

## The Learned Ladies

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October, the Theatre Group went to the Dixon Theatre to see the Learned Ladies, a play by the 17<sup>th</sup> century playwright Jean Baptiste Poquelin, but well known by his stage name , Moliere.

A satirical comedy set in the 17<sup>th</sup> century that deals with the education of women. The story revolves around a wealthy aristocratic family. Their mother encourages her four daughters to study literature and to only associate with eligible young men who are writers and poets.

One of the daughters is in love with a young man who is not interested in literature. The girl's mother is against the marriage, her father is fed up with the way the house is run and even the servants are made to study; on his wife's insistence. He complains that the household tasks are suffering because the servants do not have time to carry them out properly. He is happy for his daughter to marry the man of her choice.

The parents disagree about who their daughter will marry and eventually the girl is saved by an idea thought of by her Aunt.

This idea brings the play to a satisfactory conclusion.

The play was performed by the Southend Shakespeare Company who all gave a fine performance.

Afterwards, the Group went over the road to the Italian restaurant for dinner.

Marilyn Selnar