Conditions of Entry

This competition is open to writers of any nationality writing in English.

The maximum length of the poem, excluding title and any blank lines, is 40 lines.

Entries must be entirely your own work.

Your poem must be typed single-spaced in a standard 12-point font and saved either as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as .rtf, .pdf, .txt.

Do not send illustrated work.

Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on a website, blog or online forum, broadcast, have won or been placed (2nd, 3rd, runner up, etc) in any other competition.

We will allow entries that have been previously longlisted or shortlisted in other competitions, provided they haven't won a prize or been published.

Your name, address, phone number, email, website or any other identifying marks must not appear anywhere on your poem, or your entry will be disqualified.

Under no circumstances can alterations be made to poems once entered

Please enter one poem only.

Employees, Conservators and trustees of Ashdown Forest are not permitted to enter this competition.

Entries close at 11.59pm GMT on 31st August 2024. Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted.

We don't allow simultaneous submissions.

Entries submitted posthumously are not eligible.

Submission is online via Ashdown Forest's website only. We do not accept postal submissions.

We will not provide feedback on your poem.

The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. You retain all copyright, publishing rights and any other intellectual property right to your poem. By entering your poem, you grant to us – on a non-exclusive, noncommercial, royalty-free basis – the right to publish, broadcast, perform and reproduce your poem worldwide and in perpetuity.

The competition organisers reserve the right to change the judges without notice.