

THE RIALTO NATURE & PLACE



POETRY COMPETITION 2026

THE RIALTO WORKING IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE RSPB, BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, THE CAMBRIDGE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS POETRY CENTRE

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

PRIZES

1st prize	£1000
2nd prize	£500
3rd prize	£250

The winning poems will be published in *The Rialto*

Closing Date April 1st 2026

JUDGE – MONA ARSHI

Mona Arshi is a poet, novelist and essayist. Mona trained as a Human rights lawyer. Her debut collection *Small Hands* won the Forward Prize for best first collection in 2015. Her second collection *Dear Big Gods* was published in 2019. Her writing has been featured in *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *The Yale Review* and *The Times of India* as well as on the *London Underground*. She was writer in Residence at Cley Marshes, a Norfolk Wildlife Trust Reserve, in Norfolk in 2021. *Nature Matters* was published by Faber in May 2025. Her third collection *Mouth* was published by Chatto and Windus in July 2025.



THE RIALTO



Cambridge
Conservation
Initiative

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ENTER AND PAY ONLINE AT
WWW.THERIALTO.CO.UK

ENTRY FORM

ENTRY FEES

£7 FOR YOUR FIRST POEM

£4 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT POEM

The prizewinners will be invited to read their poems at an event at CCI in summer 2026.

The winning poems will be published in The Rialto, Britain's leading independent poetry magazine.

ONLINE ENTRY

You can also enter and pay online via submittable.

To enter online go to www.therialto.co.uk and follow the link.

POSTAL ENTRY FORM

Complete this form (in BLOCK CAPITALS) and send it with your poems and payment (cheque payable to The Rialto) to:

Nature and Place Competition, 66 Salisbury Road, Norwich NR1 1TU

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone

Poem Titles (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

1

2

3

4

5

Nature and Place Poetry Competition 2026

	Quantity	Fee
First poem	1	£7.00
All other entries		£4 per poem
Total	£	

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

I have read and accept the competition rules ☐

If you wish to be included in mailings for competitions and offers from The Rialto tick here ☐

Signature

COMPETITION RULES

- 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. The restriction of 40 lines does not include the poem title or stanza breaks, only the lines of the poem's text.
- Poems must be the original work of the entrant and must not have been published, self-published or published online or broadcast. Poems are judged anonymously so the poet's name, address etc., MUST NOT appear on the poem.
- If entering poems online via Submittable, in the 'title' field on Submittable form please only enter a title that does not include your name – e.g '3 poems for Nature and Place Comp' or simply list your poem titles.
- 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 they nor the organisers will enter into any correspondence.
- Prizewinners will be notified in May 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.

There are a limited number of free entries available for writers on low or supported incomes. These will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and will cover the submission of up to two poems. To enter, please email your work to matt.howard@therialto.co.uk. Entries will be anonymised and entered into the Submittable system.