



The Charles Causley Trust
International Poetry Competition 2026



Rules of Entry

Please read these rules carefully before you enter: entry of the Competition implies acceptance of all the Competition's Rules.

A. General Rules

1. The Charles Causley International Poetry Competition 2025 is open to **anyone, including non-UK applicants, aged 18 and over by the closing date of the competition.**
2. Entries must be in **English.**
3. The closing date of the competition is midnight (UK time) on **Sunday 4th January 2026.**
4. **First Prize is £1,000; Second Prize is £200; Third Prize is £100. There will also be 2 Highly Commended poets.** Podium winners will receive a **Launceston Poetry Festival pass** with free access to all events. The First Prize winner receives **a weeklong residency in Cyprus Well.**
5. There is **no limit to the number of entries** a single entrant can make. All entries will be considered **anonymously** by the judges. **One entry form can be used for multiple entries.**
6. Entries should be submitted and paid for through the competition webpage.

In exceptional cases, where online entry is not possible, entries can be posted to The Charles Causley International Poetry Competition using the following address (please make sure to include 4 copies of each poem):

The Charles Causley International Poetry Competition
2, Cyprus Well
Ridgegrove Hill
Launceston
Cornwall
PL15 8BT

7. Postal entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form and full payment.

8. Competition entries will not be returned, so please keep a copy of your submission.
9. We are unable to allow changes to be made to poems once entered.
Entrants may withdraw entries from the competition by notifying the Trust, but entry fees cannot be refunded.
10. The Charles Causley Trust reserves the right to amend these rules where it is deemed necessary to do so, or where circumstances are beyond the Charles Causley Trust's control. Any changes to the rules will be posted on The Charles Causley Trust website.
11. Submissions must be entered under an entrant's real name.
12. The Charles Causley Trust cannot accept responsibility for any damage, loss, or disappointment suffered by any entrant entering the competition.
13. No current employee or Trustee of The Charles Causley Trust is eligible to enter this competition.
14. The Competition and Rules are governed by the English Law and any disputes will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts. As a condition of entering the competition, entrants must ensure that by doing so they do not contravene any laws of their own country of residence.
15. Entries submitted posthumously will not be eligible.
16. By providing your contact information you consent to your data being held by The Charles Causley Trust in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and any successor legislation including the General Data Protection Regulations. Your data will not be passed to any third party without your explicit and written consent. If you require further details of our Privacy Policy, please contact us in writing.

B. The Poems

1. **All individual poems must have a title.**
2. **The poet's name or other identifying marks or details must not appear on the poem sheet itself.** There should be no identifying marks other than the title.
3. **Poems: 40 lines of text maximum, no minimum.** The title is not included in the line count. Lines between text/stanzas are not counted in the line count. Titles, epigraphs and dedications are also not counted as lines. **Please add a line total in the header of each poem entered.**
4. The poem(s) **must be related to the theme of 'Family'**. Everyone is entitled to their interpretations of this theme, and judges will be mindful of this.
5. **Entries must be typed; in single-sided A4. Each entry is to be on a new sheet. Handwritten entries will not be accepted.**
6. **Poems are to be single-spaced. Poems may span two pages, but pages must not be double-sided.**
7. Poems must be entirely the original work of the entrant.
8. **Entries must never have been published, self-published, published on any website or broadcast in any form, nor currently entered in any other competition before 4th January 2026. The poem must not have won a prize in any previous competition.**

C. Fees & Postage

1. **The first poem submitted costs £7.50. Subsequent entries in the same submission cost £5 per poem.**
2. Online entries must be paid for as part of the submission process through the form present on our competition webpage.
3. For postal entries, payments must be made in £ sterling only using the following method:
 - UK bank cheques and postal orders are accepted. Cheques should be made payable to The Charles Causley Trust. Please write your name and phone number on the back of cheques.

Please do make sure your entry has been stamped correctly. If insufficient postage is used, we will not be able to receive your submission(s).

D. Winners

1. **Winners will be notified in March and invited to an award ceremony at the Launceston Poetry Festival on the evening of 1st May**, where winners will be able to read their successful poems.
2. All winners will be required to provide a biography and photograph and encouraged to share their success across their networks in conjunction with the Causley Trust.
3. The copyright of the winning poems remains with the authors. However, the winning poets, by entering the competition, grant The Charles Causley Trust the right to publish in print and online/digital, and/or broadcast their winning poem in perpetuity.
4. Details of the winners will be posted on the Charles Causley Trust website: www.causleytrust.org.

E. Judges

1. Initial shortlisting of entries is undertaken by a panel of experienced readers associated with the Charles Causley Trust. Final judging of the shortlist will be undertaken by poet Fiona Benson.
2. The Charles Causley Trust reserves the right to modify judging mechanics and change the judging panel without notice and not to award prizes or host a prize giving if, in the Trust's opinion, such an action is justified for any reason.
3. The judges' decision is final and neither the judges nor The Charles Causley Trust will enter into any correspondence.
4. Judges are unable to comment on individual entries.

For any further information, please visit www.causleytrust.org

All entry fees are donated to The Charles Causley Trust, which is a registered charity in England and Wales, Reg. 1152107