

Please read the rules carefully as no monies will be refunded  
if an entry is rejected for non-compliance.

## There are **FOUR** categories for the competition:

**Fiction** (max 800 words)

**Flash fiction** (max 200 words)

**Creative non-fiction** (max 800 words)

**Poetry** (max 40 lines)

The cost per entry is **£3.90** (includes 30p admin fee)

## DEADLINE

- The competition opens on **January 13th 2025**
- Deadline for submissions: **midnight on March 28th, 2025.**
- Winners will be notified by email by the end of May, 2025, Names of the prizewinners and titles of commended pieces will be published on the SWLF website.

## PRIZES

- First prize in each category: £75 plus the opportunity to read the winning entry at the South Warwickshire Literary Festival on 20th September 2025.
- One commended entry from each category: £25 plus the opportunity to read the winning entry at the South Warwickshire Literary Festival on 20th September 2025.
- Attendance at the Festival is optional and will be at the expense of the author, NOT of the SWLF.

## ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to all writers over the age of 16, except those associated with the organisation and administration of the South Warwickshire Literary Festival.
- Entries are invited from around the world, but all entries should be in English.
- Work previously published online, self-published work or work that has been published in small press publications is eligible for entry.
- Prose (fiction and non-fiction) maximum 800 words (excluding title).
- Flash fiction maximum 200 words.
- Poems up to 40 lines (excluding title and blank lines between stanzas).
- There is no minimum length in any category.
- There is no theme or other restriction on genre, style or content. However, any entry with content deemed unpublishable by mainstream publishing will be rejected.

## PRESENTATION & FORMATTING

- All entries must be in a clear font, (we suggest Times New Roman or Arial), size 12 or larger.
- Prose (fiction, flash and non-fiction) must be double-spaced.
- Pages must be numbered.
- Entries should be submitted electronically in word, pdf, or txt file format.
- Entrant's name, contact details and word-count of the entry (line count for poems) must appear on the first page of the document. No other information should appear on this page. I.e. if the text of your entry takes three pages, your details and word-count will appear on page 1, your entry content on pages 2, 3 and 4 of the document. This first page is for administrative purposes only and will be removed before the entry is passed to the judging panel.
- Any piece with the author's name or other personal identifying mark on the entry itself, i.e. past page 1, will be disqualified.

## SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

- Payment should be made via the links on the SWLF website and your work then emailed to us, quoting the booking ID.
- If you enter more than one category, you should send the entries separately. (I.e. one email for each category you enter.)
- The subject line of your submission email should be one of the following, as appropriate:
  - SWLF competition FICTION
  - SWLF competition NON-FICTION
  - SWLF competition POETRY
  - SWLF competition FLASH FICTION
- You should include your name and contact details in the body of the email, together with the category and title of your entry and your booking id.
- Acceptable file formats: Word, PDF, or txt
- Each entry should be in a separate file attachment, which should be named only with the title of your entry, e.g. 'The Old Boots'.
- Each file should contain the text of your entry and ONE additional page (the first page) with your name, contact details, title and word-count of the entry (line count for poems). This page will be removed before the entry is passed to the judging panel.
- Entries to be sent to: **swlfwrittingcompetition@gmail.com**
- No corrections can be made to work after it has been submitted, nor can fees be refunded.

## RIGHTS

Copyright of each entry remains with the author, but by entering the competition you give the organisers the right to share the winning and commended pieces at SWLF 2025. There will be no competition anthology and SWLF does not undertake to publish any entry.

Entries will be judged anonymously. The judges' decision is final and neither they nor the organisers will enter into any correspondence.

Please send your entry to: [swlfwrittingcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:swlfwrittingcompetition@gmail.com)

## JUDGES

- Poetry: **Gwyneth Box**
- Flash: **Michael Loveday**
- Non-fiction: **Simon Whaley**
- Fiction: **Gabrielle Mullarkey**

All entries will initially be read by a panel of experienced readers. The judges will each read an initial longlist of up to 200 entries in their corresponding category. The competition organisers reserve the right to change the judges without notice and not to award a prize if in the judge's opinion such an action is justified.