



## **EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS 2022**

Welcome to our first ever **Evesham Festival of Words ‘First Line’ Competition** - open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers. Its fun and free to enter!

Launch date: **1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

Closing date: **5pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

Fee: Free to enter. **Limit of one entry per person.**

Entrants: The Competition is open to anyone over the age of 12.

Judges: Rob Hemming, Festival Steering Group member (shortlisting). Journalist, TV and Radio Presenter and Festival Patron, Michael Collie (judging final 3).

Prizes: £25 book token (1<sup>st</sup> prize); £15 book token (2<sup>nd</sup> prize) and £10 book token (3<sup>rd</sup> prize).

### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**Its easy. We give you the first line and you have up to a maximum of 50 words to complete the story.**

**The opening line is: ‘The clock struck one. 10, 9, 8 .... He continued counting down, took a deep breath and then ....’.**

**Its up to you how you think the story pans out. Here are a few ideas:**

“.... he held out his hand. “Scalpel” he said. The atmosphere in the room was tense. There was sweat on his brow. This was really cutting edge surgery. Noone had ever done anything like it before but he knew he could transform a life – only if it all went to plan.”

“.... opening his eyes he saw the room was packed. So much for worries about performing in an empty hall. His first night as a stand up comic. He was terrified, throwing in the day job was a risk, but he had some great one-liners and a comedian needs an audience.”

“.... looked up as his beautiful bride walked serenely down the aisle. Gone was the usual casual gear, she looked a million dollars. His mind was racing. He hoped his best mate who had muttered about “livening things up” wasn’t going to do anything silly. He held his breath and hoped.”



## COMPETITION RULES

The story 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 competition.

Entries must be typed, preferably in 12 font.

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

Copyright will remain with the author, but the organisers reserve the right to publish any of the stories they deem appropriate, including anonymously on social media during the judging period.

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 Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022**. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered.

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

All entries must be submitted electronically. Please include word count at the end of your story. *Note that entries that do not comply with the Rules will be disqualified.*

Entries should be submitted by email to Jan Dawson: [janevedaw@gmail.com](mailto:janevedaw@gmail.com). Please include in the email your name, address and contact telephone number. Do not send your entry in the body of an email.

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

Please contact us by email ([janevedaw@gmail.com](mailto:janevedaw@gmail.com)) at any time up to the closing date if you wish to withdraw your entry.

### **Judging:**

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

Shortlisting of 12 entries will be carried out by Festival Steering Group member, Rob Hemming. From these, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners will be selected by judge Michael Collie.

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



### **Prizes:**

There will be book tokens of £20, £15 and £10 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

All entrants will be notified by email within one week of the closing date. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stories will be posted on the Festival website.

### **About the Judges:**

**Michael Collie (Judge)**, journalist, radio and TV presenter has been one of the Festival Patrons since 2016. He was delighted to be invited to judge this First Line Competition and is hugely looking forward to judging the shortlisted entries.

**Rob Hemming (Shortlister)** is a member of the Festival Steering Group. He rekindled an old love affair with creative writing after twenty five years doing a variety of jobs. He is former Chair of Malvern Writers' Circle and a regular contributor to Cotswold & Vale Magazine.

Thank you for supporting Evesham Festival of Words First Line Competition!  
If you have any queries about the competition, please email:  
[janevedaw@gmail.com](mailto:janevedaw@gmail.com)