



Wendy French's latest poetry collection, her fourth, is *Bread Without Butter, Bara heb fenyn* (Rockingham Press, 2020) and she co-authored *Born in the NHS* with Jane Kirwan. She works in different healthcare settings and is currently co-editing a book on poetry and medical essays on diseases of the brain and stroke prevention and care (Hippocrates Press). She attended the Hippocrates Symposium on Poetry and Medicine in Chicago in 2019 and delivered a paper on 'Writing the Memoir' with Cancer Patients.

Bwlchydomen Farm, our farm

a kitchen like no other the hum and hisstle
yes that word will do of a range that lives on
like the oldest of the apple tress
in the orchard

hams hang from a beam held by gigantic screws
and a brown teapot never empty and boots
boots caked in mud
by the scullery door

jams marmalades pickles stored for winter
milk bottles butter pats on slabs and Mamgu
on her knees scrubbing the floor a small farmhouse
in a corner of Wales

cows are milked lambs born men fed an old woman dies
a child is born a young girl suffering with tonsillitis
has her tonsils removed as she lies
on the kitchen table.

Hiraeth

Mamgu's voice comes through the night
Stop harrowing me bach let me rest

No Mamgu you're harrowing me
like the farmers ploughed the fields
with their old ploughs, you harrow me
you're frying the bacon on the range
watching the clock for 8 am
for the men who come in from the fields

God is Welsh

On Sundays Welsh flowed over our heads.
We longed for the park
with the no-good boys of summer

Now my mother mumbles and
caught between *tatws* and turnips
she rolls and turns in her bed.

Mamgu knew God was Welsh.
*I don't need to worship, your mam goes for me.
London's a place where prayer's needed.*

Mae lesu'n newidiamar dwr i win
This was the one miracle Mamgu told us
not to listen to, perhaps thinking of her preference

for Dutch gin. Nibby, the boy, next door,
came to *capel* once, then borrowed my toy boat
to sail on West Harrow pond.

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*tatws* (pronounced *tatters*): potatoes  
*Mae lesus'n newidiamar dwr i win*:  
Jesus changes water to wine  
*capel*: chapel  
*Mamgu*: grandmother

