

Nottingham Writers' Club



Established 1927

National Short Story Competition 2017 Information Sheet, Entry Form and Examples

(Please read all of these carefully)

In 2017, the NWC is celebrating its ninetieth birthday. We're very proud that the Club has reached this milestone and, as part of our year of celebration, we've made the theme for this year's competition food and/or drink. There are many ways to write on this subject and here are a few we've thought of.

A wedding, a birthday party or dinner, a first date, a barbeque, cocktails on the beach, room service at a hotel, drinks after work, drinking alone, girls' or boys' night out, hen or stag party, hunting or fishing, working at a bar or restaurant, food fads, diets, home cooking, chocoholics, alcoholics, who needs recipes?, cooking disaster, dinner party, poisoning (accidental or on purpose), going to a cookery class, museum display, childhood incidents, allergies ...

As we want to encourage new and less experienced writers to 'have a go', we'll give a few lines of feedback on each entry and, as this isn't a competition for professionals, please don't enter if you've earned £300 or more from short story writing up to and including 2016.

The story must contain no more than 2,000 words excluding the title.

There will be three main prizes - £200, £100 and £50 – plus five runners up prizes.

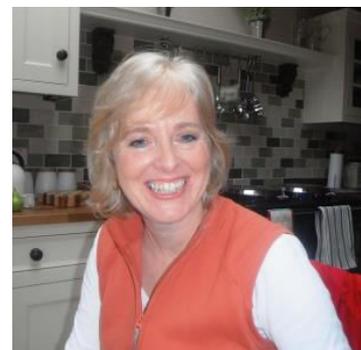
All writers will retain the copyright to their entry/entries and the top three stories will be published on the NWC website. Winners will also receive a small certificate with the judge's comments on the back.

Good luck and happy writing.

About our Judge

Helen Yendall writes short stories and serials for women's magazines and is a former Poet Laureate for Warwick. She's been placed in several short story competitions, has taught creative writing since 2008 and often runs flash fiction writing competitions on her blog:

www.blogaboutwriting.wordpress.com



Nottingham Writers' Club National Short Story Competition 2017



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Rules of Entry

(Please read all five pages carefully)

Short story up to 2,000 words (not including the title). Please don't exceed this limit as this could lead to your story being disqualified.

Fees

Postal Entries: £5 for one entry, £10 for two and £4 each for three or more entries. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit but each one must be accompanied by its own entry form. Fees to be paid by cheque or postal order, made payable to 'Nottingham Writers' Club'. Please don't send cash.

Online Entries: £6 for one, £12 for two and £5 each for three or more. Fees to be paid by credit/debit card or PayPal. The additional £1 charge covers the cost of transaction fees and printing.

If you'd like to get a £2 discount per story, details are on Page 7.

The competition opens for submissions of entries on 1st February 2017, with the last day for receipt being 28th February 2017.

- The competition is for any resident of the United Kingdom who is over 18 years of age at the time of entry.
- The work must be original and previously unpublished, and the copyright of the author.
- All entrants must be non-professional writers. For the purpose of this competition, we define 'non-professional' as a writer who has earned less than £300 for short story writing up to and including 2016.
- Entries must not have been previously published, self-published, and/or posted on any website, blog or online forum; broadcast, nor winning or placed (as in 2nd, 3rd runner up, etc.) in any other competition.
- Copyright remains with the author; but the top three winners agree to their stories being published on the Nottingham Writers' Club website.

Entry Format

- Entries must be in English, typed in an easy to read font size 12, double line spaced on one side of A4 paper, margins set to approximately 2.5 cm.
- Pages must be numbered, have a footer showing the title, and be stapled together with a cover page showing only the title, pseudonym and word count (an example is at the bottom of this document).
- All other information is to be given on the accompanying entry form. We ask for a pseudonym to ensure fairness in the judging process.

Entries will not be returned but shredded after the judge has made her decision so please make sure you keep a copy.

Postal entries: Send to NWC, c/o 29 Redwood Avenue, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2SG,

between 1st February and 28th February 2017. If insufficient postage is used, the NWC will not pay the difference. **Please don't send recorded delivery as I'm not always in to sign for it.**

Receipt of all entries will be acknowledged by e mail but if you prefer a postal confirmation you need to include a stamped, addressed postcard. Last year, several e mails weren't received so please check in your Junk file in case it's gone in there. The judge's decision is final and no individual correspondence can be entered into.

The winners will be notified by e mail and entrants will receive regular updates when the long list, short list and winners are on the website.

If you don't hear from us within seven days of sending your entry, please contact us by e mail or use the contact form on our website. Last year we had a few e mail addresses that didn't work and one envelope that arrived empty. Also, don't send entries to The Mechanics as we only hold meetings there and you may miss the entry deadline.

Online entries: can be submitted via our website between 1st February and 28th February 2017.



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Nottingham Writers' Club National Competition 2017 Entry Form (Before sending your entry, please make sure it complies with all the rules)			
Name			
Postal address (You must be resident in the UK)			
E mail address			
Pseudonym			
Title of entry			
Word count			
To appear on cover page – Story Title, Word Count and Pseudonym. No other information is necessary.			
For postal entries, ensure your pages are securely stapled together with the cover sheet and this entry form. Use a separate form for each story.			
Signed			
Dated			
Please note that by submitting this form you agree to all terms and conditions as specified.			
Title of Entry			
Cheque Enclosed	Cheque No.		Amount
OR			
Postal Order Enclosed	Postal Order No.		Amount
The above to be made payable to the Nottingham Writers' Club.			
How did you find out about the competition?			

Please don't enter if you've earned more than £300 in any year up to and including 2016.

If you're entering online via our website, this form will be available there for you to complete and submit with your electronic entry.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act, information given on this form will be used solely by Nottingham Writers' Club and will not be passed on to any third party.

**EXAMPLE OF COVER SHEET
PLEASE DON'T ADD ANY OTHER INFORMATION. SIMPLY DELETE OUR
HEADINGS AND REPLACE THEM WITH YOUR OWN.**

Title of Story

by

Pseudonym

(Word Count)

EXAMPLE OF STORY PAGE FORMAT

Stories should be written in an easy to read font (this is Times New Roman), size 12 pt and double line spaced. Indent the start of each paragraph and only add an extra line space for a change of scene.

Each page must have a page number and a footer showing only the name of the story. Please don't put your real name on any of the story pages. For postal entries, these should be fastened together securely, preferably with a staple. If this isn't possible, a split pin or treasury tag are good alternatives.

Stories are always easier to read if paragraphs are kept short. If you're not sure how short is short, read stories published in magazines to see the current trend.

Read your work aloud, or ask a friend to read it to you. This is a very good way to make sure no badly written sentences or 'clunky' dialogue get missed.

Check your entry carefully as poor presentation, bad spelling and punctuation, and lack of attention to detail is off-putting to judges.

If submitting by post, make sure that you have the correct postage on the envelope as NWC will not pay the extra. Also, make sure you use a strong envelope and fasten with sticky tape. Last year one envelope arrived empty and several others were torn. Luckily the cheques were still inside. Your house number or name plus your postcode on the back is also a safeguard.

Check that you've printed your entry in accordance with the Entry Format Rules above and, if you'd like to get your **£2 per story discount**, the Associate Membership Form is included below.

Good luck.

Nottingham Writers' Club Associate Membership Form



Our Associate Membership is for people who'd like to be involved with the Club but can't attend meetings because they live out of our area.

For an annual subscription of £15, you are eligible to enter our quarterly prose and poetry competitions, receive a special extended version of E Scribe and get a £2 reduction on each story you enter for our National Short Story Competition. The new E Scribe also gives details of how we judge the competition, a chance to share your work with other members (for enjoyment and/or comments), competitions just for you, advice from our members on a variety of topics, a letters page, articles from our archives, the chance to ask fellow writers questions, and whatever else you'd like to be included.

If you'd like to join, please fill in this form and post it to:

Carol Bevitt, NWC, 3 Gisburn Close, Silverdale, Nottingham, NG11 7EX

Cheques to be made payable to Nottingham Writers' Club.
Receipt will be acknowledged by email.

Information about NWC can be found at:

www.nottinghamwritersclub.org.uk

Facebook Nottingham Writers' Club

Twitter @NW_C

**Please cut along the dotted line and send only the lower part of this form with your payment.
Thank you.**

Name

E Mail address

Name of Writing Group or Club (if applicable)
.....

I attach a cheque/postal order for £15.00.
(Please don't send cash.)

Cheque/PO No.

Signed Date