

# HOWELLS, THOMAS (Hywel Cynon, 1839 - 1905), collier, printer, poet, preacher, and musician

**Name:** Thomas Howells  
**Pseudonym:** Hywel Cynon  
**Date of birth:** 1839  
**Date of death:** 1905  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** collier, printer, poet, preacher, and musician  
**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Music; Performing Arts; Poetry; Printing and Publishing; Religion  
**Author:** Robert David Griffith

Born 12 October 1839, at Glyn Neath, Glamorganshire. The family moved to Rhymney and the son began to work as a collier's boy when he was only seven years old. Later, at Aberaman, whither the family had moved from Rhymney, he was able to receive some education and he began to attend an evening class conducted by the [Rev. John Davies](#). In 1858 [John Roberts](#) (Ieuan Gwyllt) came to Aberdare and Hywel Cynon benefited by association with him and with the musicians who lived in the district. In 1866 he acquired the printing plant which had belonged to [Tafalaw](#) and thereafter he worked as a printer; he was also a local preacher. He published two collections of poems - *Awelon yr Haf* and *Cerddi Hywel Cynon*. He also composed some pieces of music, e.g. ' Gwnewch bopeth yn Gymraeg ' and a hymn-tune; the latter appears in *Llyfr Tonau* ([Stephen](#) and [Jones](#)). He published, in 1871, a *Geirlyfr Cerddorol* which proved very useful. He was a soloist in one of the concerts given by the Aberdare United Choral Union; he also conducted musical festivals and acted as adjudicator. He died 15 October 1905 and was buried in the Aberdare cemetery.

## Author

Robert David Griffith, (1877 - 1958)

## Sources

Edward Jones, *Rhestr gyda nodiadau byrion, o Enwogion Cymreig o 1700 i 1900* (1908)

*Y Cerddor*, December 1905

## Additional Links

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