

Draft Whitefield Town Centre Plans

Extract from Aims and Objectives

3. The Little Cultural Quarter A network of minor streets and back lanes located to the north of the town, with the Garrick Theatre located at its centre. The Little Cultural Quarter could create a fitting setting to the Garrick - one of Whitefield's hidden gems and a true asset, adding colour and vibrancy to currently inactive backland streets.

Notes on the Whitefield Garrick Society / Theatre

Located in North Manchester (UK), close to Whitefield tram station, Whitefield Garrick produces five plays each year in our own purpose built theatre, seating 87, with supporting technical, backstage, foyer and bar facilities. Guest productions and exhibitions by local artists or on the theme of current productions are encouraged.

We offer a varied programme throughout the season (September - May), each play for nine performances. We invite guest productions whenever our calendar permits.

The society was founded in 1943 and has its roots in the Whitefield Home Guard Concert Party which went on to present its First Play 'Journeys End' at the Girls Grammar school on Higher Lane

Our current building began life as a small machine shop and was bought as a rehearsal room in the 1950s, storage was donated by Halls Sweet Factory and Plays presented at Stand Church School room on Church Lane. The society then being closely linked to Stand All Saints and Whitefield Methodist Churches. When the old school room was demolished plays were moved to a tiny makeshift theatre in the Bank Street rehearsal rooms.

Three Lottery Grant applications were made at various times at considerable cost to the society for such items as architects drawings, none were successful as a small urban theatre in a remote Manchester suburb offered little kudos in rivalry with major Manchester Theatres, Arenas, Home, Aviva Studios Co op Live, The Lowry. Nor did we qualify as a separate area such as Rochdale, Oldham, Warrington or Wigan (for example)

Eventually the decision to self finance was made, land was purchased and our current Theatre was opened in 2001, followed by a new Foyer / Bar Area in 2015 and internal conversions since.

Covid closed us down and re opening was initially restricted to a 30 percent audience gradually increasing for later shows. We must acknowledge a government maintenance Grant at that time helped to keep the theatre in existence.

The Theatre is structured as a Charitable Trust – 519483 – Registered 1987
4 Trustees and an elected / Co opted Management Committee
Constitution adopted 1950 last amended 1987

This planning application for a sign is prepared by Peter Hill. An unpaid volunteer, Committee member, ex Trustee and a member for over 50 years.

Chairman Mr G Shindler
Secretary Mrs P Hill
Treasurer Mr M Ashton