

For Immediate Release

Press Release

The Surrey Poet Laureateship
The Literary Institute, 51 High Street, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9EW
www.surreypoetlaureateship.org

Meet The Man Who Risked Everything For Poetry and Community

Surrey, UK – October 2025 - What would make someone walk away from a stable job, a secure income, and their savings?

For 33-year-old Adam Gary, the answer was simple: poetry – and people.

In 2024, Adam gave up his full-time job and poured his entire life savings into launching a grassroots, volunteer-led initiative called the Surrey Poet Laureateship. A bold, unfunded project to make poetry accessible and inclusive for all.

“It sounds mad, doesn’t it?” he laughs. “But I had to try. I knew the difference poetry made in my life. I wanted to create something that could change other people’s lives too.”

Since launching, the Laureateship has grown at a breathtaking pace. What began as a handful of events in borrowed spaces has become a county-wide movement, with:

- Free Poetry Hubs in libraries across Surrey
- A wildly popular monthly open mic, regularly at capacity
- School workshops, public competitions, and poetry trails
- A community-led Surrey Poetry Anthology
- A new home base at the historic Egham Literary Institute

All without a penny of initial funding. All built on belief, community, and sacrifice.

“I used every last bit of my savings to get this off the ground. I’ve lived on almost nothing. But I believe in what we’re doing.”

Now supported by a passionate team of volunteers, the Laureateship has reached people aged 9 to 91 – many of whom had never written or read poetry before. The project has become a lifeline for many, with some attendees calling it “a sanctuary” and “a turning point” in their personal journeys.

As national arts funding becomes increasingly precarious, Adam’s story offers a rare example of individual grit – someone willing to risk it all not for fame or fortune, but for the belief that poetry belongs to everyone.

The Laureateship’s next milestone is its End-of-Year Showcase Gala. A formal, celebratory evening that serves as its annual fundraiser. Featuring an exciting lineup of poets, dignitaries, and community voices, the Gala represents both a celebration and a lifeline.



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Want to cover this story?

This isn't just about poetry. It's about one person's decision to bet everything on building something beautiful, and what happens when a community decides to join him.

Adam is available for interviews and broadcast appearances.

Photos and footage available on request

Gala info: [Click Here](#)

Website: www.surreypoetlaureateship.org

Previous Press: <https://www.surreypoetlaureateship.org/press>

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