



THE ASSOCIATION FOR  
WELSH WRITING IN ENGLISH  
CYMDEITHAS LLEN SAESNEG CYMRU

*The Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Association for Welsh Writing in English*



*The Country and the City: Rural and Urban Wales*

**Gregynog Hall  
27th-29th March 2015**

**About the Association for Welsh Writing in English:** The annual conference of the Association at Gregynog has been a feature of the Welsh literary scene since the Association was founded in the 1980s. From the outset our aim has been to stimulate interest in Welsh writing in English within the academic world and in the wider public, in Wales and beyond. The Association has been active in arranging for the re-publication of texts long out-of-print, to enable and encourage students and general readers to discover and analyse this rich body of writing and to increase awareness of Wales's literary heritage.

The annual AWWE conference is open to everyone and has always had an informal and welcoming atmosphere. It offers an opportunity to meet and hear contemporary Welsh authors read their work and to listen to papers by both established scholars in the field and by postgraduate students exploring new areas and approaches. There is the opportunity to engage in fresh and lively discussion, after the papers and informally.

There will be the opportunity to become a member of AWWE, which entitles you to a free copy of the new *International Journal of Welsh Writing in English* the major journal in the field. There will also be an opportunity to purchase books from the extensive bookshop provided by the Welsh Books Council.

The conference bookshop is organized on behalf of the AWWE by Dr Lucy Thomas of the Welsh Books Council and AWWE is very grateful to her and to the WBC for their continued support.

Conference organisers: Prof Diana Wallace (USW), Dr Aidan Byrne (U of Wolverhampton)

**Contact: [awwe15@awwe.org](mailto:awwe15@awwe.org)**

The conference is supported by the University of South Wales.



## **AWWE 2015 'The Country and the City: Rural and Urban Wales' Conference Programme**

### **Friday 27 March**

2.00-5.00 Registration

2.30pm           AWWE Annual Business Meeting (Library) All Welcome.

**4-5pm           Tea/coffee (Blayney Room)**

5-7pm           **Welcome Drinks (Senior Common Room)**

Award of M. Wynn Thomas Essay prize

Honno Books Showcase: chair Jane Aaron.

*My Mother's House*, by Lily Tobias, with an introduction by Jasmine Donahaye (Honno) and *The Greatest Need: The creative life and troubled times of Lily Tobias, a Welsh Jew in Palestine* by Jasmine Donahaye (Honno)

Poetry reading and conversation: Sally Roberts Jones

**7-8               Dinner (Dining Room)**

8.15pm           **Keynote Lecture 1 (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: M. Wynn Thomas

Professor Helen Fulton (Bristol University),

'Arthur in Caerleon: Remembering a Roman City in the Literature of Wales'

### **Saturday 28 March**

**8.00-9.15       Breakfast (Dining Room)**

9.30-11am       Parallel Sessions

**Panel Session 1: Raymond Williams I (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Daniel Williams

Yasuo Kawabata (Japan Women's University), 'Orwell, Raymond Williams and "Double Vision": A Reading of Loyalties'

Shintaro Kono (Hitotsubashi University, Japan), 'Beyond "Developmental Narratives": Virginia Woolf, Emyr Humphreys and Haruki Murakami'

Ugo Rivetti (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), 'Literature and Capitalism in Raymond Williams' *The Country and The City*'

**Panel Session 2: The Urban and the Industrial (Seminar Room 2)**

Chair: Sarah Morse

Daniel Hughes (Bangor University), “‘At the hand of the mangle’”: Urban Modernism and Meaninglessness in Gwyn Thomas’s *Oscar*’

Alexandra Jones (Swansea University), ‘Deformed Landscape, Disabled Industry: Disability in South Wales Coalfields Literature’

Daryl Leeworthy (Cardiff University), ‘Making Room for Jesters: Male Sexuality, Class, and the Urban in the Writing of Ron Berry and Stead Jones’

**11-11.30am Coffee (Blayney Room)**

11.30-1pm Parallel sessions

**Panel Session 3: Raymond Williams II (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Daniel Williams

Malcolm Ballin, “‘A Kind of Fall’”: Some Welsh Perspectives from *The Country and The City*’

David JG Barnes (University of South Wales), ‘Raymond Williams and contemporary realist art practice’

Steve Hendon (Cardiff University), ‘An emotional ‘border crossed’: industrialised masculinities in Gwyn Thomas’s *All Things Betray Thee* (1949) and Raymond Williams’s *Border Country* (1960)’

**Panel Session 4: Landscapes of Ceredigion/Cardiganshire (Seminar Room 2)**

Chair: Diana Wallace

Jayne Bowden (University of South Wales), “‘The Devil’s Grandmother’s Jointure’”: Elisabeth Inglis-Jones’ Gothic Wales’

Alan Vaughan Jones (Independent Scholar) ‘Visions of Ceredigion: Alun Lewis’s ‘Dwellers in the Valley’ and Idris Davies’s ‘Teify Side’

Kate Woodward (Aberystwyth University) ‘*Hinterland / Y Gwyll* and the discovery and transformation of Aberystwyth’.

**1-2 Lunch (Dining Room)**

**2-3 Centenary Panel: Caradoc Evans, *My People* (1915) (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Kirsti Bohata

Dinah Jones, an award-winning programme maker, will talk about her documentary film *Caradoc Evans A'i Bobl* (S4C) with Professor M. Wynn Thomas and Dr Mary-Ann Constantine

3-4 Parallel sessions

**Panel Session 5: Short fictions (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Tony Brown

Jane Aaron (University of South Wales), ‘*Hiraeth* and the Pastoral in the Welsh Short Story in English’

Michelle Deininger (Cardiff Metropolitan University), “Ugly cracks against the sky”: rural landscapes and the politics of disease in the short fiction of Elizabeth Baines’

**Panel Session 6: Rural fictions (Seminar Room 2)**

Chair : Aidan Byrne

Georgia Burdett (CREW/ Swansea University), 'Bobbing along a sea of urbanism: the rural fiction of Cynan Jones'

Lisa Sheppard (Cardiff University), “Escape to the Country” or into the *Heart of Darkness*?: “Going Native” in Joe Dunthorne’s *Wild Abandon* (2011)’

**4-4.30 Tea (Blayney Room)**

**4.30-5.30 Keynote Lecture 2 (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Aidan Byrne

Ed Thomas, film maker, title tbc

**5.30-6.30 Parallel sessions**

**Panel Session 7: R.S. Thomas and the rural (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Matt Jarvis

Ceri Subbe (Bangor University) ‘From Iago to Ianto: How the Welsh peasant lost the voice it never had’

Andrew Webb (Bangor University), ‘Post-rural, post-urban space in R.S. Thomas’

**Panel Session 8: Village life and country ‘folk’ (Seminar Room 2)**

Chair: Kirsti Bohata

Catriona Coutts (Bangor University), ‘The Influence of the *Gwerin* Writers on the Work of Rhys Davies’

Liz Jones (Aberystwyth University), ‘Performing the Language of the Grotesque: The “malignant beauty” of Caradoc Evans’ *Taffy*’

**6.30 IJWWE: Special briefing M. Wynn Thomas / Matt Jarvis (Seminar Room 1)**

**7-8 Dinner (Dining Room)**

**8.15-9.15 Creative Keynote (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Diana Wallace

Professor Christopher Meredith (University of South Wales)

'I'r Bur Hoff Bau'

## **Sunday 29 March**

### **8.00-9.30 Breakfast (Dining Room)**

9.30-11 Parallel sessions

#### **Panel Session 9 : Curious travellers: travel writing and tourism (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Jane Aaron

Mary-Ann Constantine (University of Wales, CAWCS), “Mountain-plants brought into a stove”: Country and City in Catherine Hutton’s *The Welsh Mountaineer* (1817)’

Elizabeth Edwards (University of Wales, CAWCS) “[S]eventeen different processes”: Mary Brunton’s border crossings’

Rita Singer (Prifysgol Bangor University), ‘German Travel Writing in Search of the Poet as a Bohemian Dropout’

#### **Panel Session 10: Post-devolution gender and place (Seminar Room 2)**

Chair: Katie Gramich

Emma Schofield (Cardiff University), ‘Returning to Ground Level:

Rediscovering Rural, Urban and Coastal Spaces in Stevie Davies’ *Kith and Kin* and Erica Woof’s *Mud Puppy*’

Robert Walton (Cardiff University), ‘The ruralisation of gender relationships in the novels of Trezza Azzopardi’

Rhiannon Heledd Williams (University of South Wales), ‘Local or National? Gender, place and identity in post-devolution Wales’ literature’

### **11.11.30 Coffee (Blayney Room)**

11.30 -1pm Parallel sessions

#### **Panel Session 11: Re/inhabiting the rural (Seminar Room 1)**

Chair: Andy Webb

Siriol McAvoy, (Cardiff University), “My mother gave me a pure white book with thick leaves and in it I pressed wild flowers”: Lynette Roberts, neo-Romanticism, and gendered re-visions of national identity’

Rosie Milnes (Bangor University), ‘A geocritical re-examination of Brenda Chamberlain’s *Tide Race*’

Sarah Morse, (CREW), ‘Reinhabiting the Rhondda: Reading Ron Berry as an Eco-Centric Writer’

#### **Panel Session 12: City and Country (Seminar Room 2)**

Chair: Matt Jarvis

Jessica George (Cardiff University), “The unknown region that lies beyond the Gray’s Inn Road”: Evolutionary anxiety in the country and the city in Arthur Machen’s *The Green Round*

Sally Roberts Jones, ‘THE LITERATURE OF WALES: City and Country’

### **1-2pm Lunch (Dining Room) and departure**