

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

England & Wales · Charity number 1181213

Details

Other names	NETHER STOWEY LIBRARY 2019
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2018-12-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address
The Library
Castle Street
Nether Stowey
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA5 1LN

Phone 01278732471

Email nflood@gmx.co.uk

Website thomaspoolibrary.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LIBRARY IN NETHER STOWEY, SOMERSET AND A LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE VILLAGE AND SURROUNDING PARISHES; 2) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF NETHER STOWEY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA THE PROVISION OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR RECREATION AND OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID RESIDENTS. 3) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE AREA, IN PARTICULAR OF THE LIVES OF SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE AND LOCAL BENEFACITOR THOMAS POOLE, AND THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT.

Activities: The provision and maintenance of a library in Nether Stowey and a library service for the village and surrounding parishes. To promote for the residents and surrounding area a public library for recreation

and/or other leisure occupation in the interest of social welfare. To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the area, and the local environment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£44,844	£31,247	-	-
2024-03-31	£34,066	£35,322	-	-
2023-03-31	£96,106	£50,217	-	-
2022-03-31	£87,666	£30,238	-	-
2021-03-31	£65,633	£40,606	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Nigel Phillips	Chair	2024-10-30
Catherine Christie		2021-09-15
Helen Louise Heslop		2025-02-11
Susan Aubrey		2018-10-21
Terence Richard Sackett		2024-10-30

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

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Accounts

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY, NETHER STOWEY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the 12 months ended 31 March 2025

Registered charity name	The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Charity registration	1181213
Constitution	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Association model. Established by constitution dated 21 st October 2018, amended 15 th December 2018. Approved by the Charity Commission and registered on 17 th December 2018
Operational address	The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey Castle Street Nether Stowey Bridgwater Somerset TA5 1LN
Trustees	Susan Aubrey Catherine Christie Tricia Griffiths-Gough (co-opted March 2025) Norma Frood (resigned August 2025) John Hartoch (co-opted September 2025) Helen Heslop (co-opted February 2025) Chris Pearson (resigned June 2025) Nigel Phillips Eliza Sackett Terence Sackett
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 1, Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trustee Board manages the affairs of the CIO. In September 2025 the governance structure was updated. There are now three committees that report to the Trustee Board:

The Finance, Fundraising and Risk Committee chaired by the Treasurer

The Management and Operations Committee chaired by the Trustees Board Chair

The Nominations and Governance Committee chaired by the Trustee responsible for Governance

The operations of the library are run by the Management and Operations Committee, which consists of the following Trustees and Officers:

Nigel Phillips	Chair
Eliza Sackett	Secretary
Tricia Griffiths-Gough	Treasurer
Catherine Christie	Nominations and Governance
Tony Edney	Health & Safety (co-opted)

John Hartoch	Events
Helen Heslop	Strategy and financial planning
Ruth Pickard	Children, young people
Terence Sackett	Design, marketing and publicity
Lynn Scales	Volunteers Leader
Ron Scales	Building maintenance (co-opted)
Bill Streeter	Chess Club
Sian Stafford	Centre Manager. Employed by SC/TPLNS
Kevin Ferriday	Parish Council representative
Open	Fundraising leader
Open	Membership Secretary

Objects

1. For the public benefit, the provision of a library in Nether Stowey, Somerset and a library service for the village and surrounding parishes.
2. For the residents of Nether Stowey and the surrounding area, to promote the library for recreation and/or other leisure-time occupation of people who need these facilities because of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances; and for the public at large in the interests of the community, and with the object of improving the condition of life of the residents.
3. To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the area, particularly in the lives of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the local benefactor Thomas Poole, and in the local environment.

Public Benefit

In planning activities for the period covered by this Report the Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY 2024-2025

We began this year by welcoming our new Chair, Nigel Phillips.

Two Trustees, Norma Frood and Chris Pearson, and two members of the Management Committee, Eric Coates and Jo Davison, have resigned. The Trustees are very grateful to them for all they have done.

Three new Trustees, Tricia Griffiths-Gough, John Hartoch and Helen Heslop, and two new members of the Management Committee, Tony Edney and Ron Scales, have been co-opted.

The lively and intensive meetings held at the end of last year resulted in a decision that TPLNS should do more to further its ambition to welcome more people to the library and become a community hub for Nether Stowey and its surrounding villages. This year we have formulated a funded Three-Year Business Plan to achieve this, with the main objective to turn the non-fiction room into a community and exhibition room with a café.

The first step was to move the books out of the future exhibition room and re-arrange all the shelves and the book stock in the main room. This was a mammoth task, but the main room looks all the better for it, and our colleagues in the Somerset Library Service very much approve.

We have installed a Community Café in the exhibition room, complete with a coffee machine providing freshly-ground coffee and hot drinks and new café tables and chairs. This is already proving popular.

We are in negotiations with National Landscapes (NL – what was AONB), who would like to rent the office as their national office and to create a permanent exhibition about their work in the exhibition room.

In May 2025 we received a grant from HPC. Part of this grant will pay for an exhibition on our local landscapes, climate change, local history, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his friend Thomas Poole. We will be starting work on this exhibition in the autumn. We are most grateful to Nether Stowey Parish Council, who are applying to Somerset-Association of Local Councils (SALC) for a grant to pay for an oral history project, a valuable add-on to this exhibition.

We also hope to have ever-changing displays about local activities, clubs and societies in this room.

An eight-page full-colour brochure, designed by Terence Sackett, has been delivered to every house in Nether Stowey and Over Stowey and distributed to the neighbouring villages. It gives full information about the library and its activities, and we hope that it will encourage more people to visit the library and become library members.

Smart new signage (also designed by Terence), consistent with our 'house style', has been installed inside and outside the library, including a banner at the street entrance. The aim is to make the library unmissable!

A mini-Arts Festival has been arranged, and will take place in November: four events will cover painting, music and literature, including an exhibition of work by local artists, readings by local poets, and performances by folk musicians. We are arranging a similar mini-festival about the environment to take place next spring.

Thomas Poole was an untiring philanthropist. He benefited the village in so many ways, including setting up the Savings Bank and the Women's Friendly Society – and, of course, building the pioneering free school in 1813, which now houses the library. We are asking residents of our community to help us carry on Tom Poole's work for this community by becoming Patrons of the library, and we are most grateful to those Patrons who have already donated to this project.

As always, we are grateful for the support of our membership. At 31 March 2025 there were 73 paid-up members of the CIO.

This year the Trustees have been concentrating on governance and management. This ensures that by defining the tasks we have to perform, and by creating a structure of committees and groups responsible for each task, a firm framework will exist to support the many exciting projects we are busy with now or preparing for the future.

Library Performance

TPLNS is entirely managed and run by volunteers.

Opening hours: 18 hours per week.

Volunteer hours for library operations: volunteers gave a total of 2949 hours of their time, both within the library and elsewhere (up from 2893 hours last year). The time spent by Trustees in contributing to the management of TPLNS is not accounted for in these figures.

Community Library Partnership meetings: two have been held with Somerset Library Service representatives to review performance, and TPLNS has received quarterly performance statistics. SLS is totally satisfied with our performance.

Meetings: seven meetings of the Trustees were held, six of the Management Committee, and four of the Volunteers.

Activities

Evening Talks: ten were given.

Regular weekly/monthly/annual activities:

- Children's activities, including weekly Storytime for toddlers, weekly Story Reading to a class from the village school, a children's book group, and reading and craft activities for children at half-terms and in the holidays, and the summer Reading Challenge
- Adult book group
- Knit and Natter
- Chess Club
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Patient Participation Group
- Book sales – held regularly, plus a book table in the library and stalls at village events
- Somerset and Exmoor Coast Trail: trail passports can be obtained and stamped at the library
- The Women's Walk (held in memory of Thomas Poole) – help with planning and catering, plus storage of the archive and the banner
- Participation in many village events, including the Walking Festival (Stowey Walking), Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership walks, Stowey Green Spaces, Party in the Park (book stall)
- Monthly drop-in IT sessions for those who need help
- The library is used by village organisations for meetings and AGMs (including Stowey Green Spaces, Stowey Walking, the Allotment Association)
- Ancestry research facilities available
- Displays, including natural history, local history, arts and crafts, children's art. There are also regular library displays in the community cabinet and the old village gaol
- Annual plant sale

Other events:

- Events for children included a visit from the RSPCA and special activities for World Book Day.
- Poole Day: tea at Poole House and a talk in the library on Tom Poole and the Poet Laureate Robert Southey given by Professor Lynda Pratt and Dr Ian Packer.
- The library shared a promotional stall (with Stowey Walking and Stowey Green Spaces) at the Christmas Fair in the Church Centre.

- The library is now at the ‘recommended’ stage for listing on SW Heritage’s Local Heritage List of buildings, structures and places which have cultural significance in Somerset. It is also now on the Somerset Historic Environment Record.
- The library has been nominated for the King’s Award for Volunteers.
- The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme (a collaboration with Natural Landscapes) has been leasing an office in the library since November 2021. TPLNS is delighted to host QLPS, who are doing so much to enhance this area.
- The Coleridge Collection is housed in the library. This collection of old, rare, valuable, and more modern scholarly books by and about Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his circle is owned by the Friends of Coleridge. TPLNS is privileged to host this collection, and very pleased that the books can be seen and used by the public.
- Sian Stafford has joined the Quantock Messenger editors’ group and edits this village magazine every two months.

Maintenance work

The following work is planned to be completed by the end of this year:

- Painting exterior of windows and cupola
- Felling tree and repairing tarmac lifted by its roots
- Lining ceiling of the Book Shed

Website and social media

TPLNS’s website, and its Facebook and Instagram accounts, are updated regularly. The social media team also post on Stowey News Facebook.

Grants and Financial Aid

We are most grateful to the following for their generous support:

Somerset Council

Waiving of remaining 20% Council Tax (discretionary relief) after 80% charity relief

Somerset Council

Revenue grant of £5,000 for the financial year 2024-2025

Nether Stowey Parish Council

£500

Cannington Parish Council

£100

Over Stowey Parish Council

£300

Spaxton Parish Council

£250

National Lottery Community Fund

£18,000 to cover one year of employment costs of the library's Centre Manager

Somerset Community Fund: Warm Safe Spaces grant

£3,000

Energy Grant

£2,500 to cover winter fuel costs

Patrons of the Thomas Poole Library

Four patrons donated a total of £1,500 (three included in the financial year ending 31 March 2025, and one in June 2025)

After the end of the financial year (31 March 2025), the following grants and donations were received:

Books for Life Charity

£400

HPC Community Fund

£36,000, to cover the Centre Manager's salary for a year and to create an exhibition on the local environment and local history

Anonymous donor

£250 to buy reference books for children

Acknowledgements

The Trustees express their sincere thanks to the officers and members who make up the Management and Operations Committee, to the Centre Manager, and to the Volunteers for their committed service in carrying out daily librarian duties and tasks behind the scenes. The work carried out by all of them ensures that The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey continues its invaluable role as a public library and a community asset, and maintains its Community Library Partnership with the Somerset Library Service.

Signed

For and on behalf of the Trustees

30 October 2025

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year from April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025

	Notes	2024-2025 £	2023-2024 £
Income			
<u>Grants</u>			
Somerset Count Grant		5000.00	5000.00
SCF Grant			20000.00
Housing Grant			1000.00
Help for Winter Grant		3000.00	
Energy Grant		2500.00	
National Lottery Grant		18000.00	
Other Grants		1050.00	
Total Grants	a	<u>29550.00</u>	<u>26000.00</u>
<u>Revenues from Operations</u>			
Mermbership Subs		340.00	335.00
Wednesday talks		925.75	389.60
Book sales	b	745.20	595.00
Library takings	c	770.10	641.90
Hall Hire including QLP rental	d	9512.00	4500.00
Coffee shop	e	375.00	
Patrons and other donations	f	1040.00	
Other	g	1586.02	1604.56
Total Revenue from Operations		<u>15294.07</u>	<u>8066.06</u>
Total Income		<u>44844.07</u>	<u>34066.06</u>
Expenditure			
Services and Utilities	h	-3912.62	-4363.32
Routine Maintenance		-1463.57	-1331.67
Special Maintenance		0.00	-2502.18
Secondment costs		-20728.38	-25849.59
Purchase of coffee machine		-2874.00	0.00
Consummables		-377.31	0.00
Outreach costs	i	-720.28	-388.74
Media		-347.50	0.00
Other		-824.16	-836.79
Total Expenditure		<u>-31247.82</u>	<u>-35272.29</u>
Net (outgoing) incoming resources		13596.25	-1206.23
Resources B/F from PY		44682.31	45888.54
Resources C/F to next year	j	58278.56	44682.31

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2025

	2024-2025	2023-2024
	£	£
Cash at Bank		
Co-operative Bank		
Community Direct Plus		
account	4344.37	3109.80
Instant Access Savings		
Account	53934.19	41572.51
Total	<u>58278.56</u>	<u>44682.31</u>

Notes to the Accounts

a) Grants

During the year the library received funding from the National Lottery to fund employee costs, the annual grant from Somerset County Council to support library operations, an energy grant and help for winter grant to help fund the designated warm space and various donations from local parishes.

b) Book sales

The library has a second- hand book shop on the premises and this is the income from selling donated second- hand books.

c) Library Takings

Library takings include late fees and book order fees.

d) Hall / Room Hire

In the year ended 31/3/2025, the library received 24 months of room rental from the Quantocks Landscape Partnership as well as income from hosting PCC elections.

Room Hire	2024-2025	2023-2024
	£	£
QLP room hire	9000.00	4500
PCC elections	512.00	
Total	<u>9512.00</u>	<u>4500</u>

e) Coffee Shop

The library has purchased a coffee machine and is offering tea and coffee for donations.

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

f) Patrons and Donations

A patron scheme has been developed and there were 3 patrons at the end of the year.

g) Other income

Other income includes bank interest on the deposit account and revenue from car parking.

h) Services and utilities

	2024-2025	2023-2024
	£	£
Energy	1650.95	
Oil	1482.16	
Water	286.01	
Insurance	493.50	
Total	3912.62	4363.32

i) Outreach

Outreach costs include the costs of public facing and public relation activities (eg Website)

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

j) Reserves and Going Concern

The library has a clearly documented reserves policy and ensures that there is a designated fund that includes all committed spend, two years of annual overheads and an exceptional maintenance budget. The library has a 3 year financial plan that supports its going concern assessment with a healthy level of free reserves.

Reserves Explanation

Cash balance at 31/3/2025 £
£58,278.56

Agreed 2025 funding

HPC £36,000.00
SCC £5,000.00
Total agreed resources £99,278.56

Restricted funding

National Lottery funding 24/25 £9,200.00
HPC Secondment 12 months £22,000.00
HPC Media centre £14,000.00
Total restricted funding £45,200.00

Non restricted funding

Designated reserves
One year overheads £12,000.00
Committed secondment costs £18,000.00
Maintenance budget £10,000.00
Total designated reserves £40,000.00

Free reserves £14,078.56

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

k) Fixed Assets

The library keeps an asset register. All assets are fully expensed upon purchase and so are not capitalised on the balance sheet. The main addition to the asset registers in the year ended 31/3/2025 was a coffee machine for £2874. The below assets are shown below at original cost.

	£
Display stands	130.00
Dishwasher	279.00
Cordless vacuum	43.00
Copier	37.00
Book stands 1	43.00
Book rack	72.00
Copier	178.00
Gazebo	158.00
Shelving	1246.00
Book stands 2	142.00
Coffee Machine	<u>2874.00</u>
Total	<u>5202.00</u>

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

I report on the accounts of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey for the year April 1st 2024 to March 31st, 2025, which are set out in the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting examiner

The Charity’s trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Charity’s trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- o Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- o To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act), and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a “true and fair” view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner’s statement

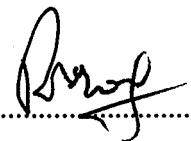
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with those records and to comply with the accounting records of the Act

have not been met: or

2. To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Signed 

Date..... 20/10/25

Name B. A. Hood

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

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Registered Charity No. 1181213

f) Patrons and Donations

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j) Reserves and Going Concern

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HPC Secondment 12 months	£22,000.00
HPC Media centre	£14,000.00
Total restricted funding	<u>£45,200.00</u>

Non restricted funding

Designated reserves	
One year overheads	£12,000.00
Committed secondment costs	£18,000.00
Maintenance budget	£10,000.00
Total designated reserves	<u>£40,000.00</u>

Free reserves £14,078.56

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My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a “true and fair” view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner’s statement

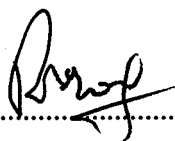
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with those records and to comply with the accounting records of the Act

have not been met: or

2. To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Signed 

Date..... 20/10/25

Name B. A. Hood

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181213

Accounts

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY, NETHER STOWEY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

1 October 2023 to 30 October 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered charity name The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Charity registration 1181213

Constitution Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Association model.
Established by constitution dated 21st October 2018, amended 15th December 2018. Approved by the Charity Commission and registered on 17th December 2018

Operational address The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Castle Street
Nether Stowey
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA5 1LN

Trustees

Susan Aubrey	Catherine Christie
Norma Frood	Chris Pearson (co-opted)
Nigel Phillips (co-opted)	Eliza Sackett
Terence Sackett (co-opted)	Roger Stacey

Bankers Co-operative Bank
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is administered by a Management Committee consisting of the Trustees above and the following officers:

Roger Stacey	Chairman
Eliza Sackett	Secretary
Eric Coates	Treasurer
Norma Frood	Funding; Membership Secretary
Catherine Christie	Oversight, including budgeting, forward planning, compliance
Jo Davison	Health and Safety Officer
Lynn Scales	Volunteers leader
Ruth Pickard	(Co-opted)
Bill Streeter	

Sian Stafford	Events and Publicity Manager. Employed by SC/TPLNS
Kevin Ferriday	Parish Council representative

Tricia Griffiths-Gough assists Eric Coates

Objects

1. For the public benefit, the provision of a library in Nether Stowey, Somerset and a library service for the village and surrounding parishes.
2. For the residents of Nether Stowey and the surrounding area, to promote the library for recreation and/or other leisure-time occupation of people who need these facilities because of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances; and for the public at large in the interests of the community, and with the object of improving the condition of life of the residents.
3. To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the area, particularly in the lives of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the local benefactor Thomas Poole, and in the local environment.

Public Benefit

In planning activities for the period covered by this Report the Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY 2023-2024

We announce with much regret that Roger Stacey is resigning as Chair and as a Trustee. We are glad to say that he will continue to be a library volunteer, and will also continue to watch over the building with his invaluable professional skills.

Three new Trustees have been co-opted: Chris Pearson, Nigel Phillips, and Terence Sackett.

This year the thoughts of the Trustees have been dominated by the possible implications of the financial difficulties facing Somerset Council (SC). It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide a public library service. However, with all the other calls on their funds, SC has had to ask the Somerset Library Service (SLS) to make savings. At a meeting of the Trustees and the SLS in January, we were told that since we are a Community Library Partnership (CLP) library, we are within the statutory 'envelope', and not at risk of closure. However, the Trustees need to prepare for the possibility that the annual £5,000 grant from SC could be reduced, or that SC might not continue to waive the 20% Council Tax (discretionary relief after 80% charity relief).

SC own the library building. The Trustees had feared that SC might wish to sell it. The good news is that TPLNS has been told recently by SLS that SC have no plans to sell the building. However, because of the current funding crisis for local authorities, the Trustees are aware that they need to continue to plan ahead in case the SC have to change their policy.

The Trustees have held extra meetings to discuss these problems and possible solutions. A budget sub-committee has been formed to prepare financial planning for future eventualities.

The Trustees are working hard to find answers to the questions arising from SC's financial crisis. They are determined to do everything they can to preserve the library as an essential resource for the local community.

A Governance and Management Framework has been drafted, outlining a structure for the various groups that manage the library and defining the tasks for which each group is responsible. The Trustees also met informally to discuss the library's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). The topics that arose from the Framework and the SWOT session were discussed at a strategic planning meeting of the Management Committee and the volunteers.

A new Library Management System (LMS) is being rolled out to SLS and to the six other library services in the LibrariesWest consortium. Since April this computer system has been plagued with glitches, not only to the tasks that the counter volunteers have to do, but also to stock control and circulation tasks. TPLNS's volunteers have been coping nobly, and in common with so many libraries in the southwest have been communicating with the creators of the new LMS to enable them to sort out the problems. The Trustees have every confidence that the LMS will soon be working smoothly.

The Trustees have undertaken a thorough review of TPLNS's policies (some of these are statutory, some required by the Charity Commission, and some deemed necessary). The policies are available for public view in the library.

Library Performance

TPLNS is one of only two public libraries in Somerset to be entirely managed and run by volunteers.

Opening hours: 18 hours per week.

Volunteer hours: volunteers gave a total of 2893 hours of their time, both within the library and elsewhere (up from 2548 hours last year).

Community Library Partnership meetings: two have been held with Somerset Library Service representatives to review performance, and TPLNS has received quarterly performance statistics. SLS is totally satisfied with our performance.

Meetings: nine meetings of the Trustees were held, six of the Management Committee, and two of the Volunteers. The Trustees met Darren Smart and Sue Sheppard (Somerset Library Service) to discuss the impact of Somerset Council's financial difficulties on TPLNS.

Activities

Evening Talks: ten were given.

Regular weekly/monthly/annual activities:

Children's activities, including weekly Storytime for toddlers, weekly Story Reading to a class from the village school, and reading and craft activities for children at half-terms and in the holidays, including the summer Reading Challenge

Knit and Natter

Chess Club

Dungeons and Dragons

Patient Participation Group

Book sales – held regularly, plus a book table in the library and book stalls at village events

Somerset and Exmoor Coast Trail: trail passports can be obtained and stamped at the library

Women's Walk – help with planning and catering, plus storage of the archive and the banner

Participation in many village events, including the Walking Festival (Stowey Walking), Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership walks, Stowey Green Spaces, Party in the Park (book stall)

Ancestry research facilities available

Displays, including natural history, local history, arts and crafts, children's art. There are also regular library displays in the community cabinet and the old gaol

Annual plant sale

A defibrillator has been kindly donated to the library. Regular training sessions on its use are held

Other events:

Events for children included participation in the village Christmas Bear Hunt and the RSPCA reindeer food event.

Poole Day: tea at Poole House and a talk in the library by Professor Tim Fulford on Tom Poole's friendships with scientists.

An article in Somerset Life magazine featured the library and the work of the manager, Sian Stafford.

National Digital Inclusion Network: questions answered and help given with smart devices to members of the public.

The library is now at the 'recommended' stage for listing on SW Heritage's Local Heritage List of buildings, structures and places which have cultural significance in Somerset. It is also now on the Somerset Historic Environment Record.

The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme (a collaboration with Natural Landscapes) has been leasing an office in the library since November 2021. TPLNS is delighted to host QLPS, who are doing so much to enhance this area.

The Coleridge Collection is now housed in the library. This collection of old, rare, valuable and more modern scholarly books by and about Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his circle is owned by the Friends of Coleridge. TPLNS is privileged to host this collection, and very pleased that the books can be seen and used by the public.

Sian Stafford has joined the Quantock Messenger editors' group and edits the magazine every two months.

Grants and Financial Aid

We are grateful to the following organisations for their generous support:

Somerset Council

Waiving of remaining 20% Council Tax (discretionary relief) after 80% charity relief

Somerset Council

Revenue grant of £5000 for the financial year 2023-2024

Lottery Community Fund

Grant of £18,000 for period 31 August 2024 to 31 August 2025

Maintenance work carried out

Tarmac repair

Repair of wall beside the Shed

A full energy assessment by Erebus Environment Ltd – this will serve as a handbook for future work

Website and social media

TPLNS's website and Facebook continue to be updated regularly.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees express their sincere thanks to the officers and members who make up the Management Committee, to the Events and Publicity Manager, and to the volunteers for their committed service in carrying out daily librarian duties. The work carried out by all of them ensures that The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey continues its Community Library Partnership with the Somerset Library Service.

Signed

For and on behalf of the Trustees

30 October 2024

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Registered Charity No. 1181213

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
*Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the Year from April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024

		2023-2024	2022-2023
	Notes	£	£
Incoming Resources			
<u>Grants</u>			
Annual Grant from Somerset		£5,000.00	£5,000.00
SCF Grant		£20,000.00	£15,000.00
National Lottery Grant			£10,000.00
Heating Grant		£1,000.00	£795.00
<u>Total Grants</u>		£26,000.00	£30,795.00
<u>Revenues from Operations</u>			
Bank interest now included with 'Other'			
Subs		£335.00	£145.00
Wednesday Talks		£389.60	£791.00
Book Sales	a	£595.00	£648.85
Library Takings		£641.90	£656.10
Hall hire (including rental for QLP)		£4,500.00	£4,840.00
Other (including car park)		£1,604.56	£1,001.34
<u>Total Revenues from Operations</u>		£8,066.06	£8,082.29
Total Income		£34,066.06	£38,877.29
Expenditure			
Services and Utilities		£4,363.32	£3,312.72
Maintenance (Routine)		£1,331.67	£15,235.95
Maintenance (Special)		£2,502.18	
Employee	b	£25,849.59	£29,283.93
Outreach including Speakers	c	£388.74	£588.33
Miscellaneous		£836.79	£1,796.11
Total Expenditure		£35,322.29	£50,217.04
Net (outgoing) incoming resources		-£1,256.23	-£11,339.84
Brought forward from previous FY		£45,888.54	£57,228.29
Carried forward to next FY		£44,682.31	£45,888.45

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Statement of assets and liabilities as at March 31st 2024

Funds	Notes	2023-2024	2022-2023
Co-operative Bank			
Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey <i>Community Directplus Account</i>		£3,109.80	£2,940.15
TPL SCF Grant <i>Instant access savings account</i>		£41,572.51	£42,948.30
Total Bank		£44,682.31	£45,888.45
Total Cash funds		£0.00	£20.13
Total Funds		£44,682.31	£45,908.58

Assets (note d)

Item	
Dishwasher	£130.00
Cordless vacuum	£279.00
Display stands	£43.00
Copier	£37.00
Book Stands 1	£43.00
Book Rack	£72.00
Copier	£178.00
Gazebo	£158.00
Shelving	£1,246.00
Book Stands 2	£142.00
Total	£2,328.00

Notes to the Accounts

- a Income from selling donated second-hand books.
- b Employee salary (paid via SCF fund) plus direct employee expenses
- c Costs of public-facing and public relations activities (e.g. the Website, information panels), funded via SCF grant
- d Items on the Asset Register are depreciated at an arbitrary 10% p.a.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

I report on the accounts of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey for the year April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024 which are set out in the pages *(following)*

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, The Charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

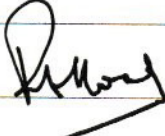
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with those records and to comply with the accounting records of the Act

have not been met; or

- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Signed		Date	29/10/2024
Name:	ROBERT HOOD		

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181213

Accounts

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY, NETHER STOWEY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered charity name	The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Charity registration	1181213
Constitution model.	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Association Established by constitution dated 21 st October 2018, amended 15 th December 2018. Approved by the Charity Commission and registered on 17 th December 2018
Operational address	The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey Castle Street Nether Stowey Bridgwater Somerset TA5 1LN
Trustees	Susan Aubrey Catherine Christie Norma Frood Eliza Sackett Roger Stacey
Bankers	Co-operative Bank 1, Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is administered by a Management Committee consisting of the Trustees above and the following officers:

Roger Stacey	Chairman
Eliza Sackett	Secretary
Eric Coates	Treasurer
Norma Frood	Funding; Membership Secretary
Catherine Christie	Oversight, including budgeting, forward planning, compliance
Jo Davison	Health and Safety Officer (co-opted)
Lynn Scales	Volunteers leader (co-opted)

Bill Streeter

Sian Stafford
SC/TPLNS
Kevin Ferriday
Objects

Events and Publicity Manager. Employed by
Parish Council representative

1. For the public benefit, the provision of a library in Nether Stowey, Somerset and a library service for the village and surrounding parishes.
2. For the residents of Nether Stowey and the surrounding area, to promote the library for recreation and/or other leisure-time occupation of people who need these facilities because of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances; and for the public at large in the interests of the community, and with the object of improving the condition of life of the residents.
3. To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the area, particularly in the lives of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and the local benefactor Thomas Poole, and in the local environment.

Public Benefit

In planning activities for the period covered by this Report the Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Library Performance

TPLNS is one of only two public libraries in Somerset to be entirely managed and run by volunteers.

Opening hours: 18 hours per week (up from 14 hours last year).

Volunteer hours: volunteers gave a total of 2548 hours of their time, both within the library and elsewhere (up from 1659 hours last year).

Community Library Partnership meetings: two have been held with Somerset Library Service representatives to review performance, and TPLNS has received quarterly performance statistics.

Meetings: five meetings of the Trustees were held, five of the Management Committee, and four of the Volunteers.

In order to increase book borrowing, this year a major programme of stock reduction and stock refreshment has begun, along with themed displays to tempt readers. To make the library more attractive and convenient for readers, the non-fiction room has been re-configured and the fiction shelves have been re-arranged.

Activities

Evening Talks: nine were given.

Groups regularly using the Library: Reading Group, Patient Participation Group.

Regular weekly/monthly/annual activities:

Children's activities, including weekly Storytime for toddlers, weekly Story Reading to a class from the village school, and reading and craft activities for children in the holidays, including the summer Reading Challenge

Knit and Natter

Chess Club

Book sales - held regularly, plus a book table in the library and book stalls at village events

Thrive Tribe - free NHS health checks

Diversity Voice - organisation for refugees

Women's Walk - help with planning and catering, plus storage of archive and banner

Participation in village events, including the Walking Festival and Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership walks

Breathing techniques sessions

Visits from Jason Wyatt, Stowey's PCSO

Ancestry research facilities available

Displays, including natural history, local history, arts and crafts, children's art

Annual plant sale

A defibrillator has been kindly donated to the library. Regular training sessions on its use are held

Other events

Book launch with local author Ian Pearson.

Unveiling of the blue plaque at Poole House: the library hosted a celebratory lunch.

A pre-tour show was given by local singer/songwriter Michael Tinker.

A party was held in the library to thank the volunteers for their invaluable work.

Poole Day: tea at Poole House and a talk on tanning in the library.

A talk was given on archaeology in the Quantocks by Dan Broadbent, archaeologist for the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The library is now at the 'recommended' stage for listing on SW Heritage's Local Heritage List of buildings, structures and places which have cultural significance in Somerset. It is also now on the Somerset Historic Environment Record.

The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme has been leasing an office in the library since November 2021. TPLNS is delighted to host QLPS, who are doing so much to enhance this area.

The Coleridge Collection is now housed in the library. This collection of old, rare, valuable and more modern scholarly books by and about Coleridge and his circle is owned by the Friends of Coleridge. TPLNS is privileged to host this collection, and very pleased that the books can be seen and used by the public.

Sian Stafford has joined the Quantock Messenger editors' group and edits the magazine every three months.

Grants and Financial Aid

We are grateful to the following organisations for their generous support:

Sedgemoor District Council

Waiving of remaining 20% Council Tax (discretionary relief) after 80% charity relief

Somerset Council

Revenue grant of £5000 for the financial year 2022-2023

HPC Community Fund

Grant of £15,000 for period July 2022 to June 2023

Grant of £20,000 for period July 2023 to July 2024

Major maintenance work carried out

Renewal of the flat roof covering

Refurbishment of the Dutch gable and the roof lantern

Non-fiction room: new blinds, moving the computers

Website and social media

TPLNS's website and Facebook continue to be updated regularly.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees express their sincere thanks to the officers and members who make up the Management Committee, to the Events and Publicity Manager, and to the volunteers for their committed service in carrying out daily librarian duties. The work carried out by all of them ensures that The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey continues its Community Library Partnership with the Somerset Library Service.

Signed

R.J.Stacey

For and on behalf of the Trustees

17 October 2023

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Registered Charity No. 1181213

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the Year from April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023

		2022-2023	2021-2022
	Notes	£	£
Incoming Resources			
<u>Surplus from 2019-2020</u>	a	£57,228.29	£40,605.02
<u>Grants</u>			
<u>Grants for Operations</u>	b	£5,000.00	£5,068.08
National Lottery Grant		£10,000.00	
SCF Grant		£15,000.00	£25,000.00
Covid-related Grants	c	£0.00	£10,667.00
Energy Efficiency Grant		£795.00	
<u>Total Grants</u>		£30,795.00	£40,735.08
<u>Revenues from Operations</u>			
Bank interest now included with 'Other'			
Subs		£145.00	£225.00
Wednesday Talks		£791.00	£166.00
Book Sales	d	£648.85	£336.80
Library Takings		£656.10	£539.50
Hall hire (including rental for QLP)		£4,840.00	£200.00
Other		£1,001.34	£4,659.54
<u>Total Revenues from Operations</u>		£8,082.29	
Total Income		£96,105.58	£87,666.94
Expenditure			
Services and Utilities		£3,312.72	£2,960.19
Maintenance		£15,235.95	£5,589.94
Employee	e	£29,283.93	£19,902.02
Outreach including Speakers	f	£588.33	£620.95
Miscellaneous		£1,796.11	£1,165.95
Total Expenditure		£50,217.04	£30,238.65
Net (outgoing) incoming resources		£45,888.54	£57,228.29

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Statement of assets and liabilities as at March 31st 2023

Funds	Notes	2022-2023	2021-2022
Co-operative Bank			
Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey <i>Community Directplus Account</i>		£2,940.15	£1,240.73
TPL SCF Grant <i>Instant access savings account</i>		£42,948.30	£55,987.56
Total Bank		£45,888.45	£57,228.29
Total Cash funds		£20.13	£20.13
Total Funds		£45,908.58	£57,248.42

Assets (note g)

Item	
Dishwasher	£145.07
Henry vacuum cleaner	£77.99
Display stands	£47.50
Copier	£41.48
Bookstands	£47.82
Book Rack	£79.69
Copier	£197.99
Gazebo	£175.98
Shelving	£1,385.04
Book Stands	£158.85
Total	£2,357.41

Notes to the Accounts

- a Surplus from previous FY, including unused portion of grant from Somerset Community Chest
- b Consists of annual grant from Somerset County Council Library Services, annual grant from local Parish Council if any.
- c Grants under Government schemes to alleviate Covid losses
- d Income from selling donated second-hand books.
- e Employee salary (paid via SCF fund) plus direct employee expenses
- f Costs of public-facing and public relations activities (e.g. the Website, information panels), funded via SCF grant
- g Items on the Asset Register, depreciated at an arbitrary 10% p.a.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

I report on the accounts of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey for the year April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023 which are set out in the pages *(following)*

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts,
The Charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

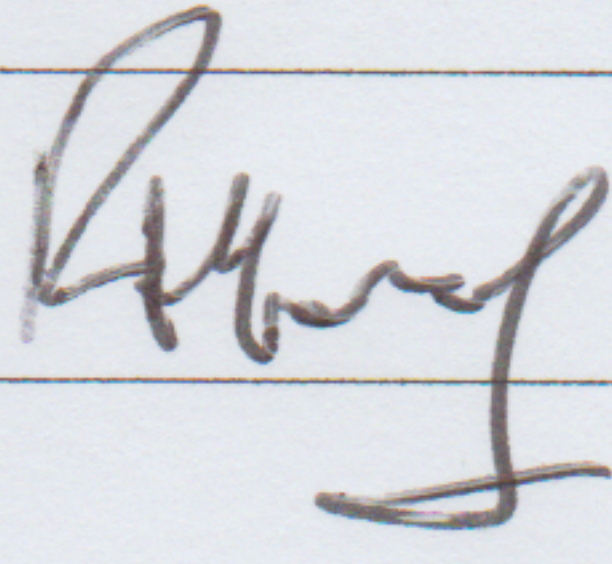
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with those records and to comply with the accounting records of the Act

have not been met; or

- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Signed		Date	31/10/23
Name:			
ROBERT		HOOD	

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181213

Accounts

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Report of the Trustees

1 September 2021 to 30 September 2022

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered charity name The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Charity registration 1181213

Constitution Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO),
Association model.
Established by constitution dated 21st October 2018,
amended 15th
December 2018. Approved by the Charity Commission
and registered on 17th December 2018

Operational address The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Castle Street
Nether Stowey
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA5 1LN

Trustees Susan Aubrey
Catherine Christie
Norma Frood
Eliza Sackett
Roger Stacey

Bankers Co-operative Bank
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is administered by a Management Committee consisting of the Trustees above and the following officers:

Eliza Sackett	Secretary
Eric Coates	Treasurer
Catherine Christie	Oversight, including budgeting, forward
planning, compliance	
Roger Wallbank	Health and Safety Officer
Kevin Ferriday	Parish Council representative
Bill Streeter	
Janet Burdge	Co-opted

Sian Stafford
SCC/TPLNS

Events and Publicity Manager. Employed by

Objects

- 1) For the public benefit, the provision of a library in Nether Stowey, Somerset and a library service for the village and surrounding parishes
- 2) To promote for the residents of Nether Stowey and the surrounding area the provision of a public library for recreation and or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the residents.
- 3) To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the area, in particular of the lives of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and local benefactor Thomas Poole, and the local environment.

Public Benefit

In planning activities for the period covered by this Report the Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Library Performance

TPLNS is one of only three public libraries in Somerset to be entirely managed and run by volunteers.

Opening hours: 14 hours per week (down from 23 hours pre-pandemic).

Volunteer hours: volunteers gave a total of 1,659 hours of their time, both within the library and elsewhere.

Community Library Partnership Review meetings: two have been held with Somerset Library Service representatives to review performance. It has been agreed to hold two meetings a year in future, and that TPLNS will receive performance statistics quarterly.

Meetings: two meetings of the Trustees were held, six of the Management Committee, and one of the Volunteers.

Activities

Evening Talks: eight were given.

Coleridge seminars: three were given.

Groups regularly using the Library: Reading Group, Patient Participation Group, Mind in Somerset

Regular Weekly/Monthly/Annual activities:
Knit and Natter

Children's activities, including weekly Storytime for toddlers, weekly Story Reading to a class from the village school, and reading and craft activities for children in the holidays, including the summer Reading Challenge
Book sales - held regularly, plus a book table in the library and book stalls at village events
Thrive Tribe - free NHS health checks
Women's Walk - help with planning and catering, plus storage of archive and banner
Participation in village events, including the Walking Festival and Party in the Park
Ancestry research facilities available
Displays, including natural history, local history, arts and crafts, children's art
Annual plant sale

Other events

The High Sheriff of Somerset visited the library.

The library is now at the 'recommended' stage for listing on SW Heritage's Local Heritage List: buildings, structures and places which have cultural significance in Somerset.

The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme has been leasing an office in the library since November 2021. TPLNS is delighted to host QLPS, who are doing so much to enhance this area.

The Coleridge Collection is now housed in the library. This is a collection of old, rare, valuable and more modern scholarly books by and about Coleridge and his circle which is owned by the Friends of Coleridge. The books used to be on display at Coleridge Cottage, but when the Cottage was refurbished the books were stored at Dunster Castle. TPLNS is privileged to host this collection, and very pleased that the books can be seen and used by the public once more.

A group of delegates to the Coleridge Conference, which is organised by the Friends of Coleridge, visited the library to see the Coleridge Collection and learn how Tom Poole built the free school, now the library building.

Sian Stafford has joined the Quantock Messenger editors' group and edits the magazine every three months.

Grants and Financial Aid

We are grateful to the following organisations for their generous support:

Sedgemoor District Council

Waiving of remaining 20% Council Tax (discretionary relief) after 80% charity relief

Somerset County Council

Revenue grant of £5000.00 p.a. for the financial year 2021-2022

HPC Community Fund

Grant of £25,000 for period June 2021 to June 2022

Grant of £15,000 for period July 2022 to June 2023

National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All

Grant of £10,000, 2022

Major maintenance work carried out

New boiler

Refurbishment of the shed, including installation of electricity and heating, and its transformation into Book Sales HQ

Electrical work within the library

New signboard in the car park

Bookcase in children's section

New flat roof and insulation above the office

Tarmac renewal in TPLNS's part of the car park and the shed area

Website and social media

TPLNS's website and Facebook continue to be updated regularly.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees express their sincere thanks to the Officers and Members who make up the Management Committee, to the Events and Publicity Manager, and to the Volunteers for their committed service in carrying out daily librarian duties, ensuring that The Thomas Poole Library, Nether Stowey continues its Community Library Partnership with the Somerset Library Service.

Signed R.J.Stacey

For and on behalf of the Trustees

26 October 2022

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Registered Charity No. 1181213

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the Year from April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

		2021-2022	2020-2021
	Notes	£	£
Incoming Resources			
<u>Surplus from 2019-2020</u>	a	£40,605.02	£39,265.00
<u>Grants</u>			
Grants for Operations	b	£5,068.08	£5,500.00
SCF Grant		£25,000.00	
Covid-related Grants	c	£10,667.00	£19,669.00
<u>Revenues from Operations</u>			
Bank interest now included with 'Other'			£129.00
Subs		£225.00	£0.00
Wednesday Talks		£166.00	£89.00
Book Sales	d	£336.80	£16.00
Library Takings		£539.50	£103.00
Hall hire		£200.00	£0.00
Other		£4,659.54	£862.00
Total Income		£87,666.94	£65,633.00
Expenditure			
Services and Utilities		£2,960.19	£3,585.00
Maintenance		£5,589.94	£3,627.00
Employee	e	£19,902.02	£16,644.00
Outreach including Speakers	f	£620.95	£754.00
Speakers			£0.00
Subscriptions		£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous		£1,165.95	£417.00
Total Expenditure		£30,238.65	£25,027.00
Net (outgoing) incoming resources		£57,228.29	£40,606.00

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Statement of assets and liabilities as at March 31st 2021

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Funds	Notes	2020-2021	2020-2021
Co-operative Bank			
Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey <i>Community Directplus Account</i>		£1,240.73	£1,850.37
TPL SCF Grant <i>Instant access savings account</i>		£55,987.56	£38,754.65
Total Bank		£57,228.29	£40,605.02
Total Cash funds		£20.13	£20.00
Total Funds		£57,248.42	£40,625.02

Assets (note g)

Item	Value £
Dishwasher	£161.19
Henry vacuum cleaner	£86.66
Display stands	£52.78
Copier	£46.09
Bookstands	£53.14
Book Rack	£88.55
Copier	£219.99
Total	£708.40

Notes to the Accounts

- a Surplus from previous FY, including unused portion of grant from Somerset Community Chest
- b Consists of annual grant from Somerset County Council Library Services, annual grant from local Parish Council if any.
- c Grants under Government schemes to alleviate Covid losses
- d Income from selling donated second-hand books.
- e Employee salary (paid via SCF fund) plus direct employee expenses
- f Costs of public-facing and public relations activities (e.g. the Website, information panels), funded via SCF grant
- g Items on the Asset Register, depreciated at an arbitrary 10% p.a.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

I report on the accounts of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey for the year April 1st 2021 to March 31st 2022 which are set out in the pages *(following)*

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts,
The Charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

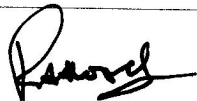
1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with those records and to comply with the accounting records of the Act

have not been met; or

2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Signed	Date
	
Name:	
ROBERT HOOD	

THE THOMAS POOLE LIBRARY NETHER STOWEY

England & Wales - Charity number 1181213

Accounts

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

2020 - 2021

Annual Report of the Trustees
and
Accounts

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Registered Charity No. 1181213

Report and Financial statements For the Year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

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Report of the Trustees	2
Independent Examiner's report	6
Receipts and Payments	7
Statement of \assets and liabilities	8
Notes forming part of the financial statements	8

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Report of the Trustees for the year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered charity name The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

Charity registration 1181213

Constitution Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Association model, established by constitution dated 21st October 2018, amended 15th December 2018. Approved by the Charity Commission and registered on 17th December 2018

Operational address The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Castle Street
Nether Stowey
Bridgwater
Somerset
TA5 1LN

Trustees Sue Aubrey
Norma Frood
Mary Reece
Roger Stacey

Bankers Co-Operative Bank
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Structure, Governance, and Management

The charity is administered by a management committee consisting of the Trustees above and the following officers, ex-officio and co-opted, formerly committee members of the Friends of Nether Stowey Library, who will be due to stand for election at the first General Meeting:

Treasurer
Secretary
Rota Organiser
Health and Safety Officer
Charity Oversight Officer
Events Organiser
Events Publicity Officer

Objects

1) For the public benefit, the provision of a library in Nether Stowey, Somerset and a library service for the village and surrounding parishes

2) To promote for the residents of Nether Stowey and the surrounding area the provision of a public library for recreation and or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said residents.

3) To advance the education of the public in the history and heritage of the area, in particular of the lives of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and local benefactor Thomas Poole, and the local environment.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance for the operation of the Public Benefit requirement and are satisfied that the activities of the charity undertaken during the year meet the Public Benefit test.

The public benefit lies in providing a free at source library service, together with other activities to serve all age groups and the range of interests of the community.

Achievements and Performance

During the reporting year The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey continued to provide a public Library service, to promote the history and heritage of the area and to support the social welfare of the residents in accordance with the Objects of the Charity. This service was provided when the restrictions imposed as a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic allowed, see below.

The Library closed on 18th March 2020, in line with Library Service and national guidelines and did not reopen until 17th August 2020. At first only Order and Collect was allowed, with readers ordering books from Nether Stowey stock only, and then having their books passed to them in a paper bag. This continued until 28th September, when browsing was again allowed.

The Public Network computers were removed from their existing positions to allow more circulation space in the Non-Fiction room and one of them was repositioned in the small room adjacent to the entrance corridor. The computers were not returned to their original positions until June 2021.

On 5th November a second lockdown began but libraries were allowed to remain open for Order and Collect, and from 2nd December browsing was again allowed. The Library remained open until 6th January 2021, when along with the rest of the country it was deemed unsafe to continue. The Library remained closed until 15th March 2021 when it re-opened and on 12th April browsing was again allowed.

During the reporting period, whenever it has been possible to be open, readers have been served by the same dedicated 11 volunteers who work in teams of 2 or 3 on the same day every week. Opening hours were restricted to mornings only while usage remained comparatively low.

Strict hygiene protocols were observed, with one way systems in place in the building, hand sanitisers were available, surfaces were constantly wiped down and facemasks were worn. Returned books were placed in boxes and only processed after 72 hours.

Between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021, 77 volunteers in 259 individual sessions, gave 707 hours of their time

No Review Meetings have been held with Somerset Library Service representatives to monitor the progress of the CLP during the reporting period.

1 Meeting of the Trustees was held during the reporting period.

No Meetings of the Management Committee have been held during the reporting period.

No Meetings of the Volunteers have been held during the reporting period.

Evening Talks:

No Evening Talks were given during the 2020 – 2021 reporting period.

Groups using the Library:

No Groups used the Library during the 2020 – 2021 reporting period.

Regular Weekly/Monthly/Annual activities:

There were no regular activities during the 2020 – 2021 reporting period.

Events and Publicity Manager

Our Events and Publicity Manager, funded through our EDF/HPC grant, was only 10 weeks into her appointment at the beginning of 2020 when Covid 19 caused Library activities to cease, including those of our Manager. During some of the closure period she was able to work from home, but given the nature of her remit there was only so much she could. Accordingly, with her agreement, she was furloughed for some time. This was possible as Somerset County Council acts as her employer on behalf of the CIO. She was able to return to part time working at the end of the reporting period.

Financial Aid

Sedgemoor District Council

Waiving of remaining 20% Council tax (discretionary relief) after 80% charity relief

Sedgemoor District Council

Government Support for Small Businesses

£10,000.00

£1,334.00

£6,001.00

£2,096.00

Somerset County Council

£5,000.00 revenue grant for the period 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

Nether Stowey Parish Council

£500.00 grant

Somerset Community Fund

£25,000.00 grant

Financial Revue

Results for the year

Total funds were £40,625.02 at year end

General funds and reserves policy

No salaries or wages have been paid to volunteers, members of the committee or Trustees during the period. No expenses were paid to the above except as repayment for items purchased by individuals with the approval of the Treasurer.

Signed

Chair

On behalf of the Trustees and Committee

Date

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Registered Charity No. 1181213

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Receipts and Payments Accounts
for the Year from April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

		2020-2021	2019-2020
	Notes	£	£
Incoming Resources			
<u>Grants</u>			
Operational Fund	a	£5,500.00	£7,350.00
Surplus from 2019-2020 including unused balance of SCF Fund	b	£39,265.00	£35,000.00
Covid-related Grants	c	£19,669.00	£10,000.00
<u>Revenues</u>			
Bank interest		£129.00	£22.00
Subs		£0.00	£68.00
Wednesday Talks		£89.00	£536.00
Book Sales	d	£16.00	£594.00
Library Takings		£103.00	£948.00
Hall hire		£0.00	£696.00
Other		£862.00	£462.00
		<i>£65,635.00</i>	
Total Income		£65,633.00	£55,676.00
Expenditure			
Services and Utilities		£3,585.00	£2,328.00
Maintenance		£3,627.00	£80.00
Employee	e	£16,644.00	
Outreach	f	£754.00	
Speakers		£0.00	
Subscriptions		£0.00	£20.00
Consumables, Supplies, etc	g		£13,170.00
Miscellaneous		£417.00	£794.00
Total Expenditure		£25,027.00	£16,392.00
Net (outgoing) incoming resources		£40,606.00	£39,284.00

The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
Statement of assets and liabilities as at March 31st 2021

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Funds	Notes	2020-2021	2019-2020
Co-operative Bank			
Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey <i>Community Directplus Account</i>		£1,850.37	£3,243.00
TPL SCF Grant <i>Instant access savings account</i>		£38,754.65	£36,022.00
Total Bank		£40,605.02	£39,265.00
Total Cash funds		£20.00	£20.00
Total Funds		£40,625.02	£39,285.00

Assets

Item	Notes	Value £
Dishwasher		£199.00
Shelving		£422.40
Display stands		£55.16
Copier		£56.90
Cabinet		£188.74
Total	e	£932.22

Notes to the Accounts

- a Consists of annual grant from Somerset County Council Library Services, annual grant from local Parish Council, and funds transferred from the previous Friends of the Library.
- b Surplus from previous FY , including unused portion of grant from Somerset Community Chest
- c Grants under Government schemes to alleviate Covid losses
- d Income from selling donated second-hand books.
- e Employee salary (paid via SCF fund) plus direct employee expenses
- f Costs of public-facing and public relations activities (e.g. the Website, information panels), funded via SCF grant
- g Costs incurred in Year 1 (2019-2020) for setting up the Library operation including capital equipment. Not applicable in Year 2 (this year).

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey

I report on the accounts of the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey for the year April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021 which are set out in the pages *(following)*

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts,
The Charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

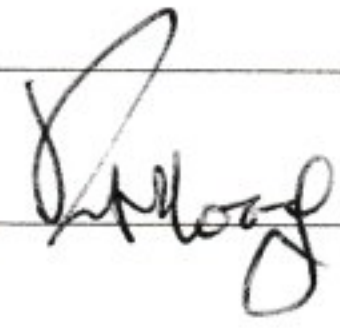
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with those records and to comply with the accounting records of the Act

have not been met; or

- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner

Signed		Date	20/10/2021
Name:	R. A. Hood		