

Annual Report

The London & North Western Railway Society has faced many challenges in the past year. Despite the continuing problems created by the pandemic much progress has been made. We co opted and then voted in two new trustees, both of whom have made valuable contributions to the management of the Society. We were finally able to hold an AGM after having to cancel our 2020 event for obvious reasons. The trustees have continued with the use of Zoom to hold regular business meetings. This arrangement has allowed us to meet on a more regular basis as well as reducing our impact on the environment, and our wallets, by removing the need to travel to a meeting. Not to mention that relatively short on-line meetings are more family friendly than what amounts to day long physical meetings.

Our 2021 AGM, held in July, was planned from the start to be a hybrid meeting with members having the option of attending in person or via Zoom. We were, as far as I can ascertain, the first such society to attempt such a format. By general agreement the meeting was a success although there were lessons learnt that are being applied to our upcoming 2022 AGM. We tried very hard to ensure equality between those in the room and those on Zoom by allowing Zoom participants the facility to both vote and address the meeting.

At about the same time as our AGM our new on-line archive system, known as DMS, was launched to the membership. The system was originally developed during lockdown to allow volunteers working on archive documents on-line access. It was quickly realised that the system could be extended to allow all Society members access. This system currently has around 15,000 photos, over 5,000 drawings plus 1,500 documents. These numbers are a tribute to the effort put in by a large number of volunteers over several years. Scanning continues with at least 5,000 items in the queue and more arriving all the time.

Our standard setting quarterly Journal was published as usual despite our Hon Editor suffering a grievous personal loss. A member, who asked to remain anonymous, stepped in to assist and I think it is fair to say that the results were seamless. Our on-line presence continues to bring benefits, in addition to our thriving Facebook Group we now have a Facebook Page which acts as the Social Media equivalent of a website. Work on a new Society website is progressing at a painfully slow pace, partly due to a lack of volunteers to help.

We were, at last, able to hold some actual events including the resumption of our annual Modellers Day at the Study Centre and the glorious "Steam Up" event organised by our previous President Ken Wood.

In September 2021 our Society once again led the way in instigating a new group for societies similar to our own. Known as the Line Societies Liaison Group, the object is the sharing of experiences, knowledge, and best practice. From an initial meeting attended by seven societies the group has grown to twenty-four and we have recently had a request to join from the National Railway Museum. Our Society has already seen benefits from closer relations with other societies.

During the year we saw a gradual return of model railway exhibitions, most of whom will give societies such as ours free space to publicise ourselves. We were able to take the opportunity to attend a show in October and gained five new members in the process. There are several shows already booked for the coming year.

Although the numbers of new members joining ran at a very encouraging level we are “running to stand still” due mainly to the age profile of the majority of the membership. Sadly, we are losing members from ill health or by their passing away. Just recently we have also seen the financial situation causing members to rethink their priorities. All this means we have to redouble our efforts both to recruit new members and to ensure we are meeting the needs of existing ones. We are far from alone in this, there has been much discussion in the Liaison Group about the retention and growth of membership. There are no easy answers but, like any challenge, we must try to see it as much as an opportunity as a obstacle.

Our finances remain on a sound footing and I am confident they will remain so as we address the issue of gaining more members at the same time as looking at alternative sources of income.

John Gowers

London & North Western Railway Society
Registered Charity - No 1110210

Income and Expenditure Account Year Ended 31st December 2021

<u>Income</u>	
2020	2021
£18,974.00 Subscriptions	£23,430.91
£1,735.48 Donations	£11,263.86
£100.00 Council Grants	£0.00
£3,513.64 Sales	£1,446.14
£3,138.00 Sub-Rentals	£3,945.00
£861.88 Scanning	£449.75
£40.09 Interest	£3.24
£3,988.14 Gift Aid	£4,675.00
£193.10 Study Centre Cash Sales/Donations	£65.50
£32,544.33	£45,279.40
<u>Expenditure</u>	
<u>Study Centre</u>	
£4,895.32 Rent	£5,931.78
£1,303.60 Rates	£1,305.60
£776.90 Insurance	£805.02
£900.00 Legal Fees	£0.00
£392.98 Telephone & Broadband	£320.63
£843.59 Electricity	£893.59
£1,410.00 Repairs & Maintenance	£8,530.23
£840.00 Furniture & Equipment	£3,860.00
£331.78 Misc supplies	£256.83
£11,694.17	£21,903.68
<u>R&A</u>	
£1,467.38 Acquisitions	£1,613.56
£455.59 Zenfolio & HRA etc	£354.00
£0.00 Photographic Collections	£0.00
£1,922.97	£1,967.56
<u>Publications</u>	
£5,899.00 Journal	£6,512.00
£1,144.00 Newsletter	£1,428.00
£354.00 LNWR Modeller	£743.04
£1,506.12 Production	£1,613.20
£0.00 Portfolios	£0.00
£3,800.00 Provision	£2,000.00
£508.78 Notices and Questionnaire	£0.00
£3,054.15 Postage	£4,813.05
£16,266.05	£17,109.29
<u>Sales</u>	
£106.89 Book purchases	£112.39
£668.13 Postage	£495.02
£106.89 Ebay Costs	£37.81
£881.91	£645.22
<u>Activities</u>	
£0.00 AGM	
£0.00 Committee Expenses	
£265.79 Administrative Postage	£240.03
£0.00 Exhibitions	£0.00
£0.00 Publicity	
£1,157.09 Website/Webhosting	£568.70
£193.03 Paypal Costs	£220.95
£0.00 Misc Expenses	£168.98
£1,615.91	£1,198.66
£32,381.01	£42,824.41
£163.32	£2,454.99

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of London & North West Railway Society

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the London & North West Railway Society (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Gordon Stretch

Relevant professional qualification: Chartered Accountant

Address: 3 St Margarets Court, Kineton Green Road, Solihull, West Midlands B92 7DZ

Date: 10th May 2022