

# FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY

England & Wales · Charity number 1176595

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-01-10

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

## Contact

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**Address** Benson Library  
Castle Square  
Benson  
Wallingford  
Oxfordshire  
OX10 6SD

**Phone** 01491824158

**Email** [MARY.PHILLIPSON@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:MARY.PHILLIPSON@BTINTERNET.COM)

**Website** [friendsofbensonlibrary.co.uk](http://friendsofbensonlibrary.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY THE PROMOTION OF THE USE OF A PUBLIC LENDING LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF BENSON AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

**Activities:** THE CHARITY ENGAGES IN FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONTINUATION OF A LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE VILLAGE OF BENSON, OXFORDSHIRE, IN COOPERATION WITH OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes

## Geography

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- Oxfordshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£9,126	£10,621	-	-
2023-12-31	£8,304	£4,828	-	-
2022-12-31	£8,182	£10,873	-	-
2021-12-31	£2,857	£1,449	-	-
2020-12-31	£3,835	£5,524	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Frances Mary Swann</b>	Chair	2019-11-07
Brendan Harold Thorpe		2023-09-06
Christopher Richard Jack Swann		2019-08-01
FIONA MARGARET THOMSON-TUR		2019-03-19
JOHN ANDREW MURPHY		2018-06-01
Judith Emily Pignon		2020-06-26
Lucy Mary Browne		2022-04-26
MARY ANGELA PHILLIPSON		2019-03-19
PATRICK FINBARR O'CONNOR MA BA FCIS		2018-06-01
VIVIEN MARY GARDNER		2019-03-19

**FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176595

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# Accounts

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## **FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

### **CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)**

Registered Number **1176595**

Address: Benson Library, Crown Square, Benson OX10 6SD

### **TRUSTEES**

#### **Officers:**

Frances Swann *Chair*  
Brendan Thorpe *Secretary*  
Judith Pignon *Treasurer*

#### **Trustees:**

John Murphy  
Patrick ('Barry') O'Connor  
Vivien Gardner  
Fiona Thomson-Tur  
Christopher Swann  
Lucy Browne  
Mary Phillipson

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The purpose of the Charity continues to be to advance the education of the public by the promotion of a public library service for the residents of Benson and surrounding villages.

We meet these objects by raising funds to provide Oxford County Library Service with a subvention to maintain a library service in Benson, which also benefits residents in surrounding villages. There is considerable residential housebuilding in the area which has led to a significant population increase and increased demand for library services. We also recruit, assist in training of and organise a rota of volunteers to serve as assistants in the library.

The Charity communicates with stakeholders and the general community by means of a website, by Mailchimp communications, posters and fliers in the library and village, and in the 'Benson Bulletin', the latter being a rich source of local news which is widely distributed in the village and surroundings.

In 2024 all trustees and officers remained the same but in November 2024 Mary Phillipson said she would like to step down as Secretary. In February 2025 Brendan Thorpe succeeded Mary Phillipson as secretary.

We have a new library manager, Kirsty Shearer, who joined us on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 after the retirement of Hilary Rust in December 2023. She had been library manager at Benson Library for 17 years.

After the long awaited re development of the car park in 2023, in 2024 the CIO pursued the idea for the addition of a storage shed for garden tools, a bike shed, a covered area for

buggies, steps to the garden area and improvements to the overgrown area to the front of the property with Oxfordshire Country Council.

This year the library has been well supported by its readers with a large increase in members due to the addition of new houses in Benson, and the Library Manager has hosted a number of events such as the Summer Reading Challenge (culminating in the Medal Award Ceremony), Carers Coffee Mornings with local Carers Group, Rhyme Time for mothers and toddlers, Incredible Edibles gardening activity sessions, craft sessions, Lego sessions and Volunteers Get Together.

We have continued to recruit volunteers to assist with the library service provision. We have directly provided funds for book purchases that were withdrawn by the Oxfordshire Library Service. In this way, the reading interests of the local users are directly reflected in book stock that doesn't join our regular stock rotation with other libraries.

We have drawn up a document on Governance of the COI including the roles of the Trustees and Financial Controls which we regularly update.

The CIO also sees its role in the wider context of improving Benson Library's environment. We work with local groups planting fruit and vegetables in the library garden, encouraging local families to enjoy resulting produce for free and we are hoping to extend the garden into a further area of land which is currently overgrown.

The CIO participated in the local school fete in the summer of 2024 with a table of merchandise and information about the library to promote the role of the library in the school and village, and also in a Green Day together with St Helen's church, to raise awareness of the environment and the effects of climate change.

We had a large fundraising event in November 2024, our annual Quiz, with a Prize Draw which raised a good amount of funds. We had a successful cake sale in the May 2024 which raised funds for the library, and also raised awareness of the library in the village.

We have recently ordered and received branded tea towels, which can be sold or given away to help promote the use of the library.

Oxfordshire County Council continues to provide Lego and Duplo sets for the library which has led to successful sessions in the library for children.

We are planning an event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Benson Library together with the commissioning of a stone bench, which will most likely be in 2026 to coincide with the presentation of the Summer Reading Challenge Prizes.

We planned 6 author talks in the Library during 2025 to promote reading and interest in local authors to members of the library and villagers, together with another cake sale and quiz.

We have opened a second High Interest Bank Account into which we have placed some funds in order to receive interest on our invested funds.

We took part in the Benson Christmas Tree Festival at St Helen's Church in December 2024 which was a highly successful event and provided much goodwill and local publicity for the library and the work of the CIO.

## **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The opening balance in the current account was £29716.80 + £60.57 cash. The closing balance was £17696.87 + £10.57 cash + £467 (quiz raffle tickets), + £80 Quiz Bar Float+ £27.90 Quiz Cash with £20,000 in Charity Bank high savings account.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Frances Swann  
Chair

**Frances Swann** 28.10.25

Brendan Thorpe  
Secretary

**Brendan Thorpe** 28.10.25

**Accounts 01 Jan 20243 - 31 Dec 2024**

Item	Income	Expenditure
OCLS Salary		8001
OCLS Books		1000
Tea Fund		40
Book Tokens for retiring volunteers		135
Flowers for Gina after death of her mother		16
Insurance		247.49
<b>Funds</b>		
Standing Orders	348	
Donations	166	
SODC Registration of Lottery		20
Transfer to Savings Account Charity Bank		10000
Interest from Charity Bank Account	380.39	
wine etc thank you to volunteers		35.75
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Web Hosting & Domain Name		78.13
Sum Up Purchase		46.8
Tea Towels order + sample		402.6
Storage Box		23.95
<b>Grants</b>		
Ewelme PC	250	
Benson PC	4005	
Warborough PC	257	
Chalgrove PC	426	
Berrick Salome PC	200	
Crowmarsh PC	100	
<b>Events</b>		
Cake Sale Zettle	157.62	
Cake Sale + bacs payment of 12.00	161.5	
School Fete Incl Float of £50.00	88	
Xmas Tree fair (Benson church)+Oxfam manager present 2023		25
Quiz Night ticket via bacs & cheque	1180	
Quiz Night Raffle & prizes sumup ##	54.1	129.89
Severn Trent (sponsor £100 first prize)	100	100
Quiz 2023 & 2024 raffle wooden spoons + £20.00 float 2024		33.98
Quiz Zettle bar + tickets (13)	581.61	
Bar Float		80
Quiz Night Hall Hire		167.5
Wreath 2023 & 2024		38
Author Talk Jan 2025	143	
Testing of Zettle & sumup machines	2.94	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8601.16</b>	<b>20621.09</b>

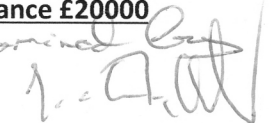
Minus 12019.93

2924.08 of the funds in the bank account are in a special fund for children's books

**Opening bank balance 29716.80 + 60.57 cash**

**Closing balance 17696.87 + 10.57 cash +467 (quiz raffle tickets cash) + 80.00 Quiz Bar float + Quiz cash 27.90**

**Savings Account with Charity Bank Opened balance £10000 Closing balance £20000**

*Accountant*  
  
 24.10.25

**FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176595

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# Accounts

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### **CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)**

Registered Number **1176595**

Address: Benson Library, Crown Square, Benson OX10 6SD

### **TRUSTEES**

#### **Officers:**

Frances Swann *Chair*

Mary Phillipson *Secretary*

Judith Pignon *Treasurer*

#### **Trustees:**

John Murphy

Patrick ('Barry') O'Connor

Vivien Gardner

Fiona Thomson-Tur

Christopher Swann

Lucy Browne

Brendan Thorpe

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The purpose of the Charity continues to be to advance the education of the public by the promotion of a public library service for the residents of Benson and surrounding villages.

We meet these objects by raising funds to provide Oxford County Library Service with a subvention to maintain a library service in Benson, which also benefits residents in surrounding villages. There is considerable residential housebuilding in the area which has led to a significant population increase and increased demand for library services. We also recruit, assist in training of and organise a rota of volunteers to serve as assistants in the library.

The Charity communicates with stakeholders and the general community by means of a website, by Mailchimp communications, posters and fliers in the library and village, and in the 'Benson Bulletin', the latter being a rich source of local news which is widely distributed in the village and surroundings.

In 2024 all trustees and officers remain the same in their posts.

We have a new library manager, Kirsty Shearer, after the retirement of Hilary Rust who had been library manager at Benson Library for 17 years. We had a retirement party at the library in December to thank Hilary for her wonderful service at the library, attended by many volunteers and OCLS staff.

Oxfordshire County Council have completed long awaited works to the Benson Library car park providing a tarmac area for 7 cars and a disabled space. The cost of these much-needed improvements to the grassed area of the library were borne by Oxfordshire County Council. The CIO is currently awaiting an estimate of costs from Oxfordshire County Council for the

addition of a storage shed for garden tools, a bike shed, a covered area for buggies, steps to the garden area and improvements to the overgrown area to the front of the property.

This year the library has been well supported by its readers with a large increase in members due to the addition of new houses in Benson, and the Library Manager has hosted a number of events such as the Summer Reading Challenge culminating in the Medal Award Ceremony, a Carers Coffee Morning with local Carers Group, Rhyme Time for mothers and toddlers, Incredible Edibles gardening activity sessions, craft sessions, Lego sessions and Volunteers Get Together.

We have continued to recruit volunteers to assist with the library service provision. We have directly provided funds for book purchases that were withdrawn by the Oxfordshire Library Service. In this way, the reading interests of the local users are directly reflected in book stock that doesn't join our regular stock rotation with other libraries.

We have drawn up a document on Governance of the COI including the roles of the Trustees and Financial Controls which we regularly update.

The CIO also sees its role in the wider context of improving Benson Library's environment. We work with local groups planting fruit and vegetables in the library garden, encouraging local families to enjoy resulting produce free and we are hoping to extend the garden into a further area of land which is currently overgrown.

The CIO participated in the local school fete in the summer with a table of merchandise and information about the library to promote the role of the library in the school and village, and also in a Green Day together with St Helen's church, to raise awareness of the environment and the effects of climate change.

We have a large fundraising event planned for the autumn, our annual Quiz, with a Prize Draw which in the past has proven to be a good source of fundraising income. We had a successful cake sale in the Spring which raised funds for the library, and also raised awareness of the library in the village.

We have recently ordered and received branded tea towels, which can be sold or given away to help promote the use of the library.

Oxfordshire County Council provided Lego and Duplo sets for the library which has led to successful sessions in the library for children.

We are planning an event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Benson Library which will most likely be in the late summer 2025 to coincide with the presentation of the Summer Reading Challenge Prizes. We are planning a fete in the grounds of the library together with the commissioning of a stone bench commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We are planning 6 author talks in the Library during 2025 to promote reading and interest in local authors to members of the library and villagers.

We have opened a High Interest Bank Account into which we have placed some funds in order to receive interest on our invested funds.

We took part in the Benson Christmas Tree Festival at St Helen's Church which was a highly successful event and provided much goodwill and local publicity for the library and the work of the CIO.

### **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The opening balance in the current account was £36240.80 plus £60.57 cash. The closing balance was £29716.80 in the current account, £10,000 in a high interest account plus £60.57 cash.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Frances Swann  
Chair

Mary Phillipson  
Secretary

**Accounts 01 Jan 2023 - 31 Dec 2023**

Item	Income	Expenditure
OCLS Salary		2244
OCLS Books		800
Children's toys etc for library Note 1		193.92
Tea Fund		40
Book Tokens Reading Challenge		90
Xmas Dinner for Librarian & husband		52.2
Insurance		235.57
<b>Funds</b>		
Standing Orders	348	
100 Club Note 2		46.5
SODC Registration of Lottery		20
Transfer to Savings Account Charity Bank		10000
Membership	12	
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Top Marks (Paul Kennedy) Web site repairs (Inv 20230126)		180
Web Hosting & Domain Name (Inv 581753 & 581469)		74.39
Design 2 Print Banner (Inv 10593)		66
Wine for Auditor		17.98
<b>Grants</b>		
Ewelme PC	250	
Benson PC	4238	
<b>Events</b>		
Cake Sale Zettle	194.98	
Cake Sale incl £40 float	265.75	40
Christmas Tree fair (Benson church)		10
Quiz Night ticket sales	1340	
Quiz Night Raffle & prizes incl 20.00 float and prizes	599	118
Severn Trent (sponsor £100 first prize)	100	100
Quiz Night Jams etc incl 10.00 float	25	10
Quiz Zettle	492.23	
Quiz Night Bar Cash incl 80.00 float	154.1	80
Quiz Night Hall Hire		134.5
Librarian Leaving present	284.99	274.99
Totals	8304.05	14828.05
	Minus	6524

Change for 2023

#(£ 3118.00 - 193.92) 2924.08 of the funds in the bank account are in a special fund for children's books

**Opening bank balance 36240.80 + 60.57 cash and closing balance 29716.80 + 60.57 cash**

**Change in 2023**

Minus

**6524**

**Savings Account with Charity Bank £10000**

**Total FoBL funds 29716.80 Current a/c + 10000 savings a/c + 60.57 cash**

Note 1 Toys etc purchased from Amazon

Note 2 Prize from 100 club paid by cheque not cashed till 2023

*Accounts examined*  
*[Signature]*  
*Independent Examiner*  
*21.10.2023*

**FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176595

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# Accounts

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## **FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

### **CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)**

Registered Number **1176595**

Address: Benson Library, Crown Square, Benson OX10 6SD

### **TRUSTEES**

#### **Officers:**

Frances Swann *Chair*

Mary Phillipson *Secretary*

Judith Pignon *Treasurer*

#### **Trustees:**

John Murphy

Patrick ('Barry') O'Connor

Vivien Gardner

Fiona Thomson-Tur

Christopher Swann

Lucy Browne

Brendan Thorpe

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The purpose of the Charity continues to be to advance the education of the public by the promotion of a public library service for the residents of Benson and surrounding villages.

We meet these objects by raising funds to provide Oxford County Library Service with a subvention to maintain a library service in Benson, which also benefits residents in surrounding villages. There is considerable residential housebuilding in the area which has led to a significant population increase and increased demand for library services. We also recruit, assist in training of and organise a rota of volunteers to serve as assistants in the library. This year we have agreed to pay for an increase in the library manager's time of one hour per week to assist with events in the library and general administration.

The Charity communicates with stakeholders and the general community by means of a website, an online newsletter and a monthly column in the 'Benson Bulletin', the latter being a rich source of local news which is widely distributed in the village and surroundings.

In 2023 Brendan Thorpe joined as a Trustee and Frances Swann succeeded Anna Malkin as Chair.

Oxfordshire County Council have completed long awaited works to the Benson Library car park providing a tarmac area for 7 cars and a disabled space. The cost of these much-needed improvements to the grassed area of the library were borne by Oxfordshire County Council. The CIO is currently awaiting an estimate of costs from Oxfordshire County Council for the addition of a storage shed for garden tools, a bike shed, a covered area for buggies, steps to the garden area and improvements to the overgrown area to the front of the property.

This year the library has been well supported by its readers with a large increase in members due to the addition of new houses in Benson, and the Library Manager has hosted a number of events such as the Summer Reading Challenge culminating in the Medal Award Ceremony, a Carers Coffee Morning with local Carers Group, Rhyme Time for mothers and toddlers, Incredible Edibles bug activity sessions, Menopause Group and Volunteers Get Together.

We have continued to recruit volunteers to assist with the library service provision. We have directly provided funds for book purchases that were withdrawn by the Oxfordshire Library Service. In this way, the reading interests of the local users are directly reflected in book stock that doesn't join our regular stock rotation with other libraries.

We have drawn up a document on Governance of the COI including the roles of the Trustees and Financial Controls which we regularly update.

The CIO also sees its role in the wider context of improving Benson Library's environment. We work with local groups planting fruit and vegetables in the library garden, encouraging local families to enjoy resulting produce free.

The CIO has also been working with interested groups in Benson on a project to provide a secure place for local archive materials, which has now been found and located in a space in the Youth Hall. The CIO participated in an open day at the Parish Hall highlighting the history of the village and received a lot of interest in its display and information about the library.

We have two large fundraising events planned for the autumn, a cake stall and a Quiz with a Prize Draw which in the past have proven to be a good source of fundraising income.

We have recently ordered and received branded cotton tote bags, which can be sold or given away to help promote the use of the library. We have also bought two pop up banners to promote the charity at events and stalls.

Oxfordshire County Council has approved the purchase of Lego sets for the library as a capital cost for lending and circulation for variety.

Oxfordshire County Council are undertaking a Library Development Asset Plan which will look at all 44 libraries and the population they will serve in 10 years' time, with an action plan of what needs to be done at each library and prioritisation. It was noted that Benson Library lacks storage and it has been acknowledged that a proper review of opening hours is due on the percentage of Library Manager hours vs volume and population.

We are planning an event to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Benson Library which will most likely be in the late summer of 2024 to coincide with the presentation of the Summer Reading Challenge Prizes. We are planning a fete in the grounds of the library together with the commissioning of a stone bench commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We have opened a High Interest Bank Account into which we have placed some funds in order to receive interest on our invested funds.

We took part in the Benson Christmas Tree Festival at St Helen's Church which was a highly successful event and provided much goodwill and local publicity for the library and the work of the CIO.

## **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The opening balance on the account was £38,957.74 plus £34.05 cash and the closing balance was £36240.80 + £62.56 cash

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Frances Swann  
Chair

Mary Phillipson  
Secretary

**Accounts 01 Jan 2022 - 31 Dec 2022**

Item	Income	Expenditure
OCLS Salary	*See note i	6732
OCLS Books		1500
Tea Fund carers		20
Menopause Party		83.88
Xmas Dinner for Librarian & husband		60
Insurance		250.51
<b>Funds</b>		
Standing Orders	348	
100 Club	*see note ii	353.37
SODC Registration of Lottery		20
Sale of Books at PO	247.57	
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Zettle Card Machine		70.8
Norton		84.98
Web Hosting & Domain Name (11.99+59.42)		71.41
Business cards		31.9
Book bags (Stock & giveaways) 200		713.52
Banners x 2		174
Storage box for FoBL equipment etc		22.94
<b>Grants</b>		
Ewelme PC	400	
Benson PC	4088	
Benson Garden club	190	
<b>Events</b>		
Jubilee Fete	80	
Cake Sale	368.92	
Plates etc for cake stall		17.18
Christmas Tree fair (Benson church)		10
Quiz Night ticket sales	1050	
Quiz Night Raffle & prizes	365	111.66
Severn Trent (sponsor £100 first prize)	100	100
Quiz Night Bar Zettle	239.74	
Quiz Night Bar Cash	385	
Quiz Night Bar Beer, wine, etc		292
Quiz Night Hall Hire		134.5
Wreath		18
Totals	8182.23	10872.65

Change for 2022

Minus

2690.42

#£ 3118.00 of the funds in the bank account are in a special fund for children's books

**Opening bank balance 38957.74+34.05 cash and closing balance 36240.80+£60.57 cash.**

**Change in 2022**

Minus

**2690.42**

\*Note 1 Due to Lockdown and refurbishment of the library building three OCC Invoices were issued instead of the usual two per year

\*Note ii £180.00 100 Club funds received in 2021. No 100 Club 2022-2023

*Accounts examined  
A. C. D. J. L.  
Independent Examiner  
14.10.23*

**FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176595

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# Accounts

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## **FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

### **CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)**

Registered Number **1176595**

Address: Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, OX10 6LZ

## **TRUSTEES**

### **Officers:**

Anna Malkin *Chair*

Mary Phillipson *Secretary*

Judith Pignon *Treasurer*

### **Trustees:**

John Murphy

Patrick ('Barry') O'Connor

Vivien Gardner

Fiona Thomson-Tur

Christopher Swann

Frances Swann

Lucy Browne

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The purpose of the Charity continues to be to advance the education of the public by the promotion of a public library service for the residents of Benson and surrounding villages.

We meet these objects by raising funds to provide Oxford County Library Service with a subvention to maintain a library service in Benson, which also benefits residents in surrounding villages. There is considerable residential housebuilding in the area which has led to a significant population increase and increased demand for library services. We also recruit, assist in training of and organise a rota of volunteers to serve as assistants in the library.

The Charity communicates with stakeholders and the general community by means of a website, an online newsletter and a monthly column in the 'Benson Bulletin', the latter being a rich source of local news which is widely distributed in the village and surroundings.

In 2022 Lucy Browne joined as a Trustee and Anna Malkin succeeded John Murphy as Chair.

Oxfordshire County Council have completed works to Benson Library over lockdown including repairs to the roof and installation of solar

panels and a new air cooling, heating and ventilation system, making it the first carbon neutral building in the Oxfordshire County Library Service property portfolio.

Since reopening in March 2021 the library has been well supported by its readers and the Library Manager has hosted a number of events such as the Summer Reading Challenge with a record number of 160 signed up, culminating in the Medal Award Ceremony, a Carers Coffee Morning with local Carers Group, Rhymetime for mothers and toddlers, Incredible Edibles bug activity sessions, Menopause Group, Volunteers Get Together.

We have continued to recruit volunteers to assist with the library service provision. We have directly provided funds for book purchases that was withdrawn by the Oxfordshire Library Service. In this way, the reading interests of the local users are directly reflected in book stock that doesn't join our regular stock rotation with other libraries.

The CIO also funds outreach to local schools, including offering book token prizes to encourage reading.

The CIO also sees its role in the wider context of improving Benson Library's environment. We work with local groups planting fruit and vegetables in the library garden, encouraging local families to enjoy resulting produce free. There is also a plan to involve the local primary school in the development of another part of the garden area.

The CIO developed a plan to boldly improve the library grounds by providing seating areas, proper buggy and bicycle shelters, create an area for woodland wildflowers and better car parking facilities. Oxfordshire County Council sought and gained planning permission to create at least 7 new and much needed parking spaces on the grassed area that is unusable in the winter months. It is anticipated that the works for this should commence soon with the costs being borne by the County Council. The CIO will meet the costs of installing a new bike shed in a more appropriate position within the new parking area.

The CIO is also beginning to work with interested groups on a project to provide a secure place for local archive materials.

We have two large fundraising events planned for the autumn, a cake stall and a Quiz with a Prize Draw which in the past have proven to be a good source of fundraising income.

We have recently ordered branded cotton tote bags, which can be sold or given away to help promote the use of the library. We are also ordering two pop up banners to promote the charity at events and stalls.

## **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The opening balance on the account was £37,550.61 + £26.25 cash and the closing balance was £38,957.74 + £26.25 cash.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Anna Malkin  
Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anna Malkin', written in black ink.

Mary Phillipson  
Secretary

**Accounts 01 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2021**

Item	Income	Expenditure
OCLS Books		500
Tea fund		100
Book Tokens		45
Insurance		250.51
<b>Funds</b>		
Standing Orders	1368	
100 Club	810	313.34
SODC Registratioon of Lottery		20
Sale of Books at PO	128.68	
Easy Fund Raising	16.81	
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Microsoft		79.99
Web Hosting		55.54
Norton		84.98
<b>Grants</b>		
Ewelme PC	500	
Benson Garden club	33	
<b>Events</b>		
None		

Totals	2856.49	1449.36
Change for 2021		1407.13

\*£ 3118.00 of the funds in the bank account are in a special fund for children's books

**Opening bank balance 37550.61 + 26.25 cash and closing balance 38957.74 + £26.25 cash.**

**Change in 2021**

**1407.13**

*Accounts examined  
 P. O. J.  
 Independent Examiner  
 31.10.22*

**FRIENDS OF BENSON LIBRARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1176595

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# Accounts

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Registered Number **1176595**

Address: Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, OX10 6LZ

## **TRUSTEES**

### **Officers:**

John Murphy *Chair*

Mary Phillipson *Secretary*

Judith Pignon *Treasurer*

### **Trustees:**

Patrick ('Barry') O'Connor

Anna Malkin

Vivien Gardner

Fiona Thomson-Tur

Christopher Swann

Frances Swann

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The purpose of the Charity continues to be to advance the education of the public by the promotion of a public library service for the residents of Benson and surrounding villages.

We meet these objects by raising funds to provide Oxford County Library Service with a subvention to maintain a library service in Benson, which also benefits residents in surrounding villages. There is considerable residential housebuilding in the area which has led to a significant population increase and increased demand for library services. We also recruit, assist in training of and organise a rota of volunteers to serve as assistants in the library.

The Charity communicates with stakeholders and the general community by means of a website, an online newsletter and a monthly column in the 'Benson Bulletin', the latter being a rich source of local news which is widely distributed in the village and surroundings. Our website has recently been renewed and updated.

In 2020 a long-standing Trustee Kirsty Scott resigned. The CIO remains grateful for her hard work over many years. In the same year we had three treasurers in rapid succession which with the course of the pandemic and lockdowns caused some difficulties. Judith Pignon joined the Trustees as Treasurer in June 2020.

Trustee Mary Phillipson became Secretary to the CIO in November 2019.

Benson Library roof was in a poor state of repair and as a result, major works had to be undertaken. Some of the works took place under Covid 19 restrictions. The library was closed for 9 months of 2020, not reopening until March 2021. Oxford County Council updated the heating, ventilation & other facilities in the library, making it the most environmentally friendly building in our County Library Service property portfolio. It also offers a much-improved working environment for staff and volunteers.

Throughout the period of lockdowns, the CIO continued to recruit volunteers to assist with library service provision. We have directly provided for funds for book purchases, working with Library Manager, Hilary Rust. In this way, the reading interests of the local users are directly reflected in book stock.

The CIO also funds outreach to local schools, including offering book token prizes to encourage reading.

The CIO also sees its role in the wider context of improving Benson Library's environment. We work with Local groups planting fruit and vegetables in the library garden, encouraging local families to enjoy resulting produce free. There is also a plan to involve the local primary school in the development of another part of the garden area.

The CIO has developed a plan to boldly improve the library grounds by providing seating areas, proper buggy and bicycle shelters, create an area for woodland wildflowers and better car parking facilities. The plan is to link what is grown in the garden with books and poetry housed in the library itself. The Charity will apply with the support of Parish, District and County Councils for a share of CIL monies to finance this project.

The CIO is also beginning to work with interested groups on a project to provide a secure place for local archive materials.

During the pandemic the Trustees have been unable to organise regular public fundraising events during 2020. These events will be resumed as soon as is possible. The trustees made a successful effort to make its small lottery more widely supported in the village community. Demands on our finances have been relatively small because of the pandemic and library closure.

## **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The opening balance on the account was £39,249.47 and the closing balance was £37550.61. The 2020 Accounts had to be produced directly from the bank account data due to a loss of some paper records and receipt books. The Trustees are satisfied there are no irregularities although there has been a difficulty in identifying three receipts.

The Trustees have taken further measures to ensure this cannot happen again. They have acquired a new computer which will update directly both to the Cloud and local hard drives. Additionally, all supporting paperwork will be held by both the Treasurer and at each year end another copy with a designated Trustee. These second sets of copies will then be destroyed after each set of annual accounts complete. The Trustees are also reviewing the structure of accounts and devising a manual to go with the CIO function Treasurer function.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

John Murphy  
Chair

Mary Phillipson  
Secretary