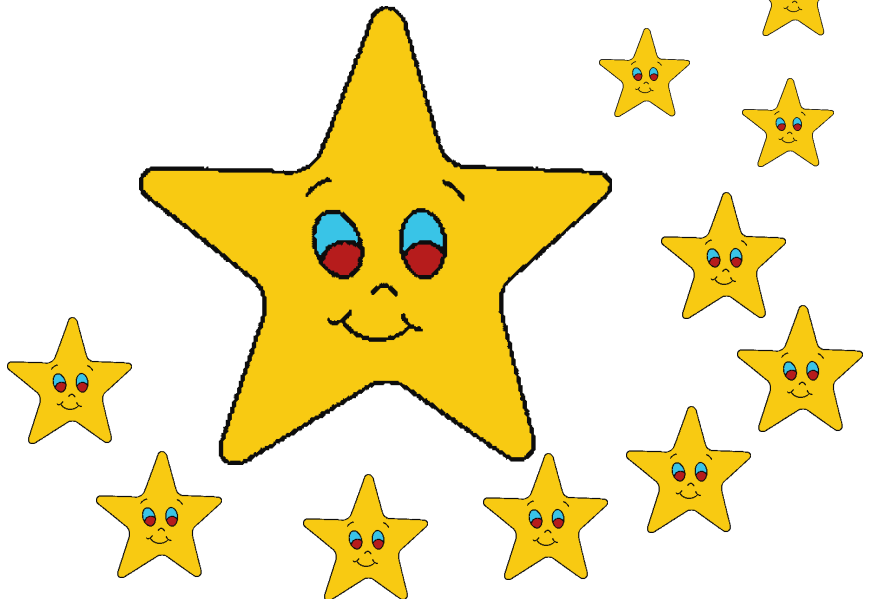




***Garvald 2012***  
***Children's Poetry Competition***

**STARS**

**The Winning Poems**





## Acknowledgements

Ron Butlin was our judge. Ron was appointed "Makar" (poet laureate) for the City of Edinburgh in 2008 and again for a further 3 years in 2011. He is a distinguished poet, playwright, novelist, short story writer and opera librettist. He

has been writer in residence at several Scottish universities and is an Honorary Writing Fellow of the University of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund.

You can read about Ron's life and work on his website:

<http://www.ronbutlin.co.uk>

We are indebted to Ron for his kindness in judging our 2012 children's poetry competition.



We are also grateful to Lorna Irvine, Education Officer at the Scottish Poetry Library in Edinburgh, for her support and encouragement and, in particular, for arranging some lovely prizes of anthologies of children's poetry, courtesy of the SPL. SPL also supplied "makar" badges and poetry cards for all entrants. The SPL is well worth a visit. There is further information on their website:

[www.spl.org.uk](http://www.spl.org.uk)



Other sites of interest for young poets, parents and teachers are:

[www.youngpoetsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.youngpoetsnetwork.org.uk)

[www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/competitions/fyp](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/competitions/fyp)

[www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site](http://www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site)

[www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/education](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/content/education)

# Poetry Competition 2012

We had a good response to our poetry competition on the theme of 'Stars'. The poems were sent as anonymous entries to Ron Butlin for judging. He enjoyed reading the poems and sends his best wishes and warmest congratulations to the winners. We have prepared this booklet as a record of the event.

In addition to the poetry book prizes, winners receive a £10 book token supplied by the Garvald Children's Events funds. All winning entries have also been published here on the Garvald website. The winning poems in each category were:

## 5-8 years:

- Winner: *Stars*, by Angus Bogie  
Runner-up: *Stars up in the sky*, by Jemma Swan  
Commended: *Stars*, by Daisy Ingram

## 9-10 years:

- Winner: *Stars*, by Isaac Ingram  
Runner-up: *Shooting Stars*, by Victor Strang Steel  
Commended: *Grandma Star*, by Anna Connolly

## 11-12 years:

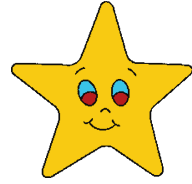
- Winner: *The Dancing Star*, by Pandora Bannister  
Runner-up: *Fight for the Night*, by Ariana Willoughby  
Commended: *A Stage of Stars*, by Hamish Davidson  
... and  
*Thank your lucky stars*, by Robin Bellamy

## 13-18 years:

- Winner: *Glittering Heights*, by Emily de Gruchy  
Runner-up: *Starry Career*, by Emily de Gruchy



# 5-8 Years



## **Winner: Angus Bogie**

Ron Butlin comments "*A good sense of vast time and space – very imaginative, especially the second verse.*"

## **Stars**

Vikings looked up to the stars  
To help them travel very far  
The wise men too, looked up high  
And followed a message across the sky

When I look way, way up high  
Like flecks of dust in the night sky  
Stars appear and seem to turn  
Then twist away before they burn

***by Angus Bogie***

## ***Runner-up: Jemma Swan***

### **Stars up in the sky**

Stars, stars up in the sky  
Filling the moonlight sky  
Shooting above you at night  
They shine through your bedroom at night  
I wish I could fly to the stars  
Maybe I will

***by Jemma Swan***

## ***Commended: Daisy Ingram***

### **Stars**

Shining stars,  
Twinkling brightly.  
Amazing pictures made.  
Run outside, take a look.  
Stars.

***By Daisy Ingram***

# 9-10 Years



***Winner: Isaac Ingram.***

Ron Butlin comments, *"Full of curiosity and very vivid  
– I could imagine the author outside shivering!"*

## **Stars**

Stars twinkle at night time, a pretty light they make.  
Ready to stargaze, I'm shivering while looking  
through a telescope.

A hot chocolate warms me up.

Constellations shimmer, Orion and The Plough.

Fiery balls of gas, floating in the sky.

***by Isaac Ingram***

## ***Runner-up: Victor Strang Steel***

### **Shooting Stars**

Stars are bright and big  
Sometimes small but light up the sky  
They are shooting and staying, dancing and playing  
But still they light up the sky  
The moon is big  
The sun shines bright  
But the stars are a wonder to me  
They sit there bravely  
Wondering when they're going to die  
Mars and Jupiter look on in May  
As the stars go shooting by.

***by Victor Strang Steel***



## ***Commended: Anna Connolly***

### **Grandma Star**

Stars are shining balls of light  
Especially on dark nights  
They shine so nicely  
So very, very brightly  
And sometimes they go poof!  
If it is a nice star, it could be my grandma.

***by Anna Connolly***

# 11-12 Years



## **Winner: Pandora Bannister.**

Ron Butlin says, *"This poem delighted me at first reading – and kept on doing so. It has a real 'voice', is playful and is a genuine celebration!"*

### **The Dancing Star**

Do you dance across the sky?  
Oh Silver Star  
Please don't lie  
Oh dancing star  
When you whizz across the sky  
Do you dance or do you fly?  
Please tell me oh dancing star  
Every night I see you star  
And wonder why  
You swoop and glide  
Oh Silver Star  
Please don't lie  
I promise not to tell a soul  
If you tell me why you  
Swoop and glide and dance and fly  
Across the beautiful midnight sky.

***by Pandora Bannister***

## ***Runner-up: Ariana Willoughby***

### **Fight for the Night**

The moon and the sun  
Anger raging  
Small star soldiers fighting for  
Their right, and for their Queen  
Vanquish the soft clouds of day  
Blackening sky battles the  
Blood red glow of the sun!  
Clouds catch shooting stars falling dead  
Sun burns the field of battle  
Moons' light reaches out, the sun breaks down  
The Sun turns, the moon's there  
Sun starts setting as he loses ground  
The stars dance in clots of black  
They stand tall in the sky one proud  
One bowing to its queen.

***by Ariana Willoughby***

## ***Commended: Hamish Davidson***

### **A Stage of Stars**

A vast stage of day  
A packed stage of night  
Shooting stars put on a show  
Rejected few don't shine in time  
And their glory fades to dust  
But one star is first to play  
Venus is the name, or Evening star  
Does shine and glimmer  
From start to end until  
The show has come to a close  
The lights come up  
As the stage takes a bow,  
The sun begins to rise  
But it is night time somewhere  
And the show goes on

***by Hamish Davidson***

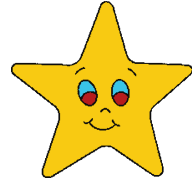
## ***Commended: Robin Bellamy***

### **Thank your lucky stars**

Some say you wish upon a star,  
Then luck will come your way,  
But I disagree with this,  
And so I'd like to say...  
That you can't get luck from Venus,  
You can't get luck from Mars,  
You can't even get some luck,  
From such great things as stars...  
But things you can get from stars are...  
Constellations, novel plots, a lot of astronomy,  
Heat and fire and danger –  
the Sun's a great big star you see.  
Jobs from NASA and TV shows,  
Drops of light that look like snow,  
Up in the massive sky,  
Comets with tails that fly.  
And best of all star-based merchandise,  
Aside star anise and other spice,  
Is Milky Way, Mars, Galaxy –  
these are the best of all for me.

***by Robin Bellamy***

# 13-18 Years



## **Winner: Emily de Gruchy.**

Ron Butlin says, "A good sense of wonder at the mystery of it all."

### **Glittering Heights**

Looking up to sea of shiny stars,  
I begin to wonder why:  
'Why do the stars shine so bright?  
'In the dark, velvet sky?'  
Like fireflies in a moonlit forest;  
Dissipated far and furthermore.  
Never have my eyes witnessed  
So many little lights before.  
A million minute candles;  
The stars are at glittering heights,  
Burning bright throughout the night,  
Full of energy, full of grace, those beautiful little  
lights.

**by Emily de Gruchy**

## ***Runner-up: Emily de Gruchy***

### **Starry Career**

When I'm older,  
I want to be an astronaut;  
So I can look at the galaxy from afar  
And look at all those shiny stars!  
Looking through a telescope,  
And stepping on the moon;  
Maybe I'll even see a star or two,  
And maybe touch one too!

***by Emily de Gruchy***

# **Garvald 2012**

## **Children's Poetry Competition**

### **We are grateful to the following:**

- Ron Butlin, Edinburgh Makar, who gave up much valuable time to be our expert judge;
- The Scottish Poetry Library who provided anthologies, badges and poetry postcards as prizes and who gave useful help and advice;
- Garvald Children's Events Fund, which provided the book token prizes.

The event was organized by the Garvald Website team in support of National Poetry Day, 4 October 2012. We hope that this might become an annual event. So watch the website next year, pens at the ready:

**<http://www.garvald.org.uk>**

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