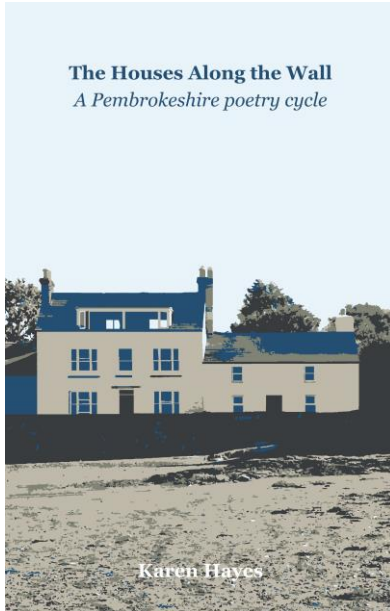


Holland Park Press



Press Release



The Houses Along the Wall

A Pembrokeshire poetry cycle

By Karen Hayes

Published on 20 September 2018

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£8.00, \$14.00

The poems in *The Houses Along the Wall* create a fictional history for sixteen of the houses along the Parrog near Newport, Pembrokeshire.

From a man who quits drinking to marry his love, the life of ferryman Jack Price, Belgian immigrants, the disappearance of Suzy Lamplugh and Ondara House to a poem about a final resting place outside St Mary's Church, Newport.

Together these poems celebrate a disappearing Welsh community through wonderful atmospheric poems which paint an authentic picture of life and scenery along the Parrog coastline.

*The tales the washed-up china tells
Are scoured by the hard, heart-rinsing tide.*

Two of the poems, *In His Cups* and *The Last House on the River* were set to music and performed by Roddy Williams at the Wigmore Hall for its At Lunch season in 2014, broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

Karen Hayes

Karen spent the early part of her working life as an actor and musician and later artistic director of the Bristol-based theatre collective Public Parts.

From theatre she moved towards lyric and libretto writing and poetry and found herself creating verbatim texts with marginalised groups, most particularly with people living with dementia.

I Had an Angel, written with composer John O'Hara, was produced live and also as an opera film for WNO. *The Bargee's Wife*, also written with John O'Hara, was produced as a community Opera for the 3 Choirs Festival as was their song cycle *I Can Hear You Waiting*.

Most recently she created a libretto for an Oratorio with composer Thomas Johnson *The Street of Bugles* which was performed at the 3 Choirs Festival.

She was Charles Causley poet-in-residence at Cypress Well in 2016. In 2017, her poem *The Belgians* won the Foreign Voices competition.



Notes for editors

Holland Park Press is a privately-owned publisher of literary fiction and poetry. It specializes in contemporary English fiction & poetry, translations of Dutch classics and modern Dutch fiction & poetry in English and Dutch.

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