

between gales

b  
i  
r  
c  
h  
  
b  
l  
a  
c  
k  
  
s  
h  
a  
d  
e  
  
i  
n  
  
d  
e  
w

w  
h  
i  
t  
e  
  
  
s  
q  
u  
e  
l  
c  
h  
  
a  
n  
d  
  
s  
u  
c  
k  
  
  
i  
n

g  
o  
l  
d  
  
b  
e  
t  
w  
e  
e  
n  
  
m  
u  
d  
  
  
s  
i  
l  
v  
e  
r

t  
r  
a  
c  
e  
r  
i  
e  
s  
  
v  
e  
r  
t  
i  
c  
a  
l  
  
r  
o  
o  
t

s  
y  
s  
t  
e  
m  
s  
  
  
p  
a  
p  
e  
r  
y  
  
t  
r  
u  
n  
k  
s  
  
h  
a  
p

h  
a  
z  
a  
r  
d  
  
Y  
e  
l  
l  
o  
w  
  
l  
e  
a  
f  
  
c  
o  
n  
f  
e  
t  
t  
i

s  
t  
e  
a  
m  
i  
n  
g  
  
s  
t  
i  
l  
l  
n  
e  
s  
s  
  
a  
n  
d

p  
e  
e  
p  
i  
n  
g  
  
  
b  
l  
u  
e  
  
s  
k  
i  
e  
s

## Muggleswick Common

i

day slipped away through  
mauve-smudged patches  
wisps and whorls pale  
against matte  
– fused just beyond the rise  
with the dirty sky.

And there sat the rock  
angled clear and sharp  
against the grain  
of the land.

ii

still fell  
where the  
sheep  
gather  
paws thud  
on peat.  
the traces  
of breezes  
play in  
ears with the  
swish cut  
the swish

cut of  
corded thigh  
against  
corded thigh.

A slow start  
to a Saturday  
when ladies  
bake early  
for the fete  
over the common  
in quiet kitchens.

iii  
The ewe lies  
trussed up  
legs crossed  
tied with  
baling string  
on the back  
of a speeding  
quad bike

## Goldhill woods

the larch's drooping mustachios tickle

napes – rough nipples bark

leaks resin – a pinecone scratch lashed  
on white above pelvic bone.

green light diffuses berry lips and in  
tangles of fruitless raspberry canes

dry twigs crack. the burn runs rust and

minute petals in yellow-white

dance lushly in the flattened grass  
on pathways to Comb bridges.

## Wernllaeth fields

An operation through

dewy grass

two hours

after dawn

a

wake up call

icy on knees.

Along the badger

path

shepherds' flags

wag

above

green

waves

in front of

me

## Wernllaeth spring into summer

deadly meadow hare dead hog butter bitter water dog  
night sweet bell nettle weed cup cress-cress rose  
shade

### TAMAID Y CYTHRAUL

#### BRIALLU MAIR

wild sea cow prim toad penny forget dog's marsh ground  
straw holly parsley rose flax wort me tooth marigold elder GRUG  
berry not violet EITHIN

### TAGLYS ESTRON

#### LLIN Y FAGWR

### CRAFANC Y FRAN

saint scarlet meadow birds red dog's hem-stitch red celandine fox rose  
John's pimpernel cranes foot champion mercury lock wort clover glove bay  
wort bill trefoil willow  
herb

#### MAPGOLL

### LILI WEN FACH

loose lady's fumitory common lady's tufted flag blue ladies speed herb wood ladies money  
strife bed rock mantle vetch iris bell smock well Robert sorrel bonnet wort  
straw rose ERWAIN

### PENLAS YR YD

### CARPIOG Y GORS

yellow goose speed kidney welsh pansy snap bind  
rattle grass well vetch poppy dragon weed

### BRITHEG

**Notes**

TAMAID Y CYTHRAUL = Devil's bit scabious

BRIALLU MAIR = Cowslip (Mair's primrose)

GRUG = Heather

EITHIN = Gorse

TAGLYS ESTRON = Greater Bindweed (Alien bindweed)

LLIN Y FAGWR = Ivy leaved Toadflax (Tripper's line)

CRAFANC Y FRAN = Creeping buttercup (Crow's claw)

MAPGOLL = Herb Bennet

LILI WEN FACH = Snowdrop (Little white lily)

ERWAIN = Meadowsweet

PENLAS YR YD = Cornflower

CARPIOG Y GORS = Ragged Robin (Ragged of the marsh)

BRITHEG = Fritillary

## Morfa

i

sea-smooth  
boulders meet  
with seaweed  
and pools with  
common coral  
and spider crab  
shells.

ox-eyed  
daisies dangle  
on clay cliffs  
a wavy line  
to a distant  
Bardsey.

ii

racing-in  
slow  
motion . . . sus-  
pended crest  
falters –  
tips  
and curls



soft  
as butter.

iii  
cross-wind catches  
saltwater –  
forces it backward  
carries it flying

iv  
sea rolls and drives shattering  
straitjackets – snarls as  
night ghosts pass free-  
styling. cuts across – makes  
perfect jazz composed of  
ex-waves.

## Beumaris

brine laden  
gusts  
blow over  
sun-kissed  
cheeks

**Ann Matthews** writes poetry and short fiction; she is also a musician who has released 14 postpunk albums. Ann's writing engages with place and relationships with place, an interest developed from an early interest in exploring her local environment in Gwynedd and later when travelling around Britain and Europe. She has released three collections of poetry with Knives Forks & Spoons: the fieldwork-based *Strangeways. Repeated Walks* (2014), *Losing Boundaries* (2017), and a prose-poetry memoir of place, *Home Turf* (2020). Her poems have been published in *Tears in the Fence*, *Shearsman* and *Litmus*, among other publications. She currently lives in Ceredigion, where she teaches Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University. She is working on a new collection of poems which respond to the coast and countryside around Cardigan Bay, and on an alternative pop memoir.