



Encouraging Writers in Stroud

This article will celebrate the history of writing in Stroud.

One of the earlier writers in the Stroud district was Rachel Henning. Her letters, published after her death, detailed her life in Australia during 1853-1882. Henning's work and description of Stroud during 1866-1872 were discussed in a previous edition of The Pioneer, Number 38.

An institution with aims to educate, encourage, and provide a place for social gatherings, Stroud's School of Arts, was opened in 1859. Their end of financial year report for 1911 discussed literature and support for emerging writers. Money had been spent on reading materials to inspire 'a taste for Australian literature, both prose and poetry'. The report continued that there was hope to produce writers of the local district 'by encouraging and appreciating' the current writers in the community.

Today, Stroud Writers, meeting of a day and evening, meet to discuss and explore each other's writing. Works include memoir, autobiography, poetry, short stories, and books of fiction. Some members are published writers and some work towards this aim. The members work with local schools and other groups to continue the encouragement and appreciation of writing for past and future generations.

THE GARDEN.

I was walking in the garden,
To see what fortune brought,
And, very much to my surprise,
I found the things I sought.

The rosebush with her perfect buds, And, pretty full blooms, too. Of course they made a lovely show, As on them lay the dew.

The lilies with their snow-white heads,
The violets with their blue,
The stocks in pink and blue and mauve,
With green leaves struggling through.
LILY WARD (13 years), Stroud Road.



Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, 'Stroud School of Arts', 25 August 1911, p. 8

Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, 'Poetry', 7 October 1938, p. 2

Lily Gilbert, Age 5 - "Garden Art"

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