

Evaluation

Dylan Thomas Centenary Weekend - Tutor Derek Summers

at RMT Education Centre, Doncaster, June 2014

Each quote followed by a semi-colon, from an individual participant.

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Comment on the value ... for the education and learning process...

'A full range of detail, good discussion.. well led...quite relaxed and involving';
'Whole weekend enhanced my appreciation of Dylan Thomas... extremely well led, plenty of variety within session.'; '...packed with info... and class-room learning...more detail than you would normally get on one poet... technology proved a challenge'; 'I knew very little about DT until this and now feel more confident in assessing his work'; '...enjoyed looking in some detail at certain poems and hearing the interpretations of them from the group'; 'Very glad I came...with enthusiastic interested fellow students.... superbly led... with valuable input from CDs though mixed reactions to Dylan T's voice...'; 'I learned a lot...not only from the tutor but from the other participants.'; 'very stimulating...interesting and enlightening'; 'Fab, intense and stimulating.'; 'opened up my understanding... the depths of meaning in his poetry'; 'It was wonderful to hear the poems...in Dylan Thomas's voice';

Comment on the venue; the ethos and value of residential education

'Great value, affordable, clean and great staff – lovely and helpful. Affordability is important because ... opens it to people who otherwise...'; '...good food and pleasant bedrooms'; 'Good facilities, all hours, providing everything needed. Excellent food... nice to have on-tap coffee. Easy to find'; '...more than adequate. Very welcoming, especially Barbara... Pleasant bar..'; '...very good, and food... RMT highly commendable organisation'; 'Extremely good value...Bedroom immaculate. Staff very helpful and cheerful. Food...exceptionally delicious and as a vegetarian I appreciated the extra effort from the chef... simple improvement – a bedside lamp for both twin beds'; 'It is always valuable to 'live' with other students for a while... would have liked tea and coffee in the bedroom.'; '...comfortable, the food excellent. Staff could not have been more helpful... such an environment relieves the student of stress and makes learning so much easier than at home'; 'Comfy, kind and encouraging... disabled facilities are excellent, not to mention the staff..'; 'Excellent, with comfy beds... friendly welcoming staff and good grub too'; '...friendly and welcoming... food excellent...room spacious and comfy'.

Suggestions for the future

'Further literature courses please – suggestions RS Thomas; WH Auden; Edward Thomas'; 'Encourage participants to read out the selected poems - give different take on perceptions...'; 'A poetry weekend for people who would like to write, with tutor to advise in workshop'; 'courses on Gerard Manley Hopkins and Wilfred Owen'; '...more poetry based courses'; 'RS Thomas please'; 'Introductions would have been nice... Frustrating to hear one voice so much – even Dylan Thomas's - more reading round...'; 'More courses about poetry please'; 'You must carry on It is good for the soul... educating and inspiring people... Art as well, open it to people in the Union!'