

Menter y Tŵr Newsletter



Y TŴR
PWLLHELI
July 2025



A new look for Y Tŵr!

The unveiling of Y Tŵr was a joyful coincidence just as summer arrived in the heart of Pwllheli's old town this July. As the layers of protective covering and scaffolding that had protected the building since December were gently removed, it felt like unwrapping a long-anticipated gift. Finished in rich, golden paint, Y Tŵr now glows like a bar of gold, radiating warmth and energy across the town—just as Menter Y Tŵr intended. Yellow, the winning choice in the public vote, has clearly made its mark. Its symbolism is open to interpretation, but its impact is undeniable. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to vote, and to those who offered expert guidance on choosing this perfect shade to complement both the building and its place on the high street.

Thanks to DR Williams construction company who worked tirelessly, and to the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns for funding the work.

Here are some of the comments received on our social media platforms and email:

"It looks so beautiful"
"Such an improvement"
"Very smart!"
"Looking fabulous"
"Lovely classy colour"
"Looks very nice. Very good job."
"Wonderful choice of colour!"
"A masterpiece!"
"Wow! Giving hope and positive vibes."
"Well done everyone. Wow."
"A cheerful colour. Thank you to everyone who made this happen."
"Very nice. The light coloured paint makes such a difference."
"A great first step!"

Our focus is now on maintaining the momentum and we look forward to sharing further details about the next developments in the August newsletter.

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Lisa

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Thanks to
Dawn



Trawsnewid Trefi
Transforming Towns



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

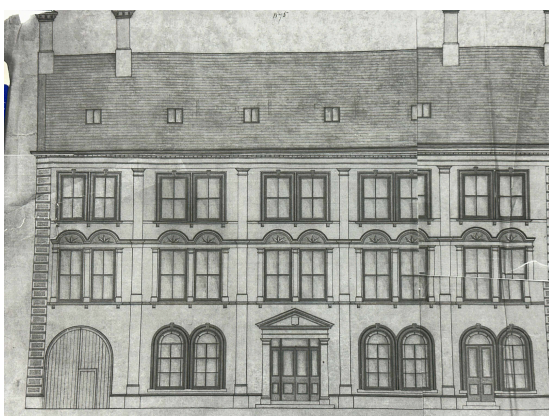
The wonderful legacy of Gwesty'r Tŵr

One of Menter y Tŵr's volunteers is Robin-Rhys Jones who is very interested in the old history of the building. He has a valuable collection of stories and newspaper clippings and is eager to share some of the stories with us.

Since its official opening in 1877, the hotel has stood not only as an impressive building in the center of Pwllheli, but as a stage for some of the town's most memorable stories - some dramatic and others harrowing.

The hotel was formally opened on 9 January 1877 in a grand ceremony presided over by the High Sheriff of Caernarfon County, Mr R. Carreg. Among the special guests were Mr H. T. Richardson (the Army), Mr Francis (the Navy), and Dr T. Hunter Hughes (the Volunteers), with the Mayor of Pwllheli, Mr R. Owen Jones, as vice-chairman. A toast was raised to Lord Newborough, and there was much celebration. It was said that he was responsible for promoting this "noble and large" building, and that he helped solve one of the town's main problems at the time - the lack of suitable accommodation for visitors. A very common problem for what is facing us today!

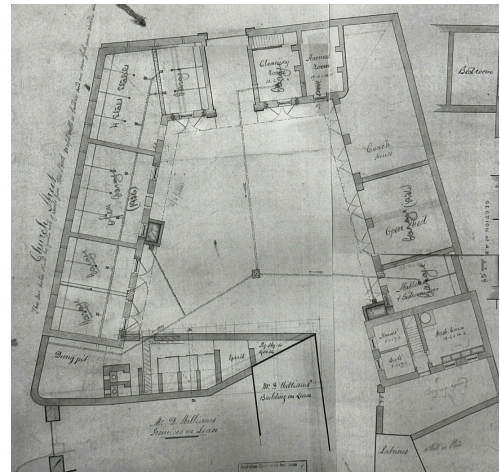
By 1886, the hotel was attracting royal connections. Indeed Browne, Holmes & Co., silk merchants to Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales, to hold a fashion exhibition from Paris at the hotel.



The architect's original drawings

In 1900, a meeting was held on the site of the hotel to establish the Pwllheli Golf Club, with enthusiastic support from Solomon Andrews & Sons — a development that would strengthen the town's leisure and social provision which continues to this day.

The hotel was also a center for agricultural developments. In 1922, the annual meeting of the Caernarfon and Anglesey County Milk Recording Association was held in Y Tŵr . Under the chairmanship of Professor R. G. White from Bangor, the performance of herds, butter fat testing, and calf marking were discussed - signs of modern agriculture based on data and science.



The architect's original drawings

But not all stories celebrated success. In 1968, the hotel became the scene of a serious incident. Margaret Barrett, a 31-year-old member of staff, set fire to her bedroom in the hotel just after being given a week's notice following a change in management. She returned to the building that evening and, after a quick chat with a colleague, warned them: "Don't let them sleep here." Shortly afterwards, thick smoke rose from the top floor. Miss Joan Griffith tried to run upstairs, but was stopped by the smoke. The fire service was called, and by 11.20 that night, Mrs Barrett had walked to Pwllheli Police Station and announced: "I set the place on fire." The damage was estimated to cost between £4,500 and £5,000. At the High Sheriff's Court in Caernarfon, her good character and hard work were recognised and she was given three years probation, with the condition that she would spend a year in North Wales Hospital, Denbigh.

From royal fashion to scientific farming, from sports to profound stories, Y Tŵr has been at the heart of Pwllheli's history for almost 150 years - not just a building, but a living archive of what has shaped the town and its people.

Robin Rhys-Jones.

Welcoming Lisa Dafydd, a new director for Menter Y Tŵr

A warm welcome to new director Lisa Dafydd.

Lisa is an experienced accountant and has worked with a number of small and large local businesses, over the years. As a result of her knowledge and experience, Lisa will take on the role of treasurer for Menter Y Tŵr . Originally from Penrhyndeudraeth, Lisa has lived in Pwllheli with her husband and their two children for almost 15 years. Welcome to the team, Lisa – we look forward to working with you!



Events Calendar

August. 2025

Menter Y Tŵr raffle , for sale at Salon Kar 'a' Llys Pwllheli (£1 per strip)

09 September 2025

Bingo night at Pwllheli Golf club. (Thank you to Karen Rees for organising.)

18 October 2025

Cor Y Brythoniaid & Lleucu Gwawr, Neuadd Dwyfor, Pwllheli. Raffle towards Menter y Tŵr .

Thank you Dawn



Over the past few weeks, Dawn Sweetman-Jones has been busy running a Bonus Ball competition to raise money for Menter Y Tŵr. The fundraiser is a huge success, already raising almost £1000 for the fund. We would like to say a big thank you to Dawn for all her hard work and dedication over the past few weeks.

A warm welcome is extended to individuals wishing to join the different groups that make up Menter y Tŵr . Raising funds whilst boosting the town’s social calendar with various activities will create a social buzz in the town. You are welcome to contact us via our social media platforms or email to discuss your ideas. email: ytwrpwllheli@gmail.com

Criw Y Tŵr