

MINUTES OF THE 186th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB OF STRATFORD UPON AVON HELD AT MASON CROFT, CHURCH STREET, STRATFORD UPON AVON ON 8TH JUNE 2010.

Approximately 45 members attended.

1. Dr. Susan Brock was elected Chairman of the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Roger Pringle, Paul Edmondson, Tony Boyd-Williams, and Jean Holder.
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 as follows:

The Treasurer submitted her report for the year ended 23rd April 2010. We had 100 full members this year plus seven who joined later in the year. This is a slight increase on last year. We gained a number of new members but these were balanced by the number who resigned because of ill health or not wanting to come out late at night in the winter. We had 56 paying visitors during the course of the year. Expenses were more or less the same as last year. We are very grateful to the University of Birmingham for keeping down the cost of hiring the hall.

Our income for the past year was slightly higher than the previous year so we are in good shape. Our President was very generous in not charging us for travel and accommodation. The Town Trust gave us £300 this year which we shall be able to spend on updating the website and another flier – both are helpful in raising our profile. We are grateful to the town Trust for their continuing support. The Chairman thanked Lady Follett for her comprehensive report and the accounts were approved.

6. Election of President. 2010/2011.
David Bradley has agreed to be our President for the coming season and this was agreed unanimously.
7. Election of Secretary.
As Daphne Ingram was resigning from the Committee, Dr. Susan Brock had agreed to take over as Secretary. This was agreed unanimously. A vote of thanks was passed to Daphne Ingram for her work as member of the Committee for the last 19 years and also as Committee Secretary since 2000.
8. Election of Honorary Treasurer.
Lady Follett was re-elected Treasurer of the Club unanimously.
9. Appointment of Honorary Auditors.

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

10. Election of Committee.

Last year's Committee was as follows: Susan Brock, Daphne Ingram, Jean Lawrance, Mary Reardon, Eileen Geldard, Deb Follett, Paul Edmondson, and Helen Hargest. Daphne Ingram has resigned from the Committee. No new nominations had been received. Therefore Susan Brock, Jean Lawrance, Mary Reardon, Eileen Geldard, Lady Follett, Mrs Helen Hargest and Dr Paul Edmondson were re-elected unanimously. Dr. Brock encouraged members to come forward if they were interested in becoming a member of the Committee.

11. Report on programme for next season.

Helen Hargest, our new Programme Secretary, reported on the arrangements for the coming season as follows:

September – Dr. Abigail Rokison.

October – John Curtis.

November – Perry Mills.

December – David Bradley.

January, 2010 – Robert Smallwood.

February – Mairi Macdonald.

March – Andy Kesson.

April – Flip Tanner.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hargest for hard work in putting this excellent programme together.

12. Subscriptions.

The Committee had decided not to increase subscriptions for the coming season.

Mr. Palin thanked Mrs Geldard for her hard work in arranging splendid programmes during her time as Programme Secretary. It was an extremely difficult task which Eileen completed with great zeal and efficiency and we owe her an enormous debt.

The Chairman reported that that the theatre company, Theatre Set-up, would be performing *The Merchant of Venice* at Hall's Croft on Sunday, 20th June at 5.15 pm. All welcome.

The Chairman also announced that the Shakespeare Institute Players would be performing *Macbeth* at the Shakespeare Institute on Thursday, 8th July and Saturday, 10th July – everyone welcome to attend. The Shakespeare Institute Players then entertained members with a selection of scenes from their production of the play.

This was followed by the usual raffle and wine was served in the conservatory.

