

STOKESLEY AREA IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Trustees' Annual Report | 18 June 2025 to 31 March 2026

Registered Charity No. 1213678
stokesleyimaginationlibrary@gmail.com
Part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Period covered	18 June 2025 to 31 March 2026
Children enrolled (31 March 2026)	88
Active enrolled children	88
Children who have completed the programme	0
Independent examiner	Hazel Clayson

1. Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the Charity

Stokesley Area Imagination Library (SAIL) exists to advance the education of children in the Stokesley area by promoting early literacy and a lifelong love of reading. SAIL provides free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age five, regardless of family income, through Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library — a world-leading early childhood book gifting programme.

Main Activities for the Public Benefit

SAIL operates as a Local Programme Partner of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, the flagship programme of The Dollywood Foundation. Each month, a specially selected, age-appropriate book is posted directly to every registered child’s home, addressed personally to the child, at no cost to the family.

SAIL’s activities during the period 18 June 2025 to 31 March 2026 included:

- Establishing the charity and registering with the Charity Commission
- Recruiting founding trustees and putting governance arrangements in place
- Raising funds to cover the cost of books, postage, and packing for enrolled children
- Raising awareness of the programme among local families, health professionals, schools, and community groups
- Hosting a public launch event at Stokesley Library in February 2026

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit in planning and carrying out the charity’s activities.

2. Achievements and Performance

Making a Difference in Our Community

SAIL’s first period of operation, from June 2025 to March 2026, has exceeded our expectations and given us great confidence in the future of the programme in the Stokesley area. From a standing start, we successfully registered 88 children and built a strong foundation of community support and local funding partnerships that positions us well for the years ahead.

Our public launch event at Stokesley Library in February 2026 was warmly received by the local community. Families, community organisations, and local supporters came together to celebrate the arrival of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in Stokesley, and the response reinforced our belief that all children should have access to books regardless of their family background.

We have been particularly encouraged by the strength of support from local companies, funding bodies and charitable trusts. Their confidence in SAIL has provided a solid financial base from which to grow, and we are grateful to each organisation that has invested in our work and in the children of the Stokesley community.

Key Statistics

Measure	Figure
Children enrolled by 31 March 2026	88
Children who have completed the programme (graduated to age 5)	0

Measure	Figure
Active enrolled children at 31 March 2026	88
Approximate books gifted during the period	79

The Evidence for What We Do

Our work is supported by a landmark international study (Galea, 2025, Macquarie University) — the largest dataset in the world on shared book reading, drawing on responses from over 86,000 families across five countries including the UK and Republic of Ireland. The research found that children enrolled in the Imagination Library programme in the UK and Republic of Ireland were:

- 11x more likely to initiate shared book reading
- 9x more likely to demonstrate phonological awareness
- 5x more likely to demonstrate alphabet knowledge
- 5.5x more likely to spend time reading alone
- On average, their households gained 30 more books

"Speech, language and communication are the weakest areas for our children when they arrive to begin school in the year that they become 5. A good percentage have a significant vocabulary deficit. Sharing books from birth to 5 would help to close that vocabulary gap." — Mrs Madden, Headteacher, Stokesley Primary School

Volunteers

SAIL is run entirely by volunteers. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has given their time and energy to make this programme a reality in the Stokesley area during our first year of operation.

3. Financial Review

Financial Position

SAIL ended its first period of operation in a strong financial position, with total income of £5,997.65 against expenditure of £561.33, resulting in a surplus of £5,436.32 for the period. Reserves held at 31 March 2026 totalled £5,436.32, providing a solid foundation to fund book deliveries for enrolled children in the year ahead.

Income and Expenditure

Income

Sources	Amount
Tees Valley Community	2,500.00
Lady Hullocks Charity	1,000.00
Rotary Club	450.00
Stokesley Town Council	260.00
Songfest collection	210.00
Tees Music Songfest	445.65
Co-operative Society	250.00

Il Mulino	250.00
Small donations	632.00
Total	5,997.65

Expenditure

Item	Amount
Imagination Library Books	202.94
Imagination Library Marketing	23.00
Room Hire	37.50
Miscellaneous	21.48
Stationery	32.12
Marketing	244.29
Total	561.33

Net position for the period: £5,436.32 surplus
Reserves held at 31 March 2026: £5,436.32

Reserves Policy

We have no operational expenditure and therefore no reserves are required. However, the trustees aim to hold sufficient funds to ensure continuity of book delivery to all enrolled children in the event of a temporary shortfall in fundraising income. In the first year, SAIL have managed to fulfil the book delivery for all those currently subscribed and end with funds totalling greater than the anticipated cost of the following years book deliveries. In future years, SAIL would like to maintain this position - ensuring that they have sufficient funds for the year ahead.

Principal Sources of Funds

SAIL's income is derived principally from grants and donations from local organisations and individuals. Supporters during this period included: Stokesley Co-op, Tees Foundation, Lady Hullock's Charity, Stokesley Rotary, Songfest, Il Mulino and Stokesley Town Council.

Principal Risks

The trustees have identified the primary risk to the charity as securing sufficient and sustained funding to support the long-term delivery of the programme. As a small, volunteer-led charity reliant on grants and donations, there is an inherent risk that income may not keep pace with the cost of delivering books to a growing number of enrolled children.

To mitigate this risk, the trustees are actively diversifying the charity's funding base, building relationships with a range of local grant-making bodies and community funders, and maintaining a prudent reserves policy. The strong funding response in our first year gives the trustees confidence that this risk can be managed effectively.

4. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Stokesley Area Imagination Library is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution dated 18 June 2025.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

Trustees are recruited from the local community on the basis of their commitment to the charity's mission and their ability to contribute relevant skills and experience. The board seeks individuals who are rooted in the Stokesley area, willing to give their time on a voluntary basis, and capable of providing sound oversight and strategic direction for the charity. New trustees are welcomed through an informal induction process, including an introduction to the charity's governing document, its relationship with the Dollywood Foundation, and the operational requirements of the programme.

Organisational Structure

The charity is managed by a volunteer board of trustees. SAIL operates as a Local Programme Partner of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (The Dollywood Foundation of the United Kingdom, Registered Charity No. 1121917), which handles book selection, procurement, and postal fulfilment. SAIL is responsible for local enrolment, community outreach, and fundraising. All funds raised by SAIL go directly to the cost of books, postage, and packing for children in the Stokesley area.

5. Reference and Administrative Details

Detail	Information
Charity name	Stokesley Area Imagination Library (SAIL)
Registered charity number	1213678
Period covered	18 June 2025 to 31 March 2026
Principal address	74 Wheatlands Great Ayton MIDDLESBROUGH Cleveland TS9 6EF
Contact	stokesleyimaginationlibrary@gmail.com
Independent examiner	Hazel Clayson
Bank	The Co-operative Bank

Trustees during the period

Name	Role	Date Appointed	Note
Eileen Driver	Chair	18 June 2025	
Bridget Lucy Holmstrom	Trustee	18 June 2025	
Grace Louise Lenihan	Trustee	18 June 2025	
Mary Christine Shackles	Trustee	18 June 2025	
Karen Tyerman Boddy	Trustee	18 June 2025	Resigned 4 February 2026
Julie Carr	Trustee	18 June 2025	Resigned 19 February 2026

Name	Role	Date Appointed	Note
Oliver Connor Snowdon	Trustee	28 January 2026	
Esther Margaret Bonner	Trustee	25 February 2026	
Helen Juliet Duggleby	Trustee	25 February 2026	
Mary Teresa Bilous	Trustee	02 April 2026	Appointed after period end — not a trustee for this report

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved this Trustees' Annual Report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature: *E. Driver*

Full name: Eileen Driver

Position: Chair

Date: *07/07/2026*

Stokesley Area Imagination Library is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1213678). Part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the flagship programme of The Dollywood Foundation of the United Kingdom (Registered Charity No. 1121917).

Stokesley Area Imagination Library. Charity: 1213678

Year ended 31 March 2026

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	Unrestricted funds 31/03/2026	Unrestricted funds 31/03/2025
Income		
Donations	5,925.65	0
Imagination Library	72.00	0
Total Income	5,997.65	0.00
Costs		
Imagination Library Books	202.94	0
Imagination Library Marketing	23.00	0
Room Hire	37.50	0
Miscellaneous	21.48	0
Stationery	32.12	0
Marketing	244.29	0
Total Costs	561.33	0.00
Net Income	5,436.32	0.00
Sources		
Imagination Library	619.06	0
Co-operative Bank	4,817.26	0
Total Cash	5,436.32	0.00
	0.00	0.00

Key Metric

Available Funds as at 31/3/2026	Number of Children Registered as at 31/3/2026	Cost per Book	Funded Months
5,436.32	88	2.60	24

Signed: _____
Date: _____



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name:
Stokesley Area imagination Library

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2026

Charity no
(if any)

1213678

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Hazel Clayson

Date:

22 June 2026

Name:

Hazel Clayson

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA

Address:

4 Neasham Court

Stokesley

North Yorkshire