



*"There was something deliberately 'ordinary' in his demeanour which was a concealment of extraordinary fires."  
(Charles Morgan)*

## COMPETITION RULES

The competition is open to all ages and nationalities. The poems submitted must be original work, in English, previously unpublished. The maximum length permitted is forty lines (exclusive of title).

Each poem must be given a title, if only for identification purposes. As the entries will need to be photo-copied they should be typed, or written in black ink, preferably on A4 paper. Use only one side of each sheet.

Since the competition is to be adjudicated on a strictly anonymous basis entrants should not put their names or addresses on the poems. All such information should go on the entry form, along with the title of each poem submitted. You may submit ONE or TWO poems, but not more. The entry fee is £5 for a single poem and £8 for two.

The entry fee must be paid in UK currency. Cheques or postal orders should be made out to 'The Thomas Hardy Society'.

**The closing date for receipt of entries will be 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2008. All prize-winners will be notified personally by 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, and will be invited to attend a reception in Dorchester on 26<sup>th</sup> July, the opening day of the Thomas Hardy Conference and Festival.**

## FURTHER CONDITIONS

If you require a receipt for your entry, please submit with it a self-addressed envelope labelled RECEIPT, either stamped or enclosing an international reply coupon.

To receive a full list of results enclose a similar envelope, marked RESULTS. The winning entries will be listed on our website after the July Conference.

Please retain a copy of your work, since entries cannot be returned. Once submitted, contributions cannot be altered.

The Society cannot enter into correspondence about entries or results. The adjudicator's decision is final.

If entries are judged insufficient in quantity or standard the advertised prizes may be withheld or altered.

Copyright remains with the author, but the Thomas Hardy Society and *Agenda* reserve the right to the first publication of the winning poems.

**THOMAS HARDY SOCIETY POETRY COMPETITION**

*"My opinion is that a poet should express the emotion of all the ages and the thought of his own"*  
*(Life)*

**ENTRY FORM**  
Please use block capitals

NAME: .....

.....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

.....

TELEPHONE: .....

E-MAIL: .....

I ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING POEMS:

1) .....

2) .....

Total payment enclosed: .....

Cheques or postal orders for £5 or £8, to be made payable to  
The Thomas Hardy Society

**Mark your envelope 'Poetry Competition' and send to:  
The Thomas Hardy Society P.O. Box 1438 Dorchester  
Dorset DT1 1YH**

**Closing date for entries: 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2008**



*"There is more autobiography in a hundred lines of Mr Hardy's poetry than in all the novels" (Life)*

## THE THOMAS HARDY SOCIETY

The Hardy Society was founded in 1968 and now has well over a thousand members world-wide. Its stated objectives are 'to promote knowledge and appreciation of the work of Thomas Hardy, both nationally and internationally, to encourage the study of his writings at school and university level, and to provide Hardy lovers with opportunities for fellowship'.

The Society is therefore committed to appealing equally to scholars, students and readers-for-pleasure. Locally – mostly in Dorset – it runs an annual programme of lectures, walks, readings and entertainments. It publishes two magazines. The *Hardy Society Journal*, which is sent to members three times a year, contains Society news, articles – some scholarly, some of general interest – reviews, poems, correspondence and competitions. The book-length *Thomas Hardy Journal*, sent out once a year, is a referenced collection of longer scholarly essays.

Every second year the Society holds a week-long Thomas Hardy Conference and Festival in Dorchester, featuring lectures from internationally-known scholars, postgraduate seminars, discussions, 'Wessex' excursions, recitals, folk-music, poetry-readings and parties.

Enquiries about membership may be made by post to The Thomas Hardy Society, P.O. Box 1438, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1YH, or by e-mail to [info@hardysociety.org](mailto:info@hardysociety.org) Our website may be found at [www.hardysociety.org](http://www.hardysociety.org)

## AGENDA |

**A**genda is one of the best known and most highly respected poetry journals in the world, having been founded in 1959 by **Ezra Pound** and **William Cookson**. It is now edited by **Patricia McCarthy**, who co-edited the magazine with **William Cookson** for four years until his death in January 2003. She is continuing, as **Seamus Heaney** says, 'to uphold the lofty standards of *Agenda*'.

**SPECIAL ISSUES** focus on established poets and undeservedly neglected poets chosen by *Agenda* for prominence. **INTERNATIONAL ISSUES** offer English-speaking readers access to poets they would not normally come across. A general section is included. **GENERAL ISSUES** all have a special focus and display known and new poetic voices, with up-to-date reviews and essays. **BROADSHEETS** (now online) give selected **young poets and artists** (age 15 – mid thirties) a chance to display their work. One Broadsheet poet is offered a wider spread in each issue of the magazine. **A young essayist/reviewer** is also selected to appear in *Agenda* alongside well-known critics. **AGENDA EDITIONS:** *Agenda's* own publishing company for limited editions of separate collections by chosen poets (no unsolicited manuscripts).

**SUBSCRIBE online**, or to: World Wide Subscription Service Limited, Unit 4, Gibbs Reed Farm, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 7HE  
Website: [www.agendapoetry.co.uk](http://www.agendapoetry.co.uk)  
Email: [editor@agendapoetry.co.uk](mailto:editor@agendapoetry.co.uk)  
For further information phone: 01435 873703



# AGENDA

## THOMAS HARDY SOCIETY POETRY COMPETITION IN MEMORY OF JAMES GIBSON

**First prize £3000 ~ Second prize £1000  
Third prize £500 ~ ten awards of £50**

**T**he Thomas Hardy Society, in association with *Agenda* magazine, is sponsoring a poetry competition to commemorate the late James Gibson, who edited Hardy's *Complete Poems*, and was a founder-member as well as a former Chairman of the Society.

Prizes will be awarded for the best poems, of **forty lines or fewer**, previously **unpublished**, and showing some affinity with the work of **Thomas Hardy**, whether in terms of **subject-matter, theme or technique**.

There will be a first prize of £3000, a second prize of £1000, a third prize of £500 and ten runners-up awards of £50 – these last being particularly intended to encourage new writers. The three best entries will be published in the Autumn issue of *Agenda* and in the *Hardy Society Journal*.\*

**Closing date for entries: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.**

Winners to be informed by 15<sup>th</sup> June.

There will be a **reception for prize-winners in Dorchester** on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> to mark the start of the Thomas Hardy Conference and Festival. This will be the occasion for public announcement of the results.

**The adjudicator will be the poet, critic  
and translator Bernard O'Donoghue.**

His poetry collections include *Poaching Rights* (1987), *The Weakness* (1991), *Gunpowder* (1995) (winner of the Whitbread Poetry Award), *Here nor There* (1999) and *Outliving* (2003). In 2006 he published a translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. He teaches Medieval English at the University of Oxford, where he is a Fellow of Wadham College. He is also the author of *The Courtly Love Tradition* (1982) and *Seamus Heaney and the Language of Poetry* (1995).

**\*SPECIAL OFFER: SUBSCRIBE to Agenda NOW and receive a FREE copy of the THOMAS HARDY SPECIAL ISSUE of Agenda, 1972 (collectors' items, worth £100 each.**