**Some tales about Iorwerth recalled by Ian Jones, September 2018……**

Ian says: *“he did of course tell them in his inimitable way, with his arms flapping and then dissolving into uncontrolled laughter. He had all the makings of a great stand-up comedian!”*

1 ) Around 1970, the café staff at Penrhyn told Iorwerth that one of the castle’s chimneys appeared to be blocked, as smoke from the fire was coming into the room. Shunning advice that a specialist should be called in, Iorwerth went up onto the roof area and quickly located the offending flue. His solution was to make a taper of rolled-up newspapers, dip the end in paraffin, light it and chuck it down the chimney. A few startled birds emerged, shedding feathers and bits of straw. There was an ominous rumbling from deep within, then a load bang with the ejection of clouds of soot, straw and twigs some feet into the air. This quick-fix solution did however solve the problem very effectively!

2) In the summer, as was customary, Iorwerth’s duties involved mowing endless swathes of lawn around the Castle, towing a gang mower attached to his little tractor. One afternoon, when he was enjoying a peaceful reverie from his labours he was accosted by a fearsome elderly lady visitor, who demanded to be shown the way to the Walled Garden. Not feeling particularly bothered, he answered; “ Sorry, I’m new here” to which the response was “don’t lie to me young man, I saw you here four years ago!” as she stomped off. So much for customer service!

3) At around the time of Price Charles’ investiture as Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle in 1969, Penrhyn Castle was the venue for some of the related activities, including a grand banquet for invited dignitaries and an exhibition of royal memorabilia in one of the state rooms. To guard the latter, a night security man was posted. In conversation with Iorwerth one day, mention was inevitably made of the Castle’s various ghostly goings on; the security man stated that he quite definitely did not believe in any such things. So Iorwerth came into work early a few days later, and found an obscure doorway and passage which led him undetected into the area immediately behind the display cabinets. He then proceeded to make scratching noises on the wooden cabinet backs. The security man, aroused from his early morning slumbers, then promptly fled the room as fast as his legs would carry him. This prank unfortunately did not end well – in his haste to escape into the open air, he tripped and fell on the steps leading up from the kitchen courtyard, and had to be carted off by ambulance to the local hospital. So Iorwerth had to keep very quiet about his role in that affair!