



Warton Drama Group

Newsletter – February 2026

Welcome to this WDG newsletter.

The newly-elected committee met for a first meeting on 19th January. Here is a summary:

Finance

Danny reported that we have about £4,000 in the bank.

It was unanimously agreed that the annual membership subscription should be set to zero for 2026.

Looking Ahead

All agreed that it was the group's aspiration to try to put on two shows per year. However, it was recognised that our capability to do two large productions in the same year depends (not least) upon the availability of backstage crew members.

Marian Cox said she would like to direct *Abigail's Party* next year, maybe springtime, preferably at Warton Village Hall (WVH) rather than the Heron.

Marion Plowright said she would like to direct Chekhov's *Seagull*, perhaps in 2027, at the Heron or maybe WVH too.

The meeting was enthusiastically supportive, and noted that these were nicely contrasting plays..

A sub-committee has been formed to consider the details of staging these two plays.

Ideas for enticing new members to join the group - particularly backstage crew members - were discussed. Jo proposed doing a workshop or community event in WVH over two weekends in the summer or during the October half-term this year. It would not have the aim of staging a production, but rather to recruit of new members, backstage crew particularly. It would also provide an 'acting taster' opportunity for anyone minded to try acting in a small part and with no obligation.

A reminder - members are welcome to attend committee meetings (but are not entitled to vote). The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 17th March 2026**. (Time & venue TBC).

Your 2026 committee comprises:

Chair - Joanne Leeman

Treasurer – Daniel Whitaker

Vice Chair - Marion Plowright

Secretary – Neil Read

Committee member – Phil Chandler

Committee member – Marian Cox

Hay fever

After many changes, Marion has managed to assemble a revised cast for our next production, which is scheduled **for 22nd – 25th April 2026** at the Heron.

Tickets are on sale now via the Heron website.: www.theherontheatre.com

The cast Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* is:

Amelia Blackwell

Arden Chandler

Marion Cox

Jane Jefferson-Waddington

David Leeman

Alex Candlin

Phil Chandler

David Helme

Joanne Leeman

Rehearsals are underway:



If you are able and willing to help with *Hay Fever*, the proposed summer workshops and/or *Abigail's Party* next year, you'll be very welcome. Do get in touch.

In other news.....

Check out our updated website, kindly licked into shape by Garry Owen. We hope to add a section on "People in WDG" soon. Would you like to suggest who should be the first to be profiled?? www.wdg.org.uk

WVH are applying for grants to install solar panels on the hall roof. WDG have written a letter of support for the application to Lancashire Environment Fund.

We've been asked to take part in *Carnforth Fringe* again. This possibility will be on the agenda for discussion at the next WDG committee meeting. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, do please let us know. The current event programme is available on the news page of the Town Council website:

www.carnforthtowncouncil.gov.uk

And finally.....

We have an irresistible opportunity for someone to write regular news letters (such as this) and content for social media, as a means of keeping WDG members informed. If you would like to volunteer for this role – or maybe to share the task with another member – do please get in touch.

(The WDG email address is on our website).

NR. 12/2/26