

# VOLUNTEER'S VOICE



## Bringing it Back!

We're very happy to announce the revival of the volunteer newsletter! The newsletter took a two year break, but is now back starting this summer to spotlight the projects, volunteers, and staff that make volunteering at The National Library so great.

The reintroduction of this newsletter will continue to relay important information and updates regarding the latest happenings in volunteering. Our volunteers work diligently either in-person or remotely through a variety of tasks designed to enhance The Library's features - all while bolstering volunteer experience, community, and employability. This relationship provides invaluable opportunities not just for volunteers and The Library, but for the wider community of Aberystwyth. Drawing attention to what our volunteers do helps ground The National Library as a hub, proud to foster skill development and promote sociality amongst locals and visiting residents alike.

Written by: Samantha Storey

## ...With a Twist!

This newsletter is returning with a new change. Beginning now, the newsletter will be written by a different volunteer on a quarterly basis. With every publication, a new volunteer will lend their own unique perspective and writing style, discussing current volunteering events and news.

This project constitutes the work of the new **Newsletter Writer in Residence (NWR)** role for volunteers interested in writing, communication, and storytelling. In addition to highlighting volunteering news, each **NWR** will share their personal experience as a volunteer.

## What's new in the volunteer community?

We are excited to share that The National Library has been awarded a £60,000 grant from the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) to help transform our volunteer services. Thanks to this funding, we are now in the process of implementing **The Companion Mentorship Programme**. A supportive initiative aimed to foster connection, confidence, and wellbeing by pairing volunteers with mentors who offer encouragement, guidance, and a friendly presence throughout their volunteering experience.

Any new or longstanding volunteers looking to build confidence, new skills, or simply seeking a sense of community, this new programme is here to support you. If you would like to learn more, pop by the support team's office or drop us an email:

[VOLUNTEERING@LIBRARY.WALES](mailto:VOLUNTEERING@LIBRARY.WALES)

### Current Stats

#### Total volunteers

81 since May this year.



#### Who's new?

We are giving a warm welcome to Sion, Grace, Gethin, and Barbra. Huge welcome back to Carmen, returning to the volunteer community after 10 years!

#### Volunteer hours

Over June and July, 1,560 volunteer hours have been dedicated to the Library.

#### Projects and tasks in progress

15 tasks and projects are in progress and 4 have been completed within the past few months!



### Clwb Sgwrsio

If you are a Welsh learner, there is still the opportunity to practice the language in a friendly and informal setting.

The club gathers every Monday from 11:00 – 11:45 at the Pen Dinas Café.

Contact Eilir for more info on joining:  
[EILIR.EVANS@LLYFRGELL.CYMRU](mailto:EILIR.EVANS@LLYFRGELL.CYMRU)



**Samantha Storey**

## Meet Samantha, this issue's Writer in Residence!

### **Why did you become a volunteer and for how long have you been volunteering at the Library?**

I am an Information and Library Studies MA student at the University and have enjoyed volunteering at libraries for years now.

My flatmates, also in my department, became volunteers last year inspiring me to lend a hand since March of this year.

### **What type of volunteering tasks are you involved with?**

I just completed working on a project uploading data from Welsh posters collected from over the past hundred years into an Excel file. Now, I am currently amending the titles of ITV programmes via summarization also into Excel.

### **What, in your opinion, are the benefits of volunteering at The Library?**

I have learned so much about Welsh history over the past few months by encountering posters and ITV clips detailing important events in music, art, politics, and culture. I don't think I could have this sort of exposure anywhere else but at The National Library and I am grateful for it.

### **Favourite place and why?**

My favourite place is Epcot in Disney World. It's really fun to visit all the different 'countries' in one day. I think it has the best rides too!

### **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? (Hobbies/interests)**

I enjoy reading fantasy/classic novels, drawing, crocheting, playing video games, and baking.

### **Your favourite time in history?**

Probably the 80s' because I grew up listening to and watching my parents' favourite songs and movies from that time when I was little.

### **Favourite TV Programme/Film and why?**

As a Star Wars fan, I really liked Andor for the political drama and action.

### **An interesting fact about you...**

I am from the US and have lived in five different states.





## Meet our new staff member!

### What is your role at The Library?

My role is to support the volunteers and the department. Along with coordinating the new Companion Mentorship Programme for the volunteers which fosters connection facilitated by working alongside one another.

### What School and University did you attend?

I'm a local gal, I went to Tregaron Secondary School (now Henry Richards School) and went on to study at Bath Spa University. I love Bath - it's one of my favourite cities.

### What are you hobbies or interests?

Recently, I love reading fantasy novels. I spend most of my time creatively mend clothing and I enjoy sharing knowledge on sustainable fashion. I'm also a bit of a nerd for social history surrounding women's work in textiles.

### An interesting fact about yourself?

I come from over five generations of garment / textile factory working women. I think that's really interesting.

### Your favourite time in history?

I have two because they are kind of similar: the Roaring 20s' and the Swinging 60s'. Both eras saw a major rise in pop culture, fashion, and youth movements.

### Favourite TV programme/Film?

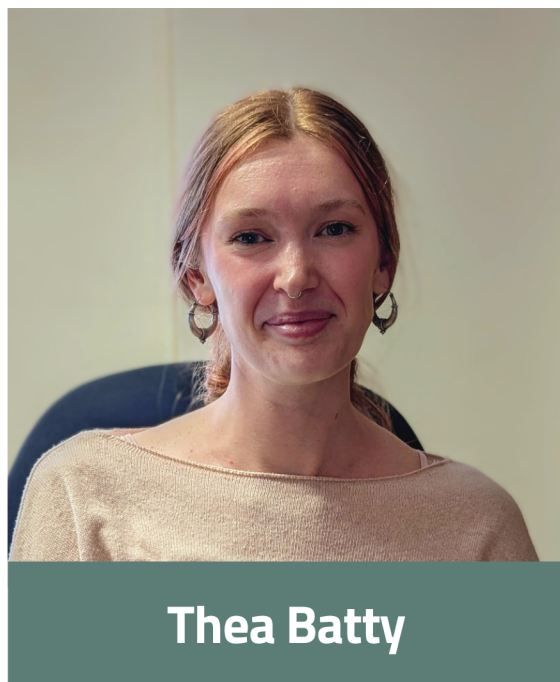
It's hard to pick a TV programme, but I'm a huge film buff. My favourite films are The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

### What's your favourite food?

Gyoza dumplings, of course!

### Name 3 things that you'd take to a stranded island.

A Swiss army knife, fishing rod, and sewing kit.



Interested in joining our volunteer community? Please get in touch:

Eilir Evans | Volunteers' Co-ordinator

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