



Malvern Radar And Technology History Society

Ninth Annual Report - 2022

1 Introduction

This is the ninth annual report of the Society and the fourth as 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

An exciting and significant new opportunity was presented to us in February 2022 to open a small STEM museum in Great Malvern Station. We have received significant grant money for this project from Malvern Town Council and West Midlands Trains through their Rail Community Partnership scheme. The project began in earnest in September and is due to reach completion in Q2 2023 when we will open to the public.

We held a bumper crop of public meetings. They were virtual at the beginning of the year but reverted to hybrid meetings in May, when people could either attend in person or participate online. This has suited many members who are less mobile or live at a distance. Talks and interviews with ex staff members have been recorded and posted on our members private Wiki.

We have been able to deliver talks and other outreach activities in person although at a lower level than in 2019.

The historically important collection in our Archive is hosted at the QinetiQ site in Malvern and their agreement to continue hosting us is very much appreciated.

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.

Our volunteer base has grown and has been working hard on our new projects.

Our Balance sheet remains healthy and will underpin all our plans for 2023.

3 Public Benefit

As an Educational Charity we deliver several public benefits. These are set out as objectives in our Constitution:

3.1 STEM Museum

An exciting and significant new opportunity was presented to us in February 2022 to open a small STEM museum in Great Malvern Station. We have received significant grant money for this project from Malvern Town Council and West Midlands Trains through their Rail Community Partnership scheme. Further grant money has been offered and will be delivered in early 2023. The project began in earnest in September with the refurbishment by West Midlands Trains of two rooms in Great Malvern station that were formerly a flower shop. This work has taken longer than planned but has improved the fabric of this part of the Grade II listed building. MRATHS expect to begin fitting out the museum in March 2023 and be ready for visitors in Q2 2023 when we will open to the public. This is a major step up for our Society. We are hugely grateful for the support of the Malvern Town Council, West Midlands Trains and the West Midlands Combined Authority, a community rail partnership.

3.2 Open Public Meetings

The 2022 year's bumper set of meetings were all held in Malvern College Lewis lecture theatre. We thank Malvern College hugely for supporting us and have forged even stronger links with them in 2022 by supporting their curricula activities during the year.

January 2022	The Viper microprocessor & The FLEX computer architecture
March 2022	AGM Whaddon Hall and the Special Communications Units – A story seldom told
May 2022	11 May: British ASV Bombsights 1941-1946 28-29 May: 80 th Anniversary of Scientists coming to Malvern Launch of 'The Flame of Resistance', Damien Lewis
July 2022	Stealing the Nazi's Secrets, Dr Philip Judkins
September 2022	Developments in Battlefield Surveillance Radar How World War II was won on the playing fields of Malvern
November 2022	Surprising Inventions from Malvern's Scientists Microgravity Sensing for seeing Underground

The May and September meetings were very popular with more than 100 attendees each day and many from across the country. The past meetings that have been video-recorded are being made available to members on the MRATHS Wiki where clearance has been obtained from the speakers.

3.3 Website

2022 saw more international interest than ever and licences were granted to use our material for a number of organisations. A refresh of our website is planned for 2023.

This year we added links on our 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.

3.4 Facebook

The membership of the closed Facebook group has grown steadily in 2022 and ended the year around 430. Facebook continues to contribute to our story and to share the history of the Malvern sites. The Trustees would like to thank David Whitaker for administering the site.

3.5 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. The information provided on Steamer Point is being used in an application to Historic England to have the remaining wartime buildings listed.

3.6 Exhibitions

As in 2021, Covid restrictions, have limited opportunities for exhibitions. However, in 2023 we will have the opportunity for a permanent museum. We will continue to support local events where resources allow. We still need more volunteers willing to stage exhibitions. Members interested in helping with this aspect of our work are invited to contact the trustees.

3.7 Historic Research

As reported in 2021, one of our Trustees was writing a book on the wartime work of TRE and ADRDE and the effect they had on Malvern. This book was published in May at our special event to celebrate 80 years since radar scientists came to Malvern. It has since become the best seller in Malvern Book Cooperative bookshop. We congratulate the author, Martin Hutchinson. We are also very grateful to QinetiQ for providing funding for the professional layout of the text and illustrations.

We are currently supporting authors, documenting the history of the apprentice scheme, writing about the early history of thermal imaging and another on trials aircraft used at Defford and Pershore.

Our own research continues, often with the help of other societies; a current topic is the TRE's wartime Guarlford listening station.

3.8 Restoration

We continue our active support of the Electronic Restoration Group with the restoration and replication of historic radar equipment. In 2022 the restored ASV equipment was on display at the celebration of 80th anniversary of the formation of the establishment at Malvern.

4 Board of Trustees and Board of Management

At the AGM on the 8th March 2022 three of the Trustees retired by rotation as required by the Charity Commission. The membership re-elected all three 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 coordinate Working Groups that are responsible for delivering the Society's programme.

The Trustees are currently:

Mike Burstow
Roger Appleby †
David Williamson
Lew Amphlett
Hugh Williams †
Martin Hutchinson †
Darren Coe
John Gillham
Dennis Williams *
Ron Henry

Chairman
Vice-Chair and Website Admin.
Secretary
Treasurer
Archivist
Exhibitions co-ordinator

Enquiries from the Public

- * Also Museum Curator at Defford Airfield Heritage Group
- † Re-elected Trustees

5 Membership

The total number of members was 164 at the end of 2022 with a further 17 due to renew.

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 public meetings has been 30+ in person and 30+ online.

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

Once again only a small number of visits to the archive have taken place. Enquiries continue to arrive, sometimes on a daily basis, which consume a significant amount of time to answer.

Cataloguing activity continues with the emphasis now being on material from other organisations. A new volunteer has joined in this task enabling sorting and recording of much of the donated material we hold.

Discussions have opened with the RAF museum at Henlow and the Royal Signals museum at Blandford Camp over potential collaboration / sharing of resources.

The archive is providing much of the material for the displays at Great Malvern Station.

The Communications Electronic Museum Trust have loaned us a large collection of jamming equipment which will be used in a major exhibition to mark D Day in 2024.

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

7 External Bodies

Our submission to Malvern Town Council 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 have continued our collaboration with several other charities and groups with similar interests, to share information and exchange ideas for future developments. The partnership agreement with The Communication and Electronic Museum Trust (Charity 293539) has developed well and significant mutual benefit has been evident; both shared costs, fund raising and exhibition design.

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 supplanted by an offer from West Midlands Trains to use an unused space in Great Malvern Station for a Community STEM Museum. The ambition of opening a Science Centre in partnership with QinetiQ, Malvern Hills District Council, and Worcestershire County Council is on hold. There have been significant delays to the Malvern Technology Park development. Future opportunities will be monitored as support in the local STEM community for a Science Centre remains strong.

9 Volunteers

Our volunteers who help us with public exhibitions have been underutilised, but others have been busy helping in the Archive, conducting research for future projects, designing and building exhibition pieces and restoring historic equipment for display. The new museum will now fully engage our volunteers and we thank them warmly.

10 Challenges for 2023

- To strengthen our educational work by working with other educational bodies.

- To deliver our STEM Museum and thus broaden our reach to the wider public.
- To plan for succession.

11 Financial Statement

Income for 2022 (Appendix 1) was £15,974, compared with £4,824 reported in 2021. Three new income items contributed to this major uplift. Book sales £5,130, Event Ticket sales of £1,068, and grants totalling £7,400. Sales of donated items for fund raising also was up from £1,699 to £4,783.

The principal increase in 2022 MRATHS expenditure was the investment in material for the Great Malvern Station £3,209. Another new expense in 2022 was rent for our workshop where we design and construct our exhibits.

At the end of 2022 the net asset level (Appendix2) was £28,741, which includes book stock and museum assets. This is a strong position to underpin 2023.

The Society's major expenditures planned for 2023 all relate to the new museum and will be more than double the 2022 expenditure.

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 2023.

Prepared by: _____

17/02/2023
Date

Checked by: _____

Treasurer

17/2/23
Date

Approved by: _____

Chairman

17/2/23
Date

Appendix 1: Statement of Income & Expenditure As at 31-12-2022

	2022	2022	2021
INCOME/RECEIPTS	General	Restricted	Gen/Res
Members subscriptions	£2,080.00		£2,470.00
Members donations	£241.00		£226.00
Non-members donations	£39.03		£0.00
Other Payments/Donations	£0.00		£1.97
Sales of Archivist items	£4,783.62		£1,699.43
Talks	£90.00		£422.66
Book Sales	£5,130.99		
Event ticket sales	£1,068.75		
Gift Aid	£0.00		£584.14
Miscellaneous income	£41.00		
Grant - QinetiQ	£2,500.00		
Grant - Malvern Town Council (GMS)		£2,400.00	
Grant - West Midlands Trains (GMS)		£5,000.00	
	£15,974.39	£7,400.00	£5,404.20
PAYMENTS			
Consumables	£575.74		£452.71
Depreciation	£189.67		£647.58
Equipment, computers & software (under £500 per item)	£635.54		£633.71
Exhibition facilities	£329.45		£1,128.32
Hire of Meeting venues/rooms	£1,320.00		£870.00
Speakers fees	£140.00		
Miscellaneous	£22.08		£44.45
Ebay fees/postage	£912.04		
Postage	£4.45		£0.00
Public Liability Insurance	£193.82		£202.24
Sale Books stock	£3,811.75		£77.28
Bank charges	£96.02		£9.40
Great Malvern Station (GMS)		£3,209.65	£0.00
	£8,230.55	£3,209.65	£4,065.69
	£7,743.84	£4,190.35	£1,338.51
Excess Income over Expenditure (in year)	£11,934.19		

Notes:

- 1 Certain purchases for Greater Malvern Station have been coded to Assets. These are not part of Payments above as they are being depreciated over 3 years.
- 2 Petty cash income and expenses for 2022 are included in the figures above

Appendix 2: Balance Sheet As at 31-12-2022

Statement of Assets & Liabilities 31-Dec-22

Fixed Assets

Equipment	£1,942.74	
Equipment Depreciation	-£1,942.74	
GMS assets	£5,623.20	Deferred income
	<u>£5,623.20</u>	

Current Assets

Bank Account	£17,645.31	
Book stock	£5,268.00	1200 @ £4.39
Prepayments	£172.48	
Petty Cash	£32.46	
	<u>£23,118.25</u>	

Current Liabilities

£0.00

Net Current Liabilities

£23,118.25

NET ASSETS

£28,741.45

Equity

Profit b/f 2021	£16,807.27	
Retained profit 2022	£11,934.19	
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>£28,741.46</u></u>	
	0.00	