



## Worcestershire Poet Laureate 2024 Competition Rules

The search is on for Worcestershire's 14th Poet Laureate – could it be YOU?

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CLOSING DATE: Send us **two** poems as either Word (.doc) or .rtf attachments, one on the theme of “**Clues**” and one original poem of your choice.

Entries should be single line spaced and no more than 40 lines in length not including the title line. Poems should be on separate pages. **Your name must not appear on either of the poems.**

Please also include a statement of interest (**250 words**) in the body of your email, explaining why you should be considered for the position, what experience you have in performing and promoting poetry, what you would bring to the position.

The closing date for all entries is **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024** and only one entry per poet is allowed. **Do not submit work more than once.** Entries must be sent to [martindriscoll@yahoo.com](mailto:martindriscoll@yahoo.com) with “Worcestershire Poet Laureate 2024” as the subject line.

You must be aged 20 or over and be resident in the County of Worcestershire to be eligible for the title of Worcestershire Poet Laureate.

Submitted pieces must be original and unpublished in any format. Translations of anyone else's work are not eligible. Copyright remains with the writer but entries

may be published on the Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe website and social media, read at LitFest events and may be included in an anthology later in the year.

**You must be available for the LitFest Launch event** to perform your poems if requested, The Launch event is scheduled for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

All entries will be acknowledged within 72 hours. If you have not heard from us during that time, please contact us. It is your responsibility to confirm your entry has been received.

No alterations can be made after submission and fees will not be refunded. The judges' decision is final.

**Please don't share your entry poems until the competition.**

What do we expect from our new Laureate?

- To act as an ambassador for poetry for the County of Worcestershire and to promote poetry as an acceptable art form and form of writing.
- To write poems throughout the year as The Poet Laureate for a number of marked occasions, to be arranged by the Poet Laureate with the support of the Festival Committee.
- To make personal appearances as the Poet Laureate at key events throughout the County during the year of tenure as The Worcestershire Poet Laureate and to perform live at events both live or via zoom etc as requested.
- To prepare a collection of poems for publication, to be published post tenure.
- Publication of the collection is paid for by LitFest.
- To promote the Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe during the tenure as Poet Laureate.
- To organise an event for National Poetry Day 2024 **6th October** – theme: **tbc**.
- To organise an event for World Poetry Day 2024, **March 21**.
- To respond to enquiries as The Worcestershire Poet Laureate in a timely and proactive manner.
- To promote poetry within schools and organisations.

- To undertake press, media, radio and TV interviews as and when appropriate.
- To be present and willing to perform their winning poem at the launch event this year, on Sunday 9th June 2024, and to handover to the new Poet Laureate.
- To work closely with the LitFest organisers and directors and to maximise PR and promotional opportunities as far as possible. Opportunities to collaborate with former Worcestershire Poets Laureate and-The Young Worcestershire Poet Laureate may also arise.
- To maintain contact via email/phone with all three directors and have regular meetings to discuss plans.

**The entry fee for the competition is £5.00**

BACS transfer to:

Worcestershire Literary Festival CIC  
Sort code: 40-47-17  
Account number: 02722666  
Reference: WPL competition

Or send a cheque made payable to “Worcestershire Literary Festival CIC” to:

Worcestershire Poet Laureate Competition 2024,  
Worcestershire LitFest & Fringe,  
Appletree Cottage,  
7 Nursery Road,  
St John’s,  
Worcester WR2 4HB.

**Good luck and we look forward to receiving your entries!**

**Entry implies acceptance of all the rules. Failure to comply with the rules will result in disqualification.**