

Article

Ermine Street

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The York Literature Festival / YorkMix Poetry competition: Meet the winners

April 2, 2015 [Carole Bromley](#) [Poetry](#)

Ermine Street

by Yvonne Reddick

Poem commended in the York Literature Festival/York Mix Poetry Competition 2015, read at York Literature Festival, and displayed on the wall of the Roman Bath Museum, York.

First published on the YorkMix website.

Tonight, while men drink Guzzler
in the Golden Fleece
and women with rosé lips
check their phones,

the Ninth marches north
from Lindum to Eboracum.

Jingling *cingula*, a flare of bronze trumpets.
The steel hoops of corselets catch moonflashes.

The centurion leads on horseback.
Duccius Rufinus, *signifier*, holds the standard
blazing with the Ninth's insignia.

The legion marches along Blossom Street
and through medieval ramparts.
When they cross the Ouse

a lad in Lendal Cellars
hears Latin and chokes on his beer.
They reach the Porta Praetoria,
pass under its arches and towers
beneath the Yorkshire Insurance Building.

The auxiliaries follow Stonegate,
trudge through the fence
of the Treasurer's House –
a man fixing the plumbing
sees them pass, falls off his ladder.

They go through the opposite wall,
push northeast along the Via Decumana.

Their hobnailed feet tramp
eighteen feet below the city,
into the north and back nineteen hundred years.



Yvonne Reddick

Full list of winners

Winner

Wendy Pratt: *Amazing Grace*

Second Prize

John Foggin: *Norman*

Third Prize

Michael Brown: *Water Lilies*

York Prize

Julia Key: *Bull in field, Boggle Hole*

Highly Commended

Pat Borthwick: *After Harris Bigg Wither*

Richard Westcott: *Corporal Yukio Araki, age 17, of the 72nd Shinbu Squadron, 27th May 1945.*

Norman Hadley: *Drone Pilot*

William Holloway: *Family Values*

Genevieve Carver: *Home*

Marie-Aline Roemer: *Kings at the Table*

Martin Malone: *Mr. Willett's Summertime*

Doreen Gurrey: *Whip and Top*

Wendy Klein: *Who Safely Graze*

Kim Moore: *Work*

Commended

Julia Deakin: *1973*

Claire Collison: *Araschnia Levana: How Dock Leaves Work*

Pauline May: *Bottle Bairns*

Jennifer A McGowan: *Cordelia in Prison*

Chris Bridge: *Days*

Lesley Quayle: *December 2010. (Starbotton)*

Yvonne Reddick: *Ermine Street*

Sarah Bryson: *Feathers*

Jo Peters: *Fragility*

Kathleen Ingleby: *Grandmother Wolf*

Julian Dobson: *In Praise of Wensleydale*

Nicholas Boreham: *In The Dales*

Theophilus Kwek: *Magdalene*

Lesley Perrins: *Mary, Mary*

Mary-Clare Newsham: *New Year's Eve*

Natalie Shaw: *Rievaulx Abbey*

Rob A. Mackenzie: *Slow Dancing to Electro Funk*

Anne Osbourn: *The North*

Jonathan Pinnock: *The Orange Girl and the Philosopher*

Jane Burn: *Wave at Aeroplanes*

Carol Bromley, 'The York Literature Festival/York Mix Poetry competition: Meet the winners'. 2nd April 2015. Web. 5th May 2015.

<http://www.yorkmix.com/things-to-do/poetry/the-yorkmix-york-literature-festival-poetry-competition-read-the-winners/>