

Chapel's future in hands of residents

By Anwen Humfrey

TREFIN residents are investigating the possibility of saving the village chapel for community use.

The grade two listed methodist chapel was recently decommissioned, and locals are holding a meeting at the chapel at 1pm tomorrow (Thursday), to discuss its future.

Chris Clements runs the youth hostel opposite the chapel, and is appealing for members of the community to have their say about the building's possibilities.

He said: "We would love to keep it for community use.

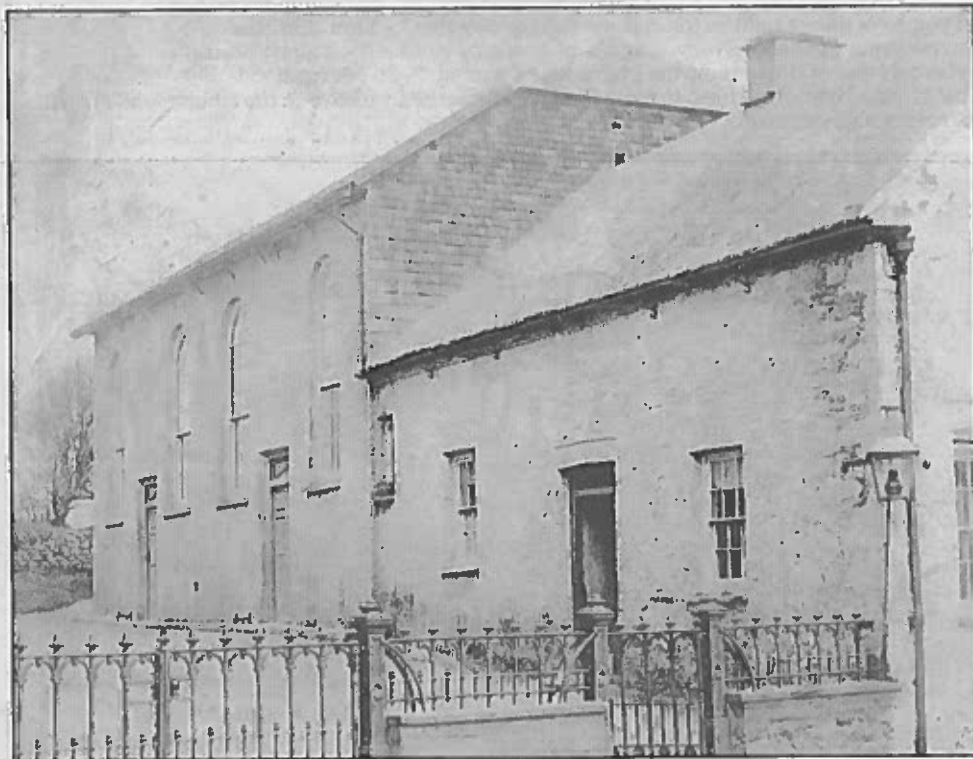
"It's such a beautiful building, and it could remain as a centre for occasional Christian worship, as well as being a venue to hold meetings and musical events."

Other suggestions for the chapel, which dates back to 1834, include a museum of north Pembrokeshire life, an interpretation centre for visitors, art exhibitions and flower festivals.

Mr Clements added: "We are just on the cusp of losing it as dry rot has set in and it is starting to deteriorate.

"It will take a considerable sum to retain it, but it would be a sad loss to lose this building, and we could apply for grant funding."

It is hoped a Friends of Trefin Chapel group may be



GLIMPSE OF THE PAST: Trefin chapel at the start of the 20th century.

formed following the meeting.

William Owen, chairman of the North Pembrokeshire District Presbytery, said the chapel had an interesting history and architecture.

He said: "We are concerned about the future of the building. We want to

keep it in good order, and keep it for worship and community use

"There is a lot of history in the building that we want to bring out."

Trefin Community Hall and The Old School Hostel are both leased from the Presbyterian Church, which

owns the chapel.

Mr Clements added: "If the chapel can be saved, we feel the future of the whole complex and its benefit to the community and local businesses would be better assured."

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