

COMPETITION



Lili England, 14, a pupil at Granville School, has been chosen as the winner of a national competition which celebrates the centenary of the First World War.

Teenager's art chosen to win national award

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A TALENTED pupil from Granville Sports College will be presented with a national award at the House of Lords for her artwork.

Lili England, 14, who lives in Burton Road, Overseal, was awarded second place in the 11 to 14-year-old category of the 2016 Never Such Innocence competition.

Never Such Innocence is a charity aiming to inspire young people to mark the centenary anniversary of the First World War.

It holds an annual competition for young people to submit a piece of poetry or art on that theme.

Lili said she was shocked she had been chosen from more than 500 entries and that she would now be presented with the £250 award in London.

She said: "I know that I put all my effort that I could into it and spent a lot of time with it, so I thought I might be commended for it. But I didn't think I would win second place."

"I was so happy when I found out, but now I'm really nervous about going to the House of Lords."

Lili's submission comprised a textile piece showing a graveyard with the silhouette of a mother mourning her family.

Lili's mother, Phillipa England, is also an artist and has her work displayed at the National Memorial Arboretum. Lili used her materials, felt and a sewing machine to create the art. It took around 14 hours to make.

She added: "I was thinking about the loss and the fact that some mothers would have lost three of their sons and their husband, and would be left on their own."

"I used the different colours of the flags on the graves to represent the different

countries that fought in the war."

The names on the graves on the artwork are not real, but are all of the same family to represent this loss.

Lili's teacher Martin Adler, head of world studies at the school, said that he had been impressed by the quality of his pupil's entries this year, but that Lili's had stood out when they were all submitted in March.

He said: "Lili's stood out because of its originality. She was the only one who submitted a textile piece, but also the imagery that she used captured the deep topic."

"I'm just so proud of her and the prize is really well deserved."

"It is a huge achievement."

Mr Adler will accompany Lili to London on Monday where she will be awarded her prize by General Gordon Messenger, Vice-Chief of Defence Staff at an event hosted by Baroness Anne Jenkin.

NEVER Such Innocence is a charity project which works to mark the 2014 to 2018 centenary commemorations.

The charity exists to ensure young people across the UK are inspired, informed and included in the centenary activities.

Never Such Innocence works with high commissions and embassies to highlight the global nature of the First World War, particularly focusing on the contribution of the Commonwealth to encourage young people to actively learn about their history and heritage.

To raise awareness and inspire young people, an annual poetry and art competition will be held by the charity from 2014 until 2018.

All children throughout the UK aged nine to 16 years old are able to enter the competition and attempt to

WHAT IS NEVER SUCH INNOCENCE?

win monetary prizes which are shared between the pupil and their school.

All winners will have their work published in the 2015-16 Winners' Booklet which will then be posted out to all the schools which took part in the competition.

In addition, the charity has organised a play called Never Such Innocence which visits schools and tells the journey through the First World War using poetry and prose.

The charity takes its name from Philip Larkin's famous poem MCMXIV, which reflects on the changes caused by the First World War.

The driving force behind Never Such Innocence is the founder Lady Lucy French, great-granddaughter of Field Marshal Sir John French who commanded the British Expeditionary Forces from 1914-15.



Lili England from Granville Sports College with her textile artwork. She is pictured with teacher Martin Adler.



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