

the Bridport Prize 2012

poems | short stories | flash | **open to all**

the entry form

NEW CLOSING DATE: 31st May

Poems | 42 lines | 1st prize **£5000**

judge | **Gwyneth Lewis**

Short Stories | 5000 words | 1st prize **£5000**

judge | **Patrick Gale**

Flash Fiction | 250 words | 1st prize **£1000**

judge | **Patrick Gale**

*“a prize really worth fighting for in terms of prestige
and genuine literary accomplishment”*

Fay Weldon CBE | patron

at the heart of **The Bridport
Open Book Festival**

The Bridport Prize is one of the top open writing awards worldwide – in both prestige and prize money.

PRIZES & OPPORTUNITIES

Prizes for **short story** and **poetry** categories:

1st	£5000
2nd	£1000
3rd	£500
10 Highly Commended prizes of £50 each	

Prizes for **flash fiction**

1st	£1000
2nd	£500
3rd	£250
3 Highly Commended prizes of £25 each	

The Dorset Award £100
Sponsored by The Book Shop of Bridport.

All prize-winning entries will be published in the **Bridport Prize Anthology 2012** along with the judges reports. Anthology orders – see over.

The top four poems are submitted to the Forward Prize for best single poem. The top thirteen eligible stories are submitted to the National Short Story Prize (£15,000) and The Sunday Times short story award (£30,000).

‘Over the last 20 years the Bridport Prize has been the most important poetry competition for bringing new and undiscovered voices to the public’s attention and to the attention of the judges of the Forward Prize’
William Sieghart, *The Forward Prize*

The winning stories and shortlist will be read by leading London literary agents with a view to representing writers.

‘The prize always throws up fantastic writers – it has great standing within the literary world.’
Euan Thornycroft, *A M Heath, Literary Agents*

ENTRY FEES

£8 per story, £7 per poem, £6 per flash fiction
Send as many entries as you wish.

BRIDPORT OPEN BOOK FESTIVAL

Features talks, readings, discussions, workshops and performances around Bridport in October 2012, for details see www.bridport-open-book.com

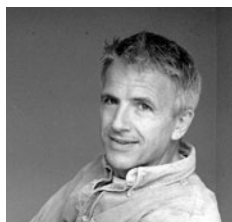


photo | Claire McNamee

Short story and flash fiction judge, Patrick Gale, has written fourteen novels, including the bestselling *Rough Music* and *Notes from an Exhibition*. His fourteenth novel, *A Perfectly Good Man*, will be published by Fourth Estate in March 2012. His two collections of short stories are *Dangerous Pleasures* and *Gentleman’s Relish*.

‘I’m under no illusions that the short story is an easy form simply because of its brevity. The few that succeed somehow pack the wallop of a novel into a tiny space. I don’t look for twists or surprises particularly, and I’m equally interested in material that is funny, sad or sinister, but I will be looking for stories which leave me feeling I’ve had a full meal emotionally, not just a starter...’



photo | Sian Dafydd

Poetry judge, Gwyneth Lewis, was the National Poet of Wales 2005-06. She’s an award-winning author of eight books of poetry and two memoirs. Gwyneth has a doctorate from Oxford University. Previously a Harkness Fellow at Harvard and then Columbia University, Gwyneth is an Honorary Fellow of Cardiff and Liverpool Universities and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Recently she has held fellowships at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, the Stanford Humanities Center and Girton College, Cambridge.

‘I will be looking that electricity which plays along the surface of language under unusual pressure – whether that be exerted by originality, intelligence, awareness or all the above.’

RULES

New closing date for receipt of entries: midnight, 31 May 2012.

Maximum of 5000 words for short stories, maximum of 42 lines for poems, maximum of 250 words for flash fiction. No minimums.

The Prize is open to anyone, including non-UK entrants, over 16 years. Posthumous entries are not eligible. Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and must never have been published, self-published, published on any website or broadcast, nor winning or commended in any other competition (as at 14th October 2012).

The Dorset Award is given to the highest placed local (Dorset, UK) across all categories.

You can send as many entries as you like. Payments must be in sterling by credit/debit card, cheque or postal order. Cheques must be from a UK bank and should be payable to The Bridport Prize with the sender's name and address on the back.

Postal entries from overseas can only be paid by credit/debit card or in cash (notes only, NO coins) – either US dollars or Euros at the current exchange rate. Overseas cheques, money orders or drafts will not be accepted.

- Please ensure you use the correct postage.
- Entries must be in English, typed, on A4, single sided and securely fastened; each entry starting on a new sheet.
- Stories to be double spaced, every page numbered and the total word count noted at the top of the first page.
- Poems to be single spaced.
- Entries will be disqualified** if they show name, address or identifying marks other than the title, (all details should be on the entry form).
- Entries are not returned**, keep a copy. No corrections can be made after receipt, nor fees refunded.

Judging is fair and unbiased. Experienced readers (led by Jon Wyatt and Candy Neubert) assist the named judges in selecting the shortlists. The judges' decision is final and no individual

correspondence can be entered into. Judges are unable to comment on individual entries.

Worldwide copyright of each entry remains with the author, but the Bridport Prize will have the unrestricted right to publish the winning poems and stories, (including highly commended), in the annual anthology and for promotional purposes.

No competitor may win more than one prize in each category.

If you require acknowledgement of receipt of your postal entry please enclose a stamped addressed postcard marked **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**. To receive the judges' reports (on the winning entries only) and full results – enclose an A5 stamped addressed envelope marked **RESULTS** – they will be sent out in October 2012. Results will also be posted on our website.

Overseas entrants: please send an International Reply Coupon from your post office rather than stamps.

Prizewinners will be notified in writing by the middle of September 2012. The list of prizewinners will be displayed on the website after the prizegiving ceremony. Prizes will be awarded on Sunday 14th October, 2012, during the Bridport Open Book Festival.

Entry implies acceptance of all the rules. Failure to comply with the rules may result in disqualification.

If you prefer, you can enter online at:

www.bridportprize.org.uk

'The annual Bridport Prize is a great opportunity for authors and poets. The anonymity of entries means the work does the work and the standard is always high. This year's short story result has encouraged me to continue in this area and to be more daring. The Bridport Prize is a gift to writers and readers alike.'

Kitty Aldridge, 1st prize, short story 2011

'Bridport is so important, particularly now. One of the hardest things to get when you are not published is published. Being published once you are published is quite easy. This kind of thing really helps.'

AL Kennedy, short story judge 2011

