

Small World

16 October 2010 - 2 April 2011

An exhibition that traces the history of travel in Wales and beyond

They say that travel broadens the mind, and these days the ability to traverse the globe has become an essential part of everyday life, whether by foot, by plane, by train or online. But have you ever considered how people over the centuries have travelled, both within Wales and to the four corners of the world?

This October, the Library's Gregynog Gallery, the single largest exhibition space in Wales, will stage a special collection of the Library's treasures. The exhibition will trace the history of travel in Wales and beyond through the medium of maps, photographs, books, manuscripts, travel journals, illustrations and sketches.

Visitors will be led on a journey that will highlight important milestones in the history of discovering Wales, and of the Welsh discovering the world. It will include the

16th century maps of Humphrey Lhuyd, pirates of the 17th century, the travels of Gerald of Wales, establishing the colony in Patagonia, the travel journals of Jinny Jenks, 20th century travel posters and much, much more.

To coincide with the exhibition, the Drwm will host a diverse series of events based on the theme of travel.

The exhibition is also being developed alongside the Library's education programme, and is timed to correspond with the

academic year and the requirements of the various curricula. The Library's Education Unit will be conducting activities and workshops for children and young people based on this exhibition.

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Date for the Diary

'Tracing the History of your Ancestral Home' – Dr Nick Barratt

28 September 2010
7.30p.m

The famous genealogist, author and presenter of such television series as *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *Hidden House Histories* and *So You Think You're Royal?* talks about researching into the history of your home.



Exhibitions

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday
10.00 a.m. - 4.45 p.m.
Admission is free.

15 March 2010 - 4 March 2011

Step by Step - Tracing your ancestors at the National Library of Wales
An exhibition that highlights the rich family history resources held at the Library.

14 December 2009 - 26 November 2010

Writers of Wales
An exhibition celebrating the work of Brenda Chamberlain and Caradog Prichard.

19 June - 4 September 2010

Claudia Williams: Remembering Tryweryn
A personal exploration of the events of Tryweryn, through the eyes of artist Claudia Williams.

10 July - 11 September 2010

Joan Baker: A Retrospective
An exhibition looking back at the Cardiff-born artist's 65-year career.
Curwen: Arts, Words and Music in Print
An exhibition of the work of the Curwen Press and Studio, to celebrate its contribution to the music and art of Wales.

16 October 2010 - 2 April 2011

Small World – Travel in Wales and Beyond
A major exhibition that traces the history of travel in Wales and beyond through the medium of images, travel journals, texts and other items taken from the Library's collections.



Terry Jones visits the Library

On 14 April 2010, ex-Monty Python, Terry Jones visited the Library to deliver his famous lecture on *Medieval Lives*. This successful evening was organised as part of the *Chapters* events programme, and it was an excellent opportunity to hear Terry challenging a number of myths that persist regarding the Middle Ages.

Prior to the evening's proceedings, a tour of the Library was arranged so that Terry could see a variety of treasures from the Middle Ages, including the *Hengwrt Chaucher* and an early Welsh translation of the story of the Grail. Terry also visited the National Screen and Sound Archive to talk to our experts, and to see how the Digitisation Department have created online versions of our medieval manuscripts.



From Warfare to Welfare

From Warfare to Welfare (<http://myglyw.llgc.org.uk>), a project sponsored by the Big Lottery Fund, was launched on Monday 22 March. Some of the Library's most stately rooms were transformed to reflect a Second World War theme, and pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe, Swansea and Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Bethesda were invited to take part in the activities.

The pupils experienced the years between 1939 and 1959 by wearing period costume, listening to digital stories and a monologue, contributing to a question and answer session with Donald Parker – who came to Aberystwyth as an evacuee – viewing an exhibition by the *Glamorgan Home Guard Living History Group*, and holding a street tea party to celebrate the end of the War.

To bring the day to a close, the pupils were presented with a specially commissioned DVD and book on the project as a memento.

Recent Acquisitions

An additional collection of Dylan Thomas prose and poetry manuscripts, including a worksheet for 'Elegy', a poem left unfinished at his death. The first line begins with 'An old tormented man three quarters blind'. There is also an extensive word-list for 'Poem on His Birthday', first published in *World Review* in 1951, and a collection of very early poems, such as the important poem 'A Refusal to Mourn the Death by Fire of a Child in London' (Jeff Towns Collection: Dylan Thomas Poetry and Prose Manuscripts).

An additional collection of manuscripts by and relating to the author Jan Morris, including typescripts of her novels, together with the publisher's corrected typescript of her memoir *Conundrum*, together with correspondence, notebooks and printed material (added to Jan Morris Papers).

Now open on Saturdays!

The Library is now open on Saturdays but with a limited service. Readers must order collections in advance.

Exhibitions – Café – Shop www.llgc.org.uk/saturday



Rhian Mererid Davies

Meet the reader

Where are you from?

I am originally from Llanbryn-mair in Powys, but at the moment I'm studying Veterinary Science at Liverpool University.

What brings you to the Library?

I'm studying for my finals.

How useful is the National Library of Wales?

Being a member has been a great boon to me. There is a wide variety of books on the subject, and it's a great help to be able to use the computers in the reading room... not to mention retiring to the Library's Pen Dinas café for the occasional break.

How does the Library compare to other Libraries?

It's a good-sized Library, and the staff are very friendly. Some of the books I've been reading are brand new.

Since when have you been a member? What was the registration process like?

I've been a member of the National Library for 5 years now, and the registration process was very simple. I show my membership card to the porters each time I visit the Library.



The Real Thing

The National Library is committed to improving access to its collections, not only through our online resources, but also by lending items such as paintings, manuscripts and photographs to galleries and museums throughout Wales and the world.

Our list of recent borrowers include: National Museum Wales, Cardiff; Tate Britain, London; Oriol Kyffin, Llangefni; Royal Academy, London; National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh and Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery.

Not many people are aware that our collections also travel further afield to the USA and Europe. Whether we lend to Cardiff or Connecticut, the procedure is still the same, often taking up to 12 months to arrange.

In this digital age in which millions around the world can access our 'virtual' collections online, nothing can replace the thrill of seeing an original object within a 'physical' exhibition. In 2008, 97,098 people visited the British Library's *Taking Liberties* exhibition to which we lent *The Laws of Hywel Dda* manuscript, so proving that you can't beat 'The Real Thing'.

Interesting Facts

The three most popular photographs on the Library's Flickr Commons website are: *Dog with pipe* (10,368 views); *The Smithy Chael Lawn* (1,519 views) and *Newtown* (1,490 views).
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/llgc/>



New appointments to the Library Board

It is a pleasure for Dafydd Wigley, President of the National Library of Wales, and Alun Ffred Jones, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Heritage, to announce the appointment of two Trustees to serve on the Library Board; Mr Wyn Penri Jones and Mr Huw Williams.

Wyn Penri Jones is a Chartered Banker who has had a distinguished career with the HSBC Bank in Wales, and Huw Williams is the Vice Chair of Geldards LLP solicitors, being a senior partner in the field of Public Law.

The Library's Web 2.0 Strategy

As part of our exciting web strategy, you can now interact with the Library on a number of Web 2.0 sites. You can visit YouTube to see video clips of events held at the Library, leave comments about photographs from the Library's collections on Flickr Commons or add the Library as a 'friend' on Facebook.

Since the beginning of February the Library has also been tweeting in Welsh and English on Twitter, and hosts a Flickr group to coincide with the *Say Cheese!* exhibition.

Still Life with Poron, Pablo Picasso



The painting is on loan from Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales who acquired it in November 2009 – the first oil painting by Pablo Picasso to enter a public collection in Wales. It will be exhibited at the Library's Hengwrt gallery from **8 May – 30 August 2010**.

Still Life with Poron (Nature Morte au Poron) is one of 3 still-lives painted by Picasso on 26 December 1948 in his studio on the Rue des Grands Augustins, Paris. The ingredients for a meal – a lemon, a lobster and a 'poron' (from porrón – a traditional Spanish wine pitcher) – have been placed on a table, tipped towards the picture plane in typical cubist device.



Siân Lloyd Evans, E-Editor

Meet the staff

How many people visit the library's website each year?

It varies, but to give you a rough idea, last year we received 37,112,047 hits (the number of times a website/page is visited), and 1,044,277 unique users visited our websites.

Which page on the Library's website has proved popular?

Among the most popular pages are the pages that offer access to the online catalogues and resources, and of course our family history pages. The Library offers a variety of material that assists family historians, and this section of the website serves as an introduction to the collections that are available, and how to use them – the first port of call, then, for those who wish to come to the Library to conduct research into their family tree.

From which countries do people visit the Library's website?

To be honest, there aren't many countries from which people haven't visited www.llgc.org.uk. We get visitors from the Far East, a lot from the USA, and from countries such as Uganda, Trinidad and Tobago, Belarus and Sri Lanka, and of course a high proportion of visitors come from the UK.

When you're not working on the computer – how do you relax?

Cooking is one of my biggest interests. I love getting the chance to try new recipes at weekends, and cakes are a great favourite! I also enjoy handicraft when I get the chance – sewing and jewellery-making, which is a fantastic excuse to go shopping for materials!

Visit us!

The National Library of Wales welcomes readers and visitors alike.

Why not call in? Have a cup of tea at Pendinas Café and browse the Library shop.

To arrange a group visit call **01970 632 801** or e-mail amj@llgc.org.uk

Opening hours

9.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Monday to Friday

10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Saturday

Guided tours

Free guided tours are held Monday morning and 2.15p.m. every Wednesday, departing from the Library shop. Please check the Library website www.llgc.org.uk for details or phone **01970 632 548** to book your place on our behind-the-scenes tour.



Archif Genedlaethol
Sgrin a Sain Cymru
The National Screen and
Sound Archive of Wales

New Screen and Sound Archive website!

At the beginning of February, the Archive launched a new website and created a new easy to remember web address - www.archif.com

The website will be a useful resource for those interested in sound and moving image heritage of Wales, and for those who want to make further use of the material from the collection.

One new aspect of the website is a blog. While blogging is something new to most of the staff of the Archive, it is a great way to talk about the daily work in an informal and contemporary way. It enables the Archive to keep in touch with their users in an interactive way.

In addition to blogging, a clip from the Archive's collection will be added monthly to the website. The main purpose of this is to give a taste of what's in the collection, and ultimately to encourage individuals to make further use of the Archive's collection. So, off you go - www.archif.com

'For Mountain, Sand and Sea'

Over the summer there will be a chance to see archive films of 1930s Barmouth in an exciting promenade production called *'For Mountain, Sand and Sea'*, which has been curated by the Welsh artist, Marc Rees, for the new company National Theatre Wales.

Marc came to the Screen and Sound Archive seeking material to complement his amazing archive of pictures, films and other items already collected by the people of Barmouth. His intention was to combine it all, in collaboration with a number of other Welsh and international artists, to create an installation he describes as 'a social sculpture'.

Among the material he found in the Archive were the films of Harold Cox, the owner of a Birmingham music shop who filmed footage of a number of the happy summer holidays he and his family spent in the area in the 1930s. In these films we see people enjoying themselves on Barmouth beach and joining in the fun and frolics of the carnival, in addition to seeing glimpses of the town's streets and the railway bridge across the Mawddach estuary.

Marc intends to show these films and photographs on the big screen in St John's Church Hall, accompanied by old records of children's songs by Sassie Rees – herself born in Barmouth – that were found in the Archive's collection.

'For Mountain, Sand & Sea': Barmouth, 25 June – 10 July 2010



Wrexham gets new Mediatheque

On 22 March the actor Ruth Jones opened the new BFI Mediatheque in Wrexham Library.

The Mediatheque is a kind of enormous video jukebox with multiple screens. The Archive staff worked closely with the BFI and Wrexham Library staff in curating a new collection, *Through the Dragon's Eyes* which reflects the collection of Welsh film and television. Around one third of the Welsh items are taken from the Screen and Sound Archive.



Dave Berry, Film Historian 1943 – 2010

With the sudden death of Dave Berry in February of this year, the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales lost its staunchest supporter. Dave was a researcher for the Welsh Film and Television Archive, before joining the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales until his retirement in 2005.

Brought up in Bolton, Dave's work eventually brought him to Cardiff where he worked as a reporter for the 'South Wales Echo' evening paper.

He loved all aspects of film, especially works of the silent era, and ultimately he gave up working for the Echo to concentrate on writing his masterpiece, *Wales and the Cinema: the first hundred years*, published by the University of Wales press (reprinted in 1996).

Dave was a larger-than-life character, and a very likeable and generous person. There was nothing he wouldn't have done for the Archive. It was a pleasure to have known him, and a privilege to be able to contribute in some small way towards promoting his ambitions for film culture in Wales. Dave's funeral was held on 12 February, and a memorial was held at Chapter Arts Centre in Canton, his spiritual home, on 23 April.