

# Running wild

» Writing contest

Do you have a story in you, or perhaps someone in your family is a budding writer? If so, allow your inspiration to run wild for the MADhurst short story competition.

The Midhurst Music, Arts and Drama Festival (MADhurst) is a community event from August 22nd-31st that brings together the creative, artistic and musical talent of Midhurst.

After the success of last year's event, MADhurst is providing an outlet for your storytelling efforts by sponsoring a short story competition to encourage creative, fun thinking and provide an opportunity to test your skills.

In line with this year's carnival theme for MADhurst, 'A Walk on the Wild Side', the story title will be 'Wild'. The competition deadline is Friday, 17th August, and entries are invited from anyone who lives in south-west Surrey, west Sussex and east Hampshire.

There are categories for children (aged 12 and under), young people (aged 13 to 18) and adults.

Cash prizes will be awarded in all categories plus an overall Best Story prize.

A team of judges will review each manuscript submitted.

They will be looking for:

- an engaging story
- a well-constructed plot
- well-developed characters
- effective use of figures of speech
- The emphasis is on the ability to write a good story rather than one that is grammatically correct, although the meaning should always be clear.
- The purpose of the MADhurst Short Story Competition is to encourage creative thinking and test story telling abilities. The team want to encourage new writers to make the leap from imagination to page, and a wider audience to those who have already taken this step.

Winners will be announced in *Round & About*, as well as in the Midhurst and Petworth Observer and also on the MADhurst website. The winning short stories will be featured on the website and exhibited in the library.

Visit [www.madhurst.co.uk](http://www.madhurst.co.uk) for more about the festival, and the competition and email [competition@madhurst.co.uk](mailto:competition@madhurst.co.uk) if you have any questions. Happy writing!



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