



LEO Computers Society

Registered Charity Number 1182253

Annual Report: 2020 - 2021

I hope that members and their families have managed to cope over this last year. 2021 marks the 70th year since LEO first started work and we have been making efforts to ensure that its heritage is brought to a wider audience. Circumstances around the pandemic have prevented us from holding face to face celebrations, but as I report, the Society has had an active and busy year. We were delighted to receive a letter from the Queen in February marking the 70th anniversary of her visit in 1951 as Princess Elizabeth to see LEO at Cadby Hall while it was still being put through its paces.

The Society's finances remain in good shape with enough funding to cover our activities. We do not charge a membership subscription but some members do make a voluntary donation each year.

Our membership numbers remain strong. We have nearly 700 members living in 27 countries. Sadly we know that we have lost some of our members since the last AGM, but we have been delighted to welcome 36 new members – many of whom have not worked directly with LEO, but are interested in its history or in computer education. We would like to increase our membership – particularly among this group.

As you know, I hope, we were awarded a further grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in conjunction with our partners, the Centre for Computing History in Cambridge. The pandemic has delayed some work on the project but nevertheless we have made progress. The three major aspects currently underway are building the archive, developing a virtual reality display of LEO I and producing a LEO film for educational and publicity purposes. The Society is very grateful to the lottery funders who have made all this valuable work possible.

The project recruited an excellent archivist, Jude Brimmer, who worked hard and enthusiastically with the help of CCH volunteers, to catalogue and digitise much of the mass of LEO documents which form the archive. I recommend that you look at the CCH website - <http://www.computinghistory.org.uk> then look for the NLHF project '*Swiss Rolls, Tea and the Electronic Office*'. There is a blog which will help to see what progress has been made. Sadly Jude has had to resign from her post because of a health problem, but we have recently appointed her successor who will start work later this month.

I would like to thank very warmly those many members who have contributed to our collection of LEO artefacts and documents which are then being donated on long loan to the growing archive at CCH. We are still looking for more and are also continuing to gather written reminiscences and record more oral history interviews, so please let us know if you are willing to be interviewed or willing to carry out an interview.

The work on the VR project has been progressing, led by Chris Monk. Research and appeals led to the gathering of over 100 photos of LEO I and its rooms: this has helped enormously to build the VR display. Some early VR work has been demonstrated and the full package should be available early in 2022.

The project commissioned, the film company Boffin Media, following a competitive tender, to make a 15 minute film about LEO. The film production is going well and the film itself should be available this Autumn.

We have yet again decided, because of ongoing concerns about Covid, to postpone the Reunion until April 10th 2022, still at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. We should have displays and should be able to show the film and the VR display of LEO I.

During the year, we have, like many other institutions, begun to explore the use of Zoom to replace physical meetings and this has enabled us to provide members with a monthly forum where they can see and talk to

members from all over the world. These have been well attended and we have had members logging in from Australia, Canada, USA, Trinidad, South Africa, Poland, Ireland and Italy. Sometimes we have started with a talk about LEO or Lyons and one forum, scheduled to coincide with International Women's Day, consisted of a very interesting discussion of women's role in the LEO story. The Society has made a concerted effort this year to ensure that this aspect is better recognised than it has been in the past. We plan to continue these regular zoom forums even after some sort of "normality" has returned.

We continue to work hard to publicise the LEO story. Over the year around 13 talks and presentations have been delivered mostly via zoom by a variety of speakers, notably two of our trustees, John Daines and Neville Lyons to both general and specialist audiences. These talks have reached nearly 1,000 people and have proved an excellent way of telling the LEO story. We have seen the LEO story told this year as part of the BBC TV programme 'Antiques Road Trip' and look forward to further publicity in an episode of 'Inside the Factory.' (Oddly this will be included in an episode visiting the Soreen malt loaf factory.)

During the year, we have had articles about LEO's history published in four periodicals – and these have yielded good feedback from readers. We are keen to get more articles about LEO published, so please tell us if you know of any journals or magazines that might like to receive an article from us.

Elisabetta Mori, our doctoral scholar at Middlesex University, has now completed and submitted her thesis on LEO and is awaiting its formal assessment. Elisabetta has already contributed much to the Society – giving several papers on LEO and early computing to academic conferences around the world and conducting some oral history interviews for us.

I must just mention that the IEEE wishes to mount a plaque to celebrate LEO near where Cadby Hall was. After much research into where this might go we have provisional agreement to install it at The Queens Head pub in Brook Green, which we have come to regard as the Lyons/LEO pub. The process for getting and installing the plaque is likely to be long so this may not happen for a couple of years.

Our committee has worked hard and, despite the pandemic, we have achieved most of the Society's aims for the year. I wish to thank all the committee for their efforts on our behalf but I would like particularly to mention **Hilary Caminer** for sterling work in minuting our meetings and for editing our twice yearly newsletter, *LEO Matters*. She has also managed many of the donations of memorabilia from members to the society. **John Daines** has successfully taken over the technical advice role of the Society from our sadly passed-on colleague, Tony Morgan. John has also given some excellent talks about LEO to our members and a number of organisations in the UK and beyond and enthralled hundreds of people. **Neville Lyons** has continued to give his excellent talks about Lyons to many organisations and again to a worldwide audience with much acclaim. **Vince Bodsworth** has been busy on our behalf, and this year launched our splendid new website which is easier to navigate and provides members with up to date news. Statistics for the year up until August show that The website was accessed nearly 11,000 times from 10 different countries, the top 5 being UK, Australia, USA, China (we have not had any obvious interest from China) and Canada. Vince also manages the membership aspects of the Society and organises our Zoom Forum sessions. **Mike Storey** has been keeping his finger on the pulse of our Reunion and has been advising on numbers and managing the postponements and rearrangements that we have to make for the Reunion. **John Paschoud** looks after the Charity aspects of the Society and manages our Facebook pages. **Frank Land** has been hard at work as our Historian, giving advice from his longstanding knowledge of LEO and has been updating and managing the Society's reference guide, LEOpedia. We are grateful that he has continued this work despite the sad death of his wife Ailsa earlier this year. **Bernard Behr** continues to manage the finance providing detailed accounts for the Society's committee meetings. **Philip Cleary** joined the committee as a Trustee in December last year and has been our advisor on social media matters, keeping our social media presence updated and expanding our use of it. **Bob Stevenson**, who developed and managed our website for over 20 years until he retired from that role last year, is also standing down as a trustee. Bob has been a committee member and then trustee for over 30 years. So thank you Bob, I shall miss the help and support you provided during that time.

In saying thankyou for their Society work I must make special mention of **Lisa McGerty** of CCH, manager of our joint NLHF project, who we co-opted on to our committee. Despite all the difficulties that Covid has put in its way, Lisa has worked tirelessly to keep the project on track, managing the staff, the accounts, the volunteer hours and

preparing all the documentation needed to commission outsourced work. She has also been our representative in discussions with the National Lottery Heritage team.

It will be great when we can operate in some form of normality, however I think the Society can be proud of what we have achieved despite the pandemic. We have particularly enjoyed seeing and hearing from our members worldwide on zoom, and look forward to continuing that kind of contact in the future.

Peter Byford

Chairman

September 2021

Charity Registration No. 1182253

LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Income and Expenditure

For the Year 1st Jan to 31st Dec 2020

	Jan - Dec 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Bank Interest Received LLOYDS	4.41
Donations & Grants	
Donations - Heritage Fund	120.00
Donations - Amazon Europe Core	33.75
Donations - Easy Fundraising	27.36
Donations - Gift Aid HMRC	362.03
Donations - Subscription Appeal	1,280.00
Total Donations & Grants	1,823.14
Income	200.00
Reunion Income	
Sales - Merchandise	
LEO Tote Bag	5.00
Total Sales - Merchandise	5.00
Total Reunion Income	5.00
Sales	
Book Sales & Publishing	
Book Sales	74.00
Postage for Members a/c	32.75
Total Book Sales & Publishing	106.75
Total Sales	106.75
Total Income	2,139.20
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of Goods Sold	15.02
Total COGS	15.02
Gross Income	2,124.28
Expense	
Bank Charges	
PayPal Service Charges	1.88
Total Bank Charges	1.88
Computer & Web Expenses	
Domain Name Renewal	0.00
Security Certificate SSL	59.99
Web Build - Tuition	714.00
Web Hosting	86.26
Total Computer & Web Expenses	860.25
Newsletter	
Postage	71.82
Total Newsletter	71.82
Office Expense	
Postage & Stamps	11.44
Total Office Expense	11.44
Oral History & Heritage Project	
Oral History	
OH Equipment - Recording M/c's	79.00
OH Transcriptions & Secretarial	50.06
OH Travel-Meetings/Sustenance	157.80
Total Oral History	286.86
Total Oral History & Heritage Project	286.86

LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY**Draft Accounts: Income and Expenditure**

For the Year 1st Jan to 31st Dec 2020

Charity No. 1182253

	Jan - Dec 20	
Presentations and Gifts		
Presentations	22.99	
Total Presentations and Gifts		22.99
Publishing		
Postage	5.59	
Total Publishing		5.59
Reunion Expenses		
Reunion Hall Hire	0.00	
Total Reunion Expenses		0.00
Uncategorized Expenses		
Postage & Stamps - Merchandise	1.50	
Total Uncategorized Expenses		1.50
Total Expense		1,262.33
Net Ordinary Income		861.95
Income for the Year		861.95

LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY

17/02/21

Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2020

Accrual Basis

Charity No. 1182253

	31 Dec 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expense	
Victory Services Club	250.00
Total Prepaid Expense	250.00
Stock	
LEO Remembered	52.90
Stock - Other	862.03 ¹
Total Stock	914.93
Total Other Current Assets	1,164.93
Cash at bank and in hand	
Lloyds Bank - Current a/c	5,865.79
Lloyds Bank - Savings a/c	12,239.62
Total Cash at bank and in hand	18,105.41
Total Current Assets	19,270.34
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	71.82
Total Accounts Payable	71.82
Total Current Liabilities	71.82
NET CURRENT ASSETS	19,198.52
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILI...	19,198.52
NET ASSETS	19,198.52
Capital and Reserves	
Accumulated Funds	
Restricted Funds	
Restricted Fund - LEO Plaque	1,167.57
Restricted Funds-Preservation	
Heritage Project	4,014.07
Oral History	7,774.30
Total Restricted Funds-Preservat...	11,788.37
Total Restricted Funds	12,955.94
Unrestricted Funds	6,242.58
Total Accumulated Funds	19,198.52
Retained Income	-861.95 ²
Net Income for the Year	861.95
Available funds	19,198.52

LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY

17/02/21

Balance Sheet

Accrual Basis

At 31 December 2020

Charity No. 1182253

1.	Mugs	376.25
	Tote Bags	485.78

	Total	862.03
		=====

2.	Year end Adjustment	Debit	Credit
	Retained Income	861.95	
	Restricted Funds: Oral History - Donation		120.00
	Restricted Funds: Oral History - Gift Aid		24.00
	Restricted Funds: Oral History - Expenses	286.76	
	Unrestricted Funds		1004.71
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		1148.71	1148.71
		=====	=====