



THE NOTTINGHAM HISTORIC GREEN SPACES POETRY COMPETITION

Competition Theme

Are you inspired by Nottingham's Green Spaces? There are plenty of them – Nottingham has been awarded 22 Green Flags for the excellence of its parks. Some of them are also amongst the oldest parks in the country and are protected from development by an Act of Parliament passed in 1845 and these have been explored by the Nottingham Historic Green Spaces project.

The spaces are:

The Forest	Queen's Walk and Recreation Ground
The Arboretum	Elm Avenue
Church (Rock) Cemetery	Corporation Oaks
Victoria Park	Robin Hood Chase

There is an association between these spaces and creative literature. The Arboretum and public walks, like Queen's Walk and Elm Avenue, were partly inspired by the Sherwood Forest school of writers, while the opening of the Arboretum in 1852 was commemorated in a poem by Edward Hine, published in the *Nottingham Review*, 14 May 1852. The following week *The Review* featured another Hine poem, 'Nottingham Park by Midnight'.

We are looking for lively, original and contemporary poems that relate to these spaces and respond to and are inspired by the five themes of the Project. The themes are:

- Entertainments and Celebrations
- Controversies and Contestations
- Parks, Wartime and the Military
- Education, health and hygiene
- Planting, planning and buildings

These are explored on the project's website www.ng-greenspaces.org.uk and there is a huge variety of sub-themes and topics behind the main headings.

Poems can, of course, imaginatively combine more than one theme, and weave in new ideas from the poet's own imagination and experience. We welcome poems from established as well as new poets.

There will be a first, second and third prize and up to seven commended poems which will be posted on the project website and featured in the Nottingham Green Spaces Exhibition at the Nottingham Local Studies Library, Angel Row (August 2016). It is anticipated that a small publication about Nottingham's Historic Green Spaces will be produced in collaboration with Nottinghamshire Local History Association. This will include a selection of poems, and the winners will be invited to present their poems at a Green Spaces Project event in Nottingham later this year.

The competition will be judged by an independent panel of local poets, chaired by Ruth Hobson. Ruth's poems have been widely published for over 20 years. She recently co-authored (as Ruth Shelton) *Making Nothing Happen*, an exploration of the relationship between poetry and faith.

The competition is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project *The Social World of Nottingham's Historic Green Spaces*, the University of Nottingham's Department of History, Five Leaves Bookshop and Nottinghamshire Local History Association.



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Terms and Conditions

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- The competition is open to anyone aged 18 and above who lives, works or studies in Nottinghamshire.
- All entries, whether by email or post, must be received by 5pm on 1 August 2016. Entries received after that date will not be accepted.
- There is no entrance fee.
- There will be three prizes: 1st Prize: £150; 2nd Prize: £100; 3rd Prize: £75. Up to seven commendations will also be awarded. The 10 winning and commended entries will feature on the Green Spaces project website and be displayed as part of the project's Exhibition in the Local Studies Library. Angel Row, Nottingham (22nd – 30th August 2016).
- Each entrant can submit up to three poems.
- All the poems must be:
 - clearly linked to one or more of the locations, and the themes and topics explored in the project's website (see Entry Form)
 - original, unpublished work by the entrant
 - in English
 - a maximum of 50 lines per poem
 - Email submissions must be in Word or similar format, but not pdf
 - postal submissions should be typed on A4 paper
 - if the poem goes over more than one page or sheet of paper, the title of the poem must be clearly marked on each page or sheet.
- To ensure anonymity, entrant's names MUST NOT appear on the same pages or sheet(s) of paper as the poem.
- Each group of entries must be accompanied by an official **Entry Form** which is available on the website www.ng-spaces.org.uk or by writing to Judith Mills, Department of History, University of Nottingham, Lenton Grove, Nottingham, NG7 2RD or emailing Judith.mills@nottingham.ac.uk
- Entrants should also complete the **Consent Form** that accompanies the Entry Form.
- Entries should be emailed to Dr Judith Mills Judith.mills@nottingham.ac.uk . Please enter POETRY COMPETITION into the 'subject line'. Alternatively, they can be posted to Judith Mills, Dept. History, University of Nottingham, Lenton Grove, Nottingham, NG7 2RD.
- The Green Spaces Project will ensure that all entries are properly recorded and passed anonymously to the judging panel.

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