



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From		Period start date			To		Period end date		
		Day 1st	Month October	Year 2024			Day 30th	Month September	Year 2025

Section AReference 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

BedfordMK43 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	Tim Perkins	Treasurer	10/10/2024	
4				
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17				
18				
19				
20				

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
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Association

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by membership at an 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).

Management of the charity is the responsibility of an Executive Committee comprising the Trustees and other members who are responsible for specific portfolios such as finance, membership, training, logistics and safeguarding. The Executive Committee meets monthly, minutes are recorded and available online to the membership. Specialist groups such as those responsible for training and operational management also meet regularly.

The charity has written agreements in place with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire police forces and are developing agreements with other statutory services such as Fire & Rescue.

The Trustees consider the major risks which the charity faces and confirm that risk registers and risk assessments are in place. Risk register contents and ongoing actions are reviewed by the Executive Committee.

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, 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 77 incidents during the twelve months to 30th September 2025.

Typically these incidents involved searches and local resilience activity carried out over a duration of up to twelve hours, although some were conducted over a number of days.

Operational activity was as usual varied but sadly included a number of finds of deceased missing persons. The team trains extensively for these difficult situations. Making these finds, while challenging, is vital as it prevents members of the public from making a very distressing discovery.

The year ended on a high point with the team finding a male (81) with severe dementia who had gone missing from his home address.

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 Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire 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 grantmaking;
- 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 the emergency services we support, central or local government and is wholly reliant on donations, self fundraising and grants.

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

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

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 Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

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 nationally 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 and residential evacuations due to emergency situations.

The team was available 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 Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. 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.

Activity summary for the twelve months to 30th September 2025:

Incidents	77
Training	106
Events	81
Total Activities	264

Average number of operational members: 42

Incidents are callouts where members deployed on search or resilience activity at the request of the police, statutory authorities or other Lowland Rescue teams.

Training is operational development to ensure national Lowland Rescue national standards are met.

Internal Training: Managed by our training team, includes monthly mock searches, twice monthly classroom sessions and specialist skills training for our Water Search and K9 units. Training covers core competencies such as search techniques, incident management, communications, first aid, and navigation.

External Training: Is provided by our parent organisation, Lowland Rescue, as well as third-party specialists. We also participate in joint exercises with the Police and Fire Services to ensure inter-agency cooperation.

Progression Training: New recruits begin with internal foundational training before qualifying as Licensed Search Technicians. Experienced members are supported in progressing to advanced roles as Team Leader, Search Planner, or Search Manager in alignment with national standards.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Events include fundraising activities, talks to community groups such as Rotary, WI, U3A. Community engagement extends to working with groups such as scouts, police cadets and others to share and demonstrate our skills and capabilities.

In addition to the above, the team holds internal meetings for the Executive, other specialist groups and team work sessions to ensure equipment and vehicles are kept to a high state of operational readiness.

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.

Reserves are reviewed annually as part of the Financial Control Policy.

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, local community organisations and fundraising activities to cover operating expenses. Capital expenditure requires applications to grant awarding bodies for specific projects when required.

Income for the FY was £32.6k and expenditure £24.4k. The team had placed orders for twenty new radios and new dry suits for our Water Search Team, these were due to be delivered in September, but there were supply delays. If that equipment had been delivered on time our expenditure for the year would have been £32.3k. We put money aside to pay for the equipment when it is delivered in October.

Throughout the period, MSAR's success in raising funds through fundraising events and general donations has allowed the organisation to maintain its core operational expenditure (equipment, vehicle running costs, communications, insurance etc) as well as funding a pre-owned Land Rover, purchased from a Mountain Rescue team. Fundraising continues to be a challenge as large national charities, with professional fundraising operations are making raising money for smaller local charities an ongoing challenge.

MSAR operates a fully equipped Incident Control Unit, a specialist Water Search Unit to support water based searches and flood resilience and a Land Rover Defender ambulance.

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.

Refunds of VAT to search and rescue charities. Part 2 of Value Added Tax Act 1994 (reliefs, exemptions and repayments), after section 33B, 33C.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Tim Francis Perkins	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee & Treasurer	
Date	24/03/2026	

Midshires Search & Rescue
Receipts & Payments OCT 2024 - SEP 2025

	Fin. Year 2024-2025	Fin. Year 2023-2024	Fin. Year 2022-2023	Fin. Year 2021-2022	Fin. Year 2020-2021
Detail	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	750.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Clothing Recycling	964.00	408.75	3,531.25	11,352.50	7,792.50
Talks (Community Groups)	11,439.26	3,380.41	1,095.67	1,266.77	150.00
Bike Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00
General Events	3,429.63	6,820.00	4,510.00	1,999.36	270.00
In Memorium	0.00	0.00	0.00	166.55	0.00
General Donations	4,713.05	13,301.70	5,259.31	5,554.01	455.86
Online Donations	3,626.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
GivingForce (BP)	4,928.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uniforms (Personal)	-108.00	1,744.60	1,254.00	0.00	0.00
VAT Recovery	1,271.70	1,347.15	1,700.26	517.53	877.98
Bank Interest	1,600.43	1,680.99	810.58	2.68	15.82
Total Receipts	32,614.41	28,983.60	18,161.07	21,559.40	9,562.16
Equipment & Assets	5,956.97	16,320.42	3,352.65	6,646.48	1,195.19
Uniform	1,206.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	3,695.85	1,071.47	2,873.13	2,278.00	434.00
Insurance	5,303.73	4,743.45	3,801.67	3,538.32	2,739.66
Motor Expenses	4,586.31	1,907.24	4,911.18	2,372.42	2,234.07
Communication	1,305.16	1,170.77	1,011.58	718.27	1,004.81
Subscriptions	2,164.54	1,686.22	157.86	246.22	253.72
Fundraising	139.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payments	24,358.54	26,899.57	16,108.07	15,799.71	7,861.45
Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	8,255.87	2,084.03	2,053.00	5,759.69	1,700.71
Closing Summary					
Bank Accounts B/F	44,209.47	42,165.44	40,112.44	34,352.75	32,652.04
Cash Surplus/(Deficit)	8,255.87	2,084.03	2,053.00	5,759.69	1,700.71
Bank Accounts C/F	52,465.34	44,209.47	42,165.44	40,112.44	34,352.75
PayPal Closing Balance	205.38	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Funds in Hand	52,670.72	44,249.47	42,165.44	40,112.44	34,352.75

Restricted funds of £1,792 were expended in 2024-2025, the balance of £2,177 was carried forward to FY 2025-2026.

Approved by members's Special AGM 12MAR2026 minute 3.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Midshires Search & Rescue Organisation

On accounts for the year
ended

30th September 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1110825

Set out on pages

1 AND 2

(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 30/09/2025.

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 [] 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:

P. J. Harris

Date:

08/12/2025

Name:

PETER JOHN HARRIS

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

CEng CITP

Address:

44 HAZELBURY AVENUE
ABBOTS LANGLEY
HERTS. WD5 0DF

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.