



# Newsletter

February 2013

## **Club nights**

We continue to enjoy a good number of members attending most weeks and nearly everyone contributes when pieces are invited.

## **Schools Competition**

This competition is now in its third year and gaining popularity amongst schools across Perthshire. This year saw a very encouraging increase in entries – to 79, three times as many as last year! The standard was exceptionally high, giving the judges a hard task. Over the festive period, Jim Waite, Margaret Gillies Brown and Loretta Whitcomb read over the entries. The first meeting of 2013 was dedicated to a discussion of all the pieces on the short list. All members were involved in the vote and the final placings were:

## **Seniors (age 15+)**

First place – Jenny McDowell (Morrison's Academy) with 'Fate'  
Commended – Eve Gourlay (Morrison's Academy) with 'Moroccan Market'  
Commended – Sarah McLean (Morrison's Academy) with 'Pandemic'

## **Juniors (11 – 14 years)**

First place – Sophie Staniforth (Perth Academy) with 'My Christmas List'  
Commended – Angus Graham (Morrison's Academy) with 'A Grudge'  
Commended – Beth Proctor (Breadalbane Academy) with 'The Moon'  
Commended – Olivia Welch (Perth Academy) with 'Being a Girl'

## **Workshops**

Workshops are very popular at club nights. We were treated to a workshop led by the President, Stuart Wardrop, who gave an informative talk on aspects of writing. In December Margaret Gillies Brown led a workshop immediately after the silent auction. Margaret provided newspaper photographs for members to create stories from, causing much seasonal hilarity.

## **Poetry Competition**

Jim McIntosh adjudicated the poetry competition, and visited the club on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Jim provided a very interesting and entertaining evening during which he enthused members with his obvious love of poetry. Congratulations to the winners of the poetry competition, who were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Waite, with 'Ma Faither'
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie Ogston, with 'Afternoon at Tentsmuir Beach'
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Loretta Whitcomb, with 'Miss Scarlet in the Garden with the Secateurs'

## **Silent Auction**

This is a very popular annual event, which takes place at the last meeting before Christmas, where members bring superfluous household items or gifts to be silently auctioned to raise money for the group. This year we raised the magnificent sum of £90.

## **Pocketful of Perthshire – 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

The sub group overseeing this project (Margaret, Jim, Gill and Anne) met to select pieces for the event, and to compile the programme. The event will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May in the Soutar Theatre, at A K Bell Library as part of the Perth Festival Fringe.

## **A Star in the Group**

If you failed to see the newspapers reports, and television coverage of our very own Barbel Roerig making headline news on her scooter, you must have been on another planet. Barbel has been using a scooter to get around Perth, and to and from her allotment, for several years. However it took an amateur video of her on Facebook to create viral interest. Next the TV crews and reporters were knocking on her door, and she was filmed whizzing round the North Inch and along Tay Street. Next came a scientific study on the benefits on the knees of scootering by a bunch of academics. The most recent report is that a scooter manufacturer brought several scooters to Barbel's home for her to test drive, and she got to keep the one she liked best. This story is far from over, and in true writing group style, we can't wait for the next chapter. Meanwhile, members are so enthused and encouraged by Barbel's activities that it has inspired several stories, articles, and even a song!

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