

Mountain Rescue England and Wales

# Annual Review 2019



Published May 2019





# Foreword HRH The Duke of Cambridge



Top: HRH The Duke of Cambridge © Chris Jackson. Main photo: Joint exercise involving team members of Buxton and Derby MRTs © Buxton MRT



2018 has been another busy year for MREW with continued demands upon the service, both in terms of equipment and resourcing and on the mental wellbeing of its committed volunteers.

Over the last twelve months, volunteer rescuers have benefited from the addition of new vehicles to their fleet and have invested a huge amount of time and resources into driver training, specialist equipment and casualty care expertise – all together improving the high quality of service provided by rescue teams at times of need.

Last autumn, I attended the UK's Search and Rescue conference to find out more about the invaluable work the emergency services are doing to promote and support wellbeing and mental health among rescuers. This is an issue about which I care deeply and I am delighted that MREW is one of many representatives of the first responder community working together with the Royal Foundation to tackle this complex but critical issue.

Once again this year, I offer my personal thanks as Patron to everyone involved in mountain rescue's tremendous work.

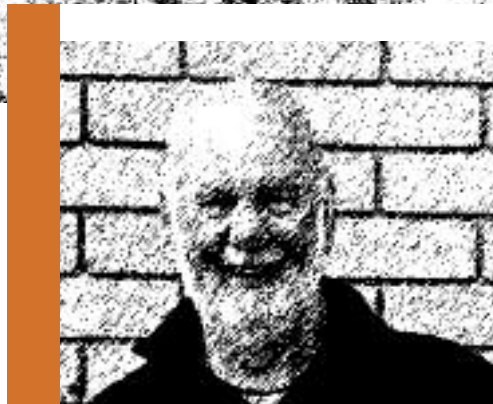
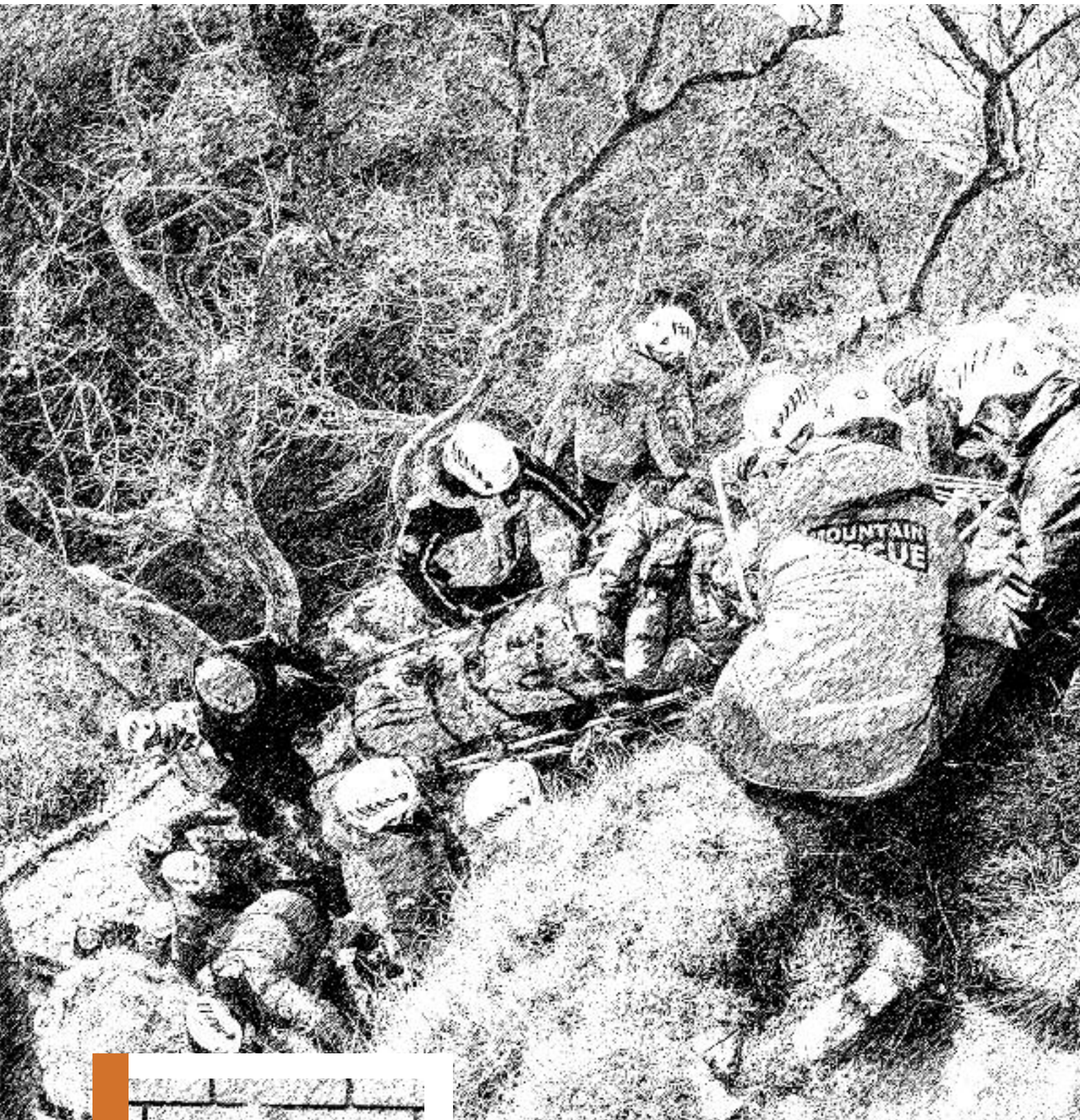
Bu 2018 yn flwyddyn brysur arall ar gyfer Achub Mynydd Cymru a Lloegr (MREW) gyda phwysau parhaus ar y gwasanaeth, o ran offer ac adnoddau ac o ran lles meddwl ei wirfoddolwyr ymroddgar.

Dros y deuddeng mis diwethaf, mae achubwyr gwirfoddol wedi cael budd o ychwanegiad cerbydau newydd i'w fflyd ac wedi buddsoddi oriau ac adnoddau lawer mewn hyfforddi gyrwyr, mewn offer arbenigol ac mewn medrau gofalu am anafusion – y rhain i gyd gyda'i gilydd yn gwella ansawdd uchel y gwasanaeth a roddir gan dimau achub pan fo ei angen.

Yr hydref diwethaf, bŵm yng nghynhadledd Chwilio ac Achub y Deyrnas Unedig er mwyn darganfod rhagor am waith amhrisiadwy'r gwasanaethau brys er mwyn hybu a chefnogi lles ac iechyd meddwl achubwyr. Dyma fater sy'n agos iawn at fy nghalon ac 'rwyf wrth fy modd bod MREW yn un o lawer o gynrychiolwyr cymuned yr ymatebwyr cyntaf sy'n cyd-weithio gyda'r Sefydliad Brenhinol i fynd i'r afael â'r mater cymhleth ond difrifol hwn.

Unwaith eto eleni, cynigïaf fy niolchiadau personol fel Noddwr i bawb sy'n ymwneud â gwaith rhagorol y gwasanaeth achub mynydd.





Chairman  
Mike France

Many people of all ages spend time volunteering, helping all sorts of organisations every day. I am convinced we would not provide the many services we do in the UK without volunteers. Most of this is 'arranged volunteering' so people know what time they are going to give after work or on a weekend, in their time off.

But when we come to volunteering for mountain rescue, it's not just about the highly-trained guys and girls that go up the fellside, it's also about the volunteers who perhaps drive vehicles and run bases during call-outs. They all do this not knowing how many hours they're going to give on that call-out, or how many hours they may give that week.

We do this volunteering walking a fine line not to upset partners, employers and our kids. So, as chairman of Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW), I'd like to personally thank all our members for the massive commitment they make. And can I also thank our partners and children — for being patient when we're not at the family event when we should be — and all the employers that let our members, your staff, keep leaving work to help strangers, people we've never seen before who need help?

Without this support for what we do, we wouldn't have the special, free service we have. The mountains and moorlands would be a much more dangerous place without mountain rescue volunteers going to the aid of those strangers in need.

While I'm thanking people, a special thanks to all our officers, national and regional, for the unseen work they do. They travel around the UK, representing MREW at all manner of meetings, taking actions to make this organisation more professional and develop the high standards of training to ensure that, if anyone should ever need the help of mountain rescue, they get the best service available anywhere. And the work they do is frequently on top of team and regional commitments.

Reading our incident report from last year, teams continue to get busier. We are working with other organisations to help reduce the number of unnecessary calls. We get many where, with a little



planning, mountain rescue assistance might not have been necessary. People need to remember that every time they make that call for help, team members leave a partner or leave work to go help them. We're not telling people to stop calling us if they need our help — they must, we are there for them — but behind every '999' call there are consequences for someone, somewhere. We volunteer to help people in distress and we do it because we are climbers, mountaineers and fell walkers ourselves. All we ask is for a little planning before setting off.

To provide this fantastic service takes funding, so thanks to all of you who help teams by putting that pound in their collecting box. It all helps. And thanks too, to the many organisations that give directly to MREW. Your donations make a difference.

I am pleased to report in this annual review that Mountain Rescue England and Wales is doing well. I am proud to be the national chairman and part of an organisation that puts others first.

Opposite (and cover): Upper Wharfedale FRA in training at Buckden Gill © Sara Spillelt. Above: Northumberland National Park MRT on technical rope rescue training with Lyon Equipment © NNP MRT.

2018  
in brief

**2538**  
call-outs

FROM **33**  
statutory  
agencies

OF WHICH  
**2214**  
RESULTED IN  
a mountain  
rescue team  
deployment

**1949+**  
people  
assisted

**4** DAYS

without a mountain  
rescue call-out in  
England and Wales





# The voyage

Since November 2017, team members around England and Wales have been putting the Land Rover Discovery 5 to the test. So far, we've had two consecutive vehicles to try out, with a third one now in build. The idea is that as many team members as possible get to test out the vehicle's capabilities and teams have certainly made the most of this unique and generous opportunity.

DISCOVERY 5 ON LOAN

**16,000.5+**  
**miles**  
TRAVELLED  
**30 teams**  
from around  
England + Wales



Thanks to the peculiarities of each team's operational 'patch', the Discovery has been put to the test in a variety of terrain: up and down rough mountain tracks and water courses, negotiating country lanes and cruising the motorways, over heathered moorland (and burned-out moorland too, in the Peak District and Lancashire), into show caves and quarries, and breathing in the seaside air. Through rain, fog, sleet and snow — and the odd bit of sunshine too.

The vehicle has been well and truly put through its paces — with critical appraisal at every stop along the way — on and off-road, for incidents and training, and drafted in as eye-candy

(and a great conversation-starter) for team and national fundraising events. It's even travelled over the border to Aviemore, in Scotland, for a spot of winter training. Although, thanks to the Beast from the East (and other storms), there was plenty of opportunity to test its mettle in a snowy England and Wales too.

It was originally expected that this state-of-the-art Land Rover would end its 'incredible mountain rescue journey' in November 2018, but the adventure continues.

So far, the two consecutive Land Rovers between them have clocked up in excess of 16,000 miles, zigzagging up and down, back and forth, across the

two countries, with 29 of the 48 mountain rescue teams and one cave rescue team taking up the offer to test.

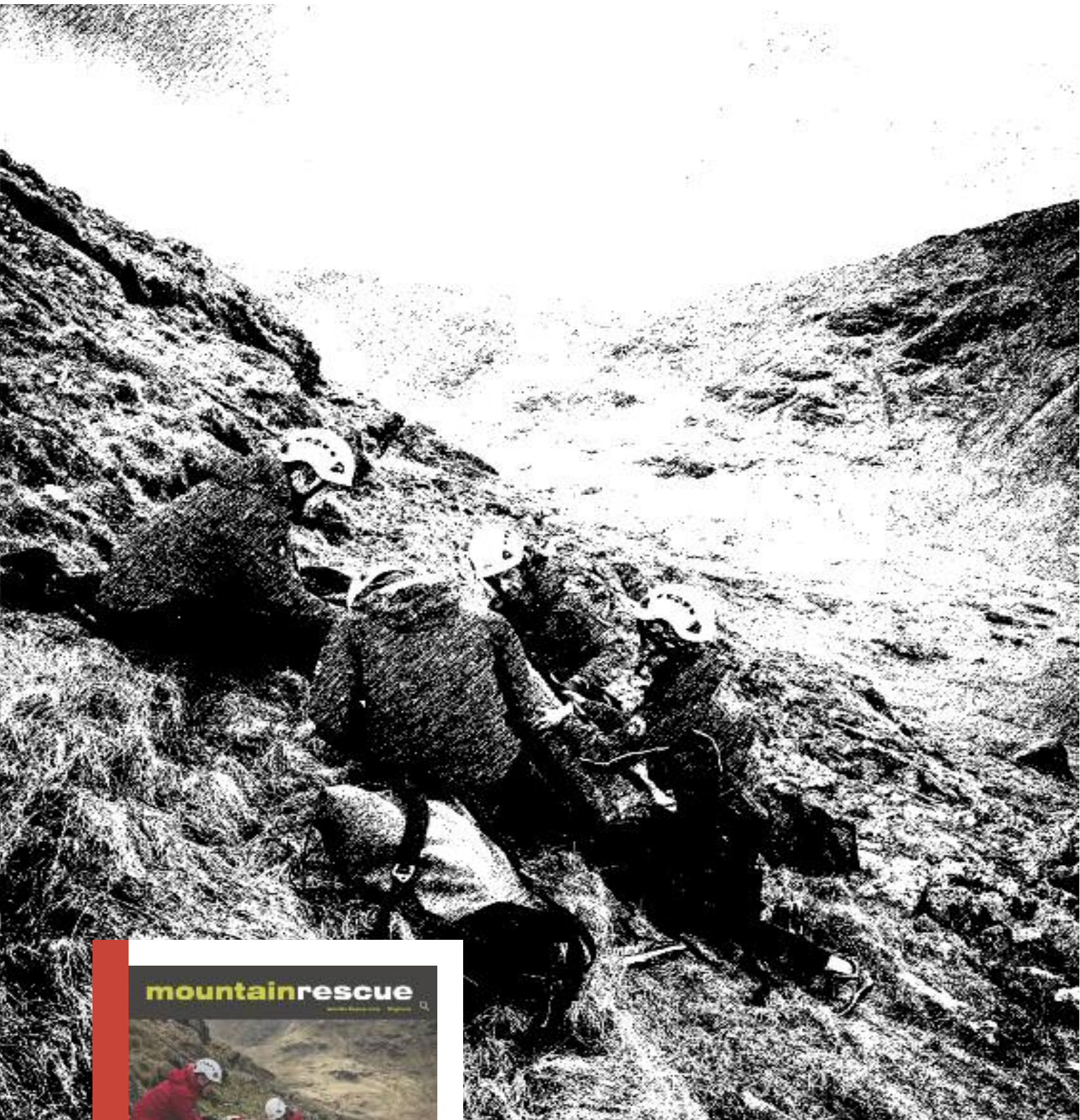
This calibre of vehicle may well be outside most, if not all, team budgets, but at least we can dream. And with the third vehicle now in build, it's hoped more team members yet will experience the Discovery 5 for themselves.

'We continue to owe a huge thanks to the Duke of Cambridge, who first mooted the idea with Jaguar Land Rover,' says Simon Thresher, MREW vehicle officer. 'And, of course, Jaguar Land Rover and Lorraine Rogers (Director, Royal and Diplomatic Affairs), without whom none of this could happen'.

# of discovery continues

Opposite: In Darwen, Lancashire © Bolton MRT. Inset: Mullion Cove Coastal Retreat © Cornwall MRT. Above left: Lizard Point, Cornwall © Cornwall MRT. Above right: Loftend Quarry © Glossop MRT.





# Welcome to our blog

In June 2018, we launched our blog – a bit late to the online party, maybe, but better late than never. So why not fill up the flask, break out the flapjack and spend a little time in our company? The idea is to entertain and occasionally amuse – and, every once in a while, tell people something they didn't already know about mountain rescue.

It's always worth repeating, of course, that team members are volunteers, on call 24/7, 365 days of the year, but the blog is more about diving into the stories and opinions behind the news, both current and historical, a chattier way of presenting stuff than with regular press releases.

And it's also about busting a few myths. Like the idea that mountain rescue team members spend their days and nights kicking their heels at mountain rescue bases, tightly coiled and ready for action, just waiting for 'the call'. Which couldn't be further from the truth. But it's an assumption we hear often. That and the belief that mountain rescue is a paid-for, statutory service.

Tightly coiled and ready for action team members may be (boots and rucksacks ever at the ready, radios charged, carabiners eagerly clinking), but kicking their heels at mountain rescue bases they most definitely won't be — although they might just happen to be there undertaking training, or sorting out kit, or washing down vehicles. Or thinking up new ways to raise funds.

Like many of our supporters, when our team members aren't busy doing whatever it is they do for the day job, they like to be out on the hill, walking or climbing, or spending quality time with their families. Or sleeping.

But if someone gets themselves in trouble, if it's an emergency, if a life might be at risk, they're happy to help, whatever the time of day, whatever the weather. Because it could so easily be them out there (and once or twice, it has been).

So far we've kept to our word with our blog posts and told a diversity of tales. We've discussed flying sheep, mountain



cats and crocodiles, and looked back at the story behind an iconic 'winter' photo. We've talked about warm baths and soggy underpants and told how Crimewatch caught up with one team. We've blogged about winter navigation and ways to keep yourself safe in the mountains — and the speed with which below-the-line commentary can quickly skew the truth about a reported incident.

We've amused with the long-ago tale of a cow stuck in a mine and the often hilarious efforts to coax her out, and we've revisited the tragic story of Neil Moss, also stuck in a cave sixty years ago, and how his death touched the world's media. And we've run guest pieces from leading writers and experts such as John Manning and Lyle Brotherton.

Linking the blog with our social media and online shop has helped us raise awareness and even sell a book or two. And there's plenty more to come. So why not pull up a chair and join us there? Just go to [mountain.rescue.org.uk](http://mountain.rescue.org.uk) and navigate to the blog.

**Opposite:** Keswick MRT at Hanging Rock © Rob Grange/Keswick MRT. **Above:** Rescuers gather in Peak Cavern during the Neil Moss rescue. Image © David Webb, courtesy James Lovelock collection. **Right:** Land Rover © Judy Whiteside.



Thank you. We can't do any of it without your help. Here's how you can support us.

**Give online:** Go to [mountain.rescue.org.uk](http://mountain.rescue.org.uk) and click Donate.

**Join Basecamp:** The simplest way to support us. You can even add a donation. Go to [mountain.rescue.org.uk](http://mountain.rescue.org.uk) and click Basecamp to join.

**Leave a legacy:** A gift to us in your Will allows you to support our future — even a small gift can make a big difference. And it's the surest way to fund the equipment and training for the years to come as gifts are exempt from inheritance tax, capital gains tax and income tax, so the charity receives the full value of your bequest.

**Buy a book from us:** We can't promise you competitive prices or free postage but we can guarantee that for every book you buy, about a third of the cover price represents a donation to us. Go to [mountain.rescue.org.uk](http://mountain.rescue.org.uk) and click on Shop.

**Buy a gift card:** You can choose whether to give £5, £15 or £25 on behalf of a loved one. They get a lovely card, we get a much appreciated donation and you know you've helped make a difference to mountain rescue. You'll find them in the online bookshop.

**Raise funds on our behalf:** You'll be providing funds and raising awareness. Email [fundraisingofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk](mailto:fundraisingofficer@mountain.rescue.org.uk) to find out more.





# A president's view of mountain rescue

Ray Griffiths has been involved with mountain rescue for nearly 50 years, mainly as a member of Patterdale MRT and, more recently, as president of MREW. **Sally Seed** spoke to him about his role and how important it was that he got to know team members across England and Wales, as well their supporters and families.

After the 2017 AGM, I set out to visit and meet as many people involved with MR in England and Wales as I possibly could — and not just team members but also the many supporters and families who may be behind the scenes but who make our voluntary service possible.

I've shaken collection tins in Barnard Castle, driven a Land Rover off-road with regional vehicle officers, got involved in other teams' casualty care training and chatted to mountain rescue volunteers in every region but not quite (yet) every team. All of this contact, plus attending other national committee meetings and gatherings, has given me a much better insight into how things work across England and Wales.

It's partly been about learning from each team's experiences and sharing them with others, and partly about extending the awareness of Mountain Rescue England and Wales in each team — and it's been good fun too.

Two common themes have emerged in terms of differences and the potential for learning from each other: the recruitment and training of new team members and organising fundraising to make the best use of available resources. For instance, on fundraising, an increasing number of teams have a separate group of volunteers who organise activities, run social media and represent their team at events. There are challenges in making this work effectively but lots of teams are developing their approaches and it's been a huge help for those teams where the rescuers are so busy they simply can't give much additional time to fundraising. Hopefully, I've been able to pass on the lessons from one team to another as part of my role.

Communication is one of those things

that always come up as a weakness in an organisation like ours but there are a lot of people working hard to improve things. That's not just about developing a more efficient cascade of news but also improved face-to-face contact and more listening to those at the grassroots of mountain rescue. I'd particularly like to thank the national executive committee and the regional chairs for the work they're putting into this with approaches like the MREW 'roadshows', which have travelled around the country, giving team members the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about what's being done at national level — and vice versa, with the management team able to gain a better understanding of local concerns.

Developing these links, connections and networks is at the core of my work as president but there are two other projects that I've been slowly brewing. The first is to establish a presence for mountain rescue in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, alongside many other voluntary organisations and services. The second is a project initiated by MREW vice chairman Mike Margeson, in partnership with the Mountain Heritage Trust, to capture the oral history of MR before too many of our former — and indeed current — colleagues are no longer able to share their stories.

This second project has some urgency since the number of obituaries in the Mountain Rescue magazine is growing. We're losing that history all too quickly! The Mountain Heritage Trust team — and those from a journalistic or similar background within MR — have the skills and experience necessary to interview people effectively and capture their stories but it takes time and time is money.

Mountain rescue volunteers devoted approximately

**99,000**  
**hours**  
to mountain  
INCIDENTS



If there's anyone reading this who can suggest a way we could enable this project to get going, I'd love to hear from them.

On the memorial, that's probably some time off but, if you're ever in or around Alrewas in Staffordshire, I recommend a visit to the Arboretum. It's very moving and you might be inspired to come up with an idea for mountain rescue too.

**Opposite:** MREW President, Ray Griffiths 'at home' in the mountains © Dave Freeborn. **Above:** A younger Ray on belay duty with the team © Patterdale MRT archive.





# Learning together

Mountain rescue teams invest a lot of time and resources into training, building and maintaining the skills that enable them to save lives. Whether at team, region or national level, a side benefit of any training is getting to know your colleagues and that's certainly true of the annual Party Leader course at Colomendy, near Mold on the Welsh border.

A 'Party Leader' is defined as a person given operational leadership responsibility for a smaller group of team members during a bigger search or incident. In November of last year, 34 potential party leaders from 22 different MR teams across England and Wales met for the weekend at the Colomendy Centre for the eighth such national course.

'The format has evolved a bit since 2010,' says Iain Ashcroft, a North East Wales Search and Rescue (NEWSAR) team member who continued running the course along with Becky Ashcroft after Elaine Gilliland stepped down in 2017. 'But the core of it is pretty much as we started. There are various theory sessions and then a lot of time spent outdoors working on the kind of scenarios that could crop up for teams.

'The trainers amongst us would probably call it experiential learning and it works — not only in building skills but also letting participants understand their role, their strengths and their weaknesses while making new friendships and creating the connections that make MR work so well.'

Highlights that consistently crop up in the feedback include the Oscar-winning performance from a 'distracted mother' who's lost her child, the local police input about their expectations of mountain rescue volunteers and Phil Benbow's disturbing but very useful session on PTSD which explains how team members can understand the signs and support their colleagues after traumatic incidents.

'All the practical exercises were challenging but, given the opportunity to practise the skills and pick up on the learning points, I certainly felt much more confident of handling both the unexpected and the mundane in future,' said John Barstow of Duddon

and Furness MRT after one course.

'The opportunity to meet mountain rescue colleagues doing the same stuff as you in different areas of the country is invaluable — all in all a great weekend and well worth doing.'

With the programme established and now running each November, Iain is

time into specialist search, water, crag and casualty care training but I hope that a broad course like this is a useful addition to the mix and one that will continue.'

And there are plenty of thank yous associated with the course. Members of NEWSAR and team members from across



hopeful that the approach of gathering together participants from across MREW and giving them a consistent level of skill and awareness in party leadership will continue.

'The demands on teams change and evolve but I think these leadership skills within small teams are essential and the broad knowledge of what's involved is invaluable too,' says Iain.

'Team members have to put a lot of

the country form the backbone of the trainers as well as dealing with all the administration. The team at Colomendy Centre ensure that the necessary food and shelter are all sorted. Visiting speakers make a valuable expert contribution and thanks also go to the bar staff of the Colomendy Arms in Cadole for coping with a packed pub for the two nights of the course!

**Photos:** Team members from across MREW at the 2018 Party Leader's course © Colin Martin.

**4 DAYS**  
**In 2018**  
without a mountain  
rescue call-out in  
England and Wales.





Mountain rescue team members from across the Peak District and Mid Pennines regions had a tough challenge in late June – and on into August – as they supported local emergency services and landowners who were trying to manage the moorland fires that had taken hold.

First Saddleworth Moor, to the east of Manchester, was declared a major incident and Winter Hill, to the north west, followed a few days later. With their off-road equipment and their detailed knowledge of the moors, access points and tracks, mountain rescue team members were able to make a significant contribution to incidents that lasted, in all, over 40 days.

In Oldham for Saddleworth Moor, team members from the Oldham, Glossop and Kinder teams were active in support, fire spotting, rescuing livestock and wildlife and providing safety and emergency medical cover. They were also able to use Rossendale and Pendle team's off-road Polaris buggies to move water from the reservoirs up to the fire fighters. Meanwhile, Holme Valley team members were on standby to cover for any rescue incidents over the same area.

When things shifted west to the fires at Rivington and Winter Hill, it was Bolton team members who were involved along with reinforcements from the Bowland Pennine and Rossendale and Pendle teams.

'It wasn't just a case of endlessly beating flames and dropping water,' says Steve Fletcher of Bolton MRT. 'There was heavy

plant involved as well. To be honest, it felt a little surreal to be working with London fire crews on our patch and our local knowledge proved essential. We knew the viable access routes on the peat bog and could help in tracking the boundaries of the fires too and that was all useful to the combined efforts of a huge number of people.'

Local communities, businesses and the public did what they could to support the efforts too. Whether that was ice lollies and cakes from local villages or a barrel of beer from the Donkeystone Brewing Company near Oldham, the work of the volunteer rescuers was much appreciated by those who might never have associated mountain rescue with, quite literally, rescuing the mountains!

'It's a true testament to the wonderful spirit of our community,' said an Oldham MRT spokesperson, 'that we all came together in a time of crisis. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who came forward with offers of support in all forms.'

With rain later in July and into August and a continued effort from the Fire and Rescue Service, the final fire was declared to be out on Wednesday 8 August. Forty-one days after the first alerts.

# 41

devastating  
FIRE DAYS



## Summer heat



Opposite/this page: Moorland fires above Saddleworth and Peak District team members at work © OMRT.  
Top: Dog tired: Paul Mayall (OMRT) and Search Dog Bob take a well-earned break © Dr Andy Taylor.



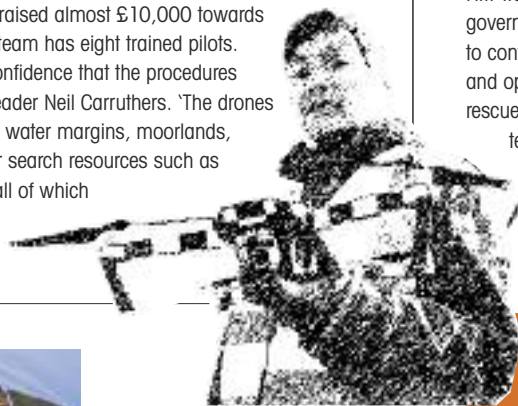


## FEBRUARY 2019: Buxton team leads the way with the use of drones in mountain rescue

Buxton MRT has become the first team in Mountain Rescue England and Wales to be granted approval by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for the use of drones, enabling the team to use them to search for missing persons in places where access is difficult or unsafe for team members.

It's the culmination of an eighteen-month project, following a chance conversation between staff at Pure Buxton magazine and team members Roger Bennett and Carney James Turner. An advertising campaign led by Pure Buxton, raised almost £10,000 towards the drones and training for the pilots and, so far, the team has eight trained pilots.

'The approval from the CAA shows they have the confidence that the procedures we have in place are safe and effective,' says team leader Neil Carruthers. 'The drones will enable us to search areas such as boulder fields, water margins, moorlands, crags and difficult ground, and complement our other search resources such as team members on the ground and the search dogs, all of which have an important part to contribute in search operations'.



## FEBRUARY 2019: Mountain rescue debated in House of Lords

When Lord John Burnett, patron of Dartmoor (Tavistock) SRT, called a debate in the House of Lords to highlight the contribution mountain rescue team members make to public safety, it was an opportunity not to be missed.

Lord Burnett opened the debate by expressing 'profound gratitude' to the Dartmoor team and to mountain rescue in general for their 'dedication, courage, stamina, altruism and wholehearted commitment'.

The aim was to acknowledge the work of the voluntary organisations that make up mountain rescue and the 'essential service' they provide and, right on cue, as the debate unfolded, Tavistock team members were called to search for a 62-year-old man who was found, coincidentally, just as the debate was wrapping up.

The Lord called for a meeting with HM Treasury to discuss whether government funding could be secured to contribute to the ongoing training and operational costs of mountain rescue, because 'the demands on the teams increase annually, and it is imperative the Government understands that, in order to save the Treasury millions of pounds a year'.

## JUNE 2018: Team helps one supporter reach his peak with a training session

Much more accustomed to carrying people down the hill from Roseberry Topping, in summer 2018, Cleveland team members lined up to carry one of their staunchest supporters uphill instead.

Keith suffers with the rare muscle-wasting condition Lambert-Eaton Myasthenia Syndrome. He regrets that when he was fit enough he'd never managed to get up this 320-metre iconic local landmark at the 'centre' of the team's patch. As he's raised money for the team in the past and is a friend of a team member, it was their privilege to take up the challenge and help Keith achieve his goal, with a spot of creative team training aimed at reinforcing the teams' vital stretcher-carrying skills.

Their 'casualty' was absolutely delighted to finally get there and took the time to catch the views across to the Cleveland Hills and down into the Tees Valley. The achievement was 'toasted' at the top before everyone adopted the more familiar practice of carrying him back downhill!

Photos: Gary Clarke for Cleveland MRT.



## MARCH 2019: Pat Parsons takes on the role of mountain rescue ambassador

Ten years ago, Pat's once 'perfect life' changed forever with a serious climbing accident in the Peak District, but that accident ultimately led him to join the mountain rescue team that had been there for him – and to take on the role as our second mountain rescue ambassador.

'How lucky can you be?' he'd thought, finally living his retirement dream of taking people climbing for pleasure and actually getting paid for it. And then came the fall, his first memory sitting at the bottom of the crag, covered in ropes, his clients' faces aghast. A piece of rock had snapped off and within seconds his world had changed forever. From fearless marine to something much more vulnerable.

Derby team members 'did their job magnificently,' says Pat, 'expertly and compassionately' reassuring him through moments which should have been quite terrifying. 'I'd been climbing and mountaineering for 37 years and just starting to get the hang of it! A life of soldiering, with big mountains and big adventures, had shaped me and prepared me for any challenge a Royal

Marines Mountain Leader could expect to face. But that had just changed: how was it going to help an 'incomplete paraplegic' with a burst fracture of the T12 vertebra?

Gradually, he learned to walk again, progressing from wheelchair to crutches to sticks, despite a spinal injury which has left his legs and feet partially paralysed. He's learned too about the bowel and bladder issues and the pain management which spinal injury patients routinely have to deal with. His confidence has grown and, perhaps more to the point, his love of the mountains hasn't waned.

In the ten years since the accident, he's not just cycled and clambered up rocks (with adaptive foot supports), he's climbed mountains like Triglav, Kilimanjaro and Mont Blanc and cycled across the length of the Pyrenees. Then last year, he and his wife came across a mountain rescue exercise in

the Peak District. 'I'd have loved to have joined mountain rescue, I said, assuming it was beyond my reach. 'So bloody well get on and do it!' came the reply. She had just turned the key and opened a new door'.

Now a proud member of the same team that came to his rescue, Pat is a passionate advocate of mountain rescue, able — through painful experience — to speak about it from both ends of the rope. 'I've learned many things with mountain rescue, including the art of followership (which I am rather enjoying!) and, while occasionally I struggle to keep up with them, I also occasionally have something to offer and this is proving to be another huge milestone on my road to recovery. So now, more than ever perhaps, I ask myself 'How lucky can you be?'

Photos: Pat Parsons.



Photo: Central Beacons MRT.

## Recovery from fire continues...

Since the devastating fire which damaged or destroyed so much of their rescue kit, vehicles and the team base, support for the Central Beacons team has been non-stop, from companies big and small.

They were lucky enough too to be offered the use of kit and vehicles from other teams, and a temporary base with the local fire service, which enabled them to remain operational throughout. One of the vehicles on loan to them came courtesy of Jaguar Land Rover UK, suitably liveried up for mountain rescue. It was 'a massive boost while we continue to rebuild,' says team leader Penny Brockman, offering a huge thank you to everyone who has donated or supported the team.





# Well, Hello Dolly!

Nick Shepherd and his German Shepherd, Dolly, have been qualified search dog and handler with Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England since January 2013 and they are members of the Kinder Mountain Rescue Team in the Peak District. Dolly is now ten years old and 2019 will be her last year as an operational search dog.

Dolly has had eight successful finds in her career as a search and rescue dog but, in April 2018, she ruptured both her cruciate ligaments which meant she needed two operations. A dog so used to being outdoors and covering lots of rough ground was suddenly restricted to walks on the lead for five months.

But, amazingly, once she recovered her fitness — and after just a short period of refreshment training — Dolly was ready to go back on the call-out list in late September 2018. And she proved herself up to the task once again.

Nick takes up the story: 'At 4.30pm on 25 November, the Kinder team received a call to find two walkers lost on Kinder

Scout. Dolly and I were tasked to search the western edge of Kinder but nothing was found in that area. Dolly and I, with John, our navigator, were retasked to search north from Broad Clough up to the southern edges. By this time the weather had turned very cold and wet.

'There were reports of lights visible from another search party but they couldn't be seen from our location. We continued our search and, after a while, Dolly struck northward and soon came back to indicate a find so I sent her back to re-find with the command, 'Good girl — show me'.

'On her second return, I could hear shouting and screaming and, as search dogs are trained to do, Dolly continued her shuttle runs up and down the hill to show us where to find the casualties. The shouts were getting louder and clearer so we knew she was leading us in the right direction.

'When I got to the person, there was only one woman who had become very scared of the situation and was quite hysterical. She grabbed me and wouldn't let go of me no matter what I said to reassure her.

'She told me her partner was directly above her. John continued north up the hill and soon located him. They didn't have any physical injuries but were both very cold and thankful that the ordeal was over. We walked them down to a waiting team Land Rover and drove them to our team base for a warm brew.

'As you can imagine, they were both very thankful and relieved to be rescued and loved the fact that one of their rescuers was a search dog!'



## 1949+ people assisted in 2018



**Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England** is one of several search dog organisations which operate across England and Wales. These comprise **SARDA Wales, SARDA South Wales, Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dog association** and **NSARDA** (which represents associations in the UK, Isle of Man and Eire).

Both air-scenting and trailing dogs are used to search for many different types of missing people, through every sort of terrain and weather conditions.

**Opposite:** Nick Shepherd and Dolly © Mark Harrison. **Above:** Nick and Dolly © Daniel Sells.





**Above:** Rick Stanton, one of the two divers who found the boys. **Left:** The boys, prior to rescue.

**Opposite:** John Volanthen, whose voice was heard across the world's media, when he and Rick found the boys. All images Sky News.

Cast your mind back to July 2018 and you may recall hearing an English voice in a Thai cave on TV news. A team of British cave divers had found the twelve members of the Wild Boars football team and their coach, deep in the Tham Luang cave system at Mae Sai in northern Thailand and the world's media celebrated their find.

A huge amount of planning, hard work and resources enabled that successful rescue over 6,000 miles away and there was still a lot more work to come for Emma Porter, secretary of the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) and based in a home office in Hampton Loade in rural Shropshire that had become the hub for British efforts.

'As soon as the news of the missing boys spread to the UK, I was handling a reasonable number of enquiries about the search,' says Emma, 'as well as being part of the logistics and coordination to get the right equipment and expertise out to Thailand. When that British voice was heard on 7 July, the world's media went mad — and everyone wanted to talk to British cave divers.

'That's when the network of British cave rescuers really used its connections. We were working on the logistics of getting additional equipment out to the team in northern Thailand, liaising with other organisations and the Thai authorities, and also providing a sounding board for the team involved in the rescue planning and implementation.

'At one point, we had two full face dive masks being driven at over 110 miles per hour from Cardiff to Heathrow (with a police escort!) to make a flight to Bangkok.'

'All of that would have been enough but, with my name and number on the website, I was getting literally hundreds of calls and thousands of emails around the clock — with everything from suggested rescue approaches to media queries about how dark is cave dark!'



Fortunately, Emma has an incredibly understanding employer who gave her the flexibility to manage the situation. She also got help — simply by getting through to the right person — in terms of cost-effective communications with Thailand. But it was the extended teamwork of cavers and cave rescuers across the UK that made it all work.

'Once my own partner, Mike Clayton, had gone out to Thailand, I had support from Graham Smith, a fellow Midlands CRO officer and a friend I've caved with for more than twenty years,' says Emma. 'And then there was a team helping on the drafting and approval of daily media briefing notes. It was really important that we were guided by statements from the Thai authorities as much as possible so we didn't cause any diplomatic issues. All this and we also had to juggle the six-hour time difference.'

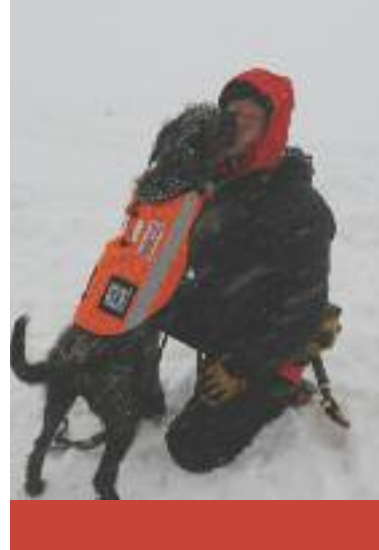
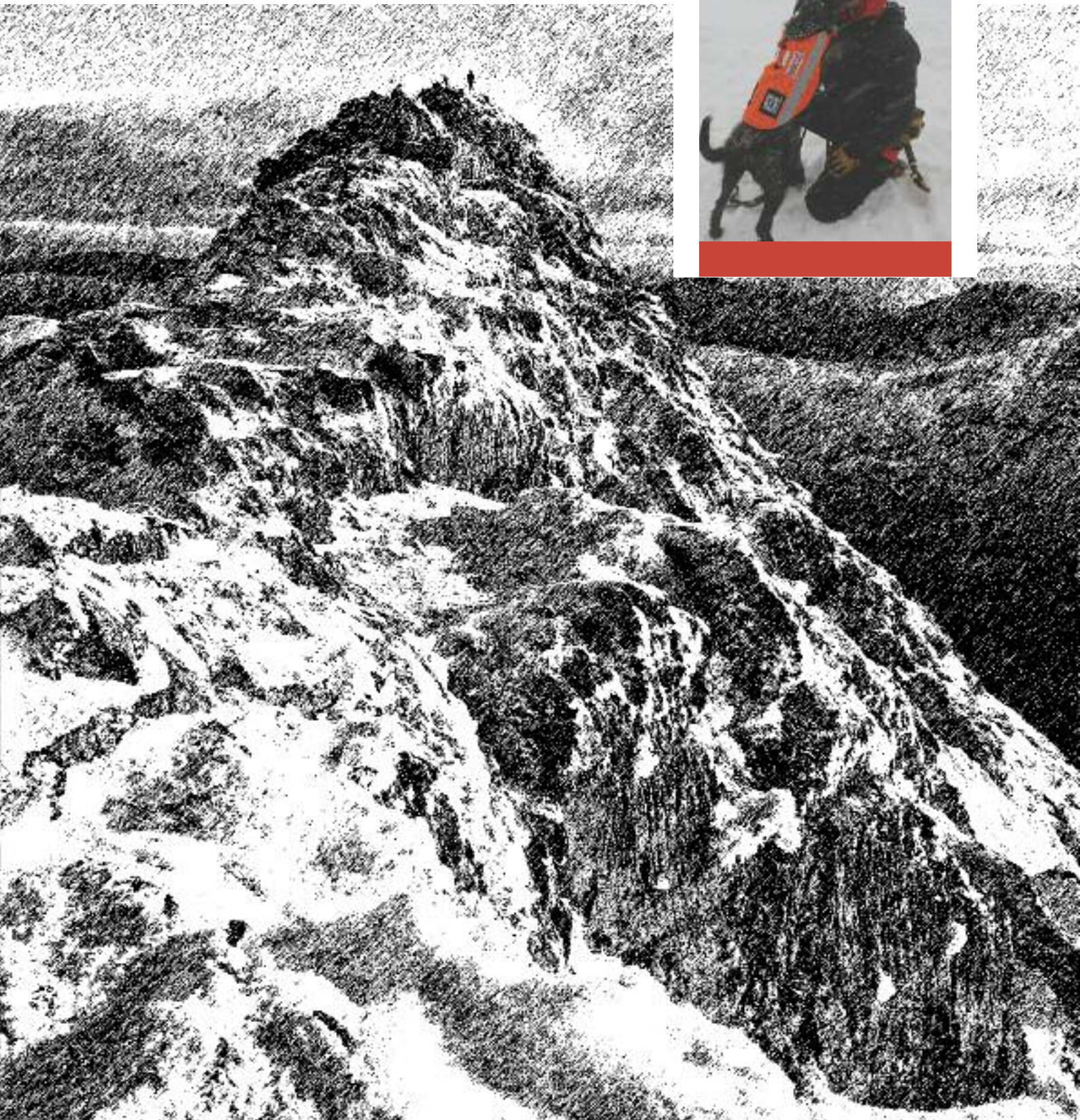
It's unlikely anything quite as pressurised, quite as global, and lasting quite as long,



will ever affect British rescuers in future but it made for an 'interesting' summer, to say the least. Since then, those involved in the Thai-end of the rescue, as well as Emma and BCRC vice chairman, Bill Whitehouse, have been thanked and honoured for their work including visits to Downing Street, the Palace of Westminster, Buckingham Palace and even the Sports Personality of the Year ceremony. All in all, quite a year!

# Quite a year for British cave rescuers





# Taking care of our team members

**2538**  
call-outs  
**2214**  
incidents

It's been seven years or more since the idea was first mooted for a benevolent fund to support mountain and cave rescue team members who suffer hardship through their voluntary service – and just over five years since the **Rescue Benevolent Fund** became an official charity in its own right. **Judy Whiteside**, trustee and secretary of the fund, explains why we need it.

There's never a good time to have an accident, and they can happen to anyone — the best prepared, the most expensively kitted-out, even the highly skilled. And occasionally they happen to team members too whilst they're out on a shout or undertaking training.

It might be a physical injury (a broken bone or twisted knee, say), but it could equally be that a particularly harrowing incident has such a profound effect on a team member's mental and emotional wellbeing that simply having a chat with their teammates over a cuppa simply isn't enough.

The aim of the fund is to support team members and their families, at the time they need it most. Most of our claims have been for physical rehabilitation after an injury which occurred during a call-out. Team members already give up so much of their time to attend incidents and training. Recovery from injury can hit especially hard if it means losing earnings — often for weeks. And it also means coming off the call-out list, of course. By supporting rehabilitation, we can do our best to help an injured team member get back to work and back to operational activity.

Patterdale team member and Lakes dog handler David Benson knows from painful experience how easily an injury can occur and how it can impact your life. A self-employed dry stone waller, when he injured his knee on a call-out, it didn't just affect his ability to respond to mountain rescue incidents and ground his search dog, Brock. It also meant he was unable to earn a living.

It was a Saturday in October, three years ago. He'd just returned to Patterdale base, after training with Brock, when a call came in to an incident on Helvellyn. So, back up the hill he went.

It was a difficult stretcher carry, from



Swirral Edge down to Red Tarn, then to the outfall before sledging down towards Greenside. Having done his turn on the stretcher, he carried on downhill but his knee became extremely painful.

'It was just a simple walk off with a light pack,' says David, 'but my left knee went clunk clunk to the medial side and down I went.' His old teammates from Kirkby Stephen MRT stretched him off the hill. 'They'd been asked to support us on the casualty carry but got me instead!'

David had suffered a sprained MCL. Supported by the Rescue Benevolent Fund, he undertook a week of intensive rehab just before the Christmas break.

'I wondered what they could possibly do with the time, but it was so holistic. Worth getting injured for!'

And he wasn't joking about that last

bit. Eleven months later, he was chuffed to exceed a previous personal best for his regular run from Kirkland to the top of Cross Fell. We didn't quite make him bionic but we certainly helped him on his road to recovery so job well done!

Any team member, family member and those who might support the team in official activities, can ask for the fund's support if they sustain injury or hardship through their voluntary service. We're there to help. And the fact that we can is down to that original germ of an idea, seven years ago, and the hard work and financial contribution of the mountain and cave rescue national bodies, and the regions, teams and individuals who have donated since. On behalf of all those we've helped. Thank you.

**Opposite:** Helvellyn © Alan Hinkes; David Benson with Brock © Ian Sanduloiu of Romanian Search Dogs.  
**Above:** Operating above and below the ground, Upper Wharfedale FRA team members undertake a cave rescue practice © Russ Brookes.





## JUNE 2018: Crimewatch catches up with Scarborough & Ryedale team members

When the BBC Crimewatch Roadshow contacted the team's Ian Hugill with an idea to do a piece on water rescue, it proved something of a logistical challenge but too good an opportunity to miss.

First, they had to discount those scenarios which might be a little too hard to set up and organise any sort of control over, like tidal surges and the urban flooding in York, and those which didn't seem dramatic enough, before settling on the sort of incidents which might occur at the base of one of the waterfalls in the area.

But perhaps the most difficult exercise was the gathering of team members, who already volunteer a great deal of time, to be in one place at the same time as the Crimewatch crew.

'Over multiple phone calls,' says Ian, 'we settled on an interview with Michelle, the presenter, followed by the re-enactment of an incident where a girl had suffered a potential spinal injury after 'tomb stoning' from the lip of the foss into the plunge pool below it. So this would involve not just a water rescue but a carry downstream from the pool, a Tyrolean rope lift to the opposite river bank and then a carry up more gently sloping ground to the roadside'.

Everything went well until, at the end of filming the 'rescue', the rain began to fall resulting in 'a bizarre interview with Michelle and myself stood in the stream and the camera set up out of the rain under the bridge in the village'.

While Beck Hole and Gaothland ('Heartbeat' country) are two of the team's hotspots it had been a while since they'd been to Thomason Foss in anger but clearly the day's activities had roused the 'slippery rocks gods' and they were back the following day — after hastily repacking the Land Rover — to a 64-year-old lady with a lower leg injury. Thankfully, the location was a little downstream of the Foss and due to the nature of the injury it was a simple paddle over the stream in the Bell and a sweaty carry up to a waiting ambulance.

But the story didn't end there. The producer had initially suggested that, after the filming, team members would be invited to join the BBC crew on the day of broadcast to deliver a brief demo on the benefits of group shelters, but it seems the crew were so impressed with what the team had done so far, they allocated the whole live element of the show to them.

'All this,' adds Ian, 'in the (unwritten) job spec of a team PR officer!'



Top: Filming the carry-out. Above: Paul Thompson, the team's water incident manager, briefs Michelle © Scarborough & Ryedale MRT.

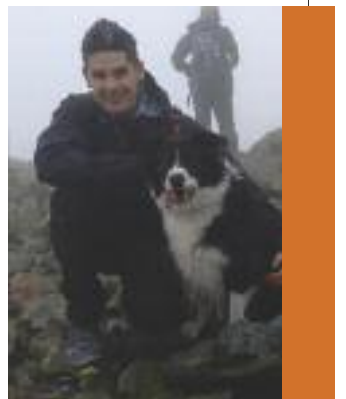


## SEPTEMBER 2018: Jos Naylor MBE opens new base for Wasdale MRT

The £643,000 project has taken several years to fully realise, thanks to contributions from the Copeland Community Fund, the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association and an interest in land granted by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority — plus a great deal of fundraising by, and donations, to the team.

Fundraising received an unexpected boost in 2014 when a social media campaign inspired by a missing dog went viral, raising over £51,000 plus Gift Aid. Found by a member of the public, Jasper was then rescued by the team. Along with an unexpected legacy from a local woman, this was the catalyst for action.

The fit-for-purpose building boasts enhanced training, welfare and communications facilities, and improved accessibility to the A595. Construction, from cutting the first sod in April 2017, took just over fifteen months and the base went live in mid-August 2018. Distinctive features include a state-of-the-art heating system, supplied by a ground-source heat pump supplemented by roof-mounted PV panels. The ground floor is heated by an underfloor array, so it's always dry — a major change from the team's previous base — and the temperature at base can be raised to operational level with a phone app. In addition to a large wet room and drying area, there's a separate undercover wash-down area, a retractable 18-metre mast for digital radio communications, automatic up-and-over thermally efficient garage doors, quiet diesel powered emergency generator as well as the latest wi-fi and building security access. And, away from the base, a grassy area has planning permission for helicopter landing. A base fit for the twenty-first century.



Top: Jos Naylor MBE; a drone's-eye view © Admedia. Above: Adam Nolan with Jasper © Wasdale MRT.

# News snips

from around England and Wales



Photo: Swaledale MRT.

## Snow? In summertime?

How do you go about improving your winter rescue skills over a long summer and autumn in Yorkshire?

Well, Swaledale team members found just the place to develop casualty care skills, try out their new rope rescue devices and have some fun in the snow too — without even leaving the country — by hitting the slopes at the Snozone. This indoor, real snow venue gave them -6°, a slippery slope and something a bit different to keep interest up. Job done!



## Knit your own climbing helmet

COMRU team members were delighted to get their new Petzl helmets with duo headlamps in April, but young 'supporter' Anna was missing out.

So team member Tess set about knitting the eleven-month-old her own version for her first birthday.

Above: Anna with dad Matt Nightingale, also a COMRU team member (wearing his own not-so-soft version) © Adrian Swift.





# A birthday garden party

When the invitation calls for 'Morning Coat, Lounge Suit or Uniform' for gentlemen and 'Day Dress (with hat optional) or Uniform' for the ladies, and bears a gold-embossed Royal crest, you pretty much know this is going to be a special occasion. And indeed it was, for the invitation was to 'the Prince of Wales's 70th Birthday Patronage Celebration in the gardens of Buckingham Palace', in May 2018.



Guests at this special event included representatives from 386 of His Royal Highness's patronages and twenty of his military associations, with members of the emergency services, the RNLI and mountain rescue. And that included twelve representatives of Mountain Rescue England and Wales, suitably dressed in their garden party finery and not a single walking boot in sight.

The sun was shining, the sky was blue, the lawn was enviably green, and the cucumber sandwiches and dainty cakes were, of course, delicious. This was a long way from the mountains, a day out with a difference and an invitation not to be missed.

The purpose was to celebrate the work of all the Prince's charities, including the Prince's Trust which, since it was founded in 1976, has supported over 836,000 young people.

In 2009, mountain rescue members and guests attended a similar garden party, at which Prince Charles brought together heads of the nation's leading uniformed youth groups to form the first collaborative network for uniformed youth. Some of those youngsters were there this time, alongside a number of the cadets and emergency services personnel who were first responders after the bombing at the Manchester Arena the year before.

Our own Royal patron, the Duke of Cambridge, was in Manchester that same day for a service of remembrance for the victims of that dreadful event.

The 6000 or so guests were entertained by the newly-married Prince Harry, his radiant bride by his side, with a warm and witty speech — interrupted momentarily, to the delight of the crowd, by a very persistently bimbly bee — which paid

tribute to the inspirational work his father had done over forty years.

He spoke of the inspiration Prince William and he continue to draw from their father's 'selfless drive to affect change, whether that is to improve the lives of those on the wrong path, to save an important piece of our heritage or protect a species under threat'.

Sadly, the newlyweds soon departed the event, but Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall engaged at length with the crowds, patiently lining their route to the 'Royal tea tent'!

'It was quite a day for all of us and a long way from home ground,' says Mike France, MREW chairman, 'but it was an honour to be asked. And a great opportunity to wish the Prince a happy seventieth birthday in person!'

**Opposite:** Yeoman of the Guard. **Inset:** Prince Charles. **Above:** Left to right: Al Read (Training Officer), Dave Close (Secretary), Mike France (Chairman), Mark Lewis (ICT Officer), Jody Dyer (Director of Development), Penny Brockman (Financial Director), Judy Whiteside (Editor), Julian Walden (Assistant Secretary) Simon Thresher (Vehicles Officer) and Andy Simpson (Press Officer). Images courtesy of Judy Whiteside, Penny Brockman and Mark Lewis.



# News snips

from around England and Wales

Photo: Derby MRT.



## DECEMBER 2018: Grant fund helps provide vital water rescue resources

The Department for Transport's Inshore and Inland Rescue Boat Grant Scheme was set up in 2014 to provide over £5 million, over five years, to independent search and rescue teams working on inland waterways. This year, thirteen mountain rescue organisations were among 57 charities across the UK whose bids were successful.

With teams increasingly involved in swiftwater rescue and urban flooding over the last several years, many now have dedicated 'water teams', with members taking on extra water-specific training to qualify in these vital skills. Aside from the additional time and pressure on volunteer team members, the financial implications for teams of funding extra training and kit are huge. So this grant funding provides a much appreciated boost.

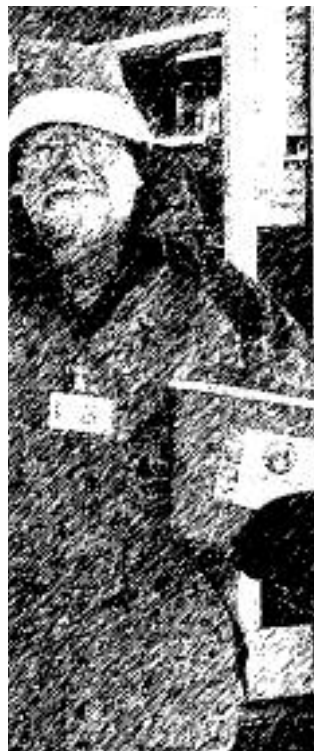
Cumbria, Duddon & Furness, Patterdale, Penrith, Cleveland, Woodhead, Swaledale, Bolton, Derby, Cornwall, Dartmoor Tavistock, Dartmoor Plymouth, Severn Area Rescue Association and the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association all received grant funds.

## NOVEMBER 2018: Dog training meets cascare, with a twist

Like many teams, Ogwen Valley team members are called to rescue an inordinate number of goats, sheep, dogs and other animals who've got into difficulties on their patch. But particularly dogs. So it made perfect sense to run a Wednesday night training session dedicated to just that.

Kath Wills, from neighbouring Llanberis MRT, led the four-legged first aid training, aided and abetted by a willing and varied group of <whisper it> cuddly toys. She taught team members the ins and outs of treating four-legged casualties.

Photo: Steve Mullan with one of the 'casualties' © OVMRO.



## JANUARY 2019: Team member's dedication nets £10K for his team over a year

Fundraising is just one of the many tasks team members volunteer to take on, over and above any operational activity and, by its nature it can eat into many a family weekend. But it's the unsung hero of team jobs and North Dartmoor's Les Agar certainly takes it to a different level, last year beating his previous 'personal best' of £7000 in 2017.

Having been a team stalwart since 1970, ill-health has forced Les to retire from operational stuff, but he continues to commit himself over and above the expectations of the average volunteer. He has positioned himself outside Whitehouse Services (just off the A30 near Okehampton), every weekend for the past few years, come rain or shine, with his collecting bucket. His attitude is that every penny makes a difference and if he can't do his bit on the hill, then he can contribute this way instead. He's also involved in the team's drive to raise £90,000 for a new control vehicle. Can't help thinking that with Les involved they'll get there sooner rather than later!

Photo: North Dartmoor MRT.

Photo: Woodhead MRT.



## Teams go to the aid of crashed gliders

This once unusual operational request appears to be becoming more frequent, with two incidents involving crashed gliders reported over the last year.

In August 2018, Longtown team members were asked to help recover the remains of a glider from the eastern slopes of Pen y Manllwyn, in the middle of the Black Mountains. A local pilot had lost his way in a rain squall and crash landed. Fortunately, neither of the two pilots were seriously hurt. Longtown has previous experience of glider recovery, having recovered one in 2006, but this time the aircraft was much further down the slope of the hill in one of the interior valleys of the Black Mountains, it was significantly heavier and larger as a two-seater, and wasn't intact. The three-day recovery operation, over three weekends, culminated with the wings safely dragged down in heavy rain and blustery wind.

In January 2019, Northumberland National Park team members were called to a glider crashed on the Cheviot plateau. On this occasion, the pilot was injured although stable, and thankfully protected from the worst of the elements by the cockpit. With wind chill already well below -8°C, and heavy snow engulfing the crash site, the challenge was to bring him down the hill before conditions became much worse.

'Arriving at the crash site was surreal,' says Will Close Ash. 'The glider was embedded among rocks and scree and, apart from some minor damage, still intact. Clearly the pilot had managed a hard landing which, probably saved his life. The plan was to use an Edale Shuffle to safeguard the stretcher as it was sledged by team members down the mountain side. We set about getting that ready as the pilot was extracted from the cockpit and packaged on the Bell stretcher.'

Once we'd dropped below the cloud level some 400m from the crash site, the Coastguard helicopter was able to come in, do a soft landing and pick up the pilot to take him to hospital. Everyone was relieved, elated and certainly tired by the time we all arrived back to the RV for a hot debrief. In total, 29 team members had been involved for eight hours and it was, without a shadow of doubt, a supreme effort by everyone involved and a truly multi-agency response. No ordinary Sunday!

Photo: Longtown MRT recover the crashed glider in August © Longtown MRT.

## SEPTEMBER 2018: There's so much more to mountain rescue fundraising and it's not always just about us

A Woodhead team training event gave onlookers a chance to see the team in action but sadly, during the hustle and bustle, thieves made off with a bicycle belonging to a 4-year-old boy who'd been cycling the Trans Pennine Trail with his mother before stopping to watch the team.

When team members heard the news, they volunteered to contribute to a replacement and issued an appeal through social media to gather funds. The family preferred that team members not be left out of pocket but, thanks to the appeal, several bicycles were offered as donations by members of the community and the youngster was able to choose a colourful, character-themed replacement, which he and his family were grateful to receive.

## NOVEMBER 2018: Recording our mountain rescue heritage

Mountain rescue has a rich and varied history, bursting with colourful characters and tales. Most of the individuals who shaped its very early days are no longer alive, and any opportunity to record their thoughts and experiences is long gone.

But now, thanks to the MREW vice chairman Mike Margeson, MREW president Ray Griffiths, and a small group of others, working with the Mountain Heritage Trust, we hope to create a more formal archive of our history, by talking to and recording those members who are still with us, capturing our heritage for future generations.

'We should work hard to save how we got to where we are today,' says Ray, 'and keep that history going as we continue to improve what we do, and how well we do it'.

Below: Picture Post 1947 of the then Conistown Fells Rescue Party.

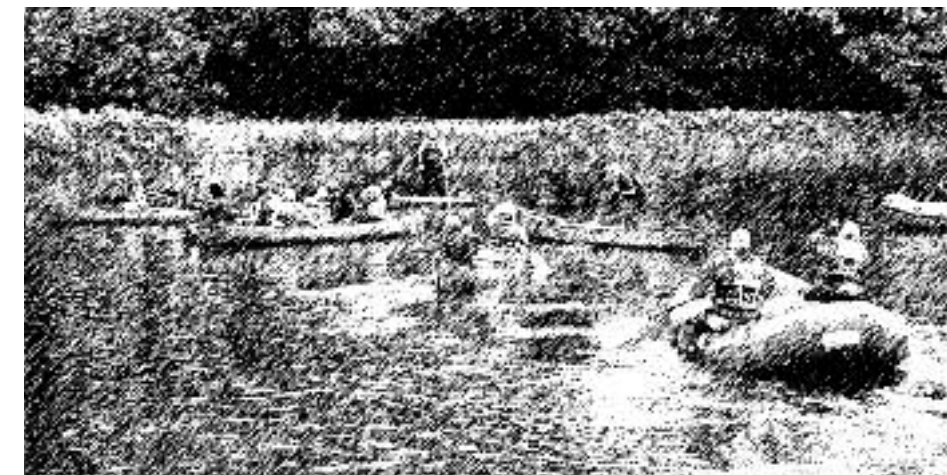






# Princes' Charities Day heads for **the Dales**

Since 2009, mountain rescue has entertained youngsters from some of the charities under the patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry. The idea is to enable these often very poorly or disadvantaged young people and their families to take part in a day of adventure they might not otherwise experience. Each year, the event is hosted by a different region and this year it was teams from North Yorkshire, with the Cave Rescue Organisation, Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association and Scarborough and Ryedale Mountain Rescue Team doing the honours.



Photos © Sara Spilleit & Mike France

Some 36 young people from Child Bereavement, Centrepont, Place2be and WellChild headed to Nidderdale, along with carers and family members.

'The lives of some of these young people are dominated by hospital visits, with very limited opportunities to enjoy adventures in the countryside,' says Sara Spilleit, UWFR's lead member for the event. 'So we set about producing a day they'd all remember with a real mountain rescue call-out theme.'

'We decided on Nidderdale and using How Stean Gorge and Bewerley Park Outdoor Education and Activities Centres.

A huge bonus came our way at How Stean Gorge, when retired UWFR team member Stan Beer and his wife Anne, the owners, not only gave us the centre's facilities and instructors free, but included free meals as well. Transport between the two centres was provided free by the Upper Wharfedale Venturer and the Wharfedale Packhorse buses and team member David Nelson drove one of the buses'.

The day was set up as a mountain rescue search and rescue operation with many tasks and problems along the way which needed dealing with before they

could move on to the next phase. The final stage and success was rewarded with hot chocolate and other treats they had to heat on a portable stove. Some of the older ones had tasks involved in canoeing which included working with the swiftwater specialists in the teams. Emergency vehicles from the fire service and police added to the adventure.

'It was an amazing day,' adds Sara, 'and a huge learning opportunity to work with these remarkable youngsters who put so much effort and enthusiasm into the day. It was wonderful to see their enjoyment and we'd readily do it again.'

**Centrepont** provides shelter and support to homeless young people, helping them develop skills for a better future. The Duke of Cambridge is patron. William has also been patron of Mountain Rescue England and Wales since 2007.

**WellChild** helps support seriously ill children and their families, enabling many terminally ill children to leave hospital and return home, whilst also supporting their siblings and parents. Prince Harry is patron.

**Child Bereavement UK** supports bereaved families, and provides training to professionals across the entire spectrum of child bereavement. Prince Harry is patron.

**Place2Be** provides emotional and therapeutic support in schools, helping build children's resilience through talk, play and creativity. The Duchess of Cambridge is patron.





# Find your local mountain rescue team

**Lake District**

- Cockermouth MRT
- Coniston MRT
- Duddon & Furness MRT
- Kendal MRT
- Keswick MRT
- Kirkby Stephen MRT
- Langdale Ambleside MRT
- Patterdale MRT
- Penrith MRT
- Wasdale MRT

**North East**

- Cleveland MRT
- North of Tyne MRT
- Northumberland National Park MRT
- Teesdale & Wearedale SMRT
- Swaledale MRT (Mountain + Cave capability)

**Yorkshire Dales**

- Cave Rescue Organisation (Mountain + Cave capability)
- Upper Wharfedale FRA (Mountain + Cave capability)
- Scarborough & Ryedale MRT

**Peak District**

- Buxton MRT
- Derby MRT
- Edale MRT
- Glossop MRT
- Kinder MRT
- Oldham MRT
- Woodhead MRT

**Mid Pennine**

- Bolton MRT
- Bowland Pennine MRT
- Calder Valley SRT
- Holme Valley MRT
- Rossendale & Pendle MRT

**North Wales**

- Aberdyfi MRT
- Aberglaslyn MRT
- Llanberis MRT
- North East Wales MRT
- Ogwen Valley MRO
- South Snowdonia SRT

**South Wales**

- Brecon MRT
- Central Beacons MRT
- Longtown MRT
- Western Beacons MRT

**Peninsula**

- Cornwall SRT (Mountain + Cave capability)
- Dartmoor (Ashburton) MRT
- Dartmoor (Okehampton) MRT
- Dartmoor (Plymouth) MRT
- Dartmoor (Tavistock) MRT
- Exmoor SRT

**South West England**

- Avon & Somerset SAR
- Severn Area Rescue Association

**ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS**

**Cave Rescue**

- COMRU
- Derbyshire CRO
- Devon CRO
- Gloucestershire CRG
- Mendip CR
- Midlands CRO
- North Wales CRO
- South East CRO
- South & Mid Wales CRT

**Search Dogs**

- Lakes District Mountain Rescue Search Dogs
- Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England
- SARDA Wales
- SARDA South Wales

**RAF**

- RAF Leeming MRT
- RAF Valley MRT

**If you require mountain or cave rescue assistance:  
Dial 999. Ask for 'the Police', then 'Mountain Rescue'  
or 'Cave Rescue'**

To find out more about mountain and cave rescue in England and Wales go to  
[mountain.rescue.org.uk](http://mountain.rescue.org.uk) or [caverescue.org.uk](http://caverescue.org.uk)

Or find us on social media via  
Facebook: @MountainRescueuk • Twitter: @mountrescueuk