



Reading Family Aid Group

ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 30 April 2023

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Registered Charity No. 1022144

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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 or 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, volunteers and all members of Reading Family Aid, we have had another successful year bringing more smiles to more children's faces.

Our committee has displayed a remarkable level of dedication by consistently going above and beyond expectations. We have demonstrated a proactive approach, contributed innovative ideas and worked diligently.

This year we have successfully enhanced our efficiency, governance, and productivity.

Outings

Vivienne organised a wide range of outings this year.

Children enjoyed seeing the animals, tractor rides and deer feeding at Bucklebury Farm, a day of relaxation and fun at Bournemouth Beach, an exciting day at Chessington World of Adventures, a delightful time at Camp Mohawk, and an enjoyable Panto at Christmas time and experienced many happy memories to cherish.

Brilliant work by Vivienne. Special thanks to Vivienne, Sallie and Roz from the Outings Team and all our committee members involved in making this so successful.

Christmas Toy Project

After a two-year break, the 2022 Christmas Toys and Teens event was the first time since the pandemic that we organised a full toy appeal, setting up Donation Points across town and inviting everyone to kindly donate toys.

However, it was a challenging year, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, which resulted in a greater number of children in need while witnessing a decline in toy contributions.

With the help of our sponsors, supporters, toy donators, volunteers, Van men and our amazing committee members – we managed to provide each child with at least a couple of toys or gifts each.

We provided gifts for 3001 children this year – the highest number we've ever supported. Feedback from requestors was overwhelmingly positive.

Special Commendations to Laura for her meticulous planning, unwavering commitment and perseverance. Thanks to everyone involved in the toy project.

Publicity and Fundraising

Our dedicated publicity team, Charlie and Anna, played a crucial role in our success despite being short-staffed. Their consistent efforts in producing informative newsletters and executing effective publicity strategies greatly contributed to our achievements. Thanks to Ruth for providing regular blog updates, further enhancing our outreach and engagement.

Thanks to our fundraising team Ruth, Wendy, Jo, Celia and Val for sourcing and securing funding for our charity. Their diligent efforts have resulted in several successful grants, including Tesco Community grants, an application to the Fence Club to sponsor the visit to Caversham Lakes, support from the Toy Trust for the Bournemouth trip, and the honour of being chosen as the charity of choice at Reading Golf Club for the upcoming year. Their invaluable contributions have significantly bolstered our financial resources and enabled us to further our mission.

Accounting and Admin

We have had several additions to our committee this year.

Jo Skidmore has joined us to provide valuable support in the areas of governance and administration. Additionally, Jo Saunders and Celia have joined us to lend their expertise to funding efforts and the Toy Project. We also warmly welcome Lauren O'Neill, who will be assisting with the Toy Project.

I would also like to acknowledge the departure of David, Krista, Paul, Maria, Harini, and Tracy. We extend our sincere appreciation for their contributions during their time with us.

Based on Ruth's valuable suggestion, the committee collectively decided to pursue and prepare for the attainment of the Safe and Sound kitemark. Jo, Ruth, Sue, and Laura collaborated closely, formulating proposals that gained approval from the committee. As a result, our documents have been revised and significant process improvements have been implemented, ensuring our readiness for when RVA initiates the Safe and Sound evaluation process for our Charity.

We have successfully implemented a robust planning and budgeting process within our organization. To streamline decision-making, major proposals are now reviewed and approved by the Trustees, relieving the entire committee of this responsibility. We have also made significant improvements in managing our committee members, trustee induction and safeguarding practices.

Furthermore, we have initiated the maintenance of a comprehensive risk register specifically tailored for the charity, ensuring proactive risk management and mitigation strategies are in place. These initiatives collectively contribute to enhancing the overall governance and operational efficiency of our organization.

Wendy has been an absolute powerhouse as the vice chair. Thank you.

Thanks to Laura for being the secretary and for her patience with me.

Thanks to Sheila for taking care of the charity's email account and her contributions to Governance and Administration.

Thanks to Sue for her outstanding diligence and meticulousness in managing financial matters with accuracy and attention to detail.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Summary

2022/23 Accounts reflect the relaxation of Covid19 measures on Reading Family Aid's activities.

Coach outings were resumed, together with local activities, including the pantomime visit, arranged.

A full Toy Project at Christmas, with collection from donation points and distribution of donated toys took place. New toys were also purchased to help with the increased demand and supplement donations.

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

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £	Change £
Total income	29,684.86	31,708.37	(2,023.51)
Total expenditure	(24,723.75)	(37,877.64)	(13,153.89)
Surplus/(deficit)	4,961.11	(6,169.27)	11,130.38

2. Income

Total income in 2022/23 was £29,684.86, £2,023.51 lower than the previous year.

Funding was generously provided towards the Toy Project from The John Sykes Foundation (£1,000), Connect Reading Giving Tree including the Reading Lions (£1,500), and Tesco Groundworks (£1,000).

A Magic Little Grant of £500 was received towards the summer 2022 Camp Mohawk trip.

Funding has also been gratefully received from The Fence Club (£2,000) and Toy Trust (£1,560) towards the summer 2023 activities. No funding was received in 2021/22.

A GoFundMe appeal together with generous donations from local businesses, churches, many individuals and gift aid provided further income.

Being able to run stalls again at both Winnersh Fete and Earley Green Fair raised £800.50.

3. Expenditure

Total expenditure in 22/23 was £24,723.75, £ 13,153.89 less than 21/22.

Further detail is below and in the Income and Expenditure report overleaf.

£11,267 was spent on coaches, outings and the pantomime and £11,145.29 on the Toy Project. No toys were purchased in the summer this year although Easter eggs were supplied to children at a local Easter party.

Christmas Toy Project expenditure	2022/23 £	2021/22 £	Increase/(decrease) £
Toys, gifts, and batteries	9,829.26	23,697.21	(13,867.95)
Contribution for use of hall	250.00	250.00	-
Labels, bags and stationery	444.24	67.06	377.18
Van insurance, travel and fuel	389.99	224.19	165.80
Food for helpers	39.80	3.00	36.80
Storage	192.00	81.77	110.23
Total	11,145.29	24,323.23	(13,177.94)

Trips and Activities Expenditure	2022/23 £	2021/22 £	Increase/decrease £
Caversham Lakes	1,686.00	1,482.00	204.00
Coach to Bournemouth	840.00	-	840.00
Chessington	1,575.00	-	1,575.00
Bucklebury Farm	1,014.80	-	1,014.80
Camp Mohawk	1,130.00	675.00	455.00
Panto (22/23 includes Dec 23 deposit)	3,940.00	2,342.00	1,598.00
Easter Outing to Odds Farm	1,081.20	941.65	139.55
RBC Playrangers	-	1,250.00	(1,250.00)
Canoeing/climbing wall	-	340.00	(340.00)
Total	11,267.00	7,030.65	4,236.35

The trustees did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind, other than the reimbursement of expenses.

A replacement mobile phone, another banner and a card reader machine were purchased.

READING FAMILY AID
Income and Expenditure Report

	Year ended 30th April 2023 £	Year ended 30 April 2022 £
Income		
Donations		
General / Toy Project donations with Gift Aid	21,094.63	31,624.78
Funding		
Magic Little Grant (for Camp Mohawk)	500.00	
John Sykes Foundation (Toys)	1,000.00	
Giving Tree (Toys)	1,500.00	
Tesco Groundworks (For Toy Project Toys)	1,000.00	
Fence Club (for Caversham Lakes 2024)	2,000.00	
Toy Trust (for Bournemouth Trip 2024)	1,560.00	
	<u>7,560.00</u>	
Fundraising		
Earley Green Fair	577.50	-
Winnersh fete	223.00	-
	<u>800.50</u>	-
Sale of Goods		
Sale of items	200.00	82.08
Other Income		
Deposit Account Interest	29.73	1.51
	-	-
Total Income	<u>29,684.86</u>	<u>31,708.37</u>
Expenditure		
Toy Project : General expenses	1,124.03	544.25
Toy Project :Toys, gifts & batteries	9,829.26	23,697.21
Toy Project: Storage	192.00	81.77
Summer toys		5,431.10
Pantomime	3,940.00	2,342.00
Easter Outing /Easter Eggs	1,221.20	941.65
Summer / Autumn outings	5,115.80	3,072.00
Camp Mohawk outing	1,130.00	675.00
Admin & general expenses	1,424.98	470.82
Local Giving subscriptions	180.00	96.00
Liability Insurance	472.26	502.94
Website	94.22	22.90
Total Expenditure	<u>24,723.75</u>	<u>37,877.64</u>
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	4,961.11	(6,169.27)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet

	As at 30 April 2023 £	As at 30 April 2022 £
Balance at Bank		
Barclays Current Account	1,230.08	4,941.70
Barclays Deposit Account	29,325.81	20,653.08
Total Assets	30,555.89	25,594.78
Funds at beginning of year	25,594.78	31,764.05
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure	4,961.11	(6,169.27)
Funds at end of year	30,555.89	25,594.78

Prepared by: S. Marson, Treasurer

Date:

S Marson

31.5.23

Funds

Total funds at end April 2023 are £30,555.89. £1,560 has been donated towards 2024 trip to Bournemouth and £2,000 towards an outing in 2024 to Caversham Lakes. 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 2024, including a trip to Camp Mohawk, various other trips and summer activities. The remainder will finance the 2023 Christmas activities, including buying toys, and ongoing costs.

Basis of Preparation

The accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for the year ended 30 April 2023. 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:

CM Heath

Date:

15th June, 2023

CHRISTINE M. HEATH

TRUSTEES

Chair Sravanthi Yellapragada

Vice Chair Wendy Howell

Secretary Laura Windisch

Treasurer Sue Marson (from 3rd March 2022)

Others: Roslyn Heinze
 Wendy Howell
 Valerie Sansom
 Vivienne Simpson
 Sallie Wall

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

