



# ABER *News*

THE  TIMES  
 THE SUNDAY TIMES  
**GOOD  
 UNIVERSITY  
 GUIDE  
 2020**  


---

**WELSH  
 UNIVERSITY  
 OF THE YEAR**

## Aberystwyth named Welsh University of the Year

Aberystwyth University has been named Welsh University of the Year for 2020 by *The Times / The Sunday Times Good University Guide*.

This latest accolade means the University has been recognised by *The Times / The Sunday Times Good University Guide* for three years running.

In September 2018 Aberystwyth was named University of the Year for Teaching Quality, and in doing so became the first university to receive the award two years in succession.

The latest edition of *The Times / The Sunday Times Good University Guide*, published on Sunday 22 September 2019, saw Aberystwyth ranked 2nd in the UK for Student Experience and for Teaching Quality.

Overall, Aberystwyth has climbed three places to 45th, consolidating its status amongst the top 50 universities in the country.

Alastair McCall, Editor of *The Times / Sunday Times Good University Guide*, said: "Twice a winner of our award for University of the Year for Teaching Quality, Aberystwyth this year scoops the national prize for Wales. This will come as no surprise to its students, who have rated it the best in Wales for teaching quality and the wider student experience for the past four years. It was the standout candidate to be the Welsh University of the Year for 2020."

*Continued on p.2*

- 4
TedX Aberystwyth

- 7
Exemplary Course Awards

- 10
In addition to the day job

- 13
Delving into the archives

- 16
E-bike charging stations


ABER<sup>News</sup> is published by the **Communications & Public Affairs Team**, Aberystwyth University.  
 Tel: 01970 622578  
 E-mail: [communications@aber.ac.uk](mailto:communications@aber.ac.uk)  
 The next edition will be available in **February 2020**.  
 Copy deadline is **13 January**.

Continued from p.1

"The university has climbed around 50 places in our UK rankings in recent times, a transformation that is being consolidated by an ambitious capital spending programme. The gold award won by Aber in the Teaching Excellence Framework praised the outstanding levels of stretch in its degree programmes, challenging students to achieve their full potential. A library refurbishment and a refit of the arts centre has helped keep student facilities at the cutting edge and further improvements, such as the new Innovation and Enterprise Campus, are in the pipeline for next year, which should keep the university challenging for honours well into the future."

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor of Aberystwyth University, said: "This is wonderful news and I am delighted that the hard work of colleagues across the University has now been recognised for three years running. To be announced as Welsh University of the Year after being University of the Year for Teaching Quality for two successive years is no mean feat and I would like to thank everyone here at Aberystwyth University for their contribution towards making this happen. As we embark on a new academic year, the work to develop and enrich the student experience continues as we empower our students to unlock their potential as independent learners as well as to benefit from all other aspects of university life. As Welsh

University of the Year we build on our rich heritage and national commitment to education as we welcome students and staff from Wales, the United Kingdom and across the world."

Dhanjeet Ramnatsing, President of Aberystwyth University's Students Union said: "It comes as no surprise to students that Aberystwyth University has been recognised as Welsh University of the Year for 2020. We have clearly witnessed a transformation in Aberystwyth over the past few years. Aberystwyth University has worked hard for this achievement and it clearly shows that our University is moving in a positive direction. We hope that the University will continue to be recognised in future; prospective students have projects like the Old College to look forward to as well as new facilities and accommodation such as Pantycelyn which will improve the student experience and ensure that the University continues to be recognised rightfully as one of the best HE institutions in the country."

Awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF), the latest National Student Survey published in July 2019 saw Aberystwyth become the top university in England and Wales for overall student satisfaction.

The epitome of consistency, Aberystwyth was also the top university in Wales for student satisfaction for the fourth year running.



## Fit Together

Autumn 2019

MONDAY	
TIME	CLASS
09.15 - 10.00	Mixed Ability Cycle
12.00 - 13.00	Sportive Cycle
12.00 - 12.45	Yoga Gogerdan
12.15 - 13.00	HIIT
13.00 - 13.45	Aerobics
14.00 - 15.30	Introduction to Yoga
17.00 - 19.00	Ashtanga Yoga
17.30 - 18.30	Step and Tone
17.45 - 18.30	Mixed Ability Cycle
18.30 - 19.30	Pilates
19.00 - 20.30	Hatha Yoga

TUESDAY	
TIME	CLASS
07.15 - 08.00	Pilates
12.15 - 13.00	Pilates for Back Care
12.15 - 13.00	Advanced Cycle
13.10 - 13.55	AbCore
13.15 - 14.00	Mixed Ability Cycle
14.00 - 15.00	Gentle Yoga
17.30 - 18.30	Circuits
17.30 - 18.30	Step and Tone
17.45 - 18.30	TriSpin
18.30 - 19.30	Bodyfit
18.35 - 19.20	Mixed Ability Cycle
18.30 - 19.30	Zumba
19.00 - 20.00	Triathlon Swim

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

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

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

SATURDAY	
TIME	CLASS
09.05 - 09.50	Mixed Ability Cycle
09.30 - 10.30	Bodyfit
10.45 - 11.45	Pilates

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

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

\* Not during school holidays

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



Tel: 01970 622280  
Email: [sports@aber.ac.uk](mailto:sports@aber.ac.uk)  
[www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre/classes](http://www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre/classes)

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

For current information please visit: [www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre/classes/timetable](http://www.aber.ac.uk/sportscentre/classes/timetable)

@AberSport  
f t i

All classes, gyms, pool and climbing wall included in your Sports Centre Membership

Non Members welcome  
Pay as you go

45 minutes	£3.60
60 minutes	£4.80
90 minutes	£7.10
Cycle	£4.10

**The Vice-Chancellor's Column**



What better way to start the new academic year than with the wonderful news that we have been selected Welsh University of the Year in *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020*. As we greet our new and returning students, this is a

resounding endorsement of the hard work and dedication of staff to further enrich the exceptional student experience here in Aberystwyth.

As you know, this accolade follows an unprecedented two consecutive years as *The Times / The Sunday Times* University of the Year for Teaching Quality in 2018 and 2019. This really is a record to be proud of and I thank you all for your contribution to making this happen.

In naming us Welsh University of the Year, Alastair McCall, Editor of *The Times / Sunday Times Good University Guide*, said that our University's success in the rankings is a "transformation that is being consolidated by an ambitious capital spending programme." I was particularly delighted to see the progress of one of our capital spending projects for myself on a recent site visit to Pantycelyn, when I was joined by a number of colleagues, Council members, representatives of Ffrindiau Pantycelyn, local assembly member Elin Jones and local MP, Ben Lake, on a guided tour of the building's rapidly

transforming interior. It was exciting to see that the rooms on the top floor are beginning to take shape, and hear that the project is on schedule to deliver first-class accommodation by this time next year.

Similarly, drivers on the A4159 cannot fail to notice the progress of the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus. The steel structure for the second phase of the project grows day-by-day, with stairs and the beginnings of the decking of the first floor now visible in the building that will house the Future Food Centre, Advanced Analysis Centre and Innovation Hub.

And on Penglais Campus, later in the term we will be re-opening the Iris de Freitas room in the Hugh Owen Library after an extensive refurbishment.

As well as relishing in our future plans, I look forward to reflecting on the long term impact our historic institution has had on Wales and the wider world at our annual Founders Day celebrations. The event on 11 October brings together representatives from the University, students, alumni and the local community, to celebrate the day that Old College opened its doors to students for the very first time in 1872.

As we welcome back our returning students and introduce a new cohort of freshers to our beautiful town, let me once again thank you for your hard work and support.

**Professor Elizabeth Treasure**  
Vice-Chancellor

*Artist impressions of the refurbished Iris de Freitas room*



# Global health and sustainable fisheries research recognised for impact

Professor Colin McInnes from the Department of International Politics and Professor Paul Shaw from the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences have been awarded the 2019 Aberystwyth University Awards for Exceptional Impact in Research.

Awarded during Graduation Week, the awards are presented in recognition of the positive impact of research, both in the UK and internationally.

Professor Colin McInnes received the Award for Exceptional Impact in Social Science, Arts and Humanities Research for his work which has led to the development of the World Health Organisation's framework for civilian health and military collaboration in disease outbreaks. This work will greatly improve our ability to respond to disease

outbreaks across the world.

The Award for Exceptional Impact in Science Research was presented to Professor Paul Shaw for his work using genetic methods to support effective and sustainable fisheries management. His research, focused on the genetic definition of stock structuring in fished species globally, has led to more accurate, and so sustainable, exploitation of wild stocks, underpinning local and global food security and commercial development, whilst conserving biodiversity and protecting threatened populations and species.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor, said: "*The Aberystwyth University Awards for Exceptional Impact in Research, which were launched in 2018, recognise the achievements of staff who demonstrably use their research for the wider benefit of society. Congratulations to this year's winners who are working on two very different research projects, which both demonstrate the potential that the University has to effect positive change locally, nationally and internationally.*"



Above: Professor Colin McInnes receiving the Award for Exceptional Impact in Social Science, Arts and Humanities Research from Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Learning Teaching and Student Experience

Below: Professor Paul Shaw being presented with the Award for Exceptional Impact in Science Research by Dr Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



## TEDxAberystwyth

TEDxAberystwyth, which takes place on Saturday 26 October 2019 at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, will feature thought-provoking talks with novel and stimulating ideas from the arts, science, media, sport, environment, society and beyond.

Tickets have already sold out for this annual event, which is organised by a group of volunteers led by Clive King.

Now in its third year, the event provides a platform to excellent speakers from the Aberystwyth area, as well as some with previous connections to the region, to share their novel ideas.

The theme of this year's TEDxAberystwyth is 'Escaping from a black hole', which was inspired by a breakthrough picture of a black hole captured earlier this year. However, all of the hand-picked performers will share highly multidisciplinary talks, on topics varying from rewinding in Wales, taking rides across Europe in strangers' cars, Millennials' role in society to Bitcoin's electricity consumption.

TEDx brings the spirit of TED's mission of 'ideas worth spreading' to communities across the world, through a program of local, self-organised and non-profit events, which provide a TED-like experience of multidisciplinary talks from inspiring speakers.

TED is a non-profit organisation with an agenda to make great



Dr Maire Gorman from the Department of Physics presenting at TEDxAberystwyth 2018

ideas accessible and spark conversation. Having started as a four-day conference in California 30 years ago, it has grown to support its mission with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes or less. Many of these talks are then made available, free, at TED.com.

Previous TEDxAberystwyth events held in 2017 and 2018 were highly successful, sell-out events.

To watch videos from previous events visit <https://tedxaberystwyth.com>

Twitter: @tedxaberystwyth  
Facebook: TEDxAberystwyth

# Donation of photography books

The Hugh Owen Library recently accepted a collection of photography books from the family of the late John Harris.

The Resources Discovery Team in Information Services enlisted the help of University Records Manager, Julie Archer, to find John's student record to share with his granddaughter Sarrah. John's record showed that he had graduated from Aberystwyth with a degree in Chemistry in 1952.

Similarly, the team were able to share the student record of Sarrah's grandmother, Carol Cox, who John met while here in Aber. Her record showed that she spent a year in France between 1951-1952 and graduated with a degree in French in 1953.

In turn, Sarrah was able to share photographs of her grandparents' graduations.

John's large collection of photography books is currently being catalogued into Primo for discovery, and a number of them will feature on the School of Art's photography and history of art modules.



Left: Carol Cox on her graduation day in 1953

Below: John Harris's student record

SUBJECTS	T.D	GRADE	EXAMINATION				Result	REMARKS
			1st Term	2nd Term	Sessional	Supplementary		
1949-50. Economics		S	II			P	P	
Chemistry		S	III			P	P	
Pure Maths.		S	IV			P	P	
1950-1951. Physics		S	III			P	P	
Chemistry		HI.	I			P	P	Allowed to complete Hon. Degree and by outside institution. Submission date: 24 Oct. 1950.
1951-1952. Chemistry		H				P	P	
1952-1953. Professional Training P.L.						P	P	24/1/53 Honorary Life Hon. - Public Services etc.

GRADUATED B.Sc. 1952  
UNIV. DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION, CLASS 2  
MIN. OF EDUC. TEACHERS CERT. 1953.

# Generous donation from alumnus funds valuable new resource

The University Library now has access to a great new online resource thanks to the generosity of an Aber alumnus.

A donation of over £4,000 from a Politics and Law (1979) graduate, has enabled the library to purchase access to the *Women in The National Archives* resource from the publisher Adam Matthew.

The database of original primary source documents cover the campaign for women's suffrage in Britain, 1903-1928, and the granting of women's suffrage in colonial territories, 1930-1962. The addition of four significant Home Office files on the suffrage question plus an extended chronology further enhance the collection.

In addition, there is a finding aid which enables researchers to quickly locate details of documents held at The National Archives, relating to women, and has the benefit of ranging across all of the classes held at the archive.

Martin Taylor, Collections, Resources & Facilities Manager in Information Services said: "When I took a call from the

Development & Alumni Relations Office (DARO) outlining that they had a donation from an alumnus who wanted to give to the politics library collection, obviously I was very pleased. We discussed what might be an appropriate resource for this generous gift. We wanted something that met the donor's specifications, enriched our collection, and would be a lasting resource that would benefit students and the local community. After looking over a number of options we found the *Women in The National Archives* online resource which clearly ticked all these boxes."

To access this new resource, search for 'Women in The National Archives' in Primo.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office can help staff who would like to reach out to alumni. We also raise funds from alumni and supporters towards the Aber Fund (Student Support), Research and Academic Developments, and the Old College Appeal.

For more information about DARO and its work, as well as how you can benefit from Aber Fund funding for student-related projects, please contact Hayley Goddard at [hvg@aber.ac.uk](mailto:hvg@aber.ac.uk)

## Support for learning and teaching development

Support for learning and teaching development, including e-learning, has changed over the summer.

The new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit (LTEU) brings together the work previously done by the Centre for the Development of Staff and Academic Practice (CDSAP) and the E-learning Group.



The LTEU is based in Information Services and is managed by Kate Wright. Other staff in the unit are Ian Archer, Annette Edwards, Rob Francis, Lauren Harvey, Rhian Harrington, Mary Jacob, and James Woolley.

We will continue to run the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (PGCTHE), Teaching for Postgraduates at Aberystwyth University (TPAU) and the AdvanceHE Fellowship (ARCHE) schemes. We'll develop and support the use of e-learning tools such as Blackboard, Turnitin and Panopto. We'll also continue to support the development of researchers through the Aberystwyth Researcher programme.

We have a full programme of training courses to support learning, teaching and research at the University. You can find details including how to book at [https://stafftraining.bis.aber.ac.uk/sd/list\\_courses.php](https://stafftraining.bis.aber.ac.uk/sd/list_courses.php).

And, of course, we'll carry on organising the University's annual Learning and Teaching Conference, mini conferences and Academy Forums.

New this year is a programme to encourage AU staff to apply for the AdvanceHE National Teaching Fellow (NTFS) and Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE). We're keen to work with staff interested in applying for either of these awards.

We're working closely with Professor Tim Woods to support the new Learning and Teaching Strategy. We'll be particularly involved in the active learning strand. Starting in September we have a wide range of courses and events focussing on active learning.

Staff in the LTEU are happy to work with individuals as well as small groups and departments to explore learning and teaching issues. We can work with you on developing your teaching, introducing new ideas, techniques and tools, and re-developing modules and schemes.

If you want to find out more about the LTEU have a look at [www.aber.ac.uk/en/lteu](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/lteu) or email us [lteu@aber.ac.uk](mailto:lteu@aber.ac.uk)

**Kate Wright**  
Learning & Teaching Enhancement Unit Manager

## University celebrates excellence in teaching

Alison Pierse, Lifelong Learning Tutor in Art, has been awarded the 2018-19 Aberystwyth University Exemplary Course Award for her Art History distance learning module, *Figuratively Speaking: The History of Western Figurative Sculpture*.

Now in their sixth year, the Exemplary Course Awards recognise the very best learning and teaching practices taking place across the University.

The winning module was commended for its innovative approach to co-design with students, three-dimensional learning experience for students who might not be studying on campus, and for ensuring all aspects of the module was fully accessible for learners.

In addition to the winner, the following modules were Highly Commended:

- Distance Learning Team, Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences - *Research Methods*
- Dr Stephen Chapman, Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences - *Future of Packaging*
- Dr Alexandros Koutsoukis, International Politics - *Behind the Headlines*
- Dr Jennifer Wood, Modern Languages - *Spanish Language (Beginners)*

Dr James Woolley from the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit said: "The diverse range of teaching and learning styles evidenced in this year's Exemplary Course Award applications reflects the innovative work that is taking place across the University, and the breadth of learning and teaching modes on offer to our students, including Distance Learning, Lifelong Learning, and On Campus modules.

"Congratulations to this year's winner and those highly commended, each of whom demonstrates a solid understanding of their learner contexts and requirements, in addition to innovative approaches to course design and inspired use of tools to enhance their learning, such as Blackboard."

The winners were presented with their awards at the University's graduation ceremonies which took place from 16-19 July 2019.

*Below: Alison Pierse from Lifelong Learning receiving her Exemplary Course Awards 2018-19 winners certificate during Graduation Week 2019 from Vice Chancellor, Professor Elizabeth Treasure*



# Enter your module for next year's Exemplary Course Award

The Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit is pleased to announce that the deadline for next year's Exemplary Course Award applications will be 31 January 2020.

To support staff who might be considering applying for the award, the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Unit will be offering training sessions throughout December and January. You can book onto these sessions via our courses booking page.

Alternatively, we are happy to offer a one-on-one consultation and advice on enhancing modules.

Staff are asked to self-assess their modules against four main criteria: Course Design, Interaction and Collaboration, Assessment, and Learner Support. Applicants are also asked to provide a narrative around the outstanding features of their module and demonstrate how their modules meet the criteria for the award.

We hope to build on the exemplary practice demonstrated by our recent winners; these modules evidenced a thorough understanding of their learners' needs and represented the diverse and varied teaching practices on offer to students at Aberystwyth University. One of last year's highly commended modules was used as a case study at the recent Ireland Blackboard User Group meeting. Additionally, attendees at the recent Learning and Teaching Conference benefitted from the recipients sharing their exemplary modules and teaching practices with them.

To see last year's winning modules and download an application form, see our webpages: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/it-services/elearning/blackboard/blackboard-exemplary-course-award](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/is/it-services/elearning/blackboard/blackboard-exemplary-course-award). If you're considering applying for an Exemplary Course Award and have questions, please email [elearning@aber.ac.uk](mailto:elearning@aber.ac.uk).

## AberSU Column

As we are busy preparing for this year's influx of Aber Freshers, we have also been busy recruiting for new staff to support our student officer team for the year. One team in particular has undertaken a few staffing changes over the summer months as all 3 staff posts have recruited (or are currently recruiting) new individuals to the roles.

The Student Opportunities team are responsible for supporting, enabling and empowering students to develop and access a rich and diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities which will add value to the student experience, promote student community support and integration, and the development of friendships, skills and memories that last a lifetime.

### Lucie Gwilt – Student Opportunities Manager

We would like to welcome (and re-introduce) Lucie as the team's new Student Opportunities Manager. Lucie, who is an Aber graduate, joined the AberSU team as our Sports Co-ordinator in 2016 and will now be taking on the role of manager.

### Tom Morrissey – Societies Development Co-ordinator

Joining Lucie in the team is our new Societies Development Co-ordinator Tom. He is a recent graduate of Bangor University where he studied as an undergraduate with integrated masters in Geography.

### Vacant role – Sports Co-ordinator

At the time of writing this column, the role of Sports Co-ordinator is currently being advertised along with two other AberSU job vacancies (Student Advisor and Reception & Finance Co-ordinator). Information can be found via the job vacancies page: [www.abersu.co.uk/aboutaber/jobs](http://www.abersu.co.uk/aboutaber/jobs)

## Quality Students' Union

Following a number of years of transformation and development, Aberystwyth University Students' Union proudly received prestigious NUS Quality Students' Union accreditation at a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament in July.

After working to develop the Students' Union to ensure that Aber students love student life, AberSU has been working towards the accreditation as a key indicator of strategic success.

Read more here:

[www.abersu.co.uk/news/article/umabersu/Aberystwyth-Students-Union-recognised-for-excellence-at-Houses-of-Parliament](http://www.abersu.co.uk/news/article/umabersu/Aberystwyth-Students-Union-recognised-for-excellence-at-Houses-of-Parliament)

### Eleri Wyn

AberSU Communications & Engagement Manager

*Image caption: Quality Students Union accreditation. Left to right: Chris Parry (AberSU Student Voice Co-ordinator), Martin Dodd (AberSU Student Support & Representation Manager), Paul Bloomfield (MP), Erica Ramos (NUS Vice President Union Development) and Dhanjeet Ramnatsing (AberSU President)*



# Spotlight on... Student Support and Careers Services

As the new academic year starts, the University's Student Support and Careers Services begins to provide a new cohort of Aber students with its wide range of professional, proactive and approachable services.

ABER *News* spoke to Caryl Davies, Head of Student Support and Careers Services, about the variety of ways the department supports our student population before, during, and sometimes beyond, their time at the University:



## Describe the work of Student Support and Careers Services

Busy, busy, busy! Never a dull day and there's always something new to get our teeth into, whether it's discussing with colleagues the University's position on therapy animals or working with external partners on entrepreneurial activities.

The biggest part of our work is obviously focused on developing students to gain a toolkit of skills (whether these be financial, wellbeing, employability skills or managing reasonable adjustments) which will enable them to manage their lives at university and beyond. We do this through one-to-one support, workshops and presentations and by supporting colleagues and external partners in their interactions with students.

## Has the nature of the support the department offers changed in recent years?

Students, staff and external bodies have understandably high expectations of our services and so we are increasingly turning to technology (apps and other online tools) to supplement our offer. For example, to help manage demand for budgeting support from our Advice, Information and Money Service, we introduced Blackbullion, an online financial capability tool for students, funded with the generous support of our alumni.

It may sound cheesy but what hasn't changed is the commitment of the staff in the department to supporting students to achieve their maximum potential.

## What are the common misconceptions that people have about the work of the Student Support and Careers Services?

Individuals don't always understand that the department comprises four very distinct and individual services:

- Accessibility Service
- Advice, Information and Money Service
- Careers Service
- Student Wellbeing Service

Not forgetting the central admin team who support the above.

Each Service is subject to standards/requirements set down by their professional association, which provides for a high level of quality assurance and which, to some extent, dictates what we can/cannot offer.





The main similarity between all of the Services is that all are focused on skills development.

The other common misconception is that the Student Wellbeing Service is a crisis resolution service, which is not the case.

### What new developments have there been recently?

As a department we are constantly evolving in response to/ahead of internal and external developments and changes.

For example, the Careers Service is becoming increasingly involved in supporting colleagues who are co-ordinating integrated placement years, and the Service continues to review how best to deliver the AberForward scheme.

The Accessibility Service continues to support the development of departmental peer guide schemes and as a senior team my Heads of Service and I have also recently introduced business partner arrangements for individual faculties. This will enable us to respond to faculty needs in a more systematic way.

### What's on the horizon for Student Support and Careers Services?

There's lots of exciting stuff going on – how much space do I have to tell you about it all?

The Student Wellbeing Service has recently implemented the Big White Wall (an online mental health tool for students) and we have also won a bid with Bangor University to be funded by HEFCW to develop Welsh medium mental health and wellbeing resources for students.

We are also introducing 20 minute appointments, bookable on the day to make the service more accessible.

I also hope that before too long we can co-locate the Careers Service with the other three departmental services.

## Comic Relief funding for dementia and domestic abuse research

The link between dementia and domestic abuse will be the focus for a new study by researchers at the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice in the Department of Law and Criminology.

Funded by a £70,000 Comic Relief grant, the twelve month study will examine the co-existence of domestic abuse and dementia in people aged 60 years and over.

The study, which forms part of the longitudinal research project Dewis Choice, will build on the centre's work on domestic abuse in later life and opens up a new area of research that has largely been neglected.

According to the Alzheimer's Society, there are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK with the figure expected to rise to over 1 million by 2025.

Sarah Wydall, Principal Investigator on the Choice/Dewis project, said: *"This is an exciting and unique project that builds on our previous research with older people. We know that dementia increases a person's vulnerability to economic, physical, sexual and psychological abuse by family members.*

*"Women more likely to be diagnosed with dementia, and are also more likely to experience domestic abuse than men. Where care-givers are domestic abuse perpetrators, female survivors may be subject to coercive controlling behaviours, whilst simultaneously coming to terms with a diagnosis and cope with their declining cognitive function. Support is often a 'dementia-led' model making disclosure of deliberate harm to professionals extremely difficult."*

Elize Freeman who leads on the Dewis Choice service said: *"This the first research project in the UK to look at this issue*

*and build a specialist team of support around the person and the family, where it is safe to do so. The research funding will help to develop new guidance on safety and enhancing quality of life on this context and we will gain further insights into research in the area of dementia and domestic abuse."*

The project will deliver 'dementia-friendly' training workshops within local community settings to help generate referrals into the research study.

Further training will be delivered on healthy relationships and coping, to equip people with the skills to identify and respond to cases where dementia and domestic abuse co-exist.

Further information is available about the Dewis Choice Project online at

<http://choice.aber.ac.uk> or on Twitter @choiceolderppl



Left: Members of the Dewis Choice team (left to right) front row: Elize Freeman, Rebecca Zerk, Sarah Wydall, Jose Owen; back row: Cara Fisher, Christopher Neville, David Cowsill, Tom Chapman and Ruth Jenkins



## In addition to the day job

Mike Smith, the University's Procurement Manager, manages the University's expenditure with external suppliers, including sourcing, tendering, contracting and supplier management.

However, in addition to the day job, Mike is a volunteer rider and fundraiser with Blood Bikes Wales. ABER News spoke to him about his experiences:

### What does Blood Bikes Wales do?

Blood Bikes Wales is a Welsh charity providing a completely free courier service to the NHS, delivering blood supplies, plasma, documents and other items all across Wales. The service is free of charge and, in Ceredigion, currently operates on weekday evenings and 24 hours a day at weekends.

Calls can come in at any time within the service operation hours, and can sometimes involve relays which link riders across the various NHS Health Board regions for the countrywide transportation of urgent medical products or samples. Each blood bike region works together as needed, linking services to cover longer journeys both within Wales and, from time to time, across the border into England.

In Aberystwyth, relays are supported in addition to the typical service requirement; transporting goods, records and samples between hospitals in the Hywel Dda University Health Board regions.

We don't run under blue lights and we don't break speed limits. We do however offer a highly flexible, free of charge service to the NHS, which also has benefits to the environment in terms of lower emissions and a viable contribution to reducing traffic congestion.

### What made you interested in becoming a volunteer with Blood Bikes Wales?

I've had an interest in motorcycling since I was a teenager. Combining this lifelong passion with giving something back to the NHS seemed to me the perfect combination. Motorcycling sometimes gets bad press; it's nice to be able to help redress the balance somewhat.

### What does the training entail?

Having previously achieved an advanced rider qualification, I needed to convince a (retired) police motorcycle traffic officer that I could ride different motorcycles safely and to a good standard.

I also undertake annual Good Manufacturing Practice training which ensures I maintain a sound working knowledge of standard operating procedures for transporting dangerous goods.

A comprehensive controller training programme is also available.

### What are the highs?

Knowing that I am part of a team that makes a difference; perhaps helping to save a life, providing comfort or reducing suffering.

I also get to ride different motorcycles - never a chore!

### What are the lows?

Our Welsh weather!

### What does the commitment involve?

Volunteering to ride shifts throughout the year as well as shaking collecting tins at various local and regional events, or outside supermarkets. Pretty much anywhere where the NHS or our group needs me to be.

However, Blood Bikes is a team and without a combination of controllers, riders and fundraisers we couldn't offer our service; all parts are equally important.

We always welcome new members and typically meet up as a group on the last Thursday evening of every month at the Railway Club in Aberystwyth, in addition to joining in with any social, promotional or cheque presentation events which arise.

You don't have to be able to ride a motorcycle in order to make a difference locally; we are always looking for volunteer controllers (co-ordinators of individual riders on shift as well as allocation and tracking of calls) and fundraisers, as well as riders.

### How does somebody go about becoming a volunteer with Blood Bikes Wales?

Visit the blood bikes Wales website at [www.bloodbikes.wales/contact](http://www.bloodbikes.wales/contact) or look up the 'Blood Bikes Wales, Aberystwyth' Facebook group

Blood Bikes Wales' emergency service to the NHS is provided free of charge and is funded entirely by public donations and sponsorship. It is only with generous support from the public that they can they keep on riding and saving lives all over Wales. Please visit the Blood Bikes Wales donations page and show your support today

[www.bloodbikes.wales/donate/](http://www.bloodbikes.wales/donate/)

# A summer in Aberystwyth

Archana Bhat from the University of Jammu in India, spent four months over the summer at the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) on a Newton Bhabha PhD Placement.

The Newton Bhabha PhD Placement programme aims to bring together the UK and Indian scientific research and innovation sectors to find joint solutions to the challenges facing India in economic development and social welfare.

ABER<sup>News</sup> spoke to Archana before she flew back to India in August.



## What were your first impressions of Aberystwyth?

The mountains, the sea, the sun and the lovely people... it felt like home. It was the first time I had been away from home for so long and in a different country too, but Wales treated me like her own child.

I cannot describe Aberystwyth in words, and if I tried my vocabulary would run out. The peacefulness, calmness and purity of Aberystwyth are the real attractions. After having a stressful day, you can just go to the seafront and enjoy the sound of waves and let the light of the sun calm your stress and change it into a bundle of positive energy.

The people of Aberystwyth are very good and helpful. What I like most is the smile that everybody gives when they see you, irrespective of whether they know you or not. That took my heart away.

I could write a book about the experiences that I have had in Aberystwyth. I would like to come back in the future and be a part of the place. I really cherished my 4 month stay here.

## What are you studying for your PhD?

I am a Plant Biotechnologist and am working to understand the genomics of plants.

In my doctoral research I am working on the apocarotenoid pathway of *Crocus sativus*, commonly known as saffron.

The stigmas of Crocus are scarlet due to presence of bioactive compounds (also called apocarotenoids) that are formed due to the apocarotenoid biosynthetic pathway.

My work is focused on understanding this pathway and using molecular approaches to increase the amount of these apocarotenoids in the stigmas.

Saffron, which is mainly produced in Iran, Greece, Morocco, India, Turkey and Spain, is a very important crop, medicinally and economically.

During my internship in Aberystwyth I have learnt various biochemical and molecular techniques that I can apply in my research.

## Tell us a bit about what you have done during your time in Aberystwyth?

During my time in Aberystwyth I have explored a lot both professionally and personally.

On the professional front, I worked with my fellow scholars in the lab who were very nice and helped me whenever I needed it. This was the same for my supervisors also.

Besides the study and work I also enjoyed the facilities at the Sports Centre, which is good for mind and health.

I had the opportunity to visit local places like Pen Dinas Hill, Penglais Nature Park, Aberystwyth War Memorial and Castle, Borth Zoo, Constitution Hill, the Red Kite Feeding Centre, Newquay, Cardiff, and Aberaeron. I also had the pleasure of attending Borth Carnival and the Aberystwyth Food Festival.

During my four month stay I also visited Edinburgh and London. The British Council gave me the opportunity to attend a summit at Westminster where I saw the House of Lords and House of Commons in action, which was a great experience.

On my way to and from the lab each day I saw Pen Dinas Hill and the sun setting into the sea - I will never forget these beautiful scenes.

## What will you be taking back to India as a souvenir of your time in Wales?

I am taking back myself with a part of Wales (especially Aberystwyth) within me. Wales is always going to be a part of my life journey and my heart, and I have made good friendships here.

On a professional front I am taking a bond of collaboration with me, which will benefit the scientific community and both nations.

On a personal front I am taking good memories of happy times with people in Aberystwyth. I would really like to come back to the University in the future.

On behalf of my country, you are all welcomed with open arms.....Croeso i India!

Much love and respect,

**Archana Bhat**

# New Life for Old College update

Issue 34 of **ABER**News (February 2019) featured a report from Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan on the University's proposals to transform the Old College into a vibrant centre for education, culture and enterprise

([www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/news/abernews/Aber-News---February-2019.pdf](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/news/abernews/Aber-News---February-2019.pdf)).



With the new life for Old College project now well underway, and robust, detailed project plans and planning applications having recently been approved, **ABER**News spoke to Hayley Goddard from the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), who is part of the fundraising efforts to seek support for the Old College:

## How will the project be funded?

The project is dependent on external funding. Across the DARO team, we are seeking support from Welsh Government/EU, trusts and foundations, and individuals, including alumni and friends of the University.

It is crucial for us to show the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) that we have the support of our alumni and wider community.

By talking to alumni around the world about the project, we've heard how important this iconic building is to them and how passionate they are about supporting and securing its future for the University, the local area, and Wales as a whole.

## Where are we now?

So far, over £1 million has been raised from individuals, trusts and foundations in gifts and pledges, including the prestigious Wolfson Foundation and the Gwendoline and Margaret Davies Charity.

The first Old College Appeal telephone campaign took place earlier this year. Nearly £100,000 was raised over a three week period by student callers speaking to our alumni from all over the world.

In December the National Lottery Heritage Fund will decide whether to give a further £9.7million. They will take into consideration how much support there is from individual donors, trusts and foundations.

## What's next in your fundraising plans?

We are preparing to send a fundraising appeal letter to 15,000+ alumni and supporters this October. SU and UMCA Presidents, Dhan and Tomos, are helping us to showcase the benefits of the Old College project for future generations of students.

Our second telephone campaign is planned for spring next year and the fundraising will continue for at least 3 more years to transform Old College by our 150th anniversary in 2022/23.

All in all, it's a busy time for fundraising! What will keep us going in our fundraising efforts is knowing that we are part of an appeal that will truly change the lives of so many, and that together with our fantastic donors we can bring new life to a much loved and iconic building.

To learn more about the plans:

[www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/future-plans](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/future-plans)

To donate to the Old College Appeal:

<https://alumni.aber.ac.uk/appeal>

If you have any ideas of how we can raise awareness within the local community, and community fundraising, please get in touch at [alumni@aber.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@aber.ac.uk)



# Delving into the archives

The Old College, so inextricably linked with the history of our University, is also home to an amazing collection of archival documents from its history.

Tucked away just off the central staircase as one climbs to the Council Chamber, is a hidden gem packed with records about every part of the University's life.

The shelves are, literally, overflowing with materials, giving that old-fashioned sense of an immediate physical connection to the University's rich past and to those who have shaped it.

While special collections at many other universities may boast fancier, designated study rooms, nothing can quite compare to the experience offered by our University Archives. Nothing can also compare to the immense knowledge of the holdings possessed by the University archivist, Julie Archer, who, besides being extremely helpful, has a really phenomenal grasp of the collection.

Until the Department of International Politics began the preparations to celebrate its centenary (public events run until the end of this calendar year), I had no idea about any of this.

As part of the celebrations, I have been trying to retrace the origins of the Department and its subsequent development. This has been important to gain a better sense of our own past and that of the discipline's beginnings, and to appreciate the possibility of informing political change at the global level as we face the future.

It is widely known that the Woodrow Wilson Chair in International Politics, endowed by David, Gwendoline, and Margaret Davies in 1918, is the oldest of its kind in the world. But could the archives offer a fuller picture of the founders' motivations, suggest how the University accepted the new (and at that time unusual) discipline, show how the Department has operated over the years, and provide some inspiration for the centenary celebrations?

The archives have done all this and much more.

A copy of a November 1918 letter (the oldest known document relating to the Department) demonstrates that, but for the input of the Davies sisters, the Wilson Chair may have ended up in Oxford rather than Aberystwyth. What a waste that would have been! The College Council minutes note the enthusiasm with which the endowment, conceived as a living monument to more than one hundred students of the University who lost their lives in the Great War, was accepted.

The reports from the Wilson Chair holders and the logbook of the Advisory Committee from the interwar period show how much some things have changed (Charles K. Webster travelled more than 40,000 miles in one year to deliver lectures all over Wales and around the globe) and how some things

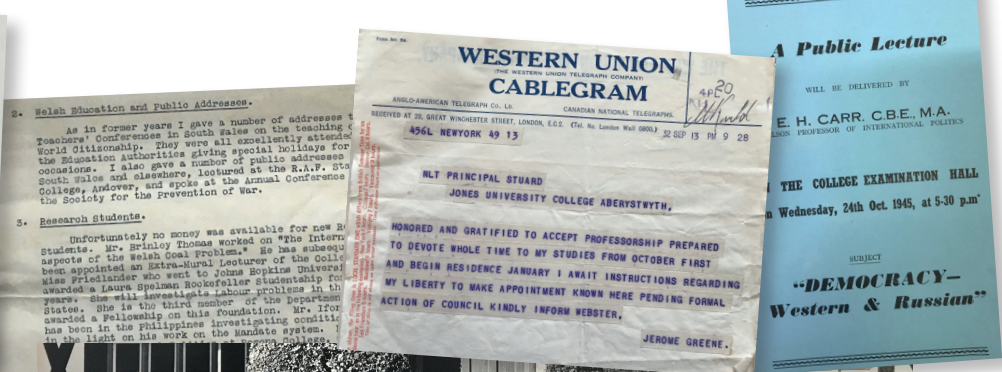
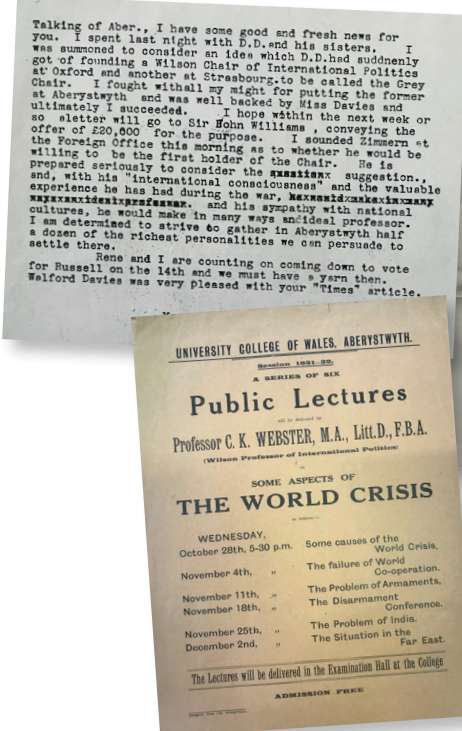


Julie Archer

remain the same (trying to attract students to a fine, but remote, university was a permanent challenge). The vintage posters for public lectures provided useful inspiration. And research papers, some of them now supported by a HEFCW grant, are in the making.

Sitting at a small desk in the far corner of the archives, you can make wonderful, unexpected discoveries and it will only be fitting for the collection to find a proper place in the Old College as it is being given new life.

**Jan Ruzicka**  
Lecturer in Security Studies



# Missing manuscript unearthed

An important and valuable lost musical manuscript has been traced by Aberystwyth University's Director of Music, Dr David Russell Hulme.

Some years ago, a volume of the autograph full-score of *Merrie England*, an operetta by Anglo-Welsh composer Edward German (1862 - 1936), disappeared from the Welshpool home of its owner Dr Terence Rees, a well-known collector and theatre historian, who thought it had been taken when his home was burgled.

However, miraculously, the manuscript recently turned up on e-Bay. Poorly described and without a photograph, the score was nevertheless immediately recognised by Dr Hulme, who was able to enlist the help of the police to halt the e-Bay auction and track down the seller.

The seller turned out to be a dealer who had come by the score in a house clearance and was only too happy to hand it over.

*"Dr Rees was a friend. I had been with him when he purchased the score at Sothebys in 1988, so I was especially pleased to find this missing volume,"* explains Dr Hulme.

*"German's Merrie England was first produced at the Savoy Theatre in 1904. It became hugely popular, partly as a reinforcement of the myth of England's merriness in days of yore, a once potent element in English self-perception - long since debunked (remember Lucky Jim?) - but never completely effaced! Indeed, Merrie England was probably the twentieth-century British opera or operetta most frequently performed during the last century."*

Shortly before his death in 2014, Dr Rees donated his important collection of manuscripts to the British Library. He transferred ownership of both volumes of *Merrie England* - the volume in his possession, and the missing volume, should it ever come to light. This meant there was no difficulty over ownership, and the lost volume has now found its home in the British Library.

Dr Richard Chesser, Head of Music Collection at the British Library, commented: *"I am delighted that the second volume of German's manuscript full-score of Merrie England has been*



*Terence Rees holding the Merrie England manuscript after purchasing it at Sothebys, 1988*

*found. The British Library has a huge collection of autograph material relating to British composers. In recent years we have considerably increased our holding of operettas by Sullivan, German and others, and among these Merrie England is particularly important. Dr Hulme is an authority on manuscripts in this area. One of the few scholars to have ever seen the missing volume, he immediately recognised it from the scanty auction listing. We are very grateful to him for the swift action that eventually reunited it with the rest of the score."*

## The Red Box Project

The Red Box Project, which aims to raise awareness and tackle 'period poverty', was rolled out across Penglais Campus over the summer.

The project was founded in March 2017 by three friends who were angered to hear that some young people were missing time at school because they were unable to afford the essential sanitary products they needed during their period.

Run by passionate volunteers across the UK, the non-profit, community

driven initiative, aims to provide free menstrual products in schools.

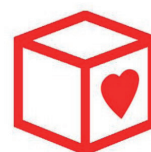
Aberystwyth University is believed to be the first University to implement the Red Box Project.

Recyclable plastic boxes with free sanitary wear can now be found in a selection of ladies and gents toilets around Penglais Campus. The University believes that menstrual products should be available to anyone who requires them, regardless of gender identity or financial means.

The sanitary products are free to access to students, staff and members of the public.

For more information about the Red Box Project at Aberystwyth University visit: [www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/theredboxprojectataberystwythuniversity](http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/equality/theredboxprojectataberystwythuniversity)

or contact Ruth Fowler, Equalities and Communications Officer on [ruf@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ruf@aber.ac.uk)



The Red Box Project

# My research

Sonia Urbaniak, originally from Poland, graduated from Aber with a BsEcon Business and Management in 2016. After graduating, she began working full time for the University whilst also studying for an MSc in Management and Marketing, which she completed this year.

ABER *News* spoke to Sonia about her Master's research:



## Describe your research in a nutshell?

My research aimed to investigate single-use plastic attitudes among consumers in the grocery sector in the UK.

In particular, I wanted to find out whether consumers care about single-use plastic packaging and whether they would like to see less of it in the shops.

Moreover, I wanted to find out whether it would be beneficial or detrimental for companies like Tesco to take action to reduce single-use plastic, and how much influence consumers have.

## Why have you decided to research this topic?

Since the "David Attenborough effect" after the screening of BBC's *Blue Planet II* at the end of 2017, like many others I became more aware of the problem of plastic pollution and its effect on the environment around us.

A team of researchers led by Geyer (2017), found that most of the 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic we have produced to date still exists in the environment in some form today, and only 9% gets recycled. I was shocked by this realisation.

In particular, single-use plastic emerged as an issue. Despite its lasting durability and inability to decompose easily, its low production cost means it is often chosen as the packaging for foods and everyday products. According to Surfers Against Sewage, 40% of plastic produced worldwide is destined for single-use.

I felt like I had to do something about this problem. Apart from reducing personal use of single-use plastic, I wanted to tie it into my Master's research project, making use of my marketing knowledge. Thankfully, my supervisor Dr Ian Harris was supportive of this idea.

## What were the results of your research?

The results of the study showed that Tesco consumers are concerned with single-use plastic packaging, and that the majority intend to purchase products without single-use plastic packaging.

Interestingly, the research found that consumers are likely to spend more with companies which are taking clear and honest steps towards reducing single-use plastic packaging, and spend less with those which fail to take the action expected. This clearly shows that it is beneficial for companies to actively engage in single-use plastic packaging reduction in grocery stores, as it will benefit the reputation and profits of the company.

Many companies have followed this approach in recent years, including Aberystwyth University, which organises plastic-free days when the sale of single-use containers and cutlery is restricted and the use of reusable cups promoted.

## What did you find most rewarding?

It was a great to use my degree to contribute towards improving the current situation of pollution of our oceans and climate crisis.

As the project received a Top Two Master's Research Projects award in the department, I will be looking into publishing some of the findings together with my supervisor.

However, most importantly I am happy that the results of the study have an application for all of us. They show that we as consumers have a regulating power over a company's profits and actions. This means that our choice to buy certain products will have a direct influence on what we will find on the shelves in the shops.

Some argue that this points the finger at consumers, instead of at companies. However, I also believe that even the largest corporations are made up of individuals, some of whom are also the key decision makers. Through changing the mind-set of individual people we can eventually change the behaviours of the biggest companies too.

It was very encouraging recently to see that in our local supermarket the shelves with bananas without packaging were out of stock, while there was plenty of bananas in plastic bags. Perhaps this shows that people are more mindful about their choices and that change in society is happening. Hopefully the companies can learn from this.

Quoting Anna Lappé: "Every time you spend money, you're casting a vote for the kind of world you want". This inspires me to be mindful of the effects of my own actions.

## E-bike charging stations and cycle shelters

E-bike charging stations and cycle shelters have been installed on Penglais Campus, as part of a wider project to install such facilities at sites across Aberystwyth.

New charging stations have been fitted at the University Sports Centre and at the rear of the Arts Centre. Two further stations will shortly be operational near the Porters Lodge at the campus entrance, and another is planned for Fferm Penglais.

The facilities are free of charge to all and are accessible for students, staff and visitors.

The project to install cycle shelters incorporating E-bike charging stations in Aberystwyth has been led by Ceredigion County Council using an Active Travel Fund grant from the Welsh Government, and working in partnership with the University and the National Library of Wales.

Dewi Day, Sustainability Advisor at the University said: "Thanks to our work with Ceredigion County Council, cycle parking provision has improved and these new E-bike stations are a great addition to our campus facilities. Cyclists can either remove the battery from their bike and place it on charge, securely inside the station, or they can plug into the station and run their charging cable to the battery on their bike."

Professor Huw Jones from the Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences commutes to work on an e-bike each day. He said: "I now love my commute to work. I recently converted an old hybrid run-around using an e-bike kit bought online. I still have to pedal but my e-bike does the journey in half the time it used to take and going up even steep hills feel like cycling on the flat. I can enjoy the scenery more and don't get so hot and sweaty. It can be difficult to judge exactly how much juice the battery has left so charging points on campus mean I can always top-up."

*Professor Huw Jones at the e-bike charging station*



## Appointments

### DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

**Dr Trefor Aspden** has joined the Department of Psychology as a Lecturer. He received his PhD from Bangor University in 2010. He has since worked as a post-doctoral researcher in Royal Holloway University, and then in University College London (UCL) where he managed trials of cognitive behavioural therapy. His research interests include health-related behaviours, talking therapies for anxiety and depression, and quality of life. Trefor has lectured on the Mental Health Sciences MSc course in UCL and has recently obtained his Associate Fellowship teaching qualification.



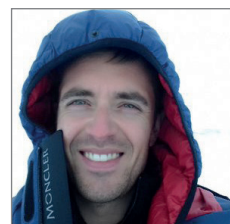
### DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

**Dr Marianna Korsos** has joined the Department of Physics as a postdoctoral researcher. She recently obtained her PhD from the University of Sheffield where she developed a new solar flare prediction method.

Her current research reveals individual characteristic pre-flare and pre-CME (coronal mass ejection) behaviours of the solar active regions in the lower solar atmosphere.

### INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL SCIENCES

**Dr Micael Andrade** has just joined IBERS as Lecturer in Food Science. Having a background in Food and Chemistry Engineering, he obtained his PhD at the University of Reading in 2018 in Food and Nutritional Sciences. At AU, he will be working in the IBERS postgraduate-level Distance Learning Programme under the BioInnovation Wales and the European Social Fund.

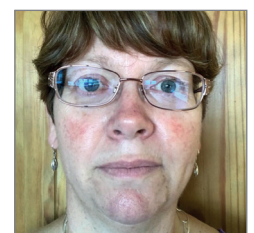


**Dr Joseph Cook** is a new postdoctoral research associate at IBERS. He will be working on a NERC funded project to characterise and quantify microbial exports from glaciers. He obtained his PhD from the University of Sheffield

and has led projects funded by Rolex, Microsoft and National Geographic. His main interests are bridging computer and environmental science, especially using drone and satellite data.

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**Dr Delyth Jones** has recently joined the Education Department as a University Link Tutor for Modern Languages on the new PGCE course. Her PhD, from Cardiff University, described the communicative competence of children from English-speaking homes who attend Welsh-medium education. She was a teacher and Head of Modern Languages in a secondary school for 19 years.





# Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of Department Appointments

## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE



**Professor Colin McInnes** has been appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation for four years from 1 October 2019. Colin is a graduate of Aberystwyth University and holds a personal chair in the Department of International Politics. He was previously the

Director of Research Excellence and Impact, responsible for preparing the University for REF2021. His research is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on the relationship between international politics and global health. Between 2008 and 2018 he held the UNESCO Chair in HIV/AIDS and Health Security, the first UNESCO Chair to be awarded in Wales. He has held research grants from UK and European research councils, from charitable foundations and from industry, and in 2018 was the recipient of the inaugural 'Special Achievement Award' at the Wales Social Research Awards.

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION

**Mr Simon Banham** will continue as Head of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies until July 2020. Simon joined the Department in September 1999 and is now a Reader in Scenography and Theatre Design.



## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES



**Dr Sarah Davies** has been appointed as Head of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. Sarah joined the Department in 2002 as a lecturer in Physical Geography and Environmental Science and was appointed Reader in 2014.

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

**Dr Patrick Finney** has been appointed as Interim Head of the Department of International Politics for a period of 1 year up to August 2020. Patrick joined the Department in 2002 and is a Reader in International History. His research focuses on two areas: twentieth century international history, with particular reference to the inter-war period, and to issues of theory and method; and the cultural memory of



conflict, especially in relation to the legacy of the Second World War. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the UK Editor of the journal *Rethinking History*, and Chair of the British International History Group.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING



**Dr Louise Marshall** has been re-appointed as Head of the Department of English and Creative Writing for a further term. Louise began her academic career at Aberystwyth University in 2006 after completing her PhD with the Department in 2004. She took on the role of Director of

Undergraduate Studies for the Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts in 2013 and was first appointed Head of Department in 2014.

## DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

**Professor Simon Cox** has been re-appointed as Head of the Department of Mathematics for a further term. Simon joined the Department in 2005 as a lecturer. He is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, as well as the Co-Director of the Institute of Non-Newtonian Fluid Mechanics. His research is concerned with the mathematics underpinning the structure and flow of bubbles and foams, including their application to oil recovery and varicose vein treatments.



## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



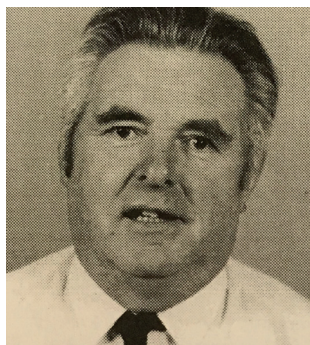
**Professor Nigel Holt** has been re-appointed as the Head of the Department of Psychology for a further term. Nigel joined the Department as a Senior Lecturer in 2012 and worked on the successful accreditation by the British Psychology Society at that time.

He continues his position as Head of Department for a second term and is delighted to be able to see through some of the exciting developments and changes in Psychology in the coming years.

## Obituaries

### Alun Eirug Davies

Alun graduated in Economics from Aberystwyth in 1954, and was awarded an MA for his essay '*Poverty and its treatment in Cardiganshire, 1750-1850*' in 1968. He joined the staff of the University College of Wales Aberystwyth in 1961 as Assistant Cataloguer in the University Library. Promoted to Chief Cataloguer and Sub-Librarian in 1963 and Senior Sub-Librarian in 1980, he eventually became Deputy Librarian under William Dieneman. Alun worked in the library for 36 years until his retirement in 1997. He was also an author and an editor. He published a biography of his father, T Eirug Davies, along with a collection of his poetry. He also published a number of bibliographies.



### Anna Evans (1973-2019)

Anna studied Education and Fine Art at Aberystwyth, graduating in 2009. Many people knew Anna through her work with the Ceredigion Museum and the Royal Commission, and through her connections with local theatre groups, her music, and community art projects. She had recently been working at the Arts Centre to deliver a HEFCW project 'Cartref' in the Tregaron area. Anna had a rare understanding of what it is to facilitate community art projects, and that the key to working successfully in the community is to listen to what the people want and to help them achieve their ambitions. Anna had the knack of helping people be heard through their art and gave people confidence to 'have a go'. A very modest person, Anna didn't want the focus to be about her, only the people she was working with. Anna's husband Huw is a long-standing member of the University's estates team, and we extend our deepest sympathies to him and the family.



### Dai Hides (1939-2019)

Dai (David) Hides, former Head of Plant Breeding at Gogerddan, joined the Welsh Plant Breeding Station as a technician in the Seed Production Group before obtaining a first class degree from Bangor University. He became the Head of the Forage Plant Breeding and Seed Production Team in the late 1980's and played a central role in building the partnership with Germinal Holdings, the commercial partner which markets the forage varieties bred at Gogerddan across the world. His commitment to forage plant breeding and the value of breeding commercially successful plant varieties that built on the science at Gogerddan, was crucial to this relationship. The development and commercialisation of the high sugar 'ABER' brand grasses under his stewardship are perhaps the best example of this approach.

### Professor William Jeremy Jones (1935-2019)

Professor William Jeremy Jones was former Head of the Department of Chemistry. A native of Llandeilo and a Welsh speaker, Professor Jones ('Bill' to those who knew him in his student days but 'Jeremy' to those who came to know him later) came to Aberystwyth in 1953 to read Chemistry, gaining his BSc in 1956 and MSc in 1958, before receiving his PhD in spectroscopy from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1962. After two years as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Canadian National Research Council in Ottawa, he was appointed to a lectureship in the Department of Inorganic Chemistry in Cambridge and a teaching fellowship in Trinity. In the 1970s, Bill's strong research record led to him being offered chairs at several universities, all of which he turned down, until being offered Head of the Chemistry Department at Aberystwyth in 1978. Bill was Head of the Department until its closure in 1988. He subsequently held the Chair of Chemistry at Swansea where, in 1990, he became Dean of Science, an office that he held until his retirement.

### Dr C Roy Lewis

Dr C. Roy Lewis, former Head of the Department of Geography, completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in the Geography Department at Aberystwyth before joining as a lecturer in 1968. An urban historical geographer, he worked closely with Professor Harold Carter who was a leading figure in urban geography research. Roy's individual research focused on the evolution of urban hierarchies in Mid Wales, and later on the urban development of Newport and Irish migrants in 19th century Cardiff. Roy was Head of the Department of Geography from 1986 to 1992, and also served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Roy retired in 1997, but continued teaching his popular urban historical geography course until 2000. As DGES colleague, Professor Mark Whitehead reflects: "*Roy was just about everyone's favourite lecturer. With his beautiful Pembrokeshire accent and gentle disposition, his lectures were genuinely captivating. Roy was an outstanding academic, and with his great sense of humour and compassionate nature he embodied the values that the department maintains to this day.*"



## Exhibitions

**School of Art Gallery, Buarth Mawr.**

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



### Stuart Pearson Wright: Half Boy

7 October - 22 November

In 1975 the artist was conceived by anonymous donor insemination. He has no way of discovering his father's identity and, by extension, knowing his own. The works in this exhibition are an attempt to reconstruct his childhood in order to make some sense of this feeling of incompleteness.

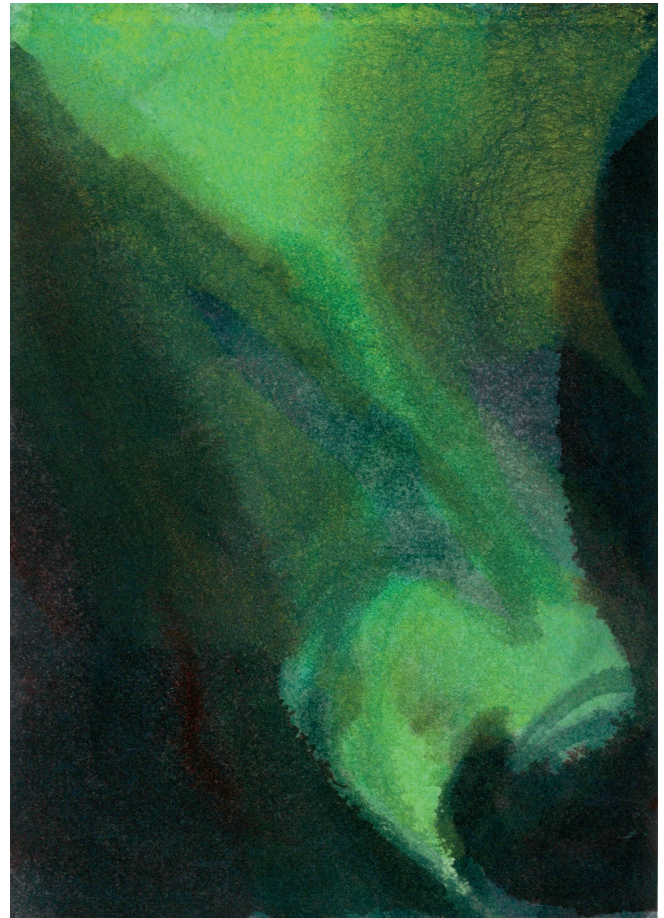
*Half Boy and Half Sister* by Stuart Pearson Wright [Oil, sheep's wool, zebra wood, wire, and mixed media on linen, 2018]

### Flora McLachan: Yng Nghoedwigoedd y Nos / In the Forests of the Night

7 October - 22 November

In this exhibition of her etchings and lithographs Flora McLachlan takes us into the fearful briar wood of the imagination, through its wild wastes and thorny thickets on a quest for a glimpse of the elusive white hart.

*Into the Forest: the Witch's Hut* by Flora McLachan [etching, 2019]



### Simon Pierse: Shy Green

9 December to 7 February

Paintings of the northern lights and other arctic subjects.

*Northern Lights* by Simon Pierse [watercolour, 2019]

### John Duffin: Prints and paintings

9 December to 7 February

Images of the urban environment influenced by film noir and graphic novels.

*Bar Italia* by John Duffin [etching, 2018]



# Aberystwyth Arts Centre



## Eye of the Storm

Presented by Theatr na nÓg and Swansea Grand Theatre

**7.30pm, Friday 25 October**

**2.30pm + 7.30pm, Saturday 26 October**

**£14 (£10)**

*Best Show for Children and Young People - Wales Theatre Awards 2018*

Meet Emmie Price.

Her life has been a whirlwind. It's a world torn between caring for her mam and proving she's got what it takes at school. But Emmie knows one day that's all going to change. One day she's going to become a storm chaser... in America. But will her invention for renewable energy be enough to win her a bursary to study in the USA?

Multi award-winning Theatr na nÓg present an unmissable original musical play that's guaranteed to seize your heart and capture your mind. Set against the backdrop of the Welsh Valleys, *Eye of the Storm* has an original soundtrack from Grammy Award winner Amy Wadge (*Keeping Faith*, *Thinkin' Out Loud* with Ed Sheeran) and performed live on stage by a cast of 8 talented actor musicians.

A theatrical event of courage, determination and compassion for children aged 8+ and adults of all ages.

## Chicago Blues Brothers

**8pm, Wednesday 18 December**

**£24 (£20)**

Direct from debuting in the West End and performances all over the world, the Chicago Blues Brothers are finishing 2019 with a BANG. Infectious, dazzling, riotous, exuberant and spirited, The Chicago Blues Brothers are on a mission to make your Christmas start on a festive roller-coaster that will have you clapping until your hands hurt, singing until your voice is hoarse and dancing until your feet ache with a non-stage party you can't afford to miss.



Make sure you pick up the Arts Centre autumn brochure, which is also available on the website: [www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk](http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk)

## Neil Oliver - The Story of the British Isles in 100 Places

**7.30pm, Wednesday 13**

**November**

**£23.50**

Neil was born to love Great Britain. During his 20 years travelling to every corner, and whilst filming BBC2's *Coast*, he's fallen in love all over again.

From north to south, east to west it cradles astonishing beauty. The human story here is a million years old, and counting. The tolerant, easy-going peace we enjoy has been hard won and the places Neil's seen have given him a unique view and understanding of British history.

Hear in his amusing and entertaining way what it all means to him, and why we need to cherish and celebrate our wonderful countries.



## Catrin Finch and Cimarrón

**A Theatr Mwldan Production**

**8pm, Wednesday 29 January**

**£22 (£18)**

Back in 2007, Welsh harpist Catrin Finch met with Colombian joropo band Cimarrón and embarked on an exhilarating tour of Wales, a collaboration repeated in 2009 and 2010. Ten years later, Catrin and Cimarrón meet again to tour the UK.

Catrin Finch is a remarkable and fearless artist, one of the world's leading harp players, whose career has featured both solo performances with the world's top orchestras and, more recently, collaborations with leading world music artists, including Toumani Diabate and, most successfully, Senegalese kora player Seckou Keita, with whom she forms "one of the most popular world music acts of this decade" (Tim Cumming, *Songlines*).

The 6-piece Grammy-nominated Cimarrón perform joropo dance music from the cattle-rearing plains of the Orinoco, rooted in a deep tradition defined by the mestizo mixed heritage of African, Spanish and indigenous cultures, and led by harpist and composer Carlos Rojas.

*Cimarrón. Photo by Angela Vive*

