THE SOMERSET & DORSET RAILWAY TRUST LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)

REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ending 31st December 2025



Charity number 1158865

Company number 8945535

Registered address:

2 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AA

Report of the Directors for the year ending 31 December 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Directors' report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity and its trading subsidiary for the year ending 31 December 2025 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The report of the directors has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Chairman's review

It was a big year for the Trust as our 7F locomotive became 100 years old. No. 53808 was built in 1925 at Darlington specifically for the S&D line and so we were able to celebrate this great anniversary in a number of ways. This milestone came in a year that also celebrated 200 years since the opening of the first standard gauge railway, the Stockton to Darlington Railway and we were invited to attend the Greatest Gathering event to mark this special year at the Derby Railway Works. It was very good to see so many people attend this event and we were not only able to sell a good deal of our merchandise over the three days but also welcome many current and new members too.

It would have been good to have had 53808 in steam in its 100th year but of course that was not possible. But the engine, or more precisely the tender, is now well underway in its major overhaul. We had always prepared ourselves for a major rebuild of this important item and a fund had accumulated to at least start the process. During 2025 the tender tank was separated from the frames and work begun on the stripping down of the latter. The engine itself was put into storage in one of the sidings until the time comes for the boiler to be lifted out to assess its condition.

I am happy to say that the Trust is in a good position when it comes to finances. I am so grateful for the support of our membership which is continuing to rise with 58 new members adding to our total during the year. This support is so crucial to all our activities. I am also extremely grateful to see the legacies we continue to see come into the Trust which will make such a difference to our future projects such as the locomotive overhaul and coach restoration schemes we have planned in the near future.

Our partnerships with friends and colleagues at the North Dorset Railway, Westonzoyland Pumping Station and Midsomer Norton railway are forging ahead with co-operation being the name of the game in the future. We would like to encourage our members to come along to any of these to assist in working on our rolling stock and artefacts based in these locations. I know the three sites would warmly welcome you.

We have now added another S&D coach to our growing list. We were put in touch with the owners of a yet-unknown full identity S&D carriage which was in the back garden of the custodians bungalow in Cannington. This project developed during the summer, and many complicated arrangements were made to lift and remove this coach body from the garden and transport to Shillingstone for eventual restoration. I would like to thank all involved in this huge undertaking which will effectively provide us with four coaches as time and monies permits.

As ever, I would mention that just a few trustees and officers of the Trust have handled all the business associated with a successful year for us. We have a new Sales Officer now with Andy West taking charge of this crucial area of income for us. He has quickly come to grips with it, and I am sure will prove a great success.

In closing, I give my sincere thanks my fellow trustees and officers and to all the members who keep on supporting us in this exciting trust with much to look forward to with the upcoming 7F steaming again in a few years and another one or two coaches in a running condition once more

Roger Hardingham (Chairman)

Purposes and activities

The charity's objects are specifically restricted to the following:

- to advance the education of the public about the history and social and economic impact of the Somerset & Dorset Railway, its antecedents, and its successors, on local communities, in the context of Britain's railway heritage.
- to establish and maintain a museum for the benefit of the public relating to the Somerset & Dorset Railway and railway heritage generally, and to preserve or restore historic railway items for public display and demonstration.
- to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of all individuals, including those who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship, or social circumstances, with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The Trustees have adopted a strategic vision:

- The Trust is looking to exhibit its collection, both of rolling stock and museum artefacts, at locations and in a manner to attract a larger footfall and/or relevance to the 'S&D Story.'
- The Trust needs to make sure that its future operations are financially sustainable. The Trust is looking for collaborative partnerships with other like-minded organisations.
- Its locomotives need to be operational in a manageable way so that they can continue to be used as flagships of the collection in realistic settings. The Trust recognises that its ability to undertake restoration and engineering work may be constrained for a period and will plan a restoration and maintenance programme for the next 10 years in line with this.
- The Trust is actively seeking to increase its educational role, making use of new locations and audiences to promote the S&D. It is also seeking to develop its research and archival function to provide an ever-improving resource to modellers and railway historians.

In shaping its objectives for the year and planning its activities the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. In planning the programme for 2025, the Trustees paid particular attention to activities involving public benefit and to bring the "S&D Story" to the attention of a wider audience. Details are incorporated into "Activities, Achievements and Performance" on page 4./

To do this the Trust worked to attract, encourage, and support members and volunteers; secure financial resilience for the Trust; and build positive relationships and partnerships with related organisations.

Members and volunteers

The Board continues working to strengthen the Trust's volunteer management. Continued attention has been given to the Trust's membership database as a resource to identify and nurture future volunteers, as the Trust operates over a wide geographical footprint. Over the course of 2025 a small number of new volunteers have offered their services. During 2026 the Trust is looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of roles. The Trustees are already conscious of the need to supplement its existing heritage and conservation history volunteer base, restoration work and sales and administrative support.

Activities, achievements, and performance

Locomotives:
53808 has been stored out of service at the Mid-Hants Railway since December 2023, pending overhaul. The MHR hire agreement expired at the end of the boiler certificate. MHR have been progressing work on the overhaul concentrating on the tender which has been stripped down to its frames and the badly corroded areas cut away.

In December 2024, the Trust signed an agreement with the West Somerset Railway releasing them from all obligations under the 53808 operating and maintenance agreements which had been in place in exchange for a payment of £210,000 to be paid in 60 monthly instalments. As at 31 December 2025 payments are up to date with 16 instalments received (see Notes 11 and 18).

Kilmersdon is in service under a hire agreement with MHR for the locomotive to be based at Ropley for the period of its boiler certificate. This provides for it to be used by MHR on a daily steaming fee basis, and to be available for hire by the Trust to other heritage railways. During 2025 the locomotive was steamed for 20 days, including 5 days external hire to the Spa Valley Railway for their Thomas & Friends event. During the year MHR have identified work to be done to the axle boxes, ash pan and other modifications to improve resilience. Discussions are ongoing regarding the scope of this work and future use of the locomotive.

Museum Collection and Collaboration Arrangements
Existing collaboration agreements with the North Dorset Railway at Shillingstone and the Somerset & Dorset Heritage Railway Trust at Midsomer Norton have continued during the year. The LMS CCT wagon is now open to the public at NDR as a S&DRT museum wagon. Most of the artefacts previously on display at Alresford are now at the Westonzoyland Pumping Museum in Somerset where many have been displayed in the new shed at WZL.

The Peat Railway exhibits at WZL have been incorporated into their WZL displays and have been operational at recent WZL open days.

Coach 4 remains at the One:One Collection at Margate on loan where it is under cover, safe and secure. There was one public display weekend at Margate in August.

Coaches 98/114 remain in storage at Shillingstone. Work is well advanced to obtain external quotations to complete the external restoration of these vehicles. In 2025 we took delivery of a further S&D coach which had been located in a back garden in Cannington, near Bridgwater, for many years. This involved the hire of a heavy-duty crane to lift it from its previous position onto a HIAB low loader for transport to Shillingstone in July. Trustees are grateful to their counterparts at NDR for agreeing to add this coach to the existing storage agreement. Although the coach was cut down to 3/5 length to fit its previous resting place, it is in remarkably good condition for its age. The coach is open to public viewing at Shillingstone and will house publicity for all the coaches until such time as a decision is made on its future. Regular meetings with NDR are held re storage, conservation, and restoration of all three coaches.

The BR Mark 1 Brake Goods vehicle belonging to the Trust became surplus to requirements at MHR, and was sold to SDRHT in 2025. The remaining seven vans and wagons remain on long term loan to MHR. The Burnham signal box is at Ropley. Six vans and wagons remain on long term loan to NDR.

The reserve collection is in storage in containers at Shillingstone and at two secure locations in Somerset. Temporary off-site storage has been rented during the year. It is still expected that further work to consolidate the contents of the existing containers will enable the off-site storage to be emptied during 2026.

Fund Raising
The Annual Raffle raised £8,445 (net) for the "53808 Overhaul" Appeal. The 200+ Club generated a surplus and donations of £1,563.

Sales Income
A retail sales trading subsidiary, The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trading Co Ltd, was set up during 2022. (see note 12 to the financial statements). It is fully owned and controlled by the Trust and its Trustees serve as directors of the trading company.

David Gower stood down as Sales Officer in November 2025, and the new Sales Officer is Andy West.

Whilst down on the previous year, total sales included a remarkable first-time contribution from the Trust's book "G A Richardson's Somerset & Dorset Lines" published at the end of September. This represents the first time that the Trust has published a A4 "coffee table" quality book containing over 100 pictures from its collection. It has received outstanding reviews in the heritage railway world, and Trustees are grateful to Rod Ormston and his team for the superb effort in bringing this idea to fruition. During the year, the range of S&DRT clothing was expanded to include an updated logo version, and also a 53808 design. Continued emphasis has also been placed on sales of second-hand books online which sell in encouraging quantities.

The opportunity was taken to exhibit at the Rail 200 Greatest Gathering at Derby in August which was highly appropriate in that 53808 was built at Darlington 100 years previously. Sales stalls were also taken to both MHR Galas and to RailWells.

Video & Photographic Collection
Progress in 2025 can be measured in increasing the profile and availability of the G A Richardson collection through publication of the new book. The number of images available for purchase via the website remains over 1,500.

Volunteer Management
Identification of volunteers to get involved with one or more aspects of the Trust has continued with appeals at the AGM and in the "Pines Express" for volunteers to step forward. This has had some response but not sufficient to cover all the identified roles.

Communications and Website
Communications to members have continued via the website, Facebook, and newsletters in addition to the quarterly "Pines Express" which continues to be successful and is highly respected in the heritage railway community. A continuing flow of interesting articles and member research has enabled the 44-page size to be maintained throughout the year.

Funding and Appeals
In February 2025, the 53808 Restoration Appeal was launched to 'top up' existing funding to ensure any hidden costs discovered during the overhaul are covered. The aim is to raise sufficient funds to complete the overhaul in a timely manner. By the end of the year cash donations were received totalling £11,241 a considerable proportion of which has been via monthly standing order and recurring donations. Over the course of the year 74 members have made contributions for which Trustees are very grateful.

A large legacy from the estate of former member, Geoffrey Dust, was received (£251,889). A further small payment is expected from the estate in due course. Similarly to other legacies received in recent years this cash has been designated for future use on appropriate project(s).

Member donations have continued to be generous. Trustees are immensely grateful to all members and well-wishers who have donated to the Trust and continue to do so.

Meetings
A physical Annual General Meeting was held on 27 April. This was attended by 34 members, with 40 members exercising proxy votes. The Trustees met by Zoom video conference on 5 occasions.

Membership
Membership of the Trust has increased, with 760 members at the end of the year. There were 58 new members in the year.

Resilience
Trustees have continued work on the structure and governance of the Trust. It has highlighted the need to ensure succession planning, and to encourage officers and Trustees with appropriate skills to step forward so that the Trust can prosper in the future, taking account of current and anticipated projects and the challenges of working on multiple sites with no designated central base.

Organisation structure
The Trust adopted an organisation structure which is reviewed regularly. It has evolved to encompass new and revised roles which are and will be required because of revised methods of operating. During 2025 David Gower stepped down as Sales Officer and replaced by Andy West.

No new Trustees were elected at the AGM, and the Trust needs to find members willing to stand for election to fill vacant posts.

There is an ongoing and pressing need to recruit volunteers to provide support in managing our extensive collection, and in the fund raising, sales and administrative areas. Trustees continue to welcome offers to volunteer from members and others to assist the Trust in whatever way they can.

Current board responsibilities are shown on page 8.

Financial review
There was a net inflow of £268,788 principally impacted by a £251,889 legacy received. Of the closing unrestricted funds balance, £77,382 is in the General fund with the remainder designated (see note 18 for details). Restricted funds increased from £226,512 to £234,114 due to 53808 Appeal and Raffle receipts.

Closing cash and deposit balances were still unusually high due to the exceptional income in 2024 and 2025 although it anticipated that this will reduce significantly over the next 2 years. It should be noted that £154,000 of the settlement agreement is still to be received in cash. It remains policy to invest funds at United Trust Bank and CCLA and to add a further provider specialising in charity finance suitable for the Trust's needs. At December 31 2025, £85,000 was held at CCLA in a no notice deposit, and £90,317 was held at United Trust Bank in a Charity Easy Access account.

In 2016, the Trustees determined that a minimum of 4 months of unrestricted general expenditure should be held in reserves. At the end of 2025, this threshold was comfortably exceeded. It is anticipated that the future position will exceed the 4-month threshold.

The Trustees have concluded from their review of financial activities and forward expenditure requirements that the charity is a going concern, and accounts have been prepared on this basis. Review of financial performance is an important agenda item at Trustees' meetings.

Plans for future periods

Plans for 2026 include:

Strategy
Trustees will discuss on the future strategy of the Trust and the issues facing the Trust. Trustees will discuss with members and more detailed plans will be worked on.

Locomotives
The overhaul of 53808 will continue at Ropley with specialist contracts for specific work let elsewhere. The tender wheels have departed to Devon for tyre turning. It is expected that the rate of activity and expenditure will increase during the year.

Discussions with MHR on the way forward for Kilmersdon are a priority, with the locomotive likely to be out of action for 3 months for a mid-term mini overhaul. Future appropriate use at the Mid-Hants Railway and realistic hiring out to external parties will be agreed.

Coaches
The awarding of a contact for external restoration of one of the three unrestored coaches, currently at Shillingstone, will be a priority. The NDR involvement will include refurbishment of the interiors. In order for this to happen Trustees will undertake a thorough review of funding and grant opportunities.

Coach 4 will be on display at the One:One Museum at Margate on open days.

Museum Collection and Collaboration Arrangements
Work will continue with our partners at the North Dorset Railway at Shillingstone and the Somerset & Dorset Heritage Railway Trust at Midsomer Norton and the Westonzoyland Pumping Museum to ensure that the Trust's collection is stored and on secure display at the various locations in an appropriate and safe environment. Meanwhile, work will continue on a comprehensive audit of all artefacts in the collection to ensure our records are full and complete and to optimise the storage of items not currently on display.

Fund Raising and Sales Income
The Annual Raffle will generate funds to go towards the Coach Restoration Fund. The 200+ Club will continue to generate funds for the Trust. Opportunities at MHR and elsewhere to have a sales stall and other fundraising will be taken up. A Model Railway Exhibition will be held later in the year. The Trading Company will continue to create Retail Sales opportunities online by careful introductions of further of its own publications and limited-edition model wagons.

Volunteer Management
There is a requirement for additional assistance in a number of areas. Trustees will pursue a programme of identifying and recruiting volunteers to supplement our current volunteers working in all areas of the Trust's work.

Work will continue to strengthen the resilience of the Trust and to ensure an appropriate range of skills and interests is represented in the management of the Trust. Trustees will take full account of current working arrangements and the challenges of working on multiple sites.

Communications and Website
Communications to members and the wider heritage railway movement remain vital, particularly in view of the 53808 Appeal and funding for coach restoration. Attention will be given to keeping members informed by email, video blogs, newsletters and in the "Pines Express."

Photographic Collection and Digitisation of records
The digitisation and availability of the Trust's photo library and other similar documents will continue to be worked on. Opportunities to add to the Trust's collection of unique images will be pursued carefully.

Funding and Appeals
Trustees will put to the forefront the requirement to raise funds for specific projects.

Administrative details

The Directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The Trustees and principal officers serving during the year and since the year end, together with the portfolios currently held are:

Directors and Trustees	R C Hardingham		Locomotives, Rolling Stock
	R Bentley		Heritage
	A N Davies		
	M S Marshman		Coaches
	R D W Ormston		Communications
	M Stanistreet		
Principal Officers	R D W Ormston		Magazine Editor
	T Deacon		Membership Secretary
	A West	(from November 2025)	Sales Officer
	D Gower	(to November 2025)	
	M J Rice		Treasurer
Advisers	Martin & Co	Bridport	
	HSBC Bank plc	Yeovil	
	Nantes	Weymouth	
Company number	8945535		
Charity number	1158865		
Registered Office	2 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AA		

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust Ltd is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 14 August 2014. It is registered with the Charity Commission. Existing members of the Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust transferred to the present Trust when the charities were listed on the Register of Mergers on 4 March 2015. New members apply for membership. In the event of the charity's dissolution, members resolve that any net assets will be passed directly for the objects, or any charity for purposes similar to the objects or to any charity for use for particular purposes that fall within the objects. Members are liable up to £10 per member for any debts remaining after dissolution.

Appointment of Trustees

As set out in the Articles of Association the Chairman of Trustees is appointed by the Trustees. Trustees are elected in rotation for three years by members either in person at the AGM or by proxy vote. The Trustees have the power to co-opt Trustees who stand until the following AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate Trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring Trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering appointing Trustees, the Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and informed of the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Board of Trustees

and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Board has authority to delegate certain operational matters to working groups and volunteer officers. The Board meets either face to face with a Zoom online attendance option, or online via Zoom. Other officers attend Board meetings as required.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Any connection between a Trustee or senior officer of the charity with a related party must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. Details of related party transactions are disclosed in note 19 to the accounts. In accordance with Trust policy Trustees withdraw from decisions where conflicts of interest arise.

Risk management

The Trust has identified a number of risks which Trustees address regularly and ensure that adequate monitoring and mitigation is in place to deal with them.

Short and medium term risk:

- volatility within our partner organisations not being able to withstand the current pressures of sustainability in a changing UK leisure market which could lead to serious difficulties in housing the museum and vehicle collection
- potential inability to recruit members to stand as a Trustee or volunteers with the appropriate skill sets to fill vacancies as they occur which could lead to an inability to function effectively as an independent organisation
- inability to keep members feeling involved with the Trust's activities as the membership is predominantly from older age groups.
- the overhaul of 53808 and the coach restoration programme are critically dependent on a number of factors including finance, project and cash flow management and engagement with one or more contractors
- the lack of a home base may impact many of the Trust's plans and may lead to a decline in the Trust's visibility and that of its projects
- the continued ability of the Trust to care for and keep track of all museum items especially those not currently on display whilst ensuring the Trust meets its charitable objectives

Impact of macro risks on the Trust:

- the future of the heritage railway and charity sector faces unprecedented challenges as a result of regulatory change and the eradication of fossil fuels. The potential inability of heritage railways to operate the Trust's steam locomotives might render overhaul plans to be financially uneconomic.

Other risks are addressed by maintaining risk assessments of Trust activities, contingency planning where appropriate, and emphasis of safe working practices.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity Trustees (who are also Directors of The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charity for the period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

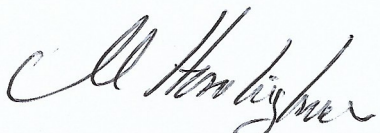
The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as disclosure to the independent examiner-

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving the Trustees' annual report:

- There is no relevant information, being information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing their report, of which the independent examiner is unaware, and.
- The Trustees, having made enquiries of fellow Directors and the independent examiner that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustees



R Hardingham (Chairman)

2 April 2026

Martin & Company
Chartered Tax Advisers & Accountants

2 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AA
Tel: 01308 422131
Email: info@martinandcompany.uk.com
Web: www.martinandcompany.uk.com

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust Ltd on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees. My examination work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an examiners' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Society Board Members and the examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2022 Act). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the Board Members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Board Members have not met the requirements to ensure that :

i) proper accounting records are kept
ii) accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with generally accepted accounting requirements; or

b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed ..... Date 2nd April 2026

Name Bruce Reginald Kenway Chartered Certified Accountant

Address 2, VICTORA GROVE, BRIDPORT, DORSET, DT6 3AA

THE SOMERSET & DORSET RAILWAY TRUST LTD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for year ending 31st December 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Subscriptions		**11,788**	**-**	**11,788**	14,060
Donations and grants	3	**260,951**	**13,353**	**274,304**	13,715
Charitable activities	4	**1,393**	**8,526**	**9,919**	10,404
Other activities	5	**15,529**	**-**	**15,529**	285,244
Investment income	6	**7,359**	**-**	**7,359**	8,384
Total incoming resources		**297,020**	**21,879**	**318,899**	331,807
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	**32,919**	**11,740**	**44,659**	32,808
Cost of generating funds	8	**-**	**1,107**	**1,107**	2,424
Governance and support costs	9	**2,915**	**1,430**	**4,345**	5,418
Total resources expended		**35,834**	**14,277**	**50,111**	40,650
Net incoming resources for the year before transfers		**261,186**	**7,602**	**268,788**	291,157
Transfers between funds		**-**	**-**	**0**	0
Net incoming resources for the year		**261,186**	**7,602**	**268,788**	291,157
Accumulated fund brought forward	19	**405,711**	**226,512**	**632,223**	341,066
* Accumulated fund carried forward	19	**666,897**	**234,114**	**901,011**	632,223

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE SOMERSET & DORSET RAILWAY TRUST LTD

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

as at 31st December 2025

	Notes	Group 2025 £	Group 2024 £	Parent Charity 2025 £	Parent Charity 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	11	**6,242**	9,448	**6,242**	9,448
Investments	12, 14	**1**	1	**101**	101
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock	15	**16,581**	18,292	**5,607**	5,607
Debtors and prepayments	16	**50,817**	54,723	**61,666**	67,288
Debtors and prepayments due after one yea	16	**112,000**	154,000	**112,000**	154,000
Bank deposits		**175,317**	170,411	**175,317**	170,411
Bank & cash in hand		**558,771**	239,270	**558,771**	239,270
		913,486	636,696	**913,361**	636,576
LESS					
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	17	**5,783**	3,657	**5,783**	3,657
Deferred income	18	**12,935**	10,265	**12,935**	10,265
		18,718	13,922	**18,718**	13,922
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**894,768**	622,774	**894,643**	622,654
NET ASSETS		**901,011**	632,223	**900,986**	632,203
REPRESENTED BY:					
Unrestricted funds	19	**666,897**	405,711	**666,873**	405,691
Restricted funds	19	**234,114**	226,512	**234,113**	226,512
* **ACCUMULATED FUNDS**		**901,011**	632,223	**900,986**	632,203

The notes at pages 14 to 20 form part of these accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime. For the year ending 31 December 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 2 April 2026.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors

R Hardingham, Chairman

2 April 2026

THE SOMERSET & DORSET RAILWAY TRUST LTD

NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

a. *General information and basis of preparation* The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust Ltd is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England within the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the company information on page 8 of these financial statements. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b. *Group accounts* These financial statements consolidate the results of the charitable company and its wholly owned subsidiary on a line-by-line basis. Transactions and balances between the charitable company and its subsidiary have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements. Balances between the two companies are disclosed in the notes of the charitable company's balance sheet. A separate statement of financial activities for the charitable company itself is not presented as the charitable company has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

c. *Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis* The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees have no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

d. *Income recognition policies* Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or fully within the control of the charity, there is sufficient certainty that the receipt of the income is considered probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Income received in advance, such as future year membership subscriptions, is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met. Since the amount and timing of receipt of legacy income are unpredictable, it is accounted for only when received.

e. *Donated services and facilities* The value of items received as donations to the charity would be difficult to quantify, and therefore not assessed. Consequently, they are not included in the accounts.

f. *Interest receivable* Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity.

g. *Fund accounting* Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular activities of the charity.

h. *Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT* Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

i. *Heritage assets* Accounting standard FRS30 applies to all heritage assets that are held principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture, having historical and other qualities. In 1988 the net book value of all items then classified as museum items, including steam locomotive 53808, was written off as an expense to comply with museum regulations prevailing at that time.

j. *Tangible fixed assets* Individual fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Asset Category	*Annual Rate*
Buildings & Storage	10%
Office & Other Equipment	10 – 20%

Steam locomotives owned by the charity are not capitalised and details by individual asset are found at Note 11.

k. *Stock* Stock of books, DVDs and other items for resale is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

l. *Debtors* Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

m. *Cash at bank and in hand* Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments.

n. *Creditors and provisions* Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably and are recognised at their settlement value after allowing for any discounts due.

2. Legal Status of the Charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is restricted to a maximum of £10 per Trustee.

3. Income from donations and grants

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted Funds	2025 Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
General donations	18	**4,762**	**-**	**4,762**	4,690
Grants and specific donations	18	**-**	**11,541**	**11,541**	0
Gift Aid	18	**4,300**	**1,812**	**6,112**	7,325
Legacies	18	**251,889**	**-**	**251,889**	1,700
		260,951	**13,353**	**274,304**	13,715

Details of the income into specific restricted funds can be found in Note 18.

The charity benefits from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in the annual report. In accordance with accounting standards, the economic contribution of volunteers is not measured in the accounts.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted Funds	2025 Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£
Raffle	19	**-**	**8,526**	**8,526**	6,704
Model railway display		**-**	**-**	**0**	2,275
Other events		**13**	**-**	**13**	25
S&D 200 Club		**1,380**	**-**	**1,380**	1,400
		1,393	**8,526**	**9,919**	10,404

5. Income from other activities

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Retail Sales		**25,708**	**-**	**25,708**	29,425
***Less*: Cost of Sales:**					
Stock 1 January		**12,685**	**-**	**12,685**	13,141
Add: Purchases		**9,880**	**-**	**9,880**	13,875
Less: Stock 31 December		**(10,974)**	**-**	**(10,974)**	(12,685)
		11,591	**-**	**11,591**	14,331
Gross Profit		**14,117**	**-**	**14,117**	15,094
Less: Post, packing and sundry costs		**5,426**	**-**	**5,426**	4,531
Retail sales contribution		**8,691**	**-**	**8,691**	10,563
Photo collection income		**335**	**-**	**335**	560
Loco hire and other income	11, 19	**6,503**	**-**	**6,503**	274,121
		15,529	**0**	**15,529**	285,244

6. Investment income

All investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Magazines		**11,369**	**-**	**11,369**	10,718
Insurance		**5,681**	**-**	**5,681**	6,114
Washford electricity		**-**	**-**	**-**	(709)
Washford rent, water, phone etc.		**-**	**-**	**-**	125
Washford exit and relocation costs	19	**-**	**-**	**-**	7,919
Locomotive overhaul	19	**2,463**	**11,740**	**14,203**	3,290
Carriage costs		**6,825**	**-**	**6,825**	-
Wagons maintenance		**-**	**-**	**-**	303
Website, publicity, other events	16	**1,367**	**-**	**1,367**	923
Museum displays and administration		**3,308**	**-**	**3,308**	2,119
Depreciation	11	**1,906**	**-**	**1,906**	2,006
		32,919	**11,740**	**44,659**	32,808

8. Cost of generating funds

		2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Cost of generating funds - Raffle	18	**-**	**1,107**	**1,107**	1,040
- Model Railway Display		**-**	**-**	**0**	1,384
		0	**1,107**	**1,107**	2,424

9. Governance and support costs

		2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
AGM and board meetings		**474**	**-**	**474**	795
HRA subs, travel, stationery, postage		**682**	**1,430**	**2,112**	640
Legal and Professional fees	19	**-**	**-**	**-**	2,498
Membership administration		**1,219**	**-**	**1,219**	990
Examiner's fee and expenses		**540**	**-**	**540**	495
		2,915	**1,430**	**4,345**	5,418

The charity has no paid employees (2024: None). The charity Trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from the charity (2024: None). No Trustees were reimbursed expenses in attending Trustees' meetings (2024: None) in accordance with procedures laid down by the Trustees. No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: None)

10. Heritage assets

In 1988 all items then classified as museum items were written off as an expense to comply with museum regulations prevailing at that time. This amounted to £2,940 historical cost, £2,581 net book value. Since then, the cost of additional museum items has been written off as an expense against income when incurred, totalling £21,800 to the end of 2025. No asset value is carried in the accounts for heritage assets held by the charity, whether obtained by purchase or donation.

The charity's collection of museum exhibits also includes donated items. The charity has a museum collection acquisitions and disposals policy, adopted by the Trustees and last updated in March 2022. Detailed records of the collection are kept.

11. Tangible fixed assets – company only

	Totals	Buildings & Storage	Rolling stock	Office & other equipment
Cost	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Brought forward	36,215	9,435	11,285	15,495
Disposals in the year	(2,000)	0	(2,000)	0
Carried forward	34,215	9,435	9,285	15,495
Depreciation				
Brought forward	26,767	2,606	9,985	14,176
Disposals in the year	(700)	0	(700)	0
Charge for the year	1,906	944	0	962
Carried forward	27,973	3,550	9,285	15,138
Net Book Value				
31st December 2024	9,448	6,829	1,300	1,319
31st December 2025	6,242	5,885	0	357

The charity owns two steam locomotives. Both locomotives are operational and do not qualify to be treated as heritage assets.

Locomotive 53808 had a book cost of £42,635 in 1988 when it was written out of the accounts, along with the heritage assets. It was subject to a long-term hire agreement with West Somerset Railway plc whereby the hirer was responsible for all maintenance and overhaul costs. In December 2024, the Trust signed an agreement with the West Somerset Railway releasing them from all obligations under these operating and maintenance agreements in exchange for a payment of £210,000 to be paid in 60 monthly instalments which was included in 2024 income (see note 5).

Locomotive 'Kilmersdon' was acquired in 2010 at nil cost after many years on loan. Since then, it has been overhauled twice in 2012 and 2022. These costs and minor costs since then have been treated as an expense. In 2025 income includes £4,803 in respect of hiring fees for Kilmersdon (see note 5) (2024: £8,996).

12. **Investments**

	Group		Parent Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
External Investment	**1**	1	**1**	1
Investment in group undertaking	-	-	**100**	100
	1	1	**101**	101

The charity holds 5,150 shares in West Somerset Railway plc which were donated in previous years. These shares are considered to have no marketable value.

The charity owns 100% of the issued share capital of The Somerset & Dorset Railway Trading Company Ltd. which operates the sales activities of the charity. A summary of the subsidiary's financial statements is set out below:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Retail Sales	**26,043**	29,985
Cost of sales	**(11,591)**	(14,331)
Gross profit	**14,452**	15,654
Administrative expenses	**(4,624)**	(3,704)
Profit for the financial year	**9,828**	11,950
Changes in equity:		
Total comprehensive income for the year	**9,828**	11,950
Gift aided donation to parent charity	**(9,825)**	(11,950)
Retained profit carried forward	**3**	0

13. Parent charity

The parent charity's results are:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross income	**318,898**	331,809
Net incoming resources for the year	**268,785**	40,650

14. Stock

	Group		Parent Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Retail Stock	**10,974**	12,685	-	-
Locomotive consumables stock	**5,607**	5,607	**5,607**	5,607
	16,581	18,292	**5,607**	5,607

15. Debtors

	Group		Parent Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Prepaid website costs	**120**	182	**120**	182
Prepaid insurance	**5,555**	5,476	**5,555**	5,476
Other prepaid expenses	**1,403**	1,794	**1,403**	1,794
Group balances	-	-	**10,849**	12,565
Accrued income	**43,739**	47,271	**43,739**	47,271
Debtors and prepayments due within 1 year	**50,817**	54,723	**61,666**	67,288
Accrued income due after 1 year	**112,000**	154,000	**112,000**	154,000
	162,817	208,723	**173,666**	221,288

Accrued income includes £154,000 in respect of West Somerset Railway locomotive contributions (see note 5), of which £42,000 in receivable within 12 months and £112,000 thereafter (2024: £42,000 and £154,000 respectively)

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Parent Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Creditors	**4,029**	290	**4,029**	290
Other taxes payable	**1,754**	3,367	**1,754**	3,367
	5,783	3,657	**5,783**	3,657

17. Deferred income – charity only

Deferred income comprises subscriptions received in advance for future years.

18. Analysis of group charitable funds

	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers in year	Closing Balance 31/12/2025
Restricted Funds	£	£	£	£	£
Coach Restoration	3,727	300	0	-	4,027
53808 Tender Tank Appeal	9,398	-	0	-	9,398
53808 Overhaul	213,387	21,579	(14,277)	-	220,689
Total Restricted Funds	226,512	21,879	(14,277)	-	234,114

a) Coach Restoration Fund: The net proceeds of the 2019 raffle were restricted for the purpose of restoring vintage coaches 98 and 114. The proceeds have been set aside to meet anticipated liabilities when this project gets underway.

b) 53808 Tender Tank Appeal: The net proceeds of the 2022 and 2023 raffles were restricted for the purpose of constructing a new tender tank for 53808. The proceeds have been set aside to meet anticipated liabilities when this project gets underway.

c) 53808 Overhaul Fund: The net proceeds of the 2024 and 2025 raffle, contributions received and accrued in lieu of overhauling the locomotive received from West Somerset Railway (see note 15), and donations to the 53808 Appeal fund are restricted for the purpose of overhauling locomotive 53808, which commenced in 2025. The proceeds have been set aside to meet anticipated liabilities as they arise.

	Opening Balance 01/01/2025	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers in year	Closing Balance 31/12/2025
Unrestricted Funds	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	74,644	36,110	(33,372)	-	77,382
Designated Funds:					
Coach Restoration (including coaches 98/114)	12,628	0	0	-	12,628
Legacies	148,690	251,889	0	-	400,579
Baker Memorial	404	0	0	-	404
53808 Overhaul	75,088	4,219	0	-	79,307
53808 Tender Tank	2,941	0	0	-	2,941
Kilmersdon Overhaul	17,974	4,802	(2,462)	-	20,314
Future Development	73,342	0	0	-	73,342
Total Unrestricted Funds	405,711	297,020	(35,834)	-	666,897

a) *Coach Restoration Designated Fund:* During 2014 the Trustees agreed to set aside £38,700 from Unrestricted General funds to cover full restoration of Coach 4, and restoration of the other vintage coaches. After the completion of Coach 4 in 2016 a balance of £12,628 is therefore available to contribute towards the restoration and/or conservation of the remaining unrestored vintage coaches.

b) *53808 Overhaul Fund:* On 15 January 2021, the Trustees agreed to designate hiring fees earned whilst 53808 was on hire at Mid-Hants Railway to create a fund to contribute towards funding for the overhaul currently underway. On 12 February 2026, the Trustees agreed to designate membership donations in 2025 to this fund.

c) *'Kilmersdon' Overhaul Fund:* On 19 January 2023, the Trustees agreed to designate steaming fees earned since overhaul towards funding the future overhaul costs. Fees designated in 2025 were £8,996 (2024: £4,803).

d) *Legacies*: This represents the Geoffrey Dust legacy received in 2025 and a number received in prior years. The analysis of legacy funds and similar income is:
   - Geoffrey Dust legacy £251,889 which is awaiting consideration by Trustees regarding appropriate use
   - Richard Maxwell legacy £112,388 which be applied to a project relating to Richard's known interests
   - Other smaller legacies £36,301 which will be applied to projects as and when required

e) *Baker memorial*: This represents donations received from the funeral of the Trust's late Chairman, Godfrey Baker in 2018 which is now shown as part of the Legacies and similar income fund.

f) *53808 Tender Tank:* On 19 January 2023, the Trustees agreed to designate the net proceeds of the 2022 and 2023 Special Trains to contribute towards constructing a new tender tank for 53808 when this project gets underway as part of the upcoming overhaul.

g) Future Development Fund: On 30 January 2025, the Trustees agreed to designate the exceptional proceeds from the sale of Washford assets into a new fund to be available for projects which will develop the Trust's activities in the future.

19. Related party transactions

Mr Roger Hardingham is the owner of South West Publications Ltd, supplier of Kingfisher railway books and DVDs. During 2025 the Trust and its subsidiary purchased goods to the value of £437 from and sold goods to the value of £756 to South West Publications Ltd (2024: £35 and £ Nil respectively). At 31 December 2025 £ Nil was owing to South West Publications Ltd (2024: £35), and £ Nil was owing to the Trust (2024: £ Nil).

Cover picture:

S&DR Coach at its previous resting place in a private back garden at Cannington before being donated to the Trust, uplifted by crane, and transported to Shillingstone for safe keeping in July 2025

Photo courtesy of Mel Marshman