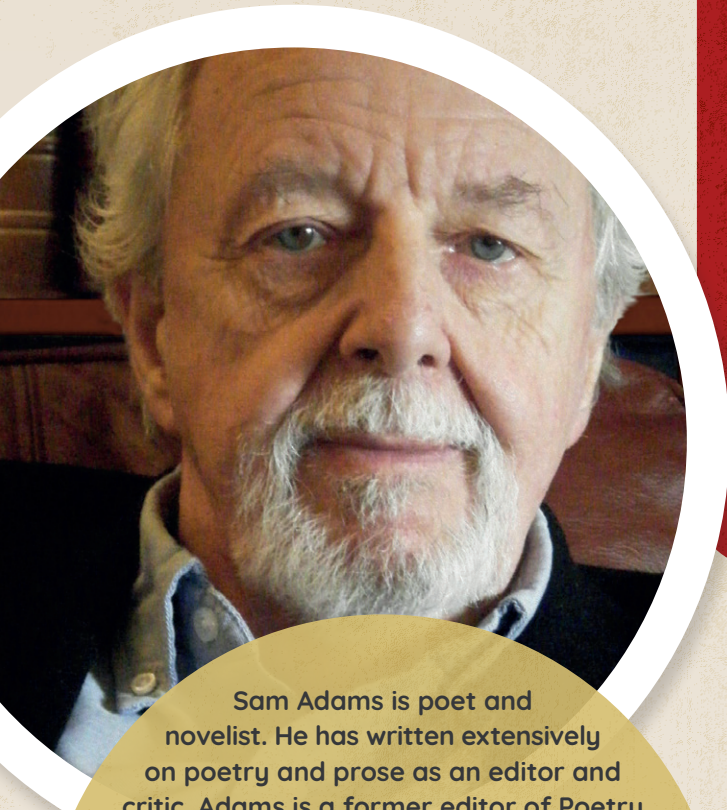


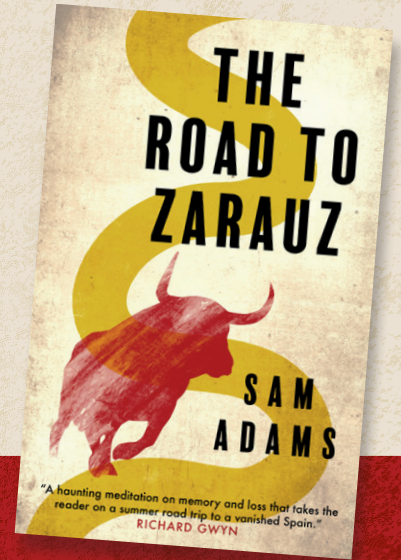
Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

Get to know

Sam Adams



Sam Adams is poet and novelist. He has written extensively on poetry and prose as an editor and critic. Adams is a former editor of Poetry Wales, and a former chairman of the English-language section of Yr Academi Gymreig. He edited the Collected Poems and the Collected Stories of Roland Mathias, is the author of three monographs in the Writers of Wales series and is a frequent contributor of poems, criticism and essays to a number of magazines. His 'Letter from Wales' column appears regularly in PN Review (Carcanet).



Summary:

It is the summer of 1954. Four young men on a summer vacation buy an old car from a farmer and drive it from the hills of Wales to the mountains of Spain. It is only a few years since the war, Europe is still in ruins. They are innocent and war-scarred, dreamers and realists, men but not much more than boys. They have their whole lives ahead of them. This will be their

summer to remember.

A beautiful, elegiac rumination on youth, friendship and the dreams that we hold.

Sam Adams has created a rare novel in *The Road to Zarauz*, both timeless and very much of a time and a place, a past of hope and expectation erased in a moment, and what remains when hope is gone.

What inspired you to write this book?

Above all, the desire to tell a story, to give form and literary substance to what remains of impressions gathered many years ago, in a 'lost time'. I hoped to communicate something of what it was to be a young man then, really rather confused about many things, while slowly finding out about life as an independent being and becoming aware of gradual intellectual awakening.

Tell us a little about the book you've created

It's quite a short piece of extended fiction, a novella, with a simple trajectory from the assembling of a group of friends with a plan to go on a journey together, through an account of a sequence of events on the journey to a tragic climax. All four are at the end of their second year in university, but include, as leader and inspiration, one who served in the army during the war. The other three are not long out of school, and uncertain of their aim in life. In the summer of 1954, when they set out, much of Europe is only slowly beginning to recover from devastation. They pool their meagre resources to buy an old car, which carries them through France, across northern Spain, and finally to the small coastal town of Zarauz.

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