

EA-CAT

England & Wales · Charity number 1160703

Details

Other names SUFFOLK COMMUNITY 4X4 RESPONSE

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-03-02

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

Contact

Address 60 Heath View
Leiston
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Activities

Objects: TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT HUMAN LIFE, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, BY PROVIDING EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES AND OTHER RESOURCES TO OFFER SUPPORT IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS IN THE SUFFOLK AREA.

Activities: Eastern Community Assistance Team (EA-CAT) aims to provide support to Emergency Services and Local Authority during times where 4x4 vehicles are the only ones still mobile, particularly but not specifically within the county of Suffolk. Our members are mainly experienced 4x4 owners who are able to provide various services in and around the county.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£3,847	£1,061	-	-
2023-12-31	£3,451	£1,180	-	-
2022-12-31	£4,688	£1,615	-	-
2021-12-31	£2,171	£2,053	-	-
2020-12-31	£1,934	£2,909	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DEAN HENDRICKS	Chair	2016-12-14
ANTHONY WILLIAMSON		2015-02-27
JAMES ROBERT OXFORD		2015-02-27
WAYNE ANTHONY CLARKE		2015-02-27

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Trustee Report for 2023

One thing I mentioned last year was that we really needed some new members; someone must have been listening as Jordan and his Dad, Keiran joined our ranks and got stuck straight in with the Tractor Rally which was a bit of a 'baptism by fire' for them!

Our various clients always appreciate everything we do. Finances are in good shape and we must thank Helen for the early part of the year and Dan for later and into this year. We did have a candidate ready to take over our finances but sadly they became ill and had to step away. If you fancy having a go at any of our roles, please feel free to have a chat with us.

Something that's very obvious - we need more members but we've been saying that since we started!

Membership:

2 new members joined in 2024.

Events:

Event numbers had dropped in 2024 due to some being unable to run due to staffing or venue issues such as Mauwi Wau's early music festival, Hockwold Fete and Project Seven Fireworks. Rendlesham Fireworks were also cancelled, we believe due to unaddressed safety issues.

I'm happy to report Rendo's fireworks are back on for this 2025

Anyway, some figures for 2024:

16 separate event assists over 25 days including two events on 1 day.

1 PR Day at Elmsfest plus the AGM gave a total of 27 possible days out with EA-CAT.

We also had 12x Online Chats/Get-togethers that Duncan organised on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

That makes a total of 33 EA-CAT activities that members could attend in 2024.

I'd like to finish by thanking each and every member for the time they put into EA-CAT as we couldn't do it without them, and please, if you know of anyone who might like to help the team in any way, please sell EA-CAT to them so we can share the load. We'll continue this as an informal discussion once the meeting is formally closed.

EA-CAT (Eastern Community Assistance Team) Annual Accounts				
2024				
	CODE	Cash	Bank	Total
Income	CHARGES	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	DONATIONS-TINS	£ 130.00	£ 10.50	£140.50
	EVENTS	£ -	£3,571.30	£3,571.30
	INTEREST	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	MEMBERSHIP	£ -	£ 135.00	£135.00
	OTHER	£ -	£ -	£0.00
			£130.00	£3,716.80
Expenditure	ADVERTISING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	CLOTHING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	COMMS	£0.00	£108.00	£108.00
	FUEL/MILEAGE	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	INSURANCE	£0.00	£640.40	£640.40
	PPS	£4.20	£0.00	£4.20
	SAFETY	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	SUNDRY	£0.00	£308.40	£308.40
	WEB	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total	£4.20	£1,056.80	£1,061.00
		Cash	Cheques	Total
Deposits	BANKING	-£24.70	£24.70	£0.00
Balances		Cash	Bank	Total
Opening balance		£28.90	£8,694.66	£8,723.56
Closing balance		£130.00	£11,379.36	£11,509.36

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Trustee Report for 2023

Our clients remain ever appreciative.

Finances are in good shape and we must thank our Treasurer for all their hard work with that. One thing is abundantly clear - we need more members and we've been saying that since we started!

Events:

1 Callout

21 Event Assists

3 PR Days

We also had 12x Online Chats/Get-togethers initiated by our Events Coordinator.

No snow events in our area but flooding caused much damage across the county, one Friday in October.

I believe we only had one callout, to rescue three St Elizabeth's Hospice carers from their refuge outside Wilby primary school where they were stranded by floodwaters, and return them to Ipswich. A painful journey of over 5 hours and almost a hundred miles, due to so many road blockages which would usually take 2 hours to do around 70 miles!

33 total taskings & online chats, available for members in which to participate.

Memberships dipped slightly in 2023 which is always going to be noticeable in a small close-knit team.

Looking forward to 2024 therefore, the aim is to attempt to increase membership, create and fill new committee positions and continue to help our local communities and charities.

2023 Ea-CAT Year end summary for AGM

2023				
	CODE	Cash	Bank	Total
Income	CHARGES	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	DONATIONS-TINS	£ 184.57	£ -	£184.57
	EVENTS	£ -	£ 3,070.00	£3,070.00
	INTEREST	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	MEMBERSHIP	£ -	£ 145.00	£145.00
	OTHER	£ -	£ 51.46	£51.46
			£184.57	£3,266.46
Expenditure	ADVERTISING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	CLOTHING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	COMMS	£0.00	£200.00	£200.00
	FUEL/MILEAGE	£0.00	£85.25	£85.25
	INSURANCE	£0.00	£683.74	£683.74
	PPS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	SAFETY	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	SUNDRY	£0.00	£210.98	£210.98
	WEB	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total	£0.00	£1,179.97	£1,179.97
		Cash	Cheques	Total
Deposits	BANKING	-£165.00	£165.00	£0.00
Balances		Cash	Bank	Total
Opening balance		£9.33	£6,443.17	£6,452.50
Closing balance		£28.90	£8,694.66	£8,723.56

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Trustee Report for 2022

It became clear very early in 2022 that things were most definitely getting back to normality, and while bad weather was not a particular issue, the bookings EA-CAT were taking for spring and summer events were piling in! Training as a result was sadly forced to take a back seat for this year with the exception of a Multi-Agency Flood Exercise which turned into a real incident due to volunteer 'victims' suffering from early onset hypothermia. Finances remain healthy.

Event breakdown:

20 Events (2x two day and 1x four day: Total of 28 days at events)

2x PR events

1x Event request for assistance from neighbouring response group.

1x Joint Training Day (Flood Exercise)

Total days that EA-CAT members were out assisting the local communities: 32 days:

As always seems to happen, 3 were on the same date, but all were supported by the Team.

Our Events Coordinator initiated a monthly Team Chat-room during lockdown, considered by all a vital asset: This has continued through 2022.

Total taskings & online chats available for members to take part in: 36

Membership of the team continued to be stable through 2022 but it is clear that this is no longer enough for the requests for assistance and that in order for the Team to grow we can't just rely on active taskings to attract members and must actively promote ourselves. Moving into 2023 and beyond, it is our intention to try and attend at least three 'promotion-only' events annually to recruit new members. It's not going to be easy as volunteering appears to be suffering from a distinct lack of interest in many fields but we can only try.

2021				
	CODE	Cash	Bank	Total
Income	CHARGES	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	DONATIONS	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	EVENTS	£ -	£ 1,959.03	£1,959.03
	INTEREST	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	MEMBERSHIP	£ -	£ 211.64	£211.64
	OTHER	£ -	£ -	£0.00
			£0.00	£2,170.67
Expenditure	ADVERTISING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	CLOTHING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	COMMS	£0.00	£266.48	£266.48
	FUEL/MILEAGE	£0.00	£1,041.10	£1,041.10
	INSURANCE	£0.00	£563.25	£563.25
	PPS	£0.00	£15.84	£15.84
	SAFETY	£0.00	£116.40	£116.40
	SUNDRY	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00
	WEB	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total		£0.00	£2,053.07
		Cash	Cheques	Total
Deposits	BANKING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Balances		Cash	Bank	Total
Opening balance		£9.33	£3,252.80	£3,262.13
Closing balance		£9.33	£3,370.40	£3,379.73

Treasurer's Report 2022				
INCOME	CODE	CASH	BANK	TOTAL
	CHARGES	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	DONATIONS-TINS	£0.00	£87.64	£87.64
	EVENTS	£0.00	£4,113.77	£4,113.77
	INTEREST	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	MEMBERSHIP	£0.00	£115.00	£115.00
	OTHER	£0.00	£371.43	£371.43
	Total	£0.00	£4,687.84	£4,687.84
EXPENDITURE	ADVERTISING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	CLOTHING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	COMMS	£0.00	£524.62	£524.62
	FUEL/MILEAGE	£0.00	£163.59	£163.59
	INSURANCE	£0.00	£622.50	£622.50
	PPS	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	SAFETY	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	SUNDRY	£0.00	£304.36	£304.36
	WEB	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total	£0.00	£1,615.07	£1,615.07
		Cash	Cheque	Total
DEPOSITS	BANKING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
BALANCES		Cash	Bank	Total
Opening Balance		£9.33	£3,370.40	£3,379.73
Closing Balance		£9.33	£6,443.17	£6,452.50

Helen Pell - Treasurer - 21st March 2023

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Trustee Report for 2021

The New Year didn't so much 'start' as 'continue' in much the same vein as had the old one! As with all voluntary organisations, sadly our income stream continued to suffer well into the last quarter of the year: Our first public event not taking place until early June, with many scheduled events being cancelled one after another throughout: This was most noticeable with our local Hospices who cancelled pretty much everything on their calendars, trying to do the right thing

We had a significant snow event in early February which required most of our 4x4-owning members to be on standby and actively deployed, plus Controllers, over three days.

Tasks continuing from a very lean 2020 included our help with trailer-loads of produce to the Teapot Project.

The Team was called upon multiple times to assist with parking and visitor management at an Ipswich Covid Vaccination Centre from January to April. These are very good inclusive events for the team as it's a time when any member can provide help even if not able to drive or own a car.

Later in the year the Team was tasked to provide vehicles to local 'pop-up' vaxx centres targeting areas of low take-up of vaccine, as a means of the less-mobile being able to attend and get jabbed.

We assisted some new clients too, including East Anglian Air Ambulance and East Anglian Children's Hospice to name just a couple.

We managed to fit in some training again during July, thanks to the kind offer from Trinity Park, Ipswich, of camping space and use of their off-road course for 3 days. Subjects included navigation, recovery, traffic management and off-road driving.

All in all, we lost a large portion of our annual events but it was to be expected and we did gain some too.

Our long-postponed AGM finally took place in the November.

Membership of the team continued stable through 2021 but it is clear that this is no longer enough and that in order for the Team to grow we can't just rely on active taskings to attract members and must actively promote ourselves. Moving into 2022 and beyond, it is our intention to try and attend at least three 'promotion-only' events annually to recruit new members.

2021				
	CODE	Cash	Bank	Total
Income	CHARGES	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	DONATIONS	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	EVENTS	£ -	£ 1,959.03	£1,959.03
	INTEREST	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	MEMBERSHIP	£ -	£ 211.64	£211.64
	OTHER	£ -	£ -	£0.00
			£0.00	£2,170.67
Expenditure	ADVERTISING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	CLOTHING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	COMMS	£0.00	£266.48	£266.48
	FUEL/MILEAGE	£0.00	£1,041.10	£1,041.10
	INSURANCE	£0.00	£563.25	£563.25
	PPS	£0.00	£15.84	£15.84
	SAFETY	£0.00	£116.40	£116.40
	SUNDRY	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00
	WEB	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total		£0.00	£2,053.07
		Cash	Cheques	Total
Deposits	BANKING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Balances		Cash	Bank	Total
Opening balance		£9.33	£3,252.80	£3,262.13
Closing balance		£9.33	£3,370.40	£3,379.73

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Trustee Report for 2020

As with just about every charity organisation, the pandemic totally decimated our event support calendar and therefore our means of fundraising in 2020.

With the exception of a couple of events in January and February our income stream withered to nothing!

That is not to say that the team had entirely stagnated because once the government lockdown began in late March, we worked alongside The Teapot Project - a local group who collect edible unwanted food from restaurants and supermarkets - redistributing it to those in need. We assisted TP by collecting that unwanted food and then delivering prepared food parcels across the county. Our 4x4 members with trailers and vans at their disposal also went further afield collecting bulkier loads of potatoes and onions, sometimes up to two tonnes at a time!

Sadly our AGM, set for mid-February was rightly cancelled due to the ever-increasing Covid cases and there was never sufficient confidence to re-book it in 2020, so it will be deferred into 2021, once Covid measures mean we can practically and safely reschedule it.

In September we did finally manage to run some Covid-safe training events: Traffic Management, which was aimed at keeping our members safe during events where we carry out on-site car parking, radio use and procedures and a navigation exercise; all of which were warmly welcomed. We also ran an accredited first aid course renewal.

On the weekend before Christmas we attended a drive-in Fireworks event to assist with socially-distanced parking of over a thousand vehicles over two evenings in four sittings. Well over two-thirds of those vehicles had to be towed off the parking area due to rainfall.

We thought that was an end to a most unusual 2020 until a call from a village in the North of the county on Christmas Eve, where after sudden heavy rain on top of saturated ground, found the low-lying part of the village under two feet of water with no support from local government or hard-pressed emergency services! Members rallied to the scene and after a briefing on water safety from a Search & Rescue-trained member of EA-CAT, quickly began towing vehicles to safety and carrying sand bags through floodwater, to dwellings threatened with inundation.

Membership of the team remained stable throughout 2020.

It was decided to purchase a box trailer in order to keep all team kit in one place and to double up as an event support/control unit. It was fitted out with a workstation, batteries, solar panels and 240v electrics. This was liveried with vinyl graphics to add a promotional element.

Accounts report 2020

		2020		
	CODE	Cash	Bank	Total
Income	CHARGES	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	DONATIONS	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	EVENTS	£ -	£ 1,894.60	£1,894.60
	INTEREST	£ -	£ -	£0.00
	MEMBERSHIP	£ -	£ 40.00	£40.00
	OTHER	£ -	£ 0.01	£0.01
			£0.00	£1,934.61
Expenditure	ADVERTISING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	CLOTHING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	COMMS	£0.00	£238.28	£238.28
	FUEL/MILEAGE	£0.00	£640.55	£640.55
	INSURANCE	£0.00	£538.33	£538.33
	PPS	£5.50	£0.00	£5.50
	SAFETY	£0.00	£73.28	£73.28
	SUNDRY	£0.00	£1,413.82	£1,413.82
	WEB	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total		£5.50	£2,904.26
		Cash	Cheques	Total
Deposits	BANKING	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Balances		Cash	Bank	Total
Opening balance		£14.83	£4,222.45	£4,237.28
Closing balance		£9.33	£3,252.80	£3,262.13