

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 6th APRIL 2021 – 5th APRIL 2022

During 2020 the activities of the Volk's Electric Railway Association (VERA) were severely curtailed because of Covid restrictions, and the railway itself only operated for a very limited season. However, as the 2021 season approached the situation eased somewhat, and the railway opened to the public, a little later than usual, on 29th May.

After a period where all board meetings and our winter lectures were held via Zoom, we were finally able to have a live AGM (with social distancing) on 13th June. At that meeting three trustees, Peter Williams, Sarah Luxford and Les Kenward, decided to step down.

We were very sorry to lose Peter Williams, who had been Chairman for the last three years and had done so much work in securing the railway's Heritage Lottery Grant, and Sarah Luxford, who had been our treasurer since the inaugural meeting in 1995, a remarkable long period of service. We are also grateful to Les Kenward for stepping in on a temporary basis to fill a vacancy on the board. We will miss all three of them.

The four remaining trustees – David Cowstick, Ian Gledhill, Tim Steven and Barrie McFarlane – were joined at the AGM by new trustee Mick Mills. We also have two non-trustee officers who attend board meetings: David Bailey, editor of Volk's News, and Carly-May Kavanagh, publicity officer. We are still under-staffed, with several of us undertaking more than one role. We will be inviting more members to consider becoming trustees in the future.

At the AGM approval was given to amendments to the CIO Constitution in line with the Charity Commission's requirements. These were approved by the commission on 28th August and slightly widen the Objects of the Association.

Despite the late start to the operating season, we were still able to operate 5 late running evenings, when our volunteers take over the railway after normal running hours and keep it open until 7 or 8pm, thus raising valuable extra revenue for restoration projects on the railway. In September we held a belated anniversary celebration at Aquarium Station. VERA was founded in September 1995, and we had planned a number of special events to mark our 25th birthday in 2020. However, these of necessity had to be cancelled because of Covid. Instead, we celebrated "25 + 1" years of VERA with a gathering for members following our September late running evening.

After initial restriction, VERA volunteers were gradually able to resume their regular working parties while observing social distancing and other Covid regulations. Volunteers have been much involved in sleeper replacement, ballasting and track relaying, most recently in connection with the installation of new crossings over the line to connect with the new boardwalk between Banjo Groyne and Black Rock, which opened on 7th April this year. After months of neglect there was also much weeding to be done along the track.

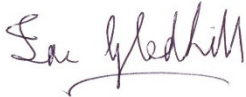
Over the winter, cars 7 and 8 finally received a much-needed coat of new paint. They were looking distinctly shabby compared to the other cars, as they were the last cars to be repainted, their previous repaint being for the 125th Anniversary in 2008. In addition, members converted a redundant box van into a people carrier to safely transport personnel to their worksites along the line.

Our winter lecture series on transport and contemporary local history was able to resume with live meetings in September. Our new venue at Patcham Community Centre has proved very successful. Our meetings are advertised in the local press and are open to all, not just VERA members. Research into the history of the railway and the life and works of Magnus Volk continues. We have also continued to publish our regular journal Volk's News, containing up-to-date information about our activities, about the railway together with articles of relevant transport and historical interest.

Through the above, we consider that we have paid sufficient regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and thereby complied with Section 4 of the 2006 Act. At the year end, the Association held total reserves of £14,735.56. One quarter is available for day-to-day projects or equipment at the railway, with the remainder being mainly for a substantial restoration project that we hope to start planning next year.

In March, Stuart Strong retired after 27 years as Manager of the railway. We wish him a long and happy retirement. Stuart's replacement is James Barton, and the trustees look forward to working with James for the future good of the railway, and its long-term preservation for the general benefit and education of the public.

Signed:



(Chairman)

**(On behalf of the Trustees)
20th May 2022**

Signed:



(Secretary)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Volk's Electric Railway Association

No (if any)
1186970

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
4/6/2021

To

Period end date
4/5/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Transfer from previous non-charitable Association	-	-	-	-
Membership Fees	2,340	-	-	2,340
Unrestricted Donations	1,471	-	-	1,471
Restricted Donations	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous income received	666	-	-	666
Fund raising activities	-	167	-	167
Interest	1	-	-	1
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,478	167	-	4,645
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
None	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,478	167	-	4,645
A3 Payments				
Meeting expenses	170	-	-	170
Volk's News magazine production & distribution	1,181	-	-	1,181
Insurance policy	-	-	-	-
Restoration	-	669	-	669
Hospitality	225	-	-	225
Administrative Expenses	39	-	-	39
Miscellaneous	170	-	-	170
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,785	669	-	2,454
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
Computer equipment	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,785	669	-	2,454
Net of receipts/payments	2,693	- 502	-	2,191
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	2,693	- 502	-	2,191

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash floats		-
	Bank Account funds for Council projects		3,623
	Bank Account funds for other restoration		11,112
	Bank Account funds-Working capital	6,084	-
	Total cash funds	6,084	14,735
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
B3 Investment assets	None		-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
	Southend Railway Car No. 9	Unrestricted Funds	-
	Museum Models	Unrestricted Funds	-
	Heritage Artefacts	Unrestricted Funds	-
	Miscellaneous	Unrestricted Funds	-
	Office Equipment	Unrestricted Funds	-
			-
			-
			-
			-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
	None		-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

DC COWSTICK

Steven

TC STEVEN

CC16a



Last year

to the nearest £

16,652
2,700
1,387
197
107
83
19
21,145

-
-

21,145

30
1,606
266
100
-
300
-
-
-
2,302

214
214

2,516

18,629
-
18,629
20,820



**Endowment
funds**

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment
funds**

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

1,000
4,700
16,500
200
400
-
-
-

**When due
(optional)**

Date of
approval

8/18/2022

8/25/2022