



Registered Charity No. 1156170

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015

FORWARD PLAN AND BUDGET 2016

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

TRUSTEES June 2015 – 2016

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Chair:	Judith Rodgers 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 412063
Vice Chair:	Sue Rodgers 32 Holbourne Close, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 416533
Treasurer:	David Rodgers 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 412063
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Chris Bates	29 Mill Lane, Barrow upon Soar	01509 413475
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Humphrey Perkins Community Centre Officers

<i>Community secretary</i>	<i>HPS</i>	<i>01509 412385</i>	
<i>Peter Nutkins</i>	<i>Head teacher</i>	<i>HPS</i>	<i>01509 412385</i>

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 Panto Group, Barrow Youth Theatre, BUSCA New Community Building Committee, Barrow Heritage Group, Barrow Twinning Group and Barrow 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

Financial review

During 2015, the Association took on long term liabilities by accepting a lease of Barrow Community Library from the County Council and employing the Library Co-ordinator of Volunteers. While previously the Association had little need of reserves, taking on the Library has changed the position. In fact, the lease itself imposes few financial obligations on the Association, for example there is only a nominal rent. However, financing the Library will over the years cast an increasing burden on the Association and, over time, our employee will accumulate employment rights. Happily, the Association does have significant unrestricted reserves and it will be prudent to manage these consistently with our long term liabilities.

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 2015 and how they will do so in 2016.

Signed

Date

Reports 2015

Chair

As an umbrella organisation, BUSCA has had an excellent year in 2015, and in several particulars has achieved spectacularly. As a consequence, residents must be more and more aware of the existence of BUSCA. This is important because it means that support for events and projects is easier to achieve and new volunteers more likely to be found. Evidence for this is seen in the 90+ members that joined BUSCA in 2015. (The trick for the future will be to get them to renew as well as collecting new memberships). Thanks, Diane.

Top of the list has to be the huge success of Barrow Community Managed Library from July. Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of its Library Management Committee, to Angeline, our first ever employee, the Coordinator of Volunteers, to all the many volunteers and to a growing body of library users, the place is buzzing. New initiatives roll out at a startling pace so that more and more people, young and old have good reason to visit the library. Thank you to everyone who is involved.

Another big success story has been the creation of two new websites that have taken over from the closing leicestershirevillages sites (the village site www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk and the heritage site www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk) Starting from scratch, John Nurse and Keith Butler have devoted an extraordinary amount of time to transferring all the original data that was on the old sites while improving the facilities and layout of the new. The old sites were visited approximately twice as frequently as any other community's lv site and we are aiming to maintain or improve that situation.

In addition to these sites, John and Keith have further improved the BUSCA website so it is now a lively and up-to-date record of what BUSCA is doing. I am personally especially pleased with the facility to buy tickets for our events via Paypal.

Thank you to John and Keith!

The next triumph was the return of the Youth Theatre in a wonderful three performances of Disney's junior musical The Little Mermaid. Not only did it play to three capacity audiences but also made a record profit. After the closure of the Youth Theatre in 2014 due to lack of skilled staff to run it, we feared that it wouldn't re-open so it was a great relief when a new pianist and two new Stage Managers came forward. I gratefully thank them and Abi, the Director for their dedication and enthusiasm. And I mustn't forget to thank at least 50 others who all make a contribution to the production.

Finally, we hope very much that the professional Feasibility Study that the New Community Building Committee have initiated in 2015 will come up with a confident "Yes, it is feasible and this is how" in 2016. Now that Humphrey Perkins Community Centre is more or less lost to most community groups in Barrow, it is more and more apparent that the village needs a "new community building". I thank the NCB Committee for their sheer tenacity.

So, BUSCA continues to make a significant contribution to the well-being of Barrow residents of all ages and I would like to thank the many members who work so tirelessly to achieve this including the Trustees who oversee all this activity.

Judith M Rodgers *Chair*

Treasurer

During the year, unrestricted, undesignated reserves increased from £12,737 to £18,277. However, the insurance premiums for both 2014 and 2015 were paid in 2014, which effectively adds £1261 to the comparable figure for 2014. The remaining increase is mainly due to a successful event (see below).

Income from our dances fell slightly from £3272 in 2014 to £3138 in 2015.

The Panto Group's "Murder Mystery" performance made a profit of £830, which has been shared with "Support for Carers".

The Panto production of Aladdin made a modest profit of £424. We were delighted to welcome back the Youth Theatre with its production of Little Mermaid which, with three sell out performances, made an amazing profit of £3158.

Barrow Voice in 2014/15 made a small surplus of £227 which is particularly commendable as the squeeze on advertising income continues.

The bar profit for the year was £2000, a welcome increase from the 2014 figure of £1835.

The Community Building Designated Fund increased from £26,864 to £29,060.

Sadly, the Youth Action Group ceased to function during the year. The balance in hand of £1538 was transferred to a new Websites account.

And last, but by no means least, we took the Library on board in July. Thanks to the financial support of both Barrow Parish Council and Leicestershire County Council, this should be a self-contained restricted fund which does not impact on the other finances of the Association.

David Rodgers. *Hon. Treasurer*

Community Centre at Humphrey Perkins

We no longer have a member of Humphrey Perkins staff to report to us on the activities of the community centre. Indeed, with the costly hire charges it is difficult to know whether the Centre is being used much at all other than by BUSCA groups. This is having a knock on effect on the profits of the bar and therefore the income into BUSCA. We do, however, thank Humphrey Perkins for the discount that is applied to BUSCA bookings and which makes it still just possible to afford to use its facilities.

GROUPS Reports and Review of Forward Plan 2015 Forward Plan 2016

1 Barrow Voice

Barrow Voice continues to be a most successful village magazine both in print and on the web. This year I have chosen to highlight the changes rather than emphasise the aspects of BV which have remained the same. BV continues to support all BUSCA related activities and in particular, over this period, the important change from Leicestershire County Council running Barrow Library to that of the Community Association; aspects of this upheaval have been reported in every edition.

The changes

Editorial team. The core ten people remained the same. Elliot Wilkes joined the team.

Mulberry Square redesigned the front cover moving away from 'newsletter' to 'magazine' format. .

The BUSCA logo was substituted for the fourth picture on the front cover.

More 'Features' were written (28) (17 in 2014) and more 'Letters to the Editor' (6) whereas 2013-14 had only received one. The total number of articles fell to 87 from 95 but this was because the 'Features' were longer. The number of Business articles remained the same at 8.

BV had its first blog: an account of the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

In March 2015 'Barrow Voice' gained Media Accreditation for the burial of King Richard III. This culminated in the four page Richard III feature in BV Summer 2015.

Barrow Focus reduced its commitment from two pages to one. This took effect from Spring 2015.

Forward Plan 2015 -16

- To support BUSCA and other village organisations.
- To keep the magazine financially sound.

- To produce both print and web editions.
- To continue to maintain a village focus for the majority of the articles but create a magazine that appeals to a wider demographic ; young and old, established and newer residents, business and leisure readers .
- To include articles which reflect important changes taking place in the village. These include the village becoming more service- centre based reflecting in turn the increasing nature of Barrow’s growth in housing to cater for commuters working in Loughborough, Leicester, Nottingham.
- To monitor housing developments in Barrow and the BRAG campaign.
- To keep horizons wide and ensure a variety of content and freshness by including articles on neighbouring villages, people from out of Barrow, or events occurring abroad with Barrow connections or consequences.
- To improve the quality of the photographic content by developing a wider pool of photographers.
- To encourage new members to join the editorial team.
- To celebrate the lives and achievements of Barrow people with a focus on young as well as old.

2 Events Committee

Annual Report 2015

- We achieved most objectives laid out in last year’s Forward Plan including six dances.
We continued to sustain the increase in profits from the dances by doing in-house catering.
- Staged two Centre Stage performances.
- Assisted with the organisation of two street markets with the Parish Council and provided entertainment at the switching-on of the Christmas lights.
- We assisted with the Panto Group’s Murder Mystery evening which was very well attended and was financially very successful for the BUSCA General Account.
- We committed 100% of the profit from the raffle to the General Fund and 75% of the profit from the dances to the New Building Project.

Forward Plan 2016

- We will run six dances and continue to address the falling attendance from Barrow residents.
- Sustain the increase in profits from the dances by continuing to do the in-house catering.
- Stage two Centre Stage performances if they are available.
- Organise street markets and entertainment at switching on of Christmas Lights.
- Assist with the Panto Group’s Murder Mystery evening by helping to set up and doing the in-house catering.
- Look at ways to tap a younger age group possibly with themed evenings such as 50s night with band.

3. Heritage Group

Annual Report 2015

We have continued to meet regularly and respond to any heritage queries that come through the website.

We have put on two exhibitions this year. The first was Farming in Barrow for which we gathered information on 10 Barrow farms. It was held in the Round House to coincide with the Heritage Open days in September. We had a visit from Radio Leicester on Sunday morning as part of their Treasure Hunt around the county.

The second was a display of the research we had done on the memorials in Holy Trinity. On the anniversary of Theophilus Cave's birth and death, we presented a copy of the material to the church along with a translation of the Latin inscription on the Cave memorial. The display was in the church for about a month.

Forward Plan 2016

This year we are hoping to do some research into Hall Orchard School and perhaps look for evidence of houses in Barrow which have been demolished and replaced.

The Natural History Heritage Group

At present there is no interest in other people getting involved in new natural history projects.

4. Library Management Committee

Annual Report 2015

Barrow Community Partnership Library (CPL) began on 27th July 2015 with a handover from Leicestershire County Council following the acceptance of the Business Plan submitted earlier in the year. This included the establishment of the Library Management Committee (LMC) which has BUSCA Trustee, Barrow Parish Council and volunteer members.

Following advertising and interviews, BUSCA appointed Angeline Kazianis to the post of Co-ordinator of Volunteers in the CPL. This is a part time appointment at 20 hours per week which began on 27th August 2015 and is funded by Barrow Parish Council through a grant to BUSCA. This post has proved an important and indispensable asset for the CPL for the organisation of the rota of volunteers, opening & unlocking the library, cash transactions and much more.

The first few months of the CPL has seen the introduction of a number of value added improvements in the service provided at the library. Notably, an increase in open hours from 20 hours to 22 hours per week by remaining open over two lunchtimes per week, new layout and furniture, Rhyme Time for youngsters, the availability of hot beverages for purchase by visitors to the library and, importantly, a recognisable change in the 'atmosphere' in the library generated by our volunteers and their Co-ordinator.

The clear success of the CPL to date is due in large part to the involvement and commitment of the CPL volunteers. All volunteers are met following their application to volunteer and trained by LCC staff and more latterly by our Super Users.

Forward Plan 2016

* Continue to recruit and retain committed volunteers with training

- *Bring forward fund raising initiatives and activities
- * Library Management Committee to develop a plan for mitigating the effects of the tapering funding from LCC and reducing the reliance on public funding.
- *Provide an Annual Report to LCC with the evaluation of Key Performance Indicators
- *Library Management Committee to evaluate its own performance and seek to maintain the current appropriate range of skills and experience in place
- *To continue to make available courses in adult education, I.T. and other value added initiatives.
- * Develop plans to increase membership of the library and increase the number of book issues
- * Complete the conversion and refurbishment of the library toilet to an accessible toilet. This is funded by LCC Transition funding.
- * Explore the possible (re) surfacing of the library car park with space reserved for disabled and adult with child visitors.

5. Pantomime and Youth Theatre

Annual Report 2015

- *The Panto Group completed the objectives set for 2015.
- *The pantomime Aladdin was performed in March. It went very well but audience numbers were not particularly high. It made a small profit.
- *We were thrilled to see the resurrection of the Youth Theatre from April, culminating in three wonderful performances of The Little Mermaid. Well done, Abi (Director) and Wendy (Musical Director). Congratulations also to our two new Stage Managers, Lin and Fay. 42 young people were brought into the cast as a result of auditions. They came from a wider geographical area than before but it brought more talent in and a greater focus. Audiences were large at each performance and the production has made a record profit.
- *A very enjoyable subsidised group trip was made to the Hinckley Concordia pantomime.
- *The Murder Mystery team gave two wonderful productions: one to a private party and the other to the village. A very healthy profit (about £900) was divided between BUSCA and a Loughborough Carer's Club.

Forward Plan 2016

- *Group trip to Hinckley Concordia Theatre
- *Panto Group to put on Snow White on 4th & 5th March directed by Abi Crossley
- *Decision to re-enter the Pantomime Alliance Awards evening.
- *Panto Group then to produce a one act play for the WI. This may extend to become a bigger village entertainment.
- *Annual Murder Mystery performance in October.
- *Intention for Youth Theatre to put on a musical show in Nov (show to be decided)

6 New Community Building Committee

Annual Report 2015

- The Neighbourhood Plan first questionnaire showed that there is a high % of village residents who see the need for a New Community Hub as either essential or desirable.
- The committee continued to search for suitable sites and after considerable research produced a table showing those sites and their relative merits.
- Two applications were made to Charnwood Borough Council for grants towards a professional feasibility study. The first was not successful as the CBC grants panel considered that enough consultation had already been taken. They granted a sum of £2500 towards the study from the second

application. This has to be spent before the end of August 2016. The Committee will need to add several thousand pounds out of its funds to complete the study.

- Estimates and quotations were sought from 3 firms of Consultants. We selected John Leney & Associates to undertake the study on our behalf.
- We are once again indebted to the Events Group for their hard work in raising funds for this project.

Forward Plan 2016

- John Leney has already started to work on the feasibility study. We anticipate that this will take 3 or 4 months. The study will, amongst other things: confirm the need, identify the most sustainable site/s, construct a business plan and identify revenue streams and grants.
- We await further information from the Neighbourhood Plan Second Questionnaire.
- When the study is complete **we, as BUSCA** will conduct a major re-launch.

7 Twinning Association

Annual Report 2015

In June we had a very successful visit from Marans. 29 people came and we had organised a full programme of local visits: Bradgate Park, Calke Abbey, Tea in Sylvia's garden, some of the Barrow Open Gardens, a meal at the Quorn Exchange, a reception at Humphrey Perkins School with refreshments provided by the Parish Council and music provided by a group of school pupils. We had some publicity on Radio Leicester's Boxing Day programme when two presenters had to find examples in Leicester and Leicestershire of the references in the Twelve Days of Christmas. We provided the Three French Hens!

Forward Plan 2016

A teacher from the College Marie Eustelle in Marans came with the group visit in June and we are very happy that she has been able to re-establish the exchange with Humphrey Perkins School. A group of 25 pupils from Barrow are going to Marans in April and a larger group of 45 French pupils is coming here from Marans in June. The Twinning Association is helping with accommodation.

We are planning to go to Marans at the end of August to celebrate 20 years since we twinned. They are planning a very full programme for us and we are fund raising to be able to return their hospitality in 2017 in Barrow.

Miscellaneous Projects and Activities

8 Bar

Annual Report 2015

Although the bar takings continue to be affected by the small number of bookings for events other than those organised by the Community Association, the profit for the year was up from £1835 in 2014 to £2000. This was achieved by a combination of small price increases, a further reduction in stock carried and some very profitable events. Unfortunately, the swingeing increases in letting fees at Humphrey Perkins is deterring customers and results in an even lower level of turnover. We have yet again increased our prices and hope that these will be acceptable to our customers.

9 Fossil Trail

Annual Report 2015

There have been no evident incidents involving the fossils. Both the junior and the adult Fossil Trail leaflets are well used. A new edition of the adult Fossil Trail was produced and includes information about the new fossil sculpture on Sibley Rd.

Forward Plan 2016

- Maintain the sculptures
- Keep the trail leaflets topped up

10 Website administrators for : www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk and www.barrowsignpost.info and www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk and www.busca.org.uk and www.barrowvoice.co.uk

Annual Report 2015

With the impending closure of Barrow's two leicestershirevillages websites in August 2016, the team fully explored various alternative solutions. It was finally decided to create two new websites based on the same platform as the BUSCA website and transfer all relevant data to them. This has involved a huge amount of work on the part of John Nurse and Keith Butler. Both the Barrow village site and the Heritage site are more or less complete and have gone live. There has been minimal expenditure involved. Using Google as the search engine takes the public to the new sites (with the old domain names). Registered users have been notified and invited to become page editors. By Dec 31st 2015 there were 19 requests to do this and 9 to attend a training session. We thank John and Keith for their dedication.

The new BUSCA site has gone from strength to strength and is now much used, particularly to buy tickets on PayPal and as the Library web page.

Forward Plan 2016

- It was agreed that we can't cope with maintaining the new sites as well as the Signpost site, particularly since there is so much overlap and the public can't be persuaded to do their own editing in Signpost. We will therefore wind Signpost down as it comes up for a further renewal of webhosting.
- We will produce a new leaflet that advertises 4 sites (BUSCA, Village, Heritage and Barrow Voice)
- And consider using it as the basis for a new Welcome Pack wallet
- We will run a training session(s) for the new village site.

11 Special Projects

Annual Report: Special Projects 2015

- BOSCAPS to be underwritten up to £500 as usual (*Achieved but not needed*)
- Christmas Lights to be budgeted at £600 (*made a profit of £187; new lighting to illuminate BUSCA stalls*)
- Continue to support the work of the New Community Building committee (*Achieved*)
- Produce a new print of Walk 1 leaflet. (*deferred due to continuing delay by Jelson*)
- Continue to work towards taking over Barrow's Community Library via a Community Partnership with the LCC and financial and moral support from the Parish Council (*Achieved on July 27th*)
- Support website administrators in finding a solution to the disappearance of the leicestershirevillages site (*achieved: two new sites are already in operation. All data has been transferred from the 2 leicestershirevillage sites to these two new ones (which have retained their original names)*)
- New edition of (adult) Fossil Trail (*produced with financial support by Barwood Homes.*)

Forward Plan: Special Projects 2016

- BOSCAPS to be underwritten up to £500

- Christmas Lights to be budgeted at
- Creation of a new leaflet to advertise our various websites and a new matching pocketed Welcome Pack

12 List of publications

- Adult Fossil Trail leaflet (new edition)
- Junior Fossil Trail
- Street Map
- Heritage Walks I (“Round the Edge” and “Barrow’s Jitties”)
- 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
- Barrow Signpost website www.barrowsignpost.info and its advertising flier
- BUSCA website: www.busca.org.uk
- Barrow village website: www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk
- www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk
- Barrow Voice (quarterly) (with its website www.barrowvoice.co.uk)
- Welcome Pack pocketed wallet

Barrow-upon-Soar Community Association

Budget projection 2016 v2

Unrestricted undesignated reserves at 31.12.15

Anticipated income in 2016

(bar 1000 plus dances 500) Est. 1500

Insurance -923

Barrow Voice contingency Est. -500

BOSCAPS contingency Est. -500

Christmas Lights Est. -500

Reprint leaflet Walks 1 Est. -1500

Allowance for other expenditure to go out (misc 1000) Est. -1000

The following Special Project is uncoded:-

Leaflet for waymarked bike routes