

BEDALE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025



Bedale Community Library has had another successful year so we wanted to share that success with the users of our services, our wonderful volunteers and the wider public. We hope you enjoy reading this report.

Andy Hallett, Chairman of Bedale Community Library

Bedale Library currently has around **850 regular users** and between them they borrowed over **17000 books** in 2024/25. The Library is staffed on a rota basis by **35 volunteers** (with professional support from North Yorkshire Council Library Service). In 2024/25 the Library had over **17000 visits**.

Everyone knows that you can borrow books from a Library but did you also know that **Bedale Library** provides a **wide range of other services** including: Free wi-fi; Internet and computer access via four PC terminals; IT drop in sessions for help and support; DVDs, CDs and Audio Books including Language courses; Local Interest material and Local newspapers; Photocopying; The Home Library Service - a free service for people of all ages who are unable to get to the library or carry books themselves. (Charges apply to some services).



Bedale Library ran free **Junk Modelling sessions** for children in July, August, September and December. The creativity on display has been very impressive!

BBC Breakfast rolled into Bedale at 5.00 am on **3rd September 2024** in connection with a feature on disappearing libraries throughout the UK. Bedale Library was chosen to show that, with the help of volunteers from the community, libraries can be saved. Interviews were held with trustees and Bedale Mayor John Howe and some local children attended a junk modelling workshop.



On **10 October** an appreciative audience enjoyed an evening with Rosie Page, daughter of James Herriot, and Nick Palmerley, a Trustee from **Herriot Hospice Homecare**. Delicious canapes were made and served by the library volunteers. Proceeds from an auction of two books went straight to the hospice and all other profits were shared between the hospice and the library.

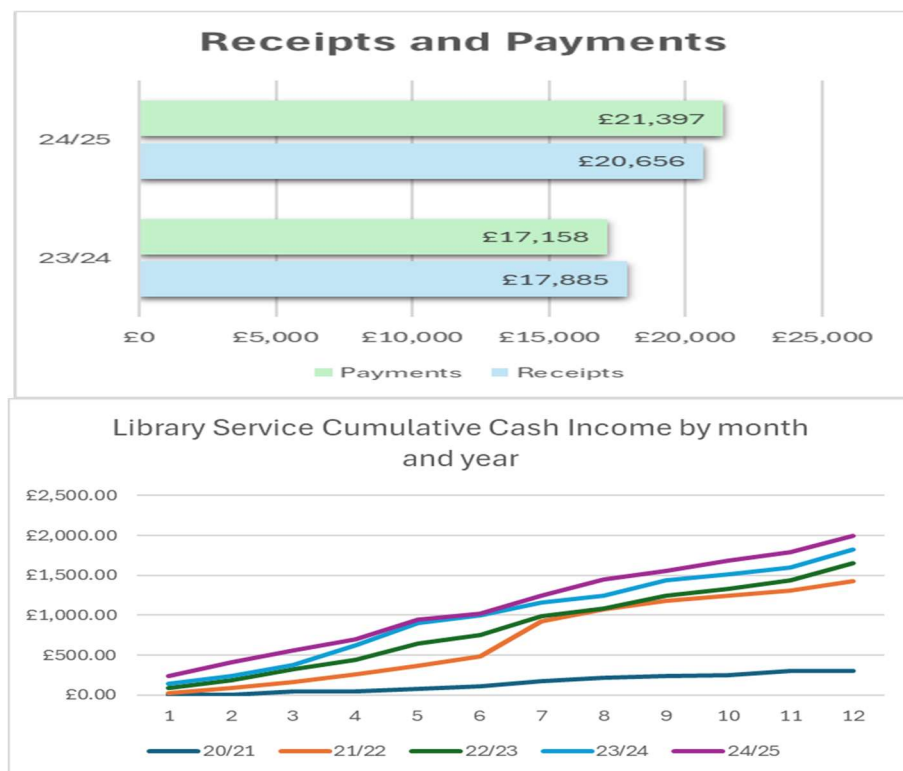


NYC's popular **Slipper Social** came to Bedale Library on **23 January**. Sixty two older people picked up a pair of free slippers to help to protect them from falls. Refreshments were served and folk had a chance to chat to a number of organisations which support the elderly.

Bedale Community Library needs volunteers to welcome, advise and assist library users. New volunteers are trained and supported by the North Yorkshire Libraries Service and experienced volunteers. Most volunteers undertake up to three, three hour shifts in the library each month, working in pairs. The rota is compiled around each individual's availability. You can get further information by visiting the library or online at <https://www.bedalecommunitylibrary.org.uk/volunteer-in-the-library> or email committee@bedalecommunitylibrary.org.uk.

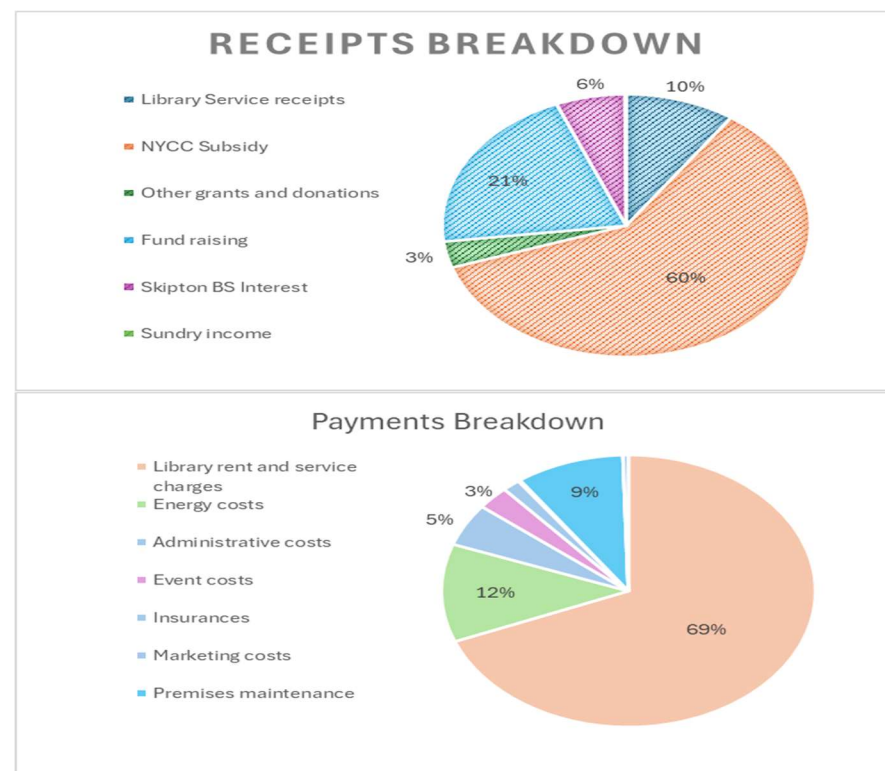
Accounts 2024 / 25

2024/25 has been a successful year financially for BCL. There have been significant increases to Receipts and Payments but balances have remained strong, well in excess of the Trustees target of at least one year's expenditure. Administration has been simplified as the Friends of BCL charity has been incorporated into the main BCL account and virtually all payments are now made electronically rather than by cheque. A payment by credit / debit card facility has been introduced



and this now accounts for a small but significant proportion of transactions. Major purchases this year have included new blinds and new bookshelves. We are grateful to Northallerton Rotary Club, The Bedale Four and Twenty and North Yorkshire Council's Locality Budget

for financial support. And, as ever, we must mention the subsidy from North Yorkshire Council's Library Service for its ongoing support both financially and professionally.



Trustees

This year saw the departure of three long-standing Trustees, Alan Shinkfield, Mike Evitt and Sarah Maude. All three served the library with great dedication and energy for many years so we thank them so much. As at 31 March 2025 we have four Trustees, Andy Hallett, Jenny Barrie, Chris McGee and Chris Chipp. We are always on the lookout for new Trustees so, if anyone is interested, please don't hesitate to contact us on library@bedalecommunitylibrary.org.uk