

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND  
COMPANY NO 3141293

**WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LIMITED  
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1057258

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	D A Connor	Chair
	M G Hickey	Secretary
	A Birkbeck	
	H C Birkbeck	
	W G S Smith	
	I A F Dupont	
	E C Forbes	
	M E Forbes	
	L Morlaas	
	R W Pennington	
	S F H Rimmer	
	C A Romney	
	A P Smith	
<b>Charity number</b>	1057258	
<b>Company number</b>	03141293	
<b>Principal address</b>	River Studios River Road West Acre PE32 1UA	
<b>Registered office</b>	22 - 24 Market Place Swaffham PE37 7QH	
<b>Accountants</b>	Clenshaw Minns Chartered Accountants 22 - 24 Market Place Swaffham PE37 7QH	
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank plc East Dereham Business Centre 34 Market Place East Dereham NR19 2AS	
<b>Legal Advisors</b>	Ward Gethin Archer 11 London Street Swaffham PE37 7BW	

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

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The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 5 April 2020.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum & Articles of Association, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS102).

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Registered Company number**

03141293 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number**

1057258

**Principal place of business**

River Studios

River Road

West Acre

PE32 1UD

**Registered office**

22 - 24 Market Place

Swaffham

PE37 7QH

**Trustees**

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout the report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

D A Connor  
A Birkbeck  
H C Birkbeck  
W G S Smith  
I A F Dupont  
E C Forbes  
M E Forbes  
M G Hickey  
L Morlaas  
R W Pennington  
S F H Rimmer  
C A Romney  
A P Smith

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

**Independent Examiner**

Gavin Minns



# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

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### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Organisational structure**

West Acre Arts Foundation Limited is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association. It is registered with the Charity Commissioners (no. 03141293).

#### **Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### **Objects of the charity**

The company is a registered charity and its objects are to hold the lease on the land and property known as Westacre River Studios and Westacre Summer Theatre, and to supervise and control the operation of the studio and summer theatre in furtherance of the objects set out in the founding deed, for the education of the public in performing arts.

#### **Review of activities**

The company's principal activity is to maintain the property known as Westacre River Studios and Westacre Summer Theatre and grant rights to carry out creative and dramatic activities on a self-funding basis at these locations.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

In planning our activities for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Trustees report detailing the work done in the past year is produced in the appendix.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### **Taxation status**

The company is a charity and qualified for relief from corporation tax under Taxes Act 1988, section 505. Consequently, no tax liability arises.

#### **Review of financial position**

The company's financial activities are set out on pages 4 to 13. The directors have decided that the expenditure on conversion and extension of the Westacre River Studios should be treated as Leasehold Building expenditure and amortised over the life of its lease (50 years) and that of the Westacre Summer Theatre be capitalised and amortised over the life of its lease (15 years).

WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

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**Reserve Fund Strategy**

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity. This review encompassed the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves. The Trustees concluded that the charity has sufficient resources and future income streams to cover its ongoing commitment for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees have also reviewed the reserves in line with the Company’s commitments in the event of the Company having to cease trading and aim to maintain minimum cash reserves of £5,000.

The charity has unrestricted funds of £8,048 to carry forward for general use at the year end.

**On behalf of the Board**

.....  
**M G Hickey - Company Secretary**

.....  
**Date**

## WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

### TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

Law applicable to charitable companies requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

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I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 5 April 2020, which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

### *Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### *Basis of independent examiners' report*

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

### *Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met;or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....  
Gavin Minns FCA

Date .....

Clenshaw Minns  
Chartered Accountants  
22 - 24 Market Place  
Swaffham  
Norfolk  
PE37 7QH

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Bursaries		-	5,900	5,900	2,385
Donations and gifts		2,943	12,900	15,843	19,254
Riversiders and bursary tax relief		870	870	1,740	-
Grants receivable		-	6,542	6,542	8,027
Investment income		5,750	-	5,750	5,750
Sponsorship		-	-	-	-
Fundraising received		-	-	-	19
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		9,563	26,212	35,775	35,435
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>					
Management and administration		12,560	22,352	34,912	34,878
Donations		-	40,247	40,247	20,000
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>2</b>	12,560	62,599	75,159	54,878
<b>Net incoming (outgoing) resources</b>		(2,997)	(36,387)	(39,384)	(19,443)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(2,997)	(36,387)	(39,384)	(19,443)
Fund balances at 6 April 2019		11,045	595,293	606,338	625,781
Fund balances at 5 April 2020		8,048	558,906	566,954	606,338

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5 APRIL 2020

		2020		2019	
Fixed assets	Notes	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	5		564,579		588,098
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	-		10,195	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,346		10,480	
		<u>5,346</u>		<u>20,675</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	2,971		2,435	
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>			<u>2,375</u>		<u>18,240</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>566,954</u>		<u>606,338</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	10b		558,906		595,293
Unrestricted funds:					
Other charitable funds	10a		8,048		11,045
	9		<u>566,954</u>		<u>606,338</u>

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

a) That for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

b) That no notice has been deposited at registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 5 April 2020; and

c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

- (i) Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386, and
- (ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS102).

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf below:

Trustee .....  
D A Connor

Trustee .....  
M G Hickey

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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### **1. Accounting policies**

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are:

#### **1.1 Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Companies Act 2006. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

#### **1.2 Grants**

Grants and any associated repayments of income tax are normally only accounted for when received, no account being taken of promised or covenanted donations not yet received.

#### **1.3 Incoming resources**

Donations, legacies and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.

#### **1.4 Resources expended**

Management and administration expenses reflect central establishment costs and do not include the costs of managing charitable projects.

#### **1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, with the exception of improvements to leasehold properties which are being written off over a period equal to the remaining term of the lease.

The principal annual rates used are:

Short leasehold buildings	2% straight line (50 year lease from 2000)
Office equipment	25% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	15% straight line
Summer theatre equipment	Period of lease – 15 years
New development	Straight line for period of lease

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### 1. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 1.6 Accumulated funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

#### 1.7 Leasing

All leases are operating leases and the annual rentals are charged to the profit and loss account over the lease term.

### 2. Total resources expended

	Depreciation £	Other costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Direct charitable expenditure	-	40,247	40,247	20,000
Other expenditure:				
Management and administration	1,619	12,560	14,179	19,245
Summer theatre project costs	1,609	-	1,609	2,803
New development	19,124	-	19,124	12,830
	<u>22,352</u>	<u>52,807</u>	<u>75,159</u>	<u>54,878</u>

### 3. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the period.

### 4. Net incoming resources

	2020 £	2019 £
Net incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible owned assets	<u>22,352</u>	<u>17,417</u>



# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### 5. Tangible fixed assets

	Summer Theatre Equipment	Short Leasehold Land and Buildings	Riverside new Development	Office Equipment	Fixtures Fittings & Equipment	Total
<b>Cost</b>						
At 6 April 2019	42,459	164,723	574,579	9,154	26,586	817,501
Additions	2,560	-	-	-	-	2,560
Disposals	(8,194)	-	-	-	(3,467)	(11,661)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>At 5 April 2020</b>	<u>36,825</u>	<u>164,723</u>	<u>574,579</u>	<u>9,154</u>	<u>23,119</u>	<u>808,400</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 6 April 2019	39,676	72,611	99,050	8,902	9,164	229,403
Charge for the period	1,609	3,294	15,830	78	1,541	22,352
Disposals	(7,070)	-	-	-	(864)	(7,934)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>At 5 April 2020</b>	<u>34,215</u>	<u>75,905</u>	<u>114,880</u>	<u>8,980</u>	<u>9,841</u>	<u>243,821</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Net book value</b>						
<b>At 5 April 2020</b>	<u>2,610</u>	<u>88,818</u>	<u>459,699</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>13,278</u>	<u>564,579</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>At 5 April 2019</b>	<u>2,783</u>	<u>92,112</u>	<u>475,529</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>17,422</u>	<u>588,098</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Net book value at 5 April 2020 represents fixed assets used for:

River Studio Development	-	88,818	-	-	-	88,818
Summer Theatre	2,610	-	-	-	-	2,610
Other purposes	-	-	-	174	1,546	1,720
New Development	-	-	459,699	-	11,732	471,431
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>2,610</u>	<u>88,818</u>	<u>459,699</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>13,278</u>	<u>564,579</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 6. Capital Commitments

	2020 £	2019 £
Capital expenditure which has been contracted for but not provided for in the financial statements	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### 7. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade Debtors	-	10,195
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>10,195</u>

### 8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	1,000	1,189
VAT payable	921	246
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,050</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>2,971</u>	<u>2,435</u>

### 9. Reconciliation of movements in funds

	2020 £	2019 £
Opening funds	606,338	625,781
Net movement in funds for the period	<u>(39,384)</u>	<u>(19,943)</u>
Closing funds	<u>566,954</u>	<u>606,338</u>

Closing funds shown above are held on charitable trust and in accordance with the restrictions contained in the company's Memorandum of Association

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

<b>10. a. Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Income and Expenditure Account £</b>
At 6 April 2019	11,045
Loss for the year	(2,997)
At 5 April 2020	<u>8,048</u>

<b>10. b. Restricted funds</b>	<b>Specific Building &amp; Specific Projects Fund £</b>
At 6 April 2019	595,293
Income	26,212
Expenditure	<u>(62,599)</u>
At 5 April 2020	<u>558,906</u>

### 11. Commitments under operating leases

At 5 April 2020 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	<b>2020 Land and buildings £</b>	<b>2019 Land and buildings £</b>
Operating leases which expire: after more than five years	<u>3,365</u>	<u>3,365</u>
	<u>3,365</u>	<u>3,365</u>

The rent is subject to review at 2 yearly intervals based on the increase in the Retail Price Index.

### 12. Transactions with directors and connected persons

None of the directors (all of whom also act as trustees for the charitable activities of the company) entered into any material transactions, contract or other arrangement with the company

# WEST ACRE ARTS FOUNDATION LTD (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

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### 13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Fixed Assets	558,906	5,673	564,579
Current Assets	-	5,346	5,346
Current Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,971)</u>	<u>(2,971)</u>
	<u>558,906</u>	<u>8,048</u>	<u>566,954</u>

**West Acre Arts Foundation Limited**

**Detailed trading profit and loss account  
and expenses schedule  
for the year ended 5 April 2020**

	<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Income – Riversiders (Unrestricted)		3,638		4,094
Bursaries (Restricted)		5,900		2,385
Riversiders & bursaries tax relief (Unrestricted)		870		-
Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk (Restricted)		2,980		4,465
Norfolk County Council (Restricted)		3,562		3,562
Donations received (Unrestricted)		175		2,680
Rent received (Unrestricted)		5,750		5,750
Fundraising (Unrestricted)		-		19
Shears Foundation revenue funding (Restricted)		12,500		12,000
Development donations (Restricted)		400		480
Sponsorship (Unrestricted)		-		-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		35,775		35,435
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	75,159		54,878	
	<hr/>	(75,159)	<hr/>	(54,878)
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>		(39,384)		(19,443)
<b>Other income and expenses</b>				
<b>Interest receivable</b>				
Bank deposit interest	-		-	
	<hr/>	-	<hr/>	-
		<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net deficit for the year</b>		(39,384)		(19,443)
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

**West Acre Arts Foundation Limited**

**Administrative expenses  
for the year ended 5 April 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
Rent – Studio/Chapel	2,138	2,138
Rent – Additional land	820	820
Insurance	1,835	2,513
Accountancy	1,415	1,350
Sundry expenses	8	11
Outsourced administration services (AULCO)	2,400	2,400
Legal & professional fees	-	7,365
Donations to AULCO revenue costs	40,247	20,000
Depreciation	22,352	18,219
Loss/(Profit) on disposal	3,727	(3,127)
Repairs and renewals	217	3,189
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	75,159	54,878
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

## Westacre Theatre Activity Report 2019



Throughout 2019 Westacre Theatre has continued to serve its community with a varied programme of high quality theatre and creative arts activity against a background of political and financial uncertainty.

The deadening impact of austerity and the uncertainty during the year surrounding Brexit has had a marked impact on confidence within our sector. Potential participants and audiences are still having to make increasingly difficult choices about their financial imperatives. More and more frequently, decisions relating to recreational and cultural experiences are being left until the last minute, making programme planning extremely difficult – especially for smaller venues in rural areas.

We continue to believe that the decline and stagnation of our local authority revenue grants over the past few years has significantly hampered our ability to exploit fully the valuable community resource that Westacre has to offer.

### In-House Productions

We staged nine in-house productions during 2019 including *A Man of Letters* by Tim Firth, *The Secret Life of Ophelia* by Steven Berkoff, *A Woman of No Importance* by Alan Bennett, *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward, *The Ladykillers* adapted by Graham Linehan, *Daisy Pulls It Off* by Denise Degan, *Ben Hur* adapted by Patrick Barlow, *Happy Jack* by John Godber and *This Is Where We Came In* by Alan Ayckbourn.





### *The Secret Love Life of Ophelia*



The significance of these productions and their impact on the theatre's financial resources and reputation cannot be sufficiently stressed. They account, on average, for two-thirds of the venue's annual income. Maintaining the quality and quantity of these for the future is one of the severest existential challenges facing Westacre Theatre.

### **Bursaries**

Our Bursary scheme has been going for 14 years now and is a key element in the range and quality of the productions we are able to offer, particularly during the summer months. This year we awarded 9 bursaries including three for stage/technical management. We continue to be grateful for the generous private sponsorship which enables us to operate this scheme and are dismayed at the prospect of losing KLWNBC's grant towards it.



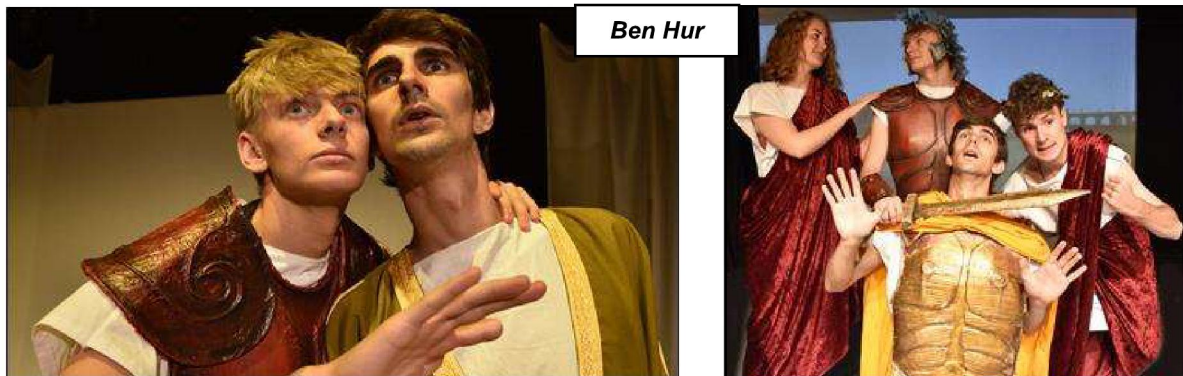
### **Young People**

We aim to provide exciting drama work for young people across the age groups through our own drama workshops and to continue to provide additional opportunities for home educated young people to use Westacre Theatre as an educational resource and socialising hub. Over the years, many of our workshop participants have graduated to our in-house company, on to university drama courses and then back to us during the summer by way of a bursary award. This continues to be a most productive route for all concerned.

Over the last two or three years, however, we have noticed a marked change in the way young people wish to get involved at Westacre. We have found that our regular weekly workshops have needed to be replaced by more carefully targeted workshops on specific themes and of shorter duration, together with offering more opportunities for involvement in specific production projects. Perhaps the recent change of focus of school curricula towards more traditional subjects has influenced this together with the very rapid upsurge in home educated young people. The latter are being expertly catered for by Camilla Falconbridge through her own company MissAdventures in Drama which is based at Westacre Theatre on Thursdays. These attendances are not reflected in the annual analysis figures which accompany this report, although they do include many participants who would have previously attended the drama workshops Westacre Theatre itself provided.



We have continued to have excellent relationships with our local schools and present exhibitions of their work and host school productions as well as welcoming school parties to our own shows. This year's annual poetry day in October was marked at Westacre Theatre by an extremely successful day of activities involving four local schools.



### **Other Events**

We were delighted to maintain our relationship with Creative Arts East in relation to theatre productions, village screen and as hosts to their promoters' days. We were also delighted to host another summer classical music event as part of the prestigious King's Lynn Festival.

Our recorded and live screenings (14 events this year) continue to enable residents of West Norfolk to enjoy the work of actors, directors and theatre professionals of international acclaim and renown directly from the stages of The National Theatre and the RSC and other promoters and we are proud to play our part in enabling this to happen.

We screened 17 extremely popular films of great variety and very high quality and our Wednesday Film offering with lunch in the foyer café is an extremely well established part of our programme.

Our series of specific literary events has continued to delight with exceptional contributions from Jane Hawking, Jeremy Page, Galton Blackiston and James Parry.



The summer Jazz Picnic this year again was a great success despite a little drizzle; the improvements to the flow of water through the lake lent a beautiful backdrop to this annual delight.

We were delighted to welcome the Ink Short Play Festival to Westacre for the first time and look forward to establishing an extremely interesting annual connection focusing on nurturing new creative talent. The Pantaloons returned twice with *The Odyssey* and *Othello* and maintained their reputation as an outstanding small to middle scale touring company offering innovative, accessible productions of the highest quality. We hope to enjoy the continued support of Creative Arts East in our endeavours to encourage touring product to Westacre.

Our foyer exhibitions have again been well attended and diverse and our attempts to attract artists from further afield to use the space supplementary to our local exhibitions is again bearing fruit.

Our regular offerings – Riverside Readers, Wednesday Playreadings, art classes, glass-making and other craft courses – continue to flourish. The venue has continued to attract attention as a high quality space for one-off events and we are continuing to build on this to enable us weather the present hostile financial climate.



**Happy Jack**



**This Is Where We Came In**

### **The Future**

The three paragraphs below ended last year's report. Despite the best endeavours of the Westacre Theatre's staff, board members, many volunteers and stalwart supporters over this last year the situation has not markedly improved and we feel impelled to repeat them here. We are ever-hopeful that 2020, our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, will provide an opportunity to boost the theatre's fortunes so that we shall not need to repeat them again next year.

*The last few years have largely involved consolidation and adjusting to the enlarged and improved facilities created by Phase 1 of our development. In many ways this has been a very successful transition and the range and scope (and potential) of the theatre's offer to the community has changed almost beyond recognition.*

*However, the repercussions of the extended period of austerity and our inability to follow up on the second phase of our planned development are beginning to take their toll on the theatre's sustainability and longer term development.*

*We have not yet managed to secure the funding for our planned studio upgrade. This will make the coming year even more difficult and, without the re-newed impetus that this work would provide to the theatre, the venue's longer-term sustainability will be in jeopardy.*

**Isobel Smith and Andy Naylor,  
Joint Directors,  
Westacre Theatre,  
January 2020**