



The Elephant



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DESTINY POETS WAKEFIELD - Issue 3 (Summer 2011)



Marissa Wakefield, Chief Executive of DIVA writes:

DIVA??? Who the heck are we? – **DIVA** stands for Development Initiatives for Voluntary Arts. We don't shout about ourselves enough, but we do shout about voluntary arts groups and the fabulous work they do!

DIVA has existed for 14 years and currently support over 50 groups. Within these groups are over 6000 individuals who are passionate about being creative! But when we hear about a proposed 200% increase two years ago by WMDC for venue hire fees and fear that groups running over forty years may close, people soon realised that **DIVA** and the voluntary arts sector are a formidable force to be reckoned with!

Our groups cover a vast range of creative subjects eg: poetry, photography, drama, classical music, visual and applied arts. All groups are run by dedicated volunteers and range from the reputable Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir, to new exciting up and coming groups such as Gallery Arts and the African Women's Support Project.

DIVA, despite lack of funding in order to support this valuable sector do so by any means we can. Sadly, the days are gone when we received core funding, we now receive funding to deliver arts and health projects. We recognised that our groups not only provided affordable arts within every community but also encompassed so many benefits to that community by offering the support mechanisms such as social inclusion and skill sharing.

So **DIVA** began its arts for improving health message by winning a prestigious Mental Health and arts contract in 2001 and a project called 'Discover' emerged. We have built on this success and now own a vast portfolio of arts projects for the NHS using arts as a mechanism to tackle current issues like alcohol awareness, obesity, smoking and assisting people to use arts as a means to cope with health conditions.

DIVA are coming to Eastmoor this summer, we won a bid for a patch of Eastmoor Community Garden and a grant from WMDC for arts workshops to improve wellbeing.

(DIVA, 4 Charlotte Street, Wakefield, WF1 1UB
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Hear, Hear!

Mark Bradley, Editor of the Wakefield Express writes:

The artistic sector of the city has been the latest in line for the good or bad news about its future funding.

The big loser in the mix was Wakefield Theatre Royal - losing all its Arts Council grant - while other organisations either suffered a more modest cut or actually benefited from the announcement.

So what does this mean for the city - not the theatre itself (for that is a different discussion) - but for the literary ladder that the people of Wakefield tend to climb over the years?

I do believe that theatre forms a very important rung on that ladder, along with literature and poetry, taking a young person on an upwards cultural journey. Where they disembark can often depend on the engagement, or lack of it, they discover on the way.

You would expect the first rung to be grounded in two places - at school and at home.

This doesn't have to be academic - it's just about enjoying reading and finding joy in a story being told through the written word rather than in 3D at the cinema or on high-definition TV.

Theatre involves itself on two levels. It often translates a known story into compelling live action, whether that be Shakespeare or Widow Twanky.

And there is the atmosphere and environment of being somewhere aspirational, which in itself is an emotion that so many novels and poems have used as a lever to lure in their readers over the years.

Leaving aside individual preferences, there is no doubt that Wakefield can now serve up a substantial and broad cultural offering across the arts, ranging from the multi-million pound projects through to passionate micro-organisations.

They key is to draw it all together and demonstrate to people that there is more than one way to climb the ladder and show them how to take the first step that suits them best.

The DESTINY POETS meet at Henry Boons, 130 Westgate (nr Railway Station)

Destiny Church meets on Sundays at 10am - Tuke Grove - Parklands - Wakefield - WF1 4AF
01924 382 162 Info@DestinyChurch.co.uk www.DestinyChurch.co.uk

Perspectives

(i)

Aimless long hours
Spiralling into noon,
Its aimless horizon
Pristine, sharp, blinding
ten thousands needlepoints
bursting;
Ceaseless aimless rock to rock
a footfall of wearied wearying
limbs on into sunset
another day's lid
Sealing its clamour;
Endurance enduring an
ebbing away of moments
of respite from still
long hours spiralled into
long days their aimless
horizons pristine, sharp,
blinding;
dawn, at last,
the fortieth day.

(ii)

Perfect,
angles intersecting
careful clean
true lines, scrupulous
horizontal, perpendicular,
a symmetry of iron
through skin into the wood
achieves equilibrium
of suspended
weight and posture
nails that bound boats
now bind flesh to timber,
through slow delirium
an artisan's eye appreciates
another's handiwork
the clean struck blow
cleaving Man from Sin:
Perfect.



Louis Kasatkin

Due to a recent reference to the event, I've just realised that it is ten years since the Selby Train Crash, at which time I was in LGI following a heart attack. Attached is one of the poems I wrote in the early weeks of my return home. Obviously my time had not yet come.



Howard Frost

PAIN RELIEF

Anyone who's experienced it, will tell you
That the pain is unlike any other.
As part of your heart muscle dies,
You feel as though iron bands are crushing your rib-cage
That's all there is to it.

Well not quite all, the medics want to be sure
Just what is happening, and that actually
You are having a heart attack
And not just indigestion or Unstable Angina (heart pain)
So tests are made.

Blood is taken, E.C.G's are run,
Blood pressure, pulse rate measured,
Questions are asked about family heart health,
And about current pain (scale of 1 to 10 - how bad is it?)
And pain relief is promised.

It is not however immediate,
Treatment of heart disease precedes it,
Clot busting and blood thinning
And then the blessed Diamorphine.

The overhead light fittings start a steady measured waltz,
The patterned curtains kaleidoscope into coloured stars,
Voices thunder or squeak, rumble or whisper.

As the attendant uniformed angels speak to you
Their musical voices tinkle down like bells
So beautiful you almost dare not answer.

The pain has of course not gone entirely, but,
Perceived through a morphine haze, it does not hurt,
It is just a presence at the feast, and suddenly -
Ongoing life seems worth the fight, and maybe,
Just maybe a possibility.

The **DESTINY POETS**

@ HENRY BOONS, 130 WESTGATE (Nr the Railway Station) WAKEFIELD

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

Every 1st Tuesday of the month in 2011

‘Not Just Poetry’

Sessions from 7 - 9pm on:

- Tuesday 7th June
- Tuesday 5th July
- Tuesday 2nd August
- etc...

*The Destiny Poets welcome writers of all skill levels
and all literary art forms, hence ‘Not Just Poetry’*

Further details: louiskasatkin@yahoo.co.uk

Additional information: info@DestinyChurch.co.uk or 01924 382 162

Destiny Church, Tuke Grove, Parklands, Wakefield, WF1 4AF - Sunday Service 10am

