

# THE STRAWBERRY LINE SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1201543

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-01-10

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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Winscombe  
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**Website** [www.thestrawberryline.org.uk](http://www.thestrawberryline.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE BY THE PROMOTION OF THE USE OF THE DISUSED RAILWAY LINES AND ASSOCIATED LAND LINKING CLEVEDON TO SHEPTON MALLETT AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES (INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE DISUSED CHEDDAR VALLEY RAILWAY LINE) AS A SAFE WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE AND NATURE RESERVE.

**Activities:** Maintenance and promotion of the Strawberry Line

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- North Somerset
- Somerset

## Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £5,597  | £16,564     | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £21,054 | £4,902      | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                            | Role  | Appointed  |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| <b>Michael Charles Fletcher</b> | Chair | 2023-01-10 |
| Adrian Read                     |       | 2024-04-09 |
| Amanda Jane Turner              |       | 2023-01-10 |
| Douglas Warwick MAPM            |       | 2024-04-09 |
| Gareth Withers                  |       | 2024-09-16 |
| Gary Anthony Fenton             |       | 2026-04-28 |
| Jonathan Andrew Latimer MSc     |       | 2024-04-09 |
| Matt Johnson                    |       | 2025-08-01 |
| Neil Chippett                   |       | 2025-08-01 |

**THE STRAWBERRY LINE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1201543

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# Accounts

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**STRAWBERRY LINE SOCIETY AGM  
TUESDAY 9.4.24  
WINSCOMBE CRICKET CLUB**

**MINUTES**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Mick Fletcher (chair) , Mandy Turner, Rachel Hayward, Richard Jones, Garry Allen, Doug Warwick, Angela Lacy.

**APOLOGIES:** Sebastian Johns, Derrick Hunt, Faith Glasgow, Nicola Devitt, Charles Jenkins, Val Major.

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR:** Mick Fletcher welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see members from all branches between Clevedon and Shepton Mallet. The meeting was quorate with 26 in attendance.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING:** The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting ( 1/3/23) were agreed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** None

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** The old Charity has been closed and its assets finally transferred. Mick thanked Mandy for her patience and hard work changing the bank account with Santander. David was also thanked for his diligence in dealing with the documents and solicitors. Ruth Berry's work in changing to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission) was appreciated.

The new link at Sandford was opened, funded by the National Grid who also provided fencing.

The new link from Westbury to Easton provides a safe passage between these 2 villages, without having to cross the busy A371.

A short section of path has been opened north of Yatton and Doug Warwick was applauded for his commitment

Garry Allen, representing his team of volunteers was applauded for their hard work cutting back and tidying the Strawberry Line from Sandford to Shute Shelve. The team very much deserved their 'highly commended' at the BBC make a difference awards.

There is now a clearly established branch of the Strawberry Line from Shute Shelve to Yatton. North Somerset Council owns the Strawberry Line from Clevedon to the A38 and we keep pressure on the council to keep the path in good condition although we are aware of lack of funds.

The trustees are working with Adrian Read, Sustrans Ranger, the Millennium Green team, YACWAG and Congresbury where volunteers have spent a lot of time clearing the area around the station.

Johnny Latimer and David Parkin have gained sponsorship to install bicycle racks at intervals along the line..

We have a good relationship with our two councils who have committed to a joint bid to complete the Somerset Circle.

Mick emphasised that our most important asset is our brand which attracts many thousand visitors.

Richard Jones has totally revamped the Strawberry Line website and management of our membership system (Membermojo). This makes it much easier for Rachel Hayward, our membership secretary to communicate with members. Rachel and Richard were thanked for their commitment.

Special thanks was given to Lois Brenchley, a founder member who is able to remind us of how and why things have been done.

The trustees need to attract younger members who are passionate about the future of the line. We need a larger, more active membership.

**FINANCE REPORT & APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS:** Mandy Turner thanked Mick for taking on chair in this new chapter of being a CIO.

Due to all the recent changes in charitable status and bank, Mandy apologised for not being able to provide the accounts for this meeting. The accounting is complete and she awaits their return from the auditor, who is pooling them together.

The accounts will be presented at an EGM in the near future.

The accounts at the end of 2021: £22,000

2022: £20,000. There was no grant that year when maintenance and equipment was purchased.

2023: £26,000. Driven by kind donations, including a generous donation of £5000 after a talk given by Richard Jones. A donation of £3000 was donated by a business project.

A grant of £1000 from North Somerset Council, to invest in our maintenance team.

Subscriptions of £300 per year meet most running costs of equipment and also insurance. We hope to increase membership.

**REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP:** MemberMojo was set up by Richard Jones, making it much less of a task of distributing information to members. Rachel can also look to see which branch they belong to and what expertise they can offer to the SLS.

Rachel thanked Richard for introducing MemberMojo which has made the job of Membership Secretary much more straightforward.

A single membership costs £10 per year. During the last year 70 new members have paid up, possibly due to social media adverts organised by Johnny Latimer.

**REPORT ON WEBSITE:** A thank you to Richard Jones for completely redesigning the tired looking website after nine years.

Johnny Latimer has managed a Facebook account in 2023 and all new items are recorded on Facebook which works in tandem with the website. There is a more accurate account of its history and Richard Jones has added Google Maps to show where the Strawberry Line exists. This facility has been accessed by more than 100000 users as counted on Google Maps.

**APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES:** CIO initial Trustees were appointed in 2022 for periods of 3,2 or 1 year and most are prepared to continue.

David Parkin, having served his one year has agreed to stand for a further term.

Angie Lacy is standing down as a trustee but continues to be secretary for The Sandford to Shute shelve branch. Garry Allen is standing down as a trustee and from the local branch committee.

They were both thanked for their services to the Society

Adrian Read Sustrans Ranger and Johnnie Latimer have volunteered to stand as new Trustees. Mandy Turner, Rachel Hayward, Richard Jones, Doug Warwick and Mick Fletcher are willing to continue as trustees.

The changes of trustees were proposed by Rachel Hewson (Westbury) and seconded by Hugh Robson ( Cheddar).

David Parkin agreed to inform the charity commission of these changes.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Johnny Latimer has been observing the signage along the North Somerset owned stretch of the Strawberry Line to improve signage and make it consistent throughout the length of the line.

Signs are required with the following information:

1. Mandated way markers.
2. Code of conduct for the countryside. These were first introduced by Sam Phillips, Parks and Green spaces officer for North Somerset.
3. Safety. Where the path meets a Highway and barriers protect path users and traffic.

He has engaged with parish councils to consider signs for villages and is looking for sponsorship of £6000-£9000 to provide informative boards showing local wildlife and sites of interest.

Richard Jones informed us of the history of the Somerset Circle, the brainchild of Paul Harley in 2014 which was then named the Avon Mendip Ring. Richard then showed us the newest map of the route, now called Somerset Circle.

In the future it is hoped to access railway funds and use the track from the old Somerset and Dorset railway to complete Colliers Way into Frome.

Another aim is for the track to run from Weston-super-Mare to Castle Cary - rail to rail.

Doug reminded us of the old Congresbury to Wrington spur and whether that could be another path.

When the Banwell bypass is finally completed, there will be a route to Weston-super-Mare from the villages.

The Wells to Shepton Mallet section has grown by more than a mile and there is now a tunnel crossing the A371 between Westbury and Easton.

Within the last three years 6 to 7 miles of Strawberry Line have been added.

**CYCLING THE SOMERSET CIRCLE :** Mandy Turner gave an excellent presentation on a recent three-day trip, cycling around the Somerset Circle – a 76 mile circuit of which the Strawberry Line played a vital part. She began by giving us her opinion that the Somerset Circle is the best cycle route in the world.

Richard Jones presented a newly updated map of the circle and explained the discussions going on to complete it.

Meeting closed at 8:55 pm. Mick Fletcher thanked Mandy and Richard for their presentations.

**Strawberry Line Society (SLS) CIO 1201543**  
**Annual Report**  
**For the year ending 31 December 2024**

**Objectives and activities:**

As a reminder our objectives under our constitution are to:

provide facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare for the general public with the object of improving their conditions of life by the promotion of the use of the disused railway lines and associated land linking Clevedon to Shepton Mallet and nearby communities (including in particular the disused Cheddar Valley Railway Line) as a safe walking and cycling route and nature reserve.

This is the first year the charity has operated as a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation), and during the year some changes were made to our operating structure. We now have four sub-committees (known as Branch Lines; each representing a stretch of the line from Clevedon to Shepton Mallet. This has involved creating a new Yatton to A38 Line Branch, and two previous Line Branches (Axbridge and Strawberry Line Association) have merged to form the Cheddar Valley Branch (CVB). Local committee members run the Line Branches, with at least one full Trustee also on the committee of each.

**Finances**

It has been a very positive year for the Society with new stretches of line opening between Yatton and the A38, and between the A38 and Wells. The Society has also started a program of improving signage along parts of the line in Somerset, and some repairs have also been carried out on this stretch of line.

The result has been that we have had to draw on reserves to fund some of this activity, with outgo exceeding income for the year by just under £11,000. We thank the continued generosity of donors and new members, with Donations at £1,681, and membership subscriptions significantly higher at £3,188. We also received a grant of £480 from the St Cuthbert Parish for work on the CVB stretch of line.

We are looking at future ways to increase our income stream including having merchandise for sale through our website, and sponsorship opportunities. Project work is mainly funded by bespoke grants. We have also set up specific reserves this year to cover items of expected future expenditure to help with budgeting and fundraising. So, in summary, although a positive year for the Society, reserves have reduced from £40,873 to £29,906, mainly due to works carried out.

**Structure, governance and management**

We thank Rachel Hayward and David Parkin who are standing down as Trustees, for all their hard work and support over the years. Rachel will remain as a committee member of her local Line Branch.

**Independent Examiners Review**

The accounts have been examined in accordance with the general direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit. No matters were brought to my attention by the Examiner and I thank Richard Stone for his work.

Amanda Turner, Treasurer

March 2025

**The Strawberry Line Society CIO CN 1201543**  
**Income & Expenditure for Period 1/1/2024-31/12/2024**

|                 |                          | <b>2024</b>               |                         |                 | <b>2023</b>    |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b> |                          | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>TOTAL</b>   |
|                 | subscriptions            | £3,188                    | £0                      | £3,188          | £1,066         |
|                 | donations                | £1,681                    | £0                      | £1,681          | £18,012        |
|                 | grants                   | £0                        | £480                    | £480            | £1,900         |
|                 | interest                 | £0                        | £0                      | £0              | £2             |
|                 | other                    | £248                      | £0                      | £248            | £75            |
|                 | <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>£5,117</b>             | <b>£480</b>             | <b>£5,597</b>   | <b>£21,055</b> |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b> |                          |                           |                         |                 |                |
|                 | maintenance (regular)    | £1,176                    | £0                      | £1,176          | £2,877         |
|                 | maintenance(project)     | £4,282                    | £480                    | £4,762          | £0             |
|                 | insurance                | £275                      | £0                      | £275            | £256           |
|                 | Professional Fees        | £0                        | £0                      | £0              | £725           |
|                 | administration           | £340                      | £0                      | £340            | £609           |
|                 | volunteer training/equip | £1,359                    | £0                      | £1,359          | £0             |
|                 | sundry expenses          | £110                      | £0                      | £110            | £409           |
|                 | infrastructure           | £8,541                    | £0                      | £8,541          | £0             |
|                 | other                    | £0                        | £0                      | £0              | £25            |
|                 | <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>£16,084</b>            | <b>£480</b>             | <b>£16,564</b>  | <b>£4,902</b>  |
|                 | <b>Net (total)</b>       | <b>-£10,967</b>           | <b>£0</b>               | <b>-£10,967</b> | <b>£16,153</b> |

**The Strawberry Line Society CIO CN 1201543**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2024**

|                             | 2024           | 2023           |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>       | <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>TOTAL</b>   |
| Bank Accounts               | £29,706        | £41,037        |
| Cash                        | £200           | £200           |
| Debtors                     | £0             | £214           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>£29,906</b> | <b>£41,451</b> |
|                             |                |                |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>  |                |                |
| Accruals                    | £0             | £578           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>£0</b>      | <b>£578</b>    |
|                             |                |                |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>           | <b>£29,906</b> | <b>£40,873</b> |
|                             |                |                |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>     |                |                |
| Balance brought forward     | <b>£40,873</b> | <b>£24,720</b> |
| P&L net(prior to transfers) | -£10,967       | £16,153        |
| Transfers                   | £0             | £0             |
| <b>Balance c/f</b>          | <b>£29,906</b> | <b>£40,873</b> |

## The Strawberry Line Society CIO CN 1201543

### Notes to accounts

#### 1) Accounting Policies

##### a) Basis for accounts preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention (except where otherwise stated in the accounting policy note) and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### b) Income

###### Income from donations

Income from donations is included in income when it is receivable, except as follows:

- (i) When donors specify that donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods
- (ii) When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred until the pre-conditions have been met.

###### Legacies

Income from legacies is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the legacy and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is regarded as the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

##### c) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis

##### d) Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amount, or in the case of prepayments, as the amount the charity has paid in advance for goods and services it will receive.

##### e) Creditors

Creditors are measured as the amounts owed by the charity, including amounts owed for goods and services received but not paid for by the balance sheet date.

#### 2) Debtors and Prepayments

|         | Year ended<br>31 December 2024 | Year ended<br>31 December 2023 |
|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|         | £                              | £                              |
| Debtors | -                              | 214                            |
|         | <u>-</u>                       | <u>214</u>                     |

#### 3) Creditors and Accruals

|          | Year ended<br>31 December 2024 | Year ended<br>31 December 2023 |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|          | £                              | £                              |
| Accruals | -                              | 578                            |
|          | <u>-</u>                       | <u>578</u>                     |

**The Strawberry Line Society CIO CN 1201543**  
**Income & Expenditure for Period 1/1/2024-31/12/2024**

Split out by Line Branches

| RECEIPTS        |                          | Society (Main) | Line Branches |                 |               |             | TOTAL          |                 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                 |                          |                | Clevedon      | Yatton-A38      | CVB           | SL East     |                | SLA             |
|                 | subscriptions            | £3,188         |               |                 |               |             | £3,188         |                 |
|                 | donations                | £185           |               |                 | £1,495        |             | £1,681         |                 |
|                 | grants                   |                |               |                 | £480          |             | £480           |                 |
|                 | interest                 |                |               |                 |               |             | £0             |                 |
|                 | other                    |                | £17           |                 |               | £200        | £31            | £248            |
|                 | <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>£3,373</b>  | <b>£17</b>    | <b>£0</b>       | <b>£1,975</b> | <b>£200</b> | <b>£31</b>     | <b>£5,597</b>   |
|                 | transfers                | £22,052        |               |                 | £4,976        |             |                | £27,029         |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b> |                          |                |               |                 |               |             |                |                 |
|                 | maintenance (regular)    |                |               | £448            | £729          |             |                | £1,176          |
|                 | maintenance(project)     |                |               |                 | £4,762        |             |                | £4,762          |
|                 | insurance                | £275           |               |                 |               |             |                | £275            |
|                 | administration           | £340           |               |                 |               |             |                | £340            |
|                 | volunteer training/equip | £1,359         |               |                 |               |             |                | £1,359          |
|                 | sundry expenses          | £20            |               |                 |               | £90         |                | £110            |
|                 | infrastructure           | £8,000         |               |                 | £541          |             |                | £8,541          |
|                 | other                    |                |               |                 |               |             |                |                 |
|                 | <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>£9,995</b>  | <b>£0</b>     | <b>£448</b>     | <b>£6,031</b> | <b>£90</b>  | <b>£0</b>      | <b>£16,564</b>  |
|                 | transfers                | £4,976         |               | £17,076         | £0            |             | £4,976         | £27,029         |
|                 | NET(excl transfers)      | -£6,622        | £17           | -£448           | -£4,056       | £110        | £31            | -£10,967        |
|                 | <b>Net (total)</b>       | <b>£10,454</b> | <b>£17</b>    | <b>-£17,524</b> | <b>£921</b>   | <b>£110</b> | <b>-£4,945</b> | <b>-£10,967</b> |

## The Strawberry Line Society CIO CN 1201543

### Balance Sheet as at 31/12/2024

Split out by Line Branches

|                             | Line Branches  |               |               |               |               |           |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
|                             | Society (Main) | Clevedon      | Yatton-A38    | CVB           | SL East       | SLA       | TOTAL          |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>       |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| Bank Accounts/cash          | £10,454        | £1,371        | £8,304        | £8,275        | £1,302        | £0        | £29,706        |
| Current assets              |                |               | £200          |               |               |           | £200           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>£10,454</b> | <b>£1,371</b> | <b>£8,504</b> | <b>£8,275</b> | <b>£1,302</b> | <b>£0</b> | <b>£29,906</b> |
|                             |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>  |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>£0</b>      | <b>£0</b>     | <b>£0</b>     | <b>£0</b>     | <b>£0</b>     | <b>£0</b> | <b>£0</b>      |
|                             |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>           | <b>£10,454</b> | <b>£1,371</b> | <b>£8,504</b> | <b>£8,275</b> | <b>£1,302</b> | <b>£0</b> | <b>£29,906</b> |
|                             |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>     |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| Balance brought forward     | £0             | £1,353        | £26,027       | £7,354        | £1,192        | £4,945    | £40,873        |
| P&L net(prior to transfers) | -£6,622        | £17           | -£448         | -£4,056       | £110          | £31       | -£10,967       |
| Transfers                   | £17,076        | £0            | -£17,076      | £4,976        | £0            | -£4,976   | £0             |
| <b>Balance c/f</b>          | <b>£10,454</b> | <b>£1,371</b> | <b>£8,504</b> | <b>£8,275</b> | <b>£1,302</b> | <b>£0</b> | <b>£29,906</b> |
|                             |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| <b>FINANCED BY:</b>         |                |               |               |               |               |           |                |
| General Funds               | £2,904         | £871          | £3,704        | £275          | £1,302        | £0        | £9,056         |
| Long term Maintenance       | £0             | £0            | £1,450        | £5,000        |               |           | £6,450         |
| Equipment Reserve           | £0             | £0            | £1,150        | £500          |               |           | £1,650         |
| Special projects            | £3,700         | £0            | £500          |               |               |           | £4,200         |
| Operational reserve         | £2,250         | £500          | £1,700        | £2,500        |               |           | £6,950         |
| Transfers to Line Branches  | £1,600         | £0            |               |               |               |           | £1,600         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>£10,454</b> | <b>£1,371</b> | <b>£8,504</b> | <b>£8,275</b> | <b>£1,302</b> | <b>£0</b> | <b>£29,906</b> |

**THE STRAWBERRY LINE SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1201543

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# Accounts

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# The Strawberry Line Society

## Trustees Annual Report 2023-24

This is the first annual report since the SLS was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and covers the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. In future years the AGM will be held earlier, and reports align with the calendar year which is also the financial year for the Society.

After a very lengthy process your trustees, who also form the management committee of the Society, have concluded all the arrangements necessary to establish the CIO, transfer the assets of the former unincorporated organisation to it and formally close the original charity. We can now devote our energies fully towards our charitable objects - promoting the use of the line “as a safe walking and cycling route and nature reserve”.

The previous 15 months have seen major steps forward in the development of a continuous off-road route between Clevedon and Shepton. In Sandford we were delighted to see the opening of a new link that avoids the need to travel down Nye Road. It was funded by National Grid who also generously funded a well-attended opening ceremony. Our partners, Greenways and Cyclerroutes, completed a link connecting the villages of Westbury sub-Mendip and Easton allowing for the first time a realistic walking and cycling route between those communities. A short section of path leading from Yatton station was created as a first step to providing a safe route connecting the existing path to Clevedon and the Pier-to-Pier way.

Less spectacular, but just as important as building new sections is the work of maintaining the existing path, preventing encroachment by brambles, repairing the surface and attending to signage. It was good to see the work of our Winscombe team rewarded by a “Highly Commended” in the BBC ‘make a difference’ awards in a ceremony at Weston. At Dulcote and on the Ridge Road towards Shepton, volunteers have made dramatic progress possible by clearing and fencing new sections of path which we expect to open in the next year. Elsewhere teams at Axbridge-Cheddar and Westbury – Easton, volunteers have been out regularly, seeking to keep the path in good condition.

We are also grateful for work by our partners – Sustrans, the Millenium Green volunteers and YACWAG, the latter group having carried out substantial clearance works at the former Congresbury Station. The Cheddar-Axbridge group were able to take advantage of an external funding opportunity to install bike racks at several points along the line.

In 2023 we formally established a branch committee for the stretch of path between the A38 and Yatton, the original section from which the path has grown. This enables those who are close to that area to focus on the practical issues associated with its

maintenance and development and work directly with the path owners – North Somerset Council.

We are fortunate in having good relationships with members and officers of both Somerset and North Somerset Councils, though the role played by the two counties is very different. North Somerset have a detailed management plan for their path and invest in maintenance, though are increasingly constrained by financial pressures. In Somerset maintenance and some development work falls mainly to volunteers to undertake and finance. Both councils however have committed to linking the Strawberry Line into the Somerset Circle by seeking funding to complete the missing links.

In 2023 we undertook a complete revamp of both our website and our membership management system. The former has been simplified and will focus on information that is relatively unchanging and of use to path users. News items will be issued via social media where our presence has increased markedly. The membership system makes it easy to contact all members or those with a particular interest. It also produces automatic reminders when subscriptions are due saving considerable work. We are piloting the use of QR codes to make it easy for potential supporters to join, donate or volunteer with the Society.

Although we can look back with pride on our achievements over the past 15 months, I am very conscious that we face major issues ahead. The financial situation for local authorities is getting more difficult and we may need to take on more responsibility for funding and delivering essential works ourselves. We have still not achieved our goal of a continuous safe route from Clevedon to Shepton and will need to work and lobby hard to make it a reality. Finally, our excellent team of trustees has worked wonders in recent years but none of us is getting any younger. Growing our membership and recruiting new and active members is perhaps the key challenge for the years ahead.

Mick Fletcher

Chair, SLS.

**THE STRAWBERRY LINE SOCIETY - CIO - CC 1201543**  
**Income & Expenditure for Period 11/01/23 - 31/12/23**

|                 |  | <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>Main -<br/>Winscombe</b> | <b>Axbridge<br/>- Cheddar</b> | <b>Clevedon<br/>- Yatton</b> | <b>East</b>     | <b>SLA</b>      |
|-----------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Receipts</b> |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Subscriptions                            | 1,066.03         | 1,024.03                    | 42.00                         |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Donations                                | 18,011.65        | 8,173.90                    | 3,085.00                      | 20.00                        |                 | 6,732.75        |
|                 | Grants                                   | 1,900.00         | 1,000.00                    |                               |                              | 350.00          | 550.00          |
|                 | Interest                                 | 2.21             |                             | 2.21                          |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Other                                    | 75.00            |                             |                               |                              |                 | 75.00           |
|                 |  | <b>21,054.89</b> | <b>10,197.93</b>            | <b>3,129.21</b>               | <b>20.00</b>                 | <b>350.00</b>   | <b>7,357.75</b> |
| <b>Payments</b> |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Maintenance                              | 2,876.58         | 157.36                      | 460.00                        |                              | 663.52          | 1,595.70        |
|                 | Insurance                                | 256.15           | 256.15                      |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Professional Charges                     | 725.40           | 725.40                      |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Adminstration                            | 609.35           | 609.35                      |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 | Sundry Expenses                          | 409.48           |                             | 117.98                        |                              |                 | 291.50          |
|                 | Other                                    | 25.00            |                             | 25.00                         |                              |                 |                 |
|                 |  | <b>4,901.96</b>  | <b>1,748.26</b>             | <b>602.98</b>                 | <b>0.00</b>                  | <b>663.52</b>   | <b>1,887.20</b> |
|                 | <b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b> | <b>16,152.93</b> | <b>8,449.67</b>             | <b>2,526.23</b>               | <b>20.00</b>                 | <b>-313.52</b>  | <b>5,470.55</b> |
|                 | Accumulated Fund brought forward         | 24,719.95        | 17,577.79                   | 2,419.22                      | 1,333.22                     | 1,506.00        | 1,883.72        |
|                 | <b>Accumulated Fund carried forward</b>  | <b>40,872.88</b> | <b>26,027.46</b>            | <b>4,945.45</b>               | <b>1,353.22</b>              | <b>1,192.48</b> | <b>7,354.27</b> |
|                 |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |
|                 |  |                  |                             |                               |                              |                 |                 |

**THE STRAWBERRY LINE SOCIETY - CIO - CC 1201543**

**Balance Sheet as at 31/12/23**

|  |                                |                  |                  |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  |                                |                  |                  |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |                                |                  |                  |
|  | Bank Accounts -                |                  |                  |
|  | - Santander (Main)             | 25,613.86        |                  |
|  | - NatWest (Axbridge)           | 5,282.19         |                  |
|  | - NatWest (Axbridge)           | 241.24           |                  |
|  | - Lloyds (Clevedon)            | 1,353.22         |                  |
|  | - Lloyds (East)                | 1,192.48         |                  |
|  | - Lloyds (SLA)                 | 7,354.27         |                  |
|  |                                |                  | 41,037.26        |
|  | Petty Cash (Main)              |                  | 200.00           |
|  | Debtors (Main)                 |                  | 213.60           |
|  |                                |                  | <b>41,450.86</b> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |                                |                  |                  |
|  | Accruals (Axbridge)            |                  | 577.98           |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>  |                                |                  | <b>40,872.88</b> |
| <b>ACCUMALATED FUND</b>  |                                |                  |                  |
|  | <b>Balance brought forward</b> | <b>24,719.95</b> |                  |
|  | Net surplus for Period         | 16,152.93        |                  |
|  | <b>Balance carried forward</b> |                  | <b>40,872.88</b> |
| <b>The Net Assets of the Strawberry Line Society - Trust - CC 284005</b> |                                |                  |                  |
| <b>as at 10/01/23 were transferred to this Charity.</b>                  |                                |                  |                  |
|  |                                |                  |                  |
|  |                                |                  |                  |
|  |                                |                  |                  |
|  |                                |                  |                  |
|  |                                |                  |                  |