



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

The Learned Society of Wales

The establishment and launch of Wales's first national scholarly academy

by

Lynn Williams

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Lynn Williams
October 2015

Preface

The Learned Society of Wales was launched in May 2010, as the country's first and only all-embracing national scholarly academy¹. At that time, more than a decade after the devolution of political powers, Wales still lacked the range of independent national organisations that other parts of the UK enjoyed. In particular, Wales lacked an academy of learning that specifically sought to reflect and address its needs – an academy of the kind that had long existed in Scotland and Ireland as well as in other parts of the world². The establishment of the Learned Society of Wales was, therefore, a significant milestone in the development of academic, intellectual and civic life in Wales. It meant that, for the first time, the country's intellectual vitality could be properly represented and promoted on the international stage and its people, politicians and policy-makers could gain access to the sort of well-researched, scholarly and objective advice on issues of key importance that had long been enjoyed in other countries.

The Society's purpose and ethos are encapsulated in its strapline, *Celebrating Scholarship and Serving the Nation*. Very early on, it set for itself the short- to medium-term Strategic Aim of developing:

as a sustainable organisation that is fit for purpose and that is acknowledged both as the recognised representative of the world of Welsh learning internationally and as a source of authoritative, scholarly and critical comment and advice to the National Assembly and other bodies on policy issues affecting Wales.

Although it will reach maturity only over many years, the Learned Society of Wales has already successfully raised its profile and secured recognition within the higher education and government sectors in Wales, as well as more generally. This recognition culminated in the decision taken by Her Majesty in Council in June 2015 (that is, a little more than five years after the launch) to approve the Society's Petition for a Royal Charter. The Society's Royal Patron is His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales and it intends to seek to be re-named, in due course, as "The Royal Society of Wales" / "Cymdeithas Frenhinol Cymru".

¹ Although the Learned Society of Wales is, indeed, the country's first and only all-embracing national academy, at various times from the mid-eighteenth century onwards there have existed a number of organisations that have displayed characteristics of a learned society and that can, therefore, properly be regarded as antecedents of the Society. Further information on some of these predecessor organisations may be found at Appendix A.

² Of course, Wales and its people had long been able to participate in and benefit from those learned societies, with headquarters in London, that served the UK as a whole. Indeed, the majority of the Founding Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales were to be Fellows of either the Royal Society or of the British Academy. Information on the major British Learned Societies and some examples of national academies and learned societies established in continental Europe and further afield may be found at Appendix B.

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By the time that the Petition for the Charter was approved, the Society had more than three hundred and eighty Fellows, distinguished men and women from all branches of learning, who had a clear connection with Wales, through birth or residence, or in other ways. Most of them were based in Wales, but a significant number were living and working in other parts of the United Kingdom and beyond.

During its first five years, the Society promoted and supported scholarship and facilitated informed debate and public interaction on a wide range of issues and subjects, including university funding, higher education legislation, research funding and policy, science policy, the National Assembly's legislative role, and policy in the areas of culture, heritage and language. In doing so, it achieved a significant place in the intellectual and public life of Wales.

Wales now has an academy of learning that, over time and appropriately supported, can take its place among the established academies of the United Kingdom, as well as those that flourish across Europe, in North America and beyond. The Society can look forward with confidence to building upon its initial successes.

1

Early attempts to establish a national academy for Wales: the 1990s

Although the desirability of establishing a national academy or learned society in Wales will almost certainly have been a subject of private discussion amongst Welsh academics and others at various times during the course of the twentieth century, it was only at the very end of the century that the proposals were set out in writing and aired publicly (or, at least, semi-publicly). Two separate initiatives were set in train during the 1990s, demonstrating that there was by then an appetite for setting up an organisation of this kind. The first attempt, during the early years of the decade, was essentially a personal initiative on the part of two relatively junior but enthusiastic, Swansea-based academics and focused exclusively on science; the second, which emerged towards the end of the 1990s, had a more “official” locus within the committees of the University of Wales, and was pan-disciplinary in outlook. Although neither of them was immediately to bear fruit, these initiatives form a noteworthy preamble to the history of the Learned Society of Wales, with a number of the leading contributors to these early discussions going on to play a central role in the eventual foundation of the Society and in its early development.

A Science Academy for Wales: discussions initiated in Swansea, 1991 – 1993

In the late 1980s, two Welsh-born and, at the time, relatively junior academics, Professors John Tucker³ and David Evans⁴, who had been educated in universities in England and who had spent the early parts of the careers there and in Europe (and also, in the case of Professor Evans, in North America) returned to Wales, to take up posts in the University College of Swansea (now Swansea University). They soon concluded that Wales needed a national science academy to compare with those that already existed elsewhere in Britain, and devoted time to consideration of the scope and objectives of such an academy and the form that it might take. After spending some time discussing the matter amongst themselves, at the end of 1991, Professors Tucker and Evans set about

³ Professor John Tucker FBCS FLSW MAE was to become an Initial Founding Fellow and the first General Secretary of the Learned Society of Wales. Born in Cardiff, he was educated at Bridgend Boys' Grammar School and read mathematics at the University of Warwick before going on to doctoral study at the University of Bristol. He subsequently held posts at Oslo University, the Centrum Wiskunde and Informatica (*National Research Institute for Mathematics and Computer Science*) in Amsterdam, and at Bristol and Leeds Universities, before returning to Wales in 1989 as Professor of Computer Science at Swansea.

⁴ Professor David Evans FLSW was to be elected to Fellowship of the Learned Society of Wales in 2011 (by which time he had become Professor in Mathematics at Cardiff University) and became a member of the Society's Council in 2014. Born in Glanamman, Carmarthenshire, he read mathematics at bachelor's and doctoral level at Oxford University, before taking up posts at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and at universities in Oslo, Los Angeles, Copenhagen, Ottawa, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Warwick, before returning to Wales in 1987 as Professor in Mathematics at Swansea.

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canvassing the views of colleagues at Swansea and other Welsh universities⁵. Their ideas were positively received by their immediate colleagues and they went on to approach a number of other scholars who were then part of the Welsh diaspora in England. These included a number of Wales's most eminent scientists, all of them Fellows of the Royal Society:

- the chemist, Professor Sir John Cadogan, then Director of Research at BP, also a chemist;
- Professor Sir Sam Edwards, then Cavendish Professor of Physics at Cambridge;
- Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, then Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and Fullerian Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge University, and recently appointed as Deputy Pro Chancellor of the University of Wales; and
- Professor Ioan M James, then Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford University.

The first three of these were to become Founding Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales in 2010 and Sir John Cadogan was to serve as the Society's Inaugural President between 2010 and 2014.

Again, responses were positive and, further encouraged, Professors Tucker and Evans set about the tasks of developing their ideas and producing documents that could be circulated to other potential supporters. By the beginning of 1993, they had gone so far as to produce draft *Bye-laws*⁶ which set out detailed constitutional provisions for the proposed academy. Modelled on the Bye-laws of the Royal Society of Canada, these were circulated to a select group of senior Welsh academics in January and February 1993. By the middle of April, they had also produced a brief *Proposal for a Scientific Academy of Wales*⁷, to accompany the *Bye-laws*. The *Proposal* argued that, throughout its history, and especially when compared with Scotland, Wales had suffered from a lack of strong national institutions, that Welsh science was in need of an Academy that would act as its champion and patron, offer leadership to the science base in Wales, and raise its international visibility and status, and that the founding of such an Academy was "overdue and of particular urgency and utility at the present time". The paper also set out the objectives⁸ of the proposed Academy, as well as

⁵ These colleagues included a number of people who were to become Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales, notably Professors Keith Smith and Peter Townsend of Swansea, and Professor Ken Walters of Aberystwyth.

⁶ Professor John Tucker and Professor David Evans, *Proposal for a Scientific Academy of Wales: Draft Bye-Laws* (January 1993).

⁷ Professor John Tucker and Professor David Evans, *Proposal for a Scientific Academy of Wales* (draft 1, 15 April 1993; revised draft, 25 April 1993).

⁸ These included: to promote scientific research and achievement in Wales and by Welsh people; to promote scientific interest and education in Wales; to promote the application of science in industrial and commercial activities in Wales; to promote the health of the scientific community in Wales; to develop the strength and reputation of the scientific community in Wales nationally and internationally; to serve the public bodies of Wales in matters requiring, or benefiting from, scientific expertise. (Accepting that these objectives relate solely to science) they have much in common with

ideas and questions relating to its form and location, the required infrastructure and funding arrangements, and invited comments and opinions. (Intriguingly, although the focus was otherwise entirely on science, the paper also posed – but did not attempt to answer – the following question: “Should the Academy be part of a grander Academy of Sciences and Humanities?”)

At the time that these documents were being developed, as well as being of interest and concern to Welsh academics, research, and especially scientific and technological research, was high on the agendas of the UK Government and the Welsh Office and its agencies. The outcome of the 1992 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) had just been published⁹; science and technology were to be the subject of a Government White Paper¹⁰; a separate Funding Council for Welsh higher education (the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales – HEFCW) had been established in 1992 and was officially to begin its work on 1 April 1993¹¹; the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) was by this time exercising an important role in promoting the economic value and impact of Welsh research; and, in his capacity as Deputy Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas had taken up the cause of strengthening research in Wales (*inter alia* organising, with support from HEFCW and the WDA, a major conference on research which was held in Cardiff on 15 and 16 April 1993¹²). All in all, therefore, it appeared to be a propitious time at which to promote the concept of a science academy for Wales.

The *Proposal* and the *Bye-laws* were widely circulated during the Spring of 1993 and, again, the principle of establishing an academy elicited a very favourable response. However (as Professors Tucker and Evans had themselves acknowledged) there were very considerable practical difficulties involved in setting up such a new organisation. In fact, it quickly became clear that these difficulties were such that it was not possible to take the ideas forward at that stage. In particular, the focus of key potential champions was diverted to more immediately pressing matters – in the case of Sir John Cadogan, to his work at BP and to the many other demands upon his time; and in the case of Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, to his work at Cambridge and the Royal Institution and to

the Mission and Objectives of the Learned Society of Wales and with the rationale that was to be advanced for its establishment.

⁹ Although Wales's performance improved in broad terms during the 1992 RAE, its universities lost ground by comparison with their counterparts elsewhere in the UK.

¹⁰ *Realising our Potential: A Strategy for Science, Engineering and Technology* (Cm 2250, London, May 1993).

¹¹ HEFCW had been charged by the Secretary of State for Wales with raising the quality of research in Wales. Included within its structure was a Research Group, which was chaired by Sir John Cadogan.

¹² The conference was attended by some 130 people, including representatives of the three co-organisers, the Welsh universities and colleges, the Welsh Office, the recently-created Higher Education Funding Councils for England and Scotland, the UK Research Councils, the British Academy, the European Commission, and industry. See David Allen and Lynn Williams (eds.), *Higher Education Wales Research Conference April 1993: Proceedings* (Cardiff, University of Wales, 1993).

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defining the role of the University of Wales and defending it against its critics. Further reforms in its structure followed and his office of Deputy Pro Chancellor was abolished¹³.

It is noteworthy that a number of the responses to the ideas which they put forward indicated the value of considering the pan-disciplinary Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) as an exemplar for a Welsh academy. As early as December 1991, Sir John Cadogan had indicated that he had previously “held informal discussions with scientists with Welsh connections ... and with the Welsh Office on the question of a ‘Royal Society of Wales’ to follow the excellent example of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.”¹⁴ And, in May 1993, Professor Robin Williams wrote that he supported the principle of establishing a national academy in Wales but that “it would be imperative to have a really good look at the practical aspect of running such an Academy”, noting that it would be worth giving detailed attention to the arrangements in place in Scotland (that is, the RSE)¹⁵. This early recognition of the value of the long-established RSE as an exemplar for a Welsh academy was to be echoed in subsequent initiatives.

Despite the lack of practical progress at this time, Professors Tucker and Evans remained enthusiastic and committed to the cause of a national Welsh academy. Indeed, more than ten years later, in the context of the ongoing debate on science policy in Wales¹⁶, they were to make the case for the establishment of a science academy in a jointly-written article published in *Agenda*, the journal of the Institute of Welsh Affairs¹⁷. The ideas that they had developed during the early 1990s

¹³ Even by April 1993, the reforms of 1989 which had established Sir John's position within the University of Wales as part of the strengthening of the powers of the federal centre were in danger of being overturned by a further review. This was the review conducted by a Working Party chaired by Sir Melvyn Rosser, President of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, whose Report, adopted by the University's Court in July 1993, led, *inter alia*, to the repatriation of powers from the federal centre to the Constituent Institutions, to the creation of a new strategic body, the Vice-Chancellors' Board, and of the new office of Senior Vice-Chancellor, and to the phasing out of the post of Deputy Pro Chancellor. Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas was to go on to become Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge later during 1993. Like that of Sir John Cadogan, his support for the idea of establishing a national academy in Wales remained undimmed, even if he was not in a position to help drive it forward at this time.

¹⁴ Sir John Cadogan to Professor John Tucker, 4 December 1991. Sir John was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh which, significantly, was not restricted to science but which was, rather, pan-disciplinary in nature.

¹⁵ Professor Robin Williams FRS, Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Cardiff, and later Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Swansea (later, Swansea University) and a Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, to Professor David Evans, 4 May 1993.

¹⁶ The Welsh Government had consulted on the matter earlier during the year and, in November 2006, issued its policy document, *A Science Policy for Wales 2006: The Welsh Assembly Government's Strategic Vision for Sciences, Engineering and Technology* (Cardiff, Welsh Assembly Government, 2006).

¹⁷ Professor John Tucker and Professor David Evans, “Science Academy”, *Agenda*, summer 2006 (Cardiff, Institute of Welsh Affairs, 2006, pages 40 – 41).

were to foreshadow many of those that were to be put forward in the period immediately prior to the launch of the Learned Society of Wales (albeit that their proposals were for a science academy, as opposed to the pan-disciplinary organisation that the Learned Society of Wales was to become). Professor Tucker, in particular, was to go on to play a central role in the eventual setting up of the Learned Society of Wales in 2010 and in its early development.

A Royal or Learned Society for Wales: discussions within the University of Wales, 1998 – 2001

In 1998, with encouragement from the Chief Executive¹⁸ of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), the Vice-Chancellors' Board (VCB) of the University of Wales¹⁹ first began to consider the possibility of establishing a learned society (or "intellectual powerhouse") in Wales. The then Senior Vice-Chancellor of the University and Chair of the VCB, Professor Keith Robbins²⁰ (who was to become an Initial Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales), was himself a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) and so was able to draw upon his experience of that Society in formulating proposals for a possible Welsh counterpart. In September 1999, Professor Robbins submitted to the VCB a discussion paper entitled, *A "Royal Society" for Wales?* This made the argument in favour of such a venture – broadly, that there existed Royal Societies in Dublin, Edinburgh and London and that the absence of any such body in Wales reflected badly on the intellectual image of the country, particularly in the aftermath of devolution. The paper also described the organisational arrangements in place at the RSE; acknowledged the difficulty of establishing a new independent body of this kind in Wales at a time when there were so many competing claims for resources; and offered the suggestion that the University of Wales itself might take on the role of Wales's National Academy, thus avoiding the need for separate premises and facilities.

The members of the VCB were broadly agreed that it would be appropriate to take the matter forward and, in March 2000, the University of Wales arranged a meeting of some potential members

¹⁸ Professor John Andrews, who was to be elected a Fellow of the Society in 2014.

¹⁹ The University of Wales was at that time a federal university, with member institutions in Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Lampeter, Newport and Swansea. The University's Vice-Chancellors' Board was a key body within the federal decision-making structure. The University's Charter provided for one of the Vice-Chancellors of the member institutions to be elected by his peers to serve as Senior Vice-Chancellor. In addition to fulfilling his role as chief executive of his own institution, the Senior Vice-Chancellor was the federal university's chief academic and executive officer and chaired meetings of the Vice-Chancellors' Board and of the University's Academic Board. A number of those who held the office of Vice-Chancellor in their own institutions during the period 1998 – 2001 were to become Founding Fellows or elected Fellows of the Learned Society of Wales.

²⁰ The office of Senior Vice-Chancellor of the federal University of Wales was a part-time role which was fulfilled by the Vice-Chancellor of one of the University's Constituent Institutions. Professor Robbins was at this time Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Lampeter, having previously enjoyed a distinguished career as Professor of History at the University College of North Wales, Bangor and at Glasgow University.

of a Welsh academy or learned society. The meeting was chaired by Professor Robbins and other attendees included Fellows of the Royal Society, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. During the meeting, the general tenor of discussion was again warmly supportive of establishing a learned society in and for Wales. In April 2000, the matter was raised with the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM, who indicated that “the establishment of a diverse and representative Royal Society for Wales would not be unwelcome”.

In June 2001, a further paper, entitled *A Royal or Learned Society for Wales*, was submitted to the VCB. The author of this paper was Dr Lynn Williams, the University's Secretary General, who also served as Secretary to the VCB²¹. The paper rehearsed the rationale for establishing a Welsh scholarly academy that had originally been advanced by Professor Robbins (whose original paper was included as an appendix) and set out proposals for the type of organisation that might be established. It would be broadly based on the Royal Society of Edinburgh model, and (although it would be established under the aegis of the University of Wales) it would be an independent organisation. It would be apolitical and would have charitable status.

Unfortunately, at the very time that ideas appeared to be crystallising and when practical progress appeared to be a real possibility, the University of Wales again became beset by difficulties²² which led the members of the VCB to conclude that further consideration of the establishment of a learned society in Wales should be deferred. A year later, in June 2002, Professor Robbins was to conclude that, despite the encouragement of the Funding Council and the First Minister, “the idea has rather stalled. It has proved very difficult to move on from ‘in principle’ interest to pushing forward a specific scheme (money being a factor). ... I rather feel that my efforts ran into the sand²³.”

In the event, the setback turned out to be a temporary one. Moreover, like those of the early 1990s, the discussions held and the papers drafted between 1998 and 2001 were to have significant influence on subsequent developments. The proposals that were put forward then provided a basis

²¹ A graduate of the University of Wales, having studied and researched at the Department of History at the University College of Swansea, Lynn Williams, who had been a member of the University's staff since 1992, had been appointed to the office of Secretary General (the University's most senior administrator, equivalent to the Registrar in a unitary university) in 2000.

²² These difficulties centred on the Policy Review of Higher Education in Wales which was being undertaken by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee of the National Assembly for Wales. The Review brought the future shape, size, role and function of the federal University under scrutiny and, over time, was to contribute significantly to the demise of the federal structure and the full independence of the University's member institutions, with the University of Wales itself being reconstituted as a unitary university.

²³ Email from Professor Keith Robbins to Dr Peter Warren, former Executive Secretary of the Royal Society, 17 June 2002 (personal correspondence, kindly made available by Professor Robbins). Dr Warren had enquired about the possibility of establishing a national science academy in Wales.

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for many of the ideas and arguments that would underpin the successful establishment of The Learned Society of Wales in 2010 – for example, in terms of the rationale for taking action, the mission or purpose of a Welsh learned society, and the identification of a key role for the University of Wales in supporting its establishment and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh as an exemplar for its organisation. The fact that (like Professor John Tucker) the authors of those early papers, Professor Keith Robbins and Dr Lynn Williams, were to be centrally involved in the discussions that were to take place between 2008 and 2010, in the lead-up to the launch of the Society, was also an important factor in ensuring continuity.

2

Renewed discussion, 2008 – 2009: decisive action

Although the discussions that it facilitated during the period 1998 – 2001 did not then result in any tangible progress, the University of Wales was destined to play a pivotal role both in the work that did eventually lead to the foundation of the Learned Society of Wales in 2010 and in ensuring that it was able to thrive during its early years.

During the summer of 2008, Lynn Williams, who had been enthused by those earlier discussions, proposed to the University's Vice-Chancellor²⁴, Professor Marc Clement, that the idea of establishing a learned society or national academy for Wales should be revived. Professor Clement warmly embraced the idea, with the result that the University organised a meeting to facilitate the consideration of proposals for the establishment of such an organisation. Invitations were issued to some twenty eminent Welsh scholars and other persons of distinction who had been identified as potential founder members of a learned society for Wales and the meeting was held in the Park Plaza hotel in Cardiff on 27 October 2008. Those invited to attend²⁵ were provided with a paper (*A Learned Society for Wales: some ideas for discussion*), which had been prepared by Dr Williams and which drew heavily on the earlier work of Professor Keith Robbins (who was one of those invited to attend the meeting). The proposal to establish a learned society or national academy in Wales was once again warmly received and it was agreed that a small Working Group be set up to take the ideas forward. The members of the Group were the Baroness Ilora Finlay, Professor M Wynn Thomas and Professor Robin Williams²⁶. Professor Clement asked Lynn Williams to lead the project on his behalf.

²⁴ Upon the re-constitution of the federal University of Wales into a unitary university in 2007, the office of Senior Vice-Chancellor had ceased to exist, and had been replaced by that of Vice-Chancellor, to which Professor Clement had been appointed.

²⁵ In addition to the potential founders, a number of the University's officers and staff attended the meeting. These included Professor Marc Clement (who was himself to become an Initial Founding Fellow), Mr D Hugh Thomas (the Chair of the University's Council), Mr John McInally (the University's Academic Registrar) and Dr Lynn Williams.

²⁶ Baroness Finlay was a Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Velindre NHS Trust and an Honorary Professor in Palliative Medicine at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University. She had formerly served as Medical Director at the Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre in Cardiff. Professor M Wynn Thomas was Professor of English and Emyr Humphreys Professor of Welsh Writing in English at Swansea University, having formerly been Director of the University's Centre for Research into the English Literature and Language of Wales. Professor Robin Williams had formerly served as Professor and Head of Department of Physics and Astronomy at Cardiff University and then as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Swansea (later, Swansea University). Following retirement from the latter post he had taken on the role of Research Professor in Swansea's School of Engineering.

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A second meeting was organised by the University and held, again in the Park Plaza hotel in Cardiff, on 23 January 2009. **It was during this meeting that the definitive decision to establish a learned society or a national academy in and for Wales was taken.**

Prior to the meeting, the Working Group and Lynn Williams had produced two further draft documents which built upon the ideas that had been submitted to the October 2008 meeting and which were, in turn, to provide the basis for subsequent developments. These documents were: *The National Academy for Wales: a prospectus* (which was intended for use in persuading potential Fellows and other stakeholders of the merits of the case for establishing an academy or learned society) and *The National Academy for Wales: towards a strategy and business plan for establishment and sustainable development* (which attempted to define the basis on which such an organisation might be established, for example, in financial and constitutional terms and in terms of its membership, mission and activities and its bilingual character).

The ideas set out in these papers were broadly endorsed during the meeting held on 23 January 2009. It was also agreed, *inter alia*, that independence – from government and from other organisations – would necessarily be a key characteristic of the Academy, which must be – and be seen to be – an initiative of a group of independent scholars, rather than a venture that was driven by others; but that partnerships between the Academy, as embodied in its Fellowship, and a range of other organisations would also be a defining feature of the Academy (the first such partnership, with the University of Wales, having already been forged).

A key decision in terms of facilitating practical progress during the course of the next sixteen months or so was that a Shadow Council should be established to take forward the work of planning for the Academy, pending its formal establishment. It was also significant that, during the course of the meeting, the senior officers of the University of Wales responded positively to suggestions that the University might continue, for the time being, to provide secretariat and other infrastructural support for the Academy. Contrary to the position which they had taken during the October 2008 meeting²⁷, they made clear that they believed that a partnership in which the University would take

²⁷ The paper submitted to the first meeting held on 27 October 2008 had envisaged a more prominent role for the University, at least initially: “There are significant challenges in starting such an independent body *de novo* at a time when there are so many other competing claims for resources. The envisaged solution is to secure pump-priming support from the University of Wales to enable the Society to begin operations and establish itself as a serious organisation, worthy of WAG and other external funding. ... A Society that emerged under [the University’s] direct aegis might not be quite comparable to other ‘freestanding’ Academies in the first instance, but it should nonetheless be possible to provide for a degree of detachment from the University. ... it is envisaged that, in due course, the Society would be ‘gifted’ by the University to the nation and become fully independent (although, it is to be hoped, it would retain strong links with the University).”

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a supportive – rather than a leading – role provided an appropriate basis for a relationship between the two bodies.

3

The Shadow Council, 2009 – 2010

The Shadow Council met on six occasions between May 2009 and April 2010. Its nineteen members²⁸ were those persons invited to participate in the meetings held in October 2008 and January 2009, along with Professor Clement in his capacity as the academic representative of the partner organisation, the University of Wales. Together, they made up the Society's Initial Founding Fellows. Lynn Williams took on the role of Secretary.

Supported from January 2010 by a Programme and Search Committee, the Shadow Council was instrumental in paving the way for the formal establishment of what was to become the Learned Society of Wales. It finalised the planned organisation's title; determined the arrangements for its corporate governance; defined its mission; secured the appointment of some forty additional Founding Fellows; secured the election of the Inaugural President and Chair of Council and the members of the Inaugural Council; identified the other Inaugural Officers; worked to develop the Society's business plan and, as far as possible, to place its finances and administrative arrangements on a sound footing; secured broad support for the learned society concept by meeting and corresponding with a range of potential partners and supporters (at the same time, finalising the *Prospectus* that was to be used to inform discussions with them); began planning the Society's programme of events; and made the detailed arrangements for its public launch in May 2010.

The Co-Chairs

The group that had met on 23 January 2009 had decided that the Fellowship should be comprised primarily of scholars of the highest calibre from all academic disciplines, organised initially into two broad areas (the arts, humanities and social sciences; and science, technology and medicine) but that it might also include a relatively small number of other persons of appropriate standing (for example, industrialists, policy-makers and others prominent in public service). The group had also decided that two Co-Chairs of the Shadow Council should be appointed, one to represent each of the two broad academic areas that had been identified, and that, in order to emphasize the scholarly credentials of the Society, one Co-Chair should be a Fellow of the British Academy and the other a Fellow of the Royal Society.

²⁸ The members of the Shadow Council were: Professor Huw Beynon; Sir John Cadogan; Professor Marc Clement; Professor Dianne Edwards; Professor Roy Evans; Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff; Professor Geraint H Jenkins; Sir Roger Jones; Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan; Lord Kenneth Morgan of Aberdyfi; Professor Prys Morgan; Professor John Wyn Owen; Professor Keith Robbins; Professor Eric Sunderland; Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas; Professor M Wynn Thomas; Professor John Tucker; Professor Sir David Williams; and Professor Robin H Williams.

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During its Inaugural Meeting on 26 May 2009, the Shadow Council confirmed the appointment of Professor M Wynn Thomas as Co-Chair for the arts, humanities and social sciences and invited Professor Sir John Cadogan to serve as Co-Chair for science, technology and medicine. Sir John subsequently confirmed his acceptance of the invitation²⁹. These were important and inspired choices, with both Professor Thomas and Sir John being destined to contribute very significantly to the development of the Learned Society of Wales.

What's in a name?: "National Academy", "Learned Society" or "Royal Society?"

As originally conceived, the Society was to have been called *The National Academy of Wales / Academi Genedlaethol Cymru* but during the Inaugural Meeting of the Shadow Council the decision was provisionally taken (and later confirmed) that it should instead be named *The Learned Society of Wales / Cymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru*. The inclusion in the name of the word "Academy" was seen to be problematic because of the potential for confusion with two established organisations, Yr Academi Gymreig and The Royal Cambrian Academy. As had been suggested in the papers submitted to the January 2009 meeting, it was again noted in May that the Society might in due course be able to secure Royal title, as *The Royal Society of Wales / Cymdeithas Frenhinol Cymru* (although it was also noted that the use of the word "Royal" was subject to a stringent, uncertain and potentially lengthy approval process which would need to culminate in the grant of Royal title by Her Majesty the Queen³⁰).

Constitutional arrangements

From the outset, it was envisaged that the Society would, at the appropriate point, seek to operate under a Royal Charter. The Shadow Council recognised, however, that, in order to maintain the momentum that had so far been achieved, it was necessary for the Society to be formally constituted as soon as might practically be possible. The Initial Founding Fellows were advised that securing a Charter could be a lengthy process and so agreed that the Society should, in the first instance, seek to be established as a company. To that end, even before the first meeting of the Shadow Council in May 2009, instructions had been issued to Morgan Cole Solicitors to draft a Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Society. One of the firm's Senior Partners, Emyr Lewis, attended the meeting to present the first drafts of these documents which were refined during the course of the months that followed. Their having been formally approved by Companies House, the Learned Society of Wales was formally incorporated as a company limited by guarantee

²⁹ The first four meetings of the Shadow Council were chaired alternately by Professor Thomas and Sir John. Sir John chaired the final two meetings in March and April 2010, by which time he had been elected to serve as the Society's Inaugural President and Chair of Council Designate (see below).

³⁰ Under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and associated Regulations, even the use of the words "Society" and "Wales" required formal approval by the Welsh Assembly Government. That approval was granted in April 2010.

(no. 7256948) on 18 May 2010. The Memorandum and Articles were to provide the legal, constitutional basis for its operations until the grant of the Royal Charter in 2015³¹.

It was always intended that registered charity status be sought for the Society but it was not legally possible to submit an application before incorporation. The Society was to secure charitable status in April 2011.

Defining the Mission³²

It had been agreed on 23 January 2009 that the celebration of Welsh scholarship should be given primary emphasis in any statement of purpose or mission that might be adopted but that the role that had been identified for the Academy in advising and serving the nation should also be appropriately reflected. Consistent with this, the Shadow Council adopted the following **Mission**:

- *to celebrate, recognise, preserve, protect and encourage excellence in all of the scholarly disciplines, and in the professions, industry and commerce, the arts and public service;*
- *to promote the advancement of learning and knowledge and the dissemination and application of the results of academic enquiry and research;*
- *to act as a source of independent and expert scholarly advice on matters affecting the wellbeing of Wales and its people and to advance public discussion and interaction on matters of national and international importance.*

It also adopted the **Strapline**, *Celebrating Scholarship and Serving the Nation*. Together, these encapsulate the Society's purpose and ethos, which is to work to promote and enhance Welsh scholarly achievements and to have a significant positive impact on the quality of life of the people of Wales.

Appointing additional Founding Fellows

During the Inaugural Meeting of the Shadow Council in May 2009, members were invited to consider whether or not it would be appropriate to seek to add to the number of Founding Fellows prior to the launch and, if so, what mechanisms and criteria might be adopted for identifying and appointing them. It was recognised that there was a significant number of distinguished potential Fellows in Wales (and considerably more when the Welsh diaspora was taken into account), including many who were already members of other learned societies. It was also seen that the addition of further Founding Fellows before the launch would strengthen the base of support for the Society and broaden the range of skills and expertise available to it. This was especially important, given the extensive range of tasks that would need to be carried out by Fellows during the period leading up

³¹ The Shadow Council also approved draft Regulations to supplement the Memorandum and Articles, together with a draft Code of Conduct for the Society's Council members. These documents were to be approved and adopted by the Council proper in July 2010.

³² The Shadow Council also adopted detailed Strategic Objectives for the Society. These, together with its original Charitable Objects, as set out in the Articles of Association, may be found at Appendix D.

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to the launch. Accordingly, the Shadow Council decided that Members should be invited to submit names of potential additional Founding Fellows to the Secretary. It also resolved that they be asked to bear in mind the need to provide for a better gender balance than was currently in evidence amongst the membership of the Shadow Council (just two of whose nineteen Members were women).

The draft *Prospectus* that was submitted to that meeting provided for Election to Fellowship to be “open to men and women of all ages and from all ethnic groups who:

- have a demonstrable record of excellence and achievement in any of the academic disciplines or who, being members of the professions, the arts, industry and commerce, or public service, have made a distinguished contribution to the world of learning; and
- are resident in Wales, or who are persons of Welsh birth but are resident elsewhere, or who otherwise have a particular connection with Wales”.

These criteria for the selection of new Fellows were later formally adopted by the Shadow Council and included in the Articles of Association.

The emphasis on excellence was reinforced in a document which Professor M Wynn Thomas submitted to the May 2009 meeting, setting out his thoughts on a core vision for the Society. He wrote:

The society of scholars would necessarily be an elite organization, in the sense that it would authoritatively instance (although never exhaustively represent) the very best of which Wales was currently capable in all the major disciplines of human knowledge.

At this stage, there was a degree of tension between two different views of what the nature of the Fellowship (and, therefore, of the Society) should be. The first was that the Society should be an elite and exclusive organisation, with its Fellows selected on the basis of academic and professional excellence and achievement and with their number strictly limited. The converse view was that younger, up-and-coming academics should be able to become associated with the Society, perhaps as Affiliate Members, and that consideration should be given to broadening the range of people included on the list of Fellows, so as to neutralize any possible argument that the Society was too academically-oriented.

The majority of members tended to the former view and a number of the responses to the call for suggestions of names of potential additional Founding Fellows emphasised the importance of maintaining the highest intellectual and academic credentials for the Society. The two Co-Chairs therefore decided that, in the first instance, the chief criterion for selection (given a Welsh connection) should be academic excellence and eminence. As a result, those selected to be invited to become Founding Fellows were, with a very small number of distinguished exceptions, all Fellows

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of the Royal Society or of the British Academy. It was considered that this focus on existing FRSs and FBAs would result in a list of Founding Fellows that would clearly demonstrate the Society's intellectual standing. Invitations were issued during the summer and almost all of those invited accepted. In all, a further forty-two people became Founding Fellows of the Society, bringing the total up to sixty-one.

The full list of Founding Fellows may be found at Appendix C. This was a remarkably strong group of academics, with a sprinkling of eminent figures from public service and commerce. Reflecting Cardiff University's strength in research, a significant proportion of the Founding Fellows had connections with that institution. Nearly a quarter of them had close connections with Swansea and its environs (leading to the in-house joke that the Learned Society of Wales might more appropriately be called the Gower Society³³). Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities were also represented. However, the list was far from being a parochial one and nearly forty per cent of the Founding Fellows were people with clear Welsh connections who were by then based outside Wales (with a quarter having strong links to Oxford and Cambridge Universities). This willingness to look beyond the borders of Wales strengthened the Society considerably.

Although the Initial Founding Fellows had been very much aware of the gender balance issue, in the event, just four of the forty-one additional Founding Fellows were women (bringing the total number of women amongst the Founding Fellows to six) and the question of gender balance remained to be addressed at a later date. This was a matter of concern to the Shadow Council³⁴.

³³ Not only did a significant number of Founding Fellows have Swansea connections with Swansea and Gower, all five of those who were to be selected to serve as Inaugural Officers had connections with the area: Sir John Cadogan born and in Swansea and resident on Gower; Professor Dianne Edwards, born and raised in Swansea; Professor M Wynn Thomas and Professor John Tucker, both members of staff at Swansea University and resident on Gower; and Sir Roger Jones, Chair of Council of Swansea University). In addition, the Founding Secretary, Dr Lynn Williams was a graduate of the University.

³⁴ The situation was also to lead, in July 2010, to somewhat testy exchanges between the Officers and the recently-appointed Education Minister, Leighton Andrews AM, who also professed concern about the elitist nature of the Fellowship. The Officers would respond to the Minister's criticisms by pointing out that the Society's criteria for Fellowship were based on excellence and achievement in academia and on distinguished contributions to the world of learning by people operating in other areas; that the criteria for selection of the Founding Fellows had necessarily been especially rigorous; that there was a shortage in academia (in Wales and more widely) of women candidates who fulfilled those criteria; that the Society was working to broaden the range of Fellows; that it intended, within a relatively short space of time, to elect considerably more Fellows and that, although excellence would necessarily remain the overriding criterion, during the first elections to the Fellowship in 2010/11 and in succeeding years, the question of diversity would be addressed not only in terms of gender but also in respect of other factors, including age, and subject and geographical representation (Sir John Cadogan to Leighton Andrews AM, 16 July 2010). During the meeting itself, Professor Dianne Edwards CBE ScD FRSE FLSW FRS took the lead on behalf of the Officers. Professor Edwards, Distinguished Research Professor in Palaeobotany and, formerly, Head of the School of Earth, Ocean and Planetary Sciences at Cardiff University, was to serve as a Vice President between July 2010 and May 2014.

The Shadow Council recognised that there still remained many strong candidates for election to the Fellowship – people who would undoubtedly have been elected to a Welsh learned society had one existed over the past decades. It agreed that it would be appropriate, within a relatively short space of time, to elect considerably more Fellows than the sixty or so Founding Fellows, using appropriate, transparent and fair but exacting procedures (including refereed nominations and specialist scrutiny committees). Detailed procedures for the election of new Fellows were developed and these were formally adopted by the Council proper in July 2010, with the first election cycle being held within the first year of the Society's having been incorporated and launched in May 2010.

Sadly, before the Society was officially established, two of the Initial Founding Fellows and members of the Shadow Council had died. These were Professor Sir David Williams, Chancellor of Swansea University and formerly Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, Fellow of Emmanuel College, President of Wolfson College, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge (*ob.* 6 September 2009); and Professor Eric Sunderland, formerly Professor of Anthropology at the University of Durham, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Bangor (later, Bangor University) and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales (*ob.* 24 March 2010). The important contributions that they made to the development of the Society were formally recognised during the Launch Ceremony in May 2010.

Electing the President and the members of the Council

The choice of the Society's Inaugural President and Chair of Council and of the other members of the Council proper would have lasting implications for the Society. The Founding Fellows who would fill these roles needed to be people with appropriate skills and qualities who would be in a position to devote the time and energy necessary to the Society's development during its all-important first years.

On 17 December 2009, the Shadow Council considered proposals for the timetable and procedure for the nomination and election of the President and of the other members of the Council. It resolved that, as a matter of urgency, Founding Fellows should be invited to submit nominations from amongst their number. Forms for the nomination of the President and of the other members of the Council were issued on 22 December 2009, with nominations to be submitted by 29 January 2010, for consideration by the Shadow Council during its next meeting (which was to be held on 10 February 2010). The Shadow Council also decided that, concurrent with the formal nominations processes, the Programme Committee (which was charged primarily with drawing up a list of Society events and activities) should also perform the role of a Search Committee to consider nominations.

Election of the Inaugural President and Chair of Council

A description of the role of President and Chair of Council had been produced in order to inform the nominations process and to ensure that potential candidates understood the demanding nature of the role. This document, which was circulated along with the nomination forms, emphasised the key

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part to be played by the President in ensuring the Society's success during its formative years and noted that, as well as fulfilling the formal functions of Chairing meetings of the Council and presiding over the Society's Annual General Meetings, the President's major role in practice was to lead and participate in the academic and intellectual life of the Fellowship, of the Society and, indeed, of Wales. The list of personal qualities required was accordingly demanding:

In essence, the President and Chair of Council must: be a Fellow who is world renowned in his or her field; bring a range of skills to the role, derived from a varied career that must include a substantial period of time in academe and ideally some experience in another walk of life; be able to exercise wisdom in leading the intellectual life of the Fellowship, the Society and the Welsh nation; be comfortable with the role of public figure, able to deliver high-profile speeches and to engage in a range of policy discussions at the highest level; be available to attend meetings and events in Wales (and elsewhere) on a regular and frequent basis; be able to undertake effectively the formal role of chairing Council (as governing body and as charity trustees); behave at all times with the integrity necessary for public confidence in the role, the Society and Welsh academic and intellectual life.

The Presidents of the Royal Society and of the British Academy were invited to offer advice on possible candidates and the Programme and Search Committee met on two occasions (on 15 January and on 10 February 2010) to consider nominations. In all, eight names had been submitted for consideration and, from that list, the Programme and Search Committee identified two candidates whom it considered to be conspicuously well qualified for the role. Both were exceptionally distinguished scholars, with substantial experience of public life, and it was considered that each would add great lustre to the Society. The Programme and Search Committee reported that, of these two strong candidates, its preference was for Sir John Cadogan and, on 10 February 2010, after due reflection, the Shadow Council resolved unanimously to endorse the selection of Sir John to be the Society's inaugural President and Chair of Council. Sir John, who was in South Africa at the time, and who did not participate in the decision, was informed of the outcome of the Shadow Council's deliberations on 11 February. The decision was unanimously ratified by the Founding Fellows, by correspondence, the effective date of Sir John's election being 1 March 2010. The Society's Regulations provided for the first term of office of the Inaugural President (which was to begin on the date of incorporation, 18 May 2010) to be not longer than four years.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February record that the Shadow Council's reasons for this decision included "the substantial contribution Sir John had already made to the establishing of the Society, his proven readiness to discharge the kind of onerous duties that would inescapably be required of the President during the crucial formative years of the Society, and [its] confidence that his international renown as a subject expert, along with his wide experience of management and

administration and his eminence as a public figure³⁵, would guarantee the dignity and status of this important office from its initial institution”.

His extensive professional experience, together with a range of personal skills and qualities that went even beyond those set out in the role description (see above) meant that Sir John was, indeed, ideally placed to serve as the Society's first President and Chair of Council. He was to make an immense contribution to the Society's development over the next four years and his election was to prove crucial to the success of the venture. His insight and vision, his energy and drive (which belied the fact that he was 79 years old at the time of his election) and his determination were to prove instrumental in ensuring that, within a short space of time, the Society would emerge as a significant and highly-respected institution in Welsh academic and public life.

Election of the members of the Inaugural Council

The composition of the Council proper would be of great significance for the early development of the Society. It was essential that its members be able to act as effective advocates for the Society and to contribute to what would necessarily be a heavy workload. It was also desirable to ensure, as far as possible, an appropriate balance in terms of continuity and new blood (the balance between members who had previously served as members of the Shadow Council and those who had not hitherto been centrally involved in the Society's work); subject; skills; geographical location;

³⁵ Sir John Cadogan, born in Swansea and, at the time of his election and throughout his tenure of the Office, a resident of Gower, had enjoyed a long and distinguished career in a wide range of scientific, policy and business roles. An organic chemist who brought intellectual vigour, enthusiasm and an abundance of inspirational ideas to his work, he served in academia between 1954 and 1979, at King's College London, and then as Purdie Professor of Chemistry at the University of St Andrews and as Forbes Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh. He published more than 350 research papers and discovered a widely-used general synthetic chemical reaction known as the Cadogan reaction. Recognition of his research achievements and distinction came in the award of a number of major prizes, in his election to be a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Society, and in the award of more than 20 Honorary Degrees and Fellowships. He was appointed a Commander of the British Empire in 1985 and was knighted in January 1991.

Following his glittering academic career, Sir John went on to make outstanding contributions to industry and public service. He was appointed Chief Scientist at the BP Research Centre in 1979 and subsequently became BP's first world wide Director of Research, building up one of the most innovative research and development laboratories in Europe. He was appointed to be the first Director General of the Research Councils at the Office of Science and Technology in 1994, serving until 1998. During that time he was responsible for making the case for Science receiving the largest percentage increase among all Government Departments in the first Comprehensive Spending Review for 1999-2001.

Sir John served as President of the Royal Society of Chemistry between 1982 and 1984 and in an extensive range of advisory and policy roles including as a member of the Science and Engineering Research Council and Chairman of its Science Board; a member of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice; Chairman of the Defence Advisory Council and of the Defence Nuclear Safety Committee; a member of HEFCW; and Science Policy Adviser to the Science Foundation Ireland. At the time of his election to the office of President and Chair of Council, he was Chairman of Fusion Antibodies Ltd. (a recognised leader in monoclonal antibody sequencing).

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institutional affiliation; gender; and age. Following detailed scrutiny of nominations received and of further suggestions from the Programme and Search Committee, the Shadow Council had concluded by mid-April 2010 that it would be appropriate for the following eighteen Founding Fellows to be elected to serve as members of the Inaugural Council:

Sir John Cadogan (as a member *ex officio*); Professor Kenneth Dyson; Professor Dianne Edwards; Professor Robert Evans; Professor Roy Evans; The Baroness Ilora Finlay; Professor Geraint Jenkins; Sir Roger Jones; Sir Ronald Mason; Professor Susan Mendus; Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan; Professor Prys Morgan; Professor John Wyn Owen; Professor Keith Robbins; Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas; Professor M Wynn Thomas; Professor John Tucker; and Professor Robin Williams.

This list was subsequently ratified by the Founding Fellows, by correspondence. Members' terms of office formally began on the date of incorporation, 18 May 2010. The Society's Regulations provided that the first term of office of the Inaugural Members of Council should not exceed four years in length and that membership should be staggered, so as to ensure rotation.

Identifying the other Inaugural Officers

The Shadow Council was conscious that the President would need the support of a small number of other highly-committed Council members. It therefore decided that there should be two Vice-Presidents (whose duties would be to discharge the duties of the President in his or her absence and to undertake such other duties as the President or Council may from time to time determine), a Treasurer (who would be responsible to the Council for the proper care and oversight of the Society's financial affairs), and a General Secretary (who would be responsible to the Council for the general conduct of the Society's business, other than that which related to finance).

During its penultimate meeting on 24 March 2010, the Shadow Council concluded that, in addition to Sir John Cadogan as the Inaugural President and Chair of Council, and subject to the approval of the Council once formally established, the Inaugural Officers of the Society should be: Professor Dianne Edwards (Vice-President for science, technology and medicine); Professor M Wynn Thomas (Vice-President for the arts, humanities and social sciences); Sir Roger Jones³⁶ (Treasurer); and Professor John Tucker (General Secretary). The appointments were confirmed by the Council in July 2010.

Developing the business plan and working for financial viability

Developing the business plan and securing the Society's financial position were among the very most important tasks facing the Shadow Council. It will be recalled that a paper setting out proposals for

³⁶ Sir Roger Jones OBE was Chair of Council at Swansea University and Chairman of ZooBiotic Ltd, having formerly served as Chairman of Penn Pharmaceuticals Ltd. He was to serve as Treasurer between July 2010 and May 2012.

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a strategy and business plan for the establishment and sustainable development of the Society had been submitted to the preliminary meeting held on 23 January 2009. The Shadow Council recognised the need for further development of the plan and, during its first meeting on 26 May 2009, established a sub-group comprising Professor Roy Evans³⁷ and Sir Roger Jones to work with the Secretary on this task. It concluded that, at least initially (that is, pending the economy's recovery from the financial crisis of 2008 which would be necessary to improve the chances of securing public and private sector funding), "the business plan should be predicated on the Society's functioning at a fairly modest, but still meaningful, level" and that the range of the Society's activities would necessarily be built up gradually, over time.

A revised plan was submitted to the next meeting of the Shadow Council on 30 September. It was underpinned by a philosophy which may be summarised as follows:

- the short-term Strategic Aim should be to develop the Society as a sustainable organisation that was fit for purpose and that was acknowledged both as the recognised representative of the world of Welsh learning internationally and as a source of authoritative, scholarly and critical comment and advice to the National Assembly and other bodies on policy issues affecting organisation Wales;
- the pre-requisites for success in this regard were (i) a sufficiently broad and strong consensus among potential partners and supporters that the setting up of such a body, in the form and for the purpose proposed, was necessary and that it would add value to Welsh life; and (ii) financial, staffing and other resources on a sustainable basis and at a level that was adequate to enable the Society to fulfil its role over time (with fulfilment of the second of these pre-requisites being dependent to a great extent upon how successfully the first was fulfilled);
- the extent to which activities could be developed and to which the Society's profile could be raised during the planning period (that is, during the period to the end of July 2014) would depend in large measure upon the extent to which it could secure financial and other support;
- although it was imperative that the Society should not overreach itself, it was also important that, as far as possible, it should be enabled to develop an effective and worthwhile programme of activities within a relatively short space of time, not least because of the positive influence that this would have upon the views of the broad range of potential partners and supporters, including financial supporters and potential additional Fellows;
- pump-priming funding and support were therefore key elements in the plan.

It was envisaged that there would be two phases in the Society's development: the initial period of establishment and growth during the period to 2011/12, with the year 2012/13 to see a step-change in the level of activity, after which the Society would be more fully up and running. By the end of 2013/14, the Society would:

³⁷ Professor Roy Evans CBE FREng FICE FStructE had formerly served as Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering, Cardiff University and as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Bangor (later, Bangor University).

- have some 220 Fellows;
- have a full-time staff of four;
- hold an Annual General Meeting and lecture and ca. five other public lectures and two conferences a year;
- be engaging on a regular basis with the NAW / WAG, Welsh industry, Welsh HE, and cognate organisations elsewhere in the UK and internationally;
- through its Fellows, be active in outreach, for example, in schools, further education colleges (with attendance at a minimum of ten events a year);
- publish two issues of a Journal and four issues of a Newsletter each year and maintain a website at an appropriate level;
- conduct two independent studies on policy issues each year, and publish the results in reports.

By this time, the University of Wales had already provided the very welcome confirmation that, on a no-strings basis, it would provide the Society with a pump-priming grant of £70,000, together with secretariat and other infrastructural support, during 2009/10, with the possibility that this support might continue beyond that year. This was considered to be essential if the Society was to be enabled to establish itself as a meaningful organisation, to begin its programme of work and to demonstrate its value to Wales – in short, to be developed to a point where it was in a position to secure funds from other sources for the medium to long term.

In this regard, the plan envisaged that some grant income would be provided by the other Welsh Universities (£60,000 a year by 2013/14), that there would be some commercial sponsorship and corporate support from businesses based in or active in Wales (£30,000), as well as some income from benefactions and donations (£15,000) and from Fellows' subscriptions (£12,000). However, in terms of ongoing core funding, the plan was predicated upon the provision of a significant level of financial support from the public purse, with by far the largest source of income in the financial projections being a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government and / or the National Assembly for Wales. It was envisaged that, by 2013/14, £200,000 a year would derive from this source. The argument put forward to support this claim upon the public purse at this stage was that, in most countries, the value of learned societies had already long been recognized in practical as well as philosophical terms, including through the investment of state funding and that the position should be no different in Wales.

The Shadow Council approved the plan, concluding that it was realistic and achievable, whilst also being appropriately aspirational and ambitious, that it was consistent with its determination that the Society should operate in an efficient and cost-effective manner, and that it fulfilled the "modest but ... meaningful" criterion. It was very conscious, though, that the only secure sources of funding were the University of Wales grant and income from members' subscriptions and that securing funding at the necessary level would be the main difficulty facing the Society.

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Not all of the targets set in the plan were to be achieved, although a number were to be surpassed³⁸, and the Society did not, in the end, pursue Government funding. By April 2010, discussions with officials had shown it to be unlikely that the Welsh Government or the National Assembly would be willing to provide a grant for core support. In any case, the importance that was attached to the Society's independence meant that there were doubts about the appropriateness of relying too heavily – or, indeed, at all – on Government³⁹. The Society was later to conclude that it should not seek funding from either of these sources to support its core running costs but that, where appropriate, it would apply for grants to support specific activities, in the same way that the Royal Society of Edinburgh was able to access hypothecated funding from the Scottish Government. In the end, it was the University of Wales, together with some of the other Welsh Universities, that was to be primary source of funding for the Society during its first years in existence.

Essential pump-priming support: the University of Wales

Without doubt, the Society's establishment and its operation during its first years would not have been possible without the generous pump-priming support and encouragement provided by the University of Wales.

For a large proportion of the 115 years since it had been founded in 1893, as one of the country's very few national institutions, the University had occupied a unique and important place in the educational and cultural life of Wales. It had long been the home for, and the driving force behind, organs of great national cultural and academic significance like the University of Wales Press and *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru* (the University of Wales Dictionary). Until a number of the larger constituent university institutions had broken away in the years immediately before the launch of the Society, it could also justifiably be regarded as Wales's national University, bringing together academics from across almost the whole of the higher education sector. Latterly, it had sought, with some degree of success, to broaden the scope of its national role (or more accurately, perhaps, had sought to compensate for the erosion of its position as the national University) by initiating or

³⁸ For a considerable period, the Society operated with just two members of staff (and, for a time, with fewer even than that), and the target of four full-time staff had still not been reached in May 2015, five years after the launch; neither had outreach activity reached the level envisaged; and, recognising that this was too ambitious and costly an activity at such an early stage in its development, the Society has decided not to produce a Journal, at least for the time being. By contrast, by July 2014, the Society had 350 Fellows, rather than the 220 that had been envisaged in the plan; and the number of events organised by the Society or with which it was associated each year was more than four times the number that had been envisaged. Even before July 2014, the Society was engaging on a regular basis with the Welsh Government, with the Welsh universities and other organisations both within and outside Wales.

³⁹ As early as 30 August 2009 – that is, before the plan had been considered by the Shadow Council – the future Treasurer, Sir Roger Jones, had written to the Secretary, "Getting WAG funding is attractive but it may bring us under the control of the Government of the day (or, even worse, the Civil Service)".

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facilitating and supporting a range of strategic initiatives in other areas of public life. Amongst those initiatives was the Learned Society of Wales.

The University's motivation in supporting the Society's establishment was undoubtedly altruistic – having provided support, it stepped away and left the Society to conduct its business entirely independently. It was noted above that, in January 2009, the University's officers had made it clear that they were willing to form a partnership with the Society, in which the University played a supportive, rather than a leading role and that, shortly after, the University had confirmed a no-strings grant of £70,000 to the Society for 2009/10, together with secretariat and other infrastructural support, including office space.

Our Society could not have come into being without help. We are so grateful therefore to the Council of the University of Wales and particularly the Vice Chancellor, Marc Clement, for making it financially possible for us to be here today. ... There has been much talk in the past about the need for a learned society in Wales but the University Council brought about the crystallisation of this talk into action. Having done this, the University has stepped away and has left the Society to get on with it.

Sir John Cadogan, President, during the Ceremony for the Launch of the Society, 25 May 2010

The University has continued to provide financial and other support on the same basis throughout the period that has followed the launch and has committed to doing so at least until 2017/18. Throughout the period, the Society's registered office and headquarters have been located in the University of Wales Registry in central Cardiff.

Independence from the University of Wales was just as important to the Society as was its independence from Government and, despite the University's generous spirit of abnegation, at various times concerns were expressed by external commentators, as well as on occasion within the ranks of the Fellowship, that the relationship might be – or, rather, be perceived to be – too close and that this was detrimental to the Society's prospects. As a result, during the summer and autumn of 2009, the Shadow Council took steps to establish an independent corporate identity for the Society. A PO Box number was secured (in order to avoid having to use the University of Wales Registry address), stationery was produced, separate Welsh and English email addresses and internet domain names were registered and a logo was designed. Steps were also taken to try to ensure that the learned society or national academy concept was supported by a broad range of organisations and that the extent of the Society's dependence on the University of Wales was accordingly diluted.

Stakeholder liaison: other potential supporters

During its first meeting on 26 May 2009, the Shadow Council was reminded that the strategy and plan that had been submitted to the preliminary meeting on 23 January had stated:

The widest possible range of stakeholders needs to be convinced of the merit of the National Academy concept. Much work will be required in this regard in the period leading up to the launch of the Academy and sufficient time will need to be allowed for the ground to be thoroughly prepared ... The Founding Fellows will be expected to serve as Ambassadors on behalf of the Academy and the ideas that underpin it. They will play a key role in informing stakeholders about the Academy, in persuading them of the need to establish it in the interests of the nation, and in securing support (moral and intellectual, as well as practical and financial) for it.

The Shadow Council identified a wide range of potential partners and supporters and decided that, initially, priority should be given to liaison with leading figures in the National Assembly; members of the Welsh Assembly Government and key civil servants; the higher education institutions in Wales (particularly their Vice-Chancellors); and HEFCW (particularly its Council members). It also approved the text of a *Prospectus*, which would incorporate elements of the core vision document that had been produced by Professor M Wynn Thomas, for use in persuading people of the merits of establishing a Learned Society in and for Wales.

The *Prospectus* stated that the Founding Fellows, whose names it listed, had identified the fact that Wales still lacked an academy of learning as a major deficit which they had determined to address and remedy by establishing The Learned Society of Wales, adding: “we are seeking the support of individuals and organisations that share our vision in taking forward this venture for the benefit of Wales”. After setting out the rationale for establishing the Society, the *Prospectus* provided information about its mission and objectives, its proposed activities and functions, the planned nature of the Fellowship, intentions regarding governance and plans for funding.

The members of the Shadow Council set about their task with great energy and determination. By the time of the Council's third meeting on 17 December 2010 encouraging and constructive meetings had been held with a number of potential partners and supporters, including:

- Dr Manon Williams, Deputy Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, who had indicated that His Royal Highness was supportive of the plans to establish the Society;
- the Specialist Policy Adviser to the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM (it being noted that Mr Morgan supported the concept but that his impending retirement meant that it would be necessary also to liaise in due course with the new First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM);
- the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas AM;
- the Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Assembly Government, Dame Gill Morgan DBE;
- the Director General of the Welsh Assembly Government's Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Professor David Hawker;
- the Chief Executive and Clerk of the National Assembly Commission, Mrs Claire Clancy;
- the Vice-Chancellors of Aberystwyth University (Professor Noel Lloyd), Bangor University (Professor Merfyn Jones), Cardiff University (Dr David Grant) and Swansea University (Professor Richard Davies);
- the President of the Royal Society, Lord Rees of Ludlow; and
- the Director of the Institute of Welsh Affairs, Mr John Osmond.

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In addition, letters and copies of the *Prospectus* had been sent to the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Hutt AM, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, and the Chair (Mr Roger Thomas) and Chief Executive (Professor Phil Gummett) of HEFCW. Meetings had also been requested with a range of other people, including Vice-Chancellors of other Welsh Universities and the Chief Executive of the British Academy.

The process of stakeholder liaison continued apace during the Spring of 2010 so that, by the time of the launch, a wide range of people had been made aware of the plans to establish the Learned Society of Wales.

Operating in both English and Welsh: working towards bilingualism

The document, *The National Academy for Wales: a prospectus*, which had been submitted to the second preliminary meeting which had been held on 23 January 2009, stated plainly, “The operation of the Academy will be fully bilingual”. In recognition of the difficulty of ensuring fully bilingual operation when resources were scarce, the *Prospectus* published by the Shadow Council was a little more circumspect, stating only that “[the Society] will operate bilingually”.

Even so, although the Society did not immediately become (and is still not yet) fully bilingual, it was from the outset very conscious of its obligations, as a national Welsh organisation, to operate as far as possible through the medium of Welsh as well as through the medium of English. Its aspirations in this regard were supported by the fact that a significant number of Founding Fellows, including two of the five who were to become Inaugural Officers of the Society⁴⁰, were Welsh speakers, as was the Founding Secretary. Although the majority of its activities during its first five years would be conducted through the medium of English, the Society would organise a number of lectures through the medium of Welsh⁴¹, and issue some documents – for example, its comments in response to the Welsh Government’s 2014 consultation on its language strategy, *laith Fyw, laith Byw (A living language: a language for living)*, in Welsh or in bilingual format. Like its pan-disciplinary nature, the fact that it embraces two languages (however imperfectly, as yet) is an important distinguishing characteristic of the Society.

⁴⁰ These were Sir Roger Jones and Professor M Wynn Thomas. The latter, in particular, was to prove to be a strong advocate of the use of the Welsh language by the Society.

⁴¹ The Society’s first Welsh-medium lecture was to be on the subject of the development at Swansea University of the supersonic Bloodhound car *Dylunio’r BLOODHOUND SSC – Y Car 1000 milltir yr awr (Designing Bloodhound SSC – The 1000 mph car)*, which was delivered at Bangor University in March 2012 by Professor Ken Morgan FEng FLSW, of the College of Engineering at Swansea University.

Planning for the programme of lectures and other events

The Shadow Council also set about planning for the public lectures, conferences and other meetings that would be held after the launch. The Programme and Search Committee which it set up to advise it met on five occasions between 15 January and 4 May 2010 (although it should be noted that, during those meetings, the Committee had also to deal with the election of the President and Council Members and with planning for the Launch Ceremony). Quite a number of its ideas for lectures and other events were to be taken forward in the period following the launch⁴².

During the course of its discussions, the Shadow Council agreed a number of principles for the organisation of the Programme: where appropriate and possible, events should be organised in partnership with (and at least part-funded by) other organisations; events should be held across Wales (and, as appropriate, beyond the country's borders); the Programme should include series of events linked by a particular theme, as well as one-off lectures and other stand-alone events; and it should be planned in a coherent and structured way, rather than being developed *ad hoc*. Although adherence to some of these principles was sometimes to prove to be difficult, they were to have a lasting impact on the way in which the Programme was to be organised in the years after the launch.

Staffing arrangements

At the outset, the secretariat support available to the Shadow Council was confined to that provided by Dr Lynn Williams, as Secretary, who initially fulfilled his duties to the Society alongside those which he carried out as an employee of the University of Wales⁴³. The business plan approved in September 2009 envisaged that, in the first instance, the Secretary would devote one half day each week to Society-related duties but, even by the time that it was approved, Lynn Williams was already in practice devoting about half of his time to the Society. It was clear that the demands of the role would increase still further and the Society therefore approved a proposal that the part-time (0.5 FTE) post of Administrative Assistant be established to support him.

⁴² Some examples are: a lecture by Professor David Mackay FRS, Professor of Natural Philosophy at Cambridge University and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (*Sustainable Energy: without the hot air*, March 2011); a Symposium on the purpose of the universities (*What are universities for?*, May 2011); a lecture by Professor Susan Solomon of the University of Colorado to mark the centenary of the departure from Cardiff of Scott's ship, the Terra Nova (*The Coldest March of Robert Falcon Scott*, June 2011); a lecture by Initial Founding Fellow, Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, on William Grove, the Swansea-based "father of the fuel cell", *William Grove: Wales's most famous scientist?*; and a Symposium on the Dillwyn family of Swansea (*Dillwyn Day: Science, Culture, Society*, June 2012).

⁴³ On the incorporation of the Learned Society of Wales on 18 May 2010, Lynn Williams became the Society's Founding Secretary. Following his early retirement from the University of Wales at the end of July 2010, he was to become the Society's full-time Chief Executive and Secretary, serving in that role between 1 February 2011 and 9 December 2014.

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The person appointed, from a strong field of candidates, was Dr Ben Curtis, an Oxford history graduate who had extensive relevant administrative experience. Dr Curtis took up his duties in January 2010. Because the Society had not yet been legally incorporated, the post was established within the University of Wales staffing structure, with Dr Curtis being seconded to the Society. Salary costs were met by the Society, from the University of Wales grant.

Together, Lynn Williams and Ben Curtis were to be responsible for the entire administrative workload during the period leading to the launch in May 2010 and the staffing resources available to the Society remain modest even at the date of publication of this account (2015).

4

The Launch Ceremony, 25 May 2010

The Shadow Council recognised at an early point that the Ceremony that would be organised for the public Launch of Wales's new national academy provided an excellent opportunity to publicise the plans for the Society and to secure additional support for the initiative. Not surprisingly, therefore, it devoted considerable time and effort to preparing the way for the event. In October 2009, to assist them in the task, the two Co-Chairs set up a Planning Group (which, as noted above, later took on wider responsibilities as the Programme and Search Committee).

It was originally intended that the Launch be held on Saint David's Day, 2010, but it was deferred to 25 May of that year, to give sufficient time for the work necessary for the incorporation of the Society to be completed before the Launch. The National Assembly's Pierhead building in Cardiff Bay was originally considered as a venue for the Ceremony but the Programme and Search Committee concluded that the Reardon Smith Theatre in the National Museum in central Cardiff would provide a more appropriate setting and arrangements were therefore made for the Launch to be held there.

Detailed arrangements were made for the Ceremony and, during the Spring of 2010, letters were sent to representatives of a wide range of organisations, informing them about the event and inviting them to attend. The public relations company, *Cambrensis*, was engaged with a view to ensuring that the Launch was given as high a public profile as possible. It was trailed in the press (with articles appearing in *The Times Higher* in March, and in *The Western Mail* and *Wales Online* on both 17 and 25 May 2010). The fine-art press, *Gwasg Gregynog*, was commissioned to produce a Roll of Fellows which listed the Founding Fellows and which was available for signature by those of them who were able to attend the Ceremony on 25 May. The names of the two deceased Founding Fellows, Professor Sir David Williams and Professor Eric Sunderland, were included in the Roll of Fellows and their widows both accepted invitations to attend the Launch. Much of the cost involved in organising the event was met out of sponsorship support generously provided by the Society's legal advisers, Morgan Cole Solicitors.

The well-attended Ceremony was a joyous event, and those present were left in no doubt as to the significance of the occasion.

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The Society's establishment marks a very important development in the intellectual and cultural life of our nation. Wales is often described as a small but clever country: the quality and breadth of our scholarship is evident in the list of Founding Fellows that is printed elsewhere in this Programme. But, until those Founding Fellows came together, in a wholly spontaneous and voluntary initiative, to establish The Learned Society of Wales, we in this country lacked an academy of learning of the kind that has long existed elsewhere in the United Kingdom and worldwide. Now, we have a learned society that — over time and properly-supported — can do much to emulate the great academies of London and Edinburgh, as well as those that flourish across Europe, in Northern America and beyond.

Sir John Cadogan (from the President's Message in the Launch Programme)

The Ceremony began with a bilingual address by one of the Initial Founding Fellows, Professor Prys Morgan. Sir John Cadogan then signed the Roll of Fellows, before greeting each of the other Founding Fellows in turn, introducing them to the enthusiastic audience of specially invited guests (which included representatives of other British learned societies, of Welsh and other higher education institutions, and of the Welsh Assembly Government), and inviting them to sign the Roll of Fellows. Addresses of greeting were then given by:

- *Professor John Harries FInstP FRMetS*, Professor of Earth Observation at Imperial College, London, who had, on 1 May 2010, taken on the new role of Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales (and who was to be elected to be a Fellow of the Society in 2011);
- *Professor Geoffrey Boulton OBE DSc FGS FRSE FRS* of the University of Edinburgh who also served as General Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh;
- *Sir David Davies CBE DSc FREng FIET FLSW FRS*, who had formerly served as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Loughborough and as President, Royal Academy of Engineering;
- *Professor Susan Mendus FLSW FBA*, of the University of York who was also Vice-President (Social Sciences) of the British Academy;
- *Professor Dame Jean Thomas DBE CBE FMedSci FLSW FRS* of the University of Cambridge who was also Vice-President and Biological Secretary of the Royal Society; and
- *Mr Paul Loveluck CBE JP*, President of the National Museum Wales.

Messages of support were also received from other organisations, including the Royal Irish Academy and the British Library.

The presence of representatives of these other learned societies was an important indicator of the esteem in which the Society was already being held in the academic world outside Wales and of its acceptance into membership of the family of Britain's established national academies. The fact that the General Secretary (and also the Chief Executive, Dr William Duncan) of the Royal Society of Edinburgh attended was, perhaps, particularly gratifying, given the extent to which the

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Learned Society of Wales had consciously modelled itself upon its venerable Scottish counterpart⁴⁴.

The establishment of a Learned Society of Wales is an important and welcome development as it will provide an independent voice for Welsh interests and promote an outward sense of Welsh identity. Devolution in Wales, as in Scotland, has provided a strong national focus and with the establishment of the Learned Society of Wales there is now an independent evidence-based institution in Wales available to politicians and civil servants seeking advice on a wide range of subject areas. It is particularly welcome to see the amount of thought put into the structure of the Welsh model. The Learned Society of Wales will have an important domestic function, but its real strength will be to operate on a much wider international stage, and also to articulate issues where the interests of Wales differ from those of the UK, as the RSE does here in Scotland.
Dr William Duncan, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, quoted in The Western Mail, 25 May 2010

The event culminated in the Inaugural Presidential Address by Sir John Cadogan.

Today we have initiated a new Institution - a new way. We see our Society not only as radical initiator of beneficial outcomes but also a force for inhibiting damaging decisions based only on belief. Our advice might well be ignored but at least these sound opinions will be there for all to see. Above all, however, our aim is to celebrate, recognise, safeguard and encourage excellence in every one of the scholarly disciplines and in the professions, industry and commerce, the arts and public service, so that Wales should come to widely be seen, justifiably - I repeat justifiably - as a *small but clever* country.

Sir John Cadogan (from the President's Inaugural Address, 25 May 2010)

The Ceremony was followed by a reception in the Museum's Grand Hall, after which Fellows, together with invited guests, met for dinner in the Park House Club in central Cardiff.

* * *

And so, the all-important preliminary stages in the journey having been successfully completed, the great adventure had begun.

⁴⁴ Through Dr Duncan and his colleagues, the Royal Society of Edinburgh has continued to be very generous in providing valuable support and advice to the Society throughout the period that has followed the Launch.

Appendix A

The Learned Society of Wales: some Welsh antecedents

Why there has been no national academy in Wales is not at all clear – because Welsh love of culture, distinction in the arts and humanities goes back a long time, while the early nineteenth century saw Wales providing world leadership in areas of science and technology.

***Inaugural Address by The President, Sir John Cadogan CBE DSc FRSE FRSC PLSW FRS,
during the Launch of the Learned Society of Wales, 25 May 2010***

Although the Learned Society of Wales is, indeed, the country's first and only all-embracing national academy, at various times from the mid-eighteenth century onwards there have existed a number of organisations that have displayed characteristics of a learned society and that can, therefore, properly be regarded as antecedents of the Society. In some cases, these were societies that had clear Welsh roots and connections but that operated beyond the country's borders (that is, in London); others were established within Wales but their operations were confined to a specific locale or region. None of them operated or operates on a pan-disciplinary basis in the way that the Learned Society of Wales does.

Wales and the Enlightenment

The eighteenth-century Enlightenment was the classic period for the establishment of national scholarly academies in other parts of the United Kingdom and elsewhere in continental Europe and the Americas – but not in Wales. In his assessment of how far it is legitimate to speak of a “Welsh Enlightenment”, Professor Robert Evans FBA, Regius Professor of History at Oxford University, who was to become a Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, wrote in 2004:

“... enlightened culture played itself out in a British – mostly English – or occasionally a European sphere. Those of Welsh origin who participated in it, even (or particularly) if they were notables like Richard Price or David Williams or Sir William Jones, lived elsewhere, mainly in London. They would hardly be perceived at all as Welsh; nor would Welshness have much direct relevance to them either, at least in respect of their enlightened activities.”⁴⁵

During the later eighteenth century, Wales lagged behind other parts of Britain in terms of the development of academic and civic infrastructure. This was an important factor inhibiting the development of a national academy in Wales at a time when equivalent bodies were being established in Scotland (the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in 1783) and Ireland (the Royal Irish Academy, in 1785). Edinburgh and Dublin had long been recognised as the capitals of Scotland and Ireland, respectively, whereas Wales had no obviously pre-eminent city or borough during the eighteenth century (Cardiff being formally accorded capital city status only in 1955). The four ancient Scottish Universities had all been established between 1413 and 1583 and Trinity College Dublin was founded in 1592. By contrast, in Wales, although St David's College, Lampeter was

⁴⁵ Professor Robert J W Evans FBA, ‘Was there a Welsh Enlightenment?’, in *From Medieval to Modern Wales: historical essays in honour of Kenneth O. Morgan and Ralph A. Griffiths*, R. R. Davies and Geraint H. Jenkins (eds.), (Cardiff, University of Wales Press, 2004), pages 143- 144.

founded as early as 1822, the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth was founded only in 1872, the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire in 1883 (in Cardiff), and the University College of North Wales at Bangor in 1884. It was 1893 before the national University of Wales itself was established, becoming the first Welsh institution (other than St David's College, Lampeter) empowered to award degrees (the Colleges at Aberystwyth, Bangor and Cardiff having until then taught courses that led to degrees of the University of London). Nor did Wales have anything to match the growing reputations of Edinburgh and Dublin as centres of intellectual enquiry and enlightened sophistication outside the universities – reputations that were reflected in the burst of new civic building that took place in those cities during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. A further significant factor in Wales's comparative lack of development was the small size of the Welsh population: according to the 1801 census, the population of England in that year was 8.3 million and that of Scotland 1.6 million; the population of Ireland at that time was estimated to be between 4.5 and 5.5 million; the number of people in Wales was just 0.6 million.

All of this contributed to a situation where, by comparison with Scotland and Ireland, Wales and the Welsh struggled to assert their identity within the British cultural, political and social context. *For Wales, see 'England'* – the oft-quoted entry in the index to the original edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* – has much to say in this regard.

The first Cymmrodorion society, 1751 –1787

It was very much in keeping with this situation that, in the later part of the eighteenth century, it was the Welsh community *in London* that was to establish a society that demonstrated some of the features that we today associate with the enlightenment and with learned societies. This was the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, which was established in 1751⁴⁶ on the initiative of the Anglesey-born brothers, Lewis and Richard Morris.

During the first flowering of the Cymmrodorion society between 1751 and 1787, as well as having charitable aims – for example, support of the Welsh charity school or of London Welsh people in distress – its members also had serious literary and antiquarian objectives. They held discussions on Welsh history and literature, and helped to publish Welsh books. They were motivated by the desire to rescue the literary heritage of the nation, notably through the study, collection and publication of traditional Welsh poetry. The Cymmrodorion also published Thomas Pennant's *The British Zoology* (two volumes, 1761 – 1766). Lewis Morris, in particular, appears to have regarded the Cymmrodorion as a learned society – and as one that might even serve as an alternative to the Royal Society⁴⁷. Professor Emrys Jones, President of the Cymmrodorion Society between 1989 and 2002, has written:

⁴⁶ The Cymmrodorion Society was, in fact, to have three separate incarnations. It was first active between 1751 and 1787, and was revived in 1820, only to cease to be active again within a few decades (the last reference to the second Cymmrodorion being dated 1837). It was re-established in 1873 and is still active today.

⁴⁷ Professor Emrys Jones FBA FRGS and His Honour Dewi Watkin Powell, *The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion: a Concise History 1751 – 2001* (Aberystwyth, Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, 2001), page 3.

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“In many ways the later eighteenth century was the most distinctive period in the history of the Welsh in London, with an unparalleled flourishing of Welsh culture. ... within the spirit of that age of enlightenment ... the Welsh were sharing in an upsurge of the scholarship, literature, enquiry and political excitement that characterised the city which was their home.”⁴⁸

And Robert Evans believes that:

“If the Welsh ... stood very far below any Enlightenment premier league, they were nevertheless not in its third division either. Wales possessed a more vigorous literary language and culture than many another peripheral area.”

He goes on to write:

“the activity of the Morrisies represented a classic enlightened step”.⁴⁹

But, significant though the intellectual ambitions of the Cymmrodorion society were, these were accompanied – and, to some extent undermined – by the overriding emphasis given by many of its members to social activities:

“Learned papers were read at meetings of the society, and doubtless an environment was created which encouraged literary and historical research. But alongside this the Cymmrodorion flourished as a tavern society – for promoting the friendship and good understanding among the people of Wales residing in London. Meetings went on into the small hours of the morning, ‘all boozy’ according to one account. ... Looking back at this period dispassionately, the literary endeavours of the Cymmrodorion between 1751 and its first demise in 1787 are not very impressive, and the results slender and certainly far short of the original aim of printing all the ancient and scarce manuscripts of Wales.”⁵⁰

Thus it was that:

“The Cymmrodorion initiative, a single association ... in a foreign city, reflected the limited range of the culture it sought to promote. ... Superior nations and provinces already had their institutions at home. They included not just Scots and Irish, with their capitals, universities, societies ... Comparable continental peoples, too, achieved more: for example the Danes, roughly twice as numerous as the Welsh at the time and likewise experiencing a degree of cultural subordination.”⁵¹

Another London-Welsh society, the Gwyneddigion (which had been founded as an offshoot of the Cymmrodorion in 1770 and which existed until 1843, although it was itself in decline by 1801), took on the literary mantle of the Cymmrodorion after the first demise of the latter in 1787. The

⁴⁸ Professor Emrys Jones FBA FRGS, ‘The Age of Societies’, in Emrys Jones (ed.), *The Welsh in London 1500 – 2000* (Cardiff, University of Wales Press, 2001), page 83.

⁴⁹ Evans, *op. cit.*, pages 145 and 147.

⁵⁰ Jones (ed.), *op. cit.*, *The Welsh in London 1500 – 2000*, page 74.

⁵¹ Evans, *op. cit.*, page 145.

Gwyneddigion published a number of several ground-breaking books on Welsh literature, such as the 1789 edition of the poems of Dafydd ap Gwilym. And, unlike the Cymmrodorion, they became a forum for political discussions. They also did much to establish the eisteddfod in its modern form and one of their offshoots was the Gorsedd of Bards of the Isle of Britain which was dreamed up by Edward Williams, 'Iolo Morganwg', in about 1790 (with the first Druidic moot being held on London's Primrose Hill in June 1792). Other London-based Welsh societies of the period were the Cymreigyddion and the Caradogion. In Wales itself, a number of local societies had been established. Often, these had charitable aims but a number, like the Brecknock Agricultural Society (established in 1755 as the first such society in the whole of Britain) sought to further modern farming techniques. Despite its title, the Druidical Society of Anglesey, which was set up in 1772, was also active in promoting agricultural improvement.

The Royal Institution of South Wales in Swansea

The 1830s saw the establishment in Swansea of an organisation that was to become the nearest thing that Wales was to have to an Academy of Science. This was the Royal Institution of South Wales which was founded in 1835 as the Swansea Philosophical and Literary Society. The Society received its Royal Charter (and its Royal title) in 1838, as the Royal Institution of South Wales (RISW).

RISW's establishment reflected the fact that, during the 1830s, Swansea had begun "actively to promote itself as the new 'Welsh Metropolis'" and to seek to distinguish itself from other towns in Wales through the provision of urban institutions. It was a part of the drive "to equip Swansea with establishments befitting its new size and growing commercial status."⁵²

The Institution's objectives were:

"The Cultivation and Advancement of the various Branches of Natural History, as well as the Local History of the Town and Neighbourhood, the Extension and Encouragement of Literature and the Fine Arts, and the General Diffusion of Knowledge"

but, from the outset, reflecting the interests of the founder members, the emphasis was on scientific subjects. As well as prominent industrialists like the copper smelter and owner of the Hafod works, John Henry Vivian, the founders included three people who were (or were shortly to become) Fellows of the Royal Society⁵³. One of these, Henry de la Beche, was the founding Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and was to become the President of the Royal Geological Society in 1847. Thus, the new Society:

"was to be no ordinary institution peopled by enthusiastic local amateurs but, rather, the focus of activities for an extraordinary wealth of scientific talent in [Swansea] in the 1830s and 1840s. [The scientific eminence of some of its founder members] was an early signal of the prestigious and prominent position it would come to occupy in the life of the town in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Its impressive longevity – outlasting many of the urban literary and philosophical societies established

⁵² Louise Miskell, "The Making of a New 'Welsh Metropolis': Science, Leisure and Industry in Early Nineteenth-Century Swansea", in *History*, vol. 88 (2003), pages 33 and 36.

⁵³ The distinguished botanist, Lewis Weston Dillwyn, had been elected FRS in 1804 and Henry de la Beche in 1819; William Robert Grove, the pioneer of fuel cell technology, was to be elected FRS in 1840.

in other towns in the same period – testified to the strength of its position in the town.
... It placed intellectual and cultural life at the centre of [Swansea's] identity ..."⁵⁴

The founders built and opened Swansea Museum in 1841 to display the objects that they collected, with a library for research, a laboratory to experiment, and a lecture theatre for public lectures. In 1848, RISW was host to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which was attended by more than 840 scientists. This was the first occasion on which the British Association meeting had been held in Wales and it was a considerable coup for the Institution, for Swansea and for the Principality more generally. The event was considered to be a great success and the Association returned to Swansea in 1880 – before it held any of its annual meetings in any other Welsh town⁵⁵.

The founders of RISW “had a vision of Swansea as a national centre for learning and culture”⁵⁶ and, very early on, sought Royal Patronage (in the form of the Royal Charter that was granted in 1838). They did so on behalf of “the Principality in general” as well as on behalf of “the district of Swansea in particular”⁵⁷. The fact that they petitioned for the title, Royal Institution of South Wales (rather than, say, the Royal Swansea Institution) is seen as a conscious attempt on their part “to promote Swansea as the principal town not only of the county [of Glamorgan] but also of south Wales as a whole”⁵⁸.

However, despite its importance in the intellectual and urban history of Wales, particularly during the nineteenth century, the Royal Institution of South Wales never fully transcended the fact of its geographical location to become a national Welsh academy. As Professors John Tucker and David Evans have written, although RISW is the “nearest thing we have had to an Academy of Science” in Wales and although it “had an interesting and honourable history, with significant achievements in nineteenth century science ... [it] did not develop into a national organisation and did not serve as an academy for Wales”⁵⁹.

After the early years of the twentieth century, RISW fell into decline as a focus for scientific enquiry. Today, it acts as “The Friends of Swansea Museum” and is primarily concerned with the history of Swansea and its environs.

Some other local Welsh societies

The establishment of local societies engaged in science and other areas of activity had been a feature of urban life in Britain since the late-eighteenth century and, although it can probably lay

⁵⁴ Louise Miskell, *Intelligent Town: An Urban History of Swansea, 1780 – 1855* (Cardiff, University of Wales Press, 2006), pages 162 – 163.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, pages 175 – 178; Ronald Rees, *Heroic Science: Swansea and the Royal Institution of South Wales 1835 – 1865* (Llandybie, Wales Books, Glyndŵr Publishing, 2005), pages 235 – 243, ‘The 1848 British Association Meeting in Swansea’.

⁵⁶ Miskell, *Intelligent Town*, *op cit.*, page 174.

⁵⁷ Miskell, “The Making of a New ‘Welsh Metropolis’”, *op. cit.*, page 37, quoting from a letter from Lewis Weston Dillwyn, *et al*, to Lord John Russell.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, page 37.

⁵⁹ Professors John Tucker FBCS and David Evans, “Science Academy”, *Agenda* (Cardiff, Institute of Welsh Affairs, summer 2006), pages 40 – 41.

claim to being the most distinguished, RISW was not the only society of its kind in Wales. For example: the Neath Horticultural Society was established in 1832 (and so pre-dated RISW by three years); the Newport Mechanics Institute was established in 1841 (becoming the Newport Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute six years later); the Neath Mechanics Institute (one of whose members and the designer of whose building was Alfred Russel Wallace) was established in 1843; the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in Wales, which published Welsh-language translations of English books and articles and which helped spark Thomas Gee's great work, *Y Gwyddoniadur Cymreig*, came into being in 1848; the Ebbw Vale Literary and Philosophical Society was founded in 1849; and the South Wales Institute of Engineers was established in Merthyr Tydfil in 1857. The Cardiff Scientific Society (whose aim is "By Lectures, Demonstrations, etc, of a popular nature, to extend interest in the application of Science to everyday life") was established as relatively recently as 1926.

Yr Academi Gymreig, 1959 – the present

More recently still, Yr Academi Gymreig (The Welsh Academy), a national society of writers in Wales loosely modelled on *L'Académie Française*, was founded in 1959, further to discussions between the scholar, critic, poet and writer, Bobi Jones⁶⁰ and the poet, Waldo Williams. The adjective, *Cymreig* (rather than *Cymraeg*) was chosen so as to enable the inclusion of writers in English, and other artists. An English-language section was established in 1968. The Society continues to operate, its purpose being to promote and to assist in maintaining the standards of literature in Wales.

The third Cymmrodorion society, 1873 – the present

To return to the Welsh in London, having lapsed again following a brief revival between 1820 and 1837, the Cymmrodorion society was re-established once more in 1873. It is in its present, third, incarnation that it has most clearly demonstrated the characteristics of a learned society. Its considerable achievements reflect the talent that has existed in the London Welsh community, with "many men of eminence and leaders of the Welsh community [looking] upon the Cymmrodorion as an outlet for their desire to serve the people of Wales"⁶¹. Initially, there was a particular focus on supporting the development of the National Eisteddfod and of new national institutions (the University of Wales in 1893 and, in 1907, both the National Museum of Wales and the National Library of Wales), as well as on education. Most important, perhaps, was the work carried out in producing a body of scholarly work in history and literature, with publications of high standard: the *Cymmrodor* series; the *Transactions*, which has been described as the chief scholarly journal for Welsh history and antiquities between its inception in 1893 and the establishment of *The Welsh History Review* in 1960⁶²; the *Cymmrodorion Record Series*, in which important Welsh historical sources were published for the first time; and the *Bywgraffiadur Cymreig* (1953) and its English version, the *Dictionary of Welsh Biography* (1959). The organisation of lectures and the award of medals to outstanding scholars and other persons of distinction have also been important features of the Cymmrodorion society.

⁶⁰ Bobi Jones (Professor Robert M Jones DLitt FLSW FBA) was later to become Head of the Department of Welsh Language and Literature at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth and is a Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales.

⁶¹ Jones and Powell, *op. cit.*, page 8.

⁶² Professor Prys Morgan FRHistS FSA FLSW, *A Brief History of the Cymmrodorion*, the website of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion (<http://www.cymmrodorion.org>).

“What gave the Society its status as a learned society was the scholarly quality of the lectures and of its publications and the merit of those who received the Society’s medal.”⁶³

As the twentieth century progressed, an increasing number of Cymmrodorion members came from Wales and an increasing number of meetings were held there, but it remains steadfastly a London society. Membership is open to all, by payment of a subscription, rather than by election on the basis of excellence or achievement. The focus is on matters Welsh, notably history and literature, with some forays into the social sciences and public affairs. Contemporary science does not feature. The Society has attracted a range of distinguished academics to its most senior office, that of President (the current holder of that office being the historian, Professor Prys Morgan FRHistS FSA FLSW, who is an Initial Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales). But, scholarly though the activities of the Society are today, it is still also very much a vehicle for promoting conviviality and friendship amongst members of the Welsh community in the English capital and it cannot properly be regarded as a national Welsh academy.

Indeed, the Cymmrodorion society itself would not lay claim to such status. In October 2010, in what was to be only the Learned Society’s second public meeting, Prys Morgan spoke about “the complex and growing web of societies of all kinds” that had come into being across Wales by the end of the twentieth century and concluded that:

“Despite this amazing plethora of institutions, there was still one very important kind of Society missing, and that was a national academy of learning. This eventually was achieved in 2010 with the foundation of *Cymdeithas Ddysgedig Cymru*, the Learned Society of Wales [which was] the latest in a long line of institutions which form the ribcage of Welsh nationhood”⁶⁴.

⁶³ Jones and Powell, *op. cit.*, page 15.

⁶⁴ Professor Prys Morgan FRHistS FSA FLSW, unpublished notes (from the Learned Society of Wales archive) for *Getting Our Act Together: Welsh society and Welsh societies, 1700 – 2000*, a lecture in a two-part Learned Society of Wales event (and the first in the Society’s *Anniversaries* series), *The Role of Societies in the Development of National Identity*, which was held at Swansea University on 26 October 2010. (The other lecture was given by Professor Robert Evans FBA FLSW on the subject, *Learned Societies and the Making of National Identity: A European Perspective*.)

Appendix B

Some learned societies and national academies established elsewhere in Britain and further afield before 2010

A number of major learned societies that have the status of national academies were established within the British Isles well before the Learned Society of Wales was launched in 2010:

- the **Royal Society** (The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge) was established in 1660 in response to the burgeoning of the scientific movement during the seventeenth century;
- the eighteenth century Enlightenment saw the launch of Societies with a broader disciplinary and membership base like the **Royal Society of Edinburgh** (Scotland's national academy of science and letters) (1783) and the Dublin-based **Royal Irish Academy** (1785), as well as a plethora of Societies concerned with specific academic subjects;
- the **British Academy** (the UK's National Academy for the Humanities and the Social Sciences) was established in London in 1902; and
- a number of other UK learned societies concerned with particular academic disciplines were established towards the end of the twentieth century, most notably, the **Royal Academy of Engineering** (1976), the **Academy of Medical Sciences** (1998) and the **Academy of Social Sciences** (1999).

Some examples of the very many national academies and learned societies established in continental Europe and further afield (with their dates of establishment shown in parentheses) are:

The Accademia Platonica (Italy) (1450s)

The Accademia della Crusca (Italy) (1580s)

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Italy) (1603)

L'Académie Française (1635)

The National Academy of Sciences 'Leopoldina' (1652)

L'Académie des Sciences (France) (1666)

The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Germany) (1700)

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (1739)

The American Philosophical Society (1743)

The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities (1753)

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1780)

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (1808)

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- The Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (1815)
- The Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences (1834)
- The Austrian Academy of Sciences (1847)
- The National Academy of Sciences (USA) (1863)
- The Royal Society of New Zealand (1867)
- The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1869)
- The Royal Society of Canada (1882)
- The Estonian Academy of Sciences (1938)
- The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (1941)
- The Georgian National Academy of Sciences (1941)
- The National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (1943)
- The Australian Academy of Science (1954)
- The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (1959)
- The Kenya National Academy of Sciences (1983)
- The Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts (1975)
- The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (2010)

Appendix C

The Founding Fellows*

Professor Sydney Anglo FSA FRHistS FLSW FBA - formerly: Professor of the History of Ideas, Swansea University; Fellow, the Warburg Institute

Professor Huw Beynon DSocSc AcSS FLSW** – Director, the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Method (WISERD), Cardiff University; formerly: Professor of Sociology, Research Dean and Director of ESRC Centre CRIC, University of Manchester; Director, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University

Sir Leszek Borysiewicz KBE FRCP FRCPATH FMedSci FLSW FRS - Chief Executive, Medical Research Council; formerly: Professor of Medicine, University of Wales College of Medicine; Deputy Rector, Imperial College, London; from October 2010, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge

Sir John Cadogan CBE DSc FRSE FRSC FLSW FRS (Inaugural President)** - Chairman, Fusion Antibodies Ltd; formerly: Director General, Research Councils; Purdie Professor of Chemistry, University of St Andrews; Forbes Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; Chief Scientist, BP Research Centre; Director of Research, BP; Visiting Professor of Chemistry, Imperial College, London; Professorial Fellow, Swansea University

Professor Richard Carwardine FRHistS FLSW FBA - Rhodes Professor of American History and President of Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford

Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards FRHistS FLSW FBA - Jesus Professor of Celtic and Fellow, Jesus College, University of Oxford

Professor Ian Clark FLSW FBA - E H Carr Professor of International Politics, Aberystwyth University; formerly, Deputy Director, Centre of International Studies, and Fellow, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge

Professor Stuart Clark FRHistS FLSW FBA - formerly Professor of Early Modern History, Swansea University

Professor Marc Clement FIEE FLSW** - Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, the University of Wales; Chair of Innovation and Director of The Institute of Life Science, Swansea University

Professor David Crystal OBE FLSW FBA - Honorary Professorial Fellow, Bangor University; Vice-President, the Institute of Linguistics; formerly, Professor, the University of Reading

Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE FSA FLSW FBA - Professor of European Archaeology, University of Oxford; formerly: President, the Council for British Archaeology; President, the Society of Antiquaries

Professor Martin Daunton LittD FRHistS FLSW FBA - Master, Trinity Hall, and Professor of Economic History, University of Cambridge

* Entries show information current at the time of individuals' appointment to be Founding Fellows.

** Denotes an Initial Founding Fellow.

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Sir David Davies CBE DSc FEng FIET FLSW FRS - Chairman, The Hazards Forum; formerly: Pender Professor and Head of Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University College, London; Vice-Chancellor, University of Loughborough; Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence; President, Royal Academy of Engineering

Professor Wendy Davies OBE FSA FRHistS FLSW FBA - formerly: Professor of History and Pro-Vost, University College, London; Vice-President, the British Academy

Professor Robert Dodgshon FLSW FBA - formerly, Gregynog Professor of Human Geography and Director of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, Aberystwyth University

Professor Kenneth Dyson AcSS FRHistS FLSW FBA - Distinguished Research Professor, School of European Studies, Cardiff University; formerly, Professor of European Studies and Co-Director of the European Briefing Unit, the University of Bradford

Professor Dianne Edwards CBE ScD FRSE FLSW FRS (Inaugural Vice-President for Science, Technology and Medicine)** - Distinguished Research Professor in Palaeobotany and, formerly, Head of the School of Earth, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Cardiff University

Sir Sam Edwards FLSW FRS - formerly: Cavendish Professor of Physics and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge; Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Energy; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the Science Research Council (*ob.* 7 May 2015)

Professor Richard J Evans DLitt FRHistS FRSL FLSW FBA - Regius Professor of Modern History and Fellow, Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge; Gresham Professor of Rhetoric, Gresham College, London

Professor Robert Evans FLSW FBA - Regius Professor of History and Fellow, Oriel College, University of Oxford

Professor Roy Evans CBE FEng FICE FStructE FLSW** - formerly: Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering, Cardiff University; Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, Bangor

The Baroness (Ilora) Finlay of Llandaff FRCP FRCGP FLSW** - Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Velindre NHS Trust; Honorary Professor in Palliative Medicine, School of Medicine, Cardiff University; formerly, Medical Director, Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Cardiff

The Baron (Brian) Flowers of Queen's Gate in the City of Westminster Kt DSc FInstP FLSW FRS - formerly: Langworthy Professor of Physics, University of Manchester; Chairman, the Science Research Council; Rector, Imperial College, London; Vice-Chancellor, the University of London (*ob.* 25 June 2010)

Professor R Geraint Gruffydd DLitt FLSW FBA - formerly: Professor of Welsh Language and Literature, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Librarian, the National Library of Wales; Director, the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (*ob.* 24 March 2015)

Dame Deirdre Hine DBE FFPHM FRCP FLSW - Chairman, the BUPA Foundation; formerly: Senior Lecturer in Geriatric Medicine, University of Wales College of Medicine; Chief Medical Officer, the Welsh Office; President, the British Medical Association

Professor Christopher Hooley FLSW FRS - Distinguished Research Professor, School of Mathematics, Cardiff University; formerly, Professor of Pure Mathematics, the University of Durham and Cardiff University

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Sir John Houghton CBE FLSW FRS - Honorary Scientist at the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, Meteorological Office, and at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory; formerly: Professor in Atmospheric Physics, University of Oxford; Chief Executive, the Meteorological Office; President, the Royal Meteorological Society; Chairman, Joint Scientific Committee, World Climate Research Programme; Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (Nobel Peace Prize winner)

Professor Graham Hutchings DSc FICHEM FRSC FLSW FRS - Professor of Physical Chemistry, Cardiff University; formerly: Professor and Deputy Director, the Leverhulme Centre; Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry, Cardiff University

Professor Geraint H Jenkins DLitt FLSW FBA** - formerly: Director, the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies; Professor and Head of Department of Welsh History, Aberystwyth University

Professor Robert M Jones DLitt FLSW FBA - formerly Professor and Head of the Department of Welsh Language and Literature, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth

Sir Roger Jones OBE FLSW (Inaugural Treasurer)** - Chair of Council, Swansea University; Chairman ZooBiotic Ltd; formerly Chairman, Penn Pharmaceuticals Ltd

Professor Andrew Linklater AcSS FLSW FBA - Woodrow Wilson Professor of International Politics, Aberystwyth University; formerly: Associate Professor, Monash University; Professor, Keele University

Sir Ronald Mason KCB FRSC FIMMM FLSW FRS – formerly: Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, the University of Sheffield; Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence

Professor John McWhirter FEng FIMA FInstP FIEE FLSW FRS - Distinguished Research Professor, School of Engineering, Cardiff University; formerly, Senior Fellow, Signal Processing Group, QuinetiQ Ltd

Professor Susan Mendus FLSW FBA - Professor of Political Philosophy, University of York; Vice-President (Social Sciences), the British Academy

Professor Derec Llwyd Morgan DLitt FLSW** - formerly: Professor of Welsh and Vice-Chancellor, the University of Wales, Aberystwyth; Senior Vice-Chancellor, the University of Wales

The Baron (Kenneth O) Morgan of Aberdyfi DLitt FRHistS FLSW FBA** - formerly: Senior Lecturer in History, Swansea University; Fellow and Praelector, Modern History and Politics, Queen's College, Oxford; Vice-Chancellor, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Vice-Chancellor, then Senior Vice-Chancellor, the University of Wales

Professor Prys Morgan FRHistS FSA FLSW** – President, the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion; formerly Professor of History, University of Wales, Swansea

Professor Michael O'Hara FRSE FLSW FRS - formerly: Professor of Geology, University of Wales, Aberystwyth; Distinguished Research Professor, Cardiff University; Professor, University of Edinburgh (*ob.* 24 November 2014)

Professor David Olive CBE FLSW FRS - formerly: staff member, CERN; Professor of Physics, Imperial College, London; Research Professor of Physics and Research Professor of Mathematics, Swansea University (*ob.* 7 November 2012)

Professor John Wyn Owen CB FRGS FHSM FR SocMed FLSW** - Chairman, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff; Adjunct Professor of Public Health, University of Sydney; formerly Director, NHS Wales

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Professor Roger Owen FEng FLSW FRS - Professor in Civil Engineering, School of Engineering, Swansea University

Professor John Pearce FLSW FRS - Professor of Psychology, Cardiff University

Sir Keith Peters FMedSci FRCP FRCPE FRCPath FLSW FRS - Senior Consultant, GlaxoSmithKline R & D; Chairman of Council, Cardiff University; formerly: Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge; President of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Sir Dai Rees FRSC FRCPE FMedSci FIBiol FLSW FRS - formerly: Chief Executive, the Medical Research Council; Director, National Institute for Medical Research; Principal Scientist, Unilever Research; Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Edinburgh

Professor Keith Robbins DLitt FRSE FRHistS FLSW** - formerly: Professor of History, University College of North Wales, Bangor; Professor of Modern History, Glasgow University; Vice-Chancellor, Lampeter University; Senior Vice-Chancellor, the University of Wales

Professor Charles Stirling FRSC FLSW FRS - formerly: Professor of Organic Chemistry, Bangor University; Professor of Organic Chemistry, University of Sheffield

Professor Eric Sunderland CBE FIBiol FLSW** - formerly: Professor of Anthropology, University of Durham; Vice-Chancellor, University College of North Wales, Bangor; Vice-Chancellor, the University of Wales (*ob.* 24 March 2010)

Professor Dame Jean Thomas DBE CBE FMedSci FLSW FRS - Master, St Catharine's College, and Professor of Macromolecular Biochemistry, the University of Cambridge; Vice-President and Biological Secretary, the Royal Society

Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas DSc ScD HonFRSE HonFEng FLSW FRS** - Honorary Professor in Solid State Chemistry, University of Cambridge; formerly: Professor and Head of Department of Chemistry, the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth; Professor and Head of Department of Physical Chemistry and Master of Peterhouse, University of Cambridge; Director and Fullerian Professor of Chemistry, Royal Institution of Great Britain; Deputy Pro-Chancellor, University of Wales

Sir Keith Thomas FRHistS FLSW FBA - Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford; formerly: President, the British Academy; President, Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Professor of Modern History and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

Professor M Wynn Thomas OBE FLSW FBA (Inaugural Vice-President for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences)** - Professor of English and Emyr Humphreys Professor of Welsh Writing in English, Swansea University; formerly Director of the Centre for Research into the English Literature and Language of Wales, Swansea University

Professor Steven Tipper AcSS FLSW FBA - Professor of Cognitive Science, Bangor University; formerly, Director, the Wolfson Centre for Clinical and Cognitive Neuroscience, Bangor University

Professor John Tucker FBCS FLSW (Inaugural General Secretary)** - Professor of Computer Science and Head of School of Physical Sciences, Swansea University

Professor Kenneth Walters DSc FLSW FRS - Distinguished Research Professor, Institute of Mathematics and Physics, Aberystwyth University

Professor Peter Wells CBE DSc FEng FMedSci FIET FInstP FLSW FRS - Distinguished Research Professor, School of Engineering, Cardiff University; formerly: Professor of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, University of Bristol; Professor of Medical Physics, Welsh National School of Medicine

Professor Alasdair Whittle FLSW FBA - Distinguished Research Professor in Archaeology, Cardiff University

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Professor Sir David Williams QC DL FLSW** – formerly: Rouse Ball Professor of English Law, Fellow of Emmanuel College, President of Wolfson College, Vice-Chancellor, the University of Cambridge; President, then Chancellor, Swansea University (*ob.* 6 September 2009)

Professor Sir Dillwyn Williams FMedSci FRCP FRCPath FLSW - formerly: Vice-Provost, University of Wales College of Medicine; Professor of Histopathology, University of Cambridge; President, the British Medical Association

Professor Robin Williams CBE FInstP FLSW FRS** - Research Professor, School of Engineering, Swansea University; formerly: Professor and Head of Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Wales, Cardiff; Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, Swansea

The Most Reverend and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams PC DD FRSL FLSW FBA - Archbishop of Canterbury; formerly Professor of Divinity, University of Oxford

Appendix D

Strategic Objectives and Charitable Objects

The Society's **Strategic Objectives** are:

- to promote the academic excellence and achievements of Wales and to disseminate Welsh research and scholarship in the United Kingdom and internationally;
- to engage the public's interest in, and understanding and appreciation of, science, technology and medicine, and the arts, humanities and social sciences in Wales;
- to foster partnerships and links between academia and other sectors of society, including industry and commerce, the professions, the arts, public service, and schools and colleges, thereby promoting the health of intellectual life in Wales;
- to support research and innovation in Wales, in higher education and more widely, to stimulate the development of new research areas, including applied, multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral research, and to aid the commercialisation of research-driven, innovative ideas;
- to work with and support Welsh higher education and other relevant sectors in these tasks;
- to provide a representative and independent voice for all of the scholarly disciplines and to provide an independent forum for informed debate on all scientific, social and cultural subjects;
- to facilitate engagement between policy-makers in Wales and well-informed practitioners in a variety of fields, and to offer assistance, where appropriate, in the formation of national policy, by acting as an expert, impartial and independent source of scholarly enquiry, evidence, advice and comment;
- to enable Wales to participate at the highest level in the international world of learning and scholarship, and to promote the academic excellence and achievements of Wales to the wider world;
- to establish and maintain links with comparable academies in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Its **Charitable Objects**⁶⁵ were defined as follows in the Articles of Association:

- 4.1 The objects of the Society shall be for the benefit of the community, to advance learning and knowledge, and thereby to promote and contribute to cultural, social, environmental and economic development within Wales and beyond, including but without prejudice to the generality thereof:
 - 4.1.1 to establish and carry on, a learned society for Wales comprised of Fellows of the Society;
 - 4.1.2 to organise public lectures, meetings, debates and conferences;

⁶⁵ The Society's Charter defines its Objects simply as being "for the benefit of the community, to advance education, learning, academic study and knowledge, so as to result in contributing to scientific, cultural, social, environmental and economic development within Wales and beyond". This reflects, almost exactly, the main Clause 4.1 of the Articles of Association. The other Charitable Objects set out in the Articles (Clauses 4.1.1 to 4.1.7) have been re-defined in the Charter as Powers of the Society.

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- 4.1.3 to publish newsletters, journals and reports, and other publications related to the activities and objects of the Society;
- 4.1.4 to engage in outreach activities of all sorts;
- 4.1.5 to participate in, support, fund and disseminate research, innovation and other activities relating to the advancement of learning, scholarship or knowledge;
- 4.1.6 to advance public discussion and interaction on matters of national and international importance;
- 4.1.7 to enable Wales to participate at the highest level in the international world of learning and scholarship, and to promote the academic excellence and achievements of Wales to the wider world.



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