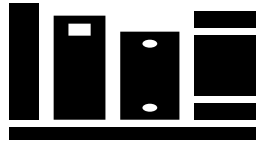


## LIBRARIES in 2020.



As many of you are aware, I have been volunteering in my local community (charity run) library for nearly 3 years in April 2020. I still after all this time love being there and my shifts with the other volunteers. There are of course lovely people running the library at the desk and shelving which you see as you walk in but I want to explore what it takes to run a charity-based library in 2020, which is not a council run building.

### To start with there is the Fundraising committee –

This is a bunch of volunteers, that organise all the events, raffles and days with the public. They are essential to our library as without them the money would dry up due to lack of funding from the council, as it is now a charity-based service in our library.

### Next on to the Trustees –

They are the one who deal with any problems and the fiscal (financial) side of the library. Without these members, the library would lose track of what they are spending and receiving throughout the year and annually if the library is hitting financial targets. They review various events and see what they are worth to the library and if its worth continuing the next year.

### The main key players of the library are the workers themselves. –

These people run the library daily, 95% of our library consist of volunteers, who take time out weekly to run the library as assistants, PC helpers, and cleaners. Without them the library would close its doors forever and cease to exist. They do not get paid and help on a voluntary basis and enjoy being there. These people need A LOT of respect for keeping the library open 6 days a week.

### Finally, you go onto the library members –

Without any members there are no stats for persons coming in and out, no one to buy event-based days and nights, no one to borrow books and no one to support the library throughout the year. Sometimes, members can feel neglected, but I can tell you they are the most well-known figures of a library and well respected... more than any other part of the library - except the building itself!

I hope this list of different parts of the library members and parts not seen to the general public, will make you realise how hard it is to run a library, especially when there is little funding outside of the library members themselves. The grants and other such offers are very rare, and respect must also go to the companies that decide to sponsor one-off payments to the library via cheques etc.

Running a library is a hard job, not many can do the work any of these people do – part time librarian work, part time cashier, part time public figures and that's all in a 3-hour shift, as well being nice to members, organising events, calculating finances and helping out the public in any possible.

### Please respect your local library ...and how much work that goes into running it!

BY, DANIELLE MCDOWALL.

A RHOOSE COMMUNITY LIBRARY VOLUNTEER.