



# Call for Writers: Happy as Larry

*A 12th Man Mental Health project in partnership with the National Centre for Writing*

## About the Project

Happy as Larry is a collaborative storytelling project led by 12th Man Mental Health CIC, in partnership with the National Centre for Writing.

We are seeking 6 writers to create 12 short stories that will be professionally illustrated, published as a collected volume, and exhibited across Norfolk. Together, these stories will form a year in the life of Lawrence “Larry” Chatman – a fictional but recognisable man living in a city inspired by Norwich.

The project explores men’s mental health through ordinary, everyday experiences – focusing on the subtle, often unspoken moments that shape how we feel, relate, and navigate life.

## Who is Larry?

Larry is in his early–mid 40s, works in construction management, and is generally seen as someone who’s doing well. He’s sociable, dependable, and at ease in everyday environments – pubs, gyms, work sites, football grounds.

But beneath that, from time to time he experiences doubt, loneliness, reflection, and change – like anyone else. The one thing that sets Larry apart is that he talks about his mental health.

This project avoids crisis-led narratives. It focuses on the emotional texture of everyday life, and the common ups and downs of life. There will be a strong emphasis on **positive, everyday mental health**, which is often missing from wider conversations.

## What You’ll Do

- Join a group of **6 writers**
- Collaboratively create **12 short stories** (2 per writer) of between 250 and 1000 words
- Build a shared year-long narrative arc
- Develop work through structured sessions, peer discussion, and **1:1 feedback with the project tutor**
- **Commit to developing your writing outside of the sessions**, with time between meetings to draft, refine and complete your stories
- No previous writing experience is required



## Project Sessions

All sessions take place at Dragon Hall, Norwich, 6:30–8:00pm

- **Thursday 9 July – Project Launch**  
Introduction, mental health context (12th Man), character development workshop and writing project introduction with tutor George Harrison
- **Thursday 3 September – Midpoint Session**  
Story development and group feedback
- **Thursday 12 November – Final Session**  
Presentation of completed work

## Outcomes

- Stories illustrated by an artist from Norwich University of the Arts
- Publication as a collected volume
- Exhibitions and events across Norfolk

## Who We're Looking For

This project is rooted specifically in men's mental health, particularly reflecting the life stage Larry represents (mid-30s to mid-50s). We welcome applications from those who can engage thoughtfully with this perspective.

Writers who:

- Engage with everyday mental health and lived experience
- Can write with subtlety and realism
- Are open to collaboration
- Can attend all sessions

## Access

This opportunity is unpaid, with travel expenses covered for those based outside Norwich.

## How to Apply

Submit:

- What does mental health mean to you? (max 200 words)
- Describe a moment of everyday mental health that has stayed with you. Why does it matter? (max 300 words)
- Writing sample (Max 1000 words. This can be any genre, any style)

Submissions by email to [hello@12th-man.org.uk](mailto:hello@12th-man.org.uk) titled 'Happy as Larry Writing Application'

**Application Deadline is 11.59pm Friday 19 June**

12th Man 'Happy as Larry' Call for Writers

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