

**WILD WOMEN OF THE CARHULLAN ARMY SEIZE JOHN
LLEWELLYN RHYS PRIZE 2006/7**

*****Under embargo until 7.30pm Thursday 29 November*****

Sarah Hall has been awarded the **John Llewellyn Rhys Prize 2006/7** for her novel *The Carhullan Army*. The prize was announced at a ceremony at City Inn Westminster on Thursday evening. Hall received a cheque for £5,000.

The novel, published by Faber and Faber, is a compelling picture of Britain in the near future. Ravaged by a mysterious war, economically ruined and controlled by the faceless 'Authority,' Britain has become a forbidding and desolate place. The narrator of the story, known simply as Sister, decides to join the self-sufficient and formidable female-only community on the remote farm of Carhullan as they struggle for survival.

Suzi Feay, chair of judges, commented:

"Sarah Hall's fierce, uncomfortable story of a radical dissident group holed up in the far north after the total breakdown of society seemed to all the judges to be the book that tackled the most urgent and alarming questions of today. The quality of *The Carhullan Army* was simply unignorable. We need writers with Hall's humanity and insight."

The shortlisted books were:

Blood Kin – Ceridwen Dovey (Atlantic Books)

The Carhullan Army– Sarah Hall (Faber and Faber)

Inglorious – Joanna Kavenna (Faber and Faber)

The Wild Places – Robert Macfarlane (Granta Books)

Joshua Spassky – Gwendoline Riley (Jonathan Cape)

Occupational Hazards – Rory Stewart (Picador)

The judges were:

Suzi Feay (Chair, Literary Editor of The Independent on Sunday)

Peter Hobbs (Novelist)

Michèle Roberts (Novelist and poet)

Biography of Sarah Hall

Sarah Hall lives and works in Cumbria. Her first novel, *Haweswater*, won the Commonwealth Writer's Prize Best First Book; her second, *The Electric Michelangelo*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and longlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2004. Her work has been translated into ten languages.

*****Interviews are available with all the shortlisted authors and judges.**

About The John Llewellyn Rhys Prize

The prize was founded 65 years ago in honour of the writer John Llewellyn Rhys, who was killed in action in World War II. His young wife, also a writer, began the award to honour and celebrate his life. Past winners of the award include Margaret Drabble in 1966, William Boyd in 1982, Jeanette Winterson in 1987, Ray Monk in 1990, Matthew Kneale in 1992 and David Mitchell in 1999. Last year's winner was Uzodinma Iweala for his debut novel *Beasts of No Nation*.

The winner receives £5,000, with the other shortlisted authors receiving £500 each.

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The John Llewellyn Rhys Prize is supported by City Inn contemporary hotels – award-winning hotels, passion for design and commitment to the arts. For more information about City Inn visit www.cityinn.com

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