



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: Period start date 01/04/23 **To:** Period end date 31/3/24

Charity name: Friends of Church Stretton Library

Charity registration number: 1182554

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The purpose of the CIO is to promote the advancement of education for the general public in Church Stretton and surrounding area, in particular but not exclusively, by supporting the provision of a community library and information centre.</p> <p>To further or benefit the residents of Church Stretton and surrounding area, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race, disability or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisation in a common effort to advance education and facilitate learning and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation, leisure time and occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support the provision of a community library and information centre in Church Stretton; to promote education, cultural activities and lifelong learning in Church Stretton and the surrounding area.• To organise events and activities which support education, culture and the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.• To encourage the involvement of the local community in all we do without distinction of gender, age, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion or political opinions.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Our activities in pursuit of these objects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively encouraging the local community to make use of library facilities. • Raising funds to support and enhance the work of the library. • Running a programme of activities supporting lifelong learning, culture and promoting health and social wellbeing. • Providing volunteers to support - but not replace - library staff and enhance the work of the library. • Acting as a link between the Church Stretton Library Service and the wider community. • Working in collaboration with other local groups and organisations to support a coordinated approach. • Encouraging the involvement of local community in all we do, without distinction of gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, religion or political opinions.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In pursuing these activities, trustees have followed the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	We make grants to the library to improve and enhance its service.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>We have a large and active corps of volunteers who support our work in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising funds through table top sales, stalls at charity fairs and other venues. • Advising visitors at the library's Visitor Information Centre when the library is closed. • Organising our programme of speakers. • Supporting events (selling tickets, organising seating, serving refreshments, etc).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting up posters and distributing other forms of publicity to advertise such events. • Proofreading publicity materials and articles. • Baking cakes and other goods to serve at such events. • These different contributions are much valued, and we hold occasional 'thank you' events that bring volunteers together and generate new links between the library service, local stake holders and the wider community. <p>These all demonstrate the value of collaboration between a professionally run library and an active Friends group. They also show ways in which local engagement can help secure the future development of the library service and foster new generations of active users.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole	Para 1.20	<p>We ran various events with educational and cultural content (to cover a broad range of interests).</p> <p>We also helped fund children's activities run by the library staff in the library.</p> <p>We raised funds for the library and helped pay for new library shelving can be moved to allow a more flexible use of space e.g. for educational talks.</p> <p>With the help of volunteers, we continued to open the Visitor Information Centre two days a week, when the library is normally closed.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	We successfully ran events covering a broad range of interests and involving other community organisations. These included a poetry workshop and readings for National Poetry Day, a talk on the author C S Lewis, a local nature conservation
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		<p>project, a community garden and Russian literature.</p> <p>We also paid for 'Zoolab' to visit the library in the summer holidays and educate the children about animals and the natural world.</p> <p>In doing so, we have helped promote educational, cultural activities and lifelong learning in Church Stretton and the surrounding area.</p> <p>We produced a calendar of local scenery, with support from local photographers, to help raise funds. This was sold in shops in Church Stretton and the library.</p> <p>We have continued to support the provision of a Visitor Information Centre by recruiting volunteers from within the community to open it on the days the library is closed (Mondays and Wednesdays). Many of the volunteers have commented on how much they enjoy this role, because they meet other local residents as well as provide assistance to visitors. This helped us meet our objective to support and enhance the work of the library.</p> <p>We have continued to make an active contribution to Shropshire Council Library development initiatives that seek to enhance the health, wellbeing and involvement of local residents. This included supporting a local charity to set up a Dementia Café, which takes place in the library once a month. These all demonstrate the value of collaboration between the community, a professionally run library and an active Friends group. They also show ways in which local engagement can help secure the future development of the library service and foster new generations of active users.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>We were happy to have generated income of £9,960. included £4,376 from donations, £4,432 from fundraising activities and we claimed £935 Gift Aid on donations and 216.86 interest on the savings account.</p> <p>Our administrative costs for the year were £709, which includes the cost of insurance.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>We spent £10,000 on new library shelving and 517 for other things including subsidised sessions in the library for local primary school children.</p> <p>This left us with a balance of £27,498. in the bank at year end of which £17,216.86 is in a high interest savings account</p> <p>We have put £7,000 in our reserves and we are in discussion with the library about future possible spends. These include purchasing additional cupboard storage space to house a local history archive and replacing some of the chairs with ones more suitable for the elderly and less mobile.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We have put £7,000 in reserves as a safety net for our operating costs which leaves approximately £20,000 to spend either this or next financial year.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£7,000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Shropshire Council, which funds the library, is having to make massive savings in its budget. They are seeking additional funding from the Town Council to keep the library open. There is a risk the local authority will declare a section 114 in the next few months. We are holding back on making large purchases for the library until there is more certainty about the future.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Donations from local residents, including some donations by regular standing orders, and profit made from running events.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	External factors as Shropshire Council plans cuts to funding libraries in 2024/25.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Friends of Church Stretton Library
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<p>Elected by members at AGM or co-opted by Committee.</p> <p>People interested in becoming a trustee are first invited to attend a few committee meetings so that they better understand the role.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Trustees are provided with the charity commission document 'Welcome – you're a charity trustee' and copies of the policies listed below which can be found on our website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Protection • Equality • Financial • Safeguarding • Terms of Reference <p>Our financial accounts and annual return are independently checked by a local accountant.</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Managed by committee of trustees who meet once a month.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We regularly meet with Church Stretton Library staff who advise us on how we can support their work.
Other		

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Friends of Church Stretton Library
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1182554

Charity's principal address	c/o Church Stretton Library Church Street, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6DQ

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	Sheila Davies	Chair		
2	Madeline Haigh	Secretary		
3	Margaret Quartly	Treasurer		
4	Ben Warren			
5	Beth Furlong			
6	Inese Neilson			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of other

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.****Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

Signature(s)	<i>S M Davies</i>	<i>Madeline P. Haigh</i>
Full name(s)	Sheila Davi	Madeline Haigh
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	17/10/24	17/10/24



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Friends of Church Stretton Library

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01.04.23		31.03.24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Events	4,432	-	-	4,432	5,115
Donations	4,376	-	-	4,376	4,365
Gift Aid	935	-	-	935	878
Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	217	-	-	217	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,960	-	-	9,960	10,358
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,960	-	-	9,960	10,358
A3 Payments					
Cost of events	1,140	-	-	1,140	1,865
Postage & Stationery	83	-	-	83	101
Publicity	131	-	-	131	-
Repairs & Renewals	2	-	-	2	-
Insurance	372	-	-	372	372
Miscellaneous	121	-	-	121	144
Grants to Library	10,517	-	-	10,517	1,131
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	12,366	-	-	12,366	3,613
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,366	-	-	12,366	3,613
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,406	-	-	- 2,406	6,745
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	29,904	-	-	29,904	23,159
Cash funds this year end	27,498	-	-	27,498	29,904

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	Bank Account	27,478	-	-
	Cash In Hand	20	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	27,498	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Donated projector	unrestricted	-	-
	VIC Book stands	unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	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	