

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2007/08 brought the usual range of problems but unusually I spent much of the time forward planning and dealing with parliamentary petitions.

In the interest of achieving a balanced budget the year started with a review of our work and structure and resulted, unexpectedly, in Korona taking up a new post with her old boss. Having been on 'loan' to the SSBA for more than four years, her much improved skills and confidence were ideal for her new job but her departure from the SSBA was a great loss and her warm and friendly smile and glamorous style are forever missed.

The reorganisation and re-allocation of work and responsibilities amongst existing staff proved difficult but, with the co-operation of everybody, worked well and the subsequent savings on our overall budget undoubtedly helped the SSBA through a difficult time.

Chanu, Keith and Hardeep each took on duties at the BDC whilst Imran continued the site manager role at the Whitechapel Centre and Edith undertook even more responsibility as my deputy. This created time for me to remodel the Montefiore Centre with Harry and Kamal and help Phil expand the joinery, when not thinking about our future or dealing with Crossrail.

Edith implemented the changes to our management committee structure magnificently (confirming her tribal base as that of Obama's) and her new committee members provided invaluable support with the development of both specific projects and our general programme. Only the sub-committee structure proved problematic and being too fragmented to be effective is under review along with our company format and charitable status.

In March 2007 Edith reaped the rewards of two years of study and received her MA in Property Valuation and Law from the prestigious Cass Business School of City University. Later in the year the SSBA also received the benefits when Edith not only challenged the re-assessment of our business rates at Brick Lane but also won. The mammoth task saved money for both the SSBA and her tenants.

In February 2008 the year closed with Imran becoming the proud father of a son but an unexpected illness earlier in the year led to the death of Phil's mother and reminded us all of what was really important in the lives of SSBA staff and members.

In the summer I was invited to speak at a conference in Barcelona about the work of the SSBA but by the autumn my attention turned to Crossrail. An obscure amendment to the Whitechapel Station provided an opportunity for a second petition to the Commons Committee and this time they were unable to prevent me from presenting our case.

Crossrail could and should have taken a less harmful southerly route to Whitechapel but chose instead (on two occasions) not to change the route in order to protect the land and property values of two major City developments, Cutlers Gardens (at the time the largest land deal ever done in the City) and the Heron Tower - then a proposal not even through its planning process. City greed rather than good planning and considered design had shaped Crossrail and blighted our community and we and others in the Brick Lane area will have to live with the consequences.

In March we petitioned the House of Lords Committee with the help of a leading QC. The chairman of the Commons Committee had again dismissed us and insisted the route was fixed and could not be changed. The Lords proved equally difficult for our QC, insisting it was the Commons who should have changed the route. They could do nothing. And so the petition process ended. The sham it had been from the start!

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT (continued)

Crossrail now tell me (although they will still not officially confirm) that there is expected to be no vent and emergency shaft in Hanbury Street. With no worksites, spoil heaps, demolition lorries and daily construction traffic there will of course be no disruption to our lives and businesses. It could be said (although not by Crossrail) that we have won although collapsed buildings as the tunnels are dug below our properties are still a possibility and the blight and mayhem of Whitechapel is a certainty. Or is it?

2008 marks my 25th year at the SSBA. During that time the SSBA has fought many battles and survived several recessions which halted and destroyed major developments that were destined to change the face of our area forever.

During these times the SSBA held to its principles and worked hard to keep rents down for our tenants.

As a new recession begins to bite business will again become more difficult but I have every confidence that SSBA and staff and tenants can and will survive. The same, I am sure, cannot be said of Crossrail!



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SsBA would like to extend our thanks to:

Muhammad Haque for his Khoodeelaar campaign in support of the community against the Crossrail plans in the Brick Lane area.

Ellie Sice of Safe Studios for her help & support in our office.

Allen & Overy for their Pro Bono work.

LBTH for their Corporate Match Funding support.

Dungarwalla & Co for auditing our accounts.

### FINANCIAL SUMMERY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE	07/08		06/07	
	£K	£K	£K	£K
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Grants	32		95	
Rents	607		572	
Fees & Services	186		160	
Interest Received	1		0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>826</b>		<b>827</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
General Administration	-415		-379	
Business Support Services	-7		-36	
Property Services	-341		-358	
<b>Total</b>		<b>-763</b>		<b>-773</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		<b>63</b>		<b>54</b>

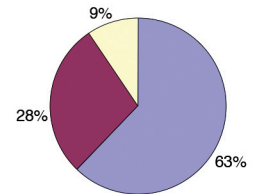
BALANCE SHEET	07/08		06/07	
	£K	£K	£K	£K
Fixed Assets		1,994		1,994
Current Assets	231		200	
Creditors Falling Due in 1 Year	-257		-256	
Net Current Liabilities		-26		-56
Bank Loan		-431		-464
Net assets		<b>1,537</b>		<b>1,474</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>				
Retained Surplus	63		54	
Reserve on Revaluation	1,474		1,420	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,537</b>		<b>1,474</b>

### SSBA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Aziz Choudhury	Chairman
Rhoda Brawne	Treasurer
Pat Brown	
Askandar Ali	Vice chairman
Pervez Qureshi	Vice chairman
Simon Toms	
Bruce Wood	
Gulam Kibria	
Evangelos Pourgoris	
Chanu Miah	
Alan Shaw	
Kulqur Rahman	
Sophie Coudray	
Ellie Sice	

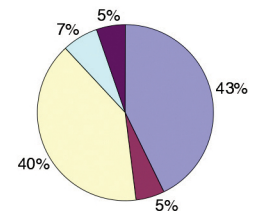
### Business ownership

■ Male  
■ Female  
□ Joint



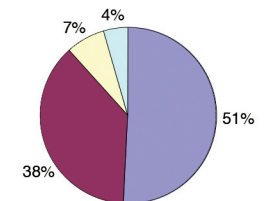
### Ethnicity of businesses

■ Asian / Bangladeshi  
■ Asian Other  
■ White  
■ Black  
■ Mixed



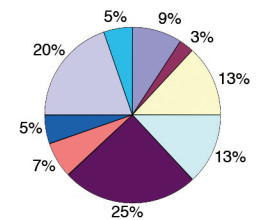
### Size of businesses by number of employees

■ 1 - 3  
■ 4 - 6  
■ 7 - 9  
■ 10 +



### Businesses by sector

■ Architecture, Building & Property  
■ Arts Projects  
■ Community & Training Projects  
■ Design, Print & Media  
■ Fashion,  
■ Food manufacture & General Stores  
■ Photographers  
■ Retail & Professional services  
■ Publications



### SSBA STAFF

Kay Jordan	Director	Company Secretary
Edith Okoth Awour	Deputy Director	
Hardeep Kaur	Finance Manager	
Korona Nessa	Administrator	
Harry Ewer	Maintenance	
Kamal Khan	Maintenance	
Malcolm Reilly	Yard Attendant	
Imran Ahmed	SSBA Online Manager	
Chanu Miah	SSBA Online Technician	
Keith Ball	SSBA Design Group	
Phil Holmes	Crown & Leek Joinery	