

Aber^rNEWS

ISSUE 12 - April 2013

Aberystwyth...one of the best places in the world to be a student



Plans for new student residences

Designs for the new student residences to be built on Penglais Farm have now been made public, and the University has announced that Balfour Beatty is its preferred bidder for the development, representing a capital investment of around £45m.

Located immediately behind the existing award winning Pentre Jane Morgan student village and within walking distance of Penglais and Llanbadarn campuses, the new residences will provide accommodation for 1,000 students and include 100 studio flats.

Inspired by the landscape and architecture of rural Wales, the new development features a series of three storey buildings with flats for six or eight students living in self-catered accommodation. Generous en-suite bedrooms will offer students plenty of space for living and studying and will be equipped with hard wired and Wi-Fi internet access.

Building work is expected to start this summer and the first students will be able to move in for the beginning of the 2014 academic year.

Amongst the first to take up residence will be those living at Pantycelyn. Originally built in 1951, Pantycelyn opened as a hall for Welsh speaking students in 1974 and has attracted generations of young people wishing to study and live through the medium of Welsh.

Students have been part of the process of helping the University ensure that the new residences reflect their aspirations and the priorities of UMCA (the Welsh Students' Union) and the Students' Union ensuring that the entire development works to enhance the student living experience.

Continued on page 2

3 Varsity Match 2013



5 Welsh medium provision boost



7 New method for making graphene



10 Campus BioBlitz



12 Building links with top graduate recruiters



Aber^{NEWS} is published by the **Department of Communications and Public Affairs**, Aberystwyth University. **Tel:** 01970 622946
E-mail: communications@aber.ac.uk.

The next edition of Aber^{NEWS} will be available in **May 2013**.
Copy deadline for this edition is **Monday 8th April**.

Aber^{NEWS} Readers' Survey: www.survey.bris.ac.uk/aber/abernews

Complete the survey to be in with a chance of winning £25 credit on your Aber Card

What was it about 1973?



1973. The year that saw the opening of the World Trade Center and the Sydney Opera House; the death of Pablo Picasso; the Watergate Scandal; the Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War, and inflation affecting the lives of millions.

Here in the UK the average house price was £9,942 and petrol cost 35 pence a gallon; VAT came into effect; the UK entered the European Economic Community; Queen Elizabeth officially opened the modern London Bridge and IRA bombs exploded in Whitehall and the Old Bailey.

Whilst cinemas were drawing large audiences to showings of *The Exorcist*, *Last Tango in Paris* and *Live and Let Die*, televisions across the UK were screening episodes of *Old Grey Whistle Test* and *Are You Being Served?* The pilot episode of the longest-running TV comedy series in the world, *Last of the Summer Wine*, was broadcast – it would go on to run for 31 series, eventually finishing in 2010.

Closer to home, Ardwyn Grammar School and Dinas Secondary Modern schools closed, and Penglais and Penweddig Comprehensive schools opened. Led Zeppelin played to a capacity crowd at the Kings Hall, Aberystwyth on 16 January - tickets cost just £1. The month of August saw Aberystwyth and its surrounding area suffer serious flooding, the amount of rain that fell being similar to that which caused the floods in June 2012.

That same year saw a number of significant developments here at Aberystwyth University. The University, then known as the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, with Sir Goronwy Daniel at the helm, founded its Department of Drama, the only such department in Wales. The initial aim was to offer courses through the medium of Welsh and to train prospective actors, dramatists, directors and producers for the theatre and broadcast industries in Wales. From its 1973 beginnings, the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies is now one of the largest and most significant departments of its kind, which prides itself on nurturing and developing the scholars and industry leaders of the future.

The University also opened its Department of Art in 1973 - the only such department in the University of Wales. Although teaching of art at Aberystwyth had begun in 1917, and from 1965 the University had offered Joint Honours degrees in Art, it was 1973 that saw the department being granted autonomy.

In the same year, Aberystwyth Arts Centre was built, with the ambition to serve not just the College, but also the community of mid and west Wales. The Arts Centre is now Wales'

largest arts centre and recognised as a 'National Flagship for the Arts', with an award winning artistic programme and the largest community arts programme in Wales.

1973 also saw approval being given to establish a Welsh medium hall of residence. Neuadd Pantycelyn, which had been built twenty-two years earlier, opened the following year, and in the forty years since, has attracted generations of young people wishing to study and live through the medium of Welsh. UMCA (Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth / Aberystwyth Welsh Students' Union) was established the same year, coming in the midst of a tumultuous time in the Welsh language movement.

Some of the University's developments from 1973 will feature in AberNEWS throughout this year. This edition includes an article on page 4 which considers the forty year contribution of Aberystwyth Arts Centre.



Plans for new student residences - Continued from page 1

A central hub will also provide a range of social, learning and living functions including launderettes, bike stores, communal space for clubs and societies, and computing facilities. There will also be a new grass sports pitch.

The announcement of a preferred bidder for the project represents the culmination of a process initiated in March 2011. Through a process known as Competitive Dialogue the University received a very high level of tenders from developers, before finally awarding preferred bidder status to Balfour Beatty.

Balfour Beatty will now submit detailed plans to the planning authority to discharge the "reserved matters". Outline planning permission was granted to the project in March 2012.

Once operational, the University will provide student services in the new residences, whilst Balfour Beatty will be responsible for the upkeep of the buildings.

Images of the designs of the new student residences can be found on page 11 of this edition of AberNEWS.

VICE CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

In the VC's office at the moment, believe it or not, we are engaged in constructing the complex jigsaw puzzle that is Graduation, sorting out how many students and guests we expect from each department, and which Fellows are to be invited on which day. I feel like a magazine editor who is merrily writing features about swimwear and summer frocks while everyone outside the window is huddled up in scarves and gloves and winter woollies. However, this does set the scene for a student-focused AberNEWS column, where I will concentrate on one event which has recently taken place, and another coming up next month.



First, I was delighted to be involved with the keenly-fought Varsity Match between Aber and Bangor in mid-February. The Varsity Match sees our usually close and amicable relationship with our friends in the north suspended for a day of sporting rivalry involving more than 30 events. It was a pleasure to welcome some colleagues from Bangor and members of both Sports' Executives for an informal dinner on the Friday night, and I am very grateful to all at the Students' Union for their feats of organisation and for escorting me round to see a range of sports, some of which I had not previously known existed (Octopush, for example – which we won 12-nil, just for the record). It was an even greater pleasure to welcome the trophy back, after a day of excellent sportsmanship and a well-deserved Aber win – Bangor 14, Aberystwyth 18. This was the sixth Varsity Match, and the range of events is increasing every year. Thus far, every year the result has gone with home advantage, so the pressure is on for Aber to turn the tables and retain the trophy in 2014! Incidentally, on the same evening as the Varsity Match (and while I was still waiting for the overall result to be confirmed), Rob and I were pleased to be guests as past and present members of the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers celebrated the 63rd birthday of the oldest society in the University. I have rarely heard after-dinner singing of such high quality (certainly not previously after a sporting event), and I am particularly pleased that the Madrigals have agreed to sing for us again at Graduation this year.

Moving from sporting success to other aspects of the student experience, I am very much looking forward to the second Student Led Teaching Awards, to be held on 30 April. This is an opportunity, coordinated by our Students' Union, for students to vote for colleagues who have delivered teaching that inspires – now one of the key aims in our Strategic Plan. Not only that, but there is the opportunity to choose a Department of the Year, which in 2012, the inaugural year of the Awards, was probably more keenly contested than the Varsity Match, with InterPol emerging the winner. For me, one of the best aspects of last year's Awards was also the recognition of the vital role our support staff play in the student experience. David Price and Phil Jones, the Porters in the School of Art, were proud and worthy winners – and have their award prominently on display in the entrance hall of the School, where I was pleased to show it off recently to a visiting delegation from the Chinese Embassy in London! I do encourage students to vote, and staff to attend what I'm sure will be a memorable celebration of excellence in the delivery and support of teaching, which is so important to our successes in the student experience. See you there!

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor

Varsity Match 2013



*Aberystwyth was dominant in the swimming, beating Bangor 129-98.
Credit: Tomos Nolan (2013)*



*The Varsity trophy.
Credit: Joseph Landers (2013)*

Arts Centre celebrates its 40th Anniversary

Aberystwyth Arts Centre had its beginnings in the 1970s when the then University College of Wales, Aberystwyth built the facility with the ambition to serve not just the College, but also the community of mid and west Wales.

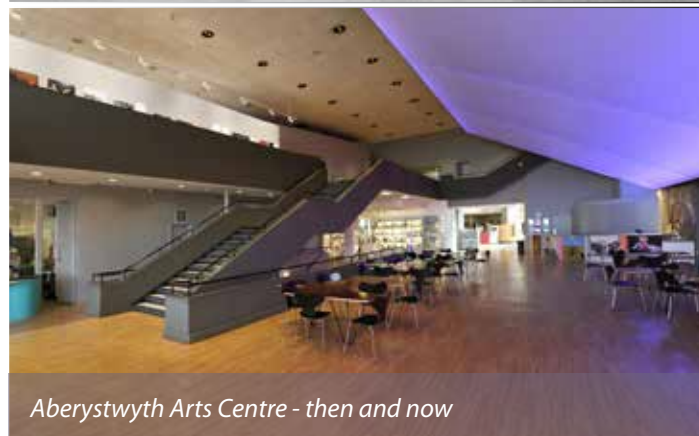
The Great Hall opened in 1970 and the Theatre in Autumn 1972 and Aberystwyth Arts Centre was born. The official opening by the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Peter Thomas, was on Wednesday 18 April 1973.

In the early years Peter Postlethwaite and Julie Walters were just two of the now famous actors that trod the boards. David Bowie performed here in 1972 and Michael Ball made his musical debut in the 1984 summer season production of *Godspell*.

From the very beginning the Arts Centre has pursued a diverse mixed programming policy, encouraging and supporting local groups and University ensembles as well as leading professional and internationally renowned artists and companies.

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is now Wales' largest arts centre and recognised as a 'National Flagship for the Arts', with an award winning artistic programme and the largest community arts programme in Wales, with many young people gaining their first experiences of the arts here. Most importantly, the Centre serves as a social focal point for the University throughout the day, with its café at the heart of the building. That mix of staff and students alongside members of the public or local school children is what makes the Arts Centre so special.

From August 2013 the Arts Centre will become part of the new 'Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts', which also brings together the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies; the School of Art; the Department of Welsh; the Department of European Languages and the Music Centre.



Aberystwyth Arts Centre - then and now

The Arts Centre, as an integral part of the University, is the major interface with the local and regional community and a contributor to the consistently high ratings for student satisfaction at Aberystwyth. It is one of the largest performing and visual arts complexes in the UK, situated at the very centre of the University campus, welcoming over 750,000 visitors a year.

Here's to the next 40 years!

Do you have photos or stories from the early years of the arts centre that you would share with us?

If so please contact Louise on lla@aber.ac.uk or call 01970 622889

Penglais Campus Bioblitz

Sometimes we can all just be a little bit too absorbed in our own tasks to notice what a fantastic place we work in. Well, Saturday 11 May is a chance to stop and take a closer look at just how special our campus really is. Over the full 24 hours from midnight to midnight the Penglais Campus is being 'bioblitzed' and everyone is invited to participate.

So what is Campus BioBlitz? It is a frantic attempt to list all the species that live on campus alongside the staff and students.

Bioblitzes have been carried out in many places around the world, but Penglais BioBlitz is just that bit more ambitious. Over the 24 hours there will be a full programme of activities to take part in. Midnight moth trapping, bat detecting at dusk, listening to the local birds belting out the dawn chorus, or pond dipping and botanising at more civilized times.

As many of our flora and fauna species as possible will be identified and recorded; from microbes to man, from mice to mousse. No that's not a misspelling, we are including the food on campus. Do you know just how many different species it takes to make a chocolate mousse? Get involved in Penglais BioBlitz and find out.

We are looking for volunteers to help with a wide range of activities on the day, which range from helping to collect and collate data to marshalling members of the public (you therefore don't need to be an expert in the identification of any organisms to pitch in) – please look on the website to find out how to get involved - www.aber.ac.uk/en/ibers/events/2013/bioblitz/.

Read more about biodiversity on campus in Dr John Warren's feature on page 10.

NEWS

Former miner's bequest

Former miner and history teacher Rhys Lewis, who died at the age of 108 in July 2012, has bequeathed £10,000 to the University's Hugh Owen Library.

Mr Lewis graduated from Aberystwyth University in 1931 having studied History and Economic History, and gained his teacher's certificate, also at Aberystwyth, the following year.

The bequest will be used to add to the already extensive collection of books in the University's history section, and will be acknowledged by a bookplate in each acquired volume.

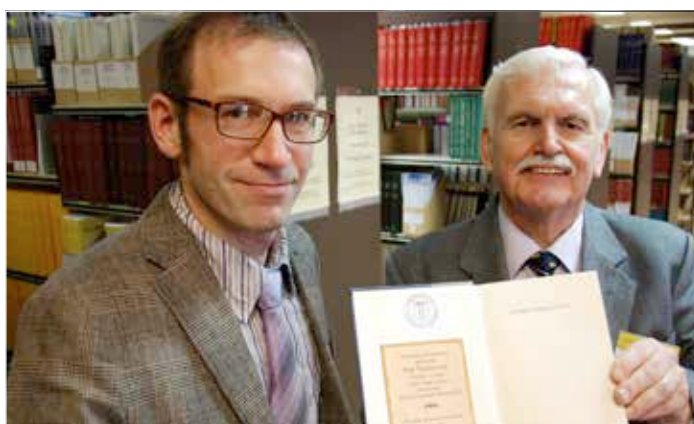
Mr Lewis' bequest was presented to the University by his son, John, who is also an Aberystwyth graduate (BA Economics and Geography, 1963), and his partner Ms Brenda Dobney, on Wednesday 20 February.

Speaking at a reception in the University's Hugh Owen Library, John Lewis said:

"Aberystwyth was formative in my father's education, he thoroughly enjoyed his time here, even though it must have been very tough for him economically. He felt that he wanted to leave something of permanence and that the best way of doing this was to support the University's library."

Read more about Rhys Lewis' life at:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2013/02/title-127232-en.html



John Lewis (right), son of Rhys Lewis, holding one of the books acquired using his father's bequest, with Dr Martyn Powell, Head of the Department of History and Welsh History.

Welsh medium provision boost

The University has secured a further four fully-funded Welsh medium academic posts set up by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to provide new opportunities for students to study through the medium of Welsh.

The four new posts in Information Studies, Professional Welsh, Software Engineering and Law are in addition to the ten lectureships that have already been awarded to the University since 2011. The new post holders will be responsible for teaching and developing Welsh medium provision within their respective subject areas.

The announcement was made on 8 March, in the company of Elin Jones, AM and Dr Ioan Matthews, Chief Executive of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, during the launch of the University's new teaching space which has been funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

The multi-purpose teaching room in the new IBERS building on the Penglais campus will be a useful resource for students and enable them to take part in seminars and lectures in different institutions, thanks to the latest e-teaching technologies.

Aberystwyth University is part of a national network of universities developing Welsh medium provision with support from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol funding schemes. The Academic Staffing Scheme provides funding to higher education institutions in Wales to employ academic staff and to foster world-class lecturers who are known for innovation and excellence in teaching and research.

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is providing £1M annually for a period of five years in the first place to support Welsh medium academic posts. It is anticipated that this scheme will provide over 100 Welsh medium academic posts by the 2015-16 academic year.

Debating on the world stage

Members of the University's Debating Society took some notable scalps at the World Universities Debating Championships which were held recently at the Technische Universität Berlin.

Debaters Roberto Sarrionandia (3rd year Computer Science) and Ollie Newlan (2nd year International Politics) found themselves duelling against teams from some of the world's leading academic institutions and defeating the likes of the London School of Economics and Harvard as they argued their way into the last sixteen.

They were joined for the event by Samuel Vincent (3rd year History) who dutifully performed the role of judge.

As the dust settled on nine days of intense debate, the Aberystwyth duo found themselves in 11th place overall, having progressed further in the competition than big names such as Yale, Princeton, Cambridge B, Durham, University College Cork, Stanford, Bristol, and McGill University.

And, of the 387 teams that started out on 27 December, it was Monash University from Australia that emerged victorious.

Roberto and Ollie are now looking forward to representing Wales at the John Smith International Mace Final which will be held in Edinburgh in mid-April. After that, they are looking forward to welcoming teams from across the UK to Aberystwyth on the last weekend of April for the Bailey Gifford Aberystwyth Open. The venue for the day's debates will be the Old College, with the final held at a restaurant on the top of Constitution Hill.

For more information about the Debating Society and the Aberystwyth Open visit the society's website aberdebating.org/.



Debaters Roberto Sarrionandia (left) and Ollie Newman

ABER Research



Success! I'm pleased to report that the Research Office has two recent successes to convey.

Firstly, Vitae, the UK organisation championing research in higher education institutions, has advised that the University

is among twelve UK institutions to have successfully retained their HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission. The Award demonstrates a university's commitment to improving the working conditions and career



development of research staff, which will in turn improve the quantity, quality and impact of research for the benefit of UK society and the economy. The two year plan is available at www.aber.ac.uk/en/research/aber-research/researcher-development/ and, whilst we have a lot to do, we are most excited about reviewing our researcher development provision and, in conjunction with the University's Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice (CDSAP) and Bangor University, launching a new programme for all levels of researchers.

The other success follows the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Assurance visit in January. We have been working hard at introducing new processes and systems in Research Finance and this has paid off, with a move from partial assurance to satisfactory assurance, and with the new systems in place we are on the way to substantial assurance. Hopefully as a principal investigator, co-investigator or project administrator you will have noticed an improved level of service in relation to post-award management from the Research Office. If you haven't already attended one of the 'Top Tips for Managing your Research Grant' lunchtime training sessions, I recommend you do. This is compulsory for all RCUK existing and new research grant holders – dates are on the CDSAP website (www.aber.ac.uk/en/cdsap/).

We received some feedback from RCUK Assurance. I've summarised opposite the key processes that need to be followed to ensure we can move to full assurance at their next visit.

Grant Application stage – pre-award (key contact research@aber.ac.uk or your Research Development Officer)

All applications for funding (Research Councils, European, TSB and any other funders) must adhere to the University's grant application process. The key points are:

- For the best service please liaise with your Research Development Officer a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the submission deadline (5 weeks for EU funding)
- In IBERS you must contact Helen Lloyd (hll@aber.ac.uk) 5 weeks prior to the submission deadline to get approval to proceed with the funding application.
- Finances need approving by the Research Finance Office
- Must be peer reviewed
- 'Pink' form must be completed and signed by your Head of Department (or the Director of Research in IBERS)
- The above must be submitted to the Research Office 5 working days prior to the submission deadline, otherwise submission cannot be guaranteed
- Grants that have not had their finances approved or been supported by the Head of Department may not be accepted by the University.

All other forms of application (tender, consultancy, contract research, KTPs) must be costed and approved by CCS and Research Finance and a relevant form must be signed by your Head of Department (or the Director of Research in IBERS)

Post-Award (key contact rfo@aber.ac.uk)

- Please liaise with your research funder via the Research Finance Office
- If you do contact your funder in response to a direct communication please copy in Research Finance to your response
- Let us know if your project is going to be delayed
- Advise us of any proposed changes to the project – we will advise the funder if required
- Copy us in on any correspondence to Human Resources regarding staff on your project
- Ensure you adhere to the University's procurement requirements www.aber.ac.uk/en/finance-office/procurement/
- Attend the 'Top Tips for Managing your Research Grant' lunchtime session (see the CDSAP website)

Whilst this list may seem lengthy, we are here to help you through the pre- and post-award stages of your research grants, so please get in contact – we can help you!

research@aber.ac.uk

Gary Reed, Head of the Research Office

IMAPS scientists develop new method for making graphene

Materials physicists at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics (IMAPS) have discovered a new method for producing graphene, a material with amazing optical and electrical properties.



Professor Andrew Evans

Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms bonded together in a similar way to graphite. However, it has very different and superior material properties.

Experiments have shown that graphene is one of the strongest known materials and one of the best conductors of heat and electricity. It is also almost transparent to visible light.

Professor Andrew Evans, Director of IMAPS, who headed up the research team said: "Graphene is many hundreds of times stronger than today's construction materials and much faster and lighter than electronic materials such as silicon. It is a more sensitive gas detector than any currently available, being able to sense single molecules and it could replace conducting glass in displays and solar cells.

"Graphene will be to the 21st century what plastic and silicon were to the 20th, being a material that can be used in diverse number of ways which will create faster, thinner, more flexible and cheaper devices.

"This latest discovery undertaken at IMAPS reflects the ambition we have as an international centre of excellence and will develop the University's reputation as a globally-significant centre of research."

One of the main challenges is to find economic ways of producing large areas of high quality graphene that can then be processed into small, light and efficient devices.

In a paper published in the journal *CARBON*, post graduate researcher, Simon Cooil, Professor Andrew Evans and their collaborators describe how equipment developed at Aberystwyth has enabled them to grow sheets of graphene by controlling the exchange of carbon from the surface of a diamond into a perfect crystal of graphene.



Supporting international incoming researchers

The Research Office's European Unit has recently been successful in applying to become a Local Contact Point with the European Commission's Euraxess initiative, a service network involving 35 countries in Europe.

Euraxess aims to remove the barriers to free movement of knowledge within Europe, to strengthen cross-border mobility of researchers, and to provide researchers with better career structures.

According to Huw Merfyn Hughes, European Development Manager, "Nowadays, it is considered normal, and even desirable, for researchers to spend a part of their career in a foreign country and this can be an exciting and rewarding experience, expanding both professional and personal horizons.

"Mobility is an essential element of certain EU research grant schemes and AU, as reported in the November 2012 edition of *AberNEWS*, is increasingly successful with securing funding from Brussels. However, it is not always easy to uproot oneself from familiar surroundings and sometimes the move to another country can seem daunting.

"Achieving Local Contact Point (LCP) status within Euraxess allows us at the Research Office, along with colleagues at HR and the International Office, to provide better support for incoming international academics, to make their move to Wales and the UK easier, so that instead of worrying about practicalities they can relax, enjoy the experience, and focus on their research. The LCP status also complements the advances made recently at the Research Office on achieving the HR Excellence in Research Award."

Further information:
www.euraxess.org.uk

Research support contacts

Name	Position	Email	Extension
Research Office			
Gary Reed	Head of Research Office	gar	1789
Hannah Payne	REF and Research Monitoring Officer	hep	8490
Dafydd Roberts	Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Research Support Officer	dir	8787
Jenny Deaville	Faculty of Social Sciences - Research Support Officer	jfj	1616
Joanne Walker	Faculty of Science - Research Support Officer (incl. IBERS responsive model)	jnw	2947
Huw Merfyn Hughes	European Development Manager	hnh	8742
Anne Howells	European Development Officer	nsh	4127
IBERS			
Tim Williams	IBERS Research Fund Development Manager	tdw	8754
Vacant	IBERS Research Fund Development Manager		
Research Finance			
Peter Botwood	Central contact point	peb16	8485

Further Research Support can be found in the Research Grants Application Toolkit at www.aber.ac.uk/en/research

Exchange



In this *Exchange* editorial I'd like to focus on the University's newly minted Strategic Plan. CCS plays a key role in delivering targets including:

- Increasing our partnerships with industry – adding 4 significant partnerships to our existing portfolio by 2017
- Supporting an additional 20 licences to existing companies and/or spin out/spin in companies by 2017
- Increasing our Knowledge Exchange (KE) income by 5% annually
- Establishing at least 20 additional Continuing Professional Development projects, delivering employer-led skills to the region and beyond by 2017

As departments develop their research and impact strategies (see Gary Reed's piece on page 6 for more information), these Strategic Plan targets need to be in the forefront of our minds. Impact through Knowledge Exchange takes time to bear fruit and we need to plan now for success in 2017. For example, if you're writing a Research Council grant application at the moment, have you considered including some KE outputs and requesting funds to pay for software development, patent agent advice, travel to prospective industrial partners, or high quality teaching materials to deliver a CPD course? According to the RCUK website, eligible costs for your Pathways to Impact section can include employment of specialist knowledge transfer staff, consultancy fees, publication and marketing costs, public engagement activity, engagement events, networking activities, people exchange, etc. The opportunity to build this into your grant planning exists; to deliver our Strategic Plan Aberystwyth needs to capitalise on it.

Liz Flint, Director, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services

The Halen Môn Story

Now in its fifth year, the CCS-run Aberystwyth University Business Network continued its tradition of inviting interesting, inspiring and entertaining speakers to the University, with the Autumn visit of David Lea-Wilson, MD of "Halen Môn", the trading name for the Anglesey Sea Salt Company.

David, accompanied by his wife and business partner, Alison, offered an entertaining and informative presentation on the story behind the setting up of Halen Môn whilst identifying a number of important business principles along the way.

'Change' and 'Innovate' were words that David emphasised throughout his talk and it was this change and innovation that led to the setting up of Halen Môn, a highly successful premiere-quality food brand. Continued innovation is still driving the company, which now incorporates its products into, amongst other things, a range of up-market crisps; chocolate products and even Heston Blumenthal's "Oak Smoked Water", which was passed around the audience for everyone to see and to sniff!

The next event, in April, will feature a talk by one of the senior environmental managers from Tesco plc. www.aber.ac.uk/network



Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin Jones with David Lea-Wilson of Halen Môn

Collaboration for the commercialisation of intellectual property

The Technology Transfer Team is pleased to announce that it has been awarded funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) to form a collaboration with the St David's Day Group which is dedicated to strengthening the group's capabilities in the commercialisation of intellectual property (IP).

Led by Cardiff University, the St David's Day Group universities (Cardiff, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Glamorgan and Swansea) will work together to create an effective network to facilitate and optimise technology transfer between universities and Welsh businesses to help build an innovation culture within Wales, a stated aim of the Welsh Government.

An initial focus of this IP commercialisation project will be increased engagement between the Technology Transfer Team and academic research staff. Over the coming months the Technology Transfer Team plan to contact all academic staff with research interests in areas of commercial relevance in order to arrange an initial interview. The purpose of this interview will be to consider how current research activity might lead to intellectual property assets being generated and to advise how the team can support its commercial exploitation via licensing.

Spin-out News

Codiki, an app development  company that received funding from Aberystwyth University's entrepreneurship fund has launched its first commercial app, *Shore Catch*, for sea anglers on the Wales coast. The Android and iOS app provides tidal information, weather forecasts, mark maps, fish species guides and information about bait and rigs. Further information at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2013/01/title-125637-en.html

Enterprise Wednesdays



This Spring and Summer promises to be busier than ever for the Cralis Enterprise Network. Operated by CCS and funded by the Mid Wales Enterprise HUB, Cralis organises and runs presentations, workshops and practical events for students, graduates and staff interested in enterprise and business start-up.

The Network, which has been running for ten years, informs students about self-employment as an employment option as well as offering practical support for students, graduates and staff who are looking to set up new enterprises, whether they be full-time, part-time, "for profit" or community enterprises.

The newly unveiled programme of "Enterprise Wednesday" events includes weekly presentations on such subjects as business finance; selling skills and design as well as using role models from successful local firms to inspire people with their start-up stories.

The FREE Enterprise Wednesday events are open to all and are held on the Penglais campus. These events will also lead up to the main Cralis Enterprise Network event of the year in June, "Business Start-up Week"...a week's "bootcamp" which offers all the essential information needed to turn a good idea into a great business.

Cralis also works hand-in-hand with Antur Teifi and Pera Consulting to offer students, graduates and staff one-to-one business advice and consultancy support.

www.aber.ac.uk/cralis

Innovation Awards

Aberystwyth University has triumphed at the British Equine Trade Association International Innovation Awards during the BETA trade fair at the NEC, Birmingham, from 16 to 18 February 2013.



horseRATION

horseRATION, the equine nutrition app devised by Catherine Hale, a PhD student at IBERS, won one of eight Innovation Awards that recognise 'new and genuinely innovative products' in the sector.

The awards were judged by a panel of independent equestrian experts from different sectors including course designer Ian Stark, event rider Nicola Wilson, veterinary surgeon Tom Beech, Jackie Potts, groom for William Fox-Pitt and former Groom of the Year, and Paralympics gold medal-winning rider Natasha Baker.

Dr Rhian Hayward, Technology Transfer Officer, commented on the win for horseRATION "I am delighted that our app has been recognised by

the equine industry as a valuable tool. This award is highly regarded and internationally known and validates our choice of horseRATION as a winning concept from our Mobile Apps Challenge."

The BETA judge's comments on horseRATION included "This is an invaluable tool for any owner seeking extra guidance and should ultimately save them money."

An updated version of horseRATION (version 1.4) was launched on iTunes on 1 March 2013.



Graduate enterprise in action

Ben King, who won the Cralis student ideas competition and attended the University's 'Business Start-up Week' in 2011, has started his own media production company, which has already had multiple works broadcast on UKTV and has just launched a new website service.



His company, "Surfacerush" also shot a feature film which has recently been acquired by Vertigo Films and won a BIFA award and a Raindance nomination.

Ben claims that Business Start-up Week "was the most important and useful week I have had so far in my journey as an entrepreneur".

The next Business Start-up Week will be held in June for students, graduates and staff - see www.aber.ac.uk/cralis for more details.

New staff

Rebecca Rock joined the Technology Transfer team in January and provides administrative support to the St Davids Day Group (SDDG) IP Commercialisation Project. Amongst her duties, Rebecca will be contacting academic staff over the coming months to arrange meetings with the Technology Transfer Team.



Rebecca has been working at the University for the last 7 years in a number of departments. She now shares her time working between CCS and the Department of History and Welsh History.

COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES

For information or support relating to knowledge exchange opportunities drop us a line, or call into our offices on the first floor of the Visualisation Centre.

CCS central enquiry service:
ccservices@aber.ac.uk - ext 2385 -
www.aber.ac.uk/ccs

Campus BioBlitz

looking at life a different way

by Dr John Warren

BioBlitz - the idea of trying to record all the species found in a location on a single day is not new. In fact many other universities right across the globe have bioblitzed their campuses before us. So why should we put aside the whole of 11th of May to such a pointless exercise? Campus BioBlitz is not even a serious scientific venture, any taxonomist worth their salt will tell you that it can take considerably longer than 24 hours to confirm the identity of many complex taxa. The Penglais Campus is far too large an area to effectively search every nook and cranny and locate every species lurking there. Not to mention the obvious fact that the species living on campus on the 11th of May will differ from those found on the 12th May, let alone those found in the depths of winter.

The point of Campus BioBlitz is public engagement with the natural world. Not just opening the eyes of school children to the marvels of mini-beasts, it is an opportunity for all of us just to stop and appreciate what an amazing place we live and work in. How many of us have ever spotted the clump of wild orchids (Broad leaved Helleborines) that grow in the central reservation by the reception lodge as we drive past every morning? Just think what other wonders await for those with time to stop and rummage, and be guided by the army of experts that will be on hand as BioBlitz guides.

A full day of activities offers you the opportunity to go moth trapping at midnight, listening for dunnocks at dawn, go batty about bats before breakfast and looking for lichens over lunch. OK, I will stop, you have got the idea and the full programme can be found on the Campus BioBlitz Website www.aber.ac.uk/en/ibers/events/2013/bioblitz/.

The event truly involves the wider local community; we have volunteer experts from the local Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, the

National Trust, the Aberystwyth Botanical Society, the Cardiganshire Horticultural Society and many more.

Penglais BioBlitz coincides with the night of the May Ball, neatly demonstrating the diversity of the nightlife on campus. Those arriving the next morning for the University Open Day will also be invited to join in and discover for themselves what a wonderful lively place campus is.

The programme of events we have assembled for the Penglais Campus BioBlitz is a bit more ambitious than anything that's been tried before. As already pointed out, simply listing the birds, plants, small mammals, and invertebrates etc found on campus is old-hat. On the 11th May we want everyone to get involved and astound us by telling us what pot plants you have in your offices, while IBERS students will tell us what microbes lurk around the place. We are not just going to discover how many species of voles can be found in Penglais woods, but also how many parasites live on them. The Art Centre Café is joining in by bioblitzing its menus for the day. This is the ultimate in food labelling. So you will not just be able to record how many species you have seen during the day, but you can enjoy discovering just how many different species you can eat in one salad!

The deeper value of Penglais BioBlitz is in revealing 'what has biodiversity ever done for us?' Bioblitzing biodiversity



NEWS

InvEnterPrize 2013 winner

The founder of an online social community for language learners is the first winner of the University's £20,000 InvEnterPrize student competition.

Jake Stainer is a second year student studying Marketing and Spanish and founder and Managing Director of language website Papora, www.papora.com.

Free to use and designed to bring native speakers and learners together to exchange languages, Papora now boasts around 11,000 users from 135 countries learning more than 100 languages.

Jake plans to use his £20,000 prize to develop the site, add new features, increase its online presence and develop mobile applications.

Open to all students at the University, the InvEnterPrize competition aimed to encourage entrepreneurship and stimulate new ideas for products or services that could be developed into successful businesses.

Jake was one of six finalists to present their business proposals to a panel of five judges. The other finalists were Michael Konieczny (Department of European Languages), Marc Diaper (School of Management and Business) Alex Pitchford (Institute of Mathematics and Physics), Luke Marr (Department of English and Creative Writing) and Mick McMonagle (IBERS).

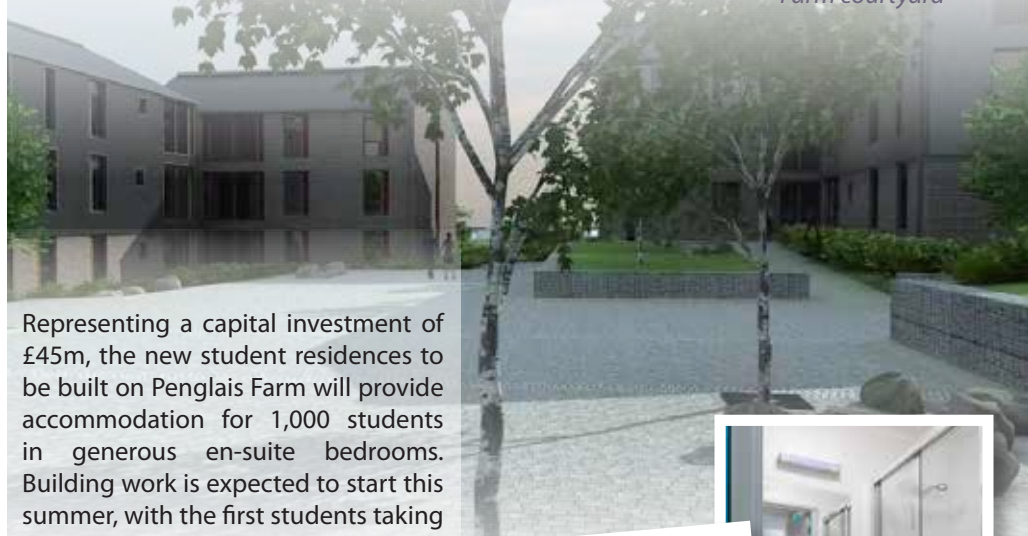


is not simply about competing to compile a geeky train spotter's list of bugs and birds. The importance of the event is in communicating the hidden value of biodiversity. The Art Centre bioblitzing its menus is a great and transparent example of this. The world would be a much less interesting place if our consumption of biodiversity at lunchtime were to be reduced. Equally obviously, dawn would not be such a magical time if only a single species of bird heralded its arrival. In recent years the value of biodiversity has been captured in the concept of ecosystem services. We no longer just value butterflies because of their stunning beauty, but also because of the knowledge that they help pollinate the fruit we eat.

The ecosystem service concept is a useful tool to help us appreciate the importance of the other species with which we co-inhabit campus. But there is a danger in this method of valuing biodiversity and a challenge for the bioblitz. How can we help people appreciate the species that deliver the unfashionable or unappealing ecosystem services? Sharing the special experience of seeing the bluebells in Penglais woods and learning about their potential healing properties, may help promote the image of Aberystwyth University. However, bioblitzing a student mattress might be a more difficult concept for the marketing team to sell. There is a very real risk in sanitising our valuation of biodiversity by turning a blind eye to the species and functions we are less comfortable with. Penglais BioBlitz will rise to this challenge and embrace more than just the cute and charismatic.

New student residences

Farm courtyard



Representing a capital investment of £45m, the new student residences to be built on Penglais Farm will provide accommodation for 1,000 students in generous en-suite bedrooms. Building work is expected to start this summer, with the first students taking up residence in September 2014.

A student bedroom



Building links with top graduate recruiters

Some of the UK's top graduate recruiters have been working with Aberystwyth University students to develop their interview techniques.

Representatives from The Civil Service and Network Rail, who feature in the *Times* Top 100 list Graduate Employers, along with Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water and Enterprise Rent-a-Car attended a speed interview session at Aberystwyth on Thursday 8 March.

Organised by the University's Careers Service, the event built on a successful pilot event organised with Network Rail last year.

Students attending undertook a series of four minute interviews with the different recruiters and received immediate feedback on their performance as well as tips on how to improve their interview technique.

At the end of the session, employers spent time with individual students who they had identified as being particularly suitable as prospective employees, outlining how to apply successfully.

The event was organised by a team of Careers Service staff led by Carolyn Parry, Acting Deputy Director of the University's Careers Service. She said: "This is all about giving our students the opportunity to develop their understanding of employability skills and what employers are looking for."

"It is also an important opportunity for top recruiters to spot talent and identify individual students who they may wish to interview further, as happened with a number of our students following the latest session."



Building links with the UK's top graduate recruiters: participants L – R Nick Bolwell, Enterprise Rent-a-Car; Carolyn Parry, Aberystwyth University Careers Service; Maggie Lewis, Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water; Helen Ford, Network Rail; and Darina Davies, The Civil Service.

The Careers Service is now working with a number of high profile graduate employers to develop a two day event which will provide students with a programme of activities designed to enhance their employment prospects.

"Our strategy of building strong employer relationships through this kind of partnership event is paying off as we see more students and graduates securing industrial year and graduate opportunities with top firms. The response from students and employers alike has been very positive and we are looking forward to building on these for the next session which is due to take place in the autumn," added Carolyn.

Radical restructuring of the PGCTHE

In 2012 the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (PGCTHE) was radically restructured.

The new and improved course is the result of extensive consultation across the University. Focus groups and consultative meetings with lecturing staff, both new and experienced, were held to discover what new features they would like to see in the restructured course. As a result, it now contains:

- A 'survival guide' for those new to teaching;
- A stronger focus on teaching in the arts / sciences / humanities through a subject specific element;
- A stronger synergy with the E-learning team and more elements of blended learning;
- A personalised 'needs analysis session' to design bespoke professional development;
- Coaching and mentoring for individualised development;
- Self-observation of teaching using lecture-capture technology.

In the most recent round of promotions we were very pleased to see that a significant number had been through the programme.

A disproportionately high percentage of past participants go on to achieve awards in teaching excellence and other markers of teaching esteem. This is because the course encourages the development of a set of teaching values, a philosophy and a vocabulary with which to talk about teaching methods and choices. It also makes for more experimental, creative and innovative teachers.

Teaching excellence is fully rewarded via the academic promotions system and the *AU Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017* encourages the majority of teaching staff to achieve Fellowship status with the Higher Education Academy by 2017 and 60% to have completed an accredited teaching qualification.

There has never been a better time to think about further developing your teaching and ensuring an outstanding experience for your students. If you would like to secure a place on the new course, please contact the course team at thestaff@aber.ac.uk.

ABER PEOPLE

Institute Directors appointments

Appointed to the roles of Institute Director of the new interdisciplinary Institutes, which form a major component of the University's five year strategic plan, are:



Professor Qiang Shen

Professor Qiang Shen will head up the *Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (IMPACS)*, which will contain Mathematics and Physics and the Department of Computer Science. Professor Shen came from the University of Edinburgh in 2004 to take up the post of Chair in Computer Science. He is currently the Head of the Department of Computer Science.



Professor Sarah Prescott

Professor Sarah Prescott will head up the *Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts*, which will contain Theatre, Film and Television Studies, English and Creative Writing, the School of Art, Welsh, the Arts Centre, European Languages and the Music Centre. Professor Prescott, who has worked at the University since 1995, is Professor of English Literature and Director of the Centre for Women's Writing and Literary Culture.

Professor Neil Glasser

Professor Neil Glasser will be the Director for the *Institute of Geography, History and Politics (IGHP)*, which will contain Geography and Earth Sciences, International Politics and History and Welsh History. Professor Glasser, who joined the University in 1999, is currently Professor of Physical Geography in the Institute of



Geography and Earth Sciences and Dean of the Faculty of Science.

Professor Tim Woods

Professor Tim Woods will head up the *Institute of Education, Professional and Graduate Development*, which will include the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice, the Graduate Centre, and the International English Centre. Professor Woods was appointed Lecturer in English Literature and American Studies at the University in 1990, and has been the Dean of the Faculty of Arts since 2007.



Professor Andrew Henley

Professor Andrew Henley will head up the *Institute of Management, Law and Information Science (IMLIS)* which will contain Law and Criminology, School of Management and Business, and the Department of Information Studies. Professor Henley is

Professor of Entrepreneurship and Regional Economic Development and a Research Fellow of the IZA Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



They join **Professor Wayne Powell**, Director of the *Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences* and Professor **Kate Bullen**, Director of the *Institute of Human Sciences*.

The new Institutes will be operational from 1 August.

Institute Manager appointments

Jo Strong: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Human Sciences*;

Emyr Phillips: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS)*;

Annette Davies: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Education, Professional and Graduate Development*.

Adrian Harvey: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Management, Law and Information Science (IMLIS)*.

Kath Williams: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts*.

Dave Smith: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (IMPACS)*;

Jackie Sayce: Institute Manager for the *Institute of Geography, History and Politics (IGHP)*.



ABER PEOPLE

Appointments

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Elinor Howells joined as Internal Communications Officer in December 2012. With experience in all aspects of marketing and communications in the HE sector, Elinor has in-depth understanding of internal communications, culture change and employee engagement, as well as corporate communications generally, and is able to advise and support staff with getting their messages out across the University.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE



Dr Thomas Jansen has been appointed to Senior Lecturer in the department. Thomas' research areas are randomised search heuristics, in particular evolutionary algorithms and artificial immune systems. He concentrates on the theoretical analysis of such randomised search heuristics to improve our understanding of their working principles to guide in their design and application.

IBERS



Glenda Davies has been appointed as IBERS Communications Officer. Glenda has worked in a variety of communications roles for sixteen years, in the environment, education and voluntary sectors. Based in IBERS and working closely with the Communications and Public Affairs team, Glenda is responsible for all aspects of IBERS communications.



INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES

Dr Cerys Jones joins the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences (IGES) as a Lecturer in Geography through the medium of Welsh, supported by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. Cerys returns to IGES after working on an AHRC-funded project, based at the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, investigating historical extreme weather in Wales.

Richard Williams has been appointed as a Lecturer in River Basin Dynamics and Hydrology. Richard's research focuses on monitoring and modelling river dynamics. His doctoral research centres on developing numerical simulations of braided river morphology, using a dataset that records the evolution of the Rees River, New Zealand, through a sequence of flood events.



SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS



Jan Breitsohl has joined the School of Management and Business as Lecturer in Marketing Psychology. Jan joins us from Bangor University where he taught Online Marketing & Social Media and conducted his PhD in online complaint management. Jan's current research interests focus on communication psychology, experimental questionnaires and elderly consumers' internet behaviour.

Tiffany Low has joined us from the University of Bedfordshire as Lecturer in Marketing. Tiffany's research interests focus on luxury branding, ethical consumption practices, consumer values and sustainable tourism development, and also in the field of academic autonomy and the social control of research. Her academic background includes specialisations in finance and financial economics.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the following members of staff who have recently been awarded personal chairs:



Professor Kate Bullen
Department of Psychology



Professor Henry Lamb
Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences



Professor Robert Meyrick
School of Art



Professor Nick Perdikis
School of Management and Business



Professor Heike Roms
Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies



Professor Mark Whitehead
Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences

Inter-college Eisteddfod 2013

Aberystwyth University was victorious in this year's Inter-college Eisteddfod, held in Carmarthen on Saturday 2 March.

170 students travelled from Aberystwyth to University of Wales Trinity Saint David to compete, socialise and take pride in their Welshness, along with students from other universities across Wales.

Students from Aberystwyth won victories in the disco dancing, musical ensemble, the funny duet and the sketch. Aberystwyth poets and writers also had significant success in the homework department, with second and third places in the Crown competition going to Megan Elenid Lewis and Ffraid Gwenllian respectively. Warm congratulations go to Gruffudd Antur who was awarded the Eisteddfod chair for the third year running.

Aberystwyth University was also victorious in the Sports Gala, held in conjunction with the Eisteddfod, following wins by the rugby and netball teams.

University Challenge

A team from Aberystwyth University has qualified as one of the 28 teams to take part in the televised stage of this year's *University Challenge*.

The students who make up the Aberystwyth team are IBERS postgraduate students, Daniel Guy and Ed Bishop-Harper, International Politics postgraduates, Simon Thomas and Matthew Campbell, and History and Welsh History undergraduate, Andrew Gordon.

The team's first appearance was filmed on 17 February and will be broadcast in the summer.

This is the first time Aberystwyth has reached the televised stages of the academic quiz show for five years. The 2007 team reached the quarter finals, but were beaten by the University of Warwick team who went on to win the title.

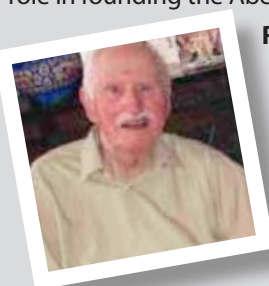
Obituaries

Ian Gulley - 1949 – 2013

Ian Gulley worked as a cartographer in Geography and Earth Sciences for 25 years, adapting his skill as a draughtsman to advances in computer mapping to produce many thousands of beautiful maps and diagrams that have illustrated research monographs, textbooks and scientific articles and which have found their way around the world. A good natured, private and diligent craftsman, Ian was a valued colleague and will be missed by those who respected his work, as well as by those who shared his passion for music and who will remember his role in founding the Aber Folk Club.



Richard Iorwerth Isaac - 1918 – 2013



Richard Iorwerth Isaac was born in 1918 and, apart from war service, spent his entire life in Aberystwyth. Having graduated from Aberystwyth in Zoology, Richard put his training to good use during WWII when he joined a Malaria Field Laboratory of the Royal Army Medical Corps stationed in Nigeria, a unit responsible for safeguarding soldiers and airmen from malaria. In 1945 Richard returned to Aberystwyth and was employed as a research technician in the Animal Health Research Unit at the University. He retired from his post as chief technician in October 1981. Richard will be very much missed by family and friends alike.

Rowland Maddock - 1937-2012

Rowland Maddock, a native of south Wales, graduated from the University of Wales and taught Economics at Aberystwyth, Keele and Lancaster before transferring to International Politics at Aberystwyth, where he was a lecturer and senior lecturer. He specialised in economic aspects of International Relations and global environmental issues. After his retirement from the University he served as an external examiner for modules studied through the medium of Welsh at the Department of International Politics. His former colleagues in the University remember him very fondly, as an excellent colleague and an exceptionally kind and caring human being.



Retirement

ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

Senior Administrator, **Carol Marshall**,

has retired after sixteen years at the University.

Carol was committed, thorough, efficient and unflappable, and will be

greatly missed. We wish her much happiness for the future, in which it is relatively certain she will indulge her passion for travel.



Aber NEWS Readers' Survey

Aber NEWS is about staff, for staff and by staff. We want it to be as fresh, informative and interesting to you as possible. We are currently carrying out a readers' survey to gather your opinions about what we're doing well and the areas where we could improve. Go to

www.survey.bris.ac.uk/aber/abernews

Complete the survey to be in with a chance of winning £25 credit on your Aber Card to be used at any of the University's Cafes and Restaurants.



WHAT'S ON

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

Calendar Girls

Wed 8 May to Sun 12 May

The Wardens present the stage version of the well-known film, which tells the tale of a group of brave WI members who decide to bare all for charity. When their world is devastated by cancer, a group of extraordinary women spark a global phenomenon by persuading each other to pose for a charity calendar - with a difference!

Calendar Girls is based on an uplifting and inspiring true story. So book your tickets now to help the Wardens raise money for cancer research – a percentage of each ticket sold goes to charity - and get to see a great show at the same time!

This show contains some nudity. And buns.

SCHOOL OF ART EXHIBITIONS

Monday 15 April– Friday 10 May

Galleries 1 and 2

Frederike s'Jacob: Paintings and Drawings

Expressionist work by a Dutch artist living and working in Pembrokeshire.

Gallery 3

Works by Graham Sutherland

from the School of Art Collections, curated by Elaine Cabuts

A small exhibition of works from the Collections, which have never before been exhibited together, including a drawing and twelve prints by Sutherland.

Blood Brothers – The Play

Thu 16 May to Sat 18 May

As part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations, the Arts Centre's Youth Theatre presents Willy Russell's play - *Blood Brothers* – the non-musical version of the hugely successful musical.

Based loosely on the 1844 novella *The Corsican Brothers*, the story is a contemporary nature vs. nurture plot, revolving around twin boys who were separated at birth. Their contrasting upbringing and the hand fate deals them is fast-moving, perceptive and ultimately tragic....

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk



Lludw folcanig, lâ a Mwd: hel cliwiau am hinsawdd y gorffennol

Ash, Ice, Mud: gathering clues on past climates.

WALTER IDRIS JONES LECTURE



6pm, Thursday 25 April 2013
Main Hall, International Politics Building

Professor Siwan Davies, Professor of Physical Geography at Swansea University, will be delivering this year's Walter Idris Jones lecture, *Lludw folcanig, lâ a Mwd: hel cliwiau am hinsawdd y gorffennol/ Ash, Ice, Mud: gathering clues on past climates.*

The lecture will be delivered in Welsh with simultaneous translation available via headset. A complimentary drinks reception will immediately follow the lecture.

Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.



Frederike s'Jacob - untitled, mixed media on paper, 2013



Graham Sutherland - 'The Black Rabbit', etching, 1923.
© Estate of Graham Sutherland