

**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
30 September 2022**

**The purpose of this report is to
outline the work of the
Archive Service during the period
June to August 2022**

1. Use of the Service

Statistics for June to August 2022

The number of members of public using the Service on-site, June to August 2022, was **408** and the total number reached by the Service on and off-site was **408**.

Number of on-site visits at Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot 408 (153) (figures in brackets represent the same quarter last year), comprising:

Swansea	384	(153)
Neath	24	(0)
Port Talbot	0	(0)
Group visits	0	(0)
Number in audiences for off-site visits	0	(0)
Number of pupils reached by the Education Service	0	(0)
Numbers reached at special events	0	(0)
Total numbers reached on and off-site	###	(153)
Number of documents issued in Swansea	1,023	(1,146)
Number of documents issued in Neath	29	(0)
Number of post and email enquiries dealt with	562	(664)
Number of hits to the Archive Service website	2,178	(5,384)
Number of hits to the online catalogue	20	(76)
Number of hits to WGAS catalogues on Archives Hub	20,893	(n/a)
Number of hits to NAS catalogues on Archives Hub	990	(n/a)
Number of page views on Ancestry	86,300	(135,858)

2. National Broadcast Archive

Subsequent to last quarter's report which envisaged an opening in September, work on the Clip Corner has been delayed until October at the request of the National Library of Wales, which is encountering problems with finishing the computer terminals which will be installed in the dedicated space. It is hoped that an optional demonstration of the Clip Corner can be included following the next meeting of the Committee.

3. Outreach and educational activity

Outreach work during the quarter has been confined to regular social media posts including archive material marking national anniversaries such as the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

The Archive Service's annual report was published online in early June at <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/6226/Annual-Report-of-the-County-Archivist>. The report contains an overview of the year's statistics and activities and a number of local history articles: '*Edward le Despenser's Charter to Margam Abbey, 1358*' by Andrew Dulley; '*The Derek Gabriel photograph collection: the changing face of a town and city*' by Katie Millien; '*Swansea County Borough Land Use Survey, 1949-1977*' by Emma Laycock; '*Cyril George Cupid and the creation of Cupid Way*' by Charles Wilson-Watkins; '*The murder stone at Cadoxton*' by Martyn Griffiths and '*Sky high above Mawr*' by Ioan Richard.

The Archive Service has joined in an all-Wales bid for funds from the Anti-racist Wales Culture Heritage and Sport Fund, a bid which consists of three potential workstreams. One of these workstreams is the digitisation and web-mounting of archival material relating to Wales' links to the historic transatlantic slave trade (a topic which has been discussed in several previous meetings of this Committee). A second strand of the bid would see a filtering of Wales' archive catalogues to identify problematic race-related terminology which some may find outdated or offensive.

4. Professional meetings and training

Archives staff have attended a number of professional working groups during the quarter as follows:

Archives and Records Council Wales
National Broadcast Archive Project Team
Rich History Advisory Group
The World Re-imagined Heritage Stream
Welsh digitisation project team

5. Relocation of the archives

The last meeting of the Committee was held relatively late and hence (together with the August holiday period) there is not a significant advance in planning for the City Centre Hub, which at time of writing is yet to start on RIBA Stage 4. RIBA Stage 4 relates to technical design, and a number of challenges remain as to how the archive strongroom will maintain environmental stability in accordance with BS 4971.

A member of staff of the National Conservation Service attended the archives to advise on preparations for transfer of the collection. She commented that the Service was well advanced in its preparation works and on the right track. The Service will continue to liaise with the NCS to prepare a plan for the safe transfer of the collections between the two locations.

The relocation of the archives was amongst the subjects addressed by Swansea Council's Scrutiny Panel on 16th August.

As recorded in the minutes of the March meeting, neither Swansea Council nor our supervising agencies (Welsh Government and The National Archives) consider that the move of the archive collections to the City Centre Hub is an ideal solution for the archives, both in terms of the limited public space available for archive users dictated by a multi-use building and the design of the archive storage area, which is unconventional and may not achieve BS4971.

It is for this reason that both the Council and Welsh Government considered it advisable for a feasibility study to take place for an alternative solution for the archives and it was agreed last December to seek external funding to investigate the feasibility of a more sustainable long-term solution to the needs of the collections in the form of a dedicated archive facility which could also encompass other archive collections in the city at present in need of being made more publicly available.

Such a move would free the City Centre Hub from its dual role as a heritage store for archives and museum artefacts and as a multi-purpose drop-in centre providing a range of high quality wrap-around services to the local community, the latter role being the one which the building is more suited to perform.

Especially if attached to a proposed extension to Swansea Museum, such an archive facility could be a cultural attraction of benefit to the sector more widely, adding to the visitor footfall and tourist appeal of the city's Museum quarter. Being less constricted in its public space, it could also be more in keeping with the size of population served by the Archive Service.

A maximum sum of £50K was made available to the Council to carry out the feasibility study on the basis that 30% of the total funding would come from the local authority. Further discussion of this feasibility study will take place in the meeting but **members are requested to approve the use of archives reserves to a maximum of £25K to provide match funding for this study.**

6. Accessions of archive collections

A comprehensive list of archives received during the period June to August 2022 is attached at Appendix 1.

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ACCESSIONS OF ARCHIVES
June-August 2022

<i>Creator/originator</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Reference number</i>
Private donation	Diaries of Florence M Leaver, 1887-1901; correspondence between Iris E Mead and Tom Crocker, 1943-1945; Scrapbook belonging to Peggy Mead containing newspaper cuttings relating to parliament, 1937-1952; Passport of Norman V Leaver, 1937	1887-1952	6 vols; 2 bundles	D/D Z 1134/1-8
Private donation	County Borough of Swansea Police. Reunion at Morriston Golf Club	20 May 2022	1 booklet	
Private donation	Correspondence related to Tin and Steel works in West Glamorgan	1927-1952	4 papers	
Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Coroner	Inquest and non-inquest cases	2005	9 linear metres	
Arthur Rees Collection	Additional items from the Arthur Rees Collection	1811-1978	1 box	
Private donation	Photographs of Swansea Schools' Association League, 1956-1958; photographs of a wedding, n.d.; items relating to Cleavdon College and a Miss McLeod, 1950s; Tenants Handbook, n.d.; deeds relating to various properties, 1866-1950s	1866-1980s	1 bundle	
Old Dy'vorians	'The Dy'vorian' - magazine for former pupils and teachers of Dynevor School, Swansea	2020-2021	4 booklets	
Private donation	Photographs of Loughor, Gowerton and Gorseinon	20th-21st cent.	1 bundle	
Private donation	Union cards of Gilbert H. Jones of Swansea from apprenticeship to retirement	1944-1996	1 bundle	

Creator/originator	Description	Dates	Extent	Reference number
Private deposit	Bishopston and Murton Roll of Honour, 1st and 2nd World war commissioned and paid for by Graham Jones, Bishopswood Farm, Bishopston	1914-1945	1 roll	
Neath Town Council	Minutes and reports	2001-2019	10 boxes	
Private donation	Article entitled "John Charles Williams (1876-1936): Kidwelly born American Industrial Magnate and Philanthropist" by Michael Williams	2022	1 bundle	
Glamorgan County Council	Annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer	1953-1970	11 vols	GCC/HE 1/1-11
Private donation	Carmel Aberavon by Allen Bleddyn. Translated by Peter Williams	2021	1 vol	Add to Searchroom Library
Private donation	Reminiscences of Mrs Joan M. Broome (nee Griffiths) of Neath	2022	1 bundle	
The Gower Festival	Papers relating to the Gower Festival	1974-2022	1 small box	
City and County of Swansea, Commons Registration	Swansea Commons Register Maps; Neath Port Talbot Commons Register Maps	c. 1965-2011	1 large volumes; 1 bundle	
Private Deposit	Papers relating to the Swansea artist Mike Jones including posters, programmes, leaflets; papers relating to the artist Lynnford Jones; photograph of crash site of Wellington Bomber on hill side in the Swansea Valley	late 20th early 21st cent	1 folder	
Private deposit	Papers relating to Brian Simpson, ex-president of RISW including concert programmes, newspaper cuttings and ship brokers certificate	c. 20th century	1 bundle	
Ilston parish	Minutes of the West Gower Ruridecanal Conference and of Ilston PCC	1990s-2010s	1 bag	

<i>Creator/originator</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Reference number</i>
Royston Kneath collection	Bundle of deeds relating to a house at Hunts Bay, Pennard, and a house in Mirador Crescent, Swansea, 1867-1941, and medieval deed relating to properties in Patribourne, Kent, dated 20 Oct. 1529.	1529-1941	1 envelope, 1 folder	
Private donation	Photograph of all the staff and students of Swansea Training College	1929	1 photograph	
Private donation	Photographs of railway and viaduct construction at Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, and engraving of Swansea Harbour	19th cent.-early 20th cent.	3 items	
Windsor Williams Revell & Co., solicitors	Deeds and documents relating to the estate of the Cuthbertson and Windsor Williams families, mostly in the Neath and Aberdare areas	19th-20th century	1 bag	
Windsor Williams Revell & Co., solicitors	Deeds and documents relating to the estate of the Cuthbertson and Windsor Williams families, mostly in the Neath and Aberdare areas	19th and 20th cent.	1 bundle	
Windsor Williams Revell & Co., solicitors	Grants of probate of the wills of Howel Cuthbertson, Thomas Dawkin Windsor Williams and Huw Dawkin Windsor-Williams	1921-2004	1 bundle	
Royston Kneath Collection	Photograph album from Ynys y Pant Children's Home	1950s	1 vol.	
Swansea Central Library	Welsh Speaking Population census reports	1951-1961	2 vols	
Royal Institution of South Wales	RISW Newsletter, Summer 2022; RISW Programme of events, 2022-2023	2022-2023	2 booklets	
Swansea Labour Left	Swansea Labour Left minutes, reports, newsletters; also includes papers relating to Labour Co-ordinating Committee	1982-2012	2 small boxes	
Neath Port Talbot Coroner	Daily record book	2007-2009	1 vol.	

<i>Creator/originator</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Reference number</i>
Private donation	Pre-registration title deeds relating to 29 Walter Road, Swansea.	1872-1962	1 bundle	
Private donation	The Dy'vorian School Magazine	Summer 2022	1 vol.	
The Derek Gabriel Collection	Photographs of Spring Terrace and other Swansea street scenes.	1950s-1980s	22 photographs	
Swansea Rural District Council	Report on the application for conversion into an urban district, by Edward Harris	1929	1 vol.	
Swansea Library Collection	West Glamorgan Structure Plans and Minerals Local Plan, mid 1990s; Swansea Enterprise Park Reports, 1982-1990; South Wales Docks statements of trade, 1957-1972	1957-mid 1990s	18 vols.	
Private deposit	Parliamentary election notice relating to David Llewellyn Mort, Swansea East	25th October 1951	1 item	
Private donation	Pre-registration title deeds relating to property at King's Lane, The Strand, Swansea	1839-1885	1 bundle	