

ROSCOMMON NEW WRITING AWARD 2026

Short Fiction & Poetry

First Prize: €500 Short Fiction and €500 Poetry

The ROSCOMMON NEW WRITING AWARD 2026 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 2026 competition will be adjudicated by Gerry Boland



Gerry Boland is a Dublin-born author and poet. He writes for adults and for children and has published ten books to date, his latest being his third poetry collection, *All That Jazz*, published in 2022 by Arlen House. His debut collection of short stories, *The Far Side of Happiness* (Arlen House) was published in 2018. His other poetry books are *Watching Clouds* (Doghouse, 2011) and *In the Space Between* (Arlen House, 2016). His forthcoming book of photos and poems on the theme of compassion and animal rights is published by Lantern Publishing & Media in early 2027. He was Writer-in-Residence for Roscommon County Council in 2013 and 2014 and he worked in an advisory capacity on the county's annual Literary Development Programmes until 2023. He runs regular creative writing workshops, in-person and online. He lives in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Closing date for entries is 4pm Thursday 16th July 2026

The Roscommon New Writing Award Competition Rules 2026

- 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 Gerry Boland. 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 16th July 2026.
- 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 2026

The names of the shortlisted writers will be announced in local media, social media and online at

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