

## Friends of Street Library Annual Report 2024

This year has seen a continued increase in numbers of visitors and new members signing up in the library. Volunteer hours are up and there are many new activities on offer, thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of our volunteer co-ordinator, Marilyn. All this despite some major challenges, including the closure of the Crispin shopping centre, affecting the access to the library from the High Street and also removing the parking available to the volunteers working in the library. The much-publicised problems for Somerset Council are leading to some reductions in funding for services. Happily, as a Community Library, Street will be spared some of the cutbacks but there will be inevitable budget restrictions.

As usual, we have offered regular craft activities for children during the holidays and provided prizes for the competitions run by the library. This year we are running a Giant Sunflower competition over the summer, giving seeds to children on production of their library cards. Watch out for all the photos in September! Our Christmas Story Time was a huge success this year. We had Kirsty and Jenny who did a fantastic job reading a number of stories and even including some songs to a packed audience before they all had hot chocolate and cookies.

The Summer Reading Challenge in 2023 was very popular. Over 230 children signed up to take part in the challenge and medals were handed out to those who completed before the deadline. The theme was 'Get Set Read', the Friends donated a number of books to support the scheme as well as organising activities in the library. We are now gearing up for the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge with the theme 'Marvellous Makers'.

The Friends continued to offer several Author Talks in the library during 2023 and we are just starting out on a new series of talks during 2024.

We were given the chance to publicise what we do and what the library has to offer at the Merriman Park Fun Day in September and the Street Parish Council 'Discover Your Community' event in March. We were also invited to attend the Family Fun Day at Brookside Academy, we supplied a Lego activity day which was very rewarding and we have been invited to do it again this year. We are also hoping to share a stall with Street Parish Council at the market on the High Street in the summer. Many thanks again to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help man these events.

In addition to these activities, The Friends have provided items for the library to help with displays and storage. We provided a new magazine rack to display the papers along with a varied selection of magazines which are generously donated by members of the Friends. We are also in the process of purchasing some display stands for the leaflets in the foyer area which should not only make it easier for customers to see the leaflets but also make the area look a little tidier. Thanks to some very generous grants from Street Parish Council and Clarks Village we have been able to ensure the continued provision of newspapers in the library, despite a surprising number of price increases through the year.

None of this would have been possible without the support of all of our members, trustees, committee and Street Parish Council, thank you to you all.

Sarah Ivory

Chair

## Friends of Street Library final accounts for the year 2023 - 24

### Income and expenditure for the year 6/4/2023 – 5/4/2024

#### Income

Cash in bank (06/04/2023)	
Current a/c	6900.75
Cash in hand	56.53
2024-25 subs paid early	80.00
Subs since 06/04/2023	780.00
Donations	255.50
Income from stalls	224.85
Quiz sales	223.40
Gift Aid	155.16
Newspaper donations	579.98
Transfers c/a to cash	125.00

Total Income	2423.89
Total Expenditure	1730.15
Surplus	693.74

**Total 9381.17**

#### Expenditure

Reading/writing challenges	303.12
Resources for library	337.54
CC charges	0.50
Quiz prizes	30.00
Insurance	154.56
Sundries	247.29
Newspaper money to library	532.14
Transfers cash to c/a	125.00

Cash in bank (05/04/2024)	
Current a/c	7450.48
Cash in hand	200.54

**Total 9381.17**

Signed: Peter Fry (Treasurer)

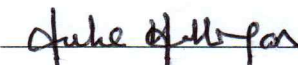


Date 11/04/2024

#### Independent examiner's report

I have examined the above accounts of the Friends of Street Library for the period 06/04/2023 until 05/04/2024 (the end of their normal accounting period) and compared them with the books and records of the charity. I confirm they are in accordance therewith and with the explanations given.

Julie Hillman



Date 11.04.2024