

Dr. Kathryn Dawes

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An expert writer and editor with over ten years' professional media experience, I have a PhD in Creative Writing from Aberystwyth University and a BA and MA in English Literature from Cardiff University. I have a passion for technology, good Welsh language skills and the ability to research and write creatively on a huge range of subjects.

Student at Code Institute

- **2022 September – present**
- Diploma in Web Application Development
- HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, databases

Surfergirl's Seaglass

- **2021 – present:** Owner, designer and maker at [Surfergirl's Seaglass](#).
- Silver and seaglass **jewellery** handmade using eco-silver and local materials.
- Part of the [Sea & Slate Gallery](#) collective and stocked in several **shops** around Wales.
- Online sales via [Instagram](#) and my own [website](#).

Cardigan Bay Watersports

- **2019 - present** [Cardigan Bay Watersports](#), New Quay.
- Handling bookings, payment and administration for the Centre.
- Greeting customers and helping them prepare for their sessions.
- Website and social media maintenance and content creation.
- Online booking system maintenance.

PhD in Creative Writing

- **2010-2015:** University of Aberystwyth.
- **Practice-based research project:** I wrote a 90,000-word work of fiction entitled *Salt in the Blood*, following the cold-water surfing tribe in rural Wales and Cornwall. It is a tale of smuggling, suicide, legend, landscape and the icy ocean at surfing's cultural margins.
- The **critical account** which accompanies the novel examines the role of myth and legend, identity, liminality, landscape and the sea and the place of women in surf writing and Welsh writing in English.
- Winner 2012 **LBA Fiction prize** for the first chapter of my novel.
- Winner 2012-13 **Mair Waldo Thomas Scholarship** for research that increases the body of knowledge relating specifically to Wales.

Professional Skills and Experience

May 2005 - Feb 2010:

Orca Publications Ltd.

Assistant Editor, SurfGirl; Sub-Editor, CARVE and ThreeSixty magazines

Writing

- Experienced researcher and writer of [articles](#) and reviews on topics as diverse as travel, surfing technique, beauty, fashion, health, yoga, environmental issues and the arts.

- Proven ability in interviewing people from a wide range of backgrounds including professional and amateur athletes, artists, industry professionals, media and PR people.
- Responsibility for accurately reporting on local and international surfing news.
- Liaised with brands to create advertorial based on new products and brand values.

Editing

- Ability to rewrite any copy from the ground up to satisfy editorial standards, improving structure and impact while remaining faithful to the spirit of the piece.
- Precise attention to detail to adhere to house style and ensure factual accuracy.
- Experience in editing a wide range of types of writing, from blog posts to professional business correspondence.
- Proofreader for *The Surfing Tribe* surf history book by Roger Mansfield.
- Freelance proofreading for the Irish magazine *Tonnta*.

Web Development

- Maintained [websites](#) across three magazines and an online shop.
- Database maintenance and population of the Surf Directory travel website, including SEO.

Social Media

- Created and maintained the first surf magazine blog for *SurfGirl*.
- Created and implemented social media strategy, integrating WordPress, Twitter and Facebook.
- Filmed, edited and published online interviews and reports for YouTube channel.

Welsh language skills

- Proficiency level in spoken Welsh.
- Three days' work experience at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth as part of the 'Cynllun Cymraeg yn y Gweithle' project (March 2013).
- Commended entry in the Blogs category at the 2012 National Eisteddfod.
- ['How I learnt Welsh'](#) article published on Matador travel portal.

Research and Teaching Experience

2012-2013: Postgraduate Representative, Centre for Women's Writing and Literary Culture

- Designed and maintained the Centre's website and social media presence.
- Co-ordinated events, e.g. for International Women's Day.

Oct - Dec 2012: Tutor, 'Writing for the Web' module, Aberystwyth University

- Designed and developed a new module for the School of Education and Lifelong Learning.
- Gave presentations and led practical workshops on using web tools.
- Used games, discussion and tasks to explain social media's relevance and develop skills.
- Created and maintained course website and blog as the main study area.
- Facilitated collaborative online work.
- Assessed final portfolios and student presentations.

Sept - Dec 2012: Postgraduate Tutor, Department of English and Creative Writing, Aberystwyth University

- Led seminars on creative writing for undergraduate students.
- Designed and delivered teaching including practical exercises, peer review, presentation of specific writing techniques and inspiration for individual writing time in class.
- Attended administrative and planning meetings.
- Created online resources for students on Blackboard (e.g. [peer review sessions](#)).
- Created an online test to improve students' bibliographical skills.
- Marked creative writing portfolios to strict criteria and deadlines.
- Held regular office hours to advise students on an individual basis.

Further Professional Experience

- **2011:** Gained an ILM qualification through GoWales Freelancer Academy.
- **2011:** Creation of a [digital story](#) for the first **AU Book Festival**.

- 2008-2011: Proofreading and writing for **Tonnta**, Ireland's only surf magazine.
- 2010: **Arvon** fiction writing course led by author Niall Griffiths.
- **Freelance writing** published in *SurfGirl* magazine, *bmibaby* website, BoardRiderLounge.com, *BBC Wales Surfing* online and *Snippets* online magazine.

Nov 2013 – Dec 2015: **Editorial Support Administrator**, RH Environmental.

- Maintained daily news updates; edited and compiled regular email newsletters.
- Uploaded and maintained database of documents, procedures, notices and other files.
- Edited files on a wide range of regulatory services topics.
- Maintained the social media presence of the company.
- Liaised with company directors and software engineers to incorporate usability, design and the latest technology into a front and back-end redesign.

Oct 2004 - May 2005: **Creative Director**, Catalyst Associates Limited management consultancy

- Assisted in creation of a Flash-based sampling tool with a database-driven back-end.
- Wrote detailed explanations of the company's innovative working method and sourced testimonials from clients including Apple Computers, IBM and the NHS.
- Collation and presentation of questionnaire data designed to assess the structure of an organisation and the concerns of its stakeholders.
- Performed administrative and data entry duties.

May 2001 - Feb 2003: **Learning Technology Assistant**, University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

- Created and maintained web pages including creating online library training.
- Assisted with roll-out of the Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard).
- Delivered lectures, small group and one-to-one support and training.
- Facilitated formative assessment sessions.
- Researched and helped trial emerging e-learning technologies.
- Learned Flash and Dreamweaver to produce materials to support learning.
- When the project leader left I continued her work, with support from my team leader.

Education

- 1999 **MA in English Literature**, University of Wales, Cardiff
- 1995-1998 **BA Hons (2:1) English Literature**, University of Wales, Cardiff
- 1995 **A-grade A-levels**: English Literature, Geography, French, General Studies, AS level IT
- 1993 **10 A grade 1 B grade (Maths) GCSEs**

Publications

- *New Welsh Review* — interviews and book reviews (2011-2014)
- *Surfing: The Essential Guide* (2011)
- Short story 'Hot Summer Day' in *The Lunar Attic* anthology (2011)
- Blogger on PhD and academic writing issues at jobs.ac.uk (2011-12)
- *Poetry Analysis* textbook (2003)

Other Interests

- 2012-present: Secretary of the **Llangrannog Welfare Committee**
- Member of the **Cerflun Cymunedol Cranogwen Community Monument** project, seeking to raise a statue to a Welsh poet, mariner, teacher, preacher, journalist and campaigner as part of the **Monumental Welsh Women** campaign.
- **Surfing** has been important in my life for 30 years and I have travelled to many countries to surf, including spending a year in Australia (2003-2004).
- Cardiff University: **President of the Surf Club** for two years.
- **Fitness** – I enjoy regular yoga classes, HIIT and weight training as well as year-round surfing, sea-swimming, sailing, stand-up paddleboarding and wingsurfing