

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2023

Charity Number 1091181



KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE

2023 IN NUMBERS

Serving Kent For 24 Years

	1	84 MEMBERS 21 MEDICS 5 SEARCH DOGS 22 FLOOD RESPONDERS ALL UNPAID VOLUNTEERS
	2	118 DAYS DEPLOYED 288 SEPARATE INCIDENTS 8,359 HRS DEPLOYED 12,000 HRS TRAINING 3,500 HRS FUNDRAISING
	3	71% MISSING = MALES 8% MENTAL HEALTH 23% DEMENTIA 51% DESPONDENT/RISK OF SUICIDE 2 MEDICAL INCIDENTS
	4	3 X INCIDENT VANS 3 X RESPONSE CARS 3 X POWER BOATS 4 X KAYAKS, 2 X CANOES 8 X BIKES 2 X DRONES
	5	c.£80,000 ANNUAL EXPENDITURE TO PROVIDE 24/7/365 SERVICE ACROSS KENT ALL FUNDED BY YOU!
	6	AMAZING SUPPORTERS 10,800 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS 6,250 X/TWITTER FOLLOWERS 1,600 INSTAGRAM FRIENDS

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

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KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 31st December 2023 together with the financial statements for that period.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

Charity's principal address:

Kent Search and Rescue
Kent Police Marine and Search Division
Coldharbour Outstation
London Road
Aylesford
Kent
ME20 7SL

Trustees

Lord Jonathan Evans (Chairman) – resigned 22nd January 2024
Mr John Weir (Chairman) – appointed 22nd January 2024
Mr Martin Kingman
Mr Brian Tinham
Mr Andrew Turnbull – resigned 23rd January 2023
Mr David Schooledge – resigned 22nd January 2024
Mr Barry Doggett – appointed 23rd January 2023
Mr Carl Hynes – appointed 22nd January 2024
Mr Andrew Whitehouse
Mr Adrian Harper
Mr Peter Ayling
Mr Mark Rist
Mr Stewart Baird
Mr Andrew Heselwood – appointed 10 August 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is governed by a Constitution adopted by the members, the latest version of which was adopted on 25th January 2021. The board of trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT - continued

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The primary objective of the charity is to protect and preserve good health and life by the provision of volunteer search and rescue teams to assist organisations involved in the search and/or rescue of missing or vulnerable persons. The secondary objective is the provision of programs to help prevent the need of search and rescue teams by means of education of the general public. The charity activities assist in the relief of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards in the lowland areas of Kent, particularly by providing adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any person or persons so endangered. The trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE - OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Purely based on the statistics, 2023 showed a very similar number of incidents compared to 2022. This remains somewhat below our pre-pandemic activity, although there continues to be a larger percentage of despondent, suicidal and mental health cases that may be a result of cost-of-living problems.

The team continued to be available throughout the year, although there continues to be a number, albeit small, of cases of COVID.

The Fundraising team continued to do a remarkable job of raising finance from a variety of grants and donations to provide a high level of funds, despite concerns that the cost-of-living crisis and removal of COVID funding might have a negative impact. This allowed the team to continue to offer a high standard of operational readiness.

Extensive training continued both to develop skills and to bring all members back to full effectiveness following the impact of COVID restrictions.

On a more positive note, 2023 saw callout attendance numbers maintained and the successful operation of our drone offering all weather capability and optical and thermal imaging cameras extended our aerial search capability. In a similar vein, our sonar capability has continued to improve with a growing team of operators and reviewers, along with the acquisition of an underwater remotely operated vehicle that, when fully operational with its own sonar unit, will further enhance our underwater search capability.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT - continued

The major project for 2023 was the acquisition and fit-out of a replacement Incident Support Vehicle. There were some issues finding a company to carry out the installation of the required kit, but this vehicle should be fully operational by Summer 2024 and will also provide a secondary role as a reserve Incident Control Vehicle. This will then allow us to re-purpose the existing Incident Support Vehicle to be configured as a dedicated Sonar/Drone Support Vehicle.

We continued to extend our pro-active work with Kent Police, principally with Operation Concern, where small teams identified and attended calls of concern that would have otherwise required action by a police patrol, and Safe and Dry, where members of the team provide safety cover on the River Medway and surrounding area during periods of concern, such as the King's Coronation and Christmas, as a response to some high-profile drowning incidents.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31st December 2023 the trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be in line with expectations. The reserves at the end of the year were £265,363 (2022: £272,722). Reserves are held in order to fulfil the charities aims and objectives in the future and to be sufficient to cover expenditures for a twelve-month period.

DECLARATION

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Andrew Whitehouse

Andrew Whitehouse - Trustee
10th October 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity (charity number 1091181) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st December 2023.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

BASIS OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Roger Storey

Roger P B Storey – Chartered Management Accountant
26 Cherry Orchard Road,
Bromley, Kent, BR2 8NE

Date: 10th October 2024

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

				<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Reserves £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:						
Fundraising events		27,285	0	0	27,285	21,109
Donations and Grants		15,465	32,000	0	47,465	77,897
Member subscriptions		2,640	0	0	2,640	2,700
Training services		1,250	0	0	1,250	1,400
Interest received		1,590	0	0	1,590	328
Total income		48,229	32,000	0	80,229	103,434
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	2	77,486	10,102	0	87,588	83,021
Net movement in funds		-29,257	21,898	0	-7,359	20,413
Total funds brought forward		70,392	72,702	129,628	272,722	252,309
		41,135	94,600	129,628	265,363	272,722
Transfer to Sinking Fund Asset Reserve						
		-200	0	200	0	0
Total funds carried forward		40,935	94,600	129,828	265,363	272,722

The notes to the accounts form part of these financial statements.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

		<u>31/12/2022</u>	<u>31/12/2021</u>
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets	3	152,801	150,831
Current assets			
Prepayments and accrued income		3,625	7,727
Cash at bank and in hand		113,999	122,346
		<u>117,624</u>	<u>126,706</u>
Current liabilities			
Accruals & Deferred Income		2,912	3,065
Kit deposits		2,150	1,750
		<u>5,062</u>	<u>4,815</u>
Net current assets		<u>112,562</u>	<u>121,891</u>
Total Assets less current liabilities		<u><u>265,363</u></u>	<u><u>252,390</u></u>
Funds			
Restricted funds		94,600	72,702
Unrestricted funds		40,935	70,392
Sinking Fund Asset Reserve		94,828	92,213
Operational Costs Reserve		35,000	35,000
		<u>265,363</u>	<u>252,309</u>

Approved by the trustees on 10th October 2024.

Andrew Whitehouse

Andrew Whitehouse - Trustee

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (SORP FRS 102) as updated by the Charities SORP (FRS 102) update bulletin. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102

1.2 Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

1.3 Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

1.4 Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. The trustees have established two Reserve Accounts, namely the Sinking Fund Reserve Account and the Operational Costs Reserve Account. The former will provide funds to replace the charity's motor vehicles, boats, drones and other large items of equipment as they come to the end of their useful lives. The latter Reserve is to ensure there are sufficient funds to cover at least 12 months of ongoing non-discretionary expenditure in the event that income levels decrease substantially due to unforeseen events.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Motor vehicles 10 years; Other search equipment 5 to 10 years; IT and radio equipment 5 years.

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023 - continued

1.6 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised or set aside for particular restricted purposes.

2 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equipment and clothing	13,810	6,914
Depreciation	38,584	35,026
Training	428	7,818
Fuel and other vehicle costs	11,744	15,730
Insurances	13,410	9,335
IT and communications	10,098	10,598
Charitable donations	200	0
Member welfare and event costs	1,528	1,795
Finance & Carriage charges	170	186
Memberships and affiliations	155	193
Independent examiner's fees	157	280
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of assets	-2,696	-4,854
	<u>87,588</u>	<u>83,021</u>

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023 - continued

3 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £	IT and radio equipment £	Other search equipment £	Total £
COST				
At 1 st January 2023	138,600	49,761	123,741	312,102
Additions	34,000	0	15,408	49,408
Disposals & adjustments	1	-1	-12,500	-12,500
At 31 st December 2023	172,601	49,760	126,649	349,010
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 st January 2023	59,757	46,083	55,431	161,271
Charge for year	19,065	2,004	17,515	38,584
Disposals & adjustments	0	0	-3,646	-3,646
At 31 st December 2023	78,822	48,087	69,300	196,209
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 st December 2023	93,779	1,673	57,349	152,801
At 31 st December 2022	78,843	3,678	68,310	150,831

4 Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

5 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Reserves £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	42,372	16,533	93,896	152,801
Current assets	3,625	113,295	704	117,624
Current liabilities	-5,062	0	0	-5,062
	40,935	129,828	94,600	265,363

KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE (LOWLAND)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023 – continued

6 Movement in funds	At 1 st January 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	At 31 st December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	72,702	32,000	-10,102	0	94,600
Unrestricted funds	70,392	48,229	-77,486	-200	40,935
Sinking fund asset reserve	94,628	0	0	200	94,828
Operational costs reserve	35,000	0	0	0	35,000
	272,722	80,229	-87,588	0	265,363

7 Trustees' Remuneration and Transactions with related parties

No trustee received any remuneration during the year or had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year, (December 2022, £0).

One member of the Management team controls a company that provides Information Technology Services to the charity. These services, which are all provided on an arm's length basis, resulted in costs to the charity totalling £1,190 during the year (2022, £2,360). This Management team member also has an interest in a separate Community Interest Company, which licences dedicated search specific software to the charity for use during operational search activity. During the financial year the charity was charged licence fees for this software totalling £6,000 by this Community Interest Company (2022, £6,000).

8 Operating profit

This is stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	38,584	35,026