



For immediate release - 13 June

Search to find the UK's hidden poets

As part of the celebrations the 25th Anniversary of National Poetry Day 2019, Bespoke Verse has joined forces with the Forward Arts Foundation to launch **Hidden Voices**, a UK-wide competition to find the UK's two million hidden poets, those writing poetry for themselves, their friends and family to mark significant moments in their lives and for whom life-changing events inspire poetry on a daily basis.

The UK is a nation of poets and poetry-lovers: the government's most recent Taking Part survey 2016/17 put the number of poetry-writers at 3.8% of the population - 2 million people, whether published poets or simply people writing poetry to mark an event in their lives or to vocalise a significant moment. The National Literacy Trust survey, 'A Thing That Makes Me Happy 2018' revealed that 46% of children and young people turn to poetry in their spare time. Teenagers in particular, are talking more openly about how they can express themselves more easily within the space offered by poetry. A poem offers everyone the privacy to experiment, to heal and to explore.

The Hidden Voices competition aims to celebrate these unknown poets and their hidden voices. **Hidden Voices Competition 2019** launches today Thursday 13 June. The organisers are looking for poems on any subject, revealing a sense of true feeling shared and communicated rather than technical flair and poetic expertise. The competition is open to all and closes on 1 August 2019. Poems must have never been published before and be no more than 30 lines long. The poem must be written on a theme of 'truth', the overall theme of National Poetry Day 2019. Twenty winners will receive a copy of their poem, typeset, designed, printed and framed by Bespoke Verses. (Full details below in notes for editors).

Joanna Miller, former English teacher and founder of Bespoke Verses, comments, 'National Poetry Day played an important role in my classroom teaching over the years and I'm delighted to be involved with the 25th anniversary celebrations. More and more people are writing poetry in their spare time and it is these 'Hidden Voices' that the competition aims

to acknowledge and inspire. At Bespoke Verse we have seen increasing numbers of customers sending in their poems to be printed and framed. Life-changing events undoubtedly inspire poetry on a daily basis: a grieving grandchild making sense of loss, an abandoned lover expressing hurt and bewilderment, a new parent vocalising their fierce love for a newborn, a bride and groom lovingly crafting vows for their wedding day.'

Find out more: [Hidden Poets Competition 2019](#)

www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

@nationalpoetryday #nationalpoetryday

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Notes for editors:

1. Hidden Voices 2019 competition terms and conditions:

You can enter here: [Application Form](#)

1. Poems entered should be written on the theme of truth.
2. Poems must be original works by a single author and not exceed 30 lines.
3. The competition period will start at 9am on 6th June 2019 and end at midnight on 1st August 2019. After this date no further entries to the competition will be permitted.
4. Entrants may enter one poem only. Entry is free.
5. Poems should be written in English.
6. Entrants must not have had any poetry published previously in a book, a pamphlet or a magazine.
7. Entries can only be made via the official Google form, accessible via the Bespoke Verse Facebook Page or Blog.
8. There is no age limit. Prizes will be awarded in Over18 and Under18 categories.
9. Entrants must be resident in the UK.
10. Entrants agree that their data can be used for the purpose of administering the competition.
11. Entrants agree to their work being shared by Bespoke Verse and National Poetry Day.

12. There will be 20 winners. The prize is not exchangeable or refundable. Winning poems will be typeset, printed and framed in the style shown in the competition image. Prizes will be sent to the address on the entry form.
13. Bespoke Verse and National Poetry Day shall not be responsible for any inaccurate contact details provided by winners, which results in the Prize not being delivered.
14. Entrants will not be contacted unless they are winners. The winners will be notified via email no later than 31st August 2019. If the winner cannot be contacted or the prize cannot be delivered, the organiser reserves the right to withdraw the prize from the winner and pick a replacement winner.
15. Winners will be announced on National Poetry Day. The judges' decision is final.
16. The promoters are National Poetry Day, which has its registered office at Forward Arts Foundation, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA, and Bespoke Verse, registered address 4 Claridge Court, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2AF.
17. No responsibility can be accepted for entries not received for whatever reason.
18. These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of England.

2. National Poetry Day – 3 October 2019

National Poetry Day, the UK's biggest annual poetry celebration, is the highpoint of a year-round campaign to increase public enjoyment of poems. It was founded in 1994 by the Forward Arts Foundation, a cultural and education charity supported by the BBC, Arts Council England and leading literary organisations including the Scottish Poetry Library and Literature Wales. National Poetry Day's 25th anniversary – themed around Truth - is sponsored by UK book trade wholesaler Gardners, Browns Books for Students and the ALCS.

3. Bespoke Verse

Bespoke Verse creates *poetry-themed prints, goods and gifts* that say just the right things with rhyme. We believe life is full of special occasions—from weddings to birthdays to holidays to everyday—that call for equally special words and wit. Our poems are thoughtfully crafted out of our studio in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, then combined with top quality materials sourced in Britain to make our signature prints and gifts. Bespoke Verse is a family business run by former teacher Joanna Miller, supported by four studio assistants and two freelance poets.