

Farpais Sgrìobhaidh Às an Tobar 2019

Riaghailtean Farpais nan Inbheach

Uist Book Festival Open Writing Competition 2019

Adult Competition Rules

Introduction

The Uist Book Festival exists to support the continuing development of the artistic and creative traditions of Uist and Benbecula. The Festival takes place from 18-24 November 2019, during the Scottish Book Trust's Book Week Scotland. The Uist Book Festival aims to be informal, friendly and inclusive, for early or developing readers and writers or the occasional or most avid bookworms among us.

The Festival Open Writing Competition is open to all those living on Uist and Benbecula or whose entries are inspired by the socio-economic, historic or geographic features of these islands; and is open to established or new and emerging authors alike.

There are separate classes for juniors and for adults. Entries are welcome in Gàidhlig or in English.

There is a single theme under which entries for the 2019 competition should be made, and this is 'Blether'. We welcome stories and poetry that feature your characters having a good blether, regardless of how you choose to capture that on the page.

Key dates:

- Competition closing date, by which all entries must be received: 14 October 2019 (4.00 pm)
- Winners notified directly on: 8th November 2019
- Public announcement made on the Uist Book Festival website on: 11th November 2019
- Prize-giving on: 21st November 2019.

2019 adult competition

- Separate classes for poetry (no line limit) and for short stories (up to 3,000 words)
- Gàidhlig and English language streams
- Poetry: Katharine Barr Prize for Poetry (1 x £50 prize in each language stream)
- Short story: Norman MacLean Prize for Short Story Writing (1 x £50 prize in each language stream)
- Authors may also be highly commended in each category (no cash prize)
- Judges:
 - **Adult English prose: ?**
 - Adult English poetry: Pauline Prior-Pitt
 - Adult Gàidhlig prose: Rosemary Ward
 - Adult Gàidhlig poetry: Morag MacDonald
- Entry fee: £5 per entry

We all love a good blether – the chance to have a chat about something on our minds – and the Hebridean ceilidh is legendary for the opportunity it affords to tell a story (or two!), regardless of how tall or shaggy. And perhaps especially if they are tall or shaggy. A good blether can put a smile on our face, inspire us to greater achievements or help us feel that we are not alone; it can help us connect with the

people and the world around us, make us feel included and valued, and give us a better sense of who we are and how we might better realise our hopes and dreams. That's just our thoughts – we want to hear what 'blether' means to you and the characters in your stories.

Perhaps you have in mind some sort of a resolution to a situation, a new goal or fresh assessment of self, or of beliefs and aims. Perhaps that blether has outcomes that are not the ones that most immediately appear or which, perhaps temporarily, put your characters in some sort of jeopardy. Perhaps the blether takes the form of noises heard whispering in the wind, or a conversation with a fictitious character or, otherwise, with a well-known public figure, that encourages or motivates in some way those people who are involved with it.

Either way, take the opportunity to tell us a story about a 'blether'; and, in the process, we invite you to have a good blether with us.

For some examples of poems and stories featuring a blether, see the Scottish Book Trust website:
<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland/read-blether-stories>

Adult competition rules:

1. Entries must be your own original and unaided work.
2. Entries must not have been previously published or broadcast commercially, in print or online, or have won a prize in another competition. Work that has been self-published, including online, may be entered but it must not have won a prize in another competition.
3. All entries must fall within the theme and openness criteria of the Uist Book Festival Open Writing Competition.
4. You may submit only one entry in each class. However, you may submit an entry in more than one class.
5. The adult competition classes are: adult poetry; and adult short story. In both classes, there will be separate, but equal, streams for Gàidhlig and English entries.
6. The maximum length of any entry in the adult open short story writing competition is 3,000 words. There is no limit on the lines of poetry that can be entered.
7. Judging of competition entries is fair and unbiased, and all entries will be read and judged anonymously. Your name or address must not appear anywhere on your entry; nor therefore must there be any other content marks that could identify you as the author of the work.
8. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed competition entry form. The entry form will be separated from your work after the entry has been accepted. Entry forms can be downloaded from the competition website and available at the competition address; and can be typed or handwritten.
9. For all competition classes, entries must be delivered to the competition address, which is: Cothrom Ltd, Ormiclate, South Uist HS8 5SB (telephone: 01878 700910). Entries can also be e-mailed to enquiries@cothrom.net. If posting, this is at your own risk and you must allow sufficient time for posting prior to the competition closing date. There is no facility to make entries via the competition website. Cothrom has the ability to handle card payments for entry fees, including over the phone, and you must contact Cothrom if you are e-mailing or posting an entry into one of the adult classes in order to pay the fee.
10. Entries in the short story competitions must be submitted in black ink on single-sided white A4 paper, double-spaced and in 12 point. For short stories, pages must be clearly numbered and not stapled or pinned in any way. There is no specific format for entries in the poetry classes. In all cases, the title of the work must be at the top of the first page.
11. Entry fees cannot be returned after an entry has been accepted; and no entry can be accepted unless it is accompanied by the appropriate fee. An entry is accepted at the point it is received. No changes can be made to an entry after it has been accepted.
12. Please pay careful attention to the key dates of the Uist Book Festival Open Writing competition.
13. Copyright for work entered into the Uist Book Festival Open Writing Competition remains with the authors, but Uist Book Festival reserves the right to publish the winning and highly commended entries, online or in print, for one year after the winners have been notified. We also reserve the right to use any sound or video recordings of work for promotional use.
14. We are unable to return entries, although these can be collected from the competition address after the competition has closed. Uncollected work will be destroyed after one month.
15. Entries that do not meet the rules of the competition will be disqualified. Note that the competition organisers cannot enter into any correspondence about the acceptance of entries.
16. Decisions made by the judges regarding the winning entries are final.
17. Prizes may be withheld or altered if, in the opinion of the judge, we receive no outstanding entries, or insufficient entries.
18. The competition organisers can be contacted via the Uist Book Festival website (www.uistbookfestival.org).
19. There will be a prize-giving ceremony at the Uist Book Festival 2019. Travel to this event will be at each prize winner's own expense.
20. By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to the competition rules.

Entry fees will go towards the Competition prize fund and in furtherance of the aims of the Uist Book Festival and of the communities of Uist and Benbecula.

Uist Book Festival Competition 2019 Entry form

Name: _____

Title of work: _____

Entrant's contact details (preferably, e-mail address): _____

Class for which entry is made (please circle):

| Class | Gàidhlig | English |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Primary 1-3 | Code: J1 | |
| Primary 4-7 | Code: J2G | Code: J2E |
| Secondary School | Code: J3G | Code: J3E |
| Adult poetry | Code: A1G | Code: A1E |
| Adult short story | Code: A2G | Code: A2E |

Accurate word count of entry (for short story competition entries only): _____

Declaration: In submitting my entry, I hereby declare that this is my original, unaided work and that it complies with the rules of the competition

Signed: _____

For office use: