

Inspire AGM Meeting Minutes

Beeston Library & Online via Teams, Wednesday 8th Oct 2025, 7pm

Present:

Helen Ackroyd, Pauline Allan, Roy Allan, Nick Allen, Margaret Anderson, Jill Barr, Sophie Collier, John Cottey, Peter Cribb, Leon Dale, Thomas Davies, Mark Dorrington, Victoria Dunstall, Michelle Dunstan, Sharon Elliott, Kirsty Ellis, Kate Fox, Hilary Gaw, Peter Gaw, Liz Guildford, Carol Hanley, Jackie Hewlett Davies, Mathilde Horsley, Dawn Justice, Nick London, Margot Madin, Thomas Mason, Carol Newman, Kath Owen, Lesley Parker, Emma Pitchford, Neil Pledger, Lucy Reid, Michael Reid, Shamara Sadler, Katharine Say, Hazel Sisson

Apologies: Richard Darrington, John Hess, Diana Meale and Ann Penn

1. Welcome

- Margot Madin (Chair of Inspire Board) welcomed members to the in-person and online Inspire AGM. She explained how members could ask questions, vote and made everyone aware that the event was being recorded for minuting purposes.
- Margot Madin asked for members to raise any items for Any Other Business.

2. To receive and approve the minutes of the AGM held on 9th October 2024

- Margot Madin asked members to approve the minutes from the AGM held on 9th Oct 2024 and that they were a true and accurate record.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 26
 - No – 0
 - Abstain - 1
- **Minutes approved.**

3. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes

- None.

4. Presentation of the Annual Review

- Peter Gaw (Inspire, Chief Executive Officer) welcomed everyone and explained that the biggest challenge of each AGM is having enough time cover all the great work that Inspire has achieved during the last year. PG hoped that members will see the work of the society is making a real difference. In March 2026, Inspire will have completed 10 years of delivery and PG advised that Nottinghamshire County Council have extended the organisations' contract until March 2028 and hopefully the Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation funding round will also be extended to March 2028 giving Inspire the financial security to continue doing great things.
- Presentation of the [Inspire Annual Review 2024/25](#) video.

5. To receive and approve the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

- Margaret Anderson (Inspire, Chief Finance Officer) was pleased to report that Inspire continues to be 'a going concern' and that the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025 have been prepared, audited and filed with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- Inspire's Statement of Financial Activities shows a surplus of £189,393 after an actuary pension adjustment of £73,000. The Chief Finance Officer explained to members in detail that due to the assumptions applied by the actuary, the actuarial valuation at the year-end has resulted in a surplus position for Inspire however, this has been reduced by the effects of the asset ceiling. The full surplus has therefore been removed and the pension valuation is shown as a breakeven position at year end.

- By stripping out the pension adjustments Inspire's activities over the year reveal a surplus of £262,393. Margaret Anderson explained how this surplus is made up of restricted, unrestricted, designated and restricted fixed asset funds and how and when these are used along with summaries of where the Society's money came from and how it was spent.
- No comments or questions were received either online or from the library meeting.
- Members were asked to approve the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 27
 - No – 0
 - Abstain – 0
- **Report and accounts were approved.**

6. Confirmation of newly elected Board Member

- Following elections held in the summer of 2025, Margot Madin proposed the confirmation of Sophie Collier, Mark Dorrington and Diana Meale as Community Member Elected and Emma Pitchford as Staff Member Elected directors of the Inspire board as outlined in the Society's rules.
- Members voted:
 - Yes – 27
 - No – 0
 - Abstain – 0
- **Appointment of Sophie Collier, Mark Dorrington, Diana Meale and Emma Pitchford to the Inspire Board was approved.**

7. AOB

- No comments or questions were received for any other business. Margot Madin formally closed the 2025 AGM.

Close of AGM – 7.35pm

Inspire AGM 2025 Poem and readings by Kate Fox – www.katefox.co.uk

Unlocked:

Poem inspired by Inspire's 2024/25 Annual Trustees Report

We know it's not the numbers
it's the growth and joy and fun
and adding up the value of this
gives so many more parts
than the sum.

Though -Three million library loans!
that's so many hours
of managing to get people off their phones

and despite folk saying
society's getting dumber
Over eight thousand kids
read at least six books
across the summer

Inspire Youth Arts
reached the parts
that others can't
including blasting
over 21,000 people
into imaginative space flight
during Light Night

and floated folks
off onto culture's life rafts
covered in 275 handmade blankets,
giving thousands of people the chance
to take part in music, arts and crafts

showed that the world of jazz
and orchestra is not an exclusive club,
now Inspire's the main Nottingham music hub.

Delivered over 3,000 class sessions
in schools
freeing voices to ring
melodies raising the roof in the Big Sing.

Brought archives to life
with an Augmented Reality
futuristic blast into the past,
interactive map of the city,
one of the ways we tell
Nottingham's story.

Made dusty old displays come alive
for over 1,000 folk at the library in Mansfield.
Using circus skills, writing with quills,
book binding, an archaeological dig
and virtual reality coal mining
rich seams of hands on heritage revealed

along with networks, routes and connections,
talks and murder in the archive-
investigating the fictional dead
helps history come alive!

23 libraries officially became
connective, loneliness-busting
Places of Welcome
while all of them are
spaces that can heal the soul,
host Rattle, Rhyme and Roll
mindfulness talks, coffee mornings,
knit and natter
places where you know
you are seen,
and know that you matter.

In three new health hubs,
you can be in the know
by getting vetted health info

and breathe nature's air
improve your wellbeing
with two new library gardens
taking us into the green.

The worlds we open,
the places culture takes us
with the help of 14,000 hours
from volunteer community makers.

We added 6,000 people
to those whose maths fear was taken away,
united not divided by
the adult numeracy scheme Multiply

and answered 50,000 queries
from customers
asking what, how and why.

Nearly 22,000 events in total
in libraries
in just one year
but the internal treasure
is so much more than this can measure.

So let me end this verse
by sending you off to
Able Orchestra's magical musical world
where the skills of disabled and neurodivergent
musicians
are celebrated, unfurled.
This year a live and digital extravaganza
of song, melody, instrumentation,
projection
self and other joyous expression
premiered at Nottingham Contemporary,
Called Unlocked - which is what these
numerous Inspiring experiences have done;
opening doors and portals and hearts
to life and colour and joy and fun,
as if all of Nottingham's an orchestra
where people can play their own parts
find their own tune,
the power to make new starts,
knowing and growing
and conducting and flowing,
to nourishing ways of learning to be,
to the power and choice
of feeling free,
here where New Worlds are key.