

Charity no. 1185804

Shakespeare Link
Receipts and Payments Accounts
31 March 2022

Shakespeare Link

Reference and administrative details

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Charity number	1185804
Registered office and operational address	Penlanole Llanwrthwl Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 6NN
Trustees	<p>The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:</p> <p>Andrew Cresswell (appointed 5 June 2021)</p> <p>Simon Fraser</p> <p>Marie-Therese Gibson-Watt</p> <p>Gavin Hooson</p> <p>Richard Rathbone</p> <p>Barbara Stow</p> <p>Jessica Tyler</p>
Independent examiners	<p>Godfrey Wilson Limited</p> <p>Chartered accountants and statutory auditors</p> <p>5th Floor Mariner House</p> <p>62 Prince Street</p> <p>Bristol</p> <p>BS1 4QD</p>

Shakespeare Link

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the trust constitution.

Structure, governance and management

In October 2019 the original trust of Shakespeare Link, formed in 1994, converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Charity number: 1185804.

The Trustees resolved to transfer the assets of the Trust to the CIO on 4 April 2020, and the Trust was removed from the register of charities on 20 April 2020.

Trustees are appointed by invitation based on appropriate skills and experience and we are fortunate in having attracted a high calibre Board.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation Shakespeare Link are the advancement of the education of the public through the use of Shakespearean and other drama and in particular, but without prejudice in the generality of the foregoing, to promote their mental, moral and physical development and improvement.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the general guidance issued by the Charity Commission regarding public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives when planning activities. The activities undertaken to further the Charity's purpose for the public benefit are outlined above and further described in the report below.

Achievements and performance

March 21-22 was a productive and valuable year for Shakespeare Link. Despite the restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic, the CIO continued to provide an annual programme of developmental workshops and performance at first online and increasingly, as restrictions eased, live within its local community and beyond. Working towards the 2022 celebrations for achieving 30 years since founding Shakespeare Link in 1992, we pursued a regenerative programme to address the Covid disruptions. Joyous community events happened live again at Willow Globe along with visits from professional companies as Covid restrictions eased. Successful fundraising also allowed us to continue the additional online Have-a go sessions via Zoom, which have proved an invaluable lifeline for less mobile Have-a-Go Shakespeare enthusiasts. We welcomed new Trustees to the Board along with a fresh team in the office. All of these will have been named elsewhere, and they all contribute hugely, with their wide variety of skills and expertise, to the success of all that happens at Shakespeare Link.

THE PERFORMANCE SEASON at WILLOW GLOBE 2021-2022:

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY BASH '21 took place live on YouTube to open the season, allowing for inclusive and exciting input from links around the world. Following the clock round the globe we heard from friends in Beijing, Calcutta, Russia, Latvia, Kenya, France, USA and Canada as well as home-brewed contributions involving singing, words modern and Shakespearean, a Pavane and la Volta display by members of the Community Company and some dazzling break-dancing – all topped off with locally animated and real birthday cake.

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MID WALES OPERA – we were delighted to host this vibrant local company who brought two joyful and entertaining musical treats, featuring an eclectic mix from the worlds of song, opera and cabaret. They warmed the hearts of their audiences, limited in size by Covid restrictions but not in their rapt appreciation of the music in its willowy setting.

CYMBELINE – at last the Community Company could bring this extraordinary play to the stage. Much of 20-21 had been spent working via zoom to learn songs, explore story and character, delve into the historic background to the play along with its Welsh links, and being inspired by a wide variety of enriching skills-based techniques – such as Gavin Hooson's talk on Celtic habits and customs which encouraged a volunteer to construct a Carnyx for the Cymbeline battle scenes, and a Welsh language workshop focussing on Cymbeline from Ffion Glyn. All this prep work culminated in 2021's triumphant performances at Willow Globe. 'We enjoyed it so much!' - 'Must rank as one of the best things Willow has given us – Bravo!' write audience members. Film shot during the run was edited and subsequently shown as part of the 'Cymbeline in the Anthropocene' Festival in Montana, USA.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM from the FACTORY – this infectious Company have established themselves as firm favourites with local audiences, and we were delighted that they invited Willow Globe actors to join the fun – Helen Street and Rosie Price shared Hippolyta, Stan Blake with his guitar played and sang his own composition of the fairy song.

KING LEAR RETOLD – accomplished Storyteller Debs Newbold brought her gripping skills to this great tragedy, bringing out the personal crises of all concerned – 'what a brilliant performance', 'this is a crucial venue for mid-Wales', 'I'll be back!' commented audience members after the Show.

HENRY V from EVERYMAN YOUTH THEATRE – this ever-popular youth group from Cardiff played to packed houses with such skill, commitment and its own energetic brand of refreshing invention! Their Director writes: "such a massive thanks for having us and giving the young people this opportunity .. it is such a positive experience for us – enabling them to develop new skills and even more importantly enabling them to develop a sense of self-worth and build confidence". The feedback drew attention to the 'awesome' setting and 'to be in nature was so authentic'.

TWELFTH NIGHT from the WET MARINERS who brought all the skill, expertise and charm we have come to expect from this generous and multi-talented group. 'A brilliant show yet again – and we count the days until they return.' The audience was, as ever, so very happy to see them.

HENRY IV parts 1&2 from Joyous Gard saw a team of 2 tackle this huge sweep of British history in a couple of hours. And twice in the day! Audiences were enthralled – enjoying 'the beautiful setting', an 'outstanding presentation', and feeding back that 'it' so important to have a venue like this in mid Wales – it's just the very best!

ROMEO & JULIET from the Fontainbleau School of Acting, led by RSC actor Kirsty Bushell, was another delight. The young and international team of actors in their graduation year relished 'the opportunity to present their work in .. 'this special and unique theatre in the heart of Wales', and audiences found their show dazzlingly energetic, a modern riff on a well-known and much-loved play.

THE SCHOOL of NIGHT – IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE was a wonderful surprise – how could 4 actors interact with their audience to create something fresh and totally new at every performance? We were in safe hands as the team dexterously warmed us up, created a firework display of iambic pentameter and cajoled willing volunteers to participate in the mayhem on stage. They proved so popular that they were immediately invited to return in 2022.

Shakespeare Link

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

A TAPESTRY of WORKSHOP and COMPLEMENTARY EVENTS:

GLOBE 4 GLOBE – this symposium, spearheaded by Shakespeare's Globe in London and looking at how theatre is addressing the Climate Emergency, asked for a 10 minute video of what goes on at Willow Globe to include in their programme. We were thrilled to create this video with contributions from so many to tell the story of the place, our rich rural community and ethos of working with nature. It was shown as part of the G4G festival and is now available on Shakespeare Link's website.

HAVE-A-GO SHAKESPEARE - live fortnightly sessions at Wyese and in the Stable on site at Willow Globe have been resumed. And we continued to run online Have-a-Go sessions. Sessions both live and online offer elderly attendees a vital supportive and life-enhancing opportunity for brain, social and physical workout in the company of like-minded friends.

TREE PLANTING - an ongoing programme of reforestation. The 7 acre field, for over 50 years grazed by sheep, is now back in hand to re-establish a natural woodland/rhos pasture, proving of interest to environmentalists and chiming with our green ethos. This redeveloping habitat, planted by volunteers and kept free of stock, is proving a wonderful venue for fresh creative initiatives and we are delighted to be liaising with the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust as well as other groups over collaborative workshops and events.

NEW GREEN ENERGY LANTERNS in WILLOW GLOBE - Energy on site has been green since 2007, via the solar panels and wind turbine, but the actual lanterns in Willow Globe needed updating. We were fortunate that thanks to links with Shakespeare's Globe in London we were able to source up to spec LED festoons and lanterns for Willow Globe over the autumn and install them ready for use in 2022.

VOLUNTEERS - despite Covid regulations curtailing the opportunities for large-scale volunteer involvement early in the year, we were still able to provide a welcome focus for endeavour whilst strictly adhering to Covid guidelines. In this rurally isolated area volunteers welcomed the opportunity to be on an open-air site, focussing on familiar routines - wardrobe, technical checks, theatre and nature walk maintenance etc.

VENUE HIRE - we were happy to host the Board of DRAMA ARTS WALES for their AGM in September, our accessible position along the A470 making it a useful central venue for Board members to convene. Local MPYT Trustees also use the Stable for meetings.

COSTUME RESOURCE - we were glad to be able to source some costumes and props for MPYT, MWO, BWCAS, the Dangerous Community Games project, and some individual borrowers, as well as helping visiting Companies as required.

RADNORSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST - the development of an exciting working relationship with RWT is very promising. We have hosted workshops for them and look to collaborate with RWT over various initiatives linking natural lore with Shakespeare's wisdom, enriching an awareness of both.

LATVIA – a visit from colleague Brigitta Stroda in Autumn 21 promises workshops in 2022.

BUDDING NEW SPIELBERGS – young techie workshops in March 22 prove a popular and valuable upskilling opportunity for local young people, and ends the accounting year. Onwards and upwards.

Shakespeare Link

Report of the trustees

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Shakespeare Link's charitable remit has been well served during 2021-2022:

- A welcoming and magical creative hub remains alive in this isolated area in difficult times;
- Delivery of local workshop opportunities, as well as online for all ages and stages within a wider community;
- Continuing to offer volunteer opportunities where folk can develop skills and make friends;
- Supporting climate change initiatives using Shakespeare as the medium for connection and debate, and in particular developing Cymbeline as part of the 'Cymbeline in the Anthropocene' global project and the G4G Climate Emergency symposium;
- Offering opportunities for local artists to work with visiting professional companies;
- Encouraging and offering a platform to young professional artists, both local and national;
- Supporting local youth/community groups - Mid Powys Youth Theatre, Builth Wells Community Arts and Young Farmers - with a range of professional input and advice;
- Fostering links with the 'Community Theatre' developments in Latvia, originally inspired by Shakespeare Link; and
- Ongoing provision of our popular Have-a-Go Shakespeare series of workshops for senior citizens, both in person and online.

Fundraising: achievements against objectives

Fundraising was tough this year in the aftermath of Covid with many priorities being shifted away from the Arts. We are extremely grateful to Arts Council Wales – Cultural Recovery Fund, Dwr Cymru, Powys County Council Winter of Wellbeing, Llysdinam Trust, PAVO (ICF Grant) as well as to individual donors such as Tina Micklethwaite in memory of Ben Jorgensen, John Walker, the many contributors to our 'Go Fund Me' and our regular friends and supporters. Their support has enabled us to provide the wide variety of experience, collaboration and performance that has enriched the lives of everyone involved. Income and expenditure have been reasonably well balanced, and the generous gift donated just before Covid forced the lockdown in March 2020 has continued enable us to implement some upgrading of our facilities as well as to underwrite projects which could not have otherwise been embarked on. We plan for a robust year 22-23.

Reserves policy

The Trustees consider the optimum level of unrestricted reserves to be equal to 3-6 months' fixed expenditure of the Charity, estimated at £15,000. This level of reserves would provide adequate funds to enable the Charity to continue its activities in the event of an unforeseen reduction in funding or another significant event.

Independent examiners

Godfrey Wilson Limited were re-appointed as independent examiners to the charity during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the trustees on 12 November 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Barbara Stow - Chair of Trustees

Independent examiner's report

To the trustees of

Shakespeare Link

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Shakespeare Link (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 7 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

William Guy Blake

Date: 14 November 2022

William Guy Blake ACA

Member of the ICAEW

For and on behalf of:

Godfrey Wilson Limited

Chartered accountants and statutory auditors

5th Floor Mariner House

62 Prince Street

Bristol

BS1 4QD

Shakespeare Link

Receipts and payments account

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Receipts				
Grants	8,255	3,000	11,255	19,414
Donations	5,000	4,650	9,650	30,658
Ticket sales	2,138	5,433	7,571	1,462
Workshops	-	2,252	2,252	931
Bar and café	70	2,307	2,377	-
Venue hire	-	600	600	-
Other revenue	-	363	363	-
Transfer from Shakespeare Link Trust	-	-	-	50,363
Total receipts	15,463	18,605	34,068	102,828
Payments				
Touring and production costs	12,580	6,069	18,649	15,849
Staff costs	10,571	11	10,582	8,814
Equipment purchases	4,621	3,113	7,734	10,750
Premises costs	1,152	3,626	4,778	3,682
Professional fees	2,246	2,092	4,338	2,257
Repairs and maintenance	-	2,162	2,162	3,550
Audit and accountancy	-	2,079	2,079	2,282
Marketing	986	682	1,668	1,291
Insurance	-	1,550	1,550	2,494
Bar and café	27	899	926	-
Telephone, postage and stationery	13	486	499	296
Website and software	-	355	355	107
Hospitality	-	256	256	-
Travel and subsistence	170	15	185	1,729
Other expenses	-	25	25	-
Bank fees	-	25	25	383
Total payments	32,366	23,445	55,811	53,484
Net receipts / (payments)	(16,903)	(4,840)	(21,743)	49,344
Transfers between funds	1,390	(1,390)	-	-
Cash funds at 1 April 2021	19,309	30,035	49,344	-
Cash funds at 31 March 2022	3,796	23,805	27,601	49,344

Shakespeare Link

Statement of assets and liabilities

As at 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash funds		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>27,601</u>	<u>49,344</u>
Total cash funds	<u><u>27,601</u></u>	<u><u>49,344</u></u>
Cash funds		
Restricted funds	3,796	19,309
Unrestricted funds	<u>23,805</u>	<u>30,035</u>
Total cash funds	<u><u>27,601</u></u>	<u><u>49,344</u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 12 November 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Barbara Stow - Chair of Trustees