

# **DEAN FOREST LOCOMOTIVE GROUP (CIO)**

INCORPORATING THE FOREST PRAIRIE & THE FOREST PANNIER FUNDS

**PRESERVING LOCOS Ex. GWR 2-6-2T No. 5541, Ex. BR 0-6-0PT No. 9681 & 9682**

## **DEAN FOREST LOCOMOTIVE GROUP(CIO)**

**Trustees' Annual Report for the Period**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

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## Structure

The Dean Forest Locomotive Group is Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Registered Charity No.1164847

Charity's Principal Address: Norchard, Forest Road, Lydney, Gloucestershire. GL15 4ET

### **Names of Trustees who manage the Charity**

Mr Ian Beaton                      Treasurer & Deputy Chair

Mr Tom Buffin Elected 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Mr Ian Fawcett

Mr Tom Halford

Mrs Hilary Hill

Miss Hannah Kingdon Elected 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Mr John Metherrall      Secretary

Mr Douglas Phelps

Mr Matthew Sexton    Chair

Mr Rauffe Shirley

Mr Richard Thacker

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## Governance

## Appointment of Trustees

The Appointment of Trustees is conducted in accordance with the Articles of Association and Rules of the CIO. The maximum number of Trustees permissible is 15. Trustees may serve for a maximum of three years after which they may seek re-election at the next AGM. One third of the serving Trustees must retire on rotation at each AGM and can seek re-election if they so wish. The standing Trustees have the power to appoint (co-opt) Trustees at their discretion.

No Trustees were co-opted 2024.

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## **Objectives of the Charity (As set out in the Governing Document)**

1. To acquire and take over all or any part of the assets and liabilities of the present unincorporated body known as the Dean Forest Locomotive Group.
2. To advance public education, learning and skills development by the acquisition, restoration, preservation, exhibition and operation of heritage railway locomotives, rolling stock and equipment associated with, but not exclusively, the Severn & Wye Railway, railways in the Forest of Dean & Gloucestershire and in particular to preserve, operate and display for the public benefit former GWR steam locomotive no.5541 and BR steam locomotive no.9681 at the Dean Forest Railway and other suitable locations.
3. To advance public education and learning by the conservation and exhibition to museum standards of documents and records of historic, technical and academic interest associated with the locomotives, rolling stock and equipment as the charity trustees may from time to time decide.
4. To advance public education and learning by the publication of pamphlets, booklets, periodicals or books relating to the acquisition, maintenance, rebuilding and operation of the locomotives and rolling stock so as to ensure continuity of preservation for future generations.

## **Activities**

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

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## Attendance

There were 5 Trustees Board Meetings in 2024 all held using a hybrid format. The Trustees are also expected to attend the AGM. The attendance of Trustees at Meetings and AGM is recorded below:

Trustee	Attendance		Notes
	Actual	Possible	
Mr Matthew Sexton	6	6	
Mr John Metherall	6	6	
Mr Ian Beaton	6	6	
Mr Ian Fawcett	5	6	
Mr Tom Halford	6	6	
Mrs Hilary Hill	6	6	
Mr Douglas Phelps	6	6	
Mr Rauffe Shirley	3	6	
Mr Richard Thacker	5	6	
Mr Josh Watkins	0	1	Resigned 2nd February 2024
Mr Tom Buffin	3	4	Elected 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Miss Hannah Kingdon	4	4	Elected 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

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## Achievements & Performance

2024 has been another busy year for the Dean Forest Locomotive Group. GW Prairie no 5541, in its final year of operation before withdrawal for major overhaul, continued to be a strong performer achieving a total of 74 steam days (85 in 2023) travelling 2681 miles in all at the Dean Forest Railway. The locomotive finally bowed out on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024, having been steamed a total of 797 and travelling 25376 miles during the ten years of this boiler ticket. Again, the continued high availability of 5541 is a credit to the Engineering team, past and present, who have kept up with the continual maintenance and inspection programme in all weathers and limited facilities. 5541 was given a fine send off on the 29<sup>th</sup> December with a farewell event arranged for DFLG and working Dean Forest Railway Society members. Crewed by three generations of the Phelps family, who have been involved with the locomotive since its early days of preservation, The locomotive was in fine fettle and I am pleased to report the event was well attended.

Ex BR Pannier 9681 performed well during the year achieving 47 steaming days (48 in 2023). We expect this to be higher in 2025 with the withdrawal on Prairie 5541. However, we do have to report that the locomotive was involved in an incident while operating a Santa Special under night time conditions. The locomotive struck a fallen tree while travelling bunker first. Damage was confined to broke vacuum and steam heating pipe work and fittings, crushed ATC box, broken spring and scratched paintwork. Repairs were quickly made and the locomotive returned to service to complete the end of season services.

Work continues on BR Pannier 9682 with the bunker nearly complete and ready for riveting. After a significant amount of checking the Computer Aided Design Model (CAD) of the cylinder block has been approved and an order placed for the 3D printed sand pattern and cores ready for casting. We are hoping the cylinder block will be cast in the spring of 2025.

The DFLG Sales Coach performed extremely well again thanks to the dedicated efforts of all associated. It achieved net sales of £ 16423 (£14929 in 2023) of donated items. Strong sales of Model Railway Items (in good condition) were achieved particularly of more modern brands and models of local items such as wagons.

We were sorry to hear that Bernard Baldwin, who has produced replica nameplates and undertaken many other carpentry projects for us, suffered a significant health event and is no longer able to continue with this activity. Bernard has let us take on his woodworking machines and tools which will be very helpful in our carriage and wagon restoration.

We are pleased to announce that Tracy Garrad has volunteered to act as webmaster to update and refresh our website. Also, the DFLG Facebook page continues to be refreshed and we appear to be gaining more contacts and followers.

Finally, the Trustees would like to thank the volunteers, members and donors for their support through the year.

## Postscript

It is with deep sadness we have to report the sudden death of Ian Beaton, our long serving Treasurer and deputy chair, who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025 just after the end of our charity year.

Ian was a long serving member of the Dean Forest Railway and held several senior positions, including Treasurer of the Pannier Fund since 1985 which was a predecessor of the Dean Forest Locomotive Group. He managed the financial affairs of the Chairty diligently and his contribution will be deeply missed.

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## Financial Review

### Reserves Policy

A review was carried of the reserves fund policy in 2024, taking into account factors such as inflation and the expanded fleet of vehicles the organisation owns. As a result of this review it was decided to maintain the reserves at £60000.

The reserve policy is to hold £60000 in existing current accounts sufficient to cover emergency or unforeseen expenditure. This will be complimented with an active reduction in non-critical expenditure as an when a critical risk is crystalised.

### Details of any Funds Materially in Deficit

The CIO has no funds in deficit.

### Loans

The CIO has no outstanding loans, including loans agreed under guarantee and/or secured against assets.

### Principal Source of Funds

The principal source of funds (excluding reclaimed VAT) has been through Steaming fees £63162 received for the use of GW Prairie No 5541 and BR Pannier 9681 accounted for 58%.

Sale of Donated Items was £16423. This accounted for 15% of funds received.

Total Donations towards Pannier 9682 were £9523 accounted for 9% of funds received in 2024

### Expenditure in Support of the Key Objectives of the Charity.

The major expenditure was for the start of restoration of BR Pannier 9682. This was £48869 and accounted for 65% of total expenditure.

### Principal Risk Facing the Charity

The Trustees see the Principal Risks facing the Charity as:

- Loss of income from steaming fees resulting from suspension of operations due to a crisis or other reason or serious mechanical failure. The Trustees use the Reserves Policy to mitigate this risk.
- The difficulty of securing future coal supplies to run our steam locomotives resulting from economic, environmental and supply issues. The DFLG is a member of the Heritage Railway Association whose members are actively pursuing alternative sustainable sources of supply.
- Future generations being less interested in Heritage Steam and Heritage railways.

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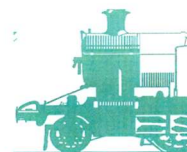
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Dean Forest Locomotive Group CIO	1164847
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## Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01 January 2024	To	Period end date 31st Dec 2024
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### 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 £	Notes
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Steaming Fees 5541	41,900			41,900	46,600	1
Steaming Fees 9681	21,263			21,263	24,125	1
Saloon 80943	1,987					
Sales of Donated Items	16,423			16,423	14,929	
Mink G Hire	-			-	748	
Retail Sales	483			483	342	
Consumables Sales	10,360			10,360	1,110	
Donations				-	1,786	
Specified Donations		9,523		9,523	13,137	2
Membership	732			732	1,208	3
300 Club, Nett		2,043		2,043	1,439	
Interest received	3,568			3,568	2,367	
Gift Aid	3,468			3,468	482	
Sundries	-					
Adjustment to previous A/C				-	-	
				-		

**Sub total (Gross income)** 100,183 11,566 109,762 108,273


### A2 Payments

Locomotive 5541	5,798			5,798	8,709	
Locomotive 9681	8,382			8,382	16,643	
Locomotive 9682	48,869			48,869	53,466	
Coach 5813	12			12	1,256	
Coach 7362	812					
Saloon 80943	3,750					
Toad 17488	7,752			7,752	10,273	
Fruit D	3,128			3,128	725	
Mink A, Mink D & Siphon	107			107	230	
Mink G	865			865	825	
Stationery	131			222	222	
Sundries	3,756			3,161	3,161	
Nett VAT Payments to HMRC	-2,818			-2,818	6,396	

**Sub total** 80,542 - 75,476 101,906

**Net Loss for Year**  
**Net Profit for Year** 19,641 11,566 - 34,286 6,367

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

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Total cash funds</b>	224,208	92,481	
Signed by Chair on behalf of all the Trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Matthew C Sexton	08/05/2025

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## Other Interests

	Shares	Face Value
Forest of Dean Railway Ltd	18977	£18977
Hawksworth Saloon Group	56	£14000
Heritage Wagon Group	115	£115

## Main Assets (Rolling Stock)

### Locomotives

2-6-2 Small Prairie 5541

0-6-0 Pannier Tank 9681

0-6-0 Pannier Tank 9682

### Passenger Coaches

GWR Collet Composite Brake 7362

GWR 3<sup>rd</sup> Corridor 5813

### Wagons

Shunters Gig 41152

Mink G 112857

Fruit D 3411

Toad Brake Van 17488

Mink A 95750

Mink A 123589

Starfish 70047

Starfish 60923

Starfish 80232

Open Wagon 61015

Open Wagon 75607



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## Account Notes

Note 1: Number of Steamings:

GW Prairie 5541

Year	Miles	No. Steamings
2014	2131	59
2015	2073	65
2016	3266	106
2017	2215	67
2018	1947	62
2019	1761	60
2020	868	25
2021	2679	77
2022	3505	117
2023	2681	85
2024	2250	74
Total	25376	797

Ex BR Pannier 9681

Year	Miles	No. Steamings
2023	1489	48
2024	1453	47

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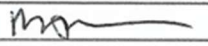
## Note 3: Membership

	Year Ending 2024	Year Ending 2023
Foundation Members	106	109
Life Members	21	19
Annual Members	37	35
Total	164	163

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 <b>CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES</b>		<b>Independent examiner's report on the accounts</b>	
<b>Section A</b> <del>Independent Examiner's Report</del>			
Report to the trustees/ members of	Dean Forest Locomotive Group (CIO)		
On accounts for the year ended	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1164847
Set out on pages	7, 8, 9 & 10		
	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.		
Responsibilities and basis of 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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or</li><li>• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records</li></ul> 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:		Date:	5/3/25
Name:	Martin John Paul Hillier		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	MRTPI, DipTP, CMS		
Address:	TotterOak, 4a Bream Road, Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 5JH		

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## **Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Held at Norchard, 4pm, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

1. The Chairman Matthew Sexton opened the meeting and welcomed members to the eighth AGM of the CIO. Members were happy for him to continue in the chair the meeting

Apologies had been received from D. Holmes, Morag Beaton, R. Thacker, P. Eward, R & T Aldridge, M. Bladwell, R. Caston, M. Harding, J. Aston, M. Gorringer, J. Haycock, R. Thacker, A. Musker, T. Giddings, S. Rudge, A. Copley, K. Copley, A. Hayes, A. Woodrow..

It was proposed by R. Alpin seconded by R. Bradley that the circulated minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be adopted. All present agreed.

### **2. Trustees Report**

The Chairman, Matt Sexton expanded on his report that had been previously circulated to all members. He again thanked Tom Halford and Charles Mansell for their work getting 9681 back into steam and the Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill for rededicating the locomotive. Thanks, were also given to Charlie Mansell and Adam Williams and Josh Watkins who had stepped down as trustees, Josh was now coping with the addition of twin boys to his family.

9681 and 5541 had been used throughout the pass year and members should take the chance to ride behind 5541 this year as it will be going out of service for several years at the end of 2024 (subject to nothing serious happening before).

It was expected that we will be spending in the region of £90K on 9682. CAD drawings of the cylinder block had been produced and were being finally inspected for accuracy before a 3D print in sand was made to allow for final casting in Germany. The block would then require machining back in the UK. Plateway on the backend of the loco had been replaced to bring it up to standard.

Doug Phelps and Richard Thacker were making good progress on the GWR Toad Brake van on which £6K had been spent on hardwood for the floors.

Matt repeated his thanks to Hilary the shop manager and the sales group members for their efforts. Hilary had managed to obtain a large amount of model railways stock which hopefully will turnover quickly. Baldwin was also still producing replica plates for sale although this was more difficult due to his wife Sue's illness. Final thanks were given to James Graham for updating our website and to Tom Halford for keeping Facebook relevant.

T.H. Jenkins proposed the adoption of the report, seconded by A. Grant. The report was adopted unanimously.

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## 3. Accounts

4.

Ian Beaton asked members if they had any questions about the accounts which could be found in the circulated Annual Report to Trustees.

He thanked Ian Fawcett for managing the 300 Club account and Gift Aid donations.

In reply to a question from J. White, Ian Beaton said the new examiner of the accounts was Sylvia Bullock a vice principal of Gloscat.

J. White proposed and L. Wentworth seconded that the accounts be adopted. The accounts were adopted unanimously.

## 5. Appointment of Trustees

There were six vacancies on the board of trustees and three trustees were retiring on rotation, John Metherall, Mathew Sexton & Rauffe Shirley were seeking re-election. New nominations to serve on the board of trustees had been received from Tom Buffin and Hannah Kingdon. Voting papers had been issued to the members attending by the voting scrutineer, the outcome of which together with those submitted by proxy resulted in those seeking re-election being re-elected and the new nominees also being elected. The chairman thanked Christopher Hill for acting as voting scrutineer.

### Election results

32 members submitted voting forms amounting to a maximum of 57 votes cast per trustee.

Tom Buffin	56	(56 For, 0 Against 1 Abstain)
Hannah Kingdon	56	(56 For, 0 Against 1 Abstain)
John Metherall	57	(57 For, 0 Against)
Matthew Sexton	55	(55 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstain)
Rauffe Shirley	56	(56 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstain)

## 6. No resolutions had been submitted for consideration.

In closing the meeting Matt thanked everyone for attending. He Invited everyone to have a guided tour of our projects following the Spring 300 Club Draw. The meeting closed at 5.05pm.

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**Members present** M. Sexton, I.K. Beaton, I.L. Fawcett, T. Halford, J.S. Metherall,  
C. Hill, H. Hill, D. Phelps, T.H. Jenkins, J. Buckley, N.B. Parker, M. Rudge, R. Alpin, R. Bradley,  
R. Hawker, G. Matthews, L. Wentworth, M. Hillier, J. White, B. Mannion, A. Grant, S. Hawkins, H.  
Kingdon, T. Buffin, T. Halford.

Scrutineer Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill KCVO