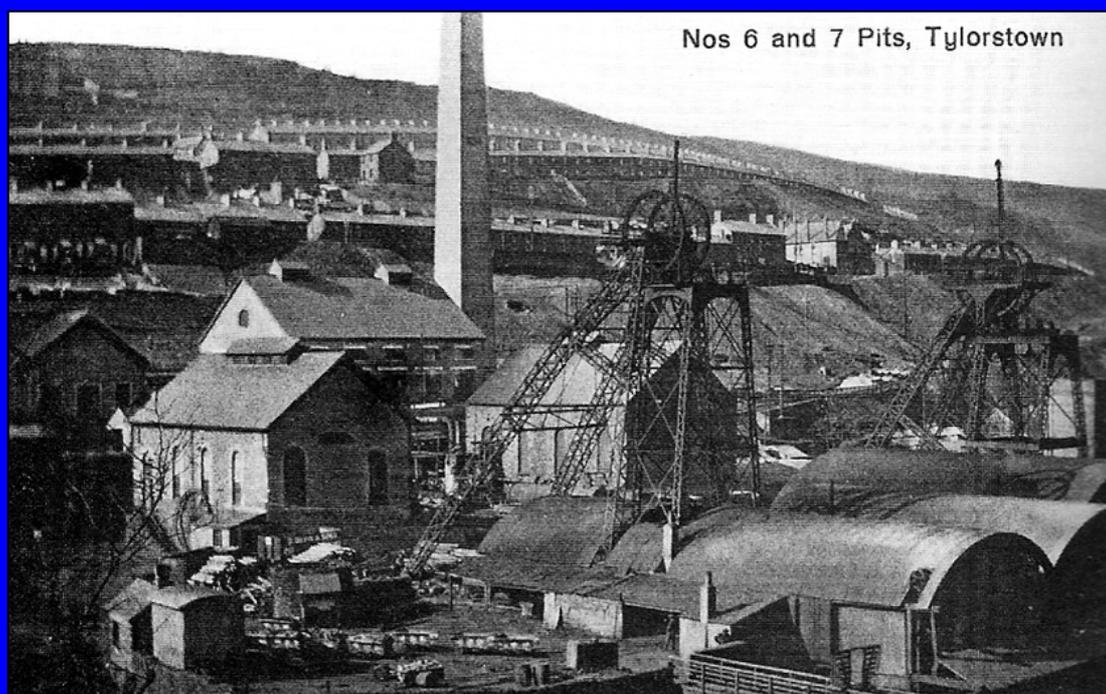


For many years the choir had been synonymous for their performances of the likes of *“Iesu O Nazareth”* and the much loved *“Nidaros”* and whenever these works were required to be performed at major concerts, it was to Pendyrus organisers turned. However Glynne was equally determined to lead them into a new age of music, introducing sixteen century, and modern music into the repertoire, he truly believed unless choral organisations were prepared to make use of the new works being produced by young composers, then they would not be given the opportunity to become widely known in the music world. Many of them commissioned Pendyrus to perform new works, and in particular Alun Hoddinott, and David Wynne in the knowledge that the end product would be to perfection. Audiences who had the pleasure of hearing the magnificent sound of Pendyrus performing Karl Orff’s *“Carmina Burana”* with the National Orchestra Of Wales, appreciated that they were hearing something very special from an amateur choir, that had been set a standard by their musical director that was equal to any professional chorus.

On the first evening Glynne Jones came into the choir’s rehearsal room, those present will never forget, with his brightly coloured bow tie, which was to become his trade mark, and his long flowing cape, he stood in front of a hundred plus strangers and said, I will give you six months to reach my standards, if you don’t, then I will leave. Glynne stayed for 38 years and remained loyal to his choir, to Rhondda and its people to whom he gave all, and accepted nothing in return. His reward was to revel in the joy and admiration from the audiences he set out to thrill by his charisma, and musical genius. His musical abilities were such, he could have demanded any orchestra of his choice, but his love for choral singing, and particularly male choral singing kept him firmly in Tylorstown. He had created a unique sound, a sound that was eventually to be heard around the world. Pendyrus had become one of the greatest ambassadors of not only Rhondda, but also Wales, greatly admired by the thousands of people who have thronged to hundreds of concerts since their inauguration 83 years ago.

Glynne Jones conducted his last concert with the choir at the Rhondda Fach Sports Centre on the 8th of December 2000, just sixteen days before his sudden and untimely death on Christmas Eve 24th December 2000.

Rhondda Fach Sports Centre is built on the site of the former Pendyrus Colliery (Ferndale No. 6 & 7 Pits)



Pendyrus Colliery