

Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

Get to know

Dave Lewis



Dave Lewis is a writer, poet and photographer from the ex-mining village Cilfynydd. He read zoology at Cardiff University and studied Software Engineering at Glamorgan University. He has taught science, IT and photography in schools and colleges in south Wales. He has always lived in Wales apart from a year, teaching and volunteering in Kenya.

He founded the International Welsh Poetry Competition, now the biggest poetry contest in Wales. He also runs the Poetry Book Awards, the Writers of Wales database, Wales Trails and book publishing company Publish & Print.

He has published over twenty books since his first poetry collection in 2009. He was a runner-up in Literature Wales' 2009 Rhys Davies Short Story Competition, judged by Stevie Davies and Niall Griffiths, with his short story 'Onions'. He works full-time as a writer.

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Summary:

Paul Thorne is no angel. A hard man with a troubled past, his mistake was to fall for the wrong girl. When he said yes to love, he opened the door to death.

A tragic accident finds him running for his life from a vicious London crime boss. He seeks sanctuary in a sleepy, Welsh seaside town but instead of solace, he finds jealousy and betrayal.

A brutal journey through the underbelly of 80s and 90s Britain. Violent and sad. Powerful, beautiful prose lingers like a bruise, haunting the mind, long after the last page is read.



Tell us a little about *The Welsh Man*...

It's both a road trip and an old-fashioned love story, set in 80's and 90's Britain. Our Welsh hero has had a tough upbringing and ends up working for a crime boss in London. A tragic accident changes everything, and he ends up on the run from gangsters. It's quite a gritty read but very real. I like to think there is kindness, decency and hope there too.

Where do you draw writing inspiration from?

Real life. A lot of my poetry is about me or the people and places I know. My 'Hagar' crime thriller trilogy is set in and around areas I'm comfortable with or know something about and neatly slots into the 'Cymru noir' genre.

As for why I write, I don't really know, I suppose it's a bit like the 'Ancient Mariner' who is compelled to tell his tale to gain a sort of catharsis!

What book is currently on your bedside table?

I always have a few books on the go. I've just finished *The Bayou Trilogy* by Daniel Woodrell – boy can this author write! I've also recently read *The Forever War* by Joe Haldeman which moved me to tears and *Hunger* by Knut Hamsen – wow, loved it. As for favourite authors, I love Frederick Forsyth, Wilbur Smith and Cormac McCarthy. Poets – there are too many incredible names out there, but I'm a big fan of Gary Snyder, Charles Bukowski, Anne Sexton and Brian Patten.