



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' annual report for the period

From: 6 April 2022 **To:** 5 April 2023

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>Our efforts during 2022/23 have been focussed on completing the restoration of the vehicles in our collection and taking them to public events. This is reflected in lower levels of income and expenditure compared with last year.</p> <p>We have invested most of the legacy we received last year in deposit accounts using the CAF Bank Charity Deposit Platform, and this has led to the accrual of bank interest during the year. The trustees intend to prioritise the funds from the legacy for securing better accommodation for our</p>

collection and we have drawn up an accommodation policy to guide us.

On 15th May 2022, our AEC Regent III NTT 661 took part in the Taunton Vintage Bus Running Day. It ran three round trips between Sheppy's Cider Farm (where the running day was based) and the West Somerset Railway at Bishop's Lydeard, calling en route at Castle Way in Taunton town centre. With sunny weather to start the day the free bus services were busy and we carried around 250 passengers.

Our 1957 AEC Regent V VDV 817 was on display in Exeter High Street on 2nd June 2022 as part of the city's Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We were visited by a large number of people keen to see what travel on Devon General's Exeter city services looked like in the 1950s and 1960s. VDV 817 spent its career at Exeter depot up to withdrawal in 1971, and it typifies the open-platform rear-entrance double deckers used on the city services during that time.

Two vehicles from our collection attended the Mid Devon Show on Saturday 23rd July 2022. NTT 661, our 1952 AEC Regent III, and VDV 798, our 1957 AEC Reliance, proved a popular attraction for visitors.

Two of our buses attended the Vintage Weekend at RHS Garden Rosemoor, near Great Torrington, on 30th July 2022. NTT 661, our 1952 Weymann-bodied AEC Regent III, and VDV 798, our 1957 Weymann-bodied AEC Reliance, were accompanied by a 1971 MGB Roadster brought along by one of our volunteers.

DGOT contributed four buses to the 'Devon General Remembered' Running Day organised by the Devon General Society at Exmouth on 4th September 2022. The event recreated local bus routes of the 1960s and added a circular town tour with open-top buses.

The vehicles concerned were NTT 661, our 1952 AEC Regent III; ETT 995, our 1953 AEC 'Light Six' Rebuild; VDV 798, our 1957 AEC Reliance; and VDV 817, our 1957 AEC Regent V. Free trips were run from Imperial Road – site of the former Devon General garage – out to Budleigh Salterton, Littleham, Lymptone and Woodbury.

		<p>Communicating via social media with our supporters and the general public continues to be a key activity. Our Facebook page now has 1,000 followers, and our Twitter feed 227 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. This was viewed by around 1,800 users in the last 12 months.</p> <p>During 2022/23 we have continued to benefit from the 'Amazon Smile' charity fundraising campaign, which sees Amazon donate 0.05% of the net value of a shopper's spending at no cost to the shopper. Unfortunately, this small but useful addition to our income closed in May 2023.</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	The trustees readily acknowledge the huge contribution made by our volunteers.

		<p>This manifests in a variety of ways, such as undertaking the physical work in preparing and restoring our historic vehicles, assisting us when we attend events and assisting us with governance.</p> <p>During 2022/23 our volunteers and trustees contributed 1,170 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

<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<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"> • We were able to display our vehicles at public events and achieve good engagement with visitors. This is the main way for us to deliver our charitable objective of educating the public about the history of road passenger transport. • We continued to receive a steady flow of donations from our supporters and claimed Gift Aid thereon. • We carried out further significant restoration work on our vehicles. • We continued to maintain links with other groups where relationships can be of mutual benefit. • 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
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		<p>the Trust's objectives and assists on a regular basis by keeping members informed of our activities and publicising forthcoming events. In February 2023, the Society adopted a new constitution which formalised its commitment to provide support to the Trust, subject to the availability of resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continued to make use of our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter to inform followers (and the wider community) of progress on our restoration activities, upcoming events, etc. • 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.
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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	N/A
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	Our income and expenditure returned to more normal levels in 2022/23, after last year's receipt of a large legacy and the purchase of a fifth bus for our collection.
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		<p>The out-turn for the year was a small surplus of £434.</p> <p>£180,450 of the legacy was invested on the CAF Charity Deposit Platform from August 2022. This was split between three banks, with each deposit covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to remove financial risk. This investment is accruing bank interest.</p> <p>We remain conscious of the need to increase our regular income to cover our overheads and we are looking to attract new funding streams such as by giving talks.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The trustees maintain reserves in order to maintain financial security for future needs, opportunities, commitments or risks. The level of reserves and their use is reviewed at each trustees' meeting. Use of reserves may include asset purchase and improvement to premises.</p> <p>The trustees may retain up to £10,000 in readily accessible accounts to cover two years' maintenance and standing costs (e.g. rent, insurance).</p> <p>In the event that surplus funds become available with little or no prospect of these being required for a period of at least 12 months, the trustees will consider whether longer term investment would produce more favourable returns than a simple deposit account.</p> <p>We anticipate that the 2021/22 legacy will be utilised mainly to secure improved premises to house our collection, and to this end we have drawn up an accommodation policy to guide our search. In the meantime, we are holding the legacy funds in reserve.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£183,495 as at 5 th April 2023
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 trustees	Para 1.25	Potential new trustees are identified by the existing trustees in accordance with Charity Commission guidance.

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
		N/A

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
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	Devon General Omnibus Trust
Other name the charity uses	N/A
Registered charity number	1153451
Charity's principal address	22 Sandstone Road, Swindon SN25 2FE

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	Chairman		
2	Paul Jenkins	Treasurer		
3	Martin White			
4				
5				
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
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

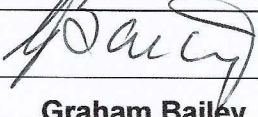
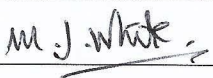
Other optional information

None

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

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

Date

13/7/23



Devon General Omnibus Trust

1153451

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

06-Apr-22

To

05-Apr-23

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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations (trustees)	405	-	-	405	3,185
Donations (unrestricted)	5,308	-	-	5,308	191,893
Donations (restricted)	-	-	-	-	5,679
Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Refund of Business Rates	-	-	-	-	-
Events	-	-	-	-	25
Bank Interest	3,145	-	-	3,145	140
Sale of Items	8	-	-	8	-
Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid	2,396	-	-	2,396	4,751
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	11,262	-	-	11,262	205,623
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	11,262	-	-	11,262	205,623
A3 Payments					
Bank Charges	124	-	-	124	98
Meeting Expenses	24	-	-	24	47
Insurance	655	-	-	655	575
Business Rates	122	-	-	122	348
Postage	31	-	-	31	56
Stationery & Printing	16	-	-	16	278
Sundry Expenditure	584	-	-	584	531
Trustees' Expenses	-	-	-	-	2,654
Vehicle Expenditure - 503RUO	1,491	-	-	1,491	993
Vehicle Expenditure - VDV798	1,009	-	-	1,009	1,802
Vehicle Expenditure - VDV817	1,812	-	-	1,812	1,234
Vehicle Expenditure - NTT661	2,069	-	-	2,069	1,647
Vehicle Expenditure - ETT995	931	-	-	931	1,232
Volunteers' Expenses	1,507	-	-	1,507	4,402
Website	180	-	-	180	180
Sub total	10,553	-	-	10,553	16,077
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Capital Expenditure	275	-	-	275	20,100
Sub total	275	-	-	275	20,100
Total payments	10,828	-	-	10,828	36,177
Net of receipts/(payments)	434	-	-	434	169,446
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	194,918	-	-	194,918	25,473
Cash funds this year end	195,352	-	-	195,352	194,919

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 £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank Account	4,804	-	-
	CAF Gold Account	7,053	-	-
	CAF Charity Deposit Platform	183,495	-	-
	Total cash funds	195,352	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

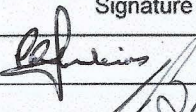
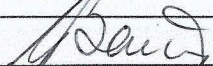
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	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)
B5 Liabilities	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	30-Jun-23
	G Bailey	30-Jun-23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Devon General Omnibus Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

5 April 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1153451

Set out on pages

1 - 10

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **5 April 2023**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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:

13 July 2023

Name:

Terence William 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.

None