

Announcing our Newsletter

Y Clorian has been set-up so all History and Archaeology students have a chance to write about things they are passionate about.

Each publication will have specific content, including staff profiles and upcoming events. It should otherwise be treated as an open forum.

Y Clorian translates to 'the scales' in English—meaning to take into account different views and interpretations.

This edition focuses on historical sites that students visited over the summer break, and reports any interesting information they picked up along the way.

I would like to personally thank every student that has contributed to this first edition, and hope you will continue to do so in the future.

If you have any questions about *Y Clorian*, or would like to contribute to the next edition, please contact me (hiu61a@bangor.ac.uk).

Thanks again,

Mark Barrow
Editor



Freshers settle-in during a busy first week

Welcome Week proved to be yet another success as the new first year History and Archaeology students began to adapt to University life.

A jam-packed week, which featured a Pizza and Quiz night and a Welsh tea, before culminating in a 'Magical Mystery Tour', ensured students experienced an enjoyable start to their time in Bangor. It was the first time students got to meet their peers and lecturers, whilst there was ample opportunity for them to join a club or society at the annual serendipity fair. Guided by the illuminous, yellow-shirted peer guides, new students quickly learned what is on offer both within the School and the University as a whole.



The busy schedule concluded with the highlight of the week—a day out to local historical sites.

The 'magical mystery tour' travelled to numerous places of interest in the local area, from Britain's most 'technically perfect' castle at Beaumaris, to the prehistoric burial chamber, Bryn Celli Ddu. First year student Amelia Timpany, studying single honours History, said: "I

really enjoyed the trip – it was great to see the local sites. I was exhausted by the end though!"

The new students were quick to describe how enjoyable they found their first week at university. Andrew Sanders, set to be studying Medieval and Early Modern History, said: "I really liked going on the



trip, and it was good to meet the lecturers as well. The Welsh Tea was great – it was nice to try some Welsh food."

Lauren Sansom, a joint honours History and English Literature student, described the week as 'better than expected', saying: "I've had a really good time. There are a group of us who hang around together now, so it's been nice doing the different events with them."

George Gilham, another joint honours student, said: "It's all been great fun – I've really enjoyed this first week. I liked messing around on Anglesey and looking at the local historical places."

Want to be a Peer Guide next year?

Why not spend Welcome Week helping new students settle in at Bangor?

If you are interested in becoming a Peer guide, contact Dr Karen Pollock, Peer-Guide Co-ordinator for the School (k.pollock@bangor.ac.uk).

Welcome Week is a really enjoyable and exciting week for all involved!

Stay in touch on Facebook and Twitter:



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Historical Visits

Ribchester Revisited

In July this year I was lucky enough to be involved in the *Ribchester Revisited* excavation in Lancashire in the Ribble Valley.

The Excavation has been ongoing for many years and at the moment is being excavated by UCLan (University of Central Lancashire). The excavation site is located in the north-west corner of the 1st century AD Roman Auxiliary fort. Whilst I was there, we found a significant amount of interesting artefacts such as a large number of coins, part of a crucible, a brooch and a huge amount of animal bone and parts of jewellery.

Interpretations are constantly changing with every discovery and every set of excavations. Ribchester itself has an abundance of archaeology because of its location on the Ribble Valley which the Romans used as a large military base. Some have suggested that the site was big enough to house a legionary force and it seems occupation lasted even passed the 3rd century. This site is of considerable interest since antiquarians and early archaeologists such as Thomas May were concerned primarily with wall chasing for the outside walls of the guard house. If interested, 'like' Ribchester Revisited on Facebook for more information.

Sarah Ainley

3rd Year, History and Archaeology



On the Trail

This past summer allowed me to have the experience of a lifetime, all thanks to a company called *Wildpacks*, who I would recommend to anyone. It isn't too expensive to apply and the rewards are endless! In three months I felt that I became a new person. I made friends from all over the world.

I spent three months of my summer - from June to September - in the USA, working in a Summer Camp in New Hampshire called Camp Coniston. My role was as a horseback instructor.

I then spent three weeks travelling around the East Coast. My journey began in Boston, before travelling to New York. I went to the Empire State building where the views were mind blowing, I also went to the 9/11 memorial and museum which touched me very deeply—I loved how beautiful and peaceful the USA had made such a horrible event. I went on a ferry ride around Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, giving me gorgeous views of the three main bridges in New York. I walked the Brooklyn Bridge—there was so much to do!

Briony Collings

Year 2, Medieval and Early Modern History



Re-enactment Society News



Over the summer holidays, I, as a member of the national re-enactment society, *Regia Anglorum*, visited multiple different locations and participated in many events. In July, the society was in Winchester participating in an event commemorating Alfred the Great and his fight against the Viking Invaders.

One major theme throughout this year however has been the one thousand year anniversary of the Battle of Assandun, where King Canute of Norway, Denmark and Sweden defeated King Edmund Ironside of England in a final battle, overthrowing the ruling Anglo-Saxon dynasty. We have portrayed these events in multiple shows, such as the York Viking Festival, Broughton in Lincolnshire, Detling Military Odyssey in Kent and Ashdon in Essex, which has largely been accepted as the site of the final battle of that year. Re-enactment and living history is just one way to participate in some of the most important events of our history in this country.

Adam Williams

Year 2, Medieval and Early Modern History

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Barzun visits Bangor

In October, the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Matthew Barzun, the highest ranking American official in Britain, visited Bangor to give a talk. This is an outline of what he had to say:

Despite denying it during the question and answer session, Barzun is widely tipped to be a future President. Chosen by Barack Obama as National Finance Chair during the former President's 2012 re-election campaign, Barzun started his talk with some basic Welsh, coming across as very articulate and charismatic.



From left to right: the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hughes, Matthew Barzun and Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas

He explained that for the first time ever a US president had come to Wales, when Obama visited two years ago. He then went into some details about his own previous visits to Wales. He also spoke about police brutality, violence and guns. He then moved onto when Obama first asked him to be an Ambassador (he initially served as US

Ambassador to Sweden between 2009 and 2011). Barzun was pleased to accept but asked his boss for some advice. Obama simply said 'to listen'. This was the main topic of Barzun's presentation—how people need to listen more to the up-coming generation.

Ambassador Barzun explained that throughout his years serving Obama he has first hand seen that listening provides success. He then used a metaphor, that building a bridge is a lot harder than building a wall, and so it takes time to strengthen relations between other countries. The reward is much more beneficial for both counties than simply building a wall between them.

From this speech, he can be summed up as a real Democrat, and a future candidate for the highest Office.

Dan Berry

Year 2, Modern History, Year 2

Your Say... 'Why I chose Bangor'

"I fell in love with the area and general surroundings."

"I have family in the area, and feel more comfortable here with it being a smaller city."

"I already knew the area really well, so Bangor feels like home."

"There module choices seemed so varied and matched my interests."

Bangor in pictures



Autumn sunshine descends on the History corridor.



A stunning photo of the 'weeping window' at Caernarfon Castle.

To see more photos taken by students and staff, visit our Facebook and Twitter pages

Staff Profile

Professor Andrew Edwards

In October, I met with Professor Andrew Edwards, Dean of College of Arts and Humanities and Professor of Modern History, to discuss his experiences both in and out of academia. And to ask what advice he would have for current students. This is what he had to say:

Why did you choose to study and then teach History at Bangor University?

"I came to study at Bangor as a mature student in 1994 after having a life outside academia. I'd been in the police force and civil service, and coming to University was a huge life change for me.

History was one of my passions when I was growing up, and modern and contemporary history in particular fascinated me. I remember being intrigued in events like the Kennedy assassination, the First World War, Vietnam, and the Profumo scandal, and I guess it's no surprise that I went on to study and teach many of these events.

As an undergraduate, postgrad and member of staff here I've been fortunate to be part of a close knit community that, I think, demonstrates a genuine interest in the development of its students. I've been here 22 years now and I've no regrets about the decision I made back in the early 1990s.

What would your advice be for students just starting a History degree?

'Number one would be to enjoy it as much as you can. 'Doing a History degree transformed my life, especially in terms of thinking differently about the world and politics and so on. Every student will experience highs and lows on their academic journey, but the important thing is to give it 100% and to embrace the constructive advice that people will



give you. The second point would be to work hard but also to enjoy the social side of student life. For first year students I'd say it's important to hit the ground running, and not treat the first year just as something to get through, and that it doesn't really matter what the marks are. Take it seriously from day one, or it makes Year Two and Three much more difficult. From the second year onwards, I'd really urge students to think about what might come next after the degree and to mould your studies around future employability

What do you enjoy doing outside academia?

"My main interest outside work is football. I have a Manchester City season ticket and go to as many games as I can. Other than that I enjoy reading, although you end up doing enough of it as part of your job. I'm also a bit of a film buff, and a fan of anything directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

Andrew is module convener for the 3rd year Special Subject Britain in the Sixties, Doing Oral History and Thatcher's Britain: Politics, Society and Culture in the 1980s (both 2nd/3rd year topic modules, and the 2nd/3rd year general module USA 1945-9/11.

Upcoming events

The History and Archaeology student-led **trip to Berlin and Krakow** is going ahead next Easter. In what is sure to be an informative and interesting trip, students will have the chance to tour Berlin, before visiting Schindler's Factory and Auschwitz. Please contact Mark Barrow if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to the annual **Christmas Party**. There will be food, drink and lots of fun for all, so make sure you don't miss out. Keep an eye out for the date!

A range of **History and Archaeology Research Seminars** take place throughout the academic year. Check the website to see which ones might interest you.

School news

It's great to welcome **Dr Audrey Thorstad** and **Dr Nikolas Papadagiannis** to the School. Audrey will be lecturing in early Modern history and Nikolas will be joining us in January as a Modern History lecturer.

We are also sorry this year to have said goodbye to **Dr Kate Olsen**, who has taken on a new post.

Also, **Dr Dinah Evans** has recently retired, but we are pleased to say that she is still helping organise the School's Research Seminar Series.

For more news about the School, keep an eye on the MyBangor noticeboards.

To contribute to Y Clorian, please contact
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www.bangor.ac.uk/history