

**Annual Accounts**  
of the  
**Wirral Community**  
**Narrowboat Trust**

Company Number 3853212  
Charity Registration No. 1084432

for the year to  
**31st March 2025**

Chair: J.M. Glass  
Hon. Secretary: G.J. Lesage  
Hon. Treasurer: M. Branch

## Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust

Company Number 3853212 - Charity Registration No 1084432

### Legal and Administrative Information

#### Status

Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust (the Trust) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1st October 1999 and registered as a charity no 1084432 on 9th January 2001.

The company was incorporated under a Memorandum of Association which established the objectives and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those Articles, the members of Council are elected at the AGM to serve a period of three years, subject to ratification at each AGM.

#### Council as at 31st March 2025

J.M Glass (Chair), G. J. Lesage (Hon. Secretary), M. Branch (Hon. Treasurer), G.W. Bestwick, R.P. Woodger, N.E. Carpenter, T. Mobbs, G.R. Davies, F.D. Clayton, P. Mobbs, M. Boyce, C. Ralston.

#### Company Secretary : G.J. Lesage

**Registered Office:** 1 Thursby House, Thursby Road, Bromborough, CH62 3PW (from September 2025); 13 Village Road, Higher Bebington, Wirral, CH63 8PP (until September 2025).

**Independent Scrutineer :** S.M.D. Webster FCA

**Bankers :** The Co-operative Bank, P.O. Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT (from August 2024); Barclays Bank Plc, 2 Liscard Village, Wallasey, Merseyside, CH41 6AU (until Aug 2024).

### Report of the Council for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Council presents its report and independently scrutinised financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2025.

#### Activities

The Trust provides experience of travel by narrowboat on the British canal system to persons who are disabled, disadvantaged, deprived or elderly. It seeks to improve their quality of life by this experience encompassing recreational, educational and social needs. The Trust has two narrowboats, specially adapted to meet our passengers needs, these boats are fully operational. We recruit, encourage and train volunteers to carry out the activities and maintenance of the Trust to the highest Health and Safety Standards.

The Trust was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in June 2017 in recognition of the hard work and dedication of its volunteer members.

#### Results

The deficit for the year to 31st March 2025 was £3,852 decreasing the balance of restricted and unrestricted funds to £315,217. The decrease mainly resulted from poorer investment performance compared to prior year, and higher boat maintenance costs.

The Trust has funds of £143,881 in various bank accounts which are considered sufficient for the year ahead. Long term investments intended for use in longer term maintenance and eventual replacement of our boats, have decreased to £134,632 (£136,219 in the prior year) as a result of poorer investment performance.

## Income Resources

Income decreased to £43,533 (£52,301 in the previous year) primarily due to lower income from investments.

This year our prime sources of income were from donations (to cover sponsored trips and repairs & maintenance) and trip sailings. Our volunteers were again successful this year in both marketing activities and fundraising.

Total investment income (including investment funds and bank interest) was a loss of £1,587 (gain of £13,119 in prior year) as a result of decreased performance of our investment portfolio, in line with general market uncertainty during 2024/25.

## Resources Expended

Direct expenses were £27,109 (£20,427 in the previous year), an increase on prior year, largely due to increased boat maintenance and repairs.

The charity continues to benefit from the hard work of volunteers with a wide range of skills, who are generous with their time given to manning and maintaining the boats and administration of the Trust. Overheads of £20,277 (£21,466 in the previous year) a slight decrease over prior year due to volunteer expenses being slightly lower.

We continue to carry out National Community Boat Association (NCBA) training courses to meet Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) requirements and include First Aid training. All sailing volunteers are DBS checked to ensure the safety of our clients. The trust had no employment liabilities during the financial year to 31 March 2025, as all crewing and administrative personnel requirements are undertaken voluntarily.

## Future Strategy

The Trust plans to continue present operations. Activity can occasionally be limited by the availability of volunteer crews, an issue continually addressed by Council.

## Reserves Policy

Reserves are considered essential to cover seasonal fluctuations of income and outgoings, unforeseen repairs and replacements. The annual surplus being achieved through fundraising will ensure that the Trust is also in a position to provide a significant percentage of the replacement cost of the boats when considered necessary. This should assist us in obtaining any balance of funds required.

## Depreciation Policy

Council agreed in 2002 it would be prudent to depreciate our boats at an annual rate of 5% of historic cost. This policy will continue.

## Investment Policy

Reserves designated for replacement of boats and longer term maintenance are invested in equity and fixed interest charity funds with appropriate organisations. Funds to cover operational expenditure are held in bank and savings accounts with the highest rates of interest sought, consistent with liquidity and safety of capital.

## Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust

Company Number 3853212 - Charity Registration No 1084432

### Responsibilities of Council

Company Law requires Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, Council should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

Council is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

### Members of Council

Members who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below.

	Appointed	Resigned
M. Branch	01-Mar-19	
N.E. Carpenter	01-Jan-17	
G.R. Davies	01-Jan-19	
G.W. Bestwick	01-Jan-23	08-Jul-25
R.P. Woodger	01-Jan-14	
G.J. Lesage	01-Jan-18	
T. Mobbs	14-Nov-17	
K. Dodd	01-Jan-20	09-Jul-24
F.D. Clayton	01-Jan-20	
J.M. Glass	01-Jan-23	
M Boyce	01-Jan-24	
C Ralston	01-Jan-24	
P. Mobbs	01-Jan-23	
T.J. Nolan	08-Jul-25	
A.S. Dawson	08-Jul-25	
B.H. Yeardsley	08-Jul-25	

### Independent Scrutineer

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies.

Approved by Council on 14/10/25 And signed on its behalf by  Chairman

# Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust


Company Number 3853212 - Charity Registration No 1084432

## Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Narrowboats - page 8 Note 3	85,996	99,164
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	143,881	147,185
Investments	134,632	136,219
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	2,556	1,561
	<u>281,069</u>	<u>284,964</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	<u>51,846</u>	<u>65,058</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>229,223</u>	<u>219,906</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>315,218</u>	<u>319,070</u>
<b>Financed By</b>		
Accumulated Reserves	319,070	308,661
Operational (deficit) / surplus	<u>(3,852)</u>	<u>10,409</u>
	<u>315,218</u>	<u>319,070</u>

14/10/25

Approved by the Council of Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust on ..... and signed on its behalf by :-

  
J.M. Glass  
Chairman

  
M. Branch  
Hon. Treasurer

# Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust

Company Number 3853212 - Charity Registration No 1084432

## Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Contribution to boat use	16,524	16,977
Members' Subscriptions	0	0
Donations	26,772	20,451
Training fees charged		0
Bank Interest Received	1,514	1,545
Investment (loss) / income	(1,587)	13,119
Other Income	310	209
Gift Aid	0	0
	<b><u>43,533</u></b>	<b><u>52,301</u></b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
<b>Direct Charitable Expenses</b>		
Subsistence and refreshments	494	428
Fuel and Gas	2,499	2,651
Pump-outs	693	391
Insurance - Boats	2,674	2,696
British Waterways Fees	2,088	1,775
Mobile Phones	100	20
Repairs, renewals and servicing	18,059	12,465
Boat repainting	0	0
Health and safety	0	0
Other expenses	502	
	<b><u>27,109</u></b>	<b><u>20,427</u></b>
<b>Overheads</b>		
Office including rates	0	0
Insurance including volunteers	1,185	1,324
Volunteer expenses	1,720	2,561
Volunteer clothing	97	0
Printing, Stationery and Telephone	1,961	1,361
Advertising and Promotion	0	526
Sundry	33	13
Affiliation Fees	30	51
Training	1,391	1,177
Depreciation - (Note 2e)	13,168	13,167
DBS/Recruitment expenses	0	0
Meeting Room Hire	692	1,286
	<b><u>20,277</u></b>	<b><u>21,466</u></b>
<b>Surplus /(deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>(3,852)</b>	<b>10,409</b>
Restricted and unrestricted funds brought forward	<b><u>319,070</u></b>	<b><u>308,661</u></b>
<b>Funds as at 31st March</b>	<b><u>315,218</u></b>	<b><u>319,070</u></b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31st March 2025

### 1. General Information

The Company was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital, on 1st October 1999 to provide and operate narrowboats for social, educational and therapeutic needs for people who are disadvantaged or deprived. It is a registered charity number 1084432.

The company qualifies as a very small company for audit exemption purposes and therefore submits an abbreviated Balance Sheet and the following statements :-

- a) For the year ended 31st March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006
- b) Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006
- c) The Council, as the Board of Directors, acknowledge their responsibility to :-
  - i) Ensure that the Company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
  - ii) Prepare accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 393 of the Companies Act 2006, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to the accounts, so far as is applicable to the Company.

### 2. Accounting Policies

#### a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

#### b) Resources expended

The cost headings comprise expenditure, including staff costs, directly attributable to the Trust's activity. Where costs cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

#### c) Fund Accounting

General (Unrestricted) funds are available for use at the discretion of Council in furtherance of the objects of the Trust. Restricted funds are used for the purpose as specified by the donor.

#### d) Income and Expenditure

All income and expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and is accounted for on the accruals basis.

#### e) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual values, of tangible fixed assets over their useful lives to the Trust. The annual depreciation rates are:-

Narrowboats	5% of cost price.
Fixtures and Fittings	20% of cost price.

## Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust

Company Number 3853212 - Charity Registration No. 1084432

8 of 9

	Pot of Gold £	Over the Rainbow £	Total £
<b>3. Fixed Assets</b>			
Cost at 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025	130,988	131,319	262,307
Depreciation at 1 April 2024	90,925	72,218	163,143
Depreciation provided during year	6,601	6,567	13,168
Total Depreciation at 31 March 2025	97,526	78,785	176,311
Net Book Value at 31 March 2025	33,462	52,534	85,996
Net Book Value at 31 March 2024	40,063	59,101	99,164

### 4. Contingent Liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities outstanding at the end of this accounting period.

### 5. Restricted and unrestricted funds on the balance sheet

The funds of £315,218 are split into restricted funds of £51,742 and unrestricted funds of £263,476.

Restricted funds include donations for trips which have not yet taken place, other donations for a specific purpose (boat maintenance and repairs) and trips paid for in advance.



# Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust

Company Number 3853212 - Charity Registration No 1084432

9 of 9

## Independent Scrutineer's Report to Wirral Community Narrowboat Trust

Report on the Accounts of the Trust for the Year ended 31st March 2025

### Respective responsibilities of members of Council and Scrutineer.

The members of Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that audit or independent examination requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 1993 do not apply. It is the members of Council responsibility to state, as required by the Acts, whether particular matters have come to their attention.

### Basis of Independent Scrutineer's Report

Scrutiny included a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company 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 explanation from members of council concerning any such matters. The Procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit or examination, and consequently do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent Scrutineer's Statement

In connection with the Scrutiny, no matter has come to my attention to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed .....



S.M.D. Webster FCA

Date September 29th 2025 .....