



THE SHAW SOCIETY

Founded 1941

www.shawsociety.org.uk contact@shawsociety.org.uk

HMRC Charities Ref.No. EW22823

75TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, 17th February 2017 6-30pm
at the Actors Centre, 1a Tower Street, off Earlham Street, London WC2H 9NP

Present: Chair: Helen Bennett; vice-chair: Anne Wright, Officers; Mark Egerton and Evelyn Ellis; Trustees: Ron Abrahams, Alan Knight, Sue Morgan; Members: Mike Burgess, Jonas Cemm, Maureen Clark Darby, Shonni Doulton, Brian Freeland, Dorothy Holmes, Lorenzo Mason, Alice McEwan, Liz Raney, Gillian Roy, Glenda Silvester, Moya Simmonds, Barbara Smoker, Chris and Penny Wallace, Martin Wright

Apologies: Maureen Coman, Diki Gleeson, Sula Gleeson, Frances Hughes, Carrolle Jamieson, Hayward Morse, Jack O'Connor, Michelle Paul, Cara Saul

1. **Minutes of last year's AGM** (held on 28 April 2016). Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman
2. **Matters arising.** There were no matters arising that were not covered in the Agenda.
3. **Election of 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.

No further nominations were received.

Proposed: Sue Morgan Seconded: Anne Wright The vote was unanimous.

4. **Election of officers:** The following Officers of the Society stood for election:
Chairman Anne Wright; **Vice Chairman** Helen Bennett;

Secretary Mark Egerton; **Treasurer** Evelyn Ellis

Proposed: Lorenzo Mason, Seconded: Gillian Roy. The vote was unanimous.

5. **Election of Trustees/ Executive Committee Members:** Ron Abrahams, Helen Bennett, Mark Egerton, Evelyn Ellis, Alan Knight, Sue Morgan and Anne Wright stood for re-election.

Proposed: Brian Freeland Seconded: Jonas Cemm. The vote was unanimous.

6. **Chairman's Report**

Copy attached

7. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

Draft accounts were presented by Evelyn Ellis as Treasurer Mark Egerton was delayed. Since the AGM the accounts have been re-examined and a corrected version is attached to the Minutes and will be posted on the website together with the Treasurer's Report.

Proposal: Annual subscription to rise from £20 to £25 per annum and for joint membership from £29 to £35; overseas members from £25 to £30 as from 1/4/2017

Proposed by Evelyn Ellis, Seconded by Mark Egerton

The vote was unanimous

8. **Any Other Business**

- St Joan at The Donmar: A number of members had seen the screening of the closing performance the previous evening. Those who had not managed to see it were informed of future screenings. An email has been circulated with details.
- The Actors Centre: With two exceptions, everybody felt the move from the Conway Hall to the Actors Centre was a success.
- Actor Membership: A new category of membership has been introduced to encourage actors and theatre professionals to promote Shaw. Jonas Cemm said he knew a number of potential actor-members and that the idea was very popular.
- Development Fund. What is it for?: EE responded that this consisted mainly of donated money which was being put aside for future educational activities planned to fulfil the objectives of the Shaw Society.

The AGM was closed at 7-05pm, and was followed, after a short break, by a script-in-hand performance of *Annajanska* by Bernard Shaw, directed by Lorenzo Mason.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON 2016

After two eventful years as chairman, I am pleased to hand over to Anne Wright. Anne first joined the Shaw Society in 1968 as a PhD student, and has been very active since re-joining in 2013.

Here are some of the highlights of the past year:

Firstly the sad news of the death of Terry Mullins, a long-time member of the Shaw Society committee. We miss his witty contributions.

On 26th July we celebrated our 75th anniversary with a picnic at Ayot St Lawrence, enjoying delicious treats provided by Sue Morgan, custodian of Shaw's Corner and a member of the Shaw Society committee.

There have been three issues of *The Shavian* this year, two of them edited by Mark Egerton who is stepping down due to the pressure of his day job. Happily, Mark will remain on the editorial committee. Anne Wright guest edited the Anniversary edition and is now working on the Spring issue.

Our playreading group, run by Alan Knight, is growing in popularity. We have read ten plays this year by various authors and there was a special reading of *The Doctor's Dilemma*, with audience participation, at our May meeting.

Speakers at Monthly meetings included

- Leonard Conolly, from Canada, whose publication "They Knew Bernard Shaw" gave us a fascinating insight into American reactions to Shaw's death in 1950.
- Dublin author Eleanor Fitzsimons on Shaw and Oscar Wilde
- Psychiatrist Jesse Hellman from Baltimore on the resemblance of Eliza Doolittle to Emma Hamilton.
- Alan Knight whose popular Shavian quiz followed last year's AGM.
- Anne and Martin Wright whose discussion with Barbara Smoker on film was shown at our June meeting. Barbara's fascinating memories stretch back more than sixty years.

After nearly forty years meeting at the Conway Hall, we have moved to the Actors Centre in Covent Garden. I hope you agree that it is proving to be a change for the better.

Future events here at the Actors Centre will include *Far Fetched Fables* next month followed by *Dark Lady of the Sonnets* in April. Then we have an American author speaking about the making of the film of Major Barbara in the 1940's. Full details will be on the website and in the Shavian Calendar.

Our latest venture is the setting up of a special Shaw Society Company of Shavian actors, anticipating Shaw coming out of copyright in 2020. We have already enrolled a number of actor-members, some of whom will be performing this evening.

I congratulate the joint winners of the TF Evans Playwriting Award: Theodore Kemper from New York for his *Don Juan in Heaven* (a sequel to the Hell scene from *Man & Superman*) and Anne Wright for her *Epilogue to Heartbreak House*. Both plays were performed at The Conway Hall by members of The Shaw Society Company.

The ever popular summer plays at Ayot, directed by Michael Friend, were *Pygmalion* in June and *You Never Can Tell* in July. Other Shaw performances during the year included *The Philanderer*, directed by Paul Miller, at the Orange Tree Theatre; *Arms and the Man*, directed by Brigid Larmour, at the Watford Palace Theatre and *Saint Joan*, directed by Josie Rourke at the Donmar which closes tomorrow evening. You might, with luck, still have time!

The Shaw Institute website went live in December. It will be linked to our existing Shaw Society website and will focus mainly on filmed interviews, performances and articles of educational interest.

I thank our hard working committee: Ron Abrahams, Mark Egerton, Sue Morgan, Anne Wright, sub committee members: actor/director Jonas Cemm, director Lorenzo Peter Mason and vice-presidents Michael Friend, Hayward B. Morse and Barbara Smoker for their invaluable help in making 2016 a year of progress. And a special word about Evelyn Ellis who keeps us in order and is the source of all practical knowledge. Thank you too, loyal members, for your continuing support.

Hot News:

In this month of St Valentine, Alice McEwan, who recently completed her doctorate, has discovered a Valentine card that was sent to GBS from William Morris's daughter! And it was reproduced in the Guardian.

AGM TREASURER'S REPORT

17th February 2017

I am pleased to be able to report that The Shaw Society has broken even this year: our income was just over £4,053 and our expenditure £3,889 with a surplus of £164. This is obviously not enough of a margin to enable us to develop the society and fulfil our educational obligations as a charity.

Our income mainly comes from annual subscriptions: this year for example £978 from UK members, £809 from overseas universities and £528 from the International Shaw Society. Our monthly meetings have been largely self-funding, although our move to the Actors Centre means we no longer have income from the sale of wine or raffle tickets, and performances are more expensive than talks.

Our play-reading group makes a profit of over £200 a year, and our playwriting award is sponsored by the TF Evans family (although this sponsorship ends with the current award, and we will be looking for a new sponsor). Our biggest expenditure is The Shavian, which consumes nearly 80% of our income. It is also our most important activity, and the main benefit for at least 60% of our membership. It spreads news of Shaw world-wide.

In order to maintain our stability, I would like to suggest an increase to the annual subscription. The proposed increase would, combined the stronger dollar from our American members, give us an additional £500 income per annum.

I propose that we raise the annual subscription to the Shaw Society from £20 to £25 for single membership per annum and from £29 to £35 for joint membership; and the Overseas University subscription from £25 to £30 per address per annum. Who will **second the proposal?**

THE SHAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 December 2016

2016

2016

2015

INCOMING RESOURCES

	Restricted	Unrestricted		
Subscriptions		£2,331.01	£2,331.01	£2,024.00
Meetings		£1,073.36	£1,073.36	£818.00
Play reading		£233.50	£233.50	£212.00
Theatre		£-	£-	£256.00
Donations (transferred to the Development task fund)	£301.00		£301.00	£1,285.00
TF Evans/Special Events		£114.16	£114.16	£-
TOTAL	£301.00	£3,752.03	£4,053.03	£4,595.00

RESOURCES EXPENDED

The Shavian		£1,712.74	£1,712.74	£1,058.00
Marketing		£64.00	£64.00	£225.00
Subscriptions		£140.00	£140.00	£126.00
Administration costs		£-	£-	£103.00
Supplies/postage		£68.83	£68.83	
Monthly meetings		£1,059.00	£1,059.00	£827.00
Award fund	£845.00		£845.00	£187.00
TOTAL	£845.00	£3,044.57	£3,889.57	£2,526.00

Surplus/(deficit)

£-	-£544.00	£707.46	£163.46	£-	£2,069.00
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**THE SHAW SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors (Actors Centre - not included in this year)	£742	592
Cash at bank	£6,089	4,888
	£6,831	5,480
CREDITORS: amounts falling within one year	£1,290	103
	£5,541	5,377
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Development Task Fund	£1,586	1,285
TF Evans	£1,250	2,095
Unrestricted funds	£2,705	1,998
	£5,541	5,378

These financial statements were approved by the board on 17 February 2017
and were signed on its behalf by:-

Evelyn Ellis
Treasurer

Helen Bennett
Chairman