

Members of North Coast writing groups unite at a very special tribute event

Remembering Steve Cawte at Portrush Town Hall

A PACKED Portrush Town Hall provided the setting for a very special tribute event.

The memorable night celebrated Steve Cawte who died last August from complications following a heart transplant operation.

Steve was the Editor of Impspired Press, based in Lincoln, a publishing house which has very strong ties with writers all along the North Coast area, from Ballycastle to Donegal.

The hall was filled with both writers for whom Steve had published Collections as well as winners of Competition and Showcase Events which he had begun specifically for writers from this area.

Five different Writing Groups were represented - the u3a Zoom Group Pen and Pen, Words Inc previously a Northern Libraries writing Group, Sanderlings, a Portstewart Group, This Writing Thing, a group of writers from Derry/Londonderry and Donegal, and finally Portglenone Writers.

These turned out in force to honour the man who had made sure their work was published, some for the first time.

Others in the hall however attended to hear the excellent selection of poetry and stories performed by 14 different writer / performers, each one representing a different Initiative begun by Steve.

A broad cross-section of work was very much enjoyed by the crowd.

Steve's wife Nikki, as well as his son Charlie, now the new Editor of Impspired, flew over from Lincoln for the event.

Charlie thanked everyone for their continued support as he works to honour his father's legacy, re-shaping Impspired by designing a new business model which builds upon his father's visionary work.

Just as his father did, he plans to continue publishing both the bi-monthly Impspired online magazine, as well as individual Collections and Anthologies.

In fact, an announcement was made during the

evening, giving the names of three Northern Irish Writers who will be publishing with Impspired throughout the coming year.

Messages of friendship and support were also read out on the night from some of Impspired's American Authors, notably Dorothy Buhrman in California and Johnnie Stanizzi in Connecticut, emphasising the strong bonds between all the Impspired Authors spread across the world.

His family were delighted to hear that the Impspired Initiatives of Soundwaves and Flash Fiction Portrush were guaranteed to run annually every year in the future in October and March to continue to honour their Founder's memory.

A truly Impspired night indeed when a packed hall came together to celebrate a much-loved man!



The late Steve Cawte and Mary Farrell with the Second Anthology of North Coast Writers, 'Spun Tales and Woven Words' during a visit to the North Coast in April 2023. WK19-21TM



Guests pictured during the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-149TM



Readers and guests pictured during the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-148TM



Readers David Atkinson, Yvonne Hamilton, Geraldine Fleming, Sinead Coxhill, Jimmy Milligan, Robin Homes and Paul Girvan pictured during the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-145TM



Nikki Cawte and son Charlie Cawte with author and organiser Mary Farrell (centre) pictured during the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-147TM



Readers Ian Garner, Hazel Siberry, Ruth Holloway, Stan McWilliams, Peter Osborne and Gary Deveney, (Sarah McCaughan and Paul Hutchinson are absent from the photograph), during the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-146TM



Friends attending the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-152TM



Enjoying the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-151TM



Guests enjoying the Steve Cawte Tribute Event at Portrush Town Hall. WK22-25-150TM

Photos by Tina Mullan