



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' annual report for the period

From: 6 April 2024 **To:** 5 April 2025

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	Two of our buses took part in the Taunton Vintage Bus Day on Sunday 2nd June 2024, running between Taunton's old bus station and Wellington, calling en route at Sheppy's Cider Farm and – on the return trip – Rumwell Farm Shop. Some 700 passenger journeys were made on our buses – all free of charge. The buses that took part were our 1952 AEC Regent III NTT 661 and our 1957 AEC Regent V VDV 817; they also provided a feeder service to and from Exeter for members of the Devon General Society.

We were delighted to be invited to display one of our buses at the Tiverton Pannier Market on Saturday 6th July 2024, during the Farmers' Market Summer Festival. Our 1957 AEC Regent V VDV 817 attracted much interest and our team were happy to answer questions about the vehicle's history and the work of the Trust.

For the fourth year in a row we displayed buses from our collection at the Mid Devon Show at Tiverton on Saturday 27th July 2024. This year it was the turn of our 1937/1953 AEC 'Light Six' ETT 995 and our 1957 AEC Regent V, VDV 817. The organisers reported a record attendance at this year's event.

We took our 1957 AEC Regent V VDV 817 along to the North Devon Festival of Transport on Sunday 11th August 2024. It was the second year for this event, held at Victoria Park in Bideford. We had great interaction with the visitors to our bus, answering questions about the work of the Trust and the history of the bus itself.

On Sunday 18th August 2024 our 1957 AEC Reliance VDV 798 attended a bus rally held to complement World Helicopter Day at the Helicopter Museum in Weston-super-Mare. The event was organised by our friends at the West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust (WHOTT). VDV 798 was on display at the rally site for much of the day but also ran four trips on the free shuttle bus service WHOTT had laid on between the railway station and the museum, and the seafront and the museum.

Five buses from our collection took part in the 'Devon General Remembered' running day held in Tiverton on Sunday 1st September 2024. The event was organised by the Devon General Society and was based at Tiverton bus station. The DGOT buses were ETT 995, our 1937/1953 AEC 'Light Six'; NTT 661, our 1952 AEC Regent III; VDV 798, our 1957 AEC Reliance; VDV 817, our 1957 AEC Regent V; and 503 RUO, our 1964 AEC Regent V. In total, 684 passenger journeys were made on our buses, running free services on Tiverton town routes and out to Bampton, Thorverton and Tiverton Parkway. We are very grateful to all our volunteers for helping to make the day a success.

		<p>We finished the 2024 season by taking our 1965 AEC Regent V CTT 513C to Torquay on Saturday 21st September 2024 to give a talk about Devon General to the Friends of the London Transport Museum. The next day we transported the party to Tiverton for the final leg of their Devon tour.</p> <p>Communicating via social media with our supporters and the general public continues to be a key activity. Our Facebook page now has over 1,140 followers, and our X/Twitter feed over 250 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 1,700 users in the last 12 months.</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 2024/25 our volunteers and trustees contributed 1,585 hours of their time to the work of the Trust.</p> <p>Skills retention continues to rest with a relatively small group of volunteers.</p>
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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. • Some 1,384 passenger journeys were made on our buses at public running days, rekindling memories and offering new experiences. • We continued to receive a steady flow of donations from our supporters and claimed Gift Aid thereon. • 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 the Trust's objectives and assists on a regular basis by keeping members informed of our activities and publicising forthcoming events. • 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	<p>The out-turn for the year was a surplus of £29,135. In part this was due to the receipt of a legacy of £25,647.</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</p>

		<p>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	£228,844 as at 5 th April 2025
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
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	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				

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

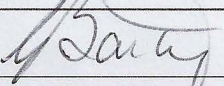
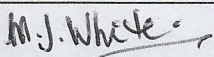
Other optional information

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

12 NOVEMBER 2025



Devon General Omnibus Trust		1153451		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	06-Apr-24	To	05-Apr-25	

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)	3,208	-	-	3,208	3,039
Donations (unrestricted)	8,931	-	-	8,931	9,368
Donations (restricted)	-	25,647	-	25,647	-
Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Refund of Business Rates	-	-	-	-	-
Events	-	-	-	-	10
Bank Interest	9,907	-	-	9,907	7,283
Sale of Items	425	-	-	425	208
Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid	2,447	-	-	2,447	2,638
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	24,917	25,647		50,565	22,526
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total					
Total receipts	24,917	25,647		50,565	22,526
A3 Payments					
Bank Charges	66	-	-	66	60
Zettle transaction fees	3	-	-	3	-
Meeting Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	640	-	-	640	648
Container	550	-	-	550	-
Business Rates	353	-	-	353	130
Postage	27	-	-	27	21
Stationery & Printing	8	-	-	8	290
Sundry Expenditure	659	-	-	659	95
Trustees' Expenses	2,987	-	-	2,987	2,567
Vehicle Expenditure - 503RUO	3,623	-	-	3,623	2,032
Vehicle Expenditure - CTT513C	215	-	-	215	22
Vehicle Expenditure - VDV798	1,190	-	-	1,190	1,226
Vehicle Expenditure - VDV817	1,814	-	-	1,814	1,297
Vehicle Expenditure - NTT661	1,549	-	-	1,549	1,435
Vehicle Expenditure - ETT995	1,334	-	-	1,334	1,136
Vehicle Expenditure - general	287	-	-	287	624
Volunteers' Expenses	5,494	-	-	5,494	6,450
Website	180	-	-	180	180
Sub total	20,979			20,979	18,169
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Capital Expenditure	450	-	-	450	-
Sub total	450			450	
Total payments	21,429			21,429	18,169
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,488	25,647		29,135	4,357
A5 Transfers between funds	3,886	3,886			
A6 Cash funds last year end	199,709			199,709	195,352
Cash funds this year end	207,083	21,761		228,844	199,709

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	337	-	-
	CAF Gold Account	8,739	-	-
	CAF Charity Deposit Platform	198,007	21,761	-
	Total cash funds	207,083	21,761	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Debtors	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

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

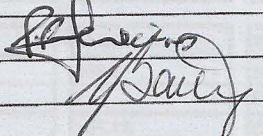
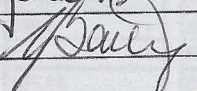
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Vehicle - 503RUO	Restricted	4,500	10,000
Vehicle - VDV798	Unrestricted	5,000	5,000
Vehicle - VDV817	Restricted	8,500	10,000
Vehicle - NTT661	Restricted	12,000	12,000
Vehicle - ETT 995	Restricted	20,000	20,000
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
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	20-Jul-25
	G Bailey	20-Jul-25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Devon General Omnibus Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

5 April 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1153451

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 5 April 2025.

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:

19 July 2025

Name:

T W Bennett

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

ACIB (retired)

Address:

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