



## LEO Computers Society

Registered Charity 1182253

### Annual Report: 2021 - 2022

This year covered the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LEO I and it has been a busy and successful time for the Society.

The Lottery funded **heritage project** in partnership with the Centre for Computing History, Cambridge continues to be a significant part of the Society's activities. The first major deliverable from this was the **LEO film** which was made by Boffin Media. We launched this on 30th November 2021 to coincide with the **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first operational run of LEO I**. The pandemic prevented us from holding an in-person event so the launch was shown on Zoom. We had 108 members & friends online to see the film and tributes to LEO were made by Frank Land & Dame Steve Shirley. The event was very successful, as was the film which has been seen nearly 9,500 times and has received plaudits from all over the world. In July this year Boffin Media won the best Video award from Association of British Science Writers for the film.

An ongoing part of the Heritage Project is the **cataloguing and digitising of LEO documentation**. Jude Brimmer, our archivist, had been doing a brilliant job but unfortunately had to withdraw on health grounds. We were able to recruit Luke Thorne, who has proved to be an excellent replacement.

We are looking forward to the third project deliverable, **the virtual reality display of LEO I**, to be ready early next year. Chris & Richard Monk have shown us amazing virtual views of LEO I, its room and the building where it was housed to *whet the appetite*. Next year will see the end of the National Lottery funded Heritage project so we will have to find ways of building on what we have achieved in the past few years.

On the subject of LEO publicity on film, we had a 5 minute slot in the **BBC2 TV series *Inside the Factory***. It was probably the most widespread publicity we have ever had, being seen by millions of people all around the world.

Inevitably we have lost **members** this year who have passed away. All those members are sadly missed by the Society of course. Amongst the members who passed this year was Mary Coombs, nee Blood. Mary was a LEO I pioneer, probably the world's first female business programmer. She had been a fine supporter of LEO and the Society and is sorely missed. Her importance to the history of computing was reflected by obituaries that were published in both the national and computer press and an item about her was included in BBC Radio 4's *Last Word*.

We continue to attract **new members**, including several who have no direct LEO connection. Amongst those is a 20 year old computer student from India, increasing the list of countries where we have members to 28, and a distinguished American computer scientist. We are delighted to welcome both of them and all the other new members who have joined this year.

As I said last year, the pandemic encouraged us to introduce **Zoom forums**. This year we have had 399 people from 10 countries attending the forums, an increase of about 20% from last year. We usually have a speaker with a relevant topic to discuss, including visits to computer museums, to start the forums. If you would like to hear from a specific speaker or a discussion about a specific topic, do let us know.

The pandemic has also made it difficult to run Reunions. This year we planned to run an already postponed **Reunion on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April**. Unfortunately we found that there weren't enough members willing to travel into London and meet people to make a Reunion viable. We decided to book the room at the back of The Queens Head, the LEO and Lyons pub near the site of Cadby Hall for a smaller scale event. Neville Lyons had brought some Lyons memorabilia and we gave away pens and LEO badges. Around 30 people were there including members from Canada and Elisabetta Mori from Italy. There was a buffet lunch and everybody seemed to enjoy the informal get-together. We may repeat the event next year.

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As many of you will know we have been trying for some years to revive **CLEO, the LEO III programming language**. We are still hopeful of finding a magnetic tape with a CLEO compiler on it. Sadly it is very much a long shot. Recently a team has been set up under the chairmanship of Professor Tony Bryant and including David Holdsworth, the compiler reviver, and a few more people with CLEO knowledge. Their objective is to try and recreate CLEO taking advantage of modern compiler design tools.

I am delighted to report that **Elisabetta Mori** has been awarded her PhD. Elisabetta was awarded the **David Tresman Caminer Postgraduate Scholarship** at Middlesex University in 2016 as a doctoral researcher to investigate the social, political and business circumstances that contributed to the success and later decline of LEO Computers, as well as the technical developments and hardware design. The scholarship was funded by the AIT Trust. Inevitably the pandemic caused delays in Elisabetta's work. As part of her work towards the PhD, Elisabetta has given lectures all over Europe, which have served to spread knowledge about LEO. Elisabetta has also joined the Society's committee and has made positive contributions to our discussions over the past few years, often from her home in Italy. She has also carried out some Oral History interviews for the Society.

As if we didn't have enough to do, we decided to publish a second and larger edition of **LEO remembered**. Our Secretary and newsletter editor, **Hilary Caminer**, called for articles and had an excellent response. Thanks to a lot of hard work by Hilary and **Lisa McGerty**, from CCH who been her co editor, the book is now at the printers. . Our friends the AIT Trust again provided funding to assist us with the publishing of the book. We will launch the book on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at a price of £8, I hope you will want to buy a copy of the new enlarged **LEO remembered**. Thank you Hilary and Lisa for the work you have put in to get the book ready for publication.

We are still carrying out **Oral History** interviews, which are managed by Mike Tyzack. If we haven't interviewed you yet let us know. Also we are looking for OH interviewers, and if you are willing to carry out interviews also let us know. Many of the interviews have been carried out by Zoom.

We have had 5 board meetings since the last AGM. We currently have 9 trustees: myself as chairman, **Hilary Caminer** - secretary, **Frank Land OBE** – historian who also organizes LEOpedia (the LEO history referencing system), **Bernard Behr**-treasurer, **Neville Lyons** – talks & publicity, Neville has built a presentation pack about Lyons and LEO which he will send to any members willing to give a talk. We are grateful to Neville for providing his hard work and research for the benefit of other members **John Paschoud**- charity issues & social media, **Philip Cleary** – social media & publicity, **John Daines**-technical consultant and **Vincent Bodsworth** – website manager & membership manager, whose technical expertise on Zoom etc. is invaluable to LCS. Additional committee members are **Mike Tyzack** – oral history organiser, **Gloria Guy** and **Elisabetta Mori**. **Mike Storey**, who has been responsible for Reunions, retired this year. We thank him for the work he did in organising Reunions over many years and also for taking responsibility for sending newsletters etc. to those members who do not have computer facilities

We have **vacancies for trustees** and would welcome members who would like to get involved. If you are interested let me or any other trustee know, you don't need to become a trustee initially, you can be co-opted to the committee.

We can look forward to another exciting year in 2023 which will include the launching of the Virtual Reality display of LEO I. This will, as far as I know, be the first time this has been done to tell the story of a historic computer. More awards perhaps?

I hope all members will try and join our Zoom forums if they can. We do try and arrange the timings to suit different time zones.

Peter Byford

Chairman

September 2022

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**Charity Registration No. 1182253**

**LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY**

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY****Income & Expenditure**

1st January to 31st December 2021

Charity 1182253

	Jan - Dec 21
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Bank Interest Received LLOYds	1.21
<b>Donations &amp; Grants</b>	
Donations - Heritage Fund	120.00
Donations - Amazon Europe Core	26.89
Donations - Gift Aid HMRC	505.47
Donations - Subscription Appeal	1,170.00
<b>Total Donations &amp; Grants</b>	<b>1,822.36</b>
<b>Reunion Income</b>	
Attendance Fee	54.00
Sales - Merchandise	
LEO Tote Bag	40.00
<b>Total Sales - Merchandise</b>	<b>40.00</b>
<b>Total Reunion Income</b>	<b>94.00</b>
<b>Sales</b>	
Book Sales & Publishing	
Book Sales	53.00
Postage for Members a/c	36.39
<b>Total Book Sales &amp; Publishing</b>	<b>89.39</b>
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>89.39</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,006.96</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
Cost of Goods Sold	35.12
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>35.12</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>1,971.84</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Computer & Web Expenses	
Domain Name Renewal	43.15
Security Certificate SSL	59.99
Web Hosting	86.26
<b>Total Computer &amp; Web Expenses</b>	<b>189.40</b>
<b>Newsletter/LEO Matters</b>	
Postage	44.16
<b>Total Newsletter/LEO Matters</b>	<b>44.16</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>	
Postage & Stamps	0.85
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>0.85</b>
<b>Oral History &amp; Heritage Project</b>	
Heritage Project	
HP Postage	13.14
<b>Total Heritage Project</b>	<b>13.14</b>
<b>Oral History</b>	
OH Postage	2.58
OH Transcriptions & Secretarial	556.07
<b>Total Oral History</b>	<b>558.65</b>
<b>Total Oral History &amp; Heritage Project</b>	<b>571.79</b>
<b>Presentations and Gifts</b>	
Gift	39.95
<b>Total Presentations and Gifts</b>	<b>39.95</b>
<b>Publishing</b>	
Postage	39.69

2:28 PM

25/01/22

Accrual Basis

# **LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY**

## **Income & Expenditure**

1st January to 31st December 2021

Charity 1182253

	Jan - Dec 21
Total Publishing	39.69
Uncategorized Expenses	
Postage & Stamps - Merchandise	6.40
Total Uncategorized Expenses	6.40
Total Expense	892.24
Net Ordinary Income	1,079.60
Net Income for the Year	<b>1,079.60</b>

**Balance Sheet**

At 31 December 2021

Charity No. 1182253

	31 Dec 21
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expense	
Victory Services Club	250.00
Total Prepaid Expense	250.00
Stock	
LEO Remembered	50.72
Stock - Other	829.09 <sup>1</sup>
Total Stock	879.81
Total Other Current Assets	1,129.81
Cash at bank and in hand	
Lloyds Bank - Current a/c	6,907.48
Lloyds Bank - Savings a/c	12,240.83
Total Cash at bank and in hand	19,148.31
Total Current Assets	20,278.12
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	20,278.12
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILI...</b>	20,278.12
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>20,278.12</b>
Capital and Reserves	
Accumulated Funds	
Restricted Funds	
Restricted Fund - LEO Plaque	1,167.57
Restricted Funds-Preservation	
Heritage Project	4,014.07
Oral History	7,346.51
Total Restricted Funds-Preservat...	11,360.58
Total Restricted Funds	12,528.15
Unrestricted Funds	7,749.97
Total Accumulated Funds	20,278.12
Retained Income	-1,079.60 <sup>2</sup>
Income for the Year	1,079.60
Available funds	<b>20,278.12</b>

**LEO COMPUTERS SOCIETY**

14/01/22

**Balance Sheet**

Accrual Basis

At 31 December 2021

Charity No. 1182253

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1.	Mugs	376.26
	Tote Bags	452.83
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		829.09
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2.	Year end Adjustment	Debit	Credit
	Retained Income	1079.60	
	Restricted Funds: Oral History - Donation		120.00
	Restricted Funds: Oral History - Gift Aid		24.00
	Restricted Funds: Oral History - Expenses	571.79	
	Unrestricted Funds:		1507.09
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		1651.09	1651.09
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