

READING FAMILY AID GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1022144

Details

Other names	READING FAMILY AID
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1993-06-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	39 The Crescent Earley Reading RG6 7NW
Phone	07930033413
Email	info@readingfamilyaid.org
Website	www.readingfamilyaid.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF READING BY PROVIDING FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID INHABITANTS

Activities: Provision of Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children in the Reading area. Annual day out to theme park or seaside for disadvantaged families. Annual visit to Pantomime in January each year. Annual visit to Camp Mohawk, centre for families with a member on the autistic spectrum

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** READING AND DISTRICT
- Reading
- West Berkshire
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£48,232	£33,062	-	-
2024-04-30	£36,599	£33,923	-	-
2023-04-30	£29,685	£24,724	-	-
2022-04-30	£31,708	£37,878	-	-
2021-04-30	£44,779	£30,387	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anna Louise Gilbert	Chair	2024-07-04
Carolyn Jane Cheney		2026-01-08
Charlotte Victoria McLean		2023-07-13
Laura Windisch		2020-07-02
Paul Anthony Hayes Cooper		2025-07-10
Susan Joy Deborah Marson		2022-03-03
Vivienne Rosemary Simpson		2020-07-02
WENDY ELIZABETH HOWELL		

READING FAMILY AID GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1022144

Accounts



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2025

e-mail: info@ReadingFamilyAid.org
website: www.ReadingFamilyAid.org
Registered Charity No. 1022144

Address: 61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EX
Phone 07930 033413

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ABOUT THE CHARITY

Our mission is to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area.

Our aim is to bring a little joy into the lives of children and families living with poverty, physical, mental, sexual, alcohol or drug abuse, illness, disability, domestic violence, homelessness or refugee status.

We work through schools, social workers, health visitors, places of worship and other charities and charitable organisations.

We distribute toys at Christmas to children aged 0-16 through our Toys & Teens Appeal.



Where our funds permit, we also provide outings throughout the year for children and their families who couldn't afford to go otherwise. These may be to a theme park, the seaside, a zoo or a farm park; they may also be to local activity centres and adventure playgrounds, theatres and cinemas.

CHAIR'S REPORT

My final year as chair. What can I say? My trepidation at the end of last year without a vice-chair was eventually allayed as Anna stepped forward into the role. So, it's been a very successful year. June began with two fundraising events. The Winnersh Fete was hampered by windy weather whereas the following week, our first attendance at the East Reading Festival in Palmer Park, it was balmy. Both generated income for us and also lots of interest from people who hadn't heard of us before. We met the mayor of Reading, Cllr Glen Dennis and warned him we would meet again for the Toys & Teens Appeal later in the year.



Ruth, Laura and Wendy meeting the Mayor of Reading, Cllr Glen Dennis, at the East Reading Festival

A great surprise was Procter & Gamble becoming a Sponsor. They donated £3,000 to us and held an event that Ruth (Fundraising manager) and Laura (Toys & Teens Appeal manager), were able to attend.

July proved to be another great month for sponsorship. BH&P, a local Reading creative marketing company, challenged themselves to raise £1,000 by walking 1,000 miles in July culminating in a walk from Marlow to Henley for many of the staff.

We were also delighted to announce that TrustID had chosen Reading Family Aid as their first official charity partner!

TrustID is a business specialising in identity document validation services which has grown and developed in Reading over the last ten years, and we're very happy they have chosen to support us as a local charity.

And finally in July, we were delighted to receive the Safe & Sound Governance Certificate from Reading Voluntary Action. Safe and Sound is a quality award developed by RVA that is locally relevant, credible and achievable. It provides Reading's charities with the confidence that they have met a fundamental level of good governance. The primary goal of Safe and Sound is to ensure that trustees have implemented relevant safeguards to protect themselves, the charity, and its beneficiaries, while also fulfilling their core responsibilities. Various committee members, especially Jo, spent a lot of time on this. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Herjeet Randhawa and everyone at Reading Voluntary Action for their unwavering support during our journey to achieve this prestigious award.



It was now time for our summer outings and we started off with a trip to Beale Park Wildlife Trust, followed by Camp Mohawk, a site which specialises in activities for children on the Autistic spectrum. We were grateful to The Berkshire Nurses & Relief in Sickness Trust and The Reading Dispensary Trust who each made a donation of £600 towards this outing.



On the way to an adventure at Camp Mohawk

There were also two coach trips to Bournemouth, plus a visit to Odds Farm Park. This was appreciated by the children and their parents; as one mum told us *"I cannot thank you enough for today, we definitely needed to get out the four walls of home. You won't ever know how much this means to us as a family."*

Our fundraising continued as we took our annual slot at Earley Green Fair and were visited by the mayor of Earley, Mike Smith. BH&P also achieved their target of £1000 by walking 1000 miles. We were also pleased to hear that Procter & Gamble continued to support us with a staff family fun day where they raised £881.



The Mayor of Earley, Mike Smith, and Wendy at the Earley Green Fair

As charities support us, so were we able to support them. In September, RFA had an information stall at St Barnabas Centenary celebrations. St Barnabas hold a Christmas Toy Service and have for many years made an annual donation.

Another celebration we attended was the 40th anniversary of Homestart. A charity we support with toys and outings.

It was now time for the annual Toys & Teens Appeal. This was launched in October by the mayor of Reading, Cllr Glen Dennis. As ever, we were very grateful to our Appeal sponsors – the *Reading Chronicle*, Caversham Van Hire, the Berkshire Masons, Big Yellow and St Luke’s Church. Without the publicity provided by the *Chronicle* and the generous donation of toys by the Masons, not to mention the general public, there would be many sad faces on Christmas morning. One child told us *“I woke on Christmas day and Father Christmas came. I got presents in a sack which I knew came from Father Christmas, as my mummy had told me she couldn’t get us any this year.”*

We also received a large donation of toys from Kids in Mind.



Sheila helping to unload the toys kindly delivered by Gordon of Kids In Mind

In November, St Andrew's Church, Caversham, adopted us as their charity of the year. They launched with their Autumn Fair. Later on in June, Ruth spoke at their annual church council meeting and Wendy spoke to the Mothers' Union.

As well as offering us their hall for Toy Week, St Luke's held a concert in December which raised even more money for us.

And so, the Toys & Teens Appeal was over for another year. 2,509 children received at least four gifts each on Christmas morning thanks to the generosity of the people of Reading. A special "thank you" must go all the volunteers who helped to sort and pack during the week, to the RFA committee, who with their experience helped make things run smoothly and not forgetting our Appeal manager, Laura, whose calming influence got us to the end of the week. This was rounded off with our celebratory meal held at Loddon Brewery this year. Proper Kitchen pulled out all the stops to make it a wonderful evening, despite the cold.



Some of our brilliant volunteers and "Van Men" enjoying dinner at the Loddon Brewery

The New Year started with the annual trip to the Pantomime at the Hexagon, this year it was Cinderella. This was the relaxed performance most suited to the children. We were then able to look forward to our publicity manager Charlie, entering the Reading Half Marathon in March. She completed the run in just over 2 hours and raised £410 for us. In April The Small Strings Ukulele Band held a fundraising gig for us The Club at Mapledurham.



The Small Strings Ukulele Band performing for us at The Club at Mapledurham

BH&P again raised money for us by entering a 5K Tough Mudder event.

More financial donations were received when Ruth accepted a cheque for £875 from the Berkshire County indoor Bowls Association and Wendy received a cheque from Thames Valley Flower Club for £700.

Finally for the period covered in this report, we were able to offer Easter Eggs via events organised by Brighter Futures for Children for looked-after children. We received this lovely message *“Thank you to Reading Family Aid who donated Easter eggs for all young people that attended the Participation events over the Easter holidays. The Children in Care and Care Leavers say thank you and they enjoyed their eggs.”*

And so, as I said at the beginning, another successful year both financially and in supporting so many children in various ways.

The committee has been lucky to attract some more new enthusiastic members, Vicky and Mia, who can help lighten the load. We have several members planning to retire or at least step back in the coming year.

It has been a pleasure to chair RFA for a second time and I wish Anna all the best as she takes over from me in July. I know she will have the backing of all the committee and myself as I will still be active in the charity as it is very close to my heart.

Wendy Howell

June 2025

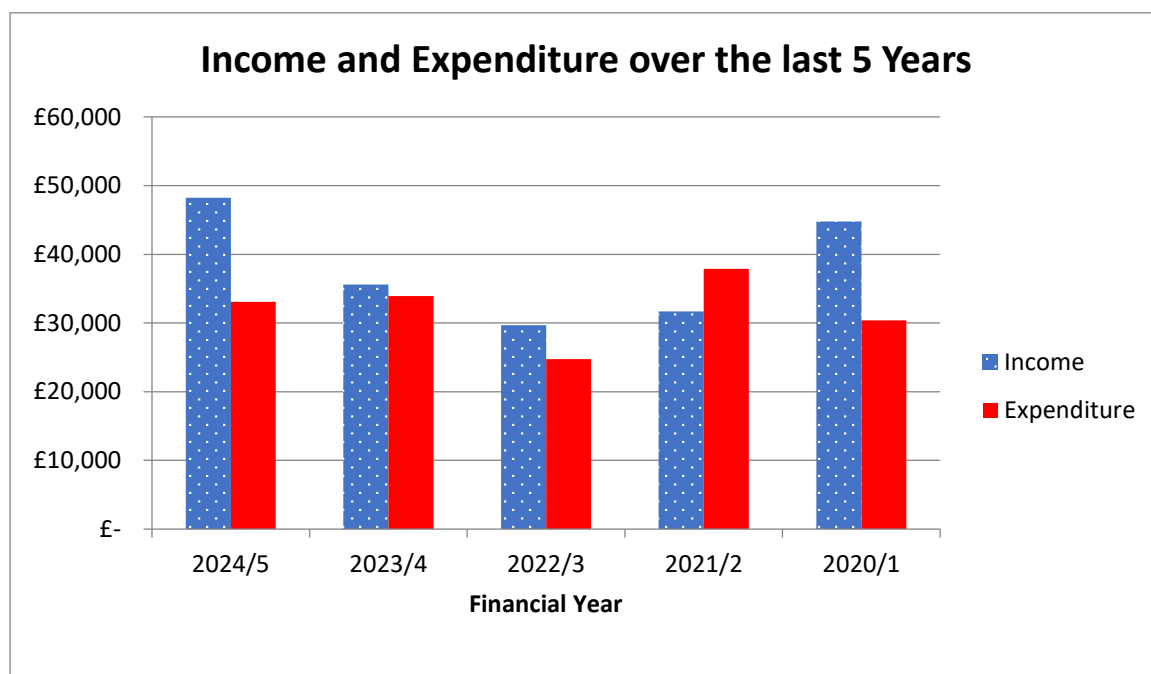
FINANCIAL REPORT: Reading Family Aid Group 2024/5

1. Summary

Total income and expenditure are set out in the table below. Further information is provided in sections 2 and 3 and the Income and Expenditure report overleaf.

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Total income	48,231.61	36,599.10	11,632.51
Total expenditure	33,062.04	33,923.47	-861.43
Surplus	15,169.57	2,675.63	1,2493.94

At the end of April 2025 there was a bank balance of £48,401.09 (April 2024 £33,231.52).



2. Income

Total income in 2024/5 was £48,231.61, £11,632.51 higher than the previous year.

Donations included £3,000 from Gillette's Community Impact Program, together with £881 from their Summer Charity Event. TrustID nominated RFA as a Charity Partner donating £4,000 during this financial year. The Pears Foundation selected RFA as one of 20 small charities to bring Christmas cheer to children & families, donating £3,000.

St Andrews Church in Caversham adopted RFA as their charity to support this year and donated £1,258.59 from their Tea Party. BHP organised a sponsored walk on our behalf and raised over £1,200.

The Thames Valley Flower Club supported us again this year with a £700 donation.

Berkshire Indoor Bowls Club fundraised over the winter months for RFA and donated £875.

The John Sykes foundation provided £1,000 for Christmas Toys for older children.

A Christmas GoFundMe appeal together with many more generous donations from local businesses, schools, churches, many individuals and gift aid provided further income. Donations received in memory of a committee member totalled £346

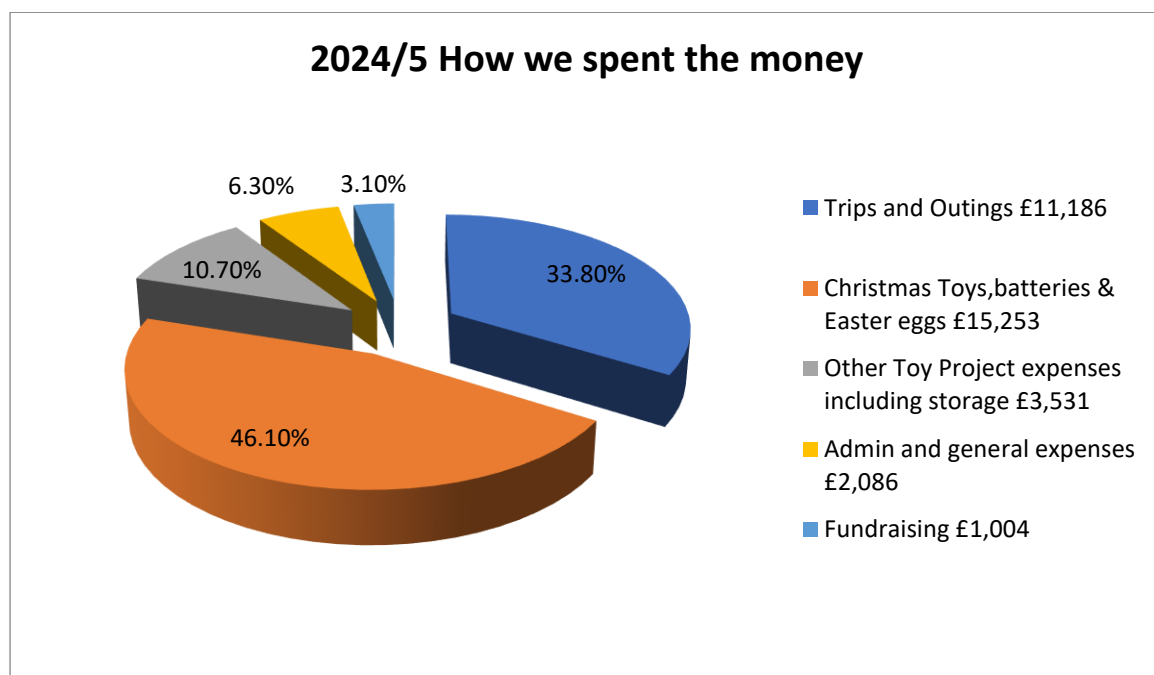
Funding for trips was provided by The Reading Dispensary Trust and Berkshire Nurses for Camp Mohawk (£600 each); St James's Place Newbury Foundation Grant for the Christmas Pantomime visit (£2,277); and the Masons for the autumn trip to Chessington and Thorpe Park (£3,355)

Fundraising by the committee brought in another £1,958 via car boot sales, local fetes and sale of goods. The very successful Small Strings concert evening at The Club at Mapledurham brought in £2,282. Charlie ran the Reading half Marathon raising over £400. Wendy and her husband donated £50 per month towards the storage facility, Laura's father-in-law donated his Reading Community Lottery winnings twice and other committee members or their families made individual donations or matched funding with their employer.

A huge thank you to all our supporters.

3. Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2024/5 was £33,062.04, £861.43 less than in 2023/4. The detail is below:



Christmas Toy Project expenditure

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Toys and batteries	15,193.96	15,733.25	-539.29
Contribution for use of hall	350.00	350.00	-
Labels, bags, publicity and stationery	684.58	542.17	142.41
Van insurance, travel and fuel	421.11	345.56	75.55
Food for helpers	71.66	48.65	23.01
Storage	2004.32	854.70	1,149.62
Total	18,725.63	17,874.33	851.30

Storage expenses increased over 2023/4 (by £1,149) due to the need to store excess toys at Big Yellow for the full year.

Trips and Activities Expenditure

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Caversham Lakes	-	1,244.00	-1,244.00
Coach /(s) to Bournemouth and expenses	1,788.22	2,310.58	-522.36
Chessington/Thorpe Park	3,355.00	3,360.00	-5.00
Beale Park	1,031.50		1031.50
Camp Mohawk	1,260.00	1,145.00	115.00
Panto	2,281.00	3,956.00	-1675.00
Easter Outing to Odds Farm	1,471.10	1,204.80	266.30
Total	11,186.82	13,220.38	-2,033.56

Outings in 2024/5 cost £11,186.82, £2,033 less than 2023/4. Pantomime tickets were all purchased for relaxed performances (saving £1,675 over the previous year), and the trips to Bournemouth took place in good weather so no further costs were incurred for additional entertainment due to inclement weather. (2023/4 £ 480.58 for the Oceanarium).

Admin and General Expenses

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Postage, Stationery, Phone	274.88	349.43	-74.55
Website & email service	421.93	417.61	4.32
Room Hire	44.00	45.00	-1.00
Liability Insurance	499.14	472.34	26.80
Fundraising Expenses	1,004.00	54.00	950.00
Admin subscriptions	514.88	435.88	79.00
Committee Training	60.00	33.00	27.00
Equipment purchases	271.56	0	271.56
Total	3,090.39	1,807.26	1,283.13

After success in the recent charity ballot, fundraising expenses in 2024/5 include the entry fee in April 2026 for 2 places in the London Marathon (£960)

Equipment purchase in 2024/5 includes weights for the gazebo (£157.20), vinyl to customise tops (£35.96) and lanyards (£78.40) for committee members.

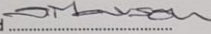
READING FAMILY AID GROUP
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2025

INCOME:		Year ended 30th April 2025		Year ended 30th April 2024
Donations				
	General (including Toy Project and Gift Aid)	£	35,642.27	£ 32,163.82
Funding				
	Berkshire Nurses for Camp Mohawk	£	600.00	
	Reading Dispensary for Camp Mohawk	£	600.00	
	St. James Place for Panto	£	2,277.00	
	Masons for Chessington/Thorpe Park	£	3,355.00	
	John Sykes Foundation - Toy project	£	1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
	Magic Little Grant (camp Mohawk)			£ 500.00
	Englefield Trust (Odds Farm trip)			£ 1,100.00
	Reading Lions (Giving Tree)			£ 1,000.00
		£	7,832.00	£ 3,600.00
Fundraising				
	Fairs, Car boot, textiles	£	1,492.77	£ 285.00
	Small Strings Concert	£	2,282.15	
		£	-	
Sale of Goods		£	465.00	£ 285.00
Other Income				
	Deposit Account Interest	£	517.42	£ 265.28
Total Income		£	48,231.61	£ 36,599.10
EXPENDITURE:				
	Toy Project : General expenses	£	1,367.02	£ 1,587.88
	Toy Project :Toys, Gifts and vouchers	£	15,193.96	£ 15,431.75
	Toy Project: Storage	£	2,004.32	£ 854.70
	Toy Project:Advertising	£	160.33	
	Pantomime	£	2,281.00	£ 3,956.00
	Summer / Autumn outings	£	6,174.72	£ 6,914.58
	Camp Mohawk outing	£	1,260.00	£ 1,145.00
	Easter Outing 2024	£	1,471.10	£ 1,204.80
	Easter Eggs for refugees	£	59.20	£ 210.00
	Birthday Celebrations			£ 811.50
	Fundraising exps : Marathon entry	£	1,039.96	
	Admin & general expenses	£	1,754.83	£ 1,807.26
	Equipment:Lanyards and Gazebo weights	£	295.60	
Total Expenditure		£	33,062.04	£ 33,923.47
Surplus/(deficit-) of income over expenditure		£	15,169.57	£ 2,675.63

Reading Family Aid Group Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2025 £	As at 30 April 2024 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	1,589.96	2,890.43
Barclays Deposit Account	46,658.51	30,341.09
Paypal Account	152.62	-
Total Assets	48,401.09	33,231.52
Funds at beginning of year	33,231.52	30,555.89
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	15,169.57	2,675.63
Funds at end of year	48,401.09	33,231.52

Prepared by: Mrs S. Marson, Treasurer

Signed 

Dated 31.5.25

Notes to the accounts

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Total funds at the end of April 2025 are £48,401.09. These are all unrestricted. A large part of these funds will be used to finance trips, Christmas Toy project and ongoing expenses in the financial year ending 30th April 2026

Reserves Policy

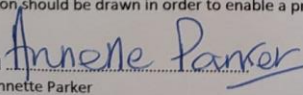
The trustees aim to keep sufficient unrestricted funds to cover a year of essential expenditure. This includes insurance, admin expenses and toy project expenses as well as a further buffer to cover any unexpected expenses. The reserve amount is set to be £5,000

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2025. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Dated 26/6/25
Mrs Annette Parker

TRUSTEES

Chair: Wendy Howell

Vice Chair: Anna Gilbert

Secretary: Laura Windisch

Treasurer: Sue Marson

Others: Charlotte McLean
Vivienne Simpson

CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Governing Document:

Reading Family Aid Group operates in accordance with its constitution adopted on 21 April 1993, as amended on 16 June 2004, 19 July 2016, 4 March 2021 and 11th Jan 2024

UK Charity Commission registration number: 1022144

Charity Commission for England and Wales Public Benefit Guidance:

The trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity Registered Address:

61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7EX

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner:

Ms Annette Parker



READING FAMILY AID GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1022144

Accounts



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2024

Email: info@ReadingFamilyAid.org

Address: 61 Woodcote Road, Caversham,
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Website: www.ReadingFamilyAid.org

Phone: 07930 033413

Registered charity no: 1022144

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ABOUT THE CHARITY

Our mission is to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area.

Our aim is to bring a little joy into the lives of families living with poverty, abuse, illness, disability, homelessness, or refugee status.

We work through schools, social workers, health visitors, community nurses, places of worship, and other charities.

We distribute toys at Christmas to children aged 0-16 through our *Toys and Teens Appeal*.

Where our funds permit, we also provide outings throughout the year for children and their families who otherwise would not be able to go. We take families to theme parks, the seaside, farm parks, activity centres, and to the pantomime at Christmas.



CHAIR'S REPORT

In June 2023 Reading Family Aid marked 30 years since becoming an official Charity. Vivienne had the marvellous idea of inviting 30 local children with birthdays close to ours to help us celebrate. We contacted schools, social workers and health visitors to find the children, and held a party in the Forbury Gardens, inviting the children and their families. The weather was very kind and the families enjoyed the cake and the games and the presents.



At the AGM in July, I started my first year as chair (although for the second time around) with some trepidation. Firstly, I had no vice-chair and secondly, we had lost two key members. Sravanthi, the outgoing chair, and Roz were both stepping down. However, all was not lost.

A successful recruitment campaign spearheaded by Ruth, Vivienne and Charlie resulted in six new members. Amber, Angela, Anna G, Carolyn, Nikki and Victoria. (Amber and Nikki have since stepped back, possibly temporarily in both instances).

During the school summer holidays Vivienne and the Outings team arranged a number of events for families, including trips to Bournemouth, Caversham Lakes, and Camp Mohawk.



The September meeting was held in-person. Thanks to Vivienne for organising for us to meet at the Reading Canoe Club (and for the delicious food). This enabled most of the new members to meet the existing members. We were able to welcome Paul back to the Committee, but sadly Jo Saunders had to resign. The good news was that Vivienne stepped up to the role of vice-chair. We were able to report that the Fence Club had donated £2,000 towards outings, the Toy Project plans were getting started, Adult and Children Safeguarding training was to be organised and the publicity team got RFA onto Instagram and Threads and also updated the Christmas poster.

The November meeting saw another resignation (from Angela), but on a lighter note, plans for the Toy Project were progressing well. Laura was interviewed twice by Radio Berkshire and a “boost” post on Facebook had generated some significant responses with some 5000 views and 200 clicks to our links. NewsThump, a Reading-based satire and spoof news organisation, posted links to our Wish List and some 100 gifts were purchased for us by their followers.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Vera Box, an original member, if not the instigator of the charity. I was able to attend her funeral on our behalf.

December as ever, was a busy month. I and Jill attended carol singing at the Waitrose in Tilehurst at the invitation of the Reading Lions, who had earlier generously contributed £1000 to the Toys and Teens Appeal. The Berkshire Masons once again made a generous donation of toys during Toy Week. Many other donations were made, including excess items from the Cowshed and the Giving Tree, such that we agreed to hire a unit at Big Yellow until the following year. A monthly donation to offset the expense was made by the Chair. We were blessed with many volunteers during Toy Week and everyone’s hard work resulted in just short of 2,500 children receiving gifts.



January saw the annual trip to the Pantomime and as ever, it was a great success. We later had a celebratory meal at Quattro’s in Caversham for members, volunteers, and partners. Vivienne, our Safeguarding lead, provided an informal introduction to safeguarding; all members subsequently took an online course. Due to family and other commitments, Anna W had to stand down.

In February, members attended a reception hosted by the mayor of Reading, Councillor Tony Page. Having visited us during the Toy Week, he was impressed and wanted to show his thanks. It was a pleasant and informative evening.



At the March meeting, we welcomed Yvette to the publicity team and were able to share the news that Reading Golf Club had raised £12,265 for us over the past 12 months. Thanks to Ruth for her initial contact and for accepting the cheque on our behalf.



Also in March, we received a very welcome donation of toys from *Kids In Mind*. Gordon, a trustee of *Kids In Mind*, delivered the toys and also very kindly unloaded them all for us!



In April we were approached by Procter & Gamble who wanted to partner with us for the next two years. There was to be an initial donation of £3000. Several committee members joined with P & G in a Zoom meeting and a plan for the future was formed. I am pleased to say that after another call for a vice-chair, Anna G agreed to put herself forward at the AGM. We were also delighted to hear that after a great deal of hard work on our part, especially from Jo Skidmore, we have been awarded the Reading Voluntary Action Safe and Sound kitemark. This demonstrates our commitment to good governance of our charity.

Also in April we partnered for the second year with Reading Refugee Support Group to provide Easter eggs for some 70 children from refugee families. Maria Baker from RRSG said “The gift of the Easter eggs was met with much excitement and joy. Refugee and asylum-seeking children from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Ukraine and other countries were able to celebrate a traditional custom in safety with their friends and family. Smiles were plentiful.”



Much more has happened during the last twelve months, especially behind closed doors. The finance report/fundraising report highlights many other donations. I very much appreciate all the work that the committee members put in, especially those who have key roles. Sue for her meticulous accounts and budget planning, Laura for taking the minutes of all the meetings and spearheading the Toy Project. To Sheila for managing our info account and sending emails to the right person. To Vivienne and her team for planning and organising all the outings throughout the year (over 650 people attended this year!). To Ruth and team for the research and planning that goes into the applications for funding. And finally, to Charlie and team who keep us in the public eye with social media and newsletters.

I said earlier in this report that the year started with trepidation on my part but I can safely say that I go into my final year as chair backed by a great team of people who are gifted and dedicated in the roles they perform and who, like me, just want to

Put a smile on Children’s Faces.

Wendy Howell, Chair, July 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Summary

Total income and expenditure are set out in the table below. Further information is provided in sections 2 and 3 and the Income and Expenditure report overleaf.

	2023/24	2022/23	Change
	£	£	£
Total income	36,599.10	29,684.86	6,914.24
Total expenditure	33,923.47	24,723.75	9,199.72
Surplus	2,675.63	4,961.11	-2,285.48

2. Income

Total income in 2023/24 was £36,599.10, £6,914.24 higher than the previous year.

Funding was generously provided towards the Toy Project from The John Sykes Foundation (£1,000) and the Lions Club Reading (£1,000).

Funding for trips was provided by A Magic Little Grant for £500 (Camp Mohawk) and Englefield Trust for £1,100 (Easter Odds Farm trip). £3,560 had already been donated in 2022/23 by the Fence Club and Toy Trust towards this year's Bournemouth, Caversham Lakes, Chessington and Thorpe Park trips.

Fund raising by The Caversham Home of Reading Golf Course brought in a magnificent £12,265 donation and Waitrose kindly donated £3,750. A GoFundMe appeal together with generous donations from local businesses, churches, many individuals and gift aid provided further income. Donations received in memory of 2 committee members totalled £622.33 to date.

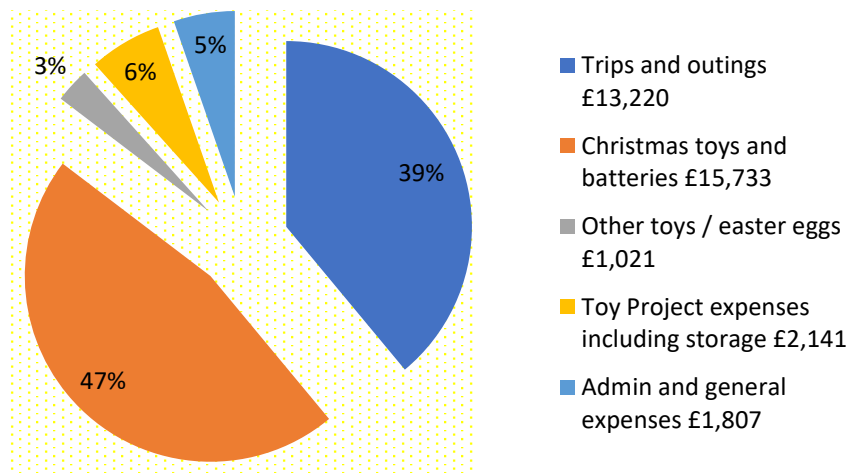
Fundraising by the committee brought in another £570 via car boot sales and sale of goods and textiles.

3. Expenditure

Total expenditure in 23/24 was £33,923.47, £ 9,199.72 more than 22/23. An additional £5,903.99 was spent on toys and batteries for Christmas 2023 Toy project, and additional storage costs of £676 incurred for toys for next year. £811.50 was spent on toys to celebrate our 'birthday'.

Trips cost £1,953 more than last year with an additional trip organised to Chessington and Thorpe Park for the older children in October. A second coach visit was also arranged to Bournemouth in the summer together with a visit to the Oceanarium due to the inclement weather.

2023/24 How we spent the money



Christmas Toy Project expenditure	2023/24	2022/23	Change
	£	£	£
Toys and batteries	15,733.25	9,829.26	5,903.99
Contribution for use of hall	350.00	250.00	100.00
Labels, bags, publicity and stationery	542.17	444.24	97.93
Van insurance, travel and fuel	345.56	389.99	-44.43
Food for helpers	48.65	39.80	8.85
Storage	854.70	192.00	662.70
Total	17,874.33	11,145.29	6,729.04

Trips and Activities Expenditure	2023/24	2022/23	Change
	£	£	£
Caversham Lakes	1,244.00	1,686.00	-442.00.
Coach /(s) to Bournemouth and expenses	2,310.58	840.00	1,470.58
Chessington/Thorpe Park	3,360.00	1,575.00	1,785.00
Bucklebury Farm		1,014.80	-1,014.80
Camp Mohawk	1,145.00	1,130.00	15.00
Panto	3,956.00	3,940.00	16.00
Easter Outing to Odds Farm	1,204.80	1,081.20	123.60
Total	13,220.38	11,267.00	1,953.36

READING FAMILY AID
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30th APRIL 2024

	Year Ended 30th April 2024 £	Year Ended 30th April 2023 £
Income		
Donations		
General /Toy Project donations with Gift Aid	8,351.89	21,094.63
Toy Project appeal	7,796.93	
Reading Golf Club	12,265.00	
Waitrose	3,750.00	
	32,163.82	21,094.63
Funding		
Magic Little Grant (Camp Mohawk)	500.00	500.00
Englefield Trust (Odds Farm Easter 24)	1,100.00	
John Sykes (for Toy Project)	1,000.00	1,000.00
Reading Lions / Giving Tree 2023 (for toys)	1,000.00	1,500.00
Tesco Groundworks (Toys)		1,000.00
Fence Club (for Caversham Lakes trip 2024)		2,000.00
Toy Trust (for Bournemouth trip 2024)		1,560.00
	3,600.00	7,560.00
Fundraising		
Fairs, Car boot, textiles	285.00	800.50
Sale of Goods	285.00	200.00
Other Income		
Deposit Account Interest	265.28	29.73
	-	-
Total Income	36,599.10	29,684.86
Expenditure		
Toy Project : General expenses	1,587.88	1,124.03
Toy Project :Toys, Gifts and vouchers	15,431.75	9,829.26
Toy Project: Storage	854.70	192.00
Pantomime	3,956.00	3,940.00
Summer / Autumn outings	6,914.58	5,115.80
Camp Mohawk outing	1,145.00	1,130.00
Easter Outing 2024	1,204.80	1,081.20
Easter Eggs for refugees	210.00	140.00
Birthday celebrations	811.50	-
Admin & general expenses	1,807.26	2,171.46
	-	-
Total Expenditure	33,923.47	24,723.75
Surplus of income over expenditure	2,675.63	4,961.11

**READING FAMILY AID GROUP
BALANCE SHEET**

	As at 30 April 2024 £	As at 30 April 2023 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	2,890.43	1,230.08
Barclays Deposit Account	30,341.09	29,325.81
Total Assets	33,231.52	30,555.89
Funds at beginning of year	30,555.89	25,594.78
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	2,675.63	4,961.11
Funds at end of year	33,231.52	30,555.89

Prepared by: S. Marson, Treasurer

Signed S Marson Dated 30.5.2024

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Total funds at the end of April 2024 are £33,231.52. £1,245.29 has been donated towards toys for the 2024 Toy Project.

All other funds are unrestricted

It is currently planned to use most of the existing funds to finance activities in the year ended 30th April 2025.

Reserves Policy:

The trustees aim to keep sufficient unrestricted funds to cover a year of essential expenditure. This includes insurance, admin expenses and toy project expenses as well as a further buffer to cover any unexpected expenses.

The reserve amount is set to be £5,000

Independent Examiner's Statement:

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30th April 2024. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed Annette Parker Dated 18/6/24

Mrs Annette Parker

TRUSTEES

Chair: Wendy Howell

Vice Chair: Vivienne Simpson

Secretary: Laura Windisch

Treasurer: Sue Marson

Others: Charlie McLean, Ruth Perkins, Sallie Wall

CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Governing Document

Reading Family Aid Group operates in accordance with its constitution adopted on 21

April 1993, as amended on 16 June 2004, 19 July 2016, 4 March 2021 and 11 January 2024

UK Charity Commission registration number: 1022144

Charity Commission for England and Wales Public Benefit Guidance

The trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity Registered Address

61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7EX

READING FAMILY AID GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1022144

Accounts



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2023

e-mail: info@ReadingFamilyAid.org
website: www.ReadingFamilyAid.org
Registered Charity No. 1022144

Address: 61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EX
Phone 07930 033413

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ABOUT THE CHARITY

Our mission is to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area.

Our aim is to bring a little joy into the lives of children and families living with poverty, physical, mental, sexual, alcohol or drug abuse, illness, disability, homelessness or refugee status.

We work through schools, social workers, health visitors, places of worship and other charities and charitable organisations.

We distribute toys at Christmas to children aged 0-16 through our *Toys & Teens* Appeal.



Where our funds permit, we also provide outings throughout the year for children and their families who couldn't afford to go otherwise. These may be to a theme park, the seaside, a zoo or a farm park; they may also be to local activity centres and adventure playgrounds, theatres and cinemas.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Overview

Thanks to our supporters, sponsors, partners, volunteers and all members of Reading Family Aid, we have had another successful year bringing more smiles to more children's faces.

Our committee has displayed a remarkable level of dedication by consistently going above and beyond expectations. We have demonstrated a proactive approach, contributed innovative ideas and worked diligently.

This year we have successfully enhanced our efficiency, governance, and productivity.

Outings

Vivienne organised a wide range of outings this year.

Children enjoyed seeing the animals, tractor rides and deer feeding at Bucklebury Farm, a day of relaxation and fun at Bournemouth Beach, an exciting day at Chessington World of Adventures, a delightful time at Camp Mohawk, and an enjoyable Panto at Christmas time and experienced many happy memories to cherish.

Brilliant work by Vivienne. Special thanks to Vivienne, Sallie and Roz from the Outings Team and all our committee members involved in making this so successful.

Christmas Toy Project

After a two-year break, the 2022 Christmas Toys and Teens event was the first time since the pandemic that we organised a full toy appeal, setting up Donation Points across town and inviting everyone to kindly donate toys.

However, it was a challenging year, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, which resulted in a greater number of children in need while witnessing a decline in toy contributions.

With the help of our sponsors, supporters, toy donators, volunteers, Van men and our amazing committee members – we managed to provide each child with at least a couple of toys or gifts each.

We provided gifts for 3001 children this year – the highest number we've ever supported. Feedback from requestors was overwhelmingly positive.

Special Commendations to Laura for her meticulous planning, unwavering commitment and perseverance. Thanks to everyone involved in the toy project.

Publicity and Fundraising

Our dedicated publicity team, Charlie and Anna, played a crucial role in our success despite being short-staffed. Their consistent efforts in producing informative newsletters and executing effective publicity strategies greatly contributed to our achievements. Thanks to Ruth for providing regular blog updates, further enhancing our outreach and engagement.

Thanks to our fundraising team Ruth, Wendy, Jo, Celia and Val for sourcing and securing funding for our charity. Their diligent efforts have resulted in several successful grants, including Tesco Community grants, an application to the Fence Club to sponsor the visit to Caversham Lakes, support from the Toy Trust for the Bournemouth trip, and the honour of being chosen as the charity of choice at Reading Golf Club for the upcoming year. Their invaluable contributions have significantly bolstered our financial resources and enabled us to further our mission.

Accounting and Admin

We have had several additions to our committee this year.

Jo Skidmore has joined us to provide valuable support in the areas of governance and administration. Additionally, Jo Saunders and Celia have joined us to lend their expertise to funding efforts and the Toy Project. We also warmly welcome Lauren O'Neill, who will be assisting with the Toy Project.

I would also like to acknowledge the departure of David, Krista, Paul, Maria, Harini, and Tracy. We extend our sincere appreciation for their contributions during their time with us.

Based on Ruth's valuable suggestion, the committee collectively decided to pursue and prepare for the attainment of the Safe and Sound kitemark. Jo, Ruth, Sue, and Laura collaborated closely, formulating proposals that gained approval from the committee. As a result, our documents have been revised and significant process improvements have been implemented, ensuring our readiness for when RVA initiates the Safe and Sound evaluation process for our Charity.

We have successfully implemented a robust planning and budgeting process within our organization. To streamline decision-making, major proposals are now reviewed and approved by the Trustees, relieving the entire committee of this responsibility. We have also made significant improvements in managing our committee members, trustee induction and safeguarding practices.

Furthermore, we have initiated the maintenance of a comprehensive risk register specifically tailored for the charity, ensuring proactive risk management and mitigation strategies are in place. These initiatives collectively contribute to enhancing the overall governance and operational efficiency of our organization.

Wendy has been an absolute powerhouse as the vice chair. Thank you.

Thanks to Laura for being the secretary and for her patience with me.

Thanks to Sheila for taking care of the charity's email account and her contributions to Governance and Administration.

Thanks to Sue for her outstanding diligence and meticulousness in managing financial matters with accuracy and attention to detail.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Summary

2022/23 Accounts reflect the relaxation of Covid19 measures on Reading Family Aid's activities.

Coach outings were resumed, together with local activities, including the pantomime visit, arranged.

A full Toy Project at Christmas, with collection from donation points and distribution of donated toys took place. New toys were also purchased to help with the increased demand and supplement donations.

Total income and expenditure are set out in the table below. Further information is provided in sections 2 and 3 and the Income and Expenditure report overleaf.

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £	Change £
Total income	29,684.86	31,708.37	(2,023.51)
Total expenditure	(24,723.75)	(37,877.64)	(13,153.89)
Surplus/(deficit)	4,961.11	(6,169.27)	11,130.38

2. Income

Total income in 2022/23 was £29,684.86, £2,023.51 lower than the previous year.

Funding was generously provided towards the Toy Project from The John Sykes Foundation (£1,000), Connect Reading Giving Tree including the Reading Lions (£1,500), and Tesco Groundworks (£1,000).

A Magic Little Grant of £500 was received towards the summer 2022 Camp Mohawk trip.

Funding has also been gratefully received from The Fence Club (£2,000) and Toy Trust (£1,560) towards the summer 2023 activities. No funding was received in 2021/22.

A GoFundMe appeal together with generous donations from local businesses, churches, many individuals and gift aid provided further income.

Being able to run stalls again at both Winnersh Fete and Earley Green Fair raised £800.50.

3. Expenditure

Total expenditure in 22/23 was £24,723.75, £ 13,153.89 less than 21/22.

Further detail is below and in the Income and Expenditure report overleaf.

£11,267 was spent on coaches, outings and the pantomime and £11,145.29 on the Toy Project. No toys were purchased in the summer this year although Easter eggs were supplied to children at a local Easter party.

Christmas Toy Project expenditure	2022/23 £	2021/22 £	Increase/(decrease) £
Toys, gifts, and batteries	9,829.26	23,697.21	(13,867.95)
Contribution for use of hall	250.00	250.00	-
Labels, bags and stationery	444.24	67.06	377.18
Van insurance, travel and fuel	389.99	224.19	165.80
Food for helpers	39.80	3.00	36.80
Storage	192.00	81.77	110.23
Total	11,145.29	24,323.23	(13,177.94)

Trips and Activities Expenditure	2022/23 £	2021/22 £	Increase/decrease £
Caversham Lakes	1,686.00	1,482.00	204.00
Coach to Bournemouth	840.00	-	840.00
Chessington	1,575.00	-	1,575.00
Bucklebury Farm	1,014.80	-	1,014.80
Camp Mohawk	1,130.00	675.00	455.00
Panto (22/23 includes Dec 23 deposit)	3,940.00	2,342.00	1,598.00
Easter Outing to Odds Farm	1,081.20	941.65	139.55
RBC Playrangers	-	1,250.00	(1,250.00)
Canoeing/climbing wall	-	340.00	(340.00)
Total	11,267.00	7,030.65	4,236.35

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind, other than the reimbursement of expenses.

A replacement mobile phone, another banner and a card reader machine were purchased.

READING FAMILY AID
Income and Expenditure Report

	Year ended 30th April 2023 £	Year ended 30 April 2022 £
Income		
Donations		
General / Toy Project donations with Gift Aid	21,094.63	31,624.78
Funding		
Magic Little Grant (for Camp Mohawk)	500.00	
John Sykes Foundation (Toys)	1,000.00	
Giving Tree (Toys)	1,500.00	
Tesco Groundworks (For Toy Project Toys)	1,000.00	
Fence Club (for Caversham Lakes 2024)	2,000.00	
Toy Trust (for Bournemouth Trip 2024)	1,560.00	
	<u>7,560.00</u>	
Fundraising		
Earley Green Fair	577.50	-
Winnersh fete	223.00	-
	<u>800.50</u>	-
Sale of Goods		
Sale of items	200.00	82.08
Other Income		
Deposit Account Interest	29.73	1.51
	-	-
Total Income	<u>29,684.86</u>	<u>31,708.37</u>
Expenditure		
Toy Project : General expenses	1,124.03	544.25
Toy Project :Toys, gifts & batteries	9,829.26	23,697.21
Toy Project: Storage	192.00	81.77
Summer toys		5,431.10
Pantomime	3,940.00	2,342.00
Easter Outing /Easter Eggs	1,221.20	941.65
Summer / Autumn outings	5,115.80	3,072.00
Camp Mohawk outing	1,130.00	675.00
Admin & general expenses	1,424.98	470.82
Local Giving subscriptions	180.00	96.00
Liability Insurance	472.26	502.94
Website	94.22	22.90
Total Expenditure	<u>24,723.75</u>	<u>37,877.64</u>
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	4,961.11	(6,169.27)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2023 £	As at 30 April 2022 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	1,230.08	4,941.70
Barclays Deposit Account	29,325.81	20,653.08
Total Assets	30,555.89	25,594.78
Funds at beginning of year	25,594.78	31,764.05
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	4,961.11	(6,169.27)
Funds at end of year	30,555.89	25,594.78

Prepared by: S. Marson, Treasurer

Date:

S Marson

31.5.23

Funds

Total funds at end April 2023 are £30,555.89. £1,560 has been donated towards 2024 trip to Bournemouth and £2,000 towards an outing in 2024 to Caversham Lakes. All other funds are unrestricted.

It is currently planned to use most of the existing funds to finance activities in the year ending 30 April 2024, including a trip to Camp Mohawk, various other trips and summer activities. The remainder will finance the 2023 Christmas activities, including buying toys, and ongoing costs.

Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2023. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:

CM Heath

Date:

15th June, 2023

CHRISTINE M. HEATH

TRUSTEES

Chair Sravanthi Yellapragada

Vice Chair Wendy Howell

Secretary Laura Windisch

Treasurer Sue Marson (from 3rd March 2022)

Others: Roslyn Heinze
 Wendy Howell
 Valerie Sansom
 Vivienne Simpson
 Sallie Wall

CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Governing Document

Reading Family Aid Group operates in accordance with its constitution adopted on 21 April 1993, as amended on 16 June 2004, 19 July 2016 and 4 March 2021.

UK Charity Commission registration number: 1022144

Charity Commission for England and Wales Public Benefit Guidance

The trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity Commission for England and Wales Cy-Pres Scheme Application

The trustees applied for a cy-pres scheme to the Charity Commission to allow them to use the excess funds raised in the 2020 Christmas Toys and Teens Appeal on toys and gifts in the future and received final approval on May 7th 2021.

Charity Registered Address

61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7EX

READING FAMILY AID GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1022144

Accounts



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2022

e-mail: info@ReadingFamilyAid.org
website: www.ReadingFamilyAid.org
Registered Charity No. 1022144

Address: 61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EX
Phone 07930 033413

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ABOUT THE CHARITY

Our mission is to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area.

Our aim is to bring a little joy into the lives of children and families living with poverty, physical, mental, sexual, alcohol and drug abuse, illness, disability, homelessness or refugee status.

We work through schools, social workers, health visitors, places of worship and other charities and charitable organisations.

We distribute toys at Christmas to children aged 0-16 through our *Toys & Teens* Appeal.



Where our funds permit, we also provide outings throughout the year for children and their families who couldn't afford to go otherwise. These may be to a theme park, the seaside, a zoo or a farm park; they may also be to local activity centres and adventure playgrounds, theatres and cinemas.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Overview

Thanks to our supporters, sponsors, partners and especially to all our amazing members of Reading Family Aid, we have had another successful year bringing smiles to children's faces.

We have proved that with our tenacity and diligence we can tackle any challenges we face.

This was my first year as chair and it was an honour to have this responsibility.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and celebrations

We have been very thrilled to be honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

We celebrated this award together at our last AGM with a special cake.

In September, the then Reading's Mayor Cllr David Stevens met with some from our committee to congratulate us.

Berkshire community foundation invited us for a celebratory afternoon tea at Ascot Racecourse. This was attended by Duke of Wessex who thanked all the volunteers for the work done during covid pandemic. Laura and Sallie attended this afternoon tea on behalf of Reading Family Aid.

We received the award on October 7th at Reading Town Hall from Mr James Puxley, the Lord Lieutenant of Royal County of Berkshire.

We were also invited to Queens Garden party held in May 2022.

Summer

Our summer was jam packed this year.

A wide variety of outings were arranged. They were enjoyed by all age groups and ranged from adventure filled rock climbing and canoeing to a relaxed day at the beach in Caversham lakes, a fun day at play rangers and our all-time favourite Camp Mohawk.

Thanks to Vivienne and team for arranging these outings.

We have started to use online forms for booking onto our events.

We also drafted up a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sign with our partner organisations. This MoU helps us to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of

Reading Family Aid and the partner organisation in respect of working with each other to deliver Outings and Events

We also did a summer toy project this year.

Christmas Toy Project

The number of children in need of our support has been on a steady increase in the last few years.

We have successfully delivered a highly efficient toy project with less resources and supported more children. Special thanks to Laura's grit and diligence, hard work of our purchasing elves Sallie, Ruth, Roz and Wendy, and to Sue, David and Vivienne for keeping our accounts in check throughout the project. Thanks to VanMen and all the volunteers who helped with our Christmas toy project.

We have supported 2558 children in Reading this year with our Christmas Toys and Teens Appeal.

Reading's Mayor Rachel Eden and a lot of local companies supported our appeal.

We distributed donated toys and bought toys online as part of our Toy Project. We used more of online forms and streamlined the overall process. A training was given to RFA members having to use the online forms.

The donated toys were sorted and packed into sacks of several age ranges. The requestors who received these sacks sorted and distributed them to families. We carried out a feedback survey and requestors were largely happy with our new approach and happy to continue sorting the toys to families themselves.

We want to take these learnings to future toy projects as this would help us support more children in future.

Publicity and Fundraising

All our success would not be possible without our fantastic and talented publicity team – Thanks to Charlie, Anna, Krista and Maria. Our newsletters, blogs and appeals were very engaging. You have helped spread the word of our good work and bring this community closer together.

Thanks to our fundraising team for all the good work they do with our supporters and sponsors.

We have had the pleasure of working with Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge school. Our team went over to MECE school to inspire the young minds to come up with fundraising ideas they could organise. A very positive outcome overall to have these students interested in community charity.

On Mother's Day, Glass Ensemble, an all-female choir, held a concert at St Barnabas Church in Emmer Green and the retiring collection was donated to our charity.

Accounting and Admin

Sue stepped in as our new treasurer and did an amazing job. David and Sue did a diligent job keeping our accounts in check. Sue updated our bank mandates this year as per our new roles.

Wendy was my absolute rock as vice chair.

Special thanks to Laura for being the secretary and enduring all the work that the role brings.

Thanks to Ruth for providing valuable guidance and insight with her expertise and experience.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Summary

The accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022 reflect the continuing uncertainty of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Reading Family Aid's activities.

Social distancing and possible lockdown regulations meant that a normal Toy Project, using volunteers to sort and distribute toys was not feasible. A GoFundMe fundraising appeal was again launched and a reduced number of donated toys were collected. Additional toys were purchased and delivered direct.

The Charity Commission approved the Cy-Pres scheme for the excess income from the 2020/21 Toy and Teens appeal to be used for toys in subsequent years. This was used for toys purchased during the summer 2021 and the rest for the Christmas Toy Project.

Outings were arranged to local venues rather than involving longer journeys in coaches.

Total income and expenditure are set out in the table below. Further information is provided in sections 2 and 3.

	2021/22	2020/21	Change
	£	£	£
Total income	31,708.37	44,778.54	(13,070.17)
Total expenditure	(37,877.64)	(30,387.30)	(7,490.34)
Surplus/(deficit)	(6,169.27)	14,391.24	20,560.51

2. Income

The main components of income are set out in the table below.

Income	2021/22	2020/21	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
General/toy project donations	30,372.82	40,183.62	(9,810.80)
Local Giving donations	946.89	1,351.09	(404.20)
Fundraising and other	306.58	243.83	62.75
Funding	-	3,000.00	(3000.00)
Sale of goods	82.08	-	82.08
Total	31,708.37	44,778.54	(13,070.17)

Total income in 2021/22 was £31,708.37, £13,080.17 lower than the previous year.

General/toy project monetary donations were £9,810.80 lower than the previous year. This includes £22,272.63 raised to purchase toys and gifts for the 2021 Toy Project. (£31,550.59 was raised for the 2020 Toy Project). The excess income from 2020 Toy and Teens appeal was also available to purchase toys via the Cy-Pres scheme.

Donations through Local Giving were £404.20 lower, as again, we used a GoFundMe fundraising page for the Toys and Teens appeal.

No funding was received in 2021/22. Last year £3,000 was received from the Toy Trust.

Fundraising and other income decreased by £1,135.70 to £243.83. No fundraising activities were arranged in 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic uncertainties.

3. Expenditure

The main components of expenditure are set out in the table below.

Expenditure	2021/22	2020/21	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
Toy project	24,241.46	21,207.28	3,034.18
Summer toys	5,431.10	4,480.20	950.90
Toy Trust and other toys	-	3,026.13	(3,026.13)
Summer outings	3,072.00	-	3,072.00
Pantomime	2,342.00	-	2,342.00
Camp Mohawk	675.00	-	675.00
Easter 2022 Outing	941.65	-	941.65
Room hire/storage	81.77	986.88	(905.11)
Liability insurance	502.94	468.16	34.78
Other	589.72	218.65	371.07
Total	37,877.64	30,387.30	7,490.34

Total expenditure in 2021/22 was £37,877.64, £7,490.34 higher than the previous year. We spent funds on purchasing toys at both Christmas and during the summer.

We spent £4,688.65 on outings and £2,342 on the pantomime, neither of which were possible in the previous year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Room hire/storage was £905.11 lower than the previous year. The storage unit was

kindly donated and only insurance costs were incurred for a few weeks.

Further information on the Toy Project expenditure is provided in the table below. Again, we raised funds to purchase toys which were delivered directly by the supplier. We also had some toys donated, which were sorted and delivered mainly by our own committee to ensure social distancing. Increased requests meant that we spent £3,099.32 more on toys, gifts and batteries than the previous year.

Toy Project expenditure	2021/22	2020/21	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
Toys, gifts, and batteries	23,697.21	20,597.89	3,099.32
Contribution for use of hall	250.00	250.00	-
Labels, rubber bands and stationery	67.06	114.23	(47.17)
Bags for delivery	-	150.00	(150.00)
Van insurance, travel and fuel	224.19	95.16	129.03
Food for helpers	3.00	-	3.00
Total	24,241.46	21,207.28	3,034.18

4. Funds

The movement in funds is set out in the table below.

In normal times, a significant proportion of our expenditure arises in the first quarter of the year when the Camp Mohawk and summer outings take place. We therefore aim to have higher level of funds in place at the financial year end in order to fund these activities.

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Funds at start of year	31,764.05	17,372.81
Expenditure in year	(37,877.64)	(30,387.30)
	(6,113.59)	(13,014.49)
Income raised during the year	31,708.37	44,778.54
Total	25,594.78	31,764.05

5. Looking forward

Funds are in place for activities and outings currently planned for the year to 30 April 2023 and admin costs. To continue to purchase additional toys at Christmas, as well as rely on toy donations, further funds may need to be raised.

Reading Family Aid Group Income and Expenditure Report

	Year ended 30 April 2022 £	Year ended 30 April 2021 £
Income		
Donations		
General (including toy project)	30,372.82	40,183.62
Local Giving (incl Fundraising and Gift Aid)	946.89	1,351.09
	31,319.71	41,534.71
Funding		
Toy Trust	-	3,000.00
	-	3,000.00
Fundraising		
Earley Green Fair	-	-
Winnersh fete	-	-
	-	-
Sale of Goods		
Toy project items	82.08	-
Other Income		
Deposit Account Interest	1.51	10.58
Gift Aid on donations made directly to us	305.07	233.25
	306.58	243.83
Total Income	31,708.37	44,778.54
Expenditure		
Toy Project		
General expenses	544.25	609.39
Toys, gifts & batteries	23,697.21	20,597.89
Pantomime 2021	2,342.00	-
Summer outings 2021	3,072.00	-
Camp Mohawk outing 2021	675.00	-
Easter Outing 2022	941.65	-
Summer toys	5,431.10	4,480.20
Toy Trust and other toys	-	3,026.13
Admin & general expenses	470.82	84.95
Local Giving subscriptions	96.00	96.00
Room hire/storage	81.77	986.88
Liability Insurance	502.94	468.16
Website	22.90	37.70
Total Expenditure	37,877.64	30,387.30
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	(6,169.27)	14,391.24

Reading Family Aid Group Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2022 £	As at 30 April 2021 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	4,941.70	3,212.48
Barclays Deposit Account	20,653.08	28,551.57
Total Assets	25,594.78	31,764.05
Funds at beginning of year	31,764.05	17,372.81
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	(6,169.27)	14,391.24
Funds at end of year	25,594.78	31,764.05

Prepared by: S. Marson, Treasurer

Date: 24 June 2022

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Julian Pearce

Date: 24 June 2022

Notes to the accounts

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Total funds at 30 April 2022 are £25,594.78. £25 has been donated towards a Camp Mohawk trip. All other funds are unrestricted.

It is currently planned to use most of the existing funds to finance activities in the year ending 30 April 2023, including a visit to Camp Mohawk, various other trips and summer activities.

The remainder will finance the 2022 Christmas activities and ongoing costs.

TRUSTEES

Chair Sravanthi Yellapragada

Vice Chair Wendy Howell

Secretary Laura Windisch

Treasurer Sue Marson (from 3rd March 2022)

Others:

- Roslyn Heinze
- Ruth Perkins
- Valerie Sansom
- Vivienne Simpson
- Sallie Wall
- David Berry

CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Governing Document

Reading Family Aid Group operates in accordance with its constitution adopted on 21 April 1993, as amended on 16 June 2004, 19 July 2016 and 4 March 2021.

UK Charity Commission registration number: 1022144

Charity Commission for England and Wales Public Benefit Guidance

The trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity Commission for England and Wales Cy-Pres Scheme Application

The trustees applied for a cy-pres scheme to the Charity Commission to allow them to use the excess funds raised in the 2020 Christmas Toys and Teens Appeal on toys and gifts in the future and received final approval on May 7th 2021.

Charity Registered Address

61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7EX

READING FAMILY AID GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1022144

Accounts



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2021

e-mail: info@ReadingFamilyAid.org
website: www.ReadingFamilyAid.org
Registered Charity No. 1022144

Address: 61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EX
Phone 07930 033413

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ABOUT THE CHARITY

Our mission is to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area.

Our aim is to bring a little joy into the lives of children and families living with poverty, physical, mental, sexual, alcohol and drug abuse, illness, disability, homelessness or refugee status.

We work through schools, social workers, health visitors, places of worship and other charities and charitable organisations.

We distribute toys at Christmas to children aged 0-16 through our *Toys & Teens* Appeal.



Where our funds permit, we also provide outings throughout the year for children and their families who couldn't afford to go otherwise. These may be to a theme park, the seaside, a zoo or a farm park; they may also be to local activity centres and adventure playgrounds, theatres and cinemas.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Overview

What a year it has been! Some huge highs, some very low lows, a lot of work and, given the pandemic, a lot of agonising over what we should and shouldn't and could and couldn't do.

This time last year we were in the middle of the first Covid-19 lockdown. We naively thought that life would hopefully have returned to normal by the end of the summer. How wrong we were. During this financial year we have been in full or partial lockdown for about 6 months and with social distancing and other restrictions in place for the whole year.

So there have been almost no outings, a far from normal Toy Project, no fetes, summer or Christmas fairs, no fundraising concerts and no talks given. Zoom committee meetings have become the norm and most of us haven't seen each other in person since the March committee meeting last year.

But there have been some incredible highs not least hearing that we were to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. What an amazing accolade for our work, the committee and our volunteers!

And, having decided that we could not safely or legally do a normal Toy Project, we decided to do a fundraiser to buy toys which raised an astonishing £31,500!

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

In August last year, we heard that Cllr Woodward (the then Mayor of Reading) was nominating us for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. What followed until early November was quite a process of getting the nomination details submitted, asking Homestart Reading to support his nomination, as one of the organisations we have supported for many years, providing huge amounts of documents and evidence of our work, policies, procedures and successes, arranging and participating in interviews of many of the committee with deputies of the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and the answering of a myriad of questions. Then nothing until the end of this April when we heard that we were to receive the award. It was such brilliant news and a fantastic recognition of the work that we do. We will look forward to receiving the award sometime this summer and sharing the news with all our volunteers, supporters and the organisations we support.

Summer Toy Project

As outings were impossible to organise last summer, we decided to spend some of the money that we would have spent, on a Summer Toy Project. We asked 5 organisations to tell us how they would like us to spend £1,000 on each of them. They told us what they wanted and we ordered the items for delivery direct to the organisations. They then distributed the items to the families they support. This process went well and many families had something with which to entertain themselves during the summer after many weeks at home with schools closed.

We also set up Amazon Gift Lists for each of them and asked our supporters to buy items from their lists. This wasn't so successful as not many gifts were purchased and many ended up at the wrong organisation due to the inflexibility of the Amazon Gift List process. Lesson learnt!

Christmas Toy Project

Preparing for 2020's Toy Project was a roller coaster ride of will we, won't we, should we, shouldn't we, can we, can't we. Usually, we start preparing in July and launch the Appeal in October. In July the Covid situation didn't look too bad so we hoped we might be able to do it with a bit of social distancing. We had a plan to do it over 2 weeks with half the number of helpers each day.

But then Covid didn't look like it was retreating and finally, in mid-September, we decided that we could not safely go ahead with a Toy Appeal and run the Toy Project at St Luke's as normal. It turned out to be a good decision as most of the donation points would have been closed during the November lockdown. Instead, we decided to use just a few committee members and a couple of van men to distribute the toys that we had already in our store, together with promised toys from the Berkshire Freemasons. Even that plan was far from straightforward. We had to complete an extensive Risk Assessment with the help of Reading Voluntary Action and get agreement in writing from St Luke's. Also, we weren't sure we could go ahead if lockdown continued past the expected end date as we were starting the following day and Church Halls had to be closed except for 'essential' work – was toy distribution essential? No-one could or would tell us.

In addition, we decided to launch a fundraising appeal for money to buy toys. We thought we might raise £10,000, set our target at £15,000 and in the end raised an astonishing £31,500. We developed a whole new process and on-line forms that allowed organisations to request specific toys and gifts for their most disadvantaged families. These were ordered by committee members for delivery direct to the requesting organisation. We started by inviting just a few organisations to request toys and allocated them £20 per child. But as the money continued to roll in, we

were in the end able to provide toys and gifts to all the nominated children from all of the organisations that we normally support. Some had a selection of toys from our store and some had toys specifically bought for them. In total we put 1401 smiles on children's faces that Christmas morning.

It did bring a headache for our Treasurer. He is used to processing about 10 transactions a month but several hundred transactions went through our bank account during the toy buying frenzy!

The only 'downside' was that we raised so much money that we couldn't spend it all in time for Christmas and subsequently realised that we should have worded the appeal such that we said what we would do with any excess funds – it never entered our heads that we would raise too much! In the eyes of the Charity Commission this was then a 'failed appeal'! We have since agreed with them that we can use the money to buy toys or gifts in the future.

Reading Twilight Festival

We did organise one outing. Reading Borough Council arranged for a Light Show in Forbury Gardens and the Abbey Ruins and offered us free tickets for some of our families. We arranged for a number of organisations to take some of their families. While a few enjoyed a great evening out, many were disappointed as Tier 4 Covid restrictions came into force and the event was sadly closed prematurely.

Keeping People Safe

While it is always the responsibility of the Chair and the Trustees to ensure that the Committee and the Volunteers remain safe in whatever activities are undertaken, until this year, it has always been a relatively minor consideration with the focus on accident prevention. However, with Covid upon us, it has become a much more of a concern. It is difficult to know how much risk we should ask people to take. Should we ask people to help at the Toy Project? Should we ask people to go on coaches or to venues that may mean mixing with many more and different people that they would normally do? Should we expect people to meet in face-to-face committee meetings? How many people should we expect to be in a van? While all of these activities are entirely voluntary, people may feel an obligation to participate so as not to let down the committee or the families and perhaps feel they have to do things with which they are not entirely comfortable.

The Chair and Trustees must continue to monitor this carefully and ensure that we do not undertake activities that put anyone involved in more risk than with which they are really comfortable.

The Committee

During the past year, despite the difficulties that Covid has thrown at us, the whole committee brilliantly rose to the challenge and brainstormed ideas on how we could help the ever-increasing number of families in difficulties. The monthly newsletters continued, the organisations we support were surveyed, crowdfunding websites were researched, over £28,000 of toys and gifts were bought on-line, tools to help with the work were built, procedures to do all this were developed, the appeal was brilliantly publicised, our new Secretary coped with all the communications to and from our Supporters and the organisations who we support, most committee members helped with toy packing and distribution and our Treasurer processed a huge increase in transactions. We rose to the challenge and exceeded our own expectations. Everyone played a part.

Through all this, the Committee has remained stable and enthusiastic. No-one has left. No-one has thrown up their hands in despair. Everyone should feel proud of what we have achieved against the odds. I'd like to thank every single one of you for your amazing support and enthusiasm. Everyone has played a part in making this year one of our most successful years, despite all the adversity.

I'd like to say a special mention to Laura who has not only brilliantly embraced the role of Secretary but also, in her first year as Toy Project Manager, managed the ever-changing options that we considered and, with Sravanthi, managed the revised Toy Project with amazing success - not really what she envisaged when she took on the role!

I'd particularly like to thank David our Treasurer, as he stands down, for all his work over the past 5 years in embracing the increasing and evolving nature of the work. In 2016 when he took over, we had an income of £11k rising generally at about 10% each year until this year when it shot up by almost 300%! Payments also shot up from £12k in 2016 to over £30k this year. Thank you, David, for your fastidious control of our funds and your wise advice.

As I stand down from three eventful years as Chair, I'd like to thank everyone for their incredible support and to wish Sravanthi and Wendy well as they start their terms as Chair and Vice-Chair.

Ruth Perkins

Chair

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Summary

The accounts for the year ended 30 April 2021 reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Reading Family Aid's activities.

Income was significantly higher than the previous year, as money was raised to purchase toys at Christmas, rather than toys being largely donated. Similarly, expenditure was significantly higher reflecting the purchase of those toys. Toys were also purchased in the summer of 2020 and the spring of 2021.

In addition, we were not able to arrange our normal outings during the year.

Total income and expenditure are set out in the table below. Further information is provided in sections 2 and 3.

	2020/21	2019/20	Change
	£	£	£
Total income	44,778.54	15,024.65	29,753.89
Total expenditure	(30,387.30)	(16,748.46)	(13,638.84)
Surplus/(deficit)	14,391.24	(1,723.81)	16,115.05

2. Income

The main components of income are set out in the table below.

Income	2020/21	2019/20	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
General/toy project donations	40,183.62	6,532.61	33,651.01
Local Giving donations	1,351.09	2,939.16	(1,588.07)
Fundraising and other	243.83	1,379.53	(1,135.70)
Funding	3,000.00	3,950.00	(950.00)
Sale of goods	-	223.35	(223.35)
Total	44,778.54	15,024.65	29,753.89

Total income in 2020/21 was £44,778.54, £29,753.89 higher than the previous year.

General/toy project donations were £33,651.01 higher. This includes £31,550.59 raised to purchase toys and gifts for the 2021 toy project.

Donations through Local Giving were £1,588.07 lower, as we set up a GoFundMe fundraising page for the Christmas appeal.

Funding in 2020/21 was £3,000.00, £950.00 lower than the previous year. The full £3,000 was received from Toy Trust, £750 more than the previous year. In the year to 30 April 2020, we also received funding from St James's Place (£1,000) and Reading Dispensary Trust (£700).

Fundraising and other income decreased by £1,135.70 to £243.83. No fundraising activities were possible in 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Expenditure

The main components of expenditure are set out in the table below.

Expenditure	2020/21	2019/20	Increase/
	£	£	(decrease) £
Toy project	21,207.28	1,283.85	19,923.43
Summer toys	4,480.20	-	4,480.20
Toy Trust and other toys	3,026.13	-	3026.13
Summer outing	-	8,389.40	(8,389.40)
Pantomime	-	2,623.50	(2,623.50)
Camp Mohawk	-	1,320.00	(1,320.00)
Gazebo, T Shirts, buckets and banner	-	904.10	(904.10)
Room hire/storage	986.88	1,488.66	(501.78)
Liability insurance	468.16	468.16	-
Other	218.65	270.79	(52.14)
Total	30,387.30	16,748.46	13,638.84

Total expenditure in 2020/21 was £30,387.30, £13,638.84 higher than the previous year. The net increase reflects the significant change to our activities caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We spent funds on purchasing toys. We were not able to organise our normal outings.

In 2019/20 £904.10 was spent on a branded gazebo, T shirts, buckets and banner, which are used to raise the charity's profile at fundraising events.

Room hire/storage was £501.78 lower than the previous year. We no longer needed the storage unit from December as we did not collect large numbers of toys in 2021.

Further information on the toy project expenditure is provided in the table below. Once again this reflects the change to our activities caused by the Covid-19

pandemic. We raised funds to purchase toys and had them delivered directly by the supplier, rather than those toys being largely donated and delivered by our own volunteers. Consequently, expenditure on purchase of toys is significantly higher, whilst distribution costs such as van fuel and insurance are lower.

Toy Project expenditure	2020/21	2019/20	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
Toys, gifts, and batteries	20,597.89	328.90	20,268.99
Contribution for use of hall	250.00	250.00	-
Labels, rubber bands and stationery	114.23	-	114.23
Bags for delivery	150.00	247.36	(97.36)
Van insurance and fuel	95.16	318.54	(223.38)
Food for helpers	-	139.05	(139.05)
Total	21,207.28	1,283.85	19,923.43

4. Funds

The movement in funds is set out in the table below.

In normal times, a significant proportion of our expenditure arises in the first quarter of the year when the Camp Mohawk and summer outings take place. We therefore aim to have higher level of funds in place at the financial year end in order to fund these activities.

The year to 30 April 2021 was unusual as we raised a large amount of funds to purchase toys.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Funds at start of year	17,372.81	19,096.62
Expenditure in year	(30,387.30)	(16,748.46)
	(13,014.49)	2,348.16
Income raised during the year	44,778.54	15,024.65
Total	31,764.05	17,372.81

5. Looking forward

Funds are in place for activities currently planned for the year to 30 April 2022. However, we will need to raise further funds during the year to fund trips planned for 2022.

Reading Family Aid Group Income and Expenditure Report

	Year ended 30 April 2021 £	Year ended 30 April 2020 £
Income		
Donations		
General (including toy project)	40,183.62	6,532.61
Local Giving (incl Fundraising and Gift Aid)	1,351.09	2,939.16
	<u>41,534.71</u>	<u>9,471.77</u>
Funding		
Reading Dispensary Trust	-	700.00
St James Place	-	1,000.00
Toy Trust	3,000.00	2,250.00
	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>3,950.00</u>
Fundraising		
Forbury Gardens	-	110.00
World Armed Forces Day	-	40.00
Earley Green Fair	-	810.85
Winnersh fete	-	166.00
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,126.85</u>
Sale of Goods		
Toy project items	-	223.35
Other Income		
Deposit Account Interest	10.58	42.18
Gift Aid on donations made directly to us	233.25	210.50
	<u>243.83</u>	<u>252.68</u>
Total Income	<u>44,778.54</u>	<u>15,024.65</u>
Expenditure		
Toy Project		
General expenses	609.39	954.95
Toys, gifts & batteries	20,597.89	328.90
Pantomime	-	2,623.50
Summer outing	-	8,389.40
Camp Mohawk outing	-	1,320.00
Summer toys	4,480.20	-
Toy Trust and other toys	3,026.13	-
Admin & general expenses	84.95	135.16
Gazebo, T shirts, buckets and banner	-	904.10
Local Giving subscriptions	96.00	96.00
Room hire/storage	986.88	1,488.66
Liability Insurance	468.16	468.16
Website	37.70	39.63
Total Expenditure	<u>30,387.30</u>	<u>16,748.46</u>
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	<u>14,391.24</u>	<u>(1,723.81)</u>

Reading Family Aid Group Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2021 £	As at 30 April 2020 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	3,212.48	1,806.82
Barclays Deposit Account	28,551.57	15,565.99
Total Assets	31,764.05	17,372.81
Funds at beginning of year	17,372.81	19,096.62
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	14,391.24	(1,723.81)
Funds at end of year	31,764.05	17,372.81

Prepared by: D Berry, Treasurer

Date: 7 June 2021

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2021. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Julian Pearce

Date: 7 June 2021

Notes to the accounts

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Total funds at 30 April 2021 are £31,764.05. £11,843.31 has been donated towards the purchase of toys; £1,000.00 has been donated towards the cost of a summer outing and £700 towards the cost of a Camp Mohawk trip. All other funds are unrestricted. It is currently planned to use almost all existing funds to finance activities in the year ending 30 April 2022, primarily on the purchase of toys, a trip to Camp Mohawk and summer activities. The remainder will finance the 2021 Christmas activities and ongoing costs.

TRUSTEES

Chair Ruth Perkins

Vice Chair Sravanthi Yellapragada

Secretary Laura Windisch

Treasurer David Berry

Others: Vera Box (resigned October 2020)

Roslyn Heinze

Wendy Howell

Valerie Sansom

Vivienne Simpson

May Smith (resigned October 2020)

Sallie Wall

CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

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The trustees applied for a cy-pres scheme to the Charity Commission to allow them to use the excess funds raised in the 2020 Christmas Toys and Teens Appeal on toys and gifts in the future and received final approval on May 7th 2021.

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