LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

MANIFFESTO /MANIFESTO

57

Cylchlythyr Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig

The Welsh Political Archive Newsletter

Adolygiad / Review of
2025–2026



MANIFFESTO/ MANIFESTO

YR ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

Sefydlwyd yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig yn 1983 i gydlynu'r gwaith o gasglu tystiolaeth ddogfennol o bob math am wleidyddiaeth Cymru. Cesglir cofnodion a phapurau pleidiau gwleidyddol, gwleidyddion, mudiadau lled-wleidyddol, ymgyrchoedd a charfanau pwyso; taflenni, pamffledi ac effemera printiedig eraill; posteri a ffotograffau; gwefannau a thapiau o raglenni radio a theledu. Ni chyfyngir ei gweithgareddau i un adran o fewn y Llyfrgell.

Yn unol â Pholisi Datblygu Casgliadau Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru, mae'r Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig yn casglu papurau personol gwleidyddion sydd wedi chwarae rhan bwysig ym mywyd y genedl ac unigolion sydd â phroffil uchel oherwydd eu gwaith ymgyrchu ar faterion cenedlaethol neu ryngwladol.

Rydym yn casglu:

- **papurau Aelodau Senedd y DU, Aelodau Senedd Cymru, Aelodau Senedd Ewrop ac Arglwyddi os ydynt, er enghraifft, wedi gwasanaethu fel Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, arweinydd plaid wleidyddol, gweinidog, cadeirydd pwyllgor blaenllaw; nid ydym fel arfer yn casglu papurau etholaethol na phapurau aelodau etholedig eraill**
- **archifau cenedlaethol pleidiau gwleidyddol**
- **archifau carfanau pwyso cenedlaethol, a grwpiau sy'n ymgyrchu ar faterion gwleidyddol o bwys cenedlaethol**
- **effemera etholiadol o bob etholaeth yng Nghymru ar gyfer etholiadau a refferenda cenedlaethol**

Mae gwaith yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig yn cael ei oruchwylio gan Bwyllgor Ymgynghorol yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig, sy'n cwrdd unwaith y flwyddyn.

The Welsh Political Archive was set up in 1983 to co-ordinate the collection of documentary evidence of all kinds about politics in Wales. It collects the records and papers of political parties, politicians, quasi-political organisations, campaigns and pressure groups; leaflets, pamphlets and other printed ephemera; posters and photographs; websites and tapes of radio and television programmes. Its work is not restricted to a specific department within the Library.

In accordance with the National Library of Wales' Collection Development Policy, the Welsh Political Archive collects the personal papers of politicians who have played an important role in the life of the nation and individuals with a high profile for campaigning on national or international issues.

We collect:

- the papers of Members of the UK Parliament, Members of the Senedd, Members of the European Parliament and Lords if they have for example held positions such as Secretary of State, party leader, minister, senior committee chair; we do not usually collect the papers of other elected members or constituency papers
- the national archives of political parties
- archives of national pressure groups and groups which campaign on national issues
- election ephemera from all constituencies in Wales for national elections and referenda

The work of the Welsh Political Archive is guided by the Welsh Political Archive Advisory Committee which meets once a year.



STAFF YR ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE STAFF

Rob Phillips

Archifydd: Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig

Archivist: The Welsh Political Archive

Rhys Davies

Archifydd Cynorthwyol: Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig

Assistant Archivist: The Welsh Political Archive

Miidong Daloeng

Archifydd Cynorthwyol: Cymunedau a Mynediad

Assistant Archivist: Communities and Access

PWYLLGOR YMGYNGHOROL YR ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

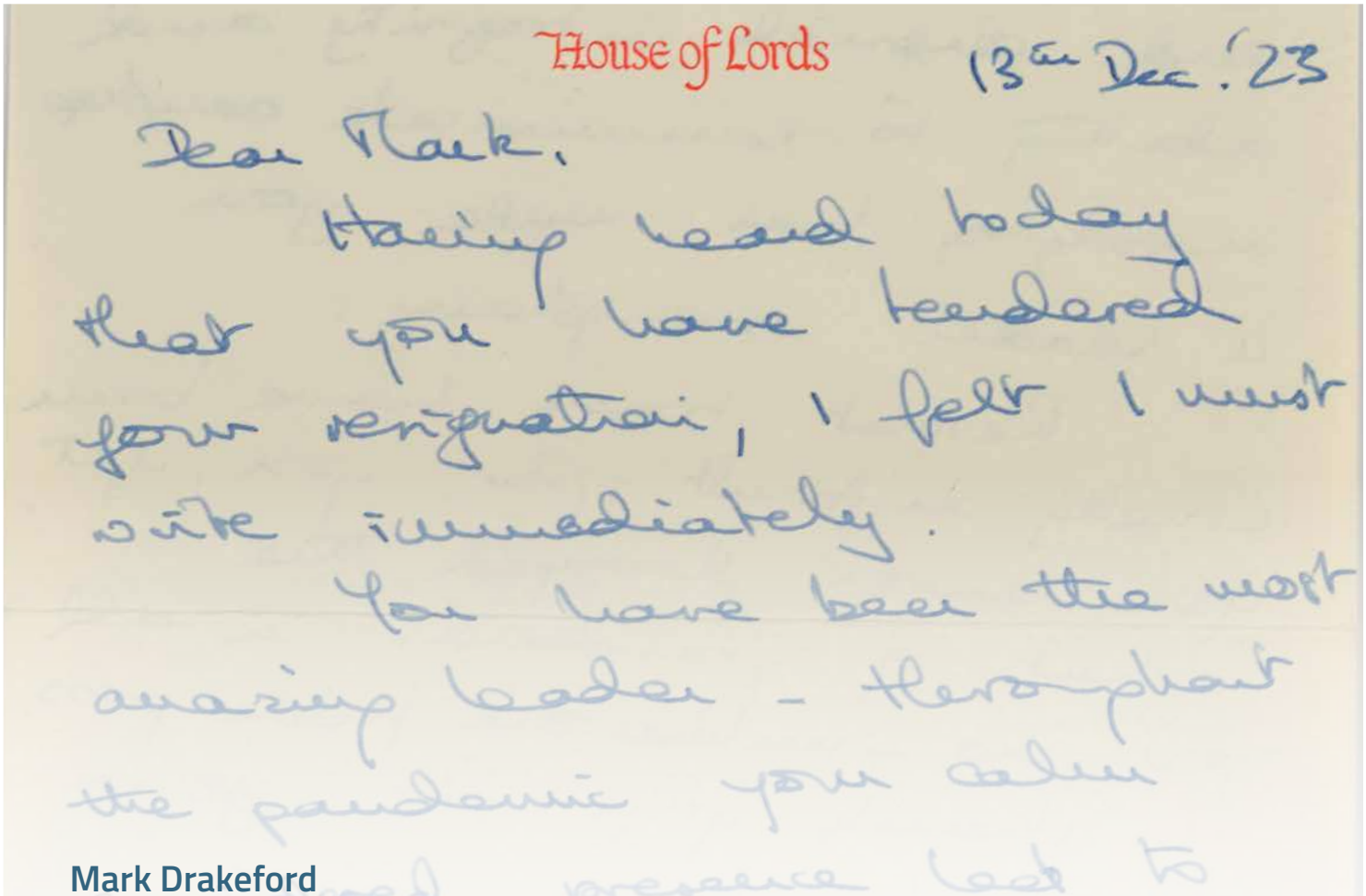
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Yr Athro Emeritws/Emeritus Professor Deirdre Beddoe
Mr Meic Birtwistle
Dr Sam Blaxland
Mrs Nia Daniel
Mr Paul Davies AS/MS
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Yr Athro/Professor Andrew Edwards
Dr Aled Eirug
Mr Rhys Evans
Mr Gwyn Griffiths
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Dr Owain Roberts
Arglwydd/Lord Ted Rowlands
Ms Jane Runeckles
Syr/Sir Paul Silk
Dr Guto Thomas
Ms Mary Thorley
Ms Sian Williams

DERBYNIADAU NEWYDD
NEW ACQUISITIONS

Mae'r Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig wedi llwyddo i dderbyn nifer o archifau diddorol yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf.

The Welsh Political Archive has been successful in acquiring a number of interesting archives during the past year.

Mark Drakeford Papers


House of Lords 13th Dec. '23

Dear Mark,

Having heard today that you have tendered your resignation, I felt I must write immediately.

You have been the most amazing leader - throughout the pandemic you also

Mark Drakeford

Dros y 18 mis diwethaf, mae'r cyn-Brif Weinidog ac Arweinydd Llafur Cymru, Mark Drakeford, wedi rhoi ei archif sylweddol i'r Llyfrgell. Mae'r papurau'n cynnwys deunydd yn ymwneud â'i gyfnod fel Prif Weinidog gan gynnwys materion fel pandemig Covid-19 ac ymadawiad y DU â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae'r archif hefyd yn cynnwys papurau sy'n ymwneud â'i rolau eraill yn y llywodraeth, megis fel Gweinidog Iechyd a chynghorydd i'r Prif Weinidog Rhodri Morgan.

Mark Drakeford Papers

Over the last 18 months, former First Minister and Leader of Welsh Labour, Mark Drakeford has donated his substantial archive to the Library. The papers contain material relating to his time as First Minister including issues such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK leaving the European Union. The archive also includes papers relating to his other government roles, such as Health Minister and as adviser to First Minister Rhodri Morgan.

Mark Drakeford Papers

Dyddiadur Maggie Williams
Diary of Maggie Williams

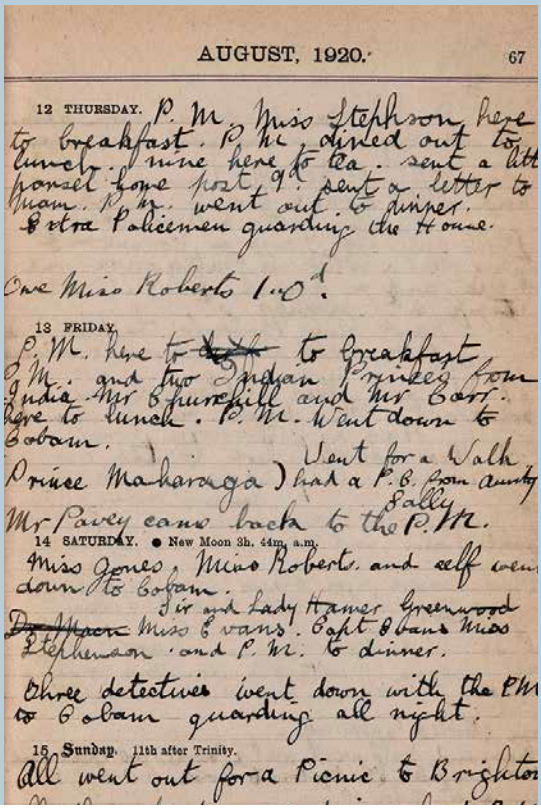
Ym mis Chwefror 2026 prynodd y Llyfrgell ddyddiadur Miss Maggie Williams, Blaenau Ffestiniog, a ysgrifennwyd ganddi wrth iddi weithio fel morwyn yn 10 Stryd Downing i David Lloyd George yn 1920. Mae'r dyddiadur yn cynnwys nodiadau ar ymweliadau â'r tŷ gan y Brenin Siôr V, pwysigion a gwleidyddion tramor ynghyd â manylion bywyd Miss Williams y tu allan i'r gwaith. Ceir hefyd ddau ffotograff heb ddyddiad o Miss Williams (Mrs Evans yn ddiweddarach) a chopi o drefn gwasanaeth coffa Lloyd George yn 1945.

NLW MS 24239

In February 2026 the Library purchased the diary of Miss Maggie Williams, Blaenau Ffestiniog, which she kept while working as a maid in 10 Downing Street for David Lloyd George in 1920. The diary contains notes on visits to the house by King George V, foreign dignitaries and politicians along with details of Miss Williams' life outside work. Also included are two undated photographs of Miss Williams (later Mrs Evans) and a copy of the order of service for Lloyd George's memorial service in 1945.

NLW MS 24239

NLW MS 24239



AUGUST, 1920. 67

12 THURSDAY. P. M. Miss Stephson here to breakfast. P. M. dined out to lunch. nine here to tea. sent a little parcel home post 9d. sent a letter to Mam. P. M. went out to dinner. Extra Policemen guarding the House.

Care Miss Roberts 1.0d.

13 FRIDAY. P. M. here to ~~Xxx~~ to breakfast P. M. and two Indian Princes from India. Mr Churchill and Mr Carr here to lunch. P. M. went down to Cobham. Princes Maharaga) went for a Walk had a P.C. from aunty Sally

Mr Pavey came back to the P. M.

14 SATURDAY. ● New Moon 3h. 44m. a.m.

Miss Jones, Miss Roberts and self went down to Cobham. Sir and Lady Hamer Greenwood ~~Mr Macn~~ Miss Evans. Capt Evans Miss Stephenson and P. M. to dinner.

Three detectives went down with the PM to Cobham guarding all night.

15 Sunday. 11th after Trinity.

All went out for a Picnic to Brighton

Elfed Roberts

Derbyniodd y Llyfrgell rodd gan Elfed Roberts o 14 o ddyddiaduron yn cwmpasu'r cyfnod 1973–1998 yn ymwneud â'i waith fel trefnydd Plaid Cymru ym Meirionnydd Nant Conwy ym mis Hydref 2025.

Dyddiaduron Plaid Cymru Elfed Roberts

The Library received a donation from Elfed Roberts of 14 diaries spanning the period 1973–1998 relating to his work as organiser for Plaid Cymru in Meirionnydd Nant Conwy in October 2025.

Dyddiaduron Plaid Cymru Elfed Roberts

Yr Arglwydd Ogwr
Lord Ogmore

Rhoddwyd dau lythyr, dyddiedig 1931 a 1934, oddi wrth David Rees Rees-Williams, yr Arglwydd Ogwr yn ddiweddarach, at ei berthynas Edward Arthur Hopkins yng Nghanada, yn trafod ei farn ar wleidyddiaeth a heddwch, i'r Llyfrgell gan John Hopkins ym mis Hydref 2025.

NLW MS 24182D

Two letters, dated 1931 and 1934, from David Rees Rees-Williams, later Lord Ogmore, to his relative Edward Arthur Hopkins in Canada, discussing his views on politics and peace were donated to the Library by John Hopkins in October 2025.

NLW MS 24182D

Anita Gale

Rhoddodd cyn-Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol Llafur Cymru, y Farwnes Anita Gale, gasgliad bychan o bapurau i'r Llyfrgell ym mis Awst 2025, yn ymwneud yn bennaf â'r trefniadau gefeillio etholaethol ar gyfer etholiadau cyntaf Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn 1999.

Baroness Gale Papers

Former General Secretary of Welsh Labour, Baroness Anita Gale donated a small collection of papers to the Library in August 2025, mainly relating to the constituency twinning arrangements for the first elections to the National Assembly for Wales in 1999.

Baroness Gale Papers

Rob Humphreys

Rhoddodd cyn-Lywydd a Chadeirydd Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Rob Humphreys, gasgliad sylweddol o bapurau ym mis Hydref 2025. Maent yn ymwneud yn bennaf â'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol a Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, ymgyrch Ie 1997 yn Abertawe, adolygiadau Rees, Graham a Diamond i addysg uwch yng Nghymru, y Comisiwn ar Ddatganoli yng Nghymru ac uno Cymdeithas Addysg y Gweithwyr De Cymru a Chymdeithas Addysg y Gweithwyr Coleg Harlech Gogledd Cymru.

Rob Humphreys Papers

Former President and Chair of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, Rob Humphreys, donated a significant collection of papers in October 2025. They mainly relate to the Liberal Democrats and Welsh Liberal Democrats, the 1997 Yes campaign in Swansea, the Rees, Graham and Diamond reviews on higher education in Wales, the Commission on Devolution in Wales and the merger of the WEA South Wales and Coleg Harlech WEA North Wales.

Rob Humphreys Papers

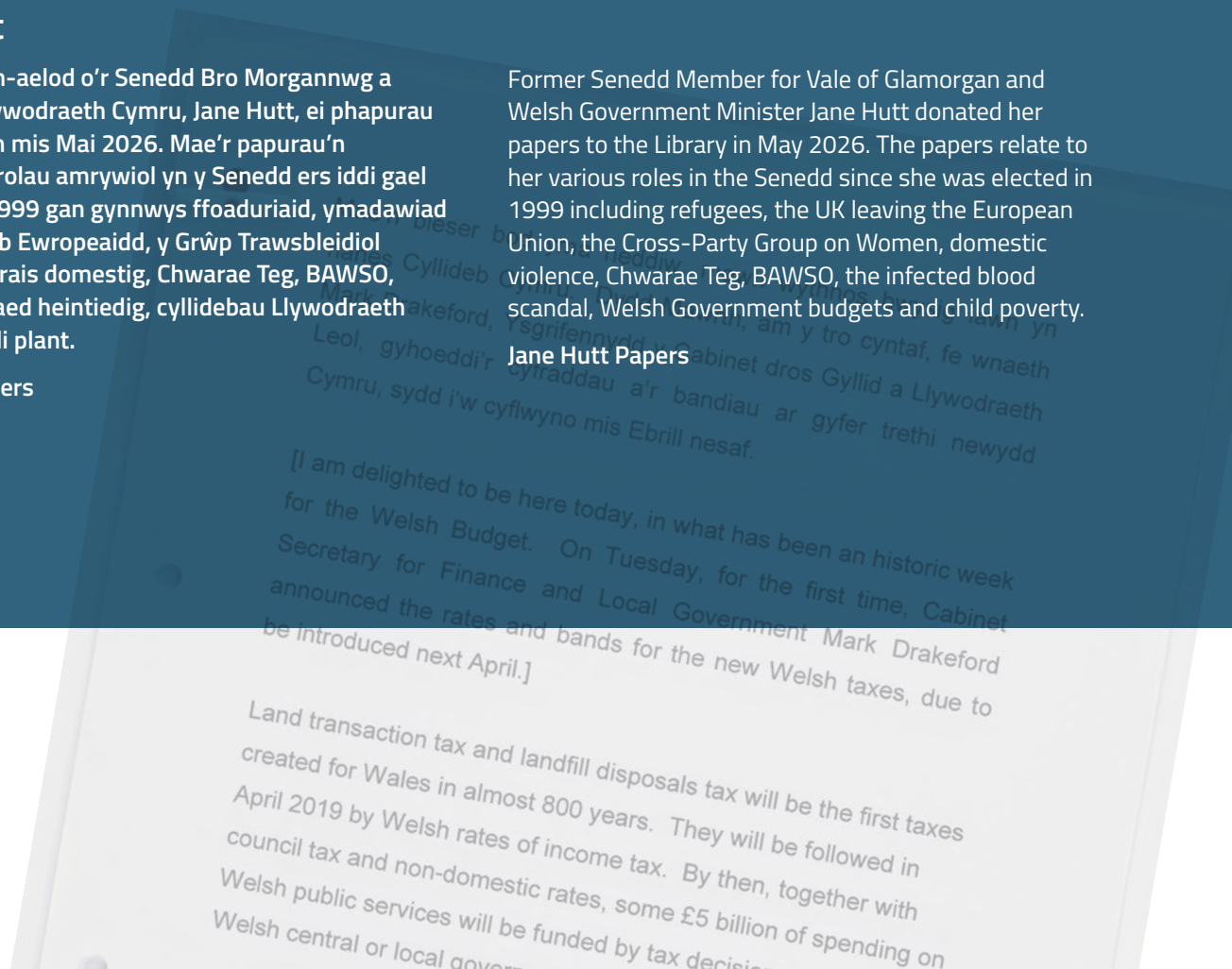
Jane Hutt

Rhoddodd cyn-aelod o'r Senedd Bro Morgannwg a Gweinidog Llywodraeth Cymru, Jane Hutt, ei phapurau i'r Llyfrgell ym mis Mai 2026. Mae'r papurau'n ymwneud â'i rolau amrywiol yn y Senedd ers iddi gael ei hethol yn 1999 gan gynnwys ffoaduriaid, ymadawiad y DU â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, y Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar Fenywod, trais domestig, Chwarae Teg, BAWSO, y sgandal gwaed heintiedig, cyllidebau Llywodraeth Cymru a thlodi plant.

Jane Hutt Papers

Former Senedd Member for Vale of Glamorgan and Welsh Government Minister Jane Hutt donated her papers to the Library in May 2026. The papers relate to her various roles in the Senedd since she was elected in 1999 including refugees, the UK leaving the European Union, the Cross-Party Group on Women, domestic violence, Chwarae Teg, BAWSO, the infected blood scandal, Welsh Government budgets and child poverty.

Jane Hutt Papers



Cangen Merthyr Tudful o'r Gymdeithas Bricwyr Gweithredol

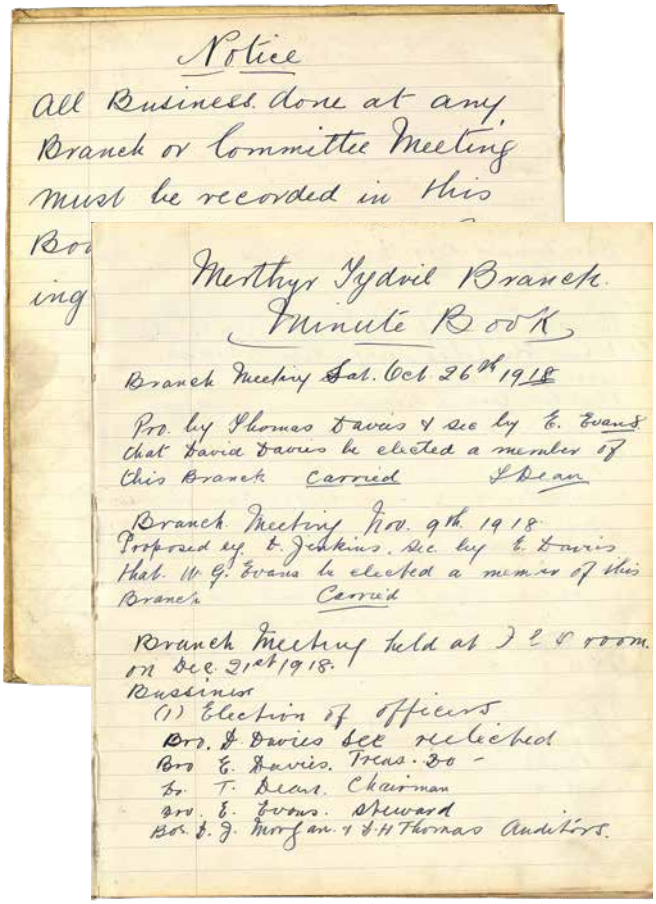
Merthyr Tydfil branch of the Operative Bricklayers Society

Rhoddwyd llyfr cofnodion cangen Merthyr Tudful o'r Gymdeithas Bricwyr Gweithredol ar gyfer y cyfnod 1918–23, i'r Llyfrgell ym mis Gorffennaf 2025, fel ychwanegiad at dri llyfr cofnodion arall sy'n cwmpasu'r cyfnod 1904–1946. Yn ddiweddarach, cafodd y gymdeithas ei hymgorffori gydag Undeb Unedig Gweithwyr y Diwydiant Adeiladu.

NLW MS 24232

A minute book of the Merthyr Tydfil branch of the Operative Bricklayers' Society for the period 1918–23, was donated to the Library in July 2025, as an addition to three other minute books covering the period 1904–1946. The society was later incorporated with the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers.

NLW MS 24232


Notice
All Business done at any Branch or Committee Meeting must be recorded in this Bo ing

Merthyr Tydvil Branch
Minute Book

Branch Meeting Sat. Oct 26th 1918
Pro. by Thomas Davies & sec by E. Evans that David Davies be elected a member of this Branch Carried J Dean

Branch Meeting Nov. 9th 1918
Proposed by D. Jenkins. Sec by E. Davies that W. G. Evans be elected a mem of this Branch Carried

Branch Meeting held at 2 & 8 room. on Dec. 21st 1918.
Business
(1) Election of Officers
Bro. J Davies Sec re elected
Bro E. Davies. Treas. do -
Bro T. Dean. Chairman
Bro. E. Evans. Steward
Bro. J. J. Morgan & J. H Thomas Auditors.

NLW MS 24232

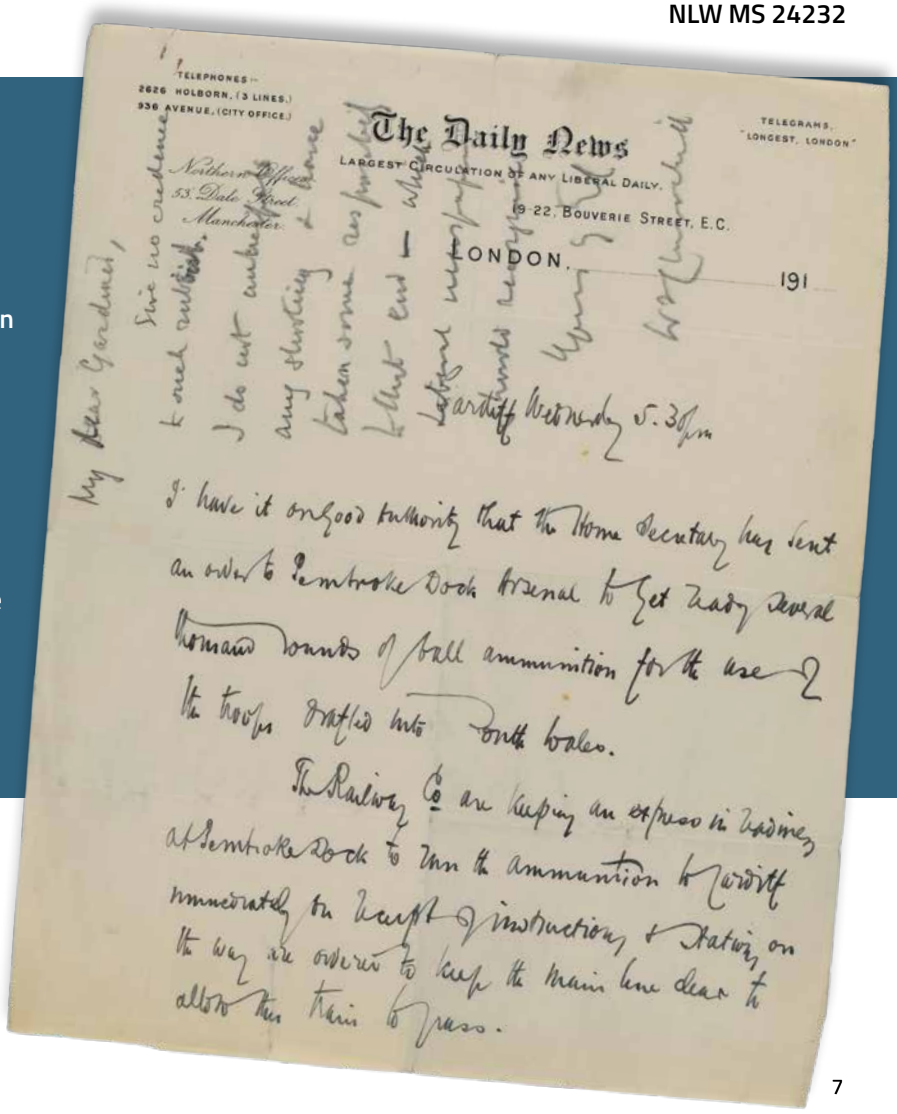
Winston Churchill

Prynodd y Llyfrgell femorandwm wedi'i lofnodi gan yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref, Winston Churchill yn gwrthod y syniad y byddai'n saethu glowyr a oedd yn streicio yn Nhonypandy yn 1910 gan Peter Harrington Rare Books ym mis Mawrth 2026.

NLW MS 24182D

An autograph memorandum by the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill rejecting the notion that he would fire on striking miners at Tonypandy in 1910 was purchased by the Library from Peter Harrington Rare Books in March 2026.

NLW MS 24182D


TELEPHONES:
2626 HOLBORN. (3 LINES.)
936 AVENUE. (CITY OFFICE.)

The Daily News
LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY LIBERAL DAILY.
19-22, BOUVERIE STREET, E.C.

TELEGRAMS:
"LONGEST, LONDON"

Northern Offices
53, Dale Street,
Manchester.

LONDON,

191

Cardiff Wednesday 5.30 pm

My dear Gordon,

Since we exchanged
I have had another talk
I do not anticipate
any disturbing
Taken strong
Latest
Labour

I have it on good authority that the Home Secretary has sent an order to Pembroke Dock Arsenal to get ready several thousand rounds of ball ammunition for the use of the troops drafted into South Wales.

The Railway Co are keeping an express in readiness at Pembroke Dock to run the ammunition to Cardiff immediately on receipt of instructions & stations on the way are ordered to keep the main line clear to allow the train to pass.

Julie Morgan

Rhoddodd cyn-Aelod Seneddol ac Aelod o'r Senedd dros Ogledd Caerdydd a Gweinidog Llywodraeth Cymru, Julie Morgan, ei phapurau i'r Llyfrgell ym mis Mai 2026. Mae'r papurau'n ymwneud â phynciau amrywiol gan gynnwys y sgandal gwaed heintiedig, ymchwiliad Covid-19, cŵn peryglus, Canolfan Canser Felindre a bwndeli babanod, ynghyd ag areithiau amrywiol.

Julie Morgan Papers

Former Member of Parliament and Senedd Member for Cardiff North and Welsh Government Minister Julie Morgan donated her papers to the Library in May 2026. The papers relate to various subjects including the infested blood scandal, the Covid-19 inquiry, dangerous dogs, Velindre Cancer Centre and baby bundles, along with various speeches.

Julie Morgan Papers



Julie Morgan Papers

D. J. Williams

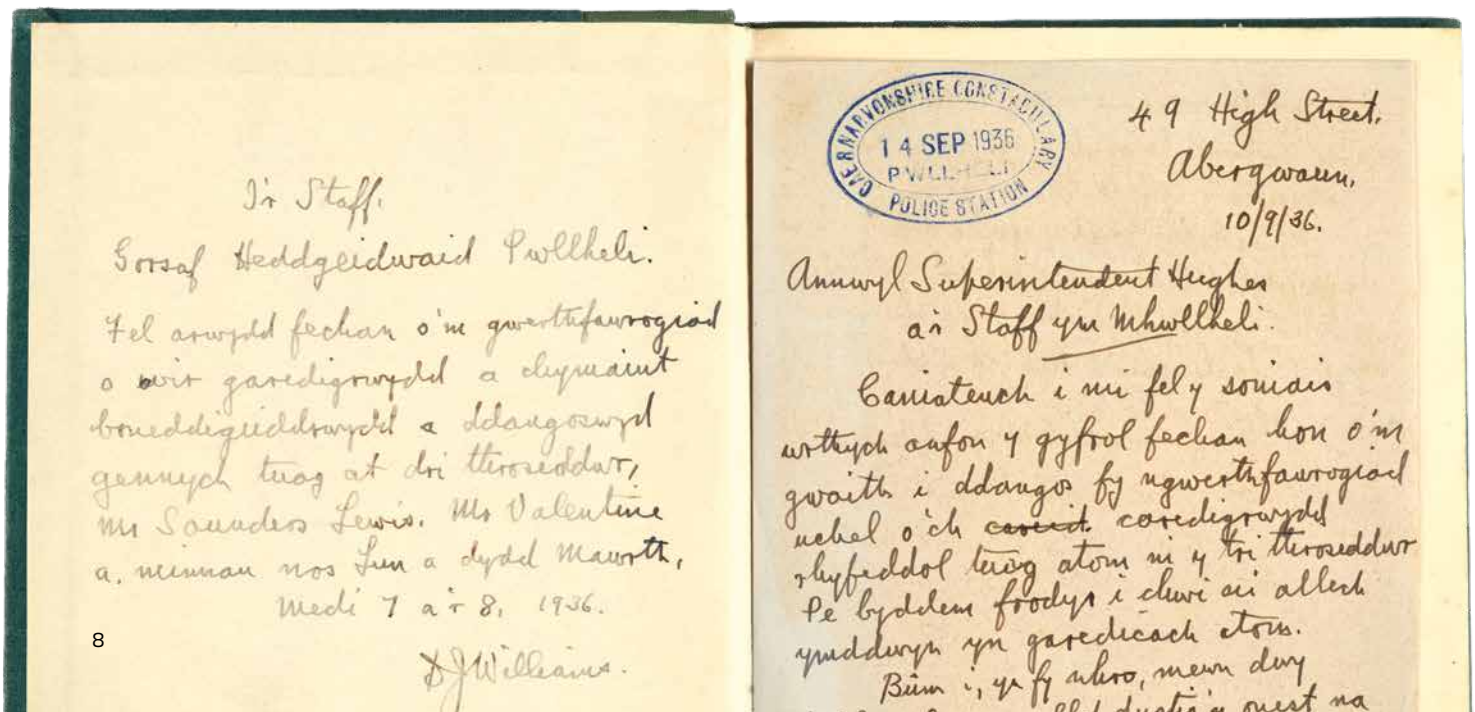
Rhoddwyd copi o *Hen Wynebau* (Llandysul, 1934) gan D. J. Williams, a gyflwynodd i staff Gorsaf Heddlu Pwllheli yn fuan ar ôl iddo gael ei arestio ynghyd â Saunders Lewis a Lewis Valentine am weithred symbolaidd o losgi bwriadol yn Ysgol Fomio'r Awyrlu Brenhinol ym Mhenyberth i brotestio yn erbyn datblygiad milwrol y safle, i'r Llyfrgell gan Dewi Roberts ym mis Medi 2025. Mae'r gyfrol hefyd yn cynnwys llythyr dyddiedig Medi 1936 at yr Uwch-arolygydd Hughes a'i staff.

NLW ex 3143

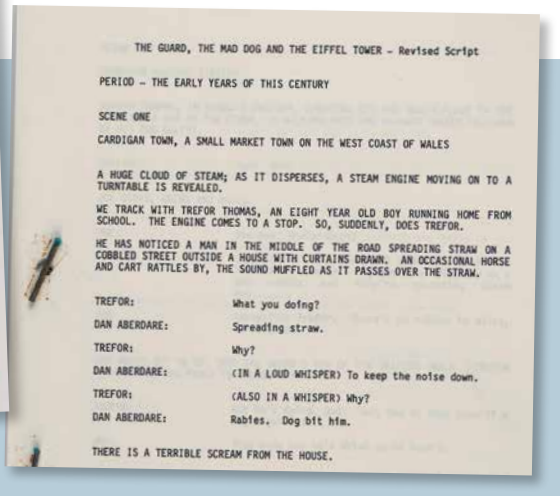
A copy of D. J. Williams' *Hen Wynebau* (Llandysul, 1934), which he presented to the staff of Pwllheli Police Station shortly after his arrest along with Saunders Lewis and Lewis Valentine for a symbolic act of arson at the RAF Bombing School at Penyberth to protest against the military development of the site, was donated to the Library in September 2025 by Dewi Roberts.
The volume also includes a letter dated September 1936 to Superintendent Hughes and his staff.

NLW ex 3143

NLW ex 3143







THE GUARD, THE MAD DOG AND THE EIFFEL TOWER - Revised Script

PERIOD - THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY

SCENE ONE

CARDIGAN TOWN, A SMALL MARKET TOWN ON THE WEST COAST OF WALES

A HUGE CLOUD OF STEAM; AS IT DISPERSES, A STEAM ENGINE MOVING ON TO A TURNTABLE IS REVEALED.

WE TRACK WITH TREFOR THOMAS, AN EIGHT YEAR OLD BOY RUNNING HOME FROM SCHOOL. THE ENGINE COMES TO A STOP. SO, SUDDENLY, DOES TREFOR.

HE HAS NOTICED A MAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD SPREADING STRAW ON A COBBLED STREET OUTSIDE A HOUSE WITH CURTAINS DRAWN. AN OCCASIONAL HORSE AND CART RATTLES BY, THE SOUND MUFFLED AS IT PASSES OVER THE STRAW.

TREFOR: What you doing?

DAN ABERDARE: Spreading straw.

TREFOR: Why?

DAN ABERDARE: (IN A LOUD WHISPER) To keep the noise down.

TREFOR: (ALSO IN A WHISPER) Why?

DAN ABERDARE: Rabies. Dog bit him.

THERE IS A TERRIBLE SCREAM FROM THE HOUSE.

Colin Thomas Papers

Colin Thomas

Rhoddodd y cyfarwyddwr teledu a'r cynhyrchydd adnabyddus Colin Thomas ei bapurau i'r Llyfrgell ym mis Gorffennaf 2026. Mae'r ffeiliau'n ymwneud â llawer o'i gynyrchiadau gan gynnwys *The Dragon Has Two Tongues, Miracle on the River Kwai* a *The Dragon and the Eagle*, yn ogystal â syniadau na chawsant eu cynhyrchu erioed a gohebiaeth â chyfranwyr.

Colin Thomas Papers

Renowned television director and producer Colin Thomas donated his papers to the Library in July 2026. The files relate to many of his productions including *The Dragon Has Two Tongues, Miracle on the River Kwai* and *The Dragon and the Eagle*, as well as ideas which never made it to production and correspondence with contributors.

Colin Thomas Papers

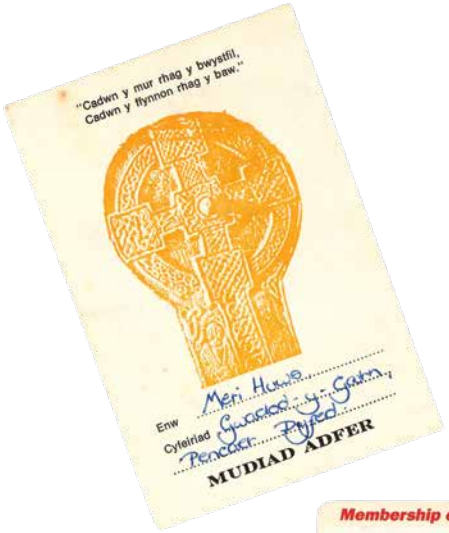
Meri Huws

Derbyniodd y Llyfrgell bapurau, gohebiaeth ac effemera Meri Huws, (1970au–2021), gan gynnwys ffeiliau yn ymwneud â Chymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg, Streic y Glowyr a phenodiadau cyhoeddus.

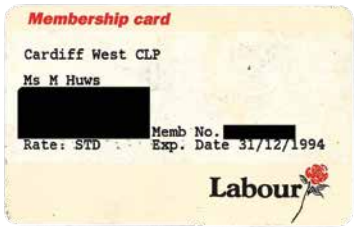
Papurau Meri Huws

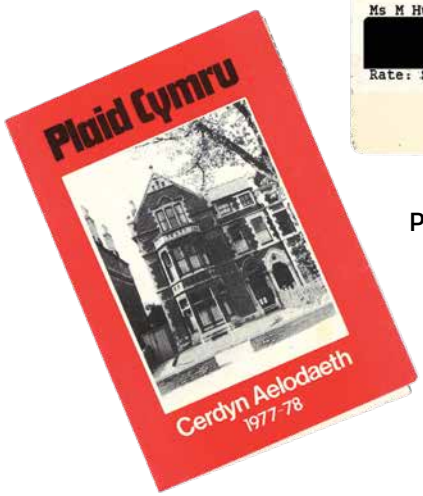
The Library received papers, correspondence and ephemera of Meri Huws, (1970s–2021), including files relating to Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, the Welsh Language Board, The Miners' Strike and public appointments.

Papurau Meri Huws









Papurau Meri Huws



Cafwyd nifer o ychwanegiadau i'r archifau sydd eisoes yn y Llyfrgell yn ystod y flwyddyn hefyd.

A number of additions to archives already held in the Library were also received during the year.



Darren Millar

Rhoddodd arweinydd y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, Darren Millar, flwch ychwanegol o lenyddiaeth etholiadol, maniffestos a phregethau i'w hychwanegu at ei gasgliad ym mis Awst 2026.

Ychwanegiad at **Darren Millar Papers**

Welsh Conservatives leader Darren Millar donated an additional box of election literature, manifestos and sermons to add to his collection in August 2026.

Addition to **Darren Millar Papers**

Yr Arglwydd Hooson
Lord Hooson

Wyth bocs o ddeunydd a gasglwyd gan yr Athro Derec Llwyd Morgan ar gyfer cyhoeddi *Emlyn Hooson: Essays & Reminiscences* gan gynnwys gohebiaeth, erthyglau, areithiau ar bynciau gan gynnwys bil datganoli 1967, cyfiawnder, y Blaid Ryddfrydol, datblygiad Canolbarth Cymru, yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol a Llofruddiaethau'r Moors.

Ychwanegiad at **Lord Hooson Papers**

Eight boxes of material collected by Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan for the publication of *Emlyn Hooson: Essays & Reminiscences* including correspondence, articles, speeches on subjects including the 1967 devolution bill, justice, the Liberal Party, development of Mid-Wales, the National Eisteddfod and the Moors Murders.

Addition to **Lord Hooson Papers**

Mick Antoniw

Rhoddodd cyn-aelod o'r Senedd dros Bontypridd a Gweinidog Llywodraeth Cymru, Mick Antoniw, ffeil o'i bapurau gan gynnwys dogfennau polisi, gohebiaeth ac effemera etholiadol i'r Llyfrgell ym mis Mai 2026.

Ychwanegiad at **Labour Party Wales Archives**

Former Senedd Member for Pontypridd and Welsh Government Minister, Mick Antoniw, donated a file of his papers including policy documents, correspondence and election ephemera to the Library in May 2026.

Addition to **Labour Party Wales Archives**

CASGLIAD EFFEMERA GWLEIDYDDOL CYMRU
WELSH POLITICAL EPHEMERA COLLECTION

Cafwyd ymateb gwych gan ein rhwydwaith o gefnogwyr i gasglu anerchiadau etholiadol, llythyrau, posteri a deunydd print arall o etholiad y Senedd 2026, gan dderbyn deunydd gan bob plaid ac etholaeth. Mae eu cefnogaeth yn amhrisiadwy er mwyn cynnal y casgliad cynhwysfawr unigryw hwn ac rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i bawb a gyfrannodd.

Mae'r Llyfrgell hefyd wedi casglu copïau ciplun o wefannau pleidiau ac ymgeiswyr a fu'n cystadlu yn yr etholiad ynghyd â chopïau o faniffestos a gyhoeddwyd gan bleidiau gwleidyddol a grwpiau diddordeb a grwpiau pwyso.

Ychwanegiad diddorol eleni yw esboniad etholiadol hynod gan yr artist Maia Thomas o'r enw *Ducks of the Dyfi Valley.*

Ychwanegwyd ffeiliau ychwanegol at y casgliad o isetholiad Caerffili ym mis Hydref 2025 (BE/5) ynghyd â ffeiliau yn ymwneud â Heddwch (C3/62), Cymru-Cuba (C2/24), Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (C2/25), cyhoeddiadau mewnol Plaid Cymru (C1/5/28), dewis ymgeisydd Plaid Cymru ar gyfer etholiad Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru 2016 (C1/5/29).

Ychwanegwyd deunydd pellach a roddwyd gan Gwyn John a oedd yn ymgeisydd Plaid y Refferendwm yng Nghwm Cynon yn Etholiad Cyffredinol 1997 at ffeil BA5/18.

There was a fantastic response by our network of supporters to collect printed election addresses, letters, posters and other material from the 2026 Senedd election with material received from all parties and constituencies. Their support is invaluable to maintain this unique comprehensive collection and we are very grateful to all who contributed.

The Library also collected snapshot copies of the websites of parties and candidates contesting the election along with copies of manifestos published by political parties and interest and pressure groups.

An interesting addition this year is a quirky election explainer by artist Maia Thomas entitled *Ducks of the Dyfi Valley.*

Additional files were added to the collection from the Caerphilly by-election in October 2025 (BE/5) along with files relating to Peace (C3/62), Cymru-Cuba (C2/24), Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (C2/25), Plaid Cymru internal publications (C1/5/28), Plaid Cymru candidate selection for the 2016 National Assembly for Wales election (C1/5/29).

Further material donated by Gwyn John who was the Referendum Party candidate in Cynon Valley in the 1997 General Election was added to file BA5/18.



Welsh Political Ephemera Collection

DEDDFWRIAETH CYMRU
WELSH LEGISLATION

Mae'r Llyfrgell wedi bod yn gartref i ddeddfwriaeth gynradd Cymru ers i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru ar y pryd dderbyn y pŵer i basio Mesurau'r Cynulliad yn 2007 a Deddfau'r Cynulliad yn 2011. Ers hynny, mae copïau ardystiedig o holl Ddeddfau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru a Deddfau Senedd Cymru ynghyd â'u Breinlythyrau wedi'u cadw yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru.

Ychwanegwyd deddfau a basiwyd yn 2024 a 2025 at y casgliad yn ddiweddar.

Mesurau a Deddfau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru = National Assembly for Wales Measures and Acts.

O ganlyniad i Ddeddf Deddfwriaeth (Gweithdrefn, Cyhoeddi a Diddymiadau) (Cymru) 2025, mae'r Llyfrgell bellach hefyd yn gartref i is-ddeddfwriaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar ffurf Offerynnau Statudol Cymru. Trosglwyddwyd copïau papur ardystiedig o Offerynnau Statudol Cymru o 2018 a 2019 i'r Llyfrgell ar ddiwedd 2025 ac mae copïau digidol ardystiedig o Offerynnau Statudol Cymru wedi cael eu trosglwyddo i'r Llyfrgell yn rheolaidd ers mis Ionawr 2026.

Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n bosibl cael mynediad at gopïau digidol trwy roi rhybudd ymlaen llaw i'r Llyfrgell tra bod y gwaith datblygu ar gyfer mynediad agored ar-lein yn mynd rhagddo.

The Library has been the home of Welsh primary legislation since the then National Assembly for Wales received the power to pass Assembly Measures in 2007 and Acts of the Assembly in 2011. Since then, certified copies of all Acts of the National Assembly for Wales and Acts of Senedd Cymru along with their Letters Patent have been held in the National Library of Wales.

Acts passed in 2024 and 2025 were recently added to the collection.

Mesurau a Deddfau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru = National Assembly for Wales Measures and Acts.

As a result of the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025, the Library is now also home to Welsh Government secondary legislation in the form of Welsh Statutory Instruments (WSIs). Certified paper copies of WSIs from 2018 and 2019 were transferred to the Library in late 2025 and certified digital copies of WSIs have been transferred to the Library regularly since January 2026.

Access to the digital copies is currently possible by prior notice to the Library while development for open online access is ongoing.



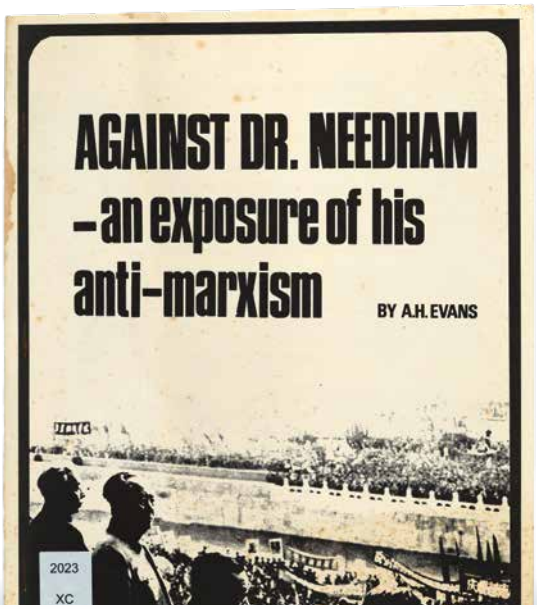
Mesurau a Deddfau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
National Assembly for Wales Measures and Acts

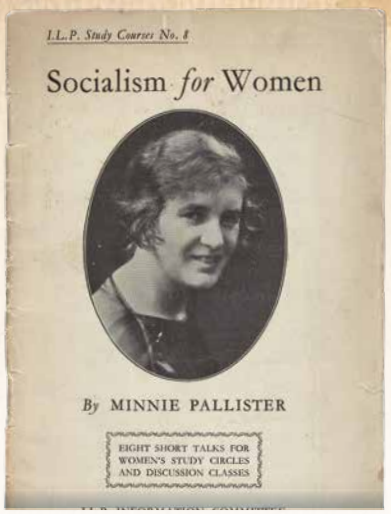
DEUNYDD PRINT
PRINTED MATERIAL

Ym mis Ionawr 2026 prynodd y Llyfrgell ddau bamffled a gyhoeddwyd gan y comiwnydd a'r bardd Cymreig Maoistaidd Gwrth-ddiwygio, Arthur Henry Evans. Cyhoeddwyd y cyntaf, o'r enw *Vietnam,* o gwmpas 1965, gan y Pwyllgor Undod Comiwnyddol a Blaengad, ac roedd yr ail, o'r enw *Against Dr. Needham: an exposure of his anti-marxism,* yn ymosodiad ar y sinolegydd Joseph Needham.

In January 2026 the Library purchased two pamphlets published by the Anti-Revisionist Maoist Welsh communist and poet Arthur Henry Evans. The first, entitled *Vietnam*, published around 1965, was issued by the Committee for Communist Unity & Vanguard, and the second, entitled *Against Dr. Needham: an exposure of his anti-marxism*, was an attack on the sinologist Joseph Needham.

Against Dr. Neeham by A. H. Evans

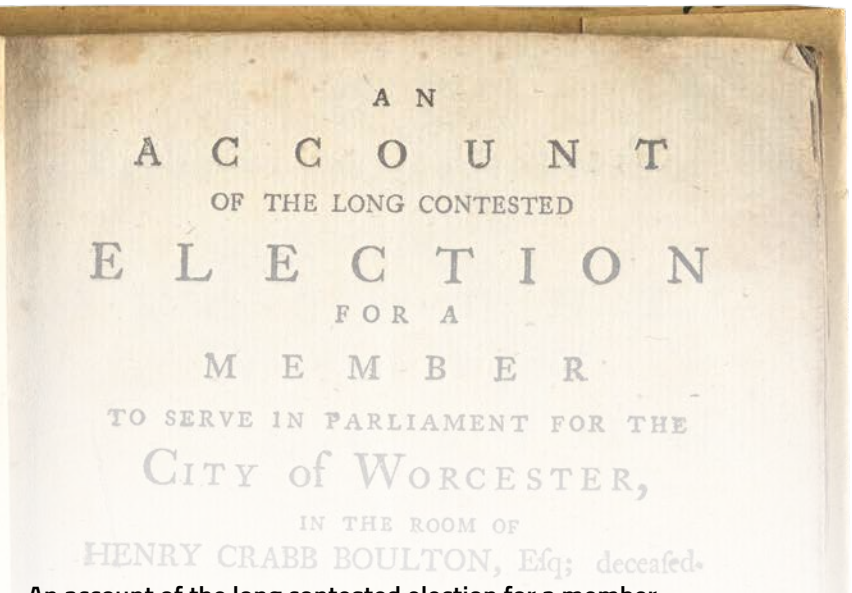




Socialism for Women by Minnie Pallister

Ym mis Chwefror 2026 prynodd y Llyfrgell hefyd lyfryn o'r enw *Socialism for Women: Eight short talks for women's study circles and discussion classes* gan Millie Pallister, a gyhoeddwyd gan y Blaid Lafur Annibynnol yn 1923.

The Library also purchased in February 2026 a booklet entitled *Socialism for Women: Eight short talks for women's study circles and discussion classes* by Millie Pallister, published by the Independent Labour Party in 1923.



An account of the long contested election for a member to serve in Parliament for the city of Worcester

Ym mis Mehefin 2026 prynodd y Llyfrgell bamffled o'r enw *An account of the long contested election for a member to serve in Parliament for the city of Worcester, in the room of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; deceased* a gyhoeddwyd yn 1774. Mae'r pamffled yn manylu ar isetholiad 1773 lle safodd Syr Watkin Lewis yn erbyn yr ymgeisydd Toriaidd Thomas Bates Rous ar ôl i ymgeisydd blaenorol yr wrthblaid dynnu'n ôl ddyddiau'n unig cyn yr etholiad. Enillodd Rous o 900 i 635, ond cafodd y canlyniad ei ddiddymu yn ddiweddarach oherwydd llwgrwobrwyo.

In June 2026 the Library purchased a pamphlet entitled *An account of the long contested election for a member to serve in Parliament for the city of Worcester, in the room of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; deceased* published in 1774. The pamphlet details the 1773 by-election where Sir Watkin Lewis stood against Tory candidate Thomas Bates Rous after the previous opposition candidate stood down only days before the election. Rous won by 900 to 635, but the result was later nullified due to bribery.

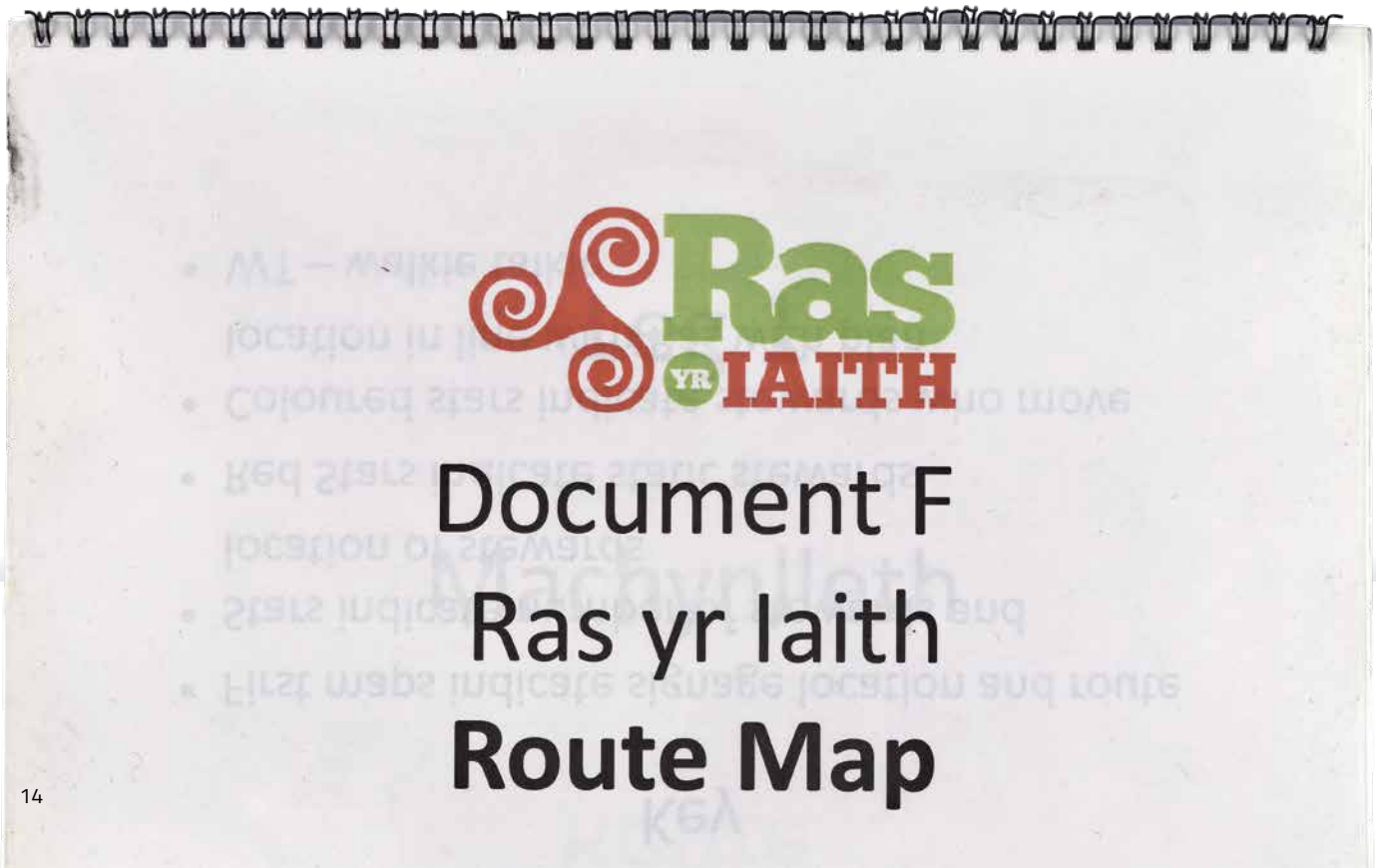
CATALOGIO A MYNEDIAD
CATALOGUING AND ACCESS

Yn ystod y flwyddyn, catalogiwyd nifer o gasgliadau sydd bellach i'w gweld ar gatalog ar-lein y Llyfrgell.

During the year, a number of collections were catalogued and made available on the Library's online catalogue.

- **Archif Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru = National Assembly for Wales Archive – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Archif Ras yr Iaith**
- **Dot Cym Campaign Records**
- **Lord Hooson Papers – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Alan Jobbins Papers – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Sion T Jobbins Papers**
- **Gwynoro Jones Papers**
- **Labour Party Wales Archives – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Offerynnau Statudol Cymru = Welsh Statutory Instruments**
- **Nick Powell Papers**
- **Ray Powell Papers**
- **Baroness Randerson Papers – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Lord Rowe-Beddoe Papers – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Workers' Educational Association (North Wales) Archive**
- **Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement Papers – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Lee Waters Papers – Ychwanegiad/Addition**
- **Welsh Political Ephemera Collection – Ychwanegiad/Addition**

Archif Ras yr Iaith



Yn ystod mis Ionawr adolygodd y tîm embargos ar yr archifau canlynol a llwyddwyd i agor nifer fawr o ffeiliau:

During January the team reviewed embargoes on the following archives and were able to open a large number of files:

- **Committee of Welsh District Councils Records**
- **Council for the Principality Records**
- **Council of Welsh Districts Records**

- Committee of Welsh District Councils Records
- Council for the Principality Records
- Council of Welsh Districts Records

Ychwanegwyd canllawiau casgliadau newydd i dudalennau gwe yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig:

- **Streic Gyffredinol 1926**
- **LHDTC+**
- **Llywodraeth Leol**

llyfrgell.cymru/archifwleidyddolgymreig/archifau-fesul-thema

New collection guides were added to the Welsh Political Archive web pages:

- General Strike 1926
- LGBTQ+
- Local Government

library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive/archives-by-theme

Cyfrannodd yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig at dywyslyfrau a gyhoeddwyd gan y Gymdeithas er Astudio Hanes Llafur:

- **Y Mudiad Cydweithredol**
- **Streic Gyffredinol 1926**
- **Derbyniadau Newydd 2025**

sslh.org.uk/

The Welsh Political Archive contributed to guides published by the Society for the Study of Labour History on:

- The Co-operative Movement
- The 1926 General Strike
- New Acquisitions 2025

sslh.org.uk/

Yn ystod y flwyddyn, cafodd nifer o archifau eu hychwanegu at gronfa ddata DIANE, a gynhelir gan National Movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe (NISE).

nise.eu/diane/home

During the year a number of archives were added to the DIANE database, hosted by National Movements and Intermediary Structures in Europe (NISE).

nise.eu/diane/home

DIGIDO
DIGITISATION

TRYCHINEB ABERFAN 1966

Fel rhan o brosiect i nodi 60 mlynedd ers Trychineb Aberfan, ymgymerodd y Llyfrgell â phrosiect i ddigido eitemau o'r casgliad gan gynnwys llythyrau, papurau pwyllgor, mapiau a ffotograffau, ac fe lansiwyd arddangosfa ar-lein bwrpasol.

Nod y prosiect hwn, a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru, ar y cyd ag Archifau Morgannwg, yw adrodd stori Trychineb Aberfan ymhellach a sut ymatebodd y gymuned i drasiedi o'r fath.

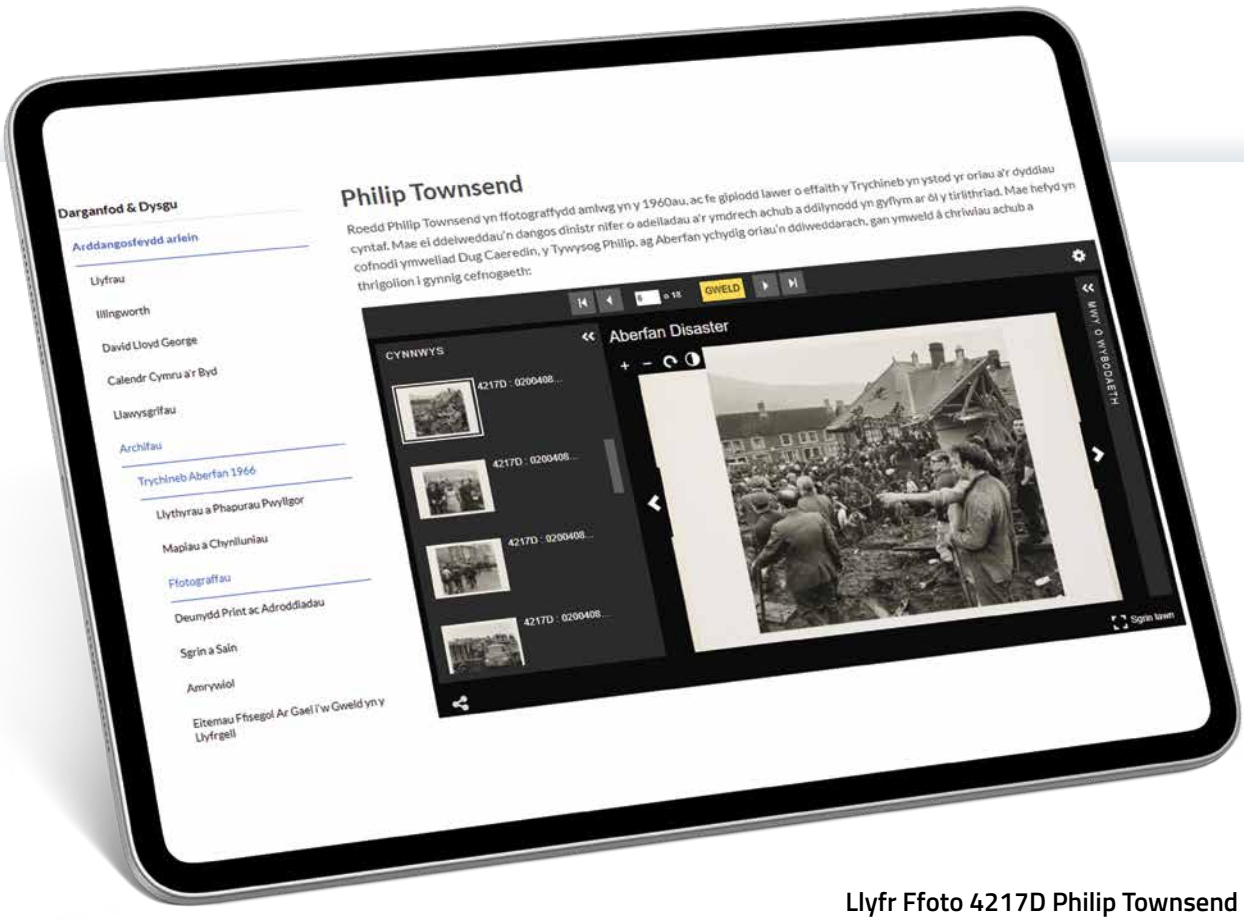
llyfrgell.cymru/darganfod-dysgu/arddangosfeydd-arlein/archifau/trychineb-aberfan-1966

ABERFAN DISASTER 1966

As part of a project to mark the 60th anniversary of the Aberfan Disaster, the Library undertook a project to digitise items from the collection including letters, committee papers, maps and photographs, and launched a dedicated online exhibition.

This project, funded by Welsh Government, in conjunction with Glamorgan Archives, aims to further tell the story of the Aberfan Disaster and how the community responded to such a tragedy.

library.wales/discover-learn/digital-exhibitions/archives/aberfan-disaster-1966



Llyfr Ffoto 4217D Philip Townsend

NODI 70 MLYNEDD O GAERDYDD FEL PRIFDDINAS CYMRU

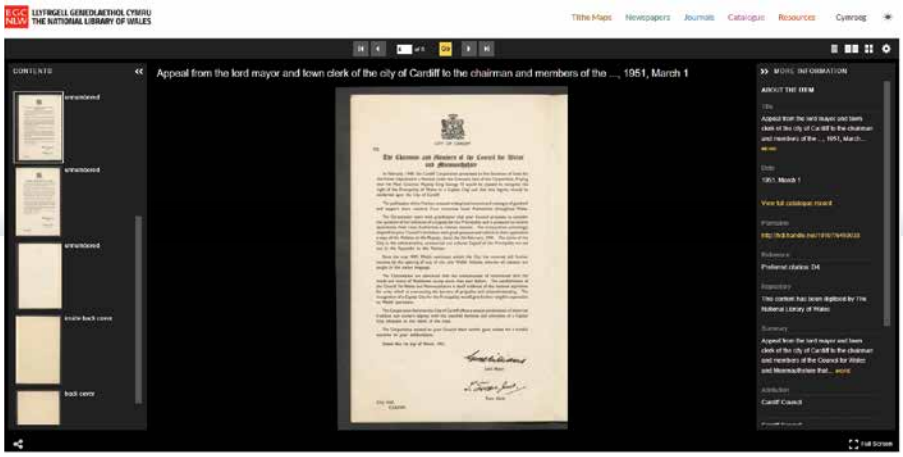
Mae'r Llyfrgell wedi digido nifer o ddogfennau o Bapurau Huw T. Edwards yn ymwneud â'r ymgyrch i ddynodi Caerdydd yn Brifddinas Cymru i nodi 70 mlynedd ers gwneud y cyhoeddiad swyddogol ym mis Rhagfyr 1955, gan gynnwys:

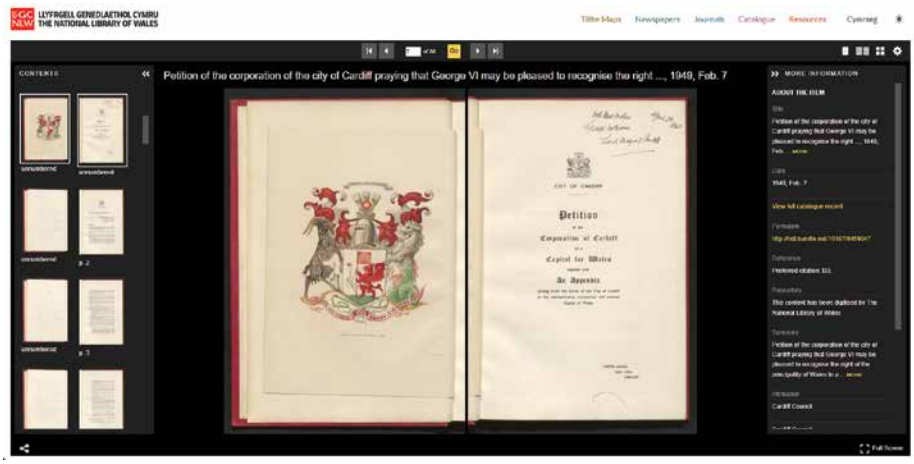
- **Apêl i Gyngor Cymru a Sir Fynwy**
  syllwr.llyfrgell.cymru/6459038
- **Deiseb i'r Brenin**
  syllwr.llyfrgell.cymru/6459047

MARKING 70 YEARS OF CARDIFF AS WALES'S CAPITAL CITY

The Library digitised a number of documents from the Huw T Edwards Papers relating to the campaign to denote Cardiff as the Capital City of Wales to mark 70 years since the official announcement was made in December 1955, including:

- Appeal to the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire
  viewer.library.wales/6459038
- Petition to the King
  viewer.library.wales/6459047





Huw T. Edwards Papers

NEWYDDION O'R ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG
NEWS FROM THE WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE

DARLITH FLYNYDDOL YR ARCHIF WLEIDYDDOL GYMREIG

Traddodwyd Darlith Flynyddol 2025 gan yr academydd nodedig, yr Athro Richard Wyn Jones, ddydd Gwener 7 Tachwedd yn Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru.

Roedd thema'r ddarlith, Pam y Sefydlwyd Plaid Cymru? yn arbennig o briodol gan fod y blaid wedi'i sefydlu'n swyddogol ym mis Awst 1925.

Wrth edrych ar y 25 mlynedd diwethaf, roedd Richard yn dadlau bod Plaid Cymru wedi dilyn llwybr tebyg i Blaid Seneddol Iwerddon, gan ddefnyddio ei mandad i geisio consesiynau gan y llywodraeth. Wrth edrych ymlaen, nododd pe bai'r blaid yn llwyddo yn Etholiadau'r Senedd 2026 ac yn ffurfio llywodraeth, byddai mor arwyddocaol fel na fyddai modd cymharu gydag unrhyw ddigwyddiad arall yn hanes y blaid.

Mae testun y ddarlith wedi cael ei gyhoeddi, a gellir dod o hyd iddo ar dudalen yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig:

llyfrgell.cymru/archifwleidyddolgymreig/darlith-flynyddol-yr-archif-wleidyddol-gymreig

I wylio'r ddarlith ewch i:
youtube.com/@llyfrgen

WELSH POLITICAL ARCHIVE ANNUAL LECTURE

The 2025 Annual Lecture was delivered by distinguished academic Prof. Richard Wyn Jones on Friday 7 November at the National Library of Wales.

The theme of the lecture, Pam y Sefydlwyd Plaid Cymru? (Why was Plaid Cymru Established?) was especially appropriate as the party was officially established in August 1925.

Looking at the last 25 years, Richard argued that Plaid Cymru has followed a similar route to the Irish Parliamentary Party, using its mandate to seek concessions from government. Looking ahead, he noted that if the party were to succeed in the 2026 Senedd Elections and form a government, it would be of such significance that no event in the history of the party would be comparable.

The text of the lecture has been published and can be found on the Welsh Political Archive page:

library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive/the-welsh-political-archive-annual-lecture

Watch the lecture here:
youtube.com/@llyfrgen



Yr Athro Richard Wyn Jones
Professor Richard Wyn Jones

Cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol

Fe wnaeth Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol Yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig gwrdd yn Ystafell y Cyngor yn y Llyfrgell ddydd Gwener 7 Tachwedd, ychydig cyn y ddarlith flynyddol.

Derbyniodd y pwyllgor adroddiad llawn ar weithgareddau'r flwyddyn flaenorol, a chafwyd trafodaeth am brosiectau a strategaethau posibl yn y dyfodol i gasglu yn ystod etholiad Senedd Cymru ac archifau Aelodau'r Senedd sy'n ymddeol.

Rhoddodd Emma Towner gyflwyniad hefyd ar y prosiect i gatalogio Archif Cymdeithas Addysg y Gweithwyr (Gogledd Cymru) a digido detholiad ohoni.

Advisory Committee Meeting

The Welsh Political Archive Advisory Committee met in the Council Chamber at the Library on Friday 7 November, shortly before the annual lecture.

The committee received a full report on the previous year's activities, discussed possible future projects and strategies to collect around the Senedd Cymru election campaign and the archives of retiring Senedd Members.

Emma Towner also gave a presentation on the project to catalogue and selectively digitise the Workers' Educational Association (North Wales) Archive.



Pwyllgor Ymgynghorol yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig
The Welsh Political Archive Advisory Committee



Digwyddiad Eisteddfod Genedlaethol /
Event at the National Eisteddfod

Estyn Allan

Yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2025 yn Wrecsam, cynhaliodd yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig drafodaeth banel gyda Dylan Iorwerth yn siarad ag awduron *Dros Gymru'n Gwlad* (Y Lolfa, 2025) am gyfraniadau nifer o fenywod, gan gynnwys Mai Roberts, Mallt Williams ac Elisabeth Williams i sefydlu Plaid Cymru yn 1925.

Hefyd ym mis Awst 2025, mynychodd Rob Phillips ŴYl Gymreig Gogledd America yn Ottawa fel rhan o'r ddirprwyaeth o Lyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru. Yn ystod yr ymweliad, cyflwynodd sgyrsiau ar archifau'r Arglwydd Davies o Landinam a Gareth Jones.

Ar 10 Hydref 2025 aeth yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig ag arddangosfa o eitemau i gynhadledd flynyddol Plaid Cymru yn Abertawe. Roedd yr arddangosfa'n cynnwys cofnodion y cyfarfodydd cyntaf, gohebiaeth gynnar, papurau yn ymwneud â llosgi safle Ysgol Fomio'r Awyrlu Brenhinol ym Mhenyberth, maniffestos hanesyddol, anerchiadau etholiadol a deunydd yn ymwneud â llywodraeth glymblaid Cymru'n Un 2007–2011, ynghyd â deunydd clyweledol.

Ym mis Tachwedd 2025 cynhaliodd Rob Phillips a Rhys Davies arddangosfa fechan yn cynnwys yr Apêl i Gyngor Cymru a Sir Fynwy a Deiseb i'r Brenin gan Gorfforaeth Caerdydd yn gofyn am ddynodi'r ddinas yn Brifddinas Cymru. Ymhlith y rhai a ddaeth i weld yr arddangosfa roedd arweinydd Cyngor Caerdydd, y Cynghorydd Huw Thomas, y Cynghorydd Jennifer Burke, Aelod Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant, Chwaraeon a Pharciau a'r Cynghorydd Adrian Robson, Arglwydd Faer Caerdydd.

Ar 15 Ionawr 2026 ymwelodd cynrychiolwyr o Drafnidiaeth Cymru â'r Llyfrgell fel rhan o brosiect i ddefnyddio casgliadau'r Llyfrgell ar draws y rhwydwaith trafnidiaeth. Roedd yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig yn falch o fod yn rhan o'r digwyddiad hwn, gan arddangos nifer o eitemau gan gynnwys llythyr a ysgrifennwyd gan David Lloyd George wrth aros am drên yng Nghricieth a chofnodion Grŵp Gweithredu Rheilffordd Arfordir y Cambrian, a frwydrodd yn erbyn cau'r rheilffordd i Bwllheli yn y 1970au.

Outreach

At the 2025 National Eisteddfod of Wales in Wrexham, the Welsh Political Archive hosted a panel discussion with Dylan Iorwerth talking to the authors of *Dros Gymru'n Gwlad* (Y Lolfa, 2025) about the contributions of a number of women, including Mai Roberts, Mallt Williams and Elisabeth Williams in the establishment of Plaid Cymru in 1925.

Also in August 2025, Rob Phillips attended the North American Festival of Wales in Ottawa as part of the delegation from the National Library of Wales. During the visit he presented talks on the archives of Lord Davies of Llandinam and Gareth Jones.

On 10 October 2025 the Welsh Political Archive took an exhibition of items to the Plaid Cymru annual conference in Swansea. The display included minutes of the first meetings, early correspondence, papers relating to the burning of the RAF Bombing School site at Penyberth, historic manifestos, election addresses and material relating to the 2007–2011 One Wales coalition government, along with audiovisual material.

In November 2025 Rob Phillips and Rhys Davies took a small exhibition comprising the Appeal to the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire and Petition to the King from Cardiff Corporation asking for the city to be designated as Capital City of Wales. Amongst the dignitaries at the event who came to view the exhibition were the leader of Cardiff Council, Cllr. Huw Thomas, Cllr. Jennifer Burke, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Parks and Cllr. Adrian Robson, Lord Mayor of Cardiff.

On 15 January 2026 representatives from Transport for Wales visited the Library as part of a project to use the Library's collections across the transport network. The Welsh Political Archive was pleased to be part of this event, showcasing a number of items including a letter written by David Lloyd George while waiting for a train at Cricieth and the records of the Cambrian Coast Line Action Group, which fought against the proposed closure of the railway to Pwllheli in the 1970s.

Aeth yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig ag arddangosfa o eitemau i gyfarfod blynyddol Cymdeithas Lloyd George a gynhaliwyd yng Ngwesty'r Lake Country House yn Llangamarch ar 7 Mawrth 2026. Ymhlith yr eitemau a arddangoswyd yn ymwneud â bywyd a gyrfa David Lloyd George roedd ei ddyddiadur poced a brynwyd gan werthwr eBay yn Nashville, Tennessee, UDA yn dilyn awgrym gan y Gymdeithas y llynedd. Hefyd yn cael ei arddangos oedd dyddiadur Miss Maggie Williams o'r flwyddyn 1920, a oedd yn forwyn yn 10 Stryd Downing ar y pryd, a brynwyd gan y Llyfrgell ychydig wythnosau ynghynt.

Roedd yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig yn falch o fod yn rhan o Weithdy Ymchwil Ailymweld â 'Quango Wales' a drefnwyd ar y cyd â Phrifysgol Bangor ar 4 Mehefin 2026. Paratowyd arddangosfa o gasgliadau'r Llyfrgell Genedlaethol i gyd-fynd â themâu'r gweithdy, a oedd yn ceisio archwilio'r defnydd newidiol o Gwangos cyn ac ar ôl datganoli. Cefnogwyd y digwyddiad hwn gan Grant Gweithdy Ymchwil Cymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru.

Cyfrannodd yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig at ddwy arddangosfa dymhorol yng ngofod arddangos newydd y Llyfrgell a gynhaliwyd yn ystod haf 2026, gyda dau derbyniad diweddar a sawl eitem yn adrodd hanes Streic Gyffredinol 1926 yn cael eu harddangos. Bydd yr arddangosfa nesaf yn canolbwyntio ar drychineb Aberfan a bydd yn agor ym mis Hydref 2026.

Yn ystod y flwyddyn, cwblhaodd y Llyfrgell brosiect coffa arbennig i greu copïau newydd o Lyfr Cofio Aberfan, gan sicrhau y bydd y cof am y 116 o blant a 28 o oedolion hynny a fu farw yn Nhrychineb Aberfan ar 21 Hydref 1966 yn parhau i gael ei anrhydeddu ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol. Ariannwyd y gwaith gan Lywodraeth Cymru a chyflwynwyd copïau i Mr David Davies YH, Cadeirydd Elusen Goffa Aberfan, yn y Llyfrgell ym mis Gorffennaf 2026.

The Welsh Political Archive took an exhibition of items to the annual meeting of the Lloyd George Society which was held at the Lake Country House Hotel in Llangammarch Wells on 7 March 2026. Amongst the items on display relating to the life and career of David Lloyd George, was his pocket journal purchased from an eBay seller in Nashville, Tennessee, USA following a suggestion from the Society last year. Also on display was the diary for the year 1920 of Miss Maggie Williams, who was a maid at 10 Downing Street at the time, which had been purchased by the Library a few weeks earlier.

The Welsh Political Archive was proud to be part of the 'Quango Wales' Revisited Research Workshop organised in collaboration with Bangor University on 4 June 2026. An exhibition of the National Library's collections was prepared to match the workshop's themes, which sought to examine the changing use of Quangos before and after devolution. This event was supported by a Learned Society of Wales Research Workshop Grant.

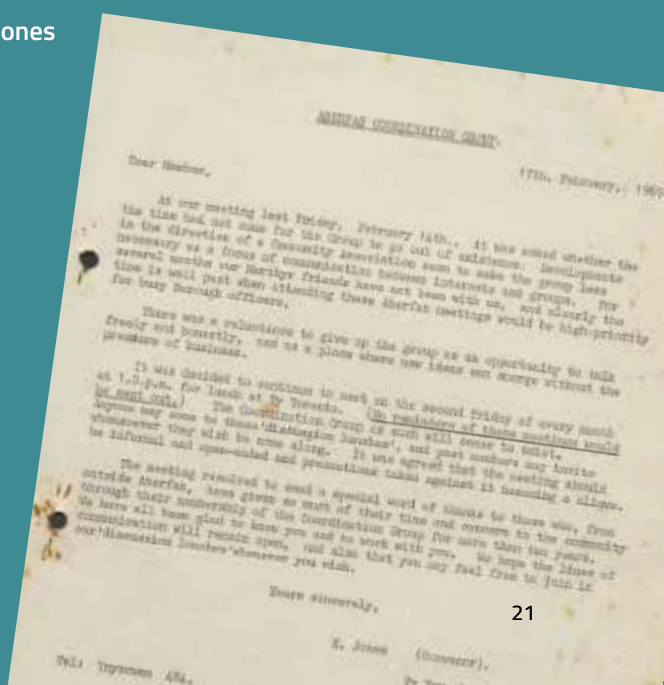
The Welsh Political Archive contributed to two seasonal exhibitions in the Library's new exhibition space which ran during summer 2026, with two recent acquisitions and several items telling the story of the 1926 General Strike on display. The next exhibition will focus on the Aberfan disaster and will open in October 2026.

During the year the Library completed a special commemorative project to create new copies of the Aberfan Book of Remembrance, ensuring that the memory of those 116 children and 28 adults who lost their lives in the Aberfan Disaster on 21 October 1966 will continue to be honoured by future generations. The work was funded by the Welsh Government and copies were presented to Mr David Davies JP, Chairman of The Aberfan Memorial Charity at the Library in July 2026.



Cymdeithas Lloyd George / Lloyd George Society

Erastus Jones Papers



Addysg

Mewn cydweithrediad â Phrifysgol Abertawe, Prifysgol Bangor ac Amgueddfa Cymru, dyfarnwyd PhD Partneriaeth Ddoethurol Gydweithredol (CDP) i'r Llyfrgell i astudio'r Mudiad Gwrth-Apartheid yng Nghymru, 1945–1994. Penodwyd Emma Ligthart i'r ysgoloriaeth ymchwil ym mis Mehefin 2026 a bydd yr ymchwil yn seiliedig ar gasgliadau a gedwir yn y Llyfrgell a'r Amgueddfa, gan greu llyfrgell o gyfweliadau hanes llafar i'w hychwanegu at y casgliad yn y Llyfrgell.

Bydd ysgoloriaeth ymchwil PhD arall a ariennir gan ddyfarniad Partneriaeth Ddoethurol Gydweithredol (CDP), o'r enw Diogelu a datblygu cof y genedl, am Y Wladfa ac yn astudio'r anheddiad Cymreig ym Mhatagonia wedi'i lleoli ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth. Penodwyd Nel Grug Davies i'r ysgoloriaeth ymchwil hon.

Fel rhan o'r gwaith gan yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig i hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r casgliadau ar gyfer astudio, bu Rob Phillips yn siarad â myfyrwyr o Brifysgol Aberystwyth ar 25 Chwefror 2026 a Phrifysgol Bangor ar 24 Mawrth 2026.

Ar 13 Mawrth siaradodd Miidong Daloeng yng ngweithdy Hanesion Cysylltiadau Cymru–Asia: Ffynonellau a Safbwyntiau Newydd, gan dynnu sylw at gasgliadau fel Casgliad David Hawkes, a gedwir yn y Llyfrgell. Roedd y gweithdy, a ariannwyd gan Gymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru ac a gynhaliwyd yng Nghaerdydd, yn dwyn ynghyd academyddion, haneswyr, archifyddion a meddyliau chwilfrydig sy'n awyddus i archwilio a rhannu gwybodaeth am ffynonellau sy'n dogfennu'r berthynas rhwng Cymru ac Asia.

Education

In collaboration with Swansea University, Bangor University and Museum Wales the Library was awarded a funded Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) PhD to study the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Wales, 1945–1994. Emma Ligthart was appointed to the studentship in June 2026 and the research will be based on collections held at the Library and the Museum and will create a library of oral history interviews to add to the collection at the Library.

Another PhD studentship funded by a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) award, entitled Preserving and developing the nation's memory, relating to Y Wladfa and studying the Welsh settlement in Patagonia will be based at Aberystwyth University. Nel Grug Davies was appointed to this studentship.

As part of the work by the Welsh Political Archive to promote use of the collections for study, Rob Phillips spoke to students from Aberystwyth University on 25 February 2026 and Bangor University on 24 March 2026.

On 13 March Miidong Daloeng spoke at the Histories of Wales–Asia Connections: New Sources and Perspectives workshop, highlighting collections such as the David Hawkes Collection, which are held at the Library. The workshop, funded by the Learned Society of Wales and held in Cardiff, brought together academics, historians, archivists, and curious minds eager to explore and share knowledge about sources documenting the relationship between Wales and Asia.

Gweithdy Histories of Wales–Asia Connections: New Sources and Perspectives / Histories of Wales–Asia Connections: New Sources and Perspectives workshop



Cyhoeddiadau a'r Cyfryngau

Cyhoeddwyd Maniffesto 56, sy'n manylu ar dderbynion newydd, gwaith catalogio, gweithgareddau hyrwyddo ac allgymorth a gydag erthyglau ar ailymweld â disgrifiadau archifol a chanmlwyddiant Plaid Cymru, ym mis Hydref 2025 ac mae bellach ar gael ar wefan y Llyfrgell:

llyfrgell.cymru/archifwleidyddolgymreig/cylchlythyr-yr-archif-wleidyddol-gymreig

Ysgrifennodd Rob Phillips a Rhys Davies nifer o erthyglau ar gyfer blog Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru yn ystod y flwyddyn yn tynnu sylw at straeon o nifer o gasgliadau, gan gynnwys:

- **Cyfrinachau'r Llyfrgell** llyfrgell.cymru/newyddion/article/secrets-of-the-library-political-secrets
- **70 mlynedd ers sefydlu Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru** llyfrgell.cymru/newyddion/erthygl/undeb amaethwyr-cymru-yn-70
- **70 mlynedd ers i Gaerdydd gael ei chyhoeddi'n Brifddinas Cymru** llyfrgell.cymru/newyddion/article/a-christmas-present-for-cardiff
- **Darlith flynyddol yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig** llyfrgell.cymru/archifwleidyddolgymreig/darlith-flynyddol-yr-archif-wleidyddol-gymreig
- **Casglu effemera gwleidyddol o ymgyrch etholiadol Senedd Cymru** llyfrgell.cymru/newyddion/article/ailgylchu-neu-archifau

Publications and Media

Manifesto 56, detailing new acquisitions, cataloguing work, promotional and outreach activities and with articles on revisiting archival descriptions and the centenary of Plaid Cymru, was published in October 2025 and is now available on the Library website:

library.wales/welshpoliticalarchive/the-welsh-political-archive-newsletter

Rob Phillips and Rhys Davies wrote a number of articles for the National Library of Wales blog during the year highlighting stories from a number of collections including:

- Cyfrinachau'r Llyfrgell **library.wales/news/article/secrets-of-the-library-political-secrets**
- The 70th anniversary of the Farmers' Union of Wales **library.wales/news/article/the-farmers-union-of-wales-at-70**
- 70 years since Cardiff was declared Capital City of Wales **library.wales/news/article/a-christmas-present-for-cardiff**
- The Welsh Political Archive annual lecture **library.wales/news/article/the-welsh-political-archive-annual-lecture-2025**
- Collecting political ephemera from the Senedd Cymru election campaign **library.wales/news/article/recycling-or-records**

Mae dau lyfr a gyhoeddwyd yn ddiweddar, *The Campaigns of Margaret Lloyd George: the Wife of the Prime Minister 1916–1922* (Y Lolfa, 2026) gan Richard Rhys O'Brien a *Lloyd George and the Coalition Liberal Party: the Papers of Lieutenant-Colonel Scovell, General Secretary of the Party, 1919–1922* (Boydell & Brewer, 2026) a olygwyd gan G. H. Bennett yn seiliedig ar ymchwil yng nghasgliadau'r Llyfrgell ac efallai y byddant o ddiddordeb i ddarllenwyr.

Darlledwyd ail gyfres *Cyfrinachau'r Llyfrgell* ar S4C ym mis Medi 2025. Y cyn-Brif Weinidog Mark Drakeford oedd y gwestai yn y rhaglen gyntaf a dangoswyd rhywfaint o'r deunydd eiconig a gedwir yn yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig, lle bu'n trafod amrywiaeth o atgofion gwleidyddol gan gynnwys cwrdd â Megan Lloyd George. Roedd y rhaglen hefyd yn ei ddangos yn trosglwyddo cyfran o'i bapurau i'r Llyfrgell.

Two recently published books, *The Campaigns of Margaret Lloyd George: the Wife of the Prime Minister 1916–1922* (Y Lolfa, 2026) by Richard Rhys O'Brien and *Lloyd George and the Coalition Liberal Party: the Papers of Lieutenant-Colonel Scovell, General Secretary of the Party, 1919–1922* (Boydell & Brewer, 2026) edited by G. H. Bennett are based on research in the Library's collections and may be of interest to readers.

The second series of *Cyfrinachau'r Llyfrgell* (Best Kept Secrets) was broadcast on S4C in September 2025. Former First Minister Mark Drakeford was the guest in the first programme and was shown some of the iconic material held in the Welsh Political Archive, where he recalled various political memories including meeting Megan Lloyd George. The programme also showed him transferring some of his papers to the Library.

GOLWG AR EIN CASGLIADAU
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COLLECTIONS

Papurau Ann Clwyd a Hawliau Dynol yn Irac gan Ben Woodburn

Nid oedd yr ymosodiad ar Irac yn 2003 yn un o gyfnodau gorau Tony Blair. Fel maen melin am wddf Llafur Newydd, daeth yn ffasiynol i gyn-gefnogwyr y rhyfel gyfaddef eu bod yn anghywir, gyda'r cafeat bod pobl wedi dweud celwydd wrthynt cyn iddynt gael eu derbyn yn ôl i rengoedd gwleidyddion da nad oeddent yn mynd o gwmpas yn bomio gwledydd eraill yn seiliedig ar wybodaeth wael. Ac felly roedd llawer o fewn y blaid yn cael eu hadfer o blith y garfan o ryfelwyr. Roedd gwaddol y rhyfel felly'n hanes o hanner gwirionedd a chamgymeriadau anffodus.

Ond mae'r darlun hwn – fel rwy'n credu ein bod ni i gyd yn gwybod – yn llawer rhy syml. Er enghraifft, roedd rhesymau dros fynd i ryfel nad oeddent yn cynnwys celwydd. Roedd Saddam Hussein yn unben creulon a oedd yn gyfrifol am sawl rhyfel ymosodol, degawdau o ormes a llawer iawn o ddioddefaint dynol o leiaf – hil-laddiad, glanhau ethnig, a throseddau yn erbyn dynoliaeth ar y mwyaf.

Wrth gamu'n ôl mewn amser o ymosodiad 2003, mae hanes cysylltiadau rhwng Prydain ac Irac yn ystod yr 1980au a'r 1990au yn dueddol o ganolbwyntio ar elfennau strategol o bolisi tramor Prydain: y Rhyfel Oer, cyflenwad olew, a sefydlogrwydd yn y Dwyrain Canol. Mae nodau'r wladwriaeth Brydeinig yn cael eu trin fel rhagosodedig, ac mae'r stori'n ymwneud yn bennaf â sut yr aeth llywodraeth Prydain ati i'w cyflawni.

Mae fy ngwaith ymchwil, wedi'i lywio'n rhannol gan gasgliadau Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru (LlGC), yn ceisio deall yr elfennau o'r chwith Brydeinig a fu'n trefnu i newid y nodau hyn. Bu grwpiau myfyrwyr, undebau llafur, ASau (Llafur yn bennaf), a dinasyddion preifat – ynghyd â mudiad undod Irac – yn gweithio ar y cyd o'r 1970au hyd at ddechrau'r 2000au i roi cyhoeddusrwydd i gam-driniaeth hawliau dynol yn Irac a rhoi pwysau ar lywodraeth Prydain i sefyll yn fwy cadarn yng nghyd-destun Irac. Roedden nhw'n rhan bwysig o'r rhwydweithiau eiriolaeth traws-wladol a drefnwyd ar gyfnod allweddol yn natblygiad hawliau dynol ac a luniodd agwedd Prydain tuag at ymyrraeth

The Ann Clwyd Papers and Human Rights in Iraq by Ben Woodburn

The 2003 invasion of Iraq was not Tony Blair's shining moment. As an albatross around the neck of New Labour, it became vogue for former supporters of the war to admit "I was wrong," with the caveat that "I was lied to," before they were allowed back into the ranks of good politicians who didn't go around bombing other countries on bad intelligence. And so it was that many in the party were rehabilitated from the camp of the warmongers. The legacy of the war thus became one of half-truths and regrettable blunders.

But this picture is – as I think we all know – far too simple. There were, for example, reasons to go to war that did not involve lies. Saddam Hussein was indeed a brutal dictator responsible for several wars of aggression, decades of repression, and untold human suffering at the very least – genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity at the most.

Stepping back in time from the 2003 invasion, histories of Anglo-Iraqi relations during the 1980s and 1990s tend to focus on strategic elements of British foreign policy: the Cold War, the supply of oil, and stability in the Middle East. The goals of the British state are treated as predetermined, and the story is largely of how the British government sought to achieve them.

My research, informed in part by collections at the National Library of Wales (NLW), seeks to understand the elements of the British left which organised to change these goals. Student groups, trade unions, MPs (predominantly Labour), and private citizens – together the Iraq solidarity movement – worked in concert from the 1970s to the early 2000s to publicise Iraqi human rights abuses and pressure the British government to take a stronger stance on Iraq. They formed an important part of the transnational advocacy networks that organised at a key period in the



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ddyngarol ar ôl diwedd y Rhyfel Oer. Byddwn i'n dadlau bod hyn yn rhan hanfodol o gyd-destun goresgyniad 2003 nad yw wedi cael ei harchwilio yn y gorffennol. Yma mae papurau Ann Clwyd yn cynnig cipolwg unigryw ar y rhan o'r chwith Brydeinig fu'n ymwneud â hawliau dynol yn Irac.

Mae'r elfen fwyaf parhaus o waith mudiadu solidariaeth gyda Irac i'w gweld yn y Committee Against Repression and for Democratic Rights in Iraq (CARDRI). Sefydlwyd CARDRI yn 1978 gan grŵp o seneddwyr pryderus, a sefydlodd gysylltiadau â'r mudiad llafur ehangach yn gyflym, gan ddenu noddwyr mor nodedig â Neil Kinnock a Tony Benn. Yn 1984, yr un flwyddyn ag y cafodd ei hethol yn AS dros Cwm Cynon, cymerodd Clwyd yr awenau fel cadeirydd CARDRI. Mae ei phapurau yn LlGC yn cynnwys nifer o gyhoeddiadau CARDRI, llawer iawn o ohebiaeth, a nodiadau Clwyd o'i hymweliadau ag Irac. Maent hefyd yn manylu ar ei rôl ddiweddarach fel Cennad Arbennig i'r Prif Weinidog ar Hawliau Dynol yn Irac a'i degawdau o eiriolaeth ar ran Cwrdiaid Irac.

Er bod ei phapurau personol yn LlGC, mae ei henw i'w weld ar draws archifau'r DU. Yn yr Archifdy Gwladol yn Kew, ceir cofnodion o'i hymweliadau â'r Swyddfa Dramor a'r Gymanwlad a llythyrau a ysgrifennodd at John Major yn ystod Rhyfel Cyntaf y Gwlff. Yn y Ganolfan Cofnodion Modern yn Coventry, cedwir cyhoeddiadau CARDRI ochr yn ochr â'i llythyrau at undebau llafur. Ymhlith papurau'r Blaid Lafur yn Amgueddfa Hanes y Bobl ym Manceinion mae tystiolaeth o waith Clwyd yn hyrwyddo hawliau dynol o fewn y Blaid Lafur yn ystod Adolygiad Polisi 1987 a Rhyfel y Gwlff 1991.

Gyda'i gilydd, mae'r casgliadau hyn yn rhoi golwg ddiddorol i ni ar safbwynt y chwith Prydeinig ynghylch undod a hawliau dynol, ac Irac. Maent yn dangos ymdrech barhaus drwy'r 1980au pan fu undebau llafur Prydain yn gweithio i amddiffyn hawliau gweithwyr yn Irac drwy'r Sefydliad Llafur Rhyngwladol. Yn ganolog i'r ymdrechion hyn roedd y cysylltiadau agos a ddatblygodd Clwyd a CARDRI gydag elfennau o wrthblaid Irac. Er gwaethaf methu cyflawni cynnydd pendant yn Irac na dylanwadu ar bolisïau Llywodraeth Thatcher, mae'n dangos bod gan undebwyr llafur Prydain ddiddordeb mewn undebiaeth Irac ac wedi ymrwymo'n ddwfn i'w amddiffyn.

development of human rights and shaped how Britain thought about humanitarian intervention after the end of the Cold War. This, I would argue, is a crucial and previously unexplored part of contextualising the 2003 invasion. It is here that the papers of Ann Clwyd offer unique insight into the section of the British left that concerned itself with human rights in Iraq.

The most sustained element of the Iraq solidarity movement's work can be seen in the Committee Against Repression and for Democratic Rights in Iraq (CARDRI). Founded in 1978 by a group of concerned parliamentarians, CARDRI rapidly established ties with the wider labour movement, attracting sponsors as notable as Neil Kinnock and Tony Benn. In 1984, the same year she was elected as MP for Cynon Valley, Clwyd took over as chair of CARDRI. Her papers at the NLW contain several CARDRI publications, a significant amount of correspondence, and Clwyd's notes from her visits to Iraq. They also detail her later role as Special Envoy to the Prime Minister on Human Rights in Iraq and her decades of advocacy on behalf of Iraqi Kurds.

While her personal papers are at the NLW, her name is spread across the archives of the UK. At the National Archives at Kew, there are records of her visits to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and letters she wrote to John Major during the First Gulf War. At the Modern Records Centre in Coventry, CARDRI publications are preserved alongside her letters to trade unions. Among the Labour Party's papers at the People's History Museum in Manchester is evidence of Clwyd's work promoting human rights within the Labour Party during the 1987 Policy Review and the 1991 Gulf War.



Ann Clwyd

Ann Clwyd Papers


IRAQ
SOLIDARITY VOICE
Committee Against Repression & For Democratic Rights in IRAQ – (CARDRI)
STOP BAATHIST TERROR IN IRAQ
PROTEST AT IRAQI EMBASSY
BRITISH ENGINEER TORTURED IN IRAQ

Adlewyrchir hefyd ym Mhapurau Ann Clwyd a deunyddiau o'r Archif a Chanolfan Astudio Hanes Llafur rôl newidiol hawliau dynol ym mholisi tramor y Blaid Lafur. Roedd Clwyd, fel aelod o'r Grŵp Adolygu Polisi 'Prydain yn y Byd' gyda diddordeb brwd mewn hawliau dynol, yn rhan allweddol o'r datblygiad hwn. Y tu hwnt i gynnwys hawliau amgylcheddol a datblygu ym mholisïau Llafur, roedd Clwyd hefyd yn gyfrifol am wthio i greu Pwyllgor Dethol Seneddol ar Hawliau Dynol a hyrwyddo ffocws ar hawliau dynol ym mholisi tramor Llafur. Mae'n werth nodi bod hyn bron i ddeng mlynedd cyn i Robin Cook sôn am 'ddimensiwn moesegol' i bolisi tramor. Roedd y dadleuon mewnbleidiol hyn yn hanfodol i ddatblygiad polisi tramor Llafur – yn enwedig yr elfennau moesegol a hawliau dynol – ond anaml y maent yn cael eu trafod fel cyd-destun ar gyfer penderfyniadau polisi tramor diweddarach.

Yn y pen draw, mae undod Prydain â phobl Irac ar un adeg neu'i gilydd wedi cynnwys llawer ymhlith y chwith Prydeinig, o fyfyrwyr prifysgol i arweinwyr y Blaid Lafur. Mae hanes cyfoes naill ai wedi bychanu cyfraniadau'r unigolion a'r grwpiau hyn neu wedi eu hanwybyddu'n gyfan gwbl. Mae Papurau Ann Clwyd, ynghyd â chasgliadau eraill ledled y wlad, yn darparu llawer o ddeunydd am yr elfen hon o'r daith tuag at Ryfel Irac sydd heb ei harchwilio o'r blaen. Yn draddodiadol, gwelwyd goresgyniad Irac yn 2003 yng nghyd-destun 9/11 a'r rhyfel yn erbyn terfysgaeth, ond mae'r papurau hyn yn dangos bod y sylfeini deallusol a sefydliadol a gynorthwyodd y penderfyniad hwnnw wedi'u gosod yn ystod y 1970au a'r 1980au.

Mae Ben Woodburn yn ymchwilydd PhD ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth. Mae ei waith ymchwil yn canolbwyntio ar y chwith Prydeinig, polisi tramor y Blaid Lafur, a hawliau dynol.

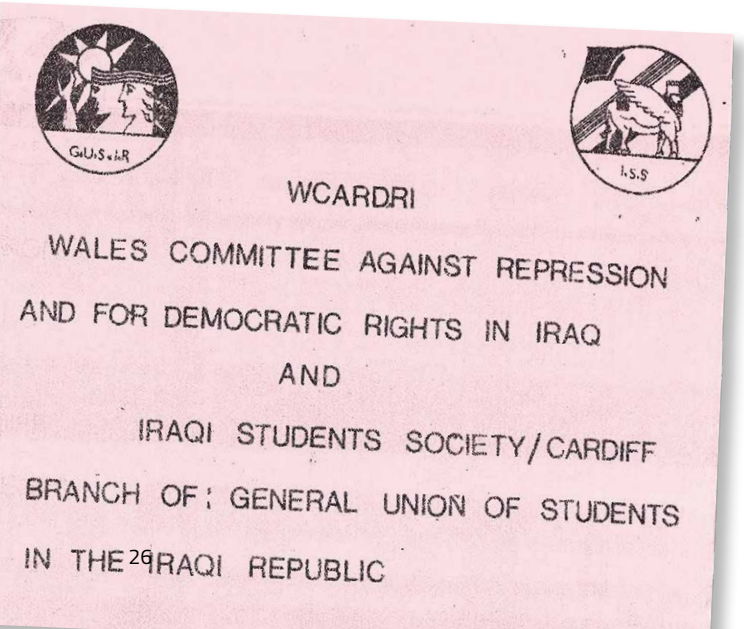
Together, these collections give us a fascinating look at how the British left thought about solidarity, human rights, and the question of Iraq. They show a sustained effort through the 1980s in which British trade unionists worked through the International Labour Organisation to protect workers' rights in Iraq. Central to these efforts were the close connections which Clwyd and CARDRI had developed with elements of the Iraqi opposition. Despite failing to achieve concrete progress in Iraq or influence the Thatcher Government's policies, it shows that British trade unionists were interested in Iraqi unionism and deeply committed to protecting it.

Also reflected in the Ann Clwyd Papers and materials from the Labour History Archive and Study Centre is the changing role of human rights in the Labour Party's foreign policy. Clwyd, a member of the 'Britain in the World' Policy Review Group with a keen interest in human rights, was a key player in this development. Beyond the inclusion of environmental and development rights in Labour's policies, Clwyd was also responsible for pushing for the creation of a Parliamentary Select Committee on Human Rights and promoting a focus on human rights in Labour's foreign policy. It is worth noting this was almost ten years before Robin Cook's mention of an 'ethical dimension' to foreign policy. These intra-party debates were critical to the development of Labour's foreign policy – particularly the ethical and human rights elements – yet rarely are they discussed as context for later foreign policy decisions.

Ultimately, British solidarity with the Iraqi people has at one point or another involved many among the British left, from university students to leaders of the Labour Party. Current histories have either glossed over the contributions of these individuals and groups or ignored them entirely. The Ann Clwyd Papers, together with other collections across the country, provide a wealth of material about this previously unexplored element of the road to the Iraq War. The 2003 invasion of Iraq has traditionally been seen in the context of 9/11 and the war on terror, but these papers show that the intellectual and institutional scaffolding which aided that decision was built during the 1970s and 1980s.

Ben Woodburn is a PhD researcher at Aberystwyth University. His research focuses on the British left, Labour Party foreign policy, and human rights.

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WCARDRI
WALES COMMITTEE AGAINST REPRESSION
AND FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN IRAQ
AND
IRAQI STUDENTS SOCIETY/CARDIFF
BRANCH OF: GENERAL UNION OF STUDENTS
IN THE IRAQI REPUBLIC

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Cymreig ac Enoch Powell gan Sam Blaxland

75 mlynedd yn ôl, derbyniodd Cymru ei chynrychiolaeth weinidogol bwrpasol gyntaf yn y llywodraeth. Crëwyd rôl y Gweinidog dros Faterion Cymreig, a leolwyd i ddechrau o fewn y Swyddfa Gartref. Efallai na fydd hyn yn ymddangos yn arloesol i gynulleidfa gyfoes, a hyd yn oed i rai yn ystod y cyfnod, roedd yn rhy ychydig ac yn rhy hwyr. Wedi'r cyfan, crëwyd swyddfa yn yr Alban yn 1885.

Serch hynny, roedd yn foment arwyddocaol i Gymru – ac yn un lle mae'r stori'n cynnwys ambell i syndod, gan gynnwys bod y swydd wedi cael ei chyflwyno gan lywodraeth Geidwadol. Ar ôl dychwelyd i Lywodraeth yn 1951, creodd Winston Churchill y rôl newydd hon, wedi i'r blaid addo gwneud hynny ers y 1940au hwyr. Rydw i a haneswyr eraill wedi dadlau bod hyn yn rhan o raglen ehangach o ddatganoli gweinyddol ysgafn, a oedd hefyd yn ymwneud â chyflwyno'r Blaid Lafur fel gwladoliaethwyr, yn ganolgyrchol ac yn rheolaethol. Roedd y Blaid Lafur dan Clement Attlee wedi gwrthod y syniad o weinidog Cymreig ar wahân pan oedd ef yn y swydd rhwng 1945–51.

Gwelodd y Ceidwadwyr gyfle i gronni rhywfaint o gyfalaf gwleidyddol o ganlyniad, ac yn wir buont yn brolio'n breifat eu bod wedi datgelu diffyg diddordeb 'y Sosialwyr' yn y maes hwn.

Cafwyd cydnabyddiaeth hefyd o bwysau ehangach a oedd yn cael eu rhoi ar y Blaid Geidwadol. Trwy gydol y 1940au, yn enwedig oherwydd y dirwasgiad rhwng y rhyfeloedd ac yna'r Ail Ryfel Byd, roedd carfan ddifrifol a lleisiol o fywyd gwleidyddol yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys Undeb Cymru Fydd, yn dadlau bod Cymru'n cael ei hymyleiddio a'i hanwybyddu gan lywodraeth ganolog.

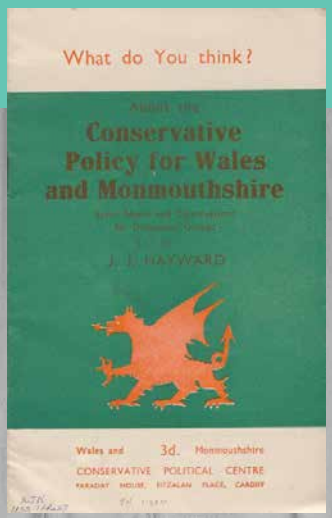
The Minister for Welsh Affairs and Enoch Powell by Sam Blaxland

75 years ago, Wales received its first dedicated ministerial representation in government. The role of Minister for Welsh Affairs, located initially within the Home Office, was created. This might not appear groundbreaking to a contemporary audience, and even for some at the time it was too little, too late. After all, a Scottish office was created in 1885.

It was nonetheless a significant moment for Wales – and one whose story contains some surprises, not least that the post was introduced by a Conservative government. On returning to office in 1951, Winston Churchill created this new role, the party having promised to do so since the late 1940s. I and other historians have argued that this was a part of a wider programme of mild, administrative devolution, which was also about portraying the Labour Party as statist, centralising and controlling. Labour under Clement Attlee had rejected the idea of a separate Welsh minister when it was in office from 1945–51.

The Conservatives saw an opportunity to accumulate some political capital as a result, and indeed boasted in private that they had exposed 'the Socialists' ' lack of interest in this area.

It was also an acknowledgment of wider pressures being placed on the Conservative Party. Throughout the 1940s, especially because of the inter-war depression and then the Second World War, a serious and vocal section of Welsh political life, including *Undeb Cymru Fydd*, argued that Wales was being marginalised and ignored by central government. Formulating a policy on 'Welsh needs' was the Conservatives' way of 'proving' that the issue was being taken seriously.



Welsh Political Ephemera Collection

Casgliad Geoff Charles Collection



Casgliad Geoff Charles Collection

Llunio polisi ar 'anghenion Cymreig' oedd ffordd y Ceidwadwyr o 'brofi' bod y mater yn cael ei gymryd o ddifrif.

Efallai mai'r syndod mwyaf yn y stori hon, fodd bynnag, yw bod y sbardun i'r blaid gyhoeddi ei bolisi wedi dod o gyfeiriad gweithiwr Ceidwadol anadnabyddus ar y pryd o'r enw Enoch Powell. Cyn iddo ddod yn un o wleidyddion mwyaf dylanwadol ac enwog ail hanner yr ugeinfed ganrif ym Mhrydain, cafodd y Powell ifanc y dasg o deithio o amgylch Cymru gyfan yn 1947–48 i lunio adroddiad ar amgylchiadau yno. Ysgrifennodd ei ganfyddiadau mewn dwy adran ar wahân, un ar amgylchiadau gwledig, a'r llall ar amgylchiadau trefol. Mae'n adroddiad diddorol – a chraff ar adegau. Roedd yn trafod anghenion gwledig penodol, ansawdd gwael y tai a'r ffyrdd, yr ymlyniad arbennig o Gymreig tuag at le a chymuned, a'r problemau oedd yn wynebu diwydiant. Ei gasgliad mwyaf trawiadol, ymhlith llawer, oedd y dylid creu gweinidog materion Cymreig fel ffordd o gydnabod bod Cymru'n wahanol a bod ganddi 'anghenion' penodol.

Wrth gwrs, daeth Powell yn gyfystyr â'r ddadl, a oedd yn gallu bod yn hyll ar adegau, am fewnfudo a hil o'r 1960au ymlaen, yn enwedig yn dilyn ei araith 'afonydd gwaed' yn 1968. Ond nid oes unrhyw amheuaeth ei fod yn un o'r bobl fwyaf eithriadol erioed i fod yn rhan o fywyd gwleidyddol y DU.

Os byddwch chi'n mynd i gynadleddau academaidd, fel mae'r awdur presennol yn ei wneud, sy'n trafod ei waddol ymysg pethau eraill, bydd hyd yn oed y rhai nad oedd yn ei gefnogi'n cyfaddef bod Powell yn athrylith. Fel un o'r athrawon Groeg ieuengaf yn yr ymerodraeth (a benodwyd yn Sydney yn 25 oed), roedd Powell yn gallu siarad o leiaf wyth iaith, gan gynnwys Groeg hynafol. Roedd yn arbennig o hoff o India, roedd ganddo uchelgais mawr i fod yn Rhaglaw cyn cyhoeddi annibyniaeth, ac roedd yn gallu siarad Wrdw â'i etholwyr yn Wolverhampton.

Perhaps the biggest surprise in this story, however, is that the impetus for the party announcing its policy came from a then little-known Conservative employee called Enoch Powell. Later one of the most influential, and notorious, politicians of the second half of twentieth century Britain, the young Powell had been tasked with travelling around the whole of Wales in 1947–48 to compile a report on conditions there. He wrote up his findings in two separate sections, one on rural, and the other on urban, conditions. It makes for fascinating – and often astute – reading. It discussed specific rural needs, the poor quality of houses and roads, the particularly Welsh attachment to place and community, and the problems facing industry. His most eye-catching conclusion, amongst many, was that a minister for Welsh affairs should be created as a way of acknowledging that Wales was different and had specific 'needs'.

Powell of course became synonymous with the sometimes-ugly debate about immigration and race from the late 1960s onwards, especially after his so-called 'rivers of blood' speech in 1968. But there is no denying that he is one of the most extraordinary people to have ever been a part of political life in the UK.

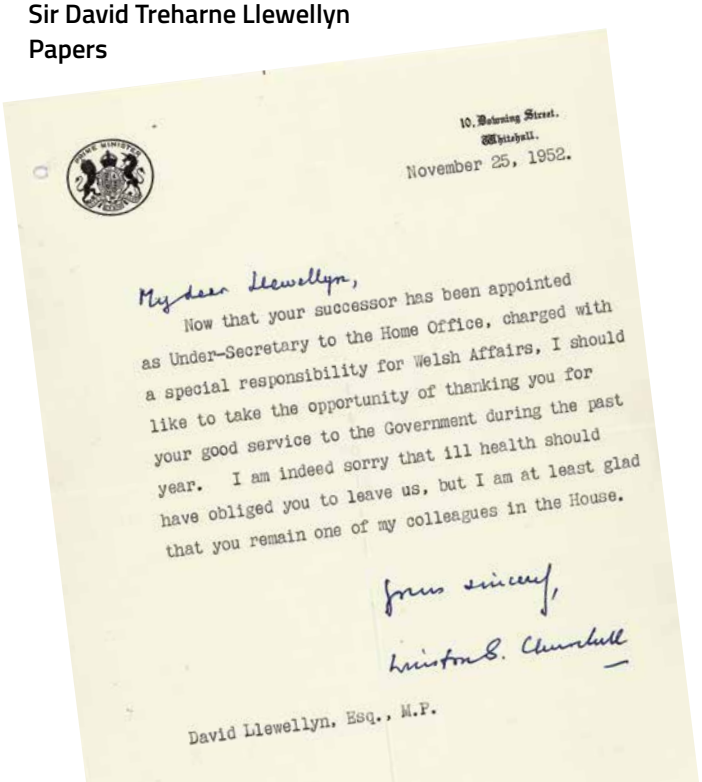
Go to academic conferences, as the current author has, that discuss amongst other things his legacy and even his detractors happily admit that Powell was a genius, or a great man. As one of the youngest professors of Greek in the empire (appointed in Sydney at the age of 25), Powell was hyper-lingual, speaking at least eight languages, including ancient Greek. He particularly loved India, had great ambitions to be its Viceroy before independence was announced, and was able to speak Urdu to his constituents in Wolverhampton.

One of the languages Powell could speak was Welsh, despite having only familial ties to the nation. And he really could speak it. A long television interview survives where Powell discusses various matters, fluently, in Welsh, although in his familiar, and slightly disconcerting, West Midlands

Un o'r ieithoedd yr oedd Powell yn gallu ei siarad oedd Cymraeg, er mai dim ond cysylltiadau teuluol oedd ganddo â'r genedl. Ac roedd wir yn gallu ei siarad. Mae cyfweliad teledu hir wedi goroesi lle mae Powell yn trafod materion amrywiol, yn rhugl, yn Gymraeg, er yn ei oslef Gorllewin Canolbarth Lloegr cyfarwydd, a oedd yn gallu bod ychydig yn anesmwythol. Defnyddiodd y sgiliau ieithyddol hyn yn ystod ei daith yn 1947–48, yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Yno, nododd Powell yn gywir fod cymunedau cyfan yn siarad Cymraeg gartref ac yn gyhoeddus.

Cyhoeddwyd crynodeb o adroddiad Powell fel un o nifer o 'siarteri' – datganiadau polisi – y Ceidwadwyr ar ôl y rhyfel, ac fe'i cyhoeddwyd ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi, 1949. Cyhoeddwyd y polisi ei hun yn y flwyddyn flaenorol, gan R. A. Butler, yng nghynhadledd flynyddol y blaid yn Llandudno. Pan enillodd y Ceidwadwyr etholiad 1951, penododd Churchill David Maxwell Fyfe, yr Ysgrifennydd Cartref newydd, yn Weinidog Materion Cymreig. Roedd aelodau uwch o fewn y blaid yn brolio y byddai'n gweithredu fel 'corff gwarchod i Gymru'. Nid oedd y ffaith bod 'Dai Bananas', fel y'i gelwid yn ôl pob sôn yng Nghymru, eisoes yn arwain adran bwysig yn y llywodraeth, ac yn dod o'r Alban, yn boblogaidd iawn gyda'r cyhoedd. Cafodd llawer o golofnau yn y wasg eu neilltuo i drafod y mater. Felly, penodwyd Is-ysgrifennydd â chyfrifoldeb dros Gymru a'r tro hwn roedd ef – David Llewellyn – yn AS Cymreig (dros Ogledd Caerdydd, er ei fod o dras gyfoethog iawn). Oherwydd salwch, dim ond am flwyddyn y bu Llewellyn yn cyflawni'r rôl, ond ceisiodd ddod yn fwy addas ar gyfer y rôl drwy wrando ar recordiau gramoffon Cymraeg. Dechreuodd broses o drosglwyddo swyddogaethau gweinyddol yn raddol o Whitehall i Gymru.

Sir David Treharne Llewellyn Papers



10, Downing Street.
Whitehall.
November 25, 1952.

My dear Llewellyn,

Now that your successor has been appointed as Under-Secretary to the Home Office, charged with a special responsibility for Welsh Affairs, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking you for your good service to the Government during the past year. I am indeed sorry that ill health should have obliged you to leave us, but I am at least glad that you remain one of my colleagues in the House.

Yours sincerely,
Winston S. Churchill

David Llewellyn, Esq., M.P.

inflection. He put these linguistic skills to good use during his 1947–48 tour, especially in rural areas. There, Powell rightly noted that at home and in public, entire communities spoke Welsh.

The summary of Powell's report was published as one of the Conservatives' many opposition-era post-war 'charters' – statements of policy – and published on St David's Day, 1949. The policy itself was announced the previous year, by R. A. Butler, at the party's annual conference in Llandudno. When the Conservatives won the 1951 election, Churchill made David Maxwell Fyfe, the new Home Secretary, the Minister for Welsh Affairs. Senior party figures boasted that he would be 'the watchdog for Wales'. The fact that 'Dai Bananas', as he was apparently called in Wales, was already heading up an important government department, and was Scottish, did not go down especially well with the public. Many column inches in the press were devoted to tut-tutting about the matter. An Under-Secretary with responsibility for Wales was therefore appointed and this time he – David Llewellyn – was a Welsh MP (for Cardiff North, although from very well-to-do stock). Due to ill health, Llewellyn only lasted a year in the role, but he tried to become more suitable for it by listening to Welsh-language gramophone records. He began a process of gradually transferring administrative functions from Whitehall to Wales.

Of course, the symbolism of a minister was important, too. Maxwell Fyfe, despite his other commitments and imperfect pedigree, will forever be the first 'minister for Wales'. I thought him so significant that he adorns the cover of my 2024 history of the party in Wales – looking a little, it must be said, like Mussolini in the picture chosen.

Behind the scenes, the Conservatives concluded that they had successfully made political capital out of the whole affair, wrongfooting Labour and exposing their lack of similar policy. Party officials in Wales still rolled their eyes and wrote about the 'emotional Celtic temperament' of the many Welsh voters who still refused to vote Tory, but the consensus was that the party had in the late 1940s and early 1950s adapted to Wales a little more successfully.

And what of Enoch Powell in this story? He continued, as far as we can tell, to make small interventions from within the Conservative Research Department on matters Welsh, although he never produced anything like his report on rural and urban Wales again. It is much too big a stretch to suggest that by successfully arguing for a minister, which led eventually to a Secretary of State and – perhaps – a growing national consciousness, that Powell is somehow a great-grandfather of modern Wales, or of devolution.

Wrth gwrs, roedd symbolaeth gweinidog yn bwysig hefyd. Er gwaethaf ei ymrwymiadau eraill a'i achau amherffaith, Maxwell Fyfe fydd y 'gweinidog Cymru' cyntaf am byth. Roeddwn i'n teimlo ei fod mor arwyddocaol fel fy mod wedi'i osod ar glawr hanes y blaid yng Nghymru yn 2024 – yn edrych yn ddigon tebyg i Mussolini yn y llun a ddewiswyd, rhaid dweud.

Y tu ôl i'r llenni, daeth y Ceidwadwyr i'r casgliad eu bod wedi llwyddo i sicrhau cyfalaf gwleidyddol allan o'r mater, gan roi'r Blaid Lafur ar y droed ôl a datgelu eu diffyg polisi tebyg. Roedd swyddogion y blaid yng Nghymru yn dal i rolio eu llygaid ac ysgrifennu am 'dymer Geltaidd emosiynol' y nifer o bleidleiswyr Cymreig a oedd yn dal i wrthod pleidleisio dros y Torïaid, ond y consensws oedd bod y blaid wedi addasu i Gymru ychydig yn fwy llwyddiannus ar ddiwedd y 1940au a dechrau'r 1950au.

A beth am Enoch Powell yn y stori hon? Hyd y gwyddom, fe barhaodd i wneud ymyriadau bach o fewn yr Adran Ymchwil Geidwadol ar faterion Cymreig, er na chynhyrchodd unrhyw beth tebyg i'w adroddiad ar Gymru wledig a threfol eto. Mae'n ormod i awgrymu bod Powell rywsut yn hen-dadcu i'r Gymru fodern, neu ddatganoli, o ganlyniad i ddadlau'n llwyddiannus dros gael gweinidog, a arweiniodd yn y pen draw at Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, ac – efallai – at ymwybyddiaeth genedlaethol gynyddol. Roedd adroddiad Powell yn 1948 hyd yn oed yn rhybuddio rhag trin Cymru fel endid rhy wahanol. Ond efallai bod yr astudiaeth achos fach hon yn hytrach yn dyst i fympwyon ymddangosiadol Powell. Wedi'r cyfan roedd hwn yn ddyn a oedd – ar ôl colli ei annwyl India o'r Ymerodraeth – yn cefnogi dad-drefedigaethu; yn Geidwadwr a oedd yn amheus iawn o America; ac efallai'r ffigwr mwyaf adnabyddus erioed o safbwynt gwrth-fewnfudo, a oedd yn gallu siarad nifer o ieithoedd, yn ddiwylliedig ac wedi teithio ymhell. Gorffennodd Powell ei yrfa wleidyddol fel AS Unoliaethol Ulster ar gyfer sedd Gogledd Iwerddon South Down, lle daeth yn fwyfwy gelyniaethus i'r syniad o ddatganoli. Ac eto helpodd i roi hwb i'r broses honno yng Nghymru – rhywbeth nad oes llawer yn ymwybodol ohono, ac sy'n werth ei ystyried, wrth nodi 75 mlynedd, pan fo enw Powell yn dal i gael ei grybwyll yn aml.

Mae Sam Blaxland yn Ddarlithydd yng Ngholeg Prifysgol Llundain (UCL). Ei faes yw hanes modern a chyfoes Prydain gan ganolbwyntio ar wleidyddiaeth, prifysgolion a myfyrwyr. Mae wedi ysgrifennu tri llyfr, gan gynnwys *The Conservative Party in Wales, 1945–1997* ac, yn fwyaf diweddar *Student London* gyda Georgina Brewis. Mae'n aelod o Bwyllgor Ymgynghorol yr Archif Wleidyddol Gymreig.

Powell's 1948 report even cautioned against treating Wales as too separate an entity. But this small case study does perhaps speak instead to Powell's seeming idiosyncrasies. This was a man, after all, who was – after the loss of his beloved India from the Empire – a proponent of decolonisation; a Conservative but deeply suspicious of America; and perhaps the most famous anti-immigration figure in history, who was hyper-lingual, cultured and well-travelled. Powell ended his political career as an Ulster Unionist MP for the Northern Irish seat of South Down, where he became increasingly hostile to the idea of devolution. And yet he helped kickstart that process in Wales – something few people know much about and which, in this 75th anniversary year, when Powell's name continues frequently to be evoked, is worth reflecting on.

Sam Blaxland is a Lecturer at UCL. He is a historian of modern and contemporary Britain focusing on politics, universities and students. He has written three books, including *The Conservative Party in Wales, 1945–1997* and, most recently (with Georgina Brewis) *Student London*. He is a member of the Welsh Political Archive Advisory Committee.

Whitehall,
London,
S.W.1.

3rd July, 1952.

dear David,

Thank you very much for
r letter. May I say at once how very
ry I am that you have felt compelled
ome to this decision and that your
ealth has not improved as everyone
oped it would?

It is good of you to ask for
my consent. I know that you would
ly give up the work if you felt you must.
With regard to turning you
ll of course be guided by the Prime
Minister and I am sure that you
ll do your utmost to prevent the

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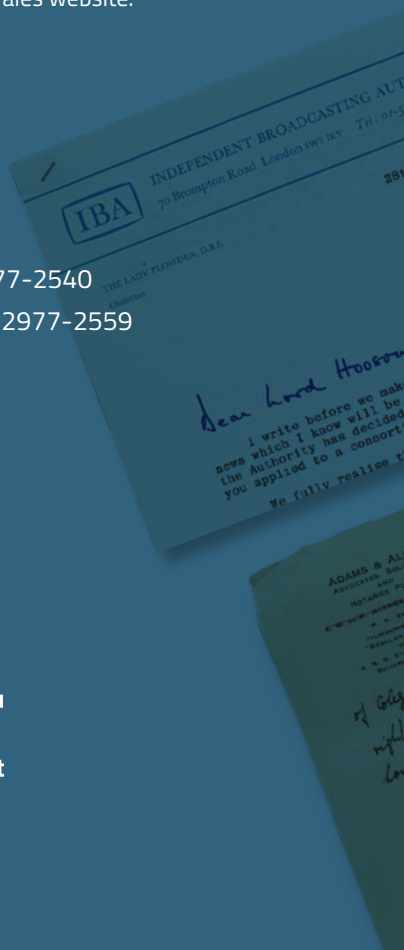
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