

caféwriters

Open Poetry Competition 2026 **Closing Date 15th November 2026**

1st Prize, £1000

2nd Prize, £300

3rd Prize, £200

Plus three commended prizes of £30

The Norfolk Prize, £50

For the best poem from a permanent Norfolk resident not winning another prize

Sole Judge – Jane Commane

Entry Fee

£5 per poem, or £13 for 3 poems and £4 per poem thereafter

We offer a free entry of up to two poems to any UK resident with a total household income of less than £16,000 for whom the cost of entering would be prohibitive. We will not ask for proof of income.

Café Writers Open Poetry Competition 2026 Rules

1. Closing date for receipt of entries: **15th November 2026**
2. The Prize is open worldwide to anyone over 18 other than Café Writers committee members.
3. Entries must be the work of the entrant, **no simultaneous submissions**, posthumous or AI generated poems are allowed and they should never have been published, self-published, published on any website or recorded [poems read at Open Mics are OK as long as they were not recorded].
4. Please use the form on the second page of this document and include it in the envelope with your submission.
5. Entries must be in English.
6. We regret that entries cannot be returned.
7. Each poem should be printed on a new page and be no more than 40 lines excluding stanza breaks and title. There must be NO name, address or identifying marks on the page other than the title. Poems should be 12-point Times New Roman, single spaced in black with no numbers, pictures, colours or borders.
8. No corrections can be made after receipt, nor fees refunded.
9. Worldwide copyright of poems remains with the author, but Café Writers will have the unrestricted right to publish the winning poems on its website and in competition publicity.
10. The Norfolk Prize is awarded to a permanent Norfolk resident, for a poem not winning another prize.
11. The judge's decision is final, no individual correspondence can be entered into.

Entry implies acceptance of the rules. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

Prizes: Prizewinners will be notified in writing by 28th February 2027.. A list of prizewinners will be posted in our newsletter, on social media and the website shortly after this. The prizewinning event will take place on Zoom in March 2027

Donation: If you would like to donate the cost of an entry or two to help subsidise someone on a low income please add the amount to your total.

Entries should be sent to: Café Writers Poetry Competition, 86, Market Place, Burnham Market, PE31 8HD with a cheque payable to **Café Writers**.
If you are a poet on a low household income claiming your free entry of up to two poems please indicate this by putting the poem/s title/s against 'concession' on the form below.

Enclose a stamped addressed postcard marked ACKNOWLEDGEMENT if you would like confirmation we have received your entry, and/or a stamped addressed envelope marked RESULTS if you would like a printed copy.
Alternatively enter and pay online at www.cafewriters.co.uk

Name.....

Address.....

.....

email.....**Phone**.....

Please tick to be added to the competition mailing ☐ list

Poem 1 Title.....(1 Poem £5]

Poem 1 Title.....(Concession)

Poem 2 Title.....(2 Poems £10)

Poem 2 Title(Concession)

Poem 3 Title.....(3 Poems £13)

Poem 4 Title.....(4 Poems£17)

Poem 5 Title.....(5 Poems £21)

Poem 6 Title.....(6 Poems £25)