

‘Together in Verse’

**A community poetry competition ran by
Wordcraft Workshops and Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton in 2025**

Project Report

Summary

‘Together in Verse’ was a community poetry competition ran in partnership between the charity Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton and Wordcraft Workshops between January and April 2025. Special thank you to Neil Bascombe, Julie Jackson and Miriam at Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton for this opportunity to encourage poetry on a local, national and even international level.

The aims of the competition were to raise awareness of the charity on a local and national level and to encourage people, especially older people and people finding themselves living in lonely or isolated circumstances to write poetry for self-expression and exploration of their life stories.

Both organisations worked with numerous businesses and media outlets to promote the competition and several donated the prizes for the competition’s categories:

- Older people living in Liverpool and Sefton
- Open category
- School-aged children (4-19)

We received 215 entries with the youngest entrants being 4-years-old and the oldest being 111-years-old. Three entrants were centenarians.

Entries were received from all over the UK, Nigeria and Pakistan. Six schools sent multiple entries by their pupils and three care homes sent in multiple entries from their residents.

The competition had three judges: **Laura Ferries** of Wordcraft Workshops, **Daniel Cullinan** of Give Poetry a Chance! and **Marjorie Aylward Hodnett**, the oldest living person in the northwest of England at 111-years-old.

Businesses who donated prizes

We were truly grateful to the businesses who donated £650 worth of prizes:

- Escape Rooms Liverpool
- Everton Football Club
- Liverpool Football Club
- Tesco, Park Road, Liverpool
- Waitrose, Formby
- Crosby Plaza Community Cinema
- Cineworld
- Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse
- Trophies and certificates purchased and made by Neil and Julie of Age Concern Liverpool & Sefton

Media

We were also highly grateful to the following media outlets who promoted the competition throughout the entry window:

- BBC Radio Merseyside (three interviews/features and winner readings)
- The Good News Post (two articles)
- Uncover Liverpool
- ArtinLiverpool.com
- Special thank you to Formby Manor Care Home and their PR company, Philosophy PR: <https://www.philosophypr.co.uk/about>
- Humans of Liverpool

Articles

<https://www.goodnewspost.co.uk/community-poetry-competition-brings-together-generations-and-helps-mental-health-well-being/>

<https://www.goodnewspost.co.uk/poetry-competition-brings-generations-together-with-110-year-old-marjorie-leading-the-way/>

<https://ageconcernliverpoolandsefton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Meet-Aunt-Marj.pdf>

Winning Entries

<https://ageconcernliverpoolandsefton.org.uk/together-in-verse-poetry-competition-2025/>