

George Crabbe Poetry Competition 2027

Closing date: Midnight, Friday 22 Jan 2027

Adjudicator: Elisabeth Sennitt-Clough



Elisabeth Sennitt-Clough grew up in the Cambridgeshire Fens, England. She is a crime novelist and poet whose work explores landscape, power and psychological inheritance.

Her poetry collections include *Sightings*, *At or Below Sea Level*, *The Cold Store*, *My Name is Abilene* and *Sidewinder* (forthcoming November 2026), and a pamphlet *Glass*. Her debut novel is *Shadow Sister*.

Glass won the inaugural Paper Swans Pamphlet Competition and the 2017 Saboteur Award for Best Pamphlet; *Sightings*, her debut full collection, written during her MFA at ManMet, which was awarded the Michael Schmidt Prize for Best Portfolio (a poem from *Sightings* was also highly commended in the Forward Prize and published in the Forward Book of Poetry 2018). Elisabeth's second full collection, *At or Below Sea Level*, is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and a poem from the book won the 2018 Shooter Literary Magazine Poetry Prize. A poem from her third collection *The Cold Store* was highly commended in the Forward Prize and published in the Forward Book of Poetry 2022. Elisabeth's fourth full collection *My Name is Abilene* was shortlisted for the 2023 Forward Prize best collection and is a Poetry Book Society Selection, autumn 2023. Elisabeth's fifth collection, *Sidewinder*, is forthcoming in November 2026 from Salt Publishing. *Sidewinder* received a Society of Authors grant. Three poems from this new collection were recently published in Pennine Platform. Elisabeth's debut novel, *Shadow Sister*, is published by Holand Press. In 2025 it was longlisted for the Jenny Brown Associates Prize.

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 Saturday, 15 May 2027 (as part of the Suffolk Poetry Society's Festival) and will be included in Suffolk Poetry Society's *Twelve Rivers* magazine.

Entry fee: £5 for each poem.

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



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 <https://suffolkpoetrysociety.org/crabbe-poetry-competition-entry>.
- Poems will be in English and a maximum of 40 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.
- 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 in print or online.

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

The Membership Secretary, 2 Brick Kiln Cottages, Barratts Lane, Needham Market, IP6 8RZ

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

Alternatively, buy online at <https://suffolkpoetrysociety.org/product/new-membership/>

CLOSING DATE: to arrive with the **Competition Secretary by Midnight, Friday 22 January 2027.**

Enter your poems online by using the QR code, or go to suffolkpoetrysociety.org/crabbe-poetry-competition-entry and follow the link. Alternatively, post them using the form below.



Scan to enter

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

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE

Telephone:

Email:

Cheques payable to Suffolk Poetry Society, £5 for each poem.

Number of poems entered

TOTAL FEE £:

TOTAL PAID

Please indicate your connection to: Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex

Born

Educated

Live

Work

SPS Member