

This year's adjudicator, Margaret Roberts, is a former lecturer in Welsh first and second language, in schools and universities. Her career has included writing for and teaching learners in the Extra Mural Department in Bangor University, lecturing part time at UWIC and running courses by correspondence, online and in the workplace for Glamorgan University. Margaret has produced local dramas and shows in North Wales and in Pentyrch and she is a regular adjudicator in eisteddfodau in Glamorgan and Gwent.

Adjudications

Short Story

This proved a very popular competition with 23 entries. A short story requires an engaging plot, conciseness some characterisation and unity within the set amount of words.

Many competitors wrote of strange occurrences and ghost tales. I suppose the title "Who's to know?" lends itself to these themes. Near tragedies and bullets, murder, prison and mixed identities featured heavily. In my opinion, many entries could be classified as 'What if?' stories– a subtle difference.

Lack of conciseness was the main shortcoming with flowery narrative and lack of characterisation. Subtle suggestion rather than detailed explanations is called for. There is a germ of an idea in practically every story but all need to be revisited to tighten and sharpen the style and plot.

The even standard of the entries made it a very difficult competition to adjudicate but after much deliberation, the order is as follows:

1st prize goes to **Cobb Knutt** for quite a tightly constructed story and an interesting twist at the end and an effort to characterise Kevin

2nd prize goes to **Curious** for a narrative that flows and an effective denouement.

3rd prize goes to **Menna** for leaving the reader guessing about Miss Jackson's whereabouts.

Poem – Rain

16 poems were received, each with its own perspective on the topic. There were literal descriptions of rain while others dealt with both the devastating and beneficial effects of rain.

The poems which came to the fore demonstrated originality of approach and effective use was made of effective metaphors and figures of speech.

First Prize goes to **Shepherdess** for a poem containing striking imagery of wild ponies and daffodils, for an evocative picture of Pen Cerrig clouded under a blanket of rain and for the promise of a rainbow and hope.

Second prize goes to **Katie Simpson** for two contrasting verses in a tightly constructed poem and for the ironic use of the word 'hope'.

Third prize is shared between *Dan Druff* for skilfully describing Welsh rain thus evoking feelings for Wales itself and Welsh life and *Nel* for the description of the birth of a poem; the droplet of an idea blossoming into a full grown poem and sustaining and extending the metaphor and imagery throughout the work.

Limerick

24 entries were received from 14 entrants on topics ranging from the agricultural, religious, sporting and political to the contemporary, the suggestive and the impossibly ridiculous.

It is expected that competitors adhere to the conventions of the .limerick in terms of the rhyming patterns, the rhythm and the punch line at the end.

Unfortunately, a vast number of limericks contained basic errors, defective scanning, a surplus of syllables and questionable rhymes.

First prize goes to '*Lily*' for the 'choosy old hunter'

The second prize goes to '*Lily*' for the 'fussy old spinster'

And the third prize goes to '*Cobber*' for the 'Monmouthshire wench'.