

Disability Arts, Outsider Art, art, artists and art lovers, organisations and venues.

Issue 42



Leviathan at Salisbury Arts Centre

By James Wilton



Welcome

Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.

Henry David Thoreau

Will 2019 bring wonders? We hope so! The Spring LUA Newsletter is pleased to present reviews of some of the many recent excellent Arts events that have been happening and to look forward to exciting projects expected in the coming year, including, of course, the 2019 Salisbury Arts Festival!

- Guest Editor Lorna Wilson

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WRITE ON

LUA's Write On Group has been going from strength to strength, meeting every week. At a time where they need funding to continue, Angela Street and Anna Jones give their accounts of the last few months

Leader's View

Write On have been busy this year. We welcomed new members Jo, Rosie, Jen, Jan, Jane and Clive. Now totaling 13 regulars. We met in Rosie's house at Hanging Langford one week when the room wasn't available in Sarum College. Rosie has a fabulous house overlooking the countryside above Langford Lakes, which gave us great inspiration for our writing.



Anne and Jeff kindly hosted a session at New Year which was great fun and we helped them finish off their Christmas cake.

In February, on one of the windiest days of the month, we decided to take the X3 bus to Bournemouth and find a cafe to write in. We hope we can repeat the experience in more clement weather. There was much laughter as the people on the top deck never met up with those on the bottom deck of the bus. As for writing, the top deckers managed to write a postcard to the bottom deckers!

The group wanted to try their hand at writing for radio so we've spent a few weeks on exploring soundscapes and how to create characters and stories using sound. They requested having a go at writing monologues, so we're always trying out different methods of telling personal and fictional stories. .

We also featured in Valley News - look out for an article and advert in this month's edition.

Participant's View

What I like about Write On is that it is an open group that accepts anyone of any age, ability or disability, creed, culture or background. In our present group most people are single and I think most people have retired from paid employment. The fact that the group functions once a week 52 weeks of the year is a lifeline for those who live alone. We meet in a central location which is easily accessible for those with mobility needs. This diverse group is led very ably, sensitively and imaginatively by Angela Street.

I love going to Write On because, in a world in which there is so much negativity, this is a group where people are affirmed and encouraged by the leader and each other. We talk, write, read, listen and laugh frequently. It is a real tonic, there is a definite feel-good factor! We feel empowered to write creatively and are offered the opportunity to read our work - but there is no compulsion. It is an extremely positive environment. After our session I go home feeling that my brain has had a workout because Angela takes our thoughts and writing into realms I wouldn't have thought possible. Who would have thought that we could have so much enjoyment from spending a couple of hours writing creatively about shoes or rivers or boxes, we did! Until I joined the group I had written only factual reports and evaluations but writing creatively is so much more satisfying.



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Writing sessions are supported by LinkUpArts

I would be devastated if the group was unable to continue because I am just beginning to gain confidence and for the first time in my life have submitted a piece I have written for a competition. The LinkUpArts: Write On Group is making exciting plans for the future which will bring many art forms together to create something unique which can be shared with the local community. Also, we plan do more things together for example going to exhibitions and galleries to learn about and appreciate other art forms and to be inspired to move forward in our own creativity. We all enjoy this group and hope that it will receive funding to continue.

By Anne Jones

FEST WEST 2019

THE line-up for Fest West 2019 has been revealed as having been the event's "biggest yet". Our thanks to Salisbury Journal for this edited piece

The event returned for its eighth year and brought together a programme of film, dance and theatre performances. It ran from February 14 to March 2 2019.

Fest West saw Wiltshire Creative venues Salisbury Arts Centre and Salisbury Playhouse collaborate with The Pound Arts Centre, Corsham and Town Hall Arts, Trowbridge to celebrate the arts from across the South West.

Companies and artists taking part included circus artist Hazel Lam, Plymouth's Narwhal Ensemble and multi award-winning choreographer James **Wilton**.

New at Fest West in 2019 were film screenings including The Levelling – winner of the BFI London Film Festival Filmmaker Bursary Award – about a girl returning to her family home in Somerset after the death of her brother and devastation by the floods of 2014.

Other films included an evening of shorts at Salisbury Arts Centre on Wednesday, February 20 including Needletale by Barney Norris and Song of the Open Road by Sonia Wargacha.

On the same night, Paines Plough presented Come to Where I'm From with four playwrights including Barney Norris. Come to Where I'm From is a national project that invites playwrights to write plays about where they are from.

Theatre performances included a triple bill of performances on February 15 and a double bill on March 2 in The Salberg, Salisbury Playhouse. The double bill saw new shows from Run Like Stags and Scratchworks, both playful retellings of forgotten pieces of British feminist history.

The triple bill included Grow Up and Just Love Chocolate from Poole's The Shouting Mute, Safiya Kinshasha's Firebird and Chris White and Poppy Pedder with Kin.

Dance came from James Wilton who presents Leviathan at Salisbury Arts Centre on Thursday, February 21. It follows Ahab, a ship captain hell-bent on capturing the white whale Moby Dick. And Heather Walrond Company presented a double bill of dance and live music at Salisbury Arts Centre on February 16.

**By Katy Griffin
Salisbury Journal**

SALISBURY ARTS FESTIVAL LAUNCH PRESENTATION

Salisbury Festival 2019 marks global anniversaries with a packed 16-day programme 24 May – 9 June 2019

Overview: Lorna Wilson with permission of Wiltshire Creative



On February 26th 2019 Gareth Machin, Artistic Director of Wiltshire Creative, and Guest Festival Director Jonathan Dove announced the programme for the 2019 Salisbury International Arts Festival.

The festival will mark two global anniversaries - the 1969 moon landings and the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall - with

an ambitious mix of music, spoken word, film, dance, circus, theatre, comedy and family events. The Festival features more than 120 events across 16 days.

Guest Festival Director Jonathan Dove is a leading contemporary composer and several of his works will be performed during the Festival, including two new commissions: *Moon Songs*, performed by hundreds of Wiltshire school children in Salisbury Cathedral, and *Vertue*, a setting of words by George Herbert.

Central to the Festival will be a dramatic installation inside Salisbury Cathedral. Luke Jerram's *Gaia* is a huge, seven-metre wide sculpture featuring detailed NASA imagery of the earth's surface which will be displayed under the spire crossing in the Cathedral for the duration of the Festival.

Music

With *Gaia* as a stunning backdrop, events in the Cathedral will include the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra playing Holst's *The Planets*; Harriet Mackenzie leading a glorious, nature-inspired concert with the London Chamber Orchestra including Ralph Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*; and the Festival Chorus performing Alec Roth's beautiful choral work *Earthrise*.

Elsewhere, music lovers can enjoy a plethora of stunning performances, from international pianist Melvyn Tan performing Beethoven's *Moonlight* to folk singer Grace Petrie's unique take on life, love and politics. Radio 2's Clare Teal making a welcome return. Salisbury Live also returns with great live music for free in Salisbury's pubs and clubs.

Unusual venues

Unusual locations for Festival events include everything from Zizzi's Italian restaurant in Salisbury for a *Binaural Dinner Date* to Five Rivers Leisure Centre for *Zvizdal*, a multimedia performance about a real life couple who refused to leave Chernobyl and The Chapel nightclub for an evening of flamenco music and dance.

Festival of Ideas

The central weekend of the Festival will see a new Festival of Ideas, a programme of discussion and debate about the fragility of our planet. *Our Fragile Home: A Festival of Ideas* is curated by Rebecca Johnson, long-time campaigner and founding co-chair of ICAN (The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Full programme to be announced in April.

Spoken word

In addition to the Festival of Ideas, other spoken word events within the Festival will see MPS, International Sportspeople and Newscasters as well as authors Victoria Hislop, Minette Walters and Alison Weir, naturalist Stephen Moss and retail champion Mary Portas.

Theatre

Theatre includes the return of The Lord Chamberlain's Men with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed outdoors in the Cathedral Close and Theatre Re bring *The Nature of Forgetting*. Meanwhile, award-winning artist Rachael Young is inspired by Grace Jones to imagine a different future for women of colour in *Nightclubbing*.

Film

There is a full film programme throughout the 16 days, including *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*, documentary *Being Neil Armstrong*, *When the Wind Blows* by Raymond Briggs, *Dr Strangelove*, Ryan Gosling in *First Man*, Ralph Fiennes in *The White Crow* and Judi Dench in *Red Joan*.

Comedy

One of the UK's most beloved and thinnest acts, Mark Watson, delivers a stand-up show about empathy with his usual, high joke-and-rant-per-minute rate and the undisputed masters of off-the-cuff comedy Noise Next Door will transform audience suggestions into ferociously funny scenes in *Remix*, while also performing their shiny new family show *All At Sea*.

Family

Celebrating Wiltshire Creative's ongoing relationship with Bemerton Heath, Salisbury International Arts Festival will present a Family Fiesta at Bemerton Heath including performances, music and participatory arts activities. Other family events include literature and theatre, a disco for very young children and a beatboxing show.

Dance

Old Kent Road take to the Main Stage of Salisbury Playhouse with their ground-breaking tap dance show; Ballet Central presents a varied programme of classical ballet and contemporary dance; and Swing Circus will dazzle with world-class circus skills that include the Cyr wheel and acrobatic dance.

Visual art

The key Festival exhibition is *Insatiable Mind* at Salisbury Arts Centre which explores the theme of curiosity with seven international artists shortlisted from 400 submissions. Salisbury International Arts Festival is also hosting a community graffiti project on panels to be displayed around the city.

General booking for the Festival opens on 15 March. For more, visit www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk or call **01722 320333**.

SUE IN THE BLUE: ADELAIDE FILM FESTIVAL

In October 2018, LUA Committee member Sue Austin headed to Adelaide Film Festival with her film *Creating the Spectacle*. This article is edited with kind permission from ABC News, Australia.



In repurposing her wheelchair to create fantastical art, Sue Austin reshapes how we think about disability.

Multimedia, performance and installation artist Sue Austin keeps a fascinating mission at the centre of her work: to challenge the idea of disabled as “other” and represent her experience as a wheelchair user in a brighter light. She does this by creating quirky, unexpected juxtapositions – bringing a sense of whimsy and empowerment to the discussion of disability.

Austin is the co-founder and artistic director of Freewheeling, an initiative aiming to raise the profile and value of work informed by the experience of disability. In 2012, she was asked to be a part of the Cultural Olympiad in Britain, a celebration of the arts leading up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The work she created for the event, called ‘Creating the Spectacle!’, is a groundbreaking series of live art and video works of an underwater wheelchair.

Since then the artwork has received international attention with Sue even being asked to speak at NASA, Stanford University and Monterey Bay Aquarium, reaching over 400 million people. Even though her artwork has reached so many people, Sue would say that each person that becomes aware of the underwater wheelchair and ‘Creating the Spectacle!’ has become part of the artwork too.

To see clips of the film in Australia with audience feedback, visit <https://youtu.be/T3EsiyA3wXA>

BRUSHSTROKES SAYS GOODBYE TO KATHLEEN

LUA's Lorna Wilson runs Brushstrokes art group. The group meets on the first of every month at The Bourne Centre (Tesco), Southampton road, Salisbury. The group has just said goodbye to one of its members- the wonderful Kathleen Kitchen-Frost (see left in picture).



Kathleen was a bright and vibrant member of the group and she will be sadly missed.

Her son, Darren Kitchen, has kindly said that some of her artworks will be available for the group to show in the upcoming intended showing of works at Five Fivers Leisure Centre, The Arts Centre and The Bourne Centre.

Brushstrokes meets at The Bourne Centre (Tesco), Southampton road, Salisbury at 10am on the first Friday of every month. All ages and abilities are welcome. For further information contact: Lorna Wilson on brushstrokessalisburyartgroup@gmail.com

By Lorna Wilson

OPPORTUNITIES

Check out these opportunities over the Summer months...

Where the Land Ends



11 April - 18 May 2019 Salisbury Arts Centre

Three Wiltshire based artists come together to explore the land as a context, material, form and an inspiration for artistic expression.

Debra Sweeney is an artist interested in discovering, depicting and communicating. Sweeney's work speaks the language of the landscape which provides her with the inspiration translated into her paintings.

Roger Stephens MRSS is a sculptor working mainly in stone occasionally incorporating iron and stainless steel. These elemental and uncompromising materials are fundamental to Rogers' work which explores form and textures as a physical and intellectual idea.

Dr Jane Osborne, LRPS is a photographer interested in arresting moments through a camera lens and amplifying their impression through modern photographic processes.

This exhibition explores land and geology by referencing, reshaping and representing and it will also include the work of Kingfishers Writing Group.

For more information, please visit <https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/whatson/exhibitions/where-the-land-ends/>

ARTWORK IN THIS ISSUE

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At the heart of LinkUpArts:



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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