

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

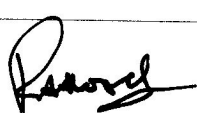
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 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	