

ABER *News*

New Vice-Chancellor appointed

Professor Elizabeth Treasure has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University, and will take up the post on Monday 3 April.

Professor Treasure is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Cardiff University where she has responsibility for key areas including projects in strategic planning, resources and sustainable development as well as staffing and estates.

Professor Treasure holds a BDS in Dental Surgery and a PhD from the University of Birmingham.

Following a range of clinical roles in the National Health Service between 1980 and 1990, Professor Treasure moved to New Zealand where she concurrently held the roles of Public Health Dentist and Lecturer, then Senior Lecturer, at the University of Otago.

In 1995, Professor Treasure was appointed Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Dental

Public Health at the University of Wales College of Medicine, achieving promotion to Professor in 2000 and being appointed Dean and General Manager at the Dental School and Hospital in 2006.

In 2010, Professor Treasure became the first woman to be appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Cardiff University.

Professor Treasure has already started visiting Aberystwyth and has enjoyed meeting colleagues and students and learning more about the University. She looks forward to doing more of this after she arrives in April.

Professor John Grattan will continue as Acting Vice-Chancellor until Professor Treasure starts in post in two months' time.

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Above: Ramped stage equipment being used during Graduation 2016 allowing students in wheelchairs to access the stage

Below: The lift in the Students' Union has made all parts of the building accessible to all students

Fully accessible car parking spaces between the Cledwyn building and Student Welcome Centre



Accessible Aber

The University is continuously working to improve the accessibility of its campuses, facilities and services. Phil Maddison, Director of the Health, Safety & Environment Department, describes recent developments:

Projects to enhance accessibility are co-ordinated by the Accessible Aber Group, which consists of representatives from across the University - health and safety, estates, student support and campus services functions, in addition to student representation from Students' Union Officers.

One of the recent projects supported by the group was the installation of a lift in the Students' Union building, which has made all areas of the building accessible to all students. The project was a considerable undertaking, and was made possible through exceptional work by staff from the Estates Development Department and the full co-operation and involvement of the Students' Union.



Other recent projects supported by the Accessible Aber Group have included:

- Upgrading the existing lifts in the Physical Sciences and Llandinam buildings;
- Upgrading of Deaf Alert systems (a radio based fire alarm warning and messaging system) across the University to improve and expand coverage;
- Creating fully accessible car parking spaces between the Cledwyn building and Student Welcome Centre;
- Refurbishing ground floor Cledwyn building toilets for full accessibility;
- Purchasing software to assist individuals with specific learning differences, which is available on all public computers across the University;
- Supporting the development of the Access Aber mobile application;
- Contributing towards new ramped stage equipment to be used during Graduation.

The Accessible Aber Group is currently considering project proposals for the coming year, including measures to improve access to the Arts Centre Piazza, which would in turn improve access to the Arts Centre, Students' Union and Hugh Owen buildings.

The group welcomes any suggestions or comments relating to projects or activities that could improve the accessibility of the University's services or facilities. Staff, students or members of the public can send any comments or suggestions to Rhodri Gravell at rhg4@aber.ac.uk.



A new year message from the Chancellor

The start of a new year is often a time of change and 2017 is no exception.

In just under two months' time on Monday 3 April, Professor Elizabeth Treasure will take up her position as our new Vice-Chancellor. I know she has exciting plans to ensure that Aberystwyth University goes from strength to strength. One of her first priorities will be to develop a clear vision for the future and lead the development of our next five-year Strategic Plan. All have a role to play in this process and there will be widespread consultation with colleagues.

Professor Treasure takes over at what is undoubtedly a challenging time for all of us in the Higher Education sector. The implications of Brexit will become clearer as the UK Government triggers Article 50 and negotiations to leave the EU begin in earnest. It was encouraging to hear the UK Prime Minister Theresa May say in her major Brexit speech on 16 January that she would welcome agreement allowing universities to continue to collaborate with European partners on major science, research and technology initiatives. Movement of academic staff and students between the UK and the continent is vital, as is the revenue which currently comes to us from the EU. As a member of the Welsh Government's advisory group on Europe, I will continue to press the interests of higher education and for future arrangements which can be as beneficial as possible for Wales and the UK.

The Diamond Report heralds another change on the horizon for the sector in Wales. Welsh students arriving in September 2017 are likely to be the last to receive the Welsh Government's current £5,100 grant towards tuition fees. Before Christmas, I spoke at a seminar organised by WonkHE (a higher education blog and think tank) on the implications for the sector. While the report's proposals would introduce a welcome degree of

stability on student financing, I argued that it remains to be seen what the actual benefits will be for institutions like Aberystwyth and when we shall see them.

Throughout this period of change and transition, our Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor John Grattan and his Executive team are continuing to take steps to ensure that Aberystwyth remains a successful and competitive university for the future. There will be difficult decisions ahead of us as we adjust to the changing higher education landscape. Putting the institution on a sustainable footing is vital. We are all indebted to Professor Grattan for the leadership he has shown as Acting Vice-Chancellor since February 2016 and in particular for his sterling work on the NSS.

2017 will also be my final year as Chancellor and Chair of Council so as the winds of change blow through Aberystwyth, let's grasp the opportunities and make sure that we change for the better.

I remain very proud of our remarkable achievements as a University – punching above our weight internationally while remaining deeply rooted locally – and of the dedication and hard work of colleagues.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry
Chancellor

Faith spaces

The University has opened two new Faith Spaces for students and staff, for the purposes of devotion or quiet contemplation.



On Penglais Campus a Faith Space is located in the Arts Centre, to the right of the Piazza Café. The space is accessed externally, to the side of the building from the concourse outside the Arts Centre/Student Union.

The Faith Space is available throughout the week (including Saturday and Sunday) between 8am and 9pm; accessed using your Aber Card. Specific times will be set aside for open access for individual students and staff for the purposes of devotion or quiet contemplation.

At other times the space can be booked by University

staff, students and Students' Union faith societies for faith activities. A booking form and agreement are available online: www.aber.ac.uk/en/student-support/faith-provision/booking-faith-space/

Another Faith Space is available on Llanbadarn Campus, at the top of the stairs in the Blas Padarn Building. Llanbadarn Campus Faith Space is available when Blas Padarn is open, and during these times there is open access to University staff and students. It is not possible to book the faith space at Llanbadarn.

TFTS students build Berlin installation

Five theatre and scenography students from the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies (TFTS) travelled to Berlin in September 2016 to take part in an exciting collaborative art project.

The HALLO4 project was conceived and led by Dutch-Belgian collective TAAT ('Theatre as Architecture, Architecture as Theatre') which uses the idea of architecture as theatre to bring people together.

In Berlin, the five TFTS students - Jenny Case, Kristina Eckern, River Fincher, Róisín Murphy and Dominika Rau - were paired with five architecture students from the Alanus University of Arts and Sciences in Bonn.

Working alongside a team from TAAT and several invited experts, the students had a week to design and construct an installation in the German Architecture Centre (DAZ) in time for a public opening.

With the aim of generating a building that is a theatre play and a theatre play that is a building, the project involved the reworking of a basic wooden framework, allowing for the reconfiguring of rooms, passageways and sliding doors, and with a particular focus on exploring different dimensions of sound.

The installation was open to the public for a week. Visitors to the exhibition space were paired with a stranger and were invited to enter the installation from opposite ends without catching sight of the other.

Once inside they had to observe three main rules: they were not allowed to talk, were not allowed to see each other, and were asked to close all the doors behind them.



Aberystwyth Drama and Theatre Studies student Róisín Murphy (front of photo) with architecture student from Alanus, Gerriet Schwen

Moving through the installation they encountered the various spaces that had been built, and listened and responded to the movements of the unseen other.

Dr Andrew Filmer, Senior Lecturer in Drama, Theatre and Performance in TFTS, explained: "The installation invited two strangers to venture on a journey together, with the wooden sculpture acting as an architectural 'script' and ordinary behaviour turning into a spontaneous performance.

"Visitors to the installation responded in very different ways - some were playful, exploring the possibilities offered by the installation; some lingered and took their time; some found the experience difficult and claustrophobic."

Theatre and scenography student, Jenny Case, said that being involved in HALLO4 had been a very useful and practical experience commenting: "A key area of concern shared by theatre and architecture is the creative articulation of social space. I learnt how alternative social spaces might be created through combining theatre and architecture and how I might work together with others in creating and defining these spaces."

Yarn bomb brightens up Penglais Campus



The colourful display outside Hugh Owen Library brought Christmas cheer with a combination of yarn, lights and bells.

A 'yarn bomb' created and installed by Grym Gwau-Knit Force brought festive cheer to the area outside the Hugh Owen Library shortly before Christmas.

'Yarn Bombing' or 'Guerrilla Knitting' is a non-permanent form of street art which emerged in the early 2000s as a way of enhancing public spaces.

Grym Gwau-Knit Force is a group created to encourage community interaction through knitting and other arty yarn projects.

The group was created by the University's newly expanded and rebranded Residence Life Team.

Now part of the Accommodation Team in Campus Services, the Residence Life Team consists of forty students and staff members who provide a variety of social, recreational, and

educational opportunities for resident students, and act as a student signposting service for help and advice.

Grym Gwau-Knit Force meets weekly to teach a variety of techniques of creating art with yarn and requires no previous skills. Open to the whole AU community of students, staff and alumni the group allows people the opportunity to learn, mentor and to develop their understanding of what can be achieved through this medium.

Look out for more events planned for 2017. For more information or suggestions find us on www.facebook.com/GrymGwauKnitForce/

or send us an email: ggknitf@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome. [@BywydAberLife](https://twitter.com/BywydAberLife) [#GrymGwauKnitForce](https://twitter.com/GrymGwauKnitForce)

University commemorates fallen student

The name of a Welsh footballing legend has been added to the roll of honour commemorating Aberystwyth University students who were killed in the First World War.

Leigh Richmond Roose came to study the arts and sciences at the University in 1895 and started playing in goal for Aberystwyth Town. In 1900 he helped Aberystwyth Town to victory in the Welsh Cup - the only time the club has secured the trophy.

During his first year as a student, he was selected for the Welsh team and according to rumour, would insist on wearing his old Aberystwyth Town shirt under his international jersey.

Roose went on to become known as one of the greatest goalkeepers of his day, playing for a range of leading clubs including Arsenal, Aston Villa and Sunderland.

He led a colourful life off the field too, and in 1905 was described by the *Daily Mail* as one of Britain's most eligible bachelors.

After completing his studies at Aberystwyth, Roose went on to study medicine in London.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Roose joined the Royal Army Medical Corps despite never completing his medical studies because of his thriving football career.

He later transferred to the Royal Fusiliers and served in the trenches, winning the prestigious Military Medal for his bravery



in fending off a flame-throwing attack by hurling grenades at the enemy, despite being wounded.

On 7 October 1916, at the age of 38, Roose was tragically killed during fierce fighting on the Somme.

After the end of the First World War, the University's Old Students' Association (OSA) acquired 10 Laura Place and presented it to the University in memory of staff, students and former students who had lost their lives during the conflict.

The OSA also provided the original roll of honour, which did not include Roose's name, possibly because his name was misspelt on his recruitment papers and consequently on the war memorial to the missing of the Somme at Thiepval.

A century on, members of the OSA came together to honour the memory of Roose on 16 December 2016, at the unveiling of a remembrance plaque in the Old College.

Fine Art alumna wins award in leading UK competition

Artist and printmaker Gini Wade, who completed an MA in Fine Art at the School of Art, has won the Regional Award for Wales in the 2016 National Open Art competition with a lithograph entitled *Home 2 - Regeneration*.

Gini studied at the School of Art as a post-graduate student from 2007-10, specialising in lithography with Paul Croft, and was awarded an MA in Fine Art with distinction.

Explaining the background to the winning artwork, Gini commented: "The idea for *Home 2 - Regeneration* came to me while crossing Mile End Park in East London - an area that was bombed flat during WW2, then after the war was part of a regeneration project. Now you wouldn't know anything had happened there; it's a peaceful scene with children playing and mums pushing prams. It's amazing how quickly traumas are forgotten after a generation or two, though the after effects still ripple on."

As winner of the Regional Award for Wales, Gini received a prize of £1,000 and a weekend break at the Tŵr y Felin Hotel in St Davids, which sponsored the prize.



Based in Mid-Wales, Gini worked as an illustrator and children's book author for many years, and now makes her own prints and runs lithography workshops. She is a director of Aberystwyth Printmakers and contributes articles to *Printmaking Today*.

Her prints are held in private and public collections all over the world.



World champion mountain-biker opens new gym facilities

Rachel Atherton officially opened the University's newly refurbished gym on 10 January.

Representing an investment of £250,000, the new facilities offer state of the art cardio equipment and strength and conditioning kit supplied by Matrix Fitness.

Featuring the latest in interactive virtual reality technology, University Sports Centre users will be able to go running in the Sahara, cycle in the Alps or climb the world's tallest building in Dubai.

Speaking at the official opening, Rachel Atherton said she was delighted with the new gym equipment and plans to use her Aberystwyth University Sports Centre Platinum Membership to the max. Platinum Membership offers unlimited use of all services and facilities offered at the Sports Centre.

Based in the Dyfi valley, Rachel has won more awards than any other British mountain-biker in the history of the sport.

As well as nine UK National titles she is five times Downhill World Champion, five times Downhill World Cup Overall Champion, twice European Champion and the proud owner of 33 World Cups.

She is currently enjoying an off-season breather following a record-breaking run of 13 consecutive World Cup wins.

The new facilities offer the latest in gym and training technology.

Runners and cyclists will be able to follow trails and routes anywhere in the world with the use of virtual technology.

For those who wish to set themselves a challenge, there are programmes for climbing some of the world's landmark buildings, including the Eiffel Tower and the world's tallest building - the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

Users will also be able to use the Sports Aber personal training app along with other apps such as Strava, Map My Fitness and Fitbit.

They will also be able to personalise their console with their own music play-lists from their mobile phones to get the most out of each session.

"The new facilities have something for everyone, from beginners to elite athletes, seasoned keep fit enthusiasts and those who need to exercise to improve their health," said Darren Hathaway, General Manager of the University's Sports Centre.

"This investment has enabled us to pay particular attention to the layout of the equipment, so that the whole experience of using the gym is more friendly and welcoming, and the technology is designed to make exercising more enjoyable by engaging, motivating and challenging users," added Darren.

World downhill mountain-bike champion Rachel Atherton opens the new gym facilities in the company of Sports Centre Manager, Darren Hathaway (left) and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Grattan (right).



The University Sports Centre provides more than 60 keep fit classes every week, from Pilates back care and yoga to circuit training, Zumba and the in-vogue High Intensity Interval Training programme HIIT.

Sports Centre staff also work closely with Hywel Dda University Health Board to provide rehabilitation sessions for patients with cardiac problems.



01970 622280
sports@aber.ac.uk
www.aber.ac.uk/en/sportscentre/about-us/



Developing the future research leaders of Wales

Thirty exceptional researchers from across Wales will be selected to take part in a programme of personal, professional and leadership development, through the award winning Welsh Crucible programme, which is currently accepting applications for 2017.

Welsh Crucible is for talented early- to mid-career researchers, with three to nine years' postdoctoral research experience (or equivalent), working in any discipline. Participants must work in Wales, either at a higher education institution, or in research and development in business, industry or the public or charity sector.

Awarded the *Times Higher Education* Award for Outstanding Contribution to Leadership Development in 2013, the Welsh Crucible aims to help participants to discover:

- how other early- to mid-career researchers in other disciplines are tackling the same issues as them;
- how they can transfer their knowledge to the public sphere to make an impact;
- the skills and attitudes that are likely to make their research more innovative;
- how thinking creatively can make a difference to their work and career.

Funded by a consortium of Welsh higher education institutions and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Welsh

Crucible brings together researchers to explore how they can work together to tackle the current research challenges facing Wales.

Dr Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, from the Department of International Politics, participated in the Welsh Crucible in 2015, and went on to have success with three Welsh Crucible collaborative projects as a direct result of completing the programme.

Berit says: "The Welsh Crucible gave me the opportunity to get to know people from other universities in Wales and other disciplines, who I would have otherwise never met, and some great new interdisciplinary collaborations emerged from that.

"Also, I very much enjoyed learning about my own working style and that of others, and understanding why we work well together with some people but not with others. That was a real eye-opener."

The deadline for applications for Welsh Crucible 2017 closes at midnight on 7 March 2017. For more information, please contact Dr Dafydd Roberts, Research Development Officer (Arts & Humanities) in Research, Business and Innovation, extension 8787, e-mail: dir@aber.ac.uk.

Fit and healthy DGES

In October 2016 Team DGES, inspired by 'captain' Helen Stockley Jones, competed in the Cardiff Half Marathon to raise money for the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences (DGES) Centenary Fund.

Helen, an Academic Operations Officer in DGES, and part-time fitness instructor at SportAber, was joined by an eclectic mix of staff comprising Jean Jones, Sarah Jones, Tom Holt, Neil Glasser, Hywel Griffiths, Andrew Thomas, and Mark Whitehead, who together undertook the fast-and-flat 13.1 mile route around Cardiff City Centre.

"This started off as a personal challenge, but I asked my colleagues and friends to see if anyone else wanted to join me, and I got an amazing amount of support from the guys from day one," explains Helen.

This challenge was just one of many activities that staff and postgraduate students in DGES undertook in order to get fitter and healthier in 2016.



Helen runs a weekly DGES lunchtime spin class, and also arranged dodgeball and touch rugby matches for her colleagues.

Many staff and postgraduate students also signed up to "2016km in 2016", with the aim to cycle, run, walk, swim, hop or jump 2016 kilometres during 2016.

"We've supported each other throughout the year and it's been fabulous to see so many people get involved with a range of activities and challenges that they may not have done previously," added Helen. "To have raised over £650 in the process that will go towards a new student bursary is really rewarding and makes all that hard work, blood, sweat and tears so worthwhile!"

Kerry Lewis



In addition to the day job

Kerry Lewis is a lecturer at Aberystwyth Law School whose research interests focus on environmental and marine protection.

In her leisure time she is an enthusiastic diver, spending much of the summer underwater off the coast of Pembrokeshire. She is also a member of Aberystwyth-based British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) Cantre'r Gwaelod Divers.

Aber News spoke to Kerry about how she first started scuba diving, and about getting up close to some of the amazing wildlife in the seas around the United Kingdom.

When did you first start diving?

I first learned to dive in Australia about twenty years ago. After that I often dived on holiday, but it wasn't until about ten years ago that I got into diving in UK waters. I contacted the marine team at Skomer Marine Nature Reserve (now Wales' only Marine Conservation Zone) and asked whether I could volunteer with them. They encouraged me to further my training, and I qualified as a Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Divemaster before joining BSAC at Dive Leader level.

What is it about diving that you enjoy?

So many things! I love the peace and sanctuary of being underwater – oddly I feel very at home and calm listening to my own breathing in a place evolution did not intend me to go. But aside from the physical experience itself, for me it is all about the marine life and habitats which I get to see. Because I dive regularly in the same locations, I learn more and more about the animals that I am seeing, whether things are noteworthy, or unusual, or changing... Most of the diving I do now is organised through the Marine Conservation's Seasearch programme which encourages amateur divers to develop their marine life identification and recording skills to provide meaningful data that can be used by statutory agencies and NGOs to develop policy measures to protect our marine environment.

You recently won national recognition with a photograph in BSAC's Great British Diving photo competition. Tell us about how that photo came about.

We were exploring in shallow water just off the Scilly Isles off the Cornish coast with Seasearch.

About six seals swam up to us and started playing. Two or three of them were particularly inquisitive so we let them come up to us. I got quite a few photos and also took some video of two of the seals playing together. It was really cute and amazing to see up close. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30cTbTnHKX4>)

I have so many photos now, but people rarely get to see them. I decided the BSAC Great British Diving competition would be a good chance to just post a few snaps from recent dives. I chose to enter the particular photo of the seal into the competition because I just thought it was so funny with the weeds on its head, something a bit quirky.

Where's your favourite place to dive?

I absolutely love diving in Pembrokeshire – it's where I grew up and over the last ten years I have discovered a whole new world that I knew so little about as a child. It's very nice diving in warmer waters, but once you get into diving your own patch regularly you can learn and see so much, and there is always

something new. This year I have also dived opposite ends of the UK - St Kilda off the west of Scotland, and the Isles of Scilly off the south-west tip of England.

Tell us about the all-time favourite dive experience?

Gosh. There is rarely a completely unenjoyable dive! Last summer I dived at The Smalls Lighthouse for the first time - it is an uninhabited rock 20 miles off the coast of Pembrokeshire, famous for a gruesome story re-told last year in the film *The Lighthouse*.

On the dive I spotted a funny looking fish which wasn't quite the same as the ubiquitous and photogenic Tompot Blenny. I managed to get a photo and it was later confirmed to be a Red Blenny, and it was the first time the species had been recorded in Welsh waters.

What would you say to somebody who was interested in getting into diving?

Get in touch with your local club! There are two clubs in Aberystwyth - Cantre'r Gwaelod Divers is the town's BSAC, and

there is also a University Club. You won't be thrown in at the deep end! For example, a 'Try Dive' is aimed at newcomers and lets people experience the joys of scuba diving first hand. You get the chance to come along, receive proper instruction, then try out a dive for yourself in the safety of a swimming pool using club equipment and under proper supervision.

Links for further information:

Cantre'r Gwaelod Divers: www.aberystwythsubaquaclub.org.uk/

Aberystwyth University Sub Aqua Club: www.facebook.com/AberystwythSubAqua/

Marine Conservation Society: www.mcsuk.org/

Seasearch: www.seasearch.org.uk/



Below: Kerry's photo of an inquisitive seal with weeds balanced on its nose was commended in the BSAC Great British Diving photo competition.



Above: Kerry at The Smalls Lighthouse, 20 miles west of Marloes Peninsula in Pembrokeshire





Why do some soldiers develop post-traumatic stress disorder while others do not?

In this feature article, Dr Olaoluwa Olusanya from Aberystwyth Law School discusses the factors that contribute to post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans, and the associated risk of encounters with the criminal justice system upon returning from war.



Dr Olaoluwa Olusanya

The psychological, emotional and physical burden placed on the UK Armed Forces by the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have focused the attention of the media, and therefore the public, on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

PTSD has a significant impact on the lives of soldiers, their family, friends and community. It can cause flashbacks, nightmares, anger and depression, often leading to violence, alcohol and substance abuse, family breakdown, prison and even suicide.

There is strong empirical support for a link between PTSD symptoms in veterans and post-military antisocial behaviour, increased risk-taking, aggression and even criminal offending.

In the UK prison population, convictions for 'violence against the person' account for 28.6% of non-veteran offenders but 32.9% of veteran offenders which, it has been suggested, could be partly attributable to PTSD.

However, the large variability in prevalence rates of combat-related PTSD and other mental health problems poses a major challenge for both researchers and policy-makers.

The inconsistency has triggered a debate about the relative importance of different variables - pre-service (e.g. family cohesion, childhood trauma and age at entry), combat (e.g. unit cohesion, combat exposure and appraisals of military experience), and post-service (e.g. additional stressful life events, social support and the homecoming experience).

Two differing perspectives have emerged. Some researchers maintain that the higher the level and severity of combat exposure, the greater the odds of having post-deployment symptoms - known as a 'dose-response relationship'. Conversely, others have questioned whether variations in prevalence of post-deployment PTSD can be sufficiently explained by differences in exposure to combat alone.

I propose a 'cumulative stress model' approach that suggests that in order to fully understand individual differences in susceptibility to PTSD and the associated risk of post-discharge encounters with the criminal justice system, psychosocial factors (e.g. homelessness, unemployment and poverty upon return from war) should be taken into account along with combat exposure factors.



Welcome to the new AberSU!

It has been six months since we last updated *Aber News* readers on the activities of the Students' Union here in Aberystwyth, and we can safely say that we are transforming into an exciting, new AberSU.

Since the beginning of this academic year, AberSU and the University have been working in partnership in order to provide commercial services for students within our building, and this has meant that AberSU itself could shift its focus to the fundamentals of what a Students' Union should be - providing for and supporting its membership; our students.

We are now a fully membership-focused charity, and all of our staff time and overall activity is based in three main areas; opportunities, support, and representation.

We are incredibly excited to welcome several new members of staff to AberSU, who are working with existing staff and the Officer team for 2016/17, and have made excellent additions to our team and share our new vision for AberSU.

Before the Christmas break we saw some amazing campaigning wins for AberSU, including the introduction of gender-neutral toilets in our building, research into health and mental health support for students, another successful Raising & Giving month, and the launch of the #StefansSocks campaign in memory of student Stefan Osgood, letting students know that it is okay to talk about mental health.

We hosted our first ever "Doggy De-stress" room during the January exam period, where rescue dogs came to visit so that our students could take a break from exam stress, as well as a student forum in conjunction with Hywel Dda Health Board allowing student voices on local health services to be truly heard.

And we're not stopping there, as this semester there is plenty to look out for coming your way from AberSU Officers and staff.

We are now heading rapidly into our next elections period, where in February and March we will be electing our next team of full time and part time Officers. These roles have undergone a bit of a shake-up themselves, to fit with our developing new strategy and new focus.

This truly is an exciting time to be part of AberSU and where the Union is heading for the future. We look forward to many more exciting new developments and becoming the best membership Students' Union we can be.

Lauren Marks

AberSU President

www.abersu.co.uk

Returning soldiers face several significant challenges associated with shedding their prior military identity and embracing a new civilian identity - they feel misunderstood, disconnected from the concerns and problems of civilian life and unvalued.

Empirical evidence suggests that individuals who have been previously exposed to the same type of traumatic event are more resistant to the psychological effects of such events, whereas the cumulative effect of exposure to dissimilar traumatic events will result in more post-traumatic stress symptoms.

I maintain, therefore, that post-war factors such as negative homecoming experiences and additional stressful life events will have a cumulative effect and increase the risk of veterans developing and maintaining PTSD.

At present, policy makers and practitioners in the criminal justice system appear to be guided by the assumption that combat exposure alone explains individual differences in susceptibility to post-deployment PTSD and the associated risk of post-discharge encounters with the criminal justice system.

Consequently, current criminal justice policies and rehabilitation programs for veteran offenders focus almost exclusively on the individual.

However, in order to be effective, such policies and programs need to consider and address the complexities of the social circumstances that complicate and prolong PTSD problems upon return from war.

The Veterans Legal Link project (www.veteranslegallink.org/), which I founded in 2015, is an attempt to translate the key assumptions of the 'cumulative stress model' approach into practice. The project primarily aims to reduce the risk of post-deployment PTSD and the likelihood of more serious social problems occurring, by providing tailored social support to veterans in the form of free legal advice and assistance from lawyers and students on social welfare issues.

Spotlight on... Schools & Colleges Liaison Team

The University's Schools and Colleges Liaison Team works with schools, colleges and careers advisors across the UK, to raise awareness of higher education and of Aberystwyth University, and to help people to make informed decisions. To learn more about the team's work, *Aber News* spoke to the team's manager, David Moyle.

What is the main function of the Schools and Colleges Liaison Team?

The team supports schools and colleges through a range of outreach activities designed to inform and engage students who are, or may be, considering a progression to higher education. Our work brings us into contact with students, teachers, careers advisors and parents.

Who's in the team?

As well as myself, there are three Schools and Colleges Liaison Officers based in Aberystwyth who travel throughout the country - Dafydd Morse, Cathy Piquemal, and Dewi Phillips. Teleri Lewis is Schools and Colleges Liaison Projects Officer. We

also have Harriet Greatrex who is Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer for South West England.

What does the work involve?

Team members travel the length and breadth of the UK throughout the school year, offering a wide range of talks and presentations to schools and colleges including: the benefits of higher education, choosing a university, navigating the UCAS application process, the Clearing and Adjustment process, interview tips and techniques, and student finance.

We also offer a presentation which provides an insight into the benefits of studying bilingually at higher education level.

The team also attends UCAS conventions, parents' evenings, careers events, and arranges school visits and taster days.

Over the last few years the team has spoken to thousands of students about the progression to higher education. Last year we also welcomed over 1,200 students to Aberystwyth to take part in the Taste of University Life scheme and the Welsh Baccalaureate Experience.

In addition to this, we support teachers and careers advisors by providing a guide to writing UCAS references. The team works closely with the University's academic departments who also provide subject specific support to schools and colleges.

What are the highs?

Our work is really varied. We especially enjoy getting out-and-about to engage with students, parents and teachers and to spread the word about the fantastic opportunities and student experience available in Aber.

What are the lows?

Trying to organise team meetings can be challenging as the whole team are rarely in the office at the same time.

Also, inevitably, with a job that involves lots of travel back and forth, it has been known for us to get stuck in the occasional traffic jam!

What's on the horizon for the Schools and Colleges Liaison Team?

Another busy year ahead! In addition to visits to schools and colleges, we're gearing up for this year's round of UCAS Exhibitions, planning a series of subject enrichment events throughout England and Wales, and we'll have schools visiting Aberystwyth as part of our Taste of University Life and Welsh Baccalaureate Experience events.



L to R: Dafydd Morse (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer) Cathy Piquemal (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer) David Moyle (Schools & Colleges Liaison Manager) Teleri Lewis (Schools & Colleges Liaison Projects Officer) Dewi Phillips (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer)

Other team member: Harriet Greatrex (Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer, South West England)

Schools and Colleges Liaison Team

www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/schools/

@Aber_Sch

Nine academics on AHRC Peer Review College

Nine academics from the University have been invited to serve on the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Peer Review College.

Members of the AHRC Peer Review College are experts drawn from academic and other organisations, covering the full range of arts and humanities research areas.

They provide expert quality reviews of proposals for funding, which inform the AHRC's decision making processes.

The nine Aberystwyth academics nominated to serve on the Peer Review College are from the Institute of Geography, History, Politics and Psychology and the Institute of Arts and Humanities:

- Dr Berit Bliesmann de Guevara (International Politics)
- Dr Jeff Bridoux (International Politics)
- Dr Cathryn Charnell-White (Welsh and Celtic Studies)



Six of the nine Aberystwyth academics elected to the AHRC Peer Review College. L to R: Dr Hywel Griffiths, Professor Peter Merriman, Dr Elin Royles, Professor Wini Davies, Dr Andrea Hammel, Dr Cathryn Charnell-White

- Professor Wini Davies (Modern Languages)
- Dr Hywel Griffiths (Geography and Earth Sciences)
- Dr Andrea Hammel (Modern Languages)
- Professor Peter Merriman (Geography and Earth Sciences)
- Dr Elizabeth New (History and Welsh History)
- Dr Elin Royles (International Politics)

As well as being nominated to serve on the Peer Review College, Dr Berit Bliesmann de Guevara and Professor Peter Merriman have been elected to the AHRC Peer Review College International Group.

International Reviewers are appointed to provide reviews of research proposals which are set within an international context.

The newly appointed members of the AHRC Peer Review College will serve for a three-year term until 31 December 2020.

Professor Colin McInnes appointed UK UNESCO Vice-Chair

Professor Colin McInnes, from the Department of International Politics, has been appointed Vice-Chair of the United Kingdom National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO.

The appointment was announced by the Secretary of State for International Development, Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, in December.



The UKNC is an independent civil society organisation which supports UNESCO's work in the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, and communication.

Professor McInnes said: "It is a great honour and privilege to be appointed to this position. UNESCO does not simply set global standards across education, the sciences, culture and

communication, promoting excellence and working to preserve what is best; its key mission is to promote peace in the minds of people everywhere.

"The National Commission works with the UK and devolved governments, and with UNESCO headquarters to promote these values locally and globally - from the Dyfi Biosphere and the collections in the National Library of Wales which form part of the Memory of the World programme, to global initiatives on education for sustainable development and managing social transformations."

Professor McInnes has served as a Non-Executive Director of the UKNC with special responsibility for the social and human sciences since 2014

Royal Society award for Mathematics Professor

Professor Gennady Mishuris, Professor of Mathematical Modelling in the Department of Mathematics, has been awarded the Royal Society's Wolfson Research Merit Award.

The award provides up to five years' funding to support cutting-edge research in the UK.

Originally from the Soviet Union and then Poland, Professor Mishuris has a PhD from Leningrad State University (now St Petersburg State University) and a Doctor of Science degree from Cracow University of Technology.

He joins a list of celebrated researchers who have been recognised by the Royal Society.

Professor Mishuris' most recent work has led to significant advances in the diagnosis of osteoarthritis - a condition that affects around a third of people aged 45 and over in the UK.

He has also made a significant breakthrough in the mathematical and numerical modelling of hydraulic fracture, which is the propagation of fluid-driven cracks in solid material.

As a result of this award, Professor Mishuris will now be working on analysis of dynamic fracture of metamaterials. These are complex structures that can be used to create cloaking devices or redirect waves of various nature and energy, and could potentially be applied to protect buildings from the effects of earthquakes.



Person Profile

Mohamed Cheggaf, who is originally from Morocco, works for Campus Services as a porter in the Hugh Owen Building.

What do you think of working at the University?

I love it! Everyone here is so friendly. It is such a nice place to work.

We understand you couldn't speak English or Welsh when you came here, and have learnt to speak both languages?

Yes - when I came to Wales from Morocco in 2006, I couldn't speak any English or Welsh.

Then I met my wife, who is a teacher at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth and a fluent Welsh speaker. I started to learn Welsh through speaking with her.

I am so happy to be able to speak Welsh and English fluently now. I am very comfortable speaking both languages



now, although sometimes I accidentally mix them up!

What other languages do you speak?

I speak Arabic, French and Arabic Berber. My mother is Berber and my father is Arabic. Some of the Berber language sounds similar to Welsh, with sounds like

'ch' - I think that is why it is easy for me to speak Welsh. Sometimes people even ask me if I'm half Welsh!

Do you speak Welsh at home?

Yes. My daughter aged six and son aged eight both go to Ysgol Gymraeg and are growing up speaking Welsh.

Do you use Welsh in work?

Yes, I sometimes speak Welsh with colleagues, especially staff from the Department of Welsh.

What is the next challenge for you?

Well, I have passed my driving test and have got British citizenship. Next, I'd love to go to a class to get my Welsh to a higher level, particularly my written Welsh.

Offers and discounts with the NUS Extra card

Did you know that staff, as well as students, are entitled to great discounts with the NUS Extra card?

The card costs just £12 for a year, and grants you access to hundreds of exclusive offers and discounts at popular retailers. Discounts include: 10% off at Co-op supermarkets, 25% off National Express and 10% off at Superdrug.

For full details of all the available savings visit the NUS website at www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/discounts.

You can visit the Students' Union to purchase a card from the reception desk, where your photo can be taken and your discount card printed out as you wait.

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing

Julie McKeown, the University's Acting Marketing Director, has been awarded a fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM). The CIM, which is the world's largest professional marketing body, awards professional recognition based on a combination of experience and/or qualifications. To be awarded a fellowship, an individual needs to have achieved the CIM's Professional Postgraduate Diploma, attained ten years senior strategic experience with at least five years at a director or professorial level, and have held Chartered Marketer status for five years.



Aber 10k race run in memory of Professor Mike Foley

A team from the Department of International Politics ran the Aberystwyth 10K race on 11 December 2016 in memory of former head of department Professor Mike Foley who died in August 2016.

Former colleagues, a student, an alumna and two of Professor Foley's children were

L to R Team members Huw Lewis, Elin Royles, Patrick Finney, Neil Glasser and Milja Kurki.



part of the nine-strong team who raised over £2,000 for leading blood cancer charity Bloodwise.

Professor Foley joined Aberystwyth University in 1974 as a lecturer in American Government and Politics, and served the University for over 40 years in a variety of capacities.

Obituaries

David Bryan James (1929-2016)

David Bryan James was a long serving member of teaching staff in the then Department of Agricultural Botany where his main academic interests focused on the influence of environmental factors on plant and crop growth.

In 1958 David married Eleanor M Jones, a native of Aberystwyth and alumna of the University. The late Dr Eleanor James became a distinguished mathematician who gave long service to the Department of Mathematics.

Rhiannon Hughes (1937-2016)

Rhiannon Hughes joined the then University College of Wales Aberystwyth in September 1953 as secretary to the University Librarian Mr Arthur ap Gwynn.

During her career she worked for two other University librarians, Dr Hywel D Emanuel and Mr William Dieneman, before joining Information Services in 1995, when she became secretary to the first Director of IS, Dr Mike Hopkins.

By the time she retired in April 2002, Rhiannon had served the University for 49 years.

Academic Promotions 2016

Congratulations to the following members of academic staff who have been promoted following the completion of the 2016 Academic Promotions process:

The following have been promoted to the post of Chair:



Professor Wini Davies,
Modern Languages, ILLCA



Professor Nigel Holt,
Psychology, IGHPP



Professor Alison
Kingston-Smith,
IBERS



Professor Andrew Thomas,
*Geography & Earth Sciences,
IGHPP*

The following have been promoted to the post of Reader:



Dr Hazel Davey,
IBERS



Dr Berit Bliesemann
De Guevara,
International Politics, IGHPP



Mrs Nerys Fuller-Love,
*Aberystwyth Business School,
IBL*



Dr Louise Marshall,
*English & Creative Writing,
ILLCA*



Dr Jamie Medhurst,
*Theatre, Film & Television
Studies, ILLCA*



Dr George Petropoulos,
*Geography & Earth Sciences,
IGHPP*



Dr Michael Rose,
IBERS



Dr John Scullion,
IBERS



Dr Kristan Stoddart,
International Politics, IGHPP



Dr Eryn White,
*History & Welsh History,
IGHPP*



Dr David Whitworth,
IBERS

The following have been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer:

Dr Maurice Bosch, *IBERS*

Dr T Robin Chapman, *Welsh & Celtic Studies, ILLCA*

Dr Andrew James Davies, *School of Education, IEGPD*

Dr Andrew Filmer, *Theatre, Film & Television Studies, ILLCA*

Dr Matthew Hegarty, *IBERS*

Dr Antonia Ivaldi, *Psychology, IGHPP*

Dr Tim Langdon, *IBERS*

Dr Sarah Lindop, *Aberystwyth Business School, IBL*

Dr Russ Mophew, *IBERS*

Dr Kyriaki Remounou, *Aberystwyth Business School, IBL*

Dr Olusanya Olaoluwa, *Aberystwyth Law School, IBL*

Dr Beth Rodgers, *English & Creative Writing, ILLCA*

Dr Elin Royle, *International Politics, IGHPP*

Dr Ifat Parveen Shah, *IBERS*

Dr Martin Swain, *IBERS*

Dr Christopher Webster, *School of Art, ILLCA*

Ms Sarah Wydall, *Aberystwyth Law School, IBL*

Appointments

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

ESTATES DEVELOPMENT



Andrea Pennock joined the University as Director of Estates Development, on 1 December. She was previously a Senior Category Lead at Crown Commercial Service, Cabinet Office, London, managing Facilities Management spend for Central Government. Prior to that she was head of Estates and Facilities Management at DVLA, responsible for a team of 90 in house staff as well a large team of contractors. In addition to doing Estates related jobs, she also has many years of experience in public sector procurement.



Andrew Thomas has been appointed Improvements Manager (Historical Buildings). Andrew graduated in 1993 with a degree in Building Management and Technology, and started his career working on many large scale construction projects. He then spent five years working in Facility Management on Ministry of Defence establishments, and thirteen years in the Grants department of Ceredigion County Council. He then worked for a local housing association until joining Estates Development in September.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



Lynn Green has joined the Student Support Service in the Welcome Centre as Mental Health/Wellbeing Practitioner. A registered social worker specialising in mental health, Lynn's recent posts include acute and enduring mental health (Assertive Outreach), a community mental health team and forensic Children & Adolescence Mental Health Services. Lynn also has experience of working with carers, young carers, youth offending and until recently as a part time youth worker in statutory youth services. Lynn also worked at the University of Warwick in research governance, ethics and research programmes and on a government inquiry into creativity and culture in education.

INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND RURAL SCIENCES



Dr Karen Cameron has joined IBERS as a postdoctoral research fellow under a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and Sêr Cymru II COFUND fellowship award. Her research will focus on the microbial ecology and albedo reduction of glacial surfaces. Karen previously worked at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Washington, Seattle.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES



Professor Karina Sand has joined the department as Sêr Cymru II Research Fellow. She has a PhD from the University of Copenhagen and has just returned to Europe after three years research in the USA. Her research interest includes formation

and growth of minerals in natural systems and in particular the processes and mechanisms occurring at the bio-mineral interface.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY



Dr Zhimin He has joined the department as a Lecturer. Zhimin was previously a post-doctoral researcher and research fellow at the University of Nottingham, the University of Warwick, and King's College London. Her research focuses on mHealth (mobile health) in mental health.



Dr Jiaqing O has recently joined the department as a Lecturer after a brief stint as a post-doctoral fellow in Evolutionary Psychology at the Singapore Management University. A graduate of the National University of Singapore, he obtained his PhD in Clinical Psychology (with a focus on Evolutionary Perspective) from the Australian National University in 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE



Dr David Hunter has joined as a Lecturer in Computer Science. He completed a PhD in Computer Science at the University of St Andrews. He has held a post-doctoral post in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience and was previously a lecturer at Edinburgh Napier University. His research interests include visual cognition and machine learning.



Raphael Braud joined the department in September as Post-Doctoral Research Associate on the MoDeL project, conducting research on developmental learning for humanoid robots through interactions with objects and tools. Raphael holds an MSc in Intelligent Systems and Robotics from the University of Cergy-Pontoise, France, and he is currently pursuing a PhD degree in Developmental Robotics on the modeling of cognitive mechanisms and sensorimotor approaches for both motor control and tool-use in infants, in the same institution.

ABERYSTWYTH LAW SCHOOL



Dr Lowri Cunnington Wynn has been appointed as the Welsh medium lecturer in Criminology at Aberystwyth Law School. She received a scholarship from the Welsh Language Board in 2008 to complete her PhD. She has worked primarily within the social research sector at Bangor University and the Welsh Language Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES



Dr Jennifer Wood has joined the department as Lecturer in Spanish. A graduate of Aberystwyth (BA, MA, PhD) she has taught at Maynooth University (NUIM) and the National University of Ireland, Galway. Her research focuses on 20th century Spanish Poetry, the Spanish avant-garde, Hispanic film, the Welsh Patagonian diaspora and the cultural legacies of the Falklands/Malvinas War. A further research interest is language teaching and learning.

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE



Steffan Jones-Hughes took up post of Visual Arts Manager (Curator) in November. Steffan has spent twelve years developing Wrexham's arts and cultural ecology, first at the Regional Print Centre and more recently at OW Oriol Wrexham. He has previously worked for many arts organisations

including Arts Council England, Tate, Whitworth, Oriol Davies, and at universities in Northern England. As an artist he has work in public and private collections and has exhibited nationally and internationally.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE PUBLISHER (CAA)



A new Marketing and Sales Officer, **Stephanie Harrand**, has been appointed at CAA (Cyhoeddwr Adnoddau Addysg/Educational Resource Publisher). Stephanie graduated with a First Class BA (Hons) degree from the Media, Culture and Journalism Department at the University of South

Wales, and worked as a Marketing Manager for a local company before joining CAA at the end of October 2016.

School of Art Exhibitions 6 March - 12 May, 2017

The School of Art Gallery is open Monday to Friday, 10am - 5pm. Admission is free. The Gallery is closed over Easter.

From the Life Room: Art School figure drawings and studies since 1800

For centuries, drawing the human form in the life room was regarded essential to an artist's professional training. Life drawing classes continue to play an important role in the instruction of artists at Aberystwyth. Drawing the figure is arguably the ultimate test of a student's powers of hand-eye coordination, manual dexterity and expression.

This exhibition of drawings and paintings taken largely from the School of Art Museum collection offers an insight into drawing practices in British art schools over the last two hundred years. Works by William Etty, Christopher Williams, Hugh Blaker, John Elwyn, John Minton and Keith Vaughan as well as Aberystwyth alumni will be shown alongside life room props and teaching aids: plaster casts of the antique statuary, a skeleton, anatomy manuals and mannequins.



Cutting Edge: British Artists and the New Printmaking, 1960s to 1980s

This exhibition surveys the cutting edge of British printmaking from the 1960s to the early 1980s. It has been chosen chiefly from the Aberystwyth University School of Art Collection that benefitted from a gift of prints from the Arts Council of Wales in 2002.

In the 1960s, British artists broke away from traditional making techniques, not only in painting and sculpture but also in printmaking. Printmaking had enjoyed a revival in the first decades of the twentieth century with an emphasis on etching that required highly accomplished figure or landscape drawing as well as expertise in the craft elements of printmaking.

In the 1960s British artists began to use screen-printing which suited both Hard-edged Abstractionist and Pop Art imagery, inspired by the example of American artists working in New York earlier in the decade. Op Art, with its use of stripes and dots, also gained much from the clean-cut, industrial nature of silkscreen printing. At the same time, new experiments in lithography and combinations of techniques, often employing photographs and collage, meant that British printmaking became a vibrant and exciting form.

The exhibition includes work by Geoffrey Steele, Ian Hamilton Finlay, William Scott, John Piper and Bridget Riley.



Derrick Greaves, *Abstract Painting with Fruit*, 1979 (Screenprint).

Early 20th Century life drawing by Hugh Blaker, artist, dealer and advisor to the Davies sisters of Gregynog

Aberystwyth Arts Centre



The Colors of the Mountain, part of the WOW Film Festival

People's Stories

This spring and summer Aberystwyth Arts Centre is presenting its People's Stories season.

A range of work has been chosen that look at and celebrate many different personal stories including *Every Brilliant Thing*, a surprisingly upbeat show about families and depression - a huge hit at the Edinburgh Festival, George Monbiot's evening of songs and discussion about being lonely, and *Meet Fred*, a sharp and hilarious Edinburgh Festival sell out show about a two foot tall cloth puppet that fights prejudice every day.



F.E.A.R Mr Clark, Wednesday 8 March

Alongside this there is the major exhibition *Stitched Voices* showing textiles produced through conflict and for peace, and in the Cinema the WOW Film Festival showcases stories of personal resistance across the world.

From the lives of those overcoming conflict to heart-warming stories of everyday life there's plenty in People's Stories to make us think, laugh and cry.

Exhibitions

Pumed Gainc / A Fifth Branch: Tales from the lost book of Wales until 18 March, Gallery 2

Pumed Gainc (A Fifth Branch) is a specially commissioned exhibition of Ceredigion illustrators' art inspired by contemporary themes explored in *Y Prosiect Mabinogi Project* in 2015.

Delving into the dark secrets within the lost folk tales of Wales, there will be stories of transformation into swans, the forced migrations of people, the botany of beauty, abusive men and powerful women, conjuring and witchery, potions and cauldrons, using map-making, layered books, tapestries, crankies, objects, animation, film, projected live drawing, storytelling and painting.

During the weekend of 9-12 March, the exhibition will be central to Aberystwyth Storytelling Festival - a weekend of tales, films, exhibitions, talks, and music - when stories will told in the exhibition space, and the illustrators will create further exhibitions from live drawing and projections.

Valérieane Leblond, *Y Neges*, gouache and watercolours on fabriano paper



Car Park, Barbara Howey

Edgelands

until 18 March, Gallery 1

Edgelands presents the work of six visual artists who explore and document the wastelands and the neglected environs to be found on the margins of urban living. Housing estates, out of town retail parks and industrial areas, these spaces are the great 'unnamed and ignored landscapes...places where our slipstream has created a zone of inattention'* and yet where all manner of interest and beauty thrive. The work presented here explores these forgotten corners of our landscape through painting, dance music and spoken word.

* Paul Farley and Michael Symmons-Roberts, co-authors on the book *Edgelands*.

Make sure you pick up the Arts Centre spring brochure. The brochure is also available on the website:

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk

