

## Report on Highland Book Awards 2006.

Reporters: Sammy Reynolds  
Amie McGuinness  
Carolanne Stephens

We arrived at 10am with the authors ready at 10.30am. the ceremony was held at Charleston Academy, Inverness. Authors attending were Thomas Bloor (Worm in the Blood), Heather Dyer (The Fish in Room 11), Stuart Hill (Cry of The Icemark) and Sophie Smiley (Man of The Match). We began by asking the authors what they had read as youngsters. Thomas Bloor and Stuart Hill said they adored Edwardian Horror Stories, Heather Dyer said she liked 'The Magicians Nephew' (C S Lewis) Sophie Smiley preferred the Enid Blyton adventures.

Later we separated into groups with the authors we wanted to meet. Each author explained more of their lives and their books to their audiences as well as some extracts and spooky ghost stories.

When we gathered back in the hall the authors signed books and their novels were on sale. There was also a prize draw for a collection of books. The awards winners were announced as follows – The picture story winner 'The Lost Cowboy' by Simon Puttock, The short story winner 'The Fish in Room 11' by Heather Dyer, The long story winner 'Cry of The Icemark' by Stuart Hill. Prizes were presented to all authors and thanks and gifts were given to those who helped organize the event.

Sammy Reynolds and Amie McGuinness said "We voted for 'Cry of The Icemark' and we're thrilled it won."

Carolanne Stephens quoted "I preferred 'Worm in The Blood', it was fantastic!"

Mrs. R Peat, Librarian for Wick High said "By the time I'd finished 'Man of the Match' there were tears in my eyes."

Once again we'd like to thanks all those who helped organize the event, the people who attended and of course the authors for their fantastic books! I'm sure every one is looking forward to the sequels.