

## **2019 Ballyroan Library World Poetry Day Competition**

We had over 150 entries this year, and since the standard was so high, we have a number of highly commended entries which we have decided to also publish. As well as these entries we have 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and an overall winner.

Congratulations to all those shortlisted, and the winners!

### **1<sup>st</sup> Place - Overall Winner:**

***Blue* by Sara Mullen**

#### *Comment from the judge:*

Sara's poem stood out from its very first reading. Beginning with a day in Bray, the poet suggests winding up the sea into a ribbon for her mother's hat: the whole landscape in service of the impending wedding. The tight, muscular, yet precise and breath-filled images are contained in brief couplets, telling a story which deepens and darkens upon each reading. A very worthy winner of this year's competition.

## Blue

Blue and white  
that day in Bray,

your first beholding  
of the sea's

flat, breath-taking  
expanse;

imagine catching it,  
winding it up,

a ribbon for mother's  
hat, a souvenir

of this first, last  
family jaunt.

You and Kate,  
your parents' all.

The four of you up  
from the midlands.

Holiday for Father  
from labouring,

and for Kate to be  
given away.

You in blue, she in white,  
a glance of sea

over your shoulder on  
Quinsboro Road,

at your back all the  
way to the altar.

Knot tied; your  
moorings loosen.

Mother's face brimming,  
not just joy.

Your own day next, but  
no narrow aisle;

it's horizons for you,  
blue upon blue.

Originally from Castlebar, Co. Mayo, **Sara Mullen** lives in Dublin, where she works as a teacher. Her writing has featured in *Burning Bush 2*, *Crannóg*, *Boyne Berries*, *The Cabinet of Heed* and *FLARE*. She is currently working towards her first collection.