Correspondence File 1

Marketing & Promotion SC

25th February 2021

Town Guide 2021/22

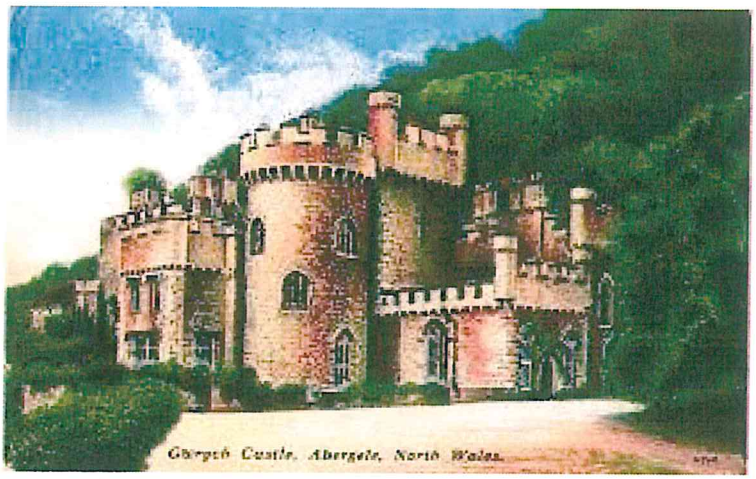
February 2021

The following sections of the 2021/23 Guide to be reviewed by members of the sub-committee and staff:

Theme for N.Wales Promotion = THE ADVENTURE CAPITAL

Section:	To be reviewed by:
1. Welcome Message	Committee - Completed
2. Acknowledgements	LW reviewed at the end
3. Abergele History	Suggested: mills on the Gele, kinder transport DAM
4. Gwrych Castle / I'm a Celebrity	For review
5. Places of Interest	DAM – to link in with theme for year.
6. Abergele Cemetery	Delete? Retain unless space required
7. Sport in Abergele	LW – for review
8. Map	Request a copy map from SB publishing for our noticeboards
9. Shopping in Abergele	SJ-R - completed
10. New Article	DAM
11. New Article	DAM
12. Walks in Abergele	Retain
13. Abergele Town Council	LW - completed
14. Further Interesting Reading	DAM to add some more titles
15. Key Annual Events	SJ-R - completed
16 General Information	LW include splash for website - Completed
17. Useful Information	LW -completed

abergele



OR

"Home of I'm a Celebrity ….

Get me out of Here!"

Town Guide 2021/23

Gwrych Castle is a Grade I listed country house in north Wales, one of the first attempts at replicating true medieval architecture in Europe. It stands in 250 acres of gardens and grounds and has extensive views over former parkland including a deer park and the Irish Sea.

Gwrych Castle was built between 1812 and 1822 by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh as a memorial to his mother's ancestors, the Lloyds of Gwrych. Upon the site was an Elizabethan house named 'Y Fron (rounded hill) which by 1810 had fallen into dereliction. When Lloyd married Lady Emily Esther Ann Lygon, daughter of the 1st Earl of Beauchamp in 1825, the main building was complete. When Lloyd died the Castle passed onto Robert Bamford-Hesketh and his wife, Ellen Jones-Bateman. Robert and Ellen planted much of the present gardens with their enormous Monkey Puzzles and Yew trees. The castle then passed to the Earls of Dundonald by marriage to the Bamford Hesketh heiress, Winifred. Sadly, the marriage was not entirely happy and as a consequence, the Earl spent most of his time in Scotland, whilst his wife remained in her Welsh homeland.

During World War II the castle was requisitioned as part of *Operation Kindertransport* and in 1946 was sold by the Dundonald family, ending nearly 1000 years of continuous family ownership.

In 1948, the castle was purchased by Leslie Salts who opened it as the 'Showplace of Wales' for a period of twenty years.

Following Salt's sale in 1968, the castle was operated as a medieval entertainment centre with jousting, banquets and markets taking place in the grounds. This also heralded a period of slow decline which saw the building shut to the public in 1985 and the final joust taking place in 1987.

In 1990, an American property developer purchased the estate with a view to creating an opera centre and hotel – nothing materialised. Instead, the castle was asset-stripped and vandalised to the point that its very future was uncertain.

The Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust has been the volunteer guardian of the castle for a number of years until it was able to purchase the building for posterity in 2018. The ongoing programme of renovations received a welcome boost when in 2020 the popular TV show "I'm a Celebrity … Get me Out of Here" relocated to the Castle from its long-time home in Australia due to the COVID Pandemic. The Castle played its part in creating a spooky yet cosy home for the celebrities who, it seemed, did not want to get out of there.

The castle could be seen for miles when it was lit up against the darkness of the winter sky and the publicity generated by the arrival of 'I'm a celebrity' caught the public imagination. Many a selfie was taken in front of the towers of its grand entrance in Abergele

CFI Pt.

Sport and Leisure in Abergele

Abergele provides a wide range of sporting and leisure opportunities for all ages, tastes and abilities.

For lovers of the great outdoors Abergele has a wide range of signposted walks around the surrounding hills and forests. It is possible to walk to neighbouring villages across the top of the hills or complete a circular walk from a point in town and back to base to one of the numerous cafes and hostelries.

Abergele Golf Club has a well-deserved reputation as one on the most picturesque courses in Wales with the stunning backdrop of Gwrych castle and far reaching sea views. Pentre Mawr park is home to Abergele Rugby and Cricket clubs. Both clubs have thriving senior and junior sections and share use of the sports pavilion which is open to non-members throughout the year. The park also has two, free to use tennis courts, a skate park and two five-a-side football/basketball courts.

Abergele Town Senior Football Club have their home ground on the Dinorben Road site and Pentre FC cater for junior footballers from ages 6 to 16 on the round-about pitches. Abergele Bowling Club based in Water Street have eleven teams in local leagues for experienced and social players alike. Abergele Harriers cater for runners and compete in cross country, road races and fell running. They also welcome non-competitive members to their regular training runs.

The Promenade is also home to a section of National Cycle Path No5. It is one of the most popular refreshment stops for cyclists challenging themselves on the North Wales Coastal path from Prestatyn to Bangor. The beauty of this section of the cycle path is its glorious flatness which makes it ideal for family runs, learning to ride a bike and evening cycle rides bathed in spectacular sunsets.

Pensarn Beach is also a 'go-to' location for shore angling and was chosen as the venue for the prestigious World Shore Angling Championships in 2018.

Abergele Leisure Centre has an indoor pool, fitness suite, sports hall and astro turf outdoor pitch. As well as a range of adult fitness classes, the centre provides a wide range of activities for juniors including gymnastics, swimming lessons, lifeguard training, soft play session and kids' gym sessions. The centre is also home to a number of sports clubs including Gele Gators swimming club, a fencing club, Tamashi Karate club, junior and adult netball clubs, a trampoline club and a Wing Chun martial arts club. More indoor activities, including Boccia for people with disabilities, are available at Canolfan Dewi Sant Pensarn.

CAPS.

DARLLEN PELLACH / FURTHER INTERESTING READING

History of Abergele& District – J R Ellis
Story of a Parish – Ellis Wynn Williams
The Parish of St George – R Fred Roberts
Abergele in Old Picture Postcards – Ellis Wynne Williams
A survey of seven Centuries in St George – R Fred Roberts
Back to School - Celebrating 150 years of St George School - Delyth A MacRae
A Pictorial Past – Mike Roberts & Mark Baker
The story of Kinmel Park Military Training Camp 1914-18 – Robert H Griffiths
A Tragedy in Marble & Ink – Margaret Sandbach – Mark Baker
Myths and Legends of Gwrych Castle state –Mark Baker
Rise & Fall of Gwrych – Mark Baker
Gwrych – a pictorial history – Mark Baker
Gwrych Castle – An Official Guide - Dr Mark Baker
Death by Chance – Abergele Railway Disaster – Robert Hulme
The War Years – Bob Griffith
Time of my Life – Ron Wade
History of Abergele Hospital, J G Jones, M Needham, R Owen, E Roberts
The Seven Lives of Kinmel – Elaine Boxhall
Fire, Floods & Firemen of Abergele & District – Rosa Lunt & Patricia Hughes
A Brief History of the Markets and Fairs at Abergele North Wales – Goronwy Davies
Stories of Welsh Soldiers, Civilians and Eisteddfodau in WW1 - Robert H Griffiths
Buildings that built Wales – Dr Mark Baker
The lost story of the Ocean Monarch – Fire, Family and Fidelity – Gill Hoffs
Llanddulas Remembers – Local Heroes of War Wendy A. Williams
Llansansior/St George Remembers – Local Heroes of War Wendy A. Williams

Mae llawer gormod o lyfrau wedi eu hysgrifennu ar hanes Abergele a'r cylch i'w gynnwys yn y Cyfeirlyfr – ymddiheurwn am unrhyw hepgor.

There are far too many books written on the history of Abergele& District to mention in this Guide – we apologise for any omissions.