



Press Release March 2020

Creative Writing Competition: *A Page of a Work in Progress*

Independent Arts are launching their first creative writing competition for aspiring Island writers! The competition aptly named 'Jot' aims to encourage anyone from the Isle of Wight, with a story in their head, to express it and enter.

Independent Arts is the Isle of Wight charity focussed on using the arts to improve well-being, quality of life and to reduce social isolation. Supported by volunteers, fantastic practitioners and a small staff team in Newport, the charity engages with 1,700 people every month across the Island.

Islanders are invited to submit an example of '*a page of a work in progress*'. The competition is open to all Isle of Wight residents. There are three age groups 5-11years, 12-17 years & 18 years+ and it is free to enter.

Entries will be accepted in a wide range of formats including video clips of performative pieces, auditory recordings or soundscapes of spoken word (not to exceed 3 minutes) and, of course, the written form (not to exceed one side of A4).

Independent Arts CEO, Lisa Gagliani MBE, said of the new competition:

"As an Island charity committed to exploring change through creativity, we hope this competition will encourage novices and experienced storytellers, young & old, to literally jot something down, or to record a few minutes of spoken word, to express themselves and connect."

The prizes include a subscription to *Writing Magazine*, generous book tokens, a *Costa* gift card and tickets to the Island Literary Festival. Judges include Edana Minghella - Patron of Independent Arts. Also published writer Anmarie Bowler, Editor of *Brevity*, *The Isle of Wight's Literary Handbill*, who will judge the 18+ age group. Winning entries in this age group may be published in a future issue of *Brevity*. Other judges include an award-winning, published Island writer who has kindly sponsored the prizes and a number of other creative talents associated with Independent Arts. Importantly though, this is a competition open to all and has been devised with the novice particularly in mind.

To enter:

1. simply download an application form from Independent Arts website www.independentarts.org.uk or obtain an application pack by visiting PPUG at 33 High Street, Newport (open 10.30-3.30 Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
2. Write a single page of a 'work in progress' which could be a story, a poem, a play, a diary or an article – or if you prefer not to put pen to paper – you may record your work in progress (3 minutes maximum) on your chosen device.
3. Send your application form and your entry by email to jot@independentarts.org.uk with Creative Writing Competition in the subject line, or post to Independent Arts, Creative Writing Competition, Suite 3, 30 Quay Street, Newport PO30 5BA, to reach the charity **no later than midnight on Friday 15th June.**

A shortlist of nominees will be announced on the Independent Arts website and social media platforms (www.independentarts.org.uk, www.facebook.com/IndependentArtsIOW/, <https://twitter.com/IndependentArts>) in the week commencing **Monday 6th July**. Winners will be revealed at an awards ceremony on **Friday 10th July** at The People's Pop-up Gallery (PPUG), 33 High Street, Newport 4.30-6pm.

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For further information, contact:

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For more about Brevity, The Isle of Wight's Literary Handbill, go to <https://brevityisland.home.blog/>