



50th MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING



Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd April 2017

GROUP B COMPETITIONS

Writing & Composing

dialect poetry & prose, Standard English short stories, history, plays,
songs and tunes ~ for children and adults ~ judged in advance

General Rules for all Writing & Composing Competitors

- (1) **ENTRIES:** Each entry must be the entrant's own work, and, unless significantly altered for the sake of improvement, must not have been entered before in the same class.
- (2) **ENTRY FORMS:** A separate form per competition is needed, but it may include more than one entry to that class by the same entrant/writers' group/collaborators/school. Entry forms (available from the addresses in 14 below) **must be filled in fully (including competition numbers & names)**; copied forms (same size and information) or photocopies may be used.
- (3) **ENTRY FEE:** Children's competitions are free. For **each** other class an entry fee of **£2.50** is due for one or more items entered, up to a maximum of **£10** covering all Group B classes entered by any one entrant, to be paid on sending/delivering entries and forms. Please make any cheques payable to MNGC.
- (4) **CLOSING DATE:** Saturday 18th March 2017, except for children's classes, which are Saturday 1st April 2017; please send to Westgate House (address below). Late entries may be acceptable -- please ring 01670 513308 to check.
- (5) **MANUSCRIPTS/CDs:** Must be marked on the front with titles/class no./entrant's name. CDs may be entered without manuscripts to composing classes B1, B2a/b/c only (one CD per composing class is needed, except that B2a/b/c can share one); manuscripts must be entered to all other classes (except B11, 12, 14). Manuscripts will not be returned; CDs can be returned in due course, but see publication note below.
- (6) **PUBLICATION:** The Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee and the Northumbrian Language Society aim to review all B6/7 entries and in time publish in full or in part entries in the other classes via newsletters or other publications. Delays in this process must be expected. Classes B1/2: while CD-only entries suffice for judging, a score (especially if camera-ready) speeds up publication.

(7) **COPYRIGHT:** Your entering authorizes publication of your entry if selected newsletters or other publications, with such abbreviation and adjustment as is needful, but you retain full copyright in both entered and published versions, and enquirers will be referred to you (please inform us of any change of address).

(8) **AWARDS:** First in each class receives and keeps a plaque, and in most cases holds a trophy for the year. Other placed/commended entrants receive certificates. Awards are presented at the Dialect Recital, or held at Westgate House until collected (name & year may then be engraved on trophy at entrant's expense; please advise us if repairs are needed or if there is no space left for name). Full results are published on the website as soon as possible, or send sae for leaflet.

(9) **DIALECT RECITAL, Gathering Saturday, St Robert's Church Hall (rear of Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth): entrants to Dialect Classes B3a/B3b/B5 are expected to recite one or more entries, or provide deputy-reciters.** A free ticket is sent to each entrant to Dialect Classes B3a/B3b/B5 (Recital including B award presentations begins at 1.30, following the live speaking classes at 1.30. Please make every endeavour to contribute to the recital in return for your ticket.

(10) "NORTHUMBERLAND"/"NORTHUMBRIAN" refer to the area Tweed-Tyneside (both banks; including "Geordie"). **DIALECT AREA:** Entrants may wish to indicate area (e.g. Tyneside, Coquetdale, general) applicable to their entry.

(11) **ENTRIES LIMIT:** Not more than four entries per class from any entrant or collaboration.

(12) **GRADED CLASSES:** Though most B Group classes are Open, where there is also a Novice Class, no item may be entered in more than one class in the same year; nor may an entrant expect or ask an official or judge to allocate his/her entries amongst the classes.

(13) **BARRED ENTRANTS:** Having been 1st in a Morpeth Gathering Novice class, an entrant may not re-enter it, nor enter a class after being placed in a higher class. Anyone winning a Morpeth Gathering Open class thrice in succession is barred from that class the following year (only). No restriction on winners of other festivals.

(14) **ENQUIRIES:** to Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth NE61 1RE (sae please); phone 01670 513308; www.northumbriana.org.uk. **COMPETITION LEAFLETS & ENTRY FORMS:** (including other categories: A Arts/Crafts; C Performing) from the above; also, from 1st March, at Morpeth Tourist Information Centre (01670 623455), The Chantry, Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1PD.

Competition Rules

COMPOSING

B1: SONG COMPOSITION: for an original song, words and music, in a Northumbrian tradition, by the entrant, or composer-lyricist collaboration; Northumbrian language welcomed; Northumbrian setting/theme expected; entry by score and/or CD (see Gen. Rules 5 and 6), preferably both, but judged on merits of song, not of manuscript or CD. NB: Original words for an existing tune should be entered in Class B3, not in B11; and an original tune for existing words in Class

B2a, not B1; permission to so use another's copyright tune or words having been obtained.

B2a: MELODY COMPOSITION: for an original melody in a Northumbrian tradition, by the entrant; entry by score and/or CD as in B1 above.

B2b: COMPOSING EXCELLENCE: for the entrant of the best group of three melodies, not all in the same rhythm, to Class B2a. Separate entry is not needed: the judges will review all entries of 3+ melodies in Class B2a.

B2c: VARIATIONS COMPOSITION: for original variations by the entrant in a Northumbrian tradition on the entrant's or another composer's melody (permission of copyright-holder being already obtained if necessary); entry by score and/or CD (see Gen. Rules 5 & 6).

DIALECT NORTHUMBRIAN LANGUAGE WRITING

B3a: NOVICE DIALECT VERSE: for an original poem in a Northumbrian dialect of up to about 5 minutes' recitation time; manuscripts judged (see Gen. Rule 9) on literary and dialect merits and traditional verse forms.

B3b: OPEN DIALECT VERSE: as for Class B3a.

B4: JUNIOR DIALECT VERSE: entrants, children aged under 14 on Gathering Saturday; entry, as for Class B3a, except for recital requirement; school multiple entry welcomed.

B5: DIALECT PROSE: for an original prose piece in a Northumbrian dialect; judged as in Class B3a excluding verse requirement. (See Gen. Rule 9.)

B15: JUNIOR DIALECT PROSE: entrants as for Class B4; entry, an original prose piece in a Northumbrian dialect of up to about five minutes' recitation time; no recitation requirement.

STANDARD ENGLISH WRITING CLASSES

NEW: B16: ENGLISH VERSE: for an original poem (not in dialect) relating to Northumberland; entrants of any age. (No recitation requirement.)

B6: STAGE SKETCH: for an original stage sketch, drama or comedy, of up to about 15 minutes' duration, set in and characterizing Northumberland or Northumbrians in any period (Northumbrian language as and when appropriate); judged on stage-worthiness and Northumbrian character.

B8: SHORT STORY: for an original story of up to 1200 words, set in and characterizing Northumberland / Northumbrians in any period; in English or Northumbrian or both as appropriate.

B13: JUNIOR SHORT STORY: for an original story of up to about 1000 words, relating to Northumbrians young or old and/or Northumberland in any period, involving Northumbrian language as and when appropriate, written by a child aged under 14 on Gathering Saturday; school multiple entry welcomed.

B9: ESSAY: for an original essay of up to 1500 words, on any aspect(s) of Northumbrian people / life / character / tradition / humour / environment, etc. in any period(s); serious or light-hearted; judged on literary merit, perceptiveness and Northumbrian character.

B10: LOCAL HISTORY ARTICLE: for an original treatise of up to 2500 words on any aspect or related aspects of Northumbrian economic / social / political / military / biographical / architectural history, or topography, or language / literature; reference to sources to be listed (outside word limit).

B11: JUNIOR LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT: entrant aged under 14 on Gathering Saturday; entry, an original study (any presentation medium allowed), giving reference sources, of any Northumbrian historical/social/environmental topic.

B12: SENIOR LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT: entrant aged 14-18 years on Gathering Saturday; entry as for Class B11 above.

B14: GROUP LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT: a school class/set/group of students all aged under 19 years on Gathering Saturday; entry as for Class B11.

B7a: NOVEL: for a synopsis and two completed chapters of an original novel, set in and characterizing Northumberland and Northumbrians in any period (*Alternating with i.e. NOT this year: B7b: THREE-ACT PLAY: for a synopsis and two completed scenes of an original 3-act play, set in and characterizing Northumberland and Northumbrians in any period(s): judged on stage-worthiness and Northumbrian character; Northumbrian language as and when appropriate.*)

ALSO OF INTEREST TO WRITERS:

SPEAKING COMPETITIONS at St Robert's Church Hall at 1.30 pm on Gathering Saturday (for full details see GROUP C information (see note 14).

C18: NORTHUMBRIAN SPEECH: dialect verse or prose reciting and

C22: STORY TELLING. C26: HOAFY TROPHY – tall tale telling

The Northumbrian Language Society

exists to promote, research, publish and enjoy Northumberland's own unique language and its dialects. See Northumbriana website for details of the Reed Neet Supper to be held on 6th May, the Yule Meet on 9th December and the annual Roland Bibby Memorial lecture which this year, his centenary, takes place among other special events on 14th October.

www.northumbriana.org.uk

Next (51st) Gathering: 6th - 8th April 2018 (to be confirmed)

**A large format version of this leaflet is available:
please ring 01670 513308**