



Cecily's Fund
EDUCATING ZAMBIAN CHILDREN
ORPHANED BY AIDS
www.cecilyfund.org

HOW I RUN A 'POEMS IN A PUB' EVENINGS FOR CECILY'S FUND

By our supporter, Peter Clifton

This is an event that appeals to educated people of every age, and I have run them in Brussels, Richmond, Godalming and various locations in Oxfordshire over many years. They need preparation up front, but the events themselves are very unstressful – just terrific fun. They always bring in over £100.

Here's how you can do it too.

"First, print off one of the posters that are part of these '*How to run one*' instructions. **Take it to a pub landlord / lady** near you who has enough room to pack in at least 40 people somewhere in the pub not too near to the bar. Lots of pubs have an area which is used for music or even have a restaurant which is closed one night a week. Explain that the event is going to be run by you for charity, and that it requires no extra bar staff at all. They will get extra sales on the night in question, for which reason a Monday is often favoured. Remind them, these people don't miss smoking! Persuade them, and **fix a date.**

Now, **devise your own programme and poster.** You will need

- a long poem
- someone who can read it well
- a short poem in French for translation
- your name and phone number on the poster
- a Cecily's Fund logotype

The long poem should take at least 20 minutes to read. It establishes that the evening is for poetry lovers; it quietens everyone down; it gives a rare chance for a long poem to be heard. This reading sets a standard for everyone.

The reader will often bring their own audience, if they belong to a theatrical society or if they should be a famous poet reading their own work (eg Jamie McKendrick reading from his translation from Dante's Inferno).

The short French poem just needs to fill the boxes: a sonnet is good. Go for cheerful poems with no more than a couple of mystifications.

Print as many posters as you need to distribute to local bookshops, language classes, public libraries, academic institutions and notice boards. Email community@cecilyfund.org to get Cecily's Fund's logo and website address which should be included on the poster, as well as photos if you wish.

Reduce the poster to A5 and **print at least 200 handbills** using the poster.

Distribute posters and handbills. The pub will want them too.

On the evening, get in early to the pub and start to get names of people who want to read poems. Have four sheets: one for **PUBLISHED POEMS**, one for **NEW POEMS**, one for the **POETRY TRANSLATION COMPETITION** and one for **FINAL FUN POEMS** to end the evening.

On time, announce the evening along these lines:

'Welcome to Poems in a Pub. Tonight we will be hearing old and new poems that you have brought, and hearing the entries for our poetry translation competition. We have a light-hearted competition, so I will be asking you to vote for the best new poem and the best translation when we reach that part of the evening. The winners and runners up will receive one of the coveted Certificates from Cecily's Fund, which state that on this evening and in this place they were voted by 25 or 50 or whatever number of their peers are present to have spoken the best poem of the event.

We will make a collection for Cecily's Fund later in the evening. You'll find some literature about it here: I know it is worth your help because [briefly give a personal reason].

The evening is divided into sets. After each set we have a break to collect the names of volunteers to read poems and to refresh our glasses.

The sets will be:

- the long poem
- your readings of poems that have been published; favourite poems, classical poems, solemn or humorous, all sorts
- the first round of the translation competition, knocking the number down to four
- the first round of the unpublished poems competition
- the final round of the translation competition
- the unpublished poems final round
- and to end, some final fun poetry'

Introduce the reader of the long poem. Immediately after it is read make sure she or he is thanked, preferably by someone in the audience.

Follow the agenda laid out above, and have the collection for Cecily's Fund at a specific time you think best. Between sets, collect more names of readers. When you count votes for poems, don't announce the numbers. Get the addresses of the winners, and contact me for the template for winners' certificates.

At the end don't forget to thank the landlord/lady, announce how much has been donated and thank everyone for their contributions.

You can get more information from me (Peter Clifton) at this address:

peter@romewalk.co.uk

Telephone 01993891956"

POEMS IN A PUB

Monday 21 January 2008 8pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

THE ROSE & CROWN, MARKET STREET, CHARLBURY

- **READING: Peter Levi's *The Shearwaters***
- **YOU READ YOUR FAVOURITE POEMS**
- **COMPETITION FOR THE BEST NEW POEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – THEIR CREATIONS**
- **TRANSLATION COMPETITION – BEST VERSION OF *L'AUBE A L'ENVERS* IN ENGLISH VERSE – THIS IS IT**

Le Point-du-Jour avec Paris au large,
Des chants, des tirs, les femmes qu'on «rêvait »,
La Seine claire et la foule qui fait
Sur ce poème un vague essai de charge.

On danse aussi, car tout est dans la marge
Que fait le fleuve à ce livre parfait,
Et si parfois l'on tuait ou buvait
Le fleuve est sourd et le vin est litharge.

Le Point-du-Jour, mais c'est l'Ouest de Paris !
Un calembour a béni son histoire
D'affreux baisers et d'immondes paris.

En attendant que sonne l'heure noire
Où les bateaux-omnibus et les trains
Ne partent plus, tirez, tirs, fringuez, reins !

Paul Verlaine

The evening is organised for Cecily's Fund, for which there will be a collection – any sum welcome. Bring poems to read. Phone Peter Clifton at 01993 891956 for other details. Share your love of poetry and buy and drink great beer or wine!



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Come and read your favourite poems

POEMS IN A PUB

Monday 10 November 2008 8pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

THE ROSE & CROWN, MARKET STREET, CHARLBURY

- JAMIE MCKENDRICK will read from L'Inferno
- YOU READ YOUR FAVOURITE POEMS
- COMPETITION FOR THE BEST NEW POEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – THEIR CREATIONS
- TRANSLATION COMPETITION – BEST VERSION OF *Le tremble est blanc* (PAUL-JEAN TOULET) IN ENGLISH – THIS IS IT

<p><i>Le tremble est blanc</i></p> <p>Le temps irrévocable a fui. L'heure s'achève. Mais toi, quand tu reviens, et traverses mon rêve, Tes bras sont plus frais que le jour qui se lève, Tes yeux plus clairs.</p>	<p>A travers le passé ma mémoire t'embrasse. Te voici. Tu descends en courant la terrasse Odorante, et tes faibles pas s'embarrassent Parmi les fleurs.</p>	<p>Par un après midi de l'automne, au mirage De ce tremble inconstant que varient les nuages, Ah, verrai-je encore se farder ton visage D'ombre et du soleil?</p> <p><i>Paul-Jean Toulet</i></p>
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