Groby Community Library Statement of Income & Expenditure Year Ending 31st January 2026

INCOME

Lottery Community Funding	5000.00
Regular Income	
Café Income	14623.85
Library Income	1291.41
Interest on Zettle/95 Day Accounts	279.19
Donations thru card system	56.00
Bradgate Rotary Club	87.50
Scarecrow Festival Donation	204.51
Events	1575.41
VE Day/Scarecrow Celebration	
Cake/Book Sale/Craft Events	
Chrisrtmas Lights	
Glass Fusion Workshop	
Room Hire	60.00
Key Safe/HMRC Refund	157.00
TOTAL INCOME	**23334.87**

EXPENDITURE

Utilities	
Energy (Gas/Electricity)	3219.76
Water	461.66
Insurance (Public Liability)	281.48
Premises	
Cleaning Contract	2135.04
Window Cleaning	170.00
LCC Waste Collection	187.33
LCC Security Charges	211.99
ADT Alarm & Maintenance	1553.62
Door Maintenance	98.14
Emergency Lighting	327.02
Boiler Service	250.78
CCTV Contract	240.00
Library Expenditure	
Library Maintenance	755.22
Wall Mural	836.00
Bradgate Rotary Calendars	175.00
Email Host Website	68.25
Library Equipment/Admin	836.99
Volunteer Catering	165.89
Café Expenditure	
Café Cakes	2790.23
Café Consumables	3811.95
Café Equipment	58.77
Workshops & Events	190.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**18825.92**

FUNDS HELD BY GCLG

Balance Bank Account 31/01/2026	1902.74
Zettle Instant Access Account	18393.00
95 Day Notice Account	5069.44
Total Funds	25365.18
End of Year total as at 31/01/2025	20856.27
Increase in Funds	**4508.95**

These accounts have been accepted as a true and accurate statement of Groby Community Library Group finances for year ending 31 January 2026

Signed ……..

Groby Community Library Group

Chairperson's report, May 2026

Welcome to the annual report of the work of Groby Community Library from June 2025 until May 2026. The big event of the past year has been the attainment of the tenth year of the library as a volunteer-run service so this is a decade report as well as an annual one as we build on the work of ten years. In April 2016 a small group of unpaid trustees took over the running of the village's public library with the help of local volunteers who staffed the counters and kept the book stock in a presentable condition, encouraging our members to continue to use the library, rather than decamp to the "big" libraries like Glenfield, Loughborough or the City of Leicester.

Did we succeed in our task? Really it hasn't been in much doubt, as the service has developed, from strength to strength. We knew that Leicestershire County Council's initial financial grants would be limited, and so somehow we would have to find funding to keep the building operating. That's where the café came in and it has proved a brilliant investment in terms of a steady income but also as a valued community facility, well-used every day.

We initially opened the library for twenty hours a week, limited by the number of volunteers. Now, with our thirty library volunteers and twelve café people we are open for

twenty-one hours plus extra services like Cuppa and Company, our free drop-in for a hot drink and cake used by some of our more senior neighbours to meet and chat, and at the other end of the spectrum, this year's new development of weekly visits from classes at Martinshaw School. This has been a great success, with teachers reporting students who are now engaging with reading for the first time, after spending an hour browsing with their friends.

We have "grown" other groups along the way, too. Wriggly Readers has been a perennially popular hour for preschool children and their parents, when they can listen to stories and sing songs. Their mums enjoy the chance for a coffee and chat in the café after too!

Construction Club on Wednesday afternoons after school has grown into a phenomenally popular attraction, as kids flock in to play with a popular Scandinavian building toy which I can't name for copyright reasons. Our knitting group on Fridays has transformed into another place to chat (a lot of chatting goes on in our café) and now to play cards and other games.

The County Council continues to keep a benevolent eye on us, providing regular injections of new stock, help with repairs and our helpful liaison officer and hub to put us straight when we're flummoxed by the library management system or anything else.

The people of Groby have stayed with us over this year, whether in using the library or in using the café. We have counted in an incredible 12,662 people in the past year. Library users borrowed 11,353 books, down from 15,324 the year before, although the new Axiell library management system apparently counts our statistics in a different way to the old Workflows system, giving lower figures. There are indeed lies and statistics… As well as all these people we were visited three or four times by seven classes from Martinshaw School with an estimated total of around 645 children, and 97 children started our Summer Reading Challenge, with 53 completing it.

Special events included an author visit from Roxanne Dinsdale and a glass fusion craft event, but also our 10th anniversary Library Festival on April 25th, where we counted 160 people in the library (not all at once, fortunately) plus literally unnumbered more out in the car park and in the village hall. The highlight was a talk from bestselling crime writer TM Logan and Groby's own children's writer Catherine Ward reading her books and leading activities. We also had our famous cake and book sales, a fancy dress competition, book bag decoration, Wriggly Readers, Harry Potter in Lego, board games, a raffle, a tombola drawing and writing competitions and probably other things that I have no recollection of. Everyone had a Jolly Good Time, including our local MP and the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. As part of the

celebrations, we also had a village vote for Groby's favourite books (The Narnia Chronicles, Lord of the Rings and Ink, by Alice Broadway, since you asked) and a month-long fines amnesty. Oh, and this year saw the final completion of our fabulous mural by Nicola Wood.

We have a lot of people to be thankful to, especially our regular customers who make it all very much worthwhile. We remember some regular supporters who are no longer with us, especially John Thornton who always had the library's interests at heart, even coming to AGMs! I could name about fifty volunteers who give their time freely to keep us going but I shall limit myself to Sheila Plummer in her first year as café manager and fellow trustees John, Roz, Sue and Jane; Karen, who did most of the heavy lifting for the 10th anniversary festival and Hilary who has run Wriggly Readers. Mandy Sohanpal, our LCC liaison person has been always there for help and advice. Even as I type this, I can think of many more who have gone above and beyond what has been asked of them. I am exceedingly grateful to all of them. We should also thank Groby Parish Council, the National Lottery and Give as you Live for financial donations and the LCC Section 106 money that bought us some new stock above our usual supply

The next 12 months

As with every AGM, our overriding aim is to maintain the library and its volunteer staff in a continuing service of a high standard to the people of Groby. This partly depends on our main supplier and partner, Leicestershire County Libraries, but as far as the trustees of Groby Community Library are concerned, we undertake to do all we can to provide the village with a public library, a community hub and a great meeting place in the shape of the library café. In its turn the café supports us financially to ensure that all of this happens.

Our first task upon reaching the magic tenth anniversary has been to renew our lease with the LCC for another ten years. We have already begun this process, which can apparently be somewhat drawn out.

At last year's AGM we expressed some concern about changes in our local government and the upcoming alternative café that was about to open in the village. So far, these fears have proved to be unfounded, for which we are very grateful. The trustees undertake to continue to monitor the situation we work in, but we still need to find two or three new trustees to protect our ongoing management of Groby Community Library. We are fortunate in having a full complement of library volunteers at the moment.

In all areas we will be "watching this space" to find ways to improve our library offer to the people of Groby.

Dave Robinson