

Did you know that WGGB (Writers' Guild of Great Britain) has a special fund held in trust for the sole purpose of helping members who experience urgent financial difficulties?

This money has been donated over many years by WGGB members, other individuals, and companies and organisations within the entertainment and cultural spheres with which WGGB has dealings.

An expert committee consisting of experienced WGGB members plus the WGGB Treasurer and General Secretary administers the Welfare Fund and takes decisions on applications for help.

Interest-free loans and/or grants are given to help WGGB Full members who cannot meet debt repayments or who have no money to pay business costs, household expenses or their WGGB subscriptions. The amounts given in recent years have ranged from £150 to £2,000. The Fund also helps when a WGGB member dies and relatives are left financially stranded.

Urgent assistance is sometimes needed and in such cases the Fund aims to respond within 48 hours. Applications can be handled by post, email or telephone.

What WGGB members say about the Welfare Fund

“My deepest thanks for the £500. This money has paid three months of homecare bills and telephone charges and kept the wolf from the door!”

“Thanks very much for the generous cheque. It will take away a lot of pressure.”

“Many, many thanks for your speedy response. The Fund has helped me out of a very tight spot.”

“It's not often you get the sort of understanding and assistance that allows you the self-respect to battle on.”



In recent years the WGGB Welfare Fund has:

- Paid for special computer equipment needed by a disabled member.
- Helped the widow of a world-famous writer who found herself without access to cash when he died.
- Replaced an essential laptop for a member whose office was burgled.

If you need help from the WGGB Welfare Fund - or you know a member who does - please fill in the application form at the end of this document. To avoid disappointment please check the eligibility criteria below before applying for assistance.

Eligibility criteria

- The main focus of the Fund will be on emergencies and the unexpected.
- Grants and interest-free loans will be limited to £1,000 except in exceptional circumstances, and in any event will not exceed £2,000.
- No member will be eligible for more than one application in any 12-month period.
- Subsequent applications, within five years, will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- The Fund will make interest-free loans or grants or pay subscriptions only for those who have been Full members of WGGB for at least two years immediately prior to the application.
- The Fund will not provide help to any Full member who is out of benefit as defined in the WGGB Rulebook, and this restriction will be mentioned in letters sent to members who are behind with their subscriptions.
- Where a member needs to buy a computer, only a standard, maximum grant/loan of £750 will be considered.
- The Fund does not pay tax bills.
- The Welfare Committee will not consider applications for ongoing liabilities.

Welfare Fund application form

To The General Secretary
WGGB, 1st Floor, 134 Tooley Street, SE1 2TU

Please note: All applications are treated in strict confidence.

I wish to apply for help from the WGGB Welfare Fund.

The amount of money I need is £

My problem is (please tick as applicable and provide a brief summary in the box below)

- ☐ Business costs, eg telephone bill, computer replacements or repair
- ☐ Household costs, eg mortgage or rent, utility bills, house repairs
- ☐ I can't afford my WGGB subscription
- ☐ Other (please give a brief summary in the box below)

Please note that we may ask for documents that provide further detail.

My personal details are

Name

WGGB membership number (if known)

Email or telephone

I understand that any help is at the discretion of the WGGB and, if offered, could be in the form of a loan or a grant.

Signature

Date

This can be printed for electronic applications

We aim to respond as quickly as possible. If you don't hear from us, please telephone the General Secretary on 020 3372 8403. To save time you can email the details of your application to welfare@writersguild.org.uk

The WGGB Welfare Fund mainly intends to provide urgent, one-off and short-term help to Full Members. For longer-term and continuing assistance we recommend you contact the Film and Television Charity – telephone free 0800 054 0000 or see <https://filmtvcharity.org.uk/>

www.writersguild.org.uk