



# NATURE AND PLACE POETRY COMPETITION 2018

THE RIALTO

WORKING WITH THE RSPB

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL AND THE  
CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

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THE RIALTO



# NATURE AND PLACE POETRY COMPETITION 2018

**JUDGE: MICHAEL LONGLEY**

**Poems are invited that deal with any aspect of nature and place – these terms will be given a wide interpretation by the judge.**

Closing Date March 1st 2018

## **PRIZES**

**1st PRIZE**     £1000

**2nd PRIZE**     £500

**3rd PRIZE**     A place on a creative writing course at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre in 2018

## **TWO ADDITIONAL PRIZES**

A personal tour with Mark Cocker of his most cherished wildlife places in East Anglia.

A personal tour with Nick Davies of his beloved Wicken Fen to learn about his research there.



## JUDGE

### MICHAEL LONGLEY

Michael Longley's eleven poetry collections have received many awards, among them the Whitbread Prize, the T.S. Eliot Prize, the Hawthornden Prize, the *Irish Times* Poetry Prize, the Griffin International Prize and the PEN Pinter Prize. His *Collected Poems* was published in 2006, and *Sidelines: Selected Prose* in 2017. In 2001 he received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, and in 2003 the Wilfred Owen Award. He was appointed a CBE in 2010, and from 2007 to 2010 was Ireland Professor of Poetry. He and his wife, the critic Edna Longley, live and work in Belfast. In 2015 he was elected a Freeman of the City.

## ENTRY FEES

**£6 FOR YOUR FIRST POEM**

**£3.50 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT POEM**

The prizewinners will be invited to read their poems at an event with Michael Longley at CCI in Spring 2018. The winning poems will be published in *The Rialto*, Britain's leading independent poetry magazine.

## PRIZE INFORMATION

**Tŷ NEWYDD** (Third Prize) National Writing Centre of Wales offers an impressive range of Creative Writing courses in the beautiful coastal surroundings of north-west Wales. ([www.tynewydd.wales](http://www.tynewydd.wales)).\*

**MARK COCKER** is one of Britain's most celebrated writers on nature. He is author of the magnificent *Birds and People* as well as the award winning *Crow Country* and *Birds Britannica*. He writes and broadcasts regularly in national media and his column in *The Guardian* has run for more than 30 years.\*\*

**NICK DAVIES** is Professor of Behavioural Ecology at the University of Cambridge. For many years his work has focused on the evolutionary battle between cuckoos and their hosts and has been based at Wicken Fen in Cambridge. In 2015 Nick published *Cuckoo: Cheating by Nature*, a book David Attenborough describes as, 'an amazing detective story by one of the country's greatest field naturalists'.\*\*

\*The prize is for a shared room accommodation, and does not include the cost of travel to and from the Centre.

\*\*The prize does not include the cost of travel or accommodation.

# COMPETITION RULES

- Closing date of the Competition is midnight on March 1 2018.
- The Competition is open to anyone over the age of 18, other than Rialto team members and staff of the RSPB, CCI and UK staff of BirdLife International.
- Poems must have a title and must be no more than 40 lines, excluding the title, and be typed in black ink on one side of A4.
- Poems must be the original work of the entrant and must not have been published, self-published or published on online or broadcast. Poems are judged anonymously so the poet's name address etc., MUST NOT appear on the poem.
- Poems must be written in English.
- No corrections can be made to poems entered, nor can fees be refunded.
- Entries cannot be returned.
- If you require confirmation that your postal entry has arrived please enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard marked 'Acknowledgement'.
- Copyright of each poem remains with the poet, but by entering the competition you give the organisers the right to publish the winning poems both online and in printed media.
- The judge's decision is final and neither he nor the organisers will enter into any correspondence.
- Prizewinners will be notified during April, and lists of the prizewinners and the long-listed contestants will be published on The Rialto website.
- The competition organisers reserve the right to change the judge without notice and not to award prizes if in the judge's opinion such an action is justified.

## ENTRY FORM

Enter and pay online at [www.therialto.co.uk](http://www.therialto.co.uk) or complete this form (in BLOCK CAPITALS) and send it with your poems and payment to:  
Nature and Place Competition, RSPB, Stalham House, 65 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1UD. Please make your cheques (Sterling only) out to the RSPB.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Poem Titles (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Nature and Place Poetry Competition 2018</b>	Quantity	Fee
First poem £6.00	1	£6
All other entries £3.50 per poem		
<b>Total</b>		£

**Please make your cheques (Sterling only) out to The RSPB.**

I have read and accept the competition rules

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The Rialto is a Registered Charity No. 297553

The RSPB is a Registered Charity  
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