SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL SOCIETY LIMITED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026
ABRIDGED TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

This abridged report can be viewed in full on the Society's website, also Companies House and the Charity Commission sites. The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and activities

The Society is committed to ensuring that the Shropshire Union Canal network, covering the Llangollen and Montgomery Canals as well as the Shropshire Union Canal itself including the Middlewich Branch, is maintained and enhanced for the benefit of all users, visitors and the environment. We seek to influence, encourage and support the Canal and River Trust in its work on the network for the benefit of all users through the maintenance, improvement and extension of structures and facilities such as towpaths, access, visitor moorings and the overall environment throughout the Shropshire Union Canal network. All activities are undertaken with due regard to public benefit as per Charity Commission guidance. The Society has continued to be involved with other organisations within our geographical area of activity having similar objects.
We are actively committed to the restoration of the Montgomery Canal with particular interest in the “Shropshire Gap” rewatering to reconnect the entire system, in association with the other groups supporting the Restore Appeal. The Crickheath South Restoration Phases 2 and 3 have been the major projects of the year, together with preparatory vegetation clearance work at Waen Wen basin.

The enhancement activities are now established with a core group of volunteers, centred on the Ellesmere area, working in close cooperation with CRT

Achievements and performance

Restoration work parties have been focused on the Crickheath South project. Extension of the restored channel from Crickheath Bridge towards the renewed Schoolhouse Bridge has continued together with towpath renovation to the next bridge aka Malthouse. There has been an increase in volunteer participation, including from local corporate organisations. More details of what restoration has been achieved can be found on our website www.shropshireunion.org.uk/restoration with regular postings published throughout social media.

The maintenance and enhancement work team, which operates in the Ellesmere area has produced significant improvements to the local structures and environment. They are now firmly established in their third year of operation and would welcome new recruits. These activities, carried out in close cooperation with the Canal and River Trust suit members who wish to volunteer but seek lighter activity than the restoration work.

The programme of wider ranging activities includes attending various canal related events, organising walks and tours of the system together with talks to various groups, has continued. A range of events have been planned for the Society's 60th Jubilee year.

Financial review

For 2025/26, the Society's funding continued to come from a range of sources, mainly the Shared Prosperity Fund via CRT and Shropshire Council, together with internal funds, legacies and donations, resulting in a broadly balanced asset position. The Shared Prosperity Fund award, while unexpected, was welcome and has deferred the need to rely on the Society's own funds until the next financial year. Before the SPF2 grant began, two months of costs were self-financed and shared equally with Restore. This arrangement will continue for restoration works through to Waen Wen Basin.

This year the Society's assets show a growth of £12 198, a sum which is almost equal to the match funding required by the SPF grant due in June 2026, so overall a neutral year financially in a very busy period operationally.

Society costs to provide our fully trained and equipped volunteers on all sites were more than £28,000 , largely items usually not met by grants and showing how important our own fundraising is. Various funding sources are being pursued and the Society remains an active member of the Restore fundraising group focusing on "Restoring the Shropshire Gap"

Reserves
The Operating Reserve created in 2012 to cover 2 years activity has been reviewed and maintained.

Investments
The policy of maximising returns within a low-risk portfolio has been retained.

Risks
The Trustees have identified the risks to which the Charity is exposed, both operational and financial, with all policies and activities taking account of these.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Name	Appointed	Resigned
Mr. D J Carter	06.11.2010	
Mrs. S Ball	09.09.2022	
Mr. S Clews	21.01.2022	
Mr. R D Feeney	16.11.2019	
Mr. T Fulda	12.05.2021	
Mr. C J Hesketh	01.12.2021	
Mr. P G Tolster	11.03.2024	
Mrs. B Cowie	29.05.2024	
Mr. C A Robertson	19.01.2016	
Mr G Harris	24.01.2025	

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Clive Robertson

Treasurer and Trustee

SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL SOCIETY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2026 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:									
Donations and legacies	**3**	16,400	-	2,815	19,215	49,558	-	26,500	76,058
Charitable activities	**4**	48,994	-	-	48,994	96,511	4,051	-	100,562
Other trading activities	**5**	-	593	-	593	-	1,374	-	1,374
Investments	**6**	827	15,467	-	16,294	-	12,439	-	12,439
Other income	**7**	3,205	-	-	3,205	-	-	-	-
Total income		69,426	16,060	2,815	88,301	146,069	17,864	26,500	190,433
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds									
Fundraising and publicity	**8**	432	-	-	432	380	-	-	380
Trading costs	**8**	3,961	-	-	3,961	4,220	-	-	4,220
		4,393	-	-	4,393	4,600	-	-	4,600

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		71,710	-	-	71,710	113,950	38,063	-	152,013
		76,103	-	-	76,103	118,550	38,063	-	156,613
		Unrestricted funds general	**Unrestricted funds designated**	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	**Unrestricted funds general**	**Unrestricted funds designated**	**Restricted funds**	**Total**
		2026	**2026**	**2026**	**2026**	**2025**	**2025**	**2025**	**2025**
	Notes	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Charitable activities									
Charitable trading	**9**	71,710	-	-	71,710	112,950	38,063	-	151,013
Non Designated Grants	**9**	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Total charitable expenditure									

Total expenditure

Net gains/(losses) on investments	**15**	-	-	-	-	-	4,096	-	4,096
Net income/(expenditure)		(6,677)	16,060	2,815	12,198	27,519	(16,103)	26,500	37,916
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	6,000	20,500	(26,500)	-
Net movement in funds	**12**	(6,677)	16,060	2,815	12,198	33,519	4,397	-	37,916
Reconciliation of funds:									
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		99,517	110,897	164,370	374,784	65,998	106,500	164,370	336,868
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		92,840	126,957	167,185	386,982	99,517	110,897	164,370	374,784

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

		2026		2025	
	Notes	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**17**		89		141
Investments	**18**		105,372		4,546
			105,461		4,687
Current assets					
Debtors	**19**	4,207		2,947	
Cash at bank and in hand		284,046		373,278	
		288,253		376,225	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**20**	(6,732)		(6,128)	
Net current assets			281,521		370,097
Total assets less current liabilities			386,982		374,784
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**21**		167,185		164,370
Unrestricted funds - general	**23**		92,840		99,517
Unrestricted funds - designated	**22**		126,957		110,897
			386,982		374,784

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.