



Press Release: **Dear Angel** Open Call

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Letters to The Angel Wanted for New Artwork

People of the North East are being asked to write, record, tweet or film how they feel about this region - the place they call home - as part of *Dear Angel*, an engaging new literary artwork created by writer and digital artist, Steve Ronnie.

Stevie, who specialises in physical and digital art that can be read and touched, is keen to encourage people to think about the theme 'home' and share their personal memories of the region, their everyday experiences now and their hopes for the future by writing letters addressed to The Angel of the North.

Artist Stevie Ronnie said: "Since it was unveiled 15 years ago, The Angel of the North has become a symbol of the North East within the region and beyond. I am looking forward to reading the letters that people write to this cultural icon."

"This is a playful and participatory project but the end product will be a distinctive record of how we feel about this place we call home. I wanted to work with letters as I miss the intimacy of the physical letter but I'm also excited about the new forms of communication that have replaced it. The final work will bring the old and the new together in the form of an artist book." This final artwork will be showcased later this year at the Globe Gallery in Newcastle, on Holy Island and in Durham as part of both the region-wide Festival of the North East and the Lindisfarne Gospels Cultural Programme.

Contributions are welcomed from people right across the region and beyond. Your letter can be sent by postcard, paper, email, tweet, audio or video. Look out for specially designed Dear Angel postcard packs at your local cultural venue or visit the dedicated www.dearangel.org website to access Ideas Packs for individuals, groups and schools. On the website you will find inspirational starting points and useful links to free software to create an audio or video piece.

Letters need to be received by the 20 May 2013 and should be addressed to The Angel of the North. Postal contributions should be sent to Studio 5D, 36 Lime Street, Ouseburn, Newcastle, NE1 2PQ. Please send digital contributions to: letters@dearangel.org or tweet @_dearangel.

ENDS

For further information please contact Suzy O'Hara T: 07891 719319

Dear Angel is funded by Arts Council England, Festival of the North East and New Writing North

Notes to Editors

Stevie Ronnie

Stevie Ronnie is an award winning writer, digital artist and creative researcher with a background in computing. He was born in Newcastle in 1976 and spent much of his childhood in a field in rural Northumberland. Stevie writes poetry, plays and stories and makes art works that experiment with new formats for the presentation of literature by enhancing or extending the traditional book through the use of digital technologies. His work, often collaborative and participatory in nature, spans art forms to produce interactive pieces for publication, exhibition, installation or performance. www.stevieronnie.com

Arts Council England

Arts Council England (ACE) fund arts activities that engage people in England, or that help artists and arts organisations carry out their work. ACE work to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. ACE support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Festival of the North East

The Festival of The North East is a large-scale festival taking place across the North East of England during June 2013. It will celebrate the distinct cultural identity of the North East as a place of creativity and innovation, as well as the cultural heritage of the region. The Festival will act as a fanfare to the arrival in the region of the Lindisfarne Gospels. www.festivalne.com

New Writing North

New Writing North is a development agency for creative writing and creative reading based in the North East of England. They specialise in the development of writing talent and act as a dynamic broker between writers, agents and producers across the creative industries. As a promoter of new writing they work to engage people with creative reading, with live literary experiences and with new plays, films and digital work. Their commitment to raising the aspirations and developing the creativity of young people and North East communities is realised through the production of creative projects that seek to engage new audiences and to delight and surprise those who already participate. www.newwritingnorth.com/

Partner

Lindisfarne Gospels Festival

The Loan of the Lindisfarne Gospels from the British Library is the first time the gospels have been shown in the North East for more than a decade. The exhibition in Durham of the manuscript and St Cuthbert's treasures is the catalyst for a 3 month long cultural celebration. Prior to this programme commencing, the Festival of the North East will be taking place as a fanfare to welcome the manuscript back to the region. www.lindisfarnegospels.com