



Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2023

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Reference and Administration

Charity Name:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team

Other Names Charity Is Known By:

NDSART; NDSRT

Charity Number:

1200541

Report for Period:

1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Charity's Principal Address:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, Unit 3 Hameldown Road, Exeter Road
Industrial Estate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1UB

Trustees Who Managed The Charity In The Period 1st Jan 2023 To 31st December 2023

Our financial year is between two Annual General Meeting (AGM) periods, this results in multiple sets of Trustees, within one financial year.

All Trustees were appointed by vote at EGM July 2023; AGM March 2023.

Set/ Trustee No.	Trustee Name	Office	Dates of Acting
1/1	Gavin Grimsey	Chair	05.07.22 to 28.03.2023
1/2	Catherine Davis	Secretary	05.07.22 to 28.03.2023
1/3	Ian Perrior	Treasurer	05.07.22 to 28.03.2023
1/5	Cathy Horwell	Training Officer	05.07.22 to 28.03.2023
1/6	Mick Burke	Equipment Officer	05.07.22 to 28.03.2023
1/7	Chris Clarke	Trustee (Welfare)	05.07.22 to 28.03.2023
1/8	Martin Thornton	Team Leader	05.07.22 to 05.09.2022

2/1	Catherine Davis	Chair	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/2	Harry Price	Secretary	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/3	David Stoneman	Team Leader	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/4	Ian Perrior	Treasurer	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/5	Cathy Horwell	Training Officer	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/6	Mick Burke	Equipment Officer	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/7	David Goodwin-Hughes	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/8	Chris Clarke	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/9	Mark Nesbitt	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/10	Natalie Gee	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24
2/11	Craig Brooks	Trustee WP	28.03.23 to 19.03.24

WP – Without Portfolio

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 1UB

www.ndsart.org.uk | Registered Charity Number 1200541

Structure, Governance, Management and Association

Type of governing document:

Constitution

How the charity is constituted:

Association

Trustee selection method:

Elected by members at the Annual General Meeting

Associations:

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is formed in association with Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Ashburton), Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Plymouth) and Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock) under the auspices of the Dartmoor Rescue Group. All five organisations are charities in their own right.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is affiliated to Peninsular Mountain and Cave Rescue Association (PenMaCRA) and Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW).

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards, within moorland areas and urban environments; to provide arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any person or persons who are endangered; and to encourage moorland safety instruction and awareness through all sections of the community.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is a Mountain Rescue Team based in Okehampton, the gateway to the high moor of Dartmoor National Park. Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Okehampton) has been active for over 50 years and is responsible for the search and rescue of missing and injured persons in and around the moor.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is a charity run by volunteers and funded mainly by public donations and grants. Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Okehampton) provides a rescue service to areas other agencies cannot normally cover; in conditions they do not normally operate within. Our volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is mobilised by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary following a 999 call. We respond immediately, day or night and in all weathers and events.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team is one of four teams that comprises the Dartmoor Rescue Group. Our base, in Okehampton, is ideally situated for access to the North of Dartmoor which contains the highest area of wilderness land, in Southern England. The high point is *High Willhays*, at 621 metres above sea level.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team does much more than coming to the aid of hill walkers lost or in difficulty on Dartmoor. We also search in lowland, rural, and urban areas of Devon, Somerset and Cornwall for other missing people including the elderly, lost children, and despondent people.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team work alongside other full-time emergency services such as the Police, Ambulance, Fire & Rescue services, and Coast Guard Agencies. On average it takes between 12 and 18 months of training for a trainee member to become a full, operational, member.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 1UB

In order to remain operationally ready, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team train frequently, at least weekly. Training focuses on many aspects of search and rescue - including navigation, casualty care, radio communication, search techniques, swift water rescue, and steep ground rescue. Team members come from all walks of life including teachers, retail workers, accountants, engineers, farmers, and Doctors. Each brings their own unique skills and abilities to enhance North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team's capability.

In recent years, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team have developed a water and flood rescue capability, in response to an increase in flooding nationally. The end of 2022 saw the start of the development in our technical rope rescue capabilities and ensuring Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Okehampton) have the capabilities to operate safely both in steep ground and vertical rescues.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team currently operates three vehicles: two 110 Land Rover Defenders capable of carrying and conveying team members and equipment to anywhere they're needed. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team also currently operates a Mercedes Sprinter (Van) (Incident Control Unit, ICU) used to manage searches and rescues from a RV point, from which team members deploy.

Community Support

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team continues to be a key part of the local community and a growing message and support for those around us have been the major themes for us as a team throughout 2023 and will be a continued theme into 2024.

Providing safety cover or marshalling for events like town carnivals, sponsored walks, fell runs, car parking and beating of the bounds. As well as educational talks and presentations to all ages of the community with; Army, Air and Sea Cadets, Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups, Schools and Women's Institute visiting our centre or Team members attending afternoon and evening sessions to demonstrate our first aid equipment, Search Dogs demos, presentations and sharing advice and tips for out on the hill or wider countryside.

A regular highlight in North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team's calendar is the annual Ten Tors Challenge run by the British Army. We as a Team continue to support the UK's

largest Youth engagement program and provide safety cover and rapid medical response for more than two and half thousand participants.

The Ten Tors Challenge continues to be an inspiration and makes us all very proud to be part of this inspiring challenge. As we witness the determination and team spirit of the young adults who partake in the event and overcome the challenges associated with the event.

We continue to provide support for those beyond our immediate local community. Providing support for those across Devon and Cornwall - supporting our neighbouring teams with callouts to North Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. 2024 has seen North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team callout numbers grow and the call to support those beyond our area increasing too.

Achievements and Performance

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team had 34 callouts in the 2023 financial period. Callouts ranged from missing and/or despondent person searches to ambulance assists and attending major incidents. This involved searching for missing children, those with mental health needs and more complex medical conditions.

Callouts were located from Exmouth to Plymouth to Ilfracombe, covering a vast area of the South-West of England. Our Dog Handler's callouts ranged even further, covering the Southwest Peninsula.

Team members were involved in Callouts, training and fundraising events totalling 7634 volunteer hours.

Fundraising for our new Incident Control Unit (ICU) started in 2022 with a strong urgency to have the vehicle fundraised, purchased, and retrofitted. Many team members and trainees made massive efforts to raising funds for the ICU. Work was finally completed in September 2023 with a launch event attended by donors, suppliers team members, press and the public. The vehicle was fully operational from this time.

Members continue to enhance their training attending numerous courses. The team has new party leaders who manage individual search teams. Four members attended a 3 day intensive course to qualify as search managers enabling them to co-ordinate a search operation.

Financial Review

Income

Total Income: £80568

Expenditure

Total Expenditure: £70915

Chair's Report

This year, North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team has had a dual focus: The team has, as usual, prioritised enabling its unpaid volunteers to deliver a professional emergency service to the community, both on and off Dartmoor. In addition to this, the charity has virtually completed the process of establishing a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to take on the management of the team as well as transferring assets and responsibilities to the new organisation.

The team has maintained a healthy level of recruitment with a new intake of trainees progressing through their training. Specialist training for members in Advanced first aid, Rope Rescue, Swift Water Rescue and 4x4 driving has been delivered, along with core skills around navigation, communication, search, mental health, as well as working with search dogs and helicopters.

The team has provided support to injured and missing people across Devon and beyond, and has served the community at events, carnivals, races and shows. The team has also provided 'show and tell' sessions for local schools and community groups.

Meanwhile the team's trustees have continued updating and improving process, procedures and record keeping, and have commissioned new equipment most notably the new Incident Control Unit vehicle. The team is in a good position to look forward to its future.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approve the *Trustees' Annual Report*, for financial year 2023, as shown above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

James Watts

Team Chair



Harry George Price

Team Secretary



Date: 31 October 2024

End Of Year Report 2023

Statement of Accounts

NORTH DARTMOOR SEARCH & RESCUE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Donations	27,057.55	Building	9,045.53
Grants	2,800.00	Vehicles	4,929.62
Collecting Boxes	1,562.51	Operational	19,806.94
Fundraising	2,145.88	Administration	1,076.18
Sales to members	352.00	Sales to members	391.60
VAT refund	21,351.15	Training	3,760.00
Call out refunds	3,219.90	Fundraising	1,054.57
Collections	5,699.92	Project (vehicles)	30,850.80
Interest	364.36		
Other (kit)	949.81		
Kit Account interest	37.26		
COIF Account interest	2,404.51		
Project account interest	123.96		
Project (Donations)	12,500.00		
	<u>£ 80,568.81</u>		<u>70,915.24</u>
NET SURPLUS / LOSS			9,653.57
	BALANCES		
	31.12.2022		31.12.2023
NatWest Current A/C	44,880.51		43,537.17
NatWest Project A/C	14,180.69		2,453.85
NatWest Kit A/C	2,794.38		3,781.45
C.O.I.F.	71,896.96		94,301.47
	<u>133,752.54</u>		
	<u>£ 133,752.54</u>		<u>£ 144,073.94</u>
OTHER ASSETS			
Centre	280,000.00		
Landrover T522 RYA	6,500.00		
Landrover L582 LES	4,000.00		
Control Van WA72UPD	40,000.00		
	<u>£ 330,500.00</u>		

Prepared by Ian PerriOr
Treasurer



Date 27.1.2024

Examined and approved
By Penny Clapham



Date 14/2/2024


North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team , Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 1UB

Independent Examiners Report (IER)

For Period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023



Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A		Independent Examiner's Report	
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity Name NORTH DARTMOOR SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM		
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/23	Charity no (if any)	1200541
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act), as amended by s.28 of the Charities Act 2006) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act, as amended); • to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, as amended); and • to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. 		
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.		
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and • accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. <p>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>		
Signed		Date	14/2/2024
Name	PENELOPE CLAPHAM BA(HONS)		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)	RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL		
Address	PENTON CHAPEL CHRISTOW EXETER EX6 7NP		

IER

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April 2007

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team, Unit 3, Hameldown Road, Okehampton,
Devon, EX20 1UB

