

Llandinam Village Hall

Welcome and Croeso to Llandinam. Our village hall is a well used, well loved and vibrant place at the heart of the community. It is also an historic building, listed Grade II by Cadw. The hall opened nearly a century ago in 1912. Although it has been modernised and improved over the years, it still retains its architectural integrity. Have a look around and admire the wealth of surviving architectural detail. The hall is a rare survival, as much of the original fittings and furniture also survive.

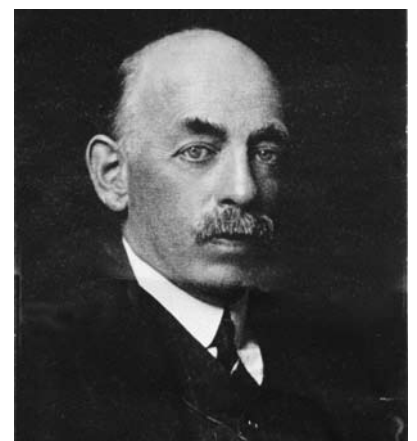


The village is well known as the birthplace and home of David Davies, the Welsh Industrialist and entrepreneur. His father, also David, was a sawyer and lived in Llandinam. David Davies was a key figure in the industrialisation of the Rhondda founding the Parc and Maerdy Collieries. He built railways and founded Barry Docks. In 1864 Davies built Broneirion as his new home. This was later leased to Guides Cymru and then bought by them in 1992 from the estate.

In 1884 David Davies bought Llandinam Hall and Plas Dinam together with the rest of the estate from the Crewe-Reads, who had lived in Llandinam Hall and built Plas Dinam in 1873. David Davies' son Edward and his family settled in Plas Dinam in 1886. He died in 1898 and his son David Davies inherited the estate. It was this David, the grandson of David Davies-Llandinam, who financed this village hall, together with the family, in 1912. He went on to become Lord Davies in 1932. His sisters Gwendoline and Margaret Davies bought Gregynog and developed an impressive art collection which they left to the National Museum of Wales. The third Lord Davies, another David now lives in Plas Dinam.



The first village hall was built in 1896 at the expense of Edward Davies of Plas Dinam. It was built on Watercourse Field and was used extensively until it was demolished in 1911 to make way for the new hall, the present structure. There is an excellent contemporary description of it in the Montgomery Express and Radnorshire Times of March 5th 1912. It is described as “a new and more commodious village hall and institute to meet the present requirements of the social life of the village”. A public meeting held on the 26th January 1912 established the management committee for Llandinam Institute.



The hall was built in the Arts and Craft Style of “red Ruabon bricks, relieved with Cefn stone dressings”. The upper half is half timbered broken by bays with leaded windows and turrets. The roof is slate. The quality of the exterior is matched by the interior with oak panelling and doors, tiles and fine fireplaces. The architect was R.W. Davies of Carno and the builder was E Woolley and Son of Llandinam. Originally there was a lantern over the hall, which has since been removed. From the newspaper account, it is apparent that much of the original fixtures, fittings and furniture still survive in the building.



The building was designed to accommodate a number of different social events and activities at the same time. In addition there was a separate house for the caretaker. The hall itself was designed “to seat 400 people”. Originally there was a fixed stage at the one end and a screened off games room at the other. A temporary stage is now erected when required. The games room is now the bar.

The library and reading room opens off the entrance hall. It still retains some of its original fittings and fixtures including the light shades of “special glass” installed by the Llandrindod Electric Lighting Company to “soften the light”. Much of the room’s original furniture also survives including the bookcase, a fine oak table and a built in seat.



This design of three entrances relates to the roles of the first floor rooms and the social etiquette of the period, when the village hall was built. The left door gave access to the “men’s department”, which included not only toilets and a cloakroom but also a first floor billiard room accessed by its own fine staircase. The right door gave access to the “separate department for the ladies”. Again this included toilets and a cloakroom but also to the “Girls Parlour”, which was fitted out as a drawing room. The billiard room and the drawing room were separated by a small kitchen or “refreshment room”. These rooms are today very much in their original state with their original furniture.

Today the village hall is still a multipurpose space and can be used for concerts and performances, private functions and lunch clubs, public meetings and events and classes and exhibitions. It survives with its architecture and social history intact. Join us at an event or activity or as a volunteer to keep this wonderful building relevant for communities of future generations.

