

THE SHAKESPEARE CLUB OF STRATFORD UPON AVON

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Shakespeare Club held at the Shakespeare Institute, Church St., Stratford upon Avon on Tuesday, 8th October 2019 at 7.15 pm.

Minutes

46 members were in attendance

1. Election of Chair for the AGM. Susan Brock was nominated by Sylvia Morris, seconded by Christine Walsh and duly elected unanimously.
2. Apologies for absence. Linda Butland, Eileen and David Geldard, Ruth Orrs, Sally Sandford, Stephen Sharp, Pat Connor, Renate Atkinson.
3. Minutes of the last AGM (9 October 2018 available on the Club website). These were accepted as a correct record, proposed by Gill Ashley Smith, seconded by Mary Reardon, approved unanimously.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
The Chair announced that there were no plans to hold a raffle in the coming season.
5. Treasurer's report. The accounts for 2018/9 were circulated at the meeting. The Treasurer reported that income and expenditure were in balance. There was, therefore, no need for an increase in the subscription rate and the visitor rate this year. The Chair proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Sr Brian Follett, passed unanimously by a show of hands.
6. Election of Honorary Treasurer.

Christine Walsh was willing to stand again. The Chair proposed that she be re-elected, seconded by Jane Taylor. She was elected unanimously.

7. Appointment of Honorary Accountant.

The Chair proposed that H.L. Barnes be invited to continue to audit Club accounts, seconded by Christine Walsh. Passed unanimously by a show of hands. The Chair asked the Treasurer to send a letter of thanks.

8. Election of President 2018/19
The Chair noted that the agenda should read Election of President 2019/20. She announced that Sir Nicholas Hytner, formerly Artistic Director of the National Theatre and co-founder of The Bridge Theatre, had agreed to stand as President for the coming season subject to election. She proposed Sir Nicholas as President, seconded by Mary Reardon. He was unanimously elected by a show of hands.
9. Election of Administrative Secretary.
Sylvia Morris was willing to stand again. The Chair proposed that she be re-elected, seconded by Ms Christine Walsh. She was elected unanimously.
10. Election of the Committee.

The Chair explained that Club rules allowed a maximum of ten Committee members plus Secretary and Treasurer. Of last year's Committee, Dr Prescott wished to step down, Janet Anslow, Mary Reardon, Eileen Geldard, Sandra Macdonald, Melissa Mailer-Yates, Susan Brock and Roger Taylor were willing to stand again. The chair suggested they be re-elected en bloc, proposed by Jean Lawrance and seconded by Christine Walsh. These seven Committee members were unanimously elected by a show of hands.

Helen Hargest, who had been co-opted as a Committee member for 2018/9, had been proposed by Roger Taylor, nominated by Sandra Macdonald. She was elected unanimously by a show of hands.

No other nominations had been received.

11. Report on programme for the forthcoming 2019/20 season by the Programme Secretary. Mary Reardon reported on speakers and subjects. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the Programme Secretary for her hard work in putting together the programme and for securing such a prestigious President.
12. Report on Club activities 2018/9 by the Administrative Secretary. The Club's contribution to Shakespeare's Birthday was very successful, with our President Emma Rice joining us to unfurl our flag. 26 members of the club attended the luncheon at the Crowne Plaza Hotel sitting at three dedicated tables. In April over thirty of the Club's members went on a coach trip to Emma Rice's production of *Wise Children* at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre. On 22 June sixty people enjoyed a joint event with the Stratford Society to celebrate the reopening of the Falcon Hotel after its refurbishment. Speakers from both clubs, and the architect in charge of the operation, spoke, after which tea and tours of the building were provided. Another joint meeting is planned for February when RST Artistic Director Gregory Doran will be the speaker. Members of the Committee took part in a consultation about the future direction of the Town Trust, which has made grants to the Club in the past. More extra-curricular events are being planned and monthly meetings are well attended by Club members and guests. The smooth running of our meetings depends on the willing assistance of Committee members and members and they were thanked for their help.
13. Report on the New Place project by the Administrative Secretary. The Club has been offered the opportunity to arrange a small exhibition at New Place, to run from March-September 2020, on the subject of the 1827 Chapel Lane Theatre. A group of club members is just beginning research on this subject. It is hoped that as the exhibition will run over the summer months it will be possible to mount events to publicise the Club and this little-known part of the Shakespeare story.
14. Report on the arrangements for the Garrick Jubilee by the Administrative Secretary. September 2019 was the 250th anniversary of this remarkable event. The Shakespeare Club and Stratford Society jointly made an approach to the Town Council and RSC to see if either were interested in creating a permanent reminder of it. Attention focussed on the Shakespeare statue on the Town Hall, and the site of the Jubilee Pavilion that stood near the 1932 Theatre. Both organisations were interested, but discussions have so far not been fruitful and the subject has been shelved for the time being.
15. Website and Communications. The website continues to be kept up to date and the number of people using it has slightly increased, but remains low. Plans for a Club Facebook page have been put on temporary hold but it is hoped to revive it soon. We have now complied with GDPR regarding getting permission to hold personal data
16. Any other Business

1. The Chair reported on arrangements for the Birthday lunch in 2020 which would be publicised shortly in the *Stratford Herald*. The organisation had been taken on by Pragnell's and would revert to the model of the Bird arrangements with commercial sponsors and a marquee in the Bancroft Gardens with a capacity of over 600. The event would be hosted by Alexander Armstrong. There would be about 430 places available to the general public at £100 per person. Members were asked if they would favour, as an alternative, a more modestly priced event organised by the Club. 17 members indicated they would. The Chair suggested this be revisited when more details were available but asked for volunteers to assist the Committee by taking on the organisation if necessary.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 7.45pm. After a short break the regular monthly meeting was held: BILL BARCLAY, Ex-Director of Music, Globe Theatre, discussed the role of Shakespeare's music in the 21st century through the lens of his eight years at the Globe.