



The Elham Valley Line Trust

Charity number 295563

Trustee's report for year ending

30 April 2025

Address: Peene Yard
Peene
Folkestone
Kent
CT18 8BA

1 Objectives

The Elham Valley Line Trust is governed by a Trust Deed dated 12th May 1986 which identifies the purposes of the trust as the advancement of education of the public

- (i) in conservation of the countryside surrounding the course of the disused Elham valley line by the provision inter-alia of nature trails and footpaths.
- (ii) in old English crafts by the provision inter-alia of a working crafts centre.
- (iii) in historical railways by the provision inter-alia of a working museum
- (iv) in matters ancillary to any of the foregoing by such means as shall be decided from time to time by the trustees

These purposes are met on an ongoing basis, by the provision of a railway museum and a countryside centre, which were originally developed with the dedication of members of a small preservation and conservation group.

2 Personnel

2.1 Trustees

Mr Adrian Willcox Chair

Mr Anthony Hicks

Mr Robert Bailey

Mr David Gilbert

Mr Nicholas Cox

Ms Lisa Bullett

2.1.1 Renumeration

All the trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefit in the furtherance of these objectives.

2.2 Volunteers

The Trust relies entirely on volunteers to run the museum, countryside centre and tearoom and maintain the assets of the Trust.

As a result of the reliance on volunteers, the site opens only on weekends and bank holidays between Easter and September.

2.2.1 Renumeration

The Tearoom manager is treated as casual labour and receives a nominal amount as it is a particularly demanding role.

3 Railway Museum

3.1 History

The Railway Museum was established in 1986 and has developed gradually since. The museum buildings consist of several original railway buildings which were reconstructed on the site and several other buildings including a signal box and converted antique farm building, constructed to portray a station as it may have been on the Elham Valley Line in the 1930's.

The displays cover a wide range, consisting of artefacts specifically recovered from the Elham Valley Line, more general railway memorabilia and local historical artefacts, including a wide range of World War I and II artefacts demonstrating the use of the line in that period.

The displays also include a full-size replica of a steam locomotive and a working scale model of the railway line as it passed through the local villages.

Due to its proximity to the Channel Tunnel, these displays are complemented by a large collection of artefacts describing the history of the Channel Tunnel, from construction to its current use. These include the working scale model of the English Eurotunnel terminal which was originally housed in the Channel Tunnel Exhibition Centre during the construction of the tunnel.

4 Countryside Centre

4.1 History

The Countryside Centre is sited in a large Kentish barn which was dismantled from the site of the Channel Tunnel terminal and rebuilt, using Heritage Lottery Funding, in grounds adjacent to the museum.

Due to a lack of available funds and volunteers to complete the project, the Barn was not originally used as a craft centre and in recent years was rented out to a local Arts group. This group has now ceased using the barn and it now houses a tearoom and several crafts people who attend regularly to demonstrate and pass on their skills in traditional local crafts.

5 Chair's report as presented to the Volunteer meeting December 2025.

"What a year this has been - it seems to me at least, to have flown by.

A bit of a late start with Easter being late, which was quite useful as we had emails flying back and forth about the wording for the new signboard at our main gate!

Fortunately, having replaced the wood on which it was to be placed and with help from Sign Graphics the new sign was up in time for opening - even if the screws were not all in place! So that was our start for the new year with a new name: The Elham Valley Line Heritage Centre.

Then into our Easter Bunny Hunt of four days - on the trot for some of the team, followed very shortly by the Miniature Steam Weekend. The first time with a resident miniature traction engine.

Just a couple of weeks later came the Military Weekend. This year for the first time not only did we have the Desert Rats on the Duck Lawn but also a German patrol on the Tunnel Lawn! Also, this year were more display stands, one of which was based on the Home Front. These additions proved to be very popular.

All the while since the middle of January, in the background on Tuesdays, general maintenance and repairs were being done. Work such as a new Buffer Stop outside the Station Building, final touches to the new gazebos; a new handrail in the gent's toilet to replace the old somewhat rusty looking one; the fencing at the north end of the car car park was completely rebuilt and stained among hundreds of other small and not-so-small jobs. Not of course forgetting one of our major projects this year - the architect designed Porch to the Gazebos!

I must also mention that when the school holidays and half terms occur, the younger members are not stinting in the time they give to the Trust in taking on many jobs around the site from shifting road planings, to clearing the Dipping Pond, to servicing the steam loco.

With the Grounds Maintenance - unfortunately the person who had stepped in when Matthew was unable to continue, also had to bow out. Not even the Tuesday Team could do everything, although we did manage to keep the grass under control until we were able to have a local firm, Fox & Oak to take over. They think that we have a very special place here - and of course they are right - and are very keen to be part of it as well as being a contractor.

In July the idea of a Tabletop Sale was suggested. So willing to give it a go, we held that on Saturday 26th. I don't think any fortunes were made but it brought some extra funds into the Centre.

July also saw our Volunteers' Barbecue when we invited all our regular volunteers to come for the evening - food provided, but if you were really hungry you could buy extra sausages and burgers!! Sarah, who we had welcomed to join the Crafters in the Barn this year had persuaded her partner to operate the barbecue - thank you, Dan.

Sadly, in July, after a long period of declining health we lost our very own Old Woodcarver, John Wise. He leaves a big hole in the atmosphere of the Barn, but also many memories, some of which have been shared on the Memory Board. This was set up by the other craftspeople in the Barn for the special wake we held to remember both John and Joan who had died earlier and we had not been able to remember properly due to the pandemic restrictions.

Almost at the same time we lost our long-term Trustee, Tony Hicks, who via his business had enabled this barn to be rebuilt here after it was dismantled and taken from its original site now under the Eurotunnel Terminal. Over the years, although he had not been able to attend many meetings in recent years, he has helped the Trust, most recently paying for the repairs to the barn roof where the tiles had been damaged by storms.

In August came the Country Fair when we borrowed a large collection of sideshows from Newington Village Hall - thank you - which was another great fun weekend

Then another new idea! The 'Queen' Tribute Evening on 5th September. Fortunately, it was a dry evening and the event was very well received! Again, we had a barbecue operated by Dan.

Then came the Annual Apple Pressing with apples provided free by Garden House Orchards in Saltwood. Once again, the Tuesday Team provided the manpower for the picking. The weekend once again proved popular although we did not get through as many apples as last year. Maybe it was because the crusher had been made more efficient with new 'teeth' earlier in the year?!

As the evenings began to draw in we held the Spooky Weekend with ghouls wandering about, skeletons a-plenty and all the staff in various costumes. It all gave an air of fun-spookiness.

Finally to close our season, two weekends of Festive Fayres. The weather was a little on the odd side with some people getting hot in the early morning sun in the big marquee, to folk being cold in draughts in the Barn itself. The miniature railway even managed to squeeze just over 200 rides into the last Sunday afternoon, despite the earlier rain that day!

That just leaves me to say a big Thank You to all of you who have made this year such a success.

Well, not quite the end, as personally I must add my thanks to everyone who has been so kind, understanding and encouraging to me while I have been going through radiotherapy and ongoing treatment for Prostate Cancer - thank you all for being there and I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas!"

5 The Future

The aims of the Trust for the coming year are to consolidate the Countryside Centre by introducing additional crafts to the Barn and developing the outside space by creating a link, in the form of paths and nature trails, between the Barn and the railway museum.

Once these areas have been created, the Trust aims to increase the educational opportunities developing links with local schools and creating a classroom area in an upstairs space in the Barn.

To accommodate school involvement, it is anticipated that the Centre will need to move to opening every day, although this would be likely to continue to only be during the existing Easter to September season. It is anticipated that this is likely to also increase the numbers of visitors enrolling into the membership scheme.

It is recognised that this level of sustained development will require a greater reliance on volunteers, as it is not perceived that the Trust will be in position to employ staff within the coming year. A lack of volunteers therefore presents the greatest risk to this continued development.

6 Finance Review

As with previous years the Trust has utilised the income from admissions and the tea rooms to fund the utility bills and associated running costs. The increased income from the tearoom enables more significant projects to be undertaken, however developments are managed such that they are only carried out when funds are available.

It has been demonstrated that the increased income as a result of the larger tearoom is sustainable and is still increasing, which will enable the future developments identified above to be funded from income, however the Trust will continue to pursue grant funding for these, and other, developments whenever possible.

The Trust intends to continue to hold a relatively small fund on account. Regular operating costs are readily predictable, although rising utility costs are a concern, and there is little requirement for reserves to be maintained at a high level. The Trust therefore aims to utilise surplus funds to maximise development opportunities, as they become available throughout the coming year.

ELHAM VALLEY LINE TRUST ACCOUNTS MAY 2024 - APRIL 2025

Day to Day Cash

Income	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	TOTAL
Barn	£270.95	£189.15	£164.10	£411.64	£262.40	£165.08	£348.88					£374.40	£2,186.60
Museum	£913.55	£689.15	£286.45	£788.60	£577.77	£489.05	£862.05					£1,051.31	£5,657.93
T Room	£1,920.55	£1,205.95	£883.20	£761.85	£1,037.85	£828.39	£1,631.33	£2.65				£1,972.76	£10,244.53
Misc (See Note 1)				£389.74	£382.80	£10.02	£1,470.19						£2,252.75
Misc (See Note 2)	£37.68	£6.00	£20.00	£67.64			£10.76	£600.00				£160.00	£902.08
Totals	£3,142.73	£2,090.25	£1,353.75	£2,419.47	£2,260.82	£1,492.54	£4,323.21	£602.65	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,558.47	£21,243.89

Cash in hand
£0.00

Expenses													
Catering/Janatorial	£1,302.60	£1,210.91	£875.31	£1,276.99	£1,433.61	£1,078.43	£1,330.92	£128.81				£2,441.42	£11,079.00
Casual Labour	£450.00	£280.00	£360.00	£405.00	£369.00	£360.00	£360.00	£90.00				£360.00	£3,034.00
Crafters	£583.57	£396.18	£291.10	£549.28	£463.45	£389.26	£660.38					£482.99	£3,816.21
Other (Note 3)	£32.08	£38.30	£26.40	£176.80	£16.56		£4.99			£81.00			£376.13
Totals	£2,368.25	£1,925.39	£1,552.81	£2,408.07	£2,282.62	£1,827.69	£2,356.29	£218.81	£0.00	£81.00	£0.00	£3,284.41	£18,305.34

Carried Forward
£2,938.55

Income/Expenses	£774.48	£164.86	-£199.06	£11.40	-£21.80	-£335.15	£1,966.92	£383.84	£0.00	-£81.00	£0.00	£274.06	£2,938.55
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Bank

Income													
Barclaycard Credit	£5,156.60	£2,904.00	£3,095.60	£3,954.86	£3,429.95	£4,180.45	£5,593.97	£49.40		£49.50		£7,478.16	£35,892.49
Direct Credit	£80.00		£20.00		£100.00	£40.00	£90.00				£100.00		£430.00
PO Credit Deposit		£40.00	£55.76		£50.00						£28.00		£173.76
Standing Order				£10.00			£10.00				£10.00		£30.00
Age UK South Kent				£250.00									£250.00
Recycling									£350.74		£130.65		£481.39
GiftAid						£1,597.39							£1,597.39
Total	£5,236.60	£2,944.00	£3,171.36	£4,214.86	£3,579.95	£5,817.84	£5,693.97	£49.40	£350.74	£49.50	£268.65	£7,478.16	£38,855.03

Opening Balance
£28,506.84

Expenses													
BT	£155.34			£85.14		£115.38				£115.02			£470.88
Castle Water	£25.34	£43.02	£43.02	£36.38	£36.38	£36.38	£187.02	£37.74	£40.37	£40.37	£49.94	£7.14	£583.10
Cheques	£1,630.76	£3,853.02	£55.76	£84.92	£187.44			£168.66					£5,980.56
British Gas Busine	£435.84	£403.71	£420.47	£363.64	£411.93	£378.69	£345.32	£462.32	£233.58	£214.49	£205.34	£205.41	£4,080.74
Barclay Card	£196.46	£154.85	£122.24	£104.12	£146.47	£136.64	£120.86	£165.16	£74.00	£74.00	£74.00	£74.00	£1,442.80
On-Line (Note 4)			£2,683.11	£5,990.66	£1,977.10	£4,468.93		£919.37	£95.00		£3,168.50	£1,196.82	£20,499.49
Total	£2,443.74	£4,454.60	£3,324.60	£6,664.86	£2,759.32	£5,136.02	£653.20	£1,753.25	£442.95	£443.88	£3,497.78	£1,483.37	£33,057.57

Income/Expenses	£2,792.86	-£1,510.60	-£153.24	-£2,450.00	£820.63	£681.82	£5,040.77	-£1,703.85	-£92.21	-£394.38	-£3,229.13	£5,994.79	£5,797.46
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Closing Balance
£34,304.30

NOTE 1 Events
NOTE2 Other
NOTE 3 Misc
NOTE 4 Various



The Elham Valley Line Trust

Charity number 295563

IMPORTANT PREFACE

This report has been compiled at the request of The Charity Commission for England and Wales in an attempt to bring our reporting up to date.

The information contained has been gleaned from information handed over by the previous management team and memories of present volunteers.

E&OE David F Gilbert, Secretary. December 2024

Independent auditor's report for year ending 30 April 2025

No report is available as the accounts were received as bank accounts from the previous treasurer. The accounts sheet presented has been compiled from bank statements

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