

## POWEL, JOHN or SION (died 1767), a weaver-poet

**Name:** John Powel  
**Date of death:** 1767  
**Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** weaver-poet  
**Area of activity:** Business and Industry; Poetry  
**Author:** Ray Looker

Of Rhyd-yr-Eirin, in the parish of Llansannan, Denbighshire. According to Owen Williams, *Awduron Sir Ddinbych*, he was born in 1731. It is said that he was a sexton also. One of the closest friends of **Evan Evans** (Ieuan Fardd) when the latter was curate of Llanfair Talhaiarn, he also regarded him as his bardic teacher. A number of his poems are found in Swansea MS. 1 (*'Y Piser Hir'*), now in N.L.W., these being ten *cywyddau* and one *awdl*. They include a poem on Christ's passion, one complaining of the contemporary neglect of old poetry, an elegy to a greyhound, poems addressed to **Siôn ap Rhisiart** of Bryniog, Ieuan Owain of Dyffryn Aur, Rhobert Burchinshaw, two to **Ieuan Brydydd Hir**, and one to **Dafydd Jones**, Trefriw, requesting a copy of *Y Cydymaith Diddan*. This last *cywydd* and the letter, written 13 October 1766, which accompanied it, is published in *Llythyrau at Ddafydd Jones o Drefriw* (ed., G. J. Williams). Other *cywyddau* composed by him are found in **NLW MS 562B**, and a poem in free metre in **Cwrwmawr MS 230B**. No details regarding his life are available, but it is known that he was buried in Llansannan churchyard on 7 May 1767. The elegy composed by **Ieuan Fardd** to him is found in the poet's own hand in Panton MS. 2. See also under **David Jones**, 1732 - 1782?.

### Author

Ray Looker

### Sources

NLW Archives: **Cwrwmawr MS 230B** (159)

NLW Archives: **NLW MS 562B** (65, 85b, 214)

*Panton Manuscript at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth 2* (127)

*Swansea Manuscript 1* (187-203)

T. Gee, *Gwaith y Parchedig Evan Evans (Ieuan Brydydd Hir)* (Caernarfon 1876), 104

*Y Brython*, v, 113

Robert Ellis, *Registers of the Parish of Llansannan 1667-1812* (Liverpool 1904)

*Geirlyfr Bywgraffiadol o Enwogion Cymru* (1870)

Aneurin Lewis, 'Evan Evans (Ieuan Fardd), 1731-88: hanes ei fywyd a'i gysylltiadau llenyddol' (M.A. thesis, University of Wales, 1950, now in N.L.W.)

G. J. Williams, *Llythyrau at Ddafydd Jones o Drefriw (The National Library of Wales Journal, Suppl. Ser. iii, no. ii)*

### Additional Links

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