

# **The Cardiff Naturalists Society Bioscience Prize**

**(In memory of Professor Ursula Henriques)**

**The Cardiff Naturalists Society is pleased to be sponsoring a prize for the best 2<sup>nd</sup> Year fieldwork in the Biosciences Department of Cardiff**

## **About the Prize**

The prize of £250.00 will be awarded to the student with the best report from the Field Course module, taken during the second year. This field trip can take place in the UK or in any part of the world.

The prize will be publicised to the students as both an incentive for excellence and recognition of hard work. It has been set at a higher value than existing prizes in the hope that it will inspire as well as reward.

The prize will be judged through the marking that the university staff performs on this work and their decision will be final.

As part of the award there are 2 conditions on the student that are intended to encourage the winner to further heights. These are: -

1. The prize Cheque will be awarded at one of the CNS meetings spring session (Jan-Mar). The winner will be required to accept the cheque in person
2. The winner is requested to provide a 10 minute summary of their work to the members of the society at that meeting and/or provide a 1500 word summary of their work for inclusion in the societies newsletter

## **About the Society**

The Cardiff Naturalists' Society is the longest established wildlife organization in the area having been formed in 1867 at the instigation of Robert Drane F.L.S. The site of this first meeting is the current Thomas Cooks travel agency on Queen Street and is marked with a plaque established by the society.

The first general meeting was 11 September 1867. There were 24 original members recorded in the minutes. Early meetings were held in the Museum Room of the Cardiff Free Library, until the National Museum of Wales opened in 1927, and meetings are now held in the university.

The Cardiff Naturalists Society was the largest scientific Society in Wales in 1905, and brought to existence in Cardiff both the original Cardiff Museum and later the National Museum of Wales. The Societies link with the National Museum of Wales continues to this day with the Societies library of over 10,000 volumes being housed within the library of the Museum

The original objectives of the society were... The practical study of natural history, geology and the physical sciences, but the society also took an interest in archaeology; an Archaeology Section was formed in 1894.

The society started a Geological Section in 1875, a Biological and Microscopical section in 1887 (re-named Biological and Geological Section, 1892) and an

Ornithological Section in 1946. The sections were merged back into the parent society as interests of the membership have changed over the years, but all of these interests are represented in their programme of events (see <http://www.cardiffnaturalists.org.uk/htmlfiles/programme.htm> for details)

The society published annual Transactions from 1868 to 1986, and has since then published a quarterly newsletter and now provides a significant amount of information on local Natural history via its website [www.cardiffnaturalists.org.uk](http://www.cardiffnaturalists.org.uk)

Members of the Society have been instrumental in protecting many of the wild areas that we all know and love, from Skomer to Forest Farm, and are still active in biological recording with recent new finds of the Long-winged Conehead and a rare version of the Common Spotted Orchid var. *rhodochila* both confirmed on Coryton Roundabout.

The Society is a Registered Charity, Number 1092496

### **About Professor Ursula Ruth Quixano Henriques 1914-2008**

A historian by calling, in the University of Wales in Cardiff, she was a natural history lover too, and a faithful attender at Cardiff Naturalists' Society lectures and field trips from the early 1960s.

Having studied at Somerville College Oxford, 1933-36 and graduating with first class Honours, Ursula was appointed to the History department at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire (now Cardiff University) as an associate lecturer in 1960. During the Second World War she worked in the Admiralty and in Civil Defence, and after she was a Red Cross Officer in Hong Kong and then went via secondary school teaching into a university career.

A Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin in 1968/9, she was promoted to senior lecturer in 1973 and to a personal chair here at Cardiff University in 1979.

Beginning her academic career as a medievalist, Ursula moved on to acquire a doctorate in modern history from Manchester University in 1959. Entitled *Some Aspects of the Theory of Religious Toleration in England, 1787-1833*, it was published in 1961. Her subsequent works include *Early Factory Acts and their Enforcement* (1971) and *Before the Welfare State: Social Administration in Early Industrial Britain* (1979). She was the editor of *Jews of South Wales: Historical Studies* (1993).

She had a great, and sometimes caustic, sense of humour, occasionally expressed in witty little rhymes, these at variance with her learned historical treatises which were highly regarded. In addition, she was willing to compose letters pointing out the error of their ways to any in authority who fell short of expectations in backing some worthy cause.

In later years she stopped getting around as much, but all who know her remember with affection her burgundy fiesta arriving at events. She is remembered as a good companion 'in the field' and an ardent cat lover. Professor Henriques died peacefully aged 94 years on Nov 19 2008

For more information about the Cardiff Naturalists' Society please see the website or contact the society via [info@cardiffnaturalists.org.uk](mailto:info@cardiffnaturalists.org.uk)

Andy Kendall  
Publicity Officer  
Cardiff Naturalists' Society

Shenstone  
Ty'r Winch Road  
Old St Mellons  
Cardiff  
CF3 5UX  
029 2077 0707