



BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1033666

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name **British Trolleybus Society**

Registered charity number **103666**

Charity's correspondence address:

8 Glan Llyn
Ffordd Caergybi
Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
LL61 5YX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Executive Committee:

Trustee name	Office
David Chick	Chairman
Helen Cross	Deputy Chair
Paul Dicken	Secretary
Francis Whitehead	Treasurer
Andrew Barton	
Graham Bilbé	
Simon Guppy	
David Hall	
Paul Weal	

Co-opted 6 January 2025

Custodian Trustees:

David Beach
Professor Francis Terry
Robert Rowe
John Savage

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document: 1 Constitution (dated 5/10/2013)
2. Trust deed (under which the Charity's assets are vested in custodian trustees)

How the charity is constituted: Unincorporated association

Trustee selection methods: Elected by rotation at Annual General Meeting (or other 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 to 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
- (e) To encourage the writing and publication of history of trolleybuses, their operating systems and their technical equipment
- (f) 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

AGM The sixty-third Annual General Meeting of the Society, which considered the activities of the Society from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, was held in Weybridge on 7 October 2024

Finance: The end-of-year accounts are presented separately from this report.

Sales Thanks are due to our Sales Officer, Paul Weal, for heading up sales for the Society. In the last financial year, sales contributed over £5,000 to revenue. BTS Sales now participates in the running of the Trolleyshop at Sandtoft, making our sales stock available on all operating days there.

Calendar: The Society's 2025 Calendar made around £700 profit for the BTS. Our thanks to Tony Belton for providing the photos and captions and for funding the printing. Another calendar has been produced for 2026.

Monthly Prize Draw The Monthly Prize Draw provides funds for vehicle restoration. The proceeds from the 2024 Draw will be devoted to the restoration of Glasgow trolleybus TB78.

The Committee and the organiser Andrew Barton are 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 photos, and Derek Pearson, who packs and posts our journals and inserts every month, turning them round very quickly after receiving them. The Society's *News & Events* monthly newsletter is produced by Publicity Officer Paul Dicken: it is now also produced on behalf of the Bradford Trolleybus Association and the Doncaster Omnibus and Light Railway Society as well as jointly with Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited.

Membership: BTS Membership has remained consistent with the only losses being members who have died; we have had a small number of new members. We work hard to ensure a personal feel to all our correspondence and written interactions. Fortunately, we have email addresses for all but a handful of members. We have identified those who have no computer. This has led to a substantial saving in postage costs.

Website and Social Media: The BTS website continues to play an important role in keeping members and others interested in trolleybuses well informed. Our Facebook page continues to be popular. The Executive Committee is grateful to Rhys Morris, who created a new and updated website, prior to Simon Guppy taking over responsibility for the site as Webmaster.

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. One title was published during the year (London Trolleybus Operation Volume 1) and several more are in preparation.

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

The Society's Collection of Historic Vehicles:

Several of the Society's vehicle collection were 're-certified' for use at Sandtoft during the year, including Huddersfield 619 and 631, Manchester 1344, London 1812 and South Shields 204, all of which had performed well.

Further attention was given to a malfunctioning air-brake valve on Reading 113. 113's annual test was completed apart from the brake valve issue which had not been satisfactorily resolved, meaning that 113 could not return to use.

Work resumed on Walsall 872, when issues with the rear brakes were discovered, including the nearside linings being worn to the rivets. After some considerable difficulty, including having to dismantle the special geared hub unit, the errant brake shoes were eventually removed for re-lining. Further work was carried out to investigate and resolve the 'running-on' problem encountered when 872 last operated.

Glasgow TB78 has received further attention to its saloon ceilings, and new 3-D printed plastic air vents have been sourced to replace the very distorted originals, another step towards restoring this vehicle to service.

The defective resistance bank from Bournemouth 99 has been delivered to a specialist contractor in West Bromwich for rebuilding. Further assessment of the vehicle has been undertaken with a view to a full restoration prior to a major Bournemouth trolleybus anniversary in 2029.

Away from Sandtoft, considerable refurbishment work has continued on Bournemouth 301, including replacement of the window-mounting rubbers, to prevent ugly black streaking on the bright yellow paintwork. It is expected that 301 will return to Sandtoft sometime in the 2025 season.

Kept in the Reading area, the Society's only motorbus, Reading 47, attended the Reading Buses open day in June and in the autumn was used for a short commemorative trip to mark the diamond wedding of David and Jenny Embery, (David had been a founder member and was Chairman of the Society back in the 1960s). The bus outing was much appreciated by all present.

Our other vehicles, Mexborough 34, Cardiff 203, Walsall 342, Aachen 22 and the Reading horse-drawn tower wagon remain in store pending further attention, although fundraising has continued particularly with reference to the extensive works required on 22 and 34.

Events

The Society organised one of the open weekends at the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft and this year's Members' Day was a visit to London Bus Museum, following the 2024 AGM.

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 Contributing Societies.

The Society has been working on a project with TM@S to vastly improve exhibition interpretation at the Museum, particularly the interpretation for the trolleybuses and trolleybus overhead. However, the team members are all heavily committed to the delivery of the Museum's open day programme, causing work to be paused.

The Joint Working Group in which the Society cooperated with STCL and latterly also the other Contributing Societies (BTA and DO&LRS) delivered a development plan which was adopted by the Society and the Museum in 2021. During the delivery phase the JWG has been less active.

Burntwood

Remedial work on the bungalow's plumbing has been completed and a group has been formed to make recommendations to the committee regarding the maintenance of the property. Our thanks to David Hanchett for his redecorating work following the plumbing and for maintaining and improving the garden areas.

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. Gradually all historic material is being transferred to the central archive at Sandtoft. More space for the archive is needed.

The Future

The Society will continue to plan and undertake work to maintain and restore its collection of historic

vehicles. During the next review year it is expected that a fully restored Bournemouth 301 will be used in service at Sandtoft for the first time. We are working with STCL to provide a restoration workshop and we anticipate that work will commence on Aachen 22 when the new facility is available. Restoration plans are also being developed for other members of the collection, including Bournemouth 99, which has had its funds boosted by a generous donation from Chris and Elaine Williams, and which will receive the profits from the 2025 Monthly Prize Draw.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

British Trolleybus Society Policy Concerning its 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 £265,784 including the restricted funds which total £122,979, to provide adequately for planned expenditure and these contingencies.

The Executive Committee is of the view that the BTS, 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		
Full names	David George Chick	Paul Christopher Dicken
Position	Chairman	Secretary
Date		

BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1033666

Trustees' Annual Report for the period
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Appendix

Receipts and Payments Accounts (2024-25) 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 2024 to 31 March 2025

Receipts and Payments

	Year to 31 March 2025				Year to 31 March 2024
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts					
Membership subscriptions	9,436	-	-	9,436	6,116
Donations: Burntwood costs/ improvements	-	-	-	-	13,043
Donations: Vehicle sponsorship (Sponsortrolley)	-	10,704	-	10,704	11,334
Donations: Vehicles (non-Sponsortrolley)	160	16,141	-	16,301	3,109
Donations: Meetings	809	-	-	809	598
Donations: Other	2,234	-	-	2,234	1,716
Gift Aid: Tax reclaims from HMRC	23,569	-	-	23,569	-
Legacies	16,436	-	-	16,436	13,571
Sales takings	6,593	-	-	6,593	3,643
Trolleybooks: BTS share of profit payments	2,500	-	-	2,500	500
Payments from STCL for trolleybus usage	1,425	-	-	1,425	752
Monthly Prize Draw Subscriptions	-	3,218	-	3,218	3,130
STCL subscriptions collected by BTS	-	1,444	-	1,444	1,307
Bank interest	3,529	-	-	3,529	1,836
Miscellaneous income	177	-	-	177	-
Sub total	66,867	31,506	-	98,373	60,655
Asset and investment sales					
None	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	66,867	31,506	-	98,373	60,655
Payments					
Magazines, postage & other membership costs	9,343	-	-	9,343	9,311
Legal, audit, general meetings	96	-	-	96	216
Publicity and website	360	-	-	360	153
Burntwood: Council tax, utilities & maintenance	1,878	-	-	1,878	8,771
Burntwood: Improvements	-	20,415	-	20,415	45,407
Vehicles: Accommodation - STCL	1,553	5,648	-	7,200	7,200
Vehicles: Accommodation - other	574	1,416	-	1,990	1,155
Vehicles: Towing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicles: Restoration and maintenance costs	-	1,465	-	1,465	1,420
Library and archive costs	8	-	-	8	15
Exhibitions	-	-	-	-	1,350
Reading area meetings	649	-	-	649	374
Sales stock and associated costs	2,052	-	-	2,052	7,654
Trolleybooks production	1,600	-	-	1,600	-
Ukraine Calendar (LRTA)	-	-	-	-	861
Monthly Prize Draw: Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Prize Draw: Prizes	-	1,595	-	1,595	1,435
STCL subscriptions forwarded to STCL	-	-	-	-	2,691
Bank, PayPal and credit card charges	140	-	-	140	125
Miscellaneous expenditure	280	-	-	280	271
Sub total	18,534	30,538	-	49,072	88,409
Asset and investment					
None	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,534	30,538	-	49,072	88,409
Year Surplus/ Deficit	48,333	968	-	49,301	-27,754
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	93,891	122,592	-	216,483	234,479
Cash funds this year end	142,224	123,560	-	265,784	206,725

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2025

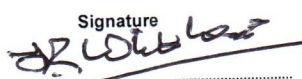
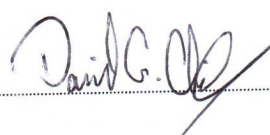
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Cash funds	Lloyds cheque account (funds at 31-Mar-25)	37,580	-	-
	Lloyds savings account	97,719	35,572	-
	Nationwide savings account	-	88,438	-
	PayPal account	6,592	-	-
	Cash held by Society officers	333	-	-
Sub total		142,224	124,010	-
Less: Lloyds cheque account (unpresented cheques at 31-Mar-25)		-	-1,031	-
Total cash funds		142,224	122,979	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Investment assets	None	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
Assets retained for the Society's own use	16 Historic trolleybuses/ historic vehicles	Restricted	14,100	-
	Trolleybus overhead & equipment	Unrestricted	2,781	-
	Freehold land & property - Burntwood	Unrestricted	425,000	-
	Postage stamps	Unrestricted	2,725	-
	Sales stock	Unrestricted	3,042	-
	Lino (for restoration projects)	Restricted	5,003	-
			452,651	-
			-	-
Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Analysis and Statement of Restricted Funds as at 31 March 2025

	Balance as at 01-Apr-24 to nearest £	Receipts to nearest £	Payments to nearest £	Transfer Between Restricted Funds to nearest £	Balance as at 31-Mar-25 to nearest £
Vehicles:					
Reading Horse-drawn Tower Wagon	153	0	0		153
Mexborough & Swinton 34	45,830	742	29		46,543
Reading 47	298	799	1,454		-357
Bournemouth 99	4,343	10,969	513		14,800
South Shields 204	356	638	848		146
Reading 113	429	375	825		-21
Cardiff 203	-17	630	650		-37
London 1812	2,229	970	0		3,199
Walsall 342	-526	697	600		-429
Manchester 1344	1,572	808	0		2,380
Walsall 872	718	846	731		832
Aachen 22	32,572	912	0		33,484
Glasgow TB78	-25	1,401	1,479	1,597	1,494
Huddersfield 631	1,099	5,420	600		5,919
Bournemouth 301	3,930	858	801		3,987
Huddersfield 619	1,938	780	0		2,718
Sub Total (Vehicle-specific funds)	100,795	26,845	8,529	1,597	120,708
Other Restricted Funds:					
STCL membership subscriptions	0	1,444	0		1,444
Residual NHLF Grant (Poles Down Project)	1,725	0	0		1,725
Donations for Nominated Projects	5,000	0	0		5,000
LRTA Ukraine Calendar (for DEC)	0	0	0		0
Burntwood	-11,864	0	20,415		-32,279
Exhibitions	8,650	0	0		8,650
Development at TM@S	20,135	0	0		20,135
Monthly Prize Draw (2024)	2,396	436	1,235	-1,597	0
Monthly Prize Draw (2025)	0	2,782	360		2,422
Total	115,677	31,506	30,538	0	127,804

Approval and Signatures

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

Signature 	Print Name FRANCIS WHITEHEAD	Date of approval 18-Oct-25
Signature 	DAVID CHICK	18-Oct-25

BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 1033666

Independent Examiner's Report on Accounts

Report to the Trustees / Members of - **BRITISH TROLLEYBUS SOCIETY**

On Accounts for the year ending - **31st March 2025**

Set out on Pages - **1, 2 and 3**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025

Responsibilities and basis of the 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 Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention 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 10 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.

Signed : A D Butler



Date : 25th November 2025

Name : Alan D Butler

Relevant professional qualifications or body : N/A

Address : 62 St Michaels Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire. RG30 4RX