

# George Crabbe Poetry Competition 2025

**Closing date: Midnight, 13 June 2025**

## Adjudicator: Elizabeth Cook

Elizabeth Cook has written poetry, fiction, and libretti and was the editor of the Oxford Authors *John Keats*. Her fiction includes *Achilles*, which won a Fringe First when performed in Edinburgh, and *Lux*. She was librettist for Francis Grier's *The Passion of Jesus of Nazareth*, commissioned by BBC Radio 3, and has published two full collections of poetry, *Bowl*, and *When I Kiss the Sky* as well as a pamphlet, *The Sound of the Rain*. She has written critical essays and reviews and has taught in universities, prisons, and a Franciscan friary. She was St Edmundsbury Cathedral's first Writer in Residence, has been a Hawthornden Fellow and a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Queen Mary University. Poetry is at the heart of her work and she recommends reading aloud and learning poems by heart to create an inner store for rainy days.

*Photo: Peter Everard Smith*



**First Prize: £500**

**Second Prize: £250**

**Third Prize: £100**

**plus Two Highly Commended Prizes of £50**

All winning poems (including commended poems not attracting a monetary prize) will be read, preferably by their authors, at a celebratory Awards Event on 4 October 2025 and will be included in the 2025 George Crabbe Poetry Competition Anthology.

**Entry fee: £4 for each poem.**

Competition open to anyone who was either born, educated, working or resident in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, or is a Suffolk Poetry Society member.

*Anthologies can be pre-ordered at the cost of £4.00 along with your entries overleaf. For those unable to attend the Awards Event these will attract an additional postage and packing charge.*



[suffolkpoetrysociety.org](http://suffolkpoetrysociety.org)

Charity no. 1162298

# George Crabbe Poetry Competition Rules

- Entry to the competition is open to anyone who is either born, educated, working or resident in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, or is a Suffolk Poetry Society member (see information below).
- Entries can be made online at [suffolkpoetrysociety.org/sps-shop](http://suffolkpoetrysociety.org/sps-shop)
- Poems will be in English and a maximum of 50 lines.
- Poems must be the writer's own work, not AI-generated, not published, broadcast, on a website or currently entered in any other competition.
- Each poem submitted by post must be typed on a separate sheet of A4 paper and submitted in DUPLICATE along with the fee. The poet's name must appear on one copy only.
- The adjudicator's decision is final.
- No entrant can win more than one monetary prize.
- Only winners will be notified. Winners will be listed on the SPS website in September.
- The Press may also be notified of the winning poets and poems.
- Copyright of the poems remains with the poets, with permission to Suffolk Poetry Society to publish any winning poem free of charge.

An application to join Suffolk Poetry Society, giving your full details plus the appropriate membership subscription, can be made to:

The Membership Secretary, 64 Broom Street, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0JT.

Subscription rates per annum: Single: £20, Joint (two at same address) £25, Junior £5

Alternatively, buy online at [suffolkpoetrysociety.org/dbar/public/members/new.php](http://suffolkpoetrysociety.org/dbar/public/members/new.php)

**CLOSING DATE:** to arrive with the **Competition Secretary** by **midnight Friday, 13 June 2025**

**Please complete your details and return with your competition entries and fee to the Competition Secretary at address below.**



**The Competition Secretary,  
Camoquhill, London Road, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9YR.**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

Telephone:

Email:

**Cheques payable to Suffolk Poetry Society £4.00 for each poem**

Number of poems entered:

TOTAL FEE £:

Please indicate your connection to: Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex

Born

Educated

Live

Work

SPS Member