



Tryweryn sculptor takes over Gregynog Gallery

The popular Welsh sculptor John Meirion Morris will take over the Library's Gregynog Gallery between 28 February and 29 May 2009 in a special retrospective of his work. This will be the first time the Gallery, the biggest single exhibition space in Wales, has been allocated to the work of a single sculptor.

Born and raised in Llanuwchllyn, near Bala, John Meirion Morris became a professional sculptor in 1995 having taught as a university lecturer in England, Ghana and Wales for almost 30 years.

In 1989 he was awarded an M.Phil. at the University of Bangor for research into Celtic art. Celtic mythology, and the Mabinogi in particular, are the primary influences on his work. Sculptures in the exhibition include pieces entitled *Lleu*, *Blodeuwedd* and *Rhiannon*. In 2003 he published a book based on his M.Phil. entitled, *Celtic Vision*.

The exhibition will also feature John Meirion Morris's most recognisable work, the Tryweryn monument. The proposed monument would stand on the banks of Llyn Celyn in the shape of a giant symbolic water bird whose outstretched wings shelter a choir singing out in protest. He said the work was a passionate gut reaction to the decision to drown the community of Capel Celyn to create a reservoir for Liverpool Corporation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, wrote of John Meirion Morris's sculptures, 'They are exciting - remarkable, powerful, elegant, with a kind of fluency. They have made a deep impression on me.'

Along with his Celtic inspired pieces, the exhibition will also showcase John Meirion Morris's portraits. Familiar faces will include the late T. Llew Jones, Gwenallt and together with Gerallt Lloyd Owen and Gwyn Thomas.

According to Arwel Jones, Director of Public Services, 'John Meirion Morris's work is full of excitement and tension and will appeal to a wide and varied audience. The National Library is extremely privileged to be able to play host to this exhibition and one of Wales's most important contemporary artists.'

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DRWM season highlight

Evening presentation:
Who Do You Think You Are?
with Jenny Thomas.

The researcher from this popular television programme gives a behind the scenes view of the genealogical research undertaken.

Friday 3 April 7.30 p.m.
Admission by ticket £5.00



Exhibitions

Please note – after the 1 April The National Library of Wales will close on Saturdays.

5 January – 4 December

Writers of Wales

Celebrating the work of Kate Roberts and Dylan Thomas.

28 February – 29 May

John Meirion Morris – Presence

A retrospective look at the work of this popular sculptor.

National Library at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 2009

The National Library of Wales has been invited to participate in the Wales Smithsonian Cymru initiative which will travel out to Washington D.C. in June, to represent Wales at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Wales will be the featured nation at the 2009 Festival, which takes place annually on the National Mall in Washington, and is expected to attract a million visitors.

The Festival offers a significant opportunity to raise the profile and awareness of Wales with a largely U.S. audience, and will be held over ten days. Over one hundred individual practitioners, performers and presenters from Wales will participate in the Festival and the National Library will help inform visitors of their Welsh roots and its facilities for those interested in genealogy. Festival presentations will include music and literary performances, storytelling, animation, genealogy searches, Welsh language

lessons, craft skills, building restoration, cookery demonstrations, industrial heritage and new technologies, farming methods, outdoor pursuits and traditional and modern medicine.

Andrew Green, the National Librarian and a member of the Wales Smithsonian Cymru

Steering Committee stated, 'This is a great opportunity not only for the Library to raise awareness of its family history services but also to raise the profile of Wales and celebrate her language and culture.'



New reading room facilities

The National Library of Wales is pleased to announce the arrival of two new facilities on offer to its readers – free Wi-Fi connection and the External Resource Search Engine.

Connection to the Wi-Fi network will be available in the temporary printed material reading areas and the South Reading Room.

The Library has also launched a new search solution for its subscribed electronic resource, called External Resource.

The External Resources search engine offers quick and easy searching across electronic resources ranging from 18th century newspapers to 21st century e-books. This not only makes searching simpler but also encourages users to explore resources they may not have considered relevant before.

Most of these resources are available to anyone from Wales who has a reader's ticket, through the Athens network. To register for a reader's ticket and an Athens account please visit our website at www.llgc.org.uk.

According to Manon Foster Evans, Head of Readers Service, 'These exciting new developments shows the Library is using the latest technology to improve its readers' experience and to ensure that searching for information is easier than it has ever been before.'



Wi-Fi at The National Library

Reader surgeries

These one-to-one sessions are intended to assist readers who require guidance on where to search and how to make the most of the Library's collections and services. The surgeries are held all day on Wednesday; a 30-minute session can be booked on the following topics:

Online catalogues and electronic resources surgery: **01970 632 538**

Family history surgery: **01970 632 821**

Maps and photograph surgery: **01970 632 829**

Alternatively you can book a place on any of the above surgeries by emailing: cymorthfeydd@llgc.org.uk

14 March 2009 – 5 March 2010

Step by Step - Tracing your ancestors at The National Library of Wales
Highlighting the rich family history resources held at the Library.

21 March – 14 August

P. B. Aberly - Photography of Radnorshire
Looking back at the life of photographer Percy Benzine Aberly (1877-1948).

29 June – 21 August

Edward Lhuyd (1660-1709)
Marking the tercentenary since the death of the scientist and philologist.

The National Library and Aastra launch Welsh language telephone system

When two of the National Library's members of staff noticed that Welsh was not included among the twenty European languages on the newly upgraded telephone system, they decided to make changes.

Iona Bailey, the Library's Telecommunications Officer and Ian Allen, the Network Maintenance Officer, cooperated with the telephone supplier, Aastra, to make Welsh the twenty-first language on their new IntelliGate 7.7 system.

The National Library took responsibility for translating the 250 words whilst Aastra sorted out the 2,000 possible strings, which give users their various choices whilst using the phone. Work began in April 2008 and was ready for the National Library staff on the first day back at work in the New Year. Welsh has now been incorporated into the system and all users can now select Welsh prompts on the display wherever in the world they may work.

Andrew Green, the National Librarian said, 'A high percentage of our staff can speak Welsh, including people from South Africa, Ireland and England who've learnt the language. The new Welsh display is a positive step for the language and a welcome facility that allows our staff to use the language of their choice.'



Welsh language phone at The National Library

Library buys Ryan Giggs O.B.E. portrait

The National Library has recently bought a portrait of the former Welsh international winger Ryan Giggs, by the artist Peter Edwards.

Giggs is one of Wales and Manchester United's longest established players.

The portrait, painted in 2007, shows Giggs the man rather than the Giggs the footballer. Peter Edwards, the artist, believes the portrait shows a person with a lot of personal determination and special charisma.



Artist Peter Edwards with his portrait of Ryan Giggs O.B.E

Peter Edwards said, 'We first met in Manchester in an improvised studio. He sat for about an hour. He was very down-to-earth and quietly spoken but very friendly. You sometimes worry that you are going to be disappointed when you meet a famous person but I thought he was a very nice young man.'

Peter Edwards is also famous for his portrait of another footballing legend - Manchester United icon Sir Bobby Charlton, who sat for him in 1990.

Meet the readers

Roy Hattersley – politician and biographer.



Roy Hattersley

• What brings you to the National Library of Wales?

I'm halfway, i.e. 18 months, into a biography of David Lloyd George. The National Library of Wales has an invaluable collection of his letters and relevant papers.

• Why the interest in David Lloyd George?

I am now a biographer by trade! I've previously written the biographies of John Wesley and William Booth. David Lloyd George as Chancellor was the greatest radical of British political history.

• Are there any archives that are held at The National Library of Wales that are of particular interest to you?

Many of the famous letters are here – Asquith's report of the Cabinet's changes are recorded and Lloyd George's reply. But other notes - mostly preparations for speeches - are fascinating.

• Is this your first visit to the Library? How have you found the experience?

This is my first visit – the staff have been wonderfully efficient and very patient when I found it difficult to operate the on-line request system!



Library fact

Pendinas Café sells an amazing
102,000
cups of tea or coffee a year!

Visit us!

The National Library of Wales welcomes readers and visitors alike. Why not call in? Have a cup of tea at Pendinas Café and browse the Library shop.

Opening hours

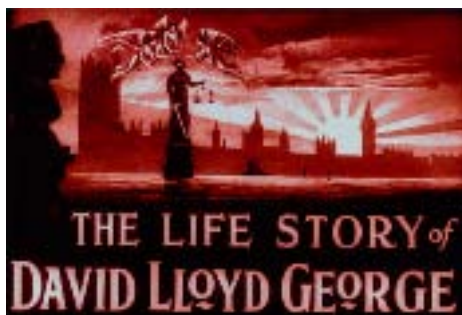
(after 1 April 2009)
9.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
Monday to Friday
10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.
on selected public holidays.

Guided tours

Free guided tours are held at 11.00 a.m. every Monday morning, departing from the Library shop. Please check the Library website www.llgc.org.uk for details or phone 01970 632 801 to book your place on our behind-the-scenes tour.

Group visits

The Library also caters for larger groups. To arrange a group visit phone 01970 632 801 or email amj@llgc.org.uk



The Life Story of David Lloyd George now on DVD

Decades after being lost, the Library has published its remarkable long-lost silent feature film, *The Life Story of David Lloyd George*, on DVD.

The film has an astonishing and murky history. Mysteriously suppressed in 1918, it disappeared for 76 years before its rediscovery by the Wales Film and Television Archive, now the Library's National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales. There followed a painstaking restoration, leading to the film's 'premiere' in Cardiff in 1996, and other screenings in Britain and around the world.

Made by the prolific director Maurice Elvey, the film maps the life of Lloyd George from childhood to the end of the Great War, using actors and hundreds of extras in studio and evocative location scenes. Norman Page delivers a masterly performance as Lloyd George as he moves from the intimate settings of his early domestic, school and working life towards the pinnacle of his political career. On his journey from social legislator to war leader Lloyd George finds himself in a world of riots, reform and recruitment, depicted in breathtaking crowd scenes and bold narrative innovations such as coloured flashbacks and prophetic visions.

The DVD 'extras' include especially composed music by Neil Brand, the world-renowned silent film pianist, an introduction by actor Philip Madoc, an interview with the film historian Kevin Brownlow and a 16-page booklet.

The Life Story of David Lloyd George, 152' (plus 47' extras), is available from the Library shop, priced £18.99. Phone: 01970 632 548

Unique label for Sir Kyffin Williams bequest

The National Library has recently unveiled the design of a new label, printed especially by Gwasg Gregynog, for the Sir Kyffin Williams bequest.

Sir Kyffin Williams's bequest is one of the great modern acquisitions of the National Library of Wales. According to Dr Paul Joyner, the Library's Head of Archive and Art Acquisitions, 'The objects bequeathed by Sir Kyffin Williams are of national importance and many will no doubt be lent far and wide, already a significant number have been lent to Oriel Kyffin Williams, Llangefni, for their opening exhibition.'

The labels have been especially designed by Sir Kyffin Williams's own printer, David Vickers of Gwasg Gregynog and printed to the excellent standards, which Kyffin so admired. They are also printed in the 'Kyffin grey'.

Each object in the bequest will bear the label, so that it will be possible to tell instantly which pictures formed part of his gift to the nation.

Members of Chapters, the Library's patron association, kindly paid for the labels.



David Vickers (Gwasg Gregynog), Andrew Green (Librarian) & Dafydd Wigley (President) display the new labels.

Meet the staff

Name: Ifor ap Dafydd



- **What is your job title?**
I joined the Library around six months ago as Development Officer for the Literature of Wales Archive, a new 2-year project to look at the future of literary archives in the digital context.
- **What do you do in the Library?**
I investigate computer use by contemporary writers. Considering the rapid changes in technology, understanding how our poets and authors set about creating and saving their work on screen is very important as we think about safeguarding our cultural heritage. It is likely that literary archives in the future will contain computer documents, pictures, audio and video clips, e-mail messages, pages from the web and so forth, as well as papers and books, of course.
- **What will the development of a Literature of Wales Archive mean for the Library's readers?**
By co-operating with others throughout the Library the project will help to obtain and to provide access to this important material for future scholars and for everyone who enjoys the wealth of our literary archives. I shall be drawing up guidelines to help authors to safeguard their valuable digital documents. There will be new pages on literary archives to enjoy on the Library's website www.llgc.org.uk and a conference will be held in 2010.
- **Do you have a favourite Welsh author?**
A hard question! As regards contemporary authors, I have recently enjoyed volumes by Gwyneth Lewis, Aled Jones Williams, Dannie Abse, Llwyd Owen ... but there isn't enough space here to discuss the question further!