

September 14, 2023

# At the National Library of Wales

by Amy Grandvoinet

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*Thursday 14th September 2023*



Dear friends,

At the National Library of Wales there are so many fake plants. Some of the plants are straight, some of them are curly, some of them fall like blobs, some of them wisp, some of them bite.

The National Library of Wales café\*/canteen\*\* has fairly recently had a refurbishment. There were already fake plants before the refurbishment, but the fake plants have multiplied *since* the refurbishment.

Pictured is a pot full of red geranium-like-flowers plant outside of the National Library of Wales, before you enter its café/canteen where the plants are fake. Before you

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birthday last week, and I sat on that bench and we spoke via WhatsApp face-to-face across the globe. Simultaneously, there was confetti on the steps that lead up to the entrance of the National Library of Wales, because somebody had got married there earlier that day.

In Zoë Skoulding's poetry-book *A Revolutionary Calendar* from 2020, there is much talk of plants and flowers of various hue, and sometimes that hue is red.

It was raining this morning so all of the petals are falling off outside the National Library of Wales.

That is all.

With very best wishes,  
Amy Grandvoinet x

\*A café is defined on Wikipedia as 'a type of restaurant which typically serves coffee and tea, in addition to light refreshments such as baked goods or snacks'. It says the 'term "café" comes from the French word meaning "coffee"'. It says a 'café *setting* is known as a casual social environment where you can find people reading newspapers and magazines, playing board games, studying or chatting with others about current events' and that it's 'also regarded as a place where information can be exchanged' (italics mine). Wikipedia also says that a café is 'distinct from a cafeteria which is a type of restaurant where customers can choose from many dishes displayed on a serving line' and that in 'some countries, cafés are designed to more closely resemble restaurants whereby offering a range of hot meals and possibly licensed to serve alcohol' but 'Most British cafés however, do not sell alcohol likely due to the prominent pub culture'. You can find out more [here](#).

\*\*A canteen is a noun which refers to the following five phenomena as far, again, as Wikipedia is concerned:

1. A small cafeteria or snack bar, especially one in a military establishment, school, or place of work.
2. A temporary or mobile café used in an emergency or on a film location etc.
3. A box with compartments for storing eating utensils, silverware etc.
4. A military mess kit.
5. A water bottle, flask, or other vessel, typically used by a soldier or camper as a bottle for carrying water or liquor for drink.