Studio portrait of two privates and a corporal in the Pembroke Yeomanry

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Newsletter July - September 2018
NLW hosts the 2018 Celtic Knot Conference
On 5-6 July, delegates from all over the world came to the Library for the Celtic Knot 2018 conference, with the aim of bringing together people working to support language communities. The conference was organised and managed by Jason Evans, National Library Wikimedian, following the success of the first Celtic Knot Wikipedia language conference last year in Edinburgh. There were many valuable and inspiring discussions about Wikipedia’s place in education, in libraries and in the community. A range of approaches to growing Wikipedia were highlighted and a number of technical workshops enabled people to learn more about the infrastructure of Wikipedia and how Wikidata can be used to improve content such as infoboxes. Throughout the conference, the value of improving Wikipedia in a minority language was clearly evident.

The New Dictionary of Welsh Biography Website
The new Dictionary of Welsh Biography website is now available to the public. In addition to its new design, the website now features:

- Improved searching functionality which notes if the name searched is mentioned in other articles
- The ability to filter search results by gender, article author, thematic category and language
- The ability to browse articles by authors in order to read their contributions only
- More prominence on the home page to new articles
- Featured articles on the home page
- A ‘key facts’ box for articles

Through collaboration between the Honorable Society of Cymmrodorion, the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies and the National Library of Wales, new and revised articles have been added to the resource. The delivery of the project has been made possible with the financial support of the Colwinston Trust and the National Library.

The website was officially launched at the Library on 8 November 2018 by Elin Jones AM, Llywydd (Presiding Officer) of the National Assembly for Wales, together with Linda Tomos, Chief Executive and Librarian, and Professor Dafydd Johnston, Director of the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies and Editor of the Dictionary of Welsh Biography.
**Exhibitions**

In September, a special exhibition in The Gregynog Gallery to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kyffin Williams closed. This was a very popular exhibition which received positive reviews and extensive publicity. During July and August, almost 15,000 people visited the Library’s exhibitions.

On September 29th, a new exhibition titled *Tra Môr yn Fur: Wales and the Sea* opened. This exhibition, which explores our close relationship with the sea and how it has shaped the coastline and culture of Wales, is part of the Library’s contribution to the Welsh Government Year of The Sea. It is a partnership between the National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the National Waterfront Museum.

On 14 September, a well attended launch took place of an exhibition of Kyffin Williams works at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution in London. The Library also provided Wrexham Museum with items for their *Land of Legends: Wales, Arthur and the Tales of the Mabinogion*. This includes original treasures from the Library, such as the original 14th century White Book of Rhydderch and Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Historia Regum Britanniae*.

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**The Great Easton Missal is Made Available On-line**

The Library has digitised and given access to a mid-15th century Missal for the first time, with the support of funding from the Friends of the National Libraries. The manuscript was first produced for the Church of Great Easton in Essex, after which the manuscript is now named. This beautifully decorated manuscript would have been used in divine services before the Protestant Reformation. It had many owners over the centuries, before it came to the collections of the National Library in 1932, also with the support of the Friends of the National Libraries.
Volunteering

Between July and September 2018, the 63 internal volunteers at the Library completed 1,980 hours of volunteering. These included young people in education (24%), unemployed people (19%), retired people (33%), those facing barriers in employment (10%), part time workers (11%) and disabled people (3%). Their tasks varied and included transcription work, searching for images, identifying items, enriching data, adding descriptions, listing stock and checking content for the crowdsourcing platform.

The Volunteering Unit has secured funding from Film Hub Wales to extend the Living Memory project to include film and video items, and promote these within the health sector across Wales. During this period our volunteers also worked on testing websites and supported 11 Meet and Greet activities, as well as assisting with Wikipedia articles. The crowdsourcing platform is going from strength to strength with 434 volunteers having registered online. The Library has recently started transcribing the Sir Kyffin Williams diaries. The highlight of the last quarter was an event to celebrate the completion of the project to transcribe The Great War Tribunal Records.

Cultural Ambition Trainee

Tomos James is a student currently studying for a Level 2 NVQ as part of the Cultural Ambition project funded by HLF Skills for the Future programme. To achieve this Tomos will spend 6 months at the Library, 3 months at Ceredigion Museums and 3 months with the Royal Commission. Tomos spent a week answering enquiries and a week on the desks in the reading rooms. The aim of the project is to provide 33 young people who are not in education, employment or training with 12 month training placements based wholly in heritage sites, while remotely working towards a qualification as a registered student. The training will include a focus on the development of softer skills and employability skills to support the young people looking at using this project as a stepping stone into further learning or employment.
**Education Service**

The Library’s Education Service delivered 37 sessions to more than 1,300 school pupils and students from July to September this year. This work included sessions to support the Kyffin Williams exhibition, workshops on Harvard Referencing to older pupils studying for the Welsh Bacca-laureate, and work to support the Library’s programme in the Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion areas. 8 of these were outreach sessions, and 12 were organised in partnership with Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion groups.

(Above & left) Kyffin Williams workshops being delivered to pupils from Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen and Ysgol Griffith Jones, Carmarthenshire

**Promotion and Events**

Recent promotional highlights include the broadcaster, Dei Tomos’ visit to the Library to produce an item on the *Tra Môr yn Fur* exhibition, BBC Radio Cymru broadcasting live from the Library for the Aled Huws and Shan Cothi programmes, and a film crew from Ireland visiting to film *Llyfr Aneirin*. On the 7th of November, the popular BBC Radio Cymru programme, *Taro’r Post*, was broadcast live from Pendinas Cafe, focusing on the centenary of the First World War.

The Huw Chiswell gig in the Drwm was one of the most popular events in the Summer programme
**Access to Collections**

It has been a busy summer for Access to Collections staff, with the South Reading Room being especially busy, including the usual flow of external enquiries to respond to. Staff also helped on the Library’s stand at the Royal Welsh Show as well as Y Lie Hanes in the National Eisteddfod. Staff also attended the Freshers Fair at the University and various open days in July and September. Consequently, a number of groups of students have visited us here at the Library for presentations to the reading rooms and resources. We participated in Libraries Week, 8-13 October, the theme being Libraries and well-being. A number of relevant books were displayed in the North Reading Room.

One recent highlight was the launch of a book, written by our former Librarian, Andrew Green, entitled *Wales in 100 Objects*. The Libraries Enquiry Service facilitated the supply and licensing of images from the Library’s collections for the publication. A very successful launch was held in the Drwm on the 27th of September, which included a conversation between Andrew and Dr Brinley Jones, the Library’s former President.

**A Visit to Salt Lake City, Utah**

An experienced genealogist from the Library, Beryl Evans, received an invitation by the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History to train individuals on how to trace Welsh genealogy as part of their British conference during the week of 15-19 October, in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was responsible for a series of presentations on various subjects during the morning and held information sessions in the afternoon in the LDS Family History Library – the world’s largest family history museum. It was a valuable experience and the Library was invited to be an Affiliate Library which would provide free access for our users to 1.3 billion images on the familysearch.org website.
Digitisation

Peniarth Manuscript Collection
25 more manuscripts have been made available online. Work on this project will continue, with an aim to make the digital versions of these manuscripts available at regular intervals throughout the year.

D C Harries Photographs
Work on scanning the D C Harries military portraits is complete. 950 large format glass negatives have been scanned, many showing young Welsh soldiers in their uniforms as they prepared to join the war effort. The photographs will be used for outreach events and will be available online during early November.

Europeana, Rise of Literacy Project
Over 100 volumes have been scanned, processed and ingested as part of our contribution to the Rise of Literacy project. These items, and many others from our print collections, will soon be available through our website and the Europeana portal.
Gifts and Recent Purchases

Purchases during this quarter include *Sermons on the Christian doctrine as received by the different denominations of Christians* by Dr. Richard Price from Langeinor, Glamorgan 1787; and *Conjectures on the mysterious monument of ancient art, Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain* by several authors including Gerald of Wales and Geoffrey of Monmouth (1826). Donations during this quarter include a volume of the sermons of the Protestant martyr, Hugh Latimer, published in 1548-9 in their original Tudor binding, and donated by Mr. and Mrs. Clive Coleclough of Wrexham; and the second volume of *Espo尼亚d athrawiaethol ac ymarferol, ar y Testament Newydd* by John Gill (ca. 1812), an item which apperas in *Libri Walliae*, of which the Library did not previously hold a copy.

New Aquisitions

Recent acquisitions include material concerning W H Davies and Edward Thomas which was bought with the generous support from the Friends of the National Libraries, the Malagasy Dictionary, letters from Adelina Patti and archives of Jazz Heritage Wales, Farmers’ Union of Wales, Coleg Harlech and the Gregynog Press.
Euclid Project
As part of the project “Reading Euclid: Euclid’s Elements of Geometry in early modern Britain” funded by the AHRC and located at Oxford University, the first translation of Euclid’s work to English (1570), which includes a preface by the Welshman, John Dee, was displayed in the Library’s Peniarth Room. Yelda Nasifoglu, a researcher at Oxford University’s History Department, spent a week in the Library in July looking at our collection of 270 editions of Euclid’s works in 11 languages, which is probably the most comprehensive collection of Euclid works in any library.

IGELU Conference in Prague
Siân Thomas, our Head of Systems and Standards, attended the IGELU conference in August, which is the yearly International conference for customers of Ex Libris systems. This was a conference on a huge scale, with delegates from all over the world coming together to discuss various different systems, to learn from the company about the latest developments and the medium-term plans, and to share experiences and learn from other customers. This was a fantastic opportunity to make valuable contacts with key individuals from Ex Libris and other system librarians which will be of great help to our team here in NLW and our partners in WHELF as we continue to implement improvements and new functionality in our library systems.

Heraldic Visitation
Following the recent purchase at a Shrewsbury auction of a hitherto unrecorded heraldic roll, dated 1591, the Library was visited on 4 October by Wales Herald Extraordinary, Mr Thomas Lloyd, and his predecessor, Dr Michael Powell Siddons. Centuries ago, gentlemen would present their pedigrees for heraldic scrutiny for the purpose of validation. In this case, both heralds were greatly satisfied with the descent of Francis Vaughan of Yorkshire as presented in a roll made for him by Thomas Jones of Fountain Gate, near Tregaron, alias Twm Siôn Cati, on 3 December 1591. They completed their examination in the company of Dr Daniel Huws, an expert on Thomas Jones and his rolls, and Dr Robert Colley, the Library’s consultant on heraldic manuscripts. It is hoped that the roll will be displayed in a future heraldic exhibition at the Library.
The Marvels of Mostyn

On the 6th of July, the Mostyn Manuscripts Centenary Exhibition was launched in the company of Lord Elis-Thomas, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, who opened the exhibition on behalf of Welsh Government, and Lord Mostyn, the 7th Baron, current owner of Mostyn Hall and a descendant of the original owners of the family’s collection of manuscripts and books. The reception was sponsored by Bangor University’s Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates. The exhibition includes treasures of international importance from the Library’s collections, and items on loan from Lord Mostyn’s private collection, including a very rare Eisteddfod prize from the 1523 Caerwys Eisteddfod of a silver harp. The Mostyn Centennial Season, accompanying an exhibition of treasures in the Library’s Hengwrt Gallery, began in earnest in September. Dr Shaun Evans described the creation of this most influential dynasty before an enthusiastic audience of Library Friends on 22 September, in a lecture sponsored by The Learned Society of Wales. This was followed by Dr Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan’s focus on just one of the exhibition items, the Chronicle of Elis Gruffudd – recently enrolled on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register – in a well attended lunchtime lecture on 3 October.
Morfudd Owen Centenary
A number of events were held to mark the centenary of the death of Morfudd Owen, including a lecture by Dr Rhian Davies, the Artistic Director of the Gregynog Festival and the leading authority on the composer, singer and pianist. A small exhibition of the Library’s collections was displayed to accompany the lecture, which included music manuscripts, letters in her hand, photographs and concert programmes.

Sinemaes
Over the first week of August NSSAW’s third curated programme of films was screened daily in the ‘Sinemaes’ tent at the National Eisteddfod, where the Archive partnered with BAFTA Wales, S4C, Film Hub Wales, Ffilm Cymru Wales and others. New this year was NSSAW’s 90 minute package of 24 films and extracts from its Unlocking Film Heritage/Britain on Film digitised content, focusing on the theme of Towns and Cities. The previous 90 minute packages (Rural Life and Coast and Sea) also played during the week.

Jerry the Troublesome Tyke
Jerry is a cartoon dog, created by a Cardiff animator for British Pathe’s cinema series in 1927, and preserved in the late 1990s by NSSAW in partnership with Pathe. Jerry enjoyed some outings in July and August: the first as the focus of a music composing workshop with composer John Rea (at a Barry festival), and the second when NSSAW partnered (with Film Hub Wales support) with theatre company Arad Goch who produced a 40 minute live show based on some of the cartoons, with a lovely innovative score by Simon Lovatt.
‘Wales on Film’
NSSAW’s new DVD pack with its online learning resource for schools (Foundation Phase to KS4) are now published and being promoted to schools and for screening by venues around Wales. Funded by Ffilm Cymru Wales and Film Hub Wales, the pack consists of 34 short films on 5 DVDs, each on a specific theme, namely Communities and Neighbourhoods, The World of Work, High Days and Holidays, School Days and Playtime and War and Peace. The pack links to a bilingual curriculum-related resource pack with classroom activities and ideas for teachers, devised in conjunction with Alex Southern. The resource is hosted on Hwb, the Welsh Government’s site for digital educational resources –http://redirect.library.wales/wales/walesonfilm

Congratulations to Huw Bonner
Huw Bonner, Conservation Officer, has been awarded the Instructor’s Certificate for seal repair by the Archives and Records Association. The certificate was presented to him during the annual meeting in Glasgow. Huw has recently instructed our trainee conservators, Julian Evans and Rhydian Davies.

Huw Bonner being presented with his award in Glasgow

Seal(s) of Approval
To mark his recent 90th birthday, Dr Michael Powell Siddons, former Wales Herald Extraordinary, and author of the magisterial 4-volume Development of Welsh Heraldry, presented the Library with a gift. For many years, Dr Siddons has been collecting impressions of the seals of Medieval Welsh princes and chieftains, mostly derived from documents at the Bibliothèque nationale de France. It is hoped that his unique, framed, collection may be displayed in the future in one of the Library’s reading rooms.

Dr Siddons and Pedr ap Llwyd

UK Web Archive’s New Website
The new UK Web Archive website was officially launched in October. This new site is a response to the passing of the Legal Deposit Libraries (non-print works) Regulations in 2013, resulting in Legal Deposit now encompassing electronic and online material such as websites, blogs, e-magazines and material on CD-rom.

The UK Web Archive has collected many millions of websites and billions of individual assets (html pages, images, pdf’s, video’s etc.). Due to the Non-Print Legal Deposit Regulations 2013, access to much of the archived content is restricted to a UK Legal Deposit library reading room. The UK Web Archive will continue to expand and develop over the coming months and years. Now that the site is live, we aim to increase interaction with our users and encourage both users and staff to visit the site by using the following url: https://www.webarchive.org.uk/