



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From April 2024 Period start date To March 2025 Period end date

Charity name: Buckby Library & Hub

Charity registration number: 1185196

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Our charitable object focuses on the provision of educational community resources and activities to advance education, and to provide facilities for recreation and leisure in the interests of social welfare and improving conditions of life for local residents. We aim to provide a safe, warm and welcoming public amenity for the people of the Long Buckby area offering library services, community activities and events for adults and children, and sizeable indoor and outdoor social spaces for individuals and groups to meet.
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	We provide a range of library services along with social, cultural and developmental activities for children and adults. We run book clubs, arts and crafts sessions, social groups – including a, now online, neurodiversity self-help group and a social group targeted on isolated or vulnerable adults. We host musical, theatrical, and educational events (including talks), show films monthly for 10 months in the year, and host art exhibitions. In this period, we have also introduced a number of health and wellness sessions relating to both physical and mental wellbeing. We also compile, edit and distribute an on-line and paper newsletter for the whole community (2000+ copies), as well as a monthly e-newsletter to signed-up subscribers. Finally, we offer a refreshments facility for our visitors and provided a Warm Welcoming Space through the autumn and winter.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	Our trustees have regard to the guidance on public benefit. Buckby Library & Hub is an amenity open to the wider public, however our primary customers are library users, children and their parents and carers, elderly people and others who might be vulnerable to social isolation. We have installed a hearing loop system, a fully wheelchair (and disability scooter) accessible toilet (and exit to our garden), and enhanced our baby-change facilities.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	Buckby Library & Hub retains a pool of around fifty volunteers. Our volunteers invest around 500 - 600 hours per month. Volunteer effort is split across: front-line library and refreshments service delivery; facilitating arts & crafts for adults and children, reading and social groups including rhyme-times; planning and delivering fundraising and community benefit events; grounds maintenance; and CIO administration - including financial delivery and oversight and preparing grant applications. In 2024 we have refined and systematized our volunteer recruitment, induction and development processes and have supported several volunteers take on more organizational and coordination responsibilities. In December 2024 our volunteers were nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service (and have subsequently been shortlisted)
Other		In the summer of 2023, we were awarded a National Lottery grant to provide a 70% contribution to the salary of our part-time manager until mid-2027. Having established numerous operational systems and processes to ensure the effective day-to-day operations of Buckby Library & Hub, the manager in 2024/25 has focussed more on developing individual and collective volunteer capacity development. In the first quarter of 2025 she has started to assume greater responsibility for the organisation and delivery of community benefit activities and events.

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>Our main achievements in 2024-25 have been:</p> <p>i) Successful succession planning among our volunteer and trustee cadres – replacing very active and committed volunteers, who had taken on specialist roles, with equally able and committed successors, and recruiting two new trustees to replace those stepping down.</p> <p>ii) A mammoth fundraising effort to raise the money needed to enclose the external porch area of the library to create more usable space, reduce heat loss and thus our energy consumption and costs, and to create an additional barrier to reduce the risk of children running out onto a busy road.</p>

		<p>iii) The further evolution and expansion of our income-generation activities by introducing a “Friends” scheme to attract both one-off and regular donations, extending our film season to ten months (from eight), and holding a Promises Auction in September 2024 that raised £2700.</p> <p>iv) In 2024/25 we made a concerted effort to bring more young people into BL&H. We expanded the number of volunteering and work experience opportunities for young people – including those of school age. We also relocated the young adult book section to create a 'cozy corner' for them and asked our Duke of Edinburgh Award student volunteers to draw up a list of new books, which we ordered. We trialled early evening opening one day a week but found that there was little demand so stopped after a few months. Ultimately, we did manage to increase the number of new 16/17-year-old members - although the numbers remain small.</p> <p>v) In June 2024 we hosted an inaugural Chatty Café morning at BL&H, subsequently signing up as a member of the national scheme. This fortnightly opportunity for informal chat and companionship for people who might otherwise be socially isolated has been implemented, facilitated and publicised by a discrete team of BL&H volunteers. The scheme has proved immensely popular – to the extent that we will move to a weekly event from the start of 2026.</p> <p>We have continued to increase the number of activities and events on offer at BL&H with many having a focus on wellbeing – including weekly Wellness Sessions, a pelvic health support group, and physical and mental health integrated services drop-in sessions.</p> <p>We also continued to host drop-in sessions with the local GPs surgery, the parish council and the West Northants Council customer services team. The local police Beat Bus continues to visit our car park, as do the Northants Association for the Blind, the SNVB Community Connect van and the local mobile vaccination van.</p> <p>We have continued to provide an array of “community benefit” activities such as Rhyme times, term-time “Stay and Play” sessions and a variety of holiday activities and shows for children. We continue to host numerous craft, walking, social, and reading groups, and produce six editions per year of the local village newsletter.</p> <p>In 2024/25 we have had a total of over 1000 attendances in our knitting and sewing groups; 300</p>
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		<p>in our art groups, over 800 at Rhyme times, and nearly 700 walkers meeting at the library.</p> <p>Our fundraising events have included a number of musical and dramatic performances by e.g. James Hornsby, the Cut-a-Caper Band, and our local ukulele band, as well as a late-summer and spring fayres, and a number of talks. We had a Halloween-themed week during October half-term with events and activities for both adults and children.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	The trustees are extremely happy to see Buckby Library & Hub continue to flourish as a well-supported community hub, attracting a large number of visits (48,000 in 2024-25). We are pleased and relieved to have recruited two new trustees and to see a strong pipeline of new volunteers joining the team and taking on technical and organisational roles.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	We were delighted by the support given to BL&H by local individuals and businesses who contributed "lots" to our highly successful Promises Auction, and the success of our fundraising campaign to raise funds to enclose our porch area. We especially appreciate the additional financial support for the porch project provided by Long Buckby Parish Council. We launched our Friends in summer 2024 scheme, which has been growing slowly but steadily – and we are finding that just talking with our customers about the scheme can generate sizeable one-off donations.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>We continue to build upon the positive delivery of previous years by successfully maintaining and increasing our activities and events.</p> <p>Together with our fundraising events, donations from external organisations and individuals have continued to be significant, highlighting the depth of support we receive locally.</p> <p>These, combined with day-to-day income, have ensured that we can designate funds to contribute towards our manager's salary and finance specific projects that will ensure our long-term sustainability.</p> <p>We continue to maintain a level of free reserves to ensure our reserves policy is met.</p> <p>Free reserves are calculated by deducting fixed assets from the unrestricted reserves held at the year-end.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>Our unrestricted reserves are set to ensure that we are able to operate core activity for a minimum 12 months.</p> <p>Our restricted reserves and designated Reserves relate to our commitment towards salary costs and towards the porch project which relate to final monies due in 2025/26</p> <p>We will continue to seek grant income to support improvements to the building and maintain activities and services which benefit our community. We continue to explore and undertake new initiatives to assure our long-term sustainability.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<p>At the end of March 2025, we had the following Reserves</p> <p>Unrestricted Reserves of £16,635</p> <p>Restricted Reserves of £32,139</p> <p>Designated Reserves £31,046</p> <p>Total £79,820</p>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

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	
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Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Our main risks are the inability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and recruit sufficient volunteers to manage, raise funds for, and deliver services in the library and hub, and ensuring we have adequate numbers, professional skills and competencies at trustee level to operate the CIO effectively; • Recruit capable and committed new trustees as our remaining trustees move into their final terms. • Raise sufficient funds from income-generating activities and grant-bids to keep the library operational, build our long-term sustainability, and continue to fund the part-time manager role beyond the lifespan of the National Lottery Grant; and • Ensure that the library building and grounds are well-maintained and a pleasant, welcoming and safe place for everyone to visit.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		N/A
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution (signed 20th September 2019)
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Buckby Library & Hub is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (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	Trustee recruitment is through open competition. We advertise vacancies on local social media and noticeboards, and in local newsletters, as well as explore local networks with the aim of strengthening our skills base and building greater diversity in the board. We have also used national "trustee websites" to advertise roles.

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>All trustees have approved and/or subscribed to the following policies and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for Money • Financial Policies and Procedures • Privacy and Data Protection • Approach to Donors and Donations • Conflict of Interest • Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding • Equality and Diversity • Complaints, Comments and Compliments • Building Security • Visitor Conduct • Volunteer Grievance • Disciplinary • Whistleblowing (Aug 2023) • Health and Safety Statement • Appointment of Trustees • Food Safety Principles and Procedures
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Buckby Library & Hub had four trustees in place for the larger part of 2024-25. Two trustees stepped down during the year and one at the end of the period and two new trustees were brought in at the end of March 2025.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees routinely convenes four times a year to approve annual plans, reports, budgets and accounts, but trustees also meet more routinely with the addition of other participants – including the manager - as the Management Group. This group supports the manager to deliver day to day operations and services and leads on other elements of administration along with decisions on income-generation activities and events in accordance with the trustees' agreed priorities, policies and procedures. The Management Group works with working groups or task teams that take responsibility for specific areas</p>

		of work e.g. library infrastructure projects and fundraising events.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	<p>We continue to work closely with the West Northants libraries and information service, especially the Community-Managed Library Co-ordinators.</p> <p>We are a member of the Northamptonshire voluntary network of community-managed libraries known as the 21 GLN group, and in 2023-24 became member of the National Community Libraries Network, for whom we have been a case study. We are also currently a member of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations.</p> <p>We report monthly to Long Buckby Parish Council who took on the library building lease on our behalf from August 2020, and who have additionally contributed e.g. to our wheelchair accessible toilet and porch enclosure projects.</p> <p>We remain in touch with local churches (especially in the context of the Warm Spaces initiative), the local doctors' surgery, and the local police community support network, We regularly provide "van" space for the Northamptonshire Association for the Blind, the local mobile Vaccinations Team, and the local community policing team.</p>
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Buckby Library & Hub
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1185196
Charity's principal address	Station Road, Long Buckby, Northampton NN6 7QB

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	Bridget Arregger	Chair	Until July 2024	
2	Joanna Watson	Treasurer	Until March 2025	
3	Jane Rintoul	Secretary		
4	Hazel Johnson			
5	Maria Summerscale		Until May 2024	
6	John Peachey			

7	Sir (Robin) Richard Tilt		From March 2025	
8	Daniel Rayner	Treasurer	From March 2025	
9				

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 others

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

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)		
Full name(s)	Jane Rintoul	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	02/12/2025	

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
FOR
BUCKBY LIBRARY & HUB**

Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

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Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES

Bridget Arregger	Chair - Resigned 3 rd July 2024
Jane Rintoul	Secretary
Daniel Rayner	Treasurer – appointed 12 th March 2025
Hazel Johnson	
John Peachey	
Maria Summerscale	Resigned 6 th May 2024
Sir Richard Tilt	Appointed 12 th March 2025
Jo Watson	Treasurer Resigned 12 th March 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1185196

ADDRESS

Station Road
Long Buckby
Northamptonshire
NN6 7QB

Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charities trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose at any time a true and fair view of the charities financial position. The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity maintains an adequate system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance to prevent fraud and other irregularities. The trustees consider that an external examination of the accounts is required in accordance with the Charity Commission CC32 guidance as the turnover is in excess of £25,000. This has been conducted by Rhoda Thomas Bookkeeping Services who has stated "I can confirm that I have found no anomalies, and I am confident in the balances and the information provided."

Governance

Buckby Library & Hub was registered with the Charity Commission on 5th September 2019. The objects of the charity are to: provide a library facility and service and other educational community resources and activities for the benefit of the inhabitants of Long Buckby and surrounding areas without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political religious or any other opinions, by associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents. The trustees believe that the activities described in this report do deliver in accordance with our charitable objectives.

Finance

Our strategic objectives continue to be to maintain financial sustainability via traditional library services, an expanding social hub, increased events and a venue for hire. We are in receipt of a four year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to contribute towards seventy percent of the cost of our part-time Manager. Our ongoing highly successful fundraising activities have enabled us to designate funds to finance the remaining thirty percent of the salary cost. We have continued throughout the year to fundraise for our Porch Project.

Reserves Policy

Our target reserve levels are set at a level to ensure twelve months' of core activity. Trustees will continue to monitor and manage spend across the organisation. We will continue to seek grant income to support improvements to the building and facilities when needed and the activities and services which benefit our community. We will explore and undertake new initiatives to assure our long-term sustainability. The trustees require that:

- A proportion of reserves are kept in a readily realisable form
- This policy and the level of reserves is reviewed annually

Buckby Library & Hub

Main Achievements during the Year

We continue to build upon the positive delivery of previous years by successfully maintaining and increasing our activities and events. Hub activities continue to be well supported and are thriving. We continue to welcome volunteer initiatives for new fundraising events and activities, for example the very successful Promises Evening.

We continue to highlight our community presence via our website, social media and local newsletters which are regularly updated with news of our activities and also provide an important local resource for village updates, learning opportunities and welfare support. Our bi-monthly Buckby Buzz newsletter continues to flourish, underlining its importance within our community.

We further support our community by hosting drop-in sessions with the local GP surgery, a neurodiversity self-help group and new bi-weekly wellness sessions within the library. Our car park hosts regular visits from the local police Beat Bus, the Northants Association for the Blind vehicle, the NHS mobile vaccination unit, and the Age UK donations collection van.

In August we launched a Friends Scheme to encourage regular donations from our community with a primary purpose to raise funds to finance our manager position when the current grant funding concludes.

We successfully completed the fundraising for our project to enclose our front porch area which will provide extra secure space for buggies and mobility scooters, book displays and help to keep the main body of the library warmer. The project was completed in May 2025.

We are grateful for the following grants received during the year:

- The National Lottery Community Fund £10,255 towards the Manager salary
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation Rural Communities Needs Fund £10,000 towards the Porch Project
- Buckby Feast Trust £2,151.40 for new chairs and towards the Porch Project
- Maud Elkington Charitable Trust £1,500 towards the Porch Project
- William Joseph Haynes Trust £2,000 towards the Porch Project
- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust £11,000 towards the Porch Project

We are grateful to East Haddon, Ravensthorpe, Watford and Whilton Parish Councils for their donations received during the year and for the pledged funding from Long Buckby Parish Council. These, together with grants, an Amazon donation and monies from reserves, have been designated to the Porch Project.

We are also very grateful for the immense support we receive from local individuals and businesses both financially and in kind. Where sizable donations are received we endeavour to designate these to specific projects or our manager position. We are very grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers who assist us across our entire range of activities.

Approved by the board of trustees on 23rd July 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2023 £
INCOME			
Donations and Grants			
- Grants	2	10,255	10,255
- Individual Donations	3	6,163	5,591
- External Organisation Support	3	3,350	923
- Other	3	1,331	1,154
Charitable Activities			
- Grants	4	26,651	7,918
- Hub Activities	4	12,295	11,499
Other Trading Activities	5	19,175	15,828
Other	5	0	552
Total Income		79,220	53,720
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable Activities	6	36,139	37,011
Other Trading Activities	7	8,095	45,186
Total Expenditure		44,234	82,197
NET INCOME		34,986	(28,477)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds b/f		44,834	73,311
Total net income for the year		34,986	(28,477)
Total funds c/f		79,820	44,834

Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS	8	3,002	5,279
CURRENT ASSETS			
Prepayments	9	334	1,156
Cash at Bank and in hand		78,080	41,083
Total Current Assets		78,414	42,239
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accruals	10	1,596	2,684
Total Current Liabilities		1,596	2,684
NET ASSETS		79,820	44,834
REPRESENTED BY			
Restricted Funds		32,139	6,909
Designated Funds		31,046	21,050
Unrestricted Funds		16,635	16,875
		79,820	44,834

Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

NOTES

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charities SORP [FRS 102] Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted and designated purposes.

Grants and Funding

All grants received are subject to agreements and some which limit the specific manner in which they can be spent. The accounts disclose the receipt of grants from the relevant bodies, the manner in which the grants have been expended and the balance of any monies unspent at the accounting date.

2. Grants Received

The National Lottery	10,255
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3. Donations

General and Gasds Donations	904
Individual Donors & Friends Scheme	6,163
External Organisational Fundraising	3,350
Gift Aid receivable on donations	427
	10,844

4. Income from Charitable Activities

Grants	26,651
Library Services	1,511
Children's Activities	1,198
Community Newsletter	3,013
Art Exhibitions	1,309
Groups	2,648
Book Sales	1,878
Other	738
	38,946

5. Income from Other Trading Activities

Refreshments	6,278
Events	11,527
Retail Sales	433
Other	937
	19,175

Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Salary Costs	13,356
Newspapers, newsletter & publications	4,955
Website, Wifi & Telephone	1,963
Licences	410
Utilities	4,379
Repairs & Renewals	1,623
Furniture & Equipment	1,722
Cleaning & Refuse	3,040
Art Exhibitions	693
Insurance, Fire & Security	717
Children's Activities	262
Other	3,019
	36,139

7. Expenditure on Other Activities

Refreshments	2,239
Events & Activities	3,051
Retail (cards, jewellery)	176
Porch Project	2,340
Other	289
	8,095

8. Staff and Trustee Costs

The charity employed one member of staff during the year on a part-time basis.

Trustees were not remunerated by the charity.

Total expenses of £0 were reimbursed to trustees during the year.

9. Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are included at cost. Items are capitalised if their cost or, if gifted their donated value, is over £500. Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation over their expected useful economic life.

Fixtures and Fittings

Cost as at 1 April 2024	10,252
Additions	0
Cost as at 31 March 2025	10,252
Depreciation as at 1 April 2024	4,974
Charge for the year	2,276
Depreciation as at 31 March 2025	7,250
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2025	3,002

10. Prepayments

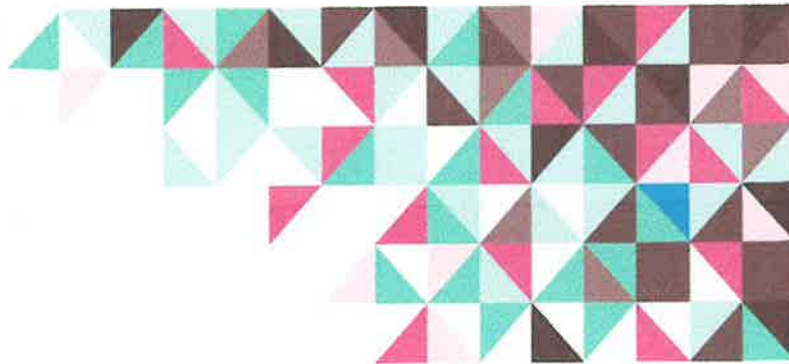
Prepayments	334
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Buckby Library & Hub

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

11. Accruals & Income in Advance	
Income in Advance	175
Accruals	1,421
	1,596
 12. Restricted Reserves	
Grants b/f	6,909
Grants received	39,156
Grants used	13,926
Restricted Reserves c/f	32,139
 13. Designated Reserves	
Designated Reserves b/f	21,050
Received, allocated	12,785
Funds used	2,789
Designated Reserves c/f	31,046

Rhoda Thomas
Bookkeeping Ltd



10th December 2025

Dear Jo,

I can confirm that I have reviewed the library accounts, and the bank statements provided.

I can confirm that I have found no anomalies, and I am confident in the balances and the information provided.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhoda Thomas." with a small flourish at the end.

Rhoda Thomas