

Story: **Voltaire** (for his story 'RealPolitik')

I received 8 short stories and with all of these there was something I could enjoy in each story.

The 1<sup>st</sup> prize goes to Voltaire who caught my imagination with his story which had a historical hue to it and it ends in a dramatic fashion too. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize goes to David Hobbs for "The Careless Arsonist" and the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Agrimony for the story called "The Death of a Comedian"

Poem: **Richard Davies** (for his poem, Waiting)

Adjudication: I received 11 poems in this competition, which is to be commended. The standard on the whole was very high, with most poets having something to say, a message to convey by the end of their work. While food was the theme, many went in all kinds of directions and used all kinds of verse forms. Remind me never to judge a food themed competition again as it has now made me very hungry! I place Richard Davies's striking Villanelle in 1<sup>st</sup> position, Daisy Scott and her beautiful poem to the corn field a close 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Charles Ives for his loving poem and mischievous ending where grandma breaks wind!

Limerick: **Voltaire** (His marathon Limerick)

The winning limerick by Voltaire is clear, very suggestive and mentions Abergavenny. It could have been a messy work had the poet been explicit in connection with Paula Radcliffe and having to go to the toilet! There were others that I liked but I don't feel they reach the height required to be given a prize.