

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.

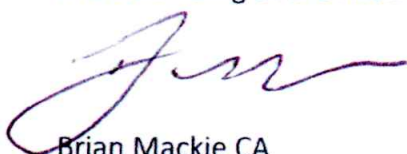
Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 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
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Dated: 25th November 2024