

# The Old Town Hall

## Merthyr Tydfil

Hen Neuadd y Dref, Merthyr Tudful



### Heart of our town

- Building starts in 1896
- Public Offices open in 1898
- Costs - around £15,000
- 1905 - first Mayor of Merthyr
- Town's civic headquarters for 94 years
- 1990 - Council moves out
- 1993 - nightclub opens in spite of protests
- 2000 - nightclub closes

The Old Town Hall was at the heart of our town for a century. The Queen, Prime Ministers and international leaders were welcomed here. Celebrations and parades were held outside. Work on the building started in 1896. That was 10 years after architect E.A. Johnson first designed it. His original pen and ink illustration is above.

But when the Public Offices - as the town hall was known then - finally opened in 1898 there were no celebrations. A great coal strike was hitting the local miners, their families and the whole town hard.

In 1905, Merthyr's first Mayor was proclaimed from the town hall steps. For the next 85 years the town hall was the headquarters for civic occasions, council debates and elections. It was also the county court. Juries decided on guilt: judges handed down sentences.

The years when the Old Town Hall was at the heart of the town's political and administrative life ended in 1990 when a new civic centre opened. The building was sold into the private sector and re-opened as a café-bar and nightclub. That closed down in 2000.

### Sign up for Old Town Hall news

Contact us for more information about the Old Town Hall project

Phone: **01685 352800**

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The Old Town Hall project  
c/o 11/12 Lower High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8EB

### Calon ein tref

- Adeiladu'n cychwyn ym 1896
- Swyddfeydd Cyhoeddus yn agor ym 1898
- Costau - oddeutu £15,000
- 1905 - Maer cyntaf Merthyr
- Canolfan ddinesig y dref am 94 mlynedd
- 1990 - Cyngor yn symud allan
- 1993 - clwb nos yn agor er gwaethaf protestiadau
- 2000 - clwb nos yn cau

Bu'r Hen Neuadd y Dref wrth galon ein tref am ganrif. Croesawyd y Frenhines, Prif Weinidogion ac arweinwyr rhyngwladol yma. Cynhaliwyd dathliadau a gorymdeithiau y tu allan.

Cychwynnwyd ar y gwaith adeiladu ym 1896. Roedd hyn 10 mlynedd wedi i'r pensaer E.A. Johnson ei gynllunio gyntaf. Ei gynllun pen ac inc gwreiddiol a welir uchod.

Ond pan agorwyd o'r diwedd y Swyddfeydd Cyhoeddus - fel yr adnabyddid neuadd y dref bryd hynny - ym 1898, ni chafwyd dathliadau. Roedd streic fawr glo yn effeithio'n galed ar y glowyr lleol, eu teuluoedd a'r holl dref ar y pryd.

Ym 1905, cyhoeddwyd Maer cyntaf Merthyr o risiau neuadd y dref. Am yr 85 mlynedd nesaf, roedd neuadd y dref yn ganolbwynt i ddigwyddiadau dinesig, dadleuon y cyngor ac etholiadau. Roedd hefyd yn gweithredu fel llys sirol, gyda rheithgorau'n penderfynu ar euogrydd a barnwyr yn dedfrydu.

Daeth dyddiau pan roedd Hen Neuadd y Dref wrth galon bywyd gwleidyddol a gweinyddol y dref i ben ym 1990 pan agorwyd canolfan ddinesig newydd. Gwerthwyd yr adeilad i'r sector breifat a'i ail-agor fel caffi-bar a chlwb nos. Caedd hwnnw yn 2000.

### Torrwch eich enw i gael newyddion Hen Neuadd y Dref

Cysylltwch â ni am fwy o wybodaeth am brosiect Hen Neuadd y Dref

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Heritage • Merthyr's new heartbeat

# The Old Town Hall

## Merthyr Tydfil

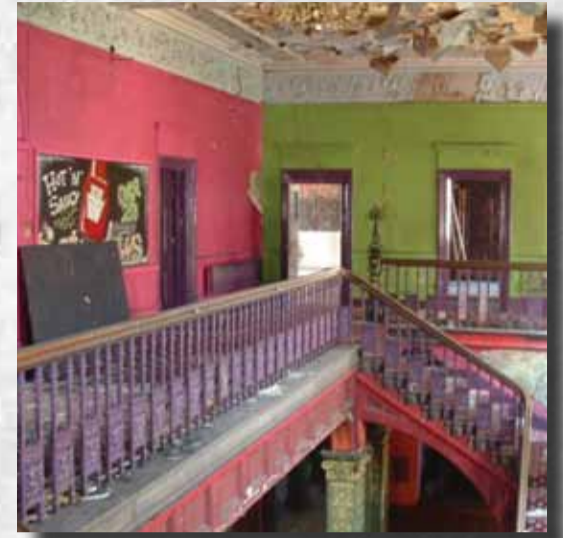
Hen Neuadd y Dref, Merthyr Tudful

### “Bring it into the light”

Young people from a youth project organised by Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association and supported by Young

Wales have made a video film about the derelict Old Town Hall. Their video features this call for action:

“On Merthyr’s High Street stands a building tall,  
“That’s known to natives as the Old Town Hall,  
“Once a place of meetings so grand  
“But now in ruins in dully stands  
“Lloyd George, the Queen and many more  
“Visited and crossed its grand tiled floor  
“Now in ruins it falls apart  
“All our memories in the dark  
“So, ‘What of its future?’ I hear you ask  
“Who will take on such a mammoth task?’  
“Merthyr Housing step up to the mark  
“To pull the building out from the dark  
“For its future we will fight  
“To bring it back to life and into the light.”



### Restoration

Sadly, the Old Town Hall has been derelict from 10 years now. The big front doors were boarded up in the year 2001.

A new partnership has been formed to save the building and restore it as a new 21st century arts and creative industries centre.

The restoration is an important part of the plans to bring more energy and life – a new heartbeat - not just to Upper High Street and Pontmorlais but to the whole town centre. .

Partners who have signed up to make the restoration and future running of the Old Town Hall a success include the Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Merthyr College and Chapter – the arts and creative industries social enterprise based in Cardiff.

The Old Town Hall project has already attracted potential investment of £4 million from the Welsh Government and £2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

### Adferiad

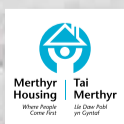
Er tristwch, mae Hen Neuadd y Dref wedi bod yn adfail ers 10 mlynedd bellach. Bordiwyd y drysau blaen mawrion yn 2001.

Ffurfiwyd partneriaeth newydd i arbed yr adeilad a'i adfer yn ganolfan newydd yr 21ain ganrif ar gyfer celfyddydau a diwydiannau creadigol.

Mae'r adferiad yn rhan bwysig o'r cynlluniau i ddod â mwy o egni a bywyd - curiad calon newydd - nid yn unig i'r Stryd Fawr Uchaf ond Pontmorlais a holl ganol y dref.

Ymysg y partneriaid sydd wedi datgan creu llwyddiant o adfer a rhedeg Hen Neuadd y Dref i'r dyfodol mae Cymdeithas Tai Merthyr Tudful, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful a Chapter - y fenter gymdeithasol ar gyfer y celfyddydau a'r diwydiannau creadigol, sydd yng Nghaerdydd.

Mae prosiect Hen Neuadd y Dref eisoes wedi denu buddsoddiad arfaethedig o £4 miliwn gan Lywodraeth Cymru a £2 filiwn gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri.



CHAPTER



Enterprise • Jobs • Young people • Merthyr's new heartbeat

# The Old Town Hall

## Merthyr Tydfil

Hen Neuadd y Dref, Merthyr Tudful



- Arts and creative industries
- New jobs and training
- £8 million investment
- Opportunities for young people
- Community meeting place
- Helping town centre regeneration
- Hi-tech IT facilities
- Music and dance performance space

### New Future

The Old Town Hall is being brought back to life – with the promise of new heartbeat for the town centre and the community of Merthyr Tydfil.

Our vision is to restore of the Old Town Hall so that it can come alive as a:

- centre for the arts and creative industries
- meeting place for our community – young people especially
- new centre for education, training and skills.

The Old Town Hall project will restore the building and revive interest in the town's heritage. It will create studios, workshops and performance areas. The latest hi-tech IT and internet facilities will help attract modern creative industries with job and training opportunities to the Old Town Hall. Links with Merthyr College will bring education and learning for young people right into the heart of the town.

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- Celfyddydau a diwydiannau creadigol
- Swyddi newydd a hyfforddiant
- Buddsoddiad o £8 miliwn
- Cyfleoedd i bobl ifanc
- Man cyfarfod i'r gymuned
- Yn gymorth i adfywio canol y dref
- Cyfleusterau TG uwch-dechnoleg
- Digon o le i berfformio cerddoriaeth a dawns

### Dyfodol Newydd

Mae Hen Neuadd y Dref yn cael adferiad bywyd – gydag addewid am guriad calon newydd i ganol tref a chymuned Merthyr Tudful.

Ein gweledigaeth ni ydi adfer Hen Neuadd y Dref i'w hatgyfodi fel:

- canolfan i'r celfyddydau a'r diwydiannau creadigol
- man cyfarfod i'n cymuned – yn enwedig yr ieuentid
- canolfan newydd i addysg, hyfforddiant a sgiliau

Bydd prosiect Hen Neuadd y Dref yn adfer yr adeilad ac ail-danio diddordeb yn nhreftadaeth y dref. Bydd yn creu stiwdios, gweithdai a manau perfformio. Bydd y cyfleusterau TG a rhyngwyd uwch-dechnoleg ddiweddaraf yn help i ddenu diwydiannau creadigol modern gyda chyfleoedd swydd a hyfforddiant yn Hen Neuadd y Dref. Bydd cysylltiadau gydag Athrofa Prifysgol Blaenau'r Cymoedd yn dod ag addysg ac addysgu i bobl ifanc yn union i galon y dref.

### Torrwch eich enw i gael newyddion Hen Neuadd y Dref

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