# ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

**for**

**Gnosall Library, Environment and Nurture Hub**

**Charity Registration 1175263**

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I am pleased to present the 2025-2026 Annual Report.

We were established in 2016 as a constituted group, our main aim has been to provide a community Library service for the village of Gnosall, Staffordshire. We started operating as a library on 20th February 2019 and the official opening was 4th April 2019.

Opening Times from January 2023 as follows: -

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday | 04:00pm - 06:30pm |
| Tuesday | 10:00am - 12:30pm |
| Wednesday | 03:00pm - 05:30pm |
| Thursday | 02:00pm – 04:00pm |
| Friday | 02:00pm – 04:00pm |
| Saturday | 10:00am - 12:30pm |

## *Vision*

GLEAN Hub's goal is still to create a vibrant community library and information service that is valued and well-used by the people of Gnosall.

GLEAN Hub achieved this by:

- Operating at times which are convenient for potential users. (We opened when many other library and institutions didn't).
- Being situated at a central and accessible village location (the Grosvenor Centre site).
- Providing an efficient lending or reference service - for books, other printed materials/information.
- Developing a range of activities to engage all age-groups and promote a love of reading, literature, culture and the valuing of information.
- Supporting library users in the use of information technology and reference materials.
- Creating a welcoming environment where people can meet and enjoy the company of friends and local residents.
- Providing an appropriate and suitable environment for silent study or related work.
- Working positively with other groups.
- Encouraging a sense of community and inclusion.
- Promoting innovation and talent in Creative Writing.
- Helping the elderly/physically impaired to enjoy the library by providing home delivery.

## Mission

GLEAN Hub aims to work within the framework of a wider Gnosall CIO, to include other related community projects as well as the Community Library.

## Contracts

We have tri-party contracts in place. A contract between Staffordshire County Council (SCC) and Gnosall Parish Council (GPC) for SCC to lease the library building. A contract between SCC and GLEAN Hub where GLEAN Hub sublet the building from SCC. A

contract between GPC and GLEAN Hub for the use of other facilities such as the adjoining building for our events, maintenance etc. These contracts were renewed 21st February 2024, when the current agreements expire.

## Community Library Service

The service we provide is the same as a public library. All Library stock is provided by SCC (Staffordshire County Council) public library service, and we use its library computer management systems to operate. The community library does not however, have any paid staff, only unpaid volunteers operating on a monthly roster system. Each session is manned by a minimum of two library volunteers. There is a web-based Library system, implemented in May 2022 which issues reminders to volunteers on rota and has been very successful.

## Operations

Gnosall may the smallest of Staffordshire's Community Managed Libraries, but we have a committed Trustee Group managing the library and a strong group of 27 library volunteers plus several more who participate in events. A new volunteer undertook the coordination of the rota last year, and 4 volunteers are part of a stock team, who work hard to manage the stock in a small space.

The Trustees and volunteers are always looking at ways of developing the library service. Last year we increased our hugely popular Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions from fortnightly to weekly and have introduced a new Board Games Café and a Creative Writers' Circle. The library also offers Family History Sessions, and a Reading Café, providing social and creative activities for local people.

To promote the library to the community, we produce articles for local magazines and take part in community events, such as the local carnival.

This has contributed to an 8% increase in visits to the library and a 7% increase in issues, compared to the previous year.

We continue with our existing website www.gleanhub.org representing the charity, as before, and still promote the library via another website www.library.gleanhub.org which better explains its purpose to the public. This year, due to changes in Parish Council policy we now provide website hosting for Gnosall Heritage Group, Gnosall Patient Participation Group, and Gnosall Towpath Restoration which fits in with our original aspirations to provide a service to local groups within Gnosall area.

In 2026, as it is the '**Year of Reading**' the Writers Circle will be providing a competition for all those below 18 years of age to enter a story, based on a book they have read or inspired them. '**Read It, Write It'** competition will be deciding and announcing the winners during then **Gfest** festival. Also, the annual '**Summer Reading Challenge'**, which operates during the school summer holidays to aid reading skills will build on last year's excellent success and starts during the **GFest** festival.

## Library Websites

We continue with our existing website www.gleanhub.org representing the charity, as before. Previously our library promotional website was www.gnosall-library.org.uk which better explains its purpose to the public. However, due to changes with Gnosall Parish Council who previously gave us hosting facilities freely, they terminated their provision. As a result, we now provide our own hosting. To save money we no longer have the latter website domain and the content has moved to https://www.library.gleanhub.org.

As the previous domain, we have a link back to the www.gleanhub.org site within the homepage.

## Other websites

In addition, because Gnosall Parish Council no longer provide hosting within Gnosall, we now provide hosting provision for these other groups: -

- www.heritage.gleanhub.org for Gnosall Heritage Group
- www.gnosalltowpathrestoration.org.uk for the Gnosall Towpath Restoration Group
- www.gnosallppg.org.uk for the Gnosall Patient Forum.

This is within the remit and constitution of Gnosall Library, Environment and Nurture Hub that we provide services beyond the operations of the library.

## Policy & Standards

All policies can be found on our website www.gleanhub.org which include: -

1. SCC's Policies
    a. Acceptable Use Policy
    b. Information Security Policy
2. GLEAN Hub's policies.
    a. Financial Controls Policy
    b. Health & Safety Policy
    c. Event Groups Policy
    d. Fire Evacuation Procedure
    e. Vulnerable Adults Policy
    f. Invacuation Procedure
    g. Paper Shredder Safety Policy

At all times we endeavour to provide the highest level of service to both our customers and attending volunteers.

## Record of Achievement

This year our customer base has increased steadily. We have also been successful in retaining the level of volunteers with a wealth of experience.

## Financial Record

We still have sufficient funding for at least 24 months' operation but there is no sign of any major funding opportunities open to us for the foreseeable future although we continue to attract small amounts of funding from local groups.

During this period SCC announced there will be some funding available (up to £30k) for refurbishing of the library but this is dependent on the political re-organisation of Staffordshire being completed.

Full Accounts attached.

## Trustees

(As at 01/04/2026)

Robert Alker (Chairman)
Cllr Patricia Alker (Health & Safety)
Alec Willis (Finance)
Janet Carr
Robert Hidderley (Secretary/Vice Chair)
Gaye Courtney