

Way of the Wharves CIO (Charity No 1188912) Report 2024

Aims and Purposes

The aims and purpose of Way of the Wharves CIO (WOTW) were amended in 2023 to better reflect the geography and scope of the charity. *The aims and purpose of Way of the Wharves CIO is to advance the education of the public in the maritime and industrial heritage of Bideford, East the Water and the Torridge Estuary.*

Objectives and Activities

WOTW started out 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 main focus of charity activity in 2024 has been:

- 1/ the launch and activities promoting heritage harbour status, which was achieved for Bideford and river Torridge in January 2024 under the scheme run by the Maritime Heritage Trust
- 2/ leading a group of heritage organisations from along the river Torridge (River Torridge Heritage Group) focused around heritage harbour status projects

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.

Walks, Talks and Community Events

Since designation of Bideford and the River Torridge as a Heritage Harbour in January 2024, the following activities have been undertaken:

- Launch events - local radio, TV spots, newspaper and journal articles.
- Website www.barthh.org, active with 850 visitors in year. Now includes weekly column in North Devon Journal - Heritage Harbour Blog <https://barthh.org/north-devon-journal/>. The email newsletter with updates on maritime heritage news from along the Torridge is sent to an email list of over 300. Newsletters and other publications are archived on the www.barthh.org site
- Walks and talks plus participation in Bideford Fair, Rotary Water Festival, Heritage Open Days, Appledore Book Festival have reached over 900 people in 2024.
- Two leaflets published - available in Tourist Information and other outlets:
 - 'Walk the Quays' - a self-guided walk map of the maritime heritage in Bideford (complements the earlier Walk the Wharves map produced for East-the-Water).
 - 'Visit, Explore & Discover' - a map/brochure of maritime and industrial heritage sites and organisations along the Torridge
- Weekly column: historical themed stories mixed with local politics and community interest published in North Devon Journal since Dec 2023. Available after publication on www.barthh.org website Heritage Harbour Blog
- Over 250 maps/brochures were distributed to passengers arriving on the heritage paddle ship *Waverley* during visits to Bideford in 2024
- Developing a Heritage Harbour information board to be installed on Harbour Office, Bideford Quay in partnership with Bideford Town Council.
- Prospectus reviewing activities 2024 and future plans has been presented to Harbour Board and Cultural Development at Torridge DC.

- Article 'Heritage Harbours in UK' published in The Journal of the South West Maritime History Society 1984-2024 No. 37 (2024) 231-251. https://barthh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/heritage-harbours-uk-m-teare2024_compress.pdf

River Torridge Heritage Group and Heritage Harbour status

Much time has been spent in 2024 developing the partnership of local heritage charities from along the river Torridge – River Torridge Heritage Group (RTHG). The RTHG partnership formed in September 2023 and between them these heritage organisations represent about 2000 members/supporters and 200 active volunteers (stewards, engineers, restorers, painters etc). The group, led by WOTW, united around the application and subsequent activities related to recognition by the Maritime Heritage Trust in January 2024 of heritage harbour status for Bideford & River Torridge. The prospectus agreed by RTHG reviews achievements in the first year of heritage harbour status and outlining future plans that has been presented to Torridge DC through the Harbour Board and Cultural Development Officer and will be presented to Bideford, Northam and Torrington Town Councils.

Heritage Harbour status is national recognition of the importance of maritime heritage locally (<https://maritimeheritage.org.uk/heritage-harbours>).

Phone Box

A planning application has been approved to move the adopted the phone box in Torrington Street (adopted 2021) onto the Bideford Station to be sited as agreed with the land owner Brend Hotel Group. Co-located with Bideford Railway Heritage Centre on the very popular Tarka Trail walking and cycle way plans are in place to raise money to move and refurbish the phone box, installing the audio archive in this 'pocket museum'. See www.phoneeastthewater.co.uk

Book 'A History of East the Water, Bideford'

Sales in 2024 were 76, value £672. The most important sales channels continue to be through local bookshops and promotion at talks.

Financial Review 2022

Way of the Wharves CIO Statement of Financial Activities

Financial year 1 January - 31 December

Way of the Wharves CIO registered as a charity April 2020

	2024	2023
Income		
Grants	£ 5,400.00	£ 1,000.00
Trading	£ 672.35	£ 1,101.05
Donations	£ 395.00	£ 156.18
Interest	£ 1.80	
Personal loan		
TOTAL INCOME	£ 6,469.15	£ 2,257.23
Expenditure		
Suppliers	£ 1,664.14	£ 1,153.60

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.

Travel / Delivery costs	£ -	£ 97.00
Office costs	£ -	£ -
General payments	£ -	£ -
Advertising	£ -	£ -
Website development	£ 180.00	£ 200.64
Insurance	£ -	£ -
Other	£ 4,085.40	£ 1,106.18
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 5,929.54	£ 2,557.42
Closing balance at Bank	£ 3,744.14	£ 3,204.53

Notes to accounts

2024 income was made up of grants supplemented by book sales and donations.

The main items of expenditure were graphics and printing costs for production of the self-guided walk map for Bideford and Heritage Harbour map brochure.

Grant income includes £4,300 grants for Bideford Fair Bideford Regeneration Arts Culture Heritage event which WOTW provided admin and payment service.

Expenditure - Other is made up of payments to artists and charity groups at Bideford Fair Bideford Regeneration Arts Culture Heritage event.

Administration of funds for the Bideford Fair Bideford Regeneration Arts Culture Heritage event has distorted income and expenditure. Without this administration work finances would have been comparable to 2023 with income £2167 and expenditure £ 1844.

Grants received in 2024

Bideford Bridge Trust for map printing	£ 1,000.00
Bideford Bridge Trust for Bideford Fair	£ 800.00
Torrige DC for Bideford Fair	£ 3,500.00
Rotary for map printing	£ 100.00

Assets

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

Stock and Equipment

Stock 415 books at £3.70	£ 1,535
Gazebo and benches	£ 300

Reserves Policy

At year end 2024 WOTW had a balance of £3,744 in the bank. There are no outstanding invoices to be paid and one invoice for books due from 2024 (£16). Book sales continue to contribute to funds. To achieve objectives in 2025 WOTW will continue to apply for relevant grants and to fund raise.

Volunteers

In addition to Trustees others have supported our activities, followed website and engaged with Facebook page. Currently the charity runs with six trustees and has supporters/followers list of 350+ 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

Annemarie Munro

Teresa Tinsley

At the 2023 AGM, held on 30 September 2024, one of the agreed agenda items was to change the name of the charity to Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour. This will better reflect the organisations aims and objectives now that Heritage Harbour status has been realised. It is planned to action this change in 2025. The aims and objects of the charity will not change.

Administrative Information

Address for correspondence

Way of the Wharves

c/o Michael Teare

26 Westcombe Lane

Bideford EX39 3JQ

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Facebook @BrunswickWharf

Email wotw.wharves@gmail.com

Prepared by M Teare.

Michael Teare Chair WOTW

Approved at AGM of WOTW Trustees: 20/05/2025

Proposed: *Teresa Tinsley*

Seconded: *Annemarie Munro*

M Teare

AGM 2024 held on 20/05/25