



Department of Welsh
and Celtic Studies
NEWSLETTER
Spring 2020



LET'S CELEBRATE!

The Department has had much to celebrate recently ...

Congratulations to Bleddyn Owen Huws on winning the University of Wales's Sir Ellis Griffiths Prize, awarded by the University of Wales, for his recent book on the renowned poet and academic T.H. Parry-Williams. Congratulations also go to two of our students, Michelle Rafferty (below) and Iestyn Tyne, on winning two prizes awarded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. See page 4 for details.

BOOK OF THE YEAR

The lavish 2019 Book of the Year ceremony was held in the Arts Centre last year, and our Head of Department was among the judges ...

DETAILS ON PAGE 3



TALWRN Y BEIRDD IFANC

The first ever rounds of Talwrn y Beirdd Ifanc, for up-and-coming poets, were held last year, between teams from Ysgol Bro Myrddin, Ysgol y Preseli, Ysgol Llangefni and Ysgol Glan Clwyd ...

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OUR STUDENTS IN THE WORKPLACE

Visiting the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales at the National Library of Wales, walking the Llandre Heritage Trail, and much more ...

READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 4



TALWRN

Y BEIRDD IFANC



Early last summer, Aberystwyth University hosted two new, unique contests of **Talwrn y Beirdd Ifanc**, organised by our own **Eurig Salisbury**, who is himself an experienced 'Talwrn' competitor with Y Glêr. Two schools from south Wales and two from the north faced each other, with teams from **Ysgol Bro Myrddin**, **Ysgol y Preseli**, **Ysgol Llangefni** and **Ysgol Glan Clwyd**.

The teams were mentored by Eurig and two other leading poets, **Bardd Plant Cymru** (children's laureate) **Gruffudd Owen** and former Bardd Plant **Anni Llŷn** – and who better to award the marks than the host of BBC Radio Cymru's Talwrn y Beirdd, **Ceri Wyn Jones**? You can listen to the work of these young poets, and Ceri's enthusiastic response, on the **Clera podcast**, available free on SoundCloud and iTunes.

Following on from the success of this venture, a special contest will be recorded on 17 March as part of the fortieth-anniversary celebration of the Talwrn y Beirdd programme, when three schools, Ysgol y Preseli, Ysgol Llangefni, and Ysgol Glan Clwyd, will challenge each other again. **Radio Cymru** will broadcast the proceedings on Sunday 21 April.





... rediscovering the thrill of reading for pleasure.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Llun: Iestyn Hughes

PRIZES GALORE AND A SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Our Head of Department, Cathryn Charnell-White, thoroughly enjoyed acting as a judge in the 2019 Book of the Year competition, along with the broadcaster Dylan Ebenezer and the poet Idris Reynolds.

‘It was, of course, an honour to serve on the panel,’ said Cathryn, ‘but it was also a remarkable experience on a personal level because, professionally, I have to read “for a reason” and so, being obliged to read something other than essays, reports, and minutes of meetings was a way of rediscovering the thrill of reading for pleasure.’

The ceremony was held at the Arts Centre in Aberystwyth. It was a night to remember, with Manon Steffan Ros winning three prizes for her remarkable novel *Llyfr Glas Nebo* (2018). The ceremony will return to Aberystwyth this year. We are thrilled to strengthen the Department’s ties with Literature Wales, and we congratulate Cathryn on her appointment, in December, as a member of the body’s Board of Directors.

A brand-new series of Departmental seminars was launched last year, with a paper by our lecturer in Celtic Studies, Simon Rodway, on the portrayal of King Arthur in the work of T.H. White. Two former lecturers in the Department also delivered papers: Dr William Mahon and Professor Marged Haycock. Early in 2020 we welcomed a guest lecturer from the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, Dr Hywel Griffiths, and we look forward to welcoming Dr Sara Elin Roberts and Dr Steve Thompson to the Department in the near future.



CELEBRATING THREE AWARDS

TWO STAR STUDENTS, AND A LECTURER WINS A UNIVERSITY OF WALES AWARD

DISSERTATIONS WIN AWARDS

Two of the Department's former students have been awarded prizes by the **Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol** in memory of John Davies and Gwyn Thomas. At the 2019 National Eisteddfod in Llanrwst, **Michelle Rafferty**, who graduated with a First in History with Welsh, was presented with the John Davies Prize, and **Iestyn Tyne**, who graduated with a First in Welsh, received the Gwyn Thomas Prize. These awards were instituted by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol in recognition of students' success in a variety of fields.

The **John Davies Prize** is awarded to the best academic essay in Welsh in the field of Welsh History. Michelle, originally from Aberaeron, recently completed an MA in Welsh History and has begun a PhD in History.

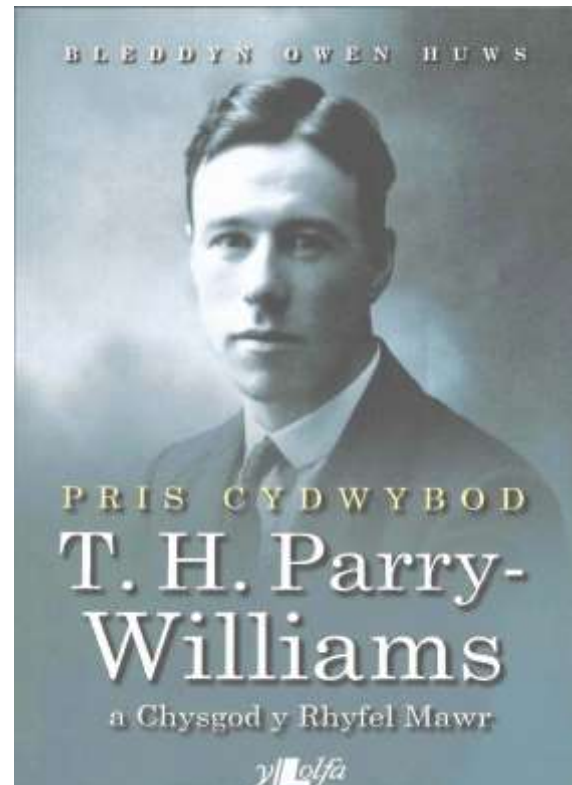
The **Gwyn Thomas Prize** is awarded to a student for the best undergraduate essay in Welsh as an academic subject. Iestyn Tyne, originally from the Llŷn Peninsula, won the prize with 'Awen Addewid', a study of prize-winning compositions at the Urdd Eisteddfod between 1952 and 2017. By a strange coincidence, Iestyn also won the **Urdd Eisteddfod Chair** in the same year.

Iestyn is currently working as a translator with Gwynedd Council. He has already published two volumes of poetry, is a talented musician, a member of the group Patrobas, and an editor for the literary magazine *Y Stamp*.

(With thanks to the Coleg Cymraeg for allowing us to use the photograph of Iestyn on this page and the photograph of Michelle on the cover of this newsletter.)

A PRIZE-WINNING VOLUME

The University of Wales's Sir Ellis Griffiths Prize has been won by **Bleddyn Owen Huws** for his monograph *Pris Cydwybod: T.H. Parry-Williams a Chysgod y Rhyfel Mawr*, published by Y Lolfa in October 2018. The prize is awarded to the author of the best book published in the previous three years in Welsh on either Welsh authors or artists and their work.



THE SECRET OF THE CARNEDDI UNCOVERED

During a lecture delivered in the Literature Pavilion at the National Eisteddfod in Llanrwst, **Bleddyn Owen Huws** revealed new information about the tragic circumstances behind **Geoff Charles's** iconic photograph of the poet **Richard Griffith (Carneddog)** and his wife **Catrin** before they left their home in Snowdonia to move to Hinckley in the English Midlands. The photograph was taken in September 1945 and appeared on the front page of the Welsh-language weekly *Y Cymro*. The body of **Hywel Wyn**, Carneddog and Catrin's 42-year-old son, was discovered in Llyn Dinas near Beddgelert in August 1945. According to the Coroner, he had drowned himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed. Bleddyn Owen Huws's research shows that there is more to the story.

The Caernarfon-based production company Awen Media used Dr Huws's research to produce a short documentary, which received its first public showing in the **Literature Pavilion**. In the professional opinion of Dr Donald Wayte, the former Home Office pathologist, interviewed as part of the film, the original verdict on Hywel Wyn's death is now in doubt. New evidence suggests that the coroner at the time ignored Hywel Wyn's circumstances and mental health. It is now known that Hywel Wyn was gay, and Dr Huws now argues that the tragic story of Carneddog's son can be seen as a chapter in the gay history of Wales before the decriminalization of same-sex relationships between men in 1967.

Carneddog and Catrin's move from Snowdonia has captured the imagination of poet and former student **Iestyn Tyne**, who has been inspired by the story to embark on a project based on Geoff Charles's picture. As Iestyn says:

'The lecture was both entertaining and revealing, and it certainly creates possibilities for a creative conceptual response ... In essence I intend putting together pieces of poetry and music that begin with Hywel Wyn's journey to Pwllheli on the day before he died, and end with Carneddog and Catrin in Hinckley. My hope is to be able to combine the words of Carneddog and others with my own. So too with the music, which will bring together traditional tunes and others by me.'

(Picture: Iestyn Hughes.)



OUR STUDENTS IN THE WORKPLACE

Our Cymraeg Proffesiynol (Professional Welsh) students visited the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales offices in the National Library in October. It provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about the wealth of resources held there for students to research the heritage of their own areas of Wales.



In addition, our Cymraeg Proffesiynol students were inspired by the Llandre Nature Trail again this year. The trail is an excellent example of how literary tourism can raise interest in our history and culture.



DEPARTMENTAL LITERARY MAGAZINE AT HOME ONLINE

Every summer sees the publication of a new issue of *Y Ddraig*, the Department's literary magazine, edited by our first-year **Cymraeg Proffesiynol** students. Last year, for the first time, the magazine found a new home online – www.yddraig.cymru – where readers from across the world can access the



content for free. *Y Ddraig* contains a variety of material, from **interviews** with leading figures in Wales to **poems** and **prose** written by students and friends of the Department. Use your browser to find everything in the latest issue, along with two previous editions, and look out for the 2020 edition!

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION AND THE COURTS

On 23 January, lawyers, actors, translators and members of the public came together to hold a mock court in Aberystwyth. The day was part of an exciting new research project coordinated by **Rhianedd Jewell** from the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies, **Catrin Fflur Huws** from the School of Law and Criminology, and **Hanna Binks** from the Department of Psychology. The project aims to consider the effect, significance and influence of simultaneous translation on the administration of justice.



NEW RESIDENTIAL COURSE

During a residential course held by the Department in June, Welsh pupils from ten schools across Wales stayed overnight on campus, attended sessions delivered by specialists in their fields – **Manon Steffan Ros**, **Caryl Lewis**, **Myrddin ap Dafydd**, **Dafydd Johnston**, in addition to Departmental staff – and were entertained in the evening at a 'Steddfod Wirion' (crazy eisteddfod) run by **Elen Pen-cwm** and **Endaf Griffiths**. The course will run again this year, and information will go out to schools soon.



TRANSLATION CONFERENCE

Another highly successful Professional Translation Studies conference was held this year, hosted by **Mandi Morse** and **Sharon Owen**.



There was a large attendance in November to hear contributions from a variety of entertaining speakers, including the Eisteddfod-winning poet and writer **Mererid Hopwood**, **Hywel Hughes** from Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service, **Jason Evans** from Wicipedia Cymru and **Aled Roberts**, the Welsh Language Commissioner.

VISITS TO INDIA

At the end of 2019, **Eurig Salisbury** and **Sampurna Chattarji** published a new volume of poetry for children, *The Bhyabachyaka and Other Wild Poems*, based on words in Welsh and Bangla. Eurig travelled to **Delhi** at the end of November and to **Kolkata** at the end of January to launch the book at various literary festivals and hold workshops in both cities.



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 newly printed 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

MA, MPhil & 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 further 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).



Adran y Gymraeg PA



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DEPARTMENTAL DIARY

17 March, Theatr Arad Goch A special round of **Talwrn y Beirdd Ifanc** will be recorded in the afternoon between Ysgol y Preseli, Ysgol Llangefni and Ysgol Glan Clwyd (more details on p.2). Two other rounds of **BBC Radio Cymru's Talwrn** programme will be recorded in the evening, Y Glêr vs Tal-y-bont, and Y Llewod Cochion vs Manion o'r Mynydd, with poet **Ceri Wyn Jones** adjudicating all three rounds. Free entry.

25 April, Sponsored walk + Cicio'r Bar During the day, both staff and friends of the Department will go on a sponsored walk along the coastal path to raise money for a brand new mural for the newly refurbished **Neuadd Pantycelyn** hall of residence. In the evening, a special Cicio'r Bar event will be held in the **Arts Centre Round Studio** with poets and musicians who are former Pantycelyn residents. All are welcome!

