



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2025

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ABOUT THE CHARITY

Our mission is to put a smile on the faces of disadvantaged children in the Reading area.

Our aim is to bring a little joy into the lives of children and families living with poverty, physical, mental, sexual, alcohol or drug abuse, illness, disability, domestic violence, homelessness or refugee status.

We work through schools, social workers, health visitors, places of worship and other charities and charitable organisations.

We distribute toys at Christmas to children aged 0-16 through our Toys & Teens Appeal.



Where our funds permit, we also provide outings throughout the year for children and their families who couldn't afford to go otherwise. These may be to a theme park, the seaside, a zoo or a farm park; they may also be to local activity centres and adventure playgrounds, theatres and cinemas.

CHAIR'S REPORT

My final year as chair. What can I say? My trepidation at the end of last year without a vice-chair was eventually allayed as Anna stepped forward into the role. So, it's been a very successful year. June began with two fundraising events. The Winnersh Fete was hampered by windy weather whereas the following week, our first attendance at the East Reading Festival in Palmer Park, it was balmy. Both generated income for us and also lots of interest from people who hadn't heard of us before. We met the mayor of Reading, Cllr Glen Dennis and warned him we would meet again for the Toys & Teens Appeal later in the year.



Ruth, Laura and Wendy meeting the Mayor of Reading, Cllr Glen Dennis, at the East Reading Festival

A great surprise was Procter & Gamble becoming a Sponsor. They donated £3,000 to us and held an event that Ruth (Fundraising manager) and Laura (Toys & Teens Appeal manager), were able to attend.

July proved to be another great month for sponsorship. BH&P, a local Reading creative marketing company, challenged themselves to raise £1,000 by walking 1,000 miles in July culminating in a walk from Marlow to Henley for many of the staff.

We were also delighted to announce that TrustID had chosen Reading Family Aid as their first official charity partner!

TrustID is a business specialising in identity document validation services which has grown and developed in Reading over the last ten years, and we're very happy they have chosen to support us as a local charity.

And finally in July, we were delighted to receive the Safe & Sound Governance Certificate from Reading Voluntary Action. Safe and Sound is a quality award developed by RVA that is locally relevant, credible and achievable. It provides Reading's charities with the confidence that they have met a fundamental level of good governance. The primary goal of Safe and Sound is to ensure that trustees have implemented relevant safeguards to protect themselves, the charity, and its beneficiaries, while also fulfilling their core responsibilities. Various committee members, especially Jo, spent a lot of time on this. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Herjeet Randhawa and everyone at Reading Voluntary Action for their unwavering support during our journey to achieve this prestigious award.



It was now time for our summer outings and we started off with a trip to Beale Park Wildlife Trust, followed by Camp Mohawk, a site which specialises in activities for children on the Autistic spectrum. We were grateful to The Berkshire Nurses & Relief in Sickness Trust and The Reading Dispensary Trust who each made a donation of £600 towards this outing.



On the way to an adventure at Camp Mohawk

There were also two coach trips to Bournemouth, plus a visit to Odds Farm Park. This was appreciated by the children and their parents; as one mum told us *"I cannot thank you enough for today, we definitely needed to get out the four walls of home. You won't ever know how much this means to us as a family."*

Our fundraising continued as we took our annual slot at Earley Green Fair and were visited by the mayor of Earley, Mike Smith. BH&P also achieved their target of £1000 by walking 1000 miles. We were also pleased to hear that Procter & Gamble continued to support us with a staff family fun day where they raised £881.



The Mayor of Earley, Mike Smith, and Wendy at the Earley Green Fair

As charities support us, so were we able to support them. In September, RFA had an information stall at St Barnabas Centenary celebrations. St Barnabas hold a Christmas Toy Service and have for many years made an annual donation.

Another celebration we attended was the 40th anniversary of Homestart. A charity we support with toys and outings.

It was now time for the annual Toys & Teens Appeal. This was launched in October by the mayor of Reading, Cllr Glen Dennis. As ever, we were very grateful to our Appeal sponsors – the *Reading Chronicle*, Caversham Van Hire, the Berkshire Masons, Big Yellow and St Luke’s Church. Without the publicity provided by the *Chronicle* and the generous donation of toys by the Masons, not to mention the general public, there would be many sad faces on Christmas morning. One child told us *“I woke on Christmas day and Father Christmas came. I got presents in a sack which I knew came from Father Christmas, as my mummy had told me she couldn’t get us any this year.”*

We also received a large donation of toys from Kids in Mind.



Sheila helping to unload the toys kindly delivered by Gordon of Kids In Mind

In November, St Andrew's Church, Caversham, adopted us as their charity of the year. They launched with their Autumn Fair. Later on in June, Ruth spoke at their annual church council meeting and Wendy spoke to the Mothers' Union.

As well as offering us their hall for Toy Week, St Luke's held a concert in December which raised even more money for us.

And so, the Toys & Teens Appeal was over for another year. 2,509 children received at least four gifts each on Christmas morning thanks to the generosity of the people of Reading. A special "thank you" must go all the volunteers who helped to sort and pack during the week, to the RFA committee, who with their experience helped make things run smoothly and not forgetting our Appeal manager, Laura, whose calming influence got us to the end of the week. This was rounded off with our celebratory meal held at Loddon Brewery this year. Proper Kitchen pulled out all the stops to make it a wonderful evening, despite the cold.



Some of our brilliant volunteers and "Van Men" enjoying dinner at the Loddon Brewery

The New Year started with the annual trip to the Pantomime at the Hexagon, this year it was Cinderella. This was the relaxed performance most suited to the children. We were then able to look forward to our publicity manager Charlie, entering the Reading Half Marathon in March. She completed the run in just over 2 hours and raised £410 for us. In April The Small Strings Ukulele Band held a fundraising gig for us The Club at Mapledurham.



The Small Strings Ukulele Band performing for us at The Club at Mapledurham

BH&P again raised money for us by entering a 5K Tough Mudder event.

More financial donations were received when Ruth accepted a cheque for £875 from the Berkshire County indoor Bowls Association and Wendy received a cheque from Thames Valley Flower Club for £700.

Finally for the period covered in this report, we were able to offer Easter Eggs via events organised by Brighter Futures for Children for looked-after children. We received this lovely message *“Thank you to Reading Family Aid who donated Easter eggs for all young people that attended the Participation events over the Easter holidays. The Children in Care and Care Leavers say thank you and they enjoyed their eggs.”*

And so, as I said at the beginning, another successful year both financially and in supporting so many children in various ways.

The committee has been lucky to attract some more new enthusiastic members, Vicky and Mia, who can help lighten the load. We have several members planning to retire or at least step back in the coming year.

It has been a pleasure to chair RFA for a second time and I wish Anna all the best as she takes over from me in July. I know she will have the backing of all the committee and myself as I will still be active in the charity as it is very close to my heart.

Wendy Howell

June 2025

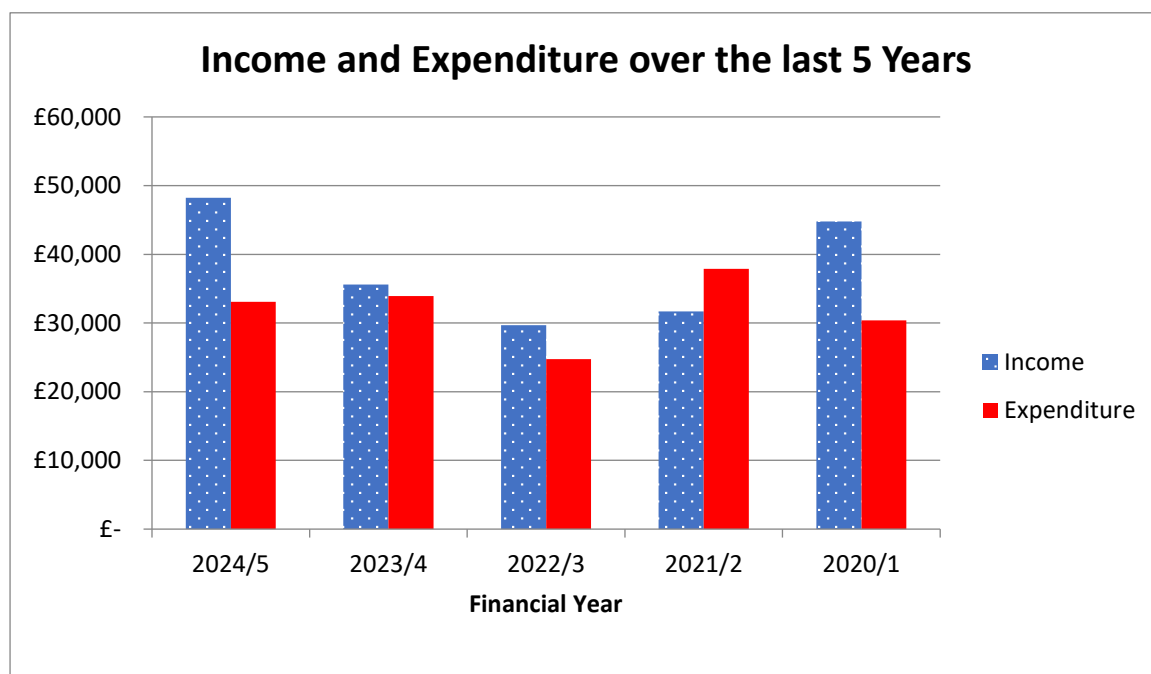
FINANCIAL REPORT: Reading Family Aid Group 2024/5

1. Summary

Total income and expenditure are set out in the table below. Further information is provided in sections 2 and 3 and the Income and Expenditure report overleaf.

	2024/5 £	2023/4 £	Change £
Total income	48,231.61	36,599.10	11,632.51
Total expenditure	33,062.04	33,923.47	-861.43
Surplus	15,169.57	2,675.63	1,2493.94

At the end of April 2025 there was a bank balance of £48,401.09 (April 2024 £33,231.52).



2. Income

Total income in 2024/5 was £48,231.61, £11,632.51 higher than the previous year.

Donations included £3,000 from Gillette's Community Impact Program, together with £881 from their Summer Charity Event. TrustID nominated RFA as a Charity Partner donating £4,000 during this financial year. The Pears Foundation selected RFA as one of 20 small charities to bring Christmas cheer to children & families, donating £3,000.

St Andrews Church in Caversham adopted RFA as their charity to support this year and donated £1,258.59 from their Tea Party. BHP organised a sponsored walk on our behalf and raised over £1,200.

The Thames Valley Flower Club supported us again this year with a £700 donation.

Berkshire Indoor Bowls Club fundraised over the winter months for RFA and donated £875.

The John Sykes foundation provided £1,000 for Christmas Toys for older children.

A Christmas GoFundMe appeal together with many more generous donations from local businesses, schools, churches, many individuals and gift aid provided further income. Donations received in memory of a committee member totalled £346

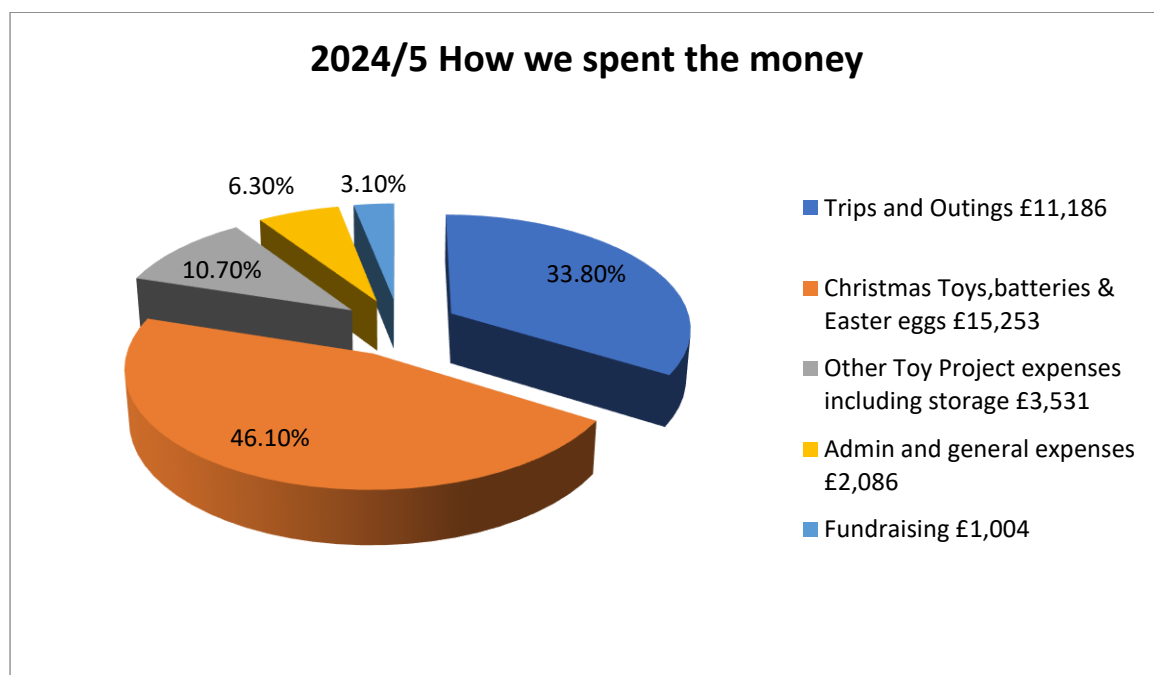
Funding for trips was provided by The Reading Dispensary Trust and Berkshire Nurses for Camp Mohawk (£600 each); St James's Place Newbury Foundation Grant for the Christmas Pantomime visit (£2,277); and the Masons for the autumn trip to Chessington and Thorpe Park (£3,355)

Fundraising by the committee brought in another £1,958 via car boot sales, local fetes and sale of goods. The very successful Small Strings concert evening at The Club at Mapledurham brought in £2,282. Charlie ran the Reading half Marathon raising over £400. Wendy and her husband donated £50 per month towards the storage facility, Laura's father-in-law donated his Reading Community Lottery winnings twice and other committee members or their families made individual donations or matched funding with their employer.

A huge thank you to all our supporters.

3. Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2024/5 was £33,062.04, £861.43 less than in 2023/4. The detail is below:



Christmas Toy Project expenditure

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Toys and batteries	15,193.96	15,733.25	-539.29
Contribution for use of hall	350.00	350.00	-
Labels, bags, publicity and stationery	684.58	542.17	142.41
Van insurance, travel and fuel	421.11	345.56	75.55
Food for helpers	71.66	48.65	23.01
Storage	2004.32	854.70	1,149.62
Total	18,725.63	17,874.33	851.30

Storage expenses increased over 2023/4 (by £1,149) due to the need to store excess toys at Big Yellow for the full year.

Trips and Activities Expenditure

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Caversham Lakes	-	1,244.00	-1,244.00
Coach /(s) to Bournemouth and expenses	1,788.22	2,310.58	-522.36
Chessington/Thorpe Park	3,355.00	3,360.00	-5.00
Beale Park	1,031.50		1031.50
Camp Mohawk	1,260.00	1,145.00	115.00
Panto	2,281.00	3,956.00	-1675.00
Easter Outing to Odds Farm	1,471.10	1,204.80	266.30
Total	11,186.82	13,220.38	-2,033.56

Outings in 2024/5 cost £11,186.82, £2,033 less than 2023/4. Pantomime tickets were all purchased for relaxed performances (saving £1,675 over the previous year), and the trips to Bournemouth took place in good weather so no further costs were incurred for additional entertainment due to inclement weather. (2023/4 £ 480.58 for the Oceanarium).

Admin and General Expenses

	2024/5	2023/4	Change
	£	£	£
Postage, Stationery, Phone	274.88	349.43	-74.55
Website & email service	421.93	417.61	4.32
Room Hire	44.00	45.00	-1.00
Liability Insurance	499.14	472.34	26.80
Fundraising Expenses	1,004.00	54.00	950.00
Admin subscriptions	514.88	435.88	79.00
Committee Training	60.00	33.00	27.00
Equipment purchases	271.56	0	271.56
Total	3,090.39	1,807.26	1,283.13

After success in the recent charity ballot, fundraising expenses in 2024/5 include the entry fee in April 2026 for 2 places in the London Marathon (£960)

Equipment purchase in 2024/5 includes weights for the gazebo (£157.20), vinyl to customise tops (£35.96) and lanyards (£78.40) for committee members.

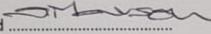
READING FAMILY AID GROUP
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL 2025

INCOME:		Year ended 30th April 2025		Year ended 30th April 2024
Donations				
	General (including Toy Project and Gift Aid)	£	35,642.27	£ 32,163.82
Funding				
	Berkshire Nurses for Camp Mohawk	£	600.00	
	Reading Dispensary for Camp Mohawk	£	600.00	
	St. James Place for Panto	£	2,277.00	
	Masons for Chessington/Thorpe Park	£	3,355.00	
	John Sykes Foundation - Toy project	£	1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
	Magic Little Grant (camp Mohawk)			£ 500.00
	Englefield Trust (Odds Farm trip)			£ 1,100.00
	Reading Lions (Giving Tree)			£ 1,000.00
		£	7,832.00	£ 3,600.00
Fundraising				
	Fairs, Car boot, textiles	£	1,492.77	£ 285.00
	Small Strings Concert	£	2,282.15	
		£	-	
Sale of Goods		£	465.00	£ 285.00
Other Income				
	Deposit Account Interest	£	517.42	£ 265.28
Total Income		£	48,231.61	£ 36,599.10
EXPENDITURE:				
	Toy Project : General expenses	£	1,367.02	£ 1,587.88
	Toy Project :Toys, Gifts and vouchers	£	15,193.96	£ 15,431.75
	Toy Project: Storage	£	2,004.32	£ 854.70
	Toy Project:Advertising	£	160.33	
	Pantomime	£	2,281.00	£ 3,956.00
	Summer / Autumn outings	£	6,174.72	£ 6,914.58
	Camp Mohawk outing	£	1,260.00	£ 1,145.00
	Easter Outing 2024	£	1,471.10	£ 1,204.80
	Easter Eggs for refugees	£	59.20	£ 210.00
	Birthday Celebrations			£ 811.50
	Fundraising exps : Marathon entry	£	1,039.96	
	Admin & general expenses	£	1,754.83	£ 1,807.26
	Equipment:Lanyards and Gazebo weights	£	295.60	
Total Expenditure		£	33,062.04	£ 33,923.47
Surplus/(deficit-) of income over expenditure		£	15,169.57	£ 2,675.63

Reading Family Aid Group Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2025 £	As at 30 April 2024 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	1,589.96	2,890.43
Barclays Deposit Account	46,658.51	30,341.09
Paypal Account	152.62	-
Total Assets	48,401.09	33,231.52
Funds at beginning of year	33,231.52	30,555.89
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	15,169.57	2,675.63
Funds at end of year	48,401.09	33,231.52

Prepared by: Mrs S. Marson, Treasurer

Signed 

Dated 31.5.25

Notes to the accounts

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Total funds at the end of April 2025 are £48,401.09. These are all unrestricted. A large part of these funds will be used to finance trips, Christmas Toy project and ongoing expenses in the financial year ending 30th April 2026

Reserves Policy

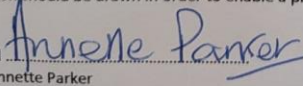
The trustees aim to keep sufficient unrestricted funds to cover a year of essential expenditure. This includes insurance, admin expenses and toy project expenses as well as a further buffer to cover any unexpected expenses. The reserve amount is set to be £5,000

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2025. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Dated 26/6/25
Mrs Annette Parker

TRUSTEES

Chair: Wendy Howell

Vice Chair: Anna Gilbert

Secretary: Laura Windisch

Treasurer: Sue Marson

Others: Charlotte McLean
Vivienne Simpson

CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Governing Document:

Reading Family Aid Group operates in accordance with its constitution adopted on 21 April 1993, as amended on 16 June 2004, 19 July 2016, 4 March 2021 and 11th Jan 2024

UK Charity Commission registration number: 1022144

Charity Commission for England and Wales Public Benefit Guidance:

The trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity Registered Address:

61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7EX

Bankers:

Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner:

Ms Annette Parker

