

BALLEA WRITERS NEWS

Award Ceremony For The Winners Of Ballea Writers Young Poets Of The Year

Sponsored by Martin Walsh Pharmacy and Maryville Equestrian Centre

The Poetry Award Ceremony took place in the Library of the Carrigaline Community School on March 31st. Over two hundred parents, teachers and supporters attended the morning session where forty-eight Junior/Ultra Juniors winners received their prizes and recited their poems. Twenty local schools produced over seven hundred entrants in the Junior/Ultra junior categories and while most of the schools produced at least one winner three of the smallest schools, Templebreedy, Ballyheda and Goggins Hill produced a multitude of winners. The Templebreedy success rate was enhanced by a number of excellent entries in Irish language.

The Intermediate/Senior awards in the afternoon were shared between three schools: Carrigaline Community School, St Francis College Rochestown and Coláiste An Spioraid Naoimh of Bishopstown. The latter school took all of the top prizes and the majority of these were in Irish language.

Irish language constituted about 10% of the entries but won a huge proportion of the prizes. The teachers tell us that some of these students hadn't previously shown themselves to be particularly strong in Irish and it was the application of the language to poetry that brought out their talent. I can understand this because I had little flair for statistics until I needed to use it to analyse my own research data. A further explanation to the success of the Irish language poems is that Irish can be a more precise language: in that it can say in three words what can take many more words

to say in English.

An Dileachta

Fanann se an la ina sheomra
A chas a mhíniú ní feidir;
Cen fath nach bhfuir aige tuismitheoiri
Cen fath in aochor e bheith ann.
Tri fhuinneog bheag a sheomra inairde
Píocann daoine a thabharfadh do seans
Is a thogadh go dtí an domhan amuigh e.

Istigh ina sheomra gach oíche
Caitheann an tam ag caoineach;
Ina cheann níl ach aon smaíneamh
Cen fath nar uctaigh einne fos me
An bhfeiceann said an fhadhb ata aige

Codlaíonn se is eiríonn,
An cheist seo gach la ina cheann;
Shlánaigh ocht mbliana deag fe dheire
Saoradh e chun dul fan ndomhan

Mheas go raibh an todhchail roimhe
Agus bhraith ina Ri an-saibhir
Ach nuair chuaigh amach an doras
Stad is Cheistigh e fein
"Cen fath go bhfuil me im'aonar?"

Concert

The lights go down,
the first notes come.
The crowd goes wild
for the heavy thrum.

On a long slow song
spotlights are spurned:
From amongst the crowd

Raised lighters burn.

The song speeds up,
The noise increases,
People roar: their
minds in pieces.

Diarmund Clayton

Third place in the senior category was won by 16 year-old Séamas Ó Conchubhair for his poem Anam Gan Solas. .

Anam Gan Solas

Ag titim, ag titim, gan stad,
Chail me mo cheann
Agus chail me m'anam.
D'fhag me iad sa bhaile
Nuair a ghui sibh gach rath orm.

Ta gach aithreachas orm,
Lan le himní,
Ní raibh aon dul as agam,
's anseo taim caillte,
ag titim, ag titim, gan stad.

Fourth place in the senior category was won by 16 year-old Aodan Ó Máthairbhui for his poem Leadrán na Scoile.

Leadrán na Scoile
Tagaim istech gach uile la,
Gan aon rud le deanamh,
Gan aon rud le ra,
Eistim leis an muinteoir,
Agus na focail as a bheal,
Ag feitheamh leis an gclóg,
Ag a chug chun a h-aon.

Tagann am loin
Ta polli mo bhólg,
Sion go Dunnes chun bia a lorg,
Ar ais ar scoil I gcoir dha uair eile,
Ach ta fonn níos mo orm dul abhaile,

Buaileann an clog, dha rang fagtha,
An feidir líon imeacht,
Beidh an dinnear ar mo phlata,



Ballea Writers First Anniversary Dinner. Vice President John O'Connell and his wife Helen entertain poetry judges and schools representatives from Templebreedy, Shanbally and St. Mary's.

Rang amhain fagtha,
Ní feidir líon feitheamh,
Ta me ag suil le saoire an tsamhraidh
Is ní fada uaim anois mi an Mheithimh.

Buaileann an clog, is sin sin,
Amach an doras gan aon mhóill orm
Saor anois go ceann cpla las
Tar líon is beidh again sport is ri ra.

We will publish an illustrated book of the winning poems. The winning authors are all invited to submit more poems for consideration for this book and possible subsequent books. As well as the huge celebrations over the success of the poetry competition Ballea Writers celebrated their first anniversary this week. In one year we have: won 2nd in the Thirty Two Counties Writers Group of the Year Awards; grown from ten members to almost thirty, have extended from Fiction to cover Poetry, Journalism and non Fiction, have got one of our writers a permanent post as a journalist, had four stories short-listed for literary awards and published in a literary anthology, run a major poetry competition and developed a Youth Division. We had plenty to celebrate at our first Anniversary Dinner.

Following on from our work hard play hard ethos we concluded the anniversary dinner with readings of winning poems. The dinner was well attended by our own members, the poetry judges and representatives of winning schools. As part of the poetry competition we gave free poetry writing workshops to eighteen local schools and the schools are keen to have us continue

the workshops in the future. From September our Youth Division will be running creative writing workshops in Carrigaline Community School on Wednesday afternoons.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the young poets who entered the competition, their teachers and supporters, our readers, judges and our sponsors: Martin Walsh Pharmacy and Maryville Equestrian Centre. In addition to all the cash prizes provided by these two sponsors, the Pharmacy provided goody bags of perfumes etc and the Equestrian Centre pledged free riding lessons. As its unheard of for a poetry book to split even, never mind make a profit, we need to find some more sponsors. We appeal to all of the local

businesses to think about helping us get the work of the young poets in print. The poetry book will be professionally illustrated free of charge.

CONTACT

Ballea Writers, who meet in the Ballea Suite of the Carrigaline Court Hotel from 7.30-9.30 most Mondays, can be contacted at balleawriters@gmail.com Ballea Writers have adult sessions for fiction, poetry and journalism each month and children's sessions, throughout the year, in schools. The annual membership fee of €38 covers all the disciplines. There is a sub of €5 per workshop for adults and workshops for schools are free of charge.



A group of Intermediate/Senior winners. Back row, right to left are Diarmuid Hickey, Alex Rhys-Davies, Colm Ó Brosnachain, Aaron Ó Conchúir and Aodan Ó Máthairbhui Front row, right to left are Clodagh Harrington, Naomi Rhys-Davies, Chelsea Wiley and Erica Lester



Elaine Rhys-Davies of Ballea Writers with Aaron Ó Conchúir who's poem An Dileachta won Joint 1st