

## Trustee's Report For The Year 2023

Having found that meetings, including **Executive Committee Meetings**, could be conducted online using the conferencing program **Zoom**, most **EC** meetings are now conducted that way. However, a minimum of two **Executive Committee** meetings per year, plus the **Annual General Meeting** and the **Half-Yearly Meeting** are always held in person.

The membership numbers hover around the 1000 mark but the **Committee** is aware that an aging membership is likely to result in a steady decline over time.

Another consequence of the demographic of our membership has been that the majority of the work of the **Society** falls onto barely-sufficient numbers of people. That said, what those people do achieve is highly respected by other societies doing similar work.

The working party set up to review the **Society's** Constitution (as previously announced) prepared the revised version and, following guidance and approval from the **Charity Commission**, the new Constitution was presented and approved by the membership immediately before the **AGM** on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Our President, John Watling, continues to liaise with the **Essex Record Office** on our historic Collection of documents and images which is held there on behalf of the **Society**, and a substantial number of donations of photographs and other images have been made throughout the year.

The **Photographic Digitisation Working Group** has worked diligently through the year to digitise our extensive collection of photographic and other images in order to make them more easily accessible by **Society** members and the general public through a new, dedicated, website address linked to that of the **Society** itself.

Barry Jackson, as **Publication Sales Officer**, has had yet another very successful year selling files and documents and making new discs and downloads available to members and non-members.

Our **Annual General Meetings** and **Half-Yearly Meetings** include speakers, book sales, and time to socialise.

We continue to publish four issues each year of our **GE Journal**, which concentrates on historical material from our area, and also four issues each year of the **GE News**, which is more focused on our geographical area of interest nowadays.

Visits for members to a number of rail-related sites in our region of interest were organised during the year – reviving a tradition that had been dropped at some time in the past - and a similar programme will be offered this year including transport help for our less able members.

Our **Exhibitions Manager**, Nigel Bowdidge, has dressed a new set of lighter display boards for our attendance at shows and exhibitions.

The Annual Return for 2022 is being prepared for the **Charities Commission**, including notification of the resignation of one Trustee during that year.

Our Accounts accord with the recommendations of the **Charities Commission** with regard to the extent of our financial reserves and we continue to seek digitisation and other projects that fall in line with our constitutional objectives. The **Society** currently holds funds in excess of £40,000 in respect of the membership accounts, all of which is in unrestricted funds. These funds are held to meet planned and anticipated expenditure for the next 12 months and in accordance with **Charity Commission** guidelines that sufficient funds be available for an orderly shutdown should the **Society** cease operations.

**Brian A Watson**  
**Secretary, Great Eastern Railway Society**

# GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY SOCIETY

## MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

INCOME	2022	2021	EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
Subscriptions	25,455.00	26,100.00	Journal - Production	5,955.76	5,641.01
Gift Aid reclaim	4,185.27	4,247.59	- Distribution	7,106.22	6,071.26
Donations	805.46	478.56	News - Production	4,575.10	4,229.62
Bank Interest	151.79	6.61	- Distribution	7,261.83	6,009.92
Surplus on meetings refreshments &c	122.00	91.00	Administration	1,565.01	755.44
			Meetings	1,201.50	423.78
			Insurance	203.62	135.76
			Publicity	411.00	0.00
			Commission	136.96	136.53
			Depreciation	663.97	278.80
				29,080.97	23,682.12
			Surplus for the year	1,638.55	7,241.64
	<u>£30,719.52</u>	<u>£30,923.76</u>		<u>£30,719.52</u>	<u>£30,923.76</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b> at Cost less Depreciation	<u>2,090.20</u>	<u>628.35</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Bank Accounts - Current	100.00	100.00
- Business Reserve	65,171.35	61,799.09
- Capital Reserve	2,698.54	2,692.69
Deposits and pre-payments	101.81	101.81
Outstanding Credit	239.05	153.27
Gift Aid claim(s) outstanding	4,185.27	4,247.59
Total current assets	<u>£72,496.02</u>	<u>£69,094.45</u>
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Cheques issued but not presented at bank	3,406.44	0.00
Due to Publications Account	590.54	542.03
Reserve for Admin expenses	200.00	100.00
Balance on Archive and Capital Projects Account	10,693.29	11,021.89
Total current liabilities	<u>14,890.27</u>	<u>11,663.92</u>
Net current assets	<u>57,605.75</u>	<u>57,430.53</u>
Total net assets	<u>£59,695.95</u>	<u>£58,058.88</u>
Financed by: Accumulated Fund	58,058.88	50,798.57
Surplus	1,638.55	7,241.65
Gift Aid adjustment Previous Year	(1.48)	18.66
Total funds	<u>£59,695.95</u>	<u>£58,058.88</u>

# GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY SOCIETY

## TRADING ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021		2022	2021
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Publications Sales	3,865.41	5,249.42	Postage & telephone	125.61	215.46
Interest	0.00	0.00	Stationery etc.	25.94	13.28
			Stock purchases	350.28	249.76
			Commission	177.32	256.60
			Administration	102.07	169.42
				781.22	904.52
			Surplus for the year	3,084.19	4,344.90
	<u>£ 3,865.41</u>	<u>£ 5,249.42</u>		<u>£ 3,865.41</u>	<u>£ 5,249.42</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b> at cost less depreciation	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
NatWest Current Account	52,112.36	50,802.29
Due from Membership Account	590.54	542.03
Cash in hand (Publications)	301.63	300.78
Stocks (Publications)	1,168.25	931.01
Total current assets	£ 54,172.78	£ 52,576.11
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Cheques issued but not presented at bank	587.52	0.00
Total net assets	<u>£ 53,585.26</u>	<u>£ 52,576.11</u>
Financed by: Accumulated Fund	52,576.11	48,231.21
Surplus	3,084.19	4,344.90
Investment in Digitised Magazine Projects	(2075.04)	0.00
Total funds	<u>£ 53,585.26</u>	<u>£ 52,576.11</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report for the Trustees**  
**Great Eastern Railway Society**

Report on the financial statement of the Great Eastern Railway Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2022

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention that gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect, the requirement to keep accounting records in accordance with Sections 130 and 132 of the Charities Act 2011 and to prepare financial statements which accord with those accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirement of the Act have not been met. In my opinion there are no matters to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed by

*G. Janson* (G. Janson)

Independent Examiner

Date 17/03/23