

About Words From Lockdown

The Harwich Festival is running a digital Creative Writing Project from the 25th June – 31st July. All submitted pieces will be published in an online showcase on the HF website www.harwichfestival.co.uk.

The Harwich Festival calls for writers of all ages and abilities to take part by creating short pieces of writing: prose or poetry, but no longer than 1 A4 page reflecting their feelings raised by the lockdown. It could be about Isolation, although this is entirely up to the author. All entries will be displayed online.

The project is open to everyone, just like the 20 x 20 art project, and we hope that entries will be just as diverse. It would be wonderful if teachers and parents, involved in home-schooling, could encourage children to take part.

We hope you enjoy the work!

N.B. We have a small team working very hard to deliver the digital festival and, whilst we will endeavour to ensure all information is as accurate as possible, please let us know if you do notice any errors in the catalogue. You can do this via the contact form in the HF website.

Dates for Submissions:

Harwich Shorts Digital Film Festival will be an evolving exhibition and it will continue to be available via the HF website and Social media pages for the foreseeable future. Artists can submit work between the 25th June and the 31st July 2020. So there is still plenty of time to submit your work.

Using the Catalogue:

Work is listed in alphabetical order – by surname on the front page(s).

Please feel free to read through the whole anthology

Support the Harwich Festival:

The Harwich Festival is a registered charity and year-round arts organisation. We also run the Harwich Arts and Heritage Centre for the benefit of the wider community. The Festival relies on the support of external funders and public donations to continue its work. Any donation, no matter how small, will help us to continue our provision. If you feel able to donate, which would be greatly appreciated, you can do so here. Thank you.

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=KQCQT2627ERV8>

Chapters

Author	Title	Page Number
Cathy Offord	Day 91	4
Cathy Offord	Two Old Men	5

Day 91

Sunrise – yet another burst of heat

Those tasks I undertook so willingly at the start
all done so long ago that now they loom again,
and interest in dirty windows and the dust behind the fridge
no longer keep my interest.

We may soon be released, but things once normal,
hugs from loved ones, bus rides, supermarket trips,
now hold an unimagined terror.

Yet, marooned behind my garden walls
I've learned some strengths I didn't know were mine.
I've exercised in ways undreamt before,
Learned a new language,
Talked with friends who normally are only thought of once a year
when Christmas time comes round.

Found that technology can be great
When Zoom and Whatsapp open doors in unexpected ways.
Will we look back and reminisce about these times
As our parents did about that war?

Cathy Offord

Two Old Men

Two old men, school friends once, close as can be.
Feelings not acknowledged left unexplored.
Time passes, jobs, wives, children intervene
but now chance and a pandemic close the circle.
Each morning, standing the correct distance apart,
they talk, and know that though all's still unsaid,
in another life things could have been so different.
Yet now even idle chat's a balm in this uncertain world.

Cathy Offord