



# ABER *News*

*Left to right: Celebrating the University's success in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index are: Dan Steward, Staff LGBT Network Member; Susan Chambers, Director of Human Resources; Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Ruth Fowler, Communications and Equalities Officer and Bob McIntyre, Staff LGBT Network Member.*

## Aberystwyth University in Stonewall Top 100

The University is one of the UK's top 100 employers for inclusivity in the workplace, according to the Workplace Equality Index 2018.

The Stonewall Workplace Equality Index is billed as "the definitive list showcasing the best employers for lesbians, gay, bi and trans staff".

Now in its fourteenth year, the latest edition of the annual Index received submissions from over 430 UK businesses and institutions, and more than 92,000 responses from employees.

Aberystwyth University has climbed 60 places to 56<sup>th</sup> in the UK and is the 9<sup>th</sup> best employer in Wales. This follows a rise of 121 places in 2017.

Aberystwyth is also ranked 8<sup>th</sup> best university in the UK and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Wales.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Elizabeth Treasure said: "Here at Aber, we cultivate an inclusive, welcoming environment which recognises and

celebrates the diversity of our campus and community. This culture of mutual respect is reflected in our latest ranking in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index and I extend my warmest congratulations to colleagues whose dedication to equality and inclusivity in the workplace has made this possible."

Ruth Fowler, Communications and Equalities Officer, said: "I am thrilled that Aberystwyth University has climbed the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index again and is now placed at 56<sup>th</sup> in the UK across all sectors. It shows us that Aberystwyth is a fantastic place to live work and learn in, no matter who you are. Results like this further highlight that Aber Uni really is one of the most tolerant, forward-thinking, liberal, and inclusive places in which to study and work in, in the UK."

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ABER<sub>News</sub> is published by the Communications & Public Affairs Team, Aberystwyth University.  
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 The next edition will be available in April. Copy deadline is Monday 5 March.



# Fit\* Together

Group Exercise



## MONDAY

TIME	CLASS
09.15 - 10.00	Good Morning Spin
12.00 - 13.00	Sportive Spin
12.15 -13.00	HIIT
13.10 - 13.55	Aerobics
14.00 - 15.30	Introduction to Yoga
17.00 - 19.00	Ashtanga Yoga
17.30 -18.30	Step and Tone
17.45 - 18.30	Mixed Ability Spin
18.30 - 19.30	Pilates
19.00 -20.30	Hatha Yoga

## TUESDAY

TIME	CLASS
12.10 - 12.55	Hills and Thrills
12.15 - 13.00	Pilates for Back Care
13.10 - 13.55	Abtastic Core
13.15 - 14.00	Hills and Thrills
17.30 - 18.30	Aber Circuits
17.30 - 18.30	Step and Tone
17.30 - 18.15	Beginners Spin
18.30 - 19.30	Bodyfit
18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
19.00 - 20.00	Triathlon Swim

## WEDNESDAY

TIME	CLASS
07.30 - 08.15	Early Morning Spin
09.15 - 10.00	Good Morning Spin
09.30 - 10.15	Parent & Baby
12.10 - 13.00	Hills and Thrills
12.15 -13.00	Bodyfit
13.10 - 13.55	Fit Ball Pilates
17.30 - 18.15	HIIT
17.30 - 18.15	Dumbbell Workout
18.15 - 19.15	Pilates
18.30 - 19.15	Aqua Ffit
18.30 - 19.30	Boot Camp
19.30 - 20.30	Yoga for All
20.30 - 21.30	Dance Ffit Dark

## THURSDAY

TIME	CLASS
07.15 - 08.00	Triathlon Swim
12.15 - 13.00	Abtastic Core
12.15 - 13.15	Hills and Thrills
13.10 - 13.55	Pilates
16.15 - 17.00	Dance Ffit Young*
17.30 - 18.30	Aber Circuits
17.30 - 18.30	Aerobics
17.30 - 18.15	Begin 2 Spin
18:30 - 19:30	Zumba
18.30 - 19.30	Bodyfit

## FRIDAY

TIME	CLASS
07.30 - 08.15	Early Morning Spin
10.30 - 11.15	Aqua Gym
12.15 - 13.00	Work it Circuit
13.10 - 13.55	Dumbbell Workout
16.00 - 17.00	Power Yoga
17.00 - 18.30	Yoga for All
17.30 - 18.15	HIIT
18.00 - 18.45	Hills and Thrills
18.30 - 19.30	Zumba Toning

## SATURDAY

TIME	CLASS
09.05 - 10.05	Hills and Thrills
09.30 - 10.30	Bodyfit
10.45 - 11.45	Pilates

## SUNDAY

TIME	CLASS
09.05 - 09.50	Good Morning Spin
11.00 - 12.00	Zumba

Tel: 01970 622280

Email: [sports@aber.ac.uk](mailto:sports@aber.ac.uk)

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/sportscentre/classes](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/sportscentre/classes)

All classes finish 5 minutes prior to the stated time to allow for change overs between sessions

To find out who is teaching a session and for more information please visit our web pages

The management retain the rights to alter the programme at short notice.

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## The Vice-Chancellor's Column



The New Year is often a time for resolutions and renewed vigour. I'm not one for making a plethora of new pledges at the beginning of January but prefer to reflect and review intentions throughout the year. As an individual, I will continue with my Welsh

lessons aiming to complete the next level and I really must try to take more exercise. On an institutional level, my aim for 2018 is to continue to steer the University on a course towards a more sustainable future. It will not be an easy journey for any of us and I know how difficult a time this is for colleagues whose jobs may be affected. There is unfortunately no getting away from the savings targets identified in our Sustainability Implementation Plan but in these times of change, we are working hard to ensure that all the necessary steps will have been taken by the end of this academic year as we reshape the University for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The New Year brought with it some changes at the top of our Governance structure. Sir Emyr Jones Parry stepped down after ten years as the University's Chancellor and Chair of Council, and these two positions have now been separated. The honorary role of Chancellor has been taken on by the former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, who on 22 March will deliver his first public lecture in Aberystwyth. Our new Chair of Council since 1 January 2018 is Dr Emyr Roberts, whom some of you may know from his time as a member of Council or a DGES alumnus. I am sure you will want to join me in welcoming them both to their respective positions and I look forward to working with them for the benefit of the University.

2018 also heralds the launch of our new Strategic Plan, which will take us beyond our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary to 2023. I would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation and I can assure you that I read every comment that came in. Not all suggestions have been incorporated within what is a relatively short final document but the feedback has helped inform the writing of the plan, as well as the more detailed policies which underpin its principles. As we know, circumstances change and a lot can happen in five years. What we have therefore tried to do with this Strategic Plan is to set out the broad direction of travel. It is, if you like, a compass which we can use to guide and signpost us as we navigate the detail.

Semester 2 teaching will be underway by the time this column is published and the latest National Student Survey in full swing. From assessment and feedback to teaching quality and the Students' Union, the data we receive from these annual questionnaires helps us to ensure we provide our students with an outstanding university experience – so do encourage our final year undergraduates to take part.

We know from sector-wide feedback how important library and information resources are to both student satisfaction and recruitment. It was a pleasure therefore to officially open the refurbished ground floor of the Hugh Owen Library on 8 January. This was the first major refurbishment since the library opened in the 1970s and even when times are tough, it is important to maintain our capital investment in our facilities and estate for the future. Thank you to all those who led this particular project, and thank you to colleagues across the University for your continued commitment to academic teaching excellence and research, and the delivery of professional services.

**Professor Elizabeth Treasure**  
Vice-Chancellor

*Continued from page 1:*

Darren Towers, Executive Director, Stonewall said:

"Aberystwyth University and all those who have made this year's Top 100 Employers list have done a fantastic job. Taking part in our Index shows real commitment to understanding and advancing LGBT equality. This year, for the first time, the Index looked at what employers were doing for trans equality in the workplace. This work is crucial. We recently published LGBT in Britain: Trans Report, which revealed the profound inequality facing trans people in Britain today. Half of trans people have hidden their identity at work for fear of discrimination. This must change and it's encouraging to see so many organisations make a commitment to trans equality. With their support and hard work we can create a world where all lesbian, gay, bi and trans employees are welcomed and accepted without exception."

The Aberystwyth University LGBT network meets once a month with the next meeting taking place on Friday 23 February 2018 at 4.30pm in Aberystwyth Arts Centre Café.

Further information about the group is available from Ruth Fowler [ruf@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ruf@aber.ac.uk).

### Bi Role Models Programme

The University is hosting Stonewall on Wednesday 21 March to deliver a Role Models programme to explore what it means to be an authentic and inclusive bi role model.

This free one-day empowerment programme enables bi people to:

- Reflect on personal experiences and increase their confidence in bringing their authentic self
- Establish practical ways of stepping up as a visible role model
- Celebrate difference, improve inclusion and increase visibility

For more information and to book a place visit:

[web.stonewall.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT12637](http://web.stonewall.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT12637)

'Bi' is an umbrella term, and this programme is for anyone under the bi umbrella.

For more information: [ffion.grundy@stonewall.cymru](mailto:ffion.grundy@stonewall.cymru) / [katie.fox@stonewall.cymru](mailto:katie.fox@stonewall.cymru) / 029 2034 7004

## TFTS graduate wins award



An observational documentary by a graduate of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies (TFTS) was one of five winners at the 2018 Royal Television Society Wales Centre Student Television Awards.

*Dwy Chwaer a Brawd (Two Sisters and a Brother)* by Meleri Morgan was the winner in the Factual category at the awards held on Cardiff on 31 January 2018.

Produced as a final year project, the fly on the wall documentary offers a revealing portrayal of family life in a rural village outside Aberystwyth and features two sisters and a brother in their nineties.

This is the second major award for the film which won 'Best International Student Award' at the Wexford Documentary Film Festival in September 2017.

Meleri graduated in Drama and Theatre Film and Television Studies in 2017 and is currently completing a PGCE at Aberystwyth University.

Speaking of her award, Meleri said: "I did not expect to win this award, particularly after seeing the other nominations at the awards ceremony. I'm delighted and very proud that all the hard work has paid off in the end.

"The film is very close to my heart and reflects a period in my life when my creativity developed greatly and I am hugely indebted to my lecturers Elin Morse, Kate Woodward and Gareth Llŷr Evans (Drama) for opening my eyes to the wide world of the arts and the importance of searching for the perfect story before starting to film."

Elin Morse, Lecturer in Media Productions in TFTS, said: "*Dwy Chwaer a Brawd* is a wonderfully crafted film which provides an incredibly valuable record of a world that is rapidly disappearing and we as a Department take great pride in the fact that the Royal Television Society has recognised Meleri's work."

Meleri's success this year follows the awarding of the Drama prize to Aber alumnus Ashley Rhys Evans at the RTS Wales 2017 Awards for his production *Aros*.

## The NSS is underway

The University's campaign to encourage students to complete the National Student Survey (NSS) 2018 was launched on 29 January at the Students' Union Refreshers Fair.

The NSS is open to the majority of final year undergraduates and is run by Ipsos-Mori on behalf of HEFCE. It is one of the most important ways that the University gathers feedback from students about their experience of studying here.

Last year we achieved an overall score of 91% - seven percentage points higher than the UK average of 84%. We are also ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the UK for Assessment and Feedback.

Eligible students have received an email from Ipsos-Mori, inviting them to complete the survey online by 30 April 2018.

However, students often respond better to messages from people they know. If you tutor, lecture or support students then please raise awareness of the survey and encourage them to give honest and anonymous feedback on their experiences.

As part of the University's promotional campaign, eligible students who complete the survey online before 28 February 2018 will be entered into a prize draw. There are 100 £10 Amazon vouchers to be won.

Keep an eye on our social media channels over the coming weeks - @Aberquack is worth a follow on Twitter. Please share, like and tag posts using the hashtag #AberNSS to keep the momentum going.

If you have any questions about the NSS please get in touch with Debbie Prysor, [dep10@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dep10@aber.ac.uk).

If your students have any questions, please direct them to [www.thestudentsurvey.com](http://www.thestudentsurvey.com).



# Zoology student wins photography competition

First year Zoology student Tina Kramaric has been selected as one of the winners of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) 2018 photography competition.

Organised as part of UKCISA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the competition aimed to showcase the excitement, achievements and impact of studying in the UK, and received over 150 entries from international students.

Winning photographs have been used in the 2018 UKCISA calendar, with Tina's photograph featuring as the picture for February. Each winner also received a £50 Amazon voucher and an invitation to UKCISA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception event in October.

Tina, who comes from Croatia, described the day her photograph 'Waves of Change' was taken on Aberystwyth seafront: "On the second week into my studies, still feeling a bit lost, I went to the beach with my two friends during Storm Ophelia. Looking at the waves I was thinking about how much I miss my mum. The photo was taken when a wave hit and soaked me completely. Pulled out of my thoughts I started laughing for the first time since my mum left the week before. After that, everything felt a bit lighter. Sometimes you just need a little push, and that push may surprise the hell out of you.



"When I found out that my photo had been selected I was delighted and couldn't wait for the calendar to arrive. It's nice to see a project for international students and the response from the University has been overwhelming."

UKCISA is the UK's national advisory body supporting international students and those who work with them. It provides advice, guidance and

information about all aspects of the international student experience, from immigration and fees to mental health, culture shock and orientation.

**Editor's Note:** *Fantastic photo Tina. A reminder to readers that seaspray and waves sometimes contain debris and can be dangerous, so please take care.*



## Wallace: Gŵr Angof Esblygiad?

## Wallace: The Forgotten Evolutionist?



**9 Chwefror - 17 Ebrill 2018**

Dydd Llun - Dydd Sadwrn,  
10yb - 4yp\*

Hen Goleg, Stryd y Brenin,  
Aberystwyth. SY23 2AX

**9 February - 17 April 2018**

Monday - Saturday,  
10am - 4pm\*

Old College, King Street,  
Aberystwyth. SY23 2AX



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## Spotlight on... the IT Service Desk



The IT Service Desk is the first port of call for staff and students seeking help with IT-related problems. We wanted to find out more about their day-to-day work, and some of the stranger things they have been asked to help with, so we spoke to the team:

### **Describe the work of the IT Service Desk**

The IT Service Desk is the first point of contact for all enquiries to Information Services.

We staff helpdesks in the Hugh Owen and Thomas Parry Libraries, the IS telephone line (extension 2400), mailboxes ([is@aber.ac.uk](mailto:is@aber.ac.uk) and [gg@aber.ac.uk](mailto:gg@aber.ac.uk)) as well as the online chat service, Twitter and Facebook.

We have five full-time permanent members of staff complemented by three Computer Science students on industrial year placements each year.

### **Describe a typical day working on the helpdesk?**

A day on the IT Service Desk generally begins with black coffee, but after that there really is no such thing as a typical day.

The nature of our work varies hugely depending on the time of year and service status.

Welcome Week, dissertation deadline week and Graduation Week all come with their own set of queries, and in between we might be doing anything from troubleshooting the rotary milking parlour's internet connection, to helping to roll out an entire new printing service across campus.

### **How has the work of the helpdesk changed and developed in recent years?**

We're very customer focused and are always looking for ways to improve our services by automating processes or developing self-service facilities.

For example, in the past, every time you wanted to connect a new device to the University network you had to find its MAC

address, and register it manually online. We've automated this process so it happens invisibly behind the scenes, saving you time following the instructions or visiting the desk.

### **Tell us something we may not know about the work you do?**

We provide lots of services you might not have realised, from training students in receipt of Disabled Students Allowance in assistive technologies, to writing and maintaining the computer FAQs. We also support all the public printers, answer most queries related to the University IP telephone service (issuing extensions, changing numbers, setting up voicemail), and support students with individual exam requirements.

### **What are the common misconceptions that people have about what the helpdesk does?**

Because of the name Information Services, people often think we're a service providing information about anything at all. We've been asked about Tesco opening hours, bus timetables, if we can recommend a chiropodist, and the best way of tracing one's Welsh ancestors. Generally we find it easier to Google the answer for them than to explain what we're actually here for!

### **What element of your work gives you most job satisfaction?**

The best part of the job is when we manage to solve a difficult query that requires us to come up with a custom solution which really makes a difference to someone. We'll always try to come up with a fix no matter how obscure the problem, and this approach contributed to Information Services being awarded a government recognised Customer Services Excellence award.

It's also hugely rewarding when we manage to recover a document that someone has lost, especially if it's a thesis or book draft - which happens more often than you might think!



The IT Service Desk Team. Left to right: Ryan Wonfor, Lewis Sweeney, Nate Slade, Mathew Jones, Alice Farnworth, Dylan Meredith, Mark Watt and Kyle Mould

# Library makeover



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the refurbished Level D, Hugh Owen Library.  
 Left to right: Julie Hart (Deputy Director of Information Services), Professor Elizabeth Treasure (Vice-Chancellor), Emma Beenham (Academic Affairs Officer, AberSU), Tim Davies (Director of Information Services), Gwion Llwyd (Welsh Culture Officer & UMCA President, AberSU)

The official reopening of the refurbished Level D of Hugh Owen Library took place on 8 January, revealing a library space that has been transformed to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century students.

The refurbishment, managed by Information Services, has updated and significantly increased the amount of study space available, and improved access to facilities and services.

Better and more energy efficient lighting, heating and ventilation systems have also been installed, and décor has been updated and bespoke furniture fitted.

Students using Level D of the library will now be able to make use of two new group study rooms, a variety of study spaces with access to power and WiFi, more seating, a vending area for the purchase of refreshments and stationery, and additional gender neutral toilets. The main entrance to the library has also been relocated to the piazza, home to Aberystwyth Arts Centre and the Students' Union.

As part of the opening ceremony, Eurig Salisbury, a lecturer in the Department of Welsh & Celtic Studies and Welsh Children's Poet Laureate (2011-2013), wrote a poem to celebrate the opening of Level D.

*Would Hugh have liked it? I guess he would  
 Have frowned at the fabric honeycomb,  
 The vending machines, Collections in chrome;  
 But then he'd have seen in the sepia wood  
 His own reflection, and felt at home.*

**Eurig Salisbury, 2018**

Eurig said:

"I took the opportunity to read up on the man who gave his name to the building, Hugh Owen himself (1804-81), and I realised maybe for the first time how much work, sacrifice and effort he made to provide education in Wales, for the people of Wales, something we often take for granted today. The renovation - and I hope Hugh would agree - complete with a massive photo of the library at the Old College draped over the far wall, makes it easier than ever before for us all to access education and knowledge."

## Spotlight on...the IT Service Desk continued

### Do you keep being asked to resolve the same problems over-and-over again?

Once we identify a common problem, we try to come up with a solution so that it stops being a problem to people.

For example, we've created a self-service password changing web page, a free software download page and automatic MAC address registration to let people solve many basic queries themselves, even in the middle of the night or off campus.

### What are some of the strangest requests you have had on the IS helpdesk?

We once had a Scottish caller ringing just because they wanted to chat to a real live Welsh person. They wanted to hear about what life is like for a Welsh speaker, and how the language is used in schools, work and daily life.

But probably our favourite was the web chat query asking for an urgent toilet roll delivery to the toilets on Level F of the library. Happily for everyone involved, we were able to oblige!

As one of the University's Schools Liaison Officers, Dewi Phillips travels the length and breadth of the country visiting schools and colleges and attending UCAS exhibitions and careers events, as well as organising taster days on campus and speaking to hundreds of students about the progression to higher education. However, in addition to the day job, Dewi is also a Welsh Rugby Union referee:



## In addition to the day job

### When did you get involved with rugby refereeing?

Rugby has always been a big part of my life, and refereeing was something I took up around 6 or 7 years ago. For the last three years I've been refereeing in the Welsh Premiership, and I've refereed games in the British & Irish Cup too, as well as being an Assistant Referee in the European Champions Cup and Pro14 competitions. I've been really lucky to have had the opportunity to referee in some fantastic places and meet some brilliant people along the way.

### Is there a lot of pressure involved in being a referee?

Of course there is some pressure involved in getting decisions accurate and correct. But it's important for a ref to have empathy for the game as well and getting the balance right is key. In terms of a lot of pressure, however, at the end of the day you have to remember it's a game of rugby.



*Dewi as Assistant Referee in a Pro14 game between the Ospreys and the Dragons in October 2017, with Dan Biggar (Ospreys) scoring in the corner, and Gavin Henson (Dragons) making the tackle.*

**Do you have to keep up a fitness regime as a referee, and if so, what does it entail?**

We are tested regularly in what's called a 30-15 Endurance Test and we have certain fitness levels that need to be hit in order to be able to ref at a particular level.

We're very fortunate to have a Strength and Conditioning coach who takes us through our paces every fortnight at the National Centre of Excellence in the Vale where the Wales team trains.

I spend quite a lot of time outside of work at the Uni Sports Centre which is like a second home!

So nearly every day apart from game day I'll train in some way.

**What are the highs?**

Definitely some of the places I've had the opportunity to visit due to refereeing. Recently visiting Moscow in Russia was a highlight, and going to Italy as an Assistant Referee in the Pro14 was a fantastic experience - places I probably would never have thought of visiting if it wasn't for rugby.

**What are the lows?**

It's pretty full-on with all the travelling at weekends on top of the travel with my job. But it is something completely different to the day job which is great.

**Is it hard work keeping up with the changing laws of the game?**

There are many different laws in rugby and the law book is quite extensive. Sometimes I feel glad it's Law that I studied here at Aber! However, as a referee, it's probably more important to know when not to blow the whistle, and to understand what players are trying to achieve even when it's on the boundaries of the laws of the game.

**Do you perform any superstitious rituals on the day of a big game?**

I always have beans on toast for breakfast and I've got an old whistle given to me by my grandfather which I carry with me wherever I referee. I've got a playlist of songs I always play on my iPod Shuffle in my warm-up before games too.

**What has been your most memorable game?**

In terms of being in the middle then probably refereeing Newcastle v Bath in the Anglo Welsh Cup has been the

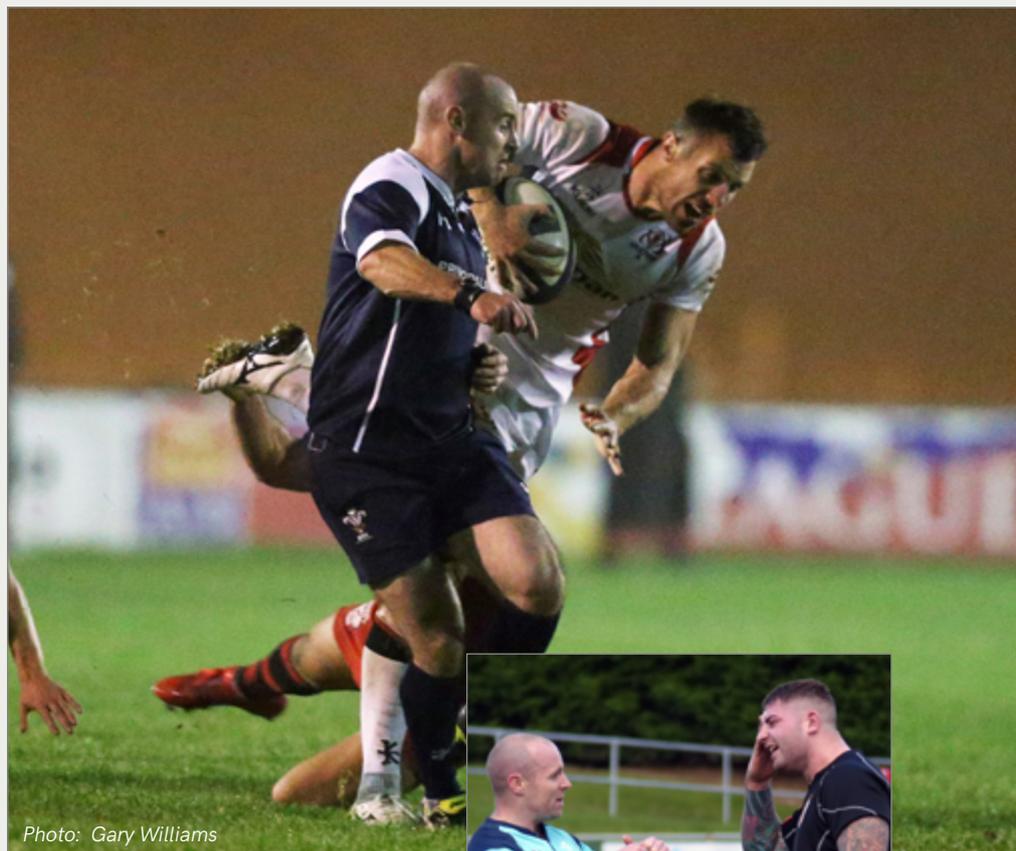


Photo: Gary Williams

highlight so far. I've also refereed in the British & Irish Cup the past few years, with trips to Ulster and Munster being pretty memorable. However I've been really fortunate to have been an Assistant Referee a few times in the Pro14, and my most memorable game recently was as an Assistant Referee in the European Champions Cup game between Munster and Castres. It was a fantastic experience with over 23,000 at Thomond Park.

**Do you have a favourite rugby ground?**

I've been really lucky to have refereed in some iconic grounds here in Wales like the Millennium Stadium (or the Principality Stadium as it's now called), Sardis Road in Pontypridd, Rodney Parade in Newport and Cardiff Arms Park.

Outside of Wales, there are some great grounds like Thomond Park in Limerick, Musgrave Park in Cork and the Kingston Park Stadium in Newcastle.

Probably my favourite ground, however, is Parc Eirias in Colwyn Bay (recently renamed Stadiwm Zip World) where RGC and Wales under 20s play. There's always a fantastic atmosphere there, along with great facilities. It's been really good for North Wales.



Photo: Matt Mackey / Press Eye

**Tell us your best rugby refereeing story?**

I've been told a brilliant story which apparently happened to a fellow referee who forgot his whistle to referee a game one afternoon. With no other whistle available at the ground ended up having to borrow a dog whistle, so every time he blew for a penalty or knock-on, three dogs came running on to the pitch!

**What's the first thing you do after you've refereed a game?**

After all the after-game rituals, the first thing I always usually do is give my Dad a ring, if he hasn't had a chance to do so first to see how things went! Mum and Dad are my biggest supporters, but as Dad's involved with games himself at Parc y Scarlets he doesn't get much chance to watch, or chooses not to! The weird thing is though, he always makes time to come to Ireland the few times I've had a chance to referee there... it must be the Guinness!

# Aberystwyth Arts Centre and Penparcau Forum Together



Aberystwyth Arts Centre and Penparcau Community Forum are working closely together on a project called 'APT: Aberystwyth Arts Centre and Penparcau Forum Together'. The year-long venture will culminate in a 'hand over' of the Arts Centre to Penparcau residents for a week's worth of events and activities in June.

ABER *News* spoke to the Project Co-ordinator Alaw Griffiths to find out more:

## Could you explain a bit about the APT project?

The aim of the project is to develop a 'Penparcau Partnership', through which Penparcau residents will help to programme, organise, manage and run the Arts Centre for a week in June.

Throughout the project, the Arts Centre team will help train residents from Penparcau in a wide range of skills including technical, event management, front-of-house, and marketing for the creative arts.

Then, in June, the Arts Centre will be 'shared' with Penparcau Forum, who will put their newly gained skills into action and help to run the venue for the events they've been planning.

## What's been happening recently?

Over the last few months, Penparcau residents have been choosing activities and events for the Penparcau Week (name to be confirmed) at the Arts Centre.

In October, members of Penparcau Youth Forum visited the Arts Centre to gain some inspiration. They toured the Centre, including a visit backstage, took part in a workshop and watched a performance of Kathakali, traditional dance drama from Southern India.

At the end of November, about 50 Penparcau residents came to a "Chips and Chat" event at the Penparcau Hub, where they heard more about the project from Arts Centre staff, and brainstormed some ideas for the programme of events in June.

Penparcau residents have also been given the chance to train as front of house staff, and get to see some of the Arts Centre's great shows free of charge. Just before Christmas, members of the Penparcau Youth Forum and other residents helped with front of house duties during performances of *The Little Match Girl*.

In late January, Penparcau residents attended a screening of *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, and a chat with Cinema Manager Gareth Bailey, to learn how things work at the Cinema and discuss what could be possible during Penparcau Week.

A full programme of taster workshops was organised at the Arts Centre in February half term, where people could have a taste of what will be happening during Penparcau Week, including pottery, photography, creative writing, a radio workshop, music and drama, and a parent and toddler activity workshop.

## What is happening in the next few weeks?

In February and March, those involved in the project are being given the opportunity to visit MAC Birmingham and Pontio in Bangor to gain information and inspiration.

We are also busy judging entries to our competition to design a logo for the APT project, and settling on a final name for 'Penparcau Week'.

## How can people get involved?

If you live in Penparcau or have friends of family that do, we are really keen to get more residents involved in this fantastic project. It is open to all groups and residents of Penparcau. For further information about how to get involved contact Alaw at the Arts Centre, [alg54@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alg54@aber.ac.uk) / 01970 622832.



Members of the Penparcau Youth Forum helping with front of house duties during performances of *The Little Match Girl* at Aber Arts Centre, December 2017.

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

To keep up-to-date with all the latest news from the project, visit: [www.facebook.com/APTaber](https://www.facebook.com/APTaber) or to be e-mailed the project newsletter contact Alaw on [alg54@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alg54@aber.ac.uk) / 01970 622832.

# Working at the SU - who we are and what we do

Thanks to everyone who took part in our University staff survey about AberSU. We had an amazing 238 responses that will help us develop and improve communication. We're still writing our report but it's already clear that there's a lot of confusion about who we are and what we do. We thought we'd use this edition of *ABER News* to clear up the main misconceptions.



## Working at the SU

AberSU has 14 members of permanent professional staff working in a variety of roles.

We mainly work in four departments:

- Communications & Engagement
- Finance & Resources
- Support & Representation
- Student Opportunities

As part of our organisational and professional development, we work closely with other Students' Unions to shape what we do locally and influence what happens nationally. All our staff are appointed not elected and come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

We are currently working to achieve our ambitious 2020 strategy ([www.abersu.co.uk/aboutaber/ourstrategy](http://www.abersu.co.uk/aboutaber/ourstrategy)) which was developed in consultation with students and key stakeholders.

Find out more at [www.abersu.co.uk/aboutaber/abersustaff](http://www.abersu.co.uk/aboutaber/abersustaff)

## We are an independent charity

60% of surveyed staff knew that we are a charity and 81% knew that we are independent from the University.

AberSU is a formally registered charity (#1150576) which means that we submit annual accounts, and that whilst we are democratically led, we are ultimately accountable to a Trustee Board (which includes five external professionals brought in for their expertise and knowledge).

## What we do (and don't do)

86% of University staff responding to our survey thought that we ran the shop, bar and evening entertainment. The reality is that the Students' Union transferred all commercial services over to the University in September 2016.

Following the transfer, we were finally able to focus on our core purpose as a representative membership organisation.

## Some interesting facts about some of the things we do:

- TimAber (the AberSU family of sports clubs and societies) has nearly 3,000 members.
- We train and develop over 800 student leaders and volunteers (including the Academic Representatives).
- We have over 50 sports clubs and over 100 student led societies (with 39 of these being academic societies).
- We run the annual Aber7s rugby tournament which attracts nearly 100 teams (of mainly Aber alumni) to Aberystwyth for Mayday Bank Holiday.
- 95 A-Team volunteers welcomed our new students in 2017, and gave out 6 cases of bottled water, 200 lollipops, 72 rain ponchos and 63 pairs of flip flops! They also helped 43 students get back to their friends/socials or walked them safely to the taxi rank.

## Students' Union building..

The majority of comments from surveyed staff about how we could improve were about the condition of the Students' Union building. We are fully aware that we could do with a spruce up and are actively involved in discussions with the University.

We really are part way through our journey of change here at AberSU, we have taken feedback on board and we are looking forward to continuing our development.

Pop over to [www.abersu.co.uk](http://www.abersu.co.uk) for news and more information.

## The AberSU Team





# One World Week 2018

One World Week is nearly upon us, this year running for slightly longer than a week, from Monday 5 March to Saturday 17 March.

One World Week is Aberystwyth University's biggest festival dedicated to celebrating and promoting the different cultures and nationalities that make up our international student community here in Aber.

The One World Week celebration will be closed by the annual Malaysian Evening which will be held at Aberystwyth Arts Centre at 6pm on Saturday 17 March. Tickets are available from the Box Office on 01970 623232 or from the Arts Centre website, [www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk](http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk).



Last year's events were a huge success and we are hoping to build on that and make this year's even bigger and better.

Many different events will take place during the week.

We hope this year to increase both student and staff interaction with these events and would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved.

Our Chinese New Year event this year will be held on Saturday 24 February at the Arts Centre from 6pm. Tickets can be purchased from the Box Office or the Arts Centre website.

For more information about any of these events please contact [oneworld@aber.ac.uk](mailto:oneworld@aber.ac.uk).

One of the main events will be the 'One World Week Gala Evening', where students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their talents. This event, which launches our One World Week, will be held on Monday 5 March in the Main Room, Students' Union. All students and staff are invited.

The 'World Fair' is also an important part of One World Week. The event allows international and home students to 'exhibit' their culture by running a stall, offering traditional food, language skills, country specific information, crafts, and traditional costumes. The fair will be held on Thursday 8 March in the Main Room, Students' Union.



## From Aberfan to Aberystwyth - Cantata Memoria

Every now and then there is a shocking flash of news of such significance and impact, that the circumstances of how and when the news was learnt become ingrained in memory - the assassination of President Kennedy, the death of Princess Diana, the attack on the twin towers. Another such news story was the devastating catastrophe at Aberfan in South Wales.



On 21 October 1966, 116 children and 28 adults died when a coal tip engulfed Pantglas primary school, together with some nearby houses, in the village of Aberfan.

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy, composer Sir Karl Jenkins and poet and Aberystwyth University alumna, Professor Mererid Hopwood, were commissioned by S4C to create a new commemorative choral work.

Jenkins, probably the world's most-performed living choral composer, spoke of this as his most emotional experience as a composer: "When the word Aberfan is mentioned, no further explanation is necessary; its eternal effect is encapsulated in its name. What resonates, of course, is that the great majority of victims were children. Dealing with a subject that lies so deep in the soul of the Welsh was both a harrowing and uplifting experience."

*Cantata Memoria: For the Children/Er Mwyn y Plant* premiered at Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff in October 2016.

Eighteen months later, in one of the first performances in Wales since the BBC premiere, *Cantata Memoria* can be heard at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Saturday 3 March 2018.

On stage will be the 90-strong University Singers, two top international soloists from Wales, Fflur Wyn and Paul Carey Jones, with professional orchestral support from Sinfonia Cambrensis.

A central part will also be played by young singers from local schools, including the Penglais pupils of Elinor Powell's 'Sgarmangels' and younger pupils from St Padarn's.

Director of Music, Dr David Russell Hulme, who conducts the performance, said: "This is a big work - complex and demanding. It made a huge impact at its Cardiff premiere and I'm sure it will do so here."

Two weeks later, on Saturday 17 March, the University and community symphony orchestra, Philomusica, presents another major Music Centre performance in the Great Hall.

As always, the programme will be a journey of discovery, mixing favourites from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* music and Rimsky-Korsakoff's dazzling *Capriccio Espagnol* with the less well-known but wonderfully melodic and colourful *Irish Symphony* by Hamilton Harty.

Conductor Dr David Russell Hulme commented: "Building a programme is like designing a menu - mixing favourites along with unfamiliar fare for people to explore and enjoy. I always love performing Harty's music. His symphony has a superb Romantic sweep and melodies that really stick in your brain."

The guest soloist, international pianist Samantha Ward, will be playing Prokofiev's exhilarating and memorable *First Piano Concerto*. This is Samantha's third appearance with the orchestra. She is definitely a fan of Philomusica, which she reckons to be one of the best community orchestras around.

Philomusica concerts are great live music events, attracting large numbers - often more than the BBC and other visiting orchestras. Dr Hulme explains: "Music brings the University and its community together in a unique way. Our major performances provide showcases for this wonderfully vibrant relationship."

Tickets are available from the Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 623232 or from [www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk](http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk).



# Diary of an Indian poet in Wales

Mohini Gupta, a poet from New Delhi, India, completed a three month residency at the University shortly before Christmas. Her visit was supported by the Charles Wallace India Trust (CWIT) whose Creative Translation and Writing Fellowship is awarded to early career literary creators by Literature Across Frontiers, based in the Mercator Institute in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies.

Mohini took part in a wide range of events and activities during her stay, including translating the poetry of Vikram Seth into Hindi; writing poetry in English, Hindi and Urdu aimed at young readers; readings works in English and Hindi at literary festivals; attending International Translation Day events at the British Library in London; taking part in International Day activities at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth; and working with MA Professional Translation students.

Before she returned to New Delhi shortly before Christmas, Mohini captured her thoughts on her time at Aberystwyth University, for [ABERNews](#) :



Sitting in Welsh class the other day, I found myself getting extremely restless. We were studying mutations, specifically the *treigladau trwynol* (the nasal mutation). This was my first time learning Welsh, but the rules seemed familiar somehow. I went back and did some research: Sanskrit contained a very similar mutation, and the Hindi alphabet explained the logic behind this particular Welsh mutation.

The striking similarities between our languages and cultures cannot be a coincidence. While reading about *cynganedd* (the strict meters of Welsh poetry), I went back to an ancient Sanskrit text that I remembered, dated approximately 15<sup>th</sup> century BC, and discovered a line in *cynganedd sain* (internal rhyme). As a writing and translation fellow living in Aberystwyth, interested in poetry and language and music, all of this was extremely exciting. And I found myself wanting to know a little more about the Welsh culture every day.

Aberystwyth became the perfect source of inspiration for me. The sea calmed me into concentration, the buzzing life in town kept my spirits up. I had the chance to meet stellar students, poets, professors, linguists, politicians, archivists, publishers, actors, farmers, theatre producers and filmmakers during my stay here, and each conversation taught me something new. It made me reflect on my own bilingualism and thoughts around language politics and hierarchies in India. Watching the 2017 adaptation of *Wythnos Yng Nghymru Fydd* (*A Week in Future Wales*) written by Islwyn Ffowc Elis in 1957, pushed me to think deeply about the linguistic utopia I hope to achieve for my own language. Hindi, currently spoken by 500 million people across the world, may not be in danger yet, but is in the process of

being rejected by the younger generation for its more global and lucrative substitute, English. How do we stress the power of engaging with our own mother tongues? Will we ever recover from our post-colonial hangovers?

One of the highlights of my time in Wales was bringing together lovers of language and poetry at a 'Mushaira' I co-organised with my Welsh tutor and friend Dewi Huw Owen, hosted by Mercator Institute and Arad Goch. We had poetry readings from 19 people in 15 different languages including Welsh, English, Hindi, Urdu, German, Portuguese, Flemish, Dutch, Mandarin and Breton. The diversity of languages, subjects and emotions expressed was overwhelming. I can also never forget my session with Class 6 students at Ysgol Gymraeg, where I spoke to them about India, busted myths about the Indian culture, and taught them to sing a Hindi song, which they hummed for days after. After our discussion, I heard one of them exclaim to another classmate: "If you go to India and order chicken tikka masala, they will laugh at you!"

I have been fortunate to experience Wales so intimately in just three months - be it through the Welsh language and its poetry; visits to Caernarfon, Cardiff, Bedlinog and St Davids; or by watching a rugby match live in the Millennium Stadium! I'm so grateful to Charles Wallace India Trust and Literature Across Frontiers for their faith in my poetry and translation project, and a special thank you to the Mercator Institute of Media, Languages and Culture for hosting me. Diolch yn fawr!

I hope I will always remember the love and inspiration Aberystwyth has filled me with. And when the *hiraeth* becomes too much to bear, I hope to find a way to return.

# A minute with... Andrea Pennock

Andrea Pennock joined the University as Director of Estates Department in December 2016. Ruth Fowler, Communications and Equalities Officer in the Human Resources Department, spoke to Andrea to find out more about her and her role:



**Tell us a bit about your background**

I was born in Belfast, and then moved to Swansea in my early teens. I then spent a number of years travelling and working in various locations across the UK, before moving back to Swansea to take up a role as Head of Estates and Facilities Management at the DVLA. There I was responsible for a team of 90 house staff as well a large team of contractors.

In 2014, I was appointed Senior Category Lead at Crown Commercial Service, at the Cabinet Office in London where I managed Facilities Management spend for Central Government. I then joined Aberystwyth University in December 2016.

I have two children; my daughter is reading law at Jesus College, Cambridge and my son is studying for his A-levels at Penglais School.

**What does your role at the University entail?**

As Director of Estates, I head up the Department, which has 43 members of staff working on Estate and Space Management, Projects, Maintenance, Grounds, Health and Safety, Environment and Sustainability, and Compliance.

Estates departments in general tend to be quite male-dominated environments. Here in Aber, for example, we have 40 men working for Estates and just four women – and I believe I’m the first woman Director of Estates in the University’s long history.

**What are some of the current projects the Estates Department are working on?**

Some of the projects currently on our books are: the rewiring of Theatr Y Werin, the relocation of all full-time undergraduate teaching from Llanbadarn to Penglais Campus, various infrastructure improvements, Pantycelyn, Old College, and AIEC.

**What do you most enjoy about your job?**

The sense of achievement and being part of a team that helps to shape the environment we work and live in, as well as the variety of the work in terms of the exciting and challenging projects we must deliver.



Focus on...

# Welsh at work

Welsh for Adults tutor, Rhiannon Taylor, runs Welsh classes for Human Resources staff on a Monday at their offices, ranging from complete beginner classes up to advanced courses.

ABER *News* spoke to three members of the HR team about their experience of learning and using Welsh in work:



## **Toni Hunter**

### **Beginners Course**

I've been doing a beginner Welsh class for about a year.

I did Welsh as a second language in school but prior to working at the University, Welsh wasn't a day-to-day requirement of my job, so I lost most of what I had learnt years before.

The lessons are always entertaining. It's a small really relaxed group so you feel comfortable giving things a go even when you don't get them correct - which sometimes leads to some funny answers.

The only thing I am not so keen on is the homework. Once you get going it's fine but at first you feel like you are back in school! My children find it amusing I have to do homework!

I already understand a lot more of the Welsh that is spoken in the office, and I find it easier to help with my children's Welsh reading and learning now too.

I would definitely recommend Welsh classes to other members of staff. It's particularly good learning with colleagues from your department, as you find out new things about them, and can also help each other if you are having trouble with your homework.

## **Sam Morrison**

### **Intermediate Course**

I attend an hour's intermediate class with on a Monday afternoon in the HR department.

I enjoy the classes, particularly the interactive conversation within the group.

I can definitely see my Welsh improving. I'm shortly going to be starting to attend a two-hour class on a Thursday evening too.

I would really recommend learning Welsh to other members of staff, especially those in front-facing roles.

In the HR team we are supported if we want to learn Welsh. The HR Director encourages us to undertake Welsh lessons and always promotes any Welsh courses in our team briefs.

I particularly think the Welsh tutors undertaking group sessions within departments is a good idea.

## **Martyn Saycell**

### **Advanced Course**

I attend an advanced class and also have a one-to-one lesson every Monday.

The classes are really good, and Rhiannon is an excellent, and very patient, teacher. We have some interesting debates over why certain words are masculine or feminine.

Learning on a one-to-one basis is challenging and intense. There is no let-up, and after the hour-long lesson I do feel that I've had a workout!

I am already more confident with my Welsh now, and have started using Welsh in a number of meetings.

The department has been completely supportive of me learning Welsh. Being able to have conversations with other Welsh speakers and learners in the department has been really beneficial.

Welsh lessons are a great way to improve your skills, and I think an appreciation and understanding of the Welsh language is essential if you want to work in Higher Education in Wales.



# My research

Amy Farrington is carrying out plant research whilst also working as a Technician in Forage Genetics and Plant Breeding in IBERS.



Having graduated in Costume Construction from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, Amy made the move into science after taking on a summer assistant job, which led to full-time employment and now an MSc research project.

## Describe your research in a nutshell?

For my research project, I am looking at the benefits of Epichloë fungal endophytes within a perennial ryegrass forage breeding system.

Fungal endophytes are a naturally occurring symbiotic fungus, found in most permanent grassland pasture both here in the UK and worldwide.

They may offer the host many benefits through a triggered alkaloid response of the plant. For example, enhanced growth and forage yield, resistance to pests or pathogens, and the possible ability to increase nitrogen intake.

There is potential for fungal endophytes to have a vital role in the future development of sustainable forage systems in an ever-changing climate.

Through plant collections and historical seed sources, I am observing the naturally occurring strains found in permanent pasture here in the UK, and exploring the potential benefits their presence may add to existing grass varieties used in a forage based system.

## What's a typical day for you?

This varies greatly day to day and between seasons.

I am currently undertaking my research project through the Advanced Training Partnership programme, allowing me to study alongside my full time job role as a technician in the grass breeding

programme here at IBERS, so I balance both roles.

In the summer months, I can be found out in the field harvesting plots with our Haldrup harvester, planting many thousands of spaced plants, and creating crosses for our breeding populations.

Whereas in the winter, I tend to be more lab based, analysing samples collected in the summer, or maintaining our pot stocks in the poly-tunnels.

I also spend a lot of time here in the lab peering through a microscope looking for endophytes from my plant collections and experimenting with methods of inoculating our Aber variety perennial ryegrasses. My desk is often piled high with research papers and slides.

I have just been awarded a grant by the Stapledon Memorial Trust for a study trip to New Zealand where I will be learning lab techniques and observing field work, so at the moment I am furiously planning travel and reading up as much as I can to be prepared for my trip and the work involved when I return.

## What do you find most rewarding?

I really relish the opportunities that I have had since undertaking my research project.

For example, last year I had the opportunity to travel to Dublin for an international conference, and by the time this edition of *Aber News* is published, I will have travelled to New Zealand to visit an institute there.

Being both a staff member and student, I am eligible for funding from some of the many exciting grants and scholarships that Aberystwyth University has to offer. For example my trip to New Zealand has been funded

by the Stapledon Memorial Trust Fund, which will enable me to learn techniques and gain experience that otherwise would be very time consuming to learn. It's fantastic to be eligible for these chances to develop my career and knowledge, and it's so rewarding to see my research benefitting from these experiences.

I believe that we should always be looking at how we can improve our research to adapt to the ever-changing climate, and encouraging development of techniques and practices by learning from the work of others.

## What do you find most challenging?

Trying to balance my research alongside my full time employment, and my ever-expanding family is really challenging.

There have been many late nights and early mornings reading papers and planning experiments alongside the chaos of home life!

Undertaking my research project without the foundations of a science-based degree has been a very steep learning curve for me, I have had to study very hard to develop my knowledge.

The Advanced Training Partnership programme has provided me with the opportunity to undertake vital modules to build my knowledge base, and ensured that I had the tools to begin my research project confidently, as well as being there to offer advice when I feel overwhelmed.



## Appointments

A warm welcome to colleagues who have joined the University in recent months, including:

### Vice-Chancellor's Office

**Nick Rogers** has joined the University as Director of Change Strategy. He is former Director of Human Resources at James Cooke University, Australia, where he was a member of the Executive Board. He previously worked as Director of Human Resources at the University of the Arts, London; Kingston University London, and Napier University, Edinburgh. *See more about Nick on p.19.*



### Finance Department

**Stephen Forster** has joined as Director of Finance. He worked previously at Barnet and Southgate College where he was Director of Finance and Corporate Operations and a member of the Executive Leadership Group. A graduate of Sheffield University, he is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Before joining Barnet and Southgate College, Stephen was Director of Finance at Alton College, Hampshire, and Senior Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers.



### Estates Department

**Claire Williams** joined the University in December 2017 as the Health, Safety and Environmental Manager. With previous experience in local authority, housing association and manufacturing industries, she brings a range of experience in sensible risk management.



**Dewi Day** joined the University in September 2017 as Environment and Sustainability Advisor. Dewi brings over 10 years of experience in the sustainability industry, including roles in energy management, environmental management systems, environmental consultancy, water quality and waste management. Dewi has an MSc and BSc in Environmental Management, is a chartered environmentalist, full member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), and EMA recognised Energy Manager.



### Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

**Dr Shubin Lan** joins the University as a Sêr Cymru II Fellow. Shubin received his doctorate in Environmental Science from the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2011, and he is currently Associate Professor at Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Shubin's research focuses on biological soil crusts and their ecological functions in drylands.



**Dr Adina Racoviteanu** joined the University as a Sêr Cymru II Fellow in September 2017. Her research interests are on glacier changes at high altitudes in the Andes and the Himalayas, and their impacts on local cultures. Her current project 'Discover Glaciers', focuses on identifying the changing surface features of debris-covered glaciers and their hazard potential using multi spatial and temporal high-resolution satellite imagery.



### Department of Physics

**Dr David Kuridze** has joined the University as Sêr Cymru II Fellow. David obtained his PhD at Queen's University Belfast in 2014. From 2014-17, he was a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Astrophysics Research Centre at Queen's University Belfast. His research focuses on the analysis and interpretation of solar observational data obtained with state-of-the-art instrumentation, as well as theoretical modelling of the fundamental physical processes in the lower solar atmosphere.



### Department of Computer Science

**Dr Dimitris Tsakiris** has joined the Department of Computer Science as a Reader in Intelligent Robotics. Previously, he was a researcher at the Institute of Computer Science of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH). Dimitris received his MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park, Maryland, USA. His research focuses on biologically-inspired robotics, embodied intelligence, soft-material robotics, sensor-based motion control and computational modeling.



## A minute with... Nick Rogers

Nick Rogers started in post as Director of Change Strategy on 10 January 2018. We spoke to Nick to find out more about him, his role, and his first impressions of Aber.

### Tell us a bit about your background

You could say I'm well-trodden in academia! I've been an HR Director in four universities covering Scotland, England and most recently Australia - giving occasional guest lectures to students along the way. It started back in 1999 when I left the civil service as an HR professional to join Napier University in Edinburgh. I've since worked at Kingston University, London; University of the Arts, London; and most recently, James Cook University in Townsville, Far North Queensland. I left behind 34 degrees on New Year's Day to move to west Wales - and haven't regretted it for a moment.

### What are your first impressions of Aberystwyth?

As a town, I love its character and charm - combined with fabulous countryside all around. As a University I quickly felt its history, culture and warmth of people. There seems to be a real pride to work

here which isn't the case everywhere. I have some previous connections with the University - my stepson studied an MMath here not long ago. He studied in Welsh and stayed at Pantycelyn so I have some understanding of what that means to the community. Within a couple of days of arriving in Wales from Australia my wife and I both said it felt like 'home'.

### This is a new role for Aberystwyth University - what does it entail?

It doesn't involve a magic wand! More seriously, I think it is quite widely understood that we need some changes to protect Aber's long term future and sustainability. My role is to help bring about those changes in a way that gives focus to where we can have most impact. Clearly we have financial constraints and I need to help achieve already announced savings in a considered way. It isn't only about staff reductions - which I appreciate are unpalatable to



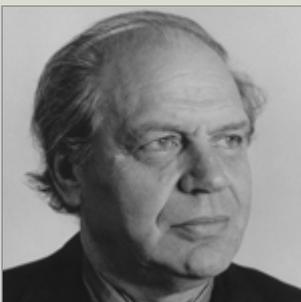
many. It is also about ways of working, how we are organised, probably process improvements, and opportunities for future growth. Amongst all this my mind will certainly attend to how we keep many of the qualities that I (and many colleagues and students) have found here already.

### Do you have a motto or personal mantra?

I have two. Be true to your roots (I am a first generation university student from relatively humble beginnings). The second is work hard and luck will hopefully follow. I intend to work hard for Aberystwyth University.

## Obituaries

### Professor Harold Carter (1925-2017)



Harold Carter graduated from Aberystwyth with first class honours in 1950. Later the same year he joined the Geography Department as an assistant lecturer and went on to complete his MA here at Aberystwyth in 1952.

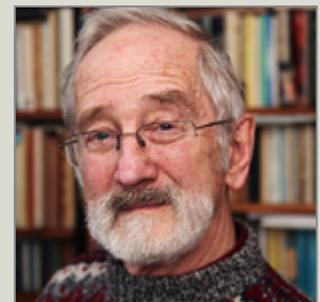
In 1964 he became Dean of the Arts and was appointed Gregynog Professor of Human Geography in 1968.

Considered an authority on the Welsh language, from 1981-83 he took on the role of Deputy Principal, and was appointed Head of Geography in 1983, followed by Dean of the Welsh Medium Studies, a role he fulfilled until his retirement in 1986.

During this time he also spent periods as visiting professor at Cincinnati and Maryland universities in the US, and Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

He was inducted into the Gorsedd of the Bards at the National Eisteddfod in Llanrwst in 1989, and elected to the Learned Society of Wales in 2011.

### Professor Emeritus Bobi Jones (1929 - 2017)



Originally from Cardiff, Bobi Jones graduated with a first class degree from Cardiff University in 1949, and an MA degree from University College Dublin in 1951.

He taught in schools (Llanidloes and Llangefni) and was the head of the Welsh Department of Trinity College, Carmarthen between 1952 and 1958, before joining Aberystwyth University in 1958 as a lecturer in education, where he did pioneering work on bilingualism and child language.

He completed his doctorate in 1965 after a period of work as a research lecturer at Laval University, Québec, Canada, and joined the Department of Welsh as a lecturer in 1966, where he revolutionised the discipline, introducing students to creative writing and literary theory.

He firmly believed that the survival of the Welsh language lay in attracting adult learners. He was appointed to the Chair in Welsh Language and Literature in 1980, and retired in 1989.

# Aberystwyth Arts Centre School of Art Exhibitions

## Woman of Flowers

Tuesday 27 February

Theatr Pena / Taliesin Co-Production.

By Siôn Eirian after Saunders Lewis



In autumn 2015 Theatr Pena commissioned multi award-winning Welsh writer Siôn Eirian to write a new English language play for the company drawing on two iconic Welsh literary sources. Based on the Mabinogi legend of Blodeuwedd, Siôn has skilfully combined Saunders Lewis's Welsh language verse drama of the same name with original material to create a strikingly poetic re-imagining of the ancient tale of the woman made of flowers. In a world where gods and mortals exist side by side, there's a new conflict brewing between the vindictive, shape-shifting wizard Gwydion and his estranged, embittered sister, the goddess Arianrhod. Two outcast women suggest hope for a different future.

An Orchard Entertainment production in association with 3 Bay Touring present  
Cafwynted Orchard Entertainment mawrth yf 27 febrwari a 3 Bay Touring yn eiddo'r ysgol

Orchard  
entertainment

# Belle and Sebastian

Mawrth 9 March 2018

Canolfan Y Celfyddydau  
Aberystwyth Arts Centre 01970 623 232

aberystwythartscentre.co.uk | ticketmaster.co.uk | seetickets.com  
belleandsebastian.com | orchardentertainment.co.uk

Until 16 March

The School of Art Gallery is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm. Admission is free.

## Jane Joseph: Accompaniments

Prints and the artist's personal collection of fine and decorative art.



The Open Sea, etching, from *If This is a Man* by Primo Levi, *The Folio Society*, 2000

An exhibition of Jane Joseph's suites of etching for Primo Levi's *If This is a Man* and *The Truce* shown alongside her own personal collection of works by artists including Paul Cezanne, Prunella Clough, Edgar Degas, Robert Medley and Anthony Stevens.

She writes "My interest is in what artists make and in what they look at. I believe it is through sharing the latter that one is brought closest to the work that they make. Having the work around me of artists that I admire is an encouragement to my own endeavours."

## 'To hell with nature': A Reappraisal of Charles Tunnicliffe Prints

An exhibition of rarely displayed prints, including early works, by the renowned Anglesey-based artist Charles Tunnicliffe RA (1901 - 1979) marking the Royal Academy's recent publication of a catalogue raisonné by School of Art Professor Robert Meyrick and Dr Harry Heuser.



The Chartley Bull, wood-engraving, 1939