

The 19th Elmbridge Literary Competition 2024

FAME

Reputation is an idle and most false imposition, oft got without merit and lost without deserving.

William Shakespeare

For some, it is a lifetime's pursuit, often slipping through their grasp while others see it fall into their hands by mere chance. However achieved, through talent or luck, Fame, can be an ill-fated prize.

The 19th Elmbridge Literary Competition, run in partnership by The R C Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council, is looking for short stories and poems on the theme of the double-edged sword that is 'FAME'.

Alongside the prizes for each age category The 2024 Competition includes The Elmbridge Prize for the best story or poem submitted by an Elmbridge resident.

The Competition will once again run in partnership with publishers Sampson Low, who will publish the winning entries as a Chapbook. (Small and affordable forms of literature, Chapbooks historically were sold on the streets, and covered a range of subjects from fairy tales and ghost stories to news of politics, crime or disaster.)

For further details about Chapbooks visit:

www.bl.uk/romantics-and-Victorians/articles/chapbooks

Entry for adults is £5

Entry for under 18s free.

The closing date for entries is Friday 23 February 2024.

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 lay out and submission have changed.

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

- Entry to the Elmbridge Literary Competition for adults is £5
- Entries for under 18s free.
- **Entry Fee:** Adult Entries, once submitted, the £5 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. age category being entered,
 2. the title of the story/poem,
 3. word/line count,
 4. author's name, age (if under 18),
 5. a postal address
 6. 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
- 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 23 February 2024 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 '**FAME**'.

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.

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| • 5-7 Year Olds: | 1 st £20 | 2 nd £15 | 3 rd £10 |
| • 8-11 Year Olds: | 1 st £25 | 2 nd £20 | 3 rd £15 |
| • 11-13 Year Olds: | 1 st £30 | 2 nd £25 | 3 rd £20 |
| • 14-18 Year Olds: | 1 st £35 | 2 nd £30 | 3 rd £25 |

- All successful Adult entries are in the form of cash prizes.
- Entry to the Competition for the Adult category is £5. Payment can be made via the R C Sherriff Trust website:

www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk/competitions

(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.)

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

- **The Elmbridge Award**

£50 Book Token

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

Winners: Short Story & Poetry Category:

The winning entries in each age group will have their work printed by Sampson Low as a Chapbook. (Chapbooks are A6 size (landscape or portrait orientation), 16 page (1x back cover, 1 x front cover,14 x inner pages), full colour, ISBN, in plastic sleeve.)

100 copies printed per winning entry.

20 copies to Sampson Low (6 to send to deposit libraries - British Library, Oxford, Cambridge, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. 14 to recoup ISBN costs, plastic sleeve costs etc.)

60 copies to the author

10 for The RC Sherriff Trust

10 for Elmbridge Borough Council

- 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.)