



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service



Angel Community Canal Boat Trust

Annual Report 2023/24



Registered Charity Number: 1103542
Company Number: 5088108

Angel Community Canal Boat Trust (ACCT), also known as '*The Angel Boat*', is a charity which operates two skippered community canal boats for use by local residents and community groups at a cost they can afford. It was originally established in 1976 as Islington Narrow Boat Association (INBA) and continues to be based at City Road Lock in Islington on the Regent's Canal.

The charity enables up to 2,000 people a year to have the opportunity, on a trip lasting from three hours to 5 days, to:

- experience the fun and activity of a canal cruise
- learn about the history and development of their local area and London through the inland waterways
- see the extensive flora and fauna of the canal environment and understand the ecological balance
- gain the confidence and social skills necessary for travelling, working and living together on a canal boat, and, for many, to have the novel experience of a period away from the city, cars, street lights, TVs and all that comes with life in an inner-city area.

The charity's narrow boat, *Angel II of Islington*, is designed along traditional lines for both residential and day trips.

From the 2023/2024 year, ACCT has in addition run a second narrow boat, *Long Tom*, which is designed for day trips. Owned jointly with the London Canal Museum, *Long Tom* provides trips run for the Museum operated by ACCT. This allows a further several thousand passengers a year to discover the Regent's Canal.

The charity has also developed and runs projects based on its two boats and the canal, focussing on the needs of particular groups of people from our local community.

ACCT is supported by Islington Council, and receives grants from a variety of charities and grant-making organisations (both local and national), donations and subscriptions from supporters and hire fees from user groups, which are related to their ability to pay.

Many of our users are local children and young people and others who would not be able to afford the cost of such an experience if we did not exist and if we were not able to charge heavily subsidised rates.

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100 Club

To become a **Friend of the Angel Boat** you only need to donate a regular annual sum to support the charity. This regular donation will give local people the opportunity of a trip to remember, to learn new skills and to have new experiences. As a Friend you can also contribute to the development of our operations by offering ideas to improve or expand our service to the community or by helping us in doing so.

To sign up to be a member of the 100 Club, just contribute at least £100 a year. In return, in each year you contribute we offer you and one guest an evening trip on the Angel Boat, along with other 100 Club members. In the company of some of our trustees and other guests of our organisation you can enjoy a trip to Camden and back, working locks, steering or simply enjoying the ride while enjoying food and drink.

If you haven't, why not join the **100 Club** now and help support *The Angel Boat*?

Chair's Report

This was a transitional year for ACCT.

The year from April 2023 was the first time in this charity's existence we had two boats to run. *Long Tom*, *Angel II*'s little brother and owned jointly with the London Canal Museum (LCM), came on stream. For three days a week throughout much of the year, ACCT provided *Long Tom* with a volunteer skipper to run trips for LCM along the Regent's Canal. For the rest of the time, *Long Tom* was available to ACCT, in addition to *Angel II*, to provide our usual mixture of canal trips - although only for day and evening trips. Only *Angel II* is suitable for residential trips.



This transition brought additional requirements to which our small team had to adapt. Finding, training and managing the necessary volunteer skippers took up a considerable amount of volunteer time as well as creating additional tasks for Phil, our skipper. The presence of *Long Tom* making frequent trips on the Regent's Canal, and the publicity given to *Long Tom* by LCM, resulted in an increased number of

inquiries about booking a boat. Receiving these inquiries for bookings for two boats, and managing the booking arrangements, added more essential tasks to be covered by our small active team. As a result, we facilitated a considerable growth in visitors at LCM lured by trips on *Long Tom*, and over 3.600 passengers were carried by our skippers on those trips. However, ACCT saw a slight reduction compared with the previous year, in the total number of trips booked despite having a second boat, and a small reduction in number of passengers carried through ACCT bookings during the year.

Long Tom is proving to be a very popular boat with its seating arrangement and the excellent views through its large windows. Feedback from users of all ages and backgrounds confirms that a day boat works very well as an addition to *Angel II*'s very different (and more traditional) charms. From an operating viewpoint, *Long Tom* is also an easier boat for our volunteer skippers to learn to manoeuvre compared with the additional length and weight of *Angel II*.

Chair's Report (continued)

The large number of trips *Long Tom* makes and the thousands of passengers it carries result in additional demands on maintenance which is not insignificant. Willing volunteers and our skipper Phil have risen to the task.

The year showed that our booking system needed improvement and a dedicated (and willing!) person to operate it. That is now in place and we are very grateful to Nigel Bartlett, volunteer skipper, for taking on that challenge. It also showed that our outreach and marketing to local community groups required revitalising to ensure that all parts of our local community benefited from the additional opportunities that two boats now provided. This is now a priority for ACCT and we continue to look for volunteers who would like to join us in the rewarding work of bringing in new groups, and bringing back groups we have not seen in recent times. Islington contains so many who would benefit from the opportunities we offer, but many of whom still need to be introduced to us and made aware of what we can offer them.



Although the accounts show a deficit for the year, our financial arrangements with LCM for managing *Long Tom* result in additional funding to support our charitable objects. An ageing boat (*Angel II* is now 25 years old) brings additional expenditure and it was decided that a repaint could not be put off any longer (unless we wanted to concede defeat to rust!) That essential expense swallowed up what would otherwise have been a healthy surplus, and provides us now with one of the smartest narrow boats on the Regent's Canal. Such 'exceptional' expenses will no doubt continue as long as we keep *Angel II* afloat and running, but we are now in a much stronger position to take them in our stride.

Hire fees in 2023/24 were held for the 5th year running, reflecting the financial circumstances of many of our hirers, but for 2024/25 we have taken the steps to increase these across the board to increase our financial stability. Support for those who cannot afford the fees is provided by grants, and from the income generated by those who can afford to pay.

Chair's Report (continued)

However, we still retain the reputation for the lowest hire fees on the Regent's Canal, and wish to continue to encourage those of limited or modest - or no - means to experience the canal with us.

In sum, an interesting year, a developmental year, and one from which we have learned a great deal about the way we best operate with two boats.

Thanks go again to the many who help and support us - our team of volunteer skippers (Nigel, Alan, Skev, David B, Martin, Tim, David K, Chris and Phil B, shortly to be joined by Joanna), our volunteer crew members, volunteer admin people, our Hon Treasurer Susan, our Hon Secretary Debbie and co-trustees with special mention of Lou and Nancy for their boat cleaning skills, our skipper Phil, PTE and the Thomas family for facilitating our annual review meeting, our mooring and our office/storeroom, Martin, Tim, Craig and Sam at our partners LCM for all their help and the many others who support us whether financially or by action.



Giles Eyre



Robin King

Born on 15th Nov 1948 in Edgware, Robin died on 2nd Dec 2023, 76 years old, in Islington, where he had lived for many years. He qualified as an architect, and was with local architectural practice PTE from its beginnings in July 1974 in Jerusalem Passage. He worked mainly on rehabilitation projects for Islington Council. In the late 1980s he became involved with the Anderson's Yard Campaign Group, an action group seeking to protect the old Collins Music Hall Site on Islington Green from huge office development.

In about 2001 Robin became involved with Virginia Low in the setting up of the Stuart Low Trust and joined the trustee body. He took groups from SLT on residential canal trips on the narrowboat *Angel* of Islington, which was when those of us involved with *Angel II* got to know him. Robin was persuaded to join the trustee body of the charity then running *Angel II*, Islington Narrow Boat Association, and became a trustee and director when we subsequently incorporated the charity as Angel Community Canal Boat Trust. He remained a trustee director until his death, and a reliable crew member until a year or so before his death when he began to have balance issues. In his gentle and patient way he was a great teacher of boating skills to our novice passengers, and enthusiastic about the canals and the therapeutic nature of canal trips. He was very sad that his ill-health prevented him from continuing to crew.



Robin had very special attributes. He was compassionate, a great listener, someone who regularly came up with very apposite comments whatever you were talking about. He was always happy to prepare meals in the confines of a boat's galley, and when the boat was in dock, there was no job too grubby or uncomfortable for him to volunteer for – whether painting around the gas locker or blacking the bottom of the boat – which involves lying on the floor of a 200 year old dry dock and working on a surface a few inches above the head!

His work as a volunteer was acknowledged by being one of the volunteers recognised when ACCT was awarded QAVS in 2014, and when SLT received the

Robin King

QAVS in 2015 and in 2016 when he received the Pat Haynes Commended Trustee of the Year award made by Voluntary Action Islington.

We join with his long-term friend Jane in grieving the loss of Robin but also celebrating the life of a very special, kind and giving friend. Robin is very much missed.



Robin King (1948-2023)
ACCT Trustee

Skipper's Report

This was our first full year operating our shared boat *Long Tom*, which has proved very popular with our existing and new hirers as well as helping our partners at London Canal Museum reach their highest visitor numbers to date. The addition of *Long Tom* has enabled us to recruit and train volunteer skippers who crew all trips as well as assisting with general maintenance and repairs. Each volunteer brings a lifetime's experiences, many of which are transferrable to boating, such as careers as an electrician or carpenter or in IT.

Our residential trips are the highlight of our season, and I particularly enjoy seeing the young people trying something completely new to them and seeing the group come together to work as a team. One such group is One Degree Academy who wanted their year 4 students to have a residential experience, so we completed 3 X 2 day trips with an overnight stop to cover the class of 30 students. They have since booked 3 more trips for 2024 and a provisional 5 similar trips for 2025, having recognised the benefit of such trips for their young students, and have now added these trips to their curriculum.

Our usual youth residentials for local youth clubs, adventure playgrounds and Scout/Guides groups provide the opportunity for these young people to take part in a 5-day canal adventure and opens the door to a whole new world for them, many of them visiting "the countryside" for the first time. As well as learning to steer a boat and operate canal locks safely the main observations from group leaders is improved communication skills, teamwork and a significant increase in self-confidence.

After 24 years of service *Angel II* was in need of a makeover and at the end of last year's trips, we booked in to dry dock for a repaint. Thanks to Paul & Jack and especially Jabus the signwriter *Angel II* started the current season looking bright and shiny once more.

Some comments from our users:

'Amazing trip loved by all. The children loved doing the locks and taking it in turns steering the boat.' (Youth group leader)

'We had a great time-brilliant to get the young people out on the water. Very different from an average camp.' (Scout group leader)

Skipper's Report (continued)

What the young people gained from the trip? 'Independence skills, daily life skills like cooking, washing up, etc. Great fun and bonding time.' (Youth group leader)

Best thing about the trip? (Young people on residential trip)

'Being away from home and on a boat.'

'Chilling at the front and looking out at nature and being on the move on a boat.'

'I can't believe Phil let me drive the boat.'

'Blackberry picking along the River Lea.'

'Going shopping and cooking and eating together.'

Phil Gavigan



Volunteers' report

A view from our volunteer skippers

From Nigel Bartlett - The Joy of Skippering Canal Boats

There are several reasons why I love to skipper canal boats. The top one has to be the pleasure it brings to almost all our passengers. Naturally there are exceptions, such as the passenger who said *"I enjoyed the trip, but the boat isn't wide enough"*. I still don't know an appropriate response to someone who thinks that a narrowboat is too narrow but, on this occasion, a smile and thanks for the feedback sufficed.



Why do people enjoy our trips? Perhaps because there is something very calming about being close to water. This feeling is helped by the speed at which we travel. Top tip: If you're in a rush don't travel by canal! If you can, let your mind slow down to a walking pace, enjoy the wildlife on and around the canal and wave to the people on the towpath. The number of people who smile and wave back may surprise you.

I find it particularly rewarding when we have children on the boat. They are almost always keen to work the locks and put huge effort in when opening and closing the gates and operating the paddles. The enjoyment and sense of achievement that they feel is reflected in their huge smiles. I can only imagine the conversations they have on their next school day.

On our longer trips I like to give our passengers the opportunity to steer the boat. Sometimes it inspires them to open up about their lives in a way that strangers usually do not. There was a retired military man who told me about the post-traumatic stress disorder for which he is now having treatment. At the end of our trip he had decided that he and his wife were going to rent a canal boat for their next holiday. They had been discussing the idea for a while; she was keen but he was undecided until that day.

On one trip I was chatting to a passenger who seemed to be enjoying the ride. I asked him if he had had any boating experience. He thought about it for a bit and then volunteered *"Well, I was a cross-channel ferry captain for nine years"*. And then he proceeded to tell me about the early days and what happened when they first introduced bow thrusters to the fleet.

Volunteers' Report (continued)

Skippers a boat also offers plenty of opportunities to practise and (hopefully) improve my boat-handling skills. As Phil says *"Every day's a school day"* and there is always something new to learn about the boat, the canal and the weather. When things go awry, as they sometimes do, it encourages discussion and a little light-hearted ribbing over a drink after the day's boating has finished.

I get so much pleasure from skippering canal boats and I don't have to pay for the running costs or maintenance. What could be better?



From Alan Byrne (aka Canalan)

Although my name is Alan, I am Canalan when I am volunteering as a skipper on *Long Tom*.

I would like to start by thanking Phil for his training as he is right that *"Every day's a school day"*. However, one day I received a passenger compliment and Phil kindly added, *"I taught Alan everything he knows"*, so I smiled until he then added *"But not everything I know!"*. What I didn't know is that when you get children to help with the bottom 2 locks at Camden, then you get all the *"Gongoozlers"* [bystanders] to clap. Lesson learnt.

Wow! What a wonderful year I have had working for ACCT & the London Canal Museum. It is really pleasing to see new skippers joining the team and to see them skippering charters for ACCT, but why does Nigel always get the Hen Parties? No wonder he wants to manage all the bookings!

Volunteers' Report (continued)

This time last year I was one of the only skippers on *Long Tom* & loving it, getting nearly all of the long trips until Giles kindly asked me to share them with others in our growing group of skippers! Thanks for the opportunity, Giles!

Memorable passengers - Graham, a Tory MP, a Trump fan and a cross-channel ferry skipper.

My Highlights - Witnessing both Skev and Nigel doing a 180 degree turn at Paddington Basin on Little Venice trips they skippered with me; being the audio guide for our first blind passenger on *Long Tom* on a short trip to Camley Nature Park and being his guide dog to get him to and from his seat; involving passengers in helping with locks and with steering when on a straight piece of the canal

I am about to qualify as a Camden Tour Guide and to celebrate my 65th birthday I took all my colleagues from Little Venice to Angel. Hopefully, this will generate new leads and more passengers for future trips.



Camden Guide colleagues.

From Nancy Harrison, Trustee

September 2023

Angel Canal Festival

As ever the Angel Canal Festival was held in September 2023, with the day beautifully sunny (as had been the entire summer 2023). Moored just below City Road lock, *Angel II* was in prime position for the admiring crowds. Although presenting a bit tattered and ever so slightly shabby after being out for the summer project (however with a solution already on the cards - more to follow below...) *Angel II* was festooned with bunting and popular with the towpath visitors, with many people wanting a peek inside. The full team was there and we chatted to those on the towpath and made many new contacts. The wonderful weather had brought out

Volunteers' Report (continued)

sizable crowds, who scooped up jars of jam via the side hatch of *Angel II* and a tremendous number of tickets were secured for the annual Fundraising Raffle (with thanks to Lou, Susan and Debbie – our crack team of ticket sellers). *Long Tom* was on hand (slightly down the towpath from *Angel*) to supply short trips around the basin, overseen by Skipper Phil and organised by Giles, which were very popular. A successful day overall.

Christmas 2023

A very jolly party for all of the *Angelboat* and *Long Tom* supporters was hosted by our friends at the London Canal Museum – with lovely food and drinks, it was a great chance for all of us to get together and meet new team members.

Winter 2023

Post Christmas, what better way to begin the new year than to have an overhaul. New



Year's Resolutions - we all do it (join the gym, change your hairstyle, lose weight...) and *Angel II* was no exception. A late winter trip to the wetdock saw her get the full treatment -- a much needed renovation of the roof and a full repaint (including *Angel II's* name and some roses, but alas no castles...). She returned back to Diespecker looking stunning – the team assembling on either side of the tunnel as she emerged

majestically to all our admiring eyes.

A wash and a brush-up

After *Angel's* return to home base once the external overhaul had been completed, a full inside inspection and clean were the logical next step for the New and Improved *Angel*. A small team of volunteers scrubbed, shined, swept and organised the interior. New curtains for the sleeping berth windows, with a wide green and white vertical striped all-weather fabric (lined in black-out fabric) were made, giving the sleeping areas a cheery water-side look (surprisingly appropriate). In addition, the main cabin curtains were given a serious clean to tackle historical wear-and-tear grime. Plans are afoot to tackle some further issues with the berth cushions after the summer project.

Volunteers' Report (continued)

New uniforms

Although not really uniforms as such, the new (elegant) navy blue tee-shirts are wonderful and stylish. Embroidered logos both front (top left) and across the back, the design features both *Angel II* and *Long Tom* into the design, and will be worn by everyone from both teams. Complimenting the tee-shirt are logoed baseball-style hats (also embroidered) – giving all of us a polished and wonderfully coherent look.

Nancy Harrison



Trustees' Report

The Management Committee presents its report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	Angel Community Canal Boat Trust
Working Name:	The Angel Boat
Charity registration number:	1103542
Company registration number:	5088108
Registered office:	3 Vincent Terrace, London N1 8HJ
Operational address:	38 Graham Street, London N1 8JX
Employer's Insurance:	Travelers Insurance Co Ltd Policy No. XE14375AA000/205

Management Committee

Giles Eyre	Chair
Susan Sorensen	Hon. Treasurer
Debra Whitaker	Hon. Secretary
Nancy Harrison	
Luisa Myers-Nobbs	
Martin Linsey	
Robin King	(Died 2 nd December 2023)

Independent Examiner

Victoria Lloyd, ACA	32 Burgh Street, London N1 8HG
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Bankers

Co-operative Bank, 25 Islington High Street, London N1 9LQ

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 30 March 2004 and registered as a charity on 30 April 2004. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10. On 31 March 2005, the assets of Islington Narrow Boat Association (registered in 1976 as charity number 271457) were transferred to the company for the express purpose of taking over the charitable operations of Islington Narrow Boat Association as of 1 April 2005. The Company has identical objects to Islington Narrow Boat Association and the approval of the Charities Commission was obtained for the 31 March 2005 asset transfer.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the Company are also the charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the directors are required to retire each year at the Annual General Meeting. The directors retiring are Giles Eyre and Susan Sorensen. Giles Eyre and Susan Sorensen, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Anyone interested in appointment as a director should contact any one of the existing directors.

Risk Management

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, users and visitors. Written procedures for the protection of children and vulnerable adults and enhanced Criminal Record Bureau disclosures are maintained for all staff and volunteers. Internal control risks are minimised by implementation of procedures for financial management and control.

Organisational Structure

The Management Committee meets at least four times a year and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Day to day responsibility is delegated to the Chair with day-to-day operational management the responsibility of the Project Manager and Skipper.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Company are, inter alia, 'to provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons resident in or in the vicinity of the London Borough of Islington, who have a need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances'. This is achieved by the operation of two canal narrow boats, *Angel II of Islington* (the asset of the Company) and *Long Tom* (owned jointly with the London Canal Museum, a charity), and the employment of a full-time skipper, providing day and residential cruises on the Regent's Canal and connecting waterways from its base at Diespeker Wharf, 38 Graham Street, London N1 8JX. Groups using the boat include schools, playgroups, adventure playgrounds, Scouts and Guides, homeless and psychiatric hostels, ethnic minority and refugee groups, female survivors of domestic abuse and their children and senior citizens, young people and adults with special educational needs and learning difficulties and those participating in educational and environmental projects involving waterways or local topics.

Public Benefit Statement

The directors have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Achievements and Performance

The main achievement of the year has been the operation of our second boat, *Long Tom*, which has involved preparing it for use, recruiting and training volunteer skippers and working in partnership with the London Canal Museum in providing trips for visitors to the museum. The skippers were trained on *Angel II* by our skipper Phil and all have acquired the Certificate in Community Boat Management. In addition to skippering the regular trips with the museum, these volunteers acted as skippers for those groups and organisations booking direct through ACCT. This new body of volunteers also helped in maintenance of *Long Tom* and with other tasks in support of ACCT. *Long Tom* proved popular by users as a day boat with its large windows and seating arrangements.

The total number of trips provided by ACCT to community and other groups was about the same as the previous year, although we were no longer taking bookings on *Angel II* for the London Canal Museum because of the acquisition of *Long Tom*, and the distribution between different types of users was very similar. In addition, under the arrangement with the London Canal Museum we provided *Long Tom* with skipper for approximately 97 days of museum trips carrying 3,656 passengers. It is anticipated that having established the volunteer skipper body and the new systems necessary for the operation of this additional boat, going forward the total number of trips booked through ACCT will increase in 2024/25. The presence of *Long Tom* on the Regent's Canal has also raised the profile of ACCT amongst the public.

Due to considerable deterioration of the paintwork over the life of *Angel II* the boat underwent a major external repaint, including the signwriting, during the winter. It is anticipated that this will now last the rest of the boat's useable life as a community boat.

Financial Review

Details of the year's operations are to be found in the Statistical Summary from the Skipper's Log and the List of Hirers (page 27). The total number of passengers carried on ACCT booked trips fell significantly to about 1,100 as a consequence of the very large number of passengers on the London Canal Museum trips, now covered by the agreement over *Long Tom*, no longer being counted.

Total grant resources utilised in the year were £12,090, representing a very small reduction from the previous year. Contributions to hire fees and trip costs were attributed to Solace/ survivors of domestic abuse fund (£250) the Bowe fund for schools (£250), the John Murray Trust (£8,020), Camden Giving (£250), the Arnold Clark Community Fund (£1,000), and Cloudesley (£1,265) and other donated income designated for hire fees (£1,025). A residual sum of £13,489 of grant income was carried forward for activities in 2024/25. In addition, a further grant of £15,000 from the John Murray Trust for the funding of residential trips in 2024/25, which was received in March 2024, was deferred to 2024/25. Donations and Friends' subscriptions received in the current year were £2,285

Trustees' Report (continued)

lower than the previous year from which £1,125 was applied to hire fees; donors of sums exceeding £500 and £200 are listed at Note 8.

As reported in 2021/22, grant resources used directly for contributing to trip hire and costs are now described as either designated or, where specified by the donor, as restricted. The general funds earmarked for future Trust projects or capital developments continue to be treated as designated. The trustees resolved in 2022/23 that the New Boat Fund, hitherto described as restricted, should be redefined as an unrestricted designated fund in accordance with the Charities Commission guidance.

The accounts are set out on pages 19 to 25, and show an overall deficit of £5,828 compared to a surplus of £3,503 in the previous year. This results from a number of factors, the most significant being the requirement for a major refurbishment of *Angel II* at a cost of £8,175 to be funded from reserves. After taking account of this non-recurrent expense, there was a small surplus of £2,347. There was increased net income from the operation of *Long Tom* but this was offset by a reduction in donation income which needs to be addressed. Total expenditure amounted to £67,904 and is broken down in note 2. *Angel II* has been fully depreciated but a depreciation charge of £3,064 has been applied to *Long Tom* calculated at 15% per annum. The Trust remains dependent upon the level of grant aid in addition to donations from supporters, both individual and corporate. It continues to actively explore ways to expand its income base. All outgoings, in light of the uncertainty of grant income, are constantly reviewed so as to remain within income constraints.

Policy on reserves

As indicated above, the designated ACCT funds are to cover future capital projects and refurbishment in addition to any major boat repair. In addition, an ACCT fund for trips funded from donations has been created. The general fund is maintained at a level to cover approximately 50% anticipated expenditure, but the designated reserve can also be drawn down if there is a shortfall on income. The designated and restricted funds representing grant balances carried forward are intended to be utilised within the year. The new boat fund has been redefined by resolution of the trustees as a designated fund, to cover the reduction in value of the existing boat since purchase and to contribute to its replacement.

Trustees' assessment of the charity as a "going concern"

The trustees have considered the short- and medium-term financial status of the charity in the light of the overall balance sheet and the prospects for community, private and grant body support in future years. The net current assets of £146,185 are more than double annual expenditure and the charity has no long-term liabilities. Despite the withdrawal of local authority grant support, the charity has maintained its income by securing grant funding and donations from a wide range of corporate, charity and private sources. Operational risks have been managed through the careful application of sound procedures and appropriate insurance. The Charity recognises that it will need to replace the existing narrow boat, *Angel II*, within the next few years and had set aside £82k in the New Boat

Trustees' Report (continued)

fund, including the depreciation provision for the newly-acquired half share in *Long Tom*. This reserve may well be supplemented by any resale value of the current boat. Although the replacement cost would be significantly in excess of £100,000, there is a further reserve of £20,000 designated for future projects and contingencies and the possibility of raising an appeal to meet any shortfall. The trustees are therefore confident that the charity is a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Responsibilities of the Directors

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the year end. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee, who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Giles Eyre
Susan Sorensen
Luisa Myers-Nobbs

Nancy Harrison
Debra Whitaker
Martin Linsey

Approved by the Management Committee on 2nd July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Giles Eyre
Director

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted General Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Designated Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total £
Incoming resources						
Hire Fees		19,865	8,320	1,765	29,950	33,115
Grants and donations	8	6,961	3,865	-	10,826	17,187
Gift Aid tax reclaim	8	3,187	-	-	3,187	3,570
Income from fundraising		497	-	-	497	43
Interest and other income		17,616	-	-	17,616	1,802
		<u>48,126</u>	<u>12,185</u>	<u>1,765</u>	<u>62,076</u>	<u>55,717</u>
Resources Expended						
Cost of Generating Funds						
Fundraising and publicity		-	-	-	-	-
Charitable Expenditure						
Boat and running costs	2,3	<u>59,729</u>	<u>8,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,904</u>	<u>52,214</u>
Total resources expended		<u>59,612</u>	<u>8,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>67,904</u>	<u>52,214</u>
Net income before transfers		(11,603)	4,010	1,765	(5,828)	3,503
Net transfers between funds		<u>18,680</u>	<u>(20,771)</u>	<u>1,470</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>7,077</u>	<u>(16,140)</u>	<u>3,235</u>	<u>(5,828)</u>	<u>3,503</u>
Fund balances:						
at 1 April 2023	7	23,620	126,379	2,014	152,013	Prior year 148,511
at 31 March 2024	7	<u>30,697</u>	<u>110,239</u>	<u>5,249</u>	<u>146,185</u>	<u>152,013</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the result for each year as shown above.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of financial activities.

There were no related party transactions during the year.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	17,361	20,425
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		148,935	132,380
Debtors and Prepayments		12,369	12,361
Creditors & deferred income:			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(32,480)	(13,152)
Net current assets		128,824	131,589
Total assets less current liabilities		146,185	152,013
Funds			
Unrestricted general fund	7	30,697	23,620
Unrestricted Designated funds	7	110,239	126,379
Restricted funds	7	5,249	2,014
		146,185	152,013

Audit Exemption Statement

For the year ending 31st March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- the members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- 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 provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 1st July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Giles Eyre
Director

Susan Sorensen
Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet.

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

The accounts, incorporating a Statement of Financial Activities, have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting & Reporting by Charities' and applicable accounting standards ('SORP FRS102' & 'SORP FRSSE').

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted general funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Unrestricted designated funds are funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the Trustees to help finance specific operations.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restrictive conditions imposed by donors or by the purpose of the appeal or for specific capital projects. The purpose and use of restricted funds is set out in the notes to the accounts.

c) Resources expended

The cost headings comprise operating staff costs, fundraising & publicity activities, general administration costs and depreciation.

Central overheads are allocated on the basis of their use with the aim of ensuring that those costs remaining within administration relate to the management of the charity's assets, and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

d) Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation of *Angel II* and its fixed equipment was provided at a rate calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life of 20 years.

Depreciation of *Long Tom* is being provided for on a reducing balance basis at 15% per annum agreed with the joint owners, the London Canal Museum.

e) Taxation

No corporation tax has been provided in these accounts because the income of the charity is within the exemption granted by Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2 Analysis of total resources expended

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	34,350	32,428
Fundraising and publicity	45	-
"Angel II" running costs	13,834	6,886
"Long Tom" commissioning and running costs	6,263	3,426
Trip supplies and activities	3,009	3,558
Administration costs	6,424	3,691
Other	915	1,150
Depreciation	3,064	1,075
Total	<u>67,904</u>	<u>52,214</u>

3 Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year

is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>3,064</u>	<u>1,075</u>

The *Angel II* narrow boat is fully depreciated. The *Long Tom* narrow boat will be depreciated on a reducing balance basis at 15% per annum.

4 Staff costs

Particulars of employees are shown below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Employee costs during the year amounted to:		
Wages and salaries	34,350	32,428
Social security costs	-	-
	<u>34,350</u>	<u>32,428</u>

The company benefited from the Employment Allowance which exempted small companies from the Employers National Insurance charge.

The average number of persons employed by the Trust during the year was 1. The trustees do not receive remuneration for their services to the charity. No employee earned more than £50,000 per annum.

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5 Tangible fixed assets

The net book value of tangible fixed assets consists of the *Angel II* narrow boat which is now fully depreciated and the *Long Tom* narrow boat for which one year and four months depreciation has been charged.

	Previous year	2024 Narrow boats £	2023 Narrow boats £
Cost			
1 April 2022 (boat purchased April 2000)	1 April 2022	77,860	77,860
Additions (boat purchased Dec 2022)		21,500	21,500
Disposals		-	-
31 March 2024	31 March 2023	<u>99,360</u>	<u>99,360</u>
Depreciation			
1 April 2023	1 April 2022	(78,935)	(77,860)
Charge for the year		(3,064)	(1,075)
Disposals		-	-
31 March 2024	31 March 2023	<u>(81,999)</u>	<u>(78,935)</u>
Net book value			
31 March 2024	31 March 2023	<u>17,361</u>	<u>20,425</u>

All fixed assets have been used for the charitable activities of the charity.

6 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Salary and skipper expenses payable	-	271
Other creditors	6,841	3,177
Accrued Grant Income (including donations received up to 31 st March 2023 in respect of projects in 2024/25 and future years)	25,639	9,704
	<u>32,480</u>	<u>13,152</u>

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

7 Funds

	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer of Funds £	Balance 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted					
General fund	23,620	48,126	(59,729)	18,680	30,697
Designated grants	7,690	11,160	-	(13,460)	5,390
ACCT trips	3,875	1,025	-	(2,050)	2,850
ACCT projects	35,879	-	(8,175)	(7,704)	20,000
ACCT New Boat Fund	78,935	-	-	3,064	81,999
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unrestricted	149,999	60,311	(67,904)	(1,470)	140,936
Restricted					
Restricted grants	2,014	1,765	-	1,470	5,249
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	152,013	62,076	(67,904)	-	146,185

The designated grants fund and restricted grants fund represent grant income brought forward from previous years to be applied in support of community boat trips in the current and future years. It also includes the provision for future ACCT capital projects and refurbishment in addition to any major boat repair, and running costs of the charity should income levels reduce in order that appropriate action could be taken. The new boat fund is to cover the reduction in value of the existing boat since purchase and to contribute to its future replacement.

8 Grants, Donations and Friends

	2023/2024			
	£ Rec'd in Year	£ B/F from 2022/23	£ Utilised in Year	£ C/F to 24/25
Grants for trips				
Camden Giving	-	250	250	-
Solace/Survivors of domestic abuse	-	1,764	250	1,514
Bowe (schools)	-	280	280	-
John Murray Trust - residential trips*	-	3,000	2,800	200
John Murray Trust - day hire	7,000	3,410	5,220	5,190
Arnold Clark - community fund	-	1,000	1,000	-
Cloudesley	5,000	-	1,265	3,735
Trips funded from donations	-	3,875	1,025	2,850
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	12,000	13,579	12,090	13,489

*excluding a grant received in March 2024 deferred to 2024-25

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	2023/24	2022/23
Donations and Friends	£	
Donations of £500 and more:		
J Douglas	2,500	
D Wadham	1,000	
Anon	1,000	
Angel Association	500	
Total donations over £500	5,000	7,243
Donations of £200 - £500		
Arlington Association	275	
Individuals (7)	1,700	
Other Friends' subscriptions and donations	2,711	
Total donations	9,686	11,971
Less allocated to hire fees	(2,725)	(1,125)
Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid	3,187	3,570
Total	10,148	14,416

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Angel Community Canal Boat Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)]

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: Victoria Lloyd, ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 32 Burgh St, London, N1 8HG

Date: 6th July 2024

Skipper's Log 2023/24

Number of Bookings:-		
	2023/24	2022/23
Day trips	10	41
Part days	56	46
2-day trips	7	3
3-day trips	3	6
4-day trips	1	0
5-day trips	3	3
Evenings	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	97	107

Ethnic Monitoring (% of Users):-	
White UK	37%
Black (Caribbean, African, British & Other)	5%
Asian	6%
Others (Inc. European, Greek, Turkish, Middle East)	17%
Not stated	35%

Types of Trips:-		
	2023/24	2022/23
Schools	7	4
Special needs groups	5	2
Youth clubs/ Playgrounds	10	10
Guides and scouts	6	10
Survivors of domestic abuse	1	3
Elderly and isolated	5	12
Private	53	46
Other	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	97	107

Days of trips operated
for London Canal
Museum

	97	16
--	----	----

	2023/24	2022/23
Total number of passengers carried:-	1,083	1,811
Total number of adults (18+)	757	1,097
Total number of under 18s	326	714
Plus on trips operated for London Canal Museum	3,656	-

'Private' encompasses all bookings not made in the name of established community organisations.

Skipper's Log 2023/24

List of Hirers 2023

1st Islington Scouts
7th St Pancras Guides
Awesome Adventure Play
Barnes School
Canal & River Trust
Camden Carers
Discovery Scouts
Dragon Hall School
Global Generation
Gospel Oak Rangers
Gower School
Haywards Adventure Playground
Hilldrop Ccommunity Centre
Homerton Adventure Playground
Islington Pensioners
Leaside Trust
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
N1 Residents Association
North Bridge School
Northgate School
One Degree Academy
Parent House
Pillion Trust
Prospex
Rosebowl Youth Centre
Roundhouse Youth Centre
SEN Family Saturdays
St Luke's Community Centre
St Mary's
Solidarity Hun Women's Group
Young Hackney Youth Hubs



'Private' hirers are not listed

Supporters and Funders 2023/24

Thank you to everyone who has supported us, whether through volunteering, making donations, providing grants or being our 100 Club members. This has enabled us to provide much needed services to people in our community.

A special thanks also to:

- Bill Thomas and PTE Architects
- James Douglas
- John Murray
- Angel Association
- Arnold Clark
- Arlington Association
- Camden Giving
- Canal & River Trust
- Cloudesley
- The Co-op
- London Borough of Islington



KING'S CROSS
FUND

Pollard
Thomas
Edwards



Cripplegate Foundation



ISLINGTON



TESCO Bags of Help

And all the Friends of the Angel Boat



For more information about ACCT go to
www.angelboat.org
or contact us on info@acct.org.uk
or phone on 07970 175 488
And find us on Facebook! 

