

WESSEX WATERWAYS RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1174586

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-09-11

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Inland Waterways Association
Unit 16B
Chiltern Court
Asheridge Road Industrial Estate
Asheridge Road
CHESHAM

Phone 01249892289

Email website@wessex-waterways.org.uk

Website wessex-waterways.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE CONSTRUCTION RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A NAVIGABLE WATERWAY (HEREINAFTER CALLED ÔTHE WATERWAYÖ) LINKING THE KENNET & AVON CANAL NEAR TROWBRIDGE WITH THE THAMES & SEVERN CANAL (ALSO KNOWN AS THE COTSWOLDS CANALS) (OR THE RIVER THAMES) NEAR CRICKLADE AND THE RIVER THAMES AT OR NEAR ABINGDON TO GOOD AND NAVIGABLE ORDER AND TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE WATERWAY FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND NOT BY WAY OF LIMITATION THE WATERWAY SHALL INCLUDE THOSE PARTS OF THE ORIGINAL WILTS & BERKS AND NORTH WILTS CANALS (HEREINAFTER CALLED ÔTHE ORIGINAL CANALSÖ) AND THEIR BRANCHES WHICH FORM PART OF THE NAVIGABLE LINKS AND ALL OTHER BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE WATERWAY.

Activities: Restoration of, and construction of replacement sections where it is not practical to restore, waterways including towpaths alongside for public use.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Oxfordshire
- Swindon
- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,541	£738	-	-
2024-03-31	£12,448	£15,597	-	-
2023-03-31	£3,864	£957	-	-
2022-03-31	£2,802	£2,761	-	-
2021-03-31	£1,182	£2,838	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LUKE HENRY WALKER	Chair	2021-05-26
Matthew Adrian Carpenter		2020-10-27
Michael Anthony Handford		2020-10-27
Rachael Jennifer Banyard		2018-02-09

WESSEX WATERWAYS RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174586

Accounts

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2024

Comprising:	Introduction, Statement of Principal activities and List of Trustees	Page 1
	Chair's Narrative	Page 2
	Receipts and Payments accounts	Page 5
	Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period	Page 6

Introduction

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Principal Activities

The charity's principal activities during the year continued to be, working with volunteers, to further necessary maintenance work and to advance construction and restoration for a navigable waterway between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Thames and the Cotswold Canals.

Trustees

The following persons served as trustees during the year:

Rachael Banyard (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Matthew Carpenter (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Michael Handford (re-elected for a further term of three years on 23 March 2023)

Luke Walker (ratified by members at AGM on 22 January 2022 following co-option in May 2021)

Description

Hours worked by volunteers during the year	1807.5	hours
Hours worked by volunteers translated to cash value	£19578	pounds sterling

Chair's Narrative

During the year we have continued our work towards a restored navigable canal through Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire. Two of our trustees attended the IWA-CRT National Conference for Waterways Restoration held at Northampton in April. We attended most meetings of the Wiltshire Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership, but the December meeting was cancelled, and, at the end of the year, we were waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council who host the Partnership regarding the future of this organisation. At meetings of the Partnership, we report on the work we are doing on the ground.

We have submitted applications to Awards for All for support to purchase a tractor with attachments, like the one they funded for WBCT some years ago. We were disappointed that our second and third applications were not successful and have been in contact with the relevant officers in Wiltshire Council and in Wessex Action for their advice on where we can look for funding, given our current state of organisational development. It is likely that we will reach out to the local Engagement Officer for Awards for All to explain the unhappy history of our dealings with them.

The Canal Partnership has elected a Councillor from Swindon Borough, Marina Strinkovsky, as Vice Chair. Our Chair has had an initial telephone conversation with her to raise questions about what he believes the members of the Partnership other than WBCT and WWRT could and should be doing to help the great project move forward.

During the year our Chair opened a dialogue with Mike Kinch who runs Park Farm about our starting work to dismantle as necessary and to rebuild Oriel Bridge. We learned that he would need us to provide an alternative means of access for the livestock at or close to the present bridge while we are working on it. An approach was made to the local Ministry of Defence establishment at Lyneham to find out if they could deploy a temporary bridge as a training exercise. The response, unfortunately, was that they don't have the kit to help us so, with help from Mike Kinch, two scaffolding ladder beams were moved from Dauntsey to Oriel Bridge to form the bearers for a temporary bridge spanning the existing abutments but enabling access to work on one half of the existing bridge at a time.

Arising from the presentation to Bremhill Parish Council in October 2023, our Chair produced an article for the Parish Magazine explaining how it came to be that WBCT are not doing the maintenance at Foxham. This was passed to WBCT for comment, but it remained clear that their Chair did not wish the article to be published at all, and did not appear willing to understand why it was critical for WWRT's relationship with our local council – who have supported us financially – that a clear and accurate article be placed in the public domain.

We were awarded funding from the Community Benefit Fund associated with our local Solar Energy Park and ordered and took delivery of various equipment which has been useful and will be useful for our work on the canal. The largest single item we purchased was a motorised wheelbarrow which will see service moving materials for the repairs to Oriel Bridge within Park Farm at Foxham.

Also, in preparation for starting work at Oriel Bridge, attempts were made to bring a JCB 813 Powerslide tracked excavator back into serviceable order. We are fortunate that this machine, and others, are available to us on loan from one of our trustees. A pin in the linkage to a control lever had seized and snapped. A replacement pin was made by a friend in Calne, and fitted, and the machine was then tracked to the compound adjacent to Oriel Bridge.

Preparations for starting the work to repair Oriel Bridge during the year included the formation of a compound in an adjacent corner of a field, moving the orange site hut into that compound and research to find a suitable supplier and paint system for the steel beams and parapets from the existing bridge which will be re-used.

The volunteers of Waterway Recovery Group regional team, BITM, have visited to help us with our work on the ground. They completed the work they had started to repair a breach in the spillway at Dauntsey Lock known as Hignetts Hole. Later in the year plans were being made for a visit to Foxham to work on the dismantling of the deck of Oriel Bridge.

Our work parties with local volunteers have continued for a day each week with very few interruptions. Most of our resources are utilised keeping up with vegetation management on sections of the canal totalling 3.5 miles. These are sections cleared by Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and by the successor Group of Friends, but which WBCT are now unwilling to maintain. Our intention is that our having taken over responsibility for these sections helps to maintain public respect for the project amongst the local population.

One item which had not been removed when WBCT removed some of their property from the land at Dauntsey Lock was an old caravan which had been used as a site hut on the canal east of the B4069. This was in the corner of a field owned by the neighbouring farmer and was not sufficiently robust to be towed across the field (which is how the caravan had arrived there). Several work parties worked to dismantle the caravan so that much of the arising material could be recycled – and the remainder properly disposed of.

Two of our Trustees were at the IWA's AGM Day in September to hear a presentation from the leadership of IWA about what they were doing to help waterway restoration trusts such as us. On the day, our Chair took the opportunity to meet, offsite, with a relevant IWA Trustee for a confidential discussion about the issues on the Wilts & Berks Canal which IWA would be able to influence positively if relevant help could be found within the IWA membership.

During the year one of our restoration volunteers offered to establish and maintain a Facebook presence for us. Photos of our progress on the ground – particularly at Oriel Bridge – will be posted for interested people to see on a continuing basis.

WWRT was encouraged to join the WSO Canal Partnership by a senior contact in Canal and River Trust which is the charity that cares for most of the connected and navigable network of waterways in England and Wales. They have a representative who attends the Partnership but our previous attempt to establish a regular dialogue failed. We tried to re-open that connection towards the end of the year and learned that the relevant staff member in C&RT had decided to leave the organisation. They also had resigned their position as an elected trustee of WBCT. It was decided to await the opportunity for a conversation at the 2025 conference. The December meeting of the Partnership was cancelled by the CEO of WBCT.

Two friends of our Chair who live in Calne visited the site of Oriel Bridge in the autumn and one, who was previously a professional in the construction industry, suggested a particular internationally-established paint supplier who might be able and willing to quote the necessary specialist paint system needed for Oriel Bridge.

Early in 2025 we received news from the Central Government level that the proposed reservoir south-east of Abingdon would go ahead. This project has been an ongoing issue for the route of the Wilts & Berks Canal in Oxfordshire for many years. The current proposals include for the diversion of the through-route for the canal around the northern perimeter of the reservoir footprint. There have also been reports in national media about new processes to facilitate national infrastructure projects where there appears to be conflicts with environmental and/or wildlife habitat aspects. It remains to be seen whether the facilitation of waterways restoration projects will feature in the government's thinking and proposals for legislation. Our Chair has reached out to the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – they are now members of the Canal Partnership – for their input in this direction. There were discussions in 2021 about Nature Recovery Networks as the complementary features alongside areas of Biodiversity Net Gain – but no substantive actions taken by the Government since then to the best of our knowledge.

Arising from our membership of the Partnership and the view of members thereof that there should be continuing discussions between WBCT and WWRT, the IWA representative had suggested a specific name from among the WBCT trustees and agreed to try to facilitate that person being nominated as a regular point of contact. We have received assurance from another contact in IWA that the group of three respected contacts in significant ongoing restoration projects was still working on proposals for actions and arrangements the IWA trustees could adopt that would be helpful to restoration trusts.

As has become a regular annual event, our Chair participated in, and successfully completed, the Thames Bridges Trek in September. This provides an opportunity for friends, relatives and members of Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust to sponsor him. The outcome was a significant element of our income for the year.

We remain grateful to our local friends and supporters, to our members, and to the many suppliers and others who support us in so many ways. We remain confident that our work is appreciated and valued – that spirit of goodwill is a great asset for us and a great encouragement to us.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

No (if any)

1174586

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/24		31/03/25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Memberships	1541		-	1,541	1,541
Grants			-		8,000
Refund of repairs to footbridge		-	-	-	586
Trustees loans	-		-	-	5,800
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	1,541	-	-	1,541	15,927
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,541	-	-	1,541	15,927
A3 Payments					
Insurance	663	-	-	663	-
IWA Membership	75	-	-	75	69
Webhosting		-	-	-	270
Marketing	-	-	-	-	-
Surveys		-	-	-	900
Refund to Awards for All		-	-	-	7,706
Accommodation		-	-	-	300
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	738	-	-	738	9,245
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Purchase of assets	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	738	-	-	738	9,245
Net of receipts/(payments)	803	-	-	803	6,682
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,963	-	-	2,963	-
Cash funds this year end	3,766	-	-	3,766	6,682



No (if any)

1174586

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/24	To	Period end date 31/03/25
----------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------	-----------------------------

Categories

Details

**Unrestricted
funds
to nearest £**

**Restricted
funds
to nearest £**

**Endowment
funds
to nearest £**

B1 Cash funds

	2024-01-01 to 2024-03-31	2024-04-01 to 2024-06-30	2024-07-01 to 2024-09-30
Bank	3,766		
	-	-	
	-	-	
Total cash funds	3,766	-	
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

(agree balances with receipts and payments
account(s))

OK

OK

OK

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

Restricted funds to nearest £

Endowment funds
to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

[illegible]

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

[illegible]

B5 Liabilities

[illegible]

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Arthur Laffer

Luke Walker

14/10/2024

WESSEX WATERWAYS RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174586

Accounts

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2024

Comprising:	Introduction	Page 1
	Statement of Principal activities and List of Trustees	Page 2
	Chair's Narrative	Page 3
	Receipts and Payments accounts	Page 5
	Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period	Page 6

Introduction

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Principal Activities

The charity's principal activities during the year continued to be, working with volunteers, to further necessary maintenance work and to advance construction and restoration for a navigable waterway between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Thames and the Cotswold Canals.

Trustees

The following persons served as trustees during the year:

Rachael Banyard (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Matthew Carpenter (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Michael Handford (re-elected for a further term of three years on 23 March 2023)

Luke Walker (ratified by members at AGM on 22 January 2022 following co-option in May 2021)

Description

Hours worked by volunteers during the year	1807.5	hours
Hours worked by volunteers translated to cash value	£19578	pounds sterling

Chair's Narrative

During the year we have continued our work towards a restored navigable canal through Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire. We have been represented at most meetings of the Wiltshire Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership, where we report on the work we are doing on the ground.

Early in the year, we learned from National Lottery Awards for All England that the relevant documentation regarding the £10,000 award they made early in 2019 had not been provided by the trustees who were in post at the relevant time. The necessary evidence could not be found in the records, and we were required to repay about 75% of that grant. This was to put us onto a sound footing to be able to submit a new application for funds to buy a tractor for towpath maintenance. We did contact those individuals who had resigned in the intervening period but found no willingness to put right the damage they had caused. An application was submitted to Awards For All towards the end of the year – a decision was awaited at that time.

Two 20-foot-long shipping containers were ordered and delivered to land to which we have access, by consent of the landowner with whom we have continuing dialogue. We were helped by a local farmer with his telehandler to move the containers from the delivery vehicle to the required locations. Since then, we have adapted them for use for storage and as a plant repair workshop.

We contacted a local committee which distributes funds locally from a Solar Energy Park near to one of our worksites. We found they were not able to help us with costs of materials for work on structures for the canal, but we were successful in our application to them for funds to buy machinery for restoration work and for our plant repair facility.

We were invited to attend a meeting of our local Parish Council to deliver a presentation and to respond to questions. We were very pleased that, on completion of our contribution to that meeting, one of the councillors proposed a cash donation to support our work. This was agreed unanimously, and the cheque arrived in the post very promptly afterwards. We are very grateful for this support, and for this demonstration that the work we do is seen as a benefit for our local community.

Another outcome from our dialogue with our local parish council was the opportunity to provide material for publication in the (online) parish magazine. We were required, for the first article, to explain the background to Wessex Waterways (rather than Wilts & Berks Canal Trust) doing the ongoing maintenance. The article was published after having received comments from WBCT and from our contact with the Cotswold Canals Trust and having made requested revisions to our initial draft.

One of our members, who runs a local plumbing business, offered to help us with his drone. The outcome of this is that our website now includes aerial video of all the sections of the canal where we are working – including those sections where we are not able to grant public access.

The volunteers of Waterway Recovery Group regional team, BITM, have visited us on occasions, for weekends and additional days, and given valuable help in the repair of a spillway where root damage since it was built had weakened the structure. At the time of writing the repairs remain sound – a much stronger arrangement than had been constructed initially.

Our work parties with local volunteers have continued for a day each week with very few interruptions. Most of our resources are utilised keeping up with vegetation management on sections of the canal totalling 3.5 miles. These are sections cleared by Wilts & Berks Canal Trust but which they are now unwilling to maintain. We hope that our having taken over responsibility for these sections helps to maintain public respect for the project – at least in our local area.

The demountable van body which served as a plant repair workshop for many years on the land at Dauntsey was left with us when Wilts & Berks Canal Trust removed other items they owned. We have continued our efforts to arrange to replace the original door, but for much of the year it was not possible to gain access to the items stored inside.

We have continued our efforts to attract more volunteers, particularly to help with the leadership, including making posts to a website aimed specifically at people willing to volunteer as trustees. We have yet to succeed on this route but will continue with our presence on this website.

A wooden pedestrian lift bridge across the canal at Foxham suffered the unwelcome attention of vandals during the summer. This bridge carries a well-used public footpath over the canal so, in addition to the report to the local police, we made our local parish council and Wiltshire Council aware. We sourced the relevant materials and made a sound repair to the structure within a few weeks of the incident. We learned that Wiltshire Council has a continuing obligation to fund repairs to public crossings of the canal, such as this one, under the Act of Abandonment. We submitted an invoice supported by receipts for the materials we had used and were pleased to receive the appropriate re-imburement. This incident prompted a response among the local community at Foxham, with posters displayed making the point that the local population valued the amenity we are providing. This support is welcome.

An excavator was damaged at the same time as the bridge. The repairs were done and, after some years of not being run, the engine was successfully started. Work to bring the machine back to a mobile and usable state was being arranged at the end of the year.

At Dauntsey Lock, by permission of the landowner with whom we have regular dialogue, we tackled the narrow strip of land along the back of the lock chamber wall on the towpath side. Paving slabs and block paving have been placed in position and resulting in a significant visual improvement. Following this, a short article was written and a photo provided for publication in the Waterway Recovery Group national magazine 'Navvies'.

During the year our local unitary authority, Wiltshire Council, held a consultation regarding their plan for the period to 2038. We were pleased to note that the route protection for the canal through their area is to remain in place. We took the opportunity to participate in this consultation – warmly welcoming this and stressing how vital it is for our continuing work programme towards the successful re-connection of a navigable waterway linking the River Thames, the Kennet & Avon Canal and the Cotswold Canals.

We held our AGM for the year ended 31 March 2023 in January after our annual report for that period had been produced and distributed to our members.

As has become a regular annual event, our Chair participated in, and successfully completed, the Thames Bridges Trek in September. This provides an opportunity for friends, relatives and members of Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust to sponsor him. The outcome was a significant element of our income for the year.

A meeting was arranged at County Hall in Trowbridge with the Chair of Partnership, the Chair of WBCT and the Wiltshire Council Projects Officer. Our Chair delivered a presentation to encourage discussion of ideas for the future and opportunities for more co-operation.

Our Chair has had dialogue with senior people within the Inland Waterways Association and now has regular meetings (online using Zoom or in-person) with a senior IWA contact from their South East region. This individual also attends meetings of the trustee board of WBCT.

During the year we continued to prepare to start our first significant structure task which will involve partial dismantling and re-building of a farm access bridge over the canal. A particular issue to resolve was the supply of the necessary materials to protect the existing steel beams (not part of the historic structure) which we will re-use. Removal of the beams is an early task in our programme of works, and we intend to remove the rust and paint the beams so they are ready to place in position when the brickwork of the abutments has been repaired.

We remain grateful to our local friends and supporters, to our members, and to the many suppliers and others who support us in so many ways. We remain confident that our work is appreciated and valued – that spirit of goodwill is a great asset for us and a great encouragement to us.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

No (if any)

1174586

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/23		31/03/24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Memberships	4962		-	4,962	3,854
Grants		4,000	-	4,000	-
Refund of repairs to footbridge	586	-	-	586	-
Trustees loans	-	2,900	-	2,900	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,548	6,900	-	12,448	3,854
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,548	6,900	-	12,448	3,854
A3 Payments					
Insurance	-	-	-	-	633
IWA Membership	69	-	-	69	54
Webhosting	270	-	-	270	270
Marketing	-	-	-	-	-
Surveys	900	-	-	900	-
Refund to Awards for All	-	7,706	-	7,706	-
Accommodation	300	-	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,539	7,706	-	9,245	957
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Purchase of assets	-	6,352	-	6,352	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	6,352	-	6,352	-
Total payments	1,539	14,058	-	15,597	957
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,009	-7,158	-	-3,149	2,897
A5 Transfers between funds	-7,158	7,158	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,112	-	-	6,112	-
Cash funds this year end	2,963	-0	-	2,963	2,897



Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/23		31/03/24

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	2,963		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,963	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Tangible assets	6352	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Creditors	2900	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Luke Walker	31/01/2025

WESSEX WATERWAYS RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174586

Accounts

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2023

Comprising:	Introduction	Page 1
	Chair's Narrative	Page 2
	Statement of Principal activities and List of Trustees	Page 8
	Receipts and Payments accounts	Page 9
	Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period	Page 10

Introduction

Since before the application to register Wessex Waterways as a charity, volunteers who have continued to work with us were working on sections of the former canal in Foxham and at Dauntsey Lock in Wiltshire. An extension of about 100m to our area of work was agreed with a Trustee of Wilts & Berks Canal Trust in 2021 so the sections of the canal within our care and maintenance at the start of April 2023 had a combined length of 4520m (2.8 miles). We have kept the towpath clear, the towpath hedge trimmed, and the canal bank trimmed on those sections, to the best of our ability with the resources we have, to the end of March 2023 and will continue to do so. There is a short section at Dauntsey Lock where we have not kept the towpath completely clear to full width under a short-term arrangement reached with our neighbours and the landowner to discourage public access along the towpath for the time being. We do expect and intend that the canal towpath will become fully accessible to the public in the coming years.

We received a communication from the Charity Commission in the months prior to the publication of this Annual Report, that one of our already-submitted Annual Reports did not give much mention of the activities of our charity. Our previous annual reports have not included the relevant statistics to demonstrate the scale of our activities in the way that has become the norm for voluntary organisations. We have been recording hours worked by our volunteers since the WBCT stopped treating those hours as part of its mission. The total value has been calculated using the rates published by the National Lottery for the different grades of volunteer work. The actual numbers will be greater than is quoted below as it is not possible to capture and record all the hours spent by our members, trustees, and our other friends, supporting our work.

Description	Quantity	Units
Hours worked by volunteers up to the end of March 2023	7007	hours
Hours worked by volunteers translated to cash value	£61,882	pounds sterling

Chair's Narrative

Wessex Waterways came into being from a constructive response to a decision made by the long-established Wilts & Berks Canal Trust. We see ourselves as a companion organisation working in a complementary and non-competitive way, and we communicated that posture to the then Trustees of Wilts & Berks Canal Trust almost immediately when the news reached us that the regulator (the Charity Commission) had approved our application. That was the moment when Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust was born.

The annual report for year end March 2023 is the first time that our founder chair has had a direct hand in producing the formal report for publication. He was unable to stand for re-election as a Trustee at the first AGM following formation, and several subsequent annual reports have been produced by others who have not taken the opportunity to put on record what Wessex Waterways exists to do and what it has done. We have a clear charitable objective which an officer of the Charity Commission helped us to write as part of the processing of our application. We also have the great benefit of having adopted a model form constitution provided by the Charity Commission with input from many experienced people within charities across the vast range of charitable activity in England and Wales. The 'Association' model form constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation gives clear steps to take to handle issues and situations that can arise – and are probably to be expected in the early years as a new organisation finds its feet and establishes its path forwards.

In the months after we published the annual report for year ended March 2022, we received a criticism that our annual report should provide more coverage of our activities. That comment could be applied to several reports that have been produced in the years since our first annual report which was for the period to the end of March 2017. This annual report is therefore being taken as an opportunity to tell the wider world what we have been doing and why, across all the areas where we are able to contribute to the restoration, including necessary ongoing maintenance, of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

In the early period after formation, we expected to be able to also contribute to the maintenance and restoration of a section of the North Wilts Canal but the land agent there opted to work with Latton Basin Restoration on a 'probably not for navigation' maintenance regime. The charitable objective of Wessex Waterways is very clear that we are to focus our efforts on restoration for operation as a navigation, so Latton Basin Restoration is now a distinct charity and Wessex Waterways is currently limited to working on the line of the main line Wilts & Berks Canal. We are constrained by our stated charitable objective to work only on sections of the canal which form part of the projected through route for navigation.

As a parting gift when the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust decided that it would not continue to support the work at Latton Basin, the telecommunications cabin it had placed there as a storage hut was handed over to Wessex Waterways. The cabin remains on the site for the use of Latton Basin Restoration on a continuing basis. It was relevant in the discussions that resulted in the decision to form Wessex Waterways that there is a protected through route for the canals to connect the Kennet and Avon Canal near Semington with the River Thames near Abingdon and with a connection to the Cotswold Canals near Latton.

The origins of Wessex Waterways can be traced back to the work undertaken by the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group (which subsequently adopted the name Wilts & Berks Canal Trust) in the early 1990s when a team came together for a day each week to restore structures on the canal at Foxham in Wiltshire. Back then, the W&BCAG also had a formal arrangement covering work on the line of the canal at Lyneham, extending over several of the former lock chambers there, and had started, but stopped, work there.

In the early 1990s two members of Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group based in Calne had become aware of an opportunity to buy a long section of the former canal either side of the B4069 at Dauntsey Lock. There were plans for W&BCAG to restore the former canal workers cottages there as a tourist attraction and educational resource, but the plans foundered and it was one of those two W&BCAG members, specifically Rachael Banyard, who put arrangements together to buy the relevant land and to restore the cottages for sale. This made it possible for the local work party team of W&BCAG to work on that land to restore the structures supported by other volunteers from along the canal and from the wider waterways movement. The trustees of the WBCT did agree that this project came under their auspices, though an unusual feature was that the landowner was also directly involved in the leadership of the work and funded the materials and the hire of plant needed.

A key moment in the story of canal restoration in the Foxham/Lyneham area occurred during a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May 2012 when Chris Coyle, then a Vice Chair of WBCT, explained to Luke Walker that he was taking steps to regularise the suite of restoration projects which were then underway within WBCT. Chris had read a Charity Commission publication containing guidance about the need for conservation charities to be able to show meaningful public benefit. Out of his consideration of the matter came a Policy Document, and the work WBCT had been doing at Foxham and at Dauntsey did not comply. The site signage was removed and the work party team, under the leadership of Gordon Williams, agreed directly with the landowners to continue their maintenance and vegetation clearance work. One of the farmers agreed to extend the benefit of his insurance to cover the team's work. Thus, the work continued on these sites, but outside the compass of WBCT.

By late in 2016 news had reached Luke of the appointment of a new chair at WBCT with a stated intention of supporting and accelerating the restoration of the canal by volunteers. Luke had conversations with him, and with the newly appointed Chief Executive, and had expected to become part of a new group of WBCT officers helping to initiate and deliver more restoration work on the line of the canal. Luke was also hopeful that the Policy regarding worksites would be reviewed in the light of the full extent of the charitable objective of WBCT (pure conservation isn't the whole story). He expected that, after some consideration of the issues, WBCT would resume the work at Foxham and elsewhere. This was not to be, and Luke decided early in 2017 to resign his life membership of WBCT.

Luke felt that the only constructive option available to him to prevent the sites that WBCT had abandoned falling into dereliction was to apply to form a new charity to work alongside WBCT. He was not confident that the application would be approved and therefore it remained a closely guarded secret for many months. Two former members of the Inland Waterways Association Restoration Committee (of which Luke had been a member) agreed to add their signatures to the application and to serve as the foundation trustees (three being the minimum number to form a new charity). The application resulted in WWRT's formation in September 2017.

In the months while Vaughan Welch and Luke were awaiting the decision of the Charity Commission regarding the application, and feeling very uncertain that the application would be accepted, only two significant steps taken. These were to arrange for a graphics design company to design a logo and provide the materials for headed stationery and business cards to be printed if that became necessary; and to take control of several relevant internet domain names so that a website could be established if Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust did come into being.

In the first few months after the Charity Commission gave their approval for Wessex Waterways to form, Geraint Coles, who had been one of the foundation trustees, was very seriously ill. Vaughan Welch (the other foundation trustee) persuaded Roger Holmes to come in to make up the number and enable WWRT to function, allowing Geraint's resignation to be accepted. Roger had previously been a trustee of Inland Waterways Association and had been their nominated trustee to the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust for some years. During the first eighteen months of operation there were several physical meetings of friends Luke knew in WBCT who he felt would be likely to support and work within the new charity. From these people, the first few membership applications were received.

Also, in that start-up period, a bank account was opened and WWRT became a Corporate Member of Inland Waterways Association and joined their insurance arrangements. An application for £10,000 was made to Awards for All for funding to buy publicity kit and equipment for restoration volunteers to use. The application was a success, but in the weeks following receipt of the grant, the first AGM was held but Luke was unable to attend – and thus unable to be elected to continue to serve as a trustee. The incoming trustees did not encourage Luke to continue to participate by attending their meetings, nor offer to co-opt him as a trustee (which would have been possible).

The Annual Report for the year to the end of March 2021 gives an account of how the board of trustees that was elected in February 2019 dwindled to a single trustee, and two new trustees were quickly brought in to enable WWRT to continue to operate.

Some of our highlights and achievements since then are mentioned below:

We launched a new name for our irregular newsletter, The Oriel, in April 2021 to achieve a very clear break from the style and some of the content from the previous Wessex Waterways publication. At that time, we promised that a new website would be launched – the previous one having been taken ‘off air’ when several of the previous board of trustees resigned. Since it was launched, this website has been updated as we’ve had capacity to do so, with significant items of news. Each issue of The Oriel is published there some days after it’s been sent out to our members and to a short list of friends of Wessex Waterways.

Wessex Waterways has use of some of the plant maintenance facilities which were established by WBCT on Rachael Banyard’s land at Dauntsey Lock. In the years since then, two second-hand 20-foot ISO shipping containers have been deployed alongside The Toybox, and the electrical power has been re-configured to provide power and light in those shipping containers and in a small tin storage shed.

From day one, maintenance of the canal land previously worked on by WBCT was a priority for Wessex Waterways. We also wanted to bring back into operation the team of structures restoration volunteers who had achieved so much during most of three decades starting in the early 1990s. There are two target projects available, but preparations including a technical solution and raising the funding take time. A very early work party once the restrictions on movement to control the spread of Covid were relaxed was a one-person session to clear the vegetation from around Oriel Bridge at Foxham so that the volunteer civil engineer who would design and draw the solution for us could inspect the damage to the historic structure.

It was possible to bring Luke back onto the board of Trustees in May 2021, a decision which was endorsed by the members at the next Members Meeting, which was the AGM in February 2022.

By July 2021 we were gathering the necessary building materials – sharp sand, ballast, and cement - to put a quoin stone in position at the head of the chamber of Dauntsey Lock. This task had been waiting for many years for a large piece of stone to become available. We were grateful – the stone needed was given to us. Following on from that, our team was setting sections of paving slab on edge in concrete and filling the area behind the top of the lock chamber wall with brindle paving. This gave a much smarter and safer lock chamber edge along the section of towpath that serves as a driveway for our neighbours living at Wharf House. We’re grateful to them for their patience with us and for the friendly exchanges we have with them on the occasions when our paths cross.

We were as quick as we could be in putting up signs on the sites where supportive landowners allow us access to work. Our signs quote our website address so we couldn't put any up before the website went back onto the air - a complete overhaul done for us by a professional company. Since then, we've been grateful to Alan Mynard, who's a member of the Buckingham Canal Society and manages their website, for doing updates to our website.

Our website has the very useful facility of being able to receive incoming donations – and behind that button to click on was Virgin Money Giving who provided a service to us and many other charities where they collect the payment from the donor's bank account, do the Gift Aid declaration for us, and put the money into the relevant charity's bank account. There are other providers of this service, and more recently the arrangement has been with Charities Aid Foundation which has a specific objective of helping other charities with fundraising. Helping us in this way is thus very firmly in their charitable remit.

In August 2021 WWRT booked a space and took the publicity marquee to participate at the Festival of Water arranged by the Inland Waterways Association near Worcester. Following on from our attendance at that festival we have continued to make efforts to draw in some help from people in IWA. At the end of March 2023 this area of activity has yet to deliver the intended outcome and is therefore ongoing. More on this subject will be included in a future annual report.

The two trustees who had joined the board in November 2021 live some miles from Wiltshire. Matt lives near Crawley and Mike in Hinckley in Leicestershire. One thing that was widely learned about when movement was restricted to control the spread of Covid was a web-based product called Zoom. This brings video conferencing within the reach of anyone with an internet connection. Our trustees' meetings have all been on Zoom since October 2020, apart from just two occasions. In August 2021 we published a photo of all four Trustees in one place. This was a demonstration that the constraints introduced to stop the spread of Covid had been relaxed. Perhaps predictably we met at Rachael's home where the canal is a few steps away from her front door.

The work party has continued on a very regular weekly basis with a stable membership. The usual pattern in 2021 to 2023 has been Luke turning up early on a Saturday morning to get tools into place for a prompt start when others arrive. There are often useful things that can be done with a head torch and the lights in the plant maintenance area before the sun is up enough to give adequate illumination for a work party on the line of the canal.

Wessex Waterways values the strong connections it has, and the availability of support from, the Inland Waterways Association and its Waterway Recovery Group (WRG). The BITM regional group of WRG has visited Dauntsey Lock and worked with us on several occasions in recent years – always pushing our work forward much faster than we could with our regular small team.

Since the late 1990s there has been a formal arrangement to enable the relevant local authorities to connect with the waterway restoration charity and to further the project to bring the Wilts & Berks Canal back as a valuable public amenity. Initially this organisation was named the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, but this was soon changed and is now the Wiltshire Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership. The name Wilts & Berks Canal Trust was taken over when it became available by what was initially formed as the Wilts & Berks Canal Amenity Group.

In the initial year of operation of Wessex Waterways, opening a dialogue with the Partnership was one of many pressing priorities on the one trustee who lived (fairly) locally. Luke met with Ken Oliver at Chippenham so that Ken was aware of the formation and purpose of Wessex Waterways. It was not until after the present board came together in November 2020, and various urgent issues had been resolved, that the dialogue was resumed. Luke delivered a presentation to a meeting of the members of the Partnership on Microsoft Teams early in December 2021 and initially it appeared that Wessex Waterways would be accepted into membership.

There was then a hiatus where someone whose identity we do not know chose to inform the Partnership that they had raised a concern against Wessex Waterways with the Charity Commission. It is also evident that this individual was not well-informed about the nature of waterways restoration. In the UK canals do not generate wealth for those that own the corridor of land occupied by the canal. The value enhancement for landowners that arises when a canal is restored goes to those who own the land alongside the canal – improved land drainage and improved views come to the land beside the canal. Thus, there was no real case against Wessex Waterways, but trustees' time was spent in discussions and in correspondence arising until the decision was taken to complete the acceptance of Wessex Waterways into the Partnership – this took fifteen more months to achieve.

The actions of that individual also put Wiltshire Council into an awkward position, well outside their remit as a local authority, of having to decide on a matter of correct charitable governance. Very clearly the issue was one for the Charity Commission, as the UK Government's team of relevant experts, to investigate and understand and determine. We hope that the individual concerned appreciates that they have shown a lack of wisdom and have done damage to a charitable organisation and to a worthwhile charitable cause.

Our story will continue in our next Annual Report, for the period starting 1 April 2023.

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Principal Activities

The charity's principal activities during the year continued to be, working with volunteers, to further necessary maintenance work and to advance construction and restoration for a navigable waterway between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Thames and the Cotswold Canals.

Trustees

The following persons served as trustees during the year:

Rachael Banyard (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Matthew Carpenter (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Michael Handford (re-elected for a further term of three years on 23 March 2023)

Luke Walker (ratified by members at AGM on 22 January 2022 following co-option in May 2021)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

No (if any)

1174586

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/22		31/03/23

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Memberships	3,854	10	-	3,864	2,802
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,854	10	-	3,864	2,802
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,854	10	-	3,864	2,802
A3 Payments					
Insurance	632.8	-	-	633	532
IWA Membership	54	-	-	54	54
Webhosting	270	-	-	270	-
Marketing	-	-	-	-	50
Deprecoiation	-	-	-	-	1,356
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	957	-	-	957	1,992
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	957	-	-	957	1,992
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,897	10	-	2,907	810
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	2,897	10	-	2,907	810



No (if any)

1174586

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/22	To	Period end date 31/03/23
----------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------	-----------------------------

Categories

Details

**Unrestricted
funds
to nearest £**

**Restricted
funds
to nearest £**

**Endowment
funds
to nearest £**

B1 Cash funds

Bank	2,897	10	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	2,897	10	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

(agree balances with receipts and payments
account(s))

OK

OK

OK

**Unrestricted
funds
to nearest £**

Restricted funds to nearest £

Endowment funds
to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

[illegible]

Details

Fund to which
asset belongs

Cost (optional)

**Current value
(optional)**

B3 Investment assets

[illegible]

Details

Fund to which
asset belongs

Cost (optional)

**Current value
(optional)**

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

[illegible]

Details

Fund to which liability relates

**Amount due
(optional)**

When due
(optional)

B5 Liabilities

	Liability relates to	(Optional)	(Optional)
Creditors	1075	-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

Luke Walker

25/01/2024

WESSEX WATERWAYS RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174586

Accounts

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Charity number 1174586
Trustees Report

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Principal Activities

The charity's principal activities during the year continued to be, working with volunteers, to further necessary maintenance work and to advance construction and restoration for a navigable waterway between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Thames and the Cotswold Canals.

Trustees

The following persons served as trustees during the year:

Rachael Banyard (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Matthew Carpenter (re-elected for a further term of three years on 22 January 2022)

Michael Handford

Luke Walker (ratified by members at AGM on 22 January following co-option in May 2021)

Chairmans Narrative

The charity was formed in 2017 to increase voluntary involvement in the construction, restoration and maintenance of a navigable waterway linking the Kennet and Avon Canal near Melksham with the Thames and Severn at or near Cricklade and the River Thames at or near Abingdon, and to improve the waterway for the use and benefit of the public, and not by way of limitation, that waterway shall include part of the original Wilts & Berks and North Wilts Canals and their branches which form part of the navigable links.

The primary aim is to complement the work of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust whose activities focus on other sections of the waterways.

The Trust is working with two of our supportive landowners in starting the process of designing and rebuilding of an accommodation bridge and the design of a completely new lock at lock 1 of Seven Locks, Tockenham.

Trust volunteers were able to take a publicity stand to the IWA's Festival of Water being held in Worcester on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

It is hoped that with the further relaxation of the Covid restrictions the Trust will be able to attract more people to join our work parties.

The Trust continues to enjoy good relationships with our landowners who help with moving materials to site and the loan of machinery.

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Profit and Loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2022
Current Financial Year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	2802		2802
Expenditure on charitable activities	(2761)		(2761)
Net income (expenditure) for the year	<u>41</u>	<u></u>	<u>41</u>

Prior Financial Year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	1183		1183
Expenditure on charitable activities	(1003)	(1835)	(2838)
Net income (expenditure) for the year	<u>180</u>	<u>(1835)</u>	<u>(1655)</u>

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	3	3356	4712
Current assets			
Debtors	4	399	377
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>8666</u>	<u>7927</u>
		9065	8304
Creditors, amounts falling due within one year	5	(1075)	(1952)
Net current assets		7990	6451
Net assets		<u>11346</u>	<u>11064</u>
Capital and reserves			
Restricted funds	6	8552	8552
Unrestricted funds		<u>2794</u>	<u>2512</u>
Income funds		<u>11346</u>	<u>11064</u>

L Walker
Trustee

Approved by the Trustees 17 May 2023

1 Accounting policies

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows

Plant and machinery

over 5 years

Fixtures, fittings, tools and equipment

over 5 years

2 Employees

2022	2021
number	number

Average number of persons employed by the company

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
----------	----------

3 Tangible fixed assets

At 31st March 2021

6780

Additions

0

At 31st March 2022

6780

Depreciation

At 31st March 2021

2068

charge for the year

1356

At 31st March 2022

3424

4 Debtors

2022

2021

£

£

Other debtors

399

377

5

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

2022

2021

£

£

Other creditors

1075

1952

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

6 Restricted funds

	Balance 31 April 2021	Resources Expended	Balance 31 March 2022
Awards for All	7706	0	7706
Other restricted funds	<u>846</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>846</u>
	<u>8552</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8552</u>

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income		
Charitable income	<u>2802</u>	<u>1182</u>
Foxham Bridge (Oriel Bridge)		
Other direct costs	<u></u>	<u>205</u>
Administrative expenses	<u></u>	<u>23</u>
Motor expenses	<u></u>	<u>23</u>
General administrative expenses		
Marketing	50	156
Staff training and welfare		104
Membership expenses	54	54
Insurance	532	499
Equipment expensed		336
Software		57
Depreciation	1356	1294
Repairs and renewals		
Sundry expenses	<u></u>	<u></u>
	<u>1992</u>	<u>2607</u>
	<u>1992</u>	<u>2632</u>

WESSEX WATERWAYS RESTORATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1174586

Accounts

Charity Number
1174586

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Year ended 31 March 2021

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Charity number: 1174586
Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

Principal Activities

The charity's principal activities during the year continued to be, working with volunteers, to further necessary maintenance work and to advance construction and restoration for a navigable waterway between the Kennet and Avon Canal and the River Thames and the Cotswold Canals.

Trustees

The following persons served as trustees during the year:

Rachael Banyard
Matthew Carpenter (appointed October 2020)
Janet Flanagan (resigned October 2020)
Michael Handford (co-opted October 2020)
John Minns (resigned October 2020)
Douglas Small (resigned October 2020)
Keith Vaughan Welch (resigned October 2020)

Chairman's Narrative

The charity was formed in 2017 to increase voluntary involvement in the construction, restoration and maintenance of a navigable waterway linking the Kennet and Avon Canal near Melksham with the Thames and Severn at or near Cricklade and the River Thames at or near Abingdon, and to improve the waterway for the use and benefit of the public, and not by way of limitation, that waterway shall include part of the original Wilts & Berks and North Wilts Canals and their branches which form part of the navigable links.

The primary aim is to complement the work of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust whose activities focus on other sections of the waterways.

The year has been dominated by Covid, with England going into lockdown on 20 March 2020. All restoration and maintenance activities ceased, although after a few weeks it was deemed by the Inland Waterways Association that essential maintenance work should be carried out to maintain safety of sites. The then Chair directed that a method statement and risk assessment should be prepared, which was carried out by an experienced volunteer. However, the results were not accepted by the Chair and activities remained on hold.

The trustees at that time failed to effectively communicate to the membership, and to the work party members in particular, a plan of action. As a result, a sufficient number of members requested an emergency members' meeting to discuss the situation – to be held via suitable electronic means, and all in accordance with the Constitution. The Trustees failed to organise such a meeting, and as a result those members themselves requested the necessary information to contact the membership to arrange the meeting.

Before the meeting could be held, four of the then Trustees resigned.

Under the Constitution, the minimum number of Trustees to be able to make operational decisions is three. A senior officer of the Charity Commission was very prompt to contact the remaining Trustee by telephone and asked if two more people were available to be appointed. Two suitable and willing people agreed to serve as Trustees, enabling the Trust to function. The incoming Trustees were able to use Zoom to enable frequent on-line management meetings.

Using the guidance from the Inland Waterways Association regarding risk assessments and mitigations in relation to Covid, work parties resumed on a weekly basis. A new work party leader was appointed. A programme of works was started to catch up on the backlog of maintenance, and to start to plan future restoration work on structures.

The Trust was not able to attend any public events as virtually all were cancelled to limit the risk of spreading Covid 19. The trust was able to arrange for the box trailer to be sign-written, thus making the brand more visible in the locality.

This report was approved by the trustees on 4 February 2022 and signed on their behalf.

R Banyard
Trustee

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Profit and Loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Current Financial Year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £
Income from charitable activities	1183	-	1183
Expenditure on charitable activities	(1003)	(1835)	(2838)
Net income (expenditure) for the year	<u>180</u>	<u>(1835)</u>	<u>(1655)</u>

Prior Financial Year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	2020 £	2020 £	2020 £
Income from charitable activities	490	2887	3377
Expenditure on charitable activities	(255)	(3455)	(3710)
Net income (expenditure) for the year	<u>235</u>	<u>(568)</u>	<u>(333)</u>

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	3	4712	4968
Current assets			
Debtors	4	377	374
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>7927</u>	<u>7377</u>
		8304	7751
Creditors: amounts falling due			
Within one year	5	<u>(1952)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net current assets		6352	7751
Net assets		<u>11064</u>	<u>12719</u>
Capital and reserves			
Restricted Funds	6	8552	10387
Unrestricted Funds		<u>2512</u>	<u>2332</u>
Income funds		<u>11064</u>	<u>12719</u>

R Banyard

Trustee

Approved by the trustees on 4 February 2022

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

- 1 Accounting policies
Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Plant and machinery	over 5 years
Fixtures, fittings, tools and equipment	over 4 years

2	Employees	2021 Number	2020 Number
	Average number of persons employed by the company	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

3	Tangible fixed assets	Plant and Machinery Etc £
	Cost	
	At 31 st March 2020	5742
	Additions	<u>1038</u>
	At 31 st March 2021	<u>6780</u>
	Depreciation	
	At 31 st March 2020	774
	Charge for the year	<u>1294</u>
	At 31 st March 2021	<u>2068</u>

4	Debtors	2021 £	2020 £
	Other debtors	<u>377</u>	<u>374</u>

5	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2021 £	2020 £
	Other creditors	<u>1952</u>	<u>-</u>

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2021

6	Restricted Funds	Balance 1 April 2020	Resources Expended	Balance 31 March 2021
	Awards for all	9000	1294	7706
	Other restricted funds	<u>1387</u>	<u>541</u>	<u>846</u>
		<u>10387</u>	<u>1835</u>	<u>8552</u>

Wessex Waterways Restoration Trust
Detailed profit and loss account
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income		
Charitable income	<u>1182</u>	<u>3377</u>
Foxham Bridge		
Other direct costs	<u>205</u>	<u>2334</u>
Administrative expenses		
Motor expenses	<u>25</u>	<u>66</u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>66</u>
Premises costs:		
Rent	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>31</u>
General administrative expenses		
Marketing	156	-
Staff training and welfare	104	-
Membership expenses	54	54
Insurance	499	125
Equipment expensed	336	297
Software	57	29
Depreciation	1294	774
Repairs and renewals	67	-
Sundry expenses	<u>40</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2607</u>	<u>1279</u>
	<u>2632</u>	<u>1376</u>