

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

Beatrice Wallbank



Beatrice Wallbank grew up in mid Wales, surrounded by sheep. When not wandering about in wild places thinking about stories she works backstage in theatre, storytelling in a different form. She also really likes Old Stuff and is a historian of things relating to the sea in early medieval Wales. *The Sleeping Stones* is her first book.

Summary:

Gruff and his new friend Matylda live on a small island off the Welsh coast, where legends are beginning to stir... Islanders find themselves irresistibly drawn to the Sleeping Stones, a line of rocks like natural stepping stones out to sea. Gruff and Mat soon realise they must risk everything to save each other and their community from a terrifying storm driven by an ancient, magic anger.



What inspired you to write your book?

I've always loved the places where land meets sea, and stories where secrets are hidden in the landscape. *The Sleeping Stones* is also inspired by two characters from Welsh mythology. They both would once have had loads of stories told about them, but now we only know of them through glimpses in poems and tales.

What inspires you?

Landscape. Imagining what could happen in a particular place at different times of the day, at different times of the year, in different historical periods. I am very much inspired by myths and legends, too, which themselves are often linked to landscape.

How did you know you wanted to be a writer and when?

When I realised that the authors who wrote the books I loved reading were real people, and that could potentially be me one day! I have been creating stories, in my head and on paper, my whole life.

Is writing the only artistic medium you do?

For my work in theatre as a stage manager (which is storytelling as part of a team), I make things out of wood and fabric and paint. I also like to draw, especially birds.

What would be some advice you would give to your younger self?

Don't be afraid to completely scrap a draft of a story and start all over again from the beginning. Things don't have to be right first time!



www.fireflypress.co.uk



... more Q&As
on the website libraries.wales