**Wigtown Poetry Competition**Closing date: 30th May, 2014.  
Prizes: £2,000, £400, Gaelic Prize £250, Scots Prize £250, 8 £25 runners-up. Entry fee: £6.50, £17 for three, £5 after that  
For poems, up to 40 lines in English, Scots or Scots/lrish Gaelic.  
Email: [mail@wigtownbookfestival.com](mailto:mail@wigtownbookfestival.com)  
Website: [wigtownbookfestival.com/poetrycomp](http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/poetrycomp)

**Sentinel Short Story and Poetry Competitions**  
Closing date: 31st May, 2014.  
Prizes: £200, £75, £50, three £20 highly commendeds in both categories. Entry fee: short stories, £5, £8 for two, £10 for three, £12 for four/poems, £3, £11 for four, £12 for five  
Quarterly competitions for short stories, up to 1,500 words, and poems up to 50 lines.  
Email: [competitions@sentinelpoetry.org.uk](mailto:competitions@sentinelpoetry.org.uk)  
Website: [sentinelpoetry.org.uk](http://www.sentinelpoetry.org.uk/)

**George Crabbe Memorial Poetry Competition**  
The competition is open to anyone who was either born, educated or resident in Suffolk, or is a Suffolk Poetry Society member.  
Closing date: 31st May, 2014.  
Prizes: £500, £150, £100, 2 x £25.  
Entry fee: £3. Website: [suffolkpoetrysociety.org.uk/](http://suffolkpoetrysociety.org.uk/george-crabbe-memorial-poetry-competition-2014)

**Frogmore Poetry Prize**Closing date: 31st May, 2014.  
Prizes: 250, 75 or 50 guineas, plus subscriptions to The Frogmore Papers. Entry fee: £3. For poems, any theme/style, up to 40 lines  
Email: [frogmorepress@gmail.com](mailto:frogmorepress@gmail.com)  
Website: [frogmorepress.co.uk](http://www.frogmorepress.co.uk/)

**David Burland Poetry Prize 2014**Closing date: 31st May, 2014.  
Prizes: for each language, £500, £100, £30. Entry fee: £8, £4 each extra. Poems, up to 40 lines, in English or French.  
Email: [annaburland@btconnect.com](mailto:annaburland@btconnect.com)  
Website: [davidburlandpoetryprize.com](http://www.davidburlandpoetryprize.com/)

**Yeovil Literary Prize 2014**  
Closing date: 31st May, 2014.  
Prizes:  1st = £500: 2nd = £200: 3rd = £100. Entry fee: £6 for one poem, £9 for two, £11 for three. A poem with a maximum of 40 lines. For full entry rules and conditions see website. [yeovilprize.co.uk](http://www.yeovilprize.co.uk/)

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge Memorial Poetry Prize**  
Closing date: 1st June, 2014.  
Prizes: £300, £200, £100, publication. Entry fee: £3. For poems, up to 20 lines, on natural themes.  
Further details: email: [johngarlandtherookery@gmail.com](mailto:johngarlandtherookery@gmail.com)

**Wirral Festival of Firsts Open Poetry Competition**Closing date: 1st June, 2014.  
Prizes: Prizes: £250, £75 and £25, plus local prize of £25 for poet living in Wirral. Entry fee: £4 per poem, 3 for £10. For poems in English of up to 40 lines. Enter by post or online at: [festivaloffirsts.com](http://www.festivaloffirsts.com/)

**All Wales Comic Verse Competition 2014**Closing date: 2nd June, 2014.  
Prizes: 1st - £300; 2nd - £200; third - £100. Entry fee: £3.00 fee per entry, up to 3 poems per person, no more than 30 lines long  
The competition final will be held on Sunday July 6th 2014 as part of the 'Literature on the Lawn' event at this year's Caerleon Festival. Full details at:  [caerleon-arts.org/ComicVerseComp.html](http://www.caerleon-arts.org/ComicVerseComp.html)

**Carpe Diem**

**The British Fantasy Society Short Story Competition**

The BFS short story competition 2013 will be open to entries from 1 March 2013. Anyone can enter, regardless of how many times they have been previously published. The competition is open to entries from 1 March 2013 to 30 June 2013. The sole judge for the 2013 competition is award winning editor and BFS stalwart Allen Ashley.

**Prizes: 1**st prize: Â£100; 2nd prize: Â£50; 3rd prize: Â£20,

Open to entries from 1 March 2013 to 30 June 2013

The winners will be announced at the British Fantasy Awards ceremony, due to be held as part of World Fantasy Con in October/November 2013.

Any kind of fantastical story is welcome. For example: fantasy, science fiction, horror, supernatural, fabulation, magic realism, slipstream, etc, or indeed any combination of those genres.

The competition is open to both members and non-members of the society, but non-members must pay a Â£5 entry fee.

Stories must not exceed 5,000 words and must be previously unpublished in any form.

Send to: shortstorycomp@britishfantasysociety.org

**Segora Writing Competitions**  
**Prizes:**Short Story and Poetry £150  £50 and £30 Vignette £50 and £10 for commended or equivalent prize money in euros.  
  
Deadline for entries 15th June 2014. Results announced 13th July

Go to: <http://poetryproseandplays.co.uk>

[**The 2014 Writers Bureau Short Story Competition**](http://www.wbcompetition.com/competition/enter.html)  
Prizes: 1st Prize: £500; 2nd Prize: £300; 3rd Prize: £200; 4th Prize: £100. The fee is £5.00/$8.00/€6 per entry. Short stories must not exceed 2,000 words. **The Closing Date is 30th June 2014**

**Writers' Village International Short Fiction Award summer 2014**Closing date: 30th June, 2014.  
Prizes:  £3000 is the top prize, second prize is £500, third prize £250 and there are 15 runner up prizes of £50. The top 50 contestants also gain a free critique of their stories, win or lose. Winners will be awarded the title 'Winner, the Writers' Village International Short Fiction Award summer 2014' and see their work showcased online.  
Entry fee: £15 and multiple entries are permitted.  
Any genre of prose fiction may be submitted up to 3000 words, except playscripts and poetry. Entries are welcomed world-wide.  
Entry rules plus all winning stories since 2009 can be found at on the website. [writers-village.org](http://www.writers-village.org/)

**The Moth International Short Story Prize 2014**  
Closing date: 30th June, 2014.  
Prizes: 1st €3,000, 2nd €1,000, 3rd week-long writing retreat at Circle of Misse in France (including €250 towards travel).  
Entry fee: €9 per story, and you can enter as many stories as you like. The word limit is 6,000.  
Mike McCormack will judge this year's prize, which is open to everyone, as long as the work is original and previously unpublished.  
For further details go to [themothmagazine.com](http://www.themothmagazine.com/)

No doubt there are tribes living deep in the Amazonian rainforest that are unaware of the cataclysmic events whose one hundredth anniversary is marked this year, and no doubt they are none the worse for their ignorance. But for those of us living in Europe of the twenty-first century, there can be no escape from the books, magazines, articles, and documentaries that serve to remind us of that fateful slide into ‘The Great War’.

[](https://uk.images.search.yahoo.com/images/view;_ylt=A2KLj9IYOzxTjA4AdWxNBQx.;_ylu=X3oDMTIzbTlqY2RiBHNlYwNzcgRzbGsDaW1nBG9pZANkZjYxMmQzNTMxOWU0NTU0MTZlYTI3YjZjNjljODMwNgRncG9zAzEyBGl0A2Jpbmc-?back=https://uk.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?_adv_prop=image&va=line+art+drawings+WW1&fr=yfp-t-903&tab=organic&ri=12&w=463&h=600&imgurl=gb.fotolibra.com/images/previews/600525-ww1-football-attack-illustration.jpeg&rurl=http://www.fotolibra.com/gallery/600525/ww1-football-attack-illustration/&size=112.5KB&name=%3cb%3eWW1+%3c/b%3e%22FOOTBALL%22+ATTACK+ILLUSTRATION.&p=line+art+drawings+WW1&oid=df612d35319e455416ea27b6c69c8306&fr2=&fr=yfp-t-903&tt=%3cb%3eWW1+%3c/b%3e%22FOOTBALL%22+ATTACK+ILLUSTRATION.&b=0&ni=21&no=12&ts=&tab=organic&sigr=129n1j2t9&sigb=13ohrhmpb&sigi=12dac3os2&sigt=11al5a6ge&sign=11al5a6ge&.crumb=JvQowU7N02C&fr=yfp-t-903)

But the people of Great Britain in the spring of 1914 had other things to occupy their minds; few if any had any idea of the horror that lay ahead.

Not that people weren’t expecting a war. For many war seemed certain. Though not a conflict against some external foe, but a war between the peoples of the British Isles: a war over Ireland. Indeed, Tory opposition leader, Andrew Bonar Law, in January warned “We are drifting inevitably to civil war.” And so it seemed.

It had been a year before that the House of Lords had rejected the ‘Home Rule for Ireland’ bill, but the Lords could only hope to delay, and no longer had the power of veto.

But if the Lords couldn’t prevent it then maybe the Ulstermen could. By February 1914 the Ulster Volunteer Force reportedly numbered 100,000 armed men: all certain that civil war would come, and ready for it.

The disaster that was Europe put a lid on the matter for several years, but the republican aspirations of the Irish Catholics continued to simmer… and occasionally boil.

**A Reason to Rhyme**

The Thurrock Writers’ Circle has a particular strength when it comes to verse. It is to be hoped that the many excellent works produced by our members are not merely for internal consumption, and with this in mind, this month we have included a large number of poetry competitions in the hope that good news and cash prizes will follow.

**Welsh Poetry Competition 2014**  
Closing date: 15th June, 2014.  
Prizes: £400, £200, £100, plus anthology and web publication for 17 runners-up.  
Entry fee: £4, £5 PayPal.  
The competition is for poems, up to 50 lines.  
Email: [info@welshpoetry.co.uk](mailto:info@welshpoetry.co.uk)  
Website: [welshpoetry.co.uk](http://www.welshpoetry.co.uk/)

**2014 Canterbury Festival Poet of the Year**   
Closing date: 20th June, 2014.  
Prizes: Prizes will be awarded for the Winner, 2nd and 3rd places, the "Best Read Poem" and the "People's Choice" voted for on the night. The Winner will be named 'Canterbury Festival Poet of the Year 2014' and will receive a book token for £50.00 plus a half case of wine, 2nd and 3rd Prize. Winners will receive book tokens for £25.00 each, the "Best Read" Prize will be a bottle of sparkling wine and the "People's Choice" will receive a book token for £20.00.  
A longlist of entries will be selected for inclusion in the 2014 Anthology.  
Entry fee: £5 per poem.  
Theme: The poem or poem sequence may be on any subject and in any style, but must not exceed 60 lines in length.  
For information on how to enter, visit website. [canterburyfestival.co.uk/](http://canterburyfestival.co.uk/)

**Deja View**

Repeats on TV are becoming more and more common: we are subjected to: ‘Re-Minders’, full of ‘Re-Morse’ warmed-over‘ Porridge’, Dregs of the Summer Wine, Arkwright’s Corner shop re-opened all hours, Hyacinth ‘Keeping up Re-appearances’, Heart Beat resuscitated and newly excavated ‘Time Team’ sites, ‘Are You Being Served’ re-stored’, ‘The Weakest Link’ rejoined?

What are we to expect for the future: ‘To the Manor Reborn, ‘The Bill’ re-presented, ‘Wish You Were Here’ revisited, ‘Forever Young’ rejuvenated, The regeneration Game?

Is it not time we were reimbursed with a rebate on our licence fees? Or will we be ‘Foyled’ Again?’

By Peter Pascoe.

**The Small Print**

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

**Mar ‘14**

**1914 And All That**

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