



BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

Charity Registration No: 1161671

Report of the Trustees for the year ended on 31 March 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Bengali Cultural Society, Reading ('BCS') presents the following report for the year 2021/22 to the members.

Activities:

The principal aim of BCS is to facilitate activities and events appropriate for the community, to raise awareness among the public by providing them with the opportunity to participate and appreciate the nature of Indian and Bengali culture. With this objective in mind, we organised the following events in the year:

- Summer Fiesta
- 9th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja
- Saraswati Puja
- Vasanta Utsav

Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, all the events during 2020-2021 were conducted remotely. However, with gradually improving pandemic situation, BCS conducted the events during 2021-2022 in-person. There were restrictions in place and appropriate safety procedures were operationalised to ensure safety of the visitors and volunteers. The first event BCS organised was Summer Fiesta, where members and guests got together for the first time after more than a year and half. This also provided BCS boards an opportunity to assess our ability to conduct further in-person events. 9th edition of Sharad Utsav/Reading Autumn Festival was organised in October at Rivermead Leisure Centre. BCS chose to keep the event low key to control footfall and ensure safety of the visitors. It was a successful event with circa 3000 visitors gracing the event and over 5 days. However, this is significantly lower than the past years, owing to health and safety restrictions at the wake of pandemic. This event worked as catalyst to rebuild the community connection after a difficult lockdown period. Success of Autumn Festival led to first open event of 2022 – Saraswati Puja, where restrictions were reduced significantly in line with public health advisories issued by the government agencies. Almost 200 visitors attended the event.

Charitable Donations:

The Trust has a policy of actively identifying and donating appropriate financial aid to charities of worthy causes. This year we donated a total of £808 to Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Rotary Club International, Sewa UK and British Asian Trust towards the COVID-19 relief works in India.

Independent Examiners of the Accounts:

According to the regulations of the Charity Commission, where a charity's annual income is in excess of £25,000 the Trustees must arrange for an Independent Person or Accountancy Firm to carry out an independent examination of its accounts. As the gross income of BCS for 2021/22 was below this

threshold, the Trustees decided that they are not required to arrange independent examination of BCS accounts for 2020/21. Trustees are, however, satisfied that the Report of Trustees and Annual Accounts of BCS being presented herewith give a true and fair view of affairs of BCS.

Financial Review:

BCS Trustees manage the finances in a way that enables the charity to carry out its charitable purposes most effectively as set out in the objective's clause of the constitution. Our principal funding sources are individual donations, commercial sponsorships at events, ticket sales and membership fees. There was no formal fund raising in the year 2021/22. It has been a uniquely challenging year but thanks to our financial prudence and gradual return to normalcy we have ensured that there was no significant depletion to our cash reserves from the previous year. Despite several fund generating avenues drying up during and after the pandemic, we are pleased that we had been able to provide financial help for deserving causes.

After allowing for a restricted reserve of £4485 for new Protima, the total accumulated income, from all sources, available for BCS future activities on 31st March 2022 stood at £38,441. This represents a net decrease of £1289 or 3.2% during the reporting year compared to the previous year's figure of £39,730. Presently the Board has not identified the need to earmark any of the surplus funds for investment or other purposes, although the matter would be kept under review.

The Board considered the risks BCS faces and identified the main risk for next year as the potential impact to fundraising income in the prevailing environment of although improving, but still volatile situation involving public gathering and movement of people. The Board continues to review practical ways of funding and delivering events.

Membership:

Several new members have joined the Society during the year as well as some previous members moving away from Reading leaving our membership strength at 149.

Trustees:

Consequent to the registration of BCS as a Charity, the management and administration of its affairs rest with the Board of Trustees. At the AGM held on 7th August 2021, the following were elected to the Board of Trustees and the Charity Commission had been notified accordingly. They were –

Abhijit Chakrabarti (Chairperson), Sanjoy Paul (Joint Treasurer), Arijitkamal Manna (Joint Treasurer), Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay (General Secretary), Ratna Ghosh, Chandan Kanti Bhowmik, Himangshu Dey and Hrishik Bose.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the current Trustees will retire at the end of the AGM to be held on or before the maximum frame of 15 months from the last AGM conducted on 7th August 2021. The retiring Trustees are eligible to seek re-election.

Abhijit Chakrabarti *Chairperson*

Sanjoy Paul, Arijitkamal Manna *Joint Treasurers*

Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay *General Secretary*

Abhijit Chakrabarti
Sanjoy Paul | *Arijitkamal Manna*
Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay

Dated: 20th May 2022

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 01 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2021-2022	2020-2021
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£
Members' Subscription	1	1,089	907
BCS Activities	2	21,293	4,384
Interest Received		3	12
Gift Aid			5,679
Others	3	14	12
Total		22,399	10,994
RESOURCES EXPENDED		£	£
BCS Activities	2	20,465	2,378
ICA Subscription		85	50
Charitable Donations		808	547
Others	3	2,330	1,347
Total		23,688	4,322
NET INCOMING RESOURCES for the Year			6,672
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES for the Year		1,289	
Brought Forward Balance on 01 April		39,730	33,058
Carry Forward Balance on 31 March		38,441	39,730

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BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2021-2022 £	2020-2021 £
<i>CURRENT ASSETS</i>			
Cash at Bank	4	42,830	43,905
Cash in Hand		21	140
Debtors & Prepayments	5	225	405
<i>CREDITORS</i>			
Payment Due	6	150	235
<i>PROVISIONS</i>			
New Idols (Protima)		4,485	4,485
<i>NET ASSETS</i>		38,441	39,730
Members' Fund	7	38,441	39,730
<i>MEMBERS' FUND</i>		38,441	39,730

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 01 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022

1	Member's Subscription	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	Received during the period	1,089	907
	Total	1,089	907
2	BCS Activities	2021-2022	2020-2021
	Income	£	£
	Summer Fiesta	819	
	Sharad Utsav - Autumn Festival	19,734	2,957
	Tollywood Fundraisers		1,291
	Saraswati Puja	489	136
	Vasanta Utsav	251	
	Total Income	21,293	4,384
	Expenses	£	£
	Summer Fiesta	1,315	
	Sharad Utsav - Autumn Festival	17,566	372
	Tollywood Fundraisers		1,966
	Saraswati Puja	957	40
	Vasanta Utsav	627	
	Total Expense	20,465	2,378

3	<i>Others</i>	2021-2022	2020-2021
	Income	£	£
	Miscellaneous		12
	HMRC Gift Aid		5,679
	Amazon Smile Cashback	14	
	Total Income	14	5,691
	Expense	£	£
	Miscellaneous		598
	Storage Unit	445	749
	Insurance	1,184	
	Bank Fees	16	
	Digital Resources (Website/Zoom)	685	
	Total Expense	2,330	1,347
4	<i>Cash at Bank</i>	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	HSBC Plc	42,830	43,905
	Total	42,830	43,905
5	<i>Debtors & Prepayments</i>	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	Other Debtors	100	200
	Pre-payments	125	205
	Total	225	405

6	Creditors: Due within 1 Year	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	ICA - Hall Hire		155
	Other Creditors	150	80
	Total	150	235
7	Members' Fund	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	Opening Balance	35,245	28,573
	Net Incoming Resources		6,672
	Net Outgoing Resources	1,289	
	Closing Balance	33,956	35,245
	<i>Shown as:</i>		
	Restricted Fund (New Idol/Protima)	4,485	4,485
	Unrestricted Fund	33,956	35,245
	Total	38,441	39,730
8	Accounting Policies		
	The following accounting policies are used consistently with items that are considered material in relation to the accounts:		
	(a) <i>Basis of accounting:</i> The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention		
	(b) <i>Income & Expenses:</i> The income and expenses are stated using the "accruals" concept		

Annual Report and Financial Statement Signed By:

Abhijit Chakrabarti
Abhijit Chakrabarti
 Chairperson
 Dated: 20th May 2022

Sanjoy Paul
Sanjoy Paul
 Joint Treasurer

Arijitkamal Manna
Arijitkamal Manna
 Joint Treasurer

Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay
Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay
 General Secretary