



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2022

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CONTENTS

ABOUT THE CHARITY	3
CHAIR'S REPORT	4
FINANCIAL REPORT	7
TRUSTEES	12
CHARITY COMMISSION & GOVERNING DOCUMENTS	13

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 and drug abuse, illness, disability, 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

Overview

Thanks to our supporters, sponsors, partners and especially to all our amazing members of Reading Family Aid, we have had another successful year bringing smiles to children's faces.

We have proved that with our tenacity and diligence we can tackle any challenges we face.

This was my first year as chair and it was an honour to have this responsibility.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and celebrations

We have been very thrilled to be honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

We celebrated this award together at our last AGM with a special cake.

In September, the then Reading's Mayor Cllr David Stevens met with some from our committee to congratulate us.

Berkshire community foundation invited us for a celebratory afternoon tea at Ascot Racecourse. This was attended by Duke of Wessex who thanked all the volunteers for the work done during covid pandemic. Laura and Sallie attended this afternoon tea on behalf of Reading Family Aid.

We received the award on October 7th at Reading Town Hall from Mr James Puxley, the Lord Lieutenant of Royal County of Berkshire.

We were also invited to Queens Garden party held in May 2022.

Summer

Our summer was jam packed this year.

A wide variety of outings were arranged. They were enjoyed by all age groups and ranged from adventure filled rock climbing and canoeing to a relaxed day at the beach in Caversham lakes, a fun day at play rangers and our all-time favourite Camp Mohawk.

Thanks to Vivienne and team for arranging these outings.

We have started to use online forms for booking onto our events.

We also drafted up a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sign with our partner organisations. This MoU helps us to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of

Reading Family Aid and the partner organisation in respect of working with each other to deliver Outings and Events

We also did a summer toy project this year.

Christmas Toy Project

The number of children in need of our support has been on a steady increase in the last few years.

We have successfully delivered a highly efficient toy project with less resources and supported more children. Special thanks to Laura's grit and diligence, hard work of our purchasing elves Sallie, Ruth, Roz and Wendy, and to Sue, David and Vivienne for keeping our accounts in check throughout the project. Thanks to VanMen and all the volunteers who helped with our Christmas toy project.

We have supported 2558 children in Reading this year with our Christmas Toys and Teens Appeal.

Reading's Mayor Rachel Eden and a lot of local companies supported our appeal.

We distributed donated toys and bought toys online as part of our Toy Project. We used more of online forms and streamlined the overall process. A training was given to RFA members having to use the online forms.

The donated toys were sorted and packed into sacks of several age ranges. The requestors who received these sacks sorted and distributed them to families. We carried out a feedback survey and requestors were largely happy with our new approach and happy to continue sorting the toys to families themselves.

We want to take these learnings to future toy projects as this would help us support more children in future.

Publicity and Fundraising

All our success would not be possible without our fantastic and talented publicity team – Thanks to Charlie, Anna, Krista and Maria. Our newsletters, blogs and appeals were very engaging. You have helped spread the word of our good work and bring this community closer together.

Thanks to our fundraising team for all the good work they do with our supporters and sponsors.

We have had the pleasure of working with Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge school. Our team went over to MECE school to inspire the young minds to come up with fundraising ideas they could organise. A very positive outcome overall to have these students interested in community charity.

On Mother's Day, Glass Ensemble, an all-female choir, held a concert at St Barnabas Church in Emmer Green and the retiring collection was donated to our charity.

Accounting and Admin

Sue stepped in as our new treasurer and did an amazing job. David and Sue did a diligent job keeping our accounts in check. Sue updated our bank mandates this year as per our new roles.

Wendy was my absolute rock as vice chair.

Special thanks to Laura for being the secretary and enduring all the work that the role brings.

Thanks to Ruth for providing valuable guidance and insight with her expertise and experience.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Summary

The accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022 reflect the continuing uncertainty of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Reading Family Aid's activities.

Social distancing and possible lockdown regulations meant that a normal Toy Project, using volunteers to sort and distribute toys was not feasible. A GoFundMe fundraising appeal was again launched and a reduced number of donated toys were collected. Additional toys were purchased and delivered direct.

The Charity Commission approved the Cy-Pres scheme for the excess income from the 2020/21 Toy and Teens appeal to be used for toys in subsequent years. This was used for toys purchased during the summer 2021 and the rest for the Christmas Toy Project.

Outings were arranged to local venues rather than involving longer journeys in coaches.

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

	2021/22	2020/21	Change
	£	£	£
Total income	31,708.37	44,778.54	(13,070.17)
Total expenditure	(37,877.64)	(30,387.30)	(7,490.34)
Surplus/(deficit)	(6,169.27)	14,391.24	20,560.51

2. Income

The main components of income are set out in the table below.

Income	2021/22	2020/21	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
General/toy project donations	30,372.82	40,183.62	(9,810.80)
Local Giving donations	946.89	1,351.09	(404.20)
Fundraising and other	306.58	243.83	62.75
Funding	-	3,000.00	(3000.00)
Sale of goods	82.08	-	82.08
Total	31,708.37	44,778.54	(13,070.17)

Total income in 2021/22 was £31,708.37, £13,080.17 lower than the previous year.

General/toy project monetary donations were £9,810.80 lower than the previous year. This includes £22,272.63 raised to purchase toys and gifts for the 2021 Toy Project. (£31,550.59 was raised for the 2020 Toy Project). The excess income from 2020 Toy and Teens appeal was also available to purchase toys via the Cy-Pres scheme.

Donations through Local Giving were £404.20 lower, as again, we used a GoFundMe fundraising page for the Toys and Teens appeal.

No funding was received in 2021/22. Last year £3,000 was received from the Toy Trust.

Fundraising and other income decreased by £1,135.70 to £243.83. No fundraising activities were arranged in 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic uncertainties.

3. Expenditure

The main components of expenditure are set out in the table below.

Expenditure	2021/22	2020/21	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
Toy project	24,241.46	21,207.28	3,034.18
Summer toys	5,431.10	4,480.20	950.90
Toy Trust and other toys	-	3,026.13	(3,026.13)
Summer outings	3,072.00	-	3,072.00
Pantomime	2,342.00	-	2,342.00
Camp Mohawk	675.00	-	675.00
Easter 2022 Outing	941.65	-	941.65
Room hire/storage	81.77	986.88	(905.11)
Liability insurance	502.94	468.16	34.78
Other	589.72	218.65	371.07
Total	37,877.64	30,387.30	7,490.34

Total expenditure in 2021/22 was £37,877.64, £7,490.34 higher than the previous year. We spent funds on purchasing toys at both Christmas and during the summer.

We spent £4,688.65 on outings and £2,342 on the pantomime, neither of which were possible in the previous year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Room hire/storage was £905.11 lower than the previous year. The storage unit was

kindly donated and only insurance costs were incurred for a few weeks.

Further information on the Toy Project expenditure is provided in the table below. Again, we raised funds to purchase toys which were delivered directly by the supplier. We also had some toys donated, which were sorted and delivered mainly by our own committee to ensure social distancing. Increased requests meant that we spent £3,099.32 more on toys, gifts and batteries than the previous year.

Toy Project expenditure	2021/22	2020/21	Increase/ (decrease)
	£	£	£
Toys, gifts, and batteries	23,697.21	20,597.89	3,099.32
Contribution for use of hall	250.00	250.00	-
Labels, rubber bands and stationery	67.06	114.23	(47.17)
Bags for delivery	-	150.00	(150.00)
Van insurance, travel and fuel	224.19	95.16	129.03
Food for helpers	3.00	-	3.00
Total	24,241.46	21,207.28	3,034.18

4. Funds

The movement in funds is set out in the table below.

In normal times, a significant proportion of our expenditure arises in the first quarter of the year when the Camp Mohawk and summer outings take place. We therefore aim to have higher level of funds in place at the financial year end in order to fund these activities.

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Funds at start of year	31,764.05	17,372.81
Expenditure in year	(37,877.64)	(30,387.30)
	(6,113.59)	(13,014.49)
Income raised during the year	31,708.37	44,778.54
Total	25,594.78	31,764.05

5. Looking forward

Funds are in place for activities and outings currently planned for the year to 30 April 2023 and admin costs. To continue to purchase additional toys at Christmas, as well as rely on toy donations, further funds may need to be raised.

Reading Family Aid Group Income and Expenditure Report

	Year ended 30 April 2022 £	Year ended 30 April 2021 £
Income		
Donations		
General (including toy project)	30,372.82	40,183.62
Local Giving (incl Fundraising and Gift Aid)	946.89	1,351.09
	31,319.71	41,534.71
Funding		
Toy Trust	-	3,000.00
	-	3,000.00
Fundraising		
Earley Green Fair	-	-
Winnersh fete	-	-
	-	-
Sale of Goods		
Toy project items	82.08	-
Other Income		
Deposit Account Interest	1.51	10.58
Gift Aid on donations made directly to us	305.07	233.25
	306.58	243.83
Total Income	31,708.37	44,778.54
Expenditure		
Toy Project		
General expenses	544.25	609.39
Toys, gifts & batteries	23,697.21	20,597.89
Pantomime 2021	2,342.00	-
Summer outings 2021	3,072.00	-
Camp Mohawk outing 2021	675.00	-
Easter Outing 2022	941.65	-
Summer toys	5,431.10	4,480.20
Toy Trust and other toys	-	3,026.13
Admin & general expenses	470.82	84.95
Local Giving subscriptions	96.00	96.00
Room hire/storage	81.77	986.88
Liability Insurance	502.94	468.16
Website	22.90	37.70
Total Expenditure	37,877.64	30,387.30
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	(6,169.27)	14,391.24

Reading Family Aid Group Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2022 £	As at 30 April 2021 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	4,941.70	3,212.48
Barclays Deposit Account	20,653.08	28,551.57
Total Assets	25,594.78	31,764.05
Funds at beginning of year	31,764.05	17,372.81
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	(6,169.27)	14,391.24
Funds at end of year	25,594.78	31,764.05

Prepared by: S. Marson, Treasurer

Date: 24 June 2022

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022. 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 the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Julian Pearce

Date: 24 June 2022

Notes to the accounts

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Funds

Total funds at 30 April 2022 are £25,594.78. £25 has been donated towards a Camp Mohawk trip. All other funds are unrestricted.

It is currently planned to use most of the existing funds to finance activities in the year ending 30 April 2023, including a visit to Camp Mohawk, various other trips and summer activities.

The remainder will finance the 2022 Christmas activities and ongoing costs.

TRUSTEES

Chair Sravanthi Yellapragada

Vice Chair Wendy Howell

Secretary Laura Windisch

Treasurer Sue Marson (from 3rd March 2022)

Others:

- Roslyn Heinze
- Ruth Perkins
- Valerie Sansom
- Vivienne Simpson
- Sallie Wall
- David Berry

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 and 4 March 2021.

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 Commission for England and Wales Cy-Pres Scheme Application

The trustees applied for a cy-pres scheme to the Charity Commission to allow them to use the excess funds raised in the 2020 Christmas Toys and Teens Appeal on toys and gifts in the future and received final approval on May 7th 2021.

Charity Registered Address

61 Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 7EX

