




The Inaugural Manning's Pit Poetry Competition

Closing date 30/11/2018

www.manningspit.com



THE INAUGURAL MANNING'S PIT POETRY COMPETITION

Names can be misleading. Manning's Pit may sound to some people like a disused coal mine but it is in fact a much loved piece of countryside on the edge of Pilton Barnstaple. It is a secluded valley forming part of the North Devon Downs and was named after an idiosyncratic local politician and publican, Benjamin Manning.

It is steeped in local history and culture with connections to writers such as Saki (H H Munro) and Henry Williamson, as well as artists F R Lee and J M W Turner (details on our website, www.manningspit.com). This magical place is not only beautiful but also rich in wildlife – otters and kingfishers are found along its river banks, salmon come up river to spawn in autumn and horseshoe bats swoop across its downland slopes at night. Finally, and most importantly, it may be a small area but it is at the heart of the local community, loved by young and old alike.

In 2015 it was sold to a speculator and it remains under threat of development. To help save it we are running a poetry competition. The theme can be Manning's Pit itself or any bit of countryside near to a town or village that is loved and treasured both by local people and visitors from afar.

PRIZES

- Adults 1st £100 2nd £30 3rd £20
- Children 11 and under will receive 1st and 2nd prizes
- Children 11-18 will receive 1st and 2nd prizes

NB: Children's prizes to be announced

HOW TO ENTER – CLOSING DATE 30/11/2018

Adults: the entry fee is £3 per poem. Children: for 18's and under, entry is free. We welcome multiple entries from schools or clubs.

DETAILS

Line length: maximum 40 lines. Please use only one piece of paper per poem.

Please post your typed or legible hand-written poems to:

Ms B Snowden, Fig Tree Cottage, Bellaire, Barnstaple, EX31 1QZ by 30/11/2018

Write your name, address, a contact phone number and email address on the BACK of each poem entered. Include your age if you are under 18.

PAYMENT DETAILS AND JUDGING:

By cheque made out to "Friends of Manning's Pit" or by bank transfer:

To the Friends of Manning's Pit Community Bank Account:

Sort Code:20-04-59

Bank Account Number: 73964035

The judge, Julia Bird (poet) will make her final decision by 30/12/2018. Prize winners will be notified shortly afterwards by post and details will also be posted on our website.

Please note: Copyright of the poems remains with their authors. Poems must be entirely your own work. We reserve the right to publish the poems on our website or in any publicity promoting Saving Manning's Pit.