



HELSTON RAILWAY

Preservation Society *(a registered charity)*

Dear Member

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 AGM of the Helston Railway Preservation Society which we are holding in the only part of the old Helston Railway Station which is still in existence. The old engine shed, where we are holding the meeting, was subsumed into a sheltered housing project and is now used as a community room. We are privileged to be able to use this building occasionally for meetings, as a nod to the history of our original Helston Branch Line.

It has been an interesting year, and a very busy one for all those involved in our railway. As you probably know we have two main organisations, and it is always useful to remind ourselves of their respective responsibilities.

The Helston Railway Preservation Co Ltd., which is the Operating Company or 'OPCO' runs, maintains, and constructs the railway; and is responsible for safety for all the activities on site. There is a Board of Directors, and the operation is regulated by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) who is responsible to the Government in making sure our railway discharges its duties correctly. The OPCO Chairman is Colin Savage, who is really to be commended for his dedication and hard work in keeping our railway running smoothly.

I am the Chairman of the Helston Railway Preservation Society, which is a Charity registered in England and Wales, and known as 'The Charity'. We are responsible for raising funds and as a Charity we are given an extra 25% on all gift aided donations by the Government. Donations allow us to develop the railway further, by purchasing assets ourselves, or passing funds to the OPCO, and to help people learn more about our railway and the history of railways in general. We have a Board of Trustees, and our responsibilities are to the Charities Commission to deliver the objectives that we promised to provide when we were established. Our organisation is not permitted to be involved with the day to day running of the railway nor do we have any formal safety responsibilities. If you have received an invitation to this AGM you are a member of the Charity.

In reality whilst we do have two organisations, we both work hand in hand to make this project in which we all fervently believe work. Without both organisations being successful there would be no point in what we do, using our respective strengths is what makes us a success and long may it last. We will continue to work closely together to grow our railway further.

As a Charity we are expected to manage our funds responsibly, and there has been a lot in the press in the last few years about charities who have failed at this hurdle, and we have been determined to get this right. Whilst our available funds might look high it masks the fact that we have a large amount of funds in reserved accounts which can only be used for specific purposes.

At the time of writing this we have £30,000 in reserve set aside for such projects as completing the building of the water tower, supporting the development of young volunteers, providing disabled access. There is also a ballast purchase fund, the development fund that some of you pay into each month, and a community fund. All these separated and reserved funds have been donated for specific objectives and we set them apart for the purposes for which they were donated, or where we have allocated them.

We have also set aside funds for further land purchases and associated legal fees. One of our purchases that we have been endeavouring to complete for some time is the land, for the 'New Road' which will allow a new access to our existing car park. I am pleased to say that this difficult project appears to have been unlocked in the last few days, with constant hard work, and with the kind support of Mike Sagin and Thane Osborne. Hopefully the vendors solicitors will now be able to satisfy their objections. Sadly, it had taken some time, because these solicitors had not told us what the real hold up was. I know you will also be interested in the southern end of our track where we are looking to extend towards Helston. Progress is being made, albeit slowly and there is nothing so

far (apart from raising funds when the time comes) that suggests we will not be able to succeed in this aspiration eventually.

So, what else has been happening this year.....

Firstly, the 700 yards of track bed that we owned south of Truthall Halt has been cleared ready for track laying, a mammoth task that was completed, in the main, by a dedicated team of four people who decided it had to be done, so huge thanks to Colin, Andy, Ray and Kevin for their perseverance. A private donation and your development fund were called upon to purchase equipment and support their clearance efforts.

With donations from members, volunteers and Helston Town Council we purchased two defibrillators, one of which is now installed in our car park, and one is in our main train carriage. The car park defib is available to members of the local community as well as our volunteers and visitors. With support from Dorset Steam Fair we have also obtained a vintage red K6 telephone box which will be restored and will eventually house the car park defib.

Carriage and rolling stock renovation has been a main feature of this year and the Charity has supported the purchase of materials to make this happen. So the buffet and shop roofs are now looking much more respectable. The Suburban carriage has been undergoing a refurbishment of doors and interiors and has had its undercarriage cleaned and repaired. Even Kingswood is getting a new coat of paint.

The Sithney Parish invited us to host their Coronation Celebrations at Truthall Field which saw an extremely wet group of around 500 local residents gathering at the railway in June to celebrate the Coronation. We were honoured to be able to participate in this way and made many new friends in the community at the same time.

The Charity has also received numerous donations during the year, these have included railway models and railway books which we have successfully sold in our shop to raise funds. We have also been given vintage heritage railway memorabilia such as signs and articles which are often not for resale and can be used to help with theming and displaying in our small museum.

We held our first ever Members Day in June and at the same time celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Helston Railway. This gave our members an opportunity to have a free day out and ride the train all day if they wanted to. We will be repeating this again in 2024 by popular demand!

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year especially Geoff and his daughter Suzie for continuing to provide us with our wonderful newsletter. Also Colin and his Directors, our Trustees and all the volunteers and supporters who have helped us during the year.

Lastly may I thank you, our members, for continuing to support our project, it has been 20 years in the making and I trust that you, like us, are still enjoying our journey. We have come a long way from our early beginnings and there is still a lot more to do!

Barbara Barnes
Chairman
HRPS



September 2023

Alan Burton

As I write this the sad news has been received that Alan Burton has passed, we will write more about him in the future. Alan was a stalwart of the railway, a kind and gentle man whose wise guidance helped to ensure our railway project survived and prospered from its very earliest beginnings. He retired from his last official duties as Truthall Station Master in November last year but was still regaling us with his stories and reminiscences until very recently. We won't see his like again and we all owe him a huge thank of gratitude. Our thoughts are with Sue and his family at this sad time.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of HELSTON RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 28 February 2023, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period (under section 144 of The Charities Act 2011 (The Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of The Charities Act),
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(B) of The Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

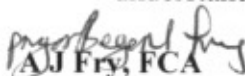
Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of The Charities Act
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the account requirements of The Charities Act have not been met
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


AJ Fry, FCA

Pryor, Begent, Fry & Co
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

97 Meneage Street,
Helston,
Cornwall.
TR13 8RE

Dated: 4 September 2023

HELSTON RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 2023

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£
Income			
Subscriptions	8930		9743
Donations	25669		20165
Draw	-		7
Gift Aid	10513		-
200 Club	2457		2034
	<u>47569</u>		<u>31949</u>
 Expenditure			
Donations to HRPC Ltd	38547		9358
200 Club Winners	791		1070
Printing & Stationery	257		601
Postage & Packaging	135		34
Insurance	1492		564
Advertising	252		85
Asset Maintenance	210		-
Professional Fees	1594		253
	<u>43278</u>		<u>11965</u>
 Surplus for the year	 <u>4291</u>		 <u>19984</u>

HELSTON RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 28th FEBRUARY 2023

	<u>2023</u>		<u>2022</u>	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Truthall Land		30000		30000
Jenkins Land		25000		25000
Lanes Land		75000		75000
EQUIPMENT				
Brought forward		100		100
		<u>130100</u>		<u>130100</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank and in hand	65900		61191	
Paypal etc	1895		2313	
Loan to HRPC Ltd	<u>4056</u>	<u>71851</u>	<u>4056</u>	<u>67560</u>
		<u>201951</u>		<u>197660</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance brought forward		197660		177676
Surplus for the year		<u>4291</u>		<u>19984</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>201951</u>		<u>197660</u>

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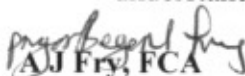
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