying this book!

— Joan M. Davies, 17 Ffordd-y-Graig, Llanddulas.

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THOMAS.Ven.D.R.M.A.,F.S.A. The History of the Diocese of St Asaph. The Caxton Press, Oswestry 1909.

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Headmasters of Llysfaen School

John Henry Jones, from April 21st, 1871

R. H. Williams, from May 2nd, 1873

John Richard Roberts, from March 20th, 1876

Joseph Roberts, from August 11th, 1884

Thomas Owen, from August 7th, 1891

Hugh Hughes, from January 15th, 1894

J. M. Roberts, (Temporary appointment), from May 11th, 1914

John Tegla Jones, from August 31st, 1914

Llewelyn Hywel Edwards, from September 1st, 1950

Gareth Vaughan Davies, B.Ed., from January 9th, 1967

Berwyn Morris, M.Ed., from September 6th, 1977

Anthony Jones, B.Ed., from September 3rd, 1981

Neville Eynon, B.Ed., Acting Headmaster from September, 1985 to August 1986, and from September 1991 to present day.

The Background to education in Llysfaen

In the year 1729 the Rural Dean, Thomas Wynne wrote of Llysfaen, "They have no Charity School, The Rector petitioned your Lordship for leave to keep a school in his Parish, which he did for a little while, but has since dropt it." At the time movements for the education of the poor in Wales sprang from religious motives, Edward VI and Elizabeth I had ordered the clergy to teach their parishioners to read and write, but if the clergy were indifferent nothing was done. There was a big Inquiry into the state of education in Wales in 1847 which describes Llysfaen as "A detatched portion of the County of Caernarvon, although locally it is situated in Denbighshire." (see map, p.1). "It contains 697 inhabitants, some of whom are employed upon the limestone quarries with which the Parish abounds, and others are farmers or farm labourers. The only school in the area is Llanddulas Girls' School which has 27 girls and 7 boys."

The Rev Llechid Jones, Rector of Llysfaen from 1915 to 1934, writes, "The site of the old school was by the Yew (tree), nearly opposite the present Church Porch." This would suggest it was built within the present Churchyard, and later demolished when it was no longer needed.

Frank Roberts tells us that the old Sexton, John Jones told him of the finding of the foundations of an old building around the present Chapel of Rest (which was then a Hearse House). Perhaps the Chapel of Rest was part of this building, or perhaps the stones from it were used to build the Chapel of Rest?

Miss L. A. Roberts who now lives near Prestatyn tells us that her father went to an old school in Llysfaen, and as he was born in 1858 he would have been too old to attend the present 'old school' for his three years of formal education.

Many of the adults and children attending the sunday Schools would have learnt to read Welsh there, using the Bible as a textbook.

It would seem that the first Headmaster expected the children to have had some education before the opening of the school in 1871 as he comments in his early days at Llysfaen, "The reading and English of the whole School is very backward, extra time and pains must be taken by the teacher to remedy this evil as soon as possible." If they had all never had any lessons at all he would surely have said so.

It is interesting to notice how often lack of learning is referred to as an evil in the eyes of the educational reformers of the time. They seem to have considered lack of book learning synonymous with ignorance misery and the breakdown of law and order. Learning was the key to enlightenment and a better way of life. They do not seem to have taken into account the hard lives of most of the working class, or the struggle they had to keep body and soul together.

Ysgol Llysfaen, 1871-1992

In his book, "The History of the Diocese of St Asaph," the Ven D. R. Thomas tells us that "Fine new schools were built and opened on April 21st, 1871, by John Henry Jones Esq., Headmaster." (The schools referred to are the Infant School and the Mixed School, we would call them Infant and Junior Departments).

The old Main Entrance to the School, and the flight of steps leading up to it seem to have made a lasting impression on many ex-pupils. Many of them, no matter what their age can remember the feeling they experienced when using them for the first time.

(The steps must have been worn down over the years as close inspection shows where they have been repaired).

It is the smell of stewed tea that reminds some ex-pupils of the old days, as cans of tea, cocoa, or soup would be lined up round the fire in the Winter when it was too cold to walk all the way home for dinner.

"The cost of £1,700 was donated by the same benefactors who contributed to the Church restoration, aided by grants from the Woods and Forests, the National Society, and the Education Department. The chief contributors were: Mrs Williams-Wynn, Cefn; R. B. Hesketh Esq., Gwrych Castle; Bishop Short; J. Lloyd Wynne Esq., Coed Coch; J. T. Raynes Esq., and Henry Kneeshaw Esq."

The school was called a National School, and it undertook to teach the religious principles of the Anglican Church. National Schools depended upon voluntary subscriptions and school fees for their funds, and were anxious to relieve misery and ignorance in the interest of law and order.

(There would seem to be an unexplained difference of dates here, as the date on the Title Deed of the land on which the school was built is September 2nd, 1871). The land was given by Richard Roberts of St Asaph, "That any buildings erected thereon should be used as a school for the education of

children and adults, or children only, of the labouring, manufacturing, and other poorer classes in the parish of Llysfaen."

The three Trustees were Rev Richard Owen Hughes, Rector of Llysfaen; Robert Bamford Hesketh of Gwrych Castle; and James Trevelyan Raynes of Rockferry and Llanddulas. A committee was set up to see to the running of the school. They were the three above gentlemen plus: John Lloyd Wynne, Coed Coch; Thomas Owen of Tyn-y-Coed, farmer; John Rees of Tŷ Mawr, farmer; John Templeton of Llanddulas, Quarry Agent; Henry Kneeshaw of Penmaenmawr; and Charles Frost of Tanllwyfan, (now Colwyn Manor). These Committee Members had to contribute 'at least ten shillings' to the funds of the school. A Secretary was to be elected to keep the minutes of meetings, and a ladies committee, of not more than three, was to be elected each September, 'to help in the visitation and management of the Girls and Infants schools.

John Trevelyan Raynes, Esq. (old Mr Raynes) one of the original benefactors of the school.

The Headmaster must have had a most traumatic time organising the school and coping with the constant stream of visitors. He had one Assistant, a candidate pupil teacher, and a Moniter to help him as far as we can see from the Log Book. The Rector, Rev. R. O. Hughes visited daily, and other early visitors were Mrs Capt. Thomas, Mrs Fielding, Mrs Hesketh of Gwrych Castle, and the Rector's wife. "They appeared well Pleased with the school." Mrs Wynne of Cefn, Mrs Capt. Hughes, and Mrs Howe also visited, (the more senior members of the church will remember Mrs Howe coming to services in her chauffeur-driven car. She often wore a large fur coat, and sat in a large wooden armchair by the font.)

When the school opened in April 1871 the Headmaster writes in his Log Book that he had some difficulty arranging the classes, and that 'much time was devoted to drill'. We are not told how many children were there that first day but by May 5th the number was one hundred and twenty five. We can picture how things were in those early days, with over a hundred children of all ages from five to thirteen. They would be all shapes and sizes, some willing some not, never being used to being organised into classes, and certainly not used to sitting in rows and being still and quiet. Few, if any, would be able to read or write English, and many would be able to see little point in being able to do so.

In June of that year the Head was becoming very worried about the lateness of some of his pupils, and it was decided to lock the door at 9.15 and 2.10 p.m.

Another worry for the Head was the practice of many parents to keep their children off school for setting potatoes, weeding turnips, haymaking, and general harvesting.

When July 25th came Mrs Hesketh and Mrs Wynne gave a Tea Party for all the children and their mothers, and 'about 200 sat down.' In the evening a Grand Concert was given for the benefit of school funds, (does that sound familiar?) and over £11 was raised.

Mr & Mrs Raynes, and The Lord Bishop of St Asaph with several friends, joined the regular stream of visitors, everyone being well pleased with what they saw, and on August 18th the school closed for the Summer Holidays, until September 11th, that is 3½ weeks.

At this time the size of the grant of money for schools like Llysfaen was awarded on the 'Payment by results' method. Weekly examinations in Reading, Writing and Arithmatic took place and the results were recorded. On September 18th Standards 1,2 & 3 had 65 passes in the 3Rs and £13 was claimed. Anyone who was 'dull, or unapt to learn' was excluded from these figures. The Headmaster's salary would have been based on these results too.

By November heat was needed in the school, so the children brought their 'coal fees' and the fires were lighted. The big open L shaped room was heated by open fires, so children sitting at the back of the classes must have been very cold. The Infants room had not yet been built, nor had any of the partitions

been erected, and as there were not yet any Secondary Schools, the Infants and six Standards, children from five to thirteen would be all in there together. Teaching them must have been very difficult, and 'individual attention' in short supply.

Although schooling was at this time compulsory it was not free until 1891. Fees were usually 2d or 3d a week. When wages were so low, and families so big, this must have been a great burden on parents. If they failed to send their children to school they would be summonsed.

Many people today are surprised to learn that the education given in schools at that time was entirely in English, in spite of the fact that many of the children spoke only Welsh. There are various reasons for this, the local gentry, the quarry owners, and most of the more sophisticated visitors to the area would be English, but the strongest reason of all, and the one which has made Welsh blood boil ever since, is what came to be known as "Brad y Llyfrau Gleision", (The Treachery of the Blue Books). In 1846 three Commisioners came to Wales to assess the state of education. They were no doubt able men in their own circles, but having been educated at English public schools and universities they knew nothing about English working class people and even less about Wales. "To them it appeared that Wales was sunk in ignorance and sin." "The Welsh language," they said, "is a vast drawback to Wales, and a manifold barrier to the moral progress and the commercial prosperity of the people. It is not easy to overestimate its evil effects." The remedy seemed obvious, schools in which English would be taught efficiently, and Welsh eventually erradicated.

The various headmasters constantly complain in the Log Books that the children cannot do arithmetical problems. They seem to forget that it would be like asking an English-speaking child to work out problems in French or German, without being familiar with the language. The speaking of only English does not seem to have been so ruthlessly persued in Llysfaen as in some villages in Wales. The children were allowed to speak Welsh in the playground, and no evidence can be found of a "Welsh Not", or of fines and punishments for speaking their own language, as in many schools.

The Headmasters also complain constantly in the Log Books about the parents lack of interest in education. This is hardly surprising, as apart from the more ambitious parents, they would see little relevance in the whole process, and would prefer to have the older children at home to help with the work, especially if that was to be their future role in society.

Teachers at Llysfaen school in those days were expected to be regular communicants at their local church, and if possible to teach in Sunday School. The first Headmaster seems to have been Organist and Choirmaster as well, and on January 30th, 1973 he received notice to quit for having neglected his

duties. He protests bitterly in the Log that this was due to *Bronchitis*, but on April 30th he left, to be replaced by R. H. Williams.

On August 13th a Holiday was given for the funeral of the Rector, Rev. R. O. Hughes, thus one of the main founders of the school was gone. The New Rector, Rev. Samuel Evans, visited the school to give Scripture lessons to the higher standards and to help with the reading. The school would be glad of any help as the staff consisted of the Headmaster, a Pupil teacher, and a part-time Sewing teacher, this with over a hundred pupils.

Government inspectors visited annually, and one, comments that "The Registers should always be marked in accordance with the time specified in the Time-table." "The plea of want of aquaintance with the children's names cannot be recognised as a valid reason for the non-observance of this rule." The school had another new Headmaster on March 20th, 1876, and he undertakes "To mark the Registers Punctually and adhere accurately to the time-table."

There were two celebrations in September 1878, one was "A tea-party and fete followed by fireworks in the evening, in honour of the majority of Mr E. Wynne, Cefn," and the other was "The wedding of Miss Hesketh, and Lord Cochrane."

On June 21st, 1887 it was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. "The school children mustered in the playground, to the number of 187, where each received a medal. They then marched round the base of the hill carrying flags and singing the National Anthem & a Jubilee song. They made a short stay at the Rectory, and after singing again they marched to Church where a service was held. In the afternoon a substantial tea was given to them all, after which there were Sports etc etc."

In 1887 also a Committee was formed to see to the Management of the school and its financial affairs. Their Minute Book and Cash Books can be seen in the County Archives at Ruthin. The School and School House at the time were insured for £1,500. The Committee does not seem to have much success increasing the number of local gentlemen subscribing to the funds. "Mr Henry Lupton undertook to speak to some of the Railway officials with a view of explaining the financial position of the school generally, and to inform them that if the Railway Co and other Ratepayers do not help it will be impossible to maintain the school and the inevitable result will be a School Board, which will be much more costly to the Ratepayers." The Committee was also worried about the habit of "approximately thirty children leaving school at 11 o'clock each day to carry dinners to their parents at work." The time was to be changed to 11.30 instead.

This Committee had to see to the paying of teachers salaries as well. These were paid quarterly, and the money required in 1888 reads:-

"Mr Roberts, £6:5:0, Mrs Roberts, £6:5:0, T.M.F. Roberts, £3:10:0, Cath A. Williams, £0:19:6. Thus providing Mr Roberts and his family with £16:0:0

quarterly." They thanked Mr Parry Jones, Pen y Geiffos, for carting coal for the school and schoolhouse free from Colwyn station. On May 29th, 1889 we read: "Rev S. Evans died this morning, no school for the rest of the week. Funeral Saturday."

Concern was increasing for accommodation for the increasing number of children, including 64 Infants. In 1892 plans were passed for building a new Infants classroom on at the back of the school, (the same one which was used until recently), and by February 28th, 1894 it was built.

This new Infants room was complete with a Gallery, which is remembered by older ex-pupils. It was a wooden structure, similar to a football terrace, which covered about half the present room. It was the full width of the room and went up in big wooden steps on which the children sat in rows, with their slates on their knees for writing lessons. The Gallery was removed in 1912.

When the new Infants classroom was being built Thomas Owen was Headmaster of Llysfaen School. Mr Owen was Grandfather to Mr Neville Owen of Prestatyn, who was Musical Director of Côr Meibion Colwyn for several of their very successful years. His Grandfather was at the School for two and a half years which must have been sad ones for him as he had a lot of family illness, and his wife died after a severe bout of influenza, leaving him with three little daughters.

In January 1894 Hugh Hughes became Headmaster and stayed as Head until 1914. He is remembered by several of our more senior ex-pupils. An entry in the Log Book for June 28th, 1895 reads, "No school on Friday and Monday owing to death of Master's little boy." He was to loose another son, this time grown-up, in the war of 1914-1918.

In May 1896 we find the first of very many entries in the Log Books about the lack of ventilation in the school. An Inspector writes "No provision for the escape of vitiated air exists; a roof ventilator is required."

(In June, 1897 the school was closed for one week for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee).

The next year, "Inlets for fresh air which do not produce draughts, & a Boyle's air pump on the ridge of the building are necessary to secure satisfactory ventilation."

1899 seems to have been quite an eventful year for the children. In June Barnum & Bailey's show was in Llandudno, and many pupils took time off to go and see it. A decision was made to build new cloakrooms, and a half-day Bazaar was held at Highlands in aid of school funds. The next year they had Tea and Sports to celebrate the relief of Mafeking, in May, and by August 31st the new Cloakrooms were in use and the "children quite delighted with them." The Specifications for these Cloakrooms still exist, they seem to have been just for hanging coats and hats, there was no water or washbasins.

The photograph below was taken about 1899. It was the custom at the time to photograph the children in large groups of between 30 and 40. The groups would not be arranged in classes, but would be picked so that all the members of one family would be in the same group, the writing on the slate would say 'Llysfaen School, Group I', 'Llysfaen School, Group 2,' etc, but would have no date. This custom is mentioned in the Log Book as early as 1887.

The Headmaster is Hugh Hughes, who came to Llysfaen school in 1894. The three boys on the back row in similar jackets are Roberts brothers of the generation previous to the present Roberts brothers of Pen y Graig. The boy on their left is Nat Evans who was later to be killed in the quarry, and on his left is John Lloyd, later Grandfather of Mrs Kate Williams, and Mrs Susannah Roberts.

The boy holding the slate lived in Plas Llewelyn.

In those days the school Inspections were very important. The children and the teachers would have to satisfy the Government Inspectors who visited at least once a year, and the Diocesan Religious Inspectors from St Asaph. Certificates for Religious Knowledge were awarded to the pupils, and this practice continued for many years, the latest in the writer's possession being for June 1967. In the early days a half-day holiday was given after the Inspection.

This picture was also taken about 1899, comparing it with the one on the previous page it could perhaps have been taken on the same day.
The back row, from the left are:- Martha Jones (Pattie); Nellie Ffoulkes, Pupil Teacher; a grand-daughter of Berth-y-Glyd Farm; —; Hugh Jones Tŷ Pen's brother, Owen; —, Pen-y-Graig son; son of Groesonnen; another grand-daughter of Berth-y-Glyd;
Next to back row:- Maggie Williams, Bryn Siriol; Elizabeth Roberts (Mrs Kyffin's sister); Cytiwria Roberts; son of Groesonnen; Uncle to Harry Roberts; —; —; —; —; Florrie and Lisa Edwards, Bron Hwylfa; —; —;
Next to front row:- Davis, Llanefydd; Davies, Llanefydd; Davies, Llanefydd; —; —; —; —; Davies, Llanefydd; —; —; —; —; Mertha or Gwladys Roberts; —;
Front row:- —; Hugh Tŷ Pen's brother; —; Davies, Llanefydd; —; —; —; Bet Evans; —; Maggie Jones, Gwynfaen.

At about this time the Managers decided the remuneration for cleaning the school was to be raised from £4 to £7 a year, and that the floor was to be washed once a week, and swept and dusted daily.

Water would have been obtained from a pump in the yard which raised water from a well, and all 'sanitary and other arrangements' were external. The well is still in the yard, now covered over.

The date of this photograph, and the names of the children are unknown, but Mrs Grace Evans who was a pupil at the school many years ago thinks the teacher may be a Miss Jones of whom the Infants were very fond, and who used to grow bowls of crocuses on the window ledges every year. This was a very unusual thing to do in those days.

At that time many of the lessons would be 'Object lessons.' An interesting object or a picture of it would be brought in by the teacher and the children would draw about it & write about it — where it came from, what it was used for and so on. In 1897 we find Mr Lupton (of Kneeshaw — Lupton Quarry) making enquiries in Liverpool for a suitable cupboard in which to keep the Objects. We wonder if this is the same cupboard remembered by many ex-pupils which housed among other things an Ostrich egg with a leather strap round it? Object lessons were given on such subjects as: "Coal", "Glass", "Salt", "Paper Making", Cotton Mills", "House Building", "The Post Office", "Clothing", "The Four Seasons" & "The Railway".

In September 1901, lessons were started in 'Physical Drill, as per Model Course'. The main difficulty with these lessons was lack of space. "The Elementary design, which has pleased the children very much," was also introduced, but it is not clear from the Log book what this actually was.

By the year 1903 the number of children on roll was approaching three hundred, and there were seven members of staff. We wonder what the class arrangements were? The large L-shaped room was not yet partitioned, but the room which was lately the kitchen seems to have been used as a classroom.

This picture was taken around 1903. The Head is still Hugh Hughes. The children are as follows:

Back row, from the left:- Headmaster's son; Lewis Owen and Robert Charles Davies, Isallt; Jones, Bodryfedd; —, Pentregwyddel; Emlyn Williams' mother; —; —; —;

Headmaster; Griff Roberts; Hughes, Groes Onnen; Head's son; Prys Evans; — Jones; Tommy Jones; Plas Llewelyn brothers; —; —;

John Hugh Evans; — Jones; Idwal Roberts; —; —; Cytiwra Roberts; —; —;

Next to front row:- Robert Roberts; —; Maggie Jones, Gwynfaen; Cytiwra's brother —; Mary Catherine, Groes Onnen; —; —;

Tudur Hughes, Head's son; William Owen Evans; —; Nancy Evans; —; —; —;

In 1903, according to the Managers' Minutes, "It was resolved that the Managers in turn attend the Schools each month to check the Registers, the Secretary to advise them in due course." The Managers also decided the rates of pay for teachers at Llysfaen, the rate in 1904 being £45 p.a. this was the same as Lancashire and Yorkshire at the time.

In this photograph the little boy holding the slate is the writer's father, Robert Read Thomas. His brother Edward is at his left, his sister Annie is behind him, and his brother John is to the left of the boy with the striped jumper. John, as the elest son had to leave school at 12 and go to work in the quarry. The date of this photograph is about 1905.

The Thomas family lived at the time in "Chwarel Goch", which was a collection of quarry cottages, demolished many years ago during one of the improvements to the A55. They were situated opposite "Bay View", just within the parish of Llysfaen, so the children had a long walk to school in all weathers. Miss Leach, who will be remembered by many ex-pupils, came to Llysfaen school.in 1904.

On February 7th, 1906, the School was closed for a whole day, due to the opening of the new Wesleyan Chapel on Bwlch-y-Gwynt Road. (This Chapel later became a factory, and is now demolished).

Although Llysfaen was a Church School there does not seem to have been much in the way of 'anti-Chapel' feeling there. The School was closed for Chapel events just as much as Church ones, and when half-holidays were given on Religious Festivals such as Ascension Day no evidence of pressure to attend Church services has been found.

In 1907 we find in the Managers' Minutes that, "In future the term Church of England is to be applied to the Schools in place of National." This remained so until 31st March 1920, when the Church in Wales was Disestablished from the Church of England.

Needlework for the girls was a very important part of schoolwork. As children then were not expected to be educated above their station in life, and as frugality was considered to be a virtue in the lives of the working class, they would be taught to make garments, to patch and darn and to knit socks. (The writer's mother was able to 'turn a heel', at a very early age).

Teachers could obtain a special qualification to teach only Needlework and this would enable them to seek employment in either day or evening schools.

Alternatively any school mistress could undertake the task, we even read in the Log Books, "The ladies from the Rectory came in to help with the Sewing class."

Materials for the sewing class were provided by the school, "And the garments when complete, sold at cost price to the parents or other persons."

(Fifty years ago girls in Junior schools were still being taught how to patch sheets, darn socks and knit dishcloths, while the boys had what seemed to be much more interesting lessons in drawing and gardening. In some Junior Departments the boys even had lessons in elementary Geometry and Algebra.)

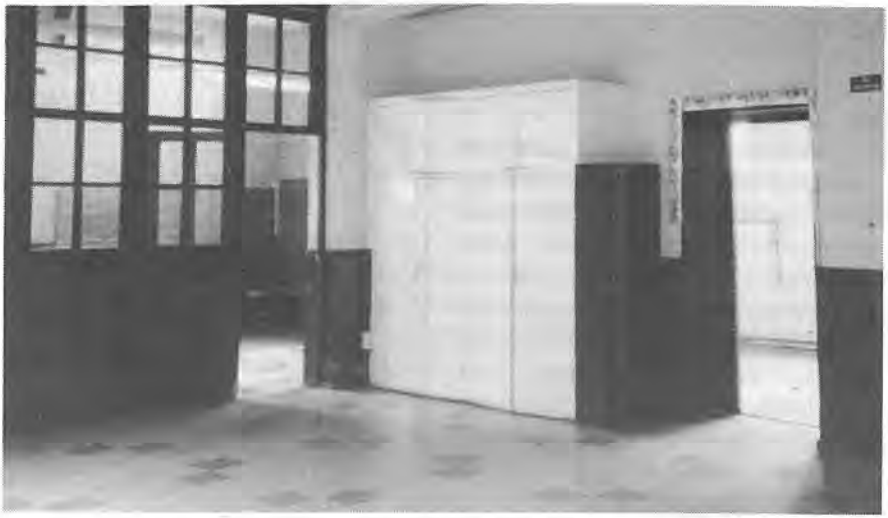
The School Managers at the time had a great deal to say in the financial management of the school, (L.M.S.?). They had a Correspondent and Secretary, who each received £10 per annum, and a school Manageress called Miss Palin, to prepare School Accounts and Balance Sheets.

The School House was available for the Headmaster and his family, but they were not obliged to live there. If they lived there rent had to be paid. In 1903 this was 6/- per week.

Then, as now, classroom accommodation was calculated in 'square feet per child'. For example in 1909 the Infants room, at 10 square feet per child was big enough for 57 children, 'or 62 sitting down'.

In 1909 we read the Annual Grants were as follows:-
"Mixed, (150), 22/- £165; Infants, (53), 17/-, £45:1:0; Fee, (203), 10/-, £101. Total, £311:11:0."

The school was inspected every year and a report sent to the Board of Education in Whitehall. In 1912, when Llysfaen was still part of Caernarfonshire, the Inspectors felt it was time to replace the Galleries with 'suitable desks or Kindergaten tables.' They also urged the provision of a screen to divide the large L-shaped room into two sections. These two improvements were carried out that year. In the picture below the partition can be seen, also the 'little room', which has been a classroom, staffroom, Head's room, and kitchen.



Another important development which was being mentioned in correspondence was the building of a new Council School at Penmaenrhos. This school was opened in May 1914, and 38 children were withdrawn from the Llysfaen registers to attend the new school. Many went because it was new, some because it was not a Church School, and many because they lived nearer to it. Gradually many of the 38 returned, some because it was too far to walk, and some because 'the smell of the new paint was getting on their stomachs.'

The school was now becoming better equipped. They had 65 new dual desks, 5 high chairs for the Staff, 2 cupboards for stock, 1 cutting-out table, 1 new easle, 2 new blackboards, and in 1917 gardening classes were started. On July 9th the first new potatoes were harvested. Each Winter during the War the school seems to have been very cold and short of coal. In January 1917 the children were sent home because the rooms were at freezing point.

The picture below was taken about 1918.
Back row, from left:- Frank Smith, —; Bob Williams; Trefor Jones; Hughie Edwards; —; —; —; —;
Nancy Hughes; Bet; —; Kitty Hughes; Annie Evans; Nellie Pritchard; Kate Lloyd.
—; —; Mary Ellen Roberts; Harriet Parry; —; Hugh Williams; Shadrach;
Front:- John Williams; John Roberts, Dolwendy; Richard D. Roberts; David Davies; Isaac Hughes; Cyril Evans; David Jones.
The teacher is Miss Grace Hughes, later Mrs Evans, mother to Gwenllian and Charles.

The First World War was now over and Mr H. R. Parry had returned to school after four and a half years in the army.

Over forty local young men, most of whom would be ex-pupils of the School were killed. Many of them were related to children in the school. Their names can be seen on the War Memorial in the Church Yard.

There is little mention in the Log Books of the end of the first World War, or of any particular celebrations to mark it.

Llysfaen Juvenile Prize Choir

Winners at fifteen Eisteddfodau, (including the Denbighshire County Eisteddfod held at Colwyn Bay, 1921) July 9th, 1921. The numbered names and addresses are on the opposite page. They were carefully written on the back of the original photograph by Mr Emlyn Williams.

October 29th, 1920.

"In May and June last Messrs Dutton, of the National Business College, Skegness, organised a competition in Dutton Shorthand for children attending Schools in the British Isles.

The following report appeared in the Dutton Shorthand Magazine for October 1920.

First Prize: £1:1s, Gwyneth Mary Jones, aged 14, Llysfaen School, Colwyn Bay.

Second Prize: 10/6, Nellie Jones, aged 13, Llysfaen School, Colwyn Bay.

Prizes of 5/- Evelyn Williams, 13, and Ellen Davies, Llysfaen School.

Two Special Prizes of 2/6, Bamford Williams, aged 11, and Barbara Jones, aged 11, both of Llysfaen School.

Scholarships, (A free Correspondence Course), All the above prize-winners and Emlyn Williams also of Llysfaen."

"We must specially mention the work of the children from Llysfaen School, their papers giving evidence that they had been very carefully trained by a concientious teacher. The two papers sent in by the two eleven-year-olds would have done credit to many an adult correspondence student."

1. Evelyn Williams, Ty'n Llan. (Mrs Jones)
2. Ella Edwards, Park Row (Mrs Rogers)
3. Olive Evans, Ty'n Llan (Mrs Williams)
4. Edith G. Roberts, Gwynfryn Terr.
5. Nillie Vaughan, Pentregwyddel Terr. (Mrs Pritchard)
6. Gwyneth M. Jones, Park Row (Mrs Emlyn Williams)
7. Kitty Hughes, Plas Farm.
8. Enid Evans, Maes y Fron Terr.
9. Margaret E. Jones, Maes y Fron (Mrs Hughes)
10. Hilda Jones, Y Geulan (Mrs Williams)
11. Winnie Jones, Plas Llewelyn (Mrs Jones
12. Dorothy Vaughan, Pentregwyddel (Mrs Pritchard)
13. Mary Myfanwy Jones, Tai Capel
14. Mary Cath. Hughes, Penmaen Bach
15. Ruth Fisher, Canol Marian (Mrs Fisher)
16. Kitty Hughes, Oaklands (Mrs Matthews)
17. Edith Davies, Fron Hyfryd (Mrs J. Williams)
18. Mary Cath. Jones, Bryn Defaid
19. Buddig Roberts, Wylfa Terr.
20. Vera Roberts, Bryn Golau (Mrs Harding)
21. Nellie Saunders, Bryn Awel (Mrs Pickering)
22. Gwenhwyfar Jones, Maes y Fron (Mrs Glyn Jones)
23. Annie Evans, Pentregwyddel Terr.
24. Winnie Williams, Ty'n Llan
25. Myfanwy Jones, Maes y Fron
26. Blodwen Jones, Maes y Fron (Mrs R. Roberts)
27. Myfanwy Jones, Y Geulan (Mrs H. Roberts)
28. Nancy Hughes, Llys Owen (Mrs R. Davies)
29. David Jones, Maes y Fron
30. John Roberts (Jun.) Dolwendy
31. Emlyn Williams, Bryn Llewelyn
32. Bamford Williams, Ty'n Llan
33. Thomas John Jones, Pant y Carw
34. Hughie Edwards, Fair Mount
35. Frank Smith, Bryn Onnen
36. John Edward Roberts, Fron Hyfryd
37. Tom Jones, Penmaen
38. Helena Williams, Bryn Onnen (Mrs Reed)
39. Barbara Jones, Park Row
40. Kyffin Jones, Maes y Fron
41. Cyril Evans, Ty'n Llan
42. William Williams, Bryn Onnen
43. Thomas Williams, Bryn Llewelyn
44. John Edmund Jones, (Accomp)
45. David Thomas, London House (Cond)
46. John Roberts, Dolwendy)
47. Thomas Davies, Penbedw Terr.
48. J. Tegla Jones, School House
49. Daisy Jones, Bodryfedd Terr. (Mrs Boyes)
50. Agnes Carruthers, Sea View (Mrs Thomas)
51. Lucy A. Roberts, Wylfa Terr.
52. Elizabeth Roberts, Bwlch y Gwynt
53. Agnes Roberts, Pen y Graig
54. Harriet Parry, Tŷ Gwyn
55. Blodwen Roberts, Tai Newyddion (Mrs Walters)

56. Enid Dicken, Bron y Llan (Mrs Jo. Evans)
57. Catherine Roberts, Glyndwr Terr. (Mrs Wms)
59. Margaret Lewis, Bryn Eithin (Mrs Davies)
60. Maria Jones, Maes y Fron
61. Chrissie Roberts, Pentregwyddel
62. Susannah Roberts, Pentregwyddel (Mrs Frodsham)

For the first fifty years or so of its use the school was closed for weeks at a time because of epidemics. The last time recorded in the Log Book was in Feb. 1925 when it was closed for two weeks due to a bad outbreak of 'Flu'. It was also closed for a total of eight weeks in 1918 when the Influenza outbreak was raging throughout Europe, and at which time so many people died. (See the soldiers' graves in the Marble Church Cemetery).

Other illnesses which caused the school to be closed, or affected children excluded from it were:- Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, 'Breaking out', Chillblains, Swollen faces, Scarlet Fever, Diptheria, Mumps, Typhoid (in the district), illness after vaccination against Smallpox (1903), Ringworm, German Measles, T.B., Scabies, Ringworm, Impetigo.

Several children and at least one teacher died from some of the above. In June 1914 we have a record of a four Gallon can of Carbolacene being brought up from Colwyn Station by the local coal merchant, Mr D. Evans. This was a very strong disinfectant, related to Carbolic Acid, and much used for its cleansing and fumigating properties.

As the years passed, and as circumstances improved illness does not seem to have had such a devastating effect, and the school not closed as a result. In the old days when closure was necessary the local Medical Officer had to be contacted by Telegram as there were no telephones available. Besides illness the school was closed over the years for odd days, for many reasons. These included:- Funerals, Trips, local Agricultural shows, Harvest Festivals, Tea Parties, G.F.S. Competitive Meetings, May Days, and in the very old days, for the collecting of Tithes.

A half-day holiday was also given for many years, after Annual Scripture Examinations, and on St David's Day after a Concert in the morning. School closed for Christmas, usually about December 23rd, with the distribution of oranges, nuts, sweets, and buns, cakes, or mince-pies. School Christmas Parties seem to have started in the 1950s, but Christmas Concerts before then are mentioned.

Education Office,
Caernarvon.
29th July, 1920.

Dear Sir,

Scholarships for Pupils in the Llysfaen and Penmaenrhos Area

I am directed to convey to you the following resolution adopted at a meeting of the Education Committee held today:- "Resolved that on the result of the County Entrance Scholarship Examination two Free Places annually be awarded to pupils attending Penmaenrhos or Llysfaen Schools, tenable at the Colwyn Bay new Secondary School."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) David Thomas.

A class in the early 1920s.

Top row, from left:- Wilfred Jones; Frank Smith; Isaac Hughes; John Williams; Herbert Jones; Cyril Evans; John Roberts, Dolwendy; David Roberts, Craigside;

2nd row:- Hugh Edwards, Penrallt; Blodwen Jones; Dolly Jones, Junction; Catherine Roberts; Lucy Roberts; Gwenni Jones; Ruth and Elsie Fisher; Robert Williams;

3rd row:- David Davies; Susannah Roberts; Rhoda Evans; Kitty Hughes; Nancy Hughes; Miriam Davies; Kate Lloyd; Annie Evans;

4th row:- Hugh Williams; Kyffin and David Jones; Trevor Williams; Isaac Jones; William Owen Williams; Richard David Roberts; —; Harold Roberts.

Extract from School Log Book, April 17th, 1923.

"On Sunday, the 1st inst, the Parish of Llysfaen severed its ancient connections with Caernarvonshire and became a part of Denbighshire, in accordance with the Counties of Caernarvon and Denbigh (Llysfaen) Order of 1922. (See map, page 1.)

A class in 1926.

Back row:- John Jones; Bob Roberts; Peter Jones; Stanley Jones; David Roberts; Gwynfryn (Bryn Du); John Jones (Pebi); Norman Roberts; Douglas Power.

Susannah Lloyd; Beryl Williams; May Williams; May Mainwaring; Lily Jones; Morfydd; Emma; Doris Hughes; Kitty; and Harriet Ann.

Hetty Green; Tommy; Ted Edwards; Olive Power; Gwerfyl; Daisy or Annie Tŷ Gwyn; Olwen Roberts; —; —; Jinny May; Nellie; Blanche; —; Gerwyn; Trefor Williams; Emlyn Parry; Meredith Roberts; —; Henry; Cynfran; Trefor Williams.

At this time important decisions were being made about the school building. Many repairs were needed, water closets were required, and coke-fired central heating was to be installed. Many fund-raising events were organised, including a Garden Fete and Bazaar at Plas-yn-Llysfaen.

Llysfaen Parish Church.

WELCOME.
My Friends, one and all.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
3d. each.

Garden Fête and Bazaar

To be held in the Old-World Grounds of

Plas-yn-Llysfaen

(Kindly lent by S. F. COOPER, Esq.)

Wednesday, July 27th, 1927.

Opening Ceremony at 2-30 p.m.

"There is Beauty all around."

H. & W. Powlson, Printers, Erw Wen Road, Colwyn Bay

"Attempt the end, and never stand in doubt,
Nothing's so hard, yet WILL will work it out."

Our Fete and Bazaar.

A FOREWORD.

THE OBJECT, briefly put, is to raise a substantial sum of money towards the Llysfaen Church Schools Repair Fund The demands made by the Board of Education for alterations and improvements to meet modern requirements are considered reasonable, and therefore cannot be disputed nor opposed In the interests of the 230 children on roll, the urgent necessity of proceeding at once with the work is recognised by all who are acquainted with the condition of our Schools

The total expenditure that will be incurred is estimated at £1,250, and we earnestly appeal to our Christian friends, who have the future welfare of children at heart and regard Church Schools as the bulwark of righteousness, for their sympathy and generous support in our efforts.

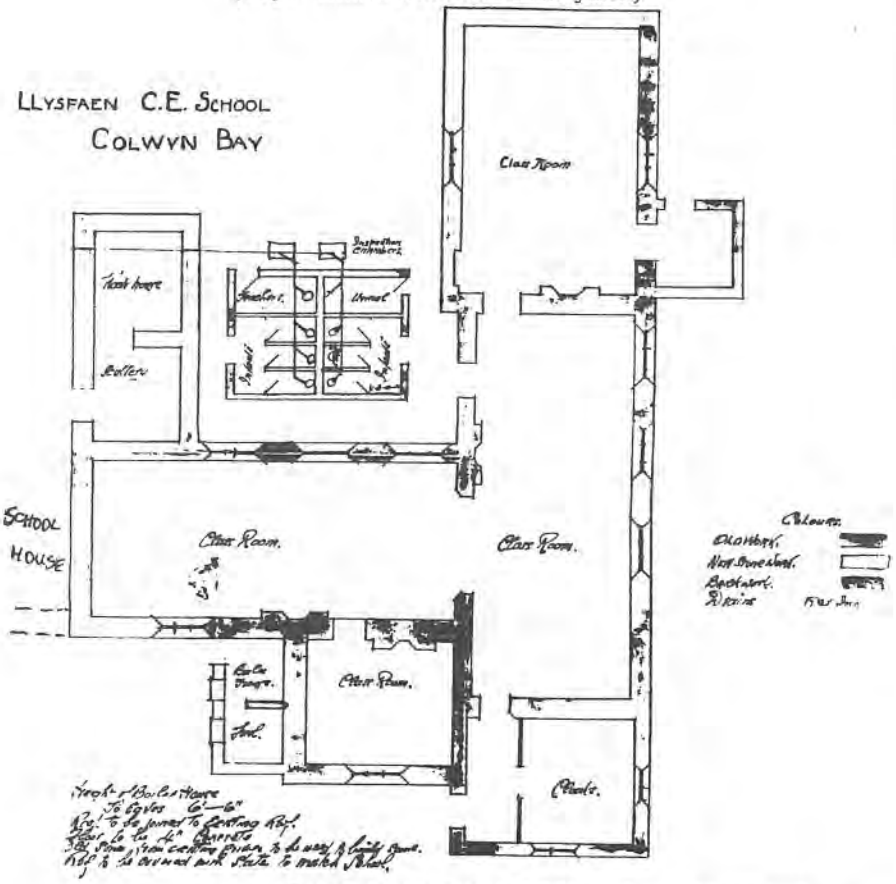
Extract from H.M.I. Report, December 1921.

"The roof of the infants classroom admits rain freely through the belfry and ventilating outlet. The ventillation is defective and draughty. There is only one cloakroom, measuring 12ft by 12ft for the 181 pupils on the roll of the Mixed Department, whilst the Infants cloakroom 8ft by 8ft, is too small for the 51 children attending. The offices which are too near to the school, are equally insufficient, (there are five closets in all for the senior pupils, and 3 for Infants), and there is no proper urinal for the boys.

The playground is so rough and even that it would be advisable to have a portion of it, immediately in front of the school, properly levelled, for Physical Exercises, and for assembling the pupils."

PLAN OF PROPOSED NEW GIRLS' TOILETS.

(Boys' urinals built down the yard.)



GROUND FLOOR PLAN Scale 8 Feet = One Inch.

Dressed stone from the old toilet buildings was used to build the new Boiler House, which saved money and helped the new building to blend in with the old.

Extract from school Log book, 29th June, 1927.
"The total eclipse of the Sun attracted some thousands of people to Llysfaen during the previous night and early this morning. The first contact took place at 5.30 a.m., total eclipse at 6.23½ a.m., (which lasted for about 22 seconds) and the final contact at 7.20 a.m. (Summer Time). Unfortunately the sky was cloudy, and visibility very poor."

Oct 11th, 1929.
"Electric Light has been installed in the School."

The Hadow Report of 1926 began the process of separating Primary and Secondary Schools.

School Log Book, Dec. 2nd, 1930.
"The school was closed in the afternoon on the occasion of the opening of the new Central School at Colwyn Bay."

Dec. 3rd. 1930:
"Out of 28 children expected to attend the Central School from this School only two left."

Dec. 8th:
"Six more children have left for the Central School."

Below is a picture of Mr J. Tegla Jones with some of his pupils about 1929.

Extracts from School Log Book.

In 1933 we have the first mention of an organised Sports Day at school.

July 26th, 1933.

"School Athletic Sports were held this afternoon at Bryn Dedwydd field, kindly lent by Mr Edward Jones. A large number of parents were present."

(Edward Jones was the father of Trevor Jones, one time Mayor of Colwyn Bay, and an ex-pupil of Llysfaen School.)

Then 31st August, 1933.

Mrs Nellie Foulkes relinquished her position today, as Supplementary Teacher at this School, owing to ill health. She had been a member of the Staff for 35 years.

Her husband, Gwilym Foulkes was a well known local musician and a Choirmaster for many years.

May 22nd, 1930.

"The Head Teacher today took a party of 9 boys and 12 girls on an educational visit to Bournville."

(This must have been quite an outing to contemplate in 1930. There would have been trains of course, but they would travel much more slowly than today.)

his school today. Miss Hill was formerly on the staff of the Boys School Llanddulas."

Jan 8th, 1934.

"Miss Elsie May Hill commenced duties at this school today. Miss Hill was formerly on the staff of the Boys School, Llanddulas.

16th June 1938.

"Three boys, David Llewelyn Roberts, Trevor Roberts, and Ifor Lloyd, represented this school at the ceremony of naming the railway engine "Colwyn Bay", which took place today at Colwyn Bay Station. The boys had received the full two hours secular instruction before leaving school at 11.15 a.m., under the charge of the Head Teacher."

June 20th, 1934.

"New lead pipes for water have been laid for School. While the work was in progress the School was closed for three days.

Sept. 20th, 1934.

The School was closed today (Thursday), until Monday next, on the occasion of the granting of The Charter of Incorporation to Colwyn Bay.

17th Oct. 1938.

"Mr Emlyn Roberts commenced duties today."

19th October, Dr McKendrick, M.O.H., visited the School today and Immunized 43 children against Diphtheria."

By this time there were regular Medical Inspections, and Immunisations, as

well as regular Dental inspections and treatment.

The Dental treatment seems to have been very unpopular indeed.

These two pictures are thought to have been taken on the same day, in about the year 1935.

Extract from School Log Book, 1st May, 1939.
"Extensive alterations have been made to the schoolyard. The surface has been levelled and covered with tarmacadam, and rocky places, which were a menace to the children's safety have been either removed or walled off. This much needed improvement will be a great boon and now the children will be able to have their P.T. exercises in the open air. The work was carried out by Messers Roger Hughes Ltd., at a cost of £220:5s."

Sept 5th, 1939.
"The School did not re-open today as was originally planned, owing to the outbreak of war. A circular letter has been received from the L.E.A. to the effect that all Elementary Schools in the County shall be closed for instruction until Monday, 11th Sept."

Following the threat of War, as early as June 1939, contingency plans had been made for the reception of Evacuees at schools in this area. It was suggested that a "double shift" system of education should be used if necessary to cope with the additional children.

In the event this did not happen in Llysfaen. The Ministry of Food was evacuated to Colwyn Bay during the War, and the Aucher Estate houses completed as quickly as possible to house many of the families. Some Evacuee families from Manchester were bilited with local people, and the children absorbed, more or less peacefully by local schools.

School hours during the Winter were changed to make as much saving as possible with heat and light, and school holidays could be changed to 'best suit the seasonal agricultural operations of each locality'.

In 1941 Mr Emlyn Roberts, Assistant Master, was called up to the R.A.F.

Extract from School Log Book, Feb. 25th, 1944.
"Miss L. Leach, who has served at this School since 5th September, 1904, retires on pension tommorrow."

With many parents involved in the war effort, the Government decided to make school meals into a general service, providing a balanced mid-day meal for all children. In 1944 Local Authorities were compelled to provide school meals for all children who needed them. They were to be suitable in all aspects as the main meal of the day at a nationally fixed price, and free to those who could not afford to pay.

Much correspondence followed before arrangements were made in Llysfaen.

In 1945 School dinners were started. They were brought in large metal containers from the Central Kitchen in Church Walks, and served in The Church House.

They continued to be served in the Church House until 1972 when the new Kitchen was made in school, at the time of the big improvement programme.

The end of the War was marked by parties and two days' holiday for the children, on V.E. day (victory in Europe), and the Church bells were rung again. They had been silent during the War as to ring them signified the landing of enemy Paratroopers.

A picture of the whole school taken on the Marian behind the school in 1946. The Teachers are Mr J. Tegla Jones, Headmaster; Mr Emlyn Roberts, returned from the R.A.F.; Mrs Hughes; and Mrs Olwen Jones.

In 1950, after 36 years as Headmaster Mr J. Tegla Jones retired to Anglesey. Mr Llewelyn H. Edwards became the new Headmaster. He lists the Staff and their classes as follows:-

to Anglesey. Mr Llewelyn H. Edwards became the new Headmaster. He lists the Staff and their classes as follows:-

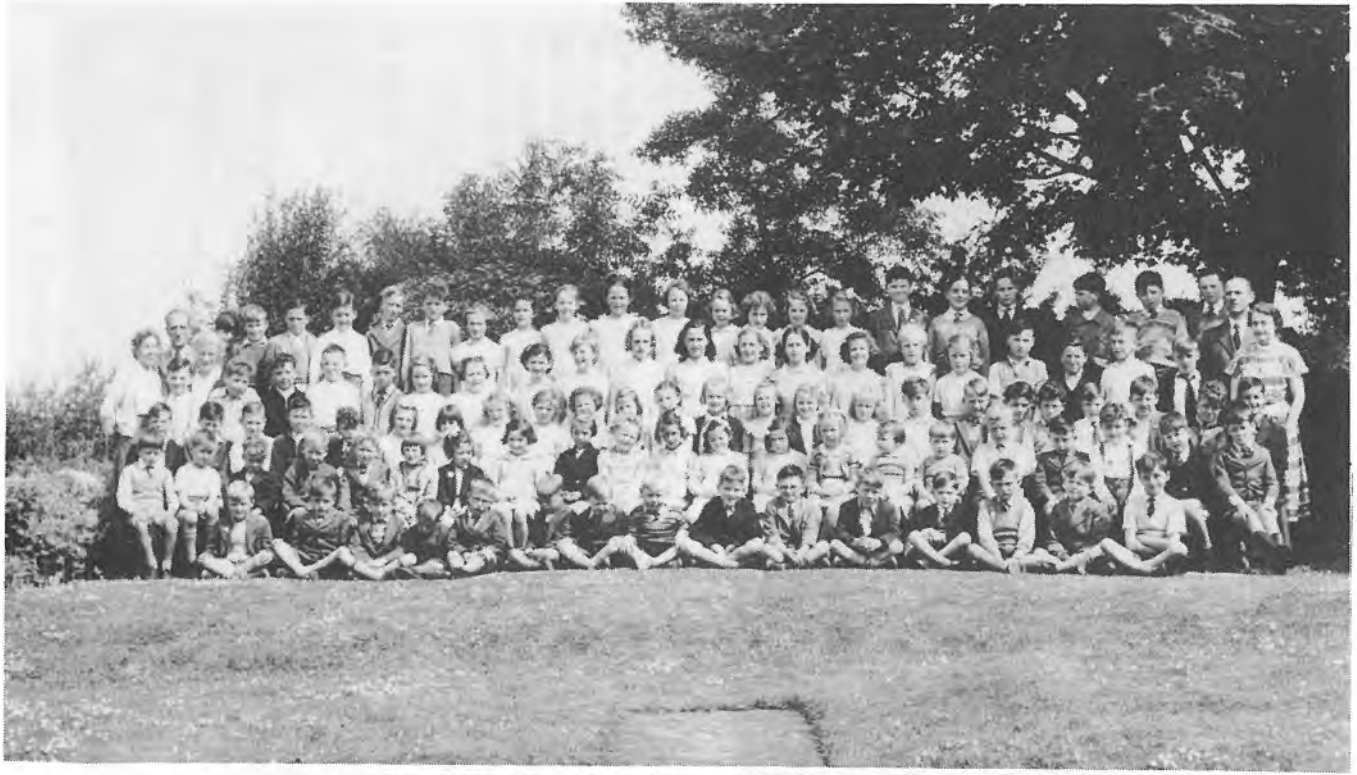
Std 4, Mr L. H. Edwards, 21 pupils,
Std 3, Mr Emlyn Roberts, 22 pupils,
Std 2, Miss Hill, 18 pupils,
Std 1, Mrs Hughes, 22 pupils,
Infants, Mrs Davies Jones, 27 pupils.
Total 110 pupils.

Mr John Power was School & Church House Caretaker, and remained so for years.

In 1951 the school received a consignment of new furniture, much of which was for the Infants room, and included Nesting Tables and chairs.

2nd June, 1953 was Coronation Day. The children were given several day's holiday, and there were many organised celebrations. There was a Televised viewing of the Coronation in the Church House in the morning, then Tea Parties at Tabor, Bethel, Mynydd Seion, and the Church House in the afternoon. This was followed by Sports and Football Finals, Fancy Dress Parade and Country Dancing, Queen's broadcast, and a Bonfire on Marian Tali, (Site of ancient Beacon Fires).

The whole school in the late 1940's. The building in the background is the Army Cadet Hut, long demolished.



The whole school in 1958 on the School House lawn.
The staff are Mrs Hughes; Mr Emlyn Roberts; Mr Edwards and Mrs Phillips.
Mr Emlyn Roberts, much to everyone's dismay, died on 3rd February, 1961.

School Log Book.
1st July 1960.
"At the end of the present Term Mrs Olwen Jones, our Infants Teacher, will be retiring, after 39 years service at Llysfaen School. This evening, at the Church House, an entertainment will be given by past and present pupils. The Rector, Rev. Glyndwr Morgan, will present Mrs Jones with a cheque, on behalf of past and present pupils, Staff, and friends." "The meeting was a great social success."

2 1st July, 1960
"The Rector was present to Distribute the Scripture Certificates, and to present Mrs Olwen Jones with a gold watch from the Parish and a handsome leather handbag from the present pupils. Mrs Jones gave every pupil a bar of chocolate which was very much appreciated by the children.

The two ex-pupils singing in the picture are Eirlys Jones and Beryl Roberts. They sang together for many years, and won many prizes at local and National Eisteddfodau. On the stage also are Rev. Glyndwr Morgan with Mrs Olwen Jones.

School Log Book, 22nd April, 1985.
"Funeral of Mrs Olwen Jones."

Before 1961 the Scholarship Examinations to the local Grammar Schools had not been compulsory. (The County Schools had become Grammar Schools with all places free by the Education Act of 1944). In 1961 however we read, "All pupils who are 11 years of age before 31/8/61 will sit the examination in their own schools. For all other pupils the School is closed."

On 20th June, 1961, Mrs Eirwen Roberts was appointed Qualified Assistant Mistress, in charge of Std 1 & 2.

It had been the custom through the years to grant a day's holiday to celebrate special events, such as Royal Weddings and Funerals, Local May & Rose Days, and other Occasional Days at the School's discretion. In 1965 they were given a day to commemorate the 700th Anniversary of Simon-de-Montfort's Parliament, and the 750th Anniversary of Magna Carta."

On 24th October, 1966 we read in the Log Book, "The whole country has been shocked by a disaster at Aberfan near Merthyr Tydfil. A coal tip at the back of the village moved, and half-buried the local school and a terrace of houses. In all about 200 lives were lost, 140 of them children.

On 20th December, 1966 Mr Edwards retired after over sixteen years service. Parents and friends attended school for a presentation made by the Rev. Glyndwr Morgan, of a Reproduction Inlaid Mahogany card table, and a cheque. Mrs Edwards received a Bouquet, and a coffee service from Mr & Mrs John Power.

Mr Llewelyn Edwards with his class in 1963.

Mr G. V. Davies, Headmaster, with Standards 3 & 4 in 1972.

Mrs E. Roberts, with Standards 1 & 2.

Mrs K. Jones, with the Infants.
The three young ladies are Students on School Practice from Bangor.

By the year 1967 we read of School Sports being held on the Marian, and the school being divided into three Houses; Conwy, Clwyd and Dyfrdwy.

Pupils were now going to Colwyn Bay Comprehensive School, on Pendorlan and Eirias sites, at the age of eleven.

On July 16th the Llysfaen P.T.A. held its initial meeting.

In 1969 more new equipment arrived; a Television Set, Projector screen and Tape Recorder and Player.

In September Mrs K. Jones was appointed as Infants Teacher.

July 1st 1969.
"Day holiday, Investiture of Prince Charles at Caernarvon."

July 2nd, "Gala Day in Eirias Park."

July 3rd, Choir from school taking part in a concert in Eirias Park — singing three songs. Hywel and Margaret singing together, and Margaret reciting "Y Llygoden a'r Gath".

23rd Feb. 1970.
"Script in Welsh for 'Ymlaen â Ni'. Six boys from 3rd and 4th years taking part. Recording at Bangor, March 17th. This will be broadcast on Friday 20th March."

15th Oct. 1971.
"Proposed new Estate at Peulwys. Suggestion — Llysfaen and Penmaenrhos schools be used as Infants schools, and a new large Junior school be built to cater for the whole area of Llysfaen and Penmaenrhos."

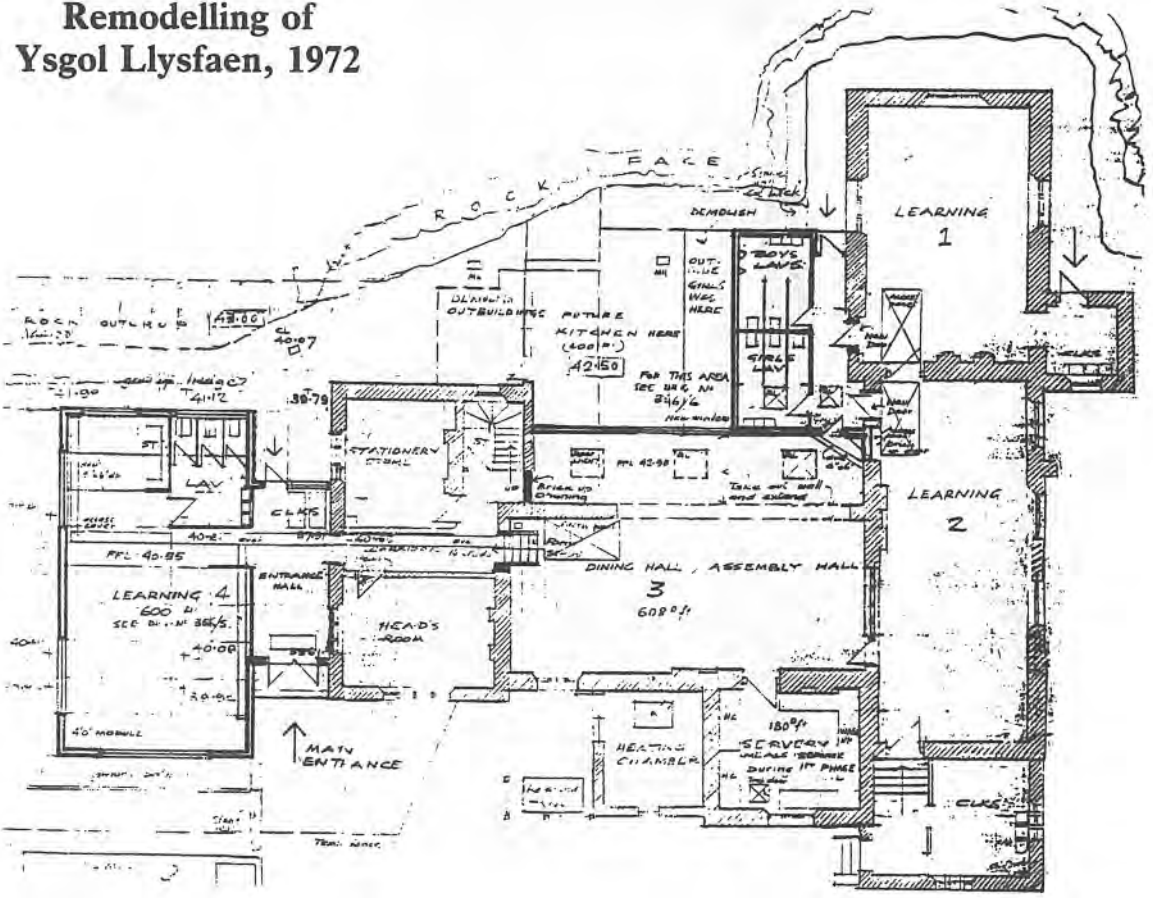
28th June, 1971.
"Party of 23 taken to the camp at Pentrellyncymer."

27th Sept. 1971.
"Last night at the Church the Rev. Glyndwr Morgan was presented with a cheque upon his retirement."

It was decided to sell the School House to the L.E.A. to provide extra accommodation, build on a new classroom, turn the Staffroom into a kitchen, and extend one classroom to form a Hall. The old School House would be converted to a Staff Room, cloakroom and toilets upstairs, and Head's Study, Library, and Storeroom downstairs. New indoor toilets were made for the children, some floors carpeted, and others covered with plastic tiles. In the picture we are looking from the new Entrance Hall, through the old School House front door, up the new steps, to the new Hall, which used to be a classroom. (See picture, page 28).

The School after the 1972 alterations.
The new classroom is on the left of the picture, connected to the old building by the new Entrance Hall, (just out of sight), to the old School House. The downstairs window is by now the Headmaster's Room, and upstairs is the Staffroom, with a good view of the playground.

Remodelling of Ysgol Llysfaen, 1972



In July 1977 Mr Gareth Davies was made Headmaster of Old Colwyn Junior School, and Mr Berwyn Morris came to Llysfaen.

For the first time the school had a Nursery Assistant, Miss Pauline Jones. A mobile classroom was now needed to provide extra space. This was damaged by the gales in 1978 when part of the Canteen ceiling collapsed, and the playground was made dangerous by falling slates. During this time the children's musical ability was brought out by the school staff especially Miss Nia Wynne Roberts, pictured below with her class. During this time school parties took part successfully in many Urdd Competitions, and travelled extensively. When Mrs Nia Wynne Jones left in 1980 she was succeeded by Miss Rhonwen Williams.

In September 1981 Mr Morris left to become Headmaster in Rhyl. Mr Anthony Jones was appointed Head, Mr N. Eynon Deputy, also appointed were Mrs Helen Jones and Miss Anne Baker.

6th Sept. 1982. "Children dressed in uniform for the first time."

11th Oct. 1982. "Children watched the lifting of the Mary Rose, (Henry VIII's flagship), on television."

15th July, 1983. "Service & presentations made by Mrs Doris Griffiths to Mrs K. Jones, leaving after 14 years, and Mrs Helen Jones, (Maternity leave)."

17th July, 1989.
"Mrs Helen Price appointed Reception Teacher."

7th Nov. 1989.
"Mrs C. Sleigh appointed Nursery Teacher."

18th Dec. 1989.
"Mrs Cathy Cowen appointed H.T.R."

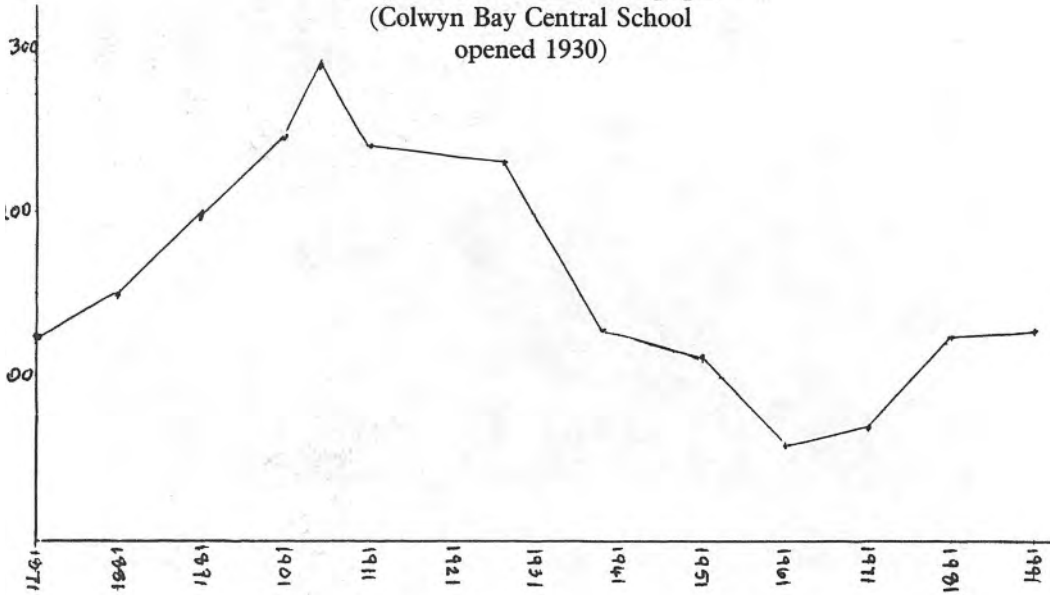
29th Jan. 1990.
"Plans received for new school."

23rd April, 1990.
"Miss Anne Baker returned from her successful run in the London Marathon, raising over £500 for school funds."

Mr Tony Jones with his class outside the old school in the 1980s.

Mrs Georgina Owen, Nursery Nurse, and Mrs Helen Jones with the Reception Class in the 1980s.

Graph to show number of pupils
(Colwyn Bay Central School
opened 1930)

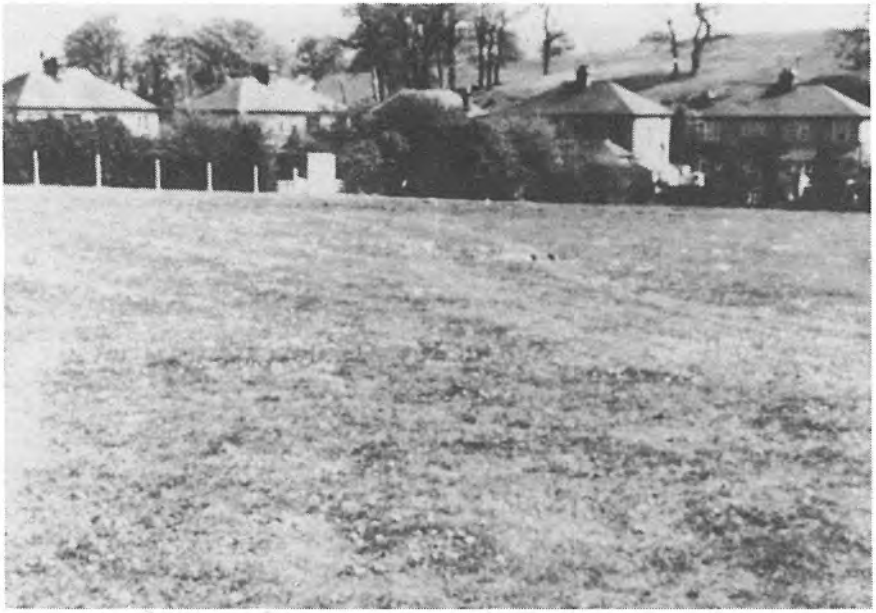


Miss Rhonwen Williams, (later Mrs Hunt) with her class in the 1980s.

The old Main door of Llysfaen School closed for ever to the school children of the village. How many hundreds of young feet have walked in and out of this doorway? How many events not recorded in any Log Book has the old building seen? The children that have passed through have grown up and entered all walks of life, in many countries of the World, and have carried with them impressions made within these walls, that have coloured the rest of their lives.

The old building stands empty now, its rear windows and doors boarded against potential vandalism. Its rooms are empty, its corridors silent, its future unknown.

The proverb says, "As one door closes another opens," and there is another "Fine new School" in Llysfaen now, of which everyone can be proud, and in which the children of the village are assured of an excellent start as they take their early steps in Education.



The field, known as Tyn y Coed field, site of the new school.

The new school, finished in April 1992, opened 10th November, 1992, by County Councillor Doris Griffiths, O.B.E.

Juniors & Staff, New School Hall, 1992

This series of books is an attempt to give the reader a glimpse into the various aspects of the history of the village of Llysfaen in North Wales.

There is much that is not known, and much that could not be written down, but these are some proposed titles for more books in the series.

Llysfaen — Our Village

Employment down the ages
The Places of Worship and The Church House
Leisure and Wartime Activities
The development of Llysfaen from the Beginning

Price: £2.50 each