



Registered Charity No. 1156170

www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021

FORWARD PLAN AND BUDGET 2022

**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 2021

President:	Frances Thompson 17 North Street, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 414068
Chair:	Judith Rodgers 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	07718 153117
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:	Diane Byrnes 39, Willow Road, Barrow upon Soar May 21)	07586273030 (resigned)
	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
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Helen Sadler 17, Wycliffe Avenue, Barrow upon Soar	01509 621050
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Betty Turner 53 Damson Drive, Barrow upon Soar	01509 412911
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Retired trustees

Mike Collins 8a, Beveridge Street, Barrow upon Soar (retired Dec 20)	
Anne Perry 51 Mill Lane, Barrow upon Soar (retired Jan 20)	
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)	
Diane Thorpe 4, Adkins Court, Barrow upon Soar (retired Jan 20)	
Alan Willcocks 43, The Banks, Barrow upon Soar (retired 24 June 20)	
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 2021 and how they will do so in 2022.

Signed

Date

Chair's Annual Report for 2021

2021 continued to offer BUSCA a bumpy ride. So many new initiatives were squashed at the last minute, most notably the cancellation two weeks before the expected date of the Picnic in the Park, organized by the Events team. This was a huge disappointment.

Some BUSCA activities were put on hold: no panto and no Youth Theatre musical; no twinning exchange nor fund-raising events to fund an exchange. Only very rare meetings of the Heritage group even though research carried on at home. But there were two murder mysteries, one by Zoom and the other held in Holy Trinity church as a live event. One felt so brave attending the show. And we enjoyed outdoor activities arranged by the Events team including a Scarecrow Festival.

The library continued to provide a lifeline for many people who were keeping themselves to themselves. They either scuttled into the library to pick up books at speed or welcomed a continuing delivery service. It was thanks to the stalwart volunteers and their inspirational leader Angeline that the library was able to maintain some level of service however tight a lockdown was imposed. Thanks to imaginative fund-raising and the determined seeking out of grants of all sorts, the library has managed to remain financially viable. We are particularly grateful to Barrow Parish Council for its continued funding.

Similarly, Barrow Voice maintained a Business-as-Usual approach. Having been seriously knocked financially by the pandemic, the team set themselves the challenge of finding grants and other ways to generate income. We were thrilled to receive substantial grants from Arnold Clark Cars and British Gypsum. 2021 ended with a net income of over £6,000 to start the new year of 2022. The team is very grateful for the support of its many long-standing advertisers.

BUSCA is delighted to receive the promise of support from British Gypsum. This is in recognition of the very valuable role that BUSCA plays in the village community. They have already helped Barrow Voice to pick itself up after the financial battering of Covid with a donation of £1,000. They have also promised a further donation of £2000 to help the Youth Theatre pay the exorbitant hire charges of Humphrey Perkins School. We are very grateful for to British Gypsum.

2022 has begun to seem much more normal even though we are learning to live with a weaker but more contagious variant of Covid. The Panto group are rehearsing in the Methodist Church for a live show in to be held in March in Humphrey Perkins. This is very exciting although it will be the first time that BUSCA has entered the school in two years. The school can no longer justify calling itself a Community Centre and some of us are apprehensive of what we will find.

Once the Panto is over, the Youth Theatre will start rehearsing for a show in November. The Events team will be supporting Jubilee parties in early June and the Twinning Association is planning an exchange visit to France in mid June. The Events team is already working on the organizing of a River Festival in 2023. So perhaps things really are gradually returning to "normal".

Meanwhile, we are working hard to pass the baton of the trusteeship to a younger generation. Starting in 2021, trustees began to plan for the successful transition of Fiona and Nicola as the new chair and vice chair of BUSCA at the AGM in May 22. We will be wishing them every success. The future of BUSCA will lay in their hands but us oldies will certainly support them.

Treasurers' Annual Report 2021

The Treasurers

The Association has four Treasurers:

David Rodgers – General

Sally McHale – Library (from 1 July 2021).

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

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

General

As was the case in 2020, some of our activities suffered disruption arising from the Covid restrictions. This report must be read in that context.

During the year, unrestricted, undesignated reserves rose from £21,106 to £28,032, an increase of £5252.

The increase in reserves stems from Barrow Voice, which recorded a “profit” of £6334. This satisfactory outcome was in part achieved through two generous grants of £1000 each – one from Arnold Clark and the other from British Gypsum. Another outside source of income was the profit from the Murder Mystery production, amounting to £402. Additionally, the return of business resulting from the easing of Covid restrictions resulted in increased confidence on the part of our advertisers. After facing a somewhat bleak financial future at the beginning of the year, the publication is now on a much firmer footing.

A scarecrow festival and the annual switching on of the Christmas lights and its associated market raised £583.

As there are no current plans to develop a community building, the annual insurance premium of £1483 was paid out of the Community Building Designated Fund.

John Beaumont has continued in his role of our independent examiner for the year 2021 and I am pleased to report that he is continuing in that role for 2022.

David Rodgers. Treasurer (General).

Library

The Community Library’s restricted fund decreased by £2908 during the year, as the library was closed for much of the year with the resultant loss of income from users and hirers. The following grants were received during the year:.

- Barrow-upon-Soar Parish Council £9500
- Charnwood Borough Council £2000
- Furlough £2377
- Loughborough Building Society £1691
- Leicestershire County Council £1436
- Co-op £200

At 31 December, the library’s total funds stood at £27,701. Of this, £13,281 represents the funds allocated for the day to day running of the library (down from £14,196), and £14,420 is the development fund (down from £15,043). We must also acknowledge the enthusiasm and effectiveness of our employees and our team of volunteers for keeping the show on the road during another difficult year.

Barrow Arts & Theatre Society

We have a balance of £ 9539.93.

Despite Covid and through Helen’s sheer determination, we performed two Murder Mysteries.

The first MM, while still in the pandemic, was a Zoom meeting which was well received as a first attempt. It resulted in tickets sales of £441.36 with expenses of £ 38.40, achieving a profit of £402.96 which was donated to Barrow Voice.

The second MM was at Holy Trinity church in person and this was also very well received. It resulted in takings of £613.74, expenses £162.73 and profit of £451.02 which was split equally between Holy Trinity Church and BATS. Future productions will include the annual pantomime which this year will be Red Riding Hood in March.

I would like to give my appreciation to Abi for directing and arranging rehearsals at the Methodist Church Barrow at a cost of £15 per hour which represents a substantial saving on Humphrey Perkins School. The performances will be at Humphrey Perkins with the cost still to be confirmed.

Youth theatre is still being discussed though we are anticipating a better activity year.

Steven Crossley. Treasurer (BATS)

Barrow-upon-Soar & District Twinning Association

The finances of the Twinning Association remain healthy and at the year end the funds were £5192. Net income over the year was £0.12.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid at the beginning of 2021 it was decided not to request membership subscriptions for the year.

One fund raising event was held at the end of the year: a stall was taken at the Christmas Street Market on 5th December where mulled wine was exchanged for donations. £185 was raised and after expenses £170 was donated to a charity, The Falcon Support Services of Loughborough.

Another expense of £20 was countered by early payment of some 2022 membership subscriptions such that the year end funds were £5192.

James Fuller. Treasurer (Twinning Association)

GROUPS

Reports and Review of Forward Plan 2021 and Forward Plan 2022

1. Barrow Voice

Annual Report 2021

- * In 2021 members of the Barrow Voice editorial committee worked hard to search for any grants available.
- * We managed to secure two grants of £1,000 each (Arnold Clarke cars and British Gypsum) and this has helped to underpin some expenses.
- * The magazine continues to receive good feedback from readers with people commenting on the range of articles included and the high standard of writing and proofreading.
- * Barrow Voice entered the local magazine of the year award for 2021 and came 13th out of over 300 entries.
- * We have successfully moved the Barrow Voice year to match that of BUSCA (ie Jan 1st – Dec 31st).
- * The team has gained two new young members.
- * We have made good progress on developing an effective social media presence.
- * Our finances are much healthier and, for the moment, Barrow Voice is financially viable.

Forward Plan 2022

- * The editorial team will continue to produce articles about local people and events while discussing, where appropriate and possible, national and international issues of interest with a local stance
- * We will aim to include a range of articles that will appeal to different demographics within the village.

2. BATS (Barrow Arts and Theatre Society)

Annual Report 2021

- The pantomime group were unable to perform a Pantomime this year due to Covid restrictions.

- Due to the current pandemic the Youth Theatre have been unable to run weekly rehearsals and there was no show to perform.
- The Youth Theatre were rehearsing some fantastic work for the Summer fete which was due to happen in July 2021, however sadly because of Covid restrictions the Summer Fete was cancelled.
- * Despite the pandemic the murder mystery group managed to do a murder mystery on Zoom in February 2021. *A First Class Death* by Helen Sadler was a production nail biter, but we managed to raise £400 from donations.
- * A 'live and face to face' murder mystery was performed at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 27th November. *Two's Company* was performed on what must have been the coldest night ever and the cast was fantastic. The arrangement with the church was to split any monies raised 50-50 with the church. Unfortunately we made rather less than we are used to but did clear a small profit

Forward Plan 2022

- The pantomime group will be performing Little Red Riding Hood on 4th and 5th March 2022 with Abi Crossley as director. Unfortunately we have no pianist and no band this year, but we are hoping for it still to be a success.
- Youth Theatre will be back up and running from April 2022, for our annual show on 18th, 19th and 20th November. Humphrey Perkins has been provisionally booked for this. The show is still to be confirmed.
- We will be running weekly rehearsals now at the Methodist Church in Barrow for both Panto and Youth Theatre because the prices of Humphrey Perkins school hire have increased dramatically. We will still be using Humphries for the all day rehearsals, tech, dress and shows.
- Lewis Hickey has very kindly offered to create a new website for BATS, free of charge. The website will have the facility for the public to purchase tickets for shows, to be able to see rehearsals photos and any upcoming news and events.
- Another zoom murder mystery *What the Butler Saw* by Helen Sadler is in production for April 1st. Again it will be a free event with donations encouraged. All funds raised will go to support BATS.
- Helen Sadler, the director may retire in the summer but there are plans for the group to continue.

3. Events Committee

Annual Report 2021

- In June we had to take the unfortunate decision to cancel the Village Fete due to COVID restrictions. This is still in our back pocket and we hope to work with the Parish Council to put this wonderful event on in the future.
- In August, the Scarecrow Festival returned. It was a successful event, although the number of scarecrow entries was significantly reduced. This was probably because more people were back at work and had less leisure time.
- The Christmas Market in 2021, was bigger, and better than previous years, with enough stalls to take us up to the Holy Trinity church entrance. The market was a success and footfall was high.
- The other Christmas village events over Christmas were the Christmas Windows Trail, and Letters to Santa. There were much reduced entries compared with last year and as a team, we will look critically into these for next year.
- The net income from the year's events was over £500.

Forward Plan 2022

- Our main focus for this coming year is to forge ahead in the planning of the River Festival for 2023.
- For Easter, we are hoping to run an Easter Egg Hunt around the village to raise funds for the Library.

- BUSCA is supporting the Parish Council and the Love It Local Team with the events around the Jubilee weekend. BUSCA is planning to support the local community and promote the local street parties and the Big Jubilee Lunch across this weekend.
- 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 are looking forward to supporting the Panto group in March.

4. Heritage Group

Annual Report 2021

- This has probably been the quietest year we have ever had. Meetings have been few and far between.
- There have been no exhibitions to prepare for
- Our only achievement has been to add some articles to the website

Forward Plan 2022

- We can continue with the development of the website, but anything else depends on the situation with the pandemic
- A talk I had agreed to do at the Library about the development of the Board School has been postponed for the time being.
- We continue to be concerned about a storage place for the material which we have accumulated. The Parish Council has agreed to store in their attic but this doesn't make the material available for consultation. Other possibilities are being explored.

5. Library Management Committee

Annual Report 2021

- Although the library was closed, or with limited opening, for much of the year, a sufficient cohort of trained volunteers were maintained
- The services and facilities offered by the library, were maintained to our usual high standard, even through Covid restrictions
- Our new treasurer has successfully taken on the role and is contributing clear financial advice and support
- We continue to work closely with the Parish and County Councils.
- Our plans for a larger community space have currently been shelved. After much careful deliberation the extortionate costs made the project unjustifiable for the extra space it would provide.
- We are moving towards the idea of becoming a CIO Charity in our own right and small steps are being made.

Forward Plan 2022

- To ensure the continued functions of the library and to expand the community activities when possible
- To continue with hiring as appropriate and to reinstate group activities when considered safe to do so.
- For the Library Development Group to continue to seek ways to enhance the building and spend any grant money within the allocated time.
- To replace existing gas boiler with Air Source heat pumps, which will provide warmth in winter and cooling

- in summer
- To fit Photovoltaic panels to provide solar power
- 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 a disabled access 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 2021

- Barrow upon Soar is twinned with the Community of Marans in the Charente-Maritime region in the south-west of France. Twinning exchanges have taken place since the Charter between the two communities was signed in 1996.
- Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the French were not able to come to Barrow and the Association was not able to organise any events.

Forward Plan 2022

- The following events have already been confirmed:
Quiz – 11th March 2022
Open Evening – 25th March 2022.
- It is hoped to organise other events later in the year to include Speed Painting and a Race Night.
- This year's exchange visit to Marans is planned for 9th June to 14th June 2022.

Miscellaneous Projects and Activities

7. Fossil Trail

Annual Report 2021

There have been no evident incidents involving the fossils. Leaflets have barely been accessed or accessible because of Covid regulations. Several of the previous outlets no longer provide space for our dispensers.

Forward Plan 2022

- Maintain the sculptures
- Increase the number of available leaflet dispensers
- Keep the trail leaflets topped up

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 2021

- We continued to improve and develop all five sites by helping to keep individual pages up-to-date and by encouraging individuals and groups to do their own editing. It is most difficult to keep the business pages up to date. We often don't know when a business ceases trading.
- We have kept the existing leaflet dispensers fully stocked with the website leaflet and Welcome Pack which is available to all new households so that the public's attention is drawn to the village websites. There are not as many dispensers because of closure of several businesses.
- There is good use of the village website by members of the public wanting to receive or give info about Barrow including placing adverts, offering services, and providing information.
- The Heritage site has been given a lot of new data which has been worked on to prepare it to go on the site. The pages for the shops are being update continually since the start of the pandemic a number have close or changed hands.

- The Year in Pictures has continued to be populated throughout the year and can be viewed from links on the other sites.
- We continue to do maintenance work on the server in removing unused or old files including the 29 email accounts, this helps us to keep below the allocated space allowed provided.
- Barrow Voice website is still updated every quarter to match the magazine. This year we have changed the site to a Content Management System to bring into line with the other 4 sites allowing the possibility for anyone to create a new version of Barrow Voice so not to fully rely on John. There has been a small downside to this! We've had to standardise the colour scheme to the archived issues but the content of all pages remains the same. Barrow Voice now has its own Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/barrowvoice>
- The visitor stats to four sites looks healthy. The Village site has the most visitors followed by Heritage, Barrow Voice, and the Library. The BUSCA site is barely visited but has improved in the last few months. (This is probably due to the lack of events in 2020/21)

Forward Plan 2021

- We will continue 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 will be on going.
- Making links with social media is ongoing. We need to establish if there are any village Twitter accounts (and others)
- The library website will be continually updated and developed. The BUSCA website will also need further improvements now it lacks the library component.
- Leaflet dissemination is ongoing.
- Addition of data to the Heritage site is ongoing.
- The interactive nature of the adverts is a selling point for getting new advertisers.
- Work continues to integrate photos between the Village, Library and BV sites.
- Work to be done to improve information etc. on the BUSCA site.

9. Special Projects

Annual Report 21

- We underwrote BOSCAPS up to £500 but were not asked to pay anything.
- The Christmas Lights market and entertainment made a profit of £300
- Other Events activities netted £218
- Barrow Voice had a net income of £6334 (although some of this is payment for future editions).
- We haven't had much opportunity to "support with enthusiasm the building of a community facility by any agency" although the Parish Council has made some very tentative enquiries.
- We have had no Live & Local (Centre Stage) theatre shows.
- The budget for a publication by the Heritage Group was not required because there was no publication.
- We have continued effective management of Barrow Community Library
- We worked with the Parish Council to supply the text and images for a display board in Millennium Park. This is now installed and is very pleasing. It takes text and images from the BUSCA Natural History of the Millennium Park as well as a summary of the lime industry in Barrow.
- We continued to help BUSCA to become a sustainable organization by various means but not by consulting residents of the village. Membership remains surprisingly high which indicates good support for what BUSCA achieves.

Forward Plan for 2022

- 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
- Work towards a successful transfer of chairmanship and 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: 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