



Annual Report

April 2025 - March 2026

How we helped the library

£5,000 Grant towards the running of the library

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

Warm Hub - kitchen trolley and equipment, games, activities so the library could provide a Warm and Welcoming Hub with a grant from Marches Energy

A-frame - to promote the Visitor Information Centre

Cupboard - one of five to house Tony Crowe's local history collection

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



We also subsidised two events for children



Hi, we're ZooLab
The UK's #1 for ethical hands-on animal encounters

ZOOLAB

ZooLab brought animals into the library in the summer holidays.



Penguins - A sensory show presented by Jam Jar Theatre housed in a giant inflatable igloo. Pupils from St Lawrence Primary School discovered the world of penguins in December and learnt about their changing home.



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 24th June 2026, 7.30pm, URC Hall

followed by a short presentation

Libraries: Then and Now

Wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be served afterwards in the URC garden

ALL WELCOME





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Events

We ran events to meet a broad range of interests including

Swifts of Church Stretton - a fascinating talk by Julie Cowley from the Strettons Area Wildlife Group. We were delighted that swifts flew overhead as people arrived.

Quiz Evening - Ben Warren hosted his usual entertaining and fun evening.

Ageing Well in the Strettons - Graham Haynes talked about his PhD research on growing old in Church Stretton.

Appleby Cheese - Sarah Appleby described how Appleby cheese is made on their Shropshire dairy farm using old traditional methods. This was followed by a very enjoyable tasting session, accompanied by local cider/apple juice provided by Saxtons.

Upper Onny Farmers Group - a fascinating talk about how local farmers are working together to improve the environment, the landscape and its wildlife in ways that are integral to profitable farm businesses.

My Car Plays Tapes - A storytelling show by Theatre Maker and Radio 4 regular, John Osborne, brought to us by Arts Alive.



Thank you to everyone who supported these events





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Fundraising

A big thank you to our regular donors who provide the bulk of our annual income, as well as the individuals who made one-off donations. This included a generous donation of £1,000 from Stretton Theatre & Concert Group before they disbanded.

Our annual calendar made a profit of £1,108 so thank you to everyone who purchased one - and please keep on buying.



We were successful in applying for a grant of £500 from the Marches Energy Trust, which was used to fund equipment and activities so that the library could offer a Warm Hub. We also won first prize, £400, in a competition run by The Library Campaign for our fundraising initiative in selling calendars each year. We also received a special mention for our work with Stretton Dementia Friends to provide a Dementia Collection in the library.

Accounts Summary 2025/26

				<u>2025/26</u>
Income	Activities	Events (net)	1,514.13	
		Calendars (net)	1,108.70	
		Book sales/market	419.00	
				3,041.83
	Donations	Regular		4,959.00
		Other		2,042.46
	Gift Aid			1,207.15
	Interest received			533.51
	Fundraising Award			400.00
	Warm Hub Grant			500.00
	Total Fundraising Income			12,683.95
Expenditure	Admin Costs	Incl. insurance		704.03
	Cards			0.00
	Warm Hub			500.03
	Income over Expenditure (profit)			
	Grants to Library Net of grant received			6,738.26
	Surplus for year to 31st March			4,741.63

Accounts independently checked & approved by local Chartered Accountant Ben Hilliard



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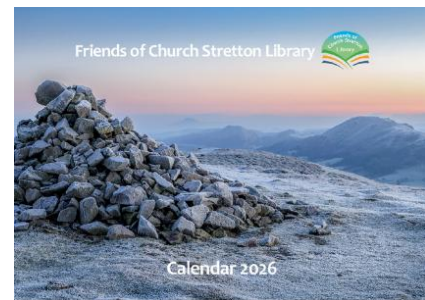
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A big thank you to our volunteers



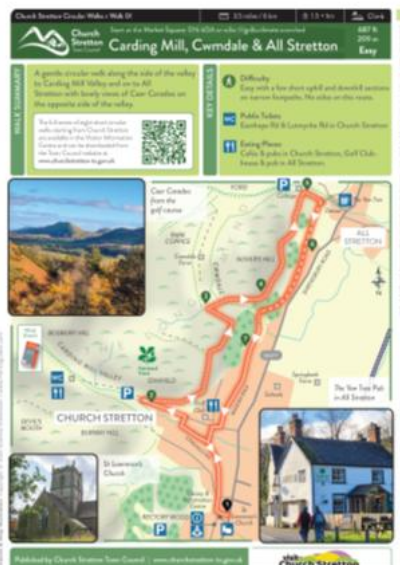
38 Visitor Information Centre volunteers handled enquiries from 1,434 visitors and generated additional income of £1,304.70 for the library.

Geoff Taylor and local photographers helped raise £1,100 with the 2026 calendar.



Kate Williams assisted library staff with the Gardening Club.

Andrew Williams raised £255 through the sale of his bird boxes.



Sheila Davies and Colin Carson (now sadly deceased) walked & rewrote 8 circular walks, popular in the VIC. Geoff Taylor kindly provided photos. This project was funded by Church Stretton Town Council.

And a special thank you to our Trustees and people providing admin support to the charity.