

**City and County Of Swansea  
Dinas A Sir Abertawe**

and

**Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot**

**Report of the County Archivist  
West Glamorgan Archives Committee  
21 September 2018**

**The purpose of this report is to  
outline the work of the  
Archive Service during the period  
June to August 2018**

**1. Use of the Service**

***Statistics for June to August 2018***

The number of members of public using the Service on-site, June to August 2018, was **1,431** and the total number reached by the Service on and off-site was **1,601**.

Number of on-site visits at Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot 1,431 (1,446) (figures in brackets represent the same quarter last year), comprising:

Swansea	1,018	(1,084)
Neath	290	(305)
Port Talbot	27	(21)
Group visits	96	(36)
Number in audiences for off-site visits	170	(136)
Number of pupils reached by the Education Service	248	(165)
Numbers reached at special events	0	(0)
Total numbers reached on and off-site	1601	(1,582)
Number of documents issued in Swansea	2,273	(2,062)
Number of documents issued in Neath	161	(162)
Number of post and email enquiries dealt with	354	(288)
Number of hits to the Archive Service website	2,954	(3769)
Number of hits to the online catalogue	339	(1788)
Number of hits to WGAS catalogues on the Archives Hub	8,999	(19)

## 2. Service outreach

### ***Exhibitions and events***

The Archive Service combined with Swansea Museum, the Dylan Thomas Centre, Richard Burton Archives Swansea University and Women's Archive Wales to create three versions of an exhibition celebrating the centenary of the (albeit partial) extension of suffrage to women in 1918.

The larger, more academic touring exhibition is currently on display in the Swansea Civic Centre foyer, to be followed by the Women's Archive Wales conference in October then Taliesin Create on the Swansea University campus. The smaller touring exhibition has been and will be displayed at the following Swansea venues: Volcano Theatre; YMCA; Terrace Road Primary School; African Community Centre. A fixed exhibition will be installed from mid-September to the end of the year in Swansea Museum. Students at the University of Wales Trinity St David created a short film to go with the exhibition.

The Service would welcome more bookings (and particularly more bookings from schools and from venues in Neath Port Talbot) for either of the two touring exhibitions.

Work is underway to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War with an online resource on the WGAS webpages. The Service holds a number of WW1 rolls of honour, which generally have been rescued from businesses, churches and chapels when they closed. The project aims to make the images of the documents, indexed names of those who served, and any further contextual information available online. The intention is for this to go live on 11 November 2018 and to link the launch to the UK-wide 'Explore Your Archive' marketing campaign later in November.

### ***Publications***

There are two final publications pending in the Archive Service's publications programme, both of which will be published in the next few months. The programme has been funded from a joint publications reserve which is almost exhausted.

'*The Parish of Llangyfelach: Landed Estates, Farms and Families*' by Jeff Childs will be published shortly. It is intended that the launch will take place in Penllergaer in the autumn. The book is a long and authoritative history of an upland parish including much historical information about landed estates which straddled both present-day local authority areas and beyond. Therefore it will be of interest to a geographically wide audience of those interested in Welsh history. It will be a joint publication with the author and the stock will be shared equally between the two parties. The author is a regular speaker to local history groups and he will combine future talks with book sales and signings. For its part, the Service will be able to provide shop and online sales.

While the capacity to publish hard copy books may disappear, the Service is currently exploring the possibility in the future of creating and selling eBooks through the Service's online sales outlet. This will allow the republication of popular WGAS titles that have sold out in hard copy. It could also enable the Service to reproduce classic publications by local historians if they are out of copyright, as was done in hardback form some years ago with W H Jones' '*History of the Port of Swansea*' and Walter de Gray Birch's '*History of Margam Abbey*'. It is intended to test the market with a small publication from the former Swansea City Archives which has long been out of print, entitled '*The Enclosure of Townhill*'.

## ***Education Service***

Members of staff have conducted one or several sessions with the following schools during the last quarter, delivered either on or off-site:

Cefn Hengoed Secondary, Swansea  
St Helen's Primary, Swansea (3 sessions)

An archivist also presented at an INSET day for History teachers at Morryston School.

## ***Talks to groups***

Members of staff have given the following talks to groups during the last quarter:

Ystradgynlais Family History Society

## **3. Professional meetings and partnership working**

Members of staff have attended the following professional meetings and taken part in partnership work as follows during the last quarter:

4-site (a common portal for schools to access the education services of Swansea's museums and West Glamorgan's archives)  
Archives and Records Council Wales  
South Wales Record Society

## **4. Staff**

The Archive Trainee for 2018/19 will be John Moffat. John is a recent MA graduate in History from Glasgow University and comes from Dundee.

The County Archivist has over the quarter assisted in the project planning and process of recruitment of two trainees for the cultural heritage sector, traineeships to be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by Cardiff and the Vale College who will award an NVQ Level 2 on completion of the placements. The Archives is one of the venues for the trainees during their year-long placements in venues in Swansea and Llanelli. The two trainees are aged between 18 and 24 and are NEETs.

## **5. Accessions of archive collections**

A comprehensive list of archives received during the period June to August 2018 is attached for information at Appendix 1.

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**ACCESSIONS OF ARCHIVES**  
**June-August 2018**

<b><i>Creator/originator</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Dates</i></b>	<b><i>Extent</i></b>	<b><i>Reference number</i></b>
Bethel URC/English Congregational Chapel, Sketty Green, Swansea	Friendship Club and Sisterhood minutes, lists of members, subscriptions and accounts	1950-2013	8 vols; 2 bundles	D/D E/Cong 14/1/1-14/3/2
Pennard Women's Institute	Various photographs of members of Pennard Women's Institute and events put on by them	1950-2000s	1 bundle	D/D Xno 29/28
Peter Hall video collection	Short video of an actor in a trench describing life at the front in the First World War	2018	1 MP4 file (103Mb) on CD-Rom	
Private donation	Receipt from the Mayor's Air Raid Relief Fund	1942	1 paper	D/D Z 1060/1
Gower Society	Bundle of additional papers relating to the Gower Society. Includes a deposit by Rhodri Walters.	1953-2018	1 bundle	D56 4c/4-5; 5/40; 7/79-80
Women's Archive Wales	Personal papers of Margaret Fisher, Martha Mary Davies and Mary Ann Fisher	20th cent	1 small crate	WAW 45/1-8
Oystermouth Historical Association	Various facsimile and transcript records relating to Oystermouth and Newton schools, and to Mrs Rees, a former headmistress at Newton School, and Thistleboon Orphanage, Mumbles	19th-20th century	1 envelope	D/D Z 95/130-133
Private donation	Papers relating to Grenville P. Neilson who worked for the Treasurer's Dept., Guildhall, Swansea	20th cent.	1 small bundle	D/D Z 316/8/9-10
Undeb Bedyddwyr Cymru (Baptist Union of Wales)	Annual report	2018	2 booklets	

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Private donation	Papers relating to Griffith John (Swansea born missionary)	20th-21st cent	1 bundle	D/D Z 165/34
D. R. Grenfell papers	Photographs, correspondence and certificates relating to the career of D. R. Grenfell	c. 1895-1968	1 bundle	D 207/19/1-6
Swansea Women's History Group	Exhibition material from the Swansea Women's History Group	20th cent.	2 large folders	
Llansawel Primary School	Log book, 1933-1990; Admission registers, 1894-1998	1894-1990	6 vols	E/N 6/1/3; E/N 6/2/1-5
Private donation	Three letters written by Brinley Steins to his mother from the Front during the First World War.	1917	3 letters in 2 envelopes	D/D Z 1064
Private donation	Gower Festival Programmes, 2017-2018	2017-2018	2 items	D 62/2/39-40
Private deposit	Business minutes of the Soroptimist International group of Port Talbot	1980-2017	1 box	D/D SIPT 1/6-30; 3/1-2
Brynhyfryd Primary School, Briton Ferry	Log books, admission registers, photographs	19th-21st cent	2 crates	E/N 1/1/2-4; E/N 1/2/1-3; E/N 1/3/1-14; E/N 1/4/1-3
Swansea War Library	Newspapers, pamphlets, leaflets and booklets relating to the First World War	1914-1920	1 bundle	
Port Talbot Elementary Secondary School	Governors minute book; cleaning/cookery schedule	1918-1930	2 vols	E/D Sec 8/1b; E/D Sec 13/16
Peter Hall video collection	DVD entitled Rorke's Drift Anglo Zulu War 1879: Swansea Connections	2018	1 DVD	D/D Z 717/46
Pantygwydr Baptist Church, Uplands, Swansea	125th anniversary chapel history	2018	2 vols.	D/D Bap 50/128
West Glamorgan County Council	diary	1987-1988	1 vol.	WGCC/CE 3/12a
Ecclesiastical parish of Penmaen	Register of services and churchwardens' accounts	1892-1936	2 vols., 1 paper	P/116/CW/45-47

<b>Creator/originator</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Reference number</b>
Private donation	Plans and reports relating to the Walkers Crisps factory building at Fforestfach, Swansea	n.d., post 2006	1 bundle	D/D Z 1061/1
Swansea Library collection	Books of poetry by Edward Young (Eos Wyn) of Alltwen	1870s-1880s	3 vols.	SL EW 1-3
Pantycrwys, Eglwys yr Annibynwyr, Craig-cefn-parc	Facsimile of the chapel graveyard register (which was loaned for copying and returned)	2018	1 vol.; 1 CD-ROM	D/D Ind 51/1/1
Private donation	Surveys of the Lower Swansea Valley	1945-c. 1965	3 vols	D/D Z 1063/1-3
Undeb Bedyddwyr Cymru	Y Negesydd/The Messenger - newsletter	Summer 2018	2 pamphlets	
Peter Hall DVD collection	Film about the D-Day experiences of members of the South Wales Borderers	2018	2 digital files, downloaded to CD-ROM	D/D Z 717/47
Private donation	Pre-registration title deeds of no. 3, Rosser Terrace, Cwmafan	1924-1995	1 bundle	D/D Z 1065/1

<b>Creator/originator</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Reference number</b>
Benefice of South West Gower	Reynoldston - marriages, service registers, PCC and Easter Vestry minutes, and records relating to the fabric of the church, 1933-2017; Oxwich - PCC and Easter Vestry minutes and records relating to the fabric of the church, 1918-2017; Port Eynon - records relating to the Port Eynon, Llanddewi and Rhossili Church Working Group, records relating to the fabric of the church and Easter Vestry and PCC minutes, 1982-2017; Penrice - records relating to the fabric of the church and Easter Vestry and PCC minutes, 1987-2014; Llanddewi - records relating to the fabric of the church and Easter Vestry and PCC minutes, 2003-2017; Rhossili - records relating to the fabric of the church and Easter Vestry and PCC minutes, 1993-2017	1918-2017	1 carload	P/107/CW/16-18; P/114/CW/16-23 P/118/CW/14-15; P/119/CW/97-103; P/120/CW/19-33; P/121/CW/28-32
Private deposit	Swansea Canal records (facsimile)	1793-2015	8 folders plus a several small items	