



For Immediate Release

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Special Mayoral visit for Civil War art competition winners

Winners of an English Civil War Arts and Poetry Competition inspired by the Battle of Basing House in 1645 have been presented with prizes by the new Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane.

The competition, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire County Council, invited students in the borough to produce a piece of artwork, music or a poem relating to the battle at Basing House, which was besieged and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell and his army.

Pupils have been learning the history of Basing House, which was the last Royalist stronghold in the south east and a key site in the battle between King and Parliament at the end of the English Civil War.

The winners were chosen from a huge number of competition entries, including submissions by young people from local primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges, by the former Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor and Alan Turton, a former curator at Basing House, author and Civil War expert.

Mayor Cllr Onnalee Cubitt was joined at Basing House by her Consort Hugo Cubitt, special guest Alan Turton and his wife Nicola and Helen Sinnamon, Schools Manager (Milestones Museum and Basing House) at Hampshire Cultural Trust.

The winners received an engraved plaque from the Mayor and an annual family pass to Basing House, one of the borough's most popular historical attractions. In addition, both of the winners' year groups will enjoy a free educational visit to Basing House, including a guided tour by Alan Turton. All winners and finalists were presented with a commemorative certificate for their creative achievement.

They were:

Lucy Perks (Primary Winner) – St Mary's School, Old Basing
Harry Harvey (Finalist) – Daneshill School
George Lincon (Finalist) – Daneshill School
Charlotte Salt (Finalist) – St Mary's School, Old Basing
Charlie Bowden (Secondary and Sixth Form Winner) – Queen Mary's College

Cllr Cubitt said: "The English Civil War project in borough schools has given pupils a greater insight into the fascinating history of Basing House and the competition was originally launched to mark the 375th anniversary of the Battle of Basing House last year.

"As my first engagement since becoming the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, I was pleased to meet the winners of the competition and to talk about their winning entries which were so imaginative and really conjured up a sense of local history, bringing the siege and final battle of Basing House to life."

Secondary and Sixth Form category winner Charlie Bowden added: "It was great to be able to come together to appreciate the work of all the finalists and learn more about the history of Basing House by exploring the site of the ruins, and I felt very proud and grateful to receive the certificate and plaque for my work."

Alan Turton said: "It was a great pleasure to be involved in this project and a delight to meet the winners and know that they have been prompted to think deeply about the English Civil War, which was such a crucial and formative part of our national and local history."

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