

MANX YOUTH BARD

Search for the second Manx Youth bard

POETRY

BY MIKE WADE

School children and students are being given the chance to apply to become the latest young voice for the Isle of Man. The process to find the second Manx Youth bard was launched this week, and the committee of the Manx Bard are encouraging anyone up to the age of 10 to 17 with a passion for writing and reading poetry to enter. The committee, led by local writer Bridge Carter, are asking for potential poets to

poems by Wednesday, January 15, 2020, and hopes that the competition will encourage more people to put pen to paper. 'The role of the Manx Youth Bard is not as intense as that of the Manx Bard,' said Bridge. 'I like to think that it helps to give young writers the confidence and the encouragement to write.' The position of youth bard was launched last year, with QEII student Holly McRae being the first to wear the special bardic robes. 'Last year was amazing, as we had something like 50 people entering, which was slightly overwhelming,' said Bridge.

done an amazing job, as she has actively been promoting poetry to both the older and younger generation. 'In fact I'd go as far as to say that Holly has most certainly inspired many of the younger generation to start writing. 'We are all so very proud of what Holly has achieved already and as with the Manx Bard role Holly will always be the 2019 Manx Youth Bard, as well as the first. 'There are so many good, talented young writers out there, and I am so excited about the competition to find the next Manx Youth Bard.' Anyone wishing to enter to become the next Manx Youth



Holly McRae is the first Manx Youth Bard

form and a copy of the rules and regulations from Bridge by emailing manxbard@ They can also be picked up from Ramsey, Castletown and the Henry Bloom Noble



THE MANX BARD

Holly MacRae, the Manx Youth Bard, writes about the plight of the Amazon rainforest

NATURE'S CRY FOR HELP

By Holly MacRae

Holly MacRae, 16, was recently made the first Manx Youth Bard. She has written a poem inspired by the fires in the Amazon jungle, and by a recent trip she made to the area.

The Amazon rainforest is a pair of lungs for our planet. However, in recent months, our lungs have been consumed by smoke, as fire rages through vast areas of the Amazon basin. As the smoke crept up on Sao Paulo where I was at the time, on a mission trip with the Living Hope church, we were oblivious to the raging fires destroying 2,440,000 acres of land. Although this is truly a tragedy of note, it is an inspiring wake-up call to the world, that the environment seeks our help. Oceans are drowning in plastic, the sky chokes because of the polluted air, and the planet's lungs are engulfed in

flames. How do we help save our planet? Something that struck me recently was the fact that we can't get through a single day without having an impact on the world around us, what we do makes a difference, but we have to choose what kind of difference we make. We can change the course of events just by a simple act of charity. We can stop something like the Amazon fires from happening again through donation, campaign, petition signing, raising awareness. This is why I wrote the poem 'Nature's Voice', as I felt compelled to write a poem from the perspective of nature and its cry for help. I wanted to raise awareness in view of the Amazon fires, pollution, climate change, deforestation and other major environmental problems that need to be addressed. If nature had a voice, then surely she'd say that if we intend to provide future generations with a better life and a better world, then we cannot ignore the plight of the planet today.

Nature's Voice

If the oceans could speak, what would they say? If the heavens had eyes, what would they see? Would the clouds fill with rain and pour down like tears? If flowers had lips, they'd whisper their fears.

But little by little, Sea by Sea and Tree by Tree, We can save our Planet, All the Air and Everywhere, For We Are Wildlife.

As the trees wave farewell, it's harder to breathe. As we suffocate life, and poison the seas, For we did not protect the Earth, our home, And our children will reap what we have sown.

But little by little, Sea by Sea and Tree by Tree, We can save our Planet, All the Air and Everywhere, For We Are Wildlife.

(Holly MacRae 2019)



Holly MacRae is the first Manx Youth Bard

POETRY

Zoe Cannell is named as the sixth Manx Bard at a special ceremony

THE NATION'S POET

By Mike Wade
mike.wade@manxtoday.com
twitter@jormnewspapers

The next name to be added to a growing line of national poets was announced at a ceremony last weekend. Zoe Cannell was named as the sixth Manx Bard at a special event, held at Moorhouse Farm in Colby on Sunday afternoon. Zoe was announced by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir Richard Gozney, and dressed in the ceremonial blue bardic robes by her predecessor, Annie Kissack, before taking her seat on the throne of the Manx Bards. She was then joined by the four other surviving Bards, including John 'Dog' Callister, Stacey Astill and Sara Goodwins, along with the first Manx Youth Bard.

'I WANT TO MAKE POETRY ACCESSIBLE TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE'

Holly MacRae, where she was also handed the official bardic staff. She then read out two of her poems, 'Ruthless Revenge' and 'Being Manx', in front of the large crowd. Speaking after her ceremonial robing, Zoe, the daughter of the famous Manx Radio personality Geoff Cannell, said that the role of the bard was one that she had set her sights on four years ago, when the role was first revived. 'I am absolutely thrilled to bits,' said Zoe. 'This is something I have aspired to for many years, becoming a Manx Bard. I have been to every presentation over the years and

to be here now, dressed in these robes and sat on the throne, is a wonderful feeling. I'm thrilled to bits and really proud.' Zoe wrote three poems for the selection process, which displayed the range of her work. 'I wanted to make sure I had a diverse range of poetry to offer, and I wanted to show my different skills, by including serious and humorous ones. I'm now looking forward to working really hard with the committee, and I want to develop the ideas on what I would like to do with the role. 'Really, I want to do as much as I can to make poetry accessible to as many people as possible. 'I want to speak to people who don't have any interest in it at the moment and see how I can develop poetry with them, while having a lot of fun at the same time.' Zoe was chosen from a short-list of five poets, and the decision was described by Bridge Carter, the chairman of the Manx Bard committee, as one that was very



Zoe Cannell is the sixth Manx Bard

(Mike Wade)

close. 'She was a very worthy winner,' said Bridge.

'We do look for the power of the poetry, but also the power of the performance too. Rudyard Kipling said that "words are the most powerful drug available to mankind", and Zoe stood out because she was able to deliver her words in a very direct and powerful way. 'Each poet is unique, and what they write and bring to the role is different from the last,' Bridge added. 'For me, there is nothing more terrifying and thrilling than watching a dream come to fruition in front of you and seeing the people come forward to support you. I feel this must be the same for the chosen Bards. 'This is Zoe's time to shine and I am really excited for her and look forward to seeing what she will bring to the table in her role as the sixth Manx Bard.' The afternoon also heard poems from the Bards present, plus a reading of T.E. Brown by Phil Gawne, and original poems written by Kinley Clugstone and Meri Wade, both 10 years old and Finn



Annie Kissack talks with Kinley Clugstone and Meri Wade, both aged 10



Manx Youth Bard Holly MacRae



Finn Franklin, seven

