

British-Arab Exchanges

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2007- 8

There were three principle activities in the year 2007- 8:

1. preparations for the participation of a group of Palestinians from Gaza in an Initiatives of Change training programme in Caux, Switzerland, in summer 2007
2. the formation of two Project Management Teams to prepare projects for the summer of 2008 (a Palestinian delegation to Switzerland and an Iraqi delegation to the UK)
3. a review of the BAX mission statement.

Palestinian Delegation to Caux, Switzerland

In the summer of 2006, BAX agreed to sponsor a group of leaders of a Palestinian NGO in Gaza to attend a training programme in Switzerland.

The Gazan NGO was formed by a group of recent graduates who call themselves 'Life-makers' (Sona'a Al-Hayat), and who are delivering courses to young people on themes such as 'planning', 'team-working', 'active listening', 'finding a purpose in life'. They believe that Palestinian society cannot develop as it should without such skills. One of its leaders, Mohammed El-Rantisi, having participated in several programmes at the international conference centre of Initiatives of Change in Caux, Switzerland asked if BAX could sponsor the participation by some of the other leaders of 'Life-makers' in the annual programme on the theme - 'Tools for Change'. He wrote that the experience would offer them opportunities to:

- 'interact with people sharing moral and spiritual values and see the other side of the "Western people" (most of the participants have not had the chance to interact with people other than Palestinians)
- bridge the gap between cultures
- equip themselves with ideas and skills regarding how people can be different but still respect each other
- explore themselves and their roles in society
- witness experiences concerning social issues in other cultures
- identify tools they can use to stimulate social change.'

It was a new departure for BAX to sponsor a group to take part in a programme in a third country, but the Constitution allows for this as long as encounters with young British are built into the programme. So in August 2006, a group of British went to Switzerland to host the Gazan delegation. However, at the last minute, to the intense disappointment of all concerned, the Gazans were unable to travel because their border with Egypt was closed by the Israelis.

Following this experience and in view of the very tough conditions that the Gazans were facing, the National Committee felt it had an obligation to renew the offer to them for the summer of 2007. So in August 2007, a group of British hosts (including four students, Jenny-Anne Craig, Graeme Innes, Cain Ormondroyd, Kate Rundell and three Trustees, Roger Spooner, Peter Riddell and Peter Rundell) went again to Switzerland to host the Gazans. Sadly, this visit was also cancelled as the Gazans were unable to leave Palestine.

Seeking to make the best of this further disappointment, the hosting group met together each day and extended their mandate to hosting others from the Arab countries, notably from Egypt and Lebanon. One of the hosting group arranged for conference participants to write messages of support to the Gazans. Many responded and appreciative responses were received in return.

There is a sense that a bond has been built between BAX and 'Life-makers' in Gaza by these repeated efforts to realise Mohammed El-Rantisi's vision, and the National Committee felt that it was only right to renew the offer to participate in the 'Tools for Change' programme in Switzerland 25th July-1st August 2008. When this decision was taken in March, it was decided to extend the invitation to leaders of a 'Life-makers' group in the West Bank. The reasoning was that it would a) be a positive step to also engage with this group, b) permit communication between the two groups, and c) be more likely that at least one of the groups being able to make it. Prof Roger Spooner made contact with the West Bank group on a visit to the area in February, but unfortunately their offices were ransacked shortly afterwards, and they had to decline our invitation.

A Project Management Team has been formed consisting of Mary Hatton, Imad Karam and Kamran Naqui to progress the planning. As the financial year closed, it was again not clear whether the Gazans were going to be able to leave Gaza, though they felt there was sufficient hope to justify applying for visas and reserving their flights

Iraqi Delegation to UK

In early 2008, an opportunity presented itself to host a group of young people from Iraq, a country with which BAX has not had exchanges. Dr Ali Kubba, a consultant gynaecologist at Guys and St Thomas's hospital in London asked if BAX would organise a programme for a group of recent graduates from Iraq in September 2008 on the understanding that his family foundation, The Kubba Foundation, undertook the selection and the travel of the group. The Kubba Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that promotes the social development of the Iraqi people and supports the rebuilding of a strong and viable civil society in a land ravaged by war, violence and dictatorship. The Foundation supports educational projects that directly benefit the people of Iraq, regardless of religion, ethnicity or background. The BAX responded warmly to this opportunity to work in partnership with Iraqis and organise a visit that they believe will benefit Iraq delegates and their UK hosts. In order to respond to this opportunity, Peter Rundell, Judi Conner and Ronnie Graham formed an Iraqi visit Project Management Team - planning was proceeding steadily at the time of writing this report.

BAX's Vision, Mission and Values Review

In the course of the year, Judi Conner led the National Committee in a review of BAX's Vision, Mission and Values to help us determine future activities. The outcome was the following statement:

THE BAX VISION is a relationship between Europe and the Arab world based on

- trust and respect
- healing of past wounds
- mutual learning
- friendship
- collaboration on global challenges

THE BAX MISSION is therefore to bridge divisions by

- organising cultural and educational exchanges between young people from Europe and the Arab world
- creating and maintaining a network of bridge-builders
- training future opinion-leaders
- providing space for dialogue
- focusing on shared moral and spiritual values

BAX'S VALUES are based on

- inclusion of diverse political, religious and cultural stances
- independence of political or religious affiliation
- belief in uniting principles common to the major world religious faiths
- listening
- learning
- integrity
- change of heart
- healing damaged relationships
- friendship and collaboration between opposites as well as conventional partners
- empowerment at individual and community level
- service and contribution
- proactivity and looking ahead
- perseverance
- hope for a better world

Financial Report

The main item of expenditure during the financial year ending 5 April 2008 was the aborted Gazan visit to Caux. The majority of the expenditure on air-fares for the Gazans was recovered and the net cost amounted to only £1391 - mainly cancellation costs and a small subsidy to the British hosts' travel and accommodation costs in Switzerland. A generous donation of £2500 was received towards the Palestinians project which will be carried over to 2008. A surplus of £2228 was achieved on the year. The total assets stand at £38,767 which is sufficient to fund two projects in 2008. However, funding future projects will depend largely on the success of fundraising in 2008.

Gratitude

The Trustees and the National Committee would like to express their heart-felt appreciation to all who have contributed their time, money and expertise during the past year. We recognise the depth of feeling that this represents about our country's links with the peoples of the Middle East, and the desire to contribute to the recovery and development of the whole area. Though at times this seems far off, we have been privileged to witness signs of renewal. The part of this task which is within our power to achieve is to engage with the people of the Arab world in a spirit of service and in the belief that the most satisfying and creative relationship is to help each other live up to the highest moral and spiritual values of our respective faith traditions.

Trustees

Professor Roger Spooner OBE MA PhD BVetMed MRCVS (*Chairman*), Michael Maddox OBE (*Treasurer*), Peter Riddell BA ARCM (*Secretary*), Peter Rundell PhD FSS

National Committee

James Baynard-Smith MA, Judi Conner MA, Laila Tannous Dawton, Ronnie Graham MA CPE, Jeroen Gunning PhD, Mary Anne Hatton MSc, Imad Karam MA PhD, Neil Mackay BA, Omnia Marzouk MD FRCPCH FFAEM DCH, TLG Mullen BA, Kamran Naqui BA, Ella Saltmarshe MA, Penelope Turing

BALANCE SHEET AT 5 APRIL 2008

| | £ | 2007/8 £ | £ | 2006/7 £ |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u> | | | | |
| National Savings Bank Investment Account | | 37509 | 35151 | |
| Balance at Bank and Cash in Hand | | <u>1258</u> | <u>1388</u> | |
| | | 38767 | 36539 | 36539 |
| <u>DEBTORS</u> | | | | |
| Tax Refunds due | | 0 | | 0 |
| <u>CREDITORS:</u> Amounts falling due within one year | | 0 | | 0 |
| | | | | |
| <u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</u> | | 38767 | | 36539 |
| <u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u> | | | | |
| Balance at 5 th April 2007 | | 36539 | | 36489 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for Year | | 2228 | | <u>50</u> |
| Balance at 5 th April 2008 | | <u>38767</u> | | <u>36539</u> |

For the year ended 5th April 2008 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 249B(2). The directors acknowledge their responsibility for: ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221; and ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved and Signed on the

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Chairman

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Hon Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Period 6 April 2007 - 5 April 2008

| | | 2007/8 | 2006/7 |
|---|--------|-------------|-------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| INCOME | Note 1 | | |
| <u>Gifts Under Gift Aid</u> | | | |
| Individuals | | 0 | 0 |
| Tax Repayable | | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Other Donations</u> | | | |
| From Individuals | | 2500 | 50 |
| From Companies, Trusts, etc. | | 0 | 0 |
| <u>Investments</u> | | | |
| Bank Interest C/A | | 158 | 94 |
| Interest on Deposit Accounts | | 1358 | 1106 |
| Creditor adjustment | | | 156 |
| Total Receipts | | 4016 | 1406 |
| EXPENDITURE | Note 2 | | |
| Direct Charitable Expenditure | | | |
| Visits | | 1391 | 1032 |
| Grant: Initiatives of Change office facilities | | 250 | 250 |
| Other Expenditure | | | |
| Administration | | 98 | 24 |
| Secretarial Services | | 0 | 0 |
| Fees | | 15 | 15 |
| Bank Charges | | 34 | 35 |
| Total Expenditure | | 1788 | 1356 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure | | 2228 | 50 |

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

| | | 2007/8 | | 2006/7 |
|---|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1. Incoming Resources | | | | |
| a. Gifts under Gift Aid | 0 | | 0 | |
| b. Donations from British Arab Chamber and The Oxford Group (Belfast) | 0 | | 0 | |
| c. Other donations | 2500 | | 50 | |
| d. Tax Relief for income under Gift Aid | <u>0</u> | 2500 | <u>0</u> | 50 |
| <u>e. Income from Investments</u> | | | | |
| NatWest Bank - Current Account interest | 158 | | 94 | |
| National Savings Investment Account - Interest | 1358 | <u>1516</u> | 1106 | <u>1200</u> |
| f. Cheque not cashed | 0 | 0 | | 156 |
| | | 4016 | | 1406 |
| 2. Expenditure | | | | |
| a. Caux Visit Aug 2007- Gaza aborted | 1391 | | | |
| b. NI Liaison Visit 2006 | | | 195 | |
| c. Gazan Visit August 2006 (aborted) | | | 712 | |
| d. Caux visit -Imad Karam | 0 | <u>1391</u> | 125 | <u>1032</u> |
| e. Grant - IofC Centre | 250 | | 250 | |
| f. Administration expenses | 98 | | 24 | |
| g. Secretarial | | | 0 | |
| f. Fees | 15 | | 15 | |
| i. Bank Charges | 34 | <u>397</u> | 35 | <u>324</u> |
| Total Expenditure | | <u>1788</u> | | <u>1356</u> |

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH-ARAB EXCHANGES (BAX)

I have examined the financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2008 set out on pages 1-3 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 2008, and they have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 1993.

Signed:

P D King FCA
New Winterton
Westerham
TN16 1UD

Date: