

Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 5 February 2025

By Zoom at 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Linda Terry, Phil Turner, Margaret O'Donnell, John Saunders, Susan Saunders, Ruth Cozens, Gary Bateson, Margaret Scott, Ged Murray, Ros Francis, Simon Tompsett, Sally Maybridge, Michael Maybridge, Julie Speedie, Angela Wheatcroft, Susan Harris, Jill Shepherd, Christina Skaife, Sarah Lowes Janice Newton, David Denbigh, Chris Jackson, Elizabeth Denbigh, Martin Denbigh, Tristan Heaven, Emily Hansen, Kusala Undagodage, * Veronica Warner
(26 members, quorum 10. * = non-member)

1. Welcome from Chair

Linda welcomed everyone and advised that only members had voting rights.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Nick Jones, Heather Foxton, Chris Cullick, Marie Taylor, Zoe Enstone, Diana Wyatt, Mary Callan, Tricia Campbell, Natalie Roe, Mark Comer, Anna Briggs, Janet Sharpe.

3. Details of proxy voting

Heather Foxton asked the Chair to cast her vote for her.

4. Minutes of 2 November 2023 were approved nem con.

5. Trustees' Annual Report

The report for 2023/24 was presented by Linda Terry. The report had been available online in advance. She highlighted:

- This year had mainly been a preparation for the successful events later in 2024: New Directions, focussing on 3 new directors, and tour of *The Nativity for York*, directed by Paul Toy. It was noticeable that 25% of the latter's audiences had never seen or knew about the York Mystery Plays.
- There was one short play, the *Baptism of Christ*, at Holy Trinity Micklegate as part of the St John the Baptist Festival. They were joined by Michael Portillo who was exploring the 1951 revival of the York Mystery Plays during the Festival of Britain, and broadcast in an episode of his *Great Railway Journeys*.
- A trip was organised to Beverley, and Diana Wyatt gave a presentation about the Mystery Plays there.
- Our 10th Anniversary party at Christmas took place at Bedern; entertainment was provided by Ravens Morris mummers and sword dancers.
- During the year, Maurice Crichton resigned as a Trustee and thanks were expressed for his contribution to the work of the Trust; and Tris Heaven, Mark Comer and Emily Hansen were co-opted.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- Phil Turner introduced the Annual Statement of Accounts to 5 April 2024: he pointed to income of £3,220 and expenditure of £2,386 (given that the main expenditure was on a very small production) which left a surplus. The end-of-year balance was £7,263.

The main sources of income apart from membership were ticket sales and St Crux events,

and this year the birthday party. However, he pointed to the considerably increasing cost of rehearsal space which were an indication that most productions would incur some loss without supporting grants.

The accounts were then accepted nem con.

Ged Murray recognised that ticket prices aimed to support access to the productions and proposed that future ticket prices should include the ability to over-pay as an effective donation. Phil Turner will investigate Ticket Source's 'Pay As You Feel' option. Margaret Scott pointed to another charity using SumUp for such payments - PT pointed out that we already use a SumUp terminal and have 'donations bucket' for donations. Chris Jackson suggested that people should pay more than the standard Membership Fee as a donation. On memberships, PT said that the membership fluctuates, but that overall it was in a slow decline. Roselyn Francis suggested that people may not see the membership reminder as it is often right at the end of a newsy newsletter, and Susan Saunders suggested that the newsletters and the renewal reminders should be separate communications. PT agreed.

- The accounts were approved nem con.

- The accounts were examined by Sally Maybridge, who is also available for the coming year.

His recommendation to re-appoint Sally Maybridge as External Examiner was approved nem con.

7. Committee elections

The follow elections were agreed (Linda outlined the backgrounds of the potential Trustees):

- a. Standing for re-election for a further term: Anna Briggs
- b. Standing for election as Trustees for a first term (previously co-opted): Mark Comer, Emily Hansen, Tristan Heaven

The Committee's recommendations for the candidates' elections were approved nem con.

The following resignations were noted:

- c. Stepping down as a Trustee 2025 : Gary Bateson.
- d. Stepping down as a Trustee for the year 2025/26: Linda Terry

Linda expressed sincere thanks to Gary Bateson on behalf of the Trust for all his hard work, particularly with St Crux and the Front Of House organisation over many events. It is good to know that he will be there in future to support and help, but not as a Trustee. There was a vote of thanks for his help.

Linda gave advance notice that she will be stepping down in April, her final year of tenure, in order to give a new Chair time to lead on the Nativity and Wagon Play productions in 2025 and 2026. She will be available after that to help. Dr Emily Hansen will take over as Chair.

End of formal AGM

Guest Speaker: Dr Alan Heaven: The York Festival 2026 - The vision for the Wagon Plays

Linda introduced Alan Heaven, the director of the 2026 Waggon Plays. He spoke at length with extensive illustrations of how the plays are to be organised. This can be seen in full at:

Dr Alan Heaven - Contact email: paintthemouse@outlook.com

York Mystery Plays Supporters Trust • [www.https://ympst.co.uk](https://ympst.co.uk)