

payment of subscriptions, the publication and despatch of its journal *International Relations*, and the publication and sale of books.

**Class L: Printed Material, 1917–57 (17 boxes)**

Comprises printed materials and press cuttings. The printed materials include a wide range of leaflets, pamphlets etc., 1917–57, many of these concerning the activities of peace movements and peace initiatives, including some of the publications of the New Commonwealth Society. Some of the material reflects various aspects of Welsh life. The press cuttings, 1918–51, comprise newspaper articles, mostly regarding international affairs, the build up to the Second World War, policies of the New Commonwealth Society, post-war international issues, the United Nations, the Cold War and the Marshall Plan.

**Class M: Gregynog Press, 1929–62 (1 box)**

Printed material from the Gregynog Press for events held at Gregynog including the Gregynog Festival, conferences and religious services. The material relating to the Gregynog Festival (M1) is arranged into three files: festival

programmes, concert programmes and orders of service. M2 comprises files containing Orders of Services for religious services held at Gregynog as part of various conferences and meetings.

The Lord Davies Papers are not subject to any restriction of access.

**Reading matter on Lord Davies**

The fullest biographical account hitherto available in print is J. Graham Jones, 'The Peacemaker: David Davies, Lord Davies of Llandinam (1880–1944)', *Montgomeryshire Collections*, vol. 101 (2013), pp. 117–148. A briefer overview of his life and career is also available in J. Graham Jones, 'The Peacemaker: David Davies, the first Baron Davies of Llandinam (1880–1944)', *Journal of Liberal Democrat History*, no. 29 (Winter 2000/2001), pp. 16–23. An excellent summary may also be found in Lord Kenneth O. Morgan, 'Davies, David, first Baron Davies (1880–1944)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* on-line version (accessed 17 November 2018). Still useful, though now somewhat dated, is Peter Lewis, *David Davies (Top-sawyer) 1818–1890 and his Grandson David Davies (1st Baron Davies) 1880–1944: A*

*Biographical Sketch* (Llanidloes, 2007 reprint).

My friend and former colleague Mr Rob Phillips, who is now responsible for the running of the Welsh Political Archive at the National Library of Wales, delivered a very fine lecture at the NLW on 6 June 2018 entitled 'Lord David Davies: the Peacemonger' which provided a quite splendid overview of the Davies archive at the NLW. Mr Phillips has very kindly placed the text of his keynote lecture at my disposal and I am most indebted to it for several most valuable points of detail.

**Contact details**

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# Letters to the Editor

**Liberals in local government**

Mark Smulian's letter on the origins of *Focus* newsletters (*Journal of Liberal History* 99, Summer 2018) triggered my own memories of Southend. He suggests that Prittlewell ward Liberals there had circulated a local newsletter as early as 1962 and speculates that Prittlewell's David Evans, later on a well-known figure in the party, may have played some part in spreading the idea.

I joined the Liberal Party in early 1958, amidst a run of encouraging by-election votes (including Mark Bonham Carter's victory in Torrington). But between Summer 1958 and the October 1959 general election, the party fought only one in England (Scottish ones were too far away), in Southend West on a smog-blanketed day at the end of January 1959.

Having just left school, I was able to travel to what was my first experience both of an election campaign and of meeting Liberals outside my own local patch. On polling day, I was stationed in Prittlewell, learning what to do from a young Councillor David Evans. I was the more attentive as Southend was one of few boroughs where Liberals had recently gained representation on the council, and one of the largest of those few. How did they do it?

I came away, immensely impressed with the successful Prittlewell election machine, though I do not now recall a regular newsletter as part of it. But I suspect that I was among many English Liberals who came to Southend in 1959, taking home campaigning ideas to put into practice at home.

*Michael Steed*

**Liberal Party Council**

I don't wish to prolong the correspondence (see Letters, *Journal of Liberal History* 99 (Summer 2018) and 100 (Autumn 2018)) but I must assure John Smithson that my reference to the 'chaotic' Liberal Party council had nothing to do with his contributions. I agree we often disagreed but I still respected his contributions.

No, what I had in mind was watching on TV the sight of Baroness Seear and other luminaries weaving their way past empty beer barrels to get into some student union which had been chosen for the Saturday meeting, and another occasion when I was present and a member of the council decided to do a dance on the floor – it was difficult to take the body seriously.

*David Steel*