Campaign!

http://www.llgc.org.uk/ymgynhyw/

Campaign! is a web site that presents political and social campaigning in Wales during the twentieth century using digital images of documents, leaflets, posters, film, video and sound.

We have selected a variety of material from the diverse collections in the National Library of Wales, and especially from the Welsh Political Archive.

The site was launched at the National Assembly for Wales on 12 July by Tom Middlehurst, the Secretary for Education and Training.

The Campaign! site is in three languages, Welsh, English and Spanish. It may be of special interest to school pupils or students and lifelong learners who are studying the history and politics of Wales.

It includes information about and stories from all parts of Wales, about political parties and all kinds of pressure groups.

We decided on a thematic approach which would encompass elections, strikes, petitions, demonstrations, and other methods of campaigning.

1. The Ballot Box - looks at significant elections and by-elections in Wales; the four main political parties and minority parties; and also women and the vote. (See page 2 for further details)

2. The Labour Struggles theme looks at quarrymen's and miners' strikes - the Ponthyr Quarry Strikes at the turn of the century; the General Strike of 1926; and the Miners' Strikes of 1972, '74 and '84-5. It includes the text of The Miners' Next Step.

3. The War and Peace theme studies Recruitment and the First World War; Pacifism; The Spanish Civil War; The Second World War and The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

4. Devolution follows the devolution process from the Disestablishment of the Church in Wales in 1920, to the establishment of the National Assembly for Wales in 1999, looking at Cymru Fydd, the founding of Plaid Cymru, the Parliament for Wales Campaign, Secretaries of State for Wales and the establishment of the Welsh Office, and the 1979 and '97 Referenda.

5. The Welsh Language. This theme looks at Welsh language education, the Welsh Language Petition, the Welsh Language Society, broadcasting and the launch of S4C, and the Welsh Language Act. Here we have provided an audio file and transcript of Saunders Lewis' famous lecture, Tynged yr iaith (The fate of the Welsh Language).

6. The water industry theme tells of the building of reservoirs in Tryweryn and Clywedog in the 1960s.

The site has a strong educational purpose and is intended as a resource for the teaching of history at secondary schools at National Curriculum level.

The site bibliography has thematic lists of relevant books and archival collections to direct college students or lifelong learners towards further study.

The time line is a selection of key events in the history of Wales and the World side by side with some of the most important stories to be found on the site.
THE BALLOT BOX

The Welsh Political Archive includes national and some local records of all the major political parties in Wales, as well as the papers of important politicians and some pressure groups.

The 'Ballot Box' theme of the Campaign website includes a selection of this material. It includes maps and tables showing the results of elections, photographs, election leaflets and posters, digital images of correspondence, and background text. It demonstrates the development of election leaflets and methods of campaigning throughout the twentieth century.

WPA Ephemera

During the 1983 General Election campaign contacts were made in each of the Welsh constituencies and as a result almost all election addresses and associated leaflets were collected by the Welsh Political Archive. A similar successful project was undertaken during the 1987, 1992, and 1997 General Election campaigns.

The leaflets collected during the National Assembly for Wales elections, 1999, have been digitised and uploaded onto a website. You can select the constituency or region from the menus to view the election results of all the candidates, the percentage majority and turnout, and digitised images of most of the election leaflets.

http://www.llgc.org.uk/ymgyrchu/WPA-Ephemera/index.htm

NOT merely an M.P.

"...a woman in a thousand". Dorothy Rees's election leaflet, 1951 General Election. (Labour Party Wales 89)

General Elections

We chose to represent the three general elections of 1906, 1966, and 1983, and the National Assembly for Wales elections, 1999. These elections were selected because each of the four main parties in Wales were in their turn particularly successful in those elections. The Liberal Party reached the peak of its success during the 1906 General Election, with 28 of the 34 Welsh seats taken by the Liberal Party. By the 1966 General Election the Labour Party was dominant, winning 32 of the 36 Welsh seats. The 1983 General Election brought great success to the Conservative Party, and in the election for the National Assembly for Wales, 1999, Plaid Cymru had its greatest ever success.

By-elections

There were many important by-elections in Wales during the twentieth century. There was internal friction in the Liberal Party between supporters of David Lloyd George and supporters of Asquith during the 1921 by-election in Cardigan in which Ernest Evans (National Liberal), was the successful candidate. Two of Wales's most prominent figures, W J Gruffydd (Liberal) and Saunders Lewis (Plaid Cymru) contested the University of Wales by-election in 1943. Two months after the 1966 General Election a by-election was called in Carmarthen because of the death of Megan Lloyd George, who had held the Carmarthen seat for Labour since 1957. In that by-election Gwynfor Evans won the first ever Parliamentary seat for Plaid Cymru. The 1985 by-election in Brecon and Radnor produced one of the closest ever results when the Liberal Alliance candidate, Richard Livsey, won the seat by a majority of 1.4%.

Minority parties

Many other parties have been active in Wales apart from the four main parties. The minority parties pages look at the Communist Party, the Welsh Republican Party, and the Green Party.

The Communist Party gained support in some of the south Wales industrial communities during the first half of the 20th century. A candidate stood for the Welsh Republican Movement in the 1930 General Election, and the Green Party played a major role in Cynog Dafis's campaign in the 1992 General Election.

Women's suffrage

The campaign for women's suffrage began at the end of the 19th century, and during the early part of the 20th century the government introduced various Acts of Parliament concerning women and the vote.

The site includes a list of these Acts of Parliament and photographs of the suffragettes' protest in Llanystumdwy in 1912. It tracks the increase in female representation starting with the first female candidates to win parliamentary seats in Wales, namely Megan Lloyd George, (Liberal MP, Anglesey and Labour MP, Carmarthen) Dorothy Rees (Labour MP, Barry) and Eirene White (Labour MP, East Flin).
The National Library has been delighted to acquire what is certainly the last significant Lloyd George archive hitherto remaining in private hands – the papers of Frances Stevenson (1888-1972), his private secretary, confidante, mistress, and, from October 1943, his second wife. Following Lloyd George’s death in March 1945, Frances became the Dowager Countess Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, and eventually survived him by almost twenty-eight years.

A native of London, and a graduate of Royal Holloway College, she originally came into Lloyd George’s life as a governess to his youngest child Megan in 1911, soon developing a notably close relationship with her employer whose dynamic vitality she complemented with her own innate stamina. She displayed unstinting loyalty to Lloyd George during the infamous Marconi scandal of 1911 and throughout the arduous years of the First World War.

Frances remained very close to Lloyd George throughout the rest of his life. It was she who arranged for the building of their country home called ‘Bron-y-de’ at Churt in Surrey which they shared for more than twenty years. She also arranged and collated his massive archive of personal and political papers (which she eventually sold to their neighbour Lord Beaverbrook in 1949-50) required for the drafting of the mammoth War Memoirs, and she personally arranged his press clippings and quotations from political opponents as ammunition for Lloyd George’s public speeches. She gave birth to a daughter Jennifer (later Jennifer Longford) in 1929.

Following her husband’s death, Frances lived at Churt for the rest of her days, somewhat estranged from most members of the Lloyd George family, but avidly engaged in a number of projects to perpetuate Lloyd George’s memory and good name. She published her autobiography The Years that are past in 1967, extracts from her diaries saw the light of day in 1971, and selections from her correspondence with Lloyd George were published in 1975. Both the last named works were edited by A J P Taylor.

The archive comprises a small residue of the correspondence and papers which Frances retained during her busy life with Lloyd George. Among the family correspondence are significant groups of letters from Frances to her sister Muriel, 1917-21, and to her daughter Jennifer, 1938-70, in which numerous allusions to political events and personages intermingle freely with domestic and family news. There is also an important group of letters, 1916-70, from many members of the Lloyd George family to Frances.

The general correspondence includes a group of letters, 1949-64, from Frances to Ann Parry, the curator of the Lloyd George Museum at Llanystumdwy, and letters from a host of prominent individuals, among them Sir William Beveridge, Lord (Robert) Boothby, Seebohm Rowntree, and Rebecca West. The historians and biographers who feature among the correspondents include Lord Beaverbrook, John Grigg, Frank Owen, and A J P Taylor. Much of the correspondence relates to various enterprises to commemorate Lloyd George’s life and achievements.

There are some letters addressed to Lloyd George including communications from Churchill, Lord Dawson of Penn, General Douglas Haig, J Ramsay MacDonald, Sir Herbert Samuel, and D A Thomas (Viscount Rhondda). Lord Dawson’s letter gives advice to Lloyd George in the wake of the political and constitutional crisis of the summer of 1931. There are also a few papers deriving from other members of the Stevenson family.

A substantial group of photographs and snapshots has been transferred to the custody of the Department of Pictures and Maps.

The papers and photographs were extensively used by Ruth Longford, Frances’s granddaughter, when she was researching and writing Frances, Countess Lloyd-George, more than a mistress (Leominster, 1996), a study which publishes lengthy extracts from the letters and documents in this archive.

Frances’s diaries and her correspondence with Lloyd George form part of the most extensive Lloyd George Papers presently in the custody of the Parliamentary Archive at the House of Lords.
Labour Party Centenary

A study of the history of the Labour Party has recently been published entitled *The Labour Party in Wales, 1900-2000*, edited by Duncan Tanner, Chris Williams and Deian Hopkin.

It covers topics such as the foundations of the party, Labour government and Labour Wales. The book includes contributions by two members of the WPA advisory committee: Deian Hopkin on ‘Labour Roots in Wales, 1880-1900’ and Kenneth O Morgan on ‘Power and Glory: War and Reconstruction, 1939-1951’.

The WPA hold the records of Labour Party (Wales), comprising a complete set of minutes dating from 1937 onwards. The WPA will arrange a small exhibition on the centenary of the Labour Party in November.

Jeffrey Thomas


Cartoon of Jeffrey Thomas drawn on the back of a dinner menu.

The papers include two series of scrapbooks, including press cuttings, printed ephemera, correspondence, election leaflets and photographs relating to Jeffrey and Margaret Thomas’s work for the Aberdare constituency, 1970-4 and 1976, and to Jeffrey Thomas’s general election campaigns in which he stood as a Labour candidate for the Barry constituency, 1966, and the Aberdare constituency, 1970, 1974 and 1979 (See also Minor Lists and Summaries 1991).

News in brief – recent acquisitions

Parliament for Wales Campaign

Further papers, c.1989-97, of the Parliament for Wales Campaign, donated by the Administrative Secretary, Mr Alan Jobbins, including minutes, correspondence, and administrative papers. (See also John Osmond Papers, Minor Lists and Summaries 1999)

Liberal Democrats Wales

Peter Black AM has contributed material, c.1988-98, relating to the Liberal Democratic Party, comprising files of the Welsh National Executive Committee, the Welsh campaigns and communications committee and the finance and administration committee.

Lord Dynevor

Papers of Charles Arthur Rhys, 8th Baron Dynevor (1899-1962) relating to his military and political career as a Conservative MP, 1923-9 and 1931-5. He was PPS to the Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, from 1927 to 1929, and his papers include copies of daily letters, 1928-9, from the Prime Minister to the King.

Welsh television campaign

Papers, July-August 1980, relating to Plaid Cymru’s campaign for a Welsh language television service and to Lord Cledwyn’s amendment to the Broadcasting Bill, including letters from members of the House of Lords to the donor, Mr Arwyn Thomas. (NLW ex 2064)

Edgar P Harries

Edgar Phillips Harries, CBE, (1888-1963), was the secretary of the Organisation Department of the TUC, 1932-48, and the first secretary of the Pembrokeshire County Labour Party. His son, Mr P E Harries, has written an unpublished biography of his father, which will be added to the Edgar P Harries Papers. (See also Minor Lists and Summaries, 1986).

Dafydd Wigley

Additional papers from Dafydd Wigley, MP, AM’s parliamentary constituency office in Caernarfon, comprising constituency correspondence, 1990-97.

Lady White

Papers of Lady Eirene Lloyd White, Baroness White of Rhymney (Labour MP East Flint, 1939-79) are in the process of being sorted and will be featured in the next edition of this newsletter.

Alexander Cordell

Mr Ted Spanswick has donated two letters, 1983, written to him by Alexander Cordell, author of *Rape of the Fair Country, The Hosts of Rebecca and Song of the Earth*. In the letters Cornell discusses socialism and his political beliefs. (NLW MSS 23677)

Political pamphlets

Pamphlets and papers, 1968-77, relating to Welsh political issues and student politics collected whilst the donor, Mr W D Michael, was secretary of University College Swansea Socialist Society. (NLW ex. 2663)

Harold Wilson


Saunders Lewis

Papers, 1936-7, relating to the dismissal of Saunders Lewis from University College Swansea following the protest at Penyberth. (NLW MSS 23699)

Sir Alun Tafan Davies

Additional papers, 1945-89, of SirAlun Tafan Davies, including some papers reflecting his political interests, especially within the Liberal Party.

THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

ANNUAL LECTURE,
2000

Professor Dai Smith
‘Out of the People: A century in Labour’

The Old College, Aberystwyth
5.30 p.m. Friday, 3 November

We advise readers to enquire about the conditions placed on the papers before visiting the Library. Many recent WPA acquisitions have restrictions on access or photocopying.