

Barnet Museum & Local History Society (BMLHS)

Patron: **MHC Russell Esq. MBE DL FCT**
Charity reg. no. 1169214; Founded 1927



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 97th Year – 2024 (Financial Year 2023/24) 13th November 2024

This report is a summary of Society activities over the last twenty months or so (ie from July 2023). Some points were also raised in last year's report.

Barnet Museum and Local History Society welcomes new members, currently we have approximately 300 members, of whom about 70 are life members; we have some 50 volunteers.

The Trustees in 2023/24 were: John Hall (Chairman), Terence Atkins (Deputy Chairman), Rebecca Smith (Secretary), Mike Noronha, Dennis Bird, Mike Jordan, Guy Wheatcroft, Helen Downes, Esme Smith and Scott Harrison.

The internal Management Committee is: Mike Noronha (Chairman, Curator and Treasurer); Terence Atkins (Deputy Chairman, Postcards and Calendar); Hilary Harrison (Archivist, Education); Graham Willcocks (IT, Photo Archivist); Dennis Bird (Maps, Physic Well, Lectures); Margaret Luck (Deputy Curator, Archaeology); Irene Nichols (Shop); Claire El Arifi (Web, Social Media, Marketing); Mary Hayward (Library/Archive); Mike Jordan (Physic Well). The full Management Committee has met six times in this period. The Trustees give their unequivocal thanks to the entire volunteer cadre.

The Society Garden Party was held at Ian and Val Johnston's home in Wood Street in September 2024; the event was again held in good weather. A combination of sandwiches, delicious cake, tea and Pimms and a quiz was in evidence. The event was again largely organised by Margaret Luck. The Trustees thank her and all the members who made cakes and helped with serving, thanks also to our quiz creator Grace Greenfield and, particularly, Ian and Val. The Garden Party is, apart from an excellent social occasion, a chance to meet and greet prominent Barnet folk; for example, this year Dan Tomlinson, our MP, and a number of councillors attended.

Museum

Visitor numbers have been average during the week but we have had higher numbers during school holidays and on weekends and special events (such as Barnet Christmas Fayre). As in the past, visitor numbers have been difficult to estimate or predict. Our engagement with local schools and care homes and other societies has been good. We have a strong online presence which has been enhanced with the launch of our "Online Archive". Much of our past research (including Bulletins and more substantive Research Papers) has been placed "free to use" on our website.

We have three loan/demonstration boxes – "The Toybox" a loan/resource box of older toys (part of Key Stage 1/2 curriculum). This is for lending to schools and for visits to the Museum; A "Reminiscence Box" (of artefacts to remind people of the past) and the "Battle of Barnet Loanbox" for schools. These have been in constant use in the year and have been well received by all audiences especially schools and care homes.

We worked with the following schools (either visits to or from or both): Underhill; Our Lady of Lourdes; Summerside; Foulds; Christchurch; St Andrews; St Johns Whetstone; Wren Academy; St Catherine's; Southgate; Trent; Monken Hadley; Whittings Hill; QE Boys; QE Girls; East Barnet; Monkfrith; Brunswick Park; Church Hill; Edgware Primary; Fairway; Wessex Gardens; Holly Park; Hollick Wood; Woodridge; Lammas. Many school visits have been synchronised with Barnet Church. We have devised individual "Then and Now" presentations for school visits featuring sights on the pupils' journey to the Museum.

BMLHS is one of the founder members of Heritage Barnet, a new body aiming to promote and coordinate the activities of the various heritage bodies in the Borough of Barnet. Other members include the Borough Archivist, Hugh Petrie, Friern Barnet DLHS, The Finchley Society, Stephens House, RAF Museum, HADAS and Barnet Council. The group has regular guest speakers and is chaired by Martin Russell.

We have also worked with St Johns URC; U3A; Scout Troops; Meadowside Care Home; Livingstone Court; Cuffley Manor Care Home; Cedar Lawns Care Home; Godwin Court; Hadley Lawns Care Home; Edgware Synagogue; New Barnet Synagogue; Stanmore Care Home; Age UK; Potters Bar LHS; Memory Way Cafes in Golders Green and Leicester Road. We participated in the Heritage Barnet Day at Stephen's House, the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival and the Tudor Park Fair.

The Museum is very near full as far as artefacts are concerned but we have squeezed in a number of new items over the year. The loan of Battle of Barnet artefacts from the British Museum has been renewed for a further three years.

We have opened The Physic Well on the third Saturday of each month (except for December and January) per our agreement with the Council. It has proved consistently popular.

We have continued our lease/loan agreement for free use of a shop unit in The Spires shopping centre; we have set up exhibitions of Battle of Barnet Banners and are planning to hold exhibitions from the Barnet Environment Centre and from Barnet College. "Eating, Meeting and Shopping in High Barnet" featuring contemporary work by photographer Simon Hollins remains a popular draw.

The established (and national) 12th Century reenactment group, Historia Normannis was a Barnet based section which is informally affiliated to Barnet Museum and rehearses in the Museum's back garden. HN has helped in local events and has plans to do so at the 2024 Christmas Fayre.

Beating the Bounds

Barnet Museum organised and led "Beating the Bounds" walk around St John the Baptist parish bounds (for the first time since 1995). Despite the huge level of rain, some 70 walkers participated and enjoyed (or suffered) the day. There were many calls for a repeat next year.

Tudor Hall

BMLHS has represented the Barnet community in obtaining "Asset of Community Value" for Tudor Hall. Negotiations about the sale of TH are at a sensitive stage and more information will be forthcoming in due course.

Publications

In this period, BMLHS published a Local History Journal and a book by Trustee, Scott Harrison "Behind the Battle of Barnet Banners". 2024's Calendar which featured "Barnet On Screen – Our town and surrounds on Film and TV" was quite successful; this year's calendar, "A Window into 1930s Barnet", is in print.

Lectures

We delivered a series of Monday lectures, held at Barnet Church. Jan: Jenny Remfry (Barnet Church) Feb: Rhiannon Watkinson (Historic Hendon); Mar: Paul Baker (Terrific Totteridge); Apr: Nick Dobson (Swinging London); May: Chris Levitt (De Havilland Museum); Jul: Kat Alston Cole (Medieval Fashion); Sept: John Lynch (London Parks II); Oct: Dennis Bird (Barnet's Role in Slavery).

Battle of Barnet

-A continuing major initiative is The Battle of Barnet banners project. The Banners are designed, painted and crafted by the Museum volunteers; they were repaired and restored over the winter following their 2023 hanging. They were hung again on the High Street lampposts from April 2024 to October 2024. We produced guide leaflets to accompany the Banners; these were well received but we again are disappointed that there is little media coverage of the initiative. Our thanks once again to Equans (formerly Bouygues) the lamppost contractors for their free work in hanging and removing and monitoring the banners. Special thanks go to the Banner team of volunteers, Hilary Harrison, Scott Harrison, Myra Pincherle, Margaret Luck, Chris Andrewes, Jackie Andrews, Colette Nicolle, Gwyneth Hibbert and Geoffrey Wheeler;

- We have a continuing focus on Battle of Barnet education for local schools visiting the Museum and /or using our lesson packs;
- Further Battle archaeology is delayed while we consider the approach and proposed locations of the specialist battlefield archaeologists;
- Scott Harrison's book has been well received by the Battlefields Trust and is a substantial reference work on the battle participants;
- The waterlogged ground caused the Medieval Festival to be abandoned in 2024;
- The Museum represented Barnet at the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival;
- The six arrowheads and the seal of the Earl of Warwick on long term loan from the British Museum are still on display in Barnet Museum.

Treasurer's Report

- Activity was steady in the Financial Year 2023/2024. Receipts were around the same at about £22K. Payments increased from £24 from £18K.
- Although costs continued to increase in line with inflation in telecoms/internet, security, insurance, and utilities, we negotiated a three-year electricity supply agreement through the Museums Energy Basket Facility just before the sudden huge rise in wholesale prices and, with various Government discounts, we escaped really drastic rises. Because we received a 100% discount on our rates bill (80% charity discount and 20% discretionary) we again saved some £2K.
- Our account is mainly run through our Bank Account with very little use of cash payments.
- We have been undertaking more maintenance work (painting etc) and that has caused most of the increase in expenditure.
- The Hadley Trust donated an annual grant of £10K to BMLHS. We are, as ever, most grateful.
- The Treasurer should like to thank Charlotte Smithers and Barbara Farnley who have managed cash, banking and accounting activities and Irene Nichols who has managed the shop and retail activity.

John Hall

Chairman, BMLHS



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Barnet Museum & Local History Society

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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
01-Jul-23

To

Period end date
30-Jun-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
BMLHS Subs	2,051	-	-	2,051	1,895
DONATIONS	2,900	-	-	2,900	2,730
SALES	1,909	-	-	1,909	1,572
RECEIPTS	2,612	-	-	2,612	3,206
GRANTS	10,500	-	-	10,500	10,000
SUMUP	1,954	-	-	1,954	2,588
INTEREST	505	-	-	505	179
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,431	-	-	22,431	22,170
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,431	-	-	22,431	22,170
A3 Payments					
UTIL	3,259	-	-	3,259	5,369
PHYS WELL	699	-	-	699	457
COMMS	2,447	-	-	2,447	1,964
SECURITY	1,446	-	-	1,446	1,348
INSURANCE	2,111	-	-	2,111	1,976
ADMIN,MAINT,STORAGE	5,288	-	-	5,288	2,716
COLLECTION	302	-	-	302	353
COST OF SALES	2,095	-	-	2,095	2,518
MARKETING	401	-	-	401	401
BMLHS	3,506	-	-	3,506	676
BATTLE PROJECT SPEND	2,490	-	-	2,490	250
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	24,044	-	-	24,044	18,028
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	24,044	-	-	24,044	18,028
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,613	-	-	- 1,613	4,142
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	49,568	-	-	49,568	-
Cash funds this year end	47,955	-	-	47,955	4,142

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash in Hand	1,176	-	-
	Cash at Bank	3,369		-
	Deposit Accounts	43,410	-	-
	Total cash funds	47,955	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B2 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	31 Wood Street EN5 4BE	Long Lease	-	-
	The Physic Well EN5	Long Lease	-	-
	The Collection and Archive	Restricted	-	-
	Office Equipment	Museum	-	-
	Signature	Print Name		Date
	M A Noronha	M A NORONHA		01-Nov-24

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees