



Department of Welsh  
and Celtic Studies  
NEWSLETTER  
May 2019



# WELCOME!

Croeso! Fái!te! Fái!te!  
Degemer Mad

We welcomed our new administrator, **Amanda Jones**, to the Department at the beginning of the academic year (see page 3), and the scholar and poet **Elis Dafydd** joined us in Semester 2 while Eurig Salisbury is on research impact leave. Elis is currently completing a PhD at Bangor University, writing about our former colleague, John Rowlands: croeso, welcome, Elis!

## NEUADD PANTYCELYN

The refurbishment work on Pantycelyn Hall of residence has begun, and this iconic building will reopen in September 2020 ...

More on page 2



## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Both staff and students have won a number of prizes and honours ...

Read more on pages 3, 4 & 5



## POSTGRAD?

Are you graduating this year? Would you like to stay in Aber for another year, or more? We have a number of postgraduate opportunities for you ...

Details on page 4



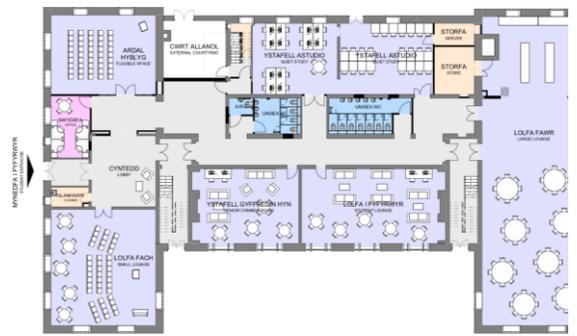


Since it opened its doors to the University’s Welsh medium students in 1974, Pantycelyn has become one of Wales’s most iconic buildings. We are delighted that the hall will be reopening in style in September 2020, with contemporary *en suite* rooms for two hundred students, offices for UMCA (Aberystwyth Welsh Students’ Union), a refectory, and attractive social spaces for students, staff and the local community. In the words of one of the Department’s lecturers during his student days: ‘Mae’n neuadd ni’n brifddinas ... Ty’d draw, mêt, a dere mas!’ (Our hall is a city ... Come over, mate; let’s go out!)

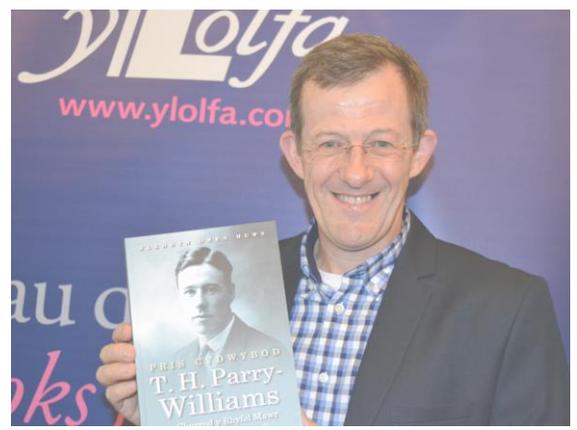
**PRIS CYDWYBOD:**

**T. H. PARRY WILLIAMS A CHYSGOD Y RHYFEL MAWR**

A century since the end of the First World War, Bleddyn Owen Huws’s latest book throws new light on the experiences of the conscientious objector, T. H. Parry-Williams. Parry-Williams was one of our most famous former students, and later worked as a lecturer from 1914 and Professor of Welsh between 1920 and 1952. The book was launched in the Old College in October and, fittingly, Bleddyn delivered the Sir Thomas Parry-Williams Memorial Lecture at the National Library of Wales in May.



CYNLLUN LLAWR GWAELOD  
1:200





A year of  
prizes and  
success...

# NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

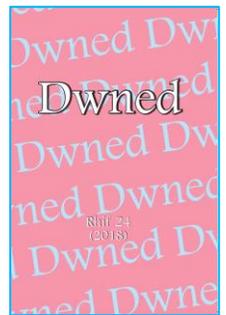
## NEW STAFF, A CLUTCH OF PRIZES, AND MUCH MORE

As well as welcoming a new temporary lecturer to the Department (see page 1), we bid farewell to **Rhian Davies**, our Academic Officer for nine years. We wish Rhian every success in her new role, and extend a warm welcome to **Amanda Jones** who has joined us in the departmental office.

Congratulations to **Rhianedd Jewell**, our lecturer in Professional Welsh, on winning the Sir Ellis Griffith Prize (awarded by the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies) for her study of the literary translations of Saunders Lewis. Congratulations to five of our brightest students: **Sioned Bowen** (Carmarthenshire Young Farmers' Eisteddfod Crown competition, and Ceredigion Young Farmers' Eisteddfod Prose prize); **Gruffydd Davies** (Intercollegiate Eisteddfod Crown), and **Manon Rowlands** (Intercollegiate Eisteddfod Art Medal); and **Anne Robbins** and **Rebecca Snell** (Welsh-Language Champions, Aberystwyth University's Saint David's Day Prizes. (Photos on page 1).

Congratulations, comhghairdeas, **Peadar Ó Muircheartaigh** for being shortlisted for Lecturer of the Year in the annual teaching awards. Peadar and the Emeritus lecturer **William Mahon** have held a series of seminars on a surprising seventeenth-century Irish text this semester. Peadar was also recently awarded a **Marie Słodowska-Curie** Individual Fellowship to study Early Modern Irish manuscripts alongside colleagues in Copenhagen University, and he delivered the Irish Literary Society's **O'Connell Memorial Lecture** in London in May.

April saw the publication of the twenty-fourth issue of the journal *Dwned*. Edited by Bleddyn Owen Huws and Cynfael Lake, it includes articles by Dafydd Glyn Jones, Patrick Sims-Williams, Alexander Falileyev and our very own Simon Rodway. To order a copy for £7, send a message to [welsh@aber.ac.uk](mailto:welsh@aber.ac.uk).



# WINTER ACTIVITIES

## HYWEL THE GOOD, PANCAKES AND GIANTS OF SCHOLARSHIP

### TRANSCRIBING A UNIQUE LAW MANUSCRIPT

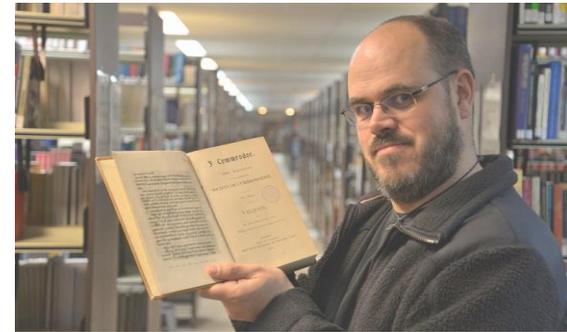
In 2018, **Simon Rodway** was awarded a **Leverhulme Trust** grant to transcribe a **unique fifteenth-century law manuscript**. Wynnstay 36 is a *de luxe* manuscript, overlooked partly because it was believed to have perished in the fire at Wynnstay in 1858. **Sara Elin Roberts**, a leading expert on native Welsh law, was employed to undertake the work. The completed work will be made available on the fifteenth-century prose website which is managed by Emeritus Professor Patrick Sims-Williams.

### A VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITÉ OCCIDENTALE DE LA BRETAGNE, BREST

Simon Rodway spent a week in the **Université Occidentale de la Bretagne in Brest** during November 2018, as part of the Erasmus+ scheme. During his visit he delivered lectures on the medieval literature of Wales and Ireland to students following the MA in Celtic Studies, and also advised those writing dissertations on Welsh topics. He received a warm welcome, and enjoyed the opportunity to taste the local *sistr* (cider) and pancakes. Links between the departments in **Brest and Aberystwyth** are strong, and many students have enjoyed exchange trips, which has enriched both departments.

### CONFERENCE: JOHN MORRIS JONES, IFOR WILLIAMS AND OLD WELSH POETRY

2018 marked the centenary of the publication of John Morris-Jones's *Taliesin* and the beginnings of modern study of the poet Taliesin. It also marked the eightieth anniversary of the publication of another notable volume, *Canu Aneirin*, by Morris-Jones's disciple, Ifor Williams. To mark both **milestones**, with generous support from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, we arranged a conference in collaboration with colleagues at Bangor University (where both scholars were based). The conference was held here in Aberystwyth in November, with contributions from Angela Grant, Alexander Falileyev, Peredur Lynch, John Koch, Patrick Sims-Williams and Marged Haycock. It was a great success, and an opportunity to hear the latest research in the field, and to hear about the life and works of these pioneers.



## CONFERENCE: PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF TRANSLATION

In early December 2018 we held a successful conference on campus as part of our Welsh-medium MA in **Professional Translation Studies**. The annual conference is also open to the public. The main speaker was the barrister Gwion Lewis, and other practitioners delivered presentations and workshops on a range of subjects, including legislative translation, translation technology, editorial and proofreading skills. The conference was organised by **Mandi Morse**, lecturer and MA coordinator, and **Sharon Owen**, the project officer.



Professional Translation Studies is a Welsh-medium scheme available as a Certificate, Diploma or full MA: for further information contact [sho2@aber.ac.uk](mailto:sho2@aber.ac.uk).

## VISITORS FROM BRITANNY

In early April 2019 thirty students from Brittany visited us in Aberystwyth. In the atmospheric Old College, they learned some Welsh from Simon Rodway, and were greeted in Breton by Aberystwyth's Mayor, **Talat Chaudhri**, who also teaches Breton in the Department.



One of our visitors played traditional Breton tunes on the bagpipes, and one of our PhD students, **Nely van Seventer**, led a traditional Breton dance.



## PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

We are delighted to announce that the linguist **Esther le Mair** has won a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship to study the **subjecthood of Old Irish**. She will be joining our team in September 2019 and will be working closely with Simon Rodway on her exciting new project, MAIRWEN.

**YSGOL HAF: CYMRAEG AIL IAITH**  
RHOWCH GYNNIG ARNI

**Cwrs Deuddydd i Ddisgyblion Bl 12 sy'n Astudio Cymraeg Ail Iaith**  
DYDD IAU 11 CORFFENAF - DYDD GWENER 12 CORFFENAF  
YM MHRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH

Am ddim oni bai am gostau teithio i/o Abergysthau  
Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Mared - m.jones@colegcymraeg.ac.uk

**Noddir gan cymen**

**Cystadleuaeth gyfieithu i ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 10-13**

Y dasg: cyfieithu detholiad o **'Anita and Me' gan Meera Syal**

• Dyddiad cau: 16 Mai 2019  
• Cysylltwch am ragor o fanylion ac am gopi o'r darn gosod: [astudiaethaucyfieithu@aber.ac.uk](mailto:astudiaethaucyfieithu@aber.ac.uk)

**Gwobrau hael!**  
1af £200  
2il £75  
3ydd £50

Colleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol ABERYSTWYTH  
Menter Gŵyl Genedlaethol Cymru  
Colleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol @yfieithu

This page contains some of the exciting events held in the Department over the next few months, including 'Rhowch Gynnig Arni' (Give It a Go!) a Summer School for second-language students, our Summer School for first-language students, and a translation competition. More details available online...

**CICIO'R BAR**  
EURIG SALISBURY A HYWEL GRIFFITHS  
YN CYFLWYNO:  
**IWAN HUWS**  
CERDDI A CHANEUON O'I GYFROL GYNTAF  
NEWYDD SBON DANLLI O FARDDONIAETH  
A CHERDDORIAETH GAN  
**GEORGIA RUTH**  
AN EVENING OF POETRY AND MUSIC WITH SOME OF WALES'S TOP PERFORMERS



**7.45 NOS IAU 6 MEHEFIN**  
AELODAU UMCA: £5 **TOCYNNAU: £7**  
Cyhoeddiadau **Barddas**

CANOLFAN Y CELFYDDYDAU  
ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

01970 62 32 32  
f @ABERYSTWYTH  
@ARTS  
[www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk](http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk)

Last November, our first year Professional Welsh students organised a wonderful literary evening in the Old College, with special guests Meleri Wyn James and Manon Steffan Ros. They were both asked about their most recent novels – Meleri's *Blaidd wrth y Drws* and Manon's *Llyfr Glas Nebo* – and our students, Alun and Gruffudd, provided musical entertainment.

Our Professional Welsh students are already looking forward to launching our in-house literary magazine, *Y Ddraig* (The Dragon), at the end of the second Semester. The magazine will be available online this year for the first time ever, but if you would like to order a copy, email us at [welsh@aber.ac.uk](mailto:welsh@aber.ac.uk).



1872 PRIFYSGOL **ABERYSTWYTH** UNIVERSITY

**Cwrs Preswyl Adran y Gymraeg ac Astudiaethau Celtaidd**  
Gweithdai, dosbarthiadau meistr, bwyd a llety am ddim i ddisgyblion Cymraeg blwyddyn 12 a'u hathrawon >>> **13-14 Mehefin 2019**  
Myrddin ap Dafydd, Manon Steffan Ros, Elis Dafydd, Dafydd Johnston a llawer mwy <

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 a 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:syr@aber.ac.uk)).



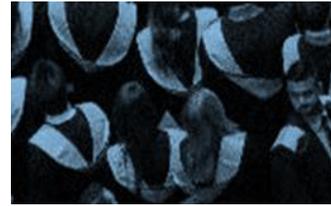
CelticAber



@CelticAber



@cymraegaber



## DEPARTMENTAL DIARY

27 May–1 June, [Urdd National Eisteddfod](#)

Europe’s largest youth festival is held in Cardiff this year – good luck to our students and their fellow competitors of **Aelwyd Pantycelyn!**

20 June, [Book of the Year](#) The prestigious Book of the Year award ceremony will be held in Aberystwyth for the first time this year. The winners will be announced from **The Arts Centre’s** newly refurbished **Theatr y Werin**, by this year’s panel of judges: Idris Reynolds, Dylan Ebenezer and our very own Head of Department, **Cathryn Charnell-White**.

22–6 July, [the International Congress of Celtic Studies](#)

A number of our lecturers will present papers on a range of topics, from Huw Morys to the history of the Welsh novel, at Bangor University.

3–10 August, [the National Eisteddfod](#) Follow our social media streams to see how our **staff and students** contribute to this year’s festival.

