



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Trustees' annual report (including Directors' report) for the period**

**From:** 6 April 2021 **To:** 5 April 2022

**Charity name:** Devon General Omnibus Trust

**Charity registration number:** 1153451

**Company number:** N/A

**Objectives and activities**

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance the education of the public in the history of public road passenger transport and in particular the history of the Devon General Omnibus & Touring Company and its successors through: a) establishing and preserving for posterity a representative collection of passenger service vehicles formerly operated by the Company and its successors in the county of Devon and the wider area covered by the South West of England, b) facilitating public access to the collection by providing opportunities to view and travel on the vehicles and thereby experience an earlier era of public transport in the county of Devon, c) providing a focus for retention, development and training for students of all ages in the traditional crafts and specialist skills required for the restoration and maintenance of the vehicles and associated relics, and d) enabling the raising of funds for the above purposes. In doing so, the charity must not raise any substantial permanent trading activity.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>2021/22 has seen some semblance of our normal activity return. The easing of Covid restrictions during the Spring of 2021 enabled us to resume our volunteer work sessions at Knowstone and from July 2021 the trustees resumed meeting in person rather than on Zoom.</p> <p>Although the lockdowns over the preceding year have inevitably slowed progress with the restoration of our collection, we were able to resume taking our buses to public events in 2021.</p>

We also completed fundraising to acquire a fifth bus for our collection, and duly purchased 1953 AEC Rebuild ETT 995 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. We were delighted with the response to our fundraising appeal, with 70 individuals making donations, and we were particularly grateful to receive a very generous amount from one supporter. In total, the donations, plus Gift Aid, met 97% of the purchase price of ETT 995, with the balance coming from the Trust's funds.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, our AEC Regent V VDV 817 featured in a ceremony at the new Exeter bus station, when the Prince of Wales unveiled a commemorative plaque. There was extensive media coverage, and our bus was the backdrop to many photographs of Prince Charles. VDV 817 was back at the new bus station on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 for Stagecoach South West's Family Fun Day to mark the first day of operation. We are grateful to Stagecoach for inviting us to these events, and we are happy to continue to help the company celebrate its Devon General heritage, as it brings the work of the Trust to a wider audience.

We were able to field an entry of 4 buses, including newly-acquired ETT 995, in our first public event of the season – the Mid Devon Show at Tiverton, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021. This proved to be a great success, with a good number of visitors looking round our buses, helping us fulfil our charitable purpose of educating the public about the old Devon General bus company. We were pleased to hear grandparents describing to their grandchildren what it was like to travel on such buses when they were young.

We also contributed 4 buses to the 'Devon General Remembered' running day at Tiverton on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Organised by the Devon General Society, the event was based at Tiverton bus station and saw free bus services run by heritage vehicles to various local destinations served by the company in the 1960s. We were pleased that our 1957 AEC Reliance VDV 798 was able to make its debut at the event, and it was also the first opportunity for people to ride on ETT 995. In all, we carried over 500 passengers, including the Mayor of Tiverton and her civic party.

Later in the year we received a very generous legacy of £185,437 from a



		<p>supporter. The trustees are taking a risk averse view about safeguarding these funds whilst we consider how best to use them, and we have accordingly set up a Charity Deposit Platform with our bank, CAF Bank, which will see lump sums distributed around interest-bearing accounts, each protected by the FCA £85,000 compensation scheme.</p> <p>Communicating via social media with our supporters and the general public continues to be a key activity. Our Facebook page now has 865 followers, and our Twitter feed 215 followers. These enable us to reach out to our audience even if they are unable to make it to see our buses at events.</p> <p>We are also committed to presenting a professional and informative face to the world via our website. Since July 2021 – when we started to receive website analytics data – over 1,600 users have seen our redesigned website.</p> <p>During the year we joined the ‘Amazon Smile’ campaign to widen the range of ways in which supporters can donate to the Trust. This sees Amazon donate 0.05% of the net value of a shopper’s spending at no cost to the shopper and has added a steady if modest quarterly flow of funds to our income.</p> <p>We are grateful for the continued generosity of our trustees and other interested parties who support our work, including the Devon General Society.</p> <p>We remain indebted to one of our trustees who has placed his own vehicle on loan to the Trust.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The trustees are fully aware of the obligations imposed upon them by way of the Charities Act and Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the extent to which the trust is fulfilling its charitable objectives is reviewed at each trustees’ meeting. These obligations remain paramount when planning activities for the forthcoming period and considering means by which the trust’s other central objectives can be met.</p>

#### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>The trustees readily acknowledge the huge contribution made by our volunteers. This manifests in a variety of ways: undertaking the physical work in preparing and restoring our historic vehicles; assisting us when we attend events; assisting us in organising events; preparing and delivering presentations to interest groups and the general public; and assisting with the governance of the CIO.</p> <p>During 2021/22 our volunteers contributed 1,270 hours of their time at our Knowstone base.</p> <p>Skills retention continues to rest with a relatively small group of volunteers.</p>
Other		

## Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The trustees believe that the main achievements of the Trust during the year may be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were able to display our vehicles at public events, which is the main way for us to deliver our charitable objective of educating the public about the history of road passenger transport.</li> <li>• We improved our financial base significantly thanks to the receipt of a large legacy.</li> <li>• We continued to receive a steady flow of donations from our supporters and claimed Gift Aid thereon.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We completed a successful fundraising campaign which enabled us to add a fifth bus to our collection. This bus was a particularly significant example of Devon General's policy in the 1950s of rebuilding old vehicles for further use.</li> <li>• We carried out further significant restoration work on our vehicles.</li> <li>• We continued to maintain links with other groups where relationships can be of mutual benefit.</li> <li>• We continued our good relationship with the Devon General Society, ensuring that they remain fully supportive of the trust's activities (the DGS has 200+ members, all of whom share a common interest in the Devon General company and its activities). The work of the Trust is independent of the Society, but it is important that good relations are maintained. The Society is supportive of the Trust's objectives and assists on a regular basis by keeping members informed of our activities and publicising forthcoming events.</li> <li>• We expanded our social media presence and used Facebook and Twitter to inform followers (and the wider community) of progress on our restoration activities, upcoming events, etc.</li> <li>• We continued our good relationship with key personnel within Stagecoach South West (the modern-day successors of Devon General) who are fully supportive of our aims and objectives.</li> </ul>
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#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	Objective of raising £20,000 to purchase ETT 995 met.

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

## Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The receipt of a £185,437 legacy and the completion of our fundraising campaign to acquire ETT 995 have combined to produce the highest annual income the Trust has seen, at £205,623.</p> <p>Our expenditure reflects our higher level of activity compared with last year and included the purchase of ETT 995 for £20,000. 97% of this capital sum came from our fundraising appeal, but we are now bearing the costs of storing, insuring, maintaining and operating this bus.</p> <p>The out-turn for the year 6/4/21-5/4/22 was a surplus of £169,446. This is exceptional and unlikely to be repeated.</p> <p>The trustees are conscious that this surplus needs to be husbanded carefully and we are reviewing how best to employ the one-off funds in support of our charitable objectives. We foresee that the majority of our outgoings will switch from restoration work to maintenance in future years, the costs of which should be less onerous.</p> <p>However, we remain very conscious of the need to increase our regular income to cover our overheads and we will look to attract greater 'outside' funding (i.e. beyond that provided by the trustees and recognised supporters).</p> <p>As we have seen with our fundraising for ETT 995, any major one-off expenditure would best be met by an appeal for specific project funds.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>Our policy is that, whilst significant vehicle restoration is ongoing, working capital of up to £10,000 is required to fund regular expenditure. Beyond this, surplus funds would be placed on low-risk bank deposit. We are currently reviewing how best to employ the one-off funds provided by the legacy.</p>



Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£180,000 as at 5 April 2022
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

#### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	N/A
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Our investment policy sets out the likely calls on our funds over the short, medium and long terms and takes a risk-averse approach to matching them with investments in interest-bearing accounts.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	N/A
Other		N/A

### Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc.	Para 1.25	Constitution dated 6 April 2013.
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Para 1.25	CIO.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more	Para 1.25	Potential new trustees are identified by the existing trustees in accordance with Charity Commission guidance.

trustees		

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	N/A
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Relations with the Devon General Society and with other bus-related groups remain active and strong.
Other		N/A

### Reference and administrative details

Charity name	<b>Devon General Omnibus Trust</b>
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	<b>1153451</b>
Charity's principal address	<b>22 Sandstone Road, Swindon SN25 2FE</b>

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Graham Bailey	Vice Chairman / Chairman	Vice Chairman 6/4/21 to 14/10/21; Chairman 15/10/21 to 5/4/22	
2	Paul Jenkins	Treasurer		
3	Martin White			
4	Peter Murnaghan	Chairman	6/4/21 to 14/10/21	
5	Iain Tucker		6/4/21 to 26/7/21	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				



11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	
None	

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year
None	

### Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

### Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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N/A		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (optional information)

N/A

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

## Other optional information

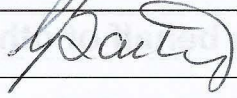
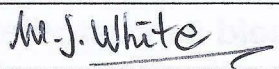
None

## Declarations

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees/directors

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Graham Bailey	Martin White
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc.)	Chairman	Trustee

Date

14/7/22





Devon General Omnibus Trust		1153451		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	06-Apr-21	To	05-Apr-22	

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations (trustees)	3,185	-	-	3,185	1,165
Donations (unrestricted)	191,893	-	-	191,893	2,449
Donations (restricted)	-	5,679	-	5,679	10,808
Grant	-	-	-	-	10,000
Refund of Business Rates	-	-	-	-	461
Events	25	-	-	25	-
Bank Interest	140	-	-	140	-
Sale of Items	-	-	-	-	-
Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid	4,751	-	-	4,751	2,209
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>199,944</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>205,623</b>	<b>27,092</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>199,944</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>205,623</b>	<b>27,092</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Bank Charges	98	-	-	98	72
Meeting Expenses	47	-	-	47	-
Insurance	575	-	-	575	536
Business Rates	348	-	-	348	-
Postage	56	-	-	56	82
Stationery & Printing	278	-	-	278	83
Sundry Expenditure	531	-	-	531	410
Trustees' Expenses	2,654	-	-	2,654	509
Vehicle Expenditure - 503RUO	993	-	-	993	1,034
Vehicle Expenditure - VDV798	1,802	-	-	1,802	830
Vehicle Expenditure - VDV817	1,234	-	-	1,234	1,591
Vehicle Expenditure - NTT661	1,647	-	-	1,647	779
Vehicle Expenditure - ETT995	1,232	-	-	1,232	-
Volunteers' Expenses	4,401	-	-	4,401	583
Website	180	-	-	180	667
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16,077</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,077</b>	<b>7,176</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Capital Expenditure	20,100	-	-	20,100	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>36,177</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,177</b>	<b>7,176</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>163,767</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>169,446</b>	<b>19,916</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>16,487</b>	<b>16,487</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>25,473</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,473</b>	<b>5,557</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>205,727</b>	<b>10,808</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>194,919</b>	<b>25,473</b>



## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	CAF Bank Account	199,727	- 10,808	-
	CAF 60 Day Notice Account	6,000	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>205,727</b>	<b>- 10,808</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			


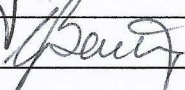
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Debtors	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Vehicle - 503RUO	Restricted	4,500	7,000
	Vehicle - VDV798	Unrestricted	5,000	5,000
	Vehicle - VDV817	Restricted	8,500	8,500
	Vehicle - NTT661	Restricted	12,000	12,000
	Vehicle - ETT 995	Restricted	20,000	20,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Creditors	N/A	-	
	Loans	N/A	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	P R Jenkins	11-Jul-22
	G Bailey	11-Jul-22





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Devon General Omnibus Trust

On accounts for the year  
ended

5 April 2022

Charity no  
(if any)

1153451

Set out on pages

1 - 10

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 5 April 2021.

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 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:

11 July 2022

Name:

Terence Bennett

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

N/A

Address:

16 Manor Close. Bradford Abbas, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 6RN

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A