

Warwickshire Search and Rescue
Trustees Report and Accounts
For the year ended
31st March 2024

Warwickshire Search and Rescue
Trustees Annual Report for the Year ended 31st March 2024
Charity No 1167079

Charity Address	Bankers	Independent Examiner
Unit 70	The Co-Operative Bank	Gavin Merrett
5th Street	PO box 101	35 Risborough Close
Stoneleigh Park	1 Balloon street	Coventry
Kenilworth	Manchester	CV5 9HT
CV8 2LG	M60 4EP	

Current Trustees

Ian Malins - Chair
Adrian Smith - Vice Chair
Paul Middleton - Treasurer
Stevan Brown - Secretary
Phil Hewish

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

WarkSar (the charity) is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its constitution, which was adopted on 18 May 2013 and last amended on 8 February 2016. WarkSar is a registered charity, with charity number 1167079

Trustees

The trustees of Warksar are pleased to present their report together with their financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Warksar's trustees comprise the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer and a trustee without portfolio. Any member is eligible to become a trustee, Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting, held every year in or around June. Under the constitution there must be a minimum of three trustees, although there is no maximum number.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of Warksar, whilst the day to day running of the charity's operational activity is delegated to the management group. Members of this group may be invited to attend trustee meetings to discuss progress and development

Objectives and Activities

Charitable purpose

Warksar's charitable purposes are twofold;
to protect and preserve good health and safety of human life in an emergency by the provision of trained volunteers to assist organisations involved in the search and rescue of missing persons;
and, to advance the education of the public in all matters relating to Lowland search and rescue.

Activities

Warksar works directly for the police, providing valuable search management services and physical resources to search on land and inland waterways. The charity provides a team of qualified volunteers available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to support in the search for vulnerable missing persons in Warwickshire, Coventry and south west Birmingham. Warksar also assists other lowland rescue search teams in the surrounding counties, and are available to assist the emergency services, local councils, and other agencies in the event of a major incident. Volunteers regularly interact with the public during local events, visits to local schools and societies and fundraising activities and use this time to provide information about Warksar and search and rescue in general, and to answer any questions about search and rescue that the general public have.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

This has been a very busy year for the charity. We have moved from its home of 6 years to a new home, within the Stoneleigh Park complex. This has been done by its volunteers using the skills and knowledge they have.

We were also nominated for and received the King's Award for Voluntary service, the highest award a charity can attain. This has been achieved by the high standards set by the volunteers.

Warksar's volunteers continue to maintain their high standard through thousands of hours of searching, training and fundraising. They have participated in searches not only in Warwickshire, but assisting in searches in all of the surrounding counties.

In addition to our kayak, foot and bank search teams, Warksar have added a team using drones to assist in the searches, and have a team able to use powered watercraft to further enhance the search capability of Warksar and also to assist in other major incidents such as flood relief.

Financial Review

During the year our main source of income continues to be grant income and fundraising efforts.

This supplements the donations received from attending events. Grants in the year were £65,515 and fundraising raised £25,542. Other forms of income from donations, subscriptions, gift aid received and subscriptions amounted to £23,639, giving total income of £114,696

Reserves Policy

Due to the uncertainties surrounding the levels of Warksar's future donations income, and the highly cyclical nature of Warksar's other income streams, the trustees' policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover the basic running costs of WarkSar, along with any other foreseeable expenses, for approximately 12 months. In this way, trustees can be comfortable that the Charity can meet its commitments and cover any unexpected expenditure. With the new premises and vehicles and our new activities, this cost has risen to around £26,000 at March 2024.

During the year we completed the purchase of a new support vehicle (ISU) which was funded from specific grants received and some excess general funds.

Available, unrestricted reserves at the end of the year (excluding any amounts already owed to suppliers) were £23,203 which is close the target range at the year end.

Plans for Future Periods

The Trustees and Management Team intend to continue to develop the team, both in terms of qualified Search Technicians, but also in terms of the Water team, by increasing our capability of our swift water response technicians and continuing to invest in our drone search team and Search Dog teams . This has been made achievable with the receipt of specific grants. The Charity will also continue to work with local communities to raise awareness of, and the profile of, the team.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:

Ian Malins
Chair

Paul Middleton
Treasurer

Warwickshire Search and Rescue
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended

	12 Months to 31/03/2024	12 Months to 31/03/2023
Income		
Grants (Non Specific)	820	2,017
Grants (Specific)	64,695	24,000
Donations	1,384	7,443
Fundraising	26,297	20,282
Equipment sales	17,987	6,395
Gift Aid	1,847	4,267
Course Fees Received		1,308
Subscriptions	1,665	2,040
Income	114,696	67,751
Expenditure		
Grants (Specific)	- 74,159	- 100,712
Building Costs	- 13,902	- 5,520
Equipment Purchases	- 4,221	- 1,087
Equipment Replace/Repair	- 650	- 436
Vehicle Costs	- 8,070	- 3,098
Insurance	- 7,131	- 5,870
Medical	- 1,261	- 1,717
Telecoms/Internet	- 832	- 1,186
Subscriptions (inc D4H)	- 1,765	- 675
Courses	- 1,281	- 1,132
Legal and Professional	- 35	- 35
Stationery	- 223	- 72
Bank Charges		
Miscellaneous	- 265	- 508
Expenditure	- 113,797	- 122,046
Surplus/Deficit Transferred to Funds	899	- 54,294
Transferred to/From General Funds	10,363	22,417
Transferred To/from Restricted	- 9,464	- 76,712
	899	- 54,294

Funds Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Brought Forwards	In Year	Transfer Between Funds	Carried Forwards
General Funds	19,124	10,363	-6284	23,203
Restricted Funds	9,354 -	9,464	6284	6,174
	28,478	899	-	29,377

Warwickshire Search and Rescue
Balance Sheet
For the year ended

	12 Months to 31/03/2024	12 Months to 31/03/2023
Cash at Bank	<u>29,377</u>	<u>28,478</u>
General Funds	23,203	19,124
Restricted Funds	<u>6,174</u>	<u>9,354</u>
	<u>29,377</u>	<u>28,478</u>

Independent Examiners Report
Warwickshire Search and Rescue
Charity No. 1167079
For the year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts set on pages 1 and 2, of the above charity, for the year ended 31st March 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirement 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 to 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 the 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 the 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.

Gavin Merrett AAT