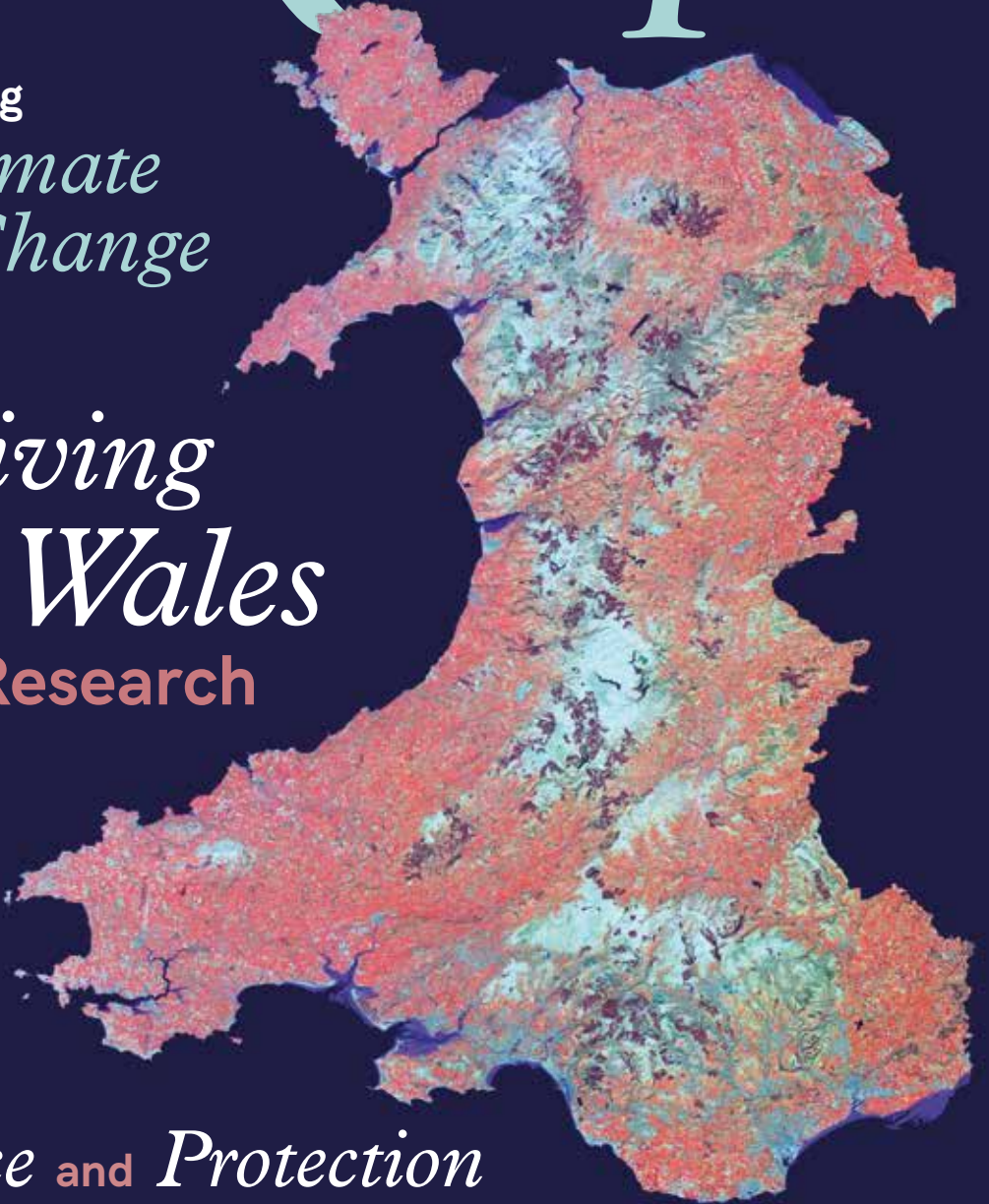


PROM

Tackling
*Climate
Change*

*Living
Wales*
Research

Peace and Protection



PROM 30

PROM brings you the latest news and developments from Aber, highlighting key research and stories from across the University.

Make sure you're getting the most out of this alumni network, including our popular monthly newsletter – see 'Stay Connected' section below.

This packed latest edition features the Arts Centre's 50th anniversary, Peace and Protection, School of Education, Living Wales Research and lots more.

If you have any comments or suggestions for articles in the future, please get in touch.

Dylan Jones
Alumni Engagement Manager
dej20@aber.ac.uk

Stay Connected

-  [@aber_alumni](https://twitter.com/aber_alumni)
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-  aber.ac.uk/alumni

Remember to keep your contact details and preferences updated via alumni.aber.ac.uk

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Our privacy statement gives additional information on the data we hold on you, how it is collected and processed, what we do with that data, and your rights under GDPR. You can read the privacy statement in full here www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/data-protection



Over the last year the University has continued to deliver an Aberystwyth student experience to be proud of, despite the difficulties and uncertainty of the global pandemic.

In welcoming students from across the world back to Aber, 2021-22 already has the feel of a significant year in our development as a University. It was recently confirmed that we have broken into the top 40 UK universities in *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022* for the first time in many years. This is quite an achievement for all our staff and students and I congratulate them and offer my thanks for all their hard work and commitment.

There are many exciting developments at the University. We have welcomed the first cohort of students on the BVSc Veterinary Science degree, as the first and only university in Wales to open a School of Veterinary Science. I am very grateful to the many alumni who donated a total of £500,000 to help fund the School's new teaching facilities by supporting our 1997 Endowment Campaign Fund. From autumn 2022 we will begin to offer nursing qualifications – another first – and a major boost for the health service, especially in mid Wales. This October we held our inaugural week-long Festival of Research, this year focusing on the challenges of climate change and debating potential solutions to the global climate and ecological crisis (see p.20-21).



Mared Edwards

Welsh Culture Officer & UMCA President

It's been great to be able to welcome students, new and old, back here to Aberystwyth. I am very much looking forward to resuming all UMCA's activities and traditions as the year progresses. My aspirations for this year are to ensure that I represent the voice of Aber's Welsh-speaking students, making UMCA and Neuadd Pantycelyn as inclusive as possible. I'm determined to work with the University and the wider Union to ensure that Welsh-speaking students have the same opportunities and support services as the rest of the University's students, but that they are able to access them through the medium of their mother tongue. As Welsh Culture Officer, I look forward to forging a close relationship with the rest of the Union and inviting all Aberystwyth students to learn more about our traditions here in Wales. There is much excitement and I look forward to making my contribution as the development of the Old College progresses, the plans to celebrate our anniversary and, of course, welcoming the National Eisteddfod to Tregaron. First and foremost, I want UMCA students to have a year to remember as we gradually return following COVID-19 restrictions.

I am delighted that, despite the challenges of COVID-19, our engagement with you, our alumni, has been as strong as ever. Our webinars and online meetings have reached alumni across the globe and, as restrictions begin to relax, we very much look forward to being able to meet you in person once again. Special thanks go to our outgoing Old Students' Association (OSA) President, Gwenda Sippings, and a warm welcome to Lauren Marks, a recent former Student Union President, who takes up the Presidency as the OSA looks forward to celebrating its 130th anniversary next year (see page 11).

On the subject of anniversaries, we will soon be able to share an exciting programme to mark our 150th anniversary in 2022-23. As part of the celebrations, we are publishing a special book charting our history through the lens of 150 objects. We are grateful to all of you who responded to our call for suggestions of special objects which you feel reflect an important aspect of our history. And of course, we are delighted that you are joining us on our inspirational journey to transform the iconic Old College into a major cultural and creative centre for Wales (see p.4-5). Fundraising remains crucial to our ability to achieve our vision. I would be most grateful if you could consider donating to our Old College appeal through the special letter included with this edition or online at www.aber.ac.uk/oldcollege – please do keep an eye out for our first-ever digital fundraising campaign which launches soon.

Heartfelt thanks for the continued invaluable support you give to your University. Enjoy this edition of PROM, and we look forward to bringing you a special anniversary edition next year.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice Chancellor



Sabina O'Donoghue

Students' Union President

It's been great to welcome back our students to campus this year. I'm looking forward to the year ahead of us as we work together and hopefully return to normality. My priority is to ensure all voices are heard and represented by the Union, improving student welfare and representation. This can be an anxious time for many, especially those who may not have had a chance to make friends in their first and second year due to the pandemic, and one of my campaigns for the year is to help students feel connected and supported which I believe will help them to adjust to the world beyond COVID-19. We are grateful for the support from alumni funded projects and truly appreciate their generosity. We look forward to continuing to support the University in many ways, including doing our part in helping fundraise for The Old College Appeal, an exciting project that will benefit students and strengthen links between us and the local community.

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PROM 30 | The Magazine of Aberystwyth University

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The views expressed in PROM are those of individual authors and do not represent the University other than where stated. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of material published, the publishers accept no liability for claims made by contributors.

New health research to help save African penguins from extinction

Research involving Aberystwyth University academics is investigating the part that disease and pollution are playing in the decline in the African penguin population, a species which faces extinction within the next thirty to eighty years.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the population of this species of penguins was estimated at more than three million.

However, excessive egg and guano collection and, more recently, lack of fish due to industrial fishing and environmental changes, has decimated the population. Today, there are fewer than 20,000 pairs.

While many key threats to the penguins are well known, and huge efforts made to address them by government and private agencies, little is known about health and disease threats to the species.

A group of international partners, called 'African Penguin Health', are conducting research in five areas in an effort to discover the health causes of the population decline.

That work includes conducting a health survey of the penguins by examining wild birds, taking a range of samples for analysis, looking for toxic chemicals in dead birds, monitoring coastlines and colonies using citizen science and drones, stakeholder assessments and modelling population changes.

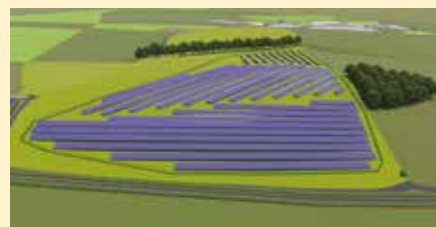
More information about the project can be found at:

<https://africanpenguinhealth.co.za>



African Penguins in Namibia
©J Kemper

Major renewable energy project



Artist's impression of the Aberystwyth University solar development, looking East.

The University has been granted planning permission to install state of the art solar panels at a site adjacent to Fferm Penglais, representing a significant step towards its ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Once operational, the photovoltaic solar panels will generate approximately 25% of the annual electricity requirements of Penglais Campus – equivalent to the energy used by over 500 homes. In doing so, it will generate carbon savings of almost 600 tonnes per year.

The 4 hectare facility, which will be situated on land already owned by the University, will cost just under £2.9m and will generate annual energy savings in excess of £320k per year. Over the lifetime of the panels, the University is expected to save almost £14m in electricity costs.

It is hoped that installation of the solar panels will be completed by April 2022.

Beetle burgers or cricket snacks? Insect-based food on Aberystwyth research menu

Crickets and beetles could become a common part of our diets, thanks to new academic research.

Insect-based foods offer a more environmentally-friendly source of protein than many other food stuffs, and could help feed the world's growing population.

Aberystwyth University is Wales' contribution to an international project, 'ValuSect', which aims to improve the sustainable production and processing techniques of insect-based products.

Research indicates that approximately 30% of EU consumers are willing to eat insect-based food. ValuSect



Cricket protein bars produced by HOP, which was co-founded by Aberystwyth alumnus Dr Geoffrey Knott

aims to increase this number by improving the quality of insect production and processing, carrying out consumer tests, and reducing its environmental impact. Research will focus on the emission of greenhouse gasses, the impact of substrates, food safety and on the shelf life of insect-based food products.

Aberystwyth academic curates BBC archive released to mark 85 years of entertainment television

A Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies academic has played a key role in the creation of a new archive collection which celebrates the BBC's rich history in entertaining the nation.

Dr Jamie Medhurst is the Lead Curator of the *Entertaining the Nation* archive, which offers a rare insight into broadcast entertainment across the years through newly released interviews from the BBC Oral History Collection, plus an array of rarely seen photographs.

The collection has been released to mark 85 years of entertainment television, and forms part of BBC History's *100 Voices That Made The BBC* project.

Dr Jamie Medhurst, Reader in Film, Television and Media, explains: "The BBC has a long and proud



Dr Jamie Medhurst, Co-Director of the Aberystwyth University Centre for Media History and Reader in Film, Television and Media at the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies

tradition of entertaining its listeners and viewers. For almost a hundred years, the Corporation has produced a range of programmes that have engaged audiences, allowed them to escape, challenged them, made them laugh, and made them cry. Drama and comedy, sport and natural history, coverage of big events and programming specifically for the nations – the BBC has been at the heart of public service broadcasting in the UK.

"The insights that the interviews in

the BBC's Oral History Collection give are uniquely valuable. We get to hear voices, many for the first time, which shed light on policy decision-making, programmes, actors ... and what Eric Morecambe thought of the Grieg Piano Concerto sketch with Andre Previn!"

The full oral history collection "100 Voices that made the BBC: Entertaining the Nation" is available online at: <https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/100-voices/entertaining-the-nation>

Scientists to help forecast space weather threats

Solar scientists in the Department of Physics are leading a new project to improve the Met Office's ability to forecast space weather and its potential disruption to activities on Earth.

Storms above the surface of the Sun can cause major damage to our economy, affecting satellites, radio communications, power grids and aircraft routes.

With advance warning, however, steps can be taken to minimise the impact of storms erupting from the Sun and hitting the Earth's magnetic field.

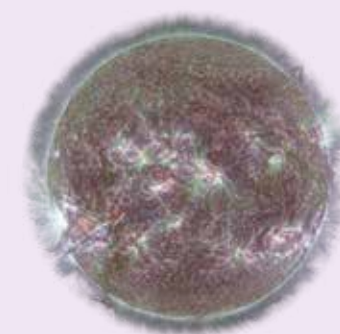


Photo credit: NASA/SDO, with image processing by Dr Huw Morgan, Aberystwyth University

The two-and-a-half-year project called *Space Weather Empirical Ensemble Package* (SWEEP) is headed by Dr Huw Morgan, Head of Solar System Physics in the Department of Physics.

"The Sun's atmosphere flows into interplanetary space as the solar wind. Solar eruptions cause large variations in this flow that can cause huge disruption to society, especially given our increasing reliance on technology for everything from mobile phone communication to electricity supplies and spacecraft travel," explained Dr Morgan.

"The disruption caused by solar eruptions and flares can be reduced given advance warning of severe space weather. The main purpose of the SWEEP project therefore is to improve this warning system through more accurate and robust forecasting and help protect society from the threat of space weather."

The Old College Project update



Jim O'Rourke
Project Manager

The plans for the Old College project are progressing and we look forward to entering the most exciting phase. At the time of writing, key decisions are being finalised and we will update you as soon as we can.

After planning the activities, the educational, communal and income generating spaces and fundraising since 2013, we are now ready to see the transformation of this historic and much loved building into a modern facility for learning, leisure and inspiration as the University looks to the future and celebrates



The Old hall

its past. It's been a busy couple of years securing planning and other consents and agreements and so to start on site is such an exciting prospect now. We hope to complete the renovations and new build extension by early 2024. We then look forward to inviting you to see what we have achieved over a decade of preparations as we deliver the final fit out of the rooms and exhibitions for our first visitors.

Meanwhile, here is a glimpse of what to expect in the much-loved spaces of the Quad and Old Hall.

You can find other images at www.aber.ac.uk/oldcollege

But there are plenty of challenges still to address to renovate such an historic and valued building which has suffered somewhat from the impact of the wind, salt and rain in such a prominent position over 150 years. Securing sufficient funds to complete is so crucial now, so please support us on this final lap of the journey to bring New Life to Old College.



The Quad

Old College Transformation: Facts and Figures

- **143** rooms across **7** floors
- Expected **200,000** visitors p.a.
- **48** new jobs
- **409** volunteer opportunities
- **10** spaces for audiences of **60 - 200** people
- **6** Exhibition galleries, activities and events in **20** spaces for up to **1,000** attendees in a festival or major event

Old College Fundraising Appeal Update



Louise Jagger,
Director of
Development
and Alumni
Relations

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are deeply grateful for the tremendous support from a wide range of supporters who have donated so generously at all levels. So far, alumni and friends around the world have raised £1.3 million through donations and pledges. We have also raised £2.1m from Trusts and Foundations, with many awarding grants to the University for the first time and at record sums for Wales.

Our ambitious fundraising will continue right up to the reopening of Old College and the Appeal will be the University's fundraising priority in our 150th anniversary year. As Prom goes to print, we are busy planning our next fundraising campaigns, including the University's first

ever digital 'crowdfunding' campaign later this year with an inspirational Appeal video and latest information on the project and our funding gap.

Alumni support will continue to be crucial. I do hope that you will feel inspired to join us on this journey and help to deliver our vision to transform this important and much-loved building.

Donating couldn't be easier, whether through the enclosed Appeal letter or online at the link below. Every gift counts and we are deeply grateful for all the support from our community of alumni and friends around the world.

We would especially like to thank the Old Students' Association, the Alumni Club of Malaysia and the Student Union for their support.

www.aber.ac.uk/appeal

For further information on the project or Appeal, including donor recognition opportunities, Gift Aid or international donations please do contact us at alumni@aber.ac.uk

- Teaching, studying and research spaces across **4** floors
- Dedicated Youth Zone and youth worker for students and community use
- **12** creative business units
- **5** artist studios and Aberystwyth printmakers' workshops
- **3** restaurants/cafes, **4** bars and pop up catering across the building
- **31 x 4*** bedrooms

University collections and history



Cara Cullen,
Collections
Researcher

It has been an exciting first year in my new role researching University collections and history. Our collections are exceptionally diverse spanning every department, from the impressive museum and galleries of the School of Art to zoological specimens, herbaria, rare books and more. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to delve into them and draw out the most unusual, impressive or hidden items for display.

Over the past year I have been working closely with the exhibition design company Mather & Co and it has been exciting to see the first concept designs for the galleries which were completed this summer. As well as our permanent gallery to showcase University history, there will be a dedicated science gallery to celebrate innovative research over 150 years. When the gallery (funded by the Wolfson Foundation) opens I will be particularly proud of the number of incredible women in science whose stories will be on display.

For those who caught our Webinar series you will know that I have been working closely with our university archives team, alumni relations office and our alumni network to search for the iconic Objects of Abership and stories from across the generations. I would like to thank all the alumni, retired staff and friends who have supported my work and shared their memories. When The Old College opens, we will be able to display the hidden gems from the archives for the first time. If you have any items from RAG week, protest banners or photographs, we would love to hear from you - alumni@aber.ac.uk

“Peace is not a state, it’s an eternal struggle”: International Politics research contributes to peace and protection



by Professor Berit Bliesemann de Guevara
Personal Chair, Department of International Politics

Living in Wales, it is easy to forget that peace cannot be taken for granted and that many people around the world struggle daily for a life in safety and dignity. Two projects at Aberystwyth’s Department of International Politics currently seek to make a positive contribution to such efforts.

Over the past three years, the project *(Un-)Stitching Gazes*, in collaboration with the University of Antioquia, Medellín, has explored the reintegration process of guerrilla fighters after the 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).¹ We asked how, in the aftermath of violent conflict, people – former combatants, their supporters, their victims, and society at large – (re-)author their lives to live on and live together.

We used narrative biographical interviews and invited our participants to record their preferred stories through embroidery. Our findings unstitched rigid categories of perpetrator and victim and showed the complexity of decades of armed and structural violence, highlighting the shared humanity of different actors in Colombia.

We also exhibited these textile narratives to incentivise dialogue within Colombian society, where the FARC peace signatories are often still portrayed as ‘enemies’. Such dialogue is crucial in a context in which peace signatories, human rights and environmental activists and social leaders are killed on a daily basis (well over 1,000 since 2016), while the state turns a blind eye on state, paramilitary and criminal violence. Colombia may have a peace agreement, but peace, dignity and safety

Fig 1: A group of female FARC peace signatories embroidering scraps of their lives, hopes and fears, San José de León, 2019 (photo: Laura Coral)



1 Project website (in English and Spanish): <https://des-tejiendomira-das.com>



Fig 2: Project exhibition in San José de León, a village built by former FARC guerrillas, Antioquia, Colombia, 2019 (photo: Laura Coral)

remain daily struggles for many Colombians, to which our project sought to make a small contribution.

Colombia is not the only unsafe place in the world for civilians – far from it. According to the UN Refugee Agency, there are now a record high of 82.5 million people forcibly displaced by violent conflict, and most deaths in conflicts are among civilians. In this global crisis, existing international protection efforts are nowhere near sufficient. Armed peacekeeping particularly, while still widely used, is costly, politically contested, and cannot be deployed to all countries where civilians are in need of protection.

Our international research network *Creating Safer Space* therefore aims to strengthen and expand strategies of unarmed civilian protection and community self-protection. This approach has proven to be low-cost, versatile and effective.² For example, our international and local partner organisations monitor the ceasefire between Islamic and government forces in the Philippines; provide protective accompaniment for environmental activists in Colombia; prevent forced recruitment of minors in Myanmar; and protect women from gender-based violence in South Sudan (Fig. 3).

Next year, in a first research phase, our network members will conduct 11 projects to gauge protection needs, learn from existing initiatives and infrastructures, and explore how unarmed civilian protection can be scaled up to benefit more people in our project countries: Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and South Sudan. A second phase is planned but will depend on the UK’s future commitment to official development assistance, the source of our funding.

2 Project website: <https://creating-safer-space.com>

With its focus on enhancing and expanding existing capacities for nonviolent civilian-to-civilian (self-) protection, and on shifting the way we think and talk about security, the *Creating Safer Space* Network aims to help develop this alternative story and approach into the go-to humanitarian strategy of the future.



Fig. 3: Members of Nonviolent Peaceforce’s Women Peacekeeping Teams in South Sudan (photo: Nonviolent Peaceforce)

Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, PhD, is Professor at Aberystwyth University’s Department of International Politics and the principal investigator of the two projects introduced here. Her peace and conflict research has taken her to Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Myanmar. Email: beb14@aber.ac.uk

The *(Un-)Stitching Gazes* project was financed by Newton Fund (project reference AH/R01373X/1) and Minciencias (project reference FP44842-282-2018). The *Creating Safer Space* network is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) (project reference AH/T008024/1).

Aberystwyth Arts Centre celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Aberystwyth Arts Centre had its beginnings in the 1970s when the then University College of Wales, Aberystwyth built the facility with the ambition to serve not just the College, but also the town and the surrounding counties and annual visitors, including of course our alumni from around the world.

The Great Hall opened in 1970, then in Autumn 1972 the theatre came into use and Aberystwyth Arts Centre was born.

In the early years Peter Postlethwaite and Julie Walters were just two of the now famous actors that trod the boards. David Bowie performed here in 1972, whilst Michael Ball made his musical debut in the 1988 summer season production of 'Godspell'! Many thousands of actors, musicians, artists, poets and dancers have performed here over the last four decades, giving audiences an opportunity to experience fantastic work across all art forms.

From the very beginning the Arts Centre has pursued a diverse mixed programming policy, encouraging and supporting local groups and University ensembles whilst inviting leading professional and internationally renowned artists and companies to Aberystwyth. It delivers the largest community arts programme in Wales, with many young people gaining their first experiences of the arts here. Recent members of our Youth Theatre and Dance School who have gone on to have successful careers in the performing arts include Taron Egerton, star of *Rocketman* and *Kingsman*, and Gwyneth Keyworth who has recently been starring in *Hidden/Craith* for BBC/S4C.

Following sold out performances by Ian McKellen in his 80th theatres in his 80th year tour, the Arts Centre established an annual bursary in conjunction with the Development and Alumni Relations Office to provide financial support to young people to pursue training and enhance studies in the creative arts. In its third year since its inception it's going from strength to strength and underlines the Arts Centre's commitment to young people.

The Arts Centre is not afraid of controversy either. You can often spot star of *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (and



Aberystwyth Arts Centre, circa 1971

former Mayor of Aberystwyth), Sue Jones-Davies, either working as part of our Front of House team or simply calling in, and one of the highlights of the Arts Centre's first half century was a special screening of the film in 2008 with Michael Palin and Terry Jones in attendance. It was banned at the time due to perceived blasphemous content so when we 'broke the ban' on screening the film in Aberystwyth it was accompanied by TV crews and media attention from all around the world!

The visual arts has always been an enormously important part of the Arts Centre's activity, and thousands of artists have been showcased over the years, bringing the very best to Mid Wales. From Tracey Emin to David Bailey, and Mary Lloyd Jones to Grayson Perry, our programme has championed contemporary artists in both fine art and crafts and ceramics. Future plans will see exciting new developments to our galleries as part of the Welsh Government's ambitious programme for contemporary art in Wales.

Cinema has also developed into a major part of our programme, since the addition of a purpose-built cinema back in 2000. From the Abertoir Horror Festival which has grown in significance over the last ten years to become a leading light of the horror genre, to family films, art house and major releases, we provide a safe and welcoming location to enjoy films on the big screen.



Cambrian News, 19th April, 1973



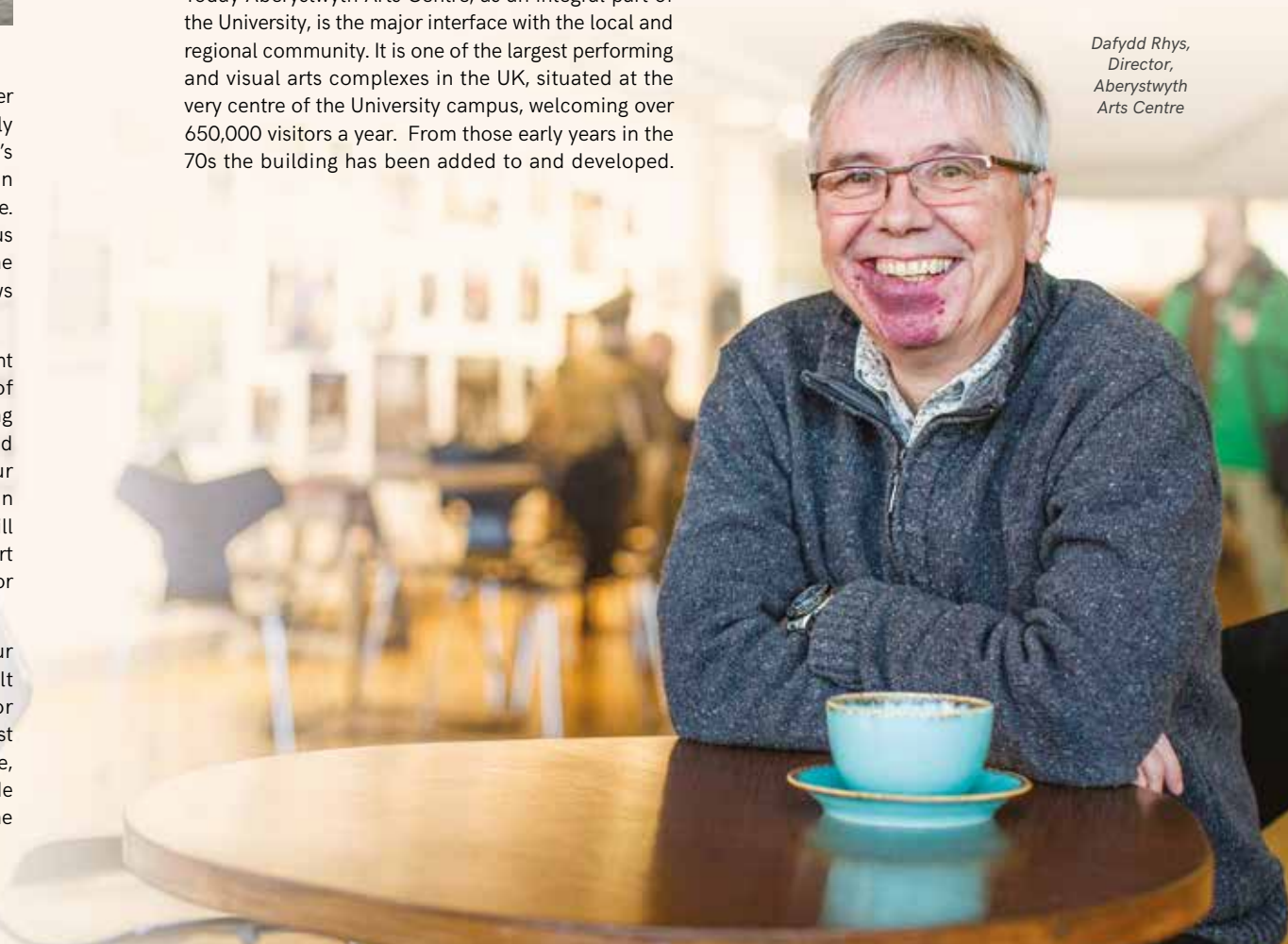
Aberystwyth Arts Centre cafe 2021

The Arts Centre serves as a social focal point for the University throughout the day, with its café at the heart of the building. That hub for staff and student groups to meet and relax alongside members of the public or local school children and tourists is what makes the Arts Centre so special.

Today Aberystwyth Arts Centre, as an integral part of the University, is the major interface with the local and regional community. It is one of the largest performing and visual arts complexes in the UK, situated at the very centre of the University campus, welcoming over 650,000 visitors a year. From those early years in the 70s the building has been added to and developed.

Activity has grown in size, and we are currently developing a new vision to make the building fit for purpose for the next 50 years - but the core ambition remains, to bring the very best to our communities. We have come a long way in 50 years, and I am sure the next will be equally as exciting!

Dafydd Rhys,
Director,
Aberystwyth
Arts Centre





Professor Gareth Griffith, Head of the IBERS Microbiology Group.



Fruitlet bodies of Common bonnet (*Mycena galericulata*) on a dead branch

Aberystwyth University supports Citizen Science DNA barcoding projects

Citizen science is the term used to describe contributions to scientific knowledge by amateur or nonprofessional scientists. Such initiatives are long-established in biodiversity monitoring but progressively citizen scientists are able to use more advanced technologies.

David Harries (Chemistry 1972) and his fellow members of the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network (PFRN) have established a small-scale operation for the extraction of DNA from fungi and PCR amplification of the barcode region (similar to how different variants of SARS-CoV-2 are differentiated). Their excursion into the world of fungal barcoding began over 5 years ago with encouragement and training provided by myself and colleagues at IBERS. The Pembrokeshire network is now one of five field mycology groups in the UK utilising DNA barcoding to support fungus recording and conservation. Current projects include barcoding of rusts with rust fungus specialist, Dr Nigel Stringer (Botany BSc PhD, 1971/1977), to assist him in updating the nomenclature of these species found in Wales in line with the more modern concepts being used by European rust experts.

Whilst preparation of the fungal DNA barcode region can be accomplished in a home laboratory setting, the final stage of analysis needs to be carried out at a specialist sequencing centre - in this case the Sanger sequencing facility based at the IBERS Plas Gogerddan campus. Here Caron Evans provides invaluable support by receiving and processing samples, and providing help and advice where needed. Zoe Boardman, a current Integrated Year in Industry student, worked in our labs and undertook

genetic studies of the endangered green earth tongue fungus *Microglossum* in collaboration with David and Caron.

The value of this barcoding activity has been recognised by the British Mycological Society (BMS) which funds the sequencing costs incurred by the five field groups, with the programme facilitated by Dr Brian Douglas (BSc Environmental Science [2010], PhD [2014]; now at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew). This programme commenced in 2020 and provides a great example of the way in which the University and its staff have teamed up with the BMS to support citizen science activities. Initial studies have already identified species new to Britain, and herald the prospect of discovering species new to science.



David Harries (L) demonstrating the Bento Lab

It is appropriate here to mention the work of Stan Hughes (UCW, Botany 1941) one of the world's great mycologists of the 20th century who sadly died in late 2019, aged 102. Stan was a staunch supporter of the OSA and timed his visits to Wales to coincide with the OSA Easter Reunion, most recently in 2012. He was a great inspiration to most of us involved in this current endeavour and we were overjoyed when he was elected a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales in early 2019, the Society's first and only centenarian Fellow.

A further mycological development has been the sponsorship by David Harries (Chemistry 1972) of the Holly and David Harries Mycology Summer Studentship. The first recipient of this award was Lizzie Waring who graduated with a First Class degree in Ecology in 2020 and is now undertaking an MPhil study programme jointly with Germinal Holdings on the topic of fungal diseases of perennial ryegrass.

Old Students' Association



Lauren Marks, President of the Old Students' Association

Over the past year, and in particular in recent months as the UK has started to reopen, I have had strong feeling of "hiraeth". Not being able to return to Aberystwyth on a regular basis has been one of the things that I have missed very much throughout the pandemic, but I do hope that as we adapt and evolve, I and others who have not been able to visit and re-unite in Aberystwyth will be able to do so very soon. Whilst online events and meetings have been a lifeline recently, there is nothing quite like walking down the promenade and seeing The Old College looking out across the sea in real life!

It is an honour to have been elected as the President of the Old Students' Association for the next two years and a great pleasure to be able to connect with so many alumni, both from all over the world and from cohorts across the years, which is one of my favourite things about the OSA. I'd like to express heartfelt thanks to Gwenda Sippings for her commitment to the Presidency over the past three years, and it was a pleasure to have supported as Vice-President during this time.

I am looking forward to the continued opportunities that the OSA brings to keep in touch with and support the University and current students through exciting developments. The next two years hold a lot of cause for celebration and optimism, in particular the 130th anniversary of the OSA during 2022, Old College's redevelopment, and eagerly-awaited graduation ceremonies amongst some of the highlights.

In the OSA we often talk about the Aber Spirit that is shared between alumni no matter when or what you studied, and our members have surely shown that even when you can't physically connect, the Aber Spirit remains strong and there will always be a special connection that we share because of our Aber experience. This spirit has been evident in the innovation our members have shown to keep events running and finding new ways to connect, and in their unwavering dedication to the OSA and support of the University even during a pandemic. It has really been a great positive force during a difficult time. And on a very personal note, I actually met my partner in London in the years after I left Aber; he studied and left two years before I joined the University so we never met there, but the Aber Spirit definitely brought us together later on (thank you, Aber!).

We are always welcoming new Life Members of the OSA and happy that many alumni want to take the small extra step with us on our journey, keeping in touch with the University and its alumni, and working with us to support the University, current students, and looking to the future. If you'd like to know more please visit our website where Life Membership is available, or get in touch. Of course, all graduates will always be alumni and will continue to be kept up to date directly by the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

www.osaaber.org
www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/osa/



Living Wales – a Globally Applicable Land Monitoring System developed for Wales

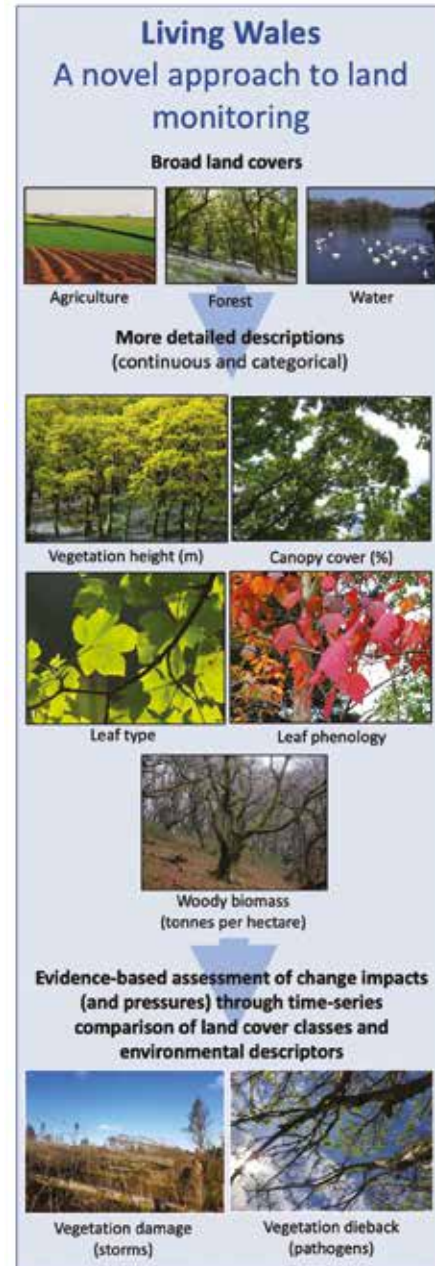


By Professor Richard Lucas
Ser Cymru Chair
Department of Geography and Earth Sciences

The world is changing rapidly and there is an urgent need to monitor our landscapes and proactively plan for the future, particularly given the current emergencies in climate and biodiversity and the need for sustainable use of our land and resources.

Living Wales is a unique and novel world-first concept that is using satellite data to capture detailed spatial information on the state and dynamics of Wales's landscape, in near real time and historically (since 1985), to inform future land management and policy. The project, which has been funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Ser Cymru II program and Welsh Government, has been working with a wide range of organisations across the country, the wider UK and internationally to establish a method for land monitoring that can be applied consistently across Wales but also other countries and regions.

The approach uses satellite data to mirror how people observe and describe landscapes on the ground and how these are changing (see Box 1). For this, use is made of a globally relevant and scalable land cover classification taxonomy that first asks for broad descriptions of landscapes, such as whether they are comprised primarily of natural or cultivated vegetation, buildings, bare surfaces or water. Further categorical or numerical descriptions are then used in a logical and progressive sequence to construct more detailed classifications. For monitoring change, this collated information is compared over time to gather evidence for both natural and human-induced pressures and impacts according to a pre-defined globally relevant taxonomy.



Using this approach, annual maps of land cover and contributing information have been generated for Wales (Box 2) and released through a publicly-accessible geoportal (wales.livingearth.online). For the first time, these maps are providing an open and expanding resource for people in Wales to be informed of the past and present changes that have shaped the national landscape and new capacity to envisage future landscapes under different change scenarios.

To allow public viewing of the land cover maps for Wales as well as other satellite-derived products that explore the environmental impacts of land use and climate change, Living Wales has established an exhibition and training facility at the Centre for Alternative Technology near Machynlleth. A parallel exhibition is also being developed within the new refurbishment of Aberystwyth University's Old College.

Included within this exhibition are displays that feature outputs from a range of remote sensing projects undertaken at Aberystwyth University. These include land cover maps for multiple years for Australia, which were and continue to be generated in parallel with Living Wales, detailed images from around the world acquired by PlanetLab's high resolution satellite sensor data, and global maps of mangrove extent and change generated through our Global Mangrove Watch. The European Space Agency's (ESA) Climate Change Initiative (CCI) also features highly with up-to-date information on climate change conveyed. The ESA display also provides three global maps of the tonnage of biomass held within the World's forests that have been generated recently through the CCI Biomass project, which is managed and coordinated by Aberystwyth. These maps, which are being displayed at the Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021, are being used to validate the outputs and support the development of global climate models to better determine likely future impacts, and give new insights into the carbon dynamics of vegetation.

Under the leadership of Professor Richard Lucas, Living Wales brings together a team of research scientists at the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences:

- Dr Suvarna Punalekar, Remote Sensing and Data Scientist
- Dr Carole Planque, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow - Remote Sensing & Data Scientist
- Mr Sebastien Chognard, Data Scientist and Postgraduate student
- Mr Clive Hurford, Research Scientist and Field Surveyor

Living Wales has released 10m resolution maps of land cover for Wales, constructed from environmental descriptors retrieved from Sentinel radar and optical data. The most recent map (for 2020) was made public in October 2021.



Living Wales map of land cover for 2020

These maps are being compared to detect changes in land cover extent and condition. Collectively, this information is being used to support efforts at addressing the climate and biodiversity emergencies, including accounting for carbon in forests and other ecosystems, planning restoration of ecosystems, and addressing the sustainable development goals as set by the United Nations.



A subset of the Living Wales map for Aberystwyth highlighting the distribution of different forest and crop types, water and semi-natural vegetation around the town.

You can learn more about Living Wales and these maps at <https://wales.livingearth.online/> or by visiting the exhibition at the Centre for Alternative Technology (Machynlleth, Wales).

An interview with Lance Batchelor

Lance Batchelor studied International Politics and Strategic Studies at Aberystwyth, graduating in 1985 and was conferred as a Fellow of the University in 2017. After serving in the Royal Navy he gained an MBA at Harvard Business School before embarking on a career as a senior manager at organisations such as young Seattle start-up Amazon and as Chief Executive Officer of the Saga Group. He talked to me from his home in Berkshire.

What led you to choose Aberystwyth for your degree?

When I was 18 all I wanted to do was join the Navy and go to sea. I didn't really want to go to university at all. But I had a wonderful grandmother who said it was crazy to go into the Navy without a degree - and that when I left I would need a degree to have the right kind of future.

I skimmed through a prospectus from Aberystwyth's Interpol department and just thought "Wow! You can study that...? What a fascinating cross section of topics". I fell completely in love with that syllabus, and when I applied Aber was my first choice.

What were your first impressions on arriving in Aberystwyth?

You may not be surprised to hear that it was raining. I got off the train with a suitcase - and stepped out into a grey, wet day. Half way up Penglais Hill I turned around and looked at the bay - realising what an astonishing location the university is in. Very positive impressions from the very first, except for the weather!

What did you spend your time doing in Aberystwyth when you weren't working on your degree?

I used to drive down to Cardiff to do my time with the Royal Naval Reserve once a week, I was on a Navy bursary so I had an obligation - and a desire - to spend time with them. I was on the University Karate team - and early on got covered in bruises. The usual pubbing and clubbing with friends, running in the countryside... Oh, and some academic work as well!

How did you launch your career?

I graduated in summer of 1985 - and went straight off to the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. The Cold War was still raging, and after my training I went into submarines and spent the next few years playing cat-and-mouse with what in those days were Soviet submarines. Then in 1989 the Berlin Wall came down - and that was the end of my submarine

career. I decided I didn't have an interest in spending peacetime years underwater.

I applied to a number of business schools, including Harvard. Some of them said "you've got no business experience, you don't belong here" but Harvard was the opposite. It turned out that they have a long track record of taking military folk and helping them transition to their new careers. Much to my astonishment, I found myself in Boston 6 months after leaving the Navy, starting a very intensive 2 year MBA.

On graduating I worked in a leadership role with Procter and Gamble for 8 years and it was a superb experience. They gave me a really thorough business training, building on the theoretical training from Harvard. For the last 2 years I was based at their world HQ in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Interviewed by
John Gilbey
(gilbey@bcs.org.uk)

@John_Gilbey



Then in 2000, everyone left for the West Coast - it was the "Dot Com" boom. Suddenly Facebook and eBay and all the others were recruiting like crazy, and they took an enormous number of P&Gs best people.

I got called one day by Jeff Bezos at Amazon - which was still a small company - asking me to "come and join us". To do what? "I have no idea. The company is reinventing itself every week and we really need some talent. We are growing really fast. Just come, and you'll have an amazing ride!" We packed up and flew west to Seattle - where I did 5 different jobs for Amazon over the next 2 to 3 years.

We'd been away for 5 years by now, then Vodafone called and offered me the Chief Marketing Officer role back in the UK. Phones were just about to become "technology" - 3G was on its way, and we were starting to call phones the "new internet" - but nobody knew what that meant yet. I did 4 years with Vodafone, 4 years with Tesco Mobile, then started working as a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - most recently for the Saga Group.

I love being a CEO - I've really enjoyed the dozen or so years I spent running different businesses, and the variety that has come with all of that. I've consciously gone to businesses that are really good businesses but haven't woken up to digital yet, driving their digitisation journey.

What is next?

I have a very firm view that I am only halfway through the journey. There are so many things I want to do. I want to put more back into society. I'm doing quite a lot of work with the Government, mostly in the maritime space, and spending more time with two Royal Navy charities. I'm still learning, I've just completed a history course at Cambridge, and I want to roll that into their two year Masters. I think that learning is so rewarding - I've loved learning all my life - and I now have the time and energy to really do it again.

Family is important to me. Wendy and I were married in April 1989, when I was a Lieutenant serving in the submarine HMS Conqueror. We have four sons, and I'm watching in fascination to see what happens to them and how they go about it - and I want to be there to offer them advice, if they ask for it.

Alumni Profiles

As a University, we are extremely proud of our graduates. Many go on to achieve great success in their careers living all over the world, working in every industry you can imagine!

Below are some of our alumni's stories.

Thomas Dockerill (BA English Literature 2015)

Tom currently works as a Data Insight Analyst for Virgin Media O2. Having started out working in strategy roles in Further Education, he moved on to the transport sector and rediscovered a passion for data, which led him to a senior developer role at a university - and now data analysis. Tom has found that his English Literature degree can lend itself to many careers.

"Studying English at Aberystwyth shaped who I am today, with the fantastic tutors and lifestyle. I can now tell a story with data - it's a geeky passion and I love it!"



Alexandra El Dbeissy

(MA International Politics 2019)

Alexandra is currently working as a Consular Affairs Attaché at the Consulate General of Panama in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Her role involves diplomatic and consular affairs, such as bilateral agreements between Panama and the UAE, acting as a point of contact between the Consulate and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE, and drafting official notes addressed to governmental organisations and diplomats.

"My Master's degree has helped me develop an analytical mindset to evaluate international affairs from a political, cultural, and social angle. It enabled me to acquire knowledge on the key policies that countries implement to boost their economies and position as State actors in the international system."

If you would like to share your experiences since leaving Aberystwyth, contact us at alumni@aber.ac.uk

Yugo Sato

(BSc Biochemistry 2018)

Yugo was a recipient of 'The Peter Hancock Scholarship Fund' in 2017 and is currently in his final year studying for a PhD in Electrochemical Wastewater Treatment at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is also busy working on several publications.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Aberystwyth and particularly benefited from the scholarship especially so in having the advice and guidance of a mentor, an alumnus of Aber who I'm still in contact with"



Iwan Griffiths

(BA Drama and Welsh History 2004)

Iwan works as a reporter and presenter for BBC Wales, mainly working for S4C on their news programme 'Newyddion'.

During his media career which has spanned over fifteen years, he has presented the main programmes from the National and the Urdd Eisteddfod.



As a reporter, he has travelled regularly and had the privilege of working at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games in recent years. He was also part of the team that corresponded during the Euro 2016 and 2020 Football Championship.

"I have very fond memories of my time at Aberystwyth. I had a solid educational foundation, but most of all, the atmosphere within the University and the town is one that manages to shape you as an individual. Ready to face life's challenges."

InvEnterPrize 2021

Enterprising student bags £13,000 investment in business idea

Computer Science final year student, Karl Swanepoel, won over the judges in this year's Aberystwyth University InvEnterPrize student ideas competition to secure a £13,000 investment.

Held annually, the InvEnterPrize competition is sponsored by contributions from the alumni AberFund, and organised by the University's Careers Service. This year's InvEnterPrize finalists were from a wide range of academic disciplines, and pitched ideas ranging from drinking straws made out of grass to thermally-insulated paint.

Karl's winning business idea is a website/app named *Revolancer*, which will match talented freelancers with small start-up businesses which are seeking digital services, such as graphic design, writing, programming, and media.

Along with securing £10,000 to invest in equipment, facilities or professional services to turn his business idea into reality, Karl also bagged a separate prize of £3,000 sponsored by Engineers in Business, awarded to the winning entry from a student or student team from Computer Science, Maths and Physics.

Also on offer as a prize in this year's competition, was a year of office space, mentoring and investor-readiness training provided by *AberInnovation*, awarded to the strongest entry from the bio-sciences, life sciences and agriculture sector. This was awarded to innovative ethical tea company, Eisa Tea Co, the business idea of Psychology student, Emily Knipe and English graduate, Amy Aed.

The final prize, the GRAaIN £500 prize for Rural Business, was awarded to a website/app to help touring cyclists find appropriate overnight accommodation. The business idea of business student Thomas Lancaster and geography graduate Emily Stratten, Ride Dyfi (www.ridedyfi.co.uk) connects mountain bikers with bike-specific accommodation in the Dyfi Valley and Snowdonia, and aims to become the go-to information hub for mountain bikers interested in riding in the area.

For more information about the University's programme of events to support entrepreneurial activity amongst students, graduates and staff, visit the *AberPreneurs* [webpage](http://www.aber.ac.uk/preneurs).



Karl Swanepoel

Funding a brighter future

Your philanthropic support has an invaluable impact on Aber students and the University - funding a brighter future for all at Aberystwyth.

Philanthropy played an important role in the creation of the University. As we look forward to our 150th anniversary in 2022-23 and beyond, the generous support of our alumni and supporter community is as vital as ever.

During such a challenging year, individual students, clubs and societies continued to receive support across the areas of Student Hardship, Wellbeing and Opportunity - with those in need benefitting from immediate financial assistance, health and wellbeing support, and life-changing opportunities through new scholarships and bursaries. Thank you.

You have stood on the shoulders of our Founding Fathers to raise vital funds for the Old College Appeal. We have come a long way with your support and could not have got this far without you. In seeing the construction work begin to transform The Old College in the New Year, I hope that you will feel inspired to further support the rejuvenation of this iconic building.

Thank you to all our donors listed in our 2020-21 Donor Roll and to those who have given anonymously: www.aber.ac.uk/thankyou



Hayley Goddard
Individual Giving
Officer

Inspiring change



Honouring 'Mads' at the Old College

The Elizabethan Madrigal Singers is one of the longest running societies at the University. With grateful thanks to early supporters, former members and alumni around the world are now coming together to honour this Society in the soon-to-be transformed Old College. You can learn more about this special project, including how to support by emailing alumni@aber.ac.uk

New veterinary student prize

Alumnus and Honorary Fellow-elect Tom Jones' (History & Welsh History, 1970) generosity has established the first annual student prize at the School of Veterinary Science. His donation will recognise and award "a student who serves as exemplar for other students in their studies, work-life balance, peer-support and contributing to the profession and School of Veterinary Science".

If you would like to support the School with a special prize, bursary or scholarship, please contact us: alumni@aber.ac.uk



Coaching to success

Your support enables hundreds of students every year to gain qualifications and accreditations in sports and activity-based training programmes. These bursaries produce and support the development of coaches, players and members at Student Clubs and Societies to meet national and international best practice, boost employability skills and develop self-confidence.



2020-21 Philanthropy in numbers

£560,414
donated by alumni and supporters

£244,051
from Trusts and Foundations

957
Individual donors

66
intending to leave a gift in their will

534
donors who give regularly

FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

£390,194
The Old College Appeal

£329,825
Student Support (AberFund)

£84,137
Research and Academic Development

49
current members giving at Vice-Chancellor Giving Circle level

Supporting the University

Aber's success would not be possible without your support. A huge thank you from all Aber's students and staff.

Your gift, together with others from alumni and supporters around world, makes a significant difference to current and future students across our three priority areas:

Student Support (The Aber Fund)

The Old College Appeal

Research and Academic Developments

You can make a difference by donating a single or regular gift:

- Online at www.aber.ac.uk/give
- Post through a donation form
- For International supporters, you can give in conjunction with our partners SWIFT system or British Schools and Universities Foundation (BSUF)

If you'd like to discuss your donation in more detail, please contact Hayley Goddard at alumni@aber.ac.uk or call 01970 621568. Thank you.

Impact of legacies

A gift in your will is an extraordinary way to celebrate your life and a unique way to remember Aberystwyth University.

We cannot overestimate the impact of legacy giving. Gifts of all sizes, both past and present, help to support and enrich the lives of future students, advance teaching and learning, and help Aberystwyth University stay at the forefront of cutting-edge research.

Making your will is a personal decision and we appreciate the significance of looking after your family and loved ones. You may feel it right to consider a gift to the University and we would value an opportunity to work with you to ensure your gift is used exactly as intended.

For a discussion or to find out more please contact Hayley Goddard at alumni@aber.ac.uk or 01970 62 2083

Tackling climate change at Aberystwyth University



Photo: Scott Waby

Studying the environment and the impact of climate change have been part of Aberystwyth University's mission for decades. From food security and the impacts of global change on biodiversity to melting glaciers, flooding and drought, our academics have been undertaking research to help develop solutions to the most pressing issues facing our planet.

In October 2021, we held a week-long Festival of Research focused on climate change to coincide with the United Nations Climate Change conference (COP26) this autumn. This inaugural festival brought together academics - from across the University and beyond - with politicians, policy makers and members of our local community in debate and discussion. As we work towards becoming a carbon neutral institution by 2030, we're building further on our research experience with the launch last year of an innovative series of new undergraduate degrees - giving students the opportunity to combine their main degree subject with a critical understanding of the impact of climate change on their field of study.

The interdisciplinary climate change programmes developed at Aberystwyth are distinctive. Each scheme is based on a core of climate change modules, linked

with another main degree discipline including Biology, Business, Economics, English Studies or International Relations. This unique structure allows students to enhance rigorous subject-specific learning with the skills and attributes needed to analyse and create solutions to the current climate crisis.

Mike Christie, a Professor of Environmental and Ecological Economics and Director of Research in the University's Business School, said: "Aberystwyth University has a long history of climate change teaching and research. Over the past few years, we have brought together this expertise to develop a suite of climate change undergraduate programmes. An exciting aspect to these new programmes is the fact that they draw on a range of disciplinary perspectives to provide students with a well-rounded, interdisciplinary grounding that allows them to better understand the causes of climate change, as well as explore novel solutions to the climate crisis."

Each cohort is given the opportunity to work in interdisciplinary learning communities as all programmes share some newly developed common core modules including, for example, [Climate and Climate Change](#) which focuses on the science underpinning climate and climate change, and [The Governance of](#)

[Climate Change: Simulation Module](#) which provides students with practical and grounded experience of the decision-making processes, the negotiations and the politics surrounding contemporary climate governance based on a specific climate change scenario that requires a co-ordinated response.

Hector Duncan, who was part of the first intake of students on the International Relations with Climate Change degree in 2020, said: "It is really valuable to be able to focus on climate change as part of my course as it has helped improve my understanding of climate change through a multidisciplinary perspective. My favourite aspect of the climate change degree scheme is the fact it brings together students from a wide range of different disciplines to study one of the most pressing challenges of our time and enables us to study, collaborate and share ideas to help contribute to tackle the problems which climate change creates collectively."

Adriana Cahill, who started her course through the Aberystwyth Business School in September 2021, said: "It is crucial to have an understanding of climate change with any career you're going to go into nowadays. I chose the Business and Climate Change scheme as a way to build my understanding of the relationship between business and climate change. Companies must identify the ways in which their business is impacting the environment. With a scheme like this I hope to be able to learn how to conduct business responsibly and create innovative ways to change how we conduct it, so we don't leave a damaged world for future generations."

Taught by academics whose research is helping to tackle climate change worldwide, these new degrees complement and extend the University's long-established provision in environmental change in our [Department of Geography and Earth Sciences](#) and [Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences](#) including human and physical geography as well as environmental science, environmental earth science and sociology throughout which climate change is a fundamental theme.

The University's commitment to tackling climate change extends beyond our teaching and research. Like many other organisations worldwide, we declared a climate emergency in November 2019 and the following year our Council approved a voluntary pledge to make our institution carbon neutral by 2030. Over the last 12 months, the University has invested over £3 million in a range of energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects.



Interdisciplinary climate change programmes offered at Aberystwyth University

Biology and Climate Change: looks at the processes underlying climate change, and the impact of climate change on biodiversity at the level of species, habitats and ecosystem.

Business and Climate Change: prepares future business leaders to tackle climate change impacts through the development of meaningful corporate social responsibility strategies and practices, by imparting both a knowledge of the relevant science and encouraging the skills to lead a successful sustainable business.

Economics and Climate Change: combines a knowledge of the science underpinning climate change with a range of economic tools to allow understanding and development of policies and incentives supporting the move to a carbon neutral economy.

English Studies and Climate Change: combines a knowledge of climate science with a critical understanding of the debates surrounding the subject, and investigation of how climate change and environmental degradation have been communicated in literature from the nineteenth century to the present day and provides a basis for communicating climate change and climate mitigation strategies in the future.

International Relations and Climate Change: international politics is key to understanding this complexity and confronting this global crisis. This scheme analyses the causes and consequences of climate change and environmental degradation, in particular from the perspective of international politics.

To find out more about the University's Festival of Research, visit wordpress.aber.ac.uk/research-festival or if you would like to discuss ways in which you could support these research and organisational goals through your knowledge and networks, please contact alumni@aber.ac.uk.

'No Education system can be static'



Dr Andrew James Davies, Head of the School of Education reflects on some recent developments.

The celebrated educationalist and scholar Professor Jac L. Williams who was Dean of the School of Education here at Aberystwyth during the 1960s wrote that: 'No Education system can be static, any more than the Society that it seeks to serve [...] It is bound to grow and change according to the needs of its environment and its place.'

One wonders what educationalists of Professor Williams' generation would have made of today's educational landscape. The last two decades or so have brought profound changes: devolution and the creation of a uniquely Welsh system; the influence of international comparison as a driver of system-wide improvement; the initiation of a new Curriculum for Wales which will give teachers new levels of professional autonomy; and, of course the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have necessitated new approaches to teaching and learning.

As the education system has responded to these and other changes, so too have teacher educators and educational researchers been called upon to play our part. In this respect, Aberystwyth School of Education has always had a clear sense of its civic responsibility to produce high-quality new teachers, provide professional learning opportunities for existing teachers, and contribute to the wider understanding of educational policy and practice through our research agenda. It is with no little pride that we can point to a number of recent developments that have seen the School of Education continue in this tradition.

Following successful reaccreditation of our PGCE provision in 2019, the Aberystwyth Initial Teacher Education Partnership has pioneered a new approach to ensuring that all of our student teachers receive a



holistic experience, including primary and secondary placements, regardless of their phase or subject specialism. 'Teach beyond Boundaries' is more than the partnership's strapline - it is an ethos that ensures we equip new teachers with the ability to work beyond subject boundaries, as the new curriculum will require them to do; and to work across the secondary and primary phases, as increasing school-to-school collaboration and the creation of all-through schools will require of them. We are particularly fortunate to be able to call upon a close partnership of schools from within our region who are actively involved in the ongoing development of the ITE programme, its delivery and governance.

In 2019, we also validated a new undergraduate scheme to respond to the call for skilled practitioners in the early years: *BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies with*

Early Years Practitioner Status. The importance of high-quality Early Years education cannot be overstated - study after study shows us that investment in early education pays clear dividends in terms of later outcomes for children. Our new degree scheme, which is accredited by Social Care Wales, includes practical placement experiences and is designed to produce excellent early years practitioners who can support children's learning and wellbeing.

The School of Education has also been involved in a number of key research projects which have responded directly to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Teams of researchers from within the School have recently been looking at the effect of the pandemic on schools' adoption of distance and blended learning strategies; the impact of the pandemic on the education of pupils from disadvantaged cohorts; and the impact of

“The last two decades or so have brought profound changes to the educational landscape”

the pandemic on pupils in Welsh-medium or bilingual education, whose home language is not Welsh. We have also looked at learners' perspectives on the assessment arrangements which were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21 for qualifications, such as GCSEs and A-Levels. Such projects have the potential for impact on educational policy and practice, and are true to our civic mission.

Our most recent development is our role in the development and delivery of the national MA Education (Wales): a three-year Master's programme for teachers, developed by an alliance of Universities at the request of the Welsh Government, and with input and guidance from international experts. We are proud to have played a key part in developing this scheme, and are excited to welcome our first cohort of teachers in 2021-22, who are funded by Welsh Government to participate in the programme. The Master's has been designed to provide teachers with opportunities to develop their practice, engage with high-quality evidence and the very latest insights from research. Teachers will have opportunities to develop their pedagogy, their leadership, and their practice in fields such as inclusion, equity and wellbeing. They will do so as part of a national community of practice, and due to the collaborative nature of the scheme, will be able to access expertise from across Wales and internationally.

Through these developments, the School of Education continues to serve our community and the education system, and respond to the unique challenges of our time and place. If you are interested in hearing more about our work, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us: add-ed@aber.ac.uk

Appointments

Professor Mererid Hopwood

Professor of Welsh and Celtic Studies

Professor Charles Musselwhite

Chair in Psychology

Helen Jones

Director of Research, Business and Innovation (RB&I)

Iwan Teifon Davies

Director of Music

Ian Munton

Head of Student Support and Careers Services

Achievements

Students

IBERS PhD student **Alex Newnes** was selected as one of the winners of this year's Young Innovator Awards organised by Innovate UK and The Prince's Trust for his research using seaweed to produce a bio-plastic film.

Mark Dewes, who is working towards a master's degree in sustainable and efficient food production through distance learning at IBERS, was named the 2020 *Farmers Weekly* Arable Adviser of the Year.

The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Award for the Best Student of Agriculture at IBERS, was presented to **Osián Gwyn Jones** who graduated with a first class BSc (Hons) degree in Agriculture this year.

International Politics 2021 graduate, **Isaac Langran**, was awarded joint first place in the Young Global Analyst category of the Young Peacemakers Awards by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs for his written composition on the Israel-Palestine peace process.

Rhian Williams (Geography and Earth Sciences) was presented with the Welsh Language Champion (Student) Award at the 2020 Gwobrau Gŵyl Dewi Aber Awards.

Congratulations to the students that won awards at the Aberystwyth Students' Union Staff and Students

Awards 2021: **Jake Christie** (TFTS) - Academic Representative of the Year, **Yuyao Wang** (Aberystwyth Business School) - Postgraduate Teacher of the Year, **Cat Oliver** (IBERS) - Student Mentor of the Year, **Tom Mumford** (Computer Science) - Student Staff Member of the Year, **Adam Burlingham** (Law and Criminology) - Student Volunteer of the Year, and winners of the Open Category Award, **Beth Wright** (Geography and Earth Sciences) and **Joel Adams** (Computer Science)

Staff

The winners of this year's Aberystwyth University Research Impact Awards were **Dr Elizabeth New** (History & Welsh History) who won the Research Impact Award for Arts & Social Sciences for her CSI Medieval project exploring the contribution of medieval seals to scientific research and heritage practice; and **Dr Rachel Rahman** (Psychology) who won the Research Impact Award for Science for her work on using telehealth to support the psychosocial needs of palliative care and cancer patients.

Emeritus Professor Patrick Sims-Williams (Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies) was admitted to the Royal Irish Academy in May 2021 for academic excellence and an exceptional contribution to scholarly research.

Professor Neil Glasser (Professor of Physical Geography & Pro-Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences) has been formally admitted as a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales.

Professor Mererid Hopwood (Department of Welsh & Celtic Studies) was awarded the Hay Festival Creative Wales International Fellowship 2021-22.

Dr Gwenllïan Rees, Lecturer in Veterinary Science (IBERS) won the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Impact Award for her involvement in the Arwain Vet Cymru project, a collaborative national antimicrobial stewardship program for all farm vets in Wales.

Alice Farnworth, IT Help Desk Assistant in the Information Services Department, won the Work Welsh Learner of the Year Award at the University's Annual Welsh Learners Awards Ceremony.

The winners of the 2020 Gwobrau Gŵyl Dewi Aber Awards, which honour individuals for their contribution to the Welsh language, were **Sarah Whitehead** (Exceptional Learner (Staff)), **Dafydd Rhys** and **Fiona Reynolds** (Promoting Welsh in the Workplace), and **Heledd Davies** (Welsh Medium Study). The adjudicating panel also presented University Staff **Kate Wright**, **Alice Farnworth**, **Scott Tompsett**, **Jaya Mukhopadhyay**, **Jackie Sayce**, **Joe Smith** and **Rachel Rees** with a Certificate of Special Recognition for their commitment to the Welsh language.

Congratulations to the staff members who were presented with awards at the Aberystwyth Students' Union Staff and Students Awards 2021: **Panna Karlinger** (Mathematics and the School of Education) - Lecturer of the Year, **Dr Susan Chapman** (School of Education) - Personal Tutor of the Year, **Dr Simon Payne** (Psychology) - Supervisor of the Year, **Lorraine Spencer** (Student Support & Careers Services) - Support/Service Staff Member of the Year. Well done to the Department of English and Creative Writing on being presented with this year's Department of the Year award.

Gwenallt Llwyd Ifan, Chemistry and Biology teacher training tutor in the School of Education, won the Chair at the National Eisteddfod's digital AmGen Festival in August 2021.

Alumni

Daniela Amiouny (Equine and veterinary bioscience, 2020) was joint winner of the prestigious 2020 BETA Equine Thesis of the Year Award, for her study of the effects of bedding depth and night light on horses' sleep and cognitive performance.

Steve Rawlison (Geography and Earth Sciences, BSc 1973 / MSc 1975) has

been made an Honorary Member of the Geographical Association, the Association's highest accolade.

Lara Kenny (Business and Management with German, 2013) has been awarded a one star Great Taste award for her wedding cake business, *Love from Lila*.

Mared Edwards (Welsh, Drama and Theatre, 2021) has taken over as President of Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Wales' largest youth organisation, for the next two years. Mared is also the current Welsh Culture Officer and President of UMCA (Aberystwyth's Welsh Students' Union).

Geeta Ramlall (Commonwealth Scholar - Masters in Library and Information Studies, 2016) was a finalist in the British Council Study UK Alumni Awards 2021 in Mauritius (Social Impact Category) - Geeta set up NGO 'Book a Smile' which works to remove the barriers to teaching reading and literacy in Mauritius.

Eirian Roberts (Welsh, 1996) has been appointed Chair of the Women's Institute Federations of Wales Committee.

Sarah Green (International Relations, 2005) was elected as Liberal Democrat MP for Chesham and Amersham in the June 2021 by-election.

Happy Families, the debut novel **Julie Ma** (Drama 1991 / MA Drama 1997) won the Richard and Judy Search for a Bestseller 2020 Competition.

Lleucu Roberts (Welsh, 1986) won the Daniel Owen Memorial Prize and the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod's digital AmGen Festival in August 2021.

Marged Tudur (Welsh, 2014) won the Welsh-language Poetry Award in Literature Wales' Wales Book of the Year competition 2021 with her debut poetry collection, *Mynd*, written after the loss of her brother Dafydd Tudur (Law, 2009).

In Memoriam

Remembering those who sadly passed away between August 2020 and July 2021.

*Denotes OSA member.

Fellows

Abas, Tun Dr Mohamed Salleh bin (Law, 1954), died January 2021

Basini, Mr Mario (English, 1964), died November 2020

Dawes, Mr John (Chemistry, 1962), died April 2021

Humphreys, Mr Emyr, died September 2020

James, Mrs Sian, died July 2021

Morgan, Lord Elystan (Law 1953), died July 2021*

Morris, Dr Jan, died November 2020

Thomas, Sir John, (former staff), died November 2020

Staff

Allen, Mr Eric, died December 2020

Borsay, Professor Peter, died November 2020

Brown, Mr Geoffrey, died April 2021

Corfield, Mr John, died August 2020

Davies, Mr Alun Eirug, died August 2019

Davies, Dr Morton (Applied Mathematics, 1971), died November 2020

Falla, Dr David (Theoretical Astrophysics), died July 2021

Jones, Ms Sallie, died April 2021

Keen, Mr Michael, died June 2021

Lowe, Mr Michael, died September 2020

Moseley QC, Professor Hywel, died June 2020

Slay, Mrs Leontia, died February 2021

Spink, Mr Miles, died March 2021

Thomas, Professor Emeritus Dennis (Economics 1970), died May 2021

Waddell, Dr Marie, died July 2021*

Alumni & Supporters

Bennett Evans, Mr David, died September 2020

Bundy, Mr John (Agricultural Botany, 1950), died November 2020*

Butler, Mr Keith (Geography and History, 1958), died April 2021*

Cobley, Mrs Tessa, née Jones (History, 1958), died December 2020*

Corish, Mrs Sarah, née Hughes (1979), died November 2020

Crookes, Mr David (International Politics, 1970), died October 2020

Davies, Mrs Mari Lisa, née Jones (Welsh/Drama, 1984), died November 2020

Davies, Lady Beryl, died October 2020

Davies, Dr Aled (Geography, 1951), died January 2021*

Davies, Mr David (Geography/Science, 1948), died November 2020

Davies, Miss Eira (Economics and Political Science, 1947), died September 2020*

Davies, Dr Ieuan (Agricultural Botany, 1947), died July 2019*

Evans, Dr Gareth (1963), died June 2021*

Fisher, Mrs Judith, née Sherwen (Geography (Arts) and Education 1969), died August 2020*

Gerrish, Mrs Eirina, née Lewis (Latin and Welsh, 1957), died February 2021*

Gill, Ms Jennifer (Palaeography and Archive Administration, 1973), died October 2020

Harri, Ms Nia (Theatre, Film and Television Studies), died September 2020

Hillman, Professor John (1958), died January 2021

Hopkins, Mr David (Geography /Arts, 1956), died October 2020*

Howard, Mr Craig (French and Welsh, 1994), died November 2020*

Hughes, Mr Bryan OBE (Geography), died March 2021

Hughes, Mrs Doreen, née Jenkins (Geology and Economics, 1962), died

November 2020*

Ivorian-Jones, Mrs Cynthia, née Davies (Education 1956), died July 2021*

Jones, Mrs Ann, née Davies (Welsh / Welsh History, 1963), died December 2020*

Jones, Miss Hannah (English Literature / Drama and Theatre Studies, 2017), died December 2020

Jones, Mrs Wendy (1949), died September 2020

Lim, Mr Melvin (1985), died March 2021*

Ludlow, Ms Frances (Librarianship, 1986), died July 2021

Morris, Mr John (Visual Communication and Drama, 1982), died October 2020

Morris, Mr Richard (English, 1989), died August 2020*

Orrells, Ms Sian, (Drama and Art History and Classical Studies), died June 2021

Phillips, Mrs Siân (Music, 1971), died September 2020

Pierce, Mr Gareth (Education, 1975), died July 2021

Pritchard, Professor Mike (Geology), died August 2020

Probert, Mr David (International Politics and Intelligence Studies, 2010), died September 2020

Roberts, Revered Gwilym (Theology), died August 2020

Slater, Mrs Elizabeth, died March 2021

Smith, Mr Gordon (Agriculture and Zoology, 1952), died September 2020*

Svensen, Mr Chris (Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, 2019), died May 2021

Thomas, Mr Geoffrey (Law, 1959), died November 2020*

Thornley, Mr Alan (Geography, 1977), died October 2020

Tilley, Mr James (Geography, 1959), died July 2021

Vlismas, Mrs Barbra, née Jones, died October 2020*

Williams, Mr Philip (Economics and Business, 1975), died July 2020*

Williams, Mr Dafydd Prydderch (Welsh, 1959), died July 2021*




If you would like to report the death of an Aberystwyth University graduate, please let us know by emailing: alumni@aber.ac.uk

Gwrthrychau Aber yn Gafael

| Objects of Abership

Mae gan y Brifysgol gynifer â 80 o gasgliadau sy'n rhychwantu pob un o'i hadrannau. Yn eu plith y mae amgueddfa ac orielau achrededig yr Ysgol Gelf, archifau'r Brifysgol, y casgliadau gwyddorau naturiol, llyfrau prin a llawer, llawer mwy. Dyma rai o'r gwrthrychau a'r straeon yr wyf wedi mwynhau ymchwilio iddynt dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf.

The university houses an astounding 80 collections across all its departments. This includes the accredited museum and galleries of the School of Art, the university archives, the natural science collections, rare books and many more. Here are a few of the objects and stories that I have enjoyed researching during the last year.

 @AberUniArchives
 archives@aber.ac.uk
 Cyn-fyfyrrwyr Aber | Aberystwyth Alumni



Noddwyr Byd y Campau | Sporting Sponsors



Achubwyd y llifbysgodyn hwn o'r tân yn yr Hen Goleg ym 1885. | This sawfish was saved from the Old College fire in 1885.



Hen gyfarpar y Llaethdy. | Antique dairy equipment.



Yr Hen Goleg ar ffurf rhodd fechan oddi wrth un o ladmeryddion addysg i ferched. | A miniature gift of Old College from a champion of women's education.

Model o'r Hen Goleg, porselein, Bafaria, 1890. Rhodd gan Miss Fawings [1930]. Amgueddfa ac Orielau Ysgol Gelf Prifysgol Aberystwyth. Model of Old College, porcelain, Bavaria, 1890. Gift of Miss Fawings [1930]. Aberystwyth University School of Art Museum and Galleries



Ai hwn yw eryr brodorol olaf Ceredigion? | Is this the last native eagle of Ceredigion?



Gwydr lliw ar Gerbyd ExoMars. | Stained glass on the ExoMars Rover.

[Dyddiad: 24 Mai 2019
Lloeren: Cerbyd ExoMars
Hawlfraint: M. de la Nougere, UCL/MSSL]

[Date: 24 May 2019
Satellite: ExoMars rover
Copyright: M. de la Nougere, UCL/MSSL]



Enghraifft ysblennydd o fedrau chwythwyr gwydr Coleg Prifysgol Cymru. | A stunning example of the skill of the U.C.W glass blowers.



Mae ein llysieufa yn llawn sbesimenau o Gors Fochno. | Our herbarium is full of specimens from Borth Bog.

A ydych chi'n cofio'r carthenni hyn yn Neuadd Alexandra? | Do you remember these carthenni blankets in Alexandra Hall?



Llun: Herbaria@Home.org. Credit: Herbaria@Home.org



1976



1960s



1954



1960s



1966



1960



1964



1980s

...beth am fod yn rhan o'i **dyfodol** hefyd?

...**you** can be part of Aber's future

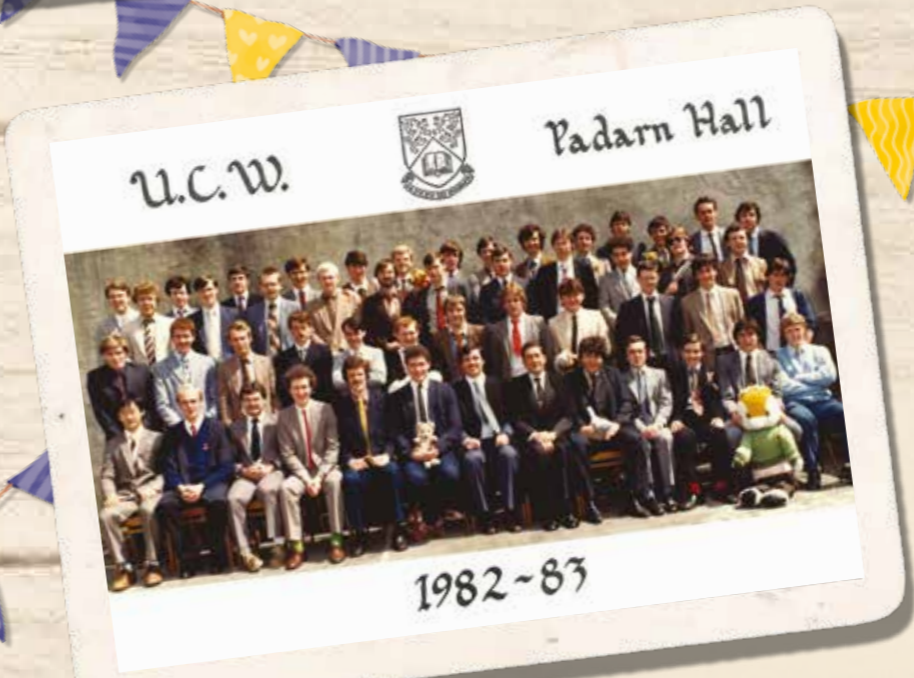
Rhoi i'r Hen Goleg: aber.ac.uk/apel | Give to the Old College: aber.ac.uk/appeal

Rydych chi'n rhan o orffennol Aber ...

You are part of Aber's past...



1940s



1982-83

Registered with/Cofrestrwyd gyda'r



Mae Prifysgol Aberystwyth yn elusen gofrestredig: 1145141
Aberystwyth University is a registered charity no.: 1145141



Annwyl Gyfeillion,

Eich straeon chi sy'n gwneud y Brifysgol hon:

enw da Aber, awrygylch Aber, "ysbryd" Aber.

Mae adeilad hynaf a mwyaf hanesyddol Aberystwyth - yr Hen Goleg - yn gartref i gynifer o'ch straeon ac i eiliadau a newidiodd eich bywyd. Braint yw clywed yr hanesion; mae'r cynhesrwydd a'r hiwmor yn eich atgofion yn arbennig o deimladwy ac yn aml (yn amlach na pheidio dweud y gwir) yn ddoniol iawn!

Ac ni ellir gwadu bod yr Hen Goleg wedi gweld llawer iawn: troad dwy ganrif; derbyn menywod i addysg uwch; milwyr yn dod gartref o ddau Ryfel Byd; y chwe-degau chwyldroadol; newidiadau cymdeithasol mawr y saith-degau a'r wyth-degau, a ddilynwyd gan ddatblygiadau technolegol radical.

Mae eich atgofion o'r Hen Goleg yn eistedd ochr yn ochr ag eiliadau hanesyddol tyngedfennol.

Yn awr, rydym yn creu hanes trwy drawsnewid yr adeilad annwyl hwn trwy gyfrwng ymgyrch codi-arian hanesyddol. **Gyda'ch cymorth chi, fe fydd yn dal i fod yn gefnlen i filoedd yn rhagor o straeon Aber.**

Mae ein cyd gyn-fyfyriwr, Non Vaughan-O'Hagan, yn rhannu pam ei bod eisiau cynorthwyo i ddiogelu'r Hen Goleg i genedlaethau y dyfodol.

Os oeddech yn fyfyriwr yma bum mlynedd neu hanner canrif yn ôl, gobeithio y bydd atgofion Non yn tanio rhai atgofion sy'n annwyl i chi.

Fe wyddoch fod adeilad yr Hen Goleg yn dirywio a bod angen eich cymorth.

Mae angen adnewyddu gofalus i gadw ei le amlwg yn Aber, ac yn ein calonnau. I wneud hyn, gallwch gynorthwyo i godi'r £1miliwn olaf i'r Apêl Codi Arian i adfywio'r adeilad unigryw hwn sy'n annwyl yng ngolgw pob un ohonom.

A fyddech yn gallu rhoi un rhodd o £50 er mwyn i genedlaethau'r dyfodol fwynhau'r Hen Goleg?

Gallwch gynorthwyo i gadw'r Hen Goleg - a'i holl hanes - yn fyw.

Dim ond gyda'ch cefnogaeth chi y gall yr Hen Goleg fod yn rhan o ddyfodol Aber. Man lle caiff eich atgofion eu trysori am flynyddoedd i ddod.

Os edrychwch nôl ar ddyddiau Aber yn hapus a diolchgar, anfonwch rodd o £50.

Diolch.

Louise Jagger

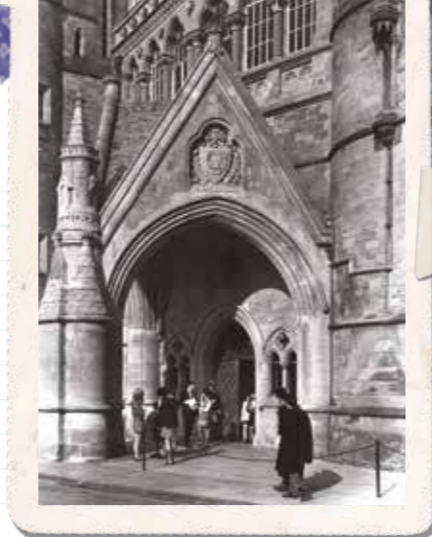
Cyfarwyddwr y Swyddfa Datblygu a Chysylltiadau Alumni

D.S. Rhowch yr hyn a allwch i Apêl yr Hen Goleg. Gallwch gyfrannu gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen gyfrannu amgaaeedig neu ar-lein yn aber.ac.uk/apel

Heb os nac oni bai, mae'r Hen Goleg yn eicon o Aberystwyth. Yn yr un modd ag y mae Tŵr Eiffel wedi datblygu i fod yn symbol eiconig o ddinas Paris, mae hi'n ddigon posib taw darlun o'r adeilad pert ar ymylon y Prom a ddaw i'r meddwl bob tro y bydd rhywun yn crybwyll Aberystwyth.

Rhaid cyfaddef felly taw nid fy mhrofiad fel myfyriwr yn unig sydd wedi fy ysgogi i gefnogi Apêl yr Hen Goleg. Rwy'n frodor balch o Aber - wedi fy ngeni a'm magu yma ac er bod bywyd a gwaith wedi fy nhafu i ymgyrtrefu tu hwnt i Glawdd Offa, 'Aber' yw'r ateb bob tro i'r cwestiwn 'O ble ych chi'n dod?'. Wrth feddwl am adre' felly, wy'n meddwl am gerrig euraidd yr Hen Goleg yn tywynnu yn yr haul - oherwydd fel y gŵyr pawb, mae'r haul wastad yn tywynnu yn Aber..! Mae'n fater o falchder felly i mi sicrhau dyfodol disglair i adeilad sy'n eicon o nghartre' i.

Ond mae yna reswm arall pam bod cefnogi'r Apêl mor bwysig i mi. Hanner can mlynedd cyn i fi ymuno â'r Brifysgol fel myfyriwr fe wnaeth fy nhad, John Denis Thomas deithio i Aberystwyth o'i gartref ym Mhinged, Sir Gâr i ddechrau ei astudiaethau. Dad oedd y cyntaf o'r teulu a'r unig un ymysg ei frodyr a'i chwaer a gafodd y cyfle i wneud gradd. Anodd peidio meddwl felly am yr aberth gan ei fam yn arbennig i gefnogi'r addysg amhrisiadwy i'r cyw melyn ola' a sicrhau gwell dyfodol iddo ymhell o fuarth y ffarm.



"Yr Hen Goleg: eicon o Aberystwyth"

Dyw hanes fy nhad ddim yn unigryw. Yn wir, mae bodolaeth y Brifysgol ynddi'i hun yn destament i'r aberth a wnaed gan deuluoedd ledled Cymru oedd am fuddsoddi yn eu plant, a'u dyfodol tu hwnt i'r glofeydd a'r meysydd diwydiannol. Tybed faint o effaith ar Dad fu ei olwg cynta' o'r Hen Goleg? Mae gen i ffotograff prin ohono yn eistedd yn ffurfiol gydag aelodau eraill ei ddosbarth Cemeg tu allan i fynedfa'r Hen Goleg.

Beth yw'r Hen Goleg i finnau felly? Eicon o'r dre yn sicr ond eicon hefyd o'r buddsoddiad mewn gobaith am ddyfodol gwell a wnaed gan gannodd diennw. Heddiw rwy'n credu bod 'da fi'r cyfle i wneud buddsoddiad o'r newydd i sicrhau bod yr Hen Goleg yn mwynhau dyfodol disglair sy'n gweddu i'w orffennol.

Non Vaughan-O'Hagan (Y Gyfraith, 1984)

Dear Friends,

Your stories are what make this University:

Aber's reputation, Aber's atmosphere, Aber's "spirit".

Aberystwyth's oldest and most historic building - the Old College - is home to so many of your stories and life-changing moments. It's a privilege to hear your student tales; to hear the warmth and humour in your memories is incredibly touching and sometimes (more often than not) downright funny!

And there's no denying that the Old College has seen a lot: the turn of two centuries; the inclusion of women in higher education; the return of war veterans, from both WWI and WWII; the swinging sixties; the major social changes of the seventies and eighties, followed by radical technological advancements.

Your memories of the Old College sit alongside such momentous historic moments.

And now, together we are making history to transform this much-loved building through an historic fundraising campaign. **With your help, it will continue to be the backdrop of thousands more Aber stories.**

Fellow alumnus Stuart Batcup shares some of his student stories and why he wants to help protect the Old College for generations of students to come.

Whether you were a student in Aber five years ago or fifty, I hope Stuart's memories spark some fond memories of your own.

You know that the Old College is a timeworn building and needs your support.

It needs sympathetic and careful renovation to retain its prominent place in Aber, and in our hearts. To do this, you can help to fundraise the final £1million towards the Fundraising Appeal to rejuvenate this unique building that we all cherish.

Can you please give a gift of £50 so that future students can enjoy the Old College like you did?

You can help keep the Old College alive - and all its history.

Only with your support can the Old College be part of Aber's future. A space where your memories will be treasured for years to come.

If you look back over your Aber years with joy and gratitude, please send a gift of £50.

Thank you.

Louise Jagger

Director of the Development, Alumni and Relations Office

P.S. Please give whatever you can to the Old College Appeal. You can donate by using the donation form enclosed or online at aber.ac.uk/apel. Thank you.

I first darkened the doors of the Old College, Aberystwyth on 2nd October 1963. I, and my new acquaintances made at Plynlimon Hall the night before, all turned up in our undergraduate gowns and were ushered into the Quad for the Freshers Fair.

When it became known that I had experience of Gang Shows as a Scout, I was quickly press-ganged into acting as compere for the Freshers Show soon to be held in the Old Hall. There I was, dressed in an old College red and green striped Blazer, as a sort of Bruce Forsyth, linking the acts with jokes. Nobody warned me about how packed and raucous it was to be, or about the tomatoes and eggs that would be thrown at me as I struggled in front of the curtain during scene changes. I was terrified, but got through a baptism I have never forgotten. It certainly helped to make me what I became, and visits to that quiet Hall now are full of nostalgia.

One of the main highlights of my first year was the famous strike for a Bar in the Students' Union Building (Laura Place). In the centre of temperance that Aberystwyth was in those days, this was a big issue. We were all clad in our gowns, and formed a dignified silent procession from the Old College, along the Prom to the Kicking Bar. It was a fine day and we looked like an army of ants as we made our way around the bay.

A Bar was very dear to our hearts, and we got it a year later.

I have plenty of memories of my student days - many of which I couldn't possibly share in such a reputable magazine! - but my overarching memory is of the Quad being a bustling hive of activity with swarms of robed students. Although there was no coffee bar, the Quad was the centre of our human interaction, and it buzzed!

Memories such as these have kept me bonded to Aber, and the Old College in particular, ever since. A group of us have been holding regular reunions at Aber for the last thirty years and keeping the candle burning for the friendly ghosts of those no longer with us.

Visiting the restored Old College, as well as our other old haunts, in the future will keep those memories alive.

Call it nostalgia if you will, but that is as good a reason as any for us supporting the Old College at a time in our lives when we can.

Stuart "Vic" Batcup (Law, 1966)



"That's me, on the left! Graduation, 1966".