

# PROM



From Practice to  
*Penglais*

Interview with  
*Professor  
Mary  
King*



*Hateful the man who loves not the  
country that nurtured him*

## PROM 29

PROM brings together over 50,000 alumni around the world with news from Aber, our latest research and key developments across the campus.

Make sure you're getting the most out of this alumni network - see 'Stay connected' section below.

The Old College, medieval seals, alumni volunteering, our new School of Veterinary Science and lots more are packed into this latest edition.

We hope you enjoy reading Prom, as always. If you have any comments please get in touch.

### Dylan Jones

Alumni Engagement and Individual Giving Manager  
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### Stay Connected

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Dealing with the implications of a global pandemic was not on my radar when I wrote my welcome message for the last edition of PROM. However, here at Aber we have faced the challenges head-on, and our staff and students have adapted incredibly well to new ways of working and learning.

There is much to celebrate in this edition of Prom, not least the news that Aberystwyth is the best UK university for teaching quality and student experience according to *The Times / The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021* - this on top of another great performance in the National Student Survey 2021. I do hope that all our news and stimulating articles brings you further cheer as well as pride in the continued success of your University.

I am grateful to all alumni and friends who have supported us in so many ways. On p.2, we launch the exciting news of a major European Opportunities Fund providing grants for student placements in EU/EEA countries in support of our strategic objectives for student mobility. I am deeply grateful to William for donating a total of £525,000 to establish the Fund. In launching the Fund with William in 2021, we will also pay tribute to the major impact of Aberystwyth alumni in the EU and Europe. These include Honorary Fellow Hywel Ceri Jones, often referred to as the 'Father of the Erasmus programme', Gwyn Morgan, EU Ambassador to Israel and South East Asia and Honorary Fellow Aneurin (Nye) Hughes, who sadly died in 2020 following a distinguished career in the EU, including as EU Ambassador to Norway and Australia. Nye will be greatly missed by alumni friends around the world and would, I am sure, have been heartened by the news of the Fund.

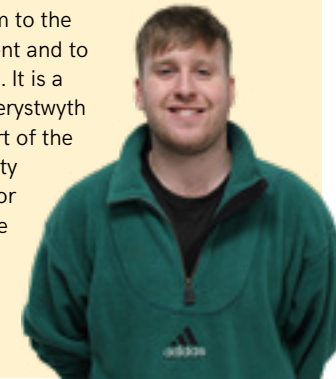
Finally, thank you to all those who responded to the alumni survey and for all the ongoing feedback we get from our alumni. As we approach our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday year in 2022/23, there will be many opportunities for you to re-join us here or meet us at an event elsewhere in the world, so do keep in touch. In the meantime, enjoy this edition of PROM.

**Professor Elizabeth Treasure**  
Vice-Chancellor

## Moc Lewis

Welsh Culture Officer & UMCA President

This year is quite different from the usual, but there is real excitement as Pantycelyn re-opens its doors and continues to be a focal point for Aber's Welsh culture. As part of the drive to reopen the Hall I was struck by the importance of our alumni community and the invaluable contribution that Pantycelyn has had over the decades. It's now our turn to write the next chapter. My aim is to try to engage UMCA with the wider University and to develop an active and vibrant Welsh language community. UMCA is here to protect the rights and interests of Welsh-speaking students and we will continue to do so by sitting on various councils and boards within the University. We are looking forward with enthusiasm to the exciting Old College development and to contributing to its Project Board. It is a unique resource to increase Aberystwyth University's presence in the heart of the town, and is a golden opportunity for everyone, whether students or residents in the area, to immerse themselves in learning, culture and creativity. It will be a huge boost to the local community as well as Wales and beyond.



## Nate Pidcock

Students' Union President

It's been exciting to welcome students back on to campus in what will be a quite different academic year. In my role I'll be making sure the student voice is heard across the University and the several committees I sit on. I'll be looking to improve all aspects of student life. One of my main aims is to work with the University to support students who are struggling with their mental health. This is a national agenda that needs our attention, made even more important following the isolation that has partnered COVID. Having benefitted from alumni funded projects myself, I recognise the importance and impact that support has on the lives of students and I look forward to further developing the support of our amazing global community of 60,000 alumni. We're excited by the Old College project and want to play our part. It will bring much needed facilities for our students in the town, creating a new hub of energy and events, bringing together students and the community to support and celebrate each other.



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## Awards and Accolades

## Best UK university for teaching quality and student experience



Aberystwyth is the best university in the UK for teaching quality and student experience, according to the *The Times / The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021*, as the University continues to climb the league tables.

Aberystwyth is ranked 1st in the UK for Student Experience and for Teaching Quality, up from 2nd last year. Aberystwyth has now been the top university in Wales for student satisfaction for five years in a row, and is now the top in the UK.

## Aberystwyth celebrates another great performance in the NSS



Aberystwyth is one of the UK's top universities for student satisfaction, according to the latest National Student Survey (NSS) which was published in July 2020.

Aberystwyth is the best university in Wales, and of all the universities featured in *The Times / Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020*, is one of the top 5 universities in the UK for overall student satisfaction.

With overall student satisfaction at 90%, Aberystwyth University outperformed the UK figure of 83% by 7 percentage points.

## Gold and silver for Aberystwyth at Whatuni student choice awards 2020



Aberystwyth University was awarded gold and silver in three of the main accolades in the 2020 Whatuni Student Choice Awards.



Aberystwyth scooped gold in the Postgraduate category for a third consecutive year. It also came top in the International category, after two years in second place. Aberystwyth also picked up a silver award in the University of the Year category, which encompasses reviews from every aspect of the student experience.

## Aberystwyth's Old College redevelopment fundraising wins global award

Aberystwyth University staff have won a prestigious global award for the first phase of their fundraising appeal to redevelop the Old College.

The relatively new Development and Alumni Relations team at the University have succeeded in raising £12.3 million towards the costs of redeveloping the iconic seaside building in the town as a major cultural and creative centre for students, the community and visitors. That fundraising helped to trigger a further £7 million from the Welsh Government and EU funding.

The fundraising efforts have now received world-wide recognition from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) with a Circle of Excellence Award.

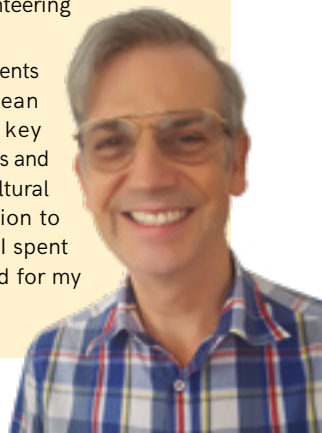
The Old College project competed with 2,752 entries from 27 countries. Explaining their decision, the judges said the Aberystwyth team had delivered: "Impressive results for a new team in a short amount of time."

Louise Jagger, Director of the Development and Alumni Relations Office at Aberystwyth University said: "Winning this prestigious award is a wonderful boost to our fundraising as we launch the next phase of our appeal towards the total project costs of £27.6 million. This is all to achieve our vision of opening a transformed Old College for the benefit of students, community and visitors as a major highlight of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2023. The award recognises the collective talent and ambition of our staff, our donors and supporters, including alumni around the world, our community and charitable trusts and foundations."

## Philanthropist creates new European Opportunities Fund for students

Thanks to the philanthropic support of William Parker (History 1981), the University will launch a new European Opportunities Fund in 2021. The £525,000 Fund will provide grants of up to £3,000 for undergraduate and Taught Masters students to fund the costs of short study, work or volunteering placements in an EU or EEA country.

William said "The Fund will enable students to continue to benefit from European experiences post-Brexit, to make key lifetime professional or social friendships and networks and help strengthen cross cultural links. I am delighted to be in a position to reward the University for the 3 years I spent studying which provided a springboard for my subsequent working career".



## Major research projects awarded funding from European Regional Development Fund

Two major research projects by Aberystwyth University and University College Cork have been awarded funding by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the INTERREG Ireland-Wales programme.



The ECHOES project will explore the effects of climate change on the habitats of two species of coastal bird in Wales and Ireland.

The 3.5 year study will look at how the habitats of the curlew and the Greenland white-fronted goose might be affected by changes in the climate and what mitigative practices can be put in place by land and site managers.

The second project, entitled Brainwaves (Bilateral Regional Accord between Ireland and Wales for Agricultural Valorisation and Environmental Sustainability), will investigate how slurry and wastewater from the dairy industry could be used to produce a high-energy, low-cost and environmentally-friendly feed for livestock.

The project aims to use farm waste to grow duckweed - a fast-growing plant biomass which can then be used as a protein source for feeding livestock.

If successful, the project will enhance the competitiveness of the beef and dairy industry in Wales and Ireland by generating an economically valuable feed as well as reducing farmers' reliance on importing protein-rich feed such as soy.

Photo: Liz Cutting, British Trust for Ornithology



## University offers free online training on domestic abuse during COVID-19

A research project in the Department of Law & Criminology has been offering free online training to frontline practitioners across the United Kingdom dealing with cases of domestic abuse among older people during the current coronavirus lockdown.

Based at the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice, the Dewis Choice project has been delivering face-to-face training on domestic violence and abuse in later life to almost 6,000 practitioners from the statutory and the third sector for the past five years.

Demand for the training increased earlier this year following widespread concern that the regulations on staying at home and self-isolating could lead to an increase in cases of domestic abuse, particularly amongst older adults and vulnerable groups.

Sarah Wydall, who leads the Dewis Choice project at Aberystwyth University, said: "The coronavirus outbreak presents considerable challenges to the health and wellbeing of the nation as a whole. However, for older people experiencing abuse by intimate partners or adult family members, the current lockdown can significantly increase the risk of harm. By offering online training and copies of our practitioner guidance, we will be able to equip frontline staff with the resources to provide the best possible response."

Dewis Choice - Transforming the Response to Domestic abuse in later life is funded by the UK Portfolio fund and Comic Relief, and is the first dedicated service to older people experiencing domestic abuse, harm and neglect.

# Creating a Centre of Excellence for Bovine Tuberculosis (CBTB) for Wales



by Professor Glyn Hewinson FLSW

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is the most pressing animal health issue for Wales today. The economic and emotional cost of bTB to rural communities can be devastating and each year it costs Welsh Government and industry over £30 million pounds.



AberTB conference - Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Professor Glyn Hewinson; Professor Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer Wales and Abi Reader MBE - current Chair of the NFU Cymru milk board and Dairy Ambassador of the Year

In an important initiative for Aberystwyth University and for Wales, Professor Glyn Hewinson FLSW, a world expert in bTB, was appointed through the Sêr Cymru II programme, to establish a Centre of Excellence for Bovine Tuberculosis in Wales.

The Sêr Cymru II programme accelerates the development of academic research expertise in Wales. It is funded by Welsh Government, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, participating Welsh Higher Education institutions and the European Regional

Development Fund and has created 12 Sêr Cymru Chairs at Welsh Universities.

The vision of this project is to provide expert independent advice to Welsh Government on the control of bTB, increase capacity for livestock research including immunology, veterinary bacteriology, genomics and molecular epidemiology in Wales and work with the best national and international research groups and institutes such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Knowledge generated from this programme will support Welsh Government and industry to reduce the costs of bTB control through improved, targeted disease control strategies.

Bovine tuberculosis is found throughout the world and is a deadly disease of cattle. Controversial measures to control bTB are often front-page news not least because of the role that one of the iconic mammals of the British countryside, the European badger, plays in spreading the disease. As a result, many of the decisions that need to be made about bTB control have to take into account



the sometimes conflicting views of different stakeholders and pressure groups.

*M. bovis* can also infect humans and its global eradication has recently become the focus of a 'One Health' initiative led by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the OIE, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (the Union) where medical and veterinary organisations work together to control diseases that infect both animals and humans.

Prof Glyn Hewinson has over 30 years of experience in bTB research. Previously he was the Chief Scientist for the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and led the bTB Research at the Agency for over 20 years. He is one of three named OIE experts in bTB and was recently one of a small team of experts who reviewed England's 25 year bTB control strategy for the UK Government. His team includes two professors of Veterinary Immunology, Prof Martin Vordermeier and Prof Bernardo Villarreal-Ramos who, between them, have over fifty years' experience in developing vaccines and diagnostic tests for bTB. They are joined by a new Lecturer in Innate Immunology, Dr Amanda Gibson who joins Aberystwyth from the Royal Veterinary College and further academic appointments will take place over the coming year.

The CBTB has already launched two annual events: a bTB discussion session at the Royal Welsh Show, where it was standing room only at the first event in 2019, and AberTB an annual conference that brings everyone interested in bTB control together from the fields of animal health, veterinary science, research, government and agriculture, to learn from each other about the latest advances in bTB control.

The establishment of the CBTB is part of a number of initiatives at Aberystwyth University to strengthen Veterinary Science in Wales. Aberystwyth is the first and only university in Wales to open a School of Veterinary Science. In collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), both Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science and the RVC will deliver and welcome the first cohort of students on the BVSc Veterinary Science degree from September 2021, part funded by generous donations from alumni. The new Head of the Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science, Prof Darrell Abernethy, has over 17 years of experience in bTB research and led a team of epidemiologists in Northern Ireland advising government agencies on bTB control strategies. In other exciting developments, work is soon to be completed on a new £4.2m state of the art veterinary hub (VetHub1) to drive forward research to protect both animal and human health. Led by Aberystwyth University and backed with a £3m grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government, VetHub1 will provide fully equipped, high-specification laboratories and office spaces.

## Bovine Tuberculosis

### Key Facts

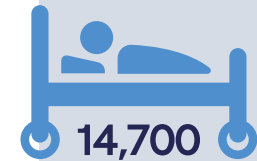


Bovine tuberculosis is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. It is closely related to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* which causes human tuberculosis.



The bacterium can also infect and cause disease in badgers, deer, goats, pigs and camelids (llamas and alpacas), as well as many other mammals.

A combination of milk pasteurisation and other control methods have reduced the number of human cases of TB caused by *M. bovis* in the UK from **50,000** in the 1930s to around **30** cases a year today.



In 2016, WHO estimated that globally there were **14,700** new human cases of TB acquired from animals and **1,200** deaths due to the disease.



At the end of June 2020, there were **596 herds** in Wales that were not officially TB free due to a bovine TB incident.

In the 12 months to June 2020, **10,823** cattle were slaughtered in Wales due to bovine TB control.



The UK has the highest level of bovine TB in Europe and it has been estimated that if the situation is left unchecked it would cost UK taxpayers **£1 billion** over the next ten years.

# 'Hateful the man who loves not the country that nurtured him'



by Dr Calista Williams

## The University College of Wales, Aberystwyth's fundraising expedition to North America, 1890.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1885 newspapers from across Wales and beyond reported on a 'Great Fire at Aberystwyth College' that had devastated the Northern Wing of the seafront building

and entirely destroyed the Library. At the time of the fire, the College had only been open for 13 years and was already struggling financially; the devastation caused by the fire placed the College in an extremely precarious position. Nevertheless, an event that could have marked the end of this fledgling institution, instead, triggered a wave of support that reached far beyond Aberystwyth. The newspaper *Y Drych*, circulated amongst the Welsh speakers of the United States, printed the College Principal's patriotic call to arms: '[t]he college has at length had its baptism of fire. It will arise from its ashes with a new life. Wales will never now let it die.'

Thomas Charles Edwards became the Principal of the College at its founding in 1872. Following the fire of 1885, he played a key role in fundraising for the rebuilding of the College. In order to raise money for the new Library, Edwards planned a personal tour of North America to take place during the summer of 1890. He chose to focus on the Library for his fundraising campaign because he thought it would appeal to the Welsh Americans as, in Edwards' words, they would want 'to furnish the new Library with complete fittings in a style equal to the very handsome equipments of the best American Colleges.' Also, the cost of the library's fixtures was estimated to be £1,000 (\$5,000), which Edwards deemed to be an achievable financial target. Importantly, the Library was a space where a public inscription could be placed to commemorate those who contributed to the building fund. Edwards made sure to tell North American donors about this planned inscription, which would read:

'Dodrefnwyd y Llyfrgell hon gan Gymry cenedlgarol yn yr Unol Daleithau ac yn Canada 1890' and included the proverb "Cas gwr na charo y wlad a'i maco" (This library was furnished by the patriotic Welshmen of the United States and Canada, 1890. Hateful the man who loves not the country that nurtured him.)



Library plaque



Library under construction

Edwards' first stop on his tour was New York. A reception was held in his honour by the St David's Society, presided over by Judge Noah Davies. Edwards lost no time in mentioning the great debt of the college and many of the Welshmen in attendance immediately pledged donations publicly at the dinner, including Noah Davies who pledged \$900.

When Edwards visited in 1890 there were just over 100,000 Welsh in America, mainly in the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. Welsh migrants arriving in America tended to join family and friends in established communities in urban-industrial areas such as Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Pittsburgh. The Calvinistic Methodist chapel culture was central to these communities, which was ideal for Edwards, himself an ordained preacher, as he was able to address large chapel congregations, without having to organise specific events.

Edwards raised approximately \$4,530 of which three-quarters came from the states of Pennsylvania, New York and California, where the average donation was just under \$12. In these areas some gave substantial amounts, such as David Edwards from Plymouth, Pennsylvania who gave \$125. David Edwards was born in Glamorganshire in 1825 and was president of Kingston Coal and director of Wilkes-Barre hospital. Although

other states gave less, such as Wisconsin, there was a high level of engagement with the fundraising campaign, with 227 people giving \$205, just under a dollar each.

On his return to Wales, Edwards reported that 'many opportunities were offered me to bring the claims of the College under the notice of Welshmen there who still cherish love for "yr hen wlad". The new Library officially opened in 1892 and the event was attended by over 300 people. At the opening Lord Aberdare said that 'the gift by the Welshmen of America was a mark of sympathy with the personal influence of Principal Edwards, and an indication of American generosity towards the cause of education...That room and its gifts from America showed that blood was much thicker than water.'

Dr Calista Williams is the Lifelong Learning Coordinator for Humanities and Science at Aberystwyth University. Her PhD was part of an innovative collaboration with The National Library of Wales entitled *The National Library of Wales and national identity, 1870-1916*. She is also a Lifelong Learning tutor and freelance genealogist. From October 2020, Calista's history and genealogy courses will be available to study online. Find out more here: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning/courses)

Email: [caw52@aber.ac.uk](mailto:caw52@aber.ac.uk)

# New Life for Old College: Appeal update



by Louise Jagger  
Director, Development and Alumni Relations

Our plans for the £27.6 million transformation of Old College have continued at a pace since our last update in Prom on the launch of our 2020/23 delivery phase. I am pleased to report that the project remains on track. Old College will throw open its doors to students, community and visitors in spring 2023 as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrations, heralding an exciting new chapter for the University and town.

Our vision has become even more important and relevant in these challenging and uncertain times since March 2020. A transformed Old College will deliver much needed resources for our students, the University and our town and help strengthen the University's reputation in an increasingly competitive and global Higher Education sector.

*You can read about the vital importance of the project to our resilience in the passionate Appeal letter from our two Student Union Presidents enclosed with your Prom magazine.*

Under the leadership of Project Manager, Jim O' Rourke, staff and teams of external specialists are working hard to pull together the many moving parts of the project to ensure building works start in June 2021.

Our design plans have been commended for their innovation in delivering creative spaces and solutions whilst preserving all that is so special about the building. You can see the latest design images on key spaces on our website [www.aber.ac.uk/oldcollege](http://www.aber.ac.uk/oldcollege)

## Examples of donor recognition opportunities

**The Library | £1,000 +**

Dummy 'Acoustic' books on upper level

50mm Standard size

Books positioned at plinth level and between 1.9M to 3.4M  
1038No. Books on lower level if 'standard size' at 50mm width.

**Named Seating | £2,000 - £5,000**

Sponsor example 1

£2,000 Laboratory of Curiosities

Sponsor example 2

£5,000 UK's first Centre for Dialogue

£3,000 'Y Sgrin' Cinema

£3,000 'Y Sgrin' Cinema

Please visit

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/old-college/donor-recognition](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/old-college/donor-recognition)  
for the full range of donor recognition opportunities

## Be part of our vision and support the Old College 2020/23 Appeal

We have already raised £1.1 million of our £3 million Appeal target, thanks to early and generous donations from over a thousand alumni and friends around the world, and support from the Old Students' Association. With your continued help, we are confident that we can achieve our target and make our vision a reality for our students and staff and for all those who care so much about the University and town.

The Old College Appeal will remain an urgent fundraising priority for my team and our Students Union. We will be inviting alumni and friends to join together and to donate whatever they can to our campaigns over the next three years. All gifts will make a difference and we can help increase them by 25% if you are a UK

tax payer. Details of what your gifts would fund and how they can be recognised at Old College can be found at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/old-college/donor-recognition](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/old-college/donor-recognition)

You can donate by returning the enclosed Appeal form or by donating online at [www.aber.ac.uk/appeal](http://www.aber.ac.uk/appeal). Please contact us on 01970 62 1568 to discuss a donation, donor recognition and for ideas on how your reunion group or networks could 'crowdfund' a donation and be permanently celebrated in Old College. We would also be grateful for any further ideas on Trusts we could approach.

Thank you in advance for your support.  
Louise



We continue to work and refine activity plans with a wide range of groups through the Construction phase including: Academic departments, Students Union, Youth Board, our local community and our project partners National Museum Wales, Hay Festival and National Library of Wales.

### Key project milestones

- **September 2020** - Mather and Co appointed to develop the exhibitions across six galleries
- **October 2020** - completely empty the building of furniture, art works and archives
- **December 2020** - complete construction designs and Listed Building Consent application
- **June 2021** - construction work to start on site
- **April 2022** - appoint Old College Director and other staff
- **January 2023** - final fit out to open in Spring 2023

## Alumni Volunteering

Whatever stage you're at in your career, volunteering is a fantastic way to give back to your University.

We're incredibly grateful to over 300 Aber alumni around the world who volunteered during 2019-20. You help us to enhance the student experience, improve career prospects, offer industry insights, and provide valuable advice and guidance to the University and our departments.

As volunteers, you continue to inspire, guide and advise the next generation of Aber graduates.

Contact us at [alumni@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@aber.ac.uk) to learn more about volunteering opportunities.

### Student Mentoring

In 1961 alumnus Peter Hancock was awarded a scholarship that enabled him to successfully complete his Geology degree and set him on course for a successful global academic and business career. In recognition of the help he received as a student, Peter and his partner and fellow Aber graduate Pat Pollard gave more than £500,000 to the University in 2015 to establish 'The Peter Hancock Scholarship Fund'.

In addition to the financial support scholars are afforded tailored mentoring programme. Canada based alumnus Doug Pollard is one of the 16 volunteer mentors to date.

"Sixty years after entering Aber, I was invited to mentor a student. It proved to be a worthwhile assignment. Feeling our way into the relationship both mentee and I discovered mutual interests. He did well and is currently working on his PhD at the University of Hong Kong on one of the world's critical problems, clean water supply. We continue to stay in touch, and I am glad that I was able to encourage his personal and professional development through the sharing of knowledge and expertise."

### Career eMentoring

A big thank you to our alumni who have signed up to the eMentoring scheme, it continues to grow with 114 new e-mentors in 2020 alone.

We are still keen to broaden the sectors, organisations and people represented on the scheme; especially in areas of the Sciences, Creative Arts, Healthcare and the Public sector.

eMentoring has been a valuable service during the impact of the global pandemic. Mentees can be

### Community Projects

People's Voices in a People's War: Aberystwyth 1939-1945 is a new community project led by the Department of History and Welsh History and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It brings together the University, National Library of Wales, Ceredigion Archives, Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, local schools, performance and heritage groups, and residents, to bring alive the experience of being at war 80 years ago.

The project will tell the story of Aberystwyth in WWII through performances, exhibitions and special events. An online blog will provide a forum for community research by project volunteers given training in local archives to pursue their own stories of the war.

If you would like to participate, or have memories or stories of the war and its impact on the town or university, please contact Project Lead Dr Siân Nicholas [shn@aber.ac.uk](mailto:shn@aber.ac.uk)

### International Support

Aber alumni live in over 150 countries worldwide representing a truly global community. We are grateful to our network of International Alumni Representatives who have helped to raise the profile of the University to support our goals for international recruitment and partnerships. We also appreciate the support of international alumni who volunteer their help in planning and promoting our alumni events abroad with particular thanks to the Alumni Club of Malaysia for their volunteer support over many decades.

mentored by our alumni wherever they are in the world. Your advice, guidance and much-needed encouragement for students and graduates whose placements or job offers have been withdrawn has been incredibly important.

If you think you could mentor our students, you can get more information on eMentoring and on how to sign up in the link below.

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/sscs/careers/building-network/ementoring](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/sscs/careers/building-network/ementoring)

### Alumni Survey

Thank you to all our alumni that gave their time to complete the survey, your feedback is so important to help guide future activities.



Over 1,400 of you completed the survey

Just under 90% of you felt a connection towards Aberystwyth University and 97% felt informed of our activities and developments.

Your most preferred news topics are updates from your old Academic



Department, latest Research and Innovation projects and the History of the University and memories.



76% are interested in returning to Aber for a reunion/celebration

93% were likely to attend an alumni event of some sort either virtually or in person

43% of you would like to get involved with volunteering of some sort



## Old Students' Association



by Gwenda Sippings  
OSA President 2018-21

In these past months, like many of you, I've had time forced upon me to do things I might not otherwise have prioritised. Like looking back through memories of my time as a student in Aberystwyth, long before I became a full time resident here again after retirement. In papers in cupboards, in photo albums and online I've found items to prompt memories of studies and socialising. I fell in love with Aber as a student, and benefitted hugely from what I learnt here to prepare me for my career in Librarianship and Education (which later turned into an excellent combination for Knowledge Management), and for life in a range of different organisations in different sectors. I joined the OSA as a Life Member when I graduated, and enjoyed receiving updates at my home in London on what the Association was doing, and how Aberystwyth was faring. Only several years later did I start to get actively involved with the Annual Reunion and events of the London Branch, and realised how strong the Aber Spirit is, and always has been, all over the world, and how it didn't matter when you were in Aber, where you were from, or what you studied. You were sure to find people you could relate to and network with for business or social events, even if you hadn't met while students.

For me, membership of the OSA gives me that chance to share my memories and love for Aberystwyth with former students and staff around the world. It enables me to keep in touch with the University as it faces modern challenges and do what I can

to support its projects and activities. And it offers opportunities for me to demonstrate my gratitude for the skills and confidence studying here gave me, by mentoring current students, making regular donations and being an informal and enthusiastic ambassador for the University. The OSA is over 125 years old now, and Covid has encouraged members globally to keep in touch with each other, and even to maintain programmes of events online. It's the indomitable Aber Spirit at work in a crisis. The OSA was formed to support the University through financial difficulties in its early days, to ensure that its work and what we now call Old College survived. Today's exciting plans for revitalising Old College include meeting spaces for old students, and we are pleased to be able once again to contribute significant funding towards this from the OSA and from our individual members.

We know that you'll always be an Aberystwyth Alumnus and be kept up to date with news directly from the University's own active Development and Alumni Relations Office, and that you'll always enjoy being in contact with fellow students who became your friends. But joining the OSA as a Life Member means you've made a small extra commitment to keep in touch with the University and its alumni, and given yourself a strong voice to work with others to support the University and its future. It can also introduce you to local people with the Aber Spirit globally in OSA Branches. Life Membership is available online. We hope you will stay safe, and we look forward to welcoming you to our Association.

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/osa](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/osa)

[www.osaaber.org](http://www.osaaber.org)

# From Practice to Penglais



by Professor Emyr Lewis  
Head of Department of Law  
& Criminology



Law Department 1910/1911

It is now just over a year since I left the practice of law to become Head of Department of Law and Criminology at Aberystwyth. Factors outside anyone's control (not least the global pandemic) have made it occasionally quite a complex and turbulent experience - a baptism of fire as one colleague put it - but it has overwhelmingly been a stimulating and enjoyable experience, working with a team of top-quality scholars and teachers. Another very positive aspect was the enthusiastic support of alumni at events in Cardiff, London and the Hay Festival. It is good to know that the Department has so many friends. Unfortunately, the global lockdown made it impossible to attend events in Malaysia, where the Department has a long and significant history. The continued support of alumni and distinguished Honorary fellows from Malaysia, both to the University and to the department, is deeply appreciated.

The first thing that struck me even before I started was the staff's clear shared focus on the academic

development and personal well-being of students. This has of course always been a feature of Aberystwyth, and it was good to see it persisting in a department which had perhaps tended to hide its light under a bushel in recent times. The proof of the pudding is in the eating: Aberystwyth law teaching achieved a 98% overall satisfaction score in this year's National Student Survey. This is not achieved by accident, and speaks to quality of our teaching in both English and Welsh. In Welsh-medium teaching, we are recognised as a national centre for both Law and Criminology.

The vision of those who founded the Department was to prepare people for work in the legal profession by giving them a thorough grounding in academic aspects of the law. The Department continues to live up to that vision, but of course also does much more. International law, for example, remains central to the Department's teaching and research; growth in criminology has brought new perspectives, and the Department is the home of significant research projects Dewis Choice,

which tackles the abuse of older people and the Veterans' Legal Project. Both have attracted substantial funds and have the potential to transform the way in which society engages with particularly vulnerable and marginalised people. Another source of pride is the impact which research in Aber has had and continues to have both in Wales and worldwide. For instance, a prime mover in the crucial shift in international law towards requiring states to protect vulnerable people against the scourge that is human trafficking is our very own Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz. Ryszard steps down this year from being Vice President of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, after an 8-year stint.

Aberystwyth's geographical position is of course both a blessing and a challenge. As I hardly need explain to alumni, it offers the chance to live and study in a safe and beautiful place, far from the madding crowd, at a University which is at once cosmopolitan and rooted in Welshness. On the other hand, it is far from, and not well connected to, the major centres of economic and government activity and (consequently) employment. This has offered a particular challenge, namely securing opportunities for students to experience practical and clinical work during term time. Rising to the challenge, we have built relationships with local employers where students effectively work in-house as part of an inspirational employability module, popular with both students and employers. Students can also do *pro bono* work through the Family Law clinic, part-funded by Alumni and run by the law firm of Emma Williams (an alumna) and through the Veterans' Legal clinic. Looking to the future, I want the Department to strengthen and extend the practical experience which students can get, and I am pleased that the University has backed this ambition by funding a new post to take this forward. It is now clearer than before that much work conventionally



Sarah Wydall, Principal Investigator of the Dewis Choice project based in the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice at Aberystwyth University's Department of Law and Criminology.



Dr Ola Olusanya, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Law and Criminology and founder of the Aberystwyth University Family Legal Clinic.



University College Wales and University College London Law Society during the evacuation 1940

done in city centres can be done remotely, and this shift offers exciting possibilities for Aberystwyth students.

I have been fortunate to benefit from the individual and collective wisdom of the Department's emeriti. John Williams, Chris Harding, Anne Sherlock, Alan Clarke, and of course the inspirational and evergreen Richard Ireland have all been generous with their time and advice.

Next year, the Department will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As part of the celebrations, Chris Harding, Richard Ireland and John Williams, are writing a history of the Department to be published by the University of Wales Press. John describes it as follows:

"The monograph traces the development of the Department and more broadly legal education in Wales since the time of Professors T. A. Levi and Jethro Brown, the two founding professors. It discusses how the Department has responded to the many changes imposed by professional bodies, the University, and higher education policy. In 1901, Aber was one of the few law schools in the United Kingdom and the only one in Wales. Today Aber is one of many and since 2004 it has included Criminology. Some people expressed doubts about a law school in Aberystwyth as it has no 'legal hinterland'. These include Leo Abse MP who attacked the Department in a Parliamentary debate in the 1960s. Despite such petty distractions, the Department has produced many distinguished lawyers, politicians and academics along with a significant number of graduates entering other professions and public service in the United Kingdom and far beyond. The study of law has evolved. Besides the traditional areas of law, the range of subjects now offered include many involving a different approach to legal study picking up some of Levi's views on the role of a university law school."

To celebrate this milestone John, Richard and Chris are also curating a collection and exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia, which promises to be a worthy record of the proud tradition of the study of Law and Criminology at Aber.



# Professor Mary King

Mary Elizabeth King studied for her Ph.D in the International Politics department of Aberystwyth University and was conferred as a Fellow of the University in 2011. A graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, she worked extensively in the civil rights movement and served in senior U.S. Government posts during the Carter administration. She retains strong links with Aberystwyth, and InterPol in particular, having delivered public lectures and led seminars with students. Among other roles, she is currently Professor of Peace and Conflict studies at the University for Peace, a U.N. affiliate.

It was late morning in Virginia, teatime in Aberystwyth. Professor Mary King managed to find time between competing meetings to talk to me by video about her life, career and her connection to Aberystwyth. I quickly discovered just how deep her association with social change issues has been.

"Growing up in a Methodist parsonage, I was socialised from early childhood to be concerned about social justice. On any playground you will find very young children saying 'That's not fair!' - with a sense of fairness like the air we breathe. I have had great satisfaction from working to dismantle inequities and injustices all my adult life."



Interviewed by  
John Gilbey  
([gilbey@bcs.org.uk](mailto:gilbey@bcs.org.uk))

[@John\\_Gilbey](https://twitter.com/John_Gilbey)

"When a Senior at Ohio Wesleyan University, I was happily invited to go on a trip to the Deep South to meet Civil Rights leaders - and others such as leading journalists at the 'Atlanta Constitution'. I also met peers who were working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) - which would become the most audacious and creative of all the Civil Rights organisations. That's where I needed to be. Two senior advisors invited me to join them in running human relations workshops involving Southern black and white students, who were meeting interracially for the first time in the South, on the topic of how academic freedom was compromised by segregation. Looking back, I realise how little I had to offer."

Having worked on SNCC staff for four years, decades of work for the federal government and as an international consultant followed, while Mary tried to find a suitable roost for studying decided to study for a Ph.D. She chose Aberystwyth's International Politics department. How did this come about?

"I was friends with Geoffrey Kemp, now at the Center for the National Interest in Washington. When he learned that my husband and I had a farm in Wales, and that President and Mrs Carter had visited us there, he told me about Aberystwyth and the Interpol department. He had not studied there, but it seemed that everyone he knew *had* studied in that department. I became intrigued and looked into it, because I'd been unable to find any university in the United States willing to address the history, theory, and practice of the field of strategic nonviolent action."

The farm near Tregaron had been purchased with her husband Peter G. Bourne at the end of the Carter administration, in which both he and Mary had served in senior positions. She had worldwide oversight for the Peace Corps and similar national domestic programs. "We visited Wales often and would stay at the farms of cousins in summer and at Christmas. An uncle of Peter's provided lambs to what is now our farm and one day rang us in Washington to let us know the owner wanted to sell. We bought the 120-acre farm." Mary has written all her books there.

"I wanted to work on the technique of nonviolent struggle - which has been severely under-studied and under-theorised in the Academy. Resources have

been lavished on military options - and yet non-violent action has brought about phenomenal results for the human race; its track record throughout human history is remarkable. Even so, this use of social power has had only a 'shadow existence' in academia. Thousands of nonviolent struggles have never been studied or documented."

"What I found in Interpol was a group of people including professors Mike Foley and James Piscatori who understood that, yes, there was an alternative technique that shows up throughout history. They grasped that waves of anti-colonialism were based on powers with which Gandhi had been testing and experimenting with for decades. They had the broad contours and seemed pleased to have me able to argue for the fact that there is an alternative use of power that involves no political violence and is found going back to ancient times."

Professor King clearly believes that non-violent struggle has an expanding, critical role. "The Environmental and Women's Movements benefited directly, and almost immediately, by appropriating insights from the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. These two areas gained the most by adapting and perfecting elements of what Gandhi called an 'operative technique'. Climate change and women's rights remain major issues for the future of the planet; we have got to take seriously the scientific advice about climate change - and we have got to find ways of benefiting from the talents of women, who have historically always rebuilt societies after wars. Their experiences lead them to be attuned to finding ways of organising that don't rely on visibility, money or weaponry - they are extremely effective at the kind of social organising that has been producing democratic transitions since the late 18th century."

After 100 years of studying war and peace, what should be the future direction of the International Politics department? "Interpol has a unique history - its interdisciplinary character is extremely productive and relevant for this time. Because we cannot think and function on narrow disciplinary bases - we've got to be eclectic and derive from many literatures and bodies of experience."

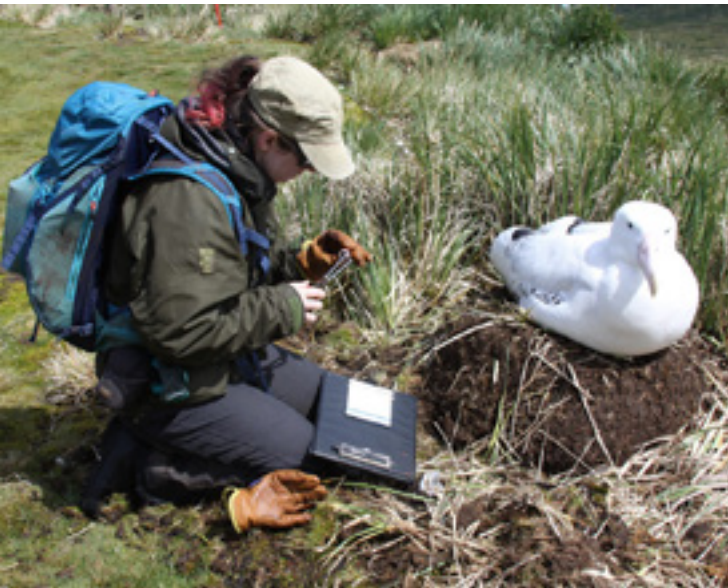
John Gilbey is a writer and photographer based in west Wales. He Tweets as [@John\\_Gilbey](https://twitter.com/John_Gilbey)

# Alumni Profiles

Aberystwyth alumni are constantly achieving great things, both professionally and personally.

Working for a range of organisations, across a range of different sectors in a wide variety of roles all over the world, our graduates are really making an impact and transforming their lives and those of others.

To feature on our graduate profile page contact us at [alumni@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@aber.ac.uk)



## Alexandra Dodds

Alexandra Dodds studied Marine and Freshwater Biology, graduating in 2013. Since then she has worked in a wide variety of remote locations both within the UK and around the world. Through her work she has been privileged to live in some amazing places from the New Forest to the most northerly isles of Scotland and from the Caribbean to the Falkland Islands. Currently she works for the British Antarctic Survey on Bird Island specialising in albatross research.

"Studying and living in Aberystwyth enabled me to develop my interest and knowledge in this field and give me the foundations I needed, whether that was from reading research papers or carrying out practical conservation work along the beautiful Ceredigion coastline."

## Sam Griffiths

Sam Griffiths graduated in 2014 with BSc International Politics and Intelligence Studies. Now, a Senior Promoter at Cuffe & Taylor, part of Live Nation, the world's largest live entertainment company. He is one of the youngest promoters in the business, he produces theatrical productions and promotes music concerts for international best-selling artists, as well as working with global television and film companies to create live content from their international hit titles. "Aber gave me the opportunity to meet a huge variety of people and learn so much from my specific course of study, which has massively helped me in my professional development."



Photo: Alan Mehdizadeh

## Azryn Azhari Arshad

Azryn Azhari Arshad graduated in 2016 with a BSc in Psychology and was the first Malaysian student in the Psychology department. She currently manages the South East Asia Strategic Partnership department for Karex - the world's largest condom maker.

"My job requires an on-the-go tactical approach and I lead the Corporate Social Responsibility for Karex which has allowed me to apply my academic learnings at Aber into different circumstances when managing different countries - including Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and many more."



## Denitsa Dineva

Dr Denitsa Dineva studied a BSc Business and Management degree at Aberystwyth Business School, followed by a specialist Master's degree in Marketing. Denitsa then worked in Consumer Finance at Lloyds Banking Group before she decided to return to Aberystwyth University to do an internally funded PhD degree on the topic "Conflict management in online consumption communities" from which she graduated in May 2019. Denitsa has since remained in Wales and currently works as a Lecturer in Marketing at Cardiff University. This is what she had to say about studying at Aberystwyth University: "Aberystwyth University provides a very friendly, but also academically rigorous environment, which encouraged me to constantly seek opportunities for development and progression."



## InvEnterPrize 2020

### Seaweed-based bioplastic business wins student enterprise competition

An eco-business using Welsh seaweed to create bioplastic, is the winner of this year's Aberystwyth University student enterprise competition, InvEnterPrize.

PlantSea is the brainchild of two Aberystwyth University PhD students, Alex Newnes and Gianmarco Sanfratello, and Aberystwyth alumna Rhiannon Rees.

The company plans to use seaweed and other plant-based materials to create bioplastic, which will then be used to develop environmentally friendly toiletry sets for the hotel and hospitality industry.



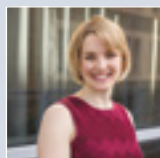
In addition to the £10,000 main prize, PlantSea was also awarded free office accommodation for a year on Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AberInnovation), a prize which was presented to the best competition entry from the bio-sciences, life sciences and agriculture sectors.

A separate prize of £3,000 donated by Engineers in Business, and open to students or student teams from Computer Science, Maths and Physics, was awarded to Mwnci Data Management ([www.mwnci.uk](http://www.mwnci.uk)), the business idea of Rob Barry, who recently graduated with an MSc in DataScience.

Held annually, the InvEnterPrize competition is sponsored by contributions from the alumni AberFund, and organised by the University's Careers Service. InvEnterPrize provides an opportunity for entrepreneurial Aberystwyth students to develop and pitch a business idea or social enterprise concept to a panel of distinguished University alumni.

Aberystwyth University is hugely grateful to the alumni judges: Donald Davies, Nigel Davies, David Sargen, Jane Clayton, Huw Morgan, Kerry Diamond, Peter Gradwell and Rhian Hayward, CEO, AberInnovation.

# Giving to Aberystwyth University in 2019-2020



Hayley Goddard  
Individual Giving  
Officer

**D**uring such a difficult year, you have come together as a community of alumni and supporters to make a life-changing, positive impact on the lives of our students and the University.

You're giving all students at Aber, regardless of their start in life, a chance to succeed and thrive at University and in society. You contribute to research and innovation that addresses local and global challenges. Your early support has helped unlock significant funds for the Old College appeal, a vital project to transform the iconic and much-loved building ahead of our 150th anniversary in 2022/23.

There is no denying that your donations remain crucial across our priorities. Thank you for recognising the importance of giving to Aberystwyth University; a special place that shapes the world on a local, national, and global scale.

Thank you to all our donors who are listed on the Annual Donors List: [www.aber.ac.uk/thankyou](http://www.aber.ac.uk/thankyou)

## Your giving in 2019-20

Across our three fundraising priorities:

£341,604



Student Support (AberFund)

£293,471 bringing total income to £1million of our £3million target



The Old College Appeal

£13,249



Research and Academic Developments

## Our community of donors

You gave  
**£646,150**  
during 2019-20



**Median regular monthly gift** £12.50

**Median single gift donation** £62.50

**Individual donors** 1,079

**From Trusts and Foundations** £876,318

## You have funded 34 student projects

Both new and existing projects across campus that would not have been possible without your help.

## Supporting over 1,900 students

To alleviate hardship; support health and wellbeing; and enhance the number of opportunities open to all students.

## Your impact 2019-20

### Taking-action in response to Covid

Your generosity towards Student Support made vital Hardship and Wellbeing funds immediately available for students during the pandemic. Over 158 hardship grants were awarded between February and June. The funds also allowed staff to plan projects in advance of the new academic year for maximum impact.

Nick Dimonaco, a postgraduate student at IBERS, received a special bursary for his Covid related research.

*"Nick received a Bursary from the OSA (Cardiff Branch) in his first year in Aber, and went on to be awarded First Class Honours in Computer Science. In parallel with pursuing a PhD, he joined a team researching means of tracking variations in the Covid genome; we were delighted to award a Rhiannon Powell Science Research Bursary and a further bursary from the OSA in the summer, to help support him while he acts as lead author for the resulting research paper."*

Kay Powell, Alumna and OSA Cardiff Branch member



### New Veterinary Education Centre

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Endowment Fund Appeal, established in 1997 for the University's 125th anniversary. Your support will specifically fund £500,000 of the capital costs of a new Veterinary Education Centre on our Penglais campus, as part of the new Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science. Launched in Spring 2020, the school is the first in Wales and will welcome our first students in 2021.

### Legacies boost Postgraduate community

Two recent legacies have helped secure vital funds for postgraduate research.

A legacy of £395,000 from Margaret Wooloff, alumna (French, 1942) has created the Margaret Wooloff PhD Scholarship with the first three awards announced for the 2020-21 academic year; Bronwen Lowri, Andrea Jones and Catrin Parsons.

Professor Ieuan Gwynedd Jones, former head of the Department of Welsh History and Fellow of Aberystwyth University - his £10,000 legacy will provide grants and support to numerous PhD students undertaking research in Welsh History.

### Life-changing opportunities



Your donations to the Aber Fund gave IBERS student, Chloe Collins Farrell, a work placement bursary to take on her dream role at Chester Zoo as part of an unpaid internship. Gaining new skills and an opportunity to explore a career in the zoo sector, her internship would not have been possible without your support.

More stories of your impact can be found at [www.aber.ac.uk/your-impact](http://www.aber.ac.uk/your-impact)

### Supporting the University

Your support is vital for Aber's continuing success and hugely appreciated by our students and staff.

All your gifts, together, make a huge impact on current, and future students across our three priority areas:

#### Student Support (The Aber Fund)

#### The Old College Appeal

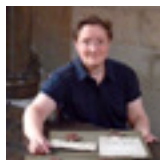
#### Research and Academic Developments

You can make a difference by donating a single or regular gift:

- Online at [www.aber.ac.uk/give](http://www.aber.ac.uk/give)
- Post through a donation form
- For international supporters, you can give in conjunction with our partners: SWIFT system or British Schools and Universities Foundation (BSUF).

For further details and to discuss a donation or legacy, please contact us at the Development and Alumni Relations team on ☎ 01970 621568 or @ [alumni@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@aber.ac.uk)

# How research into medieval seals is contributing to history and science



by Dr Elizabeth New  
Senior Lecturer in History

In the Middle Ages seals - matrices made of a hard material into which a design has been engraved, and impressions made by them in soft material - acted in a similar way to our signatures, credit cards, and logos, and were just as familiar a part of everyday life. Seals conveyed far more than signing your name or swiping a card, however. They were small but powerful packages of image and text, identifying and representing men and women from royalty and nobles to artisans and peasants, as well as a range of offices, institutions, and other groups. They presented carefully constructed messages about status, wealth, power, family, occupation, and religious and political affiliations. How, by whom and in what contexts seals were used can also be very revealing, especially in relation to the less well-documented middling and lower levels of society.

Almost a decade ago, the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded Aberystwyth-based *Seals in Medieval Wales* project revealed fresh insights into Wales in the Middle Ages, such as the enthusiastic exploitation by the Welsh nobility of seals as a means of expressing and consolidating their status. It also further demonstrated the complexity of Anglo-Norman settlement, which led to cultural integration as frequently as it did to conflict. One of the highlights of this project was an exhibition at the National Library of Wales, enabling diverse audiences to engage directly with these medieval treasures.

More recently, the Aberystwyth-Lincoln AHRC funded *Imprint* project [www.imprintseals.org](http://www.imprintseals.org) brought together medieval historians and forensic identity scientists. In the Middle Ages, 'sealing wax' was a mixture of beeswax, resin and (usually) pigment, rewarmed before being



Impression of the seal of Thurstan the armourer, depicting a closed helm. National Library of Wales, Ottley (Pitchford Hall) Deeds, 324.

attached to a document. Handling the soft wax often resulted in hand and fingerprints being preserved along with the impression of the seal matrix, and investigating these enabled us to challenge existing theories and pose new questions. For example, print evidence shows that by the early thirteenth century the owner of a matrix was sometimes side-lined from the actual process of sealing documents, but in other places it remained important for the person whose seal it was directly to be involved. This has implications for the development of administration and invites a more nuanced understanding of how men and women participated in legal processes and whether they were allowed or denied direct access to the power dynamics that underpinned these formal exchanges. *Imprint* used cutting-edge forensic imaging equipment, which we promptly broke. Thankfully, the manufacturer was actually grateful for this. We had pushed the boundaries of how it was used: adjustments were then made, to the benefit of criminal justice agencies across the world. Not an everyday experience for a medievalist!



Impression of the subsidiary matrix of Hereford Cathedral, overlaid with hand prints. Hereford Cathedral Archives, HCA 159 seal 2.



Hare on hound seal, attached to an early 14th century document. Exeter Cathedral Archives, ECA 1862.



Impression of the seal of William de Fostone, chaplain. Hereford Cathedral Archives, HCA 23.

The *Imprint* project also led to unplanned collaborations with scientists with whom I am continuing to work as part of my Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship *Identity, interaction and exchange in medieval England*. The Cambridge-Copenhagen Archives project investigates organic materials in pre-modern wax with the aim of contributing to the fight against bee colony die-off, and my work on medieval seals facilitates their research by providing evidence which can be given a date and location. The *Imprint* team also worked with a geochemist from the University of Reading whose analysis of inorganic elements in sealing wax revealed surprising details. For example, the abbot and prior of one wealthy monastery had separate supplies of wax but were not prepared to share! We are now undertaking further analysis with a view to understanding more about the production and trade of metals and pigments in medieval Britain.



Seal of Sibyl de Bonville, widow of William the harper, attached to a document dated 1217. British Library, Harley Charter 75 B 36

My Leverhulme-funded study is also exploring a range of historical questions, focusing on society below the nobility. What do seals and sealing practices tell us about communication (social, economic, geographic), trade, and fashion? What

does the text on seals reveal about people's use of language(s) and understanding of the written word? How was identity constructed and expressed by medieval men and women, and what influenced or constrained this? Seal matrices were owned and used by people across society, and have a personal connection to individuals that is lacking in a lot of evidence. A quirky and subversive sense of humour can for instance be glimpsed from a seal with the image of a hare blowing a hunting-horn and riding on the back of a hound. Craftsmen may have used their seals as advertisements, such as the armour-maker who had the image of a knight's jousting-helmet on his seal. It is tempting to see a 'portrait' of the owner in the rather jowly and jolly head on the seal of a thirteenth-century priest from Hereford, while a woman in Lincoln changed her matrix three times, apparently as she acquired more property: an early entrepreneur rebranding herself? There is still a lot we do not know about medieval society and using seals provides fresh insights into this world, as well as sometimes contributing to present-day scientific research. I like to think that the men and women whose seals I am investigating would be pleased to know that they are still making an impression in the twenty-first century.

# What's new on campus

Aberystwyth University has continued to invest and improve the campus, with several key updates during 2019-20. From major construction projects to new facilities on campus benefiting students, colleagues and the wider community. Below are a few highlights.

**February 2020**

## Wales' first School of Veterinary Science

The new Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science at Aberystwyth University will welcome its first students in September 2021. It marks the formal launch of a new Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree offered jointly by Aberystwyth University and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC).

Part of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS), the School will benefit from the new Veterinary Education Centre being developed on the Penglais campus. The new Centre represents an investment of £1m, funded partly by alumni donations.

As well as the new Veterinary Education Centre, the students will also study in the excellent existing laboratory facilities enjoyed by IBERS students and gain valuable experience on the University's dairy and sheep farms, and at the Lluest Equine Centre.

The five-year degree will see students spend two years at Aberystwyth University followed by three years' study at the RVC's Hawkshead Campus in Hertfordshire. The programme will cover the full range of animals, from



Left to right: Professor Stuart Reid, Principal of the Royal Veterinary College; Professor Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales; Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor and Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor at Aberystwyth University marking the launch of the Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science.

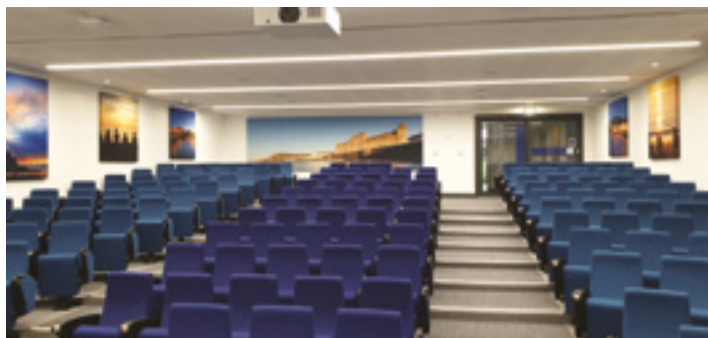
domestic pets to farm animals.

Professor Darrell Abernethy has been appointed as the new Head and Chair of the School. He joins Aberystwyth from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

## Investment in study spaces

Following a major refurbishment of the Hugh Owen library during 2018, further work was completed to refurbish the Iris De Freitas study room to improve accessibility, inclusion and sustainability. The newly refurbished room is an inviting and comfortable group study space for students.

The 180-seater C22 Lecture Theatre also underwent major



refurbishment, including brand new seating and carpets, latest audio-

visual system and modern heating and cooling system.



(Left to right) Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor, Aberystwyth University; Peter Ryland, Chief Executive Officer, Welsh European Funding Office; Darren Hancock, Operations Manager, Willmott Dixon; Professor Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor - Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation, Aberystwyth University; John Collingwood, Senior Project Manager (Client), Aberystwyth University; Dr Rhian Hayward MBE, Chief Executive Officer, AberInnovation.

**August 2020**

## Completion of the new Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus

On time and on budget, the final set of keys were handed over at the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AberInnovation), to mark the completion of a two-year construction programme.

The £40.5m campus at Gogerddan is now fully operational, providing world-leading facilities and expertise within the biotechnology, agri-tech, and food and drink sectors.

The project has seen the creation of a new Biorefining Centre, Seed Biobank and Processing Facility, Future Food Centre, Advanced Analysis Centre and Innovation Hub.

Dr Rhian Hayward MBE, Chief Executive Officer at AberInnovation said: "AberInnovation is a major investment in the research and innovation infrastructure for the UK. I am delighted to receive the keys from our contractors, who have delivered these complex facilities to an exceptional standard. We are already attracting a pipeline of collaborative projects to be hosted in the new buildings which is a testament to the vision of our investors. AberInnovation will be a catalyst for innovative, interdisciplinary research and development and we look forward to supporting new product development and job creation."

**September 2020**

## Pantycelyn welcomes a new generation of students

Wales' most famous student hall of residence has opened its doors once more, as students returned to Aberystwyth University for the beginning of the new 2020-21 academic year.

Pantycelyn has undergone a £16.5m transformation and now offers accommodation for up to 200 students and a modern and contemporary home for the University's Welsh speaking student community.

Each of the bedrooms is newly built and includes an en-suite bathroom, and some of the Hall's best-known rooms - the Large Lounge, the Small Lounge and the Senior and Junior Common Rooms have been reinvigorated. And, in accordance with the wishes of the hall's supporters, the tradition of sharing mealtimes will continue with breakfast and evening meal provided in the hall's 'Ffreutur', Monday to Friday.

In addition to the University's own investment, the project received £5m from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Education and Schools programme. The Education Minister, Kirsty Williams MS, visited and marked the re-opening, alongside Aberystwyth University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Elizabeth Treasure.



Left to right; Welsh Government Education Minister Kirsty Williams, MS; Moc Lewis, President of the Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth (Aberystwyth Union for Welsh Students); Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, former Chair of the Pantycelyn Project Board; Dr Emyr Roberts, Chair of Aberystwyth University Council, and Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University at the opening of Neuadd Pantycelyn on Friday 18 September 2020.

## Appointments

**Professor Darrell Abernethy**  
Head of Aberystwyth School of  
Veterinary Science

**Sally Hore**  
Principal Lead in Healthcare Education

**Professor Helen Roberts**  
Director of Research Excellence

**Steve Thomas**  
Head of Communications and Public  
Affairs

**Dr Andrew James Davies**  
Head of School of Education

**Professor Simon Banham**  
Professor in Scenography and  
Theatre Design and Head of  
Department of Theatre, Film and  
Television Studies

**Carwyn Jones MS, Former First  
Minister**  
Professor of Law

**Dr Patrick Finney**  
Head of Department of International  
Politics

**Professor Berit Blieseemann de Guevara**  
Professor in International Politics

**Professor Milja Kurki**  
E.H. Carr Chair in International Politics

## Achievements

Congratulations to the winners of the Aberystwyth Students' Union Staff and Student Awards 2020: **Dr Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh** (Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies) won Lecturer of the Year, **Dr Bill Perkins** (Department of Geography and Earth Sciences) won Personal Tutor of the Year, and **Dr Gillian McFadyen** (Department of International Politics) won the Creative Teaching Award. The Department of Psychology won the title of Department of the Year for an unprecedented second consecutive year. A full list of winners can be found at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2020/05/title-232245-en.html](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2020/05/title-232245-en.html).

Five of our academics are among the new entrants to the Learned Society of Wales' Fellowship: **Professor Glyn Hewinson** (Sêr Cymru II STAR Chair & Director of the Centre of Excellence for Bovine Tuberculosis), **Professor Emyr Lewis** (Professor of Law and Head of the Department of Law and Criminology), **Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz** (Professor of Law, Aberystwyth University; Adjunct Professor of Law, University of South Australia; First Vice-President of GRETA), **Professor David Rabey** (Professor of Theatre & Theatre Practice, Department of Theatre, Film & Television Studies) and **Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar**, (Head of the Graduate School, Faculty Associate Dean of Research & Professor of the Department of Computer Science).

**Tun Dr. Haji Arshad Bin Ayub**, Malaysia has been awarded and conferred the Darjah Seri Setia Mahkota (SSM) which carries the title 'Tun' and **Tan Sri Mazlan Bin Mansor**, Malaysia has been conferred with the award of Commander of the Order of Loyalty to the Crown of Malaysia (PSM) which carries the title 'Tan Sri'.

Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) graduate **Dewi Eifon Davies** won the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Award for the Student of the Year 2020.

One of the UK's leading competitions for agriculture and crop science students was won by a team of students from IBERS for the third year running. BSc Agriculture students **Danika Castle, Courtney Ifill, Summer De Slegte** and **Yiannos Constantinou** lifted the prestigious NIAB (The National Institute of Agricultural Botany) Cup for their agronomy, farm management and agricultural decision-making skills.



NIAB Cup 2020 winners

Sol Gardiner-Wade

A film by students from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies has once again won an award at the 2020 RTS Wales Centre Student Television Awards. *Rutted Fields* by **Sol Gardiner-Wade** and **Monika Bednarczyk** is about alternative living and has compressed hundreds of hours of a travelling family's archive into a fifteen-minute film. Produced as a final year project, the piece won best Factual film for students.

**Philippa Gibson**, a member of the Aberystwyth University Learn Welsh team that provides Welsh lessons to adults in Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, was presented with the Inspire! Tutor Award by the Learning and Work Institute Wales for her exceptional contribution.

Several staff members were recognised for excellence in Welsh-medium education by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Associate Lecturer Awards 2019-20: **Professor Rhys Jones** (Department of Geography and Earth Science) won the award for Facilitating Welsh-Medium Education. The joint winners of the best Welsh-Medium Resource category were **Professor Rhys Jones, Dr Marie Busfield, Dr Hywel Griffiths, Dr Cerys Jones and Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones** for their Geography handbook "*Astudio a Dehongli'r Byd a'i Bobl*" (*Studying and Interpreting the World and its People*) and also **Dr Anwen Jones and Dr Hywel Griffiths** joint editors of *Gwerddon Fach*.

**Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd**, Chancellor of Aberystwyth University is among those joining the National Eisteddfod's Gorsedd of the Bards, honoured for his contribution to the Welsh language in the justice system. Nine other fellows, alumni and staff are on this year's list: **Milwyn Jarman, Deian Creunant, Rhiannon Evans, Angharad Fychan, Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones, Emyr Llywelyn, Geraint Roberts, Delwyn Siôn, Siôn Jobbins and Ann Bowen Morgan**.

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we record the loss of alumni, fellows and members of staff, past and current, of whose passing we have been informed during the last year. Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of those listed here. *\*Denotes OSA member*

### Fellows

**Hughes**, Mr Aneurin 'Nye' (Welsh, 1959), died March 2020\*

**Prosser**, Sir David (Mathematics, 1965), died March 2020\*

**Richards CBE**, Sir Brian (Agricultural Botany, 1952), died November 2019\*

**Houghton CBE FRS**, Sir John, died April 2020

**Owen**, Professor John, died February 2020

### Staff

**Davies**, Mr Alun (Economics, 1954), died August 2019

**Evans**, Ms Melanie, née Hart (History And Welsh History, 1999), died November 2019

**Evans**, Mrs Anna (Education And Art, 2009), died August 2019

**Howells**, Mr Brian Elwin, died February 2020

**Kingsley**, Dr Colin, died March 2020

**Lewis**, Dr Roy (Geography, 1963), died August 2019\*

**Nelmes**, Martin, died June 2020

**Norrington-Davies**, Dr John, died February 2020

**Price**, Emeritus Prof Glanville, died December 2019

**Robertson**, Mrs Ann, née Davies (Physics, 1954), died February 2020\*

**Robson OBE**, Professor Brian, died July 2020

**Steeds**, Mr David, died May 2020

**Thomas**, Professor Peter, died July 2020

**Tyler**, Bruce, died March 2020

### Alumni & Supporters

**Anthony-Jones**, Mrs Joan, née Evans (1947), died November 2019\*

**Bauernfeind**, Mr David (International Politics / History, 1987), died December 2019

**Beckett**, Ms Susan (Classical Studies, 1982), died 2020

**Buften**, Mrs Rosalind, née Morris (Geology, 1963), died November 2019

**Burdett**, Mr Anthony (Agricultural Botany, 1956), died December 2019\*

**Cable**, Mr Owen (International Politics And Strategic Studies, 2018), died January 2020

**Cadifor**, Ms Sian (Welsh / Education, 1976), died December 2019

**Clark**, Mrs Margaret, née Griffiths (1953), died March 2020\*

**Dafydd**, Miss Eiry (Welsh, 2005), died 2020

**Dancer**, Mr Gareth (Countryside Management, 1996), died 2020\*

**Davies**, Mr Hywel (Education, 1978), died March 2020

**Davies Jones**, Miss Bethan, née Francis (Biochemistry, 1999), died January 2020

**de St Dalmas**, Mrs Peggy, died December 2019

**Duarte-Santos**, Mr Carlos (International Politics And Third World Studies, 2004), died June 2020

**Edwards**, Mr Prys (1993), died March 2020

**Eirian**, Mr Siôn (Welsh And Philosophy, 1975), died May 2020

**Ellison**, Mr Stuart (Historical And Archival Studies, 2014), died February 2020

**Evans**, Mr Aled (Geography And Welsh History, 1999), died November 2019

**Evans**, Reverend Trevor (Geology, 1959), died June 2020

**Foulkes**, Mr Iwan (Law, 2008), died July 2020

**George**, Dr Delyth (Welsh,

1987), died August 2019

**Guckian CVO OBE**, Dr Noel (International Politics, 1978), died December 2019

**Harris**, Ms Karen (Geography (Arts), 1990), died January 2020\*

**Hilling MBE**, Dr David (Geography (Science), 1957), died March 2020\*

**Hughes CM**, Dr Stan (Botany, 1941), died November 2019\*

**Hughes**, Mr Colten (Business And Management, 2017), died July 2020

**Hughes CBE**, Mr Victor, died September 2019

**Jenkin**, Mrs Jane, née Thomas, Evans (1951), died February 2020\*

**Jenkin**, Mr David (Physics, 1952), died January 2020\*

**Johnson**, Mr Michael (Law, 1965), died January 2020

**Jones**, Professor Emeritus Colin (Economics, 1958), died October 2019

**Khan**, Mr Faisal (Business Administration, 2003), died May 2020

**Ladd**, Mrs Kathleen, née Evans (Mathematics, 1958), died December 2019\*

**Le Mesurier**, Mr James (International Politics / Strategic Studies, 1993), died November 2019\*

**Lewis**, Dr Robyn (Law, 1953), died August 2019\*

**Lewis**, Ms Deb, née Stewart (Spanish / Pure Mathematics, 1981), died May 2020

**London**, Dr Albert (Biochemistry, 1970), died June 2020

**Lovell**, Mr Joshua (Law, 2015), died February 2020

**Maguire**, Mr Edward (Geography 1949), died April 2019

**Maguire**, Mrs Mary, née Jones (Botany 1949), died December 2018

**McBride**, Mrs Elaine, née Stewart (English & German 1981), died July 2019

**Millward**, Dr Edward (Welsh, 1996), died April 2020

**Pearce**, Mrs Pam, née Smith, Reynolds (Records Management (DL), 2009), died February 2020\*

**Radley**, Mr Paul (French And Italian, 1974), died December 2019

**Rees**, Mr Allen (Law, 1958), died March 2020\*

**Revill**, Ms Susan (Music 1977), died April 2019

**Roberts**, His Hon Eifion (Law, 1948), died September 2019\*

**Sheard**, Mr David (Educational Studies, 1971), died January 2020\*

**Sheard**, Ms Elizabeth, née Farrands (History, 1971), died 2020

**Sivapathasundram**, Ms Geetha (Law, 1989), died September 2019

**Stanton**, Mrs Dawn (French), died March 2020

**Thomas**, Mrs Gwen, née Hughes (French, 1952), died February 2020\*

**Thomas**, Mr Geraint (Geography (Arts), 1972), died November 2019\*

**Timmins**, Mr Tony (French And Spanish, 1985), died November 2019\*

**Tudor**, Mr Richard (Agriculture / Business, 1996), died April 2020

**Turner**, Mrs Doreen, died November 2019

**Wallis**, Mr Malcolm (Education, 1973), died 2020

**Weese**, Mrs Menna, née Jones, died August 2019

**Williams**, Mrs Marcia, née Probert (1952), died January 2020\*

**Williams**, Mr Peter (Pure Mathematics, 1969), died November 2019

**Woods Couchman**, Professor Anne (Cell Biology, 1972), died September 2019

**Woodward Anderson**, Mrs Katrine, née Saito (Economics 1967), died October 2017

If you know that our information is incorrect, or would like to report the death of an Aberystwyth University graduate, please let us know by emailing: [alumni@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@aber.ac.uk)



Dyluniad o wersyll cadw Ruhleben yn y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf

Drawing of Ruhleben WWI internment camp



Dr. Blosser's Catarrh Remedy (sigareti meddyginiaethol!)

Dr. Blosser's Catarrh Remedy (medicinal cigarettes!)

# Straeon Annisgwyl | Tales of the Unexpected

Mae mwy i'w gael yn yr archifau na chofnodion y Senedd a'r cyfrifon blyneddol yn unig. Mae casgliadau archifol y Brifysgol yn cynnwys digonedd o rhyfeddodau annisgwyl. Dyma rai o'n heitemau mwy anarferol, o archif y Brifysgol ei hunan ac o'r casgliadau sydd wedi'u hadneuo gyda ni.

Rydym bob amser yn chwilio am eitemau i'r archif, felly ymunwch â'r sgwrs a rhanwch eich atgofion â ni:

It's not all Senate minutes and annual accounts. The University's archival collections hold plenty of things you might not expect to find. Here are some of our more unusual items, from both the archive of the University itself, and our deposited collections.

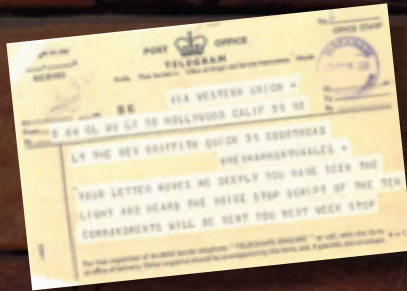
We are always on the lookout for items for the archive, so please join the conversation and share your memories with us:



Sgrifft y 'Ten Commandments', ynghyd â deunydd cyhoeddusurwydd a thelegram oddi wrth Cecil B. DeMille

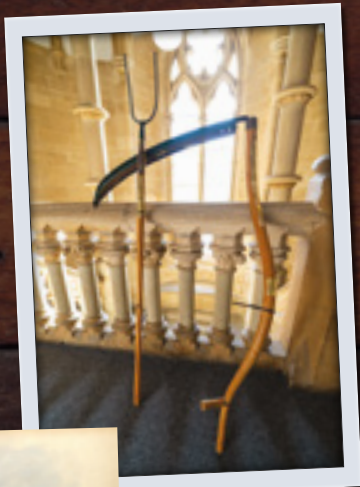
Ten Commandments script, publicity material and telegram from Cecil B. DeMille

- @AberUniArchives
- archives@aber.ac.uk
- Cyn-fyfyrwyr Aber | Aberystwyth Alumni



Pladur a phicwarch i gadw pellter cymdeithasol? Placiau yn dangos y neuadd a gododd y cyfanswm mwyaf at y Rag

A social distancing scythe and pitchfork? Plaques show the hall that raised the most money for Rag



'Llyfrgelloedd roes rym i ni. Poster Frank Brangwyn i'r Gymdeithas Llyfrgelloedd

'Libraries gave us power'. Frank Brangwyn poster for the Library Association



Tystysgrif hyfedredd mewn gwneud menyf

Certificate of proficiency in butter-making

Stamp yn dangos adeilad y Gwyddorau Ffisegol o gyfres stampiau Adeiladau Modern Prifysgolion 1971

Physical Sciences building stamp from the 1971 Modern University Buildings series



Gwawdlun gan Ap Rhobert o Jack Edwards, llyfrwerthwr, canwr, cerddor ac Esperantydd yn Aberystwyth

Ap Rhobert caricature of Jack Edwards, Aberystwyth bookseller, singer, musician and Esperantist

Yr hyn a allasai fod. Cynllun a gynigiwyd ar gyfer Coleg Prifysgol Cymru ar y Buarth

What might have been. Proposed layout for the Buarth for the UCW



#ArchifCathod: llawysgrif, cyfrol gyfan wedi'i neilltuo i Ticker

#ArchiveCats: an entire manuscript volume dedicated to Ticker

