

For immediate release

The Bitten Word at Festival?

Bridgend based Seren, one of Wales' best known and established book publishers, turns 30 next week and is celebrating with an unusual street party in the middle of its hometown. Their birthday on 1st October coincides with Bridgend's flagship event Festival, Wales' Alternative Food Festival.

The publishers have worked with festival organisers to stage a street party with an interesting mix of food and literature throughout the day outside their offices in Nolton Street and are offering birthday cake, refreshments, a free book, and discounted books for everyone who attends. There will be poetry readings, open mic sessions, music and as it's the Wales Alternative Food Festival, Deli-licious, the popular Deli next door to Seren Books is offering a special discount to anyone who attends the party

Mick Felton, Head of Seren, said: "Seren's thirty years have seen plenty of changes. Like everyone else we've evolved from pasting up bromide pages to the digital age and it's never been less than eventful, stimulating, or rewarding. When Cary Archard founded the publishing house, I doubt he could have envisaged that we would be celebrating our 30th anniversary with a Man Booker Prize longlisting!"

Seren Books began from a humble background, trading from an old coastal cottage near Ogmores-by-Sea, to a fully-fledged literary publisher based in the town of Bridgend.

Today the publishers continue to work with leading writers and investing in new talent. Patrick McGuinness's *The Last Hundred Days*, long-listed for the Man Booker prize, is the latest success for this small publisher that continues to punch above its weight in the literary world. Seren's birthday party celebration is open to everyone and will take place outside the Bridgend office from 11am on 1st of October. Guest of Honour will be acclaimed author Dannie Abse.

For further details, please contact Seren Books on 01656 663018 or visit <http://www.serenbooks.com/>

Notes to the editor:

Seren's office is based on Nolton Street and Free School Court

This event is supported by Literature Wales www.literaturewales.org

Festival, Wales' Alternative Food Festival website: <http://www.walesalternativefoodfestival.com>
Despite having deep roots in Wales, Seren, meaning 'star' in Welsh, is international in its outlook, authorship and readership. Over the past 30 years, the company has published over 500 titles including work by Dannie Abse, Emyr Humphries and Carol Rumens and has helped launch the careers of Owen Sheers, Kathryn Simmonds, and Nerys Williams.

Seren's critically acclaimed publications have been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize, the Whitbread and the Costa, the Forward Poetry Prize, the Ondaatje and the TR Fyvel.

Fixed Events throughout the day:

12pm-2pm: 'Meet the Editor' A chance to meet Seren's poetry, fiction and non-fiction editor to discuss your unpublished work. Email seren@serenbooks.com with your name, email and editor you would like to meet – we will email you back with your allocated time slot. Spaces are limited!

12.30pm-3pm: Open Mic – Please sign up to our Open Mic session on arrival. We welcome people to come and read their poetry, pieces of fiction, sing some songs and play instruments.

3pm: Guest of Honour, Dannie Abse makes a speech and a short reading.

Media Enquiries –

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