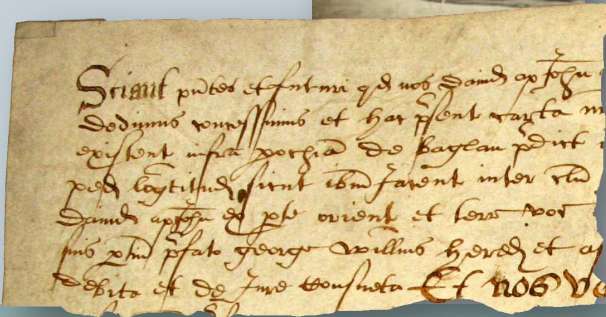


# *Glamorgan Archives*



*DISCOVERING THE PAST*



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# ***Introduction***

Glamorgan Archives' first Annual Report was sufficiently well received to encourage us in producing a successor. Last year's report brought visits from, among others, the Leader and Chief Executive of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and the Lord Mayor and Chief Executive of Cardiff Council. I hope the current publication will be of interest to newly appointed members in our funding authorities and give current users of our public services a broader picture of our aspirations and achievements.

The activities described below cover the period 1 March 2011 to 29 February 2012, our reporting year to the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee. Although budgets remain relatively buoyant the year has been challenging, not least as the results of Cardiff Council's review of staff salaries will potentially see 80% of Archive staff on reduced incomes. The appeals process has been time-consuming, but services have not, so far, been restricted.

If this report has a theme it is inclusion and what we are doing to promote skills and encourage aspirations among all our local communities. Flexibility and innovation are essential in achieving these aims and all are core values of the service. The report demonstrates Glamorgan Archives' contribution to the Welsh Government's stated aims for the culture and Heritage of Wales: maximise participation, widen access, target in particular low income families and children, and promote the Welsh language.

# ***Skills***

Glamorgan Archives took part in the pilot year of the Welsh Government's Strategic Leadership Award which will recognise organisations demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities. It has proved to be a valuable undertaking after so many years spent focussed on the new building. Although plans were in place for activities after the move it has been useful to test them against current priorities both locally and in the wider world, and to check that resources are available to pursue identified goals.

Training has been identified as key to the future. Staff should be fully trained to deliver services and we now have the capacity to become a regional hub for development in the sector. Interestingly, the rooms available for hire to outside bodies is furthering this aspiration as they are increasingly being booked for training sessions by public sector organisations appreciative of our excellent facilities and competitive prices.

Archive staff have contributed to the steering group developing a Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales to help learners gain qualifications at their own pace and in their own workplace along flexible routes. Workshops promoting the framework were held at Glamorgan Archives by NIACE Dysgu Cymru (the Welsh arm of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education). NIACE advocates on behalf of adult learners and providers, with a particular focus on those who are least skilled, most disadvantaged and whose motivation, economic and social circumstances present barriers to engaging in learning. The Quality Assured Lifelong Learning will be used to recognise skills progression in both volunteers and staff.

# *Volunteering at Glamorgan Archives*

Volunteers continue to be encouraged here. The higher public profile resulting from the new building has seen applications increase from all types of volunteers. In response, a more formal programme has been developed. An Induction Handbook provides an introduction to the Archives, health and safety and procedural information, the Volunteer Policy has been revised and there is also an application form; all available on the Office website.



Students considering archives as a future career join a structured two week programme. Time is spent in each area of the office followed by a week cataloguing. Their feedback helps to evaluate the continuing programme and they are welcome to return to join a longer term volunteer project.

The archivist in charge of the volunteer programme completed a project management course at Cardiff University. She represents Wales on the Public Services Quality Group (PSQG) Sub-Committee on Volunteering. PSQG is an informal network for archivists interested in best practice and quality issues. The aim of the sub-committee is to drive improvements in volunteering practice within the archive sector; to increase the number and range of volunteering opportunities and ensure the contribution and impact of volunteering is evaluated and celebrated. Other ways to market the volunteer programme are being explored. We have registered with Go Wales, a recruitment agency which specialises in finding employment opportunities for students and recent graduates, as a provider of work tasters: short, flexible, unpaid periods of work experience designed to help undergraduates gain an insight into a particular business sector or career. We have also registered with Job Centre Plus for a new work experience scheme which helps to cover the cost of travel during a placement. Placements have been sourced through both agencies.



Statistics for the year are:

- Total number of volunteers: 37
- Hours contributed: 2,478
- School work experience placements: 11

School students have come from Llanishen High, Radyr Comprehensive, Cowbridge Comprehensive, Brynteg Comprehensive, Bridgend, and from Bristol.



Volunteers have contributed to:

- Cleaning and repackaging Cardiff Crew Agreements (DCA)
- Cataloguing the local studies library and pamphlet collection into CALM.
- Scanning glass slides and attaching to the electronic catalogue.
- Cleaning and cataloguing building plans from Penybont council (UDBR).
- Database of over 850 Glamorgan Constabulary personal files
- Inputting and editing catalogues on the CALM electronic catalogue.

Feedback from volunteers on the improvements has been encouraging:

*'May I say how professionally my work experience placement was organised, how interesting the experience has been and how friendly and helpful you and your colleagues are...having completed this placement I am now much clearer as to exactly where my interests lie.'*

# *Staff Development*

It is easy to become complacent in a brand new building so it has been important to remind staff that we can still learn from other places. Instructional visits have been made to The National Archives at Kew, the recently opened Gwent Archives in Ebbw Vale, and to Cardiff Central Library. Both professional and operational staff are included in these visits and arrangements are made for them to spend time in areas relating to their own work.

Archivists have attended seminars on the use of images and on uploading catalogues to the Archives Hub, a website hosting catalogues from over 200 repositories in Britain; it is funded by JISC and is particularly used by researchers in the Higher Education sector. They have received training in digital preservation, external funding for archive services, and the use of a recently developed Economic Impact Assessment Toolkit which identifies how much money heritage organisations draw into the local economy in relation to their cost. Members of the Conservation Team have attended seminars on environmental control and on the methodologies of collections care. They have been instructed on the use of the CALM conservation module and on specific aspects of bench work and have instructed colleagues in document handling, and assessment of conservation needs. Members of the Access Team have attended courses on Community Engagement and Cultural Awareness, delivered by Race Equality First. They have been trained in the use of the interactive whiteboard purchased to improve our service to schools. Administrative staff have undertaken a variety of web training to help us promote the service externally. As they now field all telephone enquiries they have been given additional training to help them answer frequent requests and to search the electronic catalogue.

Anyone planning a visit to the building will be pleased to know that emergency evacuation procedures have been finalised and all staff fully trained, including in the operation of evacuation chairs for the staircases. And 5 members of staff have qualified as first aiders.

# ***Community Engagement***

We have been fortunate in the partnership opportunities available to us this year which have helped to show the uses and benefits of documentary sources to people beyond our regular users. Through these projects we are working, with colleagues in several sectors, to prepare unemployed young men from disadvantaged areas for jobs in heritage institutions, to encourage people excluded from society to explore the background to their treatment, and to introduce two generations of immigrant communities to each other and to the rich multi-ethnic history of their city. These partnerships have been very successful and will be continued and developed in the future.

## **Conserving Local Communities Heritage (CLOCH)**

CLOCH is a Heritage Lottery funded project, part of the “Skills for the Future” programme. The project is providing ten bursaries for local unemployed young men under 30 to gain skills, experience and accredited learning in the heritage sector. Project staff are based in the Archives and the trainees spend their first 3 months here in basic training followed by placements in a range of institutions across south Wales. The first cohort moved into placements in Swansea, Cwmbran and Tredegar in April after an induction period in which they attended two events at the Senedd and demonstrated their work to Archive visitors including the Minister for Heritage and the Ukrainian Ambassador.



## Ely Hospital

Cardiff People First's Ely Hospital project lets people with learning disabilities tell their stories of life in the hospital. Former staff, relatives and friends add their memories, and hospital records held at the Archives provide the historical background. Project group meetings were hosted here and members carried out research for an exhibition at the Cardiff Story. Staff assisted at the launch and several deposits relating to the hospital have been received from people who visited the exhibition.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_Mlc-V95CQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_Mlc-V95CQ)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMrUK-IFH-g&feature=plcp>



## Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered

The Wales LGBT Excellence Centre, based in Cardiff, invited the archives onto the steering group for their HLF project to collect oral histories of the community throughout Wales. The project expanded to include a timeline for their website and research into relevant documentary sources. Archive staff attended the launch of LGBT History Month at the Senedd, contributed to an international conference organised by the Excellence Centre and a Talking Heads event at the Cardiff Story, and attended training in discovering and promoting the hidden history of LGBT people. An interview with the Glamorgan Archivist can be seen at : <http://lgbtec.org.uk/video/susan-edwards-lgbt-history-month-cymru-wmp-wmv>



## Parliamentary Archives

The project *Time and Tide: Cardiff, People and Parliament* with the Parliamentary Archives demonstrated the impact of decisions by parliament on local communities. Our case study was the development of the docks, explored across the generations with year 5 students from Mount Stuart Primary School and members of Grangetown Local History Society.

The school students spent a day at the Archives. After a tour of the building, a quiz, a picnic lunch and some running about on the grass they looked at original records of the Docks area of the city, locating familiar sites on the maps. From census returns they tracked residents' nationalities on inflatable globes, and demonstrated their own families' origins in comparison. Staff led the pupils on a walking tour of Cardiff Bay to look at buildings and how they had changed, using copies of photographs to compare. Back in the classroom they produced art work for an exhibition at the Wales Millennium Centre which also featured the work of the Grangetown Local History Society.





Members of the Society, most of whom had never been in a record office before, carried out research on four individuals who had given evidence to parliamentary committees during the passage of legislation sponsored by the Marquess of Bute to develop the docks in Cardiff in 1830 and 1866. Both groups were taken to London at the end of the project for a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a visit to the archives there.



All the activities with Mount Stuart Primary School and Grangetown Local History Society were filmed by students from the School of Creative and Cultural Industries at the University of Glamorgan. Two short films were produced which can be seen on the Parliamentary Archives website, were shown at the exhibition and are now available to view on You Tube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agNgGldEC-A>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctjVO6NkogI>

Linked to the project was a series of summer lectures given by Parliamentary Archives staff at Glamorgan Archives. Subjects ranged from 'Sources for Local and Family History at the Parliamentary Archives', 'to 'The Great Fire of Westminster 1834'. The lectures were popular (complimentary Welsh cakes and coffee may have been a factor) and have encouraged us to plan similar events this year.



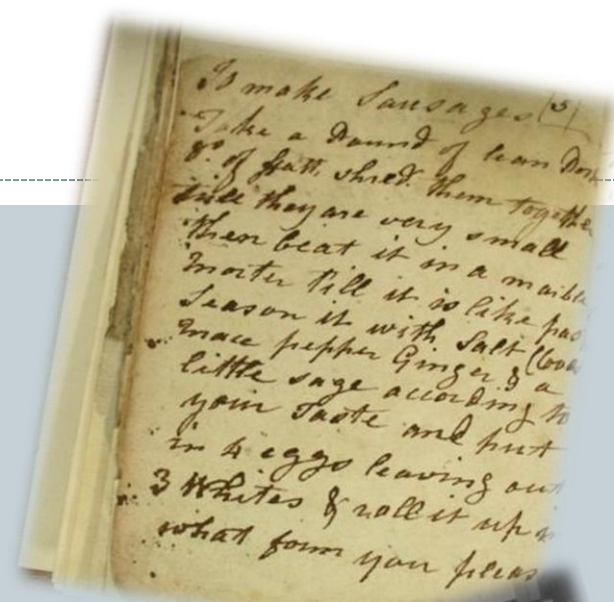
A series of five public workshops took place during the autumn. The workshops, which last two hours, covered essential introductions to using archives: Getting Started at Glamorgan Archives; Family History on the Internet; Reading Old Handwriting; Looking after the Past, and Maps and Plans. The series proved very popular with most sessions being oversubscribed and will become a regular feature.

Cardiff's Open Doors event in September was used to publicise the new building to a wider audience. Saturday tours were offered and the building was staffed until 4pm. The event proved surprisingly popular, especially as it clashed with a Cardiff City home match.

# Publicity

To promote services, opportunities for radio and television publicity are embraced. Staff have contributed to radio debates on Wikipedia, house history and the 2011 census and provided Radio Cardiff listeners with historic recipes for national sausage week. Word that the Archives has capacity to film and record on site has also spread. During the year staff have appeared on BBC Wales and S4C talking about documents relating to women's history (for the centenary of International Women's Day), Greenham Common (for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the march on the base), national identity in the Senghenydd and Abertridwr areas, and the Bleddyn Williams collection (to tie in with the rugby world cup).

Staff were quoted in a Wales on Sunday article on the Edwards Millions following the announcement of a new feature film based on the story. Documents were filmed in the searchroom for commemorative programmes on the Swansea blitz, the General Strike, Scott's expedition to the Antarctic, and shopping arcades. A recent BBC series, Mixed Britannia, made use of research carried out in Glamorgan Archives. Kenfig Borough Ordinances were made available to Channel 4's Time Team on location and under close supervision.



All programmes acknowledge the Archives, usually display documents used on their websites for a period afterwards and generate enquiries, and occasionally deposits, from people who have seen them. The building has also been used to film a scene for an episode of the popular drama series, Being Human. This is unlikely to produce any increase in usage but has entertained the staff.

Interest in John Hughes and Hughesovka continues. Four researchers from Ukraine visited in July to consult the Hughesovka Research Archive as part of a local history project. They filmed an interview with the Glamorgan Archivist on the Office's involvement in the Hughes story. While they were here a descendent of one of the Welsh workers came to carry out research and deposit a photograph of his grandfather's gravestone. The Hughes memorial in Norwood cemetery has been restored; the Glamorgan Archivist has been consulted and enabled contact between the Friends of the cemetery and the Hughes family. She has also assisted a photographer who intends to visit Donetsk to capture images of remaining Welsh influence and has put him in contact with, among others, the Ukrainian visitors.

Glamorgan Archives now has a presence on social networking sites Twitter (@GlamArchives) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/glamarchives](http://www.facebook.com/glamarchives)).



Regular news updates are posted to the sites and have been picked up by Guardian Cardiff, S4C's Newyddion programme and Wales Online.



# ***The Collection***

A total of 179 new accessions were received this year. An assessment of accrual rates confirms that the 25 year expansion built into the repository space is currently accurate. Full details of accessions received are listed in the Quarterly Reports of the Glamorgan Archivist available on Cardiff County Council's website. <http://bit.ly/IUwDtI>

An interesting range of deposits continues to be received. The examples given below are illustrative of the records of individuals and communities which we are glad to preserve.

## **Papers of Terence O'Neill of Cardiff, Plaid Cymru Activist (D779)**

Terence H O'Neill lived in Rumney and was active in Plaid Cymru from the late 1960s until his death in 2010. He worked throughout Cardiff but particularly in Llanrumney and Cathays, Cardiff Central constituency, and also in Porth. He was a regular council candidate or agent, and also worked for Owen John Thomas, AM for Wales South Central (1999-2007). The papers contain newscuttings, branch minutes, leaflets and campaign papers.

## **Caerphilly District Miners' Hospital Records (D824)**

The hospital opened in 1923 at a cost of £30,000 which was found by local miners each contributing 6d a week from their wages. The wards were named after local pits and provided services for the 24,000 miners in the Rhymney valley and their families. The collection includes minute books of the Board of Management, 1929-1948, and of the Rhymney Valley District Medical Committee, 1974-1983, as well as reports and accounts.

## Evacuees' letters (D828)

A former teacher at Trealaw Primary School presented two boxes of letters written in response to an appeal from class 6 of the school which was printed in the Daily Mirror in June 1989. The letters describe the experience of people who had been evacuated as children during World War II, mostly to the Rhondda. As a result of the appeal a reunion of evacuees was held in the area in September 1989, and the event was filmed for a news item by Thames Television, as many of the evacuees were from the south-east of England; a DVD of the film is included in the deposit.

## Arthur Morgan Davies of Cardiff, Merchant Seaman, Papers (D775)

Arthur Morgan Davies lived in Birchgrove, Cardiff and studied at Cardiff Technical College before joining the Merchant Navy in 1927, serving on several different ships. During the war he served on SS Margot and was involved in taking troops to Norway, among other operations. He died on 10 April 1942 when his ship was sunk by a U-boat east of Philadelphia, with the loss of all on board. Records consist of Student notebooks, 1920s; seaman's notes and reference books, 1930s; correspondence, telegrams and photographs, 1935-1949; discharge certificate, 1927-1942; Merchant Navy Journal, 1941-1944; letter from King, c1945; scroll, 1948; papers relating to MN Memorial at Tower Hill, 1955; news cuttings, 1941-1991; research papers, 2011.



**Remy Lloyd-Jones of Cowbridge, photographic collection (D785)**

Remy Lloyd-Jones is an amateur photographer and resident of Cowbridge. The collection contains photographs of Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Glamorgan valleys, organised into 7 volumes with additional loose photographs.

**Axis Historical Society, Barry (D802)**

Axis Historical Society, Barry, was established with charitable status in 1993 and obtained National Lottery grants to establish a collection of historical items which became the basis of regular one-day exhibitions which it organised. Records relate to various organisations, individuals and events in Barry, including: East End Progressive Labour Club, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club, Barry Harriers Club, Barry Choral Society Programmes, theatre posters, newspaper cuttings etc. There is also some audio-visual material.

**Danescourt Residents Association (D823)**

The Danescourt Residents' Association was formed in the 1980s with the specific aim of protecting the interests of the residents of Danescourt. Since its formation it has spoken on behalf of the residents and has been active in defending and developing the amenities and services in Danescourt. Records consist of committee minutes, correspondence, accounts, newsletters, plans and posters, 1987-2003.

## Cardiff Residents against the Barrage Papers (D350)

This group campaigned against the barrage across the mouth of the Taff and Ely rivers. The deposit consists of minutes, 1989-2001, newscuttings, official reports, surveys, photographs, plans and Parliamentary Bill papers; also minutes of Canton Residents Against the Barrage, 1989-1991.

FORM A. OVERCROWDING SURVEY.-PRELIMINARY ENUMERATION. REF. No. *488*

(1). ADDRESS OR SITUATION OF PREMISES *14 Harris Place Merthyr Tydfil*

(2). NAME OF OCCUPIER *Mary Ann Bunce* NO. IN RATE BOOK

(3). DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY *Two storied house*

NAMES OF TENANTS AND SUB-TENANTS 4	NUMBER OF HABITABLE ROOMS 5	NUMBER OF PERSONS NORMALLY SLEEPING THEREIN 6		EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF PERSONS SLEEPING IN THE DWELLING 7(a)	PERMITTED NUMBER 7(b)		WHETHER OVER-CROWDED 7(c)
		10 OR OVER	UNDER 10		ACTUAL	REDUCED	
<i>Mary Ann Bunce 51</i>	<i>Widow 1K</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>4 1/2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2 1/2</i>	<i>+</i>
<i>Agnes Bunce 24</i>	<i>D 1B</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>William Frederick Bunce 16</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>Margaret Bunce 14</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>Margaret Bunce 3</i>	<i>Grand D</i>		<i>1</i>				

FORM A. OVERCROWDING SURVEY.-PRELIMINARY ENUMERATION. REF. No. *489*

(1). ADDRESS OR SITUATION OF PREMISES *46 Tramroadside Merthyr Tydfil*

(2). NAME OF OCCUPIER *William Rafferty* NO. IN RATE BOOK

(3). DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY *Two storied house*

NAMES OF TENANTS AND SUB-TENANTS 4	NUMBER OF HABITABLE ROOMS 5	NUMBER OF PERSONS NORMALLY SLEEPING THEREIN 6		EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF PERSONS SLEEPING IN THE DWELLING 7(a)	PERMITTED NUMBER 7(b)		WHETHER OVER-CROWDED 7(c)
		10 OR OVER	UNDER 10		ACTUAL	REDUCED	
<i>William Rafferty 48</i>	<i>H 1K</i>	<i>1</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>++</i>
<i>Ethel Ann Rafferty 49</i>	<i>W 1L</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>Rose Mary Rafferty 15</i>	<i>D 1B</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>Ethel Anne Rafferty 13</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>Margaret Clydell Rafferty 11</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>Bonny Dorothy Rafferty 9</i>	<i>D</i>		<i>1</i>				
<i>Burton Rafferty 8</i>	<i>D</i>		<i>1</i>				

ENUMERATOR *Richard Handley* DATE *20 January 1936*

## Merthyr Tydfil Overcrowding Survey 1936 (BMT/M)

Detailed information sheets for an overcrowding survey made under the Housing Act 1935. The survey recorded the occupiers and owners of properties, the number of persons sleeping in rooms, number of families in a house, number of habitable rooms, descriptions and sizes of rooms, number of permitted habitants and whether the house was overcrowded.

# *Cataloguing*

In a joint project with the Archive Administration post-graduate course at Aberystwyth University, the records of Bethania Welsh Baptist Chapel, Maesteg, were catalogued by students to item level, following Glamorgan Archives' guidelines and other appropriate standards. The students also wrote a report and gave presentations assessing the work they had done. Planning for the receipt of and access to electronically generated records is an all-Wales project in which we are assisting through staff contribution to the Digital Preservation Consortium. In this way archive staff are gaining skills and the service is developing its capacity to preserve appropriately the records of the future.

The electronic catalogue (CALM) has been updated and CALM is currently available on Cardiff County Council's intranet, via the Glamorgan Archives website, in Cardiff libraries and civic offices.

With the help of volunteers it has been possible to digitise family trees, and printed articles, and link them to the database. They have also attached images of documents where they exist, making the catalogue more complete and more interesting in the process. Volunteers also bring knowledge and skills which staff lack to the Collection. Our reference library has been added to CALM in the course of the year with the help of qualified librarian volunteers. Others have been able to identify individuals in photographs and helped to arrange organisational archives of which they have been a part. Both the Scout records and the Bleddyn Williams papers have benefitted from such attention.

# Conservation

Conservation staff have treated the equivalent of 477 boxes of loose papers, 1,090 volumes, 172 maps and 495 photographs. Some of the more interesting examples of individual treatments are described below.

Building regulation plans for Rhymney Valley District Council were transferred from poor storage conditions and were cleaned and reboxed before shelving in the strongrooms.



A plan of Aberdare was received which was prepared for the parliamentary session 1905 and shows proposed tramways and existing railways. Transferred from Aberdare Library this map comprises 17 whole or part OS maps joined together. It was nailed to a wooden hanger and is, at 3.10 by 2 metres, one of the largest items yet to be treated in Conservation. (D386/70-71)

More images showing the work undertaken, and the final result can be found at <http://bit.ly/HAl6Y>



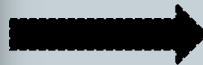
The estate and family papers of the Mathew family, which was connected with the Caribbean region, the sugar trade and slavery, have been held for many years. Essential conservation work on the papers has not been possible before. The plantation plan in particular has responded to treatment. (DMW)

Work to consolidate the Bruce family scrap book, which includes references to the previous London Olympic Games, has continued.

Conservation expertise is available to external bodies and individuals. One piece of work for Cardiff University was the restoration of lithographs from a rare volume of the Jungle book.



The Conservation Team is also responsible for behind the scenes work on monitoring the storage environment, cleaning and packaging, and checking that the Collection is appropriately shelved and located. Team members bar code packaging to ensure the accuracy of the location database, without which documents are effectively lost. This year they have been working hard to introduce improvements to monitoring systems, reporting and managing work processes, including developing a CALM module, linking preservation notes on individual items to the electronic catalogue. All of this is a lot less glamorous than the detailed bench work but equally vital to the survival of the records.



## **Skills sharing**

At the annual Conservation Matters Wales conference the Deputy Glamorgan Archivist demonstrated the improvements in collections care enabled by new working practices in the custom built office. The Conservator held a public workshop at which he explained how best to look after records and when to seek professional advice and assistance.

Conservation staff are working with colleagues in National Museum Wales to share skills and good practice through a series of exchanges and visits. Cardiff Central Library has been assisted in the completion of a Preservation Assessment Survey of their important manuscript collection. Guidelines on conservation advice and document handling were supplied to the Wales LGBT Excellence Centre for the heritage section of their website.



# *Searchroom and Enquiries*

**Visitors:** 6247

**In groups:** 2102

**Groups:** 143

**Enquiries:** 3985

**Web hits:** 10,409



Use of the Office by individuals has been steady, just topping 4,000 visits during the year. The number of remote enquiries is keeping pace while group use continues to rise; over 2,000 people visited as members of a group.

To ensure equal treatment for all remote enquirers an automated telephone system has been introduced. Calls to the main office number are now taken through a bi-lingual system which gives details of opening hours, email and web address and options for direct contact for depositors and conservation enquirers. If callers wish to hold they are transferred to administrative staff who, if unable to answer the enquiry, enter the message into the remote enquiry system for staff on the Access team to address. When calls cannot be taken callers are transferred to a voice mail which flags as an email file on the office system. Time spent answering basic enquiries on the telephone have been much reduced as many enquirers are able to find answers on the website or email their questions. The system is still under review and refinements will be added.

On any given day the Access team field an enormous range of enquiries. Academic researchers have explored, *inter alia*, women's fashion, Penarth pier, the electrification of Cardiff, John Wesley, health in 19<sup>th</sup> century rural Glamorgan, capital punishment, post- industrial contaminated land and regeneration, the contribution of Jewish refugees to the post-war British economy, double entry book keeping in the Dowlais Iron Company and the lives of women in Wales before 1550. The official historian of the Joint Intelligence Committee consulted the catalogue of a local MP's papers; television companies requested information on the industrialisation of Merthyr Tydfil and access to police records for a drama documentary set in 1930's Butetown. Authors and webmasters have investigated Islam in Britain, Corgi's production of the Batmobile model car, local parks, Sisley's sojourn in the area, and Guy Gibson of Dam Busters' fame. Among the more unusual requests have been verifying native Welsh flora for someone creating a Welsh fruit and vegetable garden and a UFO sighting on Caerphilly Mountain in May 1909, while our most unusual searcher award may have to go to the police historian in authentic historical uniform.



Family history is a majority interest but is rarely straight-forward. Ancestors have included the first paid midwife in the Rhondda and freemen in Llantrisant. Inquest records have been trawled for accidental deaths, suicides and murder victims. One particularly satisfying enquiry resulted in a family reunion:

*'My Dad and his Sister have now spoken and I will be taking him to Wales to meet up next weekend! They are both so delighted to be in touch again after nearly 50 years. Thank you again for taking the trouble to research this information for me'.*

# *Education*

## **Schools**

Visits from primary schools have continued successfully with the year seeing us welcoming a dozen classes from:

**Caerphilly:** Hengoed

**Cardiff:** Ninian Park (2), Kitchener (2), Mount Stuart (5).

**Rhondda Cynon Taf:** Cwmclydach, Tonypandy.

The continued engagement of schools in Cardiff's southern arc of deprivation has been a direct consequence of the partnership project with the Parliamentary Archives and is particularly pleasing. We are working to enable increased access from schools outside the city. We are also able to deliver services to schools through the medium of Welsh.

For students at Key Stage 2 a workshop on the theme of the Victorians has been developed contrasting the lives of the rich and the poor, from the Marquess of Bute in Cardiff Castle with his 70 servants, to families living with outside toilets and children working at fourteen. Children loved comparing their more relaxed school rules and dress codes with the Victorian versions and enthusiastically followed instructions for school drill. Sessions are tailored for individual schools using basic resources such as maps, census returns and photographs. The CLOCH trainees have digitised these resources for use with the interactive whiteboard, and an additional workshop on the Second World War has been produced.

The whiteboard allows staff to highlight words, phrases, and even large chunks of text from documents, helps the children focus on the issues under discussion and maximises the benefits of a session. The children still get the opportunity to view and handle original documents as this helps them to connect with the past in a more immediate way.

For secondary school students we host World of Work visits organised by Careers Wales' Education Business Partnership. Year 9 students are given a tour of the building, completing a work booklet as they proceed which explores the careers available in the domain and the skills required. As EBP operates in the former Mid Glamorgan area all visits this year were from schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council:

Blaengwawr Comprehensive (2 groups)

Hawthorn High

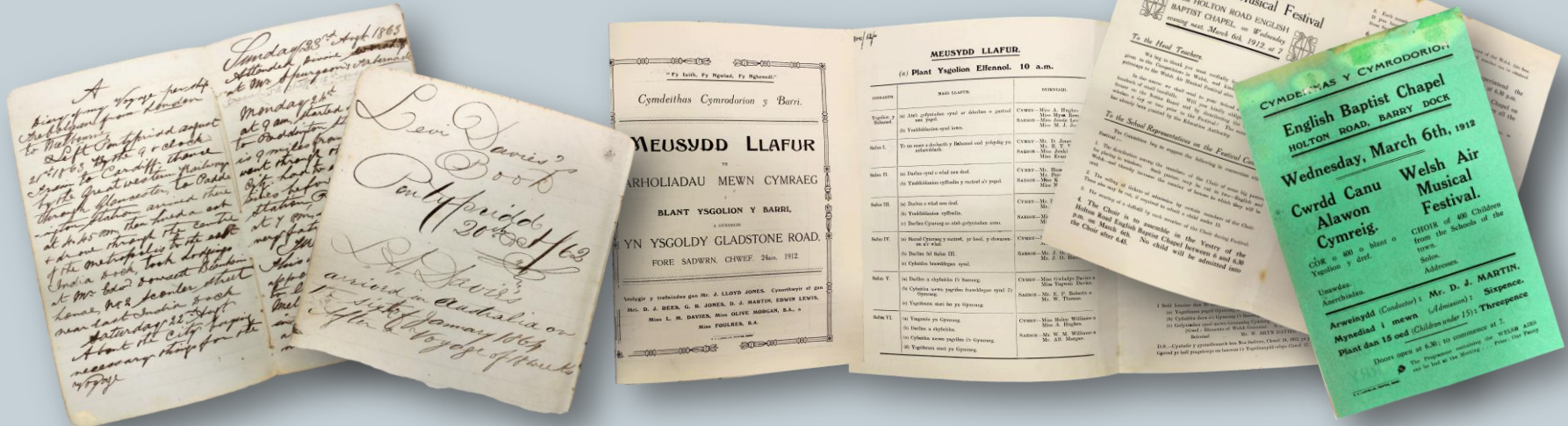
Treorchy Comprehensive

This fruitful partnership will be continued in future years. Transport costs have proved to be a barrier to some schools participation, particularly those at a greater distance. To overcome this we made a successful application to CyMAL (the Welsh Government body for archives, museums and libraries) for a small grant. Schools can apply for a contribution to their coach hire which we hope will encourage visits from our entire catchment area.



## Higher Education

A workshop for postgraduates at Cardiff University demonstrated how to get the most out of a visit. Staff from the University's History department held another session on uncovering the patient's voice in records of psychiatric institutions. MA Students in Medieval History at Cardiff University consulted medieval manuscripts from the Cardiff Library collection, during their visit while a similar event was provided for history undergraduates from UWIC. Services to higher education are, however, breaking free of the history departments.

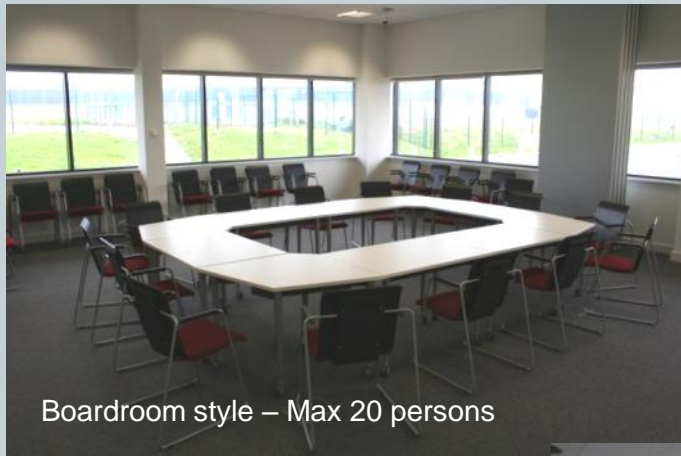


A workshop for artists attended by students from UWIC used documents chosen for their visual impact to spark the students' imaginations for future art projects. Students on UWIC's creative writing MA course saw documents which might inspire stories and poetry. Students at the Welsh School of Architecture were assisted in their current research project 'Urban Conditions' focusing on the potential redevelopment of Pontypridd and Welsh language tours and document displays have been provided for students of Cardiff University's Department of Welsh.

The First Friday Group for research students has been revived and plans are afoot for a programme of events of benefit and interest to the members.

Looking for somewhere to hold your meeting, seminar or training session.. then look no further...Glamorgan Archives has a room to hire.

Hire includes use of interactive whiteboard, Wi Fi . AC. Interchangeable furniture. Hearing loop. Free car park. Catering arranged.



Boardroom style – Max 20 persons

### Room Hire Charges

Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm:

Full day £90

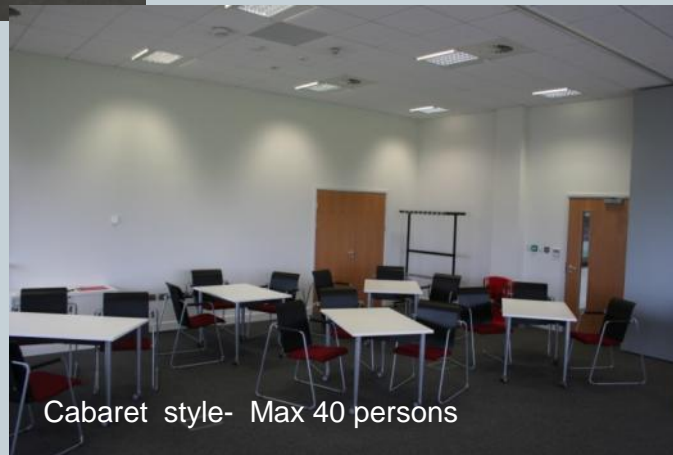
Half-day £50

Hourly charge £15 per hour

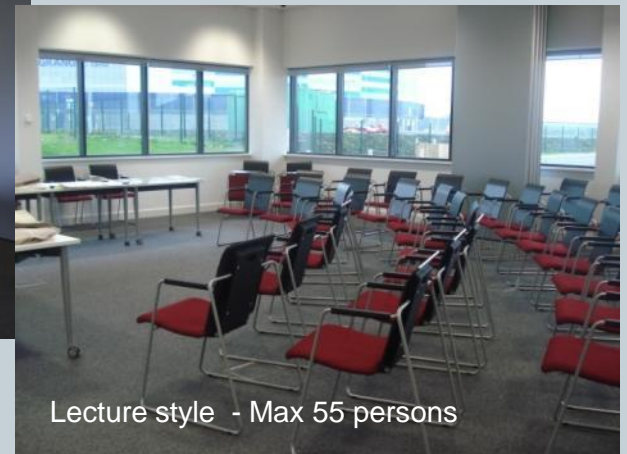
For more information on weekend and out of hours prices please contact us.



Seatables - Max 30



Cabaret style- Max 40 persons

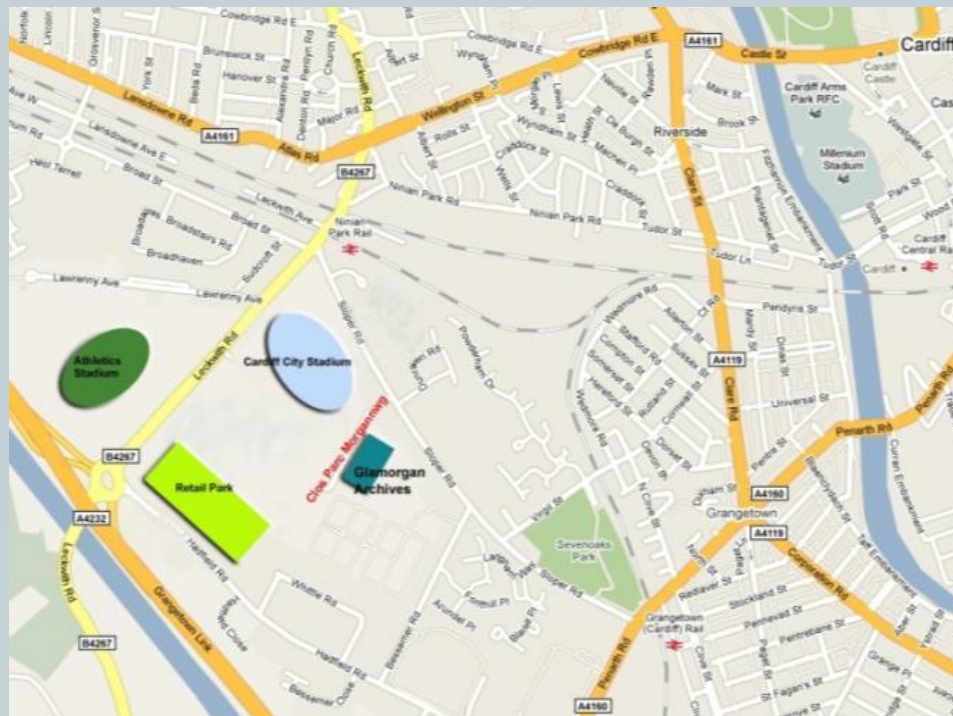


Lecture style - Max 55 persons



*S Edwards*

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