



Press Release: **Dear Angel** Deadline
Date of Release: 12th May 2013
Contact: Suzy O'Hara
Tel: 0789 171 9319
Email: ohara.suzy@gmail.com

Dear Angel Deadline Approaches

People across the region have until the 20th May to collaborate with artist Stevie Ronnie, to handwrite, type, record, make or illustrate a letter, addressing it to one of the region's nationally recognised cultural icons: The Angel of the North. You can find out more about taking part on the *Dear Angel* website at <http://dearangel.org>

The new artwork will form part of Festival of the North East, a region-wide celebration of the region's creativity. Stevie Ronnie says, "Responses to the initial call have been arriving from all over the world through the post and online but we'd love to have more. This is a great opportunity to gather together the way people feel about the North East today and I'd like to have as many voices represented in the final work as possible."

Inspired by the Lindisfarne Gospels, *Dear Angel* bridges the gap between the written letter as a physical, tactile object and communication technology in the digital age. The artwork explores what the future holds for technology and literature in the wider framework of our evolving digital society.

The *Dear Angel* exhibition will open with a preview on the 31st May at Globe Gallery in Newcastle. The preview is open to all and has been sponsored by Wylam Brewery who will be supplying their renowned 'Angel' ale at the event. Alongside the artist's book will be newly commissioned work by five contemporary, internationally acclaimed artists; Victoria Bradbury, Colin Davison, Theresa Easton, Russell Maurice and Tom Schofield and a UK premiere of work by Revue, an Indian artist collective.

Globe Gallery Director, Rashida Davison says "It is a great privilege to be presenting one of the first exhibitions as part of the Festival of the North East, *Dear Angel* celebrates the immense impact Anthony Gormley's Angel Of the North has brought to our region, controversial in the early days now an Iconic Symbol of the North East Of England and recognisable around the world."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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

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