



**Members Day**  
and  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Company Annual  
General Meeting**

Horsted Keynes Station  
Saturday 3rd June 2023

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*Front Cover Photograph: 73082 passes 76017 at Horsted on 16 October 2022.  
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## **Members Day and Annual General Meeting**

On AGM Day, 3rd June, as part of a change to normal proceedings, the Railway is throwing open its doors in order for members to see what goes on behind the scenes. Departments will show what they do so members can get an idea of just what makes the Railway work.

At **Sheffield Park**, there will be loco workshop visits, the loco owning groups will be able to update you on their respective projects and you will be able to see the progress being made on restorations. Catering will be laying on a display of Silver Service in a Pullman car and there will be Stewards on hand in the Museum to answer any questions you may have.

At **Horsted Keynes**, there will be carriage shed tours where you will see the progress being made on a number of carriages as they continue their journey back to full operational service. Such items as Car 54, Hastings 3687 and Stroudley 949 amongst many others will be on show. The trim shop will provide an insight into the painstaking work they do in keeping all those seats refreshed and renewed. The wagon group will be on hand demonstrating what goes on to keep a vital, yet often unsung and hard-working part of Railway history looking like new, a condition that rarely lasted.

The Infrastructure teams will mount a display of some of their equipment and be on hand to answer any questions you may have and maybe entice you to join the "outdoor gym" !

The newly arrived class 73 number 73133 "Bluebell Railway" will be rededicated and space permitting, Class 205 number 1305 will be on show so members can see the work bringing this unit back to life.

A member of the Trust will be on the station giving an update on the "Jewel in the Crown" project, returning Horsted back to its former glory

Don't forget that a lot of the projects group will have sales stands so please do support them where you can.

At each station, staff will be on hand to explain what they do and visits to signal boxes will also be possible subject to permission of the signaller.

The idea of the day is to hopefully encourage members to see what is currently going on at their Railway and how they can help by possibly volunteering to help one of the many departments as we need as much help as possible at this particular time if we are to get through this current difficult period. It will also help members understand and hopefully appreciate some of the problems that the Railway currently faces.

After the AGM which will be held at 2pm in a marquee at Horsted Keynes, there will be a hog roast and bar (not free!). A late train will leave Horsted for East Grinstead and then return to Sheffield Park.

Unfortunately, the 3rd of June has been announced as a strike date by the Railway unions but it is still hoped as many members as possible will take the opportunity to come and see what makes the Railway work and maybe ask a question of the Society management and by bringing the AGM back to the Railway and at an earlier time, it will make this more attractive and a way forward for the future.

On behalf of the Chairman, Paul Churchman, we look forward to seeing you.

*Roy Watts*

*Vice Chairman*

## **BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No 13745313

*President: Gordon Pettitt OBE*

*Vice-Presidents: Bill Brophy, Graham Flight, Charles Hudson MBE,  
David Quarmby CBE, Roy Watts MBE*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> COMPANY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

to be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 commencing at 2pm

Dear Member

This document contains the agenda and supporting information for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Company Annual General Meeting to be held as part of the Members Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 at Horsted Keynes Station, commencing at 2pm. The AGM Marquee will be in the car park field and will also be available for those staying for the Hog Roast in the early evening.

Regrettably neither the Plc's nor the Bluebell Railway Trust's accounts for 2022 had been finalised by the time we went to press so these are absent from the accounts booklet. They will be sent to Members in due course. This booklet is also missing a number of reports due to time constraints.

**All members must present their membership card when signing in and must declare any proxy votes they are holding for the Meeting. Non-Members attending on behalf of a member must also sign in and present the proxy form. Signing in will commence at 1pm**

*Members under 18 years old are entitled to attend the meeting but do not have a vote on company matters or in elections*

### **PROXY VOTING**

In accordance with Article 15, members are hereby given formal notice that if any Adult member is unable to attend the meeting they are entitled to appoint a proxy, who need not be a member of the Company, who may attend the meeting on your behalf and to vote in your place. The form of proxy is enclosed with the AGM documents. If you are appointing the Chairman as your proxy, this **MUST** be returned to the Registered Office (Membership Trustee, Sheffield Park Station, Sheffield Park, UCKFIELD, TN22 3QL) no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Signed and scanned copies may be sent by email to [don.brewer@bluebell-railway.com](mailto:don.brewer@bluebell-railway.com) by the same date and time to allow for validation.

The proxy form must include the name, address and membership number of the member concerned, the name of the person who is appointed as proxy and must be signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy. The member may specify how the proxy is to vote or allow the proxy to use their discretion. If any member appoints a proxy and then attends the meeting, the proxy vote will not be counted.

### **ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

There are six nominations for the five Trustee posts available and so an election is necessary. There was only one nomination for each of the posts of Vice-Chairman, Membership Trustee and Finance Trustee and the successful candidates are shown on page 10.

## **BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

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### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. In Memoriam
3. Approval of the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022
4. Receive and adopt the Society accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022
5. Authorise the Trustees to appoint Knill James as Auditors and to fix their remuneration
6. Consider and adopt the Special Resolutions to amend the Articles of Association (see below)
7. Any other formal business of the Company
8. Presentation of Awards
9. Report from the Society's Governor on the Bluebell Railway Trust
10. Chairman's Address
11. Open forum – your chance to ask questions of the Board.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS** – Please see background information on Page 8.

In the light of recent developments, the Society Board wishes to amend the proposed amendment to Article 18.6. Resolution 1 will be formally moved before the amendment is moved and voted on. Resolution 1 (amended or not) will then be voted on.

The proposed amendment is as follows:

In Resolution 1, the proposed change to Article 18 should be deleted and replaced with:

“18.6 The Society Chairman shall automatically be a Director and a Governor of BRT Trustee Limited. Other Trustees may serve as a Director or as a Governor if the Society considers it expediate and in the best interests of the Railway to do so.”

### **Resolution 1**

The Members resolve to remove the prohibition on Trustees serving as Directors of the Plc and to amend Articles 18 (Trustees) and 23 (Disqualification and Removal of Trustees) of the Articles of Association as follows:

In Article 18, delete Article 18.6 and replace with the following:

“18.6 A Trustee shall not serve as a Governor of BRT Trustee Limited with the exception of the Society Chairman who shall automatically hold a position in that company”; **and**

In Article 23, delete Article 23.1.6 in its entirety

**Resolution 2**

The members resolve to amend Article 20 (Powers, Proceedings and Duties of Trustees) to change Article 20.6 to read “One Trustee shall be nominated to act as Preservation Standards Officer.”

**IN MEMORIAM**

The 78 Members listed below have all passed away since the last AGM. May they all rest in peace.

John Ayers	Graham Guy	Ann Quirk
Roger Bamber	Roy Haines	Rosemary Redmond
Philip Basche	Adrian Hales	Brian Ribbens
John Bennewith	Anthony Hannan	Christine Roberts
Philip Brewer	Peter Hartley	John Saville
Norton Brown	Nigel Hearn	Arther Saward
Christopher Bryan	James Higgins	Michael Shuter
Frederick Carter	Steven Hill	Martin Smith
Trevor Carter	John Hutchings	Lawrence Smith
Anthony Champkins	George Huxley	Peter Smith
Harry Clark	Vivienne Johnson	Rodney Southwell
Gordon Clarke	Edwin Johnson	Ann Stanway
Graham Coldman	Robin Johnstone	Michael State
Keith Cook	Ronald Lander	Kenneth Stephens
Ronald Couvret	John Layton	Andrew Stokes
Michael Craig	Edward Lightburn	David Stuckey
Edward Crawforth	Brian Makin	Paul Sturm
Irvine Cresswell	Alan Malcolm	John Summersell
Anthony Davies	Martin Mann	Robin Thornton
John Durrant	David Mark	Aubrey Tick
Peter Dyer	Charles Millsom	Glen Tweedy
Geoffrey Eldridge	John Morgan	Michael Ullitz
Peter Fitzgerald	John Mullins	Cleo Westlake
Robert Flewers	Christopher Newman	Dennis Wheaton
Gerald Funnell	Derek Pendry	David Wolfe
Peter Gardner	Paul Penn-Sayers	Alan Woodroffe

## **Amendments to Articles of Association – Background Information**

The Articles of Association were closely based around the former Society's rulebook, suitably amended to take account of the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. They also reflected the final outcome from the Governance Review which recommended the total separation of Society, Plc and the Trust with only the Society Chairman participating in all three bodies.

The Governance Review itself had started in 2011 with the remit to "*review the existing structure of the Railway to see if it was fit for purpose.... and that there was a perception around the Railway that the management was disconnected from the volunteers and it may be that the present structure contributed to that situation*". An initial report in 2015 was debated at length and a final report produced in June 2018. A key recommendation was that the Society should convert from an unincorporated association to a corporate body with no Trustees serving as Directors of the Plc or as (then) Trustees on the Trust. A consultation draft of the Articles of Association was circulated to members in early 2020 for comments with the intention of submitting a revised version for adoption at the 2020 AGM. Covid-19 then intervened and the Railway and life as we knew it paused in March 2020. Society agreement to approve the Articles of Association and proceed with Incorporation was achieved in October 2021. The assets and liabilities of the old Society were transferred to the new company on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

2022 was the first full year of the Railway's operation since 2019. The Society AGM did not provide enough candidates to be Trustee and so we are carrying three vacancies. Meanwhile, the Plc Board had been advertising for Directors for some time and other Directors had made it known they wished to step down. The Finance Director resigned in the late summer and while a candidate had been found, he had not at that time accepted the position (happily, Stephen Trigg is now in post). We were then faced with the sudden and simultaneous resignations of the Rolling Stock and Operations Directors, both critical posts. The Society Chairman took on the Rolling Stock Director post and Neil Glaskin (Vice Chairman) was appointed as Interim Operations Director. Neil Glaskin was subsequently confirmed in post and Article 18.6 meant he had to resign as a Trustee. The Society Board appointed Roy Watts as Acting Vice Chairman until the 2023 AGM. Subsequently, the Commercial & Retail Director resigned from the Plc Board as he did not have the time to dedicate to the role. This area is being covered on a temporary basis by both Neil Glaskin and Paul Churchman, with assistance from some Trustees. The post has already been advertised.

As the controlling shareholder, we need to be in a position where Society Board members can step in to cover unexpected Plc Board vacancies which, if left vacant, could threaten the operation of the railway. Article 18 prevents us from doing that and we need to create the flexibility to keep the show on the road. We are not seeking to return to the former position where all Plc Directors had to be drawn from within the Trustees. We need and welcome outside expertise on the Plc



Board and we are now fortunate to have a very good team on the Board.

What has become very clear is that since Covid-19, there is a shortage of people willing to come forward and take on management roles in our three management bodies. It is not just us, other heritage railways are facing the same problem and have consolidated or are consolidating their management structures to make them fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To some extent, this had already happened on some railways by the time the Governance Review had been finalised. None of the Railways are equivalent to FTSE companies and we do not need a huge layer of corporate governance and Chinese walls which impede the safe and effective management of the railway.

We do however need the flexibility to respond quickly to events and we ask you to support our proposals.

***BRPS Board***

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### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP TRUSTEE, FINANCE TRUSTEE AND TRUSTEES**

#### **Vice Chairman**

Only one nomination for the post of Vice Chairman was received and Mr Roy Watts MBE is duly elected

#### **Membership Trustee**

Only one nomination was received for the post of Membership Trustee and Mr Don Brewer is duly elected

#### **Finance Trustee**

Only one nomination was received for the post of Finance Trustee and Mr Ian Watson is duly elected

#### **Trustees**

Six nominations were received for the five Trustee posts and an election is necessary. The nominees are:

Annette Courtenage-Dennis
Roger Kelly
Keith Leppard
Gordon Parry
Howard Strongitharm
James Young

#### **ELECTION STATEMENTS**

##### **Annette Courtenage-Dennis**

Occasional casual employee

If you volunteer or work at Sheffield Park, most of you will know me. I have worked in the catering department for over 7 years (other than the month's sabbatical I took in March, which we don't talk about!!). I have been a member of the BRPS for over 15 years, since I began bringing my children here and again some of you will know Izzy, and Alex who continues to work here albeit occasionally now.



I love this Railway, and I am aware of the financial challenges we are facing. We must face facts, that the only way forward is to embrace ourselves as a tourist attraction that is a heritage railway. If this railway is to continue, then we need to appeal to a much younger generation. If one family who comes to the ice rink, or dinosaurs or circus, sees the steam engines and then comes back, as I did with my family, they are the Railway's future volunteers, Trustees and Directors.

Personally, I can provide a different perspective as we face these challenging times. I look forward to representing you and the Railway.

**Roger Kelly**

Shareholder in Bluebell Railway plc

I have been an active member since 2003 and BRPS Trustee since 2008. My volunteer roles have included Leading Porter, Signaller, TTI, customer services and shop assistant. I am currently the Trustee with the Capital Projects & Funding Portfolio. Whilst PLC Funding Director 2008-17 £5 million was secured in grants and donations. Outside the Railway I am fundraising advisor to the Heritage Railway Association and from 1977-2007 was either the Director of a volunteer based organisation Plc or Trustee of a Grant Giving Trust.



With the ongoing support of the Society members, I hope to continue bringing my experience, knowledge and commitment to the Railway as Trustee and an active volunteer in many roles.

I firmly believe in a unified approach of the Society, Plc and Trust, working together, as they must, in these difficult times. First to secure our future this year by financial discipline and inspirational leadership. Then in pursuit of success, growth and evolution of our Railway.

To achieve this a difficult balance has to be struck between a sound business and maintaining the ethos of a heritage operation in line with the member's wishes and expectations. As a Trustee I wish to part of this endeavour.

**Keith Leppard**

I've been a member for more than 50 years, first volunteering in the 1970s working on Bulleid coaches 1482 and 2515. Although life choices took me away from the area I continued to support the railway in other ways and, when circumstances allowed, I returned to C&W in 2018. Since then, I've been part of the team that has been restoring the Maunsell brake 3687 to its former glory. In 2022, I moved back to W Sussex so I could spend more time at the railway.



I am seeking the post of trustee because I am passionate about the BRPS's aims to preserve and operate its historic rolling stock and locomotives and believe that I have skills that can help the railway to succeed in those aims. Recently retired from my career as a research scientist at a major UK university, I have experience of writing grant applications and managing teams (and budgets) to achieve short and long-term goals, also of communicating with audiences at all levels. If elected, I will work to see more routine operation of our unique vintage collection so that this can be marketed as a USP to increase passenger numbers on regular services.

## **Gordon Parry**

My connection with the Bluebell Railway over the past five years has coincided with some of the most adverse conditions for its ongoing success. I am a Leading Porter at Horsted Keynes, a trainee Booking Clerk at Sheffield Park and the Custodian of the Memorial Garden at Horsted Keynes.



My background is in senior leadership and management within secondary education. I also work as an Anglican priest in Crawley. I would like to contribute to both the strategic thinking and decision making so essential to the Railway and to the practical implementation of projects and initiatives that help to ensure the future flourishing of the Railway. My skillset includes communication and people skills, financial monitoring, and development planning. My knowledge and understanding of the Railway have grown significantly since I first joined as a volunteer and I can now see quite clearly the distinction between 'the wood' and 'the trees'. There is still some way to go before groups and individuals are comfortable with the Railway's direction of travel and improvements in the communication of decisions are still vital, despite the very considerable efforts of the plc Chair. I offer my services to an organisation I have grown to love.

## **Howard Strongtharm**

Shareholder in Bluebell Railway plc

I have been a volunteer on the Bluebell Railway for nearly 47 years and in that time I have worked in C & W, the shop at Sheffield Park, a guard for over 30 years, Buildings Manager for 3 years and currently a Station Foreman at East Grinstead.



Now retired, in my professional life I worked in the railway industry as a Building Surveyor and or a Project Manager, latterly with South West Trains as their Commercial Project Manager.

During my time in the railway industry, I have been responsible for station buildings, including at one time Waterloo Station and resident engineer on the re-roofing of Stoke-on-Trent station, plus many other similar projects around the country. Whilst Bluebell is currently going through a rough patch, I know it will come out even stronger than before as we have a very dedicated and supportive membership.

If elected as a Trustee, in whatever role I am asked to perform, I will support the objectives of the BRPS and work with the plc board and the wider volunteer membership.

**James Young**  
Casual Employee



I have been a member of the BRPS for 36 years and a volunteer for nearly 31 years working at Horsted Keynes station moving through the grades from Junior Porter to Station Master. My role includes organising the decoration and running of all Christmas services at the station and I am the liaison for all special events working closely with the Railway's Events Team. In addition, I am a Signaller at Horsted Keynes.

Another department I am actively involved in, is Catering as I am one of the Train Managers for the Wealden Rambler afternoon tea service, something I have been involved in since its inception fifteen years ago. In addition to the Wealden Rambler service I am also part of the team who run the Golden Arrow Pullman and the Railway's Supper Special Trains both in a voluntary and paid staff capacity. With my involvement in the Catering Department I have played an active part in the Retail Sub-committee for a number of years. I have been a Trustee for the past four years and since the start of this year have been the Chairman of the Carriage & Wagon Department Rolling Stock Committee.

## **Minutes of the 1st Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 28th May 2022 at the Burgess Hill Academy, Burgess Hill, West Sussex commencing at 7.03pm**

**Present:** Charles Hudson MBE and Roy Watts MBE (Vice-Presidents), Paul Churchman (Chairman), Steve Bigg (Vice-Chairman), Gavin Bennett (Secretary), Don Brewer (Membership Secretary), Laurie Anderson, Richard Clark, Mike Hopps, Roger Kelly, John Knight, Chris Saunders and James Young (Trustees). 111 members had signed in.

**In attendance from the PLC Board:** Geoff Mee (Chairman), David Burch (Finance Director) Paul Lelew Retail & Commercial Director)

**Apologies for absence** were received from Gordon Pettitt (President), Ian Watson (Treasurer) and 56 members

### **1. Welcome & Remembrance**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 1st Annual General Meeting of the new Company and announced that 56 proxy votes had been received. Four of those were against the minutes and one opposed to the re-appointment of Knill James. Before taking the first item on the Agenda, Members stood in silence to remember the 54 members who had died since the last AGM in October 2021. May they all rest in peace.

### **2. Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 2nd October 2021**

The minutes of the EGM having been previously circulated were proposed by Keith Leppard, seconded by Arthur Prent and agreed, with two abstentions in the room. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Minutes of the Deferred 60th Annual General Meeting held on 2nd October 2021**

The minutes of the deferred 60th AGM having been previously circulated were proposed by Colin Tyson, seconded by John Arkell and agreed, with two abstentions in the room. There were no matters arising.

### **4. Minutes of the 61st Annual General Meeting held on 2nd October 2021**

The minutes of the 61st AGM, being the final AGM of the former unincorporated Society, were proposed by Sam Bee, seconded by Vernon Blackburn and agreed, with two abstentions in the room. There were no matters arising.

### **5. Society Accounts 2021**

The Secretary explained that Ian Watson was absent due to a family wedding and had submitted a written report. The Chairman referred to the report which showed a surplus of £157k for the year. Subscription income had increased by £20k but donations were down by £10k. Expenditure had increased due

to increased one-off printing costs arising from the Governance Review and a donation of £20k towards the Jewel in the Crown appeal. The report also noted that from 2022, the Society will again bear the costs of Bluebell News. He had thanked Nigel Longdon for a smooth handover last October and the Plc accounts staff for their assistance. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Alan Dengate, seconded by Charles Vigor and agreed with two abstentions.

## **6. Re-appointment of Knill James as Auditors**

The re-appointment of Knill James was proposed by Charles Hudson, seconded by Tony Sullivan and agreed with one abstention.

## **7. Special Resolution No 1: Amendment to Article 10 (Member's Privileges)**

The Secretary reminded the meeting that this particular amendment was mentioned during the discussion at last year's EGM and required a 75% majority to be accepted. Its purpose was to clarify when Members could travel at privileges rates as there was still some confusion. It made it clearer that Members did not get privilege travel on Santa or Dining trains where seats had to be pre-booked beforehand and there was an additional element, such as food or presents, included in the fare. The amendment was proposed by Sam Bee, seconded by Vernon Blackburn and adopted, with three abstentions.

## **8. Special Resolution No 2: Article 18 (Trustees)**

The Secretary explained that this amendment was to correct Article 18.1.2 so that candidates for election had to have at least three years membership prior to nomination, not election. This reflected the requirement in the old rulebook and had been erroneously transcribed. The motion was proposed by Alan Dengate, seconded by Arthur Prent and adopted without dissent.

## **9. Special Resolution No 3: Article 18 (Trustees)**

The Secretary explained the purpose of this resolution was to reinstate the Membership Secretary and Treasurer posts, as Membership Trustee and Finance Trustee respectively, and to increase the number of Trustees from twelve to 14. There were consequential amendments to Articles 11, 19 and 21. The posts had been abolished as the Governance Review had underestimated the volume of work undertaken. In reality, it was not possible to simply tag these responsibilities onto other Trustees as had been suggested. The motion was proposed by Charles Hudson, seconded by Arthur Prent and passed, with three abstentions.

This concluded the formal business of the Company.

## **10. Long Service Awards**

The following volunteers had achieved the following Long Service Awards:

**50 Years Service:** Gordon Callander, Robert Hayward, Chris Majer, David Noel, Ray Oliver, Roger Price and Ian Wright

**40 Years Service:** Graham Flight, Adrian Hopgood, Joanne Gurr, Barry Jones and Alan Pagnell

**25 Years Service:** Chris Bassett, Claire Emsley, Clive Knight, Liz Groome, Ruth Lee, Michael Mackie-Clark and Mick Sargeant

## **11. Presentation of the PLC Accounts for 2021**

David Burch ran through the highlights of the year which again had been adversely influenced by Covid-19 restrictions placing capacity constraints on what we could do. Restrictions had been lifted in July and we able to resume normal train services, including the Pullman dining trains. Turnover had increased to just over £3m from the low of £1.4m in 2020 and had produced a nett profit of £663k (loss of £179k in 2020). We had benefitted from various Government grants and furlough payments and were grateful to all those who had donated to the Covid appeal, which had included donations from the general public. Our reserves were in a better position than before but we needed to do more to cushion us against unexpected events. Our special events had been limited by the restrictions earlier in the year but we had a good Model Railway Weekend and a good Giants of Steam and Steamlights had been very successful. The visit of Flying Scotsman later this year had generated a lot of advance bookings and had sold out for the second week. He anticipated a small surplus for the end of the year. In response to a question about coal and fuel costs following the invasion of Ukraine, he said that there had been a three fold increase in the cost of coal and the supply chain had been interrupted. The Chairman said that the HRA was working hard on behalf of all heritage railways to ensure that coal supplies could be maintained and was lobbying the Government.

Mr T Baker asked about the costs of the Steamlights event and was told it had made a profit. On repeating his question, he was told that the costs were about £83k but the event was very profitable. Mr Salmon said the deferment of the re-varnishing programme for our rolling stock meant that eventual restoration and repair costs would be much higher and take longer. He urged the company to resume the re-varnishing to prevent further damage. Mr James pointed out there was a risk to some of our big events if we did not provide an attractive train service and the one train only service was a deterrent. This was noted. Mr Tyson asked about the rollout of EPOS and was told by Paul Lelew that the rollout was complete and we were now collecting customer profile data. [This was later clarified to only those customers who booked online: no such data was collected by the Booking Offices]. Mrs Marriott asked when the Well House at Kingscote was going to be repaired and was told there was no timescale at present but possibly in 2023.



## **12. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reflected on the changes that had occurred since he was appointed last October. The Rule 15 policy sub-committees had been revived albeit with some resistance from the Plc and the intention was to set in place a strategic policy for the Plc to work to in their business plan. The Society Committee had moved very quickly after the last AGM had given its consent to proceed with incorporation. The company was set up in November and the formal transfer had been made on 1st January 2022. He was deeply saddened that Mike Priestley, who had been a driving force in the whole incorporation process, had died shortly before it was completed and his wide ranging skills and measured persuasion were very much missed by the new Board. Since his was appointed as Chairman he had made the effort to go round the railway on a regular basis and talk to people and had been made very welcome. He said it was important for those in charge to do this and find out the views of the volunteers and paid staff as they were the railway and its future. He paid tribute to Chris Saunders who was standing down after 15 years as a Trustee and had been the creator of the Preservation Standards Manual, which had been much admired by other heritage railways. He also thanked Steve Bigg who was standing down as Vice Chairman for the smooth handover last October. Steve had been elected as Vice Chairman in 2016 but in 2020, found himself thrust into the limelight as Acting Chairman, at the same time as the country was plunged into the Covid-19 lockdowns and the railway was closed down as a consequence. He had done much to bring about the collaborative working between the Society, Plc and Trust which had helped steer the railway through this crisis. He was pleased that Steve would continue leading the team he had built up in the trim shop, now in their new home in the Heritage Skills Centre. He also thanked Andrew Ellis and Reuben Smith who had stood down since their election last October due to changing work commitments. He was disappointed we did get enough candidates to fill the four vacant Trustee posts and the Board would consider its options.

## **13. Bluebell Railway Trust - Society Trust Governor's Report**

Colin Tyson reported on the Trust's activities in 2021. The Trust had had another good year with income just over £1.7m which included legacies of £916k and donations of £806k. Grants paid to various projects amounted to £1.24m which included £317k from the Covid Emergency Appeal fund. During the year, the Trust had acquired SECR Class O1 No 65 after its owners had indicated it would be put up for sale. The Trust had agreed to purchase the locomotive before the sale became public knowledge. The Trust now owns three SECR locomotives at an historic book value of £366k. The Trust also owns 40% of the shares in Std Class 4 tank no 80151. The Museum had acquired a nameplate and dedication plaque from LB&SCR L Class No 333 'Remembrance' and the nameplate from N15X class locomotive No 2332 'Stroudley'. It had also acquired a number of photographic collections. The Archive had moved from a cramped location to a single storage unit in Surrey. During the year, the Trust had launched the Jewel in the Crown

appeal to restore Horsted Keynes station. £200k was raised, including £20k from the Society, which together with match finding from the Trust of £169k, part of the legacy from Roger Williams and further donations raised £650k which allowed the first phase to commence.

#### **14. Address by the Plc Chairman**

Geoff Mee said it was vital that we increased the number of visitors to the railway to help offset the costs and he would like to see a footfall of around 200,000 pa. We had failed to target the market north of East Grinstead and we needed to do more to encourage visitors to travel by train to East Grinstead and join the railway from there. We needed to make our station a more attractive vista for those approaching the railway from the town and the way to do that was to build a new station. He reminded the meeting that we were a living history museum and we needed to have activities at each of our stations for our visitors to see and enjoy, such as a traditional working goods yard at Kingscote. There was lots of scope for working displays at each station to encourage the visitors to stop and spend the entire day at the railway and spend more money per visit.

The Chairman thanked the 'Horsted Gang' for providing refreshments during the evening and everyone for attending. He announced that next year's AGM would be held at the railway during the daytime.

The meeting closed at 10pm

## BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

**Trustees:** In accordance with the Articles of Association, the following members have been nominated to serve as Trustees for a period of office commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 so an election is necessary:

Annette Courtenage-Dennis
Roger Kelly
Keith Leppard
Gordon Parry
Howard Strongitharm
James Young

The ballot form is at the end of this booklet. Joint members should have had two copies of the Ballot and Proxy forms.

Members attending the AGM should bring the ballot form to the AGM to be handed in on arrival. **Please remember to bring your membership card and show it when signing in.** Members who are voting by proxy should submit their ballot form with their signed proxy form. Any ballot forms received in the post without a signed proxy form will be disregarded.

Please note that in accordance with Article 19.8, the ballot box will **close 30 minutes after the start of the Annual General Meeting.**

*G D Bennett*  
*Board Secretary*

#### **VOTING BY PROXY**

If you are appointing the Chairman as your proxy, this ballot form **MUST** accompany your proxy voting form and must be delivered to the Membership Secretary, Sheffield Park Station, Sheffield Park, UCKFIELD, East Sussex TN22 3QL no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 31st May 2023. Signed and scanned copies will be accepted by email to [don.brewer@bluebell-railway.com](mailto:don.brewer@bluebell-railway.com) by the same date and time to allow time for validation and recording. If your proxy is attending the meeting and you have voted in the ballot, he should present both forms when signing in.

**BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**  
**Annual General Meeting on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023**

# VOTING FORM

**METHOD OF VOTING – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

## Election of Trustees

In accordance with Article 19.6, you have up to **FIVE** votes. You do not have to use all your votes but if you vote, you **MUST** do so by indicating an order of preference for the candidates (ie, '1' for your first preferred candidate, '2' for your second preferred candidate and so on). In the event of a tied vote, the preference number for each candidate will be used to determine the successful candidate

**Vote by numbering your preference (ie, 1,2,3 etc) for not more than FIVE candidates.**

	<b>Preference Number</b>
<b>Annette Courtenage-Dennis</b> Proposed by M Laughlin seconded by J Young	
<b>Roger Kelly</b> Proposed by R J Watts, seconded by B N Luck	
<b>Keith Leppard</b> Proposed by A P Clements, seconded by A Silcock	
<b>Gordon Parry</b> Proposed by C D Cutbill, seconded by K Legget	
<b>Howard Strongitharm</b> Proposed by T Tester, seconded by P Starnes	
<b>James Young</b> Proposed by R Garman, seconded by T Baker	

## **PROXY VOTES ONLY**

If you are exercising your right to vote by proxy, this ballot form **MUST** accompany your proxy voting form.

