

Mountain Rescue England and Wales

# Annual Review **2021**



Published April 2021



# Foreword

HRH The Duke  
of Cambridge





KENSINGTON PALACE

2020 was a year like no other for the whole nation and the Covid-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of mountain rescue.

Team members have had to adapt their ways of working and adopt PPE to protect the resilience of their service. They have continued to provide invaluable support to emergency service colleagues and, when lockdown lifted, many teams dealt with a huge influx of visitors to our uplands. This - in addition to juggling their personal lives at a time of great uncertainty - has all added to the pressures on team members and I know you will join me in thanking them for all that they do.

As I write, I know one Patterdale volunteer, in particular, is in many hearts and minds and I send my very best for the tough times ahead for him and his family. This pandemic is not yet over, but a wonderful spirit runs through the mountain rescue community, and I encourage everyone to continue to support each other through this challenging time.

Bu 2020 yn flwyddyn heb ei thebyg ar gyfer y genedl gyfan ac effeithiodd pandemig Covid-19 ar bob agwedd o'r gwasanaeth achub mynydd.

Bu'n rhaid i aelodau timau addasu eu dulliau gweithio a mabwysiadau cyfarpar diogelu personol er mwyn amddiffyn praffter eu gwasanaeth. Maent wedi parhau i ddarparu cefnogaeth anhrisiadwy i gydweithwyr yn y gwasanaethau brys ac, wrth i'r cyfyngiadau symud lacio, bu llawer o dimau'n ymdopi â mewnlifiad enfawr o ymwelwyr i'n hucheldiroedd. Mae hyn - ar ben jyglo eu bywydau personol ar adeg o ansicrwydd mawr - i gyd wedi ychwanegu at y pwysau ar aelodau timau, a gwn yr ymunwch â mi mewn diolch iddynt am bopeth y maent yn ei wneud.

Wrth imi ysgrifennu hyn, gwn fod un gwirfoddolwr o dîm Patterdale, yn arbennig, yng nghalonau a meddyliau llawer ac anfonaf fy nymuniadau gorau oll ar gyfer yr adegau anodd o'i flaen. Nid yw'r pandemig drosodd eto, ond ceir ysbryd rhyfeddol yn treiddio trwy bawb sydd a wnelo ag achub mynydd, ac anogaf bawb i barhau i gefnogi ei gilydd trwy'r adeg anodd hon.



**Mike  
Margeson**

When Mike France wrote a year ago about the outbreak of coronavirus, nobody could have imagined the impact it would have on the mountain rescue service across the country. From the beginning, MREW had two key priorities: to ensure the safety of our volunteer team members, their families and communities, and also to ensure the mountain rescue service was not compromised.

After such a challenging year, I believe mountain rescue volunteers should be proud of their resilience, professionalism and teamwork. I have observed on many occasions a strengthening of our working relationships with partner organisations.

In particular we've worked in close consultation with the National Police Chiefs Council, our colleagues at UKSAR, in the NHS, and at a local level with our calling authorities' resilience forums, as well as the BMC, national parks and Adventure Smart.

Our figures show uncomfortably high call-out numbers with significant pressure points as lockdowns eased and, in some regions, even during lockdown. These tended to be those areas close to our big northern cities. What was clear was that, despite the lockdown periods, our figures by September were equivalent to the same point in 2019.

Messaging is always critical and we've worked hard with our partners to ensure a clear, joined-up approach and voice. We completely appreciate the value of time spent in the outdoors but have asked the public to consider their plans in the light of the advice to #BeAdventureSmart and behave responsibly. Our safety and accident prevention messages have never been more important.

2020 saw the completion of a large piece of work bringing about the new MREW CIO charity status. As a large and complex charity with so many member teams, mostly all charities in their own right, this was a significant milestone. We were fortunate to have David Coleman as a trustee. He led on a large chunk of the work and deserves our thanks. He has now stood down.

Moving into 2021, we had continued pressure of managing safe operations amid Covid risks, and issues around skills fade while ensuring our operational

effectiveness and resilience. This was challenged further by significant winter conditions for many of our teams.

And, as if this wasn't enough, the news of a very serious accident to Patterdale team member Chris Lewis, whose fall during a rescue, resulting in life-changing injuries, shocked us all. It was a sharp reminder to team members and their loved ones that mountain rescue can be a serious and dangerous occupation, however experienced and highly-trained volunteers are. Many have stopped to reflect, 'That could have been me' and the outdoor community rallied round to support.

BMC president Lyn Robinson said, 'It is truly amazing to see the outpouring of support for Chris and mountain rescue. It shows what the outdoor community can achieve when it works together.'

2021 is a year of change for MREW. Dr Alistair Morris has taken over from Mike Greene as national medical director. Mike managed us all last year through the pandemic in such a professional manner. And, by May, a new Senior Executive Officer will be in post, plus two new, highly-talented trustees. I strongly believe change is an opportunity and I look forward to welcoming, and working with, them all.

It would be wrong not to mark the death of the legendary Hamish MacInnes — lifelong mountaineer and mountain rescuer, SARDA founder and engineer who developed many items of mountain rescue equipment, most famously his eponymous stretcher.

Finally, looking forward, we expect an even heavier demand on our volunteers this summer than last. But our teams and team members are as resilient as ever, well-prepared to support our communities and assist anybody in need in the hills, moors and mountains.

**3147**  
call-outs

FROM **30**  
statutory agencies

**2468**  
mountain rescue team deployments

**237,**  
**250**  
volunteer rescuer-hours

**11**  
Days without a mountain \*  
rescue incident

\*7 OF THESE WERE IN APRIL, DURING LOCKDOWN

**Opposite page:** Solitary team member takes in the view during a Penrith training exercise at Blea Tarn, Lake District in December 2020 © Tim Sanders. **Inset:** Mike Margeson in action on the mountain, taken pre-Covid © Mike Margeson.

# 2020

## An overview of the year's statistics

**3147** call-outs  
resulting in **2468** deployments

Busiest months  
**July•August•September** with  
**40%** incidents

Busiest days of the week  
**Saturday•Sunday** with  
**41%** incidents

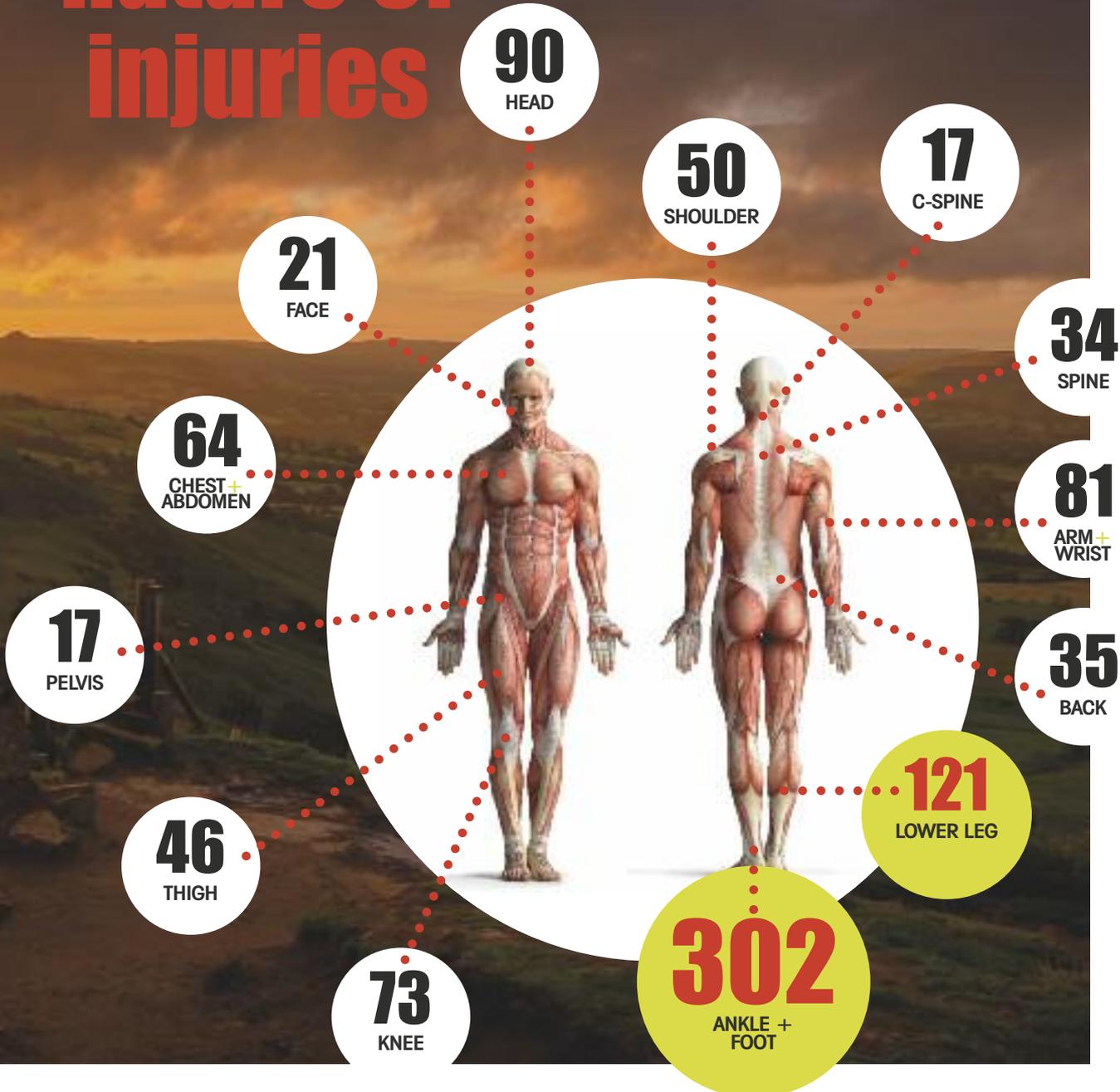
Subjects involved  
**56%** male **42%** female

Nature of incident  
**25%** missing persons **75%** casualties

Despite heavy restrictions on people enjoying the outdoors, throughout a great deal of 2020, we didn't see a substantial drop in the figures. Overall, demand for mountain rescue remained high. However, there was a marked increase in visitors to the more accessible locations, close to centres of population as the hill, reservoir and country park-going public largely obeyed the 'stay local' plea for their lockdown exercise routines. The most noticeable drop in numbers was in April 2020, during the first period of lockdown, with just 72 incidents. April would normally be expected to show similar figures to March and May.

Main photo: Mam Tor, Peak District © Tim Hill | Pixabay.  
Below: Anatomical illustration © Cosmin4000.

# nature of injuries



# 2020

## Key contributory factors to incidents

Main photo: Dartmoor bridge © Alice Alphabet | Pixabay.

Above right: Northumberland National Park MRT attend a call-out during heavy snow © NNPMRT.

**46%** **human factors**

**503** human error

**303** inexperience

**168** ignorance of the pursuit

**162** tired/fatigued/unfit

**312** poor decision making

During an incident, alongside a brief description of the incident in hand, casualty details and injuries sustained, teams will note any notable circumstances which may have contributed to the accident or incident. The greatest contributory factors have tended to be human factors, the level of preparedness for the pursuit in hand and the prevailing weather conditions, shown below as a percentage and the numbers per factor.



## 21% weather related

- 208 heavy rainfall
- 22 freak weather
- 22 high temperatures
- 122 strong winds
- 104 snow and/or ice
- 184 poor visibility

## 9% poor preparation

- 149 inadequate kit
- 90 inadequate footwear
- 28 inadequate communication



**Visitor 'invasion' was  
a mixed picture**

From the easing of lockdown in June 2020 to renewed constraints in January 2021, mountain rescue statistics from around England and Wales told a mixed story. As noted, call-out numbers for 2020 were remarkably consistent with the previous year. But that national view hid a much more complicated story once the figures were broken down by region.



The first three months of 2020 saw a small increase in call-outs, with a majority of the increase attributable to the West Country around Dartmoor and Exmoor (PENMACRA) where there was significant flooding, and in the Mid-Pennine region (MPSRO).

Quarter two, with national lockdown in place from late March, saw a huge fall overall with 359 fewer call-outs in April, May and June. However, while areas like the Lake District and North Wales saw significant falls, the Peak District (PDMRO) was relatively unchanged with just over 120 call-outs in those three months.

With a loosening of restrictions early in the summer, call-outs increased by about 300 to a figure of over 1230 across Wales and England. This coincided with a large increase in visitor numbers to some of the national parks, particularly the Peak District, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales and other areas like the Pennines, close to centres of population.

As Mike Margeson, MREW Operations Director notes on page 5, our objective from the start of the pandemic was to protect the safety of our volunteer team members and to ensure that mountain rescue services were not compromised.

It was no surprise we saw significant extra pressure and a rise in the call-out

figures in areas like the Peak District, the north east of England and the mid-Pennines (which includes parts of Greater Manchester and Merseyside) with the increased public recognition of the benefits of time spent in the outdoors.

Large increases in visitor numbers included more people visiting uplands for the first time, without the experience, equipment or awareness to take responsibility for their own safety.

Matt Dooley is chairman of the Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation (PDMRO), an area significantly affected by an increase in incidents in 2020.

'During quarter three, Peak District teams were called out over 170 times — an unprecedented level,' he says.

'While some of these were to our usual type of incident, a large number were to assist people who wouldn't normally venture outdoors. Several involved the so-called 'Instagram hikers' and TikTokers who headed up onto the Dark Peak moors to visit plane crash debris and got caught out by the wild terrain and changeable weather. That increase in visitors translated into more incidents and it certainly put us under a lot of pressure. Huge thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers across the region who responded with such commitment.'

Will Close-Ash of Northumberland National Park MRT in the North East region (NESRA) saw similar impacts.

'Once restrictions were lifted after the first lockdown, we didn't know whether we'd see a sudden deluge of incidents or a steady trickle. In the end, both the Northumberland National Park and North of Tyne teams recorded more incidents and had more deployments than usual and, like the Peak and Pennines, we were significantly up on rescues in the hills as people took to the outdoors in response to their time in isolation.'

The overall picture may not have been consistent across the country in 2020, but the messages as lockdown eased in April 2021 were very much the same.

'#BeAdventureSmart, take responsibility for your own safety and think about your skills, the weather and the clothing and kit you need,' says Mike Margeson. 'Just a bit of planning can help avoid many dangerous situations, adds to people's enjoyment of the hills and ensures that mountain rescue volunteers are available for the unavoidable emergencies that can happen to anyone.'

**Opposite page:** A Northumberland team member wears the required PPE during a call-out © NNPMRT. **Top:** Derby team members during a call-out in heavy snow, January 2020 © Derby MRT.

## Take responsibility and #BeAdventureSmart... #KnowBeforeYouGo

As lockdown eased in April 2021, a revised version of the Countryside Code was launched, focused on messages of 'Respect, Protect, Enjoy'. The advice to 'Enjoy' included checking routes and local conditions, planning any adventures carefully and then having fun. Mountain rescuers in several regions worked with local partners in tourism, the paid emergency services and local authorities to plan communications campaigns around the Easter period. There was a lot of consistency with our regular #BeAdventureSmart messages for three simple reasons:

1. It's the best way to keep safe. Mistakes and falls happen if you can't navigate and people get hurt or sick if they can't keep warm or hydrated.
2. It's the best way to have a great day out. It can be pretty miserable sitting waiting for rescuers while cold, wet and lost.
3. It's going to help mountain rescue teams to be available if you can avoid creating avoidable call-outs. Those team members who come to your rescue are volunteers, most of them with families, and employers they are accountable to for the day job. Many are self-employed. They need to be available to focus on the unavoidable emergencies as much as possible.



# Counting the pandemic pennies

Covid-19 has brought us many challenges, not least the concern about the longer-term impact on our finances. As a separate charitable organisation, MREW has had to find ways to continue providing support for our member teams, taking care of things like national training courses and the back-office demands of insurance cover, so that they can focus on the sharp end of rescue.



Although MREW is an umbrella body — comprising its operational member teams — and the majority of its officers and trustees are themselves operational team members somewhere in England and Wales, the day-to-day running of the charity is far removed from the hillside, with finance a major consideration.

‘Very few people would say they joined mountain rescue to spend more time on the phone or computer or attending virtual meetings,’ says Penny Brockman, MREW Trustee and Finance Director. ‘But without the sort of support we give to teams, many would have had increased financial burdens.

‘Insurance is a prime example. Cover for teams has long been provided in some form, under the auspices of the police policy, but we also provide extra cover to protect team members with additional personal accident as well as public liability and rescue vehicle insurance.

‘Cover for our specialist vehicles can be particularly prohibitive, considering the possible need for blue light response and the off-road terrain we operate in. It can also be time-consuming to organise and, by taking this under the national wing, we can take some of the load off their shoulders. And everyone benefits from that bulk-buying power.’

Providing centrally-funded specialised mountain rescue equipment, and the servicing of this equipment, is another substantial financial commitment which ensures our teams have kit specific to meet the needs of mountain rescue.

‘We’re also proud of our magazine,’ says Penny. ‘It’s been underwritten by MREW for twenty years now — with added support from advertising revenue — and

it’s still the most efficient communication tool we have!’

‘During Covid, we’ve also been able to supply centrally-sourced PPE to the teams, again thanks to bulk-buying, and this has been a huge help, especially in the early days when supplies were short.’

But, where does the money come to pay for all this? And how has Covid-19 affected this?

‘The support from fundraisers is a key element and, with many events on hold for the year, our income has definitely been impacted. Since launching our new website in May 2020, our Basecamp support group membership has actually grown, online donations have increased and we’ve also launched a separate magazine subscription which is proving

of courses, from technical rope rescue and casualty care skills, through swiftwater training and response driving, to media skills and wellbeing training. That funding is still there but, last year, we were unable to run most of our planned courses due to Covid-19 restrictions.’

Mountain rescue organisations are also able to claim VAT relief on purchases and that has helped hugely.

‘Looking to the future, our focus is very much on legacies, says Penny. ‘This is an area we’ve had some limited success with but, now the organisation is feeling more cohesive, it feels as though the time is right to really push for this.

‘From the start of the pandemic, we suspected the next few years would prove a bumpy ride financially and we



popular and helps support production costs. These might only seem small wins but they all add to the bigger picture’.

Since 2012, MREW has benefited from ‘LIBOR funding’ from the UK government which has enabled us to expand our offering of national training courses and helped cover the majority cost. Over the years, MREW has delivered a range

trimmed our budgets accordingly. It’s been a steep learning curve for everyone but I’m hopeful the measures we’ve put in place, combined with the vital support from our fundraisers, donors and the LIBOR fund, will see us through this pandemic.

‘And, of course, we are always looking for additional funding to enable us to continue growing financially stronger’.

**Opposite page:** Western Beacons vehicles during a call-out in October 2020 © WBMRT. **Top:** Central Beacons team members during a training exercise in December © CBMRT. **Inset:** Ogwen team members working with the HM Coastguard helicopter during a call-out to Cneifion Arete in September © OVMRO.



# How Covid-19 has changed fundraising

Covid-19 has impacted many aspects of mountain rescue, and fundraising was certainly affected in all sorts of ways. But, as teams have adapted to new challenges, support from the public not only continued, it was often imaginative and inspired.



There are all sorts of ways people generally raise much-needed funds for us and almost all of them changed with Covid. Street collections and boxes on bars have been a familiar way of giving to mountain rescue for many years but a move away from cash was already prompting some teams to consider alternatives. Covid has accelerated that trend phenomenally. Look out for QR codes appearing on collection boxes and scannable donation technology in the months to come as teams adapt to enable immediate giving, on the spot, whenever people encounter mountain rescue.

Many of the key events, such as the Virgin Money London Marathon and the Great North Run, were cancelled. But thank you to all those who participated in the virtual equivalents, running lonely miles as part of an online event, and to everyone who sponsored them.

There were other virtual events too, from camping in gardens to climbing Everest at home and one real event that proved a big success was the annual Montane Spine Race, which went ahead early in 2020, before the first lockdown. Congratulations to Sabrina Verjee who ran in aid of MREW and is the current defending champion.

Historically, many teams have helped out with first aid cover and marshalling at local outdoor events, often in return for a significant donation. With these events cancelled, other channels for support have been needed.

Like MREW, many teams revamped their online shops, offering everything from soft toys to safety gear and supporters

**Opposite page:** Buxton team members in action for an episode of the BBC's Blue Peter © Carney James Turner/Buxton MRT. **Top:** Patterdale MRT attend to a casualty at the popular Lakes beauty spot, Aira Force © David Gracie.

have rallied around to ensure that sales grow and profits support the teams.

A number of innovative software tools have been launched during 2020, as people found new ways to support mountain rescue. Two recent examples, both in aid of Patterdale MRT's Chris Lewis Support Fund, included an online raffle of a beautifully crafted wooden 'fell'

box, which raised £2,500 via raffall.com and an online auction of landscape photography that raised over £10,000 via jumblebee.co.uk.

We suspect it's not just cash donations that are moving online — these new fundraising tools will continue to provide novel approaches long after lockdown.

## Fundraising stories extraordinaire: Two of many amazing achievements in support of mountain rescue...

A number of individuals have taken to the outdoors to challenge themselves mentally and physically, raising money for MREW and other charities in the process. We'd like to mention two in particular.

Ross Jenkin, a police officer in Cumbria, has been fell running for nearly seven years and his idea for a 'Big 4 at 40' started when he supported a friend on his Bob Graham Round. Two years later, with sponsors, equipment and supporters in place, Ross planned his attempt for June 2020 but had to postpone to late-August due to Covid. 'I thought heat might be an issue but it turned out to be strong winds and a lot of rain!' says Ross.

He almost completed the first route, Ramsay's Round in the Scottish Highlands, but atrocious weather prevented the final section. He decided to continue and return to Scotland once he'd completed the other routes. The Denis Rankin Round in the Mountains of Mourne in County Down, Northern Ireland, was Ross's second challenge. Supported by Lagan SRT members, he made good time, completing the route in under 24 hours but was already in pain from tendonitis as he headed to Wales for the Paddy Buckley Round. He hobbled on, getting slower and slower and, 37.5 hours later, undernourished, dehydrated and surviving on painkillers, he completed the round but the final Bob Graham Round was not an option.

Despite all this, Ross raised almost £7,000 of his £15,000 target and he's determined to reach that target in future. The money will be divided between three charities: The Dogs Trust, CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), and mountain rescue (split between MREW, Lochaber MRT and Lagan SRT).

A second amazing supporter is Jo White of Old Boys Training with his #365DaysOfAction. Jo has been running, walking and climbing every day for a year (up to May 2021) and posting on social media to promote his approach, his own personal fight with cancer and the work of three charities: MREW, Combat Stress and Cancer Research, his target to raise £365,000. His social media posts have been an amazing record of determination and great activity. He's also grown an impressive beard!

# News snips floods

from around England and Wales

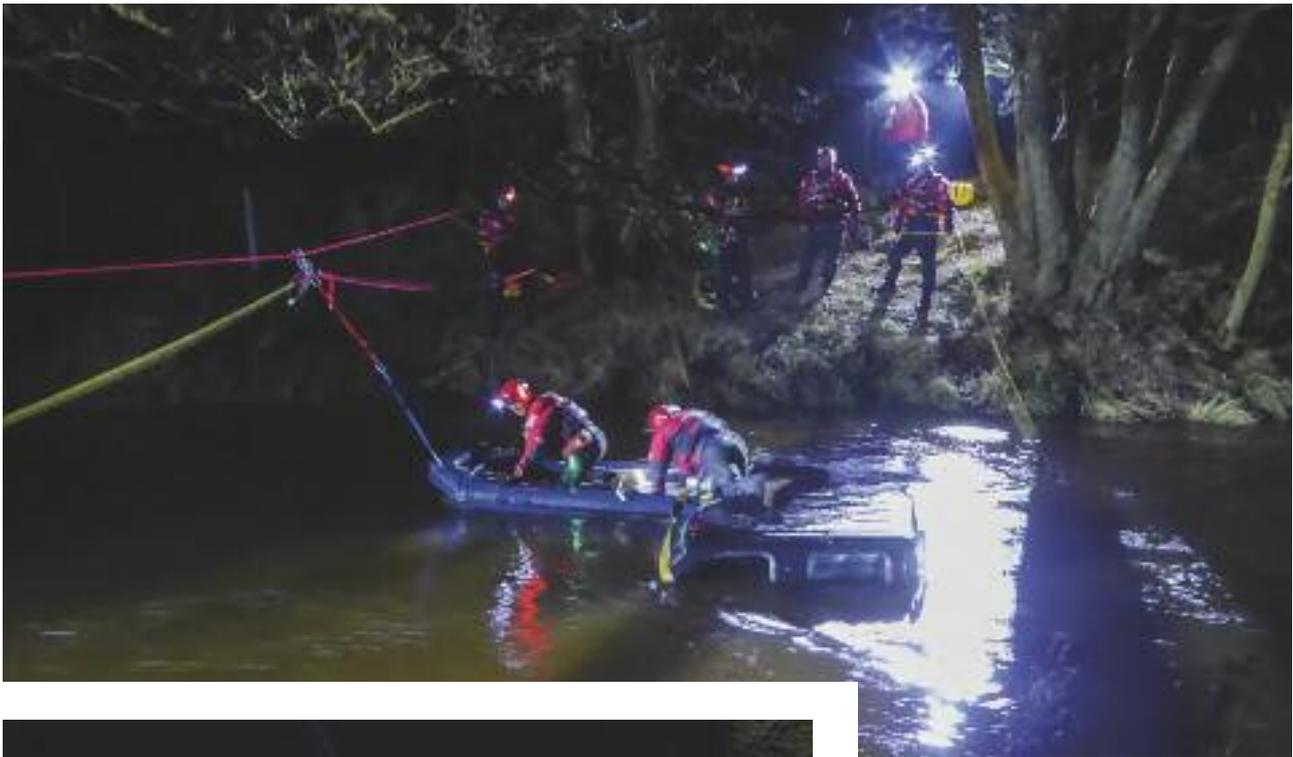
Despite the best efforts of Covid-19, there's never been a dull moment for mountain rescue teams across England and Wales! While call-outs to the high mountains may have been fewer, the last twelve months have seen team members once again rising to the challenges of the environment and using their training and skills to support their communities through floods, fire, pestilence and unexploded bombs... demonstrating the can-do attitude and willingness to serve we're renowned for.



## **JANUARY 2021:** Door to door rescue for residents in North Wales

Flooding affected many parts of Wales and England when Storm Christoph swept across the country.

In North Wales, NEWSAR team members assisted North Wales Fire and Rescue Service with a number of calls, including rescuing residents of flooded properties with the team's inflatable rescue sled, going door to door with fire crew checking on residents affected by flooding, and the rescue of a motorist from the roof of his car. The following day, a request to evacuate a lady from a remote property near the River Dee involved paddling the raft for over half a mile to the house, across the massive area flooded by the river.



## **JANUARY 2021:** More submerged cars...

Cleveland team members responded to a report of a vehicle partially submerged in flood waters at a ford. They were unable to enter the water to check whether anyone was in the vehicle, so searched from a footbridge using long-reach poles.

Once reasonably satisfied the car was empty, they carried out a bankside search downstream. It was later discovered that the vehicle had contained four men from out of the area who had been seen to get out some time before.

A few days later, a similar call-out involved a vehicle stuck in floodwater at a ford, and concerns it could be swept downstream in further heavy rain. Team members secured the vehicle in place by securing it to a tree, for later recovery.

Meanwhile, Ogwen Valley team went to the aid of a motorist reported to be stuck on the roof of his car, having tried driving through a river ford and become stuck in deep water.

Team members assisted fire crew in deploying a rescue sled to bring the man safely onto dry land, cold but thankfully uninjured.

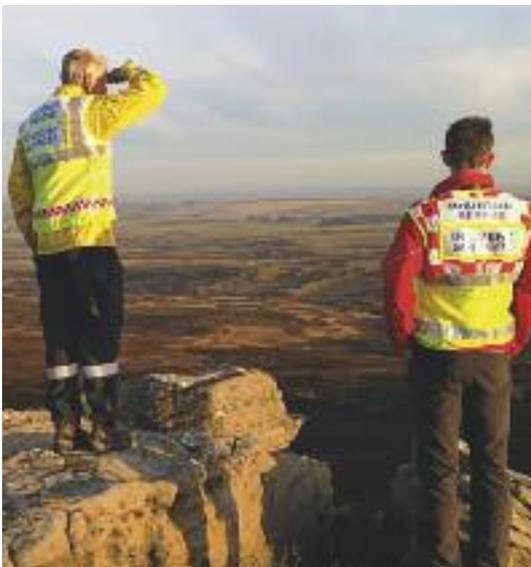
**Opposite page, centre:** Exmoor team members water training in Pinkery Pond during July 2018 © Exmoor SRT.  
**Top + bottom inset:** NEWSAR team members deploying during Storm Christoph © NEWSAR.

**This page, top + centre:** Cleveland team respond to two separate vehicles stuck in floodwater © Cleveland MRT.

**Left:** Ogwen Valley team members assist fire crew in the rescue of a man stuck on the roof of his car © OVMRO.

# News snips **fires**

from around England and Wales



## **MAY 2020:** May Bank Holiday brings wildfires to the Simonside Hills

Northumberland team members initially provided logistical support to the fire service with five team members spending the night on the hill, strategically located to spot any flare ups.

After midnight, the wind changed and a number of heat spots were identified and team members escorted fire crew onto the hillside to extinguish the fires. The extent of the wildfire was then accurately mapped the following morning.

'The incident was a great example of partnership,' says Iain Nixon, team leader. 'We continued to support the fire crews on the ground, spotting flare ups and looking out for members of the public — including intercepting a large group of walkers to the north of the fire who had travelled into the area from outside the national park. Had they continued on their way, would have put themselves in a very dangerous situation.'



## JUNE 2020: Moorland fires near Manchester

Oldham team members supported fire crews over several days, providing navigational assistance and medical cover for those on the moor fighting the fires.

Another multi-agency operation involving mountain rescue, firefighters from Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Lancashire fire and rescue services, Greater Manchester Police, United Utilities, RSPB Dovestones and others.



## MARCH 2020: Moorland fire over Darwen

Bolton team members supported Greater Manchester and Lancashire fire crews when fire broke out between Belmont and Rivington, helping get water to the location by means of 4x4 vehicles with 10,000L water bowsers.

**Opposite page:** Northumberland National Park team members provide logistical support to firefighters during the moorland wildfires © NNPMRT.

**Top:** Oldham team member at work during the fire effort © Oldham MRT. **Above:** Fire above Darwen © Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.



# bombs

## MARCH 2021: WWII bomb discovered in Exeter

Two of Dartmoor's four teams were called to help in what was perhaps their most unusual call-out for years when the bomb was found to be too unstable to move. Team members from Ashburton and North Dartmoor helped evacuate residents from 2650 properties within a 400-metre cordon around the bomb.

An unusual example of the versatility of team members working with police to support their communities.

Top: Map of the area where the bomb was discovered



## JANUARY 2021: team members assist in getting the vulnerable vaccinated during heavy snowfall

In common with many of their colleagues across England and Wales, Kinder team members assisted in the national effort to get the vulnerable vaccinated against Covid-19, using their vehicle to transport vaccination staff and patients.

Elsewhere, outside of their team responsibilities, many team members volunteered with their local hospitals and GP surgeries to act as 'jab volunteers'.

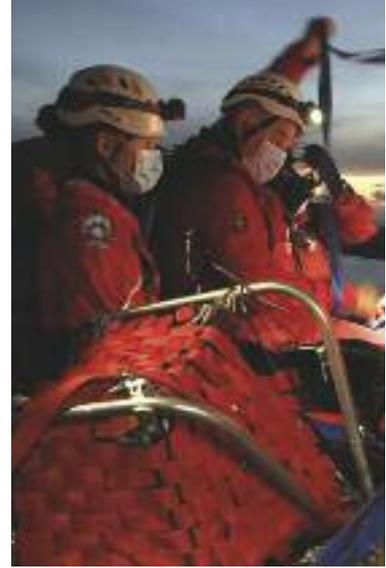
Above: Kinder team vehicle during heavy snow © Kinder MRT.

# pestilence



# Maintaining links and changing roles

Recently stepped down from his role as Senior Executive Officer (SEO) of Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW), **Mike France** continues to be very much a presence and voice nationally, thanks to a newly-created role liaising between mountain rescue and the many outside organisations we work with. As he explains.



Over my six years in the chair, part of my job was to build contacts and, more importantly, a personal connection with people from different organisations. Historically, whenever we've changed the senior leadership, many of those personal connections are lost. The hope is that, in creating this new post of national liaison officer, this won't happen.

The amount of work undertaken by MREW on behalf of the membership, to make the organisation as professional as we can, involves hours and hours of personal time for all the officers. So when looking for a new SEO it became clear to the trustees and management team that we needed to address the time pressure on the role for whoever takes it on.

The best solution was to reconfigure the role, and how to manage day-to-day admin more efficiently was the first thing we looked at. Initial emails and enquiries are now either dealt with by our newly-formed admin team or forwarded to the right person to deal with them. This task alone has taken a huge load from the SEO's shoulders — and I can say this with confidence as this process began before I finished so I could see the benefits.

The trustees asked me to consider taking on the role of liaison officer, to continue developing the relationships we've built with UKSAR, Lowland Rescue, Scottish Mountain Rescue and the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC), the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing, the Royal Foundation and our patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge. And the list goes on.

Apart from the voluntary search and

rescue organisations, all others are 9-to-5 organisations, meeting during the day, and inevitably there are changes in personnel at times too. This new post will help maintain continuity and, in my opinion, will give us the best relationships possible. I was honoured to be asked and very happy to be still involved with MREW at a national level.

In the short time since stepping down as SEO and taking on this new post, I have continued to meet with outside

organisations and liaise with the MREW trustees and management team. There is still work to be done finalising a job spec but, essentially, I am here to support the executive officers and act like an aide.

With this, and the support of our admin team, my successor will have time to develop our national strategy and make business plans, safe in the knowledge that the day-to-day stuff and the liaison with other outside organisations is being managed and ticking over smoothly.



**Opposite page:** North of Tyne and Northumberland team members during a call-out in March 2021 © NNPMRT. **Inset:** Mike France. **Above:** Northumberland team members enjoy a 'Close Encounters' moment during an incident in October © NNPMRT. **Top:** Wasdale team in operation at Hollow Stones, Scafell Pike in September © Wasdale MRT.



**AUGUST 2020:** They may no longer be the target viewing market, but Buxton team members were just as delighted to receive their Blue Peter badges in late-summer

Team members headed to Tegg’s Nose Country Park in Macclesfield to crew up with the good ship Blue Peter. The CBBC programme makers got in touch with Mountain Rescue England and Wales about making a secret film where a presenter must challenge themselves doing something they fear. What better way to put that talent at ease than hanging out with the team for a day’s training?

‘It was a pleasure to film with the Blue Peter team,’ said one of the newly-badged team members. ‘And it doesn’t matter how old we are, we are all grinning like Cheshire cats whilst recording the action!’ The programme aired in September, when YouTube star Adam B was revealed as the 40th Blue Peter presenter in the programme’s history and team members were delighted to help him with the first challenge for the world’s longest-running children’s series: a stretcher abseil. Team members Neil and Kerry talked to Adam on camera about the work of mountain rescue and how visitors to the Peak District National Park and other rural areas of the UK can best prepare themselves for adventures that hopefully don’t involve mountain rescue.’

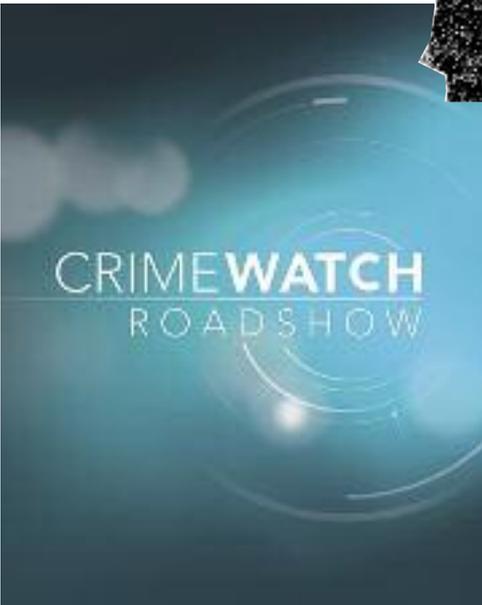


**Images:** Buxton team members and the CBBC film crew with Adam B, during the filming of Blue Peter © Carney James Turner/Buxton MRT.



**JUNE 2020:** BBC Countryfile Film Severn Area team's swiftwater rescue training

The segment featured Kate Humble's visit to the team's first session since the coronavirus took hold and demonstrated the difficulties of using PPE in the water environment — and how important it is to hang onto the end of a rope...



**MARCH 2021:** BBC Crimewatch Roadshow features interview with Central Beacons team

Central Beacons team are regulars to our screens thanks to the BBC ident but this was an interview with Penny Brockman (MREW Finance Director and CBMRT leader) and the team's incident controller, Huw Jones, for a short feature on the crime show.

It was a great opportunity to bring awareness to the work of mountain rescue everywhere and Penny was keen to get across both the 'stay local' and the 'stay safe' messages which have dominated our last twelve months. As team members busied themselves assembling the stretcher and other kit in the background, Huw talked about the logistics of wearing PPE for a call-out, particularly in warmer weather, and Penny gave an overview of the impact on the team of Covid-19 and the various lockdowns over the year — sentiments which echoed across England and Wales.

Top: SARA on BBC Countryfile. Images supplied by SARA. Above: Central Beacons team members during a call-out in January to a severely hypothermic casualty © CBMRT. Screen grab of the Crimewatch Roadshow opening credit.

**AS SEEN ON TV**

from around England and Wales

# AS SEEN ON TV

from around England and Wales



## SEPTEMBER 2020: Lighting up the Langdale Pikes and celebrating fifty years of mountain rescue

Langdale Ambleside team members celebrated their fiftieth anniversary by lighting up their team logo on the Langdale Pikes, in the company of a BBC Countryfile crew, who were in Cumbria to explore Wordsworth's legacy. The episode aired in late September.

Presenter Ellie Harrison chatted with Sarah Anderson, deputy leader of the Ambleside-based team, and also interviewed a casualty rescued by team members the previous year. The event was supported by Lakeland Mountain Guides who organise a series of Lake District Light Festivals every year. Ellie spoke to Sarah about being in mountain rescue, the history of the team and suggestions for good items to pack for a day on the fell. It was an eye-catching and fitting end to a year of celebrations for the team — despite the limitations imposed by the sudden appearance of Covid-19 — which had also included the launch of the team's own 'Rescue Team Trumps' playing cards which help promote the #BeAdventureSmart safety messages.

**Above:** The Langdale Pikes lit up under a moody sky © John Shedwick Photography.  
**Inset:** Sarah with her own Rescue Team Trumps card © Langdale Ambleside MRT.



## FEBRUARY 2021: MREW Ops Director Mike Margeson back on BBC Countryfile



Mike was interviewed by Margherita Taylor, via Zoom, after footage of a previous appearance when his team, Duddon & Furness MRT, took part in a mock 'call-out', involving Countryfile's Ellie Harrison on Stickle Pike. Margherita was keen to catch up with Mike to discuss the demands placed on mountain rescue during Covid-19.

'In some parts of the country,' said Mike, 'even during the lockdown, teams were nearly as busy or busier.' He took the opportunity to encourage viewers to 'just keep local', stressing that the mountains will 'still be there tomorrow, the next day and in six month's time', adding that 'now is not the time to be taking big adventures.'

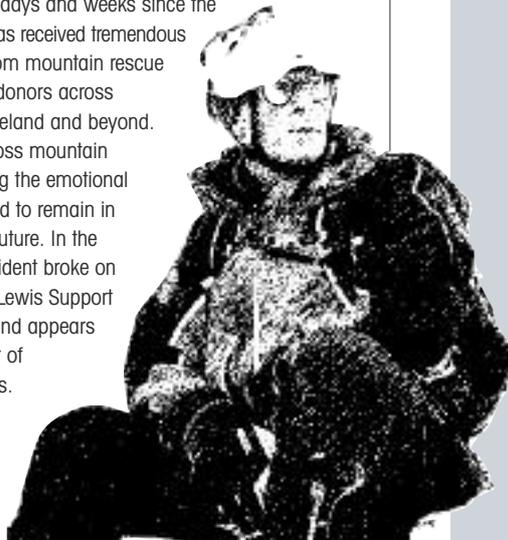
As restrictions began to ease once again, following the third lockdown, Mike anticipated a hectic summer ahead and asked visitors to follow the necessary precautions to keep themselves safe. Clips of the various Peak District teams featured in the show too, demonstrating the rise in incidents in the region.

**Left:** Mike pictured in 2018, pre-Covid © Mike Margeson.

## FEBRUARY 2021: Team member seriously injured during call-out

The news of Chris Lewis's accident attracted the attention of TV news media for several days, drawing heart-warming support for the team, and enabling them to establish a vital fund to support Chris and his family.

Patterdale team members had been responding to a casualty with chest pains who was wild camping above Red Screes, near Kirkstone Pass. Chris was airlifted to the Major Trauma Unit at the Royal Preston Hospital by HM Coastguard helicopter after suffering severe facial and spinal injuries. In the hours, days and weeks since the incident, everyone involved has received tremendous support and good wishes from mountain rescue colleagues, supporters and donors across England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and beyond. The shockwaves rippled across mountain rescue, with many still feeling the emotional impact, and Chris is expected to remain in hospital for the foreseeable future. In the weeks since news of the incident broke on national TV news, the Chris Lewis Support Fund has continued to rise and appears to have inspired any number of imaginative fundraising ideas. Thank you to all who have shown their support by donating or raising funds.



## SEPTEMBER 2020: More4's Emergency Rescue: Air, Land and Sea features work of mountain rescue

Keswick, Patterdale, Langdale Ambleside and Cockermouth team members featured alongside rescue colleagues in Scotland and Cornwall and the HM Coastguard helicopter, in the dramatic reconstruction of a number of high profile rescues.



Top: Chris Lewis pictured during an earlier event © Patterdale MRT. Above: A Cockermouth team member abseils down to a seriously injured casualty on Pillar Rock, in the Lake District, one of the incidents featured in the More4 TV programme © Cockermouth MRT.

## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

### The rise and rise of the online meeting: will we ever be the same again?

It's certainly not yet possible to conduct a mountain rescue operation at the sharp end entirely from behind a screen, participating team members safely ensconced in their own homes, kettles and biscuits to hand. Of course, those team members coordinating an incident will often carry out their task from the relative comfort and warmth of the control room or vehicle, watching team member 'pins' edging around a bank of screens as the GPS signals from their team radios plot their paths across the mountain — but the actual people behind those pins need to be right where the action is: on the mountain, moor or hillside!

Team members have continued to respond to call-outs where needed and, in early 2021, were gradually getting out on the hill again for physical training. But, throughout the pandemic, teams have had to look at ways to keep up skills and morale, as well as hold admin meetings, raise funds, or just generally hanging out with their pals, and it's been pretty much the same for the national body.

Some initially took the view that team members might enjoy a well-earned respite from call-outs and training, others dipped tentative toes into online learning sessions and quizzes, just to keep the brain cells moving. Doubtless neither camp expected it all to go on quite so long as it has. But it appears that online communication may be here to stay, even once we're 'back to normal', whatever that might be, what with money saved on heating meeting rooms, boiling kettles and filling the cupboards with milk and biscuits, and team members saving the cost of fuel. Not to mention having a little more time with their families.

As for national meetings, MREW holds two of these each year, in May and November. They're an opportunity for team members, and other colleagues from around England and Wales, to get together, discuss matters of common concern and generally catch up with what's going on in the wider world of mountain rescue. Both meetings were virtual in 2020, with May 2021 set to be the same. On top of that are the many meetings of the trustee and management committees, and the various groups who specialise in the specific areas of mountain rescue: medical, vehicles, training, media, water rescue, equipment, communications and wellbeing. Then there's the meetings with UKSAR and the Royal Foundation and any number of other outside agencies. All conducted very successfully via online platforms — and at considerably less expense in both time and money for all concerned.

One thing that's become clear, however, is the 'buzz' we all get when we're training together or responding to call-outs, or even just attending meetings, swapping ideas and anecdotes. It's the glue that holds us together. The way we work, meet and train might well have changed forever but here's hoping we can meet up again soon, in person, in the same room, or on the same hillside. At least once in a while.



**Selling our safety  
message online**

The launch of our new website, in late-Spring 2020, also brought a complete revitalisation of the online shop, a process which had already tentatively started during 2019 with the development of a growing range of mountain and mountaineering-related books. And the focus is very much on quality merchandise with an eye to our safety messages, as **Sally Seed** explains.



While popular MREW-branded goods such as badges and window stickers are still available, it's become clear that the new approach is meeting a need and also generating valuable funds.

Judy Whiteside (MR Magazine editor and communications expert) and Penny Brockman (MREW Finance Director) have led on the project with Julian Walden (Assistant Secretary) providing storage for stock and processing orders.

'We set out to up our game,' says Judy, 'selling more expensive, quality merchandise, appropriately priced, in the belief that our supporters would do just that and support us. And they have.'

Once the new website was up and running, Judy was able to expand the bookshop side of things as a first step. Fortunately, there is no need to hold a lot of stock so she can hold just a few copies initially and see how sales go on key titles. There are currently about 70 titles in the online bookshop — and still growing — covering everything from knots to navigation and more general hill skills, from mountain guidebooks to biographies and tales of adventure in the mountains, as well as a selection of mountain-related children's storybooks.

'We sell the books at cover price,' explains Judy. 'We're not competing with Amazon and we don't want to take trade away from high street retailers — we even charge postage. But that extra cost is effectively a donation to MREW and people seem happy to support that premise.'

With the bookshop ticking over, Judy then pulled together her contacts with a number of outdoors manufacturers

and listed a selection of items in the shop that had the additional impact of reinforcing MREW's safety messages.

'We encourage the hill-going public to carry compasses, torches and head torches, power banks and first aid kits, water bottles and bivvy bags so it makes sense to sell these things from our own website.

'We've started fairly small with this but already have a few items that have needed to be re-stocked within weeks of going on sale and we've been among the first stockists for a couple of new Led Lenser products too.'

So what's been the bestseller so far? 'Believe it or not, it's actually a DVD about a cave rescue incident,' says Judy. 'It's called Fight for Life, and made some years ago by David Webb, telling the story of Neil Moss, in 1959 — over 60 years ago — a young man who became jammed underground, just 1000 feet from the entrance, after descending a narrow, unexplored shaft in Peak Cavern in Derbyshire. The incident changed the course of cave rescue in the Peak District and beyond and it clearly continues to be a huge source of fascination. I also suspect there are few, if any, other places it's available to buy!'

If you've not yet browsed the shop, it's worth a look — and worth keeping a regular eye on it too, to see what new stock we've added lately. Find it at <https://shop.mountain.rescue.org.uk>.

## New website launched

It's always exciting launching a brand new website and never more so than this time, as we took the whole thing back to the drawing board. We love the results and we suspect our supporters do too, judging by the uptick in Basecamp and magazine subscriptions, online donations and sales through the shop — despite the best efforts of Covid-19.

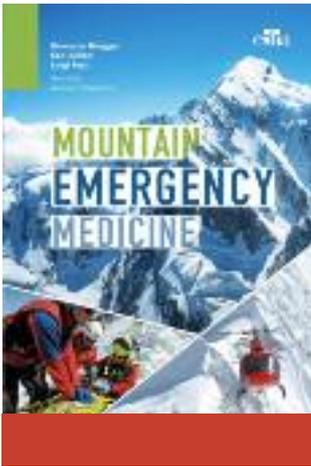
It's easier to navigate, bright, airy and colourful, packed with stuff about all things mountain rescue, and a useful resource if you're looking to learn more about our history, where we're all based, how we operate, or how to stay safe in anticipation of your next adventure in the mountains. Or simply want to get in touch. Check it out at [mountain.rescue.org.uk](https://mountain.rescue.org.uk).



**Opposite page:** Map and compass © Graham Uney. **Top:** Dartmoor Tavistock team members in action © Dartmoor Tavistock MRT.

**Right:** Our new 'I support mountain rescue' Fudge Bear, available in the shop at [mountain.rescue.org.uk](https://mountain.rescue.org.uk); Screen grab from the new website © MREW.





## MARCH 2021: MREW doctors play key role in major new book on mountain emergency medicine

Over three years in the making, the book builds on the publication of a number of consensus guidelines published by the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) and a large number of papers published in scientific journals over the past ten years.

This major collaborative effort crosses cultures and continents and shares knowledge and skills from 80 contributors from around the world. UK mountain rescue doctors have contributed considerably to the book, including outgoing MREW Medical Director Mike Greene, and John Ellerton, the previous national medical officer, who also serves as ICAR Medical Commission President. Elsewhere, Mike Greene was also involved in an open access paper published in late-2020, which brings together the literature on the assessment and treatment of seriously injured patients in the mountain environment.

# Royal Clips



## SEPTEMBER 2020: MREW patron launches Emergency Responder Senior Leader Board

HRH The Duke of Cambridge convened the first meeting of the newly-formed board, which aims to bring together leaders from across the UK's emergency services on the issue of mental health and wellbeing. Mike France will represent MREW.

**Left:** The Duke of Cambridge pictured while speaking at the Police College in Belfast, to staff taking part in the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Wellbeing Volunteer Training course © Kensington Palace.

## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: Collaborating with the College of Policing and the Royal Foundation to support mental health and wellbeing in our team members

Both Mike France and MREW Wellbeing Officer, Elaine Gilliland, have continued to work with the College of Policing and the Royal Foundation, to support mental health and wellbeing within our mountain rescue community.

In March 2021, Dr Jon White, from North Dartmoor SRT, Tony Page, a Lake District member and mental health professional, plus Elaine and ten others, attended a pilot course for members of the MREW Wellbeing Group, led by Dr Noreen Tehrani, one of the College of Policing trainers. The course is a mental health first aid course given to serving police officers called 'Demobilising and Defusing'. Initial feedback was very positive and the intention is that they will run further courses over the next year, enabling team members to benefit from the learning, at no cost to us.

Picking up on the work that Elaine and Mike have been doing with the Royal Foundation, looking into mental health within first responders, the Foundation has agreed to give MREW a grant to fund a couple of 'Assist' training courses, about suicide prevention. The two-day course will look at how to spot signs in our colleagues, and how to address and talk with a casualty we may come across wanting to commit suicide. Again, the hope is that a pilot course will run first, in the summer.



**Above:** The Earl of Wessex during a virtual visit to North Yorkshire and Cleveland. Screen grab courtesy of the Lord Lieutenant's office.

## FEBRUARY 2021: Cleveland team invited to join in virtual Royal visit to North Yorkshire and Cleveland

HRH the Earl of Wessex paid a virtual visit to the north east via Zoom, in an event hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. He was interested to learn how the various local services had coped with the Covid pandemic and the challenges ahead. Cleveland MRT deputy team leader, Mike Gallagher, represented mountain rescue.

Mike was asked to talk about how mountain rescue had responded to Covid-19. He explained that the first lockdown period had been busier in some regions, although relatively quiet for Cleveland, but was soon followed by an increase in call-outs. They discussed the demands of wearing PPE, social distancing and the decontamination of vehicles and kit, along with the fundraising difficulties which all teams will continue to face, as we move forward out of lockdown in 2021.

# News snips

from around England and Wales



## **JANUARY 2021:** Honours for both MREW President and MREW Ops Director

Patterdale team member Ray Griffiths, who has served as MREW President since 2017, was appointed MBE. Mike Margeson, of the Duddon & Furness team is also MREW Ops Director and has been standing in as national chairman since the latter part of 2020 while the organisation elects a successor to Mike France MBE. He gained an OBE. Both were deservedly recognised for their service to mountain rescue.

**Left:** Ray Griffiths © Dave Freeborn. Mike Margeson is pictured with his report on page 4.

**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.

## **FEBRUARY 2021:** MREW ambassador Alan Hinkes OBE takes on new role as patron for Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England

Members of Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England (MRSDE) were proud to announce that Alan had taken on the patronage, following in the footsteps of the late Hamish MacInnes, who had occupied the role since 2008.

Alan is already a familiar face with the search dogs and handlers, particularly those in his native Yorkshire and the north east, regularly playing out on training exercises with the dog teams as a dogsbody, helping them keep their skills honed. He has also been an ambassador for MRSDE for some years.

This year marks fifty years since the formation of SARDA England (as it was originally called), led by Hamish MacInnes, the then leader of the Glencoe team in Scotland. That early association covered the whole of the UK but, by 1971, it had devolved into Scottish, English and Welsh associations. SARDA England changed its name to Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England in early 2019.



**Right:** Alan Hinkes © Alan Hinkes.



**Puppy positives of  
the pandemic**

It's been widely publicised that during the pandemic, the number of people buying puppies has increased hugely and with that, perhaps inevitably, prices have risen.

**Jacquie Hall** has been training search and rescue dog handlers with Mountain Rescue Search Dogs England (MRSDE) for over 25 years and has a unique perspective on the pros and cons of pandemic puppy ownership.



'We've also seen a dramatic increase in the number of people applying to become search dog handlers,' says Jacquie. 'Thankfully, many of these dogs have been bought at a reasonable price from breeders who are sympathetic to the cause of search and rescue. Some are even donated free. That said, there are also handlers who are looking for a puppy and facing prices of over £3,000, which is proving prohibitive. Hopefully, they will find their perfect puppy soon.'

'As at March 2021, fifteen handlers had successfully applied to join MRSDE in the past six months — more than five times the average intake but, surprisingly, is not a product of Covid. Five of those handlers have previously graded a dog or have dogs which are close to retiring so it's part of a natural process'.

For decades, the most popular breed of choice for search and rescue has been the Border Collie and, out of the fifteen currently training, ten are indeed Border Collies (three being the offspring of a current graded dog). There is also a German Shepherd, a Cocker Spaniel,

an English Shepherd Dog, a German Short Haired Pointer/Labrador cross and a Spaniel/Labrador cross. The dogs' ages range from fourteen weeks to thirteen months and, for the first time, the ratio of male to female handlers is almost equal at 8:7.

'Due to the strange times, the puppies and their handlers are undertaking initial obedience training remotely by video call, with group discussions via online conferencing. Ironically, this has proved to be so successful that it's something we will continue in the future, in between our regular national training courses, once these are up and running again.'

'We will be putting these handlers and dogs through their registration obedience test as soon as we reasonably can. They will also do a rigorous stock test with a local farmer before they are allowed to go 'on the hill' to start the rigorous training required to get them up to assessment standard, usually within two years'.

These are just some of the search dogs of the future and we wish them all well in their quest to save lives.



**Opposite page:** Trainee Search Dog Broch on the left, fully graded Search Dog Rona on the right. Both Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dogs who work and train with their handler, Keswick MRT member Rob Grange © Rob Grange.

**Top:** MRSDE Search Dog Ebba. **Above:** Mac and Teg, MRSDE puppies in training. Images courtesy of Jacquie Hall.

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

Both air-scenting and trailing dogs are used to search for missing people, in the mountains and more urban areas, through every sort of terrain and weather conditions.

## If you're thinking of introducing your own new puppy to the Great Outdoors...

- Remember, crowds of people and lots of traffic will be completely new to your puppy. Introduce the busier post-lockdown environment gradually and offer plenty of encouragement.
- Farmers are rightly concerned that new dog owners heading for the countryside won't understand the implications and consequences of a loose dog worrying livestock. Make sure your dog is on a lead on farmland and set a good example to other dog owners.
- Search and rescue dogs are trained to respond to play and attention rather than food treats but, whatever you use, praising and fussing your dog for doing the right things will reinforce good behaviour and will build confidence and trust too.
- A new lockdown puppy will be used to having the family around at home and being left alone could be upsetting and worrying. Build up their confidence gradually rather than expecting them to manage several hours alone once you can head outdoors.
- You can apply **#BeAdventureSmart** questions to your new puppy or dog too. Have you got water in your bag and a strong lead for them? Can they cope with your intended route comfortably or do you need to build up their fitness and stamina? If the forecast is for hot sun, are you prepared to keep them cool and hydrated?

# MOUNTAIN RESCUE ENGLAND AND WALES TEAMS AND REGIONS BY AREA COVERED SO MUCH MORE THAN MOUNTAINS

## Lake District

### Lake District Search & Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA)

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

### North East Search & Rescue Association (NESRA)

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

## Yorkshire Dales

### Yorkshire Dales Rescue Panel (YDRP)

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

## Mid Pennine

### Mid Pennine Search & Rescue Organisation (MPSRO)

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

## Peak District

### Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation (PDMRO)

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

## North Wales

### North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (NWMRA)

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

## South Wales

### South Wales Search & Rescue Association (SWSARA)

Brecon MRT  
Central Beacons MRT  
Longtown MRT  
Western Beacons MRT

## Peninsula

### Peninsula Mountain & Cave Rescue Association (PenMacra)

East Cornwall SRT  
(Mountain + Cave)  
West Cornwall SAR  
(Mountain + Cave)  
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 'Police', then 'Mountain Rescue' or 'Cave Rescue'



Find us online at [mountain.rescue.org.uk](http://mountain.rescue.org.uk)

Facebook: @MountainRescueUK or Twitter: @MountainRescueUK

Mountain Rescue England and Wales is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Registered In England and Wales No: 1178090