

The Welsh Poems

Also by Peter Finch

Poetry

- Wanted For Writing Poetry (with Steve Morris) — *Second Aeon*, 1968
Pieces Of The Universe — *Second Aeon*, 1969
Cycle Of the Suns — *Art Living*, 1970
Beyond The Silence — *Vertigo*, 1970
An Alteration In The Way I Breathe — *Quickest way Out*, 1970
The Edge Of Tomorrow (with Jeanne Rushton) — *BB Books*, 1971
The End Of The Vision — *John Jones Ltd*, 1971
Whitesung — *Aquila*, 1972
Antarktika — *Writers Forum*, 1972
Blats — *Second Aeon*, 1973
Trowch Eich Radio 'Mlaen — *Writers Forum*, 1977
Connecting Tubes — *Writers Forum*, 1980
Big Band Dance Music — *Balsam Flex*, 1980
Visual Texts 1970—1980 — (microfiche edition) *Pyrofiche*, 1981
The O Poems — *Writers Forum*, 1981
Blues And Heartbreakers — *Galloping Dog*, 1981
Dances Interdites — *Balsam Flex*, 1982
Some Music And A Little War — *Rivelin Grapheme*, 1984
On Criticism — *Writers Forum*, 1984
Reds In The Bed — *Galloping Dog*, 1985
The Italian Job (with Bob Cobbing) — *Klinker Soundz*, 1985
Selected Poems — *Poetry Wales Press*, 1987
Make — *Galloping Dog*, 1990
Cheng Man Ching Variations — *Writers Forum*, 1990
Poems For Ghosts — *Seren Books*, 1991
Five Hundred Cobbings — *Writers Forum*, 1994
The Spe ell — *Writers Forum*, 1995
Useful — *Seren Books*, 1997
Dauber — *Writers Forum*, 1997
Antibodies — *Stride*, 1997
Food — *Seren Books*, 2001
Vizet — *Water* — *Konkret Konyvek*, 2003
New & Selected Later Poems — *Seren Books*, 2007

As Editor

- Typewriter Poems — *Something Else Press*, 1972
Green Horse (with Meic Stephens) — *Christopher Davies*, 1978
The Big Book of Cardiff (with Grahame Davies) — *Seren Books* 2005

Peter Finch

The Welsh Poems

Shearsman Books

2006

Published in the United Kingdom in 2006 by
Shearsman Books Ltd
58 Velwell Road
Exeter EX4 4LD

ISBN-10 0-907562-91-4

ISBN-13 978-0-907562-91-7

Copyright © Peter Finch, 2006.

The right of Peter Finch to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act of 1988. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Acknowledgements

Some of these poems, often in earlier incarnations, have previously appeared in the following magazines: *And*, *New Welsh Review*, *Open Wide Magazine*, *Sampler*, *Scratch*, *Skald*, *Symtex & Grimmer*, and *The Wading Through Deep Water*. 'Cover Blown' and 'Once You Know Where To Point' appeared in the Stride anthology *My Kind Of Angel: In Memoriam William Burroughs*. *Cardiff Medicine* in a reworked form appears in *Real Cardiff Two* (*Seren* 2004). *Past Interests* is derived from an interview which appeared in *Binary Myths* by Andy Brown (*Stride* 2003). Some pieces appeared in the web journals *Muse Apprentice Guild*, *The Argotist* and *Stride Magazine On Line* as well as in *The Peter Finch Archive*.

The complete *R S Thomas Information* forms a major section of *The Peter Finch Archive* which can be found at peterfinch.co.uk. The text also adorns the BT Internet Data Centre building in Cardiff Bay. *Ysbwriel* in its final form runs along the top of the Lamby Way Landfill site in south east Cardiff and is visible across the river from the Pengam Green Tesco supermarket car park.



The publisher gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from
Arts Council England.

Contents

Fold	9
Colon	10
Historians	11
Dw'i ddim yn deall	13
Software	14
Fix Up	15
Rev (again)	16
Cover Blown	19
Once You Know Where To Point	20
Pantycelyn: The Tools & Things Version	21
Wonderful Life	22
Philip Larkin	23
Sophistication	24
newjobs	25
Hey Baby	26
Wobble	27
No Bike	28
Zen Cymru	29
Rainfall	33
Putting in the Window	34
Paint	35
Rhai Caneuon Cymraeg	36
The Unstoppable Growth of British Leyland	38
Quantum Mechanics in the Work of R S Thomas	39
Mid Period Anglo-Welsh Endings	40
SNT No 18	41
Slide Guitar Devices	42
The Glow	46
Tick In Box	47
Pitt Rivers	48
How To Speak (1)	49
How To Speak (2)	50
Slow To Change	52
Easy X-Rays	53
Llywarch Hen SMS with fault	58
Chaos Theory	59
Before 1962	60
Damage	61
Cardiff Medicine	62

Brudge	65
Recycle	66
Big Hrt	67
Literature	68
Residues	69
Past Interests	70
Ysbwriel	72
Cheng Man Ch'ing	73
How	74
Instead of Writing	75
Mardy Maerdy	76
Nothing Is New	78
Publishing	79
Repeat	81
Rough Skin	82
Swell	84
Tea Room	85
Too Late	86
Torrance	87
Tunnel Fog	88

The Dauber Poems

a ahh	93
afternoon	94
light	95
r rr rai nn	96
rai nng ain again	97
through the berries bling	98
old and enough	99
cold	100
empty minded	101
bandage	102
moon ethergate	103
ir	104
jean	105
bone light	106
the bright	107
h hi t	108
illia	109
rapa ropa	110

still	111
tie the sky in white	112
Super Furry Animals #1	113
Super Furry Animals #2	114
Super Furry Animals #3	115
Super Furry Animals #4	116
Super Furry Animals #5	117
R S Thomas Information	
A-Z	120
Footnotes	134
Notes on <i>The Welsh Poems</i>	143

for Sue

Fold

We (us) (I) (you) were (weren't) (won't) (will) a (the) (this)
people (pointed sticks) (prime numbers) (purple patch) taut
(tired) (tiled) (tight as fists) for (from) (frightened) (foaming)
war (wet fish) (wet fist) (wet fear); the (those) (these)
hills (hovering) (hollow) (high) (high) (high) (heated)
(hardened) were (will not) (can not) (can) no
(none) (neither) (normal) harder (holding) (heaving)
(happy as barber's poles) (hard hosts) (home)

I (we) won't (will) the (those) (that) pointed
(printed) (prattle) stick (stack) (steaming) (coal) (coal)
tired (tilted) (hilltop) (hold) from (fear) (fear) (fear)
(fear) (fear) (refute) wet (wash-off) (westerly) (unwound)
those (this) (these) hovering (unheated) (unworn)
(unbilled) (unbound) will not (can't) none
(no more) holding (fingertip) (finger-stall)
(finger-push) (thrust) look up (look up)
unshaped (unsure) (uncertain) (unable) like us
(fold) (fold) (fold) folded (fold).

Colon

Cilmeri • Battle of Tryweryn • Battle of Maes Madog • Battle of Brecon
• Battle of Mynydd Carn • Battle of Lougher • Battle of Lewes • Battle
of Evesham • Battle of Haverfordwest • Battle of Laugharne • Battle of
Grosmont • Battle of Blackwood Woods • Battle of Casnewydd • Battle
of the River Usk • Battle of Pwllmelyn • Battle of Môn • Battle of Port
Dinorwic • Battle of Deganwy • Battle of Harlech • Battle of Castell
Bere • Battle of Bala • Battle of Cefn Carnedd • Battle of Irfon Bridge •
Battle of Welshpool • Battle of Long Mountain • Battle of Gwen Ystrad
• Battle of Llanishen Reservoir • Battle of the Cells of Berwyn • Battle
of Campstone Hill • Battle of St Fagans • Battle of Catterick • Battle
of Camlann • Battle of Arfderydd • Battle of Halifax St Johns Square
• Battle of the Bleeding Lance • Battle of Stalling Down • Battle of
Clywedog • Battle of Brynmawr Rubber Factory • Battle of Sycharth •
Battle of Glyndyfrdwy • Battle of Woodbury Hill • Battle of Swain's Sea
• Battle of Mortimer's Cross • Battle of Archensfield • Battle of Cadnant
• Battle of Puffin Island • Battle of Llangorse Lake • Battle of the Sacred
Groves • The Battle of Bangor Is-Coed • Battle of Rhuddlan • Battle
of Castell Caerdydd • Battle of Pembroke • Battle of Orewyn Bridge
• Battle of Pwll Melyn • Battle of Cardigan Island • Battle of the fish
henges at Roath • Battle of the Severn Sabrina Afon Hafren

Historians

Historians' output has increased
is increasing
a strict regimen might save us
ought to be diminished
corpulence useless
threatens the vital organs
much of it waste.

A strict regimen
and ought to be diminished
vulgarisations bloat bookshelves
threaten the vital organs
hypertrophy with learning
of learning with hypertrophy
of bookshelves with bloat
much of it is corpulence.

Academic fat clogs the bibliographies
and threatens the vital corpulence
is increasing and ought and otherwise
much of it imposes a starvation
much of it a strict taxpayer
ought to be bloat.

Revolted by the useless corpulence
we need much of it
writers who take pride and
writers who take pride and
writers who waste
patrons and taxpayers
and vulgarisations
Academic fat clogs the bloat
strict history ought to float

We need much of it
vital historians' corporations
taxpayers, bibliographies,
learned bookshelves and bloat
writers who take pride and
ought to be diminished

the bloat and the vulgarisations
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take prisoners
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take prisoners
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take prisoners
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take prisoners
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take prisoners
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take prisoners
writers who take pride and
reviewers who take books

Much of it is waste
the historians ought the they then
slipshod
oh yes apoplexy
and how they
clog clog and bloat

The output they h'm
might might might
slip sl
The historians then will be vital
increase increased the they them
the historians
will write about it
yes they will.

Dw'i ddim yn deall



Software

wiredkick soft hotass ware beautiful user makes
soft beautiful user kickwired wareass makes hot
beautiful kickware softass makes user hot wired
kickuser beautiful ware makes asssoft wired hot
assware beautiful kickhot soft user makes wired
beautiful hotass makes usersoft wired ware kick
hotmakes beautiful kick ware wired softuser ass
wiredass user ware makes hot soft hot hot kick
kickwired soffhot hot hot hot hot hot hot hotass
ass hot kick hot hotware makes soft ass hot hot
ass kick makes beautiful user hotware softwired
ware makes beautiful user hotwired asskick soft
hot wired kickass software makes user beautiful

\$49.50 download today

Fix-up

Mabinogion Translations

He made for the court in the court he could
aye said Pwll to the court the court and they spent
maiden wilt whatever boon
the court hosts and dominions
what is here? a badger a court
the men of the court to feel heaviness
awoke born lady not the court the chamber
at the door lo a horse court here the wld
court catch you fix-up bile racially
the court crt cart will repay thee raised fit
daughter gwyn gohoyw ap gloyw wally lydan
ap casnar court wledig seisyllwch of the high branch rit
mst grac graze nn mor morrow th tend tenderness
the diz ss till there affection affection retinue
rrr llll land

Rev (again)

In (of)
promontory
point
away
glimpsed g
he's blots
for r
of Oriel
(bird, fish, glass, donkey)
articles
for I'm
from
well shame shame
most islands
it
ping
useful
(Body, Polley, Dworkin, Malin, Misanthropy,
Diatribes, Arbitrary, Body Rub, Weather Front)
and
before cation garde
real
personally of ion tion
(let down, let out, let anyway)
any
two
on on m
screen n
men you men
if have the
on
even doing
are
ironic elderly helped
when
memory she

finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch fissh
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch
finch finch finch finch

deception

lost

doesn't much mat

who re

any

missing sections: eptive, ad, way, ocked, lettes, letter, listener, letterer.

Cover Blown

In Memoriam William Burroughs

William Burroughs goes to Rio
for a new face. It's a brilliant piece of
plastic surgery, makes him look
like a taller JFK. He's so proud getting
off the airliner at New York's Dextromorphine
that the bullet coming at him
smiles a little itself before going in.
It makes shotgun art on the 747's side.
Could have been anyone
Burroughs's mouth says while
his Brooks' suit body slumps el
hombre invisible cover blown.
In Lawrence, Kansas when John F
finally slides into the earth the West
thinks it's lost a city in the red night.
And it has.

Once You Know Where To Point

I'm falling through the door
at high pressure and not
stopping to do anything but
check the light on the answerphone.
The high heat of the yard the tubs needing
gallons at least the hallway has
a trail of leaf-flakes like bits of skin.
I can feel the damp in my lower back
grow up a map of India.
I work the oven with its
roaring fan and gargled heat.
There are no spaces anywhere
but the past. Burroughs took
his future into the garden and
shot-gunned it faster than de Kooning.
"Once you know where to point,
all you have to do is get out of the way
and let this thing happen."
In the dark later I collect the cybertrash
from the system and it's there, folded-in,
about a half line long.
El hombre Invisible now invisible.
In a way always was.

Pantycelyn: The Tools & Things Version

(after D Gwenallt Jones)

Aaa aa aa aaaa aaaa'a aaaa, aaaaaa a Aaa,
Aa aa aa aaaaa aarr rr Rrrrrr Rrrr,
Rr rrrrrr rrrrrrrr Rr Rrrreeeee Ee
Ee eeeee eeeeeee ee Eeee eeeeeii iii:
Iiiii ii Iiiii ii Ii iiii, i'i iyyy
Yy yyyy yyyyy'y yyyyy y'y yyy y'y yywww,
Ww ww Ww Wwww Ww www, Ww wwwwww d'd dddd
D dddd, d dddd dddd dddd d nnnn.
Gwniadur, teipiadur, berwedydd, pibell,
ysgrafell, melin, cribin, clustog, bidog,
crafwr, tynnwr, golchwr, gobennydd, dysychydd
N nnnnnnn, n nnnnnnn nngg g ggggg,
Ggg ggggg gttt t tttt, tttt tttt ll,
Llllll, ll ll loooooo, ooo offfff
F fffff dd dddddddd dddd d Dddd,
D'c cccc ccc ccss ssss s ssshhh h hhhu
U'u uuuu ubbb bbccchc hchm mmrhrh âââff Llp.

Wonderful Life

N rth f R g rst n n th
cni beet f th Seerh wy Vll y
EE w nd r why th h us s bckeeng
nt thees lg flytra c l brt
utd r leef weeth a rwonderful lifen nt
brbee s nd xt nseev atee s nt
wheech th dreezzl fls t th
Reeseeng Sun n sun veeseabl b cus f
nveel h d cuwonderful lifeulee ath g s
ua thr ugh th b g l f wonderful life uld f
C d WONDERFUL LIFEwr w ds
und r wheech W lsh Wt r r r uteeng
wonderful lifeen dreen g ug th tr s
dr a th y ll w aeea stuff eet ll
bck h a ll thees f r fst r sheet
b y nd lee s WONDERFUL LIFEyn dd WONDERFUL LIFEch n
rdee wonderful lifest nd brck n theen
wonderful lifen swonderful life keeng weeth gr yh und
d thees n xt.

A t r Feench

A t r Feench, 19 S uthwonderful lifeenst r R d, R th, Crdeeff CF2 5T