

Glamorgan Archives



DISCOVERING THE PAST



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Introduction

Welcome to Glamorgan Archives' 4th Annual Report describing activities during the period from
1 March 2013 to 28 February 2014.

In common with all local authority archive services our function is to collect, preserve and make accessible historic documents relating to the areas of our funding authorities. Technological advancements both assist us in disseminating information and confound us with challenges for sustainability and new skills but the basics stay the same. The impact of economic and social change manifests in additions to accessions from constricting public institutions, reduced budgets and an increased and welcome requirement to demonstrate our contribution to society. As a joint service to six local authorities we work to the Welsh Government's priorities by encouraging access to heritage from disadvantaged groups, enhancing skills through volunteering and work based learning and contributing to the local economy, particularly through increased income generation. It has been gratifying to receive recognition for our efforts in reports to Welsh Government during the year. In January, for instance, the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery (the Williams Report) noted that the joint archive services in Wales are among the best in the UK.

The contribution of cultural and heritage organisations to addressing poverty and the inequalities it produces has been the subject of recent reports both in Wales and in England. Glamorgan Archives was consulted and provided comments and a case study to Baroness Kay Andrews' report to Welsh Government, *Culture and Poverty*. Partnership activities clearly play a major role but so does the electronic catalogue which allows people to explore finding aids in their own time and in their own communities, conservation and detailed cataloguing which make more material more easily available and social media which break barriers and instantly communicate our services and facilities.

Our skill sharing programme continues to develop with a particularly pleasing increase in placements from supported employment agencies. Staff involvement in the programme has been extended, sharing skills internally while professional development has been enhanced through conservation student placements, principally from Cardiff University, and archive internships through the European Centre for Training and Regional Co-operation. We are currently hosting our third ECTARC placement; all have been from Catalonia and all have been excellent.



The contributions of heritage institutions to local economies can be calculated in terms of visitor spend, employment, and support for regional suppliers. In an environment of relentless budgetary pressure more direct input is required. Services during opening hours remain free at point of access and income generation proposals are assessed to ensure that they add value rather than detract from core functions. Thus, by renting currently unused repository space to heritage partners we can support the survival of heritage assets locally. Conservation services to external clients ensure the continued and improved survival of heritage items in return for a small profit and allow staff to extend their skill base. Similarly, hiring out underused meeting space to training organisations raises the general level of skills locally, raises the profile of the service and encourages users from a range of groups. As the building is fully accessible and our rates very reasonable, many of these represent disadvantaged communities and individuals who may not otherwise have made contact.

Bureaucratic delays and process blocks are the lot of a senior local government officer these days. That they have failed to detract from the overall performance of the service is due to the work of many years in developing an appropriately skilled and committed team who are fully competent and more than capable of delivering outstanding service with minimal oversight.



Skills

In the course of the year 48 volunteers have contributed 4,643 hours to the work of the office, equivalent to 2.8 full time members of staff. The figures include 8 work experience students from local schools. Volunteers come from all 6 of our funding authorities with the exception of Merthyr Tydfil and we have also welcomed people from Pembrokeshire, Newport, Somerset and Barcelona.



The work they do adds to that of establishment staff. Current volunteer projects include cleaning and re-boxing crew agreements for ships registered in the port of Cardiff, item listing building regulation plans for the Rhondda and Bridgend, listing the contents of scrapbooks compiled by Arthur McTaggart Short of Cardiff from 1915 to 1975, extracting items of interest from the 1860-1914 diaries of Henry Fothergill, owner and manager of the Abernant and Llwydcoed ironworks, and indexing the male patients register of the County Mental Hospital. Volunteers continue to extract details about life on the home front during World War 1 from a range of sources including shipping, school and local authority records, making it much easier for us to help local groups and schools with their commemoration plans.

Lists and additional material compiled by volunteers are being added to the electronic catalogue, Canfod, the most recent being an index to juvenile convictions. Conservation and archive students undertake more professional tasks under supervision to build their experience and develop skills for their future careers. Staff, in turn, catch up on current practice while passing on their knowledge and expertise.

For many people volunteering is a leisure pursuit and it is worth noting that recent research suggests that regular volunteering promotes longer and happier lives. Others use it as a path into work and over the year several volunteers and former volunteers have been accepted onto professional courses, gained employment or been supplied with job references. In recent years a mutually beneficial programme has been developed for volunteers on the autistic spectrum. Volunteer contribution is recognised in reports to committee and celebrated with a Christmas tea party at which volunteers socialised with staff and met members of the Joint Committee.



Staff attended a number of events to network with placement providers and to encourage take-up. These included a careers speed dating session at Cardiff University, ceremonies at Quest and Elite Supported Employment Agencies and Diverse Cymru, and a Volunteering Summer Shop run by Voluntary Community Service in Cardiff's Capitol shopping centre. Our advice has been sought by volunteer co-ordinators at the National Library of Wales and the Catholic Archives Society.



Conserving Local Communities' Heritage is in its final phase. A Heritage Lottery Fund Skills for the Future project CLOCH has provided work-based training for 16 bursary holders over the last 3 years and is a partnership, led by Glamorgan Archives, bringing together archives, museums and libraries across south Wales to offer placements, experience and entry level qualifications in the sector. The final group of trainees began their placements in January.

Staff training has included attendance at workshops on undertaking a service review, on the Heritage Lottery Fund strand 'Collecting Cultures', and on the Archives Accreditation, training days on maximising appeal to the media, forward planning and on disaster salvage, courses on building relationships at work, mental health first aid, and risk management.



Staff have qualified as health and safety at work representatives, manual handling trainers and assessors of vocational achievement and are completing volunteer management awards. They attended and spoke at the Archives and Records Association Conference, a Kids in Museums Taking Over Day planning event, 'Changing Cultures; Engaging Participation by Disadvantaged Audiences', and a presentation by the Army Engagement Group as well as contributing to a range of local heritage partnerships and groups intended to facilitate partnership working and sharing best practice and various professional groups and sub-groups at Wales and UK levels.

A number of staff are being supported in their studies as part of our commitment to enhance and expand Welsh language service provision.

Partnerships

Working in partnership helps us to reach a broad range of users combining our skills and knowledge with local and specialised expertise. Staff have attended heritage events across all our funding authorities. This year we have developed a survey form for potential users to identify barriers to take up of our on-site facilities. We are also committed to sustain existing partnerships as we develop and explore new ones and to be as inclusive as possible. Our work with the Women's Archive Wales, for example, is of long standing and we continue to benefit from accessions and research into women's history as a result. Partnership in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Heritage Group has developed this year into membership of the local LGBT Forum and a strong presence at events celebrating LGBT History Month Wales including the Senedd launch and a history day at the National History Museum. Meanwhile we were pleased to be invited to the lighting of the Chanukiah at Cardiff's Reform Synagogue and to the launch of the Hindu Council of Wales at the Senedd.





We are also proud to be continuing our partnership with Cardiff People First, a self advocacy group of people with learning disabilities, in their Heritage Lottery funded project, Community Voices. With Newport People First they are creating a multicultural Heritage Trail across the two cities, researched and designed by members from a black or minority ethnic background. Earlier in the year their entry to the Welsh archives marketing campaign's Tell Us Your Story competition proved to be one of 3 winners from Glamorgan. Members were filmed telling the story of their experience researching for the Ely Hospital project in the Archives and can be seen on our YouTube channel at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GlamorganArchives>

The continuation of the CAER Heritage Project with Cardiff University has seen school students exploring memorials to First World War deaths in Ely cemetery while grant funding from Welsh Government enabled a 'Detecting Poverty' workshop. Pupils researched 19th century child poverty in the Archives, story boarded a conversation between themselves and a child from the past, then developed characters and puppet theatres to present the dialogues. One of the teachers involved commented:

'Yesterday was a real success. The Y7s were really buzzing about their experience... [one of the pupils] was telling me all about his character and when I suggested it sounded a bit depressing he got very shirty and informed me that it was 'cool'. Put me in my place! Thank you so much to you and your team for your continued time and support'.



Through our link with CAER we were invited to participate in the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Temple of Peace in Cardiff. Activities offered included designing a banner based on photographs held of those from Greenham Common Peace Camp. One visitor recognised a banner created by his partner and has been provided with a copy.

The *Sea of Words* animation produced in partnership with the Parliamentary Archives was launched at the Houses of Parliament. *Sea of Words*, produced by artist Trevor Woolery, was inspired by research at Glamorgan Archives and the Parliamentary Archives by members of the Grangetown Local History Society. It tells the story of ship's pilot David Morse who travelled to Parliament to give evidence on the Bute Docks Bill of 1865. The animation can be viewed via the Glamorgan Archives You Tube channel www.youtube.com/user/glamorganarchives

The case study detailing the work undertaken by Grangetown Local History Society and Mount Stuart Primary School on the Parliamentary Archives partnership project Time and Tide is now available on the Parliamentary Archives website at www.parliament.uk/communities

As a direct result of this long term partnership Grangetown History Society continues to use archives and staff attend society events while Mount Stuart Primary brings classes in for workshops every year.

New projects have included Cardiff Women's Workshop 'Mothers Then and Now' HLF project, exploring the lives of women across generations. Based in Butetown the project is multiracial and intergenerational and our role is to introduce the young women to family history research and the Collection. We are also working with Cardiff Institute for the Blind on a pilot project to improve accessibility to archives by people with a visual impairment.



Other partnerships are enabling our contribution to improving health. Links have been established with Natural Resources Wales' Come Outside initiative which encourages physical activity and promotes health and wellbeing, particularly among young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). Come Outside works in Communities First areas across Wales. In another project with a Cardiff University academic images have been supplied as clues on Twitter encouraging people to use a walking trail along the route of the Glamorgan Canal. We have also developed an original idea from Gwent Archives to create the Step Back in Time programme, delivered this year at half terms in Maesteg and Merthyr Tydfil. Designed as an intergenerational learning day and funded by CyMAL the events take participants (optimally grandparents on child care duty) on a walking tour of their town led by a local historian followed by free transport to the Archives where they see behind the scenes and are shown documents from their area. The days have been successful; typical responses were: *...my son... now knows more about my family tree than I do!... Thank you Glamorgan Archives... An excellent idea and highlight of half term,* encouraging us to plan for their extension to other parts of our authorities as funding is identified. The Merthyr Tydfil day was additionally publicised as it featured on S4C's Heno programme.

USERS

A total of 420 school students were welcomed this year from 14 schools.

Bridgend: Cwmfelin Primary

Cardiff: Mount Stuart Primary, Ninian Park Primary, St Cuthbert's Primary, Cantonian High, Fitzalan High, Glyn Derw High, Michaelstone College

Rhondda Cynon Taf: Porth Infants, Aberdare Boys, Aberdare Girls, Blaengwawr Comprehensive

Vale of Glamorgan: Llandough Primary, Barry Boys Comprehensive

Students from Bridgend College, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Cardiff University and the University of South Wales have attended sessions on history, creative writing, Welsh language, and media studies.





In a first for us we handed over the office to 25 pupils from Cwmfelin Primary School near Maesteg on Kids in Museums Taking Over Day, a national event across the UK, with Glamorgan one of a very few archive services involved. As far as possible pupils carried out real activities. They were divided into the office teams. Those in Resources helped to carry out the weekly defects tour of the building, put together packs for an upcoming conference and designed posters to promote sales of our publications. In Cataloguing they sorted and listed a small collection and their catalogue is now accessible via Canfod. The Conservation team cleaned and repackaged documents, monitored environmental conditions and checked pest traps throughout the building. The Access team pupils registered new users, produced documents from the strongrooms, undertook digital photography orders and learned how to respond to research enquiries while in Community Engagement they took a visiting group on a tour of the building. They also took over the @GlamArchives Twitter account (under light supervision). At the end of the day all pupils were presented with a certificate and a Glamorgan Archives box and pencil. The school considers the event an unqualified success, staff had a great time and we hope for a repeat: if we can find a willing class.

Although an increasing number of our users visit us in groups, individual visits to the searchroom have remained about the same at **3196**. Remote enquiries received continue to grow, **5276** being received this year.

Feed back on both services is unfailingly positive, with the following giving a flavour:

This is just a quick email to say thank you to the member of staff who helped my husband and myself.... We have never used an archive before and so needed lots of assistance and asked lots of questions and he was very patient with us and our quite vague queries... The service you provide is so important and I was so pleased to see that you have dedicated staff and excellent services.... we had a lovely time hunting down the photo with his help and managing to find it.

You have been very helpful and provided me with much more information that I had hoped to gain.

I am impressed with the clarity of the... image that you sent. It's a rewarding experience to be able to look back so far in time. Plus the accuracy has its own emotional impact. For a split second it is actually as if you are there witnessing a milestone being memorialized.

The success of last year's summer events encouraged a repetition, beginning with 'Making an Impression', two workshops on medieval seals presented in conjunction with Dr Elizabeth New of Aberystwyth University. The full season of public lectures took place in August with informative sessions from Nina Jenkins on the *British in India*, Ceri Thompson, Curator at Big Pit, on *Collecting People's History at Big Pit* and Dean Powell on *Dr William Price of Llantrisant*. We were also able to display the *Jewish Refugees in South Wales* exhibition, on loan from the National Waterfront Museum prompting a welcome return visit from Dr David Morris of West Glamorgan Archive Service, the curator, who spoke on the history of Jewish refugees in South Wales, showed a moving film in which kindertransport refugee Ellen Davis of Swansea recollected her own story and displayed documents from the Collection demonstrating the contribution of Jewish refugees to the economy and development of Glamorgan.

Efforts to encourage visitors from our more distant contributing authorities are beginning to see results. This year we focussed on Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil and as well as the Step Back in Time events in both authorities were pleased to welcome the Soar Heritage Group from Merthyr and Catching the Wave, Porthcawl, Coytrahen History group, Garw Valley Heritage Society, Ogmere Vale Historical Society, and Porthcawl Civic Trust, all from Bridgend County Borough.

Groups from other areas, in addition to those mentioned elsewhere in this report, have included Radyr and Morganstown Community Council, Duffryn gardens volunteers, Penarth 41 Club, Wenvoe house history class, the Cynon Valley branch of Glamorgan Family History Society, Archaeology Cymru Community Archaeology Group, several family history classes from Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan and both Penarth and Tonteg Women's Institutes. Some have paid repeat visits in the course of the year.



The Collection

The electronic catalogue, Canfod, now hosts 200,000 entries.

The building has estimated expansion space for a further 21 years and accessions rates are monitored to check they are not exceeding the anticipated amount. At the moment we are within expectations, although accessions are increasing each year. This year we have taken in 290 accessions, some of which have been very large. The number and type of empty shelves have been added to the locations database to enable accurate reporting of the amount of accrual space.

Quarter	Number of accessions	Accessions in cubic metres (approx)	Number of standard shelves (approx)
01/03/2013-31/05/2013	72	13.697	114
01/06/2013-31/08/2013	92	12.888	107
01/09/2013-30/11/2013	72	5.065	42
01/12/2013-28/02/2014	54	3.177	26
TOTALS	290	34.827	289



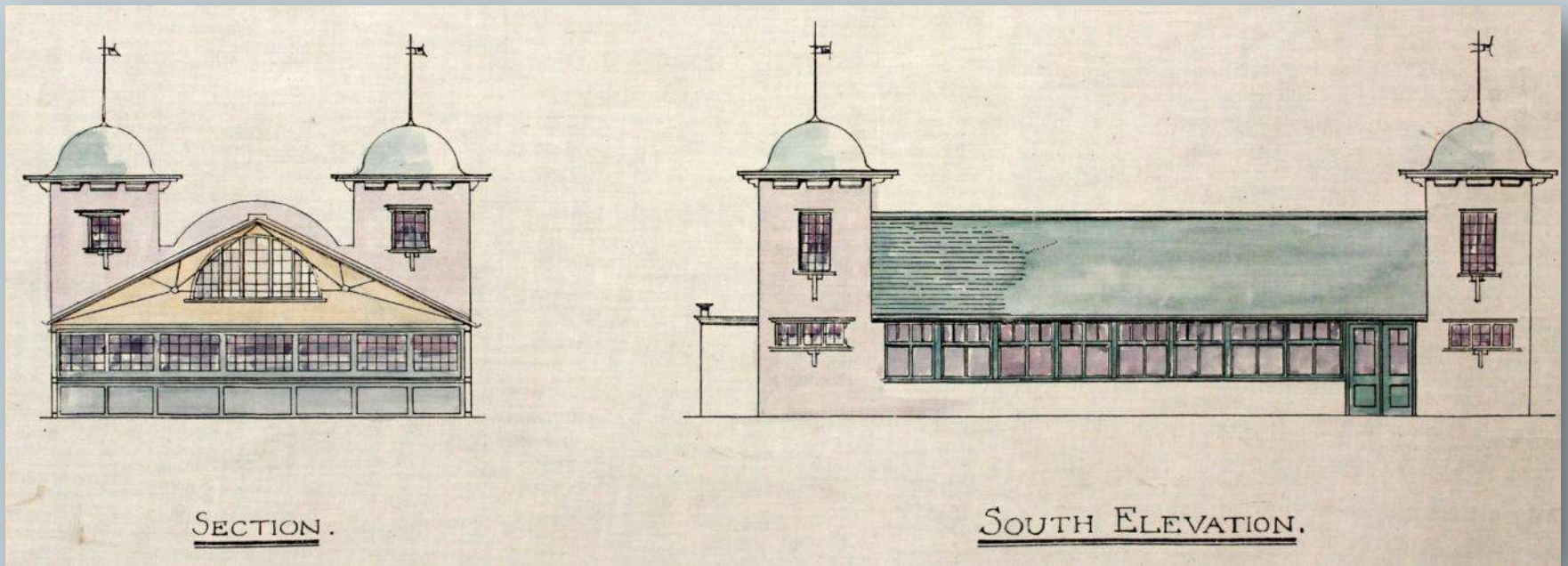
This year we have received an unprecedented number of deposits from schools in Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan. Some schools have existing collections; others were previously unrepresented here.

The oldest of the documents deposited was an Admission Register from Llanfabon School dating from 1865; the newest deposit was a school newsletter from Llanrumney High School from 2013. Deposits from schools are always welcome and it is particularly good to receive so many from schools which had not deposited with us before. It has also been a good year for building records with a large collection received from the Percy Thomas Partnership, responsible for the design of several well known buildings in Cardiff including the Bute Building and the Temple of Peace. Other notable designs included Swansea Civic Centre and Aberystwyth University Campus. Percy Thomas was knighted in 1946. One of the Partnership's final projects involved the design for the Millennium Centre, Cardiff completed in 2004.

Cardiff's other millennium building, the Millennium Stadium, features in papers from Peter Randles who was engaged in preparatory professional work on the building project for John Laing Construction Limited. The papers include working copies of design and construction, and project drawings along with aerial photographs of Cardiff Arms Park, the former national stadium. As a bonus, there are printed photographs and posters relating to the Wales Rugby squad and Welsh rugby.

Among a quantity of material transferred from Pontypridd Historical Centre were the papers of Thomas Morgan of Pontypridd, Architects. Dating from 1905 to 1972 the collection comprises maps and plans including hotels, cinemas and billiard halls, mostly in the Rhondda valleys. Another Rhondda based firm is represented by a small collection including order books and orders for building work and coffins. These are the papers of Jonathan Thomas of Ynysybwl, who, in 1919 established Morgan and Thomas, builders, contractors and undertakers.





Before the Penarth Urban District Council building regulation plans were deposited, almost no local authority building plans were held for either of the two urban centres of the Vale of Glamorgan, Barry and Penarth. Once the present deposit is cleaned, sorted and listed, over 3000 plans dating approximately from 1880 to 1947 and forming a major source for the architectural history and growth of the townscape of Penarth will be made available.

As the commemoration events of World War 1 draw closer it has been encouraging to receive deposits of the personal papers of combatants:

Hiram Davies was born in 1888 in Maesteg. He was educated at Oakwood School then went to work at Garth Celtic Colliery. Shortly after the outbreak of war, Hiram enlisted with the 10th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, Rhondda Division, with his brother Illtyd who was killed in Salonika at the Battle of Doiran in 1917. Hiram saw action in France and Belgium, experiencing several gas attacks. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1918. The papers contain records of his war service, papers and correspondence regarding his war pension, a roll book completed in his position as Sergeant at the end of the war, and a photograph of Cwmfelin peace celebration, July 1919.






David Jenkins was born in Treharris in 1896. He joined the Welsh Regiment in 1915 and saw active service in France. After receiving a head wound at Cambrai Wood he was sent to the Royal Canadian Military Hospital in Cliveden, Berkshire, England. Vertigo excluded him from mining and he eventually found work as a postman. He died in 1975. Three photographs were presented which show him during his recovery in hospital.

We have also been able to celebrate and record the lives of exceptional women such as Beti Rhys (1907-2003) who was a school teacher and a writer of both fiction and non-fiction, mainly in Welsh. Born in Port Talbot in 1907, she later lived at Aberdare. After her father moved to Cardiff to serve as a Calvinistic Methodist minister, she was educated at Howell's School, Llandaff, and later at University College, Cardiff. She became a school teacher, eventually serving at Pentre Secondary School, Rhondda. In 1950 Beti Rhys opened a book shop, catering mainly for Welsh-language and academic publications, in Castle Arcade, Cardiff. It was a Mecca for literary and political figures, and later she opened a second bookshop in Park Place.

This year is the 75th anniversary of Glamorgan Archives. The celebrations began with the launch of a blog based on the 75th accession received in each year since the service was established in 1939. Following an introduction by the Glamorgan Archivist staff across the office are contributing posts and the blog has received a favourable response from the public. Please take a look and comment. Please follow our Twitter account and like us on Facebook for regular updates on activity, community involvement, and media appearances.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Miners' Strike we have reissued a pair of coalfield plans first published by the office in the 1990s, here illustrating our back cover. Showing the bituminous and anthracite collieries at the start of the 20th century the plans are available from Glamorgan Archives at £6 each or £10 for the pair. Postage within the UK is an additional £2



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