



NEWS RELEASE

Fingal Celebrates Young Poets as part of Centenary Programme

*Winners of Centenary Poetry Competition to be announced at Awards Ceremony
in Swords this Thursday*

Dublin, 1st April 2016 The winners of Fingal County Council's *A Poem for Ireland* Poetry Competition will be announced at an awards ceremony this Thursday, 7th April, at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Swords. The ceremony on Thursday will be attended by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Eoghan O'Brien, while one of the judges, acclaimed poet Maighread Medbh, will talk about the poems submitted.

Following the ceremony of Thursday, county winners will be reviewed by a national panel of judges set up by Libraries Development, LGMA and shortlisted to eight national finalists. At the National Final in April, President Higgins will present a prize of €1,000 to the overall winner. The National Runner Up will be awarded €500, the National 3rd prize will be awarded €250 and all National Finalists will receive €50 vouchers.

The Department of Education and Skills, the public library service and Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency held the *A Poem for Ireland* Poetry Competition for post-primary schools, as part of the commemoration events for Ireland 2016. The county competitions were

launched in early 2016 and promoted by schools and libraries. Post-primary school students year were invited to submit a poem on the topic 'Your Ireland'. Class winners were sent from the schools to the local library branch where a judging panel decided on an overall winner.

A Poem for Ireland Poetry Competition is part of Fingal County Council's Centenary Programme, which will see over 50 lectures, film screenings, performances, re-enactments, talks and exhibitions cumulate in a special Commemorative Day in Swords on Sunday 24th April 2016.

For further information on the full Fingal 2016 Centenary Programme visit:
www.fingal.ie

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