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Whitkirk Arts Guild

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2025

Registered charity № 1206967

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This year

Chair's report

Another busy year for WAG, and one which has seen us continue to grow both on stage and within the wider community.

At the end of last year I set two challenges: to keep thinking innovatively about how we develop as a society, and to start thinking ahead to WAG's 75th anniversary in 2027. I also reminded everyone of the importance of maintaining the friendly, inclusive atmosphere which has always been such an important part of the Guild as we continue to grow.

Looking back over 2025, I think we have made good progress on all three fronts.

Our summer production, *A Jukebox Cabaret* (the brainchild of Lorna Marshall), was deliberately chosen to give as many members as possible the chance to perform, showcase themselves and, in some cases, try something a little outside their comfort zone. It was a very different challenge from a traditional book show and gave us the opportunity to make the most of the breadth of talent within the Society.

We have also been delighted to welcome new members during the year. New people bring fresh ideas, skills and enthusiasm, and it has been particularly encouraging to see them becoming part of the life of the Guild both on stage and behind the scenes. One of the most encouraging things we hear time and again from new members is how quickly they have felt that this is somewhere they can belong.

We also continued to look for ways of doing things differently away from our main productions. Following the success of our first Halloween event last year, we returned with the *Ghost and Ghoul Ball*, providing another family-friendly event for the local community and giving WAG another opportunity to be visible beyond our usual performances.

Our Christmas pantomime, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, once again showed what can be achieved through teamwork across every part of the Society, and was reimagined to ensure that every cast member got their chance to be involved, with a focus on character work throughout the whole cast. Cast, production team, backstage crew, front of house and everyone working behind the scenes contributed to another successful run, with sell-out performances.

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Our involvement with Leeds Community Arts Network has also continued to grow. We received several nominations for our productions at the annual LeedsCAN Awards and were invited to perform an excerpt from *A Jukebox Cabaret* as part of the evening. Being involved with LeedsCAN gives us the chance not only to celebrate our own achievements, but also to support and learn from the wider community arts scene across Leeds.

For me, one of the recurring themes of this year has again been participation. Whether performing on stage, helping backstage, supporting an event, building scenery, welcoming audiences or simply bringing ideas forward, WAG works best when people feel able to contribute. As we grow, it becomes even more important that we continue to create opportunities for as many members as possible to be involved and to have their own chance to shine.

Looking ahead, our 75th anniversary in 2027 is getting closer. This is an important milestone for the Guild and one which deserves to be celebrated properly, so I would encourage members to keep bringing forward ideas about how we can mark it — both by celebrating our history and by looking confidently towards our future.

Our goal for the coming year is to keep pushing the boundaries of what we can do, while continuing to be a genuinely welcoming place and, above all, to retain the sense of family which has always been at the heart of WAG.

That sense of belonging is something we should be enormously proud of, but also something we should never take for granted. As we grow, we must keep making space for new people, new ideas and new friendships, while ensuring that everyone — whether they have been part of WAG for decades or have just walked through the door — feels valued and able to contribute.

So as we look towards another year, the goal is simple: keep pushing ourselves creatively, keep welcoming people in, and keep being the family that so many of our members tell us they have found here.

Thank you, as always, to everyone who has given their time, energy and enthusiasm to WAG during the year. None of what we achieve would be possible without it.

— Louise Norbury-Hall

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Activities and achievements

Our performances

During 2025, Whitkirk Arts Guild continued to produce high-quality community theatre from our home at St Mary's Church Whitkirk Community Centre. We pride ourselves on making ambitious productions work within the relatively small stage and performance space available to us, using creative staging, flexible scenery and the skills of our cast, crew and creative team.

A Jukebox Cabaret

In July, we presented *A Jukebox Cabaret*, a lively summer production built around both well-known and less familiar songs from a range of musical styles. Lorna Marshall created this piece and special mention must go to her for the countless hours of planning and preparation, both practically and creatively. As far as swan songs go, this one definitely made its mark, and we are grateful to Lorna for trusting us with her vision, and allowing the audiences to share it too.

The revue format gave us the opportunity to showcase a range of performers and create something different from a traditional book musical, while still delivering the production values our audiences have come to expect. The flexible format allowed the cast to move rapidly between contrasting numbers and styles.

The production also gave members opportunities to perform as part of the wider company, in smaller groups or as soloists, helping us continue to develop confidence and experience across the membership.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

In December we staged our annual pantomime, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

Pantomime remains a key part of our programme and gives us the opportunity to produce something traditional with broad appeal, and unmistakably local. As in previous years, the production included local references and humour created specifically for our audience, as well as taking advantage of the intimacy of our venue, making it an experience which could not simply be replicated elsewhere. The creation of additional 'Greek chorus' roles for the whole ensemble really helped harness that sense of togetherness which, in turn, contributed to the overall success of the production.

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The production made careful use of the limited space available, with scenery, props, costume, lighting and sound all working together with our cast members to create a colourful and fast-moving show. As in past years, demand was strong, with multiple sell-out performances.

Our summer and Christmas productions received positive reviews from NODA representatives, providing independent recognition of the work of our performers and production teams.

Other activities

Ghost and Ghoul Ball

In November we built on the success of last year with a return to our *Ghost and Ghoul Ball*. Held at the Community Centre, the event offered games, fancy dress and Halloween activities for local children and families. Events such as this allow us to use the skills and enthusiasm of our members in a different way, while strengthening our relationship with the local community and providing an introduction to the Society for families who may not previously have attended one of our productions.

Leeds Community Arts Network

During the year, Whitkirk Arts Guild continued its involvement with Leeds Community Arts Network (LeedsCAN), which brings together organisations from across Leeds.

We were represented at the annual LeedsCAN Awards, receiving several nominations for our productions and performing an excerpt from *A Jukebox Cabaret* as part of the awards evening. Taking part in events such as this gives our members the opportunity to perform for a wider audience, celebrate the work of other local societies and build relationships across the Leeds amateur and community arts scene.

Our involvement with LeedsCAN also enables us to share experience with other organisations and contribute to the development of community arts across the city.

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Financial overview

The charity remained in a strong financial position throughout 2025. Total income for the year was £19,829.30 and total expenditure was £10,408.57, resulting in a surplus of £9,420.73.

The majority of our income continues to come from ticket sales associated with our productions, alongside membership subscriptions and income generated through other Society activities. During the year we continued to keep both ticket prices and membership costs at a level intended to make participation in, and attendance of, our productions accessible to the local community.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held total funds of £28,234.93, compared with £18,814.20 at the beginning of the year. This increase strengthens the Society's ability to plan future productions and meet unexpected costs.

Our reserves are maintained principally to protect the Society against the financial risk associated with staging productions. Significant expenditure is often committed before performances take place, including venue hire, performance rights, publicity, costumes, scenery and technical costs. Should a production be cancelled or significantly disrupted, some of these costs may still need to be met without the corresponding ticket income.

The Trustees therefore consider it prudent to retain sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover planned expenditure and provide a reasonable financial safety net against unforeseen circumstances. The Society also maintains appropriate insurance.

Rising costs remain a risk to the Society, particularly in relation to production, venue and technical expenses. We continue to manage this by budgeting productions carefully, monitoring expenditure and setting ticket prices at a level which supports the financial sustainability of the charity while remaining affordable for our audiences.

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The Society

Administrative details

Charity name:	Whitkirk Arts Guild
Registered charity number:	1206967
Charity's principal address:	c/o The Parish Office 390 Selby Road Leeds LS15 0AA

Our charitable objects

Whitkirk Arts Guild's objects are:

To promote, improve and maintain the education and appreciation of the public in the art of drama and musical theatre performance in Whitkirk and the surrounding area by the provision of theatrical productions and performances.

As an amateur dramatics society, Whitkirk Arts Guild achieves its objects in two ways.

Firstly, we offer the community a way to become involved with the creation of performing arts, both on and off the stage. We provide opportunities for our members to use, explore and improve a wide range of related skills, including singing, acting, dancing, design, construction, direction and choreography, with a low barrier to entry. In doing this people can boost their confidence, make lifelong friends and above all else have fun doing so.

Secondly, we offer people a way to enjoy the performing arts within their local community as audience members. Our annual pantomime is a regular fixture for many families in the area, and has given plenty of people their first taste of this traditional theatre. Our other productions are well-reviewed and attended, including musicals and plays. We also regularly perform elsewhere in the community, such as singing Christmas carols in a local shopping centre.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their duties.

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Structure, governance and management

Whitkirk Arts Guild is governed by an Association Model Constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

There are three separate parts to our governance, as detailed in our Constitution and Rules:

The Trustees

Trustees are responsible for making sure the Society is run according to its charitable goals, and that the Committee are running the Society responsibly. They also have the legal responsibility for the Society.

The Trustees are elected by the members of the Society each year at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution.

Trustee name	Office	Dates acted if not for a whole year
Louise Gemma Norbury-Hall	Chair/Trustee	
John Laing Page	Trustee	Retired and re-elected 10 December 2025
Claire Elizabeth Honess	Trustee (ex-officio as Vicar of Whitkirk)	

The Committee

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day running of the Society to the Committee. All members of the Committee are elected each year at the AGM, in accordance with the Rules, and they operate under the oversight of the Trustees.

The Membership

Members of the Society collectively have the final say on how their Society is run. Members can always share their thoughts and feedback with any member of the Committee or Trustees, and can use the AGM to directly influence the direction the Society is taking.

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Receipts and payments accounts

1 January 2025 — 31 December 2025

Receipts

Category	Amount
Charitable activities	£19,173.40
Other activities	£372.98
Donations	£43.17
Interest	£239.75
Total	**£19,829.30**

Payments

Category	Amount
Show expenses	£8,887.57
Other activity expenses	£1,521.00
Total	**£10,408.57**

Statement of assets and liabilities

Asset	Value
Cash at bank and in hand	£28,234.93
Scenery, props and equipment	Not valued
Wardrobe, costumes and accessories	Not valued
Total monetary assets	**£28,234.93**

The Society had no outstanding liabilities as of 31 December 2025.

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Declaration

The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts was approved by the Trustees on Thursday 15 October 2026.

Signed by the Chair

Signed by:
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16 October 2026

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signed by:
6B931DA4AFB14BE...
16 October 2026