

**By AMELIA SHAW**Daily Post Reporter  
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A 200-year-old historic country house will open its doors to the public for the first time in two years on Monday as a B&B.

Plas Tan Yr Allt, or 'Tanny' as it's affectionately called by its new owners, has been "brought back to life" by Mark White and Howard Mattingley, who purchased the Tremadog building in April last year.

It is the former home of renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist William Madocks who founded Tremadog and Porthmadog and built the Cob, and is apparently where poet Percy Shelley dodged an assassination attempt.

When the famous poet stayed at Plas Tan-Yr-Allt, the story goes he was shot at by a disgruntled local, giving birth to the tale of Shelley's Ghost.

Howard, who went to school in Barmouth as a youngster, said: "Between 1812-13 Shelley stayed at the house with his wife and it is here that he completed his poem Queen Mab."

"It is said that he had annoyed some of the residents in the area with his outspoken views and he may have even owed some people money, we'll never really know, but legend says he was shot at from outside the drawing room window."

"Apparently he fled the country and went to Dublin, and never came to Wales again."

The historic property is thought to be the first Regency Villa in North Wales, and was also home to Miss Hilda Greaves, the aunt of the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, creator of the Italianate village Portmeirion.

Other visitors to the house include Elizabeth Billington, the opera singer of her day, Thomas Love Peacock an associate of Shelley and E F Benson who wrote the Mapp & Lucia

# Spend a night at scene of plot to shoot the poet Shelley



■ Poet Shelley

## HISTORIC 200-YR-OLD HOUSE NOW A B&B



novels.

The duo had wanted to move out of London for three years and had viewed nearly 70

properties in an attempt to find a home that "ticked all the boxes" in the area.

Mark said: "I'd lost all hope of finding anywhere by this point, and I was about to give up."

"Plas Tan Yr Allt was actually the last place we were due to look at, and I even said to Howard that there was probably no point, but he persuaded me otherwise."

"When we drove up the drive

way we both looked at each other and we knew that this was it, before even going inside."

"We fell in love with the setting and the views, and even though we could see it needed a lot of work, it had so much character and a brilliant feel to it, and so much potential."

Both Howard and Mark are now looking forward to the official opening on Monday.

Visit [www.plastanyrallt.co.uk](http://www.plastanyrallt.co.uk) or call 01766 514591.



■ The historic 200-year-old Plas Tan yr Allt in Tremadog given a new lease of life by (inset) new owners Mark White and Howard Mattingley

## Communities may take over island's libraries

ANGLESEY could see communities take over some of the island's libraries in order to save them from possible closure.

The local authority recently carried out a wide ranging review of its Library and Information Service. Its aim was to ensure a library service which is fit for the 21st century and meets its

statutory duties, whilst also responding to the significant financial pressures.

A report including the consultation results, together with proposals and ideas put forward, will be presented to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on Monday (February 1).

Head of Lifelong Learning,

Delyth Molyneux, said: "We're carefully considering how best to transform the library service at present and public feedback has been valuable."

"Several themes have emerged during the consultation; among them an appetite for community managed libraries and a clear interest in volunteering, which

could help deliver savings."

The Lifelong Learning Service plans to present a new costed service delivery model for further public consultation during the summer before implementation in 2017/18.

The committee's findings will then be discussed by the executive in early February.

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