

DAG DIGEST

Previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

June 2018

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Congratulations to Gordon Balmforth who has for many years been connected with the Group, most recently as accompanist for the Christmas music hall. In the Queen’s birthday honours list he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to music and charity in Kirklees. He was said to be “chuffed”. Everyone at Dewsbury Arts Group are too. ***Neighbourhood Watch* was Maria Bailey’s first foray into directing a main production** All the actors, a combination of regulars and those not seen for a while, complimented each other wonderfully, really highlighting the different personalities. This brought out not only the humour with exquisite comic timing but also poignancy with pitch perfect sensitivity.

The Youth Showcase presented two very contrasting plays. *Goodnight Children Everywhere* by David Foxton was directed by Alex Lindley and Ben Telford. This light hearted piece about a nativity play provided much humour for the first and second years and allowed them to explore characterisation to good effect. Meanwhile, the third years explored the theme of war in *Freedom’s Game*, a new play written and directed by Matt Bailey. A chilling play, that was a challenge for young actors with little life experience to call on, they all showed great commitment and focus. Overall, the obvious enjoyment of all concerned shone through.

The wedding of the year between Amy and Sheldon on The Big Bang Theory was a great success. Not to be outdone, Harry married Princess Meghan of Markle and the Owl Coffee Shop popped up to join in the celebrations.

Russell Whiteley's sudden tragic death will come as a shock to many associated with the group. Russell was a talented and gifted actor, director and adjudicator. He first appeared for the group in its initial production of Chekov's one act play "The Bear"; he went on to direct several major productions for the group including "Dark of the Moon", "Blood Brothers", the musical and "All Things Bright and Beautiful". He also introduced Children's Theatre to the group with "Pinocchio". His performances will be remembered in "The Importance of Being Earnest", "Hobson's Choice" (a splendid Willie Mossop), "Inherit the Wind" and the award winning farce "The Birdwatcher". In more recent years the Group's one act festival entries were frequently adjudicated by Russ. In his capacity as a drama adjudicator (G.O.D.A.) he was outstanding; always constructive, knowledgeable, fair and above all, encouraging. His delivery of an adjudication was a performance in itself. Russ and his late wife, Carol, were strong supporters of the group from its outset and they spread the word of the quality of the group throughout the north and beyond when attending festivals. Amateur theatre has lost a major creative figure. DAVID WOOD.

The next play reading will be of Alan Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce*. This is a good opportunity for those wishing to be in the production next year to have a preview of how it sounds off the page. Sue Saville will be on hand in case you have anything to ask her. Or just come along for a bit of fun. In the meantime, 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

The foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery is a celebration of the photographic work of Roger Holdsworth. Do take time to admire a miscellany of photographs that capture the spirit of the Group's productions over the years as well as significant moments in its history.

The Summer Exhibition begins in the foyer at Dewsbury Town Hall on Monday 9th July and runs until 18th August. Attached is your invitation to the preview on Thursday 12th July. The exhibition is the centrepiece of the Art Section's year and should be all the better for being showcased back at the Town Hall once more

Things are moving fast towards the official opening of the doors to Barbara's Wardrobe as part of the Heritage Open Day on Saturday 8th September. The coffee shop will pop up and the bar will be open. Further details will follow in the next Digest. If you were one of the lovely people who took costumes home to wash we would now like them back please. Official invitations will go out to everyone who has contributed to Barbara's Fund. Some of you have given money but not given your name; please let us know who you are! There is still time to send a little something to help us commemorate Barbara's contribution to the group. Contact Jacky Fletcher on 01924 505861 or jackym.fletcher@gmail.com to find out how.

Next season's brochure is attached. Don't agonise about which things to see; come to everything.

Everyone is invited to enjoy "Fun in the Sun" a no frills end of season get together on Sunday 15th July. There will be a bar and garden games. Admission is FREE.

[See flyer attached.](#)

You will no sooner will you have recovered from Fun in the Sun than you will be ready from the start of season social. As always this will be in the first week of September on Wednesday the 5th. Do come along and bring a friend to get the year off to a roaring start. The Bar will be open from 7.30 p.m.

You are invited to renew Subscriptions and Season Tickets. Please [see the attached](#) with details of price and how to pay.

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 On the other hand, if you want to save the trees then you can get all your information and quick links to booking by asking Jacky to opt you in to the DAG e-digest. Either way, we want everyone to know what is going on.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

22nd and 24th to 29th September:
"A Bunch of Amateurs"

by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

Valid for season ticket holders

11th to 13th October:

"The Unreturning"

A miscellany of music words and humour to commemorate the Great War

BOOK NOW. See flyer attached.

AUDITION

Aladdin: a pantomime by Ben Crocker:

Monday 10th September 2018
from 7 p.m. (Oh yes it is)

See details attached.

ART AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Summer Exhibition:

Dewsbury Town Hall

9th July to 18th August with
preview on 12th July between 6.30
and 8.30

Play Reading:

25th July at 7.30:

Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn

Fun in the Sun

15th July from 2 p.m.

The Social:

**Wednesday 5th September from
7.30**

***Barbara's Wardrobe: the official
opening.***

**Saturday 8th September, doors
open from 11 a.m.**