

**THE BRIDGE 19-40 UNION CANAL SOCIETY (SCIO)  
(Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Charity No SC052003**

# THE BRIDGE 19-40 UNION CANAL SOCIETY

## TRUSTEES REPORT

YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

### Trustees

The trustees of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation are trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The trustees serving during the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were as follows:

Claudia McPhail	Chair	
Allan Dungavel	Secretary	(resigned February 2025)
Sheila Linscer	Treasurer	
Dougie Boxall	Health and Safety	
Steve Braes	Training	
Chris Ludlow	Maintenance and Fabric	

All trustees were appointed by the Members of the Society at the Society's AGM on 2nd<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in accordance with its governing document – the Constitution of an incorporated body having charitable status under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

### Charitable Purposes

To advance heritage by promoting awareness of the Union Canal and its benefits and helping people to understand the canal's history.

To provide recreational activities facilities and activities for our members with the primary aim of improving their conditions of life through social interaction and leisure time activity and to the public at large, by encouraging them to experience the tranquillity of the canal from the water on our passenger boat.

To promote, encourage and assist in the restoration, maintenance and use of the Union Canal particularly around Broxburn, Winchburgh and Philipstoun as an amenity, and recreational waterway, and to do all things necessary to that end including but not limited to litter picking, trimming vegetation, and removing obstacles from the water using our workboat.

### Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

To work with all relevant organisations (particularly Scottish Canals, local and national government) to keep the waterways' infrastructure well maintained, clear and accessible to all.

To work with all volunteering groups, boating groups, charitable societies, and others with an interest in the heritage and on-going sustainability of the canal network in Scotland.

To maintain the canal and its immediate environment particularly the stretch between Bridges 19-40.

To acquire, preserve and restore to original condition wherever possible our vessels, and other equipment.

To enable the direct involvement of members in all decisions affecting their lives and activities on the canal.

To encourage the involvement of volunteers in the restoration and maintenance of the canal.

To run low-cost boat trips for the public, so that they can experience the tranquillity of the canal.

To share canal heritage and local history on our boat trips.

To promote the need for more and better facilities for canal users, including moorings, and services for canal users.

To continue to give social and educational support about the heritage of the canal to communities on and beside the canal through events, communications, and involvement with relevant organisations.

To raise funds by way of subscription, donation or otherwise to support our activities.

To use any income received by the Society only for the purposes indicated above.

## Summary of the Main Achievements of the Charity during the Financial Period

Undoubtedly the high point of the Society's year was when we launched our new boat, Heatherbell, into the canal. This was achieved with the generous help from Scottish Canals and the most generous donation of a free hire of a crane by Forsyths of Denny. Most members of the society assembled on an icy cold morning, as early as 7 am, on the canal bank to witness what was for us a momentous event for which everyone had worked extremely hard.

Heatherbell is now in the water, insured and licensed, certificate of conformity and plate with hull no. received.

The following work has been carried out:

Work started on internal outfit. Ballast and floorboards sorted.

Work ongoing for toilet compartment, sides and door in place and almost working.

Negotiations with professional electricians and joiners for best price and quality.

Water tank fitted and pipes / pump fitted.

Wiring for 12V ongoing.

Roof panelling started and ongoing.

Box for electrics made and installed.

4 leisure AGM batteries purchased, waiting to be fitted into cage & wired up

Inverter (3KW) for 240 V / shore power donated.

Diesel heater unit purchased.

Cassette toilet unit purchased, waiting to be fitted

Corner wash hand basin and taps purchased, waiting to be fitted

Lighting for cabin planned and laid out, being priced

Price for kitchen units in galley received and discussed

Boat in dry dock painted and re-blacked.

The greatest part of the above works has been undertaken by our own volunteers. The money raised through grants from among others the National Lottery Fund Scotland, Edinburgh Airport Community Fund, and the Hugh Fraser Foundation on the Society's behalf by our fundraiser Laura Kearney and the additional funding provided through others including Broxburn and Uphall Town Management Group and Broxburn Community Council. Donations in kind (the waiver of fees) were provided by Scottish Canals and Forsyths of Denny. Donations in kind were also provided by received by members.

In May, the society attended the 25th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the M8 (motorway) Millenium Bridge of the Union Canal. The society took out Heatherbell for the very first time at this event.

In September, the society also participated in the 50th anniversary celebrations of a sister canal Society, LUCS in Linlithgow with our original, small open boat Roseann. This event was very well attended by our society's members as well as members of other societies and good contacts were being made and old friendships renewed. During the course of the year representatives of the Society attended Broxburn and Uphall Town Management Group, Uphall Community Centre Management Group, Broxburn Community Council, Broxburn Museums Group, Scottish Waterways for All Group and Lowland Canals User and Canals Moorings Groups.

## Looking Ahead

Heatherbell arrived last November. Timetables for her outfit have slightly slipped and following her official launch planned now around Easter 2026 naming parties will be held at Port Buchan and Winchburgh to which funders, representatives from the local community, and other canal users will be invited.

Immediately following Heatherbell's delivery work started on fitting her out to prepare her for carrying passengers by spring/early summer 2026.

The Society aims to engage with all sectors of the disadvantaged in the community including unpaid and young carers, the elderly, the terminally ill or those in hospice care.

We will re-activate our water safety programme especially for young people, as with the closure of ever more swimming pools and leisure facilities, the dangers of going into open water is becoming acute. We aim to participate in Broxburn's Christmas events in 2026 by running Santa Trips for the community. In addition, we plan to also participate in the Flotilla of Lights in Edinburgh in November 2026 and will strive to bring this wonderful event out to the canal communities in West Lothian.

We will establish a permanent presence at Port Buchan although this will have to wait until the work on Heatherbell is fully completed. We will also look to establish a more prominent presence in Winchburgh

We will continue to build our relationships and look for further opportunities to work closer with other canal group and the local community more generally.

### Finances

The organisation holds a current account and a savings account with the Bank of Scotland.

The accounts are formally reported on by our External Examiner, Brian Maloney FCCA.

### Reserves Policy

The Trustees have agreed that the reserves policy of the charity should be £1000 to cover running costs for six months.

#### Risk Management

The trustees are assessing the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those relating to its operations and finances, in order to put systems in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

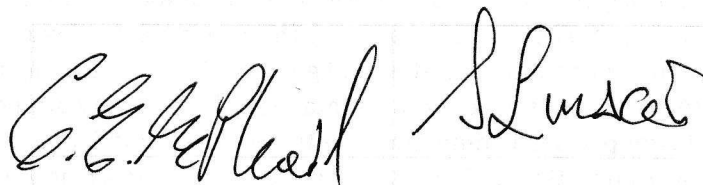
### Details of any deficit

No deficit is operated.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Claudia McPhail

Sheila Linscer

Position (e.g. Chair) Chair

Treasurer

Date

1/12/25

1/12/25

**THE BRIDGE 19-40 UNION CANAL SOCIETY (SCIO)**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
for the period 1st October 2024 to 30 September 2025

The items shown reflect those shown in the Financial Accounts for The Bridge 19-40 Union Canal Society for the year ended 5th September 2025

	Unrest'd	Restricted	01.10.24 - 30.09.25	01.10.23 - 30.09.24
	£	£		£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Subscriptions	592 -		592	576
Donations from Members	-	2,000	2,000 -	
Fundraising Income	-	8,500	8,500	8,500
Christmas Fayre	89 -		89	155
Miscellaneous Income	37 -		37	0
Interest Received	104 -		104	210
Hire of Roseann	4,913 -		4,913 -	
Donation from other Charity	270 -		270 -	
	<b>6,005</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>16,505</b>	<b>9,441</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Materials for outfitting Heatherbell	-	2,302	2,302	0
Boat Equipment	-	1,061	1,061	0
Boat Expenditure	45 -		45	
Dry Dock Hire	-	550	550	0
Hall Rental for monthly meetings	120 -		120	64
Christmas Fair	29 -		29	0
Boat Insurance for both boats	432 -		432	119
Fundraisers Cost	308 -		308	79
Website Costs	184 -		184	180
Setting Up New Website	0	0	0	145
Online Filing Companies House	34 -		34	0
Mooring Costs	404 -		404	0
Sundry Expenses	25 -		25	46
Final Instalment for new boat Heatherbell	-	19,418	19,418	30,720
Transportation of new Boat to Canal	-	1,560	1,560	0
	<b>1,581</b>	<b>24,891</b>	<b>26,472</b>	<b>31,353</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	<b>4,424</b>	<b>(14,391)</b>	<b>(9,967)</b>	<b>(21,912)</b>

THE BRIDGE 19-40 UNION CANAL SOCIETY (SCIO)  
STATEMENT OF BALANCES  
at 30 September 2025

31.09.25

£

**Bank and Cash In Hand**

**Funds brought forward**

Unrestricted

2376

Restricted

24439

26815

Surplus/(Deficit) for the period

-9967

Balance in Bank

16,848

**Made Up As Follows:**

Bank Current Account

6,403

Bank Savings Account

10,445

Cash In Hand

0

**Closing Bank Balance**

16,848

Approved By The Trustees and signed on their behalf

*G. E. K. P. [Signature]*

Chair

*1/12/25*

Date

*J. [Signature]*

Treasurer

*1/12/25*

Date

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2

**Report to the trustees/members of**  
**Registered charity number**  
**On the accounts of the charity for the period**

Charity name The Bridge 19-40 Union Canal Society (SCIO)							
Registered charity number SCO52003							
Period start date				to	Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
01	10	2024		30	09	2025	
Set out on pages <i>Pages 1-6</i>						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page\*]

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. ~~to which~~, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed\*\*:**

	<b>Date:</b>	<i>27/04/2026</i>
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**Name:**

Brian Mitchell Maloney

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):**

F C C A

**Address:**

15A West End,  
West Calder  
West Lothian  
EH55 8EH

## APPENDIX 3

### Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of  
any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose**