

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 2019/2020

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019 and 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Objectives

The object of the charity is, in the interests of social welfare, to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of political, religious or other opinion by the provision and maintenance of:

- a) a village hall for use by the inhabitants, including use for:
 - i) meetings, lectures and classes, and
 - ii) other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation; and
- b) a recreation ground for use by the inhabitants.

In line with the object of The Charity, the Barlow provides a centre for the good of the local community. It is used extensively by the residents of the village of Edgworth and the immediately adjoining areas within the area of the benefit of the Parish of North Turton. The Barlow is also a regular stopping off point for many visitors from outside of the immediate area of benefit.

Clare – do we need to mention whether we have considered Charity Commissions Public Benefit Requirement

The Volunteer managed library is well appreciated and the Volunteers' Saturday Morning Café has been a popular meeting point.

The various rooms in The Barlow have and continue to be used by many local groups providing a wide variety of activities from art and crafts to singing, reading, pilates, seated exercise and bridge.

The Barlow is the home of The Horticultural Society, Edgworth WI, a Folk Club and it has in recent years hosted the village pantomime.

The Barlow is home to the uniformed groups for the younger members of our community, and a partnership has recently been made with Noteweavers, who specialise in early childhood musical education.

The Barlow houses the popular Reading Room Café and Bar, which offers free wi-fi, light refreshments, takeaway boxes and occasional music events. It is popular both with locals and walkers and other visitors.

The Barlow also hosts private functions including weddings, children's parties and other events.

The Barlow often opens its doors for stalls to sell their wares, with regular craft fairs, a monthly Trash and Treasure events and a Christmas Fair. There is a popular greengrocery and plant stall every week.

The Barlow Estate benefits from having within its assets a Recreation Ground, Bowling Green, Park and Woodland. (New playground built in 2021)

The Recreation Ground is home to Edgworth Cricket and Recreation Club (ECRC), which competes at a very high level in the Manchester League and promotes sport and recreation locally by providing coaching opportunities to young people. The Pavilion was recently upgraded to include improved changing rooms, facilities for female players and an improved bar and function area. From very generous funding from the Roberts Family the Barlow has provided the new electronic scoreboard for the Cricket Club, a floodlit and fenced Multi-Use Games Arena (MUGA) which stands where the dilapidated tennis courts were and provides for many new sports such as football, bowling, netball, hockey and hopefully tennis should there be a requirement, and a replacement playground for the old

one that had fallen into disrepair in recent years. The MUGA has been leased to the Cricket Club for a period of 25 years at an annual rent of £4000 per year and in return the CC will operate the hire, use, and maintenance of the facility. The Barlow has taken over responsibility for maintaining the playground from BwD council.

The Bowling Green is home to Edgworth Bowling Club (EBC). The Club is Sport England "Club mark" accredited, is very well supported and provides coaching to adults and to children from the local Edgworth Primary School.

The Charity acknowledges the dedication of ECRS and EBC groundsmen in maintaining the grounds to the high standards that are commensurate with the needs of their respective Club rankings. Their achievements are a source of pride to the members, the community and the Charity.

The Barlow building is a credit to its Volunteers. It is always welcoming, clean and tidy despite being over 100 years old. The contribution and dedication of the Volunteers who run and maintain the building is paramount to The Barlow's success.

The Stewardship of The Charity is through The Board of Trustees who continue to provide their time on a voluntary basis.

VOLUNTEERS

The contribution of the volunteers to the running and maintenance of The Barlow is immeasurable. Their commitment will secure the ongoing and future development of The Barlow.

The trustees also continue to provide their time on a voluntary basis. The pandemic has seen a reduction in the number of available volunteers and a constant supply of people getting involved in volunteering is always welcome.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Barlow has, aside from closure, due to the pandemic been open daily, for community groups and private users.

The Reading Room provides paid employment for some of the younger adults in the community, and provides a pleasant hub where people can meet socially. When forced to close, the Barlow offered takeaway services when regulations allowed. During the first lockdown the Barlow organised a Covid 19 support group that had some 200 members and was involved in providing shopping, hospital visits, and a myriad of other activities in support of the entire North Turton community. This group also sourced a supply of over 15000 items of frozen food and snacks via Westholme School in Blackburn.

A number of Barlow volunteers also undertook to help the Crown and Thistle deliver over 3500 free meals for vulnerable people across the community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

I will complete this when I have final results and will mention generous donations here.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

During 2020/21 the Barlow has undertaken some major works which are detailed as follows and in date order:

Tarmac resurface and marking out of the Car Park in a 50/50 funding arrangement with the Cricket Club.

New boilers and ancillary equipment connected with heating the Barlow building, partly funded by a grant from Veolia.

New double glazed windows across the entire front of the building and a number of window replacements elsewhere on the building, again partly funded by Veolia.

A team of professionals, regional volunteers and local volunteers are in the process of reshaping the Woodlands area which will be a continuous process to bring the area back to its former glory, this has been helped by an award of funding from the Postcode Lottery.

The IT and WiFi has been given an overhaul and professional WiFi is now available across the building, the outside cafe area, and the bowling green. The internal telephone system has also been replaced with phones now in the Bar, backstage, and gallery. New PCs have also been provided in the office and a research PC is also now available in the Library for all to use. This has been provided partly with very generous funding from our IT partner and Cricket Club sponsor Eventura.

The MUGA is a wonderful new sporting facility for the community and was very generously funded by the Roberts family.

The playground was also very generously funded by the Roberts family after an initial fund was set up by Nick Kernick and Councillor Jean Rigby.

The building roof has been completely replaced with like for like clay tiles and will guarantee that the building is both safe and waterproof for many generations to come. The stonework around the building has also been cleaned to give the whole outside of the building a wonderful new freshness. The roof funding was taken from very generous donations from the Barlow family in recent years, plus funding from the Friends of the Barlow donations.

Moving into the future the doors to the main Hall and the Main Entrance will have sympathetic replacements which will provide better security and more soundproofing both ways and will even further enhance the fresh new look to the building. The door into the Reading Room will also be refurbished. This will be partly funded by a grant from Veolia.

When we removed the glass from the canopy to the South side of the building it became clear that the whole structure needed replacing and that is on our list of urgent things to do for 2022.

Now that the building is safe and waterproof we need to turn our attentions to the inside of the building and our plan is to tackle this as individual projects with the first one being the Main Hall where our plan is not to change anything structurally but to make it the best version of the Main Hall that it could be and will include a complete overhaul of the lighting and sound systems with state of the art equipment which will allow us to make use of the Hall in as many ways as possible. We will look to launch the project at a Gala Dinner in the autumn to celebrate our achievements and thank our funders and sponsors.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, a Deed of Trust, dated 27 September 2000 and is an unincorporated charity. Check its a DoFT and the date.

As the charity is unincorporated, North Turton Parish Council acts as Custodian Trustee (we need to mention this but might be better under Organisational Structure)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees are appointed as follows:

2 elected at the AGM

4 nominated by North Turton Parish Council

4 nominated by the Barlow User Groups

Organisational Structure

The current team of Trustees if re-elected are planning to set up a sub-committee to review the Barlow Charity structure and make any recommendations back to the Trustees who will then vote to accept or reject the recommendations and then if accepted, will put the proposed changes to the community at an AGM for acceptance and action. Much has been discussed about the constitution over the years and hopefully this project will provide an opportunity to provide clarity and a clear statement of intent going forward.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and manage the risks to which the charity is exposed, financial and otherwise and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud.

Volunteers and staff are given the training they need. Volunteers handbook.

The trustees regularly discuss the risks faced and how to manage the risks at trustees' meetings, taking action where necessary.

(Put examples if you wish but I think not, except to mention Covid in 2020 accounts, though we should be prepared if Qs arise – finance -we can say obtained grants, used Eat Out Scheme, furlough – need ideas for others – clearly Covid risks is a key one)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity number

521333

Principal address

The Barlow 216 Bolton Road Edgworth Turton Bolton BL7 0AP

Trustees

I will supply an excel table

Independent examiner

HullJady Chartered Accountants 41 Bridgeman Terrace Wigan Lancashire WN1 1TT

Approved by The Board of Trustees on

and signed on its behalf by:

Mike Fay - Trustee