

# VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

England & Wales · Charity number 1165302

## Details

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**Other names** V4GCL

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-01-25

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

## Contact

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**Address** Gainsborough Community Library  
Claggate Lane  
Ipswich  
Suffolk  
IP3 0RL

**Phone** 01473927270

**Email** [V4GCLCommittee@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:V4GCLCommittee@yahoo.co.uk)

**Website** <http://suffolklibraries.co.uk/about/member-organisations/voices-for-gainsborough-community-library>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CIO ARE (I)TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE IP3 AREA OF IPSWICH WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS, BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID INHABITANTS 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 AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATIONS WITH THE OBJECTS OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS; AND(II)TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'THE CENTRE') AND TO MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THE SAME(WHETHER ALONE OR IN CO-OPERATION WITH ANY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR PERSON OR BODY) IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS.NOTHING IN THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL AUTHORISE AN APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CIO FOR THE PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH [SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005] AND [SECTION 2 OF THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008]

**Activities:** Supporting the Gainsborough community through the Gainsborough Community Library. Offering additional activities and events and running the Voices Cafe within the library.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Suffolk

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£28,990	£26,495	-	-
2024-12-31	£48,697	£66,407	-	-
2023-12-31	£35,144	£31,742	-	-
2022-12-31	£36,195	£25,874	-	-
2021-12-31	£27,469	£20,001	-	-
2020-12-31	£19,050	£13,820	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mike Peacock	Chair	2026-02-04
Amy Peachey		2019-01-01
CAROL DEBMAN		2015-09-30
Kay Louise Gibson		2022-02-09
Leon Porter		2015-09-20
MANDY GRIMWOOD		2012-01-01

**VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165302

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# Accounts

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Voices for Gainsborough Community Library  
01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025

Cash B/F	£	-	
Uncleared cheques	£	-	
Bank B/F	£	18,627.06	
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>18,627.06</b>
Income Cash	£	-	
Income Cheque	£	-	
Income Transfers	£	<u>28,990.47</u>	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>28,990.47</b>
Expenditure Cash	£	-	
Expenditure Cheque	-£	181.00	
Expenditure Transfers	-£	<u>26,314.16</u>	
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-£</b>	<b>26,495.16</b>
Profit/Loss			<u>£ 2,495.31</u>
	<b>Balance 31/12/2025</b>		<b>£21,122.37</b>

Prepared by: *M. Greenwood* M. GRIMWOOD 16/01/2026  
 Checked by: *L. Porter* L. PORTER 3/2/2026

Voices for Gainsborough Community Library  
01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025

Receipts	This Year (2025)	Last Year (2024)
General Funds	£ 2,884.98	£ 1,117.93
Café	£ 9,848.12	£ 11,385.32
Pop-up shop	£ 4,890.84	£ 4,834.68
Girls Group	£ 35.10	£ 849.19
Top Time	£ 906.52	£ 747.58
Youth	£ -	£ 88.37
Singing	£ 375.09	£ 414.72
Men's	£ 167.96	£ 166.10
Ladies	£ 138.60	£ 170.25
SCC HWF	£ -	£ 6,200.96
Arnold Clark	£ -	£ 2,500.00
Building pot		£ 13,633.81
SCF Women & Girls	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
Wolsey 550		£ 2,588.00
Landscapes for All		£ 2,000.00
IBC Diversionary		£ 1,000.00
SCF Household Support Fund	£ 5,000.00	
IBC Community Resilience	£ 1,434.26	
IBC Sustainable Community Food	£ 2,309.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 28,990.47</b>	<b>£ 48,696.91</b>

Payments	This Year (2025)	Last Year (2024)
General Funds	£ 2,102.67	£ 1,716.85
Café	£ 6,013.29	£ 10,979.09
Pop-up shop	£ 4,991.00	£ 4,042.08
Girls Group	£ 110.41	£ 1,868.29
Top Time	£ 978.97	£ 1,132.66
Youth	£ 19.46	£ 55.08
Singing	£ 675.00	£ 297.00
Men's	£ 179.38	
Ladies	£ 80.00	£ -
SCC HWF	£ 1,485.00	£ 3,773.71
Arnold Clark	£ 1,267.20	£ 269.26
Building pot		£ 26,210.09
SCF sports		£ 1,091.50
SCF Food & Drink		£ 620.00
SCF Port Community Fund		£ 2,000.00
SCF Household Support Fund		£ 5,000.00
SCF Women & Girls	£ 334.94	£ 1,000.00
Wolsey 550		£ 2,503.26
Landscapes for All		£ 2,000.00
IBC Diversionary Grant		£ 646.51
SCF Groups grant		£ 1,201.95
SCF Household Support Fund	£ 5,000.00	
IBC Community Resilience	£ 1,434.26	
IBC Sustainable Community Food	£ 1,823.58	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 26,495.16</b>	<b>£ 66,407.33</b>



**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees</b>	Charity Name Voices for Gainsborough Community Library		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1165302
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1 - 2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:  Date: 3-2-26

Name: Sophie de Boos

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

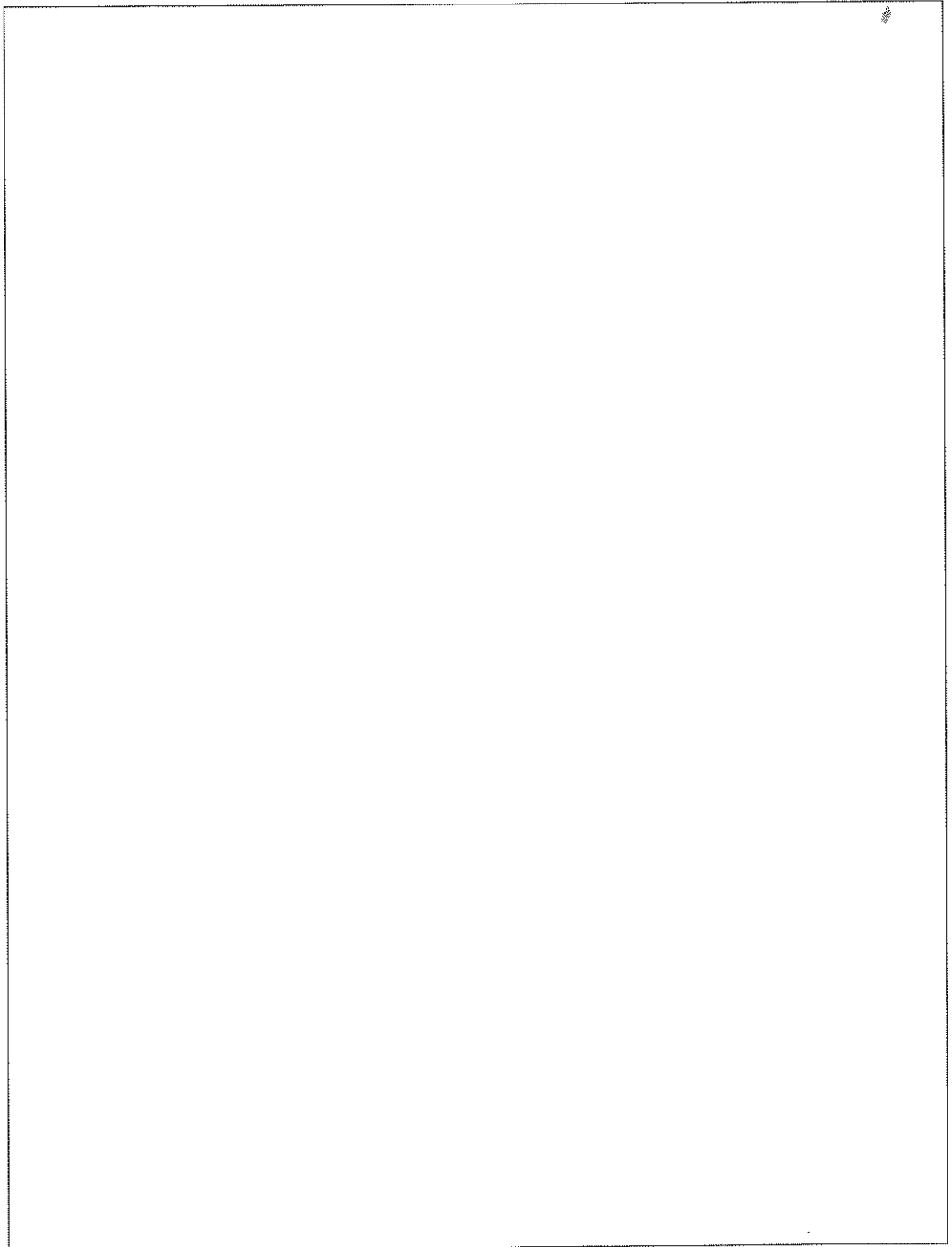
Address: 18 Hurricane Place,  
IPSWICH  
IP3 9TH

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.





## Treasurers report January – December 2025

Unreserved funds at year end are £11182.90

V4GCL raise funds mainly through the volunteer run café, which has had a difficult year, due to volunteer vacancies and sickness. The café made a profit of £3834.83, which was boosted by £3037.00 income from catering for the Blank Page Project.

Voices continued to raise funds through a variety of fundraising events during the year.

Voices hold pots of money for Top Time, Men's group, youth sports, adult singing group, men's group, ladies' group, the pop-up shop and Girls Group.

Remaining funds from Suffolk County Council Health & Wellbeing Fund and Arnold Clark Community Fund enable Voices to continue to support the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Funding received during 2025:

Women and Girls Fund through Suffolk Community Foundation for Girls Group - £1000

Household Support Fund through Suffolk Community Foundation £5000

Ipswich Borough Council Community Resilience Fund £1434.26

Ipswich Borough Council Sustainable Food Fund £2309.00

Mandy Grimwood

Treasurer

## AGM Report 2025

This has been my third, and final (for now), year as chairperson. I would again like to thank everyone who has supported me during this time and all the volunteers who have worked so hard this year both the new joiners, and the old hands. This has been another very busy and hugely productive year, with the community continuing to grow and flourish.

Throughout the year our garden room has enabled the library to offer additional space for activities benefiting the local community. Users included tutors, NHS Stop Smoking sessions, digital literacy course, library groups and Santa's Grotto.

During colder months Voices Café has offered a Warm Space to socialize, with free hot drinks, cuppa soup, pot noodles and toast on offer to anyone in need. Our offer has been boosted by regular donations from The Hygiene Bank.

### January.

Was a relatively quiet month allowing everyone to decompress from the year before and Christmas in advance of the year to come.

However, the ever-popular Fruit and Veg pop-up continued weekly throughout the year. In addition the IBC Tenancy team, community police, Feel Good Suffolk & Citizen's Advice visited the library throughout the year during the pop-up shop to offer support and advice.

The fortnightly Men's Group, and Ladies Group continued, giving a space to socialize and chat during the evenings.



Voices offered another Line Dancing evening that's still successfully encouraging fitness and community, the evenings continue every other month.

Girls Group went to see a show at The Wolsey theatre.

### February.

Realise Future hosted a digital literacy course in our garden room for those who wanted to learn about how to use a tablet. Attendees received a tablet to enable their digital journey going forward.

Voices received £5000 from the Household Support Fund through Suffolk Community Foundation, which enabled us to purchase supermarket shopping vouchers to give out to those in the local community who were struggling through the winter months.

### March.

Voices gratefully received donations from Ipswich Hygiene Bank and St Joseph's College to complement the Fruit & Veg pop-up shop.

To promote Suffolk Library Day Men's Group held a car wash that was also accompanied by a bake sale, raising funds for Voices.

### April.

This month we saw the start of another wonderful 6-week yoga course funded by SCC Health & Wellbeing

Fund which was well attended and these continued until the summer.

Voices held our Easter Fayre. It was again attended by Oona the Owl and the Easter Bunny to the delight of children, young and old.

Girls Group received funding from Women & Girls Fund through Suffolk Community Foundation to enable them to experience new activities to improve their confidence and self-esteem.

### May.

This month we were visited by the NHS who held a Slipper Swap for the over 55's. This wonderful event ensured attendees were not putting themselves or others at risk by wearing footwear at home that could cause a trip, or fall.

With support from the Sustainable Food Community fund we were able to supply families with compost and tomato plant. The compost was placed in a canvas bag that the families had been able to decorate first. The fund also enabled us to hold a series of cooking workshops to coach people on their culinary skills to promote healthier eating and create their own recipe books. These continued through until the end of October.

Voices hosted a Medium night with Angie Farthing, which was popular and well attended.

### June.

This month saw Suffolk Libraries become Suffolk Community Libraries under the auspices of Suffolk County Council.

Voices volunteers and library staff attended the Windrush Festival, celebrating the contributions made to our community by all people regardless of background.



### July.

Voices volunteers joined library staff at the summer fair held at Ipswich Academy, offering a book quiz and distributing period products to the girls. The library offered The Blank Page Project sessions throughout the summer holidays. The sessions encouraged 10- to 16-year-olds to explore their creative expression with the help of experts in a variety of different artistic fields. Voices Café provided catering for all the sessions, we raised vital funds to be spent on library activities.

### August.

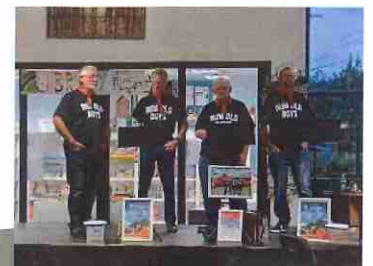
Thanks to the owner of The Orwell Lady, both Men's and Ladies Groups were gifted tickets for a cruise on the River Orwell.

The Men's Group visited the Wolsey Theatre to see Cyril Blake's show from the Edinburgh Fringe about the history and story of James Bond.

### September.

Girls Group enjoyed their cruise on The Orwell Lady.

Voices held their annual musical event; during the day, many talented local artists performed, and other members of the local community performed during the open mic session. In the evening, we held a ticketed event, with Rum Old Boys and Painting the Science entertaining a select audience. Another well attended and enjoyable event.



Another fully booked family cooking workshop was held.

Six-week yoga sessions started again funded by SCC Health & Wellbeing Fund



October.

Voices held their annual Pamper and Shopping event, showcasing local businesses and promoting mental health and wellbeing.

One of the cooking workshops this month enabled families to cook pumpkin stew and carve a pumpkin in preparation for Halloween.



Voices held a Medium Night with Wayne McHugh which was well attended by members of the local community.

November.

Another successful quiz night was held in November, with the biggest attendance so far. Thank you to Colin for continuing to offer these quiz nights.



Alongside the fruit & veg Pop-up shop Voices were able to supply blankets, oodles, torches and flasks to those struggling to keep warm, thanks to remaining funds from The Arnold Clark Community Fund and IBC Community Resilience Fund

December.

Voices held our Christmas Fayre, where members of the community sold their wares. Knitting group made some lovely items to sell at the event. A large raffle was held thanks to donations from local organisations, with the event raising over £500 for future activities. This event was graced with the appearance of Mrs Claus this year, due to Santa having not been put on the Governments Nice List in time.

Voices catered for the library Blank Page sessions.

The library hosted a Yuletide Yarns event aimed at families with seasonal stories.

Voices had our fabulous telling of Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, by Anthony Roberts which received much praise.

Voices offered a free toy shop for parents struggling to buy gifts for their children.

Our final event of the year was Fruit and Veg and mini-Christmas Fayre on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, rather than the 25<sup>th</sup> (obviously). This was attended by Santa Claus much to the relief of Mrs Claus!



**Memories of..  
Gainsborough Community Library  
Christmas Fayre 2025**



*K Gibson*

KAY GIBSON - CHAIR OF VOICES

**VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165302

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# Accounts

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## **Voices For Gainsborough AGM Report**

Firstly, a big thank you to all my fellow volunteers for everything they have done this past year. Also, a huge welcome to all the new volunteers that have joined us and added new skills. During what has been a very busy year, Voices have raised vital funding, delivered various events, and ensured the Café is a vibrant welcoming place.

Voices received funding from Suffolk County Council Ipswich East Health and Wellbeing Activity Fund to provide a range of activities each month throughout the year -



January The first event was a fun retro gaming afternoon with Bring Back Retro Gaming. It was well attended by families and brought back some fond childhood memories for our older participants.



February We hosted two adult craft sessions, where some lovely dot painted flowerpots were designed. The pots were filled with soil and bulbs before being taken home. The local adult craft provision is under-catered for and the feedback for these sessions was very positive, with requests for more similar sessions.



March As the weather improved, we arranged a Sound Meditation Evening on the river Orwell shore. Wayne McHugh delivered an inspirational relaxing session in a peaceful location.

April Suffolk Wildlife Trust delivered a hands-on session, with adults building hedgehog boxes. Vinyasa yoga classes were held for adults.



May Activities had a nature and environmental theme. With Suffolk Wildlife helping families make some bird boxes to install in their gardens. SWT also provided a gruesome but fascinating Owl Pellet Dissection workshop with participants finding all kinds of animal bones. Also, some Yoga classes were held for parents with children under 5.

June With an emphasis on outdoor sports and wellbeing, Voices arranged two games days. One in Landseer Park and one on Ravenswood Green. Various activities were provided including - Rounders, cricket, football, badminton, bubbles, and large versions of games like Connect four, noughts and crosses and quoits. Adults and families enjoyed this, having fun and with some exercise thrown in.

July For a sunny July we had a Music Day at the library to bring some tunes to library users, both old and new.

The afternoon consisted of a melodic open mic session on a car park stage, by Carl and his friends. Indoors DJ Bopper provided a mini sound system with some reggae sounds and did a mixing workshop.

In the evening the library hosted some rappers with musicians El Emcee, Xi Dontlie and friends serving up some vibrant street sounds.



## August

For August Voices held an international day. The idea was to bring different parts of the community together. Ipswich Museum brought some instruments from different parts of the world and offered shaker making. The Hold provided Batic Tie Dye and kite making, there was a fairtrade stall along with Spanish language and dance sessions.

Family Boccia and Kurling indoor sports sessions were offered, giving families a chance to try out some new fun accessible sports. An earlier session was held in July with some hot competition in a men's v Women's Group challenge



World Festival Day 2024

## Other selected highlights

### Garden Room

Our biggest achievement was the completion of the library's new Garden Room. In April and May Voices volunteers, library staff, members of the public and members of the rotary club, all pitched in and worked hard to knock down beds, take down a pergola, clear the garden and create a flat base. In June the Garden room was erected.



In early October, after years of planning and fundraising by Voices, we were delighted to finally, officially open our garden room. We had some very special guests; Cllr Liz Harsant, Cllr Lucy Smith, Ipswich East Rotary club, St. Lawrence Parish Hall Trust. The room has proved to be invaluable as an extra space for the community to use. Many thanks again for the large contributions by the East Ipswich Rotary Club, St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust. Also, Cllr Paul West and Cllr Lucy Smith for their generous contributions from their locality budgets.

### Families and young People

In February families had a great beach combing workshop with Beach Bonkers, discovering and learning about sharks' teeth. This was made possible by funding by The Suffolk & Essex coast & heaths national landscape sustainable development fund.

The Suffolk Libraries Reading Quest was launched, with a focus on local myths and getting out and reading in different places.





In November Odinn's Raven Guard came to the library for a Viking re-enactment day. Families tried on costumes, played games, held weapons and other recreated artifacts and learnt about Viking life. Two more family sessions this year had an emphasis on science. Kinetic Science had a Terrific Test tubes workshop offering colourful experiments, and Ipswich Museum provided a 'Nature is our home'



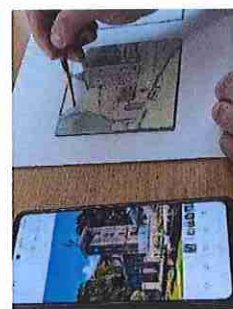
session using artifacts from its natural history collection and activities to explore the natural world.

For the young people, particularly the teenagers, we purchased some televisions and games to play on our xbox360 and PlayStation through Diversionary Funding from Ipswich Borough Council. These have been well used and encourage young people to visit our library.

## Arts & wellbeing



The very popular Blank Page Project continued to run in the school holidays, with Voices café catering for the project. Artists came to the library to share their skills and make amazing creations with 10–16 year olds. Through May and June there were some adult and teen workshops, thanks to funding from The Wolsey 550 Project. Celebrating Thomas Wolsey and Ipswich history, the attendees made some stunning digital art, went on



an Ipswich history field trip around the town and made a beautiful painted glass panel for the library.

To increase wellbeing and get outdoors, Daniel Cable Davey continued his fascinating family wildlife walks. We learned more about nature on our doorstep on Glow worm, Bat and Fungi focused walks.

Thanks to funding from Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths 'Landscapes For All Fund', we were able to offer days out to families who were financially restricted. During the summer there was a coach trip to Southwold for a day exploring the beach and a coach trip to Rendlesham Forest, where families walked the UFO trail, played games and conducted a bug hunt. Lunches were provided on both trips and the feedback from families was very positive.



Providing food for those in need was another area addressed again this year. The weekly Fruit and Veg pop shop was extremely busy and encouraged people to meet up and socialise. The Arnold Clark Community Fund provided funding for toiletries and period products to be available at the pop up once a month. The Kindness clothes rails were well used. During the summer to help with 'holiday hunger' young people spending the day at the library were provided with some snacks. Pot noodles and cereal bars were donated by Morrisons. For the winter Warm spaces campaign, people in need were encouraged to come to the library to save on their heating bills and were offered free Tea, Coffee, Soup and toast.

## Outreach

The library had summer outreach stalls at the Cornhill in Ipswich and at Holywells Allotments Open Day. The Allotment association very kindly chose the library as the main beneficiary of funds raised on the day.

## Regular yearly and Seasonal Events

Our traditional fundraising seasonal activities went very well this year. For Suffolk Libraries Day, volunteers worked hard raising funds by cleaning cars. Our lovely knit and natter group made some daisies and Voices hosted a spring clear out, selling unwanted items. Girls Group completed a sponsored litter pick and walk.



The Easter and Christmas Fairs were both well attended. Oona the Owl made a special appearance at Easter while at Christmas we had volunteer, Jeff as Father Christmas in the New Garden Room Grotto. Our 'Knit and Natter Group' made some cute decorations to sell. In conjunction with BBC Radio Suffolk the 'Be Kind Toy Appeal' saw toys distributed to families in need.



As a treat volunteers and staff had the opportunity to watch a live stream of 'Sleeping Beauty' from the New Wolsey Theatre, which proved to be a fun evening.



For Halloween Voices provided pumpkins for carving and volunteer Zach ran a lovely home-made cake stall, raising money for Suffolk Libraries and Mind.

### Library Groups

Library groups continue to go well, including our two Girl's groups, Top Time over 55's, Women's Group and the Men can talk Group.



The Girl's Groups are a great provision. Partly Funded from Suffolk Community Foundation through The Women and Girl's fund. The girls enjoyed cooking, making their own quiches from scratch and fruit salad. Highlights of the year included a PGL adventure weekend away and a trip to London to see 'Sister Act' at the theatre. The group developed a partnership with the 'New Wolsey Theatre' which included free tickets to shows and a live streaming of the Panto.

Men's Group and Women's groups continued to offer an open space for adults. The women finished the year with a murder mystery evening while the men used the library kitchen to offer up a fine Christmas meal.

Top Time continued to offer a varied program of activities for the over 55's including a monthly lunch and a coach trip to Bury St. Edmunds.



### Fundraisers

Colin continued to provide his fundraising quiz nights, which were inventive, great fun and well attended.

Volunteers continued to deliver their fundraising monthly Sunday family bingo afternoons. In May, another of our regular yearly fundraising events took place with Wayne McHugh's intriguing Medium Night.



In September Voices Volunteer Alec ran in the Ipswich Half Marathon. With a fine personal achievement, he raised money for Suffolk Libraries while recording a very respectable time.

In November, Voices held its first line dancing evening. This proved to be very popular and three more have been arranged for 2025.

All the above represent just part of the picture of a very busy productive year for Gainsborough Community Library.

CHAIR: *IL Gibson*  
 HAY GIBSON · 5th February 2025



## Treasurers report January – December 2024

Unreserved funds at year end are £6459.02

V4GCL raise funds mainly through the volunteer run café, which has had a difficult year, due to volunteer vacancies and sickness. The café made a profit of £5653.46, which was boosted by income from catering for the Blank Page Project.

Voices continued to raise funds through fundraising events during the year, most fundraising events held this year have raised funds towards the garden room project, which is now complete.

£5000 funding from Ipswich East Rotary Club and £5000 from St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust, made a large contribution towards the garden room project being completed.

Cllr Paul West gave £1000 from his locality budget to fit out the garden room and Cllr Lucy Smith gave £1160 from her locality budget to purchase blinds for the room.

Voices hold pots of money for Top Time, Men's group, youth sports, adult singing group, men's group, ladies' group, the pop-up shop, and Girls Group.

Funding from Suffolk Community Foundation through Women and Girls Fund for Girls Group - £1000

Funding from Suffolk County Council Health and Wellbeing Fund for adult wellbeing activities - £6200.96.

Funding from:

Wolsey 550 Project - £2588

Ipswich Borough Council – Diversionary Funding for activities for teenagers - £1000

Landscapes for All Funding for family coach trips - £2000

Arnold Clark Community Fund for warm space, plus toiletries, and period products to be available once a month at our pop-up shop - £2500.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mandy Grimwood', is located below the text.

Mandy Grimwood

Treasurer



**Voices for Gainsborough Community Library Accounts**  
**01/01/2024 - 31/12/2024**

Cash B/F	£	-
Uncleared cheques	£	-
Bank B/F	£	36,337.48

<b>Balance</b>		<b>£36,337.48</b>
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Income Cash	£	-
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Income Cheque	£	-
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Income Transfers	£	48,696.91
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<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£48,696.91</b>
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Expenditure Cash	£	-
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Expenditure Cheque	-£	190.00
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Expenditure Transfers	-£	66,217.33
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<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>-£66,407.33</b>
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Profit/Loss		<u>-£17,710.42</u>
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**Balance 31/12/2024**

**£18,627.06**

Prepared By: *MCGRIMWOOD*  
M Grimwood

Signed: *MCGRIMWOOD*  
Dated: *10/1/2025*

Checked by: *LEON BETER*

Signed: *L. Beter*  
Dated: *23/01/25*

Independently reviewed: *[Signature]*

Receipts	This year (2024)	Last Year (2023)
General funds	£ 1,117.93	£ 3,905.59
Cafe	£ 11,385.32	£ 10,767.68
Pop-up shop	£ 4,834.68	£ 3,628.22
Girls Group	£ 849.19	£ 2,802.74
Top Time	£ 747.58	£ 844.65
Youth Sports	£ 88.37	£ 1,108.88
Building pot	£ 13,633.81	£ 12,741.28
Singing group	£ 414.72	£ 686.12
SCF Men can talk	£ -	£ 1,975.00
SCF Sports	£ -	£ 1,522.00
SCF Singing	£ -	£ 1,353.00
SCF Suffolk Sports Fund	£ -	£ 2,000.00
SCF Food & Drink	£ -	£ 1,300.00
Mens Group	£ 166.10	£ 116.26
Ladies Group	£ 170.25	£ 76.80
SCF Port Community Fund	£ -	£ 2,000.00
SCF Household Support Fund	£ -	£ 5,000.00
SCC Health & Wellbeing	£ 6,200.96	£ 9,000.00
SCF Women & Girls	£ 1,000.00	
Wolsey 550	£ 2,588.00	
Landscapes for All	£ 2,000.00	
IBC Diversionary Grant	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,948.00
SCC Cllr grants		£ 1,702.34
SCF Pargiter Trust Top Time		£ 1,850.00
SCF Local Giving Girls		£ 1,000.00
IBC area committee grant		£ 2,816.17
Arnold Clark grant	£ 2,500.00	£ 408.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 48,696.91</b>	<b>£ 70,553.63</b>

Payments	This Year (2024)	Last Year (2023)
General Funds	£ 1,716.85	£ 2,526.87
Cafe	£ 10,979.09	£ 6,079.81
Pop-up shop	£ 4,042.08	£ 3,101.15
Girls Group	£ 1,868.29	£ 28.68
Top Time	£ 1,132.66	£ -
Youth Sports	£ 55.08	£ 1,259.89
Building pot	£ 26,210.09	£ 165.00
Singing group	£ 297.00	£ -
SCF Men can talk	£ 333.95	£ 1,637.32
SCF Sports	£ 390.00	£ 660.00
SCF Singing	£ 478.00	£ 875.00
SCF Suffolk Sports Fund	£ 1,091.50	£ -
SCF Food & Drink Fund	£ 620.00	£ 680.00
Mens Group	£ -	
Ladies Group	£ -	
SCF Port Community Fund	£ 2,000.00	
SCF Household Support Fund	£ 5,000.00	
SCC Health & Wellbeing	£ 3,773.71	£ 8,183.01
SCF Women & Girls	£ 1,000.00	
Wolsey 550	£ 2,503.26	
Landscapes for All	£ 2,000.00	
IBC Diversionary Grant	£ 646.51	£ 1,897.13
Arnold Clark Grant	£ 269.26	£ 408.90
IBC Area committee grant		£ 2,256.81
SCF Pargiter Trust Top Time		£ 1,360.00
SCF Local Giving Girls		£ 1,000.00
SCC Cllr grants		£ 2,096.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 66,407.33</b>	<b>£ 34,216.15</b>



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Voices for Gainsborough Community Library

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1165302

**Set out on pages**

1/2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**

*Sophie de Boss*

**Date:**

18.2.25

**Name:**

Sophie de Boss

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

Accounting District Commissioner

**Address:**

18 HURRICANE PLACE, IPSWICH,  
IP3 9TH

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

**VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165302

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# Accounts

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Voices for Gainsborough Community Library

Annual Accounts statement 01 January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Receipts	This Year (2023)
Cafe	£10,767.68
General funds	£684.68
Fruit & veg	£3,628.22
Girls Group	£1,031.33
Top Time	£342.00
Building pot	£2,559.04
Singing Group	£476.62
SCF High Sheriff youth Sports	£1,000.00
SCF High Sheriff Singing group	£1,053.00
Youth sports	£114.08
Fun Day	£350.00
SCC Cllr Dance grant	£420.00
SCF Suffolk Sports Fund (dance)	£2,000.00
Men's Group	£116.26
SCF Food & Drink Fund	£1,300.00
SCC Cllr grant (shelves, books, talent show)	£1,250.00
M-Powered Group	£76.80
IBC Diversionary Project Fund	£974.00
SCF Girls PGL	£2,000.00
SCF Household Fund grant	£5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35,143.71</b>

Payments	This Year (2023)
Cafe	£6,079.81
General funds	£1,026.87
Fruit & veg	£3,101.15
Girls Group	£28.68
Building pot	£165.00
Youth activities	£342.45
Friday crafts	£73.84
Area Committee Cafe	£2,256.81
SCF Coop/ High Sheriff Men can Talk	£1,637.32
SCF Coop/ High Sheriff youth Sports	£660.00
SCF Coop/ High Sheriff Singing group	£875.00
SCF Pargiter Top Time	£1,360.00
SCF Local Giving Girls	£1,000.00
SCC Public Mental Health	£8,183.01
SCF Suffolk Sports Fund (dance)	£843.60
Fun Day	£426.58
Arnold Clark	£408.90
SCC Cllr Dance grant	£420.00
SCF Food & Drink Fund	£680.00
SCCllr grant - shelves, books, talent	£1,250.00
IBC Diversionary Project Fund	£923.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>£31,742.15</b>

Prepared by: ML Grimwood – Treasurer

Checked by: L Porter

Approved by: K Gibson – Chair

Independently Reviewed by: S de Boos

Signed: *ML Grimwood* Dated: 31/01/2024

Signed: *L Porter* Dated: 5/02/2024

Signed: *K Gibson* Dated: 7/02/2024

Signed: *S de Boos* Dated: 17-5-24





Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees Charity Name VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

On accounts for the year ended 31/12/2023 Charity no (if any) 1165302

Set out on pages 1 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
• the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
• the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 17-5-24

Name: S. de Boos

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body District Commissioner Airguiding

(if any):

Address:

**Section B Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Wow where has this year gone. Thank you to everyone for their help and support this year.

### Highlights

All groups have gone from strength to strength. Voices quiz nights have been held every other month, which have been very successful and well attended. Voices café has been open when volunteers have been available and good income was received for providing lunch for The Blank Page Project, which offers free art days to children aged 10 – 16 years. The café also offered monthly Top Time lunches to over 60s. The weekly Fruit & Veg pop-up shop continues to offer healthy food to 40+ people every week, with the addition of monthly supplies of toiletries.

### **February**

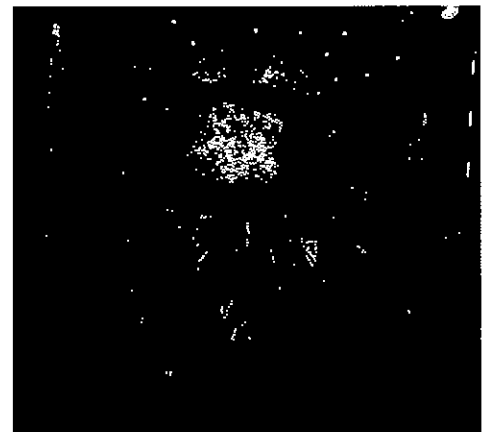
The libraries Men's Group planted flowers and vegetables in the planters.

### **March**

For Suffolk library day volunteers washed cars in the car park. Girl's Group had a sponsored walk. Voices held a Medium Night.

### **April**

Author James Jenkins launched his latest novel and offered a writing workshop in the library. The library hosted the Blank Page Project with some inspiring artists. Girl's Group went on an amazing trip to London to watch the show "Wicked". The annual Easter Egg hunt was thoroughly enjoyed by lots of families.

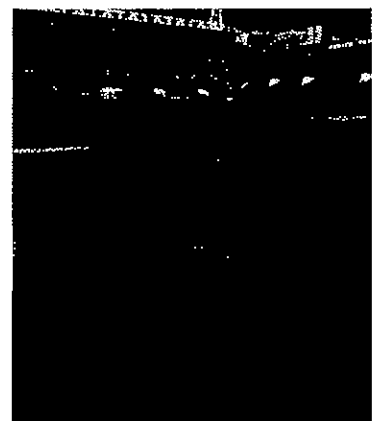


### **May**

The library celebrated our King's Coronation with a street party. The mayor and local Councillors joined us. The library manager and the chair of Voices were lucky enough to be invited to watch our local Councillor become the new Mayor of Ipswich.

### **June**

This month was the launch of "Paws-itivity" campaign. One of our Voices volunteers was chosen to paint one of the pups, which was displayed at the library. Girl's Group went on a trip to Pin Mill and visited the Nancy Blackett and had a brilliant time on a three day residential at PGL Bawdsey. Top Time went to Great Yarmouth for the day. The library started a M-Powered Group which now meets once a month, and through this a Ladies group started meeting fortnightly.





## July

Five girls from Girls Group represented Suffolk in the Word Cup in Manchester.

The library and Voices held the annual Funday at Landseer Park, which was well attended. The weather was kind to us again.



## August

The summer reading challenge was extra special this year as it linked to the women's football World Cup. Thanks to our volunteers who encouraged the children and listened to them read. Two more amazing library trips with the community to Great Yarmouth and Bury St Edmunds. The Blank Page Project was offered again through the summer holidays, working with some fantastic artists.

## September

Voices volunteers and group attendees were invited to have tea with the Mayor at the Town Hall. Girl's Group went to Colchester for a day, enjoying the castle and swimming. The M-Powered Group held a Mindfulness and Wellbeing session at Murrayside Community Centre.

## October

The library had a Harry Potter book day, attracting lots of children and families. Voices held a Pamper and Shopping event, showcasing local businesses, followed by a Mindfulness with nature evening. Hightide Theatre offered a ghost stories creative writing session at the library.



## November

Suffolk libraries Warm Spaces was relaunched this month with kind donations from Waitrose and the Co-op. Our very successful IP3 has Talent show was hosted by Pipers Vale this year. IP3 has a lot of very talented young people, and the evening was enjoyed by their families and other local residents.



**December**

The Christmas Fair was well attended with over fifty children visiting Father Christmas. Carol singing and crafts were enjoyed, along with free hot drinks from the café.

BBC Radio Suffolk launched the “Be kind to a kid” campaign in partnership with Suffolk Libraries. This enabled many families to share presents on Christmas day.

Girl’s Group went to Dance East to watch “The Little Match Girl”. The library held a Christmas Celebration evening with the Guides which included carol singing, wreath and Gonk making and free food and drink. Men’s Group cooked Christmas dinner at the library for their group and other vulnerable people from the local community; it was a great success. Blank Page Project took place again during the Christmas holidays. Some of the Girls group members took part in a performance at Ipswich County Library

**Funding**

Thank you for the amazing support from funders which enables the library to offer so much more to the local community.

Suffolk County Councillor Liz Harsant £1670.00

Ipswich Borough Council Diversionary Project Fund £974.00

Ipswich Borough Councillors MAD Fund £250.00

Funding through Suffolk Community Foundation:

High Sheriff Fund £2053.00

Suffolk Sports Fund £2000.00

Food and Drink Fund £1300.00

Port Community Fund £2000.00

Household Support 4 Fund £5000.00

Warm spaces supplies were received from Waitrose and the Co-op

Toiletries and period products were received from FIND

Signed:

Dated



**VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165302

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# Accounts

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## AGM REPORT 2022

This has been my first year as chairperson. I would like to thank Mandy, my fellow volunteers and library staff for supporting me this past year.

### Highlights

We have had an extremely eventful last year with some well attended special events -

### **March**

We had a bake sale and costume competition for Suffolk Libraries Day. It was lovely to see members of the community bake cakes for us to sell and to see the children in their costumes.

### **April**

The children really enjoyed our Easter egg hunt. Girls group were given the wonderful chance to visit London, we had a great day. We saw Buckingham Palace, went on a boat trip on the Thames, followed by a tour around the houses of Parliament.



### **June**

I think the Platinum Jubilee was my favourite event. We had a street party to celebrate the late Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. We had a photo booth where people could dress up, pretend to be the Queen or a corgi. There was also an escape room which was a great hit. We were also very lucky to have our local Councillors join our festivities. Our youth groups were invited to take part in the Jubilee parade at the Suffolk Show. On



Father's Day we held a car wash event.



## August

This was a busy month. We had lots of children join up for the Summer Reading Challenge. A special thanks to all those who volunteered to hear the children read. We had two fantastic trips with the community to Thetford Forest and Great Yarmouth.

Our Landseer Park fun day was a great success, hundreds of people attended, and the weather was perfect. The owl sanctuary came to the library as part of Reading Sparks. A garden gig was held with lots of local talent, raising funds for our garden room project.



## September

We had a medium night with Wayne, which again was very popular.

This month was the start of our men's group. We went to the let's rock festival at Trinity Park, got a little wet but it didn't dampen our spirits.

It was with great sadness that we lost our longest reigning Queen. Our community was deeply saddened and paid tributes in various ways.

We started using 'In kind direct' to buy toiletries for our pop up shop.



## October

We were very lucky to host 'The Sounds of Nashville' gig. Everyone that joined us had a great time.

We had a pamper and shopping event, where local businesses came and offered their services from manicures to massages.

Wayne visited our library again and offered a sound mediation session.

We joined Murrayside Community Development at their 'Wholeness fun day'.

Girl's group had a sleepover, activities included pumpkin carving, arts and craft followed by pizza and a movie.

We increased the number of weekly fruit and vegetable bags we offer due to popular demand.

## November

In November we held our IP3 has talent event, which Murrayside hosted. We really do have a lot of talent in our area.

We launched our 'Be kind in kind campaign'. We have a kindness rack full of donations. We also offer free tea, coffee or cup a soup, kindly donated by Paddy and Scott and the Co-op.



The Christmas fair was a huge success. Father Christmas saw over 80 children, more children than in previous years. We had a special appearance from Bella the Christmas pony, plus various stalls and raffle.



We offered Christmas presents for struggling families, donated by the Salvation Army.

We held a 3m's event, Murder Mystery, Mulled wine and Mince pies, the event was well attended and successful. James and his colleagues performed brilliantly.



We were given funding from the Ipswich East Area Committee to renovate our café. Various new equipment has been purchased to provide a better and healthier service to our growing community.

Top Time received funding for their weekly activities plus a new lunch time club once a month.

Men's group received funding for their activities and is now running twice a month.

## **Summary**

The demand for our fruit and veg pop up shop on Thursdays has increased.

Our 'Be kind in kind' donations have been gratefully received by our community with a lot of warm clothing being shared out.

Our warm space has also helped bring the community together in a time when people are struggling.

I think this next year may be a tough year for many, but I am looking forward to planning more events to help the community in 2023.



**Voices for Gainsborough Community Library Accounts 1 January–31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**Receipts (In)**

General Funds	£173.00
Café	£7364.75
Fruit & Veg pop-up shop	£2795.58
IBC Councillors fun day grant	£240.00
Building Fund	£2514.71
Girls Group	£193.58
SE Area Committee grant (youth)	£1600.00
SCC Cllr Quinton grant (sensory)	£514.00
SCC Cllr Harsant grant (Top Time)	£250.00
SCC Cllr Harsant grant (coach trip)	£500.00
Youth Sports	£119.96
Arnold Clark community grant	£1006.94
LocalGiving grant (singing group)	£500.00
Singing group	£209.50
IBC Jubilee grant	£250.00
SCF Pargiter Trust (Top Time)	£1850.00
SE Area Committee (café)	£3316.17
SCF Coop Community Cares (Men)	£1975.00
SCF Coop Community Cares (sport)	£522.00
SCF Coop Community Cares (singing)	£300.00
SCF Suffolk Giving Fund (Girls)	£1000.00
SCC Public Mental Health (Girls)	£9000.00
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>£36195.19</b>

**Expenditure (out)**

General Funds	£318.99
Café	£5322.27
Fruit & Veg pop-up shop	£2836.80
Fun Day grants	£157.48
Building Fund	£254.60
Girls Group	£175.42
SE Area Committee grant (youth)	£1343.78
SCC Cllr Quinton grant (sensory)	£473.05
SCC Cllr Harsant grant (Top Time)	£250.00
SCC Cllr Harsant grant (coach trip)	£500.00
Youth sports	£1384.90
Arnold Clark community grant	£1015.09
LocalGiving grant	£500.00
Podcasting / radio project	£422.07
IBC Jubilee grant	£250.00
SCF Youth Intervention Fund	£5293.23
UK Youth	£330.00
Top Time	£562.30
SE Area Committee (café)	£500.00
SCF RJB Fund (family craft)	£984.04
SCF Household grant	£3000.00
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>£ 25874.02</b>

**Total carried forward end of 2021: £22614.75**

**Total to carry forward to 2023: £32935.92**

**Current unreserved funds £3220.91**

Prepared by: Mandy Grimwood Treasurer & Library Manager Signed: *M. Grimwood* Dated: 10/01/2023

Checked by: *Leon Porter* Signed: *L. Porter* Dated: 18/01/2023

Approved by: Kay Gibson (Chair) *K. Gibson* Signed: Dated:



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Voices for Gainsborough Community Library

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Charity no (if any)

1165302

Set out on pages

2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Handwritten signature]

Date:

1/8/23

Name:

SOPHIE DE BOOS

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

[Empty box]

Address:

18 HURRICANE PLACE IPSWICH  
SUFFOLK. IP3 9TH

Empty rectangular box at the top of the page.

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Large empty rectangular box for providing details of items to be disclosed.

**VOICES FOR GAINSBOROUGH COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1165302

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# Accounts

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**Voices for Gainsborough Community Library Accounts 1 January–31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

<b>Receipts (in)</b>		<b>Expenditure (out)</b>	
General Funds	£3199.96	General Funds	£3414.44
Café recovery grant	£676.90	Girls Group	£575.42
Co-op fun day grant	£1370.00	Girls and Women Fund	£1000.00
IBC Councillors MAD fun day grant	£250.00	Top Time Pargiter Trust grant	£160.06
Building Fund	£2725.25	UK Youth Fund	£7469.25
Girls Group	£214.65	British Science Week grant	£508.85
SCF Youth Intervention Fund	£6200.00	Fun Day grants	£1600.18
UK Youth Fund	£6000.00	Café recovery grant	£676.90
SCF RJB Craft Group grant	£1000.00	Fruit & Veg pop-up shop	£545.00
National Lottery Community Fund	£1000.00	National Lottery Community Fund	£942.12
Pop-up Fruit & Veg shop	£473.00	Podcasting project	£853.35
Youth Sports	£119.13	Top Time	£442.39
SCF 211043 Household grant	£3000.00	Youth Sports	£1355.00
Arnold Clark community grant	£1000.00	Arnold Clark community grant	£458.27
Top Time grant	240.00		
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>£ 27468.89</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£20001.23</b>

**Total carried forward end of 2020: £15629.79**

**Total to carry forward to 2022: £22614.75**

**Current unreserved funds £1313.74**

Prepared by: Mandy Grimwood Treasurer & Library Manager

Signed: *Mandy Grimwood* 10/01/2022

Audited by: *Leon Porter*

Signed: *L. Porter* 19.01.2022

Approved by: Sarah Woolven (Chair) *S. Woolven*



## Chair's report 2021

I have enjoyed my second year as chair of Voices for Gainsborough Community Library, but had to step down early due to family issues.

### Voices Café

The café was still closed at the beginning of the year which means we have lost vital income and fundraising. The café was able to open again in April and vital supplies were purchased, including volunteer uniform, thanks to a Recovery Grant from Ipswich Borough Council. Since reopening we have a steady number of customers and some regular ones each week. We desperately need new café volunteers to enable the cafe to open regularly.

### Community support

In October we were able to start our weekly Pop-up Fruit & Veg Shop. This has been very successful with 30 bags being sold each week for just £2. The cotton bags were purchased as part of the Recovery Grant, and we are working in partnership with Catchey's Fruit and Veg for the supply of weekly fruit and veg. At harvest Leighton Road Church donated their harvest gifts to our pop-up shop. Over the Christmas period we were able to provide a range of toiletries and gifts for children thanks to funding from The Arnold Clark Community Fund.



Voices secured funding through Suffolk Community Foundation for the Household Support Fund, which has enabled the library to support members of the local community with household costs through the winter.

### Regular activities

Voices secured funding from UK Youth, and the Youth Intervention Fund through Suffolk Community Foundation to enable the library to expand the Girls Group and offer an exciting range of activities, including a weekend at PGL Bawdsey.



Unfortunately, our link with the Ipswich Methodist Group came to an end when we reopened after Covid. The library has continued to offer Friday family crafts, which have attracted many new families. Funding from National Lottery Community Fund, and RJB Fund through Suffolk Community Foundation.



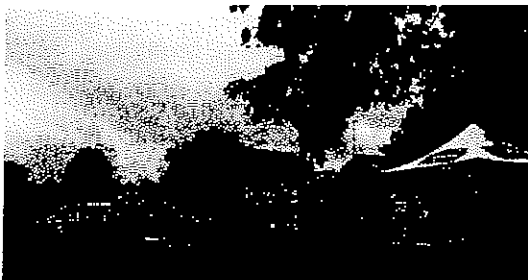
The community choir has a new home at the Landseer Road Methodist Church.

### **Events**

Voices organized three weekends of garden sales during 2021, helping to raise funds for the garden room.

Our local Councillor awarded a grant to Kinetic Science to enable them to offer two workshops at the library.

Gainsborough Community Fun Day was held in August with many organisations taking part. The weather was rather wet, but the event was well attended.





The community fun day was funded by Suffolk County Councillors, Ipswich Borough Councillors, Localgiving Fund, and an anonymous donor.

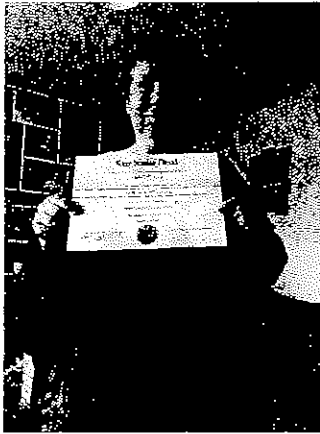
Voices continue to fundraise for the library garden room extension through various events. Events have included a Body Shop fundraising party, pamper day, wellbeing event, girls group sponsored walk, bake sale, car wash and Christmas Fair. Voices received a £500 donation from a regular library user. Sunday family bingo sessions are popular. Additional fund have been secured from Ipswich East Rotary Club and St Lawrence Parish Hall Trust. Funds raised towards our target of £45000 are £16500. Many thanks to all our supporters.



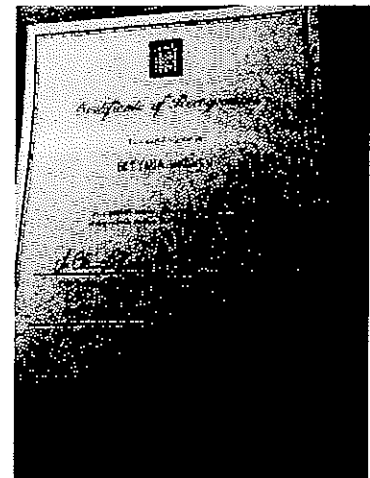


## Awards

In June I was awarded a Star of the Year certificate and a named star from Small Charities Coalition for my work supporting Gainsborough Community Library through Voices.



My daughter Briyana received a Suffolk Hero Certificate of Recognition from the MP and a Suffolk Hope badge for helping me deliver the fruit and veg boxes in 2020.



Voices monthly meetings have continued, and I would like to say thank you to all the Voices members for their commitment and support during this last year.

*S. L. Woolven*

Sarah Woolven

Chair of Voices for Gainsborough Community Library