

Luxury B&B opens in historic house where poet Shelley dodged a bullet

When famous poet Shelley stayed at Plas Tan-Yr-Allt the story goes he was shot at by a disgruntled local, and so the tale of Shelley's Ghost was born

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Beautiful and historic home with links to the poet Shelley now a luxury B&B

Plas Tan-Yr-Allt Bed & Breakfast near Porthmadog is opening its doors next month, and guests will be able to delve in to one of the great Welsh tales while they are there.

Instant attraction

Mark White, joint owner of the luxury Bed & Breakfast says of the moment he and Howard Mattingley arrived at the historic home: "It was a beautiful September afternoon. We turned into a lane and were greeted by a canopy of leaves and a massive waterfall on the right and then the house appeared on the horizon. We looked at each other and instantly knew it was the one we had been looking for even before we went inside."



The dogs Madocks and Biggles did not help with the refurbishment

Howard and Mark were starting to think they would never find the perfect place to set up a Bed and Breakfast business, after having viewed over 60 properties in north Wales.

Howard says: "We were both desperate to leave the rat race in London behind, but we were beginning to despair the Welsh dream would never come true.



The house was warm and inviting as soon as the new owners entered "But then it was almost as if this home had been waiting for us to arrive. It was the last property on our list to view. It was worth waiting for."

Shelley's Urban Myth

And it's not just a property with character in a beautiful location, the house has an intriguing history surrounding the urban legend of 'Shelley's Ghost'.

Howard says: "Between 1812-13 the poet Shelley stayed at the house with his wife and it is here that he completed his famous epic poem Queen Mab."

But that's not the only notable thing that is supposed to have happened to the famous poet whilst staying at Plas Tan-Yr-Allt.

Legend says he was shot at from outside the drawing room window.

"It is said that he had annoyed some of the local residents with his outspoken views and may have even owed some people money. Who knows what really happened and why but the story lives on"



The drawing room where the 'Shelley's Ghost' incident occurred - if only walls could talk!

A biographer of Shelley's life, Richard Holmes, suggests in his book 'Shelley the Pursuit' that the truth of that night will never be uncovered. Did it happen (wife Harriet certainly thought so at the time), or was Shelley hallucinating? Whatever the truth, the poet and his wife left the house the very next morning.

More famous fans

And it's not just Shelley that has been captivated by the welcoming atmosphere of the property and its serene surroundings.

The historic property is thought to be the first Regency Villa in north Wales to be built by the renowned philanthropist and entrepreneur William Maddocks, who is also credited with developing the nearby town of Porthmadog by building a cob (sea wall) to reclaim agricultural land.



William Madocks bedroom is as grand and impressive as the man himself

Madocks fame led to a number of notable friends staying at the property including Elizabeth Billington, THE opera singer of the day and Miss Hilda Greaves, the aunt of the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the inspirational creator of the Italianate village Portmeirion.



Join the stags on the Chesterfield chairs in Madocks' bedroom to relax, read the paper or enjoy a cuppa

Renovating and creating

The renovations took 10 months to complete and included electrical work, plumbing, and a new roof on the veranda, with the boys doing most of the work themselves.



The bedroom called Shelley's Theatre has traditional four poster bed and fantastic beamed ceiling

Howard says: "In keeping with the tradition of the house, when it was previously run as a hotel, the three bedrooms are named after Madocks, Shelley and Miss Hilda as we felt it important to keep the past alive but bring the home into the present."



The en-suite bathroom for Shelley's Theatre pays homage to the past but is thoroughly modern

Mark adds: "The interior design is based on elegance and key period pieces, but we have worked hard to make the style also have a contemporary feel."

Home from Home

The property can now also be enjoyed by residents staying at the bed and breakfast when it opens at the beginning of next month and they are assured of a warm welcome from their hosts.

Howard says: "We both want guests to feel like it's a home from home.

"They can relax and enjoy the 40-acre estate at their leisure. There's ancient woodland to roam through and some lovely views too.

"There's no rush for them to pack and leave, we want them to enjoy being at this special place for as long as they want to stay.



Terrace with a view, worth hanging around to enjoy when you stay

"We feel blessed to be the custodians of this amazing house. It's a responsibility but that's not a problem when you love a property as much as we do."

Plas Tan-Yr-Allt Bed & Breakfast officially launches on 1st February, but is open now to take bookings via the [website](#) or by calling 01766 514591.