



Poet Natalie Holborow.
Picture: Adrian White/
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Full steam ahead in footsteps of Dylan

► UPLANDS

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UPLANDS' most famous son, Dylan Thomas, would no doubt be proud of what is happening in his old neighbourhood.

A new monthly poetry night, which is

held in Steam Coffee Shop on the third Friday of every month, is building up some steam of its own as novice and experienced poets alike take to the mic to share their verse.

From humble beginnings it has blossomed into a must-see event, often with standing room only.

The nights are hosted by award-winning Swansea poet Natalie Holborow, who said: "Swansea's spoken word and literary scene is

thriving at the moment and there are more and more events appearing in different venues across the city. Mad As Birds (a reference from Dylan Thomas's *Love in the Asylum*) was started as a spoken word event for those who couldn't make weekdays, which is why we have such a fun and relaxed Friday night atmosphere.

"Steam is a great venue for the night as it's in Uplands, a popular weekend choice. It has a very welcoming, cosy

atmosphere there and reflects the warm and supportive environment that is encouraged at Mad As Birds for both spoken word regulars and complete newbies to poetry (first-time readers are always awarded a double round of applause!).

"I've recently brought in musical performances to add a bit of variety to the evening, as I'm keen to support the local arts and music scene as a whole in what is a real city of culture."