SIDE BY SIDE THEATRE GROUP

Charity Number: 1204410

Financial year end: 31 December 2025

Ref: AR25-REM-CIO-7a-1204410-A

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Financial Period

This report covers Side by Side Theatre's second year of operation as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the financial period from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Objectives

The stated objects of the Charity are:

> *For the education, training and rehabilitation of persons with learning or physical disabilities or those with neurodivergent features in the Coventry and Warwickshire area through the use of the arts in all forms and in particular through the use of music, dance and drama.*

Activities

During 2025, we designed and delivered 37 weekly workshops at Woodloes Primary School of 2-2.5 hours duration. A buddy system was introduced to welcome new supporters and new members to the Charity that encouraged the new members to express themselves.

The workshops encourage participation and develop the skills and artistic ideas of all our members, using dance, mime, music, drama, puppetry and more to prepare for our performances as detailed below.

We took part in six promotional activities.

Criterion Theatre, Coventry (6th May) where we delivered a short performance of "Beauty and the Beast" and "Alice in Wonderland" from our 2024 show, "Masks Off".

At the University of Warwick (19th June), at a public event in the new Faculty of Arts building, half a dozen members of SBS performed a short poem in Makaton alongside the Region's poet laureate.

Stratford upon Avon Pursuits festival (10-11th May) where we had a stall to promote the charity and raised £27.82 in donations

Warwick Pursuit Festival (14th and 15th June) where we had a stall and delivered a short performance of "Alice in Wonderland", collected contact details for those expressing interest in the charity.

Art in the Park, Leamington Spa (2nd and 3rd August) where we had a stall and delivered a short performance of "Beauty and the Beast", collected contact details for those expressing interest in the charity and raised £63.63

At the end of the year we performed our Annual Show at the Royal Spa Centre (14th November); here we delivered two one-hour performances of "Hit the Highway" to audiences totalling 535, including 10 dignitaries from local Town, Borough and County Councils.

Further we convened 7 committee meetings (12/2, 26/3, 28/5, 14/7, 25/9, 27/10, and 25/11) and 2 Trustee meetings (6/12 and 28/5). At the end of the year, a Xmas disco was held at the rehearsal venue on 9th December and a group of 62 members, carers and supporters were taken to a performance of The Big Friendly Giant at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre on 22nd January, funded by the Warwick Lions.

Working with other charities and organisations

We continued our membership of **NCVO** (National Council for Voluntary Organisations).

With Kenilworth Pride of Lions, we explored funding for our stage flooring.

With the Warwick Lions, we promote each other's activities, they provide resources for our FOH at the Spa Centre and we agreed shared storage facilities for their festival gear.

In January 2025, we supported a youth seeking a Duke of Edinburgh Award by inviting her to join the workshops.

In May 2025, we collaborated with Arnold Lodge School, Leamington Spa to encourage A level students in Art, Drama and Media to join us as supporters.

Our AD and one member took part in a radio interview with Vic Minett of BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire to promote our organisation and the upcoming show at the Royal Spa Centre.

Achievements towards the objectives

Individual supporters' contributions beyond the norm

During this year we have continued participation at local festivals relying on volunteers in setting up and manning the stands. Steps have been made to ensure members can get to the workshops regularly and supporters offer to transport members where appropriate.

Individual examples of education, training and rehabilitation of members

Our weekly workshops encourage member participation in the design of our performances and to try out new skills. This involvement can challenge members who may be reluctant to take part and to try new things. Encouragement and celebrating success on their achievements is intrinsic in our work. This helps to increase members confidence and the willingness to try out new things – in life not just at Side by Side.

Having a goal and being part of our inclusive theatre is a life experience and the opportunity to demonstrate their achievements to their family and friends is a vital part of this.

Indeed, two of our members were encouraged to audition for the Leamington and Warwick Musical Societies' production this year.

Examples of *public* benefit

Side by Side Theatre challenges public perceptions and expectations of the abilities of people with disabilities or those with neurodivergent features. It breaks down barriers and encourages others to embrace differences. Bringing our presence and performances to festivals as well as our regular annual performances has meant that we have reached out to a wider cross section of the public.

Income and Expenditure

The Charity finished the year with a deficit of £1,276.35. The main cost for the year arose from our two performances at the Royal Spa Centre, where we achieved 66% attendance.

Income £19,023

The Charity's income in 2025 took four forms, Donations (27%), Subscriptions (36%), Interest (4%) and Sales (33%).

Donations £5101

These came from four sources

1) cash collections at festivals and performances
2) corporate sponsors such as TCC and Unipart who nominated our charity for their fund raising events in 2025
3) individuals (families and carers of the membership)
4) Internet sales commissions (Easy Funding).

Subscriptions £6865

Our members each pay a contribution to attend our weekly workshops.

Interest £771

Interest on our capital reserves.

Sales £6286

These are made through ticket sales at performances and at festivals where sales of DVDs, raffle tickets and Side by Side branded merchandise can be purchased.

Expenditure £20,299

There are four cost centres for expenditure, the weekly workshops (14%), the delivery of the annual show (42%), the cost of 2 specialist contractors (29%) and administration (15%).

Weekly Workshops £2,815

We pay a rental to the school who provide the venue to deliver the workshops, where we also rehearse for our ad hoc performances and annual show. We also provide coffee and biscuits at the workshops for our members.

Delivery of the Annual show £8,521

The Royal Spa Centre charge us to use the Centre for our annual show, we purchase costumes & props, print flyers, photographs, programmes and posters as well as provide catering for the cast and hire a professional to provide video support.

Contractors £5,856

This includes the Musical Director and the two Artistic Directors, whose services are used throughout the year.

Administration £3,107

This covers IT costs, insurance, website hosting and development, email, JustGiving Subscription, mobile phone costs, marketing (flyers) and insurance.

Plans for the future

We learnt that, next year, our marketing effort must start earlier and be focussed on selling more tickets for both performances in November 2026. Next year we will have engaged a photographer and videographer for the show and also to assist in design and marketing of promotional literature.

Balance Sheet

At the end of the year, the assets stood at £34,053.37 comprising £33,677.20 cash in bank accounts and £2,003.52 stock (merchandise and equipment) less £1617.35 in adjustments (outstanding creditors).

Employees and volunteers

66 people make up the charity; we have 3 paid **contractors**, 38 **members** and 25 **volunteers**

Contractors: Musical Director and two Artistic Directors

Members: 39 members attend and pay a subscription towards the weekly workshops; we had 5 new members join in 2025.

Volunteers: these comprise 15 performing supporters, 4 committee or trustee members and 6 carers/helpers/caterers.

Governance and Safeguarding

We are governed by our constitution and the following policies which are published both in the members' area of our website and on our shared pages on the internet (SharePoint). These policies are updated annually and specifically address:

Vulnerable Adults

Code of Conduct

Equal Opportunities

Fire Risk Assessment

Equality and Diversity

Discipline and grievance

Recruitment processes

Child Protection

Safeguarding Incidents

There have been no reported incidents of safeguarding incidents among our membership; consequently, none have been reported to the Charities Commission.

Management and Trustees

The **committee at the beginning of 2025** comprised seven individuals:

Caroline Meyer (Chair)

Robin Godfrey (Treasurer)

Ellie Wellicome (Artistic Director) until April 2025 when Sian Hampton took back control

Katie Kavanagh (Secretary) until September 2025 when Nina Godfrey took over

Rachel Cooper (Membership)

Cally Northover (Supporters' Representative) until March 2025 and then Issy Dane took over

Erika Lilley (Marketing) until September 2025 when Katie took over

The trustees at the beginning of 2025 were:

Samantha Harris

Penny Amis

Rod Wilkinson and

Sean Noone

Declaration

The Trustees have declared that they approve the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of Side by Side Theatre Group's trustees

Robin Godfrey
Treasurer
Side by Side Theatre Group
Charity Reg No 1204410

Side by Side Financial Position end Year 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS	
	whole year
INCOME	
Members Subs to end year	£ 6,865.00
Donations (see panel)	£ 5,100.68
Sponsorship	£ -
Bank Interest	£ 770.56
Merchandise (Profit on Sales)	£ 255.66
Misc	£ -
Show Income (DVD sales)	£ 310.00
Spa Centre Income (ticket sales)	£ 5,030.82
Show Programme	
Raffle	£ 689.90
TOTAL INCOME	£ 19,022.62
EXPENDITURE	
NON SHOW	
Rehearsal Venue (to end year)	£ 2,269.00
Rehearsal Refreshments	£ 545.55
Artistic Directors Fees	£ 4,200.00
Display / Equipment/marketing	£ 370.33
Internet / Website/mobile/email	£ 906.77
Insurance for year	£ 894.00
Rehearsal Photos	
Misc (stationery, flowers, BFG. Printing, disco)	£ 936.32
TOTAL NON SHOW	£ 10,121.97
SHOW (Criterion, Art in Park, Pursuits Festival)	
Spa Centre Costs	£5,622.70
Props/ Costumes	£ 527.23
Musicians	£ 1,656.00
Musician Equipment	
Music for Show	
Film / Photographs	£ 768.62
Programme / Fliers / Posters	£ 509.00
Catering	£ 583.25
Misc (flowers and festivals)	£ 510.20
Postage	
TOTAL SHOW	£ 10,177.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 20,298.97
INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE	**-£ 1,276.35**

DONATIONS 2025
£5790.58

Swallow £200
Swallow collection £32.37
Noel Hunter (JG) £247.97
Text donation 1.70
Stratford Festival 27.82
Unipart Cake Sale £435.40
David Connelly (JG) £50
AIP Warwick £63.63
Gift aid £317.44
EasyFunding £71.64
Friends of Gordon £420
Carole Mullins (Catering) £320
TPP £2,000
Wayne Snow (JG) £24.75
Jim Newberry (JG) £335.27
Jo Mander (Helen Fryer) £200
Show FOH (raffle) £689.90
Show FOH (donations) £156.37
Dave Willets £100
Ann and Ellen £40
Lydia Warren (JG) £37.12
CASGYE £19.20 Zara Mann

SIDE BY SIDE THEATRE					Reg Charity No 1204410	
Bank Balances at 31/12/24						
	RBS	10177039	**DEED**	£ 2,052.47		
	RBS	11029041	**CIO**	1289.65		
	NATWEST	65166841	**DEED**	50		
	NATWEST	65235177	**CIO**	710.85		
	RBS	11029912	**CIO 35 day**	30169.57		
Plus value of merchandise as at 31/12/24 (inc Tshirts)				627.16		£ 34,899.70
Adjustments						
plus 11 months insurance paid for following year				818.71		
less spa centre costs paid next year				-437.51		
plus receipts for light show				22		
plus receipts for DVD sale received next year				336		
less cost of producing DVDs paid next year				-249.18		
less subs received for next year				-£60.00		
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS				£ 430.02		£ 430.02
TOTAL ASSETS						£ 35,329.72
plus surplus/deficit				-£ 1,276.35		-£ 1,276.35
Predicted asset						£ 34,053.37
Bank Balances at 31/12/25						
	RBS	10177039	**DEED**	£ -		
	RBS	11029041	**CIO**	£ 356.39		
	NATWEST	65166841	**DEED**	£ 10.00		
	NATWEST	65235177	**CIO**	£ 1,810.17		
	RBS	11029912	**CIO 35 day**	£ 31,490.64		
Plus petty cash						
Plus value of merchandise as at 31/12/25 (inc Tshirts and flooring)				**£ 2,003.52**		£ 35,670.72
Adjustments						
plus 11 months insurance for next year				828.15		
less Rent due to Woodloes to end of the year				-955		
less settlement owed to Spa Centre				-691.88		
less costs of subs received for next year				-840		
plus DVD sales received next year for this				310		
less cost of DVD prodution paid next year for this				-268.62		
pls subs received next year for this year (Simon)				60		
less subs received this year for next (Annie)				-60		
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS				-1617.35		-£ 1,617.35
TOTAL ASSETS						£ 34,053.37

1. SBS end year deficit is £1276.35. The show cost us £2941.97
2. We do now have £1,080 capital in the dance floor (recorded as Merchandise for now).
3. Assets (including dance floor, merchandise and T shirts) stand at £34,053.37
4. During the year musical equipment was sold off raising £210 - coded to Merchandise
5. In 2025 Just Giving raised £711.25 (at a cost of £216).
6. BFG ticket purchases (£496) are coded to 2025, offset by Warwick Lions donation (£500)