



**PRESS RELEASE IN PREPARATION FOR SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

## **FLYING START FOR 'GIRL IN THE AIR'**

Event date: Saturday 17 February  
Location: World Famous Pump Rooms – seafront near Boats and West Pier.  
Publication: *Girl in the Air*. ISBN 0-9542443-9-7  
Publisher: Brighton-based Pighog Press

**Brighton-based poet Ellen de Vries, artist Amy Williams and actress Maria Lloyd collaborate to launch Ellen's new collection of poems into the air. Ellen will then read at the Fisherman's Museum on Brighton sea front.**

The launch of Ellen de Vries's new pamphlet collection *Girl in the air* is to be celebrated by artists, musicians and other writers physically launching the book into the air. This will be done by means of a flying contraption devised by Brighton-based artist, Amy Williams and accompanied by a dance interpretation by local actress Maria Lloyd and 3 local musicians, Richard Willis, Mark Bowyer and Jim Bardsley.

Meeting at the 'World Famous Pump Rooms' on Brighton seafront at 3 pm on Saturday 17 February, onlookers will be treated to mulled wine, in order to keep warm for the event. The onlookers will then be led to the launch site.

After the contraption has successfully taken off, Ellen will give a short reading from the new collection at 3.20 at the Fisherman's Museum on Brighton seafront.

"A book launch is a great excuse for some kind of collaborative experiment. Artists and writers don't work together nearly enough. Much like the shows I did when I was a kid with my bed sheets strung up around the living room - its just a whole lot of fun -anything can happen."

*Girl in the air*, published by Brighton-based Pighog Press, is a pamphlet collection written by Ellen de Vries. It features 15 poems illustrated by, and written in collaboration with, French artist Patrice Le Garrec.

Pighog publisher John Davies says, "Leading poets nationally and internationally have praised Ellen's work so we are delighted to be publishing her first collection. It demonstrates yet again the tremendous depth of literary talent in Brighton and the south of England."

**Pighog Press  
P O Box 145  
Brighton BN1 6YU  
01273 571700**

**[www.pighog.co.uk](http://www.pighog.co.uk)  
[info@pighog.co.uk](mailto:info@pighog.co.uk)**

**Pighog is a constituted  
not for profit association**



### Testimonials

“Her poems explore both the humanity of myth, and the smallness of being human” *Ros Barber – Popular Brighton poet*

“De Vries’s is an essentially European voice, learned with fairy tale and the scatterings of history on everyday life, crystallizing that life without fuss, the poems like jewels that sit comfortably in the hand and hurt just a little”  
*George Szirtes – winner of the T S Eliot Prize*

“Her comprehension of our human longing for possibility and transformation is present everywhere in her poems”  
*Penelope Shuttle – one of Britain’s most respected poets*

### About Ellen

Ellen de Vries is a Brighton-based writer who enjoys collaborating with other artists and the cross-pollination between art forms. She was born in Belfast to a Northern Irish mother and a Dutch father. She has lived in many countries including Morocco, Yemen, the Czech Republic and Romania. She now lives and works as a full time writer in Brighton. Ellen can be contacted via [ellen.devries@ellendevries.org](mailto:ellen.devries@ellendevries.org). Her website is [www.ellendevries.org](http://www.ellendevries.org).

### About Pighog

Pighog Press is a not-for-profit organisation - a small press and podcast publisher based at Brighton Writers’ Centre in Grand Parade. Pighog was set up in 2002 by local poet John Davies, better known as Shedman, who is also director of literary arts organisation THE SOUTH.

Pighog’s second publication Lorna Thorpe’s *Dancing to Motown* was awarded the Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice for Autumn 2005. Recent publications include *Requiem for a Typewriter* by 90 year old Hove poet Moss Rich and *Surreal Man* by Irish poet Ciaran O’Driscoll. Publishing plans include a new type of creative writing handbook by Brighton poet Brendan Cleary as well as a new collection from John Davies himself ‘Keep Smiling’.

***For more information please contact John Davies at Pighog Press***

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