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# VOLUNTEERING NEWSLETTER



LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU  
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Gwirfoddoli  
Volunteering

Issue 14

July 2020

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## KEEPING IN TOUCH 2

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In this issue – Info on the latest events and activities from the NLW and more of your lockdown stories.

**Gwyneth's story:-** Working from home on a laptop in the conservatory has been a very 'different' experience compared to the four walls of my usual office space; the chatting of volunteers has been replaced by the twitter of birds, while staff members passing the office door have been replaced by a hare that placidly goes past the window on a daily basis.

I'm very grateful to those of you who have been able to continue with NLW, Wiki and People's Collection Wales volunteering tasks from home, while I hope others have found a project of interest on the 'Zooniverse' crowdsourcing website that I recommended. It's also been nice to have regular catch ups over the phone with those of you who are shielding alone or unable to leave the house.

Lockdown came at the start of our lambing season. We were fortunate of the fine weather - which led to one of the most straightforward lambing seasons we've had in years - which led to many of our ewes producing triplets - which led to pet lambs keeping me fully occupied - all 16 of them! Yes, I know they're cute, but I can assure you the novelty soon wears off! Here they are 4 months later:



When I shut down my laptop I like to go for an early evening walk up the hill behind our house to enjoy views of the Hafod Estate to the east and the sun setting to the west. I've also been doing a lot of home baking - which is good for the soul, but not so good for the hips! When I feel under the weather I put on some 'Queen' and just belt out the songs - no wonder the cat looks so alarmed! You don't have to be Pavarotti (or Freddie Mercury), just let your natural voice go and express yourself - you'll feel so much better afterwards.

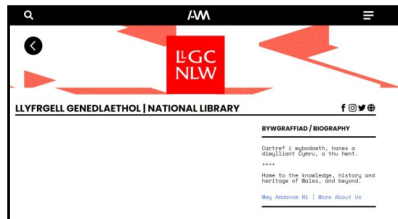
Apart from having a good natter with you all, the thing I've missed most (which is strange as he's usually insulting or mocking me) is Eilir's company. I'm sure you've all missed him too - but don't tell him that! 😊

# News

## The National Library has an AM Channel

The Library has just joined the AM platform!

AM is a website and app, filled with the cultural creative content of Wales. AM is divided into five sections – LISTEN, WATCH, WORDS, FESTIVALS and GIGS. Visit our WATCH channel via <http://www.amam.cymru/llyfrgell> to hear interesting stories from our collections, and to learn more about our extensive digital resources.



## Bringing the archives to life through music

As part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project, several Welsh musicians have been commissioned to compose new pieces, using the Library's sound archive as their inspiration. A series of these musical works will be published on our YouTube channel every Monday, so visit <http://tiny.cc/youtubellgc> to hear the latest compositions!

## National Library Events:

### DIGWYDDIADAU AR-LEIN AWST

11|08|2020 5:00pm

EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY - GARETH VAUGHAN JONES

Rob Phillips

13|08|2020 5:00pm

'HOW TO ...' INFORMATION SESSION

SEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

18|08|2020 5:00pm

LLAWYSGRIFAU PENIARTH - LLYFRGELL (DDIGIDOL) GYNTAF CYMRU (T)

Maredudd ap Huw

20|08|2020 5:00pm

COMMUNICATING LOVELINESS TO OTHERS

Dr Rhian Davies

25|08|2020 5:00pm

DIGIDO A DIOGELU CASGLIADAU SAIN CYMRU (T)

Alison Smith

(T) = Darperir Cyfieithu ar y pryd | Simultaneous translation provided

### AUGUST ONLINE EVENTS

Ffwrch i digwyddiadau llyfrgell.cymru i archebu tocys ychydig.  
Go to [events.library.wales](http://events.library.wales) to order tickets



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# Your stories:

## Rose:

During this strange time I've been keeping busy in different ways - going for walks, reading, doing jigsaws and cooking, and have been baking more cakes than usual!! Need to cut down now!!

The garden has had a lot of attention and the tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, lettuce, onions, spring onions, potatoes, beetroot, cabbages, carrots, runner beans and strawberries are doing very well, as are the flower pots and two hanging baskets. I have also been carrying on with Family History and it's been great to be in touch with relatives, some that I haven't spoken to for quite some time. It's also been interesting and beneficial to find quite a lot of information after registering with Scotland's People website.



Keeping in touch with family and friends regularly by phone has been important. As we haven't been able to meet since the last weekend of February, doing FaceTime with the children and grandchildren is lovely. Also, every so often we do a three-way quiz on Zoom with the children in Cardiff and Swansea. Swansea is on top at the moment. The next match will be in a fortnight! I feel very lucky that I can do all these things to keep me occupied and fit during this difficult situation.

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## Nan:

Covid and its worries came upon us, we saw human nature at its best and its worst.

I decided to look through files containing the history of two families, and after starting to read and sort out the content I was amazed at the amount and range of information within the covers. The files are still open on the floor of my attic . . .

The sweltering sun at the start of lockdown magnified every bit of dust so, begrudgingly, I had to get cleaning. The Hoover and the kettle broke, as if out of sympathy with each other! I don't normally advocate online shopping but, needs must, I had to order new appliances and welcome them at my doorstep.

I've read books in Welsh and English, from Mari Emlyn and Mared Lewis to Clare Mackintosh. I haven't missed a single programme of "Prynhawn Da", I've written more condolence letters than usual, and a friend from Anglesey and I have chatted more over the past three months than we did during three years of college! I've kept up with the news on my laptop through 'Cymru Fyw' and 'Golwg 360' and I've praised the First Minister of Wales many, many times for his prudence and common sense.

I've actually created more of a mess in our attic while browsing through the files, and the contents of our garden shed is scattered throughout as we hunt for this and that. Another project to tackle!

Rose and I agree that it's about time we returned to the National Library to scatter dust off the Aberystwyth shipping logs – and to see Gwyneth and Eilir again! Our masks are at the ready . . .

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**Helen:**

Although I haven't generally been finding the lock down terribly easy, in a sometimes 'not too cosy' ramshackle shared house, I have been keeping fairly well occupied I suppose.

I have done my best to improve things around about the place how I can, and I seem to have been decorating quite a bit, painting walls, stairs, doors, the bath (well, over all the rust patches in it)...

I've also spent some time sitting at my window, possibly working on my computer (perhaps on a 'Crowd' project), reading, or gazing out at, luckily, my lovely 'picture postcard' sea view.

From about May time, when the grounds of the castle, left untended, were starting to display a slightly wild appearance, some of the areas began to be cultivated by local people. I have been occasionally taking a photo of the 'postcard' view.



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**Rasma:**

Because my husband works internationally, we had COVID tests pretty early on which were happily negative; unfortunately, it meant he had to go back to work two months ago. Besides that, I've enjoyed my lockdown experience. I had university assignments to finish initially, plus the weather at the start of the pandemic was so lovely that I was able to explore more by bike without worrying about traffic. I am now immersed in researching my dissertation after changing topic because the closure of archives has affected access to sources - ironic for an archival science student!

Our lovely garden and animals have kept me going alongside music-making with friends through virtual means and Duolingo Cymraeg. I've made bespoke books for friends' birthdays and have caught up with an outstanding book restoration project.

My best tip is to find a trusted & verifiable source for information, and ignore all other forms of media 'news'. I also like to have an entertaining fictional read to start and finish the day.



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

E-mail: [volunteering@library.wales](mailto:volunteering@library.wales)



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