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You can't beat a real book, Ambassador tells students

by Jessamy Baudains

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AN APPEAL to the enduring importance of 'actual books' was made last night by the Irish Ambassador to Great Britain as he spoke to Elizabeth College students about the life and work of W. B. Yeats.

Upper school pupils, parents and teachers engaged with Ambassador Dan Mulhall when he spoke passionately about how real books, as opposed to online or Kindle versions, were something special.

'I want to make an appeal to you today about the enduring importance of actual books,' said Mr Mulhall, who had brought with him a copy of Yeats' poetry collection, which was more than 40 years old.

'This copy of Yeats that I have with me today dates back to my days as an undergraduate student in Cork in the 1970s. It has travelled with me all over the world and carries with it an incredible array of memories. Yes, actual books are more difficult to store than their Kindle counterparts, but what a



The Irish Ambassador to Great Britain, Dan Mulhall, holding up his copy of W. B. Yeats' poems which travels everywhere with him. (Picture by Adrian Miller, 7479132)

real bookshelf or personal library can offer you is something special,' he said.

'It's a diary of your life and gives you the opportunity to look back over the years at what you have read, and how each book has shaped you into the person you are today.'

Mr Mulhall also spoke of his social media campaign, #YeatsQuote, which he is currently trying to 'get trending'.

'I am posting a Yeats quote every day on Twitter

until the Yeats birthday celebrations on 13 June and I really hope it gets going. In fact, the quote I posted today was taken from my old university copy I have with me here, a fantastic example of the old mixing with the new.'

Mr Mulhall was in Guernsey to commemorate the 100 years since hundreds of Guernsey men departed for Ireland and fought in Irish regiments in the First World War.

Yeats' position regard-

ing Irish nationalism, his personal background, his romantic vision and attitude to war poetry were all up for discussion, something Lower Sixth pupil Jack Colley, 16, said was 'extremely engaging'.

'Yeats is definitely one of my favourite poets. The beauty of his writing is still appreciated today and I think his body of work is a great example of how poets and writers can have great social and political influence at the time and in the years that follow.'

March to mark centenary of RGLI going to war

A COMMEMORATIVE march will be held on Sunday, marking 100 years since the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry left to join the Royal Irish Regiment on the front line during the First World War. The parade will re-enact a march made by more than 200 volunteers in March 1915. They marched from Les Beaucamps to the White Rock

before departing to Fermanagh, Ireland, where they formed D company, 6th Battalion Royal Irish Regiment. The company later served in France. Members of local cadet and military groups will replicate the march in uniforms of the period. Bailiff Sir Richard Collas said: 'This parade offers a poignant reminder that many of the

island's young men marched away to defend their country'. An estimated third of the island watched the march in 1915 and Sir Richard has urged islanders to cheer the parade.

■ The march leaves Les Beaucamps at 9.15am, and will go along Rue du Prael and the Rohais. It is expected to arrive at St Peter Port at 10.30am.