
VOLUNTEERING NEWSLETTER



LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Gwirfoddoli
Volunteering

Issue 13

July 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We hope you're all keeping safe and well.

Eilir and I have been working from home since the Library building closed in March. A lot of our time has been spent moderating the volunteering tasks you've been carrying out over the past 12 months. We're really pleased with the high standard of the data produced and your attention to detail - so thank you!

Here's what else Eilir has been getting up to since we last saw you:

Eilir's story:- I think I've managed to keep myself quite active during lockdown which has been a blessing. My wife has managed to get me into a routine of getting up early in morning to go for a 5 mile walk with her, and the days I don't walk I go for a run. Then it's back home and fire up the laptop to get started on the Library's work for the day.

My local Running Club has been giving out weekly challenges which has been fun and gives my competitive nature some focus. We also feel lucky to be able do the weekly shopping for a few of our elderly neighbours as well as having socially distanced chats with people from the village.

I do feel like Michaelangelo at the moment as I've painted everything inside and outside the house, as well as laying a new patio area in the garden.

My homeschooling skills are limited to just PE lessons which include bike rides and playing football with my daughter. Hosting virtual quizzes and football challenges has also kept my mind occupied.

I'll be glad to get back to the Library for a rest! And of course to see the lovely Gwyneth in person and all the fabulous Volunteers we have at the National Library (Missed you all).

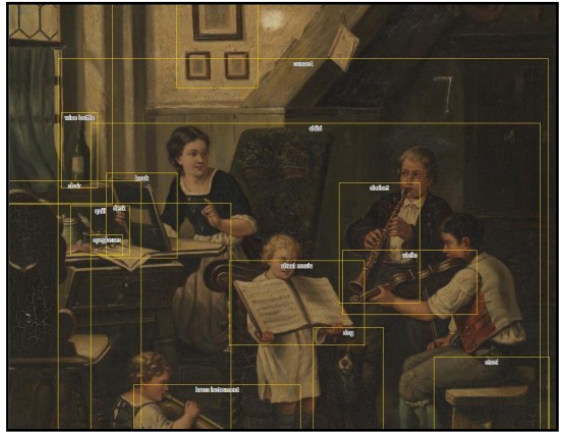
Keep safe.



Images within images

An update on the Wiki image tagging task :

As part of the library's work to share digital images openly with Wikipedia, we have been tagging the location of the things that appear in artworks. This is quite a new concept for describing our digital images, which allows us to pick out individual elements within an image, like a person, a boat, or a hat. This task will allow us to explore what we might be able to do with this data in the future - and it also gives us valuable data which could be used to train a machine to describe images automatically.



An example of a tagged artwork.

Since we launched this task for volunteers in January over 2000 images have been tagged! And nearly 1000 more have been tagged by volunteers around the world during lockdown following a campaign on Twitter.



Thanks to all this hard work it is now possible to explore all the tagged images online. Simply search for something you might see in the images, like 'castle', 'dog' or 'book' and you can see images of those things alongside the full image that they are part of.

Some of the coats of arms tagged and extracted from images by volunteers.

We still have thousands of images waiting to be tagged so there is plenty of work here for any volunteers interested. Not only do you get to help create super detailed data for our open access content but you get to explore our fabulous collections of landscapes, portraits and photographs! This task can all be carried out online so please let us know if you are interested in taking part.

Your stories:

Virginia:

I left Wales for a five-week holiday in New Zealand on 6th March. Nearly five months later, I'm still here.

I got here on the day that mandatory self-isolation was introduced. I did my two weeks and then the whole country was locked down. Our flight home was cancelled. As we were staying with family and were actually very comfortable, we decided not to heed the UK Government advice to get home as soon as possible.

It was a good decision. By closing the borders, New Zealand has managed to contain the virus, and we are now completely free of restrictions. Life got back to normal amazingly quickly.

So now, I'm feeling very apprehensive about returning to Wales. We have a flight booked on 14th July. Three previous flights were cancelled. Hopefully see you soon!



Diana:

To be honest the fear of the Virus has been overwhelming; this is mainly due to my vulnerability due to health issues. In normal times I'm busy volunteering, plus learning Welsh and seeing friends. Life has changed a lot.

In the last month I've coped better and have been doing a lot of reading and also I can meet up with one friend at a time on the prom, so that's made a huge difference.

During the worst time (first 2 months of lockdown) what kept me going was people being very kind and doing some shopping for me and my little dog Guto. I live so near the Prom and Castle that while walking him I'd always meet a neighbour or other dog walker for a chat (at a distance). Also keeping in contact with friends on the phone.

I think of my friends who live in cities and realise how lucky I am to be able to walk by the sea every day.

Gwenno:

Do you want to know what I've been doing over this period???

...well...(see photo)...I've been growing RUNNER BEANS - - - -

big beans - - - -

massive beans - - - -

they're taller than me (not difficult).

The family tell me that the best place for me is in the cage with the beans - huh!

On a more serious note - a BIG hurray to the small shops in the area that have served us so well, and to the farmer's market now operating click-&-collect which means that we can enjoy fresh local food.

Stay safe.



Lynne:

What has kept you going during this period?

Support. First and foremost my husband John has kept me going! I know how lucky I am not to be going through this experience alone, like so many others.

Any useful tips?

Keep a routine going, find worthwhile things to do. Get out for walks and keep control of eating and drinking, to come out of this healthier!

Have you discovered a new hobby?

I keep up with my NLW voluntary projects from home, online. I am transcribing and moderating Kyffin Williams' diaries and preparing a talk about them and an edition of the diaries. I have just started transcribing the Morris Family Notebook, containing Welsh and English items, poems and family notes.

I learned how to make collage cards and pictures out of recycled greetings cards. I made a picture from cards I inherited from my mother-in-law Edith, as a tribute

Thank you!

Those of you who are able to do so have continued to volunteer from home. Since the lockdown you've:

- Transcribed 13 months of entries from the Sir Kyffin Williams Diaries;
- 4 volunteers have been moderating the Diaries transcriptions;
- Completed the Lucy Tedd post cards project for the People's Collection Wales Website.

to her when she died on 5th March. We used the picture at home on the day of her funeral which we couldn't attend after lockdown was imposed. Later it won 2nd prize in the Learners' Eisteddfod art and craft section.

I've kept up my Welsh learning through Zoom, competed in online competitions, and joined an Eisteddfod Amgen weekly course on the strict poetic metre 'Cynghanedd'.

Have some things changed for the better?

So many online 'goodies' to enjoy – yoga, dance, shows, drama, talks, activities - and all without having to travel.

In summary – stay active, positive, hopeful, measured, and work out how best to adjust to your 'new normal'.



If you wish to take part in our volunteering scheme please contact us :

E-mail: volunteering@library.wales



[@NLWVolunteering](https://twitter.com/NLWVolunteering)