

SUMMER 2022

Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies
Aberystwyth University

NEWSLETTER



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CONTACT US

Department of Welsh
and Celtic Studies
Parry-Williams Building
Penglais
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3AJ

cymraeg@aber.ac.uk

[@CymraegAber](https://www.instagram.com/CymraegAber)



[Adran y Gymraeg ac
Astudiaethau Celtaidd](https://www.youtube.com/Adran_y_Gymraeg_ac)



Congratulations!



- To **Dr Rhianedd Jewell** on her promotion to Senior Lecturer in March 2021.
- To **Dr Ben Ó Ceallaigh** on winning the Joshua A. Fishman award for his PhD thesis on the Irish Language in June 2021.
- To **Dr Peadar O Muircheartaigh** on his promotion to Senior Lecturer in March 2022.
- To **Dr Cathryn Charnell-White** on her promotion to Reader in March 2022, and on being appointed Chair of Literature Wales.
- To **Dr Bleddyn Owen Huws** on receiving a D. Litt degree from Bangor University in June 2022.



Congratulations also to our students...



Tomos Lynch on winning the Eisteddfod Ryn-golegol 2022 Chair.

Twm Ebbsworth on winning the Eisteddfod Ryng-golegol 2022 Crown, and the Urdd Eisteddfod 2022 Crown.

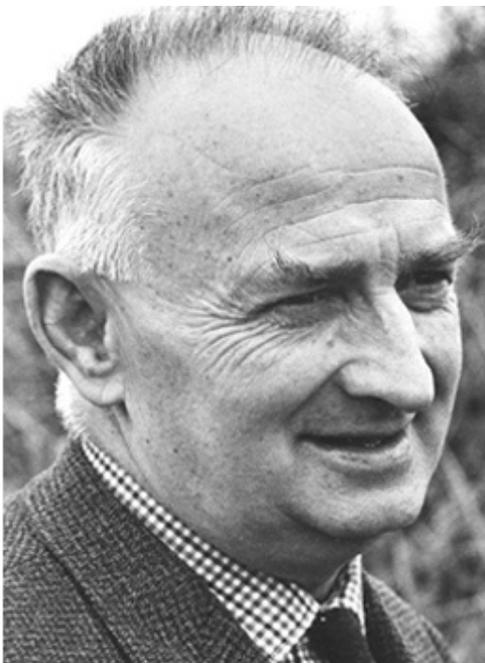


LAUNCH OF WALDO WILLIAMS BURSARY

In September 2021, the department launched a new bursary for students, thanks to the generosity of the family of renowned poet Waldo Williams.

Considered one of the finest Welsh poets, Waldo (1904–1971) made a remarkable contribution to the literature and culture of Wales, and to the cause of pacifism. In his memory, the new bursary will award £500 during the first year of study to up to two students studying Welsh at Aberystwyth University, from beginners through to intermediate and fluent speakers.

Further information on the bursary can be found [on this page](#).



'BRO A BYWYD' FIELD TRIP

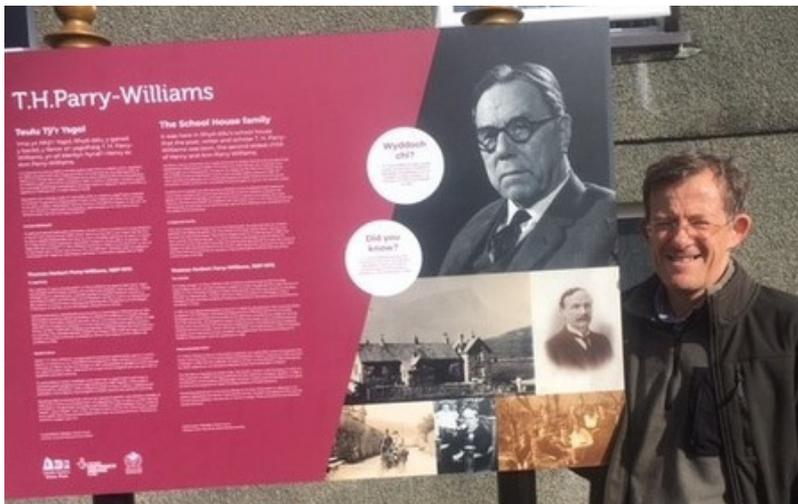
Following the lifting of some Covid restrictions and regulations we were able to resume field trips associated with one of the Department's modules. Students on the 'Bro a Bywyd: Dehongli Treftadaeth Lenyddol y Cymry' module visited the Llandre Literary Trail in October 2021. They viewed the Pilgrim's Trail exhibition at Llanfihangel church before walking along the literary trail which includes several display panels with poems and paragraphs by poets and writers associated with the area. The trip provided inspiration for the students as they went on to choose a topic for their personal project. Some of the students created a booklet and others designed a website based on a literary and cultural trail in their own home area.



UNVEILING AN INFORMATION PANEL IN THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE IN RHYD-DDU

Dr Bleddyn Owen Huws was invited by Antur Nantlle to write bilingual content to be placed on one of the new information panels on display at the School House Centre in Rhyd-ddu where T. H. Parry-Williams was born. The former primary school and house are now being run by Antur Nantlle as an outdoor centre providing accommodation for walkers and climbers.

Dr Huws's panel summarizes the history of Parry-Williams and his family for visitors. Others include the story of Hugh W. Hughes, the 'American Slate King', and the area's association with the Mabinogion. The panels can be seen in the yard behind the old School House in Rhyd-ddu.



Dr Bleddyn Owen Huws unveiling the panel in Rhyd-ddu.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON THE WORK OF T. H. PARRY-WILLIAMS

As the pandemic prevented us from holding a conference at Neuadd Pantycelyn in October 2020 to celebrate the centenary of the appointment of T. H. Parry-Williams as Professor and Head of the Department of Welsh here at Aberystwyth, a virtual conference was organized on the Department's YouTube channel. Six papers were given by experts discussing various aspects of his work. Dr Bleddyn Owen Huws, the conference organizer, said:

'T. H. Parry-Williams was appointed Professor and Head of the Welsh Department in 1920 in the teeth of opposition from some prominent public figures because of his stance as a conscientious objector during the First World War. It was a difficult time for him personally and professionally, but he persevered and remained Professor and Head of Department until 1952. He served the University for 37 years and contributed extensively to Welsh literature and scholarship. The conference papers take a fresh and interesting look at various aspects of the work of this eminent poet and writer.'

The lectures can be viewed through [this link](#).

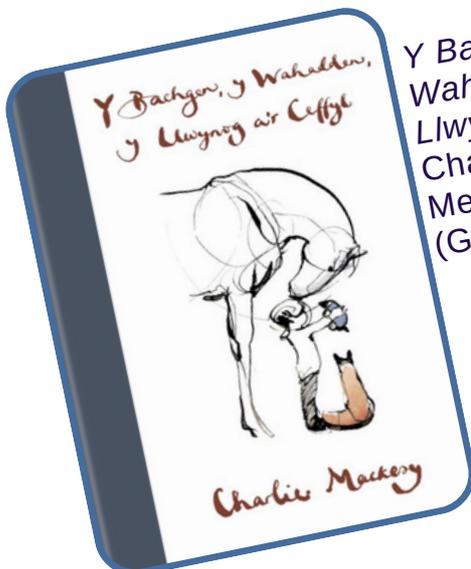
Noson Llên a Chên 2021

As usual, Noson Llên a Chên, an evening of literature and music, was organized by first year Professional Welsh students at the end of 2021. The virtual event, which can be watched below, includes a conversation with poet Dyfan Lewis, songs by Bwca, a conversation with the novelist Megan Angharad Hunter, the result of the literary competition and a song by the female vocal ensemble of Aelwyd Pantycelyn.



[Click here to watch the video](#)

New books



Y Bachgen, y
Wahadden, y
Llwynog a'r Ceffyl
Charlie Mackesy and
Mererid Hopwood
(Graffeg)



Cadi Goch a'r
Ysgol Swynion
Simon Rodway
(Y Lolfa)

GWENALLT

On World Poetry Day this year, 21 March, we were privileged to receive a valuable archive from Gwenallt's family, who is one of Wales' most brilliant writers who was a distinguished student and lecturer in the Department.

Among the items were the prison badge and books he had in Dartmoor as a result of his imprisonment as a conscientious objector during the First World War.

Also part of the collection are his pen and ink bottle, his glasses and his "UCW Aberystwyth" glasses case from the time he worked at the University (1927–1966).



The manuscripts include lecture notes, personal letters and the diary of his trip to Jerusalem - a trip which led to the composition of his famous poem 'Y Coed'.

There are also a number of materials kept by his widow, Nel Gwenallt, including radio broadcasts, tributes and Rock Opera, all recording the poet's life and work.

The objects and manuscripts were presented as a gift to the Department by his granddaughter, Elin Gwenallt Jones, who lives in Ceredigion.

In a special ceremony, the manuscripts were transferred to the National Library for safekeeping.



GWRANDO ('THE ART OF LISTENING')

2022 marks the start of the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Languages and to mark this Mererid Hopwood took part in a special event in Dublin in May 2022. With the support of Arts International Wales and the Welsh Government, the occasion was also an opportunity to launch the first of 'Padrig/Dewi Dialogues'.

Following an introduction to the theme, Mererid spoke to Professor Michael Cronin, Trinity College, Dublin, Dr Cairíona Ní Chléirchín, poet and lecturer at Dublin City University, and Dr Philip King, founder of Other Voices. The four discussed the connection between language and landscape and the benefits that come from listening to each other's languages.

Mererid will continue with the next in the series in the Eisteddfod in the company of musician Gareth Bonello on 1pm, Monday 1 August, at the Welsh Government stand.

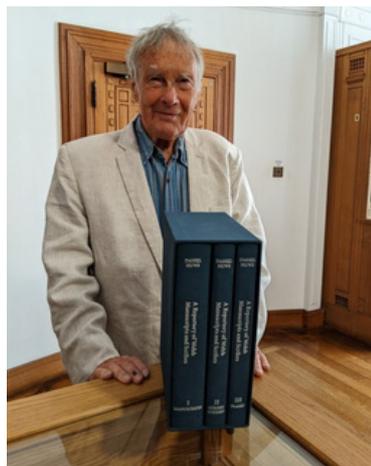


Photo: @archifaulgyc

Photos: @elunedh



THE REPERTORY CONFERENCE

On 20–22 June 2022, a special conference was held at the National Library to celebrate the publication of Daniel Huws' masterpiece, *A Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts and Scribes c.800–c.1800*.

The three-volume work includes brief descriptions of some 3,300 Welsh manuscripts, biographical information on hundreds of copyists, comprehensive indexes and more than 900 images that offer examples of the manuscripts' main hands. It's a remarkable milestone in the field and, after the bleak period of the pandemic, the delegates were delighted to come together to mark the occasion.

Four of the Department's staff were among them, namely Mererid Hopwood, Eurig Salisbury, Cathryn Charnell-White, and Simon Rodway.

Long live the Repertory, and many congratulations to Daniel on his achievement!

CELEBRATING THE POET HUW MORYS

On the last weekend of April and the beginning of May this year, two days of events were held to celebrate one of Wales' greatest poets, Huw Morys (1622–1709) from Pont-y-meibion in Dyffryn Ceiriog. Four hundred years after his birth, hundreds gathered in Glyn Ceiriog and in Llansilin on 30 April and 1 May to remember the famous poet who was called Eos Ceiriog.

As well as a walk, a service in Llansilin church and a summer mound, the Memorial Hall in Glyn Ceiriog was packed on Saturday night to listen to Huw's poems being performed - some for the first time in centuries - in a special concert. The poems were sung and recited, mainly by local contributors, under the guidance of Eurig Salisbury, who presented the poems and shed light on a few lines here and there.

More information about the weekend and about Huw himself is available in Welsh [via this link](#).



Eurig in Huw Morys' Chair

RESEARCH SEMINARS

The Department holds a series of Seminars every Semester, inviting academics from Aberystwyth and beyond to present a paper on a topic of their choice. Over the past year we have had papers from Will Parker, Rhianwen Daniel, Robin Chapman, Kerron Ó Luain, Rhianedd Jewell, Grug Muse and others. Recordings of all recent seminars are [on our website](#).

Contact cymraeg@aber.ac.uk to be added to our mailing list to hear about next Semester's seminars.



[Click here to watch the video](#)



[Click here to watch the video](#)

Y DDRAIG

As part of a Professional Welsh degree, first year students are responsible for collecting material, editing and publishing *Y Ddraig* literary magazine annually. This is the launch of the 2022 edition which was virtually held in June.



Click here to watch the video

Material from previous editions is available to read on [Y Ddraig's website](#).

To buy a copy of the latest issue for £3, contact cymraeg@aber.ac.uk



MA, MPhil AND PHD

The Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies has a number of postgraduate opportunities – perfect for graduates who want to experience Aberystwyth for the first time, and for our own graduates who want to 'kick the bar' for another year or two.

MA Astudiaethau Cyfieithu Proffesiynol

This Welsh-medium MA in Professional Translation Studies considers every aspect of the professional translator in contemporary Wales – for more information contact Mandi Morse (emm25@aber.ac.uk).

MPhil

Spend a year working on a research thesis in your chosen field, with guidance from a member of staff with the relevant expertise – contact Simon Rodway (syr@aber.ac.uk) for further details.

PhD

Spend three years writing a substantial research thesis in your chosen field, with expert supervision from staff. For further information, contact Simon Rodway (syr@aber.ac.uk).

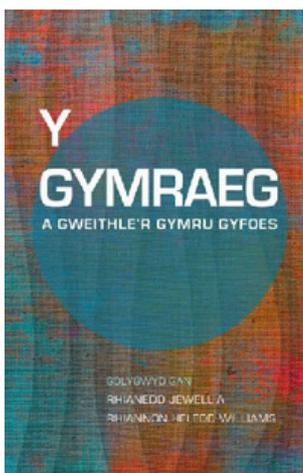
See the [University website](#) for information on fees, scholarships and how to apply.

NEW VOLUMES

Y Gymraeg a Gweithle'r Gymru Gyfoes Dr Rhianedd Jewell and Dr Rhiannon Williams

During the summer an innovative volume in the field of Professional Welsh will be published by the University of Wales Press, *Y Gymraeg a Gweithle i'r Gymru Gyfoes*. This volume was co-edited by Dr Rhianedd Jewell, the Department's Senior Lecturer in Professional Welsh, and Dr Rhiannon Heledd Williams. It contains contributions from academics and professionals in a variety of fields including translation studies, the law, politics and the health field to consider the status of the Welsh language in workplaces across Wales.

It looks at the challenges that employers and employees face when trying to develop a bilingual workforce, what strategies organizations use to develop the bilingual skills of their staff and improve their Welsh language services, and what is the effect of laws, policies and language standards on workplaces in Wales.



The volume also contains a chapter which presents a new research project by Rhianedd and her colleagues in the Department of Law (Dr Catrin Fflûr Huws) and the Department of Psychology (Dr Hanna Binks) which examines the impact of simultaneous translation in bilingual court cases in Wales. The chapter discusses how factors such as the translator's location and voice, as well as elements of the current translation process, can affect the experience of witnesses, jurors and translators alike in court proceedings.

Rhianedd won a British Academy Small Grant in April this year to develop this research further, and there will be news about this exciting work in our future newsletters.



NEW VOLUMES

Dychmygu Iaith

Professor Mererid Hopwood

We are looking forward to the summer and the launch of Mererid Hopwood's book, *Dychmygu Iaith* ('Imagining Language'), a volume that is part of the centenary celebrations of the University of Wales Press. The book traces a subject which has been the subject of age-old discussion among philosophers, scientists, educators and sociologists, namely the question 'What is Language?'

Here, however, Mererid turns to poetry and considers how poets from across the world have imagined language and the lessons to be drawn. The text addresses two of UWP's priorities: a deeper understanding of the unique culture and language of Wales; and a broader appreciation of European and world culture.

Numerous studies have examined poets' imagery through and in language, that is, the way they use language to create images, but not so the imagery about language itself.

In a unique combination that covers examples of poems in threatened and mainstream languages, Mererid's hope is that this book will encourage us to consider anew a medium that we use on a daily basis and sometimes so unknowingly: language.

Launch:
16:30, Thursday, 4 August.
Y Babel Lên, Eisteddfod
Genedlaethol Cymru.



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Department of Welsh and Celtic
Studies
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Penglais
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3AJ

cymraeg@aber.ac.uk

[@CymraegAber](https://twitter.com/CymraegAber)



Adran.y.Gymraeg.ac
Astudiaethau.Celtaidd



Ydy fy swydd yn dy siwtio?

WELSH AT WORK

Will your CV stand out from the crowd? Fluency in Welsh is a valuable skill in the workplace, and a degree in Welsh or Celtic Studies opens doors to a wide range of careers. Here in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies, we are proud of our graduates' success, and our pamphlet celebrates their careers. The profiles in this pamphlet provide information about qualifications, a typical workday, and key skills. Our graduates work as journalists, social media coordinators, reporters, translators, television researchers, marketing officers, editors, and much more. Together, these careers speak to the relevance of the Welsh language and of the importance of a degree in Welsh in the professional workplace.

100%

of our
graduates
are in graduate
level jobs or further
study six months after
graduation