



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2020 To

31st December 2020

Charity name: Dean Forest Railway Society

Charity registration number: 1183538

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	<p>The objects of the charity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) To preserve, restore, develop and operate the Dean Forest Railway;(2) To advance the education of the public in railway history and in particular the preservation and development of the Dean Forest Railway, the former Severn and Wye Joint Railway and other railways in or around the Forest of Dean, including the history of associated canals, plateways and tramways and connected industries;(3) To advance education by training in craft, engineering, business and all other skills pertinent to the maintenance and operation of a heritage railway as the trustees consider appropriate.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>The charity's members undertake voluntary work to operate, restore and develop the Dean Forest Railway. Throughout the period under review, our 'working' volunteers have operated the railway, and training has been provided by our members to newly recruited volunteers, in the necessary skills for operation of the heritage railway.</p> <p>We provide funds for enhancement projects at the railway, where they are in accordance with our charitable purposes.</p> <p>During 2020, our main focus was working to ensure the survival of the Dean Forest Railway as a whole, given the substantial threat posed to the railway's very existence by the global pandemic. We assisted the wider Dean Forest Railway in a number of ways, including a substantial Emergency Appeal and much needed volunteer-efforts to re-establish train services in a COVID-safe way once restrictions allowed.</p> <p>Other major activities included the purchase of the fleet of Mark 1 coaches used at the Dean Forest Railway and the recovery of a substantial amount of trackwork from the Wye Valley line which was donated to the Society by Network Rail.</p>

	<p>Other projects which we funded were concluded during the year, such as the Parkend Waiting Shelter reconstruction, whilst progress was made on development of the new accommodation coach siding area.</p> <p>We continue to publish the quarterly Dean Forest Railway magazine, which includes a mixture of articles educating the readership about current activities at the heritage railway, and on the history of railways in the Forest of Dean.</p> <p>We have raised funds through a number of sources during the period in question, mainly membership subscriptions, a raffle, and donations.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	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.

Additional information

Policy on grant making	The charity has a specific grant-making policy, which is available to applicants. In summary, the Trustees require projects to be fully costed before we will consider funding them, and require a written explanation of how the project meets with our charitable purposes before it will be considered for funding. Most projects are managed from within the Trustees, but if not procedures are in place for financial management and reporting of each funded project.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	<p>The charity has no paid employees – all of its work and organisation is done by volunteers.</p> <p>The contribution made by volunteers to the charity's work is significant – we estimate over 15,000 hours of voluntary work was provided during the period covered by this report to operate, develop and restore the railway by our volunteers. Their work ranges from that of the Trustees, through fundraising and membership administration, to railway operation, engineering and restoration activities.</p>

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

In addition to the wider work of our members in operating, developing and restoring the Dean Forest Railway during this reporting period, the charity has made some specific achievements which are outlined below:

COVID-19 Response

In March 2020, the country was placed into a nationwide lockdown in response to the spread of COVID-19, and the Dean Forest Railway was forced to close to visitors and, initially, to all volunteers. To this end, some of the Trustees joined the railway's Emergency Team, which was quickly set up to manage the day to day response to the pandemic alongside Directors of the Dean Forest Railway Company Limited, and Forest of Dean Railway Limited.

We launched a highly successful "Emergency Fund" appeal, which raised £69,263 during 2020. This enabled us to invest £50,000 in the Forest of Dean Railway Limited, via share purchase, which provided much needed capital to help ensure that the basic fixed costs of the railway were met and that it remained secure and did not run out of funds prior to reopening. Our usual fundraising raffle also formed part of the Emergency Fund appeal during 2020. The remainder of the funds raised were spent directly on essential maintenance and development activities. The Trustees undertook much publicity work around the appeal, including appearances on local radio, to boost the profile of the DFR during the lockdown period.

In addition to financial support, many of our members provided many hours of voluntary work to operate, maintain and develop the railway once COVID-restrictions allowed.

Coaching Stock

In early 2020, the Trustees concluded the purchase of the eight Mark 1 coaches and the XP64 coach, formerly owned by the Forest of Dean Railway Limited. This transfer has a number of benefits, including the coaching stock being eligible for various grants and other sources of funding not open to a limited company, plus it ensures that the coaches are secure in the ownership of a registered charity. The Society now has an operating agreement in place with the Operating Company, to hire the coaches to the company for a fixed monthly sum. This provides an income which is ring-fenced within the Society accounts for coach restoration and maintenance. During 2020, two coaches were repainted, and the restoration of a third coach was progressed substantially. Should the Society ever decide to sell the coaches, the agreement with the Company gives it first refusal to repurchase the coaches at their original sale price. As such, the coaches are collectively valued at this fee.

Fiftieth Anniversary Activities

In early 2020, much effort was put into organising Anniversary activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the original formation of the Dean Forest Railway

Preservation Society, in 1970. These activities were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.

Wye Valley Track Recovery Project

Phase 2 of this ongoing project took place during mid to late 2020, as COVID-19 restrictions were eased making it possible for volunteers to undertake work recovering redundant track which had been donated by Network Rail. Some 500 concrete sleepers and 700 yards of flat-bottom rail were lifted from the Wye Valley line by our volunteers, and transported back to Lydney Junction for storage. These materials are available for use in renewals and extensions. The costs associated with recovering the track materials are approximately 20% of the cost of purchasing equivalent materials on the open market.

Extension and Development Activities

During 2020, much effort was put in to planning developments at the Dean Forest Railway by our members, in collaboration with the Forest of Dean Railway Limited Development Director, including redevelopments at Lydney Junction to provide new engineering and undercover storage facilities, together with much work on the safety case for Travellers' Rest Level Crossing, which is key to a northern extension.

Hunslet No. 3806 *Wilbert*

During late 2020, the Trustees purchased a 50% share in this locomotive, which enabled it to be returned to the railway from the premises of a contractor where it was incurring substantial storage fees. The Trustees have agreed to work with the Company to evaluate the locomotive, and formulate a restoration and fundraising plan in due course.

Parkend Waiting Shelter

This project was completed in early 2020. It received a "Highly Commended" award at the National Railway Heritage Awards, and is a credit to our members who constructed it.

Volunteer Accommodation Coach

Some progress was made during 2020 on redeveloping the siding where the Volunteer Accommodation Coach will be installed, however the COVID-19 situation hampered progress significantly.

Uskmouth No. 1 Restoration

Again, plans to restore this locomotive in time for the 50th anniversary of the Society's original formation were massively impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns which occurred during 2020. However, a full inspection and repair plan for the locomotive and its boiler was undertaken, and work has progressed steadily during 2020 where the pandemic permitted. We hope to see Uskmouth back in service in 2022.

Young Volunteers Group

This group was re-started after a long period of inactivity during 2020, and has developed into regular monthly

	<p>working sessions for young members aged below 16, undertaking a range of light maintenance and improvement projects.</p> <p>Other Achievements</p> <p>During 2020, we have also continued to produce the Dean Forest Railway Magazine, and maintained its new 48 page, all colour format. We also obtained grant funding in support of the Emergency Fund, and restoration started on our Conflat wagon.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	<p>Please note: any comparisons given are against the previous 8 month reporting period running from May 2019 to December 2019.</p> <p>Significant work has been completed as part of approving the Society Accounts for 2020. This year we are including the Receipts and Payments Account as per 2019, but we have also produced a P&L and Balance Sheet for 2020. The former is calculated on a cash basis, while the new additions are produced on basis of accruals. We believe this now gives a clear view of the financial state of the Society, which continues to move from strength to strength allowing us to effectively support the Dean Forest Railway.</p> <p>2020 proved to be an extraordinary year in many ways, and this was demonstrated through the financial performance of the Society which, through the opening of the Emergency Fund and the incredible generosity of our supporters, saw record totals of donations in order to support the DFR and ensure its continued existence. Having received £75,476 of donations and grants throughout the year, this figure beats 2019 on a monthly average basis even though raffle income was included in the latter. In 2020, the raffle income was significantly impacted as raffle ticket sellers were unable to pass through the train. Despite this, £6,640 was raised towards the Emergency Fund appeal.</p> <p>Membership Subscriptions were largely stable, with an average of £1,729 compared to £1,542 in 2019.</p> <p>Control continued to be tight over expenditure with all of our activities reporting a surplus of £89,990 (compared to £29,482 in 2019). The significant surplus was largely re-invested in shares in the Forest of Dean Railway Limited, in order to inject capital into the company at a time of crisis. The DFRS shareholding stood at 224,588 shares at the end of 2020, compared to 168,153 at the end of 2019.</p> <p>The charity's railway vehicle assets held an overall value of £113,225 as at the end of 2020. These included some 13 coaches, a number of wagons, and a 50% share in Austerity locomotive 'Wilbert'.</p>
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	<p>The DFRS was unable to attend any exhibitions or public events during 2020 to promote the railway, due to COVID.</p> <p>The DFRS continues to outperform against its budgets. The cash position at the end of 2020 showed £131,635 in the bank compared to £120,170 in 2019. Included in this value at the end of 2020 was £20,000 held as a General Reserve, building the resilience of the Society to unexpected shocks; though hopefully none as serious as the 2020 pandemic!</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	A reserve policy was introduced in 2019 following the incorporation of the DFRS as a CIO; £10,000 of unrestricted income per annum is set aside into a General Reserve fund, which will be invested when appropriate to provide a long-term source of income through interest.
Amount of reserves held	£20,000 as at 31st December 2020
Reasons for holding zero reserves	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	No funds were materially in deficit
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	The trustees have no concerns about the charity continuing as a going concern.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	N/A
Type of governing document	The governing document is a CIO Association Constitution based on the Charity Commission's model.
How is the charity constituted?	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Up to 12 Trustees are elected by the membership as outlined in the Constitution. The Trustees also have the ability to appoint (co-opt) a further four Trustees in order to fill any identified skills gaps.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	The charity has no formal policy for the induction and training of trustees, but requirements are met by ad-hoc training arranged as required by the Chair and other trustees.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	The charity is administered by the Trustees, who meet on an approximately monthly basis. Within the Trustees, sub-committees cover subjects such as Fundraising, Volunteering & Publicity, Education etc.

Relationship with any related parties	<p>The charity works closely with Forest of Dean Railway Limited, a not-for-profit company which owns the Dean Forest Railway. The charity is a 'Person with significant control' within the company, as it owns over 25% of the issued shares. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the company which covers how we work together on delivering the Charity's aims.</p>

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Dean Forest Railway Society
Other name the charity uses	DFRS, DFR Society.
Registered charity number	1183538
Charity's principal address	Norchard Station New Mills Forest Road Lydney GL15 4ET

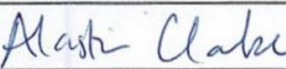

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alastair Clarke	Chair of Trustees		-
2	James Graham	Vice-Chair of Trustees		-
3	Timothy McLennan	Treasurer		-
4	Susan Williams	Honorary Secretary		-
5	Roger Phelps		Resigned 13 th Feb 2020	-
6	Ian Pope			-
7	Adam Williams	Membership Secretary		-
8	Adrian Copley			-
9	Daniel Winter			-
10	David Churton			-
11	Robert Alpin			-
12	Robert Harris	Press Officer		-
13	Jan van der Elsen		Appointed 24 th October 2020	-

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Alastair Clarke	Timothy McLennan
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	Treasurer
Date	26 th October 2021	

Dean Forest Railway Society (CIO)

Profit and Loss

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Account	2020	2019
Turnover		
Memberships	20,742	12,339
Other Revenue	0	607
Donations	70,476	43,006
Donation of Railway Vehicle	0	4,500
Donation of Shares	2,429	2,590
Interest Income	42	34
Vehicle Hire	15,200	13,600
2020 Xmas Raffle	1,194	0
Event Tickets	192	0
Gift Aid	15,453	0
Grants	5,000	0
2020 Main Raffle	5,446	0
Total Turnover	136,173	76,675
Cost of Sales		
Processing Fees	408	113
Total Cost of Sales	408	113
Gross Profit	135,765	76,563
Administrative Costs		
Advertising & Marketing	310	1,105
General Expenses	974	937
Postage, Freight & Courier	1,851	2,388
Printing & Stationery	6,270	4,592
Subscriptions	435	182
Exhibition Stand	0	68
Equipment	563	0
Locomotive Hire	0	525
Raffle Prize Money	350	0
Museum Contribution	0	471
Volunteer Training	257	0
Repairs & Maintenance	4,296	27,452
Carriage Maintenance	5,621	695
Carriage Repair	1,930	0
Carriage Restoration	1,260	165
Uskmouth Restoration	2,159	0
Extension Work	2,160	0
Long Siding Work	609	0
Lydney Junction Improvement Works	622	0
Parkend Works	391	0
Wye Valley Project Costs (2020)	7,638	0
Depreciation	8,080	8,500
Total Administrative Costs	45,775	47,080
Operating Profit	89,990	29,482
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	89,990	29,482
Profit after Taxation	89,990	29,482
Statement of other comprehensive income		
Revaluation of fixed assets	0	(3,300)
	0	(3,300)
Retained Earnings	89,990	26,182

Notes

- 2019 comprised of 8 months (May - Dec)
- In 2019, 'Donations' included Donations, Grants and Raffle Proceeds. In 2020 these are split out separately
- Project work has been split out in 2020, compared to the previous year when this was combined under Repairs and Maintenance

Dean Forest Railway Society (CIO)

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Account	2020	2019
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Railway Vehicle	113,225	97,300
Shareholding in FoDRL	224,588	168,153
Shareholding in DFR DMU Group	500	500
Shareholding in DFR Heritage Wagon Group	295	295
Total Tangible Assets	338,608	266,248
Total Fixed Assets	338,608	266,248
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Accommodation Acc	12,342	12,947
C&W Acc	22,260	22,252
Carriage Account	11,630	0
Draw Account	75	11,726
Locomotive Account	18,088	20,296
Membership Acc	1,080	45
Reserve Acc	66,160	52,904
Total Cash at bank and in hand	131,635	120,170
Accounts Receivable	3,240	126
VAT receivable	2,478	0
Total Current Assets	137,353	120,296
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	1,243	893
VAT payable	0	922
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	1,243	1,816
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	136,110	118,480
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	474,718	384,728
Net Assets	474,718	384,728
Capital and Reserves		
Retained Earnings brought forward	384,728	358,546
Current Year Profit	89,990	26,182
Total Capital and Reserves	474,718	384,728

Asset Register

Vehicle	2020	2019
GWR Collett Corridor coach no. 5863	4,500	4,500
BR Mark 2 TSO no. M5175	18,587	19,500
BR Mark 2a TSO no. W5341	30,818	23,500
BR Mark 1 BCK no. 21267	34,020	37,800
BR 'Shark' van no. 993901	3,000	3,000
Conflat wagon no. 504817	1,000	1,000
Fuel tanker wagon no. 48525	1,500	1,500
BR 20T Brake van no. 955224	2,000	2,000
Fuel tanker wagon no. 749676	1,500	1,500
Dogfish no. 992873	1,500	1,500
Midland Brake no. 732268	1,500	1,500
50% ownership of Austerity locomotive 'Wilbert'	10,000	-
8 x Mk.1 coaches + XP64 coach	3,300	-
TOTAL	113,225	97,300

Notes

- Each vehicle is depreciated by 10% per annum, to a minimum of estimated scrap value, plus any value added through restoration spend during the year
- The Mark 1 coaches and XP64 coach are valued at a collective £3,300 - the contractual resale option price to the FoDRL

Dean Forest Railway Society

Independent Examiners Report for the year ended December 2020 (1183538)

Confirmation of continued appointment as Independent Examiner received via email.

I can confirm that I am a qualified accountant (FCCA) and do not have any related parties in connection with DFRS as described under Direction 2 of CC32 – Independent examination of charity accounts.

Independent Examiners Report for Dean Forest Railway Society.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of DFRS for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 all 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Additional note

Despite the events of 2020 in connection to the COVID 19 pandemic the DFRS has continued to work and adapt (legal restrictions allowing) to ensure the continuation of the Charity, providing enjoyment and education to many. Considering this hard work and the continued donations and contributions, plus assets on the balance sheet, I do not have any going concern issues for DFRS.

Signed:



Name: Elaine Bailey

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address: 38 Clock Tower Road, Longford, Gloucester. GL2 9FP

Date: 4 October 2021