

27 August 2009

PRESS RELEASE



An Evening of Poetry and Music

Aberystwyth Arts Centre

7.45 pm, Wednesday 16 September 2009

Aberystwyth Arts Centre's new Literature Series begins with **An Evening of Poetry and Music** on Wednesday 16 September 7.45pm. The evening features the work of writers Richard Douglas Pennant, Paul Henry, and Robert Minhinnick, as well as live music from Frank Harrison (keyboard) and Stephen Keogh (drums).

Richard Douglas Pennant was born in North Wales. He has published two books of poems: *Old Stones New Tales* and *Alabaster Jar*. Much of the inspiration for his poetry comes from his native Wales: "I have always been inspired by my native soil, its rugged landscape and particularly the tales and legends of the Celtic deities. More recently, I draw inspiration from the Hellenic world and the richness of the myths and civilization of ancient Greece. Human relationships, the power of love and friendship, and the beauty of the ordinary experiences of life, all play a part in my writing."

Paul Henry was born in Aberystwyth. One of Wales's leading poets, and the author of five collections of verse, he has read at festivals across the UK and Europe. Paul was described by the late U A Fanthorpe as "a poet's poet" who combines "a sense of the music of words with an endlessly inventive imagination." Paul came to poetry through song writing and still includes songs in his readings.

Robert Minhinnick was described by the *Sunday Times* as "the leading Welsh poet of his generation". His latest book of poems is *King Driftwood (Carcanet)*. His poems resonate in his compelling reading, his unhurried manner underpinning their precise forces. His novel *Sea Holly (Seren)* was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Ondaatje Prize (2008). Robert is also an environmentalist and his subject matter is often drawn from the environment. He lives in Portchwyl and is an advisor to the charity Sustainable Wales.

Frank Harrison (keyboard) has recorded four albums on Enja Records, including BBC Jazz Album Of The Year 2003, *Exile*. The band regularly tours Europe, playing at major Jazz and World music festivals. **Stephen Keogh** (drums) has worked all over the world with many great musicians.

Tickets for this performance are £5 (£3) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk

Marketing Assistant *Cynorthwy-ydd Marchnata*
Aberystwyth Arts Centre *Canolfan y Celfyddydau Aberystwyth*
Tel Ffon 01970 622889 Email Eboost rst@aber.ac.uk

Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at
www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.