

# Awdur Haf Llewelyn- Creu Diffodd y Sêr: Nofel Hedd Wyn / Author Haf Llewelyn- Creating An Empty Chair: a novel about Hedd Wyn

Published on 31/01/2018 — in Authors: How and Why I Wrote/Intermediate

Er bod Hedd Wyn yn un o feirdd enwocaf Cymru, nid oes llawer o wybodaeth yn bodoli am ei fywyd a pha ddigwyddiadau, meddyliau a theimladau a ysbyrydolodd ei gyfansoddiadau. Er mwyn helpu pobl i gysylltu gyda fe fel person ysgrifennodd Haf Llewelyn nofel am ei fywyd – yn y Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Yma, mae'n esbonio pam a sut yr aeth hi ati i'w hysgrifennu...

Although Hedd Wyn is one of Wales' most famous poets, not a lot is known of how he actually lived his life and what events, thoughts and feelings led him to his compositions. To help people connect with him as a person, Haf Llewelyn novelised his life, including creating both Welsh and English language versions. Here, she explains why and how she went about writing them...

Mi wnes i ysgrifennu Diffodd y Sêr wedi ymweliad gyda thref Ypres yng ngwlad Belg. Roeddwn i wedi fy nghyffwrdd gan y rhesi o feddau gwynion yno, beddau milwyr y Rhyfel Byd cyntaf. Roedd gweld yr enwau ar y beddau - Jones, Edwards, Thomas, Evans - yn gwneud i mi sylweddoli cymaint roedd y rhyfel wedi cyffwrdd gyda bywydau pobl gyffredin o Gymru. Yna sylwi ar oedran y bechgyn - bechgyn ifanc a'u bywydau o'u blaen.

Yna fe ôs i ar ymweliad gyda'r Ysgwrn, cartref y bardd [Ellis Humphrey Evans \(Hedd Wyn\)](#) o Drawsfynydd. Wedi darllen am y digwyddiadau

I wrote Diffodd y Sêr after visiting the town of Ypres in Belgium. I was touched by the rows of white gravestones there- soldiers graves from World War I. Seeing the names on the graves- Jones, Edwards, Thomas, Evans- made me realise how much the war had touched the lives of ordinary people in Wales. I then noticed the ages of the boys- young boys with their lives in front of them.

Then I went to visit Ysgwrn, the home of the poet [Ellis Humphrey Evans \(Hedd Wyn\)](#) of Trawsfynydd, near Blaenau Ffestiniog in north-

ofnadwy yn y rhyfel, roedd ymweld gyda thawelwch yr Ysgwrn yn gwneud i mi sylweddoli mor wahanol oedd y ddau fyd.

Cafodd Hedd Wyn ei ladd ar ddechrau brwydr Trydydd Cychr Ypres ar Gorffennaf 31, 1917. Yna ym mis Medi, 1917, ennilodd y gadair yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Birkenhead, ond wrth gwrs ni chafodd eistedd yn y gadair, rhoddyd lliaint du dros y gadair - dyna'r Gadair Ddu.

Mae'r nofel **Diffodd y Sêr** yn stori am deulu Hedd Wyn, a'r effaith gafodd y digwyddiadau ar ei chwaer fach Annie. Fe wnes i greu teulu arall i symud y stori ymlaen, sef stori ffrind dychmygol i Annie - Laura. Yn y nofel mae tad Laura wedi dod adre o'r rhyfel, o Mametz, ond mae o wedi ei niweidio yn ddrwg. Cawn hanes sut mae tad Laura yn dysgu arfer eto gyda bod adref, ac yn gorfol dygymod gyda'r niwed mae wedi ei gael. Ond ar yr un pryd, mae brawd Annie, Hedd Wyn, yn cychwyn i'r rhyfel, ac mae Annie a'r teulu, a chariad Hedd Wyn, wrth gwrs yn ceisio bod yn ddewr, ond yn ofni'r gwaethaf.

Mi wnes i fwynhau ysgrifennu'r stori yn fawr iawn, ac yn mwynhau sgwrsio gyda pobl am eu hatgofion nhw o daid neu hen daid fu yn rhan o'r brwydro, a beth oedd eu profidau. Rydw i wedi addasu'r nofel i'r Saesneg erbyn hyn o dan y teitl An Empty Chair.

Mae cartref Hedd Wyn wedi ei adnewyddu, ac mae pobl o bob rhan o'r byd yn mynd yno i weld y ffermdy arbennig, felly gall bobl di-Gymraeg gael cyfle i ddarllen am yr hanes.

Ewch am dro i'r **Ysgwrn**- mae'n lle arbennig iawn, a chewch weld y Gadair Ddu yno.

Roedd addasu'r nofel Diffodd y Sêr i'r Saesneg yn brofiad diddorol. Y tro diwethaf i mi ysgrifennu dim yn greadigol yn Saesneg oedd wrth astudio Saesneg lefel A- llawer iawn o flynyddoedd yn ôl! Ond gyda chefnogaeth gwych Carolyn Hodges o'r Lolfa, mi wnâs i wirioneddol fwynhau.

Roedd yn holol wahanol i ysgrifennu'r nofel wreiddiol yn Gymraeg, a hynný wrth gwrs am fod y stori gen i, felly roeddwn i'n gallu canolbwytio ar y grefft o ysgrifennu. Roedd dod a iaith y cymeriadau yn fyw yn her, gan mai Cymry Cymraeg, heb bron dim Saesneg fydden nhw. Ond doeddwn i ddim eisiau i'r ddeialog swniô'r od - roedd yn rhaid cael iaith lafar dda- ond yn Saesneg.

Dwi wrth fy modd fod **An Empty Chair** wedi cael adolygiadau gwych! Rydw i mor falch o hynný am fy mod eisiau i bobl di-Gymraeg fwynhau stori rhyfeddol Yr Ysgwrn.

Mae'r llyfrau **Diffodd y Sêr** ac **An Empty Chair** ar gael o'r Lolfa / The books **Diffodd y Sêr** and **An Empty Chair** are available from Y Lolfa.  
A dyma lyfr I **Wyneb y Ddrycin**, sy'n llyfr ffeithiol am Hedd Wyn a'r teulu yn ystod y rhyfel.

west Wales. After reading about the terrible events of the war, visiting the peace of Ysgwrn made me realise how different were the two worlds.

Hedd Wyn was killed at the start of the Third Battle of Ypres on 31 July 1917. Then in September 1917 he won the chair in the National Eisteddfod in Birkenhead, but of course no-one sat in the chair; black linen was draped over it- and that is the Black Chair, or as we refer to it, the Empty Chair.

The nofel **Diffodd y Sêr** is a story about Hedd Wyn's family, and the effect the events had on his little sisters Annie. I created another family to move the story along, that is an imaginary friend of Annie-Laura. In the novel Laura's father has come home from the war, from Mametz, but he is badly harmed. We find out how Laura's father learns to get used to being home again and has to come to terms with the damage he has suffered. But at the same time, Annie's brother- Hedd Wyn- starts in the war, and Annie and the family, with Hedd Wyn's partner, try of course to be brave, but fear the worst.

I enjoyed writing the story immensely, and enjoyed chatting with people about their memories of grandfather or great-grandfather took part in the battle, and what was their experience. I adapted the English novel to English under the title An Empty Chair.

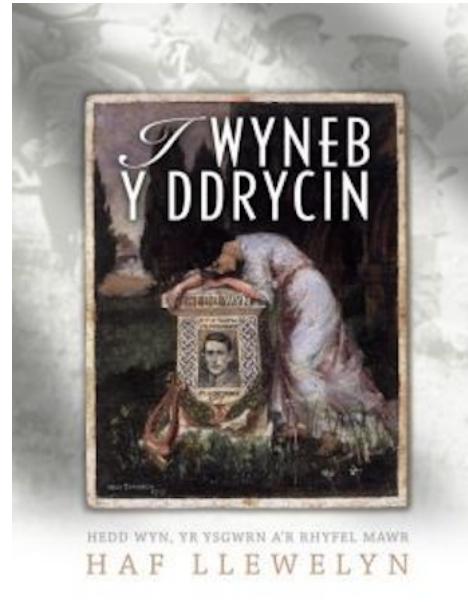
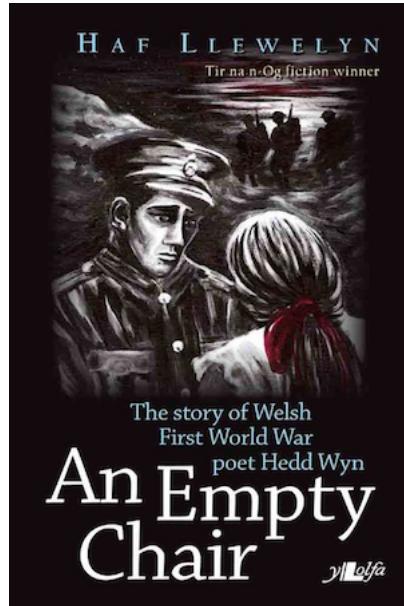
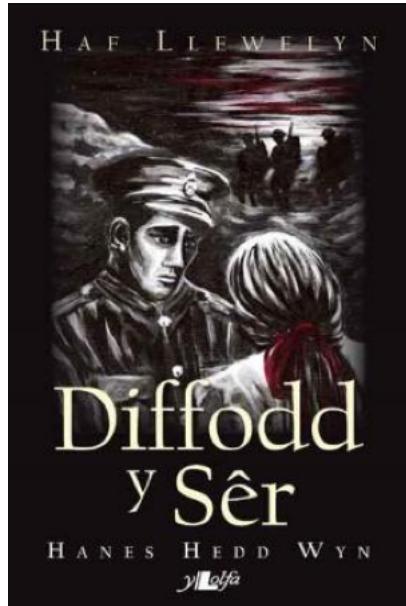
Hedd Wyn's home has been revitalised, and people from all parts of the world go to the special farmhouse, so people who don't speak Welsh have the opportunity to read about his history.

You should visit **Ysgwrn**- it is a special place, and take the opportunity to see the Empty Chair there.

Adapting the novel **Diffodd y Sêr** to English was an interesting experience. The last time that I wrote only in English was when studying English A Level- many years ago! But with the great support of Carolyn Hodges of Y Lolfa, I really enjoyed it.

It was completely different to writing the original novel in Welsh, and of course because it was my story I could concentrate on the craft of writing. Bringing the language of the characters to life was a challenge, because they are Welsh speakers with hardly any English. But I didn't want the dialogue to sound odd- there had to be good spoken language- but in English.

I'm delighted that **An Empty Chair** has received great reviews! I'm very proud of that because I want non-Welsh speaking people to enjoy the amazing story of Yr Ysgwrn.



Mae mwy o fewnwelediad ar flog Y Lolfa / There is more insight on Y Lolfa's blog: [ylolfa.wordpress.com](http://ylolfa.wordpress.com)

L A T E S T   F R O M   A U T H O R S :   H O W   A N D   W H Y   I   W R O T E

**Awdur Elizabeth**  
**Jane Corbett:**  
**Ffeindio Fy Ffordd**  
**Adref / Finding My Way Home**  
Mae Elizabeth Jane Corbett yn dod o Awstralia sydd wedi cwympo mewn

**Awdur Gareth**  
**Thomas: Cyfieithu Myfi, Iolo i'r Gymraeg / Author Gareth Thomas:**  
**Translating I, Iolo into Welsh**  
Mae'n ysbrydoliaeth bob amser pan mae rhywun newydd yn croesawu'r diwylliant Cymreig

**Awdures Dana Edwards: Sut es i ati i ysgrifennu Am Newid / Author Dana Edwards: How I Wrote Am Newid**  
Mae Dana Edwards newydd ryddhau ei hail lyfr yn y Gymraeg, Am

**Dysgwr ac Awdures Sarah Reynolds:**  
**Cyflwyno Dysgu Byw / Learner and Author: Sarah Reynolds:**  
**Introducing Dysgu Byw**  
Mae Sarah Reynolds, sy'n dod yn wreiddiol o Reigate, wedi bod yn

**Awdur Bet Jones: Sut Ysgrifennais i Y Nant / How I wrote Y Nant**  
Mae Bet Jones wedi ysgrifennu llawer o nofelau, gan gynnwys Beti Bwt,

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