

| GREFFTWR LLŶN |

| LLŶN ARTISAN |

ART ON LLŶN: KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY
Celf ym Mhen Llŷn: Traddodiad Teuluol

- WORDS BY GEIRIAU GAN DEBS WILLIAMS -



It's a dreary early-April day in Tudweiliog. A fine drizzle has dogged my journey to visit Amanda and Chris Brady, and the coldness seems to penetrate my bones as I hop out of the car. But then I'm in the smithy, and suddenly all is well and warm again.

Amanda takes me next door to the family's shop, Hen Siop y Crydd, for a quick look around before we start the interview. It's like stepping back in time: the walls are coated with traditional horsehair and mud plaster, there's a beautiful wobbly old flagstone floor, and the exposed ceiling beams are topped with the floorboards of the room upstairs. Modern touches like electricity feel incongruous, somehow.

The shop is stocked with handmade pieces that come largely from the hands of Amanda and Chris. Dotted around are little pieces from the smithy, such

Diwrnod llwm o Ebrill ydi hi yn Nhudweiliog. Roedd y glaw mân yn ddiflas ar fy nhaith i ymweld ag Amanda a Chris Brady, ac rydw i'n teimlo'r oerni ym mêr fy esgyrn wrth imi adael y car. Ond ymhen ennyd, rydw i yn yr efail ac mae popeth yn gynnes ac yn braf unwaith eto.

Aeth Amanda â mi drws nesaf i siop y teulu, Hen Siop y Crydd, i gael golwg sydyn rownd y lle cyn inni fwrw ati efo'r cyfweiliad. Mae fel pe bawn wedi mynd yn ôl mewn amser: mae yma waliau traddodiadol o flew ceffyl a phlaster mwd, llawr o hen fflagiau simsan hardd, ac mae trawstiau agored y nenfwd yn cynnal estyll yr ystafell i fyny'r grisiau. Dydi pethau modern fel cyflenwad trydan ddim yn perthyn i'r lle, rywsut.

Mae gan y siop stoc o ddarnau wedi'u gwneud â llaw, gan ddwylo Amanda a Chris yn bennaf. Fe wela i ddarnau bychain wedi'u gwneud yn yr efail yma ac



Left Page: Inside the charming Hen Siop y Crydd
This Page: Above - A selection of Chris' handmade items
Right- A decorative metal bowl for holding jewellery

as pieces of driftwood with metal candle holders attached. On a display in the corner is a selection of Amanda's beautiful handmade greetings cards. It's a real treasure trove.

Sitting at the kitchen table a few minutes later with Amanda, Chris and their daughter Ellie, I learn that Chris is a second-generation blacksmith, who started training at 15.

Did Chris always know he was going to be a smith? Was it expected of him that he'd follow in his father's footsteps?

"I think so, yes. It was always something I enjoyed looking at, and I think it was just in me, really."

Amanda explains that at college, Chris made flowers and other intricate pieces, "but then of course the farm work and the fixing of machines takes over. But we're both got an interest back into the traditional skills."

The work Chris does now is more varied, and he enjoys making each piece based on its own individual challenge. But one of his favourite things to make is ornate railings and gates - some of which you'll spot on a drive around the Llŷn Peninsula.

Amanda tells me: "If you go through Nefyn... around at the top he's done a set of railings that are like rope, as it's a fishing town, so he made railings of the three herrings with a rope effect and that was a real challenge - he had to tie knots in the steel. He's done one in Abersoch, the same sort of thing again, like a ship."

Chris also enjoys his bar and restaurant refitting projects - he's recently finished a job at The Cliffs



acw, fel darnau o froc môr efo darnau metel i ddal canhwylau wedi'u gosod. Mae detholiad o gardiau cyfarch hardd Amanda ar ddangos yn y gornel. Mae'r lle yn llawn trysorau.

Wrth eistedd wrth fwrdd y gegin hefo Amanda, Chris a'u merch Ellie ychydig funudau'n ddiweddarach, dyma ddysgu bod Chris yn of ail genhedlaeth, a dechreuodd ddysgu ei grefft yn 15 mlwydd oed.

Oedd Chris yn gwybod erioed mai gof fyddai? A oedd disgwyl iddo ddilyn ôl troed ei dad?

"Oeddwn, dwi'n meddwl. Roedd o wastad yn rhywbeth roeddwn i'n hoff o sbio arno, dwi'n meddwl ei fod yn of i erioed a dweud y gwir."

Eglurodd Amanda bod Chris yn arfer gwneud blodau a phethau cywrair o'r fath yn ei ddyddiau coleg, "ond wedyn, wrth gwrs, mae gwaith fferm a thrwsio peiriannau'n cymryd blaenoriaeth. Ond mae'r ddau ohonom wedi ymddiddori unwaith eto yn y sgiliau traddodiadol."

Mae'r gwaith y mae Chris yn ei wneud rŵan yn fwy amrywiol, ac mae'n mwynhau gwneud pob darn ar sail y sialens unigryw sy'n perthyn i bob un. Ond, un o'i hoff bethau i'w gwneud yw rheiliau a giatiau addurnol - fe welwch chi rai ohonynt wrth yrru o gwmpas Pen Llŷn.

Meddai Amanda: "Os ewch chi drwy Nefyn... rownd yn y top, mae o wedi gwneud set o reiliau sy'n edrych fel rhaff, gan mai tref bysgota ydi hi, felly mi wnaeth y rheiliau ar ffurf tri phennog efo effaith rhaff, ac roedd honno'n dipyn o her - roedd yn rhaid iddo glymu clymau yn y dur. Os ewch chi i Abersoch, fe welwch yr un peth eto, ar ffurf llong."

Mae Chris hefyd yn mwynhau ei brosiectau ail-ffitio bariau a bwytai - fe orffennodd joban yn The Cliffs ym



IT'S A REAL TREASURE TROVE
MAE'R LLE YN LLAWN TRYSORAU





in Morfa Nefyn, where the restaurant has been kitted out with a rustic-meets-industrial, wood-and-metal style that's instantly recognisable as a 'Chris Brady' makeover. "This vintage industrial salvaged look is all the rage now," Amanda explains, before Chris admits "I'd like to do more of that type of thing, where more people will see my stuff."

What I love most about the Bradys' work is their repurposing of old things to give them a new lease of life.

"We've got a big yard here full of scrap," Amanda says, "and a lot of the fixtures we've made in the shop have been things we've taken from the yard. Corrugated sheets, the wood, the pallets..."

"It's trying to get your head around thinking what to do with the things," Chris adds. "There's loads of things there but it takes time to think 'what can I do with that?'"

Chris isn't the only upcycler in the family; Amanda also likes to repurpose old items. She's used old kettles and even colanders as planters for her flower arrangements.

"I use a lot of old salvaged pots and things, to make herb planters. The kids are finding driftwood on the beach and I'm designing something around that, then Chris is adding a bit of steel. It's the same with my planters; I use old colanders that I find in his yard, and some of the stuff in his yard I use for displays."

The Bradys' children, Ellie and Evan, like to get involved with making and repurposing too; on sale at the shop are a couple of fire pits that Ellie and Evan made from old washing machine drums, and Evan has announced his intention to follow in his father's footsteps as a smith.

Morfa Nefyn yn ddiweddar, yn ailwampio'r bwyty ar steil traddodiadol-ddiwydiannol hefo cyfuniad o bren a metel sydd yn hawdd i'w adnabod fel gwaith o law Chris. "Y steil 'vintage' diwydiannol sy'n ffasiynol y dyddiau yma," eglurodd Amanda, cyn i Chris gyfaddef "hoffwn wneud mwy o'r math yma o beth, lle bydd mwy o bobl yn gweld fy ngwaith."

Yr hyn rydw i'n fwyaf hoff ohono am waith y teulu Brady yw eu bod yn rhoi pwrpas newydd i hen bethau ac yn rhoi ail gyfle ar fywyd iddyn nhw.

"Mae gynnon ni iard fawr yma sy'n llawn sgrap," meddai Amanda, "ac mae llawer o'r darnau gosod rydyn ni'n eu gwerthu yn y siop yn rai y gwnaethon ni eu cymryd o'r iard. Dalennau rhychog, y pren, y palets..."

"Yr her ydi trio meddwl beth i wneud efo'r pethau," ychwanegodd Chris. "Mae yna lwythi o bethau yna ond mae'n cymryd amser i feddwl 'be alla i wneud efo hwnna?'"

Nid Chris yw'r unig uwch-gylchwr yn y teulu; mae Amanda hefyd yn hoff o roi pwrpas newydd i hen bethau. Mae hi wedi defnyddio hen degelli a hyd yn oed colandrau fel planwyr ar gyfer ei blodau.

"Rydw i'n defnyddio lot o hen botiau aballu wedi'u hachub, i wneud potiau plannu perlysiâu. Mae'r plant yn dod o hyd i froc môr ar y traeth a dwi'n dylunio rhywbeth allan o hwnnw, wedyn mae Chris yn ychwanegu ychydig o ddur. Mae'r un peth efo'r potiau plannu; rydw i'n defnyddio'r hen golandrau y bydda i'n dod o hyd iddyn nhw yn yr iard, a dwi'n defnyddio rhywfaint o stwff o'r iard ar gyfer arddangosfeydd."

Mae plant y teulu, Ellie ac Evan, yn mwynhau cymryd rhan mewn gwneud ac aildefnyddio hefyd; yn cynnwys cwpl o grochanau tân a wnaeth Ellie ac Evan allan o hen ddrymiau peiriant golchi, ac mae Evan wedi cyhoeddi ei fwriad i ddilyn yn ôl troed ei dad a mynd yn gof.

Mae Amanda wedi hunan hyfforddi fel trefnydd blodau, ac mae'n tyfu ei blodau ei hun o'r had, mewn



Left Page: Left - The Brady family outside the shop
Right - A hand forged heart keyring
This Page: Above - Amanda and her flowers
Bottom - Amanda's beautiful home grown cut flowers

A self-taught florist, Amanda grows her own flowers from seed, in a polytunnel. "I use a lot of herbs, wild flowers, grasses - and I've used a lot of lavender, rosemary, and eucalyptus which I grow myself, and I do a bit of foraging."

Amanda's arrangements tend to include varieties of flowers that you don't typically see in shop-bought bouquets. "My style is very rustic, very country garden," she explains, before telling me that as well as bouquets and potted arrangements she also provides flowers for weddings.

Thinking about Amanda's flowers and the things Chris makes from metal and wood, it seems there's been quite a revival of interest in the traditional rural art and craft skills and rural living generally - a kind of stripping things back to simplicity.

"People want hand made things, don't they?" Amanda says. "They want to see the quality... it's the same with railings and gates - the farmers moved away from the smithy making them and got factory made ones, and the quality... the ones that Chris and his dad have made last a lifetime, but people are actually coming back now because the cheap factory ones they're buying, they just don't last."

"The biggest problem is getting the customers to pay for it!" Chris laughs. "They do cost a lot more than the factory things, yes, but it's a totally different product in the end, isn't it?"

Amanda and I roll our eyes at how even our own relatives can't always see the value in the things we make to sell.

"It's like the flowers," Amanda says. "I grow them myself from seed, hours of digging and weeding, and I'll do a bouquet and they'll go 'They're £2.50 in the supermarket!' And I'll go,



tunnel polythen. "Rydw i'n defnyddio llawer o berlysiau, blodau gwyllt, gweiriau - ac rydw i wedi defnyddio llawer o lafant, rhosmari ac ewcalyptws; rydw i'n tyfu'r rheiny fy hun, ac mi fydda i'n mynd i fforio ryw 'chydig."

Mae trefniadau Amanda yn tueddu i gynnwys mathau o flodau nad ydych chi'n aml yn eu gweld mewn tuswau blodau mewn siop. "Mae fy steil i'n draddodiadol iawn, fel gardd wledig," eglurodd, cyn dweud wrthyf ei bod yn gwneud blodau ar gyfer priodasau yn ogystal â threfniadau mewn potiau a tuswau.

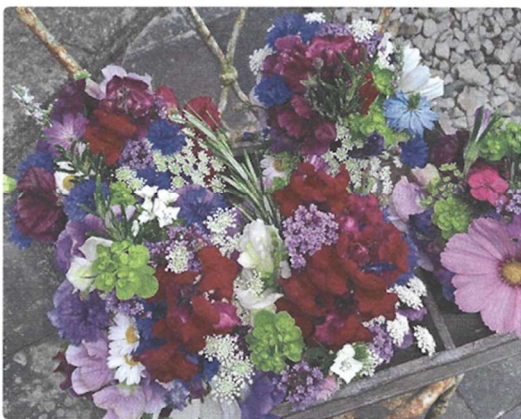
Wrth feddwl am flodau Amanda a chreadigaethau metel a phren Chris, mae'n ymddangos bod dipyn o adfywiad o ran diddordeb mewn sgiliau celf a chrefft gwledig traddodiadol ac mewn bywyd gwledig yn gyffredinol - fel pe bai pobl am ddiosg cymhlethdodau bywyd a byw yn symlach.

"Mae pobl eisiau pethau wedi'u gwneud â llaw, dydyn?" Meddai Amanda. "Maen nhw eisiau gweld y safon... mae'r un peth yn wir efo rheiliau a giatiau - peidiodd y ffermwyr â phrynu giatiau o'r efail, gan ddewis rhai wedi'u gwneud mewn ffatri yn eu lle, ac mae'r ansawdd... wel, mae giatiau Chris a'i dad yn para oes, ond mae pobl yn dod yn ôl rwan gan nad ydi'r giatiau rhad o'r ffatri jest ddim yn para."

"Y broblem fwyaf ydi cael y cwsmeriaid i dalu amdany'n nhw!" Chwarddodd Chris. "Maen nhw'n costio llawer mwy na'r pethau ffatri, mae hynny'n wir, ond mae o'n gynnyrch hollol wahanol yn y pen draw, dydi?"

Mae Amanda a minnau'n rowlio ein llygaid wrth feddwl sut mae hyd yn oed ein teuluoedd yn methu gweld y gwerth yn y pethau rydyn ni'n eu gwneud i'w gwerthu.

"Mae'r un peth yn wir efo'r blodau," meddai Amanda. "Rydw i'n eu tyfu nhw fy hun o'r had, oriau o rawio a chwynnu, ac mi wna i dusw o flodau ac maen nhw'n dweud '£2.50 fasa'r rheina yn yr archfarchnad!' a dwi'n dweud 'ylwch, os ydyn nhw eisiau blodau o'r archfarchnad, fe gan'nhw fynd i'r archfarchnad!'



- We Love Local Artists -
- Caru Artistiaid Lleol -



THE BRADY FAMILY'S
ENTHUSIASM FOR THE
TRADITIONAL RUSTIC ARTS IS
INFECTIOUS
MAE BRWDFRYDEDD TEULU'R
BRADYS AM GREFFTAU
TRADDODIADOL YN HEINTUS.

Left: Chris at work in the
smithy
Right: Chris worked Nefyn's
three herrings logo into his
railing design

'Look, if they want flowers from the supermarket, they can go to the supermarket! I'm not a trained florist, I'm self-taught, and I just think the work that's gone into that... but some people are appreciating it, because it's different.'

Visitors to the village have shown so much interest in the work Chris does at the forge, he's now in the process of setting up taster sessions for those who'd like to have a go at smithing themselves.

"To start with [it will be] just making simple pokers or something," Chris explains.

"And they can take it away with them, make something that they can take," Amanda adds.

When are the classes starting?

"We haven't decided!" Chris laughs. "Now that Easter is over we're going to start planning."

"Maybe we'll put out one date and see how it goes," says Amanda. "But it's restricted if you're only doing, say... I don't know, how many could you really have in one go? Four? Five? Because you don't want people standing around watching everyone else do it, so it will be nice small intimate groups."

The Brady family's enthusiasm for the traditional rustic arts is infectious. I leave Tudweiliog brimming with ideas and wondering if there's a way we can collaborate, combining the Bradys' upcycled metal and wood with my upcycled painted glass. One thing's for sure, though: this won't be my last visit to Hen Siop y Crydd... I'll be back again soon, to properly explore and pick up a treat or two! •

Dydw i ddim yn drefnwr blodau hyfforddedig, dysgu fy hun wnes i, a dwi'n meddwl bod y gwaith sy'n mynd i mewn i greu'r peth... ond mae rhai pobl yn ei werthfawrogi, am ei fod yn wahanol."

Mae ymwelwyr i'r pentref wedi dangos cymaint o ddiddordeb yng ngwaith Chris yn yr efall, nes ei fod o bellach wrthi'n sefydlu sesiynau blasu i'r rhai sydd am roi cynnig ar waith gof eu hunain.

"I ddechrau dim ond gwneud poceri syml neu rywbeth [fydd yn y sesiwn]," eglurodd Chris.

"Ac mi fyddan nhw'n cael mynd â fo efo nhw, gwneud rhywbeth y gallan nhw fynd adra efo nhw," ychwanegodd Amanda.

Pa bryd fydd y dosbarthiadau'n dechrau?

"Dydan ni heb benderfynu!" chwarddodd Chris. "Nawr fod y Pasg wedi bod, mi wnawn ni ddechrau cynllunio."

"Efallai y gwnawn ni gynnal un dyddiad a gweld sut mae'n mynd," meddai Amanda. "Ond mae o'n gyfyngedig, gwneud dim ond... 'wn i ddim, faint allech chi ei gael ar unwaith? Pedwar? Pump? Achos does waeth i chi heb â chael pobl yn sefyllian o gwmpas yn gwylio pawb arall wrthi, felly grwpiau bach clos amdani."

Mae brwdfrydedd teulu'r Bradys am grefftau traddodiadol yn heintus. Fe wnes i adael Tudweiliog yn llawn syniadau ac yn meddwl tybed a oes modd i ni gydweithio, gan gyfuno metel a phren wedi'i uwchgylchu gan y Bradys a fy ngwaith i o uwchgylchu gwydr wedi'i baentio. Mae un peth yn siŵr, nid hon mo fy ymweliad olaf â Hen Siop y Crydd... Mi fydda i'n dychwelyd yn fuan i chwilo ac i dretio fy hun i ambell beth! •

Hen Siop y Crydd is open from 10am-6pm every day | Mae Hen Siop y Crydd ar agor o 10yb-6yh bob dydd.

For more information about Chris and Amanda Brady, visit their Facebook pages:

Am ragor o wybodaeth am Chris ac Amanda Brady, ewch i bori eu tudalennau Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Chris-Brady-Blacksmith-Welder-1882856311972643/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Blodau-Ardd-1392234967741677/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Hen-Siop-y-Crydd-394587254317352/>

We Love Creativity | We Love Family Businesses | Caru Crefftau Traddodiadol | We Love Hen Siop Y Crydd