

Poetry On Location

I am asking for your approval today to engrave two lines of poetry into four paving slabs in the South West corner of the Market Square in Salisbury

From the poem 'Lost' by Vikram Seth:

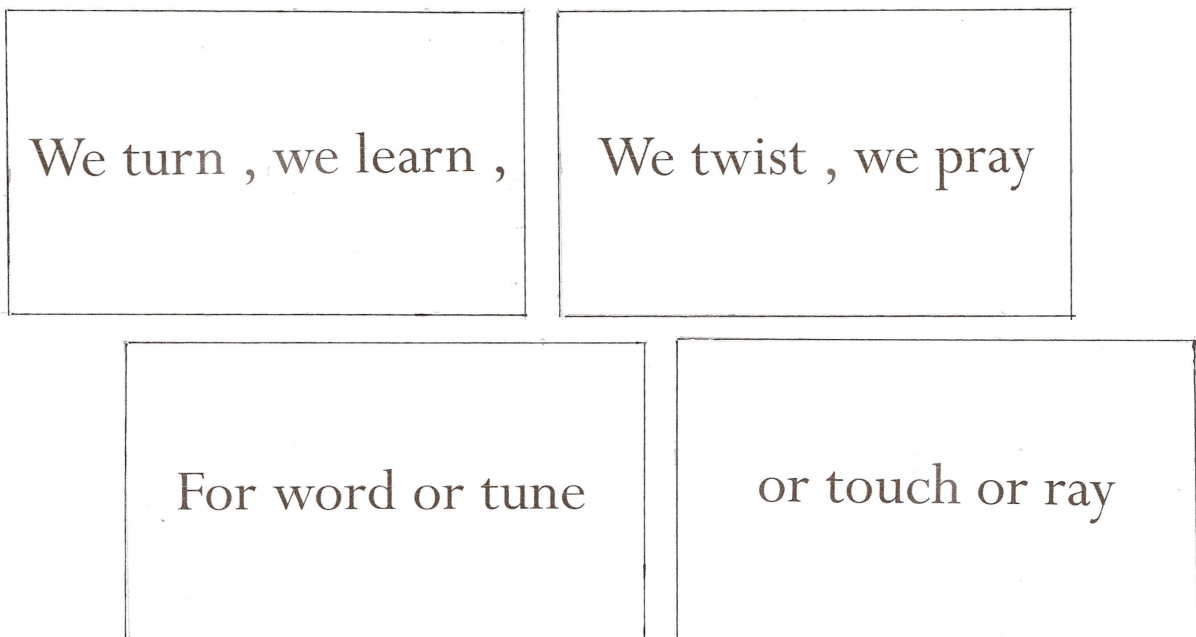
'We turn, we learn, we twist, we pray
For word or tune or touch or ray'

Our intention is to:

- Bring beautiful poetry into the public sphere in Salisbury
 - It is currently woefully underrepresented
- Remind both tourists and residents in Salisbury that poetry broadens the reach and deepens the tone of everyday life
- Promote the display of public poetry in other towns around the country
- Help readjust the cultural axis in Salisbury
 - There is an unjustified preconception that the Cathedral Close is Salisbury's centre of cultural activity

The Lines:

- Have been chosen alongside classes from several local schools, Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury Poetry Café and other key members of Salisbury's artistic community
- Were unanimously chosen to be the above, by Vikram Seth, a celebrated member of the national, contemporary cultural scene
- Will fit onto four 600x800-900mm york stone paving slabs:



The engraving:

- Will take no more than two weeks to complete and install
- Will be executed by Harry Jonas, a local stonemason who has worked extensively in and around Salisbury



Inspiration came from the **Leiden Wall Poem Project** and **Winning Words** initiative, part of the 2012 Olympic games

- In Leiden over 100 poems are painted, engraved and inscribed onto public and private buildings
- Leiden is internationally praised as a shining example of the sensitive promotion of culture in a modern context
- It has significantly benefited through tourism as a direct result
- Poems were engraved into the Olympic Park as part of the Winning Words initiative
- We want to keep this alive for future generations

The cost has been fully underwritten by the Forward Arts Foundation, the national charity that creates and organises National Poetry Day