

# TransWilts

## Annual Report

2023 - 2024





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Castle Combe

## TransWilts welcomes new leader



The TransWilts CIC announced in March the appointment of a new Chair to succeed Paul Johnson who retired last year.

Paddy Bradley comes to the organisation with a strong background in the local community. He spent seven years as CEO at the Swindon

and Wiltshire Local Enterprise partnership before standing down last summer. Before that he had senior roles at Swindon Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council and spent 20 years in the education sector as a teacher, headteacher and inspector. He lives in Salisbury and was appointed an MBE for services to the local economy in the 2023 New Year's Honours List.

As he took up the role he said "I am delighted and honoured to take on the role of Chair of TransWilts. I do appreciate the confidence the Directors have in me, and I will do my utmost to secure the further development of the organisation. Coming in as Chair at the time of the publication of the Annual Report gives me a great boost as it confirms my belief in the excellent work undertaken by TransWilts for the community.

I would like to record my deep appreciation for the leadership of Paul Johnson, the previous Chair, who I did work with through my involvement with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership. The drive

and ambition of members and the enthusiasm of Sophie Martin are great to see as an incoming Chair. I will be busy in the first few months meeting colleagues from neighbouring Community Rail Partnerships to see how they work and explore potential collaborations, having discussions with my fellow directors and seeing our community projects in action.

My aims are to help TransWilts achieve long-term financial sustainability and acquire greater resources to support strong, community-led projects to significantly enhance the engagement of the people of Wiltshire, including Swindon, in local rail and integrated transport solutions to help us reduce our carbon footprint. For some, it will be making the experience of their regular travel even better. For others, including those new to the area, we will seek to open up an even greater number of possibilities of seeing our beautiful landscape and experiencing at first hand the friendship of our welcoming community. For children we want to give them memory-making experiences which will last through their lives.

I look forward to working with and for you in the coming years.

**Paddy Bradley**

## Support the TransWilts!

If you would like to keep up to date with developments and support the work of the TransWilts why not sign up as a Friend? You will receive future copies of this publication and our regular newsletter. You can find full details at: [transwilts.org/inside-track/](https://transwilts.org/inside-track/)







## Year in Review

2023 saw a significant anniversary for the TransWilts as it celebrated the 10th anniversary of the improved service of trains between Swindon and Westbury.

Since then the one coach service has developed into a two, and sometimes, three coach one and prior to the pandemic it was the fastest growing service in the GWR area. In December some of those involved from the beginning met at Westbury to celebrate the landmark and look forward to the future.

Along with other local stakeholders TransWilts celebrated the installation of a lift on the north side of Chippenham Station. This now provides step free access from the rear car park to the existing footbridge and the front of the station.

The TransWilts train service has still been blighted by reliability problems, both in terms of infrastructure problems but also rolling stock and staffing issues. The widely publicised and long running industrial disputes involving both on board staff and those working at stations also badly affected the TransWilts service on strike days. Partnership officers have regular meetings with GWR and Network Rail to explore ways the situation can be improved

but there are no easy fixes. One highlight however has been the introduction of a year round late evening service on the line. The last weekday train from Westbury now leaves at 21:16 and returns from Swindon at 22:30 allowing people to attend events in Wiltshire's largest town – including midweek football matches.

2023 also saw its fair share of farewells. After a decade of involvement Paul Johnson stood down as chair after many years guiding the Partnership. As he prepared to move out of the area with his wife Rosemarie he felt the time was right to hand over the reins. We aim to build on the foundations he secured. We also remembered the work of Roger Newman over many years in West Wiltshire and a bench was named in his honour at Trowbridge in February 2023.

The next year sees another filled with optimism as we look to overcome the challenges of reliability on the line, foster closer links with the community and work with stakeholders to improve and develop the service.

## Financial Report 2023-2024

Registered number: 09397959

Year ended 31 January 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Fixed Assets	229	3,658
Current Assets	41,623	55,979
Prepayments and accrued income	0	0
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(4,807)	(20,306)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>36,816</b>	<b>35,673</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>37,046</b>	<b>39,332</b>
Accruals and deferred income	(14,700)	(18,688)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>22,346</b>	<b>20,644</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>22,346</b>	<b>20,644</b>

### Notes

#### 1. Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Office and administration	1	1
Cafe Staff	0	3

#### 2. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

#### 3. General Information

Transwilts Community Interest Company is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 09397959. The registered office is Westbury Station, Station Approach, Westbury, Wilts. BA13 4HP.

For the year ending 31 January 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 and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

On behalf of the board.

**Paddy Bradley MBE**  
Chair



# Community Rail Officer Report

April 2024



Our mission to raise rail awareness, increase public transport for the benefit of the community whilst bringing people together continues.

Although every year brings its own challenges, I feel we have helped unlock the social value of the railway with bold initiatives at the same time as working with local businesses and charity groups. Over the past year, we've witnessed excellent progress in relationship building and increased engagement across our network.

## Some of the projects we have implemented over the past 12 months include:

In July we took a group of young mothers to W-S-M for the day. Despite the variable British weather we had a lovely time by the sea. It was great to come together and encourage a modal shift to promoting public transport options.



In September TransWilts bade farewell to long serving chair Paul Johnson. Paul led the CIC since it was formed in 2015. Behind the scenes he worked tirelessly to support Community Rail and improve the TW service for Wiltshire residents. He has helped forge closer links with Wiltshire and Swindon councils, GWR and other local stakeholders. He shaped the start of my career in rail and I will always be grateful for his support and encouragement.



Officers from British Transport Police have been at Chippenham offering to security mark bicycles without charge. The process makes it much easier to reunite owners with their machines if they are stolen.

GWR have been increasing security of bike storage areas on stations with many being checked during the day and being covered by CCTV. However having your bike marked not only helps when leaving it at a station but also when unattended elsewhere.



## Volunteer days – Litter Picks

The first fruits of our partnership with Siemens in Chippenham saw a group of volunteers giving Trowbridge Station a spring clean. The forecourt and car park areas have all been combed for litter and other debris with 12 bags of rubbish collected. Bradford on Avon station adoption group have kindly helped us with several litter picks along our line. So much has been achieved and we are grateful to all participants.



## Platform Rail Education

Students at Swindon's Colebrook Junior School were treated to a day out by train after completing an artwork project highlighting the role women play in the life of the railway. As part of their day out they were shown around some of the artwork installed at Swindon station Last year as part of the same project. They then caught the train to Trowbridge to see more of the artwork and enjoy a lunch.

## Rail and Rambles

Another year, another wonderful rail and ramble event. Our favourite Trowbridge to Melksham route took us across the glorious countryside for seven and a half miles. A number of Wiltshire residents joined us on a guided walk from one station to another with a return train trip. This is a free experience helping to promote sustainable, healthy and accessible travel for all. It also really helps strengthen our relationship with communities whilst listening to their needs for better transport links.

## Swindon Historical Walk with Live Well, SBC Heritage

Working together with Swindon Borough council we organised a historical walk of the town. We started at Swindon Station and followed the routes of former canals to Radnor Street Cemetery where a local guide told us about the history of the space and some of the people buried there. A short walk down the hill and through GWR Park followed by a guided tour of Swindon's historic and charming Railway Village and a stop for refreshments. The final section led us under the rail track to visit the Designer Outlet for a guided tour of the former GWR Works site.



## Chippenham Cub Scouts

Last Autumn we joined the Platform team and assisted in the delivery of a rail education workshop to 1st Chippenham Scouts. Having successfully completed their rail safety training we then took them by rail to Bath Spa station.

The Cubs and Scouts were incredibly well behaved and we are very excited to be working with them on several other projects over the coming months.



## Poppies to Paddington

We were honoured to be a part of the GWR Poppies to Paddington Train from Chippenham in November. There was an extraordinary number of participants and as always it was lovely to be joined by Gail from Friends of Chippenham station.



## Some of the many projects we look forward to over the coming 12 months are:

- Travel Confidence trips with special needs community
- Increasing Connections and Skills for neurodiverse residents
- Bingo Train with local refugees, asylum seekers and veterans
- Rail and Ramble with South Wessex CRP
- Platform for Change – Scouts based station projects.
- Artwork at Warminster and Dilton Marsh station
- Music for the Mind – Train trips with The Alzheimer's Society
- Earth Day projects with Siemens

A special thank you to the TW Board members and especially Bob Morrison for their support and guidance this year. Recruitment to find a suitable chair has not been easy but I am very excited that Paddy Bradley has now joined us.

Moving forward, we have ambitious plans to encourage more members of our communities to join their local stations' adoption groups. Delivering more community rail activity is core to our vision of achieving an easier, greener and better railway for everyone.

**Sophie Martin**





**SWINDON GUIDED WALK**  
**THU 14 SEPT ~ 13:00-15:00**

**FREE**

Come to Swindon and be surprised by how much heritage and green space can be found in the town centre. Starting at Swindon Station, follow the routes of former canals, visit Radford Street Cemetery followed by a guided tour of Swindon's historic and charming Railway Village, heading under the railway to visit the former GWR Works site where you can visit the Designer Outlet or STEAM museum. This is a walk for anyone interested in heritage and/or regeneration projects.

For more information or to reserve your place, please email [sophie@transwits.org](mailto:sophie@transwits.org)

A collaboration project from TransWits Community Rail Partnership and Swindon Borough Council



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Community Interest Company (Company Number 9397959 registered in England and Wales)

