

Words & Pictures Competition Rules, Terms & Conditions:

The start date for this competition is *1st September 2019*.

All entries for the Short Story, Prose (non-fiction), Poetry and Book Cover sections must be received by midnight on *31st March 2020*.

All sections are open to amateur writers in Somerset. Entrants should not be poets or authors whose work has been professionally published, but those who have self-published, or whose work has been published in an anthology or on a website may enter. The submitted entry must not be part of other competitions by the above closing date. Entrants should be resident or employed in the county of Somerset.

The Short Story, Prose (non-fiction) and Poetry elements are open to adults and 12-18 year olds. If there are sufficient youth entrants, it may be possible to publish a separate volume of their work. The Book Cover section is open to adults, 12-18 year olds and also to 7-12 year olds (with sufficient entries, there may be appropriate rewards for the under-18 youth contestants).

If insufficient submissions within any section make the judging/prize impractical, the appropriate entry fees will be returned and affected entrants notified.

Entries can be submitted as hard copy (non-returnable unless suitable self-addressed envelope enclosed with entry) to **The Administrator, Yatton Competition in Words & Pictures, 23 Cheddon Mews, Taunton, TA2 7HT**, or handed over at Yatton Library (in sealed envelope). Appropriate entry forms required with each submission. If receipt of entry/payment of fee is required, please include e-mail address/stamped self-addressed postcard. Entries can also be submitted online to **YattonComp@gmail.com**; receipt will be acknowledged by email.

All entries must include covering entry form + cheque/postal order [**payable to Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group**] or by BACS with the reference **COMP and your surname to Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group 30-99-51, account 01073460**. Paypal payment is available via the YACWAG web site [www.yacwag.org.uk] but this incurs cost to the charity so a surcharge of £2 is payable.

A maximum of two entries per individual in each section is permitted.

Fees –

Short Story, Non-fiction and Poetry: £3.50 per entry (adult/youth)

Book Cover: £3.50 per adult or youth entry (7-12 years free)

Short Story: Written in English; Minimum 500 words; Maximum 1800 words.

Any font accepted but please use 12 point font minimum (with some fonts, 12 point is small – take your chance that the judging panel can read it!) Note – This is written in 12 point Times New Roman.

A4 portrait format, single side printing. No handwritten entries please. Paper entries must be numbered and held together by a paperclip. Title must appear at the top of every

page. Nothing must appear within the work that could identify the author, and stories cannot be altered once entered.

Prizes: 1st = £25.00 Runners-up = 2 x £15.00 Highly Commended = 3 x £10.00

Non fiction: Presentation as Short Story above. Minimum 400 words; Maximum 1000 words.

Prizes: 1st = £25.00 2nd = £15.00 3rd = £10.00

Poetry: Presentation as Short Story above. Minimum of 5 lines; Maximum of 40 lines.

Prizes: 1st = £25.00 2nd = £15.00 3rd = £10.00

Entries will be shortlisted by members of YLWG (with invited guests if appropriate), and winners chosen from shortlisted entries by a selected panel of published writers from the area. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Any entry that plagiarises other authors will be eliminated.

Marks will be awarded according to an established criteria to cover Grammar, Spelling, Content and Overall Enjoyment. Shortlisted entries will be subjected to word count scrutiny. Entries without appropriate entry form / payment will be disqualified without notice to the author/designer.

Those shortlisted will be notified prior to the award event. Winning and commended entries can be read out by a third party at the award event, should the author prefer it, and the author will retain copyright but is expected to allow publication in the 2020 book.

Note – copyright for all entries remains with the author. Unplaced submissions will be destroyed after the award event, unless appropriate arrangements are requested (*see information about submitting entry*).

Book Cover: Designs should be submitted as A4 on minimum of 120 gm card (not ordinary A4 paper). Photo quality paper is acceptable for computer drawn entries. The title "Nature as your Neighbour" can be included in the design. Entries without this title will have it assigned if selected for publication. Entries should show nothing to identify the creator/designer/illustrator/artist.

Every entry must be accompanied by an appropriate entry form and submitted as hard copy (non-returnable unless suitable SAE enclosed with entry) to Yatton Library, and addressed to **The Administrator, Yatton Competition in Words & Pictures**, or by post to **The Administrator, 23 Cheddon Mews, Taunton, TA2 7HT**. It is recommended that entries are sealed in hard-backed envelopes.

Entries will be displayed anonymously at Yatton Library during 16-30th April 2020 for voting by the general public. The winners of the Book Cover competition will be announced at the Award Event to be held at St Barnabas Church, Jasmine Lane, Claverham, at 7pm on Friday 12th June 2020.

Authors of shortlisted written entries will be notified and winner(s) announced at the award event in June 2020, where winning, shortlisted and entries receiving special mention from the judges will be read out.

The winning Book Cover entry will be used for the published book of winning entries (+ £25.00 or relevant prize). If sufficient written work is received to publish a separate volume of youth entries, a second cover will be selected from the under-18 book covers, and an appropriate prize awarded.

All winners will be announced on the YACWAG website. The finished book will be launched at a YACWAG event in September 2020 (further information to be released in due course).