



# Aber<sup>r</sup>NEWS

ISSUE 7 - April 2012

BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

## Lie diet-tector

### - a urine test that reveals the truth about what you eat

IBERS scientists have shown that they can determine which foods and in what amounts people have eaten by analysing their urine.

What we eat has a big impact on our health but it is very difficult to measure exactly what, and how much, people eat in everyday life - and people find it difficult to record honestly.



IBERS researchers Professor John Draper (centre), Dr Manfred Beckmann and Dr Amanda Lloyd.

Measuring what people eat can help prevent illness by showing definite links between particular kinds, and amounts, of foods and specific diseases.

By testing urine for the chemical 'fingerprints' of different foods, **Professor John Draper** and colleagues at IBERS have demonstrated that they could determine whether individuals are eating healthy diets or not.

The chemical 'fingerprints' they identified are substances called metabolites which are unique to different foodstuffs - those for healthy foods such as raspberries, salmon, broccoli and orange juice have already been identified.

The next stage is to develop a simple test with the potential to revolutionise health care by determining whether people are eating a healthy diet or not.

Professor Draper believes the test will even be able to distinguish between similar foods such as whether someone has eaten red, white or processed meat and so help to understand the links between these foods and health.

"This kind of test has enormous potential as a weapon against many chronic diseases," said Professor Draper. "It will help doctors, nurses, dieticians and nutritionists to work out what their patients have been eating and in the longer term it could help to uncover new links between eating patterns and health."

It is hoped eventually to develop a simple dipstick test - a sensor dipped into urine which will provide an instant readout of the main foods that the person has eaten.

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COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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The next edition of Aber<sup>NEWS</sup> will be available in June 2012.

Copy deadline for this edition is Friday 18th May.

# A new Strategic Alliance

Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities have announced a new Strategic Alliance that signals a new phase in the partnership between the two institutions. The new alliance builds on the successful HEFCW funded £10.9m Research and Enterprise Partnership which was established by the two universities in 2006.

Set a target of generating £11m of additional research funding over a period of 5 years, the Research and Enterprise Partnership reported in December 2011 it had in fact generated £53m of additional research funding.

This represents 481% of target and has been achieved in the form of new joint research projects, funding brought in by new appointments or as a result of workshops and meetings, which have brought together existing academics from both universities.

The new Strategic Alliance is already beginning to broaden and deepen the partnership between the two universities into areas such as joint strategies in Teaching and Learning, Innovation and Engagement, widening access and regional planning.

Shared services will also be developed in a number of areas, the most advanced being Welsh language services, human resources and careers and employability.

Speaking at the time of the announcement, Vice-Chancellor Professor April McMahon described the new Strategic Alliance as a major milestone in the excellent relationship that exists



Professor April McMahon and Professor John Hughes of Bangor University.

between Aberystwyth and Bangor universities.

She added: "Over the years both institutions have become and will remain the "best of friends"; we engage positively with each other in our shared interests and towards our shared goals, yet still maintain a friendly rivalry.

"This relationship allows us to develop initiatives that will ensure the mutual success of both institutions and have an increasingly beneficial impact on the various communities we serve."

# Reconfiguration

The new Strategic Alliance with Bangor University was launched in the week following the announcement by the Minister for Education and Skills, Leighton Andrews AM, that he did not expect Aberystwyth and Bangor to progress to a formal merger at this stage.

Speaking at the Senedd in Cardiff, the Minister said that he accepted HEFCW's advice that Aberystwyth and Bangor should not merge but rather they should substantially widen and deepen their existing strategic partnership.

The HEFCW recommendations were that:

- The University of Glamorgan, Cardiff Metropolitan University and University of Wales, Newport, should merge.
- Cardiff and Swansea Universities should continue to develop their considerable research and collaborative potential.
- Aberystwyth and Bangor should continue to strengthen their strategic alliance, although they will not be expected to formally merge at this time.
- The University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Swansea Metropolitan University should merge as already planned, and also pursue their merger with the University of Wales.

Further information is available online [wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/heinwales/?lang=en&status=closed](http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/heinwales/?lang=en&status=closed)

# Memorandum of Understanding

The University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hywel Dda Health Board.

The agreement will pave the way for greater collaboration in areas of research, continuing professional development and provision of shared services.

Discussions are also underway about establishing a Professorial Chair in areas of mutual interest such as how people in rural areas access health services and support, and general health and well-being.

The new agreement builds on existing research collaboration in fall prevention amongst the frail and elderly, evaluating the effectiveness of home based tele-health kits in rural areas and diabetes (see page 5).

**Visit the new café on campus!**



Caffi  
**IBERbach**  
Café

Located on the ground floor of the new IBERS building on Penglais Campus. A wide range of refreshing drinks and tasty treats **available from 8am-6pm.**

*Come and sample the delights including fresh coffee, speciality teas, paninis and a range of cookies and cakes!*

# Vice-Chancellor's column



I am hugely encouraged by the number of colleagues who came along to my introductory meetings since August. Thank you all.

One of the themes discussed at these meetings and something we need to get right in 2012 is the way we work together and the structures we have for decision making. We have recently been developing the same themes of involvement and gathering good ideas through the 'Shaping our Future' sessions, which will build into our new Strategic Plan. However, I was very struck by two recurring themes in those introductory meetings: absolutely nobody challenged me when I suggested our committee structure was too complex and cumbersome; and lots of you felt you didn't quite understand who in the senior team does what.

**So, what have we done already?** With strong support from both Council and Senate, we have disbanded the old Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning and Resources Committee and replaced these with a single Finance and Strategy Committee, which will recommend to Council the Strategic Plan and Annual Budget and review progress against them; oversee large capital projects and monitor crucial estates maintenance spend; and monitor performance and risk. The old committees had three separate subgroups reporting to them (the Senior Management Team, Finance Group and Planning Group). We have replaced all of these with a single University Executive Group, which meets weekly to consider operational matters so we can make and communicate decisions quickly.

At the end of the summer, Catrin Hughes, our Registrar and Secretary, requested a change in her working pattern. She now works half-time (usually Mondays to Wednesdays) and focusses on the vital areas of governance, compliance and disciplinary appeals. Rebecca Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor, has therefore taken on line management for a range of the Central Services from Catrin, with Roger Matthews seconded to the post of Director of Information Services. In addition, reflecting a radical increase

in the importance of the regional, partnership and employability agendas, we have recruited a fourth Pro Vice-Chancellor, John Grattan, and realigned portfolios and line-management responsibilities for all PVCs, as you can see in the table.

Joining Catrin, John, Rebecca, Martin, Aled and myself on the Executive are Sue Chambers (Director of HR), Sarah Taylor (Director of Planning), and Peter Keegans (Interim Director of Finance). Following the retirement of Keith Lewis, Kirsty Jenkins has been a very able and much appreciated Acting Director of Finance, but we need her to now be able to concentrate on developing our new Resource Allocation System among other important tasks.

**What next, then?** In the near future, we will be re-locating the Vice-Chancellor's Office (including the PVCs and Registrar and Secretary) to the Visualisation Building on the Penglais Campus. The Old College remains vitally important for the University and the town, and we need to consider future plans for it carefully and creatively – but the Executive need to be more accessible and able to work in a more integrated way. We're trying to make Senate more of a forum for discussion, and improving the way we present information for Council. Perhaps most importantly, we have been piloting a revised format for Heads of Department meetings; these will take over some functions of the annual planning round meetings, leading to greater integration of the aims of academic and support departments. Finally, I remain very keen to devolve budgets and decision-making – but to do so effectively, we need the right structures and units at the right levels in both academic and support areas, and so, also this semester we are starting the discussion on what those structures should be. As ever, I'll be keen to hear your views as Aberystwyth continues to grow and change in 2012.

**Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor**

## PVC Portfolio Responsibilities

Learning, Teaching and Employability	Research, the Welsh Language and Internationalisation	Participation and Collaboration	Student and Staff Services
<b>John Grattan</b>	<b>Aled Jones</b>	<b>Martin Jones</b>	<b>Rebecca Davies</b>
Institutional Review	Research Strategy, REF, Research Office, and CCS	Recruitment & Portfolio Development – UG & PG	<b>Student Living and Wellbeing services:</b> Student Support, RHS, Sports, frontline Academic Office
L&T Strategy Implementation	Welsh Language and Bilingualism	Widening Participation & Social Justice	<b>Learning Services:</b> IS, Careers, Language services, lifelong learning
Academic Office	Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol	Postgraduate Strategy	<b>Staff Services:</b> HR (including Staff Development), H&S
Learning and Teaching Spaces	International	HE-FE links	Estates Governance Group
Fees	Communications	Regionalisation	
KIS	Alumni and Development	Local Partnerships	
Employability	Branding/Marketing	KPIs/Benchmarking	
Student Experience (lead responsibility)	Arts Centre	Strategic Alliances	



BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

# Breakthrough against bilharzia

A significant discovery that could pave the way for the development of a new drug treatment for one of the world's deadliest diseases has been made by IBERS scientists.

**Professor Karl Hoffmann** and colleagues have identified a specific DNA modification of the parasitic flatworm *Schistosoma mansoni* that gives rise to the disease schistosomiasis.

Known also as bilharzia, this chronic and debilitating disease is caused by blood flukes, kills 300,000 people each year and leaves more than 200 million people chronically ill.

It is caused by parasitic worms which are transferred when

people wade through shallow water.

Currently the condition is treated by taking the same drug, Praziquantel (PZQ), used to de-worm cats and dogs. However evidence is beginning to build up suggesting that the disease is developing resistance to PZQ.



Professor Karl Hoffmann



Fishermen on Lake Victoria. About 90 per cent of cases of schistosomiasis are in poor areas of sub-Saharan Africa and the death toll is second only to malaria among parasitic diseases.

The Aberystwyth led team has discovered a genetic trait crucial to the progression of the parasitic disease in the body and have worked out a potential means of knocking it out, a drug commonly used in treating some types of leukaemia.

It is the first time such a switch has been identified in a parasitic worm and the preliminary success in disrupting it offers the hope of developing an urgently needed new drug that can protect people from schistosomiasis.

The research has been funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Sandler Center for Basic Research in Parasitic Diseases. The findings were published in *Nature Communications*.

BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL and RURAL SCIENCES

# Birdsong

Urban architecture may be just as important as background noise in shaping how our birds sing according to new research at IBERS.

Previous research by **Dr Rupert Marshall** from IBERS has established that birds in built-up areas sing at a higher pitch than their rural cousins.

It was widely believed that they did this so they could be heard above the low pitched city noise.

The most recent findings by Dr Marshall and **Emily Mockford** from IBERS and researchers at Copenhagen University, suggest that it is the buildings that are changing the way birds sing in cities.

For more information and to listen to recordings of rural and urban birds visit [users.aber.ac.uk/rmm/songtransmission.htm](http://users.aber.ac.uk/rmm/songtransmission.htm)

MATHEMATICS and PHYSICS

# Inspiring physicist

A newly refurbished suite of laboratories at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics have been named after **Dr Tudor Jenkins**, an "inspiring physics teacher" who died suddenly in November 2009.

The new laboratories were officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor at the beginning of November.

Professor McMahon was joined by Dr Jenkins' widow, Mrs Susan Jenkins and sons Morgan and Meurig for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Dr. Tudor Jenkins, who was originally from Treherbert in south Wales, joined the Department of Physics at Aberystwyth in 1983. He became a Senior Lecturer in 1990 and a Reader in Physics in 2007.

He was a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (IoP), received the IoP Chair of Branches Medal for services to Physics in Wales in 2003 and was presented with the University's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2005.



Professor Manuel Grande, Professor April McMahon, Mrs Susan Jenkins, Morgan Jenkins and Meurig Jenkins at the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate Dr Tudor Jenkins.

## SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

# Volunteers wanted for diabetes study

Staff and students are being invited to contribute to a new diabetes study.

Researchers at the Department of Sport and Exercise Science are looking for 150 volunteers who are willing to take part in the study into the relationship between vitamin D and type 2 diabetes.

An increasing body of research suggests a link between low levels of vitamin D, caused by a lack of sunlight, and medical conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis, depression, cardiovascular disease and type 1 diabetes.

A chronic condition caused by too much glucose in the blood, diabetes affects 2.8 million people in the UK, with a further one million unaware they have the condition.

Type 2 diabetes accounts for around 90% of all cases. It can be controlled initially by eating a healthy diet, however as it is a progressive condition, it may eventually be necessary to take medication.

The study is being undertaken by **Ffion Curtis** who is keen to recruit volunteers who don't have type 2 diabetes as well as those who do.

"The number of people with type 2 diabetes is increasing



*Ffion Curtis and Ronnie Maher from Llanrhystud, one of the first to volunteer for the study.*

dramatically. At the same time people's lifestyles are changing; they are spending less time out in the open, take less exercise and see less sunlight which is essential to synthesise vitamin D. The aim of our study is to establish whether the lack of vitamin D is leading to more people developing this form of diabetes."

The study is funded by the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) scheme supported by the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government's Convergence programme. The team is working closely with **Dr Sam Rice**, Diabetes Consultant at the Hywel Dda Health Board.

If you would like to volunteer for this study, contact Ffion Curtis on 01970 622070 or [fic7@aber.ac.uk](mailto:fic7@aber.ac.uk).

To know more about research at the Department go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/sport-exercise/research/health/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/sport-exercise/research/health/) or contact Dr Rhys Thatcher on 01970 628630 / [ryt@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ryt@aber.ac.uk).

## HOSPITALITY SERVICES

# Eggcellent award

The University was recently awarded a Good Egg Award by Compassion in World Farming for sourcing eggs and egg products from cage-free birds.

Hospitality Services purchases approximately 96,000 eggs every year, all from an award winning egg producer based some 9 miles from the University, Birchgrove Eggs.

**Jeremy Mabbutt**, Head of Hospitality Services explains: "The University is committed



*Tony Burgess, owner of Birchgrove Eggs with Jeremy Mabbutt, Head of Hospitality Services.*

to ensuring that, whenever possible, local food suppliers are sought. We have a comprehensive sustainability and ethical purchasing food policy which puts environmental, health and sustainability considerations at the core of any purchasing decisions made.

## ACCOMMODATION

# Outline permission granted

Outline planning permission for the University's proposed new residential development, to accommodate up to 1,000 students, has been granted by the Ceredigion County Council.

The new residences will be located at **Penglais Farm**, on land immediately adjacent to the University's existing award winning Pentre Jane Morgan Student Village, and within easy walking distance of its all facilities on its main Penglais Campus.

The target date for building work to commence is late 2012, and for student occupancy in September 2014. Construction costs are expected to be in the region of £40 million.



## REF 2014 update

The recent Winter round of Research Monitoring and REF planning with academic departments was completed in December, and with the final Panel guidance from REF available from the end of January 2012, arrangements for REF are well underway.

More information on REF generally is available at [www.ref.ac.uk](http://www.ref.ac.uk); for information about Aberystwyth University's approach to the REF, some details are available on the Research Office web pages.



**Gary Reed - Head of Research Office**

## Accessing research funding from the EU

All Welsh Universities are being strongly encouraged to increase their research income from European funding by the Welsh Government, and specifically by the Chief Scientist to the Welsh Government, **Professor John Harries**, who raised this opportunity in the Science Policy for Wales document. Aberystwyth University has recently done well from EU funding, having increased the number of projects from 16 in July 2009 to 36 today; but we can do more, and this is an opportunity to remind you of the support that is available through the European Unit in the Research Office:

### FP7 collaborative research opportunities

The European Funding Manager, **Huw Merfyn Hughes** [[hmh@aber.ac.uk](mailto:hmh@aber.ac.uk)], delivers lunch-time seminars on EU research funding opportunities. If you missed the seminars, you can still contact Huw to get an update on the large number of opportunities for funding that remain in FP7, or you can consult recently opened calls for proposals, published on the EU's Participant Portal [ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7\\_calls](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls).

Success rates vary across FP7, but generally are about 17%. By involving Huw Merfyn Hughes, and the Research Finance Office team in proposal building, AU based researchers are experiencing success rates greater than 40%.

### New look to Research Office website

We are pleased to announce that the Research Office website underwent a facelift in the autumn. This new look has been designed to make navigating the site and searching for information relating to research easier and quicker. The site has been split into general research information, available to a variety of users (external and internal) and support for researchers providing a portal to resources available at Aberystwyth University.

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

We welcome your feedback, contact: [research@aber.ac.uk](mailto:research@aber.ac.uk)

### Influencing European research funding beyond FP7

The European Commission has published its proposal for the European Union's (EU) Multi-annual Financial Framework (MAFF), which sets out the EU's spending commitments in all areas. In this proposal, €80 billion was set aside for Horizon 2020, the successor to FP7, which will support European research activity between 2014 and 2020. This represents a 46% increase compared to FP7, and an 8.5% increase in the research and innovation budget.

This budget has to be approved by both the European Council and the European Parliament. The Commission will then present its Horizon 2020 proposals. At this point there is an important opportunity for Aberystwyth University academics to participate in consultations, with a view to influencing the outline content of funding schemes to create the most favourable European funding climate for Aberystwyth research through to 2020.

These consultation opportunities will be coordinated by members of the Research Office who will be in touch with departmental Directors of Research over the next couple of months to set-up meetings and workshops. To be involved, please liaise with your Director of Research.

After the consultation phase, the decisions for Horizon 2020 will hopefully be approved by the European Parliament and European Council by 2013, so that Horizon 2020 can start in 2014.

### Support

For more information about any research funding opportunities (UK, EU and International), please contact one of our friendly Research Development Officers or refer to PIVOT ([pivot.cos.com](http://pivot.cos.com)), our on-line research funding opportunities database.

## Leverhulme Trust Mapping miscanthus

The Leverhulme Trust has announced funding for three important research projects at Aberystwyth.

The awards include Major Research Fellowships for **Professor Philipp Schofield** (Department of History and Welsh History) and **Professor Mike Pearson** (Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies) and Research Project Grant for **Dr Sarah Prescott** (Department of English and Creative Writing).

Professor Schofield has been awarded £140,507 for a study of a deadly famine that struck England during the 14th century which killed upwards of half a million people in less than three years.

The study will culminate with the publication of a book on "The Great Famine. Dearth and society in medieval England c.1300".

Professor Pearson has been awarded £87,208 for a two year study entitled "Marking Time: Performance, Archaeology and the City".

The funding will support a series of research activities and public engagements including the writing of a monograph and journal articles as well as organising guided tours, demonstrations, workshops and both restaged and new performances that trace the origins and development of alternative practices of theatre-making from the 1960s to the present in the city of Cardiff.

Dr Sarah Prescott has been awarded £248,395 for a study of 'Women's Poetry 1400-1800 in English, Irish, Scots, Scots Gaelic and Welsh'.

It will provide a major new literary history of women's poetry in Ireland, Scotland and Wales from 1400 to 1800, through a fully edited anthology with translations and a critical study jointly written by the specialists engaged on the project.

Dr Prescott will be working with fellow scholars at the University of Edinburgh, National University of Ireland, Galway and the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth, on the three year project.

Researchers at IBERS and US company Ceres have collaborated to complete the first high-resolution, comprehensive genetic map of a promising energy crop called miscanthus.

The results, published in the current edition of the online journal PLoS One, provide a significant breakthrough towards advancing the production of bioenergy.

The IBERS team created the collection of genetically related plants and Ceres sequenced and analysed the DNA.

The project involved generation and analysis of more than 400 million DNA sequences creating a blueprint of the genetic alphabet of the plant, a towering cane-like grass that can be used as a feedstock for advanced biofuels, bio-products and biopower.

The IBERS team was led by **Professor Iain Donnison**. "This rich library of information took decades to produce in other crops, but with modern biology and genomics technology Ceres and IBERS have put together what I believe is one of the world's most comprehensive marker-based breeding programs in miscanthus", he said.

The work received funding as part of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council Sustainable Bioenergy Centre.



Professor Iain Donnison

## Prostate cancer

**Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar** has been awarded £60,100 by the Prostate Cancer Charity for an innovative new research project aimed at improving the diagnosis of prostate cancer.

The study will help doctors to see clearly the size and location of a man's prostate cancer in order to make better decisions about the right treatment to use.

Professor Zwiggelaar will investigate the novel idea of combining magnetic resonance (MRI) and ultrasound results to give a more detailed initial map of where prostate cancer is present in the body.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in men in the UK with 37,000 cases every year.

### Animal behaviour conference

Aberystwyth has been chosen to host the **2012 Easter Conference of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour (ASAB)**. The meeting brings together up to 150 scientists from across the UK and Europe from 11th-13th April.

## Research Support Contacts

Name	Position	Email	Extension
<b>Research Office</b>			
Gary Reed	Head of Research Office	gar	1789
Hannah Payne	REF and Research Monitoring Officer	hep	8490
Dafydd Roberts	Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Research Support Officer	dir	8787
Jenny Deaville	Faculty of Social Sciences - Research Support Officer	jfj	1616
Joanne Walker	Faculty of Science - Research Support Officer (incl. IBERS responsive model)	jnw	2947
Huw Merfyn Hughes	European Funding Manager	hnh	8742
<b>IBERS</b>			
Steve Fish	IBERS IP Development Manager	stf	3232
Martine Spittle	IBERS Research Fund Development Officer	rjs	1562
Liz Humphries	IBERS Research and Knowledge Transfer Officer	elh20	3072

Further Research Support can be found in the Research Grants Application Toolkit at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/research](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/research)

Name	Position	Email	Extension
<b>Editorial Contacts</b>			
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# Exchange



Welcome to the new format of 'Exchange', now part of Aber News. This revised insert provides you with a selection of knowledge exchange news from Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS) together with updates on innovative and enterprising activities around campus.

Throughout 2012, myself and colleagues within CCS are keen to hear how we can best support your work with external organisations; from identifying opportunities to enhance the impact of your research through business engagement, to practical support on intellectual property matters or contractual arrangements with external organisations.

I am delighted to have taken up the position of Director of CCS and I look forward to working with colleagues to further strengthen and develop our partnerships with business, industry and the professions in the future.

Over the coming months I will be meeting with individual Heads of academic Departments to discuss how CCS can work with and support you. I am keen to hear the views of colleagues from around the University on how we can improve our service and I would encourage you to contact me at [ejf@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ejf@aber.ac.uk) if you would like to make any suggestions.

For further information on the services we provide, please visit our website ([www.aber.ac.uk/ccs](http://www.aber.ac.uk/ccs)) or drop us a line at: [ccservices@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ccservices@aber.ac.uk).

**Liz Flint**

Director, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services

## ACE prizes for undergraduate research proposals

Six undergraduates in Sport and Exercise Science and the Institute for Geography and Earth Sciences have been awarded departmental prizes for enterprise focused undergraduate research proposals.

The prizes, each worth £250, were developed by the Academic Champions of Enterprises (ACE) in both departments and were awarded for third year dissertation proposals containing an element of enterprise. The winning students will present their research projects to the ACE network at Aberystwyth later this year.

The ACE Network is funded through the European Regional Development Fund administered by the Welsh Government and is run in partnership with Bangor and Swansea Universities.



Tony Orme (Enterprise Manager – CCS), Duncan Quincey (Academic Champion of Enterprise IGES), James Hickman (IGES), John Bryn Jones (SES), David Langford (SES), Joshua Charles (SES), Emily Oliver (Academic Champion of Enterprise SES).

## New Enterprise Network Facebook Page



CCS have launched a new facebook page to keep students and graduates up to date with the enterprise and business start-up support available at Aberystwyth. Find us at 'Aberystwyth University Enterprise Network' to be kept informed about events, news and opportunities. Our new event programme is now available online.

[www.facebook.com/AberUni.Enterprise](http://www.facebook.com/AberUni.Enterprise)  
[www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis](http://www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis)

## Postgraduate Funding for Business Linked MPhil Projects

Funding proposals are invited from Aberystwyth University colleagues with MPhil research project ideas.

Through the Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) programme, scholarships are available for eligible MPhil projects that involve the support of a company partner based in the Convergence area of Wales.

Due to the success of the programme to date, there are now thirty-three 'KESS Mini' scholarships remaining for one-year research projects starting 1st October 2012 or 2013.

For further information, please visit [www.aber.ac.uk/ccs](http://www.aber.ac.uk/ccs) or contact:

Lewis Richards [lhr@aber.ac.uk](mailto:lhr@aber.ac.uk) / 01970 628579

KESS is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the European Union's Convergence programme administered by the Welsh Government.



## Inspirational entrepreneurs show that 'Creating Your Own Job' is a real career option!

An audience of over 70 students and staff joined the 'Create Your Own Job' enterprise debate hosted by Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS), the Careers Service and the Guild of Students, on Tuesday 21st February.

Panel members joined Enterprise and Careers staff in discussing the opportunities presented by self-employment as a career option. A range of questions were raised from the floor which explored the entrepreneurial skills which panel members felt had contributed to their success. Students and staff heard first-hand about the journeys individuals had taken in establishing and growing their business or working as a freelancer.

Those unable to attend the event in person, were invited to 'join the debate' through twitter ([#AUCreateyourjob](https://twitter.com/AUCreateyourjob)).

The winners of Aberystwyth University's '£100 for 100 Words' Student Enterprise Competition 2011 were also announced at the event by Professor John Grattan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, for Learning, Teaching and Employability. The competition, organised by Commercialisation and Consultancy Services, challenged students to put forward in '100 words or less' innovative ideas which showed commercial potential. Three prizes of £100 were awarded to:

- **Jonathan Francis Roscoe**, a postgraduate student in the Department of Computer Science
- **Chris Topping**, an undergraduate student in the Institute of Mathematics and Physics
- **Edward Burbidge**, an undergraduate student in the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences



## mobile apps challenge 2011

The Technology Team in CCS were delighted with the thirty five 'Fresh Ideas for Mobile Applications' (Apps) which were received from Aberystwyth staff and students in the 'Mobile Apps Challenge 2011'.

A number of entries scored highly on the judging criteria of novelty, technical feasibility, commercial potential and competitiveness in the smart phone 'Apps' market. From a strong field, the Technology Transfer team is pleased to announce three winning entries:

- **'Interactive Snooker Coach'** – **Alan Woodland**, Department of Computer Science (Staff)
- **'Equine Diet Calculator'** – **Catherine Hale**, IBERS (Student)
- **'Grass Grower'** – **Dr Heather McCalman, Huw Powell, Sue Buckingham and Daniel Downes**, IBERS (Staff)

Commenting on the competition, Dr Rhian Hayward from CCS said, "We would like to thank all entrants and we are currently working with the winners to further develop their concepts towards products that will appear on 'App' stores in the future"

This competition was supported by 'Fast Forward Award' funding from the Intellectual Property Office. [www.aber.ac.uk/apps](http://www.aber.ac.uk/apps)



From left to right: Catherine Beckham, Societies and Volunteering Administrator, Guild of Students; Tony Orme, Enterprise Manager, CCS; Carolyn Parry, Acting Deputy Director, Careers Service; Lucy Gough, Freelance Playwright; Karl Doody, Managing Director, 27Stars; Layla Bennett, Founder and Owner Hawksdrift Falconry.

If you were unable to join in the event, but are interested in the support available through CCS and the Careers Service, visit our online resources that include details of future enterprise events and competitions.

[www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis](http://www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis) - [www.facebook.com/AberUni.Enterprise](https://www.facebook.com/AberUni.Enterprise)  
[www.aber.ac.uk/careers](http://www.aber.ac.uk/careers) - [www.facebook.com/abercareers](https://www.facebook.com/abercareers)

## Entrepreneurial connections

Congratulations to **Carolyn Parry** (Acting Deputy Director, Careers Advisory Service) who has been awarded a place on the International Entrepreneurship Educators Programme (IEEP).

Following a competitive application process, Carolyn, an Academic Champion of Enterprise at Aberystwyth, is one of only seven representatives from Welsh institutions receiving support from the Welsh Government to take part in the current programme.

The 18 month programme is run jointly by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) and Enterprise Educators UK.

### COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Editorial Contact: **Sarah Bizby** – Commercialisation and Consultancy Services – [sey@aber.ac.uk](mailto:sey@aber.ac.uk) Ext: 8646

## HISTORY and WELSH HISTORY



Dr Sian Nicholas (right) and Professor Tom O'Malley with a copy of the *Daily Herald* which reports on the declaration of war in 1939. The copy is part of the archive held at the National Library of Wales.

# A social and cultural history of the British press during World War II

**Dr Sian Nicholas** from the Department of History and Welsh History outlines a major new three year study into the role of the press in wartime Britain which is being funded by a £249,785 grant from the Leverhulme Trust.

From the iconic photograph of St Paul's Cathedral in the blitz to the day-by-day coverage of the D-Day landings, British newspapers helped shape our understanding of World War II. They not only kept the British people informed of the momentous history being played out around them at the time, but provided many of the key images of the war that we remember today.

Some of the most popular newspapers of the war years are still household names: the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail* and *Daily Mirror* among them. Others are less familiar: the Labour-supporting *Daily Herald* (which survives today in a different form as *The Sun*) and the great Liberal daily the *News Chronicle* (no longer with us). Beyond Fleet Street, local newspapers played a far greater role than today, whether the independent Scottish and Welsh press (including the *Western Mail*) or the great provincial titles such as the *Manchester Guardian* or *Yorkshire Post*. On the outbreak of war all faced an uncertain future.

The war posed unprecedented challenges to the British press: government and military censorship; the danger of reporting from war zones; the sheer inconvenience of disrupted wartime life; and of course paper rationing, which meant that for most of the war the average daily newspaper was just four pages—one single folded sheet of paper—in size. Meanwhile, the BBC offered a rival news service for the first time.

But there were also unprecedented opportunities. Interest in news was at its height and there was never any shortage of stories to command readers' attention. With advertising space in such short supply, newspapers were able to ignore commercial pressures and assert their independence. Newspapers were also part of the entertainment industry, and wartime readers had a greater than ever need for sport, gossip, film reviews—even wartime fashion tips. As newspaper sales rose to levels undreamed of in peacetime (both the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mirror* had circulations of 3 million by the end of the war), this was in many respects a 'golden age' for British journalism.

Surprisingly, though, even seventy years after the war there is no full-length published history of the wartime British press.

Professor Tom O'Malley from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies and I recently launched a major three-year project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, to investigate the history of the British press in World War II.

The project aims to produce the first full critical study of the wartime British press. Using the newspaper holdings from the National Library of Wales and a range of other archival sources, it will explore in depth the role of the press in wartime British political culture, and its role in everyday wartime life. It will also assess how changes in the relation between the press, other media and society during the war shaped the development of communications in post-war Britain. While focussing in the main on the national press, it also hopes to pay particular attention to local and regional newspapers in Wales itself.

This project is a collaborative effort between the Departments of History and Welsh History and Theatre, Film and Television Studies through the Aberystwyth Centre for Media History. The five-strong project team will also include a Research Assistant and two PhD Students.

By integrating the history of the British press into



London during the blitz. Pic: US Government



## GUILD OF STUDENTS

## What's going on at the Guild?

It's been an exciting few months for the Guild of Students, and with the Sabbatical Officers now over halfway through their terms, it's about time we gave **AberNEWS** a quick insight into what we've been up to.

A busy start to the academic year made sure we didn't have a chance to ease into the role. As usual we ran our hugely successful Freshers' Week, introducing both our new and returning students to the amazing student experience at Aber that we've all grown to love. As well as signing up students to our range of sports, societies and volunteering opportunities, we once again trained an army of Freshers' Heroes to make the transition to University life as smooth as possible for our new students.

Our first General Meeting of the year in November saw a phenomenal turnout, with students packing the main Union room to vote on issues ranging from housing, to student involvement in local democracy, to a proposal for a Starbucks in the building. The coffee shop idea is part of measures the Guild is taking to diversify our trading portfolio; improving our appeal beyond alcohol sales and moving towards a more accessible and inviting space. With a very kind donation from Alumni, we've also been able to undertake some small changes to the building by improving signage and highlighting the wide range of services we offer. Over the coming months, we want to build on this increased engagement with the student body and encourage wider involvement with the Guild.

December saw the Guild run its inaugural Housing Week, bringing together partners from the private, public and third sectors to provide essential housing advice to students. We'll be following on from this with a housing fair, once again bringing letting agents, advice providers and regulatory bodies together to ensure students are equipped with the knowledge to make informed decisions.

Over the Christmas period, we helped to organise a programme of events for International Students in conjunction with the University. As well as 'networking' dinner to meet other students staying for the period, we ran supermarket runs over Christmas and a shopping trip to Cardiff in the New Year. By running small events like these, we hope it made the Christmas period a little less lonely for our International community.

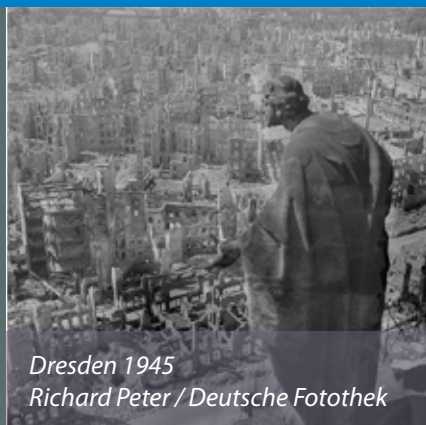
As well as these welfare events, we've been working with the Senior Management team to introduce student-led teaching awards to Aber, enabling students to celebrate the extensive contribution that teaching staff make to their time at University. With the help of our colleagues at the Institution, we hope to make the event an absolute

runaway success.

**By Ben Meakin**  
President,  
Guild of Students



*The sabbatical team:  
(Top Left to Right)  
Tom Burmeister,  
Student Support  
Officer; Ben Meakin,  
President; Alun Minifey,  
Activities Officer; (Front  
Left to Right) Jess Leigh,  
Education Officer  
and Tammy Hawkins,  
UMCA & Welsh Affairs  
President.*



*Dresden 1945  
Richard Peter / Deutsche Fotothek*

the wider context of contemporary British cultural, social and political change at a key moment in both of their histories, the project will, it is hoped, take significant steps in our understanding of mass media and communication within societies, and provide a research model for future international work in media history.

The project research findings will form the basis of a major co-edited publication on the press in wartime Britain, and will also be made permanently available as a database to a new generation of researchers in this field.

The story of the British press in World War II is the story both of the British home front at war and of what the British newspaper-reading public knew, believed and were told at the time. It is a story of propaganda and censorship, of the relations between politicians, proprietors and editors, of reporters braving dangers at home during the blitz and on battlefronts overseas, of pioneering journalism and iconic photography—and of the newspapers' readers, the British people themselves at war.

The war years were a critical moment in both the history of Britain and the history of the British media. The project team hope to make a major contribution to our understanding not just of the British press at a key moment in its development but of Britain and the British people at war. In separating propaganda from reality, and rediscovering the role of the press during the war, we hope to get to the heart of everyday life in wartime Britain.

# Staff Development and Performance Review

**Rebecca Davies**, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student and Staff Services

As we continue to roll out Staff Development and Performance Review (SDPR) process during this academic year, it's important to make sure that the key principles of our SDPR are understood and shared across the University. SDPR will take place annually, involve the whole of the University and will be a process of reviewing and developing individual staff members. Our emphasis is on supporting and developing staff to perform their existing and future roles. This review will aim to complement, not replace, existing systems of monitoring (e.g. Research Monitoring and Quality Assurance).

All members of staff, (except for those who are within their probationary period) will be required to attend a review meeting. This will take place between the member of staff and the first reviewer, who will be selected by the head of department.

To be most useful, the exact nature of the process will differ across departments and roles, but will have these purposes in common:

- i) **development:** the SDPR will ensure the development of new skills, attitudes and knowledge that will help you learn within the workplace.
- ii) **performance:** this is an opportunity to review and capture your successes over the previous year and to set targets for the coming year, as well as discussing where you need support.
- iii) **clarity:** the review meetings will aim to achieve a common understanding about what you are being asked to do and how this fits into the department's aims.
- iv) **space:** for you to discuss your overall role and future plans.

Most departments will record the details, of the review meeting, using the AberCQ online system which can be viewed here: [staffrecord.aber.ac.uk](http://staffrecord.aber.ac.uk)

The review process will be overseen by a second reviewer and by the head of department, who will check that targets are feasible and aligned with the goals of the department, but also to ensure that previous achievements are recognised.

This process aims to support you in your work and will focus on reviewing work over the past year in order to secure future success for you as an individual and ultimately for the University as an institution. The process is separate from those associated with HERA, regrading or research monitoring, although these may feed into the SDPR process. SDPR is also separate from existing University processes which deal with complaints, grievance or disciplinary matters.

We are also pleased to announce that we are currently exploring how the SDPR system will act as a way of identifying staff who have demonstrated exceptional performance, and who should be considered for financial reward through the contribution points system.

The key aims and objectives of SDPR are the same for every individual and every department across the University – that is to make sure that all of us are valued and supported in working towards shared goals.

Further information about Aberystwyth University's Staff Performance and Development Review is available on the excellent SDPR website, including information on training and events: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/sdpr/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/sdpr/)

## HR UPDATE

### Updated equality video

The University's Equality Scheme video has been updated to incorporate an endorsement of the University's commitment to Equality and Diversity from the Vice Chancellor, Professor April McMahon.

The video can be found at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/). If you would like to comment on the video contact John Harrington at [oih@aber.ac.uk](mailto:oih@aber.ac.uk).

### Diversity in the Workplace E-learning – Equality Act 2010 upgrade

The 'Diversity in the Workplace' e-learning training package has been upgraded to incorporate the Equality Act 2010 legislative requirements. The web-based interface for the e-learning course has also been updated and aims to raise the awareness and profile of equal opportunities and diversity. Further information is available at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/equalopp/diversitycourse/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/equalopp/diversitycourse/).

### Flexible retirement

Following on from the abolition of the Default Retirement Age last year, the University, in consultation with the recognised Trade Unions, has introduced a flexible retirement policy.

For more information on the scheme and how to enquire about flexible working, please go to [www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/pandp/](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/pandp/).





## ABER PEOPLE

## Obituary - Dr Andrew Breen

Andy was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in April 1964 and educated at Monkwearmouth School, Sunderland.

He first came to Aberystwyth in 1982 to take a degree in Physics with Planetary and Space Physics. He stood out from the crowd, with his Kajagoogoo mullet haircut and chiselled features. Like many, he fell in love with Aberystwyth, relishing the easy informality of the town.

When he finished his BSc, the opportunity arose for him to continue in Aberystwyth for a PhD to study Ionospheric Physics. This PhD was the start of his professional partnership with the late Professor Phil Williams, in whom he found the perfect match for his intellect, his energy, his enthusiasm and amiable eccentricity.

Following the successful completion of his PhD he worked briefly in the department at Aber before setting off on a post-doctoral career, starting in Southampton in 1990. He returned to Aberystwyth in 1992, working as a post-doc for 5 years before spending a year at the prestigious Max-Planck Institute for Aeronomy.

Following this, the pull of Aberystwyth became too much and he returned, first for a PPARC Advanced Research Fellowship and then, in 2001, a lectureship followed in 2006 by promotion to Senior Lecturer.

Andy enjoyed his teaching, taking real pleasure in watching his students grow and flourish. He had a love of technology, from steam trains to the latest electronic gadgets, he loved to play with them, discover exactly how they work and how he could get the most from them.

When his illness weakened his voice, instead of giving up teaching, Andy turned to technology, pioneering the use at Aberystwyth of voice amplification together with video and MP3 recordings of his lectures. This work was recognised in 2006 with an Excellence in Teaching Award.

He was a kind and considerate person with an easygoing nature, but no one would confuse this nature with a laissez-faire attitude. Andy had very firm ideas on fairness and decency and there would be a point where his sensibilities were offended, usually signalled with an abrupt "No!" and a rolling of the eyes.

He would rail against injustice, turning his razor sharp wit to ridicule and expose those who used positions of power or religious fundamentalism to oppress others. Andy was an atheist, he found enough wonder and mystery in the universe without the need of invoking supernatural beings to explain it.

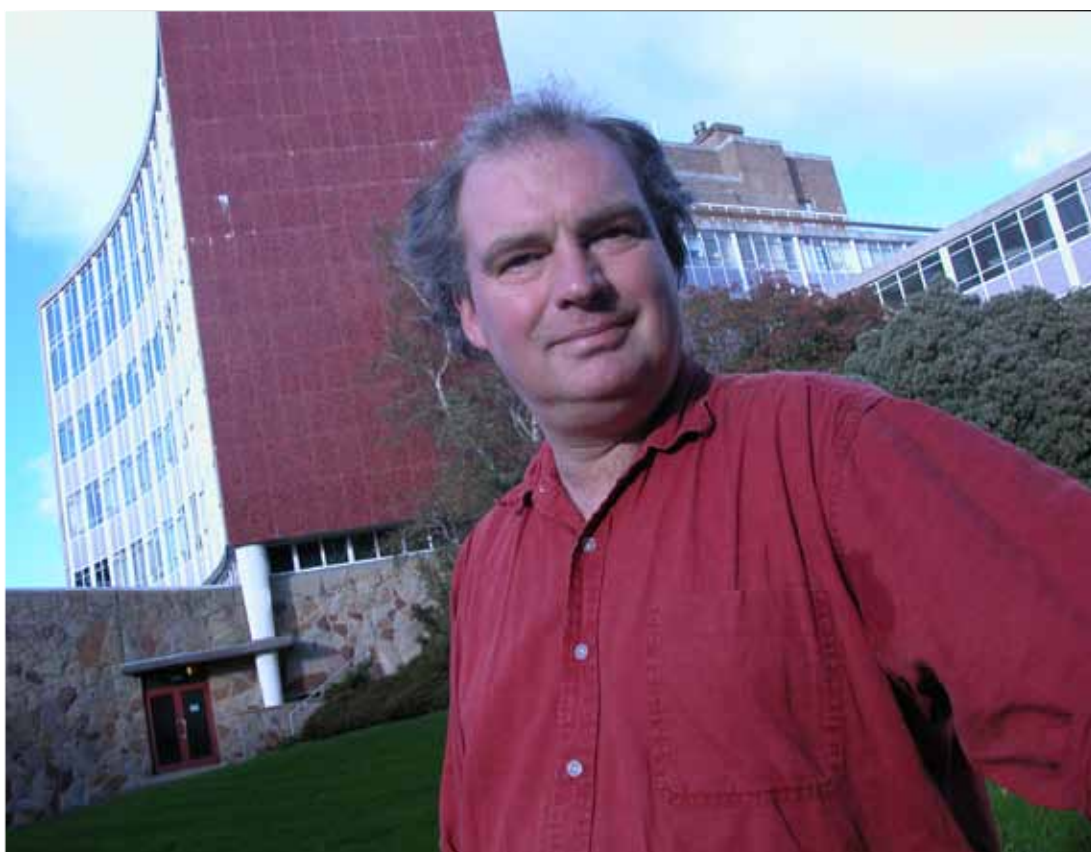
Although he didn't play an instrument himself, Andy took great pleasure in music. The bands such as Blyth Power that he liked are a reflection on Andy himself, intellectually stimulating, with poetry in the lyrics and a driving energy.

Above all, Andy was a good friend to many. He was extremely good to talk to, interested in anything interesting. He used to frequently drop by my office to chat, sometimes about science, sometimes about students or departmental gossip, sometimes about some gem he'd found on the internet and wanted to share and sometimes just because he needed a rest after walking down the corridor.

A few months ago, we met walking across the car park and he thanked me for listening to him and apologised for taking my time. Oh Andy, it was always more fun talking to you than whatever work I should have been doing, you were never a burden.

Dr Andrew Breen was a senior lecturer at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics. He died on Friday 9th December, age 47.

**Dr David Langstaff, IMAPS**



ABER PEOPLE

# Appointments

## Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

**John Doonan** has been appointed Professor of Genetics and Phenomics in IBERS. John's research interests centre on the genetic control of plant growth. He previously worked at the John Innes Centre in Norwich and will be Director of the new Phenomics Centre at Gogerddan.



**Carolyn Parry** has been appointed Acting Deputy Director of the Careers Advisory Service. Carolyn has worked for the service for almost 10 years and brings a wealth of experience to the service having worked for many years with small and medium size enterprises. She is also an Academic Champion of Enterprise.

## Department of English and Creative Writing

**Professor Damian Walford Davies** has been appointed Head of the Department of English and Creative Writing. Damian's research interests are Romanticism and radical culture, and the two literatures of Wales.



## International Office

**Rachel Tod** took up post as the new Director of the International Office in January. Originally from New Zealand, Rachel has worked in a variety of roles at Aberystwyth. Since 2009 she has been the Postgraduate Marketing and Recruitment Officer with responsibility for recruiting from the European Union.



## Postgraduate Admissions Office

**Rosie Mills** has been appointed Postgraduate Recruitment Officer in the Postgraduate Admissions Office. Rosie joins the team after working as the University Social Media Officer since September 2011. Rosie will be responsible for the production of the postgraduate prospectus, the internal study faire and postgraduate open days.



## Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

**Dr Jamie Medhurst** has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies. Dr Medhurst is an expert on broadcasting history with a particular interest in early television and the BBC (1923-39), ITV in the 1950s and 1960s, media history and historiography.



## Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS)

**Liz Flint** has been appointed as the new Director of CCS. Liz joined the University in 2006 as Business Development Manager for the WISE Network (Welsh Institute for Sustainable Environments). A Chartered Engineer, Liz worked for 5 years as a mechanical engineer carrying out R&D in the gas turbine industry.

## Information Services

**Roger Matthews** has been appointed as the Director of Information Services. A Botany and Microbiology graduate, Roger was appointed to run the Programming Advisory Service at Aberystwyth in 1974. He became Deputy Director of Information Services in 1996.



## Careers Advisory Service

**Siân Morgan Furlong-Davies** has been appointed Acting Director for the University's Careers Advisory Service for a period of 12 months. Siân has nearly 25 years of experience in careers related work, and is a former Director of a student advisory service in Singapore and Malaysia.



## Finance Office

**Peter Keegans** has been appointed as the Interim Director of Finance for a period of six months from January 2012. Originally from Glasgow, Peter was previously employed as the Interim Director of Finance and Business Services for Aston University, Birmingham.

## Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

*Six new Welsh medium lecturers have been appointed under the sponsorship of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.*

## Sara Penrhyn Jones

Award winning documentary director, Sara Penrhyn Jones has joined the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies. Sara is currently directing an ambitious international project which seeks to join artists and scientists in a collaborative effort to imaginatively engage the public on the issue of climate change.



## Dr Huw Williams

Having studied at the London School of Economics and York University, Huw completed his PhD at the Department of International Politics in Aberystwyth. His research interests are political philosophy, international political theory, and development in the third world.







### Rhun Emlyn

A graduate of the Department of History and Welsh History, Rhun was appointed as a Teaching Fellow in 2010 through the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education scheme. He contributes to Welsh Medium provision in the History of the Middle Ages.

### Dr Huw Morgan

Huw returns to work in Wales from Honolulu. An Open University graduate, Huw received a PhD from IMAPS at Aberystwyth University. Over the last few years he has been working as a scientific researcher at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy, specialising in the sun, and in particular the sun's corona.



### Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones

An Aberystwyth Geography and International Politics graduate, Rhys received a Welsh Medium Post-graduate Scholarship from the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education, studying for a Masters in Political Geography in 2007 and completed his PhD in 2011. His research interests involve rights of minorities, multiculturalism and minority nations, especially in non-urban areas.

### Hefin Williams

Hefin was a Teaching Fellow at IBERS, having been an undergraduate and postgraduate student there. His research involves looking into the environmental effects of important agricultural diseases such as tuberculosis, and he is particularly interested in the interface between agriculture and the environment.



### Council

The University Council has appointed three of its members to the strategic roles of Vice-Presidents and Treasurer.

**Gwerfyl Pierce Jones** and **Dr Glyn Rowlands** have been appointed Vice-Presidents of the University Council and **Dr Timothy Brain** has been appointed Treasurer.

Originally from Holyhead, and an alumna of Bangor University, **Ms Pierce Jones** is a former Director and Chief Executive of the Welsh Books Council.

**Dr Glyn Rowlands** holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Chemistry from Aberystwyth. A businessman of considerable international experience, he was made a Fellow in 2002 and has served as a member of Council and on a number of University committees since retiring.

**Dr Timothy Brain**, was Chief Constable of Gloucestershire from 2001 until 2010, retiring as the longest serving Chief Constable in the country. An Aber graduate, he completed his PhD here in 1983 and was made a Fellow of the University in 2007.

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2012/02/title-112030-en.html](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2012/02/title-112030-en.html)



## Awards

### Polar Medal



Congratulations to **Professor Michael Hambrey** on being awarded a second clasp to his Polar Medal for his research on glaciers in Antarctica.

Professor Hambrey, a member of the Centre for Glaciology at IGES, was first awarded the Medal in 1989 for research in both Polar Regions. He now joins an elite list of recipients, including Sir Ernest Shackleton and Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who have earned the award a second time.

The Polar Medal was established in 1904 to reward the contribution of Captain Robert Scott's team members to exploration of Antarctica.

### Honorary D.Sc.

**Professor Ken Walters FRS**, a Distinguished Research Professor in the Institute of Mathematics and Physics, has been awarded an Honorary D.Sc. degree from Strathclyde University.

Professor Walters was presented by Professor Sean McKee of the Strathclyde Mathematics Department, who has collaborated with Professor Walters in recent years on some computational problems in Non-Newtonian Fluid Mechanics.

This is the second Honorary D.Sc. degree awarded to Professor Walters. In 1998, he received a similar award from the Joseph Fourier University of Grenoble, France.



WHAT'S ON

Exhibitions

SCHOOL OF ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

16 April - 11 May

DUALITIES

An exhibition of work by PhD student and painting tutor June Forster.

"The drawings and paintings that comprise this exhibition are the result of my art practice-led research over the past five years in which I have explored dualities of scale, time and place in relation to the process of landscape painting. These concepts, such as micro-macro, past-present and here- there, have given rise to questions of territory and belonging and of how perception and memory have shaped my experience of being in a landscape." June Forster.



'Vannin Sound 2' by June Forster

21-31 May

Undergraduate Degree Show and Postgraduate Exhibition.

Performances and Events

ARTS CENTRE

Thurs 26 – Sat 28 April at 7.30pm

ELWYN OUT ON TOUR

The Arts Centre, in a co-production with Wales Theatre Company, is taking a new theatre production on tour in April and May.

'Elwyn' is a modern parable about the nature of happiness and stars Russell Gomer and Ieuan Rhys. It is adapted and directed by award winning Michael Bogdanov. After opening at the Arts Centre in April, this Arts Council of Wales funded production will then tour to theatres in Cardiff, Swansea, Newtown, Colwyn Bay, Brecon, Cardigan, Milford Haven and Aberdare.

Elwyn is based on the cult Oscar nominated Norwegian film 'Elling' which was then turned into a hit West End show. Michael Bogdanov has adapted the play into a Welsh setting, with 40 something Mummy's boy Elwyn (Gomer) and his room-mate, the uncouth Kelly (Rhys) as the 'Odd Couple' of the Valleys. A pair of confused souls, they are taking their first steps in the outside world after years of isolated lives in institutions. Their mission is to re-assimilate themselves back into society and the play is both touching and humorous as it charts their bumps and stumbles back into a world we take for granted.

Elwyn is at Aberystwyth Arts Centre from **Thurs 26 – Sat 28 April at 7.30pm**. More info at [www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre](http://www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre)



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ENROL **NOW** TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

Darlith Gyhoeddus/Public Lecture

DARLITH GREGYNOG/GREGYNOG LECTURE

Waking the Giant: How a changing climate triggers earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes

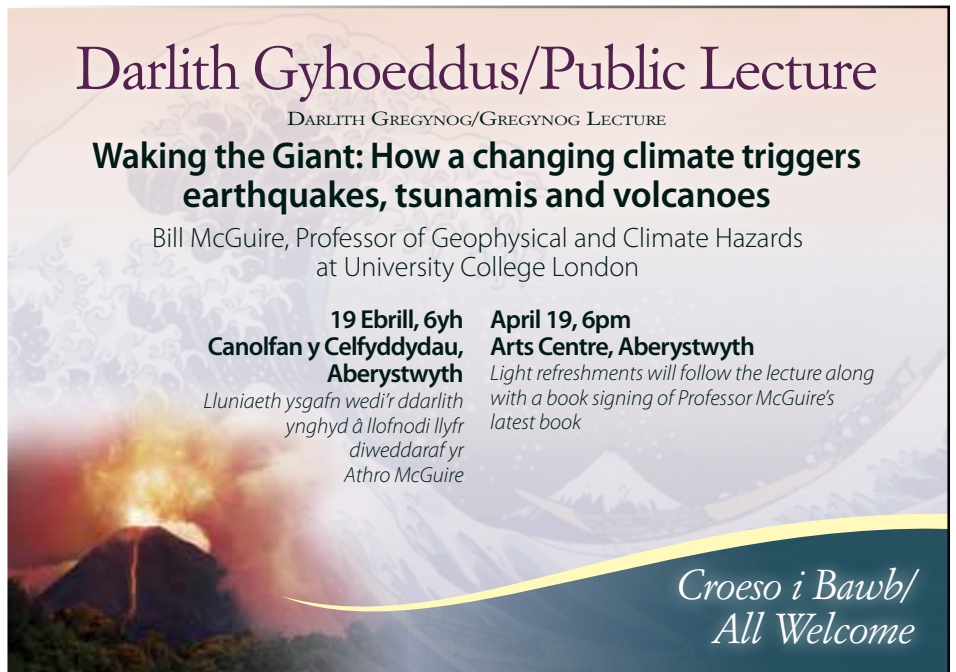
Bill McGuire, Professor of Geophysical and Climate Hazards at University College London

19 Ebrill, 6yh  
Canolfan y Celfyddydau,  
Aberystwyth

Lluniaeth ysgafn wedi'r ddarlith ynghyd â llofnodi llyfr diweddaraf yr Athro McGuire

April 19, 6pm  
Arts Centre, Aberystwyth

Light refreshments will follow the lecture along with a book signing of Professor McGuire's latest book



Croeso i Bawb/  
All Welcome