

DAG DIGEST



It's Panto Time!

Oh no it isn't (well not until November)

Robin Hood is our pantomime this year and tickets are now ON SALE.

I expect you're wondering where it all began. Panto first started in Italy in the 16th Century with Harlequins and Pierrots. But panto as we know it started to develop in England in the 1800's with Drury Lane presenting Dick Whittington and Robin Hood. After Joseph Grimaldi's Clown was such a hit in *Mother Goose* at Covent Garden in 1806, Clown (or the dame as we now know it) began to edge out Harlequin as the star of the show. From then the spectacle began to evolve with the rise in the popularity of elaborate scenery and stage effects, and the fairy-tale extravaganzas.

The 'breeches' role or Principal Boy started as early as 1837. Quite scandalous with those legs showing at this point in history. The genre was held back to begin with because of laws restricting the amount of dialogue that was allowed. However, in 1843 The Theatres Act lifted the restriction, allowing any theatre without a royal patent to produce a play with purely spoken dialogue. Now witty puns, word play and audience participation were added to the repertoire of mime, daring chase scenes and spectacular transformations.

I really hope that you come and see our pantomime, **Robin Hood. (Flier enclosed)**



MEMBERSHIP
AND SEASON
TICKET FEES

Membership (£20) and Season Ticket Fees (£75) should be paid by the end of September. Visit our website for how to pay under 'useful information'. You can also find the names, roles and contact details for our new committee here. Or ring our help line 07305 113408.

WHAT'S ON

We have a lot to pack into the next few months so here's a rundown. There are fliers enclosed for all these events.

John Danbury will be enthralling us with
An evening of Magic and Comedy
on 14th October.

We have a Murder Mystery evening – **Murder in Dressing Room 1**
on 28th October. Former soap star Sky Devere, in rehearsal for her first professional stage role,
has been found strangled in her dressing room.

But whodunnit? And why? Professional jealousy? Personal jealousy? Or something else?
Come along and help us to solve the mystery.

I've already mentioned **Robin Hood** which starts on 18th November.

Then we have our Christmas Offering **Christmas Crackers** 7th to 9th December.
An evening of Christmas Classics, but not as you know them! And this year we welcome the
return of the **FULL BUFFET SUPPER**

Members information



It's that time of year again and our

Programme Planning Group

are looking for ideas, offers and inspiration for our 2024 to 2025 season.

Are you keen to organise an art exhibition in the ideal venue?

Is there a play or musical that you think we should be doing?

Do you want to direct one of our productions?

Could you offer to organise a social event?

Please let our Programme Planning Group know what you think by completing the enclosed
form.



Go Back for Murder Auditions: Thursday October 5th

AUDITIONS 17TH October

The Final Test by Chris Paling

Production dates - 27th April to 4th May 2024 – Details enclosed

AUDITIONS 31ST OCTOBER

The Producers

by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan Production dates 29th June to 6th July – Details enclosed

PREZ BOX

Carol and Malcolm Parkinson are the Group's Joint Presidents.

“We are humbled and excited to be elected; it's going to be fun. The role is what we make it and fun will be at the heart of what we do. After being members for over 40 years we know all about what the Group has done and can do. Time now to be bucketgobs and go out and tell everybody and their mothers so that nobody can ever say they have never heard of us nor express surprise that Dewsbury has a proper theatre and art space.”