



Welcome to the 2021 Annual Report of Dorset Search Dogs

Objectives



**Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021**

**Charity Name: Dorset Search Dogs**

**Charity no. 1145479**





## Welcome to the 2021 Annual Report of Dorset Search Dogs.

### Charity Objectives

The Objective of 'Dorset Search Dogs' is: To preserve and protect good health and life by the provision of volunteer search and rescue dogs to assist in the search and rescue of missing persons.

### Structure, Governance & Management

Dorset Search Dog Trustees are elected by the members of the charity at the AGM, following the process set out in our charity constitution.

### Activity

This is a record of the team's activity between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The team primarily operated in the county of Dorset and responded to requests from our neighbouring Search and Rescue teams.

### Callout Statistics

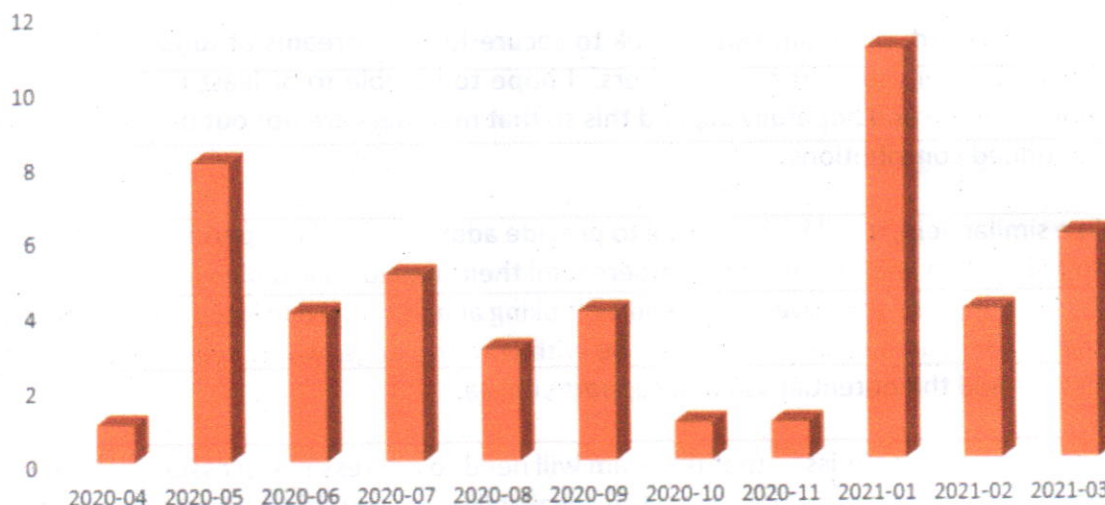
During the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 we received over 49 requests to assist the police in searches for high risk missing people. We were deployed at 42 searches and provided a total of 362 volunteer hours.







We responded to 42 callouts in this reporting period. The blue circles on the map above are the areas we received callouts from and the frequency.



The charts above shows the number of callouts received per month. The frequency of callouts is unpredictable and demonstrates the flexibility and commitment from our volunteers who respond at short notice.

### **Chairman's Report (Matt Cooke)**

Dorset Search Dogs, as like many charities, started our 2020/2021 year under the on-going threat of COVID-19. Very early on in the pandemic, we assisted in several jobs involving despondent missing people, directly citing the coronavirus for their actions. We had to find our feet, introducing new policies, restricting training to meet government advice and yet be prepared for what was looking like an inevitable increase in callouts.

Despite the lock-downs, the restrictions and reduced training schedules Dorset Search Dogs has thrived. Last year, I spoke of the need to review the effectiveness of training, and provide tailored training sessions with a drive to show progression. The COVID-19 restrictions, combined with the 2020 training effectiveness review was an opportunity which allowed the team to adapt a new approach. With three qualified dogs and another two close to being qualified, I'd like to think this is a fair measure of the effectiveness in the changes made to the training.

We have been successful in securing several large grants which has seen the purchasing of personal issue kit and a fuel expenses grant - payable to each member to cover some of the costs when attending callouts. This has helped members during hardships caused

by COVID restrictions and also given individuals the confidence to attend any number of callouts knowing that they won't be having financial issues as a result of their kind contributions to society.

Going forward, the team should look to secure further streams of funding that will, in particular, help support our members. I hope to be able to at least maintain the fuel grant scheme and hopefully expand this so that members are not out of pocket for their continued contributions.

In a similar vein, it will be beneficial to provide additional skills, experiences and rewards to help retain and encourage members fulfil their unpaid charitable work.

As a wider team objective, we should be looking at additional opportunities in supporting the larger search efforts. This may be with tracking dogs, water searching, the use of drones and the potential use of a support vehicle.

The most important issue that the team will need to address is succession planning. We need to maintain or improve the availability of qualified dogs, handlers and supports. We need to keep the skills curve exactly right so that there is a constant source of advice available for the next steps of training.

Once again, my continued thanks go to every single member in their part in helping to assist others.

**Matt Cooke**

**Chairman**

**Dorset Search Dogs**

### **Financial Review**

The charity is in a good position at the end of the financial year. Over the past year fundraising as always has been a team effort and we have benefitted from the very generous support of local people and businesses.

Early on in the pandemic we identified the challenges the team may face and ensured we had the funds available to equip us to meet demand. Covid 19 grants received have supported the teams resilience by providing all operational team members with spare all weather clothing and support with call out travel expenses.

We continue to receive good support from the local grant making Trusts the Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Trust and The Talbot Village Trust and we received a special covid grant from Dorset Community Foundation and Dorset Police.





There was one fundraising event this year Wayne's ultra marathon, which raised just over £2,000 including the match funding and a generous donation from his employer the Wates family, a special thank you to Wayne and the Wates Family. All other events were cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.

We receive good local support, and I'd like to extend a special thank you to ex-team member Helen Ward who makes small donations from the sale of dog training equipment and the ongoing support from our family and friends through the BH Coastal Lottery tickets.

We received a Sun newspaper grant of just under £6,000 for dog tracking devices. This was following a nomination by a Sun reader who is a supporter of the team.

We have claimed all outstanding Gift aid and VAT entitlement which totalled just under £5,000. A savings account has now been opened with HSBC to hold restricted funds. The radio grant project is now coming to an end. The Covid grants were spent on the equipment outlined in the grant proposal. The main outstanding projects is the purchase of dog trackers which is delayed due to Covid 19 supply issues.

We do not have a reserves policy, however we aim to keep no more than the equivalent to one years fixed costs in reserve to protect against fluctuations in fundraising activity.

### **Public Benefit**

Dorset Search Dog Trustees confirm they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the charity commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### **Official Charity Postal Address**

C/O 2430 Dorset Police

Bournemouth Police Station

5 Madeira Road

Bournemouth

BH1 1QQ

### **Trustees:**

**April 2020 - March 2021**

Matt Cooke – Chairman

Andy Edwards – Secretary



Serena Field – Treasurer

Sheila Potticary – Membership Trustee

Wendy Rolls – Membership Trustee

**April 2021 – Present (Approving report)**

Matt Cooke – Chairman

Andy Edwards – Secretary

Serena Field – Treasurer

Sheila Potticary – Membership Trustee

Wendy Rolls – Membership Trustee

**Annual accounts for the period April 2020- March 2021**

	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Opening Balance 1 April</b>	<b>£19,343.63</b>	<b>£12,419.11</b>

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Membership subscriptions	1153.50	810.00
Fundraising events	513.90	£1,146.68
Grants	2028.78	19,515.00
Donations/collections	479.77	1,661.19
VAT/Gift Aid		4,939.24
Training course	455.00	
Lottery/online shopping donations	652.23	900.59
Refunds		182.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5283.18</b>	<b>£29,154.79</b>

<b>OUTGOING</b>		
Insurance	248.99	248.98
ALSAR subs and course fees	260.00	110.00
Events	25.00	£.00
Website, email, software, D4H	504.00	611.83
Training	1586.91	344.40
Radios & GPS	6401.46	717.78





Expenses	30.30	783.65
First Aid	2761.59	373.43
Clothing	0.00	4,419.00
Equipment		5,387.06
Refunds		40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,818.25</b>	<b>£12,996.13</b>

<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>
Cash	281.52	£0.00

<b>Closing Balance 31 March</b>	<b>£12,700.63</b>	<b>£28,537.77</b>
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<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
First Aid equipment grant	0	0
Creditors	4342.00	3150.00
Digital Network Grant	4392.97	3911.78
1 year fixed costs		1192.00
Covid grants		2534.97
The Sun grant ( dog trackers)		5990.00
<b>Restricted funds total</b>	<b>£8,734.97</b>	<b>£16,778.75</b>
<b>Working capital</b>	<b>£3,965.66</b>	<b>£11,939.02</b>

Serena Field    Treasurer    27 April 2021



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

**Dorset Search Dogs**



On accounts for the year ended

31/03/2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1145479

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 **31 / 03 / 2021**.

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.

CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES







**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:**

Helen J Haslam

**Date:**

6/10/2021

**Name:**

Helen Haslam

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

**Address:**

72 Bracken Road, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 9PF



## 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).

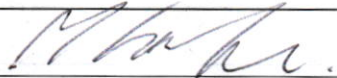

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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## Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	MATT COOKE	SERENA FIELD
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIRMAN	TREASURER
Date	5-12-2021	