

BARNES LITERARY SOCIETY



Report and financial statements year ended 31 July 2022

Presented at the AGM 9 May 2023

www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk

Barnes Literary Society
Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022

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Society Information

Patrons	Isla Blair Julian Glover Roger McGough Patrick Neate Jan Pieńkowski Fiona Smith	Venetia Vyvyan Rhidian Brook Harriett Gilbert Joanna Trollope
Trustees.	Jo Weinberger (Chair) Kathy Owles (Vice Chair, Membership Secretary) Kathy Kock (Treasurer) Sue Pandit (Events Secretary) Louise Carr (Hospitality) Caroline Storey (Secretary) Fina Mason (Events Manager/ Secretary)	
Principal address	PO Box 28868, London SW13 9XH	
Bankers	HSBC 172 Upper Richmond Road Putney London SW15 2SH	

Barnes Literary Society

Annual Report for the year ended 31 July 2022

Season 21/22 opened without the cloud of Covid-19 and the accompanying government restrictions on gatherings hanging over us. We very much appreciated returning to hosting live events in the church. Our first author was journalist Luke Harding. Luke delivered a fascinating insight into the world of Russian spies and offered up his own opinion on whether the rumours concerning Donald Trump in Moscow were true! This was followed by an amazing literary and musical evening with three of the Kanneh-Mason family. Author and mother, Kadiatu, discussed her book on bringing up her extraordinary musical family. Kadi was accompanied by her daughters, Konya and Aminata, who entertained us magnificently on the piano and violin.

In January, we welcomed British/ Caribbean authors, Ingrid Persaud and Leone Ross who brightened up a gloomy January evening with their discussion on fiction based in the Caribbean. February brought journalist Andrew Hill who gave us an interesting insight into the controversial Victorian intellectual John Ruskin. In March, Harriett Gilbert interviewed best-selling crime author, poet and Agatha Christie devotee, Sophie Hannah.

With many institutions still closed to visitors following Covid, we were unable to arrange an outing for April so organised an additional talk instead. Naturalist John Wright walked us through the natural world with a tour of his *Spotter's Guide to Countryside Mysteries*. The final talk of the season was from Francis Spufford who discussed his second novel, *Light Perpetual*, a moving story that imagines the full lives of five children who were killed by a bomb in the second world war.

With Covid numbers down and all government restrictions lifted we were once again able to host a summer event. We enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Barnes Green Day Centre with wine critic Victoria Moore. Victoria showcased delicious wines from Portugal and Greece which paired perfectly with the Otto Lenghi salads prepared by the trustees.

The big administrative news of the season was the Charities Commission confirming the BLS as a charity on December 10th 2021.

Membership numbers rose following the Covid dip of the previous year. Total membership reached 364. (Current membership for this season, 22/23, is 395.)

Our single membership fee remained at £30 equating to £5 a talk. This remains excellent value for money. The 22/23 season has seen us continue with a subscription fee of £30 per single membership and we shall not be increasing subscriptions for the coming season.

We are very lucky to have such supportive patrons at the BLS and I would like to say a big thank you to all of them. We are particularly grateful to Venetia Vyvyan from Barnes Bookshop, and to Harriett Gilbert, our interviewer extraordinaire. Unfortunately, Jan Pieńkowski died in February. Jan was a patron from the outset. Full of suggestions and ideas, he arranged the banner and volunteered to do the annual brochure and publicity. He also invited the Society to use his lovely garden for the first party and together with David

Walser gave a talk on their beautifully illustrated book *Sacred and Profane*. He was a great support to the BLS.

I would like to thank our amazing trustees. They all give up a great deal of their time for free to enable the high-quality events of the BLS. Sadly, as well as losing Jan this season, we also lost one of our trustees, Caroline Storey. Caroline was an enthusiastic member of the team. She was well read, thoughtful and always brimming with ideas. She has been sorely missed.

There are many people and institutions in Barnes who help the BLS. I would like to thank the Barnes Community Association (BCA) for providing coverage of our events in their online monthly magazine, *Prospect Plus*. I would also like to thank 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.

I would also like to thank St Mary's for allowing us to use the church's excellent facilities.

I would like to comment briefly on the treasurer's report on income and expenditure, attached below. This account has been prepared on a cash basis in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission and has been submitted to the Charity Commission as required as part of the Annual Return. Income increased by 47% this season whilst expenditure remained much the same, almost all explained by the lifting of Covid restrictions. We delivered a surplus of £4522. Reserves at 31 July 2022 were £27,875 represented by cash at the bank.

Our financial position, today, remains strong, with £30,500 in the bank as a result of a significant increase in member numbers in 22/23. Members have been able to gift aid their subscription this season and we will be submitting a claim to HMRC for approximately £1600.

We have bestowed a number of grants this season and look forward to continuing to promote, and provide opportunities for, the appreciation and understanding of literature in our borough.

Jo Weinberger
Chair, Barnes Literary Society

The Barnes Literary Society

Income and expenditure account for the period ended 31st July 2022

	2022	2021
INCOME		
Subscriptions:	11310	10400
Guest fees	2270	0
Other event income	140	0
Bank interest	1	0
Bar sales	1678	0
Donation	30	100
Total	15429	10500
EXPENDITURE		
Event hire and licence	2177	650
Regular events		
-Filming	0	4080
-Speaker fees	4150	3000
Bar expenses	768	
Special events	722	176
Purchase of equipment	90	0
-Stationery, postage, PO Box rental	527	484
-Printing, copying	362	406
-publicity	507	70
Website	468	285
Insurance	214	321
Accountancy	600	300
Bank charges	322	16
Grants and bursaries	0	500
Total	10907	10289
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	4522	212