

Glamorgan Archives



DISCOVERING THE PAST

1 March 2018 - 28 February 2019



Welcome to Glamorgan Archives' 9th Annual Report describing activities during the period from
1 March 2018 to 28 February 2019.

Our Archive Accreditation status was reviewed this year and continued. Accreditation is nationally recognised as the hallmark of a good quality archive service with accredited services required to evidence a holistic, forward-looking approach to planning and implementing service delivery, identifying both risk and future planning. Accreditation Panel members were delighted to see a continuing high level of service delivery, commending the strong management and partnerships which had sustained the quality of our offer despite the major resource challenges we had faced in recent years.

Partnerships bring benefits by reaching communities who may not otherwise use the Archives, allowing staff to explain the service and to develop skills in project volunteers. They can lead to major new accessions, often already listed and packaged, saving staff time and cost. The Archives has been very successful in sustaining partnerships for longer than a single project which pays off in developing a reputation for openness and a willingness to work with non-traditional users. The diversity of both the Collection and its users benefits enormously from heritage partnerships and volunteers.

Two major themes for partners this year have been the last year of World War One and the Armistice, together with the first steps towards universal suffrage, celebrated by Women's Archive Wales' project, Canrif Gobaith/Century of Hope. Staff were involved in a range of activities including a partial recreation of the Greenham Common walk for peace in Cardiff and along the old Severn Bridge. We rallied with the Cardiff Story Museum in Processions, produced by Artichoke, an arts charity, to commemorate the fight for female suffrage, and attended both the National Assembly for Wales' annual remembrance lecture, 'Welsh Women's response to the First World War', and a conference on Suffrage and the Aftermath of WW1 hosted by the Cardiff Story Museum. Our continuing partnership with the Parliamentary Archives developed the theme with a half-day conference on 'Women, Parliament and the First World War' held at the Archives in May alongside their exhibition, hosted on site for two months before touring the UK. Volunteers have contributed to the project by researching the lives of women featured in the Roath Road Methodist Church magazine, the Roath Road Roamer, while Grangetown Local History Society added research on enemy aliens in Cardiff during the war. As part of our public events programme Society members gave talks on the war and the Spanish flu epidemic in its aftermath, while Dr Jonathan Hicks spoke about Wales and the first air war, and Gwyn Prescott and Ceri Stennet described their research into the lives of those recorded on the War Memorial at Whitchurch Library.



An exhibition on the contribution of Glamorgan's police officers to the war, produced by South Wales Police, was displayed in the front hall from November. Volunteers' research into ships sunk by U-boat action was fed into the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (Wales) project. Artis Community's Camaraderie project explored the war's impact through art in an intergenerational project with a veterans group and Pontypridd High School. Their closing tea party was a bright spot on a very rainy Pontypridd evening. The town's Hawthorn High school carried out research for a publication, 'Lest we forget' and we attended their Armistice service. Albany Primary School in Cardiff recreated the WW1 hospital again for a day with Archive staff in attendance. The school also worked with the Parliamentary Archive on this year's project. We were also at the Bridgend at War day on a wet summer Saturday, promoting the Archives to residents and visitors.

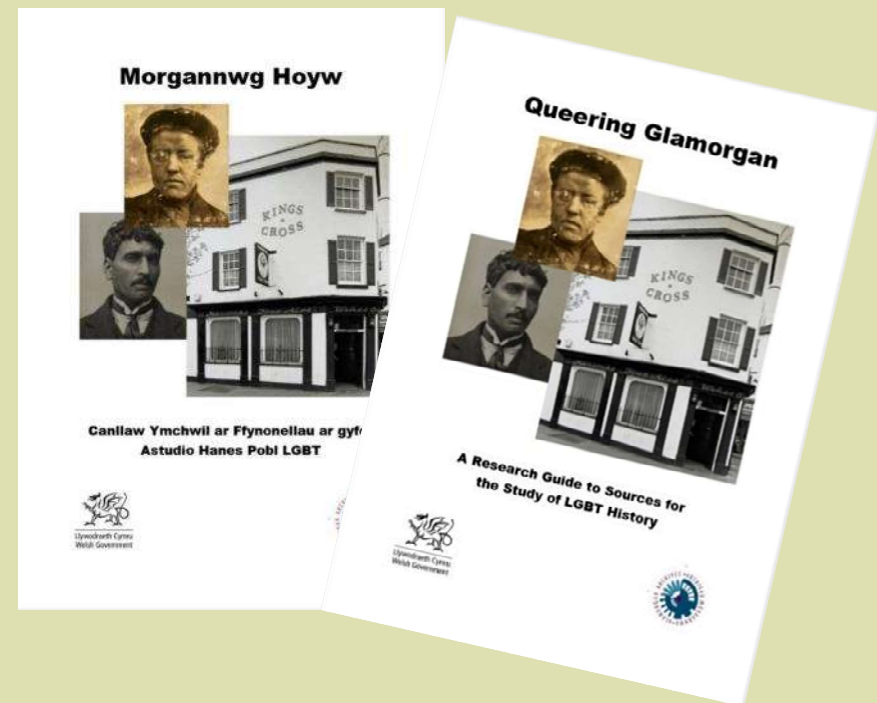
This year's public engagement activities have included a slot at Y Lle Hanes in the Millennium Centre at the Eisteddod Genedlaethol, stalls at the Family History Fair in Merthyr Tydfil, Cathays Heritage Library's Open Day and Insole Court's Heritage Day, and attendance at Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Forum and conference, Gelligaer Local History Society conference, and South Wales Heritage Education Forum at the Royal Mint, Llantrisant. Staff contributed to Regional Development Plan consultations in Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil, are working with the Learned Society Wales and Peoples' Collection Wales to develop collaboration with local archive services, contribute to Fusion programmes in both Cardiff and Caerphilly/Torfaen, and are helping to establish the Heritage and Cultural Exchange in Butetown.



The Jewish History Association of South Wales is a Heritage Lottery funded project to uncover, document, preserve and share the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Jewish communities of south Wales. Project staff and volunteers are housed in the Archives and conservation support has been provided along with archival advice. Some records have already been deposited and more are anticipated during the life of the project.

We have welcomed the start of a second artist residency, funded through the efforts of our partners, Art Shell. Fern Thomas, resident artist, is recording her explorations of the Collection through the Liminal Archives account on Twitter and Instagram. We are also working with Stiwdio Arts to celebrate the centenary of Rookwood Hospital and hosted a workshop for volunteers exploring the history of the building.

A grant was received to employ historians Daryl Leeworthy and Norena Shopland to create a guide to sources for Welsh LGBT history, now available on our website. The guide was launched at a public event in the Archives, fuelled by cheese and prosecco. Further grant funding has enabled the delivery of training for heritage professional across Wales in helping researchers with this topic and Norena Shopland has a series of speaking engagements to promote the guide and, more generally, research into LGBT history.



Innovate Trust's exhibition told the story of the UK's first supported living house for people with a learning disability at Ruthin Gardens, Cathays, in association with Cardiff University's Social Sciences school. Project volunteers spent a day with the exhibition explaining the background to visitors before the display moved on to the Senedd. The project was a development of our continuing partnership with Cardiff People First, a self-organised group for people with learning disabilities, who repeated last year's successful Take Over event, this time with their sister group from the Vale of Glamorgan. Members of People First groups in Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf attended and Gwent Archives sent an observer.



On Kids Take Over Day we surrendered to pupils from Trinity Fields special school, Ystrad Mynach, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A teacher told us after the visit: *I went up to see the class in the week and all the pupils were raving about the excellent day they had. They were really engaged and loved it- thank you for putting the time in and preparing such fabulous and important activities for them.*

Some students have since returned on work experience placements, as have students of Ysgol y Deri in Penarth, last year's Take Over SEN school, who have also attended a workshop on the seaside in the course of preparing a project for the Welsh Heritage School Initiative. Engaging these students with original sources has been rewarding for us all and we plan to extend the opportunity to all the special schools in our region.

Our international VIP this year was Eric Bush, Head of the Cayman Islands London office, in Wales to promote the islands' campaign to publicise the original settlers. They hope to trace descendants of the men who arrived in 1658 from Cromwell's army in Jamaica, one of whom was a Welshman named Waters or Walters.



We also welcomed Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, and Peter Owen, head of MALD. A separate visit was arranged for David Melding AM, while Wayne David MP came to research his forthcoming book on Morgan Jones, MP for Caerphilly between the wars.

Group visits for tours of the building and document displays were given to 20 groups including Valley Kids Penytrenglyn, part of CADW's Unloved Heritage initiative. This Rhondda project is working with young people to explore the history of Fernhill Colliery near Blaenrhondda. Their visit took them behind the scenes and introduced them to a range of documents from the colliery to research their archaeological dig at the site during May half-term. A particular highlight was the challenge posed to the group of moving an enormous plan from the strongroom to the conservation studio. Cadwyn Housing Association in Ely brought residents as part of a heritage project linked to the new estate on the site of former paper mill. Former mill workers were particularly taken with the repair paper in the conservation store. The RSPB Living Levels project on the Gwent levels held a craft event at the Archives based on the Mesolithic era to engage participants with the history of the levels. No documents were harmed although willow weaving, clay pot creation, and cave painting (on a sheet) were all on offer. Members of Bridgend and District Local History Society, Innovate Trust Green Days, Oxford House Industrial Heritage Society, Cardiff People First Family History Club, Recovery Cymru, and Birchgrove Women's Institute were also welcomed, along with Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club, and CF10 Rugby Trust. The annual Open Doors event attracted 43 visitors for an introduction to the Glamorgan's Blood project to catalogue and conserve coal related records. Public lectures by David Jenkins, Ann Kongsbruck, and Andy Kendall have also encouraged visits.





It has been a particularly busy year for educational visits with 32 classes from 20 schools, a total of 1,364 students, attending for workshops and tours, easily double last year's figure. A further 74 university students attended for an introduction to archival sources for their areas of study, architecture, Welsh and history.

The building has received over 8,500 visitors in the course of the year. In excess of 11,000 items have been produced for the 2,578 searchroom visits while almost 3,000 individuals have attended events or as part of a group. Responses have been made to 3,629 remote enquiries.

All of this active engagement takes time and staff resources. With tighter budgets than ever we take advantage of all potential funding streams to maintain staff numbers and invest in future skills. We were successful in attracting a Corporate Trainee, paid through a Cardiff Council apprenticeship fund, and are a lead partner in Cultural Ambition, a national project managed by CCSkills and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will provide traineeships in the heritage sector for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The first two for Cardiff spent 6 months at the Archives working towards an NVQ level 2 in Culture and Heritage before moving on to other placements in the city. Other part-time or short-term posts have been funded through Youth Contract and Access to Work streams. Visitors may meet unfamiliar faces but should expect the same high level of service.

Volunteers are a vital part of our team, producing social media content, digitising collections, cleaning documents, and adding detail to catalogues. In the year they have contributed 7,656 hours to the service, equivalent to 4.5 full time members of staff. The figure includes 361 hours from students on distance learning archive courses, and 479 hours from Cardiff University's conservation students. One of our volunteers celebrated 20 years' service with us, longer than many members of staff.



In both conservation and cataloguing, priorities have shifted temporarily so that series of potential interest to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse may be identified. Cataloguing large collections is entirely dependent on external funding as the reduction in professional staff numbers, necessary to meet increased business rate charges, means that archivists can no longer be spared from the day to day business of access and accessioning for longer term projects. Every effort is made to secure such funding and to make collections available in the meantime under close supervision. We were delighted to receive the John Armstrong Award for Transport Archives from the Business Archives Council. With the grant, the Motorway Trust archive will be fully catalogued.

CARDIFF CITY COUNCIL									
SEAMEN'S					REGISTER.				
Date	Name	Age	Nationality	Name of last Vessel Discharged from	Port of Discharge	Name of Ship	Date of Discharge	Port of Origin	Where Bred
2. 11. 21	Abdullah Ali	20	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	16. 11. 21	Barry	India
6. 11. 21	Abdullah Ahmed	30	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	20. 11. 21	Barry	India
10. 11. 21	Hassan Abdulla	39	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	24. 11. 21	Barry	India
17. 11. 21	Ali Abdulla	30	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	28. 11. 21	Barry	India
21. 11. 21	Mohamed Hassan	28	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	30. 11. 21	Barry	India
24. 11. 21	Mohamed Abdulla	39	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	32. 11. 21	Barry	India
27. 11. 21	Samir Hassan	32	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	34. 11. 21	Barry	India
30. 11. 21	Ali Ali	23	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	36. 11. 21	Barry	India
3. 12. 21	Ali Ali	24	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	38. 11. 21	Barry	India
6. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	40. 11. 21	Barry	India
9. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	42. 11. 21	Barry	India
12. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	44. 11. 21	Barry	India
15. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	46. 11. 21	Barry	India
18. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	48. 11. 21	Barry	India
21. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	50. 11. 21	Barry	India
24. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	52. 11. 21	Barry	India
27. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	54. 11. 21	Barry	India
30. 12. 21	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	56. 11. 21	Barry	India
3. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	58. 11. 21	Barry	India
6. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	60. 11. 21	Barry	India
9. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	62. 11. 21	Barry	India
12. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	64. 11. 21	Barry	India
15. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	66. 11. 21	Barry	India
18. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	68. 11. 21	Barry	India
21. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	70. 11. 21	Barry	India
24. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	72. 11. 21	Barry	India
27. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	74. 11. 21	Barry	India
30. 1. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	76. 11. 21	Barry	India
3. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	78. 11. 21	Barry	India
6. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	80. 11. 21	Barry	India
9. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	82. 11. 21	Barry	India
12. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	84. 11. 21	Barry	India
15. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	86. 11. 21	Barry	India
18. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	88. 11. 21	Barry	India
21. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	90. 11. 21	Barry	India
24. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	92. 11. 21	Barry	India
27. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	94. 11. 21	Barry	India
30. 2. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	96. 11. 21	Barry	India
3. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	98. 11. 21	Barry	India
6. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	100. 11. 21	Barry	India
9. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	102. 11. 21	Barry	India
12. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	104. 11. 21	Barry	India
15. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	106. 11. 21	Barry	India
18. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	108. 11. 21	Barry	India
21. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	110. 11. 21	Barry	India
24. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	112. 11. 21	Barry	India
27. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	114. 11. 21	Barry	India
30. 3. 22	Ali Ali	29	Aden	Seapool	Barry	Seapool	116. 11. 21	Barry	India

In the last 12 months, 231 accessions have been received, ranging in date from 1584 to 2019, with the majority being 19th and 20th century. They comprise, in the main, parish and nonconformist records, local authority material at all levels, schools records and court registers. With the increased profile of the coal related collections through publicity generated by the Glamorgan's Blood Wellcome Trust project, additional deposits are being received. Many accessions arrive as pre-arranged transfers but strays and odd discoveries continue to surprise.

One unexpected donation was a pair of registers for a seamen's lodging house in Cardiff for 1917 to 1927 (D1601). The name, age and nationality of each man is recorded as well as the last vessel from which he was discharged and the port of discharge. Information regarding the subsequent voyage is also noted. Most of those listed came from Aden, Yemen.

.A rare bookseller, clearing his office on retirement, deposited a court book for Loughor Manor of Newton Nottage, an early and unusual item covering the years 1584 to 1813 and for various courts leet and baron (D1612). The volume is composed of different sized pages, and was probably four books originally, bound into a single volume in the 19th century

A family member donated a small collection created by Henry Lewis, former Vicar of Ton Pentre. Born in 1881, Henry served in Palestine during WW1 with the Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. His diary for 1917 and a photograph of him in a group of soldiers in 1918 have been received along with another photograph of ARP members, including Henry, in 1940.



The Communities First programme, launched in 2001, was shut down in 2018. One of Cardiff 4 hubs, STAR (Splott, Tremorfa, Adamsdown and Roath) deposited records including Community newsletters, a survey and report of the open spaces in the Splott and Tremorfa Communities First area, and a copy of the 'Adamsdown Song' (D1570).

A large collection of records reflecting the activities of a local philatelic society has been received. The Cardiff and South Wales Philatelic Society was founded 1899 and later became known as the Cardiff Philatelic Society. It aims to promote the study and practice of philately of all periods of the area geographically represented by the wider Cardiff area and to provide facilities for the exchange of information and material relevant to such study. Records received include minutes, correspondence, programmes and accounts and commence in 1939 (D1602).

Glamorgan's Blood, our current major cataloguing and conservation project benefits from two full-time professional posts funded by the Wellcome Trust. Glamorgan's Blood is approaching the end of its second year and initial catalogue entries have been created for most of the collections, including around 8,000 plans and 5,400 glass plate negatives. For these last, a condition survey has been completed, a treatment plan for repair created, and containers devised for broken plates. Trainees are cleaning, repackaging and scanning the negatives. They also compile enhanced catalogue descriptions and write blog posts.



Arts Society volunteers have cleaned plans and volumes, while Cardiff University conservation students have consolidated newscutting books and are currently assisting in the repair, on the wall board, of a large plan. Other volunteers have contributed detailed indexing and listing of the Ocean and National Magazine series, colliery information sheets and pamphlets, and newspaper cuttings relating to miners' welfare, often producing blog posts on their findings. Former NCB staff have been generous with their time and expertise in checking and enhancing descriptions of plans and photographs. Valuable links have been forged with repositories holding related collections including Big Pit, the Coal Authority Records Centre, South Wales Miners Library, South Wales Miners Museum and the Richard Burton Archives.



Social media posts promote the project and have generated broad interest. Topics covered have included conservation work, disasters, pit head baths and social and welfare issues from the 1920s and 30s from the Ocean and National Magazines. Press and local media were engaged particularly with the story of the unidentified photographer of a series of pictures transferred from an archives in Fife. From the publicity, he was identified as Mr Les Price of Pentre, former collier and keen amateur photographer.

The story appeared on Radio Wales, BBC Wales Today and BBC Wales Breakfast, in Wales Online, on the front page of the Western Mail and in several local newspapers. The Project Archivist was interviewed for Radio Wales and Wales Today. Project staff also presented their work at Y Lle Hanes, the annual Forum of the Archives and Records Council Wales, to the London Branch of Welsh Family History Societies, and in an article for the Archives and Records Association newsletter.

We feature regularly in local press and Wales Online, Radio Cardiff and Radio Cymru. Television companies have filmed staff and documents at the Archives for topics including a documentary on the 1919 race riots, Cardiff Docks, the 1918/19 flu epidemic, Women's Archive Wales collections and programmes including Home Front Heroes, Long Lost Family, and the One Show. Our profile is high and demand for services is rising.

Applications have been submitted for future projects to catalogue prioritised collections and opportunities for fund-raising continue to be explored. The costs associated with accessioning and storing a small collection have been calculated and a note of the amount added to the initial receipt form. Some donations have begun to come in as a result. We are working with Cardiff Council to set up on-line payment for services including research, publications, and conservation. The Conservator has qualified as an ICON Accredited Conservation-Restorer, which adds to her value as an income generator. The box making machine regularly produces external orders. The principle of free access on site is maintained although the balance between raising money and providing the service is increasingly precarious.

As always, anyone seeking further detail on the work of our volunteers and staff, including full lists of accessions received, is directed to the reports to the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee on Cardiff Council's website: [Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)



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