

Registered Charity No. 1156170

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

FORWARD PLAN AND BUDGET 2024

Barrow-upon-Soar Community Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered address: Barrow Library, 33, North St, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough LE12 8PZ

TRUSTEES May 2023

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: Roy Bird – New Street, Barrow-upon-Soar	07823 480468
Minutes Secretary: Nicola Noble - 39, Beveridge St, Barrow-upon-Soar	k07786 232766
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
Ceri Fairbrother - 95 Melton Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 413039
Val Gillings - 60 Beaumont Road, Barrow upon Soar	07423 061303
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Eluned Webb - 10, Beveridge St, Barrow upon Soar	07801 200 743
David Rodgers - 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	07850 471853
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Helen Sadler - 17, Wycliffe Avenue, Barrow upon Soar	01509 621050

Retired trustees during 2023

Betty Turner - 53 Damson Drive, Barrow upon Soar

01509 412911

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Membership of the Charity is open to all residents of Barrowupon-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, BATS, Barrow Panto Group, Barrow Youth Theatre, 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 2023 and how they will do so in 2024.

Signed

Date

Chair's Annual Report for 2023

The sub-groups of BUSCA are thriving and this annual report is bursting with things to be proud of. None of this would be possible without the determination of the members of these sub-groups and their dedication to providing opportunities to our village.

This year some of the most obvious changes and happenings have come in the physical changes at the library where an accessible ramp has been installed that can be reached from the newly resurfaced car park. Thanks to a couple of grants received to supplement the work, the library is now fully accessible to all during all months of the year whatever the weather. The additional flexible shelving in the library creates more space and therefore groups looking to hire the space is increasing making the library the true community hub of the village.

Barrow Voice came in the top 5% in the National Parish Magazine Awards and rightfully so! It continues to be a source of interesting and valuable information for residents in the village and its growing relationship with both Hall Orchard Primary School and Humphrey Perkins School will hopefully create valuable partnerships that may even produce new contributors!

BATS have continued to produce successful, enjoyable and well-attended shows which have yielded positive profits. The Sound of Music and Taught a Lesson were both incredibly successful and well-supported by full audiences and by the support of local businesses – a real community effort!

The first village fete in a number of years was held in conjunction with Humphrey Perkins and although started small for the first year it was a huge success. The Dog Show in particular was very competitive and hundreds of four-legged friends won rosettes and prizes kindly donated by Barrow Upon Soar's very own Feather and Fur pet shop.

2023 also saw a visiting group from Marans spend time with the Twinning Association in Barrow exploring a number of museums and attractions from the local area. Fundraising events by the Twinning Group continue to be successful.

Moving forward there is much to be excited about with The Wedding Singer, a further murder mystery and a pantomime planned for 2025 with BATS and the next Village Fete in May. The Heritage group is actively seeking a new project and the library continues to move from strength to strength. On a slightly less exciting front, yet important nevertheless, with all policies and risk assessments brought fully up to date we can move forward with an assured confidence that all of our wonderful volunteers, members and the wider community of Barrow Upon Soar can continue to enjoy everything that BUSCA has to offer safely.

Treasurers' Annual Report 2023

The Treasurers : The Association has four treasurers:

Roy Bird Sally McHale	General Library
Steven Crossley	Barrow Arts and Theatre Society – BATS
James Fuller	Barrow upon Soar and District Twinning Association

General Treasurer 23

During 2023, unrestricted, undesignated reserves reduced by £861, falling from £30,600 to £29,739.

The key reason for this reduction was a deficit in Barrow Voice magazine activities of £1,220. Income was down £3,299 compared to 2022, but it should be noted that this in part was due to advance payments made in 2022 that related to 2023 issues. Mechanisms are being developed to match income and expenditure to each issue to provide better insight of seasonal variation across the four issues.

There is still no plan to develop a community building, so in 2023 the annual insurance premium of £1,573 was paid from the Community Building Designated Fund.

A surplus of £205 from events held in 2023, plus £125 of membership subscriptions, helped to partially offset the deficit made on Barrow Voice.

Roy Bird Treasurer (General).

Library

The Community Library's restricted fund increased by £3,678 during the year (£1,748 decrease in the previous year). The following grants were received during the year:

- Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council £10,000
- Tarmac £2,584
- Leicestershire County Council (S106) £16,849
- Charities Aid Foundation for access door £4,090
- Awards for All for access ramp £5,000

In addition, an award of up to £2,500 towards 50% of the cost of the access ramp was made as a Community Facilities Grant by Charnwood Borough Council, but this has not yet been received. If this is utilised, then it is anticipated that a matching amount of the Awards for All £5,000 may have to be returned if an alternative use of that amount cannot be identified and agreed.

We would also like to acknowledge a donation of £200 received from Barrow Holy Trinity church which was used to purchase lightweight chairs for the library and a donation of £150 from the Barrow Co-op store which went towards the cost of a new rug for the children's area.

At 31 December, the Library's total funds stood at £29,630. Of this, £13,462 represents the funds for the day to day running of the Library (down from £14,016), and £11,618 is the development fund (down from £11,937). The balance of £4,550 represents grants received but not yet spent. The access door was completed in late December and the invoice of £4090 is due to be paid in January 2024.

We must also acknowledge the enthusiasm and effectiveness of our employees and our team of volunteers for keeping the show on the road during a difficult year and thank Barrow Parish Council for their continued support of the library.

Also included in Annual Accounts is the reserve policy:

Reserves policy

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Sally McHale Treasurer (Library)

Twinning Association

The balance at the beginning of 2023 was £5,418, and at the close £5,217, a reduction of £201. In June, the Twinning Association hosted a party from Marans at a net cost of £1,085. In 2023 there were 42 members, which raised £210 in subscriptions.

During the year, 3 major fundraising activities took place: a 50s/60s dance at St Gregory's Hall in Sileby and 2 quiz evenings at the Bishop Beveridge Club. These raised a net income of £684, supplemented by raffle net income of £193. The Twinning Association also had stalls at the village "Party in the Park" in June and the Christmas Street Fair in December.

James Fuller Treasurer (Twinning Association).

BATS

Overall, funds held by BATS have fallen from £19,229 at the start of the year to £16,292 on 31st December 2023, a reduction of £2,937. This principally consists of £2,317 of costs processed this year but related to 2022's main production, Legally Blond, and £680 paid in advance of 2024's production of The Wedding Singer. 2023's productions consisted of a murder mystery that produced a net income of £1,328, and The Sound of Music that produced a net income of £1,824. The latter was performed at Mountsorrel Memorial Centre rather than Humphrey Perkins. These proceeds were used to purchase new equipment totalling £3,180, including microphones and associated battery packs. The pantomime this year, Beauty and the Beast, whilst generating £6,039 of income, effectively broke even due to high production costs.

In 2024 The Wedding Singer will again make use of the performance space at Mountsorrel Memorial Centre in September and a murder mystery is planned for October. Thanks go to all those who continue to make BATS such a success both those on stage and those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure all performances run as smoothly as possible.

Steven Crossley treasure (BATS). The Treasurers

GROUPS

Annual Reports of 2023 and Forward Plan 2024

1. Barrow Voice

Annual Report 2023

Barrow Voice continues to be valued by many residents of Barrow. In the 2023 National Parish Magazine Awards, we came in the top 5% of 450 magazines entered - many of which are professionally, or semi-professionally, written and produced. We continue to aim to include interesting information about the village and village residents alongside some articles of wider interest. We continue to build links with both Hall Orchard and Humphrey Perkins schools. We have lost our young journalist, Xander Dolby-Campbell, to A-levels and university!

Forward plan 2024

The key challenges for the future (which the editorial team is discussing and examining different options) include:

- a sufficient number of team members to continue researching and writing article
- advertising revenue: in terms of maintaining/increasing advertising revenue but also, importantly, in finding volunteers to take on the advertising manager role to assist (ultimately replace) Judith Rodgers
- the costs involved in production, as more and more houses are built, if we want to continue to post a Barrow Voice into every house.
- John Nurse, who has been looking after the financial side and the online version of Barrow Voice for many years, is taking a step backwards, although is still involved and Keith Butler is managing the online issue. Roy Bird, BUSCA's Treasurer is now working on the financial management of the magazine.
- We aim to continue to offer a quality and interesting magazine for the benefit of the community throughout 2024 and beyond.

Karisa Krcmar (editor)

2. BATS (Barrow Arts and Theatre Society)

Annual Report 2023

- BATS produced an amazing performance of Beauty and the beast 10-11th March. Despite many sound and microphone issues.
- BATS member's Abi, Nic, Alex, Zac, Lucy and Russell went on a first aid course (1st April) and all now are fully qualified and hold a first response first aid certificate.
- BATS Attended the PAL awards (22nd April), receiving an amazing number of nominations (12) and 5 winning categories: (Best magical - Iris; Best Sound - Russell; Best comedy act - Jackson and Lucy; Best chorus - Ensemble; Unsung hero - Ed Dring
- BATS arranged a fundraising event (27th May) to raise funds for Keiron, who sadly lost his life in the River Soar. This was a huge success raising a substantial amount of money. BATS appeared on East Midlands news and Abi Crossley was interviewed by breakfast TV and Radio one. Keiron's mother was very thankful and grateful.
- BATS Cast of The Sound of Music took part in the Mountsorrel Revival (13th August) which was a fantastic day. We received very positive feedback on the children's behaviour, energy and enthusiasm. Thank you to all who helped on this day.
- BATS performed THE best production of The Sound of Music (2-4th Nov) which was a complete sell
 out, and received a standing ovation during the bows after every show. I am immensely proud of
 the company. After the big move to the MMC we were all a little worried. However, hard work paid
 off, and It couldn't have been any more successful. The show was reviewed by 'theatre and tonic'.
 It read incredibly well and received a 4 star rating. I will add we also made a very healthy profit
 indeed! Thank you to Nic Noble for supporting BATS with this show.
- BATS Performed at the Christmas Light Switch on at the MMC (3rd December)
- Miscellaneous: Successful application for a grant of £700 to help towards microphone costs from The Loughborough University. New microphones/headsets and sound equipment have been purchased, and worked incredibly well for The Sound Of Music, with NO mic faults.

Forward plan 2024

- Next show: 'The Wedding Singer' to take place at the MMC 24-28th September. Venue will be set up as a wedding with seating area for audience who will be sat around 'wedding tables'. Tickets are priced at £18. Production Team: Nic-Producer, Abi-Director, Lucy- Choreographer, musical director-Gareth Wyne. The show has been cast and rehearsals have already started.
- BATS trip organised to see 'Disco Inferno' at the MMC 21st March.
- Sadly there will be NO pantomime in 2024. Going forward, the plan will be to perform a 2025 pantomime back at Humphrey's during the end of November early December time.
 Abi Crossley Director

Murder Mystery

Annual Report 23:

• The Murder Mystery group produced "Taught a Lesson" by Gemma Simpson. By dint of careful budget control with the food by Sharon Gudger, and some rather wonderful sponsorship from local businesses that paid for the hire of the hall, this year's murder mystery turned a healthy profit. Having said that, the bill to hire the hall for the performance night and a two hour dress rehearsal was £645.

It was a good evening, supported by local businesses such as The Navigation Inn who allowed us free rehearsal space, Charnwood Brewery who donated to the hall costs and gave a donation to the raffle, Paul Bott Builder and SJS Carpet Cleaning (donations to the hall costs.). We were also very privileged to receive donations from two local artists, Chris Bates and Stuart Pawley as well as from the village Co-op.

Forward plan 2024

• The intention is to hold another murder mystery evening in October 2024. Work has started on *Allotted Time* by Helen Sadler. Venue and timing await decision.

3. Events Committee

Annual Report 2023

- The first village fete was a huge success, with many villagers visiting to take part in the dog show. 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.
- The Christmas Market in 2023 was successful and footfall was very high. Since the market, the Parish Council requested that all Christmas market organisation goes through their office. This was mainly due to rising costs on their side, and the councillors requesting autonomy so monies raised can be tracked.

Forward plan 2024

• In May we are holding the second spring village fete at Humphrey Perkins and working alongside their team to ensure its success.

4. Heritage Group

Annual Report 2023

- It has been another quiet year.
- We have continued to meet regularly, about once a month
- Kathryn Timmons has done two talks about the Heritage Group to 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.
- Sue Hobbs and I went to Thrussington school to talk to the reception class about dinosaurs.

Forward plan 2024

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 2023

- Throughout the year, we have continued our core book lending activities and increased our other services: Monday scrabble sessions, Wednesday morning Craft and Chat, fortnightly Friday morning Rhyme Time sessions, monthly Friday morning Coffee & Chat, Friday afternoon Chess Club, and Saturday afternoon monthly Sewing workshops.
- The monthly Book Lovers' Club have kindly relocated to the Parish Council office to free up the library for weekly hiring.
- We have redesigned our library space, moving shelves from mobile units to the walls. This has reduced our mobile shelf units from 13 to 6, and has created a much more open and welcoming library space.
- In the summer, we had a campaign to understand how much the library is valued by the Barrow and Wolds villages residents. This resulted in us securing funding from Barrow Parish Council until the end of our lease in 2025, and beyond when we agree a new 10 year lease with the County Council.
- We have signed up again to the Warm Barrow initiative, and have provided a warm space to anyone needing to keep warm in winter during our normal opening hours. Hot drinks and biscuits are available at our standard prices.
- We have resurfaced our car park with tarmacadam and marked out parking bays including two disabled / parent-toddler bays using S106 funding and a grant from Tarmac.
- We have installed an accessible ramp to the rear emergency exit door using grants from Charnwood Borough Council and Awards for All.
- We have placed an order to automate the emergency exit door so that everyone can access the library from the car park. This will be funded by a grant from the Intelligent Energy Trust.
- We continue to hire the library space, and we have regular Pilates, Yoga, and Singing classes at the library, along with monthly craft and occasional hiring for meetings.
- We have documented rules around how the committee should operate; also what it is / not responsible for and likewise the groups reporting to it. Our approaches to reviewing policies and managing declarations of interest have been tightened and we have brought in a sensible approach to managing key risks.
- We continue to work closely with the Parish and County Councils

Forward Plan 2024

- To work with County Council to secure a new ten year lease for when our existing lease ends in July 2025.
- To ensure the continued functions of the library and its activities.
- To continue with hiring as appropriate and to seek new hirers.
- To continue to seek new ways of income generation to help with our expected increase in running costs.
- To continue operating the Warm Barrow initiative during the Winter months.
- To continue to seek ways to enhance the building and library space.
- To complete the automation of the rear emergency exit door.
- Recruit and train new volunteers and provide help with job interviews (references) when asked.
- Continue to work closely with the Parish and County Councils.

6. Barrow upon Soar & District Twinning Association

Annual Report 2023

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 of and is recognised by Barrow upon Soar Parish Council.

• A 50's and 60's Night and two quizzes were held in 2023 which were well attended and much enjoyed by all who took part.

• 10 Members of the French Association visited Barrow in June and enjoyed a visit to the Museum of Timekeeping in Southwark, the Space Centre in Leicester, a Reception at the Soar Bridge, Party in the Park, a cruise and meal on the River Trent and a Skittles evening.

Forward Plan 2024

- A trip to the Little Theatre in Leicester to see "April in Paris" has been arranged for the end of January
- A quiz will be held in March.
- We are looking forward to visiting Marans from $21^{st} 26^{th}$ June 2024.
- We continue to welcome new members and endeavour to expand our range of activities with the community of Marans.
- 7. Website administrators for : <u>www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk</u> <u>www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk</u> <u>www.busca.org.uk</u> <u>www.barrowvoice.co.uk</u> and <u>www.barrowcommunitylibrary.org.uk</u>

Annual Report 23

- John Nurse has stepped down to take a back seat role. This leaves Keith Butler as sole administrator.
- The village website is ticking over. New High Street Businesses have been added and old ones moved to archive. The local events and village diary pages are getting more hits than most pages, but still virtually no businesses or groups contact us to get their events published. Some groups are still maintaining their own pages, notably Barrow in Bloom, Good Neighbour Scheme, Scouting Groups and the Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society.
- The BUSCA website has been updated with BUSCA group events, but the site is not used as much as it used to be.
- The Heritage website has been updated with new articles on Proctors Pleasure Park, Kevon Thompson paintings, Church Youth Drama Group in the 1940s, 1914 Christmas Card, etc.
- The Library website has been kept up-to-date with events and news items.
- The Barrow Voice website has been updated with each new issue.

Forward Plan 24

- Keep on top of requests for updates.
- Keep up with maintenance of the sites.

Miscellaneous Projects and Activities

8. Fossil Trail

Annual Report 2022

- There have been no evident incidents involving the fossils but the area in front of the "Three Organic Forms" has been cleared so the sculptures can be viewed.
- 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 the library but have been warned that loose leaflets may end up as litter. A digital option may prove more favourable.

Forward plan 2023

• Further consider a digital version of the fossil trail.

10. Special Projects

Annual Report 23

• 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 24

- Produce a new edition of the Welcome Pack envelope
- Underwrite BOSCAPS up to £500
- Provide a budget of £200 for Events activities
- Produce a new edition of Walks leaflet ! : budget £1,000
- Run a scarecrow festival (Helen and Lin); budget to be determined
- Explore possible publication of a children's trail with objects t find (Chris and Helen)
- Work towards a successful transfer of chairmanship and general secretary with ensuing changes in direction that may arise:

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: <u>www.busca.org.uk</u>
- Barrow village website: <u>www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk</u>
- <u>www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk</u>
- <u>http://www.barrowcommunitylibrary.org.uk/</u>
- Barrow Voice (quarterly) (with its website <u>www.barrowvoice.co.uk</u>)
- 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