

Carrigaline poetry workshops

AS part of the Carrigaline Arts Network, Ballea Writers gave free poetry workshops to twenty local primary schools.

These schools, and several other schools, participated in the Ballea Writers' Young Poets of the Year competition. From over seven hundred entries, sixty-eight poems were selected for awards and the bulk of these will be published in a youth poetry book.

The award ceremony, with over €1000 worth of prizes and recitals of winning entries, took place at the Carrigaline Arts Network Day, in the Carrigaline Community School on March 31st.

The competition was co-sponsored by Marin Walsh Pharmacy and Maryville Equestrian Centre.

Bernadette Walsh and Elaine Rhys-Davies of Ballea Writers presented the awards, attended by over 200 people.

Most of the schools got at least one award but three of the smallest primary schools, Templebreedy, Ballyheda and Goggins Hill got a multitude of awards. The success of Templebreedy was enhanced by several excellent entries in Irish language and that the Daunt family, Peter and Stephan, won several prizes in both English and Irish.

The youngest winner was eight-year-old Dominic Clarke and the peak age for winners was eleven. Apart from English Language and Irish Language sharing joint first, all of the major prizes at Secondary School prizes were won in Irish language.

Ballea Writers took on the running of this competition

on the heels of winning second in The Thirty Two Counties Writers Group of the Year Awards. In this, their first year, Ballea Writers have grown from ten members to around thirty, have extended from fiction to cover poetry, journalism and non-fiction, have got one of their writers a permanent post as a journalist, had four stories short-listed for literary awards and published in a literary anthology, had a dozen or so journalism publications, run a major poetry competition, have developed a Youth Division of around eight hundred children and have several books in progress.

The annual membership fee is €38 and Ballea Writers, dedicated to supporting all writers, can be contacted on 086/1741137 or at balleawriters@gmail.com Ballea Writers welcomes new members.



Group of prizewinners at the Ballea Writers Poetry awards ceremony held at Carrigaline Community School on Saturday. Included are Elaine Rhys-Davies (organiser) with Bern Walsh of Martin Walsh Pharmacy, sponsors.