



Trustees Annual Report 2024

Cromford Steam Rally Society

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The Cromford Steam Rally Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2024

The Trustees of the Cromford Steam Rally Society Charity present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the Articles of Association and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). The trustees had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. All operational decisions were for the benefit of the general public and the advancement of their education.

Section 1. Objectives and Activities

1.1 Objectives

- (1) To advance the education of the general public in the subjects of the manufacture, history, use and conservation of all types of vintage steam driven engines and vintage vehicles of every kind.
- (2) To further such other purposes as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees decide.

1.2 Activities

Cromford Steam Rally Society operates events on a biannual basis with the specific aim to advance the education of the general public in the subjects of manufacture, history and the use of conservation of all types of vintage steam driven engines and vintage vehicles of every kind. Our main event is Cromford Steam Rally, which takes place on the first weekend of August each year in Derbyshire. Our secondary event is the Road and Rail Gala at Peak Rail, Derbyshire. Primarily in this reporting period, our events aimed to provide informational displays of vintage vehicles which are complemented by historically accurate demonstrations within allocated areas. The charity faces a number of challenges which it attempts to face through strategic planning on a monthly basis.

British Weather is one of the greatest challenges posed in the current climate. Cromford Steam Rally Society hold reserve funds in order to permit the purchase of preventive materials such as ground cover in the event of adverse weather conditions. As part of our strategy to tackle this issue, we now carry an event specific insurance policy which covers us in the event of part or full cancellation. However, as with all insurance policy terms, a claim leads to a higher premium which further increases the challenge for future years. In 2023, we realised the true impact of adverse weather conditions, as we were forced to cancel the main event. This was as a direct result of heavy rainfall, leading to flooding and poor ground conditions.

Attracting young audiences is a challenge faced by many organisations of a similar nature to ours. Today's culture, particularly amongst young people, does not promote outdoor activities such as ours in the same way that it once did. This presents a sustainability challenge for the Society, both in attracting audiences and members of the management committee to carry the society forward beyond our current members lifetimes. To combat this challenge, the Society constantly introduces new and innovative attractions in an effort to increase our appeal to the younger generation. To introduce young members to the committee, the Society is working hard to further its training program for young people to allow them to acquire the necessary skills to manage events such as ours. This venture was launched in 2024 and will develop over the next 12 months.

We strongly believe that the involvement of people of all ages in events such as ours is to the benefit of the public. Whilst our primary objective is to advance education, we believe that mental health and isolation issues are greatly improved by inclusion in events and activities such as ours. The community surrounding the society is inclusive of all and supportive of all generations and demographics.

As challenges present themselves, the committee and the directors/trustees are prepared to adapt in order to face them head on. With a history of over 50 years, the society is committed to sustaining a future and constantly improving our output.

1.3 Historical Demonstrations

Our working demonstrations have proven increasingly popular since their inception 4 years ago. At our main event, we offer a large-scale working plant area in which vintage plant machinery is displayed in a working environment. These machines are put to work with a large viewing area to enable the public to observe and learn about their design and operation. When not in operation, owners are on hand to provide details and information on specific items as required.

Within our show arena, all other vehicles are displayed, mostly in a preserved condition. Steam Engines are displayed in full working order as they make their way around the arena and the public are guided through their vast history by our competent commentator. Motor vehicles, agricultural machinery and commercial vehicles are also displayed in the arena with full commentary and often working demonstrations. Educational commentary was provided at all times to give information on the history and background of our vehicles and displays.

1.4 Living History Displays

Living History groups are also in attendance, providing a live insight into the trials presented by the World Wars and the Victorian age. Within our Military area, living history groups portray the Land Army and Military encampments, providing educational talks and re-enactment for the public. The Ragged Victorians mix amongst the crowd to provide live education and information on Victorian Life. Exhibitors are encouraged to display informative and educational materials alongside their vehicles and exhibitions to enable further learning across the event.

1.5 Encouraging Young People

To provide a sense of inclusion amongst young people, a quiz style treasure hunt competition was designed in 2022 to encourage youngsters to search for and digest the information provided within the displays and exhibits. This competition was planned to be introduced again for 2023, but due to cancellation, it was not possible. This offered educational value within its questions and subsequent answers. Had the event not suffered cancellation, returns including 100% correct answers were to be entered into a draw and 3 lucky winners chosen at random. The competition was once again rolled out for 2024 with great success. Winners received a scale model and merchandise from the Society following the main event. A number of attractions outside of our objectives were also introduced in an effort to attract family visitors, including as many young people as possible. These attractions included a vintage fairground, displaying steam powered machinery and period fairground stalls.

1.6 Main Event Program

Each year, we provide a professionally printed, A4 book at each of our main events that provides further information on all our exhibits. This includes their year of manufacture, make and model. This publication also assists in guiding our visitors around the event so that they can receive the maximum impact from our activities. This booklet is offered for sale at the low cost of £5.00 for the general public and free of charge to all exhibitors.

1.7 Payments for exhibitors with specific importance

To advance our educational output, Cromford Steam Rally Society engages the services of exhibitors with items that were deemed to have specific historical importance. These exhibits not only improve our educational output, but they also increase the interest from the general public in attending our event. These exhibits and their costings are listed below.

Steam Engines:	£5,940.00
Fairground Organs:	£1,070.00
Replica Spitfire:	£1,875.00

1.8 Admission Reduction Policy

Our entry prices at the main event are set at £15.00 per adult, with our secondary event priced at just £10.00. We believe that this is affordable for most based on the events provided. To enable full inclusion of all, reductions in admission fees are permitted. Concession rates of £12.00 are offered for children aged 11-15 years and OAPs at our main event, whilst free entry was granted to care providers accompanying disabled persons and children aged 10 and under. All children are admitted free of charge at our secondary event. The following policy was applied when providing free admission to care providers accompanying disabled persons.

Disabled Care – Free Entry Policy

Care providers are permitted free entry to all events hosted by the Cromford Steam Rally Society when accompanying the disabled person for whom they provide care. The disabled person receiving care must pay the relevant entry fee in full. To claim free entry for a care provider, one item of proof must be provided from each of the following categories.

Category 1: Proof of Disability

One of the following items of proof must be presented to the gate staff upon arrival.

1. Access Card
2. DID Card
3. Sunflower Lanyard
4. Valid Blue Badge or Disabled Bus Pass
5. Statement or letter on a medical professional's letterhead
6. Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Letter of Award
7. Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) Letter of Award
8. Other relevant benefit Letter of Award

Category 2: Proof of Care

One of the following items of proof must be presented to the gate staff upon arrival.

1. Carers Card
2. Carers Allowance / Carers Credit Letter of Award
3. Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Letter of Award
4. Attendance Allowance (AA) Letter of Award
5. Professional Carer Identification Card

If either party is unable to provide one item of accepted documentation from category 1 and 2, relevant fees must be paid in full by both parties prior to entry.

1.9 Our volunteers

Our organisation requires a vast number of volunteers to enable our events to operate successfully. Wherever possible, organisations that align with our values are chosen, particularly those that feature the advancement of Young People. Scout organisations feature heavily within our volunteer base and their members are located in various areas across the site. We endeavor, wherever possible, to encourage our volunteers to take an interest in our objectives by providing them with the opportunity to experience the educational benefits of our events. It is our intention to extend our volunteer base further for 2024 as we invite more like-minded organisations to join us at our events. In return for services provided by our volunteer organisations, we make the following payments:

Stewards	1 st Loscoe Scout Group	£1,050.00
<i>Assistance with public car parking, litter picking, arena marshalling and general site help. Price reduced due to cancellation of event.</i>		
Admission Stewards	1 st Holymoorside Scout Group	£ 400.00
<i>Public entry gate ticket sales and information distribution. Price reduced due to cancellation of event.</i>		
Stewards	Various	£ 475.00
<i>General site assistance and information distribution</i>		

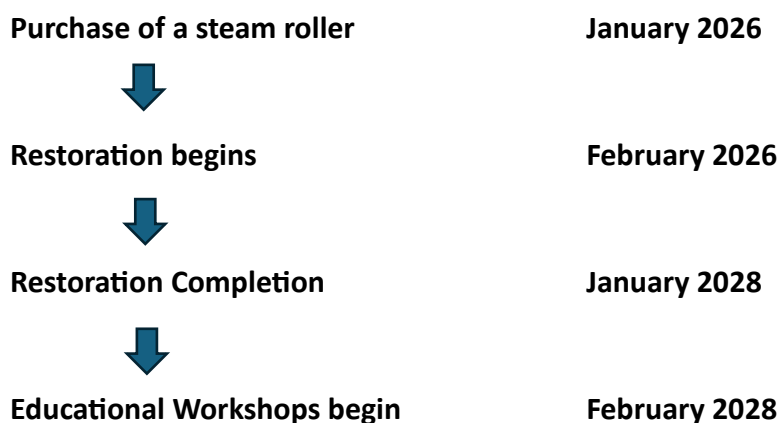
1.10 Short Term Aims

1. Within the next 12-month period, the charity aims to develop a comprehensive training program which will offer new and exciting opportunities to young people. Members will enroll in a structured program of training designed to teach young people the fundamentals of heritage and the necessary skills to manage events such as ours. Whilst this project is in its early stages, we expect to be able to offer external certification to compliment the program within its second year. Several young people have already signed up for this program, and its progress will be reported on within our next report.

2. The charity is also committed to development and improvement for the benefit of the public and the advancement of education in line with its legal objectives. As such, the charity will endeavor to review its operations comprehensively to identify areas for improvement and change. With this aim in mind, the committee will look for new and innovative ways to encourage further growth by the next reporting period.

1.11 Long Term Aims

1. The charity will begin work on a project to purchase our own heritage steam vehicle. This project is expected to take several years to complete, whilst no start or end dates have yet been fixed. This project will see Cromford Steam Rally Society achieve grant funding to work alongside funds raised at our biannual events. It is our long-term aim to purchase a steam roller that would otherwise be lost eternally. The charity will raise funds to make the initial purchase, followed by a substantial preservation project to fully restore and preserve the engine. Once purchased and restored, the engine will become a key part of our educational output, providing workshops and open days to learn about steam, its mechanics and its importance in history. The following is an approximate prediction of the expected timescale for the project.



Once completed, this project will require regular maintenance but should remain a feature of our organisation for its lifetime. Setting Cromford Steam Rally Society apart from other organisations of a similar nature, being the first and only organisation to attempt such a project.

2. The charity will commit its long-term efforts toward the sustainability of the organisation. This will take several forms and will see the society gain new membership, able to continue our work into the future. Part of this long-term aim will be to develop reserves to offer further benefit and educational opportunities for all.

Section 2. Achievements and Performance

The Cromford Steam Rally is our main event each year and has undergone major redesign and growth in the past 12 months. The site redesign has permitted expansion into neighboring property which in turn has seen growth in our exhibitor numbers from 700 to over 1000. This increase has seen new sections introduced such as modern classic cars and working trucks, further increasing our attractiveness to audiences not previously found at our events. In terms of General Public admission, 2024 was a very successful year. We expect further growth within the next 12 months, with an inflationary price increase also due.

Our secondary event realised growth in all aspects, returning record attendance from both visitors and exhibitors. Expansion potential at this event is considerably less than that of our main event, but this is our secondary event and is smaller scale by design. Cromford Steam Rally Society is now performing at a level that exceeds any other year from both a profit and organisational perspective.

We believe that the increase in exhibits and attractions is a key reason for our success, but also the development of a family friendly environment in all aspects. The committee has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to develop events that attract a wide range of demographics, mainly targeting our efforts toward young families and groups that would not usually attend. Our advertising on both social media and other outlets has dramatically improved, reaching over 12,000 people on Facebook alone. Whilst it is difficult to measure the success exactly, we believe that the percentage increase in admission at our events since 2023/2024 demonstrates our success.

Section 3. Financial Review

The financial period for Cromford Steam Rally is 1st January – 31st December.

The current financial position of Cromford Steam Rally Society at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

Total funds held £ 143,398.00

3.1 Principal Funding

The Society takes it's principal funding from bi-annual events as follows:

Cromford Steam Rally & Peak Rail Events

Ticket Sales	£ 131,975.00
Advertising	£ 1270.00
Catering & Stalls	£ 17,742.00
Sundry Income	£ 8,340.00
Camping	£ 10,050.00
Sponsors	£ 2,890.00
Program & Memorabilia	£ 2,516.00

Bank Interest Payments £ 1,360.00

Total Income for reporting period	£ 176,143.00
Total Expenditure for reporting period	£ 96,367.00
Operating Balance for reporting period	£ 79,776.00

3.2 Reserve Funds

Cromford Steam Rally Society has a long-established policy to hold reserve funds equal to 2 x the average costs of the previous 5 main events (Cromford Steam Rally).

This is because of risks identified by the trustees and those realised in 2023. This policy is deemed necessary as a preventative measure, as Cromford Steam Rally Society events are primarily held outdoors on agricultural grounds. Therefore, each event is potentially subject to severe interruptions and subsequent unexpected costs due to adverse weather. Holding reserve funds to this amount assures continuity and sustainability in the face of adversity presented by the British climate.

Currently, the charity does not hold the full amount of reserve funds required by the aforementioned policy. The charity will therefore continue to hold a percentage of the profits from each event until the reserve fund is met. This percentage will be set each year based on profit/loss and determined by the management committee and trustees collectively. The following is a calculation of the reserve funds:

Total Expense Last Five Years

2024	£ 96,367.00
2023	£ 95,957.00
2022	£103,980.00
2021	£ 91,959.00
2019	£ 67,574.00

Total	£455,837.00
5 year Average	£ 91,167.00
5 year Average x 2	£182,334.00
Current Funds Total	£143,398.00
+/- Target Reserve Funds	- £ 38,936.00

Based on these figures, Cromford Steam Rally Society will continue to build on reserve funds to rectify the current shortfall.

The Trustees have no doubt or uncertainty regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern based on the figures presented above and within our attached accounts. Cromford Steam Rally Society has no subsidiary undertakings and holds no funds in deficit.

Section 4. Structure, Governance and Management

The Cromford Steam Rally Society is a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company Number: 03961709) and is governed by Articles of Association. The procedure for the appointment of Trustees, otherwise known as Directors, is set out within these Articles as follows.

4.1 Appointment of Directors/Trustees

Eligibility to be appointed a director

20 (1) The minimum number of directors shall be 3 but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum.

(2) A director must be a natural person aged 18 years or older.

(3) No one may be appointed a director if he would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of article 22.

(4) A director may not appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on his behalf at meetings of the directors.

(5) No person may be appointed a director unless he is a member of the charity.

Methods of appointing directors

21(1) Any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law and these articles to do so, may, subject to articles 21(2)-(5), be appointed to be a director—

(a) by ordinary resolution (on initial appointment or subsequently) passed by at least two thirds of those members who vote at the relevant meeting or who respond to the relevant written resolution]; or

(b) by a decision of the directors (on initial appointment);

OR

(b) a decision of the directors in which there is an affirmative vote by at least two thirds of the directors in office (on initial appointment);

(2) A director appointed by a decision of the directors shall cease to hold office on the first anniversary of his appointment and may only be re-appointed by ordinary resolution.

(3) No person shall be appointed or re-appointed as a director by ordinary resolution unless recommended for election or re-election by the directors.

first directors shall be the subscribers to the memorandum and shall be those persons notified to Companies House as the first directors.

Section 5. Reference and Administrative Details

The registered name of the charity is **Cromford Steam Rally Society**.

The registered **Charity Number** is **03961709** and the **Company Number** is **1200848**

Registered Company Office Address:

30 Gallery Lane
Holymoorside, Chesterfield
Derbyshire, England
S42 7ES

5.1 Trustees/Directors

Mr Graham William Wright Director/Trustee
30, Gallery Lane, Holymoorside, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England, S42 7ES

Mr Richard John Whittle Director/Trustee
25 Hallfieldgate Lane, Shirland, Alfreton, Derbyshire, England, DE55 6AA

Mr Darren Lee Mellor Director/Trustee
17 Holbrook Road, Belper, Derbyshire, England, DE56 1PA

The charity does not own any property for which title holders are required

5.2 Charity Management

The charity and it's operations are managed by a committee of members as follows.

Management

Chairman/Site Manager/Director	Mr G W Wright
Company Secretary	Mr A Whittle
Treasurer/Trustee	Mr R J Whittle
Assistant Site Manager	Mr N Goodwin
Trustee/Printing	Mr D L Mellor

Committee

Large Steam Secretary	Mr N Daws
Miniature Steam Secretary	Mr A Daws
Bygones Secretaries	Mr & Mrs M Bonser
Commercials/Military Secretary	Mr T Mellor
Working Plant Secretary	Mr G W Wright
Commentator	Mr D Whittle
Fairground/Organ Secretary	Mr A Huggins
Catering Secretary	Mr A Huggins
Trade Secretary	Mr M Cheetham
Stationary Engines Secretary	Mr R Day

Public Camping Secretary
Motorcycle Secretary
Tractor Secretary
Classic/Vintage Car Secretary
Model Secretary
Craft Secretary
Marketing Secretary
Advertising Secretary
Social Media Secretary
Honorary President
Honorary Life Member

Mrs G Day
Mr D Hazlewood
Mr M Topley
Mr G Waller
Mr K Ogden
Mrs S Shardlow
Mr S Key
Mr N Whiting
Miss E Corker
Mr K Bowmer
Mr I Parkin

Section 6. Custodian Trustees

The charity has no funds held in trust and therefore is not a Custodian Trustee. None of our Trustees/Directors are custodians of any funds and therefore, the Charity has no Custodian Trustees.

Section 7. Further Information

7.1 Our History

On the first weekend in August 1970, a small group of enthusiasts gathered in the historic village of Cromford to enjoy their veteran machines, lovingly preserved and restored. They probably had no idea that their little gathering would grow into one of the great annual events in the North Midlands: The Cromford Steam Rally.

Within a couple of years of that modest beginning, the gathering grew into a much larger celebration of a bygone age. As well as the steam engines, always the main attraction, old cars and lorries joined in, tractor enthusiasts added a fine array of farming machines and stationary engines, motorcycles, rural crafts, models and miniature steam engines added extra dimensions. Soon, thousands of people were coming from far and wide to enjoy this unique panorama of nostalgia and entertainment that Cromford Steam Rally provided. It is estimated that in the intervening years something like half a million people have passed through the gates of the rally field.

Since that first modest gathering in 1970, many things have changed, not least the cost and difficulty of restoring and preserving the ancient machines at the heart of our rally, yet the numbers and quality of the rally exhibits are greater than ever before.

Cromford Steam Rally Society became a registered charity in October 2023. This momentous change altered the basic structure of the organisation, redirecting our aims whilst maintaining our original ethos.



Charity No: 1200848

Company No: 03961709

7.2 Website and Contacts

www.cromfordsteamrally.co.uk

For more information and enquiries please contact one of the following:

Tel Chairman: 07971 525162

Tel Company Secretary: 07814 566442

Cromford Steam Rally Society

**Income Statement
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
TURNOVER	176,379	70,987
Other income	1,361	650
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(49,333)	(56,508)
Other charges	(47,776)	(38,909)
Taxation	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>80,631</u>	<u>(23,780)</u>

Cromford Steam Rally Society (Registered number: 03961709)

**Statement of Financial Position
31 December 2024**

	31.12.24	31.12.23
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS	156,584	78,047
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	(13,186)	(15,280)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	143,398	62,767
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	143,398	62,767
RESERVES	143,398	62,767

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Cromford Steam Rally Society is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address are as below:

Registered number: 03961709

Registered office: 30 Gallery Lane
Holymoorside
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S42 7ES

2. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the year was NIL (2023 - NIL).

3. GAINING CHARITABLE STATUS

The company attained charitable status on the 28th October 2022.
Registered charity reference Cromford Steam Rally Society (1200848).

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

Statement of Financial Position - continued
31 December 2024

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on
..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
R J Whittle - Director

.....
D L Mellor - Director

.....
G W Wright - Director

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Cromford Steam Rally Society

I report on the financial statements of **Cromford Steam Rally Society** for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Income Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and supporting financial details.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and ensuring that the charity meets the relevant financial reporting standards.

My responsibility is to undertake an independent examination of the financial statements presented to me in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The purpose of my examination is to provide assurance on whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, but the scope of my work is less than that required for a full audit. As a result, I do not express an audit opinion.

Scope of the Examination

I conducted my examination in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. An independent examination involves reviewing the accounting records kept by the charity and comparing the financial statements presented with those records. I also considered any unusual items or disclosures and sought explanations from the trustees concerning such matters.

My review did not extend to providing a full audit or detailed verification of transactions. The examination provides a limited level of assurance.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Based on the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2024 and the information and explanations provided to me, I am satisfied that:

1. The accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.
2. The financial statements comply with the relevant provisions and accounting standards applicable to micro-entities.
3. No material matters have come to my attention that would necessitate further explanations or actions by the trustees.

Conclusion

The financial records and accounts reviewed indicate that Cromford Steam Rally Society's financial position as at 31 December 2024 was stable, with net assets of £143,398. There was a reported surplus of £80,631 for the financial year, as the total income exceeded the expenditure for that period.

Signed:



Edward Mizler FCCA
Hawson Jefferies
164-170 Queens Road
Sheffield
S2 4DH

22 October 2025