



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	01	June	2023		31	May 2024

Charity name	INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION	
Other names charity is known by	ISA	
Registered charity number (if any)	1160312	
Charity's principal address	The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Administrative Offices 38 Henley Street Stratford-upon-Avon United Kingdom CV37 6QW	
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)
Tom Bishop			Members at annual general meeting.
Chris Thurman			Members at annual general meeting.
Clara Calvo			Members at annual general meeting.
Nataliya Torkut			Members at annual general meeting.
Paromita Chakravarti			Members at annual general meeting.
Lingui Yang (Gary Rafiq)			Members at annual general meeting.
Rafiq Darragi			Members at annual general meeting.
Li Lan Yong			Members at annual general meeting.
Carla Dente			Members at annual general meeting.
Jacek Fabisak			Members at annual general meeting.
Dominique Goy Blanquet			Members at annual general meeting.
Atsuhiko Hirota			Members at annual general meeting.
Ton Hoenselaars			Members at annual general meeting.
Peter Holland	CHAIR		Members at annual general meeting.
Hyon-U Lee			Members at annual general meeting.
Bi-qi Beatrice Lei	VICE CHAIR		Members at annual general meeting.
David McInnis			Members at annual general meeting.
Gordon McMullan			Members at annual general meeting.
Alfredo Modenessi			Members at annual general meeting.
Claudia Olk			Members at annual general meeting.
Lena Cowen Orlin			Members at annual general meeting.

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 includes that they should have made a significant contribution to the study and appreciation of Shakespeare. When selecting new charity trustees, the charity's 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)	The International Shakespeare Association is an umbrella organisation devoted to connecting Shakespearians and Shakespeare national societies around the world. With its headquarters at The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, a small committee of prominent Shakespearians, including John Russell Brown, O. B. Hardison, 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.
You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> policies and procedures adopted for the induction and 	
Paul Edmondson	April 2025

training of trustees; 2 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.

To advance the education of the public by furthering the study of Shakespeare's life and work by such means as the trustees determine

Section C Objectives and activities

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

- Organising, holding and promoting participation in the World Shakespeare Congress, and disseminating the learning of that event.
- Offering advice and assistance in the establishment of national or regional Shakespeare associations.

The charity, a C.I.O., has the following policies:

- Complaints policy and procedures.
- Engaging external speakers at charity events policy and procedures.
- Financial reserves policy and procedures.
- Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures.
- Safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Trustee conflicts of interest policy and procedures.
- Trustee expenses policy and procedures.

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.

It does not own and/or lease land or property.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

In the year ending 2024, the I.S.A. has:

- Completed further preparations for the 12th World Shakespeare Congress in Verona, 20-26th July 2026, fifty years on from the 1st W.S.C. in 1976. This is a major collaboration between the I.S.A. and the Skenè Centre, University of Verona.
- Continued to advise the charity's mailing-list about how to update its membership.
- Received monies of updated and new memberships in support of the charity's aims and objectives.
- Updated members about international, Shakespeare-related events.

The theme of the 2026 World Shakespeare Congress is 'Planetary Shakespeares', and it 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.

The following organisational structure for the W.S.C. 2026 was established:

Skenè Local Organizing Committee for the W.S.C. 2026.

- CHAIR: Silvia BIGLIAZZI (University of Verona, Italy)
- CO-CHAIR: Emanuel STELZER (University of Verona, Italy)
- Simona BRUNETTI (University of Verona, Italy)
- Sidia FIORATO (University of Verona, Italy)
- Vlado JELCIC (University of Verona, Italy)
- Susan PAYNE (University of Florence, Italy)
- Cristiano RAGNI (University of Verona, Italy)
- Beatrice RIGHETTI (University of Verona, Italy)
- Anmol Deep SINGH (University of Verona, Italy)
- Roberta ZANONI (University of Verona, Italy)

Members of the Advisory Board for the W.S.C. 2026.

- Shaul BASSI (University of Venice Ca' Foscari, Italy)
- Fernando CIONI (University of Florence, Italy)
- Eric NICHOLSON (NYU Florence, Italy)

Programme Committee for the W.S.C. 2026.

- Bi-qi Beatrice LEI (Shakespeare Association of America) – chair
- Tom BISHOP (University of Auckland, New Zealand)
- Chris THURMAN (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- Nathalie VIENNE-GUERRIN (Paul Valéry University Montpellier 3, France)

Accounts

Year: 2023/24

Congress Committee for the W.S.C. 2026.

- Peter HOLLAND (University of Notre Dame, USA) – chair
- Ton HOENSELAARS (Utrecht University, Netherlands)
- Lena Cowen ORLIN (Georgetown University, USA)

Unrestricted Restricted Total

Receipts:

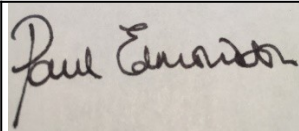
Section E		Financial review		
Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Donations			£20.00
	Grant Income			£0.00
	Bank Interest			£224.20
	Royalties			£0.00
		£244.20	£242.89	£487.09
Details of any funds materially in deficit		Expenditure:		
		Grant Subsidy	NA.	£0.00
		Bank Charges	£85.00	£85.00
		PayPal Fees	£7.48	£7.48
		Refreshments		£0.00
		Costs of Secretariat		£0.00
		Travel & Accommodation		£0.00
		Printing & Stationery		£0.00
		Gifts		£0.00
		Professional Fees	£43.84	£43.84
		WSC2021 Funding		£0.00
			£136.32	£0.00
		Net receipts/(payments)	£107.88	£242.89
		Cash Funds last year end	£13,008.45	£559.42
		Cash Funds this year end	£13,116.33	£802.31
				£13,918.64

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		Paul Edmondson
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Executive Secretary and Treasurer	
Date	17 April 2025.	