

# KESWICK Mountain Rescue Team

A Registered Charity Number 509860

Annual Report  
2004

*Wanna*

Welcome

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# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Welcome to this Report detailing our activities for 2003.

Thanks to Venus Griffiths for the acrylic  
"Causey Pike from Rowling End" used on the cover.

## *Glenmore Lodge Training Weekend*



*Walk uphill, Loch Morlich in the background.*

*Malcolm Miller*

Within the Report are other pictures from the Glenmore Lodge  
Winter Training Weekend.

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# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team 2004

## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

**Team Leader:** Mark Hodgson  
**President:** Mike Nixon MBE  
**Chairman:** Mike Fanning  
**Secretary:** Neil Dowie  
 Royal Oak Hotel  
 Rosthwaite, Keswick  
**Treasurer:** Ian Wallace  
 Spooney Green House  
 Spooney Green Lane, Keswick  
 Tel: 017687 72601  
**Honorary Auditor:** John Wood  
**Collection Box** Brian Spencer  
**Co-ordinator :** Daresfield, Chestnut Hill, Keswick

**Deputy Team Leaders:** Roy Henderson  
 Chris Higgins  
 Simon Hodgson  
**Medical Officer:** Dr Peter White  
**Training Officers:** Roy Henderson  
 Jill Sharpe  
**Radio Officer:** Alan Prescott  
**Transport Officer:** Allan Alcock  
**Equipment Officer:** Chris Higgins  
**Base Officer:** Keith Stephenson  
**Report Editor:** Peter Little



**CALLOUT LIST:** Allan Alcock  
 Donald Angus  
 Peter Barron  
 Jan Beedham  
 Martin Bell  
 Dr Richard Blakemore  
 Fiona Boyle  
 Paul Carter  
 Paul Cheshire  
 Neil Dowie  
 Mike Fanning  
 Anne Francis  
 Chris Francis  
 Richard Gale  
 Chris Gillyon  
 Geoff Gilmore  
 Mick Guy  
 Roy Henderson  
 Scott Henderson  
 Chris Higgins  
 Mark Hodgson  
 Simon Hodgson  
 Karen Holmes

*Forecourt Attendant  
 Retired  
 National Park Ranger  
 Laboratory Technician  
 Ambulance Technician  
 GP  
 Lecturer  
 Production Manager  
 Chartered Engineer  
 Hotelier  
 Solicitor  
 Teacher  
 Research Assistant  
 System Support Engineer  
 Outdoor Pursuits Instructor  
 Leisure Pool Manager  
 Head Teacher  
 National Trust Warden  
 National Park Ranger  
 Outdoor Pursuits Instructor  
 Chartered Builder  
 Builder  
 Outdoor Pursuits Instructor*

Dr Tim Hooper  
 Katharine Horder  
 Paul Horder  
 Robin Humphreys  
 Andy Jones  
 Peter Little  
 Brian Martland  
 Malcolm Miller  
 Phil Newton  
 Mike Nixon MBE  
 Simon Noble  
 Des Oliver  
 David Pratt  
 Alan Prescott  
 David Ridley  
 David Robinson  
 Jocky Sanderson  
 Jill Sharpe  
 Ben Soffe  
 Brian Spencer  
 Keith Stephenson  
 Ian Wallace  
 Piers Warburton  
 Dr Peter White

*GP  
 Head Teacher  
 IT Support Technician  
 Retired  
 Retired  
 Pharmacist  
 Retired  
 Head Teacher  
 Retired  
 Retired  
 Retired  
 Retired  
 Teacher  
 Senior Manager  
 Outdoor Centre Instructor  
 Shop Manager  
 Outdoor Pursuits Instructor  
 Nurse  
 Retail Assistant  
 Retired  
 Joiner  
 Retired  
 Quantity Surveyor  
 GP*

### *Modus Operandi*

You're in a busy flow of fell-walkers on a popular Lakeland path on a damp day with some hill fog. Within your first 300m or so of ascent, you see in the people around you a whole variety of clothing.

Full jacket, hat, gloves, and trousers. Light jacket and trousers. Shirtsleeves and trousers. Shirtsleeves and shorts. T-shirt and shorts. Further clothing combinations.

These variations are seen in the mist and in the clear conditions. The walkers have not necessarily changed their modus operandi in response to altered conditions. Some of the walkers are not adequately equipped.

This is what you see about their clothing. It doesn't cover their footwear, their attitude and fitness, and their ability to cope with changing conditions with other gear they're carrying. Also, whether they're alone or in a party. What about the walker's experience?

Each walker (or climber ) is an individual, pursuing a separate agenda, and perhaps unsure of the way. There are guidelines for this enjoyment of freedom.

Each member of a mountain rescue organisation is an individual with ambitions to pursue. The person has followed a highway, not always with a clear destination in sight. While maintaining the right of an individual to be individual, the rescuer has gained experience of mountaineering, and circumstances of the local "patch", such that an attitude and desire to share the expertise in a caring, empathetic way to others has developed. This is despite any temptation to criticise publicly any selfishness or irresponsible foolhardy behaviour that may have contributed to an accident.

## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

For the rescuer this means becoming a team player in an organisation of unpaid volunteers that responds 24 hours a day, and 365 days of the year, to all manner of incident, in all sorts of weather. It's an extension of the freedom of the open fell. It's a direction with lots of discipline. It's also a direction with more hazards and risks. However, it's a course that leads to a tremendous sense of achievement and satisfaction. And there's a fine, often sublime, line of humour.

There's a wonderful unity of purpose in the Keswick Team, with a collective submerging or yielding of individual talents to the needs of the Team. Confidence and security are reinforced by a strand of enthusiasm and trust. There is a sense of conviction, a sort of *force majeure*, about what must be done.

This Report shows the Team in all its operations throughout a busy year. The continuous drive for positive change and improvement is recorded. There is review and revision of procedures. The Team does change its modus operandi in response to altered conditions. The Team ensures care and security for each casualty and for each Team member. Did you realise that "secure mate" is an anagram of "rescue team"?!

I hope you find this Report useful and informative. Please remember that you can also follow our activities through the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team website: [www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)



**Peter Little**

*Jacob's Ladder, Cairngorms.*

*Peter Little*

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Casualty winch

Dave Ridley

## Decisions

How do you run a mountain rescue team? Well, this Team is a democracy. It has a leadership, to manage its operations, and a committee to manage its business as a registered charity. Of course, there is no such convenient split between the functions of a rescue team in reality – and for that very good reason, this is a charity that requires the active participation of each of its trustees at the coal face, doing the job of work that rescues can be.

There are quarterly meetings of the Team in general meeting, and freedom of expression (surely the real essence of democracy) ensures that the actions of that leadership and committee are scrutinised, and criticised at will. All of the officials are required to stand for election each year, and so are held to account if in any way in default. Through this method of management, the Team as a whole determines its direction.

As a Team, we have had some problems this year. We have had the committee making decisions that the Team has felt should have been left to it. Ultimately, when offered an explanation, the Team almost to a person understood the reasons for the precipitate action of the committee. Nonetheless, it was a bad tempered, awkward and unpleasant interlude in Team life – normally so familial, placid and focussed on rescue – not politics.

Why the irascible interlude? Unfortunately, the world is changing. Those changes are impacting on Team life, whether we like it or not, and we have to adapt to some of the grimmer realities of the modern world. We can no longer assume that those we seek to help will always be grateful to us – albeit the vast, vast majority are, and will continue to be.

A feature of this age, and one that will impact on rescue teams in due course, is the lessening in the concept of personal responsibility of the citizens of this country. If something goes wrong, there will always be someone other than the self to blame – and someone to pick up the pieces. For example,

people who willingly undertake paragliding, one of the more dangerous outdoor sports, appear equally willing (if something goes wrong) to sue those who make available the opportunity for participation. Several paragliding schools have shut up shop in this area because they cannot, as a result of litigation, buy the insurance to protect themselves from the cost of a claim.

We must assume that it will be only a matter of time before some avaricious litigant and a clever lawyer bat home a claim against a rescue team member. One would hope that public policy would be against imposing liability upon those who volunteer to stick their lives on the line, without any financial incentive, for the sake of a complete stranger in trouble in the hills. But public policy is increasingly reactionary – and just one high profile, high publicity incident in which a rescue team can be shown to have acted less than ideally would be, in the climate of our times, enough to alter the status quo.

Those involved in shaping this business of mountain rescue (if that is the right word for an entirely voluntary endeavour) must be aware of the issues, and the risks, and ensure as best they can that those doing the real work – the team members who go out on the hill in all weathers and at all times - are protected from the scapegoat mentality that is increasingly prevalent in this nation. It is, ultimately, those who carry the label of committee person or leader who carry that burden of responsibility.

On a complete change of tack, a huge thank you to Peter Ede, and his colleagues and customers at the Dog & Gun in Keswick for the consistently generous support given to the Team. Also, to the negotiators on LDSAMRA's communications sub-committee whose hard work in securing funding for the next generation of radio equipment will greatly benefit the Lakes rescue teams for several years to come. The Police Authority is to be thanked for its recognition (in allocating funding for this project from its budget) of the significant benefit offered to the area by its mountain rescue teams.

**Mike Fanning**

*Glenmore Lodge Training Weekend*



*Assembling in Coire Cas.*

*Karen Holmes*



*Rope work on a steep slope.*

*Malcolm Miller*



*Testing a Snow Bollard.*

*Karen Holmes*



*Looking down Jacob's Ladder.*

*Simon Hodgson*



*On the Cairngorm Plateau edge.*

*Peter Little*



*It was cold !*

*Simon Hodgson*

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Helicopter Training.

KMRT

### *A "routine" year with much variety*

2004 saw the Team called to 72 rescues, with a further 32 alerts to which the leader and deputies responded, but which didn't turn into a full team callout. Alerts are not recorded as rescues. In the Lake District generally, more than 50% of all callouts are now instigated by mobile phone, and this number is increasing year on year. As in previous years mobile phones can be a great advantage in the case of an accident on the fells, but as ever they are used too freely on many occasions when, with a bit more tenacity leading to increased individual's experience, they are used to alert the Team when the Team is perhaps not really required. Mobile phones remain as no excuse for maps and compasses and of course the knowledge of how to use them!

Amongst the rescues carried out during the year, there were: 20 searches, 18 leg injuries, and a total of 115 casualties assisted. Sadly there were 5 fatalities in the year. We called on the assistance of RAF helicopters on 9 occasions, including 2 helicopters involved in the same incident – a search in the Central Fells area (incident 12). Air Ambulances were used to evacuate casualties on 4 occasions. There was also a first for the Keswick Team, with the Lancashire Police helicopter used on a search (incident 55) bringing thermal imaging as a new resource. The advantages and disadvantages of the capabilities of the differing helicopters available is yet another area where careful consideration is needed by the Team.

It has been remarked upon within the Team that the incidents during 2003 have resulted in what could be referred to as a 'routine' year, with nothing 'out of the ordinary' by way of the technical input required to undertake the rescues. It can only be viewed upon as 'routine' because the Team are very well

equipped, trained and experienced in all types of rescues such that we can cope with just about anything that might come our way, including a callout in the middle of the rugby world cup final (we were regularly updated on the score!) Whilst the Team may view some rescues as routine, obviously they are far from routine for the casualties. With skilled first aid treatment and careful evacuation, mixed with a bit of humour to lift spirits where possible, every casualty on every rescue is treated as unique.

Reference to the list of rescues elsewhere in the report gives details of all the callouts, but the following indicate the variety of rescues undertaken:

- The successful search for an Alzheimer's patient, who had failed to return to his home, in very cold conditions in January. The search involved small area searching through fields, parks and gardens etc. (Incident 2)
- The rescue of 3 hounds stuck on Miners Crag requiring a 600' roped descent to retrieve them in winter conditions. (Incident 9)
- A long search for 2 women on Scafell Pike in February in difficult conditions. (Their wonderful thank-you letter was almost as long as the rescue!) (Incident 12)
- 3 days spent fighting the fire on Barrow and surrounding, fells, supporting the National Trust and the Fire Service. (Incident 24)
- The rescue of a group of 14 youngsters and their leaders in poor weather in May on Bakestall. (Incident 29)

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

- The 'one man rescue' of a climber with broken ribs on Black Crag. Rescues like this, where the casualty has relatively minor injuries, are now undertaken by one Team member abseiling from the top of the crag, attaching the casualty to the rescuers system, removing the casualty from their own rope system and abseiling on to the foot of the crag, where this particular casualty was transferred to the stretcher for the carry from the foot of the crag, and then into the Air Ambulance for quick transfer to hospital. Several years ago this rescue would have involved the lowering of a stretcher and several team members to the casualty and would have taken considerably longer to execute. (Incident 47)
- The rescue of a man who had been thrown from his quad bike and landed awkwardly some way down a rock-filled gully. (Incident 52)
- Another successful search in the Portinscale area, again small area searching, this time for an elderly local resident in semi-rural areas. (Incident 55)
- The rescue of an 84 year old local walker who had fallen into a rocky gully close to the summit of Causey Pike. First aid and stretcher loading in circumstance such as this is definitely not like first aid practise where the casualty is laying on a flat floor! (Incident 66)
- And, of course, many lower leg injuries.

As every year, a huge thanks to all Team members for all their input to rescues, training, maintenance and running the business side of the Team. It is easy at times to forget the commitment members give to the team. Without it, the Team

could not function as efficiently as it does. Thanks also for all the support that Team members receive from their families and employers.

The Keswick Team continue to lead in providing assistance to other teams, this year with sponsoring, organising and running another Rigging for Rescue course, to which members of other Teams across England and Wales were invited to attend, at no cost. We have also donated some 30 rechargeable search torches to two other Teams. It is very encouraging that other Teams are now following the lead taken by Keswick and are supporting other teams in a similar way.

In last year's report I discussed the need to replace the current outdated radio system used by all teams across the Lake District. We are very pleased to have just received confirmation from Cumbria Police Authority that they have agreed to fund the cost of this radio replacement. They quote in their confirmatory letter their "great appreciation of the demanding role undertaken by Teams . . . which is carried out selflessly and with great professionalism" and that the Authority and Constabulary are "proud on behalf of the people of Cumbria to be associated with the project". Our grateful thanks go to Cumbria Police Authority and Constabulary.

So to all our friends; past present and future, thank-you for your support, enjoy your days in the hills and let's hope 2004 brings some excellent conditions, both summer and winter.



*Helicopter winching practice.*

*KMRT*

**Mark Hodgson**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Rigging for Rescue Course. Andy Jones

### ***Division of tasks***

There have been a number of changes associated with the Team this year which, in turn, have led to some changes in the area of equipment. For one there has been an increase in interest shown by potential new members, who are inducted into the Team with a one year probationary period. The Team took the decision that we should be equipping these probationers, who are on the Callout List and attend rescues, as any other full Team member, with a basic set of protective outer clothing. As such an "outer shell" of waterproofs, hat and gloves, and fibre pile top are issued to these rescuers of the future.

As a result of the "Rigging for Rescue" course attended by several Team members in the autumn, we compiled a shopping list of crag rescue equipment, and in February restocked our crag sacks with some new ironmongery. It would seem that some of the old techniques and equipment, although fine in certain situations, were not as versatile or as reliable, and were potentially risking rescuers and casualties. As such we have adopted the "Rigging for Rescue" crag rescue system, which involves every person on the crag being safeguarded by two ropes, not just one as in the past. We also utilise a safety device, called the "540", which has been developed in North America. This device is used on the second rope attached to the load, be it a stretcher/casualty or rescuer, as an autolocking device that protects the load in the event of the main line failing, (*fingers and everything else crossed that should never happen*).

I would like to thank Martin Bell who has retired from the post of second Equipment Officer this year. Primarily, Martin has been instrumental in restructuring the First Aid equipment

sacks over the past few years, and implemented a number of measures to assist the Team in maintaining its stocks of First Aid equipment.

Over the last few years the work required of the Equipment Officers has been constantly growing, so much so that it has become too large for two persons to undertake with the pressures of other minor concerns such as work and families. The Team has taken the decision to restructure the role of Equipment Officers, and we will now be operating with an equipment co-ordinator and several sub-officers each with their own specific areas of responsibility. I would like to thank the persons listed below for offering their time and expertise in maintaining the Team's equipment, and, to give you an insight into the diversity of equipment maintenance in a mountain rescue team, I list below the division of tasks.

#### **Stretchers**

*Paul Cheshire*

#### **Safety Boat**

*Peter Barron, Scott Henderson*

#### **River Rescue Kit**

*David Pratt*

#### **Crag Rescue Kit**

*Piers Warburton, Ben Soffe*

#### **First Aid Equipment**

*Peter Little, Martin Bell,*

*Geoff Gilmore, David Ridley*

#### **Casualty Care**

*Karen Holmes, Simon Noble*

#### **Clothing & other**

*Chris Higgins*

Finally, the Team, would like to thank all the manufacturers and retailers that have assisted us over the past year with their advice, service, and generous discounts. All of which helps us to assist people lost, injured or otherwise incapacitated on the fells around Keswick.

**Chris Higgins**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

### *Success in many courses*

Another challenging year in our training for the Team! We are happy to have had a year (and even happier that this seems a trend as we are taking on two new probationers now) where we have been juggling the training needs of up to six new probationers as well as the needs of the Team. This is most welcome after a quiet couple of years and each probationer brings new talents to the Team as well as having different training requirements.

Even seasoned Team members have had a busy year in the training schedule with activities as diverse as First Aid to driving skills to "Rigging For Rescue". All credit goes to all the Team members who sat the Mountain Rescue Council First Aid Exam earlier in the year. This is a rigorous test of both theoretical and practical skills and not undertaken lightly as it requires much work in preparation. We are very pleased to report that once again all Team members who sat this exam passed first time with flying colours. This is a great reflection on the high standards of casualty care we pride ourselves on in all conditions, at all times of the year and is also highlighted in the successful outcomes for our rescues.

Two Team members have extended their First Aid skills by successfully refreshing their EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) qualification. We work closely with BASP (British Association of Ski Patrollers) who run these courses in Scotland for mountain rescue teams, and the "cross-fertilisation" of experience and skills between us and Scottish mountain rescue teams is very beneficial.

One of the most innovative training courses for "cross-fertilisation" has involved us going international! The "Rigging For Rescue" course is helping us to understand our rope techniques in even greater depth and expand on our safety procedures. The Canadian rope team was imported to Keswick to run two courses which we also threw open to 60 or so other teams to participate in if they wished. This has been very successful, not only benefiting our Team but many others. Once again the time to share experiences has proved very valuable to all involved and to their extended teams and results in swifter, safer rescues. Two Team members are also expanding on these courses (on a visit to Canada) later this year and will incorporate what they learn into our training scheme to enhance the whole Team's knowledge.

Our "rolling" training programme continues weekly and we have found the "Core" practice sessions each month most valuable in maintaining skills. The Team has finished our driving skills programme (which we will re-sit every five years) with all drivers passing successfully. This has included road driving in both cars and 4X4 vehicles fully loaded and also examines the safe use of "blues and twos", (blue lights and sirens).

The training officers have wonderful material to work with! Motivated, fit volunteers who pride themselves on their talents and are keen to share these with our own Team people as well as interested others. The high standards we ask for and maintain are borne out by positive outcomes with our casualties and their families and friends. They also bring us a huge measure of fun! Many thanks to all.

**Jill Sharpe**



*Gill Rescue Practice, Stoneycroft Beck.*

*KMRT*

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Casualty Care on a practice in Cat Gill.

KMRT

## *The casualty may have trauma or medical problems*

The sharp end of Mountain Rescue often involves the administration of first aid, and the team organises a rolling programme of training to equip the team members to deal with both trauma and medical problems they may encounter on the hill. The commonest injuries are lower leg problems, but members are prepared by this training to deal with heart attacks, respiratory problems, hypothermia, complex trauma and much more. A large group of members were successful in the rigorous MRC First Aid Exam last Year.

Whilst the Keswick team now boasts 3 local GPs amongst its ranks, the bulk of the first aid is performed by team members relying upon this extensive training.

The last year has witnessed the reformation of the medical subcommittee of LDSAMRA, a forum for Medical Officers from teams around the Lake District to discuss and share best practice, and to both inform and disseminate guidelines developed at a national level. The most recent of these concern the management of a casualty with a head injury, and airway management.

We continue to review our equipment seeking lightweight but effective kit, now carrying both immediate care and first aid rucksacs, along with a host of splints, stretchers, monitors, defibrillator, casualty bags, oxygen, and intravenous fluids.

**Peter White**

# Incident Report 2003

Compiled by Paul Horder

## Seventy-two callouts this year

- 1 3 January 18:52**  
**Nethermost Pike - above Wythburn Church**  
A man (65 yrs) slipped and stumbled on an icy path while descending, breaking his leg. The alarm was raised some 4 hours later!
- 2 3 January 23:11**  
**Local incident**  
A man (79 yrs) and an Alzheimer sufferer was reported missing from his local Nursing Home. A search was mounted involving 42 people from 2 Teams together with 5 search dogs. The man was found in a local churchyard next morning, cold but otherwise well.
- 3 5 January 12:30**  
**Grisedale Pike**  
A man in his 50s was reported to be in a collapsed condition. A helicopter was tasked but despite the Team's efforts at the scene, the man was not able to be revived.
- 4 7 January 11:54**  
**Allerdale Ramble above Rosthwaite**  
A woman (58 yrs) slipped on the icy track and broke her wrist and leg.
- 5 10 January 14:26**  
**Latrigg - east side**  
A man (22 yrs) slipped and injured his ankle. We were requested to assist the ambulance because of icy conditions.
- 6 12 January 21:30**  
**Crinkle Crag area**  
Request from Langdale/Ambleside MRT to assist in search for overdue solo walker (35 yrs). He was located on Long Top in the early hours, cold and wet but otherwise OK.
- 7 18 January 19:53**  
**Base Brown**  
A man (32 yrs) and woman (30 yrs) used their mobile phone to call for help having become lost and benighted on a walk to Black Sail hostel. It was not clear where they were initially, but they were eventually located cold and exhausted and were escorted back down to the valley.

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

- 8 21 January 23:30**  
**Glaramara**  
A request from Langdale/Ambleside MRT for advice and assistance in evacuating 3 lost, benighted walkers from High House Tarn.
- 9 22 January 12:23**  
**Eel Crag, Newlands**  
3 hounds were reported to be in difficulties. One had been killed and 2 had been crag fast overnight. Attempts were made to rescue the dogs, but poor conditions of ice and snow determined the rescue be delayed until the next day. A 600' roped descent located the dogs and brought them down to safety.
- 10 23 January 16:30**  
**Helvellyn - above the Swirls**  
An elderly couple used their mobile phone to summon assistance after they had lost the path and were beginning to run out of daylight - on a magic one-off day of snows on the tops, blue skies and sunshine.
- 11 5 February 15:19**  
**Latrigg above the car park**  
A man (24 yrs) got it wrong when sledging and broke his leg. The Team Land Rover was used for access as the road was icebound and the ambulance had been unable to attend.
- 12 10 February 16:41**  
**Central Fells**  
2 women (35 and 40 yrs) set off from Seathwaite for Scafell Pike but encountered a snow storm and become lost and bewildered. In their attempts to get out of their predicament, one of them fell and injured her ankle. The subsequent search, following a truncated mobile phone call involved 7 teams, 140 searchers and 2 rescue helicopters over 2 days. They were located by a helicopter suffering from mild hypothermia near Throstle Garth in Eskdale.



Incident No 24.

KMRT

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

Incident Report 2003 *continued . . .*



Incident No. 24.

KMRT

**13 15 February 11:08**  
**Barf - The Bishop**

A young women (24 yrs) had a panic attack on the steep ground. This was exacerbated by her boyfriend not returning for 40 minutes while he was looking for an escape route.

**14 22 February 14:49**  
**Great Wood**

A diabetic women (62 yrs) sustained an ankle injury while walking. The Team was recalled as the incident was dealt with by the ambulance crew.

**15 22 February 20:25**  
**Great Wood**

A Canadian couple (21 yrs) became lost in the dark under Walla Crag. They were located and assisted down.

**16 25 February 18:49**  
**Gilliercombe Buttress**

Some walkers saw some climbers on the crag and heard them shouting. In good faith, they called for mountain rescue. A search of the crag and surrounding area found nothing amiss.

**17 5 April 15:28**  
**Bowder Stone**

A girl (10 yrs) fell about 6' when scrambling on the boulder. She knocked herself out momentarily and injured her back.

**18 8 April 14:28**  
**Walla Crag**

A paraglider (45 yrs) made a bad landing. He sustained a broken pelvis, ribs and shoulder injuries. He was airlifted to hospital. At the same time, a woman broke her ankle near Ashness Bridge and a distressed young woman called at our HQ, suffering from an acute medical problem.

**19 12 April 16:01**  
**Langstrath - Bleak How**

A young woman (27 yrs) fell 30' while leading a climb. She was concussed with unspecified injuries. A helicopter, already in the area, was used to transport her to hospital.

**20 13 April 13:36**  
**Blencathra summit**

A male walker (53 yrs) collapsed and died despite the best efforts of a passing nurse and doctor. He was airlifted from the mountain.

**21 13 April 16:45**  
**Honister Pass**

A woman (70 yrs) stumbled and fell, sustaining injuries to her wrist, face, head and knee.

**22 15 April 16:32**  
**Causey Pike**

A woman (47 yrs) turned her ankle near the summit.

**23 15 April 20:05**  
**Shepherd's Crag - Eve**

A female climber (32 yrs) fell about 2 metres, bounced off her second, and landed with back pains.

**24 17 April 11:12**  
**Barrow and Outerside**

Three days were spent with the fire service, National Trust and Park Rangers in tackling a huge fire which was fanned by the strong easterly winds.

**25 17 April 21:25**  
**Glaralara - Thorneythwaite Fell**

A man (51 yrs) was carried off in an exhausted condition, having overstretched his expectations.

**26 27 April 01:45**  
**Central Fells**

We were requested by Wasdale MRT to search the routes from Scafell Pike on our side of the mountain. 3 men had become separated in rain and mist on the summit at 9 pm, eventually using a mobile phone to call for help. Two were found on Brown Tongue and the third at the Mickledore stretcher box.

**27 1 May 00:09**  
**Base Brown**

A man (21 yrs) and 2 youths (15 yrs & 16 yrs) went off-route when trying to descend Tylorgill. They had tried to climb out of difficulties and had become crag fast.

## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

28 3 May 12:17

### Castle Crag

A woman (70 yrs) stumbled and badly gashed her leg. She was taken to hospital by a helicopter which was training in the area.

29 3 May 19:42

### Bakestall - above Dead Crags

A group of 14 youngsters with a few adults went to ground when confronted with poor weather, steep ground and an injured party member. The children were safely escorted down and the woman (41yrs) with back problems was stretchered off.

30 11 May 11:15

### Woden's Face 'Direct'

A climber (17 yrs) fell 20' while leading. He pulled out his protection and landed at the bottom with 2 broken wrists, cuts and bruises.

31 25 May 16:00

### Brandelhow, Derwentwater

A woman (70 yrs) slipped on tree roots and broke the neck of her femur.

32 25 May 16:50

### Cat Bells

Three women decided to push an all-terrain buggy with a baby in it up the side of the mountain. They got to the point where they couldn't go back down, so used their mobile phone to call for assistance. The baby, who was protesting strongly, was carried down by a team member.

33 30 May 21:10

### Ullscarf

An experienced fell-runner (71 yrs) suddenly collapsed and died while on an evening run. All attempts by his friends and the Team failed to revive him. He was taken to hospital by helicopter.

34 1 June 13:15

### Grains Gill - White Bridge

A female walker (53 yrs) made a dash for a plastic bag carried away by the wind and managed to break her leg!

35 4 June 20:30

### Greenup Edge area

A man (73 yrs) doing the Coast to Coast walk was overtaken by poor visibility and became disorientated. He called for help on an ailing mobile phone link. We were requested to assist Langdale/Ambleside MRT in the search. He was found by a Keswick team member at the head of Wythburn and then slowly escorted down!

36 7 June 16:18

### Walla Crag

A woman (49 yrs) twisted her ankle on a steep descent, fracturing her tibia and fibula.

37 8 June 23:50

### Stair - Little Langdale

A man (62 yrs) became lost in low cloud and rain. He was located at Brotherkeld at about 2 am.

38 10 June 15:11

### Grisedale Pike - Sleet How

A boy (13 yrs) was reported to be suffering from a fit. He was carried down and taken to hospital for observation.

39 21 June 14:40

### Helvellyn summit

A man (48 yrs) was taken ill on the summit. A helicopter on exercise in the area flew him to hospital in Carlisle.

40 30 June 23:50

### Central Fells

A search for an overdue solo walker (56 yrs). His car was located in Langdale and his route included Scafell Pike, 3 Teams and 10 search dogs (SARDA) were involved. He was found at 4.30 am near Cam Spout suffering from a head injury. As a result he was taken off by helicopter.

41 4 July 16:24

### Glenderaterra Valley

A mountain biker (39 yrs) fell from her bike and injured her ankle. She was carried from her predicament to a waiting Land Rover which transported her to a waiting ambulance.



*The area of our activities*

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

## Incident Report 2003 *continued . . .*

**42 7 July 12:32**  
**Cat Bells**  
A woman (34 yrs) wrenched her knee and was unable to continue. She was stretchered down the fell.

**43 9 July 19:40**  
**Black Crag, Troutdale**  
A climber (47 yrs) fell about 50' from Piranha (E3) while leading. He sustained head injuries and various cuts and bruises but was otherwise lucky!

**44 12 July 18:05**  
**Brundholme Woods**  
A woman (32 yrs) was reported to be missing from home. Her body was located not far from her car.

**45 16 July 17:26**  
**Robinson**  
A woman (40 yrs) suffered from heat exhaustion, having walked half of the Buttermere Horseshoe in temperatures reaching 28°C. She was carried down and taken to hospital for treatment.

**46 23 July 05:00**  
**Scafell Pike**  
Requested by Wasdale MRT to assist in a search for a party of 4 adults and 2 10 year olds who were reported overdue. They were located at Brotherilkeld at 10 am next morning.

**47 27 July 13:16**  
**Black Crag, Troutdale**  
A climber (45 yrs) fell 20-30' while leading. He was held by his second but sustained broken ribs and associated injuries. He was evacuated by air ambulance.

**48 1 August 16:39**  
**Strandshag Bay, Derwentwater**  
A male (82 yrs) was in a collapsed condition. We assisted the paramedics in his recovery.

**49 4 August 15:36**  
**Fairy Glen, Langstrath**  
A woman (66 yrs) collapsed and fell on rock and suffered chest pains.

**50 14 August 23:25**  
**High Spy**  
A family of 2 adults (32 yrs) and 3 children (c10 yrs) became benighted and lost when they couldn't find their return path.

**51 16 August 14:35**  
**Lord's Seat**  
A man (30 yrs) with epilepsy was reported to have collapsed.

**52 25 August 11:12**  
**Cat Bells Terrace**  
A man (47 yrs) managed to overturn his quad bike, suffering back and neck injuries.

**53 26 August 13:26**  
**Cat Bells summit**  
A girl (9 yrs) slipped on rock and lacerated her knee.

**54 26 August 20:30**  
**Calf Cove**  
2 men (35 yrs) phoned in to say they couldn't find the descent from the Esk Hause shelter. They were found not there, but at the new Calf Cove shelter, and escorted down. They had no compass or torches.

**55 6 September 14:26**  
**Portinscale area**  
A local resident (83 yrs) failed to return home after a blackberry picking excursion. She was last seen on Friday at 7 pm heading away from the village. 30 searchers including dogs and a police helicopter eventually found her 41 hours later. She had fallen and was found by the helicopter lying under a hedge, having spent 2 very cold nights in the open. She was in remarkably good shape after her ordeal.

**56 6 September 16:55**  
**Taylorgill Force**  
While the above incident was being organised, a woman (36 yrs) fell 50' from the path and sustained cuts and bruises to her head and leg. She was evacuated by RAF Leeming MRT who were assisting in the above search.



Incident No. 47.

KMRT

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

- 57 8 September 15:03**  
**Scope End, Hindscaith**  
 A woman (72 yrs) slipped and tripped while descending through steep bracken. She suffered a triple fracture/dislocation of her ankle. A helicopter which was training in the area took her to Carlisle hospital.
- 58 20 September 10:00**  
**Blencathra, Scales Tarn**  
 A request to assist in the recovery of an ATV.
- 59 28 September 14:55**  
**Clough Head**  
 A paraglider (32 yrs) crashed about 30'-50' to the ground and sustained a compound fracture to his tibia and fibula. He was evacuated to hospital by Air Ambulance before the arrival of the Team.
- 60 29 September 15:22**  
**Caldbeck Fells**  
 An Australian woman (61 yrs) became separated from her husband in mist on a walk from Caldbeck to Keswick. He arrived in Keswick. She arrived some time afterwards.
- 61 12 October 14:53**  
**Blencathra, Blease Fell**  
 A man (53 yrs), a member of a walking group, slipped on grass and broke his lower leg.
- 62 18 October 17:36**  
**Sty Head stretcher box**  
 A man (56 yrs) slipped near the stretcher box and injured his ankle.
- 63 26 October 16:25**  
**Esk Hause area**  
 A woman (47 yrs) slipped on the path and broke her ankle. Some campers collected the stretcher from the box at Sty Head and had started to carry her down as the Team arrived. Well done, campers!
- 64 26 October 19:32**  
**Moses Trod area of Coast 2 Coast walk**  
 A man (50 yrs) and his son (15 yrs) were reported overdue on the Ennerdale section. A beautiful, clear, cold day but wearing shorts and having no torches could have been a problem being stuck out overnight. They turned up next morning having stayed out at Black Sail Youth Hostel!

- 65 28 October 15:22**  
**Longlands Beck, Back 'o Skiddaw**  
 A man (54 yrs) collapsed and died while walking with his wife and 2 daughters.
- 66 29 October 12:22**  
**Causey Pike**  
 A man (84 yrs) fell into the gully at the summit and sustained a dislocated shoulder. He was assisted by the Team and taken to hospital by air ambulance.
- 67 30 October 02:00**  
**Central Fells**  
 A man (52 yrs) and his son (14 yrs) were reported overdue. 3 Teams and Search Dogs were deployed. The 2 missing people were located at 0630 hrs on the Corridor Route at Greta Gill.
- 68 18 November 19:00**  
**Skiddaw**  
 A father and his son (13 yrs) became lost and benighted. They had no navigation aids or torches. They were found near the top of Jenkin Hill.
- 69 22 November 10:30**  
**River Greta, Brundholme**  
 A young woman (30 yrs) dislocated her shoulder while trying a support stroke when canoeing down the river.
- 70 23 December 23:30**  
**Central Fells**  
 A search for a lone walker (38 yrs) who had not returned to his accommodation. His planned route was Scafell Pike from Seathwaite. He was found benighted at the base of Piers Gill.
- 71 24 December 15:20**  
**Brundholme Woods**  
 A man (22 yrs) who was horse riding was kicked by the horse being ridden by his partner. He sustained a broken tibia.
- 72 28 December 17:25**  
**Lingy Bank above Rosthwaite**  
 A boy (14 yrs) slipped on wet grass and broke his ankle.



*Incident No. 66*

*KMRT*

"To be feeling absolutely helpless at over 2000 feet on a cold rocky top, suffering a particularly painful injury, and then to find a doctor, a paramedic and other devoted carers miraculously appear - it is just impossible to express the relief. Even as they were examining me I heard the welcome sound of a helicopter which must have been called. Although it seemed an age, I was in fact quickly carried to it and a quarter of an hour later was being tended in the Cumberland Infirmary, thirty miles away. What a service, and what commitment on the part of all those involved! I shall be forever grateful".

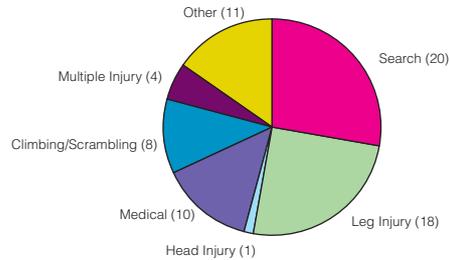
***Letter from the casualty  
 from Incident 66.***

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

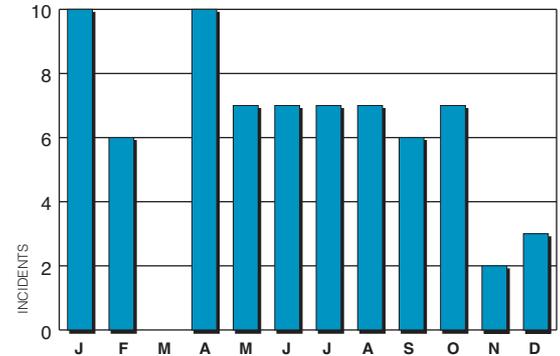
## Incident Report 2003 *continued . . .*

### INCIDENT TYPES 2003

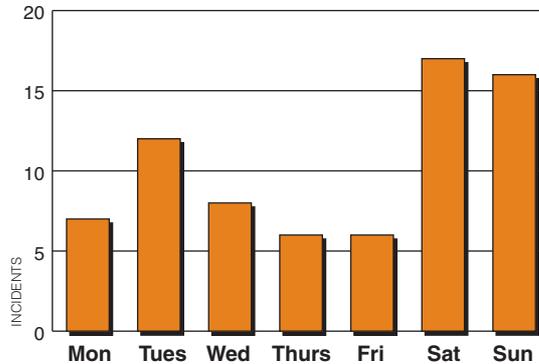
Figures in brackets refer to number of incidents, not percentage of incident types



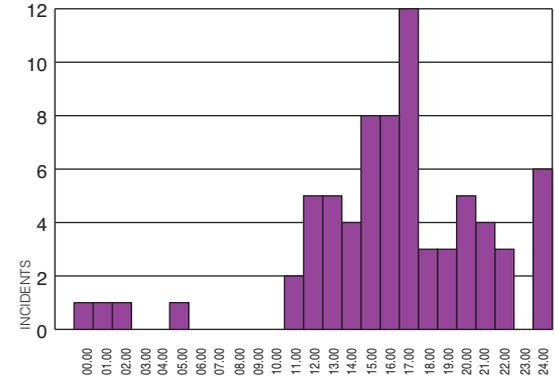
### MONTHS OF THE YEAR 2003



### DAYS OF THE WEEK 2003

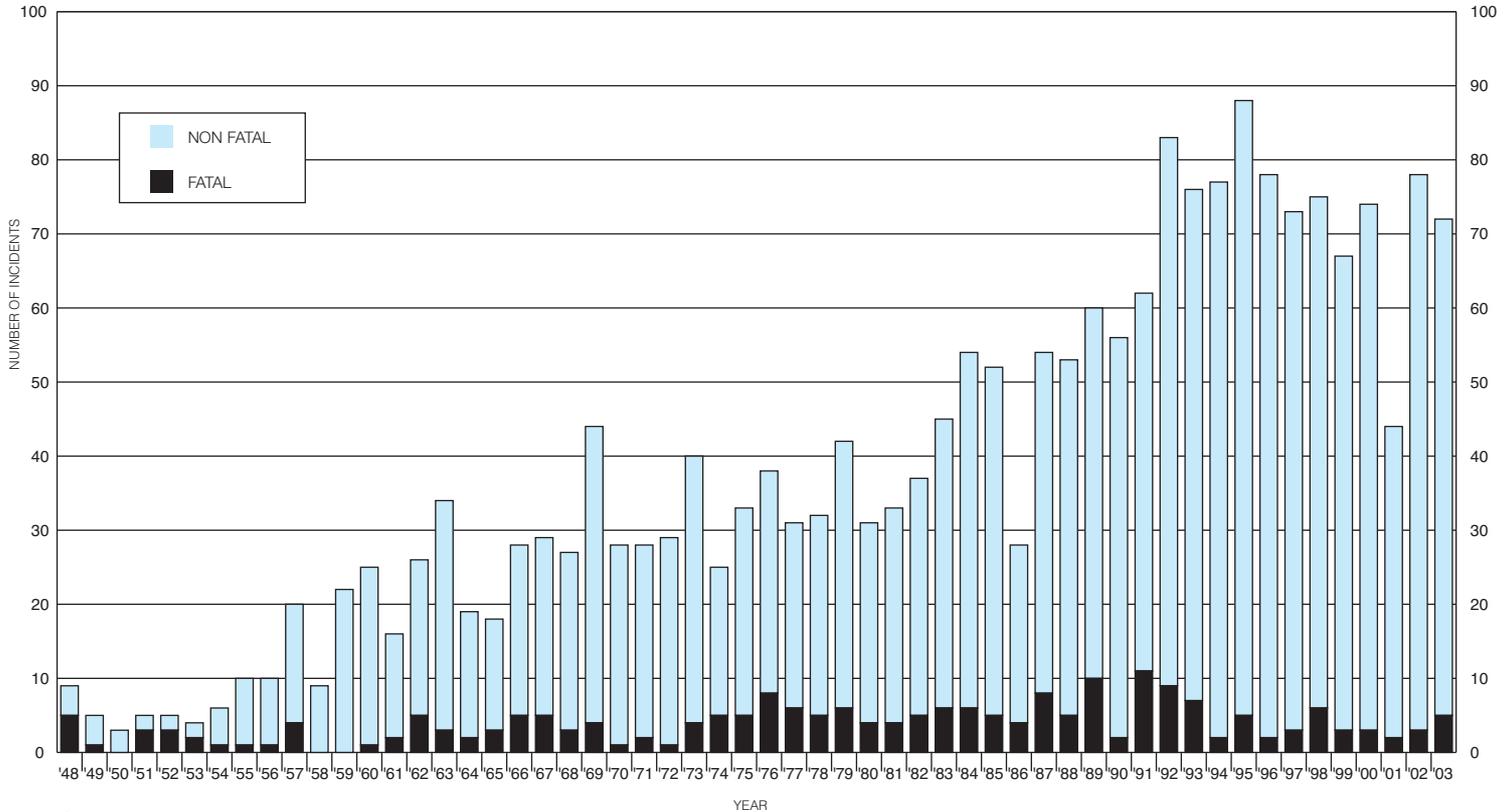


### TIMES OF THE DAY 2003



# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

**KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM 1948 - 2003 2159 callouts (220 fatalities)**



# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Mist.

Mick Guy

### *“It’s a funny old game”*

No, not football, but training a new Search Dog for rescue work. A training technique that works with one dog often fails with another, and there’s nothing harder than training a second dog. One tends to think that the new dog ought to work like the old one, but as they are different animals with different temperaments, it ain’t always so! Chris Francis, now training his third Labrador, Foss, has certainly found this to be the case. Foss is now beginning to get the idea, and hopefully will be graded for rescue work by the summer, which will enable Search Dog Loch to retire to a life by the fire. For the moment, however, Search Dog Mist, a Collie Terrier cross, and Search Dog Loch (Labrador) continue as the current Keswick working pair of SARDA dogs.

SARDA Lakes, the Association which trains search dogs in the Lake District, has every reason to be grateful to the Team for its support for search dog training. Keswick have helped fund GPS mapping for the search dog handlers, through provision of a laptop computer, and supported courses for its own search dogs in avalanche search techniques in Scotland. Like all SARDA dogs, the Keswick pair work on searches throughout the Lake District with other MR teams, and the police. Frequently, searches of the Central Fells around Scafell involve three or more MR teams, but dogs from all over the Lakes.

It has been a busy year for SARDA Lakes Search Dogs with a total of 33 callouts. Keswick Search Dog Mist assisted her own Team by finding the body of depressed lady in Brundholme Woods in July, and examples of the variety of searches by Keswick Dogs in 2003 outside our own area included :

- A search on High Street, for Penrith Team, after the rucsac of a Hong Kong national was found containing passport, money and airline tickets. This search took place in temperatures of 80 degrees. The owner was subsequently found in Birmingham! How and why he left his rucsac behind remains conjecture.....
- A lady who left her boyfriend in a tent at Coniston in the middle of the night after a row, and was later discovered at home.
- A school boy who went missing from a residential school in the Malham area. He was later found by a Mountain Rescue vehicle on a road close to the search area.
- A lone walker missing on a walk to Scafell from the Wasdale side, eventually found by Wasdale team members.

**Mick Guy**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

## Stan Edmondson 1926-2003

My first experience of Stan Edmondson, of Seathwaite Farm, and of mountain rescue, was one winter's evening, while descending from Sty Head, just below the "1000-foot boulder". I was with Les Kendall, and we came across a group sitting on ice-covered rocks a little way above the fell gate.

I said to them "Problems?", to which they replied "Our friend has sprained his ankle, but he's okay, and we are going to carry him on our backs to Seathwaite", (nearly two miles away ).

With the conditions underfoot, I suggested that the stretcher, then kept at the farm, be brought to carry him down. They agreed, and Les shot off to collect it. When Les returned, he had Stan at the other end of the stretcher, helping with the carry. Stan was also holding a "Tilley" paraffin lamp, the standard lighting equipment for mountain rescue teams in those days.

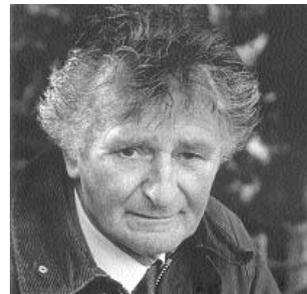
At the farm, the injured walker hobbled to his car to return to his home in Carlisle. I said to him, " Call in at the infirmary to check the injury". A few days' later a letter arrived saying the leg was broken! Enclosed was £10 for Team funds.

On another occasion, we were searching for a missing person, and Stan assisted on the Esk Hause section, very familiar ground to him from sheep gathering. However, dropping down

towards Langdale, with Angle Tarn in view, Stan said, "Dost tu noow that's fust time hav'ivver seen yon tarn?" (\*) –that was despite going up to Esk Hause more times than he could remember.

Another callout concerned a young woman who had fallen from a heavily snow-covered and frozen path, descending from Scafell Pike, towards Broad Crag Col. Team Leader George Fisher asked Stan, Mike Nixon, and myself to "bash-on" to find this girl, whilst the rest of the Team brought up the stretcher etc. We reached the northern combe of the Pike, completely snow-covered except for one large boulder. The girl was lying jammed against the boulder. She had succumbed to her injuries. When George arrived, after a mammoth struggle up the Corridor Route through deep snow with all the rescue gear, they had called in the Eskdale Outward Bound School Team to help. We took the stretcher down to Brackenclose Fell and Rock Climbing Club Hut in Wasdale, less distance and less snow compared with the journey back to Seathwaite. Arriving at the hut at about 1 am, we trooped inside for a welcome cuppa. Eventually transport arrived to carry us back home, and Stan arrived back at the farm about 8 am, just in time to milk the cows!

(\*) Dialect: "Do you know that's the first time I've ever seen that tarn?"



*Stan Edmondson*



**Des Oliver**

*Norman Lilley*

## Norman Lilley 1913-2003

The Team also notes with sadness the passing this year of Norman Lilley. He helped form Kendal Mountain Rescue Team in the late 1950s and joined the Keswick Team in 1981, serving in the control room for many years in the old HQ in Central Road car park.

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

## ***Early call-out was by letter***

Keswick Mountain Rescue Team has recently received a very interesting piece of Team 'memorabilia', going right back to the origins of the Team in the 1940's.

Mrs M Whittaker of Keswick has kindly donated an original letter, from Inspector R Bell at Keswick Police Station, dated 2nd April 1948 and bearing the stamp Police Station Keswick, whereby each member of the Team was called to assist in a search at Cross Fell in the Pennines. The search was for a man who had been missing since 31st March, and gave Team members 24 hours notice of the search. This search was the first recorded rescue following the formation of the Team in 1947. Keswick Team were the second Team to be formed in the Lakes.

### **The full transcript of the note reads as follows:**

*The assistance of Keswick Mountain Rescue Brigade has been requested to search for a man who has been missing on CROSS FELL since 31st March 1948. Col Westmorland has been contacted and he requires you to be at the POLICE STATION, Keswick, at 9 a.m. on 3rd April 1948 to proceed to PENRITH by bus to assist in the search for the missing man.*

The following is an extract from the Team archives relating to the same rescue:

#### *1. 3rd April 1948 - Cross Fell, Pennines*

*An operation was carried out in deep snow conditions on Cross Fell, in search of a man missing since 31st March. The party moved off at 9 a.m. by bus to the starting point, then proceeded in detailed sections on to the fell to search for the missing walker. Members present were: Col Westmorland, Messrs Frank Barnes, Treeby Bolton, Col Edwards, G&R Fisher, Norman*

*Lusby, D Robinson, George Spenceley, Lt Com E Stanley-Jones and V Veevers. The team was unsuccessful in finding Basil Peachey (27yrs) who was later found dead on the Alston side of the fell by boy rambblers.*

At this time the Team had no means of calling Team members to a rescue other than word-of-mouth, or letter. The Team had no form of communications systems to use on rescues and Team equipment generally was 'minimal.

57 years on and nearly 2500 rescues later, there is no comparison in the methods of calling out the Team and the communications systems in operation in the Team. The following information relates to present day capabilities!

- Time to report an accident – less than 5 minutes, if the informant has a mobile phone and signal.
- Time for the Police to contact the Team Leaders – less than 5 minutes by pager
- Time for the leader/deputies to respond to the Police including; travel to base, gather initial information from the Police and the informant and call out the rest of the team – less than 10 minutes.
- Time taken to get the first Team members away from the Base – within 5 minutes of the full-team page, i.e. within 25 minutes of the accident happening.
- And all this with voluntary members who all have day-jobs.
- Members who live out of the town, in places such as Borrowdale, Thirlmere, Threlkeld, Portinscale will travel direct to an incident local to them, shortening again the time taken to get Team members on the hill.

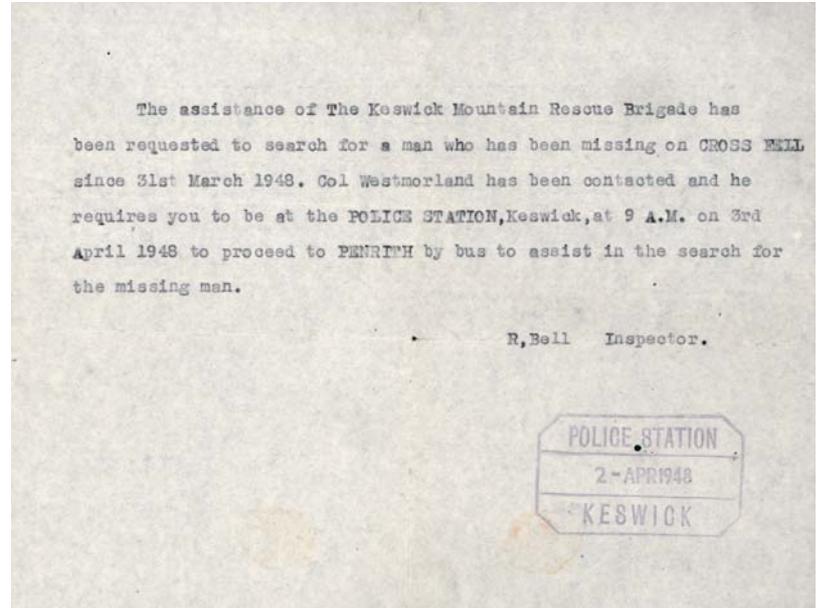
# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

Current Team communication systems include; hand held radios for each Team member for maintaining contact on the hill and with Keswick Control, hand held radio communications with RAF Search & Rescue helicopters and, most recently, mobile satellite communications.

To date we have found no places within our area of operation where we are unable to maintain communications with our base, or with specialist medical advice if needed, using this satellite technology.

The thanks of the Team go to Mrs Whittaker for her kind donation of a small piece of the Teams history.

**Mark Hodgson**



# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Helicopter Training

KMRT

## *Level of commitment*

Becoming involved with the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team has been a real education to me. Despite walking and climbing in the area for some time, I have already been taken to many new places. Although I've done other outdoor activities, the Team has introduced a new perspective to them, too. In addition I have met a lot of new people with similar interests to mine.

Joining a team of people like this is a unique experience. Practices are thorough and rescues are professional by any standard. Every Thursday night there is something going on and it is always different.

My first practice involved getting someone with a broken leg out of Stoneycroft Beck on a stretcher. It was an interesting scenario, and a bit of a squeeze, but it was similar to an accident that had already happened, and one quite likely to reoccur.

Another practice involved being eaten alive by midges whilst lowering a stretcher down Force Crag. Abseiling into a gully off the side of Sharp Edge in a rainstorm was another gripping situation, especially as I'd gone out without a coat! Perhaps my most unusual effort so far was being winched up into a helicopter after flying up and over Skiddaw in about five minutes.

Floating around in Langstrath Beck whilst people threw lines at me gave a new feel to water activities, as before I'd always

started on the water in a kayak. Instead of lounging around being hungover, I spent New Year's Day looking for belays on Great End, which definitely was much more exciting and satisfying. It has certainly increased my local knowledge there.

Previously my First Aid experience had mostly involved putting plasters on people's feet. With the Team it now involves learning how to give someone Entonox or oxygen, and being so much more careful in monitoring them. Other very valuable training has been defensive driving, and, hopefully, I'm now saving fuel, as well as being safer.

I've always felt happy navigating, but I am now learning to use a satellite navigation device. This seems incredibly useful when checking where people have searched when its track is downloaded.

These are just a few of the interesting and fun practices which have occurred in a few months. This is not to mention an unforgettable weekend in the Cairngorms, nor abseiling, and lowering people down a cliff in the dark.

The remarkable thing about this team of people who do all the above things is the level of commitment shown. It is great to be involved with it, and I look forward to much more of it in the future.

**A Probationer**

## Collection Box Sponsors

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

The team would like to thank all the collecting box sponsors who have in 2003 collected £19,000 (almost half our annual running costs). If you would like to support the Team in this way, please contact the Collection Box Co-ordinator, Brian Spencer on Tel: 017687 72531.



*Brian Spencer*

Abacourt House	The Climbing Wall	George Hotel	Keswick YHA	New House, Rosthwaite	Shemara Guest House
Acorn House	Coledale Inn, Braithwaite	Golden Lion Inn	Kings Arms	Nichol End Marine	The Sick & The Wrong
Allerdale House	Conrads	Good Taste	Kingfisher	North Lakes Caravan Park	Silver City
All Seasons	The Corner Shop	Glaralara Outdoor Centre	Kings Head Hotel, Thirlspot	Norwegian Store	Silverdale Hotel
Armthwaite Hall	The Cornish Pasty	Glencoe Guest House	Kinniside Guest House	Oddfellows Arms	Skiddaw Grove Hotel
Bank Tavern	Cotswold Camping	Glendale Guest House	Knotts View Stonethwaite	The Old Keswickian	Spar Grocers
Barclays Bank	Craglands Guest House	Grange Bridge Cottage Cafe	Lairbeck Hotel	Packhorse Inn	Spooney Green Cottage
Barn Gill Guest House, Thirlspot	Cragside Guest House	Grange Cafe	Lakeland	The Paddock	Strathmore Guest House
Beaty and Co, Wigton	Crosthwaite Garage	Greystoke House	Lakeland Pedlar	Parkergate	Stybeck Farm
Beckstones Guest House	Crow Park Hotel	Greystones Guest House	Lakeland Photo Prints	Paathouse, Stonethwaite	Sundance Wholefoods
The Beeches Guest House	Cumbrian Properties	Hawcliffe Guest House	Lake Mere	Pizza Panorama	Swan Inn, Bassenthwaite
Been There Done That	Cumbria House	Hazel Bank Hotel	Lake Road Inn	Police Station	Sunnyside Guest House
Betty Barker's	Dalegarth Hotel	Hazelmere Guest House	The Lakes Fish Restaurant	Powe Howe Guest House	Swan Inn, Thornthwaite
Birch How Guest House	Dale Head Hall Hotel	Hazelwood Guest House	Lakeside Holiday Park	The Puzzling Place	Sweeney's Cellar Bar
Bonshaw Guest House	Daresfield	Hedgehog Hill Guest House	Lakeside House	Rainbow	Swinside Farm Cottage
Bookends	David Byrne	The Heights Hotel	Lakeside Tea Gardens	Rathbones	Swinside Inn
Borrowdale Hotel	Derwent Bank HF	Helen's Chocolates	Langdale Guest House	Rathbones Outdoor Wear	Swiss Court Hotel
Borrowdale YHA	Derwent Cottage	High Lodore Farm Cafe	Langstrath Hotel	Ravenstone Hotel	Tarn Hows Guest House
Bowfell	Derwent Club	C and C A Holmes	Latrigg House	Ravenstone Lodge Hotel	Temple Sports
Braithwaite Court HPB	Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre	Honister House	Laurel Bank Guest House	Ravensworth Hotel	Theatre By The Lake
Brierholme Guest House	Derwent Jewellers	Honister Mine	Leathes Head Hotel	Rembrandt Restaurant	Thornleigh Guest House
Brookfield Guest House	Derwentwater Caravan Park	Hope Memorial Camp	Little Chestnut Hill	Richmond House Hotel	TOG 24
Brysons	Derwentwater YHA	Horse and Farrier	Littlefield Guest House	Fickerby Grange	Touchwood
Caffle House, Watendlath	Dog and Gun	Howe Keld	Lodore Hilton Hotel	Rock Shop	Trekkers Cave
Camping and Caravan Club Site	Dollywaggon Guest House	HSBC	Low Manesty Caravan Park	Rohan	Treeby and Bolton
Cars Of The Stars	Dorchester House	Hunters Way	Luchini's	Rosthwaite General Store	Tynemouth Lodge Hotel
Cartwheel Guest House	Easedale Hotel	Hutton Moor End	Lynwood Guest House	Rowe Opticians	Ultimate Outdoors
Casa's	Edwardene Hotel	Caravan & Camping Site	Lyzzyck Hall Hotel	Rowling End Guest House	Underscar Hotel
Castle Inn	Ed Crags	Jane Horder, Lancaster	21 Manesty View	Royal Oak, Braithwaite	Village Shop, Braithwaite
Castlerigg Farm	Eiger Sports	F and J Jarman, Aspatria	Mary Mount Hotel	Royal Oak Hotel, Rosthwaite	Village Shop, Portinscale
Camping Site	The Electric Shop	Kalgurii Guest House	Max Spielman Photography	Salutation Inn	West View Guest House
Castlerigg Hall Caravan and Camping Park	Elliotts	Keswick Holiday Art Studio	Medical Centre	Sandon Guest House	Whinlatter Forest Tea Room
Chaucer House Hotel	Ernville Guest House	Keswick Lodge	Middle Ruddings Hotel	Saw Mill Cafe, Dodd	White Horse Inn
Cherry Tree Guest House	Ferndene Guest House	Keswick Golf Club	Mill Inn, Mungrisedale	Scawdell Guest House	The Wild Strawberry
Chiltlee Guest House	Fieldside Grange	Keswick Bikes	Mines Museum	Scaffell Hotel	Winchester Guest House
Clarence House	Fine Designs	Keswick Mountain Sports	Moot Hall	Scotgate Camping Site	Wine Rack
Claremont House	Firms	Keswick Outdoor	Monic	Seathwaite Farm Cafe	Woodside Guest House
	Flock Inn	Clothing Co	Morrel's	Seatoller Farm	Yeoman Outdoors
	Four In Hand	Keswick Park Hotel	National Trust Lakeside	Seatoller House	Yew Tree Cafe
	George Fisher	Keswick Spa	Needlesports	Scales Farm Cottage	Yew Tree Guest House
					Zenith

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

## *Treasurer's Report, Trustees' Annual Report, Financial Statements for the year ended 30th November 2003*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

This has been a fairly average year, financially, with no big capital outlays such as last year when we purchased the two Land Rovers.

Looking at Income v Expenditure, this year has seen an increase in Income, but this has been offset by an increase in Expenditure. Without the Collecting Box money we would have had an even bigger shortfall, and a big "thank you" must be given once again to Brian Spencer for all his efforts here.

We took the decision to make our training courses available to other Teams, and to sponsor the very technical "Rigging for Rescue" rope technique course which was attended by Teams from Wales and parts of England as well as the Lake District.

It was also decided that money should be invested in safe and defensive driving and every Team Member has been on the course and found the instruction invaluable.

We are also providing a better service for the public with the purchase of state of the art communications equipment & medical equipment. This of course has the down side in that there will be increased ongoing costs to be met in the future.

Navigation systems have been purchased for searches, members can now download their GPS' into the Team computer and the Search Co-ordinator can see precisely which areas have been covered.

I believe that the Team has been very professional in their decisions on expenditure this year as in previous years. Money has been wisely spent where necessary yet boundaries have been moved forward.

Finally, thanks again to Venus Griffiths, the artist of our Report cover picture, who not only painted her picture this year but also enlisted the help of her daughter to auction it, raising a large amount of money for us!

**Ian Wallace**

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The following information is published in accordance with the requirements of The Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2000 and SORP 2000.

**Name:** The name of the charity is Keswick Mountain Rescue Team ("the Charity").

**Registered Number:** The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under number 509860.

**Principal Address:** Keswick Mountain Rescue Team Headquarters, Lakeside Car Park, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5DJ.

**Correspondence Address:** The Secretary Keswick MRT, The Royal Oak Hotel, Rothwaite, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5XB; The Treasurer KMRT, Spooney Green House, Spooney Green Lane, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ.

**Legal Entity:** The Charity is a charitable un-incorporated association, established by written constitution.

**Particulars of Written Constitution:** The current version was approved by the Charity Commission and adopted by the Charity on the 8th of September 1994, and contains the provisions that regulate the purposes and administration of the Charity.

**Total Gross Income 1st December 2002 - 30th November 2003:** Between £10,000 and £100,000.

**Total Gross Expenditure 1st December 2002 - 30th November 2003:** Between £10,000 and £250,000.

**Basis of Preparation of Accounts:** Historical cost convention. As the Constitution of the Charity does not require annual accounts to be audited, and as neither total expenditure in the last financial year nor gross income nor total expenditure in the two financial years preceding it exceeded £250,000, the Trustees elected for the accounts to be scrutinised by independent examiners, rather than by way of audit.

**Description of Objects of the Charity:** The main object of the Charity (as set out in its constitution):

"shall be for the public benefit, to relieve suffering and the distress arising therefrom, among persons and animals endangered by accident or natural hazards within the area of Great Britain and particularly on the mountains of Cumbria in the vicinity of Keswick."

## Details of Persons or Bodies Entitled to Appoint Charity Trustees & Details of Method of Appointment:

The only body with the power (within the terms of the Constitution) to appoint a trustee is the membership of the Charity. The Charity Trustees are appointed at each Annual General Meeting, and hold office until the following AGM. The Trustees must be members of the Charity and are the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Team Leader and two others elected from the general membership. There is no bar on a trustee standing for office for successive terms. Candidates for positions conferring trusteeship must be nominated in writing to the secretary not less than 21 days prior to the AGM, and notified to the membership not less than 14 days prior thereto. Voting is conducted by a secret ballot.

**Name of Current Charity Trustees:** The Charity Trustees as at the date of this Report (27th January 2004) are:

Chairman	Michael Leonard Fanning
Secretary	Neil Dowie
Treasurer	Ian Wallace
Team Leader	Timothy Mark Hodgson
General Team Member 1	Paul Horder
General Team Member 2	Peter Barron

**Names of Former Charity Trustees During the Financial Year:** None.

**Property Holding Trustees:** The following are the legal trustees of the lease of the Team Headquarters, and (except where named as a Charity Trustee above) do not exercise a management function within the Charity:

Anthony Michael Guy; Peter Barron; Timothy Mark Hodgson; Andrew Francis Jones.

**Income Reserves Policy:** The Charity Trustees continue to keep this policy under review.

The Charity Trustees are mindful that they must ensure that the provision of the Charity's primary objective will not be hampered by any imbalance between income and expenditure. As in previous reports, the Trustees re-iterate that they must have regard to both the short and long term needs of the Charity.

Total expended resources narrowly exceeded total incoming resources in the last financial year. However, this near equilibrium was achieved by the significant income from interest on the Charity's reserves. Over time, this reliance will serve to reduce the value of the reserves. Accordingly, the Trustees are of the view that the current level of the reserves is sufficient, and necessary.

The Charity Trustees will continually monitor and adapt this policy (as necessary) in order to ensure that funds that can no longer be justifiably held in reserve are applied in accordance with the Charity's objective, or alternatively, that should a greater level of reserves be required, any increase deemed necessary is actioned.

**Investment Policy:** The Charity provides a vital emergency service that requires certainty of funding. The Charity Trustees have, therefore, a risk averse approach to investment. The preference is to safeguard funds by placing them in building society accounts – with medium to longer term funds placed in the highest yielding (but limited access) accounts. In that way, the capital is secure, and interest income is maximised. The Charity Trustees are constantly reviewing this policy, but have again concluded that this relatively cautious approach remains the most appropriate.

**Grant Making Policy:** During the last financial year, the Charity made no specific grants to any other organisations.

Support was, as in the previous year, provided to other Lake District teams by way of provision of places on an externally supplied training course funded by the Charity. This did not involve the making of any grants as such – but made available training in specialist areas (advanced rope rescue techniques) that other teams may not otherwise have obtained, and without charge to them. The policy in this regard is threefold – to facilitate the spread of modern or evolving techniques; to encourage closer co-operation between teams; and to utilise the Charity's funds to the advantage of mountain rescue generally. This policy is likely to continue in the next financial year.

The Charity Trustees have not found it necessary to formulate policies for the selection of any other institutions that will receive further grants out of the assets of the Charity. Any such grants will be on a case by case basis.

**Chairman, Mike Fanning; Treasurer, Ian Wallace**  
27th February 2004

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team**

We report on the accounts of the Team for the year ended 30th November 2003 which are set out on pages 26 to 29.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner**

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) Which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting requirements of the Act, have not been met, or
- (2) To which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gibbons & Company Chartered Accountants  
Institute of Chartered Accountants In England and Wales

43 Station Road  
Keswick, Cumbria  
CA12 4NB  
9th March 2004

# Statement

of financial activities for the year ended 30th November 2003

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

	Notes	2003 £	2002 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			
Covenants		1,192	1,557
Donations		31,873	15,891
Collection Boxes		19,035	18,583
Legacy		13,693	23,173
Income Tax Recovered		1,730	1,536
Bank and Building Society Interest		12,987	13,317
Miscellaneous and Book Sales		9	(264)
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>£80,519</u>	<u>£73,793</u>
Resources Expended			
Direct Charitable Expenses	2	64,574	52,650
Other Expenses	3	17,277	16,104
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>£81,851</u>	<u>£68,754</u>
Net incoming Resources Before Transfers			
NET (EXPENDED) INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		(1,332)	5,039
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st DECEMBER 2002		613,207	608,168
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 30th NOVEMBER 2003		<u>£611,875</u>	<u>£613,207</u>

The Notes on pages 28 and 29 form part of these accounts

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

## Balance Sheet

at 30th November 2003

	Notes	2003 £	2002 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	5	298,981	312,600
<b>Current Fixed Assets</b>			
Debtors and Prepayments	6	3,480	4,990
Stock	7	100	95
Building Society Deposits		307,647	274,474
Cash at Bank		1,973	21,342
		313,200	300,901
Liabilities, Amounts falling due within one year	8	306	294
NET CURRENT ASSETS		312,894	300,607
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>£611,875</u>	<u>£613,207</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted		£611,875	£613,207

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27th February 2004 and signed on its behalf by:  
M. Fanning (*Chairman*) and I. Wallace (*Treasurer*), (*Trustees*).

*The notes on pages 28 and 29 form part of these accounts*

# Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30th November 2003

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Standard for Smaller Entities (effective June 2002). In preparing the financial statements the charity follows best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2000) issued in October 2000 and SORP Update Bulletin 1 issued December 2002.

### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life. The rates used are as follows:

Property	-	Straight line over 50 years
Equipment	-	15% reducing balance
Motor Vehicles	-	25% reducing balance

### Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### Income

Voluntary income and donations are accounted for as received by the charity.

*Total funds*    *Total funds*  
2003            2002

## 2. DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENSES

### Motor Vehicle Expenses

Insurances	2,652	1,583
Petrol and Oil	1,032	755
Maintenance	1,187	1,080

### Equipment Expenses

Rental	3,076	2,302
Maintenance of Radio	984	164
Maintenance of General Equipment	3,659	3,072
Clothing and Outdoor Equipment	5,640	6,008
Courses, Medical and Other Expenses	20,192	6,253
Depreciation of Motor Vehicles and Equipment	26,152	30,145
Vehicles Transferred		1,288
	<u>£64,574</u>	<u>£52,650</u>

## 3. OTHER EXPENSES

### Garage, Team and HQ Expenses

Rent, Rates and Water	672	678
Telephone and Electricity	1,430	1,996
Repairs and Renewals	2,278	1,169
Postage, Printing and Stationery	4,419	4,326
Insurance	1,859	1,651
Bank Charges	7	20
Independent Examiners Fees	306	329
Sundry Expenses	1,861	1,490
Depreciation on Leasehold Property	4,445	4,445
	<u>£17,277</u>	<u>£16,104</u>

## 4. STAFF COSTS

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in the year, nor were any trustee' expenses reimbursed.

	<i>Leasehold Land &amp; Buildings</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Motor Vehicles</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
<b>5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>				
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st December 2002	222,262	154,874	109,889	487,025
Additions During Year	-	16,978	-	16,978
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30th November 2003	<u>222,262</u>	<u>171,852</u>	<u>109,889</u>	<u>504,003</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st December 2002	26,670	98,395	49,360	174,425
Charge for the Year	4,445	11,019	15,133	30,597
On Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30th November 2003	<u>31,115</u>	<u>109,414</u>	<u>64,493</u>	<u>205,022</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 30th November 2003	191,147	62,438	45,396	298,981
At 30th November 2002	<u>195,592</u>	<u>56,479</u>	<u>60,529</u>	<u>312,600</u>

All fixed assets held are for the furtherance of the Charity's objectives.

	<i>2003</i>	<i>2002</i>
	£	£
<b>6. DEBTORS</b>		
Prepayments	<u>£3,480</u>	<u>£4,990</u>
	<i>2003</i>	<i>2002</i>
	£	£
<b>7. STOCK</b>		
Consumable Stock	100	80
Stock of Books	-	15
	<u>£100</u>	<u>£95</u>
	<i>2003</i>	<i>2002</i>
	£	£
<b>8. LIABILITIES - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
Accruals	£306	£294

Please read the following if you wish to donate to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

Provided you pay Income Tax, the Team can now reclaim the tax you have already paid on the sum donated to the Team, from the Inland Revenue. It simply requires you to fill in the form below, and return it to the Treasurer. It does not involve you in any further payment.

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity

**Keswick Mountain Rescue Team**

(Registered Charity No 509860)

Full name and address of donor in CAPITALS

Mr/Mrs/Miss .....

Address .....

.....

Post Code.....

I want Keswick Mountain Rescue Team to treat the following as Gift Aid Donations (delete as appropriate):

- the enclosed donation of £
- the donation(s) of £.....  
which I made on...../...../.....
- all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until further notice

Signature .....Date...../...../.....

#### Notes

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Keswick Mountain Rescue Team reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that Keswick Mountain Rescue Team reclaims you can cancel your declaration (see note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can reclaim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask Keswick Mountain Rescue Team. Or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR 113 Gift Aid.
6. Please notify Keswick Mountain Rescue Team if you change your name or address.

**Please return this completed Gift Aid Declaration to the Team Treasurer:**

**Ian Wallace  
Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ**

**Thank you for your support !**



# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

If you would like to make a regular donation to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, please complete the Bankers Order below.  
Provided you pay Income Tax, the Team can now reclaim the tax you have already paid on the sum donated to the Team, from the Inland Revenue.

Full name and address in CAPITALS	<b>Gift Aid:</b> please do not detach
Mr/Mrs/Miss .....	To .....Bank plc
Address .....	.....
.....	.....
.....	(name and address of your bank)
Post Code .....	Name of Account
The sum of £ ..... Annually/Monthly	to be Debited .....
<b>Gift Aid</b>	Account Number .....
I am a UK tax payer and I would like this and all future	Sort Code .....
donations I make to be considered as Gift Aid	Please pay to Midland Bank plc, Market Square, Keswick,
Signed .....	Cumbria CA12 5BQ (Sort Code 40-26-06) for the Credit of
	Keswick Mountain Rescue Team (Account Number 60498173)
	The sum of £ ..... (figures)
	..... (words)
	on the ..... day of ..... 20 .....
	and a like sum Annually/Monthly on the .....
	day of .....
	until ..... or further notice
	Signed.....
	Date ..... 20 .....
<p><b>Please return this completed form to:</b></p> <p><b>KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM</b></p> <p><b>Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ</b></p> <p>Thank you for your support !</p>	



## Donations

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

Many people and organisations have made donations to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team during the course of the year. In common with all other Mountain Rescue Teams, we receive no funding from official sources. We are, therefore, extremely grateful to all those who support us in so many different and individual ways, allowing us to concentrate on assisting those in distress on the Fells. It is not possible to acknowledge all donors in the space of the report, however, a full list is available on request.

During the year donations have been received IN MEMORY of the following:

George Bott

Lilly Betley

Barrie Lee

Norman Lilley

Ken Taylor

Barbara Hough

George Anthony

Gordon Gray

Geoff Turner

Amy Fernandez

John Leather

Tanya Kearney

Jean Wake

Terrence Harrison

Gerald Harris

Chris Pictor

Roger Bell

Fred Winwood

George Gill

The Husband of  
Rita Perkins

Peter Hartley

Arthur Beattie

Michael Nunn

C. Jarrett

Vera Atkinson

Chris Green

LEGACIES

M. Wimble

Joyce Lee

N. Eyres

O. Wildridge

## Thanks

The painting has been donated by the artist Venus Griffiths, and the frame donated by Derwent Frames.

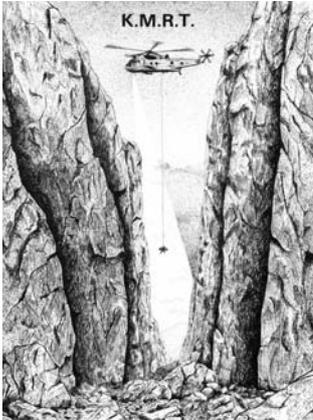
**The framed original of the cover painting is for sale to the highest bidder, all proceeds to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, and may be viewed at Derwent Frames, High Hill, Keswick.**



*Rescuing Santa at The Victorian Fayre.*

*Brenda Hind*

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



1984



1994

## *Twenty Years Ago*

### **Annual Report for 1984**

Edited by Iain Honeysett, assisted by David Brown.

Cover: drawing by Chris Francis: helicopter winching.

48 rescues in 1983.

In his report Team Leader Mike Nixon made reference to two testing crag rescues, on Raven Crag in Combe Gill, and in Cust's Gully, Great End.

Radio Officer Bill Booth in his report stated,

"Work still proceeds to increase the radio communications in many ways, and we look forward to the day (Utopia?) when we may have radio communications via satellite".

*(In 2004, it is worth mentioning that the means of improving radio communications remains a hot topic, although the Team has recently acquired a satellite telephone, which has been deployed to great effect.)*

Training Officer Paul Horder, commenting upon the trickiness of some rescues, wrote that, "... a training programme can never do enough. We are fortunate that the Team which we have is so well able to cope...".

Other articles included reference to a busy Whitsun weekend with five callouts, (an article by Dom. Atkinson), walking on the Munro mountains in Scotland, ("Munro Magic" by Ian Wallace), and "A day in the hills", regarding exploration of old mine shafts, (article by Martin Hardman).

## *Ten Years Ago*

### **Annual Report for 1994**

Edited by Rachel Slattery.

Cover: painting by Richard Fisher: "Rescue at Tophet Bastion, Great Gable".

76 rescues in 1993.

In his report Team Leader, Mike Nixon, stated that he was "standing down as Team Leader at this year's AGM". He joined the Team in 1952.

The Editor paid tribute to Mike, regarding his style of leadership, sound judgement, and diplomacy.

Training Officers Andrew Slattery and David Pratt referred to training as "... a top priority for the future of mountain rescue, following the "Rescue 2000" study..."

*(This study was a specially commissioned report into the future of mountain rescue.)*

Equipment Officer Chris Francis referred to "... the present base facilities becoming increasingly inadequate for our escalating workload..."

*(The Team's base in 1994 was adjacent to the Central Car Park in Keswick, within a cramped building that it had occupied for many years. The Team at this stage was in the throes of planning for a new base, with much fund-raising activity. In 2004 we can look back eight years to the opening of our current HQ at the Lakeside Car Park in October 1996.)*

**Peter Little**

# For Mountain Rescue Call **999** or **112** and ask for Police

## Then be prepared to state:

- Your name, and the number of the telephone from which you are ringing, and its location.
- The nature of the incident, and its (accurate) location.
- The time of the incident.
- The number of casualties.
- The details of any injuries.

## Then:

- **STAY BY THE PHONE** so that the Team can contact you.



<http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk>