

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Grandparents celebrated in poetic tribute for National Grandparents' Day**

The special bond between grandparents and children is the theme of a new poetry audiobook to be released around National Grandparents' Day (Sunday 1st October 2017).<sup>1,2</sup> *Limehaven* is narrated by Tyneside poet Vicky Arthurs, who wrote the book in memory of her own grandparents.

"*Limehaven* is really a celebration of grandparents everywhere. They're the unsung heroes of the family. Many help out with childcare and make a real difference to a child's life," said Vicky.

According to research by Age UK<sup>3</sup>, 76% of adults believed their relationship with their grandparents was important. Many learned valuable life lessons and skills and played games with their grandparents. Around a quarter of people surveyed said their grandparents even helped them develop their sense of humour.

Writer Vicky Arthurs said: "I spent a lot of time with my grandparents from a very young age. I wanted to capture the simplicity and joy of that relationship in the book."

Vicky's poems are vivid and childlike, conveying a sense of innocence and wonder at nature. Yet the book also tackles serious themes such as war and loss.

"My grandparents belonged to the generation who lived through two World Wars. Looking back, it defined them. They told a lot of stories about wartime and they were almost self-sufficient.

"Their small bungalow was surrounded by a wonderful garden. There were apple trees, raspberry canes, gooseberry bushes and row on row of vegetables. It was a wonderful place to explore. And my Nan's stewed apple and custard was second to none!" said Vicky.

The author's obvious affection for her grandparents shines through the poems. *Limehaven* was first published in print in the UK by IRON Press and has been warmly received by critics and festival audiences. The new audiobook and a worldwide print edition will be published by Cedarbird Books on 26 September 2017.

**-ENDS-**

**(300 words)**

## Contact

Vicky Arthurs at [writer@vickyarthurs.com](mailto:writer@vickyarthurs.com) for review copies or more information.

Download the full media kit (including images): [www.vickyarthurs.com/mediakit](http://www.vickyarthurs.com/mediakit)

## Press reviews for Limehaven

"It's the best debut collection I've read in ages. This delightful, nostalgic book is a love letter to Vicky's grandparents. The poems are clever and beautiful..."

Elaine Cusack, *Culture, The Journal*

"The book rolls out with a joyous panache... There is a gorgeous childlike voice to these poems, peppered with songs, rhymes and humour."

Robin Houghton, *Envoi*

"...the language is simple, there is an immediacy here, a freshness... It illustrates Arthurs' gift for tenderness, which is so powerfully demonstrated in this collection."

Paul Blake, *Brittle Star*

## Notes for editors

1. National Grandparents' Day is celebrated in the UK on the first Sunday of October (1st October 2017). It was introduced in the 1990s and is the focus of an annual fundraising campaign by Age UK. [www.ageuk.org.uk/grandparentsday](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/grandparentsday)
2. The festival is also celebrated around the world on various dates. In the USA Grandparents' Day is celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day (9th September 2017).
3. Information about research carried out by Age UK in 2016 can be found here: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/food-triggers-the-nations-fondest-memories-of-grandparents>