

BALLEA WRITERS NEWS

Publication And One Thousand Euro Worth Of Prizes To Be Awarded In Ballea Writers Young Poets Of The Year Competition

From its formation in April 2006, Ballea Writers have taken the literary world by storm by winning 2nd in the 32 counties 'Writing Group of The Year Awards' where, almost overnight, they promoted the village of Carrigaline to the status of a Capitol City on the Literary Map of Ireland. It's onwards and upwards for the twenty-two-member team who are running the Carrigaline and District young poets competition. Over the next few weeks this News Page will give tips on writing poetry and take you 'where no man has been before i.e. into the minds of judges. Member, Elaine Rhys-Davies, who had her first international poetry publication at the age of fourteen, still has the carbon copy of that submission, spelling errors and all. When it came to devising the rules/ethos for the youth competition Elaine was adamant that entrants would not lose marks for spelling. Elaine admits that, but for the Microsoft Word Programme, she still can't spell and says that, although dyslexia wasn't recognised in the 1950's, she is more than likely dyslexic. Elaine maintains that early writing of poetry isn't about grammatical correctness, political correctness or any other type of correctness; it is about feeling deeply about something and having the ability to expose those feelings, through poetry, in a way that touches others. Every really good poem has two levels; the beauty of the prose and the message that it carries.

To sit down and write a poem to order, Elaine says, is an almost impossible task. A budding poet should carry a small notebook with him everywhere and write when the muse strikes. Maybe its just the first line, the last line, a word or the theme that strikes but that can be written in the centre of a page, like the centre of a wheel, and allow, by free association, ideas to start to form on the spokes. A wheel littered with interconnected words along the spokes is a healthy starting point from which to develop a poem. Children aside, even top ranking poets get stuck from time to time and go back to using the wheel.

Elaine says that it was her early success in poetry that gave her the confidence to keep on writing but some of her group came to writing much later in life and mourn their lost years. Ballea writers aim, first and foremost, to give writers confidence and for that they have allowed for sixty winners among the young poets. The competition is divided into three categories; Junior i.e. 4th to 6th class, Intermediate i.e. 1st to 3rd year, and Senior, i.e. 4th to 6th year. Each category will have awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, three Highly Commended and 14 runners up. There will thus be twenty winners per age range and sixty winners overall. It is hoped that each of the schools, of Carrigaline and District including Monkstown, Ballygarvan and Crosshaven, get at least one winner.

Parents and teachers are urged to support the children's writing of poetry but not to correct or in any way alter the material or they could run the risk of undermining the children's confidence and the very essence of their creativity and poetic expression. 'If you edit out the child you will invariably edit out the winner' warns Elaine.

Prizes

Part-sponsored by Maryville Equestrian Centre in Carrigaline. All sixty winners will be photographed for the Carrighoun, get a framed certificate and a rosette and have their poetry published in a book. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed entrants and the Highly Commended will get additional



A toast to competition success: Ballea Writers Committee

publications and public recitals of their poetry at the awards ceremony on March 31st and again at the launch of the book. The cash prizes are: €75 for firsts, €50 for seconds, €25 for thirds and €10 for Highly Commended. The 1st prize winners will also get a €25, lesson in show jumping at Maryville, the new Equestrian Centre of Carrigaline. The book of sixty poems will be named by the title of the winning poem i.e. the submission of the overall winner: 'Ballea Writers Young Poet of the Year' and a selection of the poems in the book will be illustrated by a professional.

Rules

Spelling will Not be taken into consideration
Entries must be typed, or neatly handwritten, on white single-sided A4 papers and contain nothing other than the Poem, its Title and page number.
The author's date of birth, name, address, telephone, e-mail, school, class, contact teacher, and a cross-reference to the Title should appear on a cover page only.
Poems may be up to a maximum of forty lines in length
Poems may be on any theme or subject.
The entry fee is a €2 coin per poem.
Individuals may enter as many poems as they wish but each poem and its entry fee must be submitted in a separate envelope, marked 'Ballea Writers Young Poets of the Year Competition'
Entry is accepted on the understanding that, while copyright remains with the authors, Ballea Writers are granted the publication rights to the poems for a one-year period i.e. until March 31st 2008.
Be sure to make your own copies because submissions cannot be returned.
The decisions of the judges are final.
Poems must reach the collection points, the Carrighoun, Carrigaline Library, Maryville Equestrian Centre or The Carrigaline Court Hotel by 5pm on March 16th 2007.

Contact

Ballea Writers, who meet in the Ballea Suite of the Carrigaline Court Hotel from 7.30pm - 9.30pm on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, can be contacted at: balleawriters@gmail.com

Let Harmony Be Found

*Whether the scale be major or minor
The sharps and flats fit neatly together:
They play in harmony.*

*Let the sharps and flats be Protestant and Catholic
Why is the piano out of tune?
Harmony lost forever.
A piano must be regularly tuned
Not left to rot: a country doomed
Let us work together for peace.
Let the joyous singing, dancing and bands,
That once we heard throughout these*

*lands,
Replace the fear, the thundering boom of the bomb.
Let our river of conscience run clear again,
Not blood stained with hate arid strife:
Why is it not so?
Oh Lord come, please come,
End the bitterness and forever
Unite us as one
In the eyes of Our Father*

Elaine S. Elliott aged 14
(Elaine was raised in Belfast during the Troubles).

*How Evil Corrodes Our Minds
Like a sculptor moulding a statue,
Chipping and chiselling, changing it's shape,
As water sinks arid seeps through limestone,
Forming caves, caverns, sluggas arid lakes.*

*Like earthworms decaying vegetation,
Slowly reforming the topmost portion,
Separating and constructing humus,
All this done by micro-organism.*

*Like wise evil seeps into our minds,
As a youthful stream will cut its path,
Eroding, destroying, transporting,
Leading us to face life's aftermath.*

Elaine S. Elliott aged 16.
(Inspired by a Physical Geography exam).

**EDWARD WALSH SALES
MITCHELSTOWN
PHONE 025-84107 OR 086-2540645**

Auction of Antique and High Class Furniture at the Carrigaline Court Hotel on this Sunday February 25th at 2.30 pm.

Being the contents of a period residence in Kinsale and other important clients.

Briefly as follows:

IV Mahogany grandfather clock, Victorian Mahogany round table on pod, Victorian Mahogany Inlaid chiffonier, Victorian Mahogany display cabinet, Victorian inlaid Mahogany writing bureau, Victorian Mahogany two door bookcase, Mahogany four door bookcase, large Mahogany dining room table with two centre leaves, a set of 8 Mahogany dining room chairs, Waterford cut glass crystal, Victorian cut glass chandeliers, Victorian Mahogany Vienna wall clocks, Victorian Mahogany fold over card table, Pair of Victorian inlaid Mahogany hall chairs, Some Victorian gold jewellery, cast iron garden bench and some more garden furniture, Mahogany seven drawer scotch chest, pr of Mahogany bedside lockers, Mahogany partners desk, Victorian Mahogany music cabinet, Mahogany chaise lounge, Pr of Victorian style armchairs, Victorian 82 piece dinner service and tea sets, Victorian Mahogany coal box, Mahogany hall tables and hall stands.

Items in porcelain, brass, silver plate and household contents, there will be over 250 lots, there will be viewing from 11 am until auction commence at 2.30 pm.

Contact Edward Walsh for further details

