



Registered Charity No. 1156170

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022

FORWARD PLAN AND BUDGET 2023

Barrow-upon-Soar Community Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered address: Barrow Library, 33, North St, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough LE12 8PZ

TRUSTEES January 2022

President: Frances Thompson - 17 North Street, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 414068
Chair: Fiona Laywood – 14 Huston Close, Barrow-upon-Soar	07896963024
Vice Chair: Nicola Noble - 39, Beveridge St, Barrow-upon-Soar	07786 232766
Treasurer: David Rodgers - 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	07850 471853
Minutes Secretary: Ceri Fairbrother - 95 Melton Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 413039
Membership Secretary: Eluned Webb 10, Beveridge St, Barrow upon Soar	07801 200 743

Council Members

Chris Bates - 29 Mill Lane, Barrow upon Soar	01509 413475
Steven Crossley - 3 Station Rd, Cropston	07710 577122
Val Gillings - 60 Beaumont Road, Barrow upon Soar	07423 061303
Craig Johnstone - 57, Loughborough Road, Quorn	07540722094
Helen Sadler - 17, Wycliffe Avenue, Barrow upon Soar	01509 621050
Betty Turner - 53 Damson Drive, Barrow upon Soar	01509 412911
Eluned Webb - 10, Beveridge St, Barrow upon Soar	07801 200 743
Judith Rodgers - 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	07718 153117
Roy Bird – New Street, Barrow-upon-Soar	07823 480468
<i>(Brian Tetley - 17, Roy Brown Drive, Sileby</i>	<i>07940 071093) Retired Jan 2023</i>
<i>(Ann Higgins - 30, Ribble Drive, Barrow upon Soar</i>	<i>01509 412746) Retired May 2022</i>

Retired trustees

Sue Rodgers - 32 Holbourne Close, Barrow-upon-Soar (retired 25 th Feb 21)	
Ted Rodgers - 32 Holbourne Close, Barrow upon Soar (retired 26 th Feb 21)	
Nick Thomas - 24, Booker Close. Barrow upon Soar	(retired 14 Jan 21)
Ginnie Willcocks - 43 The Banks, Barrow upon Soar	(retired 14 Jan 21)

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Membership of the Charity is open to all residents of Barrow-upon-Soar and the surrounding district on payment of a small subscription. The Charity holds an annual general meeting to which the public is invited. The Charity is governed by its Trustees (the Council) who meet on average four times each year. Trustees are typically long serving. They are appointed at the AGM each year and new Trustees are recruited either by self-selection or because they support specific aspects of the work of the Charity. There is a simple induction process and training is typically delivered during meetings of the Council.

A number of sub-committees organise specific activities and report to the Council. Full details of these subcommittees appear in the detailed reports, forward plans and budgets which follow.

The Charity uses the names Barrow Community Association, BUSCA, Barrow Voice, Barrow Arts & Theatre Society, Barrow Panto Group, Barrow Youth Theatre, BUSCA New Community Building Committee, Barrow Heritage Group, Barrow upon Soar & District Twinning Association, Library Management Committee.

Aims and Objectives

(a) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Barrow-upon-Soar and the neighbourhood ("the area of benefit") without distinction of gender, race, occupation, disability or political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life for the said inhabitants

(b) To establish or secure the establishment of a Community Centre ("the Centre") and to maintain and manage, or to co-operate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in furtherance of the above objects

Reserves policy

The Charity pays its debts as they arise and there were no significant sums due to be paid by the Charity at the end of the year. A large part of the cash assets of the Charity are held as unrestricted reserves and hence are available to meet the liabilities of the Charity. In the short term, therefore, the Charity has little need of reserves.

However, the Charity has potential long-term liabilities. These arise out of:

- a) The employment of two staff in connection with Barrow Community Library. The Charity must take account of the cumulative nature of the employment rights of its employees. At present these are insignificant in the context of the unrestricted reserves of the Charity.
- b) The lease of Barrow Community Library from Leicestershire County Council. As the lease is at a nominal rent and the Charity is not responsible for the fabric of the building, the potential liabilities are limited. However, the Charity has made alterations to the building and the licence authorising these contains a reinstatement clause. While it is unlikely that this clause will be invoked at the end of the contractual term of the lease or at all, the reserves policy of the Charity must, if the work is carried out, recognise this potential liability and take it into account in fixing future reserves policies.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees have referred to the general guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when planning the Association's activities. This report looks at how the activities of the Charity contributed to public benefit in 2022 and how they will do so in 2023.

Signed

Date

Chair's Annual Report for 2022

It has been an exciting year for BUSCA! The committees and groups that make up BUSCA have really risen from the Covid ashes and come back with a vengeance.

In May, at the AGM, the baton of BUSCA was handed over to the new Chair and Vice Chair and a hugely successful event for members of BUSCA was held to celebrate the Community Association reaching 50 years. This was also an excellent opportunity to say a big thank you to Judith Rodgers for all the hard work she has put in over the years. It was a wonderful evening and an opportunity to reminisce for past members of all of the successes BUSCA has had over the years. Lin Webb spent an inordinate amount of time researching the history of BUSCA and this laid a solid foundation for the event. One that may be repeated at intervals of much fewer than every 50 years!

Barrow Voice has continued to go from strength to strength and alongside securing some large donations from local big businesses they have continued to secure regular funding from local advertisers. The editorial team continues to strengthen with new regular contributors.

Murder Mystery was able to back in person and a successful production of What? The Butler Saw? secured a positive profit despite the concerns over how things would work given the lack of a bar now being available at Humphrey Perkins. The creativity of the team meant that this problem was not insurmountable and the platters served were popular with the audience.

Panto proved that audiences really were ready to be back and Little Red Riding Hood boasted record breaking ticket sales! The production also secured a number of nominations in the Salute to Pantomime Alliance awards with a range of winners too. In November the Youth Theatre put on an outstanding production of Legally Blonde.

The Events team continued to work hard to support the village with a range of events from street parties to the annual Christmas market and a hugely successful new Santa's Grotto.

The library returned as the hub of the village, with events and activities returning to pre-covid levels alongside a number of new groups and hirers. Moreover, people were able to return to borrowing books and with the removal of Covid safety measures also ensured that the library could support the Warm Barrow initiative for those most vulnerable. A number of exciting plans for the library moving forward will ensure that it remains a key hub for the village and can continue to move from strength to strength.

Moving forward there is much to be done to continue to smooth transfer to the new Chair. There are key developments to be made regarding policies and more legislative areas and to ensure BUSCA can continue to thrive moving forward. We will also seek to involve the village voice further with more feedback on 'what people want' and ensuring that our direction and aims remain the ones that matter the most to community we serve. We also keep our eyes peeled for a premises that will allow us to grow a new part of BUSCA moving forward and, so, to provide another community space for the village.

Treasurers' Annual Report 2022

The Treasurers

The Association has four Treasurers:

David Rodgers – General

Sally McHale – Library

Steven Crossley – Barrow Arts & Theatre Society (Panto, Youth Theatre and Murder Mystery) (BATS)

James Fuller – Barrow-upon-Soar & District Twinning Association.

General

During the year, unrestricted, undesignated reserves rose from £28,032 to £30,600, an increase of £2568.

The increase in reserves stems from Barrow Voice, which recorded a “profit” of £2755. This satisfactory outcome resulted from the return of business confidence on the part of our advertisers following the ending of Covid restrictions. The publication is on a firm financial footing.

As there are no current plans to develop a community building, the annual insurance premium of £1509 was again paid out of the Community Building Designated Fund.

John Beaumont has continued in his role of our independent examiner for the year 2022 and I am pleased to report that he is continuing in that role for 2023.

David Rodgers. Treasurer (General)

Library

The Community Library’s restricted fund decreased by £1749 during the year (by 2908 in 2021).

The following grants were received during the year:.

- Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council £11,000
- Charnwood Borough Council £2000
- Loughborough Building Society £1403
- Leicestershire County Council £304
- Shire Grant £3000
- Community Facilities Grant £4000.

In addition, Leicestershire County Council released £9346 of S106 Contributions to support projects that have improved the infrastructure of the Library during the year.

At 31 December, the Library’s total funds stood at £25,952. Of this, £14,015 represents the funds allocated for the day to day running of the Library (up from £13,281), and £11,937 is the development fund (down from £14,420).

We must also acknowledge the enthusiasm and effectiveness of our employees and our team of volunteers for their invaluable support.

Sally McHale. Treasurer (Library)

Barrow Arts & Theatre Society

I am pleased to say that 2022 turned out to be a year when we were able to return to a normal programme of productions, ending with a total net increase in our cash reserves of a very healthy £9689, to £19,229

We began the year with our annual March pantomime, Little Red Riding Hood, directed and produced by Abi Crossley and her team, with three shows at Humphrey Perkins School generating £6497 of receipts and incurring £3898 of costs, resulting in a very successful net gain of £2600, and winning numerous awards and plaudits along the way.

Next came our one-night only, October Murder Mystery production, What? The Butler Saw? Written and produced by Helen Sadler and back on stage with its cabaret style seating at Humphrey Perkins, which generated £1447 of receipts and incurred £842 of costs, resulting in a very successful net gain of £605.

Our final stage production of the year, performed at Humphrey Perkins School once again, was Legally Blond. Mainly performed by the younger members of our group, it was produced and directed by Abi Crossley and her team, who despite having to deal with a number of unexpected issues in the run-in to the four exceptional shows in November, generating £12842 of receipts and incurring £7914 of costs. After allowing for £2270 paid to Humphrey Perkins School as hire fees (paid in in 2023) this resulted in a very satisfactory net gain of £2695.

Noteworthy in this year's accounts are the £2000 in grants/donations from British Gypsum, which will go to support the promotion of opportunities for younger people and access to the arts for those struggling financially. We would like to thank them once again for that.

We have also incurred minor expenses of £220 relating to the upcoming March pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, and Miscellaneous costs along the way of £223.

As for our other productions in 2023, we expect to be able to produce a full programme of productions including the aforementioned pantomime, a Murder Mystery in October and youth musical stage show in November.

Before I sign off, I would like to thank both Abi Crossley and Helen Sadler for their boundless contributions to both the success of our group, not forgetting that they work tirelessly to maintain our fiscal viability, but also to joy that they bring to the village and the surrounding area.

Steven Crossley. Treasurer (BATS)

Barrow-upon-Soar & District Twinning Association

Finances remain healthy, the year end total is £5418.80, an increase of £226.49.

Income was £778.74 and expenditure was £552.25.

Membership generated £170, we had 38 members 4 of which paid their subscriptions in late 2021.

We held 2 quizzes, one in March and another in November, these were the only fund raising events, both were well supported. Together they generated a profit of £389.26 (197.51+191.75) from ticket sales and £106 (39+67) from the raffles.

Two donations were made to the Loughborough charity for homeless and community support, Falcon. The first was all of the proceeds from the March quiz, £236.51 (197.51+39) and the second was the proceeds from the raffle of the November quiz £67. A total of £303.51 was donated.

James Fuller. Treasurer (Twinning Association)

GROUPS

Reports and Review of Forward Plan 2022 and Forward Plan 2023

1. Barrow Voice

Annual Report 2022

- Last year was a more financially secure year for Barrow Voice, with thanks to the sponsorship and the sterling efforts of the advertising manager who pulled in more advertising than ever before.
- On occasions we struggled to keep the balance between articles and adverts. It is the policy of Barrow Voice **not** to have more pages of advert than of copy.

- We continued to cover news and features about local people but also wrote about national issues but with a Barrow Focus.

Forward plan 2023

- We aim to continue with strong advertising support from local businesses.
- We will continue to offer a balance between copy about local people and events alongside articles of wider interest (but with a Barrow focus).
- We have been developing our editorial team to bring in more people, particularly younger people, so expect to see more names in the by-lines.

2. BATS (Barrow Arts and Theatre Society)

Annual Report 2022

- The pantomime group performed a very successful performance of 'Little Red Riding Hood' in March 2022 directed by Abi Crossley. The show sold a record breaking number of tickets and made a very healthy profit.
- The pantomime group members attended the Salute to Pantomime alliance awards on 23/04/2022 and received an impressive 9 nominations overall, and managed to win the titles of 'Best comedy act', 'best supporting act' and 'best magical being'. Leaving us with second place for best overall pantomime. We are hoping for a first this year!
- Barrow Youth Theatre produced an incredible performance of Legally Blonde in November 2022, which was a complete sell out and a huge success. The talent of the youngsters that we have at Barrow Youth Theatre deserves a lot of credit.
- Audience feedback was amazing, however the microphones were mentioned several times as they were very intermittent throughout the show run. General comments were that the performers were let down at times by their microphones not working.
- The rehearsal process was tricky with the musical director having to step down from her role just before the dress rehearsal, therefore no band was used as planned. Backing tracks were purchased and the cast adapted well and still put on a great show.
- What? The Butler Saw? - This MM rehearsal period was struck by ill health and we had few rehearsals that had a full complement. Long covid and cancer diagnosis being but two of our problems. The performance night was clobbered by actual covid. The disruption to the rehearsal programme did impact on the show in that the audience participation element was under rehearsed for such a complicated section. I noticed more than the audience, as far as I could tell. The cast, unsurprisingly, carried on. The tech team, on the night, was superb and I can't thank Tom enough.
- Tickets were £12 each and the price included a sharing platter. The bar and the raffle both did well (profits were from the raffle and the bar.) Having no bar and trying a different menu impacted slightly on profit but not madly as the show raised a profit of £857.54.

Forward plan 2023

- The pantomime group are in full swing with Beauty and the Beast rehearsals! The show will be taking place at Humphrey Perkins on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th March. All appropriate planning is in place for a successful show run, I would like to thank Nic Noble for her support through the rehearsal process.
- Pantomime Alliance of Leicestershire will be judging Beauty and The Beast on the Friday show.
- Tom Smith to get a quote to purchase new radio mics for the upcoming shows.
- BATS steering committee voted to take our next Youth Theatre performance to the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre due to the increase in prices at Humphries, MMC is considerably cheaper and a much more theatrical venue for the performers.

- Barrow Arts Theatre Society are planning to produce the performance of 'The Sound of Music' at the MMC 2nd-4th November. (The announcement of the show is NOT to be publicly shared outside of the meeting).
- New microphones will need to be purchased before the next performance in November.
- Storage of sound/lighting equipment/costumes being kept at Humphreys remains an issue. Not being able to have access to our own equipment at all times is proving very difficult.
- We are actively seeking licensed chaperones to assist the rehearsal process and shows for The Sound Of Music.
- Murder Mystery will remain at Humphrey Perkins for the time being, with the next one being written by Craig Johnstone. I am considering inviting audience members to bring their own picnic (think Glyndbourne!) and inviting them to bring their own alcoholic drinks.

3. Events Committee

Annual Report 2022

- Despite a number of attempts to hold a Scarecrow festival the timings seemed to prove wrong for people and there were too few entries to make the event worthwhile so it did not go ahead.
- The Events Committee supported the Parish Council and Love it Local to hold their Party in the Park festival.
- We successfully promoted the street parties for the Queen's jubilee and helped to signpost where people could go to secure road closures.
- The Christmas Market in 2022 was successful and footfall was very high. Despite a last minute issue with the stage we had more performers than ever before and Santa's Grotto moved into a new space within Berkley's Estate Agent.
- The other Christmas village events over Christmas were the Christmas Windows Trail, and Letters to Santa.
- We have made a strong connection with a small team of people at Humphrey Perkins school and are looking forward to working closely with them on future events for the village.

Forward plan 2023

- The Christmas Market and Light Switch on will be going ahead in December and we will be rethinking and promoting a new Christmas trail and putting work into ensuring the village are aware of the Santa letters.
- We have a Scarecrow festival scheduled to align with the Harvest festival time and aim to promote it much earlier and more widely this year to secure entries.
- In April we are holding a spring village fete at Humphrey Perkins and working alongside their team to ensure its success. Whilst we are starting small this year, we are excited about the range of different things taking place.
- At the Village Fete in April we are supporting a fancy dress competition. The winner of which will win a street party kit for the King's coronation— funded by the Parish Council – which will include decorations and a street party buffet for the street.
- We will be supporting people with road closures and the organisation of street parties for the Coronation.
- We aim to forge ahead in the planning of the River Festival for 2024.

4. Heritage Group

Annual Report 2022

- It has been another quiet year.
- We have continued to meet regularly, about once a month
- I have done two talks about the Heritage Group: The New Horizons group and the Methodist Mens' Group

- We have made some additions to the web site and with Keith Butler's help have reorganised the material into topics to make it easier for people to find what they are interested in.
- We have plans to do the history of the Barrow Cricket club, one of the oldest in the County, but our contact here has been ill so it has been delayed.
- The parish Council have offered to house our material in the loft of the PC office, at least as a temporary measure but we would prefer a more user friendly store.

Forward plan 2023

- We are seeking another project which would be of interest to the village and for which there is adequate material available.

5. Library Management Committee

Annual Report 2022

- Throughout the year, we have slowly reinstated all our services which were suspended through the Coronavirus Pandemic: fortnightly Friday Rhyme Time sessions, Friday chess club, Saturday monthly Sewing workshops and the monthly Book Lovers' Club.
- We have removed all the safety measures we installed to comply with pandemic regulations, except we still have hand sanitising stations.
- We signed up to the Warm Barrow initiative, and have provided a warm space and free hot drinks and biscuits to anyone needing to keep warm during our normal opening hours.
- We have installed Air Source heat pumps, which provide warmth in winter and cooling in summer. The system was invaluable during the 2022 hot summer. We now use no gas for heating, so we are helping the planet.
- We have installed Solar Photovoltaic panels on the library roof, and the generated energy from these is helping to reduce our energy bills.
- We have restarted hiring the library space, and we now have regular Pilates, Yoga, and Singing classes at the library, along with occasional hiring for meetings.
- We continue to work closely with the Parish and County Councils.

Forward Plan 2023

- To ensure the continued functions of the library and its activities.
- To continue with hiring as appropriate and to seek new hirers.
- To seek new ways of income generation to help with our expected increase in utility costs.
- For the Library Development Group and Operations Team to continue to seek ways to enhance the building and spend any grant money within the allocated time.
- To make improvements to the existing internal space and, with professional advice, refurbish and enhance shelving and layout.
- To resurface the car park and create disabled access and egress at the rear door, from a designated parking space.
- Recruit and train new volunteers and provide help with job interviews (references) when asked.

6. Barrow upon Soar & District Twinning Association

Annual Report 2022

- The village of Barrow upon Soar is officially Twinned with the Community of Marans in the Charante Maritime region in south west France. The Twinning Association was formed at the instigation and is recognised by Barrow upon Soar Parish Council.

- There were two quizzes held in 2022 which were both well attended and much enjoyed by all who took part.
- 12 Members of the Association enjoyed a relaxing visit to Marans in June 2022 which included a train ride, a visit to an aviation museum and, of course, lots of lovely food and wine.

Forward Plan 2023

- We will be having a quiz at the beginning of March and another 50's and 60's Night on 22nd April. We are looking forward to welcoming our French friends from Marans on 14th June 2023 to 19th June 2023.
- We continue to welcome new members and endeavour to expand our range of activities with the community of Marans.

Miscellaneous Projects and Activities

7. Fossil Trail

Annual Report 2022

- There have been no evident incidents involving the fossils.
- Several of the previous outlets no longer provide space for our dispensers.
- We have researched the prospect of new leaflet dispensers to attach to the new display board outside of the library but have considered that a digital option may prove more favourable.

Forward plan 2023

- Further consider a digital version of the fossil trail.

- 8. Website administrators for :** www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk
www.busca.org.uk www.barrowvoice.co.uk and www.barrowcommunitylibrary.org.uk

Annual Report 22

- We continued to update individual and group pages, partly by trying to get their editors to do the updating themselves and partly by testing functioning links to businesses.
- Stats analysis was on going.
- Made links with social media.
- The library website was continually updated and developed. The BUSCA website was also improved now it lacks the library component.
- Leaflet dissemination was ongoing.

Forward Plan 23

Business will continue on similar lines

9. Special Projects

Annual Report 22

- Underwrite BOSCAPS up to £500: Not requested
- Provide a budget of £700 for the Christmas Lights market and entertainment: Net cost £210
- Provide a budget of £100 for other Events activities: No cost
- Work towards a successful transfer of chairmanship and ensuing changes in direction that may arise: on going

Forward Plan 23

- Underwrite BOSCAPS up to £500
- Provide a budget of £700 for the Christmas Lights market and entertainment
- Provide a budget of £100 for other Events activities

List of publications

- Adult Fossil Trail leaflet (new edition)
- Junior Fossil Trail (2nd edition)
- Street Map (New edition)
- Heritage Walks I (“Round the Edge” and “Barrow’s Jitties”) (Currently out of print)
- Heritage Walks II (Miller’s Bridge etc) (new edition)
- Heritage Leaflet III (The Wild life of Millennium Park)
- Places of Historic Interest (new edition)
- The Archaeology of Barrow
- “People and Places” by Arthur Gardner and Chris Bates
- BUSCA website: www.busca.org.uk
- Barrow village website: www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk
- www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk
- <http://www.barrowcommunitylibrary.org.uk/>
- Barrow Voice (quarterly) (with its website www.barrowvoice.co.uk)
- Welcome Pack pocketed wallet
- Barrow websites flier (BUSCA, Village, Heritage, Barrow Voice, Parish Council)
- What is BUSCA leaflet

Social media (Facebook pages)

- BUSCA * Library * Barrow Voice