

The Gelert Trust – Annual Report 2020

Registered Charity 1171674

38 Woodbourne Road,
Smethwick B67 5LZ

Trustees:

David Allan, Lewis Dittrich, Neil Evans, Graham Farr, Andrew Goodwin, John Kerr, David Lampert, Martyn Owen, Nigel Watkinson, Mark Seale, Anthony McLachlan

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Introduction

2020 was a quiet year for The Gelert Trust. Gelert's continued operation at the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway (WHR) was suspended due to the pandemic in 2020 and as a result, the engine was not used during the year. Late in 2019, Gelert was taken out of service to prepare the locomotive for its annual boiler examination. Shortly after this, the pandemic restrictions were declared and all work on the engine was suspended.

The pandemic restrictions also meant that the usual cycle of Trustee meetings was not possible. However, the Trust's existing online decision making procedures ensured that the management of the Trust could continue smoothly, although it was necessary to hold an EGM remotely to consider urgent issues in place of the usual physical AGM.

In May 2020 Trustee Anthony McLachlan passed away suddenly; this was totally unexpected and a shock to the remaining Trustees. Anthony managed the Trust website on behalf of the Trust so the remaining Trustees are monitoring the issue and are looking at alternative arrangements for managing the website with an alternative supplier.

The Trust has been spending time considering the future of Gelert and how best to celebrate the locomotive's rich heritage and educate a wider audience to the story of this popular locomotive. The Trust has worked closely with the WHHR to establish a clear partnership in maintaining and celebrating Gelert which has become a popular locomotive with WHHR volunteers and visitors to the railway. Gelert is currently stored under cover in the Museum of the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway.



Photo - Gelert's cab controls - let us hope that soon volunteers can be polishing and cleaning these controls whilst operating Gelert during the 2021 season. *(Photo by M Seale)*



Photo - Gelert Trustee and Training Officer for WHHR, Lewis Dittrich, on a driver's training day.
(Photo by Jane Partridge)

Maintenance & Display

With the pandemic restricting volunteer access to Gelert, the main focus of the maintenance was on the completion of earlier projects. The anodes associated with the cathodic protection system have been fitted, the tanks cleaned and lids replaced. Both injectors have been removed, descaled in an acid mix, inspected, cleaned and refitted to the locomotive. The locomotive was made ready for the steam inspection in March 2020. However, all access to the locomotive was paused during the first wave of the pandemic to ensure the safety of all volunteers and Trustees. However, operations at the WHHR re-commenced in August 2020 and Gelert was placed on display in the Museum/Heritage Centre for all passengers to see. Information boards were provided to give passengers details of the historical significance of Gelert.



Photo - Gelert on display at the Museum/Heritage Centre at the WHHR during the summer of 2020. *(Photo by M Seale)*

Website and Communications

The development of the website has been a priority of the Trust since its formation. Following a variety of inputs, a plan had been developed and basic work done. A number of elements were being trialed when the Trust's webmaster suddenly died. Following that, not only did that initiative stop, but temporary measures needed to be hurriedly put in place to keep the existing facility live. Alongside that, options needed to be explored to put more permanent arrangements in place. Also, a new plan needed to be generated for the development of the Trust's online presence. Some preliminary work has been done on this aspect. It is a major priority for 2021.

The website is seen as a key element of the Trust's reach. It is vital for communication, for publicising the Trust's work, and not least as a potential fundraising tool. Improved links with its other online exposures, such as its Facebook page, are other important parts of this. Work on it will continue to be a priority.

The Future

It is hoped to begin developing an online system to store important Trust documents safely. This would not only be a valuable management tool for the Trust, but more importantly an historical archive of Gelert's activities, both currently and in the past. So, this will be a priority for development in 2021.

To ensure the safe keeping and continued existence of Gelert, the Trust is committed to investing in the future of the locomotive. During 2020, Trustees have engaged with the WHHR to discuss future financial commitments to ensure Gelert's next overhaul in six years' time can

be afforded and that this significant issue is being considered and planned for by the WHR Ltd board.

Work schedules always need to be well communicated to ensure that all Trustees are given the opportunity to offer their support or guidance. Continuing to improve this will be worked on during the 2021 operating season so that new volunteers can be better supported by more experienced Trustees.

Expanding involvement in the work of the Trust is an ongoing priority. The Trustees will look to appoint further Trustees in the coming year, both to increase numbers, and particularly to increase participation by younger members.

The Covid pandemic has introduced much uncertainty into the work of the Trust. Practical work has needed to be put on hold, operation has also ceased (as has much work on the host WHHR). However, planning has continued, and hopefully 2021 will give opportunities to move forward. Once it is safe to do so, working parties will commence on returning Gelert to service.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The GELERT Trust

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2020

To

Period end date
31/12/2020

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	-	-	-	1,092	660
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	-	-	-	1,092	660
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	1,092	660
A3 Payments					
Web site maintenance fee	-	-	-	144	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	144	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	144	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	948	660
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	1,237
Cash funds this year end	-	-	-	2,185	1,237

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,185	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK OK

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

[illegible]

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name _____

Date of approval

Signature
Neil Wether
W. C. Dittus

NIGEL WATKINSON
LEWIS DITTRICH

18/8/21
18/8/21