Baffle le Gaeilge arís

*Seo **Caoimhe Ní Chonchoille**, RTÉ & TG4, ag bronnadh duaise ar 'Bhafflóir' Óg na bliana, **Muireann Ní Bhaoill** ó Ghaelscoil Riabhach, Baile Locha Riach. **Margaret Hickey** agus **Siún Uí Dhomhnail**l ó Choiste '**Baffle**' ina cuideachta leis.*

Gabhann 'Gaeilge Locha Riach' comhghairdeas le Coiste '***Baffle***' agus an 13ú féile ceiliúrtha acu i mBaile Locha Riach ar na mallaibh. Gan amhras, a bhuíochas le Foras na Gaeilge agus Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae na Gaillimhe, bhí na gnéithe gaelacha go mór chun tosaigh arís san fhéile.

D'oscail **Caoimhe Ní Chonchoille**, *Nuacht RTÉ & TG4*, an fhéile go hoifigiúil agus í i láthair le duaiseannaa bhronnadh ar 'Bafflóirí Óga' chomh maith.

I mbliana, d'éirigh leis an choiste comórtais éagsúla a eagrú do bhunscoileanna agus do mheánscoileanna. Bhí an-spéis sa chomórtas filíochta do bhunscoileanna agus beagnach céad dán curtha isteach. Bhí comórtas speisialta eagraithe acu do lucht meánscoile ina raibh ceistneoir le líonadh i nGaeilge bunaithe ar suíomh idirline na heagraíochta agus comórtas '***Bebo***' leis. Arís, chonacthas go raibh suim nach beag ina leithéid chomh maith.

Roghnaíodh téama ar leith le haghaidh an phríomhchomórtas i gcuimhne dornalaí clúiteach a rugadh fadó sa 19ú haois i mBaile Locha Riach, **Micheál Farrell**. Cinnte, tháinig daoine ó na ceithre hairde le bheith páirteach sa chomórtas céanna. Ar ndóigh, glacadh le dánta i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla agus bhí dán den scoth ag **Michael Coy** ó Chreachmhaoil sa bhabhta ceannais. Tuigtear gur thainig ionspioráid filíochta chuige agus é ina luí ar leaba oispidéil is é go dona tinn. Seá... agus é ina luí sa díog, bhí sé ag breathnú ar na réaltaí.

Seo 'Mná Thír Chonaill' a raibh baint nach beag le Féile Baffle i mbliana; ***Michelle Bhreathnach****, (inión agus tiomanaí Ghearóidín),* ***Siún Uí Dhomhnaill****, coiste '****Baffle****' agus* ***Gearóidín Bhreathnach*** *ó Rann na Feirste.*

Bhí aíonna speisialta ag '***Baffle***' le linn na féile dheireadh seachtaine. Ina measc siúd, bhí an t-ádh dearg ar an choiste **Gearóidín Bhreathnach** ó Thír Chonaill a mhealladh go Baile Locha Riach le siamsaíocht speisialta a chur ar fáil mar chuid de clabhsúr na féile. Ní amháin go bhfuil clú is cáil ar **Gearóidín Bhreathnach** mar amhránaí ar an tsean-nós is Corn Uí Riada buaite aici faoi dhó ach tá bua na scéalaíochta aici chomh maith. Léirigh sí na buanna céanna go héifeachtach ag an ócáid mhór in Óstan Locha Riach. Chas sí roinnt amhrain don slua mhór bailithe... *Na Buachaillí Álainn*, *An Mhaighdean Mhara*, *An Baitsiléir* agus *Buachaill ón Éirne* ina measc. Faraor, bhí an halla ar fad ag canadh léi ar uairibh agus bhain cách an-sult as scéalta na n-amhráin.

Dúirt **Siún Uí Dhomhnaill**, urlabhra ***Baffle***, go raibh an coiste iontach sásta leis na himeachtaí gaelacha i mbliana agus ghabh sí buíochas speisialta do *Foras na Gaeilge* agus *Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae na Gaillimhe* as an urraíocht a thug siad dóibh.

Baffle le Gaeilge...Béarla

Gaeilge Locha Riach would like to congratulate the ***Baffle*** Committtee for showing it's commitment to the Irish language with the organizing of it's 13th literary festival in Loughrea. With the support of *Foras na Gaeilge* and *County Galway VEC*, the Irish language elements were very much to the fore again.

Caoimhe Ní Chonchoille, *Nuacht RTÉ* & *TG4*, officially opened the festival and presented prizes to the young Bafflers.

The committee organized a number of competitions for national and secondary schools. There was great interest in the poetry competition for national with almost 100 entrants. For second level students, a questionnaire based on the website of Baffle along with a '***Bebo***' competition attracted quite a bit of interest also.

The theme for the main poetry competition was based upon **Michael Farrell**, a famous boxer who was born in Loughrea back in the 19th century. People came from all over the country to take part in the competition. Of course, poems in both English and Gaeilge were put forward. **Michael Coy** from Craughwell produced a great poem 'as Gaeilge' that was among the finalists... this was inspired while he lay on a hospital bed... Yeah.... he may have been lying in the gutter but he was dreaming of the stars!

Gearóidín Bhreathnach, from Donegal, was among the special guests of the weekend and took part in a special concert as part of the festival finale. **Gearóidín Breathnach** is a well Known sean-nós singer and storyteller. She displayed both these talents singing *Na Buachaillí Álainn*, *An Mhaighdean Mhara*, *An Baitsiléir* and *Buachaill ón Éirne*. Of course the whole hall was heard to sing along and everyone enjoyed the stories behind the songs.

Siún Uí Dhomhnaill from the ***Baffle*** committee said that they were very pleased with the Gaeilge events and thanked *Foras na Gaeilge* and *County Galway VEC* particularly for their support.