



Shaftesbury  
Arts Centre

Annual Report 2014~2015

**Report of the Directors and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the period to 31 August 2015**

**for**

**SHAFTESBURY ARTS CENTRE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)**  
**Registered Charity**

**CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
Report of the Directors	3
Structure, Governance and Management	4
Chairman's Report	5
Treasurer's Report	6
Profit & Loss Account	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9-11
Trading & Profit and Loss Account	12-13
Reports	14-17
Appendix 1 Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting	18-19

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF SHAFTESBURY ARTS CENTRE**  
**for the Period Ended 31 August 2015**

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the eleven-month period ended 31 August 2015.

The company is registered as a charity and limited by guarantee and its directors are its trustees for the purpose of charity law.

In May 2015 the company amended its accounting date to 31 August and this report and accompanying financial statements are for the eleven-month period to 31 August 2015.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Reference and Administrative Information**

**DIRECTORS/TRUSTEES:** John Cadmore  
Sue Cadmore  
Ruth Drewett  
Chris Dunford  
Nic Griffin (resigned Nov 2015)  
Amber Harrison  
Richard Lloyd  
Richard Longfoot  
Peter Moull (resigned May 2015)  
Jenny Parker  
Peter Ryley (from Oct 2015)  
John Skillman  
Sandra Trim (from May 2015)  
Robert Truscott (resigned Oct 2014)

**SECRETARY:** Sam Moloney (resigned Sept 2015)  
Peter Ryley (from Sept 2015)

**REGISTERED OFFICE:** 13 Bell Street  
Shaftesbury  
Dorset  
SP7 8AR

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER:** 5336078 (England & Wales)  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:** 1109836

**BANKERS:** HSBC Bank plc  
The Commons  
High Street  
Shaftesbury  
SP7 8JX

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

.....  
PG Ryley – Company Secretary  
Date: ..1....February 2016.....

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY**

The principal activity of the company in the period under review was that of the promotion of artistic and cultural activities.

**DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the Articles of Association five Directors will retire at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting; four by rotation, and one who was appointed by the Board since the last Annual General Meeting.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing Document**

Shaftesbury Arts Centre is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 18th January 2005 and amended 11th February 2009. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

### **Appointment of Trustees**

As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director and determine the rotation in which any additional Directors are to retire. The number of Directors shall not be less than three and shall be subject to a maximum of twelve.

New Directors and those retiring by rotation that have been recommended for re-election by the Directors are elected annually by the members of the charitable company attending the Annual General Meeting. One third of the Directors must retire at each AGM. The Directors to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment.

### **Trustee Induction and Training**

The Board of Directors meets every month. The Directors manage the business of the Charity and may exercise all the powers of the Charity. New Directors are inducted into the Charity through a “buddy” process with an existing Director and all Directors meet annually to discuss their responsibilities and to ensure they are conforming with the requirements of the Memorandum & Articles of Association, Companies Act and Charity Commission.

### **Risk Management.**

The Directors of the company produce a development strategy for the arts centre. This is a strategic plan for all areas of the centre’s activities over a five year period, and as such sets out the major opportunities available to the charity and the risks to which it is exposed. This document is reviewed annually and updated every five years.

The strategy is presented to the members and performance against the plan is monitored regularly by the Directors. The Directors are required to make changes to areas of operation if the annual finance and operational review shows a significant overall variance from budget. The process ensures that if any of the identified risks materialise, they are readily identified and their impact on the Charity minimised.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Charity as set out in the Memorandum of Association are:-

To promote, maintain, improve and advance the education of the public in the arts and science of music, opera, ballet, drama, film, photography, literature, painting, drawing and sculpture in the presentation of concerts, performances, exhibitions and other activities.

The vision of the Shaftesbury Arts Centre is to take the lead in seeking to optimise opportunities for the community of Shaftesbury and the surrounding area to experience and take part in the highest standard of the widest range of the creative arts.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the end of May 2015, I was proud to be elected chairman of this complex, vibrant and rapidly expanding organisation.

As far as we know, the Shaftesbury Arts Centre is unique in that it is run entirely by volunteers. Thanks must go to the growing numbers who make it run so smoothly, from those you see in the Foyer, on the stage and in the Gallery, to those who work behind the scenes; the treasurer, the proof readers, the fundraisers, those who book performers, hire the rooms, compile complex rotas, change light bulbs, fix the heating.....the list is endless.

While our volunteers grow in number, what we have to offer the public is expanding in quantity, quality and variety. Not just the amazing performances you see on stage, from our own shows and from outside professional performers but also, tucked away from public gaze, our growing number of groups, both in-house and those provided by professionals (who hire the room and charge for their courses). All these ensure that the building is buzzing with cultural activity most mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Our rapidly expanding contact with the community is working to spread the arts far and wide. This year we will be supporting the Snowdrop Festival, Shaftesbury Fringe and will welcome Shaftesbury School and St Mary's School as they bring their exhibitions to our newly named Ron Homes Gallery in the Foyer. We will welcome a party from the Abbey School, studying for an Arts award to see how the set and costumes are made for the Pantomime. At Christmas, we expect to see The Flying Start Nursery School perform its nativity play on our stage and the Shaftesbury Town Silver Band holding their popular Christmas concert at the Centre, both bringing in huge audiences and for many of the people, a first visit. Links are being forged with local restaurants that will provide preshow suppers, inmates of local care homes are regularly invited to our previews and a number of our members lead classes at Guys Marsh prison.

With all this activity, our building is under great pressure, so now is the time to tackle phase 4 of our development plan and realise the extension that has been on the cards for so many years. At present we are seeking planning permission to go ahead and will shortly apply to the Arts Council for a grant. This means we will have to raise a great deal in match funding, which will be a tremendous undertaking, and as ever we will welcome your support in any way you feel able.

Thank you to everybody who has helped to make Shaftesbury Arts Centre such a successful enterprise.

*Jenny Parker*

## TREASURER'S REPORT for 11-month period ending 31 August 2015

to accompany the annual accounts here is a brief summary:

	<b>11 months to 31/08/2015</b>	<b>12 months to 30/09/2014</b>
Cash Inflows	£79,863	£101,458
Cash Outflows	£80,928	£98,725
Surplus/(Deficit)	(£1,065)	£2,733

Explanations for the deficit:

- During the year, the Board amended the SAC Accounting Date to 31 August so this report covers 11 months' activity instead of 12 months
- September normally sees high levels of subscription income (and indeed did in 2015)
- There was no Music & Drama Production in Spring 2015

<b>2014-15</b>			<b>2013-14</b>	
	<b>Productions</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>Productions</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
Autumn	Macbeth	£4,228	Much Ado About Nothing	£2,882
Spring	No Production		Two One-act Plays	£2,494
Summer	House & Garden	£5,097	Crazy for You	£2,431
Winter	Owl and the Pussycat	£9,706	Aladdin	£9,195

Note: Sweeney Todd - Autumn 2015 surplus was £7,752

<b>Raise the roof fund</b>	<b>as at 31/08/2015</b>	<b>as at 30/09/2014</b>
	£13,562	£1,576

However, as at 31/12/2015 the fund was at £19,031

<b>Mortgages</b>	<b>as at 31/08/2015</b>	<b>as at 30/09/2014</b>
	£149,289	£167,812

Mortgages are for 15 years, starting in 2008 and ending in 2023

*John Skillman*  
*Treasurer*  
*January 2016*

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT**  
**for period ended 31 August 2015**

		<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
	<b>Notes</b>		
<b>TURNOVER</b>		52813	67844
Cost of sales		32213	40276
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>		20600	27568
Administrative expenses (incl. Depreciation)		43106	51958
		-22506	-24390
Other operating income (except Interest receivable and similar income)		27049	33611
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>2</b>	4543	9221
Interest receivable and similar income		0	3
		4543	9225
Interest payment and similar charges		5608	6492
<b>PROFIT (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</b>		-1065	2733
Taxation on profit (loss) on ordinary activities	<b>3</b>	0	0
<b>PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AFTER TAXATION</b>		-1065	2733
Retained profit (loss) brought forward		35440	32707
<b>RETAINED PROFIT (LOSS) CARRIED FORWARD</b>		34375	35440

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**at 31 August 2015**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	<b>5</b>	783712	783846
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>6</b>		
Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year		1389	1018
Cash at bank and in hand		38118	39763
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>39508</b>	<b>40781</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>7</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		36540	37328
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2967</b>	<b>3453</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>786679</b>	<b>787299</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>8</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		131100	149953
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>655579</b>	<b>637347</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>10</b>		
Other reserves		621204	601907
Retained profit / Profit and loss account		34375	35440
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>		<b>655579</b>	<b>637347</b>

For the period ending 31/08/2015 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of the accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**



**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the period ended 31 August 2015**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2007).

**Turnover**

Turnover represents net invoiced sales of goods.

**Tangible non current assets**

Plant and machinery: 20% on reducing balance

The directors do not consider any depreciation to be necessary on the freehold properties.

**2. OPERATING PROFIT**

The operating profit is stated after charging:

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Depreciation - owned assets	134	168
Directors' emoluments and other benefits etc.	0	0

**3. TAXATION**

As a consequence of the company being granted charitable status no liability to tax arose on the activities for the period ended 31 August 2015 nor for the year ended 30 September 2014.

**4. COMPANY STATUS**

The company is registered as a 'company limited by guarantee'. The guarantee is limited to £10 per member. The company has charitable status - Charity registration number 1109836

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the period ended 31 August 2015**

**5. TANGIBLE NON CURRENT ASSETS**

	<b>Land and buildings</b>	<b>Plant, Machinery etc.</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>COST:</b>			
At 30 September 2014	783176	4991	788167
Additions	0	0	0
At 31 August 2015	783176	4991	788167
<b>DEPRECIATION:</b>			
At 1 October 2014	0	4321	4321
Charge for year	0	134	134
At 31 August 2015	0	4455	4455
<b>NET BOOK VALUE:</b>			
At 30 September 2014	783176	670	783846
At 31 August 2015	783176	536	783712

The freehold property at 13 Bell Street was transferred to the company at valuation in February 2007

**6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Other debtors	1389	1018

**CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Bell Street Appeal	13497	13488
HSBC Current	11337	12234
HSBC Fund Raising	13003	13759
HSBC Savings 2	282	282
Misc		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£38,118.49</b>	<b>£39,762.81</b>

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Bank loan & overdraft	22189	21859
Trade creditors	8825	7455
Subscriptions in advance	5526	8014
Accrued expenses	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36540</b>	<b>37328</b>

The short term elements of the bank loans were obtained from HSBC as part of the financing for the purchase of 11 Bell Street (front and back).  
For details of security see note 9.

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**Notes to the financial statements For**  
**the year ended 31 August 2015**

**8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Bank loans	127100	145953
Third party loans	4000	4000
<b>Total</b>	<b>131100</b>	<b>149953</b>

The long-term elements of the bank loans were obtained from HSBC as part of the financing for the purchase of 11 Bell Street (front and back). For details of security see Note 9. The loans were granted for 15 years in 2008 with capital repayments commencing on the first anniversary of the drawdowns of the respective loans.

The third party loans are from members and are interest free and repayable 5 years or later as individually agreed, from the granting of the loan.

**9. SECURED DEBT**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Bank loans	149289	167812

The loans from HSBC are secured on a first legal mortgage on 13 Bell Street and 11 Bell Street (front and back) as a fixed and floating charge over all of the assets and undertakings of the company.

**10. OTHER RESERVES**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
13 Bell Street Valuation Reserve	335000	335000
SAC charity shop	52392	52329
Building fund and donations	197921	190841
Raise the roof fund	13562	1576
Julia House	1500	1500
Technical equipment fund	5850	5681
Opening reserve	14980	14980
<b>Total</b>	<b>621204</b>	<b>601907</b>

**11. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
Contracted but not provided for in the financial statements	0	0

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2015**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Music & Drama Group productions	24589	28111
Professional theatre	3156	4253
Other events	536	1737
Films	4515	5303
Live music	7899	11798
Gallery commission - net income	7085	12017
Bar - net income	3522	2756
Catering - net income	1512	1870
<b>Total</b>	<b>52813</b>	<b>67844</b>
<b>Cost of sales</b>		
Music & Drama Group productions	17081	20286
Professional theatre	2977	4681
Other events	772	1170
Films	3577	3271
Live music	7806	10868
<b>Total</b>	<b>32213</b>	<b>40276</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>20600</b>	<b>27568</b>
<b>Other income</b>		
Subscriptions	13540	15590
Room letting	10255	11514
Grants	0	0
Sponsorship	0	1500
Donations	0	500
Sundry Income	3254	4508
Bank account interest	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>27049</b>	<b>33614</b>
<b>Gross profit plus Other Income</b>	<b>47649</b>	<b>61183</b>

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre**  
**A company limited by guarantee**

**TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2015**

	<b>31/08/2015</b>	<b>30/09/2014</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Telephone	998	958
Post & Stationery	515	1390
Advertising	5627	8542
Licenses	313	473
Insurance	4792	5352
Repairs & Maintenance, Replacements, Furnishings	3294	5206
Equipment	1650	2100
Cleaning	8715	8549
Display materials	452	16
Sundry expenses	4893	5559
Accountancy	0	0
Legal fees	13	13
Commissions paid	.617	560
Subscriptions	220	249
Room Hire	0	1891
Council Tax and Water	3298	3554
Gas & Electric	7575	7376
<b>Total</b>	<b>42972</b>	<b>51790</b>
Gross profit plus Other Income less Expenditure	4677	9393
Finance costs	3137	3839
Bank charges	2471	2652
<b>Total</b>	<b>5608</b>	<b>6492</b>
Gross profit plus Other Income less Expenditure less Finance Charges	-931	2901
Depreciation	134	168
<b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS)</b>	<b>-1065</b>	<b>2733</b>

## **GROUP REPORTS - 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2014 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2015**

### **ART GROUP**

Our activities are varied as our year is split into three terms: Autumn - September to December; Spring - January to beginning of April; Summer- late April to the end of July. We meet Monday afternoons. Each term is of about ten weeks' duration.

Usually we have various tutors for seven of these Monday afternoons or on occasion a model for life drawing. During this year we have had Linda Appleby with a different approach to watercolours and ink & wash, Clare Thomas for portraiture and lino cut, David Marl for narrative painting, Zara McQueen on trees and pastels as well as charcoal, Helen Lanchbury on sketching, Rachel Sargent on big skies and Viv Rudd on collage.

The summer is different to the other terms in that from early June we meet al fresco at various locations to paint in the open air: Pyt House and Compton Abbas Airfield were two of the venues this year.

We have the opportunity each year to enter the Welcome Exhibition in January, the Snowdrop Exhibition and the Portrait of Shaftesbury Exhibition. We had our own Exhibition in April.

Sadly we lost our President Ron Homes this year. He founded the group and ran it on his own for many years and supported it at all times.

### **EXTERNAL BOOKINGS**

I often ask Members what sorts of shows they would like me to book for the theatre. Following a particularly successful show, the reply tends to be - 'More shows like that!' If only it were that simple!

There are a great many demands on our little theatre, with the in-house drama productions, the hirings and the films. I invariably end up in a struggle to marry up what is available, on the dates that are left, with what we can afford – and for which people might buy tickets!

Not surprisingly, this can be a complete gamble.

Well-known artists, who cost a lot to book, are likely to sell more tickets – but this is not guaranteed. An 'Evening with Maddy Prior' was a great success and a (near) sellout, but well-known American singer/songwriter Dean Friedman, played to only a handful of amazed fans. Sadly, Alvin Stardust died just two weeks after I booked him! But Peter Knight's 'Gigspanner' gave us a good show. The New Scorpion Band has a loyal local following as, also, has Jo Philby, from the Orkneys and Sam Skey from Shaftesbury. An unexpected success was 'Voodoo Room', (they will be back!)

The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School made what has become an annual appearance with the Restoration comedy, 'The Beaux Stratagem'. We also saw Astone Theatre, with their production for Remembrance Day, Arena Theatre, with Alan Bennett's 'The History Boys' and Dyad Productions, with 'I, Elizabeth'.

I promise that I will continue to try and make the programme as varied and eclectic as possible.

### **FILM SOCIETY**

The 2014-15 season of films was the society's 32nd since its formation as a Centre activity in 1984 with a total of 52 screenings, starting with shows of The Lunchbox and ending with Birdman.

Twenty Feet From Stardom achieved the highest audience-approval rating of 87 per cent.

The subject for the annual filmday was Films About Childhood, with screenings of A Story of Children and Film and Boyhood.

The 'senior moment' afternoon shows – films for the Over 50s – continued on the third Tuesday of every month, working in partnership with the North Dorset Integrated Care Team: The Imitation Game was the most popular and best attended film.

The six films for children on Saturday afternoons attracted an average audience of 61, with Paddington the most popular.

The society held its 2014-15 AGM in May 2015 when Henry John Burrough was elected chairman and Paul Schilling secretary, supported by a committee of 13.

*Paul Schilling (SACFS Secretary)*

## **FUNDRAISING**

The year began with Motcombe Community Players' production of "Daisy pulls it off" which successfully raised over £800 for SAC, with a donation made to the Players, followed by a 12-hour sponsored entertainment which realised over £1000.

Then came the Christmas Grotto at Orchard Park (which was tremendous fun, complete with elves, Father Christmas and reindeer) and a Quiz Night and Christmas Draw added to our tally, as did our usual Christmas music evening.

January saw the Panto raffle, which has become quite a tradition, followed by revenue from The Snowdrop Festival refreshments and the opening of Jenny and John Parker's lovely garden.

Next came the Dorset drama league evening, for which we always provide refreshments, a yogathon held by the Yoga Group, and an orchestral concert hosted by Port Regis School, with SAC as a beneficiary.

We hosted the Southern Region finals of the drama league one-act plays, so more refreshments. Cabaret took the form of a speak-easy, and the Open Garden weekend took place as usual.

We are very grateful to Paul Schilling for the very popular film evenings he arranges as extra additions to the normal film nights, filling the theatre and bringing in welcome funds.

In addition to all these events, there are several on-going ventures...the sale of poetry books from the poetry circle, the box office boutique in the foyer, the sale of Jenny's marmalade, and of course, donations which come from all quarters, sometimes quite unexpectedly.

We would like to thank all those, too numerous to mention here, who have supported us this year raising the magnificent total of £15,206.67 and, in the same breath, we invite you to join us on this small committee to breathe new life and some sparkling

and fresh ideas.

*Rosie King and Sue Cadmore*

## **THE GALLERY**

I am pleased to be able to report that 2015 was another very successful year for The Gallery. In the couple of years since we opened we have settled into a regular programme of outside exhibitors and 'in house' exhibitions, namely Welcome 15, Snowdrops and Portrait of Shaftesbury. Our thanks go to our pool of stewards who man these events for us.

We have had wonderful exhibitions, it never ceases to amaze me what each of our exhibitors make of the space we have available. We have had minimalist ceramics, printmakers working in the gallery, and moving into the digital age with projected images on the walls, not forgetting the Eeles family who always bring their potter's wheel with them. We have sold the most expensive picture, ever I think, £2,500 for Zara McQueen's pastel, it was also the largest that we have hung, not an easy task.

We were saddened by the death of Ron Homes, who did so much for the 'old' gallery. It was fitting that his last exhibition in the 'new' gallery was so successful and that the foyer gallery is now named after him.

2016 bookings are complete, with almost half of 2017 reserved, with a few dates in 2018 already spoken for. The Gallery is now recognised by artists from a very wide area and there is no shortage of enquiries.

My thanks to Caroline Hughes and Ian Reilly for all their help with making The Gallery so successful.

*Kate Pickard*

## **MUSIC AND DRAMA GROUP**

The year 2014 - 15 for the Music and Drama Committee has been a very full one. We have had a year of successful shows ranging from 'The Owl and the Pussy cat', 'House and Garden' and Sweeney Todd - all of which have been excellent. We have also had a successful cabaret within this year which has been a great Fundraiser. The committee have continued to work on the Production Guidelines to help support new production team members and have simplified the guidelines of the Producer to encourage more people to take this role on. Other roles that need exploring for are more volunteers are Musical Directors and Set Designers.

We have another very full year of Productions planned, as well as a Festival Entry and Studio Production from a new director and another Cabaret with new co-ordinators.

The MAD committee are always looking for opportunities to link in with the local community and have been involved with Late Night Christmas Shopping this year. We are hoping to be involved in The Shaftesbury Fringe later this year.

We have sadly seen our Youth leader step down this year after many successful productions with the group. Thanks must go to Beth Lewis for her dedication and hard work with the youth group. We have the exciting opportunity of developing the group in this coming year with a new leader - Sam Skey.

We hope you find the year's programme varied and full of fun.

## **JUNIOR DRAMA GROUP**

While Beth Lewis was directing Macbeth in the Summer/Autumn of 2014 Sam Skey took over leadership of Junior Drama. In November 2014 Junior Drama put on a funny and informative history play about King Alfred written by Sam. They performed traditional dances within the play including one which represented a battle between Vikings and Saxons.

From January Beth Lewis resumed leadership and the group worked on 'The Blue Canary' a comedy spy play performed in May 2015. It was written by Beth with inspiration taken from the children and based on gangster, spy and romantic films of the 1940s. All the music (played by live musicians) was taken from that era. The performance also included plenty of physical theatre techniques and multi-purpose props.

In November the children put on 'Aladdin!'; a traditional style pantomime written by Beth. They rehearsed hard; learning songs and dances, developing their characters and stage presence, and demonstrated a responsible attitude to rehearsals, backstage etiquette and line learning. In performance their stage confidence and deft handling of the audience impressed us all.

Beth stepped down after this show and Junior Drama will now be run by Sam Skey with Barbara Arnold's support.

Beth would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered their time and supported Junior Drama's nine plays over the past four and a half years. A very special thank you to the brilliant Richard Lloyd, John Baldwin, Sam Skey, Myra McDadd, Janine Rutter, Carl Davis, Liz Caruthers, Barbara Arnold, Zoe Binns and Paul Schilling for their continuing kindness, work and effort over these years.

*Beth Lewis*

## **POETRY GROUP**

This has been a very lively year. All our meetings are well supported and a lot of poetry writing gets done as well as a lot of laughter and great enjoyment.

Although fairly strictly structured in that we work on whatever the person taking the group has decided for about 3/4 of an hour (a different member is the presenter each month) whilst the rest of the evening is given up to reading poetry we have been working on at home since the last meeting, and critical appreciation of each others' work (we bring enough copies of our poems for everyone to have the poem in front of them), we manage to have plenty of time for just enjoying each others' company as well.

Unity Sparrow won the town's Snowdrop Festival Poetry prize with a highly original slant on snowdrops, which, as is usual with Unity, was hilariously funny. A 7th poetry collection by Pam Kelly was warmly



received by all those who came to the book-launch at SAC and the book sold out! Liz Lewer, who was shortlisted at the Mere Literary Festival, is taking some time out from her prose writing to put together a collection of poems and short stories for publication and Richard Foreman has completed a book to be published shortly, again with a launch at SAC, and he has also had several pieces published in magazines in the past year. Juliet Austin, who has been with us for many years and was a very involved member of the group, also doing artwork for us and making some very inventive poetry boards for display around the town and at SAC, has moved to Dorchester: a great loss.

A group of us got together to write and act a sketch (in poetry of course!) to hopefully amuse the audience at the SAC Christmas Concert but sadly the concert was cancelled due to lack of ticket sales...Good practice for performance poetry, though.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Members of Shaftesbury Arts Centre  
held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 13 Bell Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8AR at 7.30pm**

**MINUTES**

**Directors present:** John Cadmore (Chair), John Skillman (Treasurer), Nic Griffin, Sam Moloney (Secretary), Peter Moull, Sue Cadmore, Chris Dunford and Ruth Drewett

**Members present:** Mary Thomas, Keith Stott, Simon Hunt, Dave Wareham, Sandra Trim, Myra McDadd, Chris Sims, Daniel Goodrich, Lavender Buckland, Sophie Lester, John Baldwin, Andy Hoskins, Helen Purdue, Richard Thomas, Franco Santagostino, Babs Piquet, Sue Neaser, Tony Cuff, Stephen McDadd, Mike Sims, Ross Cruickshank, John Buckland, Beth Lewis, Steve Daniels, Sue Hoskins, Jerome Swan, Sophia Wilson-Weaver, Sandy Roberts, Angela Santagostino, Sue Wareham, Julian Neaser, Michael Pattison, Dave Hollis, Carole Walpole, Pam Cruickshank, Anthea Smith, Hazel Kelly, Val Baker, Phil Dunford, Christine Stott

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

John welcomed all the members and thanked them for coming. He introduced Sam Moloney as new Company Secretary and John Skillman as Treasurer.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Trisha Steven, Rachel Caldwell, Christine Scott, Sue Minshaw, Edred and Ida Bowman, M. Pennell, K. Pickard, A. Burton, Martin Turner, Sue Griffiths, Tony Smith, Jess Simms, Rosie King, Shirley Palmer, Beth Stewart, John and Jenny Parker

**Resolution 1**

The minutes of the AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were approved.

Proposed by Sophie Lester and seconded by Sue Cadmore

**3. Matters Arising: none**

**4. Chairman's Report**

John paid tribute to Bob Truscott who had sadly passed away. He thanked Rutters Solicitors, Proctor Watts Cole Rutter, and Shaftesbury Town Council for their continued support throughout the year.

John emphasised that SAC is a comprehensive arts centre and not just a theatre. SAC gives small arts groups a home and this role lies at the heart of what SAC does.

John thanked Richard Lloyd for all of his work as Company Secretary and Denis Scott for all of his work as Treasurer for many years. John welcomed Sam Moloney and John Skillman.

John told the members present about a number of volunteering opportunities open to them at SAC, namely archive, fundraising, and someone to look after building maintenance.

**5. Treasurers Report**

John Skillman spoke to his Treasurers Report. He noted the following:

- SAC had a £5k surplus for the previous year
- The running costs for SAC are approximately £60k per annum
- There was £1,500 in the Raise the Roof fund at the beginning of the year. There was £10,000 at the end of the year.
- Aladdin had been the most profitable show during the year raising £9k
- Most shows had been profitable

In response to a question from a member, John reported that the target for the Raise the Roof campaign was £30-60k

John C reported that the main roof of the auditorium will be re-clad in metal as this is more economical than re-building the roof. In response to a question from the members, John reported that a metal roof should be less noisy than the current roof as there will be a layer of insulation between the old and new roofs.

In response to a question from a member asking what would happen if SAC didn't make a profit, Nic noted that the long term trend is that the shows make a profit and the room lettings are profitable.

Steven congratulated the board on clearing so much of the mortgage in such a short amount of time. John confirmed that £100k had been cleared and that there was £167k still outstanding at year end.

Nic noted that it is difficult to get grants for repairs in response to a member's question.

Julian asked whether SAC should get an up to date quote for the roof repairs. John C noted that Bob Truscott had been looking into this and that the board are looking for someone to fulfil this role.

## **6. Report & Financial Statement**

### ***Resolution 2***

The Report and Financial Statement for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were adopted.

Proposed by Jo and seconded by Simon

## **7. Election of Directors**

Robert Truscott resigned as a Director in October 2014 in accordance with paragraph 31(5) of the Articles of Association. John Cadmore, Sue Cadmore, Richard Longfoot retired by rotation in accordance with paragraph 25(1) of the Articles of Association and offered themselves for re-election.

Peter Moull retired by rotation in accordance with paragraph 25(1) of the Articles of Association and did not wish to stand for re-election.

Sam Moloney retired in accordance with paragraph 29(2) of the Articles of Association and offered herself for re-election. A nomination had been received from Sandra Trim to become a Director.

### ***Resolution 3***

John Cadmore, Sue Cadmore, Richard Longfoot, Sam Moloney and Sandra Trim were elected as Directors of SAC.

Proposed by Carol and seconded by Jerome.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Richard Thomas asked who makes the decision whether to open the little bar or the upstairs when the auditorium is full. John Cadmore replied that this matter will be looked into. There is no fire safety risk currently and a new coffee servery will be downstairs for the new season. One of the problems with the upstairs bar is that people don't always know that there is a bar upstairs.

Another member suggested that the gallery should always be open when there is a busy auditorium. This suggestion will be considered.

Anthea expressed a concern about FOH staff carrying hot water downstairs. Sue Cadmore responded that the new servery will allow for the coffee machine to be plugged in downstairs.

Mary Thomas asked for more English films. John Cadmore suggested that Mary attend that Film Society AGM on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

In response to a question from Julian regarding whether the Raise the Roof campaign would be the main priority for the next few years. John Cadmore replied that the 2020 target is to develop the land and to raise the building at the back to raise the fly tower so that we can fly a full cloth.

Richard Thomas thanked Amber for the weekly newsletters and the website.

Pam thanked the SAC team for their involvement with the Shaftesbury Snowdrop festival. Feedback had also come from Maddy Prior who wanted to thank everyone for the warm welcome she had received at SAC. The adjudicator from the drama festival was also very grateful for the welcome and help received.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

