

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
amended	Established by constitution dated 21 st October 2018, 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

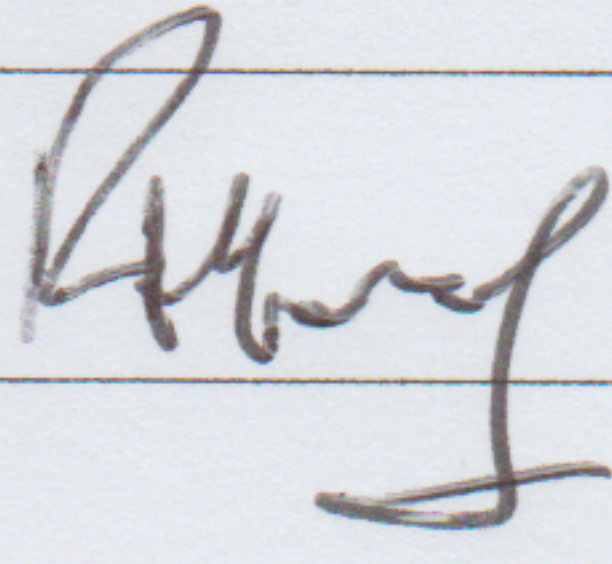
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 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			