



# **Malvern Radar And Technology History Society**

## **Eighth Annual Report - 2021**

### **1 Introduction**

This is the eighth annual report of the Society and the third since we became a registered charity. The Society, charity registration number 1183001, is based in Malvern, Worcestershire and its mission is:

***“to celebrate Malvern’s extraordinary scientific heritage”.***

### **2 Summary**

Once again, the year has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and we have moved many of our meetings on-line. After a test at the November meeting we have introduced Hybrid meetings, where people can either attend in person or participate online.

Our nationally important Archive of documents, photographs and physical artefacts, is still growing. We have now completed cataloguing of the Malvern reports and have moved on to other parts of the collection. The Archive remains at QinetiQ’s site in Malvern and their agreement to continue hosting us is very much appreciated.

Talks and interviews with ex staff members have been recorded and posted on our members’ private wiki.

Once again Trustee meetings have been held in person thanks to Covid-secure meeting facilities provided by QinetiQ with those unable to attend joining via phone or video conferencing. We are grateful to QinetiQ for allowing us to use these facilities.

Plans for a Science Centre have been delayed, awaiting Local Government decisions about alternatives to the original proposal to house it in the Malvern Hills Science Park (MHSP) reception.

We have had limited opportunities to deliver talks and other outreach activities and our delivery to schools remains on hold until head teachers feel it is right to resume. However, we have used the downtime to continue with preparation for the local Science Centre.

### **3 Public Benefit**

As an Educational Charity we deliver several public benefits. These are enshrined in our Constitution and Aims and we report them here:

#### **3.1 Open Public Meetings**

This year's meetings were:

February 2021	Did the Germans have radar?
March 2021	AGM followed by historic films
May 2021	Most Secret: Defford Airfield and the story of Airborne Radar.
July 2021	ICEYE Radars in space
September 2021	The Invasion of Malvern *
November 2021	Pioneering laser anemometry in the wind industry

\* Joint meeting with Malvern Civic Society

Past meetings that have been video-recorded are being made available to members on the MRATHS wiki once clearance has been obtained from the speakers.

#### **3.2 Website**

The main public-facing website received an average of 4197 visits per month with a high of 7047 in September and a low of 786 in December. The society also operates a wiki for members only and we continue to evolve and develop this.

This year we added links on this wiki to 16 new multimedia items. This included videos of talks presented at General meetings and items generated by Trustees.

More members are also adding their on-line histories and short biographies and the wiki is a great place for members to record their own stories of the people and technologies involved in the research work done at Malvern.

If Members find it difficult to input information to the Wiki, the Trustees are always available to help. We can receive input in electronic or hard copy form that we will transcribe and upload to the Wiki, if required.

#### **3.3 Facebook**

The membership of the closed Facebook group remains around 400. Progress on the development of South Site – now Malvern Vale - is of continuing interest as is the identification of mystery objects and the seeking of information about family members who worked at the Establishments. Facebook continues to be a good source of useful information and gives us an opportunity to share the history of the Malvern sites. The Trustees would like to thank David Whitaker for administering the site.

### **3.4 Requests for Information**

We continue to receive requests for information on family members' careers, and in most cases we have been able to provide at least some information.

Increasingly we are getting requests from other historical societies and historians, often referred to us from other groups, requiring us to do more in depth research. Recent examples have concerned the early history of the Steamer Point site and the use of HF radar at Orford Ness. These requests are of mutual benefit and the society often receives donations of photographs, reports and artefacts.

### **3.5 Exhibitions**

This year, because of Covid restrictions, we only exhibited at Science in the Park during June, and with other local societies at the Autumn Show at the Three Counties. Given the prospects for 2022, members interested in helping with this aspect of our work are invited to contact the trustees.

### **3.6 Historic Research**

One of our Trustees is writing a book on the wartime work of TRE and ADRDE and the effect they had on Malvern. The intention is to publish this for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the May 1942 arrival of the two Establishments in Malvern. We are grateful to QinetiQ for providing funding for the professional layout of the text and illustrations.

We are currently supporting two other authors, one who is documenting the history of the apprentice scheme and the other who is writing about the early history of thermal imaging.

Our own research continues, often with the help of other societies; a current topic is the Guarnford listening station.

### **3.7 Restoration**

We continue our active support of the Electronic Restoration Group with the restoration and replication of historic radar equipment. During 2021 a complete restoration of an ASV MkII radar receiver and indicator (operator screen) has been started and will be completed for display in 2022. The long term intention is to restore this equipment well enough for powered operation.

## **4 Board of Trustees and Board of Management**

At the AGM on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 four of the Trustees resigned as required by the Charity Commission in a rolling refresh of the Board of Trustees. The membership re-elected all four as indicated in the table below.

We have been developing and refining our new model of working that we set up last year with overall control of the Society in the hands of the Board of Trustees (BoT)

and a Board of Management (BoM) who are responsible to the BoT for delivering the Society's programme. Naturally, all the BoT members are Trustees and, initially, the BoM are also all Trustees.

The Trustees are currently:

Mike Burstow	Chairman
Roger Appleby	Vice-Chair and Website Admin.
David Williamson	Secretary
Lew Amphlett	Treasurer
Hugh Williams	Archivist
Martin Hutchinson †	Exhibitions co-ordinator
Malcolm Hopper	Minute Secretary
Darren Coe †	
John Gillham †	
Dennis Williams * †	
Ron Henry	Enquiries from the Public

\* Also Museum Curator at Defford Airfield Heritage Group

† Re-elected Trustees

## 5 Membership

The total number of paid-up members was 167 at the end of 2021; up from 141 in 2020 or a 18% increase in the year. The total includes 20 new members - a very pleasing result - and our 5 Honorary Members. Seven members left or failed to renew their membership.

We continue to accept Internet payments (via Pay-Pal) for non-local members to renew their membership, alongside our preferred method of Standing Orders.

We have always encouraged members to provide some background information on their careers and current interests through the MRATHS closed Wiki, and a majority do so. We now ask for some basic information on joining, partly to get to know our new members, and partly to see how we might engage them as volunteers to help with our outreach activities and to broaden our knowledge base of the work done in Malvern over the years.

In 2021 the constitution was amended to include provision for voting on Motions online at Virtual meetings.

Typical attendance at virtual meetings was 30 - 40 members.

A benefit of Virtual meetings is that members who cannot ordinarily attend meetings in person were able to participate online. The concept of a hybrid meeting was proposed with some attendees in person and some online. A poll of members confirmed that there is continued benefit in hybrid meetings and the society will run them where possible.

## **6 The Archive**

Visits to the archive have once again been at a low level due to the pandemic.

We have now finished cataloguing all the Malvern related report series and have moved on to the equally large collection of material from other establishments and organisations.

As the catalogue progresses, so does the number of requests we are able to give meaningful responses to. In addition, we now have a high-level catalogue (down to box level) of the complete archive and a map of their physical location. We have introduced a collection management policy based upon the nine Primary Procedures of the Spectrum 5.0 UK collection management standard. We are grateful to the two volunteers who have worked on this.

Recent donations include documents and photographs concerning wartime work at ADRDE (both the Christchurch and Malvern sites), a large collection of Remote Ground Sensors and part of a relatively modern airborne radar equipment. We have been liaising with the Communications Electronic Museum Trust whose members have started to consolidate their individual collections into the trust. As a result, we have been donated some quite rare GEE-H equipment.

A web based image search tool is nearing completion which brings together the photographic negative registers and a large number of matching images from 1941-1956. This should be available to members once completed. A few hundred new images have been added to the collection during the year.

Sales of surplus and duplicate items have raised a modest sum for Society funds

## **7 External Bodies**

Our submission for Street names for the new development, Malvern Rise, on the ex RSRE South Site were accepted and the first street names have begun to appear. We are now working with MHDC and Persimmon Homes to ensure that the site history is recorded and commemorated.

We have continued our collaboration with several other charities and groups with similar interests, to share information and exchange ideas for future developments.

Bawdsey Radar Trust  
Defence Electronic History Society (DEHS)  
Malvern Museum  
Defford Airfield Heritage Group  
South Yorkshire Air Museum (SYAM), Doncaster  
The Electronic Restoration Group (ERG)

## **8 Science Centre**

The plans for a Science Centre have been further delayed and we have been part of the extensive discussions between Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester County Council and QinetiQ on the way forward.

Support in the local STEM community for a Science Centre remains strong, and it is hoped that whatever decision is made, there will be space for the Society and other

organisations to have permanent exhibitions, as well as lectures and smaller meetings to support a wide range of STEM education activities.

## 9 Volunteers

Our volunteers who help us with public exhibitions have been busy helping in the Archive, conducting research for future projects, designing and building exhibition pieces and restoring historic equipment for display. More volunteers are always needed, especially for public outdoor events. Please contact the Trustees if you are interested.

## 10 Challenges for 2021

- To strengthen our educational work by working with other educational bodies.
- To develop new exhibition material and interactive education demonstrations to be ready for a Science Centre.
- To plan for succession.

## 11 Financial Statement


Income for 2021 (Appendix 1) was £4824, compared with £5404 reported in 2020. Income from Member subscriptions was up from the 2020 levels by 21% and income from sales of Archivist surplus items was also up about 6%. Despite Covid19, income from talks also increased thanks to a mix of virtual and in person events.

In 2021 MRATHS expenditure increased on some important new exhibits, one in partnership with the CEMT charity where cost savings were made as a result.

At the end of 2021 the net asset level (Appendix2) was £16,807.

The Society major expenditures planned for 2022 are new exhibition materials and on STEM demonstrator equipment in preparation for the Science Centre.

The Trustees wish to express their warm thanks to Jeanie Robertson for auditing the accounts again this year. With her agreement, the Board will propose her re-appointment at the AGM to serve for 2022.

Prepared by:  Treasurer 9/3/22 Date

Checked by: Michael S B Chairman 9/3/22 Date

## Appendix 1: Statement of Income & Expenditure As at 31-12-2021

Income / Receipts	2021	2020	Notes
Membership Subscriptions	£2,470.00	£2,025.00	
Member Donations	£226.00	£216.00	
Non-Member Donations	£0.00	£23.66	
Other Payments / Donations	£1.97	£242.49	
Sales of Archivist Items	£1,699.43	£1,596.58	
Talks	£422.66	£183.00	
Gift Aid	£584.14	£537.78	
Fundraising – Site Recording	£0.00	£0.00	
	<b>£5,404.20</b>	<b>£4,824.51</b>	
<b>Payments</b>			
Consumables	£452.71	£141.42	
Depreciation	£647.58	£647.58	1
Equipment, computers & software (under £500.00 / item)	£633.71	£789.49	
Exhibition Facilities	£1,128.32	£0.00	
Workshop Rent	£870.00	£120.00	
Miscellaneous	£131.13	£140.82	
Postage	£0.00	£30.28	
Public Liability Insurance	£202.24	£202.24	
Projects – Site Recording	£0.00	£100.00	
	<b>£4,065.69</b>	<b>£2,171.83</b>	
Excess of Income over Expenditure (in year)	<b>£1,338.51</b>	<b>£2,652.68</b>	2

Notes:

1 See Appendix 2

2 Petty Cash income and expenditure are included in these figures.

## Appendix 2: Balance Sheet As at 31-12-2021

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### Fixed Assets

Equipment	£1,942.74	
Depreciation	-£1,753.07	
		<b>£189.67</b>

#### Current Assets

Bank Account	£16,178.51	
Prepayments	£419.13	
Petty Cash	£19.96	
		<b>£16,617.60</b>

#### Current Liabilities

**£0.00**

#### Nett Current Liabilities

**£16,617.60**

#### Nett Assets

**£16,807.20**

#### Equity

Profit b/f 2020	£12,816.08	
Retained Profit 2021	£1,338.50	
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>£16,807.20</b>
		0.00