



# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

TO ADVERTISE  
ON THIS PAGE:  
(028) 7034 3344





Cathy Carson presenting Michaela McDaid with the Sound Waves' trophy for The Best Performance Piece at the Swell Festival Poetry competition held at Portrush Town Hall. WK41-24KC45

## Portrush Town Hall hosts poignant tribute event

AS part of the Swell Festival, Portrush Town Hall provided the setting for the second Annual Showcase event, part of the Soundwaves Writing Competition created by Steve Cawte, the Editor of Impsired Press, in Lincoln, and facilitated by Portstewart author Mary Farrell.

For this competition, run over the summer solely for writers in the North of Ireland, entries were invited on the theme of 'It happened on the North Coast.'

Of the many submissions received, ten winners were picked by an International Panel of seven Judges, all based outside Ireland, from the UK, United States and South Pacific regions, who all said how extremely impressed they were with the very high standard of the entries.

This Showcase section of the competition was judged by a Northern Irish panel of five - Cathy Carson, poet, playwright and performer of the one-woman show 'Becoming Marvellous,' Byddi Lee, author, playwright, co-founder and Manager of Flash Fiction Armagh, and Yvonne Boyle, an experienced Open Mic poet and a local Causeway Coast and Glens Councillor, as well as Kerriann Corrigan Spears and Jimmy Milliken, last year's prize winners.

Three trophies were presented on the night. Two of the Trophies had been already chosen by the International Panel: one for The Best Written Poem, went to Rosaline Corrigan from Donegal, for 'Rathlin Island,' and another for the Best Written Prose Piece went to Sarah McCaughan who lives in Coleraine, for

her entry 'Disco 2000.'

### BEST PERFORMANCE

Meanwhile the Prize for The Best Performance Piece, chosen by the local Panel on the night, was presented to Michaela McDaid, also from Donegal.

While an enthusiastic audience were delighted to congratulate the ten winners and three trophy holders, the Showcase was also a Tribute Event.

Sadly, Steve Cawte, who created the Competition, died on August 21st, due to complications resulting from a heart transplant operation in April.

Condolences were extended to his wife Nikki, his children Charlie and Imogen, as well as the rest of his family and friends. A more formal Tribute Event, to be called 'Ripples across the World', is going to be held in Northern Ireland next year.

To raise funds for this, a Table Quiz is being held at 8pm on Friday, 8th November in Portstewart Football Club.

Please put this date in your diary and join us, or contact Mary Farrell at maryfarrell85@hotmail.com to arrange a donation.

Furthermore, his family, Mary Farrell, the Swell Committee and all the Northern Irish Writers with whom he was connected, wish to thank all those involved who have agreed to continue running the competition each year in the future, as a token of respect for Steve, its founder.

The organisers pass on their congratulations again to this year's ten prize winners of Soundwaves 2024, and the are looking forward to a new swathe of submissions next May for The Steve Cawte Soundwaves Competition of 2025.



Judges of the Swell Festival Poetry competition held at Portrush Town Hall were Cathy Carson, Jimmy Milliken, Byddi Lee, Yvonne Boyle and Kerriann Spears. WK41-24KC41



The ten poetry finalists at the Swell Festival held at Portrush Town Hall were - front row - organiser Gemma Reid, poets Sarah McCaughan, Rosaline Callagan, Felicity McCall, Heidi Edmundson and Michaela McDaid and organiser Mary Farrell, back row - poets, Stan McWilliams, Seamus McDermott, Robin Holmes, Noreen Kane and Sue Steging. WK41-24KC40



Sarah McCaughan receiving the Sound Waves Best Prose Piece prize from Mary Byddi Lee at the Swell Festival Poetry competition held at Portrush Town Hall. WK41-24KC43



A packed room for the Swell Festival Poetry competition evening held at Portrush Town Hall. WK41-24KC44