

BARNES LITERARY SOCIETY



Report and financial statement year ended 31 July 2023

Presented at the AGM 21 November 2023

www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk

Barnes Literary Society
Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 July 2023

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Society Information

Patrons	Isla Blair Rhidian Brook Harriett Gilbert Julian Glover Roger McGough Patrick Neate	Fiona Smith Joanna Trollope Venetia Vyvyan
Trustees	Jo Weinberger (Chair) Kathy Owles (Vice Chair, Membership Secretary) Kathy Kock (Treasurer) Sue Pandit (Events Secretary) Louise Carr (Hospitality) Fina Mason (Secretary/ Events Manager) C. Elaine Redler (Publicity)	
Principal address	PO Box 28868, London SW13 9XH	
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Barnes Literary Society

Annual Report for the year ended 31 July 2023

Our opening speaker for 2022/23 was scheduled to be Jeremy Hunt, the UK's longest serving Secretary of State for Health. Jeremy was to talk about his book *Zero: Eliminating Unnecessary Deaths in a Post-Pandemic NHS*. However the Friday before the Tuesday event Jeremy was promoted to Chancellor of Exchequer and was, understandably, no longer able to come to Barnes. We were very grateful that Chris Blackhurst, an award-winning business writer and commentator, kindly offered to step in and talk about his book *Too Big to Jail*. Chris gave us a fascinating insight into the greatest banking scandal of the century, involving HSBC and the Mexican drug cartels.

In November, we welcomed Jane Garvey of *Fortunately... with Fi and Jane* fame. Jane was interviewed by Harriett Gilbert about the duo's book *did I say that out loud? : notes on the chuff of life*. It was a delightfully entertaining conversation and we got to learn much about the many different aspects of Jane's life at the BBC and more lately Times Radio. The event also registered as our largest audience since the Covid lockdown. January brought another wonderfully lively event. Chibundu Onuzo not only discussed her latest novel *Sankofa*, set in the fictional African state of Bamana, but also entertained us with the musical single she wrote to accompany the book. Chibundu encouraged everybody to sing along creating the perfect antidote to a grim January evening.

In February, we changed tack completely when scientists Anil Seth and Adam Rutherford came to talk about Anil's book on consciousness, *Being You*. We were treated to a fascinating and intellectually stimulating discussion about a new understanding of consciousness and the concept of 'self'. March brought a return to fiction. Elizabeth Buchan joined Harriett Gilbert on stage to talk about her latest novel *Two Women in Rome*; and in May we welcomed Charles Cumming who discussed the second book in his thriller series surrounding BOX 88, *Judas 62*, with our Events Secretary Sue Pandit.

We were delighted to be able to host a literary outing in April, our first outing since the Covid lockdowns. We enjoyed a very informative tour of the Stationers' Company, learning a great deal about one of the first livery companies to be established in London.

Our summer event was slightly different, this year. To help us all get to know one another a little better we offered summer drinks followed by a talk. This allowed an hour of mingling, with drinks and canapes in the church, before sitting down to listen to Natalie Haynes talk about her latest novel, *Medusa*.

Membership figures for this season returned to pre-Covid levels. We reached 395. (Current membership for this season, 23/24, is 360.)

Our single membership fee remained at £30 equating to £5 a talk. This continues to offer excellent value for money when other local book festivals can charge upwards of £15 per talk. The 23/24 season has seen us continue with a subscription fee of £30 per single membership.

There are a number of people I would like to thank.

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. I would also like to thank our amazing trustees. They give up a great deal of their time to enable the high-quality events of the BLS.

I would like to thank Sarah Arthur for including us in the *Barnes Bugle*; the Barnes Community Association (BCA) for providing coverage of our events in their online monthly magazine, *Prospect Plus*; *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. We delivered a surplus of £4,730 compared to the previous year's surplus of £4,522. Reserves at 31 July 2022 were £32,655, represented by cash at the bank.

Strong reserves meant that we were able to bestow a number of grants this season:

- Mortlake Community Association – we provided books for the Christmas Santa's Grotto event and for an adult literacy course
- Arts Richmond – we gave funds to film the Young People's Writing Competition Festival afternoon and to provide prizes for the competition
- AfC Richmond – we funded a book group for children in care/care leavers
- Lowther School – we provided funds towards the school library.

Our financial position, today, remains strong with a large membership and members able to gift aid their subscription. This means we can continue to fund literary opportunities such as the creative writing course that began in October this year. We have received a number of new applications from people requesting funding this 23/24 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 2023

Income & Expenditure Report				
Barnes Literary Society		01-AUG-2022 - 31-JUL-2023		
	Current Yr	Current Yr	Prior Yr	Prior Yr
INCOME				
4000 REVENUES		1,285.00		1,678.30
4005 Food and Drink Sales	1,285.00		1,678.30	
4100 OTHER INCOME		1,756.99		30.73
4105 Miscellaneous Donations	0.00		30.00	
4120 Tax Reclaimed on Gift Aid	1,685.00		0.00	
4125 Bank Interest	71.99		0.73	
4300 FUNDRAISING INCOME		3,165.00		2,410.50
4305 Entrance Fees / Ticket Sales	3,010.00		2,270.50	
4320 Misc Event Income	155.00		140.00	
5000 MEMBERSHIP INCOME		11,730.00		11,310.00
5001 Membership Fees	11,730.00		11,310.00	
TOTAL INCOME		17,936.99		15,429.53
EXPENDITURE				
7000 COST OF SALES		-7,292.88		-7,817.92
7001 Food and Drink Expenses	-590.38		-722.39	
7003 Event Hire and Rental Costs	-2,000.00		-2,177.00	
7004 General Program/Event Expenses	-3,779.70		-4,150.00	
7012 Bar Expenses	-471.80		-768.53	
7013 Other Costs	-451.00		0.00	
7200 OVERHEADS		-5,913.99		-3,089.63
7201 Postage	-639.55		-527.16	
7203 Professional Fees	0.00		-600.00	
7204 Printing & Stationary	-456.55		-362.34	
7206 Insurance Costs	-144.45		-213.56	
7207 Bank Charges & Expenses	-376.86		-322.15	
7216 Computer Expenses	-132.00		-147.99	
7217 Grants for charitable purposes	-1,600.00		0.00	
7221 Purchase of Equipment (not for resale)	-34.80		-89.99	
7223 website	-1,924.01		-319.00	
7226 publicity	-605.77		-507.44	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-13,206.87		-10,907.55
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD		4,730.12		4,521.98

Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis and in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Approved by the committee on 13 November 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Josephine Weinbager
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Chair

Kokoek
.....
Treasurer

