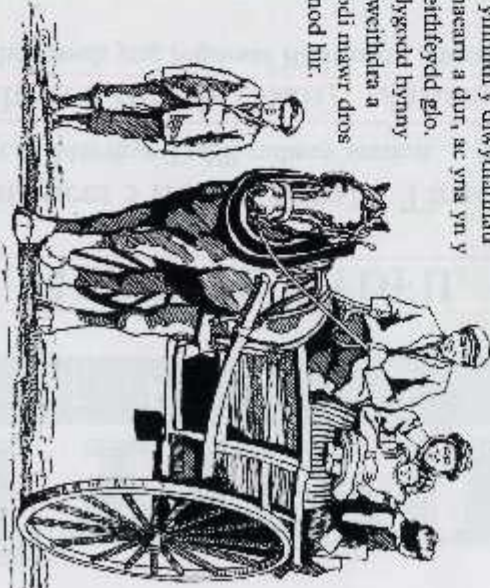


During the Industrial Revolution families of all nationalities arrived in Merthyr Tydfil looking for work. The second of Cerys Roberts' Dwyweddol boddiad lenthoddi o bob cernid yn dod i Merthyr Tydfil i chwilio am waith.



hacarn a dur, ac yna yn y gweithfeydd glo. Grobygodd hynny ddiwethdada a lthodi mawr dros eymod hir.

Cantyniad y twf cyfym di-dreth hwn oedd plau ac amodau cynulleibolol dychryllwyd. Roedd y nifer fawr o weithwyr ynghyd ag amrywiolach o gwrsiau crebyddol cryf yn golygu bod Merthyr Tydfil yn ganolbwynt ar gyfer gweithgarwch gwleidyddol a hawliau gweithwyr. Oherwydd cyfniad o ostrygiaid mewn deffryddiau crai (a olygodd gostiau cloddio uwch), mwy o gystadlenach o wledydd tramor a diwasgaid economaidd ar byd a lled y byd fod dirwyad graddol wedi digwydd a chuu wedyn,

ymhlith y diwydiantau hacarn a dur, ac yna yn y gweithfeydd glo.

Dechreuodd Merthyr Tydfil fel pentref bach o fugeiliaid a ffemwyr ond yna dechreuodd changu'n rhyflyn fel iwr o bentrefi ar wahan o gwmpas y gweithfeydd hacarn yn yr ardal.

Daw'r enw Merthyr Tydfil o'r gair Lladin 'martyrium', neu feddrod Tydfil, merch y Tywysog Brycheu. Yn

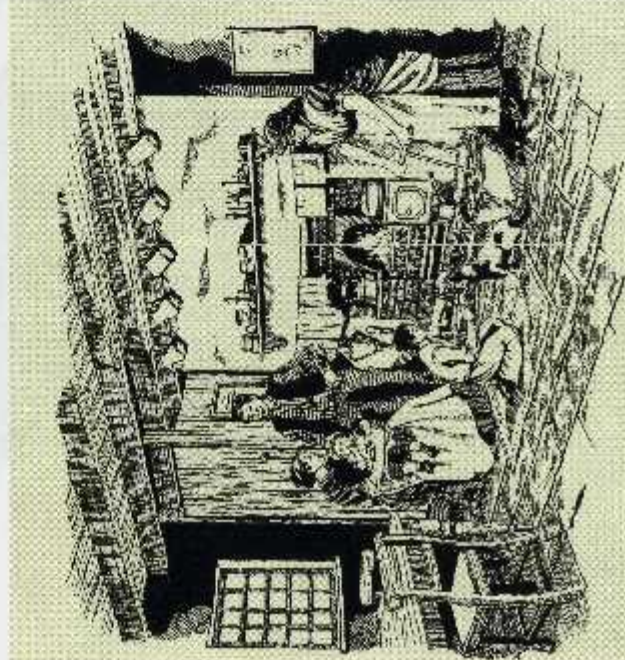
goes i'r gred arferol, does dim dystiolaeth iddi gael ei merthyru am ei chred er ei bod yn ferch sanctaidd, ac mae Merthyr Tydfil yn golygu heddi neu eglwys Tydfil, nid Tydfil y merthyr.

ae Merthyr Tydfil heddiw'n seiliedig ar gyfres o henrefi a dyfodol o gwmpas eu gweithfeydd hacarn lleol a'r gweithfeydd glo - mae enwau fel Pen-y-arren, Dowlais, Pen-yr-bach, Cyfarthia yn enghreifftiau - ac yn raddol yn dod ar ei gilydd i greu'r dref fwyaf yng Nghymru erbyn 1801. Bwyddai pobol yn llo'i mewn o raniau cranll o Gymru, yna o Lloegr, ac yn ddweddarwch wedyn o Sbaen, yr Eidal ac Iwerddon i chwilio am waith am gyllwg dda a llwyddiant mewn tref ddyntannus.

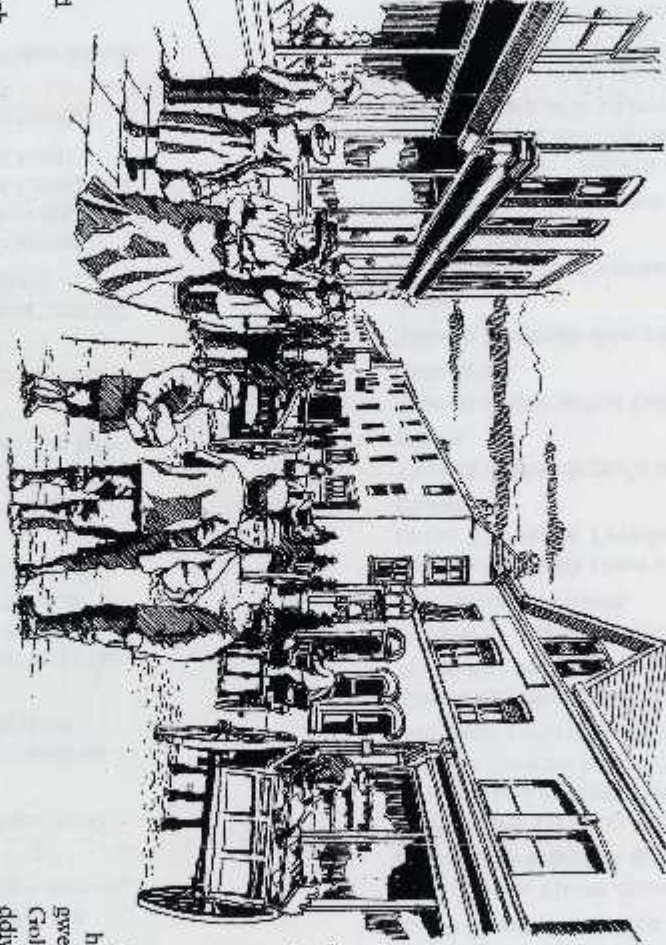
Wirt Sikes, the American Consul in Cardiff - "Rambles and Studies In Old South Wales 1881".

"The Welsh population of Merthyr is gathered in large part from the mountains and wildish valleys hereabout, and includes some specimens of the race who (as the phrase goes) have no English, with a very large number of specimens who have but little and utter it brokenly."

"Those of the lower class, who can read - and almost all Welshmen, however poor and primitive, can read, generally read Welsh only, and in that respect, as indeed in most respects, are far in advance of Englishmen of the same state in its life, who often can read nothing. To hear a poor and grimy Welshman, who looks as if he might not have a thought above bread and beer, talk about the poets and poetry of his native land, ancient and modern, is an experience which when first encountered, gives the stranger quite a shock of agreeable surprise."



Cottage interior, typical of those used by Colliers/ironworkers and their families during the Industrial Revolution. The mewn i fathyn noduadddol o'r rheiny a ddaethydidd gan Lloegr a Cweithwyr Henarr o'u teubhoedd yn ystod y Chwyddyn Dwyweddol.



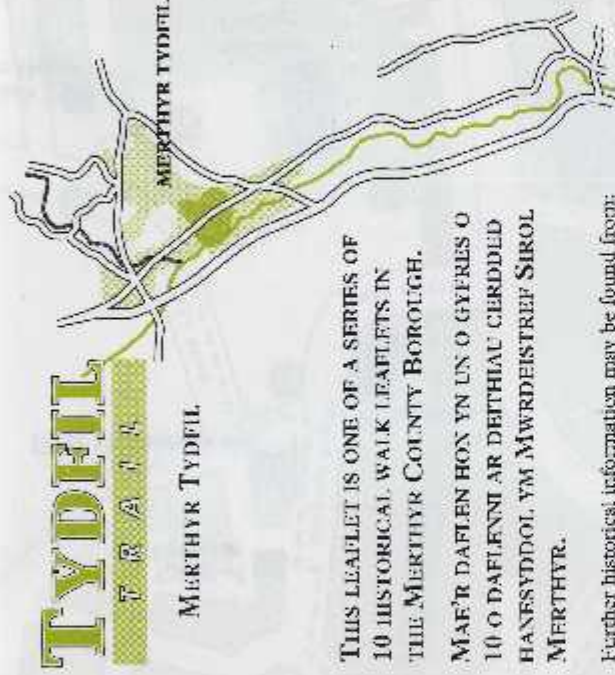
Merthyr Tydfil's busy High Street during the 19th century. Stryd Fawr brysur Merthyr Tydfil yn y 19ed Ganrif.

Erbyn 1802, Merthyr Tydfil oedd y dref fwyaf yng Nghymru ac yr oedd yn cyflwynu 85,000 yn golygu phoblogrwyd o tua 10,000, wrth gwaith poblogrwyd Caerdydd.

Yn 1850 roedd cymhleth a 305 o ddiarannau a thau gwyr yn Merthyr Tydfil, un am bob 2.4 o dai.

Ychydig cyn yr ail ryfel byd, tua diwedd y 1930au, awgrymodd adrddiad y dref Merthyr Tydfil i gyd gael ei ddiroddi i synydd y boblogrwyd ac yr arddor neu i Ddyffryn Wysg oherwydd yr holl ddiweddurau a'r diwedd yno.

TYDFIL T R A I L MERTHYR TYDFIL



THIS LEAFLET IS ONE OF A SERIES OF 10 HISTORICAL WALK LEAFLETS IN THE MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH.

MAE'R DAFLEN HON YN UN O GYFRES O 10 O DAFLENNI AR DEITHIAU CERDDDED HANESYDDOL YM MWRDEISTREF SIROL MERTHYR.

Further historical information may be found from: Gellir cael rhagor o wybodaeth hanesyddol o:

Libraries Merthyr Tydfil01685 723057
Dowlais01685 723051
Trehaeris01443 410517

Museum Cyfarthia Castle Museum01685 723112
Amgueddfa Amgueddfa Castell Cyfarthia

Societies Merthyr Tydfil Historical Society
Cymdeithas Hanesyddol Merthyr Tydfil Mr. T. J. Hooley,
92 Chester Close, Heolgeruig, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1SW.

(Prose and a series of Merthyr Historical Volantes also available in libraries.)
(Wedi cynhyrchu cyfres o Gyfollau Hanes Merthyr sydd hefyd ar gael mewn dyfollodol.)

Merthyr Tydfil & District Naturalists Society
Cymdeithas Naturiaethwyr Merthyr Tydfil a'r Cylch
(Provided a series of books on the geology, fossils, various history of the area available in libraries.)
(Wedi cynhyrchu cyfres o lyfrau ar hanes ddiwyd, cynulleibolol, naturiol yr ardal, sydd ar gael mewn dyfollodol.)

This project has been sponsored by Noddydy y Cyllian hwn pan



Produced by / Cychydwyd gan
Groundwork Merthyr & Rhondda Cymru Tydfil a'r Cylch
Historical Society of Merthyr Tydfil
Heritage Trust, Ynydd
Jean Herberts Centre
Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1AS



FACTFILE / FFEIL FEITHIAU:

By 1802, Merthyr Tydfil was the largest and fastest growing town in Wales with a population of almost 10,000, eight times the population of Cardiff.

In 1850 there were an amazing 305 pubs and beer houses in Merthyr Tydfil, 1 for every 24 houses.

Just before the second world war, in the late 1930s, a report suggested that the whole of Merthyr Tydfil should be abandoned and the population moved to the coast or the Usk Valley because of the massive unemployment and deterioration.

Modern Merthyr Tydfil is based on a series of villages that grew in size around their local ironworks and coal mines, names like Pen-y-arren, Dowlais, Pen-yr-bach, Cyfarthia are examples - gradually fusing to form, by 1801, the largest town in Wales. People poured in from other parts of Wales, then from England, and later still, from Spain, Italy and Ireland in search of well-paid work and prosperity in what became a boom town.

"No place in the kingdom has increased so much in trade and popularity ... as Merthyr"

Merthyr Tydfil's name derives from the Latin word 'martyrium' or burial place of Tydfil, daughter of the Welsh prince, Brycheu. Contrary to popular belief, there is no evidence that she was martyred for her beliefs though she was a saintly woman and Merthyr Tydfil means the grave or church of Tydfil, not Tydfil the martyr.

Merthyr Tydfil began as a small village inhabited by shepherds and farmers but then quickly expanded as a cluster of separate villages around the ironworks in the area.

Epidemics and terrible social conditions were a result of this rapid unplanned expansion. The large number of workers combined with a variety of strong religious groups made Merthyr Tydfil a focal point for political activity and workers rights.

The combination of diminishing local raw materials (which increased extraction costs), greater competition from abroad and worldwide economic recession resulted in the gradual decline and shutdown of firstly, iron and steelmaking, then later coal mining. This created long term high unemployment and poverty.

In 1935 six out of 10 men in the Merthyr Tydfil Borough were unemployed and an average of about 1,000 people a year left the area. This decline was briefly checked by the demand for raw materials in the two World Wars.

Merthyr Tydfil is based on a series of villages that grew in size around their local ironworks and coal mines, names like Pen-y-arren, Dowlais, Pen-yr-bach, Cyfarthia are examples - gradually fusing to form, by 1801, the largest town in Wales. People poured in from other parts of Wales, then from England, and later still, from Spain, Italy and Ireland in search of well-paid work and prosperity in what became a boom town.

"No place in the kingdom has increased so much in trade and popularity ... as Merthyr"

TYDFIL T R A I L MERTHYR TYDFIL



TYDFIL TRAIL

MERTHYR TYDFIL

Distance: 3 miles (5km) **Time:** 1½ hrs.
Start at Merthyr Tydfil railway station.

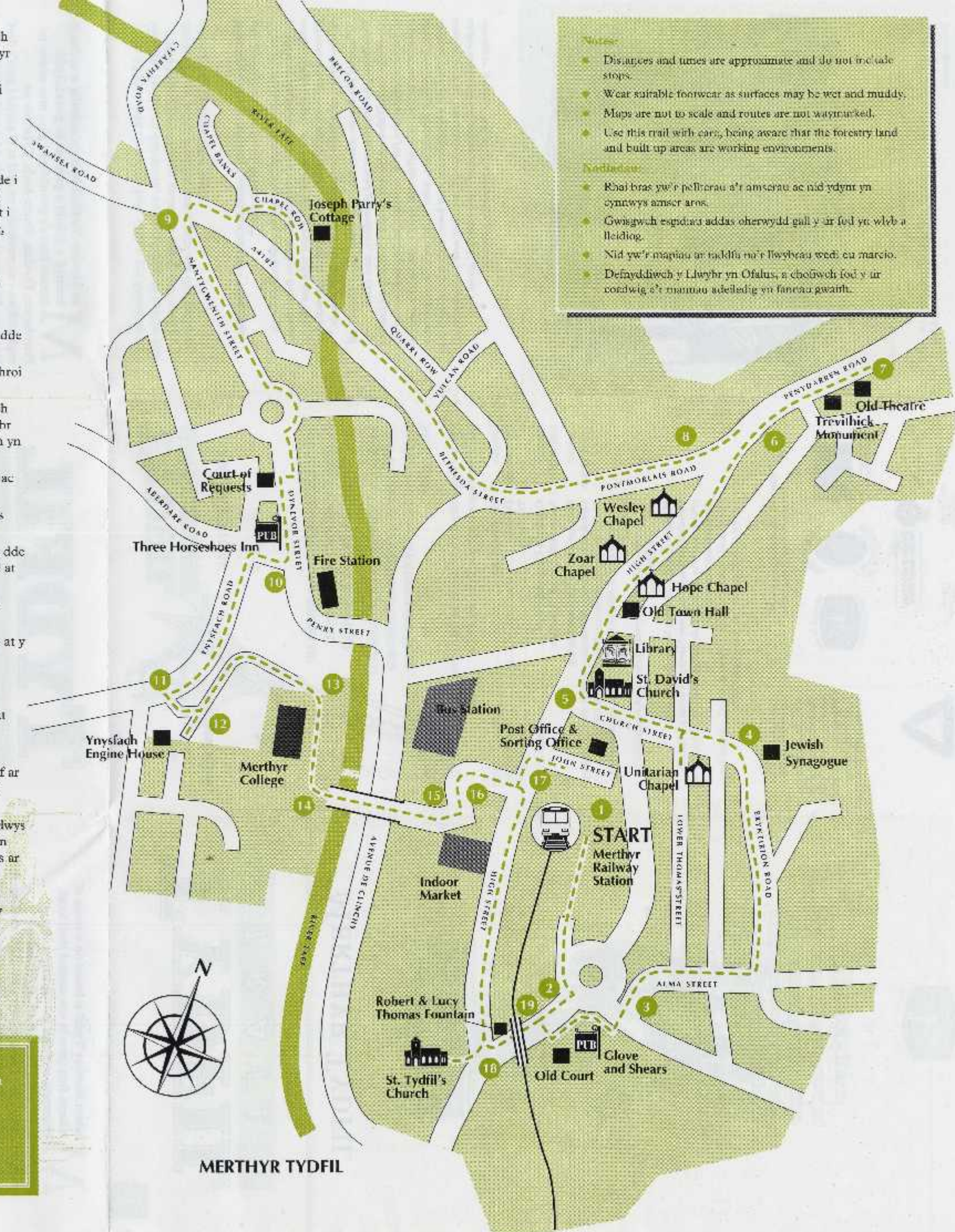
Pellter: 3 milltir (5km) **Amser:** 1½ awr
Dechreuwch yng Ngorsaf Reilffordd Merthyr

- Exit Station at main entrance, turn right and follow pavement along Station Car Park towards the Glove and Shears Public House.
- At the Railway bridge, cross the road and head left past the Pub.
- Cross the next road into Alma Street, continue to the top of the Street then turn left (Opposite Hawthorn Hotel).
- Continue to the end of the road (Turn up to the right to view Jewish Synagogue) and bear left down the hill (Turn left into Lower Thomas Street to view the Gothic style former Unitarian Chapel then rejoin the Trail).
- Turn right at the junction opposite Ty Gwyn Centre (On right St Davids Church, Merthyr Library, Old Town Hall, Hope Chapel. On left Wesley Chapel).
- Continue straight on past traffic lights (On right Trevithick Monument, Old Theatre).
- At the Old Theatre cross main road and turn left (Retracing your steps to the traffic lights).
- Head right into Pontmorlais Road. Continue straight on, crossing the River Taff then taking the next path on the right (Joseph Parry's Cottage on right). Continue round to rejoin main road.
- Cross the road at the signal control crossing, leading left onto Nantygwenith Street.
- Turn right at the Three Horseshoes Public House then first left.
- Turn left down steps. Turn right to view Ynysfach Engine House then rejoin the Trail.
- Turn left then immediately right down steps.
- Turn right past Merthyr College and head for the footbridge.
- Turn left over footbridge into Shopping Centre.
- Take Escalators down then head straight on to the Bus Station.
- Turn right and join the High Street.
- Turn right (Take a left then the next right to view the former Post Office and Sorting Office then rejoin the Trail).
- Continue to the end of the High Street. With St Tydfil's Church to your right, turn left passing the Robert and Lucy Thomas Commemorative Foundation on the left.
- Walk under the Railway bridge and turn left back to the Railway Station (Old Court on the right).

- Ewch allan o'r Orsaf wrth y brif fynedfa, trowch i'r dde a dilynwch y palmant ar hyd Parc Ceir yr Orsaf tua Thafarn Glove and Shears.
- Wrth bont y Rheilffordd croeswch y ffordd ac i llyn y'r chwith heibio'r Dafarn.
- Croeswch y ffordd nesaf i Alma Street. ewch ymlaen i ben y Stryd ac yna i'r chwith (gyferbyn â Gwesty Hawthorn.)
- Ewch ymlaen i ddiwedd y ffordd (trowch i'r dde i weld y Synagog Iddewig) ac i'r chwith i lawr y rhiw (trowch i'r chwith i Lower Thomas Street i weld yr hen Gapel Undodaidd ar ddull Gothig, yna'n ôl at y Llwybr).
- Trowch i'r dde wrth y gyllfordd gyferbyn â Chanolfan Ty Gwyn. (Ar y dde, Eglwys Dewi Sant, Llyfrgell Merthyr, Hen Neuadd y Dref, Capel Hope). (Ar y chwith, y Capel Wesley).
- Ewch ymlaen heibio'r goleuadau traffig. (Ar y dde Cofeb Trevithick, yr Hen Theatr).
- Wrth yr Hen Theatr croeswch y brif ffordd a throï i'r chwith (ewch yn ôl at y goleuadau traffig).
- Ewch i'r dde i mewn i Pontmorlais Road. Ewch yn eich blaen ar draws Alon Taf yna i'r ail lwybr ar y dde (bwthyn Joseph Parry ar y dde). Ewch yn eich blaen i ailymuno â'r brif ffordd.
- Croeswch y ffordd wrth y groesfan i gerddwyr ac i'r chwith i mewn i Nantygwenith Street.
- Trowch i'r dde wrth Dafarn Three Horseshoes yna'r cyntaf i'r chwith.
- Trowch i'r chwith i lawr y grisiau. (Trowch i'r dde i weld Ty Peiriant Ynys-fach ar y dde, yna'n ôl at y Llwybr).
- Trowch i'r chwith yna'n union i'r dde i lawr y grisiau.
- Trowch i'r dde heibio Coleg Merthyr ac anelu at y bont droed.
- Trowch i'r chwith dros y bont at y Ganolfan Siopa.
- Ewch i lawr ar hyd y grisiau codi yna ymlaen at yr Orsaf Bysiau.
- Trowch i'r dde ac i mewn i High Street.
- Trowch i'r dde. (Trowch i'r chwith yna'r nesaf ar y dde i weld yr hen Swyddfa Bost a'r Swyddfa Ddidoli yna'n ôl at y Llwybr).
- Ewch ymlaen i ddiwedd High Street. Wrth Eglwys y Santes Tudful ar y dde, trowch i'r chwith gan fynd heibio Man Coffa Robert a Lucy Thomas ar y chwith.
- Ewch o dan bont y Rheilffordd a throï'n ôl i'r chwith ar yr Orsaf Reilffordd. (Yr Hen Lys ar y dde).

There are many interesting historical features along the trail, some of which have information plaques attached to them.

Mae yna nifer o nodweddion hanesyddol ddiwydiol a chymdeiriau oherwydd a phlaciau gwybodaeth.



Notes:

- Distances and times are approximate and do not include stops.
- Wear suitable footwear as surfaces may be wet and muddy.
- Maps are not to scale and routes are not waymarked.
- Use this trail with care, being aware that the forestry land and built up areas are working environments.

Ynysfach:

- Rhai bras yw'r pellterau a'r amserau ac nid ydym yn cynnwys amser aros.
- Gwisgwch esgidiau addas oherwydd gall y ar fodd yn wlyb a heidiog.
- Nid yw'r mapiau yn raddfa na'r lwybrau wedi eu marcio.
- Defnyddiwch y Llwybr yn Ofalus, a chobwch fod y arfordd o'r mainau adeiledig yn fanteau gwaith.

MERTHYR TYDFIL