

# BARNES LITERARY SOCIETY



Report and financial statements year ended September 30 2019

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

**Barnes Literary Society**  
**Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2019**

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**Society Information**

Patrons	Isla Blair Julian Glover Roger McGough Patrick Neate Jan Pieńkowski Fiona Smith
Committee	Jane Skerrett (Chair and acting Secretary to March 2019) Jo Weinberger (Chair from March 2019) David King Farlow (Vice Chair to March 2019) Kathy Owles (Vice Chair from March 2019, Membership Secretary) Kathy Kock (Secretary from March 2019)) Sue Pandit (Treasurer) Caroline Kelsall (Events Secretary) Louise Carr (Hospitality) Penny Beck (Publicity from March 2019)
Principle address	PO Box 28868 London SW13 9XH
Bankers	HSBC 172 Upper Richmond Road Putney London SW15 2SH
Independent examiner	John Forbes Nova Cura 1 Ibis Lane London W4 3UP

## **Barnes Literary Society**

### **Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2019**

2018/19 was a very successful year for the BLS. We began with a very sobering talk by Fergal Keane who gave us a moving account of the severe and long-lasting effects of violence and death within the Irish community, and in conflicts around the world. This talk seems especially poignant now, in light of the recent revelations concerning Fergal's own struggle with PTSD.

In November we welcomed academic Anne Applebaum. Anne gave us a devastating account of the Ukrainian famine, providing a sound context to the events taking place in Ukraine today. Anne's views on disinformation were particularly apposite, given where we are with politics on both sides of the Atlantic.

Abir Mukherjee, in January, offered us a more light-hearted evening. The packed hall was witness to the popularity of the crime novel and in particular Abir's exciting blend of crime fiction and Raj-era Kolkata. It was fascinating to learn of Abir's journey from accountant to writer and how he weaves his personal experience and knowledge into his books.

Unfortunately, Adam Kay was unable to fulfil his commitment to speak to us in February (his agent apologised for the mix-up with his diary) but we were very fortunate to have Bart van Es instead. Our thanks to Sue Pandit for facilitating this. Bart spoke about his personal journey to uncover the story of Lien, a young girl who came to live with his grandparents. Lien was one of the many Jewish children given away by her parents in the Netherlands to avoid capture by the Nazis. This was a very moving story and provoked much discussion.

March brought Professor John Mullan and a lively evening around whether the novel form is dead. John's lively interpretation of Jane Austen novels was very entertaining.

In May we welcomed Rhidian Brook back to the BLS stage, accompanied by Tor Udall. Rhidian spoke about his latest novel *The Killing of Butterfly Joe*, whilst Tor told us about her book set in Kew, *A Thousand Paper Birds*. It was fascinating to hear from both authors how they find inspiration for their stories and how their writing processes matched and differed. Rhidian also discussed *The Aftermath* and how it felt to have a book translated into film.

Our outing this year was to the Postal Museum and it was a great success. 22 people came along to ride the mail rail and the feedback was all good.

Despite the terrible weather our Summer Soirée was a sell-out success once again. The committee provided delicious food and we were entertained superbly by Alistair McGowan. Alistair managed to cover all manner of topics, from Boris Johnson to Hammersmith Bridge. He was great fun. A huge thank you to the committee who worked hard organising, preparing food, decorating tables, serving wine, and of course clearing away afterwards. Particular thanks to Louise Carr and Kathy Owles who masterminded the food preparation for the evening.

A super season, therefore, with great speakers and large, engaged audiences.

Membership was again full for the 2018/2019 season. Demand for seats was very high, at times too high for the capacity of the OSO Arts Centre. We decided therefore that it would be necessary to seek a larger venue for the 2019/20 season. St Mary's stepped forward and very kindly offered us the church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OSO for hosting us for 2018/19. And to thank Alan Trehwitt who did a sterling job managing the sound system.

Our single membership fee remained at £30 equating to £5 a talk - amazing value for the opportunity to listen to such high-quality speakers. The 2019/2020 season has seen us continue with a subscription fee of £30 per single membership. It was agreed to discontinue the reduced joint subscription fee. We will not be increasing the membership subscription for next season.

I would like to thank our patrons, Isla Blair, Julian Glover, Roger McGough, Patrick Neate, Jan Pieńkowski and Fiona Smith. They are a great support to the BLS and we are always delighted to see them.

I would like to thank the Barnes Community Association (BCA) for continuing to provide coverage of our events in their monthly magazine, *Prospect*; Sarah Arthur for including us in the *Barnes Bugle*; *Arts Richmond* for their coverage; and all of the local shops, businesses, libraries and organisations which take our publicity. We would also like to thank the BCA for organising the annual Societies day so efficiently.

The BLS would like to thank Venetia Vyvyan at the Barnes Bookshop for offering the raffle prize at each event and organising the book sales for our authors. And Anne Cotgreave at Skinnycat for managing our old website and overseeing the transfer of all of the information to Sarah Arthur for the new website so efficiently.

All of the events put on by the BLS take a lot of organising, which is facilitated by our marvellous committee of volunteers. I should like to thank all of them for their enthusiasm and hard work.

I would like to report on some changes to the BLS committee. Both Jane Skerrett and David King Farlow resigned at the 2019 AGM. Jane was co-opted to the committee in September 2013, became secretary in April 2015 and Chair in March 2016. David joined the committee in March 2012 and became Vice-Chair in March 2013. They were superb members of the committee and we are very grateful for all of their hard work.

We are delighted to welcome Kathy Kock in the role of Honorary Secretary and Penny Beck as publicity secretary.

Jo Weinberger  
Chair, Barnes Literary Society

**The Barnes Literary Society**  
**Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of The Barnes Literary Society**

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As described on page 7, you have approved the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2019 set out on pages 6 and 7. In accordance with the Constitution, I have examined these financial statements without carrying out an audit, and confirm that they are in accordance with the records and the information and explanations supplied to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Forbes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Forbes  
"Nova Cura"  
1 Ibis Lane  
London  
W4 3UP

**The Barnes Literary Society**

**Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 September 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	9,570	8,641
Guest fees	870	745
Ticket event fees	3,099	2,720
Bank interest	8	4
Extraordinary income	1,408	682
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,955</b>	<b>12,792</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Room Hire	1,749	1,467
Regular events		
-Sound system hire	1,416	2,310
-Speaker fees	1,509	1,340
-Chair Hire		
Special events	1,711	1,544
Printing, stationery & publicity		
-Stationery, postage, PO Box rental	657	554
-Printing, copying	347	646
-Advertising	170	302
Website	2,280	731
Insurance	313	226
Accountancy	300	300
Bank charges	0	0
Sundries	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,452</b>	<b>9420</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>4,503</b>	<b>3,372</b>
Reserves brought forward at 1 October 2018	9,070	5,698
<b>Funds carried forward at 30 September 2019</b>	<b>13,573</b>	<b>9,070</b>

**The Barnes Literary Society**  
**Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2019**

		<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash at bank - current account	16,172		8,677	
Cash at bank - deposit account	4,031		4,023	
		20,203		13,000
Prepayments		0		300
		20,203		13,000
<b>Creditors</b>				
Accrued expenses	300		300	
Subscriptions in advance	6,330		3,630	
		(6,630)		(3,930)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>13,573</b>		<b>9,070</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>General reserves</b>		<b>13,573</b>		<b>9,070</b>

## Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Approved by the committee on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and signed on its behalf by

*Josephine Weinberger*

Chairman

*Sue Pandit*

Hon Treasurer