

Trading Update



Julian Morgan

Trading headlines for 2024

- We had a good year in 2024
- Water supplies were a challenge but held up well
- Private trips did extremely well
- We gave priority to the first part of the season
- We reduced the number of public trips

Not such good news in 2025

- Exceptionally dry weather
- Boat trips suspended before the end of June
- We continued with the previous year's policies (priority to early season and private trips)
- A series of Cream Tea trips did very well
- We are hoping for a good Santa season to boost our results

Some financial results

	2025 to date	2024	2023	2017
Income	21	54	45	120
Costs	11	21	19	63
Profits from trading	10	33	26	57

The Outlook

- We are doing our absolute best with the canal, the people and the boats we have
- Volunteers work extremely hard but numbers are down
- To reduce costs our narrowboat “Zachariah Keppel” will not be licensed by the MCA for 2026 (so a maximum of 12 passengers)
- Water supply is a constant worry and unlikely to improve a lot
- We are looking forward to the whole Loxwood section being fully available ... someday

Huge thanks to ...

- John Reynolds, Head of Boat Group, and his team
- Everyone who has worked to keep the canal open – PEST, dredger team, canal maintenance teams
- Lyn Nash, in charge of merchandise and still keeping the Canal Centre together
- John Robson, responsible for booking private trips
- The boat maintenance team
- Boat skippers, crew and Canal Centre and catering volunteers
- The back-office team that administer boat trips and booking systems (especially Tom Crawshaw who developed a new boat booking/admin system for us)