

Mrs Beresford

by Andrea Mearns

This is inspired by the wonderful poetry of Carol Ann Duffy. At Chester Literature Festival in 2019 she performed some poems from her collection 'The World's Wife' written from the perspective of the wives of famous men. I especially liked 'Mrs Darwin'.

Up on the northern edge of the Inner Bailey is a plaque commemoration the planting of the coronation oak tree, in 1902 by Mrs Beresford. She was the wife of Samuel Beresford JP, chairman of Mold Urban District Council. The coronation being commemorated was that of King Edward VII. History has recorded Samuel Beresford, gentlemen, and his life but what do we know about his unnamed wife?

Mrs Beresford

10am Thursday 25 June 1902

Went to Bailey Hill.

The first in a long day of civic duties in His shadow.

He said to me – make sure you well and truly plant this oak,

I smile at Him inwardly seething.

In the autumn I'll come back of my own free will

And quietly plant daffodils.