

**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
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
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
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
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