

THE SOMERTON LIBRARY TRUST

Registered Charity No: 1181508

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

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THE SOMERTON LIBRARY TRUST

Trust information

Charity number 1181508

Trust's correspondence address:

Little Barns
The Triangle
Somerton
Somerset
TA11 6ND

Library address:

Somerton Library
Cox's Yard
West Street
Somerton
TA11 7PR

Charity Trustees:

Trustee name	Office	Dates as Trustee if not for whole year
Jeremy Greenop	First charity Trustee, Chair, Communications and PR and Fundraising	Throughout
Martyn Smith	First charity Trustee, Treasurer.	Throughout
Robert Cherry	Facilities Manager	Throughout
Susan Partington	Community Engagement	Throughout
Alexandra Stannett	Health & Safety	Throughout
Martyn George	Fundraising	From 11 April 2025 to 20 August 2025
Philip Flowers	Town Council Nominated Trustee	To 8 April 2025
Amanda Worsdale	Town Council Nominated Trustee	From 23 July 2025
Julie Goodman	Assistant for Communications and PR	From 17 September 2025

THE SOMERTON LIBRARY TRUST

THE TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trust

The Trust's Constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a Foundation Structure was approved and registered by the Charity Commission on 10 January 2019. The Trust's Object is:

The advancement of education for the public benefit by supporting the operation and maintenance of a public library in Somerton for the benefit of local residents.

The Trust assumed responsibility for running Somerton Library with Somerset County Council, now Somerset Council (**SC**), as a Community Library Partnership (**CLP**) on 1 April 2019.

The Trust has renegotiated the contract (**the Agreement**) with SC to renew the Community Library Partnership (**CLP**). The 'Commencement Date' for the new Agreement was 5 February 2026 with an Expiry Date of 4 February 2033.

Somerton Town Council (**STC**) leases the library building to the Trust. The lease was renegotiated commencing on 1 April 2026 and ending on the 31 March 2033. STC owns the library building and is responsible for the maintenance of the building's structure.

Successful delivery of the Trust's Object is dependent on commitment to the 'Partnership' by SC, STC and the Trust.

Trust Management

The Trust is managed in accordance with its Constitution endorsed by the Charity Commission.

Meetings are held when required. In the reporting year the Trust has held 2 routine meetings. The 2024/2025 Annual General Meeting was held on 10 April 2025. Minutes are produced for all meetings and retained with key Trust documents to which all Trustees have access.

On 29 August 2025, the Charity Commission acknowledged receipt of the Annual Return for 2024/2025 and the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts. The Report was publicised locally and copies submitted to SC and STC.

The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts document for 2025/2026 (this report) was circulated by e-mail. It was endorsed by the Trustees and subsequently approved by the Members at the Annual General Meeting on 30 April 2026.

Details of serving Trustees are on page 2.

The Trust and the Somerset Library Service (**SLS**) hold regular CLP review meetings to evaluate the effectiveness of library services and interaction with the community. In 2025, SLS again noted the added range of community activities offered by Somerton Community Library and noted that statistical data gathered by SLS marks the Library as one of the highest achieving libraries within the 13 CLPs in Somerset.

Trust Priorities and EOY Review

Priorities for 2025/2026 were to:

- ❖ Negotiate and agree a replacement Agreement with SC to commence on 1 April 2026;
 - ✓ Signed on 5 February 2026 with a commencement date of the same day.
- ❖ Negotiate and agree a new Lease with STC to commence on 1 April 2026;
 - ✓ Signed on 23 March 2026 to commence on 1 April 2026.
- ❖ Recruit a Trustee to undertake the role of: 'Communications and PR';
 - ✓ Recruited a trustee who is the assistant for 'Communications and PR'.
- ❖ Maintain an enthusiastic volunteer base and continue a rolling training programme;
 - ✓ Achieved. There is now a waiting list.
- ❖ Review and update the programme of work and enhancements to the building with particular focus on redecoration of the interior.
 - ✗ Partially achieved with the initiation of a plan to refurbish the Library, including redecoration, in 2027.

As indicated above (✓) there has been considerable success in the achievement of many of the 2025/2026 goals. Those that require further work (✗) will be pursued in 2026/27.

Priorities for 2026/2027 are on page 6.

Volunteers

A volunteer policy document is in the final stages of production.

The volunteer programme is managed by 2 coordinators, one of whom is the Clerk to the Trust.

A significantly increased programme for volunteer training (and refresher training) was established in the Agreement and is in place. All new volunteers are required to complete a number of SC modules before commencing work. Existing volunteers are completing the additional modules by July 2026. Thereafter, all volunteers undergo inhouse refresher training. Customer Service volunteers undertook a programme of training for the new Library Management System.

Facilities Management

Under the terms of the new lease, the Trust is responsible for all maintenance other than to the structure of the building. In November 2024, STC endorsed an arrangement whereby STC will provide additional funding in the Annual Grant in support of the Trust's maintenance responsibilities. The Trust remains responsible for managing the utilities and facilities within the library building. SLS maintains the library IT systems and associated infrastructure.

Following the FRA conducted in July 2025, all outstanding deficiencies have been rectified or, where adjudged unwarranted, added to the Risk Assessment.

Health & Safety (H&S)

H&S responsibilities are apportioned between SLS and the Trust for which there are separate policies. The division of responsibility for observance and implementation of the policies is defined in the Agreement. The Trust is responsible for the H&S policy as it

applies to the building and for activities outside core opening hours, while SLS is responsible for the implementation of both policies during core opening hours.

The Trust's Health & Safety Policy was reviewed, updated and endorsed in October 2023, and is due for review by 1 October 2026. The Trust's Risk Assessment was updated on 1 April 2026.

Librarians and volunteers receive induction training in accordance with the H&S Policy and changes in the Risk Assessment.

Following the FRA conducted in July 2025, all outstanding deficiencies have been rectified or, where adjudged unwarranted, added to the Risk Assessment.

Insurance

The Trust is insured with Zurich for: Public Liability; Employer's Liability; Hirer's Liability; and Contents.

Finance

SLT banks with the Unity Trust Bank and has no investments. SLT continues to ringfence £10,000. This amount is held in reserve but available, should the need arise, to maintain Library operations (in accordance with the terms of the Agreement) if the Trust has to be wound-up without the necessary funding.

The Trust receives £8,000 each year from SC: a payment called the 'Annual Sum' as set out in the Agreement. In addition, there is income from rentals and fines, as well as donations from local parishes and various benefactors.

Expenditure is primarily to SC for provision of full-time library staff. Other budgeted expenditure is for: utilities; maintenance; and various administrative outgoings.

On 1st April 2026 the balance was £23,962

INCOME

STC agreed for 2025-26 a total support package of £24,000 which has been included in the Grant column

We received a grant of £2,874 from Somerton Community Association for a new boiler

We received grants from Co-op totalling £2,340 and from Somerset Community Foundation of £1,750

Income from fines and loans was £3,670

We have reclaimed a total of £4,850 of VAT (including the VAT for the boiler work)

We received £7,200 from SCC (3 payments instead of 4 due to phasing)

We also received £850 from sundry lettings, some of which we reimbursed from Co-op funding.

We received £200 sponsorship from George James Estate Agents

Library donations totalled almost £600

Total income was £49,380

EXPENDITURE

Once again SC made a back pay award and overcharged us by £455, which took a while to recover.

Our wage bill to SC was £30,000 including VAT

Karen Dowell, the cleaner, resigned in December, but we have recruited her daughter Donna

We have spent £1,660 on utilities.

Total maintenance cost over £8,500, but this included £2,875 for the boiler and £4,350 for Fire Risk work, both of which were grant aided. General maintenance amounted to £1,275

Admin costs of £1,900 included payment for Ade Bowen and a grant to Long Sutton School from Co-op funds.

Total expenditure amounted to £43,653

We closed the year on 31st March 2026 with a balance of £29,689.

STC has agreed to budget £24,000 for SLT in 2026/2027. This covers ongoing building maintenance and will be drawn down as required.

Future Plans

Priorities for 2026/2027 are to:

- ❖ Develop a programme of work to achieve the full refurbishment of the Library with a target date for completion in the first half of 2027.
- ❖ Pursue sources of additional support to finance the refurbishment of the Library.
- ❖ Recruit a Trustee to undertake the 'Fundraising' role.
- ❖ Develop a strategy to inform new residents in the community of the library services available.

Appreciation

Thanks are due to STC, the Trustees, generous donors and, above all, to the volunteers, without whom the library could not operate.



Jeremy Greenop
Chair of Trustees

30 April 2026

THE SOMERTON LIBRARY TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS

The attached accounts (below) are approved on behalf of the Trustees.



Jeremy Greenop
Chair of Trustees

30 April 2025

THE SOMERTON LIBRARY TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Balance on 1 April 2025:	£23,962
Total receipts to 31 March 2026:	£49,380
Total revenues 31 March 2026:	£73,342
Total payments to 31 March 2026:	£43,653
Balance on 31 March 2026:	£29,689



Martyn Smith
Treasurer of the Somerton Library Trust

30 April 2026

THE SOMERTON LIBRARY TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

BREAKDOWN OF ACCOUNTS

31 March 2025		31 March 2026
	RECEIPTS	
£33,125	Grants	£30,964
£2,846	Library Income	£3,672
£6,993	VAT repayments	£4,878
£12,171	Lettings & Service provision	£8,055
£1,495	Donations	£1,842
£56,570	TOTAL	£49,380
	PAYMENTS	
£28,812	Wages SC/Cleaner	£31,479
£3,805	Gas, Electricity, Water	£1,663
£9,945	Maintenance	£8,596
£5,582	Administration	£1,915
£48,144	TOTAL	£43,653
£8,426	Net for year	£5,727
£15,536	Balance brought forward	£23,962
£23,962	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	£29,689



Martyn Smith
Treasurer
Somerton Library Trust

30 April 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS 2025-2026

The Somerton Library Trust

Accounts are set out on pages 7 and 8

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under s145 of the Charities Act 2011 [the Act] and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s145(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 in connection with the examination which give 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.



Mary Palmer
The Old Shoemaker's
Sutton Road
SOMERTON

27 April 2026