





Introduction

I am pleased to present to you the National Library's Annual Review for 2022-2023. As we reflect on our accomplishments and progress, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the dedicated team and our valued supporters who have made these achievements possible.

In this annual review, you will discover the remarkable journey we have embarked on, the milestones we have reached, and the vision that propels us forward. Our commitment to preserving and sharing Wales' cultural heritage remains unwavering, and this past year has seen us take significant strides towards achieving our goals.

We have continued to expand our digital collections, making Wales' rich history and culture more accessible to an ever-growing global audience. Our partnerships with institutions such as the University of Wales Trinity Saint David have strengthened our impact and extended our reach, helping to illuminate the brilliance of Welsh contributions to the world.

I am particularly pleased that the dedication of our staff and partners has seen the establishment of the Wales Broadcast Archive. The archive will be a valuable resource for the preservation of Wales' cultural heritage, history and media content. It will serve educational, research, cultural and historical purposes and will play a vital role in promoting understanding and appreciation of Welsh culture and society. The newly developed innovative Wales Broadcast Archive Centre at the National Library and the 'clip corners' around Wales will allow members of the public and communities free access to invaluable archival material. We are grateful to BBC Wales, S4C, ITV Cymru, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Welsh Government for their support and co-operation in establishing this new service for the people of Wales.

Another new and exciting partnership established is the one between the National Library and the Smithsonian in Washington, which has led to the return of the 1924 Welsh Women's Peace Petition to Wales. The Peace Petition was a significant event in Welsh history and is a historically important example of women's participation in peace campaigns and their efforts to prevent future conflicts in the aftermath of the First World War. Nearly 400,000 Welsh women signed the petition and while it did not lead to immediate policy changes, it contributed to the wider peace movement and raised awareness about the importance of peace and disarmament. The petition is now being digitised and will be the focus of our main crowdsourcing project during 2023/2024.

We have also welcomed the opportunity to work closely with the Welsh Government and our partners at the Welsh Arts Council and Amgueddfa Cymru in developing a National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. This is a truly exciting development as it will provide an excellent platform for our artists to showcase their great works, promote creativity and gain economic, educational and social benefits, whilst contributing to both the wider art world and the discourse.

Furthermore, our commitment to education and community engagement is at the heart of our mission. We have reached out to learners of all ages, providing resources and support for the curious minds who seek knowledge and inspiration. Our exhibitions, events, and outreach programs have sparked a deeper appreciation for the cultural tapestry that makes Wales unique.

In this annual review, you will see evidence of our progress, including the stories and achievements of the people who have been touched by the National Library of Wales. The pages are filled with the heart-warming narratives that reflect the profound impact our work has had on individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.

As we look ahead, our commitment to our mission remains steadfast. We are driven by the belief that preserving and celebrating our cultural heritage is essential for the well-being of future generations. We envision a future where the National Library of Wales continues to be a beacon of knowledge, inspiration, and cultural pride.

Thank you for your ongoing support, dedication, and enthusiasm. The National Library of Wales would not be what it is today without you. We are excited about the journey that lies ahead, and we invite you to join us in shaping the future of Wales through the power of knowledge and culture.

Pedr ap Llwyd
Chief Executive and Librarian

Delivering the Strategic Plan

LGC NLW LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

A Library for Wales and the World

_Strategic Plan 2021-26

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

_Strategic and Well-being Objectives

- 1 Cultivate and care for the nation's memory
- 2 Lay the foundation for a knowledge economy
- 3 Be at the heart of national life
- 4 Empower learning and research

60,000 works of art

2,134,000 metres of film

150,000 hours of sound

1,500,000 maps

950,000 photographs

1,900 cubic meters of archives – that means around 25,000 individual collections

6,000,000 books and newspapers

40,000 manuscripts



Cultivate and care for the nation's memory

DELIVERING THE WORK

Dorothy Bonarjee Archive

The National Library recently received a manuscript containing poems by an Indian poet called Dorothy Noel 'Dorf' Bonarjee (1894–1983). She was born in Bareilly near Delhi in northern India, but at the age of ten she and her family moved to London for the children's education, and 'Dorf' studied at the Dulwich High School for Girls, before choosing to study French at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1912. She won the college Eisteddfod chair in 1914 with a lyrical ode to Owain Lawgoch (a 14th century Welsh soldier) under the pseudonym 'Shita'. At the age of 19, Dorothy Bonarjee was the first woman, and the first foreign student, to win the Aberystwyth University Eisteddfod Chair competition.

She kept a collection of her verses in a black notebook which she left in her will to her niece Sheila Bonerjee, and this notebook is the basis for publishing her collection of poetry this year. The recent publication by Honno press gives us the opportunity to read some of her poems for the first time. See *The Hindu Bard: The poetry of Dorothy 'Dorf' Bonarjee* edited with an introduction

by Mohini Gupta and Andrew Whitehead (Welsh Women's Classics – Honno, 2023). Or you can read more about her in a new article in the online Dictionary of Welsh Biography.

The archive that came with the manuscript sheds new light on her life, and as well as the black book of poetry it contains photographs, family papers, and letters. It is a privilege for the Library to take care of the Dorothy Bonarjee Papers among our national treasures.



Mohini Gupta, Dominique Baron-Bonarjee, and Andrew Whitehead presenting Dorothy Bonarjee's Black Book to National Library of Wales' archivists, Rob Phillips and Miidong Daloeng



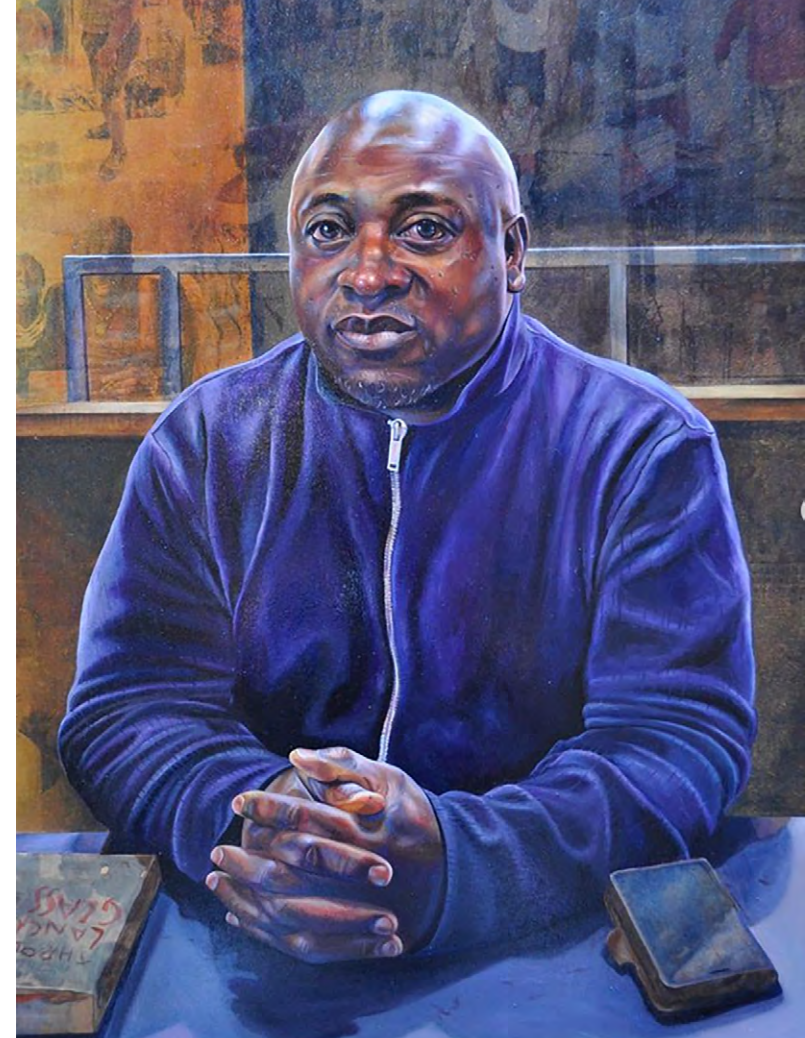
Portrait of Dorothy Bonarjee – National Library of Wales Collection



Y Fari Lwyd – Dr Adéqlá Dewis, 2023
© Adéqlá Dewis



The last place we shared – Jasmine Sheckleford, 2023
© Jasmine Sheckleford



Eric Ngalle Charles – Joshua Donkor, 2023 © Joshua Donkor

Decolonising the National Art Collection

In-line with the Welsh Government’s Anti-racist Wales Action Plan and as part of the National Library of Wales’ Anti-racist Project, the Library has commissioned four new artworks inspired by the Library’s collections, and in response to the difficult and challenging times in our history.

A portrait of writer, poet and playwright Eric Ngalle Charles created by Joshua Donkor was a valuable addition to the 15,000 items in the Library’s portrait archive.

Jasmine Violet based her work on a drawing and maps in the Library’s collections that portrayed

sugar plantations in 18th century Jamaica with a Welsh connection.

Mifklea Jean Samuel looked at how maps influence the way we look at the world, and drew inspiration from a map of British colonial possessions in West Africa in the late 1940s, circulated by the British Government’s Central Intelligence Office.

Dr Adéqlá Dewis focused on the links between the Mari Lwyd tradition and the Jonkonnu festival in Jamaica, using the Library’s graphic collections as a starting point.



Stepping stones – Jasmine Sheckleford, 2023 © Jasmine Sheckleford

Recent additions to the art collection

Other additions to our collection included the *Blodeuwedd* sculpture by Natalia Dias and the *Sitelines* film by Seán Vicary, both winners of the Gold Medal at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Ceredigion. The Library was delighted to be invited by the National Eisteddfod and CASW (Contemporary Art Society of Wales), to select the winners of the annual CASW award and to receive a monetary donation in order to purchase these works for the National Art Collection.

Other examples of works added to our National Art Collection this year were the 2 works created by contemporary artist Bedwyr Williams during the pandemic in 2020, a portrait of writer and activist Angharad Tomos by Luned Rhys Parri, and a series of powerful paintings based on the Mari Lwyd by Cive Hicks-Jenkins. Another important work which was added to our collections was the embroidery piece by Anya Painstil. With roots in Ghana and Wales, her work focusses on race and gender.



Dannedd Dodi – Anya Painstil, 2022
© Anya Painstil



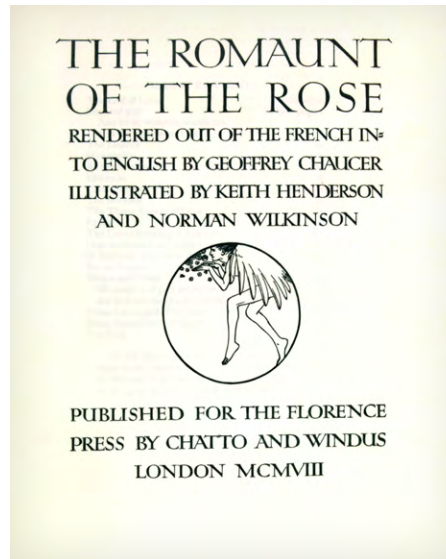
Artists of Instagram Solidarity in Insincerity – Bedwyr Williams, 2020
© Bedwyr Williams



Blodeuwedd
– Natalia Dias, 2022
© Natalia Dias

The National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales

During 2022-23 the National Library has worked in collaboration with its partners at Museum Wales and the Welsh Arts Council to establish a Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. The need for showcasing contemporary Welsh art, supporting emerging artists, and providing educational and cultural programmes has been recognised by the Library for a very long time, and this initiative by Welsh Government with the support of Plaid Cymru is a positive and important step forward in achieving those goals. Ensuring that the gallery is inclusive and accessible to people of all backgrounds and abilities is crucial and we look forward to work with partners on initiatives to make the gallery – in its various locations – a welcoming and diverse space.



Rare printed books

Highlights of printed material added to the Library's collections in 2022-2023 include the extremely rare volume *A briefe and short instruction of the art of musike* by Elway Bevin (1631) and also the 1908 edition of the French poem *The romaunt of the rose*.

A briefe and short instruction of the art of musicke 1631 was purchased in May 2022. The author, Elway Bevin was of Welsh heritage according to the antiquary Anthony Wood. He served as choirmaster and organist in Wells Cathedral, before being appointed as a member of the choir of the Chapel Royal through the influence of Godfrey Goodman, Bishop of Gloucester; there are a number of books and papers relating to the Goodman



The romaunt of the rose – a translation by Geoffrey Chaucer, 1908

family already in the Library. This is a rare publication, of which only three other copies are known to exist in libraries in the United Kingdom.

An opportunity to add to the Library's collection of the French poem *The romaunt of the rose* presented itself in November 2022. The Library has by now 24 editions of this French poem published before 1550, which were acquired a century ago as part of the collection of Francis William Bourdillon. This addition to the collection is an English translation by Chaucer, published by the Florence Press as a limited edition of 12 copies on vellum with coloured illustrations in a pre-Raphaelite style.

Lay the foundation for a knowledge economy

DELIVERING THE WORK





The Wales Broadcast Archive

The Wales Broadcast Archive Centre was opened at the Library in March 2023 with the launch of the first national broadcast archive in the UK. By bringing together the archives of BBC Wales, ITV Cymru and S4C for the first time, hundreds of thousands of video clips from radio and television history will now be made available to the people of Wales.

The Broadcast Archive Centre not only gives access to a century of Welsh broadcasting history, but to a century of Welsh history. It has stories from all corners and communities in Wales and beyond.

The landmark moments of our history have been recorded for future generations through documentary items and general news, covering events such as the drowning of Tryweryn, the Aber-fan disaster, the Miners' strikes and the opening of Parliament. Also among them are clips showing all aspects of life, from extensive coverage of sport since the 1940s, to

entertainment and drama including the BBC's longest running soap opera – *Pobol y Cwm* – which premiered in 1974.

The permanent exhibition uses state-of-the-art interactive technology to showcase highlights of the Broadcast Archive. The Centre features an audio and video lounge which acts as audio-visual bookshelves for leisurely browsing and the key service is being delivered through terminals that enables unprecedented access for the public and academics to access an extensive collection of digitised material from Wales' audio-visual heritage. It will also be a venue for bespoke activities for volunteers, schools and groups.

As one of the most important developments for the Library since the beginning of this century, the opening of the Archive Centre in Aberystwyth marks a major milestone in the project to establish the Welsh Broadcasting Archive with the support of the National

Lottery Heritage Fund, the Welsh Government and the National Library of Wales.

With the foundation now laid, it is the beginning of the next phase of introducing our broadcasting heritage to the people of Wales, through a vibrant programme of events and activities and by widening access to it at other sites across Wales. During 2023–24 we will establish a strong presence for the Broadcast Archive at the Cardiff Millennium Centre and will open Clip Corners where members of the public will be able to watch and listen to the thousands of broadcasts. The first Clip Corner will open in Carmarthen in the summer, and others across Wales in Caernarfon, Swansea, Conwy, Merthyr, Wrexham, Haverfordwest, Llangefni, Llanrwst, Ebbw Vale, Newtown, Cardiff, and Ruthin.



Developing a Play Area for Young Children

During the spring of 2022 a Play Area was opened for children up to age of 7. This popular area provides children with a variety of opportunities to play that stimulate the senses and arouse curiosity. It includes a reading library, traditional and technological activities, and places for adults to supervise their children or join in the play.

Some of our youngest users now come to the Library specifically for building with blocks, colouring and drawing, shopping, dressing up and role-playing, setting up camp and reading under the stars, and going on a trip to the seaside or to the forest.

Those who visit the Play Area do so as a family, as a group of families or as Grŵp Meithrin or Cylch Ti a Fi. It is all free, and there is no need to book in advance.

Be at the heart of national life

DELIVERING THE WORK

According to the Conference of 1848. So reconciliation make the Then, ac and a m 1848, a and Gre of Pea Americ Tregar

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has already been other nations at Washington armaments, and at Geneva in the humanitarian put an end to the detestable traffic in women and children and also in the maturing of plans for combating the trade in opium and in other noxious drugs. And we hail with delight the movement now on foot to secure for America, with her noble traditions, direct participation in the functions of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The future is big with hope if we, as the women of this generation, do our part. To us has come an opportunity as real as the responsibility is grave. We would, therefore, appeal to you, Women of the United States of America, "with malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right" to aid in the effort to hand down to the generations which come after us the proud heritage of a warless world.

When the World War and make com... recollection of the comradeship between citizen and a son of Wales in the cause of Peace, together with the knowledge of our joint sacrifice in the agony of War that emboldens us to address to you this Appeal.

NAME.	ADDRESS.
Mary Hughes	Blaen Llynant Aber
Alice Maud Fletcher Owen	Blaenllynant Aberystwyth.
Annie Ellen Jones	Blaenllynant Aberystwyth
Jane Ellen Griffiths	Froscavor House Aberystwyth
Annette M. Harries	Bellvue Hotel Aberystwyth
Muriel Edwards	Bellvue Hotel, Aberystwyth
Jessie Woollers	Bellvue Hotel, Aberystwyth

The Welsh Women's Peace Petition

A hundred-year-old Peace Petition signed by nearly 400,000 Welsh women has arrived back in Wales from the United States for the first time in a century, and to its new home at the National Library of Wales.

In 1923, after the horrific losses of the First World War, Welsh women organised a remarkable campaign for peace. 390,296 women signed the petition appealing to American women to call on the US government to join the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, thereby realising the hope of international peace. The Petition was presented to American women in New York in the spring of 1924 and the papers and chest in which they were carried were preserved at the National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian, in Washington DC.

Since 2019, the 'Hawlio Heddwch' Partnership Committee worked with the National Library of Wales to borrow the chest and some of the Petition papers as part of a programme of activities to celebrate the centenary. Subsequent discussions with the Smithsonian resulted in the chest being transferred to the National Library.

Representatives from Academi Heddwch Cymru, Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu Cymru and the United States, Welsh Government, the National

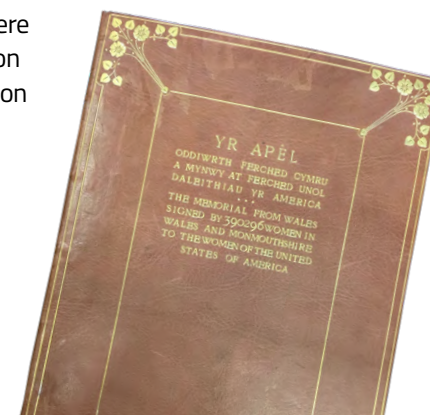


Annie Jane Hughes Griffiths with the Welsh Women's Peace Petition and the deputation that went out to Washington, March 1924 (left to right): Mrs Gladys Thomas, Miss Mary Ellis and Miss Elined Prys

Library of Wales and representatives from Aberystwyth University came to the National Library and joined online to welcome the Petition on its arrival, and were addressed by Deputy Minister Dawn Bowden.

The Petition and chest will be a prominent feature in the centenary celebrations during 2023-24, and will be digitised by specialist teams at the Library. This will ensure that people across Wales and beyond can discover their history and browse

the Petition on the web. A national campaign will be launched to transcribe all Petition signatures to enable the public to search it and to find out exactly who these Welsh women were who went in search of peace. The Petition papers, the oak chest in which the Petition was transported to the United States, and items from the personal archive of campaign leader Annie Hughes Griffiths will also be on display at the Library in Aberystwyth until February 2023.





Degas comes to Haverfordwest

An ambitious exhibition was opened at Oriol Glan-yr-afon, Haverfordwest, in May 2022 under the title *The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour: Trem | Gaze*. The centerpiece was the exquisite portrait of *Hélène Rouart in her Father's Study* by Edgar Degas, and also included a number of portraits from the National Welsh Portrait Collection held in the National Library of Wales. The exhibition was officially opened by Ashok Ahir, President of The National Library of Wales and Jane Knowles, Head of Exhibitions at The National Gallery.

The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour is sponsored by Christie's.

The exhibition aims to contextualise Degas' painting through an exploration of the female form in art, considering the 'male gaze' theory, through the eyes of both female and male Welsh artists such as Seren Morgan Jones and Sir Kyffin Williams.

The Riverside centre also hosted an excellent talk by Laura Llewellyn, Associate Curator at the National Gallery who gave the audience a vivid and intriguing history of the painting, the subject of the portrait and the artist himself.

The Riverside is a flagship cultural centre in the heart of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, which includes a national government indemnity gallery space which showcases collections from The National Library of Wales. Opened in December 2018, this high quality and pioneering facility and is already playing a central part in regenerating the town and wider area of Pembrokeshire.



Empower learning and research

DELIVERING THE WORK

Welsh Manuscripts: a ground-breaking contribution is published

Dr Daniel Huws' long-awaited *Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts and Scribes c.800–c.1800* was finally published in June 2022 – in three volumes – to coincide with the author's 90th birthday. The proud joint-publishers and sponsors were the National Library of Wales and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies.

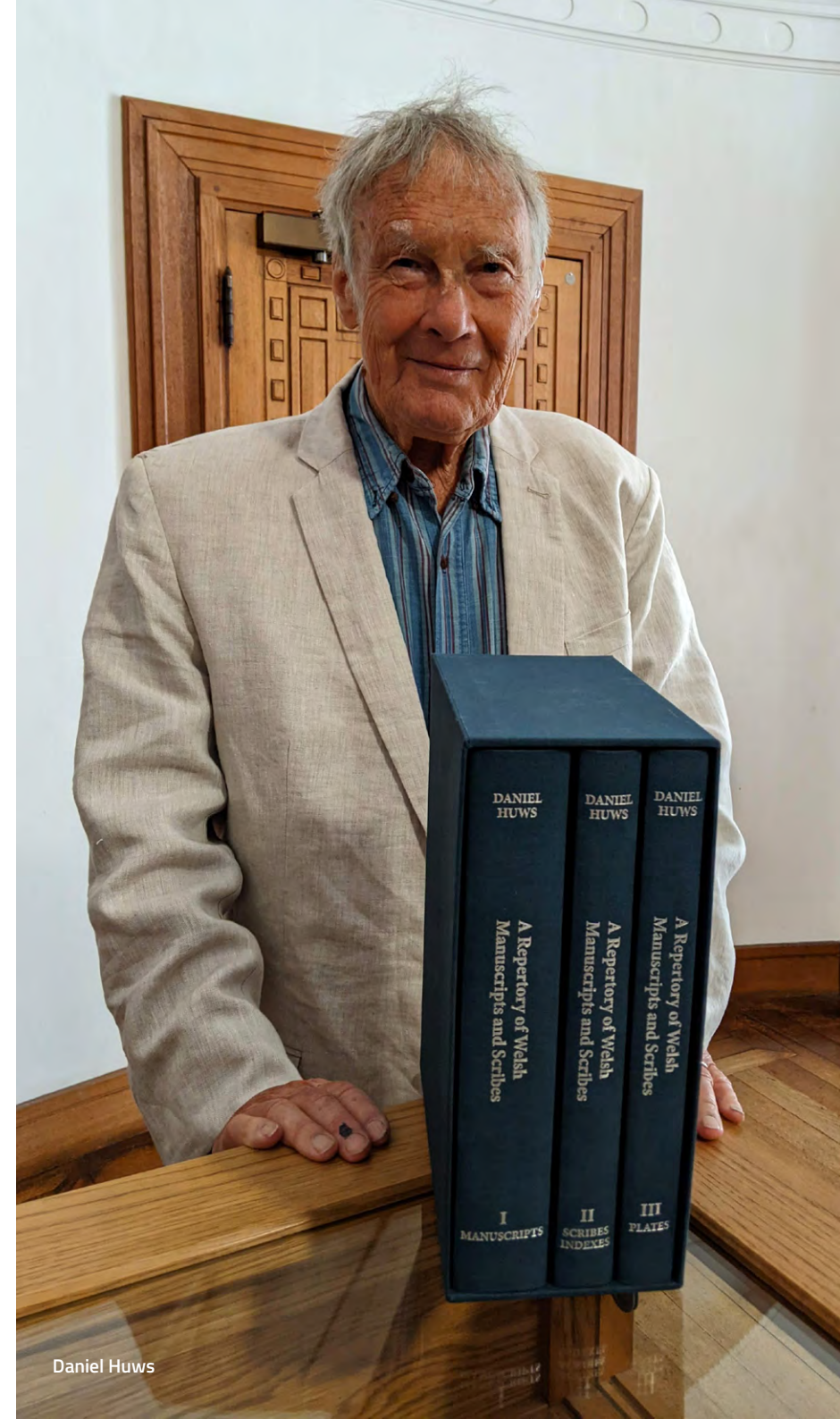
A copy of the publication was formally presented to the Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford M.S., First Minister of Wales, in a ceremony at the Gregynog Gallery on 20 June, at the beginning of a well-attended three-day conference at the Library on all aspects of Welsh manuscript studies. Daniel's remarkable scholarship was further recognised by the presentation of the prestigious Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion Medal for lifetime achievement at the close of conference proceedings.

The national significance of the event was acknowledged both in an Early Day Motion tabled at Westminster, and by the Speaker in the Welsh Senedd, in what must be an unprecedented political acknowledgement of the importance of modern-day manuscript scholarship, and its relevance to the people of Wales.

The *Repertory* is an ambitious study of pre-1800 Welsh manuscripts, those written in Welsh or relating to Wales. It provides new catalogue descriptions of manuscripts in a myriad of repositories, in Wales and beyond, including the National Library. It also presents ground-breaking biographies of known scribes, and a portfolio of handwriting examples, chronologically arranged, charting the development of Welsh palaeography over a millennium. It is, seemingly, unique in its concept and presentation.

The author, who was Keeper of Manuscripts and Records at the Library until his retirement in 1992, has spent well over thirty years undertaking research, visiting repositories, and undertaking in-depth analysis of many hundreds of manuscripts. His continued visits to the National Library delighted staff and readers, who benefitted from his company and learning: he is our longest-standing volunteer!

The results of Daniel's endeavours are likely to set a new standard for Welsh literary and historical scholarship through this publication, and the *Repertory* will significantly advance learning in these fields for decades to come.



Daniel Huws

Research Centre for the Literature and History of Medicine in Wales

In October 2022 a Research Centre for the Literature and History of Medicine in Wales was established as part of the Manuscript and Book Network partnership between Aberystwyth University and the National Library of Wales. At the heart of the Centre's work promoting academic research on the literature and history of medicine is the National Library's Medical Science Collection, established through the sponsorship and support from the Wellcome Trust. This collection offers access to a wealth of resources and literary and historical sources and it is hoped that the establishment of the Centre will inspire more work from experienced researchers as well as attracting young researchers to the field to interpret the evidence presented in the archives.

To mark the official opening of the Centre a one-day conference was held in the Drwm where papers were presented discussing aspects of research areas relevant to the mission and work of the Medical Centre.

The Welsh Political Archive

Launch of the Ann Clwyd Archive Project

A special event was held in the Library on 23 March 2023 discussing Ann Clwyd's career and campaigns, and to launch the project to catalogue and study Ann Clwyd's papers which had been presented to the Welsh Political Archive. There were contributions by Ann Clwyd, Oliver Craner, Dr James Vaughan, Rob Phillips and Siân Smith who had been appointed to catalogue this rich archive in December 2022.

The Library is grateful to the Estate of Ann Clwyd for partially funding this post.



Gareth Vaughan Jones digital archive

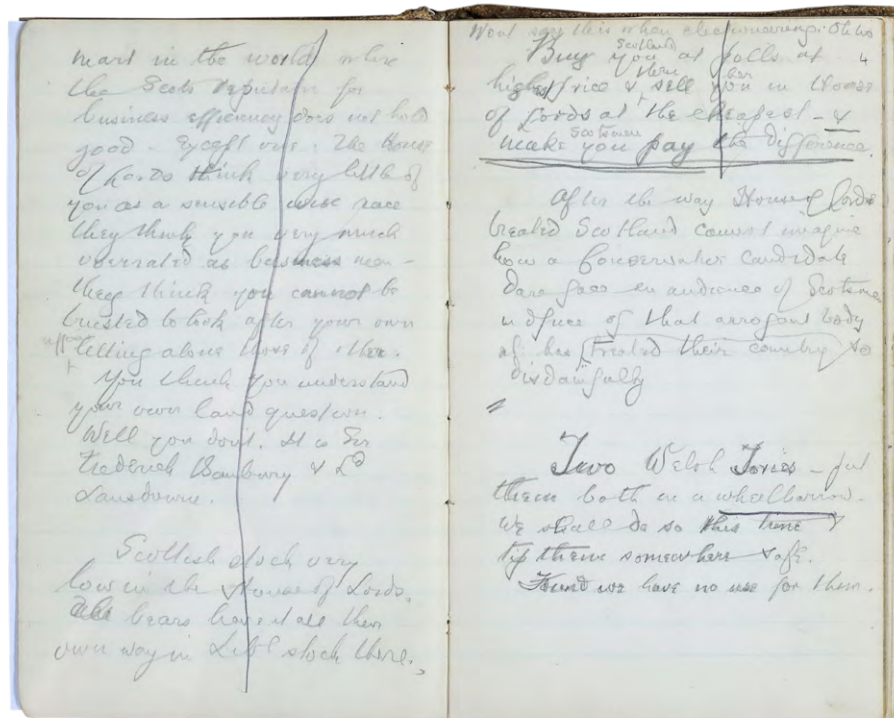
An event to honour Gareth Jones' contribution to journalism and international affairs and to celebrate the completion of the digitisation of his archive was held in Senedd on 12 May 2022. He made a notable contribution as a journalist reporting on the Holodomor in Ukraine, the tensions in Europe in the mid-1930s and the growth of the Nazi Party in Germany.

The event was sponsored by Mick Antoniw MS and guests included representatives of Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation who sponsored the digitisation work, along with Welsh Government ministers, Members of the Senedd, members of the

Welsh Political Archive Advisory Committee, trustees of the National Library of Wales and members of Gareth Vaughan Jones' family. Julian Lewis Jones read extracts from Gareth's diaries describing the conditions he witnessed while travelling through Ukraine to report on the Holodomor in early 1933.

David Lloyd George's Election Notebook (NLW MS 24179)

With generous assistance from the Friends of the National Libraries, the Library purchased a notebook containing David Lloyd George's thoughts and notes for speeches during the December 1910 General Election campaign. The Liberals had already called and won an election on the issue of the People's Budget earlier in 1910 but a further election was called when they sought a mandate to limit the power of the House of Lords. The notes are full of Lloyd George's characteristic rhetorical flourish and attacks on the House of Lords and the Conservative Party more widely.



David Lloyd George's Election Notebook

Workers' Educational Association (North Wales) Archive

The archive of the Workers' Educational Association North Wales branch, detailing the history of the organisation, policy development, the history of the various branches and tutors and the impact of the Second World War was donated to the Library in June 2022. The archive is also

significant due to the appointment of Mary Silyn Roberts as Secretary following the death of her husband, R. Silyn Roberts as well as connections with Coleg Harlech, the then University College of North Wales and the International People's College in Denmark.

Welsh Political Archive Annual Lecture

The 2022 Annual Lecture was delivered by BBC journalist Huw Edwards. He spoke about the portrayal of Wales in the news and gave a fascinating insight into attitudes towards Wales in the media before and after devolution.

Letter from Winston Churchill to Eliot Crawshay-Williams

A bundle of letters from Winston Churchill to Eliot Crawshay-Williams where Crawshay-Williams was encouraged to seek the Liberal nomination in the Chorley constituency were purchased at auction in December 2022. Crawshay-Williams lost the election and was later elected as MP for Leicester although he was forced to resign due to his role in a divorce case involving another MP.



Volunteering – Celebrating 10 Years

This year was a very special year as the Volunteering Scheme celebrated its 10th anniversary. More than 300 volunteers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have now given their time to support the Library while having the opportunity to develop their skills and socialise. During the year, 82 individuals gave over 5,600 volunteering hours while carrying out 24 tasks.

Many volunteers are now working in a new room for volunteer work that was opened as part of the development of the Clip Centre for the Wales Broadcast Archive in the South Reading Room. The aim of this room is to make volunteering work more visible and to

give volunteers more opportunity to work in groups and socialise.

The partnership between the volunteering scheme and the People's Collection Wales programme continues, and a number of postgraduate students who have recently become volunteers are receiving accredited digitization training.

A new project was launched this year to help maintain the Library's flower gardens, and we are working with The Recorder of the Gorsedd on another new task to create a comprehensive list of members of The Gorsedd of the Bards from 1860 onwards.

Virtual volunteers have been tagging and describing photos from the Library's collection of Photo Books from the 19th century on our crowdsourcing platform. There are 245 albums and tens of photos in each, and more than 75% of the collection is now complete.

Summer of Fun Workshops

Many young people came to the Library over the summer in order to learn and have fun by being part of workshops on different themes. These sessions were part of the Library's contribution to supporting the Welsh Government's Summer of Fun scheme to help children and young people recover from the pandemic through the school holiday enrichment programme. 12 workshops were presented on three themes that ranged from creating Lego models of the Library building, to learning about scientists from Wales, and learning about the history,



construction and architecture of the Library building. Young people took part in fun experiments while learning about the scientists William Grove (hydrogen energy experiment), Mary Dillwyn Llewelyn (photography experiment) and Megan Watts Hughes (idiophone experiment). They also had the opportunity to visit unfamiliar and remote locations, including the tunnel that runs under the foundations of the Library.

Famous Welsh People creating a website

This year the Education Service started on the work of producing a website in order to present information to children and young people about famous people from Welsh history. The project will present information about 100 Welsh celebrities, mainly by adapting the content of The Dictionary of Welsh Biography for younger users.

10% of the articles will include individuals from a minority ethnic background, and half of the articles will include information about women. A new website will be created to display the new articles, together with 10 videos that will be produced by schools across Wales of celebrities from their areas.

Wellbeing

Social Prescribing

The Library's Volunteering Unit collaborates with a number of agencies that support vulnerable or isolated people and refer volunteers to us. When working with people who are referred to us we are able to discuss the specific needs and expectations of each potential volunteer, trying to identify tasks that match their interests. We also support them as far as we can to overcome obstacles in terms of confidence and skills, and meet them regularly to discuss satisfaction and progress in carrying out a task or project.

This year the agencies have included Workways Plus, Hywel Dda Board's Mental Health Team, Barod Cymru, Cyfle Cymru, Agoriad Cyf, Ceredigion County Council, The Red Cross, Shaw Trust and AgeCymru. We have also received a number of individuals who self-refer to volunteer with us because they lack confidence, or are lonely and want to expand their social horizons.



Wellbeing in the workplace

During the reporting year we continued with our bilingual General Wellbeing sessions for staff, presented by Cana Consulting.

The COVID-19 period proved that the Library could adapt to new working practices. Subsequently, the Hybrid Working Policy was implemented for individuals who work in roles that were suitable. To support this, staff were offered training organised by the Welsh Unions Learning Fund which dealt with topics such as mental health, mindfulness, and effective remote working.

Developing future management staff

As part of its staff development plan, the Library held courses staff in order foster excellence in all areas of responsibility and to supply the Library's services. In the last year a number of

staff succeeded in their ILM Level 4/ Level 5 qualification in Leadership and Management. This ensures that staff have the appropriate skills in order to deliver the Library's services effectively.

Welsh learners

At the National Eisteddfod of Wales Ceredigion 2022, Mina Barnden, our Audio-visual Digital Curation Officer received the Welsh Learner in the Workplace award for her dedication to learning the language and success in her exams. Mina was inspired to learn Welsh when she came to work at the Library.

People's Collection Wales

The Library offers a program of activities, training opportunities and skills development sessions across Wales for learners of all ages, with much of this work taking place through the People's Collection Wales project. This project, in collaboration with Amgueddfa Cymru and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales provides a website that brings together the heritage of Wales and protects it for future generations.

During 2022-2023 People's Collection staff presented 121 sessions that included training on how to organize, scan and digitize photographs and documents, scanning and digitizing to the standard of museums, archives and libraries, oral history training, and information about copyright and meta data.

During 2022-23 the People's Collection has supported Mencap Cymru with an oral history project to collect and document the history of the Mencap service in Stackpole, Ceredigion and Chepstow, Monmouthshire. The level of support varies from one project to the next, but usually includes offering training that enables communities and groups to collect, curate and present their own stories in digital formats ranging from photographs to oral history.



Pedr ap Iwlyd, Chief Executive and Librarian and Rhian Gibson, Director of Communications, Engagement and Partnerships with members of the Aberystwyth branch of Blood Bikes Wales

Blood Bikes Wales partnership

In September 2022 the Library announced a new partnership with the Blood Bikes Wales charity that provides a completely free of charge, rapid response courier service for the National Health Service. By providing storage for the charity's motor bikes the Library is glad to support the work of the Aberystwyth branch of Blood Bikes Wales as they provide a service for Bronglais Hospital, smaller local hospitals, Minor Injuries Units and Integrated Care Centres in the region.

The local Aberystwyth group of Blood Bikes Wales currently comprises 20 riders, 2 controllers, and a dedicated support team of fundraisers and admin volunteers. This is the smallest Blood Bike group in

Wales despite covering the largest geographical area, responding to over 600 calls a year and travelling approximately 25,000 miles annually.

Since establishing the partnership between the Library and Blood Bikes Wales exactly a year ago, the charity's Aberystwyth group has responded to around 400 requests to help the National Health Service, and in doing so have increased its operating hours by approximately 15%. This includes the recent introduction of a completely new service of providing a scheduled daily transfer of pathology samples from Bronglais Hospital Blood Sciences to other Hywel Dda Blood Sciences Laboratories.

A Warm Welcome in the Library

During 2022 the Library became a member of Ceredigion Council and CAVO's Warm Spaces network, offering a dedicated room for the public where people can work, read or relax. As more people faced a challenging time we were particularly happy to provide a place where people can have free internet access making it ideal for people who do not wish to work from home, or want company in a different location where they can socialise and keep warm.



Sustainability

Decarbonisation and Net Zero

The National Library of Wales' Decarbonisation Project was implemented in order to reduce emissions and meet the Welsh Government's ambition of a collective net zero public sector by 2030. The Library is ambitious in its aims and timescale, and work continued at pace for the project which was started in 2021.

Progress was made across a wide range of areas which include: thermal structural studies, secondary glazing studies, shifting from gas boilers to air and ground source heat pumps, and photovoltaic panel installations for both ground and roofs. After initial surveys, work packages have been designed and costed and tenders submitted for work to be carried out throughout 2023/24.

Work was completed on the installation of EV chargers on the Library grounds in February 2023. The National Library has 10 75kw EV chargers and 30 22kw chargers providing capacity for a total of 40 EVs making the National Library the largest charging hub in Wales.



The Communities of Wales Project

During 2022-23, the Library has launched the Communities of Wales project that tells the story of the various communities in Wales. This work is funded from the Welsh Government's anti-racism fund.

A project with Monkton School in Pembrokeshire and gypsy and traveller communities focussed on the importance of stories and storytelling within the traveller community. Respecting the background and traditions of people who are different from each other were central to all the activities. Legends and stories are an integral part of the Welsh tradition and the traditions of the Gypsy communities alike, making the Library's collections very suitable for supporting the work.

Another project was one with Cathays High School, Cardiff Commitment and UNIFY to look at the history of Cardiff's communities. This work led to the production of a mural based on the project on the external walls of the school, to raise awareness of the work through visual presence. Another project focused on the Welsh diaspora from Portugal, working with Bodhyfryd School, Wrexham, the People's Collection and Tŷ Pawb on the idea of Cynefin, which is central to the new curriculum.

In each of these projects, the team worked with champions within the communities in order to raise the profile of the work and give it fuller credibility. We were able to support and enrich the work with relevant items from the Library's collections, and use them to contribute to creating a better understanding of history and identity.

Decolonising Archives Project – appointing our Archives Decolonisation Officer

The National Library of Wales is determined to ensure that its collections and services are more representative of the various aspects of Welsh life and history. We will play an active part in creating an Anti-racist Wales and to deliver on the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan announced by Welsh Government. In order to achieve this, Miidong P. Daloeng was appointed as Archives Decolonization Project Officer in January 2023 to work on a 2-year project. This post will play a key role in finding ways to lift the barriers to heritage and cultural collections through relevant, innovative and engaging experiences that appeal to a range of communities.



Miidong will start by familiarizing herself with the Library's vast collections and will work towards publishing an online diversity Calendar for Wales and the World. The calendar will mark religious, cultural, awareness and diversity days, as well as memorial events, and public holidays using the National Library's rich collections, with references to relevant books, archives and manuscripts, photographs and images, audio-visual material and digitized collections.

An opportunity for all

The National Library Volunteering Scheme is open to all and is proactive in providing opportunities and that ensure inclusiveness for those with disabilities. In 2022-23 10% of our volunteers faced physical or mental barriers to the workplace, 5% of our volunteers were disabled and 18% were unemployed.

The new volunteer room opened in 2023 includes provision for wheelchairs, and the Volunteering Unit has either worked with, or received training from the following bodies during 2022-23: The Neurodiverse Museum – Museums & Neurodiversity; Jobcentre Plus - Putting Capability First; CAVO

– Recruiting Volunteers post-Covid; WCVA – Social Prescribing Strategic Consultation; Hywel Dda Health Board – Drop-in session at Gorwelion on a quarterly basis. Library volunteers have also been subtitling NLW presentations on YouTube for the deaf.

Welsh Language

Library's Wikimedia expertise contributes towards creating a popular Welsh-language app

The Library and Wicipedia Cymru played a key role in developing the question bank for the new Welsh-language quiz app *Cwis Bob Dydd* which was launched on the 9th of November 2022. The app was commissioned by S4C in conjunction with the Department for the Welsh language, Welsh Government, reaching over 6,000 players by the end of the first season.



The app's aim is to provide a fun and accessible space to use the Welsh language on a daily basis, and to contribute toward the Welsh Government's *Cymraeg 2050* strategy.

The app requires a pool of thousands of questions to be offered daily, and the Library's expertise and contribution to the Wikidata database were key to being able to create a wide and meaningful range.

The Library has a partnership with WikimediaUK which commits us to sharing our data, content and information openly on Wikimedia platforms in order to expand access to our collections and to Welsh language data about all kinds of subjects. The Daily Quiz app is a special example of how this work contributes to the use and visibility of the Welsh language in everyday life.



The Volunteers Chat Club

The Volunteering Unit provides regular opportunities for volunteers to become more fluent in speaking Welsh and improve their language skills. As well as offering opportunities for an informal chat over a cup of tea, the chat club also provides an opportunity for our volunteers to improve their language skills. The Library's volunteers have benefited from these opportunities, and 3 of them managed to win prizes in the Learners' Pavilion at the Ceredigion National Eisteddfod, 2022.



Celebrating stories from the LGBTQ+ community: 'Queer Tales from Wales' Event

As part of the Library's LGBTQ+ Forum events, a Queer Tales from Wales event was held at the Drwm on 7 March, based on the life of Amy Dillwyn (1845-1935) – the activist, industrialist and author from Swansea. She campaigned tirelessly for women's rights and was an active member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Her uncle, John Dillwyn Llewellyn of Penlle'r-gaer was one of Wales' early photography innovators.

Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Denbighshire

With the Urdd celebrating its centenary, the theme for the Library's stall at the Denbighshire Urdd Eisteddfod (30 May – 4 June) was the history of the organisation itself and images from the Urdd collection held at the Library were to be seen on large panels across the Maes. Children and young people from all over Wales came to take part in a program of activities on the stand and to enjoy the exhibition which drew attention to the extensive collections about the Urdd which kept in the Library including video items from the Wales Broadcast Archive collection.



National Eisteddfod of Wales, Ceredigion 2022

The long-awaited National Eisteddfod in Tregaron saw us welcome visitors to the Eisteddfod to the Library stand with an exhibition about the history and culture of Tregaron and the surrounding area, drawing on the Library's various collections. For the first time a cinema room was included as part of the stall in order to show items from the Wales Broadcast Archive's collections and there was an opportunity to enjoy live music and activities for children as part of the week's

program. The Library hosted three events in Cymdeithasau 1 & 2, as well as events in Lle Celf and Tŷ Gwerin; our Art Curator, Morfudd Bevan, gave a talk at Y Lle Celf on the young artist that are being currently supported by the Library, and a 'From the Archives' session was held in Tŷ Gwerin with Gareth Bonello, Owen Shiers and Ceri Rhys Matthews who had been taking a fresh look at music archives in the Library and performing some of the new works that were inspired by the collections.

Betty Campbell: In Character

As part of the Children's Festival of Welsh History, actor Kim Abodurin shared a history lesson about a small area of Cardiff that has played a major role in the history of Wales over the past two hundred years. The one-person show about Betty Campbell looked at the life and career of the Butetown teacher, and was performed at the National Library during Black History Month.



Pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth

From the Racecourse to Qatar

Hundreds of children came to the Library to be part of a workshop on the history of the Welsh National Football teams during the campaign of the Welsh men's football team in the World Cup in Qatar. From the Racecourse to Qatar looked at the history of the men's and women's teams since the formation of the first national team in Wrexham in 1876. In the first session, pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth had the opportunity to enjoy a question and answer session with presenter and author Dylan Ebenezer.



Dylan Ebenezer at the National Library's Drwm

Celebrating Phyllis Kinney's contribution to the Welsh Music Archive

Another memorable event was a birthday party for Phyllis Kinney who celebrated her 100th birthday on 4 July. Phyllis Kinney was born in Michigan on 4 July 1922 and had a successful career as a singer, and then as a writer and researcher of traditional Welsh music. The archive of Phyllis Kinney and her husband Mered is held at the National Library, and the singer Gwenan Gibbard is researching the collection for her doctorate as part of a partnership with Bangor University and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

A concert was held at Oriel Gregynog with harpist Elinor Bennett performing and Eluned Evans (daughter of Phyllis Kinney and Meredydd Evans) gave an entertaining talk about her mother's life and work.

Elinor Bennet and Eluned Evans



Exhibitions

Working in partnership with the West Wales Veterans Archive and the Historic Branch of the RAF, the Library held an exhibition commemorating the Battle of Britain alongside a special event in the company of Lord Lieutenant Miss Sara Edwards and Second World War veterans in the spring of 2022.

The *Beautiful Books* exhibition provided an opportunity to highlight some of the Library's most elegant bindings, and to coincide with the arrival of the Ceredigion National Eisteddfod the *A Oes Heddwch?: Traditions of the Eisteddfod* looked at the development of the National

Eisteddfod. The *At Blant y Byd* (For the Children of the World) exhibition which looked at the history and development of the Urdd's Message of Peace and Goodwill received a huge amount of attention on *The One Show* as the organisation celebrated a notable milestone.

Another centenary was celebrated by hosting the *Geiriau | Words* exhibition with the University of Wales' Dictionary of the Welsh Language; it was a pleasure to work with the staff to bring our collections together in order to look back at the development of the Welsh dictionary from its earliest forms to the present day.



Pedr ap Iliwyd, Chief Executive and Librarian with Lord Lieutenant Miss Sara Edwards and World War II veterans at the launch of the exhibition to commemorate the Battle of Britain



For the first time in 30 years the public was given the opportunity to see a selection of prints from the Gregynog collection in the *Lasting Impressions: Gregynog Prints* exhibition celebrating the art collections of sisters Gwendoline and Margaret Davies and the work of Gregynog Press.

Among the treasures featured in the exhibition were forty etchings by Augustus John, Rembrandt's iconic self-portrait, and a set of rare and early proofs from James McNeill Whistler's Thames Set.

Having amassed one of the most important twentieth century art collections in Britain, the Davies' sisters were generous supporters of the National Library over the years, and in 1951, thanks to their generosity, the Gregynog Gallery was completed and decorated. The following year – a year after Gwendoline's death, Margaret donated a collection of valuable prints to the Library.

Llafur100

The Library hosted an event in the Pierhead in Cardiff in November 2022 to mark a century of Labour Party dominance of Welsh politics. Speakers during the day included the First Minister the Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford MS, Baroness Eluned Morgan MS, Sir Deian Hopkin and Professor Richard Wyn Jones and selected items from the Library's collections were on display. The Library also received a digital timeline marking significant events in the history of the Labour Party which can now be seen on our website at library.wales/llafur100



Exhibits from the Welsh Political Archive at the Llafur100 event at the Pierhead, Cardiff



Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford MS

Salem Returns Home to Ardudwy

As part of the Masterpieces in Schools event – one of the National Library of Wales' outreach projects – pupils at Llanbedr Primary School in Gwynedd were given the opportunity to see the famous *Salem* painting by Sydney Curnow Vosper in the locality that provided inspiration for the painting. The picture was exhibited at Llanbedr Primary School, the school closest to the site of the chapel that appears in the painting and was unveiled at the school's morning assembly so that the entire school had the opportunity to see it.

Pupils from Year 5 & 6 also participated in watercolour painting workshops based on the masterpiece, and looked in detail at the techniques used to create the picture. In a second workshop they looked at the Welsh costume, focusing on the paisley pattern of Siân Owen's shawl.

Later on in the year all pupils at Llanbedr School were invited to the National Library so that they could see where the painting is kept safely, and to learn more about other collections at the Library.

RECORD



Record: Folk, Protest and Pop

In the autumn of 2022 the Record: Folk, Protest and Pop exhibition opened at the Riverside gallery, Haverfordwest which explored the highlights of the music tradition in Wales throughout the centuries – from the crwth to Catatonia – using various items from The Welsh Music Archive and Screen and Sound Archive.

BBC 100 in Wales: Journalists' Highlights

As the BBC in Wales reaches a landmark milestone and celebrates a century of broadcasting to the nation, three of Wales' leading journalists came together to take part in a special event in the Drwm in the Library. Bethan Rhys Roberts, Felicity Evans and Wyre Davies examined some of the great stories of recent decades – the events of modern Wales as well as wars, the 9/11 attacks and stories that had changed the trajectory of world history – and discussed the importance of journalism in today's society with the aid of clippings from the BBC Archive at the Welsh Broadcast Archive.

Our Sincere Thanks

We wish to thank the Deputy Minister Dawn Bowden MS and her staff at Welsh Government and the organisations and individuals who have supported us financially and voluntarily given of their time and skills during 2022-2023. Donations and contributions such as this ensure that the National Library of Wales continues to fulfil its potential as a major cultural institution in Wales and to serve the people of Wales.

Increasingly, the Library needs to be financially sustainable and to ensure that we remain relevant to the life of the nation, today and into the future.

Together, we can continue the tradition of contributing to and supporting culture.

We extend our special thanks to those individuals who have contributed generously during the year to **The Collections Fund**.

We also thank:

Organisations

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The Friends of the National Library of Wales

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Alan Barry Perry

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