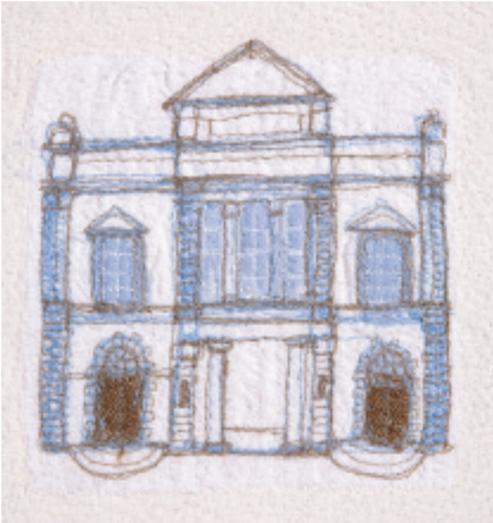


Community Culture

Chapel was at the heart of the quarrying community. Attendance was spread throughout the week and not restricted to Sundays. There were a staggering 29 places of worship within three miles of Bethesda; one observer, writing in 1904, recorded that Bethesda 'was the headquarters of Caernarfonshire nonconformity; its chapel were massive and their hold intense'. There was no shortage of other social and leisure pursuits in the quarry communities, including choirs, bands, football, and billiard clubs. In fact, the quarrymen were known for their love of educational and cultural activity. At the quarry, the caban, the equivalent of the works canteen, held daily cultural events, with 'eisteddfodau' (competitions of singing and reciting poetry) and educational events.



Chapels of Bethesda by Cefyn Burgess

Despite the chapel and Penrhyn Estate's objections to the consumption of alcohol, the high street of Bethesda was not short of public houses, and recorded crime in the quarry communities was largely made up of drink fuelled incidents.



Côr y Penrhyn. The Côr's treasurer, standing far right, has a bag with money collected for the Great Strike.

THE SLATE TRAIL

Follow 'The Slate Trail' along Lôn Las Ogwen, where you can find a series of information boards recounting the unique story of Ogwen slate, Penrhyn Quarry and the people involved in its production.