

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for WATS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ~Village Hall ~ 13th April 2026

Season 2026 - 2027

How the years go by! I have been associated with WATS, or the groups from which WATS has been "born" for so many years; not quite its outset, but my mother and my Uncle Leighton were much associated with "the new baby; and the growing up". We had many years when WATS was held in members' homes, and very, very, successfully! However, as time has gone on, the willing hosts and hostesses have aged too; and some have slipped away, and left some of us sadly "on our own".

In 2022 (reading from my saved report), I had just returned from a five-week holiday (the longest holiday I have ever had as an adult!) in Australia together with my friend Betty, and we had been visiting her family. Of course, so sadly Betty died two and a half years ago. Where do the years go?

In preparing this Report, I have looked back at last year, when I needed to say, sadly numbers of WATS Members have decreased over the last year or two. In the past months, and with some younger "new blood", we have had a few new faces (although they have not yet committed, and become Members), but hopefully this will bring in more keen members who do join WATS.

Last year at the AGM, Clive was able to give us some interesting information about "running Play Readings" and the situation relating to Licencing.

WATS members seem very happy with our Play Readings being held in this very nice Hall and facilities.

We have had a recent Committee meeting and discussed where we are at. Your very skilled and willing Committee has served for several years and the decision was made by Doris, Jill and myself, that we have all served and worked on behalf of WATS for a good number of years now, and it is time for the younger generation to take over. We, very much, will continue to be paying Members and attend, and also still be Readers.

I so want to give thanks to the various members who have formed your Committee over the years that I have been Chairman, and particularly the present Committee, which is more or less the same committee as now! Doris (backed up by Clive) has been our Vice Chairman & Membership officer; always doing a grand job in her lovely relaxed and warm friendly way.

Mark, our Treasurer and bringer of the Wine each month, and to Jean who serves the wine and always backs us all up with her help and kind and friendly presence.

Jill (backed up by Bill) and taking the Minutes at the meetings, and reminding us if we have forgotten anything.

I particularly thank Bill and Jill, and Doris and Clive who always come early and set the room up for us, ready for the evening Play Reading; and drinks, tea and coffee, and biscuits etc.

Alvin arrives with us early and puts out the chairs, tables and the microphone for the Readers, and so on. Rosie brings us a sparkle of light and helps where she can, but has often only just finished work.

Our two most recent Committee Members are Caroline and Karen, who have taken to the tasks brilliantly, and hopefully these younger people will take WATS to the highest and best.

Oops : I must not forget those who clear up afterwards; the wonderful washers' up, and floor sweepers, so that we always leave the Hall in the way we found it.

Thank you so very much all of you, for your dedication and affection.

PLAYS we have had

Monday October 13th 2025 Produced by Peter Austin & Rosie Gerrell

Monday November 10th 2025 Produced by Jill and Bil Willison

The Play which we presented for the November meeting last year was "Blythe Spirit".
The Cast was Doris, Jean, Edward, Clive, Christine, Diana and Jill

Monday December 8th 2025 Produced by Clive and Doris Brynley- Jones

The Annual Party date was decided by the Committee. There was an Entertainment presented by Karen Maxwell & Caroline Wright, who also arranged the Party in general.

Monday February 9th 2026 Produced by Alvin & Viv Hunt

The play reading we presented was a one act play by Eileen Enwright Hodgetts called "Twilight".

It was a ghost story in one act and was a winner at the Pittsburgh New Works Festival.

It was about a young girl who fell off her bicycle on a roadside in West Virginia into the arms of a man who had been waiting for fifty years for something to happen! Lots of twists and turns!

Monday March 9th 2026 Produced by Caroline Wright & Karen Maxwell
produced this

AND here we are round again to our Annual General Meeting.