

Way of the Wharves CIO (Charity No 1188912) Report 2021

Aims and Purposes

The aims and purpose of Way of the Wharves CIO (WOTW) is to advance the education of the public in the maritime and industrial heritage of the Wharves at East the Water and the Torridge Estuary.

Objectives and Activities

WOTW is researching and promoting the maritime and industrial heritage of the Torridge Estuary and especially the wharves and immediate surrounding area of East the Water.

The book planned for 2021 'A History of East the Water, Bideford' was published in December 2021 and pulls together the large amount of research, carried out over the last years.

The focus in 2021 has continued to be on the wharves site on Barnstaple Street. This has lain virtually unused since the early 1980s when ownership transferred to Torridge District Council. In Spring 2021 Torridge District Council approved plans submitted by Red Earth Developments for demolition of existing buildings and construction of a mixed development of commercial and residential units. This site has a long and complex history and WOTW has campaigned for interpretation panels, artwork and appropriate naming. The developer has taken note of this and interpretation panels are part of approved plans.

WOTW continue to be in dialogue with the developer about progress of work on site and communicating that to their supporters using a newsletter update and facebook posts.

Achievements and Performance

Way of the Wharves CIO (WOTW) was registered as a charity on 6 April 2020 with first trustees Michael Teare, Louise Boulter, Anthony Burt, Angus Harper, Simon Whittam.

With the easing of covid restrictions and lockdowns WOTW could start to plan and carry out a programme of activities in 2021. There have been a number of meetings of trustees and supporters to organise these events.

WOTW successfully asked for funding from local councillor's locality grants allowing the update and re-print of the popular Walk the Wharves Heritage Map. This has been available free of charge in Tourist Information and other outlets.

A weekly guided walk programme was carried out over the summer starting from Tourist Information. A total of 42 walkers were taken around East the Water including one group of 21 from Bideford Rotary.

Once again, we accompanied students from Learn Devon learning outside of their usual classroom at Bideford Arts Centre, due to Covid restrictions. They made great use of our Walk the Wharves maps to learn more about the history of East the Water.

The website www.thewharves.org was updated to include new information and a shopfront for book sales. The monthly email newsletter was restarted and regular

positive feedback received. The mailing list is now over 300 and FB posts continue to get engagements of over 100.

Regular contact has been maintained with Simon Friend from Red Earth Developments to keep updated on progress. Our supporters have been kept informed via newsletter and facebook posts. Demolition of buildings is now completed; archaeological work is underway during December/January. Repair work on the sea wall is planned for early 2022 and main contractors on site not before summer 2022.

In August 2021 WOTW adopted the phone box in Torrington Street (next to the Bethel Chapel). Working together with East the Water in Bloom this will be conserved and transformed into a heritage and horticulture centre. WOTW will install heritage information whilst the exterior will take on a different look with the planned floral input from East the Water in Bloom. WOTW are collecting phone box stories and oral histories and plan to create these into an audio archive. See www.phoneeastthewater.co.uk for more information.

On 30 October 2021 WOTW held the Bideford BIG DRAW, a community event on the quay as part of this the biggest worldwide celebration of drawing. Looking across the water artists of all experience and ages were encouraged to draw the East the Water shore and wharves. The day was mainly dry and enjoyed by the 35 artists who registered and entered drawings, plus many other supporters and well-wishers. Art entries and summary of the day can be seen on <https://phoneeastthewater.co.uk/way-of-the-wharves/>. This event was funded by a grant from Heritage Lottery Community Fund.

WOTW made presentations, in person or on zoom, to Devonshire Association (Bideford Branch), Devon Family History Association, Buckland Brewer History Group. Articles were submitted to the magazines of Freshspring, North Devon Maritime Museum, North Devon Archaeology, Rolle Canal Society and Devonshire Life.

The major achievement for 2021 has been to publish the book 'A history of East-the-Water, Bideford.' on 14 December 2021. Sales have been made through the WOTW website as well as local bookshop Walter Henry's and the Burton at Bideford. Being so close to Christmas together with concerns over covid meant we were unable to hold any launch events. Book sales were 159 in 2021. Free copies went to authors, trustees, artists, graphic designer and were sent to British Library, Bideford Library, Pollyfields Centre East the Water and Devon History Society for review.

Financial Review 2021

In 2021, reflecting the increased activity of the charity, there was much more financial activity with grants from local councillors, Bideford Bridge Trust and Heritage Lottery Community Fund. Additionally, there were donations from walks and talks plus the first income from book sales. A personal loan of £1000 from M. Teare enabled funding of the book printing.

Way of the Wharves CIO - Accounts 2021

Financial year 1 January - 31 December

Way of the Wharves CIO registered as a charity April 2020

Income	
Grants	£ 4,780.00
Trading	£ 741.51
Donations	£ 350.91
Personal loan	£ 1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	£ 6,872.42
Expenditure	
Suppliers	£ 5,823.62
Travel / Delivery costs	£ -
Advertising	£ -
Website development	£ 385.85
Insurance	£ 269.00
Other	£ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 6,478.47
Closing balance at Bank	£ 450.15

Notes to accounts

Way of the Wharves CIO became a charity in April 2020. This is the second year of accounts.

Major expenditure in 2021 was printing of the book 'A history of East the Water, Bideford' published in December 2021. A personal loan covered some of this cost. Launch sales are included in 2021 trading and break-even is expected during 2022. The other major items of expenditure included: reprinting the Walk the Wharves Heritage Map (funded by locality grants), Public Liability Insurance and Bideford Big Draw community event (funded by Heritage Lottery Community Fund).

Grants received 2021

Devon CC locality grant	£ 435
Torridge DC locality grant	£ 250
Heritage Lottery Community Fund	£2095
Bridge Trust	£2000

Assets

August 2021 Way of the Wharves adopted the phone box in Torrington Street

Stock and equipment

Stock 800 books @ £3.70	£2960
Gazebo and benches	£ 320

Reserves Policy

At year end 2021 WOTW had a balance of £450 in the bank. There is one outstanding invoice for office services to TTVS (£85). Sales of the book are already contributing to funds and promotion will continue through 2022 when breakeven is anticipated. To achieve other objectives in 2022 WOTW will continue to apply for relevant grants and to fund raise.

Volunteers

In addition to Trustees others have supported our activities - especially with engagement on the Facebook page.

It is especially important to thank Bob Kirby who has contributed so much research to the East-the-Water history and contributed enormously in editing the book.

If the planning permission is granted for the re-development on the wharves, we anticipate that it will be important to find other volunteers who can help with fundraising, interpretation panel design and content.

Currently the charity runs with five trustees and has a supporters/followers list of 200+ on Facebook and 300+ signed up to the newsletter (mailchimp).

Structure Governance and Management

The running of WOTW is laid out in its governing document

The trustees are:

Michael Teare Chair

Louise Boulter

Anthony Burt

Simon Whittam

Kim Jones

Angus Harper resigned in 2021, he has moved to Wales.

Kim Jones became a trustee in February 2021.

Administrative Information

Address for correspondence

Way of the Wharves

c/o Michael Teare

26 Westcombe Lane

Bideford EX39 3JQ


Website: www.thewharves.org

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Email wotw.wharves@gmail.com


Prepared by M Teare.

Michael Teare Chair WOTW



Approved at AGM of WOTW Trustees 22/09/2022

Proposed: 

Seconded: 

WAY OF THE WHARVES CIO Registered Charity Number 1188912

Advancing the education of the public in the maritime and industrial heritage of the Wharves at East the Water and the Torridge Estuary.