



# ABER *News*

## Prince Charles officially opens new School of Veterinary Science

On Friday 10 December we welcomed HRH Prince Charles to the University to officially open our School of Veterinary Science.

The Prince, a former Aberystwyth student, toured the new Veterinary Education Centre and spoke to some of the first cohort of students who began their studies in September this year.

A key part of Wales' first and only School of Veterinary Science, the centre was funded from alumni donations totalling £500,000 and the University's own funds.

As part of the visit, The Prince signed the same visitors' book that he signed back in 1969 while studying Welsh at Aberystwyth University.

After touring the centre, he unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the School.

The royal visitor was welcomed by the Aberystwyth University's Chancellor, Lord

Thomas of Cwmgiedd, and Vice Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure.

The veterinary students will spend the first two years at Aberystwyth University followed by three years' studying at the Royal Veterinary College's Hawkshead Campus in Hertfordshire.

The programme covers the full range of animals, from domestic pets to farm animals, in common with all other veterinary programmes.

The course also provides opportunities for students to study specific areas of veterinary science through the medium of Welsh, which is partly funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

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# University launches new European Opportunities Fund

The University has established a major new fund to support student study opportunities in Europe, thanks to a donation from a former student.

William Parker, who graduated with a degree in History from Aberystwyth in 1981, has donated over half a million pounds to establish the University's new European Opportunities Fund.

Providing grants of between £500 and £3000, the fund will enable undergraduate and postgraduate students to study, work or attend conferences in the European Union and the European Economic Area, with funding available for periods of up to four weeks in the first year.

Students can also apply for additional funding so they can choose more sustainable travel options and for language training.

Describing himself as a European and an internationalist, William Parker has enjoyed a successful professional career in engineering-based businesses, most recently in the mobile telecommunications industry, that has seen him work in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East.

A speaker of French and Dutch, he firmly believes that learning languages meant he was considered for a far wider range of job opportunities than would otherwise have been the case.

He was also able to further his interest in languages during his time as a student at Aberystwyth.

A University occasional grant meant he could spend a month during the summer of 1979 studying French at a college affiliated with the Université de Tours.

Speaking at the launch of the European Opportunities Fund, Mr Parker said: "Aberystwyth University provided a wonderfully rich springboard for my professional career and I am delighted to be able to support the University in this way.

"In a rapidly changing world it is important the University and its students maintain their interconnectedness across the European Union and the European Economic Area. I hope that this new fund will make it easier for Aberystwyth students from all backgrounds to travel and experience new languages and cultures."

Fine Art MA student Carys Wilson is the first recipient of the new European Opportunities Fund.



She has just completed a week-long art course in Sardinia, Italy, on the use of egg tempera for her work, a medium widely used by Renaissance artists.

She said: "This course has been like brain food. I have discovered the mistakes I was making when exploring this medium independently, gained a huge amount of practical and historical knowledge from an expert in her studio, worked alongside 'emerging artists' and made invaluable professional links. It has really sped up my learning, enabling me to move forward much quicker and with greater confidence in my own practice as I move towards my MA shows next year.

"Without the European Opportunities Fund there is absolutely no way I would have been able to attend this course, pay for accommodation or the travel costs, and the application process was easy. I recommend it to other students and am hugely grateful to Mr William Parker for making all of this possible."

Full details of the new fund are available [online](#).



Aberystwyth University Vice-Chancellor Professor Elizabeth Treasure presents a copy of Humphrey Llwyd's *Cambriae Typus*, printed in 1573 in Antwerp by Abraham Ortelius, to Mr William Parker and Vivien Hopkirk to mark the launch of the European Opportunities Fund, which has been funded by a generous donation by Mr Parker.

## The Vice-Chancellor's Column



It has been such a pleasure to see students back on campus. We have enjoyed a positive first term, and whilst things are by no means back to normal, it has been lovely to see life and bustle return.

We should all feel a sense of satisfaction at the healthy recruitment cycle leading up to the start of this academic year. We have had a larger intake of students for a second year running – not quite as many as we had hoped for, but an increase all the same. Where we have seen a substantial growth is in the number of students from overseas, and we know that there are others who wanted to join us, but were sadly unable to due to the pandemic.

I continue to extend my thanks to students and staff for following the Covid safety measures that are in place to protect us all. The number of positive cases at the University has been relatively low, and it is good to note that there are no signs that the virus is being spread on campus. In light of the latest variant, we are still taking a sensibly cautious approach, which includes urging staff who don't need to be on campus to work from home, and we don't yet know when we will be in position to welcome everyone back to campus. We continue to ask you to wear a face covering when required and strongly encourage you to get vaccinated – I was pleased to receive my booster vaccination recently.

We have had a couple of significant events in the last couple of weeks, which I am really happy that we were able to safely hold face-to-face and in-person.

One such event, which you will almost certainly have heard about, was the visit of former Aberystwyth student, HRH The Prince of Wales to the official opening of the Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science - see the cover of this edition of *ABER News*. The Prince took such a keen interest as he toured the new Veterinary Education Centre on Penglais campus, met with staff, and spoke to the first cohort of students who began their studies in September. After visiting the Centre, The Prince signed the same visitors' book that he signed back in 1969 while studying here in Aber, and then unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the School.

It was also a pleasure and a privilege at the end of November to welcome another alumnus William Parker back to Aberystwyth and to launch our new European Opportunities Fund. The Fund is a significant and important addition to the opportunities available to our students who want to study or work abroad, and William's philanthropic generosity will open doors for a

new generation of our students to broaden their horizons and experience other cultures. Read more about the new Fund on page 2.

Despite the pandemic having halted or postponed so many of our personal engagements and arrangements over the past 21 months, our ambitious plans to transform the Old College to make it fit for the twenty-first century world, continue to progress. We will shortly be launching the University's first ever digital 'crowdfunding' campaign complete with an inspirational appeal video, so keep an eye out for that.

You may recall that in May/June we held the 'Have Your Say' staff survey, inviting you to tell us what you thought of the University and your work, and we are really grateful to the 905 members of staff who responded. Since the results came out in July, we have already taken a number of actions based on what you told us. As well as working on a University level action plan to address your feedback, Executive team members have gone through detailed faculty and departmental reports with Heads of Department and have asked them to produce local action plans for their team or department by the end of the year. In the new year we are having an Executive Away Day to consider these action plans in detail, and we look forward to working with Heads on implementing them.

To finish, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything that you continue to contribute to our University, and to wish you a happy and healthy festive period.

**Professor Elizabeth Treasure**

Vice-Chancellor

## Technology to prevent octopus over-fishing

New technology to prevent the over-fishing of octopuses and other sea creatures is being developed by scientists in the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS).

The volume of fishing of octopuses, squid and other cephalopods - often known as inkfish because they can all squirt ink - has increased significantly over the past 60 years.

Octopus species are often misidentified, and their catch numbers and locations inaccurately reported. This is prompting fears that a lack of data about these molluscs could lead to overfishing, threatening their future and an important source of protein-rich food for the world population.

A multidisciplinary research team, including academics in Aberystwyth, aims to address this knowledge gap by using environmental DNA, machine learning and artificial intelligence tools to create a seafood traceability network to improve stock management and ensure the sustainability of octopus fisheries.

The project's first phase will be funded with a \$750,000 award over 12 months from the United States Government's National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator.



*Professor Paul Shaw*

One of the project's senior scientists is Professor Paul Shaw, who is a Professor of Population Genetics & Genomics at IBERS. He will be developing the global octopus genetic database on which the tracking of fishery products will depend.

As part of the project, the team will develop a phone app to allow everyone in the fish supply chain - fishers, traders, retailers and consumers - to access information that tracks where their food comes from and its sustainability.

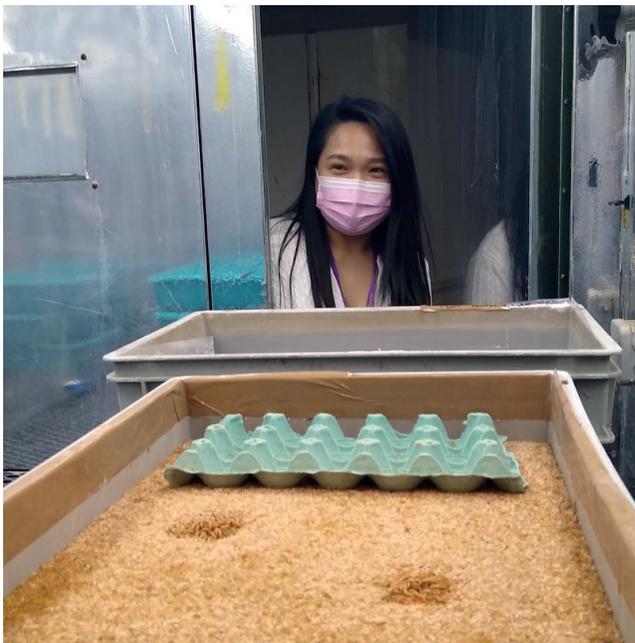
The team's objectives are to develop a prototype traceability system allowing for affordable identification of species and area of capture for wild octopus fisheries in the U.S. and from across the world.

[Read the full story here.](#)

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## Insects as food

Researchers in IBERS have been awarded European funding to look at insects as a potentially valuable source of animal feed



*Dr Tiffany Lau with some of the insects*

The work builds on their research into insects as a source of food for people.

The work is part of 'ValuSect', an international project which aims to improve the sustainable production and processing of insect-based products.

Insects are a common feature of people's everyday diets in countries around the world, such as Mexico, China and Ghana. They offer a more environmentally friendly source of protein than many other foods, and could help feed the world's growing population.

To date, the project has been studying crickets, grasshoppers and yellow mealworms as human food. The grant will see the black soldier fly species (*Hermetia Illucens*) added to the research menu and extends the work to look at using insect products in animal feed.

Research indicates that approximately 30% of EU consumers are willing to eat insect-based food. ValuSect aims to increase this number by improving the quality of insect production and processing, carrying out consumer tests, and reducing its environmental impact.

Research will focus on the emission of greenhouse gasses, the impact of substrates, food safety and on the shelf life of insect-based food products.

[Read the full story here.](#)

## InvEnterPrize 2022

InvEnterPrize 2022 has launched, giving entrepreneurial students the chance to battle it out to win £10,000 investment in their business idea.

The annual competition provides an unrivalled opportunity for Aber students and recent graduates with good ideas for a new business or social enterprise to make their dreams a reality.

Prizes are awarded to the best, most innovative ideas with the greatest commercial and social potential.

The main prize of £10,000, funded by alumni donations to the Aber Fund, can be invested in equipment, facilities or professional services to get the winner's business start-up off the ground.

Other prizes are: one year associate membership at Aberystwyth Innovation & Enterprise Campus (for proposals for businesses aimed at supporting the bioscience, life science or agriculture sectors), £3,000 from Engineers in Business (for proposals from Computer Science, Maths and Physics), and £500 for the best rural business (from the University's Growth, Rural Resilience and Innovation Network [GRRaIN] project).

As the students and student teams work on developing their final business plans, they will be able to gain valuable expert advice and hone their business skills through a series of online webinars from successful entrepreneurs; covering vital competencies such as market research, branding, finance, and protecting intellectual property. They will also be able to access free one-to-one start-up mentoring from Big Ideas Wales.

The competition, which closes on 7 February 2022, culminates in shortlisted finalists being invited to pitch their business propositions to a panel of judges (comprising successful Aberystwyth University alumni) in a Dragon's Den style event.

[Read the full story here.](#)

**£10,000 InvEnterPrize**  
Student Ideas Competition

1872 PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY AberPreneurs

Are you a Student or 2021 Graduate with an idea for a Business or Social Enterprise?  
would £10,000 help make this a reality?

**Closing date**  
5pm, Monday  
7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

For details go to  
[www.aber.ac.uk/aberpreneurs](http://www.aber.ac.uk/aberpreneurs)

**Extra prizes**  
£3000 from 'Engineers in Business'  
1yr FREE 'Associate membership' at Aberystwyth Innovation & Enterprise Campus  
ALSO... £500 cash prize for best local business  
Terms and conditions apply

ABER Fund Funded by the University Alumni through ABER Fund Competition run by gyrfaoedd ABER careers

## Aber student wins prestigious award for animal cancer work

An Aberystwyth University student has won a prestigious award for developing a new method that could help diagnose animal diseases and cancers.



23 year old Sara Lind Valdimarsdottir has been awarded the British Society of Animal Science's Undergraduate Thesis of The Year.

Originally from Iceland, Sara came to Wales to study for an undergraduate degree in Equine and Veterinary Bioscience.

The aim of Sara's thesis was to develop and test a low-cost system for identifying changes to DNA chemistry that occur during development or when an animal is under stress.

Her research combined two existing genetic procedures to create a new, low-cost method that finds DNA markers.

These markers vary with age, between organs, or change after the animal contracts a specific disease or cancer.

The technique can also help identify the part of an animal used in meat products.

As a result of winning the award, Sara will present her work at the British Society of Animal Science Annual Conference in Nottingham next year, where she will have an opportunity to network with leading animal science experts from around the world.

[Read the full story here.](#)

## Creative Exchange Network news

The University's Creative Exchange Network is dedicated to building up research work involving AU creative practitioners, particularly in terms of establishing collaborations with external partners. This means that staff involved with the Network have been working on an array of projects over 2021, putting together funding bids and undertaking research itself in a range of areas.

### Stryd y Beirdd / Words and Windows

One key project, being led by Professor Mererid Hopwood from the Department of Welsh & Celtic Studies, is the *Stryd y Beirdd / Words and Windows* initiative - which brings together scholarly and creative expertise in the University with external partners the National Library of Wales and Ceredigion County Council.

The project seeks to put up displays in the windows of empty commercial premises in Aberystwyth town centre to bring colour to the high-street, to showcase some of the manuscript treasures of the National Library, and to offer contemporary creative responses to those treasures.

The first phase of this initiative has recently been on display in the windows of the old Gas Showroom premises, featuring images from the *Black Book of Carmarthen*, an eighteenth-century almanac, and a manuscript of the poet Dafydd ap Gwilym - with poetic responses from Professor Hopwood, Eurig Salisbury and Professor Matthew Jarvis (Aberystwyth University Creative Exchange Fellow).



This project is part of the new *Rhwydwaith y Llawysgrif a'r Llyfr / The Written Word Network*, a partnership between the University and the National Library led by the Department of Welsh & Celtic Studies, and is an example of the kind of collaboration that will grow from the bid to see Aberystwyth achieve the status of a UNESCO City of Literature.

Further phases of this work are in planning, so watch out for similar pop-ups around town in the future.

### Constitutional Futures

Another key initiative is Dr Anwen Elias's innovative *Constitutional Futures project*, which seeks to give a voice to people who might not usually get a chance to speak to issues around Wales's future constitutional developments.

Dr Elias, who has also recently been appointed to the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, is seeking to deploy a range of methods to broaden citizen engagement in deliberative democracy - including working with 'open space' conversational research experts Co-Production Network for Wales (<https://copronet.wales>) and participatory democracy innovators Omidaze Productions ([www.omidaze.co.uk](http://www.omidaze.co.uk)).

Recently funded by the Learned Society of Wales to put together research on how to open up conversations around Wales's democratic future to younger people, the Constitutional Futures project also involves Aberystwyth University poet Eurig Salisbury and current editor of *Poetry Wales*, Dr Zoë Brigley (Ohio State University).

Exploring the potential to use creative practice to address the question 'What kind of Wales would you like to live in, and how can we get there?', Eurig and Zoë are leading workshops on using poetry to offer people a non-legal, non-administrative form of language in which they can express their hopes and ideas about the kind of Wales they want to belong to.

### Tolerating Uncertainty: Poetry as a Tool for Wellbeing in an Era of Anxiety and Covid19

A third project that has been running with Creative Exchange involvement is a cross-disciplinary study led by Dr Gavin Goodwin (English & Creative Writing) in collaboration with Dr Trefor Aspden and Dr Jiaqing O (Psychology) and AU Creative Exchange Fellow Matthew Jarvis.

Funded by a University Research Fund grant, *Tolerating Uncertainty: Poetry as a Tool for Wellbeing in an Era of Anxiety and Covid19* seeks to examine how reading and talking about poetry might, as the team have put it, 'help alleviate feelings of anxiety - symptoms of which, for many, have been understandably accentuated by the Covid crisis'.

The project's focus on poetry draws on the significance of ambiguity and uncertainty for poetic practice itself, and will test whether discussing poems can increase a toleration of uncertainty in study participants.

For more information about the work of the Creative Exchange Network, please contact:

Professor Matthew Jarvis, Creative Exchange Fellow - [maj52@aber.ac.uk](mailto:maj52@aber.ac.uk)

Rachel Rea Luxton, Creative Exchange Coordinator - [rhr13@aber.ac.uk](mailto:rhr13@aber.ac.uk)

# A minute with the new Head of Student Support and Careers Services

Ian Munton joined the University as Head of Student Support and Careers Services on 15 October 2021. A few weeks into his role, *ABERNews* caught up with him to learn more about his background and his first impressions of Aber:



## Tell us a bit about your background

I am an 'HE bod' through and through, having worked in universities for just shy of 20 years. I've enjoyed working in a variety of roles during that time, though all have had a focus on the student experience. Prior to arriving at Aber, I was working at Staffordshire University as the Director of Library and Student Services, and before that at Keele University as the Associate Director of Student Services. I have a broad range of experience, having managed services including ResLife, Chaplaincy, Counselling and Mental Health, Careers and Employability, Library Services, Sexual Violence Prevention and Support, Childcare and Family Services etc. I have also had responsibility for a range of cross-institutional priorities including safeguarding, prevent, wellbeing and sexual violence.

As such, I am looking forward to learning about our approach at Aber and offering my support and steer where it adds value. I am dedicated to my profession and encourage staff to connect with their professional bodies - it's been great to see that much of that is happening here at Aber. I am a member of several professional bodies; I was an Executive Board Member for AMOSSHE (the Student Services Organisation) and more recently was the Midlands regional lead. I have always liked to engage in sector developments and debate and as such have been fortunate to contribute to important work relating to harassment, sexual violence and more recently approaches to student support during the pandemic. I have also welcomed the opportunity to speak at various international conferences about a range of student-related subjects.

## How do you feel about joining Aberystwyth University?

Really excited. As soon as I announced that I was heading to Aber, colleagues and connections from far and wide shouted up that they had studied here, or visited or heard great things about the place. That was really affirming for me. So far I can see why people are so forthcoming about their passion for the place - I love that!

## What are your first impressions of Aberystwyth?

I've really taken to it. Given the challenges that the pandemic has brought and what that has limited in terms of being able to meet with and spend quality in-person time with colleagues I've been made to feel really welcome. It's been a busy, bustling first month or so for me which I've really welcomed, as I am beginning to get to know who people are, and where to go for help, wisdom and support. There is a really sense of community on campus and an absolute love for the town and region which is really important. I'm not the biggest fan of the hills, but the views and the sunsets more than make up for that!

## What do you plan to do first in your new role?

A mixture really of reviewing and doing. I think it's really important to spend time with staff to find out what they do, and how things work; and of course what more we can do to improve the student experience. We'll be spending time as a service reflecting on our purpose, identity and values - this is something we have started and I think is really crucial as we move into a world beyond Covid. There are though some priority areas that the team and colleagues are keen to get moving and which I think will really make a difference to the lives of our students and their supporters, and we will be pressing ahead at pace in these coming weeks and months. Colleagues can expect to see lots of activity in relation to mental health and wellbeing, tackling sexual violence, guidance and resources for staff and our work on employability - we'll be reaching out to colleagues as I am keen to ensure that everything we do is informed and influenced by our whole community.

## Do you have a motto or personal mantra?

I have a few, but one that I think is so important in our context, right here, right now is "To dare is to do" (this is not a Tottenham Hotspurs reference) - I've had so many brilliant conversations with colleagues at Aber already about what we could and should do because it is the right thing, or because it will make a difference. This motto in these moments helps us move forward, it helps us have intent and meaning and that is what in my opinion we live and work for.

## Music at Aberystwyth



Iwan Teifon Davies joined the University in August as Director of Music.

Working within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Arts Centre, Iwan leads the University's music provision, bringing together a unique range of University and community activity and engagement.

Music at Aberystwyth has a long and distinguished history, and the list of those who have worked and performed here is a roll call of some of the world's greatest musicians, particularly in the first half of the twentieth century. The first ever opera by a Welsh composer was premiered here; the Philomusica is one of Wales's most important amateur orchestras, and, in the absence of a music department, extra-curricular music-making is diverse and dynamic. It is, therefore, my privilege to take on the position of Director of Music, and to try and find new paths for music-making, for students and members of the broader community alike.

Obviously, the Covid-19 pandemic has enforced an unthinkable amount of change on us all, and musical activity has, of course, been unable to take place until very recently. I am pleased to report that the University has renewed and strengthened its links with the Philomusica, and the orchestra, as well as the University Singers, have been able to rehearse since October. I hope that when you read this a successful performance of Mozart's *Requiem*, Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony*, and the world premiere of Welsh composer David Roche's work, *Vale*, will have been performed in the Great Hall. I chose the *Requiem* as a testament to the pain that

we have all felt since March 2020; *Vale* offers a vision of hope and a record of survival, and Shostakovich's monumental work, composed as it was in impossible political circumstances, demonstrates that art will always overcome.

Other music groups have also been able to re-start. The Simply Strings group, which is un-auditioned and offers an opportunity for any string player who wants to play casually, has been meeting weekly under the leadership of Isobelle McGuinness, and we are hopeful that in January the Concert Band will be able to begin again too. I am keen to explore the possibilities for other ensembles, as the constraints of space allow, and would encourage anyone to get in touch with me if they would like to participate in, or start a group, of whatever style of music. All are welcome.

With the support of the Colwinston Trust and Tŷ Cerdd, I have commissioned a new work from Welsh composer Claire Victoria Roberts and Professor Mererid Hopwood, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the University in 2022-23. This work is still in its early development stages, but I hope that it will combine the forces of the Philomusica, local choirs, a professional soloist from Ceredigion, as well as the choir and orchestra of Ceredigion Music Service.

It will be a unique, multi-ability work, allowing young performers to play and sing alongside experienced amateurs and professionals, and reaching out to the wider community. I believe that commissioning new music, diversifying the repertoire we perform and giving opportunities to Welsh composers, is a vital part of our mission.

To that end, I was delighted to participate in the recent Research Festival, in programming a digital performance of two movements from '*Cynghanedd y Coed*' by Mared Emlyn and Mererid Hopwood, performed by Mererid herself as speaker, and Peryn Clement-Evans of Ensemble Cymru playing the clarinet. This new work records modern and medieval Welsh words that describe the natural world, and it was wonderful to be able to give it a platform. This was combined with a performance of '*Caneuon Natur*' by Dilys Elwyn-Edwards from the soprano Alys Mererid Roberts, accompanied by me. It was a pleasure to showcase the best of Welsh talent, both in terms of performers and composers, and I am sure that we will continue to do this as we plan for the future - celebrating and preserving the best of our musical heritage, whilst looking forwards.

**Iwan Teifon Davies**

# Spotlight on... the CRM system

Over the past year, Information Services has worked closely with Global Marketing and Student Recruitment to introduce a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.

Using Microsoft Dynamics 365, the new integrated CRM system has been designed by Information Services to meet the needs of the department and work in collaboration with other external software.

The new system will allow colleagues in Global Marketing and Student Recruitment to capture data about prospective students, and to track and monitor each one's progress through the recruitment cycle.

It will help the student recruitment teams to tailor communications based on the target audience (e.g. undergraduate, postgraduate) and send personalised and timely messages relevant to a prospective student's circumstances – whether they are from Wales, another part of the UK, or somewhere else in the world.

The CRM system will also help the team to manage their networks of teachers, advisors and international recruitment agents, who also play a vital role in supporting the University's recruitment efforts.

*"For GMSR, the CRM system will be the foundation of our engagement efforts with potential enquirers as we seek to increase applications from suitably qualified students and to convert applications into enrolments."*

**Rob Halley, GMSR Director**

For the Marketing team, campaign reporting and activity dashboards will show what has generated a positive response, which will help the team to monitor the impact of promotional campaigns and adjust them accordingly.

*"The level of sophistication brought by the CRM will add greater value for money to our marketing campaigns across the department."*

**Angharad Evans, Head of Marketing Conversion, GMSR**

The Global Opportunities team will use the CRM to manage their network of international partnerships. With some students studying in Aber for summer schools, some for one semester, some for a single year of study, the CRM will help significantly with record keeping.

*"Having the CRM means that we can get rid of stand-alone databases and spreadsheets and be more efficient at joining up our services with other colleagues across the University."*

**Marian Gray, Head of Global Opportunities, GMSR**

The Events team will make use of the CRM system to gather information on the way that individuals engage with recruitment events such as Open Days and Visiting Days.

*"The CRM will help us to gain a greater insight into the way prospective students engage with the series of events we offer, from their initial research into courses through to the activities they are invited to attend as an applicant in receipt of an offer to study with us. This insight will help inform our event planning, both at the central and departmental level."*

**Sarah Bizby, Head of Events, GMSR**

## Next steps for the CRM system within GMSR

A second phase of the project has been approved. Over the next two years Information Services will continue to work with GMSR to develop a highly efficient Applications Portal and Admissions management system, which will replace the current complex web of in-house admissions systems (e.g. undergraduate, postgraduate, Graduate Teacher Training Recruitment, International Exchange, International English Centre). The new system will be integrated with the in-house student record system, ASTRA. The CRM system will also be further integrated with existing tools such as live chat and social media platforms.

*"By the time the second phase of the project is complete, GMSR will be able to gather a complete record of every enquirer's contact with the University, and allow them to provide the seamless service that prospective students now expect."*

**Gwern Hywel, CRM Project Manager, Information Services**

## Rolling out the CRM system

*"In terms of our future direction, CRM is a central component of the University's Digital Strategy, around improving the institution's digital presence."*

**Tim Davies, Director of Information Services**

The new system has far reaching implications for a range of AU services and activities, and Information Services hope to bring the new CRM to other aspects of University work in due course.

Watch this space...

The following infographic shows the CRM system in action, as prospective student 'Dafydd' goes through the application process.

# Journey of Dafydd a new Prospective Student for Aberystwyth University



**Attends a Live chat event**

We know who we're talking to on live chat and have excellent reporting

Dafydd receives follow up comms on topics discussed and invitations to relevant events.

1



2

**Attends a School session lead by Dewi**

Data is collected digitally and sent in real time to the CRM system. CRM can identify and match to any records currently in the system.

Dafydd receives comms thanking him for attending within hours of Dewi leaving the school. CRM will match Dafydd to a previous record and will be able to see he has already participated in a Live Chat session. Comms will be subject specific and will include opportunities to register for relevant events.

3

**Attends a UCAS fair and talks to Teleri about Biology. He also talks about his interest in sports and his hope of studying abroad during his degree**

Data is sent to CRM and we can match to any records currently in the system.

Dafydd will receive a series of comms which will be tailored around the subject he spoke to Teleri about. The CRM system will know which events to promote depending on how Dafydd has already engaged with us. He will receive information about Sports Scholarships and opportunities to study abroad.



4

**Attends an Online Open Day**

Data is sent directly to CRM and we can match any records currently in the system.

Dafydd attends an Online Open Day on Friday afternoon and receives a thank you e-mail instantly after the event. Dafydd won't receive any more Online Open Day invitations because the system will know he's already attended an event.

6

**Attends an Open Day**

Attendance data is sent directly to CRM. We can scan students at event sessions and / or departments. We are also able to track Open Day registration data against applicant data / enrolled student data.

Dafydd attends an Open Day on a Saturday. He receives a SMS message whilst on Campus with additional information he might need. He receives a thank you email the same afternoon. The email references useful information such as links to talks he missed.



7

**Sends a question to enquiries@aber wanting more information about the Biology department**



**GMSR staff will see the whole record of a prospect or applicant. It's possible to track if they have previously contacted us, what events they've registered for / attended. We can monitor replies from across the department.**

Dafydd receives a reply which is reflective of where Dafydd is during the recruitment cycle. e.g. It does not reference information about the next Open Day as GMSR staff can see that he has just attended an Open Day. When Dafydd sends an additional question to GMSR, it is easy for staff to view all previous enquiries Dafydd has made in order to send a more personalised answer. It is also easy for GMSR staff to send enquiries to other teams within GMSR when they aren't able to answer everything within an enquiry.

5



**Orders a UG prospectus and notes Biology as subject of interest**

Data is sent directly to CRM and we can match any records currently in the system.

Dafydd orders a prospectus and receives a copy through the post. He receives an autoresponder e-mail which references the upcoming Open Day as the system recognises he hasn't registered yet.



**We are able to track Dafydd's progress from prospect - applicant - to enrolled student regardless of how he contacts AU**

AU communication with Dafydd is personalised and it is easy for AU to monitor and track Dafydd's progress in the recruitment cycle. Dafydd is informed at all stages of his journey and feels valued to AU.



# Research, Business & Innovation Update

In the February 2021 edition of [ABER News](#) we introduced the new Director of Research, Business & Innovation (RB&I), Helen Jones.

Now ten months into the role, we caught up with Helen to find out about some of the work that's ongoing in RB&I.



Helen Jones

Our work continues to be guided by two key University strategies that cover Research & Innovation as well as Knowledge Exchange - the [Research & Innovation Strategy 2019-2024](#) and the [Aberystwyth University RWIF Strategy 2020-2023](#).

As well as keeping the wheels of the RB&I department turning and building a better relationship with our Finance colleagues, delivering on these strategies this year involved improving the way we engage with researchers, external research partners, funders, businesses and communities - all of which increase our ability to capture external grants for research, improve our infrastructure for Innovation as well as achieve impact from our research.

## Festival of Research

In October we delivered our first [Festival of Research](#): a week-long program of events to engage a broad audience, in person and virtually, from world-renowned researchers to government ministers to school children. Our theme this year was Climate Change and timed alongside COP26.

## RB&I Digital Transformation

In August we made great progress with our RB&I digital transformation. This program of work will improve the visibility and management of our interactions with researchers, external partners and internal colleagues.

Two new software platforms will be implemented in the coming year: a customer relationship management system (CRM) which tracks our customers of all types, and a Research Management System (RMS) which tracks our external grant funding opportunities and applications, and will give our researchers far more control of their grant capturing process.

These systems will enable a more fluid remote working arrangement which will be complemented by our new digitally-

enabled office. This space will be the University's first example of our future dynamic work environment, enabling a hybrid of virtual and in-person interactions across all functions in RB&I, and allowing us to break through geographical barriers that may have previously limited our funding and knowledge exchange opportunities.

## Strengthening interactions between researchers and business

Earlier in the year we made significant progress on projects that increase and improve our research interactions with business and also contribute to our region's industrial economy. Some examples include:

- the [National Spectrum Centre](#) (NSC), an innovation and research facility located in the refurbished Lord Milford building on Gogerddan Campus. A pioneering partnership project in the area of radio spectrum technologies, the NSC will provide training, research expertise and infrastructure for the next generation of radio systems engineers to harness the potential of wireless technologies in the UK.
- the [VetHub<sup>1</sup>](#) laboratories on Penglais Campus which provide fully-equipped, high-specification laboratories and office spaces for the study of human and animal pathogens (read all about VetHub<sup>1</sup> on p.12-13).

Both the NSC and VetHub<sup>1</sup> will not only strengthen the bond between researchers and business but also fuel the creation of high-value jobs in Mid Wales, and boost investment into the region from business and government.

## Funding

Changes in the investment landscape this year has meant RB&I has had to redirect its focus too. Two major areas of change have been brought about by Brexit and COVID. Our European funding for Innovation infrastructure has fallen away and new UK Government funding schemes aim to replace it through the



levelling up agenda; and major economic recovery from COVID is now a priority regionally and nationally.

Mid Wales has been awarded £110million to enable economic growth and resilience. The University reaches this funding through a competitive application scheme run by the newly-established Mid Wales Growth Team and is guided by the Mid Wales Growth Plan.

[Read about the Mid Wales economic growth ambitions here.](#)

RB&I is developing two main proposals focused on ecosystems that embrace innovation, achieved by industry and academia working closely together, accelerating the development of skills for the future and ensuring economic growth is sustainable across Mid Wales and beyond.

It is part of RB&I's role to leverage the University's existing assets and other channels of investment, developed through relationships with Research Councils and private business investment, to build proposals that present good value for money to the Mid Wales Growth Team.

One such proposal is the creation of a *Green Innovation Park/ Parc Arloesi Gwyrdd*: The park's theme is to bring together business and innovators around Technology, Connectivity and Creativity for a Sustainable Future.

Building on the success of AberInnovation, the Green Innovation Park would enable more companies with research interests in these sectors to grow and build collaborations with Aberystwyth University.

The focus on sustainability and low-carbon growth supports the region's energy policy and the Welsh Government's commitment to become net zero in carbon emissions by 2050. To reach this target Mid Wales needs to reduce emissions from its energy system by 55% by 2035 ([Mid Wales Energy Strategy](#)).

This Green Innovation Park proposal contributes to that challenging agenda with the following ambitions:

- Up to 100 new, high quality jobs being created
- The development of a cluster of industrial expertise in low-carbon and sustainable food production and circular technologies
- Encouragement for graduates to stay in the region
- Enabling existing companies to expand or to relocate to the region
- Support for the development of low carbon supply chains.

Another proposal is the expansion of the *National Spectrum Centre*: its aim is to establish the NSC as the central point of a hub and spokes model that brings knowledge from radio spectrum research together with the expertise, equipment and environments to adapt existing technologies for new applications, as well as prove concepts that require the region's varied coastal, uplands and rural environments.

### Knowledge exchange

Knowledge exchange is a vital and growing part of the role of universities on society and the economy. Universities are expected to demonstrate the value of what they do and commit to pursuing excellence and sharing good practice.

All higher education institutions in Wales have signed up to the principles of the Knowledge Exchange Concordat.

In the summer, RB&I coordinated a University-wide self-evaluation against the [eight guiding principles of the Knowledge Exchange Concordat](#) and conducted a gap analysis exercise.

We now have Knowledge Exchange Concordat Action Plan for the University with 5 key actions that will achieve the most immediate and significant changes. This plan was submitted to HEFCW in September as part of our reporting against the [RWIF strategy](#). We will review this action plan and report on progress annually.

### Future developments

RB&I develop a close relationship with multiple funders to build a pipeline of proposals of research, innovation and knowledge exchange that meet the strategic aims of the funders whilst evolving our University's assets and innovation platforms.

One example opportunity that we look forward to updating you on in the months to come will be the transformation of the Trawscoed estate into a 'Future Farm' which, like the NSC, will link research with the industry expertise, equipment and environments to enable existing capabilities and prove new concepts in a controlled farm environment.

While much of this update has focused on our contribution to the economic growth and resilience of Mid Wales, elements of the work RB&I is involved in will benefit a far broader geographical area. For example, we hope to soon be able to share news of an Interreg Ireland/Wales partnership project, Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism, led by Professor Rhys Jones (Department of Geography and Earth Sciences) which will work with coastal upland communities in Wales and Ireland to promote sustainable tourism, and in turn sustainable livelihoods, communities and environments.

## Spotlight on... VetHub<sup>1</sup>

Based on Penglais Campus, VetHub<sup>1</sup> is a state-of-the-art facility for the study of animal and human pathogens. We contacted the team at VetHub<sup>1</sup> to find out more about it:



VetHub<sup>1</sup> came about due to growing industry concerns about the economic impact of livestock diseases on farm businesses, the potential for climate change to alter disease profiles and the lack of preparedness for potential new and emerging animal diseases. The growing shift of focus towards disease prevention also requires the development of highly sensitive and specific tests to detect a range of diseases.

Addressing these concerns needed a major collaboration between all those involved in farm animal production, veterinary practitioners and university scientists.

In 2017, the Growing Mid Wales Partnership identified that there was a major barrier to the further development of the animal health and veterinary sectors within the region – namely, the lack of available specialist laboratories.

At the same time, here at the University, a number of academic staff were working with industrial partners on developing new biomarkers for Bovine TB, Johne's disease affecting cattle and sheep, and on other animal health challenges including developing new approaches to the control of both zoonotic and non-zoonotic pathogens. They were also finding that the absence of appropriate laboratory space in mid-Wales was a barrier to research efforts and reducing opportunities to develop new products and services.

So, supported by the Growing Mid Wales Partnership, industry partners, and the Welsh Government, the University successfully secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund to develop a £4.2m innovation cluster. The new facility would provide secure laboratories that could be used to develop new diagnostics and vaccines to promote and protect animal and human health.



Fast forward to today, and VetHub<sup>1</sup> is ready to explore new projects and opportunities. It offers the first commercially accessible containment laboratories in mid Wales, with three Containment Level 3 laboratories and two Containment Level 2 laboratories. It has state-of-the-art scientific equipment, including qRT-PCR and NanoString instruments, Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Microbiological Safety Cabinets as well as access to a Leica SP8 Laser Confocal Microscope.

It also has dedicated office space for small and medium enterprises, a video conferencing suite and a boardroom available for SME users.

VetHub<sup>1</sup> will make it possible for the local academic community and commercial enterprises to collaborate, develop, and produce new and innovative products, tests, and approaches to improve animal health and welfare and reduce the risk of zoonosis associated with farm and wild animals.

The VetHub<sup>1</sup> team are currently developing a number of exciting projects and services as well as collaborating with colleagues from Aberystwyth's School of Veterinary Science, the Sêr Cymru Centre of Excellence for Bovine TB and local veterinary practices.

Academic staff or commercial customers wishing to have a tour or use the VetHub<sup>1</sup> facilities and services for future projects should contact [vetstaff@aber.ac.uk](mailto:vetstaff@aber.ac.uk).



## Who's who at VetHub<sup>1</sup>



**Professor Alison Kingston-Smith**  
Senior Responsible Officer



**Dr Chris Pirson**  
Laboratory Manager



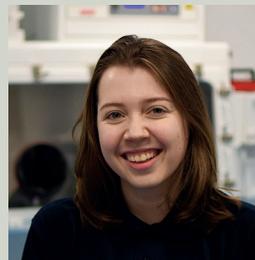
**Professor Karl Hoffmann**  
Academic Lead



**Dr Hefin Jones**  
Technician



**Jackie Sayce**  
Project Coordinator and Business



**Mia Ley**  
Industrial Year student from  
Aberystwyth University

# Lifelong Learning

Whether you are looking to study for personal enjoyment or professional development we are here to support your learning every step of the way. Don't forget, AU Staff and full-time students can take Lifelong Learning courses for free!

New courses start from January 2022:

**Ecology & Conservation**

**Art & Design**

**Professional Development**

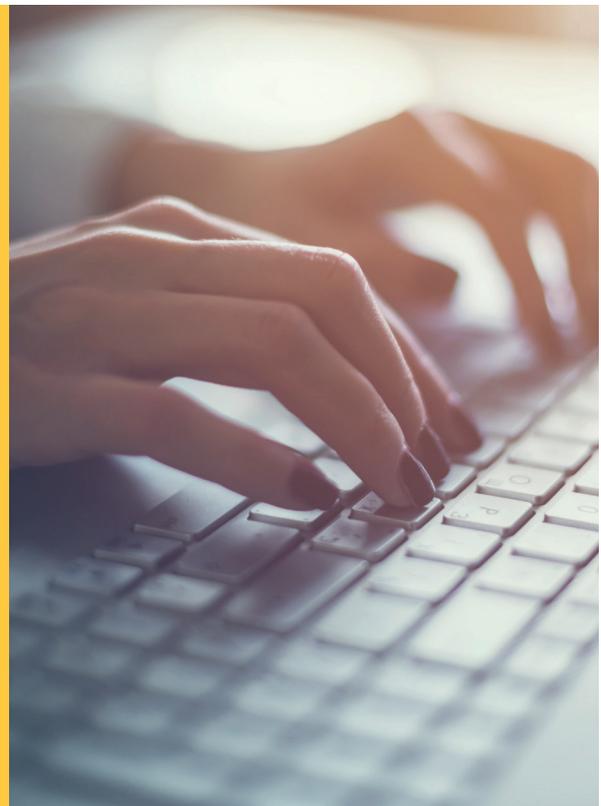
**Literature & Creative Writing**

**Genealogy & History**

**Modern Languages**

**Psychology & Philosophy**

learning@aber.ac.uk  
www.aber.ac.uk/en/lifelong-learning



# Publication to mark 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In October 2022 it will be exactly 150 years since we opened our doors as the first University College in Wales. One of the projects underway to mark this landmark birthday is an illustrated volume, reflecting different aspects of our history through the lens of 150 objects.

ABERNews has been speaking to Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Editorial Board overseeing the book which is due to be published at the beginning of the next academic year.



## Where did the idea for the book originate?

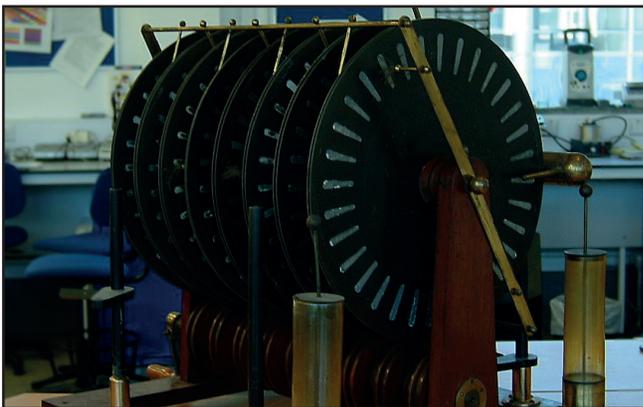
The initial idea came from Professor Robert Meyrick, Head of the School of Art. Professor Meyrick and Neil Holland, who's a Senior Curator at the School of Art, published 'To Instruct and Inspire' to mark the University's 125th anniversary in 1997. This 48-page illustrated guide set out to examine the University's arts and crafts collection, its development and the individuals whose personal enthusiasms had shaped the collection since 1872.

The 150th anniversary publication is a variation on this theme and follows what has become a popular way of telling an institution's history through a series of significant objects.

## So how are the objects chosen?

An Editorial Board was set up 2019 to lead and oversee the publication and we're closely involved in choosing the objects which will feature in the book, in consultation with the Vice-Chancellor. We've also been asking present and past staff, current students, alumni and others with a close connection to Aberystwyth for their nominations.

There are synergies too with the fantastic work going on to research the collections for the Old College galleries when they reopen after the refurbishment.



*An early example of an X-ray machine from the University's Physics Museum.*

150 can seem like a lot of objects but we have 150 years of history to tell so we can't cover everything in detail. What we can do though is give a real sense of the University's story – from the tremendous achievements of our Founders, who managed against the odds and without public money to open a University College on the site of a magnificent half-finished Victorian hotel; to the inspirational teachers who've brought fields of study to life for generations of students; the research breakthroughs which have helped tackle major national and global challenges; and the highlights of student life over the decades.

## Who will be responsible for writing the text to accompany the 150 objects?

The beauty of this book is that it will draw on the experiences and expertise of the entire University family. Contributors will include present and former members of staff, current students, alumni and others who hold the University close to their heart. So there will be a variety of interesting voices across the publication and a variety of writing styles, including both factual articles and different forms of creative writing. We're lucky to have such talent to call on and are really grateful to everyone who's contributing.

## What kind of objects and stories can we expect to see – and do you have a favourite?

It's too early for favourites but as a University, we have some wonderful stories to share. We're also indebted to those staff whose passion for their subject area has meant that a lot of our history has been preserved not only in the Archives but in departmental collections.

Our Physics museum, for example, has an X-ray machine which came to Aberystwyth a mere year after the technology was invented. Back then, our scientists would invite local people to come into the College to have their injuries checked.

IBERS also has an extensive collection of objects including floral and fauna specimens from across the world, and an unrivalled seed bank of grasses which have helped revolutionise farming in Wales and the wider world.

There's the story of how Dorothy Bonarjee came here to study from India and became the first woman to win the College's Eisteddfod chair.

We also have the wonderful School of Art collections. Did you know that we had a loan scheme which enabled students to pay 2/6 (12p) for the privilege of hanging a print or painting on their bedroom wall by the likes of Kyffin, Léger, Picasso and other leading artists?

One of the most difficult tasks will no doubt be to whittle down the list to 150 and though time is exceedingly short, we're still open to suggestions for those 'must-have' objects!

**Editorial Board Membership**

- Professor Anwen Jones, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Chair)
- Julie Archer, University Archivist and Information Governance Manager
- Cara Cullen, Old College Collections Research Coordinator
- Professor Robert Meyrick, Head of the School of Art and Keeper of the School of Art Museum & Galleries
- Professor Phillipp Schofield, Head of History & Welsh History
- Kath Williams, Faculty Manager: Arts & Social Sciences



*This beautiful casket, said to contain a splinter from Robert Schumann's coffin, was part of a major bequest made by George Powell, Nanteos, to the newly-established University College at Aberystwyth between 1879-1882.*

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Esther Prytherch, Coordinator of the 150th Anniversary Publication  
[ejp14@aber.ac.uk](mailto:ejp14@aber.ac.uk)

## Aberystwyth Arts Centre Craft & Design Shop

**Come and discover the fun, quirky and innovative.**

The Arts Centre's Craft and Design shop is the place for the best in craft and design - inspiration for the home and individual.

We offer an excellent selection for all occasions, whether you're looking to treat yourself or for that special present for a friend or family. We stock a range of studio ceramics, prints from local artists, Aberystwyth souvenirs plus an excellent range of contemporary homewares, stationery, cards and jewellery.



The Arts Centre Shop will be open until 23 December. Opening times are perfect for Christmas shopping.

Parking is free at the weekend too.

**Opening hours**

Monday - Saturday: 10am - 8pm  
 Sunday: 12pm - 5pm

**Shop online** [www.aberartscentreshop.co.uk](http://www.aberartscentreshop.co.uk)

**E-mail:** [aberartshop@aber.ac.uk](mailto:aberartshop@aber.ac.uk)

**Telephone:** 01970 622895



## An update from AberSU

AberSU wants students to love student life.



We were thrilled to be able to welcome students back into the Students' Union at the beginning of the new academic year, and were happy to be able to hold in-person events and activities once again (with a few restrictions of course), to give first year students and returning students the best Freshers experience possible.

Here is a little roundup of what AberSU staff and officers have been up to:

- During Welcome Week we held the annual Freshers Fair in a big bell tent on Chapel Green. The 3-day event showcased 133 stalls to over 3,000 students.
- We also worked with the University's Commercial Services team to host a range of evening events at the same venue, ranging from a Freshers Ball to Bingo Lingo, which attracted 5,500 attendees over the course of the week.
- AberSU also held a range of in-person and virtual meet-and-greet events for liberation groups attended by almost 200 students.
- Our Sports Clubs and Societies hosted a range of welcome events during the first two weeks of the new academic year to welcome new students, share a taste of what the group has to offer and offer plenty of opportunities to socialise.
- 71 'A Team' student volunteers gave their time to welcome and support students arriving at Aber over the 10 days of the welcome period. This includes the night team who were out-and-about in town during the evenings to help any student needing a little helping hand.

- The SU Opportunities Team have held their first in-person event since the start of the pandemic; our Aber Challenge event took place mid-November with 110 students taking part in friendly competition in 22 teams over the course of the weekend.
- Our Officer Team have been working hard representing students on a number of projects and campaigns since the start of the academic year. These include drink awareness month, de-colonising campaign, suicide awareness and drink spiking.
- Our Advice Service has continued to support students throughout – with a mix of virtual drop-ins via Zoom and in-person appointments in the SU building available for all Aber students.

### Looking ahead

In Aberystwyth for the winter break; with many students staying in Aberystwyth over the winter vacation we are working with University colleagues to ensure there are plenty of events and support available over the break. Plans include a coach trip to Birmingham Christmas market, distributing goody bags, festive activities and hopefully a Christmas day meal.

Standing opens for the Officer Elections on 1 January; our annual democratic elections where the students elect the next set of officers to lead the Students' Union.

Nominations will open in January for AberSU Celebrates 2022 Awards: our chance to recognise the hard work and achievements of students and staff across the University.



# Appointments

A warm welcome to colleagues who have joined the University in recent months, including:

## STUDENT SUPPORT AND CAREERS SERVICES

**Ian Munton** has been appointed Head of Student Support and Careers Services. He joins us from Staffordshire University where he was Director of Library and Student Services, responsible for Student Support and Wellbeing services, Library and Learning services and Residential services as well as having a number of cross institutional roles at Senior Leadership and Board levels.



**Rosemary Toll** has joined the department as a Lecturer in Commercial Law, having previously taught at Manchester University, the Open University and Osnabrück University in Germany. Rosemary's research interests lie predominantly in intellectual property, focusing on digitised content and creative industries. She will shortly submit her PhD at Manchester, which examines the use of recorded music distribution online in relation to copyright and trade mark law.



## ESTATES DEVELOPMENT

**Chris Davies** joins the team as Deputy Director of Estates Development with a primary objective of converting the Estates Strategy into a Master Plan and then delivering the transformation of the University's estate. Chris's first degree in Building Surveying and subsequent MSc in Project Management is backed up with 30 years' experience as a Project Manager and Project Director in the commercial sector leading estate transformations and the planning and delivery of capital programmes.



## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES

**Dr Debra Colarossi** has joined DGES as a postdoctoral research associate in luminescence dating working on the EQuaTe project, to establish a robust chronological framework for human occupation of northern and central Europe. Debra completed her PhD at Aberystwyth University in 2017 and has since worked as Junior Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany.



## MUSIC

Welsh conductor and pianist **Iwan Teifion Davies** has joined the University as Director of Music. Originally from St. Dogmaels near Cardigan, he studied at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the National Opera Studio in London. He was a staff conductor at the Salzburger Landestheater, Music Director of OPRA Cymru, and is Head of Music at the Buxton International Festival. Working within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Arts Centre, Iwan will lead the University's music provision, bringing together a unique range of University and community activity and engagement.



**Dr Samuel Mutter** has joined the University as an ESRC postdoctoral research fellow examining the issue of 'kin-aesthetic politics', studying the roles of sensory experiences of mobility within the management of urban infrastructures. Sam completed his PhD in Politics in 2020 at Birkbeck, University of London, with a project on the governance of the London Underground. His broader research interests include mobilities of urban transportation, professional cycling, and foodservice delivery.



## DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY

**Gwyn Griffith** has joined the department as a Criminology Lecturer. He previously spent ten years as a probation officer for Dyfed-Powys probation service, and several years as a manager for Ceredigion Youth Offending Team, Family Support Service and Social Service emergency duty team. He is interested in the influence of policy and practice on crime levels (especially youth crime levels); whole system modelling of the criminal justice system; risk assessment; behaviour change programmes; and youth justice in general.



## INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL SCIENCES

**Dr Valerie Rodrigues** has joined IBERS as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow working on the EU-funded MACSSFT project, which will involve optimising saccharification and fermentation technologies for valorising macroalgae blooms. Prior to this, Valerie worked as a science writer and editor with JoVE. Valerie completed her PhD in Biotechnology in 2018 at the Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, where her project focused on mining of organisms associated with green seaweed for polysaccharide saccharifying enzymes.



#### DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND WELSH HISTORY



**Dr Miguel Hernández** has joined as a Lecturer in American History, specializing in the history of race relations in the USA. He joins us from the University of Exeter, where he completed his PhD studying the Second Ku Klux Klan and its relationship to ideas of masculinity, fraternity and race. Miguel's current research examines anti-Mexican nativism and legislation by American white supremacist organisations during the interwar period.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

**Jowhor Ile** has joined the department as a Lecturer in Creative Writing - Fiction. Born and raised in Nigeria, Jowhor has taught at Boston University and was a Visiting Assistant Professor at West Virginia University. He is an award-winning novelist and short story writer - his writing contains themes such as memory and survival, family love, childhood, loss, homeland, the body, power and language.



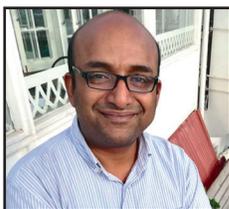
#### DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



**Professor Charles Musselwhite** has joined the department, with a Chair in Psychology. He joins from Swansea University and was previously at UWE and Bournemouth, graduating with a PhD from Southampton University in 2004. His research interests involve applying psychology to understanding and improve mobility in later life enabling people to stay connected to people, neighbourhoods, communities and to the things they love doing, including road user safety in later life, giving-up driving and creating age friendly neighbourhoods.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Dr Faisal Rezwan** has joined the department as a Senior Lecturer in Bioinformatics. Faisal obtained his PhD at University of Hertfordshire. Previously, he was a Lecturer in Bioinformatics at Cranfield University. His research mainly focuses on basic and applied problems in bioinformatics using machine learning and data integration.



#### COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



**Graeme Neill** has joined the University as a Communications and Public Affairs Officer. He previously spent almost 20 years as a journalist, mainly focused on telecoms technology and smart cities, but has also written about the book publishing and financial

market sectors as well his native Northern Ireland. He has a degree in English from Queen's University, Belfast.

#### GLOBAL MARKETING AND STUDENT RECRUITMENT



**Lucy Stevenson** has joined GMSR as Marketing Campaigns Manager. Lucy and the Campaigns team are responsible for planning and monitoring recruitment campaigns with the aim of increasing applications to Aberystwyth. Lucy previously led on Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and digital engagement at Bangor University and has experience in project management in both local government and the third sector.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES

**Gareth Chapman** has joined the HR Department as HR Business Partner. He comes to Aberystwyth from the University of Birmingham, and prior to this has held roles in the NHS and charity sector. Gareth will be primarily responsible for supporting FASS, EFR, Welsh Language Culture and External Engagement, Commercial Services, Finance and Planning.



#### INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH CENTRE



**Emma Halliday** has joined the International English Centre as a Language Teacher and Co-ordinator. She recently completed her MA in Applied Linguistics at the University of Liverpool. Her research interests focus on bringing critical pedagogies into the language classroom. Her most recent work focused on the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ English Language teachers working in higher education settings.

### Independent Commission appointment

Dr Anwen Elias, Reader in Politics in the Department of International Politics, has been appointed Commissioner to the new Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales.



The Commission comprises members drawn from a broad range of political opinion and sections of Welsh society. It has two broad objectives.

Firstly, to consider and develop options for fundamental reform of the constitutional structures of the United Kingdom, in which Wales remains an integral part.

Secondly, to consider and develop all progressive principal options to strengthen Welsh democracy and deliver improvements for the people of Wales.

Dr Elias' research interests include comparative territorial and constitutional politics, political parties and deliberative democracy. She is Co-Director of the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society and the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data.

## Aberystwyth Arts Centre

### Saving Grace

featuring Robert Plant and Suzi Dian

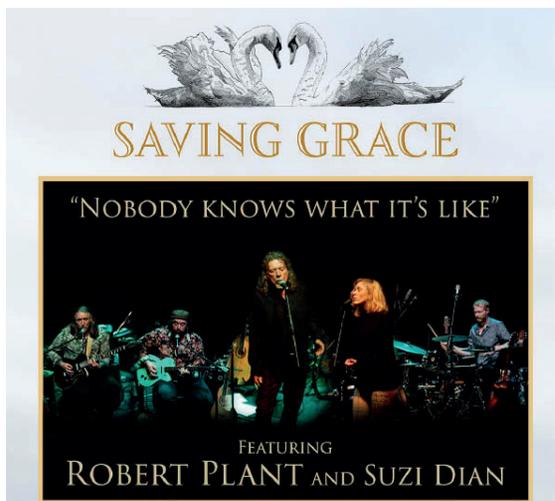
7.30pm, Tuesday 21 December 2021

*Saving Grace* is a co-operative featuring vocalists Robert Plant and Suzi Dian, with Oli Jefferson (percussion), Tony Kelsey (mandolin, baritone and acoustic guitars) and Matt Worley (banjo, cuatro, acoustic and baritone guitars).

These five musicians work in glorious harmony from start to finish, reworking a selection of diverse cover versions that have been collected from various places, creating a musical journey in its truest form.

This odyssey has been undertaken in the spirit of appreciation, musicianship and exultation: they truly are a band of joy!

Support from Scott Matthews



### Rich Hall's Hoedown Deluxe

7.30pm, Friday 11 February 2022

Rich Hall's comedy/music locomotive keeps on rollin'. Ever-evolving, ever-changing, Rich's combination of keen acerbic stand-up combined with spit and sawdust alt-country lyricism is a "win-win" (*Guardian*), as sold out crowds across the UK have attested. Fans keep returning because this show goes where other comedians wouldn't dare: Barrow-in-Furness for example.

Rich's acclaimed BBC4 documentaries (most recently *Rich Hall's Red Menace*) and his Radio 4 series *Election Breakdown* have established a whole new legion of followers. He's also a stalwart of *QI* and *Have I Got News For You*. But seeing the *Hoedown* is a whole different experience. Funny, lively and angry, Rich Hall's Hoedown Deluxe show has something for everyone.



### The UK Rock Show

8pm, Saturday 12 February 2022

From the producers of Bon Jovi Forever's 'One Wild Night' tour; we are proud to present 'The UK Rock Show'.

Get ready to be transported back to the 80s heyday of classic rock, combining the feel of a rock festival with the atmosphere of a top end rock arena tour. Expect fireworks, amazing lighting and exacting attention to detail as this amazing 5 piece band, who have numerous recording credits and having travelled the Globe extensively, re-create hits from rock gods such as Journey, Aerosmith, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, Kiss, AC/DC, Van Halen...and many more!

If you are a fan of live classic rock this is the show for you!



#### COVID-19 safety

Please be aware that you will need to show your full vaccination status or a negative Lateral Flow Test to come to any of our events. You can get your NHS COVID Pass from the [NHS UK website](https://www.nhs.uk).

Face coverings must be worn at all times within the venue, even whilst seated (unless drinking, eating or exempt). This is a legal requirement for all multi-purpose venues in Wales - e.g. theatres with a bar.