

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1161685

Details

Other names	ICT
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-05-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Greenwood Centre
The Old Station
Station Road
Coalbrookdale
Telford
Shropshi

Phone 01952586901

Email admin@ironbridgecoracles.org

Website <https://ironbridgecoracles.org>

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF THE CRAFT OF CORACLES AND CORACLE MAKING IN THE IRONBRIDGE GORGE AND ON THE RIVER SEVERN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC

Activities: The Ironbridge Coracle Trust is the owner of the last coracle makers' shed on the River Severn, in Ironbridge. The Trust works to further the heritage of coracles and coracle building in Ironbridge. The Trust organises the annual Ironbridge Coracle regatta. The trust is voluntary, and runs monthly work parties to keep the shed in good condition. see www.coracleshed.org for more information.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Shropshire
- Telford & Wrekin

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£6,662	£5,819	-	-
2024-03-31	£25,433	£35,438	-	-
2023-03-31	£110,872	£96,236	-	-
2022-03-31	£57,220	£81,198	-	-
2021-03-31	£121,627	£119,119	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mary Lewis	Chair	2020-11-19
Estella Anne Morris		2024-11-28
Graham Peet		2024-07-22
Julia Tinker		2020-11-19
KATHERINE ANNE PETTY		2020-06-23
Peter Twibill		2018-04-11

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1161685

Accounts

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Charity registration number: 1161685

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The Ironbridge Coracle Trust (ICT) aims to advance the culture and heritage of the craft of coracles and coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge and on the River Severn for the benefit of the public.

Summary of activities

The Old Coracle Shed, purchased by ICT in 2015, was the workshop of Eustace Rogers, a renowned coracle maker. Coracle uses on the River Severn included transportation of people and property, line and net fishing, laying eel lines, securing driftwood, rescuing people and animals, recovering cadavers, and poaching.

Set at the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and Conservation Area, and less than 70 metres from the base of the world-famous Iron Bridge, the Shed is the only remaining physical reference to a coracle building tradition that dates to prehistoric times. The Shed forms an important and unique part of the view that any visitor can see when looking at the Iron Bridge for the first time from the Ladywood Car Park at the south end of the Bridge.

The Shed, built in the 1920s from timber reused from Buildwas Bridge, was owned by the Rogers family until the death of Eustace Rogers in 2003. ICT owns this heritage property and, with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund (April 2020 to October 2022), completed an ambitious project to preserve and restore the property. The contents of the shed had been sold or stolen after Eustace died.

The contents of the Old Coracle shed were rediscovered by the Trust in 2018 -20 and are now on display in the Old Shed and in a New Shed built with further funds from the Arts Council 2019 -20 at the Green Wood Centre. Local artists were commissioned to tell many of the stories associated with the Ironbridge coracle men; their skills, humour and the involvement they had in poaching in Ironbridge for generations.

ICT trustees have taken a decision that both its exhibitions and buildings will be freely accessible by the public, and that additional resources, when available, will be invested in running workshops and events to make the best use of the Trust's buildings and exhibitions to benefit residents and visitors to the Gorge.

The charity may charge for the provision of some services such as car parking, printed leaflets, guided tours and use of the Trust's coracles. The Greenwood Centre runs coracle making courses for a fee.

Policy on grant making and social investment

ICT has not made any grants to individuals or organisations during the year's activities and no investments have been made during the year.

Contribution made by volunteers

ICT relies heavily on its many volunteers and supporters to run the programme of events and activities throughout the year, not least the annual coracle regatta. Volunteers are also essential to the maintenance of the Old Coracle Shed, the exhibitions and interpretation materials used in the New Coracle Shed and elsewhere and to the running of the general business of ICT.

Summary of activities

1. Annual coracle regatta

Attendance at ICT's Annual Coracle Regatta has risen from 850 in 2018 to around 2500 in 2024. ICT has organised an annual Coracle Regatta for many years. A major event, the Regatta is held beside the Ironbridge Rowing Club and includes charity stalls and refreshments, a Duck Race, coracle races and Have A Go activities.

2. 'Have a go' sessions

- 5 x Come & Try sessions (May - September) with approximately 50 people taking part
- Come & Try session at the regatta - 100 participants
- Bespoke session for Guides - 40 participants
- Come & Try session at Montgomery - 40 people participants

3. Exhibitions

Both sheds are accessible 7 days a week. They were designed so as not to depend on volunteers to staff them. The doors of the new larger shed open and close automatically from 9-5. The Old shed is viewed 365 days a year by viewing the contents through the window. Both sheds, require occasional maintenance by volunteers and Trustees.

Fundraising

Grants and other support received in the report period include:

- £700 sponsorship income from local businesses to support the Regatta
- £1020 grant income from Town and Parish Councils
- £1003.74 Facebook Fundraiser

Capital works

No significant capital works have taken place in the period.

Financial Review

Full year accounts are attached. The Trust has made a small profit of £843 due to fundraising activities at the Coracle Regatta.

Structure, Governance and Management

Staff - The Trust has no paid staff

Trustees - ICT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only members are its Trustees. It is registered with the Charity Commission no. 1161685.

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees, and in the report period there were 7: Mary Lewis, Kath Petty, Grant Foden, Graham Peet, Julia Tinker, Peter Twibill & Estella Morris (co-opted Trustee)

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Viviana Caroli stood down as a trustee at the previous AGM, Grant Foden stood down in May 2025

Trustees for the year 23/24 responsible for approving this report

Trustee	Office
Mary Lewis	Chair
Kath Petty	Minutes Secretary
Graham Peet	
Peter Twibill	
Julia Tinker	
Estella Morris	Treasurer

Declaration

The trustees above declare they have approved the annual report above for 2024/25

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature  Mary Lewis
Position: Chair

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161685
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025			YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
RECEIPTS						
Grants						
Broseley Town Council	£216		£216	£466		£466
Madeley Town Council	£304		£304			
The Gorge Parish Council	£500		£500			
Post Code Lottery				£15,000		£15,000
NLHF Underspend				£3,174		£3,174
School for Social Entrepreneurs					£548	£548
Donations & contributions						
Ironbridge Lions		£570	£570	£350		£350
Other	£32	£343	£375		£1,187	£1,187
On-Line Sales		£48	£48		£389	£389
Retail sales		£140	£140		£1,551	£1,551
Events/activities		£4,509	£4,509		£2,768	£2,768
	£1,052	£5,610	£6,662	£18,990	£6,443	£25,433
EXPENDITURE						
Core running costs		£3,703	£3,703	£0	£4,550	£4,550
Maintenance		£0	£0	£18,524	£4,370	£22,894
Interpretation		£0	£0	£0	£535	£535
Training		£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Regatta/events	£1,052	£1,005	£2,057	£5,466	£334	£5,799
Cost of On-Line sales		£32	£32		£1,309	£1,309
Goods for retail		£0	£0	£1,000	(£774)	£226
Sundry expenses		£27	£27	£0	£125	£125
	£1,052	£4,766	£5,819	£24,990	£10,448	£35,438
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURE	£0	£843	£843	(£6,000)	(£4,005)	(£10,005)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Bank Balances Brought Forward	£1,427	£12,796	£14,223	£7,427	£16,801	£24,228
Bank Balances Carried Forward	£1,427	£13,639	£15,066	£1,427	£12,796	£14,223

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1161685

Accounts

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Charity registration number: 1161685

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The Ironbridge Coracle Trust (ICT) aims to advance the culture and heritage of the craft of coracles and coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge and on the River Severn for the benefit of the public.

Summary of activities

The Old Coracle Shed, purchased by ICT in 2015, was the workshop of Eustace Rogers, a renowned coracle maker. Coracle uses on the River Severn included transportation of people and property, line and net fishing, laying eel lines, securing driftwood, rescuing people and animals, recovering cadavers, and poaching.

Set at the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and Conservation Area, and less than 70 metres from the base of the world-famous Iron Bridge, the Shed is the only remaining physical reference to a coracle building tradition that dates to prehistoric times. The Shed forms an important and unique part of the view that any visitor can see when looking at the Iron Bridge for the first time from the Ladywood Car Park at the south end of the Bridge.

The Shed, built in the 1920s from timber reused from Buildwas Bridge, was owned by the Rogers family until the death of Eustace Rogers in 2003. ICT owns this heritage property and, with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund (April 2020 to October 2022), completed an ambitious project to preserve and restore the property so it is available to the public as a viewable exhibition space for the display of coracles and associated equipment to tell the story of coracles in Ironbridge.

ICT trustees have taken a decision that all its exhibitions and buildings will be freely accessible by the public, and that additional resources, when available, will be invested in running workshops and events to make the best use of the Trust's buildings and exhibitions to benefit people with dementia and mental health issues.

The charity may charge for the provision of some services such as car parking, printed leaflets, guided tours and use of the Trust's coracles.

Policy on grant making and social investment

ICT has not made any grants to individuals or organisations during the year's activities and no investments have been made during the year.

Contribution made by volunteers

ICT relies heavily on its many volunteers and supporters to run the programme of events and activities throughout the year, not least the annual coracle regatta. Volunteers are also essential to the maintenance of the Old Coracle Shed, the exhibitions and interpretation materials used in the New Coracle Shed and elsewhere and to the running of the general business of ICT.

Summary of activities

1. Annual coracle regatta

Attendance at ICT's Annual Coracle Regatta has risen from 850 in 2018 to around 2500 in 2023.

ICT has organised an annual Coracle Regatta for many years. A major event, the Regatta is held beside the Ironbridge Rowing Club and includes charity stalls and refreshments, a Duck Race, coracle races and Have A Go activities.

2. Coronation Drift

The Coronation Drift took place after the regatta and included a floating willow crown and a flotilla of 4 decorated coracles. The event was supported by craft activities and a series of participatory arts sessions with local groups.

3. 'Have a go' sessions

10 'Have a go' sessions have been carried out with around 60 people experiencing coracle paddling for the first time.

4. Attendance at local events

- Ironbridge Gorge Museum Archaeology festival
- Mop Fair 2023, Blists Hill Victorian Town
- Ironbridge Heritage Festival

Fundraising

Grants and other support received in the report period include:

- Post Code Lottery grant for work on the Old Coracle Shed slipway & steps
- The Gorge Parish Council and support from one local business helped offset the costs of the Regatta
- Heritage Trade-Up

Capital works

Old Coracle Shed steps - The Trust completed work to restore the coracle shed steps and slipway to enable river access.

Financial Review

Full year accounts are attached. The full Year shows a loss of £10k due mainly to the reserves committed to the slipway project (£7.3k) and ongoing unfunded running costs such as insurance, electricity etc.

Structure, Governance and Management

Staff

The Trust has no paid staff

Trustees

ICT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only members are its Trustees. It is registered with the Charity Commission no. 1161685.

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees, and in the report period there were 6: Mary Lewis, Kath Petty, Grant Foden, Julia Tinker, Viviana Caroli, Peter Twibill,

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Jude Pilgrim & Marion Blockley stood down as trustees.

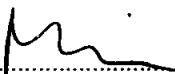
Trustees for the year 23/24 responsible for approving this report

Trustee	Office
Mary Lewis	Chair
Kath Petty	Minutes Secretary
Grant Foden	Treasurer & Company Secretary
Peter Twibill	
Viviana Caroli	
Julia Tinker	

Declaration

The trustees above declare they have approved the annual report above for 2023/24

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature  Mary Lewis

Position: Chair

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161685
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024			YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
RECEIPTS						
Grants						
The Gorge Parish Council	£466		£466	£5,000		£5,000
Post Code Lottery	£15,000		£15,000			
NLHF Underspend	£3,174		£3,174			
School for Social Entrepreneurs		£548	£548			
Heritage Lottery Fund				£97,775		£97,775
Veolia				£1,000		£1,000
Donations & contributions						
Ironbridge Lions	£350		£350			
Other		£1,187	£1,187	£150	£2,668	£2,818
On-Line Sales			£389			
Retail sales			£1,551			
Events/activities			£2,768		£4,279	£4,279
	£18,990	£1,735	£25,433	£103,925	£6,947	£110,872
EXPENDITURE						
Core running costs	£0	£4,550	£4,550	£30,682	£1,198	£31,880
Maintenance	£18,524	£4,370	£22,894	£25,804	£86	£25,890
Interpretation	£0	£535	£535	£2,399	£0	£2,399
Training	£0	£0	£0	£200	£0	£200
Regatta/events	£5,466	£334	£5,799	£33,797	£1,958	£35,755
Cost of On-Line sales		£1,309	£1,309			
Goods for retail	£1,000	(£774)	£226			
Sundry expenses	£0	£125	£125	£20	£92	£112
	£24,990	£10,448	£35,438	£92,902	£3,334	£96,236
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURE	(£6,000)	(£8,713)	(£10,005)	£11,023	£3,613	£14,636
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	(£1,427)	£1,427	£0	£0	£0	£0
Bank Balances Brought Forward	£7,427	£16,801	£24,228	(£3,596)	£13,188	£9,592
Bank Balances Carried Forward	£0	£9,515	£14,223	£7,427	£16,801	£24,228

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Ironbridge Coracle Trust (the charity) for the 12 months ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act). The trustees have confirmed the Receipts and Payments basis is appropriate for the preparation of the financial statements.


Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements.



Brian Mackie CA
Larkhill
Sarn Road
Threapwood
Cheshire
SY14 7AP

Dated: 25th November 2024

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1161685

Accounts

Ironbridge Coracle Trust
Receipts & Payments account
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023

Charity registration number: 1161685

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The Ironbridge Coracle Trust (ICT) aims to advance the culture and heritage of the craft of coracles and coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge and on the River Severn for the benefit of the public.

Summary of activities

The Old Coracle Shed, purchased by ICT in 2015, was the workshop of Eustace Rogers, a renowned coracle maker. Coracle uses on the River Severn included transportation of people and property, line and net fishing, laying eel lines, securing driftwood, rescuing people and animals, recovering cadavers, and poaching.

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The Shed, built in the 1920s from timber reused from the construction of Atcham Bridge, was owned by the Rogers family until the death of Eustace Rogers in 2003. ICT owns this heritage property and during this year (April - October 2022) has been completing the National Lottery Heritage Fund project to preserve and restore the property so it is available to the public as a viewable exhibition space for the display of coracles and associated equipment to tell the story of coracles in Ironbridge.

ICT trustees have had regard to CC's guidance on public benefit and have taken a decision that all its exhibitions and buildings will be freely accessible by the public, and that additional resources, when available, will be invested in running workshops and events to make the best use of the Trust's buildings and exhibitions to benefit people with dementia and mental health issues.

The charity may charge for the provision of some services such as car parking, printed leaflets, guided tours, talks and use of the Trust's coracles.

Policy on grant making and social investment

ICT has not made any grants to individuals or organisations during the year's activities and no investments have been made during the year.

Contribution made by volunteers

ICT relies heavily on its many volunteers and supporters to run the programme of events and activities throughout the year, not least the annual coracle regatta. Volunteers are also essential to the maintenance of the Old Coracle Shed, the exhibitions and interpretation materials used in the New Coracle Shed and elsewhere and to the running of the general business of ICT.

Achievements and Performance

Performance against objectives

The Trustees' objectives for 2022/23 were:

1. to complete delivery of the NHLF project
2. to run the annual coracle regatta
3. to raise funds to help achieve our charitable objectives
4. to complete the transition process post-NHLF

1. Complete delivery of the NHLF project

The most significant achievement of 2022—23 was the completion of the Ironbridge Coracle Trust National Lottery Heritage Fund project.

NHLF Evaluation Report - Executive Summary by Jenni Waugh

In March 2019, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (hereafter the Heritage Fund) awarded Ironbridge Coracle Trust (ICT) a grant of £333,100 towards the repair and stabilisation of the last historic coracle making shed in England to have survived in situ, and to deliver a complementary programme of activities and interpretation. The grant represented 69% of the total eligible project cost of £480,155.

Since gaining permission to start in August 2019, ICT has had to overcome the detrimental impacts of severe flooding (Feb-Mar 2020 and Jan 2021) and of the Covid-19 lockdowns and ensuing safety regulations (Mar 2020 to Dec 2021). To add to the difficulties, the roads of Ironbridge Gorge have undergone almost constant works throughout.

In spite of these difficulties, which might have felled another organisation, ICT has performed extremely well against the project targets, connecting with local partners, artists and funders to revive interest in the endangered heritage craft of coracle making.

Working with local artists and the Men in Sheds, and with the support of funding from the Heritage Fund, Arts Council England (ACE) and Visit England, ICT has installed fascinating displays in both the Old and New Coracle Sheds which combine museum objects, archive film, oral history, creative interpretation and art works inspired by the Gorge's river heritage.

A band of newly trained volunteers have worked at cleaning, conserving, researching and documenting the collections, according to best practice guidelines, to ensure their future preservation. They will continue this work beyond the project's end. In 2020, the team began recording oral histories from coracle makers, river workers and local residents, with the assistance of a local film-maker.

In 2022, more volunteers received training in oral history collection so that ICT can and expand the collecting programme in future. Even as this final report is being written, building contractors and ICT volunteers are excavating the original steps and slipway under the Old Coracle Shed lost for many years beneath 6ft of silt and vegetation. This allows ICT to re-install a safe coracle landing place immediately down-river of the famous Iron Bridge. Another team of volunteers are building a wooden roundhouse beside the New Coracle Shed at the Green Wood Centre which will provide shelter for future heritage and crafts workshops in the warmer months. Both activities are funded by project underspend.

With the further support of Heritage Compass investment, ICT itself has undergone a governance review and provided extensive training for trustees and volunteers, increasing organisational resilience and preparing it for future sustainability beyond the project end. A new 10-year business strategy has been developed and formal

agreements reached with the Small Woods Association and Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust to secure the future of ICT's collections and buildings.

As the project ended on 31 October 2022, ICT can be rightly proud of their phenomenal achievements:

Highlight achievements

- 2 new visitor attractions have opened, celebrating the craft heritage, lives and river trades of working-class families in Ironbridge Gorge
 - 6130+ people have visited the New Coracle Shed during 2021-2022
 - A popular sculpture has been added to the Wharfage riverbank and has been viewed by more than 100,000 pedestrians
 - A wooden roundhouse has been built in the garden beside the New Coracle Shed, providing extra space for activities and events
 - The original slipway from the Old Coracle Shed to the Severn has been excavated and will be restored to its original use
- ICT have reached an audience of 160,602: that's 53,000 in-person, 107,602 online
 - 6,500+ people have taken part in 155 in-person events or activities
 - 5000+ people have attended one of three annual Coracle Regattas
 - 7018+ people worldwide have watched online films and talks about the Gorge's coracle heritage
 - 200+ people have Had a Go at paddling a coracle, either on the riverbank by the Museum of the Gorge or Dale End Park, or at the annual Regatta
 - 53 local young people with learning disabilities, adult and young carers, and people at risk of isolation have taken part in craft and coracling workshops
- ICT have recruited and retained 80+ volunteers who have contributed 351 days to the project, worth £164,000
- 44 people have taken part in ICT heritage skills workshops and made:
 - 19 Ironbridge coracles
 - 4 hide coracles
 - 6 hand-carved wooden paddles
 - 6 hand-made purse nets
 - 5 model Ironbridge coracles
- In July 2022, a record number of 27 coracles took part in a stage of the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2022 Commonwealth Games organised by ICT

2. To run the annual coracle regatta

Attendance at ICT's Annual Coracle Regatta has risen from 850 in 2018 to 2500 in 2022.

ICT has organised an annual Coracle Regatta for many years. A major event, the Regatta is held beside the Ironbridge Rowing Club and includes charity stalls and refreshments, a Duck Race, coracle races and Have A Go activities.

Participants in the coracle races travel to the event from Wales, Cheshire and Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, Essex and Buckinghamshire. Attendees at the event tend to be more local, coming from the Shropshire and Telford area.

3. To raise funds to help achieve our charitable objectives

Grants and other support received in the report period include:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Telford & Wrekin Council – Kings Coronation Fund

- Heritage Trade-Up
- Moonshine & Fuggles
- Ironbridge Lions (Silver over the Bridge)

4. To complete the transition process post-NHLF

To further guarantee the organisation's future sustainability, ICT has undertaken a strategic review for the Trust beyond the Heritage Fund project. Since 2019, they have recruited 4 new trustees and a new Chair. The Board have just developed a new Business Strategy document, intended to direct their activity and fund raising over the next 5 to 10 years.

Capital works

Old Coracle Shed steps - The Trust received planning consent to begin the work to reinstate the slipway steps behind the Old Coracle Shed in September 2022. Works to complete the removal of the silt were completed in October 2022.

Social Media and Communications

A new website was a priority for the charity and the new website was launched in 2022. This now includes an online shop for our growing range of merchandise.

Communication with project supporters has mainly been through our Facebook page. We are planning to try and reach a younger audience using Instagram and Facebook and also to drive more interest in content on our website.

There are currently 1.5K followers for our Facebook page and 1.3K likes, with a reach of 23,768. Our audience is consistent with around 63% women and 36% men, primarily in the 25-54 age group. Facebook remains our most effective way of interacting with our followers and promoting events and activities. Our Instagram account is growing steadily with 774 followers and a reach of 1076 in a slightly younger age profile.

Financial Review

The charity aims to hold sufficient funds in hand to cover one year's activities (£2500 for insurance cover and the regatta outlay). These are not held as separate reserves, but retained as cash in the main bank account.

For this year (22/23) the charity had a balance of £13188.55 at the start of the year.

The opening balance was boosted by several sources of income during the year, ending with a balance of £16800.84.

Total project funding expended on the Arts Council and NLHF project was £93010.60.

Risk Management

The charity is run entirely by volunteers, so as long as there is sufficient funding to cover insurance costs the charity is not putting any person or other organisation at risk. The project manager and evaluation consultants are funded through the project grants and are self-employed.

Risks to the charity include trustees leaving or retiring, financial procedures not being followed, or grants being wrongly used or claimed.

Additional risks include breaches of Health & Safety regulations which are reduced through careful Risk Assessment, including Covid Risk Assessments; Reputational risk which is controlled by a process of signing off media; and GDPR compliance which is monitored by our Data Privacy policies.

The trustees require guidance and assistance with financial procedures and JHP Shrewsbury has been employed as financial advisors to the board.

Structure, Governance and Management

Staff

All staff worked on a consultancy basis and were not employed by ICT. Following the completion of the NHLF project in October 2022, there are now no paid project staff and all management is carried out on a voluntary basis by trustees and other volunteers.

Paid staff April - October 2022– Marion Blockley, Jenni Waugh Caris Jackson and Ruth Buttery

Trustees

ICT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only members are its Trustees. It is registered with the Charity Commission no. 1161685.

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees, and in the report period there were 9: Mary Lewis, Kath Petty, Grant Foden, Julia Tinker, Viviana Culshaw, Pete Twibill, Bruce Watson, Marion Blockley and Jude Pilgrim.

The posts are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Press & Social Media Officers.

If there are vacancies these are widely publicised prior to the AGM, with any specific requirements made clear (ie, local resident, legal or financial background, coracle builder).

Trustees are selected by open invitation at the AGM. Prospective trustees are requested to send in details before the AGM which are made available to existing trustees to check if they are eligible.

If elected at the AGM, the secretary will contact new trustees with information about their duties and responsibilities and requesting information to enable their registration as new trustees, including their relationship with any related parties. This includes a link to the Charity Commission guidance on good trusteeship and the existing policies of the charity, within a new trustee handbook.

During the year, Trustees reviewed and strengthened its policies on Safeguarding and Child Protection. ITC Trustee Board regularly reviews its policies and procedures.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

There have been two new appointments to the board in this financial year: Marion Blockley and Viviana Culshaw. Terry Kenny stood down as a trustee.

Trustees for the year 22/23 responsible for approving this report

Trustee	Office
Mary Lewis	Chair
Julia Tinker	Treasurer
Kath Petty	Minutes secretary
Grant Foden	Company Secretary
Peter Twibill	Press & Social Media Officer

Declaration

The trustees above declare they have approved the annual report above for 2022/23
Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature Mary Lewis .
Position: Chair

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST
(Registered Charity Number -
1161685)
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Year Ended 31-03-2023			Year Ended 31-03-2022		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
RECEIPTS						
Grant Income						
Heritage Lottery Fund	£97,775	£0	£97,775	£48,912	£0	£48,912
Veolla	£1,000	£0	£1,000	£0	£0	£0
Gorge Parish Council	£5,000	£0	£5,000	£0	£0	£0
Donations & Contributions Received						
Other	£150	£2,668	£2,818	£0	£984	£984
Heritage & Regatta Events	£0	£4,279	£4,279	£0	£4,183	£4,183
Financial Ombudsman Claim	£0	£0	£0	£2,730	£0	£2,730
Interest re Claim	£0	£0	£0	£0	£411	£411
	£103,925	£6,947	£110,872	£51,642	£5,578	£57,220
EXPENDITURE						
Insurance	£0	£998	£998	£1,418	£0	£1,418
Coracle Shed Expenses	£25,804	£86	£25,890	£13,840	(£95)	£13,745
Trust Collection Expenses	£2,399	£0	£2,399	£1,527	£0	£1,527
Coracle Purchases	£1,720	£0	£1,720	£3,267	£299	£3,566
Project Management	£18,700	£200	£18,900	£28,720	£0	£28,720
Volunteer Co-ordinator	£8,250	£0	£8,250	£4,170	£0	£4,170
Heritage & Regatta Events	£33,797	£1,958	£35,755	£18,384	£0	£18,384
Accountancy	£1,116	£0	£1,116	£900	£0	£900
Training	£200	£0	£200	£4,752	£0	£4,752
Sundry Expenses	£20	£92	£112	£316	£84	£400
Input VAT claimed	£0	£0	£0	£2,397	£5	£2,402
Licenses	£896	£0	£896	£1,214	£0	£1,214
	£92,902	£3,334	£96,236	£80,905	£293	£81,198
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURE	£11,023	£3,613	£14,636	(£29,263)	£5,285	(£23,978)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Bank Balances Brought Forward	(£3,596)	£13,188	£9,592	£25,667	£7,903	£33,570
Bank Balances Carried Forward	£7,427	£16,801	£24,228	(£3,596)	£13,188	£9,592

Independent examiners report on the accounts

Section A *Independent Examiners Report*

Report to the trustees/members of	Ironbridge Coracle Trust
Charity Number (if any)	1161685
On the receipts and payments account for the year ended	31 March 2023
Set out on page	7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent Examiners statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting 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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

1 September 2023

Name:

Rob Humphreys

Relevant professional qualifications or body:

James, Holyoak and Parker Limited.
Chartered Accountants

Address:

1 Knights Court, Archers Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury SY1 3GA

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1161685

Accounts

Ironbridge Coracle Trust
Receipts & Payments account
For the year ended 31 March 2022

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2022

Charity registration number: 1161685

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The Ironbridge Coracle Trust (ICT) aims to advance the culture and heritage of the craft of coracles and coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge and on the River Severn for the benefit of the public.

Summary of activities

The Old Coracle Shed, purchased by ICT in 2015, was the workshop of Eustace Rogers, a renowned coracle maker. Coracle uses on the River Severn included transportation of people and property, line and net fishing, laying eel lines, securing driftwood, rescuing people and animals, recovering cadavers, and poaching.

Set at the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and Conservation Area, and less than 70 metres from the base of the world famous Iron Bridge, the Shed is the only remaining physical reference to a coracle building tradition that dates to prehistoric times. The Shed forms an important and unique part of the view that any visitor can see when looking at the Iron Bridge for the first time from the Ladywood Car Park at the south end of the Bridge.

The Shed, built in the 1920s from timber reused from the reconstruction of Atcham Bridge, was owned by the Rogers family until the death of Eustace Rogers in 2003. ICT owns this heritage property and has been delivering a National Lottery Heritage Fund project to preserve and restore the shed, a viewable exhibition space for the display of coracles and associated equipment telling the story of coracles in Ironbridge.

ICT trustees have had regard to CC's guidance on public benefit and have taken a decision that all its exhibitions and buildings will be freely accessible by the public, and that additional resources, when available, will be invested in running workshops and events to make the best use of the Trust's buildings and exhibitions to benefit people with dementia and mental health issues.

The charity may charge for the provision of some services such as car parking, printed leaflets, guided tours and use of the Trust's coracles.

Policy on grant making and social investment

ICT has not made any grants to individuals or organisations during the year's activities and no investments have been made during the year.

Contribution made by volunteers

ICT relies heavily on its many volunteers and supporters to run the programme of events and activities throughout the year, not least the annual coracle regatta. Volunteers are also essential to the maintenance of the Old Coracle Shed, the exhibitions and interpretation materials used in the New Coracle Shed and elsewhere and to the running of the general business of ICT. During the year, volunteers gave an estimated 175 days of their time to support the work of ICT.

Achievements and Performance

Whilst Covid-19 restrictions still impacted ICT's activities during the year the overall effect was less pronounced than in 2020/21. The New Coracle Shed reopened to visitors in May 2021 albeit with volunteers providing welcome and visitor management support to ensure Covid-19 regulations were adhered to.

Though careful planning and management ICT was able to run the annual coracle regatta on 30th August. Additional signage, toilet facilities, hand sanitization stations and other measures were put in place to ensure all visitors had a safe and enjoyable day. The weather was very good which helped make the 2021 regatta very successful.

The projects made good progress in the year 2021/22, due to sterling work from the project team, volunteers and staff.

Staff

All staff work on a consultancy basis and are not employed by ICT. The project manager was joined by a volunteer co-ordinator from September 2021 to February 2022. In February 2022 a new part time role was created and filled. This position will provide support for the regatta, coracle making courses and other education activities.

The project team has continued to hold weekly meetings to review priorities and progress.

Capital works

There were no significant capital work during this financial year. Some minor work was carried out on the Old Coracle Shed. The whole capital project came in within budget and we are now in discussion with NLHF whether we can use some of the allocated inflation budget reserved for the project for use to further extend the steps behind the Old Coracle Shed to improve access to the river.

Activities & Events

Despite the resurgence of different strains of Covid and restrictions on access and numbers during these 12 months we undertook 60 different events and activities with more than 6500 participants. We successfully engaged with a wide range of different audiences specified in our Heritage Fund Project Activity Plan.

Some highlights include:

Ironbridge High Street Reopening - These was organised by Telford & Wrekin Council on 10 July. We launched our Colin in a Coracle children's book and animation shop window display at the Bolthole. This was in place for the entire summer holiday and the business owner calculates that around 4000 people viewed the display and engaged with it taking photos and making purchases of coracle related merchandise and information.

Coracle Regatta – This went ahead on August Bank Holiday Monday under Covid restrictions, which meant that our costs were increased but we estimate around 1500 people attended. Our evaluation shows that participants welcomed the chance to socialise in the open air, felt safe and appreciated the measures taken to ensure their safety.

Secret Severn Art Trail - We displayed our embroidered fish wall hanging and other craft works inspired by the Coracle Collection in the New Coracle Shed. This was our contribution towards the Secret Severn Art Trail during the first week in September and kept them in place throughout the Festival of Imagination in late September.

Sponsored Coracle Drift & Festival of the Imagination – This took place on September 18th when 20 coraclers paddled the 7 miles (4.5 hours) from Cressage Bridge down to Ironbridge as part of the Festival of Imagination. They received a warm welcome from Ironbridge visitors along the Wharfage and ranged across the Iron Bridge.

Volunteer training - Our volunteers undertook a range of planned training sessions, both online and face to face, these included Dementia Friends training, Oral History Training, Collections Management and Archival search skills.

Telford Kids Festival – on the 26th -27th February we participated in the Telford Kids Festival which attracted more than 8000 children and their carers from across Telford and the wider midlands region.

Talks and presentations - We are getting increasing number of requests to provide talks and presentations to groups that are now meeting face to face. The talk to Bridgnorth U3A attracted an audience of 85.

Coracle Crafts - Our coracle craft activities in the New Coracle Shed for families and cubs/scouts have proven very popular. A regular group is now meeting on Fridays to create coracle inspired crafts.

Engaging with care leavers - From February onwards we have focussed our attention on providing activity opportunities (including have a go at paddling coracles, and coracle-related crafts) for young care leavers and others within the care system, who would not otherwise have this opportunity. This will remain a focus from February until the end of the Heritage Fund project.

Coracle making skills - Finally, we have recruited individuals to take part in free coracle making courses, net making course, paddle making and hide coracle making. We anticipate several of these individuals acquiring the skills to become the coracle making trainers of the future, to ensure this endangered craft continues.

Social Media and Communications

A new website has been a priority for the charity. Work has commenced on this and the new website will be launched in 2022. Our current web site has attracted 3200 visitors in the last year in 4200 sessions with an average duration of 2minutes and 19 seconds.

Communication with project supporters has mainly been through our Facebook page. We are planning to try and reach a younger audience using Instagram and Facebook and also to drive more interest in content on our website.

There are currently 1150 followers for our Facebook page and 1021 likes. During the past year we achieved a Reach of 35,192 accounts. Our audience is consistent with around 62% women and 38% men, in the 25-54 age group. Facebook remains our most effective way of interacting with our followers and promoting events and activities. Our Instagram account is growing steadily with 643 followers and a reach of 1076 in a slightly younger age profile. We have recruited younger volunteers to try and grow our Instagram reach.

Google Maps has attracted well over 3,000 visitors to view associated images. The number of people seeing the Google Maps location for the Old Shed and the new shed are 325,946 and 12,107 respectively.

Performance against objectives

The Trustees' objectives for 2021/22 were:

- to continue delivery of the NLHF project
- to open the new coracle shed to the public
- to run the regatta
- to raise funds to help achieve our charitable objectives
- to build on our volunteer base

Whilst the Covid-19 restrictions in place during much of 2021 had an impact on ICT's ability to meet some of its objectives it made huge progress on the NLHF project and managed to run a successful coracle regatta.

In January 2022 ICT received the interim evaluation report for the NLHF which includes the following quote:

“ICT's project engagement totals are very impressive considering the physical restrictions caused in 2020 and 2021 by flooding and the Covid-19 emergency.

The New Shed's daily visitor average of 17 during summer/autumn 2021 is strong in comparison to average numbers scored during the same period by comparably-sized heritage attractions known to the evaluator.”

Transition planning

The trustees embarked on a transition planning process, which began with a consultant led session to shape the future direction of the trust when the NHLF project is completed in 2022. This process will be ongoing through 2022 as the project winds up.

Financial Review

The charity aims to hold sufficient funds in hand to cover one year's activities (£2500 for insurance cover and the regatta outlay). These are not held as separate reserves, but retained as cash in the main bank account.

For this year (21/22) the charity had a balance of £7903.32 at the start of the year.

The opening balance was boosted by several sources of income during the year, ending with a balance of £13188.55.

Total project funding expended on the Arts Council and NLHF project was £80905.21.

The charity is run entirely by volunteers, so as long as there is sufficient funding to cover insurance costs the charity is not putting any person or other organisation at risk. The project manager, interpretation and evaluation consultants are funded through the project grants and are self-employed.

Risks to the charity include trustees leaving or retiring, financial procedures not being followed, or grants being wrongly used or claimed. And also, as we now know, from being scammed!

Additional risks include breaches of Health & Safety regulations which are reduced through careful Risk Assessment, including Covid Risk Assessments; Reputational risk which is controlled by a process of signing off media; and GDPR compliance which is monitored by our GDPR policies.

We haven't had any significant grants this year but we should thank our partners and local businesses who have given us some support in particular:-

- Moonshine & Fuggles who have given significant donations from the sales of locally produced 'coracle' gin.
- The Bolt Hole who has helped by selling Colin in a Coracle with no commission
- Vic Haddock for helping us with the coracle drift.
- Telford & Wrekin Council with their support for the drift and the regatta
-

The trustees require guidance and assistance with financial procedures and JHP Shrewsbury has been employed as financial advisors to the board.

Risk Management

The charity is run entirely by volunteers, so as long as there is sufficient funding to cover insurance costs the charity is not putting any person or other organisation at risk. The project manager and evaluation consultants are funded through the project grants and are self-employed.

Risks to the charity include trustees leaving or retiring, financial procedures not being followed, or grants being wrongly used or claimed.

Additional risks include breaches of Health & Safety regulations which are reduced through careful Risk Assessment, including Covid Risk Assessments; Reputational risk which is controlled by a process of signing off media; and GDPR compliance which is monitored by our Data Privacy policies.

The trustees require guidance and assistance with financial procedures and JHP Shrewsbury has been employed as financial advisors to the board.

Structure, Governance and Management

ICT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only members are its Trustees. It is registered with the Charity Commission no. 1161685.

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees, and there are currently 8.

The posts are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Press & Social Media officers.

If there are vacancies these are widely publicised prior to the AGM, with any specific requirements made clear (ie, local resident, legal or financial background, coracle builder).

Trustees are selected by open invitation at the AGM. Prospective trustees are requested to send in details before the AGM which are made available to existing trustees to check if they are eligible.

If elected at the AGM, the secretary will contact new trustees with information about their duties and responsibilities and requesting information to enable their registration as new trustees, including their relationship with any related parties. This includes a link to the Charity Commission guidance on good trusteeship and the existing policies of the charity, within a new trustee handbook.

During the year, Trustees reviewed and strengthened its policies to provide strengthened financial governance and improved data privacy controls. ITC Trustee Board regularly reviews its policies and procedures.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

There have been no new appointments to the board in this financial year.

Trustees for the year 21/22 responsible for approving this report

Trustee	Office
Mary Lewis	Chair
Bruce Watson	Vice-chair
Julia Tinker	Treasurer
Kath Petty	Minutes secretary
Grant Foden	Company Secretary
Terry Kenny	
Peter Twibill	Press & Social Media Officer
Jude Pilgrim	

Declaration

The trustees above declare they have approved the annual report above for 2021/22

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature Mary Lewis .

Position: Chair

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST
(Registered Charity Number -
1161685)
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Year Ended 31-03-2022			Year Ended 31-03-2021		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
RECEIPTS						
Grant Income						
Heritage Lottery Fund	£48,912	£0	£48,912	£119,625	£0	£119,625
Veolia	£0	£0	£0	£0	£973	£973
Gorge Parish Council	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,000	£1,000
Donations & Contributions Received						
Other	£0	£984	£0	£0	£29	£29
Heritage & Regatta Events	£0	£4,183	£0	£0	£0	£0
Financial Ombudsman Claim	£2,730	£0	£2,730	£0	£0	£0
Interest re Claim	£0	£411	£411	£0	£0	£0
	£51,642	£5,578	£57,220	£119,625	£2,002	£121,627
EXPENDITURE						
Insurance	£1,418	£0	£1,418	£0	£1,240	£1,240
Coracle Shed Expenses	£13,840	(£95)	£13,745	£79,966	£0	£79,966
Trust Collection Expenses	£1,527	£0	£1,527	£1,775	£0	£1,775
Coracle Purchases	£3,267	£299	£3,566	£0	£0	£0
Project Management	£28,720	£0	£28,720	£18,350	£0	£18,350
Volunteer Co-ordinator	£4,170	£0	£4,170	£0	£0	£0
Heritage & Regatta Events	£18,384	£0	£18,384	£2,585	£0	£2,585
Accountancy	£900	£0	£900	£0	£0	£0
Training	£4,752	£0	£4,752	£0	£0	£0
Sundry Expenses	£316	£84	£400	£0	£54	£54
Input VAT claimed	£2,397	£5	£2,402	£15,149	£0	£15,149
Licenses	£1,214	£0	£1,214	£0	£0	£0
	£80,905	£293	£81,198	£117,825	£1,294	£119,119
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURE	(£29,263)	£5,285	(£23,978)	£1,800	£708	£2,508)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Bank Balances Brought Forward	£25,667	£7,903	£33,570	£23,867	£7,195	£31,062
Bank Balances Carried Forward	(£3,596)	£13,188	£9,592	£25,667	£7,903	£33,570

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1161685

Accounts

Ironbridge Coracle Trust
Receipts & Payments account
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Ironbridge Coracle Trust

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Charity registration number: 1161685

Objectives and Activities

Purposes of the charity

The Ironbridge Coracle Trust (ICT) aims to advance the culture and heritage of the craft of coracles and coracle making in the Ironbridge Gorge and on the River Severn for the benefit of the public.

Summary of activities

The Old Coracle Shed, purchased by ICT in 2015, was the workshop of Eustace Rogers, a renowned coracle maker. Coracle uses on the River Severn included transportation of people and property, line and net fishing, laying eel lines, securing driftwood, rescuing people and animals, recovering cadavers, and poaching.

Set at the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and Conservation Area, and less than 70 metres from the base of the world famous Iron Bridge, the Shed is the only remaining physical reference to a coracle building tradition that dates to prehistoric times. The Shed forms an important and unique part of the view that any visitor can see when looking at the Iron Bridge for the first time from the Ladywood Car Park at the south end of the Bridge.

The Shed, built in the 1920s from timber reused from Buildwas Bridge, was owned by the Rogers family until the death of Eustace Rogers in 2003. ICT owns this heritage property and during this year (April 2020 - March 2021) has been delivering the second phase of a National Lottery Heritage Fund project to preserve and restore the property so it is available to the public as a viewable exhibition space for the display of coracles and associated equipment to tell the story of coracles in Ironbridge.

ICT trustees have had regard to CC's guidance on public benefit and have taken a decision that all its exhibitions and buildings will be freely accessible by the public, and that additional resources, when available, will be invested in running workshops and events to make the best use of the Trust's buildings and exhibitions to benefit people with dementia and mental health issues.

The charity may charge for the provision of some services such as car parking, printed leaflets, guided tours and use of the Trust's coracles.

Policy on grant making and social investment

ICT has not made any grants to individuals or organisations during the year's activities and no investments have been made during the year.

Contribution made by volunteers

ICT relies heavily on its many volunteers and supporters to run its annual regatta and to help maintain its heritage building. Many have been involved this year in staffing the new shed during opening times allowed under Covid regulations.

Achievements and Performance

The Ironbridge Coracle Regatta was not able to be held during 2020 due to Covid regulations

The projects made good progress in the year 2020/21, due to sterling work from the project team: Marion Blockley, Graham Peet and Julia Tinker.

The new shed was ready to fully open from Easter 2020, only to be caught up in the Covid pandemic and subsequent lockdown. The old shed completion was scheduled for April 2020, but this was delayed by lockdown and also by the high flood level in Ironbridge in March. Work was completed in September 2020.

We have still managed to achieve a lot of the outputs required by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), and fully completed the Arts Council of England (ACE) Cultural Destinations Project.

Staff

The project manager (consultancy) has reduced her time by 50% during the lockdowns, and we have agreed with NLHF to extend the project for at least four months, until the end of November 2022.

The project team has held a virtual weekly meeting to review priorities and progress.

Capital works

Work recommenced on site on 18 May with additional precautions in light of the Covid 19 pandemic. Numbers visiting the site for meetings were restricted to enable social distancing.

Roof replacement work was completed and the locally sourced recycled replacement sheets of corrugated iron have blended in well. The corrugated iron sheets are laid over rubber sheeting, on new marine plywood boards. The electrical cabinet was been installed and connected to the mains.

Work to the stone retaining wall and steps has been completed.

The windows have been repaired and the panes with graffiti left in situ. One has a significant fracture and the glazier recommended that a transparent film be placed over the glass to stop it being lost, and this was done. The window frames have been decorated with grey anti-corrosion paint.

The works were inspected at every stage by our retained structural engineer, including the props under the shed, roof timber replacement, windows, doors and the external fences and paths.

Activities and events - Covid Impacts

We were also scheduled to participate in and deliver activities at a number of local events throughout 2020, but these, and our own planned programme of activities which was trialled in February- March 2020 and due to be launched April 2020 were severely curtailed by the sequence of lockdowns during the Covid pandemic 2020- March 2021.

A number of have-a-go sessions and other activities were run as part of the World Heritage Festival in September. We obtained additional resources to produce a series of videos that attracted 7000 views during the Festival.

Sculpture installation for the coracle trail.

We secured permission for access from the adjacent landowner to enable us to dig the foundation trench and fill with concrete. Traffic control along The Wharfage was agreed with Telford & Wrekin Council and installation took place in two stages - 23 March the concrete footings and plinth were installed and 20 April the sculpture was lifted into position using a crane and bolted to the plinth. An interpretation panel has been fixed close to the sculpture.

New Trustees to the Ironbridge Coracle Trust Board.

We have recruited five new trustees with a range of skills to enhance the governance of the Ironbridge Coracle Trust and ensure its sustainability beyond the Heritage Fund project. The new trustees include an experienced Parish Clerk; another has a national role with endangered Heritage Craft Skills and experience of paddling coracles from childhood; another is an archaeologist working for the National Trust who has extensive

community engagement experience; another is chairman of a local history group, with a background in Human Resources. Posts will be confirmed at the AGM in 2021.

Communication with project supporters has mainly been through our Facebook page. We are planning to try and reach a younger audience using Instagram and Facebook and also to drive more interest in content on our website. There are currently 767 followers for our Facebook page. Recent posts have reached 10,659 and generated engagement with 4421. Recent posts on Instagram have generated an increase in followers from 302 to 413, with the majority of followers in the 25-34, and 35-44, 45-54 age ranges. We have also recently starting using googlemaps and attracted 1516 views.

Performance against objectives

The Trustees' objectives for 2020/21 were:

- to continue delivery of the NLHF second round project, including the conservation of the old shed
- to open the new coracle shed to the public
- to run the regatta
- to raise funds to help achieve our charitable objectives
- to build on our volunteer base

These objectives were not fully achieved due to the pandemic, but good progress was made with the completion of the old shed and attracting volunteers.

We are grateful to many grant givers this year, including Veolia, The Gorge Parish Council, The Arts Council England (via Graham Peet) and Telford and Wrekin Council .

Financial Review

The charity aims to hold sufficient funds in hand to cover one year's activities (£2500 for insurance cover and the regatta outlay). These are not held as separate reserves, but retained as cash in the main bank account.

For this year (20/21) the charity had a balance of £7195.18 at the start of the year.

The opening balance was boosted by several sources of income during the year, ending with a balance of £7903.32.

Total project funding expended on the Arts Council and NLHF project was £117825.63.

The charity is run entirely by volunteers so as long as there is sufficient funding to cover insurance costs the charity is not putting any person or other organisation at risk. The project manager, interpretation and evaluation consultants are funded through the project grants and are self-employed.

Risks to the charity include trustees leaving or retiring, financial procedures not being followed or grants being wrongly used or claimed. And also, as we now know, from being scammed!

Additional risks include breaches of Health & Safety regulations which are reduced through careful Risk Assessment, including Covid Risk Assessments; Reputational risk which is controlled by a process of signing off media; and GDPR compliance which is monitored by our GDPR policies.

The trustees require guidance and assistance with financial procedures and JHP Shrewsbury has been employed as financial advisors to the board.

Structure, Governance and Management

ICT is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only members are its Trustees. It is registered with the Charity Commission no. 1161685.

The constitution allows for up to 12 trustees, and there are currently 9.

The posts are Chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary, social media and communications officers. We are proposing to introduce a new role of company secretary and minutes secretary at the 2021 AGM.

If there are vacancies these are widely publicised prior to the AGM, with any specific requirements made clear (ie, local resident, legal or financial background, coracle builder).

Trustees are selected by open invitation at the AGM. Prospective trustees are requested to send in details before the AGM which are made available to existing trustees to check if they are eligible.

If elected at the AGM, the secretary will contact new trustees with information about their duties and responsibilities and requesting information to enable their registration as new trustees, including their relationship with any related parties. This includes a link to the Charity Commission guidance on good trusteeship and the existing policies of the charity, within a new trustee handbook.

Trustees for the year 20/21 responsible for approving this report

Trustee	Office
Gerwyn Lewis	chair
Bruce Watson	Vice-chair
Mark Williams	Treasurer
Jude Pilgrim	Secretary
Kath Petty	Minutes secretary
Peter Twibill	Communications
Deborah Lissamore	Social Media
Grant Foden	
Terry Kenny	
Mary Lewis	Co-opted Oct 2020
Julia Tinker	Co-opted Oct 2020
Vivi Culshaw	Co-opted Oct 2020

Declaration

The trustees above declare they have approved the annual report above for 2020/21

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature Gerwyn Lewis . Position: Chair

IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST
 (Registered Charity Number -
 1161685)
 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
 ACCOUNT
 YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Year Ended 31-03-2021			Year Ended 31-03-2020		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
RECEIPTS						
Grant Income						
Heritage Lottery Fund T & W Council - Community Buildings & Facilities Grant	£119,625	£0	£119,625	£90,687	£0	£90,687
Cultural Destinations Grant (T & W Council) Telford & Wrekin Council	£0	£0	£0	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Veolia	£0	£0	£0	£60,000	£0	£60,000
Gorge Parish Council	£0	£0	£0	£0	£3,235	£3,235
Donations & Contributions Received	£0	£973	£973	£90,687	£0	£90,687
Other	£0	£1,000	£1,000	£90,687	£0	£90,687
Heritage & Regatta Events	£0	£29	£29	£0	£439	£439
	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,673	£1,673
	£119,625	£2,002	£121,627	£160,687	£5,347	£166,034
EXPENDITURE						
Insurance	£0	£1,240	£1,240	£0	£566	£566
Coracle Shed Expenses	£79,966	£0	£79,966	£164,928	£0	£164,928
Trust Collection Expenses	£1,775	£0	£1,775	£2,516	£0	£2,516
Coracle Purchases	£0	£0	£0	£1,248	£0	£1,248
Project Management	£18,350	£0	£18,350	£10,679	£0	£10,679
Heritage & Regatta Events	£2,585	£0	£2,585	£4,396	£0	£4,396
Accountancy	£0	£0	£0	£2,000	£0	£2,000
Training	£0	£0	£0	£992	£0	£992
Sundry Expenses	£0	£54	£54	£0	£54	£54
Input VAT claimed	£15,149	£0	£15,149	£11,732	£0	£11,732
	£117,825	£1,294	£119,119	£66,944	£620	£199,111
RECEIPTS LESS EXPENDITURE	£1,800	£708	£2,508	(£37,804)	£4,727	(£33,077)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	£0	£0	£0	£4,157	(£4,157)	£0
Bank Balances Brought Forward	£23,867	£7,195	£31,062	£57,514	£6,625	£64,139
Bank Balances Carried Forward	£25,667	£7,903	£33,570	£23,867	£7,195	£31,062

Independent examiners report on the accounts

Section A *Independent Examiners Report*

Report to the trustees/members of	Ironbridge Coracle Trust
Charity Number (if any)	1161685
On the receipts and payments account for the year ended	31 March 2021
Set out on page	6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2021

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Independent Examiners statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting 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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Name:

Rob Humphreys

Relevant professional qualifications or body:

James, Holyoak and Parker Limited.
Chartered Accountants

Address:

1 Knights Court, Archers Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury SY1 3GA