

Intriguing cases



Winners of the Write Stuff competition after the prize giving ceremony. From left: Event organiser Vanessa Mee, Jean-Luc Le Tocq of Credit Suisse, Hamish McMahon, Isabella Lees, Adam Sparkes, Jenny Kendall-Tobias, Abby Luxom, Andrew Hislop, Finley Wilkes, Nikki Atwooll, Joseph Thom and author Andy Lane.

SUNDAY afternoon saw a celebration of young literary talent at the Write Stuff competition prize-giving. The event is an established part of the Guernsey Literary Festival. Youngsters were asked to write a story titled *The Suitcase* of no more than 300 words. As well as trophies and cash prizes for the three age categories, each of the nine winners also received a certificate and a copy of their specially commissioned illustration by artist Ryan De Haaf. Abby Luxom, from St Martin's School, was pleased to have won the first prize trophy and £50 in the up to 11 years category. 'I wrote my story at school and then took it home to add more to it,' she said. 'I'm really happy. My picture is exactly how I imagined it.'

Notre Dame School pupil Isabella Lees and Joseph Thom, from Castel School, came second and third, each winning £25. 'The idea just suddenly popped into my head and I just kept writing,' Joseph said. 'I love creative writing.'

First place in up to 14 years category was won by Castel School student Hugo Everitt with a strong moral tale. 'The suitcase gave me the idea of possessions,' he said, 'so I looked at what we carry with us through life.'

Claudia Dixon from Jersey and David

The annual Write Stuff competition for young people saw nine students pick up their prizes for excellent short stories as part of the Guernsey Literary Festival

Trebert from Elizabeth College took second and third place respectively. Adam Sparkes' story had a humorous twist about the chancellor of the exchequer and won the 15+ category. The Elizabeth College student was closely followed in second and third place by his fellow pupils Finley Wilkes and Hamish McMahon. Adam was delighted with his illustration by Ryan. 'It perfectly captures the very moment I had in my mind,' he said. The prize winners' ceremony featured a rendition of *Another Suitcase in Another Hall* by local musician and composer Lydia Pugh. Visiting writer Andy Lane, author of

The Young Sherlock series, presented the prizes and accolades, while civil celebrant Nikki Atwooll and BBC radio Guernsey presenters Andrew Hislop and Jenny Kendall-Tobias read out the three winning pieces.

Writer Tony Booth, the brains behind the competition, was impressed with the standard of entries.

'This is a great way to harness their amazing skills and talents,' he said. 'We wanted to give them the experience of finishing something to an industry standard and having something published. They have certainly exceeded our expectations.'

Credit Suisse executive board member and head of relationship management Jean-Luc Le Tocq attended the event, which is sponsored by the firm.

'It's a wonderful competition that showcases the creativity of the island's youngsters,' he said.

'It's inspiring to see so many entries and such a high standard. Write Stuff is an event which we were delighted to be involved with.'

● All the entrants' stories from the competition can be read in full on the festival website www.guernseyliteraryfestival.com thanks to Ric Evans at Betley Whitehome.