The death occurred at his home at Pencarreg, near Llanbydder, on 21 April 2005 of Dr Gwynfor Evans, president of Plaid Cymru from 1945 until 1981, its first Member of Parliament in 1966 and one who is widely regarded as the founding father of Welsh nationalism throughout the second half of the twentieth century.

From 1973 until 2003 Dr Evans had donated to the National Library several substantial groups of his political and personal papers. During the past year all the papers have been sorted and arranged with a view to preparing a composite list of the entire archive. The task of compiling the catalogue is now nearing completion in the hope that it will be available for consultation by the autumn.

Gwynfor Evans Papers

The Gwynfor Evans Papers include rich correspondence files which reflect Dr Evans’s involvement, not only in the political life of Wales, but in an array of cultural and literary pursuits and Welsh public life. The papers include especially rich material on the Welsh pacifist movement during World War Two and subsequently, the Tryweryn episode in the late 1950s, the famous Carmarthen by-election of July 1966, and the protracted campaign to secure a fourth television channel reserved for programmes in the Welsh language. There are also separate files of letters from several prominent Welsh individuals, among them W.T. Pennar Davies, Islwyn Ffowc Elis, Bobi Jones, Gwenan Jones, R. Tudur Jones, E. G. Millward and D. J. Williams, Fishguard.

There are also extensive files of correspondence and papers on a large number of subjects, mostly deriving from the period when Dr Gwynfor Evans represented Carmarthenshire in parliament, 1966-70 and October 1974-1979. Files containing personal and sensitive letters from his constituents have been placed under embargo for fifty years from the latest date of the file.

Dr Evans’s funeral service took place at Seion chapel, Baker Street, Aberystwyth on Wednesday, 27 April 2005. It was a notably memorable occasion which saw more than two thousand mourners flock to the seaside town. A film of the entire service is available for viewing at the Screen and Sound Archive at the Library.

It is gratifying to note that the first full-length biography of Dr Gwynfor Evans by Mr Rhys Evans is scheduled to be published by Gwasg y Lolfa, Tal-y-bont during November 2005. This substantial volume, running to more than 200,000 words, will be an inestimable contribution to our understanding of the political life of twentieth century Wales.

Welsh Political Archive
Annual Lecture 2005

Cynog Dafis
‘Plaid Cymru and the Greens’

Drwm, The National Library of Wales
5.30 pm Friday, 4 November
WELSH HUSTINGS

On the evening of Tuesday, 26 April 2005, Dr J. Graham Jones, Head of the Welsh Political Archive, gave a brief talk at a meeting held at the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea to launch the most impressive, ground breaking reference volume Welsh Hustings, 1885-2004. Professor Prys Morgan of Swansea also addressed the substantial audience which had assembled.

The volume's compiler, the Revd. Ivor Thomas Rees, is a retired minister and historian who has devoted much of his retirement to compiling this most useful volume. He sent out questionnaires to many hundreds of the candidates and searched through hundreds of issues of newspapers to gather all the information. The volume contains a brief introduction by the late Sir Glanmor Williams (1920-2005) who very sadly died while the book was in the hands of the printers.

Since last summer, on the first Wednesday lunchtime of each month in the DR WM, members of the Library's staff have delivered short lectures to their colleagues and members of the general public. On 6 October Dr J. Graham Jones, Head of the Welsh Political Archive, spoke on the theme ‘Keeper of Secrets’, providing a brief review of the life and career of Albert James Sylvester CBE (1889-1989), the champion shorthand typist who served as Principal Private Secretary to David Lloyd George from 1923 until LG's death in March 1945. Immediately following the talk, two short films of the famous Lloyd George visit to Hitler at Bechtesgarden in the autumn of 1936 (held at the National Screen and Sound Archive) were shown in the DRWM.

Dr Jones outlined how the highly skilled Sylvester, the son of a tenant farmer at Harlaston in Staffordshire, was the first man ever to take shorthand notes of the proceedings of a Cabinet meeting. He later ran Lloyd George's office at Thames House, Westminster, he acted as his ears and eyes at the House of Commons and he served as an intermediary between LG and his long-term mistress Frances Stevenson.

After Lloyd George's death, Sylvester worked on a three year contract for Lord Beaverbrook on Express Newspapers, and from 1949 he turned to farming a small holding at Corsham, near Wiltshire. Here he remained until his death in October 1989 within weeks of his hundredth birthday. He published two monographs, both of some importance: The Real Lloyd George (1947) and Life with Lloyd George (1975). An extensive archive of his diaries and papers was purchased by the National Library of Wales from his daughter in 1990.

The text of the lecture has already been published in the Journal of Liberal History no. 44 (Autumn 2004), 24-29. A much fuller account of A. J. Sylvester’s extraordinary life by the same author will see the light of day in a future issue of the National Library of Wales Journal.

This unique tome contains the names of all candidates, both successful and unsuccessful, who contested elections in Wales for the Westminster Parliament, the European Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales, from the general election of 1885 until the European election of 2004. It provides full, often detailed biographical notes on almost every candidate. Researchers can thus avoid the laborious chore of searching through local and national newspapers and candidates’ election addresses to unearth this information.

The volume runs to 328 fact-packed pages and contains more than 2,000 entries. It is well illustrated with photographs of a large number of Welsh politicians, and, printed in a most attractive double column format, has been produced to the very high standards associated with Dinefwr Publishers.

In 1997 the Revd Ifor Rees donated to the Library a useful collection of election addresses and leaflets together with a card index to parliamentary candidates in the whole of Britain from 1910 until 1983. He has also recently published two extensive articles in the National Library of Wales Journal together with a number of pieces in other Welsh historical journals. His abiding research interest is men of the cloth who turned to a second career as politicians. We anticipate eagerly his future articles and contributions.
Women and Politics

The eighteenth annual lecture of the Welsh Political Archive – ‘Women and Politics in Twentieth Century Wales’ - was a highly auspicious occasion – the first to be held at the DRWM, the new lecture theatre/cinema of the National Library of Wales opened during June 2004. It was especially gratifying to be able to convene, for the first time ever, the meeting of the WPA advisory committee, the annual lecture and the subsequent dinner within the building of the National Library. The lecture predictably attracted a capacity audience, including many members of the WPA consultative committee.

Professor Deirdre Beddoe delivering the 2005 WPA Lecture

The lecturer on this occasion was the well-known writer, lecturer and broadcaster Emeritus Professor Deirdre Beddoe, formerly Professor of Women’s History at the University of Glamorgan. She graduated in history from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1964 and subsequently undertook doctoral research on mediaeval history at the same college. She was the first holder of a chair in women’s history in any university in the United Kingdom. Professor Beddoe is also a long serving and active member of the WPA advisory committee.

Among her many important volumes are Welsh Convict Women (1979), Back to Home Duty (1989), Discovering Women’s History (1998), and, above all, Out of the Shadows (2000), a seminal work on the history of women in twelfth century Wales which was received to great critical acclaim. She is also the co-editor of the highly praised volume Parachutes and Petticoats: Welsh Women Writing on the Second World War (1992).

In a characteristically incisive account, Professor Beddoe devoted some attention to the impact of the Suffragette movement upon Welsh communities in the early twentieth century before analysing in some detail women’s progress (or, more appropriately, lack of progress) in Welsh parliamentary elections throughout the twentieth century. She looked at the strategies which had recently been adopted in an attempt to increase women’s representation at both the Westminster Parliament and the Welsh Assembly.

General Election 2005

Thanks to the ready co-operation of our established network of contacts in each of the forty Welsh constituencies and the Welsh headquarters of each of the main political parties, it has proved possible to collect a near complete set of the manifestos, election addresses and leaflets circulated throughout Wales during the recent April-May 2005 general election campaign. These have been added to the Welsh Political Ephemera Collection as series BA7, and a listing of them will be available for consultation ‘on-line’ shortly. In a recent new initiative, the web sites of the main parties have also been archived during the course of the election campaign.

Professor Kenneth O. Morgan, a member of the WPA advisory committee, proposed an eloquent vote of thanks to the speaker and reflected on the development of the Archive since its inception back in 1983.

The full text of the lecture is already available for consultation on the NLW web pages under the section on the Welsh Political Archive. It will also be published in an issue of the National Library of Wales Journal shortly.

Reflecting the truism that an election campaign is fought and won in a relatively small number of key marginal constituencies, it was very noticeable during this election campaign that far more leaflets and circulars were distributed in divisions where the outcome was uncertain than in the seats considered safe for one political party.

At the time of writing, no material has been received from the Monmouth and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituencies. We would much appreciate the co-operation of readers of the Newsletter in these areas who may be able to assist us to fill this gap and possibly collect such items on our behalf in future elections. We are anxious that our holdings should be as complete as possible.
Recent acquisitions

**Lord Crickhowell Papers**
Lord Crickhowell has very kindly donated to the Library a small archive of the correspondence, papers, speech notes, press releases and press cuttings which he accumulated as Conservative MP for Pembrokeshire, 1970-87, and as Secretary of State for Wales from 1979. There is especially valuable material on Conservative attitudes towards devolution and Welsh affairs during this period and the keenly contested general election campaigns which the donor fought in this highly marginal constituency.

Lord Crickhowell has also most generously agreed to deliver the twentieth WPA annual lecture at the Library on the evening of 3 November 2006.

**CND Archives**
Through the kindness of Miss Jill Stallard, the movement’s national secretary, the Library has recently received a substantial archive of records, c.1990-2004, relating to CND Cymru’s activities and campaigns, including correspondence, minutes of meetings, leaflets, posters and banners. Several small groups of records relating to the movement’s activities in Wales were previously donated to the Library between 1967 and 1994; a composite list was prepared in 1996.

**Plaid Cymru activists**
Mr Robat Gruffudd has donated to the Library papers, 1948-82, accumulated by his father Professor J. Gwyn Griffiths (1911-2004), the majority being letters relating to a publication edited by him on D. J. Williams, Fishguard. The correspondents include Kate Roberts, Saunders Lewis, Lewis Valentine, D. Gwennallt Jones, Gwynfor Evans, Aneurin Talfan Davies and Bobi Jones. Also included are papers relating to Plaid Cymru, including a minute book of the Swansea Branch, 1948-58, and other miscellaneous papers. These papers have been designated NLW ex 2337.

They also include further papers, c. 1954-63, of the poet and nationalist Harri Webb (1920-1994), comprising letters, papers relating to Plaid Cymru, minutes of meetings relating to the Parliament for Wales Campaign, articles and various material possibly intended for publication in Welsh Nation, press cuttings and printed material. They have been added to the Harri Webb Papers.

**Wartime nationalism**
Mr Rhys Evans, an active member of the WPA consultative committee, has very kindly donated to the Library a copy of the National Archives’s file, HO 144/22915 which contains papers, 1939-41, relating to the growth of nationalism in Wales and plans to make use of the services of the Royal Family in order to prevent this. It has been designated NLW Facs 993.

**Welsh Liberals**
Dr Glyn Tegai Hughes of Tregynon, Powys, a long standing activist within the Liberal Party in Wales, has donated to the Library an interesting file of correspondence and papers, 1961-62, relating to the party in Wales. They focus particularly on the attempt to appoint a regional organizer for the Liberal Party in Wales. They now bear the call number NLW ex 2365.

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.