



TALKING ZEBRAS – PRESS RELEASE 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013

### POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS

Regular readers of this paper may remember that Cleckheaton's spoken word group "Talking Zebras" organised a poetry competition for local primary school children in November.

Over 150 entries were received from pupils at 4 schools - Howard Park Primary, Birkenshaw C of E Primary, Whitechapel Primary and Heaton Avenue Primary and the three judges [Jim Saville, Barbara Schiff & Judith Stones] had a difficult time selecting 3 winners at each of the two Key Stages covered by the schools.

However after careful scrutiny, winners were eventually selected from the unnamed copies of the poems each judge was provided with and upon comparison with the original entry forms it was found that all 6 were from the same school - Birkenshaw C of E!

Budding poets from the other 3 had scored highly in the selection process but none could compare with the judges final choices. The winners at KEY STAGE ONE were 1<sup>st</sup> Robyn Wood-Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grace Roberts and 3<sup>rd</sup> Holly Kershaw; and the winners at KEY STAGE TWO 1<sup>st</sup> Laura Sweeney, 2<sup>nd</sup> Katie Harwood and 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe Armitage. The first prize winner at each stage received a Family Day-Pass courtesy of Ponderosa in Heckmondwike. The second & third prize winners all received a book token. These were presented by one of the judges, Jim Saville, at a special school assembly last week.

As a reminder of their efforts every entrant will receive a specially prepared certificate of achievement.

As an extra prize the winners at each stage were invited to read their entries at the club's First Birthday Concert, which was held at The Moorlands on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Unfortunately not all the winners could make it, but the three that did proved not only their poetic ability but their performing skill as well by reciting their winning entries from memory to an appreciative audience of poets, club members and parents.

Plans are now underway for a new competition, this time for the local secondary schools, to take place in the Spring Term of 2014.

Budding poets or poetry fans and lovers of good prose are invited to come along to meetings of the Talking Zebras group which are free to all and take place at The Commercial P.H. on Bradford Road. Those under 18 will have to bring an adult with them, but those over 18 can do so too if they want!! Attendees can read, recite or just listen to a few hours of fine poetry or prose on a myriad of themes between 2:15 and 4:45 approx on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and, where it exists, 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday in each month. More details of the club's activities can be found by visiting their website at [www.talkingzebras.co.uk](http://www.talkingzebras.co.uk)