

## **Was Dylan Thomas a grafter or a drunk?**

### **Video transcript: The myth of Dylan the drunk?**

*Richard Harrington:*

Dylan Thomas called Laugharne a “timeless, mild, beguiling island of a town.” He spent the last four years of his life here, living at the Boathouse with wife Caitlin and his young family.

He would shut himself away in his Writing Shed, just above the Boathouse, to work.

It was here, with its inspiring views of the estuary, that he toiled away on such works as *Over Sir John's Hill*.

But further up the road, a different kind of Dylan Thomas could be seen – where work gave way to leisure.

Browns Hotel was Dylan Thomas’s favourite watering hole in Laugharne.

Dylan Thomas’s relationship with alcohol is infamous.

It was here – drinking beer in the cosy company of landlady Ivy Williams and all the gossiping, local regulars – that he got his ideas for all his colourful characters in *Under Milk Wood*.

Though he was often happy to while away his time in a pub, stretching a beer or two over a number of hours, it is the tales of his hard drinking that have become the stuff of legend.

The controversy surrounding his death in America in 1953 may have added to his reputation as a drunk.

But is this an unfair reflection?

Is the myth that surrounds Dylan’s drinking a distraction from the brilliance of his writing?