



# The Barnes Charitable Trust

## Chairman's report 2014

### People

At the meeting of the trustees on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014, it was unanimously agreed to invite Christine Youdale to become a trustee. I am pleased to report that Christine has accepted that invitation.

The Trust's continued thanks are due to Ken Kitchen who remains in the post of temporary honorary secretary. Ken continues to perform a valuable role for the Trust.

This year has been a busy and at times challenging year for the Trust. The assets of the Executors of John Barnes Will are currently being transferred to the Trust. Our treasurer, Ann Kitchen and our honorary secretary, Ken Kitchen, have worked extremely hard to ensure that this transfer continues to proceed as smoothly as possible..

### Ashmeadow Woodlands

The Trust continues to maintain Ashmeadow Woodlands to a high standard. Our prime objectives are to provide visitors to the woodland with a safe and enjoyable environment.

We are indebted to the considerable help that we get from our woodland adviser Roger Cartwright and from Tony Riden, the wildlife officer from the AONB. Thanks to them we got a three year Woodland Improvement Grant in 2012. This helps us to carry out our latest 3 year plan for the woodlands which is currently proceeding according to the agreed pattern. We also get help from the AONB volunteers. We usually get at least two full days' work per year from them. Their help especially with the upkeep of the dry-stone walls is much appreciated.

The contractors that were appointed in 2012 to help manage the woodland are still working to a satisfactory standard.

No significant work has been done on any trees this year. However the Trust continues to monitor the condition of all trees and take remedial action where required. This is an on-going process.

The Trust has had the majority of the top footpath resurfaced. A section of approximately 285 metres from the junction by the large beech tree, along the

top path, past the war memorial and down to the bottom of The Slipway was resurfaced at a cost of just over £3,000. It is planned to resurface further sections of footpath during 2015.

The war memorial stone has been refurbished. This was quite a major task. The stone was taken away to a stone mason in Lancaster where the stone was cleaned, the lettering re-cut and re-painted. This work cost just over £1,000.

We are pleased to report that quite a few nest boxes have been occupied this year.

The Trust encourages all visitors to the woodlands including responsible dog owners. Most dog owners do behave responsibly and pick up after their dogs, however we would appeal to those who don't, to consider their actions and help to make sure that the woodlands is a pleasant place for everyone to visit.

### Walled Garden

The allotments continue to be a success with all plots allocated. Thanks to Julia Holroyd who is managing them.

### Organised Visits

We did not organise any visits this year. However we do try to help if we are approached with a specific request.

### Orchards

The new trees planted last year are doing well. The grassland management regime also meant that the daffodils have thrived. Pruning has helped the older trees to regain vigour. A couple of trees appear to have reached the end of their useful life and we are monitoring them.

### Finance

As previously reported, we are currently in the process of transferring assets from the Executors of John Barnes Will to the Trust. To date the Trust has received in excess of £250,000. We hope to finalise the asset transfer process early in 2015. There is probably less than £20,000 still to be transferred. The final amount will only be known when the executors have received their solicitor's bill.

The majority of this money has been invested with The Charities Investment Fund (CoIF) and with the financial investment management company, Rathbones. Some small returns from these investments are already being received by the Trust. The Trust will continue to monitor these investments and makes changes as and when appropriate.

## Ashmeadow Lodge

As well as transferring financial assets, the executors have transferred the ownership of Ashmeadow Lodge to the Trust. The transfer is currently being processed by the Trust's solicitors, Milne Moser and by the Land Registry. It is proposed that once this process is complete, the lodge will be transferred to the Official Custodian of Charities as recommended by the Charity Commission. The woodlands have already been transferred

The lodge has a sitting tenant who will remain. The lodge tenancy is being managed on behalf of the Trust by Hackney & Leigh who charge 10% of the rental fee for this service.

It is proposed that over the next few months, significant work will be done to the lodge to ensure that the building is generally more energy efficient and more pleasant to inhabit. The first step in this process is to install gas central heating. This work is expected to be completed by the end of January 2015.

## Barnes Charitable Trust Grant Scheme (BCTGS)

The trustees have agreed that from 2015, the Trust will make small grants (usually between £300 & £1,000) available from the profits of the previous year's investments.

The criteria are summed up in the grant application document, an extract of which is published here:-

The **BCTGS** supports projects that bring environmental, educational, social and economic benefits to Arnside. It aims:

- a) to support projects and/or societies/groups that act for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Arnside Parish and its neighbourhood for which full provision is not made from the public rates and taxes as the Trustees shall see fit.
  
- b) to support projects and/or societies/groups that aim to provide such environmental, educational, recreational and other facilities in the interests of social welfare as the Trustees shall see fit.

## Web Site

A new web site has been set up at [www.barnescharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.barnescharitabletrust.org.uk) It can still be accessed from the old address [www.ashmeadow-woodlands.org](http://www.ashmeadow-woodlands.org)

This new site will be updated more often than the previous version of the site.

## Book Publication

The Trust has published a book written in 1903 by J Anthony Barnes called "All Round Arnside".

This is available from both the Little Shop or Bullough's Londis, on The Promenade, Arnside - price £5.

## Other

Thanks must go to all the trustees for the hard work they have put in over the past year.

## The Barnes Charitable Trust Trustees

Pete McSweeney – chairman  
Terry Keefe – vice-chairman  
Helen Caldwell  
Julia Holroyd  
Ann Kitchen  
David Marland  
Pete Nicholson  
Andy Pringle  
Chris Youdale

## The Barnes Charitable Trust Honorary Secretary

Ken Kitchen

*This report has been prepared by:  
Pete McSweeney – Chairman – The Barnes Charitable Trust  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2015*