

Menter y Tŵr Newsletter



Novemeber 2025

Hwyl yr Ŵyl



The lantern parade starting from Y Tŵr

Again this year, Y Tŵr opened its doors as part of Hwyl yr Ŵyl, Pwllheli's annual Christmas celebration weekend held at the end of November. Thanks to our fantastic team of volunteers, Y Tŵr was able to host Santa's Grotto and welcome visitors to the lively, festive bar.

Lantern Parade and Tree Lighting.

The celebrations began on Friday evening with the spectacular lantern parade which set off from Y Tŵr and made its way down to Y Maes where the Christmas tree was lit in a magical moment for the whole town in front of Band Pwllheli. On Saturday morning, tradition came alive as Santa arrived by train at 11.13. He toured around town in his sleigh, accompanied by the vibrant rhythms of Batala Bermo & Bangor Samba bands before settling into his beautifully decorated, cosy grotto at Y Tŵr for the weekend. Over the two days, Santa met nearly 200 local children and Y Tŵr was once again filled with laughter, excitement and festive cheer. We were delighted to work once again with the parents and young volunteers from Ysgol Ddawns Pwllheli who arranged, decorated and ran the grotto to raise funds for the school to participate in dance competitions and events. Supporting other community groups in Pwllheli and spreading positivity is something we are determined to do.



The lantern parade travels down through the town to the maes



Santa in the grotto

In this newsletter

Hwyl yr Ŵyl

New carpet

Christmas 1894
in Y Tŵr –
Raisins and
Turnips Pwllheli

Christmas 2025
Events

Hwyl yr Ŵyl

Busy Bar & Fundraising

While the children enjoyed the magic of Santa's Grotto, the bar was bustling throughout the weekend. Volunteers served festive drinks, including mulled wine, locally brewed Cwrw Llyn, as well as warming coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. The raffle proved a big hit, and visitors loved browsing the stalls filled Christmas decorations made by a talented volunteer, Y Tŵr merchandise and also the display of artwork created by Ysgol Cymerau and Glan y Mor pupils as part of a bridging the generations art project with Pwllheli artist Catrin Williams. Prints can be ordered for £40 each. More information can be found on our website and social media platforms, or by visiting Y Tŵr during one of our open evenings in December.

A huge thank you to our volunteers

None of this would not have been possible without our amazing team of volunteers. During the weeks leading up to Hwyl yr Wyl, they were busy clearing, painting and decorating to ensure that Y Tŵr was ready and welcoming. They worked tirelessly all weekend to make the event a huge success and we are truly grateful to each one. A huge thank you to all who came along to support Y Tŵr.



Bustle in the Bar. A packed room with everyone enjoying themselves



Dafydd, Carol and Lisa busy behind the bar

New carpet for the community room

The large ground-floor room on the left (formerly the "Grill") has recently undergone a fabulous transformation with the installation of a brand-new carpet, generously donated by our neighbours – Ross Huws Flooring- on Stryd Fawr, Pwllheli. This upgrade has already made a huge difference, creating a warm and inviting space just in time for the busy Christmas season. We are incredibly grateful to Ross Huws for their generosity, which has helped us provide a more welcoming and comfortable environment for all our visitors.

Over the past few months, we have received several generous donations from local companies. Thanks to:

Graeme Harrold, 3E Electrical – For the CCTV cameras.

T W Williams & Sons Ltd – for their work on the building's gas supply.

Cwmni Tan Llyn – for servicing and renewing the fire extinguishers.

North Wales Domestic Appliance Center (Euronics) – for electrical donations for the kitchen.

The gifts and expertise they have contributed is truly appreciated. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed. Your support makes a huge difference to the venture and enables us to move forward.



The new carpet looks great!

Christmas 1894 in Y Tŵr “Pwllheli, Currants and turnips”.

Pwllheli once celebrated Christmas in much more creative ways than we see today. It wasn't the lights or the shopping and grotto that created the excitement, but the little unexpected things that filled the Stryd Fawr in Pwllheli.

One gem from the archive is an advert for Tower Stores, opposite the Hotel, praising their “clean currants” as something unbeatable. Currants making the headlines? Who would've thought. Where else but Pwllheli!

The highlight of Christmas 1894 in Pwllheli was the town's Turnip Exhibition that was held in front of the hotel. Farmers from the area came to proudly display their produce, and Mr D H Parry of Penllwyn won with twenty-four turnips weighing almost four hundred pounds. Y Faner newspaper reported that the exhibition was one of the best they had ever witnessed. It is easy to imagine the crowd gathering and watching the weighing and measuring of the turnips as if they were pearls.

Though life has changed so much, stories like these remind us that Christmas in Pwllheli has always been a mix of humour, pride, and a sense of community —and long may that continue!

Robin-Rhys Jones.



Volunteering

There are always plenty of opportunities to volunteer and be part of Menter Y Tŵr. Please contact us to discuss further by sending a message to ytwrpwllheli@gmail.com or through our social media...