



On your marks, get set, write:

#Her100Cerdd is back to celebrate National Poetry Day

Literature Wales is proud to announce that **Her 100 Cerdd** will return this October for the seventh year in a row. Four poets have been challenged to compose a total of 100 original poems in just 24 hours as part of the National Poetry Day celebrations.

The four brave poets undertaking this year's challenge are **Beth Celyn, Dyfan Lewis, Elinor Wyn Reynolds** and **Matthew Tucker**.

All four poets will need to write at least one poem per hour in order to complete *Her 100 Cerdd* on time. In the past, the teams of poets managed to reach the finish-line with only seconds to spare. Will the 2019 crew succeed in completing the greatest poetic challenge of the year?

Since its inception in 2012, Her100Cerdd has offered a unique snapshot of Wales for one day – its politics, its interests, its news and culture. The public are invited to join the challenge by suggesting subjects for on-the-spot poems, and sending words of encouragement over social media.

Among the 500 poems published over the years are verses of love and satire, poems written as a group, poems about music, about pork pies, new arrivals, notable birthdays and even a fictional fight between cult Welsh singers John and Alun and the Gregory Brothers.

During the 24 hours the poets will be based at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre, run by Literature Wales, where the muse can be found in every nook and cranny.

The team will start their challenge at noon on Wednesday 2 October, and the final poem must be finished by noon on Thursday 3 October. **National Poetry Day**, held on Thursday 3 October, is an annual celebration of poetry taking place across the UK each year. The poems will be published online at www.literaturewales.org throughout the 24 hours, so that the public can follow their progress.

Join in with Her 100 Cerdd with messages of support or requests by using the #Her100Cerdd hashtag on Twitter, or sending a message to Literature Wales on Facebook or by email to post@literaturewales.org. A link to the poems will be posted individually on the Twitter account @LlenCymru and on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LlenCymruLitWales

The Poets

Beth Celyn

Beth Celyn is a creative artist originally from Denbigh and is now developing her career as a poet and musician in Cardiff. Beth is a graduate from King's College, London where she read English Literature, and recently completed an MA in Creative Writing at Bangor University. She released an EP called *Troi* in December 2017 and has collaborated on a number of projects with BBC Horizons, recorded with the folk band Vri, and wrote an original musical for the theatre company Sbarc-Galeri. Beth travels extensively across Wales as part of the poetic collective, *Cywion Cranogwen*. She was BBC Radio Cymru's Poet of the Month in November 2018, and was commissioned to write poems inspired by the Gold Medal for Architecture winners at the Llanrwst National Eisteddfod in 2019 which were exhibited at Y Lle Celf.

Dyfan Lewis

Dyfan Lewis was brought up in Craig-cefn-parc, Swansea. He went to Cardiff University to study Welsh and has now made his home in the city. Dyfan is a recipient of a Literature Wales New Writer's Bursary 2019, and with this support aims to develop a series of essays based on his time in South-east Asia, discussing his experiences there, and 'travelling' as a phenomenon amongst his generation. He published a pamphlet of poems, *Mawr*, in 2019.

Elinor Wyn Reynolds

Elinor Wyn Reynolds is a poet, author, playwright and book editor who hails from Carmarthen. She performs her work regularly and over the years has been involved in several poetry tours: *Dal Clêr*, *Taith Glyndwr* and *Lliwiau Rhyddid* and was one of many poets taking part in the *Siwpyr Stomp* at the National Eisteddfod in 2018. Elinor has extensive experience of working as an editor for Welsh books for children and adults alike, and she also runs poetry workshops for children and adults.

Matthew Tucker

Matthew Tucker hails from Pontarddulais but now lives in Burry Port. He graduated in Welsh from Swansea University and is now studying an MA in Literature and Creative Writing as well as embarking on a PGCE course at Trinity Saint David University. Matthew attended one of the *Cynghaneddu* courses at Tŷ Newydd thanks to the support of *Cronfa Gerallt* (Barddas).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Literature Wales

- Literature Wales is the national company for the development of literature in Wales. It believes that literature belongs to everybody and can be found everywhere. The company's various projects and activities includes Wales Book of the Year, National Poet of Wales, Bardd Plant Cymru and Young People's Laureate Wales, Literary Tourism activities, Writers on Tour funding scheme, creative writing courses at Tŷ Newydd, Services for Authors (including Writers' Bursaries and Mentoring), and Young People's Writing Squads.
- Literature Wales is a registered charity, (number 1146560) and works with the support of Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government. Lleucu Siencyn is the Chief Executive.
- Website: www.llenyddiaethcymru.org / www.literaturewales.org
- Twitter: @LlenCymru / @LitWales
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/LlenCymruLitWales

National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day is an annual celebration that inspires people throughout the UK to enjoy, discover and share poems. Everyone is invited to join in, whether by organising events, displays, competitions or by simply posting favourite lines of poetry on social media using #nationalpoetryday.

The theme of National Poetry Day 2019 is 'truth'. National Poetry Day was founded in 1994 by Forward Arts Foundation and enjoys the support of the BBC, Arts Council England and leading literary and cultural organisations. The 2019 25th anniversary Truth campaign is supported by UK book trade wholesaler Gardners and leading education supplier Browns Books for Students.

For more information visit: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk>

Forward Arts Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1037939), promoting public knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of poetry in the UK and Ireland. It is committed to widening poetry's audience, honouring achievement and supporting talent: programmes include National Poetry Day, the Forward Prizes for Poetry and the Forward Book of Poetry, an annual anthology of the year's best poems.

For more information, visit: <http://www.forwardartsfoundation.org/>