

# Five Glens Arts Festival

Hedda Dick



THE FIRST EVER Five Glens Arts Festival took place in Manorhamilton in August 2014. Over the weekend of 22nd to 23rd August there was a great variety of exhibitions, performances, readings and workshops for both adults and children, not to mention a feast of local gastronomy!

Friday evening saw photographer Rachel Webb launching her first solo exhibition and *The Mullies Crowd* hosting an *Open Mic at the Market Square* with many local musicians and singers joining in.

On Saturday children took part in puppetry, printing and sandcasting workshops and there was stone carving, outdoor painting and writing for adults. *The Hermit Collective* displayed artwork and performed music and poetry to a lunchtime crowd in *An Caife Bia Sláinte*. The awards ceremony of the *North West Open* exhibition took place in *The Leitrim Sculpture Centre*, showcasing work by artists based in Leitrim and the surrounding counties.

*The Five Glens Arts Festival* presented the inaugural *Dermot Healy International Poetry Competition*, with first prize awarded to *Patrick Deeley* for his poem



■ Pat Deeley reading his winning poem Five Glens childrens print workshop

*Vixen*. This was followed by a feast of hog roast and locally grown salads served to a large crowd in the sunshine at the Market Square, accompanied by live trad music interspersed with readings by the *Pig Executive*.

*Poetiquette*, a night of poetry and spoken word curated by local poet *Stephen Murphy* featured both Manorhamilton-based and visiting performers. The festi-



■ Five Glens childrens print workshop

val closed on Sunday afternoon with *'Like a Marble Rolled'*, a story told in rhyme by *Phoebe Dick* in *An Caife Bia Sláinte* accompanied by tea and delicious cakes. The first year of the *Five Glens Arts Festival* was a great success and will take place again in August 2015. Please see [www.fiveglensartsfestival.com](http://www.fiveglensartsfestival.com) for more information or to get involved with next years festivities.

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