

SANDWELL LIBRARIES FEDERATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1182249

Details

Other names FEDERATION OF FRIENDS OF SANDWELL LIBRARIES

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-02-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 41 Windsor Avenue
Oldbury
B68 8PA

Phone 01215522176

Website [N.A.](#)

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC BY THE PROMOTION, SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF LIBRARIES THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF FRIENDS AND USERS GROUPS

Activities: The Charity promotes educational, informational and recreational activities throughout Sandwell Communities, in addition to those provided by the statutory authorities, to increase social well being, social justice and to reduce social isolation. Creative activities are organised or facilitated by volunteers with children and families, some during school holidays, using libraries as hubs.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Sandwell

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31		£357	£84	-
2024-03-31		£357	£0	-
2023-03-31		£0	£0	-
2022-03-31		£368	£10	-
2021-03-31		£0	£320	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID JAMES WELLS		2018-04-19
Diane Higgs		2021-12-10
NINA ELSA ROGERS		2018-04-19
SANDRA LACEY		2026-01-15

SANDWELL LIBRARIES FEDERATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1182249

Accounts

Sandwell Libraries Federation

Annual Report

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

The need to raise funds in the last year for the Federation to use has not been necessary again as the Library has found other sources to fund children's activities.

However the Federation has continued to meet 3 or 4 times a year to encourage the Friends' Groups that exist for a number of Sandwell Libraries. These groups individually fund small, and sometimes larger sessions, in which a wide section of the local communities can partake. Funds for these activities are generally raised through small sales and donations at events or local funding bids.

The strength of the Federation lies in the exchange of ideas at meetings and a sense of togetherness when working to reinforce the benefits of public libraries.

To this end an annual workshop has become a useful feature where discussion allows successful ideas to circulate and affirms the work Friends' Groups undertake. (This group also provides a valuable service in community cohesion).

Expenditure is very low and taken from existing funds until such time as these run out.

Again a decision by Trustees and the wider group felt that the Charitable Registration should be maintained in case circumstances change and the requirement for a more active participation with the Charity Commissioners became necessary.

After two years of struggling to find a treasurer it is hoped that one has possibly been found. This is also the case with a new secretary. It has been the custom that the post serve both the Federation and the Trustees.

Sandwell Libraries Federation
Financial Statement
1 April 2024– 31 March 2025

Income

c/f £357.52

Expenditure

£84.45

Balance

£273.07

SANDWELL LIBRARIES FEDERATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1182249

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Sandwell Libraries Federation
Financial Statement
1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

Income

c/f £357.52

Expenditure

£00.00

Balance

£357.52

Sandwell Libraries Federation

Annual Report

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

In the same way as last year the Charity has not been active financially as money for events in libraries is now being funded in a different way.

However some individual Friends Groups in libraries are raising small amounts of funding to support activities through their own events and work under the umbrella of the Federation to share ideas.

The successful groups are able to generate sufficient funding to cover their costs and there have been no requests for larger amounts of funding that the Federation needed to be involved in.

Representatives of active groups meet 4 times a year to share ideas and address any common problems.

A decision about keeping the Charitable registration going is discussed by this group and it is agreed that the registration will be kept active. The Trustees obviously have approved this .

In spite of prolonged advertising/enquiries to replace the treasurer this has not yet been successful. Efforts are still being made.

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Sandwell Libraries Federation
Financial Statement
1 April 2022– 31 March 2023

Income

c/f £357.52

Expenditure

£00.00

Balance

£357.52

Sandwell Libraries Federation

Annual Report

1 April 2022– 31 March 2023

The Charity has been dormant during the last year as events in libraries are now being funded in a different way.

Alongside this individual Friends Groups in libraries are still finding it difficult to re-form after the pandemic and this creates a situation where insufficient support is available to run activities.

The successful groups are able to generate sufficient funding through their events and there has been no need for the wider fund raising across the library service.

A decision about keeping the Charitable registration going is discussed at regular intervals by both the Federation and the Trustees.

SANDWELL LIBRARIES FEDERATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1182249

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Sandwell Libraries Federation
Financial Statement 1 April 2021- 31
March 2022

Income

Expenditure

c/f £367.52

£10.00

hire)

(Room

Balance

£357.52

Report from the Trustees of the Federation of Sandwell Libraries April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2022

Statement from Trustees:

The first face to face meeting was held for the Federation at the beginning of January 2021. This was held in a Community Centre as Libraries in Sandwell were still not fully operational. The pattern for the year has been to hold a Trustees meeting before a General Meeting of the Federation, sometimes on Zoom and a report from the Chair goes to the General meeting.

The lack of opportunity for meetings in Libraries continued until the early summer months so there was little point in the Federation fund raising for community activities. (One of the major difficulties for larger groups meeting is the smallness of public rooms in the libraries).

In early September work was begun on trying to raise funds to improve some of the outdoor spaces at the libraries. Nine of the libraries

indicated they would be involved. The aim was to make more usable any available outdoor sitting areas with an emphasis on creating a sustainable biodiversity site that library users could enjoy. The inclusion of seating and large planters were part of the plan, with the opportunity for user groups to grow flora that attracted pollinators and possibly vegetables. The first funding group approached was the Council Infrastructure Levy (CIL) run by Sandwell Council for local communities, but it was felt that the costs were generally too high for this funding stream and so the group then made a bid to the West Midlands Combined Authority. In December 2022 this bid was rejected by the CA but with encouragement to re-bid using additional ideas. Being so close to Christmas any further action was delayed until 2023.

The Trustees are aware that volunteers were also slow to return to libraries for many complex reasons and we are in the process of building up confidence and encouragement for a return to Federation activities.

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Report for the Federation of Sandwell Libraries
20-21
on behalf of the Trustees

Statement from Trustees:

By the end of February 2020 all funds raised for the purpose of the Federation's activities in Sandwell libraries had been spent and used appropriately. During the February half term each library was host to an activity for children and this used up the last of the funds.

In March, in line with Government laws, all libraries were closed and no activities were possible anywhere in the borough.

All public libraries in Sandwell remained completely closed from March 2020 through to April 2021. The year this statement covers.

Libraries began to reopen in the Autumn of 2021 but because available rooms were deemed to be too small still no activities resumed.

There has been no fund raising, by Trustees for the year March 2020 to April 2021.

Sandwell Libraries Federation Financial Statement April 1 2020 - 31 March 2021

Income **Expenditure**

c/f £687.52

from 19/20)

£320.00

(ch/q cashed

Balance

£367.52

Sandwell Libraries Federation Financial Statement 1
April 2020 – 31 March 2021

Income

c/f £687.52

Expenditure

£320.00
(ch/q cashed from 19/20)

Balance

£367.52