

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB OF STRATFORD UPON AVON HELD AT THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE, HENLEY ST., STRATFORD UPON AVON ON 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012.

Approximately 23 members attended.

1. Dr. Susan Brock was elected Chairman of the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Irene Tims, David and Eileen Geldard, Bryan Palin, John and Margaret Cunningham, Roger Pringle, Daphne Ingram, Helen Hargest, Jean and Cyril Holder, Peter and Gill Ashley Smith.
3. The minutes of the last AGM were circulated at the meeting and accepted as a true record.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer submitted her report for the year ended 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012:

Membership and the number of visitors was maintained at 106 and 58 respectively. The Town Trust awarded a slightly smaller grant of £150 to be used for publicity. The web site would continue to be maintained but it had been decided not have fliers this year as it was not possible to take advantage of a shared mailing with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Rob Bowen of H.L. Barnes continued to audit the accounts each year free of charge.

The hire of the hall for 2011/12 had not yet been invoiced by the University of Birmingham; Insurance remained much the same as last year. Printing costs were slightly higher because it was decided to have the programme card professionally printed. Postage costs had of course gone up. The costs of the President's evening were slightly lower as Professor Wells was local but would be higher in 2013 as the president would probably require overnight accommodation and also the costs of his participation in the Birthday Celebrations would have to be covered by the Club rather than the Birthday Celebration Committee as in the past.

The fee paid to speakers had been raised from £50 to £75. Despite the rise in costs the Programme Secretary would continue to invite out-of-town speakers to enhance the programme and attract members.

The Treasurer proposed that contributions for wine after meetings should be raised from £ 1 to £1.50 per glass. This was agreed unanimously. There was no need to increase the membership fee this year though it would be revisited next year. Because of the rising cost of postage members would be asked for their email addresses on the renewal form so that communications could go out electronically. However the Treasurer would continue to ask for renewals in summer 2013 by post to include members who were not online.

The Chair thanked Lady Follett for her comprehensive report and the accounts were approved.

6. Election of President. 2011/2012.

The theatre director, Michael Attenborough, had been approached to stand as President for the coming season and had agreed. He was elected unanimously.

7. Election of Honorary Treasurer.

Lady Follett was proposed as Treasurer of the Club by Susan Brock. seconded by Linda Butland. She was re-elected unanimously.

8. Appointment of Honorary Auditors.

H.L. Barnes and Son were re-elected as Honorary Auditors. Lady Follett would send a letter of thanks.

9. Election of Committee.

Last year's Committee was as follows: Susan Brock, Daphne Ingram, Jean Lawrence, John and Mary Cunningham, Mary Reardon, Eileen Geldard, Lady Follett, Sylvia Morris, Paul Edmondson. .

There were no nominations of new members. All current committee members were willing to stand again and were re-elected unanimously.

11. Report on programme for next season.

Mary Reardon, the Programme Secretary, reported on the arrangements for the coming season as follows:

2012

September 11– Dr Nick Walton

October 9 – Patrick Spottiswoode

November 13 – Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeve

December 11 – Michael Attenborough

2013

January 15 – Karen Brown

February 12 – Roger Pringle

March 13 – Dr Tara Hamling

April 9 – Ted Watson

The Chair thanked Ms Reardon for her hard work in putting this excellent programme together.

12. Subscriptions.

Subscriptions would remain the same (£15) for the coming season.

13. AOB

i. Sir Brian Follett proposed that to improve sightlines, the Club should revert to the former seating arrangement with the audience facing the stage and the use of the old data projector the use. This was agreed.

ii. Lady Follette appealed for new members.

iii. The Treasurer reported that there had been a complaint from Elizabeth Creke about the lack of hand rail or ramp to the main entrance of Mason Croft. It was agreed that this should be raised with the Shakespeare Institute.

iv. It was suggested that there should be more publicity for Club meetings, for example the notice board at the front of the Institute. Members were reminded that there was a poster there already. If members willing to distribute posters were asked to contact Sylvia Morris.

v. Val Butcher suggested that the Club should consider changing the dates of its meetings to avoid clashes with the Hall's Croft Club which also met in the second week of the month though on Wednesday's. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Club Committee for consideration.

Ali Troughton and Paul Greenwood of the Drama Pool presented No Job for a Grownup: an entertainment inspire by the actors' life.