



For Immediate Release

Press Release

The Surrey Poet Laureateship
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*Surrey Poet Laureateship Expands Reach with New Poetry Hub at Woking Library Launch Date:
September 20th, 2023 | 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM*

Woking, Sept. 9, 2024 - The Surrey Poet Laureateship, a trailblazing initiative that has been transforming lives across Surrey since its inception in May, is proud to announce the launch of its third Poetry Hub at Woking Library. Following the remarkable success of hubs in Staines and Kingston, this latest addition will open its doors to the public on Friday, September 20th, offering residents a unique opportunity to experience the power of poetry.

Since launching earlier this year, the Surrey Poet Laureateship has been on a mission to bring poetry into the lives of Surrey's residents through accessible and engaging community-based programmes. The initiative has already made significant strides, including:

- **Poetry Hubs:** Launched two hubs in Staines and Kingston, both attended by local mayors who expressed the importance of community arts and the rising popularity of poetry. These hubs have become a space for individuals – including the retired, semi-retired, freelancers, and others with flexible schedules – to come together, share, and explore the therapeutic and creative potential of poetry. The expansion to Woking Library marks the third hub in Surrey, furthering our reach across the county.
- **Open Mic Success:** The Surrey Poet Laureateship has also seen its monthly open mic night, Laureate's Lounge, held at Thames Side Brewery in Staines, become a community favourite. With two consecutive months of sold-out performances, local poets have rallied to share their work and connect with audiences in what has become an electric atmosphere of spoken word, creativity, and camaraderie.
- **School Outreach:** The Laureateship is making headway in bringing poetry to young minds through our school outreach programme. With workshops designed to focus on expression over form, we aim to instil confidence and creativity in students across Surrey. This programme will officially launch later this year, offering students a safe space to explore their emotions and thoughts through poetry.
- **Wellbeing Focus:** Mental health has been a core focus of the Laureateship's work, with poetry workshops hosted at the Wisdom on Wellness Festival earlier this year. These workshops demonstrated how reading and writing poetry can offer an outlet for managing stress and promoting mindfulness.

Launch of the Woking Poetry Hub

The new Poetry Hub at Woking Library will officially launch on September 20th and will run every Friday from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. These hubs are beginner-friendly, welcoming anyone with an interest in poetry, whether they are writing for the first time or seeking to reconnect with their creativity. Participants will take part in guided poetry activities, collaborative exercises, and have the chance to share their own writing in a supportive, nurturing environment.

Adam Gary, the founder of the Surrey Poet Laureateship, expressed his excitement for the Woking launch:

"We've seen the immense impact that our Poetry Hubs have had in Staines and Kingston – they've become not just a space for poetry, but a space for community. We've had people return week after week, finding comfort and connection in the words they write and share. Poetry has this incredible ability to bring people together, and we are thrilled to continue expanding this initiative."



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Invitation to Media and Residents

We invite members of the media, local officials, and residents to join us at the launch of the Woking Poetry Hub. As part of the celebration, the event will include poetry exercises and a chance for attendees to learn more about the Laureateship's work. We are honoured to have the support of local officials and are working to invite Surrey's leaders to this important community launch.

For more information, or to attend the event, please visit our website at www.surreypoetlaureateship.org or contact us at info@surreypoetlaureateship.org.

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.

Contact: Adam Gary, Surrey Poet Laureate, 07557553862, info@surreypoetlaureateship.org

Note to Editors: For press inquiries, please view our press page on our website. Photos and interviews are also available. www.surreypoetlaureateship.org/press