

Trustees Annual Report for the period 01.08.23 – 31.07.24



Purpose

The purpose of the charity is to preserve life in and around water, specifically at the south Liverpool Docks

Objective and Activities

The main activities are the provision of a safety boat on Friday and Saturday evenings when the risks to the public have been identified as greatest. The team also carry out foot patrols to conduct searches if notified of a Concern for Welfare in our area and to assist the public if needed. We operate on the inland water of the south Liverpool dock system. We aim to be there in those vital few minutes between a person entering the water and the arrival of the emergency services when risk to life is greatest through cold water shock and drowning. We also work to prevent people from choosing to enter the water, usually as a result of a mental health crisis, and persuade them to accept help. We are the only safety boat in the south Liverpool dock system and have saved lives. We aim to help anyone in need regardless of gender, religion race, age or other characteristic.

The charity operates a rolling training program for its members covering first aid, boat handling, casualty recovery, search techniques and communications. We have members qualified as safety boat operators and all members undergo first aid training, some to First Responder Level. We are now qualified to administer Oxygen. All members must be over 18 years of age.

We have undertaken Risk Assessments for all our activities and developed Safe Systems of Work and Standard Operating Procedures which we require all our members to observe.

The charity also provides safety boat cover during public events by arrangement with the organisers.

The Trustees have regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit in the furtherance of these aims.

Achievements

The team have continued the week end duties throughout 2023 and 2024. We renewed our affiliation with Surf Life Saving GB, a leading water safety and awarding charity, which gives us access to DEFRA level training and insurance for our members

We are grateful for the support of the Department of Health and Social Security Suicide Prevention Fund. We received funds in May 24 to support increasing our membership and training, and further equipment for our members and narrow boat. Ours was one of the smallest grants given and we are grateful that our work has been recognised and supported.

We are grateful to The Community Foundation, Skelton Bounty, Amelia Chadwick, Warburtons and private individuals for their support of our work.

Our narrow boat home, 'The Duchess' continues to transform the operations of Merseyside Water Rescue. It is impossible to express the difference it has made to our work, or our gratitude to the organisations and kind donations which made it a reality. We cannot imagine going back now, to operating without a base, shelter, refreshments and warmth, especially in the winter!

One of our members, Aaron, received an award from the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane society in recognition of his bravery in entering the water to recover a casualty. This was a highly unusual circumstance and his courage and calmness undoubtedly saved the man's life.

Merseyside Water Rescue supported several festivals and events over 2023/24 including 'On The Waterfront' at the Pierhead, celebrations for Chinese New Year at the south Liverpool Docks, and community groups holding runs and events along towpaths of the canals in north Liverpool. We are here to help people enjoy being around the water safely and are thankful it has become a priority for events.

We are carrying out more and more searches for people who are a Concern for Welfare, we are notified by the Police and can begin the search immediately. We have learnt likely places a person might be, co-ordinate with dock security teams and City Watch CCTV and save time and resources even if by establishing where a person is NOT.

During the period of this return, the charity assisted –

Casualties Recovered from water	1
Despondent People Helped	17
Searches	8
First Aid	9
Public assisted	2
Boats Assisted	1
Perry Buoys Retrieved & Rehung	32
Advice given	71

13 Incidents gave rise to at least one emergency services log number.

Future Plans

The charity will continue to operate and expand the membership. Our future plans included developing our search skills and intervention skills to assist those suffering from mental health issues and prevent suicide attempts. With a larger membership it will be possible to offer cover on more evenings, especially during the busy summer months.

Legislation currently passing through Parliament will mean all Primary school children must learn about water safety. Merseyside Water Rescue will be working with Canal and River Trust to be able to deliver assemblies and information to schools to introduce the subject of water safety to pupils.

Financial Review

Our Financial report has been prepared and filed. Our fundraising opportunities have changed since the pandemic and we have responded accordingly. We have on-line giving portals, which are publicised on our social media accounts, and we actively seek funding from grant making trusts and foundations.

Reserves

The Trustees ensure free reserves are always available for any unexpected boat maintenance or repair costs to keep the charity operating.

Future Liabilities

The costs of the 40hp Tohatsu engine for Boat 1 were met by the Chief Trustee, Ian Milburn. These costs have now been recognised as a future liability in our accounts.

Structure Governance & Management

The charity is a CIO and is governed by a Constitution. The charity was registered in May 2018

The Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees if the number of Trustees should fall below the minimum of three, or at any time as a replacement or an additional trustee.

At every annual General Meeting, one third of the charity trustees retire from office. The Trustees are required to retire by rotation. The vacancies arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the AGM.

Members wishing to become a Trustee are well aware of the work undertaken and organisational structure. New Trustees are made fully aware of their responsibilities and are given copies of the Charity Commission's guidance.

Related Parties

The charity work closely with the Canal and River Trust, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire Rescue Service (MFRS) and Liverpool City Council

Merseyside Water Rescue is affiliated with Surf Life Saving GB, the leading water safety training and national oversight charity in the UK. We report incidents through SLS and in this way our work form parts of the national water safety picture.

The charity sits on the Merseyside Water Safety Forum, which brings together representatives from Merseyside Police, MFRS, NWAS, Coastguard, RLSS and other voluntary organisations connected with water safety. We also liaise with the Suicide Prevention team at Liverpool City Council.

Volunteers

The Trustees extend their grateful thanks to all the Members who give their time, energy and resources to the work of the Charity. The work of Merseyside Water Rescue would not be possible without the continued commitment of our outstanding volunteers

Administrative Information

Charity Name – Merseyside Water Rescue

Charity Number – 1178185

Charity's Principal Address – 14 Langdale Street, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3BX

Names of Trustees

Ian Robert Milburn (Chair)

Sarah Mansfield

Peter Kenny

Officers

Secretary – Ruth Milburn

Treasurer – Ruth Milburn

Operations Manager – Ian Milburn

Operational Support – Steve Alcock

Health & Safety Director – Simon Mansfield

Health & Safety Manager – Lewis Bridson

Social Media Manager – Alexandra Galvin

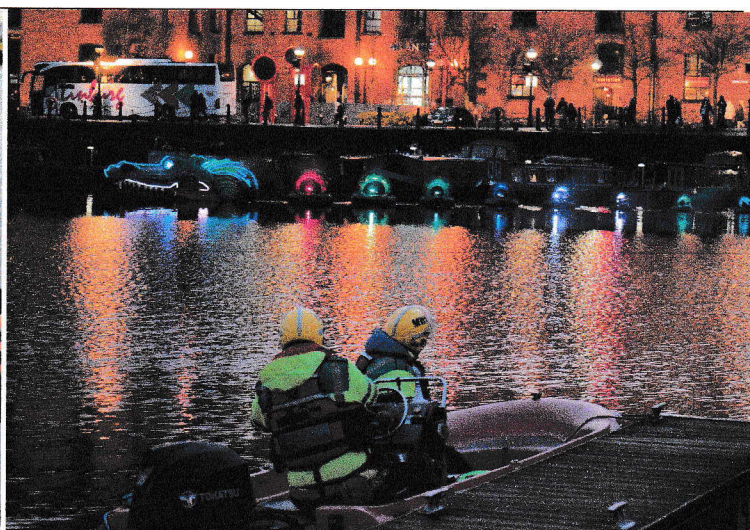
Approved by trustees on 29.05.25



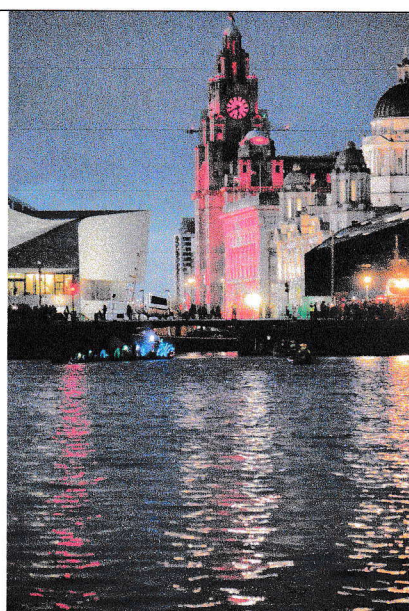
Sarah Mansfield



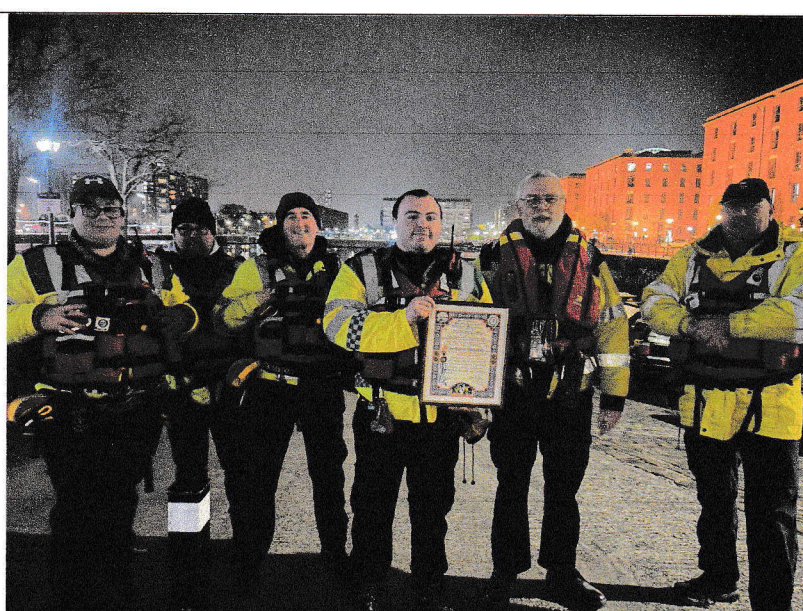
Boat Family



Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year



Aaron's Award

MERSEYSIDE WATER RESCUE

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING STATEMENT OF ASSEYS AND LIABILITIES)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST July 2024**

MERSEYSIDE WATER RESCUE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Restricted Grants		8,292		12,620
Charitable Activities		5,712		5,278
Donations		8,920		2,577
		-----		-----
Total Receipts		22,924		20,475
Payments				
Narrow Boat	-		21,000	
Boat Maintenance & Fuel	2,871		3,683	
Equipment	6,260		1,153	
Medical Equipment	1,571		-	
Insurance	5,981		6,791	
Training	-		50	
Subscriptions	443		357	
Stationery	252		-	
Sundry	758		286	
Sessional Work	700		-	
Fundraising	480		-	
Capital Repayment	2,000		-	
		-----		-----
Total Payments		21,316		33,320
		-----		-----
Net Receipts		1,608		(12,845)
Cash at Bank and in hand brought forward		6,998		19,843
		-----		-----
Cash at Bank and in hand carried forward		8,606		6,998
		=====		=====

Net Movement of Funds 2024

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
Opening Balance	0	6,998	6,998
Income	8,292	14,632	22,924
Expenses	(5,949)	(15,367)	(21,316)
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Closing Balance	2,343	6,263	8,606
	=====	=====	=====

MERSEYSIDE WATER RESCUE**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2024**

Net Movement of Funds 2023

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total
Opening Balance	14,875	4,968	19,843
Income	12,620	7,855	20,475
Expenses	(27,495)	(5,825)	(33,320)
	-----	-----	-----
Closing Balance	0	6,998	6,998
	=====	=====	=====

Restricted Funds Received 2024

DHSC (Suicide Prevention Fund	5,329
WLC PSS	600
Skelton Bounty	563
Community Foundation	1,000
Warburtons	400
Private Individual	400

	8,292
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Restricted Funds Received 2023

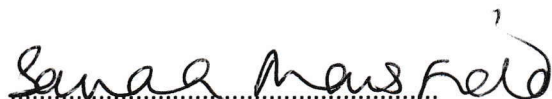
Merseyside Police	4,261
Just Giving	99
Cheshire Police	260
Community Foundation	2,000
Foyle Foundation	4,000
Albert Hunt Foundation	2,000

	12,620
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MERSEYSIDE WATER RESCUE**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST JULY 2024**

	31 st July 2024		31 st July 2023	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Rescue Boat 1		4,903		5,191
Rescue Boat 2		3,783		4,017
Narrow Boat		19,250		20,125
		-----		-----
		27,936		29,333
Monetary Assets				
Cash at Bank	8,606		6,998	
Liabilities				
Trustee Loan	(3,212)		(5,212)	
Net Current Assets		5,394		1,486
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		33,330		30,819
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Approved by Trustees on.....28.05.25.....



Sarah Mansfield, Trustee



Ian Milburn, Trustee

Date.....28/05/25.....

Date.....28/5/25.....