



## **2026 Writing Competition.**

A partnership between the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival, the Battle Festival of Folk and Fable and Starcroft Farm Cabins, aimed at celebrating and encouraging writers in Kent and Sussex (inc. Brighton and Hove)

**Theme: *Animals and folklore*** – short pieces about the creatures we share this planet with, who have intrigued, awed, informed, or delighted us.

**Style:** We aim to encourage all writers to develop their craft; this year's competition is open to all, and we welcome writers of both fiction and non-fiction.

### **Categories:**

1. Over 18 – a maximum of 1000 words.
2. 11-13 – a maximum of 250 words.
3. 14-18 – a maximum of 500 words.

### **Judges:**

Jo Norland – playwright, author and writing coach.

Robin Pridy – author and editor.

### **Prizes:**

#### **Competition One (Over 18's):**

##### First prize:

- A performance slot to showcase their winning entry at both the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival and the Battle Festival of Folk and Fable
- A writing retreat, provided by Starcroft Farm Cabins
- £75

##### Second prize:

- A performance slot to showcase their winning entry at both the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival and the Battle Festival of Folk and Fable
- £30

##### Third Prize:

- A performance slot to showcase their winning entry at both the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival and the Battle Festival of Folk and Fable
- £20

### **Competition Two (11-13) and Competition Three (14-18):**

- First Prize: £30 book token.
- Second Prize: £20 book token.
- Third Prize: £15 book token.

The winners of competition two and three will be asked if they would like to perform their work (or have it read on their behalf) at either, or both, the Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival and the Battle Festival of Folk and Fable, but there is no obligation for them to do so.

### **Entry fee:**

The competition is free to enter

### **Timetable:**

- Competition Opens: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026
- Competition Closes: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026
- Longlists announced: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- Shortlists announced: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- Winners announced: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

### **Competition rules:**

- The competition is open to all writers of any ability, published or otherwise, from anywhere in Kent and Sussex (East Sussex, West Sussex, Brighton and Hove)
- You may enter once.
- You may submit your entry online to: [writing@twlf.co.uk](mailto:writing@twlf.co.uk) If you wish to post or hand in your entry in person, the address is: The Station Master's House at Battle Station, Battle, TN33 0DE.
- Label your entry with the title of your story e.g. This Is My Story.doc. Do not include your name or any other information in your filename or anywhere other than the entry form on your hard copy if you are submitting in post or in person.
- Entries must have neither been previously published nor won a prize in any other competition.
- Entries must be complete and standalone. Excerpts from a novel or a longer piece of work are unlikely to do well.
- No story may win more than one prize.
- All entries submitted on-line must in Word. (Doc or Docx format).
- Entries should be easy for the judges to read. Our preference is for double spaced lines and indented paragraphs, using a standard font such as 12pt Times New Roman or Arial font. These are style preferences though, not hard and fast rules.
- Maximum word counts have been defined for each competition. There are no minimum word counts. Counts must be exact, not estimates. Do not include the title, header or

footer in the word count. If your entry contains more than the maximum number of words, it will be disqualified. Show your story title and page number at the top of every page.

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not write your name anywhere on the story. Stories will be judged anonymously. If you put your name anywhere on the document, it will result in your story being disqualified.
- By entering the competition, you accept your work may be published online by the promoting organisations (Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival, Battle Festival of Folk and Fable and Starcroft Farm Cabins). Copyright remains with the author.
- The Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival and Battle Festival of Folk and Fable support and promote creative writing. We ask that you do not submit any work generated using AI.

**Entry Form – Please include in the body of your email:**

Name:

Email Address:

Contact number:

Postcode: (Entrants must live in either Kent or Sussex (East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove))

Which competition are you entering:

- Competition 1 – Over 18 – max 1000 word
- Competition 2 – 11-13 – max 250 words
- Competition 3 – 14-18 – max 500 words

Title of piece:

Word Count:

Confirm that you have read and agree to abide by the rules of entry.

Email to: [writing@twlf.co.uk](mailto:writing@twlf.co.uk)