

THE  TIMES
 THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
 UNIVERSITY
 GUIDE
 2019**

**UNIVERSITY
 OF THE YEAR
 FOR TEACHING
 QUALITY**



ABER *News*

Aber scoops top teaching accolade for second time

Aberystwyth University started the new academic year with the wonderful news that it has been named University of the Year for Teaching Quality for the second year running.

The University was selected for this prestigious title by *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019* which was published on Sunday 23 September.

The Guide also ranked Aber top in the UK for teaching quality, up five places on 2018, and it maintained its position amongst the UK's top 50 universities.

The Editor of *The Times / Sunday Times Good University Guide*, Alastair McCall, said: "Aberystwyth has achieved something no other UK university has done in winning our University of the Year for Teaching Quality award for two years in a row by exceeding already excellent previous results in the annual National Student Survey. No university in the

UK now has students happier with the quality of their teaching, the product of a concerted effort to put student needs first and last."

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University, said: "I know the effort which goes in to ensuring that our students are taught in a stimulating environment; that they receive meaningful feedback and assessment, and are given the academic support they need to think independently and to succeed in their studies. These external awards provide a solid foundation on which to build for the future and I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has made this possible."

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 Copy deadline is **Friday 11 January**.

From October 1st
 2018
**Fit*
 Together**
 Group Exercise



| MONDAY | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 09.15 - 10.00 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 12.00 - 13.00 | Sportive Cycle |
| 12.00 - 12.45 | Yoga Gogerddan |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | HIIT |
| 13.10 - 13.55 | Aerobics |
| 14.00 - 15.30 | Introduction to Yoga |
| 17.00 - 19.00 | Ashtanga Yoga |
| 17.30 - 18.30 | Step and Tone |
| 17.45 - 18.30 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 18.30 - 19.30 | Pilates |
| 19.00 - 20.30 | Hatha Yoga |

| TUESDAY | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | Pilates for Back Care |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | Advanced Cycle |
| 13.10 - 13.55 | Abtastic Core |
| 13.15 - 14.00 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 17.30 - 18.30 | Circuits |
| 17.30 - 18.30 | Step and Tone |
| 17.45 - 18.30 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 18.35 - 19.20 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 18.30 - 19.30 | Zumba |
| 19.00 - 20.00 | Triathlon Swim |

| WEDNESDAY | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 07.30 - 08.15 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 09.15 - 10.00 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 09.30 - 10.15 | *Parent & Baby Circuit |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | Bodyfit |
| 13.10 - 13.55 | Fit Ball Pilates |
| 17.30 - 18.15 | HIIT |
| 17.30 - 18.15 | Dumbbell Workout |
| 18.15 - 19.15 | Pilates |
| 18.30 - 19.30 | Sports Fit |
| 18.30 - 19.15 | AquaFit |
| 19.30 - 20.30 | Yoga for All |

| THURSDAY | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 07.15 - 08.00 | Triathlon Swim |
| 07.30 - 08.30 | Yoga for All |
| 12.00 - 12.45 | Yoga Gogerddan |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | Abtastic Core |
| 12.15 - 13.15 | Advanced Cycle |
| 13.10 - 13.55 | Pilates |
| 17.30 - 18.30 | Circuits |
| 17.30 - 18.30 | Aerobics |
| 17.45 - 18.30 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 18.30 - 19.30 | Zumba |
| 18.30 - 19.30 | Bodyfit |

| FRIDAY | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 07.30 - 08.15 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 10.30 - 11.15 | Aqua Gym |
| 12.15 - 13.00 | Circuit |
| 13.10 - 13.55 | Dumbbell Workout |
| 16.00 - 17.00 | Power Yoga |
| 17.00 - 18.30 | Yoga for All |
| 17.30 - 18.15 | HIIT |
| 17.45 - 18.30 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 18.30 - 19.30 | Zumba and Tone |

| SATURDAY | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 09.05 - 10.05 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 09.30 - 10.30 | Bodyfit |
| 10.45 - 11.45 | Pilates |

| SUNDAY | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| TIME | CLASS |
| 09.05 - 09.50 | Mixed Ability Cycle |
| 11.00 - 12.00 | Zumba |

All classes finish 5 minutes prior to the stated time to allow for change overs between sessions

*Not during school holidays

To find out who is teaching a session and for more information please visit our web pages



Tel: 01970 622280
 Email: sports@aber.ac.uk
www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre/classes

The management retain the rights to alter the programme at short notice.

For current information please visit:
www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre/classes/timetable

The Vice-Chancellor's Column



The start of a new academic year has been a significant date in my calendar since I started working in the higher education sector 28 years ago. This time of year brings with it a sense of excitement and expectation as new students arrive on campus

for the first time, and returning students slip back into Aber life with renewed vigour. There is a distinct gear change in the workings of the institution. The lull in the flow of meetings over the summer has passed and the pace picks up as colleagues return from well-earned leave.

This year the change in season is even more marked, as our university's new structure and teams start to take shape. Not unlike our Freshers perhaps, we are all getting used to a different order. I know this process of change has not been easy for many colleagues but though difficult, the steps taken since April 2017 have been absolutely necessary. Much of the savings outlined in our Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP) have now been identified or achieved and I am confident that firm financial foundations are being laid for the future.

It is not financial sustainability alone which has been nurtured over the past few years. Our recent successes in league tables and rankings are being seen as exemplary in the sector, and provide further platforms on which we can build and grow.

In making us University of the Year for Teaching Quality for an unprecedented second consecutive year, the Editor of *The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide* Alastair McCall commented that "no university now has students happier with the quality of their teaching, the product of a concerted effort to put students' needs first and last." That analysis - coming after our outstanding NSS results and TEF Gold award - is a glowing tribute to the commitment and dedication of staff across the institution. My sincere thanks to you all for what you have done and continue to do.

There are other exciting developments ahead. Construction work on the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus

at Gogerddan has started, with completion due in 2020. We continue to work with the Royal Veterinary College on detailed proposals to bring veterinary medicine training to Aberystwyth and hope to welcome the first students in September 2020. In partnership with QinetiQ, we are refining proposals for a National Spectrum Centre based here in mid Wales but serving the whole of the UK. This new facility would give commercial companies the ability to test the latest wireless technologies, drive research and innovation, and bring high value jobs to the region. A recent focus event attracted more than 200 representatives from academia, industry and government with Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns speaking highly of both the project and the University in his keynote speech.

Following the successful centenary celebrations of our Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, this academic year sees our Department of International Politics mark its one hundredth anniversary. On Thursday 11 October, I look forward to welcoming First Minister and Aber alumnus Carwyn Jones as he kicks off a fascinating centenary lecture series that, over the coming months, will bring together a range of impressive speakers from across the discipline.

We also have the centenary of plant breeding to look forward to in 2019 and as we move closer to the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, I want to see us doing even more to highlight and celebrate the breadth and depth of the research being carried out across all our three Faculties.

If you're up for an early morning walk, please join the Chancellor and me in Old College at 8am on Friday 12 October as we set out in our robes to kick the bar in time-honoured tradition. Staff, students and the local community are all welcome to join the procession as we mark our annual Founders' Day. In looking to the future at a time of change, it is fitting too that we should remember our roots and look back with thanks to the benefactors and passionate educators who made this wonderful university possible back in 1872. Long may their motto be our mantra. *Nid byd, byd heb wybodaeth*. A world is not a world without knowledge.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice-Chancellor

Nominations for Honorary Awards sought

The University is inviting nominations for a range of Honorary Awards to be conferred during its graduation ceremonies in July 2019.

Nominations of individuals to be considered for Honorary Fellowships, Honorary Doctorates and Honorary Bachelor degrees are invited from staff, students, and members of the general public.

Full details, including a nominations form and eligibility criteria, can be found online at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/about-us/honorary-awards. The deadline for nominations is midnight, **Sunday 14 October 2018**.

Geraint Pugh, the University Secretary explains:

"The more nominations the University receives, the better. The aim is to have an interesting mix of individuals being recommended for Honorary Awards - individuals whose achievements and contributions we can celebrate, and who will inspire the whole University community."

Success for the AberSailbot team

A team from Aberystwyth University which builds autonomous sailing robots has tasted success at the eleventh World Robotic Sailing Championship held in Southampton.

The AberSailbot team consisting of Tom Cartwright (Computer Science undergraduate), William Hogg (Physics undergraduate) and Colin Sauzé (Research Software Engineer in the Department of Computer Science) won second place in the MicroSailbot class at the competition at the end of August.

The annual World Robotic Sailing Championship is held all over the world and is open to autonomous and unmanned sailing boats up to 4m in length using only wind as propulsion.

Each year the championship presents a variety of challenges to test different aspects of the boat and its control system. This year the challenges included a 'Fleet Race' (triangular course), 'Area Scanning' aimed at the scientific use of



Members of the AberSailbot team. Left to right: Tom Cartwright, William Hogg and Colin Sauzé

autonomous surface vessels for surveys, 'Obstacle Avoidance' aimed at the real-world challenge of avoiding traffic at sea, and a 'Station Keeping' challenge in order to prove the boat's ability to stay stationary, in which AberSailbot came first in their class.

AberSailbot member Tom Cartwright said: "The team was pleased with the

boat's performance in the competition and hopes to build on this for an even better result next year. AberSailbot is always looking for keen new team members and we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in being involved with any aspect of the project - just e-mail sailbot@aber.ac.uk."

Improving access to a unique research resource

The Resource Discovery team in the Department of Information Services is working to improve access to a unique research resource at the University - the theses produced by our PhD and MPhil students.

Postgraduate theses are unique research resources that link together the Aber student experience and the University's research profile. Not only do these theses benefit scholarship but they also offer the University a fantastic promotional opportunity.

After a successful viva and any corrections, print and electronic copies of a student's thesis are deposited in the University Library and a print copy is sent to the National Library of Wales. The Aber print copy is catalogued for discovery in Primo and made available either in the Hugh Owen or the Physical Sciences libraries. The electronic copy is added to Pure and made available (unless embargoed) via the Aberystwyth Research Portal. The latter is regularly harvested by the British Library's

e-theses online service so that our theses can also be accessed in EThOS.

The Resource Discovery team plans to develop this service throughout 2018-19 by making the theses more discoverable in both Primo and the Portal. We are hoping that departments, students, and central services will also want to get involved in promoting these unique resources.

We think we've already made a good start. During graduation week, for example, Information Services tweeted congratulations to postgraduates whose theses are available in full-text format via the Aberystwyth Research Portal. Eighteen tweets with links to the texts of the theses were seen by almost 10,000 people resulting in 54 clicks through to the Portal.

Our plans include making sure all departments know how to deposit with us, embedding our training in Graduate School schedules, and encouraging staff to guide potential postgraduate students to our theses in the Portal. We would also like to host sessions for students to come and look at the different types of theses we hold - as well as being useful to see, many are surprisingly creative in format as well as content - and to discuss wider professional academic issues of open access and privacy and copyright.

We would love to hear any thoughts and suggestions post-graduates and colleagues across the University might have - please get in touch resourcediscovery@aber.ac.uk or is@aber.ac.uk

First Aber Mauritius students graduate

Aberystwyth University Mauritius Branch Campus held its first graduation ceremony on 25 July 2018.

The ceremony took place in the seaside town of Flic en Flac on the western side of the island and was attended by students' families, friends and supporters. Professor John Grattan, in his role as Pro-Vice Chancellor, and Council Member Mr Ian MacEachern attended from Aberystwyth University.

The memorable celebration saw students graduate in Law, Criminal Law, Computer Science, Accounting and Finance, Business Finance, Business and Management, Business and Management with Law, and MSc International Business.

Along with the awarding of degrees and Masters degrees, Professor of Law, Ved Prukash Torul was made a Professor Emeritus.

Congratulations to our newest graduates, many of whom have already secured employment or are pursuing further studies.



Mid Wales Travel Bus Card

The Mid Wales Travel Bus Card for 2018-19 for Aberystwyth University students and staff is now available.

Costing £95 for the year, the card allows unlimited travel on all Mid Wales Travel buses within Aberystwyth; unlimited travel between campuses; and half price travel on Mid Wales Travel buses outside Aberystwyth.

The card is valid until 1 June 2019, and £1 per card sold is donated to Aberystwyth and Borth Lifeboats.

Cards can be purchased online at: www.abersu.co.uk/travel. Your card will then be available for collection from the Students' Union reception (please bring your AberCard with you for identification purposes) where staff will also be able to take a photograph of you for your bus card.



Spotlight on... ApAber



For the past three years, the Applications and Integration team in Information Services has been working on the design of ApAber, a free bilingual app for Aber students that makes it easier for them to plan their day.

ABER *News* spoke to Lola Hagen to find out more about the latest developments with the app:

Can you explain a bit more about ApAber and what it can be used for?

ApAber provides a simple way of accessing key online services, systems and information in one convenient location. It provides a quick and easy route to the vast amount of information available to help students throughout the day.

Through the app, users can access information for new students, bus timetables, their e-mail and calendar and library information.

ApAber also allows students to view their teaching timetable and attendance record, and access module information via their Virtual Learning Environment.

The app also allows users to view the availability of computers in computer rooms, network usage and the balance on their AberCard.

As well as being available on the majority of phones and tablets, ApAber can also be accessed via the web. It is available both on and off campus so that users can easily keep up-to-date.

Urgent messages can also be posted via the app by the University if, for example, lectures have to be cancelled because of heavy snow.

Who decides what information users see on ApAber?

Through ApAber the University is able to develop its own customised tiles, which allow a personalised approach to be delivered to students using the app.

The user themselves can also customise ApAber, rearranging or removing tiles according to their needs.

"ApAber is very easy and helpful to have everything needed daily as a student in one place."

The app also has news feeds that users can subscribe to, such as Students' Union events. These feeds are optional and managed by the user.

The app is bilingual, with users being able to switch between English and Welsh in the User Preferences section of the app.

What has the work of the team involved over the past three years?

The Applications and Integrations team has worked on developing, piloting, launching and adding new features which allows the University to target data to users.

The team has also been working with the Students' Union, Academic Registry, Marketing, Careers and academic departments to tailor ApAber to their needs. For example, the Students' Union made extensive use of the app to facilitate voting for Students' Union Officer roles and Academic Representatives.

"ApAber has helped deliver a digital campus for the University, transformed how students receive information and access services the University has to offer - including the Students Union where we've seen huge student engagement in voting."

We also developed a dashboard for the Aberystwyth University Learning and Teaching Conference from where delegates could access the conference programme and provide feedback.

What have been the most recent developments within ApAber?

A lot of work has been done this year to produce good quality building maps showing the locations of the main buildings and the central teaching rooms within those buildings.

We also recently released a login-free version that allows external access to a public facing dashboard. This is particularly useful for visitors to the University.

We are now beginning to develop separate dashboards specifically for particular areas within the University such as the Students' Union, student information, the Careers Service and academic departments.

Where can I find the app?

ApAber is available via the web at ap.aber.ac.uk and for download from Google Play and the Apple Store by searching for 'Aberystwyth University'.

Instructions for downloading, using and customising the app is available on the Information Services FAQ site faqs.aber.ac.uk/index.php?search=apaber





Tîm Aber takes on the 10k for VC's Charity of the Year

A team of over twenty staff from across the University have signed up to run the Aberystwyth Charity 10k in aid of the Vice-Chancellor's Charity of the Year 2018-19, Wales Air Ambulance.

Taking place on Sunday 9 December, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Aberystwyth 10k, which has become one of the most popular flat road races in mid-Wales.

The race follows roads and paths around the town, taking runners along the promenade, through the harbour, and around the edge of the Rheidol to finish back at the race registration opposite the main entrance of the Marine Hotel.

Wales Air Ambulance is funded by the people of Wales, relying entirely on charitable donations. The charity needs to raise over £6.5 million every year to keep all four helicopters flying over Wales.

If you would like to sponsor Tîm Aber, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/timaber10k



1872
PRIFYSGOL
ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY

**Cyllid a godwyd gan
Y Loteri Genedlaethol**
as a lottery funded grant from the National Lottery



**Funding raised by
The National Lottery**
and awarded by the Her Lottery Fund

Georgie Meadows: Stitched drawings

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| <p>21 Medi – 16 Rhagfyr 2018</p> <p>Arddangosfa ar agor: Dydd Llun–Dydd Sadwrn, 10yb–4yp Mynediad am ddim</p> <p>YR HEN GOLEG, Prifysgol Aberystwyth, Stryd y Brenin, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AU</p> | <p>21 September – 16 December 2018</p> <p>Exhibition open: Monday–Saturday, 10am–4pm Admission free</p> <p>THE OLD COLLEGE, Aberystwyth University, King Street, Aberystwyth, SY23 2AU</p> |
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**Arddangosfeydd teithiol gan Wellcome Collection
Touring Exhibitions by Wellcome Collection**



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Aber alum Elizabeth Kensler joined Information Services in 2002 and is now Customer Service and Academic Engagement Manager. In addition to the day job, she is Event Director of Aberystwyth's junior parkrun. ABER*News* spoke to Elizabeth about what she likes about running and encouraging others to run:

In addition to the day job

When and what first got you into running?

I loved running and sports when I was young but as I got older I had started doing less and less.

By the time I reached my forties I was working, had two children (now 14 and 10), and had got more-and-more adept at making excuses such as being too busy at work or with the children. I was unfit, overweight and tired all the time.

When junior parkrun was set up in Aberystwyth over two years ago, I started taking the children as they enjoyed running, and I registered myself too so that I could help out by volunteering.

The children loved junior parkrun from the start. It is a very warm, friendly, happy family environment and the regulars and volunteer team welcomed us immediately.

As the children started running more regularly, I could see how much fun they had from running, and how their confidence grew from enjoying running with other people and without any pressure to win.

The other parents and volunteers talked about their experiences running the 5k parkrun on Saturday mornings but I never thought that this would be something I could do. However I began to go out on some short runs with the children encouraging me every step of the way.



When and where did you run your first parkrun?

Finally, in January 2016, I very nervously took my own first steps at Aberystwyth 5k parkrun on a Saturday morning.

It made a huge difference having newly found friends from the junior parkrun volunteer team and parents running as well and supporting from the sidelines.

Since then, I haven't looked back.

Where did your running journey take you from there?

Several of the junior parkrun volunteer team had started going out for longer runs after junior parkrun as practice for various races they had entered in. I didn't imagine I could ever run longer than 5k but, inevitably, eventually I was persuaded to



join the "Sunday Runners", the first rule of which is that you must never say "can't".

For the first time in years I had found exercise that would quickly and relatively easily become part of my weekly routine. Running is something that doesn't need any special kit/equipment (apart from a pair of trainers) and I can fit in odd half hours in-between waiting for the children to finish after school activities, as well as longer runs.

I have gained confidence in running and have been getting gradually fitter and healthier. I love that I am only racing against my own personal best and I am not worrying about whether someone else is quicker than I am (they always are!).

I will never be fast or graceful when running, but I now can't imagine a week where I do not go out for a run. I even automatically pack running shoes in my holiday suitcase.

Explain a bit about how parkrun works?

Every week on a Saturday, at parkruns all over the UK and abroad, you can turn up to a free, timed 5k run/walk/jog with other people.

You need to register in advance but this just take a few minutes www.parkrun.org.uk/register. You then need to print out your barcode and bring it along to have it scanned after you cross the finish line.

The parkrun at Aberystwyth starts at 9am in Plascrug Avenue down at the Argos carpark end, and finishes opposite the children's playpark. You can run, or walk or jog - it's up to you. You will never be last as there is always a tail walker.

Then, everybody is welcome to have a hot drink and breakfast at the rugby club after parkrun.

Parkrun works because of the people that volunteer each week: no prior knowledge is needed, just a willingness to help. It is great to alternate a few weeks of running parkrun with a volunteer shift.

What do you think it is that motivates people to get out of bed at a weekend to run around a park?

I can't overemphasise how supportive the parkrun environment is. No one judges, everyone supports, the emphasis is just to move (either running/jogging/walking). You can chat the whole way round or zone out and use the time to think or challenge yourself to move a little quicker. Quite simply, you feel better after parkrun, both for the running as well as the social interaction.

Why did you want to become junior parkrun event director and what does it entail?

The joy of parkrun for me is the volunteering as much as the running. It is genuinely a privilege to be able to be part of ensuring that junior parkrun takes place each Sunday and to work with wonderful volunteers who turn up each week to time the juniors, scan barcodes, set up the finish funnel and high-five junior runners along the course. The volunteers make parkrun happen.

We have two Event Directors at Aberystwyth junior parkrun; Jane Thorogood who set up junior parkrun at Aberystwyth, and me. We have overall responsibility for the event at Aberystwyth and we also act as Run Directors a few times a month as well.

The Run Director/Volunteer Organiser is in charge of a particular run on a specific day; deciding on whether the conditions are suitable for the event, organising a team of volunteers, and uploading and managing the results each week.

What is your favourite thing about junior parkrun?

It will always be a privilege and a joy to see small children skipping along the parkrun route laughing or singing to themselves, whether in sunshine or rain, picking up leaf bouquets and then sprinting down the finish line to applause and whoops of encouragement from all.

Aberystwyth 5k parkrun takes place every Saturday at 9am at Plascrug Park.

Aberystwyth 2k junior parkrun for 4-14 year olds takes place every Sunday at 9am at Plascrug Park.

Both events are free to take part, but please register at www.parkrun.org.uk/register before your first run and remember to bring a printed copy of your barcode.

Campus investment and improvement



Maria Ferreira from the University's Estates Department describes the investment and improvements that have taken place across the University estate in recent months:

The University has continued to invest significantly in its estate

over the last year, which has certainly kept myself and colleagues in the Estates Department busy.

A great deal of work took place over the summer to fulfil the ambition for all undergraduate teaching to be consolidated on Penglais Campus by the start of the new academic year. Tim Macy, the University's Space Manager, worked behind the scenes to coordinate everybody's moves into their new fit-for-purpose spaces. The project also involved working in close collaboration with Information Services to reconfigure two teaching rooms in IBERS Penglais to accommodate a 76-seater computer teaching room.

Work has also been carried out on the University's residential accommodation over the summer, including installing new fire alarm systems and self-test emergency lights, which will reduce the resource and upheaval required to carry out statutory testing in the future.

Refurbishment of our domestic property portfolio has also been carried this year, and the rental income the University now receives has benefited considerably from this work. A visible example of this is Penglais Lodge, which sits at the entrance to Plas Penglais. The Lodge had been derelict for a number of years but, following internal and external renovation and reconfiguration of the



New outdoor seating area at the back of the Sports Centre

internal layout to make better use of the space, it has now been successfully let.

Two other major undertakings for our Project and Property Services Team were the complete external refurbishment of 10 Laura Place, which is a Grade II listed building so involved liaison with CADW; and the complete rewire, refit and redecoration of Theatr y Werin in the Arts Centre.

The Estates Department is also involved in several well publicised projects such as Pantycelyn, Old College and the Innovation and Enterprise campus. Whilst in some cases the construction element of these projects is yet to commence, the preparatory work is equally important and has been progressing smoothly.

In terms of the University grounds themselves, after a competitive tender process earlier in 2018, we engaged a company to work alongside our in-house grounds staff to assist with the day-to-day management of the estate.

The University has also invested in its first ever Landscape Management Plan which will enable us to manage the grounds in a proactive and planned manner for the next twenty years. We have already started this piece of work; you may have seen examples at Cwrt Mawr woodland.

We are also delighted to have been awarded the Green Flag once again and the flag



Penglais Lodge



The roof of 10 Laura Place.

will be flying at Penglais campus in recognition of its excellent facilities and commitment to delivering great quality green space.

As ever, we have been listening to our student voice and doing all we can to make their time at Aberystwyth an enjoyable experience. Feedback from the Tell Us Now project was that more outside seating areas were needed, and therefore a new outside area has been developed at the back of the Sports Centre, and work is progressing on an area at Cwrt Mawr H. In response to other Tell Us Now feedback, we have installed extra sockets in some lecture rooms and a bus shelter canopy at the bottom of the Piazza.

Investment to assist people with disabilities has also continued. It is a long term vision to make the Hugh Owen building accessible to all, but a phased approach has had to be adopted due to the complexity of the building. Over the summer we laid two disabled parking bays and a new pathway into the back of the building, providing access to levels B and C. The next phase is to install an additional lift that will allow access to the other floors.

We are also creating a disabled bay at the Physics building and laying a new entrance to the building to ensure this is more accessible. The project also includes an external lighting scheme, and widening the pathway that runs up Physics hill to prevent pedestrians having to walk on the road.

We hope that new and returning students and staff enjoy the benefits of the investments that have been made to the University estate.



Physics Main Entrance

AberSU Column

Here at AberSU, the Student Union Officers are elected each year by Aber students but are supported by a team of 13 staff.



Our staff are structured into four teams – Support and Representation, Student Opportunities, Finance and Resources, and Communications and Engagement.

In this [ABERNews](#) column the focus is on the Support and Representation Team who work to ensure that students are happy and health and that students have the last word.

The Support and Representation Team consists of four full-time members of staff:

Martin Dodd - Student Support and Representation Manager

Martin has been with the Students' Union since October 2016, and is responsible for the management, development and effective delivery of AberSU's Independent Advice Service and high quality democracy and student/academic rep provision.

Amy Goodwin - Rep & Volunteering Coordinator

Amy joined AberSU in January 2018. She supports Student Academic Representatives and works to develop the system including elections and training.

Amy also facilitates Students' Union volunteering, helping bring student volunteers and local organisations together and organising one-off projects.

Amy also develops and supports our A-Team Volunteers (in red t-shirts) who help welcome new students, assist them with moving in, give directions, and work with St John Ambulance in town at night in Freshers Week, as well as helping on open days and other Students' Union events.

Angie Terry - Student Advisor

Angie has also been with us since January 2018. She provides high quality, independent information, advice and advocacy for all registered Aber students. While the Advice Service primarily supports students in University disputes, Angie also supports students with housing, money and wellbeing advice, either face-to-face or via email. The Advice Service also has a range of online information that students can use from the Students' Union website.

Steph East - Student Voice Coordinator

Steph works to empower students and student leaders to have a strong voice that shapes the Students' Union and beyond.

Steph facilitates a range of elections throughout the year and supports our main democratic meetings called zones and Senedd.

Any student can submit an idea online about what the Students' Union should do or believe, which if passed will become Students' Union policy for three years.

Steph has worked in the Students' Union since August 2018 as temporary cover while the usual post holder Chris Parry covers Communications coordination for a period of maternity leave.

Trish McGrath - AberSU CEO

My research

Jamie Terrill graduated with a BA in Film and Television Studies and an MA in Film Studies from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, before embarking on his PhD.

Describe your PhD research in a nutshell.

My research aims to explore the role and importance of the cinema within everyday rural Welsh life, prior to 1970.

To achieve this, I first studied archival sources to understand the spread and development of moving picture technology into Wales and its rural areas from the 1890s to the 1930s.

More recently, I distributed a questionnaire and carried out a series of interviews to collect memories of rural Welsh cinemagoing. In doing so, I've been able to consider an oral social history of the area, important for exploring history from below.

I'm just about to enter my write-up year and the findings of this research are starting to become clear.

What's a typical day for you?

For the first half of my PhD, I spent pretty much most days delving through the National Library of Wales' newspaper archive, tracing threads of cinema history and learning as much as possible about the social history of Aberystwyth (my case study area).

Currently I spend my days balancing interview transcribing and writing up my next (hopefully last) chapter.

In my spare time I enjoy recording music and reading auto-biographies.

What do you find most rewarding?

I've really enjoyed opportunities to present my research in a public setting. I recently co-hosted an evening event at Ceredigion Museum with BBC Radio 4's Francine Stock, in which we discussed Aberystwyth's cinema history to a non-academic audience.

Similarly, teaching undergraduate students has been a great experience, even marking assignments!

For me, it's important that my research has some form public impact, especially as I explore local history.

What do you find most challenging?

Transcribing interviews. There is nothing worse. Listening to your own voice slowed down by 50% is excruciating.

I also found it a challenge adapting to a work schedule that I had to set for myself, especially coming from full-time employment. I've found I have to treat myself a bit like a toddler and give myself rewards for good behaviour. For example, "you can watch one hour of Netflix over lunch if you write 1000 words before 1pm".



The Rink cinema which opened in 1913 in the Aberystwyth's old skating rink, located across from the current town library. Credit: National Library of Wales

Staff Mobility - Inspire, Improve and Develop



Erasmus+

Aberystwyth University prides itself on being an open community that welcomes students and staff members from all over the world.

The University is a Charter Member of the Erasmus programme, a European Union initiative to break down barriers between cultures by providing a platform that allows individuals to visit EU institutions, through work or study, forging new relationships and networks.

Through Erasmus, students have the opportunity to go abroad to study or work as part of their degree. But what about staff?

The Erasmus programme at Aberystwyth University also offers academic or administrative staff a chance to visit an EU institution (university or company) for up to five days to teach, job shadow, network or take part in seminars, workshops or language training, and much more.

Over the past five years, staff members from Aberystwyth have gone to dozens of places around Europe, including Athens, Paris, and Volda, Norway and in Fred Stanton's case, Tallinn, Estonia.



Here, International Exchanges Officer Fred tells us a bit about the motivation behind his desire to take up a Staff Mobility place.

How did you find out about this opportunity?

I'd heard about Staff Mobility and looked it up on the International Office webpages. The Erasmus Team gave me further information about where I could go and what sort of opportunities were available. They also mentioned that the University of Tallinn, Estonia had approached them about a partnership. I had never been to Estonia and had always been interested in exploring it. I also wanted to learn how my counterparts in a university on the other side of the continent conducted similar work to mine.

Why did you decide to do this Exchange?

As a former Erasmus Student myself, I knew the benefits of exchanging ideas and forging links with another culture.

I was also looking forward to exploring partnerships with different universities to open up more opportunity for exchange, and potentially translate into more international students coming to Aber. We have no Baltic country partners at the moment, and Tallinn is not

partnered with any university in Wales, so it's mutually beneficial for our small countries to have links with one another. This will help to increase our popularity with foreign students, both here and in Tallinn.

So, the Staff Mobility benefitted the University and me at the same time. I was able to meet with my counterpart at Tallinn University to discuss processes and explore different methods of working, and the University now has a new partnership in the works. It was a win-win situation.

What were the highlights of your experience?

It was the first time I've ever really had the chance to negotiate on a professional level before. In addition, meeting with colleagues in a similar position to me helped me understand that bureaucracy and red tape within the HE sector are universal; everyone is in the same boat - too much work and not enough hours in the day.

What I really liked was discussing their procedures for administration and their methods of marketing ideas. Amidst all this, I had the opportunity to learn about the history of Tallinn University and find out how we could have a mutually beneficial partnership.

In what ways did you benefit from this experience, both professionally and personally?

Whilst still being within the EU, Estonia is a country that is very different from what I have experienced previously. As I had no idea what to expect this really put me out of my comfort zone.

In terms of work, it gave me the confidence to explore beyond my small world and be more flexible. I now feel more confident in my own skills and my ability to fulfil what is required of me, and actually, I am more satisfied with my job. I am constantly looking at ways to improve my performance, take risks and to look for more opportunities to improve my work experience.

I know that I am part of a larger picture, that staff from other institutions may be very different culturally, and that geographically we are worlds apart, but we still have the same goal - to create a great experience for students.

Would you recommend Staff Mobility to colleagues?

I enjoyed the experience very much. It was easy to organise and it was fully funded, so my department was happy. It is one of the best experiences this job has offered me, so yes, I would definitely recommend it.

Recognition for contribution to LGBT+ life

Ruth Fowler, Communications and Equality Officer in Aberystwyth University's Human Resources Department, has been named one of the 40 most influential LGBT+ people in Wales.

Ruth features as a "rising star" in WalesOnline's *Pinc List* which celebrates the people who have contributed to LGBT+ life in Wales over the last year.

Ruth coordinates Enfys Aber, Aberystwyth University's staff lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender network.

Ruth also established Aberration, which is supported by the University and which hosts an annual programme of LGBT+ events and entertainment in mid Wales.

In 2018, Enfys Aber worked with community group SpringOut to take Aberration on the first tour of its kind around Wales. The programme included performances at the L festival at Llandudno, the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff, Aberystwyth Arts



Centre, and Galeri Caernarfon.

Now in its fourth year, the *Pinc List* is decided by a panel made up of people from the LGBT+ community, members of Pride Cymru and WalesOnline staff. In 2018, nominations were also invited for the first time from WalesOnline readers.

Appointment to Peer Review College



Dr Jamie Medhurst, Head of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies, has been appointed as a member of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF) Peer Review College.

The FLF is a flagship cross-UKRI programme to support early career researchers and innovators with outstanding potential in universities, UK registered businesses, and other research and user environments including research councils' institutes and laboratories. The FLF represents a major investment in research and innovation, with a £900 million investment being made to support fellowships of up to seven years.

Obituary

Professor Ian Fletcher QC (1944-2018)



Born in Yorkshire, Ian Fletcher studied law at Cambridge and Tulane. He joined the Department of Law at Aberystwyth in 1967 as an associate lecturer. He was promoted to senior lecturer in 1978, Reader in 1983 and was appointed to a chair in 1986. Ian was head of Department from 1985-88.

Ian's interest in European Law, and in particular the Common Market made a mark on the Aberystwyth law programme, and the department was one of the first in the country to introduce a course on what is now European Union Law.

He was for many years the warden of Carpenter Hall on the seafront and many of our alumni will remember him in that role. Ian was also a keen cricketer and was one of the stars of the Senior Commoners cricket team.

Ian established a reputation as one of the leading scholars in Insolvency Law. In 1991 he was appointed Professor of Commercial Law and Head of the Insolvency Law Unit at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary and Westfield College. In 2001 he moved to University College London to take up a chair in International Commercial Law. For many years Ian was a Bencher at Lincoln's Inn. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013.

Ian will be greatly missed as a generous, interested colleague and friend internationally. He achieved much in his career and leaves a valuable legacy to both academe and the legal profession.

Appointments

A warm welcome to colleagues who have joined the University in recent months, including:

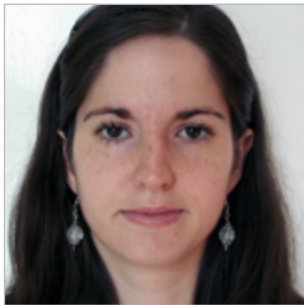
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences



Dr Muhammad Naveed Arshad has joined IBERS as a Post-Doctoral Modeler. Naveed received his PhD from the Department of Agronomy at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad-Pakistan and conducted his doctoral research in University of California, Davis, United States. He has vast

experience of Climate Change Studies using Crop Modeling and Remote Sensing/GIS. His current position focuses on the agricultural productivity potential of Wales.

Department of Geography and Earth Sciences



Dr Melissa Chapot is a new postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. She will be working with Professor Geoff Duller to date technological transitions at Stone Age archaeology sites in Zambia as part of the project 'Investigating the Deep Roots of Human Behaviour'.

Department of Computer Science



Dr Yanpeng Qu has returned to the Department of Computer Science as Sêr Cymru II COFUND Research Fellow. Yanpeng previously spent two years as a joint doctoral student at Aberystwyth and received his PhD from Dalian University of Technology. His project focuses on hierarchical granular computing based computer aided diagnosis.



Dr Yanfei Lan has also been appointed Sêr Cymru II COFUND Research Fellow in the Department of Computer Science. His research focuses on the logistics and supply chain optimization and algorithm.

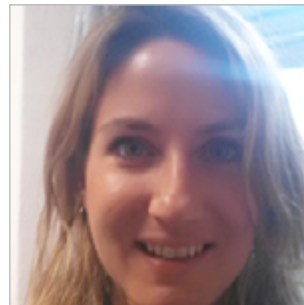
Aberystwyth Business School



Jonathan Fry has joined as a Lecturer in Business and Management (Welsh Medium). Originally from Cardiff, he is an alumnus of Cardiff Metropolitan University, graduating with a BA (Hons) Events Management, PgC Applied Social Research, MPhil and PGCE PcET. In 2012,

Jonathan launched his event evaluation business, Event Rater Ltd. The company won the 'Best Digital' award at the Lloyds Bank Enterprise Awards 2014 (Wales and South West England Heat). He has experience of working for the exam board WJEC as an examiner and moderator for the Event Operations qualification.

Department of International Politics



Dr Andrea Warnecke has joined the Department of International Politics as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow. She obtained her PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute (EUI), Florence. Her new project POLINGO analyses informal

interfaces between non-state and state-based forms of power and their implications for legitimacy claims in global governance.

Department of Psychology



Dr Alexander Taylor has joined the department as a lecturer. He recently moved from the University of East Anglia, where he was involved in multiple research projects and teaching. He has conducted research into dementia, emotion regulation, psychopharmacological interventions, neural network

function, ageing and well-being during his time at the University of Reading, the Institute for Stroke and Dementia (Ludwig Maximilian University) and the University of Southampton. His current research focus is on developing anxiety-models in older adults and using it to test outcome on wellbeing and physiological measures.

Aberystwyth Arts Centre School of Art Exhibitions

Macbeth - Merely Theatre

Wednesday 24 October



LOVE • WAR • WITCHRAFT •
MURDER • MADNESS

A couple's ambition consumes the kingdom of Scotland. A king's mind is poisoned by prophecy, power, and paranoia. A nation is led to the slaughter. To protect their world, those who lose the most must rise the highest.

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/theatre/macbeth-1

Meic Stevens

Thursday 1 November



Without doubt, one of the major figures of Welsh language popular music since the 1970s. Meic has composed and performed a wealth of songs in his own inspired but erratic fashion for four decades, and is still going strong.

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/music/meic-stevens

Chris Ramsey (The just happy to get out of the house tour)

Saturday 17 November

Critically acclaimed and award winning stand-up comedian, host of his own TV entertainment show and stand-up show on Comedy Central, *Celebrity Juice* regular and the only person to ever put Katie Hopkins in her place; Chris Ramsey brings his BRAND NEW 2018 live tour to venues this autumn following a sell-out spring run.



www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/comedy/chris-ramsey-live-2018



Make sure you pick up the Arts Centre autumn brochure, which is also available on the website:

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk

The School of Art Gallery is open

Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm. Admission is free.

David Ferry:

The Ruin of Picturesque Britain

8 October - 9 November 2018

Outdated picture guidebooks that portray an idealised landscape are the raw material for David Ferry's artworks. The pictorial books that Ferry uses are found in high-street charity shops. Slightly battered and discarded by their former owners, they show a Britain before the decline of recent decades.



'Connected Forms. White marble, resin and paint', David Ferry, 2015/16, Screenprint. Part of a series 'Public Sculpture in England' on loan to the National Trust.

Travelling Through: Landscapes/ Landmarks/Legacies

12 October 2018 - 8 February 2019

Drawn from the School of Art's extensive collection, *Travelling Through* traverses five centuries of visual culture ranging from sublime and picturesque landscapes to nineteenth-century travel photographs, twentieth-century London Underground posters and contemporary responses to our environment in a variety of media.

The exhibition, curated by Dr Harry Heuser, explores relationships between tourism and landscape art, between the consumption of signposted sights and the production of personal insights, between the fleeting experience of our journeys and the carbon footprint we leave behind.



'Platform Two', Steve Whitehead, 1985, oil and alkyd on canvas.