



Hampshire Poet 2024 - 2026 THE BRIEF and an INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST

Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) is working in partnership with Winchester Poetry Festival (WPF) to deliver the 2024 – 2026 Hampshire Poet Laureate programme. This is a two year tenure.

The work of the Hampshire Poet offers a facilitating platform to those with limited access, or with emerging or unheard voices, and to those experiencing life challenges, ensuring their stories are heard and valued. By leading workshops, giving readings, and co-crafting commissioned poems, the poet will inspire creativity and empower people of all ages and abilities, using the power, expressiveness, and playfulness of words, to develop their individual and community voices, and to express feelings, experiences, and emotions.

The Hampshire Poet programme has been running every two years since 2008 and was most recently held by Nazneen Ahmed Pathak in 2022 - 2023

1) THE PROGRAMME

The position of Hampshire Poet provides the opportunity for a Hampshire based poet (resident in and/or working in the county) to undertake commissions, lead workshops and give readings and talks throughout the county, and to act as an advocate for poetry and poets.

Opportunities have been identified throughout the two years for the Hampshire Poet to play a significant role, providing the poet with the chance to create new work, engage members of the community and connect to programmes across the county already taking place during the two years.

Key opportunities

These will include:

- Participation in Heritage Open Days
- Act as judge for the Hampshire Young Poets' Competition 2024 and 2025 (The 2024 theme is, 'Our World, Our Planet').
- Participation at Winchester Poetry Festival events including the 'Hampshire Poet presents' event to be scheduled at the Winchester Poetry Festival 2025
- Participation within the Jane Austen 250th anniversary in 2025
- Opportunity to work alongside HCT's museum's collections for new commissions
- Work with Whitchurch Conservation Group* (WCG) to identify, lead and undertake limited but exploratory consultation with focused local communities in the Basingstoke area of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, through the medium of poetry, and to explore and pilot partnerships and test potential for a future larger scale Landscape Heritage Poet-in-Residence programme (subject to funding) going forward. (NB There is some limited additional budget available for this work from WCG.)

Other relevant opportunities_might include:

- Community workshops focused on (examples only):
 - increasing access and building inclusion
 - mental health/wellbeing,
 - Engagement with people of all ages and backgrounds



- Events and or commissions inspired by heritage sites and / or exhibitions

The Role and the Prospective Appointee

The successful candidate will be a Hampshire based poet (including Southampton and Portsmouth), a confident communicator, and with a friendly, lively and personable approach to working with the public. The appointed poet should be willing to travel throughout the county.

The successful appointee will be able to demonstrate the following:

- Experience as a poet (written and/or spoken)
- Experience of running poetry workshops and engaging with both experienced poets and beginners
- Ability to ensure an approach which results in high quality experiences for audiences and presenters
- Experience of running creative writing workshops/sessions including experience of working with young people or in community settings or with vulnerable groups
- Experience of performance of poetry and engaging communities
- Interest and experience in the role of poetry in addressing mental health and well-being issues
- Strong organisational, communication, time-keeping, administrative and project management skills
- Confident, flexible, and approachable
- Strong interpersonal skills to work effectively with WPF, both face-to-face and via telephone and video conference
- Availability to deliver the project in line with the requirements outlined in the brief
- Able to report back and share outcomes through regular updates, reports, and final evaluations.

The appointed poet will be self-motivated and self-managing. Hampshire Cultural Trust and Winchester Poetry Festival are also looking for a creative, innovative, and flexible approach. The precise delivery details will be negotiated and confirmed in discussion with the appointed poet.

2) **INDICATIVE AIMS**

- a. To strengthen a sense of community, inclusivity, and belonging through poetry.
- b. To use poetry as a tool to improve participants' mental and emotional well-being.
- c. To take poetry into surprising places for non-poetry-reading audiences; to encourage the poetry curious to dip a toe into the poetry world (e.g. as part of new audiences for poetry events locally (including those run by WPF) and as new members of poetry-writing groups locally, and to reach participants in environments that are culturally poor who might otherwise not encounter poetry in their daily lives and build sustainable routes for ongoing participation).
- d. To reach children and young people both in and outside school through e.g, partnerships with schools and informal education settings (links might be made with Hampshire Cultural Education Partnership, Hampshire Cultural Trust, School Library Service).
- e. For the appointed Hampshire Poet to broaden and develop their skills, contacts, and to grow confidence, build experience, and enhance expertise in their role both as a poet and as a poetry facilitator.

NB the finessing and confirmation of aims and objectives will be negotiated with the appointed Hampshire Poet to ensure these are current and represent the appointee's strength and skills.

3) TIMELINE

- Responses to this brief should be submitted by email to Amy Brown at hello@winchesterpoetryfestival.org by Wednesday 31st January 2024
- Interviews (in person) between 4th and 8th March 2024
- Poet selected and work begins from 08 April 2024
- Period of delivery of this brief: April 2024 – March 2026 - including project report

- 4) **FEE:** There will be a total inclusive fee of £4,000 for this brief over the two-year period, which will include an agreed number of commissioned poems, activities and events. (Anything additional to this will be agreed and may be funded separately, subject to funds available.)

5) MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The appointed poet will be contracted Winchester Poetry Festival

6) HOW TO SUBMIT A RESPONSE

To apply to be the 2024 - 2026 Hampshire Poet, please email your CV, four poems that are your own original work, and no more than 500 to 750 words saying why you were attracted to the role and what you feel you could bring to it - referring to the brief - and also to one or more of the key opportunities outlined above.

Please also provide contact details of two referees (referees will not be contacted without your permission) and confirmation of current DBS* clearance and Public Liability Insurance.

Please email your application to:

Festival Manager
Winchester Poetry Festival
hello@winchesterpoetryfestival.org

To discuss the brief, or for more information, please contact hello@winchesterpoetryfestival.org

** NB Ensuring the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is embedded in all the work that WPF and HCT undertakes. Working in accordance with HCT/WPF Safeguarding Policies applies to all who work or volunteer with, on behalf of, and in association with us.*

7) OTHER INFORMATION

Equal Opportunities

Both Hampshire Cultural Trust and Winchester Poetry Festival have active Equal Opportunities policies. No job or role applicant or employee shall receive less favourable, or more favourable, treatment on the grounds of age, care of dependents, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion & belief, sexual orientation or socio-economic background & status.

A commitment to the environment

HCT and WPF have a robust commitment to working in an environmentally sustainable way. Our plans will include a commitment to:

- Using recyclable, environmentally-sound materials from local suppliers



- Walking, cycling or using public transport where possible and feasible
- Delivering community/heritage workshops, in settings accessible by public transport (also online).
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Confidentiality

The appointed individual is required to maintain the confidentiality of all propriety or privileged information which they may be party to in the course of the contract, and they are expected to work on behalf of Hampshire Cultural trust and Winchester Poetry Festival.

Thank you very much for your interest.

APPENDIX: About the key partners

Winchester Poetry Festival was established in 2013 with the first festival taking place in September 2014. We're here to be a round table for poetry where everyone is welcome. We are a poetry organisation that does all sorts of things - from hosting our much-acclaimed biennial festival in Winchester, to our popular Winchester Poetry Prize competition, to our wider work with schools and community organisations. We are here to share, showcase, celebrate and champion great poetry - because we believe in its power to bring us all together and make a positive, enriching difference to our lives and the society we live in. We are a hub for poetry locally, nationally and internationally - from Winchester to the world! We also promote one-off events and work in partnership with Hampshire Cultural Trust to run the **Hampshire Poet** programme the Hampshire Young Poet's Competition.

Hampshire Cultural Trust was established as an independent charity in 2014 to promote Hampshire as a county that offers outstanding cultural experiences to both its residents and visitors.

We manage and support visitor attractions, museums, art galleries and arts centres across Hampshire that were previously operated by Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council.

We run a huge variety of workshops, classes, events and projects for both young and old, in schools and in communities, with particular emphasis on reaching people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged and would not normally be able to access arts and culture. In addition, we care for 2.5 million objects that relate to Hampshire's rich and internationally important cultural heritage.

***About Whitchurch Conservation Group**

Whitchurch Conservation Group is a constituted community group. We seek to preserve Whitchurch's green spaces, enhancing Whitchurch's status as an economically, socially, and culturally vibrant town with a strong rural and heritage identity, with specific emphasis on The Mill Trail, River Test and Whitchurch's position as Gateway to the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (formerly AONB).

<https://whitchurchconservationgroup.org/aims/>



24th November 2023