

Grapevine Young Writers Award

Each year *Grapevine* invites young writers to challenge and express themselves by writing for the magazine. In the past two years, we have published over a dozen articles by our finalists, the youngest of whom was only 12!

The 2012 winner was Hannah Moss. The 2011 winners were Sofia Tomasi and Lorenzo Benedetti.

For writers under 40 years of age, a cash award and publication will be offered by the Associazione Culturale Grapevine to the winner (judged anonymously by our jury).

Good luck and good writing!

Rules for Submission:

1. Submission by post or email (see page 3) before Nov. 30, 2013;
2. Length 400 to 800 words per article;
3. Must relate to Lucca or Tuscany or their people;
4. Must be in English but can be a translation (if so, the translator can share in the award);
5. Submissions in Italian translated by *Grapevine*, €25 fee;
6. All worthy articles will be considered for publication;
7. Publication will be before December 2014;
8. Submissions will not be returned;
9. Members of judges' families may not apply.

British Embassy Press Release: Don't lose out on your UK pension or benefit payments

British expatriates who receive UK pensions and benefits may soon be contacted by the Department of Work & Pensions to confirm their international bank details.

From 31 January 2014, the Department for Work and Pensions will need an International Bank Account Number (IBAN) and Bank Identification Code (BIC) in order to make payments to accounts in Italy and other Eurozone countries. This change is due to new European Union regulations that aim to make payments between EU countries faster and more secure.

The Department for Work & Pensions already holds IBAN and BIC details for most customers. But expatriates for whom they do not yet have these details will soon receive a letter asking for them. If you receive a letter, you should complete the attached form and return it to the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) as soon as possible, say DWP officials. You can get your IBAN and BIC details from your bank account statement or directly from your bank.

Bank customers will not be asked to provide any further details of their accounts, such as passwords. It is only the IBAN and BIC details that are required.

Failure to respond to the letter may mean your payments will be stopped, because after 31 January banks in Eurozone countries will not accept any DWP direct payments without these details.

Expatriates only need to provide additional bank details if they receive payments into a Eurozone account outside the United Kingdom, and have received a letter from the DWP. Those whose pension or benefit is paid into a UK account are unaffected by this change in EU regulations.

Pensions and benefits recipients who have changed address and not yet informed the DWP Officials are also being reminded to contact the International Pension Centre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on +44 191 218 7777 to make sure their details are up to date.

For more information about the change to European bank account numbers, you can visit the European Commission website: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/payments/sepa/index_en.htm



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– Rome, 22 October 2013

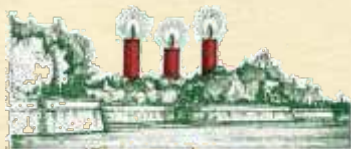
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