



Annual Report 2024

Summary of the Year's Achievements

- Free holidays were provided in 2024 for 51 disadvantaged local children
- Match funding was successfully used for the first time
- Increase in donation receipts helps offset cost of living increase
- Induction completed for more new staff

Administration of the Charity

CHAOS was started in 1976 by 3 school friends after graduating from high school in East London. The fate of children from poverty-stricken backgrounds jarred sharply with their own good fortune in having responsible, working-class parents, and struck them as unjust. So they decided to do something to help bring about change and started arranging their first summer camp.

CHAOS is managed by a committee of trustees, and holds general meetings, presided over by a Chairperson. Finances are managed by the Treasurer in accordance with best practice, and an external auditor audits its accounts. Specialist teams managed by elected trustees co-ordinate liaison with agencies such as schools and family welfare units. It is mandatory for all CHAOS staff working directly with children on summer camps to lodge an enhanced DBS check with the Welfare Officer and to attend safeguarding training prior to engaging in each year's camp.

Staffing and Recruitment

Involvement in CHAOS is considered a great way for young adults to understand the needs of those less fortunate and a great first step to careers involving children. The charity is especially keen to welcome back past beneficiaries of camping holidays to volunteer as staff members and encourages their participation in all its activities. CHAOS membership is open to all who share in its ideals and want to play an active part in achieving them. Members volunteer time and energy on a purely voluntary basis, often on top of work, family and study commitments. We are grateful for the many hours volunteers spend in fundraising or organising and running the summer camps.

Finances

CHAOS is run with limited financial resources, yet still has ambitious aims to support the needs of the local community. We remain cautiously optimistic about our own fundraising events in today's climate, and are pleased to be favoured with donations from private individuals, and income from crowd funding and trust funds. This helped us achieve our goal of running 2 well-structured, action-packed camps. Our fundraising is also important to inform the public of the charity's aims within the community. In addition to holiday expenses, there was a requirement to fund external storage as the garage we use has substantial leaks and therefore unsuitable.

Child Referrals

The number of camping places on offer was oversubscribed once more this year but a substantial increase was not possible with the funding available, partly due to huge cost of living increases. Our Referrals Team received applications from the boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. All referring agencies completed a written application for every child. This allowed our camp coordinators to ensure each child's suitability and conduct a risk assessment prior to each camp. Sadly, there were a small number of no-shows on the day.

Summer Camps

Two camps were run at our usual site in East Runton, near Cromer, providing holidays for a total of 51 children. We arranged a wide range of activities for the children in our care, both on and off site. Some activities were designed to develop their interaction with their peers (e.g. team games). We also incorporated a range of sporting activities including football, dodgeball and cricket, making good use of the great sandy beaches of the North Norfolk coast.

Craft activities, such as beads, drawing and painting, were arranged to satisfy and encourage the children's creative aspirations. No camp is complete without a campfire, complete with songs, jokes, and hot chocolate and biscuits. In addition to the cultural values it explores, it's a great way for kids to let off steam by making lots of noise, sometimes to the regret of the local farmer!

UK weather can sometimes throw unseasonal challenges and in preparation for the camps, spare clothes, towels and sleeping bags had been washed, and gaz, batteries, and replacement torches purchased. We do our best to improve our environmental credentials by reducing our reliance on gaz by making use of solar lighting.

Week 1

On this week, we took 28 children, aged 10 to 11. The atmosphere on the camp was fun, supportive and nurturing, and children quickly settled in and looked after each other, sleeping outside in tents, many for the first time. The staff were thrilled to see them all learning to work together, whilst making the most of the many new activities, from going out on a boat to see seals in the wild, to spending a day at a theme park, where all of them made the most of the rare opportunity and pushed themselves to go on rides they found challenging – whether that was a huge rollercoaster or simply riding the horses on the carousel!

They had a busy week, and successful fundraising meant we were able to give them a varied holiday, including swimming, time at the beach and paddling in the sea, as well as a trip to the circus. Of course, it would not be a CHAOS camp without campfires, hot chocolate and camp songs. Listening to kids and staff share their 'best bits of the day' before bedtime quickly became a highlight. Topics mentioned were the opportunity to make new friends, the activities, the food and the chance to be away from the city. We also heard a lot from them about how they were learning to face their fears and be more confident in social groups, and how much they enjoyed the safe environment with a focus on having fun and supporting each other. Combining all that with a lot of jokes and smiles made it a fantastic holiday for all the kids, and the staff too!

Week 2

Arriving at a sun-soaked farmer's field, children were introduced to their new home for the week, setting up their sleeping bags, luggage, roll mats and exploring our surroundings.

We hoped to have 26 children camping, and it was disappointing that 3 dropped out on the day of departure, denying other deserving children the opportunity to take part. Whilst we try to have some 'reserve' children lined up in case of absentees, they had already been called in due to sickness of another earlier dropout.

An action packed week followed for all - multiple beach trips where epic sand-cities were built, nature walks through our local forest and fields where sweet berries were picked and campfires beneath the stars where songs were sung.

Activities were enjoyed on site every morning: rounders, dodgeball, card games, football, badminton, arts & crafts. Afternoons were spent exploring Norfolk: Circus trip, wildlife park, bowling, and trampoline park. We even enjoyed keeping our tents tidy, learning about how they work and some good old washing up en masse after a nice home cooked dinner!

Our staff team benefitted from 4 new volunteers who enjoyed their first camp. The camping experience was also enriched by having the first hand knowledge and understanding of 4 staff, who had camped with CHAOS as children when they were younger.

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting the Accounts of CHAOS (registered charity number 281609) for the year ending 30th September 2024

Approved on 3rd February 2025

Approved by:

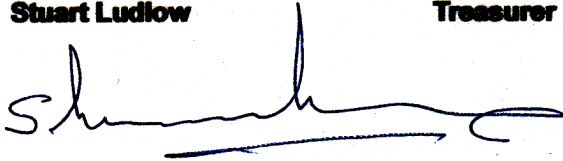
Jack Bacon

Chair

J. Bacon

Stuart Ludlow

Treasurer



Becky Duffield

Secretary

B. Duffield

Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ending 30th September 2024

	2024	2023
Grants	15000	5000
Crowdfunding	9176	11793
Fundraising receipts	0	40
Donations received	7984	5161
Gift Aid	1382	3052
Insurance Claim	<u>1,564</u>	<u>0</u>
	35106	25,046
Less Expenditure:		
Holiday expenses	22,591	22,886
Fundraising costs	0	0
Insurance	830	736
Storage of equipment	2,762	367
Sundry expenses	108	198
Accountancy	0	0
Postage & Packaging	0	0
Tents & Camping Equipment	1321	2,312
	27,612	26,499
	<u>7,494</u>	<u>(1,453)</u>

Balance sheet as at 30th September 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets		
Prepayments	0	0
Cash at Bank	7,697	82
Cash in Hand	243	364
	<u>7,940</u>	<u>446</u>
Creditors falling due within one year		
Interest free loan	0	0
Sundry Creditors	0	0
Accruals	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Represented by:

General Fund	2024 £	2023 £
Balance / (Deficit) brought forward	446	1,899
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	7,494	(1,453)
	<u>7,940</u>	<u>446</u>

Notes to the accounts

Donations and surpluses include £3150 received after the camps but before the end of the financial year.

Audit of CHAOS Accounts for Year Ending 30th Sept 2024

Registered Charity No 281609

This is to certify that an independent scrutiny of the charity's accounts has been carried out at the end of its financial period. This covered all receipts and expenditure made by the charity, including its major expense, the running of its annual summer camps.

No irregularities were found. I have no active role within the charity at the present time, although I was involved in its early camps during the 1970s.

The Accounts were prepared solely by me, as in previous years, and presented to the charity's Treasurer, Mr Stuart Ludlow.



Chris Inch
19th December 2024