

Kingfisher Poets



New Writing projects for
Kingfishers and LinkUpArts

creative and fun
coming soon

Welcome

As Summer arrives I find myself putting together my first newsletter for LinkUpArts. I am looking forward to taking on my new role and working with you all in the near future. The exciting projects coming up include a Storytelling Project with Kingfisher Poets inspired by Stonehenge and a new disability equality training scheme 'Inaccessible Access', which we hope you get involved in. More details inside....

- Hayley Davies

Artwork in this issue:

Front cover: Designed by Gini

Page 4: Advert Poster 'A Creative Tea-break' by Tam Gilbert

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Upcoming projects

Exciting News about Stonehenge inspired project!

Join us for a new storytelling project in collaboration with the Kingfisher Poets. Following on from 'Our Tales Unveiled', the successful LinkUpArts storytelling project last year, the collaboration with Kingfisher Poets will provide an opportunity to come together and write creatively. Using Stonehenge's loan box, which contains original or copies of objects excavated around the prehistoric site, this project will offer an informal and relaxed way to trigger creative processes about sense of place, locality and history. More to follow in the next LUA News.

If you would like to register your interest in taking part in the project please email Hayley Davies admin@linkuparts.org.uk

Inaccessible Access Project

LinkUpArts are running a pilot project which will provide Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training through the arts to local businesses, other organisations and individuals from any background. We aim to facilitate a shift in thinking and begin a conversation specifically around Disability Equality in Salisbury.

To launch this new training service, we have secured funding to provide a free 3-hour Disability Equality Training workshop, which will be running four times throughout July. This will include topics such as the social model, stereotypes, and the law, as well as an opportunity to talk freely and ask questions about issues that are relevant to you or your organisation and possible ways to address them.

These workshops are for everyone who would like to know more about the subject. There are a maximum of 10 places per workshop and these are expected to fill up quickly so register your interest now by emailing workshop leader Hayley Davies admin@linkuparts.org.uk who will arrange suitable dates.

Our newsletter needs you!

For a Creative Tea-break...

Put down the cake and pick up a pen!

We bring your Arts news and creativity to you, so keep us up to date with all that you do!

If you have an item you would like to contribute, please do send it to us...

We are looking for:

- * Poetry
- * Stories
- * Photography
- * Reviews
- * Upcoming events
- * New projects & workshops

Please send your contributions to admin@linkuparts.org.uk



Kingfisher Poets

Greatly missing our lead Poet, Rose Flint, Kingfishers are being shaken out of the doldrums by some fun new workshop sessions with Poet Grace Gauld. Grace works us quite hard and we are very much enjoying the breadth and variety she brings to our sessions.

A couple of weeks ago we were working on metaphors and had a session of writing inspired by the Language of Flowers. Amy has sent us these two new works - writing from her home in Wales:

Daisies! Such Happy Daisies!

Daisies! Such Happy Daisies!
And don't forget those bright and yellow buttercups!
Smiling at you!
All smiling at you!

Primroses,
Violas -
Hang on a minute mate!
Aren't "Violas" a musical instrument
in the String section of an orchestra?
Maybe with their happy faces -
they SING @ you!

Pansies,
Dahlias,
Lilies - Cursed be the lilies that
give me endless mischief up my nose
in church!

White Lilies for peace?!
Huh?!
You have got to be Joking
when one is at war
with pollen!

Roses smile too and Rose Flint smiles
on her writing prodigies in class.

A Synod of dog-collared Flowers.

"Llandaff! Are you here?"

"Present and growing well sir!"

"Leicester! Are you here?"

"Present and growing quite well sir!"

"Canterbury! Canterbury!"

"Where are you Canterbury?!"

"My Lord Archbishop of York, sir,
Archbishop of Canterbury Dahlias
don't seem to be growing so well -
in fact, not at all..." Amy wails!

"Sir, may I say, you grow well as Archbishop
of York – from a colourful country -
but why not Archbishop of Canterbury
grow well too? He is the father of
the Church of England after all!"

"Let's all stand to declare our faith and
then sit to get on with the General Synod
meeting...!"

And to finish the meeting hours later:
May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the Love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore, Amen.

By Amy Lewis-Cooper.

Kingfishers meet at Salisbury Arts Centre, on Thursday mornings from 10.30 - 12.30.

They can be contacted through Gini@linkuparts.org.uk
or the Arts Centre box office 01722 321 744 for access information.

DisabilityArts.Online launches new website

Disability Arts Online has worked closely with Brighton-based design firm Take Up Space, who specialise in projects for ethical organisations, to tailor the branding and the design of the website to best serve its mission and audience, both of which have disabled artists at their core. Disability Arts Online's long-term web development partners, Surface Impression have implemented the designs.

Being a platform primarily for and about the arts, the new website places much greater emphasis on images and video, making for a richer and more engaging user experience. The work of disabled artists is given due prominence throughout the new site including high-quality editorial, an extensive directory of artists and new gallery-equipped showcase features which profile the work itself.

Director Trish Wheatley said:

"The new website has been developed following useful feedback from our readers and we can't wait to share it with everyone. Thanks to a great deal of hard work from the staff and freelance team for making it happen. We look forward to hearing what our readers think of the new site and welcome ideas for future blogs, articles and features."

Editor Colin Hambrook said:

"The sheer volume of content on Disability Arts Online has always made navigation tricky. I'm delighted that we will be able to profile our writers much more effectively through a facility within the new site for pulling related content together. It means that our readers will more easily find articles by favourite writers. In addition with a more straightforward system of tagging articles our readers will also discover areas of specific interest from across different sections within the site."

As part of the launch the URL of the website will be changing from www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk to www.disabilityarts.online. Disability Arts Online has always acted as an archive of the Disability Arts movement and of disability culture more generally. For this reason, content predating 2015 will remain on the old website as an archival resource. The old website will no longer be updated with new editorial content as of 18 May 2016. Blogs and listings will stop being updated on the old site from the date of launch of the new site on 8 June.

Later in the year, Disability Arts Online will be launching a new video platform, Viewfinder, which will feature curated video playlists, original commissions, and eventually, live streaming. Both the new Disability Arts Online site and the Viewfinder video platform have been funded through Arts Council England's Grants for the Arts programme, and further supported by core funding from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

DaisyFest 2016

I'm delighted and excited that Daisyfest 2016 has given DisabilityArtsOnline a slot at G Live in Guildford to showcase some of the talent DAO supports through our blogging platform. So, we're producing an event next month called *Words That Defy Normality* - a smorgasbord of humorous, reflective, autobiographical poetry and performance from Penny Pepper, Allan Sutherland and Dolly Sen.

I was over the moon at the success of Penny's campaign via [Unbound to get her memoir *First In The World Somewhere* published by Unbound/ Penguin.](#)

Penny ran the gauntlet of social media to ensure the publication happened. Backed by Daisyfest the crowdfunding campaign reached 102 per cent of its target, so the publication is due to be released in early 2017.

And now, hot off the stage from speaking at the Southbank Centre's Women of the World (WoW) Festival, Penny will give Daisyfest a flavour of her personal recollections of the beginnings of independent living and disability civil rights.

Penny's story is one of a first-generation punk crip who skirted through new romantic pop into being a music-junkie indie kid, always pushing her writing and performance alongside the emergence of the Disability Arts scene.

Allan Sutherland, once described as 'the first political stand-up on the disability arts circuit' has for thirty years been exploring ways of making the voices of disabled people heard.

He has explored his own epilepsy through performance poetry, stand-up comedy and personal writing. He has presented the lives and opinions of other disabled people through radio and television scriptwriting and journalism.

In more recent years, Allan has developed the technique of interview-based transcription poetry, which has proved to be a powerful means of telling disabled people's stories. Supported by DAO, his first exploration of the form, told the life story of Disability Activist and campaigner Paddy Masefield, before further developments, which gave us *The Explorer* with scenes from the life of artist Nancy Willis and *Neglected Voices*, with stories recalling the lives of three disabled people:

In this performance he will be reading from his recently-completed collection, 'Difficult People'. [We are the difficult people,/ The ones who do not fit,/ Who have no place in/ The world as you've made it.]

The collection straddles several decades of the writer's engagement with disability arts, activism and culture. It starts with some of the performance poems, which document his own experience of living with epilepsy; followed by a set of found poems, and lastly his transcription work.

Dolly Sen has been blogging on DAO since 2008 with her unique and persistently uproarious take on the world. As a child, Dolly Sen was an alien in Empire Strikes Back. She knew then she would never know normal life. Dolly is an award-winning writer, artist, performer and filmmaker, which has taken her up a tree in Regents Park, to California's Death Row, to the Barbican, Tower Bridge, Royal Academy, Trafalgar

Square, and up a ladder to screw a lightbulb into the sky. She also thinks she is a sheep.

Dolly's creativity aims to put sanity over her lap and slap its naughty arse. She will do this for your delight at Daisyfest, using poetry, art, comedy and sheep.

For my own part, as well as having the delight of compering the words that defy normality, I am planning to run a poetry sharing workshop earlier in the day as part of Daisyfest's programme of free daytime events.

Most people dabble in poetry at some point in their lives. Some of us turn to writing poetry during difficult times in our lives as an outlet for deep-seated fears and anxieties. Some of us use poetry as an alternative way of recording feelings about people or events that are important to us, or as an alternative way of keeping a diary.

For others poetry can be the most direct form of self-expression when the creative urge takes hold. It doesn't have to be precious or academic. It can simply be a rewarding way of giving voice to the value we attach to our lives. For disabled people in particular, poetry can often be a lifeline because poetry allows us the space to say things that are often negated, misconstrued or disallowed.

This workshop will be an opportunity to gain confidence through sharing poetry and getting feedback from others.

DaisyFest takes place on the 9th of June in Guildford for information please visit <http://daisyfest.co.uk> or <http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk/editorial-blog?item=2737>

By Colin Hambrook

Opportunities

Why not check out these opportunities for artists and theatremakers?...

A focus on Disability from Aidan Moesby, the Salisbury International Arts Festival's Disability Associate

As Disability Associate I am taking a look at the work of the Festival as an organisation through a disabled lens. This includes exploring the attitudes and language around disability, accessibility and equality across the range of activities of the Festival.

During this year's 'City Encounters' I became **The Bureau of Audience Discrimination**, to playfully highlight the random and often contextless way people with disabilities experience both 'passive' and 'active' discrimination in the everyday.

Throughout the Festival at **Salisbury Arts Centre** and the **Playhouse** I have curated a series of changing interventions which highlight issues around disability in a playful and gently provocative manner. Continuing my 'Headlines' work with my imaginary newspaper, 'The Daily Compulsion', I will show a changing headline of questions and statements which people with disabilities often experience or are directly challenged with. In addition, in the **Playhouse** a plinth with a bell jar atop will house a changing installation which highlights some of the pejorative language and stereotypes around mental health.

Come and join me at an **open table** at **Salisbury Arts Centre between 2 and 3pm on Saturday 11 June**. I am inviting people to join me to discuss or comment on any issues raised by interventions during the Festival and to discuss broader issues around Disability, Equality and Accessibility.

<https://www.salisburyfestival.co.uk/editorial.php?ref=Focus-on-disability>

Aidan Moesby

Theatre Fest West 2017

Salisbury Playhouse is looking for theatre companies to take part in Theatre Fest West 2017 – its annual celebration of work made in the south west.

After the success of this year's festival, Salisbury Playhouse is delighted to be working again with The Pound, Corsham, Salisbury Arts Centre and Trowbridge Arts for Theatre Fest West 2017 to continue to provide companies with the opportunity to tour their work across the region.

Salisbury Playhouse is now on the lookout for small-scale professional productions that are available from 10 to 25 February 2017 to be part of next year's festival and would love to hear from theatre makers and inter-disciplinary artists who are either based in or have stories to tell about the south west. Each year the festival hosts a range of work from emerging and established theatre makers, new writing companies, inter-disciplinary artists, dance companies and artists who make work for children and families.

Jo Newman, Assistant Resident Director at Salisbury Playhouse and curator of Theatre Fest West, says "Now in its sixth year, Theatre Fest West is an established showcase of some of the very best theatre makers from the region. We look forward to presenting another festival full of the most exciting companies from across the south west".

For more information visit www.salisburyplayhouse.com/artist-development/theatre-fest-west.

The closing date for applications is 9am on 1 August 2016.

Café LUA

Dates for your diary

July.....13th

August.....Café LUA takes a holiday!

September.....14th

October.....12th

Café LUA takes place every second Wednesday of the month (except August) at Salisbury Arts Centre from 2 – 4pm.

We usually meet in the café area, but specific projects can mean we are in one of the work spaces, do ask at the Box Office if you are in any doubt.

Café LUA is a social get together for artists with disabilities – an informal, open space for inspiration and discussion. However you are involved with or interested in the arts, do come along and meet us, find out about us, and about Disability Arts. We'd love to meet you and hear more about your arts practice or interests.

Each month, as well as open discussion and networking, we focus on a particular topic or issue.

At the heart of LinkUpArts:



For more information about the career artists
in LUAN: linkupartistsnetwork@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER FORMATS

You can receive this Newsletter in print form,
it is available in bigger type and an audio cassette. You can also download it from
salisburyartscentre.co.uk -> Resident Companies ->LinkUpArts



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LinkUpArts and Salisbury Arts Centre work together for the benefit of both organisations. LUA advises and consults with Salisbury Arts Centre on its Disability Arts programming and helps to promote the events. Salisbury Arts Centre gives LUA its home and provides marketing and administrative support. LUA is a strategic creative partner in Salisbury Arts Centre's Creative Family.

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