

DAG DIGEST

Review News and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

January 2018

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***Gargling with Jelly* was a colourful, exuberant and action-packed family show with laughs for children and adults alike.** The whole cast, a fusion of youth and experience, gave energetic and strong performances under the excellent direction of Jacky Fletcher

Once again, full houses greeted the pre-Christmas music hall. True to the "Good Old Days" tradition the audiences were treated to songs and sketches and jokes old and new with just time for a final chorus of Goodbye Dolly Grey before repairing to the refreshment room.

David Martin died in December aged 65. An active and enthusiastic member of the group, he was Art Secretary for a time and as well as the stage design work he contributed drawings for the group's calendars. David Wood said of him "He encouraged others through his work and the advice he passed on so readily. His contribution to the artistic community of the area has been tremendous." It could be said of him that he saw beauty in the commonplace that everyone could see if they would look. This is summed up in his portrait of Dewsbury in the style of Caravaggio, a copy of which hangs in the West Riding Refreshment Rooms. When you are next in there, seek out the man in the gondola and raise a glass.

Roger Holdsworth has died suddenly after a short illness. A past president he contributed cheerfully to every aspect of the Group's activities. For the best part of thirty years he was the Group's photographer. His artistry is exemplified in the photographs that line the corridor leading to the bar.

An orange door in West Park Street has for over fifty years been the gateway to another world. A bohemian world where art was created, where the cultural landscape of Dewsbury was shaped, where talent was encouraged and nurtured. Anyone twizzling the bell could be sure of a warm welcome because for David and Judith Wood nothing would be too much trouble. They have now left for a long and happy sojourn in pastures new; they will always be welcomed back with open arms. Meanwhile, when next you pass by that orange door, reflect....

Feedback is important. The counter system has increased the immediate feedback. Whilst a heap of green counters makes people feel better, if you put a counter in the red jar, do let us know why.

Youth classes have started again after the Christmas break. Their focus this term will be on rehearsing the plays that they are to preform as part of the Youth Theatre in May. Additionally, several youth members were in *Gargling with Jelly*, there is a youth member in *All my Sons* in March and quite a few more in *The Music Man* in the summer. There are a limited number of vacancies so if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the classes, please contact Maria Bailey on 0113 2049772 or 07586297492 or e-mail her on mandm90@btinternet.com

Drawing sessions are held weekly throughout the year. Sessions are open to all members and take place *each Wednesday between 7 and 9 pm*. Full details can be found in the "Dates for Your Diary" section.

Play readings are held throughout the year. The next is on Tuesday 27th February at 7.30. It is the chance to have a go at a variety of different parts in one evening in a relaxed informal atmosphere. We have a well-stocked and catalogued library of plays to try and can make a choice based on who turns up. Chris Ward (01977 301405) will always try to choose one that can involve as many people as possible. Put yourself on Chris's e-mailing list on chriswardofackworth@yahoo.co.uk

The foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Roger Gardner. A member of the Group since 1988, Roger worked in further education for many years and maintained involvement in painting throughout. He shows regularly in DAG exhibitions and has held solo exhibitions in Leeds, Halifax, Hull and Wakefield.

Spring Exhibition. Your invitation to the preview on Friday 9th February next is attached. Please support the launch of six weeks of exposure of the best the group has to offer.

Visit the top floor and you will see the scale of the massive task of clearing out the wardrobe. We are near the end of evaluating and decluttering the stock to make way for the revamp. The moth man will soon have cometh and goneth, new windows have been installed to be followed by new flooring. Please bear with us during this time of disruption and displacement; its nearly there.

Because of her love of costumes and her involvement in wardrobe, it seems fitting that the revamped wardrobe be dedicated to Barbara Ryan. Attached is a leaflet setting out how you can contribute to the "Barbara's Wardrobe" project.

The Owl Pop Up Coffee Shop flies in to Lower Peel Street on Saturday 17th February between 12.30 and 3. As ever, a wide range of delicious teas, coffees and cakes will be available for your delectation and delight. Everyone is welcome to come on down and kick back for a couple of hours. It would be really good to see you.

Prefer the feel of paper rustling through your fingers, to have something you can pin up on the notice board or scatter across the coffee table? If you receive the Digest by e-mail but would rather go back to receiving the paper copy, please e-mail jackym.fletcher@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

8th to 10th February 2018: *An Evening of One Act Plays.*

“*Make yourself at Home*” by David Foxton. A French Farce in the classic style that will be the Group’s entry in the 2018 All England One Act Theatre Festival.

“*The Turn of the Screw*” by Henry James, adapted by Steven Goddard.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

9th and 10th March and 12th to 17th March 2018: “*All My Sons*” by Arthur Miller.

Moving and powerful, this is the first great play by one of the finest playwrights of the twentieth century. A compelling story of love, family secrets and the corrupting power of greed.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

Valid for season ticket holders

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Striking the set

Join Tony Fox on **Sunday 28th January** at 10.30

Play Reading

Join Chris Ward on **Tuesday 27th February** at 7.30. A choice of play will be made on the night to give everyone a fair go.

Owl Pop Up Coffee Shop

Saturday 17th February 12.30 to 3

ART ACTIVITIES

Drawing sessions

January

31st Room 1: Steve

February

7th Room 3: Dave – clothed model

14th Room 1: Ley

21st Room 1: Dave

28th Room 1: Helen

March

7th Room 3: Clothed model – TBA

14th Room 3: Ken – clothed model

Spring exhibition

10th February to 28th January at 10.30 24th March 2018

Batley library, Market Place Batley

Mondays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays: closed

Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fridays: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays; 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Sundays: closed