



Registered Charity No. 1156170

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025

FORWARD PLAN AND BUDGET 2026

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 2025

Council Members

Steven Crossley - 3 Station Rd, Cropston	07710 577122
Ceri Fairbrother - 95 Melton Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 413039
Craig Johnstone - 8, The Pingle, Quorn	07540722094
Eluned Webb - 10, Beveridge St, Barrow upon Soar	07801 200 743
David Rodgers - 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	07850 471853
Judith Rodgers - 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	07718 153117
Helen Sadler - 17, Wycliffe Avenue, Barrow upon Soar	07934660426
Frankie Stone – 2 Hillsdon Avenue Barrow upon Soar LE12 8YY	07719 787752
Sharon Gudger – 8 Cave Road Barrow upon Soar LE12 8NW	07764609783
Roy Bird - Granton, New Street, Barrow upon Soar LE12 8PA	07823580468

Retired trustees during 2025

Helen Sadler - 17, Wycliffe Avenue, Barrow upon Soar

Retired trustees during 2026

Eluned Webb - 10, Beveridge St, Barrow upon Soar

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. 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 five 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.
- c) In relation to a) and b) above, the Library Management Committee has deemed it prudent to allocate within its unrestricted reserves an amount equivalent to 6 months of operating expenses to cover any eventuality where income is reduced or restricted for any reason beyond its control. This amount will be reviewed annually.
- d) In addition, both BUSCA itself and the Library are permitted to deposit funds with a committee approved building society in order to that interest and other deposit benefits can be earned to generate further income in their favour. Such deposits should be managed so that the balances held in Unity Trust accounts are sufficient to manage payments of day to day expenses as they arise.

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 2025 and how they will do so in 2026.

Signed

Date

Treasurers' Annual Report 2025

The Association has four treasurers.

Roy Bird General

Sally McHale Library

Steven Crossley Barrow Arts and Theatre Society – BATS

James Fuller Barrow upon Soar and District Twinning Association

Thanks go to all the above for each managing their accounts so efficiently.

Overview

Overall, total funds reduced by just £512 in 2025, down to £95,227 – less than 1%. The Library's position improved by £4,960, BATS made a small increase of £221, offset by reductions for General of -£4,257 and Twinning of -£1,436. Each area's financial performance is described in turn below.

General

During 2025, unrestricted, undesignated reserves decreased by £2,140, to £29,097.

The key reason for this decrease was a deficit in Barrow Voice activities of £1,068. However, this reflects 5 quarters of printing costs as opposed to 4 quarters of income – winter 2024 printing costs were not charged until early 2025, worth £3,098.

Other contributors to the decrease were £754 expenditure on new welcome packs and £575 expenditure on a thankyou event for Barrow Voice volunteers. Building Society interest made a positive contribution of £668. All other activity totalled a net expenditure of £412.

There is still no plan to develop a community building, so in 2025 the annual insurance premium of £1,990 was paid from the Community Building Designated Fund.

Expenditure on IT domains reduced the Websites Fund by £126 to £157.

Library

The Community Library's restricted fund increased by £4,960 during the year. The following grants were received during the year:

- Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council £12,250, including £250 from their Annual Community Fund.

On 31 December 2025, the Library's total funds stood at £36,611. Of this, £21,993 represents the funds for the day to day running of the Library, £3,000 of advanced Parish Council funding to cover January to March 2025, and £11,618 is the development fund (no change). There were no unspent grants at the end of the year.

The Library 100 Club continues to operate and as of 31st December 2025 there were 63 members in the Club. Income was £1,406 of which £707 was paid out in prize money.

Building Society bonus, paid out on supporters' savings held in special accounts at Loughborough Building Society, and interest earned on the Library's own deposits there totalled £2,340, a significant boost to funds.

Till receipts for sale of all manner of goods and services, space hire income and miscellaneous income together contributed £20,140 of income towards running costs of £11,117 and salaries of £19,352. The efforts of the whole team to year on year increase the Library's self-generated income continues to be a source of inspiration.

Also included in the Annual Accounts is the reserve policy as follows:

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Twinning Association

The balance of funds at the end of 2025 was £4,547, a reduction of £1,436. This is in line with the two-year cycle of hosting visitors from Marans.

Members continue to raise funds through the year; there were 2 quiz evenings that raised a net income of £356 and memberships raised £170.

BATS

Overall, funds held by BATS have increased from £18,418 at the start of the year to £18,639 on 31st December 2025, an increase of £221.

The main show this year was a production of Shrek, again held at Mountsorrel Memorial Centre, generating net proceeds of £5,646 in the year, though not all costs and revenues were accounted for by 31st December.

In a similar timing fashion, costs of £3,845 associated with the Wedding Singer production of 2024 were expended in 2025.

Early income and revenue for the 2026 pantomime of Snow White netted to a positive £8 contribution and a deposit of £500 was made for 2026's main production of the Little Mermaid was paid out. Other activities totalled £1,089 of expenditure.

Roy Bird, BUSCA Treasurer.

GROUPS

Annual Reports for 2025 and Forward Plan 2026

1. Barrow Voice

Annual Report 2025

Barrow Voice celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025. Over the year we enjoyed looking back at past stories and celebrating the different groups and individuals who have contributed to the magazine in different ways over the years.

The magazine has continued to celebrate the achievements of individuals and volunteer groups in the local community as well as tackling some controversial issues as they impact the village.

Forward plan 2026

The magazine continues to have a small core of people regularly contributing but has been pleased to encourage a wider range of writers.

We are still in the difficult situation of relying on one person for managing the advertising which underwrites the costs and we have spent some time trying to find a solution to advertising and distribution. The challenges will increase as more houses are built on the periphery of the village. It would be a shame if the magazine were to fold after just having celebrated 50 years but it is something that must be considered in the mix of future possibilities.

2 BATS (Barrow Arts and Theatre Society)

Annual Report 2025

BATS Annual Report and Forward Plan 2025/26

BATS have had another hugely successful year! Members of the cast and crew took part in the Mountsorrel Revival August 2025. This was a fun way of advertising our upcoming production at the time of Shrek.

BATS produced the musical production of Shrek in September 2025. The performance was extremely well received with 3 sell out shows. The production was hugely challenging and we overcame many obstacles along the way. We are very lucky to be able to work alongside the expertise of the technicians at the MMC who were fully on board with our performance of Shrek.

Lightning was programmed by Dom Boston and operated by Ellis Glliam (MMC Staff member). Sound was operated by Mellissa Underwood with the assistance of James Odams, they both worked well as a team and will involve them in future productions.

Shrek was the first time that we involved 'children's teams' as part of our performance. We auditioned over 70 children, we then selected 20 to be part of the production. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to involve children under the age of 16 as part of the company. ALL children who take part in productions must be chaperoned by licenced chaperones. It was and will be very difficult to get qualified chaperones as volunteers. We are also looking for people to apply to become licensed chaperones to enable us to continue to allow under 16s to be part of our amazing productions.

SHREK TICKET PRICES WERE £18 EACH. MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR SHREK was £60

BATS are currently producing Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs which is to be performed on 30th and 31st January 2026 at Humphrey Perkins Community Centre.

The script was written by existing members Alex and Simon. We were disappointed not to sell more tickets. Total capacity across the 3 shows is 576. We sold about 60%. We offered a 48 hour flash discount to members of BUSCA.

Thank you to Frankie who has been assisting with Front of House support.

Unfortunately Dom Boston and Jonny Doda did not want to assist with the tech for pantomime therefore we were left with no option to look at hiring professional support. Ellis Gillam and Mellissa Underwood agreed

to take on the lighting and sound for a very cheap payment of £200. Moving forward it has become apparent that we will need to look at paying for support with future shows. It is virtually impossible to get anyone to volunteer for nothing anymore and the cost of putting on a show has increased dramatically. We have taken on board two apprentices, free of charge. Archie Taylor who is a student at Humphries and James Odams. We are hoping to train and support them through the technical side of productions in the hope they would like to continue to support us in future.

We have entered Snow White into the Pantomime Alliance of Leicestershire awards. Two judges will be coming to judge the pantomime on Friday and Saturday evening. The awards evening is taking place in March.

TICKET PRICES FOR PANTO WERE £13 EACH. MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR PANTO WAS £40.

Forward Plan 26

BATS will be producing the musical 'The Little Mermaid' at the MMC in September 2026, directed by Abi Crossley. This is expected to be an expensive show, with the use of a raised stage platform. Certain characters will be on roller skates and scooters to symbolise a swimming motion. The show set will be minimal and will rely heavily on technical projection to create the setting. We plan to hire in costumes as this worked well for Shrek. Ellis Gillam and Kim Tuplin from the MMC will programme and operate lightning, Mellissa Underwood and James Odams will manage sound. We are still looking for a Musical Director to assist with this production and again we may need to look at paying someone to do this.

We are auditioning for new members aged 16 plus on 5th February 2026. We currently have a list of 20 people wanting to audition. We are still in discussions about whether we can allow anyone under the age of 16 to take part. This will depend on how many chaperones are willing to help.

We have not yet decided a show fee for the Little Mermaid.

TICKET PRICES WILL BE £20 EACH.

Thank you to BUSCA for your continued support we look forward to pantomime feedback.

Abi Crossley

Murder Mystery

Annual Report 2025:

There were no Murder Mysteries put on in 2025

Forward plan 2026

There are no plans for a murder mystery in 2026

3. Events Committee

Annual Report 2025

During the year, the Team successfully delivered a programme of community events aimed at bringing residents together, encouraging participation, and creating enjoyable shared experiences.

An Easter Egg Hunt was held earlier in the year. Although it was not possible to schedule the event as close to Easter as originally intended, the event was well attended and warmly received by those who participated. It provided valuable insight for future event planning and demonstrated continued community interest in family-focused activities.

The Scarecrow Festival was one of the standout events of the year. It generated excellent levels of engagement, with a large number of individuals and families taking part. The creativity and enthusiasm shown by participants contributed to a vibrant community atmosphere, and feedback highlighted how much the event was enjoyed by residents.

Later in the year, the Events team delivered a Letter to Santa event, which proved to be extremely popular. The event was enjoyed by both children and volunteers, and we received a significant amount of positive feedback from families. It created a strong sense of festive spirit and was a rewarding experience for everyone involved in its organisation.

Forward Plan 2026

Looking ahead, the events team is currently planning an Easter Party for Barrow, as we continue to build on the success of previous events and further strengthen community connections.

Frankie Stone

4. Heritage Group

Annual Report 2025

We have met regularly during the year and members have shared pictures and documents which have a historic interest. We are a small group of 6-7 people.

We met a group of about 15, from Upper Broughton local history society one summer evening and showed them round the village. Though they had often driven through the village they hadn't been aware of its historic interest. They made a donation to charity on our behalf.

Forward Plan 2026

The plan to set up a trail is making slow progress but has not been forgotten and is included in our plans for 2026.

At the moment we have plans for one talk to the Methodist Ladies circle in February. We are planning to talk about the historical aspects of the village in the area where the church is situated.

Kathryn Timmons

5, Library Management Committee

Annual Report 2025

- BUSCA trustees have signed a new ten year lease agreement with the County Council for the library from July 2025. We celebrated the completion of the first ten year lease with an event for all volunteers.
- Throughout the year, we have continued our core book lending activities and Information Technology provision, and continued our other services. We continue to have Monday scrabble sessions, Wednesday morning Craft and Chat, fortnightly Friday morning Rhyme Time sessions, monthly Friday morning Coffee & Chat, Friday afternoon Adult and Children's Chess Clubs, and Saturday afternoon monthly Sewing workshops.
- The monthly Book Lovers' Club continues to meet at the Parish Council office.
- 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 etc.
- We have continued with our sales of preserves, cards, gifts, jigsaw puzzles, books, craft items, quizzes, and raffle tickets.
- The Barrow upon Soar Library community saver accounts at the Loughborough Building Society continue to bring an annual bonus to our funds.
- Our 100 Club continues to be a good source of income.
- The Charnwood Lottery continues to be a regular source of income thanks to our supporters who currently have 15 tickets in the weekly draw.

- We have promoted the use of Easy Fundraising for online purchases this year, and now have 23 supporters. So far we have received £205, and at least £157 will be paid to us in the first quarter of 2026.
- With the agreed funding from the Parish Council, income from our regular activities, sales and hiring above, the Loughborough Building Society bonus, the 100 club, Charnwood Lottery and Easy fundraising, we are on a sound financial footing.
- Although not formal this winter, we 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 finally received approval from LCC to convert the old Boiler house to a store room.
- We have replaced the vertical blinds at the library using S106 funds. The new blinds are chain free at the bottom and meet legal safety requirements.
- We have replaced the four laptop PCs used by our operations team and purchased a fifth laptop using S106 funds.
- We are continuing with regular reviews of our policy, governance and risk assessment documents.
- We have a 70 strong pool of volunteers fulfilling a variety of roles.
- We continue to work closely with the Parish and County Councils.

Forward Plan 2026

- To ensure the continued functions of the library and its activities.
- To continue with hiring as appropriate and to seek new hirers.
- To continue our existing fund raising and to seek new ways of income generation.
- To continue providing a warm space during the Winter months.
- To continue regular reviews of our policy, governance and risk assessment documents.
- To continue to seek ways to enhance the building and library space, including conversion of the old boiler house to a store room.
- Recruit and train new volunteers and provide help with job interviews (references) when asked.
- Continue to work closely with the Parish and County Councils.

Keith Butler, Chair Library Management Committee

6. Barrow upon Soar & District Twinning Association

Annual Report 2025

The village of Barrow upon Soar is officially twinned with the community of Marans in the Charente Maritime, region in southwest France. The Twinning Association was formed in 1996 at the instigation of, and is recognised by, the Barrow upon Soar Parish Council. We continue to welcome new members and endeavour to expand our range of activities with the community of Marans.

In 2025 the Association enjoyed a New Year's Meal at the Soar Bridge Inn, held a Skittles evening, with meal, at the Conservative Club and held two quizzes at the Bishop Beveridge Club.

In June we hosted our French friends from Marans taking them to the Caves and Museum of Justice in Nottingham, for a ride on the Churnett Valley Railway and entertained them with a 50's and 60's Dance Night. The Parish Council hosted a meal at the Hunting Lodge for the French and their English hosts.

Forward Plan 2026

In 2026 we will be organising two more quizzes and some of our members will be going to Marans in June to stay with our French hosts. Events to be held later in the year are still to be confirmed.

Val Gillings, Chair

7. 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 2025

- Keith Butler is still the sole administrator.
- The village website is ticking over. New High Street businesses have been added and old ones moved to archive. The local events, local news 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 and the Leicestershire Metal Detecting Society.
- The BUSCA website has continued to be updated with BUSCA group events, but the site is still underutilised.
- The Heritage website has been updated with new articles on organisations such as Bishop Beveridge Club, Football, Cricket, Historic Buildings in Church Street, 1st World War photo of Harry Sole and the quiz for the Christmas Tree Festival.
- The Library website has been kept up to date with events and news items. Library documents including policies, governance and reports are also kept up to date.
- The Barrow Voice website has been updated with each new issue. Articles from previous issues of Barrow Voice are regularly in the top 10 being accessed by people searching the web, such as the Winter 2023 Alternative Christmas Quiz, the Autumn 2024 Interview with Jeevun Sandher, the Winter 2023 article on Laura Pearson, the Summer 2023 article: Why is Eurovision so gay? etc.

Forward Plan 2026

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

Keith Butler, site administrator

Miscellaneous Projects and Activities

8. Fossil Trail

Annual Report 2025

- 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 still 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.
- There is evidence that the trail is still followed.

Forward plan 2026

- Further consider a digital version of the fossil trail if someone can come forward to work on this.

9. Special Projects

Annual Report 25

- Underwrite BOSCAPS up to £500: Not requested
- Provide a budget of £100 for other Events activities: made small profit (see accounts)
- Work towards a successful transfer of chairmanship and ensuing changes in direction that may arise: on going

- Work towards a successful transfer of secretary and ensuing changes in direction that may arise: Report: new secretary resigned. We continue to look for a permanent replacement.

Forward Plan 2026

- Produce a new edition *What is BUSCA*
- Underwrite BOSCAPS up to £500
- Provide a budget of £750 for Events activities
- Produce a new edition of Walks leaflet: budget £1,500
- Run events as detailed in the Events Forward Plan.
- Work towards a successful transfer of chairmanship, secretary as well as Events Team.
- Develop a new electronic screen, situated in the library, to publicise events, possibly of the whole village.
- Develop a new multi-media publicity banner to be used by all SIGs for all BUSCA events.

List of publications

- Adult Fossil Trail leaflet (new edition)
- Junior Fossil Trail (2nd edition)
- Street Map (2nd edition) **Note: out of date**
- Heritage Walks I ("Round the Edge" and "Barrow's Jitties") (Currently out of print)
- Heritage Walks II (Miller's Bridge etc) (new edition) **Note: out of date**
- 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 (**very few wallets left: what is its future?**)
- Barrow websites flier (BUSCA, Village, Heritage, Barrow Voice, Parish Council) **Note: out of date**
- What is BUSCA leaflet **Note: out of date and really needs rewriting**
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Social media (Facebook pages)

- BUSCA * Library * Barrow Voice
Frankie Stone and Craig Johnstone have increased BUSCA's social media presence by opening accounts on Instagram and TikTok and updating the Facebook pages.

