



The Baldwin Trust

Narrowboats for community use on Leicestershire waterways

Registered Charity No. 515488



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1/1/2024 TO 31/12/2024

Having been formed in 1983, in our 2024 season, The Baldwin Trust continued its important service on the waterways of Leicestershire.

Administration details of the Trust

Charity name: The Baldwin Trust

Other names: Baldwin Boat Trust, Baldwin Charitable Trust

Registered number: 515488

Principal address for communication C/O-28 Holbourne Close, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough LE12 8NE.

Management Committee Officers: -

Acting Chair: Mr Richard Jayes. Barrow upon Soar, Leics. Appointed by principal Trustees.

Secretary: Mrs Hannah Coombe. Syston Leics. Appointed by principal Trustees.

Treasurer: Mr Martin Charles. South Croxton, Leics. Appointed by principal Trustees.

Principal Trustees

Mr Dave Kemble, Leics. Appointed by existing Trustees.

Mr Martin Charles, South Croxton, Leics. Appointed by existing Trustees.

Mr Richard Jayes, Barrow Upon Soar, Leics. Appointed by existing Trustees.

Mrs Ellen Reeve, Loughborough, Leics. Appointed by existing Trustees.

Mr Simon Blackburn, Birstall, Leics. Appointed by existing Trustees.

Mr Chris Trivett, Groby Leics. Appointed by existing Trustees (Dec 2024)

(Mrs Ellen Reeve retired from her role as a Trustee - October 2024)

Organisational detail.

Governing document: Deed of Settlement dated 31/1/1983 amended 8/1/1984.

Constituted as: A Charitable Trust.

Trustee selection: Appointment by existing Trustees, nomination by management officers.

Governing Document amended in December 2024 to update Charitable Objectives, removing reference to Leicester Glenfrith Hospital, which no longer exists.

Other matters.

The Trust is required to maintain a minimum of three Trustees, and a management team with specific responsibilities and skills including training, crew allocations, boat maintenance, booking and scheduling, IT and web site upkeep.

The Trust is a member of the NCBA (National Community Boat Association). All volunteers, as applicable, undergo induction and crew training.

All skippers are required to hold a current certificate in Community boat management which must be renewed every 5 years. They must also hold current Emergency First Aid certificates.

The crew (including the skippers) operating the boats are all unpaid volunteers.

Objectives and activities.

When planning activities for the year, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the provision of facilities for recreation in the interests of social welfare.

The Baldwin Trust Charitable Objectives are defined as:

- (i) the relief and benefit of principally but not exclusively the people of Charnwood, Leicestershire and surrounding areas.

May 2025

- (ii) the provisions of facilities for recreation for the persons mentioned above in sub-clause (i) with the object of improving the conditions in life of such persons who by reason of social circumstances or their mental or physical disability have need for such facilities.
- (iii) such Charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain our two narrowboats, Dandelion and Hasleyon Days.

Both boats are specifically designed to accommodate up to 12 passengers and cater for those using a wheelchair and having other mobility challenges. Modifications and additions have been made to the boats to enhance and assist our client's experience. Audio visual screens have been fitted which incorporate British Sign Language and feature safety instructions in both English and Hindi languages.

Both boats also have features to assist those with other challenges.

One boat operates from Leicester Marina in Thurmaston, the other from Barrow Boating, Barrow upon Soar.

During 2024 the Trust achieved a total of 146 trips on the boats. This is a reduction of 14% fewer trips than the previous year. (2023 being 169 trips)

The utilisation of each boat differs, with the boat based nearer to the City of Leicester fulfilling 100 trips, whereas the boat based nearer to Loughborough fulfilling 46 trips.

This reduction in the number of trips primarily relates to a significant number of trips having to be cancelled due to weather-related reasons.

The River Soar / Grand Union canal, where we operate our boats, suffered severe flooding during 2024 making it impossible for us to operate our boats safely.

Because of these cancellations, we felt it was correct to offer vouchers for the trips to be carried forward in our 2025 session. Some trips were refunded and others re-booked for later in the 2024 season.

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There have been a variety of beneficiaries who have been on our trips. Good, planned maintenance has ensured that minimal breakdowns and mechanical failures occurred.

We carried approximately 2000 clients on our boats during the 2024 season and testimonials and user comments show the benefit we provide to the local communities.

Achievements and performance.

Certain users of our service (especially care and residential homes) have been somewhat slower in arranging trips with the Trust, but other organisations have shown a greater increase in interest and have made bookings with us.

There has been an increase in groups engaged with various physical and mental challenges. These include wellbeing groups, Dementia Awareness groups, Bereavement Groups, SEND groups and many more.

We have encouraged our volunteers to establish contacts in their local communities who would benefit from participating in one of our trips, and this has started to work well.

The Trust have incorporated an online trip booking system which is allied to an online ticketing payment system. This has been incorporated with a brand new website for the Trust.

This means that our users can not only book and pay online, but they can also check boat availability and choose the desired routes and trip timings. The new system also provides other important information about the trips and incorporates policies and directives.

The Trust have been very successful in maintaining volunteer numbers at circa approaching 100 and their continued loyalty has been maintained through constant contact.

Qualified skippers are essential for the smooth running of our organisation. During the 2024 season this number was 15 and we envisage this number increasing in our 2025 season.

The Trust has further strengthened its working relationships with Voluntary Community Services, Charnwood Borough Council and Voluntary Action Leicester in a bid to improve the professionalism of Trustee performance, source new members and train Funding group members in writing bid applications for funds. A major partnership with the Canal and River Trust has been developed whereby the Baldwin Trust boats have been used by the Canal and River Trust to market the wellbeing benefits of increased use of the waterways system by local and city populations. This will hopefully continue throughout 2025 and beyond.

Our "Supported Cruises" initiative, has been successful. (This being the rebranded name for what was initially called our "Project Waterside Scheme")

This scheme offers those less fortunate members of our communities subsidised and sometimes free trips on our boats. The Trustees agree on beneficiaries of the Supported Cruise, based on the need and financial position of the group proposed, keeping the Charitable Objectives in mind.

This has proved to be very important, as society has had to combat the economic and mental anguish of conflict and turbulent political and economic challenges.

This has been further overshadowed by problems in the NHS and general industrial unrest and conflicts around the world. This has caused a greater number in society to suffer mental health issues, increased poverty and feelings of isolation and loneliness. These are some of the people that our Trust reaches out to. Our volunteers have worked hard to provide trips and the environment to assist in benefiting these challenges. The help and support of all volunteers is particularly appreciated.

Structure, governance and management.

During the period, volunteer members are encouraged and recruited to functional sections for training, boat maintenance, new boat development and funding as well as other areas.

May 2025

We have also formed new teams for dealing with boat festivals and Community events, media/press and PR to promote the work of the Trust. This has all been done utilising the talents of the wonderful group of volunteers supporting our Trust with some external help also.

Without the commitment of the volunteers, none of this would have been possible. The Trust has continued to recruit and train new volunteers to maintain our core of fit and capable crew and skippers.

The paid services of a self-employed Volunteer Coordinator continued in 2024. This relates to engagement with all volunteers, improving systems for managing crew allocation of the boats, and the trip booking and payment system.

The paid services of a self-employed secretary also continued in 2024.

The charges made for these two services are viewed by the Trustees as being of great value to the charity.

Grants and Fundraising

The Trust continued to approach funders, organisations and the general public for donations. Our fundraising in 2024 has helped us to maintain and improve our boats and our service for the benefit of both our users and also our volunteers.

However, during 2024, it has become increasingly difficult to obtain grants and donations due to the economic downturn experienced by many.

We are very grateful for the funding that we have received during 2024, which has helped us to maintain our important service to the community.

Financial Review.

In 2024, expenditure exceeded income by £10,062. Expenditure was £47,616 and income was £37,554.

The above figures are taken from the 2024 accounts approved by our independent financial examiner/accountant.

Our Reserves policy was confirmed to remain at £40,000.

R.G Jayes

Acting Chair of Trustees

May 2025



Signed

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THE BALDWIN TRUST – charity no. 515488

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
RECEIPTS				
Grants and donations including Gift Aid	8,449	1,507	9,956	30,285
Fundraising – bears and collection boxes	1,943		1,943	753
Interest on deposits	2,699		2,699	1,415
Income from cruises				
Dandelion	6,125		6,125	7,219
Halseyon Days	16,831		16,831	14,660
Project Waterside supported trips	3,954	(3,954)	-	-
Total receipts	40,001	1,507	37,554	54,332
PAYMENTS				
Costs associated with fundraising advertising, marketing consultancy, social media and funding applications	9,558	6,260	15,818	12,298
Digital ticketing system	2,340		2,340	
Governance (independent examination)	660		660	600
Meetings and venue hire	695		695	205
Insurance (employers liability)				616
Insurance (trustees liability)	199		199	433
Insurance (public liability)	90		90	153
Training courses and certificates	291		291	440
Administration, postage, stationery	908		908	790
Office equipment	610		610	-
Volunteer co-ordinator	8,824		8,824	8,870
Software	492		492	997
Telephones	348		348	350
Uniforms	370	312	682	354
Social events	-		-	2,129
Travel allowances	1,496		1,496	2,122
Crew allowances	520		520	348
Boat maintenance & refurbishment				
Dandelion	2,037		2,037	2,962
Halseyon Days	1,931		1,931	2,835
Boat mooring, waterways licences and insurance				
Dandelion	5,319		5,319	4,910
Halseyon Days	4,056		4,056	3,040
Transport costs (Project Waterside)		300	300	665
Total payments	40,744	6,872	47,616	45,117
Net receipts/(payments) for the year	(743)	(9,319)	(10,062)	9,215
Reconciliation				
Cash funds last year end	127,489	10,826	138,315	129,100
Cash funds this year end	126,746	1,507	128,253	138,315

The assets and liabilities statement on page 2 forms part of the reporting package.

THE BALDWIN TRUST – charity no. 515488

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
CASH FUNDS		
Lloyds – current account	44,473	50,907
Lloyds – deposit account	20,430	-
Nationwide – business instant saver	63,350	87,408
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Combined unrestricted and restricted funds	128,253	138,315
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ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE		
Dandelion - at trustees valuation	56,500	56,500
Halseyon Days - at trustees valuation	135,000	135,000
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	191,500	191,500
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Signed on behalf of the trustees

Richard Jayes

14th May 2025



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BALDWIN TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Baldwin Trust (the Trust) for the ended 31st December 2024 set out on pages 1 and 2.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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 proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Meirion Thomas, FCA ICAEW
19 & 20 Baxter Gate
Loughborough
Leics LE11 1TG

14th May 2025