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Newsletter October - December 2018
Appointment of New Chief Executive and Librarian

In December, the Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Pedr ap Llwyd who will succeed Linda Tomos as Chief Executive and Librarian of the National Library of Wales. Pedr is currently the Director of Collections and Public Services and Deputy Chief Executive and Librarian at the Library, and was the Secretary and Head of Governance prior to that. During his time at the Library, Pedr has also gained experience and formal qualifications in governance and human resources. Pedr will take up his duties in April following Linda’s retirement.

Valued Partner Award for the Library’s Human Resources Team

Congratulations to the Library’s Human Resources team for achieving the Valued Partner Award by Careers Wales as recognition of the work the Library has done to help students within our local communities getting ready for the world of work. The event was held at the Millenium Stadium in Cardiff. The Library is very proud of the team’s success.
The National Library of Wales recently received a donation of a collection of 35 Bolivian books published as part of ‘Biblioteca del Bicentenario de Bolivia’, a project dedicated to reprinting 200 classics from Bolivian literature, history, anthropology, social commentary etc. to coincide with the country’s bicentenary in 2025. Giovanna Lenny Vidal Sejas, the Charge d’Affaires of the Bolivian Embassy in London, visited the Library in October to officially hand over the books to the library. Aled Betts, Acquisitions Librarian and Beryl Evans, Reader Services Manager, met the Bolivian Chargé d’Affaires for the presentation of the books in the Library’s North Reading Room.

Launch of the David Lloyd George Digital Exhibition

David Lloyd George (1863-1945) is the greatest international statesman to come from Wales, and this year we remember his key role in the Versailles talks at the end of the First World War. The David Lloyd George exhibition, developed with the support of the Wales Remembers 1914 - 1918 Programme, presents the life and work of David Lloyd George, especially his role during the First World War. It offers access to original items such as photographs, video clips, a diary and letters by Lloyd George’s personal secretary from the Versailles Peace Conference. These together not only offer a picture of David Lloyd George the Statesman at one of the most turbulent times in Britain’s modern history, but offer a glimpse into the personal life of one of Wales’ most famous sons.

https://www.library.wales/davidlloydgeorge/
Launch of the New Dictionary of Welsh Biography Website

The website was officially launched at the National Library on 8 November 2018 in the company of Elin Jones AM, Llywydd (Presiding Officer) for 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. The newly-designed website offers a range of functions and features to facilitate the discovery of information about figures who have made notable contributions to life in Wales and beyond.

Promoting Collections on Pinterest

The Library’s collections are now reaching users on Pinterest. The Library’s account was launched in the autumn and already has ten sets of images in the form of ‘boards,’ including Welsh Costume, Welsh Workers, The Printed Word and Maps of Wales, as well as David Lloyd George and The Dictionary of Welsh Biography.

The National Library of Wales and the European Members Network

Europeana is the digital platform for cultural heritage, and the European Members Network is a network of over 2,000 experts working together to extend and improve access to European digital heritage. In December, Dr Dafydd Tudur, Head of Digital Access, was elected one of the 36 Councillors representing the Network in European activities, and set the agenda for the Annual Meeting and prioritizing issues. Dafydd begins his three-year term as a Councillor in 2019.

For more information about the Council of Europeana Members, go to; https://pro.europeana.eu/network-association/members-council
Exhibitions and Loans

The Tra Môr yn Fur: Wales and the Sea exhibition explores our close relationship with the sea and how it has shaped the coastline and culture of Wales. 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. This exhibition is available in the Library until February 2019, with a version of it on tour at the Waterfront Museum in Swansea during November and December 2018.

An exhibition on the life and work of Philip Jones Griffiths was delivered in Wrexham Museum in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council. This popular exhibition included nearly a hundred items from the Library’s collections.

The Riverside Library Gallery

Exhibitions of some of the Library’s collections can now be seen in a gallery in Haverfordwest as part of an exciting new partnership between the Library and Pembrokeshire County Council. The gallery is part of The Riverside Library development that includes a café, an advice hub, a public library and a tourist information centre. NLW has a programme of thematic six month exhibitions, and a permanent exhibition on the history, culture and legends of Pembrokeshire at the gallery.

The first thematic exhibition is Kyffin: Land and Sea which will run until May 2019. During December, 2,490 visited the gallery. The Library is also delivering a programme of events and a series of education workshops in The Riverside Library to accompany the exhibitions.

A Visit from Nial Cain

Fiddle maker, Nial Cain visited NLW to study an original crwth and a replica that are held in our collections. He said that the Library’s crwth is “one of the best examples of an original crwth that has survived”.

https://nialcainviolinmaker.wordpress.com/
Education Service

The Library’s Education Service delivered 44 sessions to more than 1,150 school pupils and students from October to December 2018. This work included sessions to support the Wales and the Sea exhibition, themed workshops on subjects such as Hedd Wyn, Humphrey Llwyd and Tryweryn that provide an opportunity for pupils to work with original items, and work to support the Library’s programme in the Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion Programmes areas. 7 of these were outreach sessions, and 10 were organised in partnership with Gwynedd and Carmarthenshire Fusion Programme groups.

On November 15, 2018 pupils from Ysgol Brynsierfel in Llwynhendy near Llanelli came to the Library as part of the Kids in Museums Takeover Day. This event was organised in partnership with the Carmarthenshire Fusion Network. The activities for children included working in the reading rooms, digitising items, working in the shop and reception, conservation work, working with IT, processing new items, security, and preparing items for display in exhibitions.

Volunteering

One of the Library’s first volunteering projects was to transcribe the Aberystwyth Shipping Records, listing the crews of those ships that were registered in Aberystwyth Harbour from 1830 to 1910. These transcriptions can now be accessed on the Crew List Index Project website following a request from that project to include them on http://www.crewlist.org.uk/

The transcriptions from the Cardiganshire Great War Tribunal records, the Library’s first crowdsourcing project, have been published on the viewer on the main Library website. The transcription work means that it is now possible to use keywords such as name, address, profession etc. to search these thousands of records electronically https://www.library.wales/discover/digital-gallery/archives/cardiganshire-great-war-tribunal-appeals-records/
An opportunity arose to nominate two volunteers to attend The UK National Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey as the project to transcribe these records were part of the Heritage Lottery Fund armistice centenary programme. The two volunteers with the highest number of contributions to the project were nominated, and they attended the commemoration service on the 11th of November 2018.

In December a number of volunteers and supporters assembled in the Council Chamber for an event to celebrate the success of the Library’s Volunteering Programme in 2018.

From October to December, 2018 there were 62 volunteers in the Library, and we now have 539 people registered as volunteers on the crowdsourcing platform. The Volunteering Unit delivered 7 outreach events to more than 200 people, and two of these were delivered in the Carmarthenshire and Gwynedd Fusion Programme areas.

**Promotion and Marketing**

From October to December 2018, we delivered 28 events to 1,416 people as part of the Library’s official events programme. These included lectures, conferences, guided tours and a series of family events for children and young people. One of the highlights was coordinating a successful Christmas Fair that was held on December the 6th with support from staff across the Library, the Staff Association, and external suppliers and organisations. We are grateful to the public for their support.
The National Library of Wales Christmas Fair 2018

Iwys a Hwyl Orchestra

Children meeting Santa Claus
The Promotion and Marketing Department is also developing and delivering promotion campaigns for the Riverside Library in Haverfordwest, and the Place to Discover campaign with support from staff across the Library in an attempt to attract more users to the reading rooms.

Promotional Videos
A new series of promotional films are in production to encourage new users to register and use the Library. The first video has now been completed and will show how easy it is to register for a Readers’ Ticket. Videos on how to use the reading rooms, and promoting our commercial services will follow.
Digitisation Highlights

Illingworth

The ‘Illingworth’ cartoon collection will soon be ingested into our repository and made into a new online exhibition. The intention is to display a few of these cartoons at the House of Lords event in March.

19th Century Welsh Biographies

Over 800 volumes have now been scanned from our collection of Welsh Biographies. Work on processing these volumes and making them available will continue throughout this year.

Access to Collections

The Access to Collections Section were busy with outreach events during the quarter, a few examples being:

- Heritage Day held at Laugharne on 3 November
- Aberystwyth University Open Day on 10 November
- Presentations to Palaeography students from Aberystwyth University

Martin Robson Riley at Aberystwyth University open day
Palaeography students from Aberystwyth University
Humphrey Llwyd Maps

The digitisation section has completed the scanning work on a collection of Humphrey Llwyd maps for the AHRC project: ‘Inventor of Britain: The Complete Works of Humphrey Llwyd’. The project, with partners from across the UK, will develop a new interactive website looking at the remarkable influence Llwyd had on literature and cartography during the 16th Century.

New Accessions

Recent accessions include the papers of the novelist and dramatist, Eigra Lewis Roberts, including manuscript drafts and typescripts of her works (Papurau Eigra Lewis Roberts). Correspondence files from 1986-1992, were added to the Welsh Women’s Press archive (Honno (Welsh Women’s Press) Papers). In addition, twenty-four letters from David Jones to Louis Bonnerot 1960-74, were donated to the Library. Three boxes of papers were purchased as an addition to the archive of the composer Daniel Jones, including correspondence, diaries, notes relating to the talk ‘Dylan Thomas the Man’, as well as early poetry in his hand (Daniel Jones Archive). Scrapbooks concerning the music group the Super Furry Animals were also transferred. (Super Furry Animals (Carl Clowes) Papers). At the end of the year, over two hundred boxes of additional papers of Gwasg Gregynog were collected, which relate to individual publications as well as the management and running of the press (Gregynog Press Records). The records of Coleg Harlech were also collected in September. This is a large and important archive which will likely fill more than a hundred boxes once it has been cleaned, sorted, and catalogued.

Syr Kyffin Williams at the Senedd

An exhibition of the works of Sir Kyffin Williams RA was on display at the Senedd throughout October 2018. On Saturday 27 October, two special tours of the exhibition were led by Morfudd Bevan, which provided an opportunity to learn more about the life and work of Sir Kyffin Williams.
BISA Conference

The National Library of Wales was pleased to host the 2018 Annual British and Irish Sound Archives Conference on 16-18 November. The conference was preceded by a training day delivered by Will Prentice from the British Library as part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage Project, which is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. During the day, attendees were trained on how to handle wax cylinders, how to learn the difference between acetate and vinyl discs, and how to responsibly handle and care for a sound collection.

The speakers at the conference covered different aspects of sound recordings, from the challenges of preservation and access, digitisation, oral history and how to clean mouldy/dirty lacquer discs. Dan Griffiths, Assistant Curator, gave a brief introduction to the NLW sound collections.

Explore Your Archive Week and UNESCO

This year’s campaign focused on the items which have been enrolled on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. During the week 17-24 October, talks were given on the Peniarth Manuscript Collection and the Chronical of Elis Gruffudd by Maredud ap Huw, Manuscripts Librarian, with The Survey of the Manors of Crickhowell and Tretower being discussed by Huw Thomas, Map Curator. These talks were broadcast on Periscope. Presentations were also given in the Drwm on the film of the Life Story of David Lloyd George by John Reed, a former member of staff, and by Iwan Bryn James, Head of Conservation, on the importance of conservation.

The Welsh Political Archive Lecture 2018

This year’s lecture ‘Camp Aneurin; y Gwasanaeth lechyd Gwladol’ was delivered to a full audience by the Revd Dr. D Ben Rees of Liverpool. The Welsh Political Archive Advisory Committee was keen to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the National Health Service and to acknowledge the role of one of Wales’ most well-known politicians. The lecture has been published on the pages of The Welsh Political Archive; https://www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/archives/the-welsh-political-archive/the-welsh-political-archive-annual-lecture/
Sharing Conservation Skills
Since Huw Bonner became a trainer in the Archives and Records Association module in wax seals conservation, he has been sharing his knowledge with three people who are following the ARA course. During October, he taught two members of the Conservation Unit, and in November had his first experience of training an external trainee, Kat Saunt. Kat, who is a conservation officer in the East Riding Archives, spent a fortnight at the Library being trained by Huw and learning different methods of treating and protecting seals.

The Mostyn Manuscripts Conference
The Library’s Mostyn Season was a successful partnership with Bangor University, custodian of the substantial Mostyn Estate Archive. On 2 November, our academic partners joined us for a one-day symposium at the Drwm, organised in collaboration with Bangor’s Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates and Centre for the History and Culture of the Book. Speakers included Shaun Evans, Eirian Jones and A.D. Carr, whose respective PhDs were focused on aspects of the estate’s history. Wide-ranging papers considered the history and cultural impact of the Mostyn family, and the treasures that once formed part of their remarkable libraries at Mostyn, Gloddaith and Corsygedol.

Cyber Essentials+ and IASME Accreditation
In November, auditors visited the Library to test our compliance with information governance and security. This year, more emphasis was placed on the security of user systems rather than servers. The Library was successful in obtaining the Cyber Essentials+ and IASME certification for the second year.
Michael Marks Poetry Awards Evening

On December 11, Robert Lacey attended the Michael Marks Poetry Awards evening in the British Library. The Michael Marks Charitable Trust has hosted these awards for many years in partnership with other organizations, such as the British Library. They are eager to build on its success and promote their latest award on poetry in Celtic languages; the intention being to reward a poetry pamphlet in one of the Celtic languages in 2019. The National Library of Wales, as well as the National Library of Scotland, has been included in the awards and Robert gave a brief presentation at the awards on the traditions of poetry in Wales and other Celtic countries.

A Rare Publication on the Death of Captain Cook

The Library has bought a very rare book by a Welshman who was present when the explorer Captain James Cook was killed. David Samwell sailed with Captain Cook as ‘surgeon’s first mate’ on the Resolution in 1776. He was a native of Denbighshire, born in 1751 and had a great interest in Welsh literature. He witnessed Cook’s death in a skirmish with natives in Hawaii in 1779. He wrote a full account of the event, and after his return to England published it in 1786 under the title ‘A narrative of the death of Captain James Cook’, the Library already has two copies of this. In the same year, a French translation was published with the title ‘Détails nouveaux et circonstanciés sur la mort du Capitaine Cook’. This is particularly rare, with only three known copies in other libraries throughout the world. When a copy came up for sale, we took the opportunity to add this important item to the collections of the National Library of Wales.
The Man Who Won the War

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War, a cross-departmental team was formed to create a digital exhibition showcasing the life and work of David Lloyd George.

The comprehensive exhibition on the life and work of David Lloyd George, concentrating on his role during the First World War, was created by preparing and ingesting IIIF standard metadata, film and images, and adding content into the Content Management system. This allowed the Web Developers to build new technologies to showcase a range of original collections online for the first time.

AJ. Sylvester’s Photographic Collection, video clips, a diary and collections of letters sent and received by Lloyd George are now available to view worldwide.