

# BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1033666

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

### Reference and administration details

**Principal address:** 2 Josephine Court  
Southcote Road  
Reading  
RG30 2DG

#### Executive Trustees

David Chick  
Andrew Barton  
Francis Whitehead

Graham Bilbé  
Helen Cross

Paul Dicken  
David Hall  
Paul Weal

#### Office

Chairman & Portfolio Leader – Publications  
Secretary & Portfolio Leder - Membership  
Treasurer, Portfolio Leader - Finance & Portfolio  
Leader – Vehicles  
Portfolio Leader – Engineering  
Deputy Chari & Portfolio Leader – Policies,  
Development & Administration  
Portfolio Leader – Education  
Portfolio Leader – Library, Archive & Website  
Portfolio Leader – Sales

#### Custodian Trustees

David Beach  
Professor Francis Terry  
Robert Rowe  
John Savage

### Structure, governance, and management

#### Governing documents

1. Constitution (dated 5 October 2013)
2. Trust Deed (under which the Charity's assets are vested in the Custodian Trustees)

#### How the Charity is constituted

Unincorporated association

#### Trustee selection method

Elected by rotation at Annual General Meetings (or, if appropriate, at an Extraordinary General Meeting)



## Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The British Trolleybus Society (BTS), originally formed in 1961 as the Reading Transport Society (RTS), was registered as a Charity by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on 24 February 1994.

Its primary charitable object is to educate the public about the operation and historical interest of public service vehicles, particularly the trolleybus.

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

- (a) To maintain its vehicles and restore them to their original or an authentic condition, in order to display and operate them at the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft in North Lincolnshire
- (b) To assist in the progress and maintenance of the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft
- (c) To publish a journal of the affairs of the Society
- (d) To promote general interest in the preservation of passenger transport vehicles, but particularly to encourage the restoration, maintenance and general well-being of preserved trolleybuses and trolleybus equipment
- (a) To encourage the writing and publication of histories on trolleybuses, their operating systems, and their technical equipment
- (b) To collect and maintain a library of such publications and other archival material that is relevant to trolleybuses

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

#### Annual General Meeting:

The sixty-first Annual General Meeting of the Society, which considered the activities of the Society from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, was held at the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft on 15 October 2022.

#### Finance:

The end of year accounts are attached as an appendix to this report.

Subscriptions are intended to pay for all the costs of printing and distributing the Society's magazines and the Society's running costs as well as making a contribution towards the cost of accommodating and maintaining its historic vehicle collection. Increases in postage costs during most of the year under review have been accommodated because stamps had been purchased in advance, but the most recent increases were significant and, combined with anticipated increased printing costs, necessitate subscription rates to be increased with effect from early 2024.

The SponsorTrolley scheme continues to make a substantial contribution to accommodating our historic vehicle collection and helps to build funds for restoration. Most SponsorTrolley donations also qualify for Gift Aid, making the scheme even more valuable to the Society. We are grateful to these generous supporters and to David Beach, who continues to administer the scheme.

Significant donations during the year under review by two members are intended to enable the Society to progress different schemes: one of the donations is for the entrance to the BTS's *Burntwood* property to be upgraded and become the main entrance to the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft, and the other donation is to assist the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft with two much needed projects, improved exhibition interpretation and a vehicle restoration workshop.



**Sales:**

Thanks are due to our Sales Officer, Paul Weal, for raising significant sums of money for the Society. Commencing in the current year, BTS Sales now participates in the running of the Trolleyshop at Sandtoft, making our sales stock available on all operating days.

**Calendar:**

The Society's 2023 calendar made around £400 profit for the BTS. Our thanks to Tony Belton for providing the photographs and captions. Another calendar has been produced for 2024.

**Monthly Prize Draw:**

The Monthly Prize Draw provides funds for vehicle restoration. The proceeds from the 2022 Draw will help to play a part in bringing Mexborough & Swinton 34 back to life; 48 members took part, holding a total of 149 shares, which was a new record. The Draw made £1,788 towards the restoration of no.34.

The proceeds from the 2023 Draw will help bring Bournemouth 301 back into operation. Fewer members than in 2022 are participating, 38 members holding a total of 117 shares (a participant can hold up to 5 shares). The number of prizes in each month, which had been two for many years, was increased to three (with a fourth bonus prize in December). The Draw is expected to make £1,400 towards the work being carried out on no.301.

The organiser, Andrew Barton, is grateful to the participants for making this valuable contribution towards vehicle restoration.

**Publications:**

The Society's magazines, *Trolleybus* and *Bus Fare*, are published monthly and we wish to thank the Editorial and production teams (Dave Chick, Jody White, Bruce Lake, Peter Braybrooke and James Cusworth) as well as everyone who supplies news, articles and photographs, and Derek Pearson, who envelopes and posts our journals plus inserts every month, turning them round very quickly after receiving them. The Society's *News & Events* monthly newsletter which is produced by Publicity Officer Paul Dicken is now published on behalf of the Bradford Trolleybus Association and the Doncaster Omnibus and Light Railway Society as well as jointly with Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited. Our thanks to Paul for this much-appreciated initiative.

**Membership:**

Six members joined the Society during the year under review, all but one of them on-line. Sadly five members passed away during the year. Over three quarters of members who receive their journal by post include email addresses in their membership records and thus receive their renewal reminders directly by email (their ability to receive the newsletter is an incentive). This eases the work of the Membership Secretary and distribution officer in their not needing to prepare and send them renewal forms.

**Website and Social Media:**

The BTS website continues to play an important role in recruiting new members. Our Facebook page now has more than 1,500 followers. The Executive Committee is grateful to Peter Short our Webmaster and to Dave Hall and Simon Guppy who maintain the content.

**Trolleybooks (the joint publication panel of the British Trolleybus Society and the National Trolleybus Association)**

Bob Rowe, David Mulvey and Dave Chick are the BTS Trolleybooks representatives and BTS member Roger Clark is the Trolleybooks treasurer. No new books were published during the year under review, but the Panel has an exciting schedule of new books in preparation.

**Meetings:**

Meetings have been held in London and Reading throughout the year.

**The Society's Collection of Historic Vehicles:**

- London Transport Q1 1812: Following its major mechanical overhaul, no.1812 re-entered service at a BTS-organised event at Sandtoft on 27 August 2022.
- Mexborough & Swinton 34: The fund for the major restoration work required on no.34 continues to grow. A BTS group plans to pay a further visit to the Long Shop Museum, Leiston, Suffolk to view the significant progress that has been made there with the restoration of Ipswich Garrett trolleybus no.26.



- Bournemouth 301: BTS member Keith Baynton has continued to work on no.301 at Hooton Park, Cheshire, where it is having its window rubbers renewed and is being internally refurbished.
- Aachen 22: Funds continue to be built up for the restoration of no.22.
- Glasgow TB78: In the current year, a batch of 3-D printed replacement vent covers for both decks has been purchased; a start has been made to fit these in the upper deck, but before the downstairs saloon is so fitted, the flaking paintwork to the ceiling will need to be stripped and the ceiling repainted. Paintwork in the driver's cab and in the stairs/ platform area also requires attention before TB78 returns to service.
- Walsall 342 remains in storage at Thorpe-in-Balne.
- Reading 47, the Society's 1935 AEC Regent motorbus remains in roadworthy condition and insured for road use in the local Reading area.

Huddersfield 619, Huddersfield 631, Manchester 1344, Reading 113 and South Shields 204, along with London 1812 have all been reliable and regular performers at Sandtoft, helping to keep a high profile at the Museum for the Society.

Thanks go to Graham Bilbé and Francis Whitehead for their continuing leadership of this aspect of the Society's work.

### **Publicity**

The appointment of a Publicity Officer has led to an increase in publicity for the Society, with articles about London 1812 generating donations for the restoration fund.

### **Events**

The Society commemorated the 60th anniversary of the closure of London's trolleybus system at the August 2022 Bank Holiday Trolleydays at Sandtoft and the Members' Day and 2022 AGM was also held at Sandtoft.

### **The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft (TM@S)**

The BTS has continued to work closely with the Board of Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited, as one of the Museum's three supporting societies.

BTS and STCL also have a Joint Working Group (JWG) to plan the Museum's expansion, and this is reported below. Outside the scope of the JWG, the Society is now working on a project with TM@S to vastly improve exhibition interpretation at the Museum, particularly the interpretation for the trolleybuses and trolleybus overhead.

### ***Burntwood***

The work needed to widen the *Burntwood* entrance gateway is expected to go ahead in October.

John Stainforth has recently resigned from the role of *Burntwood* Property Manager. The Society is very grateful to John for all the work he did in that capacity in the past five, or so, years. We are also grateful to David Hanchett, who manages the volunteer accommodation.

There have been major problems with the plumbing in recent months, but remedial work should be completed before the AGM. Our thanks to Sandtoft volunteer Geoff Croft for his invaluable assistance.

### **BTS Archives**

The Society's archives and in particular the extensive photographic archive continue to be maintained by Dave Hall and are a useful source for authors of new works about trolleybuses.

### **The Future**

Following the adoption of the Joint Working Group's development plan, JWG membership now includes the Bradford Trolleybus Association and Doncaster Omnibus & Ligh Railway Society. Considerable progress has been made with constructing the Sandtoft District Railway. The JWG recommendations for increasing the number of open days has resulted in very successful weekday opening during school holidays.

We look forward to the continuing support of the membership in our endeavours.



## Financial review

### Policy Concerning Financial Reserves

1. The Society is positively maintained as a going concern, adopting robust management methods to ensure that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.
2. The Executive Committee regularly reviews the level of the Society's financial reserves.
3. Over and above the requirement to meet in full the Society's spending commitments, the Executive Committee's policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to:
  - (a) Where appropriate, bridge any gap between the spending of funds and the receiving of income
  - (b) Cover emergency repairs and other unplanned expenditure on the Society's charitable assets and freehold property
  - (c) Satisfy the requirements of all the donors to the Society's restricted funds, and those of the providers of grants and the like

There are no funds that are materially in deficit.

The Executive Committee considers that there are sufficient funds at year-end, in total amounting to £243,472 including the restricted funds which total £152,021, to provide adequately for planned expenditure and these contingencies.

The Executive Committee is of the view that the BTS, a charity, is a going concern and has a reasonable expectation that adequate resources are available for it to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

A. J. Barton

David G. Chick

Full Names

Andrew John Barton

David George Chick

Position

Secretary

Chairman

Date: 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

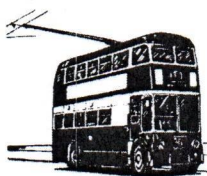
# **BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY**

Registered Charity Number **1033666**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

### **Appendix**

Receipts and Payments Accounts (2022-23) and Independent Examiner's Report  
*Total of 4 pages)*



# British Trolleybus Society

Registered Charity No. 1033666

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Receipts and Payments					
	Year to 31 March 2023			Year to 31 March 2022	
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Membership subscriptions	7,652	-	-	7,652	7,079
Burntwood: Covid-19 support grant	-	-	-	-	8,000
Donations: Burntwood costs/ improvements	120	10,000	-	10,120	10,860
Donations: Vehicle sponsorship (SponsorTrolley)	-	10,410	-	10,410	10,496
Donations: Vehicle restoration	-	24,168	-	24,168	8,200
Donations: Meetings	654	-	-	654	166
Donations: Other	3,014	35,000	-	38,014	1,546
Gift Aid: Tax reclaims from HMRC	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	46,203	-	-	46,203	1,000
Sales takings	4,961	1,146	-	6,107	5,001
Trolleybooks: BTS share of profit payments	2,002	-	-	2,002	-
LRTA Ukraine Calendar (for DEC)	-	861	-	861	-
Payments from STCL for trolleybus usage	771	-	-	771	729
Monthly Prize Draw Subscriptions	-	3,196	-	3,196	3,250
STCL subscriptions collected by BTS	-	1,385	-	1,385	1,328
Bank interest	34	-	-	34	18
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>65,411</b>	<b>86,166</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>151,577</b>	<b>57,673</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>					
None	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>65,411</b>	<b>86,166</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>151,577</b>	<b>57,673</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Magazine production and postage	9,380	-	-	9,380	7,872
Publicity	476	-	-	476	41
Legal, audit and general meeting costs	-	-	-	-	300
Burntwood: Council tax, utilities & maintenance	948	-	-	948	9,850
Vehicles: Accommodation - STCL	537	18,663	-	19,200	9,000
Vehicles: Accommodation - other	644	1,238	-	1,882	3,352
Vehicles: Towing costs	-	1,440	-	1,440	1,200
Vehicles: Restoration costs	-	25,593	-	25,593	10,086
Library and archive costs	29	-	-	29	277
Reading area meetings	608	-	-	608	135
Sales stock & associated costs (incl. insurance)	1,507	1,146	-	2,653	1,293
Trolleybooks (New Titles Costs)	2,500	-	-	2,500	-
Monthly Prize Draw: Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Prize Draw: Prizes	-	1,710	-	1,710	1,680
STCL subscriptions forwarded to STCL	-	-	-	-	1,295
Bank, PayPal and credit card charges	125	-	-	125	101
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	-	-	-	1,433
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16,754</b>	<b>49,790</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,544</b>	<b>47,915</b>
<b>Asset and investment</b>					
None	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16,754</b>	<b>49,790</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,544</b>	<b>47,915</b>
<b>Year Surplus/ Deficit</b>	<b>48,657</b>	<b>36,376</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,033</b>	<b>9,758</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>43,526</b>	<b>115,677</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>159,203</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>92,183</b>	<b>152,053</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>244,236</b>	<b>9,758</b>





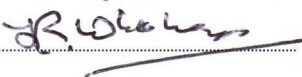
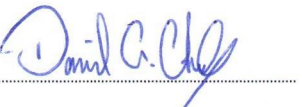


## Analysis and Statement of Restricted Funds as at 31 March 2023

	Balance as at 01-Apr-22 to nearest £	Receipts to nearest £	Payments to nearest £	Transfer Between Restricted Funds to nearest £	Balance as at 31-Mar-23 to nearest £
<u>Vehicles:</u>					
Reading Horse-drawn Tower Wagon	153	0	0		153
Mexborough & Swinton 34	40,807	4,151	3,150	1,791	43,599
Reading 47	-358	780	857		-435
Bournemouth 99	4,931	410	900		4,441
South Shields 204	892	798	900		790
Reading 113	829	720	900		649
Cardiff 203	448	640	825		263
London 1812	12,714	16,805	28,710		809
Walsall 342	74	600	900		-226
Manchester 1344	502	3,240	3,150		592
Walsall 872	1,213	657	900		970
Aachen 22	31,024	780	0		31,804
Glasgow TB78	590	765	978		377
Huddersfield 631	1,524	835	900		1,459
Bournemouth 301	1,781	1,372	381		2,772
Huddersfield 619	3,672	2,025	3,482		2,214
<b>Sub Total (Vehicle-specific funds)</b>	<b>100,795</b>	<b>34,578</b>	<b>46,934</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>90,230</b>
<u>Other Restricted Funds:</u>					
STCL membership subscriptions	0	1,385	0		1,385
Residual NHLF Grant (Poles Down Project)	1,725	0	0		1,725
Donations for Nominated Projects	0	5,000	0		5,000
LRTA Ukraine Calendar (for DEC)	0	861	0		861
Burntwood	10,500	10,000	0		20,500
Exhibitions	0	10,000	0		10,000
Development at TM@S	0	20,000	0		20,000
Monthly Prize Draw (2022)	2,625	546	1,380	-1,791	0
Monthly Prize Draw (2023)	0	2,650	330		2,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,677</b>	<b>85,020</b>	<b>48,644</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>152,021</b>

## Approval and Signatures

Approved and signed by authorised trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	FRANCIS WHITEHEAD	4-SEP-2023
	DAVID CHICK	4-SEP-2023

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Charity no (if any)

1033666

Set out on pages

1

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2023.

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

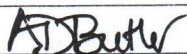
Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:



Date:

20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Name:

ALAN BUTLER

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

N/A

Address:

62 St Michaels Road Tilehurst Reading RG30 4RX

## Section B

## Disclosure

There are no matters of concern that need to be highlighted