



# Women poets celebrated

## Mslexia Women's Poetry Competition 2008 Winners announced

In her introduction to the winning entries of the Mslexia Women's Poetry Competition in this summer's Mslexia magazine, judge Carol Ann Duffy asserts that the competition 'is a significant feature of the poetry year in which new poems by women are properly highlighted and celebrated.'

One of those celebrated poems is 'A Song of Jean' by King's Heath poet, Sibyl Ruth. The poem was chosen to be awarded the first prize of £1,000 in Mslexia's fifth anniversary Poetry Competition which proved to be the most popular yet. Duffy writes that it is 'a skilful, beautifully-paced poem...by a writer fully at ease with her own considerable abilities.'

Sibyl, who has been writing for around twenty years, recently left secure employment with an arts organisation to have more time to write: 'It's lovely to have some confirmation that this decision was the right one,' she says. 'Writing is such a solitary business and – although it's satisfying – making poems can seem like a thankless and frustrating activity too. So it's quite strange when one finds a poem has succeeded in reaching out to someone.'

In second place, scooping £500, was Valerie Laws from Whitley Bay, with her poem 'A Litter of Moons' and in third place, Patricia Ace, from Perthshire, with 'Ruby Turning Thirteen'. These — along with 22 runners-up including well-knowns Jo Verity and Carole Bromley — are showcased in the new look, full colour July issue of Mslexia.

For more information, or permission to print the poem in your publication, contact: Daneet Steffens, 0191 261 6656 [daneet@mslexia.co.uk](mailto:daneet@mslexia.co.uk)

Notes to editors:

- The top three winning poems can be read at [www.mslexia.co.uk](http://www.mslexia.co.uk) from 14 July
- The Mslexia Women's Poetry Competition 2009 will be launched in November 2008
- To find out more about the 2009 Competition, or Mslexia magazine, contact us on 0191 261 6656 or email [postbag@mslexia.co.uk](mailto:postbag@mslexia.co.uk) or visit [www.mslexia.co.uk](http://www.mslexia.co.uk)