

Glamorgan Archives



DISCOVERING THE PAST

1 March 2019 - 29 February 2020



Welcome to Glamorgan Archives' 10th Annual Report describing activities during the period from
1 March 2019 to 29 February 2020.

This has been our tenth year in the new building, our eightieth as an organisation, and my last, full year as Glamorgan Archivist. I shall be retiring at the end of March 2020, leaving the service in much improved accommodation and reasonably placed to survive for a few more decades.

And it has been yet another busy and productive year. Staff have produced 11,897 documents for 2,457 searchroom users, and responded to 3,457 postal enquiries. There have been almost 8,000 visits to the building in the course of the year.

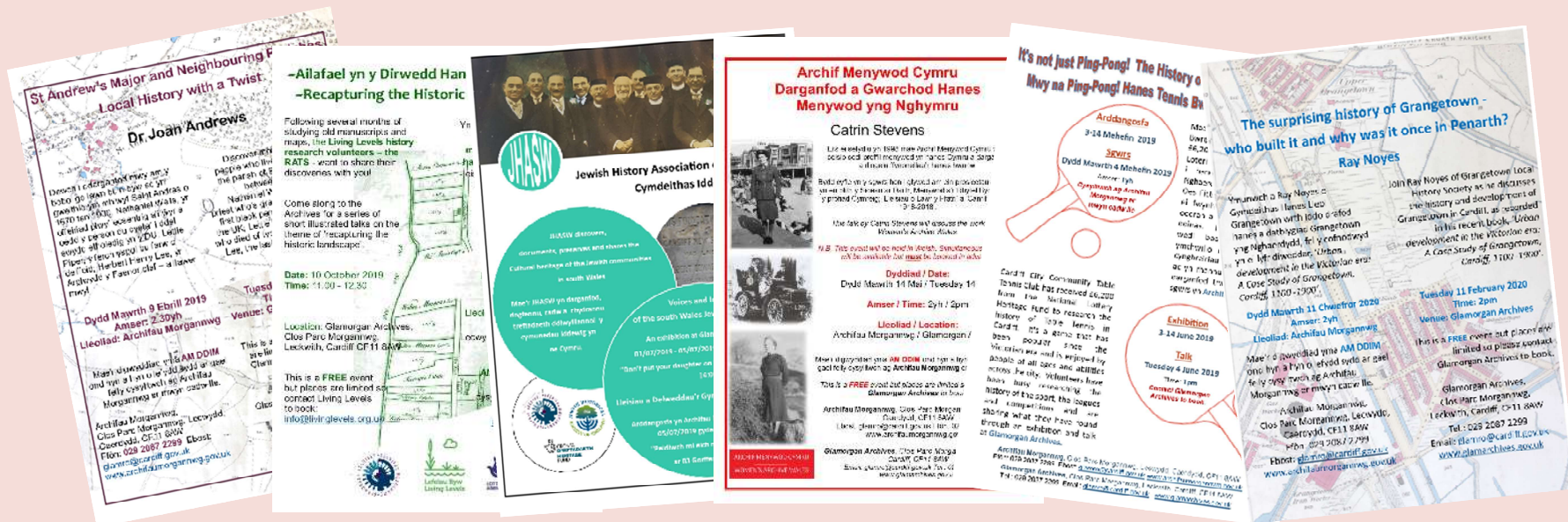
Workshops and tours have been provided for 599 students ranging from primary to postgraduate level. Staff have welcomed history, political history, and photojournalism students from the University of South Wales, and creative writing students from Cardiff Metropolitan University. Porthcawl Comprehensive and Whitmore High School in Barry have sent classes while students of Fitzalan High School in Cardiff have engaged in several projects with us and the Archives hosted an Inset day for Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr and its feeder primary schools. Curriculum based workshops for primary schools have attracted repeat visits from Victoria in Penarth, St Illtyd's in Llantwit Major, and Grangetown, Adamsdown, Kitchener, Mountstuart and Ysgol Treganna, all in Cardiff, while Ysgol y Ddraig in Llantwit Major looked at coal and the docks and St Helen's RC in Barry came to use the Collection in an animation workshop.



November saw the annual, national, Kids in Museums Takeover Day in which we have participated since 2013. This year it was the turn of pupils from Greenfield SEN School, Merthyr Tydfil, to take on the roles of the Archivists and Conservators for the day. They helped to run the public searchroom, catalogued a collection of photographs, and cleaned documents in the conservation studio. In total, 10 pupils took part accompanied by three members of staff. It has been a particular pleasure to be able to extend the takeover experience to special schools, a progression which has been assisted by our long-standing partnerships with supported employment agencies and with Cardiff People First which have given staff confidence in working alongside people with a range of disabilities. The Takeover event for adults with learning disabilities, developed in partnership with, and at the initiative of, Cardiff People First, has been repeated, this year with added input from Vale People First. Our annual Open Doors event proved as popular as ever

Tours and displays have been provided for groups from Taff Housing Association, Cardiff Council Tenants, the Jewish History Association of South Wales, Cardiff and Vale Branch and Sully Branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society, the Attic Heritage Project, River Ogmore Research, CILIP Rare Books conference attendees, Penarth Civic Society, Vale People First, Living Levels RATS research group, Cardiff Council Bereavement Services staff, and 3 separate groups of family history students.

Our programme of public talks has ranged from the history of St Andrews Major to the work of the Women's Archive Wales by way of the Surprising History of Grangetown. The Living Levels research group held a day of talks about the Cardiff extent of the Gwent Levels. Talks also accompanied the launch of Whitchurch Hospital Historical Society's exhibition, Cardiff City Community Table Tennis Club's display, and the Jewish History Association of South Wales' end of project exhibition. The Exhibition in a Box was the product of a partnership project between Head4Arts (Community Arts in the Heads of the Valleys) and heritage organisations including Glamorgan and Gwent Archives. The final project in a series of activities linked to the First World War Centenary, the exhibition explored the theme of silence through art and heritage.



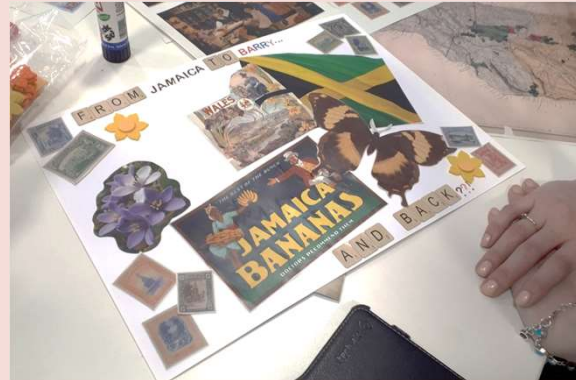
Our artist's residency, Out of the Box 2, closed with a public event, The Dream of the Archives, at which Fern Thomas shared her research into the liminal and strange and her developing obsession with Franklen G. Evans and the Cardiff Naturalists Society. Engagement events during the residency had involved students from Fitzalan High and 2 groups of Taff Housing Association tenants. The Wellcome Trust funded project to catalogue and conserve the colliery collections also ended this year with a day of talks from both project staff and Dr Steve Thompson of Aberystwyth University who spoke about the disability history of the south Wales coalfield. The completed catalogue is available on-line, both on the office website and through the Archives Hub. An exhibition promoting the collection was displayed at the Archives for some months before commencing a tour of heritage organisations, beginning with Insole Court.



2019 marked the centenary of the race riots which erupted in many port communities around Britain in the aftermath of World War 1. Cardiff and Barry were both affected and we have contributed to a number of commemorations of these events over the summer, starting at the Cardiff Story Museum (now the Museum of Cardiff) where we displayed copies of documents recording the progress of the riots in Cardiff, along with a short presentation. I spoke at an event in the Pierhead Building, sponsored by Vaughan Gething, to launch a lottery funded project on the riots with the Horn Development Association, and attended commemoration events at the Norwegian Church with Cymru'n Cofio/Wales Remembers and the Windrush Elders, at Butetown Community Centre where a drama based on the events was read, and a walk and service at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Tolerance through Remembrance, on the riots in Barry.

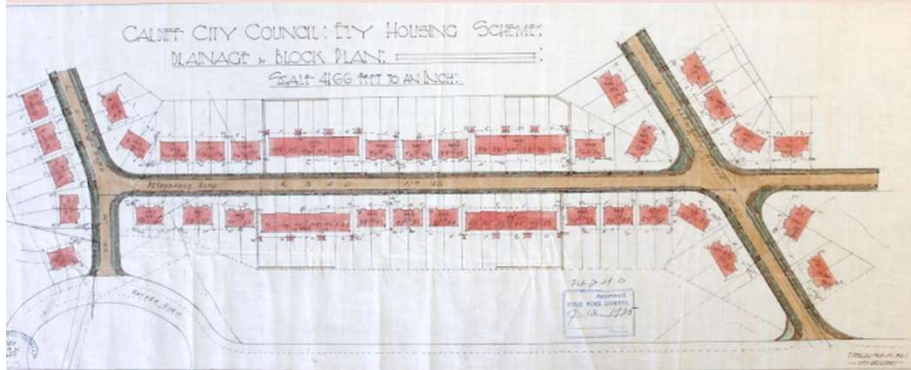


The National Archives has worked with several local archives to commemorate the riots, using local source material to expand the national picture, and connecting with local schools. Their workshop with students of Fitzalan High focussed on James Gillespie of Barry and their exhibition 'From Cardiff to the Caribbean', was hosted at the Archives before being displayed at the Pierhead Building as part of their programme for Black History Month in October. It travelled to Derby where it was displayed at the National Black Police Association Conference, thanks to the NBPA's President, Sgt. Tola Munro of Gwent Police, who is a regular visitor to the searchroom. Back at the Archives it has been visited by Vaughan Gething, AM, and has already been requested for events and conferences in 2020.



A number of television programmes on the 1919 race riots have included segments filmed at the Archives, showing related documents. BBC Wales Today filmed a short piece with Huw Thomas, as did TV company Boom Cymru with Yasmin Begum for Hansh on S4C, and a film crew from S4C's nightly magazine programme Heno filmed the Senior Archivist introducing the documents relating to the riots held within the Collection. She also spoke on Radio Cymru and on Radio Cardiff about the documents we hold which tell the story of the events. S4C has commissioned a further programme about the riots to be broadcast in 2020 and researchers are already looking at the documents.

Who Do You Think You Are filmed a segment of their programme on Paul Merton's ancestors in the searchroom where the truth about his grandfather's death was revealed. Heno are regular visitors, this year filming pieces on Cardiff's Dutch Café, the Blitz, and the Wellcome Trust project, Glamorgan's Blood. A German film crew did a piece on reuniting long-lost relatives, and The One Show films genealogical segments in our searchroom. Parts of the building were hired for the day for an information short, part of a series intended to teach young people about adult life. The main office upstairs was converted into a job centre while, after hours, the front hall became a bedroom.



Staff have attended events in each of our contributing authorities. The Senior Archivist delivered a workshop at Cardiff Council's Tenants Conference on 100 years of council housing. We also had a presence at the Glamorgan Family History Society Annual Fair in Merthyr Tydfil, the annual conferences of Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru/Welsh Place-Name Society, Archif Menywod Cymru/Women's Archive Wales, and Gelligaer Historical Society, day schools organised by Llafur: Welsh People's History Society on popular protest, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust on the iron industry, Glamorgan History Society on World War 1, and Whitchurch Library's AWEN Group on radical politics in south Wales, at the Youth Voice event at the Senedd, and a Cardiff University Exploring the Past lecture on Glamorgan Asylum. Staff attended the Unloved Heritage event on the site of the former Fernhill Colliery, the launch of the Cardiff Community Table Tennis Club exhibition at the Museum of Cardiff, and Rhondda Cynon Taf Citizens Advice Bureau's 80th anniversary exhibition at Pontypridd Museum, later displayed at the Archives.



Cardiff Council held its annual staff remembrance service at City Hall on 11 November. The Senior Archivist read a short piece providing stories of some of those featured on the staff roll of honour, based on information collated by volunteer Rosemary Nicholson. I represented Archives and Records Council Wales at the unveiling of a memorial in Cardiff to Black and Minority Ethnic servicemen and women, and on the final board meeting of Cymru'n Cofio.

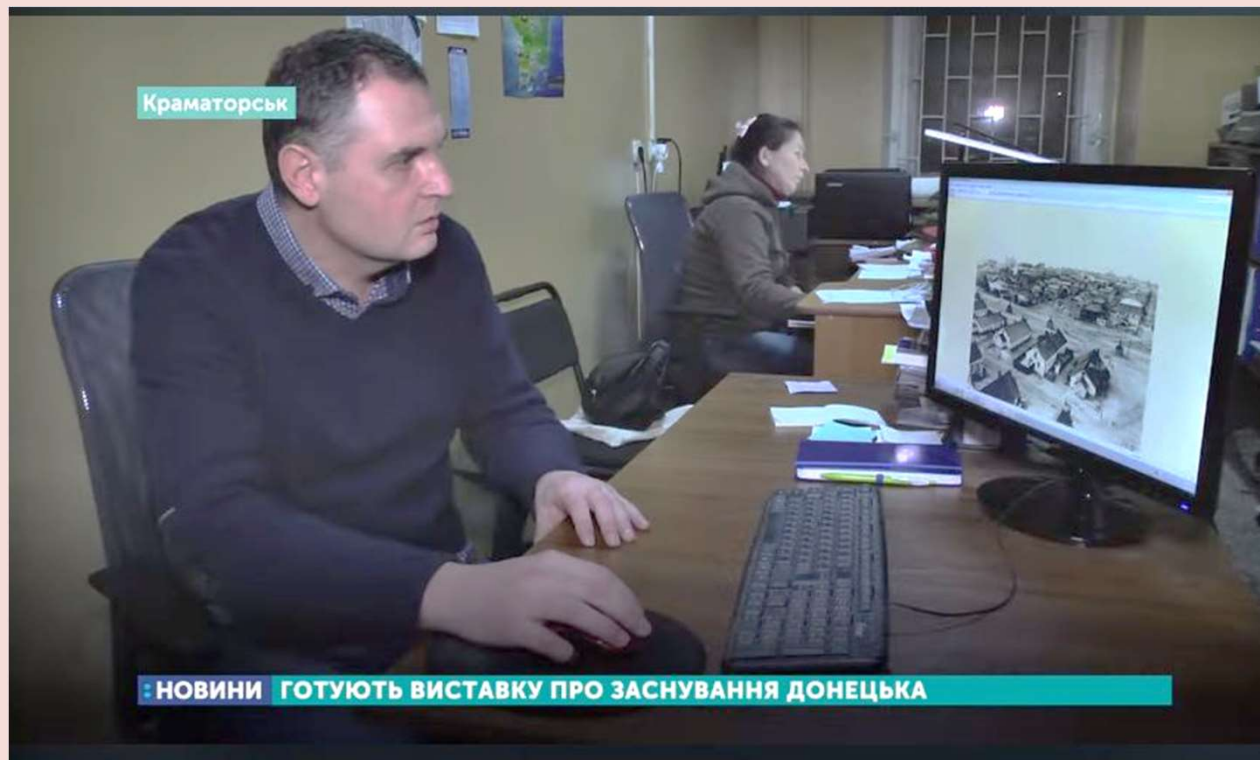
The Conservator gave a talk at the Conservation Matters Wales day conference on the removal of the image layer from degrading cellulose nitrate and cellulose acetate negatives. The Senior Archivist spoke about our artist residencies at the ARCW Forum.

In November I was invited to participate in a conference on volunteering in the cultural heritage sector at the Central European University in Budapest. I spoke about our experience of using volunteers, whose contribution this year has been just under 7,000 hours, in excess of 4 full-time staff. While there, I also delivered a public lecture on our community engagement and the range of groups with which we have been able to build sustainable partnerships.

And, as usual, the international links were not all one way. Our friends from the National Archives in Botswana returned for a tour of the building as they are now in the process of planning a replacement for their existing archive. The building brief and other documents have been shared. Archivists from Italy's Veneto region came for a tour and to discover more about our community engagement and volunteer programmes.



A team of filmmakers from Russia brought their Donetsk-based feature to Chapter in Cardiff and subsequently visited the Archives to look at material from the Hughesovka Research Archive. Interest in the Hughesovka story continues. Digital copies of material have been provided to former staff of the museum in Donetsk who are trying to re-establish a collection after the museum was largely destroyed in the recent Donbass war. An exhibition is planned along with visits to the UK by heritage professionals from Ukraine. Ukrainian television broadcast an interview with the curator displaying the transferred images. A conference on industrial heritage is being planned for the summer of 2020 in Ukraine. St Andrew's University is involved as is the Central European University and colleagues in Ukraine itself. Glamorgan Archives is likely to be asked to contribute.



Краматорськ

НОВИНИ ГОТУЮТЬ ВИСТАВКУ ПРО ЗАСНУВАННЯ ДОНЕЦЬКА

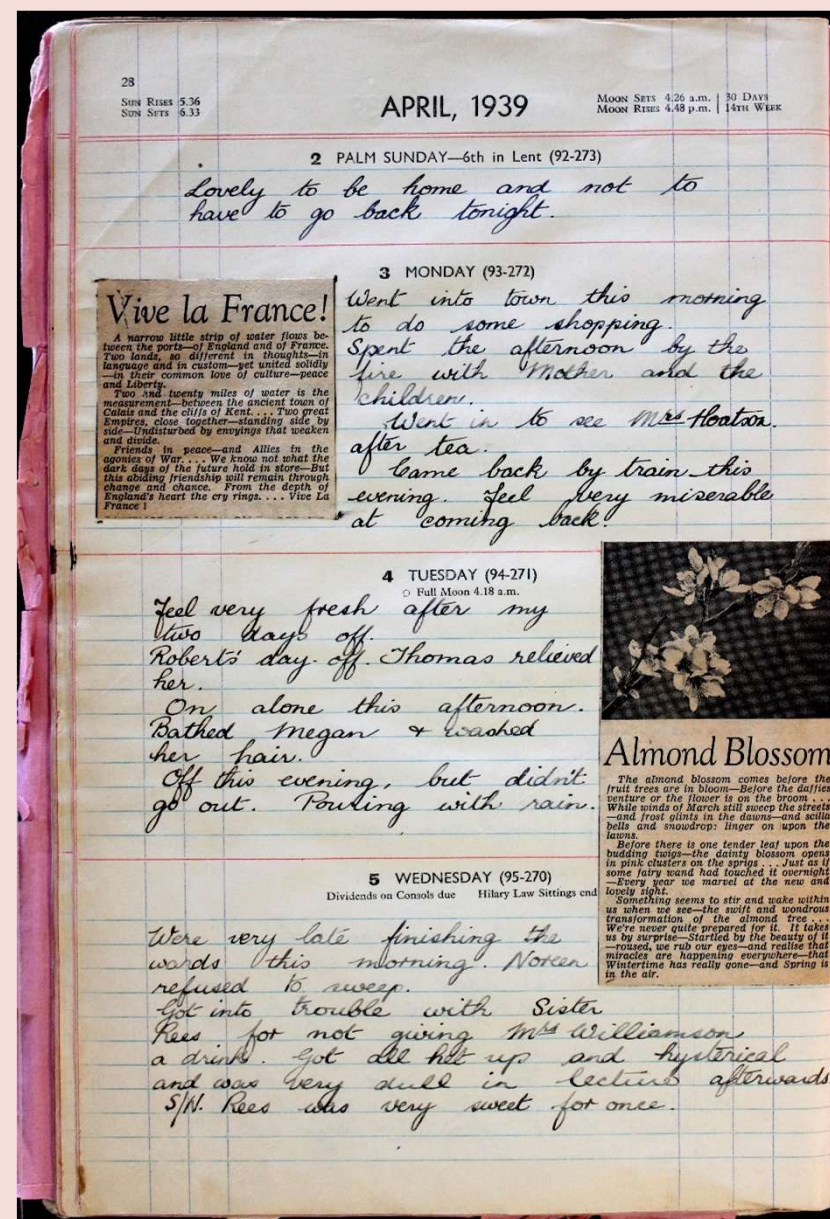
British guests have not been neglected. The Chief Executive and Director of the National Archives (TNA), Jeff James, visited Glamorgan on his national tour to celebrate 150 years of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. He was shown around the building, meeting staff and volunteers on the way. The newly appointed Deputy Director of MALD, Nicola Guy, came to see the building and discuss archive service provision in Wales. The new Director of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales, Elinor Weekly, visited for an overview of the domain and was also shown the building. The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael, came to look at Constabulary records and to see the building.





We have been successful in attracting grants from a number of different sources. As the Glamorgan's Blood project drew to a close, a grant was awarded from the National Archives' Archives Revealed stream to list the records of Associated British Ports and Cardiff Bay Development Corporation. The Project Archivist started work in December and is making good progress. Her post is funded for a year. In conservation we successfully applied for a major transformation grant from Welsh Government to buy a multi-functional suction table. We were also successful with an application to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust for a grant to conserve the surveys of the Plymouth Estate. The project will start once the team has completed its current list of external, income generating, orders.

The Collection continues to grow with 217 accessions received during the year. Some are the result of partnerships and projects. Our work with the Jewish History Association of South Wales is beginning to bear fruit in the form of a collection of records of Cardiff's New/Reform Synagogue, already sorted and catalogued by project volunteers. The raised profile of our coal collections, resulting from publicity generated by the Glamorgan's Blood project, has led to an increase in colliery related records. One interesting example was a study of the mining industry and occupational health service compiled by Jill McAndrew, Colliery Nursing Officer, at Taff Merthyr Colliery and Trelewis Drift Mine, which included photographs of the buildings, pit and staff. Joan Mark, born in Cardiff in 1921, worked as a nurse during the 1930s and 1940s at various local hospitals, including the Prince of Wales Orthopaedic Hospital, Cardiff, City Lodge, Cardiff and Crossways Branch Hospital, Cowbridge. The collection includes her diary for 1939 where she gives a fascinating insight into the life of a nurse, including her duties, issues with staff and the matron and sicknesses on the wards. She also records details of her social life, visits to family and the start of the Second World War.



Another interesting series of diaries was that of a long serving and senior officer of Glamorgan Constabulary. William Charles May was born in Wick on 4 June 1892, joined the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1914, and was promoted to Sergeant ten years later. He later became an Inspector and served at the headquarters of the Glamorgan County Constabulary in Cardiff until his transfer to Bridgend as Superintendent in 1936, where he remained until retirement after more than 30 years' service. His diary entries cover the period 1937-1944 and comprise observations made in connection with his duties including a record of wartime incidents such as air raids in the Bridgend area during the early 1940s.

A collection of photographs of Barry Town Hall and library were transferred from Wiltshire and Swindon Archives. They show the interior and exterior of the building before its restoration in 2003. Twelve aerial photographs of the A470's route, taken for the Glamorgan Engineering Consultancy, were deposited. They show the progress of the road's construction around Pontypridd and are very detailed.





Politics were represented by the papers of Phil Bale, former Cardiff City Council Leader from 2014-2017 and the Labour & Co-operative Councillor for Llanishen and Thornhill, who stepped down in October 2019. Papers relate to his involvement in Cardiff's Capital Ambition plan, and to his campaign work, including the Save Llanishen Reservoir Campaign. Papers of another campaigning organisation were received from the Cynon Valley Anti-Poll Tax Group, including a minute book, notes of meetings, scripts for speeches, campaign flyers, and posters. An extensive collection of records has been donated by the family of a Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Herbert Hiles, born in Wellington, Somerset in 1881, who worked as a baker's boy before moving to Cardiff, where he became Lord Mayor in 1936, received an M.B.E. and was knighted the following year. The majority of records date from his time as Lord Mayor and include photographs of residential streets decorated for the coronation, the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their coronation year, and numerous programmes and photographs recording official events attended. Another Cardiff Mayor, Edmund William Vaughan, is celebrated in illuminated commemorative certificates presented to him in his mayoral year, 1893.

An interesting collection relating to Welsh language teaching in Cardiff was received from a regular searchroom user. Founded in the 1970s by a group of teachers, Cymdeithas Dysgwyr Caerdydd organised activities for learners at the Cardiff National Eisteddfod in 1978, and went on to organize local eisteddfodau for learners. Cymdeithas Canna was formed in the early 1980s by teachers of Welsh at the Urdd Centre, Conway Road, Canton. The Association's aim was to nurture and promote the education of the public in the use of the Welsh language by promoting Welsh classes in Cardiff. The Society ceased to operate in the mid-1990s.

The Baptist Union of Wales deposited a large collection of records for Caersalem Chapel, Dowlais, built on land leased from the Dowlais Iron Company in 1820, with daughter chapels, Hebron, Elim and Moriah. Records were also received for Calvary English Baptist Church, Trefforest.

The Principality Building Society began the transfer of its records. Established in 1860 as the Principality Permanent Investment Building Society the Cardiff based company advanced £2,200,000 in its first 50 years to help build 15,000 houses. The business records include collections from the many building societies it acquired in the 1970s including the Maesteg and the Gorseinon Permanent Benefit Building Societies and the Swansea and Carmarthen Building Society. At the other end of the scale, shop ledgers were received from Boadens Stores, Tynant, Beddau, showing prices and credit instalment payments from the 30s to the 60s.

Finally, a large collection was donated by Howells (House of Fraser), Cardiff. The iconic store, which has been trading in Cardiff since the mid-nineteenth century, was threatened with closure. Items received include plans, accounts, annual reports, inventories, photographs and news cuttings books.

Full lists of accessions are provided in the Glamorgan Archivist's reports to the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee, available online at: <https://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=148&LLL=0>

There has been some staff movement in the year. Both the Glamorgan's Blood Project Archivist and Conservator have moved on to employment in the sector at the end of their term, Louise to Aerospace Bristol and Stephanie to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Our former Corporate Trainee, Jake, is now with the South Wales Police Heritage Centre in Bridgend and a new Trainee, Rasheed, joined us at the beginning of February. Three Capital Ambition Trainees, Freya, Adam and Lloyd, have completed their year's placements and qualifications. A new trainee is expected to arrive in March.

And I will be retiring on 31 March. From the start of the new financial year the Glamorgan Archivist will be Laura Cotton, who is currently Director of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury. She has some Welsh connections already and is very well qualified to continue developing the service to meet the changing needs of our 21st century users and our several centuries of documents. I hope she enjoys her tenure as much as I have and will be welcomed and supported by all our community.

Susan Edwards

Glamorgan Archivist



image courtesy of www.gla.ac.uk

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