



Registered Charity No. 1156170

[www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk)

## **ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016**

## **FORWARD PLAN AND BUDGET 2017**

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

**TRUSTEES    June 2016 – 2017**

<b>President:</b>	Frances Thompson 17 North Street, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 414068
<b>Chair:</b>	Judith Rodgers 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 412063
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Sue Rodgers 32 Holbourne Close, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 416533
<b>Treasurer:</b>	David Rodgers 155 Nottingham Road, Barrow-upon-Soar	01509 412063
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**Council Members**

Chris Bates	29 Mill Lane, Barrow upon Soar	01509 413475
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## **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 Coordinator 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 2016 and how they will do so in 2017.

Signed

Date

## Reports 2016

### Chair

Because of activities and events that began in 2015, 2016 has seen a real growth in the number of Barrow residents who are aware of BUSCA and know some of what BUSCA does in the village. Top of that list must be the management of Barrow library. Virtually all junior age children make regular visits to the library from school, thanks to the commitment of staff at Hall Orchard School and the library volunteers. Many children continue to visit the library to take out books, listen to Story Time, take part in the Summer Holiday Reading Scheme and enjoy craft sessions. Although our statistics for adult borrowing continue to fall (as is found in most other libraries), the Independent Book service is well used but doesn't add to our user statistics. Adult attendance at talks has been encouraging and sessions on Family History etc continue to engage adults. The Library Management Committee feels that we are on target for making Barrow Library a community hub of activity and resources. BUSCA Trustees owe a huge Thank you to all the volunteers and their manager.

The other continuing growth area is the use of the BUSCA website to provide a Paypal facility to buy tickets. This is now the preferred method of obtaining tickets for dances, Centre Stage shows, Panto and Youth performances. Thanks to John and Keith for striving to keep all our websites up-to-date, fresh and relevant.

We try to make sure that newcomers to the village learn early on what BUSCA does to enrich village life. In theory, every new householder on the three housing developments is given the new Welcome Pack stuffed with all our fliers, including the new website one.

Trustees have observed with keen interest the findings of the professional feasibility study on the siting of a new community facility. Although the "preferred site" (King George V playing field) was rejected by the Parish Council, another viable site off Fishpool Way has been accepted as a possibility. We now wait to see what further moves are recommended.

The Panto Group and the Youth Theatre have both had an excellent year. Snow White and the Seven Chavs was a tremendous show that entertained record audiences and therefore made a record profit of over £2000. The Youth Theatre's production of Honk must have been one of the best ever in terms of individual talent and sheer professionalism of the whole show. Sadly, it didn't attract big audiences, perhaps because it is less well known than the Disney musicals. It still made a profit of over £500 which is excellent given the huge production costs. Trustees are very grateful to the Panto Group for the donation of profits into the General Account from the last murder mystery.

Trustees must congratulate the editorial team of Barrow Voice for succeeding in producing a magazine that carries on getting better and better. All that is wanted now is more advertisers to cover production costs.

The Events committee has been as active as ever in topping up the General Account with profits from dances (75% goes to the New Community Building project), from Centre Stage events and with the Christmas Street Market. Many thanks to this small band of hard workers.

The Heritage Group is flourishing and seems to have a never ending list of research projects. The latest was trawling through the archive documents from Humphrey Perkins School in preparation for their 300<sup>th</sup> year celebrations, something that school really appreciated.

The Twinning Association has a significant year ahead of it as French and English members celebrate 20 years since the charter was signed. With a wonderful programme of activities based on Barrow including a civic meal hosted by Barrow Parish Council, the French guests are in for a wonderful exchange visit. It will certainly match up to the expectations raised by the celebrations in France last year.

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 what BUSCA does. Our next challenge is going to be to sustain this level of activity as we all grow older.

Judith M Rodgers *Chair*

### Treasurer

During the year, unrestricted, undesignated reserves increased from £18,273 to £21,319, an increase of £3045. Income from our dances held up with a profit of £3158 (£3138 in 2015), plus another £538 from raffles.

The Panto Group's "Murder Mystery" performance made a profit of £1084, which has been retained by us, though the £129 proceeds from the raffle was donated to Air Ambulance.

The Panto production of Snow White made a very commendable profit of £1928.

The Youth Theatre's production of Honk! made a profit of £733, though there is still one bill outstanding which will probably halve this.

Barrow Voice in 2015/16 made a small loss of £104 which is satisfactory as the squeeze on advertising income continues.

The bar profit for the year dropped significantly to £1434 (£2000 in 2015).

The Community Building Designated Fund decreased from £29,060 to £28,204. This was because £5750 was paid for site appraisal, which was only partly covered by a grant of £2500 from Charnwood Borough Council.

The Community Library is on a very sound financial footing, partly because of the financial support given by Barrow Parish Council and, for the time being, the County Council, partly because of support from individuals in the form of donations and last, but by no means least, because of the enthusiasm and effectiveness of our team of volunteers.

Library funds increased by £3806 in the year to £8863.

After an amazing 24 years as our examiner, Roger Chappell, has stood down. He has served us well. The task has now been taken on by John Beaumont, who was the Association's Treasurer for several years.

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 2016**

#### **Forward Plan 2017**

#### **1 Barrow Voice**

##### **Annual Report 2016**

Maintaining revenue from advertising was a major preoccupation throughout 2016. As a result of local businesses increasingly turning to the internet, the number of income generating advertising pages fell to 10 for the winter edition from 12 for all earlier. This meant a fall from 36 pages to 32. However, in spite of this, the number of Feature articles averaged seven per issue and BV received excellent feedback on many of them. In particular: 'Tony Mason: violin chin-rest maker to the stars' and 'Digging for Treasure' (Detectorists Club) - Spring BV; 'BOSCAPS 1976 to 2016' and 'Beauty Queens of Barrow' from Summer BV; 'Nunckley Hill Visitor Centre' and 'Wildlife through my Window' - Autumn BV; 'Make it a Handmade Christmas' and 'Reflections on Mrs Lahodynska' - Winter BV.

From this feedback, and that from web-usage, we know that Barrow Voice continues to be both well-liked and well-read. This was shown as articles in one issue generated feedback in another: a story on hedgehogs generated a Letter to the Ed and another on 'The Binges' not only a second article by a different author but also a ghost story! On-line readership grew significantly from a total of 15,373 in 2015 to 19,405 in 2016 with pages-viewed rising from 31,583 to 53,990. Many thanks to John Nurse for his excellent work in this area.

The editorial team lost two members, Julie Gardner (to Nottingham) and Elliot Wilkes (to university) but gained Lindsay Ord - an ex-professional journalist and a most valuable addition.

Barrow Voice continued to support all BUSCA related activities and report on major changes in the village such as the Post Office's move to The Paper Shop and the Grove Lane Railway Bridge collapse. Leicester City Football Club's triumph in winning The Premiership led to a jubilant Foxes front cover pic. Many of the big national stories of 2016 were political e.g. the referendum and Brexit - so outside our brief. However there was one: the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This was memorialised in a collage of Queen's Birthday Party and Summer Street Market pics.

##### **Forward Plan 2017**

To keep the magazine as lively as possible to ensure continued readership, relevance and advertising appeal in a crowded field of marketing outlets.

To keep the magazine financially sound

To produce both print and web editions.

To support BUSCA and other village organisations

To continue to maintain a village focus but create a magazine that appeals to a wide range of ages, new residents as well as long established residents and business readers.

To monitor changes in housing and High Street businesses.

To improve the quality of photographic content by continuing to try to attract new photographers.

To encourage new members to join the editorial team.

## **2 Events Committee**

### **Annual Report 2016**

- 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 2017**

- We will run five 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 three Centre Stage performances during autumn and spring.
- 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 by running a Race Night in November in place of the November dance.

## **3. Heritage Group**

### **Annual Report 2016**

We have continued to meet most months and are working on several projects.

- Anthea has put the information about Holy Trinity memorials on to the web site.
- A small group is working on the log books from Hall Orchard School, which contain lots of interesting information. No definite decision has been made about what we do with this.
- Another group has been helping Humphrey Perkins School to catalogue a collection of documents they have found in the cellar. They want to display some of this as part of the celebrations for the 300th anniversary of the school. (We were interviewed by Radio Leicester while we were working on this.)
- We have taken an interest in the application for planning permission to convert the Frame work Knitting shop, behind the florists, into a cafe. We have supplied some information about its use and previous owners and encouraged the Borough to maintain its appearance as far as possible

- We spent some warm afternoons in the churchyard attempting to update the survey done by the WI in the 60s. However a more complete copy of the original survey came to light: there is now one in the church and one at Wigston. We have however had a digital copy done so that a more easily searchable version can be put online.

### **Forward Plan 2017**

The information we have prepared on Barrow farms is ready to be put on the Heritage website. We have yet to decide how to present the other projects once they are complete.

### **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 2016**

Barrow Community Partnership Library (CPL) has continued to develop successfully for another year. The Library Management Committee meets approximately once a month and sub committees have been formed e.g. maintenance, ops, IT etc.

Angeline Kazianis, Co-ordinator of Volunteers continues to flourish in her role and is a valuable part of the team. Part of her responsibility is to generate income and manage sales and hiring, all of which was made easier with the purchase of a till.

The library is open for 21½ hours per week and offers specific sessions within these hours e.g. Rhyme Time and Storytime for youngsters. Additionally there are craft days, talks, courses, art exhibitions and book sales, plus the availability of hot beverages. The volunteers continue to make it possible to move forward as a Community Partnership Library.

### **Forward Plan 2017**

- \* Continue to recruit and retain committed volunteers with training
- \*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 kitchen and toilet.
- \* Complete the library car park project, funded by Tarmac, to include the boundary fencing and posts.
- \* Update and improve IT systems and printer facilities available in the library

## **5. Pantomime and Youth Theatre**

### **Annual Report 2016**

\*The pantomime Snow White and the Seven Chavs was performed in March. It was well received and entertained record audience numbers.

\*A successful play was put on in May for the birthday of Barrow WI. This was directed by Helen Sadler and was performed at the Conservative Club.

It was performed again as part of Barrow Bonanza, a Panto Group variety show. This raised money for Rainbows and BUSCA.

\*The Youth Theatre produced Honk under the direction of Abi Crossley with Wendy (Musical Director) and Macauley Carter as the new stage manager.

\*The Murder Mystery in October was A Blow to the Head and was the usual sell out event, donating over £1,000 to the BUSCA General Account for which Trustees offered their thanks.

### **Forward Plan 2017**

\*The decision was taken not to visit the Hinckley Concordia Theatre as a panto trip.

\*Panto Group to put on Cinderella (written by Richard Bailey) on March 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> directed by Abi Crossley

\* Pantomime Alliance Awards evening : the decision was taken for the performance to be judged but not perform.

\*Annual Murder Mystery performance in October.

\*Abi and Macauley are expecting a baby in March so the Youth Theatre may be on hold for November. The possibility of producing an alternative event in November to retain access to Humphrey Perkins will be discussed.

## **6. New Community Building Committee**

### **Annual Report 2016**

- New Building Committee worked with the Consultant and confirmed six appropriate sites for inclusion in a feasibility study.
- Professional comparative studies were undertaken by John Leney. Plans were produced to show how a building would fit onto the most appropriate sites.
- Consultations were held with BUSCA trustees and John Leney to identify and prioritise requirements for the New Community Hub. The results were scored against the characteristics of the identified sites.
- Sites were ranked in order of feasibility from the scoring on suitability and sustainability.
- The King George playing field ranked highest. It was our preferred site. The second site was the Picnic Area off Fishpool Way. (Both sites are Parish Council owned.) At an extraordinary meeting of the PC in June, Parish Councillors were informed of the results of our study. The PC agreed that BUSCA could work towards building a Community Hub on land in Parish owned land.
- Further research confirmed that King George Field was the preferred option. It would give the most additional benefit to residents of the village, be most accessible, could house public toilets, could provide changing rooms, provide cctv surveillance of the playing field—etc. The PC were asked to agree to a building on King George's Field. They refused. They have plans for the upgrading of the area. They did however agree that we could work towards building a Community Hub on the Picnic Area off Fishpool Way. It is disappointing that the best site is not available for the benefit of the village.
- However, builders and architects have been consulted and a draft plan of the footprint of a building and car parking has been prepared, on the site at Fishpool Way.
- We are once again indebted to the Events Group for their hard work in raising funds for this project. Particular thanks go to Christine and Mike Collins for organising dances.

### **Forward Plan 2017**

- Our Consultant has been instructed to have an official pre-consultation with Charnwood BC planning department. Applications for further grant funding to complete the feasibility study.
- The feasibility study including a business plan will be prepared.
- Consultations will be arranged with BUSCA trustees to share findings of the feasibility study.
- If the trustees are happy with the results as above, funding bids will be prepared, essential professional studies carried out in order to apply for planning permission.
- A public re-launch of the project will be arranged to attract further manpower and enthusiasm.
- We await confirmation of acceptance of Barrow's Neighbourhood Plan from Charnwood BC as this will confer some power to the Parish Council to permit the building of a Community Building.

## **7 Barrow and District Twinning Association**

### **Annual Report 2016**

The two big events in 2016 were:

1. The visit in June of 45 young people, and their teachers, from the College Marie Eustelle in Marans to Humphrey Perkins School. This was the first school exchange for 20 years. As the school was not able to find host families for all the French participants, the Twinning Association offered hospitality to 15 of the young people and their teachers. The English group had already been to Marans in April.
2. In August, 26 of us celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the twinning in Marans. We were entertained royally and enjoyed outings and lots of food.

### **Forward Plan 2017**

In May a group is coming from Marans to continue the celebrations of 20 years of friendship. Plans for the visit are well on the way.

Sadly there will be no school exchange

## Miscellaneous Projects and Activities

### 8 Bar

This was the first year in which no outside organisation used our bar facilities. This was at least in part due to the high cost of hiring the premises. As a direct result, our profit slumped from £2000 in 2015 to £1434 in 2016. Further reductions in the variety of drinks offered and another round of price increases are likely to deter custom rather than increase it. Nevertheless, the bar continues to serve a useful purpose in supporting our events and, although the profit is reduced, it is still a useful source of income.

David Rodgers.

### 9 Fossil Trail

#### Annual Report 2016

There have been no evident incidents involving the fossils. Both the junior and the adult Fossil Trail leaflets are well used.

#### Forward Plan 2016

- Maintain the sculptures
- Keep the trail leaflets topped up
- A new sculpture of an ammonite has been installed by the Parish Council in the Three Crowns cross roads garden and a future edition of the Fossil Trail might well include this. It was made by the sculptor of the Sibley Road sculpture as a trial model.

### 10 Website administrators for : [www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk) and [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk) and [www.busca.org.uk](http://www.busca.org.uk) and [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk)

#### Annual Report 2016

- Thanks to the hard work of John Nurse and Keith Butler, we have continued to maintain and improve the two new websites: [www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk) and [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk). They are well used and there is a continuous stream of requests for new pages, some to be edited by us and some by the owners. We are also delighted that Anthea Bramley has taken on more responsibility to add heritage data.
- The BUSCA site [www.busca.org.uk](http://www.busca.org.uk) has seen a dramatic rise in Paypal use for ticket purchase and membership renewals. The library pages also reflect the widening range of activities that go on in the library.
- The Barrow Voice website [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk) is an extremely successful online version of the paper magazine for which we must thank John.
- Early in the Autumn, we closed down the Signpost website as we had planned in 2015.
- We have produced a new leaflet that advertises 5 village websites (BUSCA, Village, Heritage and Barrow Voice plus the Parish Council site). The leaflet then became the basis of a newly designed Welcome Pack. Sponsorship for these two projects over-reached the total cost and the surplus will be used for a new edition of Walks leaflet No 1.

#### Forward Plan 2017

- We will continue to develop all four sites by helping to keep individual pages up-to-date and by encouraging individuals and groups to do their own editing.
- We will keep the existing leaflet dispensers fully stocked with the new leaflet and Welcome Pack so that the public's attention is drawn to these village websites
- Anthea will continue to develop the content on the Heritage site
- The Barrow Voice team will look for opportunities to add extra items on the BV website that do not appear in the paper magazine, including a photo diary of village life in 2017.

### 11 Special Projects

#### Annual Report: Special Projects 2016

- BOSCAPS to be underwritten up to £500 as usual (*Achieved but not needed*)

- Christmas Lights to be budgeted at £600 (*made a profit of £122; new lighting to illuminate BUSCA stalls*)
- Continued to support the work of the New Community Building committee
- Produce a new print of Walk 1 leaflet. (*deferred due to continuing delay by Jelson*)
- Continued to manage Barrow Community Library via a Community Partnership with the LCC and financial and moral support from the Parish Council with increasing success in terms of the range of activities undertaken in the library and in raising sponsorship, grants and fund-raising income.
- Ongoing management and development of the four BUSCA websites. The new Village website has replaced the old Leicestershirevillages site in terms of its use by the public. The facility to use Paypal on the BUSCA website has continued to be more and more popular.
- Creation of a new leaflet to advertise BUSCA's 4 websites (plus the Parish Council's website) (*Achieved and attracted more grant funding than it used*)
- Creation of a new matching pocketed Welcome Pack (*Achieved and well received by the first of the three new Housing Development Sales Offices*)

### **Forward Plan: Special Projects 2017**

- BOSCAPS to be underwritten up to £500
- Christmas Lights to be budgeted at £600
- To vigorously pursue the provision of a new community building
- Continuing effective management of Barrow Community Library
- Creation of a professionally prepared wallet cover to hold a booklet about BUSCA up to £1,000
- Discuss the creation of a new Heritage publication about the history of primary education in Barrow up to £500
- New edition of Walks leaflet 1 & 2 (already agreed)
- New edition of Junior Fossil Trail up to £750 for 4,000
- New edition of Village Map up to £1,000 for 4,000
- Laminating of the churchyard inscriptions by Heritage Group up to £100

## **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](http://www.barrowsignpost.info) and its advertising flier
- BUSCA website: [www.busca.org.uk](http://www.busca.org.uk)
- Barrow village website: [www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoar.org.uk)
- [www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarheritage.org.uk)
- Barrow Voice (quarterly) (with its website [www.barrowvoice.co.uk](http://www.barrowvoice.co.uk) )
- Welcome Pack pocketed wallet
- Barrow websites flier (BUSCA, Village, Heritage, Barrow Voice, Parish Council)