

# British-Arab Exchanges

## **Annual Report and Financial Statement 2006-2007**

### **Support for Gazan group to attend programme in Switzerland**

In its search for ways of serving and building links of trust with the people of the Arab countries, the main project of the year was to agree to sponsor a group of young professionals from Gaza to participate in a conference on the theme 'Service, Responsibility and Leadership', 6-12 July 2006, at the annual Initiatives of Change summer programme in Caux, Switzerland.

The request came from Mohammed El-Rantisi who had got to know BAX National Committee Member Jeroen Gunning and his wife when they were living in Gaza in the late '90s. He is an employee of the British Council and in his spare time is a leader of a group of students and young professionals. 'Sona'a Al-Hayat' ('Life Makers') offers training to young adults in the skills of 'active listening, team-working, planning, creative and scientific thinking'. They believe that many initiatives fail for lack of such skills, and their absence gives rise to narrow-minded thinking and fanaticism. Having participated in such a conference himself, Mohammed believed that the experience would enhance the effectiveness of the group if some of its leaders could take part.

He believed it would offer them opportunities to:

- 'interact with people sharing moral and spiritual values and see another side of the West
- 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.'

As it was a new departure for BAX to support an Arab group to take part in an activity elsewhere than in the UK, the Charity Commission was consulted and it confirmed that BAX's constitution does allow for such a project.

Two British students, Daniel McRitchie (Lancaster University) and Graeme Innes (St Andrews University) accompanied Peter Riddell to Switzerland to host the group.

Unfortunately the security situation in Gaza deteriorated seriously in the weeks leading up to the conference, and despite two postponements of the flight reservations, the group finally had to abandon the attempt. Subsequently, the National Committee agreed to renew the arrangement for the summer of 2007.

### **Renewal of exchange programme with The Lebanese University**

Judge Ghassan Rabah, who initiated the exchange programme with The Lebanese University 1994-2000, recently briefed the new President of the University, Dr Zuheir Shoker, on the exchanges so far. Dr Shoker expressed interest in renewing the exchange programme with the Lebanese University. The National Committee agreed to a further two year exchange programme starting with a visit to Lebanon by a British group in the summer of 2008 followed by a visit by a Lebanese group to the UK in 2009.

## **Follow-up visit to Northern Ireland**

Ronnie Graham and Peter Riddell made a brief visit to Northern Ireland, 14-15 October 2006, to maintain contact with the hosts of the Lebanese-Palestinian group which visited in 2005 and explore future possibilities. They stayed with Tom and Michelle Kelly and visited Peter and Fiona Hannon and Faustina Starrett all of whom had arranged occasions for the visitors.

## **New members of National Committee**

The National Committee is pleased to welcome two new members, Kamran Naqui and Imad Karam. Kamran is a Human Resources officer in the charity sector, currently working with the International Planned Parenthood Federation. He was a member of the BAX delegation to Jordan in 1996. Imad is a Palestinian from Gaza who is completing his doctorate at City University on the effect of satellite TV on Arab youth. His advice on hosting visiting groups has been invaluable.

## **Working Group Meetings**

The informal Working Group Meetings have begun again with one in March which was helpful in preparing the visit of the Palestinians to Switzerland in the summer 2007.

## **Financial Report**

The main item of expenditure during the financial year ending 5 April 2007 was the expenses involved in setting up the (abortive) Gazan visit to Caux. Fortunately it was possible to recover the majority of the expenditure on air fares and the net cost amounted to only £712. A small surplus of £50 was achieved on the year and the total assets stand at £36,539.

## **Thanks**

BAX depends on the conviction of those who care about the people of the Middle East and Britain's relationship with them. The National Committee extends heart-felt thanks to all those who have given of their time and resources to continue its work.

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## **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,  
Omnia Marzouk MD FRCPCH FFAEM DCH, TLG Mullen BA, Kamran Naqui BA,  
Peter Rundell PhD FSS, Ella Saltmarshe MA, Penelope Turing

## **Directors and Trustees**

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

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

## BALANCE SHEET AT 5 APRIL 2007

		2007		2006
	£	£	£	£
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
National Savings Bank Investment Account	35151		35045	
Balance at Bank and Cash in Hand	<u>1388</u>		<u>1600</u>	
	36539	36539	36645	36645
<u>DEBTORS</u>				
Tax Refunds due	0		0	
<u>CREDITORS:</u> Amounts falling due within one year		0		156
<u>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</u>		36539		<b>36489</b>
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>				
Balance at 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2006		36489		34685
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year		50		<u>1804</u>
Balance at 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2007		<b><u>36539</u></b>		<b><u>36489</u></b>

For the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 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 2006 - 5 April 2007

		2007	2006
		£	£
INCOME	Note 1		
<u>Gifts Under Gift Aid</u>			
Individuals		0	6200
Tax Repayable		0	1749
<u>Other Donations</u>			
From Individuals		50	916
From Companies, Trusts, etc.		0	2135
<u>Investments</u>			
Bank Interest C/A		94	111
Interest on Deposit Accounts		1106	1106
Creditor adjustment		156	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>1406</b>	<b>12217</b>
EXPENDITURE	Note 2		
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>			
Visits		1032	9710
Grant: Oxford Group Centre		250	250
Other Expenditure			
Administration		24	440
Secretarial Services		0	13
Fees		15	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1356</b>	<b>10413</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>1804</b>

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

		2007		2006
	£	£	£	£
<b>1. Incoming Resources</b>				
a. Gifts under Gift Aid	0		6200	
b. Donations from British Arab Chamber and The Oxford Group (Belfast)	0		2135	
c. Other donations	50		916	
d. Tax Relief for income under Gift Aid	<u>0</u>	50	<u>1749</u>	11000
<u>e. Income from Investments</u>				
NatWest Bank - Current Account interest	94		111	
National Savings Investment Account - Interest	1106	<u>1200</u>	1106	<u>1217</u>
f. Cheque not cashed		156		
 Total Income		 1406		 12217
 <b>2. Expenditure</b>				
a. Lebanese-Palestinian visit September 2005			9710	
b. NI Liaison Visit	195			
c. Gazan Visit August 2006 (aborted)	712			
d. Caux visit -Imad Karem	125	<u>1032</u>		
 e. Grant- Oxford Group lofC Centre	 250		 250	
f. Administration expenses	 24		 440	
g. Secretarial	0		13	
f. Fees	15		0	
i. Bank Charges	35	<u>324</u>	0	<u>10413</u>
 Total Expenditure		 1356		 10413

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

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

I have examined the financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2007 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 2007, and they have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 1993.**

Signed:

P D King FCA, FCCA  
New Winterton  
Westerham  
TN16 1UD

Date:

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