



# MEMBERS DAY & 3<sup>RD</sup> COMPANY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 15th June 2024

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*Front Cover Photograph: 34070 at Kingscote on 16 October 2023.*

*©Jon Bowers*

## **Members Day and Annual General Meeting**

On AGM Day, 15th June, the Railway is once again throwing open its doors 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. The idea of the day is to hopefully encourage members to see what is going on at their Railway and show them where they can help, either by volunteering or by other contribution.

We've made a few changes to the format from last year's very successful event, particularly to give members more time to explore the railway before attending the AGM itself. The service will begin earlier than a normal Saturday (first departures 9.20 am from Sheffield Park, 10.15 am from East Grinstead) and still have plenty of time to look around. The meeting will take place in a marquee on the top car park at Sheffield Park, commencing at 4 pm. Afterwards, there will be a social event with food and drink available. Trains will leave for East Grinstead after the AGM at 6.45 pm and later at 9.00 pm so, if you chose to arrive by rail, you can get home afterwards.

### **Event Details**

At Sheffield Park, a highlight of the day will be the formal renaming of 34059 Sir Archibald Sinclair, planned to take place at 12.00. Throughout the day, we are expecting that all areas within the loco yard (running shed, works, Atlantic House and maintenance shed) will be open to view the progress being made on the various restorations and overhauls that are underway. Various loco owning groups will have stands and will be on hand to update you on their respective projects. On the station, Friends of Sheffield Park and the Museum Team will have displays and representatives too. We also hope to display restored Pullman Car No 54 for viewing.

At Horsted Keynes, there will be tours of the Carriage & Wagon works, where you can see the progress being made on a number of carriages as they continue their journey back to full operational service. The SR Coach Group will have a display and be on hand to discuss their work on our Maunsell and Bulleid coaches. The wagon group will also have a display and stand to show visitors the progress they are making. On Platform 1/2 of the station, the Infrastructure teams will be mounting a display to explain the work they are undertaking there and the 1305 (Thumper) team will have a stand where they will be on hand to explain how they are bringing this unit, currently located nearby, back to working order. At the south end of Platform 2 there will be a meeting point for the S&T Department, from where you will be able to review proposals for the new Sheffield Park Signal Box, study the layout for the final East Grinstead signalling and view a display of unusual signalling features.

At all our stations, staff will be happy to answer questions and, subject to operational requirements, show you how things work in their particular part of the Railway. It is also hoped that guided visits to some of the signal boxes will be

possible, subject to permission of the signalman.

Don't forget that a lot of the individual project and owning group will have sales stands as part of their displays so please do support them where you can.

We hope that even more of you will join us on our Society AGM day this year to enjoy everything the Bluebell has to offer. Do take the opportunity to join in a conversation with Society management about how to take the Railway forward for the future and hopefully find ways in which you can help the Railway on that journey.

On behalf of the Chairman, Roy Watts, we look forward to seeing you.

*Keith Leppard*

*Trustee*

# **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

## **3<sup>rd</sup> COMPANY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

to be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 commencing at 4pm at  
Sheffield Park Station

Dear Member

This document contains the agenda and supporting information for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Company Annual General Meeting to be held as part of the Members Day on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Sheffield Park Station, commencing at 4pm. The AGM Marquee will be in the top car park and will also be available for those staying for the Hog Roast in the early evening.

**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 3pm**

*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 12<sup>th</sup> June 2043. Signed and scanned copies may be sent by email to [membership@bluebell-railway.com](mailto:membership@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 five nominations for the three Trustee posts available and so an election is necessary. There was only one nomination for Chairman and one for the Society nominated Trust Governor and the successful candidates are shown on page 8.

# **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023
4. Receive and adopt the Society accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023
5. Authorise the Trustees to appoint Knill James as Auditors and to fix their remuneration
6. Any other formal business of the Company
7. Presentation of Awards
8. Presentation of the Plc accounts for 2023
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.

## IN MEMORIAM

The 83 Members listed below have all passed away since the last AGM. May they all rest in peace.

Valerie Adams	Charles Hemphill	Una Price
Peter Aldridge	John Higgs	Edward Quick
George Anastasi	Gerard Hudson	Christine Reber
David Ansell	Vera Huggett	Peter Ridger
John Anthony	Brian James	Peter Robertson
B Austen	John Kelly	Barabara Roseveare
Richard Beckett	Kevin Kidney	John Rowlands
John Bigny	Raymond Large	Peter Saaler
Richard Brown	John Lelliott	Rossie Sayeres
Michael Bunn	Nigel Lemon	Dawn Scrivener
Michael Cadiz	Donald Lewis	Adrian Smith
David Chalmers	Graham Little	Michael Smith
James Cullinan	John Longley	Peter Southgate
Christopher Daniels	Timothy Lord	Derick Summerfield
Anwyne Daniels	Joseph Lord	Audrey Todd
Simon Davey	Peter Lyons	Brian Tofts
Beryl Davis	James Maccarthy	David Tutt
John Drake	David Mark	Nick van Wensem
Roger Fithyan	Michael Mason	Anthony Waldron
Peter Fletcher	John Mckay	Terence Walker
David Flood	John Morgan	Christopher Welfare
Leila Gardner	Michael Palmer	Gerald Wells
David Geal	Stephen Pettitt	Rex Whiting
John Gibbs	Peter Pilch	John Whiting
Clive Groome	Philip Plummer	Nigel Whitwell
Patrick Hall	Peter Polande	Alan Wild
Ralph Harris	Margery Poole	Robin Yarnton
Lawrence Harris	Gillian Powell	

# **BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

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## **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, TRUSTEES & SOCIETY NOMINATED TRUST GOVERNOR**

### **Chairman**

Only one nomination for the post of Chairman was received and Mr Roy Watts MBE is duly elected. Mr Watts has made it clear he will stand down for the final time in 2026.

### **Society nominated Trust Governor**

Only one nomination was received for the post of Society nominated Trust Governor and Mr Colin Tyson is duly elected

### **Trustees**

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

### **ELECTION STATEMENTS FOR TRUSTEES**

Laurie Anderson

Michael Hopps

Gordon Parry

James Reeves

Robert Simpson



### **Laurie Anderson**

Occasional casual employee

I have been a member of the railway from a young age and started volunteering at the Bluebell when I was 15 after doing my Work Experience placement in the Locomotive Works. I continued to volunteer in the Works afterwards and when I had turned 16, I joined as a Loco Cleaner. Now being the “grand old age” of 26, I have since become a Fireman, Shunter, Guard, BRPS Trustee and was a founder of the Bluebell Railway Goods Division.

I have also worked for Catering previously as well helping on the Social Sub Committee with organising social events for the Working Members. Outside the Bluebell, I work for the Govia Thameslink Railway at Battersea Stewarts Lane TMD as a Traction & Rolling Stock Engineer and do occasional bar work at the Loco Department’s “Local Pub”, the Sloop Inn.

I have always had an interest in the preservation of the railway and making sure the finer details are as they should. I plan to work further into making sure the future of the railway is kept with preservation in mind. The Bluebell Railway has a plentiful plater of preservation potential, and I hope to ensure that it is utilised successfully.





### **Michael Hopps**

I have been a working volunteer since 2009 and was elected as the Infrastructure Trustee in 2021. Since becoming a trustee I have endeavoured to support all the volunteers in their various roles within the department, bringing to the notice of the Board and managers, any concerns about issues which affect their work. I chair sub-committee meetings where representatives of the different work gangs, managers and the Director can discuss matters that improve the running of our successful department as we provide a safe, productive and enjoyable working environment.

As well as my regular work with the midweek and p/w gangs, I also work with the S & T Department on various metalworking projects which include repairs to signal components as well as fabricating parts for signal motors and posts.

I continue to work also as a filming liaison Officer and maintain the filming website which showcases what Bluebell has to offer the film industry. I also work with the Bluebell shop providing images and artwork for postcards.

I would like to continue to represent our volunteers, Society Members and the Railway generally in what are challenging times for the industry, and I seek your support for re-election.



### **Gordon Parry**

My connection with the Bluebell Railway over the past six years has coincided with many significant challenges to its ongoing success. I am a Leading porter at Horsted Keynes, a Booking Clerk at Sheffield Park and Custodian of the Memorial Garden at Horsted Keynes.

My background is in senior leadership and management within education. I also work as an Anglican priest in Crawley. I would like to contribute both to the strategic thinking and decision-making so essential to the Railway as well as to the practical implementation of projects and initiatives that help to ensure its success. My skillset includes proven communication and people skills, financial monitoring, and development planning, as well as hard work. 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'. It is important that all groups within the Railway are comfortable with its direction of travel and effective communication of decisions is vital, despite its prioritisation through ongoing management efforts. I offer my services to a community I have grown to love.



### **James Reeves**

I have been a volunteer at the Bluebell for 12 years in the Locomotive Works at Sheffield Park, I also undertake the occasional third man turn on the footplate. In my professional life I work for London Underground as a maintenance Contracts Manager responsible for delivery of multiple contracts providing

spares, repairs and technical services. Previously I worked for Network Rail as an Assistant Commercial Manager delivering projects for the 2012 Olympics in particular extending Stratford station.

During my time at the Bluebell I have mostly been within the Locomotive Works helping on overhauls and general day to day maintenance. I am often found leading boiler washouts getting dirty and wet to keep the wheels turning, continuing a tradition of family working on Southern steam engines with some of the Bluebell's locomotive collection being worked on at Ashford works when my grandfather was a fitter there some 80 years ago. Building on experience in my professional life I have developed a great working relationship with the Works full time staff and other volunteers and I am keen to use this to help deliver the objectives of the BRPS & PLC Board for the development and progress of our wonderful railway.



**Robert Simpson**

I joined the Bluebell and started volunteering when I retired 11 years ago after a career with Lloyds Bank as an IT Project Manager and American Express as a Small Project Manager and IT Security Administrator. As I had no experience to transfer to the Locomotive or S & T departments, but I could wield a strimmer, use loppers, rakes and light fires, I started in April 2009 in the Wednesday Lineside Clearance team lead by Ian Aitkin, then John Corbridge and finally a Tuesday team led by Maurice Hare (to identify and clear for inspection all Bridges & Culverts), who also encouraged me to train as a Wickham Type 18 trolley driver. When the Bridges and Culverts gang had completed their work I moved to Matt Crawford's Infrastructure team and have been involved on Monday & Friday for 5 years. This is the orange suited (usually dirty) individuals who keep the track, embankments, tunnels fit for purpose in all weathers and sometime at night. Irrespective of the result of the election, I will continue to support Matt Crawford's team on Mondays and Fridays and days in between when required for large projects. (i.e. track relays, bridge and embankment reconstruction).

## **Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 at Horsted Keynes Station commencing at 2:15pm**

**Present:** Graham Flight and Charles Hudson MBE (Vice-Presidents), Paul Churchman (Chairman), Roy Watts (Acting Vice Chairman), Gavin Bennett (Secretary), Don Brewer (Membership Trustee), Laurie Anderson, Richard Clark, Mike Hopps, Roger Kelly, John Knight, and James Young (Trustees). 246 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 43 members

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting and he hoped everyone had enjoyed the new format of the meeting with a combined Members Day. This had been a huge success and he thanked all those who had put on interesting demonstrations and tours of the work that went on behind the scenes. He knew from comments he had received during the day that it had been appreciated by Members and how much they had learnt. He announced that he had 112 unfettered proxy votes had been received and a further 15 with diverse instructions. . 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 79 members who had died since the last AGM in May 2022. May they all rest in peace.

### **2. Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held were proposed for adoption and agreed. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Adoption of the Society accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Mr Watson spoke briefly about the accounts and proposed their adoption, Mr Bridle asked why there was no audit certificate and it was explained that the accounts had been agreed by the auditors, and said so in the text. The full certificate would be in the consolidated accounts which had not yet been completed as they were awaiting the Plc accounts. The Chairman explained that the Plc accounts had been delayed as it had taken some time to agree the numbers and he promised these would be circulated once they had been agreed, The Society accounts for 2022 were adopted.

#### **4. Authorise the Trustees to re-appoint Knill James as Auditors and to fix their remuneration**

The Chairman said the complex transactions between the three bodies needed auditors who had the depth of knowledge about the railway and understood the relationship. He proposed the re-appointment of Knill James as auditors and this was agreed by a large majority.

#### **5. Special Resolution No 1: Amend Articles 18 (Trustees) & 23 (Disqualification and removal of Trustees)**

The Chairman said that since the original notice of the AGM and the proposed amendment to Article 18 had been given in earlier in the year, there had been further developments and the Trustees now wished to remove all constraints on Trustees serving as Directors or Trust Governors should the need arise. As explained in the AGM Booklet, the Society found itself in a position where it needed to fill essential posts on the Plc Board but Article 18 prevented us from doing so. We had proposed a further amendment to that proposed for Article 18 proposed so give us the flexibility to fill posts should the need arise. There was some discussion on the background to the proposed changes but it was accepted the Society had to have the flexibility to respond to unexpected circumstances which threatened the operation of the Railway.

The proposed amendment to Article 18.6 in Resolution 1 was passed with a large majority and the subsequent amended Article 18 and consequent change to Article 23 was also passed with a large majority, well in excess of the 75% majority required.

#### **6. Special Resolution No 2: Amend Article 20 (Powers, Proceedings and Duties of Trustees)**

The Secretary explained this was a correcting amendment as we had previously resolved in 2022 to reinstate the Membership and Finance roles as Trustees and thus they were superfluous in Article 20.6 and this had not been spotted at the time. He proposed the amendment which was passed by a large majority in excess of the 75% required.

#### **7 Presentation of Awards**

The following Long Service Awards were made and certificates presented to those present:

**60 Years Service:** Terry Cole (Loco Dept Driver, former Society Chairman, and a Trust Governor)

**50 Years Service:** Gavin Bennett, David Middleton, Peter Santo Warner, and Tony Sullivan

**40 Years Service:** Ian Fribbens, Julian Kirby-Johnson, Steve Pilcher, and The Villa's Team (Martin Payne, Paul Russell, Trevor West and Andy Wilkens)

**25 Years Service:** Paul Auckland, Harry Brampton, Jon Goff, Martin Oakley, Tom Waghorn, and Ray Wils

**10 Years Service:** Stephen Bigg, Tony Bird, Steve Cubitt, Roger Davenport, Peter Edwards, Stephen Fairweather, Doug Fennell, Ian Hadlow, Lance Hodgson Jack Gregory, Michael Hopps, Roger James, Christopher Jenner, Matthew Lander, Roger Langley, Jack Lamb, Richard Lowe, Barry Luck, Richard Mason, David Mathews, David Morris, Christine Morris, Colin Morse, Frank Parker, Richard Pratt, Ron Reed, Charlie Scullin, Chris Stevens, Graham Todd, Peter Underwood, Mark Willson, and Richard Wright.

## **8 Chairman’s Report**

In his report, the Chairman explained why the Plc accounts were not finalised and warned that they would show a substantial loss for 2022. He outlined some of changes that had taken place on the Plc since the Society, as majority shareholder, had intervened in the last quarter of 2022. The state of the Board’s finances was such that costs had been severely cut and it was very unfortunate that we had to reduce the number of paid staff as part of the cost cutting activity. Steve Trigg had been appointed as Finance Director towards the end of 2022 and he had worked hard to identify the financial issues the railway faced. He made no apologies for the appearance of dinosaurs, farm animals and Bluey and Bingo on some weekends this year as these had produced significant spikes in revenue for very little cost and had helped to improve the fortunes of the Plc. Much more work was needed to control costs and expenditure, and to boost revenue before we were able to return the railway to profit. He asked for everyone’s support in the difficult times ahead.

## **9. Bluebell Trust Report**

In the absence of published Trust accounts, Mr Tyson outlined the projects the Trust had supported during the year, much of it thanks to the substantial legacies the Trust had received in recent years. These legacies had made a significant difference to the projects the Trust had been able to fund, particularly in loco and carriage and wagon. The Trust had also funded further track renewals, specifically at Vaux End where the P/Way had been able to gain a substantial volume of recovered and useable ballast.

## **10. Election Results**

The Chairman was delighted that Roy Watts was now officially Vice Chairman and he was grateful to Roy Watts for stepping up to the role in November last year. This was greeted with applause. The Trustee election results were as follows:

Roger Kelly	287 votes	Elected
James Young	265 votes	Elected
Keith Leppard	242 votes	Elected
Annette Courtenage-Dennis	225 votes	Elected

Howard Strongitharm	183 votes	Elected
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Gordon Parry	180 votes	
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The Chairman congratulated the successful candidates and welcomed Keith, Annette and Howard as new Trustees. Commiserations were offered to Gordon Parry who lost by a narrow margin.

Thanks were recorded to the membership Team and to Mike and Miranda Kavanagh for offering to help with the vote counting. This was much appreciated.

The meeting closed at 3:45pm

## BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England, N° 13745313.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 so an election is necessary:

Laurie Anderson

Michael Hopps

Gordon Parry

James Reeves

Robert Simpson

The ballot form is at the end of this booklet. Spare ballot forms will be available at the AGM for Joint Members.

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 – PLEASE READ!**

If, and only if, you are appointing the Chairman as your proxy, you may vote in the election using the election ballot on your Proxy voting form. This must be delivered to the Membership Secretary, Sheffield Park Station, Sheffield Park, UCKFIELD, East Sussex TN22 3QL no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Signed and scanned copies will be accepted by email to [membership@bluebell-railway.com](mailto:membership@bluebell-railway.com) by the same date and time to allow time for validation and recording. If your proxy is attending the meeting then you should complete both forms and your proxy should hand in this form when signing in.

**BLUEBELL RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

**Annual General Meeting on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**VOTING FORM**

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

**Election of Trustees**

In accordance with Article 19.6, you have up to **THREE** 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 THREE candidates.**

	<b>Preference Number</b>
<b>Laurie Anderson</b> Proposed by N Glaskin, seconded by S Marks	
<b>Michael Hopps</b> Proposed by B Heasley, seconded by B A Watkins	
<b>Gordon Parry</b> Proposed by A P Clements, seconded by A Silcock	
<b>James Reeves</b> Proposed by J Hutchins, seconded by T Gray	
<b>Robert Simpson</b> Proposed by J Goff, seconded by A Palmer	

**PROXY VOTES ONLY**

If you are exercising your right to vote in the election by proxy and have NOT appointed the Chairman as your proxy, this ballot form **MUST** accompany your proxy voting form.