

# British-Arab Exchanges

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

2005 - 2006



The British-Arab Exchanges (BAX) Trustees present their report together with the financial statements (which have been Independently Examined) for the year ending 5 April 2006. The principle activity during this year was to host a visit of seven Palestinian and Lebanese young professionals, in furtherance of the BAX objects, namely to build links of trust and respect and explore common values held by the Christian and Muslim traditions.

### **Directors and Trustees**

Professor Roger Spooner OBE MA PhD BVetMed MRCVS - *Chairman*

Commander Michael Maddox OBE - *Treasurer*

Peter Riddell BA ARCM - *Secretary* (confirmed 9.11.05)

Dr Jeroen Gunning (retired 13.1.06)

### **National Committee Members**

James Baynard-Smith MA, Judi Conner MA, Laila Tannous Dawton,  
Ronnie Graham MA CPE, Jeroen Gunning PhD, Mary Anne Hatton MSc, Paul Holland,  
Omnia Marzouk MD FRCPCH FFAEM DCH, TLG Mullen BA, Peter Rundell PhD FSS,  
Ella Saltmarshe MA, Penelope Turing

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British-Arab Exchanges is a charitable company limited by guarantee  
Company number: 5164791; Registered charity number: 1105850

## **Review of the Year**

### **Visit of Lebanese-Palestinian group**

Just occasionally, one has the privilege of witnessing an activity which seems to 'do the right thing' for everyone involved. This was the sense those of us involved had of the visit of a delegation of seven Lebanese and Palestinians to London, Oxford and Northern Ireland, 21<sup>st</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Not only did it enable deep conversations to take place between the guests and the hosts, but also among the hosts: between Scots, English, and Northern Irish (Protestant and Catholic) and between Christian and Muslim; and among the guests: between Palestinians and Lebanese, and between Christian, Sunni, Shia and Druze. Perhaps doing something together for others faces everyone in the same direction, and in so doing we relate in new and unexpected ways.

The visit was a further development in relationships that National Committee member, Ronnie Graham, has built with Palestinians from refugee camps in Beirut since he taught there some years ago, and those built by BAX's exchange visits with Lebanon since 1994. Two of the Palestinians visited Britain in 2002 at Ronnie's invitation, a visit which BAX supported financially. One of them, Oussama Ayoub, expressed his wish for more opportunities for dialogue with British people. As the idea of a group of Palestinians visiting Britain developed, Oussama felt that Lebanese should also be included. So the group comprised three Palestinians and three Lebanese, in their 20s or early 30s, again led by Judge Ghassan Rabah who has led all the delegations from Lebanon.

The shape of the programme developed in the course of several meetings in the late Spring of 2005. The idea that they might visit Northern Ireland arose from an invitation expressed by a group from Derry who had met the two Palestinians in 2002, and the wide network of contacts in all communities of Ronnie's aunt, Lady Fiona Hannon and her husband, Peter. This was confirmed by a brief preparatory visit by Ronnie and Peter Riddell in May. The programme in Oxford and London grew out of contacts established by National Committee members. A full report of the visit was published and sent to all who had been involved.

Perhaps the most moving moments were at the final reception, when one of the Christian Lebanese apologised to the Palestinians for her hatred. We heard later that this was reciprocated on their return, when one of the Palestinians expressed his deep regret to the Lebanese for what his people had done in some phases of the war in Lebanon. And we heard that links that had been forged between Lebanese and Palestinians during the visit had been maintained.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book and Website**

Following the launch of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication, Mary Hatton undertook an extensive send-out to former delegates and sister organisations. A website was also launched ([www.bax.org.uk](http://www.bax.org.uk)) based on the design and content of the anniversary book. In addition there is a section for signalling recent or forthcoming events (for example, the report of the Lebanese-Palestinian visit can be downloaded from it). We are greatly indebted to Edward Peters who put much more work into constructing the site than his modest fee reflected.

**Trustee and National Committee news**

It was a great sadness to learn of the death Col. Kenneth Timbrell just before Christmas. He had been one of the longest serving members of the National Committee having been a close friend of Bill Conner. In recent years he had not been able to attend meetings due to failing health, but his letters and generous donations showed how much his heart was with our activities.

Dr Jeroen Gunning resigned as a Trustee at the meeting in January. His work as a lecturer at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and as a respected commentator on the Islamist movements of the Middle East, in addition to his family commitments have prevented him from playing as active a role as he would have wished. However we are delighted that he will continue to serve as a member of the National Committee. He wrote, 'I believe that BAX continues to contribute to building much-needed bridges between British/Western and Arab societies'.

**Financial Report**

The main items of expenditure during the financial year ending 5 April 2006 were accommodation, travel, meals etc. for the seven delegates and accompanying hosts involved in the Palestine-Lebanese visit. The total cost of this visit was £9710; this was well under budget thanks to “contributions in kind” made by many hosts who gave time and services without charge. BAX is indebted to the generosity of ten private individuals, The Oxford Group Belfast, and the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, who made donations such that the BAX financial statements show an income over expenditure surplus of £1804. The total assets at year end are £36,489.

**Perspectives**

The need to establish firm links of trust and respect between young people of the Muslim world and people of the West is clear. The year 2005/2006 saw a resumption of our visit programme after a gap of several years due, in part, to the deterioration in the security situation in the Middle East. Ever since BAX started with student exchanges in the early '70s, each step has evolved out of longterm relationships and collective 'intuition' about what might 'do the right thing' for everyone involved. It is an organic process which requires patience and willingness to do nothing as well as willingness to take risks – a balance between waiting and taking initiative. For almost five years between the delegations to Lebanon in 2000 and the visit last summer, there was little activity, and BAX came close to shutting down. But a visit like last summer's makes it clear that there is still a role. So faithfulness to friendships is the key, and the steady cleaning of conscience that develops in each of us the sensitivity to receive the intuition about what the next step might be.

**Thanks**

Finally, heartfelt thanks go to all those who made any contribution in any way to the development of BAX's activities, whether by their time, expertise, money or ideas. Nothing happens without all of these!

.....Chair

.....Secretary

## BALANCE SHEET AT 5 APRIL 2006

		2006		2005
	£	£	£	£
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
National Savings Bank Investment Account	35045		30,939	
Balance at Bank and Cash in Hand	<u>1600</u>		<u>2,329</u>	
	36645		33,268	33,268
<u>DEBTORS</u>				
Tax Refunds due			1,417	1,417
<u>CREDITORS:</u> Amounts falling due within one year	-156			0
 <u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</u>	 <b>36489</b>			 <b>34,685</b>
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>				
Assets Transferred from BAX 4/04/2005	34685			32,896
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	<u>1804</u>			<u>1,789</u>
Balance at 5th April 2005	<b><u>36489</u></b>			<b><u>34,685</u></b>

Approved and Signed on the

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Chairman

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Hon Treasurer

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Period 6 April 2005 - 5 April 2006

		2006		2005
		£		£
<b>INCOME</b>	Note 1			
<u>Gifts Under Gift Aid</u>				
Individuals		6200		5025
Tax Repayable		1749		1868
<u>Other Donations</u>				
From Individuals		916		557
From Companies, Trusts, etc.		2135		0
<u>Investments</u>				
Bank Interest C/A		111		1
Interest on Deposit Accounts		1106		1007
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>12217</b>		<b>8458</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

Note 2

**Direct Charitable Expenditure**

Lebanese – Palestinian visit (September '05)	9710	0
Grant: Liaison Visit - Jordan	0	464
Grant: Oxford Group Centre/Student Link	250	650

**Other Expenditure**

Administration	440	139
Secretarial Services	13	156
Solicitor's Fees	0	19
Anniversary Book Publication	0	4762
30th Anniversary Reception	0	235

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>10413</b>	<b>6425</b>
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<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>2033</b>
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**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

		2006		2005
	£	£	£	£
<b>1. Incoming Resources</b>				
a. Gifts under Gift Aid	6,200		5,025	
b. Donations from British Arab Chamber and The Oxford Group (Belfast)	2,135		0	
b. Other donations	916		557	
c. Tax Relief for income under Gift Aid	<u>1,749</u>	11,000	<u>1,868</u>	7,450
<u>d. Income from Investments</u>				
NatWest Bank - Current Account interest	111		1	
National Savings Investment Account - Interest	1,106	<u>1,217</u>	1,007	<u>1,008</u>
Total Income		12,217		8,458
<b>2. Expenditure</b>				
a. Lebanese-Palestinian visit September 2005	9,710		0	
b. Peter Riddell visit to Jordan September 2004			464	
c. Grant- Oxford Group Centre	250		650	
d. Administration expenses	440		139	
e. Secretarial expenses	13		156	
d. Solicitors Fees	0	10,413	19	<u>1,428</u>
<u>f. Anniversary Book Publication</u>				
Translation services	0		650	
Production Costs	0		4,112	
g. 30th Anniversary Book Launch - Reception	<u>0</u>		235	4,997
Total Expenditure		10,413		6,425

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH-ARAB EXCHANGES (BAX)

I have examined the financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2006 set out on pages 4-5, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion on those financial statements and to issue my opinion to you.

#### **Basis of Opinion**

I conducted an examination in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Charities Act 1993. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also included an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Opinion**

In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of British Arab Exchanges and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 5 April 2006, and they have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 1993.

Signed:

P D King FCA, FCCA  
New Winterton  
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Date: