**Sixfold Fiction and Poetry**

**Sixfold** is a completely writer-voted short story and poetry journal. Every writer who uploads a manuscript votes to choose the prize-winning manuscripts and all the short stories and poetry published in each issue. Everyone's equally weighted vote selects what's published, instead of one judge, or one or a few editors. With a fair, transparent, rule-based voting process, all writers find the best writing together.

**How-To** • Read, comment, and vote on 3 sets of 6 manuscripts by writers in your genre during 3 voting rounds of 12 days each. Round 1 is from May 1 to the voting deadline of May 12; round 2 is from May 13 to May 24; round 3 is from May 25 to June 5. (Read and vote on 18 manuscripts total in 36 days total.) Each round, you rank order your 6 randomly assigned manuscripts as Best, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and write comments to the writers of each.

After each round ends, the highest-voted one-third of each round's manuscripts advances to the next round. After three rounds of voting, the first-, second-, and third-highest-voted manuscripts in each genre win $1000, $200, $100. The top-20 short stories and the top-40 sets of poems are published.

Immediately after voting ends, you receive up to 6, 24, or 78 votes and comments on your own manuscript from other writers, depending how far it goes through the three rounds. A post-voting results page lists all participants’ manuscripts by voting score. Be anonymous during the entire voting process, or opt-in to display your name, profile, or manuscript on the public results page after voting is over. All votes and comments are disclosed only after round 3, after voting is complete. Enter the Summer Issue vote by April 23rd.

**Puzzled?**

Terry poses these problems for our members:

Using 4 matchsticks make them equal 10, now make them equal 20. (The solution will be revealed next month.)

**Creative Juices**

Terry also proposes an exercise to get us doing what we’re supposed to be doing: writing.

‘My computer went wrong (hard drive crashed) and I went to get a new one, when I had installed it, I noticed a folder on it that was not mine and so I opened it, and it connected the computer to the internet… About 30 minutes later there was a knock at the door and 2 policemen stood there. What happens next?

**The Last Word**

And ye, who have met with adversity's blast,  
And been bow'd to the earth by its fury;  
To whom the twelve months, that have recently pass'd  
Were as harsh as a prejudiced jury --  
Still, fill to the Future! and join in our chime,  
The regrets of remembrance to cozen,  
And having obtained a New Trial of Time,  
Shout in hopes of a kindlier dozen.

Thomas Hood

**The Small Print**

Newsletter submissions to: [twcnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:twcnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk)

**Carpe Diem**

**2014 Bristol Short Story Prize**

Stories can be entered online or by post. The closing date for entries is midnight (BST) on April 30th 2014. Please read the rules and competition details before entering.

First prize is £1,000 plus a £150 Waterstones’ gift card, 2nd prize is £700 plus a £100 Waterstones’ gift card and 3rd prize is £400 plus a £100 Waterstones’ gift card. The 2014 Bristol Short Story Prize Awards Ceremony will be held in Bristol in October 2014.

**Deddington Writing Competition 2014**

**Open Writing Competition (adult)**

The competition is open to everyone and has just a £3 entry fee (per entry). There are two categories in which you can enter your work: Flash Fiction: a concise story of up to 1000 words, on a subject of your choice; A poem in any form of up to 100 words, on a subject of your choice. **Entry deadline is Monday 14 April 2014. First Prize: £100, Second Prize: £50, Third Prize: £25.**

**Momaya Press’s Short Story Competition**

**The Prizes:**  
First Prize: $200 (£110); Second Prize: $100 (£55); Third Prize: $50 (£30).

**Rules of Entry:** Entries may be up to 3,000 words long; any subject or style is welcome; the competition is open to writers from all countries, but entries must be written in English; we expect entries to have been checked for proper spelling and grammar; entries by 30th April.

**The Theme:**  
The 2014 theme is “Captivity”.  While entries for the short story competition may be on any topic, the review gets its cohesion from stories and artwork focusing on our central theme, interspersed among the contest winners’ stories.

**I Can See**

Coming home, I look around

I’m glad to be alive

No matter where life takes me

I know I will survive

Walking along life’s journey

I see where I belong

So take me to the highest peek

Just let the voices speak

But home is very silent now

I see your picture on the wall

I hear the laughter see the tears

The things we did the things we said

Just echo through my mind

I look around this home of mine

And find it silence, bare.

Now you’ve gone away, I watched you go

But I still see your face wherever I go

That special smile, brought me alive

No matter where life takes me I know I will survive.

Eva Rees

The new year is upon us and there can be but one course of action: to write.

2013 was a good year for the group with all members, old and new, showing growth and confidence in their writing. This is proof of the fact that there is a wide seam of talent amongst the members of the Thurrock Writers’ Circle that is waiting to be mined; all we have to do is dig it up ourselves.

Let us not shy from the challenge but take to our pens and keyboards; dig deep, and surpass our achievements of the last year.

**The Path of Time**

Youth rushed along the path of Time  
The New Year lay ahead.  
"Pray tell me youth, what is your wish?"  
The God of the Future said.  
"Excitement and adventure would my dreams fulfil"  
Is what the youth replied,  
"Then take your chances and fear not risk,  
And assuredly you will".  
  
The young man strode along the path of Time  
The new year lay ahead,  
"Now tell me sir, what is your wish?"  
The God of the Future said.  
"A partner, a family. to learn a skill"  
Is what the man replied.  
"Then work very hard and give your heart  
And, assuredly, you will".  
  
Middle Age ambled along the path of Time  
The new year lay ahead.  
"Now tell me sir, what is your wish?"  
The God of the Future said.  
"Robust health, the end of debt  
Is all that I require"  
"Then be thrifty, cautious and moderate  
And, assuredly, you will have all that you desire".  
  
Old Age stumbled along the path of Time  
The new year lay ahead.  
"Now tell me sir, what is your wish"?  
The God of the future said.  
The end is near and I am not afraid  
I have done all I wish to do  
And when the gates of Heaven call  
I will gladly enter through".

Irene Mannering

**And the Winner is...**

The members of the Thurrock Writers’ Circle can give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back for the very high standard of submissions to the Christmas Short Story competition. It no doubt proved a headache for the judges to choose from amongst them, but one story stood out, Barbara Spencer’s ‘The Yew Tree’ and snatched First Prize ahead of the others. Cindy Mannering’s ‘The Rabbit’s Foot’ came a very commendable second.

If competitions inspire our members so much, maybe we should have more of them.



TWC President, Joy Ridgewell presents Short Story Competition winner, Barbara Spencer with her award.

**Happy New Year to Everyone**

There’s nothing like that New Year count down, as we say good bye to 2013 and welcome 2014. There is an excitement that starts afresh with a new beginning, and may your dreams come true in 2014.

Counting our blessings and making new promises. As the new calendar goes up on the wall; remembering past experiences from last year. Bidding farewell to those we have lost, but they will never be forgotten. Renewing friendships and expressing our hopes for the future and making plans for months ahead.

Celebrating and forgiving friends, family and having fun and also laughter along the way. Looking back on the Month’s gone by and remembering special moments.

May you have the fulfilment of seeing around you the people you love the most, and creating new and wonderful memories in the year to come.

Charlotte Auguste.

**To Quote…**

‘An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.  A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.’  ~Bill Vaughan

**Jan ‘14**

**2014 - Resolved**

**The Thurrock Writers’ Circle Newsletter October 2013**