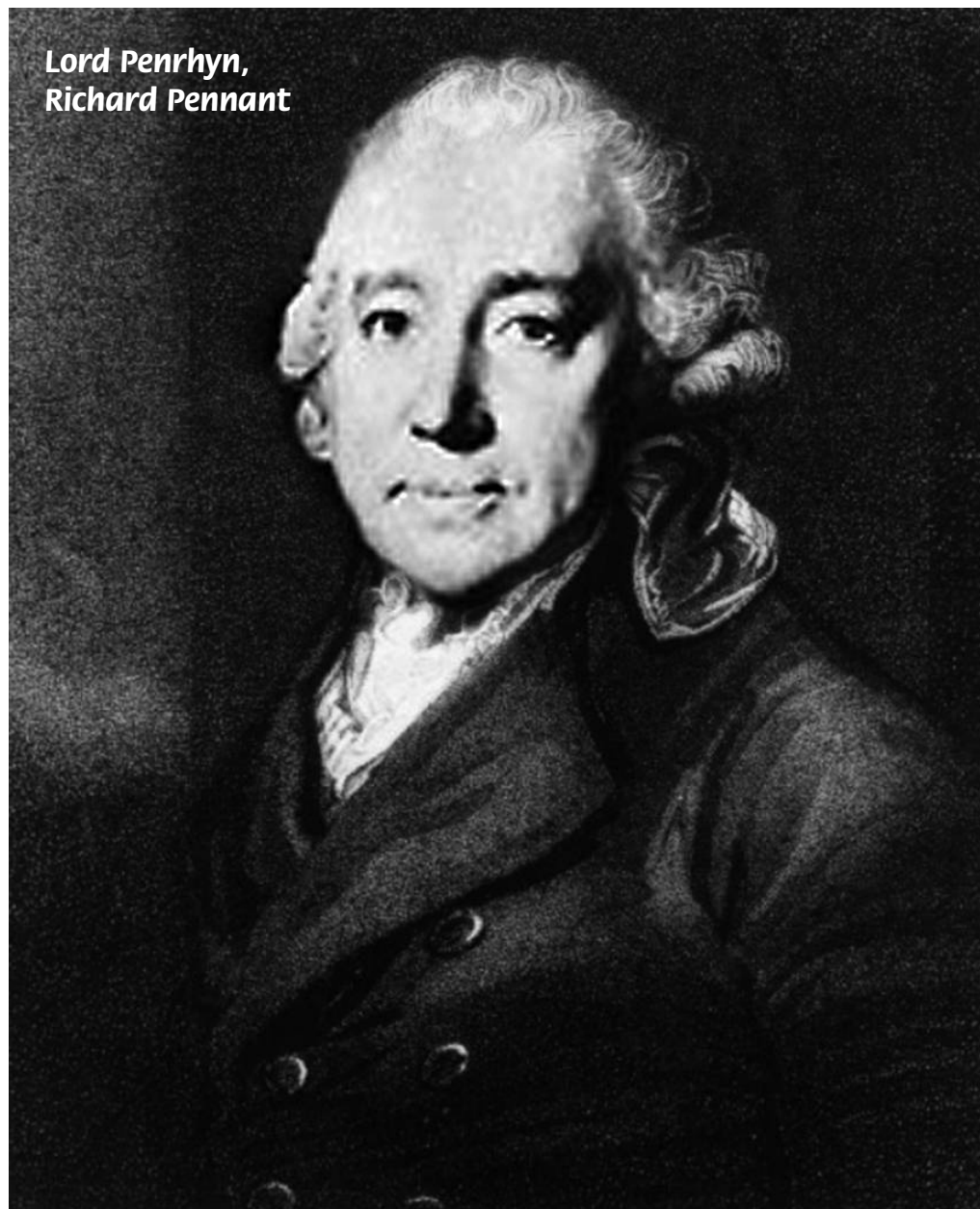


The Wyatts

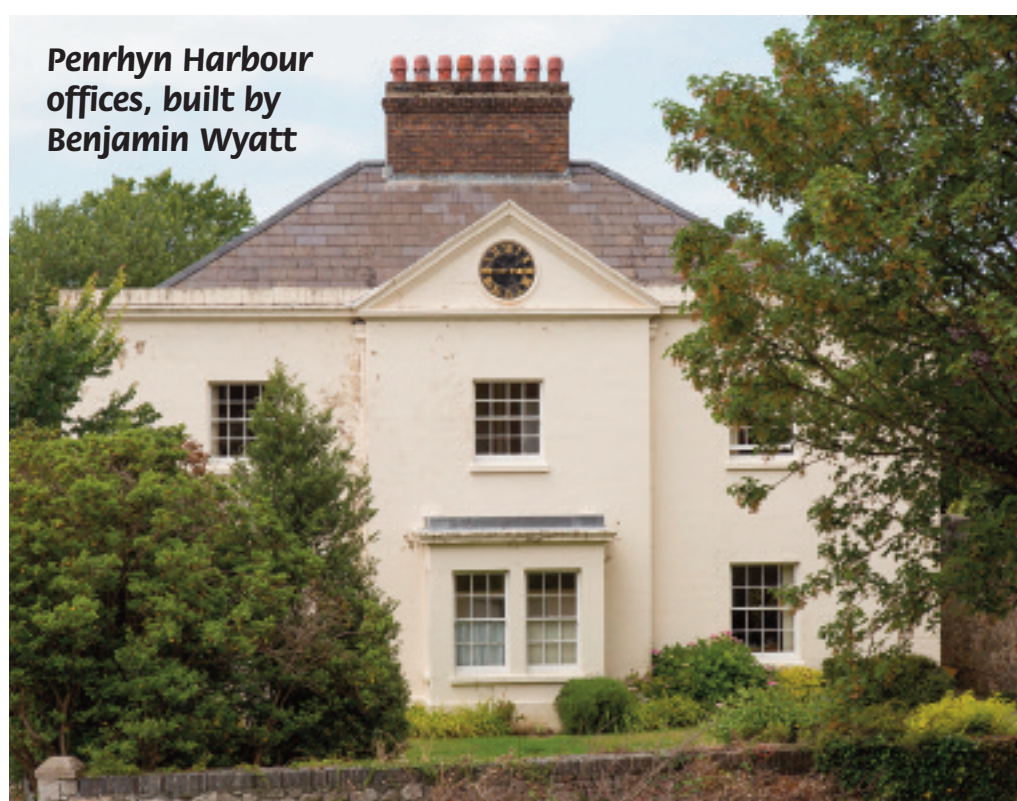
In the late 18th and early 19th century, the Penrhyn Estate was transformed by the energies of Richard Pennant, 'one of the lesser known, but most impressive industrial and agrarian improvers' of his time. The Wyatt family played a pivotal role in the development of the estate. The Wyatts of Staffordshire were a talented family, including several major English architects of the 18th and 19th century. Samuel Wyatt had worked for Richard Pennant in 1776 in the family's Cheshire home. He was given the job of modernising the medieval hall at Penrhyn, which he did in castellated Gothic with turrets and crenellations.



Lord Penrhyn,
Richard Pennant

The Wyatts played a leading role in marketing the slate. They found numerous uses for it, using it for shelves, cisterns, lavatory seats and window sills. James Wyatt, the more famous of the brothers, along with Samuel, had a specific arrangement with Lord Penrhyn allowing them all the slate they required before any was supplied to his Liverpool agents.

Another brother, Benjamin Wyatt (1745-1818), was appointed general agent to the estate. His imprint can be seen at Port Penhyn and elsewhere on the estate. Visitors travelled to North Wales in search of the sublime scenery and mountains, and a new road through the Ogwen Valley was carefully laid out in 1791-2 by Benjamin Wyatt for travellers. Pennant and Wyatt were quick to cater for this new interest. They built a hotel at Capel Curig for visitors to Snowdonia, and another at Port Penrhyn, the Penrhyn Arms, for visitors to the castle and quarry.



Penrhyn Harbour
offices, built by
Benjamin Wyatt

THE SLATE TRAIL

Follow 'The Slate Trail' along Lôn Las Ogwen, where you can find a series of information boards recounting the unique story of Ogwen slate, Penrhyn Quarry and the people involved in its production.