

# **Great Eastern Railway Society**

## **Trustees' annual report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Registered Charity Number: 267275**

### **Principal address:**

Honorary Secretary, 6 Robins Avenue, Lenham, Kent, ME17 2HN

### **Trustees who manage the charity:**

John Watling; Nigel Bowdidge; Rodger Green; Bernard Anderson

All the above Trustees have been in post for the full year.

Bill King resigned as a Trustee on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

### **Structure and governance:**

The governing document is the Constitution adopted 16<sup>th</sup> March 1974 and amended 20<sup>th</sup> March 1976, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1979 and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2004 as amended 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The Great Eastern Railway Society is an association of approximately 1,000 members.

The Officers and Executive Committee are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in March.

The Great Eastern Railway Society currently has policies in place for Finance, Complaints, Volunteers and Data Protection.

All Trustees, Executive Officers, Co-ordinators and Committee members etc. give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

### **Objectives**

To promote the advancement of public education and knowledge by the study of the Great Eastern Railway, its predecessors, successors and associated railways.

### **Summary of the past year:**

#### **Secretary's Report For The Year 2021**

It has been another year of uncertainty with the ongoing pandemic causing many public exhibitions to be cancelled during various periods throughout the year. The potential for restrictions to be introduced at short notice made decisions to commit expenditure on venue hire and the like particularly difficult, many venues also not accepting bookings in order to reduce their risk. This resulted in the cancellation of the planned meeting for the AGM in March, we did however commit to a Half Yearly meeting in October.

The membership numbers have remained fairly static, any increase in membership has offset the natural loss through those that are no longer with us and non-renewals. It was noted that some new members are

old members from the past returning to the fold. At the end of the year it was good to see that the membership numbers were still above the psychological barrier of 1000.

Following the cancellation of the AGM in March 2020 as a consequence of the outbreak of Covid 19 it was hoped that there would be an AGM in 2021. However the meeting was again cancelled as a result of restrictions being imposed. Our current Constitution, having been drawn up approaching 50 years ago, does not make provision for anything other than physical meetings. A short "Virtual" meeting was held online in order to reach out to the members as a means of demonstrating that the Society was still active. It was decided that all post holders would continue in post in order to provide continuity at this difficult time and members were asked to bear with us until such time as a formal AGM could take place.

In view of a number of limitations due to the age of the current Constitution a working party was set up to review the Constitution and propose amendments. Some important points required guidance from the Charity Commission, this is still outstanding at this time.

During the year there has been some re-arrangement of roles on the Executive Committee following the resignation of our Chairman, Bill King, for personal reasons. There are therefore currently positions available on the Executive Committee and members will have seen the advertisements in the Great Eastern News, so we look forward to seeing some fresh faces to assist in maintaining and enhancing the strong profile of the Society.

Our President, John Watling continues to give guidance on the documents held by the Essex Record Office on behalf of the Society and those which require conservation. During this year the Executive Committee has confirmed the commitment to invest in the conservation of "The Bridge Book", this will be carried out by the Essex Record Office. This being a substantial document produced by the Great Eastern Railway of all bridge structures on their railway system which details such as location, type, date of construction and date of subsequent repairs thereafter. Following the conservation work digital scans will be made in order that these may be more readily made available by the Society.

Barry Jackson, as Publication Sales Officer, has had another good year and achieved a very significant sales figure, while it does not match the record figure from last year it is not that far behind. Barry has also maintained his annual tradition of having a new digital offering for the AGM. Whilst the original planned digitisation project has been delayed by restrictions imposed by the pandemic Barry has managed to produce a substitute with "The Great Eastern in 8mm-Home movies from the early 1960's by GER Society Founding President, the late Bernard Walsh". There has been a continued increase in the availability of digital downloads from the Files Emporium on the Society website. Some of these, such as the Journal compendium have been enhanced with the use of better resolution scans and software capability.

Editing of the Journal has reverted to Geoff Ashton, following the resignation of Bill King. Geoff continues to be ably assisted by Peter Walker in the role of production manager. Between them they have ensured that there is an ample supply of articles for the next year. It is hoped that despite the closure for most of the year of the County Records Offices and the National Archives that there will be sufficient research that has previously been undertaken by various members in order that they were able to complete articles for the Journal thereafter. The Great Eastern News, under Ruth Ivimey-Cook as Editor, continues to expand the modelling input alongside other changes to the content such that it continues to record the important current events. The print company we are using is classified as an essential business and this has enabled the Journal and Newsletter to be published as usual.

After the absence of a Half-Yearly Meeting in October last year the Society decided to go ahead with a meeting this year. Despite difficulties as a consequence of rail disruption and ongoing pandemic the meeting in Ipswich was attended by approximately 40 members of the Society to hear an interesting line up of speakers. It was a good meeting with an apparent sense of relief for the brief return to a sense of normality enjoyed by the attendees.

The Annual Return has been submitted to the Charities Commission. They were also advised of the resignation of Bill King as a Trustee. I would also record that our Accounts accord with the recommendations of the Charities Commission with regard to the extent of financial reserves.

In administering the Society the Executive Committee met on two occasions at the tail end of the year. With ongoing pandemic restrictions for the first part of the year the initial 4 meetings were held online using the Zoom online meeting application. This enabled the usual 2 monthly cycle of meetings to take place in order that the administration of the Society was maintained.

The Historical Research Sub-Committee has not met during this year. The members have however been submitting their reports and where available these have been reviewed by the Executive Committee as part of their meetings and included within their Minutes.

On behalf of the Chairman and Officers of the Society I thank you all for your continuing support and we all look forward to being able to meet members again next year.

**Paul M Weeden**

**Honorary Secretary**

**Great Eastern Railway Society**

## **Financial Review**

The Society currently holds funds in excess of £50,000 in respect of the membership accounts, all of which is in unrestricted funds. These funds are held in order to meet anticipated expenditure for the next 12 months. This being in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines that sufficient funds be available for an orderly shutdown should the Society cease operations.

At the time of preparing this Trustees report for inclusion in the Newsletter, to enable distribution prior to the AGM, the final account figures for the year are subject to Independent examination. Final account figures will be made available for the AGM.

## **Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:

Signature: .....

Full Name: .....

Position: Chairman

Date: .....

# GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

INCOME	2021	2020	EXPENDITURE	2021	2020
Subscriptions	26100.00	25694.01	Journal - Production	5641.01	5798.99
Gift Aid reclaim	4247.59	4211.59	- Distribution	6071.26	4749.20
Donations	478.56	213.00	News - Production	4229.62	5250.28
Bank Interest	6.61	51.43	- Distribution	6009.92	5671.29
Surplus on meetings			Administration	755.44	1108.26
refreshments &c	91.00	0.00	Meetings	423.78	73.27
Payment from			Insurance	135.75	203.62
Trading Account	0.00	0.00	Publicity	0.00	0.00
			Commission	136.53	112.19
			Depreciation	278.80	542.13
			Surplus	7241.65	6660.80
	<u>£30,923.76</u>	<u>£30,170.03</u>		<u>£30,923.76</u>	<u>£30,170.03</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b> at Cost less Depreciation	628.35	907.15
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bank Accounts - Current	100.00	100.00
- Business Reserve	61,799.09	57,913.50
- Capital Reserve	2,692.69	2,692.45
Cash in hand	0.00	0.00
Due from Publications Account	0.00	47.94
Deposits and pre-payments	101.81	33.94
Outstanding Credit	153.27	624.40
Gift Aid claim(s) outstanding	4,247.59	4,211.59
	<u>£69,722.80</u>	<u>£66,530.97</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Payments Outstanding	0.00	0.00
Cheques issued but not presented at bank	0.00	1,646.59
Due to Publications Account	542.03	1,573.92
Reserve for Journal	0.00	0.00
Reserve for Journal distribution	0.00	0.00
Reserve for Journal expenses	0.00	0.00
Reserve for News	0.00	0.00
Reserve for News distribution	0.00	1,390.00
Reserve for Meetings	0.00	0.00
Reserve for Admin expenses	100.00	100.00
Reserve for Conservation	0.00	0.00
Balance on Archive and Capital Projects Account	11,021.89	11,021.89
	<u>£58,058.88</u>	<u>£50,798.57</u>
Financed by: Accumulated Fund	50,798.57	44,148.93
Surplus	7,241.65	6,660.80
Gift Aid adjustment (Previous Year)	18.66	(11.16)
Funds Available	<u>£58,058.88</u>	<u>£50,798.57</u>

# GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY SOCIETY

## TRADING ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020		2021	2020
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Publications Sales	5249.42	5564.45	Postage & Telephone	215.46	363.24
inc pre-paid postage			Photocopying	0.00	0
Interest	0.00	0.00	Stationery etc	13.28	35.44
			Stock purchases	249.76	331.10
			Advertising	0.00	0.00
			Commission	256.60	295.16
			Administration	169.42	168.41
			Write Down of Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00
			Due to Membership Account	0.00	47.94
			Surplus over expenditure	4,344.90	4,323.16
	<u>£ 5,249.42</u>	<u>£ 5,564.45</u>		<u>£ 5,249.42</u>	<u>£ 5,564.45</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b> at Cost less Depreciation	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
NatWest Current Account	50802.29	46067.24
Due from Membership Account	542.03	1573.92
Cash in hand (Publications)	300.78	48.42
Stocks (Publications)	931.01	589.57
	<u>£ 52,576.11</u>	<u>£ 48,279.15</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Cheques issued but not presented at bank	0.00	0.00
Owing to Membership Account	0.00	47.94
	<u>£ 52,576.11</u>	<u>£ 48,231.21</u>
Financed by: Accumulated Fund		
Surplus	48231.21	43991.97
Deficit	4344.90	4323.16
Investment in Digitised Magazine Projects	0.00	0.00
	0.00	(83.92)
Funds Available	<u>£ 52,576.11</u>	<u>£ 48,231.21</u>

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY SOCIETY  
 I have examined the financial statements comprising the Income and Expenditure accounts, Trading Accounts and Balance Sheets. In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair account of the Society's affairs as at 31st December 2021 and of its overall surplus for the year then ended.

*G.B. Jensen*

Independent Examiner

13/3/22