



Sponsored by Shell

## The John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition

*Sir John Betjeman and his work are part of Shell's history. The Shell County Guides in the 1930's were Betjeman's brainchild and became one of our most memorable marketing campaigns. In addition, John Betjeman made 26 films for Shell in the 'Discovering Britain' series.*

*Seventy-six years later we are proud to continue our association with Sir John Betjeman and are therefore delighted to support "The John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition"*

*We wish all the entrants and good luck in reaching the finals!*

The John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition is open to 11-14 year olds in the British Isles and Republic of Ireland. The prize of £1,000, (£500 to the winner and £500 to the English department of their school), is donated by John Murray (Publishers) Ltd. The prize giving will take place in late October 2009 at St. Pancras International Station. The first prize winner, runner-up and highly commended will also each win three Eurostar standard class return tickets to either Paris or Brussels.

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

**Age**.....

**Telephone**.....

**e-mail**.....

**School Name**.....

**School  
Address**.....

**I acknowledge that I have read and understood the rules of the John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition and guarantee that the enclosed entry is all my own work.**

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....

Please send **ONE POEM** only about any aspect of your local surroundings, with a title. Please note that for administrative reasons entries will not be acknowledged.

**Poems and completed entry forms to be sent to the John Betjeman Young People's Poetry Competition, 72 Vicars Hill, London, SE13 7JL by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009**

#### **RULES**

1. The competition is open to young people aged 11-14 inclusive, during the year 2009, living anywhere in the British Isles and the Republic of Ireland.
2. Entrants may submit one poem each, about their local surroundings or any aspect of them, whether a house, a street, a garden, a park, a city or a wider landscape. The spirit behind the competition is to encourage an understanding and appreciation of the importance of 'place'. We are not looking for pastiches of John Betjeman's own work
3. Each poem must be given a title.
4. Entries may be hand written (which must be legible) or typed.
5. Poems must not have been published, self-published, published on a website or broadcast (except in an individual school magazine).
6. All entries must be attached to the completed entry form.
7. The poems will be judged anonymously, therefore the name of the writer should not appear anywhere on the manuscript.
8. Entrants must ensure that they keep a copy of their poem as poems cannot be returned and for administrative reasons entries cannot be acknowledged.
9. Poems may be submitted by post only and must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009.
10. The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into.