

City and County of Swansea
Dinas A Sir Abertawe
and
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot

West Glamorgan Archives Committee - 16 June 2023

Report of the County Archivist

**The purpose of this report is to
outline the work of the
Archive Service during the period
March to May 2023**

1. Use of the Service

Statistics for March to May 2023

The number of members of public using the Service on-site, March to May 2023, was 718 and the total number reached by the Service on and off-site was 876.

Number of on-site visits at Swansea and Neath 718 (364) (figures in brackets represent the same quarter last year), comprising:

| | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| Swansea | 444 | (344) |
| Neath | 34 | (20) |
| Group visits | 240 | (0) |
| Number in audiences for off-site visits | 158 | (0) |
| Number of pupils reached by the Education Service | 309 | (0) |
| Numbers reached at special events | 0 | (0) |
| Total numbers reached on and off-site | 876 | (364) |
| Number of documents issued in Swansea | 1,560 | (2,095) |
| Number of documents issued in Neath | 88 | (71) |
| Number of post and email enquiries dealt with | 513 | (799) |
| Number of hits to the Archive Service website | 1,922 | (1,378) |
| Number of hits to the online catalogue | 10 | (906) |
| Number of hits to WGAS catalogues on the Archives Hub | 19,353 | (n/a) |
| Number of hits to NAS catalogues on the Archives Hub | 1,065 | (1,538) |
| Number of page views on Ancestry | 111,521 | (110,925) |

The usage figures for 2022/23 are now available and are as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Swansea | 1,424 |
| Neath | 131 |
| Group visits | 407 |
| TOTAL | 1,962 |

Numbers using the archives in Swansea and Neath have continued to recover but are nowhere near the 4,957 recorded in 2019/20 immediately before the pandemic. However the 2022/3 figure is almost triple the previous year's figure of 679, (when social distancing was in place).

If we extrapolate this quarter's figures to estimate the 23/24 likely outcome, then we can anticipate a further rise to around 2,800.

Analysis of our Archives Card reader's ticket system allows us to analyse statistics of visits of those who have a reader's ticket (i.e. all users of original documents). Looking at the provenance of our researchers, for 2022/23 this comprises residents of:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Swansea | 42% |
| Neath Port Talbot | 16% |
| Rest of Wales | 19% |
| England | 20% |
| Overseas | 3% |

2. Outreach and educational activity

The Archives annual report for 2022/23 went online at the end of May at <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/countyarchivistannualreport> Local history articles were contributed by a number of staff and by Catrin Stevens of Women's Archive Wales.

Service to schools

Archive staff have delivered education sessions to the following schools during the quarter:

Bryn Tawe
Glyncollen
St Thomas
Townhill

Several sessions have also been run for students of Swansea University.

Talks to groups

Archive staff have delivered talks to the following groups during the quarter:

Pantygwydr Baptist Church
Renew Mind Centre
Twentieth Century Society

The Glamorgan Family History Society, Swansea branch, have moved their monthly meetings to the Family History Centre. Archive staff have delivered talks to the group about family history resources available in the archives.

3. Relocation of the archives to the City Centre Hub

Work continues on the design of the new archive storage area at RIBA Stage 4 to ensure that the City Centre Hub facility meets British Standard 4971 and can achieve the Accreditation Standard. Detailed discussions for the storage area are underway, with Welsh Government and The National Archives, to resolve all outstanding concerns.

The feasibility study for a regional archive facility has proceeded during the quarter, with an initial report being presented on 31st March. The second phase of the study is due to end in mid-July.

4. Staff

Don Rodgers retired from the post of Archives Assistant at the end of March and David Morris, Archivist, resigned in order to take early retirement in April. The Service is therefore carrying several vacancies and this has hampered efforts to return to our pre-covid opening hours, which involve restoring lunchtime opening in Swansea and increasing opening hours in Neath.

5. Professional meetings and training

Archive staff have attended a number of professional working groups and undertaken training during the quarter as follows:

Archives and Records Council Wales
South Wales Record Society Committee
Wales Broadcast Archive project team
Welsh County Archivists Group

Anti-racism and Black history in the Curriculum for Wales
'Dig where you Stand': a case study of curating collections to explore the historic presence of Black people in British society
Introduction to digital preservation
Improving the user experience for web pages

6. Accessions of archive collections

A comprehensive list of archives received during the period March to May 2023 is attached at Appendix 1.

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ACCESSIONS OF ARCHIVES
March-May 2023

| <i>Creator/originator</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Dates</i> | <i>Extent</i> | <i>Reference number</i> |
|--|---|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Port Eynon ecclesiastical parish | Register of Marriages, St. Cattwg's Church, Port Eynon. | 1997-2016 | 1 volume | P/119/CW/105 |
| Clydach and Ystalyfera ecclesiastical parishes | Register of Services, Eglwys y Ddrindod, Ystalyfera, 1938; Register of marriages St. Michael and All Angels Trebanos, 2006-2019 and Register of marriages St. Mary's Clydach, 2014-2019. | 1938-2019 | 3 volumes | P/329/CW/40; P/302/CW/94-95 |
| Private donation | Photograph of Swansea and District Shiplovers' Society dinner held in the Merchant Navy Hotel, St Helen's Road, Swansea, 22 May 1955. Includes event speaker Captain William Storm Harrison, second from right, in the nearest row facing the camera. Also includes copy South Wales Evening Post articles about the occasion, and another naming several prominent society members, 3 June 1954. | 1954-1955 | 1 photograph, 2 papers | D/D Z 817/7/1-3 |
| Llanrhidian Higher Community Council | Minutes and Agenda | March 2023 | 1 items | P/111/45 |

| Creator/originator | Description | Dates | Extent | Reference number |
|---|---|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Private donation | Bequest from the estate of Brian Simpson. Includes photographs of staff at Lloyds Bank, Wind Street/Temple Street; photographs of Swansea Chamber of Commerce members; bundle of notes relating to Private R A Simpson; bundle of papers relating to Richards Turpin (Shipping) Ltd.; bundle of miscellaneous papers. | 1916-1990 | 1 large bundle | D/D Z 1114/73-84 |
| Ecclesiastical parish of Rhossili | Marriage register | 1997-2011 | 1 vol. | P/121/CW/34 |
| City and County of Swansea Finance: Pensions | Stock certificates; Stock Registers; correspondence. | 1974-1983 | 2 vols; 2 small bundles | |
| Merched Y Wawr Pontarddulais a'r Cylch | Minutes, agendas, correspondence, accounts | 1975-2020 | 1 crate | WAW 48/1/1-48/3/1 |
| Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Electoral Services Section | Register of Electors 2023 | 2023 | 2 files | CB/NPT RE 46-47 |
| Private donation | Records relating to Swansea Metropolitan University. Including research notes and finished project on the history of SMU and all the colleges and institutions that made up the university's history. | | 1 box, 1 file and 1 bag | |
| Private donation | Three photograph albums of Communication Workers Union Swansea at meetings, rallies and parties. | c. 1970s-2007 | 3 albums | |

| Creator/originator | Description | Dates | Extent | Reference number |
|---|--|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| City and County of Swansea, Natural Environment Section | Designation map and order of the Gower AONB, 1956, management plans 1973-2006 and history 2005 | 1956-2006 | 1 box | CC/S NE 1/1-9 |
| Llanrhidian Higher Community Council | Minutes | Mar. 2023 | 1 file | P/111/45 |
| Penrice ecclesiastical parish | Marriage register | 1971-2007 | 1 vol. | P/118/CW/17 |
| Ystalyfera ecclesiastical parish | Registers of baptisms, banns, services and confirmations | 1955-2022 | 5 vols | P/329/CW/41-45 |
| Private donation | Waunarlwydd Coronation Festivities Souvenir Programme for the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth | May 12th 1937 | 1 leaflet | D/D Z 1156/1 |
| City and County of Swansea, Planning Department | Slides of Kilvey and Lower Swansea Valley construction work | 1970s-1990s | 1 file | CC/S PI 11/1 |
| Private depositor | Transit and Commerce - antiquarian book with references to the Mumbles Railway | 1907 | 1 vol. | D/D Z 839/19 |
| Private deposit | Photographs of Grove House, Alexandra Road (1960s); the Strand [c.1930s] | 1960s-1930s? | 2 items | |
| Private donation | Correspondence relating to property in Alfred Street, Neath and Mr Morgan Reynolds Morgan. | 1922-1927 | 4 papers | D/D Z 1137/2 |
| Port Eynon Parish Council | Minute book | 1894-1936 | 1 vol. | P/119/2a |
| Private donation | Photographs of staff and pupils at Clevedon College, Swansea, and bundle of deeds of properties in | 1857-1973 | 1 bundle, 1 envelope | D/D Z 1159/1-4 |
| High Sheriff of West Glamorgan | Declarations and warrants of Alan Brayley as Sheriff and Andrew Meech as Under Sheriff of West Glamorgan | 2023 | 4 papers | HS/W 50/1-4 |

| Creator/originator | Description | Dates | Extent | Reference number |
|---|---|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Private donation | Various photographs of family members and local views; booklets relating to local churches | 1840s-2000s | 1 bundle | D/D Z 1157/1-34 |
| Private donation | Grand Theatre poster | 1909 | 1 paper | D/D Z 1161/1/1 |
| Ecclesiastical parish of Swansea St. Mark | Marriage Register | 5 June 1971-4 June 1994 | 1 vol. | P/106/CW/104 |
| Ecclesiastical parish of St. John-juxta-Swansea | Marriage Register | 15 Apr. 1971-21 Apr. 2021 | 1 vol. | P/322/CW/60 |
| Private donation | Brochure for housing development Ferrara Quay, Swansea Marina. Includes price list, floor plans and general specifications of the properties available. | 1987 | 1 envelope | D/D Z 1158 |
| Swansea Council | Brochure for the Ceremony to mark the Honorary Freedom to Swansea branch of the Merchant Navy Association, held at The Guildhall, 22 July 2022 | 2022 | 1 leaflet | CC/S CE 12/8 |
| Messrs Strick and Bellingham, solicitors | Bundles of pre-registration title deeds relating to various properties in Swansea and surrounding area. | 1860s-1970s | 16 small bundles | D/D SB 32/15-30 |
| Powys County Council | Rhaglen a chofnodion Henaduriaeth Gorllewin Morganwg, Tabernacle, Penclawdd Mehefin 15, 1950; Cyfarfodydd Sefydlu Eglyws Annibynol Danygraig Pontardawe, 13-14/11/1946, published by W. Pugh, Pontardawe. | 1946-1950 | 2 leaflets | D/D Z 12/5-6 |

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|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Private deposit | Oral history recordings conducted with residents in Cwmafan; books about, owned by and connected with D. Afan Thomas, and singing culture in the Afan Valley | 19th-21st cent. | 5 vols.; 1 tape, 1 digital video file | T 36/2-3; |
| Clive Reed Collection | Documents, photographs, histories associated with the Swansea Canal and industries in the Swansea Valley; video recording of Pontardawe Festival dance team, c.1998; Cassette recording of a lecture by Clive Reed on the development of Pontardawe, 1994. | 1982-1994 | 3 bundles | D/D Z 80/329/1-17 |
| Swansea Labour Left | Minutes | 2017-2023 | 6 bundles | Lab/SLL 1/14-19 |
| Private donation | Order for service of thanksgiving in celebration of the coronation of his Majesty Charles III at St Mary's Church, Swansea | 30 Apr. 2023 | 1 booklet | D/D Z 168/17 |
| John Milner Collection - Afan Valley Project | Reports and maps in relation to the Afan Valley Project, a proposed narrow gauge railway | 1980s | 5 items | D/D Z 1160/1-5 |

| Creator/originator | Description | Dates | Extent | Reference number |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Private donation | Various documents relating to the depositors family. Includes Daily Post leaflet regarding general strike, 1926; War Damage Contribution bill; Civil defence enrolment form; Plasmarl Council Boys School photograph, 1913; information on Mr and Mrs Elias Parry of Canal Cottage Plasmarl; 100 years of Lewis Lewis booklet; photographs and correspondence relating to Catherine Jones; Swansea Empire Programmes; University of Wales Latin and Grammar Matriculation Examination and church and chapel booklets. | 1915-1943 | 1 file | |
| Strick and Bellingham, Solicitors | Pre-registration title deeds for properties in Swansea | 19th-20th century | 8 bundles | D/D SB 32/31-38 |
| Private donation | 35mm slides taken by G. Elfed Jones of Swansea and the surrounding area. Most slides are identified and dated. | 1959-1973 | 1 small slide box | D/D Z 1142/3 |
| Private donation | Papers relating to Fabian's Bay Congregational Church, Balaclava Street: chapel magazines, financial statements | 1951-1995 | 1 bundle | D/D E/Cong 13/2-4 |
| Private donation | Papers relating to Margaret Excell (later Davies) of 26 Inkerman Street, St Thomas and her work as a midwife: register of cases. | 1919-1945 | 1 bundle | D/D Z 1163 |
| Neath Rural District Council | Minutes | 1929-1974 | 43 vols | NL RD/N 210-252 |

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|--|---|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Great Western Railway Engineers' Department, Neath | Boxes of staff record cards | mid-20th century | 2 boxes | D/D Z 1164/1 |
| Charles Morgan papers | Watercolour painting by Charles Morgan, showing Penmaen Rectory | c. 1832-1833 | 1 watercolour painting | |
| Strick and Bellingham, Solicitors | Pre-registration title deeds of properties in South Wales | 1859-2000 | 11 bundles | D/D SB 32/39-49 |
| Private donation | Negatives for photographs in D/D Z 1142/1 | | 2 items | D/D Z 1142/2 |