

ROSCOMMON NEW WRITING AWARD 2025

Short Fiction & Poetry

First Prize: €500 Short Fiction and €500 Poetry

The ROSCOMMON NEW WRITING AWARD 2025 is organised as part of the County's Literary Development Programme, funded by Roscommon County Council and the Arts Council of Ireland, supported by the Roscommon Herald.

Two winners will each receive a monetary prize of €500 for short fiction or €500 for poetry and will have their winning entry printed in the Roscommon Herald.

Two runners-up will receive €100 each for short fiction or for poetry.

The 2025 competition will be adjudicated by Jane Clarke.

Jane Clarke is the author of three poetry collections, *The River* (2015), *When the Tree Falls* (2019) and *A Change in the Air* (2023) published by Bloodaxe Books. She edited the illustrated anthology *Windfall: Irish Nature Poems to Inspire and Connect* (Hachette Books Ireland, 2023). She received an Arts Council of Ireland Literature Bursary Award in 2024 for the completion of her fourth collection. Her most recent collection, *A Change in the Air*, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2023 and the T.S. Eliot Prize 2023. Jane grew up on a farm in county Roscommon and now lives with her wife in the uplands of county Wicklow.



Closing date for entries is 4pm Monday 26th May 2025

The Roscommon New Writing Award Competition Rules 2025

- Short Stories and Poetry only will be accepted.
- Entries should not have been published or accepted for publication elsewhere, in print or online.
- The competition is open to anyone over 18. All entrants must have a connection with the county of Roscommon (born in, living in, currently working in, went to school in).
- Previous first prize winners may enter but will not be eligible for the first prize.
- Writers may submit one entry only in each category.
- Typed entries (handwritten entries cannot be accepted) must be no more than 2000 words for short fiction and 30 lines in length for poetry - on any theme. Mark the number of words in your entry on the bottom of the page. Entries over the word limit will be automatically disqualified.
- Include your name, address and contact details, plus your connection to the county.
INCLUDE THESE ON A SEPARATE PAGE, NOT ON YOUR ENTRY.
- The same person will not be awarded both prizes. As entries are anonymised for the adjudicator, in the event of the same person being placed first, the prize will go to the runner up in that category.
- The competition will be adjudicated by Jane Clarke. The judge's decision is final.
- Roscommon County Council reserves the right to publicise the recipients of the Awards.
- There is no entry fee. All entries must be received by 4pm Monday 26th May 2025.
- Roscommon County Council reserves the right not to award a prize should the submissions, in the opinion of the adjudicator and the Council, not achieve a sufficiently high standard.
- Email your entry to: artsofficer@roscommoncoco.ie Title your email ROSCOMMON NEW WRITING AWARD 2025

The names of the shortlisted writers will be announced in local media, social media and online at http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Comm_Ent/Arts_Office/literature.html

The Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony will take place in 2026.

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