The Whitchurch Waterway Trust

Annual Report for 2025

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		**Last Elected**
David Torrens	Treasurer	AGM 2023
Doug Sealy	Vice Chair & Festival Organiser	AGM 2024
Mark Lacey	Chair	AGM 2024
Kath Oldham	Trustee & Membership Secretary	AGM 2024
Bernise Tasker	Trustee	AGM 2025
Alistair Edwards	Trustee	AGM 2025
Natalie Ravenscroft	Trustee & Social Media Lead	Co-opted 2026

Year Round Volunteers

Lindsay Green - Moorings	David Thornton – Volunteer Leader (resigned 2026)
Joe Sheldon – Website	Christian Ravenscroft – Volunteer Leader (tbc)
Charlie Evans – Maintenance	Bob Sumner – Maintenance

We are an active and friendly group of volunteers with many different roles, so why not join us? New applicants are always welcome and can apply by emailing chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk.

Financial

At 31 December 2025, WWT had reserves of £71,984 and fixed assets of £1600. We have designated funds of £40,000 for future maintenance costs and £5,000 for the Whitchurch Country Park project. In 2024 our income was inflated because of historical costs written off by Canal and River Trust (CRT) and in 2025 our costs were inflated because of the extensive tow path repairs and CRT fees under the new connection agreement. This resulted in the reported fall in annual surplus.

Income	**2025**	**2024**
Mooring Fees	8900	10083
Festival	4272	4679
Advertising	-	2000
Membership	961	848
Grants	900	2745
Donations	693	455
Investments	1068	958
Total	**16794**	**21768**

Expenditure	**2025**	**2024**
Arm Facilities	1552	1080
Festival	3372	2142
Insurance	611	592
Publicity	-	415
Accountancy Fees	-	200
Towpath Repairs	8544	-
CRT Mooring Fees	1009	-
Other	266	209
Total	**15354**	**4223**
Surplus	1440	17545

Canal Festival 2025 – 30th and 31st August

This was Doug Sealy's first outing as Festival Organiser. The number of boats (including historical boats) and stalls attending increased, with a new performance area and a wider range of musicians and artists participating. Al Edwards built a half-scale cutout of a canal boat which children helped to decorate. There was a food court and Tipsy Tom's Horsebox Bar to keep people fed and watered while the ever-popular café drew people up to Chemistry Farm where there were more attractions, including a coconut shy and crockery smashing stall. A barbeque was provided on the Saturday evening which was enjoyed by participants and volunteers alike. The weather was not particularly kind to us, but this did not dampen spirits or detract from a very successful event.



Tixall steam powered narrowboat turning in the winding hole

Future Plans

The trustees will seek a revision to the Objects combining development of the Whitchurch Arm and education about the Waterways with a new focus on volunteering and improving the green corridor linking Whitchurch with the surrounding countryside. This includes the Whitchurch Arm and the Whitchurch Country Park. The trustees also wish to adopt the foundation model constitution which is in keeping with the way the Trust operates today.

Whitchurch Canal Breach

At 4am on Monday 23rd December an embankment collapsed, sending two narrowboats into a deep hole and leaving one boat hovering over the drop. This happened just meters from the end of Whitchurch Arm, leaving the adjoining field completely flooded. The fire brigade created a makeshift coffer dam which stemmed the flow. Water levels in the Arm dropped but were quickly restored. The ramifications from this incident are still being felt by the boaters and the local community. We will report on the repair project in more detail next year.

And Finally……heartfelt thanks to Lindsay, Alex, Richard and Sophie at Chemistry Farm for providing our workshop and storage, for hosting the annual festival and for so many other good deeds.