

PROM

Old College

– from vision
to reality

AberFund

success

Dolphin

diet detectives

Unravelling the secrets of
Stonehenge's bluestones

PROM 33

We are delighted to share this edition of **PROM** with you which is packed full of positive news stories from Aberystwyth University and our Alumni community, highlighting key research, stories and events.

It has been a pleasure to meet and speak with so many of you over the past 18 months at events, webinars and via letters, e-mails and phone calls.

Please keep in contact with us via our newsletter and social media channel, LinkedIn (Aberystwyth Alumni) and for weekly updates on the Old College see Facebook or Instagram.

Development and Alumni Relations Office
alumni@aber.ac.uk

Stay Connected

+44 (0) 1970 62 1568
alumni@aber.ac.uk
alumni.aber.ac.uk/en/login

Keep in touch and update your details to ensure you don't miss out on the latest news and events.



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Welcome



It's a pleasure to reconnect with you through the pages of *Prom*. Whether you graduated last summer or several decades ago, your lifelong connection to Aberystwyth University remains a vital part of our story - and our future.

Since stepping into the role of Vice-Chancellor, I've had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable strength of our university community. As a community and a place of inspiration and learning, Aberystwyth University has shaped generations of people. I know this from my own experience as well as from the countless stories I've heard from alumni who speak with warmth and pride about their time here. Those memories are powerful reminders of the enduring impact of an Aber education.

Earlier this year, we launched Strategy 2030s - our bold and ambitious roadmap for our long-term future. It reaffirms our mission to change lives for the better - locally, nationally, and globally, and inspire others to do the same. Built around three core pillars - growing knowledge, building communities, and strengthening Wales - this strategy is already coming to life in exciting ways, many of which you'll read about in this issue.

Among them is AberOnline, our new suite of flexible online courses. These Masters level courses have been designed to meet the growing demand for education options that fit around busy lives. They offer a self-paced learning programme which allows people to obtain the skills, knowledge and qualifications they need to progress personally and professionally.

We're also making great strides in the redevelopment of Old College - a transformative project that will turn this iconic building into a vibrant hub for learning, heritage, and enterprise. It will be a place where alumni, students, and the wider community come together to

celebrate our shared past and shape our collective future. I'm deeply grateful to every alum who has contributed to making this vision a reality, and I hope many of you will return to see it once complete.

Something that encompasses all our work is environmental sustainability, and I'm proud to share that Aberystwyth was recently named *The Times & Sunday Times* Sustainable University of the Year. From energy efficient campuses and woodland creation to our new ethical investments policy, we are embedding environmental responsibility across every facet of university life. While we have a long way to go, it is very satisfying to receive this high-profile accolade for our work.

Of course, we are not immune to the challenges facing higher education. Economic pressures and global uncertainties have required us to make difficult decisions and adapt to a rapidly changing landscape. Yet, despite these headwinds, Aberystwyth continues to thrive - thanks to our exceptional staff, talented students, and the steadfast support of alumni like you.

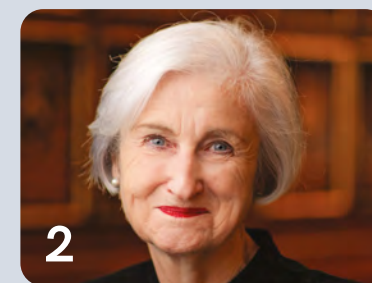
And that brings me to you. Your continued engagement - through volunteering, philanthropy, advocacy, or simply staying in touch - makes a real difference. You are ambassadors for Aberystwyth, and your achievements inspire our current students and staff every day.

As we look ahead, I invite you to stay connected. Visit campus, attend events, share your stories, and help us shape the next chapter of Aberystwyth's journey. Together, we can ensure that this university continues to flourish and change lives for the better for generations to come.

Professor Jon Timmis
Vice-Chancellor

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Groundbreaking judge Lady Justice Nicola Davies DBE has been appointed the new Chancellor of Aberystwyth University.

Dame Nicola Davies is Welsh born and bred, having grown up in Llanelli and Bridgend. She attended Bridgend Girls’ Grammar School and was the first in her family to attend university.

She worked in the City as an investment analyst, before being called to the Bar in 1976. She specialised in medical law encompassing clinical negligence, crime, regulatory work and inquiries and acted in a number of notable cases including Sidaway v Board of Governors of the Bethlem Hospital, the Cleveland Child Abuse Inquiry, and the Bristol Heart Surgeons Inquiry at the General Medical Council.

Lady Justice Nicola Davies was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1992, a Deputy High Court judge in 2003

and a High Court Judge (Queen’s Bench Division) in 2010. Between 2014 and 2017 she was Presiding Judge of the Circuit in Wales and in 2018 was appointed to the Court of Appeal.

She was the first Welsh woman to hold all of these appointments, the first Welsh woman to be appointed as a Lady Justice of Appeal and is the first woman to be Chancellor of Aberystwyth University.

She has been Co-Convener of the Inns of Court Alliance for Women for the last two years and was the Treasurer of Gray’s Inn in 2023.

The Chancellor of Aberystwyth University has an important ceremonial and ambassadorial role, including representing the institution at major events such as graduation.

An update from Undeb Aber

The Students’ Union in Aberystwyth wants Aber students to love student life. Here is an insight into Union activity and impact over the last academic year.

A New Name

Students voted to rename Aberystwyth Students’ Union to Undeb Aberystwyth – a change that reflects the Union’s history and commitment to the Welsh language.

Engagement

Student involvement increased in 2024-25, with 60% of students participating in elections, volunteering, joining clubs or societies, or representing their peers as academic reps – a 10% increase from the previous year.

Democracy and Representation

Undeb Aber continues to set the national standard for student democracy. With 1,939 students casting 23,806 votes in the main elections – a 37% turnout compared to 24% the previous year – Aberystwyth once again achieved the highest Students’ Union election participation rate in the UK.



Victory at the Eisteddfod Ryng Golegol

Student Opportunities

A choice of around 150 clubs and societies offered a diversity of opportunities for social and skills development. 3,181 students registered as an Undeb Aber club or society member during the year (49% of the student population). We also supported student-led volunteering, helping over 600 students to lead their student groups.

Annual Awards

The annual awards in May saw over 700 nominations, with standout winners including:

- **Sports Club of the year:** Caving
- **Society of the year:** Phyte Club
- **Department of the year:** English & Creative Writing

Eisteddfod Ryng Golegol

Aberystwyth proudly hosted the Eisteddfod Ryng Golegol (a inter collegial Eisteddfod competition), welcoming over 700 students from Welsh universities to Aber. For the second year running, Aberystwyth claimed the coveted title of Eisteddfod winners.

Officer Projects

Last year’s officer team worked on a wide range of priorities, including:

- Increasing and supporting student participation in SU activity including Clubs and Societies
- Student access to sports facilities
- Student wellbeing and mental health
- Accessibility of university student support services
- Neurodiversity inclusion
- Appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and fairer approaches to unacceptable academic practice relating to AI
- Race equality and anti-racism work
- Supporting student rights and quality of experience
- Enhancing the voice of international students
- Welsh medium education and community support

Keep an eye on more Undeb Aber news via our website www.abersu.co.uk or by following @UndebAber on social media.

Good luck to the 2025-2026 officer team;

- **President:** Millie Hackett
- **Welsh Culture Officer & UMCA President:** Nanw Maelor
- **Wellbeing Officer:** Tanaka Chikomo
- **Student Opportunities Officer:** Ffion Johns
- **Academic Affairs Officer:** Esperanza Bizama Monnier



University of the Year for Sustainability (Good University Guide 2026, The Times and Sunday Times)



Top in England and Wales for Student Experience (Good University Guide 2025, The Times and Sunday Times)



Top in Wales for Student Satisfaction (National Student Survey 2025)



7th in the UK for Teaching Quality (Good University Guide 2025, The Times and Sunday Times)

Challenging the traditional telling of Welsh Patagonia's story

A new book by Dr. Lucy Taylor from Aberystwyth University challenges the romanticized narrative of the Welsh settlers in Patagonia, revealing a darker side to the establishment of Y Wladfa.

Global Politics of Welsh Patagonia uses archival sources in Spanish, Welsh, and English to disrupt the myth that the relationship between the Welsh and Indigenous peoples was solely harmonious.

It highlights the perspectives of the Tehuelche and Mapuche communities and examines the role Welsh pioneers played in Argentina's nation-building in the late nineteenth century.

Dr. Taylor, a Senior Lecturer specializing in Latin American studies, aims to provide a more nuanced understanding of history and the complexities of settler-colonial relationships. She states, "My book invites readers to think beyond the conventional stories so familiar to us all, to listen to the voices of Indigenous people from the past and to consider Wales's complex position as both colonised at home and coloniser in Patagonia".

Her research seeks to inform the new history curriculum in Wales and contribute to discussions on decolonization and anti-racism.



Leftover bread crusts can be turned into new food – research

New research from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University shows that waste bread can be fermented into nutritious foods, addressing the global issue of bakery waste. Currently, 10% of the 185 million tons of bread baked each year is wasted, much of it safely edible but unsellable.

The study is the first to demonstrate that bread can be combined with nutrient-rich grass juice and fermented using fungi typically used in tempeh production to create



alternative proteins. These proteins could be incorporated into products like fortified bread and sausages.

Dr David Bryant said: "This research gives us a way of tackling the increasing global problem of wasted food through fermentation. It is

the use of grass that makes these findings a genuine first. The beauty of this method is that it can use that everyday plant to turn waste into new types of food for the growing world population".

The research utilizes a pilot-scale biorefining facility, emphasizing environmentally friendly solid-state fermentation, with plans to enhance the flavours of the resulting proteins.



Scientists to explore why Everest glacier is warming

A team of researchers is making final preparations for a trip to Mount Everest in Nepal to explore why the ice on one of the mountain's most iconic glaciers is so close to the melting point. They believe intense solar radiation is causing melting even in sub-freezing temperatures. If they are right, this is a process that may also be happening on other glaciers across the Himalaya, whose meltwater sustains many millions of people below.

The expedition will take them into the Western Cwm, where the researchers will be operating at over six kilometres above sea level and half a kilometre above Everest Base Camp, they will drill into the glacier and use the

boreholes to record ice temperatures.

They will have to negotiate the Khumbu Icefall - regarded as one of the most demanding sections of the South Col route to Everest's summit - while their equipment is transported by helicopter. Once settled they will camp on ice with nighttime temperatures dipping below -10 °C.

Their research aims to enhance understanding of glacier processes globally and is part of a UN-sponsored initiative for glacier preservation. The project is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and collaborates with universities in Norway and Sweden.

New mission to create total solar eclipses in space

Scientists in the Department of Physics at Aberystwyth University are working on the launch of a spacecraft mission which will allow them to view the Sun's atmosphere in more detail than ever before.

The Moon-Enabled Solar Occultation Mission will enable an international team of researchers to study the conditions that create solar storms, leading to improvements in forecasts of space weather on Earth.

The MESOM spacecraft will fly on a peculiar trajectory enabled by the gravitational attraction of the Earth, the Sun and the Moon, and will use the shadow of the Moon to recreate a total solar eclipse in space once every lunar month lasting almost 50 minutes.

Total solar eclipses seen from Earth are much shorter and only last between 10 seconds and 7.5 minutes. Creating a longer eclipse in space will enable the MESOM team to take high-quality images and measurements of the Sun's corona, filling gaps in existing understanding of the physical processes taking place in the solar atmosphere that lead to space weather.

Space weather is not a danger to people or animals on Earth but solar flares and eruptions from the Sun known as coronal mass ejections can cause severe disruption to power grids, satellites and other communication technologies on which modern society depends.

The MESOM feasibility study is a one-year project, funded by the UK Space Agency.

Cleft lip research may reduce childhood operations

Research from Department of Computer Science aims to help children born with cleft lip and palate avoid multiple surgeries as they grow up. With about one in 700 babies affected, reconstructive surgery is often needed early on, and additional surgeries may be required later to improve facial appearance and jaw alignment.

Led by Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar the team is using 3D models and machine learning to predict long-term outcomes of surgical interventions. This technology can identify significant growth patterns in a baby's mouth, helping to reduce instances of "bad growth" that necessitates further surgery.

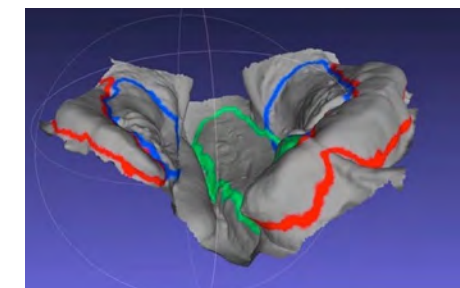
The research is being informed by the expertise and experience of a clinical surgeon and an orthodontist who have been working with young cleft lip and palate patients for many years.

The next stage of the research will focus on building 3D prediction

models, and a series of clinical trials will be required before the technology can be used in a medical setting.

The work on cleft lip or palate builds on years of medical imaging processing expertise in the Department of Computer Science at Aberystwyth University which has proven beneficial in various healthcare applications, including the analysis of breast and prostate cancer.

The research has received funding from the VTCT Foundation, a charity that funds research for people living with a visible difference, in addition to funding from Aberystwyth University.



An example of a 3-D model of a four month old child born with a complete cleft lip and palate. The colours mark out different anatomical regions that might be responsible for the poor mid facial growth seen in about 20% of such children after repair.

Dolphin Diet Detectives

We are very fortunate at Aberystwyth University to be positioned on the shores of Cardigan Bay, a beautiful stretch of the Welsh Coastline and home to myriad marine animals and plants. The area is perhaps best known for its iconic dolphins and porpoises. In addition to attracting many thousands of visitors each year and benefitting local economies, the cultural significance of these species is central to instilling a nature positive mindset and sense of connection between people and nature.

Scientists at the Department of Life Sciences have teamed up with the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW) for the Dolphin Diet Detectives project to address key knowledge gaps related to the biology and ecology of these magnificent and important creatures. This project is funded by the Nature Networks Programme. It is being delivered by the Heritage Fund, on behalf of the Welsh Government, led by Dr Sarah Perry (WTSWW) and Dr David Wilcockson and Dr Niall McKeown at Aberystwyth University.



Dr Perry and her team, including passionate volunteers, have been surveying the bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops) for about 20 years using a variety of methods including shore-based and boat-based visual recordings and underwater sound recordings (hydrophones). While this has provided unprecedented insight into the species ecology and behaviour, many aspects of their behaviour under the water are still unknown. Perhaps most strikingly, there is little, if any empirical information, as to what

the species eat. The Dolphin Diet Detectives project, as its name implies aims to combine cutting edge genetic methods and mobilise community members to determine what prey items our bottle-nose dolphins are feeding on throughout the year.

The team of marine biologists at Aberystwyth are using the latest molecular biology approaches to helping solve the mystery of the dolphins' diet. One key approach is to sample dolphin faeces (poo) and extract DNA from that sample to reveal what species had been

eaten. This is not a straightforward task and requires the specialised skills of Dr Perry and her team who are trained to get close enough to the dolphins without causing stress to the animal. Once close to the dolphins they use a special fine-mesh net they have been able to collect faecal samples for the Aberystwyth team. Then these samples are analysed in the lab by Dr Hannah Vallin, a specialist in so-called environmental DNA barcoding. Dr Vallin extracts DNA from the sample. This extraction contains a soup of DNA of all

ingested species. Using Next generation sequencing we can identify the DNA barcodes of each species within this soup to ascertain what species have been eaten.

But the application of genetic methods does not stop there. As individuals move through their environments they shed cellular material. Sequencing DNA from this 'environment' opens the possibility to identify what species are in an ecosystem and how they may be using the various habitats. To leverage this potential, we are collecting water samples throughout Cardigan Bay. DNA is being extracted from these water samples and environmental DNA is being sequenced to identify what species are occurring where, and when?. This work is being complemented by other approaches. For example, with the help of Dr Neil Cook, the team are deploying underwater videos into the dolphin hotspot areas. This "Baited Underwater Video" or BRUV analysis is a quantitative strategy to define the communities of fish and other species in the area. Again, this is a year round pursuit and the combination of techniques are shedding light not only on what the dolphins eat, but also other fundamental processes, such as species habitat use patterns. This granularity is unprecedented but urgently required for ecosystem based conservation and management, as sadly, Cardigan Bay, is an under-researched part of the UK coastline.

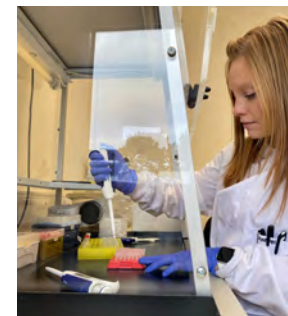
Incidentally, a video recording of the angel shark (*Squatina squatina*) was taken not far from Aberystwyth. This rare and graceful shark, which looks like a ray, with large pectoral "wings" has rarely been recorded. The team are now ratifying these video results with eDNA analysis.

Dr David Wilcockson

"Our team is delighted to be a partner on this exciting research project. Our molecular genetic and marine biology expertise dovetails with the excellent monitoring and conservation work of the Wildlife Trust and should reveal some long-kept secrets of dolphin biology".

"What is really exciting for us, aside from finding out more about what dolphins are eating and their behaviours, is the fact that we are involving the public in this work. They are the 'dolphin detectives' and we hope this will provide another pathway by which they can feel more connected to their local environment and encourage conservation activities beyond the project".

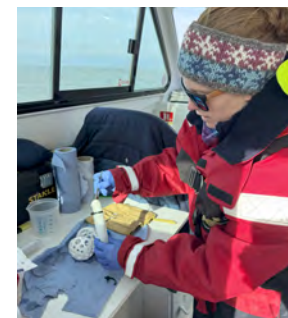
Prof Niall McKeown said (on Sky News) that this project



should serve as an exemplar. Not only are we endeavouring to strengthen a sense of environmental stewardship in the local communities but we are providing information that can be directly applied to conservation and management. Our ecosystems are fragile and subject to a number of threats. Effective conservation must be proven by science, and powered by people.

Dr Hannah Vallin

"It is really exciting to be part of a project that combines so many different aspects of research from boat surveys out on Cardigan Bay to lab work and data analysis back on shore. Cardigan Bay is such a special place with an incredible variety of marine life, yet there are still many things we don't fully understand about how dolphins live and interact with their environment and prey species. By using modern DNA techniques, we can uncover new insights



into what dolphins are eating and the prey available to them. What makes this project even more rewarding is the chance to share our work with the public through engagement events, helping more people connect with the amazing wildlife on their doorstep. I look forward to the exciting opportunities for future marine monitoring that eDNA can offer as a golden technique of the century for environmental science".

Dr Sarah Perry, Marine Conservation and Research Manager at the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales said:

"We are thrilled to be leading this groundbreaking project, using cutting-edge environmental DNA (eDNA) and genetic techniques to unravel the mysteries of bottlenose dolphin ecology in Cardigan Bay. This project covers an area of research that we have aspired to embark on over the past decade or so and we are excited that it has come to fruition at a time when it is even more important that we build on our knowledge of the species in the waters around us."

"Our focus on understanding dolphin diet, population dynamics and interactions with prey species through innovative research methods will not only inform vital conservation strategies but also actively involve the community. This project is a collaborative endeavour, uniting science and community for a sustainable future".

As part of the project, a series of community science days will give local people opportunities to find out more about the research study and help collect additional data about Cardigan Bay's dolphin population.

The Old College

— *from vision to reality*

Much has been written about the many radical changes that have been made to the Old College since the site, which included the Nash designed Castle House built by Sir Uvedale Price in 1791/2, was acquired by railway entrepreneur Thomas Savin in 1864.

Originally built as the Castle Hotel, Savin's architect John Pollard Seddon repurposed the building for the University's use over 20 years, completely redeveloped what is known today as South Seddon into a science block as part of the rebuilding of much of the site after the great fire of 1885.

Castle House itself was demolished in the 1890s to make way for new science facilities designed by Carlisle architect C J Ferguson, and in so doing, joined the north and south Seddon sections for the very first time.

Having served the academic needs of the University for nearly 150 years, the Grade 1 listed building, along with the Georgian villas which became part of the University in 1901 as its first hall of residence for male students, are being transformed into a major new cultural and creative centre that will provide a significant economic boost for Aberystwyth and mid Wales.

As the vision for an Old College fit for the 21st century becomes a reality, the team on site are striking a balance between respecting the architectural heritage of one of



Britain's most significant nineteenth-century buildings and the need for modernisation.

Work on the new atrium, the focus for the Old College feature in PROM 2024, has reached a significant point. Key to providing access to all levels of the Old

College for the first time, the 6 floors and roof of the atrium are nearly complete, with preparations in place to receive the steel structure that will support the dramatic new glass fronted function room with its stunning views over Cardigan bay.

2025 will long be remembered for its prolonged periods of fine weather. High on the rooftops, excellent progress has been made on re-slating the many pitches, valleys and turrets, including the three turrets on South Seddon.

A new 'flat roof' has also been installed over South Seddon which means that the scaffolding which has obscured one of the defining features of the Old College, the controversial mosaic by Charles F. A. Voysey, is being lowered section by section.

The Quad, an area described by historian Dr E L Ellis as having "made every bit as important a contribution to the education of Aberystwyth students as any lecture-room or laboratory" also has a new roof.

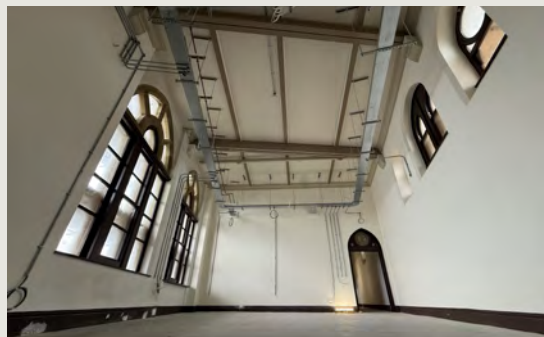
Originally known as the "college corridor" and open to the elements, Aberystwyth born financier W T Jones contributed £500 towards the installation of a roof and the ornate barrel-vaulted ceiling in 1889/90, creating the Quad as we know it.

Two new walkways under the new roof that link the King Street and Promenade wings of Old College will provide visitors with a dramatic new perspective of the Quad's wonderful ceiling with its stained glass.

The challenges of restoring a Grade 1 listed building are many and varied. Standing proud and defining the skyline



The glass panels for the new Quad roof were lifted into place by crane.



Work on the new student study centre is nearing completion.



The view from north Seddon of the work on the new atrium, which recently reached the 7th and highest level.

are the chimneys that vented the 140 or so fireplaces used to heat Old College.

Built from sandstone and limestone, they bear the scars of the harsh marine environment. There are 17 in all, some weighing over 10 tonnes with individual stones tipping the scales at over a quarter of a tonne.

Some have been meticulously repointed and cleaned in situ whilst others have been dismantled and rebuilt, with newly cut stone used where the degradation to the original stone was too great.

Work on renovating the tower, shrouded in scaffolding over the summer, is well advanced. Indeed, the scaffolding is one of the marvels of this project. Designed to barely touch the decorative stone on the outside, it features 93 kilometres of tubing, 17,600 wooden boards and 138,000 fittings.

Inside South Seddon, work on the new Business Enterprise Hub and the student research and study offices is nearing completion with services currently being installed.

This is but a brief insight into what has already been achieved by what is one of the most ambitious heritage projects in the UK currently. Major advances are being made on a weekly basis as we breathe new life into Old College.



The new atrium from King Street.

You can follow the latest developments on the project's social media channels - Facebook (Old College) and Instagram (oldcollegehengoleg) - where updates are posted weekly. News and features are also published on the news section of the Old College website www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege.

The generosity of donations, big and small, from the people of Wales, known as the pennies of the people, enabled the Old College to open in 1872 and to be rebuilt after the tragic fire of 1885.

To date, the Old College Appeal is the most ambitious fundraising effort since our foundation, and we are deeply grateful to the generosity of our donors and partners from around the world, who have enabled us to achieve so much already.

The complexity of renovating this magnificent historic building, combined with external factors, has resulted in increased costs; for this reason and at this crucial point in the project, we invite you to donate today by visiting our website or contacting our fundraising office.

We are only £360k away from achieving our fundraising target and your contribution, of any size, will help us cross the finish line and secure this beloved landmark for future generations, a beacon for mid Wales and the University.

Celebrating 150 years: the department of Welsh and Celtic Studies

Operatic icon Bryn Terfel joined talented young singers in a concert to celebrate 150 years of the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies at Aberystwyth University in July 2025. The world-renowned singer was also joined by Wales's Archdruid, Professor Mererid Hopwood, and pianist Zoe Smith.

The concert included songs by some of Wales's most prominent composers and with lyrics by some of the country's best-known poets.

Over the years, Aberystwyth University Fellow Bryn Terfel and Mererid Hopwood have collaborated on various concerts. In November last year, together with the Welsh College of Music and Drama, they celebrated the work of some of Wales's notable composers, in particular Meirion Williams, in a performance called 'Pan ddaw'r nos'.

Meirion Williams was one of the most prominent students at Aberystwyth's Music Department where he studied under the direction of Henry Walford Davies in the early 1920s.

As the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies marks its 150th anniversary, the opportunity was taken to bring 'Pan ddaw'r nos' to Aberystwyth and to the summer Music Festival (Musicfest) programme with a new combination of songs.

Head of the Welsh Language and Celtic Studies Department at Aberystwyth University, Dr Rhianedd Jewell said:

"We hosted this special concert to mark the 150th anniversary of the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies. And it was an opportunity to welcome alumni, current and future students to celebrate the long and successful history of the Department and the importance of words, poetry and music to our work".

When founded in 1872, Aberystwyth was the first University College of Wales and its first Welsh Professor, Daniel Silvan Evans, was appointed in 1875.

The Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies at Aberystwyth University can lay claim to some of Wales's most brilliant writers and scholars as part of its history, including T. H. Parry-Williams, T. Gwynn Jones, D. Gwenallt Jones ('Gwenallt'), Bobi Jones and Mihangel Morgan.

Since the 1980s, many of the Department's students went on to win major literary prizes at the Urdd and National Eisteddfods.

Robin Llywelyn, William O. Roberts, Myrddin ap Dafydd, Iwan Llwyd, Twm Morys, Lleucu Roberts, Meleri Wyn James, Catrin Dafydd, Marged Tudur, Carwyn Eckley and Iestyn Tyne are among the Department's alumni who went on to become leading Welsh writers.

Professor Mererid Hopwood from Aberystwyth University added:

"The concert was an opportunity to celebrate the work of some of Wales's most famous poets who have inspired music composers throughout the centuries and have been a cornerstone of the Department's studies".

"We heard poems by writers such as T Gwynn Jones, who has direct links to the Department, together with the work of other well-known poets such as Elfed, Crwys, Eifion Wyn and Ceiriog. The concert combined these songs from Wales with songs from Germany, France and Austria and offered an opportunity to enjoy the genius of Bryn Terfel alongside some of the best student voices from the Welsh College of Music and Drama".



A Legacy of Learning: The Isabel Ann Robertson Scholarships

In December 2024, Aberystwyth University proudly announced the inaugural recipients of the Isabel Ann Robertson Scholarships - an inspiring new initiative supporting postgraduate study in mathematics, physics, and computer science.

Funded through the generous bequest of the late Isabel Ann Robertson, the scholarships offer three full-time PhD students annual support for tuition fees and living costs, helping to shape the next generation of researchers and innovators.

Honouring a Lifelong Commitment to Education

Isabel Ann Robertson (née Davies) was a passionate advocate for learning and a dedicated member of the Aberystwyth University community. Born in London in 1932, Ann's connection to the University spanned generations. Her mother, Enid Sayers, graduated in English in the 1920s and later served as Vice President of the Old Students' Association. Her father, C. W. Davies, was a Professor and Head of Chemistry. Even her grandfather contributed to the building of the National Library of Wales.

Ann herself studied Physics at Aberystwyth, graduating with a BSc in 1954 and an MSc by research in 1957. She was an active student, a college athlete, and a member of the Sailing Club - where she met her future husband, David Robertson. After raising a family and living across the UK, Ann returned to Aberystwyth in the 1980s and worked as a tutor in the Department of Computer Science for 25 years, until her retirement in 2009.



Ann Robertson
with husband David

Celebrating the First Scholars

The inaugural recipients, David Skelton from the Department of Physics and Trenten Roberts and Ellen Ziu, both from the Department of Computer Science, presented their work at a special event hosted by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jon Timmis. The gathering welcomed Ann's family and former colleagues, celebrating her legacy and the bright futures of the scholars her gift now supports.

Professor Timmis reflected on the occasion:

"It was a privilege to welcome Ann's family back to Aberystwyth to commemorate her contribution to our University and to recognise her generous bequest and how it is shaping the future of the academic careers of our PhD students and setting them on a positive course for the rest of their lives. As a Computer Science graduate myself, I am immensely grateful to Ann and her colleagues for creating such a positive learning environment, pushing the boundaries of computer science and setting people like me on

a trajectory that has brought me back to Aber some years later".

Ann's youngest daughter, Maggie Robertson - herself a former member of the Department of Computer Science - shared heartfelt memories:

"It is just so lovely to see three young people at the start of their academic careers. I think mum would have felt very privileged at being able to support them as they start out on their journey, whether they go on to do research or take that knowledge and skill into a different career. She loved working for the University, not only because it was Aberystwyth and her family's long association with the institution, but the opportunities it gave her. It was unusual to go to university when she was young, and after she got married and had children, going back to work at the University gave her a rich social life, something to keep her brain working, something she found fascinating and fulfilling, and a constant challenge she really enjoyed rising to. Her work

there was never really a job for her, it was an interest".

A Scholar's Perspective

Ellen Ziu, one of the inaugural scholars, expressed her gratitude:

"My research focuses on predictive healthcare through a self-learning human digital twin system. This work explores applications in both the early diagnosis and prevention of Type 2 Diabetes, as well as a personalised active surveillance system for prostate cancer. Having completed all my degrees at Aberystwyth, I feel incredibly proud to be a fellow alumna of Ann and the Robertson family, and to continue my academic journey here... Meeting the Robertson family and sharing memories of Ann was a moving and inspiring experience. It was wonderful to learn about her remarkable legacy, and I hope my work reflects the values and impact she would have wanted to see".

Continuing the Robertson Legacy

Ann's legacy lives on not only through her scholarship but also through her family's continued ties to Aberystwyth. Her daughter Sara studied at the University from 1978 to 1981, and her granddaughter Fiona followed from 2011 to 2015.

The Isabel Ann Robertson Scholarships are a testament to the enduring power of education and the profound impact one individual can have on generations of learners. They honour a life devoted to knowledge, community, and opportunity - and ensure that Ann's spirit of curiosity and generosity continues to thrive.

For more information on the Isabel Ann Robertson Scholarships and how to apply, please visit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/funding-opportunities

If you would like to learn more about leaving a legacy to Aberystwyth University in your Will or would like to receive an information pack, please get in touch with the Development and Alumni Relations Team via email at alumni@aber.ac.uk or call +44 1970 621568.

OSA

Old Students' Association



Dr Julie Finch

It's a pleasure to introduce myself as the new President of the OSA and to express our thanks to our outgoing President Lauren Marks for her tireless work for the OSA (many of you may also know her from her time as Students' Union President).

The past year has been one of substantial change for the University, but we are pleased that one constant throughout has been the OSA and the support that the OSA offers to the University and its students. We have valued ongoing relationships that we continue to enjoy with the University on many different levels.

It was good to welcome many of you back to the 2025 Annual Reunion and we welcome your feedback on what you would all look for from these Reunions. We're now looking forward to engaging with the Students Union and with current and former students during the year ahead to enable current and future students to enjoy the wonderful Aber experience that we all did.

We are also privileged have been asked by Peter and Pat Hancock to take on an increasing role for the OSA in the oversight of the Peter Hancock Scholarship Fund.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the Scholarship, it was set up by Peter Hancock and Pat Pollard to support deserving, in-need Undergraduate Students

who are at risk of not being able to complete the final year of their studies or at risk of being so impacted by financial hardship that it would prevent them from achieving their potential. This was a result of Peter receiving a bursary in his final year which enabled him to complete his geology degree. Having then held a distinguished academic and commercial career, Peter and his wife Pat (also a former Aber Student) gifted a sum of money to set up the Scholarship in perpetuity to support students in a similar position. [The Peter Hancock Scholarship Fund : Student Services, Aberystwyth University](#)

The OSA are already involved in the selection process and provide mentoring to recipients of the scholarships but since Peter and Pat live in New Zealand-and are now less able to keep returning to Aber, they have asked the OSA to take on a more active role in the management of the Scholarships on their behalf. We are privileged to be entrusted to take on this additional role on their behalf working closely with the DARO team: More than 50 students have benefited from the Scholarships to date, and we hope that the OSA can help to ensure that future students continue to benefit from this wonderful endowment.



Kicking the bar
during the OSA and
alumni Reunion
weekend 2025

Unravelling the secrets of Stonehenge's bluestones using modern analytical techniques

Photo: Adam Stanford

Richard Bevins

Stonehenge is one of the most iconic of ancient historic monuments in Europe, first constructed in late Neolithic times, around 3000 B.C., but added to and reconfigured over the following 1,500 years. Understanding the provenance of the megaliths used in the construction of the monument informs our understanding of early Neolithic populations, their distribution, and their interactions. Stonehenge is particularly important in this context in view of the long-distance transport of some of its stones, known as the 'bluestones'. These form the Bluestone Circle and the Bluestone Horseshoe and are considered to have been the first stones erected at Stonehenge, originally forming a single circle of 80 stones in the so-called Aubrey Holes around 3000 BC. They contrast with the much larger sarsen stones that form the Outer Sarsen Circle and the Inner Sarsen Trilithon

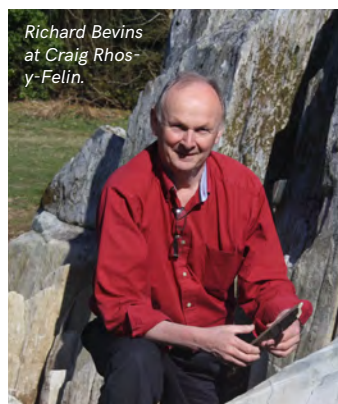


Photo: Christine Faulkner

Horseshoe. The latter are typically people's perception of the stones at Stonehenge. Just over 100 years ago, geologist H.H. Thomas proposed that the source of the bluestones lay in the Mynydd Preseli, in west Wales, over 225 km to the west of Stonehenge, a proposal that wasn't challenged or re-investigated for around 80 years.

Richard Bevins, Aber alumnus 1971-1974 and now Honorary Professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences (DGES), has been re-investigating the provenance of

the Stonehenge bluestones for the last 15 years and during that time has been joined in the research by Emeritus Professor Nick Pearce and more lately by Dr Ian Saunders, both from DGES, along with a range of other earth scientists from across the UK, as well as researchers from Canada, Italy and Australia.

This team has used a whole range of techniques, from standard microscopy to modern analytical methods, including automated SEM-EDS mineralogy, isotopic age dating, ICP-MS, portable XRF (pXRF), Raman Spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction. With access to such a range of techniques, it has been possible to obtain a great deal more understanding of the different rock types comprising the bluestone assemblage in terms of their mineralogy and geochemistry, techniques which of course were not available to H.H. Thomas.

Bluestone monoliths in front of the much larger Sarsen stones.

One of the first discoveries, in 2010, was that much of the rhyolite debitage (fragments) found in the Stonehenge Landscape (from excavations dating back to the 1880s right through to the most recent excavations in 2008) was derived from a small outcrop to the north of the Mynydd Preseli called Craig Rhos-y-Felin. Whilst not far from the outcrop of Carn Alw, which Thomas thought was the source of the bluestone rhyolite, it was a site not studied by Thomas and was thus 'fresh ground' for archaeological investigations. Professor Mike Parker Pearson (UCL) and colleagues excavated the site over five field seasons, between 2011 and 2015. The excavations revealed evidence of stone extraction at the site in the period around 3000 BC, the same time that the first construction at Stonehenge took place, with Craig Rhos-y-Felin being identified as a Neolithic bluestone quarry site.

The earth scientists then turned their attention to another of the bluestone rock types – the dolerites. Thomas considered these to have been sourced primarily from the prominent outcrop of Carn Meini, on the main Mynydd Preseli ridge. Using geochemical analyses obtained by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry for dolerites from across the Mynydd Preseli area and comparing those data with analyses of bluestone monoliths at Stonehenge the team were able to conclude, in 2014, that over 50% of the Stonehenge dolerites analysed came from an outcrop called Carn Goedog, and that there was no evidence for any of the Stonehenge doleritic stones having come from Carn Meini. Parker Pearson and his team excavated at Carn Goedog during field seasons in the period 2014-2016 and again found evidence for stone extraction around 3000 BC.

The team later looked at other Stonehenge dolerites and compared them with other Mynydd Preseli outcrops, concluding that outcrops at Cerrigmarchogion and Garn Ddu Fach were also sources for stones used in the construction of Stonehenge. These sites await archaeological investigation.

Around 2020 the team turned their attention to another of the bluestone rock types, this time investigating the so-called 'Altar Stone' which Thomas thought possibly came from Old Red Sandstone sequences of the Cosheston Beds exposed near Milford Haven, or possibly from the Senni Beds, which occur around the northern margin of the South Wales Coalfield, stretching to the Abergavenny area.



Oblique aerial view of Craig Rhos-y-Felin, the source of much of the rhyolite debitage at Stonehenge. Photo: Adam Stanford

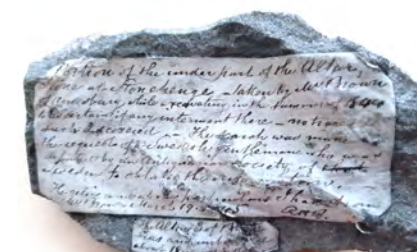


Oblique aerial view showing the locations of Craig Rhos-y-Felin and Carn Goedog. Photo: Adam Stanford

By analysing Altar Stone fragments collected during historic excavations, including a rock piece directly sampled from the base of the stone in 1844, held in Salisbury Museum, the team established that the Altar Stone had some key mineralogical and geochemical characteristics. This included the presence of the sulphate mineral baryte and the presence of a rare clay mineral called tosudite, combined with a near total absence of potassium feldspar. The presence of baryte in the Altar Stone is reflected in the rock showing high barium contents when analysed using a pXRF. Old Red Sandstone rocks in the Milford Haven area were investigated using the pXRF in the field but no match to the Altar

Stone was found. The same proved to be true when samples from Old Red Sandstone across south Wales were analysed until, in 2021, the team concluded that the Altar Stone was not sourced from Wales. This led to the realisation that the Altar Stone was, in fact, different in many respects to the Preseli bluestones (size, weight, rock type), concluding that the Altar Stone should not now be classed as a bluestone but to represent a rock group in its own right.

In order to test for possible matches elsewhere in Britain, minerals in the Altar Stone were dated using isotopic age dating techniques which were then compared with mineral ages found in Old Red Sandstone rocks from across Britain. The results revealed a remarkable discovery – the Altar Stone was sourced from a geological region called the Orcadian Basin, which stretches from Shetland, southwards through Orkney and the Scottish Mainland around the Moray Firth down to Inverness and eastwards into Aberdeenshire. Orkney, which has a remarkable Neolithic history, has, however, subsequently been ruled out and so other areas are currently under investigation. The Orcadian Basin source for the Altar Stone indicates that stones used in the construction of Stonehenge were brought from across the British Isles, which archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson interprets as indicating that the construction of Stonehenge was an act of political unification and shared identity across much or even all of Britain.



A fragment of the Altar Stone from Stonehenge, collected from the base of the stone in 1844. Photo: Richard Bevins

An interview with Jinny

I met with Jinny on a warm afternoon in August at their recently opened cocktail bar, 'Yr Almanac'. After graduating from Aberystwyth in 2022, Jinny chose to remain in the area, opening Yr Almanac in February 2025.

Before we settle in for the interview, Jinny makes me a rich, aromatic coffee and shows me an array of homemade infused spirits. The bar's elegantly bound menu and shelves of luxury ingredients give the air of an old-world apothecary, and Jinny seems every bit the modern-day alchemist.

Can you tell us about yr Almanac?

So, it's a cocktail bar, but it was made purely to be a passion project of mine rather than becoming a corporate entity. I've been into mixology for a while, and I found that other establishments in Aber didn't meet my standards, so I thought, If I get my own place, I can choose what I'm stocking and selling.

It's a small business and space, nice and intimate, like the small cocktail bars you get in big cities, where you get quality and intimacy.

Can you describe the interior design and brand you've gone for?

It's a nature vibe, the logo came first and stems from doodles I used to draw in school, the slate for Wales, and greenery to match the logo, and then the colours were winged. It's a calm space, the only place in town on a Saturday night that has a chilled vibe.

How would you describe Yr Almanac?

I use the term a haven: open, calm, and a safe place where people can go, whether you are new to the area, just off the train, or on your own.

I took inspiration from intimate bars from Japan (micro bars) and prohibition 'speakeasies'. It's nice for people to discover it, which is why advertising is kept low-key.

How many staff do you employ?

Myself and three other staff, one is part-time. Realistically three full time people could run the place themselves.

Where did the idea to start your own business in Aberystwyth come from?

The Aber part is because I didn't want to leave!

Initially, I planned to take a year off after uni and then return for a PGCE,



but instead I got a job in a bar, really enjoyed it, and decided to stay.

I previously worked as a manager in a different cocktail bar, and, although I liked it, I was limited by someone else's rules. At 23, I wanted to try my own ideas and with encouragement from friends and family, I rented this place and renovated it into the bar you see today. Growing up my dad had his own company, so I've taken after my father in that way.

How has it been going so far?

Good, it's going exactly as planned.

The first week was busy, because it was an exciting new place, then the hype died down which was expected though still stressful. So, we started doing some deals and advertising and now we have 20 or 30 regulars that come in often, which is proof that I've met my aim of creating a safe chilled spot that people want to come to time and time again.

What did you study at Aber and how would you describe your time there?

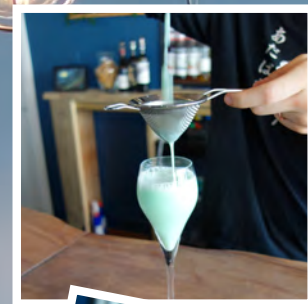
Pure mathematics, it was great, I always preferred pure maths to applied maths, picking highly theoretical modules. The Lecturers were great, and my whole experience was excellent. Despite COVID hitting during my studies, it was a very good experience. I enjoyed being part of a lot of societies and being in Aber was great.

What words of advice would you give to the graduates of 2026?

It's cliché, but don't rush away from Aber, because I grew up in the midlands, I spent my whole life thinking it would be lovely to live by the sea and then I was!

There's no need to run away, a lot of people do stick around after. If you're not ready to move away yet, then don't, you have your whole life to live in a city if that's what you choose.

Interviewed by Ffion Farnell



Alumni Profiles

A lifetime of friendship

There were 24 of us in the Physics Class of '64, and on the 20th of June that year, we learned of our final exam results late in the afternoon. Over the past few years, there have been eight reunions where we all visit our alma mater, catch up, and reminisce.

The first reunion attempts to mark our 25th Anniversary was in 1989, when four of us met in Aber, walked the prom, and had lunch in a local hotel. After that, it took 25 years until our 50th anniversary in 2014 for us to gather as a group again, this time in greater numbers. Since then, except for the period between 2020 and 2023 due to COVID, annual reunions have been held.

In 2024, after the COVID-19 pause, we gathered for our 60th Anniversary. On Friday evening, the new Vice Chancellor, Prof Jon Timmis, welcomed us to a reception at Y Plas (his residence). The next morning, we visited the Bandstand to view exhibits about the Department's work, including robotics initiatives. Following this, Project Manager



Physics Class of 1964



Jim O'Rourke and Manon Rogers (Development & Alumni Relations Office) presented on ongoing and future projects for the Old College.

After the Bandstand visit and Old College presentation, we proceeded up The Hill for lunch in the Physics Department foyer, joined by two staff members and two retired professors. Afterwards, Emeritus Professor Len Kersley gave a detailed presentation

on "People and Physics at 'The College,'" using information he had salvaged from a skip. Prof Andy Evans then concluded with a tour of the research facilities and shared insights on current and upcoming work. All these activities were greatly supported by the DARO office and wouldn't have happened without Dr William Williams organisation.

It has been a pleasure to reconnect with the Physics Class of 1964, keep abreast of the exciting developments at Aberystwyth University, and visit the town so often. And, even in our 80s, so many years since we graduated, we still feel very much a part of Aberystwyth University, and what a wonderful community it is.



The student start-up competition 2025

An Aberystwyth student who created a device to help people with speech impairments and one who started a business to grow tea locally were among the winners of a student start-up competition.

The awards, which are supported by donations from former students, celebrate the creativity and innovation of Aberystwyth University students and recent graduates.

Now worth more than £20,000 in total, they were established to support ventures in their early stages of development.

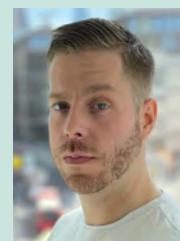
Along with others, doctoral student Harry Warne won the Social Enterprise Award and the Science and Technology Award for a prototype device that uses Artificial Intelligence technology to help people with speech impairments communicate more effectively.

Joint winners of the Science &

Technology Award were Aberystwyth and UCL PhD students Louis Angelo Summers and Toby Allington who are developing a supplement and an app designed to take a holistic approach to cardiac health. As part of their prize, their team, known as Heartguard, have been awarded free membership at the research and innovation campus AberInnovation in Gogerddan.

Computer Science PhD student Eleni Ziu, who has developed a business that will grow tea locally, won the Eco

Chris Lloyd-Jones



After graduating from Aberystwyth (LLB and LPC, 2013), I advised consumers and small businesses at Consumer Direct before a shift into adjudicating financial disputes at the Financial Ombudsman Service. These roles developed analytical and problem-solving skills that helped me move into technology, initially for the ombudsman service. I then joined Avanade - a joint venture between Microsoft and Accenture - using my interest in intellectual property and a personal interest in sustainability to drive the adoption of green technology practices. Now, as Vice President for AI Consulting Enablement at Kyndryl, I lead the global strategy for AI-led consulting. A Microsoft MVP in AI for six years, I advocate for ethical, sustainable technology.

Todd Edwards

Todd is the Manager of Nature and Science at Fortescue, an resources company headquartered in Western Australia (WA). After completing his undergraduate studies, Todd relocated to WA to pursue a Master of Science in Environmental Management. His career has since spanned ecological research, environmental consultancy, and roles within the resources sector.

His current portfolio see's him lead a team of 20 environmental professionals, that are responsible for overseeing baseline biodiversity surveys for future mining and decarbonisation plans (ie. wind-farms), operational environmental monitoring, and biodiversity offset programs. A highlight of his current work is collaborating with international non-governmental organisations to develop and implement Fortescue's Biodiversity Strategy.

Todd says his undergraduate degree laid a strong foundation in environmental science, one that has shaped and supported his professional journey. "It's a long way from the coast of Wales to the arid zones of Australia, but the principles of scientific inquiry remain consistent. The core skills I developed, including rigorous methodology, analytical thinking, and organisational discipline, continue to serve me well".



Robert Emlyn Slater

(BA English & Creative Writing 2015, MA in Creative Writing 2019)

Robert Slater, a writer, recently staged his debut play 'Death and the Cat' at the Drayton Arms Theatre, London.

Since graduating, Robert has written for stage and screen. In 2020, he wrote an episode of S4C show, Sali Mali, and has had numerous short plays performed in London theatres.

"The lecturers on the Creative Writing course were hugely supportive and encouraging of my stories, no matter how bizarre they were! I enjoyed developing my dissertations with tutors who pushed me to think outside the box, making my writing engaging and exciting. I made friends for life at Aberystwyth, with many fond memories studying there."



The student start-up competition 2025 winners

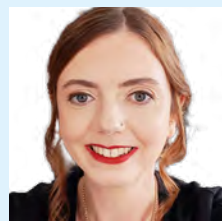
Business Award. English Literature and French graduate Ash Jayy Simmons

Black gained the Creative Arts Award for his PR agency dedicated to helping romance novelists promote their work on social media.

The Local Enterprise Award went to Physics student Katelyn Crowther, Alex Parker and Louis Bales from the Department of Life Sciences and Law student Ellis Peares. As a team, they are running a gardening business, providing Aberystwyth residents with affordable gardening services and offering students training and flexible part-time work.

The awards were made possible by generous donations from alumni through the AberFund and by the Research Wales Innovation Fund.

Thanks to you



Lyndsey Stokes, Director,
Development & Alumni
Relations

It has been another busy year in the Development and Alumni Relations Office as we welcomed new members to the team and implemented an enhanced calendar of events, volunteering programmes, communications and fundraising campaigns- putting our Aber alumni community at the heart of everything we do.

We were pleased to officially open the replica veterinary school in March following the £180,000 bequest from the estate of the late Gordon Burrows.

This year saw the awarding of our 50th Hancock Scholar, made possible by the generosity of Peter Hancock and Patricia Pollard and support of our alumni community mentors- we welcome new mentors to the programme, so please do get in touch if you would like to volunteer.

Fundraising continues for the final stages of the Old College project which this year, has met some major

milestones. It was a pleasure to see so many alumni join our Old College online event to hear about what the Old College will bring to our students, teaching, town and community, it was a huge success.

We were honoured to receive support from the Wolfson Foundation, who generously donated £250,000 to create the Wolfson

Discovery Gallery, showcasing the university's historic science collections. I look forward to sharing more progress updates with you on Old College in this edition.

And in November, we thanked The Right Honourable. the Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, for his exceptional contribution as Chancellor at a special event in London and welcomed our new Chancellor, Lady Justice Nicola Davies DBE, who is extremely well placed to succeed Lord Thomas in the role. Croeso Nicola.

Your generous philanthropic contributions both time and money over the past 12 months, has had an invaluable impact on the university and our students. On behalf of all at Aberystwyth University, diolch o galon i chi and I look forward to seeing you soon.

The Alumni Volunteering Programme (AVP)

We are excited to have launched our new Alumni Volunteering Programme (AVP) this year with ample opportunities for you to get involved. The AVP has four new strands:

AberMentors

Working with a student(s) 1-2-1, offering them bespoke advice and guidance through our mentoring scheme or through offering a summer placement opportunity.

AberPresents

Participating at student and/or alumni events, delivering a presentation, workshop or as a panel member participant.

AberChampions

Championing the promotion of the University during recruitment events (at Aber or internationally) or through a written / filmed profile.

AberPartners

Appointed advisers to the University, working with us in partnership to develop departmental as well as University-wide strategic goals.

Through the programme, we aim:

- To build meaningful connections between our alumni and our students
- To encourage students to learn and grow with our alumni community
- To enhance the work and profile of the University
- To work in partnership with our alumni

Volunteer with us!

We are thankful to all our Alumni Volunteers for the continued support and loyalty to Aberystwyth University. If you are interested in taking part in any of our new volunteering strands, we'd love to get you involved!



1. Read more about our programme
2. Complete our Agreement Form with more information about yourself and what opportunity you'd like to participate in; once completed return to alumni@aber.ac.uk
3. Once your form is processed by a member of our team, you will then be automatically subscribed to our volunteering e-newsletter where you will receive updates and volunteering opportunities

Please contact us at alumni@aber.ac.uk with any questions; we'd be very happy to chat with you about your interest in any of our strands!

A spotlight on AberMentors

AberMentors is the career mentoring programme that matches professionals who have experience working in industry, with current Aberystwyth University students. It provides a valuable opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of work, and for mentors to share their sector knowledge and lived experience.

This year we will be embedding the AberMentors strand within the Career's team's Professional Pathways Internship Programme (previously known as AberForwards). The Professional Pathways Internship Programme supports final-year undergraduate students in gaining valuable insight into non-academic careers within the Higher Education sector. To enhance this opportunity, we will offer each student intern an alumni mentor to compliment the placement's career objectives.

The programme will officially begin in February 2026 with three online (or in person if local to Aberystwyth) meetings with the Mentee until June. Online training will



"My Mentor has been so helpful in fostering more confidence, opportunities to meet new people and developing skills that will help towards my future career."

be provided to all mentors as well as a welcome pack to understand the scope and expectations of the scheme.

In total, participation in this programme will equate to six hours of your time (three hours to prepare/attend training and three hours for the sessions themselves). To register your interest in becoming one of our AberMentors, please get in touch by January 2026.

"The scheme is really helpful! I've had a few conversations with my Mentor, and she's been very insightful in how the Civil Service works and what skills I need!"

Student Hardship

Students received £26,095.18 in philanthropic grants, and as part of the Period Poverty project, from our Advice and Money team in 2024-2025. A vital safety net for those in acute financial need, the grants enable some of our most promising students to continue their studies. These hardship payments were made alongside other projects funded by Student Hardship, such as subsidised food in our Food Hub and free period products, which reach a wider range of the student population.

The hardship grants and projects address ongoing issues such as the effect of the cost-of-living crisis on students

from low-income households, as well as sudden changes to family circumstances - unemployment, life-changing illness, or death of a parent - and family estrangement.

We would like to express a heartfelt Thank You to our generous donors. Thanks to you, our students in need were able to receive emergency financial assistance to cover rent, bills and unexpected costs, and had access to subsidised food and period products, without stigma attached.

When you donate, you make a direct, meaningful difference to a student's life, offering them the opportunity to succeed and, in turn, pay it forward to the next generation.

2023-25 Philanthropy in numbers

£1,785,837
donated by alumni
and supporters

£5,036,569
from Trusts, Foundations
and Lottery

£469,500
Legacies



885
individual
donors

Aberystwyth University is a registered charity (no. 1145141)

FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

£2,303,534
The Old College
Appeal



£59,826
Student Support
(AberFund)

£3,043,208

Research and
Academic
Development



From Lecture Halls to the Lab: My Aberystwyth Journey Through Science, Second Chances, and Saving Lives

By Dr Tracy Richmond-Knight

When I first stepped onto Penglais Campus as a mature student in 2016, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect — except, perhaps, that I'd be surrounded by people who'd never heard of cassette tapes. I was returning to education later in life, armed with a curiosity for science, a lot of imposter syndrome, and a faint hope that I might actually belong here.

Fast forward eight years, and I now hold a BSc in Biochemistry, a PhD in Biological Sciences, and a Postdoctoral Research role at the same university where it all began. Aberystwyth didn't just give me a second chance — it helped me find my voice as a scientist.

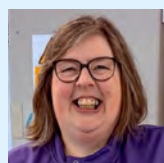
The (Very Grown-Up) Student Life

Coming to university as a mature student has its quirks. I wasn't worried about Freshers' Week so much as remembering where I'd parked the car. But the warmth and welcome I found at Aber made all the difference. From the approachable lecturers in IBERS (now DLS) to the lifelong friends I made in the lab, it quickly became clear I was exactly where I was meant to be.

During my undergraduate degree, I was drawn to molecular biology and medical applications — the idea that a test tube could hold the key to diagnosing cancer or tracking disease fascinated me. That curiosity evolved into a passion for translational science — and, eventually, a KESS funded PhD in the same department.

Diagnosing Disease with a Drop of Urine

My doctoral research, supervised by Prof. Luis Mur, focused on finding early biomarkers for prostate cancer in urine — yes, wee, and yes, it's a lot more glamorous than it sounds. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, but diagnosis still relies heavily on invasive procedures or unreliable blood tests. Our research aimed to change that by identifying markers



in urine that could serve as early, non-invasive indicators of the disease.

The work was challenging, of course — long days in the lab, even longer nights with statistical software — but it was also thrilling.

There's something powerful about knowing the research you're doing might one day make a difference in someone's life. And for me, there was an extra layer of meaning: I wasn't just doing this for the sake of science — I was doing it to prove to myself that I could.

Research Meets Reality

I now work as a Postdoctoral Research Assistant in translational medicine at Aberystwyth, still as part of Prof. Luis Mur's research team, and our work is expanding rapidly. What started as a single focus on prostate cancer has grown to include other cancers — including lung and breast — with a strong emphasis on point-of-care diagnostics.

We're developing tests that could one day be used in GP surgeries or even at home — simple lateral flow devices (yes, like COVID tests!) that can detect cancer biomarkers in urine. Our OSCAR study, which began during my PhD, is now a fully-fledged UK wide project, with samples coming in from hospitals across Wales and beyond.

What makes this work especially exciting is the collaboration — we work closely with NHS sites, with the biotech company Valley Diagnostics, and other research teams across the UK. We're also passionate about involving patients and the public in shaping what we do.

Wearing Multiple Hats (and One with a DARO Badge)

One of the best things about my journey at Aberystwyth is how diverse it's been. During my PhD, I took a brief but meaningful detour to work with the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO). It might seem a world away from proteomics and pipettes, but that year gave me a unique insight into the power of community, storytelling, and connection.

I helped project manage and coordinate alumni events and engaged with graduates from across the decades. That experience not only strengthened my communication skills (useful when explaining mass spectrometry to non-scientists!) but deepened my appreciation for what it means to be part of the Aberystwyth family. Whether it's an alumnus from the 1960s or a first-year student finding their feet, we're all part of something bigger here.

What's Next?

There's still a long road ahead — scientifically and personally. We're currently working on turning our prostate cancer biomarkers into a commercial diagnostic product, with hopes of moving to the next phase of validation and deployment. I'm also involved in new projects focused on lung cancer, breast cancer and women's health, applying the same principles of early detection and accessible testing.

Outside the lab, I'm increasingly involved in mentoring early-career researchers and promoting public engagement with science. I want to be the kind of role model I needed when I first started — someone who reminds others that it's never too late to change paths, ask big questions, or chase a dream that scares you just a little.



Dr Tracy Richmond-Knight presenting her research on translational diagnostics at the Wales Cancer Research Conference 2025.



Tracy was recognised at Aberystwyth University's Visibility Awards on International Women's Day for her contributions to research and outreach.

Full Circle

If you'd told me ten years ago that I'd end up with "Dr" in front of my name and a research career at one of the most beautiful and prestigious universities in the world, I'd have laughed! But that's the magic of Aberystwyth and the strength of the people here: they meet you where you are, and then they walk beside you as you grow.

Being part of this community — as a student, a researcher, and an alumna — has shaped every step of my academic and personal journey. And as I look ahead to whatever comes next, I do so with gratitude, curiosity, and the quiet confidence that, whatever happens, Aber will always be there!



Honours 2024

The following individuals received an Honorary Fellowship as part of the graduation ceremonies in 2024:

Professor Sir Stewart Cole KCMG FRS, internationally renowned microbiologist working in global health

Jess Fishlock MBE, professional footballer and coach, who has won 150 international caps for Wales

Clare Hieatt, co-founder of globally acclaimed ideas festival The Do Lectures and Hiut Denim Co

David Hieatt, co-founder of Cardigan-based jeans company Hiut Denim Co and The Do Lectures

Professor Uzo Iwobi CBE FLSW FRSA, Founder and Chief Executive of Race Council Cymru

Dr Anna Persaud, CEO and Founder of luxury British skincare and wellness brand, This Works

Manon Steffan Ros, award-winning author, columnist and scriptwriter

In Memoriam

Remembering those who sadly passed away between August 2023 and July 2025

*Denotes OSA member

Alumni & Supporters

Adams, Professor Emeritus William, died October 2024

Alario-Franco, Professor Miguel, died August 2024

Ani, Ambassador Olufemi, (Economics With International Politics, 1963), died October 2024

Barth, Mr Craig, (Philosophy, 1973), died September 2023

Bennett OBE, Professor Michael, (Agricultural Botany, 1965), died November 2024 *
Birkinshaw, Dr Keith, died December 2023

Carey, Dr Gwyneth, (Cymraeg, 1996), died May 2025 *

Childs, Miss Elin, (Daearyddiaeth, 2015), died March 2025

Cox, Miss Jacqueline, (Classical Studies And American Studies, 1977), died April 2024

Craze, Mr Keith, (History, 1973), died August 2024

Davies, Lord David, died February 2024

Don, Tan Sri Ahmad, (Economics And Business, 1969), died September 2024

Edwards, Professor Kenneth,

(1961), died May 2024
Farthing, Mrs Brenda, (Law, 1944), died August 2023 *
Faux, Miss Annette, (Information And Library Studies, 2000), died October 2023

Fleetwood, Mrs Paula, (History, 1970), died August 2023 *

Ford, Professor Tony, (Chemistry, 1963), died April 2024 *

Grimshaw, Mr David, (Geography, 1972), died September 2023

Gurney, Mr Alan, (Geology, 1960), died August 2023

Harris, Professor Roger, (Biochemistry, 1965), died December 2024 *

Heywood Thomas, Professor John, (Philosophy, 1947), died July 2025 *

Hinge, Councillor Paul, (Int Pol & Europe, 1998), died August 2024 *

Hodgson, Mr Bryce, (International Politics With Economics, 2014), died January 2024

Hogg, Professor Frank, died May 2024

Holdway, Mr Benjamin, (Marine And Freshwater Biology, 2001), died February 2024

Hopkins, Dr Michael, (Information And Library Studies, 1968), died December 2023 *

Honours 2025

HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS

Jamal Hassim, co-founder and CEO of Bolt Global, leading media practitioner and digital innovator

Elizabeth Treasure CBE, higher education leader and former Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University

HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES

Sara Clancy, supporter and promoter of responsible and sustainable business practices in Africa

Rob McCallum FRGS, internationally acclaimed figure in deep ocean exploration, philanthropic science and conservation

Linda Tomos CBE, Wales’ first female National Librarian, who worked for over fifty years in the librarian profession

Jenkins, Professor Geraint, (Welsh, 1974), died January 2025

Jones, Professor Len, died December 2023

Jones, Mr Francis, died September 2023

Judge, Rt Hon Lord Justice Igor, died November 2023

Lewis, Mr Trevor, (Geography / Geology, 1953), died January 2024 *

Lloyd Jones KCB, Sir Richard, died June 2025

Lowery, Ms Hannah, (Lib/History, 1991), died November 2023 *

Mabbutt, Mr Jeremy, died May 2025

Marshall, Mr Simon, died 2024
Metcalfe, Miss Hannah, (Agriculture, 2012), died May 2024

Michell, Mr Mick, (Agricultural Biochemistry, 1967), died March 2025

Morgan, Mr Kane, (International Relations Theory, 2011), died January 2024

Morgan, Mr David, (1965), died July 2024

Morris CBE, Professor Emeritus John, died December 2024

Morris, Mr Gareth, (1967), died February 2024 *

Mortimer, Mr David, (Economics And Law, 1968), died April 2025

O'Neill, Mr Sean, (Economics And International Politics, 1977), died April 2024 *

Powell, Mr Nick, (Politics And International Politics, 1979), died July 2024 *

Roberts CBE, Dr Brynley, (Cymraeg, 1951), died August 2023 *

Roebuck, Mr, (Geography (Arts), 1979), died March 2024 *

Taylor, Ms Lisa, died 2024

Fellows

Burrows OBE, Dr Stuart, died June 2025

Spencer, Mr John, (Geography And International Politics, 1967), died April 2024 *

Steed, Mrs Rhiannon, (Cymraeg, 1963), died October 2024 *

Steggles, Mr Harry, (1954), died January 2024

Staff

Tasker, Mr Phil, (Law, 1976), died March 2025 *

Taylor, Dr Richard, (Agricultural Botany, 1974), died November 2024

Thomas, Mr Wynne, (Rural Science, 1958), died December 2023 *

Watkin, Mr Peter, (Botany, 1959), died May 2024 *

Webster, Dr Margaret, (Mathematics And Physics, 1978), died July 2024 *

Weiler, Dr Bjorn, died December 2024

Williams, Mr Emyr, (Law, 1987), died January 2024

Achievements

Students

Jonathan Turnbull and **Oscar Tikadar** from the Department of Computer Science Two won a national competition hosted by the Rail Data Marketplace and Rail Industry Association for their app which helps improve access to train stations.

The student winners of the Undeb Aberystwyth ‘Teaching, Learning & Student Experience Awards’ 2025 were: **Karen McGuirk** who won Student Staff Member of the Year, **Abi Shipman** who was awarded Academic Representative of the Year, **Francesco Lanzi** who won Student Volunteer of the Year, **Nel Jones** who won Hyrwyddwr Diwylliant Cymreig (Welsh Culture Champion), **Harry Marsh** who was awarded Postgraduate Teacher of the Year, and **Alex Molotska** (Undeb Aberystwyth) who won International Student Champion.

Aberystwyth University Welsh Language Awards 2024 student winners were **Ellie Norris** (Studying through the medium of Welsh) and **Celyn Bennett** (Welsh Language Champion).

Katy Lake from the Department of Life Sciences won the Riding for the Disabled Association Young Coach of the Year Award 2025.

Staff

Award-winning poet and Professor of Welsh and Celtic Studies, **Mererid Hopwood**, has been elected Archdruid, the head of the Gorsedd of the Bards from 2024-27.

Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar (Computer Science) has been appointed as a Health and Care Research Wales Senior Research Leader.

Professor Qiang Shen (Computer Science) has been appointed to chair the Computer Science and Informatics sub-panel of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029.

Professor Michael Woods (Geography and Earth Sciences) has been made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Professor Charles Musselwhite (Psychology) has received an esteemed fellowship from the Academy of Social Sciences, for his substantial contribution to social science.

Elize Freeman, Co-Lead of the Dewis Choice Initiative, received an Audrey Jones Award from the Wales Assembly of Women.

Professor Rattan Yadav (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences), an expert in plant genetics, has received a prestigious fellowship from the Indian Government’s Science and Engineering Research Board.

Dr Guilherme Bortolotto (Life Sciences), **Dr Andrew Filmer**

(Theatre, Film and Television Studies) and **Dr Judith Roberts** (Psychology) have been selected for the prestigious Welsh Crucible programme to develop the future research leaders of Wales.

Plant genetics expert **Professor Huw Jones**, computer scientist **Dr Changjing Shang**, microbiologist **Dr Arwyn Edwards**, and computer scientist and the University’s Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Jon Timmis** have been elected as Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales.

The staff winners of the Undeb Aberystwyth ‘Teaching, Learning & Student Experience Awards’ 2025 were: **Dr Alexander Hubbard** (English and Creative Writing) who won Lecturer of the Year and the Commitment to Student Employability Award; **Dr Eryn White** (History and Welsh History) who was awarded Supervisor of the Year; **Dr Martine Robson** (Psychology) who won Personal Tutor of the Year; **Mary Rendell** (Student Services) who was awarded Student Mentor of the Year; **Kirsten Foerster** (Global Marketing and Student Recruitment) who won Support/Service Staff Member of the Year; **Dr Emma Sheppard** (Geography and Earth Sciences) who won the Neurodiversity Champion award; and **Daniel Teelan** (Estates, Facilities and Residences) who was awarded Sustainability Champion of the Year. English and Creative Writing was crowned Department of the Year.

Mari Dunning (Lifelong Learning) was awarded the Aberystwyth University Exemplary Course Award 2025 for the module ‘Writing Women: Feminism in Poetry and Prose’.

School of Art Lecturer and printmaker **Flora McLachlan** won the Eirian Llwyd Memorial Award, an annual award given to printers living and working in Wales to enable them to develop their skills.

The staff winners of the Aberystwyth University Welsh Language Awards for 2024 were **Vicki Jones** (Exceptional Learner), **Dr Hanna Binks** and **Dr Lloyd Roderick** (Promoting Welsh in the Workplace).

Alumni

Bethan Gwanas (French, 1984) has been awarded the highest honour in the field of children’s books in Wales, the 2024 Mary Vaughan Jones Award, in celebration of her exceptional contribution to children’s and young people’s literature.

Sean Sapstead (Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, 2015) was awarded an MBE in the King’s Birthday Honours for services to cyber Security.

Logan Williams (Agriculture with Animal Science, 2024) from Carmarthenshire won the Farmers Weekly award for the best agriculture student in Britain.

Tomos Atkinson (Computer Science, 2024) won gold representing Aberystwyth University at the 2025 International Powerlifting Federation’s University World Cup in Istanbul.

Alumni events and reunions



Welsh Agricultural College (WAC) at the Royal Welsh Show

Royal Welsh Show Alumni Breakfast – July 2025

In July, the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) hosted a warm and welcoming breakfast morning at this year’s Royal Welsh Show. We were delighted to be joined by members of our Alumni community, including representatives from

the Welsh Agricultural College (WAC). The event provided a fantastic opportunity to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate our shared heritage in the heart of rural Wales.



Iestyn Tyne and Mererid Hopwood at the National Eisteddfod

Eisteddfod 2025

At the National Eisteddfod this year, we hosted a day of activities for alumni which include a talk on Volunteering opportunities with the Rt Honourable, Elfyn Llwyd, a discussion on ‘Atgof’ (Memory) between Iestyn Tyne and Mererid Hopwood and an alumni reception in the afternoon. Many thanks to all who joined us at our stall, it was great to see so many of you at the Eisteddfod!



OSA members enjoying the Ceilidh

OSA and Alumni Reunion 2025

Summer 2025 was a busy and vibrant event season. In June, we were delighted to welcome back Aberystwyth University alumni and members of the Old Students Association for a packed weekend of activities. The celebrations began on Friday evening with a lively ceilidh at the OSA members welcome event. Saturday events were open to all alumni, featuring a bustling market fair at Pantycelyn, bag-making workshops and guided walking tours of the campus and bluebell woods. The weekend concluded for everyone with a scenic walk along Aberystwyth Seafront on Sunday.



Bag making session at the Reunion weekend

Founders’ Day

In October, our alumni were warmly invited to join current staff and students to mark Founders’ Day. The celebrations began with a traditional procession along Aberystwyth Promenade to ‘kick the bar’, followed by a communal breakfast for attendees at Aberystwyth Bandstand. The Vice Chancellor Jon Timmis welcomed participants and introduced Faye and Nia from the Old College Team, who came to provide updates on the project. In the afternoon, the Bandstand was opened to the wider community with a drop-in fair featuring stalls from the OSA, Area 43, Archives, and the Physics department. Bringing together people from the University and town centre, the event created a space to share knowledge and build community.



Graham Colley on behalf of the late Gordon Burrows, officially opening the new clinic with the Vice-Chancellor, Head of Department Prof Darrell Abernethy and Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing, Mrs Emma Anscombe-Skirrow

Veterinary School Opening Event

In March, a new replica veterinary clinic was formally opened at Aberystwyth University in an expansion of Wales’s only School of Veterinary Science. Mainly funded by a bequest from the estate of the late Gordon Burrows, the new clinic has waiting, examination and treatment areas along with key equipment used for small animal care. The new clinic facilities are training the first ever students on Aberystwyth University’s Veterinary Nursing degree who began their studies in September last year. They are also used by undergraduates on the University’s BVSc Veterinary Science course, run in collaboration with the Royal Veterinary College (RVC).

AberFund

Many, many thanks to everyone who donated to the Aber Fund over the past year! The Fund supports students in a wide range of areas, offering them unique opportunities that enrich their learning experience at Aber. Projects we funded included paid internships and work placements for students of International Politics and Theatre, Film and Television, attendance of the Tribeca Film Festival, employability and CPD events for students of Computer Science, Veterinary Science and Mathematics, celebratory centenary events for students of Welsh and Celtic Studies, and of course the annual Student start-up competition, awarded by the Business School (see p. 18).

The Department of English and Creative Writing ran a new project last year that proved an overnight success: a trip to Hay-on-Wye Winter Weekend and meeting with author Ali Smith. As one of the organisers Dr Tasha Alden describes:

"On December 6th, rather earlier than some students appeared to be happy with, a coachful of English and Creative Writing students left Aber to hear Ali Smith read at the Hay Literary Festival. Thanks to the generosity of the Aber fund, we were able to spend the whole day in Hay, allowing the students to explore the world's first 'book town' as well as hearing Smith reading from her new novel *Gliff*. We were taken by surprise by the popularity of the trip - the 50 places we offered were booked up within about half an hour of the email going round.

It was a real joy to introduce the students to Hay, an English and Creative Writing student's paradise, but the part of the day that the students have said they will never forget was meeting Ali Smith after her reading. Smith spend half an hour chatting to the students about their work, asking them about their ideas, giving them her advice and listening to them talking about what their writing meant to them. There was also an impromptu sea shanty singalong at one point; I have no idea what that was about!

For the students to have that chance to talk about their own work with someone who is probably Britain's leading novelist was extraordinary, a once-in-a-lifetime thing. It



Creating art from nature in Penglais Woods

was a real joy to watch them talking with her, seeing how seriously she took them and the shy glow they all took on knowing that this world-famous writing thought their work was important and interesting. Smith also offered to come to give a talk at Aber once she has finished writing the book she's currently working on, and we hope that this trip, which you so kindly made possible, will become the start of an important relationship for the department and university".

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

"It was amazing to meet Ali Smith, and I learned so much about her writing style and what goes into the production of a novel. Thank you so much for this opportunity, it was incredible!" **Tess Shelley**

"My best friend and I who are both non-binary, took our shared copy of 'How to Be Both' to be signed and she wrote a really special message of queer solidarity - 'Always be both' - in it. It made my day, and I will always treasure this memory". **Rohan Piper-Filluzeau**

"It was a wonderful and educational experience, and I would pounce on the opportunity to participate should one ever arrive again; thank you to those who gave it to me in the first place. It was a gift". **Lorcan McCay**

"My trip to Hay to listen to and meet Ali Smith is one of those memories that will endure... Attending the event as part of a cohort of English and Creative Writing students was also valuable - like-minded professionals benefitting from their group interactions."

James Priestley

A second project we would like to highlight is *Tirio/Grounded*, managed by the Arts Centre in partnership with the School of Art and the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. In a series of weekly sessions artist Brian Swaddling took students out to different green spaces on Penglais and Gogerddan campuses, to create art with whatever they could find from nature.

"The idea", says Brian, "is to lead people out to explore the campus grounds and create ephemeral land art pieces that would remain in situ until the elements absorbed them back into the environment from which they were made".

One student fed back: *"I hadn't really planned on attending more than the first session or two but in the end, I attended all that I could. I found that the two hours passed very quickly, and for that time period I could temporarily forget all my other concerns, and tackle them afresh once the session had finished...the land artworks created were truly collaborative"*.

"Overall, the course raised my awareness of the privileged opportunities for contact with nature that we have on and close to campus", said another student. "I now look at the campus and surrounds with another set of eyes ... on any outdoor walk, I find myself scanning the combination of natural materials and features and asking:

"What I got out of it was not only to hear from and meet an author I've been studying on my course (which is wild in itself!), but to understand through Ali Smith a deeper connection and another perspective to storytelling. When I spoke to her of how she approaches story - or rather, how story approaches her - she taught me how to foster a bond with my story, and how to allow it space to grow and move in its own direction, a difficult and important process of letting go of control sometimes to write better and more authentically. It was a different approach to writing and I took great insight from another perspective". **Ayesha Ali**



Students meet author Ali Smith at Hay Winter Festival

What opportunities are there for land artworks?"

'Passers-by were grateful for our efforts. People showed an interest in the artworks, the materials and often said thank you.' Student participants reported the course supported their wellbeing. Some mentioned they had experienced heavy workloads, bereavement, or damage to houses and relocation of families due to Storm Darragh during the course, and had brought their own stories and personal trials to the work. For them, the course acted as a break from the intensity of their experiences. *Tirio* brought a moment of 'calmness' to them, or helped them meet new people:

"Being creative regularly and being in the woods regularly improved my self-esteem and reduced my stress levels. Working with others helped me make new friends. I learnt new things about the nature of my home ground, and felt supported during a difficult time".



Creating art from nature on Penglais Campus



1872

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*Full name: _____ Phone: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

*Address: _____

I am ☐ alumnus ☐ (retired) staff ☐ supporter ☐ Email _____ Post Code: _____

*We ask for your contact details above in order to thank you for your generous gift, which will act as a receipt of your donation. We may use your postal address and/or email address to send you relevant Aber alumni information. We are committed to protecting your personal information and utilising your data to ensure that you receive relevant and appropriate communications from Development & Alumni Relations Office, Aberystwyth University. At any time, you can change your preferences by visiting: www.aber.ac.uk/development/alumni/update/

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I would like to make a regular gift of £ _____ per month / quarter / year until further notice starting on 15/ _____ towards the Old College.

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Service User Number: **253438** Reference: _____

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I would like to make a single gift of £ _____ to the Old College.

I will pay by: Cheque / Voucher CAF Date: ____ / ____ / ____

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Gift Aid means that for every £1 you give, Aberystwyth University will receive an extra 25p from HMRC, at no extra cost to you.

I want to Gift Aid my present, future, and gifts from the past four years to Aberystwyth University

I am a UK taxpayer and I will pay enough Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the Gift Aid for all my charitable gifts in each tax year.

I understand that if my taxes do not cover the Gift Aid claims, I will be responsible for paying the difference.

Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Please return to:

Development and Alumni Relations Office, Aberystwyth University, P.O. Box 2, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2AX
Question? Contact us: alumni@aber.ac.uk | 01970 621568

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This guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Aberystwyth University will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Aberystwyth University to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Aberystwyth University, or your Bank or Building Society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Aberystwyth University asks you to. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

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Please pay Aberystwyth University Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Aberystwyth University, and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

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You can also give online: www.aber.ac.uk/appeal