# Way of the Wharves CIO (Charity No 1188912) Report 2025

**Aims and Purposes**

*The aims and purpose of Way of the Wharves CIO is to advance the education of the public in the maritime and industrial heritage of Bideford, East the Water and the Torridge Estuary.*

**Objectives and Activities**

WOTW started out researching and promoting the maritime and industrial heritage of the Torridge Estuary and especially the wharves and immediate surrounding area of East the Water. The main focus of charity activity in 2025 has been:

1/ Activities promoting and branding Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour (BARTHH). Heritage Harbour status was achieved in January 2024 under the scheme run by the Maritime Heritage Trust. Heritage Harbour status is national recognition of the importance of maritime heritage locally (https://maritimeheritage.org.uk/heritage-harbours). Way of the Wharves is the lead charity on the BARTHH project

2/ Leading the River Torridge Heritage Group (RTHG) a group of heritage organisations from along the river Torridge

**Achievements and Performance**

Way of the Wharves CIO (WOTW) was registered as a charity on 6 April 2020 with first trustees: Michael Teare, Louise Boulter, Anthony Burt, Angus Harper, Simon Whittam.

**Walks, Talks and Community Events**

In 2025 main activities and achievements have been:

- Rebranding website and materials as Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour. Bideford based Way of the Wharves charity leads on the BARTHH project.
- Commentary up and down estuary during heritage paddle steamer *Waverley* visit to Bideford
- Heritage Harbour panel on Harbour Office, Bideford in cooperation with Bideford Town Council
- WWII Torridge Trail launched as part of national HH WWII project, contributing to 'Transformed by War' exhibition displayed nationally during Heritage Open Days – WWII Torridge Trail at: https://barthh.org/ww-ii-trail-torridge-estuary/
- Coordination of 17 Heritage Open Day (HOD) events in and around Bideford including: 2 exhibitions with associated talks, 3 guided walks, 11 open day events and 1 memorial officially unveiled. Together these had over 380 visits - full report at: https://barthh.org/heritage-open-days-2025/
- Coordinating River Torridge Heritage Group meetings which bring together heritage organisations along the river and represent 2000 members/supporters
- River Torridge Heritage Group column published in North Devon Journal - https://barthh.org/north-devon-journal/

Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour Visitor Engagement 2025

| Events | Number | Visitor Engagement (Numbers) |
|---|---|---|
| Walks and Talks | 6 | 157 |
| Events | 3 | 235 |
| Heritage Open Days | 17 | 380 |
| TOTALS | 26 | 772 |

**River Torridge Heritage Group and Heritage Harbour status**

In 2025 the River Torridge Heritage Group (RTHG), a partnership of local heritage charities from along the river Torridge, has continued. The RTHG formed in September 2023 and between them these heritage organisations represent about 2000 members/supporters and 200 active volunteers (stewards, engineers, restorers, painters etc). RTHG holds regular meetings: sharing information, supporting local events and promoting importance of heritage to local government. With local government reorganisation plans in Devon there is uncertainty about future ownership and management of community and heritage assets including Port of Bideford.

**Phone Box**

Following planning permission to move phone box in 2023 there has been no funding or further activity undertaken with the phone box project. See www.phoneeastthewater.co.uk

**Book 'A History of East the Water, Bideford'**

Sales in 2025 were 42, value £337. The most important sales channels continue to be through local bookshops and promotion at talks.

**Financial Review 2025**

**Way of the Wharves CIO Statement of Financial Activities**

Financial year 1 January - 31 December
Way of the Wharves CIO registered as a charity April 2020

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | |
| Grants | £ 1,000.00 | £ 5,400.00 |
| Trading | £ 337.69 | £ 672.35 |
| Donations | £ 250.40 | £ 395.00 |
| Interest | £ 3.00 | £ 1.80 |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **£ 1,591.09** | **£ 6,469.15** |
| | | |
| **Expenditure** | | |
| Suppliers | £ 825.66 | £ 1,664.14 |
| Travel / Delivery costs | £ - | £ - |
| Office costs | £ - | £ - |
| Advertising | £ - | £ - |
| Website development | £ 326.51 | £ 180.00 |
| Insurance | £ - | £ - |
| Other | £ 18.91 | £ 4,085.40 |
| **TOTAL EXPENDITURE** | **£ 1,171.08** | **£ 5,929.54** |
| | | |
| **Closing balance at Bank** | **£ 4,176.91** | **£ 3,744.14** |

**Notes to accounts**

2025 income was made up of grant supplemented by book sales and donations.
The main items of expenditure were graphics and printing costs for production of the

'Transformed by War' exhibition panels, WWII Torridge Trail leaflet and Heritage Open Day promotion. Grant income was £1000
There was no administration of funds for the Bideford Fair Bideford Regeneration Arts Culture Heritage event in 2025 that distorted income and expenditure in 2024.

**Grants received in 2025**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bideford Bridge Trust | £ 1,000 |

**Assets**

August 2021 Way of the Wharves adopted the phone box in Torrington Street

**Stock and Equipment**

| | |
|---|---|
| Stock 400 books at £3.70 | £ 1,480 |
| Gazebo and benches | £ 300 |

**Reserves Policy**

At year end 2025 WOTW had a balance of £4,176 in the bank. To achieve objectives in 2026 WOTW will continue to apply for relevant grants and to fund raise.

**Volunteers**

In addition to Trustees others have supported our activities, followed website and engaged with Facebook page. Currently the charity runs with five trustees and has supporters/followers list of 350+ signed up to the newsletter (mailchimp).

**Structure Governance and Management**

The running of WOTW is laid out in its governing document.
The trustees are:
Michael Teare Chair
Louise Boulter
Anthony Burt
Simon Whittam
Annemarie Munro resigned 20 May 2025
Teresa Tinsley
Tom Maund appointed 26/05/2026

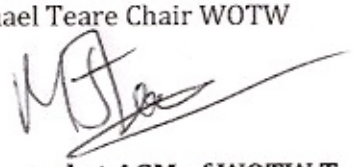
At the 2024 AGM, held on 20 May 2025, one of the agreed actions was to change the charity name to Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour to better reflect the organisations aims and objectives, now that Heritage Harbour status has been realised. Although work has been done to change branding the charity name change was not completed in 2025. The aims and objects of the charity will not change.

**Administrative Information**

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**Report prepared by M Teare.**

Michael Teare Chair WOTW



**Approved at AGM of WOTW Trustees 20/10/2026:**