



Action for Children's Arts
PO Box 169
ASHTEAD
KT21 9BY

Action for Children's Arts ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Wednesday 20th June 2017
2.30 p.m.

House of Lords Committee Room G, Westminster

1. Apologies for absence

ACA patrons: David Bintley, Alan Ayckbourn, Roger McGough, Malorie Blackman, Joanna MacGregor

ACA trustees: David Wood OBE, James Tarbit, Janna Feldman, Susan Whiddington

ACA members: Jude Merrill, Katherine Wood, Holly Barradell, Chris Elwell, Samantha Giblin, Ian Woods, Shona Powell, Anthony Pedley, Lady Judy Vereker, Beverley Naidoo

In attendance: Vicky Ireland MBE (Chair), Baroness Floella Benjamin (Patron), John Shanley (Treasurer), Chris Jarvis (Trustee), Simon Bates (Trustee), Philip Spedding (Trustee), David Lee-Jones (Trustee), Chris Abbott (Trustee), Janet Roberts (Trustee) Maya Politaki (Member), Flossie Waite (Member), Roman Stefanski (Member), Kenneth Forrest (Guest), Keith Benjamin (Guest), Mimi Doulton (Employee)

Welcome from Baroness Benjamin: When you leave this meeting, ask yourself what you can do, what letters you can write, and how you can get people to understand what ACA is trying to achieve!

Thanks to Vicky Ireland MBE for taking on the role as chair.

Welcome from Vicky Ireland: Thanks to Baroness Benjamin for organising this event, and her constant support and passion for what we care about. It is so inspiring to have your reassuring voice spurring us on.

Thank you to everyone for coming – it is wonderful to be meeting at the country's political heartbeat.

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2. Minutes of AGM of June 2017

Signed and approved.

3. Presentation of accounts for Year to 28th February 2018

Income is down substantially due to a drop in membership. ACA has since had a membership drive to address the situation, and lapsed members are returning. Fortunately expenditure also down so the charity is not running at a loss.

Still about £20,000 in reserves.* ACA needs to continue pursuing new members as this is the main source of income. Thank you to current members for their on-going support.

Annual report and accounts signed.

* It has taken 20 years to build the ACA reserves. Some of this is to pay part-time employees, and some for the JM Barrie Awards. Thanks to everyone for their generosity towards ACA.

4. Chair's Annual Report

It has been a busy year as it is our twentieth birthday, and we have been sharing the anniversary celebrations with our members.

- The V&A now holds the ACA archive at Blythe House and in April members and trustees enjoyed a private tour. Thanks to the V&A for being so generous with their time and help, especially Ramona Riedzewski, Sabrina Offard and Simon Sladen.
- We have been gifted a small conference through the Potential Trust. Many thanks to the Foundation's chair, Anna Comino James for reaching out to us.
- There will be a birthday celebration at the National Theatre, where we launched ACA 20 years ago. Rufus Norris will give a short welcome and then we will hold an impact hour, which trustee Janet Robertson is coordinating. The event will be hosted by BAFTA young presenters and will include the launch of a currently embargoed project, which aims to deliver the arts to every primary school child in the UK. This is as a result of our Listening to Children campaign.
- This year's JM Barrie Awards will be in the Delfont Room again. The JM Barrie Award winners are Kadie and Stuart Kanneh-Mason, who have raised seven amazing musical children. This is our thanks to all parents who selflessly dedicate themselves to their children's lives.

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- The Outstanding Contribution Award is going to Sticky Fingers Arts, who celebrate their 20th year.

Last year we said we wanted to be positively interested in diversity – thanks to Dave Lee-Jones for creating our diversity policy.

We helped the Scottish Chamber Orchestra find vital funding for their project in Wester Hailes.

5. ACA announcements

Welcome to our newest patron, Joseph Coelho.

6. Any Other Business

Thanks to everyone who has contributed throughout the year.

ACA is planning to look at its infrastructure, and is considering re-instating an Executive. Current projects also include growing membership and developing a digital strategy.

Growing Membership:

Discussion around whether patrons could do more to help promote ACA and attract new members. Agreed that a yearly cycle would be planned of requests to patrons. Chris Jarvis suggested streaming more events via Facebook Live to increase reach.

Baroness Floella Benjamin suggestion: send patrons a short dossier about each event/request with clear objectives.

Agreed that more should be done to keep in touch with JMB award winners; and to publicise ACA activity to non-members.

Janet Robertson suggestion: Could ACA offer itself to other Arts news services as the children and young people's voice?

Kenneth Forrest: How could ACA engage primary schools as members?

Janet Robertson response: It is hoped that 4 August event will engage primary school audience.

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Roman Stefanski: I am very proud to have been part of ACA for the last twenty years. Yes, we need to expand for more voices and more people, and there are different ways to go about it – the charity should aim to gently expand within its capabilities.

Agreed that in future the charity will focus on one or two campaigning issues per year.

Digital Strategy:

Simon Bates: We want the website to be fit for what ACA does – it needs to be clear about our aims and attract more members. We have engaged an agency to help us.

Chris Jarvis suggestions: ACA should share some videos from the BAFTA kids YouTube channel – they have the same values as ACA.

Vicky Ireland response: We are very happy to work with other organisations and see what we can share and learn.

Other points discussed:

Baroness Floella Benjamin, suggestions: look at Lemn Sissay and Shirley Thompson as new patrons. Also proposed some more child presenters for August 4th event at the National Theatre.

Janet Robertson response: rather than naming new patrons, perhaps ACA should find some champions for specific campaigns the charity runs.

Funding: the Palace has a fund to help children and young people, called The Queen's Trust; The Grocer's Company/other Livery companies (**Dave Lee-Jones** to research)

JM Barrie Guests: Matt Hancock, Margot James MP

ACA should put some questions to Parliament for the Autumn.

Agreed importance for ACA to develop a planning arc so it can have a national impact across the UK.

Thanks to Baroness Benjamin for hosting and her advice.

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