

Suggested activities for week 4

- Dafydd Johnston's two lectures on Dafydd ap Gwilym and *cynganedd*.
- You could (re-)read the sections on Hywel ab Owain Gwynedd, the Poets of the Gentry, *cynganedd* and Dafydd ap Gwilym in Dafydd's *The Literature of Wales*.
- You could also read Huw Meirion Edwards's article on 'The Literary Context' which you can find in the 'Introduction' section on the Dafydd ap Gwilym website, or with this link: <http://www.dafyddapgwilym.net/docs/The%20Literary%20Context.pdf>
- You might like to read Barry Lewis's section on *cynganedd* in his book *Medieval Welsh Poems to Saints and Shrines* (a digitized version of this extract is available via the Leganto reading list or [here](#)).
- Last, but definitely not least, do read a selection of Dafydd ap Gwilym's poems from the website, <http://www.dafyddapgwilym.net/>. To get to the poems, choose 'English', then 'the poems', and then you can choose them from the list that comes up on the bottom left. Then when the poem comes up you can select 'English translation' from the links at the bottom of the screen. The 'notes' link is also useful as it contains information about the background of the poem and explanation of some of the individual lines or words. (Not all the poems have notes available in English, unfortunately.)
- The poem titles are only given in Welsh in the menu, but ones with similar themes are grouped together. To get a sense of the variety of the poems you might like to start with 'Basaleg' (poem 14), 'Y Deildy' (poem 37), 'Yr Wylan' (poem 45), 'Trafferth mewn Tafarn' (poem 73, the one discussed by Dafydd Johnston in his lecture), and 'Breichiau Morfudd' (poem 93).
- Some things to look out for...
 - the contrasting ways in which the poet presents himself in different poems and the differing personas he adopts.
 - his descriptive language and use of simile, metaphor and personification.
 - the way he refers to the natural world and how he uses references to nature to reflect or convey emotion or for other artistic purposes.