

Welcome to a new DAWN

So much has happened since the last newsletter it's hard to know where to start but I'll do my best.

As DAW continues to undergo a period of change perhaps most significant is that DAW is no longer custodian of the library, which earlier this year moved to its new home at the [Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama](#). It a big loss to the DAW but not to Wales as it's still firmly rooted in Wales and is accessible to members. If you wish to contact the RWCMD their contact details are: telephone No: 029 2039 1331 which takes you straight through to their Issue Desk, or you can email them at Plays@rwcmd.ac.uk I am sure they will be as helpful as possible.

However, we do still have our own scripts which are available to hire so if you are looking for a One Act for this year's Festivals, look no further. A list of what we publish can be found online at our [publications page](#).

We have moved again, for the last time and are going back to our old home of many years, The Old Library, where you will find us in the front office. Our address will once again be: Splott Library, Singleton Road, Splott, Cardiff, CF24 2ET. Email: office@dramawales.org.uk Tel: 029 2045 2200.

Thanks to our membership we received £4,000 in donations which enabled DAW to continue throughout 2014.

DAW is now run completely by volunteers, but we are still here: we still welcome your ongoing support, and we are still very much open for business, albeit more remotely than in the past.

With the library gone, and a move of premises, we now face a new era for DAW: we aim to flourish and become the hub for all amateur societies in Wales. We look forward to fulfilling this role for many years to come.



Teri

Best Wishes,

Teri McCarthy – Chair

Photo by James Ellis

You can show your support by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).





Regional Festivals 2015

Annual competitive festivals are very much alive and well in Wales, with both one-act and full-length events taking place across the country.

DAW has many years organising the National Festival of Community Theatre in Wales which usually runs from February to June, culminating in the Wales One Act Final.

Here are the details of the Regional One-Act Play Festivals taking place throughout 2015

Gwent: 21 March, Blackwood Little Theatre, Woodbine Road, Blackwood, Gwent NP12 1QJ
Ticket prices TBA
www.blackwoodlt.org.uk

Anglesey: 27-28 March, St Mary's Hall, Holyhead, Longford Road, Holyhead, Gwynedd, LL65 1TR
Tickets £5, contact 01407 760511

Glamorgan: 9-11 April, Coleg Y Cymoedd, Rhondda Campus, Llwynypia CF40 2TQ
Ticket prices £6.00 per night (£5 concs); 3 night festival ticket £15.00 (£12 concs)
Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/glamorgandrama
or call 029 2040 7866

Conwy: 23–25 April, Church House, Glan Conwy Colwyn Bay, LL28 5LY
Tickets TBA, contact 07776 364570/07796 670366

Montgomeryshire: 2 May, Berriew Community Centre (School) Berriew, Welshpool, Powys SY21 8BA
Ticket prices £5, contact Pam Edwards pedwar@live.co.uk 01938 555974. Tickets can be reserved and collected on the door; if tickets are required beforehand, a SAE and cheque would be appreciated for posting these

The Adjudicator for the 2015 One-Act Play festival regional rounds will be **Mike Kaiser GoDA**. Mike is a highly experienced and well-known adjudicator on the festivals circuit, but this is his first time for him to adjudicate the Welsh regional rounds.



Mike Kaiser spent over thirty years teaching English and Drama. Originally from Manchester, he has lived for over forty years in Shropshire where he was Head of English and Theatre Studies at the Sixth Form College in Telford.

Having taken early retirement, he now runs a youth theatre, works as a guest director, writes plays and organises workshops and excursions as a drama consultant.

He has been a member of the GoDA Council for a number of years and for seven of those years – until recently – was the editor of their newsletter to members and also of 'Asides' – the annual communication which goes to every festival organiser.

He has adjudicated in every part of the UK and also the Republic of Ireland. In 2013, he adjudicated The British All-Winners Final for the second time and also the Final of the Welsh YFC competition at Llandudno. In 2014, he was seen at Richmond, Londonderry, Warwickshire, Minsterley Eisteddfod, Lighthorne, Wellington and Spelthorne & Runnymede.

Wales Final 2015

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th June 2015

The festivals provide an opportunity for amateur companies to appear in new and varying venues before widely differing audiences; to receive constructive criticism from a qualified adjudicator, and to compare the standard of their own work with that of the other companies taking part. For audiences, the public adjudication of performances offers a deeper understanding and appreciation of theatre.

The **Wales Final Festival of One Act Plays 2015** will be hosted by the [Glamorgan Drama League](#), and will be held at a venue at the very edge of the GDL's area: [The Welfare](#) in Ystradgynlais. It is the home venue of GDL member group, the [Glantawe Theatre Company](#).

The Welfare,
Brecon Road,
Swansea,
SA9 1JJ
01639 843163
www.thewelfare.co.uk

The adjudicator for the festival will be **Jan Palmer Sayer GoDA**, who adjudicated the regional rounds so successfully in 2013.



British Final 2015

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th July 2015

The finalist from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, will have an amazing experience of performing their winning plays at [The Wilde Theatre](#), South Hill Park in Bracknell. The theatre was constructed in the 1980s within a Grade II Listed former manor house, set in the beautiful landscaped gardens of South Hill Park.

The 2015 Festival Adjudicator is **Paul Fowler GoDA**



In 40 years involvement with the drama festivals movement, Paul has been an actor, director and stage manager, company committee member, chairman and festival organiser. Paul has adjudicated in, Wales, Scotland, England, Ireland, Ulster and the Isle of Man where he has twice officiated at their Easter Festivals of Plays. In 2007 he adjudicated the Wales One Act finals, in 2010 presided at the AETF English Finals held in Burton on Trent, he was adjudicator for the 2011 British All Winners Finals, and in 2012 presided over the Ulster One Act Finals. In 2014 he adjudicated at the Scottish Youth Finals for the second time. Paul is Vice Chairman of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators and holds the post of Information Officer.

The British Finals are a superb example of community theatre at its best

www.britishfinal.org.uk



Anglesey 2014 by Alan Williams

The Anglesey 2014 Festival was a relative success, we would all love a full week but three nights will do.

We had groups from Ireland, Wirral, Bangor University as well as local competitors. It was also very encouraging to have so many original scripts being performed. Our winners Offshoots who performed *After The Flags and Bands* were unable to attend the Wales Final but did make it to the British All Winners in the Isle of Man. The runners up a University group called BEDS replaced them with *One Flew Into Wonderland* and from reports had a very good time.



Putting on The Vicar of Dibley by Sue Jones, Guilsfield ADS

Our Guilsfield production last autumn was *The Vicar of Dibley*, a stage play by Ian Gower and Paul Carpenter adapted from the original TV series by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew Archer by kind permission of Tiger Aspect. Therein lay the first problem. We knew there was a script out there somewhere, but it wasn't with French's, so neither were the performing rights.

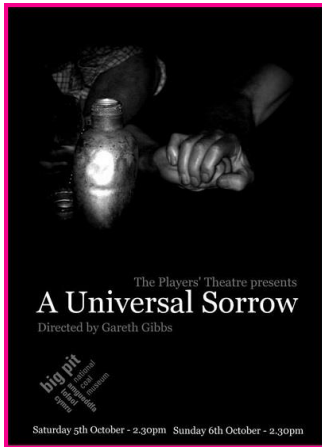
The script we found through Blackwood Little Theatre Group, who had performed it in September.

It arrived as a PDF copy which we printed off, and are happy to forward to other groups, so no book costs, but the performing rights made up for that. Ian Gower at iangower@me.com takes £75 per performance, and the playwrights take £50 through dwalker@unitedagents.com so £125 per night. However, all the fees are donated to Comic Relief.

That sorted, we were ready to start. The script is a compilation of parts of the first TV series adapted for stage, and of course it is very funny. The set is a nightmare, because it's divided between the parish hall and the vicarage, so not really much room for either, and it's tricky to place your table for meetings so that the audience can see everybody sat round it. The scenes move quickly from side to side, which I'm hoping we can light separately. That's this week's challenge, along with fitting the church music to cover the moves to the amount of time needed. There are also a couple of scenes in the vestry, so that's going on a thrust on one side. Our wedding is going in front of the stage with the audience becoming the congregation, against a backlit stained glass window.

So, quite a few practicalities to wrestle with, as well as the portraying of familiar and well-loved characters. I've enjoyed directing it, definitely a fun one for director and cast.

www.guilsfieldads.net



In 2013 Mavis Gibbs of The Players' Theatre spent weeks researching and writing about the village where she was born and brought up in, Senghenydd, 4 miles east of Caerphilly. On St. David's Day, 2013 in the evening, before a full house in Llancaiach Fawr, that included the Lord Lieutenant of Mid-Glamorgan, the local Member of Parliament and Local Councillors, members of The Players' Theatre joined by the Bargoed Male Choir told the story of that village.



It will perhaps be remembered that on October 14th 1913 this same village was rocked by a huge explosion that killed 439 men and boys in the village's Universal Colliery. (It was to be Britain's worst mining disaster) It wasn't the first explosion as 12 years before 81 men had perished. It was a dramatic moment in both the history of the valley and in the annals of The Players' Theatre as the group told the story.

A year later The Players' invited Graham Evans to dramatise the events leading up to the explosion and based it on the writings of Will Fisher, a Mine Rescuer whose letters to a cousin formed the basis for our play **A Universal Sorrow** that we subsequently took to the excellent Welwyn Garden Festival of One-Act Plays. It was here last June that we won the Festival with **A Universal Sorrow** 1st out of 17 companies, we were delighted.

The Adjudicator Colin Dolley GoDA said how moved he had been "By the theatricality of the piece". Paul Buckland our Lighting & Sound technician also won an Award for his special effects during the explosion, and I received a plaque as Director of the winning play.



We will be returning to Welwyn to defend our title, but this year with a happier theme, that of the state of Welsh Rugby as we perform "Embodiment" by Jeremy Hylton-Davies a Drama Association of Wales publication. On St. David's Day this year this play **Embodiment** can be seen at Llancaiach Fawr our local base in the area, together with poems and music to commemorate our Patron Saint.

Text by Gareth Gibbs, photos by Donna Evans