

**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  
15 December 2023**

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

**1. Use of the Service**

***Statistics for September to November 2023***

The number of members of public using the Service on-site, September to November 2023, was **548** and the total number reached by the Service on and off-site was **987**.

Number of on-site visits at Swansea and Neath: 548 (534) (figures in brackets represent the same quarter last year), comprising:

Swansea	364	(379)
Neath	123	(40)
Group visits	61	(115)
Number in audiences for off-site visits	439	(0)
Number of pupils reached by the Education Service	363	(108)
Numbers reached at special events	100	(100)
Total numbers reached on and off-site	987	(634)
Number of documents issued in Swansea	1,874	(2,130)
Number of documents issued in Neath	62	(32)
Number of post and email enquiries dealt with	617	(575)
Number of hits to the Archive Service website	2,492	(2,034)
Number of hits to WGAS catalogues on Archives Hub	n/a	(21,654)
Number of hits to NAS catalogues on Archives Hub	n/a	(1,170)
Number of page views on Ancestry	76,243	(105,052)

Additionally, during the quarter a further 105 people attended the Neath Mechanics Institute at sessions run by the NAS including on Thursday mornings. Following recruitment of a new member of staff, WGAS will restart the full day Thursday opening in collaboration with NAS volunteers on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## **2. Outreach and educational activity**

### ***Service to schools***

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

Tirdeunaw Primary School  
Pentregraig Primary School

Sessions have also been run for undergraduate and postgraduate history students of Swansea University and for art students at University of Wales Trinity St David.

### ***Talks to groups***

Talks were also delivered to the following groups during the quarter:

Rich History, Port Talbot  
The Oddfellows Society  
Pennard Men's Society

The County Archivist spoke during a UWTSD symposium panel session '*Capturing the Moment: Swansea's Stained Glass Archives*' and at an introduction to the work of the British Association for Local History held by the BALH for the Swansea University History Society. He also attended a celebration of the life of Jen Wilson, founder of Jazz Heritage Wales; the book launch of the Neath Antiquarian Society's latest book, '*The Neath Antiquarian, Volume 4 Centenary edition*' and the National Waterfront Museum's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

The Service continues to deliver a monthly session for the Glamorgan Family History Society, Swansea Branch.

The Service also had bookstalls at the Swansea Local History Bookfair and the Glamorgan History Society Day School in Bridgend.

## **3. Relocation of the archives to the City Centre Hub and other project work**

Work continues on the finalisation of the drawings for the new archives facility to be situated in the City Centre Hub (the building is to be called Y Storfa when open). As reported in the last meeting, it was previously agreed that the document lift would be replaced by the use of a staff lift with an appropriate security strategy for its use put in place. This switch entailed moving the

archives public area within the first floor layout and a valuable side-effect of this was the allocation of increased space for the archive searchroom, allowing for extra public PCs to be located there. This will allow the Service to implement its digital strategy (providing access to digital and digitised content onsite) and will also allow family historians using archive material to access related online material in the searchroom rather than they have to go out to use a PC and come back in again. The layouts before and after revision are shown for comparison in Appendix 1.

The National Conservation Service attended in November and provided training on how to better care for our photographic collections. Meanwhile, the Archives' glass slide collection has gone to a specialist company for digitisation. The Wales Broadcast Archive Clip Corner is now due to launch on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **4. Staff**

Ffion Kidwell has been recruited as Archive Assistant and started work on 5<sup>th</sup> December. As referred to above, filling this post will allow the Service to resume its full two day-a-week service in Neath.

#### **5. Professional meetings and training**

Archives staff have attended a number of professional working groups and undertaken training during the quarter (all meetings online) as follows:

Archives and Records Council Wales  
Wales Broadcast Archive project team  
Welsh Digital Preservation Consortium

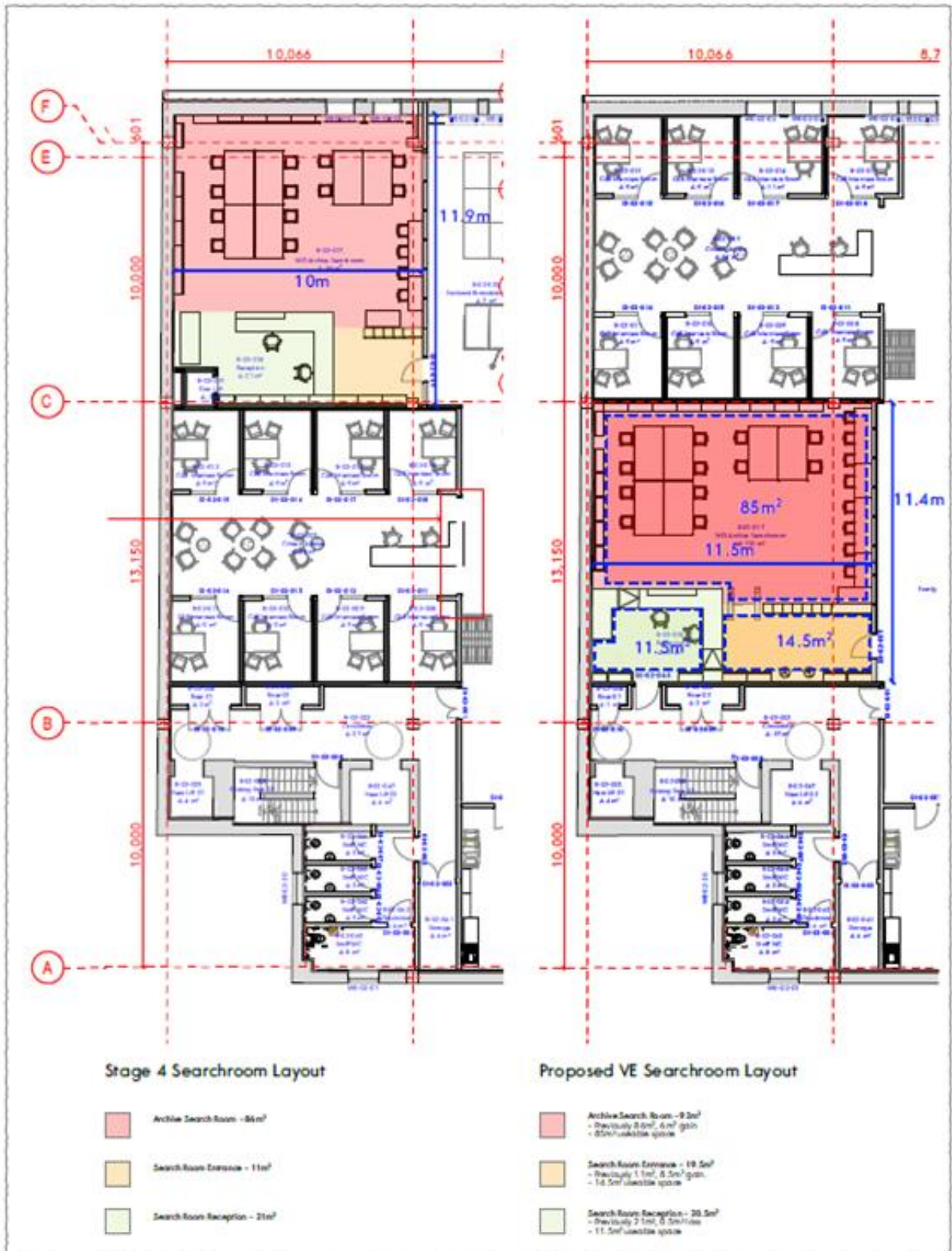
A number of Archives staff attended a Hackathon organised by Welsh Government Culture Division relating to the digital preservation of archival material.

#### **6. Accessions of archive collections**

A comprehensive list of archives received during the period September to November 2023 is attached at Appendix 2.

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Original and revised searchroom layouts



**ACCESSIONS OF ARCHIVES**  
**September-November 2023**

<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>
South Wales Baptist Association	Chapel histories of the following chapels: Bethany Baptist Church, West Cross; York Place Baptist Chapel; Sketty Baptist Church; Mount Pleasant Baptist Church; Aenon, Morriston	1975-2017	5 booklets	Searchroom Library
Llwchwr Society	Magazines vols 13 and 15	1989-1991	3 vols	Searchroom Library
Davies, Ingram & Hardy, solicitors	Miscellaneous pre-registration title deeds of properties in West Glamorgan	19th-20th cent.	1 box	D/D DIH 1/2-1/49; D/D DIH 2/1-2/2
Private donation	Photographs (postcards) of staff and patients at Swansea Hospital	May 1920	4 postcards	D/D Z 1184/1-4
Private donation	Dunvant Infants' School Prospectuses and booklet entitled "It's time to move to the reception class"	1996-2001	3 booklets	E/S 7/24/3-6
Private donation	"Chapel Underground - Mynydd Newydd (New Mountain) Colliery - Penlan" by Ivor Williams	2022	1 booklet	Searchroom Library
Llanrhidian Higher Community Council	Minutes and Agenda	September 2023	1 bundle	P/111/45 (part)
Swansea Municipal Secondary School	School magazine	July 1914	1 booklet	E/Dyn Sec X 13/9
Swansea Reference Library	Library books relating to the location of the Guildhall as a Swansea Based Assembly for Wales	1998-2014	8 books	SL PC 10-11

<b>Creator/originator</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Extent</b>	<b>Reference number</b>
South Wales Baptist Association	Photocopies of the following chapel histories: History of Memorial, 1873-1998; Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Danygraig, 1883-1933; St Thomas Baptist Chapel and Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 1881-1981	1933-1998	3 items	Searchroom Library
Private donation	Highway Rate Book for the parish of Loughor	1874	1 vol.	
Private donation	Captain Stephen Henry Piper, 1901-1982: A Swansea Man Remembers	2023	1 vol.	Searchroom Library
Swansea Reference Library	Minutes of a hearing in arbitration between The Swansea Harbour Trustees and The Assessment Committee of the Swansea Union.	25-26 April 1910	2 vol.	
Tafodiaith Nedd ac Afan	Oral history recordings of Welsh dialect speech in the Neath and Afan valleys	n.d., 2000s	11 digital audio files	
Private deposit	Capel Brynteg, Gorseinon, record of purchase of burial plots 1975-2013; ARP sticker book, 1940s	1940s-2013	2 vols.	
Private donation	Photographs taken at a field trip to Gower	1993	1 bundle	

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Swansea Reference Library	Swansea City Council Local Plan Review, including 10 maps, 1994-1995; Swansea Local Plan (including Waste Policies) Review No.1 1993-2003, deposit draft proposals maps, 1996; A Poverty Profile of Swansea 2008.	1993-2008	3 files	
Gower Conservative Association; Llangennith Parish Council	Records of Gower Conservative Association and branches, 1925-1995; minutes and accounts of Llangennith Parish Council, 1927-1967	1925-1995	16 vols	D/D Cons/G 1/1-4/1; P/109/26-27
Private donation	Notebook taken by student nurse Kate Hopkin during her training at Swansea General and Eye Hospital.	1939-1941	1 volume	D/D Z 1185/1
Private donation	Large photograph of The First Committee of the Pontardawe Public Hall and Institute, 1909; and series of postcards of South Wales scenes, c 1905-1912	1909-1912	1 large print and 6 post cards	
Private donation	Information pack on the life of Daniel James (1848-1920) produced for use at Gwyrasydd Primary School. Accompanied by an animated DVD about his life. English and Welsh versions of the typed document and the DVD. Produced by Treboeth History Society.	2013	2 booklets and 2 DVDs	

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Swansea Library First World War Museum Collection	Autograph book belonging to a nurse working at Swansea Hospital during the First World War	c 1909-1916	1 volume	SL WL 10/35
Private donation	Papers and photographs relating to Myfanwy Nixon (née Harries) and her time as a midwife in and around Swansea.	1942-1955	1 bundle	
Private donation	Papers relating to South Wales Transport Company Limited	1963-1964	1 small bundle	D/D Z 1186/1-3