

## The Silent Scream

We can speak in English and pretend it's important and we can go round and round and round in circles talking about the Welsh language as if it's a thing to keep like RS Thomas says in his poem is a museum piece but I don't want the language to be a museum piece I don't want to preserve the language like it's jam cos it's part of who I am and if my language dies then a part of me dies a part of my children my family my people die and that would be an awful shame wouldn't it and people would tut and say what a pity but there it is the world would go on oblivious to Owain Glyndwr and llythyr Pennal and his cave above Llyn Llewelyn and Cyw and bara brith and mam bia fi a fi bia mam and Jesus speaks Welsh too at least he did when I was a kid and the roar of hymns like lullabies and I can hear my dad in his white vest at Sunday tea time fresh from a nap and ready to go once more out into the Welsh world of chapel and politics but it isn't like that anymore the world has moved on and we can say Senedd and ffon symudol but people don't know about Dafydd and Goleiath any more so there's no point I guess but today we sing Penblwydd hapus to Mistar Urdd who's 100 today so some things stay the same but it's like always being ready in case of I don't know death and being outraged when people slur my language cos if they dissed someone for being black or Muslim then they would be breaking the law but you can say what you like about the Welsh language on Twitter and the BBC asks what's the point of Welsh and people say casually it's a dead language but I know it's not it's who I am and I can't be nice knowing that this last machlud Llyn is the last one we might see and when I'm speaking Welsh there's nowhere to hide and you can see the real me like I'm a little girl again we say it doesn't matter I can speak English in fact my English is as good as yours and possibly better than a lot of people and why can't I say some things in Welsh?