

HENSON HERALD

EDITED BY LUCI BALL

I am very pleased to say Professor TV is making a good recovery from Covid and will be able to contribute an article to the April edition.

However, on a more sombre note our friends in Ukraine are fighting for their national survival and on Friday 13th May Catherine and I are holding a Coffee Morning to collect funds for Ukraine so please come along-Welcome one and all.



The biblical verse of making weapons into ploughshares comes to mind. Think of the innocent, frightened and homeless..

In April Daniel Goodyear, Luci Ball and myself will attend the LBF in Olympia aiming to sell book rights.

March recorded nearly five thousand people reached our pages on Facebook.

Notable in the current issue is Debbie McAndrew's article for which I am very grateful. Debbie is giving her fee to charity which is a wonderful act.

Malcolm Henson (MD)

IN THIS EDITION:

Poems For March	2
Parliamentary Book Awards 2022	3
The British Book Awards 2022	4
Successful Women in The World of Work- Debbie McAndrew	5
Claybody Theatre – THE CARD press releases	7
T. Vasantha Kumaran Poetry	10



POEM'S FOR MARCH

Excerpt from:***Dear March – Come in – Emily Dickinson***

Dear March—Come in—
How glad I am—
I hoped for you before—
Put down your Hat—
You must have walked—
How out of Breath you are—
Dear March, how are you, and the Rest—
Did you leave Nature well—
Oh March, Come right upstairs with me—
I have so much to tell—

I got your Letter, and the Birds—
The Maples never knew that you were
coming—
I declare - how Red their Faces grew—
But March, forgive me—
And all those Hills you left for me to Hue—
There was no Purple suitable—
You took it all with you—

Who knocks? That April—
Lock the Door—
I will not be pursued—
He stayed away a Year to call
When I am occupied—
But trifles look so trivial
As soon as you have come

Written in March – William Wordsworth

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter
The green field sleeps in the sun;
The oldest and youngest
Are at work with the strongest;
The cattle are grazing,
Their heads never raising;
There are forty feeding like one!

Like an army defeated
The snow hath retreated,
And now doth fare ill
On the top of the bare hill;
The ploughboy is whooping—anon-anon:
There's joy in the mountains;
There's life in the fountains;
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing;
The rain is over and gone!

PARLIAMENTARY BOOK AWARDS 2022

Parliamentary Book Awards

Westminster

9th March 2022

Three of us from North Staffordshire Press were invited to the evening on Wednesday 9th March. Prior to the event Luci Ball, Daniel Goodyear and myself visited the British Museum and spent time in the Africa exhibition.

The book launch was staged in the Churchill Suite and started at 7pm; complementary drinks and canapes were kindly provided.

Luci and Dan strutted their stuff meeting other authors, promoting their skills and making new contacts.

Mrs Hodge MP, successful author, presented awards for books with a political theme but sadly Dr Deep Chand's title *To Hell and Back* was not shortlisted.

Daniel Goodyear capped the day by gaining a sponsor for our magazine Sky Stoke and then headed back to New Cross. Luci and I took the 9-36pm back to Stoke after a perfect day in the Metropolis.



Malcolm Henson (MD)

THE BRITISH BOOK AWARDS 2022



North Staffordshire Press and Henson Editorial Services received some amazing news at the end of February:

‘We are proud to announce that Henson Editorial Services and North Staffordshire Press is a regional finalist for the Small Press of the Year category in the 2022 British Book Awards!’

Being shortlisted is a stellar move forward for our business and we are truly honoured to be included as a Regional Finalist. Our goal with every piece of work that we complete is based around the aspiration to bring quality reading material to a vast and diverse audience both locally and internationally.

SUCCESSFUL WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF WORK

How do you measure success? To coin a bit of business jargon - what are the ‘metrics’?

I suppose it depends on what you value.

Typically, success in the world of work would be measured in terms of pay. The more you earn, the greater your success. Fame is often another indicator. It gives you status. Generally, status is also a key factor in success. The higher your position on the greasy pole, the greater your authority and influence, the more people you order about... you get the picture.

In the Arts – particularly showbusiness – fame and wealth are key indicators of success. However, that’s a perspective more prevalent outside the business. Inside, for most actors, it’s regarded as a huge achievement to just keep working and make a living. For many, fame is something to be desired – but mainly because of the opportunities it brings for great roles and nicer hotel rooms. For others, the ability to have a fabulous acting career without the burden of fame is a kind of holy grail.

For me, personally, neither fame nor wealth were great motivations. I’ve experienced brief stardom during my years as a regular in Coronation Street, and I didn’t enjoy it. My best times at work have been in the theatre, playing to audiences of a few hundred (not a few million) and having a lovely anonymous pint in the pub afterwards.

As my career developed from acting to writing, this joy in anonymity only increased. The quiet, solitary days, inventing lines for other actors to say is where, personally and professionally, I feel most successful – because I’m happy.

I work hard, and my income is unstable. There have been good years and bad years but, overall, I’ve managed to make a fairly decent living over the past 32 years. I know how lucky I am.

According to a research briefing published by the House of Commons Library earlier this month, women still earn less than men on average. They are also more likely to be in part time employment. The Low Pay Commission estimates around 6.2% of female employees aged 25 and over were paid at the minimum wage rate in April 2021, compared to just under 4.5% of male employees aged 25 and over. Women are also more likely than men to remain in low-paid work over the long term.

I imagine that success to most of those women is to break even; to put food on the table and pay the bills. However, it is these women that keep the fabric of society together. They are often mothers, carers, and frontline workers.

Many factors, including the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, and the economic pressures created by the need to tackle climate change, are contributing to an astronomical rise in the cost of living. This is going to affect all of us, but the people most impacted will be those who are already vulnerable to poverty and debt. Disproportionately, these people are women.

We should all be mindful of this, and our government must address this real and present danger. For the success of these women in the world of work, in terms of simply staying afloat, will determine how well society functions at the roots, in the challenging months and years that lie ahead.

Deborah McAndrew

CLAYBODY THEATRE- THE CARD

Claybody Theatre presents: **THE CARD**

By Arnold Bennett

Claybody Theatre

A new stage adaptation by Deborah McAndrew

Director: **Conrad Nelson**

Producer: **Helen Slevin**

Production dates: **Wednesday 29 June – Saturday 9 July**

Venue : **FENTON TOWN HALL, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 3FA**

CLAYBODY THEATRE announces a new show for summer 2022.

THE CARD follows the adventures of the loveable rogue Denry Machin, as he makes his way up from humble beginnings to become the most celebrated ‘card’; in The Five Towns!

In the novel he is a character identified with ‘the great cause of cheering us all up’.

THE CARD a great favourite of Bennett fans across the world and is the book that the famous local statue of Arnold is reading.

In this joyful show, a professional cast of 7 actor/musicians will be supported by the Claybody Community Company and championship brass band Acceler8

THE TOWN THAT ARNOLD FORGOT

In Bennett’s fictional Stoke-on-Trent, he created Five Towns – each identifiable with one of the real towns. The missing one was Fenton. Ironically, performances of THE CARD will take place at Fenton Town Hall.

Bennett had nothing against Fenton – he just felt that from a literary point of view, Five Towns just sounded better than six. Fenton has never quite forgiven him.

The newly refurbished Ballroom at Fenton Town Hall has been developed as a multipurpose community and performance venue by local arts company, ReStoke.

For two weeks in the summer, Claybody will transform the Ballroom into a theatre for our production of THE CARD.

CHEERING US ALL UP

In the book Denry Machin is identified with ‘the great cause of cheering us all up’ – and this is the inspiration for the production. It will be a joyful show, with live brass band music – in partnership with championship band, Acceler8.

The production will feature our Claybody Community Company of local volunteers, both on stage and front of house.

The past two years, spent under the threat of Covid-19, have been especially challenging, with new global troubles having a huge impact on our lives, and our mental health and wellbeing.

Wraparound activities on THE CARD include: ‘Have a go’ music workshop with community band, Penkhull Village Brass; post show panel discussion on Wellbeing.

Educational activities include: a partnership with the National Literacy Trust – to deliver writing workshops in local schools; creative workshops at YMCA North Staffordshire.

Director, Conrad Nelson said:

After almost three years of creating a full production, it’s wonderful to be back with a show that will lift all our spirits and celebrate a local literary hero – Denry Machin. For a number of years local people have been asking us if we would do an adaptation of THE CARD, and it feels that this show has arrived just when we need it the most. It’s a story that demands music and celebration, and I’m particularly excited to be working with actor/musicians, and Acceler8 brass band to create a show full of life and fun.

Writer Deborah McAndrew said:

I’m a huge Arnold Bennett fan and THE CARD is one of my favourites. Denry is a fantastic character and I know audiences are going to love him.

Claybody Theatre is a Stoke-on-Trent based company whose work is inspired by the lives and experiences of local people. Founded by playwright Deborah McAndrew and director Conrad Nelson, the company’s inaugural production, Ugly Duck, was first performed in

2013 at the Burslem School of Art and then at the New Vic Theatre in 2014. Other productions include Digging In, a play for schools about children of mining families during the 1984-5 Miners' Strike; Dirty Laundry, Hot Lane, and The D-Road all presented in Spode Works, Stoke. Claybody's audio drama work includes a podcast version of their 2017 production, Dirty Laundry. During the pandemic years of 2020/21, Claybody continued to make work for the communities of Stoke-on-Trent, with a new audio drama series, The Call, starring Mark Benton, and an online choral work, Greenwood Dreams, which won Staffordshire Day Film Festival 2021. Greenwood Dreams was subsequently developed into longer piece for live performance - The Silver Arrow – presented in June 2021 at Stoke Minster.

COVID SAFETY

It is a priority for us to keep people safe. We will follow government Covid-19 safety guidelines, in managing all activities involving artists, participants, and audiences.

For further information, interviews, images please contact:

Deborah McAndrew deborah@claybodytheatre.com

T. VASANTHA KUMARAN POETRY

English translation:

The Sunrise Dance

In the mirror,
my face remains
unchanged.
But my eyes are older.
I can't recall any lyrics
of my favourite songs.
Some words cling
to my memory.
They ring in my ears
and oh yeah hum
through my blood.
There are my budding
lil' breasts and
baby-fat cheeks, a lil'
bit blushing. Yeah.
I'm not the same.
I run in four directions,
and gather the elements -
earth, wind, fire and air
and my inners absorb them.
I'm in the sun, with my sunrise dance,
in great ecstasy!!

Original in Tamil:

கதிரவனின் எழுச்சி நடனம்
கண்ணாடியில் நான் பார்க்கும்
முகம்
அப்படியே தானிருக்கிறது.
கண்களில் மட்டும் சற்று
முதிர்ச்சி தெரிகிறது.
நான் விரும்பும் பாடல்கள்
எதுவும் என் நினைவிற்கு
வரவில்லை. சில வார்த்தைகள்
மட்டும் என் நினைவில்
ஊஞ்சலாடுகின்றன.
காதிலும் ஓலிக்கின்றன;
என் குருதியிலும் தீராத
ரீங்காரமிடுகின்றன.
குழந்தை-கொழுப்புக்
கண்ணங்கள்,
மெல்லக் குலுங்கத் துடிக்கும்
மார்புகள், அணைப்புச் சுவர்கள்.
நான் நானில்லை. அது நிச்சயம்!!
நான்கு திசைகளில் ஓடுகிறேன்.
நிலம், காற்று, தீ, வளி - நான்கும்
அள்ளுகிறேன்; அவை என்னுள்
மெல்ல
மெல்ல அமிழ்கின்றன.
நான் பூரண உணர்வில்
புலர்காலை எழுச்சி
நடனத்தின் நளின இசைவில்,
அதன் இசையில் மென்னிறைவு
காண்கிறேன், உளக் களிப்புடன்!!!

English translation:

Erasing the Myths of History

Narratives are no longer a fashion.
It doesn't mean they are
out of circulation.
They hold a mirror to elite society,
a hellhole of greed, misery and despotism.
Indigenous cultures are of mutual aid
that was of the highest value.
Primitive life was never
nasty, brutish and short
as the so-called civilized whites.
It was indeed a Garde of Eden,
sans Adam and Eve
and sans mortal sin.
It was a culture of freedom to move,
freedom to disobey, and
of freedom to transform social relations.
It was a society of sapiens sapiens!

Original in Tamil:

மனிதவரலாற்றின் தொன்மங்கள்
அழிக்க!
உரைநடைக் கதைகள்
புதுப்பாணி அல்ல.
அவை புழக்கத்தில் இல்லை
என்ற பொருளில் அல்ல.
அவை இனக்கொழுந்து
சமூகத்தின் கண்ணாடி,
பேராசையின் வெம்பழி ஆற்றல்,
அவலம், கொடுங்கோன்மை.
தொன் முதற்குடிகள்

ஊடுறவான உறுதுணைகள்.
பேருயர் தகை நேர்த்தி.
மூலமுதல் உயிர்கள்
சுவை மணம் கெட்டவையுமல்ல,
விலங்கியல்பு கொண்டவையும்
அல்ல,
வெள்ளையினம் போன்று
குற்றுயிரொலியுமல்ல.
உண்மையில், அவை ஆதம்-ஏவா
இல்லாத,
சாகும்வரை தீராத
பழிவினையுமல்லாத
பூங்காக்கள் தாமே.
அவை, கடையற்ற
புடைப்பெயர்ச்சி
செயலுரிமை தரும்,
கீழ்ப்படியவும்
மறுக்கும், சமூக உறவுகள்
மாற்றீடு
பண்படு நிலைகள். அவை,
முழுநிறை,
முழுநிறை மனிதரின்
மேனிலைக் கூட்டுக் கழகம்!!

High quality advice
delivered at a personal level



**FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
COVERING ALL OF STAFFORDSHIRE**

All sectors covered:

- Individuals
- Partnerships and Sole Traders
- Small and Large Companies/Groups
- Trusts and Pensions
- Academies and Schools
- Agricultural and Medical



Our services include:

- Accounting and Audit •
- Taxation and VAT •
- Book-keeping •
- New Business Start Up •
- Corporate Finance •
- Business Valuations •
- Payroll •

TEL : 01785 258311

Gibson House, Hurricane Court, Hurricane Close, Stafford ST16 1GZ
Email: info@deansaccountants.com
www.deansaccountants.com



Henson Editorial Services & North Staffordshire Press, Smart Innovation Hub, Denise Coates Foundation Building, Keele University, Staffordshire, ST5 5NS

Henson Editorial Services, Unit 12 Dark Gate, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 1PS

Email: enquiries@hensoneditorial.com

Website: www.northstaffordshirepress.weebly.com

@EditorialHenson



North
Staffordshire
Press



**SMALL PRESS
OF THE YEAR**
The British
Book Awards
2018
Regional Finalist



Staffordshire Chambers
BUSINESS AWARDS
COMMENDED

19



Staffordshire
Chambers of
Commerce