

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



Chairman's report

The report on 2020 concluded with looking forward to getting “back to normal”. By the end of 2021 it was almost, but not quite so. Meetings were still either outdoors or virtual by Zoom or Teams; our fundraising had changed, but thankfully had not suffered as much as had been expected; membership had grown at an accelerated rate.



Much of the explanation for maintaining income and growth of membership is through widening our social media reach, so proactively and wisely achieved by our marketing team to compensate for a second year of almost non-existent fundraising events.

This saw us so successfully involved with the new Lichfield Community Lottery, participating in The Big Give, promoting funding appeals, receiving increased donations, including those from around the world and from the country as a whole.

All these, and new YouTube videos, selling raffle tickets online all helped to compensate for not having been able, for a second year, to hold the Huddlesford Heritage Gathering or our regular spring and autumn fundraising events.

But events are back on: for the first time, the Trust alone organised the Brownhills Canal Festival in September: whatever was in control of the weather recognised the hard work of our marketing team in organising it and overruled the rain forecast for the Sunday and gave sunny weather on both days ensuring a high footfall and great enjoyment by the local community as well as floating traders and the boating community.

It also increased our membership and new volunteers and gave valuable scope and publicity to offset the COVID curtailed merchandising, raffle ticket selling and previously normal fundraising activities.



Chairman's report

For the first few months of the year, with COVID raging, work parties were either suspended or severely restricted. It was with great delight that on 3 April we reinstated our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer work party and hence the following Saturday, the day after The Duke of Edinburgh's passing, our young volunteers stood solemnly for a minute's silence before resuming their invaluable and immensely varied work throughout the rest of the year.

Most of our regular volunteers had returned by summer, and indeed we had many more new volunteers, who had found out about us by using our towpaths and nature trails during lockdowns and talking with existing volunteers and also through the extra publicity achieved through the widening of our social media reach.

Zoom meetings were mentioned earlier: a highlight of the year was our June AGM, held by Zoom with over 70 participants, including our stalwart member in USA who has done several fundraisers for us. Of particular note, not just as part of the AGM but also of significance to the history of LHCRT, was the inclusion within that Zoom session of the filming, live, of our founding President, Eric Wood's, receipt of a 90th birthday presentation.

We knew Eric would not be able to join us at Lock 18 so we had previously staged a presentation of the dedication of the Lock as "Wood Lock 18" by having Eric and Doreen's son, Robert, present at the unveiling of the plaque and also receiving an imaginative painting of their narrowboat in the Lock when the canal is watered.

Robert ensured that the presentation on the day of the AGM was captured for all those present on Zoom to see. My guess is that no-one has ever seen our illustrious founder virtually speechless!



Chairman's report



The painting of Eric's boat takes us to another ongoing theme and fundraiser of the year. Longstanding member Stuart Sampson, who walks the canal route every day, has created a number of paintings during 2021 of what he thinks the canal will look like at various locations when it is in water: he has called it his "Wishful Thinking" series. Not only has he created the paintings but he's also produced vinyl posters of them and placed them at their locations with a text explanation and QR codes which take the observer to our website for further detail. They have also been used as the picture for each month on our 2022 calendar, and the originals kindly donated to the Trust for sale and as raffle prizes. He has also devised a quiz to encourage people to walk the routes.



This takes us to our efforts to engage more closely with Lichfield's other agencies, such as Lichfield District Council's (LDC's) Tourism and Ecology Departments as well as maintaining the excellent relationships with both LDC and Lichfield City Council (LCC) and Staffordshire County Council (SCC). Support is readily given by the Inland Waterways Association, particularly by its Lichfield Branch.

SCC has transferred ownership of some of the wide verge along Falkland Road to us, so that our work parties have been able to create natural bunds on the boundary from necessarily removed turf, preventing unwanted entry. Various organisations provided funds to buy hedging and trees and to support our normal volunteer parties to plant them, creating a biodiversity-enhancing hedge and accent trees.



Funding came from; South Staffs Water's PEBBLE fund, a couple of whose senior staff also helped plant hedging whips; from long standing members Jane, and now sadly the late Brian Taylor who had continued a family tradition of funding a lasting legacy by donating the funds to buy 50 accent trees to celebrate their Golden Wedding. Lichfield's Soroptimists and its u3a group have also supported more hedging and accent tree planting by nurturing and buying and helping to plant many more to enhance biodiversity.

Chairman's report

Whilst so much activity has concentrated on the Lichfield Canal, we continue to keep a watching brief on any matters that might affect restoration of the Hatherton Canal around Cannock.

Development of the massive West Midlands Interchange for road/rail freight straddling the Staffs & Worcs Canal at Four Ashes is unfortunately just west of Hatherton Junction, thus excluding any improvement that could have included that part of the Hatherton Canal.

Finally, the very much unseen work of Trustees and Officers, often very stressful, time consuming and sadly also often, but not always, frustrating.

On the positive side, the work of the Trust's technical people over several years has resulted in excellent relationships with Persimmon Homes over the St John's Grange development and indeed its excavation of the diverted canal route and creation of two bridges, to be seen as one goes along the extended bypass between Birmingham and London Roads, with which also was excellent co-operation by SCC's highways contractor, Amey. LHCRT was delighted to attend the official opening of the bypass in October.

Also, behind the scenes, liaison with HS2 continues and it is to be hoped that its work creating new moorings for Lichfield Cruising Club at Huddlesford means that the Heritage Gathering can resume there in the future, not just for LHCRT but the narrowboat community nationally.

Chris Bull



Restoration report



St John's Reach

A particular highlight was the first sight for supporters and visitors of a section of the canal alongside the extension of Lichfield Southern Bypass.

This road, built to service a new housing development named St John's Grange, between London Road and Birmingham Road, was opened in the autumn.

A new section of the canal runs parallel to the bypass, and a great deal of preparation of the site has been completed, courtesy of Persimmon Homes and Amey, who constructed the bypass, including the installation of two bridges over the line of the canal connecting the estate with the bypass.

Our volunteers will build a new Lock 22 and restore a modified Lock 23 in this section, which has been named St John's Reach.



Borrowcop Locks

Our work parties have concentrated much of their efforts on the Tamworth Road section, and in particular the removal of old lock 24, necessary to allow the canal bed to be lowered sufficiently to go under the nearby Cricket Lane.

This involved reinforcing the canal wall with a series of buttresses and the realignment of the towpath, as well as the preservation of a heritage bywash recreated in traditional style.

The majority of the many bricks used in the creation of the new wall were reclaimed from the old lock and cleaned up by local Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh Award students, who put in many hours in their spare time.



Restoration report

Gallows Reach

A 160-metre length of towpath along Gallows Reach was completed in early 2021, after rebuilding the 200-year-old towpath wall using sheet steel piling and reclaimed bricks. Work also began between Christmas and New Year to dig out the channel from Gallows Reach towards Cricket Lane, with over 3,000 tonnes of removed earth transported by tractor and trailer to Fosseway Heath Nature Reserve, where it is being used to restore ancient lowland heath.

Fosseway Heath

The canal basin wall was completed at Fosseway Heath, with an earth bank built over it to allow the movement of spoil from Tamworth Road and a new section alongside Falkland Road. The canal wall of the new diversionary route, parallel to Falkland Road, was progressed with the installation of sheet steel piling sponsored by supporters of the piling appeal, which has raised over £26,000 in two years.

Throughout 2021 a small workforce continued building towpath walls and restoring old lock 18, now renamed Wood Lock 18, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Trust co-founder and president Eric Wood.



Michael volunteers because:

"I have an interest in canals. I'm now retired and want to do some sort of physical activity in order to keep fit."



Volunteering



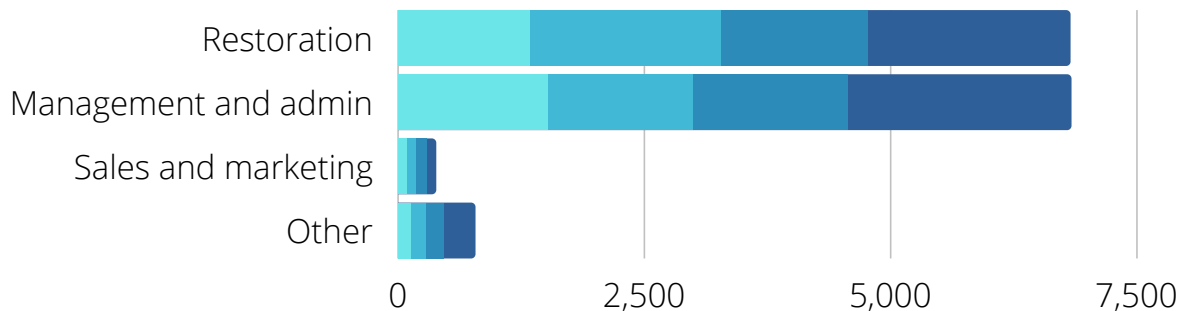
Volunteering hours
In 2021 we carried out over

14,802
hours

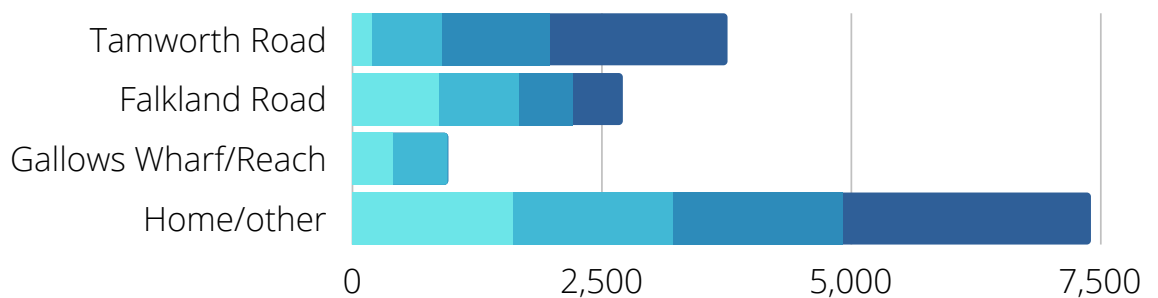
equivalent to £707,533

Volunteer hours by type of work each quarter

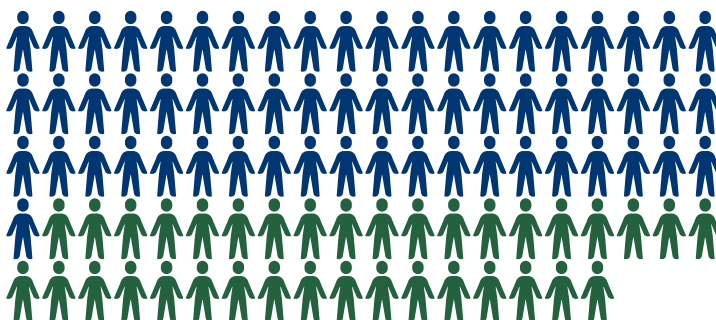
Our volunteers carry out a wide range of activities, from building the canal to hidden activities that we call 'management and admin', this covers a very wide range of activities such as writing funding bids, preparing accounts, Board meetings, liaising with other organisations such as developers, councils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



Volunteer hours by location each quarter



Volunteer applications received in 2021



97 volunteer applications:

60 adult

37 DofE

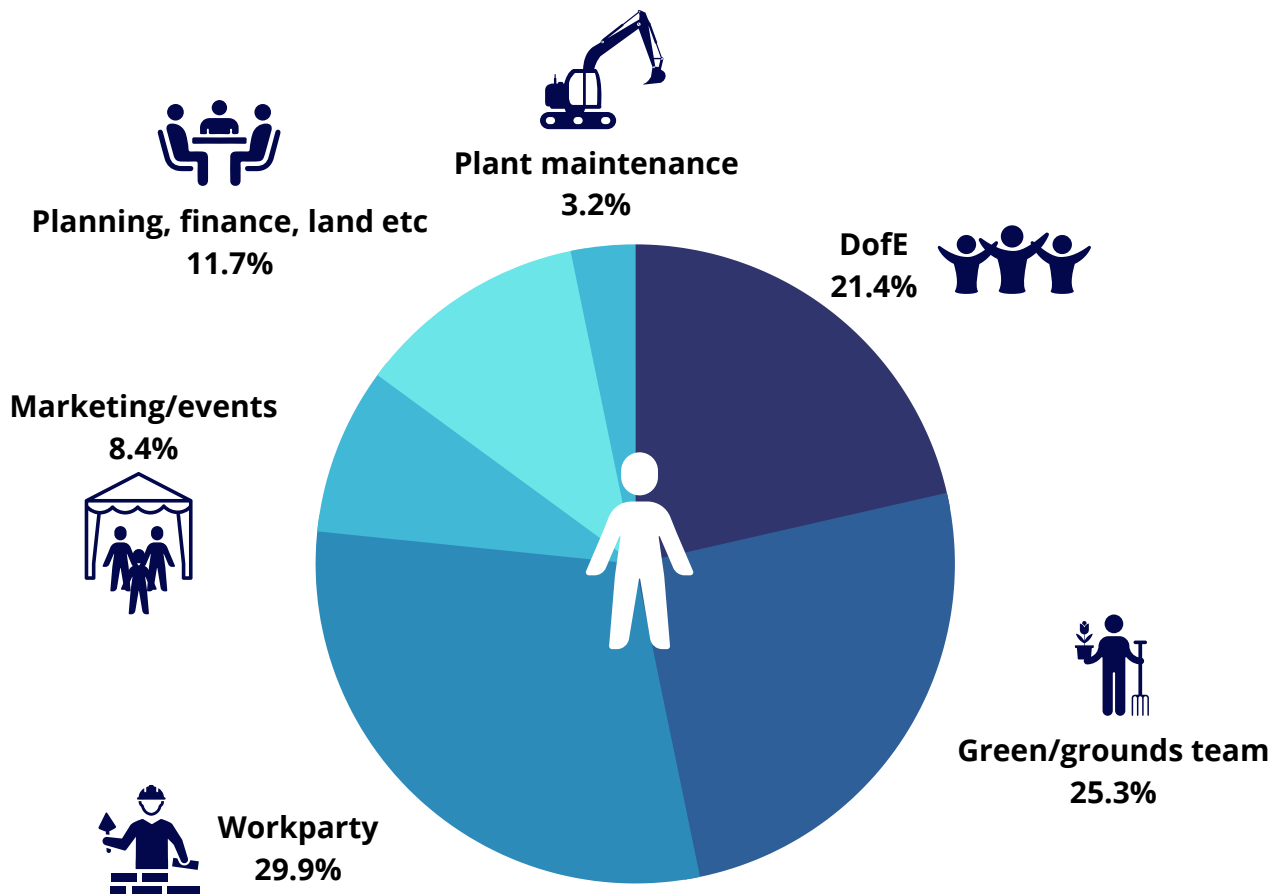
Volunteering

**Total active volunteers
in 2021**

73

Current teams

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



Paula volunteers because:

"I wanted to learn something new like bricklaying and construction. I like getting stuck in and don't mind dirt!"

Finance report

Balance sheet - fixed assets

Ogley Cottages

Realisable freehold assets are the two semi-detached, original Wyrley & Essington Canal Company Ogley Top Lock Cottages from early 1800s, taken over in 1840 by the Birmingham Canal Navigations Company as their top property register nos.271 and 272.

The Trust acquired these heritage properties on the open market in 2006 and 2018 respectively to command the summit level of the Lichfield Canal at the eastern outskirts of Brownhills, complete with infilled chamber of Lock 1 preserved across their front gardens for future restoration. Depreciation in the accounts to £453,780 leaves a hidden reserve estimated to be about £100,000 in their market value but with appropriate buildings insurance cover.

Both properties are jointly subject to a legal mortgage to the Charity Bank to secure the loan shown under liabilities, initially towards the canal tunnel under Birmingham Road in 2007 and increased in 2018 to supplement the 'Tunnel Vision Fund' for extending that tunnel under the adjacent railway, delayed by Staffordshire County Council from 2018 for reasons beyond the Trust's control, but is still an essential contribution towards reopening the full length of the heritage Lichfield Canal.

Land and structures

Unrealisable areas of freehold land acquired by the Trust, including those donated by county and district councils, brought the number of canal site possessions to eighteen at a historic cost of £165,686. Outside the Trust's possession, over a span of some 25 years there have been 13 areas of other land and structures built by or for LHCRT at an estimated cost over £3,000,000 but without realisable asset value due to their dedicated locations and usage.

Plant

Owned plant with some changes had a depreciated value of at £1,795 despite the machinery returning good value due to well organised regular maintenance. Additionally, with thanks to plant director, Steve Webster, he has made substantial high-value items from his privately-owned collection available for Trust work.

Capital

£1,000 share capital is held in the (non-charitable) wholly-owned subsidiary retail trading company.

Finance report

Balance sheet - current assets

Debtors

The only apparent debtor is the subsidiary company profit distribution of £2,002 due over nine months in 2022. However, the Trust is due £13,090 in 2022 from Severn Trent as refund of a bond provision for a foul-sewer diversion made necessary by the new Lichfield Southern Bypass. Also, £35,000 is due from Lichfield District Council for a Community Infrastructure Levy grant to reimburse work temporarily funded by the Trust for the Lichfield Canal at Tamworth Road.

Reserves

Bank balances follow the Trust's reserves policy as "restricted", "designated" and "unrestricted", such funds being held for purchase of land and property, plant and restoration work, and administration whereby Trust directors consider the need to build up funds for projected expenditure. Payments of £34,380 are reserved for planned invoices from the Social Investment Business Group grant awarded for Summerhill in 2015 pending planning decisions on Department for Transport land surrounding the M6Toll aqueduct.

The ongoing 'David Suchet Tunnel Vision Appeal' has raised a gross income of £646,065 before related costs, still well short of the £1,000,000 target set by SCC in 2016 but serves as a measure for match funding needed towards grants for the much higher unquantified cost of those proposed works under the Cross-City railway line.

Balance sheet - liabilities

SIB funds

Reserved funds of £34,380 from the SIB grant noted above remain available for outstanding planned work on the Summerhill section.

Mortgage

From monthly repayments to the Charity Bank revised mortgage loan over 25 years from 2018, secured by legal charges on Ogleby Cottages no.271 and 272, the balance had reduced to £345,679, serving as core funding to attract substantial grants for the Lichfield Canal tunnel project noted above.

Finance report

Income & expenditure account - income

Membership subscriptions

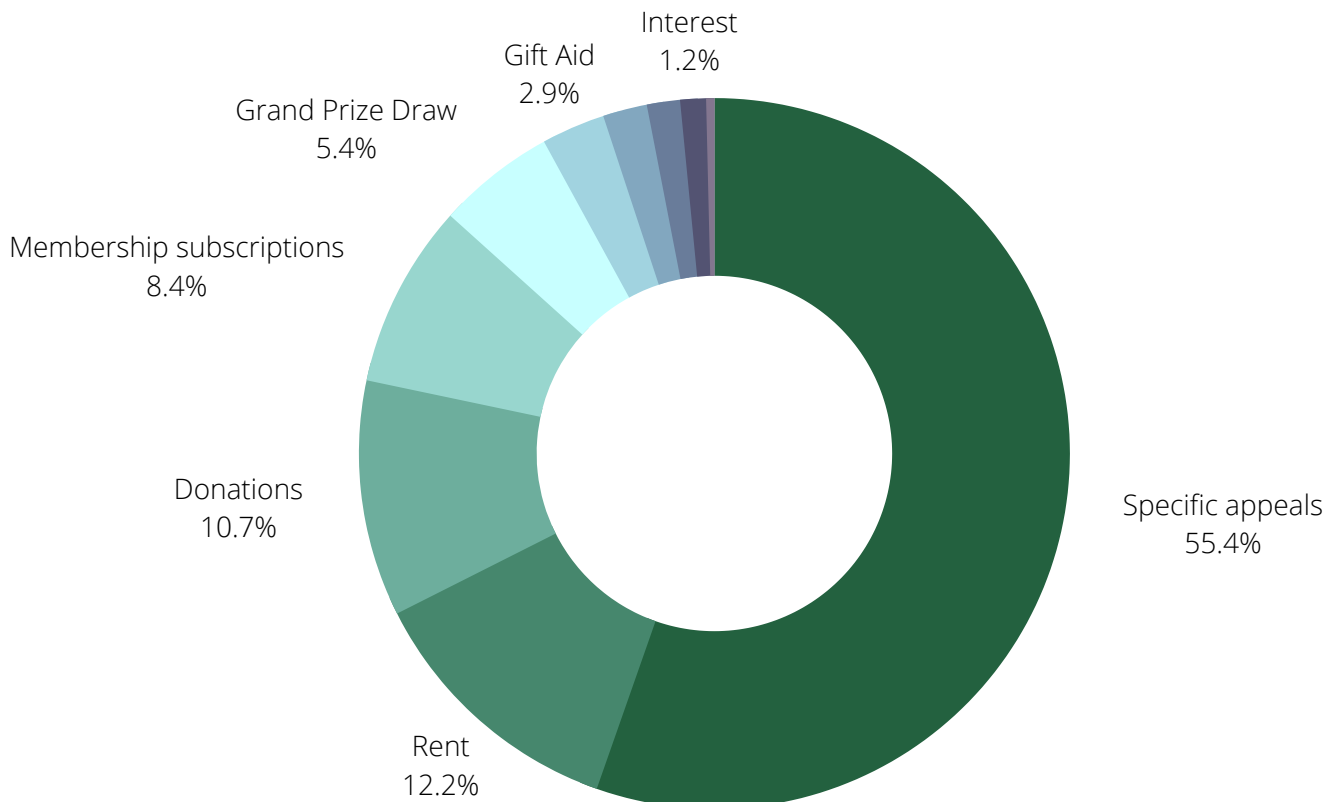
With a more determined drive to increase membership through social media platforms and engaging with innovative payment methods coming on stream, subscriptions and donations increased to net income of £13,400, supplemented with voluntary donations of £4,103 by 26% of members for which we are always grateful.

This makes the average amount of £14.32 per paying member, considered better than increasing the fees to all members and maybe falling short of this value. The average cost of servicing the growing number of 2,288 members reduced to £2.19 per head at 19.7% of basic subscriptions through containing expenditure incurred in distributing members' literature.

Marketing and retail activity

Gradual easing of Covid restrictions and greater use of online activity enabled marketing and retail trade to recover well by contributing £20,707 to Trust funds (£14,977 in 2020).

Income



Finance report

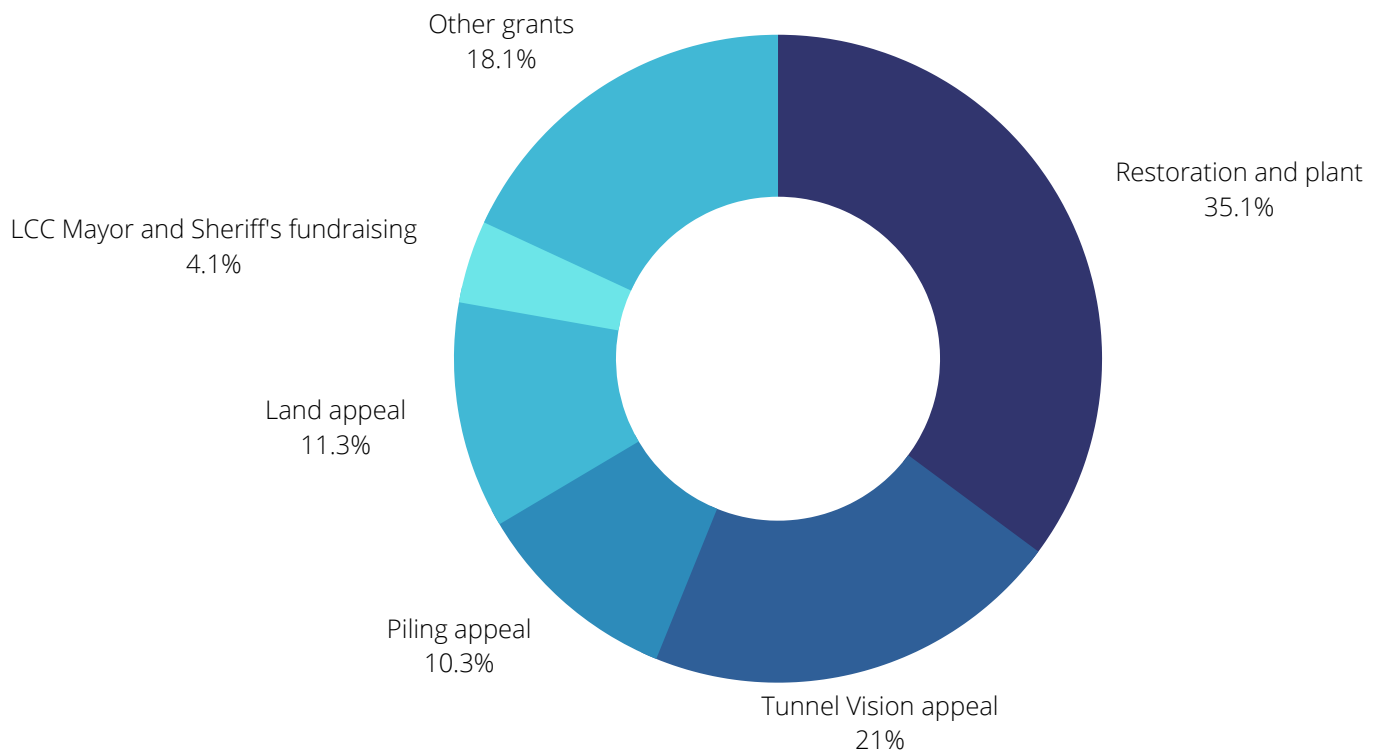
Donations

Donations continued to flow into established funds as appeals ran their course with donors from home and abroad still responding to global promotion on YouTube since 2019.

Appeals

The successful '20-20 Piling Appeal' initiative continued to attract sponsors to raise the gross income over two years to £30,000 towards the cost of materials, popular with donors for having specified names engraved on metal tags fixed onto sections of piling.

Income from appeals



Finance report

Income and expenditure account - expenditure

Hatherton Canal

The Hatherton Canal has not been a high priority for work on the ground, but a watching brief is kept on any potential intrusion that might affect restoration prospects.

Lichfield Canal restoration

The main focus continued to be on the Lichfield Canal with more intensive restoration work where Trust volunteer teams made substantial progress as Covid-19 compulsory health restrictions diminished. By Tamworth Road, the site was cleared of the surplus infill material and made more presentable in public view.

Persimmon Homes, in developing their new St John's Grange housing estate, co-operated with the County Highway bypass contractors Amey and our Trust in providing at their expense a basic canal channel alongside the Lichfield Southern Bypass with two connecting road access bridges. This included a late agreement to preserve heritage Lock 23 for uniquely modified restoration; taken together these save the Trust up to £1,000,000 worth of work.

A further gain comes from Staffordshire County Council agreeing to make a free transfer of two further sections at Zones B and C on Falkland Road, thus underpinning prospective approval of another Lichfield District Council CIL grant application for £260,000 spread over 2022-2025.

Ogley Cottages

Ogley no.271 has satisfactory tenants managed by a Letting Agent. However, tenants at 272 departed summarily after June but, after a short vacancy, a local family needed temporary accommodation for two months between house moves. When the property became vacant again, long-delayed remedial works were put in hand to upgrade the electrical system and undertake major structural changes, aimed at improving the inherent low level of its energy rating expected for tenanted property, ready for reletting in 2022.

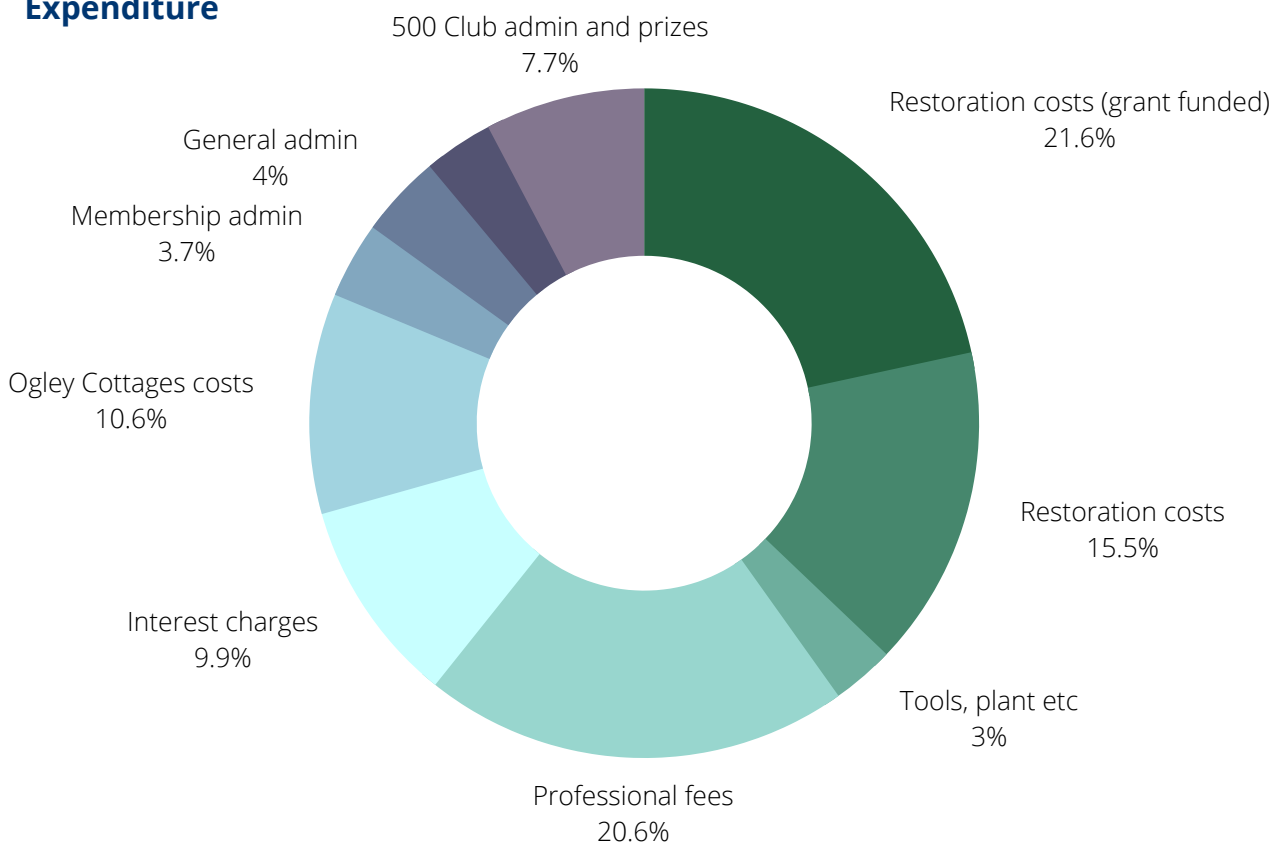
Finance report

Management and admin costs

As ever in the charity sector, labour, management and administration costs were underpinned by unstinting personal input from directors, officers and volunteers.

Extensive negotiations took place both “behind the scenes” and “on the ground” to defend the Trust’s position against bureaucratic developments in dealing with a variety of demanding planning issues and determining methodologies acceptable under increasing importance of health and safety regulations.

Expenditure



Conclusion

Dedicated application by highway and housing contractors with regular Trust volunteers, aided by an enthusiastic younger generation of visiting volunteer teams gaining personal skills, resulted in dramatic visible achievements in Lichfield producing vital changes for public benefit, evaluated by structured volunteer time records, converted by basic rates to a total of £707,533 for the year.

Robert Williams

Finance report

LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED MANAGEMENT BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2021

				31 December 2020	
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Totals £	
FIXED ASSETS					
Freehold Ogley Cottages 271 & 272 (depreciated @ 2%pa)	OC	453,780			465,150
18 areas of freehold land at cost (not depreciated)		165,686			165,686
Plant & Machinery (over £1,000 per item, depreciated)		1,795			1,386
Investment in subsidiary company shares (+ assets below)		1,000		622,261	1,000
					633,222
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors					
Net assets available from subsidiary company (+ capital above)		2,002			974
Net Group VAT receivable / payable		0			0
Severn Trent sewer refund; LDC CIL grant; DUE		0		2,002	0
					974
Restricted funds on special deposit:					
Lichfield Canal, special funding			957		857
'20-20' Piling Appeal Fund, net of expenditure			8,256		1,059
Land & Property Fund (donated), net of expenditure	LF		10,313		9,226
Restoration & Plant Fund (donated), net of expenditure	RF	[	1,726]		378]
South Staffs Water, PEBBLE Fund, balance		[	0]		2,300]
+ Page legacy for lock paddle gear	RF	[	2,756]		2,756]
+ Willey Lock 9a naming fund	RF	[	1,500]		1,500]
SIB "Summerhill" 2015 grant balance remaining	SIB		34,380	587,519	35,280
David Suchet, Tunnel Vision Fund, gross income	{TV		570,426 }		604,995 }
less tunnel design and funding fees	{TV		-42,795 }		-42,795 }
Designated funds on deposit:					
David Suchet, Tunnel Vision Fund	{TV	43,000			8,000 }
Land & Property Fund (Trust allocation)	LF	1,322			1,322
Restoration & Plant Fund (designated), net of expenditure	RF	5,000			1,000
Restoration Fund and Site budget balances		1,455			199
Cannock Council - Hatherton Water Supply Study reserve		1,134			1,134
Severn Trent Water; fish replacement fund			2,000		2,700
500 Club Capital Fund (50% of income in the year)		1,740		55,651	1,644
					15,999
Unrestricted funds:					
Trust project work pending STW & LDC income as debtors		-26,299		-26,299	974
Other bank accounts					
Unity Trust Bank, Trust current a/c		15,369			7,254
Funds in hand or in course of collection		0		15,369	0
Unity Trust Bank, Marketing current a/c and funds in hand		627		627	426
Total assets before liabilities		667,611	589,519	1,257,130	1,274,405
LIABILITIES:					
SIB grant payments reserve	SIB		-34,380	-34,380	-35,280
Loan reduction falling due within one year					
The Charity Bank Ltd; Mortgage loan on Ogley Cottages	OC	-10,226			-9,945
Loan outstanding after one year					
The Charity Bank Ltd; Mortgage loan on Ogley Cottages	OC	-335,453		-345,679	-345,750
		321,932	555,139	£877,071	£883,430
TOTAL NET RESOURCES					
				Unrestricted	Restricted
				£877,071	£883,430
RESERVES:					
Income & Expenditure Account					
NOTES: STW / CRT replacement fish supply awaited					
Flagstone Invest. Man't accrued deposit interest less fees, 31/12/21		2,668	2,000	1,468	
Retail Trading Co. C/A at Unity Trust Bank			1,200	1,616	398
Retail Trading Co. Stock of goods for sale (at cost)				1,448	1,576
Cumulative Trust Expenditure from start in 1990 to 2020				>>>	3,753,034
including 11 areas of donated land or canal structures built by or for L&H not having realisable value.				3,416,963	2,413,963
Notional value of donated time: Labour @ £10/hr, Management & home offices @ £100/hr. 2021 total				707,533	655,144

Finance report

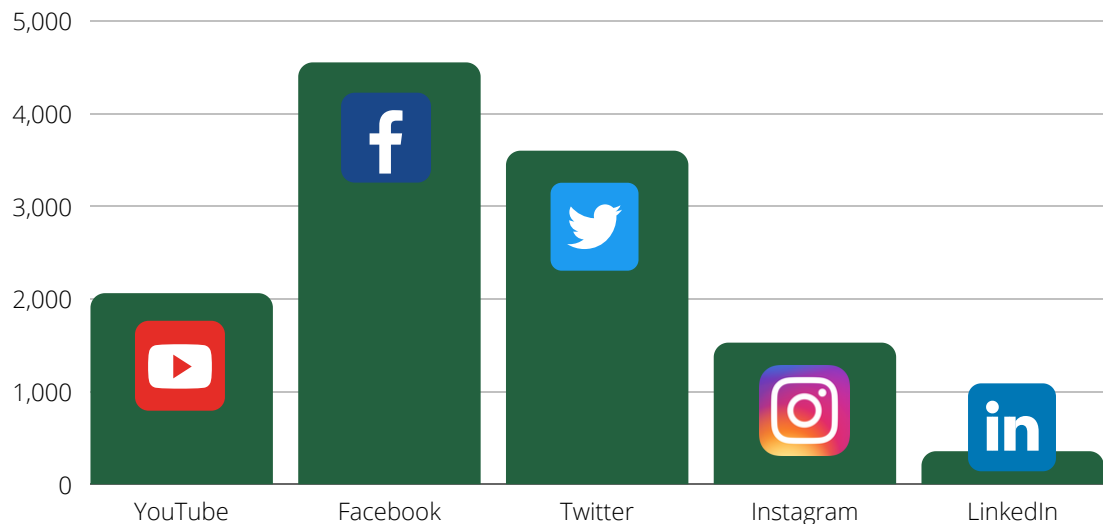
LICHFIELD & HATHERTON CANALS RESTORATION TRUST LIMITED **MANAGEMENT INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT** for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	2021			2020	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Totals	£	£
INCOME					
Subscriptions from members (excl. Marketing below)	M 11,111		11,111		9,908
Donations	M net Trust + Mktg 9,298			net Trust + Mktg 7,749	
Received with subscriptions	+ 4,103	13,401		3,752	11,501
Other (excl. Marketing collections below)	1,747		5,850	7,613	11,365
Income generated by Marketing and Retail Trading					
Trust & Public events	591			76	
Membership subscriptions via website, shows.	M 3,195			2,974	
500 Club Capital Fund (net of prizes paid out)	483			1,698	
Grand Prize Draw	7,135			4,496	
Donations, Sponsorship, Advertisements & Trust collections	4,629			4,637	
LDC Lottery benefit (<i>Brick Appeal, discontinued in 2020</i>)	2,672			100	
Net profit from Retail Trading subsidiary company	P 2,002		20,707	996	14,977
Rent, tax, interest, etc.	P net profit 19,202			net profit 12,829	
Ogley Cottages rent	OC 16,195			17,745	
Gift Aid tax reclaim (other than specific Funds)	3,847			3,857	
Bank and Flagstone deposits interest	1,554			1,458	
Wayleave for electricity line pole at Darnford	13		21,609	13	23,073
SUB-TOTAL REGULAR INCOME			59,278		59,323
Specific Appeals and Grants					
Land & Property Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		8,329		1,024	
Restoration & Plant Fund (incl. Gift Aid tax)		25,848		42,689	
David Suchet ---> Tunnel Vision Fund (inc. HMRC tax)		15,431		49,585	
20-20 Piling Appeal (inc. Gift Aid tax)		7,598		21,977	
Lichfield City Council Mayor & Sheriff fundraising		3,032			
Campaign income: (<i>zuzu Severn Trent tish; City Council CIL; SSW 'Peddie'</i>)		13,302	73,540	14,674	129,949
TOTAL INCOME	in 59,278	73,540	132,818		189,272
EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted	Restricted			
Restoration costs					
Lichfield Canal; Summerhill		0		0	
Tamworth Road; Gallows Reach (<i>2020 LCC CIL</i>)	4,427	2,000 }		11,492	
Fosseway Heath & Falkland Road	7,352	5,000 }		32,924	
Hatherton Canal (<i>2020 Stantec WSS</i>)		0		7,561	
Volunteer welfare; H&S	2,347			3,482	
Tools, Plant, Machinery, Training	4,117		-25,243	9,686	-65,145
Administrative costs					
Professional fees and costs	24,636	3,375		12,326	
Ogley Cottages costs (incl. nominal Insurance)	OC 14,486			3,364	
Membership and magazine administration	M 5,008			5,133	
Direct cost of Marketing activity (ex 500 Club prizes)	P 1,505			2,148	
Direct cost of Funding Appeals	0			0	
General administration	5,421]			1,435	
Insurance premium (ex Ogley Cottages - nominal)	4,563]		-58,994	3,314	-27,720
Project costs, grant funded					
LCC Gallows Reach; LDC CIL (<i>2020 in City Council CIL grant</i>)	29,401			8,213	
(<i>LDC CIL £35,000 Tamworth Road, outstanding</i>)			-29,401		-8,213
surplus before interest & depreciation			19,180		88,194
Finance charge					
Interest paid on Charity Bank loan	13,478		-13,478		-14,600
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	out -116,741	-10,375		115,679	
NET FUNDS MOVEMENT ON TRUST ACTIVITIES	-57,463	63,165	5,702		73,594
less Depreciation of property and plant	Unrestricted	Restricted	-12,060		-14,108
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR			-6,358		59,486
Retained Surplus brought forward			883,430		823,944
Retained Surplus carried forward			£877,071		£883,430

Online marketing

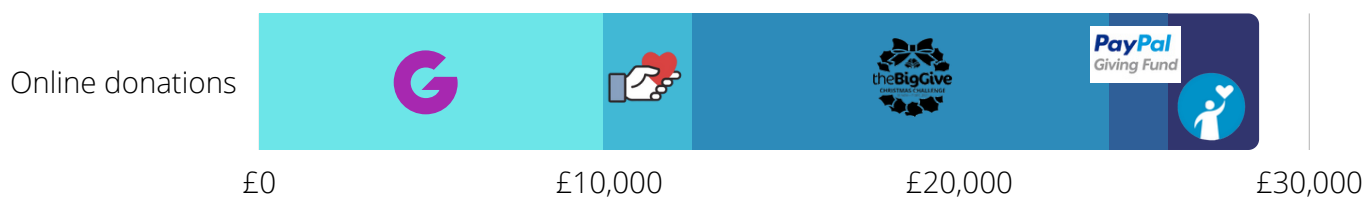
Social media followers at 31 December 2021

Much of the explanation for maintaining income and growth of membership is through widening our social media reach. Our followers count, reach and engagement increases year on year. You can help by following us and sharing our posts with your friends.



Online donations

We accept online donations through a number of sources. Our most successful platform in 2021 was the Big Give, due to the Christmas challenge appeal, but donations come in steadily through the year and totalled over **£28,500**, for which we are very grateful.



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 donation of time or equipment
- Buy items from our shop
- Leave a legacy
- Encourage friends to become members of the Trust.



About us

Trustees

In post at 31 December 2021



Chris Bull

Chair/environment trustee
Appointed 2017



Luke Walker

Planning trustee
Appointed 2016



Bob Williams

Finance trustee
Appointed 1996



Peter Buck

Engineering trustee
Appointed 2011



John Bryan

Commercial trustee
Appointed 2013



Stefan Szulc

Magazine editor trustee
Appointed 2016



Christine Howles

Communications trustee
Appointed 2016



Jeff March

Land trustee
Appointed 2017



Derek Lord

Technical trustee
Appointed 2019



Steven Webster

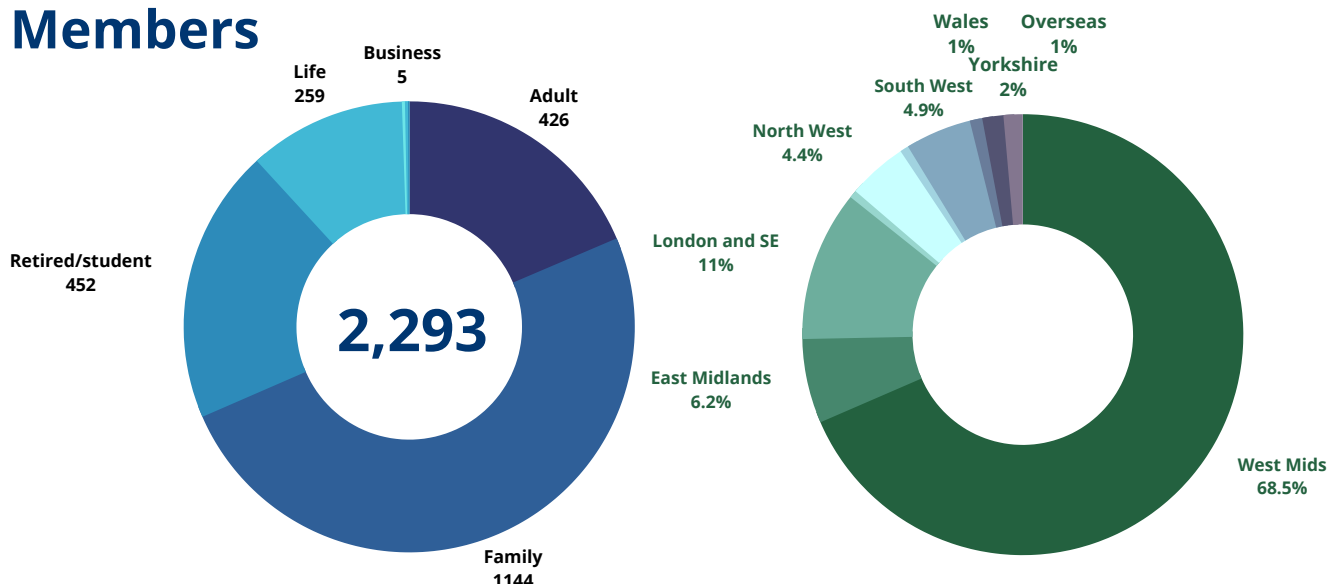
Plant trustee
Appointed 2019



Brian Williams

Volunteer liaison trustee
Appointed 2019

Members





www.lhcrt.org.uk

Registered Office:
Island House, Moor Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1WA

Registered in England No. 2456172
Registered Charity No. 702429
VAT registration No. 823 8213 41