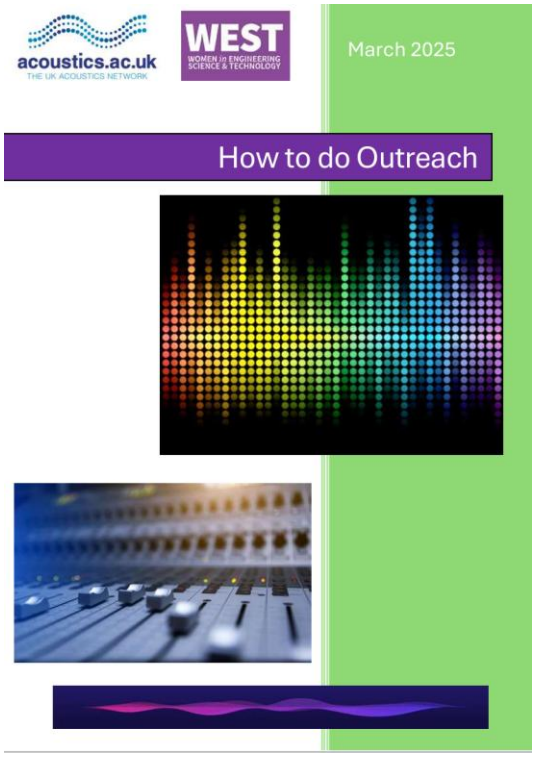
Annual Report 2025

Introduction

There is a clear and longstanding under-representation of girls and women in engineering, science and technology subjects and careers. There is an even greater under-representation of girls and women in non-traditional trades. WEST have run a bursary scheme for more than 11 years which aims to offer a little support and encouragement to girls and women who face financial hardship or other challenges near the start of their study or career. Funding for our bursaries comes from donations or fundraising events. (Bursaries are available in spring for girls and women in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire).

Girls do not easily aspire to engineering subjects and non-traditional trades They often need to receive encouragement that they can achieve in these subjects and that they are welcome by their teachers and hopefully, family. Over the last 11 years we have developed high-quality resources for use in schools and colleges that are trusted and creative. We deliver outreach to primary and secondary schools in our region, with the help of our female role models. Our funding for this work comes from grant applications, donations and being commissioned (based on our track record).





Acoustics Project

Continuing our work with UKAN from 2024 (UK Acoustics Network) we were asked to develop a range of resources to promote Acoustic Careers in schools (See Annual Report for 2024). We obtained additional funding in 2025 to run a Webinar and a guide to share what we have learned from the project. We also received funds to recruit professional women to design and produce videos & posters of women working in a range of careers based in acoustics for schools and colleges (see www.westskills.org.uk).

WEST Bursaries

We raised sufficient funds to provide 32 small bursaries of £150 each in support of girls and women working and studying in non-traditional trades from Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Colleges. Subjects covered at Level 1, 2 and 3 included BTech Carpentry & Joinery; plumbing and electrical, multi-construction skills, bricklaying, motor vehicle maintenance and repair, automotive and engineering. There were also new qualifications to award for this year - T levels in Computer Studies, Plumbing, Design with Surveying and Planning, Civil Engineering and one in Gaming.

WE now have a positive breadth of colleges and lecturers that promote our bursaries to their women students. These colleges are making good progress in attracting and supporting girls and women into non-traditional trades. The responses were encouraging and we are hopeful that widening access continues and widens across the region.

Gwenda's Garage

In 2025 Ros Wollen a trustee of WEST was approached as to whether a historical play could be written about the garage for which she was a founder member in the 80s. She agreed that this should include contributions from other women who were involved in non-traditional trades in the that period. The play was performed as a musical in October 2025. The musical depicted the political events and struggles that were going on for women in the 80s along with the significant challenges that it was for women to train in a non-traditional trade. The musical was performed by 5 women and was staged in Sheffield Crucible theatre for 2 weeks and then moved to London - at Southwark Playhouse for 5 weeks. The play received lots of high reviews and was sold out at over 35 performances. We ran a WEST stall at Sheffield Crucible Theatre to show some photos from the 80s of the women and the real garage. We were able to illustrate the work of WEST and how the need for non-traditional courses and training remains a priority for girls and women.





Other Events and News

We are very pleased to have a new Trustee – Alice Roberts – who joined us as a volunteer in 2024. Alice is a Computing Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University. She brings her expertise to WEST in another STEM subject that struggles to attract women. (See our website for all our Trustee profiles).

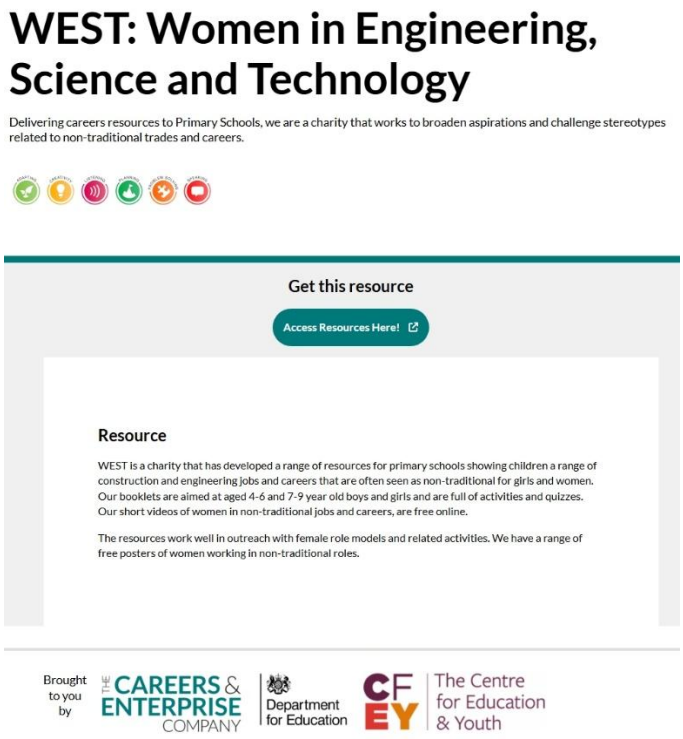
Every year the WEST Trustees try to find time to take a day out to review what we have done and to discuss new ideas and projects. Current numbers of girls and women in non-traditional subjects and careers are no better and some worse than when we were working on big projects in the early 2000s. The statistics back up our challenge: Women on tools 2%; 3% of women see Tech as a first-choice career; engineering figures have dropped from

16.5% in 2022 to 15.7% in 2023. many ideas have been discussed and fine-tuned. We hope to take new projects forward when funding can be obtained.

WEST trustees visited an inspiring Women in Construction Trades Course (L1) being run by West Notts College and in Mansfield. The multi trades course is very similar to the courses run 20 years ago in Sheffield that opened a career in construction trades to many women as well as projects such as Gwenda's Garage.

WEST trustees are working towards running similar schemes on a range of construction, computer and engineering courses, subject to funding availability in the Sheffield region in 2026/27.

WEST was invited to have a stall at a Careers Enrichment Conference (26th November 2025) run by Sheffield City Council. The event was aimed at Primary Schools across Sheffield and was entitled 'See it be it' - a guide to career enrichment support in Sheffield. The event was popular with many primary schools and WEST were invited to be included in the National Primary Platform of Resources (screen shot below).



We are grateful to all our donors that have helped in the past and those who continue to help WEST in their mission to widen access for girls and women to subjects and careers in non-traditional subjects.

Agreed by WEST Trustees

Dr Pat Morton	Chair of Trustees
Dr Ros Wollen	Trustee
Saj Parveen	Trustee
Anna Childs	Trustee
Alice Arnold	Trustee

Annual Report 2025 for Charity Commission Submission September 2026

www.westskills.org.uk

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
WEST	1152219

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1.1.2025		31.12.2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
GRANTS	12,154	-	-	12,154	6,345
INTEREST ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	223	-	-	223	232
FUNDRAISING / DONATIONS	842	-	-	842	10,308
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	13,219	-	-	13,219	16,885
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	13,219	-	-	13,219	16,885
A3 Payments					
INSURANCE	361	-	-	361	325
BURSARIES	4,250	-	-	4,250	3,300
INTERNET AND WEBSITE	1,233	-	-	1,233	554
CATERING	-	-	-	-	-
PRINTING/ PHOTO	9,510	-	-	9,510	925
CONSULTANTS OUTREACH	1,275	-	-	1,275	5,930
CONSULTANTS FILM	2,100	-	-	2,100	-
TRAVEL & EXPENSES	32	-	-	32	24
	-	-	-		-
Sub total	18,761	-	-	18,761	11,058
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,761	-	-	18,761	11,058
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,542	-	-	- 5,542	5,827
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 5,542	-	-	- 5,542	5,827

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	CURRENT ACCOUNT	10,215	-	-
	SAVINGS ACCOUNT	9,425	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	19,640	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
P Morton	P Morton	13 9 2026
R Wollen	R Wollen	13 9 2026