...I have painted the Welsh Black cattle that make any field look even more green, and the beautiful Welsh mountain ponies that must be the most graceful animals in Britain...

Y Gen
Newsletter
January - March 2018
On the 16th of February the Kyffin Williams: Behind the Frame exhibition opened in Gregynog Gallery. This is the National Library’s main exhibition for 2018 that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the defining Welsh artists of the 20th century. The Library is home to the largest and most comprehensive collection of his work, and the exhibition includes his iconic landscapes, vigorous portraits, in addition to items previously unseen by the public including, preparatory drawings, sketchbooks and archive material.

Over 300 people attended the launch of the exhibition which was opened officially by the Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport. Over 3,000 people have visited the exhibition in the first 6 weeks. During the weeks leading up to the opening the Library ran a Find the Frame campaign on Twitter in collaboration with #randomactsofkindness, where copies of iconic Kyffin prints were placed around the town of Aberystwyth for people to discover. The Library has also contributed 69 works to the Kyffin Williams Centenary Celebration at Oriel Ynys Môn.

**Enhancing access to artworks with the Smartify app**

The National Library of Wales is now using the Smartify app to enhance access to artworks on the smartphone. The app is used by the Library for the first time as part of our Kyffin Williams: Behind the Frame exhibition. Visitors to the exhibition can use the app to scan a specific artwork, acquire additional information about the work and create collections of their own favourites.

The National Library of Wales and Oriel Môn are the first institutions in Wales to offer the service, which is available in ten languages, including Welsh. Smartify is a UK CIC (Community Interest Company) which grew from 4 friends enjoyment of visiting museums and encountering art. The App is available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store (Android).
Caffi Pendinas goes ‘green’
Caffi Pendinas has recently changed from using plastic or cardboard that cannot be recycled, to Vegware items. Vegware items are made of plants, and although many of the disposable items look similar, they are completely different in terms of their impact on the environment. These ‘green’ catering disposables are low carbon, made from renewable or recycled materials, and can all be composted with food waste where facilities exist. Crystal Cymru is the first supplier in Mid Wales to stock these items, and the products available can range from tea cups, spoons, burger box to sandwich box. Heather Davies, the cafe manager said “Initiatives such as Plastic Free Aberystwyth have encouraged us to think not only about the cost of disposable products, but also the long-term impact on what happens to the waste we produce”.

Petticoats of Power
A new exhibition, Petticoats of Power will open at Llanerchaeron Mansion on 7 May. The exhibition centres on the lives of a group of women who played a significant part in the history of the house. Library staff assisted the National Trust in setting up the exhibition and selecting items from the Library’s collections to display in the exhibition.

Visit of Lord Mostyn
Lord Mostyn visited the Library on 23 February to discuss the centenary exhibition to celebrate the first tranche of manuscripts which were transferred to the Library from Mostyn Hall in 1918. The Library was delighted to welcome him as the relationship between the Mostyn family and the Library has been an important and significant one. Lord Mostyn, who has a degree in history, was impressed with the many items which the Library holds in its collections in connection to Mostyn Hall.
Treasures of the Peniarth Collection made available online
To mark 450 years since the death of Robert Vaughan, the Library has begun to digitise all of the 560 manuscripts in the Peniarth Collection, which has UNESCO status and is regarded as the ‘foundation stone’ of the Library. In March 2018, the first group of manuscripts from the Peniarth Collection was made available online. The work to digitise the collection continues, with the manuscripts being digitised by size, starting with the smallest volumes. They will be scanned and released in groups. Further information on the scheme is available on the Library’s blog page.

Wici-lechyd
The aim of Wici-lechyd, a project led by the Library and funded by the Welsh Language Unit of the Welsh Government, was to improve the accessibility of medical information through the medium of Welsh by engaging with the medical and Wikimedia communities in Wales. The project focused specifically on the development of articles on the Welsh language Wicipedia. When researching into the use of the Welsh language Wicipedia, it was found that 12 per cent of articles that were being read belonged to the 2 per cent on subjects relating to health, demonstrating a clear demand for information in this field. The project therefore sought to establish connections throughout Wales and source information that was already available, in English or in Welsh, to increase the quantity of authoritative information on such subject. Between July 2017 and March 2018, the project has:

- created 4,699 new articles
- added 6,472 Welsh labels to Wikidata
- translated 4,115 medical terms
- held 3 public edit-a-thons
- provided Wicipedia training for 45 people
- been presented to the Welsh Medical Society at its Annual Meeting
- released 41 professional articles on an open licence
- collaborated with WJEC, Meddwl.org and British Lung Foundation

The new articles created by the project have already been viewed over 25,000 times. Although Wici-lechyd, as a project funded by Welsh Government, has come to an end, the Library hopes that the activity will continue as one of the Wikimedia Community’s Wikiprojects in Wales.
New acquisitions
A number of manuscripts and archives have been received as gifts and purchased since the beginning of the year. These include a manuscript concerning the William Hughes institute which records the training of children from the Congo in Colwyn Bay, papers relating to Leighton Andrews and Menna Elfyn, a letter from Kyffin Williams to John Harry Fisher Evans, the Welsh Chess Union Records and a medieval music manuscript from the home of Phyllis Kinney and Meredydd Evans. Ffilm Cymru Wales has also sent to the Library a copy of I am not a Witch by Rungano Nyoni, which recently won a BAFTA award.

Canolfan Sir Benfro
Work is coming to a close on the first phase of a new gallery in Haverfordwest that will include exhibitions delivered by the National Library for the next five years. The building work is expected to end in August, and following a period for stabilisation and environmental condition monitoring the Library’s Exhibitions Team will begin the work of installing our first temporary exhibition on the theme of Wales’ Treasures, and our permanent exhibition on the theme of Pembrokeshire that should open near the end of October. The Library will also deliver a series of education workshops and a programme of events in the new centre in Haverfordwest.

The gallery is part of a wider development that includes a public library, café, advice hub and a tourist information centre.
Year of the Sea: Jack Lowe
During the spring an exhibition of prints by Jack Lowe was launched to correspond with the Year of the Sea. The exhibition is part of a project that attempts to record every one of the 238 RNLI stations located around the UK and Ireland. The Smartify app that was trialled as part of the Kyffin exhibition is also part of this exhibition. Visitors are able to scan the images and listen to the sound of the sea as the characters themselves tell their stories.

library.wales
On 27 March, the Library transferred its main website and blog from the llgc.org.uk domain to library.wales (llyfrgell.cymru in Welsh).

Downloading Welsh Journals
In response to user demand, the Library has introduced a download feature to the Welsh Journals website which allows users to download articles and issues of journals in pdf format. The intention is to extend this feature to the Library’s other digital collections over time.
EDUCATION
Between January and March 2018 the Education Service delivered 40 events to 907 users - 688 school pupils and 219 students.

Ceredigion Off-limits
The Library’s Education Service is working with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales on the Ceredigion Off-limits project. This project gives young people the opportunity to gain knowledge and develop skills that will enable them to record and interpret their heritage. This 3 year project is led by the young people themselves and the Library staff share their expertise and experience in the field by means of workshops.

Half-term Workshops
Workshops for children were held during the February half-term in partnership with Aberystwyth University. In total 82 children and adults participated in 7 events that included pottery, painting, Lego all on the theme of Kyffin or The Sea.

Flooding Cwm Tryweryn
A new educational resource was published on Hwb by the Education Service at the end of March. It introduces the history of the flooding of Cwm Tryweryn to learners of all ages. This popular resource includes items from the collections of the National Library and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, and was downloaded over 1,000 times in the first two weeks following publication.

Takeover Day
On 11 January Year 6 pupils from Ysgol Trimsaran took responsibility for a range of activities at the National Library as part of the Kids in Museums Takeover Day initiative. Kids in Museums is an independent charity that works across Britain to make museums and galleries more welcoming for children and families. The kids’ tasks included working in the reading rooms, digitising items from the collection, sorting and processing new acquisitions, helping to set up the exhibition to mark the centenary of the birth of Kyffin Williams, and working with the security staff. The children were very interested in the work and their enthusiasm was obvious. The event was organised in partnership with the Carmarthenshire Fusion Partnership as part of the Library’s Fusion Programme activities. The Headteacher described the day as the most valuable visit that they had experienced as teachers.
**VOLUNTEERING**
During January and February 54 people have volunteered more than 1,205 hours as part of the Library's volunteering scheme, and a further 200 volunteer online on our crowdsourcing platform.

**WW1: then and now**
The transcription work continues on the Cardiganshire Great War Tribunals Records, which is being delivered as part of a project that receives WW1: then and now programme funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Library is working with communities across Ceredigion to provide training on how to transcribe these unique records that include appeals against conscription to go to war on personal, economic, moral or religious grounds.

Since the beginning of this year, the Library has delivered 13 workshops on how to use the website to 168 people. Nearly 6,000 images have been annotated and transcribed and more than 200 volunteers now use the crowdsourcing platform. On 23 January the Tribunals Records was one of five projects promoted as part of Who Do You Think You Are? magazine’s Transcription Tuesday initiative.

**Digital Volunteering: Gwilym Livingstone Evans**
As well as various projects being delivered in the Library itself, we have also been working on a Digital Volunteering project in Blaenau Ffestiniog, which is part of the Gwynedd Fusion Partnership area. The project uses the Gwilym Livingstone Evans photograph collection that records the culture and way of life in rural Wales from the 1960s onwards.

Following his death some 8,000 negatives belonging to Gwilym Livingstone Evans became part of the National Library of Wales’ photographic collection. Members from the local community have already sorted the pictures, and these will be used as the basis for a cross-generational community project led by the Library’s Education Service, and supported by People’s Collection Wales.
The Bible to the World  
St David’s Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast for Wales 2018

The National Library was pleased to be able to support the first St David’s Parliamentary Breakfast for Wales and share with those present items from our collections representing significant chapters in our nation’s rich history. We’re grateful to Darren Miller AM and other Assembly members for inviting the Library to play such a key part in this successful event. An excellent presentation was delivered by Dr Maredudd ap Huw on the items exhibited, which included:

Y Bibl Cyssegr-lan: sef, Yr Hen Destament a’r Newydd
The story of the Welsh Bible would not be complete without a reference to the Reverend Thomas Charles of Bala and the founding of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1804, inspired, in part, by the story of Mary Jones’s journey on foot from Llanfihangel-y-pennant to Bala to buy a Bible. The Bible exhibited at the event was the ‘Lydia Williams’s Bible’, one of the three Bibles given to Mary Jones by Thomas Charles. She gave the Bible to her niece, Lydia, who lived with her. Lydia gave the Bible to Lizzie Jones, afterwards Rowlands, a young girl from Bala, who used to read the Bible to the elderly Mary Jones who by then was blind. In 1880 Lizzie Rowlands gave this Bible to Dr Lewis Edwards, Principal of the Theological College at Bala, and Mary Jones’s own Bible, previously kept at Bala, was then presented to the British and Foreign Bible Society (now the Bible Society). That copy is now kept at Cambridge University Library. CMA, Bala College II/250

The Welsh Mission to Madagascar
2018 marks the bicentenary of the arrival of Welsh missionary David Jones (1797-1841) on Madagascar, dispatched to the island by the London Missionary Society. Following early success, due largely to the co-operation of King Radama I, the mission suffered a serious set-back with the death of the king in 1828. There followed a confused period, during which one of the king’s widows, Ranavalona, became increasingly hostile to all Western influences in the island.

Meanwhile, Jones with fellow Welsh missionary David Griffiths (1792-1863) formed Malagasy into a written language by devising an orthography in order to translate the Bible, which they published in 1830. This gave the people of the world’s fourth-largest island a uniform identity, although Malagasy was not adopted as the national language until 1992.

In 1835, Christianity was forbidden in Madagascar by royal command of Queen Ranavalona, and it was ordered that possessors of Christian books should be executed. The copy of the 1830 Bible shown was buried for safekeeping by the last missionaries before they left the island in 1836, and was recovered after the reopening of the mission field in 1862. NLW MS 14641B
Farewell to Madagascar
A letter from David Jones, at Tananarivo, Madagascar, dated 1 July 1830 and addressed to his brother, Evan Jones of Llanina, Ceredigion, was also exhibited. In it he mentions the death of King Radama, and the state of Madagascar. He left the island shortly after writing this letter, never to return.NLW MS 19157E

The Welsh revival of 1859
Humphrey Jones (1832–95), of Tre’r-ddôl, Ceredigion began a series of revival meetings in the USA in 1856, and continued his work in his native county when he returned to Wales in June 1858. In October of that year, Dafydd Morgan (1814–83), a Calvinistic Methodist preacher, heard him preach near Aberystwyth, and a few days later he experienced a spiritual conversion which filled him with new life and power. The two men began holding meetings together in Ceredigion. The diary of Dafydd Morgan, Ysbyty, was exhibited and opened to show the entry for 6 October 1858, where he refers to the beginning of the revival (CMA 8716). In 1859, Dafydd Morgan began to preach beyond Ceredigion, and the revival spread throughout the whole of Wales. The second item shown was a letter to Robert Joseph Davies, Cwrtmawr, from John Matthews, junior, of Aberystwyth, dated 1 March 1859, giving an account of the revival in Ceredigion (CMA 12684).

Evan Roberts’s Bible
From the ages of 12 to 23, the young Evan Roberts (1878–1951) worked in the coal mines of South Wales, mainly assisting his father as a door boy. Whilst working at Broad Oak Colliery, Loughor he kept the copy of the Bible exhibited in the pit to read to himself, and to his co-workers, when resting. In January 1897, an explosion occurred at the mine, badly scorching his copy of the Bible, which was found partially burnt, but retained by the young man. Evan eventually left the mines and spent time working for his uncle as a blacksmith’s apprentice in Pontarddulais, before beginning to study for the ministry at Newcastle Emlyn in 1904. Following an experience that shook him to the core at a religious meeting at Blaenannerch in September 1904 he became the leading figure of the 1904–1905 Welsh Revival, one of the most dramatic event in modern Welsh church history in terms of its effect on the population, and triggered revivals in several other countries. An estimated 100,000 souls were converted during the Revival, which also led to the foundation of the worldwide Apostolic Church in 1916, the only worldwide church denomination to have been established in Wales. CMA 25722(A)

The Conversion of Evan Roberts
Also exhibited was a diary kept by the Reverend Seth Joshua, open to show the entry for 29 September 1904, where he refers to the conversion of Evan Roberts: ‘Grand meetings today at Blaenanerch and many cried for mercy. It was a remarkable thing to hear one young man’ [i.e. Evan Roberts].CMA 17916