

Thirsk Community Library

Annual Report

2023-2024



Introduction

This is the 7th annual report of Thirsk Community Library Charity. We continue to strive to live up to our vision of being an inclusive community hub where people can read, learn, use IT, socialise and have fun together. Above all else we prioritise being welcoming, friendly and helpful and being a great place to volunteer.

Leadership of the Charity

Trustees lead the charity and are responsible for its overall sustainability, setting priorities and direction, ensuring that we meet the requirements of the agreement with North Yorkshire Council and of the Charity Commission and overseeing financial and service governance. At March 31st 2024 the trustees were.

Sally Burton: Chair

Shirley Ward: Secretary

Bronwen Common: Treasurer

Anna Naughton: Trustee

Nigel Lewin: Trustee

Irene Marwood: Trustee

Volunteer Leadership

Day to day operations are overseen by volunteers. Some volunteers hold key responsibilities such as Three Rings Manager (rota management) Data Management and Coordinating activities such as Story Times, School Visits and Pop Up Libraries and looking after our Book Clubs.

Opportunities for Volunteers

We welcome volunteers with a wide range of background and experience. All are valued for the contributions they make. We have been able to provide work experience to young people and to adults who are seeking to build their confidence as well as those completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Volunteers work as Library Assistants, undertake administrative roles, organise group sessions such as Knit and Natter and Lego Club, lead Story Times and help with events and activities. They also manage all rotas, communications, building management, events, cleaning and library finances.

We also have a team of volunteers who manage the Home Library Service for people who are not able to get to the library, selecting books and delivering them to people at home.

We now have 13 Digital Buddies who support people with a range of IT related needs.

We hold regular social events and 'thank you's' for volunteers and many attend our regular fundraising quizzes.

Around 90 adults and 40 young people have volunteered with the library since 2017.

Our Performance

- **Volunteers donated around 7,000 hours of their time.**
- **There were around 35,000 visits to the library.**
- **The computers were used by 2000 people.**
- **We delivered or organised nearly 700 activities for the local community.**
- **Over 200 sessions were held by other organisations in the library**

We issued the following books:

- **1865 Audio Books**
- **33,778 Adult Fiction Books**
- **10,538 Adult Non Fiction Books**
- **37,324 Junior Fiction Books**
- **4291 Junior Non Fiction Books**
- **2435 Large Print Fiction**
- **144 Large Print Non Fiction**
- **816 Teenage Fiction**
- **74 Teenage Non Fiction**

Our Activities

We directly deliver or organise a wide range of activities including:

- Knit and Natter
- Warhammer Games Club
- Lego Clubs
- Construction Play
- Story Time
- Music Time
- Two pop up libraries in local schools
- School visits to the library
- Social Groups
- Friday Friends
- Home Library Services
- Thirsk Digital Hub and Digital Buddies
- Support to 11 Book Clubs with monthly bundles of books gathered from across North Yorkshire.
- Regular Quiz Nights

- Speakers and Author Visits

Lego Drop-In session



Knit and Natter Group



Chris Geeson Creative Clubs Warhammer Games Club



Partnerships

We work with a number of partners to support other groups to use our space and benefit from our facilities.

This includes:

- Thirsk Repair Café
- Adult Learning Service
- Employment Support Services
- Smoking Cessation support
- Banking Services
- Parent Support Groups
- Play Groups and Childminders
- Hard of Hearing Group
- Hambleton Reusable Nappy Library
- Art sessions for children who are 'home educated'

Home Education Art Group



Thirsk Repair Cafe



North Yorkshire Council.

The Council continues to support the library, paying a large percentage of the lease cost, buying all the books, providing a range of online resources and providing all the computers and systems. The Council also funds a part time Community Library Support Officer who works with volunteers to train them, advise on new systems and support day to day delivery.

Housing 21 Meadowfields Supported Housing

We share a site with Meadowfields and we are very grateful for their support in maintaining the building and welcoming people. We are particularly grateful to be able to use the Bistro for our regular Quiz Nights.

New developments in 2024

Northallerton Talking Newspapers for the Blind (NTN)

Last year we formed a partnership with NTN to support them in recording and distributing their Talking Newspaper. This partnership is now developing and we are working with Hambleton Community Action to secure the future of the service. We are planning that we will work together to extend the reach of the Talking Newspapers to cover Thirsk, Northallerton and all associated villages and to see how it may benefit our Home Library customers. We will also be using the recordings in the library for social groups to share.

Rural Arts

We are planning a new joint project for April 2025 with Rural Arts and White Rose Bookshop. This will involve arts, music, theatre and some outreach activities in local primary schools. We hope this partnership will bring many opportunities to extend what we can provide for local people.

Thirsk Digital Hub

We have launched Thirsk Digital Hub. Helped by some funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund we have been able to extend our digital services to include more dedicated Digital Buddies, extra slots in the week to support the public and a Saturday morning Digital Café. We are also researching the best way to help people with sight loss and looking at Coding and other activities for young people.

Financial Position

Our finances remain healthy but we are never complacent and continue to raise funds by holding Quizzes, raffles and events and applying for grants.

In the last financial year we received welcome grants from Broadacres Housing Association and Tesco's which helped to pay for children's activities and we are currently a Coop Community Fund charity.

Our income and expenditure on day to day running costs are broadly in balance and we have been able to invest some money in improving our communications, leaflets and website this year and to make some funds available to support our digital expansion.



Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start 4/1/2023	To	Period end 3/31/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Library Services	4,812	-	-	4,812	4,468
Fund Raising	488	-	-	488	1,206
Grants and Donations	5,042	-	-	5,042	11,095
Room Hire	4,200	-	-	4,200	2,962
Activities and Events	4,062	-	-	4,062	1,952
Bank & Building Society Interest	446	-	-	446	170
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	19,050	-	-	19,050	21,853
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	19,050	-	-	19,050	21,853
A3 Payments					
Activities and Events	4,695	-	-	4,695	3,415
Rent and Insurance	3,500	-	-	3,500	4,001
Repairs, Renewals & Maintenance	5,566	-	-	5,566	641
Administration	1,816	-	-	1,816	1,765
Licences & Subscriptions	502	-	-	502	299
Fund Raising	-	-	-	-	243
Salaries	-	-	-	-	4,617
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	16,079	-	-	16,079	14,981
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Trolleys and Shelves	1,768	-	-	1,768	-
Display Stands (2)	1,848	-	-	1,848	-
Reception Desk, Cupboards etc	-	-	-	-	17,707
Sub total	3,616	-	-	3,616	17,707
Total payments	19,695	-	-	19,695	32,688
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 645	-	-	- 645	- 10,835
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 645	-	-	- 645	- 10,835

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	Barclays Bank	22,312	-	-
	Nationwide Building	25,758	-	-
	Cash	313	-	-
	Total cash funds	48,383	-	-
	receipts and payments account(s)	Error	OK	OK
		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			
	Display Stands	Unrestricted	-	1,848
	Reception desk, cupboards, shelving and story chair	Unrestricted	-	20,402
	Trolleys & Library Boxes	Unrestricted	-	1,976
	Filing Cabinets	Unrestricted	-	270
	Blinds	Unrestricted	-	140
	Camera	Unrestricted	-	808
	Gazebo Table & Chairs	Unrestricted	-	23
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	