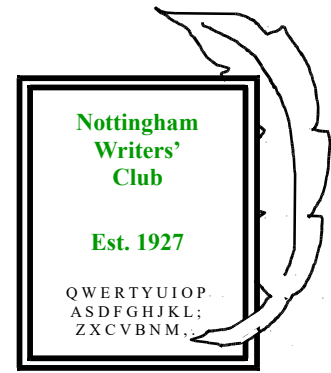


Nottingham Writers' Club

National Short Story Competition 2018



Welcome to the 2018 Competition.

We know from previous years that writers like to have a prompt that gives a guide but doesn't tie you down too much, so this year we're asking you to Choose a Season. It can be any kind of story in any genre, as long as your chosen season plays an important part.

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

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

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.

Details can be downloaded from this website or requested by e mail using our Contact Form.

Associate Members get a £2 per story discount and if you'd like details, they're all on our Associate Membership Form.

Happy writing.

Nottingham Writers' Club

National Short Story Competition 2018

Rules of Entry

(Please read all seven pages carefully)

Short story up to 2,000 words (not including the title).

Entries can be online via our website (www.nottinghamwritersclub.org.uk) or by post, whichever you prefer.

Fees

Online Entries: £6 for one, £12 for two and £5 each for three or more, to be paid by credit/debit card or PayPal. The additional £1 charge covers the cost of transaction fees and printing. If you are a Full or Associate Member, please deduct £2 for each entry.

Postal Entries: £5 for one entry, £10 for two and £4 each for three or more entries. Fees to be paid by cheque or postal order, made payable to 'Nottingham Writers' Club'. Please don't send cash. If you are a Full or Associate Member, you can deduct £2 for each entry.

There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit but each one must be accompanied by its own entry form.

The competition opens for submissions of entries on 1st February 2018, with the last day for receipt being 28th February 2018.

- 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- The work must be original and previously unpublished, and the copyright of the author.
- This competition is not for professional writers.
- 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.

Online entries: can be submitted via our website between 1st February and 28th February 2018.

Postal entries: Send to NWC, c/o 29 Redwood Avenue, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2SG, between 1st February and 28th February 2018. If insufficient postage is used, the NWC will not pay the difference and **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.

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

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.

Nottingham Writers' Club National Competition 2018 Entry Form

(Before sending your entry, please make sure it complies with the rules.)

Name				
Postal address (You must be resident in the UK)				
E mail address				
Pseudonym				
Title of entry				
Word count				
<p>To appear on cover page – Story Title, Word Count and Pseudonym.</p> <p>No other information is necessary and your real name must only be on this entry form.</p> <p>For postal entries, ensure your pages are securely stapled together with the cover sheet and this form. Use a separate form and a different pseudonym for each story.</p>				
Signed				
Dated				
<p>Please note that by submitting this form you agree to all terms and conditions as specified.</p>				
Payment Methods				
PayPal entry via our website	Number		Amount	
Cheque enclosed (made payable to Nottingham Writers' Club)	Cheque No.		Amount	
Postal Order enclosed	Postal Order No.		Amount	
How did you find out about the competition?				

Please don't enter if you've earned more than £300 from short story writing during 2017 or have received payment for publication of longer works of fiction, and/or non-fiction.

If you're entering online via our website this form is not required, the information will be collected when you enter.

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.

CHECK LIST

- Entry form completed (*postal entries only*)
- Cover sheet completed
- Cheque attached or Paypal details entered
- Pages numbered
- Your real name does not appear on your entry, only the entry form
- Your story is formatted according to the example on Page 6

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 except for the first one.

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. One year one envelope arrived empty and several others were torn. Luckily the cheques were still inside. Your house number or house 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.

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.

Or you can join online at www.nottinghamwritersclub.org.uk/membership/

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