

# The Christmas Party



## Mel The Miner

by Mark-Edwyn Stephens

A magical Christmas story written for children and follows the adventures of a pretty young lady called Mel the Miner who lives on a welsh island in a small cottage next to an old mine between two villages, although Mel the Miner now lives on her own at the cottage, she has friends that live near the mine too, there is Will the Cargo who lives on an old boat in the mine's harbour also Dudley and Yogi two retired pit ponies who live on the hillside.

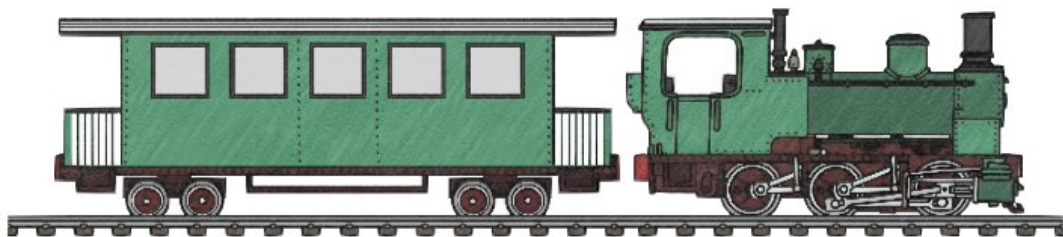
**There Are Seven Adventure Stories To Collect**

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# Mel The Miner & The Christmas Party

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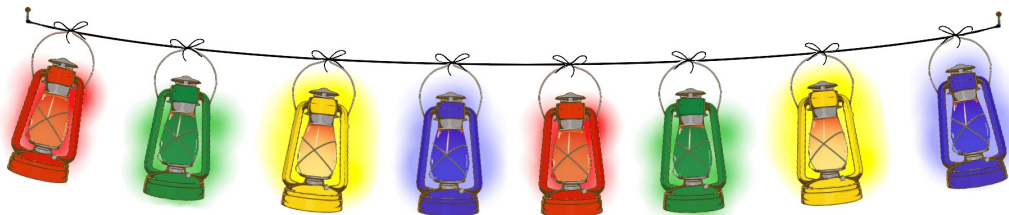


This is the story of Mel the Miner, she is a pretty young lady who lives on a Welsh island in a small cottage next to her fathers old mine. The mine and cottage are between two villages, one called Pwllgwyn and the other Porthbont, each have a bridge from the island to the mainland, one a railway bridge and the other a road bridge, although Mel now lives on her own at the cottage, she has friends that live near the mine too, there is Will the Cargo who lives on a boat in the mine's harbour also Dudley and Yogi two retired pit ponies that once worked in the mine who now live on the hillside.

But before we start our story there are two more things to tell you, the first is her real name which is Melimine but the villagers call her Mel the Mine and she likes to be called Mel by her friends and you and me. The second is her mine, it holds a secret of magical importance, can you guess what it is? If you cannot guess then read on to find out. Mel is well liked by the villagers from both Pwllgwyn and Porthbont and often they would turn to her for help when things went wrong.

Mel does not feel she is that important but she is both an engineer and a miner and was taught well by her father, she runs the mine, drives the train on her small railway and keeps the small harbour that once was an important part of the mine. Moored in her harbour is an old cargo boat called Gwendoline which is the home of her good friend Will and who once transported the mine's ore for her father on his cargo boat.

Her small railway has a small steam engine called Llewelyn and he pulls a passenger carriage called Mawd but Llewelyn is a hard working steam engine that is often pulling other trucks and hoppers round the mine and many a time takes goods from one village to the other. Mel's railway is only small, not big like the railway that crosses the bridge and takes people to far away places like London, no, her railway is very small but the villagers and Mel love it very much.



Our story begins in one snowy December as we excitedly approached Christmas, Mel was in the lounge of her small cottage strolling about in her big fluffy slippers she got for a

present last Christmas, as they were getting old she wondered if Santa might bring a new pair this Christmas as they had served her well, after all she had been good all year.

Mel had just finished putting up her Christmas decorations and was feeling quite Christmassy as she looked out of the window at the mountains covered in snow when, Ring! Ring!, the telephone began to sing, rushing over to the phone Mel answered it by saying "Bore da" (that's welsh for good morning, you know), speaking on the other end was Sheree the lady who is in charge of the village hall and who was in a bit of a fluster and sounded very upset.

"What ever is wrong?" asked Mel, Sheree started to explain that today was the children's Christmas Party for both the villages children and she could not find the village hall's Christmas decorations anywhere and was quite upset the children's party would be spoiled. Mel looked around her lounge at her wonderful decorations she had just put up and with some slight disappointment said to Sheree, "do not worry I will bring my decorations down to the hall".

But after hanging up the phone Mel had quite another idea altogether, why not go see the Dragon who lived in her mine (this is the magical importance I told you of at the beginning), you see Mel has a Dragon that lives in her mine and he is always happy to help and always has some magic he could bring to the mine and with his magic could change the mine to any kind of mine one could possibly want or imagine.



Slipping out of her fluffy slippers and slopping into her big mining boots Mel popped on her thick coat and woolly hat and scarf and off Mel ventured in the snow slipping and sliding as she ran down to the mine. Excitedly shouting along the way "Dragon, Dragon Bore da, Bore da" (that's welsh for good morning, you know) "ah good morning" Dragon replied in his normal deep and gruff voice "how may I help you?" (now if you are wondering if Dragon is a real dragon the answer is an definite yes).

Mel explained the problem with the children's Christmas party and how the decorations were nowhere to be found not anywhere and that Sheree was most upset. Dragon was most concerned and said to Mel, "there is a possibility that with a little magic I could transform the mine into a tinsel mine and maybe some Christmas decorations could come from that", Mel was very happy, thanked Dragon and would pop home again to get her hard mining hat and mining shovel, a special shovel as it was the one that had belonged to her father.



As she left the mine entrance a large flash lots of sparks, some fissiles and some crackles and small bangs and some brightly coloured smoke came following her out, don't worry this is normal when Dragon makes his magic and off she went to get changed, on reaching her small welsh cottage Mel picked up her hard mining hat and shovel and returned to the mine and pushed a hopper cart down to where Dragon was waiting, the whole mine had changed into a sparkling cavern of colour and lights, Dragon pointed to one particular corner that was shining and sparkling more than any other, saying "Quick Mel that's where to dig there are lots of decorations and tinsel just behind that rock".

Sure enough as Mel scraped away at the rock face lots of garlands, tinsel and tree babbles fell from the wall of the mine, "come on Mel" said Dragon "load them into your hopper and I will push it back to the top of the mine for you". Turning to Dragon with a smile Mel said, "thank you Dragon you are truly the real treasure in our mine"

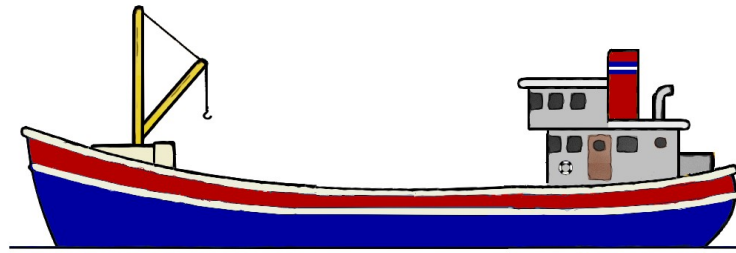


As it was snowing quite hard now Llewelyn the steam engine was too cold to start so she wondered how she would get the decorations to the village for Sheree to put up for the children's Christmas party. I know she thought I will ask Will the Cargo to help. Pushing the hopper cart down to the harbour was easy as it was all down hill and the snow was very slippery and as she got closer she called out to Will, "Will, Bore da, Bore da" (that welsh for good morning, you know).

Will the Cargo was in his cabin onboard Gwendoline his cargo boat and could hear Mel outside calling, oh dear he thought Mel sounds excited and he clambered to Gwendoline's deck to see what all the commotion and hubbub was about. "Good morning Mel", he said, "in a right hubbub you are Mel, what is wrong, and can I help?"

Mel explained the problem with the children's Christmas party and how the decorations were not to be found anywhere and that Sheree was so upset and how Dragon had used his magic to change the mine into a tinsel mine and now she had all these decorations for the children's Christmas party and how it was too cold to start Llewelyn the steam engine to

take them to the village and asked Will kindly if he would take them for her (you can take a breath now).

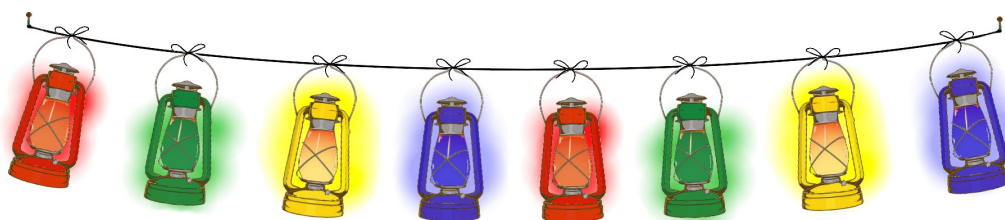


"Yes, yes" Will exclaimed in a cheerful and excited way, "I love a good party", he said, "I have lots of Christmas trees onboard that I am taking to the hardware shop in Porthbont, I am sure the children would love one of those too". So Mel thanked Will and they loaded all the decorations onboard Gwendoline and Will then set sail for the village while Mel with a happy smile on her face waved them off, "hwyl, hwyl" Mel called out as she waved, "Hwyl Gwendoline, Hwyl Will" she called, (Hwyl is goodbye in welsh, you know) she waved and waved as Will the Cargo sailed off under the bridge to the village of Porthbont.

As Mel climbed back up the hillside to her little cottage, this time she had time to say good morning to her other friends (do you remember what Good Morning is in Welsh?), Mel called over, "Bore da Dudley, Bore da Yogi" the ponies who were now in the stable shelter keeping warm neighed and smile back. Mel then passed her train "Bore da Mawd, Bore da Llewelyn" and they too seemed to smile back.

"Ah lovely to be home", Mel said while taking off her big mining boots her thick coat and hard mining hat and warm scarf then hanging up her fathers old mining shovel, Mel then slipped back into her warm fluffy slippers and then telephoned Sheree to explain how Dragon had used his magic and turned the mine into a tinsel mine and we now had lots of decorations for the Children's Christmas Party and how the cold snow would not let her start Llewelyn the steam engine and how Will was onboard Gwendoline and was on his way with the decorations and also a big, big Christmas tree too.

Sheree was so happy and very grateful not to mention relieved and said, "I'll run down to meet Will the Cargo and Gwendoline at the pier" and so off she went. Mel too was happy; as she looked around her lounge again at her decorations and thought how nice they looked and she was very relieved she would not have to do the decorating all over again.

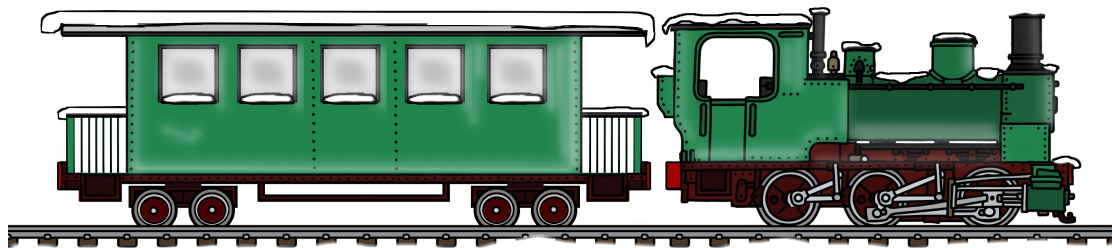


Mel was just about to put the kettle on for a lovely cup of tea when, Ring! Ring!, the telephone began to sing again, Mel rushed over to the phone and again answered it by saying



"Bore da" (that's welsh for good morning, you know), on the other end was Bill the Bus who drives the local school bus, and who was in a bit of a fluster and was very upset. "What ever is wrong?" asked Mel.

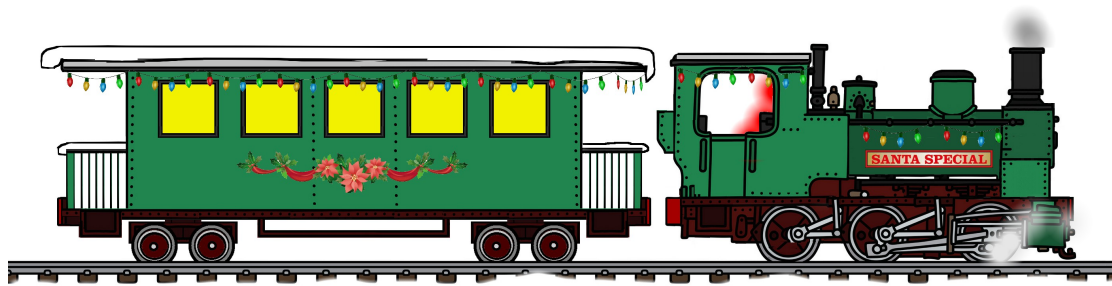
Bill explained that his big yellow bus had broken down and David the Garage cannot come out to mend it as he was away visiting family in the south. Bill asked Mel if she could pick up the children at Pwllgwyn railway station and take them to Porthbont Station on her passenger train.



Mel explained she could not start Llewelyn the steam engine because of the snow and how cold it was, they were both in a pickle to what could be done, then Mel thought she could ask Dragon again and see if his magic would work. She asked Bill if he could you get the children on the big train from Pwllgwyn railway station to the station at Llantysilio Junction. She then would pick them up from there with Llewelyn and Mawd her steam train and take them to the village of Porthbont. You see one must understand Llantysilio Junction is where the big trains that run on wide track meet the small trains that run on narrow track and so are much, much smaller.

So again Mel popped on her thick coat and train drivers cap and scarf, off Mel ventured once more in the snow down to the mine. "Dragon, Dragon" Mel was calling out as she excitedly ran slipping and sliding down the hillside. "Drag", Mel was about to speak but stopped in her tracks as Dragon was at the entrance of the mine and had been watching her load up Will's Gwendoline and wave them off. "What now?" said Dragon in his deep and gruff voice, "Dragon things have got worse and we need your magic to unfreeze Llewelyn" she said, and explained to him that Bill's big yellow bus had broken down and unable to take the school children to the party.

Dragon laughed and with a chuckle said, "no problem Mel, no problem at all, we don't need magic for that" where upon he hobbled through the snow over to Llewelyn the steam engine, "now stand back" he said. Mel shuffled backwards a little in the snow, with a deep inhaled of breath Dragon whooshed a long and very hot breath of fire from his mouth all over the cab of Llewelyn, Llewelyn was glowing a lovely warm red and it was as if he was smiling as he instantly got up steam then Toot! Toot!, blowing his whistle loud, so loud the children who were now on the train travelling from Pwllgwyn Railway Station to Llantysilio Junction could hear it and they all knew it was Llewelyn the little steam engine and they cheered, Bill the Bus also heard it and was so relieved.



Arriving at Porthbont pier, Will the Cargo helped take all the decorations and the tree up the snowy road to the village hall and after a warm cup of tea they all put the decorations up and waited for the children to arrive and all were happy and looking forward to the party. The hall was not the only one to be decorated that day, for at the mine as Llewelyn got ready to pull Mawd, Dragon and Mel decorated the Train with lights and tinsel turning it into a Santa's Special, this made Llewelyn and Mawd very happy as they had always wanted to be a Santa train.

As Llewelyn and Mawd the now Santa's Special pulled into the station at Llantysilio Junction at the same time the children arrived on the opposite platform and all excited to see Mel and the Santa Special, all cheering, singing and looking forward to the party, Bill the Bus ushered the children on to Mel's passenger train that was looking very sparkly, bright and Christmassy, Bill thanked Mel, Mawd and Llewelyn and all was well, all were happy and the children sang their Christmas songs as they made their way along the track by the waters edge to Porthbont all aboard the Santa's Special.

Arriving at the Station Under The Bridge everyone was excited and it was only a short walk up the snowy road to the village hall to meet up with the children of Porthbont, oh, what fun both villages children had that afternoon, with games, songs, dancing and Santa came to give out presents to everyone and everyone was happy but none more than Dragon who was now smiling and imagining to himself all the fun the children were having, Dragon closed his eyes and had a peaceful sleep, all curled up and all cosy at the bottom of Mel's Old Mine.

All that is left to say is,

"Nadolig Llawen Ichi I Gyd"  
(that's welsh for, Merry Christmas To You All, you know)





## Meet The Real People



**Sheree**



**Billy The Bus**



**Will The Cargo**