



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 6th April 2018 To 5th April 2019

Charity name: Swansea Canal Society

Charity registration number: 1168894

Objectives and Activities

| | |
|--|--|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | <p>(1) To restore, reconstruct, preserve and maintain the Swansea Canal and to conserve its natural character as a navigable inland waterway for the benefit of the public.</p> <p>(2) To advance public education in the history and use of the canal.</p> <p>(3) To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for public recreation or leisure time in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving conditions of life.</p> |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | <p>During the year the society's work parties repaired and restored many portions of the canal and towpath, our historical consultant gave talks to local groups and societies and we continued to provide recreation on the canal through canoe hire to both young people and the general public.</p> |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | <p>The trustees continue to be aware of the need to confine the society's activities to those which will be of benefit to the public.</p> |

Additional information (optional)

| | |
|--|--|
| Policy on grant making | The society is not a grant making body |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | The society made no relevant investment during the year. |
| Contribution made by volunteers | The society's work parties contributed over eight thousand volunteer hours valued at £67,800 |

Achievements and Performance

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p> | <p>The society's efforts and achievements are all directed towards fulfilling the society's purposes with the aim of increasing the wellbeing and prosperity of the surrounding area and the public at large.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding: The joint application by the Canal and River Trust & Swansea Canal Society for grants from the Rural Communities Development Fund [funded by the European Union's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government] was approved in December 2018. A total of £321,000 was awarded to be spent on dredging the canal between Clydach and Trebanos. Work is due to commence in November 2019. Swansea Canal Society is required to contribute £43,000 match funding. £20,000 of this will be by "donation in kind" accumulated by volunteer hours worked. Our application to the Landfill Disposal Communities Fund for the remaining £23,00 has passed the preliminary stages and was await final approval at the end of the financial year. This was subsequently confirmed and the dredging commenced.• The Hidden Lock, Clydach: Work in the old Council Yard in Clydach, that was generously gifted to the Society by the City and Council of Swansea, continued throughout the year. The site has been cleared extensively, the site office refurbished and secure equipment storage built. Detailed planning for the restoration of the lock and its environs continues under the expert guidance of our consultant Patrick Moss of Moss, Naylor, Young. This project will require substantial grant funding.• Canoes and Kayaks: Our Community Canoe and Kayak Hire Project entered its 5th season at Easter 2018. We were open every Sunday throughout the spring and summer and Tuesdays in school holidays. We also welcomed occasional group bookings. We are once again indebted to Gill Thomas for organising and facilitating the project.• Waterway Recovery Group: In August we welcomed a team of volunteers from the Waterway Recovery Group who over the week did much work to restore the Ynysmeudwy Upper Lock by-wash. Society volunteers were on hand to assist.• Green Flag Community Award: We were excited to receive the Green Flag Community Award for the third 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.• Birds and Bats: Several bird and bat boxes, all 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 and once a month on Sundays. Work continues come rain or shine and ranges from litter picking, through bank repairs to towpath resurfacing and everywhere between. The team of local, regular volunteers is often joined by clients of Whitethorns Adult Day Care Service and occasionally by teams from local commercial concerns. We are a hands-on society dedicated to continually honing our skills and passing them on to new volunteers. The benefits, both physical and mental, of outdoor community work are now acknowledged universally. |
|--|---|

Financial Review

| | |
|--|--|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | The society is solvent and able to meet its existing financial commitments. |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | The society has no formal policy on reserves. |
| Amount of reserves held | None |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Allocated funds have been sufficient their stated purpose. |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | The expected costs of publishing the forthcoming book on the Swansea Canal have escalated through delays beyond our control to exceed the allocated fund by about £8,000. Grant income is currently being sought to cover this deficit. |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | The next stages in canal restoration will be beyond the financial capability of the society and a suitable partner organisation is being actively sought. |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | |
|---|---|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | The society's principal source of funds is grant making bodies. |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | The society keeps all its funds in cash accounts. |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | The principal financial risk the society faces if a lack of funding from grant making bodies to cover expenditure on our objectives. The main other 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. |
| Other | |

Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document | Para 1.25 | Constitution |
| How is the charity constituted? | Para 1.25 | Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | Election by members at a General Meeting and co-option by trustees until the next AGM |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | The society is a member of the Inland Waterways Association and the Swansea Bay Inland Waterway Partnership and has a close working relationship with Canal and River Trust, the owners of most of the Swansea Canal. |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Charity name | Swansea Canal Society |
| Other name the charity uses | |
| Registered charity number | 1168894 |
| Charity's principal address | Westlyn Llanmorlais Swansea SA4 3TJ |

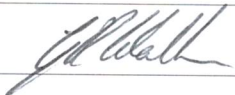
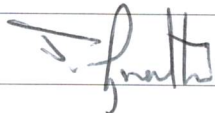
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Gordon David Walker | Chair | |
| 2 | John Gwalter | Treasurer | |
| 3 | Gillian Irene Thomas | | |
| 4 | Andrew Richard Ellis | | |
| 5 | John Andrew Davies | | |
| 6 | Michelle Davidson | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Signature(s) |  |  |
| Full name(s) | Gordon David Walker | John Gwalter |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Chair | Treasurer |
| Date | 26th November 2019 | 26th November 2019 |