

# KESWICK Mountain Rescue Team

A Registered Charity Number 509860

Annual Report 2013

## Introduction



Underskiddaw

Venus Griffiths

Welcome to the 2013 Annual Report of  
Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

This is a record of the Team's activities in 2012.

The Team operates in the area shown on the map on **page 2**.

Occasionally the Team is called elsewhere.

## Thanks

The painting has been donated by Venus Griffiths.

The framed original is for sale to the highest bidder.

It may be viewed at Derwent Frames, High Hill, Keswick.

*All proceeds to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.*

## The website



For more information about the Team,  
see [www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)

Please support the Team through the links from the website to  
**The Charities Aid Foundation**, **JustGiving**, **JustTextGiving**  
and  **moneygiving** (See also **pages 30 and 31**)

## Photographs

All photographs used in this report  
have been contributed by

***Keswick Mountain Rescue Team members.***

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team 2013

**President:** Mike Nixon MBE  
**Chairman:** Malcolm Miller  
**Secretary:** Paul Cheshire  
**Treasurer:** Ian Wallace  
 Spooney Green House,  
 Spooney Green Lane,  
 Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ

**Team Leader:** Mark Hodgson MBE  
**Committee:** Fiona Boyle, Paul Horder

**Deputy Team Leaders:** Chris Gillyon, Steve Hepburn  
 Chris Higgins, Simon Hodgson

**Medical Officer:** Dr Tim Hooper  
**Training Officers:** Gordon Barker, Steve Hepburn

**Radio Officer:** Alan Prescott

**Vehicles Officers:** Allan Alcock, Mick Guy

**Equipment Officers:** Richard Gale, Tom McNally

**Base Officer:** Paul Carter

**Social Secretary:** Ely Whiteford

**Report Editor:** Peter Little



Allan Alcock	<i>Retired</i>
Steve Allen	<i>Handyman</i>
Gordon Barker	<i>Biotech Consultant</i>
Paul Barnes	<i>Fire Fighter</i>
Jan Beedham	<i>Laboratory Technician</i>
Martin Bell	<i>Paramedic</i>
Tom Blakely	<i>Paramedic</i>
Fiona Boyle	<i>Lecturer</i>
Paul Carter	<i>Production Manager</i>
Paul Cheshire	<i>Chartered Engineer</i>
Adrian Clifford	<i>General Practitioner</i>
Neil Dowie	<i>Hotelier</i>
Matt Eaves	<i>Apprentice Supervisor</i>
Donald Ferguson	<i>Retail Assistant</i>
Chris Francis	<i>Fire Service</i>
Richard Gale	<i>Systems Engineer</i>
Chris Gillyon	<i>Company Director</i>
Geoff Gilmore	<i>Leisure Pool Manager</i>
Rob Grange	<i>Photographer</i>
Mick Guy	<i>Retired</i>
Chris Harling	<i>Company Director</i>
Roy Henderson	<i>National Trust Ranger</i>
Scott Henderson	<i>National Park Ranger</i>
Steve Hepburn	<i>Carpenter</i>
Chris Higgins	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>

Mark Hodgson	<i>Project Director</i>
Simon Hodgson	<i>Builder</i>
Tim Hooper	<i>General Practitioner</i>
Katharine Horder	<i>Head Teacher</i>
Paul Horder	<i>Retired</i>
Robin Humphreys	<i>Retired</i>
Andy Jones	<i>Guest House Proprietor</i>
Peter Little	<i>Pharmacist</i>
Tom McNally	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Malcolm Miller	<i>Retired</i>
Phil Newton	<i>Retired</i>
Mike Nixon	<i>Retired</i>
Simon Noble	<i>Retired</i>
Nick Ogden	<i>Paraglider Service and Repair</i>
David Pratt	<i>Teacher</i>
Alan Prescott	<i>Senior Manager</i>
Jocky Sanderson	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Brian Spencer	<i>Retired</i>
Tom Stenhouse	<i>General Practitioner</i>
Karen Sturgess	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Lisa Suttle	<i>General Marina Manager</i>
Ian Wallace	<i>Retired</i>
Paul White	<i>Papermill Chemist</i>
Ely Whiteford	<i>Technical Officer</i>
Graeme Wilson	<i>Site Inspector</i>

**Secretary (Meetings & Minutes)  
and (Talks & Visits):**  
Graeme Wilson

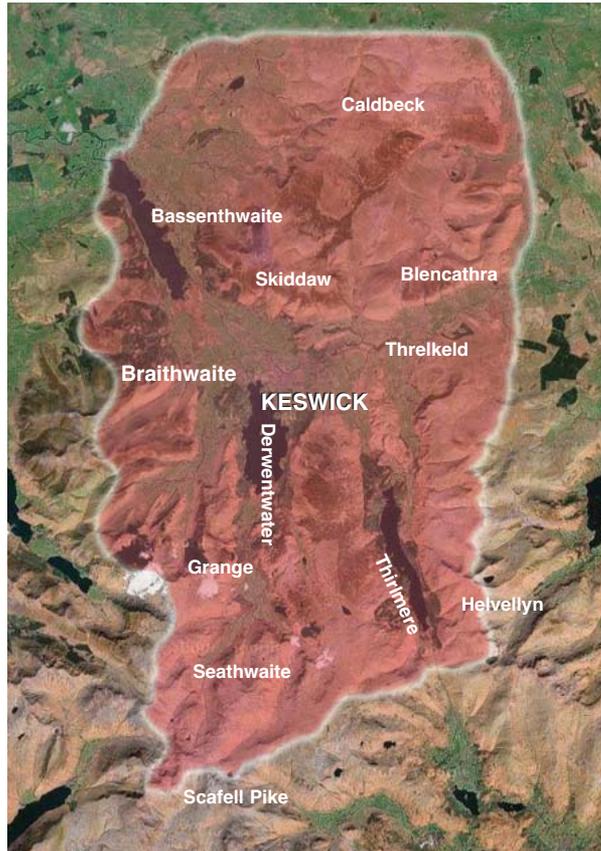
**Secretary (Membership):**  
Fiona Boyle

**Secretary (Correspondence):**  
Karen Sturgess

**([secretary@keswickmrt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@keswickmrt.org.uk))  
Keswick MRT Headquarters,  
Lakeside Car Park, Lake Road,  
Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5DJ**

**Collection Box Co-ordinator:**  
Brian Spencer  
Daresfield, Chestnut Hill, Keswick,  
Cumbria CA12 4LS  
See **page 24**

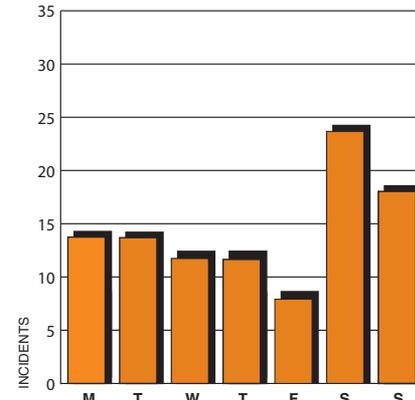
## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team Area of Responsibility



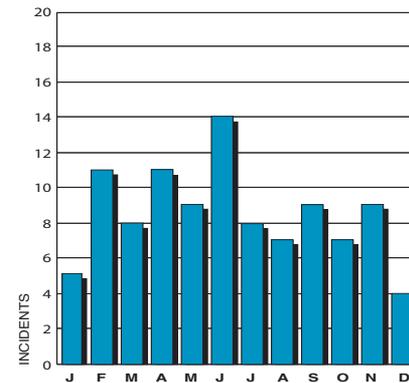
## CALLOUT STATISTICS

102 Callouts, 5 Fatalities

### DAYS OF THE WEEK 2012



### MONTHS OF THE YEAR 2012



2012 has seen another successful year of operation for the Team, responding to 102 full team rescues in the year, in addition to the 25 to 30 'alerts' we receive; flashing lights, overdue walkers, etc. that don't turn into full team callouts. 2012 has been the 3rd busiest year in the Teams 65 year history, fortunately falling short of the 2 busiest years of 2009 and 2010. The Team is able to respond to each and every incident to which we are called due entirely to the skills, experience and dedication of all Team members. This dedication is further tested with weekly training sessions, ongoing maintenance and replacement of Team equipment and running the business side of the operation, where our running costs average around £80k per year.

The Team owes a huge 'thank you' to all Team members for their continuing dedication and to all members' families for all the support they receive. A further debt of thanks goes to all Team members' employers who allow members to drop what they are doing and respond to a rescue whenever the pagers go off; without this kind of support the Team would be hard pressed to function as efficiently as it does.

In the year the Team responded to rescues including; 28 leg injuries, 19 searches, 14 medical incidents of which 3 were heart attacks, 10 multiple injury accidents, 8 arm injuries, 7 crashed mountain bikers and 3 rock climbing incidents. The Team worked

with Air Ambulances 30 times and RAF or Royal Navy Sea Kings 12 times, showing the continuing shift towards more frequent use of air ambulances. The tasking of the correct air asset to incidents remains a key factor in any rescue. However, there continues to be improvement in this area with improving communication between rescue teams and NWAS. On several occasions we have utilised both air ambulances and Sea Kings to effect the best outcome for some incidents; operations like these rely on close co-operation between all the agencies involved. On 14 days we had 2 rescues, on 1 day we had 3; sadly there were 5 fatalities during the year, our thoughts and condolences go to the families and friends of these casualties.

This year has seen an increase in the number of incidents on Sharp Edge. Situated on the approaches to Blencathra, in good conditions it is a spectacular grade 1 scramble; in poor conditions it is very exposed to high wind and extreme weather. It is narrow, awkward and steep for much of the 'Edge' itself and, being comprised of Skiddaw Slate, when it is the slightest bit damp, it is very slippery underfoot. A slip from Sharp Edge generally results in a big tumbling fall down a very steep rock-strewn gully, with casualties often receiving multiple major injuries, or worse . . . This gully is known by the Team as *'the usual place.'*

The Team always anticipates a very serious incident when the pagers alert us to a



*"CALLOUT – SHARP EDGE, BLENKATHRA, PLEASE CONTACT CUMBRIA POLICE."*

Most accidents on Sharp Edge happen around what is known as the 'Awkward Step' – where the crest of the narrow edge crosses the top of a very steep and loose gully, just after having to make an awkward move around a rock bulge on the Edge itself. There are short sections of path that avoid sections of the edge, but these all end up lower down the same gully resulting in walkers having to try and ascend this steep loose gully to be able to continue beyond and to the summit. All the intricacies and difficulties of the route are compounded if it is used as a descent route from the top of Blencathra. Calls to the Team also include many for cragfast walkers who have chosen not to continue, but who are unable to reverse their route due to: their exposure, the weather conditions or

## Team Leader's Report

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because it is just too slippery to continue in either direction.

It has never been the philosophy of Keswick MRT to say that people should not go on Sharp Edge, or anywhere else in the hills for that matter. What we are saying (imploring) is that those who do go to Sharp Edge should go prepared; expectant of what they might find and what they might have to deal with. Be especially mindful that when it is either damp or wet (it doesn't need to be raining, just cloud shrouded) it will be very slippery; it remains slippery long after any rain or cloud has cleared. In other than perfect conditions it is not a place to take youngsters. In winter conditions Sharp Edge is a full-on winter expedition where additional equipment including crampons, ice-axes and ropes are an absolute necessity.

Mountaineering in any conditions and on any route on any mountain is a matter entirely for personal choice; decisions must be made by the individual participants to suit their experience, the prevailing conditions and weather forecasts. There should be no consideration of 'shame' whatsoever in changing planned routes based on these decisions.

In addition to rescues, the Team has again this year been able to help another rescue team by way of donation. Over the last 12 months we have reviewed and revised the way we will respond to water rescues; river, lake and flooding incidents. Consequently we have changed

our boat to give us more flexibility. We were pleased to be able to donate our old boat to Aberglaslyn MRT in Wales; we continue to be very fortunate to be a rescue team based in a significant centre of population as well as a tourist centre, with the fundraising advantages that brings. Some of our colleague teams are not as fortunate. We also take this opportunity to formally thank Derwentwater Marina for their help and support in our new water rescue arrangements.

Outside the rescue operations of the Team, we were very proud to host the Princes Charities Day in 2012 on behalf of Mountain Rescue England & Wales where the charities of which the Royal Prince's are the Patrons come together for a day with the sole purpose of having a great day out. *Please refer to the Chairman's Report for more on this fantastic day.*

Enjoy your time in the fells and mountains of the Lake District, they are a fantastic part of the world, and be prepared to stretch experience levels once in a while. If you do find yourself in circumstances where you need the assistance of a mountain rescue team dial 999 and ask for Cumbria Police who will activate the relevant team.

**Mark Hodgson MBE**



*Incident 41*

When I look back through our records, I find similar themes are reported each year . . . a phenomenal, and steadily increasing, number of rescues and an immense amount of initiatives, projects, events, functions and activities.

Each and every aspect of what we do is squarely focused on providing the best and most professional service we can achieve. Just about every aspect of what we do has one of us guiding, developing, nurturing or leading. This year has been no exception, and it's testament to those who have given their time, efforts and support to keep the team moving forward.

Whenever the need or opportunity arises, we work closely with other services and charities. Sometimes this is in the face of a critical situation or to provide support to a large scale emergency. In many cases though, it's to share experiences, train together or develop ideas for mutual benefit. Just occasionally, we are also able to offer something a bit special . . .

### ***The Perfect Day . . .***

For the last 4 years Mountain Rescue England and Wales

(MREW), whose patron is Prince William, has hosted The Prince's Charities Day where the charities (Centrepoint, Child Bereavement and WellChild) come together to provide a day out for children. Prince William is patron of Centrepoint and Child Bereavement, with Prince Harry being patron of WellChild.

During the summer of 2012, Keswick Mountain Rescue Team were proud to host this event.

The whole purpose of the day was entirely for the benefit of the charity attendees, be they

homeless, having just lost a close relative or themselves being very ill, to give them a great day out and experience something new in this fantastic environment in which we are so fortunate to live.

Planning for the event had been underway for several months to arrange a selection of activities to suit all attendees. It is not known by the organisers in advance if there will be Royal attendance on the specific day. There has been in the past.



## Chairman's Report

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Keswick Team was supported on the day by Cockermouth and Penrith Teams who each ran one of the organised events. Duddon & Furness MRT assisted us with transport logistics. Events on the day included a morning visit to Derwent Island and a trip around the gardens and the house for Wellchild, followed by a choice between a trip to the top of Latrigg in a mountain rescue vehicle or a session at the Calvert Trust adventure centre. Centre Point and Child Bereavement each had sessions abseiling, slack-lining and taking part in a simulated rescue and evacuation of a casualty.

All the charity attendees and helpers and all mountain rescue members, totalling just short of 100 people, met up at Derwentwater Hostel for lunch where we were joined by a Sea King rescue helicopter and crew from RAF 202 Squadron who landed in the grounds. Following a packed lunch prepared for us by the hostel, everyone had the opportunity to look at and have a look through the helicopter with the crew providing a feast of information about their operations and the types of rescue they get involved with.

The day concluded with tea and cakes back at the rescue team base, with presentation of certificates of attendance and 'goody bags' to all the charity attendees, presented by Mike Nixon MBE, President of Keswick MRT and LDSAMRA, before all set off on their journeys back home.



Organising an event like this depends on the commitment, support and hard work of many people. The glittering prizes are the faces of the children . . . awe, excitement, smiles and the sound of laughter. One of life's priceless occasions!

Quotations from some of the attendees:

*"I really enjoyed the Mountain Rescue day. It was the best day ever. I was really glad I conquered my fear of abseiling, I am so happy I did it in the end"*

*"Thank you for an awesome day. I loved every part of it. And thank you for the goodie bag it was amazing."*

*"I really enjoyed going to the Lake District especially seeing the helicopter, I was so taken back."*

*"I really enjoyed taking part in the rescue. I would never have had this opportunity normally!"*

I'm not sure what's in store for us in 2013, but I do know that with your continued support, together with the strength and enthusiasm of the Keswick Team, there will be a highly trained and capable rescue service ready to respond to emergencies.

Enjoy the Mountains !

**Alan Prescott**  
(Chairman 2012)

# One Hundred and Two Call-outs in 2012

## Incident Report 2012

*Edited from Team records by Peter Little*

- 1 5 January 9:45**  
**Helvellyn Dodds**  
Keswick, Kendal, Kirkby Stephen and Penrith MRTs, plus 7 search dogs and a helicopter from RNAS Gannet helped Patterdale MRT in the search for a missing man.
- 2 15 January 11:31**  
**Glenderaterra Track, Blencathra**  
A man crashed while on his mountain bike. Pelvic and leg injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 3 18 January 14:13**  
**Whinny Brow, Latrigg**  
A man had a panic attack while on steep ground. No injuries.
- 4 27 January 14:21**  
**Thirlspot**  
A woman slipped on wet grass. Leg injury.
- 5 31 January 02:37**  
**Braithwaite**  
A search for a missing man. No injuries.
- 6 4 February 13:55**  
**Coledale Hause**  
A man slipped. Lower leg injury. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 7 4 February 15:55**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A woman became cragfast in icy conditions.
- 8 11 February 12:14**  
**Barrow**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 9 15 February 11:40**  
**Latrigg**  
A man with an ankle injury.
- 10 17 February 19:05**  
**Derwentwater**  
Two canoeists had capsized near Rampsholme Island. No injuries.
- 11 17 February 19:25**  
**Seathwaite**  
A search for a benighted man. No injuries.
- 12 18 February 13:22**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A mountain biker fell. He broke a collar bone and some ribs.
- 13 19 February 09:55**  
**Harrop Tarn, Ullscarf**  
A man had collapsed.
- 14 19 February 11:00**  
**Thirlspot**  
A sheep was rescued.
- 15 21 February 11:34**  
**Threlkeld**  
A search for a missing child. No injuries.



*Incident 9*

## Incident Report 2012

16 26 February 14:28

### Sharp Edge, Blencathra

A man fell into a gully. Head, facial and leg injuries. An Air Ambulance took a doctor and a paramedic to the scene. The man was lowered down the gully. A RAF Sea King took him to hospital.

17 1 March 13:41

### Ullock Pike

A man had collapsed. The Air Ambulance could not reach the casualty because of the poor weather. A paramedic from the NWAS accompanied the Team. The casualty was stretchered down the ridge. A RAF Sea King took him to hospital.

18 4 March 11:00

### Woof Stones, Langstrath

A sheep was rescued.

19 9 March 19:02

### Hind Gill, Glaramara

A search for two walkers lost above Hind Gill.

20 10 March 12:24

### Low Briery, Keswick

A couple riding a tandem had an accident on a boardwalk. The girl had a knee injury.

21 14 March 16:03

### Seathwaite

A woman slipped on the path near Taylor Gill. Ankle injury.

22 15 March 13:34

### Cat Bells

A woman fell. Broken wrist.

23 27 March 16:35

### Great Lingy Hill

A man collapsed with heat exhaustion. The Team carried him to an Air Ambulance which had landed close by. He was flown to the Team vehicle in the valley.

24 31 March 12:31

### Woden's Face, Borrowdale

A man fell 3 metres whilst bouldering. Rib, arm and knee injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

25 3 April 14:51

### Seathwaite Tarn

A woman was reported to have suffered a broken arm. After the Team had left the base, it was discovered that the incident was near Seathwaite Tarn, in the south of the Lake District, not near Seathwaite, Borrowdale, as had previously been thought. Duddon and Furness MRT attended the incident.

26 10 April 14:48

### Dodd, High Seat

A woman slipped. Broken leg. The Team stretchered her to an Air Ambulance which had landed close by. The Air Ambulance took her to hospital.

27 15 April 15:20

### Thirlmere

A woman had slipped on a shore path. Ankle injury.



Incident 17



Incident 26

**28 19 April 14:07**  
**Lining Crag, Borrowdale**  
 A search for a couple lost and exhausted, somewhere on the Coast to Coast route between Rosthwaite and Grasmere. Langdale Ambleside MRT helped in the search. They were found close to Lining Crag. No injuries.

**29 23 April 13:23**  
**Wythburn Fells**  
 A man had collapsed. Suspected stroke or transient ischaemic attack. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

**30 23 April 20:02**  
**Castlehead, Keswick**  
 A man slipped on wet rock. Head injuries.

**31 27 April 21:32**  
**Grey Knotts**  
 A man slipped on a stile. Ankle injury. Keswick and Cockermouth MRTs attended the incident. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

**32 28 April 06:29**  
**The Swirls, Helvellyn**  
 A woman slipped on the fell above The Swirls. Ankle injury.

**33 28 April 11:45**  
**Dale Head**  
 A man had collapsed near the summit. Cockermouth MRT together with an Air Ambulance and a RAF Sea King also attended. The man was flown to hospital.

**34 29-30 April 20:56**  
**Crag Hill**  
 A search for a fellrunner. The overnight search was resumed the following morning, with support from Wasdale, Penrith, Kirkby Stephen MRTs, as well as SARDA (England) and a helicopter from the RAF. The body of the man was located and recovered by the RAF Sea King in steep ground, 200 metres below the ridge leading from Sail to Crag Hill.

**35 30 April 19:26**  
**Snailshell Crag, Carrock Fell**  
 A woman with a knee injury.

**36 5 May 13:41**  
**Shepherds Crag**  
 A man fell 15 metres from "Conclusion" on Brown Slabs. Leg injuries, as well as possible spinal and pelvic injuries. An air ambulance took him to hospital.

**37 12 May 10:26**  
**Stake Pass**  
 A woman stumbled. Ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.

**38 16 May 16:10**  
**Allen Crag**  
 A woman fell. Head injury with severe lacerations to her scalp. A RAF Sea King found the casualty, and took her to hospital.

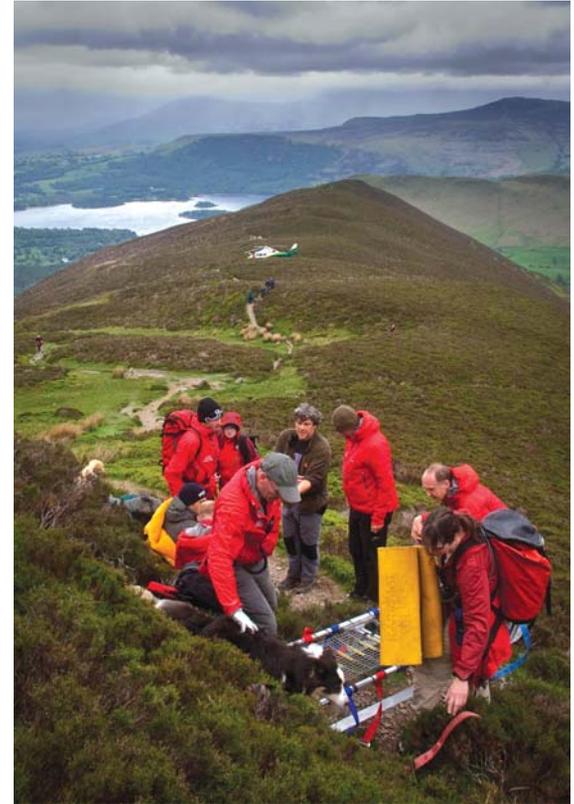
**39 16 May 17:17**  
**Coledale Hause Track**  
 A walker had reported that another walker was in difficulties. The man was found just coming off the hill. No injuries.



Incident 30

## Incident Report 2012

- 40 **20 May 22:33**  
**Sour Milk Gill, Borrowdale**  
An exhausted woman needed help in descent. However, by the time the Team had set out, the situation was resolved, and no further action was necessary.
- 41 **22 May 17:33**  
**Outerside**  
A woman fell. Broken wrist.
- 42 **23 May 00:05**  
**Honister - Haystacks**  
Cockermouth MRT asked the Team to help in the search for a missing woman.
- 43 **28 May 12:32**  
**Great Gable**  
A woman fell on the path from Great Gable to Windy Gap. Broken wrist. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 44 **31 May 13:18**  
**Whinlatter Pass**  
A woman fell off her bike. Head and collar bone injuries and numerous abrasions.
- 45 **3 June 13:18**  
**Causey Pike**  
A man slipped and dislocated his knee cap. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 46 **3 June 15:34**  
**Skiddaw**  
A woman fell not far from the end of Gale Road. Broken ankle.
- 47 **3 June 18:15**  
**Stockley Bridge, Seathwaite**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 48 **7 June 15:03**  
**Revellin Moss, Whinlatter Pass**  
A woman fell off her mountain bike. Broken arm.
- 49 **11 June 10:50**  
**Gate Gill, Blencathra**  
A fellrunner lost his footing and fell approximately 20m. Severe head and spinal injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 50 **12 June 19:30**  
**Stockley Bridge, Seathwaite**  
A man had collapsed.
- 51 **17 June 15:36**  
**Low Moss, Stile End**  
A woman broke her lower leg.
- 52 **18 June 12:17**  
**Glenderaterra Terrace, Lonscale Fell**  
A man had fallen from his mountain bike. Multiple fatal injuries. A RAF Sea King helicopter helped with evacuating the casualty.
- 53 **19 June 13:16**  
**Taylor Gill, Borrowdale**  
A man collapsed with chest pains. Fatality.
- 54 **19 June 15:15**  
**Friar's Crag, Derwentwater**  
A woman had collapsed.



Incident 45



Incident 64

- 55 **22 June 15:03**  
**Honister Mine**  
The recovery of the body of a man.
- 56 **23 June 02:30**  
**Keswick Town Centre**  
To help the Fire & Rescue Service with potential flooding and evacuation work.
- 57 **26 June 16:05**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A mountain biker with a leg injury.
- 58 **27 June 19:09**  
**Rigghead Quarries, High Spy**  
A man with an achilles tendon injury.
- 59 **6 July 18:29**  
**Outerside**  
A man suffering from exhaustion.
- 60 **8 July 16:42**  
**Castle Crag, Borrowdale**  
A woman had fallen and dislocated her shoulder.
- 61 **10 July 13:20**  
**Glenderaterra Track, Blencathra**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 62 **14 July 16:36**  
**Corridor Route, Scafell Pike**  
A woman with a hip injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 63 **21 July 10:40**  
**Moses Trod, Brandreth**  
A man broke his ankle. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 64 **25 July 12:05**  
**Scale Close Coppice, Borrowdale**  
A man collapsed with stomach pains.
- 65 **28 July 19:02**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A man suffered an epileptic fit.
- 66 **29 July 23:50**  
**Esk Hause**  
Wasdale MRT asked the Team to help in a search for a missing couple. A RAF Sea King helicopter evacuated the couple.
- 67 **2 August 12:30**  
**Woof Stones, Langstrath**  
Two sheep were rescued.
- 68 **10 August 23:36**  
**Greenup Edge**  
A search for a man on the Coast to Coast walk between Rosthwaite and Grasmere. Langdale Ambleside MRT and Lake District Mountain Rescue Search dogs helped in the search. No injuries.
- 69 **11 August 11:14**  
**Latrigg**  
A mountain biker fell from his bike. Fracture dislocation of the shoulder.
- 70 **20 August 16:04**  
**Nitting Haws**  
A couple became cragfast in descent. They were roped down to safe ground. No injuries.
- 71 **27 August 15:13**  
**Stoneycroft, Newlands**  
A woman with a leg injury.

## Incident Report 2012

72 **30 August 16:06**

### **Dale Head Tarn**

A man suffered a back spasm and was unable to continue. An Air Ambulance took him to a Keswick MRT vehicle at Honister Pass.

73 **30 August 23:00**

### **Moses Trod Area**

Cockermouth MRT asked the Team to help in a search for an elderly couple on the Coast to Coast route. No injuries.

74 **1 September 12:20**

### **Sticks Pass**

A fellrunner suffering from hypothermia. An Air Ambulance evacuated the man.

75 **1 September 22:47**

### **Wythburn**

Langdale Ambleside MRT asked the Team to help in a search for a missing couple. One of the two had an ankle injury.

76 **3 September 13:59**

### **Harrop Tarn, Thirlmere**

A man slipped on wet grass. Fracture dislocation of an ankle. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

77 **13 September 13:36**

### **Grains Gill, Borrowdale**

A woman with a knee injury and back problem. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team.

78 **13 September 13:58**

### **Derwentwater Shore**

A man slipped and fell. Head injury.

79 **18 September 20:50**

### **Wythburn**

Langdale Ambleside MRT asked the Team to help in the search for a missing man. The man was airlifted to safety by a RAF Sea King helicopter.

80 **25 September 13:00**

### **Corvus, Raven Crag, Glaramara**

A woman fell 10 metres. Back and head injuries. An Air Ambulance helped at the scene. A RAF Sea King helicopter took her to hospital.

81 **26 September 17:43**

### **The Swirls, Helvellyn**

A man with an ankle injury above The Swirls. A RAF Sea King hospital took him to hospital.

82 **29 September 12:55**

### **Helvellyn**

A casualty with a leg injury. Patterdale MRT attended the incident.

83 **1 October 17:40**

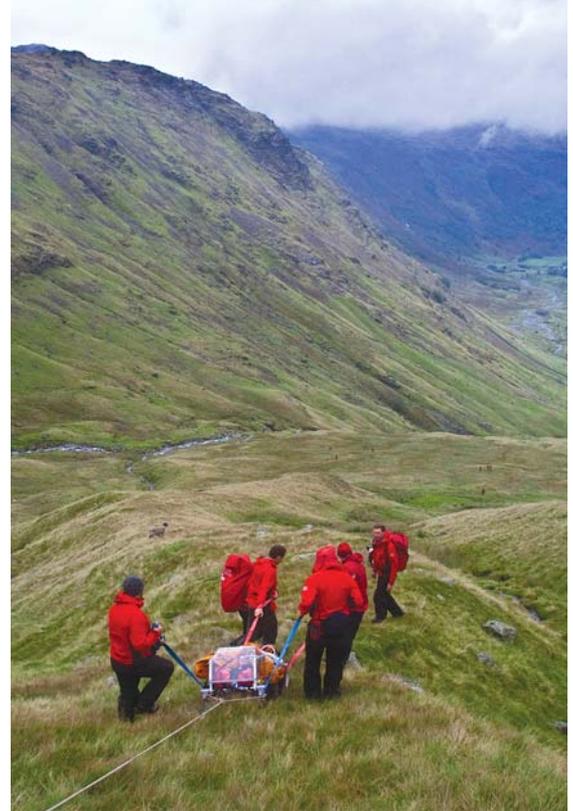
### **Sty Head**

Wasdale MRT asked the Team to help a vulnerable person off the hill from the Sty Head area.

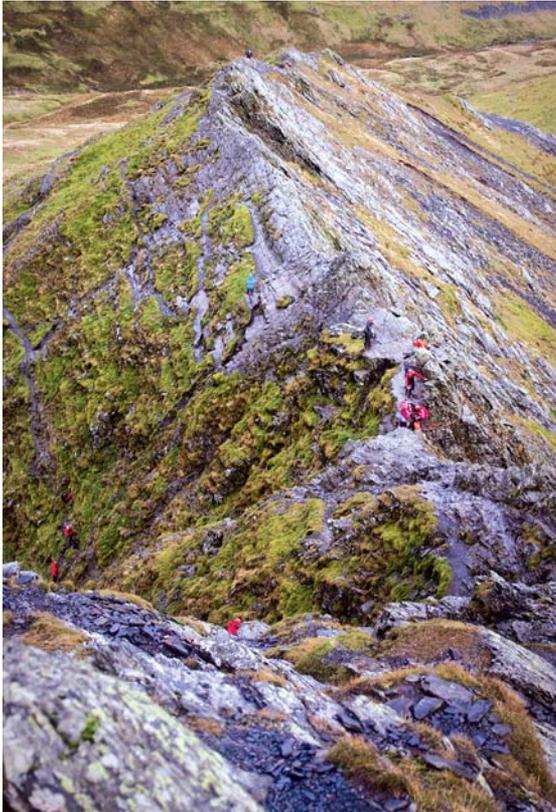
84 **20 October 12:31**

### **Sty Head**

A man had attempted to speed fly down from Windy Gap, using a rig similar to a paraglider. Back and pelvic injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital with a spinal splint.



Incident 77



Incidents 88 - 89

- 85 27 October 12:19**  
**High Pike**  
A woman with an ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 86 27 October 15:30**  
**Walla Crag**  
A woman slipped crossing a stream. Broken wrist.
- 87 28 October 17:00**  
**Scafell Pike area**  
A search for two missing men, involving 4 rescue teams and 11 search dogs. The men were found at Mickledore by Wasdale MRT.
- 88 29 October 13:30**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A woman and her young son became cragfast. Ropework was used to bring them to safety. Incidents 88 and 89 were dealt with concurrently.
- 89 29 October 14:16**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A man fell 20 metres into a gully. Minor abrasions and cuts. Another man became cragfast. Ropework was used to assist both men to safety.
- 90 3 November 17:32**  
**Grains Gill, Borrowdale**  
A man with an ankle injury.
- 91 4 November 00:26**  
**Sticks Pass**  
Lights were seen on Sticks Pass. Investigation revealed a party on a night-time excursion. No injuries.
- 92 5 November 09:24**  
**Harrop Tarn, Ullscarf**  
A search for a missing man.
- 93 13 November 19:50**  
**Castlehead Wood**  
Two men had fallen.
- 94 14 November 22:56**  
**Rigg Beck**  
Police requested the help of the Team to deal with a local incident. This was resolved prior to the Team arriving on scene.
- 95 18 November 12:45**  
**Bakestall**  
A woman slipped and fell. Broken arm. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 96 21 November 14:01**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A woman fell into a gully. Arm and spinal injuries. An Air Ambulance helped the Team. A RAF Sea King took her to hospital.
- 97 24 November 12:06**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A man and his young became cragfast. A RAF Sea King helicopter winched them to safety. No injuries.

## Incident Report 2012

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*Incident 98*



*Incident 98*

**98 29 November 14:36**

### **High Snockrigg Robinson**

Cockermouth MRT asked the Team to help with an incident involving a woman with an ankle injury.

**99 9 December 11:48**

### **Lord's Seat**

A woman slipped on wet ground. Fracture/dislocation ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.

**100 26 December 14:29**

### **Glenderaterra Beck**

A man took a 3 metres tumbling fall. Cuts and dislocated fingers.

**101 31 December 11:43**

### **High Spy**

A man had collapsed. Fatality.

**102 31 December 15:10**

### **Great Lingy Hill**

A man was lost in mist.



*Incident 99*

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## Vehicles and Driving in the Team

For some years now, the Team has existed with three vehicles, but the huge demands placed on us in 2010 and 2011 forced us into considering another vehicle so we could better deal with two incidents simultaneously and have the transport necessary. So another Mercedes Sprinter 4 x 4, "Delta" has joined the fleet, and we now have a lead Landrover and a personnel carrier/ ambulance for each incident. Both Sprinters have been fitted with special floors with moveable anchor points, so we can fasten down equipment and stretchers securely. In addition, the first Sprinter has had new conspicuity markings added to make it more visible, and fit in with other emergency services.

Our current Landrovers are now ten years old, and some thought will need to be given to when we replace them.

The ever-increasing burden of legislation requires a regime for regular inspections and testing. Each vehicle has a fortnightly check by Vehicles officers, and goes to a local garage every 13 weeks. Servicing is every 6 months. As they are classed as Ambulances, they have to have an MOT every year, even if only a year old. This calls for a large amount of record-keeping, and a need for all Team members to report faults and defects they come across.

Keswick Team is proud of its standards of driving, both on and off road. It may well appear to onlookers to be loud, and at times brash, but the excellent training we have received from ex-police instructors enables us to get to our access points to the hill swiftly, safely and in recognition of the prevailing road and traffic conditions. We currently hold the right to certain exemptions from traffic law, which enable us, for example, to carefully overtake lines of stationary traffic on the wrong side of the road, and exceed the speed limit where it is safe to do so. These exemptions do not exempt us from prosecution if things go wrong, or if the vehicle is in an unsafe



condition; they are simply there to ease our passage through busy traffic. Keswick has plenty of that in the summer months. However, these exemptions may well be under threat . . . read on . . .

2013 will be remembered for many things, but one which has the potential to fundamentally affect how the Team travels to operations, surfaced during the year. This was Section 19 of the 2006 Road Traffic Act, which when it is implemented within the next year, may require those driving vehicles under Emergency Response conditions, with the exemptions, to be trained very differently

to how we train now. Potentially it could cost a very large amount of money – up to £1000 a head – and require Team members to undertake a two week course in their own time. Mountain Rescue England and Wales are making representations to the Driving Standards Agency about this, as costs to teams will be prohibitive. Whilst it is essential that standards of driving are high, and that necessary safety safeguards are in place, it will place a huge burden on teams. Effectively we are being asked to match the driving standards of other emergency services without being given the resources with which they address the issue. Given that the mileage the Team does – in total about 4000 miles a year – it seems unnecessarily prescriptive.

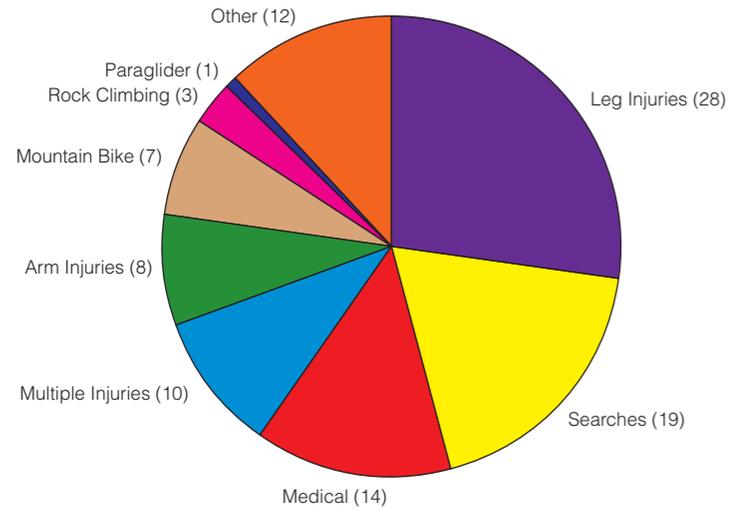
In the meantime, the current driver training programme continues, with a day of defensive driving, an Emergency Response driving module, and an off-road driving day, to ensure drivers are well equipped to respond to whatever turns up. Refresher training keeps these skills up to date.

Driving takes up the least amount of time on any rescue, but is possibly the most dangerous aspect of all the work we do. The Team takes all necessary precautions to ensure that the risks are minimised by good training and sound maintenance.

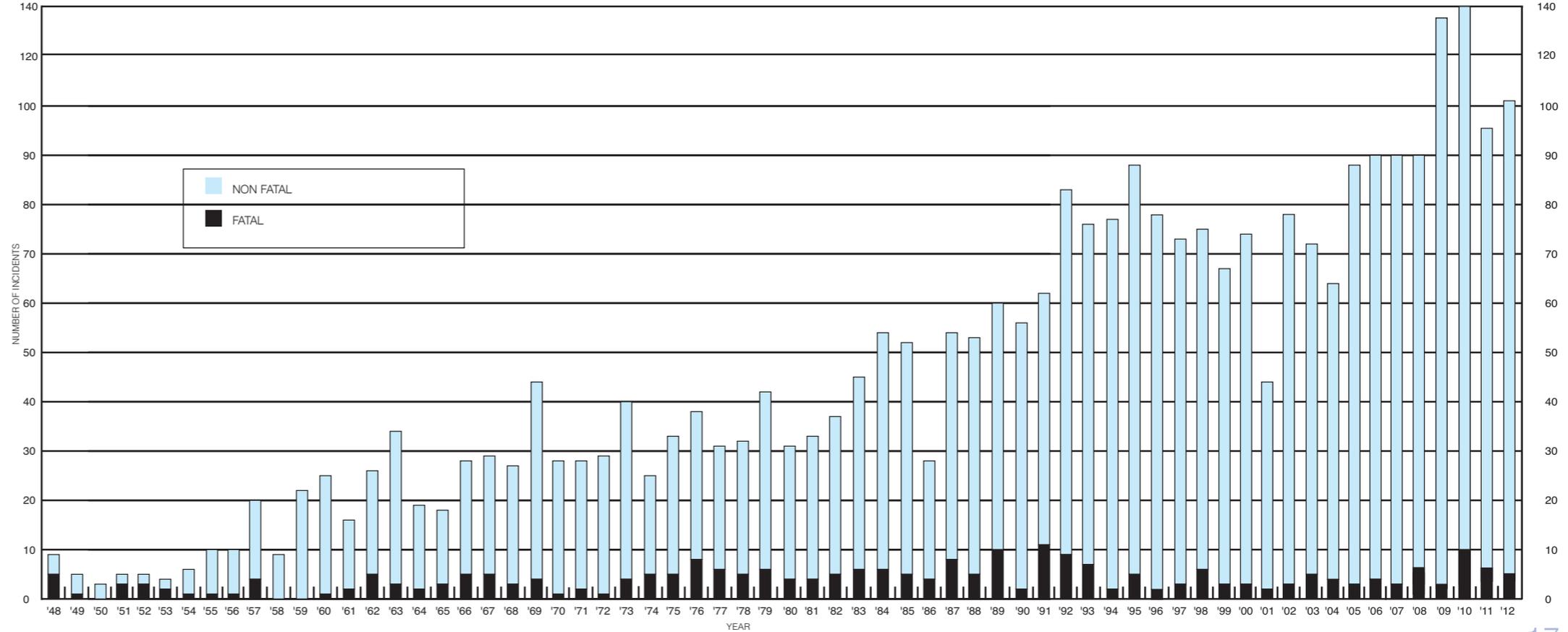
**Mick Guy**

**INCIDENT TYPES 2012**

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



**KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM 1948 - 2012 3051 callouts (264 fatalities)**



## Lake District Winter Training 2013

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In recent years Keswick MRT's winter training has taken place either in Scotland or Chamonix, in the French Alps, using local Mountain Guides for instruction. For one reason or another, neither trip had happened so far this winter, so one of the Team's own highly qualified and experienced members offered to do some training for us, here in the Lake District. It was a quite a novelty to do such a thing on home turf, as the conditions here are generally not as good or as long lasting as in other venues . . . but we thought we'd give it a go . . . !

So it was, that early-ish one January morning, five of us found ourselves plodding up the relentlessly steep pitched path towards Brown Cove Crags, on the side of Helvellyn Lower Man, with killer rucksacks full of heavy and sharp bits of kit. Stomping through soft, gloopy snow patches on the way up did nothing to improve our hopes of good, solid snow with which to work. However, overhead it was dry and the high winds that were forecast had yet to arrive . . . two reasons to be cheerful!

Having reached the venue, an open snow gully, we found an unusual phenomenon in the snow called Graupel, which resembles hail, but is formed in a different way. After gearing up with crampons and harnesses and grabbing our ice tools, we assessed the avalanche risk as minimal and ventured into the gully. The snow was indeed soggy and soft, so we were unable to practice some skills, but it was a useful couple of hours, moving around in crampons, using ice tools, assessing the snowpack for avalanche risk, snow belays, placing ice screws, rock belays, rope work and discussing what to wear and what to carry. It was also a useful experience of operating in bad weather conditions, as the forecast high winds and heavy rain finally materialised and forced us to retire from the fell, back to the valley.

For me, one great thing about the day was going to a part of the Lakes and a part of Keswick MRT's 'patch' on which I had never previously set foot. It just goes to show, that those of us lucky enough to live in this wonderful place, don't have to spend lots of time and money travelling to another part of the world to experience winter conditions and practice the essential skills needed to safeguard ourselves and rescue others, on a winter call out.

**Karen Sturgess**



*Incident 6*

In 2012, after 43 years as a member of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, Donald Angus decided that, having reached the grand old age of 75, it was time to stand down and let somebody else have a turn!

Donald is Cumbrian through and through, having been born and bred in Threlkeld and spent most of his life working with trees (Manchester Corporation) and mountains (Lake District National Park Authority). Until retirement, Donald was a well known National Park Ranger around the county. In fact, being a Ranger led to Donald's first involvement with KMRT in 1968, as assisting with rescues was in his job description! He officially joined the team on 22 June 1969, when he was seconded to help, whilst at work in Whinlatter Forest, to an incident on Hopegill Head.

In those days, there was no formal training programme, not much equipment and no real base, just a garage beside Central Car Park. Team members were called out by a telephone cascade system, which relied on you being either at home, or work and having a 'phone! It was however, somewhat quicker than being called out by telegram, or by word of mouth, as in the 'old' days. They would assemble at the Police Station and travel together from there. Communication was via five large, heavy 'Bantam' radio sets. It is incredible to compare with today, when every Team member has a small, light, powerful, reliable, state-of-the-art radio. We don't know we're born!

In 1987, following his significant involvement in the aftermath of a military aircraft collision near Great Wood, Donald ascended to the giddy heights of Deputy Team Leader for a few years, but was happy to return to his place in the ranks subsequently.

Donald recounted to me some memorable call outs that he attended during his time with the Team. One of the saddest he remembered was near Windy End on the west side of Blencathra, where an 11 year old boy had fallen from some big boulders, whilst wearing sandals, sustaining serious head injuries. As he was being transported to Keswick Cottage Hospital, members of the Team desperately tried to save him, but to no avail. Sadly, the boy died before he reached hospital. 'Would he have fallen, had he been

wearing more suitable footwear?' Donald wondered. That is a question which we still ask today, after some rescues.

Another call out that Donald recounted to me was of a 3-day search for a young man who was lost in the Central Fells. He was found by Donald and others, sitting down near Foxes Tarn on Scafell. His instructions from the leaders of his group, from which he had been separated, were that if ever he got lost, he should 'sit down and wait'. . . so he did . . . for 3 days! His first words to his rescuers were, 'Give us a gag'!

On one occasion, Donald volunteered to stay overnight on the scene of an air crash on Skiddaw, with the body of the deceased pilot, until the RAF could get there to investigate the following day. He was accompanied by another Team member, who was (and still is) renowned for his ability to talk. Donald chuckled as he recalled that he got no sleep that night, as he had hoped, as his colleague never shut up!

Since 1969, when he joined Keswick MRT, Donald feels that, as well as the obvious developments in equipment, technology and training, mountain rescue in general has become a much more professional organisation, almost business-like in its complexity. Behind the scenes there is a tremendous amount of work to do and roles to play, in order for a Team to function and operate efficiently and effectively. However, the commitment and camaraderie within the Team has always remained. With any luck, it always will.

Although he misses being involved in rescues and the humour and banter within the Team, Donald is still an active fell walker, who is as adventurous now, as he ever was, seeking out interesting and out-of-the-way parts of the Lake District into which most of us would never even think of venturing. This is, no doubt, how he has built up such a fantastic amount of local knowledge. He is proud to have never had an accident on the fells in all that time and hopes to continue to maintain his blemish-free record . . . and so do we!

Happy 'retirement', Donald!

**Karen Sturgess**

## Keswick MRT Search Dogs 2012

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A quiet year workwise for the graded search dogs – only 45 callouts in total, with some of these being “local” callouts, which mean only the dogs of that team go out. Nevertheless, Search Dog Ginny managed 28 callouts, working with nine different mountain rescue teams, including ones in Southern Scotland. No finds this year, but some challenging and damp searches including one for a party who managed to get lost on successive nights! Search Dog Meg managed rather fewer, suffering a number of niggling injuries during the year, which restricted her outings.

The big news was that at long last, Chris Francis and Search Dog Beck finally made the step up to Graded Search Dog after a number of false starts and problems. I’m convinced that the major issue was that Chris speaks English, and Beck only speaks Labrador and food; once Chris started using sausage as a reward, the problem solved itself! Beck is Chris’s third Search Dog, following on from Loch and Tarn. She is very fast for a Labrador, and possesses endless stamina.

Suddenly we have a rake of trainees coming along. Elly Whiteford and Bracken (known as “Bear” for his enormous size and thick coat) are well on into training at Stage 2, Rob Grange and Rona are underway in Stage 1, and Martin Bell and Isla (aka “The Lout”) are at the beginning, but getting the hang of things. This has meant an expansion in the training which takes place on Tuesday nights or Sunday afternoons, and the possibility of there being 5 Search Dogs in the Keswick Team for the first time since the 1990’s. We have a willing core of “dogsbodies” – volunteers who come to be casualties and play an enormous part in the successful training. Some have been coming along for 20 years; all love dogs, and the dogs love them.

One of the things often remarked upon is how well the dogs get along together. Training sessions are always marked by very sociable “meet and greet” sessions with canine colleagues from Penrith and Cockermouth. It is remarkable how the dogs move seamlessly from “play” to “work,” and obvious how much they enjoy both!

One thing is clear, however – both handlers and dogs would appreciate a drier year in 2013!



*Bracken*



*Beck and Chris*

**Mick Guy**

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## Search Dogs Winter Training Course – Cairngorm, February 2013

Three members of the Keswick Team and their search dogs, two graded and two trainees, joined other search dog teams in the Cairngorms, Scotland for the annual winter training course in mid February. Based at Badaguish Outdoor Centre the course concentrated on training the dogs to locate people buried under the snow by avalanches or other ways such as cornice collapses and drifting snow. The training differs from the usual searching of mountain areas where wide ranging and hunting is essential. In the winter terrain, the incidents we could be involved with cover relatively small areas and the dogs are trained to have their noses to the ground as opposed to air scenting being the usual method of scent detection. In order to train the dogs we need deep banks of snow several metres deep where we dig out a trench about 2m long by at least 2m deep then hollow out a cave to one side under the snow – it is here that the people who volunteer (bodies) to help us train will lie in warm clothes and bivi bags – gradually being blocked in with more and more snow as the dogs get accustomed to finding the scent and digging. The final result would be that the trenches are completely filled to ground level and the location hidden in an area of disturbed snow – the dog would then be introduced to the area to search, locate and start digging – the handler will then assist the dog digging until the dog can enter the cave and get the reward from the body. In reality, the dog would just be used to indicate a location and moved on if multiple casualties and a team would commence the digging but in training the dogs need to associate the training with reward.

Whilst training in Scotland we were requested to assist the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team with a search for 6 missing students and the avalanche in the Chalamain Gap, in both incidents lives were lost and it was a difficult week for all involved. Both of these incidents were a strong reminder to us all as to the importance of the training we do on this course.

In Scotland this year there have been over 80 recorded avalanches so far, with eight fatalities and many more caught in them and rescued with injuries. Over the last few years, depending on snow conditions, there have also



*Meg and Elly*

been people caught in avalanches in the Lakes, luckily all have survived to tell the tale. In winter conditions, extra care needs to be taken, weather and slope stability/avalanche risk assessments made, wear a transceiver and carry the right equipment. It is the people who witness the avalanche that give the casualties caught their greatest chance of survival.

See: How to Stay Safe on the Fells  
<http://www.ldsamra.org.uk/documents/ldsamrastaysafe.pdf>

**Elly Whiteford**

## A Casualty's Account – Incident 72

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My daughter Sally and her fiancé Greg were visiting from Sydney and she was keen to visit her beloved Lake District again. I had been walking the fells for approaching 40 years and jumped at the chance.

On the morning of the 30th August we set off from the Borrowdale Hotel and walked through Grange to Manesty (the area to the east of Manesty was flooded). We took the route from Manesty that would take us to Cat Bells. As we neared the top of that path I started to experience discomfort, but not pain. At the top I decided to turn south towards Maiden Moor whilst Sally and Greg ascended Cat Bells – the weather was good and plenty of people were around, so we felt it was safe to separate for a short while. Eventually I realised that the discomfort was focused towards the base of my spine and that I felt as if I was leaning to my right from the waist upwards. When Sally caught up with me she confirmed my strange posture and became more and more concerned. We walked over Maiden Moor and High Spy, but the descent was becoming very difficult. I should point out at this stage that Sally is a dentist and so understands a great deal about pain relief. I said that I was not in too much pain, but that it was becoming very uncomfortable. She said “maybe, but you are clearly in some sort of spasm.” She had some Voltarol with her and eventually insisted that I take it. My reluctance was partly down to how I had to administer the drug. Enough said!! With help from the pair of them I made it to Dale Head Tarn, but to get to Rosthwaite was another matter. I had to agree to them contacting Keswick Mountain Rescue. Shortly before the helicopter arrived the Voltarol started to kick in, which left me embarrassed because I was then able to stand unaided. The rescue team reassured me that I would not have been able to complete the descent, and having been down that route previously I'm sure they were right.

In double quick time I was back at the hotel, with some explaining to give to my wife. It was my misfortune that she looked through the bedroom window just as I was alighting from the mountain rescue bus!

Back home the following day I was in front of my GP armed with Sally's iPad showing a clear picture of my strange posture whilst descending from



*Incident 72*

High Spy. In what seemed like no time I was in the stroke clinic at the hospital. Happily I was cleared of anything of that nature and was told that it would be my back – some sort of disc problem.

As I look back on the incident I struggle to find the right words to describe my feelings about the rescue team. It was more than their professionalism, as good as that was. It was the attitude they brought to their work which left a very deep impression on me, and on Sally and Greg. I will always remember that – with deep gratitude. They are a great bunch of people.

Thank you so much.

**Alan Hibbert**

If you want to learn more about the Team's work and history, please buy the "Call-Out" book and the 60th Anniversary DVD

## CALL-OUT THE FIRST 50 YEARS

by George Bott (1997)

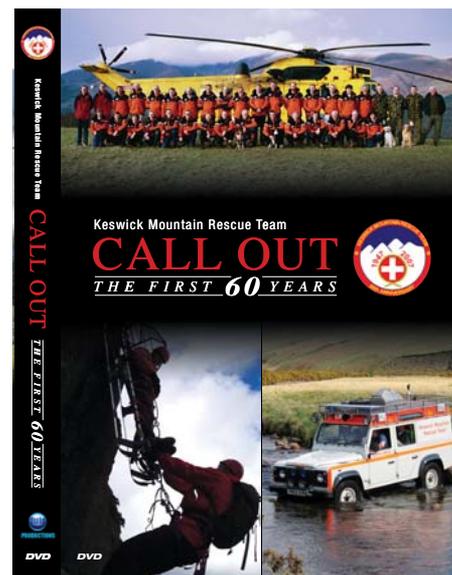
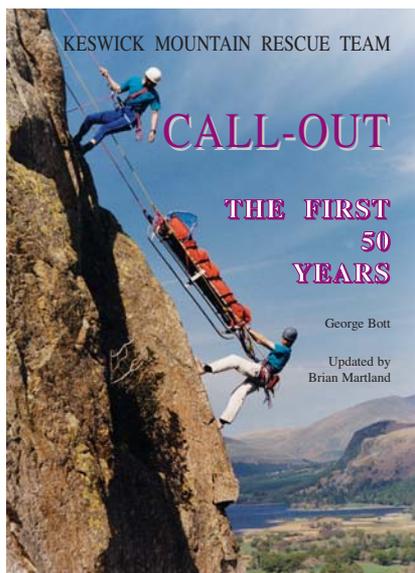
On 24 April 1946, Wilfrid Noyce, later a member of John Hunt's successful Everest team, was badly injured while he was climbing on Great Gable. His rescue – a long and difficult operation – prompted a local climber, Colonel Horace Westmorland, to form a properly organised Mountain Rescue Team.

From its humble beginnings, the Team has grown into a highly efficient, well-equipped group of volunteers, ready to respond to a call-out for help at any time of day or night.

**CALL-OUT** traces the story of the first 50 years of the Team, a history that records hardship and humour, dedication and drama, courage and commitment.

**CALL-OUT** has a full colour cover, photographs in colour and black and white, 60 pages. An extra four pages have been added to bring the story up to date.

All proceeds from the sale of **CALL-OUT** go to Team Funds.



## CALL-OUT – 60th Anniversary DVD

Launched in August 2007. Running time approximately 71 minutes.

A look at the Team sixty years after the first rescue in 1947, featuring the varied exercises and call-outs attended by the Team.

Foreword by Sir Chris Bonington.

Bonus chapters include: The Rescue Base, Mountain Advice, Photographic Slide Show.

Also includes a section on facts and statistics, with information in the form of PDF files available to PC and Mac users.

All proceeds from the sale of the **DVD** go to Team Funds.

Both obtainable from Mick Guy,  
Limhus,  
High Hill,  
Keswick,  
Cumbria CA12 5PB.

Cheques should be made payable to:  
Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

**Book £9.50**

**DVD £10.00**

**including postage and packaging**

# Collection Box Sponsors

The team as always are grateful for the support they get from local establishments and their customers.

During 2012 boxes raised over £28,000 for the team. For any queries regarding collection boxes, please contact Brian Spencer on 017687 72531.

Abacourt House	Cotswold	Glendale Guest House	Lake Road Inn	Parkergate	Strathmore Guest House
Acorn House	Craghills Boot Store	Grange Bridge Cottage Café	Lakes Bar and Bistro	Peathouse Stonethwaite	Stybeck Farm
Alexandras	Craglands Guest House	Grange Café	The Lakes Fish Restaurant	Pheasant Inn	Sun Inn Bassenthwaite
Alhambra Cinema	Cragside Guest House	Greystoke House	Lakeland Slate	Pizza Panorama	Sunnyside Guest House
Allerdale House	Crow Park Hotel	Greystones Guest House	Lakeside House	Planet Fear	Swinside Farm Cottage
Armthwaite Hall	Cumberland Pencil Museum	The Hair Shop	Lakeside Tea Gardens	Portland House	Swinside Inn
Ashness Farm	Cumbrian Cottages	Hawcliffe Guest House	Lanehead Farm Guest House	Pretty Things	Swinside Lodge
Avondale Guest House	Cumbria House	Hazel Bank Hotel	Langstrath Hotel	Primrose Cottage Dalston	Swiss Court Hotel
Bank Tavern	Cyclewise Whinlatter	Hazelmere Guest House	Larry's Lodge	Primrose Cottage	Tarn Hows Guest House
Barclays Bank	Dale Bottom Camp Site	Hedgehog Hill Guest House	Laura of the Lakes	Brigham Road	Temple Sports
Barn Gill Guest House	Dalegarth Hotel	The Heights Hotel	Laurel Bank Guest House	Pumpkin Café	Theatre by the Lake
Thirspot	Dale Head Hall Hotel	High Lodore Farm Café	Leathes Head Hotel	The Puzzling Place	Thornleigh Guest House
Beaty & Co., Wigton	Dandelion Café HF	The Hollies	Lynton House	Rainbow	Thornthwaite Gallery
Beckstones Guest House	Daresfield Guest House	Homethwaite House	Little Chestnut Hill	Rambles Café	TOG 24
The Beeches Portinscale	David and Elaine Burn	(Elizabeth Lingard)	Little Dodd Garden Centre	Rathbone	Touchwood
Birch How Guest House	Ashtree Avenue	Honister House	Littlefield Guest House	Rathbone Outdoor Wear	Trespass
Blacks	Derwent Club	Honister Mine	Lodore Falls Hotel	Ravenstone Hotel	Troutbeck Inn
Bookends	Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre	Hope Memorial Camp	Londis BP Garage	Ravenstone Lodge Hotel	Troutbeck Caravan and
The Boot Co.	Derwentwater Caravan Park	Hope Park Mini Golf Kiosk	Lodore Falls Hotel	Ravensworth House	Camping Site
Booths Kiosk	Derwentwater Marina	Horse and Farrier	Love the Lakes	Rickerby Grange	Twa Dogs
Boots Pharmacy	Derwentwater Youth Hostel	Hot Tram Roll	Low Manesty Caravan Club	Rivendell Guest House	Tynemouth Lodge Hotel
Borrowdale Hotel	Dorchester House	How Keld Guest House	Site	Rohan	Village Shop Braithwaite
Borrowdale YHA	Dog and Gun	HSBC	Luchinis	Rowe Opticians	Village Shop Portinscale
Braithwaite Court HPB	Dollywaggon Guest House	Hunters Way Guest House	Lynwood Guest House	Rowling End	West View Guest House
Bramblewood Guest House	Easedale Hotel	The Inn at Keswick	Lyzzick Hall Hotel	Royal Oak Braithwaite	Whinlatter Siskin Tearoom
Brierholme Guest House	Eden Green	Ivy House	Malcolm's Shoes	Royal Oak Rosthwaite	White Horse Inn
Brookfield Guest House	Edwardene Hotel	Java	30 Manor Park	Salutation Inn	The Wild Strawberry
Brysons	Edz	Karra Cottage Threlkeld	Mary Mount Hotel	Sandon Guest House	Winstoncher Guest House
Caffle House Watendlath	Eel Crags	Keswick Golf Club	Middle Ruddings Hotel	Saw Mill Café Dodd	Woodside Guest House
Camping and Caravan Club	The Electric Shop	Keswick Brewing Co.	Mill Inn Mungrisedale	Scatell Hotel	Yew Craggs
Site	Ellergill Guest House	Keswick Collectables	Moot Hall	Scotgate Camping Site	Yew Tree Café
The Card Collection	Erinville Guest House	Keswick Launch Company	Morrell's	Seatoller House	Yew Tree Guest House
Cartwheel Guest House	Farmers Arms	Keswick Mountain Bikes	Mountain Warehouse	Setmabanning Caravan 7	
Casa's	Fat Face	Keswick Mountain Sports	Namaste 21 Manesty View	(Mrs Wood)	
Castlefell Guest House	Ferndene Guest House	Keswick Park Hotel	National Trust Lakeside	Seven Oaks Guest House	
Castlehead Medical Centre	Filling Station Cafe	Keswick Reminder Office	Near Howe Mungrisedale	Scales Farm Cottage	
Castle Inn	Fine Designs	Keswick Spa	Needle Sports	Shernara Guest House	
Castlelrig Farm Camping	Fleming	Keswick YHA	New House Rosthwaite	Shipstone & Co.	
Site	Flock Inn	Kingfisher	Newlands Adventure Centre	Siennas	
Castlelrig Hall Caravan and	Four In Hand	Kings Head Hotel Thirspot	Nichol End Marine	Silver City	
Camping Park	Four Seasons Threlkeld	Knotts View Stonethwaite	Nordic Outdoor	Silverdale Hotel	
Cherry Tree Guest House	George Fisher	Lairbeck Hotel	Norwegian Store	Skiddaw Grove Hotel	
Chilliee Guest House	George Hotel	Lakeland	Oddfelljans Arms	Slimming World	
Clarence House	Golden Lion	Lakeland Adventure Centre	Outdoor World	The Soap Co.	
Claremont House	Goosewell Farm Climbing	Lakeland Decor	Old Keswickian	Spar Grocers	
Coledale Inn Braithwaite	Wall	Lakeland Toys and Hobbies	Oxleys at Underscar	Spooney Green Cottage	
The Corner Shop	Glamarama Outdoor Centre	Lakeland View Guest House	Packhorse Inn	Squirrel Lodge Guest House	
The Cornish Pasty	Glencoe Guest House	Lake Mere Guest House	The Paddock	Star of Siam	



Brian Spencer

May I start the Treasurer's report this year by thanking all the members of the public for their generosity to the Team.

Despite the economic climate, most of the donors who support us on a regular basis have hung in there and have managed to keep their standing orders going.

This year we have had two legacies of a significant size, one through Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association and one from an ex-pat who was living in America. This has substantially helped the finances of the Team. We are also most generously supported by the rescued and the bereaved. The Team would like to thank all the people who think of us in their times of sadness, whether they are recent or in the past.

We are nearly operational with the new stretcher that we have developed and financed, and the fourth vehicle has been well used throughout the year.

When I took over as Treasurer, the Team was a lot quieter and so had less of a financial burden. As I mentioned last year, the yearly medical gasses cost over five thousand pounds and all the equipment that we use has to be replaced on a regular rolling programme.

There are now other factors that add to the on-going costs.

The cost of training is certainly on the increase. The Government may well be bringing in a new examination for testing Team members for driving under blue lights and sirens in emergency situations. This could well be a five day course which may have to be repeated every three years. This of course will be unsupported financially by anyone but the Team and will not only involve the cost of the course but travelling and accommodation. We have also decided that above and beyond the usual motoring maintenance we have to have other accredited checks in place.

It can be gathered from this last paragraph that there are always unpredictable costs which have to be covered.

Finally, as I always say, the safety of our Team members and the people that we rescue is paramount. We will never jeopardise this by skimping on equipment and training.

**Ian Wallace**

### *During the year donations have been received In Memory Of:*

Alan Jones	J. W. Clutterham	Brian Rhodes
Mike Farthing	Christopher Green	John Lilly
Keith Halsall	John & Jean Wallis	Robin Diver
David Walker	Colin Floyd	Mervyn Holmes
Bob Atkinson	Paul Hepper	Betty Stewardson
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Leslie Lewis	K. D. A. Cox	Sheila Huggon
Matt Wilkes	A. P. Hillyard	Janice Thomas
Norma Clarke	P. Rawding	Michael Dodds
Joan Gibb	Jimmy Currie	Ken Johnson
Tyson Loftus	John Dean	Julie Townsend
Mary Wilson	M. Holloway	



## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Charity Name:** Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

**Charity Registration Number:** 509860

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

**Registered Office:** Keswick Mountain Rescue Team Headquarters, Lakeside Car Park, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5DJ

### Trustees:

Mr. Alan Prescott, Chairman  
Mr. Ian Wallace, Treasurer  
Mr. Paul Cheshire, Secretary  
Mr. Timothy Mark Hodgson MBE, Team Leader  
Mr. Paul Horder, General Team Member 1  
Ms. Fiona Boyle, General Team Member 2

**Independent Examiner:** Gibbons, Carleton House, 136 Gray Street, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 2LU

**Accountants:** Gibbons, Chartered Accountants, Carleton House, 136 Gray Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2LU

**Investment Advisers:** Brewin Dolphin Securities Limited, 34 Lisbon Street, Leeds LS1 4LX

**Bankers:** HSBC Bank plc, Market Square, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5BG

### Trustees' Report:

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31 October 2012. Financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to comply with the Charity's trust deed and applicable law.

### Particulars of Written Constitution:

The written constitution was approved by the Charity Commission and adopted by the Charity on 20 March 1980 and amended on 10 November 1994 and again on 8 October 1998 and subsequently again on 5 September 2006. This contains the provisions that regulate the purposes and administration of the Charity.

### 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, 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 and 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 Annual General Meeting. 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 Annual General Meeting, and notified to the membership not less than 14 days prior thereto. Voting is conducted by a secret ballot.

### Investment Policy:

The Charity provides a vital emergency service that requires certainty of funding. The Charity Trustees have, historically, adopted 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.

However, previously the charity received a significant legacy and this enabled the Trustees to invest a sum of money to provide a regular income to offset the need to rely on irregular public donations. The Trustees have agreed to invest in a balanced portfolio managed by a team of Financial Advisers who specialise in investments for charities.

This sum has been invested to provide capital growth and income for the charity and will lead to a regular income which will be used to offset any imbalance between income and expenditure, reducing the need to utilise reserve funds for this purpose.

### General Reserves:

This policy continues to be under review – but is led by the view that the Charity Trustees must have regard to both the short and long term needs of the Charity.

The Charity has endeavoured to secure a regular income via collection boxes, covenanted and Gift Aid donations. Collection box income has been solid in the past – a reflection of the hard work of Brian Spencer, our collection box co-ordinator and has been doing well over the last year.

The Charity Trustees will maintain the general income reserve to ensure that the provision of the Charity's primary objective will not be hampered by any imbalance between income and expenditure over such a relatively short period, and is based on the Charity's experience of fund raising.

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.

### Designated Reserves:

The fixed asset reserve shows the amount of reserves tied up in fixed assets and hence helps clarify the true level of General Reserves.

The Trustees' reserves is a reserve to be set aside to cover uninsurable contingencies and unforeseen circumstances. The level has been set at £457,714 (2011 - £328,485) which is three times the previous year's adjusted expenditure.

## **Development, Activities and Achievements:**

During the year ended 31 October 2012 the Team attended over ninety incidents. Training is vital to the Team and training was given paramount importance during the year and over 50 days training was undertaken by the Team.

## **Financial Review:**

The Trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the Charity.

## **Future Developments:**

The Team aim to be able to secure the long term future of the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team with the increased level of reserves held. In the shorter term the Teams aim is to meet the current level of call out and maintain the high level of training given to the volunteers.

## **Safety and Risk Management:**

The Trustees actively review the major risk which the Charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

## **Grant Making:**

During the last financial year, the Charity made no specific grants to any other charitable organisations.

It remains the Charity's policy to make available to other teams training in specialist areas (for example swift water rescue and 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 will continue in the next financial year.

Other than the policy outlined above, the Charity Trustees have not formulated policies for the selection of any other institutions which will receive further grants out of the assets of the Charity. Any such grants will be on a case by case basis.

## **Volunteers:**

The Trustees wish to acknowledge the work of the many volunteers who give their spare time to help the Charity and enable it to carry out its activities.

## **Public Benefit Guidance:**

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission including public benefit guidance.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 January 2013 and signed on their behalf by: **Mr. A. Prescott, Trustee.**

For the statements of our financial activities please see the details on the Charity Commission website  
[www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)



*Incident 8*



*Incident 17*



Incident 23



Chris Francis and Beck



Rona



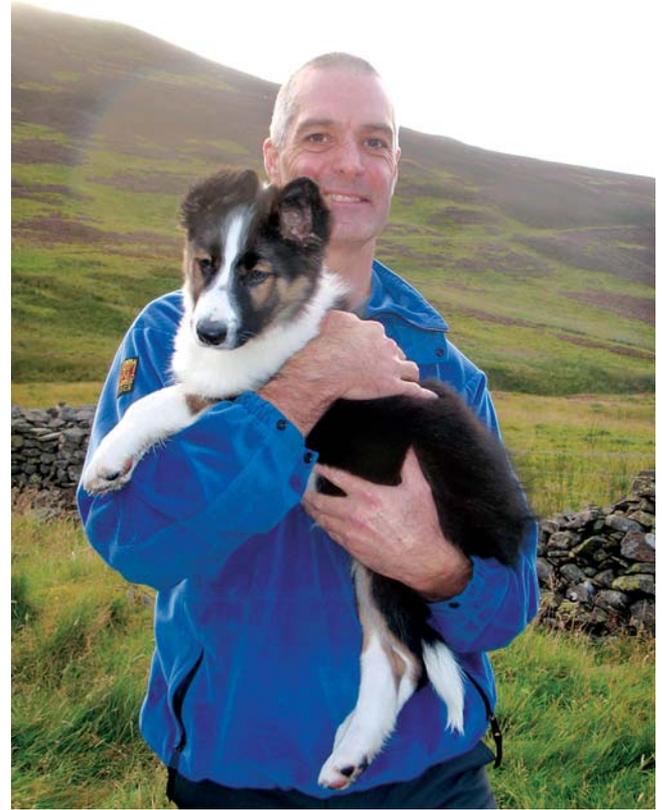
Incident 49



*Incident 80*



*Incident 96*



*Martin Bell and Isla*

## Please Support Us

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

### Gift Aid

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 or use a photocopy of the form, and return it to the Treasurer.

### 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 !**



**Through our website:  
[www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)**

**The Charities Aid Foundation**

**justgiving**  
fundraising made easy

**Just  
Text  
Giving™**





## Shirts

Buy a Supporter Shirt, featuring the logo above

If you would like to purchase a T-Shirt, or a Polo Shirt, please see details on our website

[www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)

### Bankers Order

If you would like to make a regular donation to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, please complete the Bankers Order below, or use a photocopy of the form, and return it to the Treasurer.

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  
 Mr/Mrs/Miss .....  
 Address .....  
 .....  
 Post Code .....

The sum of £ ..... Annually/Monthly

**Gift Aid**  
 I am a UK tax payer and I would like this and all future donations I make to be considered as Gift Aid

Signed .....

**Please return this completed form to:**  
**KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM**  
**Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ**

**Thank you for your support !**

**Gift Aid:** please do not detach  
 To .....Bank plc  
 .....  
 .....  
 ..... (name and address of your bank)  
 Name of Account  
 to be Debited .....  
 Account Number .....  
 Sort Code .....

Please pay to Midland Bank plc, Market Square, Keswick, 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 .....



## Counting The Names

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*Sharp Edge*

*In the control room at KMRT base there is a notice board and amidst all the paperwork posted there can be found a list of names. It is a roll call of all the men and women who have been active members of the Team and reaches back through 66 years to the founding members of 1947. It is a sobering and humbling statement of enduring commitment.*

*Every mountain rescue team has its history and that history is made by all the names of those who came before us. Those names can tell many a story – Great End, Sharp Edge, Gable and the rest.*

*They were there and their names shall not be forgotten nor shall their endeavours fade. Without those names there would be no Team.*

**Steve Allen**

They are the names that were counted on  
And we count them now

They are the names that found the way  
That made the tracks  
They are the names that are hard to follow  
As follow we must  
And follow we will

They are the names that answered the call  
That dared and dared again  
Names that gave with nerve and sinew  
Lungs and brain  
Heart and hands

They are the names whose lights danced on fells  
That searched the unknown dark  
Names that found when all was lost  
That carried and watched  
That brought hope and life

They are the names that shared the load  
That tied knots and held the rope  
They are the names that climbed and soared  
That challenged the odds and overcame  
That laughed and joked to see them through

They are the names that thought nothing of their doing  
Names that would do it all again if time had not moved on

They are the names that were there  
The names that are still here  
The names that shall not be forgotten  
Or their endeavours fade

## 999 Text Service for Emergency Calls



*Incident 76*

Mobile phone reception in the Mountains can often be intermittent or non-existent. If you are involved in an incident on the hills and need to call assistance but cannot make voice calls, you may now contact the 999 emergency services using a short messaging service (SMS) text from your mobile phone.

The service was originally set up in 2009 for people who are hard of hearing or who have a speech impediment. The service has been successful in helping identify crime and enabling emergency calls to be made when otherwise contact would have been difficult or impossible for the people involved.

The service will now assist those needing emergency assistance in the hills when mobile reception is poor and there is not enough signal to make a

voice call. The benefit is that a text message can be composed and sent in a single operation. **You should specify 'Police-Mountain Rescue' when sending the text, and include information about your location, nature of the incident and those involved.**

You will only be able to use this service if you have registered with emergency SMS first. Register now: don't wait for an emergency. To register, text the word 'register' to 999. You will get a reply – then follow the instructions you are sent. This will only take approx two minutes of your time and could save your life!

*Emergency SMS Website is* <http://www.emergencysms.org.uk/>



***In an emergency for  
Mountain Rescue  
call 999 (or 112)***

**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, with a Grid Reference if possible
  - The time of the incident
  - The number of casualties
  - The details of any injuries
- **STAY BY THE PHONE** so that the Team can contact you

For information about SMS Text Service for Emergency Calls see inside back cover

