

## **Trustee Report 2024**

Dear Members

We have had another good year and continue to grow as an organisation. We now have 61 members with a healthy split across the two counties.

A new organisational structure has been introduced to allow members to grow within the organisation as much or as little as they wish. In line with the new training structure, compulsory training at all levels has been defined so members can progress within the organisation at their own pace. This training is now being rolled out with a cutover by the 1st October 2024.

As part of the new training plan, eight members have obtained the Water & Flood Awareness (Defra Mod 1) certificate. The group has also invested in equipment to support the commanders in their role.

We have had a good financial year allowing us to invest in more equipment and PPE to support call outs and planned activities. Safety remains the number one priority and the new training model supports this.

This year we have made a significant investment in SarSys. SARsys allows the team to have a single pane of glass to manage their day to day engagements within the organisation, with a full CAD system alongside for incident management. All members can now access this tool and feedback is encouraging for its future.

We took the time throughout the year to engage with our LRFs to look at missing capabilities across all voluntary organisations. This has led to us investing in drone technology to enhance our response. It has been great to see this utilised numerous times in Q1 2024 already with our flood efforts.

We continue to deliver support to charities such as Keech Hospice and have partnered with commercial entities including Runaway Adventures and Todd in the Hole Music Festival. All these generate invaluable income for the group which is reinvested back into the charity and its members.

The Trustees continue to look at the future of the group and the direction for the next five years. We have some very ambitious targets to achieve but with your help the Trustees are sure we can reach our objectives. We are keen to engage with members who, in the future, wish to be more involved and start mentoring these ready to fill vacant roles.

The Trustees would like to thank all members for their continued support during 23/24 and we look forward to working with you all in coming years.

For and on behalf of the Trustees.

Kind regards

Graham  
Graham Norris  
Chair and Trustee.