

DYLAN  
THOMAS



PRIFYSGOL CYMRU  
Y Drindod Dewi Sant  
UNIVERSITY OF WALES  
Trinity Saint David

CANMLWYDDIANT  
CENTENARY



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Trinity Saint David

The 2014  
Dylan Thomas  
International Summer School  
with Menna Elfyn



## The 2014 Dylan Thomas International Summer School with Menna Elfyn

Celebrate the centenary of Dylan Thomas with two weeks dedicated to the life & work of Dylan Thomas at University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Lampeter campus and locations throughout west Wales.

Menna Elfyn, is the Director of the MA in Creative Writing at UWTSD

*“Dylan’s voice was carved by the  
salt-cries of wild West Wales...  
...come to experience its splendor  
for yourself and to fully absorb  
Dylan’s world”*

*Menna Elfyn*



## SUGGESTED ITINERARY/ PROGRAM INFORMATION

(Draft - subject to change)

Dates for accommodation:

Arrival Sunday 25 May

Depart from Campus 7 June

Meals:

3 per day, Monday – Friday

Program:

Inclusive of accommodation,  
lectures, meals (Mon-Fri),  
trips & support at UWTSO

Professor:

Dr Menna Elfyn [m.elfyn@tsd.ac.uk](mailto:m.elfyn@tsd.ac.uk)

Admin:

Sian E Davies [s.e.davies@tsd.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.davies@tsd.ac.uk)



*“Menna Elfyn is one of the most significant poets writing in Wales. Her conspicuous moral and political commitments, international in scope, are always underwritten by her prior commitment to language. Hers is a subtle politics of parable rather than polemic, and a style in which vulnerability is the other face of daring.”*

M. Wynn Thomas



- Patrons will be given access to the College Students Union, IT facilities, Trips – a member of staff will accompany the group on trips.
- If a full day trip the restaurant will be given times for arrival & departure and patrons will be encouraged to pick up packed lunches on the morning of the trip.
- Patrons will return back to campus in time for the evening meal.
- The member of staff will provide information about the places you will be visiting and will accompany the group on a tour. Additional time will be given for sightseeing.
- Any issues during your stay please email: [s.e.davies@tsd.uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.davies@tsd.uwtsd.ac.uk)
- Sunday 25 May Arrival into London Heathrow Airport between 9am – 1pm
- There will be staff there with UWTSO signs – please inform staff of flight number in advance
- Approximate time of arrival at Campus – 6.00pm
- Patrons to be shown to their rooms
- Phones on campus will be available to phone home immediately after dropping off luggage
- Welcome meal packs to be collected

### Monday 26 May

**Morning:**

**Orientation**

**Depart: 1.30pm**

**Orientation: 9.00am – 12.30pm**

- 9.00am Meet Programme staff at Main reception
- 9.05am Introduction to the Summer School
- 9.30am Registration
- 10.00am (Library) – temporary library cards
- 10.30am (restaurant) Meal Plan orientation – students with allergies to mention this
- 11.00am Tour of campus with Dr Jeremy Smith (to include Founders Library and Special Collection)
- 12.00 noon Lunch

**Afternoon:**

**Fern Hill / Llansteffan Castle**

**Depart: 1.30pm - back on campus 5.30pm**

#### FERNHILL

Llangain, a small village between Carmarthen and Llansteffan. This village and the area around are where Dylan's mother's family came from. Drive through the village and after about half a mile take a small right turn, sign posted to Llangynog and Glog Farm. About a quarter of a mile on your right is the leafy entrance to Fern Hill Farm. 'Fern Hill' was the farm kept by Dylan's Aunt Annie. She was Dylan's mother's eldest sister. Ann and her husband Jim lived and farmed here and as a boy Dylan often came and stayed with them during his school holidays. The place would later inspire two of Dylan's greatest poems.

#### LLANSTEFFAN

The village of Llansteffan ("the church of Stephen") is a small but lovely spot, nestled between the sandy shores of the Tywi estuary and the lush green rolling hills of the Welsh countryside. In some respects, it is an unexpected oasis along the coast in West Wales. Located just 8 miles southwest of Carmarthen, the most remarkable monument in the village is its magnificently ruined castle.

**Evening:**

**Meal for official Summer University Launch**

**Reading: 20 mins – Rhian Edwards, winner of the Book of the Year for 'Clueless Dogs'**

*“This timeless, beautiful, barmy town...  
a legendary lazy little black magical bedlam by the sea.”*



## Tuesday 27 May

Morning:

**UWTSD Classes**

**(Menna Elfyn AM – Conway Davies PM)**

Workshop 10 am – 11.30

Poetry Workshop – Answering Dylan Thomas’

Workshop 12-1: History with Conway Davies

Afternoon:

**Trip 2.30 – on the Dylan Thomas trail with David N Thomas to New Quay and the Aeron Valley (Dylan named his daughter Aeronwy because of his love for this valley).**

Dylan Thomas spent just under a year in New Quay from September of 1944 through to the early summer of the next year. Dylan, Caitlin and baby Aeronwy rented a small wooden bungalow, Majoda, situated just to the north of the town. The house name was made up from the names of the landlord’s children - Dylan suggested in a letter that he would re-name the place **CATTLEWDYLER!**

The house had magnificent sea views and inspired Thomas to produce some of his most memorable work, including his radio piece ‘Quite Early One Morning’, which is regarded as a prototype for ‘Under Milk Wood’. New Quay is one of many coastal towns and villages that Dylan visited or lived in, which all contribute something to Dylan’s imaginary Llareggub.

Followed by free time in Aberaeron

Evening reading:

**Horatio Clare**

## Wednesday 28 May

Morning:

**Workshop: 10-11.30**

Pam Petro – Hiraeth and Loss

12-1: Literature of Wales – Jeni Williams

Afternoon:

**2.00 Afternoon trip to the Boathouse, in Laugharne and a visit later to Tenby.**

Following the footsteps of Dylan and his mother Florence who took John Brinnin, his American agent on a tour of the peninsula.

## LAUGHARNE

On his first ever visit to Laugharne in 1934 Dylan described it as ‘the strangest town in Wales’. He kept returning and it has a huge significance in his life and work. It is the most important location on this tour and alongside Swansea, it is the other most influential place in Dylan’s life.

Evening Reading

**Owen Sheers, who will read from ‘Pink Mist’**

## Thursday 29 May

A whole day in Hay Festival Wales. Hay Festival is the most prestigious literary festival in the world with many Festivals set up in its name.

8.00am Depart for Hay on Wye

7.00pm Return from Hay on Wye







Friday 30 May

Morning:

*Workshops: a choice of Prose workshop with Pam Petro or Poetry workshop with Menna Elfyn*

Afternoon:

*A visit to the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (with tour)*

Evening reading:

*Fflur Dafydd's novel which is to be turned into a film is set in the National Library of Wales where twin women make a siege of the place*

Saturday 31 May

Morning

*Lectures in the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea The Dylan Thomas Centre has a permanent exhibition on Dylan Thomas and his life and is also home to the Ty Llen literature programme which puts on many literary events throughout the year.*

Jo Furber will show the new exhibition of Dylan's Notebooks and the Fluellen Theatre Company will present a lively and entertaining performance based guided tour of Dylan's central Swansea starting from the Dylan Thomas Centre and including the Maritime Quarter, The Three Lamps, the site of the Kardomah, Castle Square and ending in the No Sign Wine Bar.

Afternoon

*The Swansea Trail, Uplands / Dylan Thomas House Glyn Vivian, Mumbles / Gower, Dylan's birthplace 5, Cwmdonkin Drive, where Dylan Thomas was born.*

Dylan Thomas was born in the upstairs front bedroom of this house on 27 October 1914, and he lived here until November of 1934, when he moved to London, but he would return often until his parents sold-up and moved to Bishopston in 1937. He later described the house variously as his "provincial villa", his "Glamorgan villa" and his "mortgaged villa in an upper-class professional row."

*A visit to Mumbles, Swansea Mumbles and Gower played a very important part in Dylan Thomas' life, although he was essentially a 'townee'.*

'MUMBLES, a rather nice village, despite its name, right on the edge of the sea'

'GOWER is a very beautiful peninsula, some miles from this blowsy town... as a matter of fact it is one of the loveliest sea-coast stretches in the whole of Britain'. This is how Dylan described these areas around Swansea in his early letters to his first serious girlfriend, Pamela Hansford Johnson.

Sunday 1 June

free day

Evening

*Screening of 'The Edge of Love'*

Monday 2 June

*Cardiff Bay & National Folk Museum St Fagan, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff*

Millennium Centre:

*event to be arranged – with Glanfa Literature Wales:*

*talk by Lleucu Siencyn – Chief Executive*

*Readings:*

*Red Heron- Lampeter Writers & Folk Music*

Tuesday 3 June

Workshops:

*Paul Wright – Poetry*

*Dic Edwards – Drama workshop*

Afternoon free

Evening Reading

*Jon Gower, a prolific writer in both Welsh and English, his book 'The Storiwr' won the Welsh Book of the Year in 2012.*

Wednesday 4 June

Workshops in the morning

*Poetry: Menna Elfyn*

*Prose: Pam Petro*

Trip to Rhaeadr to see the kites being fed and a visit to Tregaron,

Evening Reading

*Gillian Clarke, National Poet of Wales*

Thursday 5 June

Art workshop

*Field Notes – Iwan Bala*

Art workshop to be continued through the afternoon or a trip to the National Woollen Museum in Drefach Felindre – a guided tour

Evening reading

*by former MA students on the course*

Friday 6 June

Morning

*A return to the Boathouse for a final site lecture and readings with Pamela Petro and Menna Elfyn.*

Free time in Carmarthen on the way back - a visit to Oriel Myrddin and Meg Anthony to talk of the current exhibition

Evening farewell dinner

Saturday 7 June

Return transport to London

*"I first saw the light of day in a Glamorgan villa, and amidst the terrors of the Welsh accent and the smoke of the tinplate stacks, grew up a sweet baby, a precocious child, a rebellious boy and a morbid youth. My father was a schoolmaster: a broader-minded man I have never known."*

Dylan Thomas



# WRITERS INVITED TO THE SUMMER SCHOOL

## Pamela Petro

Pamela Petro has been educated at Brown, Paris and Harvard Universities; in 1983 she went to the University of Wales at Lampeter for the first time, to do her MA, returning in 1992 for intensive instruction in the Welsh language. She has since taught Welsh and travel writing in the USA and is author of three acclaimed travel books. She regularly contributes to the New York Times Travel Section and to Planet, and has compiled a guide to New England. She now works at Lesley [www.lesley.edu](http://www.lesley.edu) and occasionally at [www.smith.edu](http://www.smith.edu)

## Horatio Clare

Horatio Clare's first book *Running for the Hills* became a bestseller in the UK and in the US and won the Somerset Maugham award in 2007 and was longlisted for the Guardian First Book award in 2006. Clare was shortlisted for The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year award in 2007. He has also written *Truant: Notes from a Slippery Slope* a book which explores the period in which young men are most likely to take drugs and get into trouble. In 2009, *A Single Swallow* was longlisted for Wales Book of the Year and shortlisted for the Dolman/Authors Club Travel Book award.

## Gillian Clarke

Gillian Clarke is the National Poet of Wales. She has published widely and her latest poetry book *Ice* was published in 2012 by Carcanet which was shortlisted for the T S Eliot award. She was awarded the Queen's Medal for Poetry in 2011 and also received the Wilfred Owen award for her poetry collections. She has also written a prose book *At the Source* which captures the aura of place in Ceredigion. A regular broadcaster, judge of competitions and an eloquent reader of her work, she is a popular figure at festivals and events.

## Fflur Dafydd

Fflur Dafydd is a novelist who writes in both Welsh and English. Her second novel *Atyniad* (*The Attraction*) won the Prose Medal competition in 2006 at the National Eisteddfod in Swansea and her third novel *Y Llyfrgell* (*The Library*) won the prestigious Daniel Owen prize in 2009. *Twenty Thousand Saints*, a novel set on Bardsey Island where she spent one summer as *Writer in Residence* won the Hay Oxfam prize for emerging writer. A singer-songwriter she was awarded Female artist of the year by the BBC. She lectures Creative Writing at Swansea University.

## Rhian Edwards

Rhian Edwards won the Book of the Year for her debut collection *Clueless Dogs* in 2013. She was overall winner for her book of poetry but also won the People's Choice award and the Roland Mathias Prize for Poetry. A wonderful performer of her work, she is a superb communicator and her poetry is both witty and poignant and her voice, unflinchingly honest. She studied Law at London University but became drawn to poetry and in readings she also brings along her ukulele to entertain.

## Jon Gower

Jon Gower is a broadcaster and a raconteur who writes in Welsh and English. His first novel *Y Storiwr* (*The Storyteller*) won the Welsh Book of the Year in 2012 but he has published widely in many genres, mainly non-fiction such as *An Island called Smith* which is about a disappearing island in Chesapeake Bay and a collection of short stories called *Too Cold for Snow*. In 2012, he was Hay International Fellow, travelling to all the Hay Festivals around the world. (In 2013, Fflur Dafydd and Owen Sheers are recipients of that award). Jon Gower is an excellent communicator and is also passionate about wild-life especially birds as he was once an officer with the RSPB.

## Owen Sheers

Owen Sheers has written two collections of poetry *The Blue Book* and *Skirrid Hill* (winner of the Somerset Maugham Award). His non-fiction includes *The Dust Diaries* (Welsh Book of the Year, 2005) and *Calon: A Journey to the Heart of Welsh Rugby*. His novel *Resistance* has been translated into ten languages and was made into a film in 2011. His plays include *The Passion* and *The Two Worlds of Charlie F* (winner of the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award). Owen wrote and presented BBC Four's *A Poet's Guide to Britain*.

## David N Thomas

David N Thomas worked in community development in London and was also a lecturer and senior manager. He has published widely including *Skills in Neighbourhood Work* with Paul Henderson. In the early 1990s, he retired back to Wales and since then has written about the life and death of Dylan Thomas. His first book on Thomas was published in 2000, *A Farm, Two Mansions and a Bungalow*. The film rights were sold to make the film *'The Edge of Love'*. He has recently published *Fatal Neglect: Who Killed Dylan Thomas*.

*“a catalyst  
for creativity”*



# EXHIBITION

*Jo Furber from the Dylan Thomas centre in Swansea has agreed to a private visit by the Summer School attendees to the centre between the 1-14 of June (date TBA), to view two exhibitions planned for next year:*

## Exhibition 1: Dylan Thomas Notebooks

*The first of which will comprise of the four Notebooks written between 1930 and 1934, and the Red Prose Notebook that also dates from this time. They are accompanied by supporting material such as extracts from letters which refer to the poems and the processes involved in their writing, and a self-portrait in coloured pencil Dylan drew on the back of a letter to Pamela Hansford Johnson.*

## Exhibition 2: Dylan's Manuscripts

*This exhibition comprises of poems, a list of rhyming words and a series of black and white photographs of Dylan Thomas, many of which have not been widely displayed or reproduced. Some date from the late 1930s when he is newly married, while the second set was taken in New York in the early 50s. These items shed light on his writing process and also his playful side - the facsimile of 'Fern Hill', for examples has a crossword on the back made up by Dylan.*







# LAMPETER CAMPUS

*Lampeter is a lively, historic market town set at the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains in the county of Ceredigion.*

The campus was founded in 1822 as St David's College to provide a liberal education to members of the clergy including Classics and History amongst other disciplines.

Over the years it developed the range of subjects and, as the University of Wales Lampeter, enjoyed a reputation for undergraduate and postgraduate provision in English, Archaeology, Chinese, Classics, History, Theology, as well as such new areas as Philosophy, Anthropology, Ancient Civilisations and Creative Writing.

A new development is the introduction of Education modules to form Major/Minor and Combined Honours programmes. Now, as the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, the academic community continues to thrive and the portfolio offered attracts an international cohort of students each year.

The campus is situated on one of the town's main thoroughfares. The original building stands proudly against the lush green hills of rural Wales and a stream ambles its way around the campus perimeter. The riverbanks on campus are a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the number of indigenous wildlife habitats it maintains including water voles and otters.

The campus facilities boast one of the best libraries and private collections of medieval manuscripts in the country - The Roderic Bowen Library and Archives - as well as the Canterbury Building which is home to the range of services providing support for our students. The Arts Hall and Cliff Tucker Theatre are both modern and well-equipped venues used for lectures as well as arts and community events.







*Dylan Thomas*

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FESTIVAL