



Chair's report year ended March 2021

It is now four years since we opened as a Community Managed Library, with its newly appointed coffee shop and fierce ambition to provide a valued service to the people of Shenstone and beyond. It's fair to say that three year's development improved the fabric of the library, and we have been rewarded with increasing visitor numbers. And then came the pandemic. Last year's AGM was abandoned, and the tone of my emailed report was necessarily tentative about what we hoped to achieve. Our aim for the coming year was to serve the community's needs as best we could in a safe and considered way, and indeed, we have successfully opened when we could, subject to restrictions.

The management team and trustees have continued to meet virtually on a frequent basis to grapple with the new challenges, and it is heartening to feel that at long last, we are now starting our recovery to how things used to be. This wouldn't have been possible without scrupulous health and safety regimes, supported by Staffordshire County Council, and of course the enthusiasm of volunteers, who have generously returned to us when they have been able.

The quiet time in the library and coffee shop gave us the opportunity to develop the wildlife garden which, with the support of a grant from Veolia, now has a bird feeding station. We were able to offer Summer Reading Challenge activities here, as well as an Easter egg hunt, and as I write, two successful Baby Bounce and Rhyme sessions have taken place in our garden. Our two book clubs have continued to meet on 'Zoom', as has the local history group, and our 'Books at Home scheme has been successfully launched. Another significant feature of lockdown has been the Birmingham Road sub - branch (aka the telephone box library) which has been very popular when the library has been closed.

Work has continued on the planning for an extension to the library. Volunteers and members of the community were very helpful in providing contributions to a community consultation, and this has proved to be invaluable as we seek grant funding. Lichfield District Council has given planning permission, quotes have been obtained from builders, and £9,800 has been secured from Awards for All towards refurbishing the interior. As I write, we are waiting to hear from several grants which have been submitted.

So, what would the management team and trustees would like to achieve in the coming year? Our main aim will be to restore fully the services offered to the community in the library and coffee shop, subject to restrictions, building on the numbers of visitors, new library members, and books issued. We are hoping that we can see a return of those additional activities which were so popular, and which helped the library and coffee shop to feel like a community hub. And who knows, the extension may well have been built by the time of my next report, and we will be see a fully booked space, with new activities on offer, and a comprehensive local history collection.

Our committed and talented volunteers are at the heart of our organisation. We are looking forward to working with them to recover our services to the community, and to make them even better.

Shenstone Community Library Accounts

Charity Number 1170598

balanced to bank statement

7th April 2021 - end of year 31st March 2021

						Year ending 31 st March 2021				
Charity Number 1170598										
			<u>Current Account</u>	<u>Contingency Account*</u>		<u>Library Float</u>	<u>Coffee Shop Float</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
Balance b/f	01/04/2020		8752.08	11040.78		95.76	1055.36			
Interest				6.33						
Receipts			32791.44			0.00	297.70			
Payments			7379.04			0.00	1192.25			
Transfer to contingency Account			29246.15	29246.15						
Transfers to Current Account						0.00	124.00			
Float	Library					95.76				
Interest										
Float	Coffee Shop						36.81			
Float to current account			1018.55			0.00				
Closing Balance		c/f	5936.88	40293.26	0.00	95.76	36.81		46362.71	

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*Contingency Account

Utility Charge 2018	£1,500 estimated £300 per quarter £1200 pa
Heating replacement	£11,000 currently out of date & inefficient
Insurance	£750 fixed whether open or not - SCC condition
Card Reader contract	£1,500 3 year contract
Carpet renewal	£2,000 current carpet life limited
Replace dish washer	£2,500
Replace Cofee machine	£3,500
Garden improvement	£1,000
Coffee shop Counter	£5,000
Community Room	£26,000

Total £54,750

Report to the trustees of Shenstone Community Library (Charity Number 1170598) on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on the attached pages.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of the report: As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

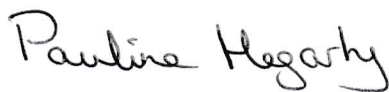
Independent examiner's statement: I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect,:

The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or

The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or

The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Pauline Hegarty (ACA)

1.06.2021.