

By and for the students of Ysgol Aberconwy

# Y DISGYBL

THE PUPIL

SPECIAL EDITON

SEPTEMBER 2009

## JUNCTION WELCOMES WELSH ASSEMBLY



Outside the Welsh Assembly Building, Llandudno Junction in July 2009

BY JOSEPH BAILEY, BETHAN WILKES & ISOBEL LEA

### History Of Hotpoint Factory

It's between 1939 and 1945. The formerly known Hotpoint factory is making aircraft wings. I'm sure you've all heard of Hotpoint, and if you're family is from this area then, somewhere along the line one of you're family members will probably have worked there. During the 60's a company called British Domestic appliances bought the factory. It grew and grew until at its peak the factory employed nearly 2000 workers.

In the early 1990's the Hotpoint factory closed and moved to Bodelwyddan, and fifteen years on the Bodelwyddan factory is due to close. When the factory closed the effect on the community was massive. With the best part of 2000 people out of work and the knock on effects of the closure, the community was in tatters. In three weeks time the last 300 people are to loose their jobs, but it seems wrong to leave such a vast site

as the junction factory to become wasteland, and the Welsh assembly government thought the same. The Welsh Assembly Offices The building will cost nearly £24 million to build and furnish. It is scheduled to be completed by

spring 2010 and to be occupied in the summer of that year. It is approximately 8,800 square meters, which will hold 650 staff after an introductory period of accommodating only 500. They've decided to locate the new building in Llandudno Junction because it brings the whole of North Wales closer to the Assembly. Also we hope it'll put Llandudno Junction on the map. For the new building the government have decide to put up some Welsh art. They chose artist Sally Matthews based outside Builth Wells. She makes life-size sculptures of animals, and for this project she will be designing a Welsh mountain pony.

Mel Lewis, Peter Johnston and Gwen Hackworth (alderman of Conwy) were interviewed about their opinions on the new building. Being part of the community, and managing the Llandudno Junction Community club, they thought it was a no lose situation, but controversially said,

"It's up to us to push them; we should push the opportunity of them

being here." They also stated, that the artwork to be displayed onsite could have been decided more publicly, with more community input and perhaps the money could have been invested in a better way than the offices.

### Effects of the Offices

It is clear that a project of this scale does not come without its effects, and this project certainly does not. A well as moving roughly 500 people from the Cardiff offices to work here in North Wales, an additional 150 jobs are going to be created and 30 new posts that currently do not exist within the Welsh assembly. Knock on effects of the offices being there could include increased trade to local small business like pubs. Talking about the large building and its effects on junction Peter Johnston and Mel Lewis said, "the effects will never be as positive for the junction community as the Hotpoint factory now owned by Italian company Indesit." Although the government building is going to be a huge benefit to Junction it is clear that the public are aware of possible downsides of the new development.

### Opinions

Miss N. Williams (who teaches French at Ysgol Aberconwy) said that "we definitely need more in North Wales than people having to travel to South Wales and it would definitely get people in North Wales more involved." Mrs Pritchard (teaches Welsh at Ysgol Aberconwy) said "it will bring jobs to the local people and should bring more business and commerce to local economy." Mr Wylde (Ysgol Aberconwy head teacher) said "It's wonderful for the community to have such a wonderful