

The Whitchurch Waterway Trust

Annual Report for 2024



c/o White Cottage, Mile bank, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 4JY

The Whitchurch Waterway Trust was formed as a company limited by guarantee in 1988. It converted to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2021. A copy of the constitution is available on request. The Objects of the Charity are to promote the restoration, preservation and use of the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal for the benefit of the public

Management Committee

David Torrens	Treasurer
Doug Sealy	Festival Organiser
Mark Lacey	Chair
Kath Oldham	Membership Secretary
Bernise Tasker	Trustee
Anthony Gilmore	Trustee
Alison Arkell	Trustee
Martyn Arkell	Trustee
Giles Sullivan	Whitchurch Town Council Rep
Hilary Seward	Trustee

Last Elected

AGM 2023
AGM 2024
AGM 2024
AGM 2024
Co-opted 2025
Resigned 2024
Resigned 2025
Resigned 2025
Resigned 2025
Resigned 2025

Trustee numbers have fallen due to a combination of factors including ill-health, emigration and non-attendance. New applicants are always welcome and should apply by emailing chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk

Volunteers

Lindsay Green	Moorings Secretary
David Thornton	Volunteer Leader & Arm Maintenance
Joe Sheldon	Website Changes
David Stanier	Arm Maintenance
Bob Sumner	Arm Maintenance
Charlie Evans	Arm Maintenance
Dave Leggatt	Arm Maintenance
Doug Sealy	Arm Maintenance
Mark Lacey	Arm Maintenance

We now have more regular volunteers who help to maintain the Arm. Many other volunteers also help with the Whitchurch Canal Festival.

Financial

For the year 2024, WWT is reporting a surplus of £17,545 on income of £21,768 leaving us with reserves of £69,489. Within this reserves figure, we have designated funds of £40,000 for future maintenance costs, £5,000 for the Whitchurch Country Park project and £1,000 for new signage.

Income	2024	2023	Expenditure	2024	2023
Mooring Fees	10083	4324	Maintenance	1080	854
Festival	4679	3463	Festival	2142	1565
Advertising	2000	2070	Insurance	592	564
Membership	848	1069	Publicity	415	415
Grants	2745	1100	Accountancy Fees	200	-
Donations	455	895	Other	209	99
Investments	958	667	Total	4223	3498
Total	21768	13588	Surplus	17545	10090

New Connection Agreement

The new connection agreement with CRT came into force in 2024 with the first payment of 9% of moorings income plus VAT falling due in January 2025.

Whitchurch Country Park

The Community Asset Transfer of the Country Park to Whitchurch Waterway Trust was finally approved by Shropshire Council in December 2024. Their legal department has drawn up a 25-year lease agreement and we have provided our comments. WWT will draw up a management agreement with Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) for them to manage Greenfields Local Nature Reserve, which forms part of the park. This will be based on the previous agreement between the Council and SWT.

Canal Festival 2024 – 31st August and 1st September

The canal festival attracted 3500 people over the weekend to see trading boats, a wide variety of stalls and entertainment. Prizes for the best boat and best stall went to Kevin and Sheila Maybey with Gordanneus Woodcrafts and Maureen Richards with her Bags from Rags stall. The judges were Cllrs Andy Hall and Rose Hall, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Whitchurch Town Council and Cllr Peggy Mullock representing Shropshire Council. Local MP Helen Morgan also visited the event which has become a fixture in the Whitchurch social calendar.

IWA Consultant Engineer Visit

We were pleased to welcome Howard Worth, Honorary Engineer for the Inland Waterways Association for an inspection of the Whitchurch Arm in November 2024. He has been involved with canal restoration since the 1970s and this was his final visit before retiring. He provided practical advice on maintenance and silt removal and advised against extending the Whitchurch Arm, given the technical and funding issues and the limited benefits of an extension for the network as a whole.

Future Plans

Priorities for 2025 – to complete Community Asset Transfer of the Whitchurch Country Park; to install new and replacement signage; to improve access for boat owners and drainage of the southern bank.

Longer term priorities – to develop cost effective methods of silt removal and piling replacement and to review the objects of the organisation in the light of advice from the IWA Engineer.

And Finally.....thanks to everyone at Chemistry Farm for providing our workshop and storage, and for hosting the annual festival. We literally couldn't do it without you!