

Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre

Reference and administrative details

Trustees	Mr Simon Hyland	<i>(Chairperson)</i>
	Miss Joanne Gillespie	<i>(Treasurer)</i>
	Dr Ruth Abraham	
	Mrs Kirsty Armstrong	<i>(resigned May 2025)</i>
	Mrs Sarah Canning	
	Miss Clare Costa	<i>(resigned Nov 2024)</i>
	Miss Jordon Ewart	
	Ms Dorota Fafinska	
	Ms Mollie Haughian	<i>(resigned Nov 2024)</i>
	Mr James Hutchinson	<i>(Appointed May 2025)</i>
	Miss Rebecca McKnight	
	Mr Patrick McMahon	<i>(Resigned Nov 2024)</i>
	Miss Zoe Managh	
	Mr Alex Morrow	<i>(Resigned Nov2024)</i>
	Ms Ciara Reid	<i>(Resigned May 2025)</i>
	Miss Molly Rogers	
	Mrs Emma Whitla	<i>(Appointed May 2025)</i>
	Miss Bethany Young	<i>(Resigned May 2025)</i>
Charity registered number	NIC108046	
Contact address	28 Kensington Manor, Dollingstown BT66 7HR	
Bankers	Ulster Bank 20 High Street Portadown BT62 1HU	
Independent Examiner	A I McCullagh Accountant & Independent Examiner 6 Agars Road Lisburn BT28 2TQ	

Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre

Trustees' Annual Report Year ended 31st March 2025

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTS

The principal activities are the promotion of equality and diversity, the advancement of education and the advancement, improvement, production and promotion of arts, theatre and culture in particular in, but not exclusively, the Lurgan area and its environs. The direct benefits are the open and welcoming space we provide for all members of the community and the elimination of discrimination on the grounds age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, race, political opinion or disability. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and are content that the objects of the charity are being delivered in line with this guidance. No harm flows from the purposes of the charity and no private benefits ensue.

GOVERNANCE

The charity is governed by the Management Committee (who are the Charity Trustees) and the governing document is the constitution.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the charity in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice. As the charity's income is less than £250,000 the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a Receipts and Payments Account and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, its financial position. 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.

REVIEW

Achievements and performance

The year to 31 March 2025 was a highly successful and productive period for Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre, marked by strong audience engagement, increased participation and several ambitious productions across multiple venues

In June 2024 our Youth Theatre and children's drama groups presented The Sound of Music Youth Edition at Lurgan Town Hall. The production featured more than 60 young performers on stage and ran for four performances, all of which sold out.

During August 2024 we hosted a successful summer scheme which concluded with a showcase performance at Lurgan Town Hall. Participation in the programme was strong and contributed to increased engagement with our organisation's youth activities

Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2025

This growth was reflected in our annual concert, One Way To Broadway, staged at The Market Place Theatre in Armagh. The concert featured almost 90 performers presenting a variety of musical theatre and film numbers. The event sold out with an audience of approximately 400 people, demonstrating the continued popularity of our annual showcase.

Our production of the Wyrld Sisters by Terry Pratchett proved to be an unprecedented success. Due to audience demand, additional performances were added in both Lurgan and Belfast. The production toured Lurgan, Belfast and Armagh and also marked the first time our studio space was used for a full mainstream performance. While the venue presented spatial challenges the production was widely considered a success.

Community engagement remained an important focus throughout the year. Our younger members performed at the Lurgan Christmas Light Switch-On event while we simultaneously hosted our Twilight Market at the studio. We also held our second children's showcase, this time using a borrowed stage to improve the performance experience for both participants and attending families.

December's pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk with a country and western theme, attracted over 2,000 attendees and secured significant sponsorship. New staging elements included a growing beanstalk and giant's boots on stage, alongside the introduction of smaller cameo roles to increase accessibility for members.

The year concluded with our musical production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast at The Market Place Theatre which sold almost 1,400 tickets. The production incorporated flying scenery for the first time in the organisation's history, alongside high-quality costumes, set design and dramatic performances.

Overall, the organisation's reputation and production abilities continue to grow, reflecting the commitment of our volunteers, performers and supporters.

Financial review

In the 2024/25 financial year receipts were down 38.0% to £52,589 (2024: £84,884). No monies were received from external funding support sources in the year (2024: £26,144) other than business sponsorship of £1,180. Box office, ticket sales and fundraising however led the charity to have a successful year of events. Financially the deficit for the year of £6,200 (2024: £11,933) was funded from reserves.

The Trustees feel confident in the future of the organisation as a going concern.

Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre

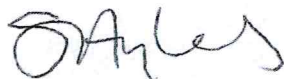
Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year ended 31st March 2025

Future plans

The organisation looks forward to another exciting year of productions and development. Our Junior Musical, *Newsies Jr.*, will provide further performance opportunities for our younger members. We will celebrate ten years of our popular concert *One Way To Broadway* with a special anniversary concert edition. Our drama group will stage an ambitious production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, while our annual pantomime will return to one of our roots productions with a revival of *Cinderella*. Plans for our next major musical are dependent on licensing, as we hope rights for *Frozen* will be released. We also aim to continue improving our studio facilities, including securing funding for improved heating.

By order of the Trustees



Simon Hylands
Chairperson

Approved by the Trustees on 9th March 2026