

Dewsbury Arts Group

(CIO Registered Charity Number 1161083)

Minutes of the meeting of the Charity Trustees held on Monday 13th July 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 SB
2.	Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, review of action log and matters arising. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 th June 2026 were passed as a true and accurate record. The Action Log was considered.
3.	Correspondence and news - Valuation office: completion of questionnaire. MGP completed the questionnaire as soon as it arrived. He confirmed that the premises remained in the Group's ownership and that there were no leases or sub-lets. - LTG visit. The presidency has been rotated and so the new president is touring the country. He and a couple of other LTG officials visited on 3rd July. They had a meeting in Bingley in the evening and so could not come to see the evening performance of Lust. MGP and MB met them and gave them a tour of the premises and had a general chat. They were very impressed. - The Group has been invited to attend a reception to be held by the ward councillors at Dewsbury Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 6.30. MGP will attend. - The Group has received a final notification from T.V. Licensing in relation to renewal of the licence. JF is to make immediate arrangements to ensure that the fee is paid.
4.	General Management. a. AGM preparation. Because the World Cup Semi Final between England and Argentina clashes directly with the AGM, concern was expressed about whether the meeting would be quorate. To be so, twenty members must attend being 20% of the membership. MGP outlined the relevant provisions of the constitution: - As notice has been given it is not possible to bring forward the time of the meeting. - An AGM must be held within two calendar months of 31st May. - If the AGM has to be adjourned seven clear days' notice has to be given. Therefore 30th July 2026 would be the optimum date to comply with the

	constitution. The quorum for the adjourned AGM would be whoever turns up. MGP reported that nominations had been received for all officers and for two out of three general members. Nominations could be taken from the floor. If none are forthcoming the new committee could coopt a general member for twelve months. Andrew Leverton was thanked for his contribution to the committee. b. Cleaner: pay review and dates. SS had circulated dates previously; these were agreed. It was RESOLVED that the cleaner be paid £42 for each three hour session..
5.	Art Section Update. ZS reported that life drawing sessions continue. There will, however, be a six weeks break over the summer. Classes should resume in September. There are no plans for any exhibitions.
6.	Finance Update. No figures had been provided.
7.	Youth Section Update. MaB reported that five first years had signed up already which is an increase on last year. Efforts are being made to increase the number further. Along with Kerry Knowles MaB had carried out a leaflet drop in two town centre car parks over the previous weekend. Leaflets are also being delivered to local schools for circulation to Year 7 students. It has been decided that from September all classes will take place on Saturday. Too often people have turned up on a Friday evening too jaded to make classes effective. It is felt that Saturday morning classes will be much more effective and enjoyable for everyone.
8.	Drama Section a. Lust: Director's Report. DF presented the attached report. It was RESOLVED that in recognition of his considerable contribution to the success of the production that MB write to Chris Hall with the offer of a year's free membership. b. Ticket sales: DF presented the attached report. The take up of tickets by season ticket holders is down considerably compared to last year. However, the total of general admissions is up.
9.	Premises. • The work to the floor outside the toilets will start on 20th July. This will not effect any adjourned AGM as entrance to the theatre could be by the front door and there are toilets upstairs.
10.	Any Other Business • JF reported that Chris Fletcher recommends that the Group leave the website with

	the current domain provider. He had thought the Group would need to pay more as he is no longer using the domain for other groups. However, he discovered that he'd been paying £115 a year for services that the Group does not need. The upshot is that the cost to the Group would be around £150 which he considers to be a competitive rate. He is willing to look into having an application and payment facility for Season Tickets and Membership on the website. However this would incur a cost in commission paid to TicketSource. He is also to look into how the archive could be stored in a better way. • DF reported that the black drum for the printer needs to be replaced at a cost in the region of £150. • IW reported that he is organising at his place of work a charity event in the autumn. Among other things there could be a murder mystery which could involve Group members. He would like to recognise the Group's contribution by using the Group's logo in promoting the event.
11.	Date of next meeting: Monday 10th August 2026 The new committee will set dates for future meeting. The usual pattern of every second Monday of the month will be followed with adjustments in the event of clashes with productions etc.

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 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
32/25-26	Write to Chris Hall with offer of a membership	MB	31 st July 2026	

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
DANGEROUS CORNER	651	509	2278.35	173.96	78%	327	182	142
ALADDIN	930	867	6259.39	413.85	93%	241	Full – 327 Conc - 299	63
KIND HEARTS & CORONETS	651	503	2508.22	199.98	77%	310	193	148
SUDDENLY AT HOME	651	512	2706.75	182.96	79%	297	215	46
ACCOMMODATIONS	651	464	1823.53	125.55	71%	317	147	187
LUST	651	514	2706.34	205.66	79%	298	216	137
	4185	3369	18282.58	1301.96	81%	1790	1579	723

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

DIRECTORS REPORT

What a week that was. Lust received the biggest positive response from the audience for any of the thirty odd musicals I have directed for DAG. A large number of complementary comments were made on the group's Facebook page, our Help Line and numerous emails to me personally. As with most of our recent productions bookings were late coming in but in the end Lust equalled the rest of the season although bookings were down in comparison with past musicals.

I was able to fill the large cast mainly from auditionees but it was necessary to go outside the group for the part of Squeamish. However I was fortunate in obtaining the services of Rachel Warlop for the part, and what a great addition she was to the cast giving an excellent performance as Squeamish and adding greatly to the harmonised company numbers. Stuart Marshall was originally cast in the part of Sir Jasper but he had to give the part up due to family problems. Fortunately, despite him having several misgivings, I was able to persuade our erstwhile secretary, Malcolm Parkinson, to play the part and he did so with great aplomb and comedy timing. I was also very pleased to have several 'Parkinsonisms' introduced into the production! It was great to see him back again playing a principal part in a DAG production. As for Stuart, he eventually found that he was available for the run of the show and joined us as chief curtain puller.

It was great to see two of our regular main principals playing supporting roles, Chris Fletcher as Harcourt and Hugh Raine as Sparkish. Chris Etty was also a welcome addition to the cast in the part of Rudge. A member of our Junior Classes, Edward Rishforth, joined the cast playing several small parts including a Domo, a Parson and getting hung as Captain Jack. Whilst not his first part in a Main House production Edward is a great addition to the group.

Jacky Fletcher was an excellent Lady Fidget and the sight of her pulling down Richard Brook's pants will remain in mine and, I think, many of the audience member's memories for some time to come. Along with Jacky, Maria Bailey and Rachell Warlop in the parts Dainty and Squamish, made up an excellent trio of oversexed wives and their singing of "Ladies of Quality" was superb. Maria had lots of misgivings about much of the part singing she was required to do but it all came together in the end, well done.

Mark Bailey as Pinchwife was suitably obsequious and this part showed what an excellent and versatile actor Mark is. And his singing voice isn't too bad either!!

Caitlin Moss and Nick Bailey were a super duo. Their singing was spot on and their side glances showing their under cover love for each other appealed well to the audience. Caitlin has come up through the Youth Classes, then in the Group's Pantomime and this season appearing as a main part in two main productions. I look forward to seeing her in many more.

Alison Hartley and Eleanor Bowler played several small parts but excelled as Wenches. Particular thanks to Alison for helping me set one of the dance numbers as my legs go in different directions these days.

Now I come to the three main players.

Matthew Bailey was ideally cast in the part of Quack and played it with great aplomb. His diction and his rapport with the audience was spot on.

Sophie O'Leary excelled in the part of Margery. What a superb actor and singer Sophie has become. Like Caitlin, Sophie has come up through the Juniors, then Pantomime, and is now playing main principal roles both in plays and musicals. Lets hope that Sophie stays with the group for a long time to come.

The main part of Horner was a triumph for Richard Brook. Although he has previously played several leading parts in DAG musicals the quality of his singing in Lust was the best ever. His acting and singing of this very difficult and extra large part was superb. Up to now it has NOT been possible to include the word actor behind Richard's name in case he is confused with another member, His name can now be changed to "Richard Brook 'the actor and singer'".

Well that's all as far as the cast is concerned. But what about the people who made all this happen.

Lighting was in the hands of Andy Wright who, as usual, did a great job although his time with us was somewhat restricted due to his commitment to the open air theatre at Scarborough. The Lighting was operated with great efficiency by Zahoor Sakharkar

Properties were in the usual accomplished hands of Beccy Ashwell.

Si Beaumont was a very efficient and accurate stage manager, and he had the help of the very quite voiced Stacey Flemming, which reminds me to thank Andrew Leverton for making our very popular phalluses.

Carol Parkinson did the majority of the prompting with the odd help of Sue Saville and as usual had little to say. Thanks to Andrew Leverton for a one night stand during rehearsals! (prompting that is!!)

A special mention must be made of Chris Hall who operated all the sound and music cues together with the radio mics. Chris made the operation of about 100 sound cues and 40 mic cues seem easy - it certainly isn't. Doing these jobs in a musical requires complete concentration for the whole of the show and is certainly the most difficult of all the technical jobs, one missed sound cue can ruin a whole song, but Chris never faulted throughout the run. He is very much involved with other groups but he has agreed to do sound for the Pantomime.

And lastly, and very importantly, thanks to Jacky Fletcher for producing a superb set of costumes, most of which were altered up from costumes already in the DAG wardrobe. This all added up to hours and hours of machine sewing and hand stitching. Also many thanks to Jacky for the extensive support she has given to me throughout the whole process of putting Lust on stage. I hope I haven't missed anyone out of this report but if I have I apologise.

The whole event for me has been a pleasure and I now look forward to next year's musical which promises to be one of the greatest challenges DAG has undertaken.

David Fletcher

13 July 2026