

Eastwood Hills FAW 2016 Annual Literary Competition

Short Story Judges' Report

Barbara Haworth and Mary Milton

As judges we recognise the challenges facing competitors who enter any short story competition and we thank all of the 106 entrants for the stories entered in our competition this year.

In selecting the winners we chose stories which stayed with us long after the reading. The opening had to grab our attention and we had to be satisfied that the ending completed the story.

Titles are an important attention getter also and some titles were unimaginative and "ho-hum'." Many stories which did not make the final grouping obviously had not been proof read and there were glaring mistakes in medical facts or even in character's names. Take care with spelling, punctuation and grammar as these are as important as are plot and character.

Allow yourselves the full word count or as close to it as possible in order to fully develop your story.

Please everyone, keep writing and entering competitions. Judging is 60% subjective and what doesn't appeal this time might well be a winner another time

Congratulations to our finalists.

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| Commended | Spinning Leaves – Janeen Samuel |
| Commended | The Unravelling – Bonny Cotter |
| Highly Commended | Old Soldier Waiting – Jennie Linnane |
| Highly Commended | Losing Linda – Kerrin O'Sullivan |
| Second Place | Exit Left – Cindy Broadbent |
| First Place | Night Runner – Marion Lucy Thomas |