



ABER TIMES

Issue 2 • Autumn 2014

Aberystwyth University news



Graduation was one highlight in a fantastic summer for the University

Aber's Summer Success

It's been a very busy and successful summer at Aberystwyth University.

Earlier in the summer, the University learnt of its shortlisting for the Best Employee Relations Initiative at the CIPD People Management Awards for the way in which the University has worked with trades unions to restructure its academic departments into the new Institute structure, and in doing so, limiting the number of staff redundancies. Also shortlisted for the Award are Mersey Care NHS Trust, Pentland Brands, Retail Marketing Group, Royal Mail and Trafford Council. Winners will be announced on 30 September.

News also reached the University of its achievement in gaining a Bronze Award in the Corporate Health Standard - a clear demonstration of how the University is working to improve the health and well being of students and staff. The Award will be presented to the University in the autumn.

The University's School of Management and Business recently heard that it is in the running to win the prestigious Business School of the Year Award at the Times Higher Education Awards.

The school, part of the Institute of Management, Law and Information, is shortlisted alongside Henley Business School (University of Reading), Northampton Business School (Northampton University), the Open University Business School, Salford Business School (Salford University) and Sheffield Hallam's Sheffield Business School.

This is the second successive year the University has been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards. The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences scooped the 'Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology' in 2013; and the University's Planning Department was shortlisted for the Best Planning Department in the Times Higher Education's Management and Leadership Awards earlier this year. Winners of the Business School of the Year will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony on Thursday 27th November at London's Grosvenor House Hotel.

Recognising the University's progress in advancing gender equality in arts, humanities and social science careers in higher education, the University achieved Bronze level in the Equality Challenge Unit's (ECU) trial gender equality charter mark (GEM) - the first award scheme of its kind for these disciplines. The University is one of five Universities to achieve this award, the Bronze being the highest level available in this year's pilot round.

Awards aside, it's also been a very busy summer as the University has welcomed people from

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The Summer University was attended by 79 students from around Wales

2. 'Fist Bump' cleaner than a handshake



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Welcome

As summer gives way to autumn, we have another edition of *Aber Times* for your consumption.

Since the last edition of the newspaper we have had a lot to celebrate at the University that we would like to share with the community. In a fantastically feel-good week during July we had the biggest cohort of students ever to graduate from the University. As you can see from comments, there's a lot of fondness and affection held by graduates towards our town and our community goes a long way to helping establish that positive feeling.

The second edition of the newspaper coincides with, as you will notice, the welcome return of our students to Aberystwyth. Some are returning, some are heading to Ceredigion to live for the first time, fresh out of Sixth Form or College and full of enthusiasm for three years ahead. I'm sure you will share our excitement at having students back in Aber, and having new students explore and discover the huge positives the town has to offer our students.

For new students who are reading this newspaper for the first time - Welcome to Aber! We hope that you're glad to finally arrive here after what might've seemed like an age of anticipation over the summer. We hope that you will enjoy your time here and make the most of your degree at Aber, as our recent graduates will assure you, it will soon fly by.

That isn't all the good news that we have to share with you in this edition. Our Mauritius campus

has been given the go ahead by the Mauritius Tertiary Education Committee and by 2015 we'll have our first students on the island studying for their Aberystwyth University degrees.

There's much more inside and we hope you will embrace all the University has to offer over the next few months. Whether it's the fantastic offerings at our Arts Centre, coming on the back of yet another highly successful summer season production, *Sister Act*, using our catering facilities at Ta Med Da which is open to the public as well as students, or even embarking on a class at the University yourself, there's plenty that the University has to offer.

We have a calendar of events which run throughout the year and are open to the community, which has over the last few years included lectures by BBC Economics Editor Robert Peston, former SDP leader Lord David Owen and many other public figures. To sign up for updates on those, please email the address below.

As always, we welcome feedback on our newspaper. If you have any ideas or thoughts, please do get in touch by email or post at the address provided underneath.

Tell us what you think, get in touch:

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'Fist bump' greeting cleaner than handshake

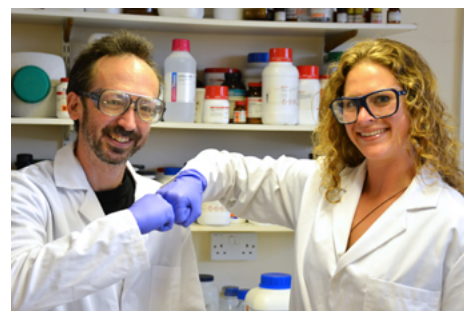
Research and experiments published in the *American Journal of Infection Control*, have revealed that bumping fists may be a more hygienic greeting than the traditional handshake.

Senior lecturer in IBERS, Dr Dave Whitworth and PhD student Sara Mela carried out the research, dipping rubber gloves into E. coli before conducting tests involving handshakes, high fives and fist-bumps, and results indicated that the transfer of potentially disease-causing bacteria is highest during a handshake.

The amount of bacteria passed on was halved when high-fived compared to a handshake, and the transfer of germs was 90% lower when bumping fists.

The more sanitary nature of the greeting may be due to its speed, traditionally quicker than a handshake, but because there is also smaller area involved.

Direct contact is needed for most microbes to move, so minimising parts of the hand that touch gives bacteria less chance to spread.



The study also showed that a stronger handshake increased the amount of bacteria shared.

Speaking of the findings, Dr Whitworth said "People rarely think about the health implication of shaking hands. If the general public could be encouraged to fist-bump, there is general potential to reduce the spread of infectious diseases".

"The fist bump: A more hygienic alternative to the handshake" by Sara Mela, BSc and David E. Whitworth, PhD appears in the *American Journal of Infection Control* (Volume 42, Issue 8 (August 2014) and can be found by visiting - www.ajicjournal.org

Aber's Summer of success



Continued from front page

across the globe to study at the University's range of summer schools and courses, and an array of externally arranged conferences.

A highlight includes the Centre for Widening Participation and Inclusion's Summer University that welcomed 79 students to Aberystwyth for a six-week course aimed at individuals who are at least 17 years old and can demonstrate the commitment and motivation to successfully complete the programme. The individuals are from a school or college in a Welsh Communities First Area, or from a care/care leaver background, or are the first in their family or community to go to university. Recognising their success, a Graduation Ceremony was held on 22 August, and we look forward to welcoming 23 of the



Sister Act played to packed crowds

2013 Summer University graduates back to the University as undergraduates this academic year.

The University's final year students were welcomed back to the University during the second week of July as we all celebrated in their success during Graduation week. Whilst Graduation is a glittering and glamorous event, more of which can be seen on page 7, visitors to Aberystwyth Arts Centre were treated to a feast of glitter and a show to remember with the fantastic *Sister Act*. With a packed audience, and numerous standing ovations, the summer show also received rave reviews from acclaimed critics, showing that Aber can certainly attract an audience!

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Tachwedd 29 October
8pm £17

Y SELAR
CANDELAS, CASTRO A MWY
Medi 26 September 8pm £5
SWNAMI, YR EIRA A MWY
Hydref 31 October 8pm £5
GWENNO A MWY
Tachwedd 27 November 8pm £5

ABERTOIR
GWYL ARSWYD
RYNGWLADOL CYMRU
WALES' INTERNATIONAL
HORROR FESTIVAL
Tachwedd 11-16 November

ROSS NOBLE 15
Dydd Gwener | Friday
Tachwedd 14 November
8pm £25

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PLUS MANY MORE
COMEDY AND LIVE MUSIC
SHOWS



Full steam ahead for Mauritius Campus



The Indian-Ocean island of Mauritius is east of the African continent and 700 miles from Madagascar

Aberystwyth University's Mauritius campus has been formally given the 'go-ahead' by the Mauritius Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), meaning that the campus can now be established.

Following the announcement earlier this year of the University's ambition to open the campus, the University's Senate approved plans for the branch campus, which will be starting to accept students from 2015 onwards for courses in the School of Management and Business, and aims to gain approval to deliver courses in Law and Computer Science.

The arrangement would see students at the University's Mauritius campus enjoying the same status as their counterparts at Aberystwyth, and they would receive Aberystwyth University degrees on completion of their studies.

There will also be scope in the future for students at Aberystwyth who want to spend time at the Mauritius campus to do so.

The campus is currently under construction, at Quartier Militaire, 12km inland from Port Louise. Future plans include building student residences, enabling a higher number of students to study at the branch campus.

By establishing a branch campus in Mauritius, Aberystwyth University will become the highest-ranking overseas University to operate in the country.

Vice-Chancellor Professor April McMahon, speaking at the time of the announcement said "The Government of Mauritius has ambitious plans to establish the country as an international knowledge hub and attract 100,000 students to study there over the next 10 years. At Aberystwyth University we look forward to working with the Government's Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology and Boston Campus Ltd to help realise this vision."

"This development sits squarely with our strategic aims of 'Creating opportunities' and 'Engaging the world' by 'pursuing collaboration nationally and globally'. The Aberystwyth University Mauritius campus offers an excellent example of how we can enable those who value the quality of a UK degree to study at a regional hub or partner institution in a way that is affordable and accessible to them."

Mauritius, well known for being the island once home to the now-extinct Dodo, was a British colony for over 150 years after being captured from the French in 1810. However in 1965, the Wilson Government announced its intentions to give independence to the island at

the Lancaster Conference, and did so with the Indian Ocean nation holding its first elections for an independent leader in 1968. Just under 25 years later in 1992, Mauritius was proclaimed a Republic within the Commonwealth.

Aber's international connections

The soon to be established branch campus isn't the only international connection Aber has to its name. A memorandum of understanding was signed in August with the Federal Polytechnic of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

The understanding forms the basis for the development of a series of joint programmes on areas such as food security being considered between Ado-Ekiti and IBERS.

A strong presence is also held in Asia, Aber having international partners in China, with Northwest University and Wenzheng College of Soochow University, as well as links with the Japanese educational institutions of Tsuda College and Tokai Gakuen University.

NSS scores maintained and improved

Students at Aberystwyth University have shown an increased level of satisfaction with the quality of learning resources and teaching, as well as maintaining the overall level of student satisfaction according to 2014 National Student Survey (NSS) results.

The NSS is an annual survey taken from final year undergraduate students, aiming to help prospective higher education students make more informed choices about the Universities they will join, and foster a culture of continuous improvement across the Higher Education sector.

An 83% overall level of student satisfaction was maintained for the second year in a row, ahead of the University of Wales Trinity St. David's, University of South Wales and Glyndwr University. An improvement of 2% was noted in the quality of teaching on their course, increasing to 86% compared to last year. Satisfaction with learning resources also improved to 82%.

Departments with high overall satisfaction ratings included International Politics, Geography and Earth Sciences, Welsh and Mathematics, while Computer Science, Sport and Exercise Science and Psychology all registered significant increases in the quality of teaching.

Speaking of the results, Pro-Vice Chancellor Rebecca Davies said "This year's NSS clearly shows that students are beginning to reap the benefits of the new facilities that are coming on stream at Aberystwyth University.

"More than £8m is being invested in new teaching and learning facilities. A £3m investment programme to upgrade teaching rooms on the Penglais campus is underway; this is in addition to the £5m already invested in new teaching and learning facilities during 2013, including a major upgrade to the University's Llanbadarn Campus.

"Our students tell us that they love Aber, and our graduates, both recent and of old, hold the University dear. The University is addressing many years of underinvestment in key areas affecting the student experience and this year's NSS shows that we are well on the way to restoring Aberystwyth's reputation as one of the best places in the world to be a student."



OPINION:

The World comes to Wales: The NATO Conference and its impact on the politics of tomorrow



It's not often the world comes to Wales, but it did in 2014. For a few sunny days in September the global spotlight descended on Wales as the most powerful world leaders in the West gathered for the NATO Summit in Cardiff and Newport.

Traditionally, NATO gatherings of this kind are not hugely memorable, but this time it was very different. The world was, and remains, facing a cascade of pressing crises, from open fighting between Russia and Ukraine in Europe to the rise of the brutal Islamic State in the Middle East and also a rapidly spreading Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Against this backdrop, the pressure on global leaders, especially President Obama of the United States was palpable, as the world looked to NATO for solutions to these problems, just as it was preparing to withdraw from the long and challenging operation in Afghanistan.

NATO is sixty-five years old. It has come a long way from the military alliance conceived during the Cold War to face the threat posed by the Soviet Union. Initially, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was little more than a paper alliance as war weary nations in Europe struggled to meet commitments to fund it. Over the course of the Cold War, however, NATO evolved into the premier military alliance in the West with innovative strategies, formations and equipment to deal with the conventional superiority of the Warsaw Pact.

By the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall, questions were asked about NATO's utility in the post-Cold War world and some even pondered whether it had a future. Nevertheless, NATO survived, adapted and swelled to 28 member states. In 2001, for example, an extraordinary, but often overlooked event occurred in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks when it invoked Article 5 (an attack on one member is an attack on them all) to support the United States. Furthermore, NATO went to war in the twenty-first century or in modern terms engaged in major combat

operations when it took command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan in 2003.

Today, the NATO Summit in Wales represents perhaps the most important meeting of its kind since the Cold War with some impressive proposals tailored to meet the new threats. First, NATO has committed itself to creating a 'spearhead' reaction force of approximately 4,000 troops (with the UK is contributing 1,000 personnel to it) to deploy anywhere in the world in 48 hours to five days. Ostensibly, this appears quite slow, but compared to NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps of the 1990s that took a month to deploy, this is actually a very important augmentation in capability. Second, the summit urged members to commit themselves to 2% spending of GDP on defence.

On the face of it, it seems modest, but in view that the UK spends around £34 billion on defence each year and would have to increase its spending in the future to meet this target, then it is actually a sizeable commitment of resources for nations still struggling to emerge from the recent global financial crisis. Most importantly, the summit in Wales dealt with how to respond to a resurgent Russia that seems intent on carving up Ukraine and also, quietly behind the scenes, representatives of ten 'core coalition' nations discussed strategies about how to tackle the Islamic State that will become apparent over the next few weeks. The Welsh NATO Summit is a moment in history, not only because it was enormously successful and an event that Wales should be proud of, but it was also the time when NATO turned once more to face a major military threat on the European continent and also started to shift towards meeting the threat of the new global challenges of the twenty-first century.

Dr Alastair Finlan is a lecturer at the Department of International Politics specialising in Strategic Studies

To learn more about the Department visit <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/interpol/>

Aber Academy learning platform announced

Cutting edge technology is now available to staff members to enrich the student learning experience, after the 'Aber Academy' centre was opened by the University.

Aber Academy represents an investment of £200,000 in training for members of staff on how to use technology effectively, a space to exchange ideas and facilities such as a media lab and recording studio. Equipment such as cameras, camcorders and microphones can be used and borrowed by staff to aid with the delivery of lectures, research of presentations.

The project has been formulated largely in response to feedback from students given in the NSS (National Student Survey), the annual Information Services Users Survey and learner experience studies undertaken in 2010 and 2013.

Responses from students to the surveys indicated that they were looking for more audio and video content, and a richer virtual and interactive learning experience.

The £200,000 investment for the creation of the Academy has been jointly funded by Aberystwyth University and the CADARN Learning Portal. CADARN Learning Portal promotes and facilitates technology enhanced learning across higher education institutions in Wales.

Professor John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Experience and International explains "I'm delighted with this new facility and with the new equipment that our staff members will have access to in future to help them develop great learning and teaching materials.

"Aberystwyth has an aspiration to lead the way when it comes to teaching and learning excellence and the Academy will help us achieve that goal."

This investment comes in addition to over £100m set to be invested in major projects at the University, including £45m on Fferm Penglais which is due to open its doors in November, £35m on an innovation and enterprise campus at the Goggerdan Campus and £20m on the redevelopment in the iconic Old College, the home of Wales' first University College.

RNLI announced as Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year



Photo by RNLI

After a week of voting by staff and students for the 2014/15 Vice Chancellor's Charity of the Year, it was announced during July's Graduation Week that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) had won the ballot.

The RNLI, founded in 1824 is tasked with saving lives at sea and provides a 24-hour search and rescue service in the UK and Ireland with 236 lifeboat stations, including ones at Aberystwyth. As part of their 40,000 volunteers, the RNLI also have over 1000 lifeguards on duty on over 180 beaches in the U.K.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor April McMahon said "I'm delighted to announce that our staff and students have chosen as our Charity of the Year for 2014-15, the Aberystwyth Lifeboat and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the RNLI.

"A number of our staff and students already volunteer with the RNLI, and they're variously involved in training, supporting and working as crew members. As a University, we're now looking forward to working closely with the Aberystwyth Lifeboat and the RNLI team over the next 12 months to help promote their activities and excellent work."

Internet censorship debated at symposium



Academics, government and industry representatives from around the world attended the symposium

A thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating symposium on censorship of the internet took place on Wednesday 10th- Thursday 11th September.

'Internet Jurisdiction Symposium: National Law v Global Online Communications – Re-Negotiating Westphalia?' was organised by Dr Uta Kohl from the Department of Law and Criminology, and was held jointly between Law & Criminology and International Politics department at Aberystwyth University.

Sponsored by Google Inc and Aberystwyth University, the symposium brought together academics from disciplines such as law, politics, media studies and human geography, as well as representatives from industry, government and non-governmental organisations.

The two-day event held on the Llanbadarn Campus consisted of several panels on various subjects with four speakers on a panel on the topic of 'Erecting Cyber-Borders to Uphold National or Regional Law: 'Free Speech' versus Cultural Diversity/National Identity'.

Dr Melissa Aronczyk of Rutgers University, USA speaking through a video link spoke of 'Nation Branding', the idea that states are now employing marketing consultancy firms in a bid to reshape the public image of their nation. She spoke of the case of Poland who 're-branded' aiming to make their integration into the EU far easier, which was helped by the sway of public opinion backing the change, after it was marketed to citizens as necessary in order for the country to benefit.

The control that the U.S. Government has on the online gambling market was then outlined by Professor Christine Young from Brigham Young University, USA. Until recently American legislation banned gambling online as it was claimed that it was hard to legislate, monitor and regulate. While some online gambling websites

moved abroad to nations such as Antigua to avoid being shut down, the Government clamped down by making it illegal for PayPal, banks and credit cards to process any payments resulting from online gambling. Eventually the U.S. permitted intra-state gambling. This was an example of a cyber-border being erected in the name of protection.

Dr. Kohl then spoke on the idea that 'Internet is anarchy' and an ungoverned space. Her talk stated that while the internet is regulated by national law; contract, copyright etc. it is difficult for them to force their law on the peoples of another nation, that due to the accessibility of the information highway, can just as equally threaten or break copyright of somebody in a different state. Therefore due to this lack of ability to police and regulate, some consider the internet anarchy. However she argued that because the internet and those that use it are doing so in a physical world, there are laws that govern and a state of anarchy doesn't exist.

Finally Martin Hochhuth, lecturer at University of Freiburg, spoke of the 'information ecosystem' which is a term he used to some effect to describe the "living, complex and fragile" system of the internet. His talk was centred on the belief that where there was a need for an impartial court or body, which has only been previously possible through states. Drawing attention to the worst effect that defamation can cause, he talked about the example of Freidrich Ebert, the German President of 1919-1925 who died, Hochhuth said, as a result of attacks by the press when courts gave Ebert no protection.

This panel discussion was one of six held over the two days and was attended by students as well as academics. Ursula Oliver, a recent graduate in International Politics who returned for the Conference said "It was a great opportunity to network with other people interested in the same research as myself, but what made it particularly successful was the multidisciplinary nature of the symposium - it was a great way to view a similar topic from multiple view points and it allowed for a deeper discussion"

Antarctic glaciers melting faster than ever

Increased snowfall will not prevent the continued melting of glaciers in the northern Antarctic Peninsula, according to new research published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

An international team of researchers, which includes Professor Neil Glasser from Aberystwyth University, has discovered that small glaciers that end on land around the Antarctic Peninsula are highly vulnerable to slight changes in air temperature and may be at risk of disappearing within 200 years.

Temperatures are currently rising rapidly in the Antarctic Peninsula. Because warmer air holds more moisture, the amount of snowfall has also increased. Some researchers have suggested that this may offset the melting of the glaciers in the future. However, this study found that even small increases in air temperature increased melting so much that even large amounts of extra snowfall could not prevent glacier recession.

The researchers used a combination of glacier and climate modelling, glacial geology and ice-core data. They carried out extensive fieldwork on James Ross Island, northern Antarctic Peninsula, to map and analyse the changes to a 4km long glacier over the past 10,000 years.

Dr Bethan Davies, from Royal Holloway, University of London, who led the research said: "Geological evidence from previous studies suggests that the glacier grew by 10km within the last 5,000 years, before shrinking back to its current position. However, our study shows that this growth actually occurred during the colder 'Little Ice Age', reaching its largest size just 300 years ago."

Professor Neil Glasser said: "We found that this glacier remained roughly the same size for thousands of years during the Holocene period, until it started to grow again 1,500 years ago. However, it is now melting faster than anything seen before, and over the next 200 years will become far smaller than at any point over the last 10,000 years.

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Aberystwyth, 'Town and Gown' and World War One



The memorial to those who were killed in the conflict is currently mounted in the Old College Quad

As a conflict on an unprecedented scale, the First World War affected people both in Aberystwyth and the University, shaping both, as it did the entire world, for years to come.

The all too familiar story of young men signing up for the army as soon as war broke out was true of the students and townspeople of Aberystwyth. A tribute in *The Dragon* student newspaper to Lieutenant Thomas Roberts of the 3rd Battalion Cheshire Regiment spoke of a "well-known member of the O.T.C. (Officers' Training Corps) who had obtained a Rugby cap the previous year, and had applied for Commission as soon as war had broken out." Before even the war had rumbled on for a year, Roberts was killed in action on May 24th 1915.

Philip Chattaway, holder of the Price Davies Scholarship at the University succumbed to the same fate. Despite being under the age for military service at the time, he joined the Cheshire Regiment in April 1915, a battalion of which was quartered in Aberystwyth. Six months later he was dead, killed whilst leading his men back to British lines after an attack on an enemy position.

The memorial for students who fell in the war is now in the Old College Quad having been originally mounted on the wall in the Students' Union in Laura Place and lists the 102 names of students who didn't return after signing up to fight for their country. The memorial can be viewed during normal Old College opening hours.

Of course there were those that returned from the battlefields of continental Europe and some went on to accomplish great things. The founder of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Ifan ab Owen Edwards, served in France and founded the organisation in 1922, which today is one of Europe's largest youth movements with over 50,000 members. Thomas Iorwerth Ellis, son of MP Thomas Edward Ellis returned from the front to become an academic, teacher and author,

founding the Undeb Cymru Fydd (Young Wales Union) and being awarded an OBE in 1968.

However it wasn't just a drop in the number of students (to around 250 during the war) that affected the University, but a notable member of staff was an unconventional victim of the war. Hermann Ethé was a German national, a languages scholar and polymath with an internationally renowned reputation, who joined the University in 1875. Despite his linguistic ability (he was fluent in six languages) he never learnt Welsh, saying the only Welsh word he needed to know was 'cwrw' (Beer).

In the years after the unification of the German states, Ethé was considered too liberal to live in Bismarck's embryonic German state and therefore had taken up residence in Aberystwyth forty years earlier. As war broke, Ethé and his wife were abroad, and were only allowed back into Britain after the College authorities had intervened on his behalf. However such was the "spy mania" that ruled public life in the early stages of the war, that soon a lynch mob assembled, proceeded up Caradoc Road to Ethé's house and there were angry scenes outside.

Luckily the eminent academic was not at home at the time, but they were soon driven out to Reading to stay with family. The Principal, Registrar and others paid Ethé a £200 stipend in lieu of the wage he would have otherwise received, as his money was tied up in German and Hungarian bank accounts. He had hoped to return after the war but he died in 1917, never to fulfil his wish to return to rural Cardiganshire. In the words of historian Edward Ellis, "he was a casualty of the war just as certainly as any young soldier killed at the front".

The town's population was swelled by the 9,000 troops that were stationed in the town by December 1914 changed the demographic dramatically. They were soon supplemented in the swelling of the town's population by Belgian refugees who were brought over by the prominent Davies family of Llandinam and the public welcome reception both at the train station and later at the Queen's Hotel 'beat the Royal visit' according to those present.

Although the college downsized during the wartime years, the philanthropic theme in the history of the University continued. Gwendoline Davies, the granddaughter of David Davies of Llandinam went to France to work in a Red Cross canteen for wounded soldiers. Fearing she would not return, she gave the University between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 which enabled the College to go from strength to strength in the years following the war.

It wasn't just in numbers, or in tangible concrete ways that the University changed as a result of the war. Soldiers returned from the front, after fighting for the liberty of their nation, to a University with attitudes largely decided by Puritan teachers and found that these traditional values were out of sync with their expectations. The attitudes soon began to change, and subsequently the first ever Students' Union in Laura Place building was bought and equipped, funded by the Old Students Association as a joint memorial to the founders of the College and those who had fallen during the War. The Principal J.H. Davies, Prince Edward of Wales and David Davies of Llandinam opened the building on 30th October 1923. To commemorate the event, a statue of the Prince

was erected and remains today the only public statue of him in Britain.

Aside from the long-term legacy that the new Students' Union building gave the University, one of the biggest changes to the academic landscape of the University was established in direct response to the war, with the foundation of the International Politics department. David Davies returned from the conflict and his experiences compelled him to put money forward to establish the 'Woodrow Wilson Chair of International Politics' position, hoping to attract "the best international scholar the world possesses."

Both the new Students' Union and the new Chair of International Politics have left long-lasting legacies for generations of Aber students to benefit from and experience. But they were also fitting tributes to those that fought and were killed, somewhere that would be a focal point of student life, for students to gather, to talk and form life-long bonds as well as an academic chair to persuade the students of tomorrow that war on such a scale should never happen again. Twenty years later and events in Europe went on to prove sadly, that wasn't the case.

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Aber 'Class of 2014' graduate



3000 graduates had degrees conferred to them during Graduation Week in July

Families, friends and supporters watched as over 3000 graduates and eleven fellows, including comedian Rhod Gilbert and BBC Middle East Correspondent Jeremy Bowen, had degrees and fellowships conferred to them during a series of ceremonies throughout Graduation Week on 14th-18th July.

The ceremonies, held in Aberystwyth Arts Centre, saw the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor April McMahon awarding degrees to the largest cohort of students to ever graduate from the University.

Speaking to those present at the ceremonies, University Chancellor Sir Emyr Jones-Parry described it as a "special day for us all, a culmination of many years of hard work" leaving graduates with advice of "aim low, achieve low, aim high and it's amazing what can be done" ringing in their ears.

The week's events were a reminder of the international appeal of Aberystwyth University to prospective students, with students from around the world graduating. Hynek Janousek from the Czech Republic, who graduated in Celtic Studies from the Department of Welsh, said "I've always been interested in Celtic Languages and wanted to study their literatures in original languages.

"In Aberystwyth I found a community where I could learn and use Irish and Breton on a daily basis in academic as well as social contexts. Upon graduation, I realise how fortunate I have been and that I have achieved something special. I am really looking forward to another year in this wonderful town".

Jeremy Bowen, who was unable to attend due to the on-going situation in Israel and Palestine where he was reporting, sent a video message extolling the virtues of Higher Education to those in the ceremony. He said: "I'm really sorry not to be able to come in person to pick up my fellowship, because I was really honoured to receive it and to be asked and I was looking forward to today. But it's sadly a defining fact of my working life that often I don't make it to things.

"In this particular place there are people who do manage to do well at school and to go on

and get a good education, in fact, one of my colleagues here, a Gazan colleague of mine has been saying that his niece just got 96% in a very important exam.

"But, sadly in this place and in so many others of the places that I get to in the Middle East, there are lots of people who don't get educational opportunities. So there is something really to savour, because, as you all know, otherwise you wouldn't have worked this hard, by the time you get those opportunities, and by the time you get your education you really can benefit.

Details from graduation and videos of the ceremonies can be found at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/graduation-2014/>

A packed end of year programme awaits guests at Aberystwyth Arts Centre with a high calibre of theatre productions, musicals, comedic and music performances coming to Ceredigion between now and 2015.

Comedian Mark Watson, known for appearances on *Mock the Week* and BBC Radio 5 Live's *Fighting Talk* brings his "darkest and most personal show yet", 'Flaws' to Aberystwyth Arts Centre on 29th October with tickets priced at £17. Just over a fortnight later, on back-to-back nights Ross Noble and Alan Davies visit the Arts Centre on the 14th and 15th November. Hailing from Newcastle, Noble ranked 11th in Channel 4's poll of the 100 greatest stand-ups in 2010, and has since appeared with some success on *Have I Got News for You*. Alan Davies, best known for his time as detective Jonathan Creek on BBC1, presents 'Little Victories' to an Aberystwyth audience the following day, tickets prices starting at £20.



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Serving:

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Our award winning restaurant offers quality food and value for money.

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- | | |
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(situated in the IBERS building)

Open: 9.00am-5.00pm (Mon-Fri)

IBERbach coffee shop offers a wide range of sandwiches, panini, cakes, cold drinks and speciality teas and coffee. Great place to sit and relax between games.



Gwasanaethau Croeso - Hospitality Services

Autumn season at Aberystwyth Arts Centre gets underway



A fine arrangement of Theatre and Music is also on the bill at the Arts Centre. Now in their 25th year, Mid Wales Opera present *Carmen* on 8th October; the opera tells the story of Carmen who seduces the naïve Don José. A brand new production of the classic, performed with a live orchestra – it promises to be a must for opera fans old or new.

Another musical performance to watch out for is the visit of the renowned BBC National Orchestra Wales on November 28th playing pieces by composers Mathias, Elgar, Stanford and Mendelssohn. Talent from closer to home is also

being showcased, at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance Concert, with the Aberystwyth Silver Band, Sgarmes and the Penglais School Jazz Band performing on 6th November, with all profits going to the Poppy Appeal.

For a more sombre showcasing of artistic talent, Sculptor Tim Shaw RA's exhibition 'Black Smoke Rising' is in the Gallery from 4th October – 18th November. The centrepiece of the display is 'Casting a Dark Democracy' inspired by the image of a hooded man being tortured in Abu Ghraib, first seen a decade ago. This image of humanity remains potent, sobering and the exhibition speaks of human conflict through the ages. A chance to speak to Tim Shaw and curator Indra Khanna is available on 3rd October at 6:30pm and is free.

As Christmas draws ever closer, a theatre productions take on the classic film *'Miracle on 34th Street'* is being performed at the Arts Centre between 18th and 23rd December. The all singing, all dancing adaptation is something for all the family and promises to get everybody in the mood for the festive season. Tickets start at £12 with a Family Ticket for four (Two adults, two children) available for £36, a welcome holiday saving of £8.

In Pictures: Fferm Penglais

The new £45 million halls of residence development Fferm Penglais is set to open this term

There's a hive of activity on Penglais Hill as the Fferm Penglais residences are being finalised.

The 1000 bedroom development will provide students with a high quality living environment, including a 4ft 6 bed, en-suite facilities and large communal kitchens and living spaces. Also included in the development are 100 studio flats, which may appeal to the postgraduates studying at the University. The bedrooms will be fitted out to a high standard, and the accommodation is set to be the best on offer in terms of size and quality for Aberystwyth students.

Readers will more that likely be aware that the University was informed by Balfour Beatty at the end of July that the initial phase of the development, due to be ready for this September, will be somewhat delayed.

Whilst this is disappointing news for the University, Balfour Beatty has provided assurances that the initial 14 residential blocks of the development, together with the communal hub building, will be delivered this term.

Students who originally had a place at the new development have been offered a choice of suitable alternative accommodation, either on a temporary basis, or for the full academic year.

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student and Staff Services, Rebecca Davies, explains: "We are pleased that we have been able to work with our students, and the Students' Union, to ensure that any student affected by the delay is adequately supported in finding alternative accommodation. Whilst the delay has been somewhat disruptive, we are pleased that we have managed to provide students with a range of options for their accommodation within University residences and the town. Neither the students affected, nor the University, have been left out of pocket by the delay, for which Balfour Beatty has apologised.

"It is important to us that we do not compromise on the quality of the development in order to meet a deadline, the £45m investment is a substantial one for the University and demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the highest possible student experience for years to come."



One of the modern communal spaces available



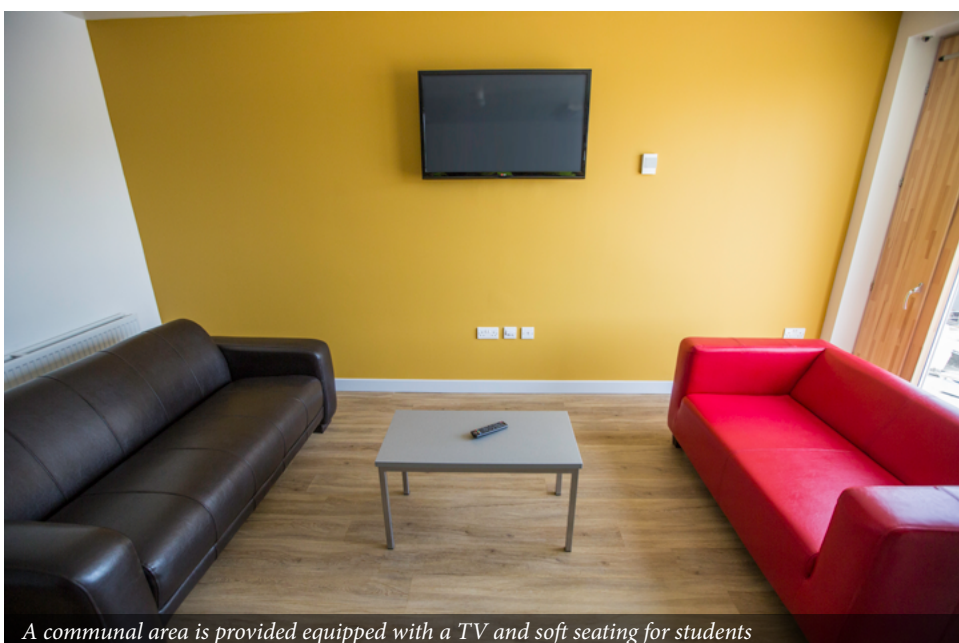
Each room has an en-suite bathroom



Each bedroom is equipped with a 4ft 6 bed



The spacious kitchens feature two fitted cookers



A communal area is provided equipped with a TV and soft seating for students



Rooms come with a desk and shelves as part of an extensive study area