

Annual Report for the period ended 31st March 2026

Registered Charity No: 1198148

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: The Old Library

Registered Charity Number: 1198148

Principal address: The Old Library
Skircoat Green Road
Halifax
HX3 0LQ

Trustees:

Helen Rosemary Verity	Chair	Appointed: 06 November 2025
Heather Rigg	Trustee	Appointed: 06 November 2025; Resigned 01 May 2026
Pamela Casson	Trustee	Appointed: 06 September 2023; Resigned 01 April 2026
Susan Renate Russell	Trustee	Appointed: 06 September 2023
Colin Hugh Hutchinson	Trustee	Appointed: 06 September 2023
Michael James Barnes	Trustee	Appointed: 14 November 2024
Rachel Mary Whitbread	Trustee	Appointed: 06 November 2025

Grant Moorhouse	Trustee	Appointed: 14 November 2024
Susan Herbert	Treasurer	Appointed: 06 September 2023
Heather Baim	Trustee	Appointed: 01 April 2026
Joanna Leighton	Trustee	Appointed: 01 April 2026
Lucy Helen Hope Parker	Trustee	Appointed: 09 September 2026

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the organisation as stated in its articles are:

1. To advance the education of the public by the promotion of the use of a public lending library service for the benefit of the residents of Skircoat Ward.

2. To promote or benefit the residents of Skircoat Ward, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents 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 and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to retain an important local building by generating income from it. The income will be used to develop it into a welcoming space that will serve the community, support learning and encourage neighborhood cohesion.

Strategic Aims

1. To retain a local library service.
2. To create a sustainable, not for profit organisation.
3. To provide a welcoming, well run community space for all generations.
4. To encourage local support and engagement, building a local sense of community.
5. To preserve and develop an historic and culturally valuable local building.
6. To create volunteering opportunities and work experience.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit when agreeing the Old Library's mission, aims and our service delivery principles. We have also borne this guidance in mind when setting our objectives to ensure that we correctly identify the intended beneficiaries of our work, make real difference and comply with our charitable objects at all times.

Achievements and Performance

Another year in our wonderful library has flown by, we've managed by hook or by crook to keep the doors open, all because of the amazing volunteers who give up their time, to keep the library running, the drinks flowing and the cakes baking!

The building looks stunning, with the new windows at the front and the well-kept gardens.

We sought funding to replace the side elevation windows and also to repair the leaking roof, which is a priority. We're pleased to report that Biffa has accepted our proposals and will help to fund the repairs and replacement windows.

In September 2026 this beautiful purpose built library will reach the ripe old age of 100 - what a true legacy for Skircoat Green, our very own community run library, going from strength to strength - at a time where everything around us is in chaos.

We have this amazing calm space to come into, read, borrow books, enjoy talks, meet new people, volunteer, bake cake for. The children's craft events and story times add a little noise but are a joy to see and be a part of and give the next generation a love of reading and community spirit.

We say goodbye to two wonderful trustees this year, Heather Rigg & Pam Casson, thank you to both for all your expertise, help, and for being part pf the original team who dreamt of keeping these library doors open, we did it together. Your fellow trustees hope you're both very proud to have been a part of this journey, and wish you both well with your future endeavours.

We're continuing the work on the extension plans which will allow us to have an accessible toilet, baby changing facilities and more floor space to house our group talks and events, all future proofing our wonderful community asset.

We have received and approved the architect drawings, have planning permission, and now await landlords consent and a myriad of other approvals.

We will also have to find the half a million pounds to fund it of course! If anyone has any spare cash, or would like to leave us a gift in your will, please let us know, we'll be launching a fundraising appeal in the near future to safeguard this library, and ensuring he building is fit for use for the next generation.

I cannot thank enough every single person who has volunteered, you are all amazing, generous with your time, your baking, your gardening, your IT, your trades, your marketing… the list of skills and abilities is endless. You are all part of this amazing library and the reason we are able to operate.

Please keep doing what you're doing, tell everyone about your library and how very special it is.

Here's to the next 100 years!

Many, many thanks

Helen Verity, Chair

Financial Review

The financial statements below show receipts and payments for the second year the library was open to the public from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

The accounts are very encouraging and show that income (excluding grants) has exceeded our plan by almost £12,000. Café receipts which includes income from craft events, story times and talks were £22,000.

Overheads are broadly in line with the plan with savings being made on DBS checks (not required) and cleaning (done by volunteers) amounting to £2,380. Professional fees were incurred relating to correspondence with Calderdale regarding the roof repairs, planning permission and costing the proposed building project. Capital expenditure included IT equipment and a new toilet.

The Charity has a policy which determines our level of reserves. The minimum level that the trustees deem to be prudent is £10,000. This is sufficient to cover one year of overheads should the library need to close and is unable to generate income at the present level. Actual reserves were £13,397 above this level at £23,397. Taking into account the planned development of the library building in the future the trustees feel that the building of reserves at the present time is necessary.

There is no monetary recognition in the accounts of the value given by our volunteers who worked shifts totalling around 3,500 hours in the year. The financial savings represented by this contribution alone amounts to approximately £46,000 using the living wage hourly rate.

Sue Herbert
Treasurer

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Old Library	1198148			CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the year	01-Apr-25	To	31-Mar-26

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £	Business Plan to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-		-	13,000	45,000
Fundraising events	-		-	758	1,000
Donations	3,335		3,335	2,505	1,000
Donations from The Old Library Café Ltd	22,008		22,008	12,425	5,522
Members' subscriptions	2,016		2,016	2,002	6,563
Gift Aid	1,460		1,460	1,501	-
Book sales	1,340		1,340	1,800	-
Room hire	950		950	820	5,000
Bank interest	191	-	191	37	-
Fines					300
Total receipts	31,300	-	31,300	34,848	64,385
A3 Payments					
Library system	1,224		1,224	1,200	555
Book purchases	896		896	878	2,500
DBS checks	-				280
Other library and event costs	1,346		1,346	1,750	
Electricity, Gas & Water	4,918		4,918	5,274	4,436
Rates	-		-	-	315
Insurance	1,352		1,352	1,616	788
Alarm systems, Wi-fi & Telephone	1,245		1,245	926	315
Service costs	637		637	679	1,470
Repairs and renewals	1,825		1,825	555	750
Cleaning	-		-		2,100
Professional fees	4,626		4,626	-	
Capital expenditure	3,061	1,100	4,161	12,927	28,200
Total payments	21,130	1,100	22,230	25,805	41,709
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,170	- 1,100	9,070	9,043	22,676
Cash funds last year end	13,227	1,100	14,327	5,284	11,946
Cash funds this year end	23,397	-	23,397	14,327	34,622

Structure, Governance and Management

The Old Library is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation incorporated on 7th March 2022 with charity number 1198148. In its structure it has both trustees and members with voting rights.

The governing document of the charity is its Constitution.

The appointment of charity trustees is laid down in the Constitution as follows:

(1) At the first annual general meeting of the members of the CIO all the charity trustees shall retire from office;

(2) At every [subsequent] annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;

(3) The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;

(4) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (5) of this clause;

(5) The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause [15] (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause [12(3)] on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded;

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

The charity does not hold any funds on behalf of others.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures	*HR Verity*	*S Herbert*
Full names	Helen Rosemary Verity	Susan Herbert
Position	Chair	Treasurer

Date	6th October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Old Library	1198148	CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01-Apr-25	To	31-Mar-26

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	-	-	-	13,000
Fundraising events	-	-	-	-	758
Donations	3,335	-	-	3,335	2,505
Donations fron The Old Library Café Ltd	22,008	-	-	22,008	12,425
Members' subscriptions	2,016	-	-	2,016	2,002
Gift Aid	1,460	-	-	1,460	1,501
Book sales	1,340	-	-	1,340	1,800
Room hire	950	-	-	950	820
Bank interest	191	-	-	191	37
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	31,300	-	-	31,300	34,848
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,300	-	-	31,300	34,848
A3 Payments					
Library system	1,224	-	-	1,224	1,200
Book purchases	896	-	-	896	878
DBS checks	-	-	-	-	
Other library and event costs	1,346	-	-	1,346	1,750
Electricity, Gas & Water	4,918	-	-	4,918	5,274
Rates	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	1,352	-	-	1,352	1,616
Alarm systems, Wi-fi & Telephone	1,245	-	-	1,245	926
Service costs	637	-	-	637	679
Repairs and renewals	1,825	-	-	1,825	555
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	
Professional fees	4,626			4,626	-
Capital expenditure	3,061	1,100	-	4,161	12,927
Sub total	21,130	1,100	-	22,230	25,805
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,130	1,100	-	22,230	25,805
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,170	- 1,100	-	9,070	9,043
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,227	1,100	-	14,327	5,284
Cash funds this year end	23,397	-	-	23,397	14,327

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank - deposit	22,178	-	-
	Bank - current	1,007	-	-
	Cash	212	-	-
	Total cash funds	23,397	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		650	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
H Verity	Helen Verity	6th October 2026
S Herbert	Sue Herbert	6th October 2026

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Old Library Community Charity, number 1198148

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable entity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102)].

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

Signed

Martin Simm

Martin Simm
06 October 2026

2 Bayswater Terrace
Skircoat Green
Halifax
HX3 0NB