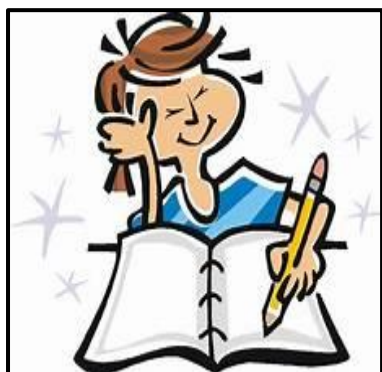


# **Northumbria Region u3a Creative Writers**



## **Short Story Competition and/or Poetry Competition**

You don't have to be a member of a creative writing group to enter. All u3a members of Northumbria Region are welcome to submit a short story, of no more than 1,500 words and/or a poem of no more than 16 lines.

**on the theme of 'Echoes'**

**Your entry must be received by 12 noon on  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.**

**The competition is free to enter.**

Rules and regulations can be found on the Regional website or by contacting Cecilia Coulson, lead of the Northumbria Region u3a Creative Writers

email [cecu3a@gmail.com](mailto:cecu3a@gmail.com)

## **Rules for the short story competition and the poetry competition.**

### **The story or the poem**

1. The story and/or poem must be in English.
2. The story and/or poem can be fictional or non-fictional.
3. The story and/or poem must not have been published before or submitted to another competition.
- 4.a) The story must be a maximum of 1,500 words or less (including the title). There is no minimum number of words. Any script over 1,500 words will not be read by the judges.
- 4 b) The poem must be no more than 16 lines long. Any poem over 16 lines long will not be read by the judges.
5. Your submission must be on the theme of **ECHOES**.
6. Give your story and/or poem a title, which will avoid confusion with other entries.

### **Presenting your story and/or poem**

1. Your story and/or poem must be clearly typed, using Ariel font, size 12.
2. **Your story and/or poem must be sent as an attachment** and not in the main body of the email.
3. You must complete your personal details in the main body of the email. Your name, your u3a you attend and your email address must be clearly visible. **Your personal details will be anonymous to the judges.**
4. Your name, u3a or any local identifier **MUST NOT** appear in your story or poem.

### **Eligibility and Submission.**

1. The competition is open to all Northumbria Region u3a members.
2. Entry is free.
3. You can submit either one story, one poem or one story **and** one poem.
4. **Entries must be received by 12 noon on Monday 2nd June 2025.**

You can send your entry in as soon as it is ready. Please ensure you submit your entry in good time and preferably not on the last day.

4. You must submit your entry as an attachment via email to Cecilia Coulson [cecu3a@gmail.com](mailto:cecu3a@gmail.com)
5. Postal entries can not be accepted.

### **Judging and the prizes.**

1. The stories will be judged by Susan Willis, Shirley Fall and Edward Cartner.
2. The poems will be judged by David Smith, Sarah Telfer and Pat Stott.

3. The winner of the short story and the winner of the poem will each receive a book token to the value of £30. There will be one highly commended for the short story and one highly commended for the poem, each receiving a book token of £10.

4. The winner of the short story and the winner of the poem will be eligible to have their stories published on the Region's website and in the Northumbria's Region's online magazine called The Messenger.

A short synopsis of the competitions will be put onto the Region's Facebook page.

7. The two winners and two highly commended will be contacted by email re the decisions at the beginning of August. **The judges' decision will be final.**

### **A short synopsis about each judge.**

**Susan Willis**, has been writing for fifteen years and has nine novels and five novellas on Amazon. She started writing foodie romance, progressed to psychological thrillers, and is now writing cosy crime novels. All her books are set in the North East with strong, lovable characters. Susan also writes short stories for Woman's Weekly magazine, having had five published in the last three years. She is well-placed to judge the ins and outs of writing short stories which capture a reader's imagination within the narrow focus of a word count and an effective ending.



**Edward Cartner** qualified as a teacher of English and Physical Education at Bede College, Durham University and Carnegie College, Leeds, but then served nearly 30 years in the Royal Air Force. He has published eight books in the genres of memoir, anecdotal humour, history and short story. A maritime library in London has published over 90 of Edward's book reviews, and he has led creative writing sessions for the u3a and Northumberland Recovery College. He lives in Alnwick, Northumberland with his wife. They have two married daughters.

**Shirley Fall** has been an active creative writer for the last five years. She has written poetry for over fifty years, some of which has been published, but mostly she writes for herself and the memories, images or emotions that a poem or short story evokes when read long after it was written. Shirley enjoys encouraging others in their writing and has led a number of writing sessions for both children and adults.

**Sarah Telfer** has been writing for over 50 years, crafting short stories, poetry and articles. A commission from Northern Stage in 1992 marked her first paid writing work for theatre: Northern Stage's "Women Prefer". After retiring from work, she focused on poetry, culminating in the 2023 collection 'Under My Bed'. She enjoys being a member of three u3a writing groups based in the north east. She lives in Redcar, Cleveland.



**David Smith** Lives in North Yorkshire and is a published poet and also reviews plays. He is the group leader of his local u3a creative writing group and in the past has been a judge in the National u3a poetry competitions.

**Pat Stott** I have always loved writing and have had several magazine articles published over the years. Prior to retiring I was a social worker in the field of mental health. Two years ago, I was on the judging panel for the Alzheimer Society national poetry competition. Before starting Prudhoe and District u3a writing group in 2013 I had attended many courses, mainly through the W.I. Our writing group continues on zoom to suit the members changed conditions since COVID. We have published a book and worked with our photography group on a joint project.