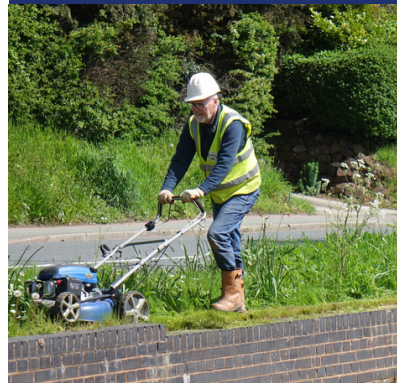




**Lichfield & Hatherton**  
Canals Restoration Trust

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022





# Chair's report

What a year it's been! The hard work and dedication of our volunteers, plus the continued support of our members, sponsors, donors and partners, means we can look back on 2022 with pride and a real sense of achievement.

Our teams have built over 260 metres of canal channel and restored and constructed the towpath at Tamworth Road, overcoming many complexities along the way. Around 600 metres of landscaping security was created at Fosseway and about 250 metres at Tamworth Road. 4,600 hedging whips and trees were planted at Falkland Road, Fosseway and Tamworth Road. At Muckley Common our green and grounds team was assisted by corporate volunteers to clear 4,000m<sup>2</sup> of dense undergrowth and brambles and 300m<sup>2</sup> of canal channel was cleared near to Moat Bank Lane. Almost 1km of nature trail/towpath was tidied and repaired at Fosseway.

We ask regular volunteers to complete timesheets to capture the enormous contribution they make. Although not everyone does, we recorded over 18,030 volunteer hours in 2022 including Duke of Edinburgh students, corporates and adults. This was all unpaid and took place in all weathers, as the climate has been so variable. Huge thanks to every one of them, without whom we would not make such progress towards our vision to rebuild, restore and reconnect the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals to the national network.

All the success on the front line is ably supported by trustees and officers active behind the scenes. These important roles include planning, technical, land and property; construction, operations and environment; communications, marketing, finance and governance (ie: risk management, record-keeping, statutory returns and various legalities).

During 2022, we concluded our review of how the Trust works and launched a new Board and governance structure, reducing from eleven to nine Trustees.



In so doing, we said a huge thank you and farewell to John Bryan, Stefan Szulc, Luke Walker, Steve Webster and Brian Williams. Happily, Steve, Brian and Stefan are still involved with LHCRT. Trustees are supported by a fantastic team of officers and other volunteers who make great things happen.



Our membership has grown by 130 to 2,423. Our members are incredibly important to us. They're our advocates and supporters and their engagement, via events, fundraising, social media and volunteering, all enable us to make progress and strengthen our public profile, visibility and viability. Some have extremely useful connections with business, public and voluntary sector organisations and decision makers, influencers and funders. They also contribute financially via subscriptions, donations and other routes to help co-create a lasting legacy for current and future generations to enjoy.

Restoring the canals is a costly business. Since the Trust was established in 1988 general prices have increased by over 250%. Building inflation has been particularly high recently, so purchasing materials and running plant and equipment is now much more expensive than it was. For example, £10 received in 1988 has the equivalent spending power of c£3.85 in 2023.

Therefore, we focus on securing all kinds of income. Grants are vital, as successful bids can bring in hundreds of thousands of pounds. Bob, Colin, Peter, Chris and Derek worked hard to secure grants totalling £353k from three awarding bodies, to enable us to start work on the Darnford Moors Ecology Park.

Following considerable preparatory construction activity by our talented operations team (which saved us a fortune), specialist contractors came on site in early 2023 and we'll see part of the channel in water by this time next year. Further funds are needed to enable us to complete the rest of the section up to Darnford Lane. We're very grateful to everyone who contributes through their membership subscription, donations, buying prize draw tickets or merchandise, coming to events and those who've kindly remembered us in their wills.

As you'll see from our finance report starting on page 9, the Trust is responsible for the stewardship of net assets of £960,472, with income last year of £231,161 and expenditure of £133,641. This is well managed by our Finance and Funding Trustee, Bob Williams, who's been involved with LHCRT soon after its inception, and is assisted by our Company Secretary Colin Booker. Bob prepares and presents management accounts to our monthly Board meetings, completes and submits VAT and Gift Aid returns, and accounts for the Trust and its Retail Trading subsidiary company, liaises with our external auditors and much more.



With such substantial funds and big ambitions, it's essential that we're clear about our priorities. With that in mind, 2022 also saw the launch of our new strategy (summarised on page 18) followed up in early 2023 by our operational plan for 2023/24 set out on page 19.

As a charity, we're open and transparent about what we're doing and planning, so our capable communications and marketing team keeps people informed via several routes. We've again seen our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Linked In and TikTok) followers increase to 14,731. We have an informative website at [www.lhcrt.org.uk](http://www.lhcrt.org.uk) thanks to our web administrator Paul Marshall, who's also responsible for the fantastic films on our YouTube channel. We issue press releases to print and web media, and publish our quarterly members' magazine, Cut Both Ways, which has a new look.

Although the focus has been on the Lichfield section, we continue to keep a watching brief on the Hatherton Canal, particularly against impact of adverse developments. Some of the Trustees had an enjoyable afternoon inspecting and exploring a substantial length of the canal, which is in water and a very attractive walk.

We're well into 2023 as I write this report and, building on last year's great progress, construction continues apace at Darnford Moors and Tamworth Road, whilst we maintain our other sites. We will shortly be submitting planning applications to the local authority, working to discharge planning conditions and continuing to liaise with landowners to establish a flow of work to achieve our vision to rebuild, restore and reconnect. With so much underway, it's a very exciting time for LHCRT and all those associated with the Trust.

**Carole Mills, Chair of Trustees**



# Restoration

Bunds, bricks and brambles were some of the keywords that summarised the work of our volunteers in 2022, but all with a smile on their faces and increased determination to get more of the canal in water.

The year started with the successful completion of two environmental bunds on the Lichfield Canal; one along the majority of Falkland Road and a shorter one along Tamworth Road, both planted with hedging whips and interspersed with new trees.

They have a dual-purpose, not only providing new habitats for wildlife but also a barrier to prevent vehicle incursion. It was the vehicular barrier, which was necessary as a pre-requisite for the land transfer at Falkland Road, by Staffordshire County Council, and as soon as that transfer is complete and planning permissions are granted, more work can continue at these locations.

Meanwhile at the Tamworth Road section near old lock 24, work continued to progress from the old lock. The lock had been retired to allow the canal bed to be lowered sufficiently to pass under a lower Cricket Lane bridge, which will need to be built nearby. The new, realigned towpath was been extended a further 50 metres, with an adjacent dry-stone wall, thanks to many hundreds of reclaimed bricks, and the canal dug out further away from the old lock cottage. By the end of the year, you could begin to see what the finished canal will look like along that stretch of the route.

Maintenance was constantly taking place throughout the year, to prevent nature reclaiming the work already carried out, with regular work at Fosseway and Summerhill sections, plus new work at Muckley Common by corporate groups and the Saturday morning Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, seeking out and marking up the route.



We have an excellent team, led by Steve Webster, responsible for maintaining and repairing our diggers, dumpers, mowers and strimmers, many of which are aging.

This equipment is used to great effect across our sites and enables us to progress more quickly and effectively.





Big news came in November with the announcement of a successful funding bid to create an ecology park and put a section of the canal in water at Darnford Moors. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is providing £41,200 of the grant, with match funding of £75,000 from HS2's Community and Environment Fund (CEF). Bluetech Waterfront Solutions Ltd, which had developed the new extension to the marina at Lichfield Cruising Club, was commissioned to engage specialist contractors to put the canal channel in water, and become an aquatic habitat. In the meantime, LHCRT's volunteers prepared the site, removing very thick and high brambles on the sides of the channel and from the sheet piling.

It took many volunteer hours, before the outline of the canal was again visible. The sheet piling installed by a WRG canal camp in the 1990s has stood the test of time and just needed some upgrade work. The rear of the sheet piles were exposed and sealed, and additional anchor piles and longer three-metre rods were tied into the existing waling beam, to provide additional support, before the area was backfilled up to towpath level.

On the opposite bank to the piling, the batter profile was created with specialist tracked dumpers and excavators. Blessed with good weather one weekend, some 800 tonnes of soil was moved and a 115-metre section of the canal channel was expertly re-profiled.

A part of the works to create the ecology park included the creation of a nature trail, adjacent to former lock 29, as well as a wildlife pond. The pond has been created by using the natural low flood plain area from the adjacent Darnford Brook, and will provide a very important all-year round boost to the ecology of the wetland area. The area was then ready to be handed over to a ground works contractor at the start of 2023, to create the non-permeable canal bed.

### Paul Jewitt, volunteer at Fosseway;

“

When I retired over six years ago I spent a few months sorting out the shed and was looking for something to take my interest and keep me active. The canal restoration work has fitted perfectly with great like minded people.

”



# Volunteering



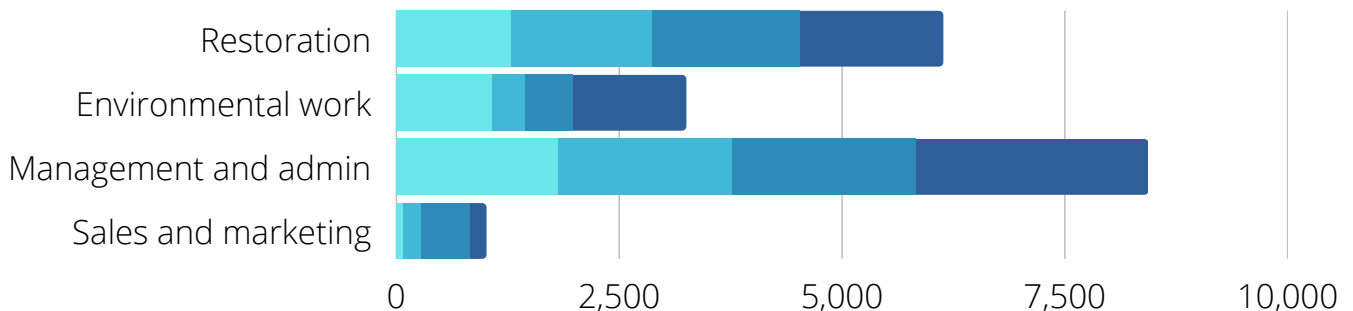
**Volunteering hours**  
In 2022 we carried out over

**10003**  
hours

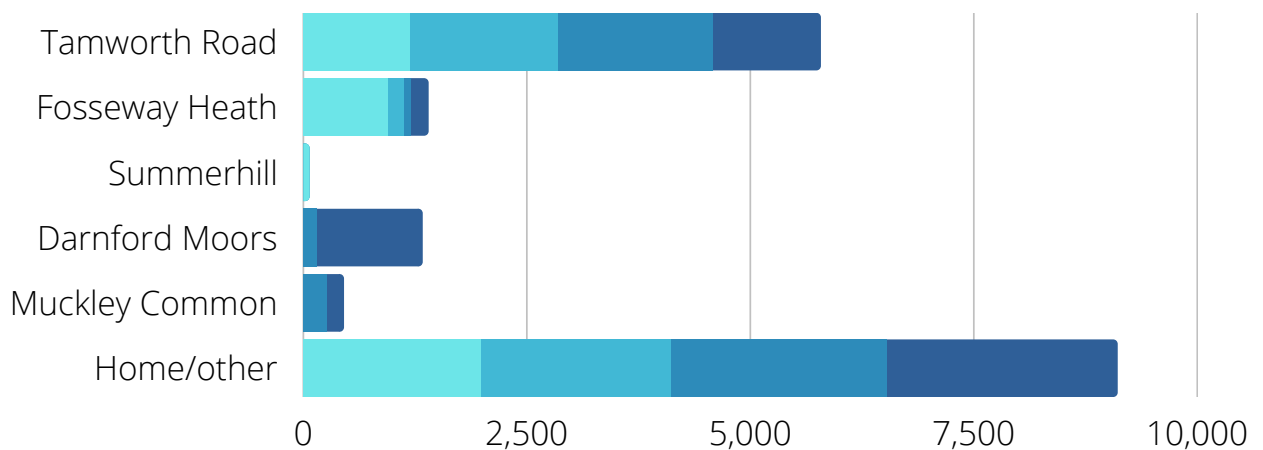
equivalent to £750,000

Our volunteers carry out a wide range of activities, from building the canal to hidden activities that we call 'management and admin', this covers a very wide range of activities such as writing funding bids, preparing accounts, Board meetings, liaising with other organisations such as developers, councils and utility companies, volunteer inductions and much much more. We often under report too!

## Volunteer hours by type of work each quarter



## Volunteer hours by location each quarter

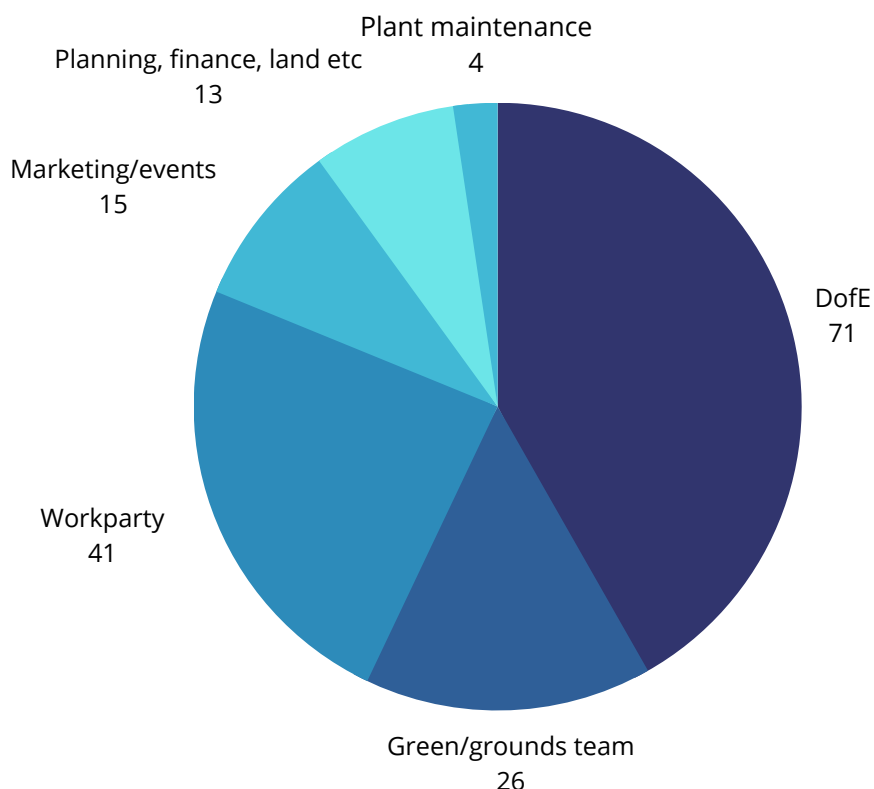




Throughout 2022 we had 170 volunteers. The largest group was our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) volunteers, who typically spend three months with us to cover their volunteering segment of the award. Some continue after the initial three months, some chose to return as part of their silver award, and two of our plant team are former DofE volunteers who have never left.

## Current teams

Many of our volunteers have more than one role, this chart is based on the main role of each of our volunteers.



## Volunteer stars

Our volunteers were recognised in the Support Staffordshire Lichfield and District Volunteer Star awards in 2022.

Our president, Eric Wood, received a commendation in the 'Lifetime achievement' category, and plant team volunteer, Tom Wright, was joint runner up in the 'young volunteer of the year' category.

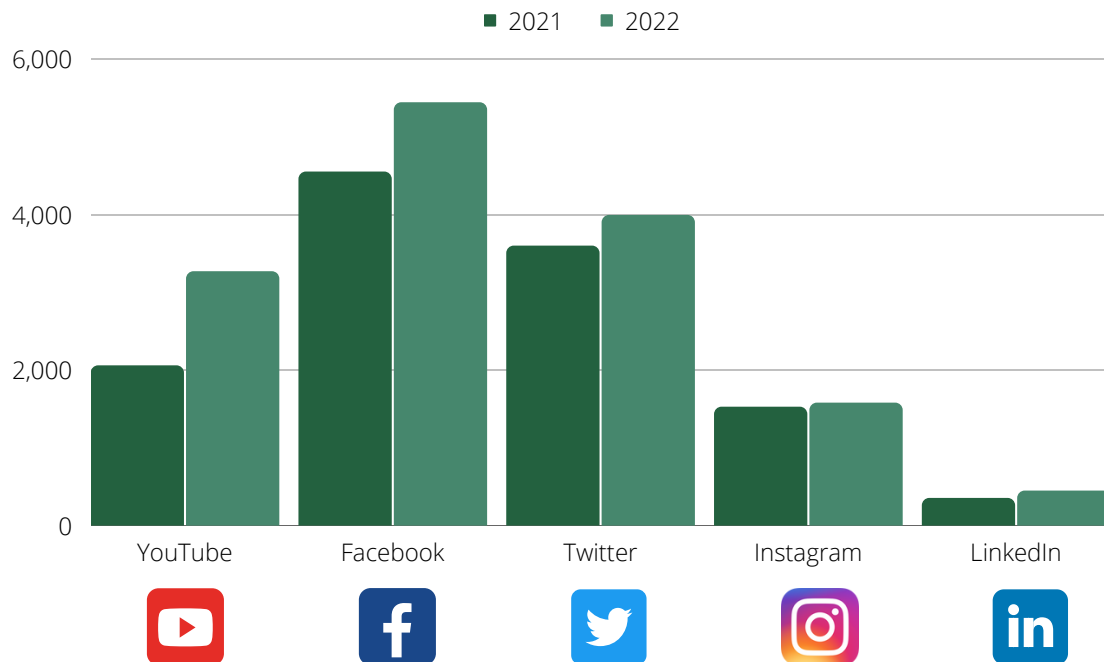
Proving that you can volunteer at any age.



# Marketing

## Social media

A big part of our communications and marketing toolkit is our social media reach and engagement. From showcasing the work of our volunteers, to encouraging people to become members or volunteers, and promoting our online appeals, social media has a huge impact. Our followers count, reach and engagement increases year on year, as the chart below shows.



## Website

Our website continues to be a vital source of information about our work and about how to become a member, volunteer and how to donate. Over 26,400 people viewed our website a total of 128,645 times over the year, and over 50% of those people viewed it using a mobile phone. Our web administrator, Paul, has worked hard and successfully to make the website mobile responsive.



## Events

Marketing and retail trade generated income of £26,673, compared to £20,707 in 2021, due to the hard work of our marketing volunteers. From arranging our own events, such as the Brownhills Canal Festival and Eric's all-day Easter coffee morning and attending other events, selling Grand Prize Draw tickets, making cakes and auctioning antiquities, the marketing team are always working hard to ensure the money comes in.



# Finance

## Balance sheet

### Fixed assets

#### Ogley Cottages

No new property was acquired this year.

The realisable freehold assets are two tenanted properties, 271 and 272 Ogley Cottages, at the summit of the Lichfield Canal, which have the original infilled Lock 1 under their front gardens. Depreciated at 2% p.a. to £442,410, their market value is estimated at £550,000.

These are jointly mortgaged to the Charity Bank securing the loan shown under Liabilities. Raised initially in 2007 towards the cost of installing a canal tunnel under Birmingham Road, it was increased in 2018 to contribute to the Tunnel Vision Fund intended to extend the tunnel under the railway embankment: see comment under Liabilities below.



#### Land and structures

Unrealisable areas of land donated by district and county councils brought the number of canal site possessions to 18, at a historic cost of £165,686.

Over 25 years, there have been a further 12 areas of donated land and structures built by or for LHCRT at an estimated historic cost of £3million, but without a realisable value due to their specific locations beyond the Trust's possession.

#### Plant

A used 8-tonne excavator was bought for heavier work, taking the collective depreciated fleet value to £29,680.

Our fleet is expertly maintained by our volunteers and we thank our Plant Manager, Steve Webster and his team for the substantial high-value items of privately-owned plant made available for Trust work.



#### Share capital

£1,000 share capital is held in the subsidiary Retail Trading Company for non-charitable activity.

# Finance

## Balance sheet

### Current assets

#### Debtors

The only debtor is the subsidiary company stock and cash of £1,386.

As the Trust is registered for VAT, refunds of £21,713 were received; totalling £327,822 over 20 years.



#### Reserves

There are three categories of bank balances in line with our Reserves Policy; restricted, designated and unrestricted. These funds are held for purchase of land and property, plant and restoration work, and administration where there is a need to amass funds for projected expenditure.

Restricted funds provide reserves for asset management. In particular, the Sir David Suchet Tunnel Vision Fund, including the above mortgage, totalled over £0.570m after related costs. However, as we've been unable to secure grant funding to enable the canal to pass under the railway line, estimated at over £3million, this project is currently deferred.

With the rise in interest rates, the Charity Bank mortgage was reduced by £0.150m whilst retaining the donated element in restricted deposit funds. As crossing major roads will also require canal tunnels, this could be more appropriate than the railway in advancing the overall Lichfield Canal restoration if other opportunities arise.



#### Liabilities

A £34,380 reserve is held from the Summerhill restoration grant awarded in 2015 pending decisions on Department of Transport land surrounding the M6Toll aqueduct.

A similar amount was raised, via a Big Give Campaign in December towards the cost of a pedestrian lift-bridge across the canal between Tamworth and Longbridge Roads in Lichfield.





# Finance

## Income and expenditure

### Income

#### Membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions of £12,543 in 2022 (after costs), plus welcome voluntary member donations of £3,786 raised an average of £13.76 per paying member. As fees have remained unchanged for thirty years, whilst costs have increased, they are being reviewed. The average cost of servicing all members was £2.33 per head (21.4% of basic subscriptions) due to prudent administration.

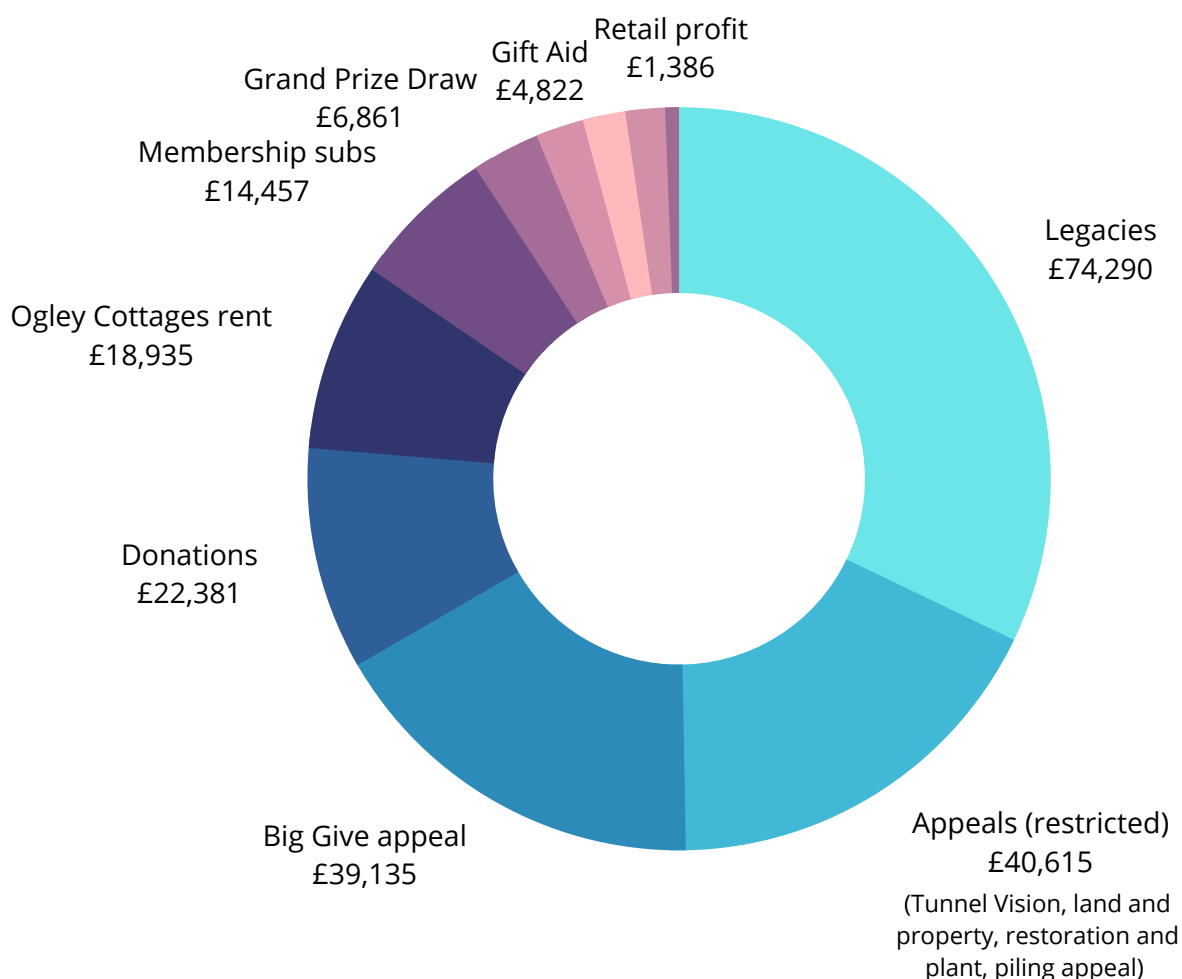
#### Marketing and retail activity

Marketing and retail trade generated income of £26,673 (£20,707 in 2021), due to the hard work of our marketing volunteers

#### Donations

Our promotions and appeals have attracted donations from home and abroad.

#### Income streams



# Finance

## Income and expenditure

### Expenditure

#### Hatherton Canal

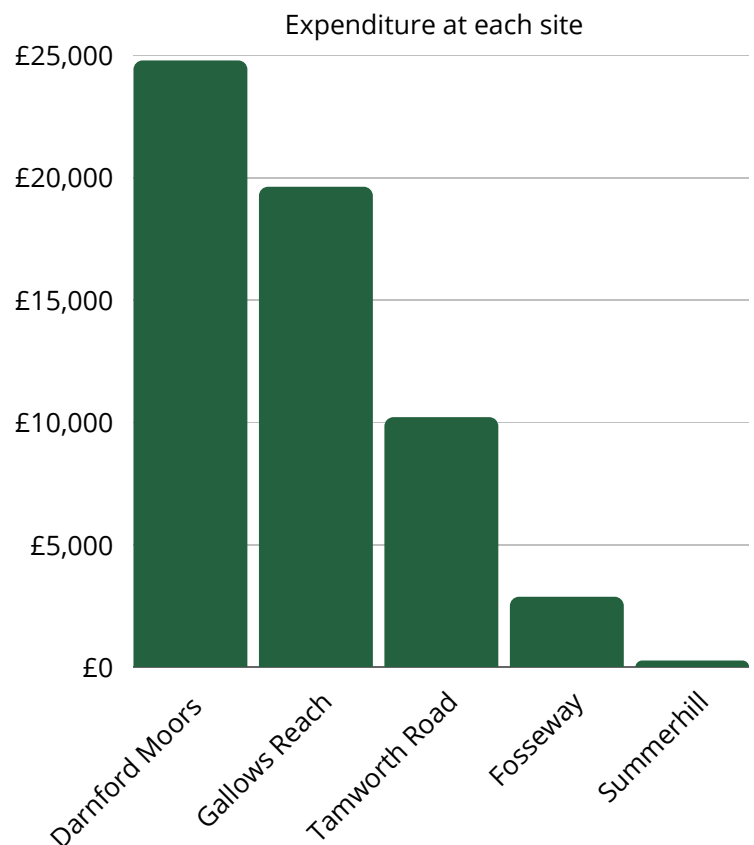
Lichfield Canal continues to be the focus of current restoration work. Meanwhile, we keep a watching brief on developments affecting the Hatherton Canal, where the section in water is owned by the Canal and River Trust.

#### Lichfield Canal

Our volunteers, aided by regular youth and corporate teams, again made substantial progress on several sites.

As an exceptional benefit, Persimmon Homes' housing development at St. Johns Grange, alongside the Lichfield Southern Bypass, included canal channel formation on land being donated to the Trust. Constructive negotiation with Persimmon and Amey for county highways regarding the position of bypass foundations enabled former Lock 23 to be saved due to the Trust's Engineer, Peter Buck applying innovative curvature design proposals to allow for boat movements.

Not yet in the accounts, extensive work secured three overlapping grants totalling £0.353m to bring the neglected canal east of Darnford Lane (SE of Lichfield City Centre) back in water. The inherent ethos is for habitat and natural environment improvements towards combatting climate change. Our volunteers undertook a detailed procurement to engage a qualified commercial contractor to carry this project into 2023.



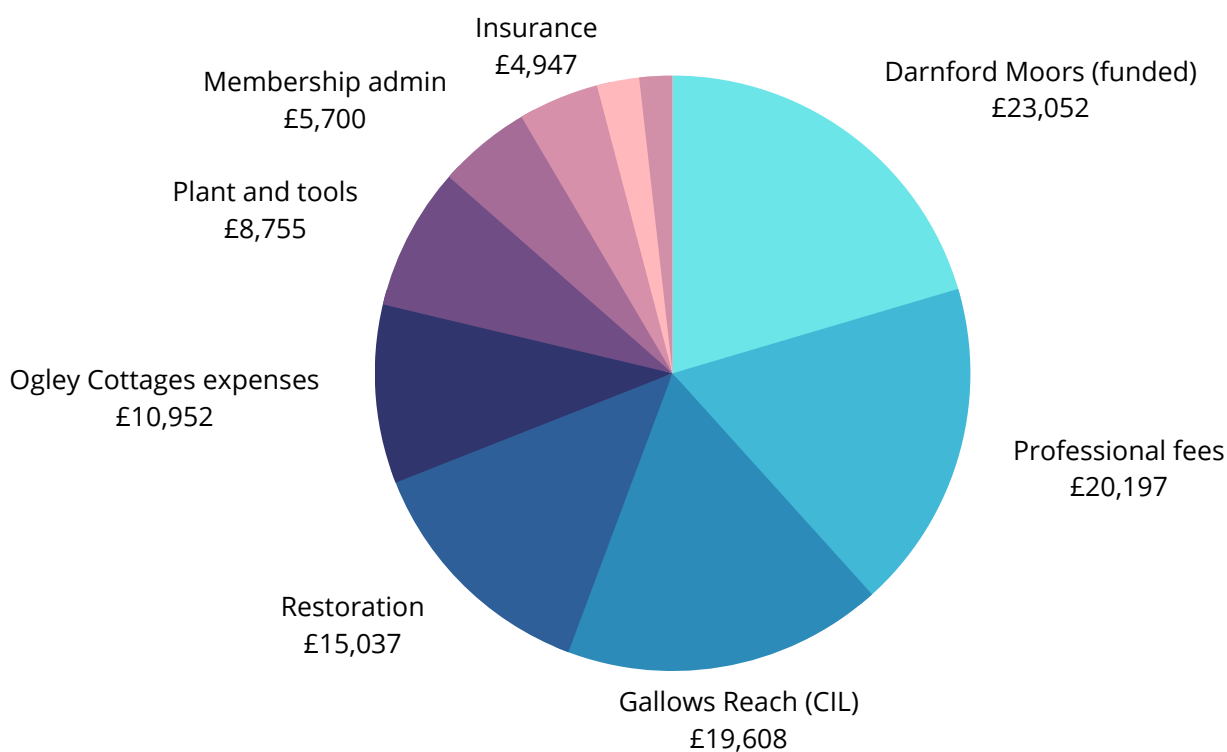
#### Management and admin costs

Labour, management and administration costs were underpinned by the dedicated hard work of directors, officers and other volunteers. Extensive negotiations and support both behind the scenes and on the ground defended the Trust's position against adverse developments and planning issues that could impede canal restoration works.

# Finance

## Income and expenditure

### Total expenditure



### Conclusion

The combined efforts of Trust and visiting volunteers, aided by high level professional and institutional support have yielded great results for public benefit. Converting volunteer time records for 2022 gives an annual monetary value of c£750,000.

**R.O. Williams, Finance Director**

**Leon Southern is part of our green and grounds team.**

“

I've loved canals and the Midland Navigations all my life and I'm currently selling up to liveaboard full time. Being able to support the restoration of this lost navigation is fantastic. I have learned new skills and have been able to pass on my knowledge of ecology and nature conservation from previous experiences volunteering. Although I work full time, I donate my time whenever I can.

”



In 2022 we planted 4,600 hedging whips, 4,180 funded through our Big Give appeal and 420 donated by The Woodland Trust.





# Finance

## Balance sheet

### as at 31 December 2022

				31 December 2021	
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Totals £	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Freehold Ogley Cottages 271 & 272 (depreciated @ 2% pa)	OC	442,410			453,780
18 areas of freehold land at cost (not depreciated)		165,686			165,686
Plant & Machinery (over £1,000 per item, depreciated)		29,680			1,795
Investment in subsidiary company shares (+ assets below)		1,000			1,000
				<b>638,776</b>	<b>622,261</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
<b>Debtors</b>					
Net assets available from subsidiary company (+ capital above)		1,386			2,002
Net Group VAT payable		0			0
Severn Trent Water, sewer refund LDC CIL grant		0	(£43,000 due)		0
				<b>1,386</b>	<b>2,002</b>
<b>Restricted funds on special deposit:</b>					
Lichfield Canal, special funding			1,557		957
2020 Piling Appeal Fund, net of expenditure			8,495		8,256
Land & Property Fund (donated) net of expenditure	LF		22,131		10,313
Restoration & Plant Fund (donated) net of expenditure	RF	[	814		4,026 ]
+ Page legacy for lock paddle gear	RF	[	456		456 ]
+ Willey Lock 9a naming fund	RF	[	1,500		1,500 ]
Tamworth Road lift bridge appeal	RF	[	34,549		-
SIB Summerhill 2015 grant balance remaining	SIB		34,380		34,380
David Suchet Tunnel Vision Fund restricted income	TV		258,363 }		570,426 }
less design and funding fees			^^^ }		(42,795) }
				<b>362,245</b>	<b>587,519</b>
<b>Designated funds on deposit:</b>					
David Suchet Tunnel Vision Fund designated income	TV	63,000			33,000
Land & Property Fund (Trust allocation)	LF	1,322			1,322
Restoration & Plant Fund (designated) net of expenditure	RF	15,000			15,000
Restoration Fund site budget balances		1,455			1,455
Cannock Council - Hatherton Canal Water Study balance		1,134			1,134
Severn Trent Water fish replacement balance			1,400		2,000
500 Club Capital Fund (50% of income in the year)		1,722			1,740
				<b>85,033</b>	<b>55,651</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds:</b>					
Trust funds for general purposes - see C/A below)		74,611		<b>74,611</b>	(26,299) (26,299)
<b>Other bank accounts:</b>					
Unity Trust Bank, Trust current a/c		18,856			15,369
Funds in hand or in course of collection		0		<b>18,856</b>	0 15,369
Unity Trust Bank, Marketing current a/c and in hand		280		<b>280</b>	627
<b>Total assets before liabilities</b>		<b>817,542</b>	<b>363,645</b>	<b>1,181,187</b>	<b>1,257,130</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>					
SIB grant payments reserve	SIB		(34,380)	<b>(34,380)</b>	<b>(34,380)</b>
<b>Loan reduction falling due within one year</b>					
The Charity Bank Ltd - mortgage loan on Ogley Cottages	OC	(17,527)			(10,226)
<b>Loan outstanding after one year</b>					
The Charity Bank Ltd - mortgage loan on Ogley Cottages	OC	(168,809)		<b>(186,336)</b>	(335,453) (345,679)
<b>TOTAL NET RESOURCES</b>		<b>631,206</b>	<b>329,265</b>	<b>960,471</b>	<b>877,071</b>
		<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>		
				<b>960,471</b>	<b>877,071</b>
<b>RESERVES:</b>					
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account</b>					
<b>NOTES:</b>					
STW/CRT fish supply remainder available			(1,400)		
Flagstone Investment Man't accrued deposit interest receivable in 2023			as at 31.12.22	<b>2,435</b>	<b>1,468</b>
Retail Trading Co C/A at Unity Trust Bank and due				<b>691</b>	<b>1,616</b>
Retail Trading Co stock of goods for sale (at cost)				<b>1,695</b>	<b>1,552</b>
Cumulative Trust Expenditure from start in 1990 to 2022				<b>£4,013,910</b>	<b>£3,880,268</b>
including 11 areas of donated land or canal structure built by or for L&H not having realisable value				<b>£3,413,963</b>	<b>£3,416,964</b>
National value of donated time: Labour @ £10 per hour, management and home officers @ £100/hr				<b>£750,000</b>	<b>£707,533</b>

KEY: LF = Land & Property Fund. OC = Ogley Cottages. RF = Restoration Fund. TV = Tunnel Vision.

# Finance

## Income and expenditure

1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

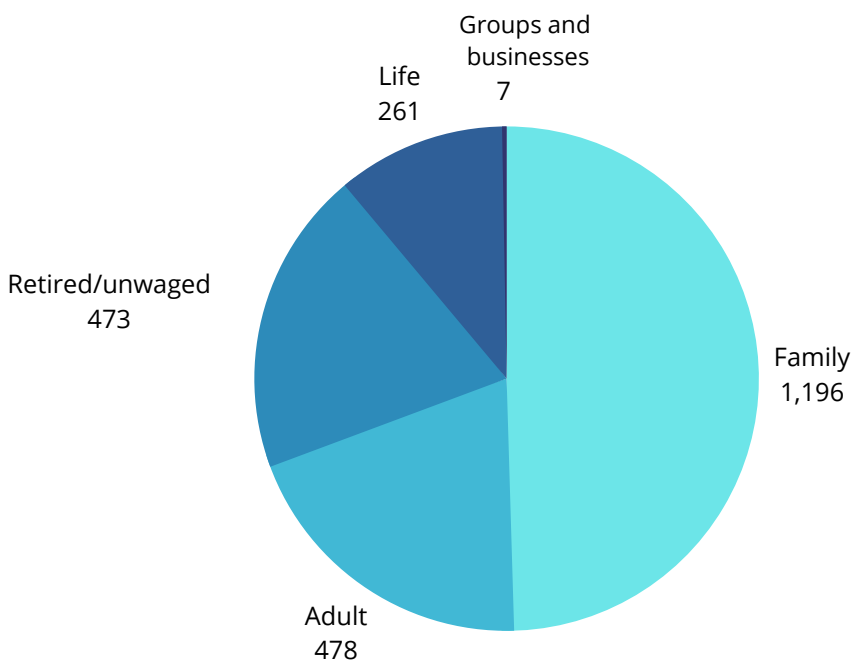
	2022			2021	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Totals £	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Subscriptions from members (excl Marketing below)	M 11,187		11,187		11,111
Donations	M <i>Net Trust + Mktg 8,757</i>			<i>net Trust + Mktg 9,298</i>	
Received with subscriptions	3,786	12,543		4,103	13,401
Other (excl. marketing collections below)	7,420			1,747	
<b>Income generated by marketing and retail trading</b>			11,206		5,850
Trust & public events	1,070			591	
Membership subscriptions via website, shows	M 3,270			3,195	
500 Club Capital Fund (net of prizes paid out)	1,705			483	
Grand Prize Draw	6,861			7,135	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements & Trust collections	8,400			4,629	
LDC Lottery benefit ( <i>Brick Appeal, discontinued in 2020</i> )	3,981			2,672	
Net profit from retail trading subsidiary company	P 1,386			2,002	
<b>Rent, tax, interest etc.</b>			26,673		20,707
Ogley Cottages rent	OC 18,935			16,196	
Gift Aid tax reclaim (other than specific Funds)	4,822			3,847	
Bank and Flagstone deposits interest	4,285			1,554	
Wayleave for electricity line pole at Darnford	13			13	
			28,055		21,610
<b>SUB-TOTAL REGULAR INCOME</b>			77,121		59,278
<b>Specific Appeals and Grants</b>					
Land & Property Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		4,610		8,329	
Restoration & Plant Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		12,407		25,848	
David Suchet Tunnel Vision Fund (incl. HMRC tax)		15,733		15,431	
2020 Piling Appeal (incl. Gift Aid tax)		7,865		7,598	
Special income incl. legacy and Tamworth Rd lift bridge appeal	74,290	39,135		16,334	
<i>Lichfield District Council Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</i>		0		0	
			154,040		73,540
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<i>in</i> 151,411	79,750	231,161		132,818
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Restoration costs</b>					
Lichfield Canal; Summerhill		260		0	
Tamworth Road; Gallows Reach ( <i>2021 LCC CIL</i> )	10,199			6,427	
Fosseway Heath & Falkland Road	2,864			12,352	
Darnford Moors Ecology Park (Trust costs)	1,714			0	
Volunteer welfare; H&S	2,026			2,347	
Tools, Plant, Machinery, Training	8,755			4,117	
<b>Administrative costs</b>			(25,818)		(25,243)
Professional fees and costs	20,197			28,011	
Ogley Cottages costs (incl nominal insurance)	OC 10,952			14,486	
Membership and magazine administration	M 5,700			5,008	
Direct cost of marketing activity (ex 500 Club prizes)	P 3,634			1,505	
Direct cost of funding appeals	0			0	
General administration	2,593			5,421	
Insurance premium (ex Ogley Cottages - nominal)	4,947			4,563	
<b>Project costs</b>			(48,023)		(58,994)
LCC Gallows Reach LDC CIL ( <i>2021 in City Council CIL grant</i> )	9,608	10,000		29,401	
Darnford Moors Ecology Park (Grant costs)	23,052				
( <i>expected LDC CIL £35,000 Tamworth Road</i> )					
			(42,660)		(29,401)
surplus before interest & deprec'n			114,660		19,180
<b>Finance charge</b>					
Interest paid on Charity Bank loan	17,140			13,478	
			(17,140)		(13,478)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<i>out</i> (123,381)	(10,260)		(127,116)	
<b>NET FUNDS MOVEMENT ON TRUST ACTIVITIES</b>	28,030	69,490	97,520		5,702
Less depreciation of property and plant			(14,120)		(12,061)
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b>			83,400		(6,359)
Retained surplus brought forward			877,071		883,430
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD</b>			960,471		877,071

# Membership

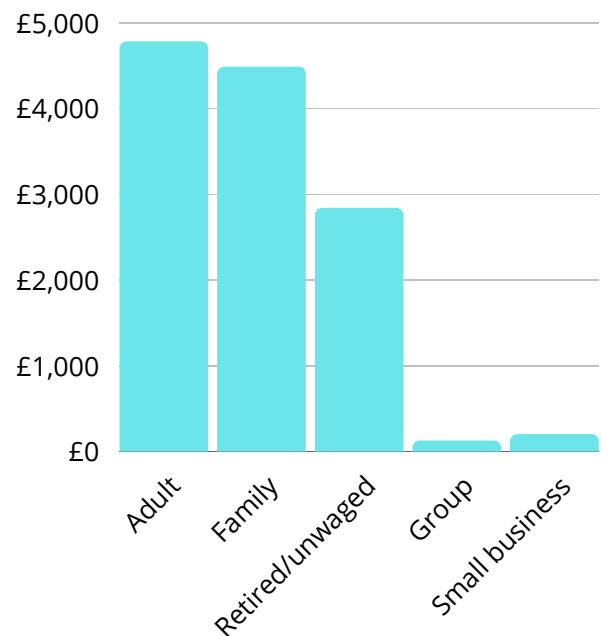
Our members are vital to the success of the Trust. They contribute financially via subscriptions and donations, and help to strengthen our public profile, showing the level of support we have.

In 2022, our membership grew by 130 to 2,423, with adult and family memberships bringing in the majority of regular subscription income during the year. The majority (80%) of members paid by standing order, Direct Debit or PayPal subscription, avoiding the administration costs and volunteer time needed to send renewal reminders. This meant that our membership expenditure was £2.33 per head (21.4% of basic subscriptions).

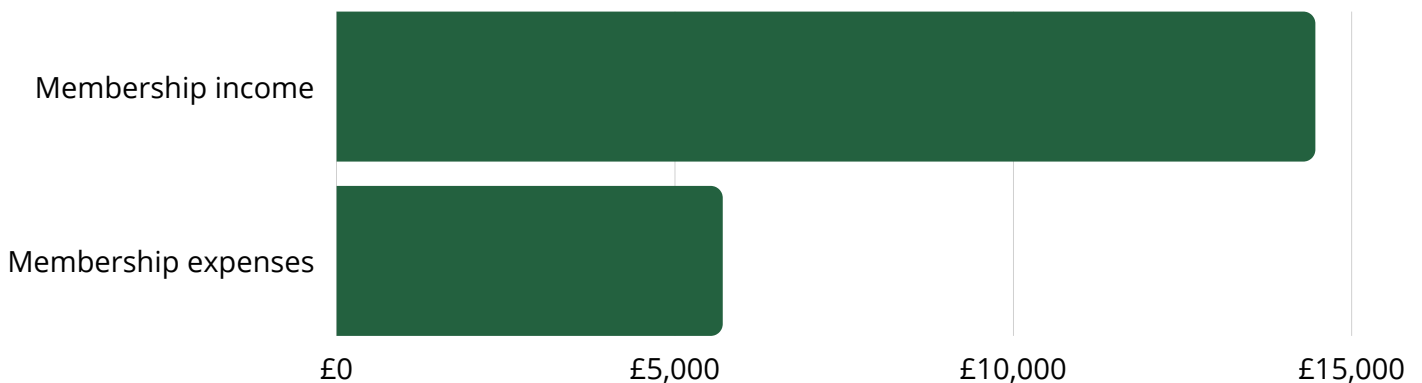
## Types of members by number



## Income by types of members



## Membership Income v expenditure





# About us

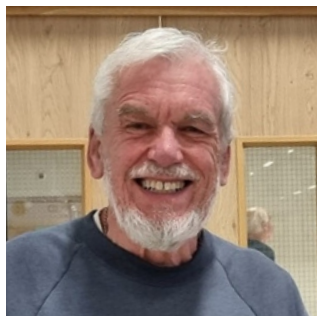
## Trustees (as at 31 December 2022)



**Carole Mills**

Chair  
Appointed 2021

A former CEO and CFO at five unitary councils. Currently a non-executive director in the NHS and housing sector.



**Bob Williams**

Finance and Funding  
Appointed 1996

Bob held an FCIB banking qualification and has experience of customer commercial business at NatWest Bank.



**Peter Buck**

Construction/Operations  
Appointed 2011

Peter has a degree in Civil and Structural Engineering and has worked for a number of major construction companies.



**Christine Howles**

Communications/Marketing  
Appointed 2016

A member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM), Christine works full time as communications lead in the civil service.



**Chris Bull**

Environment  
Appointed 2017

A former education assistant principal, with experience on strategic planning and feasibility studies with VSO.



**Jeff March**

Land and Property  
Appointed 2017

A former estates surveyor, with experience of lease restructuring, negotiation of new leases, renewals, and lease terminations.



**Derek Lord**

Planning and Technical  
Appointed 2019

A drainage specialist having worked on road, rail, canal, sewerage and development drainage, with a water company and consultants.



**Colin Booker**

Company Secretary  
Appointed 2021

A qualified management accountant, Colin worked in the criminal investigations division of HMRC as a senior forensic accountant.

## How you can help

If you'd like to support us there are many ways you can help:

- Support our fundraising events and campaigns
- A financial contribution or donation of time, or materials and equipment
- Buy items from our shop
- Leave a legacy
- Do your mainstream shopping via EasyFundraising
- Encourage friends to become members of the Trust.



# The future

## Our Strategy

What we want to achieve	Restore the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals, thereby creating a green and blue corridor for the benefit of our local and wider community and make them available for navigation.		
Why we want to do this	Building on what's already been achieved, to complete full restoration of both canals and provide the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green and blue space for walkers, runners, cyclists etc.</li><li>• Sustainable habitats for diversifying wildlife, increasing biodiversity and carbon capture</li><li>• A navigable route for boaters</li><li>• Economic benefits such as inward investment, tourism and new business for the wider community</li><li>• Training and development opportunities for volunteers of all ages</li><li>• Health and wellbeing for volunteers and the public</li></ul>		
How we will do this <div>Strategies, projects and programmes that will deliver the restoration.</div>	Construction / Completion Strategy	Maintenance Strategy	Financial Strategy
	People Strategy	Communications & Marketing Strategy	Post-completion Strategy
	Operational Strategy	Projects and programmes on our sites	
What we stand for <div>These are the values that guide how we work</div>	Integrity	We are honest in our dealings with each other, and with external people and organisations.	
	Teamwork and respect	We value the teamwork and camaraderie of working together and respect the abilities and contributions to restoration made by our members, volunteers and contractors.	
	Inclusiveness	We welcome people as part of our committed team whatever their age, physical ability, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, experience or skills.	
	Sustainability	We ensure positive and permanent benefit to biodiversity and the environment, by planning ahead to secure the gains already achieved, and complete the canals' restoration.	
	Community value	We seek to ensure that, working in partnership with others, the canal restoration will always provide positive benefit to our community.	
Demonstrating accountability and good governance	Returns to grant awarding bodies and other funders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project management</li><li>• Risk management</li><li>• Financial management</li><li>• People management</li><li>• Comms Plan</li><li>• Events reporting</li></ul>
	Monthly report to Board meetings and volunteer forums		
	Formal reporting at our public AGM		
	Publication of a physical and digital Annual Report and Accounts		
	Articles in print, publications and posts on social media and our website		

# The future

## Our Operational Plan 2023/2024

### Overall aim for 2023-2024

Our overarching aim for 2023-2024 is to get as much of the **Lichfield Canal into water** as possible and do this in a logical, progressive way, extending out from Borrowcop Locks Canal Park and Darnford Moors, ultimately enabling us to **secure a reconnection to Huddlesford Junction**.

### Priority sites in 2023-24

#### Our priority construction sites for 2023-2024 are:

1. Darnford Moors
2. Tamworth Road east of Cricket Lane
3. Tamworth Road west of Cricket Lane
4. St John's Grange
5. Falkland Road
6. Darnford Park

### Enabling and pipeline priorities

- Apply for and secure planning permissions/discharge conditions
- Keep construction sites maintained and tidy, and plant up as we go.
- Deliver an annual green and grounds maintenance plan
- Focus on securing major funding from grants and other sources
- Increase and optimise our volunteer resources

### Benefits of the operational plan:

- Gives clarity on what we will do and won't do in the next two years
- Breaks down our strategy into manageable chunks
- Makes the most of our resources
- Focuses on fewer things and demonstrates more tangible progress
- Builds and consolidates our credibility
- Streamlines some of our supporting activities





[www.lhcrt.org.uk](http://www.lhcrt.org.uk)

Registered Office: Unit 16B, Chiltern Court, Asheridge Road, Chesham, HP5 2PX

Registered in England No. 2456172

Registered Charity No. 702429

VAT Registration No. 823 8213 41

**Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

**for**

**Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Retail**  
**Trading Limited**

**Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Retail**  
**Trading Limited (Registered number: 03686837)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

**Page**

**Balance Sheet**

**1**



**Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Retail**  
**Trading Limited (Registered number: 03686837)**

**Balance Sheet**  
**31st December 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,386</b>	<b>3,002</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(1,386)</u>	<u>(2,002)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Retail Trading Limited is a private company, limited by shares, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address are as below:

**Registered number:** 03686837

**Registered office:** Office 2 Greswolde House  
197b Station Road  
Knowle  
Solihull  
West Midlands  
B93 0PU

**2. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**

The average number of employees during the year was NIL (2021 - NIL).

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

**Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Retail**  
**Trading Limited (Registered number: 03686837)**

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**31st December 2022**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 8th March 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mrs C M Howles - Director

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustees' report (continued)**  
**For the year ended 31 December 2022**

---

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

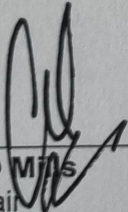
The Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and the company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the group and the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 31 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C D Mills  
Chair