

Aber^rNEWS

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

ISSUE 20 - February 2015



Students from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences investigating rock pools in front of the Old College

REF 2014

The University significantly improved the quality of its research in the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF), the results of which were published in December.

The results report that 95% of the research activity submitted by the University is of an internationally recognised standard or higher, with world leading research (4*) identified in all 17 of the Units of Assessment submitted.

When measures of impact, quality of publications and research environment are combined, and the number of staff submitted is taken into account, Aberystwyth ranks in the top 50 out of 154 in the UK.

Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed the results of REF 2014: "Even with much more demanding standards for submission, the University returned more staff than ever before – so we set the bar much higher, but more people managed to clear it. This means Aberystwyth submitted an excellent 76% of eligible staff for REF, a total of 322 individuals."

According to the *Times Higher Education*, Aberystwyth is 46th in the UK for research intensity. The University is also in the top 50 for the percentage of top-rated, world leading 4* research.

Particular areas of research excellence were reported in International Politics, Geography and IBERS. The Department of International Politics has 44% of its research as world leading (4*), and 32% as internationally excellent (3*). The Department is now ranked 7th in the UK for politics and international studies.

The Department of Geography and Earth Sciences also retains its position as the best in Wales, with 78% of research considered to be internationally excellent or higher.

The top performers for impact were the School of Art, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences and the Department Computer Science, with 100% of their impact assessed at the top 3* and 4* level. 76% of IBERS impact was judged world-leading (4*).

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E-mail: communications@aber.ac.uk.

The next edition of Aber^{NEWS} will be available in **April 2015**.
 Copy deadline for this edition is **Monday 23 February**.

Innovation and Enterprise Campus secures £20m funding

In December, the Welsh Government's Finance and Government Business Minister, Jane Hutt, visited the University's Gogerddan Campus to announce £20m of EU investment through the European Regional Development Fund to help develop the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus (AIEC).



Welsh Government Minister Jane Hutt (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor April McMahon

The project at the Gogerddan Campus, which means an investment of £40m, will see the construction of a new state-of-the-art, internationally recognised facility to attract further research funding so that companies and researchers can undertake collaborative research projects to boost the bio-economy. The research is expected to generate innovative new products, services and spin-out companies in sustainable food, health, biotechnology and renewable energy sectors.

The AIEC project will work closely with the University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Science where research is already underway to tackle global challenges such as food security, bioenergy and sustainability, and the impact of climate change.

The project will also support the University's ambitions for greater interdisciplinary working, for example, drawing on the research strengths and expertise within the School of Management and Business, and the Institute of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science.

The AIEC project is also backed with £12m from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Robotic orchestra performs at The Royal Institution

A 'robotic orchestra' built by staff in the Department of Computer Science joined a host of other robotic instruments and four human musicians to perform the theme tune from *Doctor Who* at the finale of this year's Royal Institution Christmas Lectures.

The human and robotic orchestra was made possible thanks to a fantastic collaboration of robotics and engineering experts and musicians from all over the UK and from Spain.

Aberystwyth's contribution to the orchestra was three instruments: a pipe organ which includes scrap components from a vacuum cleaner and various plumbing components; a child's glockenspiel modified to be played automatically and an electronic keyboard.

The performance was shown on BBC Four on New Year's Eve, and can be viewed online at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=23TICflw7C0



Ian Izett (left) and Dave Price, creators of the Aberystwyth robotic orchestra



Dr David Poyton, Dean of Aberystwyth University Mauritius Branch Campus

New Dean of Mauritius Branch Campus appointed

Dr David Poyton, a Reader in Law, has been seconded to lead a Branch Campus of the University in Mauritius.

As founding Dean, Dr Poyton will be responsible for the establishment, operation and development of the campus as well as its academic portfolio and engagement with the Mauritian and international communities.

Dr Poyton graduated from Aberystwyth's Department of Law and Criminology with a Bachelor of Laws, a Master of Laws, and a PhD. He began his employment at the University in 1999 as a Tutor in the Department of Law and Criminology and the School of Management and Business.

He takes up the role with immediate effect and reports directly to the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Experience and International, Professor John Grattan.

The branch campus will begin teaching on 16 October 2015 - a landmark date in the history of the University, which opened its doors for the first time on 16 October 1872.

The academic programmes proposed for the 2015/16 academic year are bachelor's degrees in Accounting and Finance; Business Finance; Business Management; Management with Law; Computing; Law and Themed Law. At postgraduate level, masters courses in International Business and Advanced Computer Science will be delivered at the campus.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COLUMN

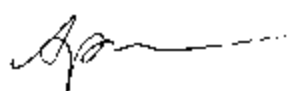
A very Happy New Year to all readers! It's a great start to 2015 as we celebrate a number of important announcements and events from December.

First, you may have read the excellent news that our proposed Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus is the first flagship project for the next tranche of European funding to Wales, receiving £20m to add to the £12m already pledged by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. Taking into account our own contribution, this means an investment of £40m at our Gogerddan campus, bringing much-needed jobs and growth to West Wales, and a big boost to the University's links with businesses. Local spin-outs, UK wide operations, and major multi-nationals all have research and development needs, and can benefit from the expertise, equipment and resolute seeking after solutions to research questions which are to be found in a research-led university like Aberystwyth.

December also brought the outcome of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. The REF takes place around every 6 years, with all UK universities submitting the work of their researchers to be evaluated by specialist panels. It's a massive enterprise and a very high stakes game, which is especially important to us given the trend towards concentration of research funding in a select few, often very big, players. It's important to take into account not only the overall quality of research and its impact (the difference it actually makes), but also the proportion of eligible researchers who were submitted. All this together measures 'research power', which is vital in my view because some universities submitted just a small number of research stars, whereas a very substantial 76% of our eligible staff have contributed to our good results.

Based on that research power calculation, I'm proud to say that Aber has conclusively broken into the UK top 50 for REF 2014, with a *Times Higher Education* ranking of 46 – and a massive 95% of our research falls into the top three categories, as internationally recognised or better, compared with 85% in 2008. There are particularly strong performances by International Politics, Geography and Agriculture, all of which can lay claim to top 10 positions in the UK – with a special mention for Computer Science, number 11 in the UK on that research power table. All this shows the real quality of our researchers; and the fact that we submitted such a high percentage of eligible staff means current and future students can be confident they are being taught by colleagues who are doing that important research first-hand, not just reporting on other people's work.

So all in all, a great way to end 2014, and we celebrated at a number of superb events in the Old College, which also launched our Honorary Fellow Mary Lloyd Jones's twin exhibitions held in the Old College Quad and the Arts Centre, in her 80th birthday year. I wish you every success and happiness in 2015, and look forward to hearing about your achievements and reporting them here in future issues!



Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor



www.aber.ac.uk/en/sell

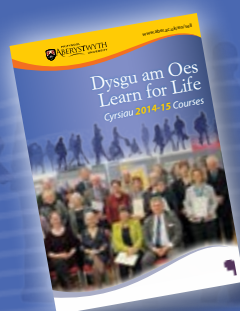
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School of Education & Lifelong Learning



Higher Education in the Community

New Engagement Café launched

A new series of meetings to discuss public engagement is being launched to help co-ordinate experience and activities across the University.

The first of the new Engagement Café series will take place on Wednesday 4 February, 1-2pm, in Hugh Owen D54.

Planned for the first Wednesday of each month, the Cafés will be an opportunity to discuss public engagement, share experience and connect our activities.

The format is for one or two colleagues from across the University to give short presentations on recent public engagement in which they've been involved, followed by an open discussion.

The first session will feature presentations by Dr Hannah Dee from the Department of Computer Science and Dr Chris from the Department of Psychology.

Engagement Café has been created by Richard Marggraf Turley, Professor of Engagement with the Public Imagination, Nigel Scollan, Professor for the Public Understanding of Science and Dr Rhodri

Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Welsh Language and Culture, and External Engagement.

Professor Richard Marggraf Turley said; "Public connection is something AU has traditionally been very good at, and these cafés represent a relaxed venue to connect and share that wealth of experience. We hope colleagues from across academic and service departments will come along to what we think will be animating opportunities to build on, and enhance, public engagement culture at Aberystwyth."

Professor Nigel Scollan said; "Public engagement culture is changing across the sector. This timely innovation will enable us to share and learn from a wide range of experience, and we hope will inspire other colleagues to take advantage of the many engagement opportunities at Aberystwyth."



Professors Nigel Scollan and Richard Marggraf Turley

Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be provided. To secure your place please RSVP to Mrs Sharon Evans (ppe@aber.ac.uk). Please direct any other queries to Richard Marggraf Turley (rcm@aber.ac.uk) or Nigel Scollan (ngs@aber.ac.uk).

Springboard Women's Development Programme hailed a great success

For the last four months, 20 women from academic and professional services departments at the University have taken part in the Springboard Women's Development Programme, an award-winning development course for women delivered through a network of licensed trainers.

Springboard is highly regarded in the UK and is designed for women from

all backgrounds, ages and stages in their lives who want to make a better world for themselves at work and home, whilst building the practical skills and confidence to take these steps.

For some women a positive outcome may be promotion and for others who stay in the same job, the benefits include a more positive attitude and a renewed sense of purpose.

Professor Kate Bullen, the University's Director of Ethics and Equality, explains; "This group will be the first cohort of the Springboard programme to have graduated from the University and the aim is to hold more in future.

"Providing training and support for women is a key deliverable in both our Athena SWAN and Gender Equality Chartermark action plans.

"Springboard, together with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education's Aurora programme, provide fantastic opportunities for women to take stock of their careers, plan what they want to achieve and identify and develop their skills and abilities."

Additional information about Springboard and Aurora can be found here:

www.springboardconsultancy.com/springboard.htm



Members of the first cohort of Springboard graduates at the University

NEWS

Student judge for children's book awards

Last year the School of Education and Lifelong Learning was invited by the Welsh Books Council to nominate an undergraduate student to act as an English-medium judge for the prestigious Wales-wide Tir na n-Og Children's Book Awards.

Students were asked to submit applications to be a judge and the winner was Jordan Thorpe, who is studying a Major in Education with Maths.

Jordan has about 20 books to read and evaluate before the full panel meets in January. She said, "I've loved reading since I was tiny and though this will be a challenge, I'm really looking forward to it."

Later in the year, she will attend the awards ceremony in Cardiff, where the winner will be announced.

"We have a student from Cardiff University on the Welsh-medium panel and we wanted to find a young judge for the English panel," explained Medi Jones-Jackson, Children's Books and Reading Promotion Officer. "Some Aber students visited us last year as part of their module (Literacy in Young Children) and it seemed like an ideal time to make the link."

T Gwynn Jones' work presented to the University

The Welsh Department is once again living in the presence of one of its most distinguished members of staff.

Thomas Gwynn Jones (1871- 1949) taught in the department for 34 years between his appointment as a lecturer in 1913 and his retirement in 1937. He was appointed Chair of Literature in 1919.

Now, through the generosity of his grandson, Mr Emrys Wynn Jones, who served as registrar at the former University of Wales Aberystwyth, many of Professor Jones's books, including copies of his own work, have been donated to the Department for the use of staff and students.

T Gwynn Jones was a leading Welsh poet, scholar, literary critic, novelist, translator, and journalist who did important work in Welsh literature, Welsh education, and the study of Welsh folk tales in the first half of the twentieth century.

He was also an accomplished translator into Welsh of works from English, German, Greek, and Irish. He was born in Gwyndy Uchaf, Denbighshire, and was laid to rest in Heol Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth.

Acting Head of Department, Dr Robin Chapman (left) and Robin Williams, a second year student studying Welsh and Welsh History, reading one of T Gwynn Jones' books



Joanna Jeffery, who teaches the module, said, "When I arranged the visit, I had no idea that this might happen. Now there are plans for this to become an annual event."



Medi Jones-Jackson presents some of the longlisted books to Jordan Thorpe. Also present are Joanna Jeffery (Teaching Fellow) and Dr Steve Atherton (Director of Undergraduate Studies)

Graduate research training wins for IBERS

Five iCASE PhD Studentship grants worth £452,000 have been awarded to IBERS by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council in the latest round of funding.

CASE Studentships (formerly known as 'Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering') are collaborative training grants that provide students with a first-rate challenging research training experience, allowing top quality bioscience graduates to undertake research leading to a PhD, within the context of a mutually beneficial research collaboration between academic and partner organisations.

IBERS CASE Studentships have been awarded to the following projects:

Dr Kerrie Farrar

Endophytic bacteria: co-existence and chemical warfare.

Professor Iain Donnison

Improved establishment phase development and yield in the perennial bioenergy crop *Miscanthus*.

Dr Maurice Bosch

Investigating the feasibility of a multi-conversion *Miscanthus* bioenergy crop.

Dr Russ Morphew

Pandas and parasites: A functional genomics approach to combat persistent *Baylisascaris schroederi* infection in captive giant pandas.

Dr Hazel Davey

Viability and vitality in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*: modelling for prediction of fermentation success from rapid measurements.

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on... International Office

The International Office has the role of strategically increasing the number of international students at the University. To learn more about what their work involves, we spoke to the International Office's new Director, Ruth Owen Lewis.

What does the International Office do?

Essentially, our work is split into three key areas – recruitment, partnerships and compliance.

Recruitment involves a great deal of overseas travel, attending education fairs, working with agents, visiting schools and universities, and various marketing initiatives. Collaborative partnership activity is an increasingly crucial element of our international work and we have seen a big increase in this area since establishing the International and Collaborative Provision Committee in 2012.

Linked to partnerships is our Study Abroad Office, which includes the Erasmus+ mobility programme for students and staff, the International Exchanges Programme and the Study Year Abroad. The benefits of the exchange programmes are enormous both for the individuals and for the University. Currently around 4% of our students are taking part in outward mobility, and we plan to increase this to 10% by 2017.

Finally, the compliance function. In order to continue our international student recruitment, we must safeguard our Tier 4 licence and ensure we comply with the rules and regulations of UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). Compliance is managed centrally in the International Office with much responsibility assigned to the Institutes and Departments, such as monitoring attendance.

Where in the World does the International Office focus its efforts?

Our International Officers are responsible for specific regions, as follows:

- Murtza Ali Ghaznavi: Middle East, Russia and Azerbaijan
- Marian Gray: Americas and Norway
- Amarjeet Sing Mutneja: South Asia and Thailand
- Ula Wang: East Asia, Indonesia and Brunei

In addition to the above, we have an African Representative, Dr Akanimo Odon, and I am responsible for Malaysia and Vietnam.

As you can see, we cover a large part of the world, but aim to be strategic in our activities, focusing on regions within countries which are a good match for Aberystwyth.

What's on the horizon for the International Office?

The commitment of the University to the international agenda is now at an all-time high, and a number of exciting initiatives are on the horizon.



Staff from the International Office at the premiere of the Welsh/Nigerian film DRY (I want to be a girl again), partially filmed at the University.

Back row: Murtza Ali Ghaznavi (Middle East Manager) and Mateusz Ziembła (International Office Assistant)

Middle row: Dr Akanimo Odon (African Representative) and Katerina Stivasari-Jones (Compliance Manager)

Front row: Susan Jenkins (PA & International Office Administrator), Amarjeet Mutneja (International Officer), Ruth Owen Lewis (Director), and Marian Gray (International Officer).

In November 2014, we opened offices in Dubai and Shanghai, and we plan to open an office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2015. These offices ensure a constant presence in-country which is crucial in marketing and creating a corporate brand, and is far more efficient in terms of resources.

Aberystwyth University Mauritius will be opening in 2015, which will see us establishing ourselves as a global University and building our profile internationally.

How can staff engage more so with the International Office?

We are keen to engage with staff at all levels. If you are planning any overseas trips, for conferences or research purposes, and would be willing to add a day or two to your agenda for recruitment/partnership activities, we would be most grateful and could assist with the arrangements. Also, if you have any country specific links that may be beneficial to explore further, please get in touch.

Likewise, we are happy to assist with cultural enquiries, logistical matters, visas, advice and guidance, and other practical issues.

Our door is always open - we're located on the top floor of Cledwyn.

International Office staff not shown in photo:

Catrin Griffiths (International Partnerships Officer), Rosa Soto (International Student Adviser), Ula Wang (China Manager), Patricia di Marco (Erasmus Exchanges Officer), Hannah Clarke (International Exchanges Officer), Carol Stevens-Land (Compliance Officer) and Lisa Fisher (International Office Assistant).

SPOTLIGHT

Person Profile - Ruth Owen Lewis

Director of the University's International Office



Ruth Owen Lewis

Tell us a bit about yourself

I graduated from Warwickshire Agricultural College with a degree in Equine Studies and Business Management. Horses are a passion of mine and have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and certainly before I could walk! In addition to my horses, I have three Jack Russells, a herd of cattle and a tree surgeon husband, so life is generally pretty busy!

Originally from Aberaeron, I have been a member of staff at the University since 2001, holding several posts in the International Office before being appointed its Director in September 2014.

Describe a typical day in the International Office

Typical days definitely don't exist in the International Office. The work load is massively varied, which keeps me on my toes. In the lead up to Christmas I visited Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to present the University to Year 9 and 10 school children; returned to Aberystwyth for the premiere of the film *DRY (I want to be a girl again)* to which we invited a large number of dignitaries from Africa, and had the International students' Christmas party. Life in the International Office is fast-paced and exciting.

What element of your work gives you most job satisfaction?

Working with people from different cultures is truly fascinating, but for me the ultimate satisfaction comes from seeing the international students having the time of their lives here in Aber.

Any top travel tips?

- Always check-in online
- Choose your airlines strategically and try to stick to the same loyalty schemes
- Avoid queues with children!
- Travel with a spare change of clothes in your hand luggage in case your luggage gets lost
- If you have a connecting flight, check with the airline staff whether your luggage has been loaded on the second flight

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I CAN

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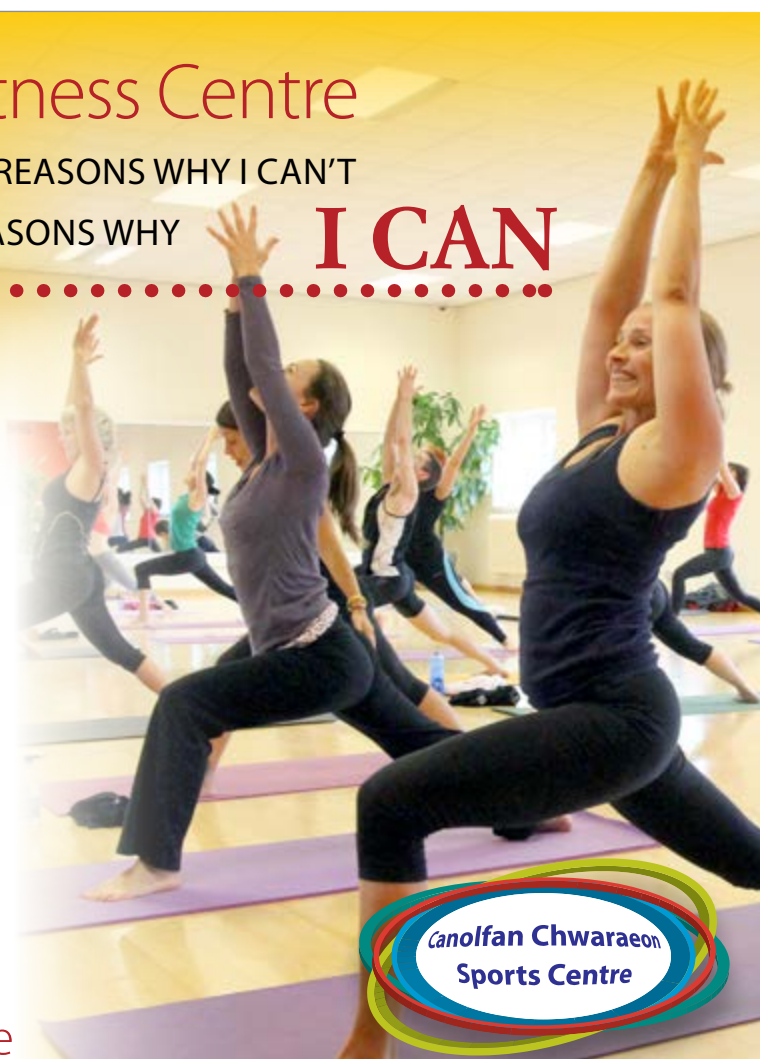
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Canolfan Chwaraeon
Sports Centre

Aberystwyth University research ethics process goes live

A new online Research Ethics Application process is now available to staff, postgraduates and final year undergraduate students.

The new system replaces the previous paper-based process, and is the outcome of a year long project supported by the Department of Research, Business and Innovation (RB&I).

A small project working group has drawn on established practice elsewhere in the sector and the NHS, to develop the process. The working group, academics, RB&I staff and technical staff worked with colleagues in Information Services to design the process.



Professor Kate Bullen Credit: John Gilbey (gilbey@bcs.org.uk)

Professor Kate Bullen, University Director of Ethics and Equality said "The new system will be far easier for individuals seeking research ethics review than the previous paper-based process. Our aim is to provide an efficient process that facilitates research at Aberystwyth. Engaging with ethical review enables researchers to consider the integrity of their research. As such it provides an excellent opportunity to improve research through examination of the ethical issues. Our expectation is that the online ethics review process will be the starting point for all research from final year undergraduate dissertations upwards. The new system will enable audit of our ethics review processes to comply with the requirements of funding councils, professional bodies and the UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Importantly it will also fulfil an educative aim of raising awareness of research ethics at Aberystwyth."

The new research ethics homepage can be accessed at www.aber.ac.uk/ethics.

A series of information sessions has been provided for potential users of the system. Individual departments can also request additional bespoke sessions. For queries regarding the system and training sessions please contact Mitchell Parker - ethics@aber.ac.uk.

Grants Factory

During 2014, the Research Development Team within RB&I piloted a new initiative aimed at supporting Early Career Researchers to develop a complete peer-reviewed research grant application.

Twenty one participants registered for the 'Grants Factory' which is framed around a series of five workshops covering a range of topics including: 'what funders want'; 'writing style' and 'budgeting'.

The programme culminated in a mock peer-review panel where participants could observe how their proposal would fare in a panel review process. Each participant also received one-to-one support from a Research Development Officer in developing their research grant application.

The aim of the Grants Factory (an idea developed at the University of Kent) is to provide participants with:

- An increased understanding of how to develop a research idea into a fundable research proposal;
- An opportunity to network with others including senior academics from across the University;
- Structured support in order to finish the programme with a peer review ready grant application.

The programme has input from senior academic colleagues to help deliver the workshops and to share their expertise. The next Grants Factory programme is due to start in Spring 2015 and further details will be published on RB&I website (www.aber.ac.uk/rbi).

UK Research Office (UKRO) annual visit 2014

Ed Heelas, the UKRO European Advisor for Wales, held his annual visit to Bangor and Aberystwyth universities on 4-5 September 2014.

The UK Research Office (UKRO) is the Brussels-based office of Research Councils UK, providing information, advice and support on European Commission research funding (Horizon 2020) and is also the UK National contact point for the European Research Council (ERC) and for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

During his visit, Ed shared an overview of Horizon 2020, the new EU research and innovation funding programme that commenced in 2014 with a budget of €70.2bn.

In Bangor, presentations focused specifically on 'How to Engage with Horizon 2020 – Cross Cutting Themes, Open Access and Gender Considerations'.

At Aberystwyth, sessions related to 'Funding opportunities for different stages of researchers' careers – early stage, experienced and capacity building for research managers'.

Colleagues at Aberystwyth and Bangor had the opportunity to join in with sessions at both locations, either by attending in person or through web-streaming between the two locations. Over 50 researchers participated in the Aberystwyth event.

Presentations from the event can be found at: <http://jump.aber.ac.uk/?rqlft> (AU staff log-in required).

RESEARCH, BUSINESS & INNOVATION

JSPS visit

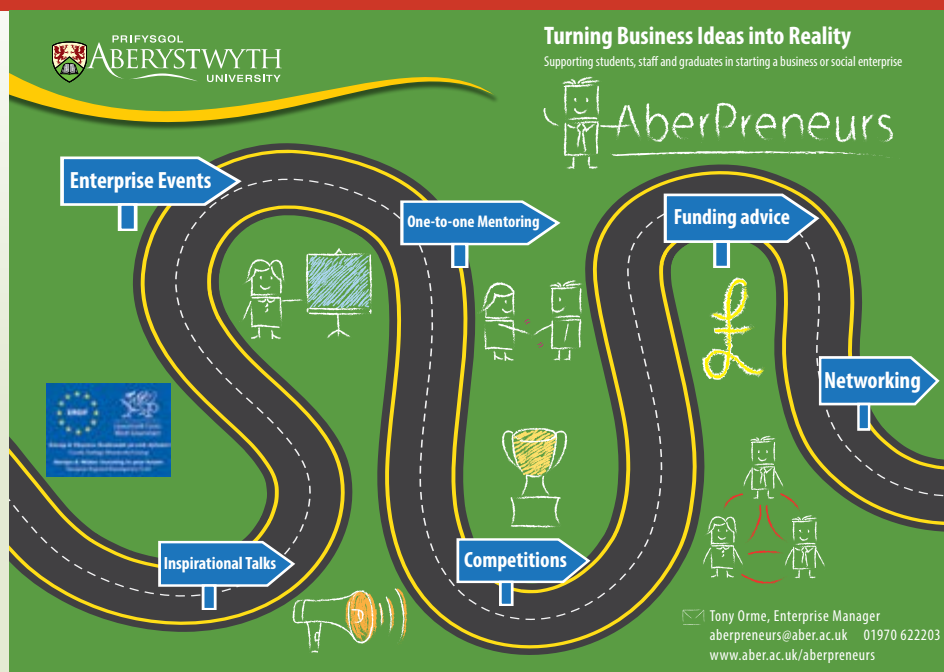
On 18 November 2014 RB&I hosted a visit to Aberystwyth University by a delegation from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), London Office.

Mr Matsumoto (Deputy Director), Mr Kohzuki (International Programme Associate) and Polly Watson (International Programme Co-ordinator) gave a presentation to colleagues on their wide range of funding schemes aimed at facilitating collaboration with Japanese researchers. As part of the session Dr Daniel Burgarth (IMPACS), a JSPS alumnus, gave an account of his time in Japan and the impact on his career.

During the visit, JSPS delegates held a series of one-to-one meetings with academics to explore research ideas; undertook a field visit to discover more about the IBERS Miscanthus breeding programme and met with representatives from the International Office.

Further information on JSPS funding opportunities can be accessed online at:

<http://jump.aber.ac.uk/?zjdht>
(AU staff log-in required).



Launch of 'AberPreneurs'

'AberPreneurs' the new brand for enterprise support at the University was launched during Global Entrepreneurship Week (17-21 November 2014).

Tony Orme, Enterprise Manager, Department of Research, Business & Innovation, explains, "We've created an enterprise brand called AberPreneurs at the University, highlighting the support, advice and opportunities for those with an interest in starting a business.

"AberPreneurs offers a year round programme of inspirational talks, enterprise events, mentoring, competitions, networking opportunities and funding advice."

For further information on the support available to turn a business idea into reality, including the current programme of events, visit: www.aber.ac.uk/aberpreneurs

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The Ebola crisis

Professor Colin McInnes is Director of the Centre for Health and International Relations, UNESCO Professor of HIV/AIDS and Health Security in Africa, and the University's Professor of Research Excellence and Impact. He was a co-signatory of an open letter on the Ebola crisis published in *The Lancet* on 10 January 2015. In this feature article, he poses some thought-provoking issues on the crisis.



Professor Colin McInnes

At the end of last year, the World Health Organisation reported new figures of 7,905 deaths and 20,206 infections from the current Ebola crisis. Almost all of these were in the three West African states of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Although these figures included suspected and probable as well as confirmed cases of Ebola, the WHO's restrictive definitions – which had led to criticism earlier in the year that it had underestimated the scale of the problem and been slow to react – suggest that numbers may be significantly higher. Nor do these figures begin to indicate the social and economic costs of the disease in these three countries.

If we are to prevent similar crises in the future, we need to understand not simply how the Ebola outbreak occurred, but why it spread and developed into the crisis we see today. Perhaps the most common explanation for this concerns the lack of resources for public health in the region. In particular, the three countries most affected by Ebola are also some of the poorest on the planet with predictably weak public health systems. Therefore the most straightforward preventative measure would be to increase aid to the region. This is an approach advocated by many, not only on humanitarian grounds but out of a degree of self interest: if we can prevent diseases such as these developing a foothold in Africa, then in so doing we can limit the possibility of them spreading to us.

The problem with this solution however is that, since the new millennium, unprecedented amounts of aid have been spent on Africa, and especially on health in Africa. These have included international initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, individual national programmes such as PEPFAR (the massively-funded US plan for AIDS relief), and charitable donations such as those from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Moreover, in the UK the aid budget has been protected from the very substantial cuts in public expenditure seen since the global financial crisis. So perhaps the more important question is why, despite this increase in funding, crises such as Ebola still occur?

There appear to be three reasons for this. First, these increased budgets have largely focused on a few, high profile diseases, most obviously HIV. The result is that funding for other diseases has not



STUDENT NEWS

Happy New Year from AberSU!



While the students have been busy studying, we have also been very busy here at the Students' Union.

We have recently increased our presence on Llanbadarn campus, with the Union shop at Blaspadarn now being accompanied by the outreach office, offering advice and support to students through the AberSU advisors and officers.

We have also introduced 'Cynllun Cerdyn Coch' (The Red Card Scheme), a new initiative open to all sports clubs or societies members to reward their respective club or society with financial credit; they will receive 50p for every £10 spent at the Students' Union.

The first SU Poets in Residence have been appointed. Endaf Griffiths and Jacob Hallam will be composing bilingual poetry based on the events and the experience offered at the Students' Union. They are, to the best of our knowledge, the first Poets in Residence in any Students' Union in the UK.

If you're looking for a meeting venue, AberSU is very proud to be working with the University and the committee at Brynamlwg in providing a service of food, beverage and room bookings.

Other news includes a successful RAG month of volunteering and raising over £1,300 for various charities; developing a new vision for Sport between 2015-2018; creating new forums called zones for part-time officers to communicate campaigns, concerns or stances on certain themes; hosting a Housing Fair with 15 local businesses present; and delivering Academic Representation induction to over 160 representatives.

Looking ahead, preparations are underway for the annual Refreshers week, an ideal opportunity to sample everything student life has to offer, including the Trade, Sport and Society fairs held here at the Union between 2-4 February.

We are also very excited for you to see the brand new Stone Willy's Pizza delivery van which will be launched and delivering to Aberystwyth University students soon.

Finally, we're looking forward to the annual Spring Elections, where the student body will vote on who they want to represent them during 2015/2016. Nominations will open on 2 February.

This is just a taster of what's been going on and what's on the horizon at the Students' Union. Please visit www.abersu.co.uk for more news and don't forget the Students' Union offers a warm welcome all year round and a sociable and relaxing place to study, unwind or actively participate in activities.

Eleri Wyn - AUSU Marketing & Communications Manager



*Sabbatical Officers. Back row: (L to R) Harriet O'Shea, Miriam Williams, Jacob Ellis
Front row: (L to R) Grace Burton, Will Atkinson*

increased as significantly, and even that some diseases have been neglected. This has led to recent calls by the WHO and others for a broadening of the international aid agenda to include a wider range of diseases. Second, the increase in the amount of money being spent on aid has resulted in a proliferation of agencies and initiatives. This runs the risk of duplication of effort, confused approaches and competing agendas. Third, there is a tendency to address downstream effects rather than upstream causes – thus the current Ebola crisis has been characterised by an emergency response, including the dispatch of military personnel, rather than preventative measures to build up public health infrastructure. Moreover the allure of pharmacological solutions – new drugs or vaccines – too often takes precedence over the development of basic public health initiatives. Most controversially, diseases such as Ebola, swine flu, highly pathogenic avian influenza, SARS and HIV are zoonotic – that is, they originate in the animal kingdom and are passed onto humans. This raises difficult questions with potentially expensive answers over our relationship with the animal kingdom – questions such as how poultry and pigs are kept for domestic and commercial purposes and how bushmeat is consumed in Africa because of a lack of other affordable meats.

The Ebola crisis however also reveals another disconcerting trend – our fascination with exotic diseases and outbreaks (especially when there is a risk, however slight, that they might arrive here) over more mundane endemic conditions. That 7,905 people have died of Ebola is tragic, but during the same period the WHO estimates that 750,000 children under five died from diarrheal disease, easily preventable through safe drinking water, improved sanitation and soap for hand washing. But there is no emergency military deployment to help here, no international outcry, no disaster relief fund, no celebrity campaigner and no ribbon for my jacket lapel. And this year, as the Ebola crisis hopefully wanes, another 750,000 children will die from exactly the same disease. So what is the real crisis?

Academic Promotions

Congratulations to the members of academic staff who were successful in this year's Academic Promotions process – for more information see p.14.

Each year a review process is undertaken to develop and improve the process for the following year, in particular, the impact the significant increase in applications received has had on resourcing the administrative elements of process. This review has now been completed and the dates for the 2015 academic promotion round have been announced - www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/reward-and-recognition/academic-promotions/.

The new Academic Promotions Appeals process was agreed by Professional Development & Staffing Committee on 17 November 2014. This process deals with hearing and determining appeals on the grounds of procedure by a member of academic staff whose application for academic promotion has not been successful.

Further information is available at www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/reward-and-recognition/academic-promotions/

Corporate Health Standard

As reported in AberNEWS in October, the University achieved the Bronze Award for the Corporate Health



Standard in July 2014 and is now working towards the Silver Award, which it is aiming to achieve by April 2015.

The membership of the Corporate Health Steering Group has been broadened to include more staff. The Steering Group continues to promote the health and wellbeing of staff across the University by supporting national and local initiatives in this area. For a full list of members of the Steering Group and its activities please see:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/supporting-staff/work/healthanddisability/health-wellbeing/

If you have any suggestions on how the University could increase the health and wellbeing of its staff please e-mail wellbeing@aber.ac.uk.

Policy development

The Facilities Agreement permits Trade Union representatives to take reasonable paid time off during working hours to take part in Trade Union duties. The policy is available to view at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/policy-and-procedure/facilities-agreement/

The Drug and Alcohol Policy was agreed by Council in June 2014. This important policy ensures the safety of all employees, workers, students and visitors by having clear rules in place regarding the use, consumption and possession of alcohol and drugs in the workplace and importantly, the support available to those staff that raise an issue concerning alcohol and/or drugs. This policy can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/policy-and-procedure/drugs-alcohol/

Part time teachers

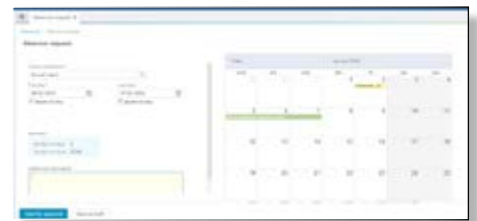
The Part Time Teachers Working Group was set up to assimilate the part time teachers at the University into the Framework Agreement.

Following constructive negotiations with the University and College Union, staff within Welsh for Adults, the School of Lifelong Learning and the International English Centre received letters from HR in December confirming the new role profile - Teaching and Scholarship Level 1B. Work is now underway to issue revised contracts of employment to affected staff.

Further work will be conducted in early 2015 to assimilate Tutors and Demonstrators to the Framework Agreement.

Aber People

Following a challenging year, the project team are about to undertake testing on a new employee self-service interface which will be launched in the first quarter of 2015. The Milestone 4 update will provide a completely new user experience with a notable difference to the look and feel of the system. It also incorporates a number of updates that will provide fixes to common issues. One such improvement is the absence experience pack. The user can request annual leave via a new window and any booked and taken leave can be viewed within a calendar view.



CIPD

The launch of the new Mid and North Wales Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) branch took place at the University on 2 December (mid Wales) and in Conwy on 3 December (north Wales).

Previously human resources professionals in Wales had to travel to England to access CIPD branch services.

At the event at Aberystwyth University for mid Wales members, representatives of the CIPD made presentations and steps are underway to elect committee members who will explore how best to support HR professionals, including retired members, and students in mid and north Wales.

The new branch structure for Wales CIPD will strengthen the national HR agenda and facilitate a 'Wales HR Voice' when responses are required to national issues. Staff or students interested in attending future CIPD events in mid Wales should contact Sue Chambers, Director of HR at eec@aber.ac.uk

NEWS

Lifelong Learning Awards Ceremony 2014

The annual Lifelong Learning Awards, held at the University on 24 October 2014, provided an opportunity to reward excellence in Learning and Teaching.

The Welsh in the Family Award, a prize for Welsh learners from Mid Wales who have increased the use of Welsh within the family, was awarded to Juanita Foster-Jones.

Juanita began to learn Welsh in 2009 after her family moved to Aberystwyth. Since then she has encouraged other members of the family, including husband Bryn and mother Felicity to learn, and is able to help her daughter Cerys with her Welsh homework.



Juanita Foster-Jones (right) and family

An award was also presented in memory of mammal ecologist and conservationist, Rob Strachan, who taught on the Lifelong Learning Ecology courses from 2009-2013.

Rob, who was renowned for his beautifully illustrated field notebooks, passed away after a short illness in May 2014.

The Rob Strachan Memorial Prize was awarded to the student who produced the best field notebook on the Mammals course, Amanda Beck.



Penny Lewns from The Mammal Society (left) presenting the Rob Strachan Memorial Prize to Amanda Beck



Professor April McMahon (left) and Lifelong Learning Tutor of the Year, June Forster

Joint winners of the Lifelong Learning Tutor of the Year, nominated by students, were art tutor June Forster and literature and creative writing tutor Beth Head.

June Forster has been a Lifelong Learning Tutor for a number of years, teaches drawing and painting at the School of Art, and is completing a PhD in Fine Art.

June began her journey to become an artist in 1996 when she attended an Aberystwyth University drawing course in Ystrad Meurig. June went on to complete a course at Coleg Ceredigion and a BA and MA Fine Art at the University's School of Art.

It was here that she first had the opportunity to obtain teaching experience as part of the Master's course. At around the same time, June was invited to assist at the Gregynog Summer School, where she found working with adult learners particularly rewarding and decided to become a tutor herself.

Alison Piere, Art and Design Co-ordinator, said: "You know where June is teaching because you will hear laughter and enthusiasm spilling out of the room; but there is a great deal of learning happening as she shares her extensive knowledge."

The second winner of the Lifelong Learning Tutor of the year award was Beth Head.



Professor April McMahon (left) and Lifelong Learning Tutor of the Year, Beth Head

Beth is an academic and creative writer living in Tre'r Ddol. She holds a BA in English from Aberystwyth, an MA in Creative Writing from Sheffield Hallam University, and an MPhil in English Literature from Aberystwyth.

Beth has published short stories online, and in university anthologies in Aberystwyth and Sheffield. Her work was chosen to appear in *The best of... Sheffield Hallam* publication for her postgraduate year, and in 2011 she contributed the chapter: "Patricia Cornwell: A Normal Pathology?" to *The Millennial Detective: Essays on Trends in Crime Fiction, Film and Television, 1990-2010*.

Beth taught English Literature at the University for four years before joining the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, where she teaches Literature and Creative Writing modules.

Beth is also currently writing a novel and working in the University's Payroll Department.

Commenting on the award, Liz Jones, Humanities Coordinator said: "Beth is a warm and inspiring presence in the classroom; she really understands lifelong learners and knows what motivates them. Her courses are participative and great fun, but they are also rigorous, both academically and creatively. I am so pleased that Beth has won this award; she is someone who puts in a great deal of time and preparation to make learning a pleasure for all her students."

Photographs and a short video from the award ceremony can be viewed at: tackk.com/awards-ceremony-2014

Academic Promotions 2014

Congratulations to academic colleagues who were successful during the most recent academic promotions process. A full list of academic staff promoted to the posts of Senior Lecturer or Reader will shortly be available at: www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr. The following have been promoted to the post of Chair:



Professor Athole Marshall, IBERS



Professor John Warren, IBERS



Professor Matthew Charles Francis, Department of English and Creative Writing



Professor Michael Humphreys, IBERS



Professor Paul O'Leary, Department of History and Welsh History



Professor Peter Merriman, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences



Professor Sian Eleri Pryse, Department of Physics



Professor Stephen Tooth, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

Obituaries

Dr John Basterfield (1941 – 2014)

Dr John Basterfield was a former lecturer in the Statistics Department and then the Department of Mathematics.



Originally from Barrow-In-Furness, John graduated in Mathematics with first class honours from Cambridge in 1963, and was later awarded his PhD from Cambridge in 1972.

In 1967 John was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Statistics at Aberystwyth University and subsequently Lecturer. His combination of enthusiasm, clarity of exposition and good humour made John a popular and much-loved lecturer.

John retired in 1997 but continued to lecture in a part time capacity and on a voluntary basis until very recently.

In his spare time, John was a keen chess player and enthusiastic supporter of local clubs.

Dr Julian Broadbent (1939 – 2014)

Dr Julian Broadbent was a former University Safety Officer.

Born in Keighley, Yorkshire, Dr Broadbent studied chemical engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST).

After graduating in 1962, he became a postgraduate researcher and then research associate at the Department of Mathematics at UMIST, and in 1968 was awarded a PhD for his thesis on *An Investigation of Normal Stress Difference in Polymer Solutions in Steady Shear Flow*.

Dr Broadbent joined the Department of Mathematics at Aberystwyth in 1967 as a research associate and worked in the field of rheology. In 1976 he was appointed Safety Officer for the University, a role he fulfilled until his retirement in September 2000.

Paul Davis (1977 – 2014)

Paul Davis was a projectionist and tutor at the Arts Centre, where colleagues paid the following tribute to him:



"Paul was a hugely popular member of the Arts Centre team. Nothing was ever too much trouble; he approached every job with enthusiasm and positivity, whether it was in his early role working in the cafés, then as a dedicated member of the cinema team, as an inspirational tutor in the children's animation classes or as a supportive guide in the Digilab.

Always willing to go above and beyond what was needed, he was a genuinely lovely man and will be hugely missed by all his friends in the Arts Centre, and all the people whose lives he touched."

Paul was a loving family man and doting father to his young son, Sam. Paul died on 13 September, aged 37, after a short illness.

Donations can be made in memory of Paul to 'The Better Life Appeal':

www.justgiving.com/paulsdavis/

Appointments

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS



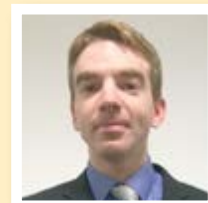
Professor Mike Christie has been appointed as the new Head of the School of Management and Business. Mike joined the University in 1996 as a Lecturer in Environmental Economics at the Institute of Rural Studies before being appointed Professor of Environmental and Ecological

Economics in the School of Management and Business in 2012. An active member of the School of Management and Business, he teaches microeconomics and environmental / ecological economics. Mike succeeds Professor Steven McGuire who will be taking up a new role as the Head of Business, Management and Economics at Sussex University in March 2015.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Eiddig Morgan has been appointed Interim Director of Finance, now that Peter Curran has taken up his new role as Finance Director at Sport Wales. Eiddig is an Aber graduate, who started his career with Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Public Sector Assurance from 2005 to 2010, auditing some of Wales' largest

public sector bodies and charitable organisations. Between 2010 and 2012 Eiddig worked as a Project and Performance Manager for Ceredigion County Council's Education Department. Eiddig returned to the University in 2012 and was appointed as an Assistant Director of Finance in June 2014. The process to make a substantive appointment of Finance Director is currently underway.



John Meurig Jones (1952 – 2014)



John Meurig Jones was former Head Groundsman at the Sports Centre, where the Director Frank Rowe paid tribute to him:

"Meurig left school at 15 years of age to join the UWA Grounds Staff in 1967, where he continued to work for 47 years, before his early retirement on ill-health grounds in May of this year.

"Meurig possessed the primary ingredients to be a good groundsman – namely a genuine pride and passion in the playing fields he produced – something that its many users over the years consistently appreciated and commented on. The nationally-acclaimed playing fields at both Vicarage and Blaendolau bear testament to his life time's endeavours.

"Our abiding memory of Meurig is one of a kind, loyal and generous man - attributes that earned him the love and respect of his colleagues."

Dr Richard Kemp (1941 – 2014)



Originally from Enfield, Dr Kemp had a long and successful career at the University in the biological sciences. He first

came to Aberystwyth in 1962 as an undergraduate student of zoology, and continued as a postgraduate, lecturer and senior lecturer in the Zoology Department before becoming a Reader in Zoology until his recent final retirement from IBERS.

His main field of research was in the cancer-related problems of the adhesion of animal cells and later in the heat output of individual cells monitored by microcalorimetry.

Away from his academic work he held office for lengthy periods as Treasurer of Bryamlwg Social Club and as Warden of Cwrt Mawr hall of residence. He was also a keen cricket enthusiast and umpire.

His achievements were despite severe disablement since boyhood.

David Williams (1973 – 2014)



David Williams worked as a Language Tutor in the School of Management and Business, where colleagues paid the following tribute:

"David joined SMB at a crucial time as it was preparing for its re-accreditation by the Association of MBAs. A critical component of this accreditation was English language support for the many international students who study at SMB.

His recent work on a new support structure for SMB's international students was explicitly recognised in AMBA's positive report on the School. David's education and prior experience in business and economics made him an ideal tutor for SMB students.

He was a complete professional and showed incredible fortitude in working through several rounds of chemotherapy. David was a well-liked and respected member of the SMB community and will be greatly missed."

SPOTLIGHT

In addition to the day job...

Pete Keating works as an Analyst / Developer in the AStRA Team within Information Services, looking after the student records system and many of the websites that access it.



Pete Keating



Aberystwyth lifeboat launches to reports of a child adrift in a dinghy. Credit: RNLI



Aberystwyth lifeboat crew member pager

However, in addition to the day job, Pete has volunteered with the Aberystwyth lifeboat for 5 years, and became a lifeboat helm last year. AberNEWS spoke to him about being a crew member.

What made you interested in becoming a volunteer with the Aberystwyth lifeboat ?

I've always loved the sea. From an early age I remember going out fishing on my Grandad's boat in Falmouth. There was none of the safety equipment that we take for granted today of course. I also used to have a sailing dinghy which I'd sail in the Bristol Channel. When I moved to Aberystwyth, it was the first time I'd actually lived close enough to a lifeboat station to volunteer as a crew member.

What does the training entail?

The training is very comprehensive and requires many hours of effort from the crew. It typically takes a year or two for someone to become a full crew member - depending on how much time they're able to give. Training is competence based, and mostly takes place on station - though there is a week-long course at the RNLI Training College in Poole that crew also complete sometime during their first year.

Crew have to pass quite a few assessments, which range from basic knowledge of sea survival and the boat layout, through to how to safely tow casualty vessels, and how to operate all of the equipment on the boat. On our Atlantic 85 this includes a marine GPS chart plotter, radio direction finding system, night vision equipment and also RADAR.

Once someone has completed all their crew assessments, there are other opportunities to progress if they wish. This includes courses in casualty care (lifeboat specific first aid training), VHF radio and RADAR, tractor driving, and if they wish to become a helm they have to do most of

their crew training again but at a more advanced level!

An important skill to learn is to be able to work effectively in a team under sometimes stressful conditions. You have to be able to rely on each other.

What does the commitment involve?

Once you've achieved a level of skill that means you can become a useful crew member you are issued with a pager. This is something people carry with them everywhere when in town. There's no set time to be on call - most people are ready to respond whenever they're within a few minutes of the lifeboat station. When an alert is issued the pager lights up, vibrates and beeps loudly which tells us that the lifeboat needs to launch.

We always try to launch within 10 minutes of the pagers sounding, but often we're much quicker - sometimes it's only 6 minutes. You don't stop to finish your tea - once the pagers go off you're immediately heading for your car/bicycle or running shoes!

Can you describe the equipment/kit you wear?

The kit has evolved a lot from the early days, and continues to do so. For example, we've recently received a new design of life jacket which is less bulky when deflated, but more buoyant when inflated. We wear helmets with an intercom system which we can plug in to the boat so we can communicate more easily with each other and the coastguard. We also have dry-suits to keep the water out, and a thermal under suit (the 'woolly bear') that we always wear underneath. This helps keep you warm in the winter, and wicks away sweat in the summer.

What's the most memorable call-out you have been on?

I think the most memorable was a couple of years ago when the pagers went off whilst we were collecting money in the town centre on our annual 'flag day'. We raced through the town wearing our full lifeboat kit, jumped in to a couple of taxis who took us to the boathouse, then we had to race down the coast towards Llanrhystud where four young surfers were unable to get back to shore due to the worsening weather conditions. We found them, pulled them and their boards onto the lifeboat and brought them back to Aberystwyth safely. We even made it on to the BBC news that day! There's a short video on YouTube as well: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jCjoJ4x15Y

What are the highs?

Definitely when you return from a rescue knowing that you've helped someone in need. It might just be someone needing minor assistance, or you might have directly saved lives. Either way, it makes all the commitment and training worthwhile.

What are the lows?

Well, it's rarely enjoyable when the pager goes off in the early hours of the morning!

Other than that, obviously not every job we do has a happy ending. In your time as a lifeboat crew you may well have to deal with some unpleasant or distressing situations. Luckily these are rare but when they do occur you have the rest of the crew around you to help you deal with any issues that may arise. There may be a lot of banter around the station but when the pager goes off we're a close-knit team who look out for each other.



Crew members from Aberystwyth and Newquay lifeboats practice their first aid skills. Credit: RNLI



Aberystwyth Lifeboat Station Open Day. Credit: RNLI

How does somebody go about becoming a volunteer crew member?

There's lots of information on the main RNLI website, but locally the easiest thing to do is to come to the lifeboat station on a Sunday morning and introduce yourself.

You can also contact us through our website: www.aberystwythlifeboat.org.uk, or of course these days contact us directly through Twitter (@aberlifeboat) and Facebook (Bad Achub Aberystwyth Lifeboat).

We don't just need crew members, there are also roles available for people to help out with launch and recovery of the boats as tractor drivers and shore-crew. People are also welcome to volunteer to help in the shop, or with other fundraising activities.

The Aberystwyth Lifeboat and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) are the Vice Chancellor's Charity of the Year for 2014-15.

WHAT'S ON

SCHOOL OF ART EXHIBITIONS

Monday 16 February – Friday 20 March 2015



Four paintings from the Consignment Series

**Glenn Ibbitson:
Consignment**

This series of work, developed by Glenn Ibbitson over a number of years, tackles themes of human confinement and trafficking.

The works depict human bodies contorted into wooden crates, given numerical titles, stripped of identity, treated as goods and intentionally objectified. The artist modelled for himself in the confinement of the crates, filming his movements from above and using photographs to help create the paintings.

**John Harvey,
The Bible in Translation**

The exhibition investigates ways in which texts from, commentaries upon, and cultural articulations of, the Judaeo-Christian bible can be transformed into visual and sonic images. The printed, spoken, and heard word is subjected to a hermeneutical process that deploys systems of codification, excision, and redaction, and techniques of collage, superimposition, and abstraction. By these means, the source material yields significances, connections, and resonances that are not ordinarily evident.

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage

Tue 10 March – Sat 14 March

On the eve of one of the most important games of his career, Welsh rugby legend Gareth Thomas received a warning: *The Sun* newspaper was going to 'out' him as gay.

This is the story of two Welsh names bruised, but not beaten, by media speculation; Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas, 100 caps for Wales, once its captain, now the world's most prominent gay sportsman; and his hometown, Bridgend.

Working with Alfie himself, and young people in Bridgend, two of the UK's most exciting theatre companies - National Theatre Wales and Out of Joint - have teamed up to tell a great Welsh story about sport, politics, secrets, life and learning to be yourself.

National Theatre Wales, Out of Joint & Arcola Theatre with Sherman Cymru.

Directed by Max Stafford-Clark. Written by Robin Soans.

Suitable for age 14+

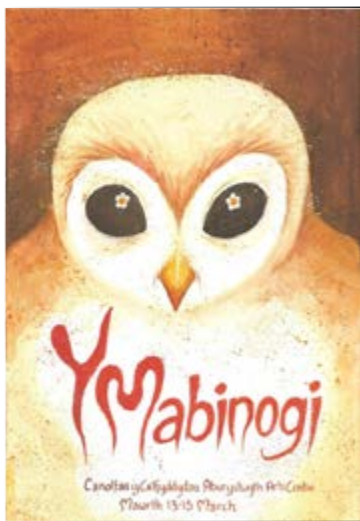


Image by Peter Stevenson

Mabinogi Project

Friday 13 March – Sunday 15 March

An unedited bilingual day-long illustrated telling of the four branches of *Y Mabinogi*.

The stories will be told by storytellers Cath Little, Christine Cooper, Dafydd Davies Hughes, Fiona Collins, Guto Dafis and Michael Harvey. There will be a specially commissioned exhibition of visual art featuring Ceredigion based illustrators, and Maria Hayes will be drawing live and projecting her drawings during the telling, so creating a second exhibition.

The project will include a talk by Sioned Davies, discussions, papers, informal tales, a twmpath, cake from the café, and will be curated by Peter Stevenson.

<http://ymabinogi.moonfruit.com/>



**The Basil Brush Show –
The Full On Fox Tour 2015**

Sunday 22 March

Basil Brush is a star with an outstanding ability to entertain and make people of all ages laugh and smile. He's cheeky, irreverent, charming, naughty, quick-witted, scheming and foxy, but at the same time he's kind, caring and affectionate. Basil has celebrated over 50 years in entertainment and *The Basil Brush Show* on BBC TV has been seen by millions of viewers all over the globe from 1968 through to today. The show was BAFTA nominated and voted best comedy show on TV.

Now, Britain's most loveable fox is back on the road along with his TV chum Mr Stephen (aka Chris Pizzey). Together they will take you on a journey of laughs, storytelling and song in a brand new specially written 'live' stage show packed with fun and excitement. Come and join in the mayhem, along with Mr Stephen who is continually interrupted by naughty uncontrollable Basil!