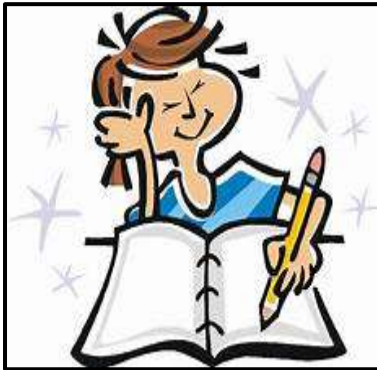


Northumbria Region u3a Creative Writers



Short Story 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,

on the theme of 'the weather'.

**Your entry must be received by 12 noon on
Monday 3rd June 2024.**

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

Rules for the short story competition.

The story.

1. It must be in English.
2. It can be fictional or non-fictional.
3. It must not have been published before or submitted to another competition.
4. It 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.
5. Your submission must be on the theme of **THE WEATHER**.
6. Give your story a title which will avoid confusion with other entries.
7. Poems or other formats will not be considered.

Presenting your story.

1. The story must be clearly typed, using Ariel font, size 12.
2. The story 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.

Eligibility and Submission.

1. The competition is open to all Northumbria Region u3a members.
2. Entry is free but limited to one story per person.
3. **Entries must be received by 12 noon on Monday 3rd June 2024.**

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
5. Postal entries can not be accepted.

Judging and the prizes.

1. All entries will be judged by one of 3 judges.
2. The winner will receive a book token to the value of £30 and an engraved glass plaque. The two highly commended will receive an engraved glass plaque.
3. The winner and two highly commended will be invited to a Regional Quarterly Meeting to be presented with their prizes.
5. The winner and two highly commended will be eligible to have their stories published in the next Northumbria Region u3a Creative Writer's anthology.
6. The winner and two highly commended will be eligible to have their stories published on the Region's website and in the Region's online magazine called The Messenger and if possible a photograph.
A short synopsis of the competition will be put onto the Region's Facebook page.
7. The winner 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. The judges are all members of Northumbria Region u3a Creative Writers Group.

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.