

I, IOLO

Gareth Thomas

A first-person retelling of the story of Iolo Morganwg – from his boyhood to the Glynogwr Gorsedd of 1798. Iolo Morganwg had many faces: stonemason, self-taught scholar, poet, hymnist, politician, patriot, revolutionary, druid, failed businessman, drug addict, campaigner for human rights and perpetrator of the greatest act of literary forgery in European history.

We follow his adventurous quest to achieve fame for himself, respect for his culture, and freedom from oppression in a malevolent world.

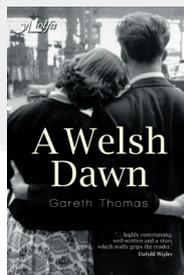
Based on the true story of one of the most colourful characters in Welsh and British history – admired by many as a hero who helped create the identity of modern Wales, and reviled by others as a conman and cheat.

SELLING POINTS

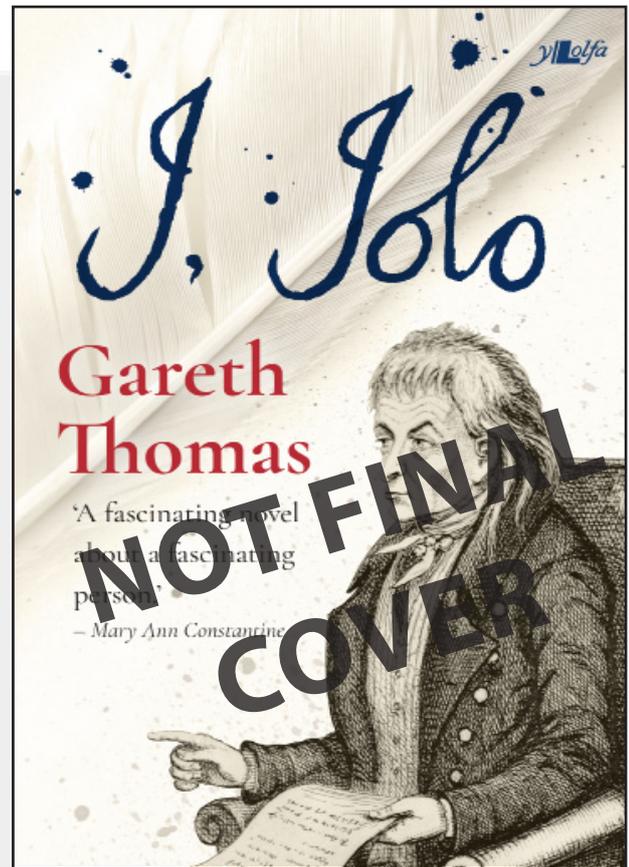
- Thrilling historical novel full of adventure, mystery, love, conflict, violence, drugs, passion, spies and treachery.
- Gareth Thomas is the author of the critically acclaimed *A Welsh Dawn* - another historical fiction novel.
- An extensive marketing campaign is planned and the author is passionate about promoting the book.
- There is much interest in the mysterious historical figure of Iolo Morgannwg these days.
- Strong local connections with south Wales (particularly Glamorgan/Cowbridge)

DETAILS

Publishing date: April 2018
Categories: FV (Historical fiction)
Binding: 195 x 130
Pages: TBC
Price: £9.99
ISBN: 978-1-78461-4515



ALSO BY THE AUTHOR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Born in 1948 to parents from the Rhondda, Gareth was educated in Rhyl, Pontllyfni, Cwmbrân, Cardiff and Edmonton. He studied Drama in Barry and London. For 40 years he worked in England as an actor, teacher and arts centre director. In 2011 he moved back to Wales and lives in Cowbridge. This is his third novel.

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflor@yloffa.com

Distribution
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Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
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HEAR THE ECHO

Rob Gittins

In the 1930s, Chiara emigrates from Italy to forge a new and better life in Wales. She works in an Italian café in a close-knit mining town in the Valleys, encountering religious bigotry, xenophobia, and hardship as she and her Italian boss battle to make a success of their new life. But at the heart of their endeavour is a love triangle which threatens to destroy everything they have.

Meanwhile present-day Welsh-Italian Frankie struggles to find the money and hope to hold her family together in the same Valleys community. With her husband letting her down at every turn, she faces tough decisions about exactly how far she's prepared to go to keep the wolf from the door, and whether what she has is actually worth fighting for.

Though they're living in very different time periods and situations, the two women's lives reveal unexpected connections and commonalities, not least of which is their strength and determination to face down whatever life throws at them and carve out something better for themselves and those they love.

SELLING POINTS

- By the author of the critically acclaimed *Gimme Shelter*
- A fascinating insight into the Welsh-Italian Valleys community then and now, and into the difficulties faced as a first-generation immigrant
- A powerfully gritty and humorous portrayal of life on the very edge in modern-day recession Britain.
- An extensive marketing campaign is planned with publicity aimed at the Western Mail, Radio Wales and Radio 4.

DETAILS

Publishing date: 01 May 2018

Categories: FV (Historical Fiction), FA (Modern and contemporary fiction)

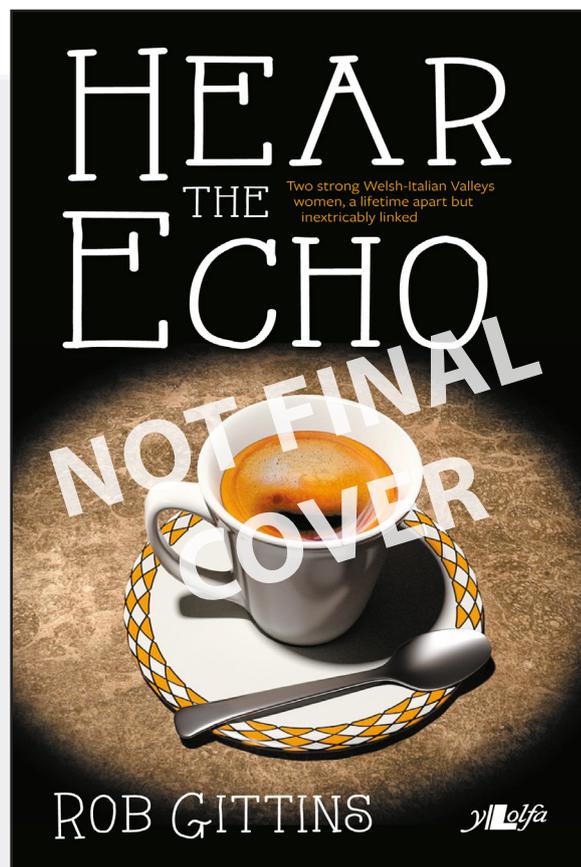
Binding: paperback

Pages: c.320 (TBC)

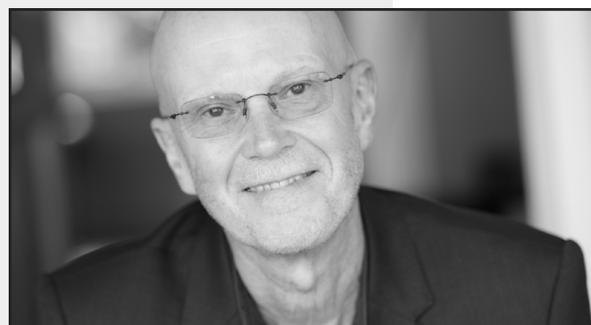
Price: £8.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-523-9

ALSO BY THE AUTHOR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Rob Gittins is an award-winning screenwriter who has written for most of the UK's top-rated television drama series of the past twenty years – including *EastEnders*, *The Bill*, *Heartbeat* and *Casualty*. In 2015, in recognition of his work as the longest-serving writer in the history of the show, he received an Outstanding Achievement Award for *EastEnders*.

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflor@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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Y Lolfa

www.yloffa.com

FIT FOR A PURPOSE

Diana Gruffydd Williams

Following on from *My People's Pilgrimage*, the story of a Welsh rural family in Pembrokeshire, and their struggle to cope with industrialisation and poverty in 19th-century Wales, Diana Gruffydd Williams now looks at her own life in this open and frank autobiography.

The author's teaching career was short-lived and interrupted by serious health problems, including prolonged hospitalisation for psychiatric illnesses and serious accidents.

She later trained as a counsellor (Clinical Theology Association) and took a course in Ignatian Spiritual Direction. She has been involved in the Christian Healing Ministry since the 1980s and relates accounts of her faith and the gifts of the Spirit which has helped her overcome the challenges she has faced.

SELLING POINTS

- Life story of hope which will appeal to those seeking different ways of overcoming the challenges of modern-day life.
- Many more articles and books about mental health issues are being published nowadays.
- Author relates a great deal about her religious experiences also.
- Author lives in Cardiff and is very well known in her area.



DETAILS

Publishing date: May 2018

Categories: BG (autobiography)

Binding: paperback

Pages: x

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-5246

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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COWS, COBS AND CORNER SHOPS: THE STORY OF LONDON'S WELSH DAIRIES

Megan Hayes

This book tells us how the Welsh have, over the centuries, been of crucial importance in supplying milk to the population of London.

Starting with the influence of the drovers who took their cattle from rural Wales to the city, this book moves on to describe the establishment of many dairies and corner shops which, open all hours, provided fresh milk to the growing metropolis.

SELLING POINTS

- The book will contain both English and Welsh text. It is an updated version with new text and images. It is a compiled version of the books *The London Milk Trail / Llwybr Llaethog Llundain*.
- Launched in Aberaeron - details to be confirmed.

DETAILS

Publishing date: June 2018

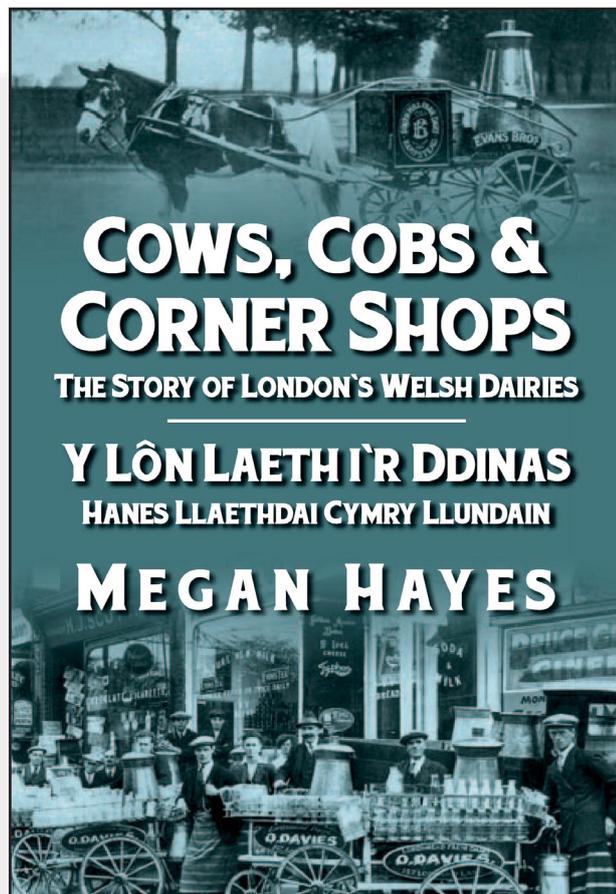
Categories: HB (history)

Binding: 215 x 140

Pages: TBC

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-5260



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Megan Hayes was born in Shoreditch, London, of Cardiganshire parents working in the London milk trade.

After gaining a degree in Chemistry at University College Wales, Aberystwyth, she had a career in research and teaching before being appointed in 1974 as a senior adviser to the then Hereford and Worcester Local Education Authority.

She retired in 1990 and now lives in Aberaeron.

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
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Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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LIFE BENEATH THE ARCH

Charles Arch (with Lyn Ebenezer)

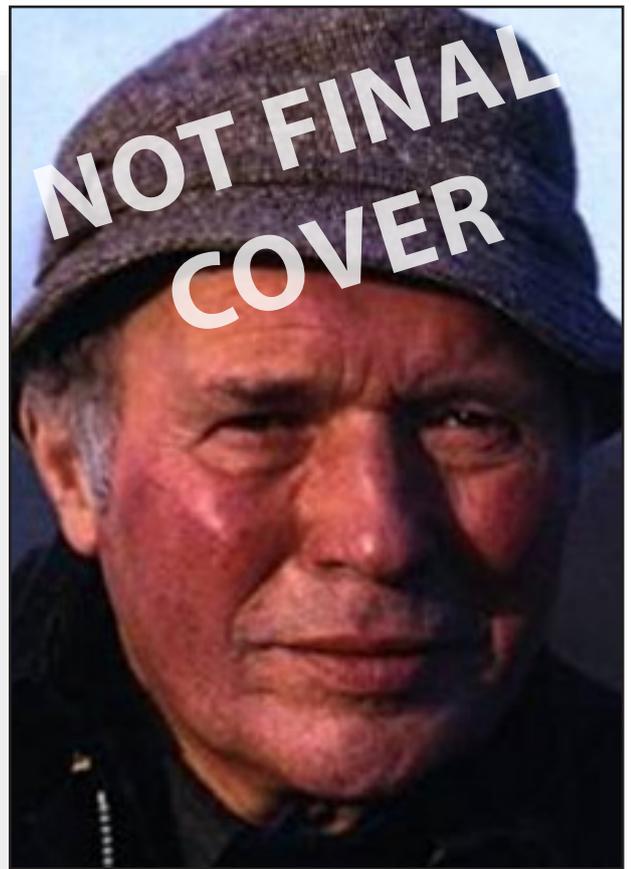
The reminiscences of Charles Arch – a well-known figure in farming circles in Wales – who has been a ringside commentator at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanellwedd since 1980.

He recalls his early decades being raised on a mountain farm adjacent to Strata Florida Abbey in mid Ceredigion, describing the farming year there in detail. He tells of the many interesting characters that lived in the area at that time, his later role with the vibrant Young Farmers' Club movement in Montgomeryshire, the excitement of the sheep-dog trials' circuit, and his work at the Royal Welsh Show.

SELLING POINTS

- Charles Arch has given valuable service to agriculture and country life for many years. He is very well known in farming circles and has travelled widely.
- He is known as 'the voice of the Royal Welsh Show'.
- Charles has published two autobiographies in Welsh and both sold well.
- His reminiscences are now recorded exclusively in English for the very first time.
- He is a witty storyteller and his memories of growing up in the then Cardiganshire will be nostalgic for many locals as well as those from further afield.
- Those interested in any kind of country pursuit will find this an interesting read.
- Charles Arch now lives in Pontrhydfendigaid.
- Published in time for the Royal Welsh Show in July 2018 -- a huge selling point.

NOTE: The farm where Charles Arch was raised, Mynachlog Fawr, is being developed as part of The Strata Florida Centre which will provide accommodation for visitors, create exhibition and hospitality space and serve as a venue for activities related to Strata Florida's long history. Strata Florida Abbey is run by CADW and there is a shop on the site.



DETAILS

Publishing date: June 2018

Categories: BG (autobiography)

Binding: paperback

Pages: tbc

Price: £8.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-528-4

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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TALES FROM MY WELSH VILLAGE

Ken Smith

A novel based around the amusing antics of a group of characters in a village in the South Wales Valleys.

One of the main characters is Fred, the landlord of the Plough Inn, a born practical joker and also a grave digger who, with the assistance of others, can turn a harmless situation into a rip-roaring escapade without even trying, to the hilarity of everyone in the pub.

While some of the stories are entirely fictitious, others are very loosely based on the ridiculous exploits of certain members of the 1960s pub fraternity in the author's home village of Rhigos.

This is author Ken Smith's first novel.

SELLING POINTS

- A readable, humorous and accessible fictional Welsh novel centered around the working class Welsh Valleys.
- Fiction that is firmly rooted in the locality of its setting.
- Will appeal to readers who enjoy 'easy reads' but in particular it will appeal to older readers who will be drawn in by the nostalgia and familiarity of the personalities encountered in the novel.
- The author will be returning to Rhigos for an official book launch in the village with a large turnout expected of local people from the close-knit community.

DETAILS

Publishing date: 1 June 2018

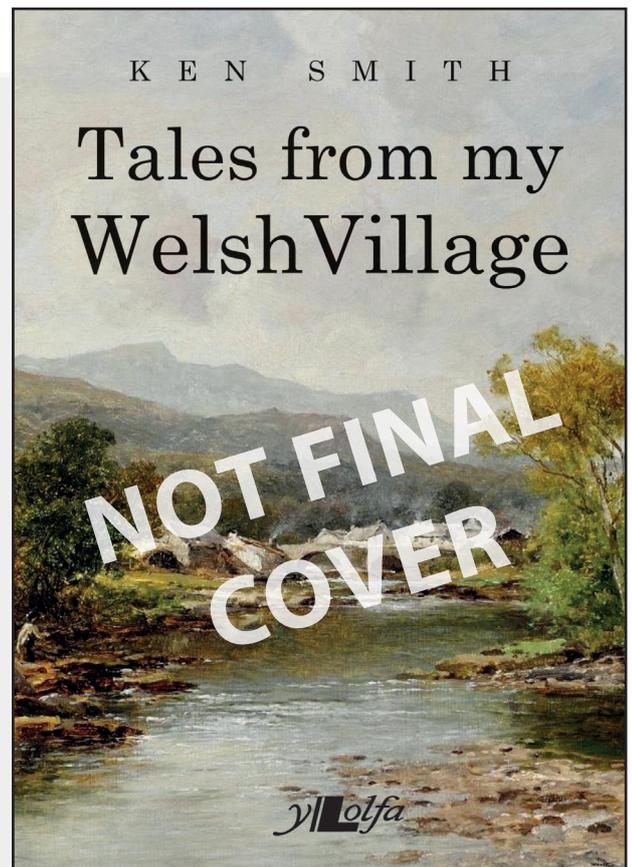
Categories: FA (Modern and contemporary fiction)

Binding: paperback

Pages: x

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-525-3



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ken Smith grew up in Rhigos (Rhyd y Groes) and became first a Parish Councillor there and then a District Councillor for Neath Rural Council. He now lives in Alberta, Canada, but has retained strong ties with his Welsh village.

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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THE XANDRA FUNCTION

Alan Cash

A science fiction novel based on a cutting edge computer game. When Frances McCallister creates a new game, Marjaalia is not to know that it will become a battle for life or death...

...Because the game holds secrets that others will kill for – the ability to breathe sentient life into its characters...

SELLING POINTS

- A novel that deals with AI in an intriguing way.
- Author of *The Janus Effect*, a successful novel published in 2005.

DETAILS

Publishing date: June 18

Categories: FL (Science Fiction)

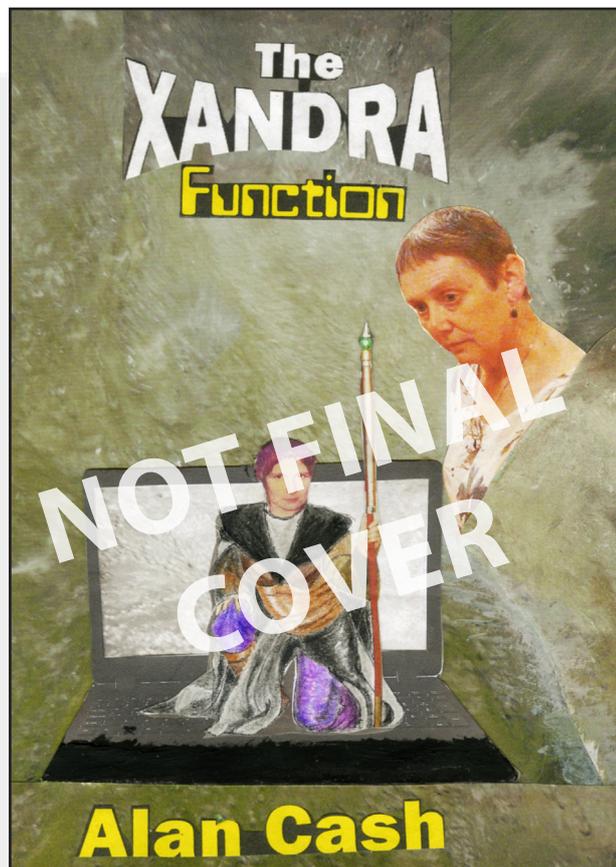
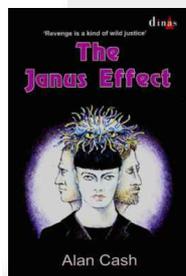
Binding: paperback

Pages: 224

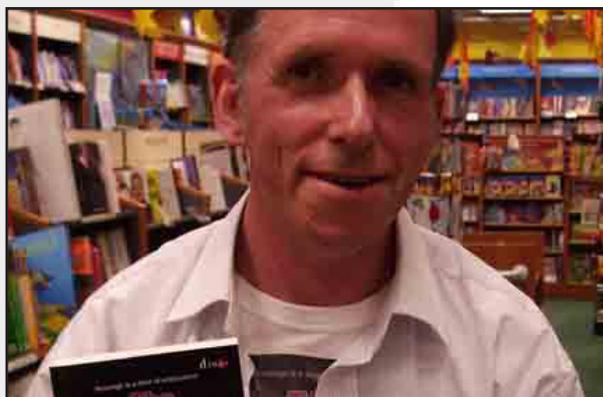
Price: £8.99

ISBN: 9781784615581

ALSO BY THE AUTHOR



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Alan Cash is a Literacy Tutor and former solicitor. He is a member of a Science Fiction group in Birmingham and lives part of the year in Borth, mid Wales.

Advanced Information Sheet

Y Lolfa

www.ylolfa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
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Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@ylolfa.com

BY THE BANKS OF THE RHEIDOL

Geraint Roberts

By the Banks of the Rheidol is a historical novel for adults set mainly in Ceredigion, with twin themes of local industry and romance. Dafydd, a young lead miner, is forced to flee after a violent confrontation with a group of bullies. He runs to the port of Aberystwyth where an acquaintance, Gwen, helps him and he slowly begins to rebuild his life.

After a fire destroys his employer's business, he is sent to nearby Talybont to help in the building of a new railway. An opportunity arises for an apprenticeship in Stafford and Dafydd begs Gwen to come with him, but she refuses, promising to wait for him.

Eventually Dafydd gets the chance to return to Aberystwyth and work on the building of the new Rheidol railway. Very soon he is faced by three dilemmas: How to progress as a railwayman, how to reconnect with his family and how to find Gwen.

When he finally finds her, she has met another, more well-to-do, man. He is left with the seemingly impossible task of trying to win her back.

SELLING POINTS

- The Aberystwyth area is central to the book, so it will appeal to locals, students and tourists to the area.
- The reader will learn a lot about real events and circumstances in local history.
- Will appeal to rail enthusiasts, as a large part of the plot deals with the construction of the two local narrow-gauge railways.
- This is balanced by a strong love interest, meaning that the book should appeal to a wide range of readers.

DETAILS

Publishing date: 13 July 2018

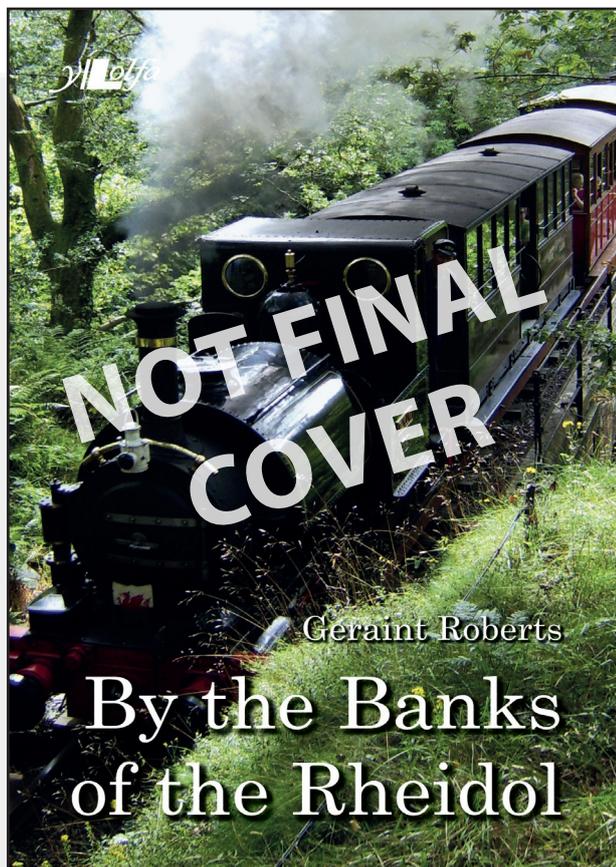
Categories: FV (Historical Fiction)

Binding: paperback

Pages: TBC

Price: £8.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-559-8



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Aberystwyth born and bred, Geraint Roberts returned to live in the area in 2008. He is the Retail Manager for the Vale of Rheidol railway and writes historical articles for the Rheidol Railway newsletter. He is interested in local history (especially mining – he has a degree in Mining Geology – and railways), and this is his second novel. He lives in Llanilar.

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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MORE WELSH LIVES

Meic Stephens

This is Meic Stephens' third collection of 40 obituaries, mostly from *The Independent* newspaper, recalling the lives of recently-deceased (2012-present) people who have made significant contributions to public life in Wales.

The obituaries of broadcaster David Parry-Jones, poets Gerallt Lloyd Owen, James Nicholas and Nigel Jenkins, historian John Davies, academic Meredydd Evans, fisherman Moc Morgan, novelist Rhiannon Davies Jones, comedian Stan Stennett and author Elaine Morgan are among those contained in the volume.

SELLING POINTS

- Follow-up to *Welsh Lives*, which was shortlisted for the Creative Non-fiction Award of the Wales Book of the Year in 2013

DETAILS

Publishing date: July 2018

Categories: BK (collection of obituaries)

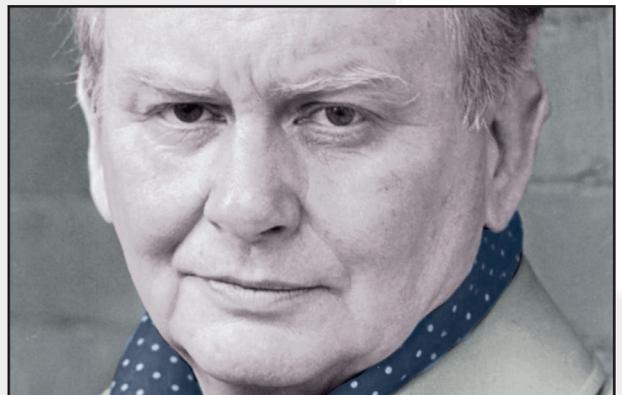
Binding: Paperback

Pages: x

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-562-8

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Meic Stephens is a Welsh literary editor, journalist, translator and poet. He has been literature director of the Welsh Arts Council, Welsh Writing in English professor at the University of Glamorgan and visiting professor in the English department of Brigham Young, Utah, US. He is the editor of *Cydymaith i Lenyddiaeth Cymru* [Companion to the Literature of Wales]. He learnt Welsh as an adult. He now lives in Cardiff.

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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WALES AND THE SEA

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Mark Redknap, Sian Rees & Alan Aberg (eds.)

Archaeological finds from Wales – including Bronze-Age boats, Roman ships and their cargoes, the medieval Newport ship and the seventeenth-century royal yacht *Mary* – testify to the long history of Wales as a seafaring nation. *Wales and the Sea*, written by some of Wales's foremost historians and archaeologists, reminds us of this long and hugely important maritime legacy.

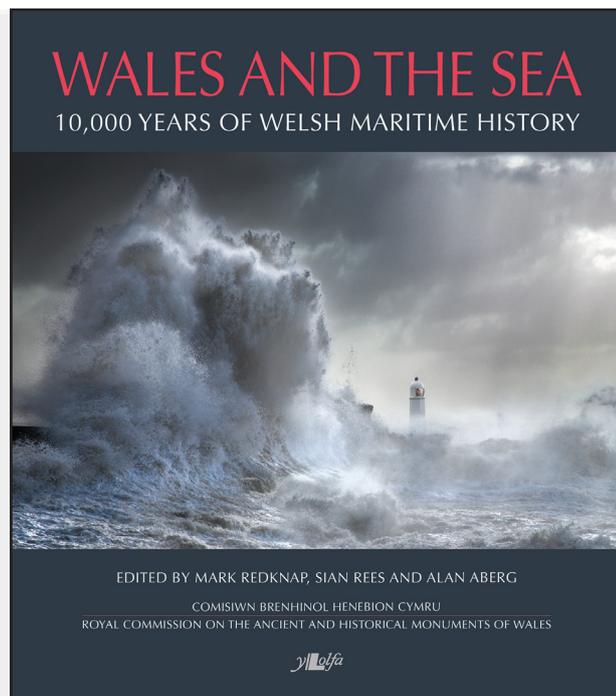
Fully illustrated, the book tells the story of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and more recent maritime history. It evokes the impact of the sea on the artistic imagination through coastal maps, naval paintings, seascapes, poetry, song and popular seaside souvenirs.

Archive photographs from the National Monuments Record of Wales, the National Library of Wales and National Museum Wales bring to life the age of the ocean-going liner, the cable-laying ships that connected Wales to the rest of the world, the pleasure steamers, racing yachts and the seaside piers as well as the busy docks that supplied slate, coal, iron and steel to the world.

Comprehensive, up-to-date, rooted in scholarship but written to be enjoyed by the general reader, *Wales and the Sea* is packed with stories and pictures that remind us of the vital role that the sea has played in the creation of Wales's distinctive history.

SELLING POINTS

- Published by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales to celebrate Wales' Year of the Sea in 2018.
- Incredibly comprehensive history of every aspect of Wales' connection with the sea, from the creation of the land mass to the present day.
- Written by experts, but thoroughly accessible to the general reader, with attractive layout and colour illustrations throughout.
- Foreword by Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Welsh Assembly Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport.
- There will be a very high-profile launch in Cardiff during the 2018 National Eisteddfod in August, with the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport.



DETAILS

Publishing date: TBC Summer 2018

Launch date: 3 August 2018

Categories: HB (Maritime History)

Binding: paperback

Pages: TBC

Price: £19.99

ISBN: 978-1-78461-527-7

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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Y Lolfa

www.yloffa.com

JANE EVANS (TITLE TBC)

Christine Purkis

Jane Evans is a historical novel set in Wales, London and the Crimea. It is the fictionalised story of the real Jane Evans, the first woman on the drove and a nurse with Florence Nightingale in the Crimea.

In the 1850s, a young woman runs away from her poverty-stricken life on a farm in the heart of rural Welsh-speaking Wales, to escape harsh treatment by her brothers and a forced marriage to a much older neighbour. She joins her cousin Isaac's drove, against the odds proving herself invaluable on the hard journey to London. After arriving, she eventually finds herself shipping out to the Crimea to assist in a hospital for injured soldiers.

Given that the arena of the war is so small she comes into direct contact with Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Betsi Cadwaladr in their mutual battle against inhuman conditions, and tries to bring some relief to the lost souls she finds there. Will she survive the dangers and return home to Wales, and if she does, what reception will she find there?

SELLING POINTS

- Based on a real unsung heroine from Welsh history.
- Full of fascinating, well-researched historical detail about the drove and nursing in the Crimea.
- Connection to Florence Nightingale – will definitely appeal to anyone interested in her, Mary Seacole or Betsi Cadwaladr, or in the history of healthcare in general.
- Full of human interest – you really root for Jane as she battles against the odds for independence and meaning in her life, and against some very grim circumstances and events.

DETAILS

Publishing date: 1 September 2018

Categories: FV (Historical fiction)

Binding: Paperback

Pages: TBC

Price: £8.99

ISBN: 978-1-912631-00-1



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Christine Purkis has published children's/young adult novels with Random House, including *Paddlefeet*, *Sea Change* and *The Shuttered Room*. This is her first adult novel. She lives in Bristol.

Review of *The Shuttered Room*:

'A real breath of hot, French air comes with this fascinating novel set in the south of France... A captivating story by a talented writer' (Books for Keeps)

Y Lolfa Cyf.
Talybont
Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

Distribution
Welsh Books Council
Helena O'Sullivan
+44 01970 624 455
sales@books.wales

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Y Lolfa

www.yloffa.com

ABSOLUTELY HUGE

THE HILARIOUS BIOGRAPHY OF A NOT-SO-REAL WELSH RUGBY LEGEND

Luke Upton

Absolutely Huge is a spoof biography of a fictional Welsh rugby player, Gethin 'Huge' Hughes. Mimicking the standard sports biography format, it takes the reader through the highs and lows of his remarkable and often controversial career both on and off the pitch.

A stunning try on Huge's international debut is followed by further glory for his region, Wales and the Lions, and by the age of 22 he's on top of the world. He's the biggest star in Welsh rugby, launches his own range of energy drinks, gets engaged to the 'nation's sweetheart' – pop-star Heledd Harte – and is voted Second Best Welshman Ever.

But injuries soon begin to bite. He causes a diplomatic incident on a Lions tour, gets involved with some disastrous product endorsements, suffers World Cup heartbreak and after very publicly falling out with his teammates is voted the Second Worst Welshman Ever.

At 28 he retires. But inactivity doesn't suit Huge. A disastrous appearance on an agriculture-based reality TV show is followed by a brush with death on Mount Snowdon, entanglement in a political scandal in the Welsh Assembly, a brief spell under arrest, bankruptcy and a very public break-up with Heledd.

On the eve of his playing comeback, and for the first time, the full extraordinary story of his decade in the spotlight will be told.

Rugby and humour combine in this hilarious spoof sports biography satirising the exploits of recent Welsh rugby superstars. This book is an easy, fun read, affectionately sending up Welsh rugby and the media hype surrounding it. It will appeal to anyone who loves rugby and the larger-than-life characters and situations it creates.

SELLING POINTS

- Rugby and humour combine in this hilarious spoof sports biography satirising the exploits of recent Welsh rugby superstars and the media world in which they live.
- An easy and really fun read.
- Anyone who enjoys the Ross O'Carroll Kelly books will love this!
- Will appeal to anyone who loves rugby and the larger-than-life characters it creates.
- Nothing else like this on the market about Welsh rugby.

DETAILS

Publishing date: 1 September 2018

Categories: FA/WH (Fiction/Humour)

Binding: paperback

Pages: TBC

Price: £9.99

ISBN: 978-1-912631-01-8

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and bred in South Wales, Luke's first job was selling match-day lottery tickets for Swansea RFC in those last few glory years before regional rugby arrived. He now lives in London, where after working in the sports industry for five years is now a business journalist. He co-runs @UnrealGavHenson, the spoof rugby account on Twitter now regularly amusing over 42,000 followers. His top three Welsh players of all time are Arwel Thomas, Gavin Henson and Scott Gibbs.

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Ceredigion
SY24 5AP
+ 44 01970 832 304
fflur@yloffa.com

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+44 01970 624 455
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