

For immediate release

Wednesday 8 June 2011

IN SEARCH OF WOLVERHAMPTON'S NEXT BLACK COUNTRY BARD

Wulfrunian wordsmiths with a flair for poetry are being invited to display their talent using Wolverhampton City as their muse for a poetry contest launched this week.

Wolverhampton City Council Archives and Local Studies and Libraries services have teamed up to stage the free poetry competition as part of the Archives and Local Studies Service's programme of events, which will support the forthcoming 2011 national [Archive Awareness Campaign](#) theme *Culture and Diversity: What's Your Story?*

Poets are invited to submit up to three poems using Wolverhampton (www.blackcountryhistory.org) as the theme and cash prizes are available in both the adults and under 16s category.

The winning and commended poems will be displayed at the Archives' Molineux Hotel building in the run up to this year's National Poetry Day on October 6. They will be exhibited until the end of October before they will be archived, enhancing the city's rich cultural and diverse heritage.

Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said:

"I welcome this competition as it will raise the profile of our great city and give writers the opportunity to express themselves through poetry."

Jan James, Wolverhampton City Council's Community Archives and Outreach Officer commented:

“This competition is open to anyone who lives or works in the city or who can demonstrate a strong connection with Wolverhampton. We are anticipating reading some fantastic poetry and are looking forward to seeing how people put their thoughts about Wolverhampton into words.”

Simon Fletcher, Wolverhampton City Council's Literature Development Officer, added:

“We have seen through our writing groups that we have many talented authors here in Wolverhampton and it will be interesting to see what aspects of the city they draw upon with their entries to this competition.”

The results will be revealed at a special prize-giving event at the Molineux Hotel's Rococo Room on Wednesday September 28 this year. Competition entrants will be invited to read their work.

The prizes are £50, £30 and £20 for the top three poems in the adults category and £25, £15 and £10 for the best three in the under 16s category.

The closing date for entries is **Friday July 29, 2011**. Poems should be no longer than 30 lines with the author's name and contact details supplied on a separate sheet of paper. Under 16s should state their age.

Entries should be sent to: **Simon Fletcher, Literature Development Officer, Central Library, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton WV1 3AX.**

For more information, pictures and interview requests please contact **Angela Owusu** on **0208 392 5237** or email Angela.Owusu@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

– Ends –

Notes to Editors

- Jan James, Wolverhampton City Council's Community Archives and Outreach Officer, will be helping to judge the competition.
- To find out more about the Archives and Local Studies Service please log on to www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/archives or www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/leisure_culture/libraries/archives,

- For more information about Wolverhampton's libraries, please visit www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries.

Archive Awareness Campaign

The Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com is spearheaded by the Archives & Records Association (ARA) (www.archives.org.uk) and funded by The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (www.mla.gov.uk). It is an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasures. It celebrates and promotes local and national archives. Throughout the year archives across the country open their doors to showcase history, hold open days and present workshops to help the public discover a piece of their own history.