

## LYMPSTONE POETRY COMPETITION: JUDGE'S REPORT

It has been great fun reading the many interesting and amusing verses about the Royal Wedding that have been submitted to the Lympstone Poetry Competition 2011.

Judges of competitions, when they give their judgements, usually say how very, very, very difficult it has been and so on. But I found it easy!

Starting with the under twelves, the poem I liked best and which I think by far the best poem is Poem 47 entitled '*Royal Wedding*'. This poet particularly likes *describing words and phrases*. I particularly like Kate's train being 'as long as the Nile' and William's epaulettes being 'like huge vines hanging from a tree' and Kate's veil being like 'a silver dew dropped spider's web'.

The poem I liked second best is Poem 42 which is called '*Royal Ring*'. This poet had a really good stab at rhyme and finds some beauties. 'Proud is the wearer/happy is the bearer' is very good. Lots of the rhymes are 'hidden' but they are there. The poet has noticed that 'ring' and 'finger' make a sort of rhyme and has used *repetition* to give the poem shape. The poem has a very pretty shape, just like Kate!

The poem I liked third best is Poem 45, called, what a surprise!, '*Royal Wedding*'. This poet really worked hard to find some rhymes. I like the dead roach on the wheel of the golden coach and the cake that is hard to break.

I would like to say to all the young poets who have not won prizes that this doesn't mean that you did not write good poems. There were lots more excellent poems so whatever you do **don't give up writing!**

The 12 to 18 section was easy to judge because I was asked to choose only two poems and there were only two entries. The one I think marginally the more successful is Poem 2 which looks good on the page and which has a jolly refrain '*Today's the day*' which is also the title.

The second prize goes to Poem 2, '*Celebrations for the Royal Wedding*' where the poet worked hard and found lots of good rhymes. It is a very inclusive poem. The couplet "*Although William's mum, the beautiful Diana could never be there/ His loving granny will be, with her curly white hair.*" is most enjoyable.

Which brings us to the Open category where my first choice is Poem 5, 'So..a Royal Wedding sentiment. The poet here shows a love of words. '*Airing for the ermine*' and '*outing for the crown*' are rich in assonance.

My second choice is Poem 7, '*A Fairy Tale Wedding*' which is a very short witty poem and my third choice is even shorter and just as witty, Poem 8, '*Epithawhatsitsname*' which is a proper little poem despite being no more than a rhyming couplet. I also very much like Poem 3 '*Conversion*'. These are very neat and tidy verses and somebody should set them to music so we can all sing them at the next Royal Wedding.

Ralph Rochester