

**Stokesley Community Library  
(Registered Charity Number 1171473)**

[www.theglobellibrarystokesley.org](http://www.theglobellibrarystokesley.org)



**Annual Report to Charity Commission for  
Year to 31 March 2025**

The Board of Trustees of Stokesley Community Library present their report, together with the accounts of the charity, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

Stokesley Community Library was registered on 6th February 2017 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted under a governing document dated 23rd January 2017. The charity is managed by a Board of Trustees; under the Constitution there should be no less than 5 and no more than 11 appointed trustees. Every trustee is appointed for a term of 3 years. The trustees who have served during the year were:

David Heggarty (Chairman)  
Carolyn Kitching (Treasurer)  
Bob Roberts (Secretary)  
Sally Atkinson  
Rudy Bilous (appointed May 2024)  
Jon Borwell (resigned January 2025)  
Peter Chandler  
Claire Craster (appointed July 2024)  
Bryn Griffiths (resigned June 2024)  
Jan Hunter  
Jeff King  
Jane McGill

The library operates under a contract with North Yorkshire Council; the Council provide a professional librarian (their employee) who supports our Library managers. The library is managed by job-share Library Managers, both of whom are employed by Stokesley Town Council, though the Charity manages their day-to-day work. The Board of Trustees continues to very much value support given by the two Councils. Additionally, trustees are grateful for funding from some local Parish Councils.

## **Charity Objective**

**The objects of the charity:** *to provide facilities for the education and social welfare of the public by the provision of a library and information hub for the benefit of residents of Stokesley and North Yorkshire-wide and for facilitating community activities.*

In planning activities during the reporting period, trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

## **Keeping in Touch**

Library services and activities are made known to the community through the local press, via posters in local venues and businesses, on social media and on our public website ([www.theglobellibrarystokesley.org](http://www.theglobellibrarystokesley.org)). The website provides details of library services, recommends reading, publicises community events and details how the charity can be supported by individuals and businesses. Trustees very much value the support given by our sponsors.

Having given notice in the press, social media and 'flyers' in the local area, we held our Annual General Meeting on 20th November 2024; despite advertising the event, trustees were disappointed that, as in previous years, few from the community attended.

## **Management and Volunteers**

Stokesley Parish Council (STC), through the local precept, continue to employ the Library Manager (currently a job-share post) whilst the charity trustees oversee their work. This funding is vital if we are to continue this community service. Following the Government's announcement that National Insurance will be increased from April 2025, STC advised trustees that they would not fund that increase nor continue as employer of the Library Manager. Accordingly, Trustees accept that the Charity will have to become an employer from 1st April 2025.

We continue to benefit from the generosity of volunteers in giving their time in support of the Charity; we have 53 volunteers (a rota of 30 who man the desk, 10 running the children's group, 8 delivering the home library service and 2 in the events committee). Additionally, 2 students have supported us during the year. The management and volunteer team provided the library service, operated a Home Library Service to those in the community who are housebound and delivered a varied range of community activity. Trustees recognise and appreciate the resilience, expertise and unstinting effort the library team provides to the community.

Funded by the National Lottery, refurbishment of the library was completed 19 July 2024. The work included a full upgrade of decor and flooring, improved entrance desk, furniture and shelving and provision of a 'Teen's Area' with comfortable sofas.



Library emptied prior to refurbishment





Post-refurbishment entrance desk



Library refurbished

The upgrade also provides improved ambience in the children's area including seating for parents - three volunteers painted a delightful wall mural in the area.



Children's Area wall mural



Teen's Area



## Activity

### Library Service

The core function of the charity is to provide a first-class library service and we report a significant increase in footfall - 50,993 compared to 45,600 the previous year.

Disappointingly, book issues (35,163) in the year showed a decline of 1,899 on the previous year, mirroring a national downward trend.

We continued to visit local schools with a pop-up library; this work was undertaken by Gill, one of our volunteers and former Library Manager. She visited local schools to publicise the National *Summer Reading Challenge* and children's arts event held in the library. In Gill's three-weekly visits to a local Church of England Federation of two small schools we provided a library service for 54 pupils; it was pleasing to hear that the children told Ofsted Inspectors that the pop-up library supported them in their reading for pleasure.

As in previous years, we participated in the national '*Summer Reading Challenge*' for children; of 132 starting the challenge 106 completed and received a challenge certificate, many being presented at local schools.

### Community Activities

The Charity continued to provide a varied range of community events and activities for all ages - a selection of these is listed in Table 1.

Table 1

Health Drop-ins - for parents of under 10s.

Art for Wellbeing - creative work with like-minded people.

D-Day tea party & Christmas Party - for senior citizens.

Ancestry - experienced family historians run courses, using library facilities, to teach how to find information on ancestors.

IT learning - talk by our resident IT buddy and Q&A about on-line safety.

Gardening Club - monthly meetings.

Book Talk - reading group.

Children's development group - seasonal activities throughout the year.

Theatre - '*Murder at Stokesley Towers*' - comedy devised and played by Library staff, volunteers and trustees. Also, '*The Plot Thickens*' staged by Just Some Theatre in collaboration with Rural Arts.

Monthly Film Night - well supported event showing recent films.

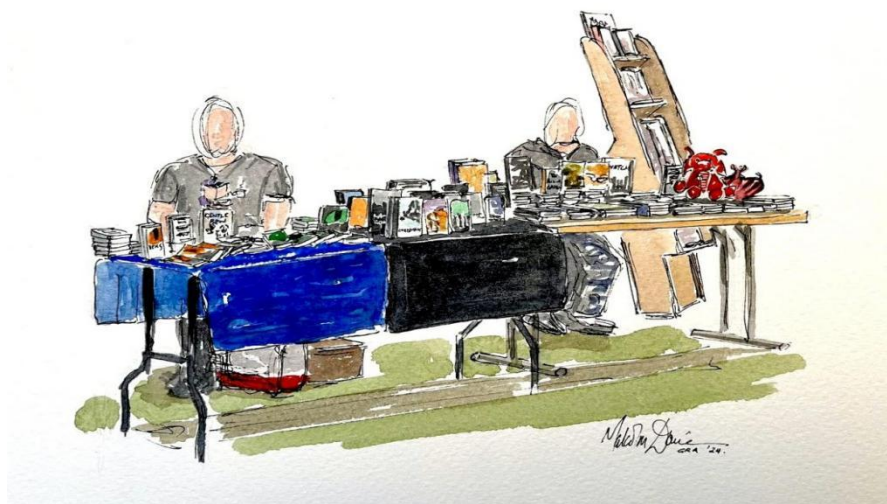
BookFest - hosting Stokesley Town Council's event: five local authors talked about their work and many more were able to display and sell their books.

Repair Cafe - well attended event in which a team help to repair items brought in by the community.

Code Club - weekly term time event enabling children to develop computer skills.

Film Night - monthly showing of recently released films.

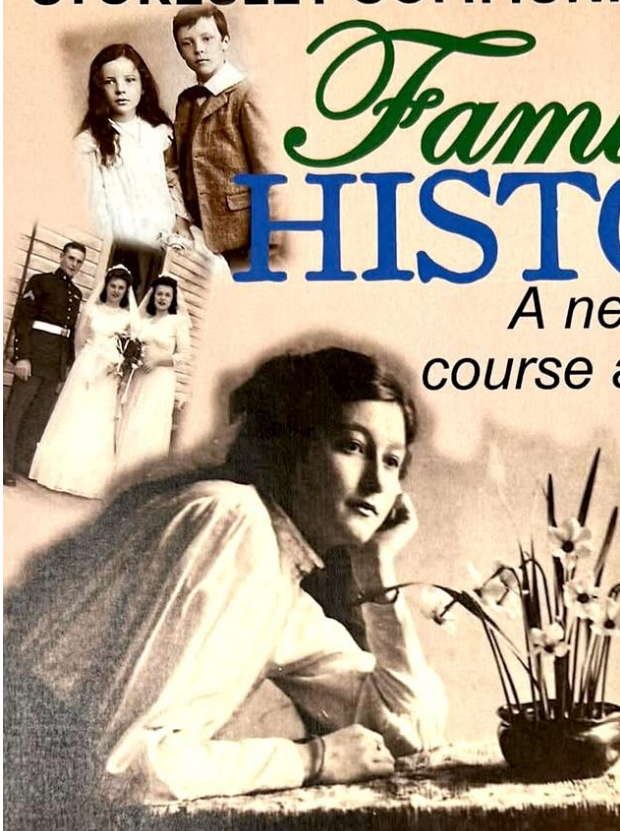
The following illustrations provide a selection of some of our community activities:



BookFest



**STOKESLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY**



# *Family* **HISTORY**

A new **FREE**  
course at the library

**FRIDAYS:**  
March 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
April 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
**2-3.30pm**  
*Booking essential*

*Please sign  
up at  
the desk*



Theatre - *Murder in the Manor* (cast of volunteers, managers and trustees)



Christmas Tea Party



Rishi Sunack MP meets Stokesley Academy pupils in our 'Teen Area'



## Finance Review

In the year ending 31 March 2025 income had increased (£38,496 against £15,462 in the previous year; significant receipts were a National Lottery grant of £19,500 for the refurbishment of the library and increased receipts from events held in the library. Payments of £48,316 included £39,418 refurbishment costs. Excluding refurbishment, expenditure in-year was £8,898 against £3,314 in 23/24. Balance at year end was a loss of £9,820, which included the Charity's contribution to the refurbishment project. Cash balance at year end was £53,213 (£63,033 in FY 23/24).

Trustees are content that unrestricted funds remain sufficient to allow library operations to continue in FY25/26 and are well aware of the priority to utilise the charity's significant funds.

See finance statement at end of this report (pages 12 and 13).

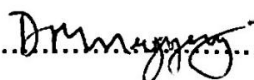
## Looking Ahead

Considerable time and effort was put into the Library refurbishment project, yet the service offered to the community continued unabated. Trustees now look to expand the pool of volunteers so as to ensure we have a team with the skills to operate the library service, deliver a greater range of community events and improve our ability to support the community in accessing government support services.

This report was approved by trustees and is signed by the Chair of the Trustee Board:

Signed by

David Heggarty



Date

19/12/25



**THE GLOBE COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
Library charges and sale of books	4,339	5,453
Room hire	2,711	3,308
Contributions from parish councils	700	500
Grants and donations	21,793	1,204
Gift Aid donations	1,102	1,148
Gift Aid refund	282	289
Events	6,485	3,445
Sundry sales	1,084	115
	<u>38,496</u>	<u>15,462</u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Library supplies	1,393	598
Insurance	314	357
Cleaning	937	918
Replacement blinds		818
Capital expenditure	865	3,727
Refurbishment costs	39,418	
Small items of equipment	508	335
Repairs and renewals	298	918
Website hosting	594	948
Events	3,317	2,422
Sundry expenses	410	638
Independent examination fee	200	510
Sumup charges	62	23
	<u>48,316</u>	<u>12,212</u>
<b>Excess of payments over receipts</b>	(9,820)	3,250
<b>Bank balance at 1 April 2024</b>	63,033	59,783
<b>Bank balance at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>53,213</u>	<u>63,033</u>

THE GLOBE COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>		
Cash in hand	0	0
Cash at bank	53,213	63,033
	<u>53,213</u>	<u>63,033</u>
 <b>Assets retained for the Charity's own use</b>		
Website	900	900
Furniture & equipment	17,849	17,849
Computer equipment	5,714	5,714
Donated assets	150	150
Refurbishment of library	39,418	
	<u>64,031</u>	<u>24,613</u>
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accruals	150	200

The attached notes form part of these accounts

Approved by the Trustees on 23 July 2025 and signed  
on their behalf by :

David Heggarty  
David Heggarty  
Chair

Carolyn J Kitching  
Carolyn J Kitching  
Treasurer