



THE RIVER

Whether winding through the great cities of the world, or meandering across quiet country landscapes, Rivers have fascinated writers and poets. To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Death of RC Sherriff and the Anniversary of the publication of 'Three Men In A Boat', The 20th Elmbridge Literary Competition is looking for short stories and poems on the theme of 'The River'.

Rivers have always flowed through literature, whether as tributaries representing the journey through life, or as passage to the Underworld. They have served as home to Mr Toad, the lair of goat-eating trolls and have been there to mess about on, as Huckleberry Finn or the three men in Jerome K Jerome's classic story can attest. Today they are at the heart of the environmental debate. RC Sherriff, the author of 'Journey's End', spent many hours on the river. A memorial to his passion for rowing, The Rowing Eight, still stands on the banks of The Thames at Molesey.

Alongside the prizes for each age category The Competition includes The Elmbridge Prize for the best story or poem submitted by an Elmbridge resident.

Entry for adults is £8

Entry for under 18s free.

The closing date for entries is Friday 24 February 2025.

The Elmbridge Literary Competition is run in partnership by The R C Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council. Full details, terms and conditions are available at www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk and www.elmbridge.gov.uk/culture or by contacting 01932 229996 or emailing arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk or arts@elmbridge.gov.uk

Terms and Conditions of Entry

Please read these carefully as some of the terms and conditions regarding layout and submission have changed.

Entries that **DO NOT** comply to the conditions set out below will not be accepted.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR ENTRY VIA AN INTERNET LINK AS IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

- Entry to the Elmbridge Literary Competition for adults is £8
- Entries for under 18s free.
- **Entry Fee:** Adult Entries, once submitted, the £8 entry fee should be paid via PayPal on the R C Sherriff Trust Website. Please ensure you use your name as reference. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to The R C Sherriff Trust.

Age Categories:

- Ages 5 – 7; Little rhymes and stories.
- Ages 8 - 11 (Junior); Poems and short stories.
- Ages 11 (Secondary) - 13; Poems and short stories.
- Ages 14 - 18; Poems and short stories.
- Ages Adult; Poems and short stories.

A panel of professional authors, the Director of The RC Sherriff Trust and the Arts Development Officer for Elmbridge Borough Council will judge the entries.

Submission Format:

- **All entries must be typed, using Arial font and double-spaced. Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Short stories** must be in English, previously unpublished and a maximum length of 1000 words (8-13 years) or 1500 words (14+). **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Poems** must be in English, previously unpublished and a maximum length of 30 lines typed, using Arial font and double-spaced. **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Little Rhymes and Stories for the 5-7 years group** should be no longer than 20 lines (Rhymes) or 500 words (Stories) and can be hand-written (but must be legible). Where possible we suggest a typed copy is attached. **The Judges will not consider any entries which they cannot read.**
- All entries **MUST** be accompanied by the following information on the opening page:

1. **Declaration that the poem/short submitted is your own work.**
Submissions will be checked for plagiarism or AI generated work.
2. **age category being entered,**
3. **the title of the story/poem,**
4. **word/line count,**
5. **author's name, age (if under 18),**
6. **a postal address**
7. **an email address.**

This should be the first page of all entries and NOT on a separate sheet or embedded in an email. Your story/poem should start on page 2.

Entries are judged anonymously so please do not have your name embedded on the pages containing the short story/poem.

- A maximum of one story and one poem per person can be entered.
- Where possible please email your entry.
- Entries must be submitted as a Word Document or a PDF. **Please do not send scanned PDFs.**
- Email entries to elmbritgelitcomp@outlook.com
- **PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR ENTRY VIA AN INTERNET LINK AS IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- For posted or hand-delivered submissions, please provide **Six** copies.
- Entries cannot be returned.
- The Judging Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The closing date for entries is **Friday 24 February 2025 at 5pm. Entries received after this time and date will not be accepted.**
- Postal/hand-delivered entries to the **RC Sherriff Trust, Office 25 CBS, 2nd Floor, Hersham Place Technology Park, Molesey Rd, Hersham, KT12 4RZ**
- Please mark your envelope and email title '**RIVER**'.

Prizes:

- All Winning, Highly Commended & Commended Entries will receive a Digital Certificate
- All prizes for Children's entries are in the form of book tokens. Entry to the Competition is free.
- 5-7 Year Olds: 1st £20 2nd £15 3rd £10
- 8-11 Year Olds: 1st £25 2nd £20 3rd £15

- 11-13 Year Olds: 1st £30 2nd £25 3rd £20
- 14-18 Year Olds: 1st £35 2nd £30 3rd £25

- All successful Adult entries will receive cash prizes.

- 19+ (Short Story): 1st £250 2nd £150 3rd £100
- 19+ (Poem): 1st £250 2nd £150 3rd £100

- Entry to the Competition for the Adult category is £8. Payment can be made via the R C Sherriff Trust website:

www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk/elmbridge-literary-competition

(please ensure that the name by which you make the online payment is on your submission front page *if it differs from the name by which you have entered your short story or poem*)

- By cheque made payable to 'The R C Sherriff Trust' and sent to: The RC Sherriff Trust, Hersham Technology Park, Office 25, CBS, 2nd Floor, Molesey Rd, Hersham, KT12 4RZ (please ensure your name, the title of your short story/poem and age category in written on the reverse.)

- **The Elmbridge Award**

£50 Book Token

Presented to the best adult short story or poem from an Elmbridge resident.

- The winning, highly-commended and commended entries will receive digital certificates and have their entries be showcased online on the RC Sherriff and Elmbridge Borough Council websites.
- There is a **£10** charge if you would like to receive written feedback from the judges, **£25** if you would like a full written critique of your piece by one of the professional authors. (Payment must be made in advance via PayPal on the R C Sherriff website. Cheques must be made payable to The RC Sherriff Trust.)