

DEBENHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1154313

Details

Other names DLF

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-10-23

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Debenham Library Foundation
School Corner
Debenham
Stowmarket
Suffolk
IP14 6PL

Phone 01728861940

Activities

Objects: (1) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK, AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROVISION OF A LENDING LIBRARY.(2) TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK, AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPTIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS.

Activities: The purpose of Debenham Library Foundation is to ensure the provision of a public library service in Debenham and the surrounding area of Suffolk, through the provision of a suitable space. It also work to provide additional community services and events in the library.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£4,184	£2,061	-	-
2024-04-30	£126	£527	-	-
2023-04-30	£2,967	£1,690	-	-
2022-04-30	£0	£740	-	-
2021-04-30	£300	£369	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTONY JOHN HUTT		2013-09-01
Howard Clive Simpson		2016-02-01
MAUREEN JOHN		2013-11-01
Pamela Katherine Harling-Challis		2020-11-10
RICHARD WILLIAM BLACKWELL		2013-10-23

DEBENHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154313

Accounts

Report and Financial Statement

For the period 1 May 2024 —30 April 2025

Registration details

Debenham Library Foundation

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Number 1154313

School Corner,

Debenham,

Stowmarket,

Suffolk IP14 6PL

Trustees

Tony Hutt

Chair

Richard Blackwell

Treasurer

Maureen John

Nominee of Suffolk's Libraries IPS

Howard Simpson

Pam Harling-Challis

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank,

PO Box 240,

Delf House,

Southway,

Skelmersdale,

WWN8 6WT

Main account: 089299 65674112 00

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Introduction

Report of the trustees for the year ending April 30, 2025

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement for the year ending April 30, 2025.

Chair's report

During the year ending April 30, 2025 the most significant event affecting the library was the decision towards the end of that year by Suffolk County Council (SCC) not to renew the contract with Suffolk Libraries IPS for library services but to "insource" the library service back into Suffolk County Council. This followed the public tender for library services after 12 years of outsourcing to Suffolk Libraries IPS (delayed by the Covid Pandemic) failing to result in a successful contract. In principle, based on assurances from SCC, the change would not affect customer service or opening hours, and there would be no cuts to frontline staff. As far as our customers are concerned, at this stage the service has not been affected apart from changes in branding. The governance of the Debenham Library Foundation has not so far been affected by the change, but there may be some changes in future. So far it has been business as usual for the Friends of Debenham Library. The library staff have been transferred to SCC which has affected many of their operating procedures, but this has not yet had significant impact on the Debenham Library Foundation.

During the year ending April 30, 2025 the library continued its usual business, supported by the Friends of Debenham Library and other volunteers.

Pupils from the attached Debenham Primary School started coming into the Library on a weekly basis, supported by a library staff member and a volunteer in addition to the school's staff. Two classes attended each week before the public opening hours. This had taken a long time to arrange and the Friends were very pleased that it was taking place.

The Friends organised a display of books they recommended along with short descriptions. This has proved popular with customers.

Our Heavy Metal Day on Saturday 25th May 2024 raised a considerable sum for the Friends and for the primary school, as well as facilitating the recycling of an enormous quantity of household goods, and reuse of bicycles and tools, and in carbon emissions and no doubt. All in all we collected 10,688 kg of metal and were paid a total of £3,921 – of which a quarter was given to the primary school.

Events during Summer 2024 included the Reading Challenge during the school holidays (just under 20 children finishing the programme, supported by volunteers). In August. *Our Animal World* (a mobile petting zoo) was attended by 128 people while 94 came to see the *Astronomy Roadshow Planetarium*. Both these events were funded by the Friends.

Afternoon Teas were held at the Library on Sundays 4 August and 8 September 2024. These events were partly fundraising but primarily social and community-building by bringing library users and library Friends together. The Friends provided cakes, scones and other edibles.

The Dungeons and Dragons activities using the library for their meetings continued during the year.

A number of Community Group Meetings were attended by the Chair online or in person.

Publicity of the Library's and Friends' activities continued in Parish Magazines and websites in Debenham and a number of nearby villages, as well as our Facebook page and occasional posts in local Facebook groups.

Structure, Governance and Management

The DLF was initiated by a local library campaign group, and three of its members were asked to become the founding trustees. In order to ensure continued representation of other bodies, there are also nominated trustees. Three nominating bodies are named in the constitution: Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Suffolk's Libraries IPS and Debenham parish council.

The DLF is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its rules are laid down in the constitution which was approved by the Charity Commission in October 2013. This permits the trustees to appoint additional trustees or ask other community organisations to nominate trustees. These powers have not been used.

The Debenham Library Working Group was dissolved after the successful completion of the move of the library to its new premises in September 2016.

The trustees delegate work to a 'Debenham Library Friends Group' who are a group of volunteers who bring enthusiasm and support to the library whenever a fundraising event is being organized. The group are a Member Group of Suffolk Libraries and have a vote in the election of Suffolk Libraries board members and voting on motions.

The trustees oversee the Friends Group and review decisions, to ensure they meet the objectives of the foundation.

Objectives

These are stated in the constitution to be: (and remain unchanged from last year)

- (1) To advance the education of the general public in Debenham, Suffolk, and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of a lending library.
- (2) To further or benefit the residents of Debenham, Suffolk, and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other options by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the quality of life for residents.

The trustees endeavour to ensure that there is a continuing free public library service in Debenham regardless of any further cuts in local authority spending. The new, larger premises have allowed greater use - especially by children - as well as room hire and fund-raising activities. This makes for greater sustainability should Suffolk Libraries reduce funding of the library.

Longer-term plans include the provision of all-age education programmes, events for various social groups and access to a wide range of services available to the public. No education classes were held during the period, but we continue to look for openings should the demand be present and suitable tutors available. We are limited by lack of parking spaces while the school is open

(there is one disabled parking space only), so daytime classes cannot effectively be held during the week.

	Balance Sheet at April 30, 2025	
Fixed Assets	£0	
Current Assets	£6952	
Cash at bank		
Creditors	£0	
Net current assets		£6952
Restricted Funds	£0	
Unrestricted funds	£6952	
Total Funds		£6952

The library can also support economic development both with information and as a meeting place with full access to online and traditional sources.

The primary test for additional services will be community benefit but the trustees will also seek to establish income streams which help ensure a continuing library service.

Performance and Achievements

Normal opening hours were maintained throughout the year. We encourage customers to make use of the online ebooks and audiobooks, films and music. Local publicity has been maintained during the period. Customer numbers have now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Future Plans

Sunday Afternoon Teas and the Summer Reading Challenge were planned to continue in Summer 2025, along with two events for children and families in the summer holidays, funded by the Friends. One is an illustrated talk on marine biology by a local resident and the other a storytelling event.

The future of the library may be affected by the Government's plans for a directly elected Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk (election currently delayed to 2027) and for one or more Unitary Councils which are proposed to replace SCC and other councils.

Finance

	Income and expenditure 2025		
	Income	Expenditure	
Grant funding	£0		
Local events	£4098		
Interest	£86		
Donations	£0		
Total	£4184		
Expenditure			
Repairs/maint		£0	
Sundries/Garden		£186	
Other		£1875	
Total		£2061	
Net income	£2123		

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Trustees

Tony Hutt	Chair
Maureen John	Nominee of Suffolk's Libraries IPS
Howard Simpson	
Pam Harling-Challis	
Richard Blackwell	Treasurer

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank,
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Introduction

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Chair's report

During the year ending April 30, 2024 the library continued its usual business, supported by the Friends of Debenham Library and other volunteers.

The library continued to take part in Suffolk Libraries' Warm Spaces initiative, offering free hot drinks on a self service basis.

A Hedgehog Discovery Day 17th March went very well with 28 adults and 21 children attending.

The Suffolk Libraries Peoples' Champions' Awards took place on Thursday 8th June in Woodbridge Library. The library manager and one of the Trustees were nominated; the latter, Howard Simpson, won the Innovation Award for raising considerable funds for Debenham Library and the Primary School from the Heavy Metal Day, collecting and sorting scrap metal and domestic appliances. This also had a worthwhile environmental benefit, of course.

Suffolk Libraries Day on Saturday 16th March was celebrated with a quiz, raising £236 for Suffolk Libraries. Also the library manager was sponsored to read her height in books; she read 74 books and raised £375 for Suffolk Libraries.

Sadly no swifts visited our swift boxes in the library garden during the year. However the garden was kept in good order and appreciated by the school and by library visitors.

Afternoon Teas were held on June 11th, July 9th and September 10th. These events were partly fundraising but primarily social and community-building by bringing library users and library Friends together.

87 children signed up to the Reading Challenge from July to September and about 45 completed the Challenge. Volunteers supported the children.

On Wednesday 9th August a Brickology afternoon was held for children and accompanying adults. This was organised by a local representative of Get Suffolk Reading.

The library took part in a Debenham Story Trail, organised by Get Suffolk reading (part of the National Literacy Trust). This and the events run at the Library have had a positive effect on Library usage.

The Friends sponsored the Suffolk Libraries Pawsitivity scheme by paying £380 for a dog called *Leopardor*, a Labrador puppy which was painted by a local artist Lily Hammond. It is now proudly on display in the Library. The 2024 main fundraiser for Suffolk Libraries was 'Making a Difference with a Daisy'; Debenham Library agreed to contribute £150.

Two Dungeons and Dragons groups used the library for their meetings once a month, one group for adults and one for children.

Craft workshops were also held for adults in the library, run by a craft shop in the village.

A number of Community Group Meetings were attended by the Chair by Zoom or in person.

The Home Library Service was supported by volunteers to deliver and collect books for a small number of housebound customers.

After protracted negotiations with the Primary School, plans were made for the school to have an induction period over two weeks followed by class visits. Each class would need a class card and Suffolk Libraries agreed to waive the charge for this. However it was not possible to start the scheme in the period for this report.

Publicity of the Library's and Friends' activities continues in Parish Magazines and websites in Debenham and a number of nearby villages, as well as our Facebook page and occasional posts in local Facebook groups.

Structure, Governance and Management

The DLF was initiated by a local library campaign group, and three of its members were asked to become the founding trustees. In order to ensure continued representation of other bodies, there are also nominated trustees. Three nominating bodies are named in the constitution: Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Suffolk's Libraries IPS and Debenham parish council.

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The Debenham Library Working Group was dissolved after the successful completion of the move of the library to its new premises in September 2016.

The trustees delegate work to a 'Debenham Library Friends Group' who are a group of volunteers who bring enthusiasm and support to the library whenever a fundraising event is being organized. The group are a Member Group of Suffolk Libraries and have a vote in the election of Suffolk Libraries board members and voting on motions.

The trustees oversee the Friends Group and review decisions, to ensure they meet the objectives of the foundation.

Objectives

These are stated in the constitution to be: (and remain unchanged from last year)

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The trustees endeavour to ensure that there is a continuing free public library service in Debenham regardless of any further cuts in local authority spending. The larger premises make for greater sustainability should Suffolk Libraries reduce funding of the library.

The library can also support economic development both with information and as a meeting place with full access to online and traditional sources.

The primary test for additional services will be community benefit but the trustees will also seek to establish income streams which help ensure a continuing library service.

Performance and Achievements

Normal opening hours were maintained throughout the year. We encourage customers to make use of the online ebooks and audiobooks, films and music. Local publicity has been maintained

during the period, including posters and monthly editorial articles sent to a number of local magazines and websites.

Currently there were just over 2,000 customers registered at Debenham Library, whose catchment area includes a number of nearby villages.

Future Plans

Another metal collection day would be held on Saturday 25th May 2024 to raise money for the Primary School and the library.

On 18th March 2025, despite widespread popular protests, Suffolk County Council’s cabinet made the decision to “insource” Suffolk’s libraries, taking control and operation away from Suffolk Libraries IPS who have run them on an increasingly tight budget for twelve years. We are assured that there are no current plans to change opening hours or reduce front-line staff. We are assured that at least for the time being, Debenham Library’s hours and service will not be changing. As a member group of Suffolk Libraries IPS this change will have some impact on Debenham Library Foundation but at present it is unclear what they will be. The Foundation and the Friends of Debenham Library will be working to ensure that the services to customers do not worsen.

Finance

	Balance Sheet at April 30, 2024	
Fixed Assets	£0	
Current Assets	£4829	
Cash at bank		
Creditors	£0	
Net current assets		£4829
Restricted Funds	£0	
Unrestricted funds	£4829	
Total Funds		£4829

	Income and expenditure 2024		
	Income	Expenditure	
Grant funding	£0		
Local events	£120		
Interest	£6		
Donations	£0		
Total	£126		
Expenditure			
Repairs/maint		£0	
Sundries/Garden		£147	
Other		£380	
Total		£527	
Net income	-£401		

DEBENHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154313

Accounts

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For the period 1 May 2022 – 30 April 2023

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School Corner,
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Trustees

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Maureen John	Nominee of Suffolk's Libraries IPS
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Introduction

Report of the trustees for the year ending April 30, 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement for the year ending April 30, 2023.

Chair's report

During the year ending April 30, 2023 the library continued its usual business, supported by the Friends of Debenham Library and other volunteers.

Debenham Open Gardens on Sunday 19th June 2022 included the Library Garden. About 100 people visited and an activity sheet for children was done with enthusiasm by the children. £50 was raised from the sale of plants at the Open Gardens for the library; there was an information sheet with details of how the library had developed and the planting.

A "Heavy Metal Day" on Saturday 30th July 2022 raised money for Debenham Primary School and the Friends by collecting scrap metal, redundant appliances, old bicycles etc; £2657. 25 was raised, of which 25% was donated to the school. About 11 tons of metal was collected and separated into kinds for recycling, with some items sold on eBay.

Suffolk Libraries' Ten Year Anniversary was celebrated with a 10 year birthday party with Sunday afternoon tea and balloons, cakes, pass the parcel and other party games on Sunday August 7th 2022.

Afternoon Teas were held on August 7th and September 4th 2022. These events were partly fundraising but primarily social and community-building by bringing library users and library Friends together. Sale of cakes and teas in September raised £73.83.

Various events at the library were organised by Get Suffolk Reading (part of the National Literacy Trust) including

- "Debenham Goes Wild" on Wednesday 17th August 2022; 140 attended.
- "The Terrific Tudors" on Wednesday 24th August 2022, about how to live like a Tudor, with a puppet show, arranged by a local re-enactment group; 70 attended.
- On August 16th 2022 there was a story time walk under the National Literacy Trust; 18 attended. Another one was held in the October half-term.
- A Craft event took place at the Library over February half term 2023, organised with Get Suffolk Reading, Alvin Art and Kelly's Crafts. It was very successful with 22 children attending.
- A Craft day involving Alvin Arts and Kelly's Crafts took place in the Easter holidays on April 6th 2023 with 30 people attending. This was preparatory to the Story Trail run in the summer of 2023.

On Sunday 11th September 2022 one of our library users participated in the London to Brighton cycle ride for Suffolk Libraries (55 miles) with sponsorship raising over £800 for Suffolk Libraries.

The Reading Challenge held in the summer from July 15th 2022 to September attracted a good number of children participating and completing the challenge. Volunteers helped children with the challenge.

Swift boxes were installed in the library garden, with a swift caller, but unfortunately no swifts took up residence that year.

In the winter the library took part in Suffolk Libraries' Warm Spaces initiative, offering free hot drinks on a self service basis (funded by Suffolk Libraries) from 12th November 2022. Not many customers took advantage of this but many appreciated visiting the library, which is one of the very few spaces in Debenham which is both warm in the winter and free to visit without obligation (and with books to read!).

Sale of Christmas Cards in 2022 raised £197.

For Suffolk Libraries Day in 2023 (4th & 5th March) a quiz was held in the School Hall, with a book stall, bric a brac, craft stalls, storytelling and refreshments. The quiz was well attended and raised £180 for Suffolk Libraries. The Sunday afternoon event raised £327.18 for Suffolk Libraries.

A Dungeons and Dragons started using the library for their meetings in 2023 once a month and a similar group for children started later.

A number of Community Group Meetings were attended by the Chair by Zoom or in person.

The Home Library Service was supported by volunteers to deliver and collect books for a small number of housebound customers.

Currently there were just over 2,000 customers registered at Debenham Library, whose catchment area includes a number of nearby villages.

Publicity of the Library's and Friends' activities continues in Parish Magazines and websites in Debenham and a number of nearby villages, as well as our Facebook page and occasional posts in local Facebook groups.

Structure, Governance and Management

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Objectives

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Longer-term plans include the provision of all-age education programmes, events for various social groups and access to a wide range of services available to the public. No education classes were held during the period, but we continue to look for openings should the demand be present and suitable tutors available. We are limited by lack of parking spaces while the school is open (there is one disabled parking space only), so daytime classes cannot effectively be held during the week.

The library can also support economic development both with information and as a meeting place with full access to online and traditional sources.

The primary test for additional services will be community benefit but the trustees will also seek to establish income streams which help ensure a continuing library service.

Performance and Achievements

Normal opening hours were maintained throughout the year. We encourage customers to make use of the online ebooks and audiobooks, films and music. Local publicity has been maintained during the period. Customer numbers have now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Future Plans

We have scheduled in the next period a Heavy Metal Day (collection of scrap metal for recycling and revenue), Sunday Afternoon Teas, the Summer Reading Challenge, and involvement in Get Suffolk Reading.

The 'Dungeons and Dragons sessions of last year were very popular and will be carried forward to the next periods. A couple of craft events are being planned where young and old can craft together.

Balance Sheet at April 30, 2023		
Fixed Assets	£0	
Current Assets	£5229	
Cash at bank		

Balance Sheet at April 30, 2023		
Creditors	£0	
Net current assets		£5229
Restricted Funds	£0	
Unrestricted funds	£5229	
Total Funds		£5229

Finance

Income and expenditure 2023			
	Income	Expenditure	
Grant funding	£0		
Local events	£2817		
Film Events	£150		
Donations	£0		
Total	£2967		
Expenditure			
Repairs/maint		£496	
Sundries/Garden		£308	
Other		£886	
Net income	£1277		

DEBENHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154313

Accounts

Foundation

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Chair's report

The year ending April 30, 2022 continued with Covid-19 restrictions until July 2021, but service to customers continued with appropriate precautions. Covid testing kits were stocked from May until December 2021 and a large number given out to residents from Debenham and surrounding villages and to staff in the School. Many residents had not visited the library before, so this was a useful publicity exercise, and for some periods the library was the only outlet for the testing kits

Events in the library continued to be curtailed for much of the year, but a fundraising event was held on 13 March 2022 for Suffolk Libraries Day in the Library and the School Hall, which raised over £500 for Suffolk Libraries.

A number of Community Group Meetings were attended by the Chair by Zoom or in person.

Publicity of the Library's and Friends' activities continues in Parish Magazines and websites in Debenham and a number of nearby villages, as well as our Facebook page and occasional posts in local Facebook groups.

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The primary test for additional services will be community benefit but the trustees will also seek to establish income streams which help ensure a continuing library service.

Performance and Achievements

Within the limitations of Covid-19 and subject to the policies from Suffolk Libraries, the library has been open for either full service or takeaway service, with appropriate safety precautions for customers and staff. Normal hours were maintained. We encourage customers to make use of the online ebooks and audiobooks, films and music. Local publicity has been maintained during the period. Customer numbers have now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Future Plans

We have scheduled in the next period a Heavy Metal Day (collection of scrap metal for recycling and revenue), Sunday Afternoon Teas (one incorporating the 10 year anniversary of Suffolk Libraries), a sponsored London-Brighton cycle ride, the Summer Reading Challenge, and involvement in Get Suffolk Reading.

Foundation

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Showing films is still problematic owing to the School Hall being used as a classroom; also we need more volunteers to be involved in publicity, film selection, equipment setup, etc. However we are exploring the possibility of showing films at Debenham Leisure Centre instead.

	Balance Sheet at April 30, 2022	
Fixed Assets	£0	
Current Assets	£3953	
Cash at bank		
Creditors	£0	
Net current assets		£3953
Restricted Funds	£0	
Unrestricted funds	£3953	
		£3953
Finance		

	Income and expenditure 2021		
	Income	Expenditure	
Grant funding	£0		
Local events	£0		
Film Events	£0		
Donations	£0		
Total	£0		
Expenditure			
Film & Local event		£0	
Sundries/Garden		£351	
Telephone Kiosk		£389	
Net income	£-740		

DEBENHAM LIBRARY FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1154313

Accounts

Report and Financial Statement

For the period 1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021

Registration details

Debenham Library Foundation
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Number 1154313
School Corner,
Debenham,
Stowmarket,
Suffolk IP14 6PL

Trustees

Tony Hutt	Chair
Richard Blackwell	
Maureen John	Nominee of Suffolk's Libraries IPS
Howard Simpson	
Pam Harling-Challis	

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank,
PO Box 240,
Delf House,
Southway,
Skelmersdale,
WWN8 6WT
Main account: 089299 65674112 00

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Introduction

Report of the trustees for the year ending April 30, 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statement for the year ending April 30, 2021.

Chair's report

There have been no major changes during the year, but the library continues to be well used and numbers are still increasing gradually. All primary school children continue to be registered and there is a weekly session for school children in the library. The Summer Reading Challenge was well supported by children.

Four films were shown during the year in the School Hall as follows:-

Some Like it Hot	21-6-19
Evita	13-9-19
Yesterday	15-11-19
Sorry, We Missed You	31-1-20

One of these films, Yesterday, had significant local interest content, featuring Ed Sheeran who lives nearby, and various filming locations in Suffolk and Norfolk. All made a profit and attracted regular attendees.

Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from showing any more films from March onwards. The Library closed from the week beginning 23 March. During this time, library staff at Debenham have been using online training courses and contacting vulnerable customers. Some book publishers gave permission for video recordings of illustrated children's books, so staff have published some readings of children's books on the Debenham Library and Friends Facebook page with help from a volunteer. Some of these featured on Suffolk Libraries' social media output also. A video tour of the library's garden was also made and published. This was in addition to the efforts being made by Suffolk Libraries to publicise their various online offerings including eBooks and Audiobooks, plus videos being made by staff at other libraries.

Publicity of the Library's and Friends' activities continues in Parish Magazines and websites in Debenham and nearby villages, which is broadening with time.

Children and young people continue to make good use of the board books, picture books and other resources suited to their age groups.

Work in the garden continues, and afternoon teas held during the summer were held outside where possible.

One volunteer assists in the library weekly, and occasionally others.

The Library Friends meet approximately monthly to plan fund-raising and other events.

Foundation

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Structure, Governance and Management

The DLF was initiated by a local library campaign group, and three of its members were asked to become the founding trustees. In order to ensure continued representation of other bodies, there are also nominated trustees. Three nominating bodies are named in the constitution: Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, Suffolk's Libraries IPS and Debenham parish council.

The DLF is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its rules are laid down in the constitution which was approved by the Charity Commission in October 2013. This permits the trustees to appoint additional trustees or ask other community organisations to nominate trustees. These powers have not been used.

The Debenham Library Working Group was dissolved after the successful completion of the move of the library to its new premises in September 2016.

The trustees delegate work to a 'Debenham Library Friends Group' who are a group of volunteers who bring enthusiasm and support to the library whenever a fundraising event is being organized.

The trustees oversee the Friends Group and review decisions, to ensure they meet the objectives of the foundation.

Objectives

These are stated in the constitution to be: (and remain unchanged from last year)

- (1) T
to advance the education of the general public in Debenham, Suffolk, and the surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of a lending library.
- (2) T
to further or benefit the residents of Debenham, Suffolk, and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other options by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the quality of life for residents.

The trustees endeavour to ensure that there is a continuing free public library service in Debenham regardless of any further cuts in local authority spending. The new, larger premises have allowed greater use - especially by children - as well as room hire and

Foundation

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fund-raising activities. This makes for greater sustainability should Suffolk Libraries reduce funding of the library.

Longer-term plans include the provision of all-age education programmes, events for various social groups and access to a wide range of services available to the public. No education classes were held during the period, but we continue to look for openings should the demand be present and suitable tutors available.

The library can also support economic development both with information and as a meeting place with full access to online and traditional sources.

The primary test for additional services will be community benefit but the trustees will also seek to establish income streams which help ensure a continuing library service.

Performance and Achievements

The library continues to be popular with users making the most of the new premises. The provision of refreshments for purchase within the new facility (during opening hours, as well as at fund-raising events) has helped to generate a greater community spirit within the space, as have regular film showings.

New members continue to join the library and we are pleased to see that all new primary school children are signed up as members.

Colocation with the school has allowed use of the school hall for showing films with a bigger audience, and use of the garden area outside for fund-raising events.

Future Plans

Work on developing services will continue. It is intended to print and distribute a leaflet about the library to all households in Debenham, so that all Debenham residents are aware of the new location and its facilities.

	Balance Sheet at April 30, 2021	
Fixed Assets	£0	
Current Assets	£4692	
Cash at bank		
Creditors	£0	
Net current assets		£4692
Restricted Funds	£389	
Unrestricted funds	£4303	
		£4692
Finance		

	Income and expenditure 2021		
	Income	Expenditure	
Grant funding	£300		
Local events	£0		
Film Events	£0		
Donations	£0		
Total	£300		
Expenditure			
Film & Local event		£0	
Sundries		£339	
Benches		£24	
Net income	£-63		