

# Dewsbury Arts Group

(CIO Registered Charity Number 1161083)

## Minutes of the meeting of the Charity Trustees held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 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), Carol Parkinson (CP), Malcolm Parkinson (MGP), Sue Saville (SS), Zahoor Sakharkar (ZS) Emma Thompson (ET) and Iain Winstanley (IW)

No.	Item
1	<b>Apologies for absence.</b> These had been received from MaB and IW
2	<b>Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, review of action log and matters arising.</b> The revised version of the minutes circulated at the meeting incorporating two slight amendments were approved as a true record. The Action Log was considered and amended.
3	<b>Correspondence and news</b> Death of Ley O'Neil. SS, ZS and MGP had attended a lively celebration of Ley's life at The West Riding Refreshment Rooms. Anya Firth had been involved in organising the event. Two works featuring Ley (one being created by ZS) had been auctioned. £130 had been raised, the funds going to Kirkwood Hospice.
4	<b>General Management</b> a. Season ticket and membership succession. JF addressed the meeting with a proposal that she could combine the roles of Season Ticket and Membership Secretary with Treasurer. Certain duplication could be avoided and there was a logical nexus. JF had discussed practicalities with ET. MGP offered to do the chasing up side of things. The proposal will be more fully discussed at the next meeting. b. Newsletter content. Although this is not due to go out until after the next meeting, provisional thoughts are <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brochure</li><li>- Request for subs</li><li>- Minutes on the website</li><li>- Audition pieces.</li></ul>
5	<b>Art Section</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update ZS reported that a former model has come out of retirement to pose. Life drawing classes will resume after the break for the Youth Showcase.</li><li>• Artist members. Three new potential members are hoping to join. MGP suggested that ZS liaise with Anya Firth regarding exhibiting at The Arcade Group. Anya is the Group's publicity officer.</li></ul>
6	<b>Finance</b> Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update. MGP presented the following figures</li></ul>

	<p>Virgin Money: £31,469.11  CAF Bank : £11,886.68  Total : £43,355.79</p>
7	<p><b>Youth Section</b></p> <p>Update – MB reported that the two productions were proceeding satisfactorily. He was particularly optimistic about the junior group.</p> <p>Bookings were poor.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED in principle to reduce the number of performances from three to two next year. Discretion was given to MB to decide which days and thereafter inform DF so that the brochure contains the correct details.</p>
9	<p><b>Drama Section</b></p> <p>a. Suddenly at Home: Director's report – SS presented the attached report. Arising out of it the need for a proper sound system was identified. DF is to liaise with MB and Simon Fletcher about what system would be appropriate.</p> <p>b. Accommodations: Director's report. MB will present his report at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. Lust: update. DF made a plea for a sound operator. MGP is to contact Chris Hall. A youth member and her father have expressed interest in sound operation. However, it was agreed that a musical was not an appropriate starting point</p> <p>d. Ticket sales: DF presented the attached report</p> <p>e. Launch night: DF outlined what would be on offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Director's presentations.</li> <li>- A quiz between each presentation.</li> <li>- Wines at cost price.</li> <li>- Smelly cheese. (Other cheeses are available).</li> </ul> <p>Unfortunately it had not been possible to arrange any entertainment.</p> <p>f. Auditions for Bleak Expectations. Panel: MB, MaB and NC. I.C.SS.</p> <p>g. Seating capacity and ticket prices for Christmas murder mystery evenings. It was RESOLVED that the seating capacity for each evening will be 93 and the ticket price will be £10. Mince pies, Christmas cake, mulled wine and seasonable nibbles will be offered.</p> <p>h. Report on murder mystery evening at Club 1931. This had taken place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. There was an audience of around 60 who were fully engaged in the action. A good time was had by all. The club would like the Group to return. Steve Goddard would be happy to resurrect an old script or write a new one. It had been a good exercise in outreach as there were several conversations afterwards with prospective new Group and audience members. One observation was that rather than it be done collectively, as in October, there should be a single director in future.</p>
10	<p><b>Premises.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update – SB reported that the Room 1 shutter had been repaired. A new toilet is to be installed in the Ladies' toilet as attempts to stem the leak had not been successful. Action still needs to be taken to de-clog the heaters in the wardrobe.</li> <li>• Insurance renewal. MGP and SB had met Kenny Robinson the broker to discuss the renewal. A desk top valuation is to be carried out. Andy Wright has very helpfully</li> </ul>

	<p>provided details of lights kept at the premises together with details of what extra lights are installed for major productions. This will have a significant bearing on the contents value to be insured. The renewal date is 2<sup>nd</sup> June next. MGP is to call a meeting for the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> May next for the trustees to consider fully the options available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening spruce up: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 10 a.m. MGP will lead the team. AL is to issue a chimp to attract new members to the gardening team.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AL asked whether there were plans for a barbeque this year. Currently, there are none.</li> <li>• It was agreed that AL could borrow the boat for a production of The Wind In The Willows in Doncaster.</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b></p>

Action log – Dewsbury Arts Group

22/25-56	Investigate the cost of providing an updated and efficient heating system in room 3	SB/IB	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2026	Evaluation is best deferred until the autumn.
29/25-26	Contact the appropriate department at Kirklees to remove DF/JF from their contact list	SB	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	
31/25-26	Convene a Premises Meeting to investigate wi fi options	SB	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2026	
32/25-26	Investigate the cost of providing an effective user friendly sound system in liaison with Simon Fletcher	MB and DF	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Report back to June meeting

## **Director's report - Suddenly at home**

We got off to an excellent start with a big turnout at auditions. and I was able to cast on the night.

Unfortunately, three cast members had to pull out prior to start of rehearsals. However, I was able to re-cast those roles immediately. Rehearsals ran very well with ample time on set.

I worked with a brilliant cast and each one gave an excellent performance in portraying their individual character.

We had a great opening on the Saturday matinee but unfortunately, around 25 minutes in on the Sunday, an audience member fell ill. This resulted in the show having to be stopped. Ultimately, the performance could not continue..

We opened again on the Tuesday and continued to have a brilliant show week.

Nick Cunliffe gave us a wonderful 1970's set; Jacky Fletcher made cushions and throws which added to the final touches to it. Maria Bailey, assisted by youth member Hannah produced period appropriate costumes.

Becky Ashwell did a good job in sorting props, Anne Sharpe and Carol Parkinson shared as prompts and Zahoor operated the lights.

Graham Forbes composed the incidental music which gave us the right atmosphere for what was to come. Then, due to serious illness, Graham was unable to continue with other effects or operate sound. Antonia Gospel picked both up and did a brilliant job, with Mark Bailey's support in transferring the sound effects over.

Sadly, Graham has since passed away.

There were just two nights show week Antonia was unavailable to operate and I struggled to find a volunteer to cover one of those performances. It was suggested by Malcolm that I contact Chris Hall. Chris wasn't a member but was very willing to support. He not only covered what was required but enjoyed working with the team and attended every performance except one.. So he and Antonia were there together most evenings, sharing the role.

My thanks go to all those in the team.

I note at the meeting on giving feedback re the Directors checklist it was raised that Directors should consider how the sound effects, once designed, were transferred to a system for operation. In my experience, the sound designer had always dealt with this. Should the committee think about this one, do we need to consider purchasing a laptop for this purpose? Perhaps we need to discuss at a future meeting as I'd like to be clear.

## DAG TICKET SALES – 2025/26 SEASON

(\* - extra capacity)

MAIN PRODUCTIONS	Seats Available	Total Tickets Taken	Total Sales £ <small>After TicketSource Costs inc sales on door</small>	Payment to Ticket Source £	% Take up	Total Season Tickets	Total General Admissions and Sponsors Tickets	Seats NOT Sold
DANGEROUS CORNER	651	509	<b>2278.35</b>	173.96	78%	327	182	142
ALADDIN	<b>930*</b>	867	<b>6259.39</b>	413.85	93%	241	Full – 327 Conc - 299	<b>63*</b>
KIND HEARTS & CORONETS	651	503	<b>2508.22</b>	199.98	77%	310	193	148
SUDDENLY AT HOME	<b>558</b> <small>One performance cancelled</small>	512	<b>2706.75</b>	182.96	87%	297	215	<b>46</b>
ACCOMMODATIONS	651	464	<b>1823.53</b>	125.55	71%	317	147	187
LUST	651	239	<b>523.93</b>			193	46	412

### 2024/2025 season for comparison

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

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	209	3324.77	233.85	25
YOUTH SHOWCASE	279	Full – 104 Conc - 50	1231.91		1 125