Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust

Charity No 1156812

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 December 2025

Registered Charity Number 1156812

Registered Office: c/o IWA, Hardy House, Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1EF

www.cuct.org.uk

To restore, preserve, maintain in good order and improve the existing Caldon Canal - and all former arms of the canal including the branch known as the Uttoxeter Canal - for the use and benefit of the public.

Contents

	Page
Legal and administrative information	3
Report of the Board of Trustees	4
Appointment of Trustees	4
Aims and Objectives	5
Independent Examiners Report	9

Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust - Legal and administrative information

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout the report and accounts are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Directly Elected Trustees

Alison Smedley MBE

Susan Dutton

Peter Matthews

Charity number 1156812

Registered office
C/O Unit 16B
First Floor, Chiltern Court
Asheridge Road Industrial Estate
Asheridge Road
Chesham
HP5 2PX

Independent Examiner

Mrs Laura Bird BSc MSc CIPFA (Affil)
Abbeyfields
Church Lane
Draycott in the Moors
Staffordshire
ST11 9AG

Bankers

Nat West Bank,
Market Street
Longton
Stoke on Trent
ST3 2HW

Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust - Report of the Trustees

for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Board of Trustees who are the charity trustees, are pleased to present their report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust in Brief

Aims & Powers

The objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) are to restore, preserve, maintain in good order and improve the existing Caldon Canal and all former arms of the Caldon Canal including the branch known as the Uttoxeter Canal for the use and benefit of the public.

The CIO has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the CIO has power to:

- borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. The CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011, if it wishes to mortgage land;
- buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the CIO. In exercising this power, the CIO must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119-123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager and arrange for the investment or other property of the CIO to be held in the name of a nominee, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees consists of elected trustees. Trustees met once every month, however this was altered to Bi-Montly during the year. 5 meetings were held during 2025.

The charity trustees manage the affairs of the CIO and for that purpose exercise all the powers of the CIO. There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

There is no maximum number of charity trustees that may be appointed to the CIO.

Appointment of Trustees

At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire;

The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in the office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot;

The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting.

The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed.

A person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purposes of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

The principal and other Officers of the Trust and members of the Committee shall retire each year at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election. Nominations for election as an Officer or a member of the Committee may be made to the Secretary during the four weeks preceding the Annual General Meeting. Election of Officers and Committee members, by ballot if necessary, shall be by a simple majority of members voting. Election of Officers shall precede the election of Committee members. Nominees not elected as Officers shall be eligible for election to the Committee.

The Principal Officers of the Trust shall be as follows:

a) Chair of the Committee;
b) Vice-Chair of the Committee;
c) Secretary to be responsible for the proper conduct of the business relating to the Trust and its activities; to arrange and prepare agenda for and maintain records of all meetings;
d) Treasurer to be responsible for the proper conduct of the finances of the Trust including the banking and investment of its income, the payment of its debts and the presentation annually of a Statement of Accounts. These duties may be performed by more than one person.

Other Officers of the Trust shall be appointed or elected annually according to the needs of the Trust and the range of its activities and may normally include Officers with duties:

a) Membership Secretary to collect subscriptions and issue reminders when necessary;
b) Work Party Organiser to arrange work parties to maintain the canal;
c) Publicity Officer to foster the public reputation of the Trust and liaise with patrons and sponsors.

Trustee Remuneration and Insurance

Insurance cover is provided through The Inland Waterways Association. No trustee received any remuneration in respect of services to the Trust, other than reimbursement of expenses incurred in providing such services.

Principal Appointed Officers:
Trust Chair: Julie Arnold
Vice Chair: Alison Smedley MBE
Trust Secretary: Peter Matthews
Trust Treasurer: Alison Smedley MBE
Work Party Organiser: Alison Smedley MBE
Membership Secretary: Peter Matthews

Structure Governance and Management
Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust Constitution

The Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution dated 10 February 2014.

The Trust has no contractual arrangements with any other party that materially affects the management of the Trust. It is the Trust's policy to work closely with all other associated interests, including navigation authorities, local and national government and its agencies, private and public landowners, commercial boating and other waterside businesses, voluntary organisations and others to promote the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration and appropriate development of the Caldon & Uttoxeter canals.

Our aims and objectives

In furtherance of its Aims and Objective (detailed above) it shall be the duty of the Committee to develop and implement the general policy of the Trust in accordance with its declared aims and, subject to any conditions imposed upon it by the Trust at a General meeting, to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the Trust.

The Committee shall comprise Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer plus other members and such other Officers as may be deemed appropriate at the Annual General Meeting; it shall meet at intervals of not more than two calendar months.

All members of the Committee shall have equal voice and vote in the proceedings of the Committee except that, if necessary, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. In addition to the elected and ex-officio members, the Committee may co-opt further temporary members in a consultative, non-voting capacity.
The Committee may delegate any of its powers to Sub-Committees.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to develop and implement the general policy of the Trust in accordance with its declared aims and, subject to any conditions imposed upon it by the Trust at a General meeting, to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the Trust.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:
- An annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the Trust faces;
- The establishment of policies, systems and procedures designed to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

A regular review is carried out by the Committee of any potential new forms of risk on a case by case basis and referral to Trustees as deemed appropriate.
Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from health and safety of the general public, volunteers and employees. These risks are managed by ensuring that the training and competence requirements are up to date and in place and site specific risk assessments are carried out for all projects.

GDPR

The Trust has a formal GDPR policy.

Public Benefit
All of the below delivers engagement, education and the benefit of keeping our waterways alive for all. Here's a taste of more work that goes on behind-the-scenes during the year:

Attending CRT User Group meetings to hear their updates and also to raise questions - such as how they are monitoring the increasing cracks in Cherry Eye bridge, and the bank collapse plus leakage at Cheddleton. Hazelhurst has worsened this year too. In April 2026 CUCT and IWA took the Director for CRT West Midlands for a walk along the canal, in spring when boats were still moving though our locks. We await specific engineering updates still - now more than ever we all need to lobby for even more responses, and a balanced approach to using the Caldon for both water supply AND BOATING!

The Trust has been liaising with other national and local groups regarding a proposal to restore the Dane Feeder to improve water supply into Rudyard Lake; this continued during 2025 when CRT also started other 'safety' projects on the Caldon's three reservoirs, Rudyard plus its feeder down to Leek in particular. CUCT, SoTBC and others attended a meeting early THIS year about the "Rudyard Lake water improvement project"; there's information about it on CRT's website. We need to pursue them for an update as they are meant to be engaging more with interested stakeholders, with works underway 2027.

We typically attend the annual IWA and CRT restoration Conference, at Ellesmere Port in 2025. This year we met the Severn Trent contact who is working on the GU Water Transfer scheme, and also has interests in our area too. Presentation wise we learnt of the CRT Restoration Delivery Plan Consultation, something that then took many hours of restoration volunteers' time to respond too and upset much of the sector because of its arms-length approach and how demands for payment to CRT were proposed. It has now been re-written umpteen times and a way forward resolved - after much further consultation.

Responding to Planning Applications is another activity that involves research and writing. Last year a site of concern was Land Off College Road in Stoke-on-Trent where the Erection of 8 no. Padel Courts with associated fencing, changing facilities, office, access and car parking was proposed. Not an unhealthy concept in itself, adjacent to the college on a derelict site before Engine lock, BUT the land is below the embankment that carries the canal and towpath, retained by a brick wall supported by abutments. **Thus we had to submit an objection** letter to the Senior Planning Officer at Stoke-on-Trent Council: there were Land Stability Risks Affecting the Adjacent Caldon Canal, and thus Flooding Risks; the Caldon Canal Conservation Area and Heritage were at risk, the positioning and design was insensitive, and the Enhancement of the Historic Environment policy –it did not and put it at risk! We also made comments about the Natural Environment proposals for Sustainable Transport: via the Caldon Canal National Cycle Route there was no connectivity indicated to where it could be joined at the nearby existing access! We are pleased to say a revised proposal has been recently submitted that moves the building away from the canal, and relocates the car parking to by the canal wall so it can still be inspected and maintained if needs be – and gives the developer and future Padel Tennis players the same facilities!

Work Parties

2025 was a quiet year for the Trust; a lack of local volunteers has curtailed our work parties on both the Caldon and Uttoxeter ever since momentum was stopped by Covid. We do have responsibility to Bridge 70, that we own and there are a number of other Uttoxeter Canal heritage features we have revealed that connect with local public footpaths. Hence we have focussed on hosting specific volunteer groups to help maintain these areas.

The Waterway Recovery Group ("WeRG") – the restoration arm of The Inland Waterways Association – has worked with us on numerous occasions (they find the local beverages very welcoming) In February WRG North West visited for the weekend to work on Bridge 70 vegetation before the bird nesting season; some trees were also felled at a new site near Lords Bridge where the landowner is keen to reveal the canal too. In June London WRG focussed on Bridge 70 too, seasonal Himalayan Balsam bashing, plus towpath edging repairs, where we restored it over 10 years ago using National Lottery Heritage funding.

In May Canal & River Trust plus JCB volunteers joined us a 1 day work party at Crumpwood Lock, where the canal enters into the River Churnet and crosses at the weir. In November a very small team of our own volunteers turned out for a Bridge 70 work party.

In the previous year we had also worked with CRT volunteers to devise and build a planter at Froghall, enabled by a kind donation in memory of Nigel Jackson. In May 2025 it was blooming. Friends and family gathered to unveil the beautiful plaque. Nigel's widow Jenny and daughter Phoebe with grandson Leo keep a regular eye on the plants, and our green-fingered Trustee Sue who devised the scheme does seasonal re-planting wor

Fundraising and Publicity Activities

Most of the Trusts income during 2025 was derived from membership subscriptions and sales as below.
In May we led the first of a series of heritage walk & talks around Denford and Hazelhurst for our friends the Trent & Mersey Canal Society as they visited the Caldon for their AGM. In November we promoted a similar stroll but the weather was dreadful and attendance limited. Another public walk & talk on 8th March this year saw glorious sunshine and was well attended. The car park at Deep Hayes Country Park is the start point for a fascinating figure of eight walk devised by Alison; it might just call in the Hollybush Inn for refreshments on the return leg!
We attended the annual Etruria Canals festival in June to engage with the public – and passing wildlife - through our stall and information panels. This was alongside our friends, the local branch of The Inland Waterways Association and the Burslem Port project; Stoke on Trent Boat Club friends have joined in too the last few years. A rota is devised so everybody can enjoy the event and nobody is left without an experienced volunteer – so it's a great day out plus 'induction' into all we do and get asked about!

Later in June we held a social evening followed by the our AGM at the Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek. With a view to increasing membership, the public were invited to a talk on the history of both our canals with over 50 attending. Most were local residents, some visitors to the area and, along with 13 Trust members, all enjoyed the evening. Sadly it did not produce any new members.

Two issues of the Trust's magazine, CHERRY EYE were published and circulated in 2025 – by post or email depending on member preference. Following the Foxlowe evening where all attendees could "opt in", in September we launched a new email newsletter. This was part of a new strategy to share news and engaging heritage stories more

regularly, and publicise activities such as walks, talks and work parties more widely. People also contact us via our website and we wanted to easily keep them as well as members engaged too. Now all can sign up to receive the email newsletter via the homepage of our website - or make sure your email address is on tonight's sign in sheet.

The email newsletter also marked another update to our comms campaign as volunteer and an architecture & design student transformed the CUCT kingfisher brand into a new bird roundel that reflects our design heritage. Along with a suite of colours and fonts this gave our IT 'guru' all the elements to refresh our on-line presence. In 2025 the website has migrated and newsletter templates been devised and completed.

Our Cherry Eye magazine was altered to Bi-Monthly during 2025 and in fact only 5 formal meetings were held as we also liaised at the events mentioned.

Financial Review

The Trust maintains two accounts. A general account and one savings account.

Investment Policy

The Trust has no investments.

Reserves Policy

The Trust's income varies from year to year due to a number of factors including opportunities to receive grant funding for projects, the level of donations from supporters, and the amount of funds raised from sales and other activities. Expenditure can also vary, particularly around which projects are being progressed in any particular year.

The Trust therefore needs to hold a minimum reserve that allows it to continue its day-to-day activities and committed annual expenditure.

Restricted funds represent monies set aside for particular projects or purposes and are administered in accordance with the instructions or intentions of the donors or the Trust's objective for which the funds were restricted. The Trust's unrestricted funds is therefore represented by the current balance less any restricted funds.

In 2018 the Trustees agreed a minimum amount to be kept in reserve in the bank account of £2000. This has remained unchanged.

Trustees will review this reserves policy annually.

Independent examiner's report
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Report to the trustees of Caldon & Uttoxeter Canals Trust CIO

I report on accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that neither an audit nor independent examination are required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act), but have opted for a voluntary independent examination.

It is my responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:
- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Laura Bird CIPFA(Affil)
Abbeyfields
Church Lane
Draycott-in-the-Moors
Staffordshire
ST11 9AG

CALDON & UTTOXETER CANALS TRUST

INCOME & EXPENDITURE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Total**	**Total**
Income				
Membership subscriptions	£614.10	-	£614.10	£779.00
Sales	£373.68	-	£373.68	£802.68
Gift Aid	£135.16	-	£135.16	£182.45
Donations	£332.55	-	£332.55	£101.14
Grants	£0.00	-	£0.00	£0.00
Talks	£0.00	-	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	-	£0.00	£0.00
Bank interest	£290.17	-	£290.17	£398.72
Total income	**£1,745.66**	-	**£1,745.66**	**£2,263.99**
Expenditure				
Insurance	£2,113.12	-	£2,113.12	£1,030.40
Print and Post	£440.60	-	£440.60	£406.13
Stock	£0.00	-	£0.00	£0.00
Meeting expenses	£542.27	-	£542.27	£390.00
Subscriptions	£219.40	-	£219.40	£154.60
Work parties	£410.18	-	£410.18	£60.00
Projects	£14.37	-	£14.37	£144.57
Miscellaneous	£0.00	-	£0.00	£0.00
Independent Examiner fee	£100.00	-	£100.00	£100.00
Total expenditure	**£3,839.94**	-	**£3,839.94**	**£2,285.70**

Surplus/(deficit)	-£2,094.28	-£2,094.28	-£21.71

CALDON & UTTOXETER CANALS TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Presentation Piece	225.00	225.00
Current Account	2,421.43	4,791.51
Savings Account	26,261.10	25,993.49
Stock	1,751.02	1,937.86
	30,658.55	**32,947.86**
Represented by		
Capital b/fwd	32,752,83	32,969.57
Surplus/(deficit) for year to 31/12/25	(2,094.28)	(21.71)
	30,658.55	**32,947.86**

Asset Bridge 70

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council transferred title of Bridge 70 to CUCT on 16th January 2016 for the sum of £2.00. The bridge has not been included as an asset in the balance sheet due to its low purchase price and the difficulty in valuing the bridge other than for build costs.

The significance of Bridge 70 as a Heritage asset is that it is the original bridge from the date of the canal construction and forms a footpath link across the valley. Without the bridge it would not be possible to cross the remnants of the canal to gain the statutory access to either side. The footpath is well used and a bridge other than the original would not be in keeping with the landscape.

Bridge 70 has not been revalued since it is an isolated construction and its value lies only in its heritage. The land which it traverses is effectively a canal and therefore of no commercial use and the bridge itself serves as a footpath thereby negating any other form of use.

Bridge 70 is to be maintained under the conditions of the CPO in force, for this reason CUCT insure the bridge for a rebuild value of £420,000 this will be reviewed every 5 years.

£5000 is ring fenced for the Froghall Tunnel Survey

Signed for the Trustees

……. Position Secretary

Name (Printed) Peter Matthews Date