



ABER *News*

THE TIMES
 THE SUNDAY TIMES
**GOOD
 UNIVERSITY
 GUIDE
 2019**
 UNIVERSITY
 OF THE YEAR
 FOR TEACHING
 QUALITY

Celebrating teaching excellence

Teaching excellence among academic and postgraduate staff was celebrated at a special event at Aberystwyth University on Monday 24 June 2019, hosted by the University's Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit (LTEU).

Thirty-nine members of staff and fourteen postgraduate tutors were congratulated for achieving teaching qualifications and various levels of Fellowship in AdvanceHE during the 2018/19 academic year.

Two lecturers and one postgraduate tutor were awarded prizes for outstanding achievement.

Nina Sharp, a postgraduate tutor from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, was presented with the Aberystwyth University Prize for Teaching for Postgraduates (TPAU), for the most reflective and considered piece about her teaching journey.

Yvonne Rinkart from the Department of International Politics and the International English Centre, and Dr Kim Kenobi from the Department of Mathematics were presented

with prizes for outstanding achievement in their Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (PGCTHE).

Postgraduate tutors and academic staff who are interested in developing professional teaching practice through TPAU or the PGCTHE, or those who would like to obtain recognition of existing good teaching practice, can find further information on the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice website (www.aber.ac.uk/en/cdsap).

Left to right: Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Mary Jacob, Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit; Kim Kenobi - Outstanding Achievement prize winner in the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education, Nina Sharp - winner of the Teaching for Postgraduates at Aberystwyth University Prize, Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Annette Edwards from the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit

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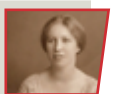
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The Vice Chancellor served food in TaMed Da on Wear Red Day.



Staff from Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science wore red and bought Welsh cakes, raising £64.



Fundraising for the University Charity of the Year

Staff and students from across the University have been busy raising money for this year's University Charity of the Year, Wales Air Ambulance.

'Wear Red Day' on Friday 1 March was a great success. As well as staff wearing red and donating money, several departments held cake stalls and ran tombolas. In TaMed Da a special St David's Day menu was served, with a percentage from each dish sold going to the University Charity of the Year, which raised £637.

Collection boxes in food venues across the campuses have raised £200.

Concerts by AberOpera in February and March raised £285.

A nominations and voting process to select the University Charity of the Year for 2019-20 recently took place. The chosen charity will be announced during Graduation Week, 16-19 July.



Head of Hospitality Services, Jeremy Mabbutt's daughters spent the final day of their half term holiday helping out on the tombola in TaMed Da, which raised just under £200.

Staff from the Departments of Theatre, Film and Television Studies and Welsh raised £89 through their cake stall.



The Cake Stall run by the Vice Chancellor's Office raised £230.

Total raised so far this year: **£4,625**



Fundraising for Leri Ward

The University's Facilities Team held a cake sale in Llandinam Building on 14 February to raise money for Leri Ward at Bronglais Hospital, where one of their team is currently being treated. The sale raised £382. A big thank you to all those who donated, bought cakes and helped organise this very successful event.

The Vice-Chancellor's Column



As I write, I can hear through the window of my office the dissonant sounds from what is now the Pantycelyn building site. A distraction at times perhaps but a welcome one as it signals steady progress towards the refurbishment and

reopening of this important hall of residence in September 2020. I hear too the distant hum of a lawnmower cutting the grass somewhere on our lovely green campus - a reminder that the summer season is indeed upon us, despite the weather suggesting otherwise. Soon we will gather together as a community to celebrate the successes of our final year students and bid farewell to another cohort of Aber graduates as they set out to make their mark on the wider world. The regular rhythms of university life continue unabated.

This past academic year has been notable for two very special birthdays, as we celebrate the centenary of our Department of International Politics and mark one hundred years of plant breeding at Aberystwyth. Two very different disciplines that since 1919 have made an immense contribution to tackling some of the major challenges facing our world and have elevated Aberystwyth's status on the global stage. From George Stapledon and Alfred Zimmern to the researchers of today, we are indebted as an institution to the vision, commitment and expert knowledge of staff past and present.

There have been more sombre reasons in recent months to reflect on the contributions made by staff to this University. On 8 June 2019, we heard the sad news of the death of our former Vice-Chancellor Professor Noel Lloyd - an eminent

mathematician who served our institution with dedication, diligence and distinction for more than 30 years. We also lost outstanding physicist Professor Neville Greaves in June, and our close-knit community was devastated earlier this year by the death of Councillor Paul James in a tragic cycling accident just outside Aberystwyth. Paul had worked as a Security Officer for us for more than 20 years and had been in training for a major charity bike ride. We remember them and others for their valuable service and for the legacy they leave behind.

Our people are without doubt our greatest asset. In the past six months, I have been visiting our academic departments to speak directly to staff about their work, to answer questions, hear concerns and discuss ideas for the future. After completing these academic visits, I will be making a similar tour of professional service departments between September and December, and intend to make such visits an annual occurrence alongside at least two all staff meetings a year. Regular dialogue and communication are important in a big institution like ours, and I believe we are at our best when we work together for the greater good.

Our Open Days are a shining example of the whole institution working in tandem towards a common goal. Despite the challenges we face, we are steadily building resilience and sustainability for the future. Students remain at the heart of everything we do here and our consistently high levels of satisfaction with teaching, feedback and courses are the envy of many other HEIs. I look forward to working with you at our first Open Day of the year on Wednesday 10 July as we showcase together what's special about the Aber experience and inspire the next generation of undergraduates to choose us.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice-Chancellor

Health and Wellbeing Day



Following the success of last year's Health and Wellbeing Day, the University's Corporate Health Steering Group has again organised a range of sessions and workshops for staff on Friday 5 July from 10am-3pm in Medrus.

The event will see both new and returning exhibitors and a wide variety of activities, presentations and taster sessions including:

- Talks
- Massage and Aromatherapy
- Osteopathy
- Full Body Analysis
- Blood Pressure, Cholesterol and Glucose Testing
- Discounted Healthy Lunches
- Origami
- Yoga

There are also two new additions to the programme this year - a photography competition and a 5k Run/Walk.

Sessions are open to all staff but some must be booked in advance.

Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment, and members of staff can ask to be formally released by their line managers to take part, subject to operational needs.

To see the full programme and to book individual sessions, please visit the University's Health and Wellbeing Day webpage www.aber.ac.uk/en/hr/health-wellbeing-event

If you have any questions, please email wellbeing@aber.ac.uk.

AberSU celebrates
STAFF & STUDENTS

AberSU Staff and Student Awards

The annual AberSU Staff and Student Awards took place on Tuesday 2 April 2019. Fourteen awards were presented this year, recognising staff, student volunteers and academic reps from across the University.

Megan Hatfield, Academic Affairs Officer at Aberystwyth Students Union said: "It was a pleasure to host this year's AberSU Staff and Students Awards. The evening was a great chance to celebrate the people who make Aberystwyth University the fantastic place it is - the lecturers who go the extra mile to make their subject fun and engaging, the students such as Academic Reps, Student Volunteers, Student Mentors, and Volunteer Officers who all work hard to represent and support other students.

The awards offer the chance to recognise and reward staff and students, and are student-led right from nominating their peers or staff, to presenting awards at the ceremony. It was an honour to be involved in the event and see the hard work of people within the University."

More photographs from the evening can be found on the UMAberSU Facebook page.



Doug Kerr (Student Support Services), winner of Support / Service Staff Member of the Year, with Chloe Wilkinson-Silk, AberSU Academic Affairs Officer 2019-20

Congratulations to all those nominated, and to this year's winners:

Supervisor of the Year

Professor Karl Hoffmann (IBERS)

Postgraduate Teacher of the Year

Angharad Ffion James (Law and Criminology)

Personal Tutor of the Year

Professor Andrew Evans (Physics)

Lecturer of the Year

Deena Bhojroo (Aberystwyth University Mauritius Branch Campus)

Support / Service Staff Member of the Year

Doug Kerr (Student Support Service)

Outstanding Feedback Award

Dr Simon Payne (IBERS)

Welsh Language Champion

John Davies (IBERS)

Next Step Award

Dr Ian Birchmore (Business)

Student Mentor of the Year

Panna Karlinger (Mathematics)

Volunteer Officer of the Year

Joao Louro (IBERS)

Student Volunteer of the Year

Robin Church (Geography and Earth Sciences)

Academic Representative of the Year

Aaron Phillips (Theatre, Film and Television Studies)

Leading Equality

Dr Adam Vellender (Mathematics)

Special Mention

Dr Kathy Hampson (Law and Criminology)

Department of the Year

Psychology



Members of the Department of Psychology, which won Department of the Year 2019



Panna Karlinger (Mathematics), Student Mentor of the Year



Professor Karl Hoffmann (IBERS), Supervisor of the Year



Winner of the Special Mention award, Dr Kathy Hampson from Law and Criminology, with Independent Students' Officer, Sam Wilding

Aber academics elected Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales

Congratulations to the five Aberystwyth University academics who are among 48 new Fellows who have joined the Learned Society of Wales this year:

- Professor Matthew Jarvis (Professorial Fellow of Literature and Place at the Department of English and Creative Writing)
- Professor Peter Midmore (Professor of Economics at Aberystwyth Business School)
- Dr Helen Ougham (Emeritus Reader at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences)
- Professor Phillipp Schofield (Head of the Department of History & Welsh History)
- Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens (Emeritus Professor in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies).

Established in 2010, the Learned Society of Wales uses the knowledge of its experts to promote research, inspire learning, and provide independent policy advice. The yearly addition of new Fellows, from across the arts, humanities, sciences and beyond, aids the Society in achieving these aims.

Election to the Fellowship is a public recognition of excellence; it is keenly competed, and takes place following a rigorous examination of each nominee's achievements in their relevant field(s).

The full list of new Fellows elected is available online: www.learnedsociety.wales/our-fellows

Graduation 2019

Graduation Week 2019 takes place from Tuesday 16 until Friday 19 July in the Great Hall at Aberystwyth Arts Centre.

During the week, nine Honorary Fellowships will be presented to individuals who have or have had a connection with Aberystwyth or Wales, and who have made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field.

The 2019 Aberystwyth University Honorary Fellows are (in order of presentation):

- Alan Phillips, retired peripatetic music teacher who worked for Ceredigion Music Service for 35 years
- Professor Frank N. Hogg OBE, the first Principal of the College of Librarianship Wales
- Ruth Bidgood, Welsh poet and local historian
- Professor R Geoff Richards, Director of the AO Research Institute in Davos (Switzerland), one of the world's leading orthopaedic research institutes
- Emyr Jenkins, first Director of the National Eisteddfod and former Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Wales
- Professor Virginia Gamba, leading expert in the field of disarmament research and policy formulation
- Ian Hopwood, who has worked in the development field for over 40 years in UNICEF HQ and in field assignments in Africa, Asia, and the Arab Gulf States
- The Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, former First Minister of Wales and Leader of the Welsh Labour Party (2009-18)
- Judith Diment, a leading global figure in the campaign to eradicate polio

Who graduates when?

Tuesday 16 July - **Ceremony 1**

11am Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics

Tuesday 16 July - **Ceremony 2**

3pm Aberystwyth Business School, Information Management, Libraries & Archive

Wednesday 17 July - **Ceremony 3**

11am IBERS (Agriculture), Psychology

Wednesday 17 July - **Ceremony 4**

3pm IBERS (Biology), Modern Languages

Thursday 18 July - **Ceremony 5**

11am Theatre, Film & Television Studies, Education, Welsh & Celtic Studies

Thursday 18 July - **Ceremony 6**

3pm English & Creative Writing, International Politics

Friday 19 July - **Ceremony 7**

11am School of Art, Law & Criminology

Friday 19 July - **Ceremony 8**

3pm Geography and Earth Sciences, History and Welsh History

Spotlight on... the University Sports Centre

The University's Sports Centre has been providing sports and leisure opportunities for students and staff, as well as the wider Aberystwyth community, for over half a century. *ABER News* spoke to Sports Centre Manager, Darren Hathaway, to find out more about what the Sports Centre offers:

Tell us a bit about the history of sporting facilities at the University?

Following a survey of student participation in sports activities in 1937 by the College and Students' Joint Committee, it was decided that building a swimming bath was a priority.

Only the second building to be built on the Penglais Campus, the swimming bath was completed in 1945, thanks to a grant of £10,000 from the National Fitness Council, plus additional funding from the settlement of the College's claims under the Welsh Church Acts, and the College's own funds.

The area of the all-weather pitch and running track, opposite the pool, was excavated and levelled at the same time.

The Sports Centre was officially opened much later on the 20 May 1964 by Sir William Pugh OBE, who was President of the College Old Students Association. The erection of the hall was made possible by contributions from former students aided by a gift from the first Lord Davies.

What facilities does the Sports Centre have these days?

Today the Sports Centre has two multi-purpose sports halls, a Dance Studio, a Spin Studio, and five fitness areas (a Cardio Room, Strength Area, Ladies Only Area, Plate Loaded Room and the Strength and Conditioning Free Weights).

We also have a climbing wall, swimming pool and saunarium.

Externally we have a small training and full-size 3G, a 400m floodlit two lane trim track (with an identical Mondo surface as at the 2012 Olympics) three tennis courts, and over 40 acres of playing fields that include football, rugby, lacrosse, cricket, and American football pitches.

What activities can staff, students and other users take part in at the Sports Centre?

As well as use of all the facilities mentioned, the Sports Centre holds over 60 exercise classes a week (from Zumba to Circuits, Yoga, Pilates, Back Care and Water Therapy, High-intensity interval training {HIIT} and indoor cycling), and we have staff badminton and football sessions that run weekly.

We also facilitate over 30 University sports teams each week, nearly 50 community clubs and most local schools utilise our facilities across the year.

How many people use the Sports Centre every year?

Our best estimates would put the total footfall between 250,000-300,000 visitors per year.

Since our recent investment in upgraded facilities, visits to the Sports Centre have increased by 40,000 over the past 24 months and we are 12% busier again so far in 2018/19.

What do you think the Sports Centre provision adds to the Aber student experience?

Exercise is a well-documented resource in helping to build resilience for both physical and mental health, as well as being great fun!

We hope that by making access to the facilities so easy for students is encouraging them to participate in sport, health and well-being activities.

Many people who do not consider themselves 'sporty' can be initially reluctant to participate in exercise due to feeling self-conscious. We help remove those barriers to exercise by offering sector-leading value-for-money student memberships and a warm and friendly welcome and ongoing support.

This, together with the first class facilities that are conveniently located on campus (rather than spread across town like at larger universities) gives students at Aber a unique opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities.

What is the main misconception that people have about the University Sports Centre?

Surprisingly some people think we are not part of the University, but are more like a sporting equivalent to a Costa Coffee franchise on campus.

Many of the local community don't think they can access our facilities, and those who do want it to remain the best kept secret!



Walking Rugby

Earlier this year, a Walking Rugby Team was established at the University's Sports Centre.

Walking Rugby is a low impact, strictly non-contact version of touch rugby. It is a fun accessible activity that is suitable for all ages, gender, ability and fitness levels - the sessions are tailored to those taking part.

About 10-13 people attend each week, ranging from 20 year old students, to participants in their 70s. Some are working and others retired. Some are ex-players and others have never played rugby before. There is someone that cares for elderly parents, and someone that attends the cardiac rehabilitation sessions here at the University. The sessions really are for everyone, and it is a great way to socialise.

On 29 April, the team had the honour of being invited to play at the Principality Stadium as part of a national event organised by the Welsh Rugby Union. There the team played four games - against Pontypridd, Cardiff, Treorchy and Torfaen - as well as being allowed to use the official match day changing rooms and being given a grand entrance prior to the first game!

Walking Rugby takes place at the University Sports Centre weekly on Tuesday mornings at 11am. The sessions are free, and all you need is sports clothing, trainers, and a drink.

For further information about Walking Rugby, please do not hesitate to contact me: dlt7@aber.ac.uk / 01970 628662.

Llŷr Thomas

Aberystwyth University Rugby Hub Officer



Accreditation for Accessibility Services



For the second year running, Aberystwyth University's in-house 'Non Medical Help' (NMH) support staff have been awarded accredited supplier status by the Disabled Students' Allowance - Quality Assurance Group (DSA-QAG).

The NMH Support Staff are part of Accessibility Services within Student Support and Careers Services. They comprise of specialist mental health and autism mentors, specialist study skills tutors for students with Specific Learning Differences (such as dyslexia), and assistive technology trainers who are located in Information Services.

More than 600 of Aberystwyth students currently receive 1:1 support through Accessibility Services.

The audit checked that the support provided for these students met the 37 standards that form part of the DSA Quality Assurance Framework. This year, the University achieved 99% compliance to the standards; a significant increase from the first audit which scored 88%.

John Harrington, the Deputy Head of Student Support and Careers Services that headed up the DSA-QAG audit process said *"This excellent score has been achieved through the dedicated hard work of the NMH Support Staff and Accessibility Services staff in insuring that the quality and the systems used to monitor the support provided is always of the highest quality"*.

Students that don't currently have 1:1 support for a diagnosed disability, SpLD or long-term health issue, can contact one of our Accessibility Advisers to review any support needs by telephone (01970 621761) or by email: accessibility@aber.ac.uk

VetHub1 update



Jackie Sayce, who was Manager of the Institute of Geography, History, Politics and Psychology from 2012-18, was appointed Project Co-ordinator and Business Development Officer for VetHub1 in January 2019.

ABER *News* spoke to Jackie about VetHub1 and her new role:

Tell us a bit about your new role?

I am part of a team that is responsible for the delivery of the University's new Innovation Cluster called 'VetHub1' in the Carwyn James Building. I project manage the £4.2m programme of refurbishment to transform the space into state-of-the-art laboratory and office spaces. I work closely with PVC Professor Chris Thomas (who is leading the project) along with colleagues from IBERS and the Estates Department.

Can you explain what VetHub1 is?

VetHub1 will provide secure laboratories to promote and protect animal and human health. One of the aims of VetHub1 is to work closely with industry to produce new tests and vaccines to reduce loss in the livestock industry, thereby making a valuable contribution to the rural economy in Wales and farther afield. The researchers will particularly be looking at developing solutions for animal borne diseases that could pass to humans.

How has VetHub1 been funded?

The University has provided part of the funding, the European Regional Development Fund (through the Welsh Government) has provided £3m, and £650k was awarded by the Centre of Innovation Excellence in Livestock.

When will it be opening?

Building work inside and outside the Carwyn James Building started in April, and completion is planned for September/October 2019.



Who will be able to make use of the facilities at VetHub1?

The space will be available to academic researchers and associated businesses.

How will VetHub1 benefit the local economy and the wider world?

Part of the plan for VetHub1 is to grow the rural economy and create jobs in mid Wales. During the build phase, we have used local suppliers where possible, and once the facility is operational, there will be staff employed within it and external companies using it. Working together with veterinary practices and businesses there will be a unique opportunity to develop new innovative products and services and transform the economy of the area.

Join in THE CONVERSATION

Ruth Dawson, the Wales Editor of *The Conversation* will be at Aberystwyth University on **Wednesday 3 July** to hold a two-hour briefing and writing workshop for academics and researchers. The workshop, which takes place from 10am-12pm in Room 1.16 Edward Llwyd Building, will advise on what stories work and how to pitch. To book your place visit:

www.aber.ac.uk/en/staff/conversation

Since Aberystwyth University joined *The Conversation* in August 2017, articles by Aberystwyth staff have been read more than 800,000 times.

The Conversation showcases some of the best research taking place in universities today. It offers academics a vehicle through which to engage, inform and offer academic insight direct to the public, on a wide range of subjects. This could be by commenting on current affairs, breaking news, explaining research, or developing more feature-style stories.

Contributions to *The Conversation* are often republished by the wider media (e.g. *The i*, *The Times*, *Daily Mail* and *Western Mail*) and gain significant international reach. Articles by Aberystwyth University academics have been read in more than 200 countries. Content is also republished on the University's own web pages and shared widely on social media so it's an effective way of raising the profile of our research.

For more information visit theconversation.com/uk or e-mail communications@aber.ac.uk



Conducting Elgar in Ukraine

In February this year, Dr David Russell Hulme, the University's Director of Music appeared as guest conductor with one of Ukraine's foremost symphony orchestras in Zaporozhye, Ukraine. We asked him to share his experience:



"How on earth did you come to conduct Elgar in Ukraine?" - a question quite a few have asked. Initially the engagement to conduct the Zaporozhye Symphony Orchestra was for a screening of Hitchcock's silent classic, *Blackmail*, accompanied by Aberystwyth alumnus Neil Brand's brilliant score - a rather specialised job. When this fell through, I was invited to conduct a programme of British music instead. So, on an icy night in February, I stood on the frozen tarmac of Zaporozhye's tiny airport with four scores in my bag: Elgar's brilliant *Enigma Variations*, Vaughan Williams's *First Norfolk Rhapsody*, a couple of movements from Richard Rodney Bennett's *Murder on the Orient Express* score and - a personal favourite - Hamilton Harty's colourful tone-poem, *With the Wild Geese*.

The first rehearsal was at 10am the following morning (with the time-difference, that was still 8am for me). How would it go? I spoke no Russian or Ukrainian; only a minority of the orchestra knew any English - and there was no interpreter. We started with the Harty - "Goose Music" as they christened it! We soon found a way of working. Elena Ignatenko, the orchestra's wonderful leader, spoke English and translated here and there. Rehearsal letters were easy - D for Dracula, M for Mamma Mia! - and, of course, everyone understood musical Italian.

The four-hour rehearsals were broken by three breaks. These were convivial get-togethers, with tea and cakes organised within little groups. Clearly the players were relaxed and happy together. A great fuss was made on birthdays - a boisterous

fanfare from the brass and special cakes and presents. I felt welcome right from the start - chocolates on my music stand and stuffed in my coat pockets, cake to take home and - best of all - warmth and friendliness from everyone.

Six days of rehearsal gave time to get down to musical detail - a luxury with professional orchestras. The players loved the works, all virtually new to them. *Enigma* was the only one the orchestra had played before - but not for twenty years. Excellent training by Music Director Vyashelav Redya, has made the orchestra wonderfully responsive. They played beautifully for me and the final concert on 1 February was a huge success.

In cash-strapped times, Zaporozhye may not spend a fortune on repairing pot-holed pavements; its roads aren't clogged with flash cars, but it maintains two professional orchestras - the Symphony and the Magara Theatre Orchestra - and a healthy youth music provision. It's got its priorities right!

"Did you have a good time?" - another question I've been asked. Yes, I had the very best of times.

David Russell Hulme



Dr Julie Abbott (formerly McKeown) is a lecturer in marketing in Aberystwyth Business School. She holds a PhD in Rural Entrepreneurship and Consumer Behaviour, and gained her Chartered Marketer status with the Chartered Institute for Marketing in 2000. Her research interests include Welsh rural entrepreneurs, particularly equestrian businesses.

In addition to the day job, Julie enjoys endurance riding, and she and her horse are part of the Welsh Endurance team.

ABER*News* spoke to Julie to find out more about what she enjoys about this controlled long-distance riding:

In addition to the day job

When did you first get into horse riding?

I have always loved horses but it wasn't until I was first married at the age of 20 that I started riding regularly. I got my first horse in 1985. He was a week old Arabian foal. I have always had Arab horses since then and my present one - TM Valentino or Rafiq to his friends - is a purebred 16hh Arab diva with attitude! I have had him for two years and we are a trusted partnership now. I feel lucky and blessed to have such a lovely and talented boy.

Explain what endurance riding is?

Endurance is riding over all sorts of terrain for distances from 32K to 160K per day in a set time and speed.

Graded rides are a technical ride in which horse and rider have to travel at between 8kph and 18kph depending on the level, and the horse has to pass a vetting for soundness and heart rates at the start and finish of the ride. The horse's heart rate and speed are taken into account to decide on your grade - from grade 1 (top) to grade 4 then completion. Horses are eliminated if they go too fast or slow, are unsound or if their heart rates are too high 30 minutes after the end of the ride.

With race rides, which are over distances of 80K and above, there is no maximum speed and the winner is the first rider to cross the finish line. However the winner has to have their horse's heart rate down below 65bpm 30 minutes after the ride, and it has to be sound.

What is it that you love about endurance riding?

It is about the teamwork with your horse and crew - your crew is vital as they meet you on the route and give you and your horse a drink and food, and give the horse a 'slosh' (pour water over them to cool them down). When you are back at the venue they work on them to get their heart rate down before the post-ride vetting.

I also love being out for hours on my horse at trot and canter in all sorts of weather and terrain. If I had time I would view the scenery too! It is also the friendliest equine sport I have come across. Everyone helps each other and encourages you.

What are the main challenges with endurance riding?

The horse's welfare is paramount. So the main challenge is to make sure that they come through the ride sound and happy. After that it is to keep their heart rate down and the speed up! My horse isn't keen on being passed at speed by others so that was a big challenge for me at novice level last year. However, we are now at open level so he will just have to stay in front!

What have been the high points for you?

My horse did ten 40K rides last year at Novice level, giving me nine grade 1s and a grade 2 to win the British Novice Endurance Championship, the Welsh Championship and a number of other championships, which were, of course, high points.



The Welsh Endurance team in front of Brodie Castle in Inverness at the Home Internationals, September 2018

Also being on the Welsh team for the Home Internationals in Inverness and bringing home a Gold for the team. The atmosphere was amazing and being part of the team was superb. We all got on very well and my partner crewed for me and his daughter, who was also on the team as a junior and who got silver.

We are all on the squad for the Home Internationals this year (my partner has also got the bug now) which is being held at the Red Dragon Festival of Endurance in Builth Wells in October. Wales are determined to win on home soil so we are already in training!

What one item do you always carry on an endurance ride?

A map! Although the routes are marked a map is a must. Most riders also carry a first aid kit, hoof pick and a phone. I have a specialised endurance saddle and bridle but you can ride in anything as long as it fits the horse and rider.

What advice would you give to somebody who was interested in starting to trail ride or do endurance?

Go for it! It is open to all ages of rider and all breeds of horse. Go onto the Endurance GB website and see how to get started. Get involved with your regional group and don't be afraid to ask for help. We are all very friendly and remember starting off ourselves so will help anyone beginning. It is a great way to get a good bond with your horse. You don't have to have an Arabian horse to do endurance - particularly at the lower levels. You can join the try-before-you-buy scheme and see if you like it before joining Endurance GB.



Julie on Rafiq (left) and her partner's daughter Edith on a borrowed ex-racehorse, riding for Wales at the Home Internationals, September 2018



My research



Angelos Photiades is a first year PhD student in the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS). Originally from Athens, Angelos completed a BSc degree at the University of the Aegean (Greece) studying Food Science and Nutrition. He received a scholarship to complete an MSc in Food Quality and Chemistry of Natural Products at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece). He came to Aberystwyth University to begin studying for his PhD in 2018.

ABERNews spoke to Angelos about his research:

Describe your research in a nutshell?

My PhD involves working on biorefinery processing of problematic macroalgae for the production of high value-added products. Put simply, it is all about converting seaweed biomass into useful products.

The motives behind this project are hiding in the word 'problematic'. Climate change and anthropogenic activities are increasingly affecting the stability of the ecosystem with tremendous influence on the environment. Algal blooms are a worldwide phenomenon which affect the ecology, tourism and the economy.

These algal blooms ('green tides') have been observed in Milford Haven Waterway in Pembrokeshire, where my partner company GreenSeas Resources is based. Working with them, I am researching the potential uses of macroalgae, from biofuels and fertilizers, to nutraceutical and pharmaceutical compounds, promoting circular economy and ecologically viable practices.

What's a typical day for you?

Many hours of my day are spent in IBERS (Plas Gogerddan Campus). Depending on the period I might be in the lab working on seaweed samples, or at the office analysing data, writing and reading existing literature.

Due to the breadth of my project, in terms of the many potential uses of seaweed, I always have something interesting to read which can sometimes be challenging. I am currently working in biogas production and the use of seaweed as fertilizer.

What do you find most rewarding?

Research is by definition a rewarding activity. You form a hypothesis or formulate an idea, and if you are lucky enough you can see it manifesting itself by the end of your project. If your idea is good it could even be commercially applied and



hence, translated to money. If it's a really good idea, your research could lead the way for other ideas to follow; it could solve a problem and provide evidence for the improvement of the future.

Will I necessarily achieve all this? No. But the possibility of success is a great motive. Personal growth, the opportunity to create knowledge and walk in a path where not many people have walked before - that's the reward a scientist can obtain.

This project is characterised by a three-way outcome - we are doing research while we encounter an environmental issue and produce seaweed-based products. This contributes to the feeling of doing something important with high impact, especially at a time when the planet is going through drastic changes.

What do you find most challenging?

I believe every PhD student will agree that a PhD is a lonely road. You constantly challenge yourself, practising your self-organisation skills, balancing your research with your everyday life, finding motives to keep you focused on the things that matter. This is a process that every researcher has to go through. Procrastination and self-doubt are your worst enemies, but hopefully you can overcome these obstacles by keeping your eyes on your goals and keep moving forward.

My research

Rachel Lilley completed an interdisciplinary social science degree at Sunderland University and a PGCE at Newport University, before coming to Aberystwyth University to complete an MPhil. She is now a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, funded by a prestigious AberDoc scholarship.

Rachel has also worked as a campaigner, project manager and director for 30 years in social and environmental change.

ABER News spoke to Rachel about her research into whether mindfulness can support effective decision making by policy makers and leaders.

Can you describe your research in a nutshell?

My research is about helping people in government and the public sector to get better at decision making and behaviour change, so that they can improve their policy-making and work more effectively with complex social and environmental problems such as climate change.

I use behavioural economics, neuroscience and reflective practices like mindfulness to develop training programmes that are delivered in the workplace.

I analyse what people do in their jobs, how they make decisions, relate to each other and assess information, and I develop the interventions in response to what I find.

I am interested in how emotions work as part of our cognition to effect decision making, and how this operates in teams and organisations.

I have worked extensively with Welsh Government as well as with the public sector and non-governmental organisations and private companies involved in change. I have also studied applying behavioural economics to issues like domestic energy conservation, maintaining habitats in National Parks and have worked with

IBERS on integrating behaviour change within an agricultural context.

What's a typical day for you?

My days and weeks vary a lot. Today I have been writing up some research whilst also preparing to deliver a training session tomorrow for Welsh Government in Cardiff. In recent months I was involved in writing a strategy document which I presented to the First Minister of Wales. That was quite time consuming as there were seven of us writing it and we all had differing views.

I am also helping to run the Aberystwyth Behavioural Insights Interdisciplinary Research Centre in the University, so part of my time has been developing ideas for funding bids and putting bids together.

I am increasingly being asked to run workshops and write articles, and I must also focus on getting more publications written for academic articles.

What do you find most rewarding?

My work has influenced ways of working in government, with some very senior people changing their management styles. It has also shifted thinking about practices such as mindfulness, and how they can be used to create real change, not just help people become calmer.

I can get quite passionate about

communicating sciences related to thinking, emotions and relating, as these are key capacities we need in the world if we are to solve some of the trickier challenges such as climate change. Most people really don't understand enough, given that they are basically working with minds (their own and other people's) every day. It is very rewarding when I get positive feedback.

After my last programme I was asked to present my work to the Permanent Secretary in Wales and her board. This was enormously satisfying – it feels great to be doing research that people are interested in and that has impact.

What do you find most challenging?

I find it quite challenging having to work on my own a lot. I am used to working in a team, but with this research work I am mostly on my own. It takes a lot of energy to motivate and organise myself on a day-to-day basis without someone else to bounce ideas off and nudge me along.

I also have had to really put myself out there and speak to senior people about psychology and neuroscience and whilst I did just say I can get passionate about it, it can also be a bit nerve wracking. Thankfully most people say I am good at making complex concepts easily understandable, but sometimes I think I do lose my audience!

Careers Fair AberForward competition Graduate Scheme Awards

First year Film & Television Studies student, Marcella Rees-Gray, was the winner of the prize draw at the Spring Careers Fair organised by the University's Careers Service.

Marcella won a £50 Aberystwyth Arts Centre voucher, kindly sponsored by Morgan Sindall, the building contractors working on the redevelopment of the Pantycelyn hall of residence.



Marcella (right) being presented with prize by Joanne Hiatt, Careers Consultant, Aberystwyth University Careers Service.

Many congratulations to the worthy winners of this year's AberForward Graduate Scheme's Recognition Awards held on 15 February 2019.

The winners (pictured from left to right) were: Luke Searle (Planning Office), Lucy Gray (International Office), Emily Clark (Health, Safety & Environment), Daisy Cobbold (International Office), Ailia Murray (School of Education), and Luke Waller (Department of Physics). Each received a prize of £250.

Our grateful thanks go to the AberForward trainees for their hard work and contributions during the 4-week placement, to their supervisors for providing the placements and for their support and nominations, and to Balfour Beatty, Fferm Penglais building contractors, for sponsoring the award scheme.



Careers Service helps student to publish book

Sabrina Fackler from Bavaria in Germany is a second year Celtic Studies student. Despite being just 20 years old she has already published ten novels in German and is currently editing the eleventh.

Earlier this year, Sabrina accessed guidance and support from the University's Careers Service, and was awarded funding towards publishing her first novel in English, *Avlia - Wicked Fire*.

ABER*News* spoke to Sabrina about her experiences of being a student in Aberystwyth and the help she has received:

What made you decide to come to Aberystwyth University to study Celtic Studies?

I always wanted to see Wales at some point, and when I realised I could combine so many of my dreams - seeing Wales, learning Celtic languages, getting to travel and study abroad and learning more about Welsh and Irish mythology and history - in one degree, I was fairly set on coming here. Aberystwyth offers all the living Celtic languages, which was probably the selling point. Plus, it's a lovely town and area.

What are the best things about being a student at Aberystwyth?

The area and the libraries. Being able to get away fairly quickly by going for a hike along the coastal path is really helpful if you have a lot on your plate and love enjoying nature.

And the libraries! Well, where do I start? All those books! It's so amazing to have access to this incredible amount of knowledge.

How long have you been writing fiction for?

I started writing stuff down when I was fourteen and have been doing it ever since. I published my first book when I was sixteen.

What help did you get from the University's Careers Service and what difference did it make?

I took part in a number of AberPreneur start-up skills workshops, organised and run by Aberystwyth University's

Careers Service (AberCareers), in conjunction with the Welsh Government's Big Ideas Wales programme.

I also had one-to-one mentoring from a Big Ideas Wales business advisor who spends a day at the University once a fortnight for entrepreneurial students to access free of charge. Through the Big Ideas Wales programme I was awarded £1,000 towards publishing my first book in English.

AberCareers has also been very helpful in providing me with regular career advice and guidance.



Process review survey update

In April we invited you to share your thoughts on the effectiveness and efficiency of our processes so that we spend less time on administration and more on tasks which add value to the student experience, research, teaching and professional services delivery.

The response was great - 350 contributions. I would like to thank everyone who participated. Your feedback is extremely important and has helped us better understand where changes are needed.

We have carefully read the comments which were part of your responses, and I would like to give you an early snapshot of the initial findings. The results have also been given to Tim Davies, Director of IS as it will help him in the development of a new Digital Strategy.

As you would expect, some processes received much higher response rates simply because they are very widely used by many staff. However, the top three in terms of the level of frustration are:

- booking travel/insurance
- creating and amending module information
- completing the ECS

Next steps

With the support of the Executive team we have identified a senior owner for each process, I am now working with



them to develop timelines and action plans for improving these processes.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. I will keep you updated on progress towards turning your feedback into action.

Nick Rogers

Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development

New digital resources

Two PhD theses written by Aberystwyth University alumni in the early 20th century have been made available online for the first time.

The Resource Discovery Team in Information Services have digitised the works and made them available through the Aberystwyth Research Portal (research.aber.ac.uk).

Manganese-bearing rocks of Merioneth

The first newly available resource is *The petrography and petrology of the Cambrian and Ordovician manganese-bearing sediments of North Wales* by Dr Austin William Woodland.

Woodland (1914-1990) came to Aberystwyth where he graduated with first-class honours in Geology in 1934 and a PhD in 1937. He went on to spend four decades working for the Geological Survey of Great Britain, eventually becoming its Director until his retirement in 1979. He is seen as one of the foremost geologists of his generation.

Woodland's thesis on the manganese-bearing rocks of Merioneth, now digitised and openly available on the Aberystwyth Research Portal, remains a standard reference on the subject.

[pure.aber.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/the-petrography-and-petrology-of-the-cambrian-and-ordovician-manganese-bearing-sediments-of-north-wales\(b949d0a0-5f21-4ef4-8ee6-24174f3d36be\).html](http://pure.aber.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/the-petrography-and-petrology-of-the-cambrian-and-ordovician-manganese-bearing-sediments-of-north-wales(b949d0a0-5f21-4ef4-8ee6-24174f3d36be).html)

The founder and founding of the Danish Folk School movement

The second newly digitised resource is *N.F.S. Grundtvig and the Danish Folk High-School movement* by Noëlle Ffrench Davies.

Noëlle Ffrench Davies (1889-1983) from Roscommon, Ireland, graduated in Classics and Modern Languages from Trinity College Dublin and a diploma in education before her interests in Irish nationalism and progressive education led her to a lectureship at the International People's College in Helsingør in Denmark. There she met David James Davies, who she married in 1925, and the couple both enrolled as PhD students at Aberystwyth. While studying, both actively contributed to the

young Welsh Nationalist Party (now Plaid Cymru).



Noëlle French Davies

Although ultimately thwarted in their plans to establish a Folk High School first in Dublin and then in Monmouthshire, the pair were important leaders at Plaid Summer Schools and left a rich legacy of writings on the Welsh political, economic and social situation.

Noëlle Davies' theses, now openly available on the Aberystwyth Research Portal, focused on the history of the Danish Folk School movement and its founder, Bishop Nicholas Grundtvig whose philosophy linked a strong national culture with the establishment of civilised co-operative political systems.

[pure.aber.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/n-f-s-grundtvig-and-the-danish-folk-highschool-movement\(8d42174c-d97a-4cdb-a492-66d7dcee9fba\).html](http://pure.aber.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/n-f-s-grundtvig-and-the-danish-folk-highschool-movement(8d42174c-d97a-4cdb-a492-66d7dcee9fba).html)

AberSU Officer Elections 2019

For a third year in a row, we broke the record for turnout at the SU Elections in 2019, with 37% of students voting (2016: 19%). This puts our Students' Union in the top 3 in the UK for turnout!



Congratulations to all candidates that stood in this year's Aber Elections - detailed results and a full list of elected candidates can also be found in the Elections section of the AberSU website - www.abersu.co.uk/shapeaber/elections

The new full time Officer Team will take up their posts on 1 July 2019:

- President: Dhanjeet Ramnatsing
- Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA President: Tomos Ifan
- Academic Affairs Officer: Chloe Wilkinson Silk
- Student Opportunities Officer: Wojciech Salski
- Wellbeing Officer: Lydia Chilvers

No Excuses

Aberystwyth University Students' Union believes that everyone has the right to live, work and study in an environment free from fear of bullying, harassment and violence.

We've launched the *No Excuses* campaign in collaboration with the University and local partners to empower people to be an active bystander and take action against bullying, harassment, hate crime, sexual assault and other unacceptable behaviours.

Acts of bullying, harassment and violence committed because of a person's identity often start with negative attitudes, beliefs and stereotypes about others. We believe that these prejudices often present in a variety of forms, often because of known or unconscious bias or prejudice around a range of personal characteristics such as race, including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin or sex or sexual orientation. If unchallenged these beliefs can lead to prejudicial and biased behaviour and potentially more serious acts of discrimination, hate and violence.

Report and Support: If you or someone you know experience problematic behaviour you can report it directly to the University. The University in partnership with AberSU are currently developing an online reporting system which will enable students to report something anonymously, as a third party or identify yourself and get support from an advisor. We aim to launch this in the coming weeks.

Take our Pledge: As part of our campaign we're asking students, staff and student groups to show their support in tackling bullying, harassment and violence.

But there is more to it than simply agreeing to a written pledge so take a look at the campaigns pages in the Shape Aber section of our website for more information:

www.abersu.co.uk/shapeaber/campaigns/noexcuses

Our Pledge to You: AberSU pledges to work with all students and staff, to end bullying, harassment, assault and violence to create a zero tolerance culture where students are safe to be themselves without prejudice.

Another thing to celebrate...

AberSU's Officer Team have been crowned NUS Wales Students' Union Officer Team of the Year! This is a solid affirmation of their achievements and hard work over the last year! Well done - we're proud of you!

Trish McGrath - AberSU Chief Executive Officer

Women's Equality Network Wales Trustee appointment



Ruth Fowler, Communications and Equalities Officer in the Human Resources Department has been made a trustee on the Board of Trustees for the Women's Equality Network Wales.

The Women's Equality Network Wales is a network of individuals committed to making Wales a safer and fairer place for women and girls.

Their work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Ruth took up her prestigious appointment at her first board meeting on 8 May in Cardiff.

For more information about the trustees visit: www.wenwales.org.uk/who-we-are/trustees

Appointments

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

HUMAN RESOURCES



Mr Nick Rogers has been appointed Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development. Nick joined the University in January 2018 as Director of Change Strategy. Before coming here, he was Director of Human Resources at James Cook University, Australia (2014-18) - a

role he has also held at the University of the Arts London, at Kingston University London, and at Edinburgh Napier University. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). In his new role he will manage the University's HR and Payroll functions as well as continue to lead on change initiatives across the institution.

INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL SCIENCES



Professor Iain Donnison has been appointed Head of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS). A professor of plant and agricultural sciences, Iain will lead on all aspects of IBERS research and teaching work. He currently leads a BBSRC Core Strategic

Programme in Resilient Crops and is Director of the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) funded BEACON Biorefining Centre with partners at four universities in Wales including Aberystwyth. Iain initially moved to Ceredigion to work at the BBSRC Institute for Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER) in 1994 before joining Aberystwyth University when IGER merged to become part of the newly-formed IBERS in 2008.

Adam Gouraguine is a new postdoctoral research associate at IBERS. He will be working on a NERC Newton-funded project examining the structure, connectivity and resilience in an exploited kelp (brown algae) ecosystem in South America. He obtained his PhD at the University of Essex during which he studied relationships between fish and habitat-forming species in the tropics and temperate seas.



DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY



Professor Emyr Lewis will take up the role of Head of Law & Criminology in September 2019. An alumnus of the Department, Emyr is regarded as one of Wales's foremost public lawyers. A practising lawyer since 1984,

he is currently a partner at Blake Morgan LLP in Cardiff where he specialises in commercial and public law, and has advised Welsh Government and Westminster departments. While continuing to work as a lawyer, he held the part-time post of Senior Fellow in Welsh Law at the Wales Governance Centre at Cardiff University (2011-2014) where he transformed the teaching of law of devolution. Emyr is also a poet, active in Welsh literary and cultural life.

ABERYSTWYTH BUSINESS SCHOOL



Professor Andrew Thomas will join us as Head of Aberystwyth Business School in July from his post as Associate Dean of Research at Cardiff Metropolitan University (2015-19), where he has been leading the REF 2021 process across the institution. He has an excellent track record as

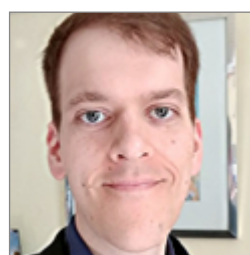
a researcher and significant experience in the creation of both PGT and PGR courses specifically developed for international students. He has previously held positions of Head of the Business School at the University of South Wales (2013-2015), Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David / Coleg Sir Gâr (2010-12); Associate Dean for Research and Enterprise at Newport Business School (2008-2010) and Lecturer in Operations Management and Supply Chain Systems at Cardiff University (2002-2008).

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Dr Marieke Mueller joins the Department of Modern Languages as Lecturer in French. She received her DPhil from the University of Oxford in 2016 and then taught at King's College London. Her research is concerned with modern French and francophone literature and philosophy. Her current research project explores connections between narrative and violence.



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



Dr Christian Moller has joined the Department of Psychology as a postdoctoral researcher. He is currently working on an EPSRC funded project which seeks to facilitate inclusive organisational cultures for women and BAME people working in STEM university departments. He has recently obtained his PhD from the University of Huddersfield where he explored the discourses and power dynamics in food charity settings.



Paul James (1958 – 2019)

In April the whole community was shocked and saddened to hear of the untimely death of our colleague Paul James, who died following a tragic bike accident.

Paul had worked as a Security Officer on Penglais and Gogerddan campuses for more than 23 years. He was a committed, well-respected and valued member of staff.

He was also well known in the wider community as the elected Plaid Cymru councillor for Llanbadarn Fawr on Ceredigion County Council and as a member of Llanbadarn Fawr Community Council. Before joining the University, Paul had been a serving member of the British Army and the French Foreign Legion.

A tireless fundraiser, Paul died whilst training for a 140-mile cycle ride from Bronlais to Morriston hospital. Paul's friends carried out 'Paul's Heart Ride' on 25-26 May, and raised over £14,000 for the cardiac wards at each hospital where Paul had received treatment two years ago.

Paul will be greatly missed by colleagues and members of the local community. A number of colleagues have written short tributes to him:

I first came to know Paul when I was working for Elin Jones AM at the Aberystwyth Plaid Cymru office, before I'd joined the University. Despite appearances, Paul was a big softie at heart and a proud family man. Never afraid to voice his opinion and challenge those in authority, Paul was a tireless and persistent campaigner in the community. Paul was unique, and will be sorely missed.

Geraint Pugh, University Secretary

The news of Paul's passing sent shockwaves across the University, the local community, and beyond, which is testament to the respect and admiration held for him.

Paul was a loyal, hardworking and highly skilled member of our Security team who was always seeking to safeguard the safety, and enhance the experience of our customers, whether that be students, staff or visitors.

Our thoughts will continue to be with Paul's wife Jane and Family, who he talked about with such love and pride.

Tom Bates, Head of Facilities Management - Estates, Facilities & Residences

I was on the last shift with Paul. My colleagues and I would like to say what a privilege it was to have Paul as part of our team. Many of my colleagues knew Paul for 30 years or more. It was a great shock to us as a team. Paul will not be forgotten. I would like to take this opportunity to send our heartfelt condolences to Paul's family.

Peter Hemming, Night Security Team - Estates, Facilities & Residences

Paul was a colleague and a great friend who was never more happy than when he was doing charity work, helping others working tirelessly to reach his targets. I am one of the riders on Paul's Heart Ride which we're now doing in his honour. I also rode with Paul on the last charity ride he did for the forces veterans. It won't be the same without him now - we'll miss his banter and encouragement. Paul was definitely one of a kind and will be hugely missed by everyone.

Derek Glennie, Security Team - Estates, Facilities & Residences

The Sports Centre was saddened to hear about the passing of Paul James, a regular patron of the facilities, and well-known character on campus. 'Jacko' as he is best known had only been in the Sports Centre that day raising awareness and collecting funds to help with his latest challenge. We spoke about his training, how things were going and wished him well for his venture. All of the Sports Centre staff would like to offer Paul's family our deepest condolences for their loss. May Paul's love of people, passion for life and sport live on.

Rachel Hubbard, University Sports Centre

Professor Noel G Lloyd (1946 – 2019)

Tributes have been paid to Professor Noel Lloyd, our former Vice-Chancellor, who died aged 72 on 8 June 2019



Professor Lloyd's academic career began in Cambridge where he studied Mathematics. There, he would go on to complete his PhD and become Research Fellow at St John's College. His research interests focused on Nonlinear Analysis and Dynamical Systems.

Appointed Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University in 2004, Professor Lloyd also served the University as Registrar and Secretary, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Science and Head of the Department of Mathematics.

During his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, he was Chair of Higher Education Wales (now Universities Wales) and Vice-President of Universities UK.

He also served on the board of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), chairing its Health and Safety Committee, and on the board of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), chairing its Access Recognition and Licensing Committee.

In 2010 he was appointed CBE for Services to Higher Education in Wales in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Further honours followed in 2011 with his election as Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and in 2012 when he was received as a member of the Gorsedd of the Bards.

An accomplished organist, he was also a Fellow of Trinity College of Music, London.

Post retirement in 2011, Professor Lloyd sought new challenges.

He became an independent member on the Silk Commission established by the UK Government to look at the future of devolution in Wales.

He also served on the Judicial Appointments Commission, becoming Chair of its Welsh Matters Committee, and as Chair of Fair Trade Wales between 2011 and 2017.

Tributes paid to Professor Noel Lloyd included:

"Professor Lloyd made an outstanding contribution to higher education, not only as our Vice-Chancellor for seven years but also as an eminent Mathematician. A deeply principled individual, he will be remembered for his intellect, compassion and tireless work ethic."

"It is quite humbling to read the tributes that have been pouring in from far and wide which speak of his intellect, integrity, wisdom, modesty, generosity and compassion for others."

"On a personal note, I remember while in Cardiff working with a very kind, considered and highly ethical academic, who was later very gracious in welcoming me here to the University to which he had devoted so much of his life. He was, quite simply, a brilliant scientist and an outstanding servant of public life."

Professor Elizabeth Treasure Vice-Chancellor

"I saw at first hand the respect he had, not only on the basis of his scholarship but also his charming personality, natural fairness and sincerity. His intellect was matched only by his integrity, generosity and concern for others."

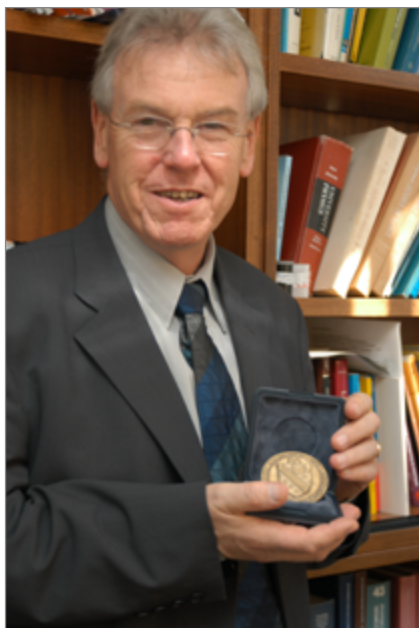
Gwerfyl Pierce Jones Pro Chancellor

"The many tributes which have appeared after his untimely death are an indication of the esteem in which he was held as Vice-Chancellor. He was meticulous in his preparation, quietly firm and fair. He was universally regarded as a generous and compassionate man and a person of great integrity. Above all, he was completely dedicated to his University."

Professor Alun O Morris Emeritus Professor, Department of Mathematics

Professor Neville Greaves (1945 – 2019)

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Professor Neville Greaves, former Head of our Department of Physics and former Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Physics.



A graduate of St Andrews University where he studied Physics, Professor Greaves held a PhD from the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge.

He came to Aberystwyth in 1996 as Professor of a new research group in Materials Physics and Head of Department following a distinguished career at the Synchrotron Radiation Source at Daresbury Laboratory, where he built up X-ray Spectroscopy facilities and established the Materials Science Division.

He pioneered the development of combined X-ray techniques bringing spectroscopy, diffraction and scattering together in the same experiment, and in 1990 received the Science and Technology Award presented by the Guild of Glass Sellers for his work on glass structure.

In 2003, he became Director of the newly formed Institute of Mathematics and Physics and continued in post until 2010 when he became a Distinguished Research Professor in Physics and a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy at the University of Cambridge.

A full tribute to Professor Neville Greaves written by current Head of Physics, Professor Andrew Evans is available online at www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/alumni/obituaries/obituary-profiles/neville-greaves

"Neville's enthusiasm and dedication was an inspiration to us all and his contribution to his subject and his university is immense. He had many interests and a wide knowledge of subjects beyond science and was always excellent company. He was a talented musician with an excellent singing voice and had firm opinions that he was always fearless in defending."

Professor Andrew Evans - Head of the Department of Physics

IBERS Professor awarded posthumous award

The late Kevin Shingfield (1968-2016), who was Professor of Nutritional Physiology in IBERS, has been posthumously awarded the prestigious Sir John Hammond Award by the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), in recognition of his outstanding contribution to animal science.

Presenting the award at the BSAS's conference dinner in Edinburgh on 10 April, Senior Vice President Professor Michael Lee spoke fondly of a remarkable, well-loved and respected colleague, scientist and friend:

"Someone who would have no doubt been a future BSAS president, Professor Kevin Shingfield was and is an amazing animal scientist".

"His legacy remains and anyone working in the field of ruminant lipid biochemistry and understanding lipid metabolism deposition into milk, will

be using the research that he drove and quoting Kevin Shingfield".

"I remember the cheeky chappy, a great supporter to so many of us, many funny moments and happy memories of Kevin the friend and a truly great scientist who is deeply missed".

The award was accepted by Kevin's brother Steve, who said:

"Since Kevin's passing, the family and I have been overwhelmed by the messages we have received telling of his research, its enduring impact and legacy.

"I didn't fully understand or comprehend his scientific endeavours. His qualifications, his job titles, obviously made us very proud but I think on reflection, what we should have been most proud of was his actual science".

"Friday [12 April] would have marked Kevin's 52nd birthday and I know, had



he been here today, he would have considered this the best birthday present imaginable. Myself and my family will treasure it dearly, thank you all".

Exhibitions

School of Art Gallery, Buarth Mawr.

Open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm. Free admission.

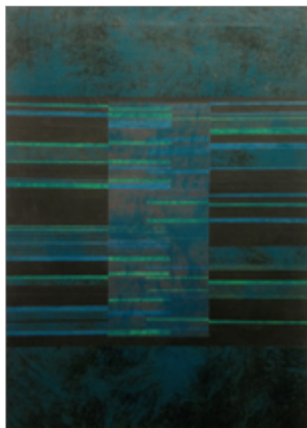
Please be aware that building work is taking place at the School of Art front entrance.

However, the exhibitions are open as usual - please follow the 'Entrance' signs and enter the building through the back door.

Wales and the Modern Movements Revisited

Until 30 August 2019

'Wales and the Modern Movements Revisited' looks back at an exhibition - 'Wales and the Modern Movements' held at Aberystwyth University in 1973 - which set out to interpret the events in twentieth century art through the works of artists



working in Wales. The exhibition draws on the collection of the School of Art and the National Library of Wales to offer a snapshot of modern art practice in Wales throughout the last century.

Blue Grass by Sheila Hourahane, acrylic on canvas, 1973.

Classic/Romantic: works from the School of Art Collection

Until 30 August 2019

Curated by undergraduate students on the module 'Curating an Exhibition: Researching, Interpreting, Displaying'



'Pan' by Natalia Dias, porcelain with stoneware, purchased from the National Eisteddfod, 2010



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Aberystwyth Arts Centre



Aberystwyth Arts Centre Summer Season Musical

Lionel Bart's **OLIVER!**

Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart

Friday 9 – Saturday 31 August

7.30pm Performances: Tuesdays to Saturdays

2.30pm Matinees: Wed, Thur, Sat and Sundays

£30 (£28 Concessions and groups), Family £112

Richard Cheshire returns to Aberystwyth Arts Centre to direct this year's professional Summer Season show *Oliver!*

The award-winning musical adaptation of the classic Dickens' novel springs to life with some of the most memorable characters and songs ever to hit the stage.

Consider yourself at home with Lionel Bart's classic musical based on Charles Dickens' novel, *Oliver Twist*. The Tony and Olivier Award-winning show is one of the few musicals to win an Academy Award for Best Picture and is widely hailed as a true theatrical masterpiece by actors and audience members alike.

The streets of Victorian England come to life as *Oliver*, a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, becomes the neglected apprentice of an undertaker. *Oliver* escapes to London and finds acceptance amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets led by the elderly Fagin. When *Oliver* is captured for a theft that he did not commit, the benevolent victim, Mr. Brownlow takes him in. Fearing the safety of his hideout, Fagin employs the sinister Bill Sikes and the sympathetic Nancy to kidnap him back, threatening *Oliver's* chances of discovering the true love of a family.

Oliver! is a musical theatre masterpiece, perfectly showcasing the talents of a large ensemble cast as they bring these classic characters and score to life.

Oliver! was last performed at Aberystwyth Arts Centre in 2005, when local celebrity Taron Egerton starred as the Artful Dodger alongside a host of other talented young performers. Although Taron will not be returning, we are thrilled to welcome back many of the original cast members from 2005 who are now professional actors - and we're sure more stars of the future will be amongst our new cast of young people!

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