

Ewart-Biggs prize

Madam, - In his interesting piece on Ken Loach's film *The Wind That Shakes The Barley* (Opinion, July 4th), Declan Kiberd writes that "for years some who explored the blind-spots of Irish nationalism were awarded an annual prize in memory of the murdered British ambassador Christopher Ewart-Biggs".

This gives an inaccurate and inadequate impression of a prize whose stated objective is to recognise achievements which "promote and encourage peace and reconciliation in Ireland; a greater understanding between the peoples of Britain and Ireland; or closer co-operation between the partners of the European Community".

In a wide-ranging list over the past 30 years, a sample of award-winners includes Brian Friel's *Translations*, Robert Kee's *Ireland: a history*, Micheál MacGreil's *Prejudice and Tolerance in Ireland*, the journalists Mary Holland and David McKittrick, the Linenhall Library's "Troubled Images" exhibition, Frank McGuinness's *Observe the Sons of Ulster*, Fionnuala O'Connor's *In Search of a State*, Peter Hart's *The IRA and its Enemies*, Sebastian Barry's *The Steward of Christendom*, *Fortnight* magazine, the compilation of Troubles deaths *Lost Lives*, and most recently Tom Dunne's *Rebellions*.

The next Prize will be awarded early in 2007, to a work published or performed in 2005 and 2006. I fully expect the winner to be in this varied, distinguished and unpredictable tradition. - Yours, etc,

ROY FOSTER,
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Ewart-Biggs Prize,
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England.