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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2016 edition of PROM, which celebrates its 25th edition this year. PROM is in good company as we have several anniversaries to mark in the magazine this year as well as bringing you the usual mix of news and information from Aber.

A small group of alumni met to set out the Constitution of the Old Students' Association 125 years ago in 1897; the departments of Art and Geography will soon celebrate their centenaries, having been established in 1917 and 1918 respectively; International Politics was established in 1919, and seventy years ago this year the Penglais Estate comprising farm, mansion and 220 acres was gifted to the University by the generosity of Alban Davies to provide the Principal's residence and later Pentre Jane Morgan and Fferm Penglais, so there is a great deal to celebrate.

However, there are anniversaries which must be remembered for different reasons, and this year marks 50 years since the dreadful disaster at Aberfan which rocked Wales, the UK and the wider world in its horror. Moved by the desperate news at the time, Aber students could not sit idly by.

There is also much to celebrate today and to look forward to in the future for the University, its students, staff and alumni, as outlined in the Acting Vice-Chancellor's column on page 4.

I hope you enjoy reading PROM number 25, and as ever, your comments and suggestions are appreciated at development@aber.ac.uk or 01970 621568.

Editor

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Keep up to date with regular alumni news from Aberystwyth University by updating your current email address on www.aber.ac.uk/alumni/update, following us on Twitter or joining Aber Connect or our groups on Facebook and LinkedIn. See www.aber.ac.uk/alumni for links.   

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TOUGH CHALLENGES, HARD WORK AND GREAT RESULTS

I'm writing this a few days after finishing one of the toughest of sporting challenges. On Sunday 18 September, I was among two thousand athletes lined up at the start of the Ironman Wales triathlon in Tenby, Pembrokeshire. It was a daunting prospect to say the least – a 2.4 mile sea swim at 7am, followed by a 112 mile bike ride and finally a 26.2 mile marathon. There were times I admit when the going was tough and I felt like giving up. But I kept chipping away and shortly before midnight (nearly 17 hours after I started), I finally crossed the finish line.

One of the things that kept me going was my pledge to raise money for the Aber Fund, in particular for Student Hardship and Student Welfare. Since it was set up in 2009 (then known as the Annual Fund), this fund has been supported by the generosity of our alumni family and it has made a difference. Dozens of students at risk of having to leave University due to financial difficulties have been lent a helping hand, and precious projects like Nightline have been given a lifeline.

It's likely that many of you reading this will never have taken on an Ironman triathlon (and I doubt that I will ever undertake a second) but I'm sure most of us have faced up to some pretty hefty challenges at some point in our lives. Hopefully, we pull through stronger, leaner and even more determined to succeed. You could say we've faced the occasional uphill struggle here at Aberystwyth University, but as an institution, we regroup and pull together to make things better.

Our recent results in this summer's National Student Survey (NSS) and *The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide* are examples of what can be achieved by concerted effort. The NSS, an influential poll of final year undergraduates, ranked Aberystwyth the best in Wales and one of the top four universities of its kind in the UK for overall student satisfaction. We climbed over 100 places in the NSS league table and were one of the highest climbers in the *Good University Guide*, up 23 places and, just like my triathlon training, these figures were born of hard work and determination.

Over the last few years, we've invested time, toil and treasured funds in ensuring the student experience here is the best it can be. We've rolled out an ambitious programme of investment to improve our residential and teaching facilities. There are other proposals in the pipeline, including our new £40.5m Innovation and Enterprise Campus, our plans to reopen Pantycelyn hall of residence and to redevelop

Old College as a centre for heritage, culture, learning and enterprise, serving both town and gown and the nation. Together, this broad swathe of initiatives represents one of the most significant investments in the University's history. It also means that Aberystwyth continues to be an exceptional place to learn and live.

For today's fee-paying students, the quality of teaching, the relevance of curricula and employability skills are all key. An important indicator of employability is the annual Destination of Leavers in Higher Education survey. This year saw a further improvement in Aberystwyth's performance with 92% of our full-time first degree students either in work or further study within six months of graduating in 2015. Again, we have worked hard to ensure our students have the knowledge and skills needed to secure the career they want, not just a job which pays the bills. Initiatives such as our AberForward schemes have provided many students with real experience in the workplace and given them a foothold in today's increasingly competitive jobs market. The Aber Opportunities Network also supports our young graduates as they forge their professional path in life, and we are grateful to our alumni from all walks of life and all parts of the globe who offer to share the wealth and breadth of their experience so freely.

This year we have welcomed more students from the European Union than ever before. We hope this trend will continue whilst we adjust in post-Brexit Britain. Nobody yet knows exactly how leaving the EU will affect the higher education sector. There are no doubt more challenges ahead, but we will face them positively and pragmatically, maintaining our global outlook and our international collaborations and connections.

It is especially rewarding to acknowledge the continued contribution of alumni to Aber in this special 25th edition of PROM and as we approach next year's 125th anniversary of the Old Students' Association. Thank you for your support as treasured and valued members of the Aber community and we look forward to your continued support in the coming months as in previous years.



Professor John Grattan, Acting Vice-Chancellor



PROFESSOR MCMAHON BIDS FAREWELL TO ABER

Graduation is always a wonderful end to the academic year, but this year it was even more special for me, as it marked the end of my five years at Aberystwyth. Much of that time has been spent working to make things better for students – past, present and future. I know what a wonderful time many of our alumni had as students at Aber, and how it has changed and shaped lives and opportunities. So you are understandably keen for others to have their own version of that special Aber experience. But future students will only come if they know we can compete with what is on offer elsewhere, as students now have more choice of where and what to study than ever before. To demonstrate that we are not just comparable, but in many ways outstanding, we need to show that current students appreciate their Aber experience today, because in today's higher education sector, that shapes the University's reputation just as much as our excellent research.

So, it has been a priority over the past five years to improve the student experience and student success in future employment. We have made significant new investments in teaching and learning spaces and technologies; seen tremendous strides forward in employability through our AberForward initiative; and perhaps most importantly of all, re-valued teaching through a complete reconfiguration of our academic promotions system. And you can see the results – our amazing National Student Survey results this summer have taken Aber comfortably into the top four in the UK and first in Wales for student satisfaction.

All this should mean that you, as Aber alumni, stay proud of your University – but it has also been important to ensure



Professor April McMahon's portrait

alumni feel appreciated and looked after. With the extraordinary help of Louise and her colleagues in DARO, and the support of Steve Lawrence and the OSA, we have got out and about more than ever to meet alumni where you are, whether that is in Malaysia, or on our annual trips to the US, or in London or Cardiff. I'm confident that you will always be welcome in Aber, but Aber also has to reach out to you. I wish all our colleagues every success in continuing to make all students, past, present and future, feel a valued part of the future of Aber.

Professor April McMahon

Professor McMahon has now taken up a senior role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education at the University of Kent; we wish her every success in her new venture.

JOHN COMPLETES THE IRONMAN WALES TRIATHLON

Aber's Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor John Grattan raised over £7,000 for student hardship after finishing one of the world's toughest sporting challenges. John completed the Ironman Wales triathlon in Tenby, Pembrokeshire in just under 17 hours.

During that time, the 56-year-old academic had to swim 2.4 miles in the sea, cycle 112 miles and run a full 26.2 mile marathon. He crossed the finish line late on Sunday 18 September 2016, cheered on by his family and a crowd of supporters.

Wearing his yellow Aber shirt, John was among two thousand athletes to sign up for this year's Ironman Wales contest. He began training for the triathlon in earnest nine months ago, with support from staff at the Sports Centre and Sport Science Department.

Speaking after the event, John said: "This was without a doubt the toughest physical challenge I have faced so far and I'm delighted that I managed to complete the course within the qualifying time.

"I would like to thank everyone who has sponsored me and supported me in my bid to conquer this challenge. I'm very proud that all the money raised will go to the Aber Fund and will

be used specifically to help student hardship and student welfare projects."



John celebrates crossing the finish line with his wife Katherine and sons Christopher and Nathan

NEW LIFE FOR OLD COLLEGE

Plans for the redevelopment of Old College continue with a planned resubmission of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in December 2016 after narrowly missing out on funding at the end of April.

Louise Jagger, Director of Development and Alumni Relations said, "We always knew it was a highly competitive first round and are therefore determined to keep up the momentum for this excellent project and provide a fantastic facility for showcasing heritage, culture, learning, research and enterprise opportunities that will inspire users and visitors and boost the economy.

"From what we understand, the project was well received and the outcome was more to do with having to take decisions on more projects than the available budget would allow. It's often the case that projects which are ultimately successful need to be re-submitted in response to feedback. With continued support, we are confident that a revised proposal will have an excellent chance of being approved."

The New Life for Old College project bid was developed by the University with a project board of members of the University Council, University staff, and representatives from Ceredigion County Council, Aberystwyth Town Council, Aberystwyth Students' Union and the Old Students' Association.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan said: "We had widespread support during the development of the plans locally and among institutions in the region and across Wales. The project has been shaped with a great deal of input by the local community through numerous public events and we very much appreciate their key role in developing and supporting our vision.

"We'll continue working on a varied programme of activities and have enjoyed great success with new initiatives such as the Community Day in Old College in June 2016 to coincide with the Old Students' Association annual reunion. We'll also continue to work closely with the Heritage Lottery Fund and stakeholders, including our alumni, to explore how we can strengthen any future proposal."



NEUADD PANTYCELYN

The University Council endorsed plans in June to reopen Pantycelyn hall of residence as refurbished Welsh-medium accommodation in Pantycelyn by September 2019, pending consideration of funding options for the project in October 2016, including consideration of a specific fundraising campaign for Pantycelyn.

Council underlined that the necessary funding will have to be secured so that the Council can give a definitive commitment, given the University's current financial position, and given post-referendum uncertainties and other uncertainties in the UK and Wales higher education.

"Today marks another step forward in our intention to provide fit-for-future accommodation in Pantycelyn for Welsh-medium students coming to Aberystwyth," said Chair of Council and Chancellor of Aberystwyth University, Sir Emyr Jones Parry. "During our meeting, we also underlined our commitment to the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus in Gogerddan, and agreed to proceed with our continued bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for the Old College. Welsh-medium accommodation will continue to be provided at Penbryn halls of residence on Penglais Campus, with the section dedicated as Welsh-medium accommodation branded separately so that the link with Pantycelyn is maintained."

The Pantycelyn Project Board has met regularly since September 2015 to discuss the future of the building, consulting

widely with students, students' unions, University staff and the wider community. At the Council's request, the work of the Pantycelyn Project Board will continue and will focus on working with architects to develop detailed plans for revamping the building which has provided Welsh-medium accommodation since 1973.

Louise Jagger, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, reported on the findings of an independent fundraising feasibility study to the Pantycelyn Project Board in October 2016 to inform the final decisions on the funding options. The study sought the views of all former residents as well as other alumni and supporters, and updated them on subsequent decisions and developments.





Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus



Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC) is a £40.5 million investment at the University's Gogerddan campus on the outskirts of Aberystwyth. Along with its own resources, the University secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund and BBSRC, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

By adopting a collaborative approach between academia and business, the aim is to develop products and services to meet the grand challenges of the twenty-first century, especially in the areas of food security, health and resource management.

The new campus will provide world leading facilities and the expertise to create market-focused solutions for the agri-tech industry. It will provide a progressive environment to encourage business and academic collaboration to flourish by building on

the expertise of the scientific community already in place at IBERS as well as giving businesses access to academic expertise across the entire University. Supplemented by a range of high quality facilities, the campus will enable commercial enterprises to grow, prosper and drive economic growth in the region and beyond. The intention is to complete the campus by mid-2019.

For more information please visit www.aiec.wales or email aiecadmin@aber.ac.uk

LEAPING UP THE LEAGUE TABLES

The University has performed well in several surveys and league tables during the course of 2016.

The *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*, published in January 2016, revealed that the University is amongst the top 200 most international universities in the world. Aberystwyth is ranked 162nd for 'international outlook' in the rankings, which consider the performance of 800 of the world's top institutions.

In the National Student Survey (NSS) published in August 2016, the University celebrated its best ever performance. The annual survey showed that Aber is rated the best in Wales, the fourth best broad-based university and one

of the top ten of all higher education institutions in the UK for overall student satisfaction.

The results show that overall satisfaction amongst students at the University stands at 92% - that's six percentage points higher than the UK figure of 86%.

Two departments at Aberystwyth are rated the best in their field across the UK for the quality of their teaching, namely the School of Art and the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies which were both given ratings of 100%. Almost every other Department scored more than 90% for overall satisfaction.

Aber has also achieved exceptional scores across a range of individual undergraduate degree courses, including 100% satisfaction in 9 programmes, with a further 23 main programmes recording a score of 90% or more.

The NSS figures followed closely on

the heels of the latest employability figures for UK universities which showed that 92% of graduates were in work or further study six months after leaving Aberystwyth University (HESA 2016).

In addition, for the second successive year, Aberystwyth was one of the highest climbers in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide* published in September 2016. The University leapt 23 places in the 2017 table.

In Wales, Aberystwyth is ranked top for teaching quality and the best for student experience, and is third in the overall table of Welsh higher education institutes.

Across the UK, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide* analysis ranks Aberystwyth 10th in the UK for teaching quality and 19th for student experience – commenting on the university's "remarkable transformation from 2015".

RESEARCHER UNCOVERS ABERYSTWYTH'S OWN "POTIONS MASTER", PROFESSOR SNAPE

Research by Dr Beth Rodgers, a lecturer at the Department of English and Creative Writing, has revealed that the University's Old College, a building often likened to J K Rowling's Hogwarts, had its very own Professor Snape from 1888 to 1901.

Writing in the *Irish Times*, Dr Beth Rodgers says she came across Snape in an article about Aberystwyth published in *The Women's Penny Paper* in 1890, which championed women's access to higher education – Aberystwyth was one of the first universities in the UK to admit female students.

Henry Lloyd Snape was appointed Chair of Chemistry, or "Potions Master" as Rodgers describes him, at Aberystwyth in 1888, following the early death of the Professor of Natural Science, T S Humpidge, whose chemistry laboratory was the seat of a fire that engulfed the Old College in 1885, resulting in the death of three people.

An obituary published in the *Journal of the Chemical Society* following Snape's death in 1933 describes him as "energetic, keen and devoted, a man serious about science but also committed to literature, an advocate of the debating society and key player in 'College dramatics'".

Snape was awarded an OBE in 1921 for his work with disabled servicemen following the First World War. He was also involved in running secondary as well as university education in Aberystwyth, and in later years became the Director of Education for Lancashire County Council.



UNIVERSITY HONOURS FIRST FEMALE LAWYER IN THE CARIBBEAN

The chance discovery on eBay of a postcard featuring a portrait of a young black woman in academic robes has led to the University honouring one of its alumni.

A study room at the Hugh Owen Library was officially named the Iris de Freitas Room after the first female lawyer in the Caribbean. The event formed part of the University's International Women's Day 2016 celebrations.

Born in 1896, Iris de Freitas was the daughter of a merchant in British Guiana. She registered as a student at Aberystwyth in 1919 after a short period studying in Toronto. She studied botany, Latin and modern languages, law and jurisprudence, and lived in Alexandra Hall, the first purpose-built university hall of residence for female students in the UK. She also became Vice-President of the University's Students' Representative Council and the President of the Women's Sectional Council.

Iris graduated with a BA in 1922, but continued her association with the University and qualified for the degree of LLB in June 1927. In 1929 she was admitted as the first woman to practise law in the Caribbean and was the first female prosecutor of a murder trial there.

Tributes published in the *Guyana Chronicle* after her death in May 1989 described her as "a pioneer and frontrunner of women who dared enter the exclusively male legal profession", and someone who "blazed the trail for women lawyers".

Members of University staff have been piecing together her story after alumni stumbled across the postcard, described as a "Postcard of black woman wearing Aberystwyth gown 1922-23", online in April 2015. The reverse featured only the handwritten words, "With love and in memory of an enjoyable session, Iris 1922-23", and the photographer's details H H Davies of Pier Street, Aberystwyth. The postcard is now in the University's archive.



The image of Iris de Freitas that appears on the postcard discovered on eBay



WHAT GOES ON INSIDE A COW'S DIGESTIVE SYSTEM AND WHY WE REALLY SHOULD CARE



With global significance for food production, the agricultural economy and greenhouse gas emissions, the efficient and sustainable farming of livestock is a matter of concern to all.

There is a complex and highly diverse microbiome (the army of microbial organisms) that live in the main stomach of ruminants (the rumen) and they largely define the efficiency of growth in the animal, alongside the amount of greenhouse gases released from the animal to the environment. Dr Sharon Huws is a Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Senior Lecturer in Animal Science in IBERS and her research focuses on understanding the rumen microbiome to address some of the key global agricultural challenges, such as livestock production, greenhouse gas emissions and the quality of the meat and milk produced. The deeper understanding of rumen microbiome by Sharon and her research group is also being harnessed to identify new antimicrobial compounds in collaboration with biotech companies, with the future aim of bringing them to market for animal and human use. Antibiotic resistance is becoming an increasing global issue; infections that are resistant to multiple antibiotics are increasing in prevalence, and in the future, such resistance could make everyday diseases untreatable, therefore discovery and development of novel antimicrobials is critical.

Livestock, particularly ruminants such as cattle, sheep and goats, supply much of our meat and nearly all of our milk requirements, making livestock farming important for human nutrition, and providing employment for around 20% of the world's population. Meat and milk provide key vitamins and nutrients, and the consumption of meat has been linked to both physical and mental development in children. Ruminants also eat the tough plant biomass found in marginal land and convert it into meat and milk, making use of land that otherwise has little economic value.

Increased global demand for ruminant products, coupled with a growing human population, means that these products will become increasingly scarce in the coming years. Land is also at a premium as the world population expands; land is needed for growing food directly eaten by humans and for building, leaving less available for agricultural livestock. Given this increased pressure, sustainably improving ruminant production from the land currently available is a major goal for the sector.

Livestock is also globally responsible for the environmental release of approximately 9% of CO₂ and 37% of methane (which has 23 times the potential for global warming than CO₂). The animals also use water and add to the pollution of water, contributing up to 30% of the nitrogen and phosphorus entering rivers. Nitrogen released from ruminants also contributes towards nitrous oxide (N₂O) release, and although levels of N₂O in the environment are comparatively low, this gas has 296 times the warming potential of CO₂ and lasts for more than 100 years in the atmosphere.

Alongside sustainably improving production and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we must also ensure that the meat and milk produced is of a high quality and safe

to consume in terms of human health. Milk, and particularly red meat, are often criticised for the high level of saturated fatty acids that they contain which are detrimental to human health. The forages consumed by ruminants are high in the polyunsaturated fatty acids deemed to be beneficial to human health, but these are not incorporated into milk and meat as they are largely converted into saturated fats by microbes in the rumen, a process known as biohydrogenation.

There is a need to address both these challenges of greenhouse gas emissions and food quality as a whole in order to make the significant advances needed; each challenge cannot be considered in isolation.

What's in a rumen?

The rumen hosts a highly diverse microbiome, composed of bacteria, protozoa, fungi, archaea and bacteriophage (bacterial viruses). The fermentative capacity in the rumen enables the microbial breakdown of otherwise indigestible dietary material, defining the amount, quality and composition of the meat and milk produced.

Rumen fermentation is, nonetheless, relatively inefficient in terms of animal production, with as little as 30% of the ingested nitrogen being retained by the animal for milk or meat production and the non-incorporated nitrogen excreted as urea or ammonia. Indeed, rumen inefficiency is the main cause of nitrogen pollution in rivers and N_2O in the atmosphere. The mixed microbial community also ferments a large part of the incoming feed to volatile fatty acids, which are metabolized by the relatively small number of methanogenic archaea to produce methane (CH_4). The production of methane by the animal also uses up to approximately 12% of the animal's energy, so reducing methane emissions is likely to result in more energy being available for effective animal growth.

Research by Dr Huws' group has recently shown that the relationships within the microbiome are more complex than previously thought, emphasizing the need to consider the biome as a whole when addressing the need to improve animal growth, and to ensure ruminant products are healthy, whilst lowering environmental impact.

Meat and milk produced from fresh forage reared animals as opposed to those reared on conserved forages (hay, straw and silage) have a greater level of polyunsaturated fatty acids beneficial to human health and reduced saturated fatty acids. Understanding the mechanisms underlying this phenomenon could lead to strategies for ensuring healthy meat and milk production even when animals have to be fed a conserved

forage. Feeding fresh grass with a high sugar content, (grasses which are bred in IBERS), is also known to increase animal growth whilst reducing methane emissions.

The future

The team is also looking at how new compounds produced by the rumen microbes can kill bacteria, and how likely it is that bacteria develop resistance to these new compounds. The problem of antibiotic resistance is particularly important for developing countries where antimicrobials can often be bought over the counter without medical consultation.


With the onset of antimicrobial resistance in pathogenic bacteria, it is becoming increasingly difficult to treat animal- and human-related infections. In the last few years very few novel antimicrobials have been developed for use due to the cost associated with clinical trials and the low revenue returned to pharmaceutical companies post development. We are now in the dire situation where there is an urgent need to discover and develop novel antimicrobials in the face of continually emerging drug resistant bacteria.

Recently, Dr Huws has obtained substantial funding from BBSRC and NRN Life Sciences (Welsh Government funding) to discover and develop novel antimicrobials found in the rumen microbiome. Whilst the rumen microbes work symbiotically together, there are times when they need to compete. Dr Huws and her team have identified over 300 novel antimicrobials that are produced by the microbes, which allow them to compete effectively against each other.

The work is linked with many biotechnology companies as well as funding research bodies, with the eventual aim of developing antimicrobials through to clinical trials for human and animal use.

Understanding what goes on in the rumen microbiome really does matter, for the environment, for the safe and healthy production of food, and for

human and animal health. In September 2016 the 193 countries of the United Nations signed a declaration to commit to rid the world of drug-resistant microbial infections, commonly known as "superbugs". This declaration, only the fourth of its kind to be made by the UN in the field of healthcare, highlights the necessity to address a global problem and could prevent 700,000 deaths per year.

A greater understanding of this complex digestive system could continue to benefit society in the years to come as the risk of antimicrobial resistance spreads; it could matter to us all. 



“...there is an urgent need to discover and develop novel antimicrobials in the face of continually emerging drug resistant bacteria.”

FROM TREGARON TO TIERRA DEL FUEGO

THE GLOBAL REACH OF ABERYSTWYTH GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE

Words by Professor Mike Woods

FROM TREGARON TO TIERRA DEL FUEGO

THE GLOBAL REACH OF ABERYSTWYTH GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCE



It is almost a hundred years since the first students were admitted to study for a degree in geography at the then University College of Wales at Aberystwyth. That initial class who walked into the Old College in the summer of 1918 were pioneers not only for Wales, but for Britain. Although geography had been taught as part of general degrees at Aberystwyth and elsewhere for a few decades, only Glasgow and Liverpool universities had beaten Aberystwyth to allowing students to specialise in geography for an honours degree. However Aberystwyth was the very first university in Britain to allow geographers to study for a degree in either Arts (BA) or Science (BSc).

The recognition of both the Arts and Science dimensions of geography reflected the philosophy of the founding Professor of Geography, H J Fleure. One of the giants of early twentieth century geography, Fleure was a polymath whose interests ranged across human and physical geography, anthropology, archaeology and zoology. His dictum that geographers should have “one eye on Man and the other on Nature,” shaped the early curriculum at Aberystwyth. The first set of finals exam papers were organised by regions of the Earth with students required to discuss both human and physical features.

Over the subsequent century, Aberystwyth geography grew to become one of the largest geography departments in Britain, moving as it expanded through several properties in town and finally to the purpose-built Llandinam Building on the Penglais Campus in 1965. As well as maintaining the balance between human geography and physical geography, the department forged new connections, merging with the equally distinguished Department of Geology (established in 1910) in 1988, and introducing new degrees in Environmental Science and Environmental Earth Science.

It has also been one of the most influential geography departments, shaping the development of geography teaching and research in both schools and universities around the world. For several years in the 1920s it was the headquarters of the

Geographical Association, marking a commitment to geography in schools that persists in current A-Level Enrichment Events delivered by our staff in schools around the country, and which has produced generations of geography teachers from our graduates. Similarly, the department has been a noted training ground for academic geographers. From the early days, Aberystwyth-trained geographers radiated out to universities around the world, often playing a critical role in developing geography as an academic discipline in their adopted countries; alumni like Emyr Estyn Evans, who founded the Geography Department at Queen’s University Belfast, and Gladys Wrigley, who became the first woman to complete a PhD in geography in the United States and went on to edit the American Geographical Society’s *Review* journal for over 30 years. Today, Aberystwyth geography graduates can be found working as lecturers and professors in universities from California to China, and from New South Wales to South Africa.

The global reach and influence of Aberystwyth geography can also be traced in its research. Professor Fleure was one of many to appreciate that Aberystwyth sits in the midst of a first-rate geographical research field in Wales, pursuing his interest in the relationship between environment and culture in a now notorious study that involved measuring the skull sizes of residents of Tregaron in a somewhat misguided effort to investigate geographical differences in physical attributes.



Michael Woods joined Aberystwyth University as a Lecturer in Human Geography in 1996, and was appointed as Professor of Human Geography in 2008. Between 2007 and 2013 he was Director of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences. Mike’s research interests focus on rural geography and political geography. He is Aberystwyth Co-Director of the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) and the Aberystwyth representative on the executive of the Public Policy Institute for Wales. His research has been recognized with the John Fraser Award for Research Excellence in Rural Geography by the Association of American Geographers in 2010.



Aerial view of Tregaron

Fleure’s research may have been discredited, but the concern with regional cultures was continued by his successor, Darryl Forde, forming the world-renowned ‘Aberystwyth School’ of cultural geography. Later human geographers forged international reputations for historical geography and urban geography, whilst physical geography developed globally-influential strengths in geomorphology and biogeography, with both groups extending out beyond Wales with fieldwork in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

By the start of the twenty-first century, research by Aberystwyth geographers was taking place on every continent of the Earth and beyond. The Centre for Glaciology, established in 1994, is recognised as one of the leading centres for glaciological research in the world, studying field sites from Greenland to Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica, and even searching for evidence of glaciation on Mars. Its work monitoring changes to glaciers and ice sheets is helping to build understanding of global climate change, as is research by the Quaternary and Recent Environmental Change group probing records of past environmental changes and its impacts, including analysis by the cutting-edge Aberystwyth Luminescence Research Laboratory. The Earth Observation and Ecosystem Dynamics Laboratory is pushing frontiers in using remotely-sensed data from satellites to examine issues such as deforestation and the spread of malaria – the latest expression of the application of computing in geography that was first introduced in teaching and research at Aberystwyth back in 1963.

Meanwhile, our geomorphologists and fluvial scientists and Earth scientists are working in environments from Kazakhstan to the Kalahari, whilst in human geography current research is examining case studies as far flung as Brazil and China, New Zealand and Detroit, on pressing issues such as globalisation, migration and food security. In these ways, research in the department is not only shaping scientific debates, it also has real practical impacts. Aberystwyth geographers produced the science behind the ‘Blue Flag’ awards for beach water quality and helped to make stunning BBC programmes such as *Frozen Planet* and *Operation Iceberg*.

Nor have we forgotten our home

area, and the special place that Aberystwyth geography has occupied in the intellectual life of Wales. There are many in older generations who fondly remember Professor E G Bowen trundling around the country in his distinctive yellow Mini (which he never took out of second gear) to deliver public lectures on the cultural and historical geography of Wales. That commitment to local outreach is continued today, whether by applying our expertise in flooding and pollution to examine the effects of flash floods in northern Ceredigion in 2012 and future mitigation measures, or working with local organisations to promote behaviour change for sustainable living, or capturing residents’ memories of extreme weather events, or studying the geography of the Welsh language, or discussing everyday experiences of globalisation with school pupils.

As Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth continues to balance Arts and Science, and the local and global, we also remain committed to integrating research and teaching. Nowhere is this more evident than on our famous fieldtrips. Generations of graduates from the 1970s and 1980s will still reflect nostalgically on the first year fieldtrip to Tenby, or overseas trips to Paris or Spain. Later, Aberystwyth was one of the first British geography departments to run a fieldtrip to New York, and our New Zealand fieldtrips are still as popular as ever and the envy of students and staff elsewhere. Beyond the fieldtrips our teaching blends the best traditions, such as tutorials, with the latest innovations. Our recently refurbished lecture theatres are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities and several of our staff have won awards for innovation in teaching.

With the latest QS University Rankings placing Aberystwyth in the top 100 geography departments in the world, we have plenty to celebrate with our approaching centenary. We are busy working on a special programme of events that will run from mid-2017 to mid-2018, climaxing with a Centenary Celebration Weekend and alumni reunion. Indeed, alumni will be at the centre of our centenary events. After all, it is our alumni who are the greatest legacy of one hundred years of Geography and Earth Sciences at Aberystwyth, and we want to celebrate your achievements and commemorate your memories. We’ll be advertising more details shortly, so keep an eye on the department website, PROM and social media to find out how you can get involved. 🇯



Tierra del Fuego, Argentina



STEVE RAWLINSON

PRESIDENT OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION 2015-2016

As head of Geography and Earth Sciences' Centenary celebrations, the Department were delighted to learn of graduate Steve Rawlinson's appointment as President of the Geographical Association 2015-16. Steve graduated from Aber in 1973 from the then Geography Department, before returning in 1974 to undertake an MSc under the supervision of 'Big Jim' Taylor. His research was focussed on the control of animal diseases – principally liver fluke in sheep – and quickly moved from looking at the physical/environmental controls to considering the perceptual barriers that existed in preventing disease control measures being adopted by farmers. This work was instrumental in initiating his more holistic approach to geography and especially behaviourist geography, an interest that has persisted throughout his career.

After leaving Aber Steve embarked on a career in education that eventually saw him retire from Northumbria University

in 2012. He has worked in all sectors of education from further education, to a community college and at primary level. At Northumbria he was Principal Lecturer in Geographical Education responsible for geography education on primary education courses as well as Senior Admissions Tutor responsible for both undergraduate and PGCE Initial Teacher Education recruitment.

Following his retirement he was honoured to be elected the President of the Geographical Association for 2015-16. The Geographical Association is the leading subject association for teachers of geography in the UK. As a registered charity its mission is to 'further geographical knowledge and understanding through education'. The Association is a lively community of practice with over a century of innovation behind it and an unrivalled understanding of geography teaching.

Steve describes choosing to study geography at Aberystwyth as "a decision

that was life changing. The geography community at Aber was so welcoming and full of characters whose company I enjoyed. Memorable members of staff included 'Big Jim' Taylor, Johnnie Aitchison and the ever smiling E G Bowen. To say I enjoyed my undergraduate days would be understatement!" Steve's appointment as President of the Geographical Association re-establishes Aberystwyth's strong line of historical connection with the organisation. In the early decades of the twentieth century the Geographical Association's HQ was in Aberystwyth under the then Chair of the Council H J Fleure.

The theme for Steve's Presidential Year was *Making Geographical Connections* and in the continuing spirit of this theme, he would really like to make links with some of his contemporaries at Aber who have also enjoyed successful careers, and offer his support to the upcoming centenary celebrations for the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences.



Dr Paul W T Poon has been the University Librarian, University of Macau since 2005. He was the College Librarian of New Asia College, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, then joined the City University of Hong Kong Library, first as its Associate Librarian and then the University Librarian. In his current position, Dr Poon has transformed a traditional library to a dynamic and state-of-the-art academic library, well-equipped for challenges in the twenty-first century. In 2015, Dr Poon received the University of Michigan School of Information 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award. He serves as an Adjunct Professor of Shanghai Jiaotong University Library and is a member of the Executive Committee of the OCLC Asia-Pacific Regional Council. He has published widely in both English and Chinese and is a member of the editorial board of the Chinese Journal of Library and Information Science and the Journal of Library Science in China.

MY TIME IN ABERYSTWYTH

DR PAUL POON (1968-1969)

I was a member of only the second batch of students admitted to the College of Librarianship Wales (CLW) back in 1968. As a graduate from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, I was in the post-graduate programme, on the Associateship of the Library Association (UK) course. There was no campus, no proper classrooms, to speak of, just 'pre-fabricated' structures used as classrooms, social areas, library, gathering places, and offices. Therefore, staff and students would go down to the bottom of the hill to patronize the pub at lunch time. That was where I had my first taste of Welsh draught beer, and that was when I learned to say *iechyd da*. There was also only one small Chinese restaurant in town, by the promenade; I suppose there

must be quite a few now.

The founding Principal of CLW was Frank Hogg. After I left CLW, I met Frank several times in Hong Kong and Indonesia where he served as consultant to the public library system.

The male students were housed in a residential hall (with a Welsh name that I can never pronounce properly) away from the college. We were bussed in and out every day, and I still remember the driver's name - Mr Roberts. Maids came in daily to tidy up our room and prepare meals, and the warden was John Roe, who later served as the supervisor for my Fellowship thesis. The female students were housed in a different residential hall, so it was a big occasion when both girls and boys had a party together in the boys' hall before the year ended. All (or at least most) of the boys put on their best behaviour for the occasion.

There must have been about 15-18 postgraduate students. One of the names that I can still recall is Eric Wainwright, who later went to Australia and did well in

the academic library sector, serving at one time as the Deputy Director-General of the National Library of Australia. Other names that are still in mind are Roger Shringley, Jock Holmes and Robert Taylor.

One of the lecturing staff was Michael Ramsden who went to Melbourne, Australia to join the staff at the RMIT Library School and later rose to become the department head, faculty dean, and acting Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Well, those were the days! I am now in my seventies, but still actively employed as the University Librarian at the University of Macau, after a long spell of academic library leadership positions in Hong Kong. It would be wonderful to reconnect with any of my fellow students at CLW. My email contact is wtpoon@umac.mo.

Very recently, I reconnected with Aberystwyth University when I donated a small amount towards the Wales Ironman Challenge 2016, successfully accomplished by Professor John Gratton, the Acting Vice-Chancellor.

ABER ABROAD

It is especially encouraging to report record levels of international activity in our 25th edition of PROM, given the role that it has played in connecting alumni internationally with the University and with each other during this time. We are grateful to our growing network of volunteer alumni representatives who work in partnership with us to help us keep in touch with our global community across 150 countries. (www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/alumni/international/). Their help is invaluable to staff and students at Aber as we recruit, study and research on increasingly international platforms and forge partnerships with higher education institutions around the world.

This year has seen locally organised reunions in Taiwan, Xian and Switzerland. Alumni and friends at our May 2016 reunions in New York and Washington DC enjoyed, together with the Vice-Chancellor, a virtual trip to Aber during special screenings of *Hinterland*, followed by a Q and A session with Director, co-creator and Aber Honorary Fellow, Ed Thomas.

Our close friendship with the Aberystwyth Alumni Club of Malaysia was further strengthened with a very special spring visit to Aber by alumnus and Honorary Fellow, His Royal Highness Tuanku Muhriz, with his family and friends, including the past President of the Club, Dato' Nasharuddin

Hussin. HRH Tuanku Muhriz was also very pleased to have the opportunity to meet current Malaysian students at a reception held in Old College.

We were delighted to welcome Honorary Fellow Dato' Zawayah Baba and the Club's Founder President and Honorary Fellow Tan Sri Arshad Ayub and his family at the graduation of his granddaughter, Azryn, in July. It was wonderful to be joined by the President of the Old Students' Association, Steve Lawrence, and the Vice-Chancellor at these occasions to celebrate the strength of our continued links between Aber and Malaysia and to formally receive the commemorative book published by the Club on the occasion of the conferment of HRH Tuanku Muhriz's Honorary Fellowship of Aberystwyth at the University of Malaysia in 2014.

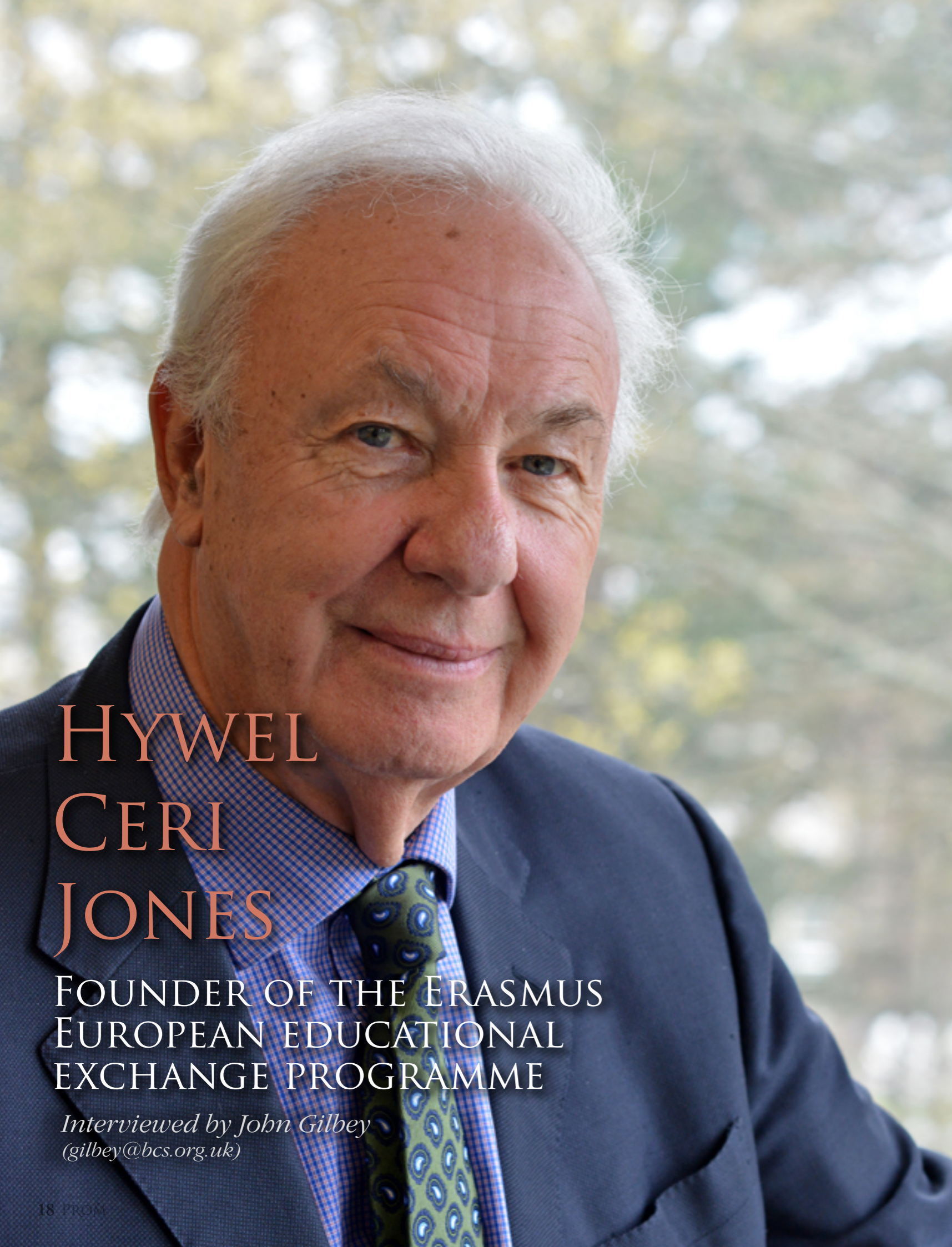
2016 also saw DARO represented at the North American Festival of Wales in

Calgary, full launches of our emerging associations in Washington DC and New York and exciting news of a new association beginning in Nigeria. I am very grateful to our alumni in these countries as well as in Singapore for helping me and the team to develop ideas for a network of alumni associations. I am also very grateful to alumni working with staff and students at our Mauritius Campus to launch their Association in support of students in Mauritius, marking a particularly exciting development for the Campus as a strategic hub for higher education in the region and for Aberystwyth's continued influence around the world. Finally, watch this space for news of planned developments in Japan and Dubai.

If you have any ideas for helping with our recruitment, student support or alumni activities in your country,

or would like further information on our plans and activities, please contact development@aber.ac.uk; we value and appreciate your interest and help.

Louise Jagger,
Director of Development
and Alumni Relations



HYWEL CERI JONES

FOUNDER OF THE ERASMUS
EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

*Interviewed by John Gilbey
(gilbey@bcs.org.uk)*

Dr Hywel Ceri Jones, proud Aber graduate, ardent Europhile and Honorary Fellow of the University, nearly didn't study in Aberystwyth.

“It was a last minute switch from going to Swansea,” he told me. “The Headmaster of Pontardawe Grammar School was a very distinguished former Aberystwyth student, Stan Rees. He said to me, ‘Hywel, listen. Aber is the perfect place for you. You really have to go there’.

“I’d never visited, never. It was a leap of faith, and it meant going away from home, because if I’d gone to Swansea I might well have lived at home. I came here in 1955, and I must be clearly a slow learner because I stayed here until 1962. Seven years here in Aber, four years with an honours degree in French. In my third year, I went to teach in France on the Year Abroad Scheme. I taught in Lorient in Brittany, which had been mainly destroyed in the war by successive bombers targeting it because there was a very important naval arsenal there, and they hit everything but the arsenal. Even when I went there, which was 1957, the town was still rebuilding, the school was full of

temporary huts, they still hadn’t done the reconstruction. It was a great experience, there were no other English speaking people around, so I had to learn to speak French really well, and some Breton too, which I did, and made some good friends.

“Aber is the perfect place for you.”

“After one year on the Diploma in Education course I did two years research on Henri Barbusse, but in my final year I was elected President of the Students’ Union. That really shaped my career, because I moved from Aber to the new University of Sussex, the first of the seven new universities created after the Robbins Report. I was one of the first fifteen appointments, and I spent twelve years there. I was Assistant Registrar, then helped create its Centre for Educational Technology and became one of two ‘right hands’ to the Vice-Chancellor, the distinguished historian Asa Briggs, subsequently Lord Briggs, for the planning and academic development of the university.

“I did that until 1972, then Asa said to me ‘Hywel, the UK is joining (what was then) the EEC, you are perfect to go over there’. I had worked with him on the international dimension of Sussex, doing a lot of correlation with the OECD and UNESCO, so I applied and was appointed. I arrived in Brussels at the same time as two ex-Aber friends, Gwyn Morgan and Aneurin Hughes, the three of us having been successively presidents of the Students’ Union here in Aber, and the two of them also serving as Presidents of the National Union of Students. It was a great trio and we had many happy times together over the years!”

Europe in the 1970s had significant scope for innovative ideas and development in important fields.

“I was appointed by the European Commission as its first head of a new department for education, training and youth policy – they’d never had one before, so it was a real opportunity to try and create something new. I was then in charge of European education and training policy development for twenty years, in the Commission. It was a tricky period, because ‘education’ as a word hadn’t appeared at all in the founding Treaty of Rome; it is a sensitive issue close to the heart of the idea of sovereignty, so some member states were particularly nervous about it. We managed to get it going, and I had the opportunity to create the Erasmus Programme and a number of other European co-operation programmes”.

The Erasmus Programme (European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) has had a major impact on the ways in which universities operate across Europe, boosting the internationalisation of study programmes.

“It really captured the imagination from the outset and very swiftly it had virtually every university in Europe engaged in it. It is now centre-stage in the present European strategy, and we expect 5.5 million Erasmus students by 2020. Now, of course there is the Erasmus Mundus dimension so it stretches across the globe. For example, Spain and Portugal permit real connections into Latin America. There are opportunities for joint masters degrees – originally Erasmus was very much centred on the undergraduate, but now it has expanded into the postgraduate masters’ programmes – and I am very pleased to see that Aber and other Welsh universities are engaged.”

Does he think that the programme, and similar innovations, have fully reached their potential in Wales?

“I think there is scope for Aber to do more. We could be more strategically involved, building long term partnerships with other universities and embedding this commitment to internationalise in the curriculum. Students will come and go, but it isn’t just about mobility, it is about internationalising the curriculum and the experience, therefore, of students of all disciplines and the cultural understanding that goes with that. The record shows that the impact of the programme is fantastic in terms of students enhancing their job opportunities, to have that on your CV so you can say ‘Look! I studied at the universities of Lyon and Aberystwyth’. It is not just about what is on the degree certificate, it is the change of the mindset, the horizons, of the student.”

Hywel’s degree was taught almost exclusively in Old College, and when I spoke to him he had just returned from inspecting plans for the repurposing of this iconic building, about which he was hugely enthusiastic.

“Mary Lloyd Jones is absolutely inspirational in her vision for it, I am excited by it and I’m going to try and help the team effort to get it going. I think there is huge potential, there is a lot of history. I hope there can be real success to Aber in building an imaginative project that can be cultural, social and a real part of the history of Wales, because the university here has played such a key part in the history of university education in

Wales. I think it needs to be ‘on the circuit’, and I was very pleased to hear that there are promising discussions with the Director of the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff about future co-operation. Making it part of cultural experience in different parts of Wales – a huge tourist attraction - but also making it a learning centre for the people for the community, who would come in and have different uplifting experiences. There can be all kinds of activities there, but it needs to be made a real living space in a way that people can feel

it is not just iconic but vibrant and connects with their everyday lives.”

On the future of universities in Wales, and Aberystwyth in particular, Hywel Ceri Jones has strong views which resonate with his experience of working and contributing to the European model of development.

“It is crucial for the success of the overall Welsh strategy, that the universities of Wales working together are seen to be fully engaged with the economic and social strategy. What I can see at the moment is the promise of universities being like hubs of development. It is perhaps more visible at the moment in Wales around Cardiff and Swansea linked with the emergence of the city regions – and particularly Swansea with the wonderful new second campus development. I would like to see that embraced more strongly throughout Wales; different hubs of development, north, south, east and west. Here in Aberystwyth, I’m very impressed with IBERS and the vision for the new Innovation and Enterprise Campus development. It is clearly, like Cardiff and Swansea, absolutely world class. World class scholars and scientists, and a world class facility. I would like to see these university hubs interacting much more, I’d like to see the Welsh Government building on and supporting the potential that they have in the short term as well as long term.

“With politics the danger is that a lot of it is short term – about politicians getting re-elected – the universities can bring this longer term vision and perspective. And that is why I have also argued that we need to see the Welsh Government create a new agency – what I call the ‘Welsh Agency for Innovation and Development’. Not a replica of the old WDA, which by the way I thought did a very good job and should never have been thrown away as it was, but one fit for purpose for the twenty-first century with innovation at its heart. Such a new Welsh agency, pulling things together, acting as a dynamo with an all-Wales perspective, supporting and encouraging the hubs based around the universities throughout Wales. We are a small country, and we’ve got to play to our strengths. We’ve got so much talent and energy here in Wales, these really ought to be connected up and promoted more vigorously.”

This theme of sustained, planned development, unfettered by the reactive demands of party politics, suggests a strong future for Welsh higher education and research, in which a solidly grounded academic community strongly underpins the progress of a nation with a strong historic sense of outward engagement open to Europe and the wider world.

A few weeks after my meeting with Hywel, the UK electorate made its historic vote rejecting continued membership of the EU. This is clearly a matter of regret for those who have invested so deeply in the cause of European integration. In recent correspondence, Hywel notes his concern regarding “the potentially damaging impact on universities in the fields of research and teaching” which may result. The coming years will show to what extent hard-fought European collaborations can survive “Brexit”. ■

“...the programme is fantastic in terms of students enhancing their job opportunities.”

FAMILY CELEBRATES FIFTH ABER GRADUATE

As Mirain Glyn graduated in July 2016, the occasion marked the end of an era for the family from Gwynedd.

She is the last of the five Glyn siblings to graduate from Aber, the first being her brother Siôn who began the trend back in 2005. Since then, each member of the family has made the journey down from Betws-y-Coed to study in Ceredigion.



L-R: Siôn ap Glyn, Beca Glyn, Mirain ap Glyn, Llŷr Serw ap Glyn and Heledd Dylasau

For the past eleven years, a member of the Glyn family has been living and studying in Aberystwyth and the town is like a second home for them, as Mirain explains: “My family has been visiting and attending Aberystwyth University for so long, it’s like a home from home for us. Like my brothers and sisters I never wanted to go anywhere else and will be sorry to leave. We’ve all made great friends and have wonderful memories - and what other University can boast such a beautiful coastline!”

Since finishing their studies they have all progressed in their various career fields.

The eldest, Siôn, graduated in 2008 in Politics and History and stayed on to do a PGCE. He now works as a communications officer in Cardiff while brother Llŷr graduated in 2009 in Law and is now a tribunal officer with the Valuation Tribunal Wales for the Welsh Government.

Next came the three sisters, Heledd who graduated in 2011 with a BA in Welsh and is now a primary teacher in Fron Goch, Bala; Beca who graduated in 2015 in Agriculture and Business Studies, and after a three-month period in New Zealand, has now returned to work on the family farm alongside her father and finally, Mirain who graduated this year with a BA in Education and Childhood Studies. During her time at Aberystwyth, Mirain has been an ambassador and Welsh representative for the Life-Long Learning Department, a member of the UMCA, the Welsh Students’ Union, Y Geltaidd and has played for the Welsh women’s rugby team.

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES LIAISON TEAM

WHO’S WHO IN AU?

When we mention the staff at Aber, it’s the academic staff who spring to mind, after that perhaps the support staff we meet on campus every day, but there are many others working in the University with a vital role to play in its success, often hidden from the limelight. Aber’s Schools & Colleges Liaison Team deserves a little of that limelight!

THE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES LIAISON TEAM



Dafydd Morse (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer) Cathy Piquemal (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer) David Moyle (Schools & Colleges Liaison Manager) Teleri Lewis (Schools & Colleges Liaison Projects Officer) Dewi Phillips (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer).

Other members of the team: Harriet Greatrex (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer, South West England) David Maxwell (Regional HE Adviser, Midlands)

The members of this team traverse the length and breadth of the UK throughout the school year. Through a combination of talks in schools and colleges, attendance at UCAS exhibitions, regional syllabus enrichment events and parents/careers evenings across the land, the team have spoken to thousands of students about the progression to higher education.

“We are passionate about providing information, advice and guidance to students in order to help them with their decision-making”, says David Moyle who manages the team. “The nature of the job is extremely varied and we thoroughly enjoy getting out and about to engage with students, parents and teachers to spread the word about the fantastic opportunities and student experience available in Aber.” 2015/16 has been another busy year and the team has visited hundreds of schools and colleges. They also welcomed over 1,200 students to campus to take part in the Taste of University Life scheme and the Welsh Baccalaureate Experience.

“We are here to support schools and colleges throughout the year, and we offer a comprehensive range of activities designed to inform and engage students”, says David. To find out about more about the team, or if you are a teacher and want to know more about the free outreach services the university offers, visit: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/schools/>.



THE ABERFAN DISASTER FIFTY YEARS ON

JEFF GRIFFITHS (HISTORY 1969)
SHARES HIS MEMORIES

I had started at College barely a few weeks before the Aberfan Disaster happened. On Friday October 21, 1966 a colliery spoil tip slid down the mountain killing 116 children and 28 adults in this South Wales Coalfield village. Word of the catastrophe spread through the student body and a meeting was arranged that same evening at the (then men-only) Pantycelyn hall of residence. We were addressed by a student who told us that his cousin had been in Aberfan's Pantglas Junior School when engulfed by the tip slide. An appeal had gone out for volunteers to help the Aberfan rescue effort and the meeting decided to send a party to assist from Aberystwyth's student body.

I had no hesitation in volunteering to join this rescue party. Coal mining was then still part of the culture of South Wales in the 1960s and evidence of the coal mining industry, past and present, was still all around. Abandoned local colliery buildings and old coal waste tips had been part of my childhood playground. My uncles were all coal miners, just as an earlier family generation had been. The infrastructure of colliery buildings, coal-carrying railways and the now all but disappeared pit head winding wheels then still defined the South Wales landscape.



Those male students who'd volunteered met again at Pantycelyn Hall late that evening. We found our transport was to be an ex-Army truck which had been used by the College's Exploration Society that summer to travel across the Sahara (an article in the 2013 edition of PROM recounts this expedition and carried a photo of the truck which was painted white for its desert journey). We set off late at night to travel to the stricken village near Merthyr Tydfil, many miles south-east of Aberystwyth. I remember it

as an uncomfortable, sleep-deprived journey as the truck took us over the Cambrian Mountains in the darkness. I guess each volunteer silently wondered what we'd experience the next day after hearing of the mounting death toll.

We arrived in Aberfan before dawn on Saturday October 22, fifty years ago. Our student party was directed to a community building on a hillside above the stricken village. Here we were kitted out in National Coal Board overalls and wellington boots.

“We could see lights piercing the darkness below and hear the hum of heavy machinery.”

We could see lights piercing the darkness below and hear the hum of heavy machinery. That day dawned bright and crisp but a mist hung in the valley bottom. As the mist lifted we had an eerily clear view of the valley below with a huge black scar of coal slurry engulfing the school and

terraced houses in its path. We set off once it was light enough and trudged through streets running with water and crowded with emergency service vehicles.

The group was put to work in the partially collapsed Pantglas Junior School and in the adjacent Moy Road where a number of its residents had been killed in their terraced homes. On seeing the height and mass of the tip slide close up it seemed unlikely that anyone was still left alive, which proved to be the case. Our task was to pass from hand-to-hand in a human chain hessian bags filled with slurry by the helmeted miners who dug into the tip slide. Every so often a screen of hand-held blankets was formed when bodies were found in the ruined school. A whistle was blown and everyone paused in silence as another blanket-covered small body was stretchered away. I particularly remember one still-standing classroom wall which carried a road safety poster with the message 'Halt, Look and Listen', so sadly ironic in the circumstances.

Our student volunteer party was later directed to work on the partially collapsed waste tip which had caused the tragedy. A stream that was flowing copiously down its slope needed to be contained by sand bags. On the tip had been installed what looked and sounded like old WWII air raid warning sirens. These were activated as we worked, as it was feared a further collapse was imminent. By the afternoon, with professional rescuers pouring in from all parts of the country, we volunteers were told to cease our efforts and leave the disaster scene.

On returning to Aberfan and visiting the long row of hillside graves, I am reminded that we students were not much older at the time - some of us were still in our teens - than the majority of those who perished there half a century ago. ■

A different crisis today demonstrates that students half a century later are still moved to act by the plight of others:



From left to right: Abigail Wren, Johnny Gaunt, Paddy Johnson, Freddie Mackereth, Jordan Rees and Billy Kingsbury with the van load of goods to take to Calais. Picture courtesy of the Cambrian News, www.cambrian-news.co.uk

During the 2015-16 academic year, five students responded to an appeal from Johnny Gaunt, a health care professional at Bronglais Hospital, for volunteers to help him collect and deliver relief supplies to refugee camps in northern France.

The students, who all graduated this summer, are Patrick Johnson (Theatre, Film and Television Studies), Billy Kingsbury (International Politics), Freddie Mackereth (International Politics), Jordan Rees (Geography and Earth Sciences) and Abigail Wren (English and Creative Writing).

The group organised drop off points at the University for donations, raised money to cover their expenses and accompanied Johnny to Calais and Dunkirk. There they replenished stocks of food and camping equipment, helped with building and maintenance work, and helped refugees to learn English.

They describe it as a life-changing experience that has given them enormous respect for the resilience and community spirit of the people they met, who fled from conflict and who endure considerable hardship with great dignity. They have kept in contact with some of the refugees and plan to continue to be involved with this cause.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GLACIER NAMED AFTER GLACIOLOGIST



An Antarctic glacier has been named after Aberystwyth University glaciologist, Professor Neil Glasser.

Measuring around 1500 metres long and 500 metres wide, 'Glasser Glacier' is located on James Ross Island and flows westward from a large ice dome on Lachman Crag.

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH LAUNCHED

In March 2016 the University launched a new Centre for Excellence in Rural Health Research, which will see the University working closely with the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative and Hywel Dda University Health Board to address some of the unique challenges of delivering healthcare in a rural area such as mid Wales.

The Centre will also promote and support an attractive research environment for clinical staff in partner health organisations.

HISTORIAN TO PUBLISH LETTERS OF 18TH EVANGELIST GEORGE WHITEFIELD

Reader in Welsh and Atlantic History at the Department of History and Welsh History, Dr David Ceri Jones has signed a major contract to publish the correspondence of the eighteenth century trans-Atlantic evangelical revivalist George Whitefield (1714-70).

Largely forgotten outside religious circles today, George Whitefield was one of the mid-eighteenth century's best-known public figures, and certainly its most famous and widely travelled evangelical revivalist.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE URDD

A major new partnership with the Urdd Gobaith Cymru Sport Department will provide greater opportunities for young athletes in Wales and promote the use of the Welsh language in sport.



Pictured left to right: Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Chancellor; Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism; Sioned Hughes, Chief Executive of Urdd Gobaith Cymru; Elinor Snowsill, Welsh international rugby player, and Elan Gilford, Wales Sport Awards' Young Volunteer of the Year).

The Urdd Sports Department holds eight national competitions every year, with around 45,000 children and young people taking part. The University will have a presence at all these events and will become a key partner in the department's weekly activities throughout Wales. The partnership includes University sponsorship for staff kit, support and development of new community initiatives, and office space for a new sports officer.

THE STORY OF PLAS PENGLAIS

Words by Ruth Evans, edited by Elgan Davies

2016 marks the 70th anniversary of the gift of the Penglais estate to Aberystwyth University. In 1952, Ruth Evans, wife of Ifor Evans, the Principal at the time, recorded how it came about. The following is an abridged and adapted version of her manuscript which is held by Aberystwyth University Archives.



Following the Second World War, Aberystwyth Corporation wanted to build more council houses in the town and the Penglais estate was one site that they had under consideration. But the land on the opposite side of Penglais Hill had been in the College's possession since 1897 and they had plans for a completely new outlay of academic buildings, shifting the College onto the hinterland of the National Library. But if the College by the Sea was to become a College on the Hill, it had to have complete control of that hill. Only thus could it be a true asset to the town.

Drawings had been made in 1936 by the architect Sir Percy Thomas and the first building on the campus, the Agricultural Research Block, was just about to be completed when war broke out. The swimming bath was finished

in 1940 with the help of the RAF. Then all came to a complete standstill and it seemed that those plans were doomed to remain dream castles of a better and never to be repeated past.

The Penglais estate belonged to the Richardes family, and in the spring of 1946 rumours filtered through that they might be willing to sell it and the town started tentative negotiations. On the Friday before Whitsun 1946 an early telephone call summoned the Principal from his bed in number 9 Laura Place, and I quite shamelessly listened to his side of the conversation. It appeared that that very morning, Mrs Richardes, the matriarch of the family, had decided to sell the whole place there and then.

The Principal telephoned the College Solicitor who agreed that they should make an offer for the estate, but both

were aware that the College did not have access to money at such short notice. That afternoon a meeting was held in the Principal's room in College, and when he returned I could see from his face that more and even bigger things had happened. "Would you like to go and see the place?" he asked me. And then came the story.

He had spent half an hour or so with David Alban Davies (a Ceredigion man who had made his money in the milk trade in London and who had come home on his retirement to be a benefactor to both the College and the town) and the following is their conversation:

Principal: 'I have just been credibly informed that the Penglais estate is on the market.'

Alban Davies: 'Buy it, *bachgen*, buy it! That's what we've always wanted – the

complete control of the hill. How much do they want?'

P: 'About £34,000.'

AD (drawing out a cheque book): 'I suppose you'll have to pay a deposit. Any idea how much?'

P: 'No. But wouldn't you like to see the place?'

AD: 'No. You go and see it; I know it's what you want,' (handing over a blank cheque). 'There you are, fill it in when you know the price. I make one condition. Let the gift remain anonymous for the time being, and whatever you do don't tell my wife!'

By that evening the preliminaries of the deal had been completed and the College could regard itself as the proud owner of an additional 220 acres on Penglais.

During the weeks following our visit, the estate and house were extensively discussed. That the farm attached to it would be part of the College Farms was soon agreed upon. But what should be done with the mansion? Should it be a students' hostel? Should it be gutted? Or could one attempt to modernise and rebuild? I cannot remember at what point it was decided to make it into the Principal's residence. I only know that it was again our friend and benefactor Alban Davies who urged us to make it into a model place, a Principal's house 'that competed with only the best in the United Kingdom' to repeat his words.

It took two years to give Plas Penglais its present shape. Our task as far as the inside furnishings were concerned was easy and pleasant, because we have the beautiful Sir John Williams Bequest

furniture, which he left for the use of the Principals of this College under his Will.

While we were struggling on with the house, the Botany Department, having taken over the grounds, were far from idle. None of the Welsh Colleges has a botanical garden and this was obviously an ideal spot to contemplate a big layout like that.

I have always felt intensely happy here, humbly and truly grateful for this wonderful chance of creating something new in a world of destruction and strife. If I could have a wish, it would be this: May Plas Penglais always be a house of happiness, inspiring to those who believe in continuity, and a source of strength for work yet to be done.

Adapted and abridged from Ruth Evans The Story of Penglais (Winter 1951-52), by Elgan Davies.

A PROPER SENSE OF APPRECIATION

Words by Professor Robert Meyrick

Keith Vaughan (1912-1977) *The Woodsman*, 1949, colour lithograph on white wove paper. Purchased with museum endowment funds with the support of a V and A purchase grant, 1989

The teaching of art at Aberystwyth will be marking its Centenary in 2017.

Housed within a magnificent Grade II* Edwardian listed building, alongside its own Accredited Museum which holds an art collection of international importance, the School of Art enjoys an illustrious history of generous benefaction that gives us much to celebrate. Aberystwyth was the only British university to align itself with the Arts and Crafts Movement and, until 1992, it was the only university in Wales to teach art, and one of only eight in the UK offering the subject.

“ The aim was to instruct and inspire ”

In the 1910s there was an increasing concern for the state of the visual arts in Wales. In 1917, when wealthy heiresses Gwendoline and Margaret Davies were considering turning Gregynog Hall into a rural crafts

centre, Gwendoline wrote to the University offering to support the teaching of arts and crafts and a museum. The sisters hoped that activities planned for Gregynog, together with the training of elementary and secondary school teachers at Aberystwyth, would lead to an Arts and Crafts Revival in Wales. The aim was to instruct and inspire trainee teachers to carry on the good work in schools, especially local schools, which would in turn foster revivals in local craft industries. Daniel Jones was appointed Drawing Master of the Department of Art and Crafts, a sub-department of Education, then based in Old College. Jones was assisted by the painter Valerius de Saedeleer and his daughters, a family of Belgian refugee artists brought to Wales by the Davies sisters in September 1914.

Since the University has never had the funds to support its own museum, and Welsh (unlike English) university museums do not have access to designated government funding, all that has been achieved over the past 140 years has *only* been made possible through the generosity of our benefactors, major patrons such as George Powell of Nanteos (1882), the sisters



Professor Robert Meyrick is Head of the School of Art and Keeper of Art. He trained in fine art and art history and now principally writes on 20th-century British printmaking as well as the art and visual culture of Wales. He has researched and curated national touring exhibitions and written accompanying books for museums and galleries throughout the UK. In 2001 he was invited to become an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers in 'recognition of his services to the art of printmaking in Britain'.



Gwendoline and Margaret Davies of Llandinam (1918), Sir John Williams (1926), Dr Elvet Lewis (1981), Marian Evans-Quinn (2004) and Tessa

Sidey (2011), public organisations like the Contemporary Art Society for Wales and the numerous artists, friends and former students of Aberystwyth University who have contributed financially or made individual gifts and bequests of works of art. Monetary bequests form endowment funds to meet the Museum's needs in perpetuity; the interest accrued annually is judiciously used to attract grant aid from the Victoria and Albert Museum and The Art Fund to support new acquisitions.

The present School of Art building has its own fascinating history. During the early 1990s, the Edward Davies Chemical Laboratories (a building originally funded by the Davies family of Llandinam in memory of Gwendoline and Margaret's father) was restored and adapted for a newly rebranded School of Art. It was opened by Vice-Chancellor Kenneth O Morgan in March 1994. The close proximity of staff and students fostered a strong sense of community and cooperation and the department quickly grew. With its dedicated studios, galleries and study room for its fine and decorative art collections, the building continues to offer a stimulating environment for staff and students engaged with the practice, history and curation of art.

The School of Art collections celebrate an enviable wealth and diversity and, as a teaching collection, is unique in Wales and of international renown. These collections and our galleries are used in training students who go on to become artists, art historians, museum curators and exhibition organisers. We continue to collect, document and display artefacts of educational and cultural value that enrich the student experience through the first-hand study of works of art. Around the School of Art and throughout public spaces on campus, artworks are also displayed in the hope that students' lives will be enriched by living with original artworks.

All our sponsors have shared our loyalty toward Aberystwyth University and in particular our commitment to the teaching, study and display of art in Wales. As one of our curators noted in 1925, we believe in a fundamental need to broaden the students' cultural experience with 'a knowledge as well as a proper sense of appreciation of these things of beauty, so that they may be able to instruct and inspire for the welfare of the coming generations'.



Painting Tutorial – Robert Meyrick (left) and Michael Harrison (right), 1987

A Proper Sense of Appreciation was the title of an exhibition held in the School of Art Gallery during the summer of 2016 to celebrate and thank the supporters who continue this tradition of generosity. The Gallery is open Monday to Friday 10:00 to 17:00 (Closed over Easter, Christmas and the New Year.) Admission is free.

School of Art: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/art/>

School of Art Museum, Exhibitions and Collections Search: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/art/gallery-museum/>

REUNIONS



PHYSICS 1964

The Physics Class of '64 visited Aber on a June weekend, for a third time since their 50 year celebration in 2014. This year the group enjoyed a trip aboard the Rheidol Valley Railway, a number venturing to the base of the Falls for the circular walk. All reconvened at the Hafod Arms for necessary refreshments afterwards.

If anyone from the Physics Class of '64 would like to be put in touch with the group, please contact the development office on development@aber.ac.uk or 01970 621568.



Photo from 2015: (L to R) Huw Williams, Emyr Williams, Paul Sweeney, Tim Price, Suzanne McIvor (née Church), Lucy Roberts (née Paterson), Lowri Evans, Helen Sweeney & Jane Crook (née Mills).

AGRICULTURE 1985

Agriculture alumni from 1985 held a reunion near Oswestry in May 2015 to celebrate 30 years on. Suzanne said: "We had a lovely afternoon laughing and reminiscing. It was great to catch up with those who could make it."



Photo from 1985 for comparison!

PADARN HALL

In early July, a group of Aber Old Boys who all got to know each other through one shared year in Padarn Hall returned to Aber for their 30th Padarn Lion Royal Sports reunion weekend. The event has become less energetic over the years, now more "darts and pool" than "5-a-side and squash"! The competition was nip and tuck all along the way, the eventual overall winner being Mike Emery.



Pictured in the Castle Hotel, where they reminisced about chalking their names on the ceiling (dark green in 1981) by building human pyramids, are: Left to right standing: Mike Emery, Geology (1981-85); Tim Arthur, Accountancy (1981-84); Stu Anderson, Accountancy (1980-83); Alun Beynon, Geology (1981-84); Simon Leach, Ag Econ (1981-85); Seated: Declan Keely (school friend); Andy Flye, Computer Science (1981-84); Sean Conboy, History (1981-84); Dave Winkler, Accountancy (1981-84).



The Aber Fund is an evolution of the Annual Fund as the new giving programme for alumni, parents, staff and friends of the University. The Fund supports projects that directly enrich student experience and attainment and help advance the ambitions of the University.



Dylan Jones,
Aber Fund Officer

Working with our supporters and students, its aim is to help ensure that every student has every opportunity to succeed at Aber and in the years ahead. Every gift makes a difference, and all monies donated go directly to our students.

KEY AREAS FOR SUPPORT...



Student Hardship provides financial relief and support to students facing genuine, severe and unexpected financial hardship.

Student Wellbeing provides support and skills development to enable students to manage issues they may face both during their time at university and in their post-university life.

Student Opportunity gives students unique access, experience and platforms to achieve, through initiatives and projects both within and outside the University – including with help from our alumni volunteers.

MAKE A GIFT...

Giving is easy, and flexible to your wishes. You can give...

- regularly by Direct Debit, Standing Order, or Payroll Giving
- through a single gift online (Credit/Debit Card); by post (cheque)
- internationally in conjunction with our partners (e.g. SWIFT System, American Fund for Charities)

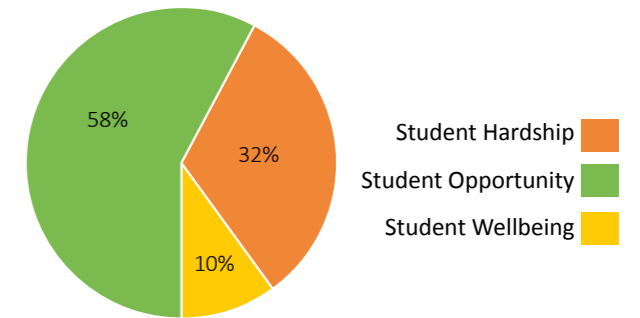
“Aber provided me with the expertise and confidence I’ve needed for a successful career. I give regularly as I’m keen to help students today to learn, and enjoy all that it offers.”

Mrs Gwenda Sippings
(née Hughes)
(graduated 1978, 1986)

THANK YOU!

Annual Giving Report 2015/16 Facts and Figures

Total **£148,144** allocated to student projects



629 individual donors in the year

23 new student projects funded in the year
100% of funds go directly to our students

YOUR IMPACT...

The generosity of our alumni and supporters helps change the lives of hundreds of students each year. Without it, projects such as the 2015/16 examples below would be limited or not receive funding:



Learn, Coach, Volunteer - gives students all-important experience and personal development through small bursaries to attend courses, coaching accreditation, instructor training or to set up new individual projects to engage, support and hone their skills with the local community, schools, clubs and organisations in a voluntary capacity alongside their degree.



Summer Placement Bursaries helped Physics undergraduates to enhance employability, gaining vital practical and knowledge skills through participating in live projects, such as model building for a Royal Society exhibition, laboratory equipment testing and experiments, and studying ‘Life on Exo-planets’.



Travel Bursaries - Two students from the Theatre, Film and Television Department had the opportunity of a lifetime to represent Aber at the world-famous Tribeca Film Festival in New York, gaining invaluable experience and career skills by attending master classes and networking with high profile experts in the film industry.

Student Hardship Fund - Over £50,000 was made available this year, and with tuition fees at an all-time high and a reduction in maintenance loans and grants, these funds have given immediate assistance to any student in financial distress.



Work Placement Bursaries helped International Politics students cover travel costs and living expenses when attending Parliament and Welsh Assembly placements to develop vital professional experience, networks and personal skills.



Student ‘Stress Busters’ - During the winter and summer exam periods, the Sports Centre provided free sports classes and a personalised skills and knowledge toolkit to help students combat stress and anxiety, in addition to the regular counselling services and programmes.



Nightline was awarded a two-year grant to support the running costs for this vital out-of-hours confidential listening, information and emotional support service, run by trained student volunteers on behalf of all students at Aberystwyth.



For further details visit: www.aber.ac.uk/alumni or contact Dylan Jones, dej20@aber.ac.uk 01970 621652

THE 2015/16 DONORS LIST

Thank you to all listed below who donated to the Aberystwyth Fund in the past year (01/08/2015—31/07/2016) - as well as individuals who prefer to remain anonymous.

We strive to ensure the accuracy of this list and the most helpful presentation of our supporters. Please do let us know if you have any queries on the list or suggestions as to the information you would welcome, by contacting us at development@aber.ac.uk or 01970 621568.

“We are immensely honoured to receive your support and generosity. We will ensure that every gift, whatever the amount, reaches its intended destination or meets the greatest need with the widest possible impact. Thank you from all at Aberystwyth University. Our donors are now listed in different categories below in response to feedback from alumni and supporters.”



**Louise Jagger, Director,
Development and Alumni Relations**

Aberystwyth University would like to record our grateful thanks to the following individuals who gave during the year and have donated over £2,500 in the last 5 years

Mr Nick Bowman (1983)
Mr David Davies (1966)
Mr Rashid Domingo
Dr Michael France (1971) & Mrs Elizabeth France (née Salem) (1971)
Mr Peter Hancock (1962)
Dr Alfred Keys (1955)
Miss Kay Powell (1969)
Mrs Ann Robertson (née Davies) (1954)
Mr Matthew Spratt (1996)
Professor J D R Thomas
Miss Thesca Thomas (1951)
Mrs Trevena Vincent
Mr Andrew Wade (1979)
Mr Huw Wynne-Griffith (1966)

Aberystwyth University Alumni - donors are listed by graduation decade (first degree where applicable)

1940-1949

Miss Teddy Curedale (1946)
Mr Ellis Davies (1944)
Mrs Brenda Farthing (née Williams) (1944)
Mr William George (1946)
Professor Haydn Mason (1949)
Mrs Olwen Pearson (née Lloyd) (1946)
Mrs Joan Preston (née Owen) (1949)
Mrs Lorna Riley (née Farmer) (1946)
Mrs Mair Thomas (née Davies) (1942)

1950-1959

Baroness Kay Andrews (1954)
Mr John Bethell (1950)
Mr David Davies (1950)
Mr Alan Davies (1959)
Miss Elaine Fisher (1956)
Mrs Sheila Goode (née Morgan) (1951)

Dr Isoline Greenhalgh (née Gee) (1955)
Professor Tony Harris (1956)
Mrs Megan Hayes (née Lloyd) (1951)
Mrs Margaret James (1952)
Mrs Anna Johnes (née Rogers) (1950)
Cllr Colin Legg (1958)
Miss Thea Lewis (1954)
Mr Tom Morgan (1955) & Mrs Heide Morgan
Mr Ron Newman (1953)
Dr Stuart Owen-Jones (1959)
Dr David Pugh (1954)
Mr David Rowe (1958)
Mr Alan Stuart (1955)
Mr Wynne Thomas (1958)
Mrs Ceinwen Thomas (née Jones-Roberts) (1959)
Mr Delwyn Tibbott (1955)
Dr David Walters (1959)
Mr Peter Watkin (1959)
Mr Kenneth Young (1952)* & Mrs Brenda Young (née Thomas) (1953)

1960-1969

Mr Graham Ashmore (1969)
Mr Tony Burley (1961)
Mr David Cockburn (1967)
Major Howard Crump (1962) & Mrs Cynthia Crump (née Welch) (1962)
Mr Alun Davies (1961)
Dr Gwynfor Davies (1962)
Professor Donald Davies (1962)
Mr Derek Davies (1965)
Mr David Davies (1965)
Mr Jonathan Davies (1966)
Mr Roy Dudley-Southern (1968)
Mr Robert Evans (1960)
Dr Claude Evans (1964)
Mr Cass Farrar (1966)
Mrs Judith Fisher (née Sherwen) (1969)
Mrs Heather Fluck (née Vincent) (1966)
Dr John Frampton (1954)
Mr Andrew Guy (1969)
Mrs Kath Hardy (née Maylott) (1966)
Mr Richard Hartnup (1969)
Mrs Orian Hopkin (née Jones) (1965)
Dr Jen Horgan (née Davies) (1964)
Mr John Howells (1969)

Miss Sue Hubbard (1965)
Mrs Jenni Hyatt (née Williams) (1962)
Mrs Ann Jones (née Davies) (1963)
Mr Richard Jones (1965)
Mr Lynton Jones (1967)
Miss Katharine Lowry (1967)
Professor Vernon Morgan (1963) & Mrs Jean Morgan (née Anderson) (1964)
Mr David Morgan (1965)
Ms Mary Morgan (1967)
Ms Jennifer Nicholas (née Richards) (1969)
Mr Raymond Owen (1966)
Mrs Elizabeth Pinfold (née McWilliam) (1968)
Mr Geoff Poole (1961)
Mr Gareth Price (1961)
Dr Mike Purslove (1968)
Mrs Judith Rees (née Culliford) (1969)
Professor Gwyn Rowley (1961)
Dr John Sheehy (1965)
Mrs Rhiannon Steeds (née Morgan) (1963)
Mrs Margaret Thair (née Long) (1969)
Mrs Margaret Tonkin (née Grace) (1961)
Mr Neil Townend (1962)
Mr Roger Tuppen (1966)
Dr Doug Watts (1968)
Mr Bernard Wehrle (1962)
Dr Monty White (1967)
Dr John Whittaker (1967)
Professor Jack Yarwood (1961)

1970-1979

Mrs Elizabeth Anderson (née Russell) (1976)
Mr George Ashworth (1977) & Mrs Jennifer Ashworth (née Green) (1977)
Mr Graham Barker (1974)
Mrs Dorcas Batstone (née Williams) (1971)
Lord Nicholas Bourne (1973)
Dr Graham Brindley (1971)
Professor Doreen Cantrell (née Linkins) (1979)
Dr Margaret Carrier (née Harris) (1975) & Mr David Carrier (1975)
Mrs Anne Chambers (née Harkness) (1978) & Mr Ian Chambers (1978)
Mrs Eleanor Coker (née Davies) (1973)
Mr Graham Colley (1974)
Dr David Cooper (1978)

“Thank you! We may never meet, but your contributions have fulfilled some of my dreams and, with hard work and luck, hopefully the first chapter in my own career as a filmmaker.”

BJ Braithwaite, Student Travel Bursary Recipient (Tribeca Film Festival)

Mrs Kathleen Crook (née Eden) (1972)
Mr Michael Daly (1976)
Mr David Davies (1972)
Mr Graham Davies (1971)
Mr Richard Davies (1979)
Mrs Janet Davies (née James) (1979)
Mrs Delyth Davies-Warman (née Davies) (1979)
Dr John Dent (1971)
Dr Maria Donkin (née Delaney) (1971)
Mr Nick Dugdale (1979)
Mr Steven Duley (1977)
Mr Brian Dutton (1970)
Ms Heather Eastes (1974)
Professor Mary Edwards (1976)
Mrs Julia Ellis (née Greenshields) (1970)
Mr Alfred Evans (1975)
Mr Carey Evans (1977)
Mrs Olwen Evans (née Thomas) (1978)
Mr Martin Gash (1976)
Ms Anita Gatehouse (1978)
Mr David Girdler (1974)
Mr Ian Griffiths (1973)
Ms Wendy Griffiths (1978)
Mrs Alison Gunderson (née Hawkey) (1976)
Professor John Gunn (1974)
Mr Andrew Hancock (1977)
Mr Arthur Harriison (1974)
Mr Steve Hasson (1977)
Mr Stuart Hayes (1972)
Dr Elizabeth Herbert McAvoy (née Herbert) (1977)
Mr Bob Hough (1977)
Miss Patsy Howes (1979)
Mr John Humphreys (1970)
Mr Christopher Jackson (1975)
Mr Andrew James (1973)
Dr Anthony Johnson (1974)
Miss Diana Jones (1974)
Mr David Jones (1976)
Mrs Sandra Jones (1977)
Mr Lyndon Jones (1978)
Ms Myra Kinghorn (1973)
Ms Anne Kirkham (1972)
Mr Stephen Lawrence (1978)
Mr Eric Lewis (1972)
Miss Elizabeth Little (1972)
Ms Helen Livesey-Jones (1974)
Mr Ian MacEachern (1973)
Mr Paul Marshall (1973)
Ms Susan McCormick (1979)
Mr Edward McKoy (1977)
Ms Carol Meredith (née Wood) (1979)
Mr David Metcalfe (1975)
Mrs Carol Moore (née Dinham) (1973)
Mr Howard Morgan (1971)

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Dr Charles Nelson (1971)
Mr Glynn Neville (1971)
Mr Jon Parry (1974)
Mrs Lorna Paterson (née Thompson) (1974)
Ms Heather Pickford (née Preston) (1977)
Mr Nigel Powell (1975)
Mrs Kay Preston-Wilkes (née Preston) (1979)
Mrs Sian Ramsden Evans (née Ramsden) (1979)
Mr Chris Ridley (1976)
Mrs Rhian Roberts (née Evans) (1978)
Mrs Gwenda Sippings (née Hughes) (1978)
Mr Roland St Clere-Smithe (1978)
Mr Jeffrey Stanley (1977)
Mr Duncan Taylor (1977)
Mr Kevin Tribbensee (1972)
Dr Richard Tuxworth (1972)
Mrs Ann Vosper (née Bowen) (1977)
Dr Michael Walker (1971)
Ms Lesley Walker (1972)
Mr Michael Warren (1971)
Mr Paul Watkins (1978)
Mr Martin West (1975)
Mr Eilian Williams (1972)
Dr Rowland Williams (1975)
Mrs Janet Writer (née Cripps) (1971)
Ms Judith Yeadon (1977)

1980-1989

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Dr Caroline Baker-Waller (née Waller) (1986)
Dr Mark Bentley (1982)
Mr Alun Beynon (1984)
Ms Enza Burgio (1988)
Mr Simon Burton (1988)
Mrs Sarah Carrington (née Brooke) (1989)
Mr Adrian Chard (1981)
Ms Judith Cole (1987)
Mrs Jane Court (née Shorten) (1984)
Mr Gareth Dart (1985)
Mrs Janet Davies (née Quinn) (1985)
Ms Anne Davies (1988)
Ms Wendy Dixon (1986)
Mrs Carole Edwards (née Heyes) (1987)
Mr Philip England (1983)
Ms Bethan Evans (1984)
Ms Claire Evans (née Davies) (1986)
Mr Derek Fenton (1984)
Mr Warwick Forster (1987)
Mr David Gallico (1989)
Dr Peter Hall (1984)
Ms Angela Hawekotte (1980)
Mr Mark Hayes (1983)
Mrs Carole Hayward (née Stanger) (1984)
Mr Philip Heathcote (1981)
Mrs Joanna Heskin (née Eales) (1984) & Mr Andrew Heskin (1984)
Mr Richard Highfield (1984)
Miss Susie Holden (1980)
Ms Catherine Hood (1988)
Mr Andrew Hood (1989)
Ms Elizabeth Hope (1984)
Dr Catrin Hughes (née Richards) (1981)
Ms Rhiannon Hughes (1989)
Mr Graham Hunt (1981)
Mr Michael Isaac (1985)
Mrs Deborah Jay (née Olden) (1981)
Mr John Jeffreys (1981)
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Ms Janet Kaneen (1987)
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Mr Stuart McAlpine (1983)
Mr Niall McElderry (1988)
Mr David Melville (1980) & Mrs Vivienne Melville (née Crawford) (1979)
Mr Ivor Mitchelmore (1980)
Mr Colvin Osborn (1988)
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Mr Jim Poole (1988)
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Mr Philip Siddons (1980)
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Mrs Yvonne Wilder (née O'Leary) (1980)
Miss Deborah Winstanley (1980)
Mr Malcolm Wood (1985)
Ms Karen Wright (née Fryer) (1982)



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Dr Tom Bartlett (1995)
Mr James Bellamy (1997)
Mr Simon Best (1996) & Miss Nina Cunningham (1998)
Dr Caroline Bird (née Tiver) (1994)
Mrs Cate Blackmoor (née Clarke) (1994)
Mrs Lucille Bluefield (née Carr) (1996)
Mr Kevin Broadbent (1991)
Mrs Maria Carnegi (née Bennett) (1994)
Mr Richard Carr (1990)
Dr Veryan Codd (1998)
Mr Alan Cole (1997)
Mrs Christine Coley (née Owen) (1992)
Mr Thomas Cotterell (1999)
Miss Sally Cowman (née Humphris) (1996)
Mr Andrew Craze (1998)
Mr Joe Daggett (1990)
Mr Matthew Daley (1994)
Dr Hazel Davey (1994)
Mr Hugh Davidson (1991)
Ms Rebecca Davies (1991)
Mr Timothy Davies (1993)
Mr Paul Davies (1997)
Mr Paul Dignam (1999)
Mrs Nia Ellis (née Jones) (1995)
Miss Karen Evans (1992)
Ms Suzanne Evans (1995)
Mr Ian Fegan (1994)
Mr Vincent Flanagan (1998)
Mr Stuart Ford (1999)
Ms Eleanor Forrest (1998)
Mr Andy Gibson (1998)
Mrs Claire Gilmore (née Atkinson) (1996)
Dr Isobel Gowres (1999)
Mrs Sarah Green (née Turner) (1992)
Miss Vicky Gregory (1998)
Ms Ingrid Hallas (1990)
Mrs Lynette Haslam (née Klein, Coopey) (1996)
Mr Ian Hatch (1994)
Miss Fiona Heald (1990)
Dr Andrew Hemmings (1998)
Mr Andrew Hocking (1997)
Mrs Gillian Hodkin (née Hooton) (1990)
Mr Edward Hogan (1999)
Ms Joelle Hoggan (1994)
Mrs Alwena Hughes Moakes (née Hughes) (1997) & Mr Simon Moakes (1996)
Ms Samantha Jones (1996)
Dr Anwen Jones (née Williams) (1999)
Mrs Andra Jones (née Bromage, Bloomfield) (1999)
Mr Alexander Keepin (1995)
Mr Niall King (1998)
Ms Esther Kinnersley (1993)
Miss Jodie Knight (1998)
Mr Richard Knipe (1991)
Mr James Lowes (1995)
Miss Victoria Martin (1999)
Mrs Sally Mcinnes (1999)
Mr Andrew Millar (1994)
Dr Peter Miskell (1995)
Dr Catherine Moore (1999)
Dr Rhodri Morgan (1992)

“ The Student Hardship Fund is a lifeline to many students who have nowhere to turn at times of huge distress, and for some it means whether they stay or drop out of education. ”

**Caryl Davies, Director,
Student Support Services**

Mr James Page (1998)
Ms Jane Peate (1990)
Ms Anne Philip (1994)
Ms Cathy Piquemal (1998)
Mr Julian Rawcliffe (1994)
Mr Jim Richards (1995)
Ms Alison Richards (née Goldie) (1997)
Mr Matthew Riley (1996)
Ms Susan Rose (1992)
Ms Hester Russell (1996)
Mr Andrew Ryman (1997)
Mr Ian Shires (1993) & Miss Cheryl Hughes
Mr Paul Smith (1994)
Mrs Kate Smith (née Allen) (1999)
Mrs Louise Suggett (née Thornhill) (1997)
Mr David Tanser (1996)
Ms Ana-Maria Toole (1990)
Mrs Ann Topping (née Pelletier) (1996)
Mr Andrew Turner (1992)
Dr Cynthia Ugochukwu (1998)
Mr Daniel Walker (1998)
Mr Dylan White (1992)
Dr Lizzie Wilberforce (1999)
Mr Frederick Wildgust (1991)
Mr Matthew Winterbourne (1993)
Mrs Rachel Wood (née Lee) (1990)
Mr Andrew Wright (1996)
Mr Jason Wyatt (1998)
Mr Mark Yates (1997)

2000-2009

Mr Richard Abbott (2006)
Mr Carl Allen (2006)
Ms Julie Archer (2006)
Dr Rebecca Arnold (2000)
Mr Philip Ashton (2004)
Mr Stuart Ashton (2009)
Mr Marc Baillie (2005)
Mr Stephen Barnes (2002)
Dr Jennifer Bearcock (2002)
Dr Charlotte Berry (2002)
Mr Joseph Brankin (2000)
Mr Clive Bridgman (2003)
Mrs Tracey Brooks (née Mainwaring) (2000)
Mr Paul Brunt (2001)
Miss Sarah Calderbank (2009)
Mrs Miranda Capecchi (née Hughes) (2003) & Mr Giorgio Capecchi (2016)

Mr Douglas Clarke (2008)
Mr Michael Coghlan (2007)
Mr Richard Craig (2002)
Mr Adrian Crowe (2003)
Mr Dyfrig Davies (2001)
Mr David Davies (2006)
Mr Thomas Davies (2006)
Mr Rhys Davies Thomas (2005)
Mr William Edgell (2002)
Miss Karen Edmondson (2005)
Miss Gabrielle Elliott (2006)
Miss Louise Ellis (2003)
Mrs Helen Elmore (née Park) (2009)
Miss Elizabeth Evans (2009)
Mr Andrew Fitzpatrick (2003)
Mr Heddwyn Fletcher (2009)
Mr James Formosa (2006)
Miss Liz Franks (2001)
Mr Johnathan Freeman (2004)
Miss Amanda Freeston (2009)
Mr Christopher Gardner (2002)
Mr Christopher Glynn (2005)
Miss Elin Griffiths (2004)
Mr Jonathan Haston (2009)
Mr Timothy Haynes (2000)
Miss Rachael Hedge (2007)
Miss Catherine Hockenhull (2007)
Mr Anthony Hodson (2008)
Ms Einir Hughes (2009)
Mr Andrew Hunter (2002)
Mr Owain Iorwerth (2005)
Miss Natasha Jones (2000)
Mr Dylan Jones (2005)
Mr Gavin Jones (2006)
Miss Helen Jones (2007)
Mr Jason Jones (2008)
Miss Sophia Kibirige (2001)
Mrs Tanya Kynaston (2001)
Mr Steven Lambert (2009)
Mr Gareth Lawrence (2008)
Mr Pete Le Riche (2001)
Mr Richard Leach (2004)
Mr Miguel Ledo Comesana (2008)
Mrs Victoria Linney (née Webster) (2002)
Mr Lucas Longman (2003)
Mr Richard Martin (2004)
Mr Paul Matthews (2008)
Mr Matthew Meaney (2003)

Dr Keely Mills (2003)
Mr Edward Minchinton (2007)
Mr Elliot Mitcham (2007)
Mr Gary Moore (2008)
Miss Rachel Morgan (2003)
Mr Andrew Murray (2007)
Mr Matthew Needham (2004)
Mrs Anna Needham (née Hilldrup) (2008)
Mr Richard Ormerod (2003)
Miss Elizabeth Padmore (2004)
Mr Daniel Parkes (2000)
Mr Simon Parkin (2000) & Mrs Ellen Parkin (née Thomas) (2000)
Mr Dorian Pascoe (2004)
Mr Jason Pawley (2008)
Mr Joe Paxton (2009)
Mr Christopher Peerman (2005)
Mr Brian Peters (2007)
Miss Charlotte Pitt (2008)
Miss Helen Pointon (2000)
Ms Piera Priolo (2001)
Mr Nicholas Radford (2005)
Miss Emma Raistrick (2000)
Dr Sarah Ralph (2002)
Miss Kady Reeves (2007)
Mr Buawah Samba (2008)
Dr Angharad Saunders (2002)
Mr Nicholas Scott (2009)
Miss Catherine Shaw (2000)
Mr Matthew Shobbrook (2006)
Mr Charles Simmonds (2009)
Mrs Rebecca Simpson (née Webster) (2004)
Mr Peter Sisson (2003)
Mrs Isobel Smith (née Bartlett) (2000)
Mr Graeme Smith (2009)
Mrs Penny Snelling (2009)
Mr James Spicer (2006)
Miss Rebecca Staite (2007)
Miss Kirsty Stronach (2004)
Dr Ian Synge (2002)
Mr George Tapsfield (2003)
Mr Gregory Thacker (2005)
Mr Craig Thomas (2005)

Mrs Dewiena Thompson (née Griffiths) (2002)
Mr Gregory Thornley (2003)
Ms Kathryn Todd (2001)
Mr Neil Turfrey (2000)
Miss Kate Turnbull (2005)
Mr Richard Turner (2000)
Mrs Peri Wagstaff (née Thomas) (2000)
Miss Becky Waring (2006)
Mr Matthew Warren (2005)
Mr William Watkins (2002)
Mr Christopher Watters (2006)
Mr Matteo Weindelmayer (2006)
Mr Max Westwood (2007)
Mr David Wherton (2000)
Mr Charlie Wilkinson (2009)
Mr Owain Williams (2001)
Mr Duncan Williams (2002)
Mr Benedict Wilson (2009)

2010-2016 (to 31st July)

Mr Gabriel Aldam (2011)
Dr Natasha Alden (2011)
Mr Nathaniel Avital (2011)
Mr Christopher Bailey (2010)
Mr Sebastian Balcombe (2014)
Mr Matthew Bennett (2012)
Miss Rebecca Brown (2011)
Mr Michael Buchanan (2012)
Mr Eric Bunyan (2012)
Mr Timothy Casey (2010)
Mr Calum Christie (2010)
Mr Michael Collins (2011)
Miss Bethan Cooksley (2011)
Mr Owen Davies (2010)
Miss Eleanor Davies (2012)
Mr Steffan Davies (2012)
Mr James Egerton (2010)
Mr Paul Finch (2010)
Miss Lucy Haines (2010)
Mr Martin Harries (2011)
Miss Libby Holmes (2016)

Miss Kate Howlett (2010)
Mr Thomas Isherwood (2010)
Ms Rabi Isma (2011)
Ms Louise Jagger (2013)
Mr Alwyn Jones (2010)
Mr Edward Jones (2010)
Mr Gareth Jones (2011)
Mr Jasper Kenter (2010)
Miss Carys Lawrence (2010)
Ms Lisa Lawrence (née Tromanm) (2011)
Mr Matthew Lees (2011)
Miss Holly Lloyd (2011)
Dr Helen Marshall (2013)
Mr Christopher-Cameron McNaught (2015)
Mr Alun Minifey (2010)
Mr Frederick O'Dell (2010)
Mr Robert O'Hagan (2012)
Miss Emily Owen (2012)
Miss Kirsty Parish (2015)
Mr Ravi Parmar (2010)
Mr Karl Parry (2012)
Mr Chris Parry (2015) & Mr Alexander Farrin (2015)
Mr Thomas Past (2010)
Mr Ceri Perkins (2010)
Mr Ben Preston-Marriott (2012)
Mr Ashley Price (2011)
Mr Matthew Sargeant (2010)
Mr Joseph Smith (2012)
Mr Lloyd Spence (2012)
Miss Helen Swinney (2015)
Mr William Trollope (2012)
Miss Rachel Truman (2011)
Mr Andrew Twigg (2012)
Ms Gini Wade (née Barris) (2010)
Mr Daniel Wallace (2010)
Mr Daniel Webb (2011)
Mr Marc Williams (2011)
Mr Peter Williams (2012)
Mr Oliver Wilson (2010)
Mr David Wilson (2011)
Mr Michael Wilson (2011)

** indicates the donor is now sadly deceased.*

Friends, parents and staff of Aberystwyth University

Mrs Janet Hardy
Dr Jenny Mathers
Professor April McMahon
Mrs Barbara Smith
Dr Richard White
Dr Ana Winters (née Gallagher)
Miss Catherine Bean
Mrs Susan Chambers
Dr Richard Davies
Dr Eva De Visscher
Dr Hannah Dee
Dr Patrick Finney
Dr Nicholas Groves
Ms Gwerfyl Pierce Jones
Mrs Zoe Laidlaw (née McLean)
Dr Henry Lamb

Miss Collette Langley
Mr Geraint Lewis
Sir David Lloyd Jones
Mr Phil Maddison
Mrs Julie McKeown
Mr Sion Meredith
Dr Iwan Morus
Mr John Owen
Professor Nick Perdikis
Mrs Julie Roberts
Mr David Salisbury
Miss Jackie Sayce
Mr David Townsend
Mrs Alison Toy
Mrs Dilys Williams

Trusts and Organisations which made gifts to particular causes during past year

Aber Pride
Big Lottery Fund
Jane Hodge Foundation
Joy Welch Educational Charitable Trust
Old Students' Association (Cardiff Branch)
Old Students' Association (North West Branch)
Pears Foundation
Pitney Bowes
Royal Geographical Society
Stapledon Memorial Trust
Tenovus, Your Cancer Charity
The Leverhulme Trust
The Wellcome Trust
Willis Group

GRADUATION HONOURS 2016



Graduation week is the wonderful culmination of the academic year, when Aber celebrates the achievements of its students with their families, friends and the staff who have supported them in attaining their educational goals at Aber. It is also a time when the University celebrates and honours those who have made an outstanding contribution to the institution, or to professional and public life in Wales with honorary Fellowships, Doctorates or Bachelor degrees.

FELLOWS

In July 2016 Aberystwyth University honoured the following:

CHARMIAN GOOCH



An Aber alumna, Charmian Gooch is co-founder and director of Global Witness, a non-profit organisation campaigning to end environmental and human rights abuses. The campaign to combat blood diamonds led to Global Witness being nominated for the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize. Charmian won the annual TED Prize for 2014, and with her co-founders, has received several international prizes. In 2014 she was named on Bloomberg Markets' 50 Most Influential list.

RUTH LAMBERT MBE



Ruth Lambert was born and brought up in Machynlleth. After a history degree in London, Ruth used a family legacy to travel round the world before marrying a Naval Officer in 1954. She served as a Justice of the Peace for Inner London, and was Chairman of the Machynlleth Tabernacle Trust twice. She organised the Machynlleth Festival and the programme of MOMA Machynlleth for nearly thirty years.

DR CATHERINE BISHOP



Dr Catherine Bishop is a triple Olympian rower, international conflict diplomat and experienced speaker and facilitator, with an MPhil in international politics from Aber. She has also spent more than a decade working as a British diplomat, specialising in conflict issues and serving on postings to Bosnia and Iraq and is an inspiring business speaker and lecturer focusing on the challenge of delivering outstanding performance under difficult circumstances.

SIR EVAN PAUL SILK KCB



A native of Crickhowell, Paul Silk attended Oxford, Princeton (USA) and the Open University. Most of his professional career was as a Clerk in the House of Commons and Clerk to the National Assembly for Wales. From 2011 to 2014 he chaired the Commission on Devolution in Wales. He has written and lectured extensively on Parliament and the constitution and is knighted for his services to parliaments and to devolution.

NATASHA DEVON MBE



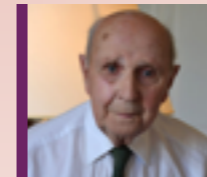
Natasha Devon is a writer, campaigner and television pundit. She is founder of the Self Esteem Team and the Body Gossip Education Programme, working in schools to help teenagers, their parents and teachers with mental health and body image. In 2015, Natasha was appointed as the government's Mental Health Champion for Schools. In 2016 the *Sunday Times* and *Debretts* named her one of the 20 most influential people in British education.

DR MITCH ROBINSON



Originally from Mississippi, Mitch Robinson graduated with Master of Laws (LLM) from the Department of Law and Criminology at Aberystwyth University in 2005. Now an international law specialist for the US Department of Defense, he recently worked on a human rights case at Guantánamo Bay detention camp in Cuba, regarding due process rights and the rehabilitation of torture victims.

A J S WILLIAMS MBE



The late Bill Williams (1920-2016) was an RAF pilot and flying instructor before joining the staff at Aber after graduating with first class honours in chemistry. In 2014 Bill was named one of the Royal Society of Chemistry's 175 Faces of Chemistry for his children's lecture series. He was also awarded the Michael Faraday Award Lecture, the B D Shaw Bronze Medal and the RSC Silver Medal.

ANDREW GUY MBE



Chairman of the Coaching Inn Group and alumnus of the University, Andrew Guy has had forty years' experience in the casual dining sector of the hospitality industry, working in the UK, Europe and the USA. He is a Trustee of the hospitality industry's two principal charities, Hospitality Action and Springboard, and was awarded the MBE in the 2015 New Year's Honours. His Fellowship was conferred during an event to celebrate the Founders of the University held in November 2016, as he was unable to attend the graduation ceremonies in July.

PROFESSOR JULIAN DOWDESWELL

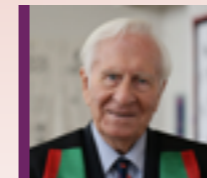


Professor Julian Dowdeswell is Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Cambridge and Brian Buckley Fellow in Polar Science at Jesus College, Cambridge. He has taught at the universities of Aberystwyth, Bristol and Cambridge, and established glaciology research centres in Aberystwyth and Bristol. Julian has received many awards including the Polar Medal, the Founder's Gold Medal, the Gill Memorial Award from the Royal Geographical Society and in 2014 the International Arctic Science Committee Medal.



HONORARY DOCTORATE

PROFESSOR KEN WALTERS FRS



A distinguished Research Professor at Aberystwyth, Ken Walters was awarded his degree, MSc and PhD from Swansea University. His research is in fluid mechanics and rheology, and he is a founding fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and a Fellow of the Royal Society. In addition to his international honours, in 2010 he became a member of the Science Advisory Council for Wales, and in 2014 was elected as a member of the International Academy of Engineering.

HONORARY BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE

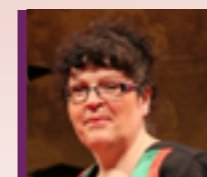
STEFAN OSGOOD



Stefan James Osgood (1994-2016), originally from Wallasey, came to Aber to study mathematics in 2012. He was engaged with many elements of student life in Aberystwyth; captaining the Men's Fencing Team and becoming Vice-President of AberSnow (Snowsports). In April 2016, he was the first student to be posthumously awarded University Colours (Sports), Sports Personality of the Year and Honorary Life Membership from the Students' Union. Stefan's team mates have raised over £10,000 for charity, including for Mind Aberystwyth, in Stefan's memory.

HONORARY BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

KARINA SHAW



Karina Shaw is an Assistant Head teacher at Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth. She has a long history with the school having been a pupil and taught there for the last 16 years. She is passionate about social inclusion and preserving local history and heritage for future generations. As a Trustee of the Penparcau Community Forum and current Chairwoman of the Penparcau History and Heritage Group she is involved in a wide range of community projects.

ALED HAYDN JONES



Aled Haydn Jones was born and brought up in Aberystwyth, starting his media career with Radio Bronglais FM and Radio Ceredigion. At BBC Radio 1 he produced *The Breakfast Show* with Chris Moyles (broadcasting the show live from Aberystwyth on several occasions). For six years he hosted *The Surgery* giving advice to vulnerable teenagers live on air. Aled now manages Radio 1 Weekend shows and has been a presenter for S4C including his own show *Llund Ceg*.

OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

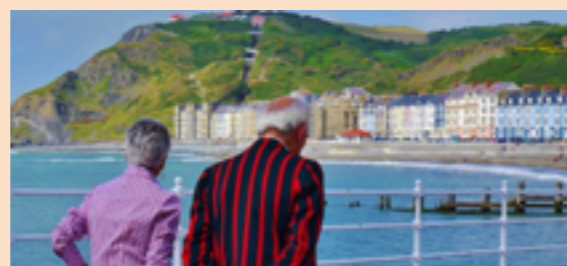


“The golden threads from the first meeting in 1892 to this day were to be fellowship and service.”

We have two important landmarks to highlight in this edition. The first celebrates the 25 years which have passed since the inauguration of PROM. The second looks ahead to the 125th anniversary of the Old Students' Association.

The planning for a new alumni magazine began in 1990 and I recall talking with Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan (then Vice-Principal, later Vice-Chancellor) about the project in his office in Old College. I asked him if he could think about a title for the new publication and, almost instantaneously, he replied, “PROM” – and so began a new phase in the University's communication with its past students, one which complemented the existing, long-standing relationship established through the OSA.

The Old Students' Association of the University College of Wales Aberystwyth was founded on 2 March 1892 through the efforts, amongst others, of Thomas Ellis MP. The aims of the Association were to enable former students to renew the fellowship of College days, to raise funds on behalf of the College and to further the educational interests of the College and Wales. All of these objectives resonate as much today as they did then, and there are many shining examples of how they have been fulfilled. Its members worldwide have been represented



The Aber blazer worn for Reunion 2015. Credit Jeff Griffiths

through many branches in the UK and also overseas – by 1919, the Association had offshoots in India, Burma and Ceylon. Later in the twentieth century branches were established in Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia. Currently discussions are taking place regarding the development of further groups in Washington DC and New York. Moreover, from its inception the OSA has organised events and gatherings, including an annual reunion, all of which have built on the social and cultural phenomenon known as the ‘Aber Spirit’. Support for the University has likewise flourished and has included the purchase and donation of the Assembly Rooms; a significant contribution to the Penglais Development Plan; funding for the building of the campus swimming pool and for language laboratories, and a raft of student scholarships.

The 125th anniversary is, therefore, an occasion for the OSA to look back with pride. However, it is also an opportunity to look forward with creativity and enthusiasm, something which is reflected in exciting plans for Associate Membership of the OSA to be extended to all former students! This initiative is outlined in detail below, and I hope you will join us in making the next 125 years as productive and supportive of Aber as the previous 125.

Steve Lawrence

125 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

Since its inception, OSA members have raised significant sums of money, endowed and bequeathed funds, and raised their voices in Westminster and elsewhere in support of Aberystwyth and higher education in Wales. There have, inevitably, been some setbacks and problems, but the Association has survived periods of enormous economic and social upheaval including two World Wars. Today, competition in higher education, electronic communications and the need to remain relevant to former students and to the University represent major new challenges.

As mentioned in the President's message above, the OSA was formally established on 2 March 1892 with the idea of forming “an Association of Past Students for the purpose of rendering assistance to the College, which is now passing through a crisis in which it behoves its friends to work together for its advancement.” As Emrys Wynn Jones puts it in his splendid history of the OSA, “The golden threads from the first meeting in 1892 to this day were to be fellowship and service.” Emrys's history was written for the OSA centenary in 1992, but these principles remain at the heart of the OSA constitution today.

The relationship between the OSA and the University has been re-defined over the years, with the earliest formal recognition granted in 1903, when 3 representatives on Court and one on Council were granted to the OSA. Later, in 1985, Ordinance 30 of the Supplemental Charter recognised the OSA as the official association for former students. However, after a century and a quarter of continuous existence, it is time to review the Association's constitution and so the Committee recommends that we:

Re-affirm the dual purpose of fellowship and service by:

- Supporting the University by engaging the authority engendered by a long and successful history
- Providing an independent voice for alumni to the University
- Encouraging and facilitating reunions and international groups
- Providing a forum for highlighting the achievements of alumni, recent and historic
- Giving an additional channel of communication for University successes, ideas and projects

Refresh the concept of OSA membership.

Currently any former student or member of staff is eligible to become a member of the Association for a small life membership fee. This has limited the size of the membership – 9,478 in 2016 – and has consequently limited the representation the OSA has been able to provide as the constituted body for past students. The proposal, therefore, is to become more inclusive by granting **membership** automatically to all former students and staff of AU. All members will be entitled to attend Reunion and other events; receive communications; have access to the OSA Annual online at <https://osaannual.wordpress.com/> and join local OSA groups in their area.

Full membership on payment of a life membership subscription will bring the additional benefits of a vote at the AGM for officers of the General Committee, and the right to stand for, or nominate someone for, positions on the Committee.

These changes will make the Association better able to continue its honourable history of channelling the loyalty and affection of its former students to benefit the University through the ‘golden threads of fellowship and service’.

If you would like to join the OSA or attend any of our events, please contact 01970 621568, development@aber.ac.uk or osaadmin@aber.ac.uk for further information or see www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/alumni/osa/joinosa for a Life Membership application form.



T.F. Roberts, Principal 1891-1919

OSA HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2017

The **Annual Reunion** will be Friday, 18 August – Sunday, 20 August 2017, with the **Annual Dinner** held on Saturday, 19 August 2017.

The **25th Llandovery Lecture** on 3 June 2017 at Llandovery College, speaker **Baroness Kay Andrews**.

The **National Eisteddfod, Anglesey** – the OSA will be represented by local members during Eisteddfod week as well as at the alumni reunion on the Maes.

Royal Welsh Agricultural Show reception will be held on Tuesday 25 July 2017.

THE ANNUAL

The *OSA Annual* was for many years the magazine of the OSA and was printed and distributed to members around the world. Today the *OSA Annual* is an online publication at osaannual.wordpress.com which gives news and information on branches and events, and celebrates the achievements of members of the Association. Click Follow in the bottom right hand corner of the screen for regular updates. We are always grateful for your feedback.

CARDIFF BRANCH EARLY REGISTERS DIGITISATION PROJECT



Cardiff Branch members go back to school

As well as funding a student bursary for many years, members of the Cardiff Branch of the OSA have recently supported a project to fund collaboration between the University's archive department and the National Library of Wales to digitise the first bound volumes of the student registers, and now they are transcribing these to form a valuable and fascinating searchable archive. The photo shows members at the first transcription training session, viewing the entry for the very first student at Aber. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch!

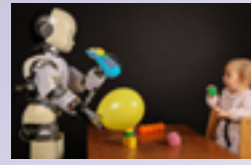
Meeting of Old Students of the University College of Wales held at the University College Aberystwyth on Wednesday the 2nd March 1892.

Present:- Mr T. E. Ellis M.P., Principal Roberts, Councillors D. Roberts, and T. Powell, Messrs J. Lewis, J. Jones, D. Samuel M.A., the Rev. Lewis Williams, Mr Morgan & J. Jones.

Minutes of the first meeting of the OSA, 2 March 1892

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

FOR ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY



For the second year in succession, **Sandy Spence** and his colleagues in the

Computer Science Department have won the People category of the **EPSRC Science Photography Competition** with an image of a humanoid robot learning how to play from a young child.

Aber was shortlisted for three awards at the **Business and Education Partnerships Awards 2015** held in Cardiff in November 2015.

Penglais Campus was presented with the **Green Flag Award** for the second year running and Llanbadarn Campus has gained the award for the first time. Given by Keep Britain Tidy, the awards are judged on criteria such as sustainability, conservation, heritage and community involvement.

The quality of our student learning opportunities and academic standards at Aber have been endorsed by the **Quality Assurance Agency**, with the University's pre-enrolment process and personalised support for students highlighted as an example of good practice.



Aberystwyth Robotics Club and their science, technology, engineering and mathematics

ambassadors have won a national award for their work with students from two local schools.

Juno Practitioner status has been awarded to the Department of Physics by the Institute of Physics, only the second University in Wales to be given this prestigious award for action to address the under-representation of women in university physics and to encourage better practice for both men and women.

Aber celebrates a third successful year for the **Green Impact** scheme run by the National Union of Students. Thirteen teams from different departments took part, and five were awarded the Gold Standard, six achieved Silver, and two were awarded Bronze.

The Development and Alumni Relations team at Aber was shortlisted for a **Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award (THELMA)** celebrating the best examples of innovation, teamwork and enterprise in higher education.

APPOINTMENTS

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS



Professor John Grattan – Acting Vice-Chancellor



Professor Judy Broady-Preston – Director of the Institute of Professional Development



Professor Jo Crotty – Director of the Institute of Business and Law



Professor Tim Woods – Director of the Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts and Education



Julie McKeown – Director of Marketing

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT



Professor Richard Beardsworth – International Politics

PERSONAL CHAIRS



Professor Mike Wilkinson – Chair of Upland Agroecosystems



Professor Huw Jones – Chair of Transnational Genomics for Plant Breeding

STUDENTS AND STAFF



Professor **Bryn Hubbard**, Director of the Centre for Glaciology in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, has been awarded the prestigious Polar Medal.



Professor **Phillipp Schofield**, Professor of Medieval History at Aberystwyth has been elected as Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



An Antarctic glacier has been named Glasser Glacier after glaciologist Professor **Neil Glasser**, from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. Neil is also Director of the University's Institute of Geography, History, Politics and Psychology.



Physics Lecturer Dr **Tony Cook**, has had an asteroid named after him. The asteroid formerly known as '2003 JO13' was renamed 'Tonycook' in recognition of Dr Tony Cook's amateur astronomy outreach and planetary topographic mapping work.



Student **Cennydd Jones** (IBERS) was the runner up for the prestigious Royal British Dairy Farmers Association MSD Animal Health Dairy Student of the Year 2016 award.



The Frontiers of the Science of Disordered Materials Symposium in London marked the 70th birthday of Professor **Neville Greaves** of the Physics Department. A world-class line up of academics celebrated Professor Greaves' contribution to measuring and predicting the properties of materials at the atomic level.



Geography student **Owen Daniel Howells** won his first cap playing rugby for Wales in May 2016. Owen, who captains the University's Rugby Union first team, played for the Wales Students in their victorious match against France Students.



Computer Science student, **Mazhar Shar**, was a finalist for the TargetJobs Undergraduate of the Year award for Computer Science and Analytics, celebrating the UK's brightest undergraduates.



Four current or former members of staff and one alumna of Aberystwyth University have been elected Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales: Professor **John Doonan**, Director of the National Plant Phenomics Centre at IBERS; Professor **Sarah Prescott**, Rendel Chair of English Language and Literature; Emeritus Professor **Michael Hambrey**, Professor of Glaciology and Professor **Len Scott**, Emeritus Professor of International History and Intelligence Studies.



Also honoured was artist **Mary Lloyd Jones**, Fellow of Aberystwyth University and a keen advocate for the planned redevelopment of the University's Old College, where she has a studio.



Gary Reed, Director of Research, Business and Innovation, has been seconded for two years as the Assistant Director, Membership (Wales) with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.



Dr Rhian Hayward, the Business Development Manager at the Department of Research, Business and Innovation at Aber was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2016 for her services to entrepreneurship in Wales.



Ned Thomas, a former lecturer in the Department of English and former director of the Mercator Institute, received an Honorary Fellowship from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Welsh-medium university education.



Sarah Wydall of the Department of Law and Criminology has received one of the first Audrey Jones Memorial Awards for Feminist Scholarship for her work on the *Dewis/Choice* project focusing on justice and elder abuse (featured in the last edition of PROM).



Eri Mountbatten, Student Adviser from the Students' Union was awarded Student Money Adviser of the Year 2016 (UK) by NASMA.



For the third year running Dr **Hannah Dee** of the Department of Computer Science has featured in *Computer Weekly's* Top 50 Most Influential Women in UK IT 2016. Rated as the ninth most influential woman in UK computing, she is the highest ranked academic in the list.

ALUMNI:

Artist **Rob Pointon** (Art 2004) has won the £4,000 Haworth Prize with his painting *Piccadilly Falls* looking down on a busy escalator in Manchester Piccadilly railway station.

Mari Ellis Dunning (MA Creative Writing 2015) won the 2016 Terry Hetherington Young Writers Award, claiming the £1,000 prize for *Cartref*, a short story inspired by her time as a student at Aberystwyth.

Hanna Thomas (Foundation Degree in Agriculture) won the 2016 Royal Welsh Agricultural Society/Waitrose scholarship for foundation students who are planning to progress towards a BSc.



Dr Hannah Bailey, (Geography 2009), has received a prestigious Loyds of London Fulbright Award to study changes to Alaska's glaciers. Based at the University of Alaska Anchorage, she

will also spend time at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

Artist **Stefan Orlowski** (Art 2007) had a painting shortlisted for the prestigious Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, one of the UK's most respected competitions for representational painting.

John Thornhill JP (MPhil Law 2006) received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to the criminal justice system.

Peter Edwards (Business and Management 2008) has been featured in Forbes' 30 under 30: Industry list of top young leaders, inventors and entrepreneurs.



Professor **Denis Hughes** (Geography 1973, PhD 1978) was awarded the International Hydrology Prize (Volker Medal) from the International Association of Hydrological

Sciences, UNESCO and WMO.



The High Sheriff in nomination for the City and County of Bristol 2018-19 is **Roger Opie** (Economics and International Politics 1968) who was captain of the Harriers at Aber. After a rugby career with Clifton RFC where he is Vice President, he now commentates for rugby on BBC Radio.

Maria Apichella (PhD English 2015) won the 2015 Melita Hume Prize for the best unpublished debut collection in the English language by a poet 35 years of age or under, with her volume of poetry, *Psalmody*.

Ian Bowles (Pure Maths and Statistics 1967), former British and Welsh Universities rugby player, represented Great Britain in the World Masters Athletics World Championships as top ranked British discus thrower in the 70 to 74 age category.

Wales took three teams to the Hockey Masters world cup in Australia and all three were captained by Aberystwyth alumni. Seven alumni played for Wales: **Ian Johnson** (Agriculture 1975, staff) Captain Wales Grand Masters (60 to 64 year olds); Dr **Ben Johnson** (Geology PhD, 1979) Captain Wales Great Grand Masters (65 to 69 year olds); **Glyn Thomas** (Welsh for Adults) Captain Wales Senior Grand Masters (70+); **Gareth Hughes** (Geography 1970) Manager - Wales Great Grand Masters Team; **Jeff Robinson** (Geography PhD, 1976) Welsh Masters Hockey President and Wales Senior Grand Master Team; Dr **Antony Wyatt** (former staff) Wales Grand Masters team; **Richard Sanders** (Geography 1974- 1977, staff) Wales Grand Masters Team.

At the Monmouthshire and District National Eisteddfod 2016:

Guto Roberts (Physics) was awarded the National Eisteddfod's Science Medal for his lifelong contribution to science through the medium of Welsh.

Glenys Roberts (Welsh, 1968) won the prestigious Translation Challenge 2016.

Hefin Robinson (Drama, 2009) won the Drama Medal, awarded for a stage play of any length.



Eurig Salisbury (Welsh and Film and Television Studies 2009, lecturer in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies) won the Prose Medal.

The Welsh Learner of the Year award was won by **Hannah Roberts** (Welsh 2005) who took a taster course in Welsh while studying geography and enjoyed it so much that she switched to a Welsh Language degree.



Liz Saville Roberts MP (Celtic Studies 1987) who learnt Welsh during her time at Aber and became Plaid Cymru's first female Member of Parliament, was honoured by the Gorsedd of the Bards.



Lecturer in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies, Dr **Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh** won the Johann Kaspar Zeuss Prize from the Societas Celtologica Europaea for the best PhD thesis in Celtic Studies submitted to a European university.



Dr **Rhianedd Jewell**, a lecturer in Professional Welsh, was awarded the Burgen Scholarship in the annual Academia Europea conference which acknowledges talented young scholars who are considered to be future leaders in their field.

BOOKSHELF

The following are brief outlines of some of the many books produced by Aber academics over the last year:



US Power and the Internet in International Relations: The Irony of the Information Age

Madeline Carr, International Politics

Despite the pervasiveness of the Internet and its importance to a wide range of state functions, we still have little understanding of its implications in the context of International Relations. Combining the Philosophy of Technology with IR theories of power, this study explores state power in the information age.



Peasants and Historians: debating the medieval English peasantry

Phillipp Schofield, History and Welsh History

Peasants and Historians is an examination of historical discussion of the medieval English peasantry. In this book, the first such study of its kind, the author traces the development of historical research aimed at exploring the nature of peasant society.



Alien Audiences: Remembering and Evaluating a Classic Movie

Martin Barker, Kate Egan, Theatre Film and Television Studies, with Sarah Ralph & Tom Philips

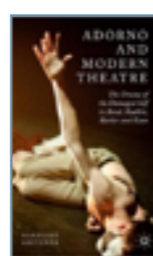
Released in 1979, Ridley Scott's *Alien* has come to be regarded as a classic film and has been widely written about. But how have audiences engaged with it? This book presents the - sometimes very surprising - results of a major audience research project, exploring how people remember and continue to engage with the film.



Thailand in the Cold War

Matthew Philips, History and Welsh History

Thailand's position during the Cold War was ambiguous: keen to maintain the country's independence, yet also anxious to establish staunchly anti-communist credentials. Considering popular culture, the book shows how an ideology of consumerism and integration into a "free world" culture gradually took hold, and how this was fundamental in determining Thailand's international political alignment.



Adorno and Modern Theatre: The Drama of the Damaged Self in Bond, Rudkin, Barker and Kane

Karoline Gritzner, Theatre, Film and Television Studies

The book explores the drama of Edward Bond, David Rudkin, Howard Barker and Sarah Kane in the context of the work of leading philosopher Theodor W Adorno (1903-1969). It engages with key principles of Adorno's aesthetic theory and cultural critique and examines their influence on a generation of seminal post-war dramatists.



Adolescent Girlhood and Literary Culture at the Fin de Siècle: Daughters of Today

Beth Rodgers, English and Creative Writing

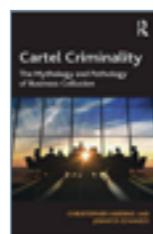
This book examines the construction of adolescent girlhood across a range of genres in the closing decades of the nineteenth century. It argues that there was a preoccupation with defining, characterising and naming adolescent girlhood at the *fin de siècle*. These 'daughters of today', 'juvenile spinsters' and 'modern girls', as the press variously termed them, occupying a borderland between childhood and womanhood, were seen to be inextricably connected to late nineteenth-century modernity.



Justinian's Balkan Wars: Campaigns, Diplomacy and Development in Illyricum, Thrace and the Northern World, A.D. 527-65

Alexander Sarantis, History and Welsh History

Justinian's Balkan Wars is the first history of military and diplomatic affairs in the Roman provinces south of the River Danube during the reign of the Emperor Justinian.



Cartel Criminality: The Mythology and Pathology of Business Collusion

Christopher Harding, Law and Criminology, with Jennifer Edwards

Anti-competitive business cartels, engaging in practices such as price fixing, market sharing, bid rigging and restrictions on output, are now subject to strong official censure and rigorous legal control in a large number of jurisdictions across the world. This book sets a research agenda for a pathology, aetiology and criminology of business cartels, and probes more accurately their nature, operation, endurance and perceived delinquency.



Equine Reproductive Physiology, Breeding and Stud Management

Mina Davies-Morel, Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

The fourth edition of this popular textbook provides a comprehensive account of how to successfully breed horses. Updated throughout, the new edition will cover techniques such as cloning, intracytoplasmic sperm injections (ICSI), in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and related reproductive technology that is currently being developed.



Stanley Anderson: Prints: A Catalogue Raisonné

Royal Academy of Arts, London. Robert Meyrick and Harry Heuser, Art

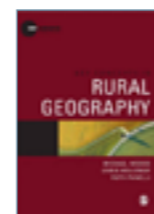
Despite living through some of the most dramatic changes of the twentieth century, Stanley Anderson CBE (1884–1966) created a vision of an essentially timeless English rural tradition in his etchings and woodcuts. Anderson became a master of his craft: elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers in 1923 and a key figure in the revival of engraving in the 1920s. This *catalogue raisonné* gathers together for the first time the complete *œuvre* of Anderson's prints.



Factors influencing foot and ankle injury risk in soccer: The role of playing surface and footwear

Daniel Low, Sport and Exercise Science

Despite the many physical and social benefits to participating in soccer, the risk of injury in this sport is 'considerable' with playing surface and footwear being identified as contributory factors. This book looks specifically at the foot and ankle, describing how the playing surface and footwear influence the ankle ligaments, Achilles tendon and metatarsal structures. An analysis of the literature then describes the potential that design change may have to reduce the risk of sustaining an injury in the future.



Key Concepts in Rural Geography

Michael Woods, Geography and Earth Sciences, with Lewis Holloway and Ruth Panelli

Written by an internationally recognized set of authors and forming part of an innovative set of companion texts for the human geography sub-disciplines, *Key Concepts in Rural Geography* provides an introduction to the central concepts that define contemporary research in rural geography.



Dreamstreets: A Journey Through Britain's Village Utopias

Jacqueline Yallop, English and Creative Writing

From Scotland's New Lanark Mills to the Arts and Crafts cottages of Port Sunlight, Yallop visits these utopian experiments to explore their rich histories. Looking at everything from sewage systems to sculpture, chocolate to coal, and free trade to electoral emancipation, this book is a personal exploration of why and how these village utopias came about, what they tell us about the past, and how they still resonate with us today.



Philosophies du voyage: visiter l'Angleterre au 17e-18e siècles

(published in French)

Gábor Gelléri, Modern Languages

Although England is the major destination of French travellers throughout the 18th century, travels to England have been little studied. This monograph covers a period of 130 years (1660-1789), relying on more than 70 primary sources, in order to present the philosophical, political, religious, social and literary implications of this travel phenomenon. This extremely complex travel practice was systematically used as a "testing ground" for most major ideas of the time.



Violence and Civilization in the Western States-Systems

Andrew Linklater

Andrew Linklater's *The Problem of Harm in World Politics* (Cambridge, 2011) created a new agenda for the sociology of states-systems. This book builds on the author's attempts to combine the process-sociological investigation of civilizing processes and the English School analysis of international society in a higher synthesis. Adopting Martin Wight's comparative approach to states-systems and drawing on the sociological work of Norbert Elias, Linklater asks how modern Europeans came to believe themselves to be more 'civilized' than their medieval forebears. He investigates novel combinations of violence and civilization through a broad historical scope from classical antiquity, Latin Christendom and Renaissance Italy to the post-Second World War era.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we record in these pages the loss of alumni, students, Fellows and members of staff, past and current, of whose passing we have been informed during the last year. Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of those listed here.

FELLOWS

His Honour Judge Elgan Edwards (1943-2016)



Elgan Edwards, who died earlier this year, was a highly respected and well liked member of the senior judiciary in Cheshire. He was still hoping

to return to sit as the Honorary Recorder for Chester after a long and brave battle with illness, but that was not to be.

He was born and brought up in Rhyl where the family had a confectionery business. The chances are that he sold the writer a stick of rock, he worked out many years later, from one of the stalls on the esplanade during a family holiday.

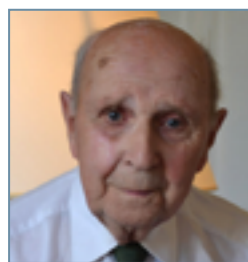
He graduated in law from Aberystwyth where he was President of the Students' Union. He was called to the bar in Gray's Inn and it was not long before he was building a very successful practice in Chester. He found time to fight two seats for the Conservatives. He became a part time judge in 1983 and then a Circuit Judge in 1989 before being appointed a Senior Circuit Judge in 2002. In that role he presided over some of the most serious criminal trials in North Wales and Cheshire, as well as sitting from time to time as a member of the Court of Appeal in London. He did so with scrupulous fairness and sound judgment.

Despite attainment of high judicial office, he remained down to earth and

highly personable. He was an ardent supporter of Manchester United FC. He had a lively sense of humour and loved telling stories of life at the bar and on the bench, usually with a twinkle in his eye, and his audience loved to listen. He was always ready to give advice and encouragement to students at Gray's Inn, where he became a Bencher in 2004, and at Aberystwyth, where he became a Fellow in 2005. He was very much a family man, and he and his wife Carol were very generous and entertaining hosts at their home near Chester. He became an eminent figure in many aspects of Chester life, including the Races, and that place does not seem the same without him.

Milwyn Jarman

Mr A J S 'Bill' Williams MBE CChem FRSC (1920-2016)



Credit: RSC

A J S 'Bill' Williams' life story and much of his career was founded on the inspiration provided by his chemistry teacher. This led him in turn

to inspire many school pupils with his lectures on "Colour" and "Science and Energy", one of the key points being the encouragement of pupils to be 'hands-on' during the presentations. It is estimated that he and his colleagues gave these lectures to more than eighty thousand pupils and to many adults. This part of his life's work was been recognised by the award of an MBE and several prestigious scientific society medals and prizes.

Leaving school, Bill entered the civil service, but the war intervened and in 1940 Bill volunteered for the RAF. He was sent to the USA via Canada to be taught

to fly before being returned to the UK. His instructors found that he had an aptitude as a trainer and as such, was more valuable in doing what came naturally to him, instructing others to fly. His log books show that he flew 4,500 teaching hours in twin-engine Oxfords.

Termination of hostilities found him educating servicemen again, but in this instance, for their return to civilian life. At the same time he attended night school to gain the necessary qualifications to enter the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where he took a first in Chemistry and joined the staff of the Organic Chemistry Department. Bill found the time to play an important part in the West Wales section of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). He was interviewed on the BBC Radio Wales *Café Science* programme and was sometime Council Scientific Advisor. He co-authored *A Student's Handbook of Organic Qualitative Analysis* and any spare time was used to research aspects of the

chemistry of small ring compounds and oxime reductions which were published in prestigious international journals.

Bill's other love was playing classical piano. Bill was encouraged to learn the piano from the age of nine and carried his enthusiasm through to his nineties. Who will forget his 70th birthday when Bill and a close friend got all their musician friends to form an orchestra, Bill being the soloist?

Bill was essentially a very kind and modest man but he was very pleased and surprised to have been selected as one of the "175 Faces of Chemistry" by the RSC. He declared that his appearance in the same august selection which featured such as Borodin the composer and Frederic Soddy the Nobel Prize winner, who studied at Aber, was not merited, but those of us who had the pleasure of knowing Bill and his life's achievements, think differently.

John Evans

STUDENT

Stefan Osgood (1994 – 2016)



Stefan was a student of the Mathematics Department, and at the Graduation Ceremonies in 2016 he was awarded an Honorary Bachelor's Degree, received by his family in his memory (see page 39). He is greatly missed by his fellow students who continue to fundraise in his name.

STAFF

Michael MccGwire OBE (1924 – 2016)



Michael Kane MccGwire was a student in Aber between 1967-1970, on the staff in the International Politics Department 1970-71, and an Honorary Professor in the 2000s. Mike had a remarkable life, as a man of action and as an outstanding analyst on strategic issues.

Michael was born in Madras in 1924 and as a 17 year-old Midshipman in 1942 took part in the legendary relief convoy to Malta, the North African, Salerno, Anzio, and Normandy landings. Back in the Mediterranean in 1947, he was shocked by his experiences in the Palestine Patrol, where he saw wartime allies pulling in opposite directions, and refugees being brutally exploited for political purposes.

Having learned Russian at Cambridge, he worked at GCHQ then as Assistant Naval Attaché in Moscow, and in 1965 he was appointed to his final post in the RN, head of the Soviet naval section of British intelligence where his impact was decisive, carrying out major reforms in data-handling and analysis. He was awarded an OBE in 1968.

Mike decided on a new path in his forties and enrolled for a degree in Economics and International Politics at Aberystwyth, where he inspired other students to think internationally and practically. After a brief period on the staff in the Department, Mike moved to set up a new Maritime and Strategic Studies Centre in Canada.

In 1998 a book of essays was produced in MccGwire's honour: *Statecraft and Security: the Cold War and Beyond*. The A-list of contributors were people who recognised his outstanding contribution and the royalties from this book provide a fund for The Annual Michael MccGwire Prize for Mature Students in the Department.

Professor Ken Booth FBA

The full version of this obituary can be read at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/alumni/obituaries/i-q/michaelmccgwire

David Bryan James (1929 – 2016)

Born in Carmarthenshire, David was a long serving member of teaching staff in the then Department of Agricultural Botany where his main academic interests focused on the influence of environmental factors on plant and crop growth. In 1958 David married Eleanor M Jones, a native of Aberystwyth and alumna and fellow member of staff of the University. Eleanor and David were stalwart members of the Old Students' Association, giving great help on the Committee, where Eleanor was Treasurer for many years, and with the organisation of Annual Reunions.

Mr Michael John Corlett (1951 – 2015)

Originally from Formby, Merseyside, Mike graduated in 1972 with a joint honours degree in Art and Librarianship. He became a Library Assistant in 1972, in 1983 he became a Senior Library Assistant in the Hugh Owen Library, and in 1997, Assistant Librarian in Information Services. Mike was also a Branch Secretary of the University's branch of UNISON from 1996 to 2014 and was an avid collector of books on art.

Former colleague Julie Hart said: "Mike worked at the University for over 40 years and latterly was the library materials acquisitions team leader, and a trustee of the local pension fund. He was involved with a number of local societies including as Secretary of Aberystwyth Film Club back in the 1980s, helping to turn around its financial difficulties at that time. Mike's loss has been felt deeply by colleagues and we miss his wisdom and kindness; he was a true gentleman."

Professor Peter Wathern (1947 – 2015)



Originally from Stroud, Peter graduated from Bedford College London with a degree in biology and a PhD from Sheffield University, in the ecology of redevelopment sites. At Aberdeen University he focussed on the impact of man-made activities on plant ecology, but he is best known for his leadership in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

During three decades at Aberystwyth he launched the UK's first Master's course in EIA, equipping graduates for real-world jobs at precisely the time that EIAs became mandatory for major developments requiring planning permission in the UK.

Professor Wathern supervised the research of international PhD students, worked on international projects with the EU and NATO, and trained local authority planners. He was highly effective in demonstrating the value of multi-disciplinary study and the importance of giving professionals the skills to better manage the environment. In an ever-changing world, these principals remain as relevant today as they ever were.

Professor Mike Foley (1948 – 2016)



Mike received his BA in Politics and International Studies from Keele University, his MA in Political Theory, Political Sociology and US Government and his PhD from Essex University. He joined the academic staff at Aberystwyth University in 1974, when he was appointed to the Politics Department as a lecturer in American Government and Politics.

Mike's reputation as a leading researcher in his field is immense, but his university service was not limited to the contributions of his research and teaching, as substantial as those have been. From the 1990s he served in a variety of leadership roles in the Department of International Politics, including Director of Graduate Studies and Director of Research, and most recently Acting Head and then Head of Department.

Colleagues and students will remember Mike as a committed teacher, a dedicated researcher and a very kind and thoughtful man. Many generations of students found in Mike a sympathetic ear and a willingness to listen to their problems and offer moral and practical support. Mike was a quiet man with a keen intellect and a dry sense of humour. He will be greatly missed.

Mr Ieuan Mason James

Ieuan James worked for many years in the Finance Office at Aberystwyth University, and his long-standing support for the Old Students' Association even after his retirement was much appreciated by the Committee, particularly for the unstinting help which he and his wife Glenys gave to countless Annual Reunions.

Professor Kevin Shingfield (1968 – 2016)



Originally from Norfolk, Kevin graduated from the University of Nottingham with a degree in Animal Science in 1990.

From there, he went to work at the Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen, before taking up a PhD programme at the Scottish Agricultural College (as it was known then) in the subject area of dairy cow nutrition, which he completed in 1995.

Kevin went on to fulfil postdoctoral positions at MTT Finland and the University of Reading before taking up a post as a Research Scientist at MTT Finland where in 2010, he was appointed as a Professor.

In 2013, he joined Aberystwyth University as Chair in Nutritional Physiology at IBERS. His research concentrated on lipid metabolism in ruminants and understanding gene responses to nutrients. Kevin had collaborations across the world and was an active member of British Society of Animal Science and Section Editor for Ruminants in the journal *Animal*.

Kevin was an internationally renowned scientist who made a large contribution to ruminant animal science, and in particular to our understanding of nutritional approaches in the dairy cow to improving the lipid profile of milk.

Away from work, his passions were rugby, motorbikes and his unique music system. He will be greatly missed.

Mrs Dinah Mary Jamieson

Dinah worked as a Residence Manager at the Seafont Halls during the mid-nineties where she made many friends, and she will be remembered by generations of students who lived on the seafont.

Professor Emeritus Robin Charles Whatley (1936 – 2016)



Professor Emeritus Whatley joined the staff of the Geology Department as assistant lecturer in 1965. From 1970 to 1973 he held a British Council visiting professorship at the University of La Plata, Argentina. He was promoted Senior Lecturer in 1975, Reader in 1985 and appointed Professor in 1988, a position he held until his retirement. Robin was a micropalaeontologist of international standing specialising in Ostracoda, a field of study which took him around the world. He helped train generations of Aber micropalaeontologists, many of whom went on to successful careers in the oil industry.

Ms Irena Halina "Ren" Brzeski (1958 – 2015)

Ren joined the University in 1999, first working with the postgraduate team before moving to the undergraduate team as the Director of Admissions' secretary.

Paying tribute to her, Nerys Davies, colleague and Undergraduate Admissions Office Manager said, "Ren was an invaluable member of the admissions team and a kind and caring friend. She was a very keen gardener, enjoyed walking and liked to put her language skills to the test when holidaying abroad with her husband. She will be sadly missed and remembered with great affection."

Professor T Ceiri Gruffydd (1925 – 2016)

Former President of the OSA



Professor Thomas Ceiri Griffith who died on 26th March 2016, was associated with Aberystwyth from 1943, initially as a student (BSc Radio Physics, 1946; PhD, 1950), and thereafter as a lifelong member and president (1985) of the Old Students' Association.

Ceiri was born in Llanbedr, Meirionnydd but the family moved as tenant farmers to Cwm Ystradllyn, Llanaelhaearn and ultimately Plas Gwyl, Y Ffôr. He attended Pwllheli County School, where he learned English and discovered his love of science.

At Aber he was inspired by Professor E J Williams FRS (*Dessin*). Sadly *Dessin* died in 1946, but his pioneering studies and connections with Nobel Laureates Blackett and Powell allowed Ceiri to publish his first paper in *Nature* at the age of 21.

Ceiri's working career was spent at UCL (following a remarkably brief interview by Prof Harrie Massey: "Can you build a cloud chamber?"; "Yes"; "OK the job's yours"). He initially undertook particle physics research at Harwell but later switched to positron physics, with the lab that he founded in the 1960s continuing to the present day under Nella Larrichia.

He married an Aber graduate, June Roberts (Economics, 1951) in 1957, and three children (Gareth, Nia, Alun) followed. Outside work, Ceiri's life revolved around the expatriate Welsh community in London.

Following June's death in 1989, Ceiri returned to his roots in Eifionydd. In 1990 he married Ann (also an Aber graduate), and immersed himself in genealogical studies. Retirement allowed him time to collate all this information into a book (1989; *Achau Ac Ewyllysiau Teuluoedd De Sir Gaernarfon*).

SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF:

* Denotes OSA member

Adams, Dr Peter David* (Physics, 1959), died April 2016

Bolle-Jones, Dr Evan William (Chemistry and Botany, 1945), died September 2015

Burrell, Mr William David* (Agricultural Botany, 1952), died June 2015

Caney, Mrs M Elizabeth, née Davies* (Mathematics, 1960), died September 2016

Carter, Mrs Melitta Helen, née Alevropoulos (Agricultural Economics, 1985), died September 2015

Davies, Mr Kenneth Joseph* (Physics, 1949), died August 2015

Davies, Mr John Trevor, (Botany, 1949), died June 2015

Ezeani, Justice Anthony Ofor Nnaemeka, (Law, 1961), died October 2016

Edbrooke, Mrs Mollie Geen, née Penny* (Geography, 1952), died July 2016

Edwards, Mr Meirion Ellis (Agricultural Biology, 1975), died September 2015

Elliott, Mr Simon Derek* (Physics, 1992), died December 2015

Evans, Mr John* (Law, 1957), died July 2015

Evans, Mr Robin Emile (Mathematics, 1986), died January 2016

Furzer, Dr Adrian Sidney (Physics, 1971), died July 2015

Griffiths, Dr Richard John Mostyn (Chemistry, 1969), died February 2015

Gwynne, Ms Telsa Christina (Zoology, 1991), died November 2015

Hall, Dr Christopher Clement (1970), died January 2016

Harbinson, Mr David Joseph, (Law, 2007), died August 2016

Hashimoto, Dr Chikara, (International Politics, 2007 and 2014), died October 2016

Hind, Mrs Margaret Kathleen Doris, née Davies* (Art, 1943), died January 2016

Hughes, Dr Joan Isaac, née Isaac* (Welsh, 2001), died January 2016

Hummel, Mr Jonathan William, (Economics, 1985), died September 2014

Ince, Mr Oliver, (Film and Television Studies, 2004), died June 2015

James, Dr Rhydian Fon (Management and Business, 2012), died January 2016

Jeffries, Dr Teresa Emily (Geology, 1992), died April 2016

Jones, Mr David Evan Alun* (Law, 1951), died March 2015

Jones, Mrs Eirlys* (1949), died March 2016

Jones, Dr Richard Lumley* (Chemistry, 1952), died February 2016

Jones, Mr Timothy Gilbert* (Law, 1974), died October 2016

Kenyon-Smith, Professor Emeritus Alec James (Geology, 1953), died November 2015

Lewis, Mrs Gweno Mererid, née Ellis* (German, 1925), died January 2016

Llewellyn, Mrs Edith Annie, née Morris (Botany, 1954), died March 2016

McKenna, Mr Darren Kevin (Information and Library Studies, 2010), died November 2015

McLellan, Mrs Janet, née Cuthill, (Agricultural Botany, 1966), died August 2016

Millward, Mrs Joanna Margery Eleanor, née Dark* (Music, 1966), died April 2016

Morgan, Mrs Sheila, née Lynch, (English, 1956), died December 2015

Obregon, Ms Adriana Yvette (PGCE, 1997), died March 2015

Owen, Mr T Boyd*, died December 2015

Owen, Mr Emrys (Economics, 1961), died July 2016

Peters, Mr Colin Richard (English, 1977), date of death unknown

Phillips, Miss Mary Megan* (Mathematics, 1944), died May 2016

Porter, Mrs Glenys, née Williams (Music, 1938), died April 2016

Powell, Mr Henry (Harry) (Botany, 1945), died January 2016

Raw, Ms Jessica (International Politics, 2011), died June 2015

Rees, Mr David Victor H * (Botany, 1948), died July 2015

Roberts, Dr John* (Physics, 1956), died June 2015

Roberts, Ms Margaret Iris, née Hughes (PGCE, 1978), date of death unknown

Roberts, Mr Thomas Noel (Chemistry, 1981), died July 2016

Rokkan, Associate Professor Elizabeth Gwenllian Clough, née Harris* (European Languages, 1945), died January 2016

Shelley, Mr Gareth Clifford Raif (Countryside Management, 2010), died May 2016

Spencer, Mr Duncan Hamilton (Countryside Management, 2010), died February 2016

Stannard, Mr Daniel Robert (Information and Library Studies, 2012), died May 2015

Thomas, Mrs Lilian*, née Naish, (English, 1945), died September 2016

Thorne, Mrs Mary Cynthia, née Jones, died March 2016

Wallace, Mr David Anthony (Mathematics, 1983), died May 2016

Williams, Mrs Mair*, died September 2016

Williams, Mr Vaughan Morgan* (History, 1957), died March 2016

Wilson, Professor Emeritus John Bastow (Botany, 1966), died April 2015

Wright, Dr Jeremy Charles (Physics, 1962), date of death unknown

KICKING THE BAR

The Sorcerer's Apprentice
by Russell Davies

Call me Bilbo.

Late one Tuesday afternoon, late in the autumn term 1978, I set off for Old College. It had to be a Tuesday because that was the only day I went to lectures. My excuse wasn't just that I was an undisciplined student (which I was), but that I had to use the time to read all the material that the Welsh history staff were publishing (Geraint H Jenkins alone was publishing with a passion that Balzac would envy).

The cold November rains that had fallen persistently for weeks, had eased to be replaced by a sea fog that Dickens would have relished. No season of mellow fruitfulness here, nevertheless your intrepid columnist set out from Pantycelyn to a seminar by the inimitable Gareth Williams on Witches, Wizards and Warlocks.

A rickety cast-iron staircase led to Gareth's room high up in Old College. The Sorcerer's greatest trick was to fit all his apprentices into the room, for there were so many books it was difficult to think where we students could squeeze in as well. But like Jacques Fouroux behind the French pack or *le Petit General* (there's French for you, boy *bach*) whom he resembled, Gareth spirited us all into his Tardis of a room.

The shelves groaned under the collective weight of the fruits of scholarship on a diversity of topics that would put the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to shame - everything from alchemy to Zoroastrianism, from rugby crises to Raymond Chandler. But unlike the shamed Encyclopaedia, the history of Wales was not put into parenthesis with England's, but given its own free rein in this glorious eclecticism. A book on the *Glory Days of Pontypool RFC* (obviously a short book) rubbed shoulders with another entitled *The Cheese and the Worms*, which turned out not to be Gareth's cookery guide, but a micro-history of the cosmology of a sixteenth century miller. Until then I used to think that a polymath was a girl who was good at sums.

That afternoon Gareth explained how in the "general crisis of the seventeenth century" it made perfect sense to believe in the reality of the earthly powers of witches and wizards and why it was perfectly reasonable and logical for people to fear their magic and malevolence. Contemporaries even believed in revenants, those spirits who walked the earth after their own death.

These memories were recently triggered by all the propaganda about *The Game of Thrones* - that weird mix of history, hierarchy and hanky-panky. Was there really so much silicone in days of old? The series of novels and the never ending TV programmes have jumbled fact, fiction and fantasy in a way that, if you believe their publicity, factual history can never do.

But what was clear that afternoon in misty Old College, was



that history is infinitely more bloody and brutal than anything scriptwriters could dream up. The Classical world gives us Cleopatra who used sex as a tool in foreign policy and Helen whose face launched a thousand ships. Whilst the real life Machiavellian plotting of the Borgias and the Medicis, the rape and rapacity of the Renaissance, let alone the depravities of later tyrants such as Mao, Stalin and Hitler, put the conspiracies of *GoT* in the shadows. Medieval costumes were even better as cod pieces went straight to the point.

Like W C Fields, who was driven to drink by a woman and never had the courtesy to thank her, I never, until now, had the courtesy to thank Gareth for the equally intoxicating effect of that afternoon.

It was late when the seminar finished. The University's Registrar, the late great Tom Arfon Owen, had obviously instructed that once more the institution needed to save cash and so undue use of electricity should be avoided. Old College was thus as cold as a ghost's toilet and shrouded in darkness. Outside winds off Beaufort's Scale were howling in from the west again. Old College sang in her chains like the sea. She creaked and groaned like a sailing ship. The House of Usher was more convivial. The minutes that I spent looking for a light switch felt like hours and were truly enlightening of the lessons of the afternoon. There is nothing like darkness to heighten your fears - ...shhh, did something just move in that shadow...

Call me Bilbo. 📧



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