

Aber NEWS

Aberystwyth...one of the best places in the world to be a student

ISSUE 13 - May 2013



Representatives of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning which won the Department of the Year award – L to R: Students Craig Price and Kelly Roach; Head of Department, Dr Malcolm Thomas; Lecturer in Education, Dr Stephen Atherton; students Laura Ryan and Sarah Hall.

Students reward excellent support

Staff who stand out for their ability to inspire, challenge and engage students were recognised by the student body at this year's Student Led Teaching Awards held on 30th April.

Hosted by the Students' Union Education Officer Jess Leigh and Professor John Grattan, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Student Experience and International, this was the second year the event had been held.

The awards were a celebration of teaching excellence and the contribution of support staff and student representatives at the University. Nominations were invited from students both online and via conventional ballot boxes, a number of which were sited at different locations around the University.

In all over 250 nominations were received for the awards which recognised excellence in teaching, developing employability and supporting student welfare. The winners and runners up were chosen by a panel of judges: Jess Leigh Students' Union Education Officer, Rebecca Davies PVC, John Glasby SU Chief Exec, Grace Burton Students' Union Education Officer-elect and Kieron Rees Policy Officer NUS Wales.

Putting the success of the event down to enthusiastic participation of staff and students, organiser Jess Leigh said: "It was an opportunity for students to thank and reward staff from whatever part of their university life for the work they have done with them and for them and to celebrate together".

This year's event culminated in the School of Education and Lifelong Learning being presented with the accolade of Department of the Year.

Congratulations to all those who received an award and those who were nominated, and thank you to the hundreds of people who made nominations.

For a full list of winners, see page 2 of this edition of Aber NEWS.

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The teaching of Art

In the second of our series of articles focusing on developments at the University forty years ago, we consider the history of the School of Art. Although granted autonomy in 1973, as Professor Robert Meyrick (Head of the School of Art and Keeper of Art) explains, the teaching of Art here in Aberystwyth goes back a lot further:

Forty years ago the Visual Art Department was granted independence from the Education Department and moved to the former Department of Dairy Bacteriology on Llanbadarn Road. The teaching of art at Aberystwyth, however, has a much longer history. It will be celebrating its Centenary in 2017.

In the 1910s there was an increasing concern for the state of the visual arts in Wales. In 1917, when wealthy heiresses Gwendoline and Margaret Davies were considering turning Gregynog Hall into a rural crafts centre, Gwendoline wrote to the University offering to support the teaching of art and crafts and a museum. The sisters hoped that activities planned for Gregynog, together with the training of elementary and secondary school teachers at Aberystwyth, would lead to an Arts and Crafts Revival in Wales. The aim was to instruct and inspire trainee teachers to carry on the good work in schools - especially local schools, which would in turn foster revivals in local craft industries. Daniel Jones was appointed Drawing Master of the Department of Art and Crafts, a sub-department of Education, then based in Old College. Jones was assisted by the painter Valerius de Saedeleer and his daughters, a family of Belgian refugee artists brought to Wales by the Davies sisters in September 1914. Aberystwyth was the only British university to align itself with the Arts and Crafts Movement.

In 1933 art and crafts courses were included in BA degree schemes and the Department of Art and Crafts gained autonomy from the Education Department. As Head of Department, Dan Jones appointed the sculptor Robert Lambert Gapper as temporary assistant lecturer in 1934. The Department's autonomy was all too short lived. Within months, Gapper was carving a memorial stone for Dan Jones who died suddenly during the Michaelmas term that year.



Peter Tapley, Sculpture Fellow, Visual Art Department with students Linda Norris (left) and Deborah Nash (right), 1979

His death coincided with the arrival of a new Principal, Ifor Evans, who immediately curtailed the activities of the Department declaring there to be 'no place for art at Aberystwyth"! However, under the leadership of Gapper, and from 1962 David Tinker, the teaching of art continued in the Cambrian Street studios.



Painting Tutorial – Robert Meyrick (left) and Michael Harrison (right), 1987

In 1973, the subject was once again granted independence and a new building – offering firstly Joint, then Single, Masters and PhD degree schemes in art and art history. Until 1992, Aberystwyth was the only university in Wales to teach art and one of eight UK universities offering the subject.

During the early 1990s, the Edward Davies Chemical Laboratories was restored and adapted for a newly rebranded School of Art. It was opened by Vice-Chancellor Kenneth O Morgan in March 1994. The close proximity of staff and students fostered a strong sense of community and cooperation and the department quickly grew. With its dedicated studios, galleries and study room for its accredited museum collections of fine and decorative art, the Grade II* listed Edwardian building continues to offer a stimulating environment for staff and students engaged with the practice, history and curation of art.

The winners of this year's Student-Led Teaching Awards were:

Support staff of the year

Gwennan Creunant, Department of International Politics

Innovative Teaching

Dr Alun Hubbard, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences

Personal Tutor of the Year

Dr Balasz Pinter, Institute of Maths and Physics

Teaching through technology

Dr Madeline Carr, Department of International Politics

Employability Impact

Dr Iwan Owen, Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences

Outstanding teaching award

Mike Smith, Department of English and Creative Writing

Postgraduate rep of the year

Alexandra Kilcoyne, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences

Undergraduate rep of the year

Kevin Wingfield, Institute of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Department of the Year

School of Education and Lifelong Learning



VICE CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

I'm writing this column on the 56 Vermonter Amtrak train from Washington DC to Philadelphia. I regret to say it's raining (we have been told more than once that we've brought the wild West Wales weather with us), but that apart, it's shaping up as an excellent trip.

When there's so much to do at home, with preparations for graduation, our Open Day for the town and community ('Access All Areas') on 22 June, and the final stages of planning for our new Institutes, why do I think it's so important to travel internationally? It's all about making Aberystwyth visible, meeting our alumni, and preparing for our new International Strategy.

International trips offer us the opportunity, first of all, to connect with our alumni. Some might not have visited Aber for years – but how can we expect them to want to, or to maintain an interest in our future plans and perhaps even to contribute to those, if we won't make the effort to get out and about and see them? When I take part in alumni events like the one we hosted (thanks to the generosity of an alumna and the usual hard work from our colleagues in DARO) in Washington yesterday evening, I always sense a combination of affection and enthusiasm for Aber, and an intense interest in our plans. And I was very impressed that news of Hinterland / Y Gwyll had preceded us to the US!

The second reason for making international visits is to see partner institutions. Existing partnerships don't just keep going by themselves – they need looking after, and a return visit every year or two keeps us in touch and can sort out any minor niggles before they could become serious. Likewise, on each trip we may try to see one or two new prospective partner universities. Of course, research and teaching partnerships work best when we have 'champions' on each side with the enthusiasm and genuine interest to help them thrive; these are often the colleagues who recommend the partnership in the first place. And student exchanges or international recruitment are often driven by word of mouth recommendations from students who have already experienced what Aber has to offer – another reason for keeping in touch with our alumni, who are often the best ambassadors we could have. However, an initial visit from me or another member of the Executive, along with our International Office colleagues, can help establish that partnership and allow it to thrive.

Talking of our International Office, we've recently engaged three new colleagues to work with particular countries. Joining Rachel Tod, the Director of the International Office, and existing colleagues, are our new recruits Marian Gray for the Americas, Ula Wang for China and Hong Kong, and Amarjeet Mutneja for India. If you haven't yet met Marion, Ula and Amarjeet, and especially if your Department is interested in those particular markets, please do get in touch and see how they can help.

As you all know from the Strategic Plan, developing our International Strategy further and faster is key to delivering our targets, from collaborative research and student recruitment to creating opportunities for areas of the world where students and researchers would love to benefit from what we can offer at Aberystwyth, but may not be able to afford to come and join us in Wales. PVC John Grattan is currently working on a complete overhaul of our International Strategy, drawing on the Strategic Plan and on conversations with many of you; and you will be hearing much more about this very soon. I look forward to taking part in those discussions – just as soon as we've finished meeting alumni, partner universities and new friends, and handing out our rather lovely (and very original) Aberystwyth University lovespoons as we go!

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor



Alex Jones conferred a Fellow

The One Show presenter, Alex Jones returned to the University on 27 April to be confirmed as a Fellow.

Alex is an alumna of the University, who graduated with a BA in Drama in 1998. After graduating, Alex held a range of roles within the media, particularly as a children's television presenter for S4C.

During her visit, Alex was asked to participate in a mock *The One Show*, where students interviewed and filmed a short chat show programme, followed by an open session for students and staff where the audience asked a variety of questions.

Commenting on the Fellowship and her visit to Aberystwyth, Alex said: "It was a real pleasure to visit the University and a particular honour to receive the Fellowship. Aberystwyth is a very special place and I have some fantastic memories from my time here as a student."



L-R: Gwerfyl Pierce Jones, Vice-President of Aberystwyth University with Alex Jones.

Gold standard

Aberystwyth Arts Centre's box office team has been awarded the Gold level of the Ceredigion Language Charter. The purpose of the Ceredigion Language Charter is to raise awareness of Welsh and bilingual services that are provided across the county.

The Language Charter was developed by Ceredigion Dyfodol Dwyieithog, on behalf of the Ceredigion Local Service Board and highlights the provision of Welsh language services across the County and is open to every organisation, institution, service club or business in Ceredigion. There are three awards available, with Gold being the top one.

Arts Centre Deputy Director, Louise Amery, said: 'The Arts Centre has always been committed to offering a bilingual service for all our customers at the box office, and we're really proud of the team for their Gold Award.'



L to R: Carolyn Evans, Rachael Taylor James, Nerys Hughes, Lynette Evans, Hannah Crute, Nia Edwards-Behi, Sian Bennett

Springing into spring

Spring 2013 seems to have taken a long time to arrive but nevertheless on 1 March University staff put their best feet forward to see if we could walk, swim or cycle further than we had in previous years. In addition, to make the event this year a bit more competitive we challenged Bangor to see which University could go the furthest.

In spite of 4 weeks of freezing cold weather everyone set off at a cracking pace resulting in us reaching 26,000 miles just after Easter. Over the next 4 weeks, which were a little warmer, we managed to complete an extra 13,683 miles to give our final total this year of 39,683 miles!

Thanks as ever to the Sports Centre for providing the swim for a £1 to encourage staff to take a plunge in the pool, members of the HS&E office for pedometer packing and translations of the updates, the Aber-Bangor partnership for funding the free gifts and to Rob Johnson in Information Services who not only updated our website but also put together the Bangor 'Travel the World' website allowing us to challenge them. Without all the departments working together in both institutions, this event would not have been the success that it was.

We were delighted that about 20% of Aberystwyth University staff took part in this initiative and hope that this has encouraged staff to be more active in their lifestyles. The website will remain open for the next year so people can continue to log their activities and maybe even complete the individual challenge to travel around the coastline of the UK.

If you want to see which University travelled the furthest you can see the final update on the AU Health, Safety and Environment website - www.aber.ac.uk/en/hse/.

Best young novelists

Aberystwyth University alumna, Sarah Hall, who graduated in English and Art History in 1995, has been named as one of the twenty best young British novelists in *Granta* magazine's once-in-a-decade list.

Sarah Hall has written a number of prize-winning novels such as *Haweswater* (2003), *The Electric Michelangelo* (2004) and *The Carhullan Army* (2007), which was listed as one of *The Times* 100 Best Books of the Decade. Her most recent novel *How to Paint a Dead Man* (2009) was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. In 2011 she published her first collection of short stories, titled *The Beautiful Indifference*. Her work has been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Commenting on her time at the University, Sarah Hall said: "I think the English Department was instrumental in setting me on the road to becoming a writer. I took my first creative writing course at Aberystwyth, and it really lit a fire in my belly, and gave me the confidence to keep going. I have such fond memories of the place, and I'm very grateful to those lecturers who were so passionate and dynamic, and who instilled a lasting enjoyment of literature and writing in me."

For three consecutive decades, the *Granta* Best of Young British Novelists list has showcased an array of talented writers on the British literary scene.



Sarah Hall Credit: Richard Thwaites

Penglais BioBlitz – the record is still in sight



You know you are part of something extraordinary when a group of twenty or so people are prepared to rise before dawn on a cold and wet Saturday morning to go hunting for bats. They set off for two hours, ultra-sound detectors in hand, and returned still full of enthusiasm having not heard a squeak!

Yes the weather on Penglais Campus for BioBlitz was truly horrible – cold, wet even hailing at times – but that did not stop more than 200 enthusiasts from turning up through the day. A whole host of experts from many local interest groups helped lead sessions that covered everything from microbes to man.

The entire event took place over a frantic 24-hour period from midnight on Friday night to midnight on Saturday 11 May, with a handful of hardened fruit-bats staying awake throughout the entire day.

Now the dust has settled on the event it's still not clear what the grand total of species is, but it's somewhere over the 2000 mark. Those already on the database include: 1062 microbes, 450 higher plants, 14 mammals, 40 birds, 24 insects, 2 reptiles, 3 amphibians, 7 fish. The total species list seen on the day is still rising by the hour, with between 100 and 200 lichens still to be entered, for example. So there is a very real chance the record will fall.

Highlights of BioBlitz included new records of spiders and centipedes. For those more attracted to the cute and cuddly, our badgers, rabbits and squirrels all made an appearance, in spite of the weather and the May Ball.

Finally as the event was approaching its closing hours the hardy bat enthusiasts were rewarded by sightings of two species, the Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle, and as we all know – bats are "Ultra-Sound".

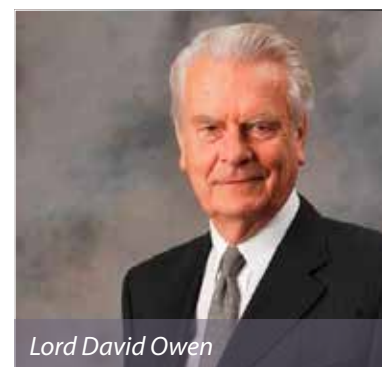
Eurozone crisis

On 16 April, Lord David Owen, a distinguished former British diplomat and cabinet minister, spoke at a packed Main Hall in the Department of International Politics on the subject of the European Union.

Lord Owen argued that Europe's crisis was not only about technical flaws in the adoption of a single currency, it was more fundamentally about the incompatibility of the different models that EU governments have been pursuing while claiming to be engaged in a common endeavour. He maintained that countries that see their future as part of an ever closer union should be free to pursue that goal, but that those who favour a union of self-governing states should have their sovereignty respected while being able to remain in a restructured single market. The lecture was recorded using AberCast and is available to view at: <http://abercast.aber.ac.uk/Panopto/Pages/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=37cd4ae1-8dfc-41a4-9680-c1881647db7a>

Lord Owen also gave a speech during a round table seminar the following day on Trident replacement or renewal and the movement for a world free of nuclear weapons; a movement in which he has played a prominent role. His

speech was intended to provide some fresh options and new ways of thinking about how to reduce the British nuclear arsenal and take further steps down the ladder towards 'Global Zero'. The seminar was well attended by staff and students and Lord Owen appreciated the opinions that were offered and thanked the department for hosting him during his two day visit. Lord Owen's speech is available to view at: <http://abercast.aber.ac.uk/Panopto/Pages/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=16edd3b6-5410-4a93-9023-d85722a4a5ac>



Lord David Owen

Timetable Project Update

As you will be aware, significant changes have been made to how the teaching timetable at the University works. The project team has been working with academic departments since October 2012 to improve the system and ensure that it meets the needs of the University, its staff and students. These changes will impact on staff across the University involved in teaching and timetable administration. If you would like to view the PowerPoint presentation for staff please email timetable-project@aber.ac.uk.

We welcome your feedback.

Llanbadarn

The new Institute of Management, Law and Information Science will be based at Llanbadarn by September 2013.

Over the summer months there are going to be a number of exciting developments taking place at Llanbadarn, aimed at making the student experience nothing short of excellent and ensuring a smooth transition to the new site. Teaching, learning and social spaces will be refurbishing and additional seminar and lecture rooms will be created. Construction work will begin in June.

If you have any questions about the move, please send them to llanbadarn@aber.ac.uk.



Research and European Development Officers

With the new Institute structure imminent, this edition's column explains how the Research and European Development Officers are to be structured to support researchers.

The Research Office's vision is to *deliver a customer orientated approach to increasing research income whilst reducing the research related administrative burden on researchers, and to provide an integrated systems solution to research monitoring and research outputs management.*

The Research and European Development Officers aim to work proactively with researchers in locating, securing and managing grants, thus enabling research and innovation to help the University achieve its strategic objectives.

In supporting researchers the team are involved at almost all stages of the research lifecycle and they:

- Provide new starter meetings to all new lecturing staff
- Provide PIVOT funding training for groups or individuals
- Identify funding streams or calls that are right for you
- Bring researchers together to explore funding specific interdisciplinary opportunities
- Direct researchers to the Research Office's European Unit for specialist help
- Organise events such as: Bitesize Funding Sessions, RCUK and Charity funder briefings, Pathways to Impact training, funder visits, monthly Research Cafés, and funder-specific briefing sessions
- Work with academics and researchers to write applications: designing and drafting pathways to impacts; justification for resources and other standard sections
- Help draft costings for research projects
- Identify potential international research collaborators
- Provide a 'sanity check' for all grant applications and first level approval for all applications submitted through Je-S
- Help negotiate with the European Commission or Wales European Funding Office at grant offer stage
- Attend Project Initiation and Management File (PIMF) meetings to handover to post-award support by Research Finance
- Provide Quality Assurance support to projects identified by institutional management as 'high risk'
- Support researchers in finding funding for the next stage of their research

At a departmental and institutional level the Research Office also:

- Works with Directors of Research to target funding opportunities by career stage
- develop research and impact strategy implementation plans.
- Liaise with Marketing and Communications and Public Affairs departments to promote research
- Work closely with Commercialisation and Consultancy Services (CCS) to identify and promote knowledge exchange or opportunities to commercialise research
- Keep in active communication with counterparts in other Welsh higher education institutions, particularly Bangor University through the Strategic Alliance, to add value to projects and to share best practice
- Lobby external funders for the inclusion of topics which are of particular departmental strategic interest
- Work with the International Office and Policy team to develop European projects
- Assist the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice (CDSAP) in providing Research Funding and Research Networking training for postgraduates

Specific additional projects and services the Research Development Officers work with, and can offer support and advice on, are:

- PIVOT – the funding opportunities database
- Ethics process and panel attendance
- High Performance Computing (HPC) Wales
- Research Application Toolkit: www.aber.ac.uk/en/research/support/toolkit/
- Research Data Management
- The Directory of Expertise
- EURAXESS Local Contact Point service to assist internationally mobile researchers to become research active as soon as possible after arriving at the University.

Contacting us:

First point of contact	Name	Email	Discipline
Research Office		research@aber.ac.uk	
Research Finance		rfo@aber.ac.uk	
Institute point of contact	Name	Email	Discipline
Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts	Dafydd Roberts	dir@aber.ac.uk	Arts and Humanities
Institute of Education, Professional and Graduate Development	Jennifer Deaville	jfd@aber.ac.uk	Social Sciences
Institute of Geography, History and Politics	Joanne Walker	jnw@aber.ac.uk	Sciences
Institute of Management, Law and Information Science			
Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science			
Institute of Human Sciences			
Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS)*	Helen Lloyd	hll@aber.ac.uk	IBERS Research Officer – first point of contact for IBERS Research Development team

*IBERS has its own Research Development team who work closely with the Research Office.

Researchers are also welcome to contact the Research Development Officer for their own discipline, i.e. Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences or Sciences, and anyone across the University with an interest in European Research or Structural Funding opportunities are welcome to contact europa@aber.ac.uk directly.

Gary Reed, Head of the Research Office

Holding back the flood

Recent research published by a collaboration of plant scientists from across the UK, show that a new grass species' hybrid developed by plant breeders in IBERS has the potential to alleviate flooding.

The IBERS researchers, part of a team of BBSRC-funded scientists from across the UK, studied a *Festulolium* variety, a grass hybrid derived from perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*). The team hoped to show that integrating the rapid establishment and growth rate of the ryegrass with the large, well developed root systems of the meadow fescue would improve soil structure that could reduce flooding.

Over two years of field experiments in Devon the team demonstrated that the hybrid can capture more water in soils than is possible with current agricultural grasses. This then reduces runoff which could help minimise flood generation.

More detailed and longer studies are required to fully determine the full potential of *Festulolium* for flood control but the signs are very promising.

If the results at a larger scale reproduce outcomes found in the pilot studies then a very cost effective technology becomes available for flood control.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2013/04/title-129770-en.html



Dr Mike Humphreys and the 'Festulolium' hybrid

Native Welsh ponies unique



Carneddau ponies

IBERS researchers have established that the wild ponies grazing the Carneddau Mountains in northern Snowdonia are a genetically unique population, the existence of which should be safeguarded.

The study, the first into the genetic characteristics of the wild ponies whose habitat reaches heights of over 600 metres, was undertaken using samples collected at the annual round-up of ponies above the village of Llanfairfechan.

Hair samples were collected from a number of UK native pony breeds; Welsh Section A, Welsh Section D, Connemara and Highland ponies and from the Carneddau ponies during their autumn round up. DNA was extracted from the hair and tested by IBERS scientists.

Preserving the genetic resource provided by the Carneddau ponies is particularly important since recent snow storms led to the death of many of these animals, dramatically reducing their numbers.

The existence of the Carneddau ponies is also threatened by financial pressures, including the costs associated with the legal requirement to passport and microchip every equine in the UK. Populations deemed 'rare' receive special exemption from the need for passports and microchips whilst remaining free-living.

The Carneddau ponies play a vital role in the mountain ecology of the Snowdonia National Park, as part of a grazing scheme which maintains the preferred habitat for the red-billed chough, an endangered bird.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2013/04/title-129704-en.html

From the Shadows: The Prints of Sydney Lee



Sydney Lee

Professor Robert Meyrick from the School of Art has researched and curated an exhibition of works by one of Britain's most significant yet overlooked

painter-printmakers, Sydney Lee RA (1866–1949).

Primarily a painter, Lee was widely acclaimed during his lifetime for his prints of landscapes, town scenes and historic buildings, executed in a remarkable variety of sizes and media. From the Colosseum in Rome to the summit of Snowdon and the windmills of Kent, he travelled throughout Britain and Europe in search of subjects both epic and picturesque.

Despite his many achievements, however, Lee did not gain lasting critical acclaim. On his death, his studio was dispersed piecemeal, and no archives survived. Until now, there has never since been an exhibition or publication about his works.

This project was the outcome of 20 years' research, documenting prints that languished in museum stores or private lofts, attempting to recreate a life through art, offering a new appreciation of a once important figure, historical practices and artefacts.

Robert Meyrick's exhibition for the Royal Academy of Arts and accompanying fully illustrated and annotated catalogue, offer a long overdue appraisal of Sydney Lee's contribution to British art and the first accurate chronology of Lee's printed works. For more information on the exhibition, visit: www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions/the-tenant-gallery/from-the-shadows,457,RAL.html, and to see four short films of Robert Meyrick discussing Sydney Lee and his work, visit: www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra-magazine/blog/video-shining-a-light-on-sydney-lee,390,BAR.html

The exhibition continued at the Royal Academy of Arts until 26 May and will be on display at the School of Art Gallery throughout the summer – see page 16 of this edition of **AberNEWS**.

Exchange



This is a slightly nostalgic *Exchange* article for me to write, as by the time you read this I will have left AU to take up a new post at the Technology Strategy Board. I'm looking forward to getting to grips with my new role, but my years in CCS have been such happy ones that I can't leave without a twinge or two of sadness! That's particularly the case because this is a really exciting time for AU, with the Planning

Round giving us all the chance to better understand how departments are responding to the Strategic Plan targets, and the role they need us in the professional service departments to play in delivering their plans. I was very interested to see how many departments highlighted Continuing Professional Development courses as an area that they would like to develop; this is an area which CCS supports and will continue to support, adapting our offering as departments tell us what would help them most.

In this edition we are very pleased to announce Carla Humphrey's appointment as Contracts Officer, replacing Catrin Lewis who recently left to join the International Office, and to say a fond farewell to Adrian Harvey who is taking up a new post as Institute Manager. We're also delighted to congratulate Rhian Hayward on her appointment to the Welsh Industrial Development Advisory Board.

In closing I would like to highlight the opportunity for academic colleagues to attract A4B funding for collaborative projects with business. A4B are approaching the final year of their current funding cycle, and are keen to think more flexibly about the projects they fund in order to pilot new ideas ahead of their bid to WEFO for further Structural Funds. If you have any projects which involve working with companies and would like to discuss whether they might be suitable for A4B funding, please contact James Hudson (jmh) or Rhian Hayward (rih) in CCS in the first instance.

Liz Flint, Director, Commercialisation and Consultancy Services

Sparking Impact

Aberystwyth University and IBERS have been successful in securing a total of £200k from the BBSRC 'Sparking Impact Fund' to support a diverse range of knowledge exchange and commercialisation activities.

This new funding stream provides colleagues with an excellent opportunity to accelerate the impact of research that has previously received BBSRC investment.

The funding is targeted at progressing early stage ideas with commercial potential - eligible activities include developing ways to enable potential users to understand the benefits of the ideas / technology, conducting market research and gathering market intelligence.

Pump priming funds of up to £20k per project will be invited through a competitive application process and awarded by Aberystwyth's Sparking Impact Committee.

Researchers interested in preliminary discussions are welcome to contact James Hudson jmh@aber.ac.uk or Jamie Newbold cjn@aber.ac.uk in advance of the formal call being announced.

Aberystwyth University Business Network

The Aberystwyth University Business Network was pleased to welcome Dewi Jones, CEO of Innovis Ltd to speak at the spring event on 29th April. Spun out from the University eleven years ago, Innovis currently has centres across the UK and is the leading supplier of breeding technologies to the UK sheep industry.

Dewi shared the challenges and achievements of the company since he first addressed the network in 2008, including the development of a clear vision and growth strategy for the company from a regional to a world class business. The importance of innovation and the role of research and development were highlighted in the presentation alongside examples of knowledge exchange projects involving researchers from IBERS.

Amongst the guests on the night was Jake Stainer, second year Marketing and Spanish student who was presented by the Vice-Chancellor as the winner of the inaugural InvEnterPrize competition.

To receive information about future Business Network events, please contact business@aber.ac.uk



Dewi Jones, CEO Innovis Ltd and Professor April McMahon, Vice Chancellor

Exciting new opportunity for entrepreneurial students

The University has many initiatives, programmes and events running to support students looking to set up new enterprises upon graduation, something which is becoming increasingly significant in the current graduate job market.

However, there are also students at Aberystwyth who would like to ‘experience’ running a business enterprise, alongside their studies, either as a taster for running a business after graduation or as an excellent learning experience.

The University’s Enterprise Manager, Tony Orme, has identified this need from students he has spoken with and has set up Aberystwyth’s own ‘Young Enterprise Start-up Programme’.

Aberystwyth is only the second Welsh University (the first being our alliance partner Bangor University) to adopt the brand new programme which is run as part of the well respected and established Young Enterprise (YE) organisation.

Groups of undergraduates with business ideas are given the facilities they need to form real businesses and to run these enterprises for 12 months with full support from Young Enterprise, the University’s Enterprise Manager and our partner organisations including Antur Teifi, the local enterprise agency.

A launch event, attended by 30 students, has led to two YE teams being set up so far.

One comprises a number of Computer Science undergraduates who are using the programme to set up an innovative web-based ‘facilities’ service and other is looking at promoting the work of student artists.

Over the coming twelve months each group of students will be supported by local business people to develop their ideas, build a strong management team and to go about trading in the local area.

This is being run as a pilot, with a view to rolling the programme out to more teams over coming years.

For more information about the YE Start-up Programme contact Tony Orme, Enterprise Manager: awo@aber.ac.uk - www.aber.ac.uk/crisalis

New Staff

Aberystwyth alumna Carla Humphreys has joined the CCS team as Contracts Officer. Working alongside Chris Heidt, Carla’s role includes drafting, negotiating and reviewing contracts across the University including those related to: Confidentiality Agreements, Material Transfer Agreements, Collaboration Agreements and Sub Contracts.



Upon graduating from Aberystwyth’s Legal Practice Course, Carla gained commercial experience at a Mid Wales based telematics company where her remit included implementing quality systems in the business.

Non Lavarro has taken up a secondment to the post of Skills and Enterprise Officer working as part of the CADARN Skills Centre team. A Business Studies graduate from Aberystwyth, Non’s background includes working for a research centre at Newcastle University, Australia as well as experience closer to home within the Research Office at Aberystwyth. A key part of Non’s role is to liaise with colleagues within the University alongside external organisations to identify areas for potential CPD development.



Ministerial Advice

Dr Rhian Hayward, a member of the Technology Transfer team in CCS, has recently been appointed to the Welsh Industrial Development Advisory Board (WIDAB) by the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart.

The WIDAB advises the Minister on financial assistance to industry.

Discussing the appointment, Rhian explained “I am very pleased to have been selected by the Minister to sit on this Board. There is tremendous activity currently on going in Welsh Government to facilitate innovation in Wales and inward investment to the region.

WIDAB plays an important role in advising Welsh Government on financial assistance to companies for large capital projects. The applicant companies are often multinational organisations as well as national ‘anchor’ companies and the projects recommended are key to safeguarding jobs and job creation by attracting these industry players to Wales.

As a WIDAB member I will have the opportunity to interact with all the Sector Teams in Welsh Government tasked with attracting business to our region. I look forward to these interactions and to bringing my university perspective as well as my commercial experience to the Board.”



Rhian Hayward

COMMERCIALISATION and CONSULTANCY SERVICES

For information or support relating to knowledge exchange opportunities drop us a line, or call into our offices on the first floor of the Visualisation Centre.

CCS central enquiry service: ccservices@aber.ac.uk – ext 2385 - www.aber.ac.uk/ccs

Engaging the world

Professor Richard Marggraf Turley, Professor of Engagement with the Public Imagination, and Professor Nigel Scollan, Professor of Engagement with Science, consider the task facing them and discuss just one of the exciting ways in which they intend to make the campus more of a participative space.

At a time of well-publicised funding constraints in Higher Education, the question “What is the role of a university?” is more urgent than ever. Here at the University we believe an important part of the answer lies in the relation between an academic institution and the community that supports and nourishes it. That’s where “public engagement” comes in. The aim of engagement is to help people to feel promoted within themselves to explore otherwise unrealised, untapped potential. Put another way, engagement is an intellectual rendezvous, two-way traffic, transformative encounter.

As the University’s new engagement professors, our task – an enjoyable one – is to inspire people of all walks of life. This mission holds as much for non-students as for our traditional student body. Any visitor to Aberystwyth will tell you there’s nowhere quite like this utterly extraordinary town. It always manages to go beyond touristic rhetoric into a lived, imaginative experience that is genuinely unique and unforgettable. A key part of

the magical mix, as any visitor will sense, is the community-university bond.

Our recent appointments as engagement professors underscore the University’s commitment to making its campus even more of a participative space. A site of learning, yes, and one of the UK’s most prestigious, not to mention oldest (it was recently described as “Potterian” by a US newspaper). But we also strive to make it a place of wider inspiration and encouragement. Universities used to think of themselves as repositories of knowledge that could be “transferred” to the public in a one-way direction. Aberystwyth University, as a modern higher education institution, is dedicated to two-way engagement, a process that depends for its vitality and energy on conversations and collaborations, on mutual ownership. These values are central to everything we want to be.

With the above in mind, then, we are delighted to announce an exciting campus event especially designed for the local community and visitors to Aberystwyth, which we’ve dubbed *Access All Areas*. Scheduled for 22 June, 10am-3pm, it extends an invitation to everyone in the town and surrounding area, and to anyone visiting or on their holidays. People of all ages and interests can get more closely acquainted with the University and its staff, and take part in a range of hands-on activities, both



Professor Nigel Scollan (left) and Professor Richard Marggraf Turley

entertaining and educational.

Highlights include fuelling a volcano, painting and animation, treasure hunting in our botanical gardens, presenting your own TV show, seafront robotics at the “Beachlab”, sampling delicious foodie treats, experiencing sensory deprivation in our psychology labs as well as exploring other state-of-the-art scientific equipment. We’ll also be putting on a variety of musical attractions, including local schools’ ensembles, and offering discounted refreshments at our hospitality outlets. Free return transport will be provided for “off-Penglais campus” tours. The day’s activities are timed to dovetail with the popular Mid Mad festival at the Arts Centre.

With this spirit of engagement in mind, we hope as many people as possible will come along to *Access All Areas* and discover – or perhaps re-discover – our amazing campus. Whether it’s experimental poetry or DNA sequencing instruments that interest them, or simply a good walk around the Plas gardens and a cup of tea, we’ll have something for everybody on 22 June.

STUDENT NEWS

Jailbreak students reach France

A ‘jailbreak’ fundraising hitchhike event organised by Aber RAG (Raising and Giving) raised over £2,000 for charity and covered a distance of 1,426 miles.

The challenge saw six teams setting out from Aberystwyth Arts Centre on the morning of Saturday 23 March. Each team had 36 hours to travel as far as possible without spending money on transport, instead relying on their powers of persuasion to obtain lifts and free tickets.

The winning team ‘Blythberg’, named after its two members, English and Creative Writing undergraduate, Hannah Blythen, and Law and Criminology undergraduate, Jacob Kreyberg, finished in Vendome, France on Sunday 24 March after a 438 mile journey from Aberystwyth.

The final destinations for other teams included Lille, Dover, Portsmouth, London and Liverpool.

The event raised money for international development charity Practical Action, which works alongside some of the world’s poorest people, helping to alleviate poverty in the developing world through the innovative use of technology.

So far this year Aber RAG members have raised around £6,000 for charities including Ceredigion Care Society, Children in Need, the Poppy Appeal and Whizz Kidz. In August a team of fourteen Aberystwyth students will be doing the Inca trail to Machu Picchu for Childreach International.



Students at the start of the Aber RAG Jailbreak Challenge. Photograph courtesy of the Cambrian News, www.cambrian-news.co.uk

Student Housing Survey praised in Parliament

Aberystwyth University Students’ Union has been praised in Parliament following the publication of the Student Housing Survey Report 2012, which seeks to raise the standard of student housing in Aberystwyth and educate students in their rights as tenants. Parliament recognised the work the University has done, and is doing, to ensure that sufficient affordable student housing stock of a satisfactory standard exists for every student in Aberystwyth.

Successful annual debating tournament

Aberystwyth’s annual debating tournament (the “Baillie Gifford Aber Open”) was held in the Old College during the last weekend in April.

Around one hundred participants and adjudicators from universities across the UK attended the tournament to compete in four rounds of competitive debating: a record attendance. Debating was performed in the “British Parliamentary” style – in which four teams of two speakers each compete against one another.

Proceedings were opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor April McMahon. It is, to the knowledge of the Debating Union, the first time in its one hundred year history that the Vice Chancellor of the University has attended such an event – an occasion which was marked by the recognition of Professor McMahon as an Honorary Life Member.



Equality Events and Accreditation:

By Olymbia Petrou, Equalities Advisor, opp@aber.ac.uk, Tel: 8598

JANUARY 2013:

- The University improved its ranking from 305 to 199 on Stonewall's Workplace Index, a 106 improvement in rank. Stonewall Cymru have congratulated us on this achievement and are actively encouraging us to make the 'Top 100' index next year.

FEBRUARY 2013:

- We had a film screening of 'Call Me Kuchu' at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on the persecution of gay and lesbian people in Uganda. The event coincided with LGBT History Month. The LGBT network participated in a Q&A panel which included Bisi Alimi, Nigerian LGBT and human rights activist. An interesting evening was had by all.
- Staff and students volunteered and participated in a Multicultural 'Embracing Diversity in our Community' event at Y Morlan Centre organised by Mind Cymru. The event provided an afternoon of cultural experiences with delicious Indian and Welsh food, workshops and traditional Welsh dance performances.
- The University successfully fulfilled the criteria for Two Ticks - Positive about Disability accreditation, its 10th year of running the scheme.

MARCH 2013:

- The celebration of International Women's Day saw the organisation of many events including the re-launch of Women's Roundtable, open readings by the Department for English and Creative Writing, a Women's Workout at the Sports Centre, a discussion on women in politics by the Department of International Politics and a Young Women's Mentoring Event organised by Widening Access and Social Inclusion to help support young local women aged 12-16 by providing mentoring and role models. Thank you to everyone who helped organise these and other interesting events, especially to the Department of Psychology who helped to co-ordinate this celebration.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Senior Research Leaders' Programme

Five members of staff have been nominated by the Vice-Chancellor to take part in the Senior Research Leaders' Programme, which is being provided jointly by the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education and the Welsh Government.

Professors Heike Roms, Mark Whitehead, Jamie Newbold, Milja Kurki and Dr Joanne Hudson will represent the University at the event in July.

The programme is designed to enable participants to develop further strategic leadership skills, acquire a clear understanding of the emerging national and international research policy and funding landscapes, and explore how this translates to Aberystwyth University strategies.

New Grievance Procedure

Following negotiation with the recognised trade unions and subsequent agreement by the University's Professional Development and Staffing Committee and Council, a new grievance procedure has been agreed for the use of all University staff.

The revised procedure gives a new framework for ALL staff grievances and includes additional guidance on mediation, informal resolution, and the support available to staff to resolve grievances.

If you would like any more information, the revised procedure is available on the Human Resources web page (www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/), or you can contact your HR team. This procedure will form part of a collective agreement with the trade unions, which will be finalised shortly.

Right to Work in the UK

Staff in some departments may already have received a request from HR for evidence of their Right to Work in the UK and for those not yet contacted we will be doing so shortly.

To some people this seems strange, particularly to those who have been working here for many years. However, we have to ensure that the University is compliant with the legal requirements of the UK Border Agency. A copy of either a passport or birth certificate will suffice and thanks to all those who have already provided certificates.

We are asking, at the same time, for personal details to be updated either through self-service which can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/ or by returning the form sent to you. This ensures that we have correct information about you and in an emergency can get hold of someone on your behalf.

Careers Service Achieves Quality Mark

The University's Careers Service has been accredited with the nationally recognised quality mark for organisations delivering information, advice and guidance services – the matrix Standard.



The registered matrix assessor used a range of methods to gather evidence from a variety of sources: students, graduates, academic colleagues, employers and external partners, Careers Service staff, and naturally occurring evidence such as the website, procedures, performance monitoring data, planning documents and feedback reports. The Careers Service received immediate accreditation in recognition of the excellent standards maintained across the department in their work with students, graduates, colleagues and employers.

The assessor's report noted that: "The delivery team are highly experienced, committed and dedicated to student progression and are eager to grow its presence within the University. The Careers Service has built and nurtures an exceptional range of partners and networks. Internal relationships with the various strands of student support services are fully embedded and improving dialogue with academic departments is enabling the Service to forge new partnership working with real purpose."

ABER PEOPLE

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol

Dr Eleri Pryse, Reader and Deputy Director of Learning and Teaching in the Institute of Mathematics and Physics, has been appointed Chair of the Editorial Board of *Gwerddon*, the Welsh-medium academic e-journal funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, from 1 August.

First published in 2007, 14 editions of *Gwerddon* have been published to date with 5 planned for 2013. The journal has an Editorial Board of 16 members representing higher education institutions. For more information, visit www.gwerddon.org.



Dr Eleri Pryse new Chair of the Editorial Board of Gwerddon, with retiring chair Dr Hefin Jones.

International Medieval Congress

Professor Björn Weiler, from the Department of History and Welsh History, and co-director of the Institute of Medieval & Early Modern Studies at Aberystwyth and Bangor, has joined the programming committee of Europe's largest humanities conference.

Bjorn will coordinate the special thematic strand on 'Empire' at the International Medieval Congress, which in 2014 takes place in Leeds.

Activities will include sessions, round tables and discussions about the role of settlers, merchants, rulers and others in creating and fashioning empire; the typology and experience of empire; the traditions and representations of empire, but also the influence of medieval concepts and practices of empire on their post-medieval successors.

Rural health and community wellbeing

Mr Manoj Kulshrestha has been appointed as Wales' first Reader in Rural Health and Community Wellbeing.

The appointment, which represents a unique partnership between Aberystwyth University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, and Hywel Dda Health Board, recognises the opportunity available to the NHS and local universities in West Wales to work strategically in partnership and redefine how policies and services can improve the health and wellbeing of those living in rural communities.

The post is responsible for leading research and policy development for the partner universities and Hywel Dda Health Board in relation to four key areas: Community cohesion and engagement; The role of health and wellbeing in rural regeneration; Improved access to services in a rural area; Service integration and workforce development/models.

Mr Kulshrestha, a prominent Consultant Ophthalmologist based at Bronglais Hospital and North Road Surgery in Aberystwyth, took up the role on 1 May 2013 for an initial 12 month period.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2013/04/title-128673-en.html

Expert witness

In February, **Professor Mike Foley** from the Department of International Politics, appeared as an expert witness in front of the House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee. He contributed to the Committee's hearing on the highly contentious subject of the role and powers of the Prime Minister – a theme on which he has written extensively.

The Committee is currently examining the way in which UK Prime Ministers interpret and exercise their role in a changing political and constitutional context. There is a particular interest in the increasingly presidential style of the office and how this relates to the issues of prerogative powers and political accountability. Professor Foley's oral evidence followed on from his written evidence to the Committee in 2011.

International Legal Information Invitation

In February, **Lillian Stevenson**, Academic Services Manager and Law Librarian represented the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) at the Joint Study Institute held at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

The keynote address by Michael Kirby, Australia's longest serving High Court Judge (now retired) highlighted the part Australia played in establishing one of the first Legal Information Institutes (Australasian Legal Information Institute [AustLII]) which provides free access to legal information. Many countries have followed this example including the UK and Ireland (British and Irish Legal Information Institute [BAILII]).

Aberystwyth University has established links with the University of Melbourne and Lillian was able to discuss library support for a potential international collaborative research project with Professor Caron Beaton-Wells from their School of Law. Professor Beaton-Wells is working with Professor Chris Harding from the Department of Law & Criminology on a research proposal on the criminalisation of business cartels.

Appointment

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Amarjeet Mutneja has been appointed as International Officer. After graduating with an MBA from UWIC in 2010, Amarjeet has since been working in the UK Higher Education sector helping other students come to study here. Born and raised in India, Amarjeet mainly covers South Asia as part of his job role at AU.



ABER PEOPLE

Aber to Amsterdam



700 miles, 6 countries, 5 days. It's a task on a scale that wouldn't be out of place on the schedule of a world-famous stage race like the Tour de France. But that's exactly the challenge facing three members of University staff this summer as they set about riding from Aberystwyth to Amsterdam.

Head of Residential Services, Tom Bates; Institute Manager for the Institute of Management, Law and Information Science, Adrian Harvey and Dafydd Davies from Design, Web & Printing, will be joined by seven other amateur riders, including Paul Rowland, son of Professor Diane Rowland (Law and Criminology) and recently retired Computer Science senior lecturer, Jem Rowland.

Starting on 22 June, the group will spend around 12 hours every day in the saddle as they tackle a daily average of 140 miles on their journey across northern Europe, passing through Wales, England, France, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands on the epic route.

The aim of the ride is to raise a huge sum of money for the team's four chosen charities - Wales Air Ambulance, Ty Hafan, Great Western Air Ambulance, and Macmillan.

Commenting on Aberystwyth to Amsterdam marathon, Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin Jones said: "This is a true Tour de Force. The ride covers some of the historic cycle routes of Europe and following the crank revolutions of the greats. This is an important

town and gown event, with the University being a lead sponsor and donating cycling jerseys to the riders. I would like to congratulate the team for putting this together, building an excellent website to promote the event, and raising the charity bar for Wales and beyond".

For more information about the mission and how to donate, plus pictures, videos and updates, visit www.abertoamsterdam.co.uk.



L to R: Aber to Amsterdam riders: Paul Rowland, Tom Bates, Adrian Harvey and Dafydd Davies.

Charity skydive

Michelle Barchus, from the IBERS student administration team, recently took part in a free-fall skydive from 13,000ft to raise money for charity.

Michelle raised £1,057 for Mind (www.mind.org.uk), a charity which aims to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all.

Michelle said: "I would like to say a big thank you to all those who sponsored me. The whole experience was exhilarating and unforgettable."



Michelle Barchus

Promoting Healthy Living

The Student Support department, which supports student success and achievement within the University, has granted each Hall of Residence a sum of money towards arranging activities that are inclusive and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The staff and students of Pantycelyn, the University's only Welsh language hall, decided to hold a Mabolgampau, an event reminiscent of a school sports days.

The event took place in the University Sports Cage on Sunday 28 April, and involved a number of fun activities including egg and spoon races, six legged races and tug of war. The aim of the event was to bring together the hall community in a fun and healthy environment.



The winners of the Pantycelyn 'Promoting Healthy Living' sports day: L to R: Megi Williams, Dafydd Williams, Mabon ap Gwyn, Gruffydd Parry, Gwion Emlyn Williams and Beca Glyn.

The team that won the event was presented with a cup and there were prizes for the best team costume. Refreshments aimed at boosting health were provided for those students taking part.

Dance success

Photographed are Arts Centre Dance School and Youth Theatre pupils who are going on to further their career in dance, drama and/or musical theatre.

Front Row (left to right)

Hannah Goodchild - Certificate in Ballet Teaching studies at the Royal Academy of Dance

Manon Tomlinson - BA in Classical Ballet & Dance Performance at Ballet West

Bethan Pearce - Pre-Vocational Course in Dance & Theatre performance at Doreen Bird College

Back Row (left to right)

Orion Hart - 1 year foundation course in Contemporary Dance at Rubicon Dance, Cardiff

Sam Ebenezer - BA (Hons) in Musical Theatre at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts

Joe Scannell - Joe has been offered 3 year Dance and Musical Theatre Diploma at Laine Theatre Arts, Doreen Bird College & the Urdang Academy – he has yet to decide which one he will be accepting.

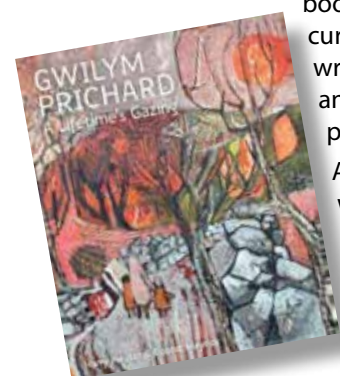


Bookshelf

Gwilym Prichard: A Lifetime's Gazing; co-authors Dr Harry Heuser and Professor Robert Meyrick

This newly published volume reassesses the work on one of Wales' best-loved painters. Prichard's oils, gouaches, watercolours, pastel and mixed media compositions chart the long, distinguished career of a man who 'did not set out to be an artist' but who continues to invigorate landscape art in a practice that is rooted in 'a lifetime's gazing'. Heuser and Meyrick's companion volume on Prichard's painter wife of 60 years, Claudia Williams, will be published in September. The books are the culmination of over ten years' curating touring exhibitions of their works, writing catalogues, conducting interviews and having unrestricted access to their personal archives.

An exhibition of Gwilym Prichard's work will be held in the School of Art to coincide with the publication - see page 16 for more information.



Obituaries

Ifan Gruffydd Moelwyn Hughes (1931-2013)

Ifan Moelwyn Hughes graduated in Physics from Aberystwyth in 1954. After working for a number of years in London, Ifan returned to Wales in 1970 and was appointed head of the Computer Unit (now part of Information Services) at a time when computer science was evolving rapidly. Ifan brought expertise to his role and was adept in identifying emerging trends. When he retired in 1996 he left an operation vastly greater and more complex than the small beginnings of the 1960s. Over several decades, Ifan also gave his time generously to the Aberystwyth Old Students' Association (OSA) and Seilo and Capel y Morfa chapels, as well as serving on the council of the National Library of Wales.



Lynda Rollason (1946 - 2013)

Lynda joined the Careers Service in 1998 and became the University's Placement Manager for Cymru Prosper Wales and subsequently for GO Wales. In both roles she arranged many placement opportunities for students and graduates across the mid-Wales region. Lynda went on to become the Work Experience Manager for the Service and successfully led the work experience team.

A well-respected and popular member of staff, Lynda would always go out of her way to support students, colleagues, and employers alike, and will be remembered fondly for her boundless energy and enthusiastic approach to her work.

Professor Gareth Elwyn Jones, MBE (1939 - 2013)

Professor Gareth Elwyn Jones began his career with Aberystwyth in October 1990 as Professor in Education and was appointed Head of Department of Education and Dean of the Faculty of Education in October 1991 until his retirement due to ill-health in July 1993.

His boundless energy, interest and enthusiasm for education generally, let alone history, inspired everyone who knew and worked with him. He was highly respected by staff and showed support to students and colleagues alike.

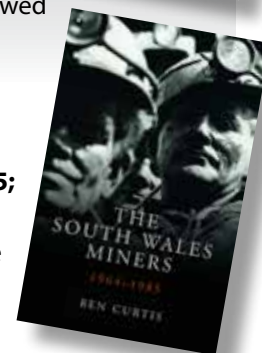


The South Wales Miners 1964-1985; Ben Curtis

The booming coal industry of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was the main reason behind the creation of modern south Wales, and its miners were central to shaping the economics, politics and society of south Wales during the twentieth century.

This book by Ben Curtis, Research Associate at the Department of History and Welsh History, explores the history of these miners between 1964 and 1985, covering the concerted run-down of the coal industry under the Wilson government, the growth of miners' resistance, and the eventual defeat of the epic strike of 1984-5. Their interactions with the wider trade union movement and society during these years meant the miners were among the most important strategically-located sections of the British workforce during this time.

The South Wales Miners, 1964-1985 is the first full-length academic study of the miners and their union in the later twentieth century, a tumultuous period of crisis and struggle.



WHAT'S ON

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

International Ceramics Festival

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June

The UK's leading ceramics event which attracts about 1,000 people for a jam-packed programme of lectures, practical demonstrations, special exhibitions, spectacular firings and trade stalls.

The trade stalls and exhibitions are open to the general public throughout the weekend – all are welcome. There will also be community hands-on activities which everyone can take part in.

The International Ceramics Festival is organised by Aberystwyth Arts Centre and North and South Wales Potters Associations. The main festival sponsor is Potclays Ltd.

For more information, and for a list of guest artists for 2013, see:

www.internationalceramicsfestival.org

SCHOOL OF ART EXHIBITIONS

Monday 17 June – Friday 6 September
- Galleries 1 and 2

From the Shadows: The Prints of Sydney Lee

Researched and curated by Robert Meyrick, this exhibition is a long overdue celebration of the art of Sydney Lee (1866-1949) and offers an opportunity to rediscover the work of one of Britain's most significant yet overlooked painter-printmakers. The exhibition comes to the School of Art immediately after a showing at the Royal Academy of Arts.



Sydney Lee, "The Sleeping Square", aquatint 1928

Street Choirs Festival 2013

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 July

Aberystwyth's Côr Gobaith hosts the 31st Street Choirs Festival from 19-21 July. The aim is to promote a world free from oppression and violence, through song.

The Festival features choirs from Britain and beyond who sing together for many reasons, not least the love of singing! The collective repertoire includes protest songs, world music, folk, gospel... you name it. Radical folk singer Tracey Curtis tops the bill at Friday night's gig. Saturday begins with a spectacular mass sing on the seafront at 12 noon, followed by choirs busking throughout town. The evening concert of all the choirs is introduced by veteran peace campaigner Bruce Kent.

A limited number of public tickets for the Friday (6.40pm start) and Saturday (5.30pm start) concerts are available from the Arts Centre at £10 each from 1 June.

Further details at: www.streetchoir2013.org.uk/national-street-choirs-festival



Monday 17 June – Friday 6 September
- Gallery 3

Gwilym Prichard: A Lifetime's Gazing

This exhibition, to mark the publication of a monograph co-authored by Robert Meyrick, celebrates the distinguished career of one of Wales' best loved artists, Gwilym Prichard. A continuous observer of the rich and often untamed beauty of Wales, Gwilym Prichard credits his career to a 'lifetime's gazing'.



Gwilym Prichard, "Oia, Santorini", acrylic on paper 1986