

DAG DIGEST

Happy New Year

I'm really quite excited to see our Agatha Christie offering, *Go Back For Murder*. The play was adapted by Christie from her Poirot novel 5 Little Pigs, known in America as *Murder in Retrospect*.

The first thing that Christie does in her adaptation is to eliminate Poirot entirely from the story! Does it work? Well, yes, I think it does. In this story the solving of the puzzle is the important thing. Carla Crale's mother was found guilty of killing her husband and subsequently died in jail. Carla wants to clear her mother's name. The events are acted out in flashback to take a look at what really happened. It is widely considered one of the best plots Christie ever developed. It's such a powerful and evocative tale of memories, passion, intrigue, and, of course, murder. I can't wait.

(Booking flyer enclosed)

Coming Up On Stage

Go Back for Murder

Sat 2nd March - Sat 9th March (see above)

The Flood – Almost Sold Out!

Saturday 3rd February - Tickets £5

A Musical presented by AKA Theatre Company with Book and Lyrics by Dewsbury Arts Group's very own Lucie Raine and Music by Joe Revell

Originally performed as part of Leeds Theatre Festival, The Flood made up part of Lucie Raine and Joe Revell's MA in Musical Theatre as their final project at Leeds Conservatoire. Lucie, who wrote book and lyrics, is a long time DAG member and is delighted to be bringing her work "home".

This performance is being staged as part of the research and development process for the musical which they hope to tour next year.

Tickets are only £5, so come along for some fresh off the shelf theatre.

Festival Play – first round

Exciting news! For the first time since 2018 we are entering the All England One Act Play Festival with David Wood's last play – **Ah! Ha!** The group presented this play last March in our evening of plays and will now start our competition first round at Bridlington Spa on Saturday 9th March – wish us luck.

We will be performing at the matinee performance at 14.30.

You can visit the Bridlington Spa website to book tickets - <https://www.bridspa.com/whats-on/> or ring their BOX OFFICE **01262 678258**

Theatrical Shorts

Fri 22nd March - Sun 24th March

This will be a jam packed evening with 3 original plays to entertain you.

Frank Earnshaw and the Teddy Bears by Carol Parkinson

Frank is a man with a shady past. A small-time crook and disreputable antiques dealer, Frank decides to make amends by volunteering at The Cedars Care Home. Has Frank really turned over a new leaf?

Happy Days by Simon Lawton Smith

A man is watching a game of cricket on a gloriously sunny day. But as he relates the story of his life and friendships, not all is as idyllic as it seems.

Gunfight at the Barely Adequate Corral by Tony Fox

Laughter, song, dance, action, adventure, frontiers-folk and cowboys all wrapped up in a fun bundle of Wild West silliness.

(Booking flyer enclosed)



St Patrick's Day Social Evening
Friday 15th March

To celebrate *St Patricks Day*
we will be opening the bar for a social evening.

It will be a fun evening to include some Irish music and tasty snacks! The bar will have our usual good selection of drinks - and Guinness will be available! We may also throw in a short Irish quiz - and more!

The bar will be ready to go at 7.30 p.m and all we need from you is to say if you will be joining us please -

by email mariab642@gmail.com

Gordon Balmforth

We are very sad to announce the death of Gordon Balmforth.

Gordon died in December 2023 aged 72. He was a musical director, pianist, composer and arranger. Generations of performers benefited from his immense and far reaching musical knowledge and teaching. He has been involved with Dewsbury Arts Group since 1994 when he took on the challenging task of playing the piano for Side by Side by Sondheim. Since then he has been Musical Director for some of DAG's musicals and played the piano for our Music Halls and other events. He was made an Honorary Patron for his services to the group and used his tickets regularly, the last time for Sweeney Todd in July last year.

His funeral was very fitting, filled with the music he loved. He will be very much missed.

Dates for the diary

Sat 3rd Jan – The Flood

March 2nd to 9th - Go Back for Murder

March 9th – Festival Play first round

March 15th – St Patrick's Day social

22nd to 24th March – Theatrical Shorts