

**Cyfeillion Amgueddfa Cymru**

Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NP

**Friends of National Museum Wales**

Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP

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Registered Charity No. 701990

**Saturday 22nd April 2023**

**Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, NMW Cathays Park, Cardiff  
at 10.30am**

**A talk by William Gibbs on:**

**Brecon Sculptor, John Evan Thomas  
and his sculpture 'The Death of Tewdrick'**

National Museum Wales has two sculptures of the Death of Tewdrick – one is in the collections Centre and the other is currently on loan to the Brecon Museum.

John Evan Thomas was born in Brecon and studied under Sir Francis Chantrey, practising as a portrait sculptor in London. He is the first Welsh sculptor to establish a significant career largely through Welsh patronage. This sculpture depicts the death of Teudrig Mawr, saint and King of Gwent and Morganwng, who died at the moment of victory over the Saxons at Mathern in around 630 AD. The plaster cast of the group won a 70-guinea competition for 'a sculpture illustrative of Cambro-British history' at the Abergavenny Eisteddfod in 1848, which was patronised by Lady Llanover. It was then shown at the Royal Academy, in 1849. The group was cast in bronze by Elkington, Mason & Co and shown at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

The talk will also cover John Evan Thomas' whole career, his busts, civic statues, memorials and ideal works and touch on the work of his brother William Meredyth Thomas.

William Gibbs is Chair of the Brecknock Art Trust and over the last few years has been working with a group of volunteers to find out more about the art and artists represented in the collection at Y Gaer, the refurbished Brecknock Museum. He was born in Crickhowell and now lives in Llangynidr having spent much of his life abroad as a mathematics educator in Zambia and the Solomon Islands before a time teaching at Leeds University.

**Cost is £10. This includes the talk itself, followed by coffee/ biscuits in the Oriel Suite after the talk.**

Please pay on the day by note/s or a cheque, made payable to Friends of National Museum Wales.

If you have any queries, please contact Gwen Williams by email: [gwen.williams@friendsmuseumwales.org.uk](mailto:gwen.williams@friendsmuseumwales.org.uk) or by text or phone: 07802 437316.