

Report and financial statements
Year ended September 30 2016

www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk

The Barnes Literary Society
Report and Financial Statements for the year ended September 30 2016

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Society information

Patrons	Isla Blair Julian Glover Roger McGough Patrick Neate Jan Piénkowski Fiona Smith
Committee	Claire Boyling (Chairman to March 2016) Jane Skerrett (Hon. Secretary to March 2016; Chairman March 2016-) David King-Farlow (Vice Chairman) Noel Davison (Hon. Secretary March 2016-) Patrick Harvey (Hon. Treasurer) Sarah Kearney (Membership Secretary) Caroline Kelsall Kathy Owles
Principal 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

Annual Report for the year ended September 2016

This is my first annual report as chairman: I took over from Claire Boyling at the 2016 AGM in March so for the majority of the 2015/16 year Claire was chairman. Claire has been on the BLS committee since BLS was founded in 2004; first as secretary and then for two years as chairman. The committee and members owe a great deal to her networking skills and her commitment to BLS which helped to establish the society and enabled it to flourish. Claire was thanked at the 2016 AGM and given a presentation bouquet of flowers to mark her contribution to BLS and her retirement from the committee.

The 2015/16 season provided a stimulating mix of speakers: Rachel Billington set us off in October with her novel about Gallipoli which made use of her family's experience of this conflict, followed in November by Rob Cowen discussing his memoir about a very special patch of common ground in Yorkshire. Local crime writers Elena Forbes and Anja de Jager started 2016 with a discussion on the popularity of crime fiction and their own experiences in getting published followed in February by Sue Roe talking about Picasso and Matisse. The local author Diana Darke was one of our most popular speakers talking, very topically, about her house in Damascus and her experience and knowledge of the Syrian conflict. The talks season ended with Sonia Purnell talking about her recent biography of Clementine Churchill. We also organised a very enjoyable walk on a literary trail in the city of London with local Barnes resident and guide Robert Woolf in charge. The final event of the season was a visit to the Orange Tree theatre in Richmond.

I would like to highlight our sponsorship of one of the Young Writers' Awards, part of the Arts Richmond programme. BLS took on this 3-year sponsorship to mark our 10th anniversary and we fully support this particular aspect of the work of Arts Richmond. 2015/2016 is the third and final year of this sponsorship: it may be that in future years we are able to renew it but this very much depends on our own financial situation. It is a matter the committee keep under review.

It continues to be a challenge to get good speakers for BLS: the relatively recent spawning of local literary festivals has meant we need to be on our mettle to provide the range and quality of speaker our members expect. But with our combination of excellent speakers and events, membership of BLS offers some of the best value in literary London. I am pleased to confirm we are not proposing to increase the membership fees for the 2017/18 season but this is something which the committee keep under review. Membership fees are our only source of income so it is important that we have a full membership of 320. Membership is renewed each season so every September every adult in Barnes (and the environs if there is room) has the opportunity to join BLS.

I would like to thank our patrons, Isla Blair, Julian Glover, Roger McGough, Patrick Neate, Jan Pieńkowski and Fiona Smith for the interest and support they have given to BLS. I would particularly like to thank Jan who from the inception of BLS has designed the brochures and some of our posters and has developed the distinctive BLS brochure style. BLS was very fortunate to be able to call on the skills of such a talented artist. Jan has now stood down from working with BLS to concentrate on his own projects but we are very grateful for all he has done for BLS.

I would like to thank Isla Dawes from Barnes Books for her unstinting support for BLS in providing the speakers' books at our meetings and in donating the regular raffle prize at our

events. Barnes is very fortunate to have such a well run and friendly local bookshop and such an enthusiastic book seller.

Being part of the Barnes community is an important element of BLS; we are grateful to the Barnes Community Association (BCA) for providing coverage of our events in their monthly magazine Prospect, to the Barnes Bugle and the OSO Arts Centre for their coverage and to all the local shops, businesses and organisations which take our publicity. BLS was part of the BCA organised Societies Day in May 2016 and the Community Information Day at Castelnau Library in June.

I would like to thank our terrific sound engineer Alan Trehitt at AT Sound for his hard work and skill in ensuring the sound quality of our events; the staff, trustees and volunteers at the OSO Arts Centre and the Methodist Church, Barnes Green for their hard work and enthusiasm in helping to make our events a success and Anne Cotgreave of Skinnycat Design for managing our website.

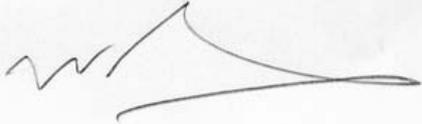
BLS continues to enjoy good audiences and support from our members. We do welcome suggestions from members for speakers they would like to hear: we will certainly do our best to incorporate them in the programme. We particularly welcome interest from younger members and are actively trying to encourage this.

It has been a privilege to chair the BLS: I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work, professionalism and enthusiasm which make serving on this committee so much fun. Above all thank you to our members who encourage our efforts and make BLS the success that it is.

Jane Skerrett
Chair
Barnes Literary Society

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

As described on page 5, you have approved the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2016 set out on pages 5 and 6. 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.



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

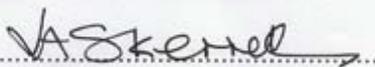
**The Barnes Literary Society
Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2016**

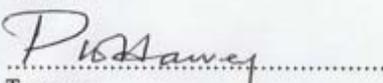
		2016		2015
Current assets				
Cash at bank - current account	3,679		3,292	
Cash at bank - deposit account	4,017		5,016	
		7,696		8,308
Prepayments		50		
		7,746		8,308
Creditors				
Accrued expenses	290		290	
Subscriptions in advance	3,430		3,130	
		(3,720)		(3,420)
Net current assets		4,026		4,888
Represented by:				
General reserves		4,026		4,888

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 2 March 2017 and signed on its behalf by


.....
Chairman


.....
Treasurer

The Barnes Literary Society

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 30 September 2016

	2016	2015
INCOME		
Subscriptions	7,560	8,200
Guest fees	650	430
Ticket event fees	880	3,220
Bank interest	1	3
Extraordinary income	10	100
Total	9,101	11,953
EXPENDITURE		
Room Hire	1,500	1,332
Regular events		
-Sound system hire	3,212	2,825
-Speaker fees	1,363	1,210
-Chair Hire	496	750
Special events	1,050	3,559
Printing, stationery & publicity		
-Stationery, postage, PO Box rental	372	519
-Printing, copying	505	381
-Speaker & venue flowers	28	130
-Advertising	135	149
Grants and Bursaries	300	300
Website	524	490
Insurance	198	191
Accountancy	290	290
Bank charges	10	4
Total	9,963	12,130
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	(862)	(177)
Reserves brought forward at 1 October 2015	4,888	5,065
Funds carried forward at 30 September 2016	4,026	4,888