

DAG DIGEST

Reviews, news and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

January

2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR

In this number:

- * Dick Whittington
- * Music Hall
- * Karen's Kirkwood Concert
- * Youth Theatre
- * Foyer Exhibition
- * Drawing classes
- * Spring Exhibition
- * Film and screen acting club
- * Front of house
- * Parking
- * Student Alert
- * For the Notice Board

Dick Whittington kicked off the panto season in November.

Director Helen Fox handled Ben Crocker's script with its improbable plot with pace and vigour. Alison Hartley played Dick with commendable restraint by slapping her thigh only twice, Justin Trewren combined outlandish costumes with outrageous jokes as Sarah the cook whilst Simon Beaumont was most demonic as King Rat. Group stalwarts were joined by members of the Youth Theatre, most of whom were appearing in their first major production. And terrific they were too.

The Music Hall kicked off the festering season during election week.

Those who voted with their feet were treated to a line up refreshed by debuts from youth members Sophie O'Leary and Anya Firth, thespians Stacey Fleming and Iain Winstanley (in a hilarious Reformation Comedy) and the one and only Justin Trewren

Karen's Kirkwood Concert on 4th January was a touching tribute to Karen Liles who lost her battle with cancer last year.

The theatre rocked to the sounds of songs from the shows, presented by Karen's family and friends in a celebration of her life. There was plenty of laughter and some tears as the varied programme of songs with projected photographs and comments, showing many highlights of

Karen's life, touched all who were there. It was a wonderful, uplifting evening which raised £1,200 for Kirkwood Hospice.

In time honoured tradition, The Youth Theatre's year ended at the beginning of December with the infamous Christmas Party. Approximately 40 of our youngsters attended and had a fantastic time playing a range of party games including "spinning the plate" and the legendary "stirring the porridge" As ever, there was a deal of 'improv' (aka cheating!) from the more street-wise advanced class members and a good time was had by all. Well, there were no casualties so that's always a good thing! Many thanks to all those who came and helped, especially Mark, Maria and Nick Bailey, Ben Telford, Anne Sharp and Steven Goddard Oh, and Stacey Fleming also turned up and made a nuisance of herself!

Meanwhile, excited junior youth members returned to classes on 4th January with the senior group returning on 10th January. All groups will start reading through plays for potential inclusion in the Youth Theatre Showcase in May. Classes remain full for this year and names continue to be added to the reserve list. Anyone interested in joining our youth classes should email Maria Bailey on mandm90@btinternet.com to be added to the list and all will be contacted around May for confirmation of them starting in September 2020.

The Group is pleased to report that following application to Dewsbury Schools Endowed Trust. DAG Youth Theatre has been awarded a grant This will enable the group to organise a theatre trip to a professional production this year. This follows the very successful trip to see Othello at the LBT last year.

Drawing classes continue to take place every Wednesday evening between 7 and 9. No experience is necessary and whilst formal teaching is not given there is always a helping hand nearby to guide you through. To find out more about this talented and convivial group, please contact the Art Secretary Zahoor Sakharkar on 07979316858 or haseenmultimedia@gmail.com

The Spring Exhibition will soon be upon us. All members of the Group are entitled to submit work for consideration for entry into the exhibition. For more information, please see the information attached or contact the Art Secretary.

The film and Screen Acting Group is to be revived. The aim is to write and produce exhibition standard films/shorts to high standards by having passionate and creative artistes and crew members. The aim is to produce at least 2 works a year with minimal budget. Locations would be local with filming on the weekends predominantly. At the initial meeting, on Friday 31st January at 7pm, ideas about the best way to move forward will be brainstormed. This is an opportunity for anyone who might consider themselves passionate about film making to get on board, either as actors or part of the production team. You do not need to have any formal qualification/ experience behind you.

The front of house co ordinator will be on the telephone or sending out emails to staff upcoming productions. The duties aren't onerous; it is a very social thing and fun working as a team. In fact, as we do not have a "society night" as other groups do, doing front of house can be a good way of introducing new members. If the phone rings or you get an e-mail, please don't ignore the co ordinator but instead think about giving up a night or 3 a year.

Parking is a challenge if you are wanting a spot on Lower Peel Street for a production. If there is a large cast, for example, the street can be full by 7 o'clock. For those who may not know, you may wish to try the council car park in Commercial Street off Bradford Road; look out for Bill Hargreaves Cycles on the corner.

The Group is offering an "on the day" scheme to sell any unsold tickets for half the normal price to all Students on production of Student ID. How this scheme works:

1. As these half price tickets cannot be pre booked, on the day you want to see the play check ticket availability on our website www.dewsburyartsgroup.info before 5 p.m.
2. Present your Student ID at the box office from 7pm onwards and buy your ticket for £5.
3. Relax and enjoy the performance.

FOR THE NOTICE BOARD

Productions.

6th to 8th February 2020

- **Double Bill- An evening of two one act plays**
 - **Party** by Tim Basden
 - **Interior Designs** by Jimmy Chinn

BOOK NOW

(See flyer attached)

14th and 16th to 21st March 2020

- **Ask Me Tomorrow**

By Stan Barstow and Alfred Bradley

Wilf Cotton, an aspiring writer, meets Marguerite Fisher, a girl with an even more complex and unhappy background than his own, in a boarding house run by landlady/lover Mrs Swallow.

(See flyer attached)

Valid for season tickets

TICKETS

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

- *If you have any queries regarding the booking, return or exchanging of tickets, please ring David Fletcher on 01924 505861 or e-mail: dewsburyartsgroup@ntlworld.com*

Mark the Dates

The Film Screen and Acting Group

- *31st January 2020 at 7 p.m.*

Spring Exhibition – Batley Art Gallery

8th February to 21st March 2020

- **Preview 7th February**

See invitation attached