CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Friends of Church Stretton Library	

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01.04.25		31.03.26

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Events	4,445	-	-	4,445	5,227
Donations	7,001	-	-	7,001	9,203
Gift Aid	1,207	-	-	1,207	1,055
Grant	900	-	-	900	470
Interest	534	-	-	534	468
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	14,087	-	-	14,087	16,423
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
		-	-		
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	14,087	-	-	14,087	16,423
A3 Payments					
Cost of events	1,403	-	-	1,403	1,244
Postage & Stationery	96	-	-	96	25
Publicity	16	-	-	16	-
Repairs & Renewals	120	-	-	120	-
Insurance	383	-	-	383	383
Miscellaneous	80	-	-	80	176
Grants to Library	7,238	-	-	7,238	3,135
Bank Charges	9	-	-	9	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9,345	-	-	9,345	4,963
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,345	-	-	9,345	4,963
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,742	-	-	4,742	11,460
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,958	-	-	38,958	27,498
Cash funds this year end	43,700	-	-	43,700	38,958

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Bank Account Current	20,461	-	-
	Cash In Hand	21	-	-
	Bank Account Savings	23,218	-	-
	Total cash funds	43,700	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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)
VIC Book stands	unrestricted	-	-
	u	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

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

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report from 01/04/25 to 31/3/26

Charity name: Friends of Church Stretton Library
Charity registration number: 1182554

1.Objects & Activities

1.1 Purpose

- 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.

1.2 Main Activities

Our activities in pursuit of these objects include:

- 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.

1.3 Statement on Public Benefit

- The library can better meet the needs of the community
- Residents have more opportunities to engage in educational & social activities that bring people together, support lifelong learning and improve physical and emotional well-being
- Volunteers benefit from opportunities to engage in active citizenship and be involved in community life.
- Library staff work in collaboration with the local community, leading to a more stable and cohesive community

In pursuing these activities, trustees have followed the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

1.4 Contribution made by volunteers

We have a large and active corps of volunteers who support our work in several ways:

- 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).
- Putting up posters and distributing other forms of publicity to advertise such events.
- Proofreading publicity materials and articles.
- Raising funds through tabletop sales, stalls at charity fairs and other venues.

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.

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.

2) Achievements and Performance

2.1 Grant making

We make grants to the library to improve and enhance its service**.** In 25/26 this included funding for:

Reading Well for Families - books to support family wellbeing during pregnancy and the early years

Warm Hub - kitchen equipment and trolley, games, activities so the library could provide a Warm and Welcoming Hub throughout the year

A-frame - to promote the Visitor Information Centre

Cupboard - to help house local history collection

Felt Christmas tree - fun activity for toddlers attending Rhyme Time and Story Time

2.2 Events

We ran various events with educational and cultural content to cover a broad range of interests and involving other community organisations.

These included:

- talk by the Stretton Area Wildlife group about the swifts who return to Church Stretton each summer;
- talk by Sarah Appleby about how she makes local Appleby cheese using traditional methods
- PH D Research study on Ageing Well in Church Stretton
- talk by the 'Upper Onny farmers group' who work together on the Shropshire Hills to improve the environment, the landscape and its wildlife in ways that are integral to profitable farm businesses and ran a quiz evening.

We also put on a professional storytelling show by John Osborne, working with Arts Alive, a charity dedicated to bringing high-quality arts and cultural experiences to rural communities across Shropshire, Herefordshire, and surrounding areas..

2.3 Visitor Information Centre

With the help of volunteers, we continued to open the Visitor Information Centre two days a week, when the library is normally closed. 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.

2.4. Working with the local community

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.

The talks we offer working with other community groups and the production of the calendar 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.

3 Financial Review

3.1 Accounts

Our principal source of income is from donations from residents and profit made from running events. This year, we generated a total income of £12,683 which is less than the previous year, when we received two very generous individual donations. Income from regular donations and fundraising activities remained similar as in previous years. We claimed £1207 in Gift Aid on donations and earned £533 interest on the savings account. Our administrative costs for the year remained low at £704, which includes cost of insurance.

We spent £7,238 on the library and two events for local children and young people.

This left us with a balance of £43,700 in the bank at year end of which £ 23,218 is in a high interest savings account. We are planning to improve library facilities for events in 26/27 by installing an overhead digital projector and speakers.

3.2 Reserves Policy

We have put aside £10,000 for library spend for the next two years and £5,000 into our General Reserve. This leaves £28,700 pounds available to spend on new projects.

3.3 Principal Risks

There had been uncertainty over the future of the library as Shropshire Council, which funds the library, is still having to make massive savings in its budget. In 2025 Shropshire Council sought additional funding from the Town Council to keep the library open. A three-year agreement is in place with the Town Council agreeing to contribute £20,000 a year. Friends have offered to help the Town Council raise funds to cover £5,000 of this. Shropshire Council remains in financial difficulties and might look for further savings in the next two years.

4 Structure, Governance and Management

We are a registered Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). Trustees are elected by members at the AGM for a three-year term. Our board of trustees meet once a month and our financial accounts and annual return are independently checked by a local accountant. We regularly meet with Church Stretton Library staff who advise us on how we can support their work.

4.1) Trustees

Trustees can also be coopted for a one-year term by committee of trustees between AGM's. People interested in becoming a trustee are invited to attend a few committee meetings so that they better understand the role. New trustees are provided with the charity commission document 'Welcome – you're a charity trustee' - and copies of the policies listed below which can also be found on our website:

- Data Protection
- Equality
- Financial
- Safeguarding
- Terms of Reference

5 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

5.1 Trustees

Trustee name	**Office (if any)**	**Dates acted if not for whole year**	**Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)**
Sheila Davies	Chair		
Beth Furlong	Secretary		
Margaret Quartly	Treasurer		
Ben Warren			
Inese Neilson			
Patricia Leslie Thomas		From 11 June 2025	
Madeline Haigh		Until 11th June 2025	

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)	Sheila Davies	Beth Furlong
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary

Date	18/08/2026