

# FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY

England & Wales · Charity number 1166498

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-04-13

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

## Contact

---

**Address** 115 Glebe Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 7TE

**Phone** 07773428331

**Email** [rockroadfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:rockroadfriends@yahoo.com)

**Website** <https://friendsofrockroadlibrary.wordpress.com/>

## Activities

---

**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE AREA SERVED BY ROCK ROAD LIBRARY, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY (A) SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING LIBRARY SERVICES (B) FACILITATING EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY COURSES, EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS IN BOTH THE LIBRARY AND ITS GARDEN (C) FOSTERING LINKS TO EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS.

**Activities:** The object of the charity is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the area served by Rock Road Library, in particular but not exclusively by: (a) supporting and promoting library services (b) facilitating educational, cultural and community courses, events and exhibitions in both the library and its garden (c) fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Cambridgeshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£6,388	£6,071	-	-
2024-09-30	£7,673	£7,882	-	-
2023-09-30	£4,749	£6,372	-	-
2022-09-30	£4,638	£6,155	-	-
2021-09-30	£1,404	£1,520	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALEC WILLIAM THOMAS DYSON		2016-04-13
BRENDA ANNE PURKISS		2016-04-13
JAMES ROBERT BERRY		2016-04-13
JILL ELIZABETH TREND		2017-01-25
Jane Wilson-Howarth		2023-02-06
NIGEL ARTHUR BLACKMORE		2017-01-25
PETER ALWYN SYDNEY JOHN AXE		2017-01-25
PETER CHAMBERLAIN		2018-12-07
STEPHANIE HELEN MINNEY BOYD		2016-04-13
Simon Howarth		2023-12-09

**FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166498

---

# Accounts

---



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	1	10	2024	<b>To</b>	30	9	2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Friends of Rock Road Library

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1166498

**Charity's principal address**

Rock Road Library  
 69 Rock Road  
 Cambridge  
**Postcode** CB1 7UG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Axe	Deputy Chair		
2	James Berry	Treasurer		
3	Nigel Blackmore			
4	Stephanie Boyd	Education lead		
5	Peter Chamberlain	Collection boxes	Until 1 April 2025	
6	Alec Dyson	Chair		
7	Simon Howarth	Membership Secretary		
8	Brenda Purkiss	Arts & Culture lead		
9	Jill Trend	Meeting Secretary		
10	Jane Wilson - Haworth	Writer-in-Residence		

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Banker	Lloyds Bank	3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3HQ
Independent examiner	Adrian Burns	79 Hills Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 7UZ

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

## Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees and this is confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting

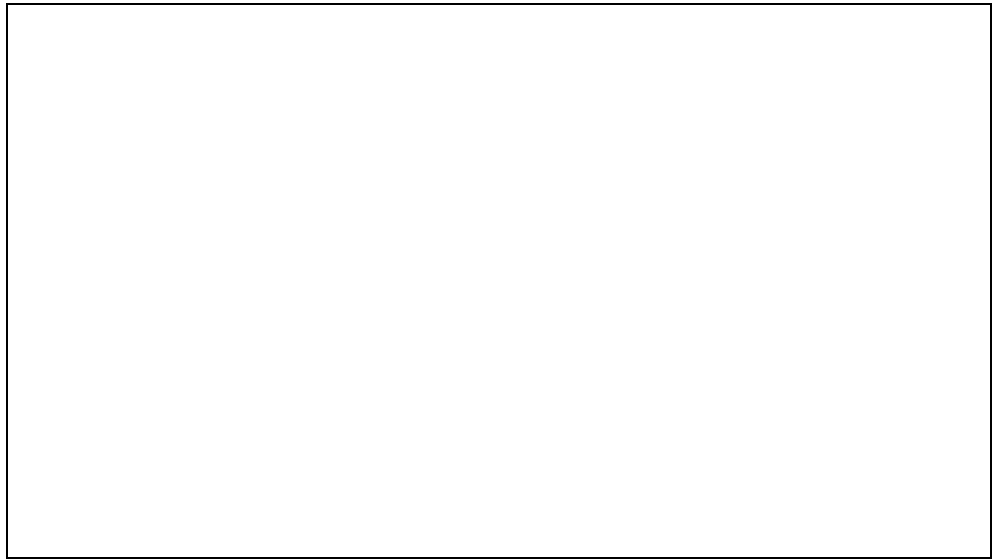
Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;

--

- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.



**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The object of the charity is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the area served by Rock Road Library, in particular but not exclusively by:

- supporting and promoting library services;
- facilitating educational, cultural and community courses, events and exhibitions in both the library and its garden;
- fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

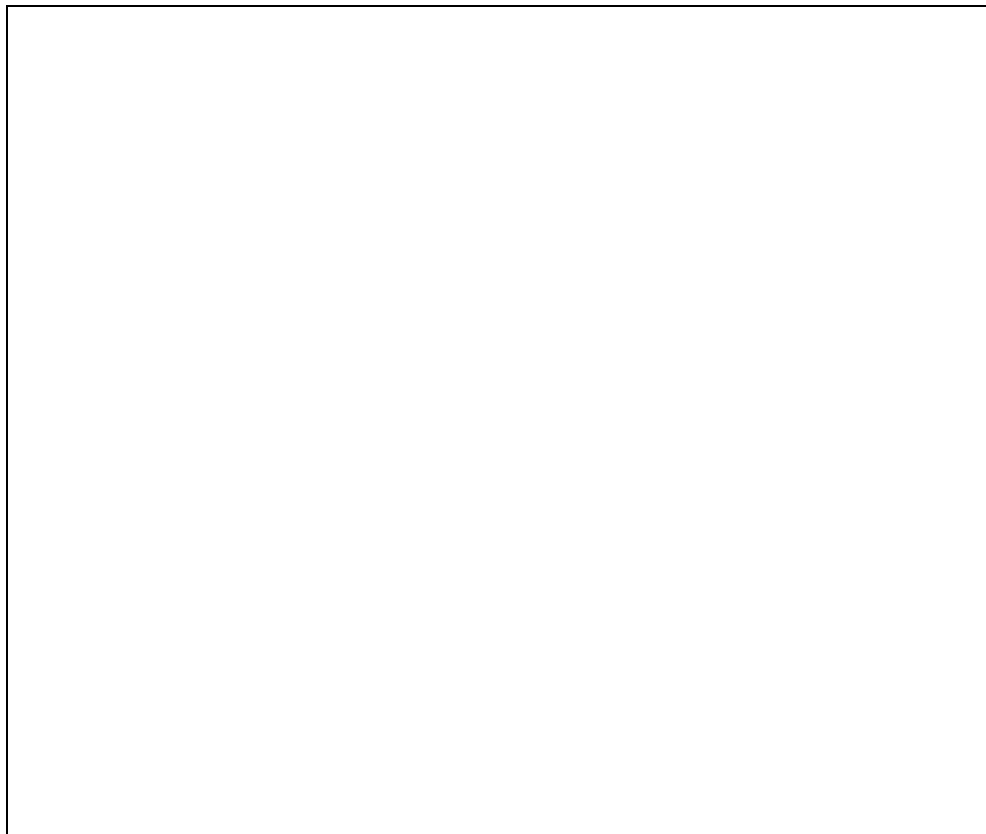
The benefits to the public are:

- The availability of a local library which is well cared for and partly staffed by volunteers, and which without financial and practical support from the Friends of Rock Road Library might have been closed by now.
- An attractive community garden in an area without much public open space, which is safe and secure and particularly valued by families and children.
- The provision of a community room and kitchen, which is an ideal space for courses, events and exhibitions.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing additional details as mentioned in the text to the left.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year****1) Library building refurbishment**

Rock Road Library was closed from early May to the end of September for major refurbishment. The work included:

- A new lining for the roof, added insulation and the installation of very attractive roof lights.
- A new carpet in the main Library
- Redecoration of the main and Children's Library spaces
- Replacement of fire doors with doors more sympathetic to the architecture
- New and additional shelving in the Children's Library.
- An impressive front desk for the librarian, back in its former location at the centre of the Library.
- Overall, a fresh, clean look with less clutter.

The Friends were very grateful to the contractors and the Library team led by Andrew Stoter. We were pleased to contribute £2,000 to the project, which funded the roof lights in the Community Room, and bought two rugs for the Children's Library.

Although the Library was closed for the second half of our financial year, we still held events in the rear garden and the nearby Quaker Meeting House.

**2 Major fund-raising events**

**Apple Day** in October is an annual event promoting the Library, bringing together friends and families and raising £430. Joan Paterson and three generations of her family were essential to the success with their apple crushing and pressing skills and equipment.

**Magnificent May Plant Sale!** Despite the Library being closed for building work, the Plant Sale still took place in the back garden. There were loads of plants, refreshments and things for children to do, generating £795. Most importantly of all - the community came together and had fun!

**Acoustic Music Evening** In May, our members enjoyed excellent performances from Cambridge-based musicians The String Section with Dave Olney, The John Meed Trio and The Nick Barraclough Trio. All tickets were sold in advance, raising £418 towards Library improvements.

### 3) Children's activities

The Friends attach huge importance to children's activities since this brings young readers and their parents into the Library.

**Magical Halloween** The garden twinkled on 31 October: there were entertaining witches and hordes of little scary monsters enjoyed games, stories, magic, terrible jokes and treats. Great fun was had by all!

We continued to fund **Rhyme and Story Time**, which is suitable for babies, toddlers and under-fives, together with their parents and carers. One Saturday morning each month, our experienced and skilful story tellers – Veronica Speirs and occasionally Marion Leeper or Francis Crouch – entertain the smallest of children and our next generation of readers. Weather permitting, sessions take place in the garden.

In May we were again delighted to host a series of 6 visits by **Homerton Nursery** pupils who arrived by 'walking bus', explored the Library and garden, learned a little about what libraries do and enjoyed a story-reading before returning to the nursery in time for lunch. Each child also received a copy of "Finn and the Five Flies", a lovely picture story by Emma and Molly Bennet, which they stamped for themselves!

### 4) Adult groups

Led by local artist Veronica Thornton, the **Textile Group** meets on Wednesday mornings. Their latest project was commissioned by Morley Memorial School Library, who requested buntings of books enjoyed by children in the school. Their previous project was a stunning collection of tributes to some favourite children's books which is now on display in the Homerton Nursery.

Sarah Ingram, formerly a Rock Road Library Assistant who holds a Masters in Creative Writing, leads the **Rock Library Write Club**, a monthly, relaxed, drop-in club for people who want to write but need the stimulus of writing buddies, a regular schedule, and a neutral space in which to do it. It is attended by 8-10 writers.

Anita Tambala runs the **Flock on the Rock Yoga** group, which practices flow yoga, usually on Friday mornings and Monday evenings.

In the New Year, we launched three spring-time **Textile Repair Cafés** with experienced enthusiasts advising how to tackle mending, alterations and textile projects. "A hive of activity, creativity, learning and joy!"

Beginning in February there were a couple of **Post Partum Meetings**, encouraging mothers of any age to gather, socialise and share experiences.

We also hosted a new **Chess Club** which started with six weekly sessions, open to any level of chess player over the age of 12.

## 5) Evening events

**Six Inches of Soil** In October, we screened the inspiring film of young British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way food is produced.

**Nick Barraclough**, a former Radio 2 DJ, entertained us in November with memories of growing up in the area chronicled in his book “A Disorderly House”.

Also in November author **Elizabeth Barber** gave an illustrated talk on Stone Age children based on her book “Stone Arrows “

**Christmas Cheer!** Our Christmas Social began with a brief Annual General Meeting, followed by seasonal refreshments, some excellent music, singing, humour, a quiz and a show by our local magician David Bale.

**Fugolburna** was screened in January: a documentary which celebrates the beautiful Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve and the efforts made by local groups to improve the health of local ecosystems.

**Arch Tait** talked in February about his translation of “Patriot”, the autobiography of Alexei Navalny, the prominent Russian opposition leader.

**Ankarana Revisited** Jane Wilson-Howarth spoke in February about two visits, decades apart, to the remote limestone massif of Ankarana in Madagascar which has now achieved national park status, partly due to her researches.

**Nigel Blackmore** gave a talk in March about three philosophers – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

**Hollie MacNish** is a renowned Cambridge and Glasgow-based poet who won the Ted Hughes award for new work in poetry with her memoir “Nobody Told Me”. In April, she stopped off at Rock Road Library as part of her sold-out UK tour.

In May **Charlie Haylock** spoke about the Suffolk dialect and his work tutoring Ralph Fiennes to sound like a local in the film “The Dig”. We learnt a great deal about the accent, idiom and history of the English language.

**Rosemary Hayes** talked about her prize-winning novel “The King’s Command” in September about the violent prosecution of the Huguenots (Calvinist Protestants) in seventeenth century France.

## **6) Writer-In-Residence Jane Wilson-Howarth**

Jane Wilson-Howarth is our fourth honorary Rock Road Library Writer-in-Residence. She took up the reins in September 2022 for what she understood was a one-year appointment and three-and-bit years later it is time to pass on the baton. We are delighted to announce that Sarah Ingram has accepted the role from the beginning of 2026. As the fifth W-in-R she will bring a new range of skills and we are looking forward to welcoming her into our community.

The job description is flexible and one area Jane has been keen to work on is ideas to encourage more school-aged children into the library. To this end, she ran two free pilot author talks on Saturday mornings aimed at encouraging middle grade readers into the library including **Elizabeth Barber** talking about Stone Age children in November 2024 and another on **Madagascar Wildlife** but the uptake was disappointing. She then ran a series of children's author events in the October 2025 half term and plans three more in the February 2026 half term. She ran a **writing competition** with book token prizes funded by the Friends, and also supported the Friends of Morley School in June, helping with a book stall, and gave free talks at other Cambridgeshire libraries including Great Shelford, Milton Road and Papworth.

The lionesses' share of the Writer-in-Residence role during Jane's tenure has been to organise various authors talks at Rock Road (listed in 'Evening Events' above). In this she was ably supported by the Membership Secretary, the Trustees team and others. At the beginning of her tenure, she offered informal one-to-one chats with aspiring writers and will continue to respond to requests for such meetings after she hands over to Sarah Ingram, and also intends to continue to serve as a Trustee. Her thanks go to all for supporting our events.

## **7) The gardens**

Rock Road Library is very fortunate to have its own gardens (front and back). It is probably the only sizeable garden in a public library in Cambridgeshire – and one that is so well looked after by volunteers.

The gardens have been much enjoyed by library users of all ages. The secret tunnel under the steps continues to be a big draw to children. The garden is important for many of our events including the May Plant Sale, Rhyme & Story Time and Halloween Night. We believe that Rock Road must be the only library in the country with its own apple orchard! This year's bumper crop of apples was the focus of the popular Apple Day in October.

The summer was a challenging time for the back garden - it was closed for many months during building work - and the front garden was out of bounds due to scaffolding. This coincided with an unusually dry spring and summer. Volunteer gardeners had to do emergency watering, cutting back and mowing in the evenings, after the builders had gone home. Many thanks for their generous help, skill and constancy year-round.

Sadly we did lose a few plants in the front garden. However, this gave us the opportunity to plant a few new evergreen shrubs and lots of bulbs. These should make a colourful display in Spring 2026!

Over the last few years, we have participated in the RSPB Big Garden January Birdwatch. This is the world's largest garden wildlife survey, with hundreds of thousands of nature lovers taking part. Two intrepid bird enthusiasts spent a chilly hour observing the library garden's wildlife and spotted a grand total of 2 birds! The national average was 29 per birdwatcher.

### **8) Membership**

The Friends have a subscription-based membership scheme and by the year-end we had 162 paid-up households. Our members are very important because they contribute to all our activities and demonstrate the breadth of support in the community. During the year, they generously contributed a total of £2,391, part of which attracted a further 25% in Gift Aid.

The Trustees welcome all offers of help in organising events, gardening and maintenance work.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The charity's policy is to (a) ensure that restricted reserves fully cover future spending commitments and (b) maintain an unrestricted reserve of at least £2,000 in order to meet fluctuations in receipts and payments. At 30 September 2025 we had accumulated £4,270 in our bank accounts, partly because of tight controls over spending and partly because of success in fund raising. The Trustees deliberately accumulated a substantial balance in order to support major works to the library roof.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit****Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds are grants, fundraising, membership subscriptions and donations.

Over the years, much of our expenditure has "seeded" substantial grants which have transformed community facilities in both the library and its garden.

Our day-to day expenditure funds:

- Library events (e.g. author talks, open studios, writing competitions)
- The provision of new books and newspapers
- Equipment for and maintenance of the library and garden

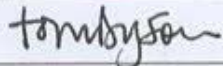
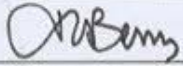
**Section F****Other optional information**

--

**Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alec William Thomas Dyson	James Robert Berry
Position (eg Secretary, Chair)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	22.12.25	22-12-2025



<b>Friends of Rock Road Library</b>		No 1166498	<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	1 October 2024	To 30 September 2025	

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Collection boxes	130			130	292
Donations	771			771	2,206
Gift aid	1,020			1,020	987
Fundraising and events	2,472			2,472	2,210
Membership subscriptions	1,620			1,620	1,520
Miscellaneous income	375			375	458
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>6,388</b>			<b>6,388</b>	<b>7,673</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Book collections	78			78	1,250
Community garden	162			162	349
Fundraising and events	1,802			1,802	1,695
Library equipment	372			372	1,626
Library interior refurbishment	2,020			2,020	826
Miscellaneous	35			35	110
Newspapers	421			421	590
Publicity	181			181	261
Rhyme and story time	1,000			1,000	1,175
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>6,071</b>			<b>6,071</b>	<b>7,882</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>317</b>			<b>317</b>	<b>(209)</b>
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,953			3,953	4,162
<b>Cash funds this period end</b>	<b>4,270</b>			<b>4,270</b>	<b>3,953</b>

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank	4,270		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,270</b>		

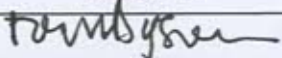
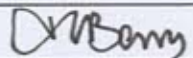
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets				

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets				

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alec William Thomas Dyson	22.12.25
	James Robert Berry	22-12-25

**FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166498

---

# Accounts

---



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	1	10	2023	<b>To</b>	30	9	2024

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name**

Friends of Rock Road Library

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)**

1166498

**Charity's principal address**

Rock Road Library  
 69 Rock Road  
 Cambridge  
**Postcode** CB1 7UG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Axe	Deputy Chair		
2	James Berry	Treasurer		
3	Nigel Blackmore			
4	Stephanie Boyd	Education lead		
5	Peter Chamberlain	Collection boxes		
6	Iain Cross		Until 20 May 2024	
7	Alec Dyson	Chair		
8	Simon Howarth	Membership Secretary	From 9 December 2023	
9	Brenda Purkiss	Arts & Culture lead		
10	Jill Trend	Meeting Secretary		
10	Jane Wilson - Haworth	Writer-in-Residence	From 9 December 2023	
11				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Banker	Lloyds Bank	3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3HQ
Independent examiner	Adrian Burns	79 Hills Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 7UZ

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees and this is confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The object of the charity is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the area served by Rock Road Library, in particular but not exclusively by:

- supporting and promoting library services;
- facilitating educational, cultural and community courses, events and exhibitions in both the library and its garden;
- fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The benefits to the public are:

- The availability of a local library which is well cared for and partly staffed by volunteers, and which without financial and practical support from the Friends of Rock Road Library might have been closed by now.
- An attractive community garden in an area without much public open space, which is safe and secure and particularly valued by families and children.
- The provision of a community room and kitchen, which is an ideal space for courses, events and exhibitions.

## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

**1) Open+**

The new Open+ system was launched at Rock Road Library on 2nd October 2023. This enables registered users to access the library at specific times outside usual opening hours. Open+ sessions are remotely monitored by a CCTV control room and a phone is available to report any emergency situations.

**2) Community Room facelift and exhibitions**

Our Friday morning team of volunteers painted the walls of the Community Room and gave the much-loved train in the Children's Room a fresh coat of paint. They also arranged for the badly scuffed kitchen floor to be refurbished, stripped and resealed.

In January, the Community Room audio visual equipment was upgraded with the installation of an up-to date **widescreen television**. This may now be connected wirelessly to a laptop or phone, making presentations easier to manage and of higher quality than with the old projector, which is now available to other libraries.

Our first display in the New Year was Pamela Barrell's beautiful artwork from her book '**Locating Anthony Trollope**'.

This was followed by a display about **Tom Karen OBE**, a local resident who died in 2022. Tom was a talented designer whose credits include the Raleigh Chopper bicycle, Bond Bug, Marble Run game and Scimitar car. We distributed his book 'A Little Book of Bottoms!' to local children and are selling the remainder.

**Open Studios** returned for two weekends in July with an exhibition by local artist Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas. Her semi-abstract, mixed media paintings respond to the haunting mood and atmosphere of places marked by the passage of time and change.

The Community Room now houses a select **collection of original art** by local and recent 'Open Studio' artists.

**3 Major fund-raising events**

**Apple Day** in October was a bumper event! Balmy weather, a packed garden, a record volume of apple juice pressed, fun games and activities, and achieved the largest ever sum raised (£617). We may have run out of cake but there were lots of very happy visitors.

**Magnificent May Plant Sale!** Our best ever: the sun shone, cakes were consumed, plants sold, plants potted, cucumbers calculated, Lego modelled, exhibitions enjoyed, quizzes tackled, garden advice given, stories told, crochet hooked, books bought, members recruited. Most importantly of all - the community came together and had fun! And to 'ice the cake', a total of £1,161 was raised, which was more than any previous event.

#### **4) Children's activities**

The Friends attach huge importance to children's activities since this brings young readers and their parents into the library.

**Magical Halloween** The garden twinkled on 31st October: there were entertaining witches and hordes of little scary monsters enjoyed games, stories, terrible jokes and treats. Great fun was had by all!

Local parents organised a number of **Children's Clubs**: the After-School Scrabble Group for all ages and levels of players; the After-School Reception Lego Club for children aged up to 5; and the Spanish Club for children aged 3-6.

We continued to fund **Rhyme and Story Time**, which is suitable for babies, children, parents and carers. One Saturday morning each month, our experienced and skilful story tellers – Veronica Speirs and occasionally Marion Leeper or Fran Crouch – entertain the smallest of children and our next generation of readers.

During April and May, the Friends and the Library Services team welcomed small groups of 4-year-olds from **Homerton nursery** who arrived by 'walking bus', explored the library and garden, learned a little about what libraries do and enjoyed a story-reading before returning to the nursery in time for lunch. Each child also received a copy of Tom Karen's book 'Bottoms' which they stamped for themselves!

#### **5) Adult groups**

Led by artist Veronica Thornton, the **Textile Group** meets on Wednesday mornings. In February their stunning collection of tributes to some favourite children's books went on display in the children's library. The work has been designed to be portable and easily displayed in a variety of locations. Their latest project is a commission by Morley Memorial School Library, who have requested bunting of books enjoyed by children in the school.

Sarah Ingram, formerly a Rock Road Library Community Library Assistant who holds a Masters in Creative Writing, led the **Rock Library Write Club**, a new, monthly, relaxed, drop-in club for people who want to write but need the stimulus of writing buddies, a regular schedule, and a neutral space in which to do it. It is attended by 8 – 10 writers.

In January Anita Tambala launched the **Flock on the Rock Yoga** group, which practices flow yoga every Friday morning in the Community Room

#### **6) Evening events**

In October Clare Mulley – an award-winning historian – gave a talk about her latest book: '**The Women Who Flew for Hitler**', the extraordinary story of Hanna Reitsch, a fanatical Nazi who begged Hitler to let her fly him to safety from his Berlin bunker, and her nemesis, Melitta Schiller, who joined the clandestine German resistance to support the most famous attempt on Hitler's life.

In November Mike Levy talked in his book '**Get the Children Out**' which describes the heroes who helped evacuate children from Nazi-occupied Europe. His talk fell on the anniversary of Kristallnacht 1938 – the night of the broken glass.

**Christmas Cheer!** Our Christmas Social began with a brief Annual General Meeting, followed by seasonal refreshments, some excellent music, singing, humour, and a quiz.

We screened the first film on our new television in February. **'Pure Clean Water'** reported on the chalk streams crisis in greater Cambridge.

In March, Lucy Ward introduced her book **'The Empress and the English Doctor'**, which tells the thrilling story of how Catherine the Great of Russia summoned an English Quaker doctor, Thomas Dimsdale, to St Petersburg to inoculate her and her son against smallpox – the most virulent killer of the age.

Maggie James gave a presentation in April about her book **"No Way Home"**, a novel based on her experiences living for five years in Saudi Arabia. She brought some fascinating props for her talk, including natural pearl necklaces, a geological rock rose and a traditional Saudi (Scottish-inspired) headdress.

In May (and also again in June) we welcomed local author Caroline Biggs, who is on a mission to bring to life the history of Cambridge – the town not the University. She talked about her book **'The Spinning House'**, which reveals the dark history of Cambridge University's private prison for women. We also hosted a talk by visiting American author Mary Kay Zuravleff.

**Acoustic Music Evening** In May, our members enjoyed excellent performances from Cambridge-based musicians Kelly & Woolley, the John Meed Trio and The String Section. The audience were very enthusiastic – "A lovely warm event. Better than the Cambridge Folk Festival!" – and requested another concert in May 2025

Nigel Blackmore's presentation on **'Adapting to Climate Change'** in July was well attended. He explained, calling on scientific advice, how climate change is inevitable and worsening and how it will have a devastating impact on all aspects of human life, especially food production and associated energy and water sufficiency.

### **7) Writer-In-Residence Jane Wilson-Howarth**

In April we expected a visit from the children's laureate Joseph Coelho on his way to give the Philippa Pearce Lecture at Homerton College so we put on a storytime session for pre-schoolers and Jane ran a writing workshop for school-aged children. The event was well attended, but not by Joseph Coelho.

We hosted a conversation in June between our writer-in residence Jane Wilson-Howarth and the children's author and poet **Ian Whybrow** whose books have sold millions of copies. Their conversation was enlightening and the audience was both amused and moved by Ian's recent poetry.

Jane launched a **Summer Holiday Flash Fiction Competition**, which was open to any Cambridge-based school-age child. The challenge was to write a complete story in no more than 250 words on the subject: 'I didn't expect that to happen in the summer holidays!'

In August, Jane spun some **'Tall tales about Himalayan Wildlife'**, reading from her adventure story books and showing photos of the astonishing animals she encountered during her 12 years living in Nepal.

## **8) The gardens**

Rock Road Library is very fortunate to have its own gardens (front and back). It is probably the only garden in a public library in Cambridgeshire – and one that is so well looked after by volunteers.

This year we welcomed a new volunteer gardener, Alison, who joins Anne, Jane, Sarah and Hilary every Monday to tend the plants. Their expertise in apple tree pruning is particularly welcome: it takes six weeks, starting in early January, to complete the winter pruning of our community garden orchard. The eleven heritage apple trees are all local interest varieties, ranging from Histon Favourite to the New Rock Pippin from Barnwell. Our Monday group is supported by Brian and Luke, who manage our successful composting.

We have now underplanted three of the apple trees with a succession of spring flowering bulbs – crocuses, muscari, narcissi and tulips. We are allowing the grass to grow a little longer under the trees (in 'No Mow May' style) to encourage invertebrates and other wildlife more generally in the garden.

Over the last few years we have participated in the **RSPB Big Garden January Birdwatch**. This is the world's largest garden wildlife survey, with hundreds of thousands of nature lovers taking part. Three intrepid bird enthusiasts spent a chilly hour observing the library garden's wildlife and spotted a grand total of 8 birds! The national average was 29 per birdwatcher.

In May we welcomed a group of volunteer staff and patients from **Addenbrooke's Hospital** who planned to set up their own community garden on the hospital site and were looking for guidance. It is encouraging that our garden was chosen as an example of an inspirational community garden.

## **9) Membership**

We understand that Rock Road is the only public library in Cambridgeshire to have a subscription-based membership scheme and we now have 150 paid-up households. Our members are very important because they contribute to all our activities and demonstrate the breadth of support in the community. During the year, they generously contributed a total of £3,726 most of which attracted a further 25% in Gift Aid. The Trustees welcome all offers of help in organising events, gardening and maintenance work.

In September Simon Howarth succeeded Nigel Blackmore as Membership Secretary. After eight years in the role, Nigel stepped down to focus on organising events such as the plant sale and Christmas social. We are enormously grateful to him for doing a splendid job.

## **10) Book purchases**

Public libraries nationwide are facing year-on-year budget cuts in new book purchases. In addition, there is a chronic lack of investment in school libraries, whilst parents and carers are spending less on books because of the cost-of-living crisis. In response, the Friends of Rock Road Library and Cambridgeshire Libraries jointly agreed a detailed programme of investment in new books, with the Friends setting aside £1,000 in both 2022-23 and 2023-24. The budget was split 50/50 between Adults' and Children's Books and 50/50 between Fiction and Non-Fiction.

For the first 3 months, these books can only be taken out by users coming into Rock Road Library. After that, they can be ordered by all users in Cambridgeshire via the online system but will always return to Rock Road.

In addition, we now buy one or two copies of books by authors who have spoken at the library so that library users may borrow these.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The charity's policy is to (a) ensure that restricted reserves fully cover future spending commitments and (b) maintain an unrestricted reserve of at least £2,000 in order to meet fluctuations in receipts and payments. At 30 September 2024 we had accumulated £3,953 in our bank accounts, partly because of tight controls over spending and partly because of success in fund raising. The Trustees deliberately accumulated a substantial balance in order to support major works to the library roof.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit****Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds are grants, fundraising, membership subscriptions and donations.

Over the years, much of our expenditure has "seeded" substantial grants which have transformed community facilities in both the library and its garden.

Our day-to day expenditure funds:

- Library events (e.g. author talks, open studios, writing competitions)
- The provision of new books and newspapers
- Equipment for and maintenance of the library and garden

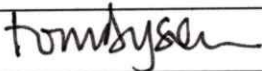
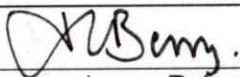
**Section F****Other optional information**

--

**Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alec William Thomas Dyson	James Robert Berry
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	16.07.25	16-07-25



<b>Friends of Rock Road Library</b>			No 1166498	<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
For the period from	1 October 2023	To	30 September 2024	


### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Collection boxes	292			292	325
Donations	2,206			2,206	1,043
Gift aid	987			987	457
Fundraising and events	2,210			2,210	1,795
Membership subscriptions	1,520			1,520	1,093
Miscellaneous income	458			458	36
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>7,673</b>			<b>7,673</b>	<b>4,749</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Book collections	1,250			1,250	1,108
Community garden	349			349	1,049
Fundraising and events	1,695			1,695	1,471
Library equipment	1,626			1,626	132
Library interior refurbishment	826			826	495
Library frontage project					
Miscellaneous	110			110	151
Newspapers	590			590	945
Publicity	261			261	246
Rhyme and story time	1,175			1,175	775
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>7,882</b>			<b>7,882</b>	<b>6,372</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(209)</b>			<b>(209)</b>	<b>(1,623)</b>
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,162			4,162	5,785
<b>Cash funds this period end</b>	<b>3,953</b>			<b>3,953</b>	<b>4,162</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>				
	Lloyds Bank	3,953		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>3,953</b>		
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				
	Details			
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				
	Details			
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				
	Details			
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				
	Details			
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

	Print Name Alec William Thomas Dyson James Robert Berry	Date of approval 16.07.25 16.7.25
--	---	---

**FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166498

---

# Accounts

---



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	1	10	2022	<b>To</b>	30	9	2023

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Friends of Rock Road Library

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1166498

**Charity's principal address**

Rock Road Library
69 Rock Road
Cambridge
<b>Postcode</b> CB1 7UG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Axe	Deputy Chair		
2	James Berry	Treasurer		
3	Nigel Blackmore	Membership Officer		
4	Stephanie Boyd	Education lead		
5	Peter Chamberlain	Collection boxes		
6	Iain Cross			
7	Alec Dyson	Chair		
8	Brenda Purkiss	Arts & Culture lead		
9	Jill Trend	Meeting Secretary		
10	Jane Wilson - Haworth	Writer-in-Residence	From 6 February 2023	
11				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Banker	Lloyds Bank	3 Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3HQ
Independent examiner	Adrian Burns	79 Hills Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 7UZ

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees and this is confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The object of the charity is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the area served by Rock Road Library, in particular but not exclusively by:

- supporting and promoting library services;
- facilitating educational, cultural and community courses, events and exhibitions in both the library and its garden;
- fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

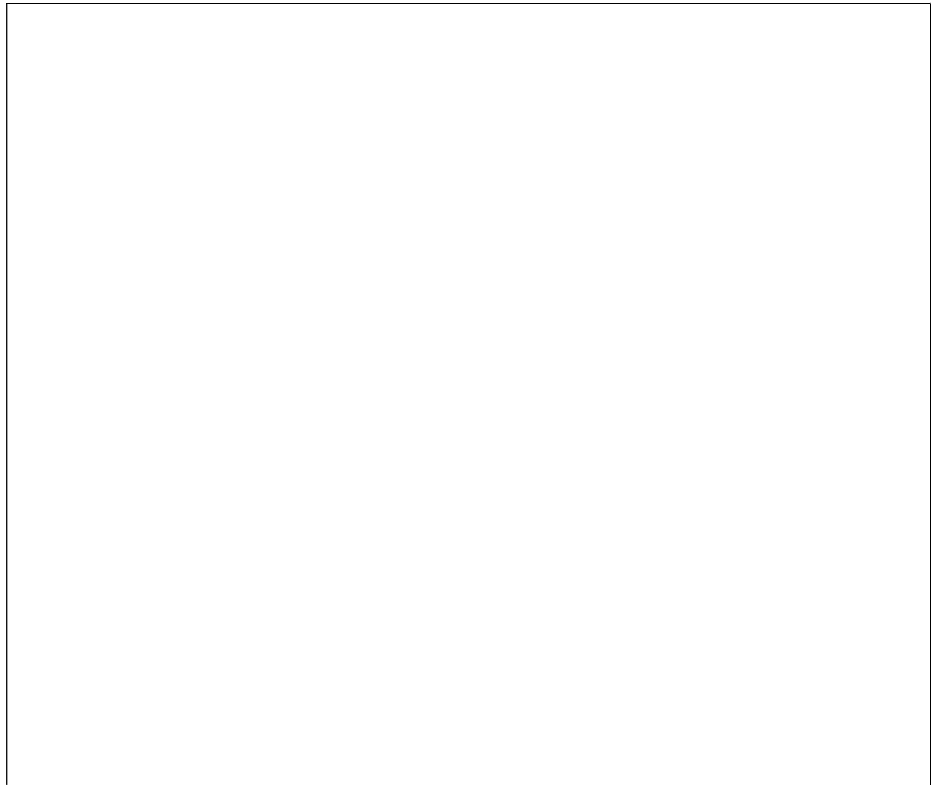
The benefits to the public are:

- The availability of a local library which is well cared for and partly staffed by volunteers, and which without financial and practical support from the Friends of Rock Road Library might have been closed by now.
- An attractive community garden in an area without much public open space, which is safe and secure and particularly valued by families and children.
- The provision of a community room and kitchen, which is an ideal space for courses, events and exhibitions.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2022-23 was the first time for 3 years when COVID restrictions were fully lifted, which enabled a fuller programme of events and activities.

#### 1) Children's activities

The Friends attach huge importance to children's activities since this brings young readers and their parents into the library.

October saw the introduction of a Friday **After-School Scrabble Group** for all ages and levels of players.

**Magical Halloween** The garden twinkled on 31st October: there were entertaining witches and hordes of little scary monsters enjoyed games and treats. Great fun was had by all!

In November, local parents launched a monthly **After-School Reception Lego Club** for children aged up to 5.

**Children** were delighted with their new **garden tunnel**, purchased from a Section 106 funding allocation to the library.

Starting in January, we funded **Rhyme and Story Time**, which is suitable for babies, children, parents and carers. One Saturday morning each month, our experienced and skilful story tellers – Veronica Speirs and Marion Leeper – entertain the smallest of children and our next generation of readers.

Cambridgeshire Libraries' free, **Summer Reading Challenge** – "Ready, Set, Read!" - was open to pre-school and primary school aged children and was for all reading abilities. The Reading Agency teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust to encourage children to unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading and a programme of fun activities. Rock Road Library hosted two events in August: '**Design Your Own Board Game**' and '**Make Your Own Athlete**'.

Finally, September witnessed the introduction of a regular **Spanish Club** for children aged 3-6.

#### 2) Authors' talks

**Mary Burgess**, Cambridge Library's Local Studies Assistant, gave a very well-attended and fascinating talk based on her book '**Cherry Hinton Road**'. Residents also enjoyed sharing their own recollections of local life over the decades.

**'A Male Writing Romantic Fiction'** In November, local author **R J Gould** talked about his successes and obstacles, covering what he wrote about, where he got his ideas from, and the challenge of being a male writing about relationships.

Also in November, **Susan Grossey** entertained with fascinating anecdotes about her years of experience exposing criminal activity in the finance sector and how this inspired her writing of historical crime fiction.

A capacity audience thoroughly enjoyed **John Meed's** delightful February talk about '**A Haven for Farmland Birds**' - his recently-published 10-year study of local wildlife.

**Professor Susan Sellers** returned to Rock Road Library in May to give an illustrated talk about her new novel '**The Firebird: A Bloomsbury Love Story**', which explored the extraordinary love affair and marriage of the Russian dancer Lydia Lopokova and British economist John Maynard Keynes.

### **3) Creative events**

Led by artist **Veronica Thornton**, the Wednesday morning **Textile Group** completed a delightful hanging to cheer the walls of the Cambridge Cancer Centre.

**Cambridge Open Studios** returned for two weekends in July with an exhibition by local artist **Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas**. On the second weekend, the sun shone for our **Summer Coffee Morning**, with folk enjoying cake, coffee and buying plants in the garden.

In September **Sarah Ingram**, a Rock Road Library Community Library Assistant who holds a Masters in Creative Writing, launched the **Rock Library Write Club**, a new, monthly, drop-in club for people who want to write but need the stimulus of writing buddies, a regular schedule, and a neutral space in which to do it.

### **4) Writer-In-Residence Jane Wilson-Howarth**

Jane Wilson-Howarth took up the role of Writer-in-Residence soon after returning to Cambridge from Nepal, and in September gave a presentation about her work there. This presentation was rapidly followed by a talk in February from civil engineer Simon Howarth, her husband, about the challenges of recovering from disasters and building resilience to **climate change in Nepal**. And they jointly mounted a **Himalayan photo exhibition** in the Community Room.

In the build-up to Halloween, Jane created a **Flash Fiction Competition**, with a challenge to write a complete story in 250 words or less on the Halloween theme. The competition was extremely popular, attracting 179 entries, with four different age groups. On 1st November, Judges, Trustees, friends and family of the younger competition winners gathered to listen to readings of the best entries and to receive their prizes of book tokens, books and Jane's novels. Some of the tales also featured on Cambridge Community Radio 105.

In January, she gave a talk about '**Bugs Bites & Bowels**' to help avoid health problems on trips away from home. There were some unexpected tips about toilets and sea-sickness remedies and, despite (or because of) the occasional revolting image, the audience was well-entertained

### **5 Christmas Cheer!**

Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, we held our first **Christmas social** for three years. The evening began with a very brief AGM, we then enjoyed seasonal refreshments, some excellent music, singing, humour, a quiz and a charming reading by Julia Campling of her winning Flash Fiction entry.

## **6 The gardens**

We believe Rock Road is the only public library in Cambridgeshire with a substantial garden. A hard-working group of volunteer gardeners meets every Monday morning to develop and maintain this invaluable resource both for library users and the community to enjoy.

A new border was developed between the garden's side entrance and the library steps. This has improved the appearance of the entrance into the garden (from the side gate), softened this shadier area with attractive greenery such as ferns and a flowering quince, whilst improving the view looking back towards the library.

Meanwhile, in the front garden, evergreen shrubs such as a daphne and a sarcococca were added to provide greater winter structure. Three beautiful David Austin roses were purchased from a generous donation and added to the front garden so that passersby as well as library users would enjoy their blooms and scent.

## **7 Major fund-raising events**

**Apple Day** in October was a bumper event and the garden was overflowing with people who brought apples, empty bottles, cake, friends and children for a morning of apple-pressing. Folk enjoyed the fine weather, and a record volume of apple juice was pressed! We were very grateful to Joan Tibbs and her team for providing the equipment and working so hard. We banked £580.

In May the annual **Plant Sale and Children's Fun** returned and was a happy and very successful event. Lots of smiling people and the children very much enjoyed the activities we had for them. We took £754 which was larger than any previous fundraising event.

## **8) Membership**

We understand that Rock Road is the only public library in Cambridgeshire to have a subscription-based membership scheme and we now have 146 paid-up households. Our members are very important because they demonstrate the breadth of support in the community. During the year, members of FRRL generously contributed a total of £2,136, most of which attracted a further 25% in Gift Aid. Shortly after the year-end, Nigel Blackmore resigned as Membership Secretary – whilst remaining a Trustee - and was succeeded by Simon Howarth.

## **9) Book purchases**

Public libraries nationwide are facing year-on-year budget cuts in new book purchases. In addition, there is a chronic lack of investment in school libraries, whilst parents and carers are spending less on books because of the cost-of-living crisis. In response, the Friends of Rock Road Library and Cambridgeshire Libraries jointly agreed a detailed programme of investment in new books, with the Friends setting aside £1,000 to be spent in the financial year. The budget was split 50/50 between Adults' and Children's Books and 50/50 between Fiction and Non-Fiction. This initiative was extended into the current financial year, with a further £1,000 budget set aside for 2023-24. For the first 3 months, these books can only be taken out by users coming into Rock Road Library. After that, they can be ordered by all users in Cambridgeshire via the online system but will always return to Rock Road. The books have a label to state they were bought by the Friends and are flagged on the computer system so we can monitor performance.

As an additional part of our support for the library service, we are now buying one or two copies of books by authors who have spoken at the library.

**10) Good News!**

Rock Road Library enjoyed one of its busiest summers for a long time with 25 % more issues in August 2023 compared to the previous year. This was down to new book purchases, more stable staffing and the Summer Reading Challenge.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The charity's policy is to (a) ensure that restricted reserves fully cover future spending commitments and (b) maintain an unrestricted reserve of at least £2,000 in order to meet fluctuations in receipts and payments. At 30 September 2023 we had accumulated £4,162 in our bank accounts, partly because of tight controls over spending and partly because of success in fund raising. The trustees have agreed to budget spending of £7,620 in 2023-24, the highest figure for 6 years. The main categories are: book collections £1,100, community garden £900, fundraising and events £1,400, interior refurbishment £1,040 and Rhyme and Story Time £1,200.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit****Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds are grants, fundraising, membership subscriptions and donations.

Over the years, much of our expenditure has "seeded" substantial grants which have transformed community facilities in both the library and its garden.

Our day-to day expenditure funds:

- Library events (e.g. author talks, open studios, writing competitions)
- The provision of new books and newspapers
- Equipment for and maintenance of the library and garden

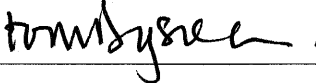
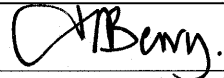
**Section F****Other optional information**

--

**Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Alec William Thomas Dyson	James Robert Berry
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	Treasurer
<b>Date</b>	10 July 2024	10 July 2024



<b>Friends of Rock Road Library</b>		No 1166498	<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
For the period from	1 October 2022	To 30 September 2023	

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Collection boxes	325			325	289
Donations	1,043			1,043	530
Gift aid	457			457	781
Fundraising and events	1,831			1,831	1,918
Membership subscriptions	1,093			1,093	1,120
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,749</b>			<b>4,749</b>	<b>4,638</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Book collections	1,108			1,108	
Community garden	1,049			1,049	2,250
Fundraising and events	1,471			1,471	1,214
Library equipment	132			132	129
Library interior refurbishment	495			495	
Library frontage project					1,507
Miscellaneous	151			151	267
Newspapers	945			945	262
Publicity	246			246	526
Rhyme and story time	775			775	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>6,372</b>			<b>6,372</b>	<b>6,155</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(1,623)</b>			<b>(1,623)</b>	<b>(1,517)</b>
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,785			5,785	7,302
<b>Cash funds this period end</b>	<b>4,162</b>			<b>4,162</b>	<b>5,785</b>

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Lloyds Bank	4,162		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	4,162		

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

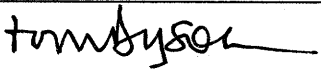
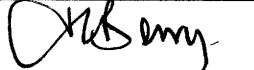
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alec William Thomas Dyson	10-Jul-23
	James Robert Berry	10-Jul-23

**FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166498

---

# Accounts

---



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	1	10	2021	To	30	9	2022

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Rock Road Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1166498

Charity's principal address

Rock Road Library

69 Rock Road

Cambridge

Postcode CB1 7UG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Axe	Deputy Chair		
2	James Berry	Treasurer		
3	Nigel Blackmore	Membership Officer		
4	Stephanie Boyd	Education lead		
5	Peter Chamberlain	Collection boxes		
6	Iain Cross			
7	Alec Dyson	Chair		
8	Brenda Purkiss	Arts & Culture lead		
10	Jill Trend	Meeting Secretary		
9				
10				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Banker	Lloyds Bank	76-80 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 7UH
Independent examiner	Adrian Burns	79 Hills Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 7UZ

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees and this is confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The object of the charity is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the area served by Rock Road Library, in particular but not exclusively by:

- supporting and promoting library services;
- facilitating educational, cultural and community courses, events and exhibitions in both the library and its garden;
- fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

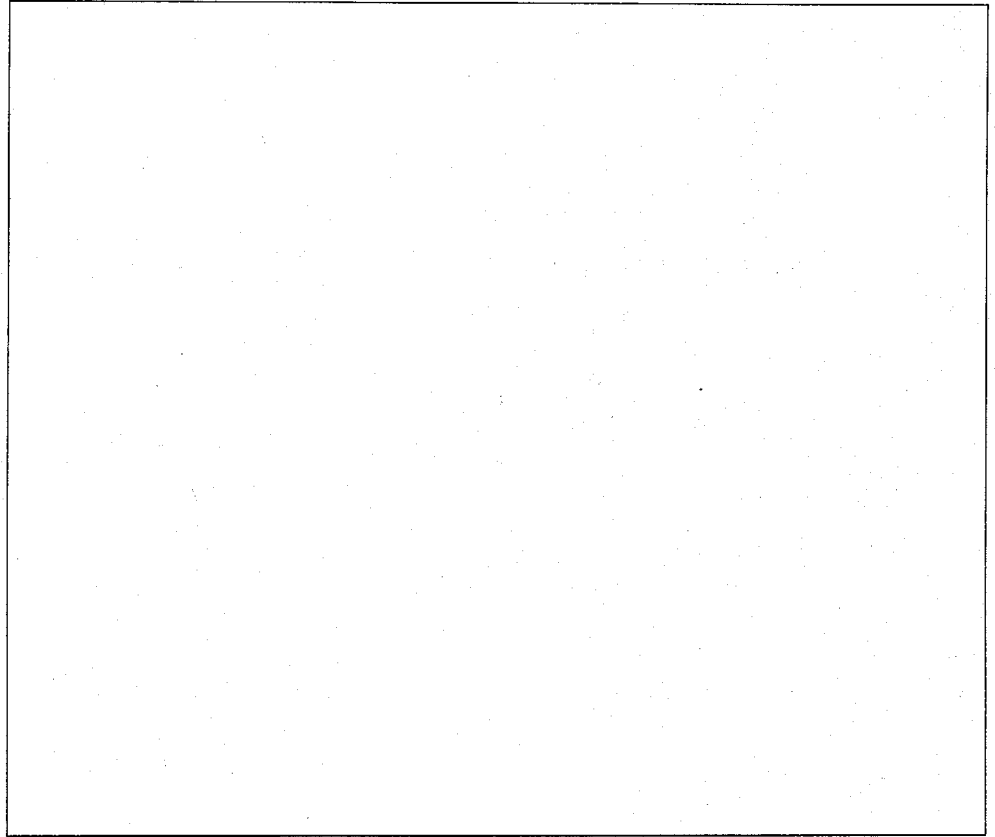
The benefits to the public are:

- The availability of a local library which is well cared for and partly staffed by volunteers, and which without financial and practical support from the Friends of Rock Road Library might have been closed by now.
- An attractive community garden in an area without much public open space, which is safe and secure and particularly valued by families and children.
- The provision of a community room and kitchen, which is an ideal space for courses, events and exhibitions.

## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The financial year 2021-22 was the first for 3 years when Rock Road Library was fully open, following the lifting of COVID restrictions. Unfortunately, for most of the year interior library meeting spaces throughout Cambridgeshire were capped at 20% of normal occupancy, which meant that most of our events had to take place outdoors. As a result, the library gardens were even more appreciated than ever. The trustees decided to invest in a two-year planned programme for the gardens, planting trees and shrubs and creating a functional area with new compost bins and a shed full of tools. The garden has already shown improvement from the mulching (for two successive winters) with large quantities of mushroom compost - this has greatly improved the soil and will make the plants more resistant to our increasingly dry summers. A tree to mark the Platinum Jubilee, a *Sorbus pseudohupehensis* 'Pink Pagoda', has now been planted at the back of the garden, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. It has lovely autumn colour and stunning pink berries which we hope library visitors as well as the native wildlife will enjoy!

We commissioned Rowan – an art centre and charity for adults with learning difficulties - to produce a new notice board, which was installed next to the front entrance.

Two well attended events took place in the back garden during October 2021 – Apple Day, which was joyous for adults and children alike – and Halloween “Tricks and Treats”, which was dark and spooky with some amazing costumes.

We celebrated Christmas with a wreath-making workshop, followed by three decorated Christmas trees to brighten up the front of the library and an illuminated window display, part of the Rock Road Advent street calendar.

May 2022 was a busy month. Our annual Plant Sale and Kid's Fun was our most successful fund-raising event ever, generating £925. Also that month, the Friends' textile group created a stunning new wall hanging titled “Protect our Earth” which is now on display in the Cherry Hinton library.

Two very different events took place in June. The first was a popular coffee morning in the library garden to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The second was Green Queen Edith's: the introduction of a series of events in collaboration with the Queen Edith's Community Forum to explore what we can all do to reduce our impact on the climate. We opened a photographic exhibition in July by local resident Justin Perkins entitled “The Pandemic Paradox”. This showed the strangeness of the pandemic from a very different perspective with, for example, images of an empty Kings Cross station at what would normally have been rush hour and empty punts on the river Cam on a spring evening.

We were delighted to welcome Jane Wilson-Howarth as our 4<sup>th</sup> Writer-in-Residence. Her inaugural talk was an illustrated presentation in September about the years she spent in Nepal. Soon after that she launched a fun, flash fiction competition on the Halloween theme, open to writers of all ages.

On the last day of our financial year, we held a much-appreciated Acoustic Music Night, with The String Section, a locally-based acoustic trio, followed by singer songwriter John Meed and his band. Finally, we introduced two regular activities to attract children to the library: a Scrabble Club and a Lego Group.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The charity's policy is to (a) ensure that restricted reserves fully cover future spending commitments and (b) maintain an unrestricted reserve of at least £1,000 in order to meet fluctuations in receipts and payments. At 30 September 2022 we had accumulated £5,785 in our bank accounts, partly because of spending delays due to extended library closure and partly because of succes fund raising. The trustees have agreed to budget spending of £8,323 in 2022-23, the highest figure for 6 years. The main categories are: community garden £2,000, fundraising and events £2,000, newspapers £1,173, story time £1,000 and interior decoration £1,000.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit****Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds are grants, fundraising, membership subscriptions and donations.

Over the years, much of our expenditure has "seeded" substantial grants which have transformed community facilities in both the library and its garden.

Our day-to day expenditure funds:

- Library events (e.g. Film Club, Open Studios, Children's Writing Competition)
- The provision of newspapers (no longer provided by the County Council)
- Equipment for the library and garden

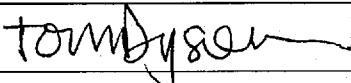
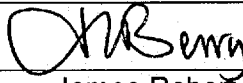
**Section F****Other optional information**

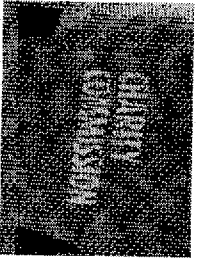
--

**Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Alec William Thomas Dyson	James Robert Berry
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chair	Treasurer
<b>Date</b>	28 January 2023	



# Friends of Rock Road Library

No 1166498

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 1 October 2021 To 30 September 2022

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Collection boxes	289			289	17
Donations	530			530	592
Film club receipts					
Gift aid	781			781	206
Fundraising and events	1,918			1,918	369
Membership subscriptions	1,120			1,120	220
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>4,638</b>			<b>4,638</b>	<b>1,404</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Community garden	2,250			2,250	8
Film club expenses					120
Fundraising and events	1,214			1,214	769
Library equipment	129			129	
Library frontage project	1,507			1,507	319
Miscellaneous	267			267	186
Newspapers	262			262	
Publicity	526			526	118
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>6,155</b>			<b>6,155</b>	<b>1,520</b>

<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>(1,517)</b>			<b>(1,517)</b>	<b>(116)</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	7,302			7,302	5,882
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,785			5,785	5,766
<b>Cash funds this period end</b>					

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Lloyds Bank	5,785		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	5,785		

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

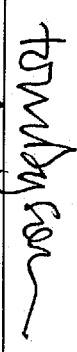
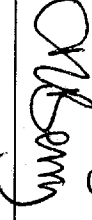
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alec William Thomas Dyson	28.1.2023
	James Robert Berry	28.1.2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name  
Friends of Rock Road Library

On accounts for the year ended

30 September 2022

Charity no (if any)

EW62218

Set out on pages

1 - 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 / 09 / 2022.

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: R. A. Burns

Date: 17 November 2022

Name: R A Burns

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

Previously CIPFA

(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.

**FRIENDS OF ROCK ROAD LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166498

---

# Accounts

---



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	1	10	2020	<b>To</b>	30	9	2021

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Friends of Rock Road Library

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1166498

Charity's principal address

Rock Road Library  
69 Rock Road  
Cambridge  
Postcode CB1 7UG

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Peter Axe	Deputy Chair		
2	James Berry	Treasurer		
3	Nigel Blackmore	Membership Officer		
4	Stephanie Boyd	Education lead		
5	Peter Chamberlain	Collection boxes		
6	Iain Cross		26 April 2021 to 30 September 2021	
7	Alec Dyson	Chair		
8	Brenda Purkiss	Arts & Culture lead		
10	Jill Trend	Meeting Secretary		
9				
10				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Banker	Lloyds Bank	76-80 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge, CB1 7UH
Independent examiner	Adrian Burns	79 Hills Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 7UZ

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees and this is confirmed at the next Annual General Meeting

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

--

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The object of the charity is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the area served by Rock Road Library, in particular but not exclusively by:

- supporting and promoting library services;
- facilitating educational, cultural and community courses, events and exhibitions in both the library and its garden;
- fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

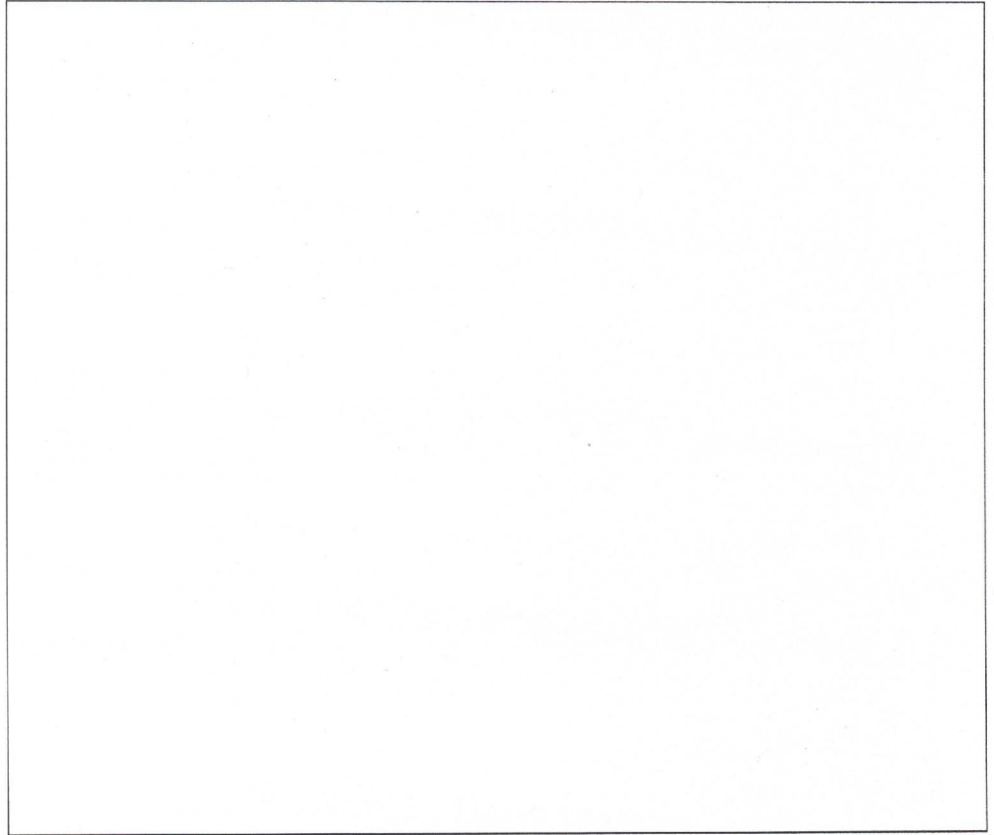
The benefits to the public are:

- The availability of a local library which is well cared for and partly staffed by volunteers, and which without financial and practical support from the Friends of Rock Road Library might have been closed by now.
- An attractive community garden in an area without much public open space, which is safe and secure and particularly valued by families and children.
- The provision of a community room and kitchen, which is an ideal space for courses, events and exhibitions.

## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The library was closed for much of the year, due to COVID restrictions. Even when the library was open, there were severe limitations on numbers. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our programme of regular events, including the Christmas Party, the Film Club, the Textile Group, the Lego Group, the Children's Halloween, and Rhyme and Story-Times for young children.

As a result, we decided to concentrate on outdoor activities, which were permitted under COVID regulations, even when the library was closed.

The project to improve the library frontage and gardens continued throughout the year, with the work being done by volunteers and using Friends funds and donations. The work included lots of planting, painting the original railings (which date from 1935), oil to freshen up the library doors, replacement turf, a "roof" garden on the brick meter box and a raised bed. As a result, both gardens are now more attractive and colourful than ever and have attracted many compliments.

We commissioned Rowan - an art centre and charity for adults with learning disabilities - to produce a new notice board, which was installed in April 2022.

To brighten winter days, the residents of Rock Road organised a street Advent Calendar for the month of December. We were keen to participate. Mary Trend created a magical window and we enhanced the front garden with three splendidly illuminated Christmas trees.

In January, during an hour of chilly, out-of-doors, socially distanced bird-watching in the library garden, very few feather friends were observed.

In May, we organised our fifth Plant Sale, which was well-attended and raised £369.

One sunny afternoon in June, a Friendly Café for a small number of invited local residents took place in the garden and was enjoyed by all.

Our members pay a £10 annual subscription, although many more make an additional donation. We waived membership subscriptions for 2020-2021, but a number of members generously continued to make voluntary donations totalling £812.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's policy is to (a) ensure that restricted reserves fully cover future spending commitments and (b) maintain an unrestricted reserve of at least £1,000 in order to meet fluctuations in receipts and payments. At 30 September 2021 total reserves were £7,302. The extended library closure meant deferring planned expenditure into the following year, which artificially inflated our reserves. In response, we waived membership subscriptions for the financial year 2020-2021 and prepared expenditure plans for when the library fully reopened.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds are grants, fundraising, membership subscriptions and donations.

Over the years, much of our expenditure has "seeded" substantial grants which have transformed community facilities in both the library and its garden.

Our day-to day expenditure funds:

- Library events (e.g. Film Club, Open Studios, Children's Writing Competition)
- The provision of newspapers (no longer provided by the County Council)
- Equipment for the library and garden

## Section F

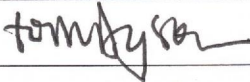
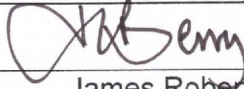
## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alec William Thomas Dyson	James Robert Berry
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	28 May 2022	



**Friends of Rock Road Library**

No 1166498

**CC16a**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	1 October 2020	To	30 September 2021
---------------------	----------------	----	-------------------

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Collection boxes	17			17	152
Donations	592			592	962
Film club receipts					410
Gift aid	206			206	1,059
Fundraising and events	369			369	875
Membership subscriptions	220			220	1,265
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,404</b>			<b>1,404</b>	<b>4,723</b>

<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Community garden	8			8	
Film club expenses	120			120	425
Fundraising and events	769			769	897
Library equipment					191
Library frontage project	319			319	587
Miscellaneous	186			186	262
Newspapers					376
Publicity	118			118	449
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,520</b>			<b>1,520</b>	<b>3,187</b>

**Net of receipts/(payments)**

A5 Transfers between funds	(116)			(116)	1,536
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,418			7,418	5,882
<b>Cash funds this period end</b>	<b>7,302</b>			<b>7,302</b>	<b>7,418</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Lloyds Bank	7,302		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>7,302</b>		

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

#REF!	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

**B2 Other monetary assets**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

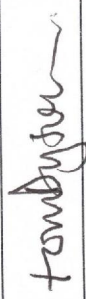

**B3 Investment assets**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

**B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use**

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

**B5 Liabilities**

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alec William Thomas Dyson	28.5.22
	James Robert Berry	28.5.22

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

**Friends of Rock Road Library**  
**Treasurer's Report for year ending 30 September 2021**

**Summary**

This has been a very quiet financial year, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the fact that the Community Room has been unavailable for events. Income was £1,404, payments came to £1,520 and the deficit was £116. We have £7,302 in our accounts with Lloyds Bank.

**Receipts**

**Donations** We received £592 from members who generously decided to pay more than the standard subscription rate.

**Fundraising and events** Income of £369 included the Plant Sale, which raised £323, and the Booksale (£47).

**Gift Aid** reclaims were £206.

**Membership** Subscriptions for 2021-2022 paid before the start of the year came to £220.

**Payments**

Payments totalling £625 related to previous years, with long delayed invoices being received months or years in arrears.

**Film Club expenses** were £120 for the licence fee for *The Party*, which was shown in the previous financial year. Picturehouse Entertainment waited 7 months before invoicing us, presumably because of COVID-19 delays.

**Fundraising and events spending** of £769 included Christmas trees and lights (£214), the Open Studios £50 fee and the cost of three Open Studios weekends in 2018 (£505). Cambridgeshire County Council took nearly 3 years to invoice us for the latter and they still haven't invoiced us for 2019.

**Library frontage project** spend of £319 included black paint for the railings, oil to freshen up the library doors, replacement turf, a "roof" garden on the brick meter box and a raised bed. All the work was carried out by volunteers.

**Miscellaneous expenditure** of £186 was for the newsletter to members, membership cards, leaflets and postage.

**Publicity expenses** of £118 comprised Apple Day posters and flyers.

James Berry  
5 October 2021



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Friends of Rock Road Library

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

30 September 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1166498

**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 30/09/2021

**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 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.

**Signed:**

*R. A. Burns*

**Date:**

01 December 2021

**Name:**

R A Burns

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

**Address:**

79 Hills Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 7UZ