

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2017

I'm going to report briefly on the past year, and then turn to plans for the year to come.

The past year

2017 was a busy and successful year, sadly marked by the loss of our former Chair and longstanding Committee member Helen Bennett in June. I am sure Helen would have been delighted with the response to the change of venue for the Society's meetings here at the Actors Centre, now that we have had a full year of the new format for our meetings.

Meetings and performances

We held nine meetings at the Actors Centre in 2017: there were six script-in-hand performances and three talks – and a very eclectic mix they were.

January saw the inaugural script-in-hand performance, with *Shaw Cornered* directed by Maurice Thorogood with Hayward Morse as Shaw. In February, Lorenzo Mason marked the centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution with *Annajanska the Bolshevik Empress*, followed in March by *Far Fetched Fables* directed by Michael Friend. April saw *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets* directed by Jonas Cemm.

In May we welcomed Barbara Roisman Cooper for a talk about the filming of *Major Barbara*, and in June Alice McEwan of Shaw's Corner presented an illustrated talk about Shaw and May Morris, including the May Morris Valentine which she had discovered during her research.

Our autumn season opened in September with "The British Party System", a playlet drawn from Shaw's treatise *Everybody's Political What's What*, devised by Lorenzo Mason. In October Jonas Cemm presented *How He Lied to her Husband*, and the year closed with an evening of readings from Shaw's art, music and theatre criticism devised by Richard-Digby Day with Toni Kanal – topped up with a reading of the first part of *Village Wooing*.

I would like to thank Evelyn Ellis for organising the programme of meetings, the directors and speakers, and of course the actors, drawn from our own newly-formed company, who gave of their time and expertise. We're all delighted to welcome the actor members to the Shaw Society – and it's great that they support each other and come to the meetings, giving us a wider mix of attendees and the opportunity for very lively and interesting discussions.

Particular thanks go to Jonas Cemm for recruiting actor members to the Society, and assembling and organising the actors company, giving the Society a brilliant new direction.

The Shavian

There were three editions of *The Shavian*, in Spring, Autumn and Winter 2017, with again a varied mix of original features, research and academic article, book reviews, theatre reviews and favourite items including Shaw's Corner's Corner and the Playreading Group. I am

pleased that we are now getting proposals for items for *The Shavian* from members of the International Shaw Society as well as our own members, giving the journal an international flavour as well as focussing on what is unique and special about the Shaw Society in the UK. I would like to thank all the contributors, and Martin Wright for his work on the production process including design and layout, illustrations and copyright permissions. Thanks too to proofreaders Barbara Smoker and Evelyn Ellis.

Playreading Group

The playreading group led and organised by Alan Knight met regularly throughout the year, covering a very distinctive choice of plays, and beginning with *The Best of Friends*, which portrays the relationship through correspondence between Shaw and an Anglican nun Dame Laura MacLachlan. Playwrights represented included Tom Stoppard, Oscar Wilde, Alan Ayckbourn, John Godber, Brian Freeland, William Golding, Harley Granville-Barker, and Trevor Griffiths. The Playreading Group is very popular, and warm thanks go to Alan for all his hard work in drawing the programme together – and getting copies, no mean task!

Website and social media

We have been well served on the communication side by the Shaw Society website, managed by Peter Sims – again, thanks are due to Peter. We now have a social media presence on both Facebook and Twitter, with links on the website – and thanks to Jonas for making energetic use of Twitter to raise the Society's profile.

Shaw and H G Wells Societies Joint Conference 23 September

Finally, in relation to the past year, a special event of 2017 – the joint conference of the Shaw and H G Wells Societies held at the London School of Economics on 23 September 2017. The conference was well attended, with a number of speakers from the Shaw Society, with papers on a variety of topics very well received. We hope to have further collaboration with the H G Wells Society in the future, and a joint outing to Shaw's Corner is being organised for later this year.

Plans for the Year Ahead

In addition to the usual activities of the Shaw Society, the Committee has identified several development projects for the year ahead:

Governance: to recruit at least one new Trustee to fulfil the requirement of six Trustees; to review the constitution in the light of Charity Commission reporting requirements and also our new direction with the actor members' company SHAW2020

Digital strategy: to redevelop the Shaw Society website so as to give new features including access on mobile phones, ability to pay subscriptions online, and a members' area; and to have an integrated approach to online communications and content including social media and the Shaw Institute; and to provide online access to *The Shavian*

SHAW2020: to develop further the vision and plan for the actors' company, preparing for a full launch when Shaw comes out of copyright

Fundraising: to develop a plan for fundraising to support our activities, building on the current base, and with a provisional target of £1500 for the coming year. Fundraising and will be overseen by the Trustees.

A full report will be brought to the next AGM, with interim updates to members on these projects as needed.

Anne Wright, Chair

THE SHAW SOCIETY

Founded 1941

MINUTES of the 76TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, 26th March 2018 at 7-30pm
at the Actors Centre, 1a Tower Street, off Earlham Street, London WC2H 9NP

Present: Trustees: Chair: Dr Anne Wright; Officers: Secretary Mark Egerton, Treasurer Evelyn Ellis; Sue Morgan. Members: Jonas Cemm; Maureen Clark-Darby; Ray Diamond; John Dixon; Michael Friend; Lorenzo Mason; Cara Saul; Moya Simmonds; Glenda Sylvester; Helen Tierney; Chris & Penny Wallace; Alexis Ward; Martin Wright;

Apologies: Richard Digby Day; Brian Freeland; Alan Knight; Toni Kanal

1. **Minutes of last year's AGM** (held on 17th February 2017) were agreed and signed.
2. **Matters arising:** there were no matters arising that were not covered in the Agenda
3. **Chair's Report:** Dr Anne Wright
4. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts** (copy attached)
5. **Actors Company/Project Shaw 2020**
Jonas Cemm, Artistic Director, introduced the newly formed Shaw Society Actors' Company which will operate under the name *Project Shaw 2020*. Born out of the annual Summer Festival at Shaw's Corner under the auspices of Michael Friend Productions, the new company will provide a bank of enthusiastic Shavian actors to take full advantage of Shaw coming out of copyright in 2020.
6. **Re-election of President and Vice-Presidents:**
President: Sir Michael Holroyd ;
Vice-Presidents: Nicholas Barter; Dame Judi Dench; Richard Dietrich; Richard Digby-Day; Michael Friend; Toni Kanal; Edward Kemp; Hayward Morse; Barbara Smoker; Sylvia Syms OBE; Sam Walters; and the current Mayor of Camden.
New nomination: Bonnie Greer OBE, playwright, novelist, critic and broadcaster
Proposed by Lorenzo Mason; Seconded by Sue Morgan.
7. **Election of officers:** The following Officers of the Society stood for re-election:
Chair Anne Wright; **Secretary** Mark Egerton; **Treasurer** Evelyn Ellis
Proposed by Maureen Clark-Darby; Seconded by Jonas Cemm.
8. **Election of Trustees:** Mark Egerton, Evelyn Ellis, Alan Knight, Sue Morgan and Anne Wright stood for re-election. Maureen Clark-Darby stood for election for the first time.
Proposed by Lainey Shaw; Seconded by Michael Friend
9. **Election of Executive Committee:** Mark Egerton, Evelyn Ellis, Alan Knight, Sue Morgan and Anne Wright stood for re-election. Jonas Cemm, Abbey Norman, and Lainey Shaw stood for election for the first time.
Proposed by Michael Friend, seconded by Lorenzo Mason
10. **Any other business:** There was no other business.

The Annual General Meeting ended at 8-20pm and was followed by ***Bernard Shaw: Suffragist or Sexist?*** A brief examination of Shaw's attitude to female suffrage and his conflicting views on women. Presented by our Actors Company, directed by Jonas Cemm.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER 2017

The Financial Statements for 2017 have been reviewed by the Independent Examiner.

Comments:

1. Income

Subscriptions income received for the period is £2,563 (2016: £2,331), up 10% year on year. This increase is due to the increase in the Society's subscription rates for 2017. Gift Aid receivable included in donations income for this year and last is £581 (2016: no claim was made).

Donations and legacies: Donations received during the year were £1,451.

2. Expenditure

The Shavian: costs for the year were £1,909 (2016 £1,712) up in 2017 by 11%. This is due to increased circulation and extra copies printed for marketing purposes.

Marketing: Cost for the year was £249 (2016: £64) up this year by 289%. The main reason for this increase was the Society's involvement with the H.G. Wells Conference. The Society produced promotional bags and a banner for the event. This is a one off exceptional expenditure. These products will be used for future marketing purposes.

Administration:/supplies/postage/website the cost for 2017 is £179 (2016: £68). The main reason for the increase this year is: The Society buys supplies when needed and takes the cost in the year they are incurred rather than holding stock in the balance sheet.

Monthly Meetings the cost for the year is £1,254 (2016: £1,059) up 18%. Considering that this is the Society's first year at the much more suitable Actors Centre, compared to prior year where they were held in the Conway Hall, the increase in costs is surprisingly modest. Our aim is to grow the Society's audience to cover these costs going forward.

Playwriting Award Fund: the expenditure for 2017 is £570 (this is a bi-annual event and is entirely funded from the legacy of £5,000 received in 2010). These funds are ring fenced and are held in the Society's restricted reserves. Expenditure is prize money of £500 and minimal marketing costs. £679 remains in this fund which will enable us to launch a new Award in 2018. Additional funds/donor will be required in 2019 to complete the award.

The Society made a surplus for the year of £1,057 (2016: surplus of £164). The unrestricted funds made a gain in the year of £1,578, while the restricted fund made a deficit of £521 in 2017. This has increased the Society's Capital and Reserves for the year to £6,597 (2016: £5,919). The Development Fund, which stands at £3,037 as at 31st December 2017, is included in this figure. £5,918 is held in unrestricted funds and £679 is held in restricted funds.

Comments:

Administration costs which include The Shavian were up year on year and were just under £112 less than membership subscription income for the year.

THE SHAW SOCIETY			
BALANCE SHEET			
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017			
	2017		2016
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	£232		£742
Cash at bank	£8453		£6089
	£8685		6,831
CREDITORS: amounts falling within one year	£2088		£1290
	£6597		5,541
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Restricted	£679		£1250
Unrestricted funds	£5918		£4291
	£6597		5,541
These financial statements were approved by the board on 26 March 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:-			
Evelyn Ellis			Anne Wright
Treasurer			Chair

THE SHAW SOCIETY

HMRC Charities Ref. EW22823

Privacy Policy

Background

GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulation) comes into effect on 25 May 2018 and legally affects how we handle your data and how we communicate with you in the future. The Society already takes all reasonable steps to ensure that data collected from its members is treated confidentially and the Society complies with current data protection legislation.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is responsible for enforcing data protection legislation and is publishing guidance on how the new law will work and what steps organisations must take to prepare for it, but the guidance is still not complete. The Society is already exempt from some provisions of current data protection law but the ICO has not published any details of the exemptions that might apply for small organisations such as the Society under the new law.

Accordingly we are currently working on the basis that there will be no exemptions for the Society.

Lawful basis of Processing

It is a requirement under the new legislation that organisations identify a legal basis of processing. In our case this is legitimate interest. Our relationship with you is that you are a member of the Society and we need to process your data to provide our service to you.

What is 'personal data'?

In this context, personal data is any information about you which allows the Society to identify you. The Society keeps the following personal data about you:

- Your name and title
- Your address
- Your phone number and/or mobile phone number if you have provided one
- Your email address if you have provided one
- Details of membership subscriptions you have paid and donations you have made
- Details of any Gift Aid authorities you may have signed
- Details of your indicated areas of interest in Society activities
- Sometimes, details of any Society-hosted events you may have attended and payments you have made for admission
- Sometimes, emails that you have sent us to register for Society-hosted events or to ask questions about the Society and its activities or to inform the Society of matters which concern its activities.

How is it kept?

Your personal data is stored on the Treasurer's computer. Access to your personal data is limited to the Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Membership records are stored securely. They are encrypted and password-protected and regularly backed up on a stand-alone hard drive. None of them is stored in the Cloud. Some of our records, such as membership forms and Gift Aid authorities, are retained in paper format and held under lock and key by the Treasurer.

The Society keeps the information for as long as the General Committee considers necessary within the terms of GDPR. Personal data and Gift Aid authorities are retained for as long as you are a member. In the case of lapsed members (namely members who fail to renew their annual subscription but do not actually ask for their membership to be terminated), that material is kept for approximately four calendar years from the date of lapse. The Society may also need to keep financial information about a transaction with you for a period of six financial years after the end of the financial year in which the transaction occurred, so that the Society can deal with any relevant matters with HMRC.

How is it used?

We only use the personal data we hold to enable us to perform the functions of a member-based literary society, and to notify you, via the Society magazine, Calendar and any accompanying flyers or notices (all of which may be sent electronically, according to your preference), of our latest activities and forthcoming events. As we do now, we *very occasionally* also tell members about local events organised by other organisations which we believe will be of interest to members.

We never pass your personal data to third parties without your permission unless (i) required to do so by law or (ii) in connection with an application by us to HMRC for a Gift Aid refund payment - see above - or (iii) required to do so by Rule 8(4) of the Society's constitution which provides: "The Trustees must keep a register of names and addresses of the members of the Society *which must be made available to any member upon request*".

What is the status of Rule 8(4) under the GDPR?

Rule 8(4) of the Society's constitution is a very old rule. The principal reason for it is to give individual members a contractual right to obtain the means of contacting other members directly on matters of Society business without doing so via the General Committee (the trustees). The Rule comes from a time before the modern concept of "data protection".

On this issue the ICO has advised the Society that the mandatory provisions of GDPR override the individual member's contractual right under Rule 8(4), with the result that (i) existing members of the Society may, by notifying the Society, elect not to have their names and addresses made available to other members under Rule 8(4) and (ii) new members joining on or after 25 May 2018 will not have their names and addresses made available to other members under the Rule unless they actively elect to allow it.

Members should be aware that should there be a request from a member under Rule 8(4) that member will be required, as a pre-condition of receiving other members' names and addresses, to undertake to the Society, in a legally binding document, to keep the information confidential and to use it exclusively for the purposes of the Society's business.

Your rights

You have the right to ask the Society to tell you at any time what personal data it holds about you.

You also have the right at any time to correct any personal data it holds which is incorrect.

You have the right not to have your name and address made available to other members under Rule 8(4).

You have the right to require the Society not to send you the Society's magazine or Calendar or other information about its activities and forthcoming events, whether held by the Society or a third party.

You have the right to cancel your membership of the Society at any time and to require your personal data to be removed from the Society's database - although please note that we may, as explained above, need to keep details of payments you have made to us (and what they were for) even after your membership ends.

You may exercise any of these rights by writing to the Society at its postal address shown below or by emailing contact@shawsociety.org.uk

How we will contact you

When you join the Society, we add your name, postal address and email address (if provided) to our database and then keep you informed of the Society's activities and forthcoming events as described above. We also contact *annual members* by post or email to remind them of when their annual subscriptions are due.

For members as at 25 May 2018, we will only contact you in the way we customarily have, and in accordance with your preferences (if any) already expressed to us. This will usually be by email (if you provided us with an active email address) and/or by post. Members who have provided us with an active email address will receive information from us more frequently than members who have only provided us with a postal address because we sometimes receive information at short notice which we need to pass on to members before the next magazine or Calendar is due. Very rarely, we may need to contact you by telephone, but this would usually only be to resolve uncertainty over the current validity of your membership or to let you know about changes to an event at which you were due where an email or letter might not reach you in time.

For members joining on or after 25 May 2018, we will only contact you according to the choices you made, as to permissible modes of contact by us, when you joined.

Please keep a copy of this Privacy Policy, which may be updated and notified to you from time to time, for your records.

Contact and complaints

If you have any queries about this privacy notice or how we process your personal data please get in touch with us.

If you are not satisfied with how we are processing your personal data, you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner.

You can find out more about your rights under applicable data protection legislation from the Information Commissioner's Office website available at www.ico.org.uk

Dated : [] May 2018

The Shaw Society
c/o 1 Buckland Court
37 Belsize Park,
London NW3 4EB