

A DECADE IN GWYNEDD

Noughtie but nice

The Noughties as they were dubbed saw many triumphs despite the economy

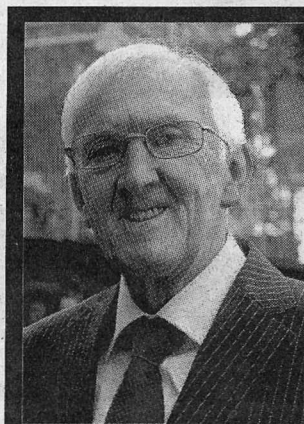
By **KEVIN WHITE**

AS WE enter a new decade, the *Herald* asked three local civic leaders their highs and lows of the “noughties”.

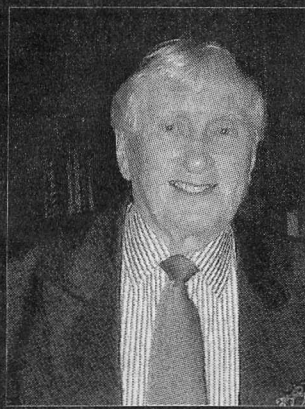
Caernarfon mayor Hywel Roberts was heavily involved in local politics during the past decade, culminating in his taking on the role of mayor last May. He said: “In my mind the establishment and development of Galeri has been the undoubted success of the decade. It is now firmly established and is a major facility for the townspeople, and a valuable entertainment venue for tourists.

“Another big success was the opening of the new law courts in 2009 which have ensured that Caernarfon remains as a major legal centre as it has done for the past 700 years.”

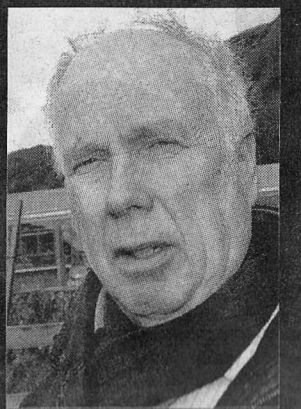
Cllr Roberts referred to the strikes and subsequent closure at the Ferodo site as a low point of the decade, coupled with the closure of other businesses such as the brickworks in Caernarfon, and the loss of Woolworths, Currys, and other businesses as big blows to the town, with many



GALERI: Hywel Roberts



SAILING: Evan John



ALLTWN: Selwyn Griffiths

jobs lost.

He added: “Despite these blows, we have seen the strengthening of some established businesses in Caernarfon such as Stermat and Grey Thomas, and the opening of new quality shops such as Perkins Furnishings, on the site of the former Nelson.

“We’ve also seen Coleg Menai established on the Maes, and it was also pleasing to see Plas Bowman, and the former Harpers building, restored and re-

built.”

“Some new businesses have been established as well, including Redline Karting, which was established by former Ferodo employees. These businesses provide jobs but on a much smaller scale. This last decade was probably the end of an era for Caernarfon as far as large scale manufacturing is concerned.

“Doc Fictoria still has to prove a success. The new surgery has excellent facilities but I still

think that it’s in the wrong location. We now have to work in this decade to ensure that the development is successful. While the improvements to the Maes look good the parking issue must be tackled and resolved quickly during 2010 so that it can be used to its full potential.”

Chairman of Porthmadog Town Council, Selwyn Griffiths hailed the opening of the new Ysbyty Alltwn and upcoming commencement of work on the

Porthmadog bypass. He said: “I’ve been involved with the town council here for nearly 30 years and these two developments have definitely been highlights.

“We all fought very hard to get the hospital built and in this new decade look forward to it becoming further established with a new renal unit on the way.

“News of the start of work on the bypass came right at the end of the decade but was also very welcome, it should help the town environmentally and we’ll avoid the gridlock which causes so many problems each summer.

“The downturn in the economy has hurt a lot of small businesses in the area, but I hope the likes of the bypass, and other projects such as a future transport hub, new public toilets and continued improvements to the park will see Porthmadog continue to thrive in the next decade.”

Pwllheli Mayor Evan John Hughes said: “As I draw towards the end of my second period of two years as mayor of Pwllheli, I can look back at the busy and wonderful month of August 2009 with some pride.

“I considered it to be one of my greatest honours to be the one to

welcome well over a thousand people in a packed marquee at Glandon. They were from eight different countries competing in national and world championship sailing events throughout the month.

“Following such a successful season on the part of Pwllheli Sailing Club, they have come up with plans to get the whole town united and involved in future events. We have already had several meetings with various businesses and organisations attending to plan for a successful 2010 and onwards.”

Cllr Hughes added that the past decade had also seen a local government reorganisation which had intended to cut costs and increase efficiency, but in his words had delivered increased business rates and a cut in services.

Cllr Hughes was also concerned with the lack of development over the past decade on the Bon Marche and Cae Llwl sites, but was enthusiastic and optimistic about the ongoing plans for a sailing academy.

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UNDOUBTED SUCCESS: It is now firmly established and is a major facility for the townspeople, and a valuable entertainment venue for tourists’ says Mayor Hywel Roberts of Galeri.

SALE