

write4word/Kultivera/Bardsey Island Trust

“What We leave Behind”

International Residency on Bardsey Island, Wales

Friday 11th to Saturday 26th May 2018

Background Information and Application Pack



We are welcoming applications from multidisciplinary language, visual or contemporary artists for the artist in residency (AiR) "What We Leave Behind". This is a themed residency programme with participants required to respond to the remote off-grid Welsh island of Bardsey, Ynys Enlli. The residency will provide opportunities to develop connections with artists from Wales, Sweden and United States.

Residency dates:

Friday 11th to Saturday 26th May 2018.

Please email your application to

mel@write4word.org

Closing date for applications:

Saturday 17th February 2018

What We Leave Behind

Background Information

	Page
1. About write4word and Kultivera	2
2. About the residency	3
3. About Bardsey Island	3
4. Travelling to Bardsey	5
5. Facilities & accommodation.	5
6. FAQs & Links	7

1. About write4word and Kultivera

write4word

write4word (W4W) is a social enterprise based in West Wales whose members are committed to the championing of engagement with language arts through the creative process and participation for positive impact in all aspects of society. The group was formed by Dominic Williams in 2010 and constituted in 2013.

W4W has delivered creative writing workshops in Wales, Ireland and Sweden. Participants include transition year students and writers in professional development.

In 2013 & 2014 W4W worked with two West Wales drug and alcohol charities, Welsh Centre for Action on Dependency and Addiction (WCADA) based in Swansea, and Prism in Carmarthen. W4W provided a series of creative writing workshops for their clients and curated an international programme of writers for WCADA's Pili Pala Festival in Swansea.

Since 2010 W4W has been the organisation behind Poems and Pints at the Queens (P&P@theQ), West Wales most established regular spoken word event. We later supported the founders of the Cellar Bards in Cardigan in the formation of their regular event.

W4W is the Welsh partner in two significant international collaborations- the Wales Ireland Spoken-word and Poetry Alliance (WISPA) and the Coracle Europe cultural exchange. The latter has led to the creation, in close partnership with the Swedish arts organisation Kultivera of the annual Tranås at the Fringe literary festival and the annual Coracle Europe Literary Residency.

Carlow PenFest, Ireland, September 2017, provided a recent platform for W4W with a presentation on and workshop in Guerrilla Poetry.

In 2018 W4W will be facilitating a series of creative writing sessions for a Welsh group of women survivors of domestic violence and abuse. This project, titled "Bright Flowers" is funded by Literature Wales.

Kultivera

Since 2013 Kultivera, based in Sweden, has operated international cultural programs that are physical, social and creative; that stimulate and inspire both the artists and the local community. They create cross-border meetings between artists, community and industry that allow different areas to fertilize each other in mutual interaction. Kultivera's idea is to connect several cultures, and promote democracy, diversity, quality, innovation, diversity and cultural development.

The artist is not bound or isolated to a specific location or place, but is inserted in a typical Swedish small-town situation where they can operate internationally through the local.

Kultivera has conducted several international residency programs, where several professional artists from all over the world, have collaborated, worked and lived together in Kraftverket in Tranås. The most rewarding aspect of programs so far have been the unexpected effects – the interaction with the local and regional communities giving a mix of creativity and cultural awareness that no one could have planned in advance. The community has become more interested and more aware of their and others' cultures and this awareness has become a part of everyday conversation and a concrete experience.

2. About the residency

Successful applicants will be respond to the island in their own medium and we hope that you will find collaborative opportunities with other residents. You maybe drawn to its remoteness and sense of isolation, the micro community which aims to promote sustainable living, you may consider how Bardsey impacts upon you, its differences and similarities with our mainland lives, what of the island you take with you, and think about what we leave behind when we depart.

3. About Bardsey Island

Bardsey Island or, to give it its Welsh name Ynys Enlli, is a remote wild island located two miles off the Llŷn Peninsula of North Wales. The island is 2.5 km long and at its widest point is approx 1Km wide. The island mountain is 167metres with the whole island 180 hectares, most of which is organic farmland. The island is owned and managed by Bardsey Island Trust with stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales and CADW- Welsh Government's historic environment service. Twelve island properties, most of which are substantial C19th farmhouses, are Grade II listed buildings. Nine of these properties are let by the Trust as holiday houses. The current full-time resident population is four, swelling to ten from March to October.



Aerial view from south, Myles Jenks



Chapel and Ty Capel

The wildlife includes significant populations of rare and important sea and coastal birds such as Chough, 20,000 Manx Shearwater and Puffin. There is a 200-strong colony of Atlantic Grey Seals, and the area attracts whales, dolphins and sharks. Bardsey has special status in the UK and internationally for its wildlife. It is a designated National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is part of the Llŷn Peninsula Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The environment is precious, and all visitors are asked to respect the wildlife. The residency will coincide with a new moon phase during which we may be able to hear and see the Shearwaters as they fly in to their burrows under the cover of darkness to protect them from predating gulls.

After many year's absence, cattle were reintroduced to the island in 2008 to help graze the heathland and wetland habitats. This grazing regime is part of a holistic farming system that works sensitively within the fragile ecosystem of the island and adds to its biodiversity. The farm also includes Welsh Mountain Sheep



Looking south from mountain



Marsh plant Ragged Robin.

Bardsey Island has a long and deep spiritual history. There were monks living and praying on the island for over a thousand years, and in more recent times many people of profound faith have been associated with this special place. The island has been a place of pilgrimage since medieval times and it continues to draw many faiths and beliefs. Many refer to Bardsey Island as a 'thin place' where the veil between this world and the "eternal world" shifts our sense of spiritual awareness. The island has become a favoured location for spiritual refreshment, whether simply for a few days of quiet personal contemplation or taking part in an organised retreat.

Artists have been drawn to Bardsey for many years including Brenda Chamberlain, Kim Atkinson, R.S.Thomas, Christine Evans, Fflur Dafydd, Dilys Cadwalader. The Bardsey Island Trust welcomes artists to the island and has created an Artist in Residency (AiR) programme to promote this. “What We Leave Behind” is part of the Trust’s AiR and write4word welcomes the Trust’s support for our residency.

Google Earth Bardsey Island

<https://earth.google.com/web/@52.7568725,-4.79123775,18.16260641a,7034.53033318d,35y,0h,45t,0r/data=ClEaTxJJGiUweDQ4NjVmYjNkNjhmOWRiNjM6MHg1NTkzNzZiYmZiODQzYzgwGYEpXsAmYUpAITYpu09EJRPAKg5CYXJkc2V5IElzbGFuZBgCIAEoAg>

4. Travelling to Bardsey

“We get to it through troughs and rainbows

flying and falling, falling and flying”

(Christine Evans 2004)

Bardsey sits in the Irish Sea two miles off the tip of the Llyn Peninsula, North Wales. A boat service run by Colin Evans of Mordaith Llyn ferries visitors and their luggage across Bardsey Sound from a small beach near the coastal hamlet of Aberdaron. Residents will need to make their way by public transport to Pwllheli, from where we will arrange transport to Aberdaron. The residency curators will co-ordinate contact with the boat. The nearest UK airports to north Wales are:

Manchester: <http://www.manchesterairport.co.uk/getting-to-and-from>

or Liverpool John Lennon: <https://www.liverpoolairport.com>

Link to National Rail Enquiries for UK rail services.

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>

5. Facilities and accommodation

We will stay and work in a C19th farmhouse or converted barn accommodation. In the second week we will stay in Carreg Fawr which was home for the artist Brenda Chamberlain from 1947 to 1962. The bedrooms lend themselves well to being writing/small studios and we can make use of a barn or the old school for larger work. The house has well preserved examples of some Chamberlain wall paintings.

The island is off-grid which means that there is **no mains electricity**. Each house is equipped with a gas cooker, wood-burner and gas or solar-powered fridge. There is no internet in visitors’ houses. Water can be a scarce resource and there are no baths or showers in visitors’ houses. There are no laundry facilities, but small items of clothing can be hand-washed. Each house has its own outside compost toilet and residents are expected to empty the bucket into a pit.

There are no food shops or pubs on the island. There are three small shops selling local crafts and souvenirs.

Carreg Fawr



North side



Front door



Landing with Brenda Chamberlain wall painting



View to the sea.

6. FAQs & Useful Links

▪ What is Connecting Creativity?

Connecting creativity is fundamental to write4word and Kultivera. This means that you as an artist will like to be inspired by meetings with the community, collaborations with other artists and making the most of exploring your environment.

▪ Good to know

The Bardsey Island Trust is supporting the residency. Along with write4word and Kultivera they will be keen to hear about any publicity you may wish to generate as part of your residency. It is likely that the residency will draw interest from local and international media and we hope that you will feel comfortable to share your experience of the island and the residency.

▪ What about food?

Food will be provided for the duration of the residency and we will share self-catering together. We will take sufficient vegetarian and vegan food for our time on the Island. Alcohol is not provided, and if you wish to drink alcohol you will need to bring your own.

▪ Are there any fees?

We aim to identify funding to support the residency from when residents arrive in Pwllheli, north Wales. Residents need to fund their own travel costs from their home and accommodation in the UK if necessary up to Friday 11th May.

▪ Who can apply?

Language, contemporary/visual artists from Wales, Sweden and North America are particularly welcome to apply.

▪ How many artists are awarded a residency?

There are four spaces available for “What We Leave Behind”

▪ Must I commit to the full programme?

All residency artists must commit to the full programme.

▪ Should I bring any materials with me?

Luggage needs to be kept to a minimum due to space on the boat and in the house. You may bring a small amount of essential materials/equipment with you- e.g. camera, sketch books and writing materials.

- **Do you have an open day?**

Yes, during your stay we will invite the Island's permanent and visiting population to events where you can talk about your work.

- **Can I do workshops?**

As part of the residency you will be encouraged to share your experience and approach to your work with other residents, Island inhabitants and holiday guests. If you play a small musical instrument you may consider bringing it as there are often music events in the summer.

- **Do I need to bring bed linens or towels?**

Bed linen and towels will be provided. You should bring a torch for use at night if necessary.

- **Getting around the area?**

The island is rugged with a rough coastline, inland fields and wetlands. The Island supports a working farm and access is on foot and subject to livestock and wildlife restrictions. Footpaths are well marked. It will be possible to arrange some walking tours to cater for a variety of interests-wildlife, architecture, archaeology, history, economy, and maybe a round-the-island boat trip at additional cost.

- **Can I have visitors during my residency?**

There will not be room in the house to accommodate visitors. However, visitors may be able to stay in another Trust property if there is space available or at the Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory. Day visitors are welcome if the boat is running.

Other useful links

Bardsey Island Trust <https://www.bardsey.org>

Island Manager Blog: bardseyislandlife.blogspot.com

Ben Porter Photography: <https://benporter.smugmug.com>

Bardsey Bird and Field Observatory (BBFO) www.bbfo.org.uk

Kultivera: <http://www.kulturresidens.com>

The Soap Factory: <https://www.soapfactory.org>

Applications

The residency is open to contemporary and language artists. There are four places available in the residency and successful applicants must commit to spending two weeks on Bardsey Island. Artists must be able to cooperate when providing images and documentations and participate in public programmes (talks, outreach programs, workshops etc). Applications are welcome from Wales, Sweden and United States.

To apply for “What We Leave Behind” please send the following information and material to mel@write4word.org by Saturday 17th February 2018.

- CV max 2 pages and must include name, address, telephone number, email, country media in addition to experience
- Artistic statement (max 200 words)
- A project proposal. (Max 250 words)
- Portfolio (pdf file of 5-8 samples of work.)

Jury Decision

Incomplete applications will not be considered. A selection panel will review the submissions and make its decision solely on the information provided. Toward the end of the jury process the selected artist may be scheduled to a Skype meeting for an introduction to the residency and meet the coordinators open for questions and clarifications. Applicants will be notified of the results for the 2018 residency by email before 17th March 2018.

Enquiries

Please read the background information sheet before you apply, and send all other enquiries to mel@write4word.org

Closing date for applications Saturday 17th February 2018