QUEER TANGO LONDON

REGISTERED CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION 1201560

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

QUEER TANGO LONDON

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YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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QUEER TANGO LONDON

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity Number: 1201560

Trustees:

Ray Batchelor: Chair

Margaret Trotter: Treasurer

Tom Cottle

Claudio Tedesco

Gawaine Preston

Samantha Marcus

Gordon Pullenger

Registered Office

205 Well Street
London. E9 6QU

Email: contact@queertangolondon.org

Dance Venues:

Bishopsgate Institute
230 Bishopsgate
Dalston Lane
London EC2 4QH

Dragon Hall, London

WC2B 5LT

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank PLC
19/20 Upper Street
London N1 0PJ

CHAIR'S REPORT 2025

QUEER Tango LONDON

Queer Tango London (QTL) spent 2025 delivering its customary programme of queer tango classes (class[es] + dancing = a "milonga") at the Bishopsgate Institute, form closer links with community tango organisation Tango E14, and remain part of the wider London, international tango and queer tango communities. We were obliged to adapt to changing circumstances with fewer invitations to deliver queer tango workshops, but with queer wheelchair tango dancer Aidan Bizony, we launched our innovative "Able to Tango?" project. With a queer tango festival planned for 2026, a programme of development work was undertaken throughout the year.

QTL milongas at the Bishopsgate Institute

For most of the year, on the first and third Friday of each month we held 22 popular QTL Milongas in the Upper Hall at the Bishopsgate Institute. These included two integrated 6-session Absolute Beginners Courses delivered by the QTL Teaching Team (Ray Batchelor, Gawaine Preston, Margaret Trotter, Samanatha Marcus, Claudio Tedesco) one starting in January, and one in September.



Guest teachers featured from time to time, but with most joining us from Easter onwards – largely a function of well-established patterns of annual travel among this international community.

Figure 1 Gordon Pullenger at the QTL Welcome Desk

QTL is fortunate to have two accomplished DJs: Argentinian, Claudio Tedesco who is a connoisseur of the ever-popular traditional tango repertoire, while Tom Cottle attracts many fans with his imaginative offering of alternative musical choices mixed in with more familiar material of the highest quality. Subject to availability, Claudio and Tom support alternate QTL milongas. Exceptionally at one in December 2025, neither was available and we were able to engage Amanda Tdj, a popular London tango DJ and a familiar figure on the dancefloor with Wendy Mszyca, her dance partner and partner in life.

As usual we took a break from our Bishopsgate commitments over the summer. There are now international queer tango events scattered throughout the year as the Queer Tango Project's Annual Calendar for 2025 shows (https://queertangobook.org/calendar/) However, this break reflects a falling off in attendance as our dancers take summer vacations, as well as providing an opportunities for the QTL Team to attend those international queer tango festivals and marathons more of which happen in the summer. While taking part in these is thoroughly enjoyable, they also enable the QTL Team to network, to keep abreast of the latest thinking within the international queer tango community.

Co-operation with Dual-Role Totally in Tango

In November 2025, when dual role tango marathon organisers Totally in Tango (TiT) ran an event over a weekend in London, they were let down by their Friday venue. We were delighted to step in and offer them the Bishopsgate Institute, welcome TiT dual role dancers onto our dancefloor, and have joint TiT organiser, Julija Zaiceva DJ for half the evening. It was a great success.

Guest teachers.
QTL engaged ten distinguished guest teachers onto our dance floor. The purpose of inviting Guest Teachers is to give our QTL dancers a range of dance experiences different to and beyond the range which we ourselves can deliver.

Guest Teachers in 2025 were:

- **Otar Bagaturia, Mikhial Kampinsky and Raquel Greenberg** – New to QTL, Otar and Mikhail, formerly queer tango teachers in St Petersburg are now based in Tel Aviv, Israel. They were joined by long-established, London-based tango teacher, Raquel Greenberg.

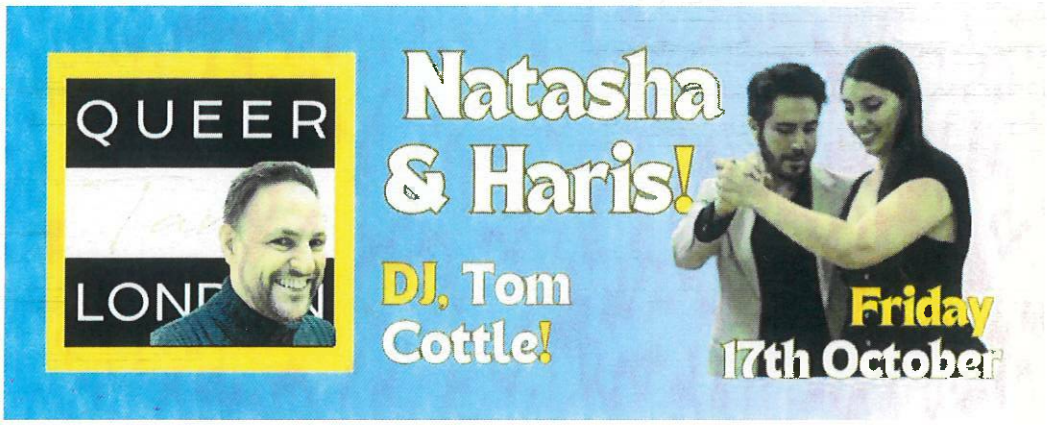


Figure 2 Facebook banner for guest teachers Natasha Lewinger & Haris Mihail

- **Natasha Lewinger & Haris Mihail** – QTL "regulars", widely respected, talented young tango teachers, who are wholly in tune with the QTL "queer spirit", and – reflecting a trend among many young dancers in Argentina and Uruguay these days – both perfectly comfortable in both leader and follower roles which they exploited in their classes for us.

- **Monica Romero & Omar Ocampo**, aka "Los Ocampo" – part of an Argentinian aristocracy of tango dancers who have danced and taught together for decades. They are ever popular with QTL dancers. Unusually for their generation, Monica and Omar have a deep-seated compassion which has led them quite naturally to an open, friendly, queer sensibility – Monica leads, Omar follows, and they use up-to date language for the roles of this dance.

- **Gaston Enrique Olguin & Manuco Firmani** – returning by popular demand, Gaston Enrique Olguin has a deep knowledge of the biomechanics of the human body and has creatively incorporated it into his teaching. With fellow queer teacher, Manuco Firmani, also from Buenos Aires, we enjoyed their expertise.

- **Al Shnit** – a familiar and popular figure on the international queer tango festival and marathon circuit, Al is a talented queer tango dancer and teacher of Ukrainian descent who is based just outside Tel Aviv in Israel.

Regular QTL Newsletters and social media posts

Building on earlier practices designed to keep us in touch with our dancers [and we hope, attract new ones], QTL maintained a steady flow of posts on social media regular digital newsletters alerting readers both to QTL activities as well as other tango events sympathetic to our aspirations, such as the community-minded Tango E14 and the programme of Prácticas run by the well-known queer tango figure, Adriana Pegorer.

Closer ties to Tango E14

Successfully run for many years by queer tango dancer, Tony Lane and his dance partner and collaborator, Anita Van de Watering, Tango E14 is unusual in terms of London tango in that it supports a very strong tango community. Apart from QTL dancers dancing there and feeling welcome and comfortable, some QTL Trustees were invited to deliver queer tango lessons. Apart from fostering closer links, it was gratifying to see Tango E14 dancers come to QTL events.

Let's Dance! 2025

QTL were happy to be invited to contribute three absolute beginners' workshops to the Bishopsgate Institute's programme of partner dance contributions to the UK-wide *Let's Dance* on Saturday, 1st March. The whole event was a great success and our work was appreciated.

Walk in, Dance Out

Keen to capitalise on that success, the Bishopsgate Institute created its own free-standing event along similar lines, *Walk in, Dance Out* on October 25th, to which we also contributed.

Though smaller in scale, it went well, and our contribution proved especially popular. Among the accumulated and circulated feedback remarks we were gratified to read:

> I'm hooked and can't wait to do more Argentine Tango (the highlight of the day was that lesson for me. ***Ray was SUPERB!***) (emphasis added)

Collapse of demand for Queer Tango Workshops

In 2024 as in previous years, we had – without canvassing – been approached by a range of public and private organisations to deliver Queer Tango Workshops or allied presentations according to their needs. They were invariably appreciated. These have been a consistent feature of QTL's activities for many years, enabling those organisations' staff to celebrate queer identities consistent with their employer's inclusivity and diversity policies and cultures, and otherwise take advantage of some enjoyable staff development.

As noted in the Chair's QTL Annual Report for 2024, in that election year, for the first time ever QTL was subject to attack in the national press, with such workshops cited both as ridiculous and unwarranted drains on the public purse.

Inclusivity and diversity became – and has remained – a hot political topic.

In 2025, no one approached us for workshops. We attribute this development to the social and political "chill" surrounding inclusivity and diversity activities. Bluntly, organisations became afraid of attracting such publicity and developed cold feet.

It has had two consequences for QTL: the first was that, unlike in other years where income from such activities had meant we had an operational surplus, we made a loss in 2025; and perhaps the more significant effect was that we were unable to stimulate debate among the people we might otherwise have encountered, nor reinforced the identities of LGBTQ personnel.

The QTL Trustees reflected on this lamentable state of affairs, recognised it as a reality, but came up with no immediate remedy. It was

agreed QTL ought closely to monitor such changes and see how it ought to manage such activities in future.

"Able to tango?"

In September 2024, Aidan Bizony came to a QTL Milonga. Aidan is a queer wheelchair user.

Aidan had had brief experiences when younger of ballroom and latin dancing where the focus was very much on competitions and performances, and where he invariably ended up more or less passively following able-bodied leaders who wheeled him artfully around. After a while he tired of that and gave it up.

By contrast, from the first Aidan loved how at QTL, he was encouraged to do everything any other queer tango dancer might do, such as taking part in classes, dancing with many different partners, following AND leading (not mention swapping roles during the dance *intercambio*). Working closely with QTL Chair and queer tango dancer, Ray Batchelor, in February 2025, he initiated the QTL research project "Able to Tango?"



Figure 3 Aidan Bizony, co-leader of the QTL "Able to Tango?" project and QTL regular, Jennie Lindon.



It is an open-ended project with the aims of raising the profile of queer tango wheelchair using dancers and their partners, and the objectives of encouraging:

- More wheelchair users onto dancefloors **as a matter of course** –and not just for one-off events
- More [queer] tango dancers to dance [queer] tango with wheelchair users
- Both to overcome any fears they have about doing just that

These are promoted by Aidan joining QTL classes and milongas, as well as going out to dance at some mainstream London milongas such as "Light", "Tango Terra" and occasional outdoor events. At these, not only do people see Aidan and those dancing with him, they can also become one of his dance partners.

A further effect is created by posting photos and videos of this dancing on social media.

At Tango Terra on Thursday 27th March, 2025, Aidan was joined – by accident – by Diana McGillivray, a wheelchair user who had long wanted to tango who was visiting London from New Zealand. Diana and Aidan danced with others including Ray, and then danced with each other.

Diana said:

> Tonight has been my first positive tango experience. Usually people just look, think 'she's in a wheelchair' – and don't ask. Tonight, they asked. I've had a great time!

QTL believes Diana and Aidan became the first EVER tango dancing couple who are also wheelchair users to dance a social tango at a "normal" London tango venue. As we said in a social media post at the time, we thought they had taken "The first steps in another aspect of QTL's campaign of DANCING TO CHANGE THE WORLD!"

Discussion Paper: "How do we increase the number of people coming to QTL?"

In October, as Chair, Ray Batchelor circulated an opinion piece intended to kick start discussion among QTL Trustees about how we might adapt to changing circumstances.

He wrote:

> We have agreed among ourselves for some time that, agreeable as QTL milongas remain, numbers are falling steadily, and retention rates seem low.
>
> As circumstances have radically changed since we re-started QTL after Lockdown in October 2022, it seemed to me that this is an opportunity for a wholesale re-evaluation of what QTL is for, now, in this changed context.

In fact, these discussions had barely begun before issues connected with our failing to deliver enough income to the Bishopsgate Institute jeopardised our dancing there at all – events which belong more properly to the 2026 QTL Annual report.

Development of our "Queer Tango IN London" festival

Under the leadership of QTL Trustee, Margaret Trotter, a great deal of development work was undertaken to move forwards our planned 2026 queer tango festival "Queer Tango IN London". This included:

- detailed negotiations with the venue, Bishopsgate Institute and drafting a signing a contract to secure it
- drafting a programme of publicity materials with QTL Trustee, Tom Cottle
- engaging in or supervising sustained correspondence with guest teachers, DJs and others who were invited to contribute or contribute to workshops and discussion groups
- developing the International Queer Tango Dance Umbrella with Arno Plass from Vienna and Manu Sanz from Valencia
- developing with QTL Trustee Claudio Tedesco and QTL dancer Sue Marlow a "City Walk"
- organising arrangements for information about accommodation in London

- organising with QTL Trustee Gawaine Preston a traditional "pub lunch" for the festival guests
- negotiating with suppliers of tango clothing and footwear

Conclusion

2025 was a year not without its challenges for QTL, but we are pleased that, in a variety of ways, we have kept queer tango available to those who want to dance it in London, brought queer tango to the London tango scene and been part of the international queer tango community, as well as – at a time when such things are under attack – developing with "Able to Tango?" an innovative approach to furthering the objectives of inclusivity & diversity. It was also the year where we did the hard work towards our international festival, work which – as will be seen in a subsequent report – really paid off.



Figure 4 QTL trustees, Ray Batchelor, Margaret Trotter, Tom Cottle and Smanatha Marcus at the QTL Christmas Party, December 2025

Ray Batchelor

Dr Ray Batchelor
Chair, Queer Tango London
18th October 2026

QUEER TANGO LONDON

TRUSTEES REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Queer Tango London is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity commission on 12 January 2023, registration number 1201560.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was constituted as a small charity on 4th September 2017 and registered with HMRC. As the charity grew the Trustees adopted a new constitution and applied to the Charity Commission to become a CIO and were registered on 12 January 2023. The constitution is a Foundation Model and with the following 7 Trustees in office:-

TRUSTEES
Ray Batchelor: Chair
Margaret Trotter: Treasurer
Tom Cottle
Claudio Tedesco
Gawaine Preston
Samantha Marcus
Gordon Pullenger

The Trustees may appoint up to 3 more Trustees to join the board, who will hold office for 3 years. Trustees carry out the management and operations of the charity in a voluntary capacity as there are no paid staff. Trustees do teach and perform at Queer Tango events and are eligible to be paid on similar terms as non-board members, however no Trustees were paid for their work. Trustees meet regularly to organise events and hold an AGM every year.

Results for the year 2025
The charity raised income of £ 11,528 (2024: £14,401) 20% lower than the previous year. Expenditure was £13,136 (2024: £13,138) similar to last year resulting in a deficit of £1608 (2024: Surplus £1,263). Costs and activity remained constant but income generation was £2,873 lower than last year. We ran fewer external events so raised less partnership income. Trustees used reserves to continue to support international queer tango artists to perform in the UK.
At 31 December 2025 the unrestricted reserves of the charity were £9,431.

Objectives

For public benefit to promote and foster the understanding, and appreciation of queer tango and the values of equality, diversity and inclusivity associated with it. To advance education and learning in queer tango, in particular but not exclusively, by providing queer tango dance events, classes, demonstrations, performances, talks, lectures, exhibitions, publications, and collaborative projects. To further such other purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and as the trustees see fit from time to time.

Achievements and Performance

Queer Tango London practices queer tango, that is authentic Argentinian tango - the couple dance which emerged from Argentina and Uruguay in the late 19th and early 20th centuries - but danced without regard for the conventional male/female allocation of leader and follower roles according to gender. Queer tango emerged out of and supports the LGBTQ community, but it can be and is danced by anyone sympathetic to its aspirations. The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Events
Through our partnership with Bishopsgate Institute, QTL hosted 24 milongas and participated in 2 all-forms dance all-dayers.

We engaged queer teacher/performers who also run international Queer Tango Festivals around the world. Our dancers meet the artists, and get to know about these important events, a growing phenomenon. The artists taught two classes at each event, at beginners and intermediate levels. Artists included Los Ocampo, Natasha Lewinger and Haris Mihail, Gaston Olguin and Manuco Firmani, all from Argentina and Uruguay; Manu Sanz from Spain; Astrid Weiske from Germany; Alex Snhitt from Israel and Otar Bagaturia formerly from Russia and now also from Israel. We collaborated with Totally in Tango, dual role event organisers from Brussels to host a milonga as part of their first London festival and welcomed their European dual role dancers to our extended late night milonga.

We support performers to perform professionally in the UK with fees and accommodation and help to build their reputations through introductions to other tango organisations. We collaborated with Tango E14 and set up 6 Weekenders.
We engaged International teacher/performers for Friday and Saturday events and advertised them broadly to other UK Queer Tango organisations so their dancers could plan weekend visits to London to meet and learn from the artists, on Friday night at Bishopsgate Institute and Saturday afternoon at Tango E14 on the Isle of Dogs with lessons in both venues from our international visiting artists.

Able to Tango?
Our new initiative with Aidan Bizony, a queer tango dancer and wheelchair-user, helping us to create a "new normal", where wheelchair using tango dancers become familiar features of the tango scene.
It has the aim of raising the profile of wheelchair using [queer] tango dancers (square brackets because of its application beyond queer environments) with the two specific objectives: of encouraging more wheelchair using dancers on to tango dance floor; AND of encouraging those who might dance with wheelchair using dancers to overcome any inhibitions they might have about accepting an invitation to do so, or about offering themselves as dance partners.

Trustees Ray, Sam and Gawaine were the regular teachers at our milongas, and Margaret too on occasion. Claudio and Tom alternated as DJs and hosted guest TDJ Amanda Hamilton. All Trustees represented the charity at festivals and milongas nationally and around the world, including Germany, Spain, France, Austria and Argentina

Financial Review, principal risks and uncertainties
The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance sheet show that reserves, at 1 January 2025 were £11,039. A deficit in the year of £1,608 reduced our reserves to a total of £9,431 at 31 December 2025. Trustees have considered the current and future activities of the charity and the known level of income and expenditure and are satisfied that the level of reserves can meet the commitments of the charity for the following year.

Our principal income consisted of participant fees for our classes and milongas, amounting to £11,528. Costs of 13,136 included payments to teachers and performers of £3,972 and payments to Bishopsgate institute of £5,560 for rent and profit share. Trustees were reimbursed for expenses incurred but received no fees as DJs or for teaching classes.

Our principal risks relate to the cost of premises hire and future commitments to performers. We contracted with the Bishopsgate Institute to hold two events per month at a fixed minimum rent with shared profits till March 2026 and fixed the hire costs of the venue for our Festival in May 2026. This stability of venue and costs means we can plan and contract in advance and therefore mitigate these risks.

Events since the end of the year and future developments
QTL continued to host 2 milongas a month at Bishopsgate Institute, running two classes, at beginners and intermediate levels until our contract ended in March 2026.

We are collaborating with queer tango festival organisers to hold our first international queer tango festival, at Bishopsgate Institute in May 2026. The collaborators, known as 'The Umbrella, ' are Astrid Weiske, founder of the International Queer Tango Berlin festival; Manu Sanz and Arno Plass of Chamyou Queer, Valencia's queer

tango festival; Ray Sullivan of Conexion, Miami's queer tango festival; Gaston Olquin and Edgardo Fernandez Sesma from Argentina and Birthe Havmøller from Denmark, creator of the Queer Tango Project.

We planned 'Queer Tango IN London', festival to run over the weekend 29/30/31st May 2026. We engaged Manu Sanz and Anos Plass, International teachers and festival organisers as the essential glue to give our new dancers confidence to bring themselves onto the dance floor, to connect with the more established dancers. They devised the tango prácticas, workshops, music playlists and facilitated the 'Queer Tango Discussion', a political conversation. We created a City Tango Walk; held curated tours of the Bishopsgate Queer Tango Archive, that holds the largest queer tango archive in the UK; a visit to the Gilbert and George Gallery; Sunday Lunch and a Writers Room with talks by 7 Tango authors held in the Bishopsgate Library.

Our AGM will be held on 18 October 2026.

Trustees Responsibilities Statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK accounts standards

The Trustees must be satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources. In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the method and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statement on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation;

Approved by the Trustees on 18 October 2026

Signed on behalf of Queer Tango London by:
Trustee signature

Trustee name
MARGARET TROTTER

QUEER TANGO LONDON
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources				
Charitable activities	11528	0	11528	14401
Total incoming resources	11528	0	11528	14401
Resources expended				
Charitable expenditure on:				
Dance teachers and mucisicians	3972	0	3972	4140
Premises	2640	0	2640	3140
Bisopsgate Instutute gross profit share	2920	0	2920	2905
Events	1228	0	1228	1868
Avertising, IT Legal and Donations	2376	0	2376	1085
Total resources expended	13136	0	13136	13138
Net movement in funds	-1608	0	-1608	1263
Brought forward funds	11039	0	11039	9776
Fund balances carried forward	9431	0	9431	11039

QUEER TANGO LONDON
BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank and Cash	17772	14810
Debtors & Prepayments	4215	768
	21987	**15578**
CREDITORS : amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors	12556	4539
NET CURRENT ASSETS	9431	11039
NET ASSETS	**9431**	**11039**
FUNDS		
Restricted funds	0	0
Designated funds	0	0
Unrestricted funds	9431	11039
TOTAL FUNDS	**9431**	**11039**

Approved by the Trustees on 18 October 2026
and signed on their behalf by:

Trustee signature

Trustee name: MARGARET TROTTER

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees Report and all of which are continuing. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" with applicable accounting standards on the accrual basis.

2. Fund Accounting, Risk and Reserves Policy

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are amounts that have been set aside at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Restricted funds are funds that are spent in accordance with specific restriction imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for specific purpose. The cost of raising and administrating such funds is charged against the specific fund.

3. Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents the total income receivable during the year comprising event sales and performance fees.

4. Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Charitable expenditure comprises costs of artists fees and resources in furtherance of the charity's objects.

Reserves	at 1/1/2025	Incoming	Outgoing	at 31/12/2025
Unrestricted	£11,039	£11,528	£13,136	£9,431

Unrestricted funds are £9,431

5 Related Party Transactions

The Board of Trustees consist of queer tango dancers, teachers and DJs. Trustees are the voluntary workers of the charity and can also receive fees as dance teachers and performers on similar terms as non-committee members. No Trustee received remuneration for being a Trustee.