

# DAG DIGEST

## Reviews News and Previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

March 2018

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***Handbagged* was a witty evocation for those of a certain age of the political turbulence of the 1980's.** Strong performances from two Queens and two Maggies were underpinned by Mark Bailey and Stuart Marshall playing everyone else from Arthur Scargill and Dennis Thatcher to Kenneth Kaunda and Nancy Reagan. Some may say it was a pity that Prince Philip only got two lines (or maybe not).

**The Evening of One Act Plays saw two very different plays.** "*The Turn of the Screw*", by Henry James, adapted and directed by Stephen Goddard, was interesting and very thought provoking, raising more questions than it answered. A dark, chilling ghost story, reviewer Robert Gosling said "the acting was excellent, with a particularly strong performance by Stacey Waterworth as the Governess. It was particularly good to see that Youth Theatre Members were also involved in this production". By contrast, "*Make Yourself at Home*" by David Foxton and directed by Chris Ward, is set in the house of a roguish Parisian doctor and his philandering wife in 1912. Add two maids a lover and a window cleaner and there were infidelities and misunderstandings aplenty in line with the best traditions of a farce. "Again, the acting was excellent. The audience were well entertained by this piece which moved along with excellent timing and humour. The whole evening provided splendid entertainment for the sell out audience."

**June Cashman, who has died in her mid eighties, was an exceptionally fine actress, performing with the Group when productions were staged at Earlsheaton School.** She gave an outstanding and magical performance in "The

Glass Menagerie” and an equally impressive performance in the Group’s award-winning staging of Feydeau’s “The Birdwatcher”. She also performed with the Dewsbury Collegians both in straight plays and in musicals. Her talent in costume design and making led to her working for Yorkshire Television while still contributing greatly to Group activities. While living in Knaresborough she always supported the Group’s festival appearances at the Frazer Theatre and at the Harrogate Theatre.

**Mary Dawson was a wonderful supporter of the Group.** A patron and season ticker holder for many years she will be remembered by many when helping front of house for most productions. Her favourite seemed to be selling sweets. We shall all miss her welcoming smile and wicked sense of humour

**Youth classes have focused on rehearsing the plays that they are to preform as part of the Youth Theatre Showcase on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May.** Years 1&2 will perform *Goodnight Children Everywhere* by David Foxton whilst year 3 will give a premiere to a new play by Matt Bailey called *Freedom’s Game*. Youth section members have been the backbone of the success of the Group over the years and have made significant contributions to other productions this season. Please support them as they strut their own stuff.

**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.

**The latest play reading was due to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February.** However, because of the snow, Chris Ward called it off after various people said they could not get there. Nonetheless, Chris popped over to Peel Street just in case and heroically, Paul Goulden turned up. Not wanting to do Duck Variations or Waiting for Godot, they went home. Chris will contact regulars with details of the next session. If you wish to become a “regular” please ring him (01977 301405) or e-mail him on [chriswardofackworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chriswardofackworth@yahoo.co.uk)

**The foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Christian Goddard** Christian studied at Batley Art College for three years during the 60’s before working as graphic artist and then as an advertising publicity manager. Subsequently he had his own business producing advertising and publicity merchandise. He first joined the Group in the 1980’s. However, business and family commitments meant that he had to put art creation to one side. Happily, in 2009, after a break of 22 years, he returned to what he calls his passion. His work has been exhibited at several galleries including “The Affordable Art” in London. Since retiring he re-joined the group in 2016. Whilst he left college as a graphic artist his passion is fine art in which he regards himself as self-taught.

**66 people turned up to the preview of the Spring Exhibition on 9<sup>th</sup> February including Batley and Spennings M.P. Tracey Brabin.** It looks great. Catch it while you can; runs until 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Spend St Patrick's Day in Knaresborough this year.** *Make Yourself at Home* is the Group's entry in this year's All England Theatre festival. The Frazer Theatre Knaresborough is the venue for the first round on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The evening starts at 7. DAG will compete against two other groups. There is generally a wide range of genre on show and the adjudications can be fascinating. Please support the Group if you can.

**The latest Owl Pop Up Coffee Shop flew in to Lower Peel Street on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February.** Grateful thanks once more to Lacey Telford and her band of helpers for making this a success.

**Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to the "Barbara's Wardrobe" project.** The wardrobe is now empty and clean so that "the mothman" can spray it. Next up will be laying the flooring and putting up rails before the costumes can be put back. It is a big job and will take time. Watch this space for news of the grand reopening which will be a wonderful event to celebrate Barbara's life and her connection with the Group.

**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](mailto:jackym.fletcher@gmail.com)

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **PRODUCTIONS**

**26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018: "Neighbourhood Watch"**

As they prepare for a housewarming party, the quiet Christian existence of brother and sister Martin and Hilda is shattered by a young trespasser in their garden. Shocked, they set up a Neighbourhood Watch group. However, when their beloved gnome, "Monty", is thrown through their window their well-intentioned scheme swiftly escalates into violence and acrimony.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

**Valid for season ticket holders**

**15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018:**

## ***Youth Theatre Showcase***

Two plays broadly based on the theme of war.

*Goodnight Children Everywhere* by David Foxton attempts to solve the dilemma of having two tribes of children competing for parts in a nativity play whilst *Freedom's Game*, a new play by Matt Bailey, is set in a new dark age where war and slavery threaten a mythical empire.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

## **ART AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### ***St Patrick's Day in Knaresborough***

Support the Group's entry, Make yourself at Home, in the first round of The All England Theatre Festival at the Frazer Theatre Knaresborough. 7 o'clock start (the Group is third on)

### ***Striking the set***

Join Tony Fox on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March** at 10.30

### ***Play Reading***

Chris Ward will contact people with details of the next session.

### ***Drawing sessions***

**March**

**21<sup>st</sup> Room 1: - TBA**

**28<sup>th</sup> Room 1: Talk by Mary  
Follows: "Syria as it was"**

***April***

**4<sup>th</sup> Room 1: Steve**

**11<sup>th</sup> Room 1: -TBA**

**18<sup>th</sup> Room 1: -TBA**

**25<sup>th</sup> Room 1: Clothed model**

### ***Spring exhibition***

**Until 24<sup>th</sup> 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