Libraries in Devon during the 1920s

Jackie Bryon

The Ministry of Reconstruction, reviewing village life in 1919 for their series of pamphlets on reconstruction problems, stated that 'good village libraries are few and far between. Indeed, the surroundings of the rural worker are notably lacking in any facilities for educational and social development.' This was one of the 'unfavourable conditions of rural life' that they felt should be tackled as part of the post-war revitalisation of rural communities. They strongly advocated that villages should create centres of 'popular culture', one of whose functions could be that of a library.'[1]

At this time, smaller urban areas were to a great extent without library provision and the situation in rural areas was even less satisfactory. The principal reason was that 'county councils were not empowered to become library authorities until the end of 1919'.[2] Thus, it was hardly surprising that small parishes, even if they combined, could not afford to provide a service from the product of a penny rate.

This article will analyse library development in the county of Devon, especially during the 1920s. As a rural county with over 400 separate parishes, public library provision had to overcome a number of challenges. The focus will be on the inauguration of the county library service and other significant developments in library provision within the period.

Historical background

In the early twentieth century, private philanthropy provided an impetus for library development. In this period a number of small and medium-sized libraries were built. It was not unusual for the development to include the name of the developer.

In Devon, the chief benefactors were the Scottish American steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie and the Cornishman John Passmore Edwards. The latter became a Liberal Member of Parliament and made a fortune as a newspaper owner. He 'endowed 15 public libraries in his home county alone,'[3] In the county of Devon his most important achievement was the building of 'The Passmore Edwards Public Library' at Newton Abbot, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1902.[4] This building was in memory of his mother, who had lived in the town.

[1] Ministry of Reconstruction, *Labour Conditions and Adult Education* (HMSO, 1919), pp. 16–17.

[2] Alec Ellis, 'Rural Library Services in England and Wales before 1919', *Library History*, vol. 4, issue 3 (1977) pp. 69–80.

[3] Simon Taylor, Matthew Whitfield and Susie Barson, *The English Public Library 1850–1939: Introductions to Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2016), p. 3.

[4] Roger Jones, *The Book of Newton Abbot*, (Ex Libris Press, 2006), p. 131.

Figure 1: Passmore Edwards Centre, Newton Abbot.

In the early twentieth century, Carnegie libraries swept across the country, only halted by the outbreak of the First World War. In Devon, Ian Maxted has provided details of the Carnegie libraries built in this period.[5] He notes that Plymouth had completed its Carnegie Library in 1913, housing some 72,000 volumes. It also had five branches. Devonport ran a separate service from a library in Duke Street, which had opened in 1882. It also operated two branches. Bideford, which opened in 1905, was also indebted to Carnegie. This library had some 6,000 volumes. Torquay opened in 1907, and by 1925 had some 40,000 volumes.

In Exeter, Carnegie offered £15,000 toward the building of a new library in the city in 1909. This was 'one of the last large donations by the trust for the construction of a town library'.[6] It was followed by much controversy over the proposed site in Queen Street. The Great War delayed the project, followed by the trustees threatening that the Carnegie grant, increased to £19,000, would lapse if plans were not initiated by the end of 1925. More debate ensued, including the fact that the scheme was too ambitious for a city the size of Exeter. Eventually, the final plans were approved in March 1927. The foundation ceremony took place on 17 January 1928 and the completed building was opened on 11 October 1930 by Lord Elgin, Chairman of the Trust.

Elsewhere, libraries were regularly provided by individual bequests or maintained by voluntary subscription. According to Maxted, Barnstaple owed the North Devon Athenaeum Library to William Frederick Rock. He was a local man with business interests in London. This library of 25,000 volumes was managed by a board of directors. The town of Moretonhampstead, on the eastern edge of Dartmoor, owed its free library to the gift of Sir Thomas Benjamin Bowring in 1901. This library contained over 3,000 volumes.[7]

After the First World War, a library was often seen as an appropriate memorial to people who had been killed during the conflict. A memorial library was built in more than one Devon locality, with Tiverton Memorial Library being a good example. In this respect, Tiverton Museum has a significant amount of material relating to this memorial library. In the first photograph overleaf, a hotel was purchased by voluntary subscription and opened as the War Memorial Library, in 1920. By 1925 it had built up a collection of some 6,000 volumes. The second photograph shows the laying of the foundation stone of the library, which opened in 1929.

[5] Ian Maxted, 'The Story of the Book in Exeter and Devon', *Exeter Working Papers in Book History 12* (2021) p. 166.
[6] Ibid., p. 165.
[7] Ibid., p. 166.

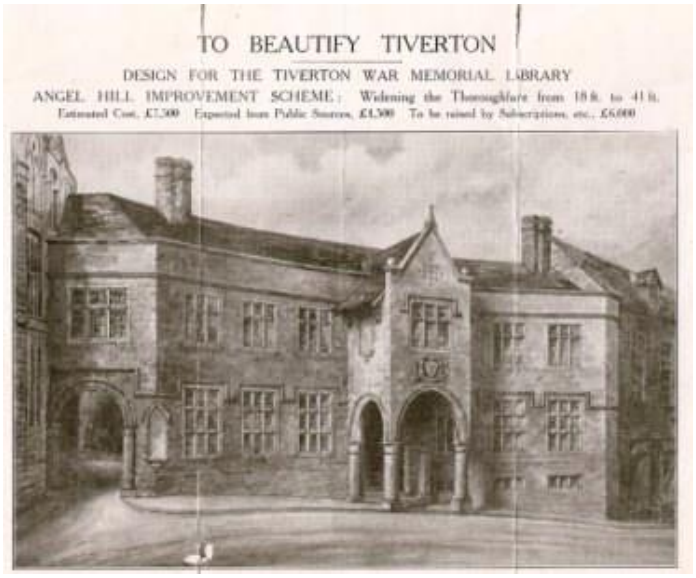


Figure 2: Tiverton War Memorial Library, courtesy of Tiverton Museum.

Figure 3: Miss Lazenby laying the foundation stone of the War Memorial Library, 30 May 1928, courtesy of Tiverton Museum.

In addition, in some communities there were reading rooms attached to institutes, clubs or private libraries. One such example was the Tavistock Subscription Library, established in 1799, which had 100 members in 1926.

Commercial libraries were not widespread in Devon. *Kelly's Directory* of 1926 lists them in Exeter, Plymouth, Torquay, Paignton, Brixham, Dartmouth, Totnes, Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, Dawlish, Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, Tiverton, Ilfracombe and Lynton. These libraries were housed mainly in branches of W.H.Smith & Son. It was this wide variation in coverage that the Rural Libraries Scheme sought to address, especially in rural areas.

It is important to realise that charitable bodies such as the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust (a formal amalgamation of Andrew Carnegie's various trusts, formed in 1913) provided far fewer grants for the library sector after 1919. Despite the change of direction, this organisation retained its importance, especially in lobbying on wider issues of public literacy. Public libraries were, however, extremely popular and it has been calculated that by 1914,

'62 per cent of the population of England live within a library authority area.'[8] However, in a rural county such as Devon it is important to recognise that county authorities still remained outside the scope of existing public library legislation. This lack of facilities in rural areas was highlighted by the newly established Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, mentioned above, in its Adams report of 1915.

The 1919 Public Libraries Act

In 1919 the Public Libraries Act became law. This was a landmark piece of legislation that consolidated all of the regulatory processes up to that date. It is what is known as an enabling act. It removed the 'penny rate' restriction of previous acts, which had capped the proportion of the local rate that a particular authority could spend on library provision. This restriction had had the effect of perhaps creating an over-reliance on philanthropy for top-up investment, or indeed any funding for library provision.

The 1919 Act also enabled county councils to become library authorities for the first time. This was a major boom for rural areas as it permitted small parish authorities to relinquish their existing responsibilities to counties. Therefore, provision across wider and less-populated areas became more realistic. Thus, amenities could be based on a broader tax base and more sensible economies of scale achieved. Even so, few counties built libraries before 1939. At a national level, the first new county library at Ashford in Kent was not built until the late 1920s.

County library services in Devon

The legislation outlined above had huge implications for the county of Devon. In the county as a whole the practical application became known as the Rural Libraries Scheme. Information about this new library service in Devon has been obtained mainly from the minutes of the education committee and the annual reports produced by the newly appointed county librarian. These two sources have established the basic framework for the operation of the county scheme within Devon. The reports were fairly brief and contained a limited number of statistics. Use has also been made of the British Newspaper Archive in order to develop the research further. [9] However, newspaper reports only provide snippets of information about the development of the Rural Libraries Scheme during the period. These libraries were often housed in local community premises including schools and village halls. They were usually staffed by volunteers.

Devon's Education Committee adopted the Public Library Act for the whole of the county area in 1924, apart from urban areas, which had already taken advantage of the legislation. These were: Bideford, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot and Torquay.[10] Further information can be found in an appendix named Rural Libraries Scheme, which was attached to this particular report. The appendix was based on notes and information supplied by Colonel Mitchell, secretary to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. This gentleman had

[8] Simon Taylor, Matthew Whitfield and Susie Barson, *The English Public Library 1850–1939: Introductions to Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2016), p. 3.
[9] Bursary Awarded by Devon History Society.
[10] Devon County Education Committee, *Quarterly Report*, 13 March 1924.

attended the January meeting of the committee and explained the scheme, which had been tested successfully for some years in several counties.

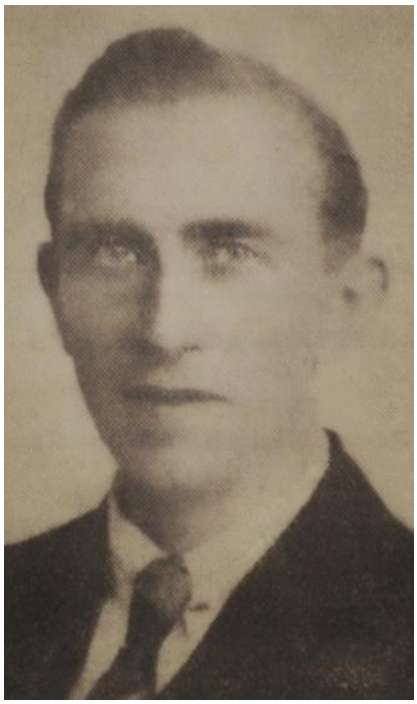


Figure 4: Stanley Thomas Williams, Devon's First County Librarian. He was in post from 15 July 1924, until his death in service on 14 March 1933[11]

The first County Library Scheme was established in Staffordshire in 1916. Thus, the methods in force had been tested carefully and found to be both feasible and economical. Further, experience has shown that there is 'a keen demand for the benefits of the Scheme in rural districts.'[12]

In this report we are given some detail as to how the system operated in other counties. A central store should contain at least one large room as well as a smaller room to act as an office in the charge of a county librarian. From such a centre, books would be sent in boxes to local centres. These centres could be in elementary schools, village institutes or similar buildings. An honorary local librarian was appointed who then sees to their distribution. Centres were usually open for the distribution of books two evenings a week. Motor transport had proved economical in the larger counties. The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust: 'have made grants to 53 counties of the most varied types, including the neighbouring counties of Somerset, Dorset, Wilts and Gloucestershire.'[13] These counties were satisfied with the new scheme. Thus, Devon would be entering a scheme that had been proved viable elsewhere, particularly in rural areas.

[11] *Western Times*, 24 March 1933. British Newspaper Archive content provided by THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. With thanks to The British Newspaper archive, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

[12] Appendix, Report, 13 March 1924.

[13] Appendix, Report, 13 March 1924.

In terms of analysing the uptake of the possible scheme it should be borne in mind Carnegie trustees originally made grants calculated to cover the whole cost of equipment and maintenance for five years, on conditions that the areas would continue with the scheme. However, since the Public Libraries Act of 1919 sanctioned the adoption of the act in rural areas, the trustees had ceased to accept responsibility for the cost of maintenance, but set aside a grant to be allocated for books and equipment.

To further the scheme, the county authority in Devon received a grant of £2,900 from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. (Details of how this money was spent can be seen in Appendix 3).

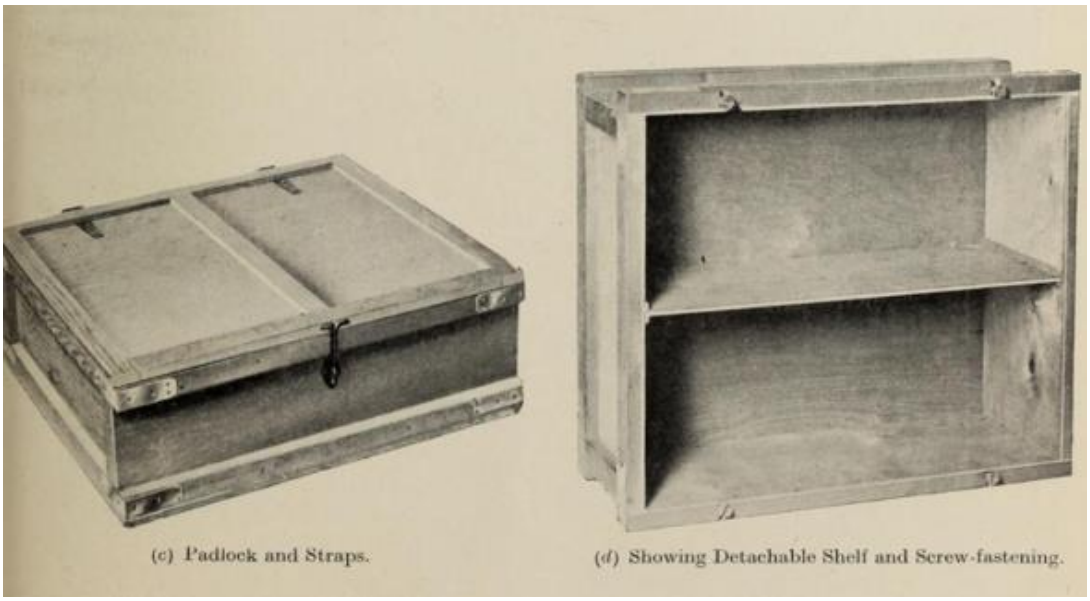


Figure 5: "Venesta" Book Boxes used in the Rural Libraries Scheme.[14]

Devon adopted the legislation rather later than Somerset. However, the appointment of a professional librarian was in contrast to the person in post in Somerset. The *Western Morning News* reported that Mr. S. T. Williams, the senior assistant librarian of the Cambridge Borough Free Library, had been appointed to the post of county librarian. A photograph of Mr Williams can be seen in Figure 4. He was due to take up his duties on the first of July.[15] We are also told that a central depot for books would be established in Exeter, from which boxes of books would be sent out to local centres three times per year. Mr Williams' salary was to be £300 per annum; a similar sum being agreed by the county of Somerset for their forthcoming advertisement, mentioned below.

Increases in salary for county staff featured regularly in local newspapers as the decade progressed, as the following item indicates: 'the county librarian should be stabilised at £300, rising by annual increments of £23 to £400…'.[16] At a similar date, a request had been made for the appointment of an additional assistant for the Devon Librarian's office. The commencing salary was to be set at £60 per annum, rising to £120.[17]

[14] *Proceedings of the Carnegie Rural Library Conference,* 1920.
[15] *Western Morning News*, 18 June 1924.
[16] *Langport and Somerton Herald*, 15 October 1927.
[17] *Western Morning News*, 21 June 1926.

Figure 6: 8 Colleton Crescent, Exeter, headquarters of Devon County Library Service in the 1920s © Hilary Neville

Use of the newspaper archive made it possible to compare and contrast how Somerset, a neighbouring authority that had adopted the Rural Libraries Scheme from an early date, made its initial appointment of a county librarian. The county appointed C. J. Lewin to be its county librarian under the Carnegie Rural Libraries Scheme.[18] Another Somerset newspaper, making no reference to a position of librarian, commented that Mr Lewin was leaving Radstock to be 'supervisor of the Rural Libraries Scheme.'[19]

It is possible to glean more information about Mr Lewin if we analyse details provided in his obituary.[20] He was not a professional librarian but had spent a significant period of time as Head Teacher of the Church of England School in Radstock. Therefore, he was not a young man when appointed to his new position. He must have remained in post for some five years as the following item, which appeared in the *Somerset Standard* confirms. There is also some detail of the likely salary of his successor. It was announced that agreement had been reached to advertise the position of county librarian which would become vacant in March 1925 on the retirement of Mr. C.J.Lewin at a …'minimum basic salary of £200, rising to £230. …the salary, with bonus, would be about £300…rising to a maximum of £343.'[21] Mr Lewin was paid rather less than his Devon counterpart. This could be due to the fact that he was not professionally qualified as a librarian.

More detail is now provided as to how Devon actually implemented what came to be known as the Rural Libraries Scheme across the county. From the first Annual Report of the County Librarian, for the period ending 21 October 1925, it is recorded that in December 1924, the first actual delivery of books had been made to 39 centres.[22] This is rather less than the

[18] *Somerset Standard*, 22 February 1918.
[19] *Shepton Mallet Journal*, 29 March 1918.
[20] *Somerset Guardian and Radstock Observer*, 26 October 1945.
[21] *Somerset Standard*, 3 October 1924.
[22] Devon Heritage Centre, *County Library Annual Reports*, no. 1, 1925.

number of centres due to be provided with books, as earlier in September 1924 the *Devon and Exeter Gazette* reported that there were some 52.[23] (Appendix 1 lists the centres where a service was provided between 1925 and 1930.)

A detailed search through the newspaper archive has provided some brief details about the centres. However, the information provided was less than what was hoped for. The reports were brief and were usually contained within news items about individual parishes. The centres were housed in a local parish community facility, for example, a school and staffed by a volunteer honorary librarian one or two evenings per week. This information can be corroborated from a report on *Devon Rural Village Schools Study* for the 1920s project.[24] Thus, it would appear that headteachers in particular were expected to play a role both inside school and out in the local community. This included libraries. In fact the Rural Libraries Scheme is specifically mentioned in Helen Turnbull's article 'Devon Village Schools and Reform' as books were provided in a number of village locations. In addition, books were often placed on shelves in the corridors of village schools. The headteacher of Mortehoe Council School welcomed the idea since it brought him into contact with parents. Furthermore, we are told that the headteacher of Bridestowe Church School acted as librarian for the county library, based in the school.[25]

In addition to schools, other community facilities were also used for library purposes. For instance, by 1926 eight library centres were managed by Women's Institutes. This situation was commented on by The *Western Times* in a report of the annual meeting of the Devon Federation of Women's Institutes. Apparently, several institutes had obtained books under the county scheme.[26] In another unusual development, later in our period, an area of Dawlish came within the scope of the Rural Libraries Scheme and it was suggested that: 'the old soup kitchen should be made available'.[27] Later in the year, it was reported that Miss Pinkett and Miss Dora Lear would act as honorary librarian and assistant.[28] Thus, the evidence would seem to suggest that parishes could sometimes struggle to find suitable premises from which to provide the service.

Figure 7: Examples of buildings used for county library services in the 1920s: (a) Gittisham Village Hall and (b) the former Mortehoe Council School. Both were opened in 1928[29]

[23] *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, 5 September 1924.
[24] Helen Turnbull, 'Devon Village Schools and Reform', *The History of Education Researcher* (2022), p 13.
[25] *Western Times*, 31 July 1925.
[26] *Western Times*, 19 November 1926.
[27] *Western Morning News*, 28 March 1927.
[28] *Western Morning News*, 31 October 1927.
[29] Gittisham Village Hall, © Pierre Graber; Mortehoe Village Hall, © Roger Smith (Re-used under Creative Commons Licence.)

There is little detail about how individual centres operated, other than brief fragments of information, again, under individual parishes. These reports often provided information about when books could be exchanged. The following examples provide a snapshot of typical reports in the 1920s.

In December 1925, the *North Devon Journal* recorded that there had been considerable interest in the scheme in Braunton. The library was free to all residents of the town and was housed in the Senior Council School. 'It made an auspicious start…140 books were issued in the first week'.[30]

By 1927 there was a book delivery station at the Whipton Institute and Cullompton was also to have a library. The *Western Times* reported that the Rev A Pocock was elected librarian and honorary secretary, with two members of the committee assisting; Tuesday evening was the time for obtaining books.[31]

Pyworthy had a branch opened in early 1928. The library operated from the village school on a Tuesday evening where Miss Burrow, the local librarian, was in attendance.[32]

Bradninch library took advantage of the scheme quite early on in 1925, as it was included in the list of village centres in the county librarian's first report (see Appendix 1). In addition, the *Devon and Exeter Gazette* reported that a presentation had been made to Mr Tett, 'who had proved to be an efficient librarian, since the library opened three and a half years ago.'[33] He was relinquishing the post due to pressure of work and was replaced by Miss Ewart, assisted by Miss Jones and Mr Bowden (headmaster of the boys' school). Men and women clearly took up these voluntary appointments in almost equal numbers.

The county librarian in his fourth annual report, quoted in the *Western Morning News*, reported that most rural areas not yet served by the Rural Libraries Scheme were small and thinly populated. He went on to say that: 'all places in which there is a school or institute have been notified that centres can be opened. Small parishes without a school or institute will be amalgamated with the nearest centre.' At this point some 364 centres were operating.[34]

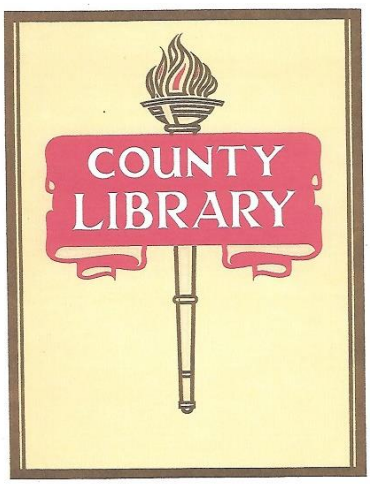
At this stage, further progress seems to have been made regarding the opening of centres in urban districts, indicated by an extract from the following newspaper report. At this point the number of centres in urban areas totalled 19. A particular mention was made of Dartmouth. Here books were housed in the town clerk's department. The library was open every day during office hours. In Tiverton, the War Memorial Library was reopened early in 1929 and the numbers of county library books were increased to 1,000. A further success noted in the fourth annual report pointed to the circulation of books on beekeeping and agriculture as well as sets of plays.[35]

Although the Rural Libraries Scheme achieved much acclaim across the county of Devon, not all was success. In this respect Exmouth Book Club can serve as a good example of an

[30] *North Devon Journal*, 17 and 3 December 1925.
[31] *Western Times*, 18 November 1927.
[32] *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, 20 January 1928.
[33] *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, 18 January 1929.
[34] *Western Morning News*, 26 August 1929.
[35] *Western Times*, 30 August 1929.

initiative that had a troubled history. The Exmouth Book Club had been in existence since 1907.[36] It had campaigned for a library in the town for a number of years and had been struggling to operate for some time due to the lack of a library or reading room. This situation was exacerbated by the fact that the lease on the Public Hall, now the Savoy Cinema, where the club was currently based had almost expired. It transpired that the group had been unable to find other suitable premises at a price they could afford. In a letter to Exmouth Council, the chair reported: 'The Club Committee has always cherished the hope of some day handing over their collection (now over 2,000 volumes) [to] form the nucleus public library in Exmouth.'[37] Despite all their efforts, Exmouth did not get its public library until the 1930s.

In another enterprise, seemingly reported in only one Devon newspaper, a design competition had been held at national level to design a library sign. This appears to have been an open competition, which attracted over 100 entries. The winning design consisted of a torch with an oblong red scroll, an illustration of which can be seen below.



THE COUNTY LIBRARY SIGN

Figure 8: The winning design of a competition to design a library sign.

According to *The Western Times*, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust had offered to present the sign to all county library centres.[38] Further information can be found in the annual report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for 1927–28. A panel of adjudicators were appointed by the National Society of Art Masters and almost every authority agreed to exhibit the sign. The trustees agreed to meet the cost of the sign, which came to about £4,000. Extensive research to date has identified only one surviving sign from the period. This is on the wall of Sidbury Primary School.

By the time of the county librarian's fifth annual report for the year ended March 1930, the total number of centres served by the Rural Libraries Scheme had reached 392. At this stage the service was provided to more than traditional village centres. For instance, by 1926 a service was being provided to pupil teacher centres at Exeter, Barnstaple and Kingsbridge and by 1930 there was a branch at the Devon Mental Hospital, Exminster. A service was also provided to onshore lifeboat stations at Lynmouth, Stuart Point and Bull Point by 1928.

[36] *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, 18 April 1907.
[37] *Devon and Exeter Gazette*, 14 April 1925.
[38] *Western Times*, 28 September 1928.

With the exception of a small number of isolated villages, all the rural areas of the county of Devon were now served. The challenge of providing a service to small communities was partially solved by linking parishes. The service was also extended to more urban communities, for example, the 1930 report lists centres at Honiton, Brixton, Appledore, Northam and Sidmouth. However, accommodation was a continuing problem. In 1928 an arrangement with Exeter City Library to open a centre at Whimple had to be postponed because accommodation was not available. [39]

The annual reports from this period also contained some basic statistics. They generally related to the number of books issued, as well as the overall number of books added to stock. However, some of these figures were clearly an attempt to summarise the growth of the scheme (see Appendix 2). From these figures it is difficult to ascertain any information about reading habits overall in the county. From time to time, books on specific subject areas were added, for example, agriculture and beekeeping. Books were also borrowed from the National Library for Students. This organisation was formed in 1916, initially to supply books for adult classes run by the Workers' Educational Association. It became the National Central Library in 1930 and the centre for inter-lending through libraries. There was also a demand for sets of plays.

Further, each annual report also contained brief extracts from items submitted by individual centres. These passages usually expressed satisfaction with the county scheme, as the following comments indicate:

> This Centre was opened at the end of September 1925, and has proved an unqualified success. The standard of books provided is excellent and gives the greatest pleasure. The village schoolmistress tells me the improvements in the children's reading and thirst for knowledge is very marked, and the children absorb knowledge in school more readily. As far as this village is concerned it has proved a great boon'.[40]

> I should like to offer, on behalf of this small village community, yet another tribute to the good work of the Devon County Library. The books are used and appreciated here by all sections-the villagers, the children-those retired from ordinary business, the clergy and the teachers.[41]

From the details provided in the annual reports, each individual centre must have had to submit an annual report to the county librarian. However, to date, none of the individual reports have been located.

Conclusion

Devon County Council Education Committee, as early as 1925 (after just six months of operation) was satisfied by the way in which the service provided by the newly established county library was being developed and extended. The effect on children's education was

[39] DHC County Librarian, *Annual Report*, November 1928.
[40] DHC County Librarian, *Annual Report*, November 1926.
[41] DHC County Librarian, *Annual Report*, March 1929.

very positive, as the comments above have indicated. It would be interesting to see if other school logbooks for the period mirror the same enthusiasm as those quoted.

Furthermore, by 1928 the service was still clearly popular and valued by those in authority, as indicated by the following: 'The appreciation of the library facilities provided is as great as ever, and the Committee are gratified to find that a very considerable proportion of the books issued are non-fiction books'.[42]

This study has provided a brief analysis of how the Devon County Library came into existence and how it progressed in its early years. At this time, finding appropriate accommodation in order to set up a centre was an ongoing challenge. In addition, the nature of the sources available limited the scope of the writing. In this respect, no personal memories have been found to date. Two examples of buildings used as library premises in the 1920s can be seen in Figure 7. Illustrations of library buildings do not appear in the county librarian's annual reports until the 1930s.

In conclusion, Devon was successful in meeting the challenge of instituting a service to a very rural county. In this task it did have the advantage of not adopting the legislation until a number of other counties had tried and tested the scheme.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are expressed to the following person for help with this article: Mark Peasley, Retired Librarian with the Public Library Service in Devon.

[42] Devon County Education Committee, *Quarterly Report*, March 1928.

Appendix 1

LIST OF VILLAGE CENTRES

1925

Alphington
Ashburton
Ashreigney
Ash Thomas
Ashwater
Aveton Gifford
Aylesbeare
Beaaford
Bickleigh (Plympton)
Bigbury
Bishops Nympton
Bow
Bradford
Bradninch
Bradworthy
Brampford Speke
Bratton Clovelly
Bratton Fleming
Braunton
Bridestowe
Broadwood Kelly
Budleigh Salterton
Burrington
Chagford
Chawleigh
Cheriton Bishop
Chittlehampton
Chulmleigh
Churston Ferrers
Clawton
Clayhidon
Colebrooke
Colyton
Copplestone
Denbury
Diptford
Drewsteignton
East Allington
East Budleigh
Egg Buckland
Ermington
Foggintor
Haccombe-with-Combe
Harberton
Harbertonford
Hartland
Hatherleigh
Hemyock
Hennock
High Bickington
Holne
Huntshaw
Iddesleigh
Instow
Ipplepen
Ivybridge
Kentisbeare
Landscove
Lapford
Lee Moor
Lifton
Littleham (Bideford)
Lustleigh
Lympstone
Lynmouth
Manaton
Marldon
Meeth
Milton Abbot
Modbury
Molland
Morchard Bishop
Newton Poppleford
Newton St Cyres
North Petherwin
North Tawton
Oakford
Ottery
Parkham
Plympton
Plymstock
Plymtree
Princetown
Rockbeare
St Mary Tavy (sic)
Sampford Courtenay
Sampford Peverell
Sidbury
South Pool
Spreyton
Sticklepath
Stoke Fleming
Stoke Gabriel
Stokeinteignhead
Stokenham
Sutcombe
Sydenham Damerel
Tedburn St Mary
Throwleigh
Tipton St John
Tiverton
Upottery
Washfield
Wembury
West Buckland
Westleigh
Whimple
Whitchurch
Winkleigh
Witheridge
Woolsery West
Yealmpton

LIST OF CENTRES

1926

Abbotskerswell
All Saints (Chardstock)
Alphington
Ashburton
Ashreigney
Ash Thomas
Ashwater
Atherington
Aveton Gifford
Aylesbeare
Beaford
Beer
Belstone
Beer Alston (sic)
Bickington (Newton Abbot)
Bickleigh (Roborough)
Bigbury
Bishop's Nympton
Black Torrington
Bolham
Bondleigh
Bow
Bradford
Bradninch
Bradworthy
Brampford Speke
Bratton Clovelly
Bratton Fleming
Braunton
Brendon
Bridestowe
Brixton
Broadhembury
Broadhempston
Broadwood Kelly
Broadwoodwidger
Buckland Brewer
Buckland Monachorum
Budleigh Salterton
Burrington
Cadeleigh
Chagford
Chardstock
Chawleigh
Cheriton Bishop
Cheriton Fitzpaine
Foggintor
Haccombe-with-Coombe
Halwill
Harberton
Harbertonford
Hartland
Hatherleigh
Hemyock
Hennock
High Bickington
Hittisleigh
Holcombe Burnell
Holne
Huccombe
Huntshaw
Iddesleigh
Ilsington
Ilsington Blackpool
Instow
Ipplepen
Ivybridge
Kelly and Bradstone
Kennford
Kentisbeare
Kenton
Kilmington
Kingsbridge
King's Nympton
Kingsteignton
Knowstone
Landscove
Langtree
Lapford
Lee Moor
Lifton
Littleham (Bideford)
Loddiswell
Lustleigh
Lydford
Lympstone
Lynmouth
Lynton
Manaton
Marldon
Marwood
Meavy and Sheepstor
Putford
Rattery
Ringmore
Rockbeare
St Giles in the Wood
St Mary Tavy (sic)
Sampford Courtenay
Sandford
Shaugh Prior
Shillingford
Sidbury
Slapton
South Pool
South Tawton
Spreyton
Sticklepath
Stockland
Stockleigh Pomeroy
Stoke Canon
Stoke Fleming
Stoke Gabriel
Stokeinteignhead
Stokenham
Strete
Sutcombe
Sydenham Damerel
Talaton
Tamerton Foliot
Tavistock
Tedburn St Mary
Throwleigh
Tipton St John
Tiverton
Totnes
Twitchen
Uffculme
Uplyme
Upottery
Walkhampton
Washfield
Washford Pyne
Week
West Down
West Hill
Westleigh
Whimple

Chittlehampton
Chulmleigh
Churston Ferrers
Clawton
Clayhidon
Clyst St George
Coldridge
Colebrooke
Colyton
Copplestone
Culmstock
Diptford
Denbury
Dittisham
Drewsteignton
Dunsford
East Allington
East Budleigh
East Down
East Prawle
Egg Buckland
Ermington
Exbourne
Feniton
Filleigh
Meeth
Merton
Milton Abbot
Milton Damerel
Modbury
Molland
Monkokehampton
Morchard Bishop
Musbury
Newton Poppleford
Newton St Cyres
North Molton
North Petherwin
North Tawton
Oakford
Otterton
Parkham
Parracombe
Petrockstowe
Pinhoe
Plympton
Plymstock
Plymtree
Poughill
Princetown
Whitchurch
Whitestone
Winkleigh
Witheridge
Woolacombe
Woolsery West
Yarcombe
Yealmpton
Yeoford
Zeal Monachorum

PUPIL TEACHER CENTRES
Exeter
Barnstaple
Kingsbridge

LIGHTHOUSES
Lynmouth Foreland
Start Point
Bull Point

LIST OF CENTRES

1927

Abbotsham
Abbotskerswell
All Saints (Chardstock)
Alphington
Ashburton
Ashreigney
Ash Thomas
Ashwater
Atherington
Aveton Gifford
Axminster
Aylesbeare
Bampton
Beaford
Beaworthy
Beer
Belstone
Bere Alston (sic)
Berrynarbor
Berry Pomeroy
Bickington (Barnstaple)
Bickington (Newton Abbot)
Bickleigh (Plympton)
Bigbury
Bishop's Nympton
Blackawton
Black Torrington
Bolham
Bondleigh
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Bradford
Bradninch
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Brampford Speke
Branscombe
Bratton Clovelly
Bratton Fleming
Braunton
Brendon
Bridestowe
Bridford
Brixton
Broadclyst
Broadhembury
Broadhempston
Feniton
Filleigh
Foggintor
Fremington
Great Torrington
Haccombe-with-Coombe
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Hemyock
Hennock
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High Bray
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Holbeton
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Hollacombe
Holne
Holsworthy
Honicknowle
Horrabridge
Huccombe (Stokenham)
Hunscott
Huntsham
Huntshaw
Iddesleigh & Dowland
Ide
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Ilsington Blackpool
Instow
Ipplepen
Ivybridge
Kelly and Bradstone
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Kilmington
Kingsbridge
King's Nympton
Kingsteignton
Kingston
Kingswear
Plymtree
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Broadwoodwidger
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Woolsery West
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Yeoford
Zeal Monachorum

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Ermington
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Parkham
Parra combe
Peters Marland
Petrockstowe
Pinhoe
Plympton
Plymstock

COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF

Exeter
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LIGHTHOUSES

Lynmouth Foreland
Start Point
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Awliscombe
Axminster
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Broadwoodwidger
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Coryton
Crediton
Cruwys Morchard
Cullompton
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Kenton
Kilmington
Kingsbridge
King's Nympton
Kingsteignton
Kingston
Kingswear
Knowstone
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Petrockstowe

COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF
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LIGHTHOUSES
Lynmouth Foreland
Start Point
Bull Point

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Ashill
Ashprington
Ashreigney
Ash Thomas
Ashton
Ashwater
Atherington
Aveton Gifford
Awliscombe
Axminster
Axminster Council School
Axmouth
Aylesbeare
Bampton
Barbrook Mill
Beaford
Beaworthy
Beer
Belstone
Bere Alston
Bere Ferrers
Berrynarbor
Berry Pomeroy
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Bishop's Tawton
Blackawton
Blackborough
Black Torrington
Bolham
Bondleigh
Bovey Tracey
Denbury & Torbryan
Devon Mental Hospital (Exm'r)
Diptford
Dittisham
Doddiscombsleight
Dolton
Down St Mary
Drewsteignton
Dunchideock
Dunkeswell
Dunkeswell Abbey
Dunsford
East Anstey
East Budleigh & Bicton
East Down
East Portlemouth
East Prawle
East Village
Egg Buckland
Ermington
Exbourne
Exminster
Farringdon
Farway
Feniton
Filleigh
Foggintor
Fremington
Georgeham
Gittisham
Great Torrington
Gulworthy
Haccombe-with-Coombe
Halberton
Halwill
Halwill Junction
Harberton
Harbertonford
Harracott
Hartland
Hatherleigh
Hawkchurch
Heanton Punchardon
Heathfield
Hemyock
Hennock
Newton St Cyres
Newton St Petrock
North Lew
North Molton
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Oakford
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Brownston
Buckerell
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Buckland (Thurlestone)
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Butterleigh
Cadeleigh
Calverleigh
Chagford
Challacombe
Chardstock
Charleton
Chawleigh
Cheriton Bishop
Cheriton Fitzpaine
Chillaton and Marystow
Chittlehamholt
Chittlehampton
Christow
Chudleigh
Chudleigh Knighton
Chulmleigh
Churchstow
Churston Ferrers
Clawton
Clayhidon
Clyst Honiton
Herner
High Bickington
High Bray
Hittisleigh
Hockworthy
Holbeton
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Holcombe Rogus
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Holsworthy
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Horrabridge & Newton Tracey
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Huntshaw
Iddesleigh & Dowland
Ide
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Ilsington Blackpool
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Ipplepen
Ivybridge
Ivy House Cross (Broadwood)
Kelly and Bradstone
Kennford
Kentisbeare
Kentisbury
Kenton
Kilmington
Kingsbridge
King’s Nympton
Kingston
Kingswear
Knowstone
Lamerton
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Whiddon Down
Whimple

Clyst Hydon
Clyst St George
Clyst St Mary
Cofton
Colaton Raleigh
Coldridge
Colebrooke
Colyford
Colyton
Combe Martin
Combe Raleigh
Copplestone
Cornwood
Cornworthy
Coryton
Crediton
Cruwys Morchard
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LIGHTHOUSES
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Appendix 2

SUMMARY SHOWING GROWTH OF THE SCHEME

	1-11-24 to 31-10-25	**1-11-25 to 31-10-26**	**1-11-26 to 31-10-27**	**1-11-27 eo 31-10-28**
Population served	97,612	185,000	208,109	239,000
Number of centres	112	204	235	304
Book stock	13,888	28,345	32,018	40,200
Books circulated from headquarters	~	37,888	18,746	66,600
Total issues from centres	76,710	192,615	111,492	363,650
Books borrowed from Central Library for Students	152	398	401	947

Appendix 3

EXPENDITURE
1st November 1924 to 31 October 1925

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
Paid for from the Carnegie Grant

	£	s	d
Books	1764	16	0
Shelving	48	14	0
Furniture	44	5	3
TOTAL	1857	15	3

MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

	£	s	d
Salaries	351	0	0
Printing & stationery	54	0	9
Typewriter	20	10	0
Travel expenses	3	19	0
Padlocks	7	16	10
Insurance		7	3
Carriage	28	14	1
Postage	10	18	7
Petty expenditure		6	11
TOTAL		13	5
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2346	8	8

EXPENDITURE
1st April 1927 to 31st March 1928

		£	s	d
Capital				
	Books	1.499	7	11
	Boxes etc.	79	16	5
Maintenance		1,579	4	4
	TOTAL	3,104	18	5