

## Anglesey Social Enterprise Centre Official Opening

On February 1<sup>st</sup> Huw Lewis, The Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage will officially open the Anglesey Social Enterprise Centre at Llangefni.

This ambitious £2.5million project restored the Llangefni Town Hall in order to provide a home for several social enterprises, charities and community groups on the island. Among them are Menter Môn, Medrwn Môn and Anglesey Agewell. It also provides an excellent venue for the weekly indoor market, activities such as Zumba and Judo.



The Town Hall has been a focal point for the town since it built in 1884 by the late Sir Richard Bulkeley. Originally named the Market Hall, as it was used to sell livestock, it was later sold to the Council and renamed the Town Hall. The imposing Grade II listed building was popular venue for dances in the fifties and sixties, and later became synonymous with election nights.

Gerallt Llewelyn Jones, Managing Director of Menter Môn said “It is important that we find viable new uses for our built heritage – the Town Hall is important to Llangefni and this project has re-established it as the focal point. The occupation of the building has breathed new life into the town and the relocation of 70 jobs has benefitted local businesses”

Gerallt continued “We were eager to employ local companies to ensure maximum benefit for the local economy. The project was managed by Advent from Bangor, the architects were Dewis from Llanfairpwll and SOS from Llangefni furnished the building. The construction company were Dawnus, and although based in South Wales they made extensive use of local sub-contractors.”

This was the first example of an asset transfer on Anglesey whereby the Local Authority transferred a building to a “not for profit” third sector company. Under the ownership of Menter Môn applications for funding were made that were not previously possible. The Big Lottery Fund, the Welsh Government’s Môn a Menai Regeneration Area Programme and Anglesey County Council all provided significant funds in order complete the project.

The official opening on February 1<sup>st</sup> is an opportunity for funders, partners and users to see the completed project and learn about the important role the Town Hall will play in Llangefni and Anglesey into the future.

**END**

Notes to the editor:

1. The Town Hall tenants include
  - Menter Môn
  - Annog
  - Medrwn Môn
  - Agewell
  - Shine
  - Careers Outreach
  - Cadwyn Môn a Gwynedd
  - MenterIai th Môn
  
2. Activities held at the Town Hall include
  - Craft Sessions
  - History Club
  - Line Dancing
  - Book Club
  - Tai Chi
  - Fashion Show / Fashion workshops
  - Indoor market
  - Several seminars and events
  - Judo
  - Zumba
  
3. The Town Hall was first officially opened on March 15, 1884. It was opened with a concert in connection with the Welsh Congregationalists, followed by an Eisteddfod the next day. In 1914 the Hall was sold to the Llangefni Urban District Council for £3,900. The building was gutted by fire in 1992 but the structure remained intact. The Anglesey Social Enterprise Centre opened its doors on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012.

