

VOLUNTEERING NEWSLETTER



LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Gwirfoddoli
Volunteering

Issue 12

January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

2019 was another busy year for the Volunteering Scheme.

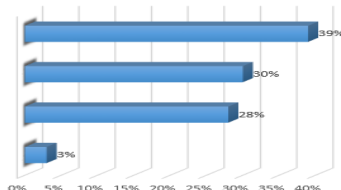
85 volunteers were welcomed to the Library during the year to take part in 24 tasks. Five moved on to paid employment - three of them within the National Library - congratulations! We have a good variety of volunteers:

In education (39%)

Unemployed or facing barriers (30%)

Retired or working part-time (28%)

Disabled (3%).



The Scheme continues to work with key partners:

Go Wales, Workways Plus, Barod Cymru, Agoriad Cyf, Hywel Dda Health Board mental health team.

The year came to a close with our annual 'Celebration' in the Drwm. Following words of welcome and appreciation by Pedr ap Llwyd (Librarian and Chief Executive) and Meri Huws (Vice-Chairperson of the NLW Board), volunteers enjoyed presentations on two projects - the Broadcasting Archive and 'Unlocking



Our Sound Heritage'. The main event was the Volunteering Review 2019, which took the form of a news programme, presented by Angela Gwyneth Rippon and Huw Eilir Edwards, with contributions from a number of our volunteers.

Please ask Eilir if you'd like to borrow a copy of the Review.

Paul Piech Exhibition

In June 2018 a volunteering project began to list the lino prints of Paul Piech. Although Paul Piech (1920 - 1996) was an American, he spent most of his professional career in Britain. Over five decades he produced prints, posters and books highlighting social and racial injustices, as well as contempt for the political class.

However, Piech also had a more sensitive side - this is apparent in his fondness of literature, with the words of Welsh poets and authors such as Waldo Williams and R. S. Thomas appearing on his posters.

We are grateful to Rhys and Nancy, our volunteers who were mainly responsible for completing this task. The list they created has been very useful for the exhibitions team as they prepare an exhibition of the Paul Piech collection held at the NLW, which will open in February 2020 to commemorate the centenary of his birth.



New project with Wikidata

The Library has shared nearly 20,000 of its digital images with metadata on an open licence via Wikimedia, so that our collections can be freely reused by anyone.

To make this data as rich and as useful as possible we want to take the tags – the data which describes our digital images – and pinpoint where exactly in the images those things appear.

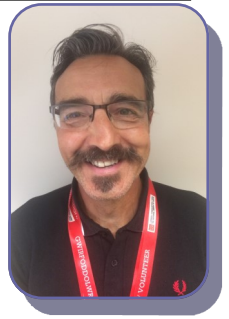
Volunteers will be given a spreadsheet containing hyperlinks to view each image using a special interface which allows them to see a list of all the tags for each image. Volunteers will then click on a tag and highlight exactly where in the image this appears, by simply dragging a box around it.

The data created will allow our users to easily locate and view cropped images of all the things tagged in the images. For example, they could run a search to find all the pictures of hats, or of a particular castle.

Please contact Eilir or Gwyneth if you're interested in this task.

Meet a NLW Volunteer

Here are some interesting facts about **Sylvester** :



1. Why did you become a volunteer and how long have you been volunteering at the Library?

I retired from teaching French in December 2017 and then moved from Hertfordshire to Aberystwyth. I wanted to do something to keep the little grey cells ticking over, and the projects at the Library involving research and attention to detail, as well as fascinating subject matter, looked ideal.

2. What type of volunteering tasks are you involved with?

Currently I'm working on the Mumph Cartoons, after spending a long time on transcribing and annotating the journals of Kyffin Williams – both fascinating tasks often necessitating detective work. Previously, I searched for digital images for the Welsh Biography Online.

3. What, in your opinion, are the benefits of volunteering at NLW?

The opportunity to get up close to some unique and fascinating artefacts, and the sense of making a small but worthwhile contribution to something a lot bigger. Also, the chance to meet other volunteers who come from all walks of life.

4. What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? (Hobbies/interests)

Volleyball: playing, coaching and refereeing. I used to referee National League, and have officiated at international tournaments - in fact, I was referee when Wales had their first-ever win at the UK Schools Games in London in 2012.

I also enjoy DIY and am halfway through building a new kitchen from scratch, from a lot of scaffolding boards among other things.

5. Favourite place and why?

Anywhere I can walk in the mountains or on the coast paths and look out over it all - a big part of why we moved to Wales.

6. Are you a member of any clubs/societies?

Aberystwyth University Volleyball Club, and the RSPB.

7. Your favourite time in history?

Most eras have their attractions and their downsides, but of the ones that I've lived through, it has to be the 1970s - the music 'man' and the hair...

8. Name 3 things that you'd take if you were on a desert island?

My wife, music and some crosswords

9. An interesting fact about you

I have been known to dress up and impersonate Freddie Mercury...

10. Have you met anyone famous.

I taught at a fairly arty independent school where a good number of the parents were quite well-known; but I felt truly privileged to meet the Team GB sitting volleyball team whom I helped officiate on several occasions during their Paralympic preparations - a true inspiration.

Meet a member of the NLW Staff:

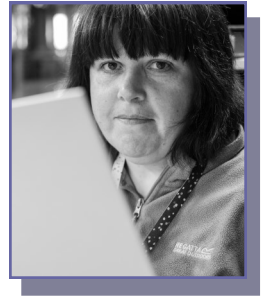
What is your role at the Library?

Curatorial Assistant working with the art collection.

What school / university did you attend?

Ysgol Gymraeg Morswyn, Holyhead and Llanfyllin High School, Powys.

Best memory of school? Being on the school carnival float.



Sian Wyn Jones

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome the following volunteers who have joined us during the last quarter :

Abbie, Alana, Lianne, Aron, Josh, Rasma, Stephen, Amelia and Callum.

Interesting facts:

The following tasks were completed over the past 3 months:

- Transcribing the Guy Hughes and Don Griffiths collections;
- Listing Paul Piech prints;
- Scanning the 'Ceinws' collection for Peoples Collection Wales.

Thank you for your diligence!

Your interests?

Reading, listening to music, travelling.

Favourite TV programme/film?

Any detective or historical drama. A combination of both is even better!

Favourite food?

Roast dinner and a glass of wine.

An interesting fact about yourself?

My Grandfather was a crowned and chaired bard at the National Eisteddfod.

Your favourite time in history?

Medieval.

Name 3 things you would take to a desert island?

Books, I Pod and matches.

Which 3 famous people (dead or alive) would you have round for a dinner party?

Kyffin Williams, Agatha Christie and J. R. R. Tolkien

Have you met anyone famous?

Osian Roberts, former Assistant Head Coach of the Wales Football Team.



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

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@NLWVolunteering