



GRESFORD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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www.gresforddistrictcommunitylibrary.org.uk Find us on FaceBook too

Annual Report for the period 2021-22

Context

Gresford and District Community Library (GDCL) is a community facility which serves the villages of Gresford, Marford and Rossett. It re-opened on 6 May 2014 having been closed in March of that year by Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), a casualty of the council's ongoing financial difficulties.

The library was able to reopen solely because of the support of the community councils and the commitment and determination of local people from the three villages who set up a steering group to address the closure, and who were successful in persuading WCBC to help them set up as a volunteer-run community library with important links to Wrexham's overall library service. Many members of the original steering group are current directors of the Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) which was formed to run the library and manage the growing volunteer force. The library went on to apply for, and receive, charitable status from the Charity Commission in October 2014.

GDCL's links with WCBC remain strong. The WCBC library van continues to visit once a week and the service provided by GDCL is, therefore, as comprehensive as it ever was - more so in some respects - and is still entirely managed and delivered by community volunteers.

Our jigsaw library continues to be extremely popular and we now have more than 570 jigsaws available to borrow.

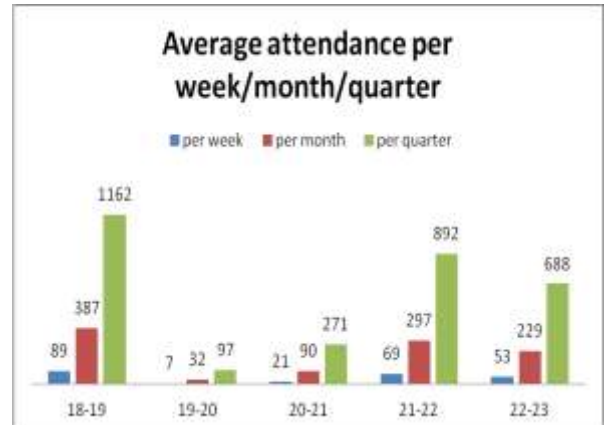
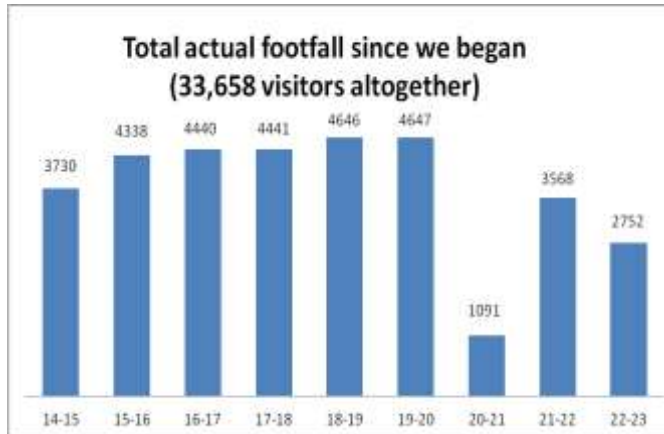


Solar panels going up, and our lovely new sign

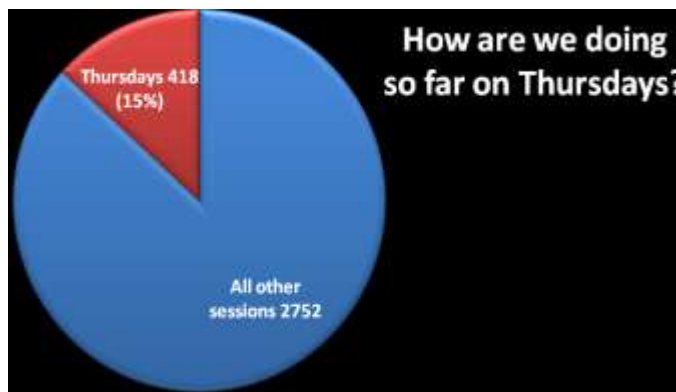


Some key numbers

Looking at footfall figures, the statistics show that we are getting back towards pre-pandemic levels. The first chart below shows actual footfall for every year since we began and it looks as though we might be on track to get back to the 4.5 thousand user visits that we saw before COVID struck. The figure for the current year so far – with just two quarters completed – shows that we are certainly heading in the right direction. It's amazing to see that we have welcomed more than 33.5 thousand library users since we opened our doors in April 2014.

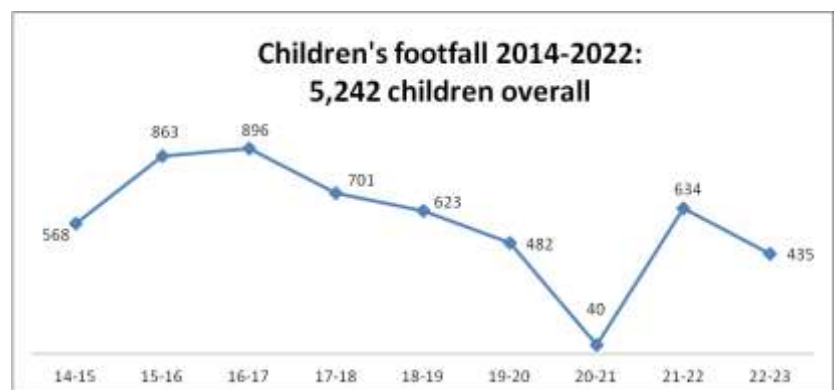


The second chart looks at average usage and shows the weekly, monthly and quarterly average footfall for each of the last five years. We are two quarters and one month into 2022-23 – a bit more than halfway through the period. If numbers hold steady, our monthly average will be around 1,300, which is more than we achieved in 2018-19 before the pandemic.



This chart shows how our Thursday opening is going and looks at footfall from April to October 2022. It's growing slowly and we will continue to monitor Thursday numbers.

Finally, this chart looks at children's footfall which has been a bit up-and-down over the years. Regular visits from local schoolchildren are building the totals, creating, we hope, the library users of the future. The final figure – 435 – takes us up to October 22. If this trend continues our figure for the year will be in the 800s once more.



Fundraising and activities to improve services and increase footfall

In April this year we opened for an additional session which means we are now open for library users on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-5, and on Saturday mornings, 10-1. Craft groups use the meeting room for three sessions a week – on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings and afternoons - when we are not open to library users; our book club meets once a month. All Saints Foundation Phase children visit once a month on Mondays and planning for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to start to visit in Autumn 2022 (weather permitting) is in hand.

Opening more often has not really increased our footfall – rather the same number of people seem to be coming across the increased sessions. We are thinking about whether it would be practical to open for a further session; opening more often requires more volunteer time and increases overheads, especially in winter and energy costs are a current concern.

Although there are still not the number of events we saw before COVID we have attended another event in the Methodist Hall in Marford, the BHRS Annual Show and the festival in the Golden Lion in Rossett and raised both the library's profile and funds through book sales.

Our work in processing donated unwanted books has continued to grow. It's hard, physical, work, but well worth it – especially as our other, traditional, fundraising methods have not been fully-reinstated yet – we would be lost without the donated books.

Donated books do not just raise funds for the library; they also represent thousands of pounds in terms of books added to the stock which keeps our shelves modern and interesting. We could not afford to purchase new book stock but donations keep us going. Many of our library users buy bestselling authors as soon as they are published in hardback and then bring them along to us after reading – we're always very grateful to them.

In addition, grants were successfully applied for in 2021-22 to help us to continue to improve our building and our services.

Grant-givers		
National Lottery	£10,000	For our carbon reduction project
Community Facilities Fund	£ 24,740	For our carbon reduction project

This money enabled us to carry out a lot of work around insulation and replacing our ancient, gas-guzzling boiler. Going forward, we should be a lot greener and this will, hopefully, have a positive impact on our day-to-day running costs, reducing our energy bills.

Please note that these funding sources were restricted capital grants, and had to be used in specific ways which did not alter our bottom line or reduce our need for Community Council support with our day-to-day expenses.

We took part in the Scarecrow Trail and Christmas Tree Festival as usual. We have not yet re-launched our Lego Club to take place on the last Saturday of every month or our KidzKlub on the first Saturday of each month due to intermittent high COVID levels among young children in particular in our area. We will definitely get going on these again in the new year.

Costs

We are very grateful to the Community Councils for the grants they have awarded us, year-on-year, to cover some of our core operating costs; these are a necessity, as we cannot raise enough through our own efforts to meet these costs plus other expenses – such as repairs and renewals to the library building, fixtures and fittings, plus development costs; without Community Council help the library would certainly close.

The amounts shown below for are based on actual 2021-22 expenditure. The projections for 2023-24 contain a 5% uplift to reflect the gap in figures and an increase for inflation, which has increased substantially in the recent months; 5% may be wide of the mark given current inflation figures of 10-11% are being reported in the media.

NB some changes made to these figures since last year's report:

- By getting rid of our gas boiler we have removed this cost (and carbon production) from our operations – of course, we may now see an increase in relation to electricity, despite having had solar panels fitted given that electricity is currently around four times more expensive than gas, and energy markets are so volatile. We do not qualify for any help with our energy bills as we entered a fixed contract in November 2021 which runs until June 2025. The price was 45% higher than we were previously paying on the old contract. Time will tell if this was the right decision.
- Our insurance cost has stabilised a little at £848.60 – slightly lower than 2021-22. We are not sure whether to expect a hike next year, given all the financial turmoil we're experiencing at the moment.

Core operating costs 2023-24	Estimated	Actuals 2021-22	2023-24 (est. +5%)
NNDR	£422.59	£417.30	£438.17
Electricity (incl. new contract is 45% higher than previous)	£544.11	£381.31	£552.90
#Gas (Actual is lower because we had no gas from Nov 21-March 22)	£2,513.80	£928.04	
Water (we established we had been overcharged)	£172.79	£109.66	£115.14
Telephone	£344.08	£337.69	£354.57
Office/IT costs	£1100.00	£1189.91	£1249.41
IT SLR with WCBC	£1,411.88	£1,769.53	£1858.01
*WCBC - rent	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
Public/Empl/Bldng/Contents insce	£870.36	£848.60	£891.03
Legal, tax and fees (accountant, mainly)	£0	£0	
	£7384.61	£5,987.04	*£5,883.67
# We no longer have gas at all *WCBC lease says £10			
* The 23-24 costs are lower than the 21-22 actuals because the amount for gas has been removed. Black text shows no change. Red shows where we exceeded last year's estimate and green where we came in below.			

We inherited a building in poor condition from WCBC and in recent years, thanks to grants successfully applied for and Community Council support, we have moved forward a lot in this endeavour. However, our current fundraising efforts are still channelled in this direction (see Next Steps, below).

Next steps

Last year's (2022-23) development goals – progress report.

Our development goals in last year's report were to:

	Goal	Progress? (Red, Amber, Green)
1	Secure the library's future for the next 12 months by seeking grants for core operational funding from our Community Councils.	Our request for support to Rossett Community Councils was successful last year. We now have a partnership agreement with Gresford Community Council (under the Power to provide and equip community buildings) which means we no longer have to submit an annual application form. We are very grateful for the support of both Councils.
2	Satisfactorily finalise IT and SLA arrangements with WCBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No progress re SLA. A new, all-Wales, library management system is in the process of being agreed. Once this is in place we will try again.
3	Bid for Welsh Government and other funding, wherever possible, in order to supplement our fundraising activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have not been any suitable grants to bid for during this period, though we continue to look.
4	Use additional funds raised and placed in reserves to move forward on our current development goals, prioritising:	
4.1	insulate roof space and walls;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
4.2	replace gas boiler and heating system with a non-gas solution;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
4.3	fit solar panels to the roof to defray electricity costs;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
4.4	complete the double-glazing work (six small windows high up in front room);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.
4.5	explore the possibility of creating a toilet which is accessible to all;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be a major project and we could not cope with it on top of all the other work we were having done. We will explore further – and look for grants – in 2023-24.
4.6	replace signage to reflect the changed nature of Gresford Community Library.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our new sign is up!
5	Continue to look for ways to support the community and increase footfall. Maintain playgroup, nursery and school links. Strengthen care home and Community Agent links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgroups, nurseries, All Saints and Trewythen links established and working well. We now also provide book boxes to Ashgrove and Ashleigh care homes. Now need to see if visits could be managed from The Rofft; we are not aware of any care homes in Rossett. Community Agent hopes to host a Reminiscence Group at the library. We hope to host some Gresford Community Council 'Monthly Meets' in the future.

Cavity wall
insulation comes to
the library.

The final windows
are double-glazed



Ongoing development goals for the future (2023-24)

We continue to build/maintain our reserves in order to pay for our ongoing development goals. These goals are to:

1. Secure the library's future for the next 12 months by seeking grants for core operational funding from our Community Councils.
2. Satisfactorily finalise SLA arrangements with WCBC (if possible).
3. Bid for Welsh Government and other funding, wherever possible, in order to supplement our fundraising activities.
4. Use additional funds raised and placed in reserves to move forward on our 2023-24 development goal(s) prioritising:
 - 4.1 investigate further the possibility of building an accessible WC;
 - 4.2 create more storage space in main room by using the dead space above and below the bookcases;
 - 4.3 start to save up to purchase more modern bookcases – which can be moved around. This would enable us to use the space differently on occasion.
- 5 Continue to look for ways to support the community and increase footfall. Maintain and strengthen playgroup, nursery and school links. Maintain and strengthen care home and Community Agent links.

Many thanks, the directors/trustees and volunteers of GDCL, October 2022

GDCL YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY 2020-21

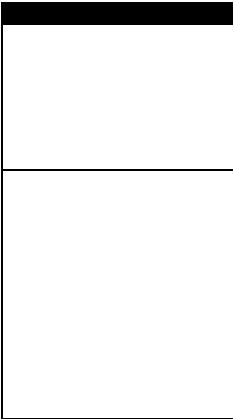
Date	Income: Grants	Income: Donations - general	Income: Donations -Friends	Income: SO1 Vol Income	Income: Sales Books/ DVDs	Income: Sales We Buy Books etc.	Income: Sales Other	Income: Room Hirings	Income: FRaising - Events	Income: FRaising - Lotto	Income: WCBC monies Fines	Income: WCBC monies Hirings	Income: SO2 Activities generating funds	Total Incoming Income (excl. WCBC)	ACCRUALS	Tot Income: MONEY IN	SO7: Cost of generating f'raising income	SO8 x 1: Cost of f'raising events - Lotto/ Raffles	SO8 x 2: Cost of f'raising events - General	SO8 x 3: Cost of f'raising events - Specific Events	SO8: FRaising Trading Costs TOTAL	S11 x 1: Gas and Elec	S11 x 1: Utilities	S11x2: Repairs/ Renewals BUILDING
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Apr	£ 0.00	£ 40.00	£ 70.00	£ 110.00	£ 2.46	£ 149.19	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 151.65	£ 261.65	£ 0.00	£ 261.65	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 145.66	£ 65.23	£ 513.78
May	£ 500.00	£ 789.10	£ 105.00	£ 1,394.10	£ 14.00	£ 36.15	£ 3.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 53.15	£ 1,447.25	£ 0.00	£ 1,447.25	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 73.36	£ 63.93	£ 345.60
Jun	£ 0.00	£ 110.50	£ 70.00	£ 180.50	£ 15.92	£ 135.00	£ 3.50	£ 17.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 171.42	£ 351.92	£ 0.00	£ 351.92	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 99.55	£ 67.78	£ 13.00
July	£ 0.00	£ 361.20	£ 70.00	£ 431.20	£ 17.43	£ 35.45	£ 3.80	£ 12.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 68.68	£ 499.88	£ 0.00	£ 499.88	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 35.90	£ 67.83	£ 8,361.99
Aug	£ 0.00	£ 116.71	£ 70.00	£ 186.71	£ 14.46	£ 27.05	£ 4.40	£ 35.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 80.91	£ 267.62	£ 0.00	£ 267.62	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 33.97	£ 67.83	£ 6.99
Sept	£ 0.00	£ 2.20	£ 70.00	£ 72.20	£ 63.90	£ 97.35	£ 14.10	£ 71.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 246.35	£ 318.55	£ 0.00	£ 318.55	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 33.81	£ 67.83	£ 24.99
Oct	£ 10,000.00	£ 38.44	£ 85.00	£ 10,123.44	£ 14.00	£ 71.18	£ 0.70	£ 97.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 182.88	£ 10,306.32	£ 0.00	£ 10,306.32	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 10.23	£ 67.83	£ 120.68
Nov	£ 24,740.00	£ 57.90	£ 85.00	£ 24,882.90	£ 16.50	£ 121.45	£ 19.68	£ 84.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 241.63	£ 25,124.53		£ 25,124.53	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 318.54	£ 67.83	£ 2,157.80
Dec	£ 1,000.00	£ 7.85	£ 95.00	£ 1,102.85	£ 46.50	£ 123.23	£ 11.95	£ 55.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 236.68	£ 1,339.53		£ 1,339.53	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 36.36	£ 15.83	£ 14,784.00
Jan	£ 0.00	£ 19.70	£ 130.00	£ 149.70	£ 9.00	£ 65.29	£ 1.80	£ 57.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 133.09	£ 282.79		£ 282.79	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 944.84	£ 15.83	£ 1,814.00
Feb	£ 0.00	£ 54.20	£ 85.00	£ 139.20	£ 25.00	£ 172.95	£ 6.90	£ 75.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.80	£ 0.00	£ 280.65	£ 419.05		£ 419.85	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 15.83	£ 927.40
Mar	£ 4,500.00	£ 378.31	£ 70.00	£ 4,948.31	£ 24.50	£ 190.94	£ 9.40	£ 83.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 307.84	£ 5,256.15		£ 5,256.15	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 116.00	£ 152.94	£ 11,331.00

2021-22	£ 40,740.00	£ 1,976.11	£ 1,005.00	£ 43,721.11	£ 263.67	£ 1,225.23	£ 79.23	£ 586.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.80	£ 0.00	£ 2,154.93	£ 45,875.24		£ 45,876.04	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,848.22	£ 736.52	£ 40,387.25
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Date	Income: Grants	Income: Donations - general	Income: Donations -Friends	Income: SO1 Vol Income	Income: Sales Books/ DVDs		Income: Sales Other	Income: Room Hirings	Income: FRaising - Events General	Income: FRaising - Lotto	Income: WCBC monies Fines	Income: WCBC monies Hirings	Income: SO2 Activities generating funds	Total Incoming Income (excl. WCBC)		Income: Activities generating funds	SO7: Cost of generating f'raising income	SO8 x 1: Cost of f'raising events - Lotto/ Raffles	SO8 x 2: Cost of f'raising events - General	SO8 x 3: Cost of f'raising events - Specific Events	SO8: FRaising Trading Costs TOTAL	S11 x 1: Utilities		S11x2: Repairs/ Renewals BUILDING
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Monthly Ave	£ 3,395.00	£ 164.68	£ 83.75	£ 3,643.43	£ 21.97		£ 6.60	£ 48.83	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.07	£ 0.00	£ 179.58	£ 3,822.94		£ 3,823.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 154.02		£ 3,365.60
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5.60 in March

S11x2: Repairs/ Renewals LIB F&F	S11x2: Repairs/ Renewals BOOKS	S11 x 3: Account'cy/ Legal/Prof/lnsce	S11 x 4: Financial Charges	S11 x 5: Phone	S11 x 5: Office Costs	S11 x 6: Other Allowable exp	S11: Governance Costs TOTAL	Sub-tot GDCL Expenses	CAPITAL ASSETS	CREDITORS	Total GDCL Expenses			Date
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				17. Phone and office expenditure		eg milk, bleach, butty								
£ 25.00	£ 84.12	£ 10.00	£ 0.00	£ 11.94	£ 283.42	£ 40.31	£ 1,179.46	£ 1,179.46	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,179.46			Apr
£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 870.36	£ 0.00	£ 31.44	£ 8.63	£ 0.00	£ 1,393.32	£ 1,393.32	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,393.32			May
£ 120.97	£ 26.43	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 31.44	£ 8.63	£ 3.77	£ 364.03	£ 364.03	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 364.03			Jun
£ 0.00	£ 22.23	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 33.69	£ 8.63	£ 72.66	£ 8,602.93	£ 8,602.93	£ 187.20	£ 0.00	£ 8,790.13			July
£ 0.00	£ 107.59	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 33.90	£ 8.63	£ 94.00	£ 338.93	£ 338.93	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 338.93			Aug
£ 0.00	£ 9.37	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 33.28	£ 8.63	£ 12.00	£ 189.91	£ 189.91	£ 294.95	£ 0.00	£ 484.86			Sept
£ 0.00	£ 28.99	£ 65.00	£ 0.00	£ 27.00	£ 191.07	£ 18.43	£ 529.23	£ 529.23	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 529.23			Oct
£ 148.76	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 72.62	£ 40.47	£ 2,806.02	£ 2,806.02	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,806.02			Nov
£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 54.00	£ 0.00	£ 42.28	£ 14,932.47	£ 14,932.47	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 14,932.47			Dec
£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 27.00	£ 11.99	£ 5.35	£ 2,819.01	£ 2,819.01	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,819.01			Jan
£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 33.00	£ 0.00	£ 27.00	£ 8.90	£ 27.45	£ 1,039.58	£ 1,039.58	£ 0.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,039.58			Feb
£ 150.00	£ 9.98	£ 41.35	£ 0.00	£ 27.00	£ 578.76	£ 29.54	£ 12,436.57	£ 12,436.57	£ 2,997.00	£ 0.00	£ 15,433.57			Mar

£ 444.73	£ 288.71	£ 1,019.71	£ 0.00	£ 337.69	£ 1,189.91	£ 378.72	£ 46,631.46	£ 46,631.46	£ 3,479.15	£ 0.00	£ 50,110.61			2021-22
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				£ 1,527.60		£ 46,631.46		£ 50,110.61						
S11x2: Repairs/ Renewals LIB F&F	S11x2: Repairs/ Renewals BOOKS	S11 x 3: Account'cy/ Legal/Prof/lnsce	S11 x 4: Financial Charges	S11 x 5: Phone	S11 x 5: Office Costs	S11 x 6: Other Allowable expenses	S11: Governance Costs TOTAL	Total GDCL Expenses	CAPITAL ASSETS	CREDITORS	Total GDCL Expenses			Date

£ 37.06	£ 24.06	£ 84.98	£ 0.00	£ 28.14	£ 99.16	£ 31.56		£ 3,885.96			£ 4,175.88		£ 0.00	Mthly Av'g
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BANK RECONCILLIATION

Opening bank balance April 2021: £ 26,623.56

BANK Tot IN	45876.04
BANK Tot OUT	50110.61
	22,388.99

Opening bank balance April 2021: £ 26,623.56

Tot IN	Tot IN	Tot OUT	Tot OUT
INC/EXP	BANK	INC/EXP	BANK
£ 45,876.04	£ 45,876.04	£ 50,110.61	£ 50,110.61

Difference: £ - Difference: N/A

£ 45,876.04	£ 50,110.61
Income and Expenditure and Bank AGREE	

GDCL closing bank balance @ 31 March 2022
£ 22,388.99