

Barking & Dagenham Recorder

Acclaimed poet keeps his MacCool

CRITICALLY acclaimed poet Jim MacCool unleashed the creative stories that have won him countless rave reviews on the students of Dagenham Park Community School, School Road, Dagenham.

To mark last week's National Poetry Day, teachers invited the Celtic poet to reprise his famed Iona Tales, which were inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and were celebrated at the Sunday Times Literary Festival.

The top-flight performer, 43, entertained pupils with spontaneous bursts of traditional Irish and performances on a Celtic drum.

Learning resource manager Julie Barden said: "Jim proved to be very popular with the students."

"National Poetry Day falls into National Book Week and we usually arrange for an author to visit the school, but we thought it would be a good idea to do something a bit different this year and go for a poet."

"He's a very good performer and I think it makes a big difference if someone performs a poem, rather than just read it to an audience."

"Hopefully Jim will come back and visit at some."



●TALES FROM IONA: Jim MacCool performs poetry for Dagenham Park Community School students