



Surrey Poet Laureateship

For Immediate Release

Press Release

The Surrey Poet Laureateship
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Surrey Poet Laureateship Celebrates Successful Launch with Inspiring Events

Surrey, May 20/5/24 - The Surrey Poet Laureateship has officially launched with two highly successful events, marking the beginning of an exciting journey to bring poetry to the forefront of Surrey's cultural scene. The inaugural Poetry Hub at Staines Library and the first open mic night at Thames Side Brewery have set the stage for a vibrant and inclusive poetry community in Surrey.

The Poetry Hub event at Staines Library was graced by the presence of the Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Denise Saliagopoulos. The Mayor's official visit underscored the importance of this cultural initiative for the local community. Attendees enjoyed a morning filled with poetic inspiration, creative expression, and meaningful connections. The library provided a welcoming environment, and the support from the local community was truly heartwarming.

The first open mic night at Thames Side Brewery in Staines was a resounding success, featuring an incredible line-up of open mic poets and headlined by Briony Hughes, the Poet in Residence at the University of Surrey. The evening was made even more special by the surprise appearance of international spoken word poet MSTR Samuel. Poets who had never read before took to the stage with confidence, and the supportive audience created a warm and encouraging atmosphere.

Adam Gary, the inaugural Surrey Poet Laureate, expressed his gratitude and excitement for the future of the Laureateship. "The launch of the Surrey Poet Laureateship has exceeded all my expectations. Both events showcased the immense talent and passion within our community. I am thrilled to see such enthusiasm and support for poetry in Surrey."

The Poetry Hub will continue to meet every Monday morning at Staines Library, providing a regular space for poets and poetry enthusiasts to gather, share their work, and engage in creative activities. The open mic nights at Thames Side Brewery will be held on the second Tuesday of every month, offering a platform for poets to perform and connect with audiences in a unique setting.

Adam Gary's mission as the Surrey Poet Laureate is to set a solid foundation for the Laureateship so it may continue for generations to come. He aims to bring poetry to everyone in the county, showcasing it as a profound, moving, and enjoyable art form. The Laureateship also includes an outreach programme to help vulnerable members of the community in prisons, care homes, and schools, teaching them the therapeutic power of poetry.

For more information about the Surrey Poet Laureateship and upcoming events, visit www.surreypoetlaureateship.org or follow us on [@surreypoetlaureate](https://twitter.com/surreypoetlaureate).

About Surrey Poet Laureateship

The Surrey Poet Laureateship is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to celebrating and promoting poetry in Surrey, England. Founded by poet Adam Gary, the initiative aims to engage residents of all ages and backgrounds through poetry workshops, events, and outreach programmes. By fostering creativity, community engagement, and cultural enrichment, the Surrey Poet Laureateship seeks to make poetry an accessible and integral part of Surrey's cultural landscape.