



# Newsletter

## March 2012

### Club nights

We continue to enjoy a good number of members attending most weeks and nearly everyone contributes when pieces are invited. The overall feeling is that PW is in good health and abuzz with ideas.

### Schools Competition

Over the festive period, Jim Waite, Margaret Gillies Brown, Gill Duncan and Anne Pack read over the entries for the schools poetry competition. At the first meeting of 2012 the pieces were tabled for all members to read. A discussion followed and a vote was taken to place pieces. The results were:

1<sup>st</sup> Sophie Staniforth, with "I Remember"

2<sup>nd</sup> Amy Gallagher, with "My Sister's an Alien"

...both of whom are pupils at Perth Academy. The winning pieces will be recited by Sophie and Amy at the Pocketful of Perthshire on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May. See the projects page on our website for a photo.

### Workshop

Workshops are very popular at club nights. Before Christmas we were treated to separate workshops by the President, Gill Duncan, and by Margaret Gillies Brown. More recently Janet McKenzie led the group in a workshop, causing much chewing of ends of pencils and great hilarity.

### Talk to school

Thanks to the website, our profile has stepped up a few rungs and we came to the attention of a school who made contact and invited someone to give a talk. Janet McKenzie kindly offered to undertake this task and in Janet's own words... *'I was pleased to go, on behalf of the Writers, to discuss with the Guildtown Primary 5/6/7 group the value of writing skills in the world beyond school. The class asked sensible questions and discussed the topic intelligently - a credit to their teacher, our own Katie Ogston.'*

### Olive Lawrie Trophy

This year's theme was 'romantic memories' and the competition drew an impressive 12 entries. Eileen Ramsay, acclaimed novelist, judged the competition and visited the group on the 21<sup>st</sup> February to deliver her adjudication. Eileen spoke to the group about presenting work and gave tips on writing.

1<sup>st</sup> Janet McKenzie

2<sup>nd</sup> Denise Goddard

3<sup>rd</sup> Katie Ogston

### Pocketful of Perthshire

The sub group overseeing the project (Margaret, Jim, Gill and Anne) have met several times to select pieces for the event, and to compile the programme. The event will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May in the Soutar Theatre, at A K Bell Library. This is part of the Perth Festival Fringe.

### SAW Weekend 9 – 11 March

Anne Pack, Margaret Gillies Brown, and Silvie Taylor (past President of SAW) attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Scottish Association of Writers (SAW) at Erskine Bridge. Perthshire Writers is affiliated to SAW and we try to have a presence at every annual conference. Success this year came in the form of Anne Pack winning the Largs trophy for drama. See project page on website for photo.

## **Annual Dinner**

In a break with tradition the annual meal will take place on the evening of Pocketful of Perthshire – a bit like a post-production party, in the Opus Resturaunt, the County Hotel.

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