



BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Charity Registration No. 267955

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

A year that started fairly tranquilly has recently and suddenly become more turbulent, as the extent of plans for redeveloping large areas of Barnes have been made all too apparent. Earlier we had looked to tighten up the rules and widen the range, of our charitable giving – a laudable ambition placed under the guidance of Isobel Woolf, the results of which will become more apparent when the right opportunities arise. Bob Glover, helped by Bob Martin, spent most of his summer in Rose House, as a result of which we have an efficient new heating system and some attractive new storage sheds in the courtyard. We lost a commercial sponsor who assisted with the salary for the Commonkeeper, the BCA picking up the missing tab for the time being on the basis that Russell Greaves's work round the Pond is too important to downgrade. Sue Boyd and the Environment Group continued with their sterling and often unsung work – which has resulted in a clarion call to alert local residents to potential problems in the High Street, and also, as for many years past, Barn Elms.

Micky Forster masterminded a wonderful party in November for all the volunteers who give so freely of their time to us during the year – and this looks set to become an annual event.

Finally my thanks to my two Vice Chairmen, Isobel and Micky, Treasurer Chris Spurgeon, and Secretary Gary Smith, for their unstinting support. As to the key team in Rose House, headed by Julia and assisted by Hilary and Glynis, I can say only that they are the backbone of the BCA, doing a demanding job cheerfully and with great charm.

DAVID STOTT

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the past year we have focused on two areas.

Firstly we decided that we should combine the BCA new members' and the various BCA activity helpers' parties into one large event. Micky Forster and her team did a fantastic job organising this and on 15th November we held a successful evening for 150 BCA supporters at the Barnes Green Centre. Diane du Parc's team as usual excelled themselves, with a delicious spread of food. Our supporters are at the heart of much of what we do at the BCA and we intend to make this an annual event.

The BCA Executive Committee requested that Isobel put together some donation guidelines. We have formalised the procedure but not overdone the bureaucracy. We have sought to consider the value our donations bring to the community and in return the service that the recipients can offer to the BCA. Thus we hope that the BCA can work in closer partnership with our recipients.

Following on from last year's report, the BCA membership scheme is working well and the full colour *Prospect* is very popular.

ISOBEL WOOLF AND MICKY FORSTER

JOINT VICE CHAIRMEN

BCA EVENTS

Jumble Sale: This is one of the most popular events on the BCA calendar bringing together so many members in helping to raise a huge amount of money just from the community's waste. This year we once again tipped £7000 so a big thank you to everyone who helped.

Late Night Shopping: due to a dry, crisp evening hundreds of Barnes residents came out onto the streets to do a little Christmas shopping, have a glass or two of mulled wine and maybe meet Father Christmas. One retailer said it was the busiest day of her year. So it seems that this event is a real benefit to the traders in the High Street.

Christmas Lunch at the Barnes Green Centre

This year almost 40 people sat down for a traditional turkey dinner provided by the BCA. The turkeys were, once again, donated by Mark Chester and a new chef, Sheila Smith, cooked them to perfection.

HILARY MCGOUGH

HON TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

Our Income and Expenditure showed a net deficit for the year of £4,286, compared to a surplus of £5,365 for the prior year.

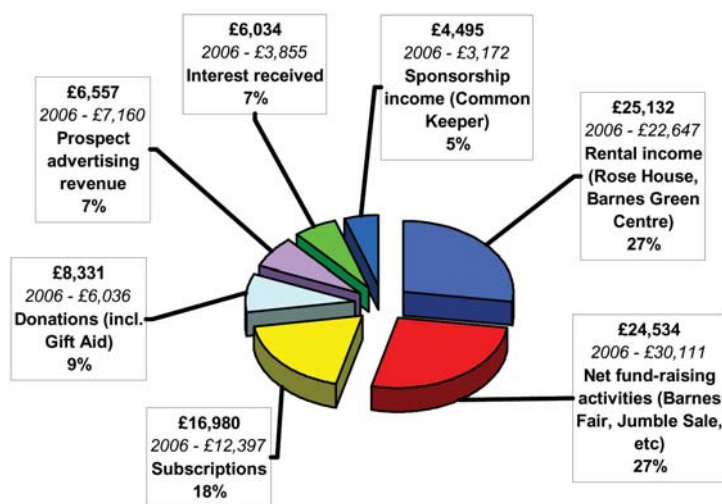
Two significant changes from 2006 are worth noting:

- A substantial increase in the costs of printing and distributing *Prospect* from £9,509 in 2006 to £18,627. This was the result of the decision to print all issues with colour, and to make two Barnes-wide distributions of the magazine. The additional costs are felt justified in terms of the resulting increased profile of the Association – it is also worth noting that this increased distribution may well have contributed to the increase in subscription revenue of some £4,500, or nearly 40%.
- A decrease of £4,000 in the net profit received by the Association from the Barnes Fair. This was largely a result of cost inflation outstripping income.

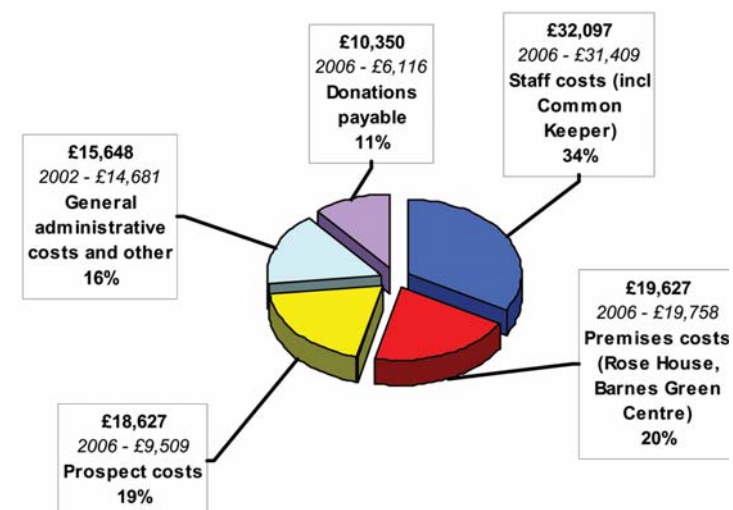
The total Reserves of the Association remain strong and total cash balances at 31 December 2007 totalled £105,234.

CHRIS SPURGEON

WHERE OUR INCOME CAME FROM



WHERE OUR INCOME WENT



BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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BARNES GREEN CENTRE

The Centre's reputation as a warm, interesting and sociable place continued to grow in 2007.

The BCA supports the Centre by managing the lettings: our postholder for this is Charlotte Sharpe-Neal. This year, lettings brought in just under £3,800 for the Centre, and included many children's parties, three 90th Birthday parties, and two weddings. There are regular Yoga evening sessions, the Albion Big Band evening sessions, along with the long-established Line Dancing. Then there are the one-offs, such as a lunch for Churches Together in Barnes, and the intermittents, such as meetings of the Barnes Workhouse Fund, the Police Liaison group and the Council's Area Consultation Meetings.

The money raised by these many lettings is invested back into the Centre, this year for redecorations, carpeting and blinds.

KATIE GENT

BARNES FAIR 2007

Another sunny day, and another successful Fair for all the stall-holders and visitors. Among the more noticeable changes was the replacement of the BCA Food Tent, run for many brilliant years by Diane Du Parcq, by a commercial restaurateur – in this case Sonny's, which did an exceptional job, producing appetising and varied fare and coping with huge demand. It is a large task to feed 12,000 plus, and all the other food outlets around the Fair reported good takings and satisfied customers.

We were delighted to receive a group from Beijing, PRC, which was on a research mission to see how Associations like the BCA could be set up in their own local communities. They met with the Mayor, who welcomed them in his best Mandarin, and they left having sampled Barnes at its friendly best. The music, fairground attractions, and, not least, the wide range of goods on display, produced the usual favourable responses – and the Fair was able, as in previous years, to contribute handsomely to the BCA's coffers.

DAVID STOTT,

CHAIRMAN, FAIR COMMITTEE

BARNES COMMONKEEPER'S REPORT

The Green was well maintained last year allowing greater emphasis to be placed on the pond. In spring native flowers were planted, such as cowslips, snowdrops, and primroses which can be seen flowering at present. A further increase in breeding amphibians numbers was observed (62 pairs of frogs and a few toads spotted finally). The July flooding brought new species too, when Thames water entered the pond carrying perch and roach.

Summer saw considerable planting with the aim of improving damaged areas and limiting erosion. Biodiversity was also increased with the addition of bird's foot trefoil, marsh woundwort and common valerian. Some plants were donated by The Wetland Centre and over 200 bought with funds raised by bird grain sales.

Autumn and winter were for willow coppicing, especially on the island and reed cutting with cleared areas fenced off to promote regeneration. Works to look out for are the replacement of the dead island willow and the sowing of a wildflower border on the pond's south side.

RUSSELL GREAVES

BARNES COMMONKEEPER

FRIENDS OF BARNES COMMON

The past year for FOBC has been active on the planning front, for the Goods Yard, reed-bed, as well as revising the Management Plan to 2015. Our primary aim remains to conserve the Common as a common and Local Nature Reserve.

Conservation work continues to focus on maintaining the acid grassland, but much work is also done in litter-picking, maintaining the war graves, keeping paths clear and coordinating with the Council on mowing, woodland management, hedge-laying and instructing the contractors, volunteers and the community payback teams.

We have just finished work on the paths within the Old Cemetery to make those passable without needing boots, and work has at last begun on the long heralded improvements to some of the paths leading to the station.

This year we hope to obtain funding for a mower so we can take better control of the mowing in the main meadows; we have Council approval to proceed with the reed-bed and we will be following most closely the proposed enabling development of the Goods Yard and the return of land to the Common. We also continue to plan acid grassland and heath-land restoration, with various trials and small scale works which may lead to more ambitious targets.

M.E. HILDESLEY

CHAIRMAN

LEG O' MUTTON RESERVOIR

We have been enjoying regular walks with Neil Anderson, who advises the management and is a fund of knowledge on birds, bees, plants and insects. If you haven't been on one of his walks it really is worth going. Conservation Volunteers are giving us various days for opening up dead heading and the maintenance generally of the site. Both the Leg o' Mutton management committee and conservation volunteers would welcome more input from BCA members – if you enjoy a walk around the Reservoir then why not get in touch?

SUE BOYD

ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The Environment Group has been exceedingly busy in this last year; you will appreciate just how busy by reading my reports that are published in *Prospect*. We would like to remind everybody that the environment concerns us all, and we are aware that the group is only as strong and as vibrant as our members make it. So if you have any particular community concern (not just with your neighbour) then we would like to hear about it and see if we can help you in any way. Our meetings are open to all BCA members – we meet roughly once a month – and we report regularly both to the BCA Executive and to *Prospect*.

SUE BOYD

FRIENDS OF LE PECQ

Over the past year there have been a number of reciprocal visits that have continued to be centred on walking, art and music – not to say a little shopping and socialising. For a fourth time our local artists exhibited at the long-established annual Salon des Arts in Le Pecq. This event inspired them to arrange their own *Salon des Arts* in Barnes during the week of Barnes Fair at which artists from Le Pecq also to exhibit. A group of our friends from Le Pecq again took part in Barnes Fair. In the autumn two teams from Barnes Eagles Football Club took part in a competition in Le Pecq. A visit to Barnes at the beginning of December has become a fixture and this year included Barnes Charity Players' performance of *Cinderella* and Barnes Choir's Christmas concert.

Staying with families has been a great opportunity to discover how others live – and some firm friendships have developed.

MIKE SPILLANE

PROSPECT

The full-colour *Prospect* seems, from the feedback we've had from many readers, to be popular and impressive. Our editorial team has settled in now and our age/interest range (23yrs – 95yrs) means that we feel we represent the tastes of most readers.

Some members have complained (justifiably) about the late or non-delivery of their copies of *Prospect*. Our deliverers are all unpaid volunteers and we impress on them the importance of prompt delivery so that people can respond to events which take place in the first few days of each month. On the few occasions when we feel we have important news which needs to go out to all residents of Barnes, we pay a commercial firm for delivering copies. Sadly, this is not always efficient – to the extent that members who normally can rely on prompt delivery are left without their copies while non-members get theirs. This is a constant worry to us. Any suggestions gratefully received.

SALLY HOLLOWAY

ROSE HOUSE

The need for repairs/maintenance continues unabated. During 2007 relief came in the form of Bob Martin who is making a valuable contribution with his experience both as an architect (retired) and as a DIY enthusiast.

This year our efforts have been directed towards improving services. The elderly central heating boiler was replaced. Hot water is now plumbed to the Hall sink and toilets, while an extra electricity cable now prevents the very real worry of overloading in the Hall given the appliances available. These improvements were an essential first step prior to the suggested updating of the Hall; its floor, counter, storage and facilities.

Another major improvement was the replacing of the leaking, unsightly sheds with good quality new ones so providing better accessible storage.

For the future we are concerned about the rot found in the front window frames whilst redecorating and are consulting experts shortly. Replacement windows, if needed, will be costly for our listed building. In addition, the exterior needs redecoration both walls and woodwork. Action on both these renovations is essential but keeping our facilities attractive is also important if we are to continue maintaining our bookings.

BOB GLOVER