

# Dulais Valley HERITAGE TRAIL

## TAITH DREFTADAETH Cwm Dulais

# Welcome to Crynant

The oldest village in the Dulais Valley

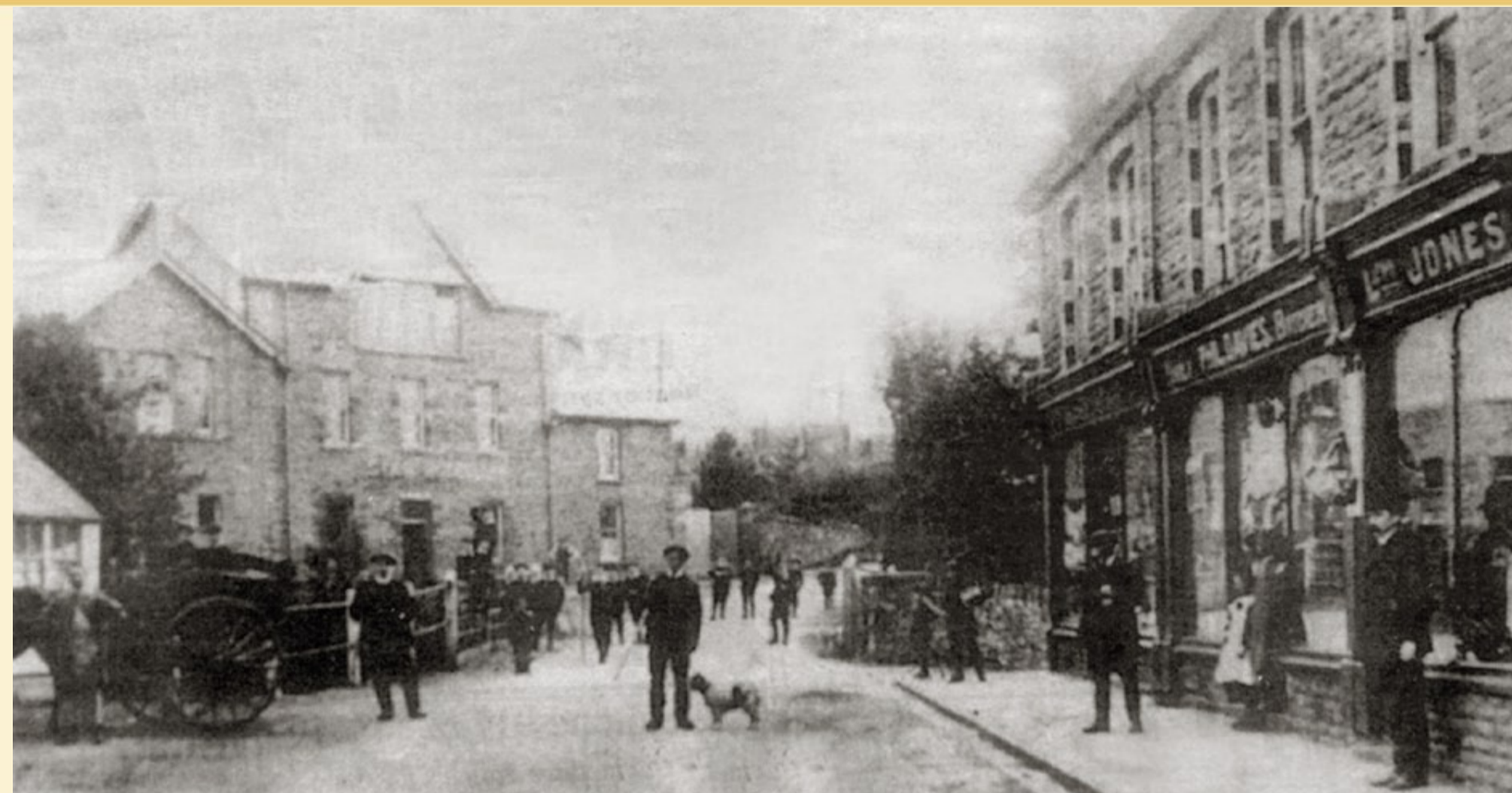
# Croeso i Creunant

Pentref hynaf Cwm Dulais



Unlike most villages in this valley Crynant was founded long before the Industrial Revolution. By the 1840s there was a church, chapel, inn, mill and about a dozen dwellings here. The opening of the railway in 1864 led to increased coal mining and the expansion of the village.

Yn wahanol i'r rhan fwyaf o bentrefi'r cwm, roedd Creunant wedi datblygu ymhell cyn y Chwyldro Diwydiannol. Erbyn y 1840au, roedd yn y pentref eglwys, capel, tafarn, melin a rhyw ddwsin o dai. Ar ôl agor y rheilffordd ym 1864, gwelwyd y diwydiant glo'n cynyddu a'r pentref yn ehangu.



Crynant Square

Sgwâr Creunant

Men seeking work in the mines began arriving in Crynant in the 19th century and the village as we know it today began to grow around The Square.

Yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, dechreuodd dynion gyrraedd Creunant i chwilio am waith yn y pyllau glo a dechreuodd y pentref fel yr ydym ni'n ei nabad heddiw dyfu o gwmpas y Sgwâr.

Crynant has seen a number of commercial enterprises over the years. There were several shops on Station Road and The Square as early as the 1890s. The most famous being Segadellis (or Stellas) sweet shop.

Bu llawer o wahanol fusnesau yng Nghreunant dros y blynyddoedd. Roedd nifer o siopau ar Station Road a'r Sgwâr mor fuan â'r 1890au. Yr enwcaf o'r rhain oedd siop felysion Segadellis (neu Stellas).

## Industry arrives

Crynant began to grow from a handful of cottages centred at the mill in Penpentre, Brynawel. The large grinding stone can still be seen built into the wall of a house on Brynawel Road.



## Dyfodiad diwydiant

I ddechrau, llond dwrn o dai bychain oedd yma o gwmpas y felin ym Mhenpentre, Brynawel. Mae'r maen melin mawr i'w weld o hyd yn wal un o'r tai ar Heol Brynawel.

The earliest opening of a colliery was Maes Mawr Colliery which opened in 1874 and can still be seen at the site of the old Blaenant Colliery, Brynawel.



## The Welfare Hall

Like most mining communities in the valleys Crynant had an active miners' welfare society. In 1920 they erected the Welfare Hall, an old WWI army hut, on Station Road and it became a social hub for miners and their families. A cinema was a major attraction until the 1960s and live shows continued until 'The Welfare' closed in the early 21st century.



## Y Neuadd Les

Fel y rhan fwyaf o gymunedau glofaol y cymoedd, roedd cymdeithas les fywiog iawn gan lowyr Creunant. Ym 1920, aethant ati i godi'r Neuadd Les, hen gwt yr oedd y fyddin yn ei ddefnyddio yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf, ar Station Road a daeth yn unolfan gymdeithasol i'r glowyr a'u teuluoedd. Roedd pictiwrns yn atyniad mawr tan y 1960au ac roedd sioeau byw'n dal i gael eu cynnal tan y caewyd 'y Welfare' tua dechrau'r 21ain ganrif.

## Religious roots

The Chapel of Ease, next to St Margaret's Church, is the oldest building in this valley. It was erected by Cistercian Monks from Neath Abbey in the 13th Century. The body of a monk was discovered under the western porch. A poignant grave inscribed "not to be opened" holds two little brothers, who died of contagious illness in 1837 and 1843.

## Hanes crefydd

Y Capel Anwes, ger Eglwys y Santes Margaret, yw'r adeilad hynaf yn y cwm. Codwyd ef gan Fynachod Sistersaidd o Abaty Nedd yn y 13eg ganrif. Canfuwyd corff mynach o dan y porth gorllewinol. Mae dau frawd bach a fu farw o afiechyd heintus ym 1837 a 1843 wedi'u claddu mewn un bedd ac arno'r arysgrif "not to be opened". Mae'n drist meddwl beth oedd eu hanes.



St Margaret's Church, built in 1910, is known for its remarkable stained glass windows, designed by Celtic Studios between 1951 and 1966.

Mae Eglwys y Santes Margaret, a godwyd ym 1910, yn enwog am ei ffenestri lliw a ddyluniwyd gan Celtic Studios rhwng 1951 a 1966.

By 1851 Anglican worshippers were a minority in Wales - most Christians were Nonconformists. An independent chapel was first built here in the 1750s and was followed by Wesleyan, Calvinist, Baptist and other denominations. Many of these chapels can still be seen if you walk through the village.

Erbyn 1851 roedd addolwyr Anglicanaidd yn lleiafrif yng Nghymru - Anghydfurfwr oedd y rhan fwyaf o'r addolwyr. Codwyd capel cyntaf yr Annibynwyr yma yn y 1750au ac fe'i dilynwyd gan gapeli'r Wesleaid, y Methodistiaid Calfinaidd, y Bedyddwyr ac enwadau eraill. Gallwch weld y rhan fwyaf o'r capeli hyn o hyd os cerddwch trwy'r pentref.

## Exploring the Dulais Valley

This is one of the famous 'valleys' of the south Wales coalfield. Thousands of men once worked the difficult anthracite seams deep below ground. But the valley's story did not start with coal. Bronze Age farmers, Roman soldiers and medieval monks have all left their mark here.

Discover their fascinating stories along the Dulais Valley Heritage Trail.



## Crwydro Cwm Dulais

Dyma un o 'gymoedd' enwog maes glo'r de. Slawer dydd, roedd miloedd o ddynion yn gweithio'r gwythiennau glo carreg anodd eu trin o dan y ddaear. Ond nid y glo oedd dechrau'r stori. Mae olion ffermwr yr Oes Efydd, milwyr Rhufeinig a mynachod o'r Oesoedd Canol oll i'w gweld yma.

Cewch ddysgu mwy am eu storïau difyr ar Daith Dreftadaeth Cwm Dulais.



For more information look out for the Heritage Trail leaflet or visit our website:  
Os hoffech wybod rhagor, holwch am daflen y Daith Dreftadaeth neu ewch i'n gwefan:  
[www.dulaisvalley.org.uk/heritagetrail](http://www.dulaisvalley.org.uk/heritagetrail)

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