



Lili England and her teacher Martin Adler outside the House of Lords.

## Lili, 14, given art award at the House of Lords

A TALENTED schoolgirl was thrilled after she received a national award at the House of Lords for her artwork.

Lili England, 14, who lives in Overseal, was awarded second place in the 11 to 14-year-old category of the 2016 Never Such Innocence competition.

It holds an annual competition for young people to submit a piece of poetry or art on that theme.

Lili, a pupil at Granville Sports College, said she was shocked she had been chosen from more than 500 entries and that she was delighted to have been presented with the £250 award in London.

She said: "I know that I put all my effort that I could into it and spent a lot of time with it, so I thought I might be commended for it. But I didn't think I would win second place.

"I was so happy when I found out."

Lili's submission comprised a textile piece showing a graveyard with the silhouette of a mother mourning her family.

Lili's mother, Philippa England, is also an artist and has her work displayed at the National Memorial Arboretum, in Alrewas.

Lili used her materials – felt and a sewing machine – to

create the art. It took around 14 hours to make.

She added: "I was thinking about the loss and the fact that some mothers would have lost three of their sons and their husband, and would be left on their own.

"I used the different colours of the flags on the graves to represent the different countries that fought in the war."

The names on the graves on the artwork are not real, but are all of the same family to represent this loss.

Lili's teacher, Martin Adler, head of world studies at the school, said that he had been impressed by the quality of his pupils' entries this year, but that Lili's had stood out when they were all submitted in March.

He said: "Lili's stood out because of its originality. She was the only one who submitted a textile piece, but also the imagery that she used captured the deep topic.

"I'm just so proud of her and the prize is really well deserved. It is a huge achievement."

Mr Adler accompanied Lili to London where she was awarded her prize by General Gordon Messenger, soon-to-be Vice-Chief of Defence Staff. The event was hosted by Baroness Anne Jenkin.