



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From		Period start date			To	Period end date		
		Day 19	Month 11	Year 2020		Day 31	Month 12	Year 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Merseyside County RAYNET
Other names charity is known by	Merseyside RAYNET
Registered charity number (if any)	1192411
Charity's principal address	90 Plymyard Ave Bromborough Wirral Postcode CH62 6BR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mr R J Welch	Chairperson	10/12/2020 - 31/12/2020	
2	Mr L J T Boylan	Treasurer	10/12/2020 - 31/12/2020	
3	Mr S A Wood	Secretary	10/12/2020 - 31/12/2020	

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution 19 November 2020.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Association

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting held in April.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Merseyside County RAYNET is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees and was first Registered on 19 November 2020.

The **day to day running** of Merseyside RAYNET is overseen by the Merseyside County RAYNET Committee and the Committee seeks the views of all RAYNET members on Merseyside. Full Membership of the Committee is at the discretion of the Committee and is open to persons aged 18 or over, having demonstrable interest in furtherance of the Committee's objects.

Merseyside RAYNET is a member of the Merseyside Local Authorities' Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Telecoms Working Party, and the LRF Voluntary and Faith Sector Forum (V&FSF), through which we plan and coordinate our **services**. RAYNET can also be called upon at any time by any of the emergency services and is an integral part of the Merseyside Resilience Forum UNITY Plan.

RAYNET members are registered members of RAYNET-UK and are subject to RAYNET-UK codes of conduct. RAYNET-UK also provides members insurance cover for Public Liability and Personal Accident.

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Group are the protection of human life and property for the public benefit, by providing an additional source of communications for emergencies or disasters or the prevention thereof.

We provide a freely accessible Merseyside wide communication system for civil emergencies, search and rescue, and community events.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In planning our **activities** for the year we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Our main purposes and activities are as follows:

(i) To assist organisations that provide activities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving conditions of life, health and wellbeing, and public safety; by supplementing existing communications or providing alternative forms of communications.

(ii) To assist the Local Authorities' Resilience Forum, the emergency services, and other organisations involved in rescue services and in protecting human life and property in the event of a local or national emergency, or public event, by supplementing existing communications or providing alternative forms of communications.

(iii) To provide: (a) a team of trained and equipped volunteers/radio operators to undertake the purposes of Merseyside RAYNET; (b) a Merseyside wide PBR Repeater system, and flexible communication facilities, to undertake the purposes of Merseyside RAYNET.

(iv) To promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Merseyside County RAYNET Committee.

<u>The direct benefits flowing from our organisation's purposes are:</u> The particular relevance of our role where the communications of the frontline emergency services, and the public, have become compromised such as for instance at major events or emergencies when the mobile phone network fails and/or becomes overloaded. An improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of charities, and organisations whose purposes are charitable, in direct pursuit of their objects by the provision of resilient communications and ancillary services. Event organisers that do not have their own communications expertise or equipment are able to ensure public safety and security at their activities in a flexible, cost effective, and sympathetic way. The direct public benefit that flows from our purposes (i) and (ii) is the increased efficiency and effectiveness of the community and voluntary groups and organisations that use the facilities, resulting in enhanced outcomes and service delivery, and consequently, improved quality of life for those who benefit from the work of these groups and organisations. Some of the organisations would be unable to operate their activities, or activities on such a scale, without our support. Therefore an indirect public benefit is increased opportunities to engage in new activities that bring people together, leading to greater social cohesion and fulfilment, enhanced active citizenship, and involvement in community life. A direct public benefit from our involvement in supporting the Local Authorities' Resilience Forum, the emergency services, and other organisations involved in rescue services and protecting human life and property is that the additional capacity, the interoperability our systems offer, and the resilience of our systems enhance the effectiveness of the emergency response and can help provide a more beneficial outcome for members of the community affected. Some of the voluntary emergency responders benefit from relying on our communication systems, either entirely, or as a supplementary resource. <u>Specifically:</u> Purpose (iii): A direct benefit is that the lead organisation for a community event, and the emergency services in the event of a local emergency, can delegate less urgent/routine activities allowing more of their resources to be deployed to front line more urgent tasks. Purpose (iv): Many of the events we support raise money for specific charities and over the years we have helped to raise millions of pounds for good causes. Even with the exceptionally reduced number of events in 2021 due to COVID we have helped raise over £60,000.	
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Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

All trustees, other members of the Committee, and RAYNET members, give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Throughout 2020 and 2021 our MEARL Community Repeater system continued to provide 24/7 full operation communications facilities for Merseyside Search and Rescue as well as standby communications for: St John Ambulance Merseyside; the local authorities; and the voluntary organisations involved in the Merseyside Resilience Forum UNITY Plan.

The MEARL System was remotely monitored and operationally tested several times a week throughout 2020 and 2021 to ensure 24/7/365 readiness, and members own equipment was maintained at Standby Status Green - ready to go, charged and readily accessible.

All the major community events that we were due to provide communications for were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and only six ran in 2021 - either as virtual events or with reduced numbers resulting in only four events requiring our support during the year. However related virtual development activities were undertaken by ourselves in both years.

Our virtual interactive GOOGLE map continued to be developed/updated covering all regular events and the location information is in the process of being updated to include What 3 Words as this has now been adopted by the North West Ambulance Service call centres.

Our original 2020 COVID Preparedness Statement, and revised Risk Assessment, were again updated in 2021 as circumstances changed. The scheduled physical quarterly Merseyside County RAYNET Committee meetings continued to be replaced with virtual meetings in 2021 and were again augmented with monthly intermediate meetings.

Training exercises with our MRF partners in preparation for emergencies had been put on hold by the Merseyside Resilience Forum during 2020/2021 due to pressures from COVID. However during 2021 we were able to use two of the community events that we supported to gain increased skills and knowledge deploying our portable repeater in difficult terrain with poor to non-existent mobile phone coverage - as might be required during a Search and Rescue Operation. We also designed and undertook a major two part interactive "*learning from home*" virtual exercise in which all our members could participate at their own pace between January and April 2021. This was designed to present a basic introduction to the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) via an imaginary Major Incident drawing on elements of both: the MRF 2018 COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Exercise scenario, and the Exercise UNITY Phase 3 inter agency Desktop Exercise discussions that we took part in in 2019.

Towards the end of the year work was started on an improved Welcome Pack/Experience for new members and the development of a fund raising appeal to replace our 32 year old Mobile Control Vehicle before it becomes too expensive to maintain, or reaches the end of its useful life.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Cash at the bank at 31/12/2021 was £2791 in unrestricted funds. The main financial risk to the charity is loss of funding from the Local Authorities and reduced donations.

Sufficient funds are held to cover each 12 month operational programme costs in the event of a loss of income and to meet any unforeseen expenditure that may occur.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal sources of funds this year have been the regular annual grant of £1575 from the Merseyside Local Authorities. Income from the usual community and charitable events that we provide services for has been reduced due to COVID restrictions causing events to be cancelled or run virtually and not requiring our services. However expenditure was proportionally less, and some income owed from previous years was received, resulting in the cash reserves being up at the financial year end compared with the previous year end.

The major expenditure this year has been the upkeep of the Mobile Control Vehicle and our OFCOM area wide repeater radio licence.

Section F

Other optional information

Future Plans

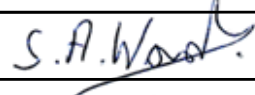
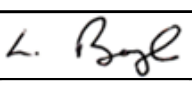
The provision of loan handsets, and a supervised mobile event repeater system, will be developed further next year to meet our clients' changing expectations and requirements. In particular feedback from event organisers has shown that provision of "one to all" radio communications for the event staff and volunteers has proved far more effective than their previous reliance on mobile phones. At the same time we are reviewing our own communication channels used to provide the organisers with situation awareness, safety reports, and a back-up system during the event. Closer liaison is planned with Merseyside Search and Rescue and other emergency agencies regarding increasing interoperability. Our provision in local authority key premises will be reviewed and augmented in the light of the proposed forthcoming replacement of Airwave with the ESN. We intend to develop closer relationships with local Amateur Radio Clubs with the aim of increasing recruitment of new members.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Stanley Alexander Wood	Lee James Thomas Boylan
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Treasurer
Date	14/04/2022	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Merseyside County RAYNET

No (if any)
1192411

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
19/11/2020

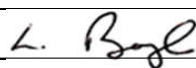
To

Period end date
31/12/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Events	200	-	-	200	100
Grants	1,575	-	-	1,575	1,575
From Groups to County	420	-	-	420	-
Misc Income	8	-	-	8	4
Donation Ref FT8900 St Helens	-	-	-	-	250
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	2,203	-	-	2,203	1,929
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,203	-	-	2,203	1,929
A3 Payments					
2020 Vehicle Insurance, Tax, MOT	966	-	-	966	-
MCV Running Costs	415	-	-	415	616
OFCOM Licence	250	-	-	250	250
Fitting out of LA EVX5300 Kit Part 1	195	-	-	195	-
Insurance	633	-	-	633	553
2021 Bank Charges - Total for 2021	6	-	-	6	40
Misc Expenditure	13	-	-	13	158
Fitting out of LA EVX5300 Kit Part 2	-	-	-	-	546
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,478	-	-	2,478	2,163
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,478	-	-	2,478	2,163
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 276	-	-	- 276	- 234
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,066	-	-	3,066	-
Cash funds this year end	2,791	-	-	2,791	234

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Balance	2,791	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,791	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	n/a	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	n/a		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Mobile Control Vehicle and its equipment	Unrestricted	-	2,085
	Two MEARL Systems	Unrestricted	-	590
	Two EVX5300 Transceivers	Unrestricted	-	280
	23 x Vertex EVX531	Unrestricted	-	2,461
			-	
			-	
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	n/a		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Lee James Thomas Boylan	14/04/2022	