

DAG DIGEST

News reviews and previews from
Dewsbury Arts Group

January 2017

LOOKING FORWARD

2016 is now out of the way and whilst there were good things to look back on there is even more to savour in the New Year

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The Adventures of Ebenezer Scrooge was a rewarding experience for those new to the group either on stage or watching. For Luke Fletcher it was his first theatrical experience and according to his dad, he absolutely

loved it. The show fused the classic Dickens story with modern humour and original music to good effect and a strong cast of regulars, youth members and debutants really brought the magic to life.

Once again, the good old days returned as The Artspace became a cavern of conviviality for the Old Time Music Hall. Packed houses were treated to songs and snatches, jokes old and new and feats of terpsichorean extravagance that the eye could scarcely follow. Everybody involved got a real buzz out of it. You never know, we may do it again.

The Foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Karen Stansfield. All works are available to for sale.

A handful of members took time out from their Christmas preparations to read "Luther" by John Osborne. The play casts the author's personal light on a religious activist whose name will be familiar to many. Those there were given ample opportunity to practice creating a number of roles directly from the page. Everyone enjoyed the effort in taking on a play full of dramatic challenges. Next on the agenda is "Absurd Person Singular" by Alan Ayckbourn on Wednesday 1st February at 7.30. There are an equal number of parts here for men and women and lots of laughs along the way. There will be another reading on Tuesday 21st March. For more information ring Chris Ward on 01977301405 or e-mail chriswardofackworth@yahoo.co.uk or just turn up and get stuck in.

Topsey Turveydome was served up by the Baker's Dozen on 7th and 8th January. For the benefit of Batley Gilbert and Sullivan Society, The Baker's Dozen were made up of 13 people who presented items from all 13 G & S operettas including the 13th item from each one. There was a full house on the Saturday and another bumper crowd on the Sunday and they did not go away disappointed. For DAG members it was a chance to sample the unusual and for the Batley people it was a chance to see what we do here.

Following the success of the coffee morning in October Lacy Telford is organising another one. The Owl Pop Up Coffee Shop will be open between *12.30 and 3 on Saturday 4th February* to serve up a wide range of proper coffees, teas and delicious cakes and buns. Lacy cannot do it all herself and is looking for baristas and waiters. If you can spare some time she would love to hear from you. Her number is 07507280084

After every production the set needs to be struck to make room for construction of the next one. If you can, please join after the final performance of *The Vertical Hour* on *Monday 30th January from 7.30 o'clock onwards* and again after the final performance of *The Evening of One Act Plays* on *Monday 13th February, again from 7.30 onwards.*

The Spring Exhibition 2017 will take place at Batley Art Gallery, Batley Library, Market Place, Batley. Sponsored by Calder Graphics of Huddersfield, the exhibition will feature works by DAG members.

Works in oils, watercolour, acrylic and charcoal that can range from delicate flowers to bold abstracts, landscapes and portraits will be augmented by 3D works in ceramics, textiles, wood and marble. As the group has such a diverse range of artists to call upon visitors will be guaranteed some great artwork and something of interest for everyone.

There is a Private Preview on Friday 10th February between 7 and 9 p.m. to which all members and season ticket holders are invited. After that the exhibition is free and runs from Saturday 11th February to Saturday 25th March. See the "Dates for Your Diary" section for more details.

Life drawing sessions continue every Wednesday evening and are open to all members. There is a live model at each session. Whilst there is not any tuition there are many regular artists happy to help if need be. If you would like to come along and give it a go, basic drawing equipment is available to get you started. See the "Dates for Your Diary" section for more details.

How would you like to digest your newsletter? Rather than collect or have delivered a paper version of DAG Digest if you would prefer to receive it by e-mail please e-mail Jacky Fletcher: jackym.fletcher@gmail.com

As the weather gets better (eventually) we shall be setting up a working party to tackle the garden and keep it trim. More details to follow in future numbers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

9th to 11th February 2017

An Evening of One Act Plays.
“Give a Little Love” a new play by Alan Stockhill.

In 1975, Karen, Debbie, Bev and Liz had been schoolgirls, united by their love of *The Bay City Rollers*. This touching and often comic and poignant play shows how their lives have taken very different paths when they meet up again at a tribute concert.

“The After Dinner Joke” by Caryl Churchill

Written in 1977, this is an ambitious and often surreal piece for the advanced youth group to get to grips with. With the Mayor’s obsession with pythons you might say Pythonesque. Through a series of sketches, with dark humour and biting satire it follows the journey of Selby from naïve do gooder to more cynical operator.

See flyer attached.

BOOK NOW

Sunday 19th February

Festival Play Preview

This is a chance to see this year’s entry into the All England One Act Play Festival before we hit the road. There is a performance at 7 p.m. and again 8 p.m. of “Acting Leader” by Joy Williamson, directed by Mark Bailey. This is a short and witty look at the few months after the death of John Smith in 1994 when Margaret Beckett

became acting leader of the Labour Party. It is told largely from her point of view through a series of short scenes where she is supported, quizzed and cajoled by a collection of characters from Peter Mandelson to Clare Short; all played by the same woman. Whilst mostly a bit of fun, ultimately the poignant message is almost tragic.

Entry is FREE and the bar will be open. Just ring David Fletcher on 01924 505861 to reserve your seat.

The first round is at the Spa theatre Bridlington on 4th March. If you can, pack your bucket and spade and support the team.

10th and 11th & 13th to 18th March

“Time and the Conways”

J. B. Priestley.

In 1919, the Great War has just ended and the seemingly happy Conway family gathers for a birthday party. Eighteen years later, on the eve of the Second World War, we see that the future is far from the one they imagined that night. One of Priestley’s time shift plays, he explores the political and social history of Britain between the wars and the nature of time itself.

BOOK NOW

See flyer attached

Valid for season tickets

TICKETS

www.dewsburyartsgroup.info or call the **Ticket Source** box office on **03336663366**

ART ACTIVITIES

Life drawing sessions

(Between 7 and 9 p.m.)

January

11th (Room 1): Steven

18th (Room 2) Dave: clothed

25th (Room 3) TBA: clothed

February

1st (Room 1) Helen

8th (Room 2) Roger: clothed

15th (Room 1) Steven

22nd (Room 3) Ley

March

1st (Room 1) Roger

8th (Room 2) Kyra: clothed

Spring exhibition

Private Preview: 10th February

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. ALL WELCOME

***Saturday 11th February to
Saturday 25th March***

Mondays: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Striking the set

**Monday 13th February and
Monday 20th March from 7.30
onwards**

Play reading

Wednesday 1st February at 7.30

“Absurd Person Singular” by Alan
Ayckbourn.

The Owl Pop Up Coffee Shop

**Saturday 4th February 12.30 –
3.00**

4th March

Jolly Boys’ outing to Brid

**Support the team in the opening
round the All England One Act
Play festival at the Spa Theatre
Bridlington.** Details of the best fish
and chip cafes on application. We have
a long and proud tradition of
appearing in this festival; it will be
good to see you there to blow away a
few cobwebs.