

PROM

Celebrating 150 years



PROM 31

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

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

This edition celebrates Aberystwyth University's 150th anniversary, featuring articles by departments celebrating their own milestones.

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

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It is a pleasure to welcome you to this special anniversary edition of PROM.

A century and a half has passed since the University's founders welcomed the first students to an unfinished Victorian hotel, later to become the Old College, on 16 October 1872. During this milestone anniversary year, we are celebrating not only the University's remarkable heritage, but are also looking ahead to its bright future and the many exciting developments on the horizon.

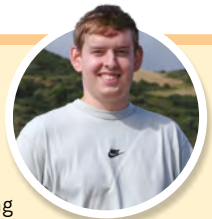
Today, Aberystwyth University welcomes students from all corners of the world with up to a hundred nationalities represented here at any one time. It offers one of the best student experiences in the UK, boasts an enviable reputation for teaching quality and undertakes world-leading research that tackles some of the key global challenges facing society.

A number of special events have taken place to celebrate our anniversary, and I have enjoyed these opportunities to meet with Aberystwyth alumni. We held our traditional 'kicking the bar' Founders' Day celebration in Aberystwyth, where we launched the beautiful Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People commemorative book, which tells the stories of the people and artefacts from the past 150 years. Alumni, friends,

Dafi Jones

Welsh Culture Officer & UMCA President

It has been a pleasure, as Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA President, to welcome flocks of young people back to the town of Aberystwyth and to the bustling University campus, and to hear new Welsh voices singing around the historic Pantycelyn hall. My intention is to ensure that all Welsh-language students in Aber have the same incredible experience that I had, especially those who start the experience feeling nervous and unsure like I did. So far, I have been trying to safeguard equality and accessibility to the language, by facilitating the best possible provision of Welsh-medium education, and representing the opinions of Welsh-language students in the University Council and Senate meetings. In addition, we as UMCA have started a weekly Welsh Learners' Cuppa and Chat event, to offer a relaxed atmosphere for people to practice their Welsh, and to understand more about our language and culture. We have a project underway whereby old photos and memories from all aspects of UMCA life over the last 50 years will be collated and published. Hopefully, we can include fellow students and alumni in these arrangements as much as possible, so keep an eye out.



supporters, staff and students also gathered at Y Senedd in Cardiff Bay to celebrate in the company of honorary guests First Minister of Wales, Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford MS and Llywydd, Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS; and also at an event at the London Welsh Centre on Gray's Inn Road in London, where we were joined by guest speaker, BBC journalist and broadcaster Huw Edwards.

Whenever I speak to Aberystwyth alumni - at events such as these, or on international visits such as my recent trip to Bangkok, Singapore, and Malaysia where I met many from our loyal and active alumni community - it is always wonderful to hear stories of the time you spent at Aberystwyth. Your memories are a constant reminder that this has been a special place for generations of students. It is also good to be able to share University news with you too, be that in person, through our monthly alumni e-newsletters, or through the pages of this magazine.

There have been many newsworthy events over the past year - the official opening of Wales' only School of Veterinary Science by the then HRH Prince Charles; building work beginning on revitalising the Old College, an enduring symbol of both our past and our future; the arrival of our first cohort of adult and mental health nursing students; and a bumper Graduation when we not only honoured the accomplishments of our newest graduates, but also welcomed back our 2020 and 2021 cohorts for the long-awaited celebration of their achievements which had been delayed due to the pandemic.

I hope that you enjoy reading about some of these about some of these in this edition of PROM, and as always, I remain grateful for all of the support that you give to your University.

Professor Elizabeth Treasure
Vice-Chancellor

Ash Sturrock

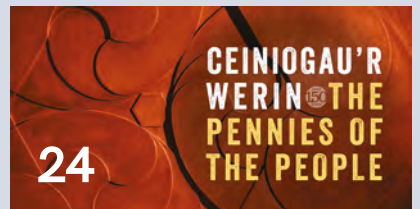
Student's Union President

It has been lovely to welcome students back this year and smash through term one with the rest of the Student Union staff. I am really looking forward to the rest of my time in office. This year's priorities are about being an active voice for students and making sure I communicate with them throughout the year. This has resulted in holding a sexual health awareness and guidance campaign and a Sexual Health and Awareness Guidance week to educate students on sexual health, the importance of consent and sharing information that empowers our members to give or withhold consent confidently. I have also begun the Green Impact campaign, organised by SOS (Students Organising for Sustainability) which includes collaboration with organisations, student involvement, and environmental change within the Union and University to win a bronze, silver, or gold award. Our main strategy is how to support students through the cost-of-living crisis whilst being environmentally sustainable. We are so grateful for the support from our alumni, especially for the funded projects and greatly appreciate their generosity. I want students to love student life and I will work hard to make sure this happens and that the support truly benefits them.



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Awards and Accolades

Research Excellence Framework 2021

The latest review of research in UK higher education institutions showed that the quality of research at Aberystwyth University has increased significantly, with 98% of our research activity being of an internationally recognised standard or higher.

The Times and Sunday Times' Good University Guide 2023

Aberystwyth University is the best University in Wales for teaching excellence and student satisfaction, according to *The Times & The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023*. The University ranks in the top third of UK universities featured in the Guide, which uses the latest data to compile a league table of universities and a comprehensive overview of UK higher education.



Stonewall

The University has been awarded a Bronze Award as part of Stonewall's Bring Yourself To Work campaign, which highlights the importance of inclusive work environments. The University also climbed 25 places in the charity's Workplace Equality Index.



Whatuni

Student accommodation at Aberystwyth University has been ranked the best in the UK by student review website Whatuni. The University has invested over £60 million in new and upgraded student accommodation in recent years.



Over one hundred thousand tonnes of microbes could escape from melting glaciers, scientists warn

More than a hundred thousand tonnes of microbes, including potentially harmful and beneficial ones, could be released as the world's glaciers melt, scientists from Aberystwyth University have warned.

After examining surface meltwaters from eight glaciers across Europe and North America, and two sites in western Greenland, the academics estimate that even with only moderate warming, these microbes will be released to downstream ecosystems.

Dr Tristram Irvine-Fynn and Dr Arwyn Edwards' findings were published in the journal *Nature Communications Earth & Environment*.

Full story: <https://bit.ly/3uGckuf>



Some of the research team on the western edge of the Greenland Ice Sheet.

African leaf used in traditional drink can treat sickle cell disease, Aberystwyth research shows

A chemical found in a leaf used to make a traditional African remedy is an effective treatment for a genetic disease affecting millions of people around the world, according to Aberystwyth University research.

Common in areas of west Africa and made with leaves from the Christmas Bush plant (*Alchornea cordifolia*), a drink known as 'blood tonic' is used by sufferers of sickle cell anaemia, a genetic disease that causes changes in the oxygen carrying protein in human red blood cells.

The condition causes red blood cells to change shape into the form of a 'sickle', preventing them from working properly, and causing many red blood cells to die.

The disease can lead to altered blood flows, severe pain, high blood pressure, tissue damage and death. It can also lead to still birth.



Molecular biologist, Dr Olayemi Adeniyi, who herself suffers from sickle cell anaemia, was one of the researchers at Aberystwyth University who made the discovery.

The research findings, published in the *Journal for Clinical Research*, identify a key chemical from the Christmas Bush's leaves that can reverse red blood cell sickling.

As well as demonstrating that the leaves of the Christmas Bush may be a good way of managing the disease, Dr Olayemi Adeniyi and Professor Luis Mur's research opens up the possibility of developing drugs or enhancing the treatment's potency in the future.

Full story: <https://bit.ly/3hj8qnP>

Aberystwyth academic sheds light on night terrors in “remarkable” debut

Our fascinating and occasionally bizarre beliefs about sleep disorders are chronicled in a spine-tingling new book by an Aberystwyth academic.

'*Night Terrors: Troubled Sleep and the Stories We Tell About It*' is the work of Dr Alice Vernon, Lecturer in Creative Writing in the Department of English and Creative Writing, where she teaches students the fundamentals of storytelling and researches representations of sleep in science and culture.

The subject of glowing reviews, *The Sunday Times* described the book as “curious, lively, humble, utterly genuine” and “a remarkable debut”, and BBC Radio 4 featured it as their Book of the Week.

The non-fiction narrative draws on Dr Vernon’s own extraordinary and often terrifying nocturnal experiences, personal accounts from others, and representations of sleep disorders in literature and culture.

Her research encompasses sleep disorders such as night terrors, sleepwalking, sleep paralysis, lucid dreams and sleep-related hallucinations – all examples of phenomena known as parasomnias.

The book encourages us all to change the way that we talk about sleep, arguing that there are many benefits to exchanging sleep stories – socially, culturally and in terms of our wellbeing.

Full story: <https://bit.ly/3hgcVQb>



Dr Alice Vernon

Browse, graze, mate: Food and company help animals in captivity

From tongue rolling alpacas to irritable yaks and perturbed pigs, new research has lifted the lid on why some farm and zoo animals cope well with captivity and others display signs of stress.

Researchers from Aberystwyth and Portsmouth universities have published the first large-scale study to identify which species of hoofed animals, known as ungulates, are better suited to captive environments and which require better husbandry if kept in captivity.

Around the world, over five billion of these large, hoofed animals, such as giraffes, horses, and pigs, are kept as livestock and in zoos and safari parks. This makes them some of the world’s most commonly kept animals.



Okapi

Published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, the study which was co-authored by Dr Sebastian McBride from the Department of Life Sciences, looked at the behaviour of over 15,000 individual animals across 38 ungulate species and found that the type of food eaten and mating strategy were linked to the risk of stress symptoms.

Specifically, species most at risk from stress-related habits are those that eat high-growing woody vegetation (browsers), such as camels, okapis and rhinos, or are promiscuous, like buffalos, yaks, sheep and pigs.

The study also concluded that animals in captivity that do not have constant access to food are highly prone to behavioural problems.

A species’ behavioural needs are those they perform to both survive and reproduce in the wild. If these behaviours are restricted by captivity, it can lead to poor welfare and repetitive, unusual behaviours, known as ‘stereotypic’ behaviours, often seen in farm and zoo animals. This study shows which particular behavioural needs should be prioritised in order to avoid stereotypic behaviours and provide good welfare for ungulates.

Full story: <https://bit.ly/3Pum18E>



Corner bedroom in 'Y Cambria'

NEW LIFE FOR OLD COLLEGE

Old College update

Since my most recent update for *PROM*, our plans to bring new life to Old College have been taking shape with important progress achieved behind the scenes and on site.

Respecting the heritage of this wonderful Grade 1 building has required much detailed architectural work to fulfil the respective listed building consents and planning conditions, and I am delighted to report that everything is now in place for the next phase of this ambitious project.

The last year has seen the demolition of the old Estates Offices in King Street to make way for the new atrium. Changes made to the building in the 1960's have also been stripped out, revealing splendid rooms and features hidden from view for many years, such as the Council Chamber which will be our Centre of Dialogue Auditorium.



Jim O'Rourke
Project Manager

We have also acquired the Cambria, known to many as the Theological College, which is a significant addition to the project funded entirely by a UK Government Levelling Up fund grant. This space at the Cambria will be incorporated into the four-star hotel element of the development - further strengthening its business plan and extending the whole project to cover all the land and buildings bounded by Pier Street, King Street and the Prom.

Needless to say, redeveloping an old Victorian building will bring unexpected challenges. In addition, Covid and the current economic climate have impacted the construction sector, adding a layer of complexity to an already large and highly ambitious project and our main funders acknowledge this. We are also immensely grateful to you, our alumni. Your generosity and support for the Old College appeal has instilled our key funders with the confidence in our vision for this, the spiritual



Centre for Dialogue restoration work in progress



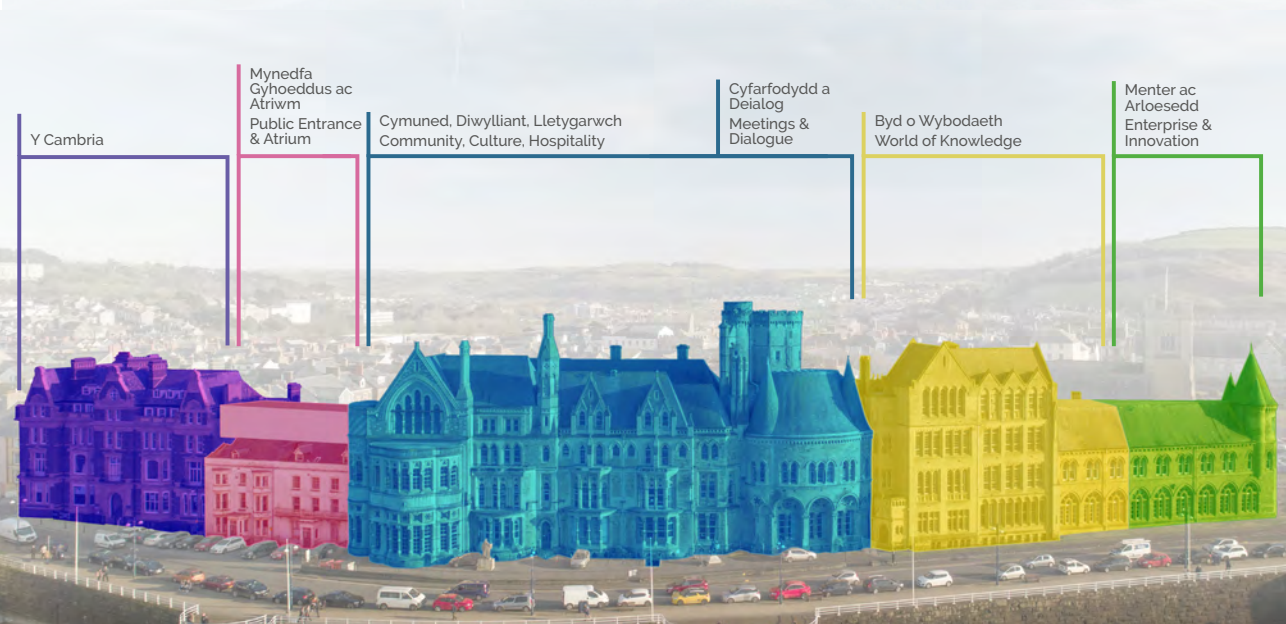
Centre for Dialogue when completed

home of university education in Wales, and the "pennies of the people" will feature once more in its rich history.

Ten years or so have elapsed since the last academic departments and the University's administration functions left Old College and five years since detailed plans were drawn up for its renovation and redevelopment and we are pleased with what has been achieved already.

Please continue to support our appeal as we move the project forward and prepare to reveal the new facilities and exciting opportunities within a renewed Old College. Our drive now is to get this very special place ready for your future visits and stays in what will be a fantastic new attraction and home to showcase the University's achievements and potential for the future.

www.aber.ac.uk/en/oldcollege/



Looking back at the Festival of Research 2022



Professor Rhys Jones, Chair of the Aberystwyth University Festival of Research 2022.

During November 2022, we began our now annual Festival of Research "The Worlds We Want" highlighting the world-leading research taking place at Aberystwyth University, this year as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.

The Festival opened with Head of BBC Radio 1 Aled Haydn Jones leading a youth conference where 50 pupils from local schools discussed the kind of future they would like to create for the world, for Wales, for Ceredigion and for themselves as individuals.

The role of dialogue in creating better futures was explored in an open conversation between former Archbishop of Canterbury Professor Rowan Williams and award-winning poet and academic Professor Mererid Hopwood. This event also launched the University's new Dialogue Centre.

Speaking ahead of the launch event, Professor Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation at Aberystwyth University, said: "Knowledge exchange and research are closely linked, and the Dialogue Centre will be our means of exchanging knowledge; connecting different communities with high quality research; opening conversations which promote new, shared understandings; increasing the impact of our research, and providing greater opportunities for innovation." More information about the developments on the Dialogue Centre can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/dialogue

Several Welsh medium events were held with two sessions aimed at Welsh learners delivered by Professor Mererid Hopwood, Eurig Salisbury and Dr Robin Chapman. During the Festival week, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol celebrated its 10th anniversary, with talks delivered by researchers, who have been awarded scholarships by the Coleg.

The Centre for Welsh Politics and Society (CWPS) held a conference *Reimagining Welshness*, which examined the new and emerging research by early-



career researchers, whose projects are contributing to developing new and evolving images of what constitutes 'Welshness'. The conference panel comprised of researchers from Aberystwyth University, Westminster University and Cardiff Metropolitan University and was chaired by Professor Matthew Jarvis. As part of the Festival, an inaugural Research Café was also held, where university researchers had a chance to discuss best practice for knowledge exchange and where Impact Awards were presented.

A world-renowned expert on the history of slavery, Professor Olivette Otele, delivered a public lecture on whether restorative justice can lead us to a world we want. Alumnus and Lead Change Maker at the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Jacob Ellis, delivered a talk on the current research and priorities for the wellbeing of Wales. Aberystwyth University graduate, climate psychologist, activist and writer, Jessica Kleczka delivered a lecture on overcoming climate anxiety. Executive Director at Collective Cymru, Jacob Gough presented GALWAD, a complex climate change art project focussing on the future generations & sustainability, radical inclusion and innovation in storytelling.

Aberystwyth University researchers, Professor Huw Morgan, Professor Alison Kingston-Smith, Dr Alice Vernon and Panna Karlinger; delivered their TEDx talks as part of TEDxAberystwyth 2022, which partnered up with the Festival of Research this year. The talks were recorded and will be available to watch at www.tedxaberystwyth.com later in 2023.

A joint session between Aberystwyth University researchers and Pondicherry University researchers in India, was organised by the UK Science and Innovation Network and British High Commission in India, as part of the UK-India Twin Cities Marine Litter Partnership initiative. Discussions were held on the opportunities and challenges in promoting sustainable cities in Wales and India in the future.

This year again, three poets from the University, Eurig Salisbury and Professor Mererid Hopwood from the University's Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies, and Professor Matthew Jarvis from the Department of English and Creative Writing, penned a series of poems in response to manuscripts from the National Library of Wales dealing with this year's Festival theme. Working through the Network of the Written Word, a partnership with the National Library and Ceredigion County Council, the aim of this project was to bring works from the past to the public's attention, thus helping to inspire innovative ideas for the present and future.

The Centre for Transport and Mobility (CeTraM) launched during the festival, bringing together researchers from across the University to explore solutions to local, national and global transport issues. Launched by Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, the Centre's aim is to inform policies and practices which shape the way people and goods move from place to place, and investigate systems which are more sustainable, equitable and accessible.

Professor Charles Musselwhite, CeTraM lead from the University's Department of Psychology said: "Transport and mobility are central to current societal debates on sustainability, climate change, physical activity and health inequalities. At a time of great technological revolution, when both public and private sectors are investing considerable amounts on sustainable transport solutions, the aim of the centre is to investigate some of the key questions facing transport policy makers, social scientists and behavioural scientists today and in the future."

If you are interested in or have ideas for the Festival events, or wish to become involved in future Festivals, please contact researchfest@aber.ac.uk. More information about the past and future Festival of Research can be found at www.aber.ac.uk/researchfest.



First cohort of nursing students welcomed to Aberystwyth

Amanda Jones is the Principal Lead for Healthcare Education and reflects on the exciting developments within the new healthcare education centre. Amanda has been a registered nurse for nearly 30 years and is experienced in nursing higher education programmes, as well as Nursing and Midwifery Council programme approvals.



In September 2022 the University welcomed the first cohort of students to its new Healthcare Education Centre to embark on their adult and mental health nursing courses.

Representing a historical and exciting moment for the University, this new chapter in education provision is also of critical importance to mid-Wales as it supports the development of a sustainable healthcare workforce within the locality.

Following the huge strain on health and social care during the pandemic, in addition to severe longer term recruitment issues, this vital development will ensure accessibility to healthcare education which has been historically difficult within rural areas and the mid-Wales region as a whole.

It was against this background, and with its commitment to supporting the region's resilience and recruitment, that the University decided to seek to become a provider of nurse education and degree level courses, initially offering BSc Nursing (Adult) and BSc Nursing (Mental Health).

Having been planning the programme for over two years, the University's Healthcare Education Centre



Amanda Jones

was awarded approved education institution status from the Nursing & Midwifery Council in June 2021. Health Education and Improvement Wales awarded a Welsh Government-funded contract to the University to educate and secure places for fifty-three students in the 2022-23 academic year.

Students will undertake half of the programme through theoretical modules and half in clinical practice placements.

Placement agreements are in place with Hywel Dda University Health Board, Powys Teaching Health Board, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and care home placements, as well as third sector and voluntary sector placements.

The University prides itself on its commitment to the Welsh language and is very aware of its importance to many service users and the students who care for them. Therefore, fifty percent of the programme, across both fields of practice, will be offered through the medium of Welsh. In accordance with the University's standard practice, Welsh speaking nursing students will be allocated Welsh speaking Personal Tutors and they will be entitled to submit/sit all module assessments in Welsh. Nursing students studying in Welsh can receive

additional financial support through the University's Welsh Medium Study Scholarship and/or the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol scholarships. The team has also incorporated conversational Welsh language sessions called 'Cornel Coffi a Chlonc' (Coffee and Chat Corner) to support non-Welsh speakers in developing their conversational Welsh language skills whilst caring for service users. The integral part that the Welsh language will play in the University's healthcare education delivery will enable the Welsh language provision of quality healthcare services for future generations.

The team, which is still growing, consists of registered nursing practitioners with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC):

- **Bleddyn Lewis- Senior Lecturer & Mental Health Field Lead**
- **Angharad Jones - Lecturer in Healthcare Education**
- **Branwen Rhys - Academic Registry Officer**
- **Chantal Thomas - Academic Registry Manager- Placements**
- **Darren Prince - Lecturer in Mental Health**
- **Devibala Kasinathan - Lecturer in Healthcare Education**
- **Gwyn Jones - Lecturer in Healthcare Education**

Our Healthcare Team work in partnership with the Community and Rural Education Route (CARER) Project, where Cardiff University third-year medical students are given the opportunity to have a year of their education delivered in GP practices and hospitals. This rural placement gives them invaluable experience of working closely with clinicians and patients within Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth, for 12 months. The students are taught by subject specialists and managed by Dr Sue Fish who is also a practicing GP within the locality. The students are educated collaboratively with the nursing students and are based at the Healthcare Education Centre once a week.

As a team, we look forward to future developments of healthcare profession programmes and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities within the locality. In June 2023 our part-time nursing programme will commence, also commissioned by Health Education and Improvement Wales. This will see the University welcoming healthcare support workers who are eligible to join our second year of Nursing schemes at part 2 /Year 2 , whilst completing the remainder of their studies on a part-time basis, ensuring accessibility for all.



Vice-Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Health Minister Eluned Morgan MS, Principal in Healthcare Education Amanda Jones, and Elin Jones MS

Minister opens new Healthcare Education Centre

Wales' Health Minister, Eluned Morgan MS, opened a new £1.7 million centre to train NHS staff at Aberystwyth University in September 2022.

The University has created a suite of high-quality clinical practice rooms within its new Healthcare Education Centre, which is located opposite Bronglais Hospital in the town. The £1.7 million development was supported by a grant of £500,000 from the Welsh Government.

A central part of the new site is a Clinical Skills Unit with high-fidelity simulation areas that reflect the patient's journey from home and community services through to assessment, planned and acute care.

The new teaching equipment includes virtual reality headsets for experiencing ageing and life-size human models that simulate a wide variety of health conditions.

Health Minister Eluned Morgan MS said: "I am delighted to open this new centre at Aberystwyth University. It is an excellent collaboration between the health boards and the University and will provide a boost to nurse recruitment in this area."

Vice-Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure added: "It is a great honour to have the Minister visit us to open the Centre, which is a significant investment for mid Wales. Over the years ahead, and working with partners, we are keen to make an increasing contribution to meeting the needs of our NHS. I'm sure that the new Centre will be an important resource in that effort. We are today laying the foundations for the growth of healthcare education here in Aberystwyth into the future."

Old Students' Association

It's always a pleasure to write for the Aber alumni community and share thoughts and updates on behalf of the Old Students' Association (OSA). I've had an exciting and rewarding first year as OSA President, and I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to the OSA Officers and Committee, OSA Branches and our members for all of the hard work and dedication you continue to give to the OSA and bringing our community together.

As a result of a busy year, I'm grateful to say that my feeling of "hiraeth" that I mentioned in my last *PROM* article has been sated! I and other OSA members have had the pleasure to represent alumni and attend several events throughout the year celebrating University and student successes and milestones, including Founders' Day, the launch of the European Opportunities Fund and marking the Law Department's 120th anniversary.

A particular highlight over the past year has been the official opening by HRH King Charles of the new Veterinary School, which was made possible from generous alumni donations totalling £500,000. This really demonstrates the value and contribution of alumni, including members of the OSA, to the future of the University and especially to the experience of current and future students. Thank you all!

One of the biggest and most exciting events of the year has of course been graduation held during July, which was extra special as graduates from 2020 and 2021 had the opportunity to return for their ceremonies, missed due to the pandemic, alongside the 2022 graduates. It was wonderful to see campus full of celebrating graduates and their supporters, to meet so many of you and give a warm



Lauren Marks,
President of the
Old Students'
Association

welcome to our newest wave of OSA members. We're delighted that so many of you chose to join the OSA in the lead up to- and during the graduation period, with the funds from the memberships received during this period going towards supporting current students.

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 get in touch or visit our website where Life Membership is available.

Whilst we have enjoyed a successful year and look forward to another exciting year for the OSA and University, I'd also like to share my thoughts for those no longer with us, including Tun Arshad Ayub, a past OSA President and founder of the Aber Alumni Club of Malaysia, whose contribution to the alumni community has been felt globally.

The 2022/23 academic year brings with it many causes for celebration, in particular the 130th anniversary of the OSA and the 150th anniversary of the University, bringing with them opportunities to connect, or perhaps re-connect, with fellow alumni, which is one of my highlights about what we do through the OSA. I'm looking forward to the OSA re-launching our annual Reunion Weekend in June 2023 and working with the University to create a memorable event, open to all alumni, so that you can join us marking these special milestones. Keep an eye out on the website and newsletters for more information coming soon!

www.osaaber.org

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/development/osa/>



College of Librarianship Wales – 60 years on



1966 - Staff and Students of CLW standing in front of Bronpadarn

In 2024, the Department of Information Studies will be celebrating its 60th birthday! Throughout this time, in its various guises, the department has been a key global player in the field of library and information education, and has welcomed future librarians, information managers and archive leaders from all over the world.

The College of Librarianship Wales – widely known as CLW – opened in Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth in 1964. At the time it was set up as an independent ‘monotechnic’ (a college focusing on one subject area) and the very first ‘library school’ in Wales. It was established following the publication of two government reports in 1959 and 1962 that called for “the establishment in Wales of a school of librarianship”, emphasising the need for libraries in bilingual communities to have staff “acquainted with the Welsh language and well versed in the history and literature of Wales”.

The first Principal of CLW, Frank Hogg, who sadly passed away in October 2022, and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Aberystwyth University in 2019, believed that the College could also reach the “highest international standard”. It was soon the biggest library school in the UK, with over 400 students by 1968, and by the early 1970s was the foremost library school in Europe, attracting students and staff from around the world. One of the highlights that many alumni may remember is the International Graduate Summer School (IGSS) which ran until 2001. Others will remember the CLW/Thomas Parry Library, the halls of residence out at Tanybwllch (now private flats), or the beautiful train journey into Wales.



Dr Anoush Simon
Head of
Information
Studies

CLW became part of University of Wales Aberystwyth in 1989 as the Department of Information and Library Studies (DILS), now the Department of Information Studies (DIS). In 2014 it moved from its original, purpose-built home on the Llanbadarn campus, to the Penglais campus, which is now the main site of teaching and University life. There have been many changes over the years, including the development of flexible distance learning courses which have

also attracted students from the UK and beyond for over 30 years – most of whom will have memories of visiting Aberystwyth for residential study schools. The department became ‘dual-mode’ with full time and distance learners but the core mission – educating generations of students in librarianship, information management and archives and records management has remained the same. In September, we were excited to welcome the first cohort of undergraduates for our brand-new degree scheme in Cultural Heritage Studies: Libraries, Archives and Museums.

Sixty years seems a great milestone at which to celebrate the achievements of thousands of students and over 100 staff who have been part of this journey and to this end we are planning a series of events and projects to mark the anniversary. This will include a reminiscence project collecting memories, pictures and other material related to the College, and the careers of staff and students. We would welcome your participation in this! As the project is just starting up, there will be a further update in *PROM* next year – but if you would like to be involved, or just to get more information, please drop us a line at 60years@aber.ac.uk and we will add you to our mailing list. We look forward to hearing from you.

Celebrating 150 years of Mathematics by the Sea



Professor Simon Cox
Head of Department of
Mathematics

“**M**athematics by the Sea” has been practised at Aberystwyth since the University first opened. In fact, Aberystwyth was the first university to teach Mathematics in Wales. Teaching methods have certainly changed since the first Professor of Mathematics, Horatio Nelson Grimley, welcomed students in 1872, but our aim is still to provide the highest quality education in a friendly and supportive environment. We are a close-knit department of research-active staff who teach using a mixture of lectures, small group tutorials and practicals with the aim to both explore the inherent richness of Mathematics and to translate Mathematics and Statistics into practical applications. Within Wales, the Department has a leading role in the provision of mathematics in Higher Education through the medium of Welsh.

George Kynch was head of the Applied Mathematics Department in Aberystwyth in the 1950s. While here, he worked on both solid and fluid mechanics, that is, the development of mathematical models to explain the dynamics of these two states of matter. Kynch was also instrumental in the founding of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, following in the footsteps of the first Professor of Mathematics at Aberystwyth, Horatio Nelson Grimley, who was a founding member of the London Mathematics Society. Both are now well-established Learned Societies dedicated to promoting Mathematics.

Aberystwyth’s mathematical legacy includes three Fellows of the Royal Society. G.A. Schott was the first head of Applied Mathematics when a distinction was made from Pure Mathematics in the early 20th century, and made his name in the mathematical theory of electromagnetic radiation. At the same time W.H. Young came to Aberystwyth. His research interests were in the theory of integration - we would now call him an analyst - and he was a pioneer who did not stay in Aberystwyth for long. In the 1960s Ken Walters came to Aberystwyth and started a group in Rheology - the study of the flow of complex fluids.



Gennady Mishuris

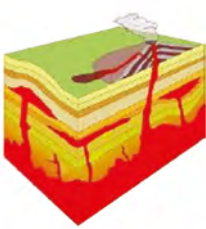
150 years after Grimley started teaching Mathematics in the Old College in 1872, the department combines strengths in Pure Mathematics (algebra, analysis), Applied Mathematics (solid and fluid mechanics) and Statistics (applied, for example, to biology).

To select one example, Gennady Mishuris is Professor of Mathematical Modelling in the Department of Mathematics, and one of his areas of expertise is in mathematical modelling of fracture in solids. This has broad applicability, but one domain in which it is significant is in predicting the propagation of fluid-filled cracks in hydraulic fracture.

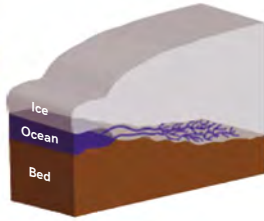
When referred to as “fracking”, in which fluid is pumped at sufficient pressure to create a crack in oil-bearing rock and liberate the oil, the subject tends to polarise opinions. But Professor Mishuris’ research is justified on two grounds. Firstly, whether or not you support the underlying idea of further oil extraction, improved mathematical models of the process will provide more accurate information about its benefits or dangers, depending on your point of view. Secondly, hydraulic fracture is actually a much broader term, and the process of fluid-driven fracture occurs naturally, for example in subglacial drainage of water and in volcanoes. An understanding of the process is crucial in maintaining the safety of dams, geological waste repositories, and carbon capture and storage installations, contributing to efforts to ameliorate the effects of global warming.

Nature

Magmatic intrusions



Subglacial drainage of water



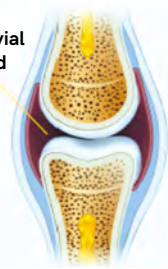
Medicine

Injection



Joint

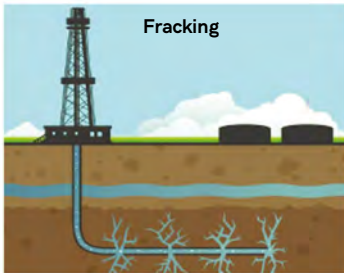
Synovial fluid



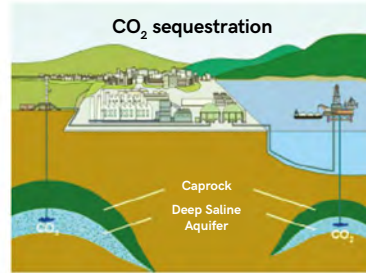
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Technology

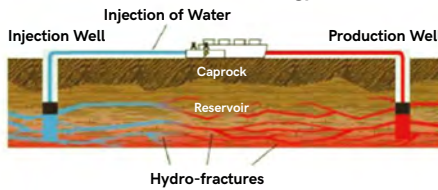
Fracking



CO₂ sequestration



Geothermal energy



Professor Mishuris uses numerous approaches in modern mathematics, including modelling, accurate mathematical analysis and numerical simulation. He is an internationally renowned expert in Wiener-Hopf techniques, singular integral equations, asymptotics, and fluid-solid interactions. The quality of his work has been recognised through numerous awards including an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Belvedere Professorship from the President of Poland, and a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award.

As one might expect in the 21st century, Mishuris' mathematics finds its outlet in computer software that others can use for predictions. Computational tools are used to study the coupling between fracture propagation and fluid flow. His algorithms have been used by major companies in the petroleum industry to increase the speed and accuracy of their hydraulic fracture simulators, while workshops with industry have led to better-informed scientists with the confidence to influence policy-makers.

Professor Mishuris and his team started to apply their research expertise to hydraulic fracture in 2010, securing the EU "HYDROFRAC" project, with the aim to enhance hydraulic fracturing techniques, thereby increasing the productivity of oil and gas reservoirs. This was an international collaboration involving Rzeszow University of Technology (Poland), New Mexico State University (USA) and industrial partners SINTEF (Norway) and EUROTECH (Poland). Through this and related projects, the partners have trained a generation of young researchers who have gone on to work in finance, computing and academia.

Professor Mishuris' most recent work is on effective factorisation techniques for matrix-functions. While this sounds abstruse, the range of applications of these techniques is very wide, from "metamaterials", also known as cloaking devices that have been proposed as protection against earthquakes, to the decomposition of biological materials and molecules such as DNA.

This underlines the importance of Mathematics to society and the vitality of a department that traces its roots back to the founding of the University.

An interview with Natasha Devon

Natasha Devon graduated from Aberystwyth University in 2002 with a degree in English. She has since become a Fellow of the University, a mental health champion, an active advocate for young people, a successful author and has a weekly radio show on LBC. I talked to her about her time at Aberystwyth and her career so far.

What led you to choose Aberystwyth for your degree?

My English teacher at school did her degree at Aberystwyth and I was really struggling with picking a university. I got all A grades in my A levels and there was a lot of pressure to go for Oxbridge or something like that. I'd been to the open days at some of those universities and it just didn't grab me. I had a conversation with her about it and she told me this story about how she had revised for her finals sitting on what I now know is Constitution Hill - watching the sun set over the sea. And I thought, that sounds amazing! So I went to the Aberystwyth open day and it was one of the few days a year when it was really sunny. I remember thinking, this is like being on holiday! Brilliant! No one told me about the wind and rain...

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

There was a friend who was really into walking, so we would go walking to all the places where people didn't really venture. I remember feeling like a kind of Brontë heroine, and being very taken with the landscape. I also remember that, even though Aberystwyth is quite remote, and takes a long while to get to, we had some incredible authors, artists and musicians come to the Arts Centre. I remember thinking, wow - these people have come a long way to be with us.

What did you do after graduation?

I sort of floated for a while, but I was working as a secretary for an addiction therapist when I thought 'I want to do something with mental health in schools'. That was when it clicked what my career path would be. Initially I went back to my old school and started interviewing the pupils there about what was missing from their personal health and social education and what they would like lessons on. They overwhelmingly



said body image, which back in 2008 was a pretty radical thing to say.

I soon realised there were other issues that needed addressing such as self-harm and exam stress, so I started working with experts to come up with lesson plans in these more mental health related areas. We tend to think of mental health issues as this sort of individualised problem - like 'your brain is broken' - but there were these really distinct patterns I was seeing in terms of who things affected. So I thought that these things must be structural, to a degree - there must be some sort of policy based stuff behind this. That is what turned me into the massively political animal that I am now, and also what started me writing for newspapers like the *Guardian* and the *Independent* about what I

was seeing on the ground and how it was related to Government policy.

In 2015 I got a call from the Department of Education saying 'we are looking for our first ever mental health champion for schools and think you'd be a really good fit'. I wanted to be a bridge between what was happening in schools and the Government to influence policy, but they kept inviting me to these round-tables where nothing happened – it was so frustrating. The media asked me what I thought, and I kept telling them! In the end, they had to get rid of me.

Tell us about your first three books.

My first book, *A Beginners Guide to Being Mental*, was published in 2018 and was an A to Z on mental health. It kind of followed the format of my talks in schools: In every chapter there was a bit of either my personal story or things I'd heard from real people to kind of humanise it. There was a bit of science - 'how your brain works, this is why things happen' - and at the end there were some practical tips on that particular aspect.

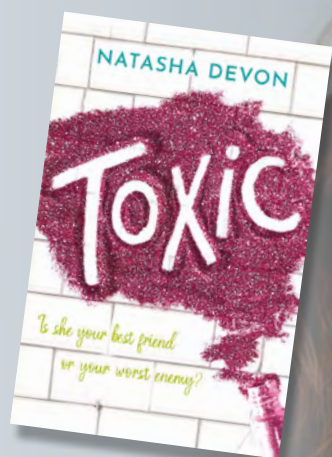
The next book I did was about exams. The focus groups I was doing with young people in schools kept saying 'I know my mental health is important, but I've got exams...', so I wrote this book called *Yes You Can Ace Your Exams Without Losing Your Mind*. It's a collection of tips that nurture your mental health but also improve your ability to learn, study and revise.

Then this year I published my debut novel, which is called *Toxic* and is about coercive control in friendships. Again, this is something which was coming through from focus groups in schools. It is


a young adult (YA) book, the protagonist is 17, but I remind people that just because it's YA doesn't mean only young people can read it. I'm currently writing the sequel.

Which aspects of your career so far have given you the greatest satisfaction?

It sounds really corny, but it's still when someone writes to me, or pulls me aside after a class, and says 'That really resonated with me' or 'That's useful, I'll use that...'. It's this idea that you are actually reaching into people's lives. Those moments make everything else, all the trolling you get as a high-profile woman with opinions, all worthwhile.



Interviewed by
John Gilbey
gilbey@bcs.org.uk

 @John_Gilbey

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, taking a little bit of Aber with them, and working in every industry you can imagine.

Below are some of our alumni stories.

Georgia Mantzana

(MScEc Management and Finance in 2010)

Georgia is an award-winning design professional and currently works as a Senior UX Designer at a leading telco company, Sunrise in Zurich, Switzerland. Georgia aims to empower more women into the world of design & technology. Her design leadership has been recognised by global organisations Top100 Women in Tech UK powered by Goldman Sachs, WomenTech Network and WATC Rising Stars in Digital powered by Barclays.

"Completing my Master's degree increased my confidence and developed my ability to learn independently. For example, mastering specific skills involved in analysis, critical thinking, and problem-solving which helped me prepare for a life of ongoing learning in a world where knowledge is growing rapidly".



Dr Natalia Szablewska

(BSc Econ First Class Hons in International Politics with Law 2005 & PhD in Law 2011)

Natalia is currently Professor in Law and Society at The Open University, after spending the last 11 years working in academia in Australia, New Zealand, and Cambodia, alongside international appointments including serving on the Modern Slavery Leadership Advisory Group to the New Zealand Government and as a Chair of Business and Human Rights Committee of Australian Lawyer for Human Rights.

"Not only do I have very fond memories of my first degree at Aberystwyth, which is also why I returned to do my PhD there as a recipient of the University Postgraduate Research Studentship, but over the years and several postings in different parts of the world, I continue to keep in touch with fellow students and my lecturers. Being exposed to world-class education focusing on international matters has undoubtedly shaped my career choices and allowed me to steer my career in the direction that gives me not only immense pleasure but also satisfaction in what I do."



Salim Lamine

(MSc DGES 2014)

Salim currently works as a Senior Lecturer in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing and Precision Agriculture at UAMOB in Algeria. He acquired high level skills in the field of Geomatics during his ERASMUS work placement at the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences (DGES) at Aberystwyth University and in 2017, he completed his PhD with Aberystwyth University and USTHB University.

Salim's research about the detection of heavy metals using Hyperspectral Imaging Technology, conducted at the DGES department, allowed him to win ECOWORLD 2017 from the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. He is still co-authoring top scientific publications with research-staff at the DGES department.

"Aber, with its rich multicultural environment, was a place where I charged my batteries to the maximum with positivity, determination and perseverance".





Harry Dennis

(BSc Marine and Freshwater Biology 2014)

Harry founded the social-enterprise Waterhaul in 2018. Its mission is to tackle the problem of abandoned fishing gear in the ocean by transforming this plastic 'waste' into a resource. Initially, Harry continued his career in marine ecology research, however in 2017 he transitioned into a research, communication and policy role at a leading marine conservation charity focused on the plastic pollution issue, before founding Waterhaul.

"I was always passionate about combining my entrepreneurial interests with my academic research of the marine environment. Aberystwyth helped me put this into practice - not only through learning research skills during my degree but also through its entrepreneurship programmes such as the InvEnterPrize competition which I was part of".



InvEnterPrize 2022

A business proposal to produce innovative and therapeutic hemp products wowed the judges to win this year's InvEnterPrize student business ideas competition.

The business plan and pitch by Jamila La Malfa-Donaldson, a postgraduate student researching industrial hemp in the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, won her a £10,000 business investment sponsored by alumni of the University.

Her food and cosmetics brand, PROHEMPOTIC, will offer a range of products derived from organic hemp with added plant-based ingredients, aimed at supporting health and wellbeing.

Jamila's business idea also secured another of the competition's coveted prizes, a year of office space at the Aberystwyth innovation and enterprise campus, AberInnovation. She was also awarded a £1,500 Revolancer voucher donated by last year's InvEnterPrize winner, and a £500 prize for rural business sponsored by the Growth in Rural Resilience and Innovation Network (GRRaIN).

Five of this year's twelve entries were shortlisted by the judging panel, who studied business plans, listened to pitches, and deliberated over the submissions.

There were product design concepts such as a smart cane aid for blind people and a weight harness for kettle bells; online enterprises including a music and chat platform and a styling platform; software to assist with the creation of virtual tours; a healthy lung app to help patients to manage their disease; a shop selling environmentally conscious products; and a seed and seedling development company.

All five finalists were awarded a £1000 Research Wales Innovation Fund grant by the University, from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

A separate prize of £3,000 sponsored by Engineers in Business was awarded to Thomas Breeze, a Computer Science postgraduate, who showcased an innovative modular robotics concept, BreezeLabs.

The judging panel included several Aberystwyth graduates who have gone on to have successful careers in business. They were also joined by last year's InvEnterPrize winner Karl Swanepoel, whose company Revolancer, a freelance marketplace that connects skilled freelancers with ambitious businesses looking to grow, has gone from strength to strength.

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

Supporting student success

Your generous philanthropic support – both time and money – has an invaluable impact on the University and our students.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, and recognise the philanthropists in our past that played a vital part in the history of higher education in Wales. It reminds us powerfully of the importance of generosity and giving back, today as much as ever.

Together, you are collectively building a brighter future as we look forward to the next 150 years.

Your support is transforming the Old College, enabling world-leading research, and transforming the lives of students through hardship grants, health and wellbeing initiatives, and life-changing opportunities through new scholarships and bursaries.

Thank you to all our donors listed in our 2021-22 Donor Roll and to those who have given anonymously <http://www.aber.ac.uk/thankyou>



Inspiring legal minds

Last year we celebrated the 120th Anniversary of the Department of Law and Criminology. Two special dinners were held at the Old Bailey in London in May, and at National Museum Cardiff in June. Your support gave students the opportunity to attend, network

and hear from fellow alumni who are judges, lawyers, professors, and business leaders. Prior to the Cardiff event, the students also visited Y Senedd, where they were given a tour, and met with Aber alum Vaughan Gething MS: Minister for Economy, who answered students' questions as part of a 'Q&A.'

“ I thank everyone, especially alumni and their donations that helped provide the travel grant for me to attend. It was one of the most beautiful evenings of my life and I wish all the students were able to attend. I received so much support, encouragement, and enthusiasm to complete my academic career with a new spirit. **Abdullah Abdullatif, PhD student** ”

Boosting Research

A research project into the work of the poet Gwenallt and the development of a Law Room and Moot Court as part of the ambitious plan for the Old College received a significant financial boost.

Retired Wrexham solicitor Francis Glynne Jones presented £60,000 to the University in memory of his late brother Colin Glynne Jones, his father Hywel Glynne Jones, his grandfather Cyril Oswald Jones and

great grandfather Humphrey Bradley Jones, the poet Garmonydd. Although Francis Glynne Jones himself studied at Cambridge, his father, brother and other members of the family studied at Aberystwyth University.

“My family has many connections with Aberystwyth University and I am delighted that I have been able to recognise them in this way. I'm a firm believer that education is everything for the future, and the future of our country is dependent on education.”



Student Hardship

You have supported 532 students during the academic year with immediate financial assistance for hardship arising from genuine, unforeseen, or unexpected circumstances or financial difficulties resulting from a

genuine shortfall of income or essential expenditure. This ensures students are given the right support to continue their studies without financial worries or burdens.

Impact of legacies

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

Legacy gifts of all sizes 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. If you feel it right to consider a gift to the University, we would value an opportunity to work with you to ensure your gift will be used as intended.

For a discussion or to find out more please contact our Alumni office on alumni@aber.ac.uk or call 01970 621568.

Supporting the University



We recognise and celebrate the impact that your giving has made, and Aber's success would not be possible without your support. Thank you.

Your gift, of any size, together with others from the alumni and supporters around the world, can make a real difference across our three priority areas:

Student Support (The Aber Fund)

The Old College Appeal

Research and Academic Development

You can make a single or regular gift online at www.aber.ac.uk/give or by post using a donation form

International donations can be made through our partners SWIFT system or British Schools and Universities Foundation (BSUF)

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

2021-22 Philanthropy in numbers

£798,535

donated by alumni and supporters



£745,273

from Trusts and Foundations



72

intending to leave a gift in their will



562

individual donors

183

donors who give regularly



FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

£847,899

The Old College Appeal



£206,998

Student Support (AberFund)



£563,572

Research and Academic Development

107

current members giving at Vice-Chancellor Giving Circle level



The Dewis Choice Initiative – transforming the response to domestic abuse in later life



Sarah Wydall, Reader in the Law & Criminology Department

The public perception of domestic abuse of a young woman, with children, experiencing abuse perpetrated by a male intimate partner, shapes legislative, policy, and practice responses about *when* domestic abuse occurs in the life course and *who* is supported as a victim. In reality anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse at any point across the life course. In addition, domestic abuse can also be perpetrated by adult family members.

The effects of abuse can be diverse and devastating, affecting physical, sexual, psychological, and economic wellbeing, in the most extreme cases resulting in death. Domestic abuse accounts for 18-25% of reported violent crime. However, as a hidden crime, victims are often too scared to report. In England and Wales in the two years ending March 2021, domestic homicide in people aged 70 years and over was the highest per head of population (ONS, 2022).

Despite global estimates that a fifth of people aged 60 years or over experience domestic abuse, older victim-survivors are significantly underrepresented in research. The reasons for this are threefold.

First, academics, funders, commissioners, and service providers have influenced the focus and direction of research, resulting, with a few exceptions, in a cis-gendered, heterosexist, ageist perspective on domestic abuse perpetration and victimisation, assuming domestic abuse stops at sixty (Wydall, 2021)

Second, victim-survivors aged 60 years and over experience 'service poverty', so accessing such a 'hard to reach' group is a barrier to building an evidence base

to inform service provision and policy development.

Third, there is a lack of data about victims aged 60 years and over. For example, the Crime Survey for England and Wales did not capture data on victim-survivors aged 60 years and over until 2017. The lack of research evidence about older victim-survivors restricts new knowledge formation, and limits 'ways of thinking' about policy and practice that claims to tackle domestic abuse (Wydall and Zerk, 2017).

Dewis Choice was the first initiative globally to examine justice and human rights for older victim-survivors. Evidence gathered by the research team in 2012 (Alan Clarke, John Williams, Sarah Wydall and Rebecca Zerk) suggested older victim-survivors are diverted away from traditional criminal and civil justice responses when compared to other age groups. In addition, practitioners were paternalistic in their approach, acting on behalf of older people within the welfare framework, rather than facilitating older people to make informed choices to engage with justice provision.

Based in the University's Centre for Age, Gender, and Social Justice and led by Sarah Wydall, Dewis Choice is still the only example of its kind globally which delivers a co-created service supporting older victim-survivors from crisis through to recovery. It provides the first longitudinal research to capture the lived experiences of older victim-survivors from a human





rights perspective as they seek protection, access to justice and ongoing recovery.

The Dewis Choice Initiative has pioneered the integration of transformative research and community involvement, working with older victim-survivors, community members and practitioners to co-create bespoke practitioner toolkits, short films, podcasts, and training for diverse groups. For example, in response to Covid-19, Dewis Choice provided online training, which was shared by the Victim Prevention Unit in their Covid-19 resource pack and recommended as best practice by Public Health Wales to the World Health Organization. The team are currently working with Dyfed Powys Police on the use of virtual reality to gain a perspective of help seeking 'through the eyes' of an older victim-survivor with colleagues Dr Helen Miles and Andra Jones in the Department of Computer Science. Dewis Choice is a great example of the University's ethos of inclusivity, engaging in research involving diverse members of the public, bringing significant benefits to communities and wider society. Since

2015, the Initiative has employed and trained 16 researchers, 10 service workers and 3 administrative staff. Awareness raising, training and community work has reached over 20,000 people including: 684 volunteers; 193 students; and 3,883 older people who have engaged with designing a growing suite of programmes, community, and practice-based activities. Topics have included an exploration of safer spaces, domestic homicide, impacts of dementia, civil and criminal justice.

Dewis Choice was an Impact Case Study ranked as 4* (world leading) for the Research Excellence Framework 2021 and received a Vice Chancellor's award for Exceptional Impact.

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Regional Advisor for Mid-West Wales described the impact that Dewis Choice has had for older people and their families as "immeasurable", commenting that the project has had "a profound and ground breaking impact on the understanding and awareness of the abuse experienced by older people, as well as the development and improvement of the responses and support available".

For further information about the team and the work of the Centre including podcasts, films and other publications please see the link: <https://dewischoice.org.uk/>



Sarah Wydall (Principal Investigator), Rebecca Zerk (Research Project Manager), Elize Freeman (Policy and Practice lead) are based at the Centre for Age, Gender and Social Justice, Department of Law and Criminology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

APPOINTMENTS, HONOURS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Appointments

Professor Iain Barber – Head of Department of Life Sciences

Professor Tossapon Boongoen – Chair in Computer Science

Professor Murray Smith – Professor in Rural Health Economics

Honours

The following individuals received an Honorary Fellowship as part of the graduation ceremonies in July 2022:

Professor Dame Elan Closs Stephens DBE

Electoral Commissioner for Wales and Non-Executive Director of the BBC Board and its member for Wales

Myrddin ap Dafydd

Author, publisher and Archdruid of Wales (alum – Welsh, 1977)

The Hon Justice Datuk

Vazeer Alam Mydin Meera

Court of Appeal Judge, Malaysia (alum – Law, 1989)

Harry Venning

Award winning cartoonist, illustrator and comedy writer (alum – History, 1980)

Dr Zoe Laughlin

Co-founder and director of the Institute of Making (alum – Performance Studies and Film & Television Studies, 2003)

Rhuanedd Richards

BBC Wales' National Director (alum – Theatre, Film and Television Studies, 1995)

Jonathan Whelan

IT consultant, author and Fellow of the British Computer Society (alum – Maths, 1983; PGCE, 1984)

Tom Jones OBE

Agriculturalist and founding Chair of the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust (alum – History & Welsh History, 1970)

His Honour Judge

Nicholas Cooke QC

Former Senior Circuit Judge at the Central Criminal Court, "the Old Bailey" (alum – Law, 1976)

Gwerfyl Pierce Jones

Former Director and Chief Executive of the Welsh Books Council

Achievements

Students

Congratulations to Welsh and International Politics student

Tomos Lynch on winning the Eisteddfod Chair at the 2022 Intercollegiate Eisteddfod, and to Creative Writing postgraduate student **Twm Ebbsworth** on being presented with the Crown at the 2022 Intercollegiate Eisteddfod and 2022 Urdd Eisteddfod.

Congratulations to the student winners at this year's Aber Students' Union Staff and Students Awards: **Andra Jones** (Postgraduate Teacher of the Year), **Bethan Stewart** (Academic Representative of the Year), **Lauren Rebecca Middleton** (Student Mentor of the Year), **Rae Hughes** (Student Staff Member of the Year) and **Zoe Hayne** (Student Volunteer of the Year)

Well done to Sport and Exercise Science undergraduate, **Kieran Booker**, who was the 2021 recipient of the Aberystwyth University and Aberystwyth Town Football Club Scholarship.

Congratulations to **Sam Aitken, Tom Bow, Molly Clarke** and **Tayjib Kerstan** from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television

Studies who won a four-day visit to New York's Tribeca Festival in June 2022, funded by contributions to the Aber Fund.

Caitlin Lory was named a British Heart Foundation CPR Hero in 2021 after she saved her 24-year-old brother Matthew's life when he suffered a cardiac arrest at home.

Staff

Professor Glyn Hewinson FLSW, Sêr Cymru research chair at the Centre of Excellence for Bovine Tuberculosis for Wales, was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2022 for services to Animal Health and Welfare.

Professor Iain Donnison (IBERS), **Professor Rhys Jones** (Department of Geography and Earth Sciences), **Professor Colin McInnes** (Department of International Politics) and **Dr Eryn White** (Department of History and Welsh History) were elected as Fellows of The Learned Society of Wales in April 2022.

Congratulations to staff members who won awards at this year's Aber Students' Union Staff and Students Awards:

In Memoriam

Remembering those who sadly passed away between August 2021 and July 2022

*Denotes OSA member

Fellows

Ayub, Tun Arshad (Economics & Statistics, 1958), died June 2022*

Bidgood, Ms Ruth, died March 2022

Jones, Mr David John (Dai), MBE, died March 2022.

Staff

Curwen, Tony Mr, died July 2022

Davies, Dr Brian (Biochemistry, 1961), died 2022*

Elena-Mates, Miss Alexandra (Environmental Science, 2012) died 2021

Gornall, Mrs Sandra, died November 2021

Haynes, Professor John R, died January 2022

King, Professor Peter J H King, died September 2021

Kingswood, Mr Peter, died September 2021

Law, Dr David (Economics, 1999), died March 2022

Martin, Professor Sir Laurence, died April 2022

Morgan, Ms Hetty Maureen, née Jones, died August 2021*

Pearson, Professor Michael, died May 2022

Savidge, Dr John, died October 2021

Walters, The Right Honorable Kenneth FRS, died March 2022

Alumni & Supporters

Adams, Mr David Adams (Agriculture, 1954), died December 2021*

Allen, Professor Philip (Geology, 1974), died December 2021

Anderson, Mr Angus (International Politics, 1970), died December 2020

Bishop, Mr Peter Anthony (Art, 2002), died May 2022

Barker, Dr David (Geography & Economics, 1968), died February 2022*

Barnett, Mr Brian Arthur (Mathematics, 1967), died November 2021

Dafis, Mr Lyn Lewis (Celtic Studies, 1986), died March 2022

Davies, Dr Edgar Wynne MBE (Chemistry, 1954), died December 2021*

Davies, Dr Mervin Wyndham (Chemistry, 1952), died April 2022*

Davies, Mrs Pamela Maureen, née Morris (Latin & Education), died March 2022*

Davies, Mr William Ellis (Agricultural Botany, 1944), died November 2021*

Deakins, Mrs Audrey, née Lewis (English, 1945), died 2021*

Dixon, Professor John Richard (Chemistry, 1950, PhD, 1963), died July 2021*

Dodd, Miss Margaret (Welsh, 1998), died September 2021

Dunsford, Mr Neil, died 2021

Edwards, Mrs Pauline Mary (French & Spanish, 1972), died April 2021

Evans, Ms Annie (Geography), died October 2021

Foxley, Mr Graham (Botany & Zoology 1976), died October 2021

Griffiths, Dr Lewis John (Physics, 1947), died November 2021*

Griffiths, Mr Arthur Teifon Griffiths (English, 1963), died January 2022*

Dr Val Nolan, Department of English and Creative Writing (Lecturer of the Year), **Dr Niall McKeown**, IBERS (Personal Tutor of the Year) **Dr David Ceri Jones**, Department of History and Welsh History (Supervisor of the Year) and **Karen Twinney**, Hospitality Team (Support/Service Staff Member of the Year)

Congratulations to the staff winners of the Aberystwyth University Welsh Language Awards 2021 - **Kate Wright** (Exceptional Learner - staff) and **Annette Edwards** (Promoting Welsh in the Workplace).

Dr Lowri Cunningham-Wynn from the Department of Law and Criminology won a Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol award for her outstanding contribution to Welsh-medium education.

Aberystwyth University Exemplary Course Awards for innovation in teaching were presented during graduation week 2022 for the past three years (delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic):

Dr Lara Kipp from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies won the 2019/20 award for her module 'Principles of Scenography'. **Dr Hanna Binks** from the Department of

Psychology won the 2020/21 award for her 'Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology' module.

Dr Laura Stephenson from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies won the 2021/22 award for her module 'Gender and Media Production'.

The winners of the Aberystwyth University Exceptional Impact Awards 2021 were: **Dr Christina Marley** and her wider team at IBERS who won the Award for Exceptional Impact in Science Research for their research which sought to reduce levels of imported soya for livestock feed and its environmental impact; and **Sarah Wydall** from the Department of Law & Criminology who received the Award for Exceptional Impact in Social Science, Arts & Humanities Research for their work as Director of the Dewis Choice Initiative, which challenged assumptions that gendered domestic violence only happens to women under 45.

The book 'Postfeminism and Health: Critical Psychology and Media Perspectives', co-written by **Dr Martine Robson**, Lecturer in Psychology, won the best academic monograph prize at the British Psychology Society book awards 2021.

Alumni

Congratulations to **Carwyn Morgan Eckley** (Welsh 2017) on winning the 2020-21 Urdd Eisteddfod Poetry Chair. The chair was carved by carpenter Rhodri Owen, also an Aber alumnus (Fine Art, 2004).

Well done to the student winners of the Aberystwyth University Welsh Language Awards 2021 **Llŷr Tomos** (Criminology and Applied Psychology, 2021) who won the Welsh Medium Study award and **Elen Roach** (Professional Welsh, 2021) who won the Welsh Language Champion (student) award.

Sara Lind Valdinarsdottir (Equine and Veterinary Bioscience, 2021) was awarded the prestigious British Society of Animal Science's Undergraduate Thesis of The Year 2021 for developing a new method that could help diagnose animal diseases and cancers.

Congratulations to **Ellen Wakelam** (Geography PGCE, 2007), co-founder and owner of award-winning Mid Wales distillery, *In the Welsh Wind*, who won the Demeter award at the Natwest Everywoman Awards 2021 which recognise inspirational women in business across the UK.

Well done to Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences graduate (Agriculture 2013 **Owen Ashton** from Co. Cork on being crowned FBD Young Farmer of the Year 2021).

Congratulations to **Diana Powell** (English, 1991) who won the Cinnamon Press Literature Award for her novella, *The Sisters of Cynvael*.

Congratulations to **Susan Stokes-Chapman** (Creative Writing, 2007, MA Creative Writing 2009), who became the number one bestselling hardback fiction book in the *Sunday Times* Bestseller list with her debut novel, *Pandora*.

Congratulations to **Georgia Mantzana** (MscEc Management and Finance, 2010) won the TechWomen100 award 2021 powered by Goldman Sachs.

Aled Eirug (History and Welsh History, 1977, UCrt Education 1979) has been announced as Chair of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Board of Directors.

Congratulation to alumni **Ian Johnson, Dr Antony Wyatt, and Jeff Robinson** who were part of the Wales side that won the over 70's competition at the Hockey Masters World Cup in Tokyo in October 2022.

Hasberry, Mr Basil (Chemistry and Agricultural Chemistry, 1952), died February 2022*

Hickman, Mr Paul Eric (French & Russian, 1969), died January 2022

Hill, Mrs Catherine, née Hughes (Classical Studies & Librarianship), died March 2022

Hodges, Mr Richard (Geography & Geology), died July 2021

Holland, Mr Gareth John (Economics & Agricultural Economics, 1975), died November 2021*

Hughes, Mrs Elizabeth Anne, née Evans (Welsh, 1955), died 2015

Hughes, Mr Richard Cyril (Welsh & Education, 1956?), died April 2022

James, Mr Peter Victor (Law and International Relations, 1977), died December 2021*

Jones, Dr Isabel (Law, 1987), died July 2019

Jones, Professor Keith (Agricultural Botany, 1947), died July 2022*

Jones, Miss Kirsten (Art History, 2019), died December 2021*

Kember, Ms Pamela (Art History & Librarianship, 1986), died November 2021

Lewis, Mr John (Economics & Geography), died June 2022

Lowry, Miss Katharine (Botany & Geology & Chemistry, 1976), died May 2022*

Llewelyn, Dr Margaret (Law, 1985), died October 2021

Lloyd, Mr J, died 2021

Mironas, Mr Adrian (Biochemistry, 2014), died January 2022

Morgans, Mr David Evan Bryan (Chemistry, 1958), died January 2021

Murphy, Ms Angela, née O'Neill (History & Religious Studies, 1985), died August 2021*

Nicholas, Sir David CBE (English, 1951), died June 2022*

O'Toole, Mr Brian (Information Studies & Librarianship, 2004), died November 2020

Parsons, Dr Roger, died 2021

Rawlins, Mr Bert (Welsh and Welsh History, 1974), died October 2021

Rees, Mr John Alun (Physics, 1946), died May 2021*

Rees, Mr Wyn Lloyd Rees (Chemistry, 1974), died August 2021

Reid, Mrs Lynn, née Fitzgibbon (Law, 1973), died October 2021*

Roberts, Mr Aled Rhys (Law, 1983), died February 2022*

Seligman, Mr David OBE (Law, 1946), died August 2021*

Shimazaki, Mr Akira (International Politics), died January 2022*

Tibbott, Mr Delwyn (Welsh, 1955), died November 2021*

Thomas, Professor John David Roland DSc FRSC, died January 2022

Thomas, Mr Paul Kenneth Davies Thomas (English, 1999), died October 2021

Thompson, Mr Peter (History, 1990), died January 2021*

Thornley, Mr David James (Law, 1987), died August 2022

Walter-Davies, Mr Peter (Zoology & Agricultural Zoology, 1954), died April 2022*

Williams, Mr John Gareth (Law, 1975), died August 2021

Wilson, Professor David (Zoology, 1978), died January 2022*

Whitaker, Mr David Nelson (Environmental Science, 1980), died January 2022*

Wyatt, Mrs Thelma, née Thomas (Botany & Zoology & Geography, 1945), died July 2022*

Wynne Jones, Mr Richard, (International Politics & Philosophy, 1951), died April 2022*

Vicker, Mr Neil (Computer Science, 2015), died May 2022

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

The making of the book: The Pennies of the People

As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations, the University has published a beautifully illustrated volume reflecting on aspects of its history through 150 objects. **Julie Archer**, the University's Information Governance Manager and Archivist, was a member of the Editorial Board for *Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People*. Here, she looks back at the process of putting together a publication which brings to life some of the people, places and stories of the past 150 years.



Julie Archer,
Information
Governance
Manager (and
University Archivist)

Further inspiration came from one of our early academics, FW Rudler. A natural scientist, anthropologist and first curator of our University Museum, he declared in 1882: 'The old coin, the autograph, or the potsherd may teach more of real vivid history than an ordinary student can learn from many pages of a book.' With *Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People*, we have hopefully managed to combine both by telling stories from our history through 150 objects drawn mainly from our own collections.

The run up to the University's 150th anniversary sparked discussions about commissioning a commemorative book as part of the celebrations. Perhaps not a comprehensive 'corporate' history, in the vein of E. L. Ellis's excellent centenary tome, nor an esoteric though fascinating collection of recollections found in Iwan Morgan's *College By The Sea*, but something a little different.

Established as a 'University for Wales', some of our collections were dispersed over time and helped to form the basis of other national institutions including the National Library of Wales and Museums Wales. What remains is a staggering eighty collections housed across our estate, in our School of Art museum and galleries, the University's archives, the Hugh Owen Library and several other academic departments. They range from works of art and founding documents to rare books, taxidermy, osteology, herbaria, geology and more.

I'm lucky enough to look after one of the University's collections - the archives - so I will always be a bit biased towards those items. As well as obvious contenders, like the 1863 book of minutes kept by our founders and the very first student register, the process of identifying potential objects for the book - whether suggested by my team or other members of the University community - gave an opportunity to revisit some items that have always just 'been there'.

One such item is a box of performance intelligence tests. It was transferred to the archive long before my time and the beautiful, if now slightly warped, wooden box has some fascinating contents. It was great to be able to share objects with fellow editorial board members and the photographer, Rolant Dafis, who captured such beautiful images to illustrate these stories. Credit must go to Rolant too for examining this box more closely than I had ever had the time to. He spotted that the depth of

This half-size painted plaster model of Sir Hugh Owen (1804-1881) stands in the foyer of the Hugh Owen Library on Penglais campus. The model is reduced from the original 1888 bronze by James Milo Griffith (1843-1897) which stands on Castle Square, Caernarfon.



Photo © Rolant Dafis



Performance intelligence tests devised by James Drever and Mary Collins in 1928 for children with impaired hearing. Formerly used by the Department of Education, they are now kept in our archives.

Published bilingually as a 312-page hardback volume, *Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People* costs £25 and is available from high street and online booksellers as well as the University's online shop. You can also find other 150th merchandise here: <https://vinestudent.io/outlets/aber-uni-clothing>

WIN A COPY!

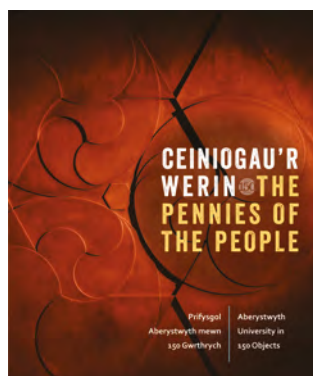
For a chance of winning a copy of the book, please send your answer to the following question to alumni@aber.ac.uk by June 15th 2023. Winner will be drawn at random from all the correct answers submitted.

Question: Formed by five Aber students in 1967, what was the name of the first rock band to sing and record in Welsh?

the box wasn't reflected by its contents, and there must be a hidden layer, with yet more tests. What a brilliant excuse for having the time to explore these objects and uncover things I didn't know about!

It really has been a voyage of discovery. I may have a greater awareness than some people of the collections that are held across the University and further afield, but I certainly don't know about every object, nor all the people and the stories behind them. There are too many to mention, but who knew that we had a mathematical typewriter, a generator for powering X-rays, early electric lighting, anatomical models of farm animals, and a barrister's wig belonging to our first Head of Law?

The book has also provided an opportunity to look again at objects I pass on a daily basis. Seeing the plaster model of Hugh Owen freed from its Perspex



case in the foyer of the library that bears his name, made me look at it with fresh eyes. I think it is a lovely piece of work, and a fitting tribute to probably the driving force behind the establishment of the University.

The hardest part of the process was, as you might expect, settling on the 150 objects. There are plenty of things that didn't or couldn't make the cut for myriad reasons, but the book is not our only shop window. The galleries in the redeveloped Old College will

offer additional opportunities to tell the story of the history of the University through permanent and temporary exhibitions. It's been huge fun being involved and watching the book come to fruition, reading contributions from staff, students, alumni, and other friends of the University. I've learned a huge amount, and I feel sure that you will, too. So, do get yourself a copy of the book if you can, and join the celebrations.

Anniversary Events

As part of our 150th anniversary programme we have hosted a variety of events for alumni and friends – here on campus, across the UK and internationally, giving us an opportunity for reflection as well as celebration.

Here are some of the key events to date and you can view our upcoming programme at www.aber.ac.uk/en/about-us/150-anniversary/150-events/



■ London 18 October 2022

A special celebration was held in the company of alumni at the London Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, a fitting location, as it was here, at the heart of the city that the vision of a University for Wales became a reality. Guest speaker Huw Edwards spoke of the long-lasting connection between London and Wales and the influence in particular of the Welsh in London on Higher Education in Wales and beyond.



■ Cardiff 19 October 2022

Alumni, friends, supporters, staff and students gathered to celebrate at Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay in the company of the First Minister of Wales, Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford MS and alumna the Llywydd, Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS.

It was an opportunity not only to look back and reflect on our history, but to look ahead to the future, remaining true to our founding principles of delivering an inclusive education and innovative research responding to the needs of our time.

Founders' Day

■ Aberystwyth 14 October 2022

To commemorate the day when 25 students were welcomed to the Old College by Principal Thomas Charles Edwards in October 1872, staff, students, alumni and members of the local community came together for the annual procession to kick the bar on the Promenade led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure. This was followed by a celebratory breakfast at The Great Hall and the launch of the anniversary publication *Ceiniogau'r Werin / The Pennies of the People*.



South East Asia visit 2022

Chancellor, Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd along with Vice Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure and University delegation visited Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore where well attended alumni gatherings were held.

The University is grateful to our alumni and friends for their invaluable support as we continue to grow our global network. A particular thank you to the Alumni Club of Malaysia who were also celebrating their recent 30th anniversary and officially launched their anniversary book '30 years of the Aber Spirit in Malaysia' in the company of HRH Tuanku Muhriz.

Vision for the 150th

The establishment of the first University College in Wales is one of the great stories of pioneering achievement in the modern history of Wales. It was founded on the principles not only of academic excellence but also of inclusion, of opening doors and welcoming all, irrespective of their background, a commitment that remains true today.



Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
- Director of Welsh Language, Culture and External Engagement

We began with a vision that our 150th Anniversary would provide opportunities to raise and enhance the profile of the University among alumni, supporters, stakeholders and new audiences across Wales, the UK and globally. We wanted to highlight the University's proud track record and continuing focus on excellence in teaching and research, growing over the years to become today's thriving community of more than 8,000 staff and students, offering one of the best student experiences in the UK.

We also wanted to arrange a series of celebratory events and activities that would give as full a reflection as possible of the University's unique story, its legacy, and its future direction. It is also an opportunity to celebrate with our students, staff and local community who have all played a part in shaping Aber.

Together, the articles you can read in this edition of *PROM* capture what we had set out to do. We celebrate the deep legacy of the institution's long and rich history in the fascinating anniversary volume, *Ceiniogau'r Werin / Pennies of the People*, how that volume transpired, and the people behind the objects bought alive within the covers of the book. The remarkable story of Mathematics, one of the founding disciplines from the first days of the University College turns to look at a fascinating aspect of the Department's research which is in a high-profile and potentially contentious area of energy production. The Dewis Choice Project is in a very different field and seeks to make a difference by improving awareness and support for people in vulnerable situations. November's



Festival of Research highlighted a range of research and knowledge exchange interests across and within disciplines and speaks to our role as a research-led University. Our ambition to seek new avenues, responding to needs locally and further afield, can be seen plainly in the establishment of our exciting new Nursing provision.

Reaching out to people and getting people involved has been key to our 150th Anniversary programme providing us with an opportunity to reflect on the last 150 years and look forward to the next 150 and beyond. There have been countless life-changing moments that have made Aberystwyth University what it is today. It is our relationship with our University community, our local community and our alumni community all over the world which we have sought to re-affirm at every opportunity. From our 150th drone footage, the exciting Open Programme and events in Aberystwyth, Cardiff, London and Southeast Asia, thousands have taken part in some shape or form.

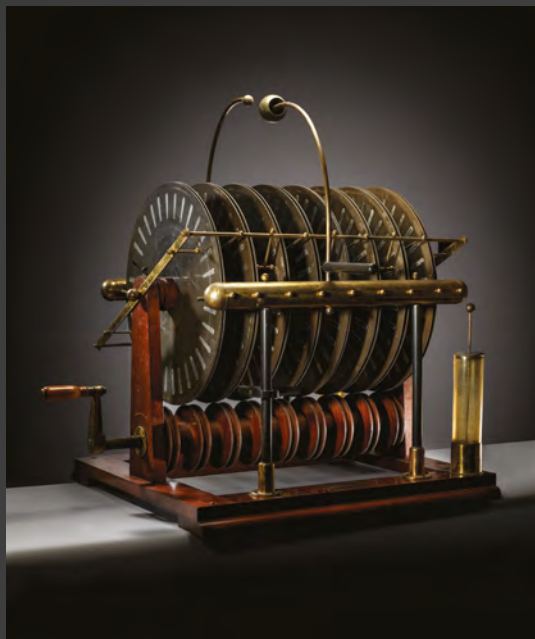
Thank you all for your continued support and we hope that you will feel inspired to get involved. We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at our future planned events and activities as our Anniversary year draws to a close in the summer.

The Pennies of the People

The Pennies of the People was published as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations. Here are just a few of the 150 fascinating objects which feature in the book. These beautiful photographs have been taken by Aberystwyth-based photographer Rolant Dafis.



This leather-bound volume contains the handwritten details of the very first students to arrive in Aberystwyth in October 1872. It's the first in a set of ten registers kept between 1872 and 1909, and now preserved in our archives.



Shortly after X-rays were discovered by Professor Wilhelm Röntgen in Germany in 1895, physicists in Aberystwyth built their first X-ray tubes at the Old College. These were powered by hand-driven generators such as this Wimshurst machine, which remains a centrepiece of the Department of Physics' collection of instruments.



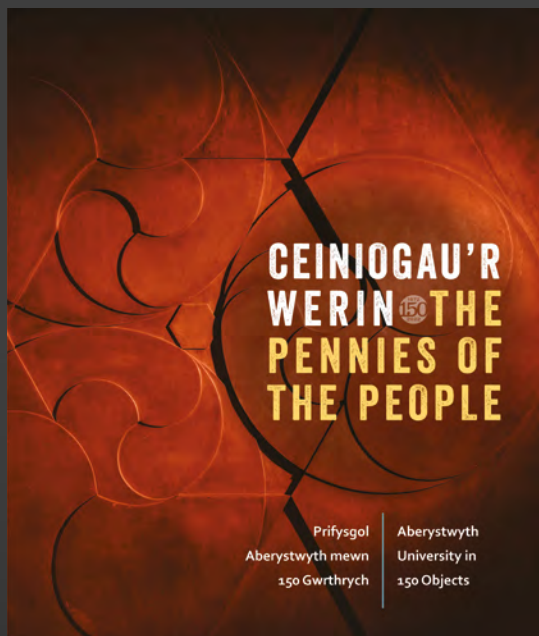
In 1882, George Ernest John Powell of Nanteos bequeathed pictures, objects of art, antiquities and curiosities from his collection to the University's first museum. The bequest included this enamelled silver and rock crystal casket (Austria, c.1880), which is reputed to have once held a fragment of composer Robert Schumann's coffin.



The B421 prison badge worn by alumnus and bard Gwenallt (David James Jones) when he was imprisoned as a conscientious objector during World War One at Dartmoor, and earlier at Wormwood Scrubs. Gwenallt's family gifted the badge along with other personal items and manuscripts to the University's Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies in 2022.






Formed by five students in 1967, Y Blew made history as the first Welsh-language rock band. This promotional poster for the band's only single 'Maes B' was designed by bass guitarist and law student Dafydd Evans. Another law undergraduate, Martin R Williams, kept a copy of the poster in his student scrapbook.



The cast aluminium mural in the foyer of Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Penglais campus provided the inspiration for the front cover of the book. The mural was designed by David Tinker (1924-2000), artist, sculptor, stage designer and Director of the University's Visual Art Department (now the School of Art) between 1973 and 1986.

Win a copy of the book!

See page 25

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-  Aberystwyth Alumni

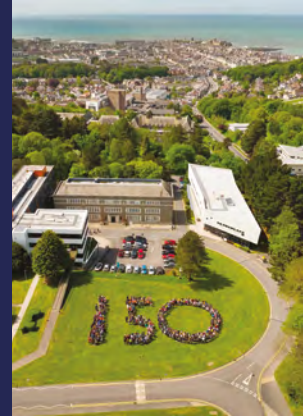
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