Clemency and Dilys Griffith talk of their memories of the poet and Quaker Waldo Williams. They highlight how his convictions led him to make difficult and courageous decisions, but how his sense of humour and creativity shone through and helped him cope with the consequences.

Key words and themes:
Pacifism; civil disobedience; humour; creativity; integrity; personal risk.

Before viewing the film:
- Discussion: ‘What does the word ‘pacifist’ mean? What do you think of when you hear this word?’
- We are going to watch a film about a Welsh poet who was also a Conscientious Objector and who suffered for his beliefs: what do you think the following words / phrases mean? ‘reserved occupation’; ‘receiving a summons’; having property ‘distrained’; ‘bailiffs’.

Questions for discussion:
- From the stories told here, what kind of person do you think Waldo was?
- Have you ever used humour or been creative in a tricky situation? What happened? Is this a good way of dealing with problems?
- Waldo was a highly skilled and hugely respected poet, and felt things very deeply. Why do you think he chose to use humour when faced with difficult situations?
- For KS3: look at Waldo’s statement to the Tribunal in Carmarthen. Why was he a Conscientious Objector? How do you think the Tribunal received his statement? How would you have felt if you had been on the Tribunal?

Follow-up activities:
- Act out the situation of Waldo, the bailiffs and the carpet. How did Waldo feel really? What about the bailiffs?
- What do you feel really strongly about? Write a statement expressing your views.
- Look at Waldo’s poem ‘The Peacemakers’ (‘Y Tangnedefeddwyr’). Waldo wrote this poem as he saw the bombed city of Swansea burning on the horizon. What are the main ideas in the poem, and what does this tell us about Waldo’s pacifism? Write a poem about peace.
- For KS3: Look at how attitudes to conscientious objection changed between WWI and WWII. Why do you think this happened?
- For KS3: What does civil disobedience mean? Waldo refused to pay a proportion of his taxes. What other forms can civil disobedience take? Do you think it’s effective?

Links to further resources:
- Waldo’s speech to the Tribunal in Carmarthen can be found on pages 141-2 of ‘The Story of Waldo Williams: Poet of Peace’ by Alan Llwyd (Barddas Publications, 2010).
- Reference to the causes of Waldo’s pacifism can also be found at: www.waldowilliams.com/?page_id=97&lang=en.
A copy of Waldo’s poem ‘the Peacemakers’ (‘Y Tangnefeddwyr’) can be found in the bilingual collection ‘The Peacemakers’ translated by Tony Conran (Gomer Press, Llandysul, 1997).