

ROYAL HISTORY

Plas Dinas is well known because of its Royal history. It was big news when a the sister of the Queen was to marry a local in the 1960s. HRH Princess Margaret and Antony Armstrong-Jones became a celebrity couple. Lord Snowdon as he became known was asked to arrange the investiture for Prince Charles at Caernarfon Castle and spent more and more time at the family home where Margaret would join him regularly for weekends throughout their marriage.

Locals remember the armed guards at the top of the driveway, the lavish garden parties and afternoon tea for special visitors with the Princess.



More recently, we hosted a private lunch in the Gun Room for HRH Prince William in January 2011.

PEREGRINE ARMSTRONG-JONES

Peregrine Armstrong-Jones is the current owner of the house & is well known as a party & event organiser in London. His company, Bentleys Entertainments was responsible for David & Victoria Beckham's wedding, along with Elton John's civil partnership. As well as some Royal events, he arranges lots of A-list celebrity parties.

Photos of him can be seen around the house, & menus from events he has arranged are above the sideboard in the Dining Room. He lives in London with his wife Caroline & their two children but visits this area regularly during school holidays as they have a cottage by the sea.



BRIEF HISTORY...

Plas Dinas is a typical Welsh country house dating back to the mid-seventeenth century but with extensive Victorian additions.

The house, surrounded by its farmland, came into the possession of the Armstrong-Jones family in the nineteenth century through marriage. The family had become relatively prosperous through the efforts of Robert Jones who married the daughter of Sir Owen Roberts, a barrister.

In 1899 Sir Robert Jones (who was knighted for his services to the medical profession), and later changed his name to Armstrong-Jones, had a son, Ronald and a daughter, Gwendolyn in 1905. The family was, at that time, living in the London area and retained Plas Dinas as their country home.

Ronald became a barrister. His first marriage produced a son, Antony, who in 1961 married HRH Princess Margaret. Antony subsequently became the Earl of Snowdon.

Lord Snowdon, who suffered a major attack of polio in his youth built a reputation for photography. In 1963, he was appointed to the honorary post of Constable of Caernarfon Castle and when Prince Charles became Prince of Wales, he was largely responsible for organising the Investiture ceremony in the castle. Princess Margaret spent a considerable amount of time at Plas Dinas during this period.

In the 1980s the house, now owned by Peregrine Armstrong-Jones was rented out as a grand nursing home, which was then turned into a hotel in the mid-1990s.

Plas Dinas still retains many family portraits, memorabilia and original furniture. It presents an opportunity to enjoy the ambience of a genuine Welsh gentleman's home largely unspoilt by its conversion to a country house hotel.

Plas Dinas Country House

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HISTORY OF PLAS DINAS & POINTS OF INTEREST

“PLAS” means large house
“DINAS” means Roman Fort

Therefore, the large house built on the Roman fort.



Plas Dinas
Country House

Six things not to miss at Plas Dinas...

NUMBER ONE

THE SUNSET FROM “THE MOUNT”

Walk over the bridge from the car park and onto the area known as the Mount. It was once a Roman settlement (Dinas is Welsh for Roman fort).

Walk to the end to enjoy panoramic sea views. There is a bench at the end - you may want to take a bottle of rosé with you if it's warm enough to sit out there!

There are fantastic sunsets from the Mount too - this picture was taken there.



NUMBER TWO

BLUE BELLS ON THE MOUNT

The Mount is ever changing and has a fantastic carpet of blue bells in spring.

Also not to be missed however are the snow drops, then the crocus which precede the blue bells.

A wide range of varieties of daffodils also follow the crocus.

Autumn brings the opportunity to kick through the leaves and enjoy the many colours of the trees.



NUMBER THREE

WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY

The railway runs alongside Caernarfon Castle, and then after a short distance runs under the end of our drive. You can stand on the bridge which is 100 yards from the end of the drive and see the smoke billowing from the steam trains passing underneath.

The train then continues up hard gradients and around the foothills of Snowdonia to arrive at Hafod y Llyn, over 17 miles from Caernarfon. A three mile extension to Pont Croesor opens later this year.



NUMBER FOUR

THE GUN ROOM & FIREPLACE

The Gun Room is the oldest part of the house and dates back 400 years. Originally the kitchen, it has a huge fire place where you can imagine a whole pig roasting on the fire. It once heated the whole house and provided cooking facilities for its occupants.

The room has added interest with all the many pictures, photographs and memorabilia which adorn the walls.

It is located through the dining room on the left at the end of the corridor.



NUMBER FIVE

ARMSTRONG-JONES MINI MUSEUM

Along the upstairs corridors from the top of the main stairs all the way to the Snowdon bedroom, we have created a mini museum of the Armstrong-Jones family. We've grouped photos and memoirs of family members together.

There is also a family tree which will help you piece together who each person is and how they are related to each other.

You can also find a brief history of the house in the front of the room pack in your bedroom or on the back of this leaflet.



NUMBER SIX

1683 PLAQUE

You can find a plaque on wall near the terrace of a family coat of arms with the year 1683 on it, but, it is believed that the house pre-dates the plaque by about 20 or 30 years. The doorway to the dining room to the right of the plaque is documented in books as an excellent example of stonework architecture from the period. This area has changed little since it was built. However, look carefully around the building and you can see several windows which have been changed or blocked up.

A picture in the Dining room of Ronald Armstrong-Jones in the 1960s shows the Dining room door looking exactly as it does today.

