



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
		01	June	2022	31	May	2023
From					To		

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION

Other names charity is known by ISA

Registered charity number (if any) 1160312

Charity's principal address Shakespeare Centre
Henley Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Postcode CV37 6QW Warwickshire

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tom Bishop			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
2	Dominique Goy Blanquet			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
3	Clara Calvo			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
4	Paromita Chakravarti			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
5	Rafik Darragi			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
6	Carla Dente			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
7	Jacek Fabiszak			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
8	Atsuhiko Hirota			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
9	Ton Hoenselaars			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
10	Peter Holland	CHAIR		Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees

11	Peter Holbrook		01.06.22-01.07.22	Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
12	Hyon-U Lee			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
13	Bi-qi Beatrice Lei	VICE CHAIR		Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
14	David McInnis			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
15	Gordon McMullan			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
16	Alfredo Modenessi			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
17	Claudia Olk			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
18	Lena Cowen Orlin			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
19				
20	Christopher Thurman			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
21	Nataliya Torkut			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
22	Lingui Yang (Gary Yang)			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees
23	Li Lan Yong			Members at annual general meeting after WSC/ charity trustees

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
NA	NA
NA	NA
NA	NA

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA

NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Peter Holland (Chair)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. This will include that they should have made a significant contribution to the study and appreciation of Shakespeare. When selecting new charity trustees, the charity trustees and the members will ensure a suitable level of international representation, including, but not limited to, representatives of established and regional Shakespeare organisations. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the members at the annual general meeting and any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled by the charity trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; □ the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The [International Shakespeare Association](#) is an umbrella organisation devoted to connecting Shakespeareans and Shakespeare national societies around the world. With its headquarters at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, a small committee of prominent Shakespeareans, including John Russell Brown, O. B. Harrison, George Hibbard, and Levi Fox helped shape the association's original objectives, including advising on the initiation and planning of World Shakespeare Congresses. The original executive committee, like all committees since, was made up of representatives from around the world. The ISA offers an opportunity for individuals and institutions to join together to further the knowledge of Shakespeare throughout the world.

As befits a global academic organisation, the International Shakespeare Association is committed to principles of diversity and inclusion for all, as well as of academic freedom and freedom of expression. It believes that the world-wide exchange and engagement with the works of Shakespeare that the ISA promotes leads to greater understanding of and respect for different cultures and societies and the place of the individual within them.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

- To advance the education of the public by furthering the study of Shakespeare's life and work by such means as the trustees determine including by:
- Organising, holding and promoting participation in the World Shakespeare Congress and disseminating the learning from that event; and

Offering advice and assistance in the establishment of national or regional Shakespeare associations.

Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Disseminating learning

ISA members were given access to digital recordings made of the 2021 congress in Singapore. Free access to these digital resources helped serve the ISA's aim to advance the education of the public as they provided a special opportunity to understand how and why Asian practitioners bring Shakespeare onto their stages. Disseminating learning from world congresses is a key ISA objective, and the recordings from this important international event will have benefitted young scholars and those who were unable to attend the event in 2021. The resources enabled and promoted cultural exchange between scholars, students and Shakespeare enthusiasts from across the globe.

Promoting international participation

Our constitution allows for the appointment of new Trustees, who also serve on the ISA's Executive Committee. In view of a number of retirements by Trustees the present Executive Committee followed previous practice in taking informal soundings of members and considered the recommendations of the Nominations Committee formed by the Chair. It gave careful consideration to the composition of the Executive Committee, with a view to placing recommendations before the membership for approval. In presenting the candidates for nomination, the Executive Committee kept closely in mind the need for the Committee to reflect the international character of the Association, to encompass wide-ranging interests and experience, and to ensure an appropriate degree of change and renewal in its composition.

The election of our new members acted in the public benefit by increasing international representation for our membership at large. Our new Executive members include:

Paromita Chakravarti is Professor of English at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, and Coordinator of the "Shakespeare in Bengal" Project at its Centre for Advanced Studies. She has been a Visiting Fellow at, for example, Oxford and Amsterdam. Her publications include co-edited anthologies on Shakespeare and Indian Cinemas and on Changing Frames of Gender Politics in India.

Jacek Fabiszak is University Professor at the Adam Mickiewicz University, president of the Polish Shakespeare Association, and past treasurer of the European Shakespeare Research Association. His books include Polish Televised Shakespeares and Shakespeare's Drama of Social Roles.

Hyon-U Lee is Professor of English at Soon Chun Hyang University in Korea. As well as numerous articles on a wide range of topics in the study of Shakespeare performance, translation and adaptation, he has directed Coriolanus, Shrew and Q1 Hamlet.

David McInnis is Associate Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama at the University of Melbourne. He is author of Shakespeare and Lost Plays, and Mind-Travelling and Voyage Drama in Early Modern England, and editor of Dekker's Old Fortunatus for the Revels. He is co-founder and co-editor of the Lost Plays Database.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Chris Thurman is Professor at Witwatersrand University in South Africa, and Director of its Tsikinya-Chaka Centre. He is president of the Shakespeare Society of Southern Africa and founder of Shakespeare ZA. He is editor of the journal *Shakespeare in Southern Africa* and editor of *South African Essays on 'Universal' Shakespeare*.

Nataliya Torkut, as Director of the Shakespeare Centre at Zaporizhzhia National University, has worked to promote both Shakespeare scholarship and public awareness of Shakespeare in Ukraine. She maintains a Ukrainian Shakespeare portal and also contributes to the *World Shakespeare Bibliography*.

Organising, holding and promoting participation in the World Shakespeare Congress

The 2026 World Shakespeare Congress will take place in Verona, Italy, a vital crossroads of ancient and early modern Europe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the setting for *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The WSC will address questions related to the role of Shakespeare in connection with contemporary concerns about the destiny of our planet and human beings at a time when humanism has been deeply challenged. The Congress will foster discussion of the many ways in which Shakespeare may be conceived as 'planetary', reaching out to resonances with new cultural galaxies of enquiry, debate, and knowledge.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information) You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The continued development of a new vision for the ISA designed to encourage further opportunities for the public to benefit from the organisation's work via recordings, publications, and digital and hybrid events.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

June 2022

Nomination and election of 6 new members of the Executive Committee

June 2022

Draft proposal for world congress to be held for the public benefit in 2026 in Verona, Italy.

September 2022

Public announcement of the 11th World Shakespeare Congress in 2026 to be held in Verona, Italy. The Local Organizing Committee is headed by Professor Silvia Bigliazzi of the Università di Verona, with Emanuel Stelzer as co-Chair. Professors Shaul Bassi (University of Venice Ca Foscari), Fernando Cioni (University of Florence) and Eric Nicholson (NYU, Florence) are members of the Advisory Board. The dates of the world congress will be 20-26 July, 2026

January 2023

Formation of Programme and Congress Committee for WSC 2026

May 2023

Development of World Shakespeare Congress website as gateway for those interested in coming together in Verona for a Shakespearian celebration in 2026: <https://www.wsc2026.org/>

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our Constitution states that our trustees have the power to “set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves”

Details of any funds materially in deficit

NA

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

N/A

Section F Other optional information

World Shakespeare Congress 2026: Verona – open access website invitation

The 2026 World Shakespeare Congress will mark the International Shakespeare Association's 50th anniversary. Let us celebrate together in fair Verona, Italy, where, from July 20th to 26th 2026, Shakespeareans will gather in this beautiful and historic city on the Adige River, a vital crossroads of ancient and early modern Europe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the setting for *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The WSC will address questions related to the role of Shakespeare in connection with contemporary concerns about the destiny of our planet and human beings at a time when humanism has been deeply challenged. The Congress will foster discussion of the many ways in which Shakespeare may be conceived as 'planetary', reaching out to resonances with new cultural galaxies of enquiry, debate, and knowledge.

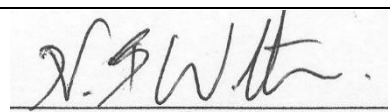
Planetary Shakespeares offers a way to tackle a whole range of issues beyond the present concern with Global Shakespeare and suggesting multifarious ways in which Shakespeare's infinite variety and complexities can offer an entrance point to the humanities, enabling them to confront planetary crises and reconsider relations among nature, art and technology, as well as the need to reconfigure our sense of reality both socially and epistemologically. Now that we have moved into the digital, the virtual, the cyborg, and the posthuman ages, and the notion itself of reality has been challenged from different angles, including our experience of augmented reality, we have become aware of new turning points in history, and how they affect our perception of the contradictions embedded in our sense of the real. Theatre best captures such transformations and possible contradictions. “Planetary Shakespeares” offers convenient gateways into the most varied experiences of ‘the real’ via a plurality of interconnected issues.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	N.B.Walton	
Full name(s)	Nick Walton	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Executive Secretary and Treasurer	
Date	9th April 2024	

International Shakespeare Association**Accounts****Year: 2022-2023**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Receipts:			
Membership	160.00		160.00
Donations	-		-
Grant income	-		-
Bank interest	47.22		47.22
Royalties	-		-
	<hr/>		
	207.22	-	207.22
Expenditure:			
Grant Subsidy	-	-	-
Bank Charges	120.00	-	120.00
PayPal Fees	5.48		5.48
Refreshments	-		-
Costs of Secretariat	-		-
Travel & Accommodation	-		-
Printing & Stationery	-		-
Gifts	-		-
Professional Fees	-		-
WSC2021 Funding		-	
	<hr/>		
	125.48	-	125.48
	<hr/>		
Net Receipts (payments)	81.74	-	81.74
 Cash Funds (last year end)	12,936.68	519.00	13,455.68
Cash Funds (this year end)	13,018.42	519.00	13,537.42