



78th
NUNEATON
FESTIVAL OF
ARTS
2026

ORIGINAL
WRITING
SYLLABUS



**NB: THERE IS NO QUALIFIED
FIRST AIDER ON SITE AT THIS EVENT.**



www.nuneatonfoa.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1041379

Executive Committee

President: The Worshipful The Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth.

Chair: Mrs Gwyn Evans

Email: festival.chair@nuneatonfoa.org.uk

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Jane McConnell

Email: secretary@nuneatonfoa.org.uk

Publicity Officer: Mrs Val Squires

Email: publicity.officer@nuneatonfoa.org.uk

Tel: 0745 4242648

Vice Chair: Mrs Val Squires

Email: vice.chair@nuneatonfoa.org.uk

Hon. Treasurer/Trophies: Mrs Marjorie Owen

Email: finance@nuneatonfoa.org.uk

Email: marjorieowen24@gmail.com

Digital Officer: Mrs Jane Hanson

Email: jmh109@talktalk.net

Adult and Junior Original Writing Secretary:

Mrs Joan Wilson

3 Green Lane

Grendon CV9 2PL

Tel: 01827 716809

Email: cwil67@hotmail.co.uk

Last date for entry forms, fees and works: Juniors and Adults: Sunday 1st March 2026

Presentation of Awards:

Juniors - Wednesday 6th May 2026 5.30 - 7.30pm

(timings may be subject to change)

at the Salvation Army Citadel, 1 Dugdale Street, Nuneaton CV11 5QE

Adults - Friday 15th May 2026 6.30 - 8.30pm

at Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Avenue Road, Nuneaton CV11 4LU.

Winners will be notified.

Original Writing Section rules and conditions of entry

1. **Entry Forms:** Competitors must send their entry form and fee to the section secretary by the closing date. To comply with the safeguarding procedures, the official Nuneaton Festival of Arts entry form **MUST** be completed and signed. **Amateurs only.** (Entry forms are available to download from the Festival website).
2. **Payment:** Payment may be made by cheque, (made payable to Nuneaton Festival of Arts), cash or by Bank transfer. **ADD THE PREFIX 'OWA' or OWJ' TO YOUR PAYMENT REFERENCE**
3. **Entries:** *Only 3 entries per class allowed per individual.*
NB: 'CLASS' REFERS TO THE FESTIVAL CLASS NUMBER
4. **Late Entries:** late entries will be considered
5. **Paper:** Please use one side of A4 paper only. Each page must be labelled with **Name and Festival class number.**
DO NOT mount work especially for the Festival, though we will accept if already mounted.
6. **Schools:** may submit block entries (full fees required) to cover a selection of work provided the names and year groups of children whose work is entered are clearly marked and with the name of the school.
7. **SAE: ADULT SECTION ONLY.** Please enclosed a large stamped addressed envelope if the work is not to be collected personally after the adjudication.
8. **Nom-de-Plume:** Entries using pseudonym (adult section only) will be accepted in all adult classes but, the competitor's real name and address must be sent to the section secretary in a sealed envelope.
9. **Names:** Competitors' names will not appear in the programme.
10. **Results:** Competitors' allocated an award will be notified and invited to attend a presentation evening.

Copies of the full rules/safeguarding/GDPR/Privacy Policy can be found in the main syllabus/from the website (www.nuneatonfoa.org.uk) Any queries should be addressed to the Festival Secretary: secretary@nuneatonfoa.org.uk

TROPHIES/AWARDS

Trophies are awarded for a nominal year only. Please return by the date on the Trophy receipt.



JUNIOR CLASSES

The Eva Rushton Cup Best entry in Classes 602-607

The Margaret Wood Cup Best entry in Classes 608 and 618

The Christina Jayne Cup Class 615

Two Non-fiction Trophies including one specifically for Class 623, awarded at the Adjudicator's discretion

The Harry Branston Award of an inscribed pen to be awarded annually, will be given to the entrant in the Junior section whose work shows initiative and potential

The George Eliot Trophy (presented by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council) will be awarded for creativity and original ideas in Classes 611 to 619.

The Drachendale Cup (story), **The Mavis Addison Cup** (Poetry) and **The Nuneaton Writer's Circle Shield (Secondary School)** will be awarded at the Adjudicator's discretion, to the school whose entries show the best promise and initiative

The Beverly Attwood Non-fiction Cup is a **new trophy for 2026**. It will be awarded at the Adjudicator's discretion, to the school whose entries show the best promise and initiative in non-fiction writing.

ADULT CLASSES

The Albert F Cross Cup Best entry in Classes 630-631

The Robert Sloan Cup Best entry in Classes 632-633

The George Eliot Fellowship Trophy Best entry in Class 637

The Stella Branson Trophy Class 640

The Jeff Veasey Trophy Class 641

The George Eliot Cup Class 642

The Mavis Addison Trophy Class 643

The Endeavour Cup - Adjudicator's choice overall



Nuneaton Festival of Arts DATES 2026



	ENTRY DATES	ADJUDICATION/ COMPETITION	EXHIBITION	COLLECTION OF WORK	*PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
CREATIVE ARTS					
ART	Fri 27 th & Sat 28 th February	Fri 6 th March	Sat 7 th March - Sat 18 th April	Tues 21 April - Sat 25 th 10.30 - 4.00pm	Saturday 21 st March 2.00pm - 5.00pm
CRAFT	Mon 23 rd & Tues 24 th March	Wed 25 th March	Mon 30 th March - Mon 13 th April (Easter: Closed Friday 3 rd April - Monday 6 th April)	Tues 14 th April & Wednesday 15 th April	Tuesday 21 st April 5.30pm - 7.30 pm
NEEDLECRAFT	Mon 23 rd & Tues 24 th March	Wed 25 th March	Mon 30 th March - Mon 13 th April (Easter: Closed Friday 3 rd April - Monday 6 th April)	Tues 14 th April & Wednesday 15 th April	Wednesday 22 nd April 5.30pm - 7.30 pm
PHOTOGRAPHY	Tues 14 th & Wed 15 th April	Fri 17 th April	Mon 2 nd April - Fri 1 st May (Closed Mon 4 th May)	Wed 6 th May	Sat 9 th May
ORIGINAL WRITING	Sunday 1 st March	N/A	Winning entries displayed in Nuneaton Library		J: Wed 6 th May A: Fri 15 th May
					* Winners to be notified,
PERFORMING ARTS					
PIANO	TBC	TBC	N/A	N/A	Awarded on the day
SPEECH AND DRAMA	Mon 9 th March	Mon 27 th , Tues 28 th & Wed 29 th April	N/A	N/A	Awarded on the day
STAGE DANCE	Fri 7 th March	Sat & Sun 25 th & 26 th April. Sat & Sun 2 nd & 3 rd May Sat & Sun 9 th & 10 th May Sun 17 th May	N/A	N/A	Awarded on the day
VOCAL DONE	Fri 27 th February	Thurs 30 th Apr Fri 1 st May Sun 10 th May.	N/A	N/A	Awarded on the day
WOODWIND STRINGS AND BRASS	Fri 20 th February	Sat 9 th May Possible Fri Eve 8 th May	N/A	N/A	Awarded on the day

Adjudicator - Junior Classes: Anita Willars

Nuneaton Festival of Arts is pleased to welcome Anita back again in 2026.

Dear Writers,

I feel very honoured and privileged to be asked by the Nuneaton Festival of Arts to judge the entries for the Junior Original Writing Section of the Nuneaton Festival of Arts.

I learnt to read very early in my life and loved to lose myself in the stories and I am still an avid reader. I struggled with writing at first as English was my second language but I was lucky to have a very special teacher who encouraged and helped me to write my ideas down.

This experience led me to want to teach which I did for many years before becoming an Adviser for Warwickshire County Council and later for the Government's Curriculum and Assessment Department. One aspect of my role that I thoroughly enjoyed was to look at children's writing and over the years I must have read thousands and thousands of pieces of writing from primary age children.

Today I am a Governor at two schools where I have responsibility for monitoring Literacy which again gives me the opportunity to read children's amazing and imaginative writing.

So I really look forward to reading your entries.

We accept photocopies of children's work, but please do justice to your children's writing by ensuring that all the words are readable.

Junior Section Poetry Writing - Any Metre or Form Fee: £2.00 per entry

Festival class nos:

602	Year 2	Up to 30 lines
604	Year 4	Up to 30 lines
606	Year 6	Up to 30 lines
608	Year 8	Up to 50 lines

Festival class nos:

603	Year 3	Up to 30 lines
605	Year 5	Up to 30 lines
607	Year 7	Up to 50 lines
609	Year 9	Up to 50 lines

Junior Section Short Story Writing Fee: £2.00 per entry

Festival class nos:

611	Year 1	About 200 words
613	Year 3	About 200 words
615	Year 5	About 500 words
617	Year 7	About 1000 word
619	Year 9	About 1000 words

Festival class nos:

612	Year 2	About 200 words
614	Year 4	About 500 words
616	Year 6	About 700 words
618	Year 8	About 1000 words

Junior Section Non-Fiction Writing Fee: £2.00 per entry

Age Group Year 1-9 (Year 1-6: 200-500 words Year 7-9: 500-700 words)

The secretary may divide the entries into age groups and/or genre depending on the number of entries received and the ages of children entering and also move entries to a different class if it seems more appropriate

Festival class nos:

620	Newspaper article
621	Magazine article or factual type writing about a specific person, place or object.
622	Journal or diary writing
623	Information leaflet, advertisement or poster
624	Argument, debate or opinion
625	Any non-fiction writing which does not fit into the above classes

Be creative and imaginative!

The name of any products **must be imaginary and bear no resemblance** to any product on the market

Adjudicator – Adult Classes: Michelle Meli

Dear Writers,

I am very honoured to be reading your work for the Festival of Arts this year. As a lecturer of English Literature and Language for over twenty years, I have a passion for reading and writing that started from a very young age (I am still scarred from Bill Sykes killing Nancy!)

I have taught many students of different ages and backgrounds and am consistently astounded at their creative skills.

My advice to you would be to 'flow' with your writing, often we think we know what we want to write, but then something else takes over. Something magical that guides the pen (or keyboard): go with it.

Good luck!

ORIGINAL WRITING ADULTS - Entrants must be Year 10 or above

Entrants are asked to adhere to the number of words indicated and add the number used to the entry form

<u>Original Writing Adults - Poetry</u>				Entry Fee
Festival class nos:				
630	Any subject - not topical e.g. Nature, feelings, observations. Up to 50 lines	18 & under		£2.50
631	Topical subject - of the moment, relevant to today. Up to 50 lines	18 & under		£2.50
632	Any subject - not topical e.g. Nature, feelings, observations. Up to 50 lines	Over 18		£3.00
633	Topical subject - of the moment, relevant to today. Up to 50 lines	Over 18		£3.00
<u>Short Story Writing - Adults</u>				
634	A complete story within the given word limit	80-100 words	18 & under	£2.50
635	A fictional story with a basis of fact, possibly linked to a real event or thing	1500 words max	18 & under	£2.50
636	Any original subject, must not be a re-write of another story or event	1500 words max	18 & under	£2.50
637	A complete story within the word limit,	80/100 words	Over 18	£3.00
638	Fiction with basis of fact linked to a real event or things	2500 words max	Over 18	£3.00
639	Any original subject, must not be a re-write of another story or event	2500 words max	Over 18	£3.00
640	Magazine article: A magazine article needs to include up to date information. It is important to remember that the articles need to entertain as well as inform the reader.	16 years & over		£3.00
641	Essay - Open subject; An essay is an extended piece of writing that presents and supports a thesis or proposition. Research sources used should be listed.	Any age		£3.50
642	Essay - George Eliot Subject i.e. her work, influence, local links and importance, legacy etc.	Any age		£3.50
643	Mavis Addison organised the Original Writing section for many years and is missed by Festival members. This class is to honour her memory by asking writers to use the following as the beginning of a fictitious story of no more than 150 words , using the following:	Any age		£3.00
"Atishoo!"				

ORIGINAL WRITING - ENTRY FORM JUNIOR**PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL IN THE ENTRY FORM OVERLEAF.**

Name of Entrant: Miss/Ms/Mstr

Address

..... Post Code

Tel No: Email:

School Name (if applicable)

Method of Payment, please tick: ** Cheque ☐ Cash ☐ *Bank transfer ☐***ADD THE PREFIX 'OWJ' TO YOUR PAYMENT REFERENCE. Sort code: 30-96-26 A/C: 80044268 ** Nuneaton Festival of Arts**

Total brought forward from page 2: £

NOTES:

- a) **Original Writing entries:** Please send your completed form and fees to the section secretary by the closing date (see syllabus/website). If you require a receipt for your entry fee please enclose a sae
- b) **SCHOOLS and GROUPS** - list entrants overleaf. Photocopy the form if required.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

1. I have read and understand the Privacy Policy on page ?? of the main syllabus/website and agree that the Festival may use the information on this form in accordance with that Policy. YES/NO
2. I have read and accept both the general and section rules of entry and I have read and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the NFoA's safeguarding policy YES/NO
3. From time to time we take photographs/video footage of participants and /or entries for use with promotions including but not limited to syllabus and programme production, newspaper articles, banners and flyers as well as websites, Facebook etc and other forms of social media.

I agree to allow NFoA and KECS usage of photographic image +/- or video for other purposes stated above YES/NO

Signed (Entrant/parent/guardian/carer) Date

Teachers of pupils under 18 years must sign below as well if appropriate

I have ensured consent from all parents/guardians of pupils named on this entry form, except for the pupils indicated

Signed Teacher Date

ORIGINAL WRITING ENTRY FORM - JUNIOR cont.(Please indicate clearly entrants under 18 years for whom parental consent for photographs is **not given**)**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Festival Class No:	Name (if different from entrant name)	Title of Work (if applicable)	Entry Fee
		TOTAL:	£
		carried forward to previous page	

Results: Will be available three days after adjudication on the Festival's website

NUNEATON FESTIVAL of ARTS 2026
ORIGINAL WRITING - ENTRY FORM ADULT

1 of 2

PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL IN THE ENTRY FORM OVERLEAF.

Name of Entrant: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

..... **Post Code**

Tel No: **Email:**

School Name (if applicable)

Method of Payment, please tick: **Cheque ☐ Cash ☐ *Bank transfer ☐

***ADD THE PREFIX 'OWA' TO YOUR PAYMENT REFERENCE. Sort code: 30-96-26 A/C: 80044268**

**** Nuneaton Festival of Arts**

Total brought forward from page 2: £

NOTES:

- a) **Original Writing entries:** Please send your completed form and fees to the section secretary by the closing date (see syllabus/website). If you require a receipt for your entry fee please enclose a sae
- b) **SCHOOLS and GROUPS** - list entrants overleaf. Photocopy the form if required.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

1. I have read and understand the Privacy Policy on page 73 of the main syllabus/website and agree that the Festival may use the information on this form in accordance with that Policy. YES/NO
2. I have read and accept both the general and section rules of entry and I have read and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the NFoA's safeguarding policy YES/NO
3. From time to time we take photographs/video footage of participants and /or entries for use with promotions including but not limited to syllabus and programme production, newspaper articles, banners and flyers as well as websites, Facebook etc including use by other forms of social media.

I agree to allow NFoA usage of photographic image +/- video for other purposes stated above. YES/NO

Signed(Entrant/parent/guardian/carer) Date

Teachers of pupils under 18 years must sign below as well if appropriate

I have ensured consent from all parents/guardians of pupils named on this entry form, except for the pupils indicated

SignedTeacher Date

ORIGINAL WRITING ENTRY FORM - ADULT cont.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Festival Class No:	Name (if different from entrant name)	Title of Work (if applicable)	Entry Fee
		TOTAL:	£
		carried forward to previous page	

Results: Will be available three days after adjudication on the Festival's website