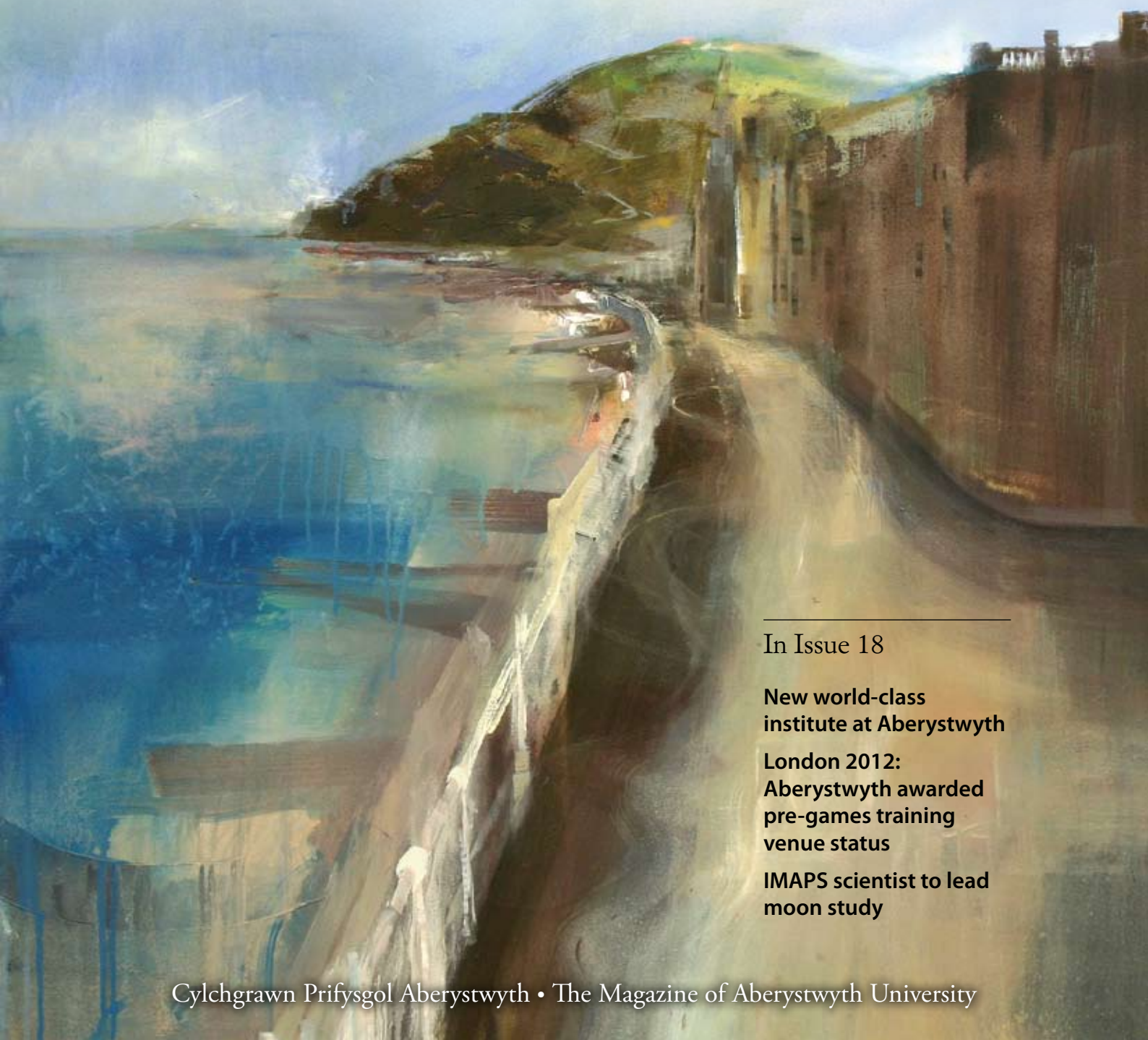


PROM



In Issue 18

**New world-class
institute at Aberystwyth**

**London 2012:
Aberystwyth awarded
pre-games training
venue status**

**IMAPS scientist to lead
moon study**

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Editors' Note

This edition of *PROM* has much to highlight from Aber - since the last edition of *PROM* the pace of change has intensified, but without affecting the continued appeal of the University as a destination for students, which has been reflected in national surveys of student satisfaction and the outstanding increase in the numbers applying to study here.

The proposed merger with the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) reported in *PROM* 17 has come to fruition with significant investment from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the Welsh Assembly Government to create the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS), which is uniquely positioned to address some of the major challenges affecting society this century.

New courses and departments have been added to the broad portfolio, and cross-disciplinary research and joint honours courses have been expanded. Student support services are being developed and enhanced to ensure that Aber students continue to have the best possible experience overall, not just academically. In all, there is much to celebrate!

On a more personal note, we are sad to lose the services of Steve Lawrence, who had been Director of Development and External Relations since the department was founded in 1992, but we wish him the very best in his exciting new role in Hampshire. Current changes in the Development Office will be reported in the next edition.

Aberystwyth is not the only place where exciting things are happening - Aber alumni are to be found all over the world working in a huge variety of roles, and it is a great pleasure to be able to highlight their achievements in *PROM*.

Golygyddol

Mae llawer i'w adrodd yn y rhifyn hwn o *PROM* ac mae cyflymdra'r newid ers y rhifyn blaenorol wedi cynyddu, ond heb amharu mewn unrhyw ffordd ar apêl fythol y Brifysgol fel cyrchfan i fyfyrwyr, rhywbeth sydd yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn yr arolygon bodlonrwydd myfyrwyr a'r cynnydd gwych yn nifer y myfyrwyr sydd yn gwneud cais i astudio yma.

Mae'r uniad arfaethedig rhwng Sefydliad Ymchwil Amgylcheddol a Tir Glas (IGER) â'r Brifysgol, yr adroddwyd amdano yn *PROM* 17, bellach wedi ei wireddu a chafwyd buddsoddiadau sylweddol gan y Cyngor Ymchwil Biotechnolegol a Biolegol a Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Mae Sefydliad y Gwyddorau Biolegol, Amgylcheddol a Gwledig (IBERS) mewn sefyllfa unigryw i wynebu rhai o'r newidiadau mawr sydd yn wynebu cymdeithas yn y ganrif hon.

Ychwanegwyd cyrsiau ac adrannau at y ddarpariaeth ac ehangwyd ymchwil traws-ddisgyblaethol a graddau cyfun. Mae gwasanaethau i fyfyrwyr yn cael eu datblygu ymhellach er mwyn sicrhau fod myfyrwyr Aber yn parhau i fwynhau'r profiad gorau posibl, ac nid yn academiaidd yn unig. Felly mae llawer iawn i'w ddathlu!

Ar nodyn mwy personol, trist oedd colli gwasanaeth Steve Lawrence fu'n Gyfarwyddwr Datblygu a Materion Allanol ers sefydlu'r adran yn 1992. Rydym yn dymuno'r gorau iddo yn ei swydd newydd yn Hampshire. Bydd adroddiad pellach am y newidiadau yn y Swyddfa Ddatblygu yn y rhifyn nesaf.

Nid yn Aberystwyth yn unig y mae pethau cyffrous yn digwydd - mae cyn-fyfyrywyr Aber i'w gweld ar draws y byd ac yn gweithio mewn swyddi o bob math, ac mae'n hyfrydwch mawr cael y cyfle i nod eu llwyddiannau yma yn *PROM*.

PROM is the magazine of Aberystwyth University graduates and former students. It is available on subscription; £10 for two editions from: Development and Alumni Relations Office, AU, 9 Laura Place, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AX.

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Vice-Chancellor

I am very pleased to welcome readers to the latest issue of PROM. This is an exciting time for the university, and I am delighted to be able to report on a range of successes and new initiatives.

Universities operate on several scales; we have important responsibilities to our immediate neighbourhood and to Wales, but we also work across the UK and – crucially – internationally. We must be able to compete successfully in terms of our academic provision in the UK and on a global platform in our research work. The outcome of the recent Research Assessment Exercise was highly satisfactory, demonstrating the high quality of our research across a whole range of departments. There were some outstanding performances, and about half of the research which we submitted was judged to be world leading or internationally excellent.

One of the most important recent developments has been the establishment of IBERS, the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, following the merger of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER Gogerddan) into the university. Interestingly the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, the precursor of IGER, was founded exactly 90 years ago, and the formation of the IBERS, incorporating IGER and the former Institutes of Biological and Rural Sciences, is a major achievement. It has been strongly backed by the Welsh Assembly Government and by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. The new Institute's research will be 'problem driven' and it will have the range and depth of expertise to respond to the global challenges of our time – food and water security, adaptation to climate change and sustainable land use.

In order to be able to compete in research it is essential for us to develop sufficient 'effective mass' and this is why collaborative initiatives such as the Research and Enterprise Partnership with Bangor University, and the links which are being formed with other universities in Wales, are so important. Our approach is to establish research which is world leading across the spectrum from pure research,

through applied and strategic research, to enterprise and innovation.

We consistently do well in all surveys of student satisfaction, including the National Student Survey, and the Aberystwyth student experience continues to be extremely attractive. The intake of undergraduates in October 2008 was the largest ever, and there has been a substantial further increase in applications for 2009 entry. We have developed our academic provision, most recently with the new department of Psychology. Other recently established courses, for example Criminology and Sport and Exercise Science, have proved outstandingly successful.

Now that we are Aberystwyth University a decision has been taken to award Aberystwyth University degrees in future. It is essential for the university and for the local region that we continue to offer an attractive portfolio of courses and to look after our students so that the high satisfaction rates are maintained. Amongst other things, this requires the development of our infrastructure to ensure that our academic and support facilities – libraries, computing facilities, laboratories, for example – are 'cutting edge'.

We are about to embark on an ambitious fundraising campaign and are strengthening the alumni and development office significantly. The interest and commitment of our alumni are very special, and we value greatly your involvement in our future development.

We are determined to ensure that Aberystwyth develops strongly over the next few years. We cannot expect to be insulated from the very difficult economic circumstances in which we live, but we have an excellent basis on which to build.

Naïve



Is-Ganghellor

Mae'n bleser mawr gennyf groesawu darllenwyr i'r rhifyn diweddaraf o PROM. Mae hwn yn gyfnod cyffrous i'r brifysgol, ac rwyf wrth fy modd yn rhoi gwybod i chi am amryw o lwyddiannau a mentrau newydd.

Mae Prifysgolion yn gweithredu ar sawl lefel; mae ganddo ni gyfrifoldebau pwysig i'n cymuned leol ac i Gymru, ond rydym hefyd yn gweithio ar draws y Deyrnas Gyfunol, ac – yn bwysig iawn – yn rhyngwladol. Mae'n rhaid i ni allu cystadlu'n llwyddiannus o ran ein darpariaeth ledled gwledydd Prydain ac o ran ymchwil ar y llwyfan byd-eang. Canlyniadau'r Asesiad Ymchwil diweddar yw ein canlyniadau gorau hyd yma, ac maent yn tystio i lwyddiant i amryw helaeth o'n hadrannau. Cafwyd nifer o berfformiadau neilltuol a barnwyd fod bron i hanner yr ymchwil a gyflwynwyd o safon byd-eang neu'n ryngwladol ardderchog.

Un o'r datblygiadau pwysicaf oedd sefydlu IBERS, sef Sefydliad y Gwyddorau Biolegol, Amgylcheddol a Gwledig, yn sgil uno'r Sefydliad Ymchwil Tir Glas a'r Amgylchedd (IGER, Gogerddan) â'r brifysgol. Yn ddi-ddorol iawn, cafodd Bridfa Blanhigion Cymru, rhagflaenydd IGER, ei sefydlu 90 mlynedd yn union yn ôl, ac mae ffurfio IBERS, gan ymgorffori IGER a'r Sefydliadau Biolegol a Gwyddorau Gwledig gynt, yn gamp fawr. Mae'r fenter wedi cael cefnogaeth frwd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Cyngor Ymchwil Biotechnoleg a Gwyddorau Biolegol. Bydd ymchwil y Sefydliad newydd yn 'canolbwyntio ar broblemau penodol' a bydd ganddo arbenigedd amrywiol a thrylwyr i ymateb i heriau byd-eang ein hoes – diogelu bwyd a dŵr, addasu i'r newid yn yr hinsawdd a defnyddio'r tir mewn ffordd gynaliadwy.

Er mwyn gallu cystadlu o ran ymchwil mae'n hanfodol ein bod yn datblygu 'màs effeithiol' digonol a dyna pam mae mentrau ar y cyd megis y Bartneriaeth Ymchwil a Menter gyda Phrifysgol Bangor, a'r cysylltiadau sydd yn cael eu ffurfio gyda phrifysgolion eraill yng Nghymru, mor bwysig. Ein nod yw sefydlu ymchwil o'r radd flaenaf ar draws y sbectrwm, o ymchwil pur, i ymchwil cymhwysol a strategol, i fenter ac arloesi.

Rydym yn gyson yn gwneud yn dda yn yr holl arolygon a gynhelir o fodlonrwydd myfyrwyr, gan gynnwys Arolwg Cenedlaethol y Myfyrwyr, ac mae profiad hynod o ddeniadol yma i fyfyrwyr o hyd. Ym mis Hydref 2008, derbyniwyd mwy o fyfyrwyr nag erioed o'r blaen ac mae cynnydd sylweddol yn y ceisiadau ar gyfer mynediad yn 2009. Rydym wedi datblygu ein darpariaeth academiaidd - yn fwyaf diweddar yr adran Seicoleg newydd. Mae'r cyrsiau eraill a sefydlwyd yn ddiweddar, er enghraifft Troseddeg a Gwyddor Chwaraeon ac Ymarfer Corff, wedi bod yn hynod o lwyddiannus.

A ninnau'n Brifysgol Aberystwyth erbyn hyn rydym wedi penderfynu dyfarnu graddau Prifysgol Aberystwyth yn y dyfodol. Mae'n hanfodol i'r brifysgol a'r ardal leol ein bod yn parhau i gynnig portffolio deniadol o gyrсияu a'n bod yn parhau i ofalu am ein myfyrwyr er mwyn cynnal y cyfraddau uchel o fodlonrwydd. Ymhlith pethau eraill, mae'n rhaid datblygu ein hisadeiledd i sicrhau bod ein hadnoddau o'r radd flaenaf - boed y rheini'n llyfrgelloedd, adnoddau cyfrifiadura neu labordai.

Rydym ar fin dechrau ar ymgyrch godi arian uchelgeisiol ac yn atgyfnerthu adnoddau swyddfa'r cynfyfyrwyr a'r swyddfa ddatblygu. Mae diddordeb ac ymrwymiad ein cynfyfyrwyr yn arbennig iawn, ac rydym yn gwerthfawrogi eich ymroddiad i ni yn ein datblygiadau ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Rydym yn benderfynol o sicrhau bod Aberystwyth yn datblygu'n gryf dros y blynyddoedd nesaf. Ni allwn ddisgwyl osgoi'r amgylchiadau economaidd anodd iawn sydd ohoni, ond mae gennym sylfaen ardderchog i adeiladu arni.

Noel



Steve Lawrence



It hardly seems possible that seventeen years have elapsed since Sue Balsom and I wrote the very first Editor's Note and Development Office News pages for the alumni magazine.

Indeed, I still remember vividly the meeting in an office in Old College when Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan (later Vice Chancellor 1995-2004) came up with the inspired (and straightforward) name for the new publication and *PROM* was born.

Of course, the world, generally, has moved on since then and, more specifically, the environment of higher education has been transformed. Aberystwyth has not been immune from these changes and has seen, for example, the number of students enrolled more than double to well over 7,000. In the wake of this growth the campus has expanded with the development of the student village (Pentre Jane Morgan) and the construction of a range of department buildings including those for International Politics, Theatre, Film and Television Studies, Sports and Exercise Science and, most recently, Visualisation. There have also been impressive improvements to the wonderful Aberystwyth Arts Centre and to the extensive university sports facilities. All of these initiatives (and many others) have been crucial to maintaining the institution's place in an increasingly competitive arena.

However, despite these sea changes in policy and delivery it is immensely heartening to see that, in other ways, Aber has not altered. The appearance of the University at the top end of successive polls of student satisfaction suggests that, like their predecessors, today's intake tend to have a great experience at the 'College by the Sea'. Perhaps this is partly a reflection of the close community, partly about the splendid environment and also about the level of pastoral care. As to the latter, I have to admit to having taken this to extremes at times and have, unwittingly, risked imprisonment or worse! Notably, on a visit to Vietnam I was asked, by the very caring mother of a current student, if I could take a parcel back for her son – I, of course, said yes, thereby committing the cardinal sin of the international traveller! However, all was well as I transited through Kuala Lumpur and all seemed OK when I arrived at my next destination, Auckland, New

Aber has not altered. The appearance of the University at the top end of successive polls of student satisfaction suggests that, like their predecessors, today's intake tend to have a great experience at the 'College by the Sea'.

Zealand. It was only when my luggage was being re-checked and the conveyor belt stopped that I felt somewhat queasy. Well, to cut a long story short, the official managing the machine asked to open the parcel (what could I say?) and duly removed a rather natty polo shirt. Unfortunately, as this was unravelled out dropped a rather large and offensive looking Vietnamese sausage which rolled slowly towards two astonished Customs and Excise Officers. Two hundred New Zealand Dollars later I was free! After this anecdote I will spare you the one about the giant gourd getting stuck in the detector system at Nairobi airport – don't ask!

Having deviated, slightly, from the topic of change I wish to return to it in respect of alumni activity. It is particularly gratifying to consider the numbers of former students that

Aberystwyth keeps in touch with. From the original 800 or so contact details inherited in 1990 the figures on the database now exceed 50,000. Equally gratifying is the support – including promotion of the alma mater, careers advice, donations and so on – which so many of you are willing to provide. Your backing will become ever more important to the long-term success of Aber.

As Henry T. Heald, the then President of the Ford Foundation commented as early as 1960; 'New generations of alumni provide the continuity that perpetuates a university. Its officers come and go, its faculties change, its programmes and buildings are replaced, but its alumni maintain a lifelong relationship with the institution. They are keepers of the tradition, preferred stockholders of the enterprise, the mark of its accomplishment.'

Well, I have moved on to new challenges but in the spirit of Heald's remarks I will certainly maintain my links with a truly remarkable organisation. It only remains for me, therefore, to thank all the wonderful colleagues who have guided and helped me over the years (especially Susan Jenkins who was with me from day one) and to hand you over to the safe keeping of Louise and Arthur – enjoy this edition of *PROM* and many others to come.



News *Newyddion*

New world-class institute at Aberystwyth

£55 million to be invested over 5 years



(L to R) Professor Wayne Powell, Steve Visscher (BBSRC), Professor Mervyn Humphreys, Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Professor Noel Lloyd and Jane Hutt AM Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning (Centre)

A major new research, enterprise and teaching institute in the biological, environmental and rural sciences has been established at Aberystwyth.

The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, or IBERS as it is known, has been created following the merger of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, formerly part of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), into the University in April 2008.

With over 300 staff and an annual budget in excess of £25 million, IBERS becomes one of the largest groups of scientists and support staff working in this field in Europe, and provides exciting new opportunities for more than 1,000 undergraduate and research students.

Its remit is to look for creative solutions to some of the major challenges faced by the world today in the areas of sustainable land use, climate change, renewable energy and the security of food and water supplies.

The new Institute has received support from various stakeholders. Over the next 5 years £55m will be invested in new teaching and research facilities and academic appointments at Aberystwyth. These developments have been made possible by financial support of £23.5m from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, and £18m from the BBSRC.

Professor Wayne Powell is the new Director of IBERS. He joins Aberystwyth University from the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB), Cambridge where he was Director and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to this he was Professor and Foundation

Head of the School of Agriculture and Wine, University of Adelaide, Australia, and Deputy Director of the Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI).

Professor Powell believes that this is the most wonderful time to be a biologist. "Spectacular advances in our understanding of how living systems work and interact with the environment at the levels of cells, molecules and populations have changed the fundamental characteristics of the bio-sciences. In parallel with these developments, society is seeking solutions to the major challenges facing our planet: climate change, food supply, water and energy security, together with environmental sustainability."

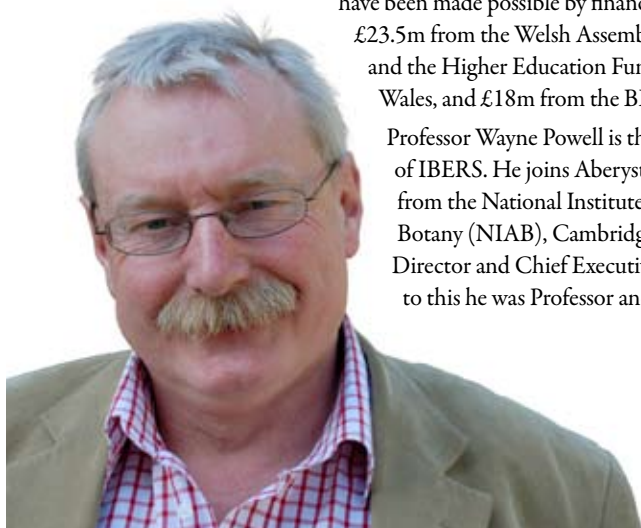
"Solutions to these challenges will rely on the bio-sciences and their associated technologies, combined with the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century. IBERS is exceptionally well positioned to capture emerging opportunities by connecting discovery and translational research to ensure economic and social impact.

"IBERS scientists recognise that we live in a period of rapid and accelerating environmental change that threatens both national interests and global security. IBERS will address basic questions associated with the impact of rapid changes in the environment on biological and agricultural systems, examine how such changes can be manipulated to ensure that food production and ecosystem services are maintained in sustainable ways," he added.

Deputy First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government, Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, described the creation of IBERS as "a development of truly major significance for the science base in Wales."

"It will create a research platform for internationally important research into some of the most pressing questions facing the world today and it will develop in Wales the skills needed to solve some of the problems caused by rapid climate change," he said.

The establishment of IBERS also further strengthens the research and enterprise links between Aberystwyth and Bangor University. IBERS scientists are working closely with the School of Natural Sciences at Bangor to create an internationally competitive strategic research and development capacity in Wales.



IBERS Knowledge-based Innovations

The 2008 edition of IBERS Knowledge-based Innovations featuring some of the research currently being done at IBERS, is available from the Stapledon Library & Information Service, IBERS, Aberystwyth University, Gogerddan, Aberystwyth SY23 3EB. Tel: +44 1970 823000 E-mail: gogstaff@aber.ac.uk.

Research Assessment Exercise 2008

World leading research has been identified in 15 of 16 subject areas at Aberystwyth University according to the results of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008 which were published in December 2008.

Aberystwyth is now second in Wales for quality of research and 41st out of 119 in the UK according to the *Research Fortnight RAE2008 Quality Index of University Research*.

The findings also reveal that 48% of research activity at Aberystwyth is rated as world leading or internationally excellent and 97.4% of researchers work in disciplines where world leading research is undertaken.

Five academic departments (a third of all those submitted) had over 60% of their research activity rated 4* (world leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour) or 3* (internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour).

- 40% of research submitted by the Department of International Politics is rated 4*, placing the Department in the top 3 in the UK.
- 70% of research submitted by the Department of Computer Science is rated 4* or 3*.
- 65% of research submitted by the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences and the Department of Welsh is rated 4* or 3*.
- 60% of research submitted by the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies is rated 4* or 3*.

Professor Noel Lloyd said "I am very pleased with the results of the RAE2008 and warmly congratulate academic staff on their achievements. The hard work involved in the preparation of submissions has borne fruit.

The outstanding success of several of our departments confirms the high quality and impact of their research."

The expertise of six members of staff at Aberystwyth was recognised by their selection on to RAE2008 subject panels. They were Professor Ross King (Computer Science and Informatics), Professor David Ellis (Library and Information Management), Professor Ken Booth (Politics and International Politics), Professor Tim Woods (American Studies and Anglophone Area Studies), Professor Aled Jones (History), and Professor Martin Barker (Communication, Cultural and Media Studies).

rae2008
Research Assessment Exercise



Europe's Celtic Roots

In the third in a series of large grants awarded to the Department of Welsh, Professor Patrick Sims-Williams has been awarded £390,889 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to study evidence of Celtic languages being used in the region that extends south of Romania and east to Galatia in Turkey. Working with Professor Sims-Williams is Dr Alexander Falileyev from St Petersburg who has published a detailed study of Celtic names in the Roman province of Dacia, roughly corresponding to modern Romania. Ancient place-names in sources like Ptolemy's Geography have been used to prove that Celtic was one of the major languages of ancient Europe.



Dr Alexander Falileyev (left) with Professor Patrick Sims-Williams

Anglo-Norman

The Anglo-Norman Dictionary, which was started in 1947 and whose first edition was published between 1977 and 1992, is being fundamentally revised. Led by Professor David Trotter, head of European Languages, the work has been awarded £873,669 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to continue up to the letter M. The revised version is expected to be more than three times the size of the original and will include areas of language not covered hitherto, notably legal texts, scientific literature, and the vast amount of administrative documentation which survives from the period between the Norman conquest and the end of the fifteenth century.
<http://www.anglo-norman.net>

'Beacon' status

Aberystwyth Arts Centre has been awarded a Beacon Company Award by the Arts Council of Wales. Launched by the National Assembly Government in November 2007, the Beacon Company Awards are designed to recognise companies in the arts who demonstrate excellence and innovation. The Arts Centre is one of 22 organisations to be recognised and will receive £120,000 between September 2008 and March 2010. The Centre welcomes over 650,000 visitors a year.

IMAPS scientist to lead moon study

The launch of the Chandrayaan-1 lunar mission in late October 2008 marked a major milestone for the Indian Space Research Organisation when it lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh. Three weeks later India became only the fourth country to land its flag on the moon after the mission's Moon Impact Probe landed near the lunar south pole.



Professor Manuel Grande

Chandrayaan-1's mission is multifaceted. Equipped with an impressive array of instruments including radar and particle detectors and instruments that will make observations of the moon's surface in the visible, near infrared and X-ray part of the electromagnetic spectrum, it is set to orbit the moon for two years.

Professor Manuel Grande, Head of the Solar Systems Physics Group at the Institute of Mathematics and Physics at Aberystwyth, is Principal Investigator for C1XS, a sophisticated x-ray camera which forms part of the mission.

Designed and built at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, C1XS measures the abundances of chemical elements in the lunar surface by detecting the x-rays they absorb and re-emit to map the surface composition of the Moon. The results should help scientists understand its origin and evolution, as well as quantifying the mineral resources that exist there.

"C1XS will provide us with a new picture of what the Moon is made of, not just here and there, but over the whole surface of our eighth

continent,' said Professor Grande. "This will enable us to pin down the mysteries which remain about the origin of the Earth-Moon system."

C1XS employs new technology to make a compact, lightweight, sensitive instrument and builds on D-C1XS, which formed part of the European Space Agency's successful Smart-1 mission to the Moon in 2003.

According to Dr Tony Cook, a leading expert on mapping the Moon and a member of the

Solar Systems Physics Group at Aberystwyth, the maps produced from the work of C1XS will show the best places to look for natural resources on the Moon.

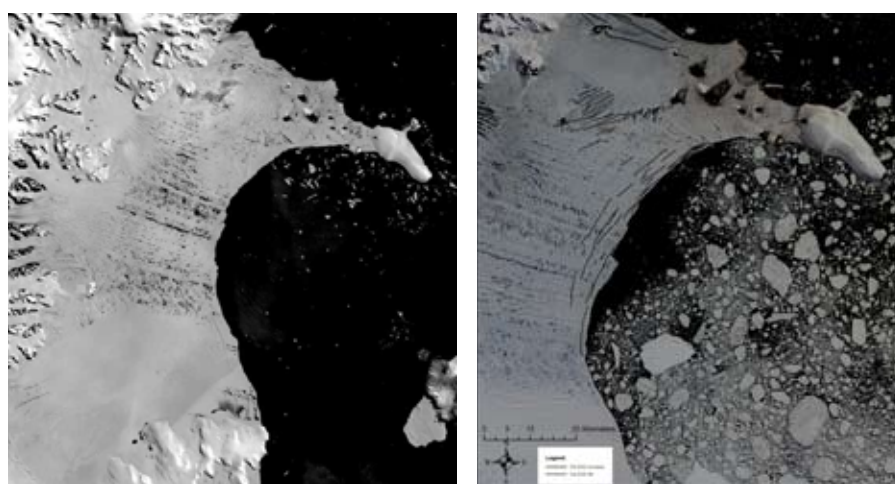
For Professor Grande the development also confirms the UK's reputation as a world leader in the development of planetary X-ray instruments. "C1XS will cement this position, and paves the way for UK leadership of similar instruments on missions to Mercury and elsewhere in the Solar System."



Members of the C1XS team during a pre-launch meeting at Aberystwyth

Ice shelf collapse

The sudden collapse of the Larsen B ice shelf in Antarctica in 2002 was assumed to be the latest in a long line of victims of Antarctic summer heat waves linked to global warming. However, in an article published in the *Journal of Glaciology*, Professor Neil Glasser from the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences argued that ice-shelf break up is not controlled simply by climate. Whilst global warming had a major part to play in the collapse, he emphasised that it was only one of a number of contributory factors, and showed how observations by NASA and the Centre of Polar Observation and Modelling had pointed to an ice shelf in distress for decades previously.



Larsen B before (left) and after it collapsed

Aberystwyth becomes a byword for student satisfaction

National Student Survey

Since it was launched in 2005 Aberystwyth has consistently performed well in the National Student Survey. 207,000 mostly final year undergraduates took part in the 2008 edition and once again Aber was first in Wales for student satisfaction.

Individual subject areas also performed exceptionally well. Sports Science was ranked top in the UK, Agriculture was ranked equal top, Physical Geography and Environmental Science scored highest for Overall Satisfaction, Human and Social Geography was ranked equal top in the the UK for student satisfaction and Zoology received one of the highest ratings in UK satisfaction, sharing equal top position with the subject at Glasgow and Leeds, above Cardiff, Bristol and Durham.

According to the *Times Good University Guide 2009* Aberystwyth continues to enjoy the highest level of student satisfaction of all Welsh universities and is joint 5th in the UK with 81%, behind Oxford on 84%, Leicester and Loughborough on 83%, and East Anglia on 82%.

The *Guardian University Guide 2009* also

highlighted some excellent results with the teaching of Physics at Aberystwyth achieving the highest level of satisfaction amongst students of the subject at university level in the UK.

Other notable performances according to the *Guardian* included Sports and Exercise Science (3rd), Earth and Marine Sciences (joint 3rd), Economics (3rd), Geography and Environmental Studies (4th), Agriculture and Forestry (joint 4th), American Studies (joint 4th), Media Studies, Communications and Librarianship (joint 6th), Politics (7th) and English (10th).

Top student town

Voted top University town in 2007, Aberystwyth was once again voted top UK student town for 'sense of community' and 'facilities' in 2008 according to a survey published by accommodationforstudents.com. The findings were based on over 36,000 student reviews from 56 university towns around the UK.

The 2008 recruitment campaign proved to be one of the most successful in the history of the University. Undergraduate acceptances



to Aberystwyth were up 18% compared to September 2007. Across Wales the increase was 2.7%, and 8.8% for the UK as a whole. Subject areas that recruited particularly successfully included Mathematics and Physics which saw an increase of 50% and 45% respectively, Computer Science +36%, English +27%, Management and Business +24%, Geography and Earth Sciences, Rural Sciences and Biological Sciences all +21%, and Law and International Politics which saw an increase of 18.75% and 15.5% respectively.

Green League

The University has made some important advances in reducing its carbon footprint with the result that it became one of the biggest climbers in the 2008 People and Planet Green League.

TaMed Da, the University restaurant on Penglais campus, is now sourcing up to 90% of its food from local suppliers and serving beef and lamb reared on its own farms.

The amount of waste going to landfill has been reduced significantly thanks to the introduction of the highly successful lilac bag scheme in student halls and the installation of a university compost making machine. Annual paper consumption has been cut by over ½ million sheets and new metering equipment enables closer regulation of electricity, gas and water consumption.

Care Leavers Quality Mark

The University has been awarded The Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark for Care Leavers in Higher Education. The Mark recognises institutions which go the extra mile to support students who have been in public care. Support for Care Leavers includes a bursary towards year round accommodation (52 weeks) worth £1800 or £1000, depending on circumstances, and personal support for individuals from pre-application through to graduation.



The Frank Buttle Trust

True Taste

Staff and students at Aberystwyth are enjoying some of the finest food in Wales according to the 2008/9 True Taste Wales Food & Drink Awards. The University was awarded first prize for its Roast Saddle of Lamb which is served at the TaMed Da restaurant.

Pictured below, Huw McConochie (right) university farms manager and Kevan Downing (centre) head of hospitality receive the award from Rees Roberts of Hybu Cig Cymru.



Robot scientist becomes first machine to discover new scientific knowledge

Researchers at Aberystwyth have created a Robot Scientist which they believe is the first machine to have independently discovered new scientific knowledge.

The robot, called Adam, is a computer system that fully automates the scientific process. Its first findings were published in *Science*, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the beginning of April 2009.

The team, based at the Department of Computer Science and led by Professor Ross King, has been working on the design of Adam with scientists at the University of Cambridge. The result is a robot that can carry out each stage of the scientific process automatically without the need for further human intervention.

The paper in *Science* reported the discovery by Adam of simple but new scientific knowledge about the genomics of the baker's yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, an organism that scientists use to model more complex life systems. Separate manual experiments undertaken by the team have confirmed that Adam's hypotheses were both novel and correct.

Speaking at the time of the paper's publication Professor King said; "Because biological organisms are so complex it is important that the details of biological experiments are recorded in great detail. This is difficult and irksome for human scientists, but easy for Robot Scientists."

Using artificial intelligence, Adam



Professor Ross King with Adam and Eve

hypothesised that certain genes in baker's yeast code for specific enzymes which catalyse biochemical reactions in yeast. The robot then devised experiments to test these predictions, ran the experiments using laboratory robotics, interpreted the results and repeated the cycle.

Adam is still a prototype, but Professor King's team believe that their next robot, Eve, holds great promise for scientists searching for new drugs to combat diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis, an infection caused by a type of parasitic worm in the tropics.

"If science was more efficient it would be

better placed to help solve society's problems. One way to make science more efficient is through automation. Automation was the driving force behind much of the 19th and 20th century progress, and this is likely to continue. Ultimately we hope to have teams of human and robot scientists working together in laboratories," Professor King added.

The development of Adam has received funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

'Wellcome' treatment for Schistosome parasite

Professor Karl Hoffman from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences has been awarded a three year grant by the Wellcome Trust to study the lifecycle of a parasite that infects 200 million people and causes 300,000 deaths each year in areas of tropical and sub-tropical Africa, South America and Asia. Humans are the definitive host for the Schistosome parasitic worm which is present in fresh water. It is hoped that Professor Hoffman's study, which focuses on how the parasite's larvae penetrate human skin, will lead to the development of a vaccine.



Professor Karl Hoffman

Improving prostate cancer detection

Aberystwyth spinout company and visualisation specialist See3D, has been awarded a significant contract to develop sophisticated computer-generated models that will help doctors to improve the diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

More than 35,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year in the UK alone – and approximately 10,000 deaths per year are associated with this form of cancer. The sooner prostate cancer is diagnosed the better a patient's chances of rapid recovery will be. However, the development of prostate cancer at an early stage is often very difficult to diagnose, depending on where the cancer is located.

See3D's visualisation project has been commissioned by Oncomorph Analysis Limited – another AU spinout company, and Exomedica Ltd to identify smaller cancerous regions of the prostate that are currently undetectable to doctors. Using information provided by the rapid processing of numerical data, the project will aid doctors in diagnosis and subsequently treatment.

There are three treatment options once prostate cancer has been diagnosed: to remove the prostate, to deliver chemotherapy and radiology, or, if the cancer is too advanced, a 'wait and see' approach is taken. The visualisation software developed during the Oncomorph Analysis project will also be used for treatment planning,

as it will enable doctors to investigate the development of the cancer and thus determine the best treatment option.

Dr Reyer Zwiggelaar, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science and Chief Scientific Officer of Oncomorph Analysis – who is leading the project with the See3D team, said: "Once developed, this software application will be unique in the world."

"From our collaborative work with hospitals in Norwich and Swansea we know that our software analysis and visualisation programme will make a real difference to the important

work of doctors in combating cancer by enabling them to diagnose cases earlier and improve patients' chances of recovery."

Dr Reyer Zwiggelaar is also leading work on a groundbreaking surveillance system that analyses facial behaviour and temperature to identify smugglers at border control points in real time. The research project, which is being funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, sees Aberystwyth and Bradford University collaborating with defence technology group QinetiQ as well as the Home Office and the UK Border Agency.



Dr Reyer Zwiggelaar (right) and David Neill from See3D

Promoting Welsh literature

An international literary network based at the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies has been awarded £1.3m by the European Commission to promote literature across Europe and beyond. The grant was awarded to the Wales Literature Exchange and the Mercator Institute and will go towards developing the work of the Literature Across Frontiers (LAF) network whose aim it is to give all European languages a voice in the worldwide publishing market.

Welcoming the announcement Dr Sioned Puw Rowlands, Director of the Wales Literature Exchange said; "This grant from Brussels places Wales firmly on the literary map of Europe. Between now and 2013, we will also be focussing on nurturing links between Europe and emerging publishing markets in China, India and the Arab world."

Since 2000 more than 200 literary works from Wales have been translated and published across the world, thanks to the work of the LAF network and the Wales Literature Exchange.

Global Health Governance

Professor Colin McInnes from the Department of International Politics has been awarded a prestigious European Research Council Advanced Researcher grant worth €2.35m to fund a four-year project on Global Health Governance. Professor McInnes will be working with Dr Kelley Lee, Head of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine's Public and Environmental Health Research Unit, to carry out the first comparative analysis of institutional efforts to tackle some of the biggest global health challenges faced today.

While historically, many health issues have readily crossed borders (Black Death, for example, in the 14th century), rapid globalisation poses new challenges that point to the need for innovative forms of health governance. Of particular interest to the research project will be a fuller understanding of the different perspectives shaping emerging institutions, rules and decision making on selected global health issues. Along with an analysis of the global governance of pandemic influenza and HIV/AIDS, the project will draw lessons from the issues of access to medicines and tobacco control.



Professor Colin McInnes

London 2012:

Aberystwyth awarded pre-games training venue status

A mere six years after its establishment, the excellence of the Department of Sport and Exercise Science has been awarded international recognition by being included in the London Olympics Organising Committee Pre-Games Camp Training Guide.



Professor David Lavallee

The Guide has recently been circulated to all National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees as they seek pre-games training facilities for London 2012.

Following a rigorous audit process, where centres were assessed against strict technical criteria the department is now one of the centres that will provide training facilities for elite athletes in mountain biking.

With four internationally recognised mountain biking trails located within 30k of the town, the University is well placed to offer high quality facilities and training services in the run-up to the games.

As the Head of Department, Professor David Lavallee says: "The high quality of expertise among the department's staff, coupled with the excellent facilities in the Carwyn James building, and laboratories that have recently been

accredited by the British Association for Sports and Exercise Science, place the department among the best available."

Among these cutting edge facilities is an environmental chamber, allowing the cyclists to train in a variety of hot, cold and humid conditions. Professor Lavallee and his team can also provide teams with support from physiological, psychological and biomechanical perspectives.

Over the next year, the Department will target some of the countries that competed at the Beijing Olympics, forging relationships and working with them on planning a training programme to enhance their performance and build up to the games.

It is also being supported by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games which is offering up to £25,000 to visiting teams and nations to prepare at accredited facilities such as those offered at Aberystwyth.

Professor Lavallee is looking forward with enthusiasm to the work ahead and the opportunities that present themselves. He will have a good back-up team: one of his PhD research students, Sunghye Park, is a former Olympic tennis player from Korea and member of her country's Olympic Committee, and her experience and knowledge will be extremely valuable.



Creative Arts Units



Work has just been completed on the construction of sixteen Creative Arts Business Units at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre which have been designed by one of the UK's foremost design practices, Heatherwick Studio. Formed from simple timber frames and a striking 'crumpled' stainless steel cladding, the units offer affordable office and workshop space to arts enterprises and artists in the local area. The project has been made possible by generous support from the Arts Council of Wales Lottery Fund, the Welsh Assembly Government and the University.

Online research repository launched

CADAIR, an online research repository has been launched by the university. The repository (<http://cadair.aber.ac.uk/dspace/>) is designed to archive, preserve and make available the research output of the university. It can store journal papers, conference papers, technical reports, data sets, images or any other digital object. The new service has been developed by the Subject Support and E-Library team in Information Services, led by Dr Talat Chaudhri and Stuart Lewis. The launch follows a successful two year pilot project, during which the team worked closely with the Departments of Computer Science and Information Studies, and the Institute of Mathematics and Physics.

Developing Europe's Rural Regions in the Era of Globalization

To a person living in a remote corner of Slovenia, Sweden or even West Wales, globalisation may appear to be a remote concept, involving big towns and cities with their Starbucks and McDonalds, and indeed academic research in the field would seem to support this way of thinking, with most studies in recent years focusing on urban concerns.

This is all set to change with a new three-year project which is being coordinated by the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences. Professor Michael Woods is leading a €1.5m study funded by the European Union Framework Programme into Developing Europe's Rural Regions in the Era of Globalization (DERREG).

This ambitious project will work with partners in nine European countries, and the areas studied will vary from the very remote, such as the west of Ireland, to rural regions, that are close to industrial centres such as Saarland in Germany.



Professor Woods (pictured left) has been interested in the idea behind the project for a number of years. His research has been predominantly in the area of rural politics and governance, and he is fascinated by the way in which global processes affect different regions.

"One of the fallacies about globalization is that it is a steam-roller that erodes local differences," says Professor Woods. "Yes, there are overarching trends that affect us all but different regions are differently positioned to respond to them."

At the end of the three-year project the information gathered and conclusions reached will be made publicly available as an online resource centre for use by people involved with rural and regional development.

With the current global uncertainty in the forefront of people's minds, Professor Woods' project is certainly timely. While the world's attention has hitherto been mainly on the cities of the world, as Professor Woods says; "Issues such as global agriculture and food security are becoming more prominent, and understanding how these global questions impact on rural areas is becoming increasingly important."

New Department of Psychology

The new Department of Psychology was established in August 2008 offering seven joint honours degree schemes with International Politics, Politics, English, Marketing, Criminology, Genetics and Human Health, and Information Technology. A single honours Psychology degree and additional joint honours combinations with Education, Economics and History will be available from September 2009. Dr Kathryn Bullen, whose research interests are in the application of psychology in health and medicine, is heading the new department.



Dr Kathryn Bullen

Omani students celebrate

An innovative English Language and Literature Summer School developed by Aberystwyth and the University of Nizwa in Oman celebrated its first 'graduates' at the end of August as fifty female students completed the eight week study programme. Saoud Muthkhour Al-Jufaili, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Nizwa welcomed the development, saying that it will "enhance the cultural and academic education of the students in ways which will have an impact upon the nation's professions and increase a sense of national self-awareness with regard to Oman's position within the international community".



Professor Aled Jones (centre) and Saoud Muthkhour Al-Jufaili, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Nizwa (right) with course organisers and four of the students

Boomerang+ strategic partnership

Talented young film makers and aspiring television producers will be able to showcase their work on a new web video portal, Sesh TV, following the announcement of a major new strategic partnership between Aberystwyth and one of Wales's leading independent television production companies, Boomerang+. The partnership funds a full-time researcher to develop Sesh TV and knowledge transfer and enterprise activity, and provide valuable work experience opportunities for students. Cardiff based Boomerang+ has built a nation-wide reputation for producing entertainment, extreme sports, lifestyle, music, youth and children's programmes.



(L to R) Professor Noel Lloyd, Professor Adrian Kear, Head of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, with Huw Eurig Davies from Boomerang+

Academic honours *Anrhydeddau academaidd*

Professor Emeritus Ann Wintle was presented with the 2008 Appleton Medal and Prize by the Institute of Physics. The award was made in recognition of Professor Wintle's outstanding contribution in the development and application of luminescence properties of minerals as a geological dating tool applicable to the past one million years.

During her first degree, Professor Wintle became interested in applying physics-based techniques to Quaternary geology, which covers the last two million years. Her doctoral research involved testing minerals for thermoluminescence dating.

Thermoluminescence depends on the fact that some minerals such as quartz trap energy from exposure to radiation; when heated, the energy is released as light. The amount of light emitted is proportional to the radiation dose, which depends on the length of time mineral grains are exposed to environmental radioactivity.

In 1979, Professor Wintle showed that the thermoluminescence signal from mineral grains in deep sea cores could be extracted.

This seminal discovery opened up a whole new dating technique for Quaternary sediments

which can extend back beyond the range of radio-carbon dating and is applicable to a wider range of sediments.

Since 1991, Professor Wintle has become involved in applying the more precise technique of optically stimulated luminescence, first from feldspars and then quartz. During the past 10 years, she has been at the forefront of developing methods for dating quartz, carrying out basic experiments to characterise the optically stimulated luminescence signals.

Her research has also included applications such as dating coastal sediment in Africa, including sands from caves with early human remains from 70,000 years ago, and wind blown silt deposits in China going back about one million years.

Speaking of the award, Professor Wintle said: "I am delighted to have received this prestigious



Professor Ann Wintle receives the Institute of Physics 2008 Appleton Medal and Prize

award, which in earlier years, when it was called the Chree medal, had been received by two distinguished members of the Physics Department here in Aberystwyth, namely Granville Beynon in 1983 and Lance Thomas in 1991."



Professor Neil Jones (seated) being presented at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

In March 2008 Professor Neil Jones from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, was elected as a Foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. Professor Jones marked his election by giving an inaugural lecture on the subject 'What is a gene' to the Academy in September.

Professor Jones' lecturing and research collaborations with the Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture and in Vilnius University have been ongoing since 1995.

Professor Jones gained his DSc (Wales) in 1987, and a Personal Chair in Genetics at Aberystwyth in 1991. He served a five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Science and retired at the end of June 2004. He then took up as position of Visiting Professor in Kyoto University.

Professor Jones is Fellow of The Institute of Biology; Professor Honoris Causa in the Faculty of Biology in St Petersburg State University; Honorary Member of the St Petersburg Society of Naturalists; Honorary Member of the Vavilov Society of Geneticists and Breeders; Honorary Member of Sociedad Española de Genética (SEG), Spain; Founder of the Federation European Genetical Societies and a Life Member of the Genetical Society of Great Britain where he served as Junior Secretary, Senior Secretary and Vice President.



Former President honoured

A formal dinner to honour the University's former President, Lord Elystan Morgan was held in upper dining room at Penbryn in July 2008. Current and former members of staff were joined by student representatives, alumni, friends and members of his family in celebration of his 10 years as President of the University. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a portrait of Lord Elystan by School of Art graduate and current Masters student, Clare Rose.

Features



Time Committed.	NAME.	Age.	Stature.	Complexion.	Where Born.	
1870 March 15	Evair Jacob	39	5-5 1/4	Fair	Lamp-hungoldt. bth	
1870 March 15	Mannah Jacob	38	5-1 3/4	Fair	ditto	
Committed by.		Further Examination.	OFFENCE.		Time Tried.	Tried by.
W. P. Lewis, E.C.E. Edgworthstown R. H. Lewis, Esq.			Manslaughter of Mannah Jacob. "The Fastening Girl Case"		July 12 1870	Mr. Justice Hannan Assizes

Dr Richard Ireland's latest book, *A Want of Order and Good Discipline: Rules, Discretion and the Victorian Press*, is a detailed history of Carmarthen County Gaol from the 1840s until 1877, the year in which gaols were incorporated into a national prison system. Here he considers the introduction of photography as a means of recording the identities of offenders.

The faces of Victorian justice

They gaze out at us, some defiant, some disturbed and some simply dejected. Here is poor, gaunt George Adams in July 1864, who would be dead within four days of having his picture taken.

Here is insane David Jenkins, his face puzzled as he looks from under the rim of his round hat. Here is 13 year old Daniel McCarty, who will have plenty of time to shed the tears he seems now so close to, when he spends three years in a Reformatory School for



George Adams



David Jenkins



Daniel McCarty



John Phillips



“attempting to steal strawberries”. Not all elicit such sympathy, perhaps. John Phillips looks quite calm. He probably did so several years earlier when he gave his name as George Flynn, or 5 years later when he was “John Stanmore” or later again as “John Hanley”. Here is Owen Pritchard in Walton Gaol, Liverpool. Some time later a picture shows that his hair was receding and he wore a beard: he was then in Carmarthen Gaol. The beard was missing when he was photographed in London’s Millbank Penitentiary.

Photography was new in the middle of the nineteenth century and its use to capture the likeness (the words deserve a little thought) of criminals was new too. They exist in what we might lazily describe as a different world to that

of the Sunday-best-wearing, posed-by-the-urn, world of the studio portrait and the carte de visite. In fact it is the same world, but much less immediately visible. The images, like the people, were held in Police Stations and in prisons but now find themselves in archival collections, a tribute to the Victorian bureaucratic mentality.

I have been looking at these pictures for many years as part of my work on Victorian crime and punishment. To rescue the individual from the undifferentiated statistical mass was one of the original purposes of the criminal portrait and it has been one of the guiding principles of my own approach to criminal history. In November 2007 I was delighted to be able to address the LENS Festival on Welsh Documentary

Erthyglau Nodwedd

Last Residence.	Single or Married.	No. of Children.	State of Instruction.	General Remarks.	Profession.
Dethorucua dd. Haukhanglarauk	M	5	R. H. Imp R. Milk	Both sentenced in April 1870	Farmer Milkman Farmer
Original Sentence.	Present Sentence.	Start Labour, Employed not being that Labour, or not Employed.	Whether in Custody before.	When Discharged.	
12-C. M. H. x 6-C. M. H. x		H. x. D. x.	No No	Sept 11 1871. Term for sent 11. in March 1870 1870 from Carmarthen	



William Evans

Photography to discuss the images, some of which also appear in a book which has recently been published. But, of course, to state that the past was peopled by individuals is not really to say very much at all. Why else do these pictures deserve our attention?

Significant challenges presented themselves to the Victorian criminal justice system. Fears were raised about the “rookeries” of crime growing in the booming industrial cities as the supposed anonymity of the urban mass and the separation of the classes caused concern to influential commentators. And mobility was easier, as the railway took people away from communities in which they were known faster than notoriety could follow them. The penal system itself was changing too. Imprisonment was taking centre stage as a form of punishment in the nineteenth century, displacing the old “physical” punishments of hanging, whipping and transportation. It was also becoming a “national” penalty, a process completed by a statute in 1877 which placed all prisons under the control of the Home Office. Imprisonment, though, needed to distinguish the new offender from the “old lag”, and a national system required a “national prisoner” – one who could not simply change his name, like “George Flynn”, whenever he was next arrested. It is not surprising that issues of identity became so important in the second half of the century.

Photography promised to fix identity, and do it objectively and scientifically. Before its routine use the authorities either had to rely on the word of the offender or the memory of officials within the system. Both of these were, of course, of limited reliability. It seems clear that photography started within prisons as the private initiative of individual enthusiasts before being formally adopted. Amongst these men was Governor George Stephens of Carmarthen Gaol, who took a picture of James Jones, a weaver who had been sentenced to death for a violent assault, early in 1858. His macabre interest soon flourished into an appreciation of the practical advantages of photographing unknown and recidivist offenders. It was not an unchallenged method, however. A corporal alternative, branding, was being urged into the 1860s as a means of inscribing the criminal’s history directly onto his (and presumably her, though the issue seems less directly addressed) body. In a culture which believed that science could be used to suppress atavistic failings such as criminality, however, such a return to physicality was always unlikely.

Police forces too would take and circulate pictures of criminals who came to their notice. Two wonderful volumes of such pictures are held in Denbighshire Archives (housed in the preserved gaol and well worth a visit) and the National Library of

Wales holds a fine book of pictures taken in Aberystwyth by the Cardiganshire Constabulary. This latter also marks the development of a newer technology, fingerprinting, to serve the same purpose. The identification in 1903 of one James Harris, who had stolen a bottle of whisky from The Falcon in Llanilar, by the newly acquired skills of the local force in this art was a breakthrough. Eventually the volume ceases to file photographs with its records of arrested malefactors; they had become both expensive and unnecessary for their purpose.

Fingerprinting shows a closer engagement with the person of the criminal than photography, and later still the development of DNA testing moved the search for identification inside the body itself. But the sophistication of science fails to provide us with such a vivid encounter with our criminal ancestors as do the faded monochrome images. They somehow stay with us, the mysterious smartly dressed cyclist from the Denbighshire record, the battered face of the Aberystwyth drunk. And we can look too at the faces of Evan and Hannah Jacob, the parents of the celebrated “Welsh Fasting Girl”, for whose manslaughter they were remanded to Carmarthen Gaol in 1870. In her mother’s hair a garland of fresh flowers can be seen. It is an unforgettable image.



John Trebarne



Mary Lloyd



Margaret Husband

Dr Richard Ireland is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Law and Criminology

A Want of Order and Good Discipline: Rules, Discretion and the Victorian Prison is published by University of Wales Press.

To look at more images of Victorian and Edwardian criminals from the sources discussed here see:

- <http://www.gtj.org.uk/en/subjects/3473>
- <http://www.gtj.org.uk/en/subjects/1892>
- <http://digidol.llgc.org.uk/METS/CAR00001/frames?div=0&subdiv=0&locale=en&mode=thumbnail>



Chair in HIV/AIDS, Education and Security

UNESCO Wales has awarded its first Professorial Chair in Wales to Professor Colin McInnes, Director of the Centre for Health and International Relations. Here he sets out the full extent of this global tragedy and argues that that HIV/AIDS should not be looked at simply as a medical issue, but in terms of the security implications and the social impact it has on individuals, families, communities and the wider state.



Professor McInnes

The tragedy of aids

HIV/AIDS is a tragedy on a global scale. Approximately 20 million people have already died and another 40 million are living with (and most will die from) what is a preventable and treatable disease. What adds to this tragedy is where the disease has hit hardest – amongst some of the poorest nations on earth in sub-Saharan Africa. Here health care facilities are already badly stretched and the ability to pay for drugs which might extend life is severely limited.

Like many epidemics however, the costs are not just for the individuals affected, but for society more generally. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told the Security Council that ‘AIDS is causing socio-economic crises which in turn threaten political stability.’ The impact of HIV/AIDS on African economies is already being felt. Productivity is suffering because people are too ill to work. Skilled workers are being lost and not replaced. Internal investment is reduced as money is diverted into AIDS-related healthcare. External investment is falling as health costs increase and productivity falls.

HIV/AIDS poses particularly severe economic problems

because the disease is felt over a number of years and its full effects are postponed. It also affects people in what should be the most productive period of their lives. Some of the key industries for African states – including mining, transport and agriculture – have been particularly badly affected.

HIV/AIDS also has wider social consequences. Women suffer disproportionately whether through sex crimes or cultural prohibitions on condom use. A number of groups have highlighted concerns that skilled professionals are particularly affected. As teachers become ill and as schoolchildren stay at home to work or care for HIV-positive parents, quality of education suffers. As health workers contract HIV or leave countries because of high prevalence rates, already pressurised health systems may fail. Police and other security forces necessary for public order appear particularly susceptible to HIV and their number and effectiveness may decline. All of these threaten what the International Crisis Group termed ‘the very fibre of what constitutes a nation.’

Democratic development may also be harmed if societies become polarised as a consequence of HIV/AIDS. The



stigma of AIDS may lead to exclusion from work and society, creating alienation, fatalism and anger amongst those HIV-positive. There is a real fear that some of these will become prone to criminal violence or to following violent leaders, not least amongst the millions of children orphaned by AIDS.

Infection rates amongst the military are often cited as being especially high. The majority of the military are drawn from the age group at greatest risk from infection, namely sexually active 15-24 years olds. Young soldiers may have money in their pocket and ready access to sex workers and illicit drugs. Peer pressure to engage in casual sex may be an important factor in some units, but more generally working in the military creates an environment where risk taking is common due to the nature of the profession, and this is reflected in attitudes towards sex. Moreover deployments away from home create loneliness, stress and the build-up of tensions which seek release either in casual sex or illicit drug use. UNAIDS cites the example of Dutch navy and marines personnel on peacekeeping duty in Cambodia, 45% of whom had sexual contact, often unprotected, with the local population (including sex workers) during a five-month tour. Peacekeepers may be at increased risk since many of the world's conflicts are in regions with a high prevalence of HIV. In July 2000 Richard Holbrooke, President Clinton's ambassador to the UN, stated that the US would refuse to support any UN peacekeeping resolution which did not take the risk of HIV/AIDS into account. Tragically, peacekeepers may also spread HIV, as appears to have happened in both Sierra Leone and Cambodia. Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers in the Congo have fuelled these fears. Ironically, the ready availability of condoms to peacekeepers - distributed as a means of protecting them against HIV - was seen by some peacekeepers as an unofficial endorsement of sexual exploitation.

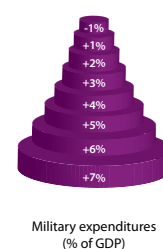
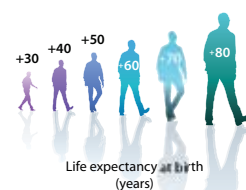
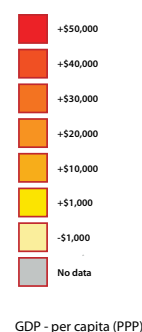
HIV/AIDS is a challenge not only to the medical and public health community. It is a challenge to society as a whole. Its consequences are felt beyond those living with the disease, affecting societies, economies and political stability. In a globalised world, the impacts are likely to be felt across the world in unexpected ways. Understanding these challenges to societies, particularly in Africa, and developing means of responding is a task UNESCO has set its newly established Chair in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University, the first such Chair in Wales. To hold the Chair is an honour and a responsibility.

The Centre for Health and International Relations (CHAIR)

CHAIR was established within the Department of International Politics in 2003, having attracted substantial funding to undertake a far-reaching programme of research on the relationships between health and international politics. The Centre has also attracted research grants from the Nuffield Trust and the ESRC New Security Challenges Programme for work on the linkages between health, security and foreign policy. The Centre works from the assumption that there are compelling reasons for linking health and International Relations, and views the politics of global health in terms of the wider agenda of International Relations for the first time. Other work at the Centre encompasses the implications of neo-liberalism for public health and health equity, ongoing research on UK overseas health investments, and a study of health as an emerging issue in foreign policy.

References:
All of the figures used on this map are the latest available (October 2008) from the CIA World Factbook: www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook

Key



TB gets a wake-up call



For many in the developed world Tuberculosis belongs to bygone age. Yet the World Health Organisation estimates that 2m people die from the disease every year. Now, with financial support from one of the world's richest men, research undertaken at Aberystwyth nearly 10 years ago could provide the basis for a new vaccine.

The World Health Organisation estimates that someone in the world is newly infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the causative agent of tuberculosis (TB) every second. One of the world's richest men, Bill Gates, has directed a significant part of his vast fortune into finding a new vaccine to combat the TB pandemic, and thanks to the work of Aberystwyth University scientists, this goal may be one step closer.

Although the BCG vaccine, which provides some protection against TB, has been in use since the 1920s, the renewed spread of the disease is today a cause for great concern. Many isolates of the *tubercle bacillus* from around the world are now resistant to conventional multidrug therapy. Moreover, the organism can remain quiescent or dormant within the body for many years only to reactivate when natural immunity is suppressed or becomes lowered as a result of disease or old age. It is estimated that around one third of the world's population actually carries a latent infection, but it is not currently possible to tell whether or

not any single person is a carrier until the bacteria 'wake up' and become active.

Back in 1999, *PROM* carried an article on the work done by Professors Mike Young and Douglas Kell of the then Institute of Biological Sciences (now part of the new Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences) in collaboration with Professor Arseny Kaprelyants of the Bakh Institute of Biochemistry, Moscow on the phenomenon of dormancy in a bacterium called *Micrococcus luteus* that is closely related to the *tubercle bacillus*. They found a protein they named the resuscitation promotion factor (Rpf) that is produced by actively growing cells, and sends out a 'wake-up call' to dormant cells. Imagine their excitement when they discovered that the Rpf proteins of the *tubercle bacillus* also function in a similar way. Bearing in mind the problems associated with discovering 'dormant' TB in carriers, there is great potential for this discovery in the treatment of the disease. Not only could small traces of Rpf be used to flush out the dormant cells by making them active, and thus treatable with antibiotics, but they could also be used in vaccine production, effectively providing a target for novel therapies that would make sure that the disease-producing bacteria either remain dormant or are killed if and when they wake up.

The Aeras Foundation, founded in 2003, is a non-profit product development partnership dedicated to the development of effective tuberculosis vaccine regimens that will prevent TB infection in all age groups and that will also be affordable, available and adopted worldwide. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has committed \$82.9 million dollars to the Foundation, which has collaborative partners at prestigious institutions in countries around the world, and now, with the help of Aberystwyth University's Department for Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS), Professor Young and his colleagues look set to join their ranks.

The prospective partnership with Aeras is a notable success for CCS. Over recent years, the traditional image of universities as ivory-towered institutions set apart from the real world has had to change. The stark reality of stringent academic funding has added extra urgency to the drive to find practical applications for the fruits of research by the forging of partnerships and relationships between academia and industry. CCS bridges these two cultures, providing a gateway for organisations of all sizes, and from all sectors, to access the expertise of Aberystwyth University, and it also facilitates commercial collaboration between the university and the business world.

James Hudson is the university's Technology Transfer Manager, whose role is to spot opportunities for managing the institution's patents and to identify organisations interested in the technology, thereby securing licensing deals. Pharmaceutical companies had been showing an active

interest in Professor Young's research for many years, but since TB used to be regarded as a third world problem, there was no real commercial incentive to develop new treatments and vaccines. However, discussions began with the Aeras foundation last year, and as the technology fit so well with their aims, they were immediately interested. As James says; "Once we were on their radar, the subsequent discussions were fairly straightforward. Aeras is an ideal partner for the university; they have money so they are probably easier to deal with than one of the big companies who would have negotiated harder terms."

Obviously, any agreement that involves the use of the university's research is a commercial transaction, and there are significant potential earnings from a new TB vaccine that could be used worldwide, especially one that could protect against reactivation of latent TB in the developed world. Aberystwyth University is delighted to give the Aeras foundation the license on commercial terms that reflect its altruistic remit – essentially the institution will not receive any royalty income where the TB vaccination is used in the developing world by the UN and humanitarian organisations.

Aberystwyth's Commercialisation and Consultancy Services have seen tremendous growth over the past five years. The university has always had industrial liaison, but the department has grown from a staff of four to thirteen

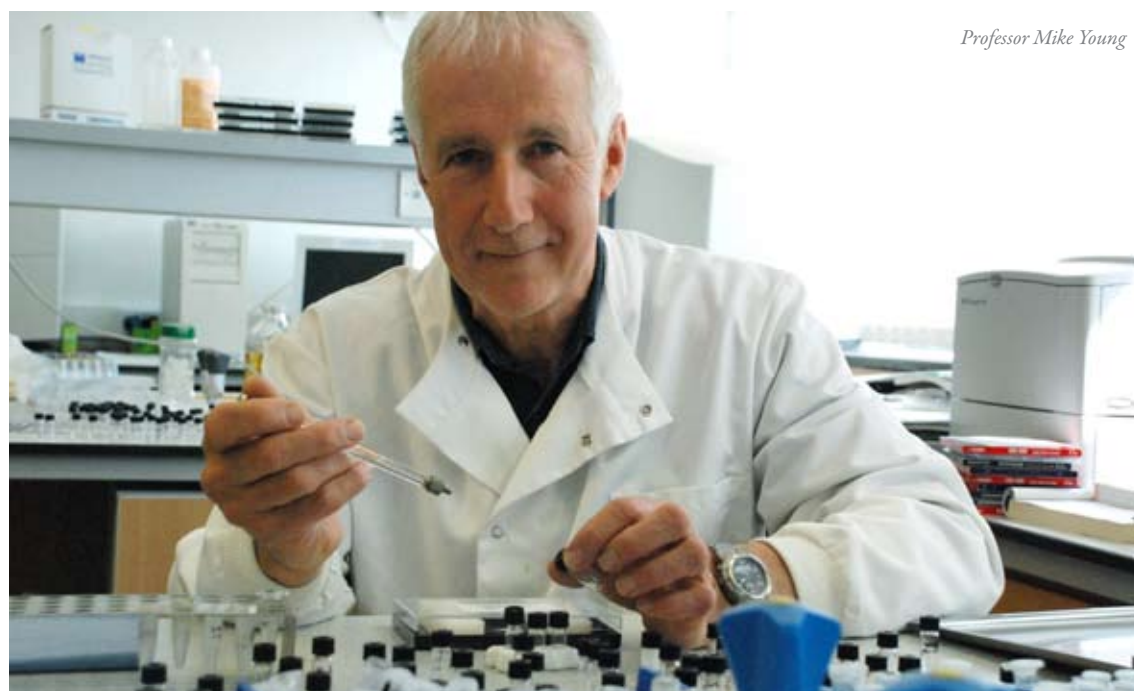
people, a reflection of the investment made by the university in the area and also the wider political support for the higher education sector as a whole to engage in commercialisation of intellectual property. Getting knowledge out into the business world is a very important part of the government's vision for the economy.

Traditionally, academia and business were two very different cultures, but by arranging events that bring academics and business people together, and forging links between the different sectors, CCS is able to act as a conduit for businesses that want to work with the university and also for academics who wish to find practical applications for their research.

The partnership with Aeras is a success story in terms of commercialisation and knowledge transfer. It is only one of a series of exciting projects that CCS has in development, most of which are at a much earlier stage of external collaboration.

Professor Young is delighted with the developments, and is looking forward to contributing to further research on the development of a new generation of improved TB vaccines that are so desperately needed. As he says, "It's great to be doing blue skies research that leads to something potentially useful and important." And there's a shadow of a smile and a glint in his eye when he adds, "and it's been a great lot of fun, really."

Bill Gates has directed a significant part of his vast fortune into finding a new vaccine to combat the TB pandemic, and thanks to the work of Aberystwyth University scientists, this goal may be one step closer.



Professor Mike Young



Book Shelf *Y Silff Lyfrau*

The Geography of Celtic Personal Names in the Latin Inscriptions of the Roman Empire

Dr Marilynne Raybould and Professor Patrick Sims-Williams,
Department of Welsh

CMCS publications

The study of Celtic proper names in the Roman Empire is still in its infancy, but it has come far since Alfred Holder began publishing his monumental *Alt-keltischer Sprachschatz* in 1896. However, this volume makes a crucial contribution to this field. It begins with a brief introduction to the names and the elements composing them, but the bulk of the work is a listing of names in database form by elements and geographical location, with latitude and longitude. A map at the end of the volume is particularly useful in showing the concentration of Celtic names in specific areas, such as along the upper Danube.

The Progresses, Pageants, and Entertainments of Queen Elizabeth 1

Edited by Dr Jayne Archer, Department of English and Creative Writing, Elizabeth Goldring, University of Warwick, and Sarah Knight, University of Leicester

Oxford University Press

More than any other English monarch before or since, Queen Elizabeth I used her annual progresses to shape her royal persona and to bolster her popularity and authority. The progresses provided hosts with unique opportunities to impress and influence the Queen, and became occasions for magnificent and ingenious entertainments and pageants, drawing on the skills of architects, artists, and craftsmen, as well as dramatic performances, formal orations, poetic recitations, parades, masques, dances, and bear baiting. *The Progresses, Pageants, and Entertainments of Queen Elizabeth I* is an interdisciplinary essay collection, drawing together new and innovative work by experts in literary studies, history, theatre and performance studies, art history and antiquarian studies.



Photography and Spirit

Professor John Harvey, School of Art
Reaktion Books

Can film capture what our eyes can't see? There are many examples of photographs of spirits or "ghosts." These images have been derided as hoaxes or, at the other extreme, held up as irrefutable proof of the otherworld. *Photography and Spirit* examines these mesmerizing images of phantoms, psychical emanations, and religious apparitions. Professor Harvey's analysis probes the connections between the images, imagination and larger cultural traditions.



Under the Shadow: the cultural and environmental impacts of volcanic eruptions

Edited by Dr John Grattan, of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences and Robin Torrence

University of Arizona Press

Popularist treatments of ancient disasters like volcanic eruptions have grossly overstated their capacity for death, destruction, and societal collapse. Contributors to this volume - from anthropology, archaeology, environmental studies, geology, and biology - show that human societies have been incredibly resilient and, in the long run, have often recovered remarkably well from wide scale disruption and significant mortality. They have often used eruptions as a trigger for environmental enrichment, cultural change and adaptation. These historical studies are relevant to modern hazard management because they provide records for a far wider range of events and responses than have been recorded in written records, yet are often closely datable and trackable using standard archaeological and geological techniques.

Shadow Pasts: 'Amateur Historians' and History's Mysteries

Professor William Rubinstein, Department of History and Welsh History

Longman

For many, the stuff of history does not consist of the kind of dry-as-dust investigations of diplomatic, economic or political history that most university historians research and write about, but the famous topics of "history's mysteries" - who was Jack the Ripper? Was there a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy? Did Richard III murder the Princes in the Tower? What are the mysteries of the ancient Pyramids?

Many people who are not academic historians take a keen interest in these topics, and have in some cases made themselves real experts on them, with interesting theories of their own. Despite all of this, however, these topics are virtually ignored by academic historians and can be treated with contempt. In *Shadow Pasts* Professor Rubinstein examines seven of the most famous and interesting topics which have been discussed, debated, examined, and written about by "amateur historians".

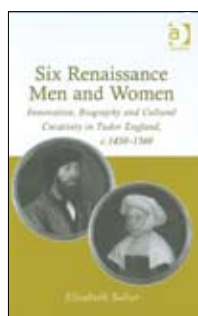


Security Dimensions of EU Enlargement: Wider Europe; Weaker Europe?

Edited by Alistair Shepherd, Department of International Politics and David Brown

Manchester University Press

This book assesses the impact of EU enlargement on both pre-existing security arrangements and key relationships with the EU's new partners and "neighbours". It also investigates both hard and soft and internal and external security issues, ranging from military intervention to terrorism and from organized crime to human rights. From this it concludes that enlargement has both positive and negative implications for European security.



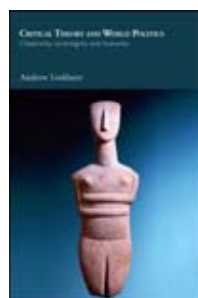
Six Renaissance Men and Women: Innovation, Biography and Cultural Creativity in Tudor England, c.1450-1560

Dr Elisabeth Salter, Department of English and Creative Writing

Ashgate Publishing

The English Renaissance is frequently defined in the context of the Elizabethans and early

Stuarts, but here we focus on the early Renaissance, and the important cultural transitions of the late-medieval/early Tudor period. In this innovative study, Dr Salter reconstructs the lives and experiences of six men and women of the early Renaissance and leads us on a quest to reconstruct their lost cultural worlds. Salter presents an exemplary model of how it is possible to reconstruct biography from sometimes fragmentary sources. When all six lives are added together as a whole, the book will lead the reader to a richer understanding of the cultural context of the early English Renaissance.



Critical Theory and World Politics: Sovereignty, Citizenship and Humanity

Professor Andrew Linklater, Department of International Politics

Routledge

Professor Andrew Linklater has been one of the most innovative thinkers in international relations, introducing critical and ethical

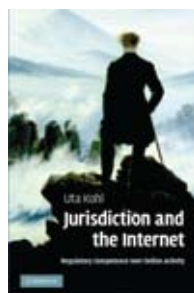
elements into the discipline which has forced it to rethink many of its basic assumptions. This book builds on this body of work to develop a radical new theory that calls for a cosmopolitan approach to international relations. Key subjects covered in the book include citizenship and humanity; critical theory and political community; the problem of harm; and the sociology of states-systems.

Benjamin Furly (1646-1714): A Quaker Merchant and his Milieu

Professor Sarah Hutton, Department of English and Creative Writing

Olschki

Benjamin Furly was a remarkable individual, whose interests and activities are not captured by the designations 'Quaker' and 'merchant'. The proud owner of one of the largest private libraries of the late seventeenth century, Furly played a key role as facilitator in the intellectual and political life of his time. His antipathy to authoritarianism in all its forms underpinned his staunch advocacy of religious freedom and support for radical political causes. This collection of articles edited by Professor Hutton brings together the diverse facets of Furly's activities: the merchant, the Quaker, the supporter of radical religious and political causes, the book collector.



Jurisdiction and the Internet – Regulatory Competence over Online Activity

Dr Uta Kohl, Department of Law and Criminology

Cambridge University Press

While the common perception is that the Internet is a chaotic, unregulated space over which states have no, or at best, limited control, the legal reality is very different. States

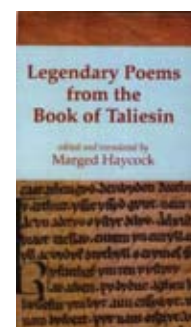
across the globe have sought to impose their laws on online activity, including activity which originates from abroad. This book examines the legitimacy and effectiveness of these regulatory attempts, the cost of such regulation or its absence, and what, if anything, can and should be done to create a more legally ordered online environment. Kohl examines the legitimacy and effectiveness of attempts to regulate the online world, offering some uncomfortable insights into one of the most important debates on Internet governance.

Legendary Poems from the Book of Taliesin

Professor Marged Haycock, Department of Welsh

CMCS publications.

The Book of Taliesin is the most enigmatic mysterious of the 'Four Ancient Books of Wales.' This volume by the undoubted world expert in this poetry, at last offers the first authoritative introduction to the early Welsh poems associated with Taliesin, the legendary shape-changing bard.

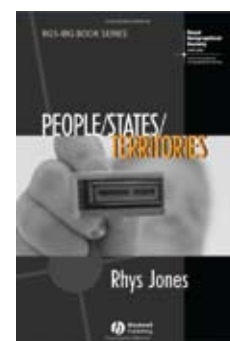


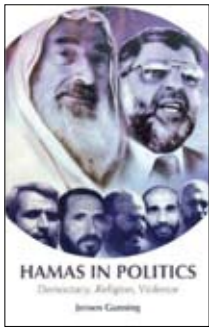
People/States/Territories: The Political Geographies of British State Transformation

Rhys Jones, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences

Blackwell Publishing

People/States/Territories examines the role of state personnel in shaping, and being shaped by, state organisations and territories. The text develops a conceptual understanding of the state as a continually emerging and contingent territorial organisation, which is reproduced, transformed, and contested by state personnel. Rhys Jones demonstrates how the iterative practices of state actors may give meaning and permanence to – or, alternatively, may question and transform – the state apparatus. In addition, Dr Jones highlights how the state's territory is continuously negotiated and translated by those individuals working within this state apparatus, and he illustrates how the identities and practices of state personnel have been influenced by the organisational and territorial networks of power that characterise the state.

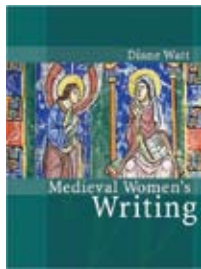




Hamas in Politics: Democracy, Religion, Violence

Dr Jeroen Gunning, Department of International Politics
Hurst Publishers Ltd

A key player in the politics of the Middle East, Hamas is renowned for its contradictory positions. In *Hamas in Politics* Dr Gunning challenges the assumption that religion, violence and democracy are inherently incompatible and shows how many of these apparent contradictions flow from the interaction between Hamas's ideology, its local constituency and the nature of politics in Israel/Palestine. Drawing on interviews with members of Hamas and its critics, and a decade of close observation of the group, he offers a penetrating analysis of Hamas' own understanding of its ideology and in particular the tension between its dual commitment to God and the people.



Medieval Women's Writing: Works by and for Women, 1100-1500

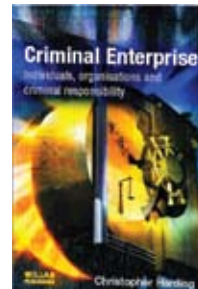
Professor Diane Watt, Department of English and Creative Writing
Polity

Medieval Women's Writing is a major new contribution to our understanding of women's writing in England, 1100-1500 featuring writings in Latin and French as well as English, and works for as well as by women. Marie de France, Clemence of Barking, Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe, and the Paston women are discussed alongside the Old English lives of women saints, The Life of Christina of Markyate, the St Albans Psalter, and the legends of women saints by Osbern Bokenham. This radical rethinking of early women's literary history has major implications for all scholars working on medieval literature, on ideas of authorship, and on women's writing in later periods.

Theory of World Security

Professor Ken Booth, Department of International Politics
Cambridge University Press

This book represents the culmination of the work of Professor Ken Booth in helping to establish the 'Welsh' or 'Aberystwyth school' of critical security thinking as one of the reference points of theoretical development in the field of Security Studies internationally. It is organised around three fundamental philosophical questions: what is real? what can we know? and how might we act? The answers offered move far beyond the conservative ideas that have traditionally imprisoned the theory and practice of security in world politics. Presenting a picture of a world that is not working – and cannot work under conditions of business-as-usual - for the majority of its human and other animal inhabitants, the book challenges not only well-established ways of thinking, but also fashionable alternative approaches.



Criminal Enterprise: Individuals, Organisations and Criminal Responsibility

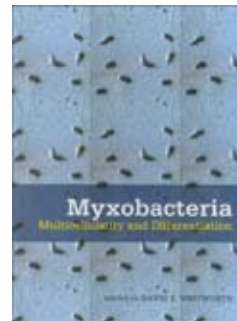
Professor Chris Harding, Department of Law and Criminology
Willan Publishing

This is an important addition to the literature on the division of responsibility between individuals and the organisations to which they belong. It brings together legal, ethical and sociological considerations of the nature of agency and responsibility in organisational decision making and offers a cogent and carefully argued answer to questions about the allocation of responsibility. Professor Harding makes it clear that, where organisations are concerned, the whole is more than the sum of the parts.

Myxobacteria: Multicellularity and Differentiation

Edited by Dr David Whitworth, Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences
ASM Press

Ever since their discovery, myxobacteria have proven to be enduring sources of wonder and inspiration for microbiologists. Myxobacteria exhibit several behaviours that are rare within the bacterial world but



commonplace in eukaryotes, including multicellular development and cellular differentiation. This volume represents a major review of many aspects of myxobacterial biology. Synthesizing the latest knowledge on myxobacteria, this accessible volume will be indispensable for both specialists and non-specialists interested in the field.

Trash or Treasure? Censorship and the changing meanings of the video nasties

Dr Kate Egan, Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies
Manchester University Press

Trash or Treasure is a wide-ranging historical study of the British circulation of the 'video nasties' - a term that was originally coined to ban a group of horror videos in Britain in the 1980s but which continues to have cultural resonance in Britain up to the present day. Through an exploration of a range of relevant historical materials the book examines how this unusual, historically-specific genre category was formulated in a particular context, and then used (for different reasons) by moral campaigners, distributors, critics and fans.

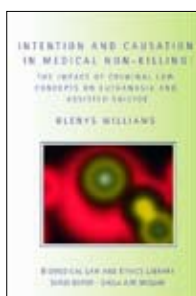


Intention and Causation in Medical Non-Killing: The Impact of Criminal Law concepts on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Dr Glenys Williams, Department of Law and Criminology

Routledge-Cavendish

Analyzing the concepts of intention and causation in euthanasia, this timely new book explores a broad selection of disciplines, including criminal and medical law, medical ethics, philosophy and social policy and suggests an alternative solution to the one currently used by the courts, based on grading different categories of killing into a formalised justificatory defence. Dr Williams criticises the way the courts rely so exclusively on the criminal concepts of intention and causation in such medical scenarios and examines and raises awareness of the inadequate and inappropriate legal framework within which judges have to operate.



Truth Recovery and Justice after conflict: Managing Violent Pasts

Dr Marie Breen Smyth, Department of International Politics

Routledge

This book considers the problem of managing the unfinished business of a violent past in societies moving out of political violence and focuses on the conditions which predispose - or prevent - embarkation on a truth recovery process, and the rationale for that process. There is, it argues, no magic moment of 'readiness' for truth recovery: the conditions are constructed by political 'willingness' rather than spontaneously occurring. As the society struggles to move forward, Dr Marie Breen Smyth considers whether the entrenched positions of some, and the failure to understand the views of others, can be shifted by a societal revisiting and re-evaluation of the past.

Culture and Security: Symbolic Power and the Politics of International Security

Professor Michael Williams, Department of International Politics

Routledge

This book traces the transformations in European security since the end of the Cold War, analysing NATO and the EU enlargement and the impact of this on the reconfiguration of European security. Professor Williams examines the role of culture in contemporary security at both a theoretical and practical level and provides a critical overview of the ways in which culture has been theorised in security studies.

Britain, Germany and the Cold War: The Search for a European Détente, 1949 – 1967

Dr R Gerald Hughes, Department of International Politics

Routledge

This well-researched book details the ambiguity in British policy towards Europe in the Cold War as it sought to pursue détente with the Soviet Union whilst upholding its commitments to its NATO allies. From the early 1950s, Britain pursued a dual policy of strengthening the West whilst seeking détente with the Soviet Union. This cast British policy onto an insoluble dilemma, as it was caught between its alliance obligations to the West German state and its search for compromise with the Soviet bloc. Charting Britain's attempts to reconcile this contradiction, this book argues that Britain successfully adapted to the new realities and made hitherto unknown contributions towards détente in the early 1960s, whilst drawing towards Western Europe and applying for membership of the EEC in 1961.

Driving Spaces: a cultural-historical geography of England's M1 motorway

Dr Peter Merriman of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences

Blackwell Publishing

Driving is a fairly ordinary activity with major environmental consequences, but it is only fairly recently that social scientists have



begun examining the social and cultural significance of the motor car in any depth. *Driving Spaces* offers a unique perspective on the production and consumption of spaces of driving. The book explores how the motorway was constructed as a modern space by politicians, designers, engineers, and scientists, as well as social commentators and the motoring public.

Special Forces, Strategy and the War on Terror: Warfare by other means

Dr Alastair Finlan, Department of International Politics

Routledge

This volume undertakes a systematic analysis of the relationship between Special Forces and contemporary strategy, explaining the resurgence of interest in Special Forces, particularly in the West, by exploring their appeal over traditional conventional force options in the current 'War on Terror'. *Special Forces, Strategy and the War on Terror: Warfare by other means* comprises four overarching themes: theory and practice; command and control; culture and technology; and operations and the 'War on Terror'.

Social Psychology in Sport

Edited by Professor David Lavallee, Department of Sport and Exercise Science, and Sophia Jowett

Human Kinetics

Social psychology in sport has grown impressively in the last decade, but no single text has addressed all the important topics in the field - until now. Through the contributions of an international group of established scholars and creative young minds, *Social Psychology in Sport* offers readers a global perspective, a broad base of knowledge, and the latest thinking on topics such as social relationships, communication, coach leadership, team cohesion, motivation and motivational climate, audience effects and morality.



Graduation 2008

2008 saw one of the largest ever cohorts of undergraduate students to graduate from Aberystwyth University. Over the four days and eight ceremonies held during the second week of July the University also honoured eight new Fellows.



Matthew Rhys with Professor Noel Lloyd and Dr Catrin Hughes

At the week's first ceremony Cardiff born actor Matthew Rhys who has close family links with Pennal near Machynlleth, and is best-known for his role on the American ABC family drama *Brothers & Sisters*, and more recently for his portrayal of Dylan Thomas in the *The Edge of Love*, was presented by the University's Registrar and Secretary, Dr Catrin Hughes.

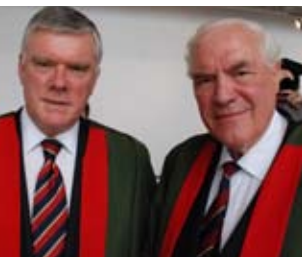
During the same ceremony Ms Janet Lewis Jones, Vice President of the British Board of Film Classification, trustee of the Baring Foundation and Chair of the Membership Selection Panel of Glas Cymru (Welsh Water), and the BBC, was presented by Professor John Williams.



Ms Janet Lewis Jones and Professor John Williams

On Tuesday afternoon YAM Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Tuanku Ja'afar from Malaysia was presented by Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Aled Jones. Affectionately known as 'Bill' during his student days, YAM Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Tuanku Ja'afar read International Politics and Economics. A diplomat and successful businessman, he is also Pro Chancellor of Malaysia's second largest university, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Former University Vice-President, Mr Huw Wynne-Griffith, was presented for an honorary fellowship on Wednesday afternoon by former University President, Lord Elystan Morgan. Mr Wynne-Griffith graduated in Pure Mathematics followed by an MSc in Statistics in



Mr Huw Wynne-Griffith and Lord Elystan Morgan



Sir Jon Shortridge with University President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry

1967 at Aberystwyth before going on to establish himself as a leading figure in the world of actuaries.

Sir Jon Shortridge and Lord David Rowe-Beddoe were honoured on Thursday morning.

Sir Jon, the first permanent secretary to the National Assembly for Wales, was presented by Professor Noel Lloyd. A graduate of Oxford University, he was private secretary to two successive Secretaries of State for Wales; Nicholas Edwards and Peter Walker, and in 1997 was appointed Senior Director for Economic Affairs, with responsibility for the establishment of the National Assembly for Wales. At the time of his retirement in April 2008, he was the longest serving Permanent Secretary in the UK. Sir Jon was knighted in 2002.



Professor Lyn Pykett presenting Lord Rowe-Beddoe

Lord David Rowe-Beddoe was presented by Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lyn Pykett. Originally from Cardiff, Lord Rowe-Beddoe is an international businessman with a considerable track record of public service and work for the performing arts. A former Chairman of the

Welsh Development Agency and of the Development Board for Rural Wales, he is now Chairman of the Wales Millennium Centre, President of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Chairman of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales. He was knighted in 2000 and elevated to the peerage in 2006.

At Thursday afternoon's ceremony Dr Alan Axford was presented by Professor David Lavalle, Head of the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences. Dr Axford trained at University College Hospital, London. During a long and distinguished career at Bronglais General Hospital he has been head of the Departments of Respiratory Medicine and Oncology. In 1995 he was appointed Clinical Director of Medicine and the Trust's Medical Director in 1997 and is the Trust's Lead Clinician for Cancer Services.

Former student and a leading commissioner of TV sitcoms, Sioned William, was presented at the week's final ceremony. During an illustrious career she has worked on many popular TV and Radio programmes including *Weekending*, *Knowing Me Knowing You* with Steve Coogan, and *Dear Jenny Dear Julie* with Paul Merton and Nicholas Parsons. Nominated for an English BAFTA three times, Sioned won the British Comedy Award and the Bronze Rose award in Montreux for *Big Train* in 1999, followed by a BAFTA for the highly popular series *Cold Feet*.



Sioned William receives the Fellow's scroll from President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry

Graddio 2008

Fathers and daughters

This year's graduation ceremonies gave particular cause for celebration for two fathers and their daughters.

Sharing the stage with leading cancer specialist Dr Alan Axford was his daughter, Dr Rachel Rahman, who received a PhD for her work at the University's Department of Sport and Exercise Science.

Dr Rahman studied the motivational aspects of cardiac rehabilitation. She now joins the newly established Department of Psychology as a lecturer where she will be lecturing on psycho-biology and the psychology of health.

Earlier in the week father and daughter Roger and Jodi Bennett were presented with Masters Degrees.

Roger was awarded an MSc (Econ) in Strategic Studies from the Department of International Politics. His success follows his recent appointment as Head of Civil Contingencies and Resilience within the Fire Service in Mid and West Wales.

Jodi received an MA in Audience and Reception Studies from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies on Tuesday afternoon. A former member of staff at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Jodi now works for the Welsh National Opera in Cardiff.

After receiving his award, Roger said; "Thank you very much Aberystwyth University. It has been an eye opening experience, one that has given me skills and attributes I never thought I had."



Dr Alan Axford with Dr Rachel Rahman



Roger and Jodi Bennet



Dr Joan Hughes gyda'r Athro Aled Jones (chwith) a Dr Huw Meirion Edwards



Olwen Daniel (right) and Dr Natalie Roberts

Dr Joan Hughes

Ddydd Mercher, 16 Gorffennaf graddiodd myfyriwr go arbennig o Adran y Gymraeg. Derbyniodd Joan Hughes, sy'n hanu'n wreiddiol o Drefdraeth, Sir Benfro, radd doethur a hithau'n 82 mlwydd oed.

Un o fyfyrwyr aeddfed y Radd Allanol yw Joan Hughes. Dilynodd gynllun y Radd Allanol yn y Gymraeg rhwng 1995 a 2000, gan ennill gradd BA Anrhydedd 2i wedi cyfnod o astudio dwys. Aeth ymlaen, dan gyfarwyddyd Dr Huw Meirion Edwards, i gwblhau traethawd MPhil ar y Piwritan a'r cyhoeddwr enwog o'r ail ganrif ar bymtheg, Stephen Hughes, gan raddio am yr eildro yn 2003.

Trodd ei sylw wedyn, eto dan gyfarwyddyd Dr Edwards, at astudiaeth fwy uchelgeisiol o fywyd a gwaith John Thomas, Rhacadr Gwy (1739-1804?). Pregethwr teithiol a gweinidog oedd John Thomas a ddaeth dan ddylanwad y Diwygiad Methodistiaidd, ac ef yw awdur *Rhad Ras*, un o'r hunangofiannau cyntaf yn y Gymraeg. Mae'r traethawd PhD yn waith swmpus a darllenadwy sy'n bwrw goleuni newydd ar un o ffigurau crefyddol mwyaf diddorol y cyfnod.

Olwen Daniel

After 22 years as Master of Ceremonies, Senior Assistant Registrar Olwen Daniel has folded her robes away for the final time. Over the years Olwen has seen many changes, but her primary concern has always been to retain the ceremonial grandeur of the occasion.

"Nothing has given me more pleasure than watching proud parents and graduates enjoy the wonderful celebratory atmosphere which surrounds graduation. My aim has always been to strike a balance between maintaining the dignity and decorum of the ceremony whilst at the same time giving our new graduates the opportunity to revel in what they have achieved."



Day in the Life of...

Angélique Crystal (Environmental Earth Science 2007)

5.15 am, it's still dark outside and pretty chilly which promises that in a few hours time its going to be an absolute scorcher. I've woken up before my alarm, which always gives me a bit of a kick, it's the little things that keep you sane. Not bad going considering I'm still out of sync from a recent trip to South America on a course. I quickly chuck on my field gear and lace up my boots, then hurry across the camp to the kitchen where my fellow geo, Julian, has already got the kettle on. He's looking more glum than usual and tells me he's managed to lock us out of the office. I'm seriously considering bringing a bright pink, glittery piece of Aber tradition to the project, today Jules would definitely get to wear the embarrassing t-shirt awarded for prize idiocy on the Environmental Earth Science fieldtrip.

We each grab a cup of coffee and armed with clipboards, pull up some chairs to plan the day's movements and watch the sunrise. There's the IP survey, the Mag-Sus survey, and site preparation for the rig coming in next week. On top of all that me and Jules are doing some mapping. We've got to know exactly where each team is, what vehicles they are in and have to make sure each team includes a first aider and incident manager. We don't want to be getting in each other's way, and we especially don't want to be crossing any fences while the IP guys are pumping an electrical current through the ground!

The planning now done, we break into the field office with my Leatherman. Finally, we've loaded up the gear and most importantly, the cooler box, into our trusty Land Cruiser and we're on our way. The drive down dirt roads and farm tracks takes slightly longer than usual as the cool of the morning has brought out quite a lot of game. We stop to watch a herd of kudu, a couple of gemsbok, some tsesbe and a giraffe on the roadside.

We startle a steenbok that's been seeking refuge from the scorching midday sun in a small shrub and have covered about seven kilometres already. Now we stumble across a large gossan*, rising about two meters high, that's somehow been hidden by the rolling grasslands. Jules is so excited that he has to knock off a hand specimen on the spot! After we've mapped it in and taken some structural readings we settle down to some sweaty cheese sandwiches on the gossan and take in the view. The hot sun is beating down on us and the wind is rustling through the grass, it's hard to believe that a little over a year ago I would have been sitting in the concourse in Llandinam watching the drizzle outside, while I grabbed a quick bite between lectures and lay in wait for Bill or Charlie so I could pester them about an extension on the latest piece of coursework.

Julian wanders off on his own and I hear a girlish shriek as a sunbathing cobra rears up not 10 meters in front of him to warn him off. We again debate the effectiveness of our



Angélique Crystal

gaiters in the face of the 2 cm long fangs of a Mozambican spitting cobra. However, next week one of us is going to have to be the rig monkey, then death by boredom from logging metres after hundred metres of core will be more of a risk, we'll have to draw straws for that one. At least there are the daily audits, geotechnical logging and overseeing safety to break the day up a bit.

It's now time to head back to camp, we've covered about thirteen kilometres today, that's not too bad in thick, thorny scrubland in about 35°C. We grab a cold coke from the cooler box and head back. A long dusty drive later and we're back in our field digs, aptly named "The Middle of Nowhere". Jules and I quickly check that everyone is back safe and sound before I run off to grab a cool shower. It's an open topped solar shower with natural stone walls that ferns creep up. I watch the sunset and spare a thought for those who have languished behind a desk today.

Feeling somewhat refreshed I hurry back to grab a cold beer around the fire before getting on with the data entry for today's efforts, regolith and geology have to be plotted into MapInfo, localities and samples have to be entered into the database, and we've still got to decide on what area to map tomorrow.

Then finally its dinner time and our lovely hostess, Beate has cooked up a storm of Kudu stew followed by ice cream and toffee sauce. The team discusses the day's progress before conversation takes a more informal turn and we chat about what I'm planning to do with my next field break. Finally, stuffed to bursting point we bid Beate goodnight and waddle off to our huts, I evict a cheeky cricket from my sleeping bag and climb in, bone tired but feeling pretty good and as I listen to the night sounds and drift off to sleep I think it's a tough life...

* *Gossan: an intensely oxidized, weathered or decomposed rock, usually the upper and exposed part of an ore deposit or mineral vein.*





Networking *Rhwydweithio*

Dear Alumni

Welcome to the networking pages of PROM, and thank you all for sending in your wonderful stories and photos. It has been a great pleasure to read about your reminiscences and reunions, and to hear what you have done since leaving Aber, some of you in very far away places indeed! I hope you will continue to send your contributions, comments and suggestions for PROM. They are always welcome, so please don't hesitate to send your letters and photographs to PROM Magazine, Aberystwyth University, Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth SY23 2AX, or email them to alumni@aber.ac.uk.

Louise Perkins

Annwyl Gyn-fyfrwyr

Croeso i dudalennau rhwydweithio PROM, a diolch i chi oll am anfon eich storïau a'ch lluniau gwych. Mae wedi bod yn bleser mawr i ddarllen am eich atgofion a'ch aduniadau, ac i glywed am yr hyn yr ydych wedi ei wneud ers gadael Aber, rhai ohonoch mewn mannau pell iawn i ffwrdd! Gobeithio y byddwch yn parhau i anfon eich cyfraniadau, eich sylwadau a'ch awgrymiadau i PROM. Mae yna groeso iddynt bob tro, felly peidiwch ag oedi rhag anfon eich llythyron a'ch lluniau i Gylchgrawn PROM, Prifysgol Aberystwyth, Yr Hen Goleg, Stryd y Brenin, Aberystwyth SY23 2AX, neu e-bostiwch hwy i alumni@aber.ac.uk.

Louise Perkins

Letters *Llythyron*



Aber Rugby Club 1942

Dear PROM

I enclose a photo of the Aber Rugby Club of 1942. There are some members shown (Orville Thomas and Goring Thomas) who are also included in the 1946 team in *PROM* 17. I am second from the left in the back row. 66 years ago!

Ceredig Rhys

Chemistry 1942

Dear PROM

I always enjoy reading *PROM* but can I just point out that in the article about Aber Drams on page 38 the reference to Ron Walker being a lecturer in the French Department is incorrect; he was a lecturer in history and was my tutor in my third year 1969/70. he was still very much involved in drama then; I seem to remember him playing a leading part in a hilarious production of *Lysistrata*.

P Rhonwen Fleetwood (née Emmott)

History 1970

Dear PROM

Although now rather elderly, it was still nice to recognise a few contemporary faces, such as that of Lord Elystan Morgan (p 15) and two members of the 1947 – 48 Rowing Club (p 31) on the back row. These being first from left, the late Ron Walker, ex-Tenby Greenhill Grammar School like myself, and who later joined AU staff, and third from left, Charlie Ockey, who entered Pantycelyn Hall as Senior Student, as I did, in 1951.

David Richard Griffiths

Chemistry 1952

ED: Thanks also to Dr Griffiths for pointing out the error in the caption for the Botany Department 1950 p 31 PROM 17 – the wrong caption was printed. My apologies.





The College Rugby Team, 1944

Dear **PROM**

I have added some names which may be correct (or incorrect) for the pictures on p 29 of *PROM* 17. *PROM* does help to fight the ageing process, perhaps; a good publication and a good read.

College Rugby Team 1944:

Back row, third from left Emlyn George; fifth from left Ellis Davies; then Peter Stone (Loughor, Llanelli and Wales v. France 1949, but only one cap, he died a young man).

Front row, holding the ball is Handel Evans (nicknamed Alabam), second from right is Orville Thomas (former Professor of Chemistry at Salford University).

Dai Treharne

Botany 1953, PhD 1959

ED: it was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Dai in February 2008, very shortly after he had written this letter. He will be greatly missed, not least for his regular contributions to PROM.

Dear **PROM**

Re the photograph of the College Rugby team on 1944 (page 29 of *PROM* 17) sent in by T Granville Williams, and his request for information about Ken Weale (not as spelt in the caption). He spent almost all his working life at Imperial College, London, where he became Reader in Chemical Engineering, and an administrator on the Governing Body. He died in 1998.

Margaret Pugh English 1944

Dear **PROM**

The organisation known as “Undeb Cymru a’r Byd” (Wales International) celebrated the 60th year of its existence in 2008. Of special interest to readers of *PROM* is the fact that the founder of that body is a former student of Aberystwyth University, namely T Elwyn Griffiths of Caernarfon.

Whilst serving with the RAF in the Middle East, Elwyn was instrumental in founding and editing the Welsh monthly journal *Seren y Dwyrain* in Cairo for distribution amongst his fellow countrymen in the Forces.

Following the end of hostilities, the work was carried on, on a world-wide basis by a new magazine know as *Yr Enfyf*, the official organ of the new organisation “Wales International”. Many former students of Aber who have held appointments in various parts of the world have been members of this organisation and in some instances, will recall taking part in the annual Welcome Home Ceremony for overseas Welsh at the National Eisteddfod.

A Native of Llandybie, Elwyn graduated in Economics at Aberystwyth in 1948.

E C Jones



Dear **PROM**

Seeing the 1987 John Williams Hall photo in *PROM*, I felt inspired to look up my old Plynlymon Hall photo from the same year. Everyone in this photo must still have vivid memories of the infamous “pit” into which miscreants were thrown and then drenched in sour milk, sheep droppings (gathered on Constitution Hill) and a whole array of other vile substances. The stench was overpowering, but just to prolong the agony, all hot taps were run cold before the event so that a hot bath afterwards was not an option. The smell would take days to fade.

I married another Aber graduate in 1993 and we now live in Hove with our two children.

Miriam Roberts (née North) Art and Music 1989

Back row, from left: Richard Yates; David Brazzer; Julian Ings; Andrea Merchant; Jeremy Mills; Alan Smith; Paul Mason; John Howard; Miriam North Gareth Kingston; Andrew Micklewright; Next row, from left: Sue Clarke; Teresa Mason; Charlie Lightbown; Hughie Forsyth; Vijyan Greiw; Darren Atwood; Alan Mort; Sarah Ely; Catherine McQuade; Sarah Catt; Penny Horden; Vanessa Laidler; Next row, from left: Lisa Ferris; Andy Kellet; Stuart James; Graham Stewart; Damien Smyth; Peter Bennet; Sam Gordon; Martin Squires; Jon Crowhurst; David Simm; Stephen Grainger Next row, from left: Joanne Herbert; James; Claire Chesseman; Nia Daniels Nicholas Cox; Di Marston; Danny O’Donoghue; Mike Belch; Mike Leyshon; Peter Learnmonth Front row, from left: Janet Hosking; Rachel Keeley; Louise Holden; Tracy Vaughan; Alison Bailey; Rosemary Law; Dave Law; Hazel Boden; Catrin Barnes; Jonny Walters; Sharon Frost; Julie Tough



UAU Aber v Loughborough 1956: Back row, far left, Dai Hayward; John Isaacs diving over (in his headmaster's pose!); ninth (behind the others) Hywel Morgan, then Dennis Stuart; and Dai Nehemiah; fourth from right is John Powell; third from right Ron Walters; and second from right I think Wyn Matthews. Front row, far left kneeling is Graham Wright; third from left Frank Davies; and second from right Denis Evans with Edwin Roberts on the far right.

Dear **PROM**

I studied Robin West's photograph (p29 of *PROM* 17) of the 1956 Aber XV with interest. I recognise most of them.

In that year, 1955 – 56 I was captain of the badminton club, but I also started playing rugby in Aber, as I had always done in the vacations at home in Gilfach Goch. When badminton commitments permitted I played for the 2nd XV, but I knew most of the 1st XV players from practices and drinking and singing at The Ship. We also did PE together as several of them, like me, were doing teachers training.

So here goes, from the left: John Isaacs; a half hidden face at the back I can't make out; Jeff Jones; behind him immediately to the right the ginger mop of Howell Morgan; Dai Nehemiah; Colin Evans; John Griffiths?; Ron Walters. In the front (again from the left): Graham Wright; someone I'm not sure about – could it possibly be Alwyn Jenkins? – or Viv Jones?; Emlyn Jones; Dennis Evans, with Rob West behind him; another half-hidden face that I cannot give a name to.

It is certainly good to be reminded of old times. Happily, rugby reunions, at Aber in September and at the Bowls Club in Sophia Gardens before international matches, still bring some of us together, and we sing again the songs we used to sing in The Ship fifty years ago.

Sam Adams English (1958)

Dear **PROM**

I was extremely pleased to read a letter from Howard Young in the 2008 edition of *PROM* and I am very grateful to him for writing to correct part of my late husband's name. Geoff was Geoffrey Jones (not Jeffrey), a former pupil of Lewis Boys' Grammar School, Pengam; one of the first students to enjoy the splendid accommodation at the recently completed Pantycelyn Hall of Residence from 1951 onwards and a keen rugby player. The photograph sent in by Robin West (p29 of *PROM* 17) brought back many happy memories of good times in Aberystwyth. The photograph must have been taken before the Loughborough match - the Persil-white jerseys had yet to be exposed to the rigours of the UAU game!

I recognise a number of faces from the 1950s: (Back row, left to right): John Isaacs, Geoff, Hywel Morgan, David Nehemiah, Colin Evans, John Powell, Ron Walters; (Front row, left to right): Graham Wright, Frank Colin Davies, Emlyn Jones, Robin West, Dennis Evans, Eddie Roberts. Missing from the photograph are Howard Young and Alan Wright who I believe were both playing for the first XV at this time – both stalwart 'men of Gwent' and excellent players.

Who would have believed in those days that at least three of that lively group were to become respectable and respected headmasters (Geoff at West Mon, Pontypool, John Isaacs at Cantonian, Cardiff and Colin Evans at Sir Thomas Picton, Haverfordwest) and one of the group, Eddie Roberts, would become Director of Education for Mid Glamorgan? Incidentally, John Isaacs in attempting to asphyxiate one of the Loughborough men, is using David (Dai) Hayward as a prop. Dai, a native of Newbridge, later played for Cardiff and Wales.

Sadly, some of those in the photograph such as Emlyn Jones, Ron Walters and Geoff are no longer with us. There may be others of course.

On the same page as the photo and Robin West's letter is a short letter sent in by Jayne (Filer) Davies. How fortunate we were, as members of the Elizabethan Madrigal Singers, to sing under the inspiring direction of Jayne. My very best wishes to her and warmest thanks for enriching the Aber experience for me and for many others. Our experiences at the International Eisteddfod, Llangollen were unforgettable – for all the right reasons! As students in the Music Department, we were privileged to visit Gregynog on more than one occasion and performed 'The Dream of Gerontius' there, in those beautiful surroundings, with the Halle Orchestra.

How lucky we were to be students in Aber in the 1950s!

Congratulations to the *PROM* team on the excellent publication. Llongyfarchiadau i chi gyd a phob hwyl gyda'r gwaith.

Lilian Jones (née Stone)

Cerddoriaeth/Music 1957, Alexandra Hall 1954-1957



Men's Gymnastic Club 1944

Dear **PROM**

Re Photographs of the Physics Department 1943 and Men's Gymnastic Club 1944.

Together with another old Aber student (we recently had a reunion of our own!) we managed to put a few names to the faces as follows. I hope this may be helpful.

In the Gymnastics photo, in the back row at the far left is Elfed Evans, then Bill George, then Edgar Jones, and Russ Harris is seated on the far right.

Third from the left in the back row of the Physics Department photo is Gwilym Samuel, and seventh from the left is Alwyn Jones, third from the right in the same row is Danny Evans.

The next row down shows Peter Rogers three from the left, and fifth from the left in the next row again is Trev Walters.

Lorna M Riley (née Farmer)

European Languages 1946

Dear **PROM**

I am able to add some information to these always enthralling items. In the photo of the Men's Gymnastic Club p 30, Bob Davies (Law Department) is at the right end of the back row and immediately in front of him at the extreme end of the front row is Russell Harris, also of the Law Department. The stern gentleman in the centre is Major Stimson (Stimmy) who, among other things, was PE instructor to the College's Senior Training Corps and inspired their unofficial regimental march to the tune of The Church's One Foundation.

We are old Stimmy's army, we are the STC

We cannot fight, we cannot shoot, what earthly use are we?

But when we get to Berlin the Fuehrer he will say:

Ach! Ach! Mein Gott what a bloody fine lot!

The boys of the STC"

I am sorry to say that Ken Weale (correct name) mentioned in Glanville Williams's letter on p 29 and his younger brother John, who were co-diggers of mine in Powell Street, both passed away some years ago. I believe they were known to their friends and Big Wheel and Little Wheel.

J Gwyn Hughes

Law 1946

Heulwen Thomas also remembered most of the faces in the photo of the Men's Gymnastic Club in 1944, and could give names to four: second from the left in the back row is John Bundy, and in the centre Edgar Jones. In the centre of the front row is Major Stimpson (known as Stimmy), then Wally Reuben (or Rubin), and next to him Russel Harris (Rusty).

Dear **PROM**

Edgar W Jones enquired about members of the Men's Gymnastic Club, 1944, (page 30 *PROM* 17). Elved or Elvet Lewis (?) is first left on the back row, and Bob Davies is on the end of that row.

Malcolm Wilkinson is first left on the front row. When the club gave a display at the King's Hall there were torrents of enthusiastic cheering when he first appeared because he had a very hairy chest! Some of the UCL members were Welsh boys. The UCL blazers had a double stripe whereas the Aber blazers had a single stripe.

I was interested to see the photograph of Kenneth Middleton's daughter kicking the bar, but was amused that she was doing it with a backward flip. In the 1940s we always faced the bar and gave it a good forward kick.

Jean Eastwood (née Davies)

1945

Dear **PROM**

I recognised some of the people in the photographs in *PROM* 2007 and have been urged by my old friend and contemporary Jean (Davies) Eastwood to add my ha'porth to the many other comments you will receive. I was a student of Chemistry, taking Honours in 1945, with Finals in Botany 1944 and Subsidiary Physics 1942-43, and so figure in the 1943 picture of the Physics Department (p30 of *PROM* 17), where I am fifth from the left in the back row. I was so dark after the summer of 1942 that my wife, Thelma Thomas of GCG (Honours Botany 1945), thought at first I was an Indian. I also stayed on until 1948 for my PhD under Professor C W Davies. It was all so long ago that few will remember me now, though contemporaries will surely remember the charming soprano voice of Jean Davies; and indeed one of my earliest memories of Aber is of hearing her in the 1942 Freshers' Soirée singing "Who is Sylvia?" with accompaniment by John (Shinkin) Williams. In those days we made our own entertainment and I even plucked up courage in my second year to pose as a pianist, something I have been doing as an amateur all my life ever since.

In that Physics photo many of the faces look vaguely familiar but I am fairly certain of some of them. I believe the second from the right in the back row was Eric Jenkins, who must have been doing his Final Physics year then. He was prominent as an orator in the Friday Debates and I think he came from Risca and took Chemistry in his Final Honours year. Others I know for sure are on the second row: E Malcolm Wilkinson and Robert Roberts, third and fourth from the left, and Peter Dale, tenth from the left. Peter Dale, like me, was a wartime State Bursar in Chemistry; but, whereas I was posted to Aber, he had selected it as a place to go to on the advice

of his chemistry teacher at Wath-on-Dearne, Mr Williams, an old Aber student. By a strange coincidence I was a colleague of Mr Williams's elder daughter (Eirian) some years later on the staff of the University of Sheffield, where she was in the Department of Education. Malcolm Wilkinson (from the town, where the family kept the florist and greengrocer's shop, next door to the home of Wynne Owen in Great Darkgate Street, near the Terrace Road junction) and Robert Roberts (from Wrexham) were both with me and Brian Pinsent in C W's first Final Honours class in 1944-45. I recognise four of the Physics staff in the front row of the photo. In the middle there is I C Jones, a clear and interesting lecturer who was running the department in the wartime absence of Professor E J Williams, a brilliant young physicist who played an important role in the defence against U-boats but sadly died in 1945 before his planned return to Aber. Next to I C's right (ie our left) is Miss Williamson, who demonstrated to us in the lab and ended her career as the Principal of Royal Holloway College. Next to her is D G (?) Evans, whose nickname, "Tick", I always imagined must have come from pronouncing 'x' as 'x tick', though I never had any lectures from him. I have an idea he went to Edinburgh. Fifth from the left in that front row is Maurice Job, a young lecturer at the time and, I was told, a lay preacher.

The photograph of the Gym Club in 1944, p 30 *PROM* 17, also has some very familiar faces. In the front row the first on the left is Malcolm Wilkinson again, and the first on the right Russell Harris, a law student, as also was Bob Davies, just above him on the right. Bob Davies was a co-digger of mine, first of all at Glenhantley, opposite the Black Lion in Bridge Street, and then at Sea View Place and Trevor Road. First on the left in the back row is Elfed Evans, a UCL student who came from South Wales. In the middle of the front row sits Major Stimson (Stimmie), who was formerly the CO of the STC and was succeeded in my time by Gwyn Davies, a Chemistry Lecturer who took his own life, followed by S H F Johnson (Fergie) of the History Department.

I also recognise some of the rugby players on the previous page. Jean Eastwood knows more about Ken Weale and his brother John since they came from the school at Builth where her father was the headmaster. Ken had a distinguished career as an academic at Imperial College. He was a very large fellow and his brother was not quite so heavy. They were sometimes known as Jumbo Weale and Spare Weale. Granville Williams referred to the fifth from the left, holding the ball, as Alan, but I'm pretty sure that was a mishearing of Alabam, his nickname (I don't know why), but his real name was Handel William Hugh Jones, a tall, well-built man of striking appearance. Orville Thomas, on the other side of Ken Weale, was another chemist who became an academic. He ended his career as a professor at Salford and retired back to Aberystwyth where he had earlier been a pupil of Mansel Davies, followed by several years on the Chemistry staff. First on the left of the front row was Ivor Lloyd Jenkins of Aberporth, a chemistry student who went to work at Harwell. I think it was a badly-set broken arm at rugby that led to a slight but permanent deformity of one of his arms. I went swimming in the sea with him once and was surprised that he didn't take a towel

but just brushed himself down lightly before getting dressed, saying that he was used to getting thoroughly wet when he went out at night fishing in the sea at home. The second from the left on the back row I knew as G G Owens (not Owen) but I didn't know his name was Gordon; and the one on the end to his left looks a bit like John Toriel Morgan from Cowbridge.

Peter A H Wyatt
(*Chemistry 1945*)



Physics Department 1943

Dear **PROM**

Re Physics Department photo p 30 *PROM* 17, I am sure of the following names, numbered from the left:

Front row: 1 Lily Thomas; 3 D D Jones (Dai Bach, married Bertha Jacobs and joined GEC); 4 Mr Sulston I C Workshop; 5 Dr George Evans (later Reader in Physics at Edinburgh); 6 Marjorie Williamson (later Principal of Westfield College, London); 7 Mr I C Jones (acting Head of Department during the wartime absence of Professor E J Williams and Dr R M Davies); 8 Dr F C Chalklin (Reader at UCL evacuated to Aber; Later Professor in New Zealand); 9 Morrice Job (research student); 12 Betty Lawson (went to WAAF and returned to take Honours in 1947).

Second row: 1 D M Evans (Dai Mat); 9 ?Mervyn Jones; 11 Gerry Brennan (later Hons Maths and lecturer in Swansea University); 12 Lyn Murray; 13 Dai Williams; 14 John Griffiths (to Admiralty Signal Establishment and returned to do Hons in 1947, later lecturer at Loughborough University).

Fourth (back) row: 7 D Alwyn Jones (later Professor at Strathclyde University, after wartime service at Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern, and returned to do Hons in 1947); 9 Danny Evans (became an undertaker in the Rhondda after army service); 10 Eric Jenkins (later Hons Chemistry and research scientist at Harwell Atomic Energy Establishment, the became a vicar in Liverpool).

The Physics Department were a friendly lot – I was there 1940 – 1942 and 1945 – 1947 and after doing a Teaching Certificate at Cambridge I taught in London and Singapore, then worked for Christian Aid before retiring to my home area.

Bernarr Atherton
Physics 1947



Ladies Choir

Dear PROM

I am sending you copies of the two photos I have from the mid 1930s. On the back of one my father wrote '1934-5 Inter Col at Aber, Ladies Choir taken outside Aber Col', and on the other '1934-5 Inter Col at Aber, mixed choir, taken outside Aber Col'.

My father William John James is sitting in the middle of the front row of the Ladies choir which he probably conducted. In the other photo he is five from the right on the front row. I don't have any other names. I presume the choirs won the shield that year? My father was probably the accompanist if he wasn't conducting (he was a professional musician before going to Aber).

Carol Lewis (née James)

Zoology 1964 MSc 1966



Mixed Choir

Dear PROM

I thought some of your readers might be interested in this photograph of Padarn Hall students. The hall of residence was located at the junction of Great Darkgate Street, Bridge Street and Pier Street, has been closed for many years now and was formerly the Lion Royal Hotel. The photo was taken in 1975 in the rear car park after Sunday lunch. In those days jacket, tie and undergraduate gown were compulsory at Sunday lunch!

The Warden, Dr David Falla, (Physics Dept and formerly from Guernsey) is seen seated seventh from the right. The Bursar, Mrs Paterson, who lived in hall, and was feared by all, is seated to Dr Falla's left with sub-warden Mick Allen to his right. Sadly, Timothy Brain, later to become sub-warden, and for some years now Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, is missing from the photo. Perhaps he was away for the weekend studying... he was later

to feature in an Aber team on BBC TV's University Challenge. Regular PROM readers will, however, have spotted Tim on the last page of Issue 17 following his appointment as a Fellow of the University.

Dr Falla seems ageless and has been active since the closure of Padarn Hall organising biennial reunions of "The Lion Royal Association"

usually at the Marine Hotel and which have been well supported and greatly enjoyed by all. Incidentally, that's me third from the right in the back row next to John Lee in his Sandhurst uniform.

William Kinrade

Economics and Law 1977



Padarn hall

Dear PROM

I enclose a photo of the first Aber University Challenge team c1962, chosen after an open competition in Exam Hall (Old College) organised by the Students' Union. The quiz master (we were still in black and white in those days!) was the golden-haired, posh and very camp, Bamber Gascoigne. We felt he favoured the Oxbridge colleges... but then we would, wouldn't we!

We got through one round, beating Jesus College Cambridge I think (much to Bamber's chagrin) but lost in the next.

Famously one of us - and I really can't remember who, anxious to get an answer in, hit the bell on the question 'what is the largest flying mammal?' with the instant answer 'the blue whale'.

My most noteworthy contribution was my introduction of myself after 'Dai Noble reading Chemistry', and 'Janet Morgan reading English' as 'Peter Walton, reading comics' (which didn't



go down well with my mum. It wouldn't have gone down well with Prof Aaron, under whose kindly supervision I was actually reading philosophy, but I don't think he had a TV in those days).

Incidentally he had already saved me from the vengeance of all the priests, vicars, reverends and deacons in town who wanted to have

me thrown out because of a letter I wrote in Courier, which caused the entire Sunday press pack to descend on Aber, in search of an elusive 'Fresher Maiden' - who was in fact me too. There was a storm! But that's all a story for another day...

Peter Walton

Philosophy 1964



All absconding from degree ceremonies in Iceland!

Left to right: Keith Birch; Norman (Raggy) Strangemore; John Frampton; Martin Adams; Graham Harrington and Colin Lewis.



Rockets:

The front row, left to right has Hywel Ceri Jones; Keith Birch; Murray Jones; ?; Will Finn and Sir John Skehel.

The rest of the names have disappeared into time.

Thanks to Keith Birch, 1962, for sending the above two pictures, and for posing the intriguing question: "What happened to the box of matches Aneurin Rhys Hughes had in his pocket during a cricket game?" Answers on a postcard please...

Births, Marriages and Deaths

Congratulations to:

Nora Martin and Oliver Stokes whose wedding took place on 9 August 2008 at St Peter's Church, Edmond, Shropshire. Nora and Ollie met while studying Geography at Aberystwyth and they graduated together in 2002. The best man, Russell Harper, usher Raj Bhandal and guests Andrew Davies and Paul Lewis are all Aber graduates. Nora and Ollie named each table for the wedding breakfast after a memorable place in Aberystwyth. The top table was called Llandinam (after the Geography department building!).



Nora Martin and Oliver Stokes

Gareth Rowlands, Fellow of Aberystwyth University, on his nomination for High Sheriff for Dyfed.

Louise Rickard (Zoology 1992, PhD 1996) on gaining her 100th cap for Welsh Women's Rugby.

Edward Hogan (Geography 1996-99) and **Ella Hogan** née Thurston (Physics 1996-99) would like to announce wonderful news - the birth of their daughter, Niamh Elizabeth Hogan on 5th November 2007.



Niamh Elizabeth Hogan

Donna Prince Hu, née Prince, (French and History 1997) on her wedding last year.



Donna Prince Hu

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Ashe, Miss Charlotte Ellen, (*History*, 2002) died June 2006

Becching, Mr Norman, (*Geography*, 1932) died September 2007

Bell, Professor Ian, (staff English Department) died September 2007

Birch, Dr Henry Kenneth, (*History*, 1960) died 2001

Burn, Mr Robert Gwyn, (*Zoology and Botany*, 1964) died 2005

Carson, Mrs Elizabeth Dorothy, née Prosser Evans, (1944) died 2007

Cass, Mr Ronnie, (*Music*, 1948) died June 2006

Coupland, Mrs Lesley Elizabeth, née Pope, (*Inter Pol and Philosophy*, 1971) died September 2008

Currie-Jones, Mr Emyr, (*Law* 1940) died October 2008

Cutmore, Mr John Martyn, (*English first year undergraduate student*) died January 2008

Dale, Mr Peter Raymond, (1972) died 2005

Davidson, Dr John, (staff 1964 to 1998) died November 2007

Davies, Mrs Anne, née Thomas, (*French*, 1945) died June 2002

Davies, Mrs Claudia Eleanor, née Evans, (*German*, 1938) died July 2006

Davies, Mrs Hilda, (*History*, 1936) died February 2003

Davies, Mr J Ainsleigh, (*Cymraeg*, 1965) died August 2002

Davies, Mrs Judith Anne, née Lloyd, (*Mathematics*, 1962) died July 2008

Davies, Professor Owen L, (staff 1968 to 1975) died November 2007

Dee, Ms Pauline Anne, née Rowe, (*Geography*, 1959) died March 2007

Dickey, Professor James Mills, (*Statistics staff*, 1976 – 1980) died November 2008

Eastwood, Mr Ian Peter, (*Computer Science*, 1988) date of death unknown

Edwards, Mr David Emlyn, (*Agri Botany*, 1939) died September 2008

Edwards, Mrs Betty, died January 2006

Edwards, Reverend William Geraint, (*Theology*, 1956) died November 2006

Ellis, Dr Edward Lewis, (*History*, 1946) died March 2008

Emanuel, Mr David Huw, (*Law*, 1956) died December 2005

Evans, Mr Brian, died October 2007

Evans, Professor Henry John, (*Bot/Zoo/AgriBot*, 1950) died July 2007

Evans, Mr Meurig, (1942) died July 2007

Fisher, Mr Anthony James, (1977) date of death unknown

Fitzgerald, Father John, (*lecturer and Catholic Chaplain*) died November 2007

Francis, Mrs E F W, (*Law*, 1928) died May 2006

Frick, Mr Eric (*BSc*, 1945) died January 2009

Galliver, Mrs Dorothy, (1946) died February 2008

Griffith, Mr John Meurig, (*Agri Econ*, 1952) died January 2007

Hamblin, Mr Simon, (*Econ/mrkt*, 1997) date of death unknown

Harding, Dr Susan, née Howell, (*History*, 1964) died June 2006

Harris, Mr Alvin C (*distance learning student DILS*) died January 2008

Harrold, Mr Gavin Antony, (*Computer Science*, 1987) died March 2008

Haywood, Miss Eileen Frances, (*Educ and Geog*, 1951) died September 2007

Hemington, Mrs Mary, (1943) died January 2006

Henderson, Mr James (*English*, 1959 MA 1964), died September 2008

Hodge, Sir Julian, died July 2005

Hughes, Miss Glenys, (1968) date of death unknown

Hughes, Miss Marjorie, (1952) date of death unknown

James, Miss Margot (*Margaret Theodora*), (Science, 1934) date of death unknown

Jenkins, Mr Hugh John, (1951) died September 2005

Genedigaethau, Priodasau a Marwolaethau

Obituaries

Ian Arthur Bell (1953 – 2007)

Ian Bell died in September 2007 of cerebellar ataxia, a rare degenerative illness. He joined the English Department in 1977 having briefly taught at UCW Swansea. He became a senior lecturer and was then awarded a personal chair, temporarily acting as HoD before earning his appointment as Head of Department at UCW Swansea in 1994. In addition to his distinguished publications on eighteenth-century literature, he also wrote perceptively on crime fiction and working-class writing.

He was a remarkably generous teacher whose crackling wit and warm concern inspired his students, creating a democratic forum where laughter and learning coalesced, where pomposity and pretensions were ruthlessly scorned but craftsmanship and creative boldness were carefully nurtured. Throughout his career, Ian was a happy, effusive person who contributed much to the academic work and well-being of his colleagues: he also helped through his administrative duties to increase access to higher education. Towards the end, he suffered almost intolerable adversity with truly humane, rational patience: when he could scarcely move, and despite cruelly impeded speech, he still communicated his wry humour and lively interest in others, qualities admired by those who then cared for him just as they had been by his many friends and grateful students in happier times.

Tragically, Anna-Marie, his talented wife, died during his own long

illness, but they leave a son Lewis and a daughter Seona, both making their way successfully into adult life, buoyed up by the deep love and exceptional achievements of their heroic parents. Ian often found happy solutions to problems which defeated, perplexed, or irritated others; when confronted by inexorable catastrophes which most will fortunately escape, he lost neither his dignity nor his clear-eyed affirmation of life. Ian was a true friend: I am just one who will miss him sorely.

Ffrangcon Lewis

Edward Lewis Ellis, DPhil (1922 - 2008)

Ted Ellis enrolled at Aberystwyth in 1941, but joined the Royal Navy in 1942. Returning to his studies after demobilisation, he was awarded BA in 1947 and MA in 1949. The next thirteen years were spent at Ruskin College Oxford, and during this time, his two daughters, Susan and Linden were born. While at Ruskin, he was subsequently awarded the DPhil.

In 1962 he returned to Aberystwyth as Warden of Pantycelyn Hall and part-time lecturer, serving as Warden until 1974, and becoming a Senior Lecturer in the History Department. Prince Charles spent a term in Pantycelyn in the summer of 1969. Ellis wrote an account of the first 23 years of the hall, published as *Pantycelyn 1951-1974* in 2001 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. He retired in 1988.

Johnston, Mrs Beryl Irene,
died September 2008

Jones, Miss M E Glennys,
(*English*, 1945) died August 2007

Jones, Dr Robert H, (*Chemistry*, 1954)
died 2006

Jones, Mrs Martha Matilda, née Williams, (*Dairying*, 1950),
died August 2008

Jones, Mrs Sara James, née Smith,
(*Maths and Phys*, 1959)
died February 2007

Jones, Mr Thomas Leonard Bowen,
(*Economics*, 1951) died May 2007

Jones, Dr Trevor, (*Botany and Agri Bot*,
1945) died July 2007

Khan, Mr Ramid, (*Law*, 1989)
date of death unknown

King, Miss Nora Glenys,
(*French*, 1939) died 2003

Kirk, Miss Helen, (*Drama*, 2002)
died December 2005

Kirkland, Mrs Zillah Elonwy, née Maddocks, (*English and History*,
1938) date of death unknown

Knowles, Mrs Eluned Margaret, née Jones, (*Pure Maths*, 1932)
died September 2005

Lewis, Mrs Ann Dorothea Mary, née Evans, (*Classics*, 1941)
died December 2006

Lewis, Mr Joe, (*Agricultural Botany*,
1946), date of death unknown

Lewis, Mr John Tudor,
(*Chemistry*, 1949) died July 2007

Lewis-Jones, Mr Ian, (*Hanes*, 1999)
died May 2007

Marek, Mrs Ann, (*Inter Pol*, 1971)
date of death unknown

McCann, Professor Samuel Brian,
(*Geography*, 1956) died January 2004

Merritt, Ms Rebecca Louise, (*Drama and French*, 1990) died January 2004

Monk, Dr Cecil B, (*Chemistry staff*
1944 to 1980), died January 2009

Morgan, Miss Mari Averina, (*English and Geog*, 1945) died July 2007

Noakes, Rt Reverend George,
(*Philosophy*, 1948, *former Archbishop of Wales*) died July 2008

Pearce, Ms Lynne, (*MSc Econ distance learning student*)
died September 2008

Pendry, Mr Alan, (*Chemistry*, 1963)
died September 2007

Philpin, Mr William Canton,
(*Agriculture*, 1950, *Fellow*)
died January 2008

Rattray, Mr Kenneth Gordon, (*Senior Technician, Geology*) died August 2008

Rees, Professor Gareth, (*Zoology*,
1973), died November 2008

Rees, Mr Sion, (*Law student 1960 – 63*)
died December 2007

Rettich, Mrs Birgit, (*exchange student 1988-89*) died September 2008

Robbins, Dr Raymond Frank CBE,
(*Chemistry*, 1950) died October 2008

Robins, Mr William John, (*Botany and Chemistry and Education*, 1963)
died June 2007

Root, Mr James Peter (*first year International Politics student*)
died June 2008

Rowlands, Dr David Gareth, (1952)
died November 2008

Smith, Dr L Allen (*former member of staff in DILS*) died August 2008

Smith, Mr Jeremy James, (*English and Geog*, 2000) died November 2005

Symington, Mr John, (*MSc Archiving*,
2004), died June 2006

Thomas, Mr Gareth Llywelyn, (*Int Pol/Law*, 2006) died February 2007

Thomas, Mrs Olwen Hannah, née Richards, (1936) died February 2006

Treharne, Dr William David,
(*Botany*, 1953) died February 2008

Whittingham, Mr Clifford Harry,
(*Geography*, 1951) died May 2008

Whitworth, Mrs Dora, née Smith,
(*Geog(Sci)*, 1931) died February 2008

Williams, Mr Emlyn James, (*English and Music*, 1945) died July 2007

Wooldridge, Ms Madeleine,
(*Museum and Gallery Studies*, 2008)
died July 2008

Obituaries continued

Edward Ellis had a long and full life which involved performances of high quality in three very different spheres. There was Edward Ellis, the Sportsman, Edward Ellis, the Naval man, and Edward Ellis, the Scholar and Academic.

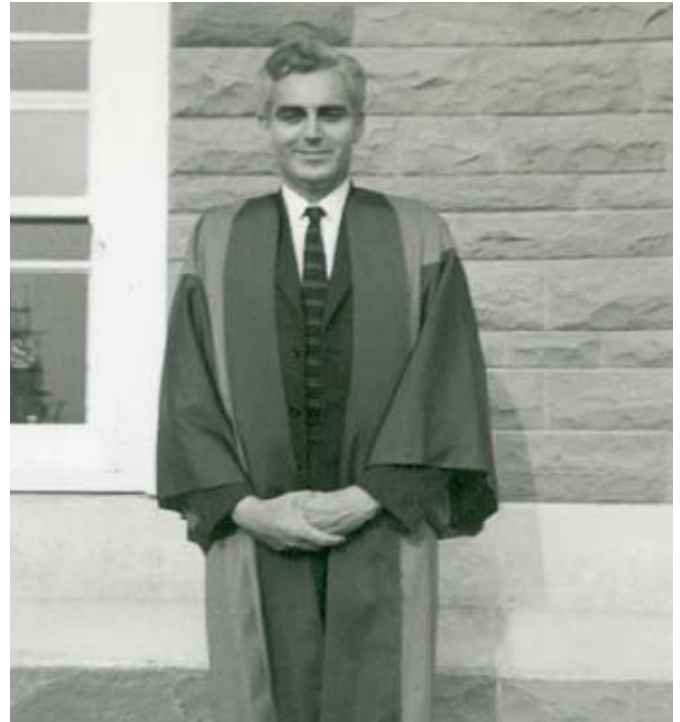
Edward Ellis, the sportsman, is more familiarly known to football supporters in Aberystwyth as 'Eddie' Ellis. His record is, to say the least, impressive, and chapter 10 of the official history of the club is entitled, "Enter Marksman Ellis". The 67 goals he scored in the 1948-49 season remains the highest for any player in one season in the history of the club.

Secondly, there is Edward Ellis the Naval man, entering as a seaman and leaving as a Lieutenant. He served mainly on mine-laying cruisers, commenting on his naval career: "Nothing heroic, I was sea-sick all the time - the only thing I had in common with Lord Nelson." After the war and his return to Aberystwyth, he became a pillar of the Royal Navy Association.

Thirdly, there is Edward Ellis, the scholar and Academic. He had excellent academic credentials and undertook the major task of writing the definitive history of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth to celebrate its centenary in 1972. *A Centenary History of The College, 1872-1972*, published by the University of Wales Press, is an eminently readable book. Now we need a second volume, but of course, there is no Ellis to write it.

He also wrote the biography of one of the most interesting and influential Welshmen of the Twentieth Century, Dr Thomas Jones, CH. *TJ A Life of Dr Thomas Jones CH*, published in 1992 by the University Of Wales Press.

Edward Ellis was also an outstanding teacher. A recent letter to his wife, Pamela, from one of his former students says, "I learned from Ted the difference between a mere academic and a true scholar who



Ted Ellis

loves his subject."

We mourn the death of Edward Ellis, and we offer sympathy to his wife and family. We also remember and celebrate the many and varied achievements of Edward Ellis, Sportsman, Naval Man, Scholar and Academic.

David Steeds

Father John FitzGerald, (1927-2007)

John FitzGerald – Carmelite friar, poet, philosopher and lover of the Welsh language and all things Welsh – died on 28 November 2007 at Llanelli after a short illness. He was 80.

Born Michael FitzGerald in 1927 in Ludlow, he came to know the Carmelites at Aberystwyth. It was there that he met Saunders Lewis, one of the founding fathers of Welsh nationalism. In 1943 he made his profession as a Carmelite friar in Dublin, taking the religious name John of the Cross, and from 1958 Fr John was prior of the Carmelite house of studies at Llandeilo. John was an inspirational philosophy teacher who encouraged his students to read widely and to be challenged. This was also the time when John began to immerse himself in the Welsh language, supporting and enhancing the position of Welsh-speaking Catholics.

In the late 1960s John moved to Aberystwyth where the Carmelite community was responsible for St Mary's College and caring for the Catholic parish and the chaplaincy at the University of Wales. John

was to stay in Aberystwyth until 2004 lecturing in the university, and then in retirement acting as chaplain.

The years in Aberystwyth were when John's gifts flourished. He translated Descartes, Aristotle and the Catholic liturgy into Welsh, and was a regular contributor to radio and television. He was so much part of the community's life that when the local Welsh Baptist Chapel was without a minister John was invited to preach. From 2002 John combined the office of university chaplain with that of prior of his community until 2004 when the Carmelites transferred from Aberystwyth to Llanelli, where he continued as prior.

John never seemed to age. At eighty he was tall, spare and had a youthful way. He delighted in the internet and continued to enjoy working with young people. However at the heart of his life was his faith and a deep contemplative spirit. The Carmelite friars and his two surviving sisters mourn a very human brother, and many in Wales will miss his creative presence.

Wilfrid McGreal, O.Carm.

Alumni Commemorated *Coffáu Cyn-fyfyrwyr*

Nancy Kirk

A new public viewpoint with spectacular views across and down the Rheidol Valley has been opened on a nature reserve owned by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, not far from Aberystwyth.

The Nancy Kirk Viewpoint has been created in memory of the late Nancy Kirk, a lecturer in geology for many years at Aberystwyth University, with money donated by her former students and colleagues, and lies at the northernmost point of the Pant Da nature reserve on the north side of the road that runs to Cwmrheidol from Capel Bangor.

Nancy was a graduate of Cambridge and worked for her PhD on the geology of the faulted country of part of what is now called Powys, between Pont Faen and Presteigne, under the supervision of Professor O T Jones (a native of Ceredigion and head of the Geology Department at Cambridge).

Her studies were interrupted by the War. In 1942, following a period in the Land Army she was sent to the Royal Ordnance Factory, where she was involved in war work until 1945. She also worked on graptolites, the most common fossils in the Lower Palaeozoic rocks, gaining an international reputation.



Nancy Kirk

Professor Gwyn Jones

A plaque of Welsh slate has been unveiled at the University's Hugh Owen library to commemorate the life and works of the acclaimed scholar, novelist and short story writer, Professor Gwyn Jones.

The plaque was commissioned by The Rhys Davies Trust, with the support of Academi, Aberystwyth University and Oxford University Press, and was unveiled by the poet, critic and editor, Dr Sam Adams who became one of Professor Jones's students at Aberystwyth in 1952.

Originally from New Tredegar in Monmouthshire, Professor Jones was a Welsh novelist and story writer, and a scholar and translator of Nordic literature and history. His translations include *Four Icelandic Sagas* (1935), *The Vatndalers' Saga* (1944), *The Mabinogion* (1948), *Egil's Saga* (1960), *Eirik the Red and Other Icelandic Sagas* (1961) and *The Norse Atlantic Saga* (1964). He also wrote *A History of the Vikings* (1968) and *Kings, Beasts and Heroes* (1972).

In addition to his translations, he was an important author in the Anglo-Welsh tradition. His novels and story collections include *Richard Savage* (1935), *Times Like These* (1936), *The Nine Days' Wonder* (1937)

and *Garland of Hays* (1938), *The Buttercup Field* (1945), *The Flowers beneath the Scythe* (1952), *Shepherd's Hey* (1953) and *The Walk Home* (1962). In 1977 *The Oxford Book of Welsh Verse in English* was published of which he was editor.

He was appointed Professor of English at Aberystwyth in 1940 where he stayed until his appointment to the Chair of English at Cardiff in 1964. He died in 1999.

Speaking at the unveiling, Dr Adams recalled the first time he saw Professor Jones.

"The first time I saw him in the round, as it were, was on an evening in November of the same year, 1952, when, in full academic fig, (indeed far more formally attired than I was accustomed to seeing him later) he led a small and peculiarly dishevelled guest to the platform at a meeting of the Arts Society in the old Exam Hall. With what I came to recognise as the characteristic smile in his voice, and in perfectly formed sentences, he introduced to the packed audience this

Gareth Llywelyn Thomas

The new spectator stand next to the University's first team football pitch at the Vicarage Playing fields was formally opened on Sunday 29 March 2009 by Anne and Trefor Thomas in memory of their son, Gareth Llywelyn Thomas, who died suddenly in February 2007.

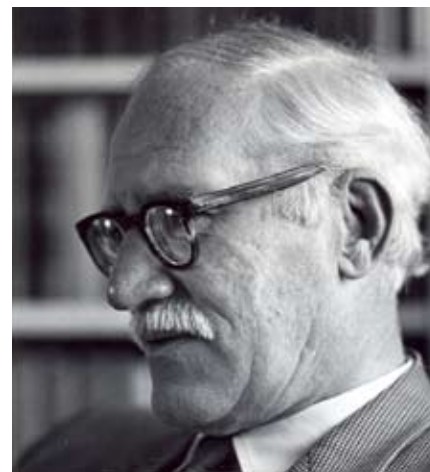
Mr and Mrs Thomas, their daughter Sian and her partner Andy, both of whom are Aberystwyth graduates, were joined for the ceremony by University Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr John Harries, members of staff, friends, and representatives of the university's first football team, before their game against local rivals Penparcau.

Gareth graduated in International Politics and Law in 2006 and was a keen footballer. The building of the stand was made possible thanks to a generous contribution by his family and funds from the Welsh Football Trust and the University's Sports Centre.



Gareth's family at the opening with Dr John Harries (right) and Franck Rowe, director of the University Sports Centre (left)

individual in shapeless brown suit and what to all appearances was a pyjama jacket rather than a shirt. It was Dylan Thomas. *The Collected Poems* had not long come out and his reading, the whole experience of that night, was unforgettable. A year later Dylan Thomas was dead in New York."



Professor Gwyn Jones

Alumni News *Newyddion Cyn-fyfyrwyr*

Three Aberystwyth Graduates at the Helm

The prestigious Council of Fellows and Associates of the Royal Agricultural Societies is currently headed by three prominent agriculturalists, all graduates of Aberystwyth. The Award Scheme, which acknowledges those that have made outstanding contributions to agriculture or related industries in the UK, is administered by the four Royal Agricultural Societies of the UK (The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, The Royal of England, The Royal Highland and the Ulster Royal).



Cyril Davies on the left, Arthur Davies in the centre and Andrew Jones on the right.

Cyril Davies is the Chairman-elect of the UK Council and will take up the position of Council Chairman next April when Wales starts its 2 years of hosting the UK Council. Cyril graduated at Aberystwyth with 1st class

honours in Agricultural Botany in 1962. A former Director of ADAS and past chairman of the Wales Council of Awards Panel he now assists the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society as a Board member as well as many other activities.

Current Chairman of the Wales Panel is Arthur Davies who has worked at IBERS and its predecessors IGER and WPBS throughout his career as a research scientist, and has now commenced his 44th year of continuous service. Arthur graduated at Aberystwyth with honours in Agricultural Botany in 1965.

Both Arthur and Cyril are well known in grassland farming circles throughout the UK and are Past Presidents of the British Grassland Society and are both recipients of the BGS Award for their outstanding contribution to the understanding or application of grassland husbandry and technology. Cyril is an Honorary Life Member of BGS and Arthur is Honorary Life President of Lampeter Agricultural Discussion Group.

Vice-Chairman of the Wales Panel is Andrew Jones, who graduated with an honours degree in history at Aberystwyth in 1975. He turned his talents to farming and is now a prominent farmer in the Teifi valley. He is very active within the sheep industry and is the current holder of the John Gittins Memorial Award for his outstanding contribution to the sheep industry in Wales.

Critical Perspectives a new academic alumni journal

Rebecca Corn, an Aberystwyth IR graduate and also 2005/6 Guild president, now studying senior status law at Cambridge University, and Martin Koehring, an IR Graduate who currently works as an international business and economics consultant, are Editors in Chief of the new Aberystwyth alumni journal, *Critical Perspectives*. The journal showcases articles from Aberystwyth trained critical thinkers, in regular academic and topical discussion of current debates. Critical Perspectives will be published quarterly, online initially, eventually also in print, and contributors will be presenting their papers to both current Aberystwyth students and also to the institutions and organisations in which they now exist.

For more information, or to make a submission, please go to www.critical-perspectives.org.

Looking for...

Edward Hall would very much like to contact some of his friends from the 1977-78 academic year which he spent in Cwrt Mawr, so if you are Edwina Thornton, Anne Mochrie, Chris Maltbeck or Simon Dixon, Edward says he owes you a round!

Hein Kollnberger would very much like to contact Josephine Scott Nisbet who studied German at Aber in the early 1950s

Oscar Crescente, Chemistry 1973-77 would love to hear from any of the wonderful people he met during his stay in Aber whilst studying for his PhD in Chemistry, particularly the good friends he made in Cwrt Mawr.

If you are able to help with any of these requests, please contact the Alumni Office on 01970 622081 or alumni@aber.ac.uk

Reunions *Aduniadau*

Plyn freshers '56 intake – the reunion

The sun shone on Aber as the lads of Plyn, Sept. 56' intake, navigated their various ways to a reunion organized by Ian Williams aided by Louise (Alumni/OA) and Philippa (Conferences). Would Peter Randall arrive from Australia and Len Newton from Kenya? Greying hairs, balding pates and the occasional wrinkle inhibited immediate recognitions, but once voices were heard, the effects of time evaporated and we were once again enfolded in Plyn camaraderie.

Following a buffet lunch and interviews by a local newspaper, we set out to visit new sights, old haunts and to "kick bar". The Penglais campus impressed and we toasted Dafydd Edwards' grandfather, Joseph Bryan, who donated the site. Inevitably, there were one or two disappointments; our local, "The Boar's Head" is no more, similarly our coffee shop, "Slaters", which is now a shop. Plyn's façade lifted our spirits, but whilst the inside reconstruction was good, the changes did impinge on memories cherished for 50 years. As for the current name spelling, what do residents call themselves? The reunion culminated in an excellent dinner held in the staff club-house. Stories were told and we remembered those who had gone before, Peter Neary and Peter Jones.

In Freshers week 1956, we learned that the law in Plyn was Dr Robinson (warden) assisted by Miss Patterson (matron). The arrival of 2nd and 3rd year students quickly clarified our position in Plyn hierarchy. Dragged around town in our pyjamas, we were subjected to various initiations in Plyn cellar. Now accepted as Plynites, we were ready for everything student life had to throw at us.

Food was always a priority. Our introduction to Plyn dining required the labelling of our ¼ lb weekly butter ration so that it could be found in the wooden store cabinet. In hot weather, the ration was best eaten with the first meals to avoid melt down! The texture of Plyn fried eggs can best be described as amazing. They fascinated one Zoology student (now a well known educationalist) who investigated the leather-like properties of the albumin using doors and drawing pins. Evening hunger pangs were assuaged by toast made over the gas heaters in our rooms; it was more enjoyable if there was something to spread on the toast!

Once a year, whilst "trogging" for exams in Plyn library, we supped on pure ambrosia in the form of new potatoes, gleaned from local fields and boiled on a primus stove. Outside Plyn, Slater's café provided sustenance for those who missed breakfast and also served as a "talking shop" throughout the day. Additional calorie intake was afforded and on many occasions taken in Joe's and Ernie's fish cafes. Egg, chips and beans, cup of tea and bread and butter cost about one shilling and nine pence.

During our first session, we participated in many aspects of College life including debates on the Cyprus Problem and the Hungarian Uprising. Ian Williams, Brian Westcott and Gwynne Lewis demonstrated their acting abilities in the College's dramatic productions whilst others represented Aber at swimming, basketball and cricket and also played in Plyn soccer and rugby teams.



In Rag Week, we became Red Skins! Our float, with canoe, teepee and totem pole, followed the processional route and we, squirting water through bicycle pumps, held off would be aggressors (from Pantycelyn?) only to be disqualified.

The edifice on Penglais Hill, Pantycelyn, and its inmates were anathema to the gentlemen of Plyn and there were outbreaks of horseplay around rag week. Retribution still awaits the Panty boys who bricked up Plyn back door so preventing deployment of motor bikes and scooters! Hall recreational activities included listening to the wireless; the "Goons" were very popular, as was playing records. Our ambition to form a skiffle group was dashed when Bob Morris's homemade instruments of wire and cupboard drawers failed to hit the right notes! However, on Saturday evenings we exercised our vocal cords with a sing-song accompanied by Lyn Williams and cigarette at the piano.



TV was new to Aber but sharing a room with Dafydd Edwards, I had the luxury of watching a diminutive and green Cliff Michelmores compete the “Tonight” programme on Dafydd’s TV built around a radar screen. In town, the three cinemas were very popular with regular queuing for entry at 2/-. The pubs were usually packed with students. Besides the “Boar’s Head”, we also frequented “Coopers”, at the bottom of Penglais, which had two snooker tables upstairs. The College hop was popular in winter, while swimming, sun bathing and cycling were enjoyed in the early summer.

Superficially, at least, town and gown were much more integrated. Students were in Halls mainly along Marine Terrace and in Digs around Aber. With teaching departments mainly in the Old College and buildings around town (e.g. Zoology in Cambrian Street), students were always walking along the prom or through town. Clothing was probably more uniform, blazers with University or College breast pocket badge and the ubiquitous College scarf irrespective of the summer heat. Gowns were worn to exams, although Botany students were encouraged to wear gowns to lectures by the redoubtable Professor Lily Newton. Until 1959/1960 session, halls were segregated, women and men not being permitted into each others’ rooms. Thus the perambulations of the girls along the prom was a big plus for the Plyn lads watching from the lounge or the prom rails. At this juncture, we should apologise to an attractive lady from Alex, who, when the lads shouted “we love you”, turned around and walked into a lamp post “Sorry, M.M-D”.

While walking and cycling were the main means of transport, scooters and small motorbikes had begun to appear. Apart from the bank holiday

periods, Aber’s roads were relatively quiet; only one accident being recorded at Plyn. David Harmer with Bob Morris, pillion, were sent to buy ice creams and managed to tangle with the hospital ambulance on Marine Terrace. A positive aspect was their immediate transfer to hospital; the negative, the stitching of wounds without anaesthetic! During our three years in Plyn, there were only two low points when our integrity was questioned. After swimming off the beach, the sub-warden mislaid his clothes and we were placed under a 24 hours house arrest. On another occasion, we were dubbed “The Damned Of Plynlymon Hall” by a student religious group. Our invitation to dialogue failed to reveal any basis for this. If only we had had a student with knowledge of the law of slander!

Over the past 50 years we have spread out to work in many different countries and, today, we are mainly retired. We could not have been such bad students as the group contained a number of professors e.g. Emeritus Professor Paul Taylor, Economics, LSE; Emeritus Professor Gwynne Lewis, French History, Warwick and Professor Len Newton, a world expert on succulent plants; a number of senior managers in multinational industries; bankers, RAF officers and a horse breeder. Despite the financial constraints and the pressures of study, many of us consider those few years at the College by the sea as the best in our lives. Whatever factors contributed to this view, may they long continue. We of 70+ years, just say “Thanks Aber; Thanks Plyn”. Never forgotten.

The reunion was timely, as a few months later, that wonderful character, Brian Westcott, who had enjoyed our get together so much, succumbed to cancer. “See you there, Boyo”.

St David’s Day Dinner 2008 in Nottingham



The 2008 St David’s Day Dinner in Nottingham.

From left to right: Dr Sian Bethan Jones (1989 – 95 Physics); Lona Green née Davies (1951 – 55 Welsh); Jean Rutherford née Rogers (1955 – 58 History) Rear: Eirlys Chandler née Stephens (1956 – 59 Maths) Front: Dorothy Roberts née Evans (1945 – 51 French); Dr Aled Lloyd Davies (1947 – 51 Geography); Dr Siriol Colley; Dr Glyn Yeoman (1946 – 52 Chemistry).

Present at the Dinner though not in the photograph was Howell Price (1960 – 64 Classics).

The President of the Welsh Society, Dr Siriol Colley, who has recently retired as a GP, has connections with Aberystwyth going back a long time. Her grandfather, Major Edgar Jones, graduated in Celtic Studies in 1890 and was President of the Old Students’ Association in 1901 and again in 1951. His friendship with a fellow student, Annie Gwen Jones, during his UCW days blossomed into a long and happy marriage of nearly 60 years. Her

father graduated in Chemistry in 1913, and eight of her close relatives have been students at Aber, the most recent being her son Graham who graduated in Law in 1971. Siriol, though not an Aber student herself, is on the committee of the Old Students’ Association and retains a very close interest in college affairs.

The Guest Speaker at the Dinner, Dr Aled Lloyd Davies, was a Geography student 1947-1951 and was for 20 years the distinguished Head of Moes Gar Fon Comprehensive School in Mold. He looks back on his student days with enormous pleasure.

There was a lot of talk at the Dinner about college days, and about the various directions in which we had all travelled before arriving in Nottingham. It was a good occasion, greatly enjoyed by all.

Llwyddiant Eisteddfodol



Dewi Huw Owen

Yn ail yn y gystadleuaeth oedd Osian Rhys Jones, cyn fyfyrwr o Adran y Gymraeg ac yn gydradd drydydd oedd Dewi Huw Owen a Gruffydd Eifion Owen, y ddau'n fyfyrwyr MPhil yn Adran y Gymraeg.

Daeth mwy o llwyddiant i ran Dewi Huw Owen wrth iddo gael ei goroni'n Brif Lenor yr Wyl.

Yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Caerdydd coronwyd Hywel Griffiths, myfyrwr PhD yn Aberystwyth, yn Brif Lenor. Yn wreiddiol o Gaerfyrddin, enillodd Hywel y Goron am ei gasgliad o gerddi ar y thema 'Stryd Pleser', a oedd yn portreadu bywyd ac awyrgylch Stryd y Santes Fair yng Nghaerdydd gyda'r nos, o safbwynt rhyw un nad yw'n byw yn y ddinas.

Parhaodd gyrfa lenyddol ddisglair Mererid Hopwood, a raddiodd mewn Sbaeneg ac Almaeneg yn 1986, wrth iddi ennill y Fedal Ryddiaith am ei nofel 'O Ran'. Mererid oedd y ferch gyntaf i ennill y Gadair (Dinbych 2001). Ers hynny profodd llwyddiant wrth ennill y Goron yn Meifod (2003) ac hi oedd Bardd Plant Cymru yn 2005.

Llongyfarchiadau hefyd i'r Dr Iolo ap Gwynn, Uwch Ddarlithydd yn Sefydliad y Gwyddorau Biolegol, Amgylcheddol a Gwledig. Cyflwynwyd y Wobr Wyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg iddo am ei gyfraniad helaeth i astudiaethau gwyddoniaeth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.



Dr Iolo ap Gwynn

Llongyfarchiadau i'r cyn fyfyrwr a'r myfyrwr presennol a fu'n llwyddiannus yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd Conwy 2008 ac yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Caerdydd a'r Cyffiniau.

Iwan Rhys, cyn fyfyrwr mathemateg sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cwblhau MPhil yn Adran y Gymraeg, enillodd Cadair Eisteddfod yr Urdd.

Aduniad Eisteddfodol

Cafwyd aduniad hynod llwyddiannus ar stondin y Brifysgol ar faes Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Caerdydd gyda rhai cannoedd yn ymgynnull i rannu atgofion am ddyddiau coleg. Bellach sefydlwyd prynhawn Mercher yn brynhawn aduniadau prifysgol ar y maes, ac am y tro cyntaf cafodd te traddodiadol Cymdeithas y Cyn-fyfyrwyr ei gynnal ar stondin y Brifysgol. Y gwr gwadd oedd Cwnsler Cyffredinol Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, Carwyn Jones, a fu'n sôn am ei ddyddiau coleg yn Aber ganol yr wythdegau.

Fyddwch chi yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol y Bala 2009? Beth am ymuno gyda'ch cyd-gynfyfyrwyr i rannu atgofion coleg unwaith eto drwy ddod i'r aduniad eleni? Byddwn yn cyhoeddi'r manylion ymhén ychydig wythnosau, felly cadwch lygad ar y cyfryngau am y dyddiad ar amser.



Rhai o'r cyn-fyfyrwyr yn mwynhau!

Clarendon Reunion

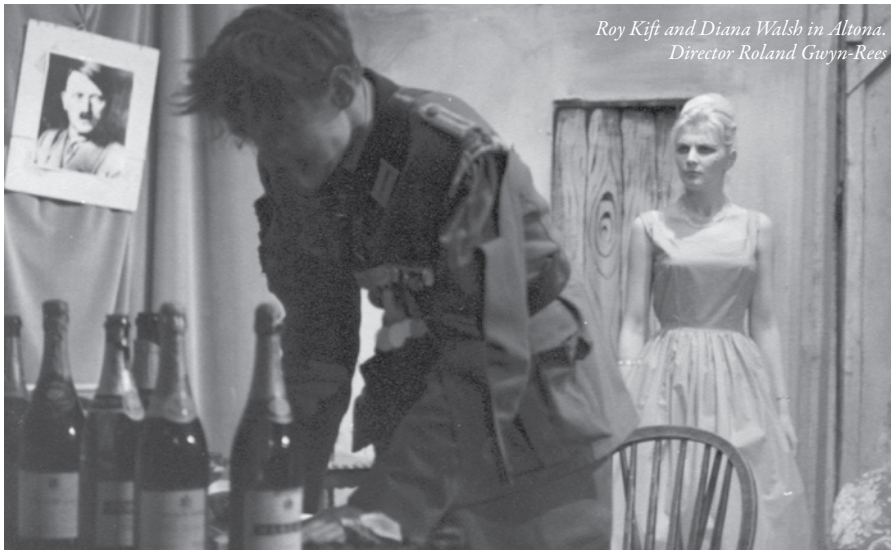
Jenni Hyatt (née Wyn Williams) would love to hear from anyone in the photograph (and from Eryl and Jen who weren't in the original) to invite you all to a Reunion in September 2009 – just contact the Alumni Office and we will put you in touch.



- Top Row: Gwyneth Owens; Mary Eccles (now Mary Walters); Pat Mills; Valerie ?; Joan Shuker
- Row 2: Gwyneth Heald (now Gwyneth Clapham); Joan Shaw (now Joan Wilkins); Rhiannon Morgan (now Rhiannon Steeds); Clare Wynne Morgan (now Clare Marchant); Val de Gruchy; Viv Perkins (now Viv Stenzenberger)
- Row 3: Hazel Owens (now Hazel Richards); Eironwy ? (now Eironwy Hamilton); June Plummer (now June Pieschel); Carole Plummer (now Carol Jones); ?; ?; Gillian Oldham; Sheila ?; Stella Evans (Rag Queen 1959 – 60); Meryl Edmunds; (now Meryl Strangemore); Jenni Wyn Williams (now Jenni Hyatt)
- Row 4: Elaine Fellows (now Elaine Thomas); Carole Troman; Miss Binks (sub-warden); Mrs Morgan-Jones, warden of Carpenter or Ceredigion Hall; ?; ?; ?; possibly Pat Trevitt

Eryl ? and Jen Vaughan are not on the photograph.

Aber Drams... the story continues



Roy Kift and Diana Walsh in *Altona*.
Director Roland Gwyn-Rees

I was fortunate enough to be at Aber in the late 50's and early 60's. Although reading History, I soon discovered the excitement of Theatre. The Sixties was a great time then for my fellow students Roy Kift, Peter Walton, and many others.

The NUS Drama Festival was blooming under the aegis of *The Sunday Times*. One year Aber was the host, and the legendary historian, the late Professor Gwyn Williams, wrote our winning entry for the one-act play competition. The student Dram Soc (known as UCWADS) was flourishing. It was a battleground where the different factions fought for their piece of turf, and the major battle was between the Welsh and the English. Whilst the former produced experimental versions of *Under Milk Wood*, the latter convinced themselves that doing plays by the likes of Bertolt Brecht, Durrenmatt, Frisch, Ionesco, and, of course, Jean Paul Sartre, was in itself experimental. Indeed, the first of the many plays I directed at Aber was Sartre's *The Condemned Of Atona* in 1961 with fresher Roy Kift cast by Roland in the leading role. The Drama Festival adjudicator from the *Times* declared it to be an unsuitable piece of French intellectualism for us students to be sticking our teeth into. One other show was terrifically successful. On the same night as the BBC screened their now legendary satirical series *That Was The Week That Was*, we opened our own called *Cabaret Club* in the basement bar of the Marine Hotel, complete with compere at

the microphone Roland Rees, sexy waitresses, rugby boy bouncers, Dion Hopkins' Jazz trio, a 'Shadows' style rock band, a comedy act, the South Road Boys, including Roy Kift and a stand-up comedian Handel Davies. The show proved so successful that it was repeated at regular intervals and I was chased around college for tickets long before they went on sale. Two years later, in 1963 we closed. I was leaving Aber. We had played the 'best of' show at the end of the Pier to our biggest audience ever.

New York 1965 found me at Columbia University pursuing a PhD on the charismatic Black leader Marcus Garvey. However my days at the Harlem library did not last. I started working off-off Broadway directing Beckett and other European plays; it was the new American work of La Mama, Open Theatre and black playwrights such as Ed Bullins which really interested me. In 1967, I returned to England and joined the London Fringe, then in full swing. I worked for exiled Americans Charles Mairowitz at the Open Space theatre, and at Ed Berman's InterAction, directing a number of plays by Ed Bullins at the Ambiance, before discovering Trinidadian writer Mustapha Matura whose first play *Black Pieces* I directed at the ICA. Roy Kift had minor roles in the play which then toured Holland. Matura's career had begun. Black actors now had a writer who could write for them, in their own patois, and aspirant Black writers would be encouraged to take up their pen. One such amongst the *Black Pieces* cast was Jamaican actor Alfred Fagon. Inspired

by Matura's work, Alfred sat down and wrote *11 Josephine House*, which I directed at the Almost Free Theatre, near Piccadilly. Apart from the work of Matura and Fagon I also commissioned and directed plays by Tunde Ikoli. Plays by these writers were presented at Hampstead, Bush, Tricycle, and Royal Court Theatres. Black theatre had started to roll.

In 1972 I joined forces with David Aukin and Bernard Pomerance to set up my own theatre company Foco Novo, named after the title of Pomerance's first play, meaning in Brazilian 'new starting point.' The aim of the company was to produce new socially committed work, often specially commissioned, as well as many European plays. We received an annual grant for many years from the Arts Council of Great Britain specifically to tour up and down the country taking theatre to places not on the usual circuit, with the added bonus for the actors of coming into a London theatre. Among the many Brecht plays I directed for the company were *Drums In The Night* and *Man Is Man* (Hampstead Theatre), *Edward II* (The Roundhouse), and *Puntilla And His Servant Matti* (Tricycle). Complementary to these, were the plays we wrote and performed for miners in their own localities. These were promoted by and through the NUM and performed in miner's clubs and halls. We made a special connection with Dai Francis, the late President of the Welsh NUM. One show which aroused his particular enthusiasm was *Nine Days And Salty Gates*, a story about the miners in the General Strike of 1926, and the lockout in 1972. We toured this throughout the South Wales coalfield, including Maerdy, and subsequently in the Yorkshire and Scottish mining areas.

In 1986, Alfred Fagon, the Jamaican playwright, tragically died at the early age of 49. To commemorate his achievements a number of his friends including myself created an annual award in his name for the best new play by a Caribbean or African writer. The Alfred Fagon Award, funded by the Peggy Ramsay Foundation, is now in its 12th year. You can find a much more detailed account of my career and more in my book *Fringe First* published 1992 by Oberon Books, now a standard theatre history text.

Roland David Gwyn-Rees, (*History 1959-1963*)

Memories of Pantyfedwen, Borth

by Colin Guile

Built by Thomas Savin in the 1860's as the Cambrian Hotel to accommodate tourists travelling on the Cambrian Railway. After the New Grand Hotel was built opposite, the old building was taken over by Urdd Gobaith Cymru and was leased to UCW Aberystwyth as a men's hostel, opening October 1948, the name being changed to "Pantyfedwen". Up to 61 students occupied single, double or triple bedded rooms on two floors during my stay from 1948-51.



Pantyfedwen - Prior to 1948. In the winter months it was occupied by the Welsh College of Librarianship, Aberystwyth

sergeant) would put on an excellent spread for the Christmas Party.

In the summer term we would swim off the nearby beach and sunbathe in the sun trap above the hostel porch. There was also beach cricket, boating and games of football at Brynowen. During summer and other vacations, Pantyfedwen housed holiday makers and conferences. The building was pulled down in 1979 to make way for luxury homes.

Settling in, Oct 1948

The student body was assembled in the big study and addressed by the warden (Alun Davies). After welcoming everyone, he discussed with us the domestic arrangements. The morning alarm bell would ring at 7a.m, which would allow, say 10 minutes, to wash and shave, get down to the dining room for breakfast, collect together our books etc and assemble near Robert's stores to await the bus at 8a.m.

On return, dinner would be served at 6.30p.m, then we would be able to disperse to our rooms or studies to work. Recreation facilities were available down the stairs in the ballroom, where there was a good piano on the stage and table tennis equipment. The next procedure was for us to vote in a house committee. This was duly achieved and John Jenkins took the chair. I remember him making some remarks concerning laundry facilities. We would be issued with "little brown bags?" (much muttering, smirks guffaws from the floor!) for putting our dirty clothing in before collection by the laundry company in Aber. John's face turned crimson as he persevered to explain the distribution and handling of these little brown bags until he gave up amidst peals of laughter.

The committee, headed by John Jenkins, doled out our little blue bags of sugar rations and butter packs each Sunday in one of the end studies, and we had to bring these items down to the tables at each meal time. Each evening we queued in a corridor near the kitchen armed with mugs to help ourselves to tea from a big urn. This was at 9p.m. Then we could get back to our studies. The alternative was a trip over to the bottom bar of the Grand Hotel for a "Double Diamond" and a game of darts.

** Smoking concerts used to be all the rage – a male only affair usually held after a soiree. At the end of the evening the male students would sing 'good night ladies', indicating that all the female students should leave the room. After the doors were closed the male students would take it in turn to entertain each other. Colin recalls with particular affection renditions of 'Eskimo Nell' by Tony Mate.*

Pantyfedwen Hostel 1948-49 Sessions

- Top Row: Don Price; Ted Doubleday; Haydn Wilcox; Dill Jones; Donald Clissold; Dai Hallett; Des Pearce; Ken Hampson?*
- 2nd Row: Goronwy Evans; Ken Hampson? Ray Wilkinson; Gerald Wickens; Tony Evans; Alistair McKay; Ray Morgan; Viv Wycherley; Peter Morris; IG (Lofty) Evans*
- 3rd Row: Wally Davies; Don Davies; Howell Williams; Elwyn Evans; John Tooms; Bill Waller; Les Vaughan; Charlie White; Michael Whitelock; John G Manhire*
- 4th Row: Eric Hamblyn; Wally Ryan; Les Hopkins; Den Smith; Alan Stephens; Mick Symmonds; Derek Williams; Mick Robbins; Brian Brown; Bob Dean; Pete Attwood*
- 5th Row: Brian Tucker; Dennis Williams; John Pearce; Colin Guile; D Brian Price; Viv Williams; Cyril Morgan; Alan Richardson; Alun Evans (Slash); JR Gould; Dick Jailer; Robin Mortimore*
- 6th Row: Max Grainer; Tony Dunn; Keith Spickett; John Jenkins; Miss Williams (Manageress); Alun Davies (Warden); Aneurin Davies (Sub Warden); Haldwyn Jones (Manager); John Morgan; John Williams; John Grundy; Kelsey Thomas*

Meals were taken in a large dining area. Breakfast from 7.00a.m of cereal or lumpy porridge, sometimes adulterated with halibut oil capsules, chipped in by student Lofty Evans and passed up the tables. Fried eggs were usually raw on the top and late comers would try to manipulate them between pieces of bread to consume on the bus, leaving at 8a.m.

The Warden and sub-warden sat at the head of the first table at evening dinner, 6.30p.m and each evening a different student would have to sit next to them so that they could get to know one another. Each term notability would be invited from college as a guest and give a speech. Food was still rationed and each of us took charge of a weekly bag of sugar and a pat of butter.

There was a large main study, two smaller ones and a large basement ballroom with excellent stage. Here we held rag shows, smoking concerts* and special classes.

Although the food was generally of poor quality the chef (an ex army

FLUXUS 1968 40 years ago

They say that if you can remember the '60s you weren't there...



Poster design: Kasia Coleman, using an original design by Keith Hill

“The Fluxus Concert was a real success... We pull crackers, burst bags, howl. Somebody chases his mate around the parish hall to hit him. ... People throw streamers, and stick coloured papers on their faces, and somehow behind the light Brian throws us another set of instructions. Caution, Art Corrupts.”

(John Hall, ‘A State of Flux – John Hall at the Aberystwyth Festival’, *The Guardian* 30 November 1968)

In November 1968 London-based artist Brian Lane came to Aberystwyth with his collaborators, the First Dream Machine, to organize a 3-day Fluxus event. He had been invited by the annual Aberystwyth Arts Festival, a committee that was made up of students from University College Aberystwyth, which that year included Steve Mills, Bob Marsland and John Osborne. Fluxus was the name given to an international network of artists who in the 1960s were blending different artistic media. The participatory and imaginative nature of Fluxus appealed to the organisers who, as they stated in their invitation to Lane, were “attempting to revitalize the Festival by pushing the idea of Art as Fun, Art as something to be enjoyed”.

In response, Brian Lane devised an ambitious programme for Aberystwyth: a 12 hour concert of electronic music (which featured

pieces by composers Karlheinz Stockhausen and Pierre Henry), one of the first Fluxusclinics in the country, an international graphics exhibition and a session of Total Theatre. At the heart of the three-day event was a Fluxus Concert, featuring performances of now classic Fluxus scores by artists such as Maciunas, Vautier, Brecht and Shiomi and staged in the town’s Parish Hall.

Lane’s efforts were not all crowned with success: the “fire poetry” that was to illuminate Aberystwyth’s beach had to be cancelled because of safety concerns, the college authorities objected to a planned evening of uncensored films, and audience responses ranged from bemused to outwardly hostile. Yet the three short days nonetheless left a lasting legacy – Adrian Glew, curator at the Tate Archive in charge of the Brian Lane collection, calls the festival “seminal”, as it “entered the contemporaneous Fluxus canon and the subsequent history of Fluxus in the UK”.

In November 2008, in the same location and in the presence of eyewitnesses to the historical event, a tribute to this seminal example of experimental art practice took place exactly forty years after it first occurred. A group of post-graduate students from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, under the direction of lecturer Dr Heike Roms, performed a restaging of the Fluxus Concert 1968, based on documentary material from the Tate Archive and the memories of artists, organisers and audience members. The restaging formed part of Dr Roms’ major research project into the history of performance art in Wales and was funded by a grant from the Sir David Hughes Parry Awards.

If you have any memories of the First Dream Machine’s visit to Aberystwyth, or of the Art Festival in 1968 in general, or know somebody who does, please contact Dr Heike Roms, hhp@aber.ac.uk. Any material will be of interest – even vague memories of events caught of the corner of your eye.

Dr Heike Roms

Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

Further information on the 1968 festival and documentation of its 2008 restaging can be found at: www.performance-wales.org





O Banty i Bentan

gyda Betsan Powys

7ed Medi 1999

Cerdyn post o Sgwar Radcliffe, Rhydychen, 'The Bodleian Library to the north, All Souls to the east, Brasenose College to the west.'

'Hi! I'm doing the "grand tour" with my husband of 6 days. Naturally we wandered around Jesus for a while - nice to see nothing's changed in over 10 years ... I hope this finds you well. Best always, Gineva Sterner.'

Neu Ginny Malliet, y ffrind ore oedd gen i ar ol gadael Aberystwyth a symud i Rydychen. Hi oedd y ddynes ddiplannodd liw nos o'r fflat yn Ship Street. Chlywes i ddim gair wedyn ... tan nawr.

Roedd Ginny ar fin gorffen ei gradd MPhil nol ym 1989 pan ddaeth yr alwad ffon. Galwad gan hen ffrind oedd wedi'i wahodd i ddatliad mawreddog yr Arlywydd newydd, George Bush. Cyn pen wyth awr a deugen roedd Ginny Malliet wedi stwffio'i dillad i'w chesus, ei llyfrau i focsys, wedi stwffio'i chwrs a'i ysgoloriaeth ac wedi prynu'i thocyn i hedfan adre. Fel hyn roedd Ginny'n ymresymu. Bydde, fe fydde gradd o Rydychen yn agor drysau nol yn y States, yn enwedig i ferch uchelgeisiol oedd a'i llygad ar swydd ym maes cyhoeddi. Ond fe fydde cael ei gweld yn yr 'inaugural ball' yn agor mwy na dryse. Fe fydde sipian siampaen ym mharti Mr Bush yn agor pennod newydd yn hanes bywyd Ginny. Fe fydde hi 'fewn'. Ta ta MPhil. Helo Mr President. A bant a hi.

Medi 2000

Diolch am E-byst. Dros flwyddyn mae Ginny a finne wedi llamu drwy ddegawd o hanes. Mae hi'n gweithio ym maes cyhoeddi ond mai'r we sy'n mynd a'i bryd hi'r dyddiau yma. Mae'n fwy gwleidyddol meddai ac yn swnio'n hapusach ei byd. Beth mae pawb arall oedd yn y coleg yn ei wneud? Sawl un yn gweithio ym maes teledu, ambell i wleidydd, cwpwl o ddarlithwyr.

A phwy arall sy nol ar y sin? George Junior wrth gwrs, George W Bush, mab i'w Dad ac ymgeisydd arlywyddol (o frid, os nad o fri).

Ond os aberthodd Ginny Malliet bopeth er mwyn noson fawreddog y tad, dyw Ginny Sterner ddim yn ffan o'r mab.

'I'm pretty much glued to the television, hoping they discover Bush has stuffed the ballot boxes in Florida or something.'

Anfon E-bost ati fu'n gneud y rownds fan hyn. 'To the citizens of the United States of America.

Betsan Powys

'In the light of your failure to elect a President of the USA and thus govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence ... July 4th is no longer a public holiday. November 8th will be a new national holiday, but only in Britain. It will be called "Indecisive Day".'

Son wrth Ginny am yr 'Indecisive Day' fu yma yng Nghymru: Medi 18ed 1997. 49.7% yn erbyn datganoli, 50.3% o blaid. Dim ail-gyfri fan hyn. Gyda'r cyfrif ola o Gaerfyrddin fe ddaeth 'closure'. Egluro wrthi bod addewidion mawr wedi'u rhoi y noson honno, a bod y gair hollbwysig 'na, 'pontio' wedi'i glywed sawl gwaith cyn y bore.

Gyda llaw, gofyn iddi sut aeth y noson fawr 'na nol yn '89? Gyrhaeddodd hi'r parti mawr? Welodd hi George Bush ei hun? Oedd Ginny fy met i yno i glywed arai arlywyddol gynta Mr Bush pan addawodd "in a moment rich with promise" i ddefnyddio grym yr Unol Daleithiau fel "a force for good?"

'I did indeed make it to the ball ... but what is odd is I can't remember if it was for Bush. Must have been ... I remember my dress didn't fit right and I spent much of the night fussing with it so it didn't fall off my shoulders onto the floor. You will notice how I remember only the really important stuff.'

Medi 2008

Mae dawn dweud Ginny wedi dweud. Mae'n ta-ta i'r golygu ac yn helo i fywyd awdur nofelau'n arddull Agatha Christie. Fe osododd y gyntaf yng Nghaeredin, yr ail yng Nghaergrawnt, a chredwch chi byth pam i'r ditectif gymryd cyhyd i ddeall bod y llofrudd yn fab oedd yn dial ar ei dad. Am fod gwaed Cymreig yn y teulu, a chyfenw'r mab yn adlewyrchu'i fan geni yn hytrach nac enw'r teulu. Nawr o ble cafodd hi'r syniad hwnnw dwedwch?

Ac ydy'r awdures, sy'n briod am y trydydd tro ac yn byw dafliaid carreg Americanaidd o Washington, yn dal yn ddemocrat sydd am anfon yr Arlywydd du ei groen cyntaf i'r Ty Gwyn? Neu ydy'r pendil wedi symud yn ol tua'r Gweriniaethwyr, yr hen ben a'i bartner gyda'i cholur a'i chyfarthiad ffyrnig?

'This is the strangest election I can ever recall. It's as if each side is trying to appeal to all the various niche groups; in the process, they are confusing the heck out of everyone. I am glad to see a woman running but ...'

Wyth mlynedd o E-byst ac un thema amlwg. Dyna ni'n ol ym myd 'pontio'. Os gofynith rywun i chi rywbryd beth yw'r broses bwysicaf ym myd gwleidyddiaeth, beth am gynnig: pontio?





OSA

From the President Professor Tony Harris FRSE



UCW Aberystwyth's transition to independent University status may impact on its relationships with OSA as it explores areas of mutual interest with its alumni. While the largely social programme of OSA, both nationally and in its branches will continue much as before, the University's links with its alumni are likely to expand and OSA may wish to identify more closely with the University's expanding horizons. Wynne Thomas's searching to identify expertises among Aberystwyth alumni and alerting the University to these, is a long-standing indication of what could be achieved.

My immediate predecessor, Fariz Abu Bakar, further consolidated our links with Aberystwyth's Malaysian alumni, initially established by my contemporary Pantycelyn friend and bridge partner Tan Sri Datuk Ashad bin Ayub. It was at Fariz's final function as President, the Cardiff-based 2008 Reunion, that OSA were introduced to the University's new President, Sir Emyr Jones Parry KCMG, and it was pleasing that at the August 2008 degree ceremonies both he and the Vice-Chancellor commended membership of OSA to the graduands.

In July 2008, the OSA Royal Welsh Show reception was well supported, not only by members of OSA, but by Aberystwyth staff, including the Vice-Chancellor. Appropriately for a rural setting, he was able to announce the news about IBERS, a major initiative in an Aberystwyth traditional research area.

At the 2008 National Eisteddfod, in Cardiff, OSA gratefully became guests of the University and its Pavilion became the base for its activities. The contributions of John Meirion

Hughes to the organisation of OSA participation in this and many past Eisteddfodau have been greatly appreciated and we learn with regret that he has decided not to continue with this task. On behalf of OSA, the Cardiff Branch helped to man the Aberystwyth pavilion for the duration of the Eisteddfod.

Successful, well-attended annual lectures held in Llandoverly College and Howell's School, Llandaf, were organised by Wynne Thomas and Kay Powell respectively. The former, delivered by Dr Damian Walford Davies, of Aberystwyth University, concerned the personality and work of R S Thomas; the latter by Dr Rhoda Ballinger, an Aberystwyth graduate, identified opportunities and problems presented by our sea coasts.

We welcome as OSA Honorary Secretary, Louise Perkins who, in her appointment at the University, works in the Development Office where, by serendipity, she is in charge of the alumni database. She succeeds Rhiannon Steeds who for the past several years has been a stimulating tower of strength in all aspects of the management of OSA and to whom, on behalf of OSA, I wish to express our sincere gratitude for her work and advice.

Constitutional change

What many older graduates still refer to as 'the College' has, after a brief life as 'The University of Wales, Aberystwyth', now become 'Aberystwyth University/ Prifysgol Aberystwyth'. Under its new constitution the University has the power to award its own degrees, and has recently decided to activate that power. The detailed arrangements have yet to be completed, but in the fairly near future 'BA (Wales)' will give way to 'BA (Aberystwyth)', and BSc, LLB and all the other awards will follow suit.

As former students we have a vested interest in the success of our alma mater, and we are proud of its high standing in the university system. That success is attributable to the effective leadership of the University's officers and the high quality of teaching and research throughout the institution.

**Professor Tony Harris FRSE, President
2008-9 and 2009-10**



Louise Perkins, our new Honorary Secretary

Reunion 2009

The Annual Reunion returned to Aberystwyth on 17-19 April 2009, based at Penbryn. We had splendid weather, and a very full programme for the weekend. After the University reception on Friday we enjoyed a recital by the Taliesin String Quartet. The business of the committee and general meeting were quickly disposed of on Saturday morning, and were followed by an excellent lecture by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Noel Lloyd. He reviewed the state of higher education in Britain today, and then turned to some of the outstanding achievements of Aberystwyth University in the recent past, of which you will see details elsewhere in *PROM*. The questions that followed reflected the lively interest generated by the lecture. The annual dinner at Penbryn was well-attended, the principal guests being Professor Brean Hammond, formerly of the English department and Pro-

Vice-Chancellor, and Sue Jones Davies, actress, singer and currently mayor of Aberystwyth. Three local visits were provided, the first to Gogerddan to see some of the important developments surrounding the formation of IBERS. Running concurrently was a visit to the School of Art, now housed in the old chemistry building, to hear an illustrated talk by Robert Meyrick about the substantial and eclectic collection left to the University under the will of George Powell of Nanteos. On Sunday, on a beautiful spring morning, a group visited the peaceful remains of Strata Florida Abbey under the scholarly guidance of Professor Beverley Smith of the Department of History and Welsh History. Plans for the Reunion in 2010 will take shape in the next few weeks, and will appear in the next issue of the Annual.

OSA Events 2009

Llandovery Lecture: Saturday 30 May 2009
Dr Rhian Davies, the Artistic Director of Gŵyl Gregynog Festival. Contact and tickets: Wynne Thomas 02920 756951

Royal Welsh Agricultural Show
OSA Reception
Tuesday 21 July 2009, Llanelwedd
Contact and tickets: 01970 628651 e-mail osaadmin@aber.ac.uk

Te'r Eisteddfod
Dydd Mercher 5 Awst 2009 ar Faes yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Y Bala

Darlith Llandaf
Darlith Gymraeg – Welsh Lecture
Dyddiad i'w drefnu ym mis Tachwedd 2009
Cyswllt/tocynnau: Kay Powell 02920 563001

OSA Holidays. Contact: Noreen & Tony Harris 02920 515608

OSA Branches

Please speak to the Branch contact for information about activities.

ABERYSTWYTH
Contact: Professor J D Hayes 01970 871255

BANGOR & NORTH WALES
Contact: Gwenllian Owen 01248 602042

BIRMINGHAM
Contact: Mary Ferguson 0121 705 9747

CARDIFF
Contact: Huw Price 02920 888614

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Contact: Professor Keith Jones 0208 255 8273

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SINGAPORE
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USA
Contact: Art A Hall,
c/o osaadmin@aber.ac.uk

WEST CANADA: Mrs Jennifer Yule, 6062 McDonald Street, Vancouver, BC, VGN 1E3, Canada

Life Membership Form

Please enrol me as a Life Member. I enclose a subscription of £20

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Other Names:

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University Years – From :

To :

Department:

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Signature :

Date :

.....

.....

Please: use capital letters throughout, and include your full names.

Make your cheque payable to: "Old Students' Association", and send to: Dr Eleanor James, Treasurer, OSA, 9 Laura Place, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AX.



Kicking the bar

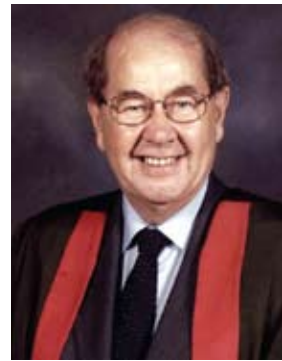
with Patrick Hannan

These days there's scarcely any field in which alumni of Aberystwyth University can't claim to be breaking new ground. For example, one of their number, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, was one of the first members of Plaid Cymru to become a minister in the national assembly and possibly the first politician in the world to lose his job for a breach of anti-smoking regulations. His offence, as reported in the press, was apparently to walk into a pub in Cardiff Bay smoking a cigar. When this was pointed out to him he immediately left the premises.

His total illegal smoking time appears to have been only a matter of a few seconds, so having to resign as a consequence appears to have been a pretty severe penalty. Even Welsh Conservatives, who like nothing more than seeing members of other parties in difficulties, though it was a bit harsh. But that's the modern way. After all, the Thai Prime Minister recently had to resign because he'd taken money for hosting a television cookery show, even if there are those in the world who think television cookery shows are themselves a form of criminal activity. Still, a mystery remains over Rhodri Glyn. Reports in the media suggested that his problems stemmed from what they called his "flamboyant" lifestyle. Even in the twenty-first century, surely, smoking a cigar can hardly be considered to be flamboyant. Why don't they tell us what they mean? After a long time in the journalism trade I'm often at a loss to understand what reporters are on about, so heaven help the average reader. Still with politics, who could have failed to thrill to the titanic battle for the presidency of Plaid Cymru between a man with a moustache and a man without a moustache? It was a contest that had a particular resonance for this column because the man with the moustache was Elfyn Llwyd, one of the university's graduates and MP for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, while his opponent was Dafydd Iwan, an honorary fellow of Aberystwyth. In the end the warbling Iwan won but there was still no resolution to one of the tricky problems of protocol thrown up by such events. In a previous presidential contest (against Cynog Dafis, yet another Aberystwyth graduate as it happens) people began to ask whether it was fair that Radio Cymru should go on playing the folk singer's vast recording repertoire while the election was in progress. The problem was that no-one could decide whether this continuing exposure would benefit Dafydd Iwan or his opponent.

The Welsh Academy's Encyclopaedia of Wales, published this year, is work of great substance as well as entertainment. You can have hours of fun, for example, complaining to yourself about what or who the editors have left out or the prominence or otherwise that they've given to various people and events. It seems to me extraordinary, for example, that Roy Jenkins, a pretty big figure in post

war politics, doesn't get his own entry, but is included in that of his father, Arthur, a man of considerably less significance. Maybe it's a bit of mischief. There is, though, one rigorous qualification for inclusion. One of the editors is the historian John Davies, for eighteen years warden of Pantycelyn Hall. Around the time of publication he greeted me by saying cheerfully: "You're not in it because you're not dead." Not being dead is one of a number of reasons I'm not included, but of course the passage of time will soon mean many changes, new entries, new editions and the need to fork out another sixty-five quid – or a hundred and thirty if you want both languages. Go-ahead Aberystwyth has already leapt past the compilers since it's included under the heading, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, the name behind which it sheltered briefly before taking on its present, and we must assume final, title. Start saving now.



Patrick Hannan

Not to be found in the encyclopaedia are the words of the Aberystwyth college (sorry, university) song which I heard once again, after a long interval, at this year's OSA dinner. People younger than I am, a substantial group, claim never to have come across it and, when reciting (rather than singing) the somewhat less than poetic words, I've been accused of making it up. However, there's clearly a need for a revision but it's going to be difficult. After all, college at least rhymes with knowledge, but university has got nothing going for it in that regard. Scansion is even more difficult. "What may your motto be/ O university by the sea..." No, I don't think so. In any case, climate change calls for drastic measures which are eerily prefigured in the present version: "Rage ye gales! Ye surges seethe!// Aberystwyth fu a fydd."

So why not: "What may your motto be,
O university in the sea?
Gurgle, gurgle, glug, glug
Answer we."

Anyone who writes, and lots of people who don't, will have been distressed at the incident at the Wales Book of the Year awards ceremony that for a day or so gripped UK television. For a couple of minutes Tom Bullough, author of *The Claude Glass*, was led to believe that he'd won the £10,000 prize before discovering that it was all a mistake. Even by writers' standards he seems to be pretty hard up but there is something people can do to help. Buy his book. Buy two copies even, and give one away. He won't get very much out of it but it'll be something and buying his work is in many ways the best compliment you can pay an author.



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