

Swansea Canal Society



Cymdeithas Camlas Abertawe

Trustees' Summary Report and Accounts

for the year 6th April 2021 to 5th April 2022

The Society continues to maintain a close relationship with the Canal and River Trust, (CRT) who are the owners of the extant portion of the canal. We are also a member of the Inland Waterways Association (IWA), and liaise with a large number of other local and national bodies over the canal and its restoration including local councils, Swansea Bay Inland Waterway Partnership, the Neath and Tennant Canals Trust and Sustrans.

The Society is currently financially sound. The main current risks to the society are associated with accidents both during our maintenance and restoration work and relative to our canoe operation. These are mitigated by a close attention to safe practices combined with the proper levels of insurance, measures which have resulted in no significant problems.

The Society continues to advance its work to revitalise the canal -

- Funding:

A number of grants were applied for during the year 2021/22 with funding coming from Brilliant Basics, the Canoe Foundation and post Cade Lottery. Application has been made to Swansea City Council for planning permission to refurbish the Clydach Canal Centre and the hidden lock site.

- The Hidden Lock, Clydach, Phase two:

The Swansea Canal upstream of the buried Clydach Lock will be reopened to create a mooring basin for a trip boat, together with a lock by-wash and portage ramps for canoeists. A substantial grant has recently been approved by the Welsh Government Visit Wales "Brilliant Basics Fund". Part of the match funding has been offered by Swansea Council and we are awaiting the outcome of further applications.

- Canoes and Kayaks:

Our Community Canoe and Kayak Hire Project entered its 8th season at Easter 2021, but due to Covid lock down it didn't reopen until May. However, we were open every Sunday throughout the remaining months of the season, utilising a variety of Covid precautions,

including sanitising all equipment after use, prior to re-hiring. Youth Group hires couldn't go ahead due to Covid restrictions but the society did manage a Swansea Council "You Girls" run by the instructors from Canoe Wales. The society, along with the Friends of Coed Gwilym Park and the Clydach Heritage Centre ran a "Spooky" event at Halloween which was very well attended. Unfortunately, the Canoe Store lost its roof in Storm Eustice in February 2022.



- Waterway Recovery Group:

Due to Covid restrictions the proposed WRG camp was cancelled.

- Green Flag Community Award:

We were excited to receive the Green Flag Community Award for the sixth consecutive year. This award was given in recognition of the value of the canal as a green space and of the outstanding work done by our volunteers. The Apple and Plum trees given to the society by Keep Wales Tidy were planted around the Stone Barge in Hebron Road, Clydach.

- Birds and Bats:

Several bird and bat boxes, constructed by our volunteers, were installed in various locations along the canal. It is pleasing to note the number of birds that moved in during the breeding season.

- Volunteer Activities:

The cornerstone of the Society’s endeavours continued to be the hours worked every Tuesday. However, during the year 2021/2022 the world continued to be hit by the Covid pandemic, that meant work was curtailed for periods during the year. When work was allowed, it continued come rain or shine. The work ranging from litter picking, through bank repairs to continuing to build the wall for the garden in the Hidden Lock site.



- “Happy to Chat” benches, made from recycled plastic were purchased with a grant from NPTCBC Members Community Fund. These have been placed along the canal in Trebanos. The Society is indebted to Councillor Rebeca Phillips for instigating, facilitating and encouraging the project.



- Our long-term aim continues to be the joining up of the Swansea, Neath and Tennant canals together with the Tawe River navigation to form a 35-mile navigation waterway. The Swansea Bay Inland Waterway Partnership, of which we are a very active member, met online at intervals throughout 2021-22 to pursue this aim. Every project on the Swansea Canal helps to bring this vision a little closer to reality.

