



# Aber<sup>r</sup>NEWS

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

## Vice-Chancellor appointed

**Professor April McMahon** has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University.



Professor McMahon is currently Vice Principal Planning, Resources & Research Policy at Edinburgh University. She will take over from Professor Noel Lloyd on the 1st of August 2011.

A native of the Scottish Borders and Scots speaker, Professor McMahon gained an MA in English Language and Linguistics followed by a PhD in English Language at Edinburgh University.

For 12 years she taught at the Department of Linguistics at Cambridge University, where she was also a Fellow of Selwyn College, and was Professor of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Sheffield from 2000 until 2004.

In 2005 Professor McMahon returned to Edinburgh University as Forbes Professor of English Language and Head of the Department of Linguistics and English Language. She was subsequently appointed Head of the College of Humanities and Social Science and took up her current role in September 2009.

Speaking of her appointment Professor McMahon said: "I am delighted with the prospect of leading Aberystwyth University and look forward to working positively within a bilingual environment and to living and working in such a culturally vibrant part of Wales. This is a time of challenges and opportunities for universities and I look forward to working with staff and students to take the University into the next stage of its development."

An enthusiastic linguist, Professor McMahon speaks French, German and some Scottish Gaelic, and will be learning Welsh over the coming months.

Professor McMahon's own academic discipline is linguistics. Her work has focused on comparisons between various English accents, with a particular interest in Scots, how and why languages change, interdisciplinary approaches to family relationships between languages, and the implications of encroaching majority languages.



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## Referendum debate

The Department of International Politics hosted the first of three televised debates ahead of the Welsh Assembly Referendum on Thursday 3rd March.

Referendum 2011 - The Power Debates was presented by BBC Wales Political Editor and Aberystwyth alumna Betsan Powys.

The panel members were Nick Martin from True Wales, Russell Goodway, former Labour Leader of Cardiff City Council, Kirsty Williams, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, and Martin Shipton, Political Editor of the Western Mail.



# Working together to shape our future:

## The next phase of the Sustainability Improvement Programme

Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor Staff and Student Services

Over recent years, Aberystwyth University has invested substantial efforts to improve its academic and economic performance, resulting in strong growth in student recruitment, very high levels of student satisfaction, good results in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise and a sound financial position.

These successes provide the University with a sound foundation for meeting the substantial challenges facing all universities over the next few years, from new priorities in Government policy, sharply reduced public funding levels and major changes in the markets for teaching, research and other academic enterprise.

To prepare for the challenges ahead the University embarked on the Sustainability Improvement Programme (SIP), which builds upon the many examples we have of innovative and responsive developments.

### What we've achieved so far

The first two phases of the SIP are now complete. In the first phase PA Consulting worked with the University to establish the case for change by considering the potential impacts of emerging policy, funding and market changes and the University's strategic priorities. The second phase of the Programme focused on mobilising commitment to these changes and to developing a wide-ranging programme of proposals for strategic and operational improvement.

This work was brought together in the Phase 2 Report (published on the SIP SharePoint site [share.aber.ac.uk/projects/sustain/default.aspx](http://share.aber.ac.uk/projects/sustain/default.aspx)), which gives us PA Consulting's external view of capabilities and performance across the University, based on the analysis of data and consultation and discussion with staff. This external view is a key source of ideas to help us define how we will build on our successes and ensure sustainability.

### The next phase

We are now entering the third phase of the SIP, where we will, as a University community, define and implement changes to realise the future vision for the University. This phase is an internal, AU led process and uses the expertise and knowledge of members of Council, Senate, staff and students. This is not a reactive programme – we have an external view of the University from PA Consulting, we now need to proactively shape our own future. The PA Consulting report is a contribution to the process going forward.

To provide a strategic lead for the SIP a Steering Group (chaired by the President) has been established which reports to Council. The Steering Group is supported by a Programme Board (chaired by the Vice Chancellor), which drives the delivery and pace of the SIP work plan.

### The big four: the development strands in the SIP Work Plan

The Programme of proposals from the "SIP Phase 2 Report" have been brought together under four development strands with leaders who are committed to working with the University

community to get the best results. These are:

Leadership Management and Governance:  
**Ms Sue Chambers**, Director of Human Resources

Academic Development and Performance:  
**Professor Tim Woods**, Dean of Arts

Service Delivery and Operating Systems:  
**Professor Mike Woods**, Head of IGES

Communications, Marketing and Engagement:  
**Professor Len Scott**, Dean of Social Sciences

The development strand leaders have started, based on initial conversations and consultations with staff, to develop action plans and share updates at the Programme Board, so that common elements and opportunities are not missed as the SIP progresses.

### Getting involved

The success of this phase has a key dependency – you! We need your help so that, together we can find the best ways to:

- Make our work easier and quicker by streamlining and reducing bureaucracy and complexity
- Recognise, celebrate, and extend our success in the student experience, teaching, research and service delivery
- Strengthen our brand and our international reputation
- Make sure we're providing value for money by working effectively and efficiently

The SIP Communication and Engagement Plan maps out how we can make the most of the existing forums and methods that staff have for discussing new ideas and approaches, as well as putting in place new, easy routes to share innovations and information.

Each of the development strands will be inviting staff input, so please attend sessions to make sure your ideas are heard, read the briefing updates and post, and respond to questions on the Discussion Forum facility on the SharePoint site (which includes a Virtual Suggestions Box [share.aber.ac.uk/projects/sustain/default.aspx](http://share.aber.ac.uk/projects/sustain/default.aspx)).

The future direction of the University is in your hands – get involved!

### COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AberNEWS is published by the **Department of Communications and Public Affairs**, Aberystwyth University. Tel: 01970 621763  
E-mail: [communications@aber.ac.uk](mailto:communications@aber.ac.uk).

If you would like to submit an item for publication you can do so in hard copy or by e-mail. Unfortunately, due to the limited space, we are not able to publish all the items we receive.

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

## Vice-Chancellor's column

First, I extend my warmest congratulations to Professor April McMahon who, as you know, has been appointed as Aberystwyth University's Vice-Chancellor from 1 August. I wish her every success.

I also congratulate **Rebecca Davies**, Director of Information Services, on being appointed as Pro Vice Chancellor, and to wish her well in her new role. Her appointment follows the retirement of Dr John Harries. John has been a faithful servant of the University, and his immense contribution in several roles, most recently as Pro Vice Chancellor, are greatly valued.

The arrangements in relation to the portfolios of the Pro Vice Chancellors are that Professor Aled Jones will have particular responsibility for Research, the Welsh Language and Internationalisation, Professor Martin Jones will be responsible for Quality, Standards and the Student Experience, while Ms Rebecca Davies will be responsible for Student and Staff Services.

Higher Education is experiencing a time of rapid change and, at present, considerable uncertainty. The final Welsh Assembly budget will be announced shortly. The Funding Council has indicated that there will be an 'in year' reduction to the recurrent grant for Academic Year 2010/2011 of 4% (equating to about £1.25m for Aberystwyth). It seems that the reduction to the base line for Academic Year 2011/2012 might be another £1.5 to 2m or so for us.

The funding model is also changing in significant ways, not least in relation to greater selectivity of research funding, and the combined impact of all the expected changes is at this stage impossible to predict with any degree of certainty.

The reduction for this academic year is broadly within expectation, and will be offset by other sources of income. The reduction in the next academic year will be much harder to deal with, and will certainly present a significant challenge. Thereafter, of course, the Welsh Assembly Government has announced its plans in relation

to graduate contributions. Much remains to be worked out on the implementation of the policy.

One aspect of the government's policy is the importance attached to collaboration and reconfiguration of the sector. Over the years we have had experience of mergers – with the Welsh Agricultural College, the Welsh College of Librarianship and, recently, IGER. Like all institutions, we have a portfolio of approaches to working with others. In some cases – and IGER is an example – merger is the appropriate mechanism. In others an agreement on strategic collaboration is the way forward.

We established the Research an Enterprise Partnership with Bangor University because we were convinced that collaboration of this kind was necessary to establish the range of expertise required to be internationally competitive in research, and we are pleased with the successes that have been recorded.

We are committed to broadening and deepening the partnership with Bangor, and Professor John Hughes, the new Vice Chancellor of BU and I are working together to take this forward. We have already, of course, seen the establishment of the Mid and North Wales Centre for Teacher Education, and we are pleased with the way in which this initiative has been established.

The relationship with Bangor is an important one, but it is not exclusive, and Aberystwyth University is open to discussing with other institutions about how we can work together in order to deliver our strategic objectives and those of HEFCW.

Our approach to collaboration is that such arrangements must be focused and have well defined objectives; they must be of benefit to each partner, and each partner must make a clear contribution. The collaboration must be sustainable, of course, and they must be supported by institutional leaders as well as have the support of the individual members of staff involved. With that approach, the combined strength of universities can be exploited.



## HEALTH, SAFETY and ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

## Walk the World

Phileas Fogg may have circumnavigated the world on boats, trains and even elephants, in Jules Verne's epic novel *Around the World in 80 Days*, but can you help us complete the journey on foot?

Free pedometers are on offer to members of staff who are willing to take part in the Walk the World Challenge 2011, a new fitness initiative launched by the Health, Safety and Environment Office – [www.aber.ac.uk/en/hse](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/hse).

All you have to do is record every step you take and load the information in to a web base calculator which will give you a running - or should that be walking - total. The target is to walk 48,800,000 steps before the 20th of April.

As at the 18th of February, over 400 members of staff had registered and nearly 30 million steps logged.

But event organiser **Dr Helen Williams** is keen to sign up even more. "The aim is to get people walking more and enjoy some of



*Pictured at the launch of Walk the World Challenge 2011 (L to R) are Helen Williams, Rob Johnson, Professor Noel Lloyd, Dr Catrin Hughes - Registrar and Secretary, Allan Evans and Carol Parry.*

the health benefits that result from a more active life," she said. It's not too late to join. Contact Helen today [hew@aber.ac.uk](mailto:hew@aber.ac.uk) / 2169 and help us reach our destination!



# Child's play

Meet iCub, the new humanoid robot that is set to 'learn' like a child.

iCub has been acquired by the Developmental Robotics Group at the Department of Computer Science as part of "IM-CLeVeR", a €5.9m pan European research programme to develop new robot controllers.

The team hopes that by bringing experts in neuroscience, developmental psychology and machine learning together it will be able to make robots which can learn in more flexible ways than those programmed using traditional methods.

The Developmental Robotics Group is particularly interested in constraints which prevent a child from developing certain abilities before others have been sufficiently mastered.

The IM-CLeVeR team at Aberystwyth are Professor Mark Lee (Team Leader), Dr Martin Hülse, Dr James Law, and Dr Patricia Shaw.



## LAW and CRIMINOLOGY

# Crime and social justice



*Kate Williams and Professor Noel Cox, Head of Law at Aberystwyth at the launch of WCCSJ.*

A new centre that brings together experts in criminology, social policy, law and psychology from Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Glyndŵr, Newport and Swansea Universities, to enhance the scale and impact of crime related research in Wales

was launched by First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, at the end of November.

The Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) will bridge devolved and non-devolved policy areas, including both criminal justice responses to crime and strategies which aim to tackle the roots of offending and anti-social behaviour in Wales

Aberystwyth law lecturer Kate Williams is the Deputy Director of WCCSJ. "This is an exciting new venture that will allow academics from across Wales to provide practitioners and policy makers with research and knowledge to shape crime and social policy for Wales ensuring distinctive, inclusive, just and supportive responses to problems caused by crime and anti-social behaviour."

Part-funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the WCCSJ office is based at the Department of Law and Criminology.

[wccsj.ac.uk](http://wccsj.ac.uk)

## BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

# BEACON

IBERS is leading a £20m initiative that could boost the green economy and contribute to combating climate change.

BEACON brings together scientists at Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea universities to develop new technologies and new ways of making products that are traditionally made from oil.

It was launched by the Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, at the Senedd in Cardiff on Tuesday 15th February at a showcase of world class research at Aberystwyth that is responding to 21st century global challenges.

IBERS researchers will look at how locally grown crops can be used to manufacture industrial products ranging from fuels to cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food and health products.

£10.5m of funding for the programme comes from the European Regional Development Fund.



*Pictured: Professor Noel Lloyd and Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones at the launch of BEACON.*

# Climate change

GEOGRAPHY and EARTH SCIENCES

## Polar expedition

As Aber News goes to print a team of scientists led by **Professor Neil Glasser** from IGES is part way through a two month expedition to Antarctica.

Their mission is to hunt for clues about how the glaciers and ice sheets of the north-eastern Antarctic Peninsula behaved in the past and what we can expect in the future.

Over the past half-century, the Antarctic Peninsula has suffered above average warming, (2.5°C since 1950), causing glaciers and ice shelves to melt, releasing large volumes of fresh water into the oceans which not only raises sea level, but also influences deep sea circulation and regional climate.

To gain a better understanding of the relationship between air and sea temperature, and the melting of the ice, the team will collect samples of rock and date their exposure to cosmic radiation. The resulting data should reveal how the glaciers and ice have retreated since the last ice age, around 20,000 years ago.

“The collapse of Antarctic ice shelves is largely thought to be caused by warming of the atmosphere, but it appears that changes in sea temperature and ice-shelf structure are also important,” said Professor Glasser.

Equipped with four quad bikes, two trailers, scientific equipment, tents and enough food and fuel to last three months, the team travelled to the Antarctic Peninsula on board the Royal Research Ship Ernest Shackleton.

The research is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.



*Professor Neil Glasser.*



BIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

## Methane study

IBERS is heading a £3.9 million study to improve our understanding of the amounts of damaging methane that are emitted by agriculture and the value of the industry's attempts to control it.

Twenty five times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, agriculture accounted for 38% of UK methane emissions between 1990 and 2008.

The IBERS team will help to develop a far more sophisticated system, assessing the effect of different types of livestock, feedstuffs, and farming systems. They will also assess how farmers are cutting back on emissions by adapting their practices, and show which methods work best.

The study is part of a broader £12.6 million research project, The Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Inventory Research Platform, which is funded by the Department of Environment, Agriculture



and Rural Affairs and the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The other institutions involved in the project are: Scottish Agricultural College, AFBI Hillsborough, the Universities of Reading and Nottingham, Rothamsted Research North Wyke and the National Physical Laboratory.





Lyn Morgan

# Communications in a rapidly changing world

Lyn Morgan, Head of Communications and Public Affairs, considers the ever changing landscape of communications.



It was back in 1982 when I graduated from Aberystwyth with a burning ambition to work as a professional broadcaster. The notion however that an early foray into the media would be a passport to fame and fortune was

quickly dispelled; some might say that I had managed my own expectations early on. There were some great times though along the way.

People often used to ask me, what do you actually do? In fact, I've faced that question throughout my career. As a broadcaster for over nearly 25 years, I would be asked, 'well what do you do between records and news programmes ...?' (Did I just say records, oh yes, those were simpler times. My teenage children look at me quizzically when I talk of needles on vinyl records and cassettes, where you'd have to wind the tape back in with a pencil, when it got all tangled up). My answer though has always been that I work with people to

understand the aims and objectives of a project or story and then try to convey the information in the most effective way possible. A noble aim, that's become a whole lot trickier.

In 1982, the communications and media landscape was pretty straightforward. People wrote letters and postcards, made telephone calls from landlines and watched TV from a vast choice of three channels; – or if like me, living along Carmarthen Bay, you could sometimes pick up Westward. Now that was magic! Businesses would communicate with their staff by newsletter, memo and meeting; with their clients by letter and brochure and promoted themselves by advertising on TV and in the press. But now it's all change; we're witnessing the most stunning developments in communication technology and the growth of a vast array of new communication channels. From broadcasting to narrowcasting, you might say.

Estate agents will tell you that when answering enquiries from would be house purchasers, one of the very first questions is whether there's broadband access. Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that 70% of homes in the UK are now on line and that 90% of that access is via broadband. We



## EDUCATION and LIFELONG LEARNING

are a UK population of just under 62 million and 79% of us have a mobile phone. Many of these phones have a camera attached and so, put all three elements together... phone, camera and internet access and you have the essential ingredients for a new wave of what have become known as 'citizen journalists'. This can take the form of contributions via Facebook, Twitter or YouTube, as well as more events based reporting from around the world. Many profound events have been witnessed in this way—, the Tsunami in Indonesia on Boxing Day, 2004, the terrorist attacks in London in July 2005 and the protests in Tibet in 2008 being three examples.

Some commentators are already talking about the events in Tunisia and Egypt this year, having been influenced in no small part by the growth of social media.

So what do all these changes mean for someone like me trying to get to grips with the challenges of communicating in the digital and social media age? It means going back to basics and remembering that the most powerful form of communication is that which gets from A to B, with the least interference, the environmental 'noise' that fills our daily lives. Organisations have to understand how their 'stakeholders' consume information, and for Higher Education this includes, students, staff, parents, local community and politicians. The reality is that it takes all sorts of forms, at all sorts of different times. We have to be there, fleet of foot and able to work flexibly.

And yet, even when we have so many opportunities to use new technology to help us, there remains one fundamental human trait, that of the need for direct contact. So my advice to myself, when I look around and think about the next big project or challenge, is to pause and maybe pick up the phone. Hitting the email 'send' button may not always be the best approach. And now they tell me, even email is yesterday's currency!

## Teacher training

First Minister Carwyn Jones AM launched the new North and Mid Wales Centre of Teacher Education on Friday 14 January via a live video link between Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales in Cardiff.

The new centre, which is run jointly by the School of Education and Lifelong Learning at Aberystwyth and its counterpart at Bangor University, is one of three such centres in Wales.

Under the collaborative arrangements, Aberystwyth offers the Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) for the Secondary sector in English and Drama, Geography, History, ICT and Modern Languages, Science and Welsh, the later two also being offered at Bangor.

At Bangor University the provision includes primary courses, the three year BA Primary Education (Qualified Teacher Status) course and the one year PGCE Primary course. It also offers Secondary PGCE courses in Art, Mathematics,



*Dr Malcolm Thomas, Head of the School for Education and Life-Long Learning, alumna Natalie Richards, Head of Drama at Llantwit Major, Professor Noel Lloyd and Professor Martin Jones at the new Centre.*

Music, Physical Education and Religious Education and the undergraduate secondary BSc (QTS) course in Design and Technology.

Addressing 150 staff and students at Aberystwyth, Professor Noel Lloyd welcomed the development. "This shows excellent collaboration between the two universities and is part of a wider partnership which continues to develop and expand. The extensive network of partnerships with schools across mid and north Wales is especially valuable."

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

## UKPASS

Aberystwyth is the first university in Wales to join UKPASS, the online application service for prospective postgraduate students.

Run by UCAS, UKPASS enables prospective postgraduate students anywhere in the world to search online for courses and to apply to study at British universities.

Dr Hywel Davies, Director of Recruitment and Admissions has welcomed the development. "As well as facilitating the system for finding suitable courses and applying for them, the service is free and very flexible. It is also the only service where applications can be submitted in English or Welsh."

As the applicant's core information is kept in an individual 'account', they do



not need to complete countless forms for each application – up to ten courses can be applied for with institutions represented on UKPASS.

UKPASS is run alongside current application routes, with all applications downloaded to the Aberystwyth University AStRA database. Further information is available at [www.ukpass.ac.uk](http://www.ukpass.ac.uk).



ABER PEOPLE

# Appointments

## Pro Vice-Chancellor

**Rebecca Davies** has been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student and Staff Services.



Rebecca joined AU as Director of Information Services in May 2009. Prior to this she was Head of the Welsh Assembly Government Library & Public Enquiry Service.

An Aber graduate (Librarianship and Education), Rebecca also completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Education here.

Speaking of her appointment she said, "I am thrilled to be working with the talented staff at Aberystwyth who are committed to the delivery of efficient and effective services to our students and colleagues."

The initial term for the post of Pro Vice-Chancellor is three years.

## School of Management and Business

**Julie McKeown** joins the school as a teaching fellow in Marketing. Previously Julie worked as a marketing consultant specializing in Strategic Marketing, CRM/ Customer Care and marketing training. She also regularly lectured on the subject at leading business schools in the UK and is an examiner for the Chartered Institute of Marketing.



**Nishikant Mishra** has joined the School as a Lecturer in Supply Chain Management. His PhD research focuses on the development of decision support system for radiotherapy planning. He is working in collaboration with NHS. His research interests includes mathematical modelling, developing heuristics and algorithms for a variety of real world manufacturing planning and scheduling problems, radiotherapy planning, supply chain and fault diagnosis



**Wyn Morris** has been appointed teaching fellow at the School of Management and Business. An Aberystwyth graduate (BSc in Rural Resource Management and MSc Econ), Wyn previously worked as certification and assessment coordinator for the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock scheme and then joined Aberystwyth University in 2003 as Investigational Officer for the Farm Business Survey. Wyn's research interests are in rural economics, traceability and sports.

## IBERS

**Dr Arwyn Edwards** has joined IBERS as Lecturer in Biology (Welsh Medium). An Aber Microbiology graduate he complete a PhD under the supervision of Dr. Gareth Griffith and Professor Mike Young with occasional excursions to the NERC Arctic Research Station on Svalbard. His research interests focus on understanding the links between structure and function of microbial communities in relation to environmental change.



Recently appointed as a Lecturer in Zoology, **Dr Joe Jackson** has joined IBERS from the University of Liverpool. Dr Jackson studied Marine Biology at Swansea and gained a PhD in Parasitology at The University of London (Queen Mary). He has also worked at the universities of Bristol and Nottingham. His research

interests are in the ecology and evolution of host-parasite interactions, particularly focussing on the role of the immune system.

**Dr Denis M. Larkin** has joined IBERS as lecturer in Animal Genomics. Dr Larkin studied for his PhD at the Novosibirsk State University in Russia before joining the Department of Animal Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA, first as a Postdoctoral Research Associate and later as a Research Assistant Professor. He also holds the position of a Senior Scientist at the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Novosibirsk, Russia.

**Dr Roger Santer** joins IBERS as a lecturer in Zoology. Prior to his appointment Dr Santer was a lecturer in Biology at the University of Limerick in Republic of Ireland. He completed his PhD at Newcastle University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA.



**Dr Pippa Moore** joins IBERS from the Centre for Marine Ecosystems Research, Edith Cowan University, Australia, as a lecturer in Aquatic Biology. A Plymouth graduate, where she also studied for a PhD in Marine Ecology and Climate Change, she has been working more recently as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on a Western Australian Marine Science Institute funded fisheries management project.



## Creative ambassador

School of Art MA student **Eleri Mills** is the winner of the 2010/11 Creative Wales Ambassador Award.

In her ambassadorial role Eleri will become a visiting artist at Columbia University, New York in 2012, and will have her work exhibited at the SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art) New York 2012 exposition.

Robert Meyrick, Head of the School of Art, said; "Eleri is a consummate artist and an excellent choice to serve as a Creative Ambassador for Wales. As a postgraduate student of printmaking, she has already made a significant and valued contribution to our research community."

Eleri's work magically evokes landscape and the enduring history and feel of place, time and myth in delicate stitch and pigment. An exhibition of prints produced by her as part of her MA course will be held at Aberystwyth School of Art Galleries in May.



## A miller's tale

Former IBERS members of staff **Andrew and Anne Parry** have launched a new range of locally grown and milled organic flour.

Andrew, who retired as a computer manager there years ago, and Anne, a former plant pathologist, have lovingly restored the mill at Felin Ganol near Llanrhystud which is now fully operational for the first time in more than 50 years.

However, it was to their former employers, IBERS that they turned for locally grown wheat. Working with IBERS farm manager Andrew McConochie they source wheat from IBERS farms and are looking at the possibility of producing traditional oats.



*Dr. Huw McConochie from IBERS (left) with Anne and Andrew Parry at the Felin Ganol water mill.*

## New Year's Honour

Congratulations to **Dr John Fish** from IBERS who has been awarded the MBE for services to the fishing industry and the marine environment.

A marine biologist, Dr Fish joined Aberystwyth as an assistant lecturer at the Zoology Department in 1965. He was appointed Director of the Institute of Biological Sciences in 2002, a post he held until 2007, and was Dean of Science between 2006 and 2008.

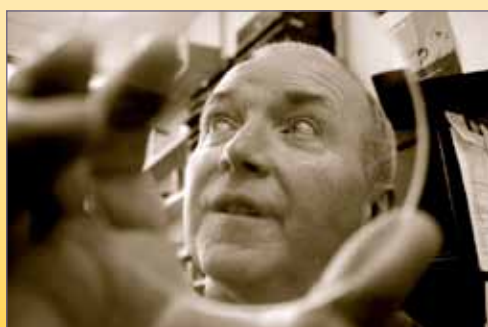
Although retired, Dr Fish continues to teach part time and recently completed work on the third edition of the textbook *A Student's Guide to the Sea Shore* (Cambridge University Press) which he has co-authored with his wife Susan.



## Obituaries

Suddenly, and just a few days before Christmas, **Mr John Jones**, a technician at the Department of Theatre Film and Television Studies died at his home in Dolgellau. A highly respected and valued colleague, John had worked at the University since 1972 and in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies since 2000. Speaking shortly after his death, Elin Hefin, a colleague at the Department said, 'John travelled by bus from Dolgellau every morning, and never missed a day's work. Within hours of his untimely death, ex students had created a Facebook tribute page and the comments testify to his patience, friendliness, endless helpfulness, generosity with time, good humour and technical knowledge. His death

has left a very big gap in the department. A technician, yes, but much, so much more. G o r f f w y s mewn hedd John.'



## A tribute to Owain Baglow

On Wednesday 8th December, 40 students and members of staff gathered with members of Owain's family to remember and celebrate this talented student who tragically died earlier in the year.

Fellow students spoke of working with Owain on a group project, of his leadership and helpfulness, of the work that he did for Bay Radio, and of his work as President of the University's Expedition Club. Staff from the Department of Information Studies described the work that Owain had done with them during his Industrial Year, how hard he had worked, and the promise he had shown.

Pro Vice Chancellor John Harries presented Owain's parents, Mike and Sue Baglow with the Diploma Owain had earned during the time he studied at Aberystwyth. On behalf of the Department of Computer Science, Professor Chris Price presented the Baglows with a signed tribute to Owain from the Department. He said that Owain had been an exceptional student who, with an average of 75% in his second year marks would have been sure to go on to achieve First Class Honours. Owain's father spoke of Owain's great affection for Aberystwyth, and thanked those present for being part of the wonderful time Owain had had at the University.

## WHAT'S ON

### Exhibitions

#### ARTS CENTRE

<b>Until 26 March</b>	<b>BP Portrait Award 2010</b>	Gallery 1
<b>12 March – 30 April</b>	<b>Michel Huneault 'Histoires Normales'</b>	Gallery 2
<b>To 16 April</b>	<b>Season 3:</b> Elen Bonner, Yang Jian, Tom Marshman, Harry Meados and James Johnson Perkins	The Box
<b>Feb – April</b>	Artists in Residence: Haider Ali Jan (from Pakistan)	
<b>March – May</b>	Artists in Residence: Sai Hua Kuan and David Cushway	

Full details of the Arts Centre programme are available online at [aberystwythartscentre.co.uk](http://aberystwythartscentre.co.uk)

### Performances and Events

#### ARTS CENTRE

<b>3 March</b>	<b>Stan Tracey Trio</b>
<b>4-6 March</b>	<b>Côr Cymru Semi Finals</b>
<b>10-16 March</b>	<b>WOW Wales One World Film Festival</b>
<b>15 March</b>	<b>'Gadael yr Ugeinfed Ganrif' Sherman Cymru</b>
<b>16-19 March</b>	<b>'Wuthering Heights' Aberystwyth Arts Centre Productions</b>
<b>17 March</b>	<b>BBC National Orchestra of Wales</b>
<b>26 March</b>	<b>Ballet Jazz Montreal</b>
<b>31 March- 2 April</b>	<b>Guys and Dolls</b>
<b>2 April</b>	<b>Philomusica of Aberystwyth: Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto</b>
<b>6 – 9 April</b>	<b>Hamlet</b>
<b>7 April</b>	<b>Albert Lee and Hogan's Heroes</b>
<b>13 April</b>	<b>Burton</b>
<b>14 April</b>	<b>The Ryan Rabey Band</b>

### Public Lectures

#### CENTRE FOR WELSH LEGAL AFFAIRS

<b>9th March</b>	<b>Family Justice and Domestic Violence</b> Beth Thomas, Dyfed Powys Crown Prosecution Service 7pm, 9th March 2011, Main Hall, Department of International Politics
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#### GREGYNOG LECTURE

<b>31 March</b>	<b>Climate Change and Biodiversity – implications for food, water and energy security</b> Professor Robert Watson, Professor of Environmental Sciences and Director of Strategic Development, Tyndall Centre, University of East Anglia. 7pm, A14 Hugh Owen Building
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#### ABERYSTWYTH LINGUISTIC FORUM

<b>31 March</b>	<b>The (in)visibility of translation.</b> Professor Christina Schaeffner (Professor of Translation Studies at Aston) 6.15pm A14, Hugh Owen Building
<b>5 May</b>	<b>Harmless Drudges Sifting Bran.</b> Frank Bott 6.15pm A14, Hugh Owen Building

## MUSIC CENTRE



The University Music Centre has two big concerts lined up at Aberystwyth Arts Centre for the Easter term. Haydn's Creation is the showcase work for Choral Union, the university's 80-strong choral society, which will be performing this ever popular classic on Saturday 12th of March with full orchestra and a glittering line-up of guest soloists - Soprano Katherine Fuge, tenor James Geer and baritone Njabulo Madlala. The conductor is University Director of Music, Dr David Russell Hulme.

On April 2nd, Aberystwyth's highly successful university and community orchestra is joined by soloists Vic McLean to perform Tchaikovsky's Bb minor 1st Piano concerto. The programme also features a brilliant orchestral showpiece by Rachmaninov, Symphonic Dances. Dances of a different kind inspired George Gershwin's vibrant Cuban Overture and there will be colourful music, too, by Ian Parrott – 95 years old this year!

So join us for two wonderful evenings of superb music and take part in Aberystwyth's great live music experiences! Further information from the Music Centre on (01970) 622685. Follow us on the University Website and on Facebook, too!

### Practice your Welsh

The Welsh Learners' Mentoring Scheme, which promotes the Welsh language among University staff, has grown from strength to strength. It provides learners with the opportunity to practise informally with fluent speakers, and almost fifty participants meet over a coffee or lunch. If you would like to join the scheme (we are looking in particular for Welsh speakers who work in Gogerddan and Llanbadarn campuses) please contact Gwenno Piette. [gws@aber.ac.uk](mailto:gws@aber.ac.uk), x 2044).