



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1st	Month October	Year 2023		Day 30th	Month September	Year 2024

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

MIDSHIRES SEARCH & RESCUE ORGANISATION

Other names charity is known by

MSAR

Registered charity number (if any)

1110825

Charity's principal address

The Old Squash Court

Hunts Lane

Felmersham

Bedford

MK43 7JQ

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dan Rose	Chairman		
2	Jane Carwithen	Secretary		
3	Andrew Savage	Treasurer		
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### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document

Constitution

How the charity is constituted

Association

Trustee selection methods

Elected by Members at Annual General Meeting

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity is a member of the Association of Lowland Search & Rescue (ALSAR), charity no: 1150317.

Management of the charity is carried out by an Executive Committee comprising the Trustees and other members who lead on Logistics, Training, Membership, Safeguarding, PR & Social Media and other portfolios as required. The Committee holds regular monthly meetings and minutes are published to the wider membership.

The charity has service agreements in place with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces.

The Trustees periodically consider the major risks which the charity faces and confirm that procedures have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to manage these risks.

## Section C Objectives and activities

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

To assist in the saving of life and relief of distress by the provision of efficient, trained resources (wherever possible conforming to established best practice) to the Police, other Statutory Authorities and other Search & Rescue Organisations, for the search and rescue of high risk, vulnerable missing people.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

Midshires Search & Rescue (MSAR) were called out to 75 incidents during the 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Typically these incidents involved searches and local resilience activity carried out over a duration of up to 12 hours although some were conducted over a number of days. Search outcomes inevitably varied but many reported missing people were found and lives were undoubtedly saved and changed as a result.

The Trustees are aware of the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and are satisfied that the provision of volunteer search and rescue services to Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Constabulary in the search of vulnerable missing people constitutes a public benefit.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

MSAR relies on its team of members who are all volunteers. None of them are paid for their time, fuel or expenses. MSAR receives no funding from government or the emergency services and is wholly reliant on donations, fundraising and grants.

Volunteers contribute significant amounts of time to training and operational response. They make no financial contribution to the charity.

MSAR's search and rescue service is provided free of charge to the police and public.

The charity maintains usual commercial banking arrangements with a high street bank. Cash reserves are held in a deposit account with a blue chip City of London investment company, which specialise in the charity and non-profit sector. Funds are held on a "call" basis and can be returned to the charity on the same day as requested.

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the period

MSAR through its trained volunteers continued to be available 24 hours a day across the entire period, to assist the Police in searching for high risk, vulnerable missing people across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Members were also called out through mutual aid arrangements to assist other Lowland Rescue search teams in neighbouring areas (eg Essex, Bucks, Northants & London). They remained available to take part in major incidents managed on a national scale by Lowland Rescue. Members also assisted in civil emergency situations as part of local resilience operations organised by bodies such as Bedfordshire Local Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC). Such assistance over recent years has involved flood response, residential evacuations due to emergency situations and various Covid-19 related activities.

Team capability throughout the year continued to be able to deploy at short notice to search for high risk, vulnerable missing people in woodland, quarries, watercourses, nature reserves, farmland, towns and villages. Operating in all weathers, MSAR were able to save lives and make a significant contribution to society across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Searches were often carried out in harsh environments, each being planned and executed using intelligence and tried and tested search techniques. The families and friends of missing people appreciated that a group of specialist volunteers were ready and able to give their time to search for their loved one.

A summary of all activities across the 12 month period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 was as follows:-

Incidents	75
Exercises	48
Events	116
Total Activities	<u>239</u>

Avg. Active Members	57
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**Incidents** reflected callouts where members deployed on search or resilience activity at the request of the police and public authorities. **Exercises** provided vital operational training, either through regular monthly mock searches, training provided by third parties who shared their expertise and also from time to time joint exercises with the Police and Fire Service. **Events** included fundraising activities, talks to various interested parties eg. Rotary, WI, U3A, as well as regular meetings for all members.

Regular classroom style training was delivered to operational members in the form of indoor/outdoor sessions as well as mock searches carried out in appropriate terrain. Such training covered search techniques, communication, first aid and navigation. New members underwent initial internal training from experienced members, and then through a period of more advanced training to qualify as fully operational Search Technicians. More experienced members trained and progressed to Team Leaders, Search Planners or Search Managers through training to national standards by Lowland Rescue.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

MSAR maintains a cash reserve of 60% of annual expenditure (excluding one-off projects) averaged over the previous three years.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

MSAR's main source of funds continued to be general donations from the public, fundraising activities and awards from grant making bodies for specific projects when required.

Throughout the period, MSAR's success in raising funds through fundraising events and through general donations has allowed the organisation to maintain its core operational expenditure (equipment, vehicle running costs, communications, insurance etc) as well as funding a new support vehicle.

MSAR operates a fully equipped Incident Control Unit, a specialist Water Search Unit to support water based searches and flood resilience. During the reporting period the team acquired an additional support vehicle from another Search & Rescue team.

## Section F

## Other optional information

Whilst MSAR is not registered for VAT, as a qualifying Search & Rescue charity, it is able to claim a refund of VAT incurred on the purchase of goods and services for its non-business activities. (VAT Notice 1001 sec. 1.2 of the VAT Act 1994 sec. 33c and 33d.)

## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

Full name

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

**MIDSHIRES SEARCH & RESCUE ORGANISATION**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS**

YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2024

	12 months to Sep-24												Year to Sep-23	Year to Sep-22	Year to Sep-21	Year to Sep-20
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	YTD	YTD	£	£
	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	3,371.27
Clothing Recycling	408.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	408.75	3,531.25	11,352.50	4,307.70
Talks (W/I's etc)	236.52	597.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	256.15	418.00	0.00	0.00	697.34	243.44	931.96	3,380.41	1,095.67	1,266.77	529.24
Bike Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	3,100.00
Other Events	800.00	0.00	2,800.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,570.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	6,820.00	4,510.00	1,999.36	1,000.00
In Memorium	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.55	642.54
General Donations	78.90	163.04	76.77	669.67	217.22	25.44	1,934.59	1,100.49	4,639.66	1,743.67	2,085.28	566.97	13,301.70	5,259.31	5,554.01	1,231.63
Training	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uniforms (Personal)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,353.40	391.20	0.00	1,744.60	1,254.00	0.00	0.00
VAT Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,347.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,347.15	1,700.26	517.53	5,088.35
Bank Interest	129.28	0.00	23.97	267.14	0.00	25.84	400.46	0.00	24.80	405.80	0.00	403.70	1,680.99	810.58	2.68	33.54
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>1,753.45</b>	<b>760.04</b>	<b>2,900.74</b>	<b>936.81</b>	<b>2,314.37</b>	<b>307.43</b>	<b>2,753.05</b>	<b>1,100.49</b>	<b>6,234.46</b>	<b>4,200.21</b>	<b>2,719.92</b>	<b>3,002.63</b>	<b>28,983.60</b>	<b>18,161.07</b>	<b>21,559.40</b>	<b>19,304.27</b>
Equipment	410.40	0.00	0.00	573.60	2,103.83	0.00	55.99	10,000.00	1,766.60	0.00	0.00	1,410.00	16,320.42	3,352.65	6,646.48	7,158.27
Training	157.25	342.25	55.00	52.00	52.00	67.85	52.00	52.00	68.00	52.00	52.00	69.12	1,071.47	2,873.13	2,278.00	649.20
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,077.45	3,041.59	0.00	624.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,743.45	3,801.67	3,538.32	2,284.72
Motor Expenses	149.90	30.17	190.18	261.24	30.17	135.07	268.51	103.32	197.80	124.19	114.44	302.25	1,907.24	4,911.18	2,372.42	1,420.22
Communication	50.65	15.10	156.86	47.88	49.00	15.10	50.51	470.93	16.28	49.51	166.98	81.97	1,170.77	1,011.58	718.27	1,386.88
Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,480.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.22	110.00	0.00	0.00	1,686.22	157.86	246.22	150.00
Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	492.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>768.20</b>	<b>387.52</b>	<b>402.04</b>	<b>2,414.72</b>	<b>2,235.00</b>	<b>1,295.47</b>	<b>3,468.60</b>	<b>10,626.25</b>	<b>2,769.31</b>	<b>335.70</b>	<b>333.42</b>	<b>1,863.34</b>	<b>26,899.57</b>	<b>16,108.07</b>	<b>15,799.71</b>	<b>13,541.29</b>
<b>CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>985.25</b>	<b>372.52</b>	<b>2,498.70</b>	<b>-1,477.91</b>	<b>79.37</b>	<b>-988.04</b>	<b>-715.55</b>	<b>-9,525.76</b>	<b>3,465.15</b>	<b>3,864.51</b>	<b>2,386.50</b>	<b>1,139.29</b>	<b>2,084.03</b>	<b>2,053.00</b>	<b>5,759.69</b>	<b>5,762.98</b>
<b>OVERALL SUMMARY</b>																
<b>BANK B/F</b>	<b>42,165.44</b>	<b>43,150.69</b>	<b>43,523.21</b>	<b>46,021.91</b>	<b>44,544.00</b>	<b>44,623.37</b>	<b>43,635.33</b>	<b>42,919.78</b>	<b>33,394.02</b>	<b>36,859.17</b>	<b>40,723.68</b>	<b>43,110.18</b>	<b>42,165.44</b>	<b>40,112.44</b>	<b>34,352.75</b>	<b>32,652.04</b>
<b>CASH SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>985.25</b>	<b>372.52</b>	<b>2,498.70</b>	<b>-1,477.91</b>	<b>79.37</b>	<b>-988.04</b>	<b>-715.55</b>	<b>-9,525.76</b>	<b>3,465.15</b>	<b>3,864.51</b>	<b>2,386.50</b>	<b>1,139.29</b>	<b>2,084.03</b>	<b>2,053.00</b>	<b>5,759.69</b>	<b>5,762.98</b>
<b>BANK C/F</b>	<b>43,150.69</b>	<b>43,523.21</b>	<b>46,021.91</b>	<b>44,544.00</b>	<b>44,623.37</b>	<b>43,635.33</b>	<b>42,919.78</b>	<b>33,394.02</b>	<b>36,859.17</b>	<b>40,723.68</b>	<b>43,110.18</b>	<b>44,249.47</b>	<b>44,249.47</b>	<b>42,165.44</b>	<b>40,112.44</b>	<b>32,652.04</b>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Midshires Search & Rescue Organisation

On accounts for the year  
ended

30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1110825

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Association") for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Association, 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 Association's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

P. J. Harris

Date:

11/05/2025

Name:

PETER HARRIS

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

CEng CITP

Address:

44 HAZELBURY AVENUE

ABBOTS LANGLEY

WD5 0DF

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.