



## **EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS**

Welcome to the first **Evesham Festival of Words Poetry Competition** - an annual writing competition open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers.

Launch date: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Closing date: 5pm, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Theme: Thinking Outside the Box

Length: 40 lines maximum

Fee: £5 for a maximum of three entries.

Entrants: The Competition is open to anyone over the age of 16.

Judges: Sue Johnson and Jan Dawson

Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - £100; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - £50; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - £25.

## **POETRY COMPETITION 2020 – RULES**

Poems must be the original work of the entrant and should not be previously published, self-published, published online, broadcast, or won a prize in another poetry competition.

Simultaneous submissions are allowed, but please let us know as soon as possible if a poem is to be published elsewhere, or wins a prize in another poetry competition.

Poems can be in any style.

If submitting more than one entry, each poem must be on a separate sheet.

Entries must be typed, preferably in 12 font.

The name of the author and any other identifying information must not appear on the poem, but in the accompanying email.

Once entered, poems cannot be amended.

Copyright will remain with the author, but the organisers reserve the right to publish any of the prizewinning poems as they deem appropriate.

Members of the Festival Steering Group, or the Judges, will not be eligible to enter the Competition.



Entries must be received by the deadline of **5pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered.

Entries will be judged anonymously, so please ensure that poems do not contain any identifying information.

### **How to submit your entry:**

All entries must be submitted electronically. Note that entries that do not comply with the Rules will be disqualified.

Include the title of your story as a header for each poem submitted.

Include the line count at the end of each poem.

Each poem must be on a separate sheet.

Entries should be submitted by email to: [info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org). Poems should be doc, doc.x or PDF format. Please include in the email your name, address and contact telephone number. (Any problems with Festival email, please send to [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com)). Do not send your entry in the body of an email.

Online payment of the entry fee should be made via Paypal from the Festival website – [www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org/Competition](http://www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org/Competition).

Your payment will be processed securely by Paypal. After you have made your payment you will receive a confirmation email from Paypal. That email will quote a transaction ID number. Please ensure you quote that number in the email with your entry/entries.

An acknowledgement will be sent by the Competition Coordinator on receipt of your entry.

If you are unable, or do not wish, to make payment online, please send a cheque for the value of the entry fee, payable to 'Evesham Festival of Words' to 20 Allardene, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1EA. Please include your name and the title of your poem(s) with your cheque.

Entries will only be accepted for judging when payment has been received.

Please contact us by email ([info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)) at any time up to the closing date if you wish to withdraw your entry. No refund will be given for any withdrawn entries.



### **Judging:**

Entries will be read and judged anonymously: entrants names and contact details must not appear on the poems.

There will be two judges: **Sue Johnson** and **Jan Dawson**, both of whom will read all submitted poems.

The judges will select a shortlist of 10, and from those a winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Judges will not comment or give feedback on individual poems.

The Judges' decision is final and no individual correspondence will be entered into.

In the event of either of the named judges being unable to carry out judging, an alternative will be identified.

Shortlisted entrants will be notified by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June** at the latest, and listed on the Festival website.

### **Prizes:**

There will be cash prizes of £100, £50 and £25 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This year, due to the coronavirus crisis, and subsequent cancellation of many Festival events, there will be no prizegiving event. The winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be notified by email, by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June** at the latest, and posted on the Festival website.

The winner, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be invited to have their poems published on the Festival website.

### **About the Judges:**

**Jan Dawson** – is a retired ex-librarian, and has been involved in the West Midland's poetry scene for a number of years. She has organised poetry slams and open mics, informal poetry readings with numerous poets, and poetry book launches. She has been a judge for Poetry on Loan competitions, and is a member of their steering group. She has also been part of Warwickshire Libraries' Young Poet Laureate scheme from the beginning, being instrumental in setting this up, and judging the competition for the last five years.

"I am looking forward to reading the entries for the Evesham Festival of Words first poetry competition. It is a very exciting initiative, so good luck to all."



**Sue Johnson** - Sue Johnson is published as a poet, short story writer and novelist. Most of her ideas begin as poems. Since 1st January 2013 she has written a poem a day. Many of them have been published in small press magazines both in the UK and the US. Sue's work is inspired by the natural world, fairytales and eavesdropping in cafes. She has published three full poetry collections and two joint collections. Sue runs her own brand of workshops in various locations. She is also a Writing Magazine Creative Writing Tutor for Poetry and four of their other programmes.

Further details of her work can be found at [www.writers-toolkit.co.uk](http://www.writers-toolkit.co.uk)

Thank you for supporting Evesham Festival of Words inaugural Poetry Competition!

If you have any queries about the competition, please email:

[info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org](mailto:info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org)

Any problems with the Festival email please resend to [sueablett1@btinternet.com](mailto:sueablett1@btinternet.com).