CANAL CONNECTIONS CIC UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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CANAL CONNECTIONS CIC ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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CANAL CONNECTIONS CIC COMPANY INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Directors

A Bolton

P A Coddington A M Perry M C Radelaar T Roberts D Wilkinson D I Lowe

Company Number

07835266 (England and Wales)

Registered Office

Leeds Lock House Armouries Drive-

Leeds LS10 1LE

Accountants

EK Accounting & Tax Services Limited

Fusion@Magna Business Centre, Unit 23

Magna Way Rotherham S60 1FE

CANAL CONNECTIONS CIC STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

		2023 £		2022 £
Fixed assets		1,661		2,215
Current assets	4,510		19,086	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(12,124)		(11,084)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets		(7,614)		8,002
Total assets less current liabilities		(5,953)		10,217
Accruals and deferred income		(960)		(17,101)
Net liabilities		(6,913)		(6,884)
Reserves		(6,913)		(6,884)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Statutory information

CANAL CONNECTIONS CIC is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration number 07835266. The registered office is Leeds Lock House Armouries Drive, Leeds, LS10 1LE.

2 Average number of employees

During the year the average number of employees was 10 (2022: 10).

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 105, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-entities Regime. The accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The profit and loss account has not been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

Approved by the board on 15 December 2023

T Roberts Director

Company Registration No. 07835266

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



Some residents have no knowledge of their waterways' existence, let alone the beneficial potential of their natural, built, and cultural heritage.

Blue space as caring space using waterways for the cultivation of care in social and environmental practice

Industrial waterways brought prosperity and innovation to Leeds.

Industry brought air and water pollution.

The waterways became misty sewers.

Massive strides have been made in the improvement of air and water quality but many of the communities created through that industrial revolution still carry its negative legacy. Canal Connections was created to attempt to demonstrate the educational and therapeutic potential of the post – industrial waterways. We have 'achieved' many individual successes but one notable failure.

A strategic and visionary partnership.

I have documented some notable mileposts in our journey -highlighting the potential health and educational benefits. It has been achieved with the contribution of some key people – volunteers and stakeholders -but will be valueless if we do not learn from our experiences.

How do we engage the 'Gatekeepers'?

Those Organisations who work to improve individual's health. Those organisations who work with individuals who need to improve their education There are many examples of joined up working but it is usually individual driven. This leads to short term projects, often funding driven. Individuals do not have strategic or financial responsibility. Their career choices lead to change – moving department or employer. The trust and knowledge built up in those partnerships is lost and the cycle is repeated to engage the stakeholder.

The loser in all this is people.

The current crisis will leave a legacy

- improved response to emergency
- recognition of the value of key workers
- joined up working to solve a problem
- recognition of the natural environment
- social action
- o spoiled life chances for individuals
- o mental health issues
- o lack of educational attainment
- unemployment
- budget cuts

There are many examples of community engagement along the Aire Valley. Organisations needing to engage with communities and a lot of effort being put in to ensure the survival of the organization – often with community benefit being a side product.

Is there a strategic view as to the community benefits through the Natural environment which would lead to benefits far greater than the individual parts?

If individuals can make life improvements, then Society will be the Victor.

In 2011 I was commissioned by Bradford MBC and British Waterways through "Waterways for Growth" http://archive.northsearegion.eu/files/repository/20140821122228 WfGFINALREPORT.pdf to carry out a scoping study focussed on the Shipley Canal Regeneration Zone to explore the potential for the social economy to carry out a "stewardship" role.

This was a 2 mile stretch of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and to carry out the consultation I took individuals from a wide selection of sectors and organisational interest for a boat trip to enable them to see the environment from a different perspective. The trips were carried out on a 1 to 1 basis to capture and enlarge the conversations.

The report was positively received and highlighted the under realised potential of the area together with the lack of connectivity between organisations, communities, features and strategic aims. It highlighted the potential of the natural, built and cultural assets to stimulate growth. It was not acted upon.

Harnessing this experience I created Canal Connections and to use the 5 mile post -industrial waterways of the "Heritage Canal Zone" connecting Armley Mills Industrial Museum and Thwaite Mills Industrial Museum to demonstrate the under realised potential of the waterways for social regeneration.

Initially this was carried out without a boat as I engaged a group of young people from Seacroft to support the journey of a horse drawn boat along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal – the first time in 60 years such a boat had been on this canal. Over 3 days they walked from Leeds to Saltaire – setting locks, removing obstructions and informing people of the importance of the journey. The owner did not even allow them on the boat but they were totally engaged.

Secondly, I created a video to highlight both the potential and the barriers using a time lapse camera situated on a borrowed boat. I condensed the 6-hour journey to a 2-minute whistle stop tour and used this to secure a place on the School for Social Entrepreneurs programme. I used the grant to hire a boat to fully demonstrate our potential.



I was retained on an Arts and Humanities Research Council project "Multi Story Water" as a Creative community partner to support Professor Steve Bottoms in his research. The success of this 12 month project led in 2014 to a 3yr AHRC project Towards Hydro Citizenship, where I was again retained as a partner using the activities of Canal Connections, in the 2 zone areas, to engage corporate and community partners. https://www.hydrocitizenship.com/

Providing more than just a boat trip

We create interactive journeys enabling people to see urban environments, themselves, and their lives from a different perspective; a two-way conversation identifying how interaction with post-industrial waterways not only reduces stress, anxiety and mental health issues for people but leads to their increasing care for the environment. A new door opens to them and they become open to themselves becoming hydrocitizens: people cared for by and caring for their environment.

A list of some of our activities provides an indication of the range of ways we have used the basic technique. Every trip has resulted in the people seeing themselves or the City from a new perspective. Everyone has been Inspired but not everyone has taken a further step (that we know of!!)



Canal Connections Trailer 720p.mp4

Corporate Partners

- Whitehall Road business' a working breakfast from Leeds Dock to their offices close to Millennium Bridge activated an interest in what has now become Whitehall Road Pocket park connecting the canal and river. Whilst supporting the initiative we are not an active partner.
- Canal and River Trust providing responses to requests we have produced cruises to a range of their employees, volunteers and beneficiaries but not fully recognised strategically
- Yorkshire Water perhaps most significantly was a cruise from the south entrance of Leeds Station to Leeds Dock integrating a breakfast bap and a day's use of Magellan House¹ - feedback was "they saw so much from a different perspective, despite their offices only being a 100 yards away in Leeds Dock!!"
- Corporate Volunteering the benefits of this is so much wider than the task they complete. A new perspective not only of the environment but also of our beneficiaries and the challenges they face. We always "reward" them with a boat trip but interestingly with a Department of Works and Pension team one day we started with the cruise. Immediate feedback was 5 minutes on the boat was equal to the 30 minutes health and wellbeing sessions which they hold in their workplace. It stimulated thoughts as to how a closer relationship between us would be beneficial to some of their working practises, staff and beneficiaries. Even more relevant post CV19.

Academic Partners

In addition to the above AHRC projects we have engaged with engaged with a range of Education providers but there is increasing difficulty in a broad response. In Secondary education it is focused on exclusionary behaviour. In Higher and Further Education, it tends to be fragmented and re-active requests.

- Foreign students we have repeat requests for students on exchange visits to show them Leeds but interestingly not for resident students.
- Art, Design, Event Management again re-active to a specific project and not exploring strategically.
- Sustainability Research Institute, University of Leeds -"Change is in the Aire" project perhaps the
 most exciting although it was "postponed" due to the pandemic crisis but was to include a weeks
 cruise from Skipton to Leeds including "how can we undertake social science research in slower, more
 inclusive, more opened ways" The range of stakeholders it had attracted gave a powerful indication of
 its potential.
- Cultural Institute, University of Leeds- successful micro commission for Beyond Measure: Exploring research and evidence between Culture and Health.

¹ 18 months use of building in Leeds Dock as a community hub.

Connecting Communities, Generations, Places, Sectors and Projects

We use the lessons learnt, both negative and positive, in the delivery of projects to inform and develop. We use the people we engage on our projects to develop their own skills but also to use those skills in the delivery of current and future work.

Projects

Working with David Young Community Academy and Yorkshire Water we carried out a 12-month pilot Stewardship school. Engaging with pupils at a critical point immediately prior to exclusion from mainstream in a 'real' work environment it created challenges. The YW site and employees found the behaviour initially critical. It created risks and the YW staff were not used to dis-engaged pupils. It was found however that their behaviour on the boat made them more receptive to learning and they became easier to work with. Importantly it was seen that the model could involve Graduate entry employees, using their project management skills, both with and outside the course whilst introducing them into the world of work. Despite notable 'successes' — not least one pupil moving from the point of final exclusion to becoming Deputy Head Boy at the school -it was not carried forward.

Another course with the school involved pupils on an International Baccalaureate programme. One of the task-based challenges was to make a bed — "the boat is residential so we can use that". Unfortunately, we had no bedding as we used sleeping bags - a request to the Hilton (City)Hotel raised eyebrows and questions but led to the loan of 12 sets of sheets, quilts and pillows. The pupils had instruction in the process of bed making and to demonstrate their newly found knowledge we asked the Hotel staff to assess them. The pupils had to get the boat from Thwaite Mills to the Hotel during which time they prepared lunch for the assessing staff. We took the boat to within 50 yards of the Hotel back door to pick up the General Managers P.A., the Head Housekeeper and the Head Chef. The Hotel staff did not realize the canals proximity to the hotel so certainly did not market it to guests. They were so impressed with the students behaviour and results that they offered the school Work Experience placements, the students a hotel tour together with an explanation of the responsibities and challenges of the Housekeepers work, a complementary night stay for the students and their families and a 'Goodie' bag. They passed the module!!

We had a further contact with the hospitality Industry. We were developing an EU project bid of (re)introducing working horses. The European project partners stayed at the **Holiday Inn**. We took them for evening meal at the **Royal Armouries Museum**, a cruise from the hotel to Thwaite Mills and used the conference facilities at the Hotel. The overarching feedback was the wonderful experience, the unrealised existence of the waterways in Leeds, the proximity of the hotel to the City Centre but the tranquillity of the Hotel after 6p.m.

Communities

Some communities and its residents can be territorial but one opportunity the waterways present is their neutrality. It is a new experience for most people – especially driving a boat. It can therefore be empowering and inspiring, acting as a platform to explore further. This makes the experience relevant whether they live alongside the waterway or a distance from it.

It can however be a barrier, one of which raised itself when we were using Magellan House as a community hub. When we brought our community partners to the hub, they saw themselves entering the corporate world and did not feel "they had the right to be there" Some students asked "how did we get here?" recognising the Armouries building but failing to understand its connection through the waterways journey.

Places

We have used our experience in Leeds to deliver courses or projects across Leeds City Region. These include a Heritage cruise from the Hepworth Gallery in **Wakefield**. Interestingly the Civic Society had produced a Waterfront Trail but it was the first time some of their members had seen their City from the water.

The Commoners Choir used one of our boats to connect Leeds and Castleford Heritage Centre. Edgeland Arts used 2 of our boats to connect Wakefield and Castleford. North Yorkshire Youth Service and Craven Council used one of our boats to explore the lack of youth provision in Skipton. We used a Mirfield boat to demonstrate to young people from Armley and District the potential of West Leeds Activity Centre. We used one of our boats to engage young people in Shipley. Interestingly, the first course was an evening course in October – the boat was used as a static base. They enjoyed the second course in Spring as they were able to literally see the same environment differently. We delivered a week's cruise for Radio Leeds where one of our boats was used to deliver the breakfast show live as it travelled from Skipton to Leeds.

Perhaps our most significant was a showcase cruise from Granary Wharf to Knostrop to over 30 delegates to celebrate and demonstrate the Hydro Citizenship project. The 3 community partners from Bristol, London and Leeds were on board together with stakeholders from Leeds to explore the potential of the innovative engagement of the projects and to enable people to visualise the future for this stretch of water and beyond. The afternoon session was based in Jurys Inn at Brewery Wharf. We were able to alight directly from the boat. Specific mention was made as to the inspiring thoughts and aspirations brought about through the cruise as opposed to the more traditional workshops in the afternoon.

A further connection between **Skipton and Bristol** was the provision of one of our boats as a 'hospital boat' to support the **gutless kayaker project**. Justin suffers from Crone's Disease and is on a life support machine 24/7. He kayaked the entire 600 miles and one of our boats was equipped to enable him to a complete transfusion each day, providing sterile accommodation and a skipper (a volunteer and former beneficiary) to drive it.

We were involved in discussions with Canal and River Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Royal Society Protection of Birds and Leeds City Council. They have a responsibility for sites from Castleford to Leeds. All inter-related in the past but operating in isolation. We are a partner in the East Leeds Project which formed part of the 2023 Bid). We identified to the Chamber of Commerce- Quality Places and Spaces Committee the transformation of the East part of the City waterways by the Flood Alleviation Scheme, creating the potential for a water Nature Park.

The backbone of the Aire Valley National Park is already in place in fragmentation, a necklace of wildlife sites inter-dependent for wildlife but operating in isolation by Organisations. Coal, textiles and people are at the Heart of Yorkshire and waterways connect them all providing a vehicle for people to recognise and celebrate their Heritage.

Individual jewels of natural, built and cultural heritage all inter related by the Past but operating in isolation in the present.

Culture

We have provided a residency for an artist, latterly becoming artistic director, who has produced many stunning images, documented various events, created exhibitions, developing an engaging web site and has completed the micro commission mentioned previously. This in itself has created an aspiration to host artists in residence, focusing on different disciplines and exploring the different aspects within the Heritage Canal Zone.

We led a consortium of 3 social enterprises to co-ordinate the Leeds Waterfront Festival. Feedback was of the wider offering that was brought over the 3 years to communities, family and tourists. We extended the area and sites bringing a wider culture offering than the corporate feel of previous years. This included creative cruises from Opera singer, individual musicians, splash mobs, yarn bombing to a junk boat challenge.



As a part of the **Bi-Centenary celebrations for the completion of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal** we produced **the Leeds Waterfront Heritage Trail**. This was created using open source technology and engaging community members by building on our experience gained in the delivery of 2 previous Lottery funded projects.

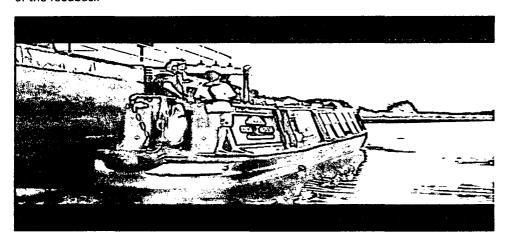
http://leedswaterfrontheritage.squarespace.com/

It also provided a role for Magellan House which we are using to inform the acquisition of the former Leeds Lock Keepers House to develop as an Exploration Hub. This hub will be used within our Time travel Cruises where we explore the past and the present to stimulate thoughts as to the Future.

Thwaite Mills Industrial Museum

The importance of the Museum is wider than the base for our boats, more meaningful than being our introduction to Leeds waterways – it has a special place in our hearts.

It was home to Canal Connections Summer School — a 3-week course to support transition for pupils to Secondary School — using a range of different activities but the boat was consistently in the top 3 (usually no.1) of the feedback



Truly a hidden Gem – a recurring comment from our partners

We helped Father Christmas, where **Santa Cruises** provided families with a trip to his grotto in the Museum grounds. We provide free boat trips to support the museum events programme. We have even delivered the Bride and her party to her **wedding venue** with the Groom being brought in a separate boat!!



We supported Business in the Community when they brought Nick Hurd M.P,

Minister for Civil Society to demonstrate the value of our work.

His overriding observation

"Everyone has a smile on their face"

Reflections of the Future

This is the title of a course we were developing in February to create crew for the Change is in the Aire cruise. The trainers on the course were all beneficiaries of our project. They were there as part of IGNITE - YORKSHIRE² and FLOAT YOUR BOAT³ using their life skills, some newly found skills and some skills they never realised they had, to engage a new generation. The trainees all expressed the desire to continue and support further trainees but the course was suspended due to the CV19.

It has created a template for the Future.

It has formed the structure for a Development Team.

During the Radio Leeds Cruise, I had produced a list of guests, which included beneficiaries and stakeholders, some of whom were interviewed by the presenter, Richard Stead, during the trip.

In the final programme he indicated that a common thread in the interviews was "I met Trevor". More importantly to me was the recognition they gave to the role of the waterways in their development.

I had given them a boat trip which had provided them with a belief in themselves.

The waterway is providing them with a Journey for a Lifetime.

 ² HLF project using waterways to engage young people in heritage. Canal Connections is a delivery partner
 ³ Big lottery project through Leeds Older Peoples Forum to reduce social isolation and loneliness in older people

There is no better Ambassador for the waterways than those who have realised its potential.



Sir Winston Churchill once commented "Do not waste a crisis".

<u>The current CV19 crisis has identified that the Development Team are willing and have the capability to take Canal Connections into the Future.</u>

We must ensure we do not waste this opportunity.

CIC 34

Community Interest Company Report

	For official use (Please leave blank)	
Please complete in	Company Name in full	CANAL CONNECTIONS CIC
typescript, or in bold black capitals.	Company Number	07835266
	Year Ending	31 March 2023

This template illustrates what the Regulator of Community Interest Companies considers to be best practice for completing a simplified community interest company report. All such reports must be delivered in accordance with section 34 of the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 and contain the information required by Part 7 of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. For further guidance see chapter 8 of the Regulator's guidance notes and the alternate example provided for a more complex company with more detailed notes.

(N.B. A Filing Fee of £15 is payable on this document. Please enclose a cheque or postal order payable to Companies House)

PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In the space provided below, please insert a general account of the company's activities in the financial year to which the report relates, including a description of how they have benefited the community.

The Company uses canal boats as our main engagement tool. The demise of our boats during Covid 19 lockdowns therefore particularly hit us hard. A major activity therefore has been the 'refurbishment' of one of our boats by the volunteers. Importantly the work was carried out by young and old beneficiaries working alongside each other, with craftsmen donating their time and expertise for skilled work. The work was completed by May in order that it could be used by the Thames Regeneration Board during a conference at the Royal Armouries Museum. This created a high profile for the work of our volunteers and the Company.

As a result of our work with IGNITE-Yorkshire (young people 14-19yrs) we collaborated with the Geraldine Connor Foundation to enable young people to explore the Transatlantic Trade through the Post industrial waterways. This resulted in an exhibition and audio travel highlighting the Hidden African Heritage. A major focus was however the death of David Oluwale in 1969, brought about through Police harassment. They were able to relate this to current day issues of mental health, immigration, slavery and Police behaviour. It was however dealt with in a very 'positive' manner and resulted in the Company becoming a member of the David Oluwale Society.

A significant aspect of our work was the development of the Forging Futures programme – developing ready to work skills for young people and leading them into apprenticeships or further education.

(If applicable, please just state "A social audit report covering these points is attached").

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS – Please indicate who the company's stakeholders are; how the stakeholders have been consulted and what action, if any, has the company taken in response to feedback from its consultations? If there has been no consultation, this should be made clear.

The Board is made up of stakeholders from the Academic, Community and Corporate partners together with long term volunteers. Whilst there has no been no formal consultation there has been constant feedback from partner organisation with direct contact with beneficiaries.

The Development Team made up entirely of beneficiaries covers I.T., training, pastoral care, which feed directly into the Board. A major aspect is the development of a Hydro Citizenship programme, embracing the symbiotic caring for and being cared for by the Natural Environment, which is directed by our beneficiaries development and involvement.

This can be demonstrated through 'T' who came to us for a 4-day programme when he was in his mid-teens. He struggled with confidence issues including anxiety, autism and other neuro diverse conditions creating low energy level and social engagement. The first day of his course resulted in great pride in his mum when he insisted on a 2-hour car journey to attend but felt confident enough to walk the final 100 yards from the car park on his own. He completed the 4 days(spread over 4 weeks) and was invited to develop a second cohort with him being a mentor for the new inductees. We supported him (and others) over the covid lockdowns through zoom, often on a one 2 one basis as their conditions made zoom difficult to cope with.

As part of his initial course the trainees had surveyed a local piece of land which had "no heritage or environmental value" During the lockdown they developed a plan for it to be transformed into a nature park for the local communities. Their work resulted in them gaining a John Muir (Arts and Environment) award and to date over 50 further John Muir awards have been awarded to different community members (with an age range from 8 to 70 years) to develop the original vision. This vision informed a desire to acquire a 'workboat' that could be better employed to support their land based work. T was involved in the research for a suitable boat and the subsequent negotiations to purchase 'SAMSON' which was based in London. This is a former British Waterways tug boat and he was responsible for navigating the boat from London to Leeds. T is now a qualified skipper and is developing an environmental programme of 'stewardship' around the waterways. He has the confidence to deliver the 'safety talk' to passengers on our boats.

Whilst T is an individual – his story is not unique - and the report 'Community Enrichment' is attached to demonstrate the breadth of our beneficiaries. Of particular importance is the Organic blending of ages, experiences and cultures which lead to stronger and longer lasting relationship. This creates a more resilient Organisation with opportunities for progression and 'Ambassadors'.

Report Community Enrichment attached

(If applicable, please just state "A social audit report covering these points is attached").

PART 3 – DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION – if you have provided full details in your accounts you need not reproduce it here. Please clearly identify the information within the accounts and confirm that, "There were no other transactions or arrangements in connection with the remuneration of directors, or compensation for director's loss of office, which require to be disclosed" (See example with full notes). If no remuneration was received you must state that "no remuneration was received" below.

No renumeration was re

PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION – Please insert full details of any transfers of assets other than for full consideration e.g. Donations to outside bodies. If this does not apply you must state that "no transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made" below.		
No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made		
The Marie S. S. Section Control of the Society and Society Hinds		
(Places continue on congrete continuation cheet if pagescary)		

(Please continue on separate continuation sheet if necessary.)

PART 5 - SIGNATORY

The original report must be signed by a director or secretary of the company Signed J. Roll

Date 16.12.23

Office held (delete as appropriate) Director/Secretary

You do not have to give any contact information in the box opposite but if you do, it will help the Registrar of Companies to contact you if there is a query on the form. The contact information that you give will be visible to searchers of the public record.

Trevor Roberts - Director				
Tel 0780 372 6371				
DX Exchange				
	Tel 0780 372 6371			

When you have completed and signed the form, please attach it to the accounts and send both forms by post to the Registrar of Companies at:

For companies registered in England and Wales: Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ DX 33050 Cardiff

For companies registered in Scotland: Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, EH3 9FF DX 235 Edinburgh or LP – 4 Edinburgh 2

For companies registered in Northern Ireland: Companies House, 2nd Floor, The Linenhall, 32-38 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG

The accounts and CIC34 **cannot** be filed online

(N.B. Please enclose a cheque for £15 payable to Companies House)