

Dewsbury Arts Group

(CIO Registered Charity Number 1161083)

Mintes of the meeting of the Charity Trustees Held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7:30pm In Room 1

Committee members known as: Mark Bailey (MB - Chair), Maria Bailey (MaB), Simon Beaumont (SB), Ian Bowers (IB), Nick Cunliffe (NC), David Fletcher (DF), Jacky Fletcher (JF), Andrew Leverton (AL), Paul Lightowler (PL), Carol Parkinson (CP), Malcolm Parkinson (MGP), Sue Saville (SS), Zahoor Sakharkar (ZS) Emma Thompson (ET) and Iain Winstanley (IW)

No.	Item
1	Apologies for absence. SB, NC, IW, CP and ZS
2	Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, review of action log and matters arising. It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 th October 2025 be passed as a true record. The action log was considered and amended as appropriate. MGP had spoken to Jonathan Kidd and pointed out that prospective buyers should be made aware that the use of the metal structure (which stands proud of the wall) is disputed. It is unlikely that the private road is owned by the next door neighbours. The ownership of the road is unknown. However, there is a legal presumption that the Group may own up to one half of the road. It was agreed that MGP take the matter no further. Mr Currie had responded by saying that he was reassured by the resolution not to allow smoking of any kind in future productions. NC had sourced a new ladder. The AETF had been informed of the Group's non participation in the forthcoming festival.
3	Correspondence and news <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claire Wells, arts development and events in Dewsbury. Meet up. This began as an enquiry as to whether the Group wishes to be involved in the Christmas event in the town centre. The meeting will be to explore what further ways the Group could work with her. The suggested dates are Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th November at a time and place to be agreed. MGP and CP would be available on both dates. MB will try to come along.• Kirklees Cultural Strategy Steering Group (KCSSG). MGP had attended the most recent meeting which concentrated on who would be contacted as part of the consultation. In his view, this provides an opportunity to establish or re-establish links with other local groups and put DAG at the heart of the process. MGP assured the committee that this is something he is happy to take on himself.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding workshop 2nd December. MGP and PL are to attend the event at Longcauseway Church. The workshop seems to be pitched at those who have made several unsuccessful applications and want to know where they are going wrong. MGP and PL will report back fully to the next meeting. • Culture Collective. The chair of this is Dr Chloe Whitehead of Proper Job Theatre Company. Many of the people there were people MGP had met at the KCSSG. Additionally there was a representative from the Arcade Group. The collective sees itself as a lobby group trying to influence those with money and power. Dr Whitehead (also a member of KCSSG) comes over as a dynamic straight forward sort of person. It is difficult to say at this stage what help this collective will be to the Group. However, for now we are at least part of the conversation. • Kirklees Local TV: podcast. Milton Brown is the CEO of KLTV which has 40,000 active followers. Milton is a member of KCSSG. The Group has the offer of being part of a podcast or television programme. Milton is keen to help the Group improve its digital footprint generally and as part of the Culture Collective. He wants the Group to send to him five questions we would like him to ask us so that we can sell ourselves together with up to ten pictures which will help us to tell our story. He will ask us two questions about how the Culture Collective can help us. There is no immediate rush. Loosely MGP and Milton have talked about getting something together in the New Year. • Mayor's Question Time. Annually or once a year, the Mayor has a question time. MGP and CP found out about the event on 4th November and were due to attend. However, it was postponed until 25th November. MGP was contacted by West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA, pronounced wicker) on 7th November asking about the availability of the theatre. Certain criteria was set out which MGP believed the Group could meet. WYCA would staff the event. Having spoken with MB he was confident that the audition could be rescheduled. No financial terms were discussed and the downside was that we could not open the bar. Clearly, the Mayor would not want drunks shouting abuse. Our name was put forward by Adele Poppleton who chairs the meetings of the KCSSG. The Group's was one of several venues in North Kirklees put forward including Healds Hall and a couple of wedding venues. The mayor was, apparently, keen for the event to be in North Kirklees. However, it was decided to hold it in the basement of the Brian Jackson Centre in Huddersfield. The reason given was that the postponed events were to have been in Huddersfield and it was felt that fewer people would turn up because they might be confused about coming to Dewsbury and not Huddersfield, (Adele was slack jawed when I told her). I have asked WYCA to bear us in mind in the future.
4.	<p>General Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Newsletter. All ready for distribution. b. Membership and season ticket holders: update and fee payments. JF confirmed that she has prepared individual reminders to be sent to non-

	<p>payers. She also expressed concern that full details had not been taken by bar staff when membership and season ticket renewal payments had been made. This had caused extra work and in at least three cases it had not been possible to marry payments to the payees. MB agreed to liaise with Kath Buxton to ensure that bar staff are made aware of the importance of taking full details.</p>
5	<p>Art Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update. (ZS/MGP) • Craft Fair at The Mill Batley on 29th November 2025. MGP confirmed that the stall had been booked. Louise Bates was to be involved this time. MGP will be there to set up with ZS and will be on the stall throughout Saturday.
6	<p>Finance Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update. ET reported that the balances of the accounts were as follows CAF Bank £17,182.89 Virgin £ 27,464.25 Total £ 44,647.14 <p>The only significant expenditure anticipated is for lighting for Dangerous Corner and the pantomime.</p> <p>MB noted that the cost of certain drinks had increased significantly. He will monitor the situation.</p>
7	<p>Youth Section</p> <p>Update. MB reported that they are well on with the selection process for the Youth Showcase. The Christmas party is to take place on 5th December.</p>
8	<p>Drama Section</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Murder Mystery Evening. MGP presented the attached review. b. Aladdin: (JF). FOH and chaperones. MB confirmed that all arrangements were in hand. c. Kind Hearts and Coronets. AL reported that Kerry had withdrawn because of work commitments and Nelly Hardiman has taken her place. In the meantime, AL had been in touch with Canal about the possibility of using a short clip of the film for promotional purposes. Canal replied that they did not agree. Furthermore, they said that they could not sanction the use of the name. AL contacted the Author and also the publishers. The Group has paid for the rights for a play based on the book and not the film. The situation is complicated. The consensus of the meeting was that this is a try on by Canal which is a huge corporation and that if there is a problem it rests with the publishers and not the Group. It was RESOLVED to carry on as planned which is to present and publicise the play known as Kind Hearts and Coronets. d. Suddenly at Home: the cast selected at audition was as follows: Ruth: Sara Sakharkar

	<p>Maggie: Alison Hartley Helen: Rachel Wood Sheila: Lindsey Brown Glen: Iain Winstanley Sam: Simon Reece Remick: Mike Parsons Appleton: Stuart Marshall.</p> <p>Since then, Simon Reece has dropped out because he has been offered a part elsewhere. The part of Sam has, therefore, been offered to Andrew Marsden who had auditioned for the role. AL is aware that whether or not IW can take the role of Glen will depend on his medical prognosis.</p> <p>e. Accommodations: 25th November 2025: panel and I.C. MGP has now joined the panel and Matt Bailey will I.C.</p> <p>f. Lust: cast. DF announced the cast as attached.</p> <p>g. Ticket sales update. DF presented the attached update and reported that more tickets have been sold for the pantomime than last year. Four performances are sold out. However, for some performances there are more empty seats than desirable. There are 62 seats left for the music hall which means two thirds of seats have been sold.</p> <p>h. The Programme Planning Committee had received offers of twenty two plays from nine directors. The committee had met recently and “weeded out” those which were not realistic. The committee will meet again on 29th November.</p>
9	<p>Premises.</p> <p>Update IB updated the committee regarding the lighting work carried out which includes automatic lights outside room 1 and over the back stairs to the wardrobe.</p> <p>MGP confirmed that now that Hugh Raine had returned from holiday he had provided the artwork which in turn has been sent through to VizBiz for them to make the theatre sign.</p> <p>Because of commitments generally, not least to the pantomime, SB had not been able to progress replacement of the sign cabinet.</p> <p>The Premises Sub Committee is to meet to discuss the arrangements between the Group and IB’s company.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business.</p> <p>A new chimp is going out on Saturday 15th November. AL asked people to let him have content as soon as possible before then.</p>
11	<p>Date of next meeting: Monday 15th December 2025</p>

REPORT TO COMMITTEE RE SEASON TICKETS AND MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP		ESTIMATED INCOME		PAID MEMBERSHIP		INCOME SO FAR		NEW MEMBERSHIP		LAPSED MEMBERSHIP	
MEETING												
AUG 4TH	116		£2,900	16	£400	1 ELEANOR BOWLER	3 APPLIED	1 STEPHEN ELLIS				
						MATTHEW TAYLOR						
						LILIA SMITH						
						CHLOE FLORES						
SEPT	117		£2,925	34	£850	COLIN BARDEN						
NOV	119		£2,975	46	£1,150	2 FIONA TAYLOR	SAM ALLAN	1 HELEN FOX				
						2 APPLIED						
						JOSH SAUNDERS						
						PAUL STANTON						

Action log – Dewsbury Arts Group

6/25-26	Seek willingness and availability of brother to present sound workshop	IW	15 th December 2025	Report back to December meeting
12/25-26	Revert to Charlie Wells about Christmas event and future collaboration	MGP	15 th December 2025	Report back to December meeting
16/25-26	Explore possibility of library displays	MGP	15 th December 2025	Report back to December meeting
18/25-26	Proposal for use of "cans" for better communication between lighting gallery and back stage.	IW with MC, MB and DF	15 th December 2025	Report back to December meeting
19/25-26	Premises sub-committee regarding contractual arrangements	SB	15 th December 2025	Report back to December meeting

LUST – CAST

Horner	Richard Brook	
Quack	Matthew Bailey	
Pinchwife	Mark Bailey	
Margery Pinchwife	Sophie O'Leary	
Sir Jasper Fidget	Stuart Marshall	
Lady Fidget	Jacky Fletcher	
Mistress Squeamish	Rachel Dewhirst	
Mistress Dainty	Maria Bailey	
Alithea Pinchwife	Caitlin Moss	
Harcourt	Nick Bailey	
Sparkish	Justin Trewren	
Dorilant	Chris Fletcher	
Rudge	Hugh Raine	
Mistress Prudence	Eleanor Bowler	
Mistress Charity	Alison Hartley	
Captain Jack	Si Beaumont	

DAG TICKET SALES – 2025/26 SEASON

FINAL FIGURES

NB the figures show below also include any tickets sold or taken up by Season Ticket Holders on the door.

MAIN PRODUCTIONS	Seats Available	Total Tickets Taken	Total Sales £ <small>After TicketSource Costs</small>	Payment to Ticket Source £	% Take up	Total Season Tickets	Total General Admissions and Sponsors Tickets	Seats NOT Sold
DANGEROUS CORNER	651	509	2278.35	173.96	78%	327	182	142
ALADDIN	930	816	5706.93			229	Full – 297 Conc - 290	114
KIND HEARTS & CORONETS	651	75	244.77			56	19	576
SUDDENLY AT HOME	651							
ACCOMMODATIONS	651							
LUST	651							

2024/2025 season for comparison

MAIN PRODUCTIONS	Seats Available	Total Tickets Taken	Total Sales £ <small>After TicketSource Costs</small>	Payment to Ticket Source £	% Take up	Total Season Tickets	Total General Admissions and Sponsors Tickets	Seats NOT Sold
WIFE AFTER DEATH	651	568	2692.44	233.56	87%	347	221	83
JACK AND THE BEANSTALK	830	788	5462.24	325.80	95%	237	Full – 274 Conc – 277	42
WORST WEDDING EVER	651	516	2262.58	187.42	79%	333	183	135
THE WINSLOW BOY	651	508	2107.14	160.86	78%	340	168	143
THE REVLON GIRL	651	461	2027.57	170.43	71%	291	170	190
GUYS AND DOLLS	651	578	3319.56	236.37	89%	317	261	73
SEASON TOTALS	4085	3419	17871.53	1314.44	85%	1865	1554	666

OTHER EVENTS	Seats available	Total Tickets taken	Total Sales £ <small>After TicketSource Costs</small>	Payment to Ticket Source £	Seats NOT sold
MURDER MYSTERY	93	88	498.57	39.59	5
RETURN OF COL. GATLING	231	169	2697.02		62