

Northumbria Region u3a Short Story and Poetry Competitions.

During the past few months Northumbria Region Creative Writers ran a short story and a poetry competition for any u3a member within our Region. The theme was 'Echoes'. There was a great response. Thank you to everyone who entered, some members entering both competitions.

The winners of each category received a £30 book token and the runners up received a £10 book token.

The winner of the short story competition is Brian Denton from Washington Village u3a. His story is called "Rod Stewart, Chinese Firecrackers, and a Metro to Nowhere". Brian is donating the book token to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital for any fund raising events they will be holding in the future.

The runner up of the short story competition is Trish Bryans of Cramlington Scribblers /Blyth u3a. Her story is called 'A Whale of a Time'.

The winner of the poetry competition is Bob Heyman from Newcastle u3a. His poem is called 'Echoes of Humanity'. Fantastic photo of Bob with his cat.

The runner up of the poetry competition is Susan Tideswell again from Newcastle u3a. Her poem is called 'Answers'.

Congratulations to everyone.

ECHOES OF HUMANITY

I heard her words come from my mouth.
I had not meant to parrot.
My phrase returned from him to me.
His imitation flattered.
The words which copied my words
were the catch-phrase of a long-lost friend,
transmitted one-to-one-to-one,
an echo of an echo.

Patterns like this reverberate
through our worlds unnoticed.
Nurturance will be passed on,
when warm intentions ripple.
But brute abuse is copied too
across the generations.
Savagery drowns the fragile sounds
of kindly human echoes.

By Bob Heyman

Article by Cecilia Coulson 'Lead of the Northumbria Region Creative Writers.'

