

At the time of its closure Newman Bros was one of only three remaining coffin furniture manufactures in England.

Celebrity Advocate: Ulrika Jonsson

“This coffin factory not only provided a huge source of income for the local community but was renowned internationally and exported coffins around the world. I think we need to lose our fear of death and, therefore, we need to keep this building and restore it. It would enable us to learn about how we have dealt with death in the past and how death is dealt with in different countries. It could feed the imagination and help us talk about the untalkable. It would make a fantastic museum of some form and needs to be maintained.”

WALES

19. LLANELLY HOUSE, Llanelli, Wales

Listing: Grade I

Date of building: Completed in 1714



In 1705 Margaret Vaughan inherited the house. She then married Sir John Stepney of

Pendergast, Pembrokeshire. They were responsible for the radical rebuilding of the house, and the architectural details and design suggest that there is little reason to doubt that the 1714 dates on the ornate hopper heads represent the date of completion of this work.

Having passed through the family, with the exception between 1827-1855 where Sir John Stepney had passed the house onto his friend William Chambers, the house finally came into the ownership of the Borough Council in 1965. Primarily, since this date, the ground floor of the building has been rented out to various tenants, but over time it has fallen into a dilapidated condition.

Llanelli grew only very slightly during the 18th century and was still just a small town at its close. However, at the end of the century the recent demand for coal to fuel the ongoing Industrial Revolution had led to the beginnings of a rapid increase in the output and export of local coal, and, in the early 19th century, the establishment of important industries within the town itself and its immediate environs.

Celebrity Advocate: Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen

“I’ve always been a little bit in love with Llanelli House. It is a very engaging structure and you can actually see people living in it, which is when historic buildings really start to come alive.

“I think the concept of saving our historic architectural legacy has suddenly become something really sexy. History surrounds us and it is as much a part of our lives as rock ‘n’ roll.

“However, the most compelling reason why Llanelli House should be restored and saved is the fact that if you don’t, I will buy it, paint it purple, cover the roof in pink fur fabric and sell it to Kylie for £65 billion.”

20. VAYNOL OLD HALL, VAYNOL ESTATE, Gwynedd

Listing: Grade I

Date of building: The Old Hall was the centre of the Vaynol Estate from around the 1550s until the New Hall was built c.1800 and home to the powerful Williams family.



It is not known who first built on the Vaynol land or even where the earliest structures were. The earliest reference to anyone living on the Vaynol Estate is William de Hunton in 1394. The first record of the estate as we know it today comes when Thomas Wyn ap Willim (known as Thomas Williams), high sheriff for Caernarfonshire, takes ownership c.1572. The Old Hall dates from around this time. It was passed through the Williams family and then onto the Smith family in 1695 until 1980, when it was sold at an auction.

Since then the building has fallen into disrepair and while emergency repairs have recently been carried out, the building remains in real need of restoration.

Celebrity Advocate: Robert Hardy

“Vaynol is remarkable for its ability to take you into the past. When you first see it, standing

there, it is tough and rugged. I spent most of my childhood on the Welsh borders and I am intrigued and devoted to almost everything Welsh. I am passionate about Vaynol and once you see it, you really will fall for it, as I have.”

21. AMLWCH PORT AND PARYS MOUNTAIN, Anglesey

Listing: Grade Scheduled Ancient Monument

Date of building: Port area developed from 1748; Parys Mountain dates back to the Bronze Age



In the late 18th century, Amlwch was the second largest population centre in Wales. This pre-eminence resulted directly from the mining of copper on Parys Mountain. Evidence of mining on the mountain has now been traced back to the Bronze Age with probable activity in Roman times, making it an archaeological site of European significance.

Like most British metal mines, when the accessible ores were exhausted, production was eclipsed by cheaper ones from abroad. This led to abandonment in the late 19th century and the consequent decline of Amlwch's fortunes, population and shipping industry.

Celebrity Advocate: Glenys Kinnock

“I feel absolutely passionate and committed to Parys Mountain and to Amlwch Port and to the need to get restoration and regeneration work done there. Where else in Britain, where else in the world indeed could you go and actually see Bronze Age workings, see where the foundations of the British Industrial Revolution were laid? The surrounding area is one of the most disadvantaged in Wales and in Britain and if we can do this, if we can create this restoration and regeneration, then we are offering opportunities, jobs and vitality to the people and to the communities that really need it.”

EAST

22. GREYFRIARS TOWER, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Listing: Grade I
Date of building: Believed to have been founded in 1230s and initial building of church can be ascribed to soon after this date



Medieval King's Lynn, or Bishop's Lynn as it was then known, was the third largest port in the country. This made Lynn a wealthy town, its merchants some of the wealthiest in the country. The friars lived in Greyfriars Friary according to their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They performed pastoral duties in the town, and were famed for their entertaining preaching.

On 1 October 1538 the friary surrendered to Henry VIII's troops. The friary was eventually pulled down but the tower was left standing for its use as a sea mark ... and is still standing nearly 500 years later.

Celebrity Advocate: John Peel

“I think Greyfriars Tower should be restored because it is there in the middle of the community and the community must treasure it on some level. The people who grew up in King's Lynn will know it well and perhaps if it is restored it will become an amenity and bring some money back into the community. I also like the fact that it leans – we haven't got enough buildings that lean, frankly.”

23. COALHOUSE FORT, East Tilbury, Thurrock

Listing: Grade Scheduled Ancient Monument
Date of Building: Coalhouse Fort was built in 1860

In 1859 a Royal Commission was set up to investigate the strength of the United Kingdom defences against the French. It concluded that existing fortification was inadequate and the Coalhouse Fort was built. The Fort worked in conjunction with two other forts which provided a triangle of cover for the Thames.

In 1903 Coalhouse Fort was refortified with 5-6 feet of concrete placed on top of the 1860