

Dewsbury Arts Group

(CIO Registered Charity Number 1161083)

Minutes of the meeting of the Charity Trustees held on Monday 8th June 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	Apologies for absence. These had been received from MB, MaB NC and SB
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 11 th May 2026 be passed as a true record. The action log was considered and updated. There were no matters arising.
3.	Correspondence and news. None.
4.	General Management . a. Season ticket and membership succession/treasurer. JF agreed to put her name forward for the combined position subject to support from MGP and others as necessary when it comes to following up those who have not renewed etc. b. Insurance renewal. Attached are the minutes from the meeting held on 26 th May 2026. c. Title position. Arising out of the preparation for the insurance renewal, MGP and CP had considered elements of the title. It is not straight forward being made up of several title numbers. MGP and CP will investigate further and report back to the next meeting. d. Newsletter content. • Brochure • Audition information regarding the pantomime and Gathered Leaves • Subs and season ticket reminders • Flyer for Bleak Expectations • Reminder that minutes can be found on the website. • Reminder to attend the AGM. • Reminder about recruitment for youth classes. e. AGM preparation. MGP confirmed that the last day for sending the notification of the AGM is 26 th June. He will send out everything as before and liaise with Emma as necessary.

5.	Art Section Update. ZS reported that numbers are low at the moment. He is exploring outreach into homes for the elderly. Additionally he is to liaise with Anya Firth at The Arcade Group.
6.	Finance Update. Virgin Money: £32,182.90 CAF Bank: £ 9,778.24 Total: £41,961.14 There are no outstanding bills.
7.	Youth Section Update – None. Youth Showcase. Matinee performance. It was resolved at the meeting on 26 th May to restore the matinee performance. It was agreed that the organisation of the youth classes be discussed at the next meeting.
8.	Drama Section - Accommodations: Director's Report. MB's report is attached. - Youth Showcase: Director's Report. MB's report is attached. - Lust: update. DF had nothing to report. - Ticket sales: DF presented the attached report. Cash sales for Lust were down on last year. However, there is an increasing trend for people to book later. - Treasure Island: auditions 14th July 2026. Panel: DF, JF, Alison Hartley. I. C: SS - Launch night: Report: DF reported that it went very well. Everyone who attended had a good time. There were seven people who attended who wanted to know more about the Group, including Chris from Halifax Playhouse. - Bleak Expectations The auditions had gone very well and everyone who attended was cast. The cast is as follows: Sir Philip - Stuart Marshall Pip Bin - Nick Bailey Poppy Bin/Ripely Fecund - Stacey Fleming Harry Biscuit/Parsimonius - Ed Rushfirth Thomas/Bakewell/Broadley Fecund - Matt Bailey Agnes/Flora - Alison Hartley Gently Benevolent - Iain Winstanley The Hardthrashers - Si Beaumont
9.	Premises. - Update – none save a reminder that an investigation of the corridor by the toilets will take place from 20th July. It is hoped that nothing too serious will be found. - There was a discussion about rats. The consensus of the meeting seemed to be that

	they are not a good thing to have.
10.	Any Other Business • It was RESOLVED to place a half page advert in Sarah Taylor's competition programme. DF is to liaise with MaB about adapting the advert for the Youth Theatre classes. • It was decided not to have a barbeque this year because of a shortage of time to do it properly and advertise it. It may be that people can come down for a drink on 12th July to see off the season. In the meantime thought could be given to resurrecting the September Social. • The volunteer chair of the LTG will be in the area around dinnertime on 3rd July. He would like to visit the theatre enroute to a meeting in Bingley. MGP is to contact him to suggest that he calls after the meeting and thus watch a performance of Lust that evening.
11.	Date of next meeting: Monday 13th July 2026

22/25-56	Investigate the cost of providing an updated and efficient heating system in room 3	SB/IB	31 st 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	30 th June 2026	Report back to September meeting
31/25-26	Convene a Premises Meeting to investigate wi fi options	SB	1 st September 2026	Report back to September meeting
32/25-26	Investigate the cost of providing an effective user friendly sound system in liaison with Simon Fletcher	MB and DF	1 st September 2026	Report back to September meeting

DAG TICKET SALES – 2025/26 SEASON

(* - extra capacity)

MAIN PRODUCTIONS	Seats Available	Total Tickets Taken	Total Sales £ After TicketSource Costs Inc sales on door	Payment to Ticket Source £	% Take up	Total Season Tickets	Total General Admissions and Sponsors Tickets	Seats NOT Sold
ALADDIN	930*	867	6259.39	413.85	93%	241	Full – 327 Conc - 299	63*
DANGEROUS CORNER	651	509	2278.35	173.96	78%	327	182	142
KIND HEARTS & CORONETS	651	503	2508.22	199.98	77%	310	193	148
SUDDENLY AT HOME	558 One performance cancelled	512	2706.75	182.96	87%	297	215	46
ACCOMMODATIONS	651	464	1823.53	125.55	71%	317	147	187
LUST	651	317	953.12			238	79	334

2024/2025 season for comparison

MAIN PRODUCTIONS	Seats Available	Total Tickets Taken	Total Sales £ After TicketSource Costs Inc sales on door	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 £ After TicketSource Costs	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 – 150 Conc - 60	1717.84	148.16	69

It's been really enjoyable to direct Accommodations and a double pleasure that so many audience members enjoyed the performance of our young cast and many commenting on the refreshing nature of the play (albeit some of the themes being firmly grounded in the time!) and especially with new faces on stage. The play is really well written and so a lot of the humour is laid out for you already – you simply need to follow the page although the actors need to look for the depth and nuance to make that humour believable and they did that superbly. We did have a lot of fun rehearsing though and my cast worked very hard – especially as we reversed the table and sofa after the Easter break – they were unfazed and uncomplaining and for that I am really grateful.

It is always good to welcome new people on stage and our two new actors slotted in very well. Sonny Heald of course has run technical sound and lights for us before but on stage he was good to work with and demonstrated an excellent sense of timing. Olivia Hunt as Lee worked hard on the character and had some great moments where she found a lot of emotional depth. Antonia Gospel of course delivered an accomplished, madcap whirlwind of a performance and has really developed into a cracking actress over the last few years. Our final cast member was Louis Sewell-Hampton, fresh from fatherhood and his experience was a real grounding for the other younger cast members.

No play is complete without a supporting team and I had terrific support from everyone. Nick Cunliffe and I discussed how we might cannibalise the previous set and I left him getting a lot of the baseline down whilst in Canada and then we worked together to pull it together, creating a grotty single room apartment and the idea to brickline the back wall using the steps to suggest a fire escape added real depth outside. As usual Andy Wright lit it brilliantly and Matt Bailey did a great job of getting together and running with 'not very many props' as well as working with Nick to turn around a significant scene change in less than 2 minutes.

Anne Sharp was a supportive and considerate prompt (as always) and Maria Bailey did a great job finding costumes that the cast felt comfortable in (especially Olivia in her first role for us) and at the same time reflected the early 70s. She also ensured that Pat's sequence of ridiculous stage costumes were flamboyant and ridiculous. She was assisted by Hannah Elder one of our youth members who was interested in getting involved in costumes and backstage – it's really good to bring new people into these roles. Kerrie Knowles (another ex-youth member) ran sound and lights for the run and did an excellent job.

I was also grateful to Andrew Leverton who came down on Bank Holiday Monday to help the backstage team to get out the set. All in all a successful production and well received by the audiences.

YPDR This year's youth Showcase was a little bit like Tale of Two Cities in that we had a two sides to the story.

It was the best of times – there were a lot of things to be pleased about – firstly the support during classes from a wider group of people including Lacey Telford, matt Bailey and tow ex youth Nathan Mcallister and Kerrie Knowles was very welcome. In addition the usual support from maria bailey in organising all the comms, dates and being an absolute legend with the parents as well as sorting chaperones and safeguarding stuff for the Showcase. Added to this she did a terrific job costuming both plays so we are very grateful for this.

We selected plays and got into rehearsals quite quickly in the new year which was also a plus. Our first and Second years were a really committed group. They can be a bit giddy and challenging at times but we couldn't fault their effort and application and that showed in the final week where they delivered very mature performances demonstrating real thought and nuance in developing characterisations to bring the piece to life. Well done to all of them – it was difficult to single out any of them they were all so good.

Our senior group also delivered on the night, keeping the pace (maybe a little quickly at times) and with some good characters too. This was a trickier piece than most have tackled before with it being serious and for the most part they handled it well. Special mention to Jenni, Purdey and Jacob for their performance of the more emotional and difficult elements of the play (especially the silent opening 3 minutes which was terrific).

However it was also the worst of times and in this case, again our senior group found it hard to apply themselves during rehearsals. It really has been a slog to try and keep them focused and committed and whilst it came good(ish) in the final week it really needed a lot more to give the atmosphere and attack we were looking for. The lack of effort is what is most frustrating when you can see they are capable of more and when it impacts others in the group. That's not to say everyone was the same – some of our cast worked really hard throughout rehearsals and are to be commended but we're considering our approach to Friday nights – whether they are tired in the evening after school or maybe we need to bring the age limit down.

The only other general downside was the low numbers of new first years (one of the reasons we only did one play from Saturday) but our thinking about the future structure will depend on numbers next year as well.

Overall though, more best of times than worst and our audiences were well entertained and we have had numerous comments on how good the young performers were. A general success for the group I think.