

THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 251182

TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
for the YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

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**THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SOCIETY
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CHARITY INFORMATION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018

President	Sir Brian Follett
General Committee (Trustees*)	*Kevin Bond (Vice-Chairman) *Jonathan Craig (Hon Treasurer) *John Deegan Lindsay MacDonald *Ian Prosser David Renfrew
Other Trustees	* Julie Crawshaw * John Scampion

Note: Julie Crawshaw stood down from the Chair in late 2018 for health reasons, but remains a Trustee. Kevin Bond became Acting Chairman at that time.
Lindsay MacDonald and David Renfrew joined the General Committee during 2018.

Charity Number	251182
Secretary	Kevin Taylor
Bankers	Barclays Bank Market Cross Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 0EA
Independent Examiner	J N White, FCA 8 Elm Court Arden Street Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire CV37 6PA

THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SOCIETY
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 251182

Trustees report for the year ended 31st December 2018

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2018.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

The Society is constituted by Trust Deed dated 19th January 1966 and subsequent amendments and is registered with the Charity Commission, Registration Number 251182.

Appointment of Trustees is governed by the constitution of the Charity. The Board of Trustees is recognised to appoint new Trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing Trustee.

The Trustees comprise the officers of The Stratford upon Avon Society and are responsible for managing the business of the Society according to Charity Law.

The Charity is established for the public benefit which through its objects and principal activity is to stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the town and its surrounds. To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest. To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction and publicity and promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.

Annual Review

Chairman's Report

I took over the Chair from Julie following her operation. Unfortunately, the recovery from the operation has been considerably more difficult than was anticipated and Julie has been unable to retake the Chair. I think that we all will agree to offer both our thanks to Julie and wishes for a recovery which allows her to become involved with The Society as soon as she is able.

The committees continue to meet and reports are attached to the bundle of papers. The most significant momentum has come as a result of the work done on The Historic Spine and John Scampion reports on this. You will all have seen the pavement plaques appearing along The Spine and there are a number of further plaques which will shortly be laid. The Society has worked with many other groups, not least KES, and the improvements to the visual history of our Town are clear to see.

We continue to see very rapid change in terms of building use in the Town Centre driven by changes to shopping practices. Members will remember that The Society helped to establish The Historic Buildings Trust a few years ago to ensure that buildings which become 'orphaned' might be saved from ruin. Members will see the success of these moves in the restoration of The Toll House on Clopton Bridge. We will see what other interventions are needed in the coming years.

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Chairman's Report (continued)

We have enjoyed a series of presentations over the past few months and I hope that members have enjoyed the location as well as the content.

The Society membership is declining slowly as we all age. We also have increasing difficulties with volunteers for officer roles. We really do need your support. We are actively looking for a new Secretary and your support to fill this vacancy is urgently sought.

Kevin Bond
Acting Chair.

Planning Report

As I complete my first year as our 'planning rep' there is, in fact, not that much to report.

It took some time to get me onto the list of consultees and Peter Burgess still ends up sending me some application details.

Broadly, such applications fall into two categories: the reserved matters for large developments, not really an area where we can exert much influence, or the smaller schemes nearer to the town centre.

Of these I took part in a consultation on the Canal Quarter development: this is very ambitious and, by land area, will inevitably be led by 'St Joseph' (sounds saintly and avuncular, actually Berkeley Homes). The problem is that the traders in the area nearest the town centre, major players, are reluctant to move. My input to the meeting was to make a plea that this did not end up with streets full of parked cars.

I joined in a consultation regarding the redevelopment of the house in Mill Lane opposite the Church. The application was refused; the Architect will try again.

The South Western Relief Road is still in the offing, but no one wants to pay for it. I have sympathy with the slogan 'wrong road, wrong place'.

Lots in the melting pot - most await funding.

Latest news is application by Shakespeare Mercure Hotel to add rooms by building a two storey extension on stilts over its car park, linking the front section of the building with its annexe. Society views please? Sounds rather large and obtrusive.

David

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Programme Report for 2018

January Our afternoon meeting was a fascinating account of the 20th CENTURY TREASURES OF THE SHAKESPEARE CENTRE given by Rosalyn Sklar. Starting in the Conference Room, we saw examples of decorative fabrics by Tibor Reich and furniture by Gordon Russell, commissioned to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

February The Victorian photographic heritage was celebrated by Bob Pryce with his digitised STEREOSCOPIC VIEWS OF HISTORY AND NATURAL HISTORY IN WARWICKSHIRE from photographic originals held by the Warwickshire County Record Office. This was a high-tech remastering of 19th century photography.

March we heard the case by the Avon Navigation Trust (ANT) for opening the Upper Avon to navigation BY BOAT TO WARWICK. This brought in a number of guests, not all of whom seemed convinced by the argument, and a vigorous discussion ensued.

May Karl Grevatt, the miller, hosted us with A PRIVATE VISIT TO CHARLECOTE MILL, in which he demonstrated the operation of the mill and discussed his concerns about the risk to its future if the Upper Avon is opened to boating. Members were charmed and impressed in equal measure by this remarkable example of heritage technology and the boundless enthusiasm of its custodian.

May An excellent turnout of members met at BROUGHTON CASTLE to enjoy a private tour of the Castle and the fittest (and bravest) even got to climb out onto the roof to enjoy the panoramic view of North Oxfordshire. The visit concluded with tea and cakes. A very good afternoon.

At the AGM in May, Nic Walsh (Programme Secretary) and Rosemary Applin (Events Secretary) stepped down and Lindsay MacDonald took over as Programme Secretary.

September Our LibDem councillor Jenny Fradgley described her experiences of PLANNING AT TOWN, DISTRICT AND COUNTY LEVELS. She considered three major planning applications currently in the pipeline for new housing around Stratford, and what these new houses will mean for transport, services and infrastructure.

October Michael Sheard presented the campaign for LUCY'S MILL BRIDGE. He explained that this historic river crossing is in urgent need of upgrading and improving to enable 'Access for Everyone', and he showed the results of a feasibility study to facilitate a fully compliant access ramp.

November Mark Haselden gave AN UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN. The NDP is facilitated by the Town Council but has been drawn up over the past seven years by volunteers with considerable input from local organisations including the Stratford Society. Shortly after this meeting the NDP was adopted by a huge majority at a local referendum.

December The meeting was unfortunately cancelled because of a booking error at the venue.

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Trustees report for the year ended 31st December 2018

Stratford Town Transport Group Report

The Society co-sponsors this group, along with Stratford and the Town Council, and it addresses any transport matters of potential significance for the town. It meets ten times per year and its meetings are generally well attended. The Society is currently represented by John Deegan and Jann Tracy.

Much of the last year's attention has been focussed on the Transport Strategy, which was adopted by Stratford on Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council in April/May 2018. The TTG were critical of the Strategy both because of inadequacies in the processes of its development and some of the proposals it made. Indeed many members didn't consider it to be a strategy at all, more a loose "framework" within which a strategy could be developed. Whatever it is, it certainly needs follow up detailed plans for implementation which we have sought now for some time.

One element of the strategy, the proposed South Western Relief Road across the water meadow, is included without any evaluation of alternatives or of the costs and benefits it would bring. We are currently awaiting a decision by Homes England on whether or not it will contribute £95 million to the overall cost, currently estimated at £135 million. The developer, CALA Homes, proposes to contribute £40 million, whilst the County Council (the highway authority) and Stratford District Council will contribute nothing.

The other major event was the adoption of the Neighbourhood Development Plan in November after a successful public vote. Transport proposals form a major element of the Plan, including those in the Town Centre, and the TTG would expect to play a role in its monitoring and implementation. We are waiting to hear from the Town Council about how they would like this taken forward.

John Deegan
Chair, Stratford Town Transport Group
12 April 2019

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Trustees report for the year ended 31st December 2018

Historic Spine Working Group Report

The Group was set up some years ago by the Society some years ago recognising that the buildings -or most of them – that contribute so much to our historic heritage, including the truly iconic buildings, lie along the route running from Shakespeare's birthplace to his resting place at Holy Trinity. It is the historic spine of the town. The view then was that the route could become a focus for initiatives to safeguard, protect and enhance the buildings and that the working group would set to work developing them.

As a result the concept of the historic spine is now accepted by the three local authorities, a successful shop fronts improvement scheme has been in place, promoting good design and encouraging work on a number of properties supported by District Council financed grants; and there are a number of projects set out in the recently approved Neighbourhood plan aimed at improving the ambience and enjoyment of the town centre and in particular the Historic spine.

The scheme currently being actively worked on by the Joint Working Group is the design and laying of ceramic plaques describing the history and significance of the key buildings along the route. It has absorbed the Group for the last two years or so and as a result some 12 plaques are either already laid or about to be, all financed by the property owner sponsors. Funding for the remaining 12 or so plaques to complete the first phase of the scheme is the central current concern and activity of the Group. Carbon dating of the wooden framed buildings is a crucial element to strengthen our grasp of the town's history. Once completed and supported by brochures and route guides the plaques will form a prominent element of the town's educational and tourist resource.

The Joint working Group has representatives from the RSC, The Birthplace Trust, Stratford, the Town Trust and the Local authorities, together with Society members.- a broad cross section of the community.

The question for the AGM is first to confirm the continuing activity and purpose of the Group, and second to consider whether its purpose might be widened to include a role to monitor the fulfilment of the key policies and projects of the Neighbourhood plan which are designed to protect and enhance our town centre heritage. Though the formal role of monitoring the plan is for the Town Council, the Society played a significant role in its preparation; and the plan is so close to the Society's essential purpose of protecting the fabric and heritage of the town that it is appropriate that they should take a close interest in bringing it to a proper conclusion. Carrying this out through the Joint Group would ensure that the broad cross community interests would be involved.

John Scampion
Chairman

April 2019

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Financial Review

The financial statements set out on pages 9 and 10 disclose a surplus for the year of £2,690 and reserves of £14,724 as at 31st December 2018.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold adequate reserves for the forthcoming year's ongoing expenditure together with funds to enable The Society to fulfill its objects. There is no restriction on the use of the reserves of £14,724 held at 31st December 2018.

Jonathan Craig
Honorary Treasurer and Trustee

10 May 2019

**THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SOCIETY
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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2018 which are set out on pages 9 and 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of 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 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; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

J. N. White
Chartered Accountant
8 Elm Court
Arden Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire

13 May 2019

THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SOCIETY

**Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31st December 2018**

		2018		2017
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions inc Gift Aid				
Subscriptions	2,814		3,222	
Gift Aid	<u>531</u>	3,345	<u>1,287</u>	4,509
Grants and Donations				
Probus	40		-	
Marie Corelli	<u>-</u>	40	<u>720</u>	720
Talks and Presentations				
Non-members			42	
Sales-pavement plaques/misc	<u>1,700</u>	1,700	<u>4,835</u>	4,877
Events and Visits				
Summer Party	-		415	
Visits	<u>99</u>	99	<u>430</u>	845
Bank Interest		<u>19</u>		<u>2</u>
Total Income		<u>5,203</u>		<u>10,953</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Governance				
AGM	142		207	
Historic Towns Membership	-		60	
General Committee	-		75	
Website, leaflets, promotions	535		3,061	
Postage and Stationery	60		204	
Insurance	334		309	
Audit	<u>264</u>	1,335	<u>264</u>	4,180
Talks and Presentations				
Accommodation and Refreshments		938		672
Events and Visits				
Summer Party	-		375	
Exhibitions	105		-	
Visits	<u>99</u>	204	<u>447</u>	822
Projects				
Pavement Plaques	-		4,800	
Marie Corelli	<u>36</u>	36	<u>4,349</u>	9,149
Donations				
Shakespeare Parade		<u>-</u>		<u>100</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>2,513</u>		<u>14,923</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		2,690		(3,970)
RESERVES at 31st December 2017		<u>12,034</u>		<u>16,004</u>
RESERVES at 31st December 2018		<u>14,724</u>		<u>12,034</u>

THE STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SOCIETY

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 31st December 2018**

	2018	2017
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Barclays Bank – current account	5,456	2,926
Barclays Bank – deposit account	<u>9,291</u>	<u>9,272</u>
	14,747	12,198
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in Advance	<u>23</u>	<u>164</u>
RESERVES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018	<u>14,724</u>	<u>12,034</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 May 2019 and signed on their behalf by:

Jonathan Craig
Honorary Treasurer and Trustee