

ESSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE (ESSEXSAR)

England & Wales · Charity number 1096661

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2003-03-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address PO Box 10576
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 9NY

Phone 0843 289 4499

Email SECRETARY@ESSEXSAR.ORG.UK

Website www.essexsearchandrescue.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ASSIST IN THE RELIEF OF SUFFERING AND DISTRESS AMONGST PERSONS ENDANGERED BY ACCIDENT OR NATURAL HAZARDS IN LOWLAND AREAS PRIMARILY IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO THIS AREA. IN PARTICULAR BY PROVIDING ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SECURE AND EFFICIENT SEARCH FOR AND RESCUE OF ANY PERSON OR PERSONS SO ENDANGERED, BY TRAINED PERSONNEL.

Activities: To assist in the relief of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accident or natural hazards in lowland areas, primarily in the County of Essex. This is achieved in particular by providing adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search for and rescue of any person or persons so endangered, by trained personnel.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COUNTY OF ESSEX
- Cambridgeshire
- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Kent
- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-09-30	£12,882	£12,849	-	-
2023-09-30	£41,824	£16,734	-	-
2022-09-30	£36,424	£21,294	-	-
2021-09-30	£28,776	£19,531	-	-
2020-09-30	£23,131	£13,840	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Helena Goodwin	Chair	2025-03-05
Andrew Samuel		2025-03-05
David N Miles		2025-03-05
Robert Harris		2025-03-05

ESSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE (ESSEXSAR)

England & Wales - Charity number 1096661

Accounts



Trustees Annual Report

(Accompanying Receipts & Payments Accounts)

Section 1

Legal & Administrative Information

Charity Name

Essex Search & Rescue (ESSEX SAR)

**Charity Commission
Registered Number:**

1096661

**For the Financial
Year beginning on:**

01/10/2022

**For the Financial
Year Ending on:**

30/09/2023

**Charity's Principal
Address:**

PO Box 10576, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 9NY

**Description of the
Charity's Trusts:**

Governing Document:

Constitution dated 12th February 2020

Objects of the Charity:

The Charity's objects ("the objects") are to assist in the relief of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accident or natural hazards in lowland areas primarily in the County of Essex, but not restricted to this area. In particular by providing adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search for and rescue of any person or persons so endangered, by trained personnel.

Specific Investment Powers

None.

Section 2

Trustees and Governance:

Name of Trustee	Dates during which the named trustee acted if not for the whole period of this report	Names of Directors of any corporate charity trustee at the date of this report	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint any charity trustee
Colin Booth			Members
Anna Wallerstrom			Members
Steve Jarrett			Members
Adam Hayes			Members

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed by the membership as honorary

officers and committee members.

Names of the Charity's Custodian Trustees:

No appointment has yet been made

Section 3

Activities & Achievements

The charity has again had a busy year, with callout numbers returning to more stable levels that were effected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Essex Search and Rescue remain operationally one of the busiest Lowland Rescue teams in the UK. {Previous year in brackets} The team was called out 98 (102) times, totaling 3503 (3290) hours of total time, and 56 individual volunteers. Average time per volunteer for callouts 41 (53) hours in that 12 months.

In addition to callouts there were 105 (101) training exercises, totaling 3724 (4225) hours of total time. Average time per volunteer for training 53 (69) hours.

720 (455) hours recorded on other activities, but strongly suspect that is substantially under reported.

As of 30th September 2023, the charity's volunteers currently stood at 64 operational and non-operational members, an increase on the previous year of 2021/2022.

The year has been focused on further recovering our strength in numbers using the revised recruitment process, which has provided much higher retention rates seen for the last two-years. This has allowed ESSEXSAR to maintain full operational strength mitigating any impacts from COVID-19. A revised approach to training and qualifications has also demonstrated that a decentralised CPD approach to self-learning in some of the less critical aspects of the syllabus has worked well. Considerations have been made to increasing tailoring individual training requirements to meet new national Lowland Rescue requirements for licensed Search Technicians.

Our K9 unit continue to be used frequently on searches, with several new dogs in training. ogs and support are requested on a regular basis by Essex Police. On many occasions they are being deployed ahead of foot teams (and in some cases, without the need for foot teams to be deployed). They have managed to continue their very high level of training, with considerable personal commitment from the handlers and their families to put in regular practice. Enhanced training for K9 support was able to continue, which gives the team member the ability to carry out several functions under pressure pending the arrival of additional assistance.

We have introduced an Ambassador Programme that allows for associate membership to ESSEXSAR. Responding to feedback that people wanted to be involved but not necessarily operational, the ambassador programme was stood up to allow for a cadre of volunteers to focus on supporting the charity and fundraising activities.

Finance & Fund-Raising

Total draft figures for the year ending 30th September 2022 as follows.

Total Income	£41,824
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(of which is restricted funds	£24,700)
Total Expenditure (inclusive of VAT)	£16,734
(of which was from restricted funds	£6,940)
Total cash in hand at the end of the year	£97,906

Contribution of Volunteers

The volunteers fundraising activities this year have been greatly reduced. However, they have become more creative, taking the opportunity to explore new avenues of raising funds and deliver awareness of Essex Search and Rescue in the local communities which we support and social media.

Essex Search and Rescue would not exist without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, who not only raise funds and awareness, but also make themselves available to search for vulnerable missing people and support the community 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Our volunteers also bring skills and experience they have gained in their life outside of the team to pass and readily pass these on to others with a large amount of good humor and team work.

Relationships to other parties

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Essex Police and continue to develop relationships with other blue light and emergency response organisations, Essex Fire Service, HM Coastguard, and the RNLI. We continually seek joint training and opportunities to aid and support each other. The team is also represented on the Essex Volunteers Network and local Resilience Forum.

We have had good support from several local councils in Essex, and also dementia charities, and we have had mutual training activities with them. We hope to continue these relationships.

Section 4

Policies

Reserves

It remains the Trustees' intention to hold reserve funds equivalent to the total annual running costs of Essex Search & Rescue, as well as to build further reserve funds to replace equipment as required in the future. Expenditure in 2022/2023 is anticipated to increase from the levels in previous years and will relate in the main to ongoing operational costs, maintenance of existing equipment and replacement of limited life items.

Risks

We continue to look carefully at our financial obligations. Outgoings are regularly monitored and no expenditure is authorized unless sufficient funds are available.

Insurance

Team members are insured against personal injury whilst on callout or training via the Essex Police volunteer policy. A further policy is in place with Hiscock to cover public liability risks up to £10m, property loss or damage up to £20,000, medical malpractice, and trustee indemnity.

Health & Safety

We continue to utilize a generic Health & Safety policy, which is based upon good practice and Lowland Rescue guidance. However, we intend to develop and implement a more specific and relevant policy next year.

Prior to each search and training, an individual Health & Safety Risk Assessment is prepared, which takes in account local conditions, time of search, number of searchers available, and weather conditions. Health and Safety issues and documentation are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Other policies

The charity has adopted policies covering:

- Health & Safety
- Risk Management
- Casualty Care
- Infection Control
- Diversity & Equal Opportunities
- Safeguarding
- Confidentiality
- Volunteer membership
- Bullying & Harassment
- Data Protection
- Continual Professional Development
- Code of conduct
- Use of search dogs
- Search operations
- TRiM.
- GDPR
- Social Media

All new team members have signed an acknowledgement form to confirm that they have read and accepted the above policies.

Section 5

Signature and Declaration

Declaration:

I declare in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

**The trustees have approved the report above; and
Have authorized me to sign it on their behalf**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Jarrett', written in a cursive style.

Full Name:

Stephen Jarrett

Position:

Trustee

Date:

28th February 2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Name
Search and Rescue (draft accounts) No (if any)
1096661

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01.10.2022	To	Period end date 30.09.2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fundraising Income/Just Giving	5,779	-	-	5,779	
Other - Interest on Savings	200	-	-	200	
Textile recycling (JMP)	8,939	-	-	8,939	
Textile recycling (Members)	2,206	-	-	2,206	
Thermal imagers/helmets/drones fund	-	344	-	344	
K9 team (radios)	-	600	-	600	
Membership fees	-	1,954	-	1,954	
Keela/Ledco	-	868	-	868	
New vehicle fund	-	22,670	-	22,670	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	17,124	24,700	-	41,824	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	17,124	24,700	-	41,824	
A3 Payments					
Assessment/Training Courses	70	-	-	70	-
Data costs/software	660	-	-	660	-
Insurance Costs	2,144	3,000	-	5,144	-
Marketing/Printing/PO Box	649	409	-	1,058	-
Medical Equipment	176	560	-	736	-
Subscriptions/membership	218	-	-	218	-
Repairs/renewals of equipment	93	-	-	93	-
Uniform/PPE	3,558	2,951	-	6,509	-
Vehicle expenses	2,226	20	-	2,246	-
Sub total	9,794	6,940	-	16,734	
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	9,794	6,940	-	16,734	
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,330	17,760	-	25,090	
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	72,816	-	-	72,816	
Cash funds this year end	80,146	17,760	-	97,906	

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Business Premium account	30,558	-	-
	Community account	49,588	17,760	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	80,146	17,760	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Adam Hayes	08/05/2024



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Essex Lowland Search & Rescue

On accounts for the year ended

30 September 2023 Charity no (if any) 1096661

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/09/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

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.

Independent examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [x] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

8.5.2024

Name:

D N Miles

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

Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute

Address: 4 Peers Square, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6XP

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

None

ESSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE (ESSEXSAR)

England & Wales - Charity number 1096661

Accounts



Trustees Annual Report

(Accompanying Receipts & Payments Accounts)

Section 1	Legal & Administrative Information
Charity Name	Essex Search & Rescue (ESSEX SAR)
Charity Commission Registered Number:	1096661
For the Financial Year beginning on:	01/10/2021
For the Financial Year Ending on:	30/09/2022
Charity's Principal Address:	PO Box 10576, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 9NY
Description of the Charity's Trusts:	
Governing Document:	Constitution dated 12th February 2020
Objects of the Charity:	The Charity's objects ("the objects") are to assist in the relief of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accident or natural hazards in lowland areas primarily in the County of Essex, but not restricted to this area. In particular by providing adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search for and rescue of any person or persons so endangered, by trained personnel.
Specific Investment Powers	None.

Section 2

Trustees and Governance:

Name of Trustee	Dates during which the named trustee acted if not for the whole period of this report	Names of Directors of any corporate charity trustee at the date of this report	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint any charity trustee
David Callington			Members
Anna Wallerstrom			Members
Stuart Turner			Members
Steve Jarret			Members
Adam Hayes			Members

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed by the membership as honorary officers and committee members.

Names of the Charity's
Custodian Trustees: No appointment has yet been made

Section 3

Activities & Achievements

The charity has again had a busy year, with double the operational demand as the effects of COVID-19 have subsided.

Essex Search and Rescue remain operationally one of the busiest Lowland Rescue teams in the UK. The team was called out 102 times (double the previous year), totaling 3290 hours of total time, and 56 individual volunteers. Average time per volunteer for callouts 53 hours in that 12 months.

In addition to callouts there were 101 training exercises, totaling 4225 hours of total time. Average time per volunteer for training 69 hours.

455 hours recorded on other activities, but strongly suspect that is substantially under reported.

As of 30th September 2022, the charity's volunteers currently stood at 63 operational and non-operational members, an increase on the previous year of 2020/2021.

The year has been focused on recovering our strength in numbers by trialing and establishing a revised recruitment process, which has provided much higher retention rates. This has allowed ESSEXSAR to return to full operational strength mitigating any impacts from COVID-19. A revised approach to training and qualifications has also demonstrated that a decentralised CPD approach to self-learning in some of the less critical aspects of the syllabus has worked well. Considerations have been made to reduce all mandatory training to the minimum level of comfort to reflect ESSEXSAR's commitment to responding to the cost of living crisis that is expected to prevail into 2022/2023

Our K9 unit continue to be used more on searches, with several new dogs in training. Trailing dogs and support are requested on a regular basis by Essex Police. On many occasions they are being deployed ahead of foot teams (and in some cases, without the need for foot teams to be deployed). They have managed to continue their very high level of training, with considerable personal commitment from the handlers and their families to put in regular practice. Enhanced training for K9 support was able to continue, which gives the team member the ability to carry out several functions under pressure pending the arrival of additional assistance.

We have grown our Drone Search capability with the acquisition of two thermally equipped consumer grade drones that assist in large area search day and night. During this period we have three drone pilots trained and qualified to a national Lowland Rescue standard.

Within this period we qualified or requalified all members to a minimum of EFAW first aid qualification – thanks largely in part to our fantastic medical training team.

Finance & Fund-Raising

Total draft figures for the year ending 30th September 2022 as follows.

Total Income	£36,424
Total Expenditure (inclusive of VAT)	£21,294
Total cash in hand at the end of the year	£72,816

Contribution of Volunteers

The volunteers fundraising activities this year have been greatly reduced. However, they have become more creative, taking the opportunity to explore new avenues of raising funds and deliver awareness of Essex Search and Rescue in the local communities which we support and social media.

Essex Search and Rescue would not exist without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, who not only raise funds and awareness, but also make themselves available to search for vulnerable missing people and support the community 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Our volunteers also bring skills and experience they have gained in their life outside of the team to pass and readily pass these on to others with a large amount of good humor and team work.

Relationships to other parties

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Essex Police and continue to develop relationships with other blue light and emergency response organisations, Essex Fire Service, HM Coastguard, and the RNLI. We continually seek joint training and opportunities to aid and support each other. The team is also represented on the Essex Volunteers Network and local Resilience Forum.

We have had good support from several local councils in Essex, and also dementia charities, and we have had mutual training activities with them. We hope to continue these relationships.

Section 4

Policies

Reserves

It remains the Trustees' intention to hold reserve funds equivalent to the total annual running costs of Essex Search & Rescue, as well as to build further reserve funds to replace equipment as required in the future. Expenditure in 2022/2023 is anticipated to increase from the levels in previous years and will relate in the main to ongoing operational costs, maintenance of existing equipment and replacement of limited life items.

Risks

We continue to look carefully at our financial obligations. Outgoings are regularly monitored and no expenditure is authorized unless sufficient funds are available.

Insurance

Team members are insured against personal injury whilst on callout or training via the Essex Police volunteer policy. A further policy is in place with Hiscock to cover public liability risks up to £10m, property loss or damage up to £20,000, medical malpractice, and trustee indemnity.

Health & Safety

We continue to utilize a generic Health & Safety policy, which is based upon good practice and Lowland Rescue guidance. However, we intend to develop and implement a more specific and relevant policy next year.

Prior to each search and training, an individual Health & Safety Risk Assessment is prepared, which takes in account local conditions, time of search, number of searchers available, and weather conditions. Health and Safety issues and documentation are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Other policies

The charity has adopted policies covering:

- Health & Safety
- Risk Management
- Casualty Care
- Infection Control
- Diversity & Equal Opportunities
- Safeguarding
- Confidentiality
- Volunteer membership
- Bullying & Harassment
- Data Protection
- Continual Professional Development
- Code of conduct
- Use of search dogs
- Search operations
- TRiM.
- GDPR
- Social Media

All new team members have signed an acknowledgement form to confirm that they have read and accepted the above policies.

Section 5

Signature and Declaration

Declaration:

I declare in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

**The trustees have approved the report above; and
Have authorized me to sign it on their behalf**

Signature:

S. Jarrett

Full Name:

Stephen Jarrett

Position:

Trustee

Date:

28th February 2023

Income & Expenditure Report

Essex Search and Rescue

01-OCT-2021 - 30-SEP-2022

	Current Yr	Current Yr	Prior Yr	Prior Yr
INCOME				
4000 Membership Income		900.00		<i>0.00</i>
4001 Membership Subscriptions	900.00		<i>0.00</i>	
4100 Donations, Subs and Similar Income		7,163.72		<i>0.00</i>
4110 Donations	6,758.72		<i>0.00</i>	
4115 Fundraising	405.00		<i>0.00</i>	
4200 Income		15,495.00		<i>0.00</i>
4205 Textile Recycling	13,880.00		<i>0.00</i>	
4220 Event Income	1,130.00		<i>0.00</i>	
4230 External Training	485.00		<i>0.00</i>	
4300 Uniform/Clothing		1,453.20		<i>0.00</i>
4301 Outerwear - recharge	1,391.15		<i>0.00</i>	
4310 Torches - recharge	62.05		<i>0.00</i>	
4400 Fundraising Income		11,399.48		<i>0.00</i>
4415 Donated Clothing Sales	4,777.48		<i>0.00</i>	
4420 Restricted Fundraising	6,622.00		<i>0.00</i>	
5000 Investment Income		13.08		<i>0.00</i>
5010 Bank/Building Society Interest	13.08		<i>0.00</i>	
TOTAL INCOME		36,424.48		<i>0.00</i>
EXPENDITURE				
7000 Operational Costs		-11,058.92		<i>0.00</i>
7001 Insurance Costs	-5,020.73		<i>0.00</i>	
7002 Fuel - vehicles	-686.49		<i>0.00</i>	
7003 Communications	-1,239.55		<i>0.00</i>	
7004 Medical supplies	-632.99		<i>0.00</i>	
7005 License Costs	-1,465.00		<i>0.00</i>	
7006 Vehicle R&M	-1,919.66		<i>0.00</i>	
7007 Member PPE	-94.50		<i>0.00</i>	
7200 Activities		-3,050.32		<i>0.00</i>
7201 Venue hire	-700.00		<i>0.00</i>	
7202 External Training	-894.00		<i>0.00</i>	
7203 Training supplies	-1,074.41		<i>0.00</i>	
7204 K9 assessments - support costs	-194.85		<i>0.00</i>	
7207 Membership Event Expenses	-187.06		<i>0.00</i>	
7300 Fundraising expenses		-2,076.23		<i>0.00</i>
7309 Purchase of Equipment for Resale	-510.54		<i>0.00</i>	
7310 Purchase of Clothing for Resale	-1,546.69		<i>0.00</i>	
7311 Other Fundraising Costs	-19.00		<i>0.00</i>	

	Current Yr	Current Yr	<i>Prior Yr</i>	<i>Prior Yr</i>
7400 Administration		-792.70		<i>0.00</i>
7401 Website	-203.98		<i>0.00</i>	
7404 PO Box	-315.00		<i>0.00</i>	
7426 Uniforms	-233.72		<i>0.00</i>	
7427 Trustee expenses	-40.00		<i>0.00</i>	
7800 Capital Equipment Purchases		-4,316.00		<i>0.00</i>
7801 Capital Purchases	-4,316.00		<i>0.00</i>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-21,294.17		<i>0.00</i>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD		15,130.31		<i>0.00</i>

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

ESSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE (ESSEX SAR)

On accounts for the year ended

30 September 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1096661

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

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.

Independent examiner's statement

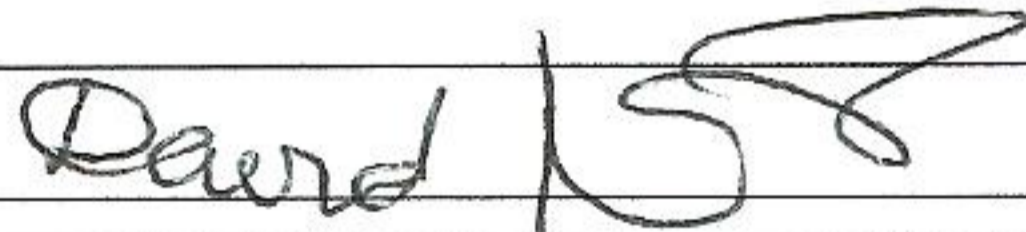
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:



Date:

3rd August 2023

Name:

David Roland Woods

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

N/A

Address:

4 Thornton Place, Stock, CM4 9NQ

ESSEX SEARCH AND RESCUE (ESSEXSAR)

England & Wales - Charity number 1096661

Accounts



Trustees Annual Report

(Accompanying Receipts & Payments Accounts)

Section 1	Legal & Administrative Information
Charity Name	Essex Search & Rescue (ESSEX SAR)
Charity Commission Registered Number:	1096661
For the Financial Year beginning on:	01/10/2020
For the Financial Year Ending on:	30/09/2021
Charity's Principal Address:	PO Box 10576, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 9NY
Description of the Charity's Trusts:	
Governing Document:	Constitution dated 12th February 2020
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Specific Investment Powers	None.

Section 2**Trustees and Governance:**

Name of Trustee	Dates during which the named trustee acted if not for the whole period of this report	Names of Directors of any corporate charity trustee at the date of this report	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint any charity trustee
Steve Crouchman			Members
Colin Booth			Members
Martyn Tillet			Members
Steve Jarret			Members

Trustee selection method: Trustees are appointed by the membership as honorary officers and committee members.

Names of the Charity's Custodian Trustees: No appointment has yet been made

Section 3

Activities & Achievements

The charity has again had a busy year, albeit not at the levels of the previous year 2019/2020 and continues to perform well operationally, despite the influence of COVID.

Essex Search and Rescue remain operationally one of the busiest Lowland Rescue teams in the UK. The team was called out 50 times during the year, which included members and the whole team being deployed to assist our fellow teams in the neighboring county of Herefordshire and London. Several of the callouts continued for 2 days or more. In total, 4550 hours were spent on operational search.

As of 31st August 2021, the charity's volunteers currently stood at 46 operational and non-operational members, a decrease on the previous year of 2019/2020.

As with the whole of the country COVID had a dramatic effect on the team and its members, especially with regards to training. The Trustees continually reviewed the dynamic changes that came into operation for COVID and planned accordingly. Member's welfare, operational response, public safety and income and expenditure were all reviewed. As a result, we were able to offer an operational response over the whole period of lock down, with training being taken online (including video conferencing). With income severely reduced and mainly limited to funds from clothing recycling, the trustees took the decision to halt all expenditure, except that which would affect our operational response and the health and safety of our members, to preserve reserves. An operational COVID response plan was drawn up by health care professionals in the team and continually reviewed for the safety of members and the communities we assist.

Our K9 unit continue to be used more on searches, with several new dogs in training. dogs and support are requested on a regular basis by Essex Police. On many occasions they are being deployed ahead of foot teams (and in some cases, without the need for foot teams to be deployed). They have managed to continue their very high level of training, with considerable personal commitment from the handlers and their families to put in regular practice. Enhanced training for K9 support was able to continue, which gives the team member the ability to carry out several functions under pressure pending the arrival of additional assistance.

Some skill areas have been affected in the year due to face-to-face training being limit, the mountain bike team membership has decreased. However, we are looking to increase the number of trained riders as soon with the lifting of all COVID restrictions. In addition, our canoe team training took an enforced break but is back on course and due to go fully operational early 2022. We were able to qualify almost every member of the team in Bank Search for those team members able to swim between lock downs. Several of the team completed National operational management courses.

The project to have drones for operational search deployment came a step nearer in the later part of the year with a large donation from a local community group and the donation of a drone kit from a construction company. We hope to have these operational early 2022.

Finance & Fund-Raising

Total draft figures for the year ending 30th September 2021 as follows.

Total Income	£28,776
Total Expenditure (inclusive of VAT)	£19,531
Total cash in hand at the end of the year	£56,921

Contribution of Volunteers

All our members are volunteers and have maintained the high level of training required to maintain an operational response during lockdown. In addition, several members have assisted in the national COVID response

The volunteers fundraising activities this year have been greatly reduced. However, they have become more creative, taking the opportunity to explore new avenues of raising funds and deliver awareness of Essex Search and Rescue in the local communities which we support and social media.

Essex Search and Rescue would not exist without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, who not only raise funds and awareness, but also make themselves available to search for vulnerable missing people and support the community 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Our volunteers also bring skills and experience they have gained in their life outside of the team to pass and readily pass these on to others with a large amount of good humor and team work.

Relationships to other parties

We continue to have an excellent relationship with Essex Police and continue to develop relationships with other blue light and emergency response organisations, Essex Fire Service, HM Coastguard, and the RNLI. We continually seek joint training and opportunities to aid and support each other. The team is also represented on the Essex Volunteers Network and local Resilience Forum.

We have had good support from several local councils in Essex, and also dementia charities, and we have had mutual training activities with them. We hope to continue these relationships.

Section 4

Policies

Reserves

It remains the Trustees' intention to hold reserve funds equivalent to the total annual running costs of Essex Search & Rescue, as well as to build further reserve funds to replace equipment as required in the future. Expenditure in 2020/2021 is anticipated to decrease from the levels in previous years and will relate in the main to ongoing operational costs, maintenance of existing equipment and replacement of limited life items.

Risks

We continue to look carefully at our financial obligations. Outgoings are regularly monitored and no expenditure is authorized unless sufficient funds are available.

Insurance

Team members are insured against personal injury whilst on callout or training via the Essex Police volunteer policy. A further policy is in place with Hiscock to cover public liability risks up to £10m, property loss or damage up to £20,000, medical malpractice, and trustee indemnity.

Health & Safety

We continue to utilize a generic Health & Safety policy, which is based upon good practice and Lowland Rescue guidance. However, we intend to develop and implement a more specific and relevant policy next year.

Prior to each search and training, an individual Health & Safety Risk Assessment is prepared, which takes in account local conditions, time of search, number of searchers available, and weather conditions. Health and Safety issues and documentation are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Other policies

The charity has adopted policies covering:

Health & Safety
Risk Management
Casualty Care
Infection Control
Diversity & Equal Opportunities
Safeguarding
Confidentiality
Volunteer membership
Bullying & Harassment
Data Protection
Continual Professional Development
Code of conduct
Use of search dogs
Search operations
TRiM.
GDPR

All new team members have signed an acknowledgement form to confirm that they have read and accepted the above policies.

Section 5

Signature and Declaration

Declaration:

I declare in my capacity of charity trustee, that:

**The trustees have approved the report above; and
Have authorized me to sign it on their behalf**

Signature:

Full Name:

Colin Booth

Position:

Trustee

Date:

16th February 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Section A Unrestricted Funds

Name of Charity **Essex Search & Rescue (ESSEXSAR)**
 Charity Commission registered number **1096661** 30/09/2021

Note Breakdown using either Or:

A0 Functional Analysis **Your own analysis** **x**

Last year's **This year's**
amounts to **amounts to**
the nearest £ **the nearest £**

Receipts				
A1a	Donations, legacies and similar receipts	Donations	18,822	5,613
		Bag It Up	1,508	21,975
		Fund Raising Events	0	0
A1b	Operating activities to further charity's objects	Sale of uniform to members	669	433
		Membership fees	555	755
		Training fees		
		Interest	13	1
		Petrol Refund		
A1b	Operating activities to generate funds			
A1c	Investment income receipts			
	Sub-total (A1a+A1b+A1c)		21,567	28,776
A1d	Other receipts (not counting as "Gross Income")	Sale of vehicle & equipment	0	0
		Transfer from Restricted Fund	685	200
	Total Receipts		22,252	28,976

Payments				
A2a	Payments for generating funds	Fund raising costs	0	0
		Cost of uniform	402	87
		Training costs	933	490
A2b	Charitable Payments			
	(i) Grants paid			
	(ii) Charitable Activities	Travelling Expenses	107	0
		VAT (to be reclaimed)		2,018
	(iii) support costs	Admin cost for operations	8,288	6,785
	(iv) Management & Administration	Independent Examiner Fee & Trustee Admin		
	Sub total (A2a+A2b)		9,730	9,380
A2c	Other payments (not counting as "Expenditure")	Control Vehicle	1,534	1,850
		Operational Equipment	854	8,300
		Transfer to restricted fund	879	0
	Total Payments	(A2a+A2b+A2c)	12,997	19,531
	Net of receipts/(Payments)		9,255	9,445
	Cash funds last year end		38,221	47,476
	Cash funds this year end		47,476	56,921



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Essex Search and Rescue

On accounts for the year ended

30th September 2021
Charity no (if any) 1096661

Set out on pages

1-4
(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 30/09/2021.

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.

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.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

17/03/2022

Name:

Charlotte Firkins

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

FPFS

Address:

2 Plume Avenue
Maldon
CM9 6LD