UNITED COUNTIES PRESERVATION GROUP CIO - Registered charity No 1203262

Address: 186 Charlton Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2LG

ANNUAL RETURN & ACCOUNTS - Year End 31st March 2026.

The Organisation:

The charity was incorporated on the 25th May 2023 as a Community Interest Organisation.

Trustees: John Lawrence Hammond (Chair)
Martin Timothy Roberts
Nicholas Stephen Doolan
John Stewart Robertson

The Aims & Objectives The charity aims and objectives are to advance the education of the public in general by providing information in all aspects of the transport heritage, vehicles and artefacts relating to bus and coach operation by the former United Counties Bus Company and other bus or coach operators in the Great Ouse Valley area.

Income Statement for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Income	**£**	**Expenditure**	**£**
Donations	8,972.15	Parking	(-3,866.00)
Sales	876.96	Fuel	(-1,163.46)
Gift Aid	1,840.79	Vehicle Insurance	(-1,113.09)
Event Stall Fees	25	Maintenance	(-7,815.99)
Storage Location Deposits	2,160.00	Storage Location Deposit	(-2,040.00)
319 Appeal	389.7	Professional Fees	(-779)
Bank Interest	0.22	Sundries	(-529.64)
Total Income	**14,264.82**	**Total Expenditure**	**(-17,307.18)**

Deficit	(3042.36)

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	£
Fixed Assets - Historic Vehicles	95,717.00
Current Assets - Cash in the Bank	4,203.22
Non Current Liabilities - Loans falling due after more than 1 year	(95,717.00)
Net Assets	4,203.22
Reserves (Surplus) B/F	7,245.58
Reserves (Surplus) Y/E 31/03/2026	(3,042.36)
	4,203.22

Financial Summary

As part of our donations, a 1 off donation was made from the funds of the East Midlands Vehicle Preservation Group following the cessation of their activities during March 2026.

Storage deposits were received from all but one party, with that payment received after 1st April 2026.

Vehicle parking costs increased in 2025 following the return of VR 767 from Lathalmond, and following the transfer of VR 775 to the UCPG, liability for the parking charges on this vehicle were picked up by the group. Parking charges for 319 included rent due in the previous year which had not been invoiced during that financial year.

Maintenance costs increased as a result of another bus being returned to operational status, work required to secure an MOT on the vehicle.

Professional Fees are the solicitor costs involved in the storage site contract.

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Charity Activity

During the period, donations remained steady throughout the year. A donation was gifted by the East Midlands Vehicle Preservation Group following the cessation of this organisation in March 2026. The gift aid scheme payment continues to provide additional support.

Further income was received from eBay sales of transport erephemia, and donations received via QR code and at events via collection buckets. Programme sales at the Biggleswade Running Day also generated income, some of which was shared with a community run café in the town.

A separate appeal was launched to help the restoration of Bristol RE '319', coverage was reported in several publications.

The UCPG attended a number of events between during the period, displaying our collection of vehicles to the public in general in line with our charitable aims and objectives. Once again a bus running day event was held in Biggleswade during September 2025, and was supported by a number of visiting vehicles. Free bus services were operated which provided links to local attractions including The Shuttleworth Collection, Bedfordshire Steam Rally and Jordans Mill. It was well supported by members of the public who took trips out on the buses. The event was supported by Biggleswade Town Council and attended by over 400 members of the public. A special trip was laid on for Cllr Jonathan Woodhead, mayor of Biggleswade.

Increased spending was made on primary marketing materials including information posters, A-boards, leaflet holders and DL leaflets on the group's aims and objectives. This included branded polo shirts for the trustees and high-viz clothing.

During July 2025, work was completed on Bristol VR 767 (WRP767J) and it was prepared for MOT by Chepstow Classic Buses, which lead to increased spending on maintenance. This lead to an increase in storage costs as the vehicle returned to our storage site. In addition the transfer of Bristol VR 775 to the UCPG collection also resulted in increased storage costs.

In the early part of 2026, the East Midlands Vehicle Preservation Group informed us that the lease on the storage site was to expire and that they would not be taking it own. As a result, the UCPG committee agreed to take on the liability of the rental of the barn and to sublet storage spaces to other vehicle owners. This resulted in consultation with the solicitor to check over a new tenancy agreement with the landlord, and to draft a robust storage agreement for other vehicle owners. This increased our spend on professional services.

Deposit payments were received from all bar one bus owner prior to the end of the financial year in March 2026, the remainder received in the 2026-27 financial year. The UCPG became liable for rent from 1st April 2026.

The UCPG also joined the National Association of Road Transport Museums (NARTM) in 2025.