FRIENDS OF STREET LIBRARY

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT: APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026

Overview

This year has been one of both significant achievement and deep personal loss for the Friends of Street Library (FoStL). While we celebrated many achievements and maintained a vibrant community presence, we also mourned the sudden passing of our valued colleague and long-serving Treasurer, Peter Fry. Peter's dedication was instrumental to our success, and we are currently in the process of transitioning his responsibilities while honouring his memory.

Key Achievements and Activities

- **Summer Reading Challenge (SRC)**: The 2025 "Story Garden" challenge was another successful programme. Street achieved some of the best results in Somerset, with a high percentage of children completing the six-book challenge. We ran several activities to promote the challenge including a popular collaboration with the Glastonbury and Street Lions who provided several story sessions accompanied by Leroy the Lion
- **Community Events**: We maintained high visibility through events such as:
    - **Street's Festive Event**: A busy pitch at the Crispin Hall in December 2025. We shared a table in the hall with Sandy Baird whose pottery provided a big draw, helping us to promote our cause.
    - **Discover Your Community Event:** another event in the Crispin Hall in March 2026 allowed us to publicise the services provided by the library as well as sell many copies of the latest quiz.
    - **Community Inclusion and Activity Days:** volunteers from the Friends attended this annual event, providing Lego and Duplo activities for the children and promoting inclusive activities taking place in the library.
- **Library Enhancements**: We continued to provide daily newspapers, a service highly valued by users, particularly as a "warm space" during winter months. We purchased a small table and chairs for the Children's Library. We purchased new picture frames for the library space and organised for a children's group to provide some works of art to be displayed. We are hoping that we will be able to have a changing display of work by local groups.

Operational and Financial Update

- **Partnerships**: Negotiations for the renewal of the Community Library Partnership (CLP) contract are ongoing. A final version was expected by March 2026, however due to a few issues yet to be resolved, a temporary extension of our existing contract until the end of May has been signed and it is hoped that all issues will be resolved and the new contract signed by then.
- **Financial Health**: The charity maintains a healthy bank balance. However, we must now navigate the transition of treasury duties following Peter's death, with Marilyn Fletcher stepping in on an interim basis supported by Julie Hillman. We hope to be able to have a new treasurer in place very soon.

- **Volunteer Support**: Our team of 18 volunteers remains dedicated, covering two shifts daily from Monday to Friday. A number of successful volunteer social events have been held during the year to recognize their hard work.

Future Outlook and Challenges

- **Succession Planning**: This remains our most critical challenge. Our current committee is small, and there is an urgent need for new members and trustees to ensure the library's long-term future.
- **Upcoming Events**: We are excited to host a talk by the very popular Jo Middleton on June 1st, followed by well-known author Jasper Fforde on July 8th, 2026. It is hoped that additional author talks can be arranged before the autumn.
- **Development**: Plans for 2026 include ongoing efforts to improve library signposting within the village and the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. We are hoping that a new Literary Festival will be organised and the library can actively support some of the events.

I would like to end by expressing my sincere gratitude to each and every member of the Friends of Street Library, without you none of this would have been possible. I am especially grateful to all the Trustees and committee members who have pulled together to ensure that we have been able to continue, despite the loss of Peter Fry, it has certainly illustrated how much he did for us and how very much he is missed.

Sarah Ivory

Chair, Friends of Street Library

Friends of Street Library final accounts for the year 2025 - 2026

Income and expenditure for the year 6/4/25-5/4/26

Income		Expenditure	
Cash in bank 06/04/2025		Hall/facility hire	£18.00
		Stationery, postage etc	£12.66
Current Account	£7,588.68	Reading/writing challenges	£292.70
Cash in Hand	£88.62	Resources	£537.94
		Quiz prizes	£40.00
2026-27 subs paid early	£30.00	Insurance 22/05/2025	£154.56
subs since 06/04/2025	£1,237.00	Sundries	£17.80
Donations	£75.50	Refreshment costs	£10.00
Income from stalls/craft	£34.00	Newspaper donations	£750.77
Quiz sales	£242.00		
Item sales	£10.00		
Gift Aid	£0.00		
Newspaper donations etc	£64.94		
Total Income	*£1,693.44*	*Cash in Bank 05/04/2026*	
Total Expenditure	*£1,834.43*	Current account	£7,413.13
		cash in hand	£123.18
Deficit	*-£140.99*		
TOTAL	**£9,370.74**	**TOTAL**	**£9,370.74**

Signed Marilyn Fletcher (Interim Treasurer) M Fletcher Date: 11.5.26

Independent examiner's report

I have examined the above accounts of the Friends of Street Library for the period 06/04/2025 until 05/04/2026 (at the end of their normal accounting period) and compared them with the books and records of the charity. I confirm they are in accordance and therewith and with the explanations given.

Julie Hillman Julie Hillman

Date 11.05.26