



Department of Welsh
and Celtic Studies
NEWSLETTER
Autumn term 2020



ONWARDS

It's been a difficult year full of uncertainty, yet with autumn the new academic year arrived full of challenges and opportunities in equal measure.

We were all disappointed to miss out on graduation day and the chance to celebrate our graduates' achievements. However, we rejoice in their success – more on page 6 – as we also delight in reopening Neuadd Pantycelyn – more on page 2.

A NEW CHAIR

In October we shared the wonderful news that Professor Mererid Hopwood had been appointed Professor of Welsh and Celtic Studies ...

DETAILS ON PAGE 3



THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY

Another source of celebration was the announcement that two of our lecturers, Rhianedd Jewell and Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh, had been awarded fellowships ...

MORE ON PAGE 5



#YRAWR GYFIEITHU

The Professional Translation Studies team came up with a fun new way to coin new translations with the help of a wide audience ...

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 6



THE OLD HALL

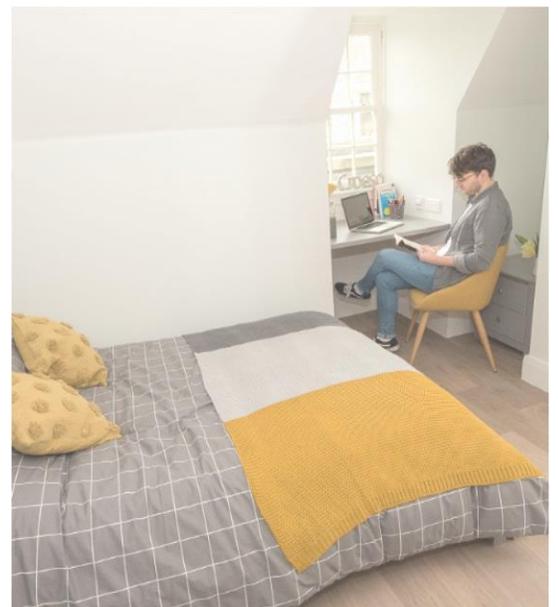


REOPENING PANTYCELYN

The doors of Wales' most famous student hall of residence were open once more on Friday 18 September, as students returned to Aberystwyth University for the beginning of the new academic year. **Pantycelyn** has undergone a £16.5m transformation and now offers accommodation for up to 200 students and a modern and contemporary home for **the University's Welsh speaking student community**.

Each of the bedrooms is newly built and includes an en-suite bathroom, and some of the Hall's **best-known rooms** – the Large Lounge, the Small Lounge and the Senior and Junior Common Rooms – have been transformed. And, in accordance with the wishes of the hall's supporters, the **tradition of sharing mealtimes** will continue with breakfast and evening meal provided in the hall's Ffreutur, Monday to Friday.

In addition to the University's own investment, the project received £5m from the **Welsh Government's** Education and Schools programme. The Education Minister, **Kirsty Williams MS**, visited the hall to mark the reopening, alongside Aberystwyth University's Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Elizabeth Treasure**.





‘... to take forward collaborative work there will be an enormous privilege.’

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

A NEW PROFESSOR AND TWO NEW MEMBERS OF CELTIC STUDIES STAFF

The Department is delighted that Eisteddfod-chaired poet **Mererid Hopwood** has been appointed a Professor of Welsh and Celtic Studies.

A graduate in Spanish and German at **Aberystwyth University**, she went on to complete a PhD in German literature in University College London. Since then she has lectured in the departments of Welsh and Modern Languages at Swansea University, before joining the University of Wales Trinity St David’s as a Professor of Languages and the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

Originally from Cardiff, she has won major National Eisteddfod competitions on three occasions. She was the first woman to win the **Chair at the National Eisteddfod** in 2001. She achieved further success in 2003 when she won the **Eisteddfod Crown**, and then the **Medal for Prose** in 2008. Professor Hopwood commented:

‘The University in Aberystwyth is the one that welcomed me as a student close to forty years ago, and I now look forward to returning to the college by the sea. To take forward collaborative work there will be an enormous privilege; with the aim of ensuring that the students, the staff and the discipline thrive in Aberystwyth and beyond.’

Furthermore, two new members of staff have joined the Department. Following **Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh’s** secondment at the University of Copenhagen, **Ben Ó Ceallaigh** will take his place for the next two years – more on page 6.

Eisteddfod-chaired poet **Aneirin Karadog** has also joined us to teach Breton. Aneirin’s mother is originally from Brittany, and he learned the language at home in Pontypridd. He recently spent a year in Brittany with his family, and published a book about their experiences, *Byw Iaith: Taith i Fyd y Llydaweg* (2019).

ONLINE SUCCESS

RHIANEDD'S AWARD, AND A NEW EDITION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAGAZINE

EXEMPLARY COURSE AWARD

Rhianedd Jewell, our Director of Teaching and Learning, was highly commended for the Blackboard site for her module *Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle* in this year's Aberystwyth University **Exemplary Course Awards**. This competition is held every year by the elearning team and its aim is to recognise the best teaching practices on Blackboard, the university's online teaching platform. **Y Gymraeg yn y Gweithle** (Welsh in the Workplace) is a work experience module which offers skills, experiences and contacts which are extremely valuable to students as they prepare to enter the workplace after graduating.

Y DDRAIG 2020

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the first year **Professional Welsh** students produced another brilliant edition of the Department's literary magazine, *Y Ddraig*, this year. You can now read the latest edition of *Y Ddraig* as well as four past issues on [the magazine's website](#). This year's creative pieces include an interview with the radio presenter, **Geraint Lloyd**, and the winning poem and prose composition from this year's Cadair and Coron competitions in the **Inter-Collegiate Eisteddfod**.

EISTEDDFOD AmGen

Postponing the **National Eisteddfod** in Tregaron this year was a huge disappointment to everyone in Ceredigion, but departmental colleagues were on hand to divert virtual audiences on the alternative **AmGen** stage. If you missed **Eurig Salisbury's** session in a series of *cynghanedd* workshops, Haf o Gerdd Dafod, and **Cathryn Charnell-White's** interview with **Manon Steffan Ros**, you can enjoy these events again on [the National Eisteddfod's website](#).

TRANSLATING CORONAVIRUS

Thanks to one of the Department's PhD students, **Manon Elin James**, a guide to coping with worry and anxiety during the pandemic is available in Welsh. Manon, a founding member of [meddwl.org](#), was pleased to work with Psychology Tools to ensure that this valuable online resource is available in Welsh.

A PICTURE TO RAISE A SMILE → Yarn bombing by **Cathryn Charnell-White** to thank key workers for their support to our communities during the pandemic.



THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY

Congratulations to **Rhianedd Jewell** and **Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh** who have been awarded fellowships by the **Higher Education Academy**! Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh was made a Fellow and Rhianedd Jewell was made a Senior Fellow. These fellowships reflect the success and commitment of academic staff to teaching and learning of the highest standard.

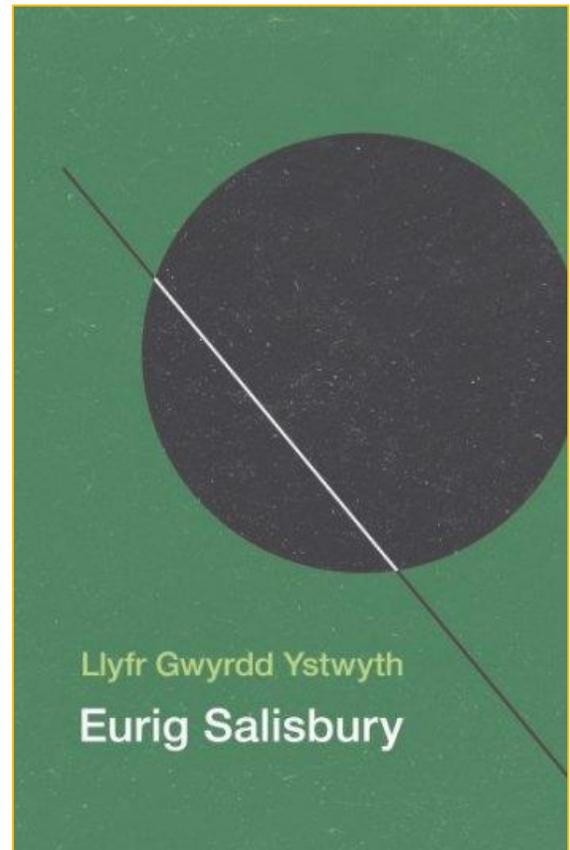
THE SECRETS OF LLYFR MELYN OERDDWR REVEALED

In a recently published Sir T. H. Parry-Williams' Memorial Lecture by the **University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies**, **Bleddyn Owen Huws** discusses the poet's connection with the 'Yellow Book of Oerddwr', a unique family manuscript which contains poems composed by Parry-Williams during the First World War. There are at least 16 autographed poems in the manuscript, including some that have not been discussed at length before. Dr Huws claims that the poem entitled 'Cwyn y Fam' ('A mother's lament') in particular is one of the most striking Welsh poems ever composed during the Great War. As T. H. Parry-Williams was a conscientious objector, many of the poems in the 'Yellow Book' reflect his pacifist stance.

T.H. Parry-Williams was a lecturer at the Department of Welsh at Aberystwyth University during the War years and shortly after the War ended he was appointed Professor and Head of Department. He was one of Wales' most renowned twentieth-century poets and prose writers. A **one-day conference** will be held at the University in October 2021 to celebrate the centenary of his appointment as Professor of Welsh.

A NEW COLLECTION OF POETRY

When the lockdown struck back in March, a few hundred copies of *Llyfr Gwyrdd Ystwyth* (Cyhoeddiadau Barddas) lay idle at a printers in Tal-y-bont! But despite the terrible timing, it was still a cause of celebration that the collection – **Eurig Salisbury**'s second, after *Llyfr Glas Eurig* yn 2008 – had been published at last, and copies were sold during the lockdown and afterwards in shops over the summer. In the words of **Morgan Owen**, in his review on **gwales.com**: 'These are public poems formed by relationships between people. They bear witness to the bonds of individuals (lovers, family, friends) and community (celebration, elegy, rivalry) ... an abundance of vigorous poetry.'



PEADAR'S FELLOWSHIP AND BEN'S LECTURESHIP

Very best wishes to **Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh** as he begins his secondment in **Copenhagen University's Arnamagnæan Institute**. He will spend his **Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship** researching the connections of Grímlur Thorkelin, the scholar remembered for 'discovering' Beowulf. It is a pleasure to welcome **Ben Ó Ceallaigh** on board to teach Irish and Scottish Gaelic. Originally from **Roscommon**, Ireland, he joins us from **Edinburgh University** where he gained his PhD in the economic effects of 2008 on minoritized languages and language planning in Ireland. *Fáilte!*

#YRAWRGYFIEITHU

The summer months are usually very busy for the **Professional Translation Studies** staff, as they host taster sessions and recruitment events all across Wales. As we know, 2020 is unusual in many ways, so due to the lockdown we had to think of creative ways of reaching our target audience. **#YrAwrGyfieithu** was launched on 6 May, an hour of light-hearted online translation tasks. The Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts of **@CyfieithuCC** were very busy, and our weekly competition to think of new Welsh terms – **Taclo'r Termau** – was very popular. Our competition invited our followers to suggest **new terms** for new situations arising from the lockdown – for example, 'credibility bookshelf' = '*llyfrgrededd*' became a hot topic during repeated online meetings, we had a 'night out, in' = '*gwin ar y sgrin*' when going out was not an option, and we can all relate to the 'coronacoaster' = '*meri-go-rona*' of emotions experienced during this pandemic. Keep an eye on our social media accounts for more challenges!

TRANSLATION COMPETITION FOR YEAR 10–13 STUDENTS

Congratulations to the young translators who were awarded prizes in our annual **Translation Competition for year 10–13 students**. This year's task was to translate a transcript from *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. According to the adjudicator, our very own **Eurig Salisbury**, the standard was very high, and the work of the three listed below was outstanding:

1st £100: **Lois Medi Wiliam**

2nd £50: **Medi Morgan**

3rd £25: **Fflur James**

2020 PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATION STUDIES CONFERENCE

Online event, 28 November 2020. To register for the event, please get in touch with the Project Officer, Sharon Owen: sho2@aber.ac.uk.



A POEM FOR OUR GRADUATES

It was an extremely strange experience this year not being able to hold a graduation ceremony whilst at the same time celebrating our graduates' success. In the absence of the usual time-honoured rituals, **Eurig Salisbury** seized the opportunity to write a poem to remind our students that, in spite of everything, they had all made us proud.

No 'please sit', no awkward fittings – today,

Yet we don our greetings;

Each degree, separately, sings,

One Great Hall all our dwellings.

In a hush of ovations – here we stand,

Fused all at a distance,

Tipping caps in your absence,

Cohered, until the time comes.

Summer's grand honours are due, sun and sea

And sands wait in situ,

Waiting by surf in curfew,

With Aber's fanfare, for you.

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

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 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).



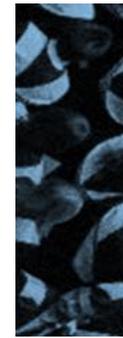
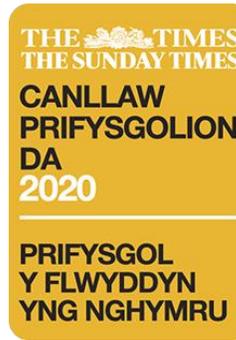
Adran y Gymraeg PA



@CymraegAber



cymraegaber



SEMINARAU AR LEIN ADRAN Y GYMRAEG AC ASTUDIAETHAU CELTAIDD

20 Hydref / 20 October

Dr Sara Elin Roberts

'Much additional and later matter': llawysgrif Wynnstay 36 a chyfraith Hywel

17 Tachwedd / 17 November

Dr Ben O Ceallaigh

Neoliberalism and language shift: lessons from Ireland post-2008

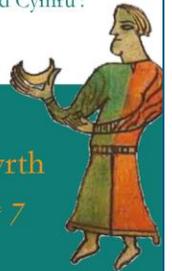
8 Rhagfyr / 8 December

Dr Steve Thompson

'Ni oddefasid peth fel hyn yn un wlad dan haul ond Cymru': meddygon, cleifion a'r iaith Gymraeg 1850–1918

Cynhelir pob un o'r seminarau
ar Zoom am 7 o'r gloch nos Fawrth

*The seminars will be held on Zoom at 7
o'clock on Tuesday night*



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