

# THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 701050

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 1989-01-30

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

## Contact

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**Address** White Cottage  
Mile Bank  
Whitchurch  
Shropshire  
SY13 4JY

**Phone** 01948667746

**Email** [chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk](mailto:chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk)

**Website** [www.whitchurchwaterway.uk](http://www.whitchurchwaterway.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** (A) TO PROMOTE THE CONSTRUCTION RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION TO NAVIGABLE ORDER AND CONDITION THE WHITCHURCH ARM OF THE LLANGOLLEN CANAL FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH THE MAIN CANAL AT WHITCHURCH IN THE COUNTRY OF SHROPSHIRE TO CHEMISTRY AND AN EXTENSION THEREOF TO SHERRYMILL HILL BOTH AT WHITCHURCH AFORESAID (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "THE WATERWAY") FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. (B) TO PROMOTE THE FULLEST USE OF THE WATERWAY BY ALL FORMS OF WATERBORNE TRAFFIC AND FOR ALL FORMS OF WATER RELATED COMMERCIAL, LOCAL AMENITY, TOURIST AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC. (C) TO PROMOTE AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE HISTORY AND USE OF CANALS AND INLAND WATERWAYS GENERALLY AND OF THE WATERWAY IN PARTICULAR.

**Activities:** To maintain the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal and extend it further towards the town of Whitchurch to provide a healthy leisure facility for local people and the wider boating community.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Shropshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£21,768	£4,223	-	-
2023-12-31	£13,588	£3,498	-	-
2022-12-31	£10,894	£5,676	-	-
2021-12-31	£8,485	£8,219	-	-
2020-12-31	£4,838	£415	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Mark Andrew Lacey</b>	Chair	2022-06-14
Alistair Edwards		2025-11-11
Bernise Tasker		2025-10-14
David John George Torrens		
Douglas Edward Sealy		2024-06-25
Kathleen Oldham		2022-01-12
Natalie Ravenscroft		2026-01-19

**THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 701050

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# Accounts

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# The Whitchurch Waterway Trust

## Annual Report for 2024



c/o White Cottage, Mile bank, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 4JY

**The Whitchurch Waterway Trust** was formed as a company limited by guarantee in 1988. It converted to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2021. A copy of the constitution is available on request. The Objects of the Charity are to promote the restoration, preservation and use of the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal for the benefit of the public

### Management Committee

David Torrens	Treasurer
Doug Sealy	Festival Organiser
Mark Lacey	Chair
Kath Oldham	Membership Secretary
Bernise Tasker	Trustee
Anthony Gilmore	Trustee
Alison Arkell	Trustee
Martyn Arkell	Trustee
Giles Sullivan	Whitchurch Town Council Rep
Hilary Seward	Trustee

### Last Elected

AGM 2023
AGM 2024
AGM 2024
AGM 2024
Co-opted 2025
Resigned 2024
Resigned 2025
Resigned 2025
Resigned 2025
Resigned 2025

Trustee numbers have fallen due to a combination of factors including ill-health, emigration and non-attendance. New applicants are always welcome and should apply by emailing [chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk](mailto:chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk)

### Volunteers

Lindsay Green	Moorings Secretary
David Thornton	Volunteer Leader & Arm Maintenance
Joe Sheldon	Website Changes
David Stanier	Arm Maintenance
Bob Sumner	Arm Maintenance
Charlie Evans	Arm Maintenance
Dave Leggatt	Arm Maintenance
Doug Sealy	Arm Maintenance
Mark Lacey	Arm Maintenance

We now have more regular volunteers who help to maintain the Arm. Many other volunteers also help with the Whitchurch Canal Festival.

### Financial

For the year 2024, WWT is reporting a surplus of £17,545 on income of £21,768 leaving us with reserves of £69,489. Within this reserves figure, we have designated funds of £40,000 for future maintenance costs, £5,000 for the Whitchurch Country Park project and £1,000 for new signage.

<b>Income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Mooring Fees	10083	4324	Maintenance	1080	854
Festival	4679	3463	Festival	2142	1565
Advertising	2000	2070	Insurance	592	564
Membership	848	1069	Publicity	415	415
Grants	2745	1100	Accountancy Fees	200	-
Donations	455	895	Other	209	99
Investments	958	667	<b>Total</b>	<b>4223</b>	<b>3498</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21768</b>	<b>13588</b>	Surplus	17545	10090

### **New Connection Agreement**

The new connection agreement with CRT came into force in 2024 with the first payment of 9% of moorings income plus VAT falling due in January 2025.

### **Whitchurch Country Park**

The Community Asset Transfer of the Country Park to Whitchurch Waterway Trust was finally approved by Shropshire Council in December 2024. Their legal department has drawn up a 25-year lease agreement and we have provided our comments. WWT will draw up a management agreement with Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) for them to manage Greenfields Local Nature Reserve, which forms part of the park. This will be based on the previous agreement between the Council and SWT.

### **Canal Festival 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September**

The canal festival attracted 3500 people over the weekend to see trading boats, a wide variety of stalls and entertainment. Prizes for the best boat and best stall went to Kevin and Sheila Maybey with Gordanneus Woodcrafts and Maureen Richards with her Bags from Rags stall. The judges were Cllrs Andy Hall and Rose Hall, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Whitchurch Town Council and Cllr Peggy Mullock representing Shropshire Council. Local MP Helen Morgan also visited the event which has become a fixture in the Whitchurch social calendar.

### **IWA Consultant Engineer Visit**

We were pleased to welcome Howard Worth, Honorary Engineer for the Inland Waterways Association for an inspection of the Whitchurch Arm in November 2024. He has been involved with canal restoration since the 1970s and this was his final visit before retiring. He provided practical advice on maintenance and silt removal and advised against extending the Whitchurch Arm, given the technical and funding issues and the limited benefits of an extension for the network as a whole.

### **Future Plans**

Priorities for 2025 – to complete Community Asset Transfer of the Whitchurch Country Park; to install new and replacement signage; to improve access for boat owners and drainage of the southern bank.

Longer term priorities – to develop cost effective methods of silt removal and piling replacement and to review the objects of the organisation in the light of advice from the IWA Engineer.

**And Finally.....**thanks to everyone at Chemistry Farm for providing our workshop and storage, and for hosting the annual festival. We literally couldn't do it without you!

**THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 701050

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# Accounts

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**The Whitchurch Waterway Trust** was formed as a company limited by guarantee in 1988. It converted to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2021. A copy of the constitution is available on request. The Objects of the Charity are to promote the restoration, preservation and use of the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal for the benefit of the public

### Management Committee

Mark Lacey	Chair
Kath Oldham	Membership Secretary
Hilary Seward	Trustee
Giles Sullivan	Whitchurch Town Council Rep
Bernise Tasker	Trustee
David Torrens	Treasurer
Alison Arkell	Trustee
Anthony Gilmore	Trustee
Doug Sealy	Trustee
Martyn Arkell	Trustee
Simon Tasker	Trustee

### Last Elected

AGM 2022
AGM 2022
AGM 2022
AGM 2022
AGM 2023
AGM 2023
AGM 2023
AGM 2023
Co-opted 2024
Co-opted 2024
Resigned 2024

We now have a healthy trustee board with a wide range of skills. New applicants are always welcome and should apply by emailing [chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk](mailto:chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk)

### Volunteers

Lindsay Green	Moorings Secretary	& Festival Host
David Thornton	Volunteer Leader	& Arm Maintenance
Joe Sheldon	Advertising Display Panels	
Anthony Gilmore	Leaflets & Photography	
David Stanier	Arm Maintenance	
Bob Sumner	Arm Maintenance	
Charlie Evans	Arm Maintenance	
Doug Sealy	Arm Maintenance	
Mark Lacey	Arm Maintenance	
Arthur Skitt	Arm Maintenance	Retired 2024
Helen Brockman	Secretary	Resigned 2024

We now have more regular volunteers who help to maintain the Arm. Many other volunteers also help with the Whitchurch Canal Festival.

### Financial

For the year 2023, WWT is reporting a surplus of £10,090 on income of £13,588 leaving us with free reserves of £51,944. Within this reserves figure, we have designated funds of £40,000 for future maintenance costs, £5,000 for the Whitchurch Country Park project and £1,000 for new signage.

<b>Income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2023</b>
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<b>2022</b>				
Mooring Fees	4324	3002	Maintenance	854
3745				
Festival	3463	3555	Festival	1565
839				
Advertising	2070	390	Insurance	564
510				
Membership	1069	1083	Publicity	415
-				
Grants	1100	1450	IT	-
937				
Donations	895	635	Other	99
130				
Investments	667	779	<b>Total</b>	<b>3498</b>
<b>6161</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>13588</b>	<b>10894</b>	Surplus	10090
4734				

### **New Connection Agreement**

WWT has signed a new 150 year connection agreement with Canal & River Trust (CRT) that reduces the annual fee from 40% to 9% of mooring earnings. The only restriction is that we maintain 4 places for 48hr moorings which we will continue to offer free of charge. The agreement recognises that it is in everyone's interest that WWT is able to generate sufficient funds to pay for maintenance of the Arm. We would like to thank CRT for their positive response to our proposals.

### **Whitchurch Country Park**

Our application for a Community Asset Transfer of the Whitchurch Country Park has been successful. Heads of Terms for a 25-year lease have been agreed. The site will be managed alongside the Whitchurch Arm which is owned by the Trust. We have established a partnership of local organisations to help us with this work.

### **Advertising and Canal Signage**

We are in the process of replacing all of the signage on the Whitchurch Arm to support our new moorings charging policy. We have also made provision for local businesses to advertise on site within strict design criteria.

### **Canal Festival 2023**

The canal festival attracted 3500 people over the weekend to see trading boats, a wide variety of stalls and entertainment. Prizes for the best boat and best stall went to the Saturn Flyboat and Gwen Hicklin's craft stall. The judges were Deputy Lord Lieutenant Tullis Matson, Cllr Andy Hall Mayor of Whitchurch and Cllr Peggy Mullock. We also had a visit from Helen Morgan MP. A great time was had by all and many thanks to the volunteers for preparing the Arm for this event.

### **Future Plans**

Outstanding Priorities for 2024 - to complete Community Asset Transfer of the Whitchurch Country Park; to install new and replacement signage; to improve access for boat owners and drainage of the southern bank.

Longer term priorities - to arrange a third party maintenance inspection of the Arm; to develop cost effective methods of silt removal and piling replacement; to review plans for extending the canal into the town and if there is no viable option; to review the objects of the organisation.

**And Finally.....** thanks to Lindsay, Alex, Richard and Sophie at Chemistry Farm for providing our workshop and storage, and for hosting the annual festival. We literally

couldn't do it without you!

**THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 701050

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# Accounts

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### 1.3.4 Becoming a Trustee

Any member who would like to become a Trustee should email [chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk](mailto:chair@whitchurchwaterway.uk), or come forward under Nominations for Trustees from the Floor at the AGM.

Prospective Trustees will need to complete a trustee eligibility declaration for the Charity Commission which declares that they are suitable to become a charity trustee (for example, not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee, no unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception etc). The names of Trustees are publically listed by The Charity Commission.

The Charity Commission publishes a useful guide "The Essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do (CC3)", which tells you about being a charity Trustee. See

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

What trustees must do is nothing to worry about and is well within the capabilities of an ordinary person who has the Trust's interests at heart.

## 1.4 Trustees Report

### 1.4.1 Governance

The Whitchurch Waterway Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation dedicated to the restoration, maintenance and use of the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal for the education and benefit of the general public. The trustees meet 4 times a year, including the Annual General Meeting. Our trustees are:

Mark Lacey (Chair)  
David Torrens (Treasurer)  
Kath Oldham (Membership Secretary)  
Hilary Seward (Whitchurch Business Group representative)  
Giles Sullivan (Whitchurch Town Council representative)  
Simon Tasker (co-opted)  
Bernise Tasker (co-opted)

Our regular volunteers include:

Helen Brockman (Secretary)  
Lindsay Green (Moorings)  
Arthur Kitt, Bob Sumner, Charlie Evans & David Stanier (Maintenance)  
Anthony Gilmore (Photography, Leaflet Distribution & Social Media)  
Joe Sheldon (Signage & Advertising Groundworks)

Many other volunteers help at the annual festival.

### 1.4.2 Financial

In 2022, the first 'normal year' since the pandemic, we are reporting a profit of £5,218 on income of £10,984, leaving us with free reserves of £42,285. This compares with a loss of -£672 in 2021. The reserves figure has to be viewed in the context of increasing contractor dredging and piling charges. Within this figure, we have established a designated fund of £30,000 for future maintenance costs. We will continue to explore cheaper options for carrying out this work.

### 1.4.3 Festival

The first canal festival for 3 years was held on the first weekend of September 2022. It was successful and raised around £2900 towards the upkeep of the canal. The best dressed boat competition was judged by a team comprising Vince Hunt, Chair of Shropshire Council, Cllr Peggy Mullock and Rose Hall, Deputy Mayor of Whitchurch Town Council. First prize and a bottle of champagne went to Jan Vallance who has 'Tonka', otherwise known as The Art Boat. The judges were impressed by the way Jan's atmospheric canal-themed paintings were displayed along the side of her boat.

### 1.4.4 Whitchurch Country Park

Our stage 1 application for a Community Asset Transfer of the Whitchurch Country Park, including Greenfields Local Nature Reserve was accepted by Shropshire Council, who own the site. The second and final stage of the process is to develop a business plan and agree the terms of a lease agreement. We plan to

create a partnership of local organisations to manage the site alongside the section of canal owned by WWT. A public consultation about the scheme will end after the Blackberry Festival in October.

#### **1.4.5 Maintenance**

Our team of volunteers has continued to do an excellent job of maintaining the arm throughout the year. We used a grant of £400 from Whitchurch Town Council towards the cost of a commercial standard strimmer which was vital in clearing the land prior to the 2023 festival. David Stanier has recently joined the team which means we now have Arthur, Bob, Charlie and David. We are now recruiting for an Erica and a Frank.

#### **1.4.6 Moorings Agreement**

We have agreed terms with the Canal and Rivers Trust for a new agreement. CRT has been extremely responsive to our calls for an agreement that recognises that both parties have an interest in ensuring that the Whitchurch Arm is properly maintained. In order for that to happen, WWT needed flexibility to generate more income from its moorings. We hope to sign the new agreement in time for the next summer season.

#### **1.4.7 Advertising**

Hilary Seward has led a group replacing signage and adverts on the Whitchurch Arm with support from our designed, Joe Sheldon of Audlem Printers, who also contributed through voluntary work on site. We asked for tasteful signage in keeping with the environment and the results produced have surpassed all expectations with many positive comments coming from the public. Further replacement of signage is planned for 2024.

#### **1.4.8 Communications**

In addition to Facebook, we now also have accounts on Instagram and X, thanks to Anthony Gilmore. These have been heavily utilised in the run up to the festival and we aim to keep posting news items throughout the year. Mark featured in a towpath interview by Katy Tebby from Radio Shropshire and Hilary Seward was also interviewed by the station on the first morning of the festival.

#### **1.4.9 And Finally.....**

A big thank you to Lindsay Green and her family for their continued support, including the use of Chemistry Farm outbuildings and for opening her home to visitors during the festival.

Mark Lacey

## The Whitchurch Waterway Trust Accounts Report for 2022

### Profit and Loss

For Period: 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022

TURNOVER	2022	2021
4010 Mooring Fees Net	£3,001.75	£1,947.72
(Mooring fees less the 40% due to CRT)		
4400 Canal Festival Income	£3,275.02	
(No Festival in 2021)		
4800 Grants Income	£1,450.00	£200.00
4906 Advertising Income	£390.00	£540.00
4907 Bric a Brac Sales Income	£280.00	
4908 Donations Income	£635.20	£739.89
4909 Membership Subscriptions	£1,083.04	£1,014.00
4910 Bank Account Interest Received	£5.15	£25.08
4911 Investment Income (COIF Units)	£774.24	£629.82
4912 Capital Value Change COIF Fund		-£937.68
Total:	£10,894.40	£4,158.83
LESS COST OF SALES:		
5006 Arm Maintenance (north Chemistry Bridge)	-£2,965.05	-£1,049.95
5007 Build or Maintain South of Chemistry Brg	-£780.00	
5490 Canal Festival Miscellaneous Expenses	-£354.55	
Total:	-£4,099.60	-£1,049.95
GROSS PROFIT:	£6,794.80	£3,108.88
LESS EXPENSES:		
7504 Facebook Design and Maintenance	-£50.00	
7505 Website Design and Maintenance	-£700.00	
7506 Hosting Fees and IT Consumables	-£186.55	
7507 Office Stationary and Postage Costs	-£51.39	-£177.90
8201 Subscriptions	-£79.00	-£28.96
8204 Insurance	-£509.60	-£414.40
Total:	-£1,576.54	-£621.26
Profit Before Tax:	£5,218.26	£2,487.62

**End of Year Balance Sheet**

## FIXED ASSETS:

10 Freehold Property	£1,600	£1,600
Total Fixed Assets:	£1,600	£1,600

## CURRENT ASSETS:

1010 Lloydes Bank Shares	£144	£144
1200 Current Account	£11,052	£3,387
1210 Business Instant Access	£3,006	£3,001
1211 COIF	£31,417	£31,417
Total Current Assets:	£45,620	£37,950

## CURRENT LIABILITIES:

2100 Creditors Control Account	£451	
(Above was some expences not Paid until 2023)		
2300 Canal and River Trust Liability	£2,884	£882
Total Current Liability:	£3,335	£882
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	£42,285	£37,067
Fixed Assets + Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	£43,885	£38,667

## CAPITAL AND RESERVES:

P&L Account	£43,885	£38,667
Total Capital and Reserves:	£43,885	£38,667

Approved by the Trustees

and signed on behalf of the WWT Trustees by David J G Torrens (Treasurer)



**THE WHITCHURCH WATERWAY TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 701050

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# Accounts

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The Whitchurch Waterway Trust

Charity Reg. Number 701050

Receipts and Payments 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>Full Year 2021</u>	<u>Full Year 2020</u>
Code	Item		
4010	Mooring Fees	£5,336.20	2649.87
4011	Grants Received		
4400	Canal Festival Total Income		76
4900	Miscellaneous Income		
4906	Advertising Income	£540.00	150
4907	Bric-a-Brac Sales Income		
4908	Donations Income	£939.89	234.45
4909	Membership Subscriptions	£1,014.00	1026.04
4910	Bank Account Interest Received	£25.08	56.37
4911	Investment Income (COIF Units)	£629.82	645.48
	( Total Income in 2019 was £11,827.88)	<b>£8,484.99</b>	<b>£4,838.21</b>

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>Full Year 2021</u>	<u>Full Year 2020</u>
Code	Item		
5006	Arm Maintenance West of Chemistry Bridge	£1,049.95	£182.95
5007	Build or Maintain East of Chemistry Bridge		-
5400	Canal Festival Total Expenses		-
6900	Miscellaneous Expenses		-
7101	Room Hire		-
7302	Licences		-
7506	Hosting Fees and IT Consumables		-
7507	Office Stationery and Postage Costs	£177.90	£153.10
8201	Subscriptions (Shropshire Union and IWA)	£28.96	£79.00
8204	Insurance	£414.40	-
8207	Mooring Fees Refunds	£1,430.00	
8210	Mooring Fees Share To CRT	£5,117.98	-
		<b>£8,219.19</b>	<b>£415.05</b>

<b>Calculation of Net and Gross Profit/Loss</b>	
Start of year Capital and Reserves	£40,221.53
Total Expenses	-£8,219.19
Total Income	£8,484.99
Total Expenses Less Total Income = <b>Net Profit.</b>	£265.80
Change in Value of COIF Shares During The Year	-£937.68
Net Profit Less Change in Value COIF = <b>Gross Loss.</b>	<u>-£671.88</u>
Start of year Capital and Reserves Less Gross Losses = <b>End of Year Capital and</b>	£39,549.65
(The above agrees with 2021 End of Year Capital and Reserves on Balance Sheet on next Page)	

Approved by the Trustees during July 2022

and signed on behalf of the WWT Trustees by David J G Torrens (Treasurer)...



# The Whitchurch Waterway Trust

Charity Reg. Number 701050

Balance Sheets on 31st December 2020 and 31st December 2021

	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
<b>FIXED ASSETS:</b>		
10 Freehold Property	£1,600.00	£1,600.00
Total Fixed Assets:	£1,600.00	£1,600.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>		
1010 Lloyds Bank Shares	£144.01	£144.01
1200 Current Account	£3,387.28	£6,058.50
1210 Business Instant Access	£3,000.93	£11,626.59
1211 COIF	£31,417.43	£20,792.43
Total Current Assets:	£37,949.65	£38,621.53
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>		
Unpaid Cheques	£0.00	£0.00
Total Current Liability:	£0.00	£0.00
Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	£37,949.65	£38,621.53
Fixed Assets + Current Assets less Current Liabilities:	£39,549.65	£40,221.53
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES:</b>		
Total Capital and Reserves:	<b>£39,549.65</b>	<b>£40,221.53</b>

Approved by Trustees in July 2022

and signed on behalf of the WWT Trustees by David J G Torrens (Treasurer).....



# **The Whitchurch Waterway Trust**

**Company Reg. Number 02280683**

**Charity Reg. Number 701050**

## Notes to the Accounts

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the Charity has been relatively inactive during 2020 and 2021 with both income and expenditure greatly reduced. (This was partly due to not holding Canal Festivals.) The net effect has been that, based on past trends, the Trusts net assets are £4000 to £8000 less due to the effects of the covid pandemic.

In the period up to 2017/18 the Trust's assets rose steadily to a peak of £66k. We then had the costs of the dredging and only small gains since then.

David Torrens  
Treasurer  
Report dated 9 7 2020