

### CLIMATE CHANGE POETRY

Awel Aman Tawe's Climate Change poetry competition received more than 300 entries from places as far away as the Philippines and America. Competition organiser Emily Hinshelwood, AAT's Arts and Climate Change Officer, was really pleased by what she called the 'fierce interest' in the subject. Emily, who has been involved with AAT on and off since its start in 1998, says it has been really interesting to see how people's perceptions have changed. She says: 'Thirteen years ago climate change was rarely in the news. The majority of people, including myself, didn't know much about climate change and the impact it is going to have on our lives and our world. Today climate change is in the news all the time.'

In the introduction to an anthology of some of the winning climate change poems, Emily describes poets as having a distinct platform to speak out against injustices. She writes: 'One of the strengths of the selection is that they take us on a journey from the big global picture down to the small personal detail. It enables us to feel. To feel something about the often abstract and alienating concept of climate change.'

Winning poems were chosen by National Poet of Wales Gillian Clarke and Menna Elfyn, the most translated of all modern Welsh-language poets. Gillian Clarke said: 'I was worried we would get a whole lot of political tracts but that's not what happened at all. We got some really good entries. I had six or seven that could have been winners. They were all really good poems.'

The bilingual anthology

*Heno, Wrth Gysgu*

(

*Tonight, While Sleeping*

) was launched at an evening of Climate Change Poetry at Pontardawe Arts Centre with readings from Gillian Clarke, Menna Elfyn, Radio 4 eco-poet Susan Richardson and award-winning local poet Dafydd Wyn, who ran some Welsh language poetry workshops for the competition. Winners were presented with their prizes and certificates.

**WINNERS**

WELSH ENTRIES JUDGED BY MENNA ELFYN

Welsh Adults:

1st Prize: Angharad Penrhyn Jones

*Heno, wrth gysgu*

## Poetry Competition results

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2nd Prize: Martin Huws

*Sgrechen*

Joint 3rd Prize: Mair Owen Wyn

*Yr Arth Wen*

Glenys Kim Protheroe

*Ar Fynydd Margam*

Welsh Young Poet:

1st Prize: Adam Jones

*Dyffryn Du*

ENGLISH ENTRIES JUDGED BY GILLIAN CLARKE

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English Adults:

1st Prize: Sarah Westcott

*Birth of a Naturalist*

2nd Prize: Iris Debley

*Passage*

3rd Prize: Noel Williams

*Erosion*

English Young poets:

1st Prize: Bridie Marlow

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*Angels*

2nd Prize: Cassandra Green

*Blue Whale*

3rd Prize: Siobhan Phillips

*The Web*

The following further poems were specially commended most of which are included in our anthology of climate change poetry:

Myfi yw bara bywyd by Geraint Morgan

Cyflym by Amanda Leyshon Weeks

Pelydrau, Glendid y Mynydd, and Adefillion by T. Graham Williams

Ynni Amgen by Catrin Norman

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Ai Myfi sydd ar Fai? by Dafydd Wyn

Y Bore Wedyn by Angharad Penryn Jones

Y Winllan by Glenys Kim Protheroe

Haf Bach Michangel by Clare e. Potter

Y Fflam and Newid Hinsawdd by Mel Morgans

Presentation by Gillian Livingstone

After the Flood by Angharad Penryn Jones

Pluvial by Noel Williams

Nest by Cath Nichols

Adrift by Simon Jackson

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Green Giant and Faith Song by Sarah Westcott

Seals by Byron Beynon

Sandcastle by Gabrielle Maughan

East Coast by Sue Coats

Exposé by Noel King

The Storm by Ella Mi

Ripples by Theo Brown