BOOK - CYCLE

England & Wales · Charity number 1127078

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	2008-12-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	7 West Street Exeter EX1 1BB
Phone	01392420021
Email	enquiries@book-cycle.org
Website	www.book-cycle.org

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT,TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PROMOTE RESEARCH (AND DISSEMINATE THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH) IN THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PERMACULTURE.TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DEFORESTATION AND OTHER EFFECTS OF THE RELEASE OF CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AFFORESTATION. TO PROMOTE AFFORESTATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF LAND OR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC AMENITY.

Activities: We seek to empower communities in developing countries through the provision of books & educational resources. We also encourage the reforestation of rural England, offering trees & information on self-sustainability. Book-Cycle works to benefit the local community; establishing projects to encourage self-reliance, engaging in global issues and facilities / workshops to promote art & culture.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1127078

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED, IN PRACTICE
- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- India
- Italy
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- The Gambia
- Uganda
- Devon
- Lancashire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£161,353	£119,873	-	-
2024-03-31	£105,715	£92,725	-	-
2023-03-31	£141,357	£141,719	-	-
2022-03-31	£69,694	£75,749	-	-
2021-03-31	£165,403	£67,844	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1127078

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTHONY WILLIAM MELLING	Chair	
James Raymond Atherton		2017-04-06
SAKEENAH ABDURRAZAGEH GUIMMA FEGHIR		

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1127078

BOOK - CYCLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1127078

Accounts

BOOK-CYCLE

Trustee Report 2024-2025



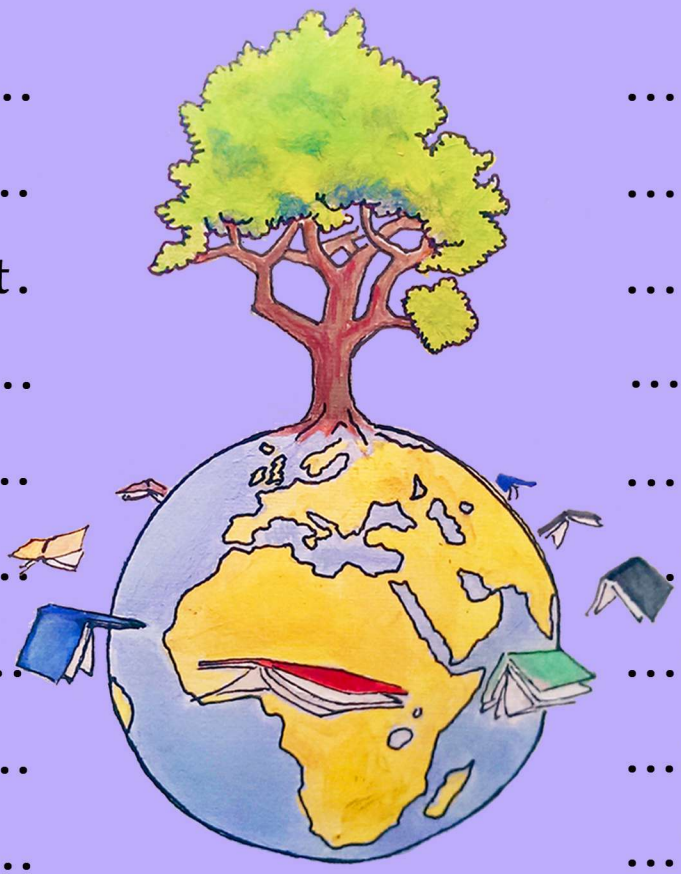
Book-Cycle Charitable Trust: 1127078

7 West Street, Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom

from tree to book and back again...

www.book-cycle.org

Contents:



Introduction..... 1

Vision..... 2

Chairman's Report. 3

Personal Story..... 9

Overseas Progress.. ...27

UK Progress..... .31

Future Plans..... ...34

Thanks..... ...35

Figures..... ...35

Examiner's Report.. ...37

SOFA..... ...38

Legal Info..... ...41

Trustees: Anthony Melling, Sakeenah Feghir, Jim Atherton.



Introduction

Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity. We seek to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources.

We also help reforest England by offering trees and information on sustainability. Book-Cycle works in communities throughout the UK, establishing projects to encourage self-reliance through home food growing, community gardening and promoting wildlife through the planting of trees. We also provide seed banks and host a variety of workshops.



2 Vision, Aims & Objectives

Vision:

Our vision is a world where everyone has the necessary tools for self-determination. Book-Cycle believes education is a right and should not be a privilege. Likewise, education needs to be broadened to include our place in nature and how best we might learn from that.

The Advancement of Education:

To improve literacy and the love of learning, by providing free access to books and information.

The Planting of Trees:

It seems only reasonable to balance our use of paper through the planting of trees.

The Promotion of Permaculture:

To complete the circle of education and tree planting we hope to increase the awareness of our place within nature and how best we might use her wonderful designs.



Chairman's Report

Book-Cycle: A Journey Through Pages and Places

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." - Saint Augustine

One might add to Saint Augustine's astute remark that books by their nature also allow us to travel beyond the confines of our place and circumstance. Nowhere is this more vividly illustrated than in the story and lived impact of Book-Cycle.

Another year has flown by. Indeed, the past 18 years have been something of a blur, studded as they were with countless projects and endeavours, often more than one major challenge emerging in any given year. Looking back, I am often reminded of Don Quixote's travels with Sancho Panza: a fitting metaphor for human striving that is flawed, noble, and at times outright ridiculous. Yet it was precisely Quixote's stubborn devotion to lofty ideals, however impractical they appeared, that lent his journey true dignity.

Many of our escapades have certainly been arduous and, at first glance, seemed like folly. Chipping away at mountains of books in our old Exeter warehouse, where more than 60 buckets stood collecting rainwater between the crates. Roaming the streets of Exeter with free books to slip through people's letterboxes as part of our 'Post-Cycle' project. Countless hours driving book stock the length and breadth of the country. Vast effort poured into setting up Book-Cycle shops, some destined to last only seven months before a pop-up lease expired—all in the quiet hope of eventually securing a more permanent foothold in a town.

William Blake beautifully summed up this predicament:

"If the fool would persist in his folly he would become wise."
– Proverbs of Hell, from *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

But folly it thankfully is not. The rewards for helping shape the Book-Cycle journey have been obvious and visceral: thousands of people sharing their appreciation for the facilities we offer, and beautiful tales of the impact our projects have made in individual lives and communities.

Throughout the many pages of literature and poetry runs a persistent theme of travel, adventure, and the unfolding of life. One thinks of The Fool's Journey through the tarot -that often misunderstood system of archetypal symbolism- or another lifelong fascination of mine; the I Ching. *The Book of Changes* is one of humanity's oldest texts, built entirely on the idea that life is ceaseless movement, transformation, and becoming. Book-Cycle, it seems, has often mirrored my own path: moving pillar to post, yet discovering beautiful turns along the road, filled with the warmth of new friends and unforeseen adventures.

Origins

I am often asked how all this began, where it started, and how Book-Cycle evolved. What follows is a brief account of its inception.

In my early twenties, while studying at Essex University, I encountered the lifestyle of what were then called New Age Travellers, living in old buses and trucks around Glastonbury Festival. That first year I diverted my modest

student grant toward buying a bus rather than paying a traditional landlord. Within months I was living in a 1969 Panorama Elite coach, decked out of course with bustling bookshelves and transformed into a rather beautiful living space - all accomplished on a shoestring, a good two decades before the tiny-house movement would catch the wider imagination.

I later returned to Kent, where I had spent part of my teenage years, to pursue a master's at the University of Kent. When campus authorities took a dim view of the bus parked on site, a small group of friends and I began travelling around Canterbury, working on farms or seeking derelict patches of land to turn into makeshift homes, early permaculture experiments, and the first tentative shoots of Book-Cycle: our improvised "library squats." Many of those sites had abandoned outbuildings, and as my obsession with books was already firmly in place, I rescued worthwhile volumes from overflowing Oxfam bins in Canterbury and shelved them there, partly for ourselves, partly left for anyone who might stumble upon them later. Perhaps a few still wait in those forgotten corners.

Over the following years on the road, I encountered a loose but vibrant community scattered across the country: punks, hippies, travellers, gypsies, ravers - almost all disenfranchised and marginalised, especially in the aftermath of Thatcher's Criminal Justice Act. Many were deep thinkers who had abandoned the trappings of modern capitalism to carve out more organic paths. For some this arose from sheer economic necessity; for others, myself included, it also stemmed from a recognition of the gentler life it afforded; fetching your own water, gathering and chopping wood, growing a portion of

your own food, and taking full responsibility for your inputs and outputs.

Unbeknownst to most people even now, the New Age Traveller movement played an instrumental role in shaping the UK's music festival culture, emerging as it did from the DIY free party and rave scene of the 1990s. It was a golden era I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand. That same DIY spirit would later become the underlying ethos of Book-Cycle's grassroots philosophy.

The First Seeds

By the time I was living in Somerset, still nomadic, though now in a different truck, I worked at tree nurseries that frequently had a glut of saplings. The surplus was so great that friends and I would often plant them in hedgerows simply to save them from the shredder. Around the same period a close friend returned from teaching English in Uganda, exasperated by the acute lack of books available for education, so much so that he had resorted to using discarded packaging as the only written English his pupils could access.

Years had passed since the overflowing Oxfam bins in Canterbury, but I suspected Somerset's charity shops might face similar surpluses. If I could gather books suitable for primary-level teaching, perhaps I could send parcels to support his work. Rather than rummaging through bins, I approached managers in Wellington and Taunton and asked whether they paid to have surplus books collected. They all did at the time, so I offered instead to collect them for free every Thursday in my small Ford Transit.

I rented a disused milking parlour, awkward spaces many small farms no longer needed. I knew this well as I had worked on various farms and had done a spot of milking, my favourite haunt being the hop and apple harvest each autumn at Brenley in Kent. Within six months I had amassed a vast hoard of around 100,000 books. Many were unsuitable for teaching abroad, but I thought some might sell if I tried running a stall in nearby Exeter. That city would become the first home of Book-Cycle, still operating today, distributing books in exchange for donations opposite the 'House That Moved' on West Street.

Exeter Takes Root

I initially planned only a small stall on the Exeter Quay, hoping to raise enough funds for postage to Uganda and Kenya. Drawing inspiration from the free shops of the 1960s and my own anarchist roots, I decided that books acquired essentially for free, save my time and some diesel, should be offered on a donation basis, ensuring equal access to literature regardless of financial means. The same principle applied to the saplings I grew and propagated: free to all, with donations welcomed but never required.

When I actually arrived in Exeter, almost everything fell into place with exceptional speed: first a small warehouse in a boatbuilding shed on The Quay, then a very affordable lease on what remains one of the city's prettiest buildings. It became all the more distinctive for housing a rather unusual bookshop, one where the customer decides the price for every book, tree, or packet of seeds.

Because so much of the early inspiration drew from DIY anarchism and permaculture principles, it felt only natural

that the charity - formally established some months later - should be as non-hierarchical as possible.Volunteers' voices carry equal weight, with deference given only to genuine experience where it proves useful. Book-Cycle has always been, and remains, run entirely by unpaid volunteers. Thus the stage was set for a harder yet infinitely more beautiful journey into literacy, tree-growing, and community-led change.

A journey that, like Don Quixote's, has at times seemed both the noblest undertaking and the most ridiculous folly imaginable. Yet here we are, 18 years on, with more than 20 shops, pop-ups, warehouses, and outlets established along the way, many still thriving, supported by an ever-growing community of dedicated volunteers, loyal supporters, and beneficiaries.

I remain incredibly indebted to the many good friends who have helped along the way in creating this vibrant and growing enterprise. Without their generosity, labour, belief, and companionship, Book-Cycle wouldn’t have become what it is today. It has always been, at its heart, a collective effort, advanced by countless unseen hands, quiet acts of kindness, and a shared conviction that books and knowledge belong to everyone.

As Blake and Cervantes both understood, bold idealism, when joined with persistent determination and imagination, truly can move mountains.

.

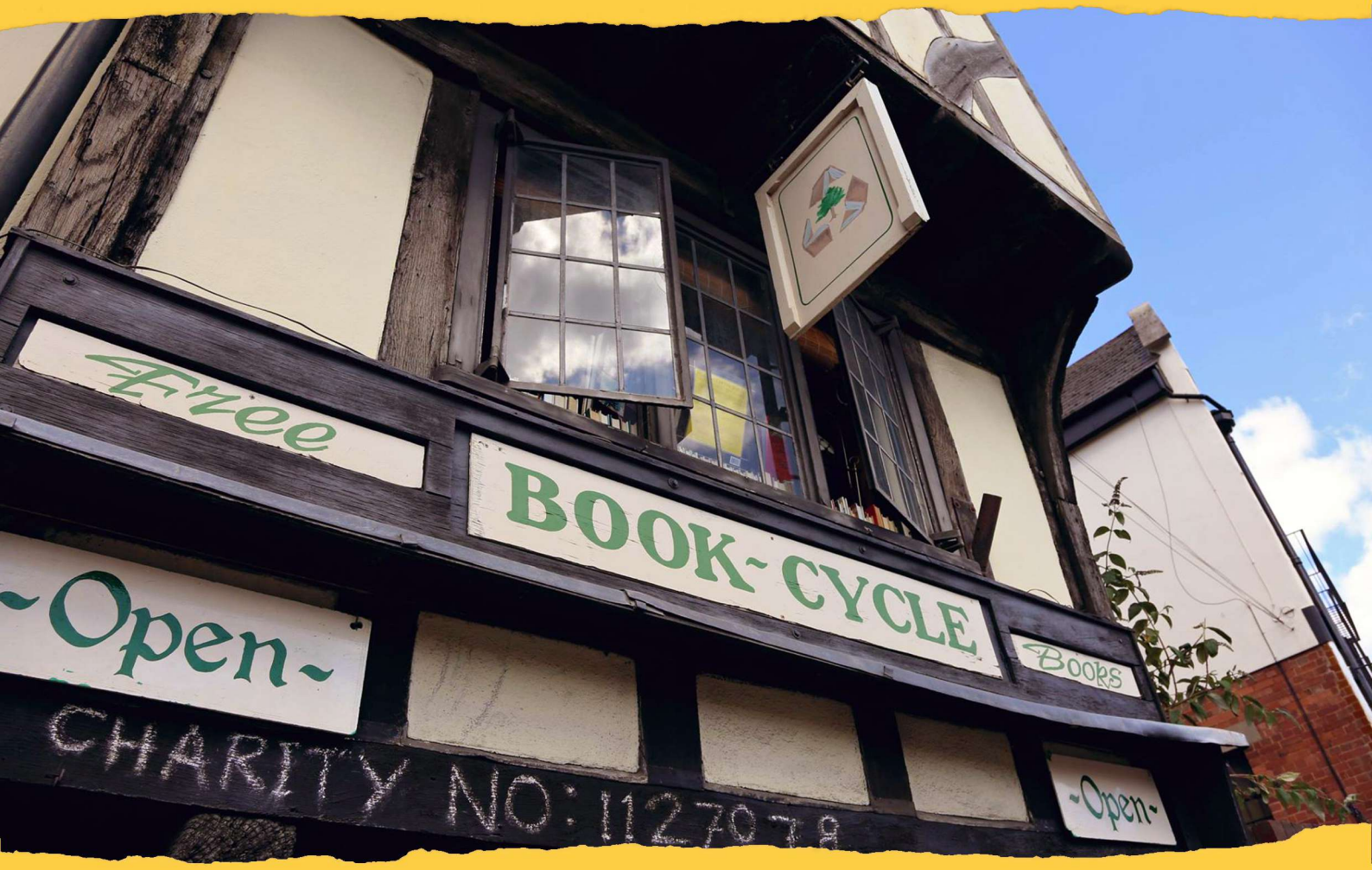
Anthony Melling
Chairman and Founder



Personal Story

From Tree to Book and Back Again...

To place this year's activities and achievements in context -and to offer a glimpse into the inner workings of Book-Cycle- it is necessary to share something of the journey that led us here. What follows is, in many ways, the story of a nomadic life: shaped by constant movement, often compelled by circumstance, yet guided throughout by an effort to make the most of each new situation.



The still-thriving heart of our work, and our first true foray into bookshop-keeping, remains the Exeter shop. It occupies the Tudor building opposite the "House That Moved", the other Tudor survivor of the late-1960s Western Way bypass, which was famously transported from the demolished Western Quarter to its current resting place opposite Book-Cycle.

Though positioned just beyond the city's commercial centre, the reasonable rent secured by its former tenant, Bernie, enabled the charity to gain a vital starting point. Combined with our unconventional philosophy, the shop soon attracted some of Exeter's most generous-spirited and interesting characters. Indeed, wherever Book-Cycle takes root, it seems to draw out the very best of a town, among customers, supporters, and volunteers alike.



It was around this time that we began sending our first parcels and barrels of books to Sub-Saharan Africa, supporting emerging and struggling school libraries in Ethiopia (through the EYES project) and Tanzania. What began as a trickle soon became a steady flow: pallets, then containers of free books shipped across the world.

Some even went into war zones, most notably to Afghanistan, facilitated in part through free internal mail within the UK Army postal system.

As word spread and the shop's activity increased, Guy's boatshed on the Exeter Quay quickly filled to the rafters with overflow donations arriving both from the shop and from Somerset. Over time, we became aware of a broader pattern: the sheer volume of empty commercial properties that could be accessed by charities. Many landlords, councils included, preferred to accept temporary charitable tenants at peppercorn rent rather than incur full business rates on vacant properties. Like many grassroots charities, we learned to navigate this system, typically covering only rates and utilities.

While offers of £1-per-year rent were undeniably helpful in our early growth, they came with a cost. Such arrangements provided little to no security of tenure: landlords could (and frequently did) reclaim properties at short notice, often when markets shifted or redevelopment loomed. This meant constant movement. Some sites became long-term fixtures, like Book-Cycle Beech Hill and Book-Cycle Orrell, while others, such as Queen Street, afforded us only a brief seven months before we were forced onward once again.

Armed with this strategy, we secured a warehouse at the Old Mill Industrial Estate in Stoke Canon, a few miles outside Exeter. Dank, cavernous, and far from ideal, it nonetheless provided much-needed space for the growing mountain of books, still largely stored in the blue charity-shop bags from Wellington and Taunton.

But its distance posed problems. Many volunteers did not drive, and it soon became clear that while some space was better than none, remoteness severely limited our ability to sort and process stock.



The next branch of the Book-Cycle tree grew through a volunteer: Danni, who, after spending time at the Exeter shop, felt inspired to establish a new Book-Cycle in Brighton's Open Market. A small but beautiful space, shaped by her artistic flair, which also gifted Exeter a hand-painted A-board that we used for years.

Around the same period, West Town Farm, an organic beef farm in Ide, agreed to host what became the first of our "Shelf-Cycles": not a shop, but an unmanned space

with book-lined walls and an honesty box fixed to the shelves. Though informal, this model proved surprisingly effective. It helped distribute surplus stock, showcased our work through posters and information, and advertised the main shop on West Street. Over time, Shelf-Cycles spread across Exeter to pubs like the Iron Bridge Inn, cafés such as Boston Tea Party, and many other independent venues. At its height, the network numbered around forty Shelf-Cycles. While honesty bookshelves are common today, at the time the idea was unusual, even radical.

A significant turning point came through Anthony's mother, Joan, who ran Olivia's Fine Foods Café in Wigan, later converted into the £1 Takeaway, long before pound bakeries became commonplace. Her substantial Shelf-Cycle inspired a far more ambitious idea: could Book-Cycle take on a closing council library?

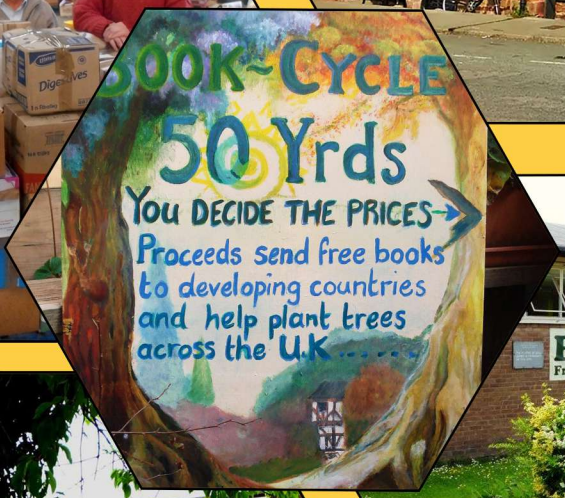
Just a mile north of her café stood Beech Hill Library, a large flat-roofed 1960s building scheduled for closure amid widespread council cuts. With the encouragement of Joan, the support of Councillor Phyll Cullen and local residents, we proposed that Book-Cycle could keep the building open. And indeed since then, the doors have remained open seven days a week, from 10am–4pm, nearly double the hours previously offered by the council.

Over the years, Book-Cycle Beech Hill flourished into a genuine community hub. It hosted art exhibitions, cultural events, calligraphy courses, free permaculture design courses, cinema nights, documentary screenings, fruit tree giveaways, and much more. Groups ranging from knitting circles to poetry collectives, sewing groups, and even local football podcasts found a home there. It remains active today, though like many buildings we've inherited,




BOOK-CYCLE
FREE BOOKSHOP
DONATIONS ONLY
BOOK-CYCLE




BOOK-CYCLE
50 Yrds
YOU DECIDE THE PRICES
Proceeds send free books
to developing countries
and help plant trees
across the U.K


BOOK-CYCLE
Free bookshop · Donations welcome


BOOK-CYCLE
Free bookshop · Donations welcome
BOOK-CYCLE
FOLLOW YOUR FEET


PALLET
amazon.co.uk
amazon.de






Book-Cycle
Seed Bank
Grow on
yourself!
FRUIT
VEGETABLES
SEED DONATION


Book Cycle
from tree to book and back


Book-Cycle
from tree to book and back again...
ROMANCE




Book-Cycle
Volunteer

it carries ongoing challenges, including subsidence that must be addressed to ensure its future.

While Beech Hill relieved some pressure on Stoke Canon, we continued to expand into nearby units, briefly exploring the idea of an online shop for more collectible books. For a time, this also served as our office.

Much as the first guerrilla-planted fruit trees around Exeter eventually blossomed, so too did another volunteer take flight. Angela, inspired by our ethos, cycled from Exeter to Rome alongside Kiwi Craig. Once there, she and friends established Book-Cycle Italia as an Italian volunteer association. Situated in Il Grande Cocomero, just a stone's throw from the Colosseum, Book-Cycle Italia began distributing books throughout Rome and supporting literacy projects internationally, from refugee camps in Algeria to schools in the Philippines and across Italy. After several years' activities, Book-Cycle Italia outgrew its initial home to find a beautiful space of its own in the Tor Pignattara district, helped in part by some of the UK volunteers.

The Water Lane Era

By now, nearly five years had passed. Exeter was well established; the northern branch was growing. Then came the opportunity to return to Exeter Quay in a much larger way: a vast, dilapidated former metalworks turned plastics factory on Water Lane, recently vacated and difficult to rent commercially. Draughty and far from ideal for books, it nonetheless offered something invaluable: space, and easier access for our shop volunteers.

The Book-Cycle warehouse on Water Lane would go on to become the central hub of the charity for the next twelve years. Its sheer size made it uniquely adaptable, supporting a wide range of projects and activities, not least the sorting and shipping of hundreds of thousands of free books to beneficiaries across the world.

"Warehouse Wednesdays" became a fixture, with volunteers gathering to wade through the ever-shifting tides of donations. Some of those donations even arrived courtesy of one of our most beloved volunteers: a pony named Obama. Alongside his constant companion Simon, who had invented an ingenious chariot system enabling wheelchair users to traverse all kinds of terrain, Obama would occasionally be persuaded to swap passengers for books donated by local primary schools.

The cavernous space itself hosted countless art exhibitions, theatre performances, graffiti jams, music events, workshops, and even served as the practice ground for Britain's top trials bike rider, Andrei Burton.

The Northern Expansion

Amidst these developments came another call from the North. A closed library in the Wigan borough had been offered on peppercorn rent, in the hope that the local community might find a way to keep it alive. With momentum building in Wigan and the building itself in far better condition than many we had occupied before, volunteers from both the South and the North came together to prepare the space. Among them was our now-resident artist, Doodledubz, who brought colour to the walls and helped build the shelving required for the next stage of the Book-Cycle journey.

Much like Book-Cycle Beech Hill, the newly established Book-Cycle Orrell quickly gathered a committed and enthusiastic group of volunteers. In time, it became an essential local presence, offering a depth and variety of stock that often surpassed that of the main council libraries. This is largely because our stock grows organically from the genuine interests of the local population, flowing daily through our doors, rather than being determined by a centralised purchasing budget. Whether the country could ever reduce the £673 million annual library budget by converting libraries to Book-Cycles remains an open question.



That same year also saw the closure of the BBC Research Library. Due to refurbishments at Broadcasting House and Egton House, the entire collection required a new home. A few emails and several articulated lorries later, the North gained a warehouse of its own.

The late Lord Smith, then leader of Wigan Council, helped secure a temporary space on Richard Street, where the BBC donation was painstakingly sorted, as always, book by book.



Gathering Pace

Momentum was now unmistakable and continues to build even today. While the northern branches settled deeper into their roles as community hubs, the South welcomed two new beautiful additions to the Book-Cycle family: Book-Cycle Glastonbury and Bertie the Bus.

Book-Cycle Glastonbury emerged following Danni's move from Brighton. The Open Market shop there had closed, but she soon brought the spirit of Book-Cycle to the town

by setting up at the Buddleia Café, not far from the Tor. Though short-lived, it once again demonstrated the potential of Book-Cycle wherever it appears.

Bertie the Bus belonged to Sophie, a long-time friend and former traveller who had settled with her family in the Blackdown Hills. Having acquired an open-top Daimler Fleetline double-decker, she envisioned a mobile Book-Cycle below with a bijou café above, carrying our ethos and methods across festivals and communities throughout the UK.



No sooner had the Exeter warehouse settled than movement resumed in the North. Richard Street gave way to Ridyard Street, a former housing office in the heart of

the Worsley Hall council estate in Wigan. Once again, the space was cheap, awkward, and far from ideal, with books stacked to the ceilings in nearly every room. Yet the surrounding area, despite visible deprivation, proved welcoming and supportive. Ridyard Street served as our northern warehouse for the next five years, with shipping containers loaded directly from its front doors, no doubt an unusual sight for a residential area.

High Street Experiments

As we adjusted to this new rhythm, another opportunity arose in one of Exeter's busiest shopping areas: Queen Street. Adjacent to the High Street and the main thoroughfare between the city centre and the university, the Guildhall Shopping Centre was undergoing refurbishment and offered us a unit with frontage onto Queen Street. This became Book-Cycle's first real experiment with high footfall.

The shop was fitted with beautiful oak bookshelves donated from a private library in Sussex and transported to Devon by another of Anthony's friends, Lidl Ben. Although the shop lasted only seven months, it proved a turning point in our understanding of what Book-Cycle could achieve financially when placed in the right location. The shelves were later stored at Water Lane, only to come into their own again eleven years later in the North.

The experience gave us valuable insight into turnover, bills, volunteer recruitment, and sustainability, lessons that would directly inform the creation of Book-Cycle Wigan.

At the time, The Galleries Shopping Centre in Wigan was still relatively busy. Built in the late 1980s and opened by Princess Diana, it had once been a thriving retail destination. But like so many high streets, it was in gradual decline due to competition from retail parks and newer centres such as the nearby Grand Arcade. The Galleries was to become home to Book-Cycle Wigan for the next 4 years before its eventual demolition.

Located at Hope Street beside Morrisons, it quickly became a favourite destination. Unbeknownst to us, however, the centre was already earmarked for redevelopment. Before this became clear, we had relocated the northern warehouse once again from Ridyard Street, itself due for conversion into flats to the largely vacant upper floors of The Galleries, hoping an online shop might flourish from a central, accessible location. That plan also proved short-lived. The much-loved Hope Street shop was also forced to relocate, this time into the nearby indoor market. Though a far cry from the footfall of the shopping centre, the modest unit at the market's edge nonetheless preserved what mattered most: a loyal community of customers and volunteers, and the continued presence of a vital cultural resource in the heart of Wigan.

Book-Cycle Leigh

Leigh, though administratively part of Wigan, remains fiercely distinct in the eyes of its residents. As one door closed, another opened. Stock from The Galleries was palletised once again and relocated to Leigh, where centre manager Karen offered Book-Cycle a large unit near the car park entrance. The arrangement offset business rates for the centre while allowing the charity to establish itself in a new town.

Shortly afterwards, Exeter's beloved but deteriorating Water Lane warehouse was marked for demolition. Twelve years' worth of accumulated books, tools, furniture, and fixtures had to be packed rapidly and shipped north. Almost improbably, the former B&M supermarket unit in Leigh proved large enough to absorb it all: approximately 400,000 books from Exeter alongside the remaining 70,000 from Wigan.

Although the premises offered no security of tenure, it provided an affordable base from which to continue. A total of 270 pallets were fitted upstairs at Spinning Gate by the narrowest of margins, with the remainder filling the lower floors. For a time, the space functioned as one of the largest second-hand bookshops in the UK: over 5.5 kilometres of shelving, rivalled only by institutions such as Baggins Book Bazaar in Rochester and Barter Books in Alnwick.

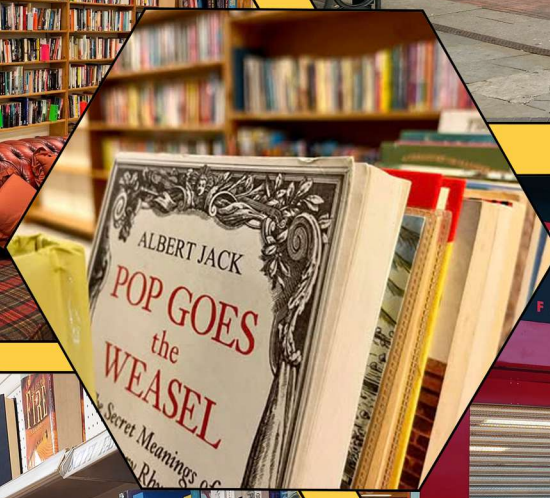
With Book-Cycle Leigh operational, attention returned to Book-Cycle Wigan. After several quiet years in a corner of the indoor market, it had become a diminished presence. A timely call from Louise, a trustee at Rebuild with Hope, a charity supporting ex-offenders through training and skills development, offered a solution. They were repurposing the former Debenhams unit in Wigan's Grand Arcade into a community-focused shopping space and invited Book-Cycle to join. Though shared, the premises proved far busier than the market and beneficial to both organisations, with customers crossing naturally between them.

Meanwhile, Book-Cycle Leigh was thriving when the inevitable request to vacate arrived: a dental practice had




BOOK-CYCLE
Choose what to pay for up to 3 books per day
Charity No. 1127078


k - Cycle


ALBERT JACK
POP GOES
the
WEASEL


RW
HOPE
FASHION & HOME OUTLET




ONLY A FOOL
WOULD PASS BY A
FREE BOOKSHOP

secured the unit. This triggered a hiatus of nearly a year. Most stock was transferred into the nearby empty Argos building for storage, with additional volumes moved to Wigan and housed within the Rebuild with Hope site. Just over a year later, another opportunity emerged.



Poundland, responding to changes on the high street, had acquired the former Wilko building and was relocating its Leigh branch. The timing was critical: temporary storage arrangements in both Leigh and Wigan had been exhausted. Though the building presented challenges, it allowed Book-Cycle to return to Leigh in its largest space to date. For the first time, all stock could be housed on a single floor, enabling volunteers to work fully immersed among the books. It also became the charity's first shop directly on a high street, situated, somewhat improbably, next to McDonald's.

This phase marked the final attempt to operate independently in vast premises that were expensive to heat and maintain. From this point onward, collaboration with larger charities would shape the organisation's approach wherever possible. Although the lease was limited to eighteen months, it provided essential breathing space while future options were explored locally, and in cities including Manchester, Bath, and Bristol. Ultimately, with a committed volunteer base and strong local support, remaining in Leigh proved the most viable course.



Anticipating another relocation, attention turned further along Bradshawgate, where a unit offering the prospect of a longer tenancy became available. After a brief interim stay made possible by the kind loan of the now-empty Fazakerley's furniture shop, Book-Cycle Leigh finally had the chance to begin to put down real roots. We hope this will be our permanent home: Heron House, opposite the ever-busy Home Bargains.

Meanwhile, the remaining bulk of the collection made its journey back to Devon, where it now resides at our warehouse in Ide, a modern building which, though still lofty, no longer requires rows of buckets to catch rainwater between the sorting tables.

Overseas Progress

Book-Cycle Italia continued to thrive this year, bringing books, learning, and community engagement to a wide range of audiences across Italy. Over 150kg of books were donated through the Libri e Letture Vagabond Sicilia partnership, while Book-Cycle Italia volunteers welcomed visits from numerous local schools, introducing young readers to the joys of literature and sustainable sharing. Community projects such as Villa Berta's tree planting and Shelf-Cycle, along with the Shelf-Cycle at Sangalli Park, helped combine environmental action with accessible book distribution.



Book-Cycle Italia also maintained a strong presence at charity market stalls, including Liberi Nantes, Libretto Market, and Pietralata Market, fostering local connections and supporting charitable projects. Media engagement expanded with a featured segment on Radio1 Rai, and literary and artistic initiatives such as the Silent Book Club,


Book-Cycle


Book-Cycle
BOOK
CYCLE




-OPEN-


Rotaract


BLANK
WHERE'S WALLY NOW?
LITTLE OWL
Oliver


Dazzling Diggers
Scoop
Whose Bad Dog?

Fotogrammi photo and theatre workshops, and cinema school workshops brought books, storytelling, and creativity to new audiences. Together, these activities demonstrate Book-Cycle Italia's ongoing commitment to education, community cohesion, and the sustainable sharing of knowledge.



Our long-standing relationship with Evans and Lilly at the Center for Youth in Sustainable Development continued to grow this year, with nearly 70,000 books shipped in two containers and several pallets to Nigeria. What began over a decade ago has evolved into a substantial and well-established project, with The Book Bank now serving as a central hub for distribution across Lagos and beyond. From there, books have reached schools in communities such as Makoko, a poor but resilient waterside settlement, widely regarded as one of the world's largest floating communities and often referred to as the "Venice of Africa."

Our partnership with Devon Development Education was renewed over the summer following contact from Sue Errington. Established in 2001, DDE's Food for Thought programme links schools in Devon, Plymouth and Cornwall with rural schools in Uganda, focusing on organic food growing alongside phonics-based reading support.

The programme began with four schools in Uganda and four in Devon. It has since grown to more than 60 schools in Uganda, reaching over 40,000 pupils. While participation in the UK has declined as schools face increasing pressures, the impact overseas continues to expand.

Our previous collaboration with DDE took place in 2013, when more than 50kg of books were donated to support the project. This year marked a considerable step forward: over 600 books were collected from our Exeter shop by Sue and Godfrey ahead of their planned autumn shipment to Uganda. Godfrey Kisakye, the project's coordinator in the Mubende District and a farmer trainer, visited schools across Devon and Cornwall, spoke at education conferences, and also gave talks on rural schooling at the Exeter Respect Festival during his visit in June.

Looking ahead, plans are already forming to build on this renewed partnership, including increasing the volume of books donated to support the outstanding work DDE continues to deliver in rural Uganda.

UK Progress

A significant step forward for the charity this year was the introduction of card payment facilities across our bookshops and events. This development has made it easier for supporters to purchase books and engage with Book-Cycle's work, removing barriers for those who no longer carry cash. The decision reflected wider changes in spending habits following the Covid pandemic, as card and contactless payments have become the norm. Introducing this payment option has not only improved the customer experience but has also strengthened the charity's ability to operate efficiently, increase income, and remain accessible and relevant within an evolving retail landscape.



Despite periods of change behind the scenes, Book-Cycle's established pattern of fundraising and community events continued to flourish throughout the year.


Happy Birthday
~OPEN~




Delivered With


THESE TIMES MAY VARY DUE TO VOLUNTEER AVAILABILITY
OPEN




The Illustrated Book of HERBS
PLANTING GUIDE



Our Spring, Summer and Christmas Fayres drew strong attendance across our northern outlets, proving ever-more popular as the years roll on. Among these, Santa's Grotto remained a much-loved highlight, attracting many families and reinforcing Book-Cycle's place within the community. Together, these events increased visibility and engagement, introducing new audiences to the charity while strengthening relationships with long-standing supporters.

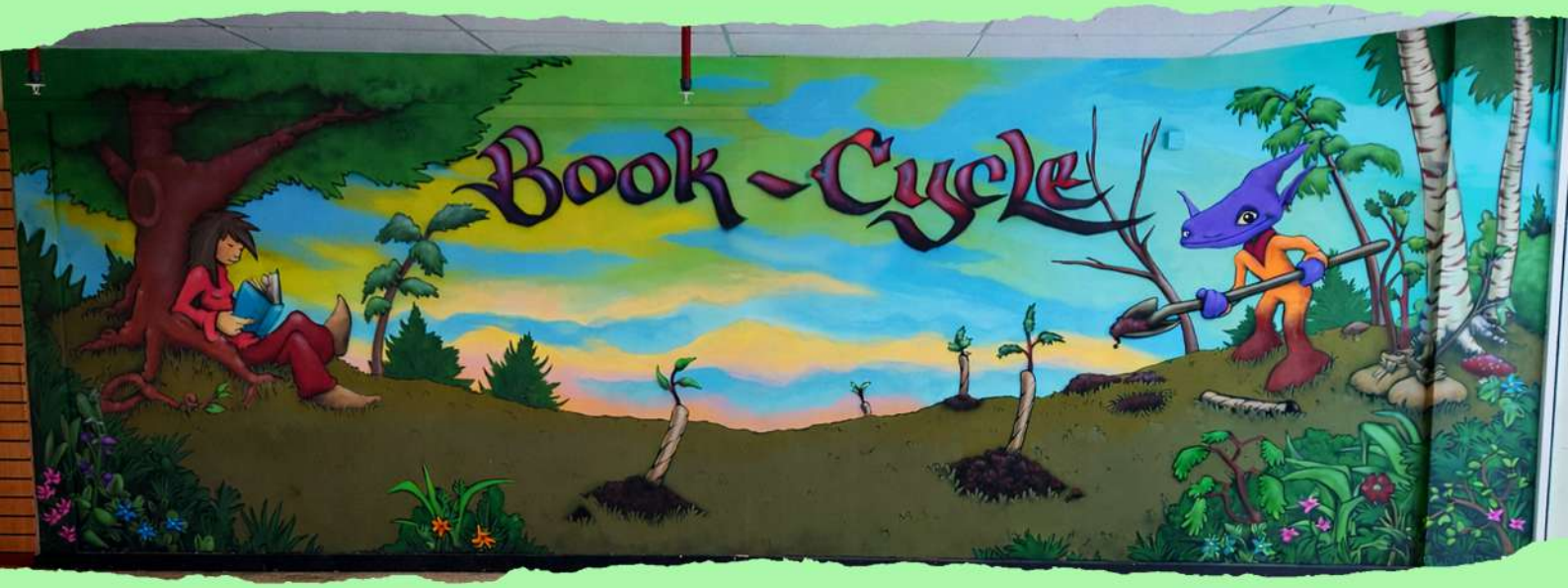


Alongside our larger events, the year was punctuated by our regular Fore Street monthly stalls and our continued presence at key annual events, including the Exeter Respect Festival, Wigan Diggers' Festival and the Exeter Seed Swap. These occasions remain central to nurturing partnerships and advancing shared values of community cohesion, equality and the sustainable sharing of resources. This continued programme has helped embed Book-Cycle more deeply within local networks, creating strong foundations for future collaboration and community-led activity, and was made possible by the energy and commitment of more than 120 volunteers in the Book-Cycle collective.

34 Future Plans

Each year we identify areas for improvement across the charity. Some are addressed in retrospect; others recur year after year, not through lack of intent but because operational demands have repeatedly taken precedence, as outlined in the Personal Story. While this necessity has led to valuable outcomes, such as permaculture courses at Beech Hill, fruit tree giveaways, and art exhibitions, it has also meant that several larger, longer-term ambitions have remained on hold.

Progress on these projects depends less on ideas than on capacity. Strengthening the charity through additional trustees and specialist advisors is therefore a central priority. With broader support in place, Book-Cycle will be better positioned to tackle more ambitious initiatives, including improved website automation, a more consistent social media presence, and the development of an online antiquarian bookshop. These areas represent significant opportunities, but can only be pursued once the appropriate expertise and sustained volunteer or team-based support is secured.



Thanks

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the extraordinary team of volunteers whose commitment, resilience and generosity of spirit continue to sustain Book-Cycle. Their willingness to sort, shift, shelve and share books, often through periods of uncertainty and change, has ensured that the charity not only endures but grows. We are equally grateful to our loyal customers and donors, whose ongoing support, encouragement and belief in our mission make our work possible and meaningful.

We also wish to thank our partners, supporters and fellow charities who have worked alongside us over the years, offering collaboration, space, expertise and trust. From local community organisations to national and international partners, these relationships have strengthened Book-Cycle's reach and impact.

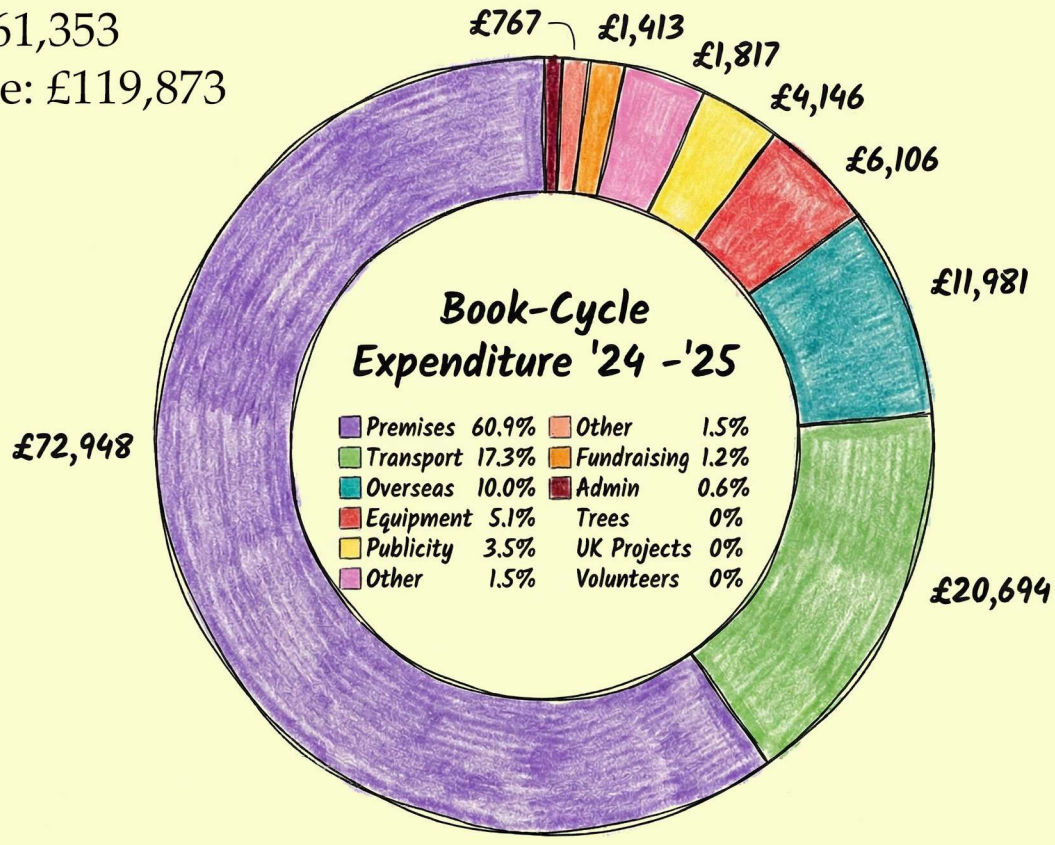
We look ahead with optimism to the year to come, confident in the strength of the community that surrounds Book-Cycle.

Figures

The year's figures saw a marked increase in revenue for the charity, attributed to the implementation of card payment processing facilities at all of our shops, along with many events utilising the hardware. The financial year closed with an increased income of £55,638.

The change in expenditure this year, particularly in the categories of transport and premises, which saw an increase of £12,917 and £15,047 respectively compared to the previous year, is directly linked to the relocation of Book-Cycle branches in the north, namely Book-Cycle Leigh on Bradshawgate, along with our Wigan branch to shared space offered by Rebuild with Hope. Given the current economic climate, it is now evermore prudent for the charity to shore up its resources and take stock of its assets and liabilities. With that in mind, a deep-dive into the long-standing running costs and upkeep of rented buildings will be vital on a premises-by-premises case, ensuring the charity as a whole can plan for long-term efficiency and efficacy.

Income: £161,353
Expenditure: £119,873



99p in every pound is spent on our charitable activities

www.book-cycle.org

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the BOOKCYCLE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Alan G Kehoe

Relevant professional qualification or body: Accountant

Address: 36 Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 2BZ

Date: 28th January 2026

Book-Cycle

Receipts & Payments Account
Year Ending 31 March 2025

	£	£
Donations		152,598
Other		8,755
Gross Receipts		161,353
Less Expenses		
Transport	20,694	
Publicity	4,146	
Equipment	6,106	
Premises	72,948	
Fundraising	1,413	
Overseas	11,981	
Trees	-	
Add. UK Projects	-	
Volunteers	-	
Admin	767	
Other	1,817	
		119,873
Net income for the year		41,480
Cash & Bank balances 1 April 2024		242,125
Transfer Loans Between Branches (memo only)		
Cash & Bank balances 31 March 2025		**283,605**

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Year Ending 31 March 2025

	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash and bank balances 31 March 2025	283,605	
		283,605
Net Assets		283,605
Capital Account		
Balance at start of period		242,125
Transfer Loans Between Branches (memo only)		
Net income for the year		41,480
		283,605

Notes to the Accounts

Receipts

Donations	Receipts from Book-Cycle outlets, 'Shelf-Cycles', fundraising events & private donations
Other Income	Bank interest, book recycling, online book sales, refunds, storage fees and funding grants

Payments

Transport	Vehicle purchase, tax, insurance, fuel, maintenance, parking fees / fines and volunteer travel
Publicity	Website, printing (posters / leaflets etc), online ads, signage, BC clothing
Equipment	Shop sundries, stationery, cleaning supplies, DIY equipment (tools, paint, hardware etc), IT & Comms equipment plus volunteer meetings
Premises	Rent & insurances, business rates & service charges, utilities, broadband & telephone, maintenance, Giffgaff, TRASH, fire safety checks & certificates
Fundraising	Event fees & equipment, signs, printing and online ads for events
Overseas	Shipping fees, customs costs, courier fees and packaging
Trees	Saplings and planting equipment, delivery costs
Additional UK Projects	
Volunteers	Courses, training and certificates
Admin	Trustee meetings, public & employer's liability insurances & fees, postage plus legal fees
Other	Waste / recycling charges, bank charges
Restricted Funds	Grants / specific project money
Unrestricted Funds	

Legal Information

Charity Name: Book-Cycle
Registered Charity Number: 1127078
Registered Address of Charity: 7 West St, Exeter, Devon. EX1 1BB
Named Trustees:

Mr. Anthony Melling

Ms. Sakeenah Feghir

Mr. James Atherton

Governance and Structure.

Constitution: Trust Deed dated 17th day of September 2008

Appointment of Trustees:

(1) There shall be at least three Trustees. Every future trustee shall be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called under clause K.

(2) In selecting persons to be appointed as trustees, the trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the Charity.

(3) When any new trustee is appointed the trustees shall ensure that any land belonging to the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodial for Charities or in a custodian trustee and all other property of the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodian of Charities, a custodian trustee or a nominee is effectively vested in the persons who are the trustees following such appointment.

(4) If for any reason trustees cannot be appointed in accordance with the forgoing positions the statutory power of appointing new or additional trustees shall be exercisable.

Eligibility for Trustee:

(1) No person shall be appointed as trustee;

(a) unless he or she has attained the age of 18 years; or

(b) in circumstances such that, had he or she already been a trustee, he or she would have been disqualified from office under the provisions of the following clause.

(2) No person shall be entitled to act as a trustee whether on a first or on any

subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the trustees a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity

Determination of Trusteeship:

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she;

(1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;

(3) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

(4) notifies to the trustees a wish to resign (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

Vacancies:

If a vacancy occurs the trustees shall note the fact in their minute book at their next meeting. Any eligible trustee may be re-appointed. So long as there shall be fewer than two trustees none of the powers or discretions hereby or by law vested in the trustees shall be exercisable except for the purpose of appointing a new trustee or trustees.

Powers & Restrictions of Trustees.
Powers:

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the trustees may exercise any of the following powers:

(i) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions.

(ii) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;

(iii) subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property comprised in the **trust** fund;

(iv) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(v) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for the objects or any of them;

(vi) to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the trustees may think fit;

(viii) to employ such staff (who shall not be trustees) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

(ix) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, but only in accordance with the written policy about reserves.

(x) to delegate to any one or more of the trustees the transaction of any business or the performance of any act required to be transacted or performed in the execution of the trusts of the Charity and which is within the professional or business competence of such trustee or trustees; Provided that the trustees shall exercise reasonable supervision over any trustee or trustees acting on their behalf under this provision and shall ensure that all their acts and proceeding are fully and promptly reported to them;

(xi) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

The Trustees May Not:

Buy goods or services from the charity.

Sell goods or services or any interest in land or property to the charity.

Charge the whole or any part of the assets belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of money borrowed on behalf of the Charity.

Borrow money on behalf of the Charity.

Be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Charity except for reasonable expenses incurred when acting on behalf of the Charity.

Lend money to the Charity.

BOOK - CYCLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1127078

Accounts

BOOK-CYCLE

Trustee Report 2023-2024



Book-Cycle Charitable Trust: 1127078

7 West Street, Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom

from tree to book and back again...

www.book-cycle.org

Contents:



Introduction..... 1

Vision..... 2

Chairman's Report. 3

Personal Story..... 6

Overseas Progress.. ...13

UK Progress..... .18

Future Plans..... ...23

Thanks..... ...24

Figures..... ...25

Examiner's Report.. ...27

SOFA..... ...28

Legal Info..... ...31

Trustees: Anthony Melling, Sakeenah Feghir, Jim Atherton.



Introduction

Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity. We seek to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources.

We also help reforest England by offering trees and information on sustainability. Book-Cycle works in communities throughout the UK, establishing projects to encourage self-reliance through home food growing, community gardening and promoting wildlife through the planting of trees. We also provide seed banks and host a variety of workshops.



2 Vision, Aims & Objectives

Vision:

Our vision is a world where everyone has the necessary tools for self-determination. Book-Cycle believes education is a right and should not be a privilege. Likewise, education needs to be broadened to include our place in nature and how best we might learn from that.

The Advancement of Education:

To improve literacy and the love of learning, by providing free access to books and information.

The Planting of Trees:

It seems only reasonable to balance our use of paper through the planting of trees.

The Promotion of Permaculture:

To complete the circle of education and tree planting we hope to increase the awareness of our place within nature and how best we might use her wonderful designs.



Chairman's Report

"When you educate a girl, you educate a nation."
African proverb

A sentiment I first heard echoed by the late Christopher Hitchens, who remarked, "The cure for poverty has a name, in fact: it's called the empowerment of women."

Over the past 17 years, I have had the privilege of meeting and working with most, if not all, of the Book-Cycle volunteers. Although I am always incredibly humbled by the dedication of all those who come to help week in and week out, I am often struck by the realisation that most of them happen to be women. On reflection, since its inception, Book-Cycle has been home to a host of determined women; pillars of the community who have been and continue to be foundational within our charity. Although men underpin many of our activities, we seem to be the exception rather than the rule.

Since its founding, Book-Cycle has been shaped and sustained by a community of remarkable women. They have been the backbone of our charity, contributing in countless ways to its growth and success. This reality was brought into sharp focus earlier this year with the passing of Henrietta, a long-standing volunteer at our original Exeter branch. A close friend and a constant presence, for me and many in Exeter, she became from the early days an integral part of Book-Cycle's story. Her presence, as constant as the books on our shelves, embodied the quiet dedication that has characterised so many of our female volunteers. From my own mother, Joan, who with others travelled to build libraries in Ghana as well as becoming a cornerstone of the Wigan branches, to Angela who managed to cycle from

Exeter to Rome to initiate our sister charity Book-Cycle Italia, to one of our trustees; Sakeenah who has helped guide the charity from day one, and countless others, these women have become the indispensable and sometimes unseen architecture supporting our mission.

Whilst reflecting on why women have been the primary driving force behind many of Book-Cycle's achievements, I came across the work of Dr. James O'Connell and Kristen Hawkes, at the University of Utah and their research on the "Grandmother Hypothesis" which suggests that grandmothers play a crucial role in human evolution. The prolonged lifespan of women beyond their reproductive years is believed to have evolved primarily to support and care for their grandchildren. This intergenerational support enhances survival rates by passing down valuable knowledge about food sources, medicinal plants, and survival skills, strengthening social bonds within families and communities. This phenomenon is only known in two other species; orcas and pilot whales.

While national volunteering rates show only modest gender differences, Book-Cycle's volunteer base is predominantly female, with women comprising approximately seventy percent of our dedicated team. This striking imbalance suggests something deeper than mere coincidence - perhaps an expression of biology and ancient wisdom that recognises the fundamental connection between women, education, and societal progress.

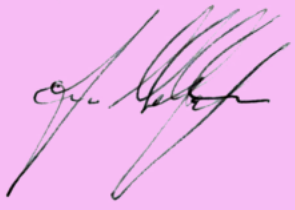
Likewise, the impact of educating girls and ensuring they remain in school cannot be overstated. Although literacy rates for girls have improved significantly over the past

few decades, many challenges remain. According to UNESCO, 129 million girls worldwide are still out of school, and in some regions, fewer than 20% of girls complete secondary education. Yet, the benefits of educating girls are profound and far-reaching. Studies show that for every additional year a girl stays in school, her future income increases by up to 20%. Educated girls are more likely to marry later, have fewer children, and provide better healthcare and education for their families. Moreover, communities with higher rates of female literacy experience lower poverty rates, improved public health, and greater economic stability. Educated women are more likely to participate in decision-making processes, advocate for social change, and contribute to the development of their communities (OECD). In short, investing in girls' education creates a ripple effect that transforms societies.

At Book-Cycle, we are proud to play a small but meaningful role in this global effort. By providing access to books and educational resources, we help empower girls and women to reach their full potential to hopefully become part of that chain of knowledge custodians that our volunteers so clearly embody.

By elevating Book-Cycle's mission from a simple charitable endeavour to something profoundly significant: a continuation of humanity's oldest and most essential tradition—the passing of wisdom from one generation to the next. Guided by the steady hands and determined hearts of many women, we recognise that in educating others, we truly educate nations.

Anthony Melling
Chairman and Founder



6 Personal Story

The Role of Women within Book-Cycle

As noted above, the role of women in education appears to be foundational for our species. This is clearly reflected in the demographics of Book-Cycle, where many women have taken leading roles within the organisation—perhaps not by chance.



Though there are too many to mention, what follows is a very brief snapshot of just some of their stories and adventures.

We sadly lost several volunteers this year, one of whom was Henrietta. By all accounts, she had lived an exceptional life—having been part of Haight-Ashbury in the '60s, helping to smuggle Solzhenitsyn's manuscripts from behind the Iron Curtain, and even hosting Ian Dury as a lodger whilst living in London. Yet, she remained remarkably modest about these experiences.

Over the years, Hetty became an integral part of the Exeter community and Book-Cycle in particular, dedicating many years to the charity, driven by her love of books and her deep connection to our philosophy.

This year also saw the first book consignments sent to Zimbabwe in over a decade—an effort inspired and facilitated by Henrietta's son, Ossian, who has strong ties to the country from their extensive travels together.

Other notable figures from Book-Cycle's inception include Bernie, the former proprietor of West Street, whose suggestion led to the establishment of our first shop. Likewise, the early years were significantly shaped by individuals such as Helen, Ari, Di Wandelt—one of our first trustees—and of course, Sakeenah, a trustee who remains a driving force within Book-Cycle.

Another unforgettable chapter—often referenced in trustee reports—is Angela's epic cycling journey from Exeter to Rome with Kiwi Craig. After years of assisting in the Exeter shop, they embarked on their adventure to Italy, eventually founding the sister charity, Book-Cycle Italia. Their first base was "il Grande Cocomero" in Rome's San Lorenzo district before expanding to a beautiful shop in Torpignattara. Both locations continue to thrive, upholding the same ethos and mission as Book-Cycle UK.


DVD
Book-Cycle
Tractors

It is also worth highlighting the remarkable women and unique circumstances that came together to establish Book-Cycle's second outlet over 13 years ago. At the time, Beech Hill Library was marked for closure, and the local community was given the chance to take over its operation. It happened to be the first library Anthony visited, brought there twice a week by his grandmother, who lived just a few streets away. Meanwhile, Book-Cycle had already been successfully running its "free bookshop" in Exeter for several years when Anthony's mother, Joan, suggested that the organisation might be able to help. Over the following months, a dedicated group—including Joan Melling, Joan Edwards, Fiona Miles, Jacqui, and Denise, to name just a few—helped generate the momentum needed to establish what would become Book-Cycle Beech Hill.

Phyll Cullen, one of our most steadfast advocates, played a pivotal role in its opening and ongoing development. As a councillor, she ensured Book-Cycle remained supported within her ward, and as Mayor, she inaugurated many of our Northern branches.

Science teacher Hazel Duffy was instrumental in fostering connections between Rainford High and one of our longest-standing partner charities, Thrive Africa. Her contribution extended beyond fundraising—she played a key role in several international volunteer excursions, including our 2016 journey with 16 Book-Cycle volunteers to Ghana.

From Julie who helped to establish our online bookshop to Sue Winstanley who managed to secure ongoing

10 contributions from The Body Shop and still helps with Macmillan coffee mornings, the women at Book-Cycle Beech Hill are indicative of all our branches.



Each Book-Cycle has a strong cohort of women at the helm who, like their ancestral counterparts, are driven by an innate imperative to preserve and transmit knowledge, to nurture learning, and to strengthen the bonds of community through education. They are not just taking part in a charitable effort but actively contributing to a meaningful legacy of cultural preservation that resonates across generations.




Up To...
3 BOOKS
PER PERSON
PER DAY
PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY
AS ALL PROCEEDS
GO TO PLANTING


BOLA






Book-Cycle














Free
BOO
Treasure



Overseas Progress

The deepened collaboration with our partners at World of Books has enabled us to distribute an additional 120,000 books through three container shipments over the course of the year. These vital educational resources reached communities across West Africa, further solidifying our partnerships with To Live in Hope in Ghana and African Rural Volunteers and the Center for Youth & Sustainable Development in Lagos, Nigeria.



The two container shipments to Nigeria have been instrumental in supporting numerous schools and educational initiatives across Lagos and its surrounding regions. Books have already been delivered to facilities such as Guided Treasures Children School (Awoyaya), Afubram Private School (Ijegun), The Giving Tree School

(Ayobo), and Oakwood Academy (Ikorodu). The estimated 80,000 books provided will enable Evans Aguiyi and his team to continue their invaluable work, delivering crucial learning materials to under-served communities. This builds on a decade-long partnership with ARV & CYSD, which began in 2013 with our first pallet shipment of 2,000 books.

Similarly, our long-standing relationships in Ghana reached a new milestone this year with the dispatch of our 11th container shipment to Tema. Since 2010, organisations including Thrive Africa, Enliven Mama Africa, and To Live in Hope, have facilitated the distribution of over half a million books. These efforts have contributed to the establishment of more than 1,800 libraries and ICT labs in schools and communities across the country.



Additionally, secondary schools in Wigan have generously donated surplus computer equipment, furthering the impact of these projects.

In Zimbabwe, we delivered five pallets containing 10,000 books, greatly enhancing our contribution to educational progress in the region. This year marked a heartfelt renewal of our efforts in the country, inspired by the legacy of the late Henrietta and her son Ossian. Earlier in the year, we established valuable new connections through Sean Mullens, who played a pivotal role in distributing many of these books to communities in need. One of the recipients named their library "Aunty Hetty's Library" in a touching tribute to Ossian's mother, adding a beautiful new chapter to this ongoing story of connection and support.



Closer to home, our Book-Cycle outlet in Rome, affectionately known as the House of Priceless Books (Book-Cycle Il Ri-Ciclo del Libro), continues to thrive as an engaging hub for the local community. The dedicated volunteers of Book-Cycle Italia have fostered a vibrant literary culture by organising reading groups, curating workshops on screenwriting and film directing, and hosting visits from local schools to promote our ethos and aims. Their monthly newsletters keep the community informed about Book-Cycle's events and charitable progress, ensuring that the love of books remains alive and well in the Torpignattara area.



Throughout the year, educational books were shipped to partner charities across Europe, including Russia and Sicily, as well as to communities throughout Italy. Internationally, books found their way to Libya, the Caucasus, and even Uganda via Milan, thanks to connections made by the Rome-based volunteers.

In total, over 4,000 books were dispatched across 19 shipments, increasing book distribution by one third compared to the previous year's activities. These shipments also included bicycles, electronic devices, toys, and disability aids, generously donated by Insieme Per il Riuso (Together for Reuse), an organisation dedicated to collecting and redistributing reusable items to charitable and community groups in Rome.

Collectively, these efforts highlight Book-Cycle's dedication to promoting education, literacy, and community development worldwide.



18 UK Progress

Exeter's online bookshop maintained a steady momentum throughout the year. Numerous collectible books were listed on our digital shopfront, enabling us to reach a wider audience while generating additional revenue from sales. Due to the success of this initiative, we plan to offer more support to our volunteers, helping them further develop their skills in managing these tasks on a daily basis.

Summer highlights featured pop-up stalls at the Fore Street Flea events, as well as our book marquee at the 26th Exeter Respect Festival, celebrating diversity and equality in the city. Volunteers worked hard to prepare over 3,000 books, which filled our traveling bookshop for the two-day event at Belmont Park.



Book-Cycle branches across the North West of England continue to engage and inspire locals through an assorted range of events and community groups. Our in-house fundraising efforts featured Summer and Christmas Fayres, showcasing an array of creative crafts and unique designs from talented local artists and makers. These gatherings were enriched by live entertainment, including music and interactive activities, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

Numerous community groups have also taken root at Book-Cycle outlets, offering spaces for innovation, learning, and connection. Photography, sewing, and craft classes bring together creative-minded individuals to exchange skills, share ideas, and collaborate on projects. Meanwhile, reading, language and political groups provide valuable opportunities to local residents looking to engage or expand on such topics.



Wellbeing and men's mental health groups offered a supportive environment for nurturing the mind, body, and soul, encouraging open discussions on personal mental and physical wellbeing among kindred spirits. These groups are open to all, with a particular focus on supporting those who may experience social isolation, such as the elderly, by offering companionship, an inviting space, and a listening ear.



Book-Cycle Orrell marked its 10th anniversary with a special celebration by offering heritage fruit trees to local groups at the Summer Fayre, cultivating sustainability and fostering connections, all while reflecting on a decade of community engagement and growth. This year's World Book Day brought much joy to the winners of the Maharishi School competition, who left the shop with armfuls of book prizes and beaming smiles.


You
DECIDE
THE PRICE
for up to 3
BOOKS
Per Day
book-cycle.org


BOOK-C
what to pay for up to 3








Book · Cycle



Book-Cycle Leigh had an incredible start, launching one of the largest second-hand bookshops in the UK. However, our pop-up space was short-lived, and after just a year, the doors of this beautiful bookshop had to close. Despite its brief run, it attracted a devoted following, with visitors traveling from as far as Wales and Yorkshire just to explore our shelves.



This year also brought a fantastic addition to the Book-Cycle family, with over 50 volunteers from the Leigh borough joining our efforts. As with all Book-Cycle branches, it became a hub for the town's best and brightest—bringing together like-minded individuals and forging new friendships. Now, once again, Book-Cycle is on the lookout for new spaces and fresh opportunities to continue its mission.

Future Plans

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt

Book-Cycle occupies that liminal state between crystallising dreams and ambitions whilst being caught in the flow of fate and the world. Over the years, many of our aspirations have come to fruition, while others remain on the horizon—ideas waiting for the right moment to take shape. From dual-language publishing to help preserve the nearly 1,000 languages on the brink of extinction to acquiring land for a free Permaculture teaching space, our loftier ambitions often give way to more immediate, practical needs.

At present, securing stronger leases for our outlets and improving access to training guides and resources for our volunteers and beneficiaries take precedence. While we continue to dream big, much of Book-Cycle's work revolves around managing properties—both their upkeep and their acquisition. Our primary source of funding remains the generous donations for books at our shops, but in the near future, we will likely need to explore grant applications to address larger financial challenges. From making the Beech Hill washroom facilities more accessible for those with disabilities to the almost church-like need to repair roofs and maintain aging buildings, these seemingly mundane projects are essential for ensuring the charity's longevity and ongoing community engagement.

The recent transformation of Wigan town centre into a construction site, along with the loss of our Leigh space at Spinning Gate Shopping Centre, meant another major relocation—moving thousands of books, shelves, tools, and supplies. This increasingly demanding process highlights the urgent need for more permanent locations. Our most crucial goal for the coming year is to establish lasting spaces—not only to reduce the strain of constant moves but to lay down the roots necessary for sustained growth and long-term success.

Thanks

As Howard Zinn so eloquently put it, “Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.” This truth is at the heart of everything we do at Book-Cycle. The dedication, generosity, and enthusiasm we receive make it possible for us to further our charitable aims—promoting literacy, sustainability, and access to knowledge for communities both near and far.

Whether you have devoted your time as a volunteer, donated resources, browsed our shelves, or simply shared our vision with others, your involvement has been essential. Every purchase made in our shops,

every book passed on, and every moment given to helping others, directly contributes to expanding opportunities for those in need. Through your kindness, we continue to establish libraries, equip schools, and create welcoming spaces that inspire learning and connection.

We are truly grateful for your continued commitment and support, which enables us to reach further and achieve more. Thanks to you, Book-Cycle remains a thriving initiative, changing lives one book at a time.

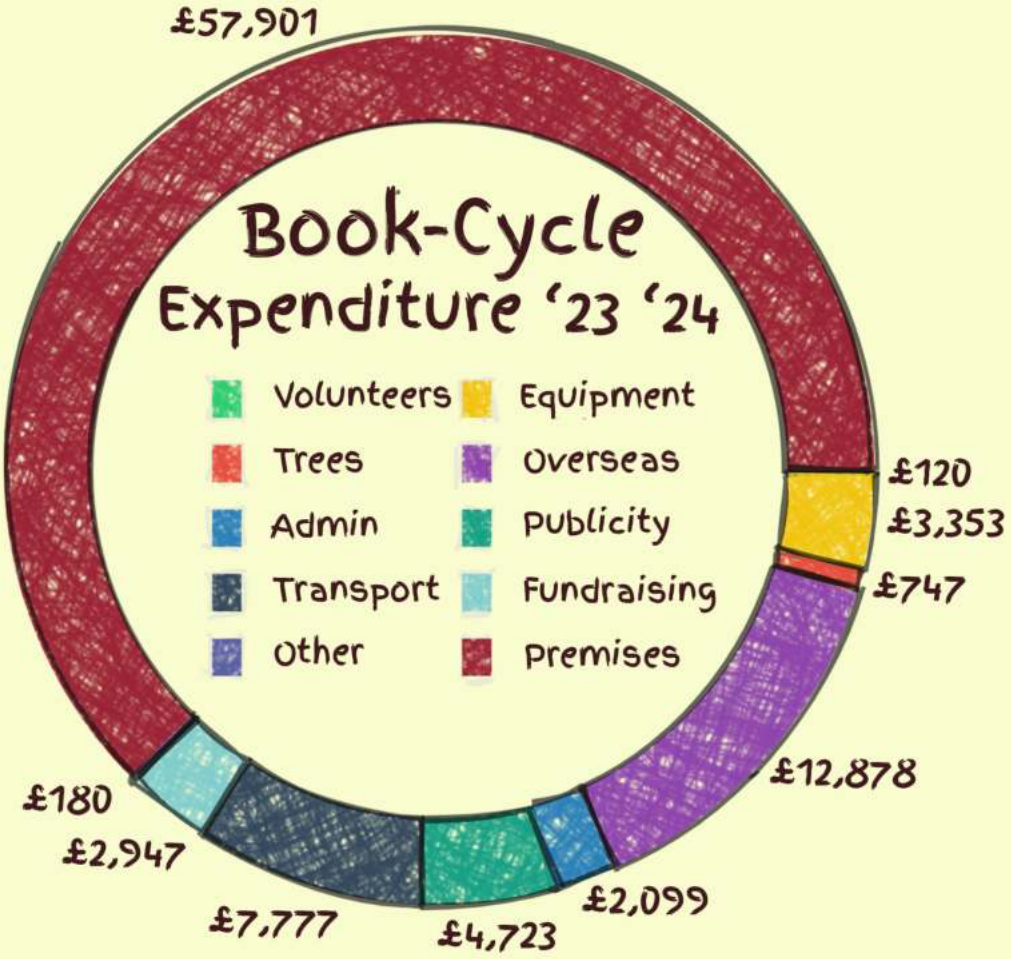
Figures

This year, income saw an overall decline, primarily due to the temporary closure of Book-Cycle Leigh, resulting in a £35,642 decrease for the financial year ending March 2024.

On the expenditure side, general running costs were reduced by £48,994, with over 60% of this decrease attributed to premises-related expenses. Additional savings were made in areas such as transport and equipment costs. Spending on overseas projects, including book shipments to partner charities, was reduced by £6,118.

26 However, despite this contraction, we successfully distributed a comparable number of books to the previous year, ensuring global projects continued to benefit. As always, we remain committed to minimising operational costs across all areas to maximise the reach and impact of our initiatives

Income: £105,715
Expenditure: £92,725



97p in every pound is spent on our charitable activities

www.book-cycle.org

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the BOOKCYCLE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Alan G Kehoe

Relevant professional qualification or body: Accountant

Address: 36 Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 2BZ

Date: 27th January 2025

Book-Cycle

Receipts & Payments Account
Year Ending 31 March 2024

	£	£
Donations		89,965
Other		15,750
Gross Receipts		105,715
Less Expenses		
Transport	7,777	
Publicity	4,723	
Equipment	3,353	
Premises	57,901	
Fundraising	2,947	
Overseas	12,878	
Trees	747	
Add. UK Projects	-	
Volunteers	120	
Admin	2,099	
Other	180	
		92,725
Net receipts for the year		12,990
Cash & Bank balances 1 April 2023		229,135
Transfer Loans other Branches		-
Cash & Bank balances 31 March 2024		242,125

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Year Ending 31 March 2024

	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash and bank balances 31 March 2024	242,125	
		242,125
Net Assets		242,125
Capital Account		
Balance at start of period		229,135
Transfer loans to other branches		-
Net receipts / (payments)		12,990
		242,125

Notes to the Accounts

Receipts

Donations	Receipts from Book-Cycle outlets, 'shelf-cycles', events & private donations
Other Income	Bank interest, book recycling, online book sales, refunds, storage fees and funding grants

Payments

Transport	Vehicle purchase, tax, insurance, fuel, maintenance, parking / fines and volunteer travel, transport logisitics
Publicity	Website, printing (posters / leaflets etc), online ads, signage, BC clothing
Equipment	Shop sundries, stationery, cleaning supplies, DIY equipment (tools, paint, hardware etc), IT & Comms equipment and volunteer meetings
Premises	Rent & insurances, business rates & service charges, utilities, broadband & telephone, maintenance, Giffgaff, TRASH, fire safety checks & certificates
Fundraising	Event fees & equipment, signs, printing and online ads for events, provisions for food sales
Overseas	Shipping costs, courier and packaging costs, customs / port legal fees
Trees	
Projects	
Volunteers	Courses, training and certificates
Admin	Trustee meetings, public & employer's liabiity insurances & fees, postage
Other	Waste / recycling charges, bank charges

Restricted Funds	Grants / specific project money
Unrestricted Funds	

Legal Information

Charity Name: Book-Cycle
Registered Charity Number: 1127078
Registered Address of Charity: 7 West St, Exeter, Devon. EX1 1BB
Named Trustees:

Mr. Anthony Melling

Ms. Sakeenah Feghir

Mr. James Atherton

Governance and Structure.

Constitution: Trust Deed dated 17th day of September 2008

Appointment of Trustees:

(1) There shall be at least three Trustees. Every future trustee shall be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called under clause K.

(2) In selecting persons to be appointed as trustees, the trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the Charity.

(3) When any new trustee is appointed the trustees shall ensure that any land belonging to the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodial for Charities or in a custodian trustee and all other property of the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodian of Charities, a custodian trustee or a nominee is effectively vested in the persons who are the trustees following such appointment.

(4) If for any reason trustees cannot be appointed in accordance with the forgoing positions the statutory power of appointing new or additional trustees shall be exercisable.

Eligibility for Trustee:

(1) No person shall be appointed as trustee;

(a) unless he or she has attained the age of 18 years; or

(b) in circumstances such that, had he or she already been a trustee, he or she would have been disqualified from office under the provisions of the following clause.

(2) No person shall be entitled to act as a trustee whether on a first or on any

subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the trustees a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity

Determination of Trusteeship:

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she;

(1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;

(3) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

(4) notifies to the trustees a wish to resign (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

Vacancies:

If a vacancy occurs the trustees shall note the fact in their minute book at their next meeting. Any eligible trustee may be re-appointed. So long as there shall be fewer than two trustees none of the powers or discretions hereby or by law vested in the trustees shall be exercisable except for the purpose of appointing a new trustee or trustees.

Powers & Restrictions of Trustees.
Powers:

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the trustees may exercise any of the following powers:

(i) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions.

(ii) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;

(iii) subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property comprised in the **trust** fund;

(iv) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(v) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for the objects or any of them;

(vi) to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the trustees may think fit;

(viii) to employ such staff (who shall not be trustees) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

(ix) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, but only in accordance with the written policy about reserves.

(x) to delegate to any one or more of the trustees the transaction of any business or the performance of any act required to be transacted or performed in the execution of the trusts of the Charity and which is within the professional or business competence of such trustee or trustees; Provided that the trustees shall exercise reasonable supervision over any trustee or trustees acting on their behalf under this provision and shall ensure that all their acts and proceeding are fully and promptly reported to them;

(xi) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

The Trustees May Not:

Buy goods or services from the charity.

Sell goods or services or any interest in land or property to the charity.

Charge the whole or any part of the assets belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of money borrowed on behalf of the Charity.

Borrow money on behalf of the Charity.

Be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Charity except for reasonable expenses incurred when acting on behalf of the Charity.

Lend money to the Charity.

BOOK - CYCLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1127078

Accounts

BOOK-CYCLE

Trustee Report 2022-2023



Book-Cycle Charitable Trust: 1127078

7 West Street, Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom

from tree to book and back again...

www.book-cycle.org

Contents:



Introduction..... 1
Vision..... 2
Chairman's Report. 3
Personal Story..... 6
Overseas Progress.. ...12
UK Progress..... .15
Future Plans..... ...19
Thanks..... ...19
Figures 20
Examiner's Report.. ...22
SOFA 23
Legal Info 26

Trustees: Anthony Melling, Sakeenah Feghir, Jim Atherton.

Patron: Benjamin Zephaniah.



Introduction

Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity. We seek to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources.

We also help reforest England by offering trees and information on sustainability. Book-Cycle works in communities throughout the UK, establishing projects to encourage self-reliance through home food growing, community gardening and promoting wildlife through the planting of trees. We also provide seed banks and host a variety of workshops.



2 Vision, Aims & Objectives

Vision:

Our vision is a world where everyone has the necessary tools for self-determination. Book-Cycle believes education is a right and should not be a privilege. Likewise, education needs to be broadened to include our place in nature and how best we might learn from that.

The Advancement of Education:

To improve literacy and the love of learning, by providing free access to books and information.

The Planting of Trees:

It seems only reasonable to balance our use of paper through the planting of trees.

The Promotion of Permaculture:

To complete the circle of education and tree planting we hope to increase the awareness of our place within nature and how best we might use her wonderful designs.



Chairman's Report

"Scientia potestas est"

Whether from the pen of Francis Bacon or Imam Ali, both of them landed upon the common truism that,
"Knowledge is Power."

Each year I write a summary of what Book-Cycle has achieved over the past twelve months and what it hopes to accomplish in the coming year, though as I write retrospectively I find myself on this occasion in the knowledge of our patrons' passing; Benjamin Zephaniah. A man to whom Book-Cycle partly owes its inspiration, his life, a testament to the transformative power of knowledge and the essential role literacy plays in shaping lives. On reflection, it will be hard to find a more appropriate patron for Book Cycle as he embodied many of our aims and aspirations.

"Reading is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity. It forms the quality of our lives. It feeds the human spirit." he writes in his 2005 book, "Reggaeman, Fireman."

Similarly, in an interview with the Guardian, he notes, "Every child deserves the chance to learn to read and write. Literacy is the foundation for a bright future."

Echoing Book-Cycle's ethos; the empowerment of children through literacy is a driving force behind many of our endeavours and access to books in particular. Over the past 16 years, we have looked to make literature freely available in places where it might have the most impact, both in the UK and abroad.

To date, we have helped build over 1,800 libraries and distributed nearly 2 million free books worldwide, shipping over 100,000 in the past 12 months alone.

Our relationships in West Africa continue to flourish mainly through our good friends at CYSD and African Rural Volunteers in Nigeria and To Live in Hope, Ghana. Likewise, new connections are beginning to take root as is the case with Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. Enabled in no small part by our growing relationship with World of Books who are helping to fill containers at their distribution depot in Swansea, Wales.

This year also saw the advent of new shops in the North of England thereby growing the Book-Cycle family of volunteers; new friends and comrades, all of whom I have had the pleasure of working with. Although I mention the work of volunteers each year, I am always humbled by the dedication of all involved and am kept eternally optimistic by the boundless energy and enthusiasm of such people, and reminded again of Zephaniah's words on this subject;

"Volunteerism is a revolutionary act. It's about choosing compassion over indifference, choosing action over apathy."

As we are 100% volunteer-run, all of our incredible achievements have been made possible by random acts of kindness and compassion. Nearly two decades on and many millions of combined hours of effort, just for the love of it.

This year's foray into busy footfall areas also bodes well, as a marked uptick in both new volunteers and customers meant that our revenue stream practically doubled, though as to be expected, so did many of our costs. Looking forward, we would hope to build on our main successes as well as recoup money in other key areas.

Our new Tree-Cycle map continues to evolve, the geo-tagging of our fruit tree giveaways and local food resources becoming ever more useful for training, pruning, public engagement and of course harvesting!

Paying heed to our tagline, “from tree to book and back again…” and seeing how vital trees are within our community, I am once again reminded of where we stand philosophically by author Bryant McGill who writes,

“One of the most radical and revolutionary things you can do is grow your own food and eat from the land.”

Thus Book-Cycle’s quiet revolution continues unabated through the devotion of our patrons, customers and volunteers alike, each year looking to improve on the last and spread the transformative power of food-growing, trees and books far and wide.



Chairman & Founder
Anthony Melling

6 Personal Story

Book-Cycle Leigh

This year has been one of remarkable growth and expansion for Book-Cycle. A fortunate confluence of events presented us with the opportunity to not only find a new home for our overflowing collection of nearly half a million books, but also relocate and revitalise one of our Wigan branches.



As fate would have it, the Spinning Gate Shopping Centre in Leigh, Greater Manchester, approached us with an enticing proposition: to take over their former B&M supermarket unit.

This expansive space measuring 13,000 square feet, was not only ideal for accommodating our vast book inventory, but

it also presented the perfect canvas for creating what would become our largest Book-Cycle outlet to date.

In the spirit of Book Cycle's resourceful nature, our seasoned team of volunteer shopfitters embarked on the ambitious task of reshaping this cavernous space into a welcoming haven for book lovers.



With a shoestring budget and a boundless supply of creativity, they transformed the raw space; building, sorting, cleaning, painting, and adorning it with murals, now replete with comfy furniture, and of course, meticulously ordered and alphabetised bookshelves stretching over 5 kilometres - making it one of Britain’s biggest secondhand bookshops.

From behind the large glass windows, the public witnessed the metamorphosis, and it wasn't long before eager volunteers came knocking, offering their enthusiastic support to this exciting addition to Leigh's town centre.

As with all Book-Cycles, we attract some of the most dedicated and helpful individuals in the area, and within a month of opening our doors, we had welcomed nearly 40 volunteers into the Book-Cycle family.



Over the subsequent months, Book-Cycle Leigh quickly gained a devoted following, establishing itself as a cherished destination in the town. Its impact extended beyond its walls, contributing to a record-breaking year for the Spinning Gate precinct, which saw over 3 million visitors, undoubtedly drawn in part by the allure of this expansive and well-stocked treasure trove.

Our partnership with shopping centres is one of mutual benefit. We gain access to a spacious and affordable location, allowing us to further our mission of promoting literacy and community engagement. In turn, the landlords benefit from mitigated business rates

and utilities, while the centre itself thrives with the vibrancy and footfall that a Book-Cycle shop attracts.

Such arrangements are increasingly common on British high streets facing challenges in securing tenants. However, the potential for relocation remains, contingent on a more commercially viable tenant expressing interest. Though we approach any length of tenure with the same determination and gratitude. Even a temporary presence allows us to establish a foothold in a new community, forge connections, and make a lasting impact.



The enormous space allowed us to curate a truly comprehensive collection, with entire sections dedicated to specific genres, like the impressive history section spanning the entire 120 foot back wall.

We also carved out a delightful children's book area, complete with cosy reading nooks, perfect for nurturing a love of reading in young minds.

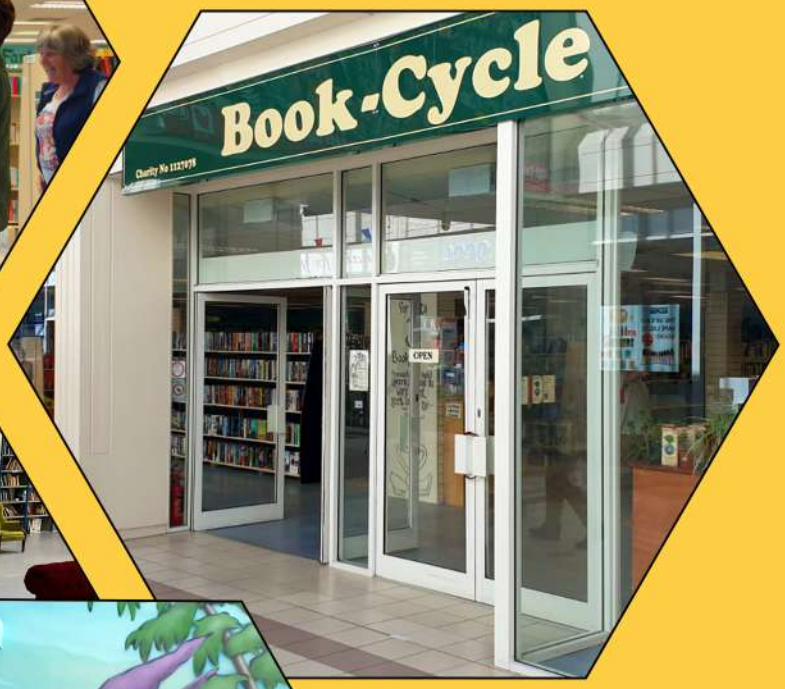
Beyond the books, the branch also served as a platform for community engagement. Groups like "ManLeigh" found a safe space to host regular meetings in support of men's mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, we continued to open our doors to the "Warm Spaces" initiative advocated by local councils during colder months, providing a welcoming place for those seeking warmth and company.

The people of Leigh have embraced Book-Cycle with open arms, showering us with positive feedback and heartfelt recommendations. Comments like "The best thing that's happened to Leigh in years!" and "Thank you to Book-Cycle and all its wonderful volunteers. Both myself and my daughter have fallen in love with reading since your arrival in Leigh!" fill our hearts with joy and confirm the positive impact we're making.

In a short space of time, Book-Cycle Leigh has woven itself into the fabric of the local community. Although we encountered a few initial challenges, the overwhelming success and positive reception have solidified our desire to replicate the best aspects of this blossoming branch in our future endeavours.

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the Leigh community, and witness the many benefits of books and shared spaces. Book-Cycle Leigh may only be a fledgling outlet, but the stories it has sparked and the connections we have made will leave an enduring mark.




Book-Cycle






Children's





12 Overseas Progress

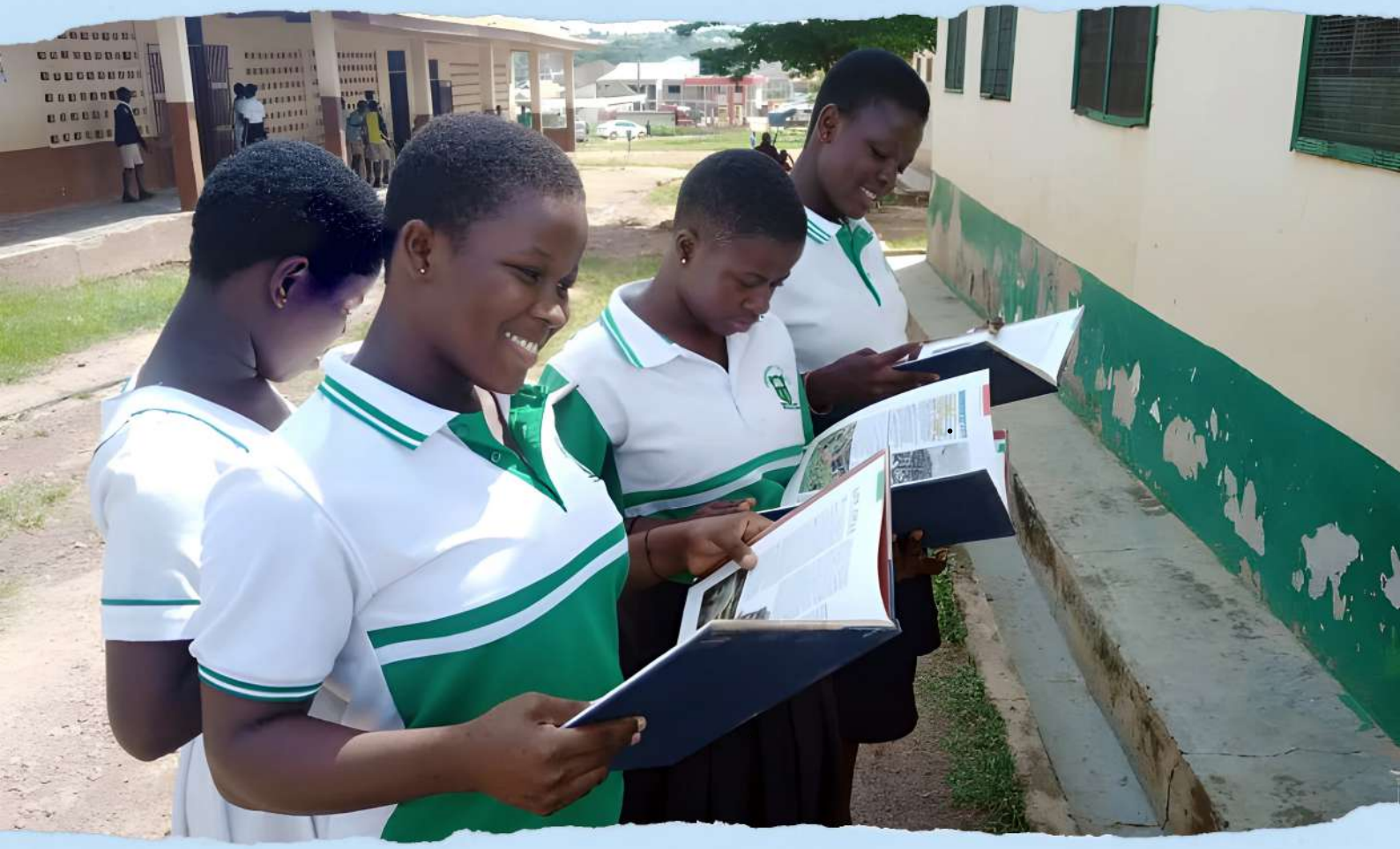
This year witnessed a considerable increase in the volume of books delivered to our partner charities from the UK. Facilitated mainly by our burgeoning relationship with one of the world's biggest book retailers, World of Books. Joe Hewitt, their UK Wholesale Manager, has played a vital role in this endeavour.



Throughout the year, the further development of our ongoing partnerships with the Center for Youth & Sustainable Development (CYSD) and African Rural Volunteers (ARV) in Lagos, Nigeria was our main focus, providing over 100,000 books in three consignments. CYSD has been actively donating books to over 50 schools and communities in Nigeria since 2019.

They have also established a community-based 'Book Bank' where children can visit and borrow books for free and are currently constructing a library in the Mokoko village. To date, they have built four libraries to ensure that children, especially those in marginalised communities, have access to essential educational materials. Our fruitful access to this part of Africa would not be possible without the concerted efforts of Lili Sembi & Evans Aguiyi and their amazing network of volunteers.

During spring, an additional container shipment of 35,000 books departed for the port of Tema, Ghana. Maxwell Donkor and his team of volunteers from To Live In Hope, collected and transported the books to Kumasi for distribution throughout the year in their literacy projects.



Book-Cycle Italia had a very successful year with a broad range of activities and projects alongside running the 'House of Priceless Books', which is nurtured throughout the year by a team of 19 volunteers. A total of 30 shipments were dispatched to numerous organisations throughout Italy and Sicily, as well as two international shipments to Uganda.

Our sister branch continues to grow and flourish, some of their future plans include hosting various workshops and partnering with local eco projects and schools.



UK Progress

Throughout the year, Exeter volunteers transformed ordinary corners into book oases, presenting charming bijou bookstalls that ‘popped-up’ to offer literary delights. Highlights included ‘Fore Street Flea’ Sundays and the annual Respect Festival; a kaleidoscope of music, activism and vibrant costumes, which celebrated the city's two-and-a-half-decade-long commitment to equality.

As spring bloomed, Exeter Seed Bank burst into life with their first seed swap event. Hundreds of eager faces swapped heirloom tomatoes for fragrant herbs whilst sharing stories and knowledge, sowing a passion for sustainable gardening in many hearts.



Across Book-Cycle's North-West branches, the air crackled with the energy of fundraising events. From vibrant spring fêtes to our Eco & Wellbeing Fayre, each occasion brimmed with community spirit.

The Fayre blossomed into a launchpad for exciting initiatives – the "Tree-Cycle Giveaway" saw over 20 local groups, including Wigan Warriors Community Foundation and Give it a Grow Wigan, secure handfuls of free heritage fruit trees for their orchards, enriching community food growing projects. And to keep track of all these burgeoning green spaces, our interactive map sprouted online in partnership with Falling Fruit, inviting everyone to join the community orchard journey.



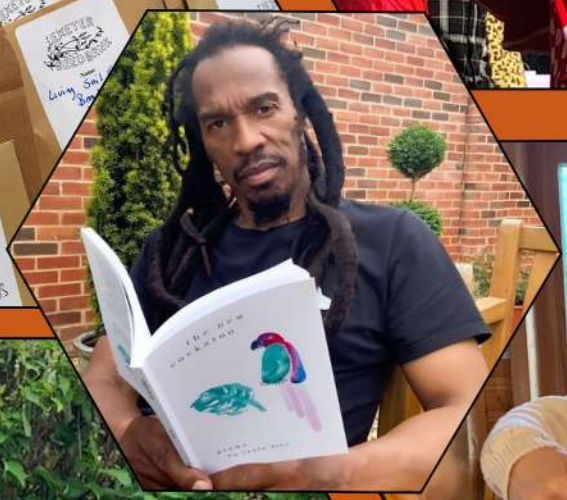
And lastly, a quick mention of our online bookshops which have begun in earnest and contributed greatly to this year's overall takings. These virtual outlets allow us to share a curated collection of antiquarian books with a much wider audience, ensuring as many books as possible find loving new homes.




Incredible Vegetables




BROAD BEANS
EXETER SEED BANK








Exeter
Respect
Festival2023
ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL
BELMONT PARK
SAT 10 & SUN 11 JUNE 2023
MUSIC • PLAY • ART • WORKSHOPS • DANCE
STORIES • STALLS • CAMPAIGNS • CRAFTS
DISPLAYS • FOOD • AND MUCH MORE!
ENTRANCE £2, UNDER 16S FREE
ALCOHOL FREE FESTIVAL

Future Plans

Our future plans are as elaborate as they are ambitious, but with each leap, a pause and consolidation is requisite for any further endeavours. Thus, the coming year will be one of foundation building and internal structural work. From new trustees and volunteer work groups to visual guides and online help, this will be the mainstay of next year's plan in preparation for some of our more lofty goals; that of purchasing premises in order to cut outgoing costs as well as automation of some of our services. Likewise, we hope to expand and upscale our partnership with World of Books to facilitate a more fluid application process for some of our beneficiaries.

Thanks

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our incredible volunteers, past and present, whose tireless efforts make Book-Cycle possible. And a special remembrance to those who are no longer with us; Tom, Howard, Carole, Keith, and our patron Benjamin. Memories of them will of course live on in an ethereal sense but their work for Book-Cycle will continue in a very tangible way, through the books they helped send to children all over the world who are only just embarking on thei own journey of literature and imagination.

20 Figures

The financial period ending March 2023 witnessed a positive trend in income for Book-Cycle, demonstrating healthy growth compared to previous years. The organisation generated a total of £141,357 during this period, exceeding expectations and reflecting its commitment to financial sustainability.

Two key factors contributed to this significant rise in revenue. Firstly, the opening of Book-Cycle Leigh during the second quarter provided valuable insights into the potential of a high street presence. Operating for over six months, the new branch has already offered a glimpse into the future growth possibilities associated with increased physical footfall. Secondly, both the Beech Hill and Exeter branches experienced a steady expansion of online sales for antiquarian and rare books. This sustained growth in the digital marketplace diversified Book-Cycle's income streams and contributed significantly to its overall financial success.

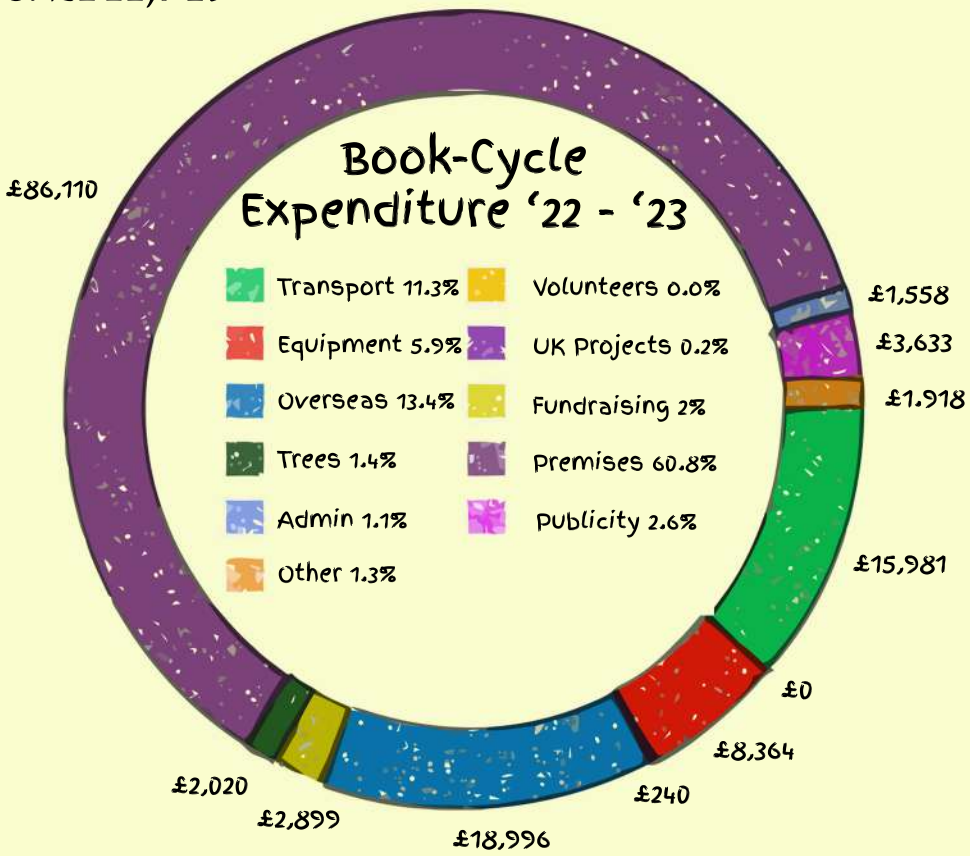
These positive developments bode well for the future of Book-Cycle. The organisation's strategic expansion into high-traffic locations coupled with its continued focus on online sales diversification demonstrates its commitment to achieving long-term financial stability and fulfilling its mission of empowering children worldwide through access to books and educational resources.

Figures

Despite Book-Cycle's frugal traditions, maintaining our UK outlets incurs sizable costs like utilities and rent.

These hubs however are crucial, serving as fundraising sources through public donations whilst simultaneously acting as volunteer hubs, community spaces, and free book repositories for all.

Income: £141,357
Expenditure: £141,719



97p in every pound is spent on our charitable activities

www.book-cycle.org

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the BOOKCYCLE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Alan G Kehoe

Relevant professional qualification or body: Accountant

Address: 36 Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 2BZ

Date: 29th January 2024

Book-Cycle

Receipts & Payments Account
Year Ending 31 March 2023

	£	£
Donations		128,731
Other		12,626
Gross Receipts		141,357
Less Expenses		
Transport	15,981	
Publicity	3,633	
Equipment	8,364	
Premises	86,110	
Fundraising	2,899	
Overseas	18,996	
Trees	2,020	
Add. UK Projects	240	
Volunteers	-	
Admin	1,558	
Other	1,918	
		141,719
Net receipts for the year		- 362
Cash & Bank balances 1 April 2022		229,497
Transfer Loans other Branches		-
Cash & Bank balances 31 March 2023		229,135

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Year Ending 31 March 2023

	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash and bank balances 31 March 2023	229,135	
		229,135
Net Assets		229,135
Capital Account		
Balance at start of period		229,497
Transfer loans to other branches		-
Net receipts / (payments)		- 362
		229,135

Notes to the Accounts

Receipts

Donations	Receipts from Book-Cycle outlets, 'shelf-cycles', events & private donations
Other Income	Bank interest, book recycling, online book sales, refunds, storage fees and funding grants

Payments

Transport	Vehicle purchase, tax, insurance, fuel, maintenance, parking / fines and volunteer travel, transport logisitics
Publicity	Website, printing (posters / leaflets etc), online ads, signage, BC clothing
Equipment	Shop sundries, stationery, cleaning supplies, DIY equipment (tools, paint, hardware etc), IT & Comms equipment and volunteer meetings
Premises	Rent & insurances, business rates & service charges, utilities, broadband & telephone, maintenance, Giffgaff, TRASH, fire safety checks & certificates
Fundraising	Event fees & equipment, signs, printing and online ads for events, provisions for food sales, tent purchase, event tables
Overseas	Shipping costs, courier costs and packaging supplies
Trees	Saplings & planting equipment, delivery costs
Additional UK Projects	
Volunteers	Courses, training and certificates
Admin	Trustee meetings, public & employer's liabiity insurances & fees, postage, legal fees
Other	Waste / recycling charges, bank charges
Restricted Funds	Grants / specific project money
Funds	

Legal Information

Charity Name: Book-Cycle
Registered Charity Number: 1127078
Registered Address of Charity: 7 West St, Exeter, Devon. EX1 1BB
Named Trustees:

Mr. Anthony Melling

Ms. Sakeenah Feghir

Mr. James Atherton

Governance and Structure.

Constitution: Trust Deed dated 17th day of September 2008

Appointment of Trustees:

(1) There shall be at least three Trustees. Every future trustee shall be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called under clause K.

(2) In selecting persons to be appointed as trustees, the trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the Charity.

(3) When any new trustee is appointed the trustees shall ensure that any land belonging to the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodial for Charities or in a custodian trustee and all other property of the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodian of Charities, a custodian trustee or a nominee is effectively vested in the persons who are the trustees following such appointment.

(4) If for any reason trustees cannot be appointed in accordance with the forgoing positions the statutory power of appointing new or additional trustees shall be exercisable.

Eligibility for Trustee:

(1) No person shall be appointed as trustee;

(a) unless he or she has attained the age of 18 years; or

(b) in circumstances such that, had he or she already been a trustee, he or she would have been disqualified from office under the provisions of the following clause.

(2) No person shall be entitled to act as a trustee whether on a first or on any

subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the trustees a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity

Determination of Trusteeship:

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she;

(1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;

(3) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

(4) notifies to the trustees a wish to resign (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

Vacancies:

If a vacancy occurs the trustees shall note the fact in their minute book at their next meeting. Any eligible trustee may be re-appointed. So long as there shall be fewer than two trustees none of the powers or discretions hereby or by law vested in the trustees shall be exercisable except for the purpose of appointing a new trustee or trustees.

Powers & Restrictions of Trustees.
Powers:

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the trustees may exercise any of the following powers:

(i) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions.

(ii) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;

(iii) subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property comprised in the **trust** fund;

(iv) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(v) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for the objects or any of them;

(vi) to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the trustees may think fit;

(viii) to employ such staff (who shall not be trustees) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

(ix) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, but only in accordance with the written policy about reserves.

(x) to delegate to any one or more of the trustees the transaction of any business or the performance of any act required to be transacted or performed in the execution of the trusts of the Charity and which is within the professional or business competence of such trustee or trustees; Provided that the trustees shall exercise reasonable supervision over any trustee or trustees acting on their behalf under this provision and shall ensure that all their acts and proceeding are fully and promptly reported to them;

(xi) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

The Trustees May Not:

Buy goods or services from the charity.

Sell goods or services or any interest in land or property to the charity.

Charge the whole or any part of the assets belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of money borrowed on behalf of the Charity.

Borrow money on behalf of the Charity.

Be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Charity except for reasonable expenses incurred when acting on behalf of the Charity.

Lend money to the Charity.

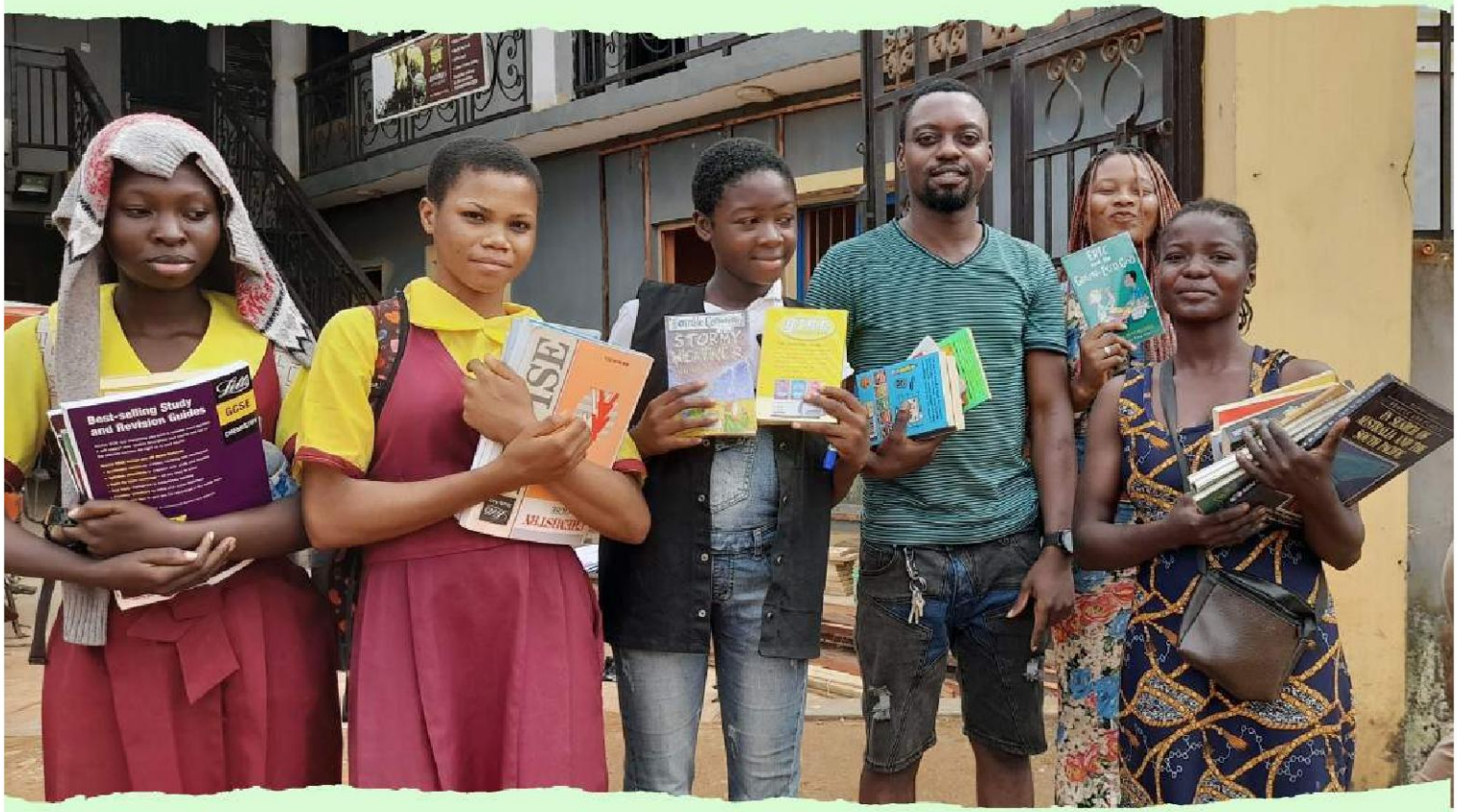
BOOK - CYCLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1127078

Accounts

BOOK-CYCLE

Trustee Report 2021-2022



Book-Cycle Charitable Trust: 1127078

7 West Street, Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom

from tree to book and back again...

www.book-cycle.org

Contents:



Introduction..... 1

Vision..... 2

Chairman's Report. 3

Personal Story..... 6

Overseas Progress.. ...14

UK Progress..... .17

Future Plans..... ...21

Thanks..... ...22

Figures..... ...23

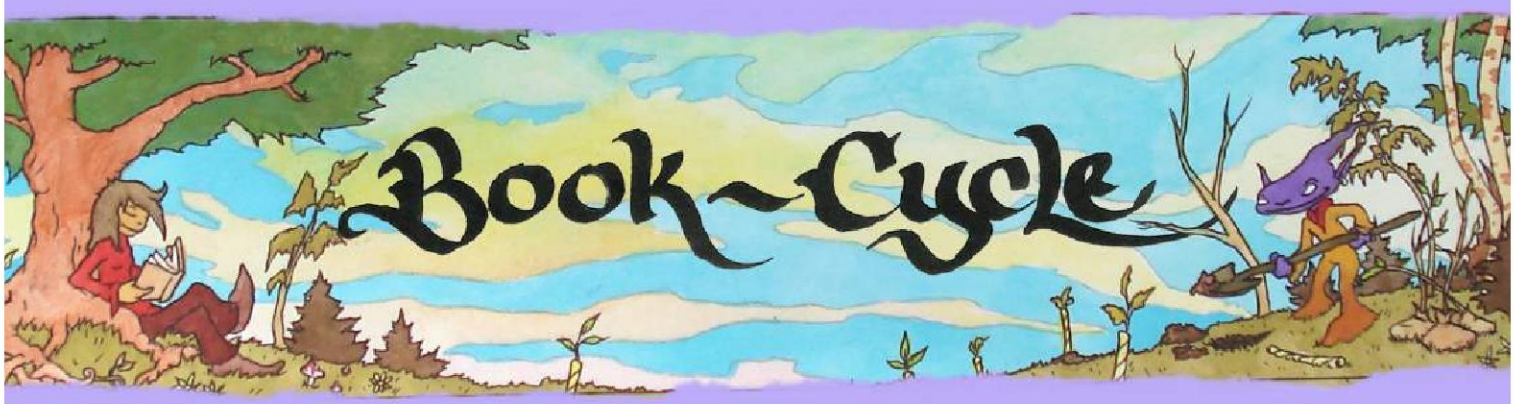
Examiner's Report.. ...24

SOFA..... ...25

Legal Info..... ...28

Trustees: Anthony Melling, Sakeenah Feghir, Jim Atherton.

Patron: Benjamin Zephaniah



Introduction

Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity. We seek to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources.

We also help reforest England by offering trees and information on sustainability. Book-Cycle works in communities throughout the UK, establishing projects to encourage self-reliance through home food growing, community gardening and promoting wildlife through the planting of trees. We also provide seed banks and host a variety of workshops.



2 Vision, Aims & Objectives

Vision:

Our vision is a world where everyone has the necessary tools for self-determination. Book-Cycle believes education is a right and should not be a privilege. Likewise, education needs to be broadened to include our place in nature and how best we might learn from that.

The Advancement of Education:

To improve literacy and the love of learning, by providing free access to books and information.

The Planting of Trees:

It seems only reasonable to balance our use of paper through the planting of trees.

The Promotion of Permaculture:

To complete the circle of education and tree planting we hope to increase the awareness of our place within nature and how best we might use her wonderful designs.



Chairman's Report

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
Dr. Seuss

Another year of Book-Cycle draws to a close and one of my tasks as chairman is to help write and summarise the previous year's activities. As such I am often in the position of retelling the common threads that are part of the Book-Cycle story; in particular the incredible efforts of our volunteers and the overwhelming generosity of the public coupled with the profound sense of gratitude and humility that such actions bring. What is also forefront in my mind is the "why" of our project and although our aims and objectives remain the same, we are only a small part of a much larger tale.

It is the evolution of an idea that first pushed mankind towards the written word. From the literal images of the Australian Aborigines to the symbolic references of the Egyptians and Sumerians, the desire to represent ideas and transmit them across time has formed the bedrock of our civilisation. What emerged from the Sinai desert as hieroglyphic shorthand for local Canaanite miners eventually transformed into all of the alphabets we know today. Such small steps of the imagination have meant giant leaps for mankind. The acquisition of the secrets of papermaking from the Chinese at Samarkand meant the flourishing of art, literature and mathematics for the Islamic world, hundreds of years before cheaply available paper made a similar impact further west in Europe. Each iteration of writing technology democratises and therefore accelerates

the exchange of ideas and knowledge across cultures. As Gutenberg's press made the written word ever more accessible, so the explosion of science and culture that followed has led us all the way to the edge of yet another catalyst of the imagination, namely the internet and the advent of artificial intelligence.

The written word has also played a symbiotic and self-fulfilling role in our evolution. The brain, for instance, grows in accordance to its use; reading in particular has been shown to grow neural pathways across the temporal cortex and stimulate the central sulcus or motor sensory area as we experience sensations of events within a book. Both attention and working memory are also heightened as several brain functions have to operate simultaneously including visual and auditory processes, phonemic awareness, fluency, comprehension and more.

It is not surprising then that literacy and the habit of reading confers such far reaching benefits. Studies by UNESCO, The World Bank and UNICEF confirm the obvious; that there is a clear and positive relationship between reading, education and life opportunities.

Literacy, for women in particular, has a profound impact on individuals, families and their communities. It plays a crucial role in improving health, economic opportunities, social and political participation, and education for children in both the West and the developing world.

In the same vein as those early pioneers of writing, one of Book-Cycle's main activities is to spread this essential and life changing technology to as many people as possible.

As such we are now beginning to partner with larger organisations like World of Books in order to distribute a much greater volume of literature than was previously possible.This year we also ventured into new countries such as Sierra Leone and strengthened some of our existing ties with voluntary organisations in Nigeria.

We are also on the road to opening more outlets nation-wide thereby increasing the access to affordable literature across England; where according to government statistics a staggering 16.7% or 7.1 million people are still described as having "very poor literacy skills". Our books have also reached some of those affected by war and displacement who seek asylum and refuge in the UK, namely our donations to refugee centres such as Napier barracks in Kent.

This year also saw the relocation of two of the Book-Cycle warehouses and one of the shops. Much like the proverbial English buses, all of this had to happen at once. An incredible effort was therefore necessary to move the vast collections and rehouse them at the new premises in Leigh, Greater Manchester. It is true to say that the combined effort of all of our volunteers is nothing short of monumental. That such immense undertakings occur each and every year is testament to the sheer determination, tenacity and generosity of all involved.



Anthony Melling
Chairman and Founder

6 Personal Story

The Book-Cycle Warehouse

Soon after Book-Cycle celebrated the first anniversary of our flagship shop in Exeter, we were offered a large space on the edge of a local industrial estate.



At approximately 28,000 sqft, this lofty and almost surreal former foundry building became known as the Book-Cycle warehouse and subsequently housed hundreds of thousands of books.

Although somewhat dilapidated, the space was acquired on favourable terms from the Imbert development company

based in the South West. The warehouse not only served as a space to collect, sort and store the ever increasing amount of donated books but also as a vital overflow space for the Book-Cycle shop. Many local partnerships were forged during this time with numerous donations received from primary and secondary schools, Exeter University and charities such as Book Relief UK. Recycling centres R.I.O. in Ottery St Mary and Proper Job in Chagford also regularly



donated their unwanted books. Throughout our 14 year occupancy more than a million books passed through the doors, many of which were loaded onto container or pallet shipments destined to populate libraries in schools and community centres worldwide.

Such a dramatic space naturally lent itself well to creative and collaborative endeavours, ranging from theatre and shows to art exhibitions and graffiti workshops along with

space for various projects such as music videos, photography and capoeira classes. These activities, much like the books, ebbed and flowed at the warehouse. What became known as 'The Art Space' was soon a renowned wall of fame for many of the South West's graffiti writers.



Amidst their activity and hopping from one giant platform to another, Andrei Burton, one of the world's top trials bike riders built an indoor assault course for his arduous training regime. Other areas acted as a base for a number of volunteer projects such as communal raised beds, guerrilla gardening, tree growing, mechanics, construction and of course the wonderful Bertie Bus, which for many years toured the UK's festival scene offering a bijou and beautiful Book-Cycle alongside tea and coffee.

Some of the more notable and thought provoking exhibitions to grace the warehouse included a month-long collaboration between Surface Arts, fine art students from The Royal College of Art, London and local urban artists. The "DIY" exhibition utilised materials found solely at the warehouse that previous occupants had left behind. "Polytek", curated by Team Mert, saw another incredible battle between some of the South West's finest graffiti writers and MA artists from Central Saint Martins College of Fine Art.



The warehouse also hosted performances by The AKZE Daggy of 'Miss Julie' written by August Strindberg, and 'The Adventures of Don Quixote by Bicycle' performed by Burn The Curtain Theatre celebrating art, bikes and books.

Over the years, the numerous escapades and adventures breathed life and creativity into a very industrial space. This provided a much needed platform for local and aspiring artists to share ideas and allow for greater freedom of expression. Equally our giant book hub enabled us to upscale the donations received and volume of books distributed overseas, though over time as the books piled ever higher, so too did the roof get steadily worse making the space less suitable for book storage. Temporary measures such as growing trees and plants under the leaks were trialled but ultimately it was decided to relocate from our much loved Exeter base.



Managing such a large property imparted many valuable lessons, foremost being that flow plays a crucial role in not only the sustainability of a project, but also its overall energy and thus evolution.












MYLORD
High volume
PALLET
A4
amazon.co.uk
amazon.de



12
















SCARCE












B.C.
WAREHOUSE
EXHIBITION...
"ARTISTS
WANTED!"

14 Overseas Progress

During the year we managed to find several ways to send book shipments to some of our partner charities despite some post-pandemic restrictions still being in place. Courtesy of a local friend, 20 pallets of books were transported with his usual engine cargo to Lagos. These books mainly found their way to schools and communities in the Mokoko district. Mokoko is something like a proto-Venice comprised of thousands of makeshift buildings propped up on stilts in the lagoon below the city.



With the help of CYSD and African Rural Volunteers, books have found their way to many of the disadvantaged schools in the region. We have been working with both organisations since 2012 but only this year have we started to make significant gains in the volume of books available.

Next year we hope to build on this momentum with World of Books who will start filling containers to be shipped directly from their depots in Swansea.

A major hurdle in so-called "developing" countries is the massive disconnect from national governments and their respective customs department, often applying disproportionate levies even to humanitarian shipments like our own which ought to be exempt. This year saw new relationships established in Sierra Leone where we are working closely with their education minister in order to mitigate these charges. We hope that this will set the precedent for our future book donations to other countries around the world.



16 Book-Cycle Italia continues to flourish and grow with many beautiful offshoots including a book club in Torpigna. Several hundred kilos of books were also distributed to schools in Sicily, Morocco and Ivory Coast throughout the year.



UK Progress

Although tectonic plates move incredibly slowly, eventually the mounting pressure is released through momentous change and upheaval. In a similar manner Book-Cycle experienced several seismic shifts during the year. As well as the relocation of our long standing warehouse in Exeter, we also had to cope with Wigan Council's decision to demolish a large part of the town centre that housed not only our Hope St shop but also the newly sited northern warehouse, namely the Galleries Shopping Centre. The general move away from bricks and mortar for retail only hastened during the pandemic and thus town centres naturally have had to adapt.

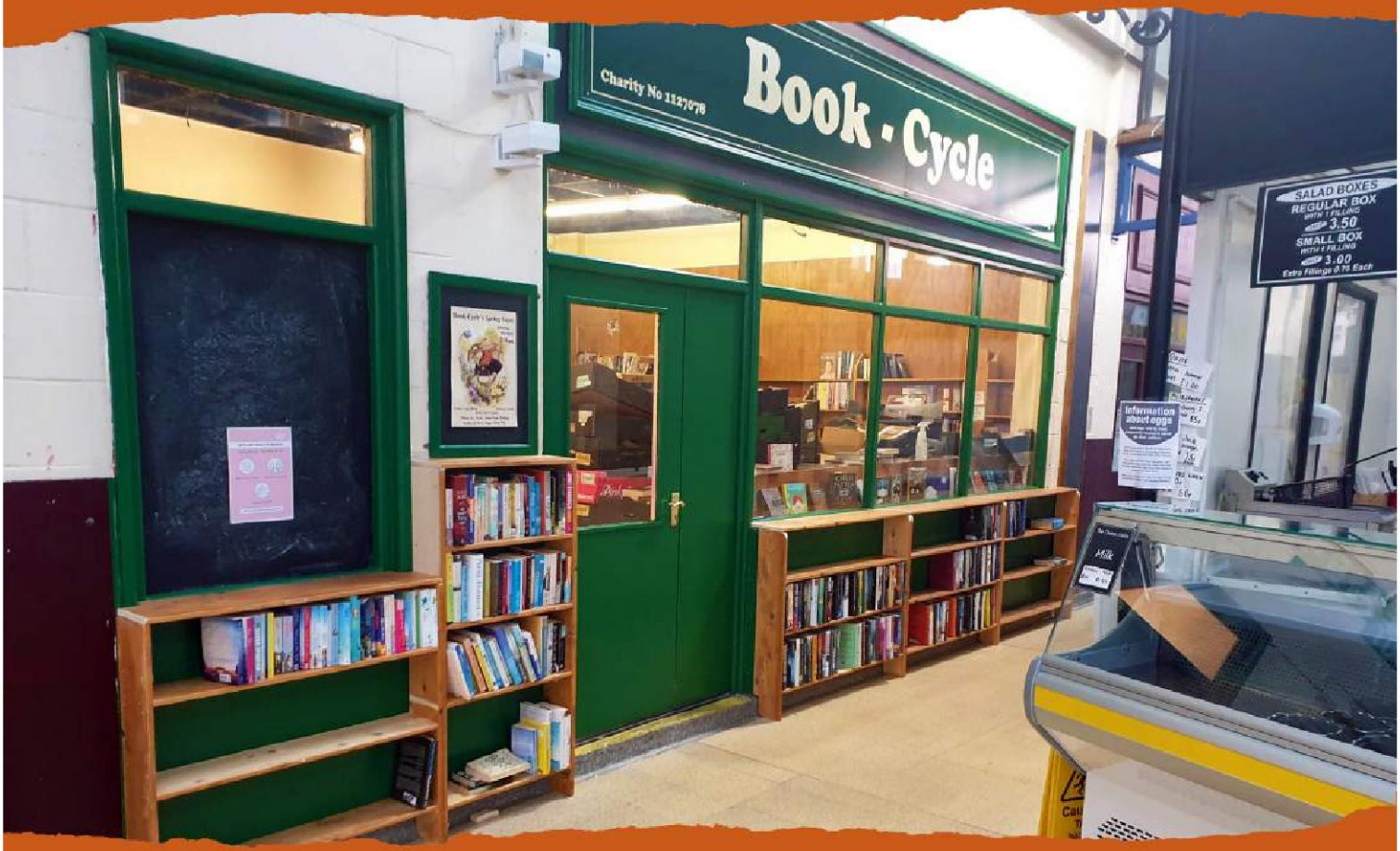


What was once Wigan's busiest Book-Cycle had to find a new home and until a more central premises could be found we decided to relocate to a unit within Wigan Market. It now serves to keep some of the regular customers and volunteers on board albeit from a smaller premises.

Book-Cycle's activities and workshops continued apace at other Wigan outlets, with wonderful and inspiring community events peppering the year including papercraft flower making workshops, Spring & Summer fayres and 'Knit & Natter'. Other events saw a pirate themed fancy dress party, with the final event of the year being our Eco Vegan Fair in partnership with Give it a Grow Wigan.

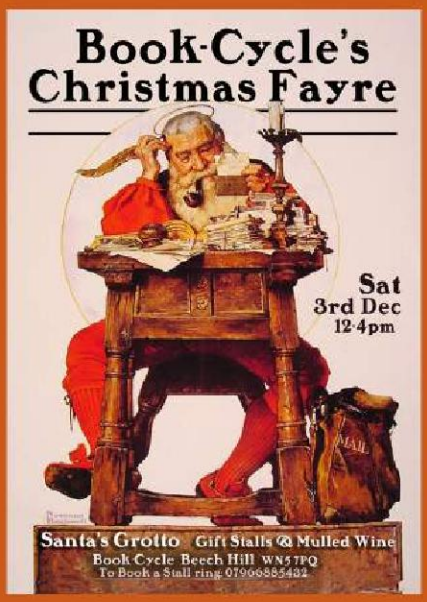


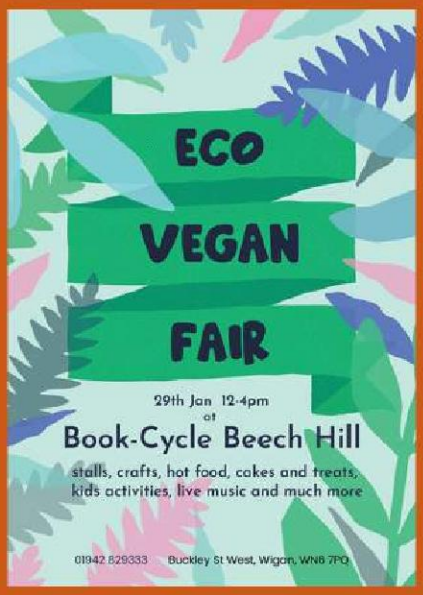
The annual Respect Festival in Exeter returned with a show-stopper of an event with many thousands of overjoyed people flocking to Belmont Park after Covid restrictions were lifted. Our large travelling book marquee was packed to the nines with a host of beautiful reading material and offered comfy sofas to take a break from dancing and curl up with a good book. Various book stalls were also hosted as part of the monthly Fore Street Flea event and continued to serve a variety of books to customers whilst promoting Book-Cycle's aims and objectives.



The enthusiasm of people across the country following travel bans was almost palpable, and nowhere was this more keenly felt than at our Book-Cycle outlets.

The need for people to reconnect with friends and neighbours has never been more apparent. Social engagement is vital in order to support individuals within a community, especially those of the older generation who may have limited face-to-face interactions and feel isolated.







Alone amongst retail, bookshops have always been a place where one can go and spend time without necessarily spending money. Nowhere is this more true at a Book-Cycle where for the past 15 years, our open door policy and fair access to books has always provided a warm welcome to all who venture in, and where space permits, act as community hubs..

Future Plans

As for most people and organisations, the pandemic not only altered current plans but served as a time for reflection and re-evaluation. Some activities thus went on the backburner whilst others came to the fore. For Book-Cycle, this meant the centralisation of our warehouses and adapting to a new environment. Therefore, the newly acquired premises at Leigh will serve as a bookshop, online outlet, community hub and warehouse. All of which has previously been outlined in earlier reports but fate decided they would come together under one roof.

Though a new website has not yet materialised we shall continue in our search for the right illustrator and web designer to come on board. Likewise, our previous plans to incorporate a geotag app with each tree planted will in the next few months be back on the agenda in time for next year's growing season.

With all of the logistics and shop builds that this year brought, ideas such as dual language publishing and merchandise have been put on hold. The past year also highlighted the pressing need for new trustees and coordinators that will bring additional knowledge and skill sets to bear on the growing responsibilities and tasks at hand.

22 Thanks

Immeasurable thanks is offered to our volunteers who are the very cornerstone of Book-Cycle and the driving force behind all of our projects. Countless hours are invested throughout the year not only to establish and run our book-shops and overseas work, but also to hone the many tasks and projects behind the scenes. Since our inception in 2007, Book-Cycle has maintained an entirely volunteer run ap-proach and although not without its challenges, we feel that such a stance creates a greater sense of comradery and conviction. It further strengthens our goal of like-minded people coming together for a common good. We hope that as the charity evolves, we are able to build upon this and create inspiring and captivating avenues to encourage new .volunteers to become involved in the Book-Cycle story

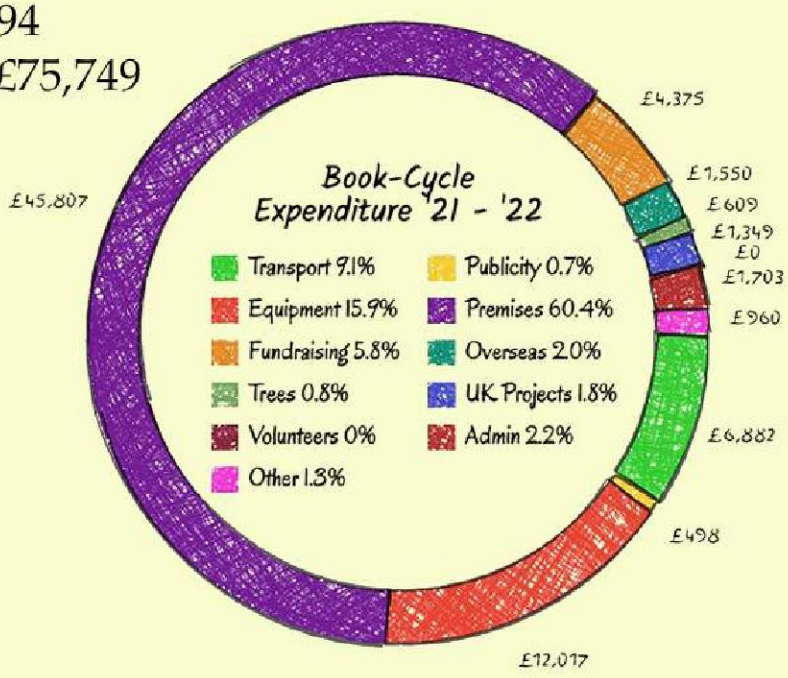
After all these years it is still a great pleasure to witness the delight that Book-Cycle's ethos brings to individuals and organisations alike. Whether it's wide-eyed customers enchanted at the discovery of one of our bookshops or UK teachers gladdened at the prospect of their ex-curriculum books being given a new lease of life - Book-Cycle

Figures

As part of the data for the financial year ending March 2022, income for this period is calculated at £69,694. Book-Cycle received £16,001 in Government grants. These grants were part of the obligatory Covid Restart scheme. Consequently, the figures highlight Book-Cycle has still not quite returned to a normal trading year with regard to generated income.

This year has also seen a slight increase in overall expenditure which is attributed to shop relocations and fitting. Book-Cycle's greatest outlay is still the cost of premises which have remained similar year-on-year. A revision of ongoing costs and utility contracts has been earmarked for attention in the coming year.

Income: £69,694
Expenditure: £75,749



97p in every pound is spent on our charitable activities

www.book-cycle.org

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the BOOKCYCLE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Alan G Kehoe

Relevant professional qualification or body: Accountant

Address: 36 Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 2BZ

Date: 03/01/23

Book-Cycle

Receipts & Payments Account
Year Ending 31 March 2022

	£	£
Donations		40,371
Other		29,322
Gross Receipts		69,694
Less Expenses		
Transport	6,882	
Publicity	498	
Equipment	12,017	
Premises	45,807	
Fundraising	4,375	
Overseas	1,550	
Trees	609	
Add. UK Projects	1,349	
Volunteers	-	
Admin	1,703	
Other	960	
		75,749
Net receipts for the year		- 6,055
Cash & Bank balances 1 April 2021		235,552
Transfer Loans other Branches		-
Cash & Bank balances 31 March 2022		229,497

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Year Ending 31 March 2022

	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash and bank balances 31 March 2022	229,497	
		229,497
Net Assets		229,497
Capital Account		
Balance at start of period		235,552
Transfer loans to other branches		-
Net receipts		- 6,055
		229,497

Notes to the Accounts

Receipts

Donations	Receipts from Book-Cycle outlets, 'shelf-cycles', events & private donations
Other Income	Bank interest, book recycling, online book sales, refunds, storage fees and funding grants, Covid support / restart grants

Payments

Transport	Vehicle purchase, tax, insurance, fuel, maintenance, parking / fines and volunteer travel, haulage transport logisitics
Publicity	Website, printing (posters / leaflets etc), online ads, signage, BC clothing
Equipment	Shop sundries, stationery, cleaning supplies, DIY equipment (tools, paint, hardware etc), IT & Comms. equipment and volunteer meetings, commercial shelving
Premises	Rent & insurances, business rates & service charges, utilities, broadband & telephone, maintenance, Giffgaff, TRASH, fire safety checks & certificates
Fundraising	Event fees & equipment, signs, printing and online ads for events, provisions for food sales, tent purchase, event tables
Overseas	Shipping costs, courier costs and packaging
Trees	Saplings & planting equipment
Additional UK Projects	Craft group equipment, book pallet shipments to Kent
Volunteers	Courses, training and certificates
Admin	Trustee meetings, public & employer's liabiity insurances & fees, postage
Other	Waste / recycling charges, bank charges
Restricted Funds	Grants / specific project money
Unrestricted Funds	Restart / Covid grants

Legal Information

Charity Name: Book-Cycle
Registered Charity Number: 1127078
Registered Address of Charity: 7 West St, Exeter, Devon. EX1 1BB
Named Trustees:

Mr. Anthony Melling

Ms. Sakeenah Feghir

Mr. James Atherton

Governance and Structure.

Constitution: Trust Deed dated 17th day of September 2008

Appointment of Trustees:

(1) There shall be at least three Trustees. Every future trustee shall be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called under clause K.

(2) In selecting persons to be appointed as trustees, the trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the Charity.

(3) When any new trustee is appointed the trustees shall ensure that any land belonging to the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodial for Charities or in a custodian trustee and all other property of the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodian of Charities, a custodian trustee or a nominee is effectively vested in the persons who are the trustees following such appointment.

(4) If for any reason trustees cannot be appointed in accordance with the forgoing positions the statutory power of appointing new or additional trustees shall be exercisable.

Eligibility for Trustee:

(1) No person shall be appointed as trustee;

(a) unless he or she has attained the age of 18 years; or

(b) in circumstances such that, had he or she already been a trustee, he or she would have been disqualified from office under the provisions of the following clause.

(2) No person shall be entitled to act as a trustee whether on a first or on any

subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the trustees a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity

Determination of Trusteeship:

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she;

(1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;

(3) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

(4) notifies to the trustees a wish to resign (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

Vacancies:

If a vacancy occurs the trustees shall note the fact in their minute book at their next meeting. Any eligible trustee may be re-appointed. So long as there shall be fewer than two trustees none of the powers or discretions hereby or by law vested in the trustees shall be exercisable except for the purpose of appointing a new trustee or trustees.

Powers & Restrictions of Trustees.
Powers:

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the trustees may exercise any of the following powers:

(i) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions.

(ii) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;

(iii) subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property comprised in the **trust** fund;

(iv) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(v) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for the objects or any of them;

(vi) to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the trustees may think fit;

(viii) to employ such staff (who shall not be trustees) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

(ix) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, but only in accordance with the written policy about reserves.

(x) to delegate to any one or more of the trustees the transaction of any business or the performance of any act required to be transacted or performed in the execution of the trusts of the Charity and which is within the professional or business competence of such trustee or trustees; Provided that the trustees shall exercise reasonable supervision over any trustee or trustees acting on their behalf under this provision and shall ensure that all their acts and proceeding are fully and promptly reported to them;

(xi) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

The Trustees May Not:

Buy goods or services from the charity.

Sell goods or services or any interest in land or property to the charity.

Charge the whole or any part of the assets belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of money borrowed on behalf of the Charity.

Borrow money on behalf of the Charity.

Be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Charity except for reasonable expenses incurred when acting on behalf of the Charity.

Lend money to the Charity.

BOOK - CYCLE

England & Wales - Charity number 1127078

Accounts

BOOK-CYCLE

Trustees' Report 2020-2021



Book-Cycle Charitable Trust: 1127078

7 West Street, Exeter, Devon, United Kingdom

from tree to book and back again...

www.book-cycle.org

Contents:



Introduction..... 1

Vision..... 2

Chairman's Report. 3

Personal Story..... 5

Overseas Progress.. ...14

UK Progress..... .18

Future Plans..... ...20

Thanks..... ...22

Figures..... ...23

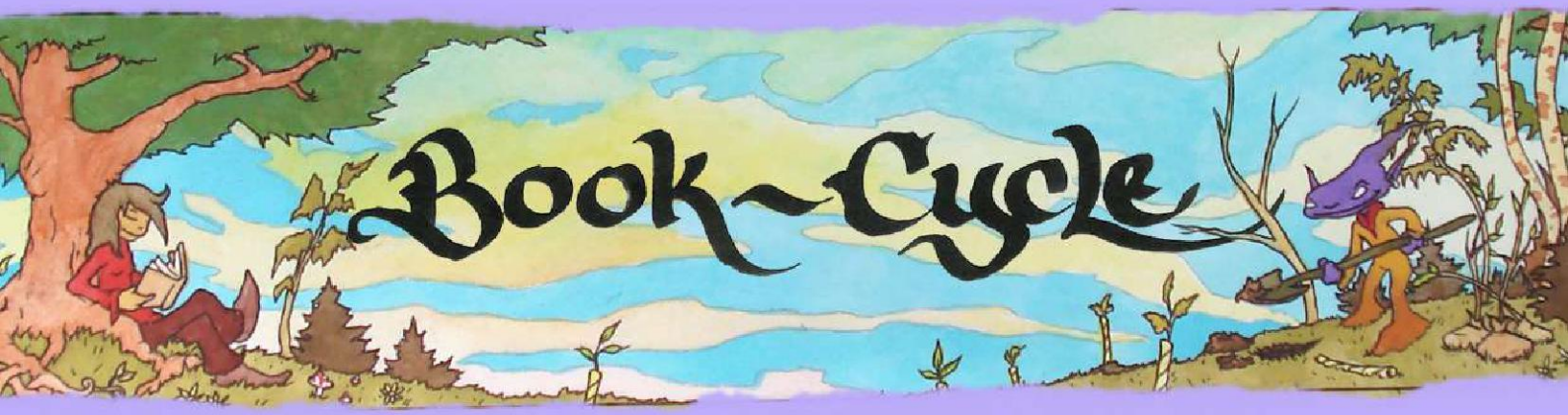
Examiner's Report.. ...24

SOFA..... ...25

Legal Info..... ...28

Trustees: Anthony Melling, Sakeenah Feghir, Jim Atherton.

Patron: Benjamin Zephaniah



Introduction

Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity. We seek to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources.

We also help reforest Britain by offering trees and information on sustainability. Book-Cycle works in communities throughout the UK, establishing projects to encourage self-reliance through home food growing, community gardening and promoting wildlife through the planting of trees. We also provide seed banks and host a variety of workshops.



2 Vision, Aims & Objectives

Vision:

Our vision is a world where everyone has the necessary tools for self-determination. Book-Cycle believes education should be a right and not a privilege. Likewise, education needs to be broadened to include our place in nature and how best we might learn from that.

The Advancement of Education:

To improve literacy and the love of learning by providing free access to books and information.

The Planting of Trees:

To take responsibility for the books we read and give something back to our surrounding flora and fauna.

The Promotion of Permaculture:

To complete the circle of education and tree planting we aim to increase the awareness of our place within nature and how best we might use her wonderful designs.



Chairman's Report

2020 was a year of immense change, both globally and individually. The pandemic brought with it many hardships, but it also brought to light the formidable nature of the human spirit. It emphasised that our similarities far outweigh our differences and that humanity as a collective can muster significant resources towards a common goal should the need arise.The concern for our fellow man has never been more apparent and nowhere has this been more evident than in the work of volunteers.

Even in such a time of restriction many of our own volunteers sought ways to help their communities, from assisting with food distribution for the vulnerably housed to sorting, sanitising and packing tens of thousands of free books to include in those parcels. Likewise our sister charity in Rome continued their efforts to bring much needed reading material to communities and organisations across Italy. Books by their very nature are a lifeline not just for the isolated but all of us in need of some respite or inspiration.

The year was also particularly difficult for students both at home and abroad who had far less access to learning materials. As a response, Book-Cycle continued to ship books to some of our partner charities around the world albeit at a much reduced rate due to volunteer capacity. Although our shops were closed for most of the year, our outdoor bookshelves remained stacked with good quality reading material for would-be passers by.

One of the lessons we might all take from the past year is the advice of Heraclitus and to try to expect the unexpected. A year of lockdowns has certainly emphasised the importance of a strong online presence and as the charity's main revenue is through donations at our brick and mortar shops, it is evermore essential for us to keep our income stream as diverse as possible. To this end we are venturing into the online book world with earnest and hope to make our growing collection of antiquarian and collectible books more accessible to the public.

Accessibility to learning is one of our core values, the importance of which cannot be overstated. Indeed it is the impulse that started the charity on this journey. Knowledge and information are fundamental to the human condition and although nearly 600 years have passed since Gutenberg fashioned his printing press most of the world still has very little access to books and literature. What amounts to a very simple redistribution of an overabundant resource in the UK creates an archive of wealth in those communities we send books to. The advent of the phone and tablet in these areas certainly helps to level the playing field but the humble tome remains the quintessential store of learning and wisdom, unfettered by the need for charging and replacement. In the words of Stephen Fry, "Books are no more threatened by Kindle than stairs by elevators."

Each branch of Book-Cycle continues to contribute in no small way to helping enrich the lives of people across the world, due to the transformative power of books. As literacy rates grow in proximity to books, so to do the life opportunities afforded to those who develop a love for reading.

Our incredible collective of volunteers continue to help us grow as an organisation in new and innovative ways and their endeavours are greatly appreciated for the long-lasting and far-reaching benefits they bestow.

Anthony Melling
Chairman and Founder



Personal Story

Volunteers

As a good proportion of our volunteers are of the older generation we sought fit as an organisation to close our doors some weeks before the start of lockdown.

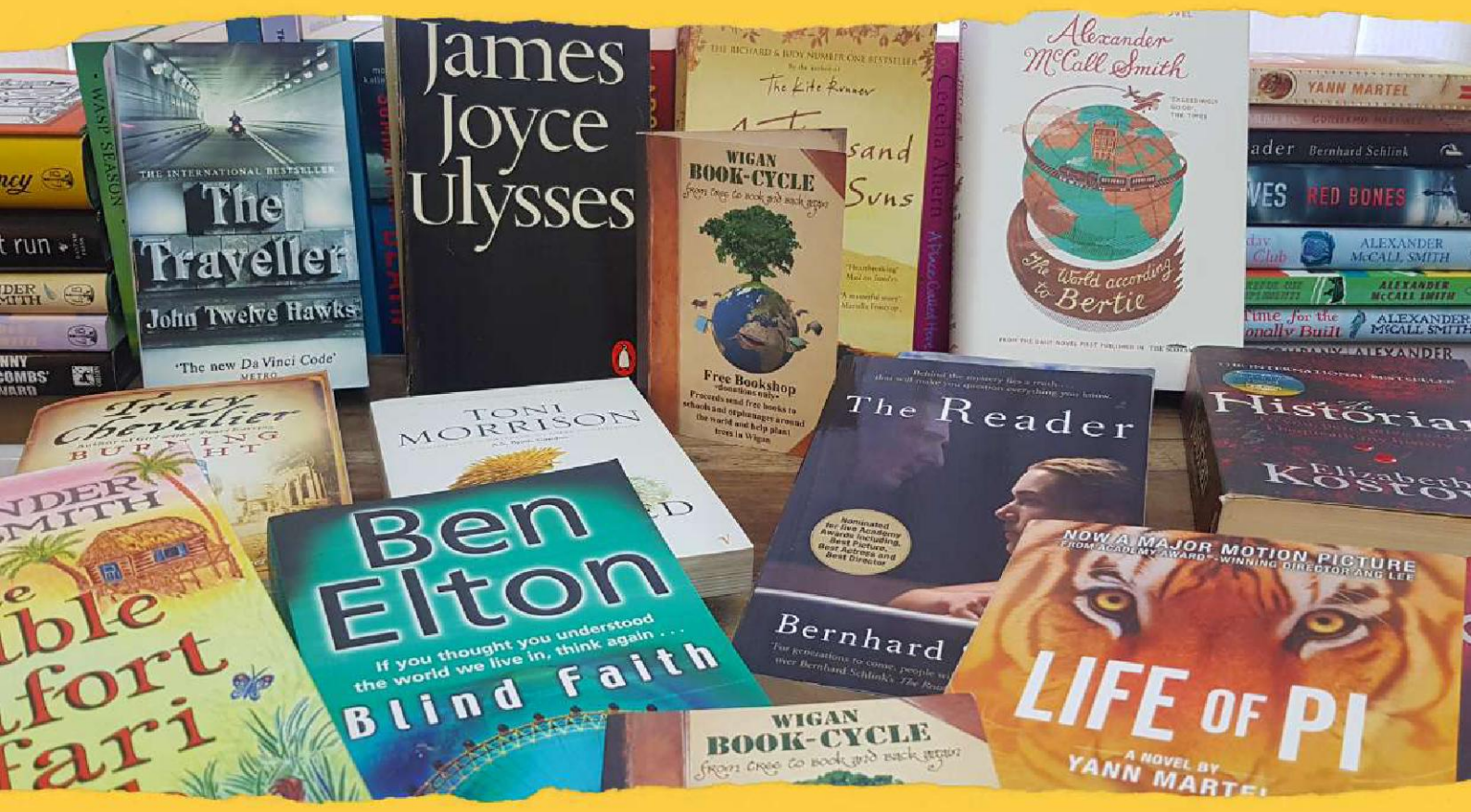


TIME TO CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK. WE'LL REOPEN SOON!

To keep our customers and volunteers safe we have decided to close our Book-Cycle outlets. Book donations cannot be accepted at this time. Apologies for any inconvenience. We'll keep you posted with our future plans for reopening. Stay safe. Big love, The Book-Cycle Team xx

Although we were closed to the public and remained so for much of the year, the volunteers kept busy where it was safe to do so. In cooperation with Wigan Council and

Hindley Hub we managed to include a free book in thousands of food parcels destined for those who were unable to leave their homes, and from the feedback we received, in many cases serendipity managed to match the right book with the right person.

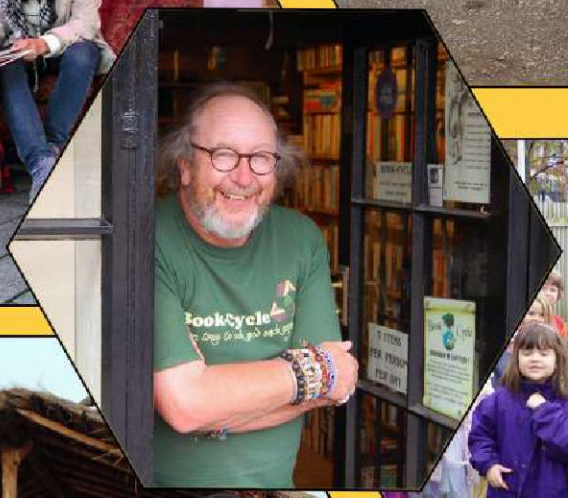


The Book-Cycle story is woven together through the efforts of kind-hearted individuals giving their time and energy for the benefit of others. Now in our thirteenth year we have seen hundreds of events and projects grow and flourish as a direct result of our supporters and volunteers. A year of relative quiet has allowed us time to reflect on the many achievements we have accomplished since the charity began back in 2007, moments that serve as inspiration and a renewed motivation for the coming year. What follows is a montage of many of these escapades from the Book-Cycle journey:















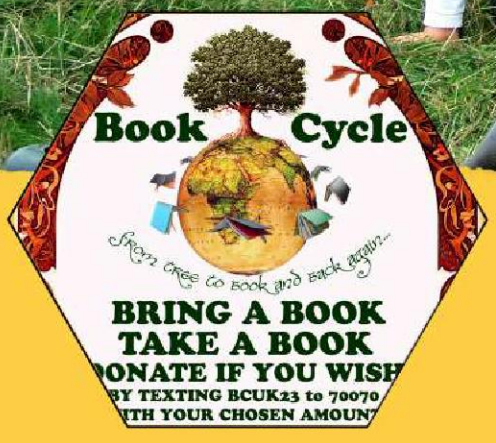
8


BOOK
CYCLE




B C

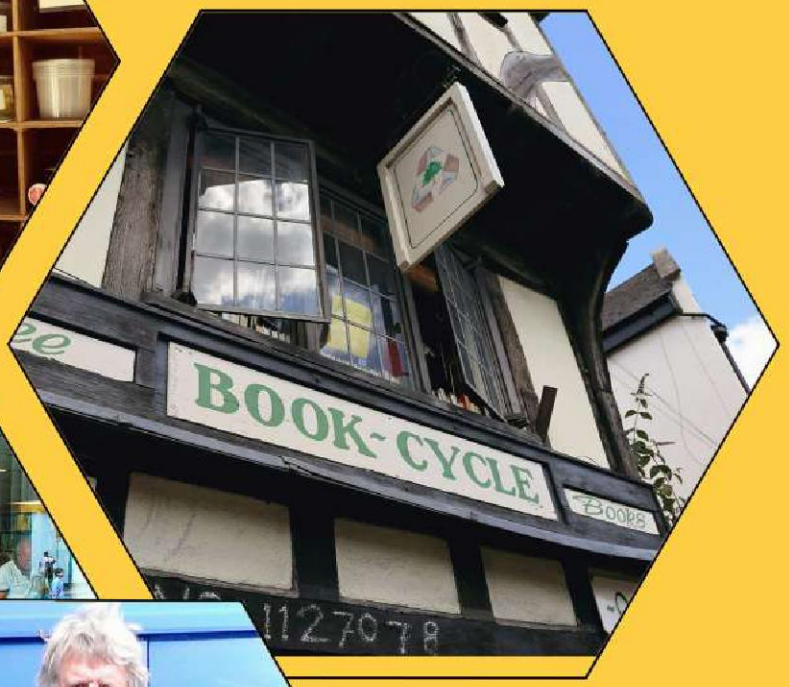


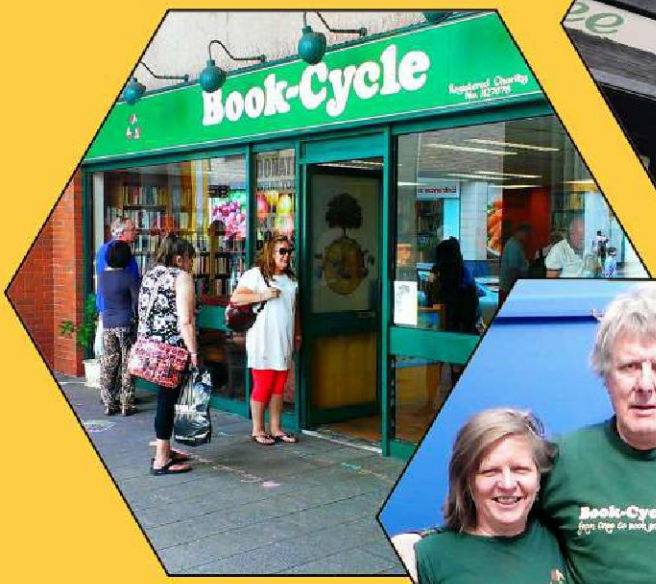

Book Cycle
Swap, share to book and back again...
BRING A BOOK
TAKE A BOOK
ONATE IF YOU WISH
BY TEXTING BCUK23 to 70070
ITH YOUR CHOSEN AMOUNT



Book-Cycle Annual Trustees' Report 2020-21















10







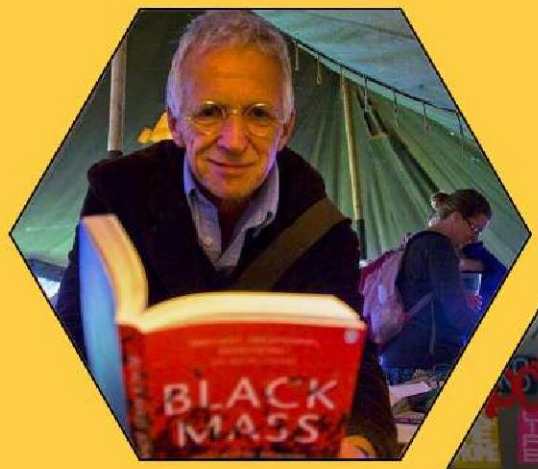






Book-Cycle Annual Trustees' Report 2020-21

11



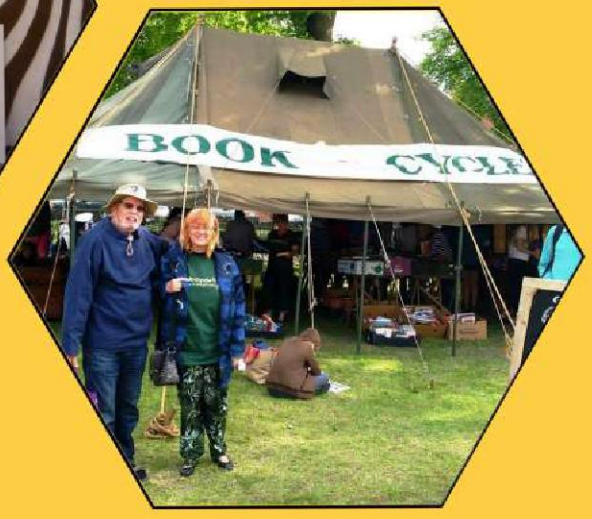

























Up To...
3 BOOKS
PER PERSON
PER DAY

Book-Cycle Annual Trustees' Report 2020-21

13









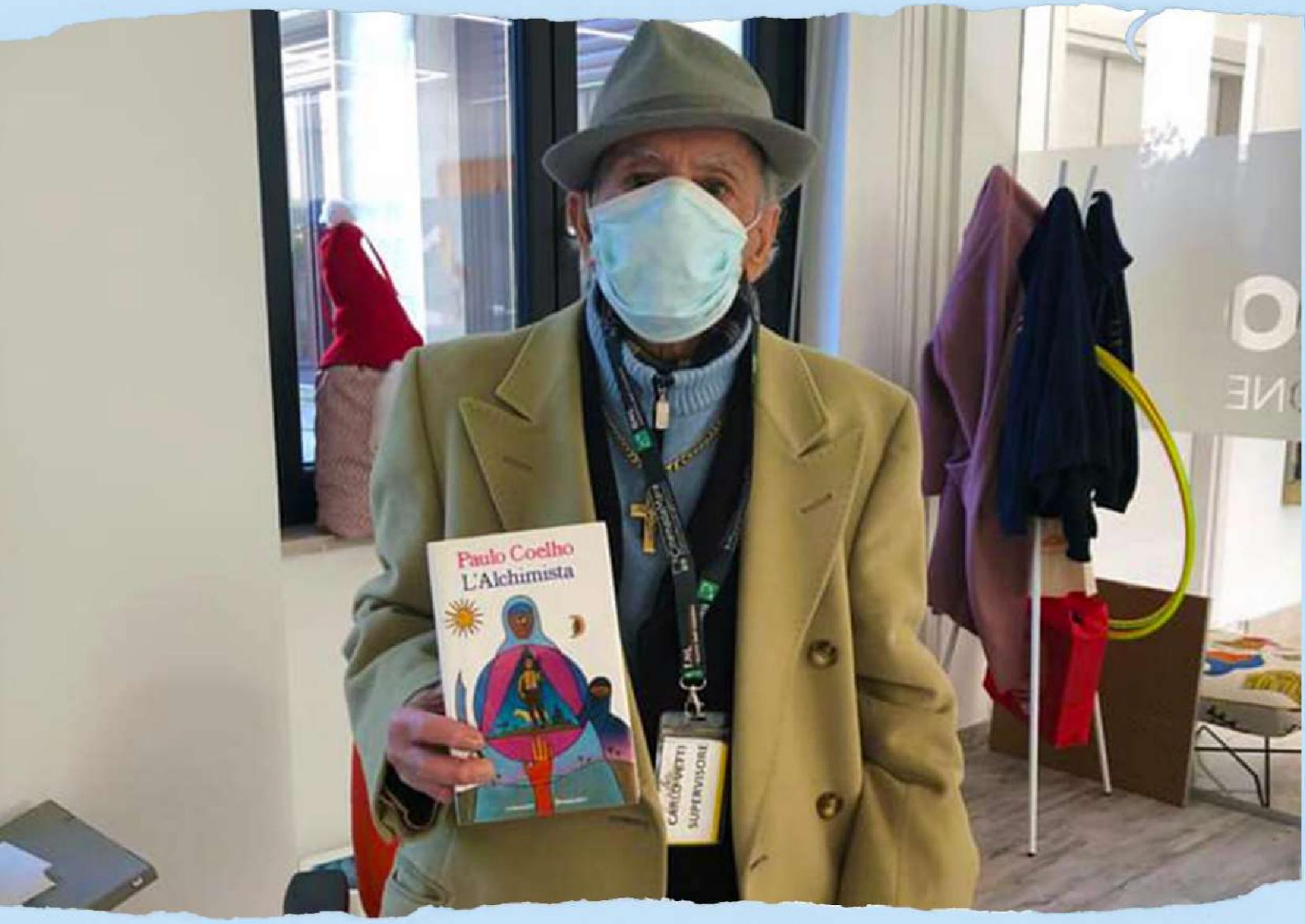






14 Overseas Progress

In May of this year, Book-Cycle Italia celebrated the first anniversary of its bookshop in Torpignattara, Rome. Since opening the doors in 2019, La Casa dei Libri Senza Prezzo "House of Free Books" has received much praise both locally and nationwide with collaborations from municipal libraries, hospitals and other charitable organisations. Il Sicomoro (The Sycamore Tree) is a social cooperative that works with minors, immigrants, the elderly and disabled individuals to provide them with access to various facilities they cannot receive through mainstream channels in Sicily.



Despite being closed for over 2 months, volunteers were active in their pursuits to distribute books far and wide. Over the course of the year, more than 3,000 books were distributed by Book-Cycle to other organisations such as Pollo e Spari, Storia Viva, Centro Villa Maria, Sprar & RSA and Sala Consilina. Along with this, bookshelves were created in cafes and communal spaces such as Bar Deco and Bar Gasparella in Seregno.

A continued partnership with Libri e Letture Vagabonde (Vagabond Books & Readings) allowed the not-for-profit organisation based in Rugusa to continue providing free access to books for readers young and old.



16 Emphasising the 'green-fingered' ethos of the charity, Book-Cycle Italia also initiated a tree planting project in February 2021 partnering with ILoveTorpigna, a voluntary run association that creates a more cohesive and inclusive neighbourhood through community run activities and projects. Volunteers from Book-Cycle also assisted with an urban garden scheme that encouraged people to partake in gardening projects in central parts of the city.



Although the bookshop in Rome has only just reached its first year milestone, Book-Cycle Italia as a project has been ongoing since 2011 - when our sister organisation was very much the determined dream of a handful of people to set up Italy's first free bookshop. In the words of one of their volunteers; "the association didn't have an office open to the public and went around markets

with lots of books on offer. So many things have changed since then. Volunteers are getting more and more numerous, the associations and organisations that have given us a hand have mushroomed, and we have even realised our biggest dream".



18 UK Progress

Our Northern book warehouse, situated in the former Wigan Council Housing Office, was for the past five years home to thousands of books destined for schools across the world as well as a distribution hub to our nearby Book-Cycle outlets. Due to expiry of the lease, the task was once again upon us to move lock, stock & barrel. After a monumentous amount of sorting, packing and shifting, we were able to locate new premises in the Galleries Shopping Centre. The former Scott's clothing unit was shopfitted with shelves, storage and processing areas to form part of the new online antiquarian bookshop and warehouse facility.



As well as the warehouse relocation, we were able to ship an additional 40,000 books to overseas schools in partnership with Thrive Africa. The shipment also included several manual sewing machines donated to Enliven Mama Africa to support their programme aimed at empowering women. The project allows the women to learn the textile trade and pass forward those skills to ensure greater financial stability.

Despite the uncertainty faced throughout the year, our followers continued to contribute in many ways, furthering the charity's activities where possible. The devoted effort of our volunteers coupled with the sustained support from the general public provided us with much encouragement during this time.



When restrictions were eventually lifted, many individuals and organisations affiliated with Book-Cycle were keen to pick up where they left off. Our facilities became community hubs once more, seeing groups reigniting their passions and sharing skills.

The reopening of our shops also provided much comfort for those who had no social contact with others for prolonged periods due to distancing and nationwide lockdowns. This only serves to emphasise the importance of public and community spaces provided by Book-Cycle and similar organisations.

20 Future Plans

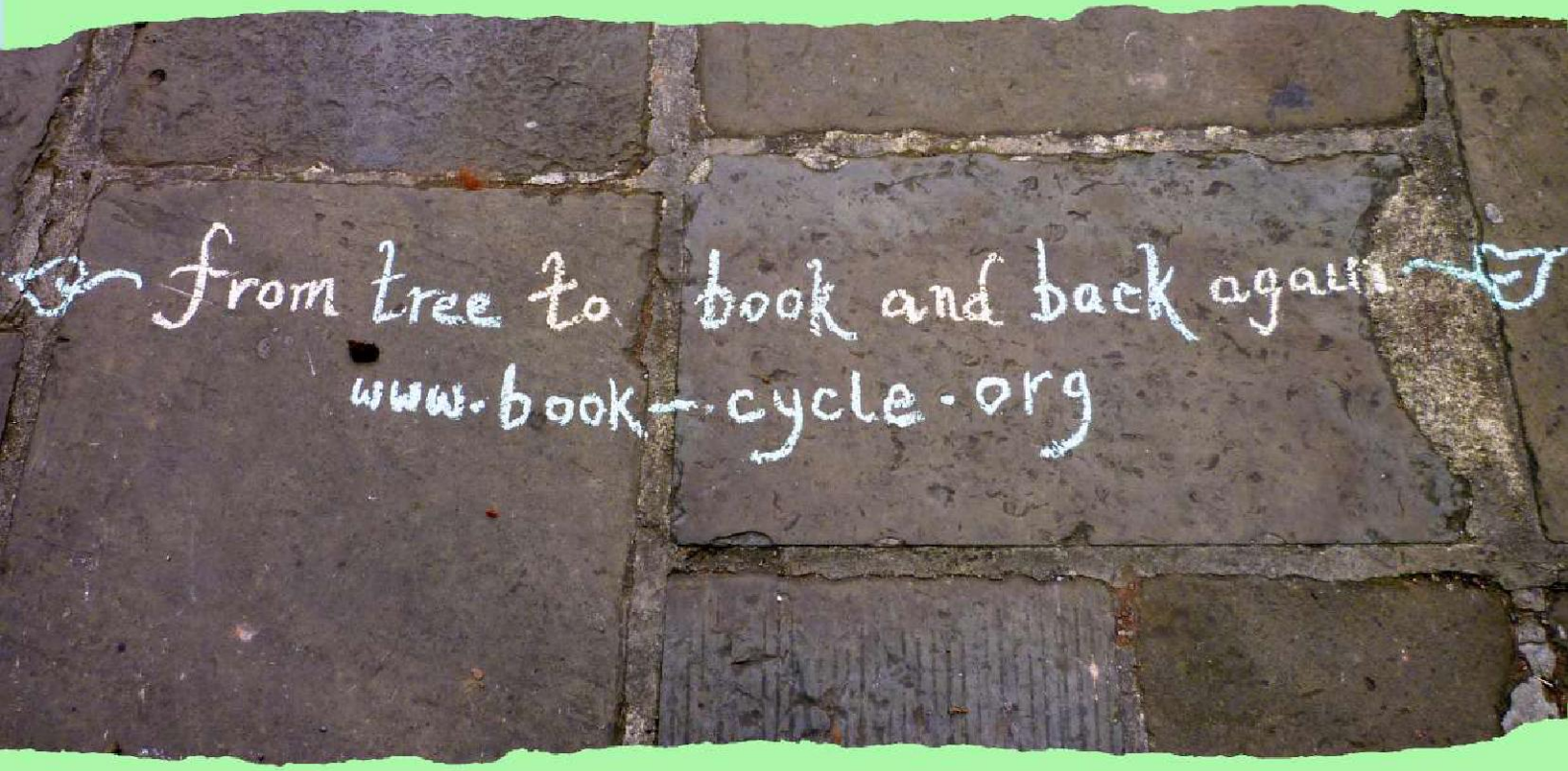
Assessment of the past few years highlights the large expenditure that is allocated to the maintenance and running of our shops and storage facilities. Not only is the expense a good portion of the income received, more often than not the locations provided for storage are offered with a short-term lease which inevitably means relocation further down the line. As can be seen earlier in this report, moving such a large volume of books requires a tremendous amount of physical effort and time. It is prudent to consider how best to tackle the expenditure, location and volume of books involved with collection and storage, whether for our UK shops or overseas partners. As such, considering innovative partnerships with other book organisations, shipping companies and publishers may help us to address some of these concerns and create a more cost effective use of time, resources and finances whilst allowing for a better flow of books.

An element that will help further the point above, would be an established bookshop dedicated to online sales centred around antiquarian and collectible books. A team focused specifically on this project would provide many benefits including additional finances and greater awareness of Book-Cycle's activities and projects, as well as circulating many publications now considered 'objects of art' whilst also reducing the stockpile of books we have been keeping to initiate the project.

Furthermore, we are looking to develop the website to include many new features such as interactive maps for our partner charity listings and directed donations to specific activities. Good progress was being made with the rebranding of the website but due to one of the

creative collaborators stepping back from the project, we have been eagerly searching for new illustrators to be involved in crafting the new appearance, small animated features and functionality of the website.

As an expansion to one of our core objectives, we are looking to increase the range and ease of access for tree planting and self-sustainability. We are looking to partner with Falling Fruit, a non-profit organisation based in America that allows communities to interact with, log and harvest publicly accessible fruit trees. This would involve assisting with the development of their current app to be able to enhance already existing features as part of an upcoming nationwide tree planting project.



22 Thanks

The continued support we receive throughout the year only serves as a reminder of the inherent goodwill and dedication we experience from many individuals, organisations and companies that champion the ethos of Book-Cycle in an effort to provide access to literature, whether overseas or closer to home. The past year has provided us with many opportunities to sit back and reflect on the accomplishments of the charity since its humble beginning in 2007. In this time we have been in awe of how people can unite with a common goal for the greater good, and the resilience and innovation demonstrated in the face of adversity.

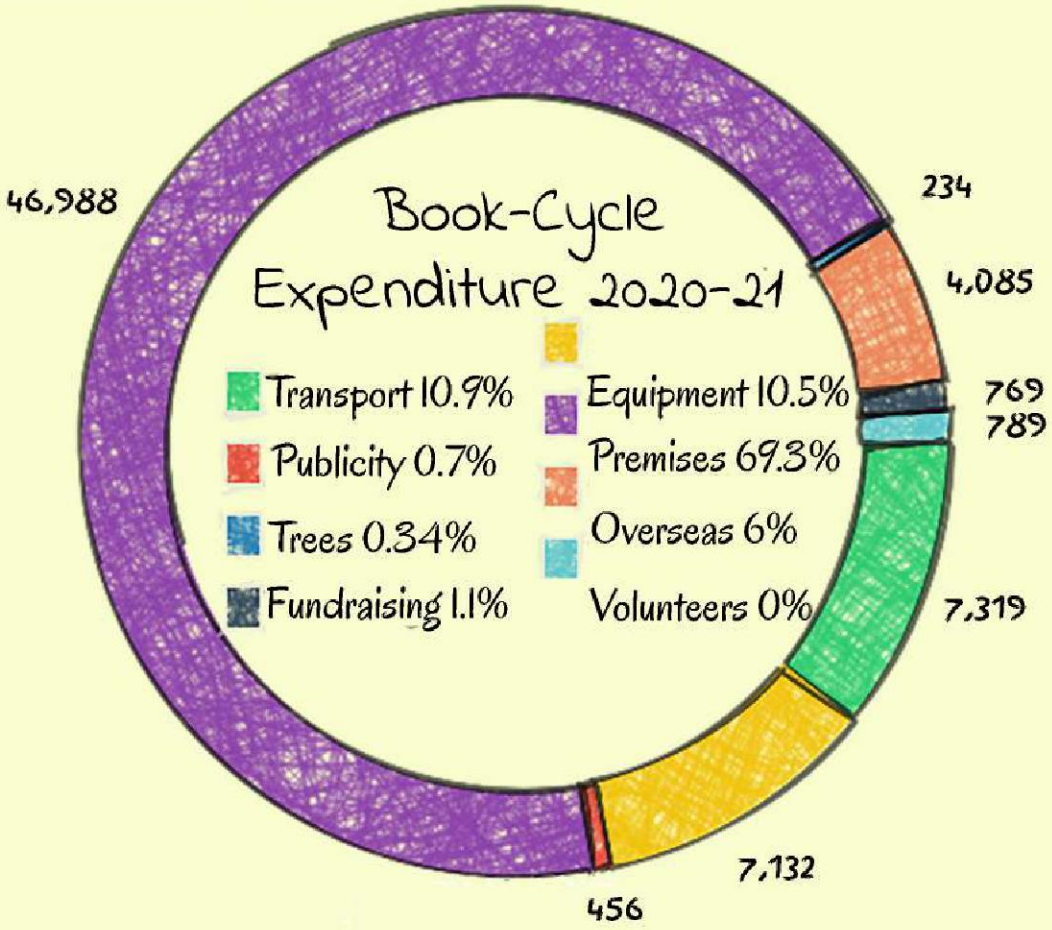
Immense gratitude is offered to those who tirelessly advocate on behalf of Book-Cycle and the communities they represent and aim to serve. Our thanks are offered to those who have travelled this path with us so far, and look to be part of our journey in the future. Looking to the coming year, we are filled with renewed optimism knowing that our projects are supported by a growing collective of dedicated individuals.



Figures

Although closed for much of the year our income has grown significantly, this is due for the most part to Government grants. As part of retail support during covid lockdowns, central government allocated an unrestricted stimulus for retail as a whole and thus our shops were allocated funds on a business rate basis, this is reflected in the increased income for the year. Similarly our costs were cut due to premises being closed though many repairs and improvements were carried out during this period.

Income: £165,403
Expenditure: £67,844



97p in every pound is spent on our charitable activities

www.book-cycle.org

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the BOOKCYCLE

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Alan G Kehoe

Relevant professional qualification or body: Accountant

Address: 36 Gillibrand Street, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 2BZ

Date: 28th January 2022

Book-Cycle

Receipts & Payments Account
Year Ending 31 March 2021

	£	£
Donations		15,471
Other		149,932
Gross Receipts		165,403
Less Expenses		
Transport	7,391	
Publicity	456	
Equipment	7,132	
Premises	46,988	
Fundraising	769	
Overseas	4,085	
Trees	234	
Add. UK Projects	-	
Volunteers	-	
Admin	789	
Other	-	
		67,844
Net receipts for the year		97,559
Cash & Bank balances 1 April 2020		137,993
Transfer Loans other Branches		-
Cash & Bank balances 31 March 2021		235,552

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Year Ending 31 March 2021

	£	£
Current Assets		
Cash and bank balances 31 March 2021	235,552	
		235,552
Net Assets		235,552
Capital Account		
Balance at start of period		137,993
Transfer loans to other branches		-
Net receipts		97,559
		235,552

Other Income: Bank interest, book recycling, online book sales, refunds, storage fees and fundinding grants, LRSG/Covid support

Transport: Vehicle purchase, tax, insurance, fuel, maintenance, parking / fines and volunteer travel

Publicity: Website, printing (posters / leaflets etc), online ads, signage, BC clothing

Equipment: Shop sundries, stationary, cleaning supplies, DIY equipment (tools, paint, hardware etc), IT & Comms equipment and volunteer meetings, shelving units, container purchase

Premises: Rent & insurances, business rates & service charges, utilities, broadband & telephone, maintenance, Giffgaff, TRASH, fire safety checks & certificates

Fundraising: Event fees & equipment, signs, printing and online ads for events, provisions for food sales, FRSB

Overseas: Shipping costs, Ghana project costs, courier costs and packaging

Trees: Saplings and planting

Additional UK Projects:

Volunteers: Courses, training and certificates

Admin: Trustee meetings, public & employer's liability insurances & fees, postage

Other: Waste / recycling charges, bank charges

Restricted Funds: Grants / specific project money

Unrestricted Funds: LRSG/ Covdi Support Grants

Legal Information

Charity Name: Book-Cycle
Registered Charity Number: 1127078
Registered Address of Charity: 7 West St, Exeter, Devon. EX1 1BB
Named Trustees:

Mr. Anthony Melling

Ms. Sakeenah Feghir

Mr. James Atherton

Governance and Structure.

Constitution: Trust Deed dated 17th day of September 2008

Appointment of Trustees:

(1) There shall be at least three Trustees. Every future trustee shall be appointed by a resolution of the trustees passed at a special meeting called under clause K.

(2) In selecting persons to be appointed as trustees, the trustees shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who is able by virtue of his or her personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the management of the Charity.

(3) When any new trustee is appointed the trustees shall ensure that any land belonging to the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodial for Charities or in a custodian trustee and all other property of the Charity which is not vested or about to be vested in the Official Custodian of Charities, a custodian trustee or a nominee is effectively vested in the persons who are the trustees following such appointment.

(4) If for any reason trustees cannot be appointed in accordance with the forgoing positions the statutory power of appointing new or additional trustees shall be exercisable.

Eligibility for Trustee:

(1) No person shall be appointed as trustee;

(a) unless he or she has attained the age of 18 years; or

(b) in circumstances such that, had he or she already been a trustee, he or she would have been disqualified from office under the provisions of the following clause.

(2) No person shall be entitled to act as a trustee whether on a first or on any

subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the trustees a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity

Determination of Trusteeship:

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she;

(1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 45 of the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;

(3) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

(4) notifies to the trustees a wish to resign (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

Vacancies:

If a vacancy occurs the trustees shall note the fact in their minute book at their next meeting. Any eligible trustee may be re-appointed. So long as there shall be fewer than two trustees none of the powers or discretions hereby or by law vested in the trustees shall be exercisable except for the purpose of appointing a new trustee or trustees.

Powers & Restrictions of Trustees.
Powers:

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the trustees may exercise any of the following powers:

(i) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions.

(ii) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;

(iii) subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property comprised in the **trust** fund;

(iv) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

(v) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for the objects or any of them;

(vi) to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the trustees may think fit;

(viii) to employ such staff (who shall not be trustees) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependants;

(ix) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure, but only in accordance with the written policy about reserves.

(x) to delegate to any one or more of the trustees the transaction of any business or the performance of any act required to be transacted or performed in the execution of the trusts of the Charity and which is within the professional or business competence of such trustee or trustees; Provided that the trustees shall exercise reasonable supervision over any trustee or trustees acting on their behalf under this provision and shall ensure that all their acts and proceeding are fully and promptly reported to them;

(xi) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

The Trustees May Not:

Buy goods or services from the charity.

Sell goods or services or any interest in land or property to the charity.

Charge the whole or any part of the assets belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of money borrowed on behalf of the Charity.

Borrow money on behalf of the Charity.

Be employed by or receive any remuneration from the Charity except for reasonable expenses incurred when acting on behalf of the Charity.

Lend money to the Charity.