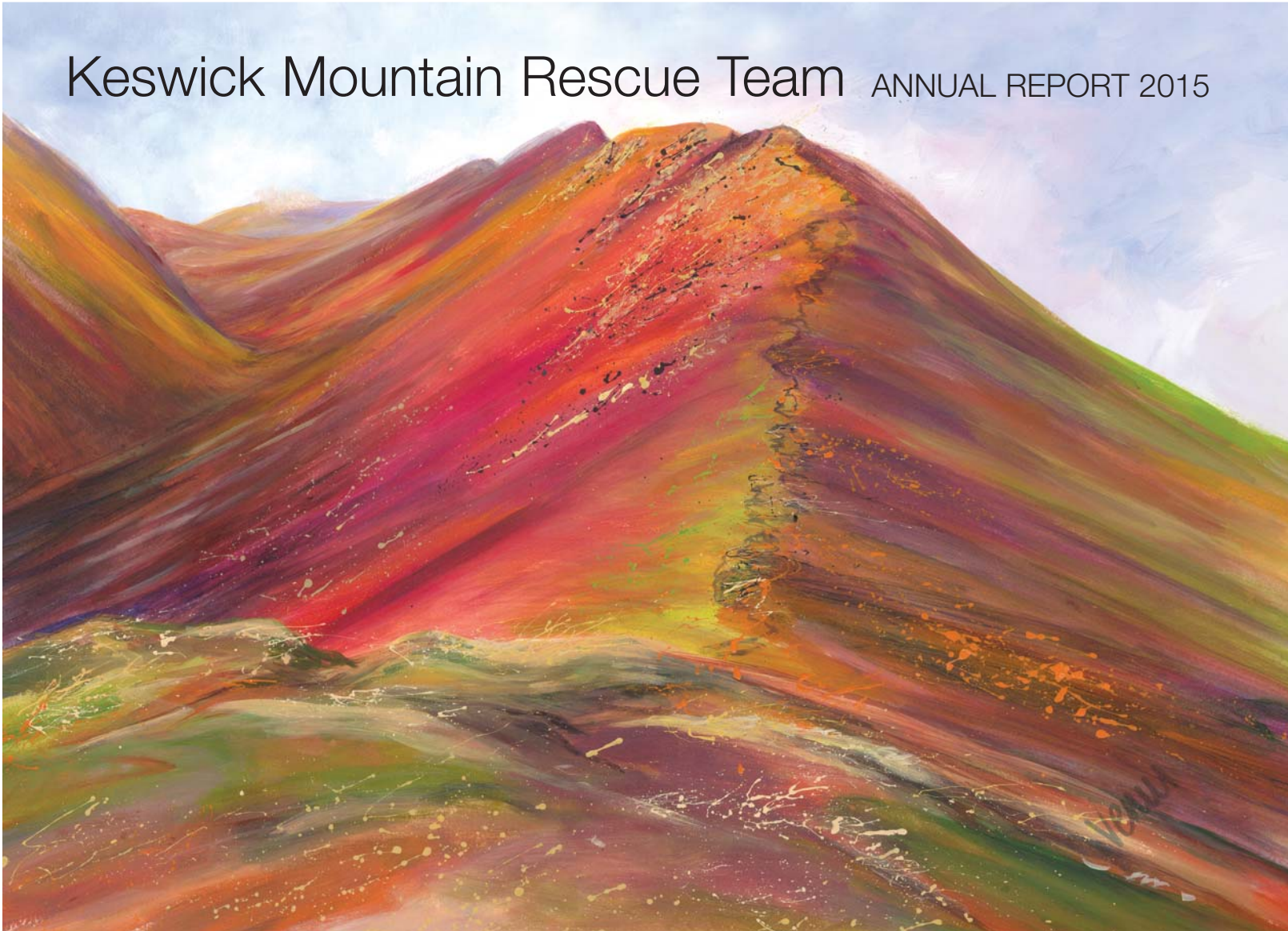


# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



## Introduction



Scar Craggs (from Causey Pike)

Venus Griffiths

Welcome to the 2015 Annual Report of  
Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

**Registered Charity Number 509860**

This is a record of the Team's activities in 2014.

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.*

## Photographs

Except where noted all photographs used in this report  
have been contributed by  
*Keswick Mountain Rescue Team members.*



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## 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   (See also **pages 30 and 31**)

## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team 2015

**President:** Mike Nixon MBE  
**Chairman:** Gordon Barker  
**Secretary:** Fiona Boyle  
**Treasurer:** Ian Wallace  
 Spooney Green House,  
 Spooney Green Lane,  
 Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ  
**Team Leader:** Chris Higgins  
**Committee:** Tom Blakely, Paul Horder

**Deputy Team Leaders:** Paul Barnes, Chris Gillyon,  
 Chris Harling, Simon Hodgson  
**Medical Officer:** Dr Tim Hooper  
**Training Officers:** Alan Barnes, Steve Hepburn  
**Radio Officer:** Alan Prescott  
**Vehicles Officers:** Matt Eaves, Mick Guy  
**Equipment Officers:** Martin Bell, Tom McNally  
**Base Officer:** Simon Noble  
**Social Secretary:** Elly Whiteford  
**Report Editor:** Peter Little



Steve Allen	<i>Handyman</i>
Gordon Barker	<i>Biotech Consultant</i>
Alan Barnes	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Paul Barnes	<i>Fire Fighter</i>
Martin Bell	<i>Paramedic</i>
Tom Blakely	<i>Paramedic</i>
Quentin Boyes	<i>Marketing/CRM Consultant</i>
Fiona Boyle	<i>Lecturer</i>
Paul Carter	<i>Production Manager</i>
Paul Cheshire	<i>Chartered Engineer</i>
Adrian Clifford	<i>Retired GP</i>
Nuala Dowie	<i>Hotelier</i>
Matt Eaves	<i>LDNPA Apprentice Supervisor</i>
Donald Ferguson	<i>Retail Assistant</i>
Chris Francis	<i>Fire Service</i>
Richard Gale	<i>Technical Delivery Manager</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>
Steve Hepburn	<i>Company Director</i>
Chris Higgins	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Mark Hodgson MBE	<i>Project Director</i>

Simon Hodgson	<i>Company Director</i>
Tim Hooper	<i>General Practitioner</i>
Katharine Horder	<i>Head Teacher</i>
Paul Horder	<i>Retired</i>
Andy Jones	<i>Guest House Proprietor</i>
Dan Jordan	<i>College Lecturer,</i>
	<i>Prince's Trust Team Leader</i>
Peter Little	<i>Pharmacist</i>
George Lloyd	<i>Retail Assistant</i>
Tom McNally	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Malcolm Miller	<i>Retired</i>
Phil Newton	<i>Retired</i>
Mike Nixon MBE	<i>Retired</i>
Simon Noble	<i>Retired</i>
David Pratt	<i>Teacher</i>
Alan Prescott	<i>Senior Manager</i>
Jocky Sanderson	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Brian Spencer	<i>Retired</i>
Lisa Suttle	<i>General Marina Manager</i>
Ian Wallace	<i>Retired</i>
Paul White	<i>Papermill Chemist</i>
Elly Whiteford	<i>Regulatory Officer</i>
Graeme Wilson	<i>Site Inspector</i>

**Secretary (Membership):**  
 Tom Blakely

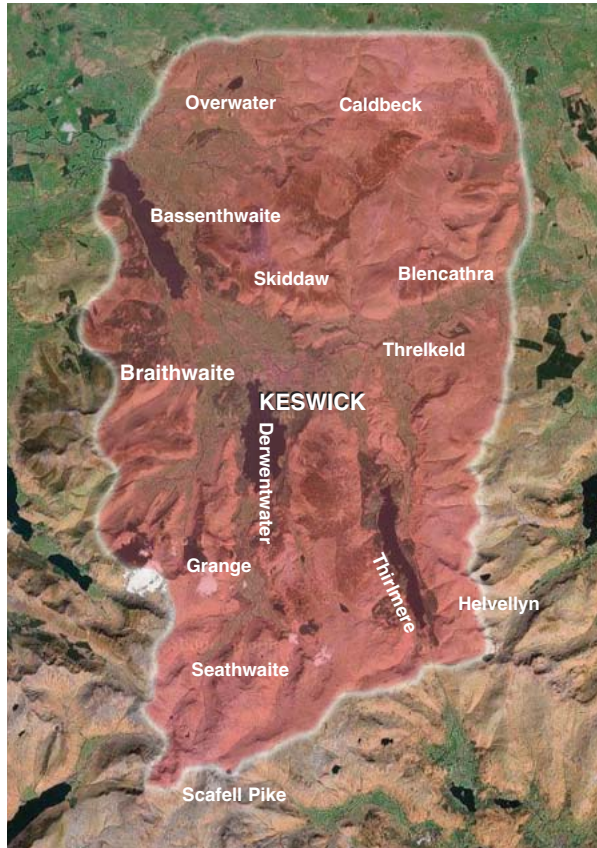
**Secretary**  
 (Correspondence, Talks & Visits):  
 Fiona Boyle

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

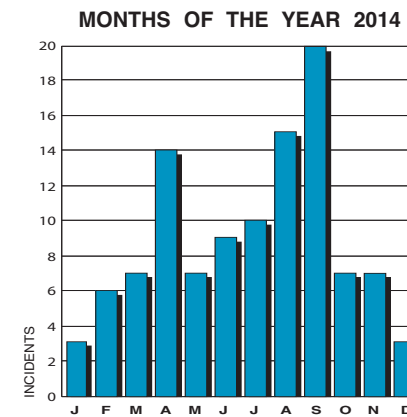
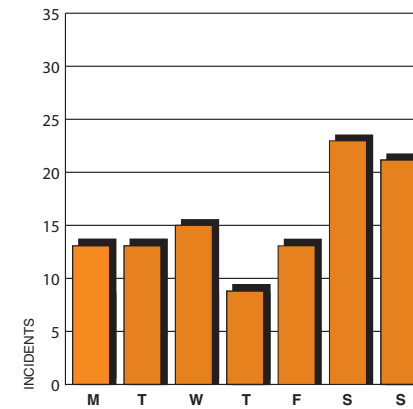
**Collection Box Co-ordinator:**  
 Brian Spencer  
 Daresfield, Chestnut Hill, Keswick,  
 Cumbria CA12 4LS  
 See [page 26](#)



**Keswick Mountain Rescue Team  
Area of Responsibility**



**CALLOUT STATISTICS  
106 Callouts, 10 Fatalities  
DAYS OF THE WEEK 2014**



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## Team Leader's Report 2015

At the Team's AGM twelve months ago the Team chose me as the new Team Leader! Wow, what a privilege. To be considered by the Team members to be suitable for the leadership position was very gratifying and daunting at the same time. I just hope that I have lived up to the member's expectations during the past 12 months, although, the fact that I have been re-elected for 2015 bodes well – or is it just that no one else is daft enough to want to do it?!

One thing I've noticed over the last year is that I don't touch a casualty anymore, which is a shame, as I enjoyed the first aid side of things, the getting to the nitty-gritty and helping patch someone up. Instead I, along with the deputy leaders, tend to coordinate – we assess situations, resources and personnel – their availability and their skill sets, check helicopter ETAs and stretcher evacuation routes, send updates to the control room, keep an eye on the risks team members are being exposed to and talk to the police, the ambulance service and the RAF when necessary, amongst other things.

2014 was a fairly busy year with 106 callouts and another 28 notifications from the police that we didn't need to turn out to as a Team. Most of the 106 were straight-forward in terms of decision making – we were informed of a person who was injured, where they were, their injuries and any contact information so that we could call them and get more details from the scene.

These were quite easy to think through and respond to and vehicles were en route very soon after getting the initial call.

It's the other 28 that really made us think, as things aren't always clear and concise and sometimes we have to make difficult decisions, with incomplete details of the precise circumstances. Mountain rescue is a very limited resource, all members are volunteers, teams have small budgets and finite resources. As such, we need to judge very carefully what is suitable to deploy our resources to, and what is not. To have team members deployed on a wild goose chase and then receive a call to rescue someone with serious, life threatening injuries would be a very awkward situation, especially for the casualty.

So picture yourself in our position - An example of the easy one is "person X, aged 30, who is fit and experienced and very well equipped, is one hour later than expected, the weather is fine and they were on a popular route in the middle of summer" – our response would be to give them another couple of hours before we did anything – it is likely they are travelling a little slower than expected, may have taken in another peak, or are sitting in a pub somewhere enjoying a well earned drink. As they are on a popular route, if anything had happened to them it wouldn't be long before other walkers found them, and we haven't had any other reports.



Late walkers like this usually turn up within an hour or two. They are usually safe and well and often oblivious to the fact that a well-intentioned relative or guest-house owner has called mountain rescue. In these situations the Team hasn't had to turn out, which not only allows our resources to be available for something else, it also means that team members, regularly pulled away from work, their families, or their own leisure time to rescues, aren't being asked to turn out for what is a waste of everyone's time.

But what would you do about person Y who is aged 55? They set off from their B&B this morning, destination unknown, although last night they were overheard talking about Great End and The Band (a relatively straightforward scramble) and asking about bus times in Borrowdale. They travelled to the Lakes by

## Team Leader's Report 2015 *(continued)*

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public transport, so we can't identify a car and hence their exact starting and finishing point. They have made a reservation for a meal at 19.30 and they told the owner of the B&B they are diabetic and must eat at regular intervals. It is now 20.30. The weather has been wet and windy and their gear wasn't up to much. Their mobile phone switches straight to voicemail when called. Are they simply a little bit late, or sitting safe and snug in a pub somewhere or do they urgently need our help – and if they do, where do we look?

This is an example of one of the harder ones to call, and further enquiries are obviously needed. These enquiries can take up a whole evening sometimes, but rather this than send everyone out on that "wild goose chase." Especially since asking team members to traverse The Band in the dark when it's wet and windy carries some element of risk, something we are only too mindful of avoiding, if possible. However, if the facts stack up to suggest a rescue might be needed, we will call out the team. These decisions can then keep you awake through the night, so it is in no easy thing to do and no decision is taken lightly.

The members of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, and I'm sure this goes for all mountain rescue teams, are so amazingly genuine, selfless and dedicated people, which is what makes it such a great organisation to be a part of. Mountain



*Training in The Dolomites*

*September 2014*

rescue teams have always existed as volunteer organisations, with the sometimes misguided presumptions this can bring. We aren't bearded, breeches and fleece wearing, real ale drinking, slightly anarchic characters that stink of wet

dogs and have an unhealthy appetite for Kendal mint cake, well not all of us. Whilst we enjoy a certain level of autonomy in deciding how we do things, we have to work hard to maintain the respect of the public, politicians and the

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## Team Leader's Report 2015 *(continued)*

other emergency services. We have to operate in a modern world alongside our professional counterparts in the police, fire and ambulance services. We pride ourselves in our high standards of first aid, our technical skill in water rescue and on steep crags, in our driving standards and in the equipment we use amongst other things. We should look and act like professionals, as far as is reasonable for a group of volunteers, and part of this I believe, is in developing the attitude of professionals across everything we do. We shouldn't dwell on how we did things 30, 20 or even 10 years ago, but adapt to the here and now and take the Team forwards with a modern attitude and a positive outlook.

Keswick MRT has always been at the cutting edge and I'm proud to say there are a number of initiatives running that maintain our pioneering spirit. We are currently having a new, lightweight stretcher developed. Building on the outstanding performance of our current, but rather aged split Thomas stretchers, our new version (the third prototype is currently being fabricated) was designed on a computer, uses modern, aircraft grade materials and state of the art machining techniques and will be tested to the very highest of standards. Once completed, we hope this stretcher will be of interest to other MRTs across the UK, teams who would like the benefits it offers, but who aren't in a financial position to support the research and development costs of

such a project.

We are also involved in the field testing of a Tyromont winching bag, a versatile nylon cradle that can be used to winch casualties into helicopters without the need of a stretcher. These bags have been in use in the Alps for very many years, so their benefits are already recognised on the continent. Initial feedback from team members in it's use, and casualties we have rescued, is very favourable. One major area of the Team's development over the next few years will be the use of IT for data recording and sharing. Keswick MRT is still pretty reliant on paper records for most things, and this is time consuming, leads to duplication of work and mistakes being made and takes up too much space, amongst other things. Our development of this area is in its very early stages, but we are optimistic that when completed Keswick MRT will have a state of the art system that may be of interest to other teams.

All of these things take vision, a commitment to see them through, the right people being involved, sometimes a little money being spent, and the resilience to keep trying, even if you hit the hurdles now and again. I am very happy to say that Keswick MRT has the motivation to take things forward and I look towards an exciting future, even if it does mean the odd sleepless night or beasting myself up Grains Gill

yet again (my least favourite slog up any fell – usually done with a biggish sack on my back, in an awful hurry, on an empty stomach, in the foulest of conditions, at some unhealthy hour).



Chris Higgins



## One Hundred and Six Callouts in 2014

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### *Incident Report 2014*

*Edited from Team records*

- 1 12 January 15:13**  
**Walla Crag**  
A woman slipped on steep grass. Ankle injury.
- 2 14 January 15:30**  
**Lonscale Fell**  
A report of a "strange activity" above the snowline on Jenkin Hill. It turned out to be someone planting trees.
- 3 14 January 18:00**  
**River Greta area**  
A search for a missing woman. Search Dogs and Cockermouth MRT helped the Team. The woman's body was found in the river. Fatality.
- 4 5 February 14:58**  
**Old Coach Road, Clough Head**  
Two students from an outdoor centre group suffered symptoms of an asthma attack.
- 5 16 February 10:25**  
**Swirls path, Helvellyn**  
A man had suffered a medical emergency which was initially thought to be a diabetic condition, but was later diagnosed as a possible stroke. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 6 18 February 17:06**  
**Above Thirlspot**  
A woman with a knee injury.
- 7 19 February 16:34**  
**Kings How**  
A man and wife became cragfast above Bowder Crag.

- 8 19 February 17:25**  
**High Spy**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 9 20 February 15:56**  
**Near Rosthwaite**  
A woman with an ankle injury.

- 10 8 March 14:03**  
**Low Briery**  
A dog was rescued from a ledge above the river.
- 11 11 March 11:45**  
**Brown Cove Crag path, Helvellyn**  
A man and woman slipped on ice. He suffered head injuries and chest injuries, she suffered cuts and bruises. An Air Ambulance helped the Team.



*Incident 11*



## Incident Report 2014



Incident 11

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>12 12 March 05:35</b><br/> <b>Scafell Pike area</b><br/>           Wasdale MRT asked the Team for help in a search for a missing man. Team members plus three search dogs were tasked to search various areas on the Scafell massif and Great Gable. This search eventually involved 7 Lake District teams. A body was found in a gill. Fatality.</p> <p><b>13 12 March 21:35</b><br/> <b>Lord's Island, Derwentwater</b><br/>           Two male canoeists had become marooned on Lord's Island, when one of their boats became waterlogged. Team members made the rescue in a safety boat from Derwentwater Marina.</p> <p><b>14 15 March 14:50</b><br/> <b>Greenup Edge, Borrowdale</b><br/>           A woman with an ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.</p> <p><b>15 26 March 12:40</b><br/> <b>Carrock Fell</b><br/>           A man had become unwell, with what may have been a stroke. A RAF helicopter took him to hospital.</p> <p><b>16 28 - 29 March 20:10</b><br/> <b>Blencathra</b><br/>           Four mountain rescue teams, 9 search dogs, and a RAF helicopter in a search for a missing man. Fatality.</p> <p><b>17 1 April 19:30</b><br/> <b>Seldom Seen, Patterdale</b><br/>           Patterdale MRT requested use of the Team's Autopulse resuscitation machine. Team members helped in the treatment of a woman with hypothermia. She was taken to hospital by a RAF helicopter. Fatality.</p> | <p><b>18 2 April 11:23</b><br/> <b>Latrigg</b><br/>           A man with an ankle injury.</p> <p><b>19 2 April 12:19</b><br/> <b>Barf</b><br/>           A man had become cragfast.</p> <p><b>20 6 April 13:04</b><br/> <b>Scafell Pike area</b><br/>           Wasdale MRT asked the Team to help in a search for two missing walkers.</p> <p><b>21 8 April 18:51</b><br/> <b>Stonethwaite</b><br/>           A teenager on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition had become unwell.</p> <p><b>22 12 April 11:40</b><br/> <b>Stoneycroft Beck, Newlands</b><br/>           A report of a man with either leg, back or head injuries who had fallen in the vicinity of Stoneycroft Beck.</p> <p><b>23 14 April 10:29</b><br/> <b>Sourmilk Gill, Borrowdale</b><br/>           A man with a leg injury.</p> <p><b>24 19 April 13:31</b><br/> <b>Aaron Slack, Great Gable</b><br/>           A woman with a wrist injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.</p> <p><b>25 20 April 12:27</b><br/> <b>High Rigg</b><br/>           A woman with a leg injury.</p> <p><b>26 21 April 15:19</b><br/> <b>Cat Bells</b><br/>           A girl with an ankle injury.</p> |
|---|---|

## Incident Report 2014

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- 27 25 April 14:34**  
**Eagle Crag, Langstrath**  
Shouts for help had been heard. The incident turned out to be friends shouting to each other as they descended, which was misinterpreted.
- 28 26 April 14:49**  
**Blease Fell, Blencathra**  
A boy with an elbow injury.
- 29 28 April 12:59**  
**Ravenglass Estuary**  
Wasdale MRT asked the Team to help in the search for a missing man. This incident was attended by about 60 rescue personnel from a number of agencies including the Coastguard, RAF, Police divers, and four other rescue teams. The man's body was recovered 2 weeks later.
- 30 30 April 14:33**  
**Great Round How, Fleetwith area**  
A man with a knee injury. Keswick and Cockermouth MRTs attended the incident. A RAF helicopter took him to hospital.
- 31 14 - 15 May 22:34**  
**Scafell Pike area**  
A search for a missing man. The search also involved search dogs, and members of Wasdale, Duddon, Cockermouth and Penrith MRTs, together with a RAF helicopter. The man's body was found in Piers Ghyll. He had suffered fatal injuries.
- 32 17 May 11:51**  
**Raven Crag, Glaramara**  
A man fell from the first pitch of climb on Raven Crag, and suffered serious head injuries. A RAF helicopter helped with the rescue. Fatality.
- 33 20 May 13:47**  
**Manesty**  
A man with a hip injury. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 34 22 May 17:34**  
**Calf Cove, Great End**  
A teenager suffered a dislocated kneecap. A RAF helicopter took her to hospital.
- 35 23 May 15:22**  
**Cat Gill, Walla Crag**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 36 31 May 13:30**  
**Helvellyn range**  
A search for a missing man. Penrith MRT helped the Team. His body was located below Lower Man by the observer in a police helicopter. Fatality.
- 37 31 May 21:43**  
**Sty Head to Seathwaite path**  
A woman with an ankle injury. Penrith MRT helped the Team.
- 38 2 June 12:27**  
**Barf**  
A woman became cragfast below Slape Crag. No injuries.
- 39 8 June 11:59**  
**Barf**  
A man encountered difficulties in almost the same location as the previous incident. No injuries.
- 40 14 June 15:49**  
**Birkside, Nethermost Pike**  
A woman with a knee injury.



Incident 40

## Incident Report 2014



Incident 42

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|--|--|
| <p>41 <b>17 June 16:33</b><br/><b>Shepherds Crag, Borrowdale</b><br/>A woman fell from the first pitch of North Buttress. Ankle injury.</p> <p>42 <b>20 June 10:44</b><br/><b>Black Crag, Borrowdale</b><br/>A woman climbing Troutdale Pinnacle, fell approximately 18m and suffered a major complicated fracture of her leg. A RAF helicopter took her to hospital.</p> <p>43 <b>20 June 13:48</b><br/><b>Castle Rock, Thirlmere</b><br/>A man had fallen approximately 6m from the crag. Head and spinal injuries. A RAF helicopter took him to hospital.</p> <p>44 <b>21 June 15:31</b><br/><b>Gillercomb Head, Borrowdale</b><br/>A woman with a knee injury. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team.</p> <p>45 <b>21 June 17:30</b><br/><b>Sleet How, Grisedale Pike</b><br/>A dog had collapsed, apparently with heat exhaustion.</p> <p>46 <b>30 June 12:04</b><br/><b>Ashness Bridge, Borrowdale</b><br/>A man with an ankle injury.</p> <p>47 <b>8 July 08:46</b><br/><b>Thirlmere</b><br/>A dog had become stuck in a hole under a boulder in woodland. The Team went out with digging and lifting equipment. However, the dog had managed to get out by itself.</p> <p>48 <b>14 July 16:28</b><br/><b>Latrigg</b><br/>A man with an ankle injury.</p> | <p>49 <b>19 July 14:29</b><br/><b>Whinlatter Forest</b><br/>A woman had fallen from a mountain bike. Back injury.</p> <p>50 <b>20 July 17:40</b><br/><b>Latrigg</b><br/>A woman suffering from exhaustion.</p> <p>51 <b>21 July 15:50</b><br/><b>Shepherds Crag area, Borrowdale</b><br/>A woman with a leg injury.</p> <p>52 <b>25 July 10:59</b><br/><b>Whinlatter Forest</b><br/>An injured mountain biker. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.</p> <p>53 <b>25 July 19:13</b><br/><b>Carl Side col, Skiddaw</b><br/>Flares were seen on Skiddaw. A film crew was discovered; they were making a mountain biking film. No injuries.</p> <p>54 <b>26 July 11:45</b><br/><b>Whinlatter Forest</b><br/>A man suffered an angina attack while mountain biking.</p> <p>55 <b>27 July 14:50</b><br/><b>Jenkin Hill, Skiddaw</b><br/>A woman with a knee injury.</p> <p>56 <b>30 July 17:35</b><br/><b>Roughton Gill, Fell Side</b><br/>A woman with a dislocated knee.</p> <p>57 <b>1 August 02:16</b><br/><b>Derwent Isle, Derwentwater</b><br/>The Police asked for transport to Derwent Isle, following a request for assistance from the tenant.</p> |
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## Incident Report 2014

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- 58 **2 August 13:39**  
**King's How**  
A man with an ankle injury.
- 59 **4 August 14:12**  
**Jenkin Hill, Skiddaw**  
A man suffering from exhaustion.
- 60 **5 August 18:45**  
**Scaleclose Coppice area, Borrowdale**  
A teenage girl on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition became seriously unwell with breathing difficulties. A RAF helicopter took her to hospital.
- 61 **10 August 09:16**  
**Skelgill Bank, Cat Bells**  
A woman with a lower leg injury.
- 62 **11 August 17:22**  
**Cat Bells**  
A woman, descending the rocky steps by the Leonard Memorial, slipped and fell 5 metres, suffering a head injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 63 **11 August 18:15**  
**Derwentwater**  
A search for a missing swimmer. A standard protocol was implemented with boats from various centres mobilised, including the Team boat. The swimmer was located, with no injuries.
- 64 **12 August 14:21**  
**Roughton Gill, Blencathra**  
A teenager with a youth group was taken ill, and was unable to continue. An Air Ambulance helped with her treatment.
- 65 **13 August 15:12**  
**Millbeck, Skiddaw**  
A woman with a lower leg injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.



Incident 60



## Incident Report 2014



Incident 66

- 66 17 August 13:59**  
**Watendlath - Blea Tarn path**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 67 28 August 14:22**  
**Lower Man, Helvellyn**  
A man had collapsed. An Air Ambulance and a Royal Navy helicopter attended. Fatality.
- 68 28 August 22:55**  
**Scafell Pike area**  
Langdale MRT requested the help of Keswick and Wasdale MRTs in a search for two men. On the following morning, the search was resumed and included a RAF helicopter and two other MRTs. The missing pair turned up in Langdale. No injuries.
- 69 30 August 15:52**  
**Halls Fell, Blencathra**  
A man had become exhausted.
- 70 4 September 12:13**  
**Barf**  
A man and a woman couple became cragfast, at the foot of Slape Crag. No injuries.
- 71 5 September 14:15**  
**Lodore Falls**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 72 6 September 15:20**  
**Lonscale Fell**  
A man with an ankle injury.
- 73 7 September 11:22**  
**Brandelhow Woods**  
The Team was asked by the police to recover the body of a deceased man. This request was passed to Cockermouth MRT, as the Team was diverted to the next incident (number 74).
- 74 7 September 11:40**  
**Sprinkling Tarn**  
A man with severe abdominal pains. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 75 7 September 14:57**  
**Sail col**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 76 10 September 10:59**  
**Lodore Falls**  
A man had fallen.
- 77 10 September 16:53**  
**Jenkin Hill, Skiddaw**  
A woman with a knee injury.
- 78 11 September 14:19**  
**Sourmilk Gill, Borrowdale**  
A woman with an ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 79 14 September 02:28**  
**Great Lingy Hill**  
A woman with an ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 80 16 September 13:57**  
**Ashness - High Seat path**  
A man had tripped and gashed his head.
- 81 19 September 12:45**  
**Yewthwaite Comb, Cat Bells**  
A man had become unwell.
- 82 19 September 20:42**  
**Allen Crag - Glaramara**  
A search for two lost walkers. No injuries.
- 83 21 September 13:36**  
**Castle Crag**  
A woman with a compound fracture of her lower leg.

## Incident Report 2014

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- 84 21 September 14:02**  
**Rosthwaite - New Bridge**  
Some 50 metres away from the previous incident (number 83), a man suddenly collapsed. An Air Ambulance helped the Team.
- 85 21 September 14:25**  
**Old railway line, The Forge, Keswick**  
A man had collapsed.
- 86 25 September 10:59**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A man slipped and fell 10 metres from the difficult step. He suffered a compound fracture of the elbow. A RAF helicopter helped the Team.
- 87 27 September 12:57**  
**Latrigg**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 88 28 September 20:31**  
**Scafell Pike area**  
A search, with Wasdale MRT, for a missing man. He was found near Angle Tarn. No injuries.
- 89 30 September 11:40**  
**Cat Gill, Walla Crag**  
A man had a sudden dizzy spell which caused him to fall. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 90 5 October 11:35**  
**Wigton area**  
The Team water technicians were asked to check out the rivers and streams in an ongoing search for a missing man. It was later discovered that the man was safe and well.
- 91 6 October 15:09**  
**Johnny Wood, Borrowdale**  
A woman with a head injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 92 14 October 14:25**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A woman with an ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 93 24 October 14:24**  
**Lodore**  
A teenage boy with a knee injury.
- 94 24 October 18:36**  
**Keswick area**  
A search for a missing man. A RAF MRT found the man. No injuries.
- 95 25 October 14:30**  
**Esk Hause**  
A woman suffering from hypothermia. The Team assisted her down to Seathwaite.
- 96 26 October 14:45**  
**Combe Gill, Borrowdale**  
A search for a missing woman. She arrived back at her car while the Team was en route.
- 97 8 November 14:34**  
**Grains Gill, Borrowdale**  
A man with a shoulder injury.
- 98 10 November 17:50**  
**Woof Stones, Langstrath**  
A search for a missing man. He was found at the foot of one of the crags on the Cam Crag ridge, having fallen some distance and suffering multiple injuries. A Royal Navy helicopter took him to hospital.



Incident 89



Incident 100

- 99 15 November 16:22**  
**Rigg Head Quarries, Borrowdale**  
A woman with a knee injury.
- 100 17 November 13:13**  
**Black Moss Pot, Langstrath**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 101 17 November 14:08**  
**Ullock Pike**  
A man had fallen from his mountain bike. Multiple injuries. Cockermouth MRT helped the team. An air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 102 29 November 13:18**  
**Trusmadoor, Back O'Skiddaw**  
A man with an ankle injury. A RAF helicopter took him to hospital.
- 103 30 November 16:15**  
**High Rigg**  
A woman slipped and fell, aggravating a previous back injury.
- 104 4 December 14:52**  
**Above Wythburn Church, Helvellyn**  
A woman had fallen, and broke an arm.
- 105 27 December 13:44**  
**Barf**  
A group of three walkers became cragfast. No injuries.
- 106 28 December 13:29**  
**Moss Crag, High Rigg**  
A woman with a lower leg injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.



Incident 102

## Keswick Search Dogs in 2014

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*Bracken*

District Mountain Search Dogs were called out 62 times last year. Not all of these were “Full Pages” where all dogs are summoned, but 35 of them were. This meant that the three Keswick dogs then graded were often called to elsewhere in the Lake District to help out other teams. Search Dog Ginny clocked up 28 of these, with Search Dog Beck and Search Dog Meg not far behind. The range of callouts continues to be of interest, with mountain searches being the largest part of our work,

but rural searches for dementia patients and “missing depressed” now forming a significant element.

Search Dog Beck, with Chris Francis found a missing 84 year old man suffering from dementia and diabetes, in thick woodland in South Cumbria, where he had become lost and confused. He was stretchered out by Kendal MRT, and recovered in hospital. He would undoubtedly have been in a very poor way if he had been out much longer, so this was an important result.

Elly Whiteford has now graded her third dog, Bracken, after one or two hiccups en route. He’s a big powerful collie, known as “The Bear” because of his size and thick coat, and is now sharing callouts with his housemate, Search Dog Meg.

Three dogs are in training at present: Isla with Martin Bell and Rona with Rob Grange are



*Beck*



*Rona*

just at the stage of being assessed for grading, and Crag, with Phil Newton is a little way behind, in the process of overcoming one or two problems. No dog ever went through training without facing an issue at some point, and hopefully it won’t be long before they too are on the assessment trail.

Tuesday evenings continue to be our training evening, usually in Whinlatter, but elsewhere in the valley as well. For those who are interested in following the work of the search dogs, the Lake District search dogs can be found on the web at [www.lakes-searchdogs.org](http://www.lakes-searchdogs.org) and we have an Open Day at Red Screes, top of Kirkstone Pass, during late May where you can see them working.

**Mick Guy**



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## Keswick Search Dog Grading

Bracken is the third collie I have successfully trained as a search dog. He came from a farm at 18 months old and has the most lovable nature and loves to please. He is quick to learn and before I started training him he loved searching with the others for hats and rucksacks.

As with any training we had ups and downs but managed to overcome them. Some of our assessments were during the hot weather. With Bracken having a good coat I resorted to trimming him and carrying ice cold water in a bladder pack so I could squirt him with water and keep his fur and jacket wet. This worked well along with regular breaks for a drink and a rest and ensuring he was happy and not stressed with the heat.

In order to qualify as a fully graded search team, we needed to pass a

minimum of 14 assessments which included a night search, footpaths, forest, mountain areas and working with other dogs.

Luckily our final and mountain day assessment of 4.5hrs over the Coniston fells was on a cooler day in July with showers and a good wind. It was a long day and tested us both from valley bottom to the tops around Dow Crag and Goats Water. Bracken worked well and found all three volunteer casualties hidden in the area, the last after 4.5hrs. The feeling when it is over and you have been told you have passed the final assessment is relief, disbelief and elation. I am so proud of him, he is a wonderful dog to work and a lovely companion.

**Elly Whiteford**



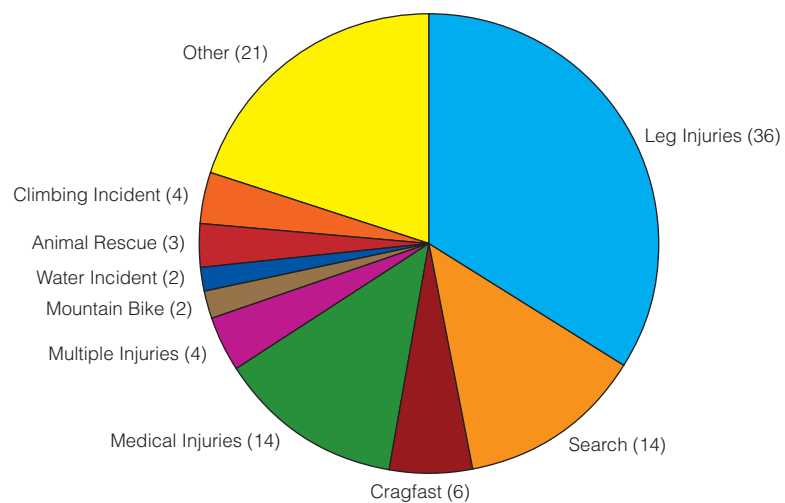
*Elly Whiteford and Bracken Grading in July at Coniston*



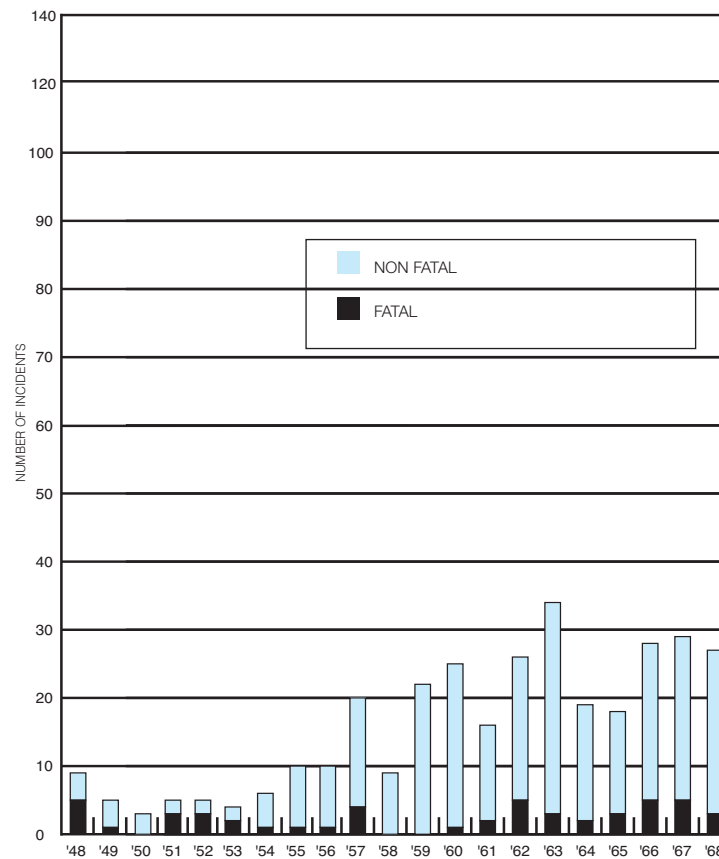
## Incident Report 2014

### INCIDENT TYPES 2014

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

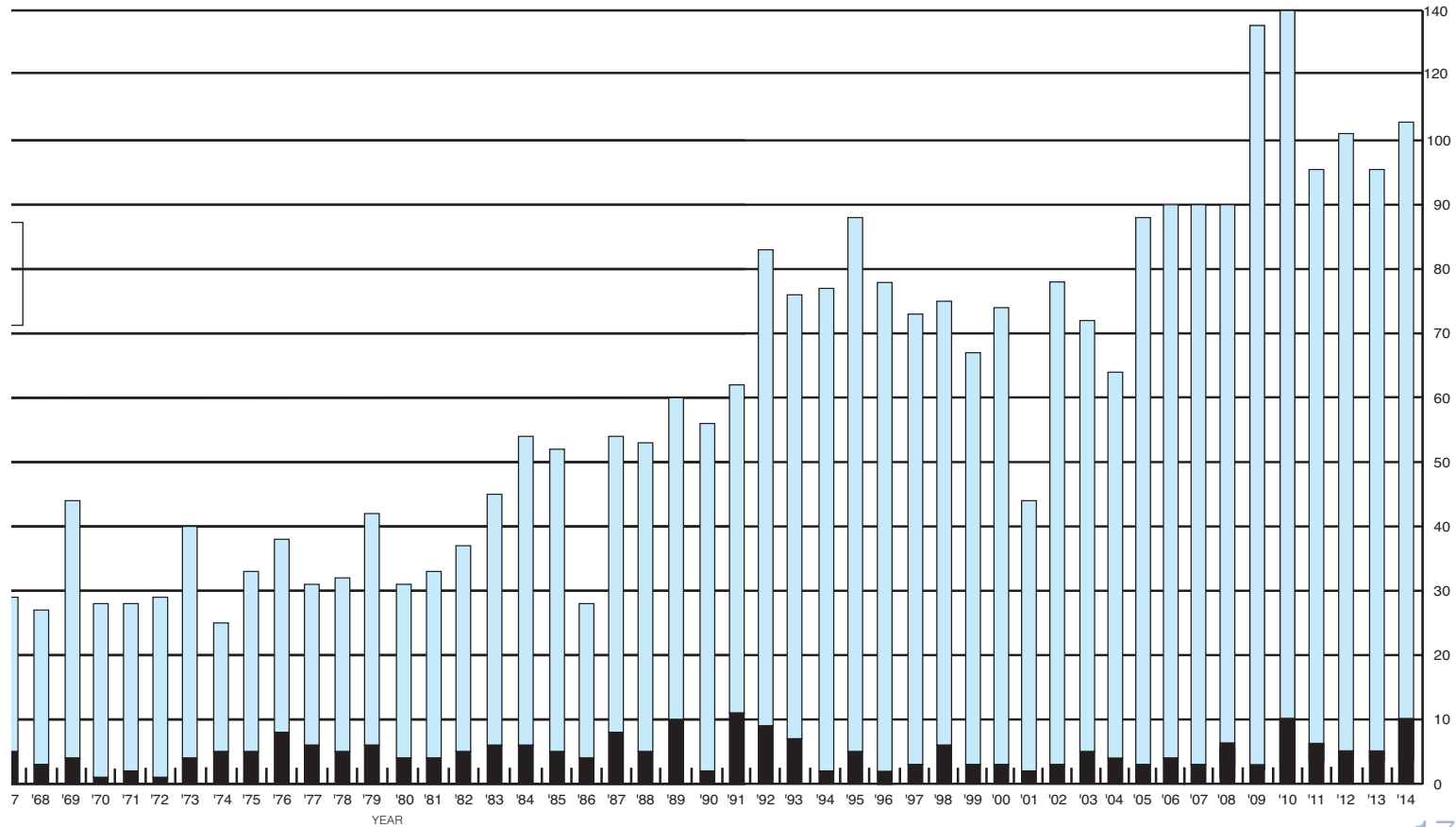


### KESWIC



## Incident Report 2014

SWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM 1948 - 2014 3253 callouts (279 fatalities)



## Barf, Wainwright, and Mountain Rescue

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Barf is a well-known minor fell within the area covered by Keswick MRT.

Lord's Seat is the "parent fell," Barf being its eastern shoulder. Beckstones Gill is the southern boundary of the fell. The Bishop, a white-washed/painted pillar of rock is a prominent feature on the side of the fell.

Alfred Wainwright described the fell as a "rugged pyramid," and detailed two ascent routes, one following a path through the trees on the south side of Beckstones Gill, and the other a direct route (which he called "A very stiff scramble, suitable only for people overflowing with animal strength and vigour"). (See *Book Six* of his *Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells*).

Unfortunately, through the years there have been a number of rescue incidents in the area of Barf and Beckstones Gill, with the Keswick MRT archive recording 26 incidents between 4th July 1960 and 27th December 2014. There has been a variety of type of incident, with becoming "cragfast" (or "stuck") occurring often. See the website [www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)

The large numbers of people heading for the fells can be attributed to the works of many writers, including Wainwright, and to the vast amount of readily accessible information on the internet. The more popular fells have become the location of many rescue incidents, reflecting their popularity.

A development has been the increased popularity of the ascent, especially the direct variation, of Barf. In the last five years, 2010 to 2014 inclusive, there have been 11 rescues. The fell, of undeniable iconic Lakeland character, has thus become a bit of a danger area in recent years.

In 2013, The Wainwright Society, an organisation devoted to fell-walking, and with emphasis upon the works of Wainwright, made the discovery that Wainwright had once been a member of a mountain rescue team – Kendal MRT. This news was reported in Issue 41 (Spring 2013) of the Society's magazine *"Footsteps"*. In the *"Footsteps"* article it is confirmed that Wainwright "did attend some callouts" but "he didn't speak much."

Kendal MRT on their website ([www.kendalmountainrescue.org.uk](http://www.kendalmountainrescue.org.uk)) have a section devoted to a history of their team. In this it is stated that:

"There is one name, which appears on 1958 call-out list of Team Members, that some members of the general public (especially the outdoor community)



Barf

will recognise – 'A Wainwright.' Indeed 'A.W.' was subsequently the first Honorary Member of the Team. He later kindly donated an original pen and ink drawing, in his well-known style, to the Team; the picture of 'The Head of Kentmere' (dated 1979) hangs proudly in our Base."

So, quite a revelation that one of the major writers on fell-walking did play a part in mountain rescue, if only for a brief period.

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) has declared in their *"Participation Statement"* that:

"The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

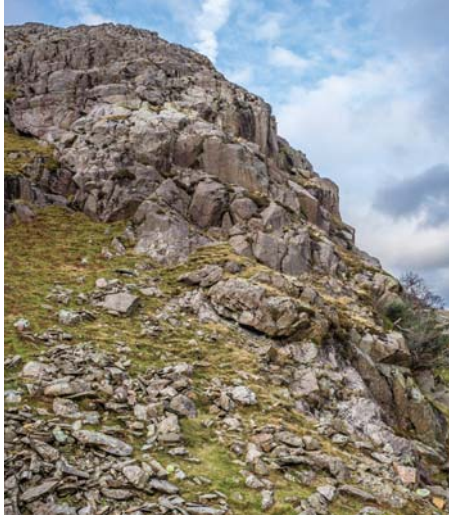
So please take care on Barf and on all the fells, and "watch where you are putting your feet" (Wainwright).

Peter Little



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## Casualty Account – (Incident 98)



*Cam Crag*

I've chosen Cam Crag as a route up Glaramara because I've done the scramble half a dozen times and know the line and the nav. I reach Woof Stones without incident and strap on my helmet. Topping out above Woof Stones, I head across a long slab to the next stage. As my right hand reaches for the next hold, my feet flick out from under me and I'm hanging on my left arm. Eventually I fall 5 metres straight down onto uneven ground where I bounce downhill for another 30-40 metres. The world cartwheels

around a fragile, little hub of pain and panic. Toward the end of my tumble, my helmet is ripped off by the violence of my descent. At some point I pass out.

When I return to the world, my right foot is flopping about horrifically and my ribs hurt. I lever myself upright to assess the situation. It feels like my right collar bone may be broken and my left arm is numb. I later discover that I broke my back, my right collar bone, seven ribs and my right leg, and traumatised the nerve cluster that works my left arm. I know that I left a decent route description with my family and they'll call Mountain Rescue if I'm not back by 17:00, but I'm in pain and shock and it's only 14:30. I try to summon rescue myself but can't get signal for a 999 call. I have coffee, sandwiches, a survival bag and my belay jacket. I manage get my leg elevated and in a straight line. I drink coffee. I eat sandwiches. My injuries prevent me putting on my belay jacket or getting my legs into the bag. I use them to insulate myself as best I can and hunker down to wait for the cavalry. I am weatherproof but frightened, distressed and completely alone.

I slip in and out of consciousness for some time. In my bouts of lucidity I find that it is raining, dusk is looming and there is blood dripping from my right trouser leg. Then at some point it is very dark and still raining. In my deepening despair I fear they have called off the search because the weather's too grim or it's just too dark and they

don't want to risk anyone else's safety on difficult terrain at night.

I have no sooner had this thought than I see two dogs bounding past on the edge of torchlight and I hear voices. I cannot communicate how utterly full of relief I am right at this moment. I rear up on my shattered frame shouting "Help me, please help me, I'm here, please don't leave me!" A voice answers "It's alright, keep shouting and we'll find you." Half in elation, half in agony, face puffed up with tears and snot, I call over and over until my voice cracks and my world irises down to a little circle of headtorch glow and happy dogs. A multi-person shelter is pulled over me and after over 7 hours alone with my injuries, I dimly grasp that I am not going to die this time. Then the morphine arrives and I am cast free of this world's shackles for a short while.

I can never adequately thank the good people (and hounds) of Keswick Mountain Rescue for my life. That anyone should give up their free time to look for me in such conditions is almost beyond my comprehension.

So if you're heading for the hills, leave a proper route description and return time with someone – Keswick MRT were able to find me as quickly as they did because they weren't searching the whole of Glaramara. If you're scrambling, wear a helmet.

**Lyndon Marquis**

## Casualty Account – (Incident 103)

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The last weekend of November was forecast to be good weather wise so we decided on a weekend in the Lake District. We left home around 7 am on Saturday 29th. We were heading for the Northern end of Bassenthwaite Lake and had planned a route taking in 5 Wainwrights. We parked near Over Water and despite the weather being mild and sunny decided to pack all our winter gear in our rucksacks. I still don't know why, but I put my waterproof trousers on instead of carrying them, a decision I was later really pleased with.

We set off and headed for our first hill, the aptly named Great Cockup. We ascended this and admired the views from the top including Meal Fell which was to be our second Wainwright of the day. We then descended steeply into the beautiful valley of Trusmadoor.

I still don't know what happened but we had reached the valley bottom and I suddenly found myself on my backside with an unbelievable pain in my left ankle. I tried to move it only to find it had gone very "floppy." I shouted to my

wife Lynda "it's gone." She came over and realised it was a serious injury so, with no one about, blew our whistle. Nobody responded. We had no mobile signal. The valley was quite remote so we decided the best course of action was for Lynda to find help. Despite putting my winter coat, waterproof and hat on, I felt really cold. The sun was behind the hill and the wind was whistling down the valley.

Lynda left and I felt so alone but was confident she would find help. She walked down the valley constantly trying her mobile but had walked for around 45 minutes before she got a signal. The relief she felt when she finally got through to Keswick Mountain Rescue was immense. After she had told them where I was her mind went blank, to the extent she could not even remember how to read the co-ordinates on the OS map – something she normally does without even thinking. Chris, the leader was very reassuring on the phone and said it would take the team about 75 minutes to reach us. He agreed that Lynda should retrace her steps and get back to me.

This she did, but talking to her later she said she was not sure at all of the way, usually a competent map reader, her confidence had deserted her. She said that realising that mountain rescue knew she was on the fells gave her the comfort of knowing that she would be ok if she did stray off course. Just before she got back to me her phone picked up a signal again and the rescue team rang to say an RAF helicopter was also on the way.

I felt so cold and tried my best to keep warm, I could not get comfortable, I tried to lie down but couldn't. Although I had food and drink I was worried about eating in case I needed an operation.

Just before Lynda got back to me another couple came across me and stayed with me until the team arrived. They also rang mountain rescue to make sure they were aware of my accident. I am also very grateful to them, by this time I had been alone for almost 2 hours.

I cannot describe the relief I felt when one by one the team started to arrive, I think Chris was the first on the scene and he looked at my foot and said

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## Casualty Account – *(Incident 103)*

the medic was only 2 minutes behind him so he didn't want to do anything until the medic had assessed the situation.

Everything happened really quickly then, a huge heat pack was placed inside my coat, I was wrapped in a very thick warm "sleeping bag" and a windproof "tent" was placed over me. I was given pain relief as my boot



was cut off. The care I was given was fantastic, the team reassured us both throughout. I remember hearing the helicopter approaching and was so relieved. Lynda said a flare was set off to guide the helicopter in. As the helicopter got closer the lads in the tent bent over me to shelter me from the wind, I remember feeling very special.

A stretcher was lowered and I was placed on it and was winched up into the helicopter where Lynda was waiting for me.

I was so relieved that Lynda had been able to accompany me, the team had explained that they were insured to drive other cars and therefore would pick up our car and drive it to their base in Keswick where it would be kept safe until Lynda could pick it up. I did not realise they would do this and it made the whole situation that bit easier to deal with, it was one less worry.

The care I received in the helicopter was also excellent, I remember thinking in other circumstances I would have really enjoyed the flight over the mountains.

On arrival at Westmorland Hospital an ambulance was waiting for me and I was then handed over to the hospital staff.

I discovered that I had broken 3 bones in my ankle which required manipulation then and surgery to put pins in the next day.

On New Year's Eve I had further surgery as 2 of the bones were bending outwards so I have had more pins and ties inserted. Hopefully I am now on the right side although it will be a long painful process to full recovery. I cannot wait to be walking on the fells again as it was something we did on a regular basis.

We thank all the team from the bottom of our hearts for what you did for us that day and will never be able to repay you for the care and professionalism you showed towards us both. We don't know what we would have done without you. We never thought for a moment that we would need you, but when we did, you exceeded all our expectations.

**William and Lynda Bevan**

## Horace (Rusty) Westmorland O.B.E.

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### Lakeland Climbing Pioneer and Founding Father of Keswick MRT [1886-1984]



There can be no doubt, that what those who know about Horace (as he was then known as), is that he was born in Penrith, Cumberland in 1886, and his father ran a successful fellmongering and tannery business in the town. The Westmorland family were well known for their adventurous lifestyle, indeed, his father, aunt and uncle were noted for their unroped ascent of Pillar Rock in 1873, making it the second ascent by a lady.

It is also public knowledge, that he went to the Alps with the Abraham brothers in 1910, went to Canada in 1911, secured a job as a chainman with a surveying party led by Arthur Wheeler, joined the Canadian Army, rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, got his nickname during

WWI, went to the rescue of Wilfrid Noyce in 1946 and as a result, came up with the idea of starting a mountain rescue team – initially called Borrowdale MRT then later Keswick MRT. He was known for his climbing and walking well into his 90's and that for his work in mountain rescue, he received the O.B.E.

What is not known about Rusty, is the fullness of his climbing adventures which spanned over 90 years, starting with his 1st birthday when he and his 2 year old sister, were taken for an open air overnight bivvy by his parents, on Norfolk Island on Ullswater. Two weeks later, they were both taken to the summit of Helvellyn to attend the bonfire to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, on his 4th birthday, his father took him to Brougham Castle, where they both climbed up to the second story and back down again, without using a rope, and on his 15th birthday (1901), he climbed Pillar again with his sister and father, all unroped, a daring feat for that time.

When his father died in 1909, Rusty became a man of private means so he was able to go out climbing almost every day. During this freedom, he met and became close friends with George and Ashley Abraham, who he was to climb with on many occasions.

The year 1910, was for Rusty, the busiest climbing time he had had to date. It started in January climbing at Tryfan and Carreg Wasted

with George and Ashley Abraham, where they climbed extensively before returning to the lakes and continued to climb until the end of February. In March with others, he made 1st ascent of Easter Crack on Elliptical Crag followed in April by a 1st ascent of Blizzard Chimney. With his cousins, he climbed more winter climbs on St. Sunday Crag; Fairfield; The Dodds; Dollywaggon Pike; and Catchedicam. In June he set off for the Alps with the Abraham brothers on a climbing photographic expedition. During their visit, they made many 1st ascents which became the basis for George's book: 'On Alpine Heights and British Crag's.'

On returning to the lakes, Rusty continued to climb with his cousins making 1st ascents of Chock Gully, Dove Crag and a 2nd ascent of Dollywaggon Gully but possibly the first full true ascent in one climb.

In 1911, he went to Canada and secured work with a mountain survey party run by Arthur Wheeler, the founder of the Alpine Club of Canada. During his three years of working with Wheeler, Rusty climbed many peaks and summits in the Canadian Rockies along with Swiss guides such as Konrad Cain, the Fuez brothers and others. His list of ascents is impressive (some 1st and 2nd ascents) some only inviting a few repeat ascents, and totals well over sixty summits and peaks. He was also



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## Horace (Rusty) Westmorland O.B.E. *(continued)*

the first person to rock climb the cliff face of Mt Whyte.

He got a commission in the Territorial Army and following outbreak of WWI, he was commissioned in the Canadian Royal Transport Company. During his time at the front, he was nominated several times for mentions in dispatches for his bravery when he led his ammunition horse supply train under fire, to troops on the front line of both Ypres and the Somme.



He returned to Canada after the war, continued to serve with the Canadian Army and climbed and skied whenever possible. He was to discover climbing crags in Nova Scotia, was instrumental in discovering skiing venues in Quebec, and made significant climbing ascents in Vancouver and on Vancouver Island, some of which have been rarely repeated. In addition, he was

a keen horseman and participated in many competitions in Halifax, Nova Scotia, winning several times in his class (heavy horse), and, he was also a good amateur golfer and all round skier.

In 1936, he went to the Alps with his close friend Dr. P. B. Finn (Director of Atlantic Fisheries), for two weeks and in that time, they climbed the Untergabellahorn, Riffelhorn (by three different routes), Rimpfischhorn, and then capped their holiday off with an ascent of the Matterhorn. When back in Cumberland, Gerald Greenback and others, had set up the Lake District Ski Club which Rusty was invited to be President of, which he remained connected to for the rest of his life.

On his return to Canada, he made the first winter ascent of both East and West Lion outside Vancouver; made the first winter ski exploration of the entire Yoho Valley; discovered a crag called Eagle's Nest and made 1st ascents of all routes in both summer and winter; wrote endless climbing and mountaineering articles for local newspapers; gave frequent illustrated talks on the subject, and, was fully involved in the mountain warfare training programme set up in the Rockies by the Alpine Club of Canada. This led to Rusty going on a clandestine visit to the War Office in London, which resulted in the Lovat Scouts being sent on the training

programme, commanded by Frank Smythe.

With the onset of WWII, Rusty was given the go ahead from the Canadian Government, to set up and run the country's first official military mountain warfare training camp at Terrace, east of Prince Rupert. Whilst travelling there on the train, he took seriously ill with biliary colic resulting in his gall bladder being removed. As a result, in 1945 he was medically discharged from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, returned to his beloved Cumberland, and settled down to his retirement in Keswick.

Never a one to allow any grass to grow beneath his feet, he was out on the fells and crags within days of arriving home.

A year later in 1946, he went to the aid of Wilfrid Noyce (Everest veteran) who had fractured his femur whilst out climbing on Great Gable. This event led to Rusty forming the Borrowdale Mountain Rescue Team which later changed its name to Keswick MRT. He was eventually awarded the O.B.E. for his services to mountain rescue, in addition to receiving the Silver Rope Award from the Alpine Club of Canada in 1947, being the only climber to do so that year.

Throughout his lifetime, he climbed and hiked the fells and hills of both the UK and Canada with many notable climbers; Haskett Smith, George Seatree, Norman Collie, Noel Odell, Bentley Beetham, Harry Griffin, Godfrey Solly, Tony

## Horace (Rusty) Westmorland O.B.E. *(continued)*

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Mason-Hornby (Ogwen Cottage), John Disley and many many others. In the 1960's he suffered from stomach cancer – underwent 15 major operations – given a few weeks to live in 1964 – but was still climbing and walking in 1976 aged 90, without helmet, harness or other modern day climbing aides, and, wearing a full time catheter!

He published 'Adventures in Climbing' (1964), wrote articles for a variety of climbing journals, and, did the world's first ever live radio outside broadcast whilst rock climbing with Stanley Williamson in Borrowdale, the broadcaster who was responsible for clearing Captain Thain of blame for the Manchester United Munich air disaster.

Rusty was a quiet unassuming person, preferring to be in the shadows of publicity. He took great interest in introducing many novices to rock climbing and skiing, and firmly believed in the adage, that climbers should not fall and as such, should learn to ascend and descend climbs in order to improve their climbing technique and abilities.

On 24th November 1984, Rusty finally succumbed to his illness and sadly, dementia, and passed away in a nursing home near Kirkby Stephen. A particular view from Great Gable, thought to be the finest in all Lakeland, was marked by his father and uncle by building a cairn in the 1830's, now known as the Westmorland Cairn where Rusty's ashes were spread. He left an



only son Horace Lyndhurst and an only grandson, Dickon now living in Australia.

### Frank Grant

*Author of Rusty's Biography (and currently writing the biography of W. P. Haskett Smith)*

*Photos from the author*

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## Richard Fisher – An Appreciation



It was with sadness that the Team learned of the death on the 14th February, 2015, just 20 hours short of his 90th birthday, of Dick Fisher, one of the last surviving members of Borrowdale Mountain Rescue Team, later to become Keswick Mountain Rescue Team. Dick, along with his brother George, the first 'leader' of the Team were among the first to respond to the appeal by Lt. Col. Rusty Westmorland in 1947 for local climbers and fellwalkers to form a team to go to the aid of those in trouble in the mountains. Dick was a valuable and active member of the Team for over 45 years, his commitment resulting in the award by the Mountain Rescue Committee of its prestigious "Distinguished Service Award."

Dick was born in the Nags Head Inn, Thirlmere, moving to Keswick when the valley was flooded to provide water for Manchester. Leaving school at 14, he started an apprenticeship at Keswick School of Industrial Art becoming a highly skilled craftsman and designer. He was called up for wartime service in the Royal Engineers, and was one of the first to land on Sword Beech on 'D' Day. On demob, he returned to Keswick to complete his apprenticeship, develop his considerable artistic skills as a talented art metal worker, artist, wood carver, particularly of commemorative pieces. Several of his best mountain paintings included impressions of the Team in action in the background. He also designed a popular series of cartoon postcards, illustrating the many imaginary and amusing problems that visitors to the mountains find themselves in. In 1960, he set up his own business at Fine Designs, later moving to Lake Road and was elected as a member of the Lake District Artists Society. He still found time to attend many call-outs and be a valuable and active member until his later years began to slow him down, though his love of his Lake District mountains never diminished and continued to be an inspiration for his painting and wood carvings all his long life.

**Brian Martland** (member Keswick MRT 1961 - 2004)



*Photos by permission of the Fisher family*

## Collection Box Sponsors

On behalf of the team I would like to thank all the establishments who have hosted our collection boxes and their customers who have generously supported the team with their small change and sometimes not so small change! The team expenditure increases every year making your donations a major source of our income.

Anyone wishing to support us in this way can contact me on **017687 72531** or email [daresfield@hotmail.com](mailto:daresfield@hotmail.com)

Abacourt House	Coledale Inn Braithwaite	Golden Lion	Knotts View Stonethwaite	Old Keswickian	Star of Siam
Acorn House	The Cornish Pasty	Goosewell Farm Climbing	Lairbeck Hotel	Oval Caravan and Camping	Strathmore Guest House
Alexandras	The Traditional Sweet Shop	Wall	Lakeland	Site	Stybeck Farm
Alhambra Cinema	Cotswold	Glamara Outdoor Centre	Lakeland Decor	Oxleys at Underscar	Sun Inn Bassenthwaite
Allerdale House	Craghills Boot Store	Glencoe Guest House	Lakeland Slate	Packhorse Inn	Sunnyside Guest House
Armthwaite Hall	Craglands Guest House	Glendale Guest House	Lakeland Toys and Hobbies	Parkergate	Swinside Farm Cottage
Ashness Farm	Cragside Guest House	Grange Bridge Cottage Café	Lakeland View Guest House	Peathouse Stonethwaite	Swinside Inn
Avondale Guest House	Crow Park Hotel	Grange Café	Lake Road Inn	Pheasant Inn	Swinside Lodge
Bank Tavern	Cumberland Pencil Museum	Greystoke House	Lakes Bar and Bistro	Pillar House	Swiss Court Hotel
Barclays Bank	Cumbrian Cottages	Greystones Guest House	The Lakes Fish Restaurant	Pizza Panorama	Tarn Hows Guest House
Barn Gill Guest House	Cumbria House	Hawcliffe Guest House	Lakeside House	Planet Fear	Temple Sports
Thirispot	Cyclewise Whinlatter	Hazel Bank Hotel	Lanehead Farm Guest House	Portland House	Theatre by the Lake
Beckstones Guest House	Dale Bottom camp site	Hazelmere Guest House	Langstrath Hotel	Primrose cottage Dalston	Thornleigh Guest House
The Beeches Portinscale	Dalegarth Hotel	Hedgehog Hill	Larry's Lodge	Primrose cottage Brigham	Thornthwaite Gallery
Birch How Guest House	Dale Head Hall Hotel	The Heights Hotel	Laura of the Lakes	Road	TOG 24
Blacks	Dandelion Cafe HF	Herdwick Guest House	Laurel Bank Guest House	Pumpkin cafe	Touchwood
Bookends	Daresfield Guest House	High Lodore Farm Cafe	Leathes Head Hotel	The Puzzling Place	Trespass
Booths kiosk	David and Elaine Burn,	The Hollies	Lynton Lodge	Rathbone	Troutbeck Inn
Boots chemist	Ashtree Avenue	Homethwaite House	Little Chamonix	Rathbone Outdoor Wear	Troutbeck Caravan and
Borrowdale Caravan Club	Derwent Club	(Elizabeth Lingard)	Little Chestnut Hill	Ravenstone Hotel	Camping site
Site	Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre	Honister Mine	Littlefield Guest House	Ravenstone Lodge Hotel	Twa Dogs
Borrowdale Hotel	Derwentwater Caravan Park	Hope Memorial Camp	Lodore Falls Hotel	Ravensworth House	Tynemouth Lodge Hotel
Borrowdale YHA	Derwentwater Marina	Hope Park mini-golf kiosk	Spar BP Garage	Rickerby Grange	Village Shop Braithwaite
Braithwaite Court HPB	Derwentwater Hostel	Horse and Farrier	The Lookout Guest House	Rivendell Guest House	West View Guest House
Bramblewood Guest House	Dorchester House	Hot Tram Roll	Love the lakes	Rohan	Whinlatter Siskin Tearoom
Brierholme Guest House	Dog and Gun	How Keld	Luchinis	Royal Oak Braithwaite	White Horse Inn
Brookfield Guest House	Dollywaggon Guest House	HSBC	Lynwood Guest House	Royal Oak Keswick	The Wild Strawberry
Brun Lea Guest House	Easedale Hotel	Hunters Way Guest House	Lyzick Hall Hotel	Royal Oak Rosthwaite	Winchester Guest House
Brysons	Eden Green	I Love Keswick	30 Manor Park	Sally at Threlkeld	Woodside Guest House
Camping and Caravan Club	Edwardene Hotel	Ivy House	Mary Mount Hotel	Sandon Guest House	Yew Tree Cafe
Site	Edz	Java	Maxwell's Cafe	Saw Mill Cafe Dodd	Yew Tree Guest House
The Card Collection	Eel Crag	Karra Cottage Threlkeld	Medical Centre	Scafell Hotel	
Cartwheel Guest House	The Electric Shop	Keswick Golf Club	Middle Ruddings Hotel	Scotgate Camping Site	
Casa's	Ellergill Guest House	Keswick Brewing Co.	Mill Inn Mungrisedale	Seatoller House	
Castlefell Guest House	Erinville Guest House	Keswick Collectables	Moot Hall	Saven Oaks Guest House	
Castle Inn	Farmers Arms	Keswick Garden Centre	Morrell's	Scales Farm Cottage	
Castlerigg Farm Camping	Fat Face	Keswick Launch Company	Mountain Warehouse	Shemara Guest House	
Site	Ferndene Guest House	Keswick Bike Co.	Namaste 21 Manesty View	Shipstone & Co	
Castlerigg Hall Caravan and	Field and Trek	Keswick Mountain Sports	National Trust Lakeside	Siennas	
Camping Park	Filling Station Cafe	Keswick Park Hotel	Near Howe Mungrisedale	Silver City	
The Chalet Portinscale	Fine Designs	Keswick Reminder Office	Needlesports	Silverdale Hotel	
Cherry Tree Guest House	Flamingo	Keswick Spa	New House Rosthwaite	Skiddaw Grove Hotel	
The Chief Justice of the	Flock Inn	Keswick YHA	Newlands Adventure Centre	Skiddaw House hostel	
Common Pleas	Four in Hand	Kingfisher	Nichol End Marine	The Soap Co.	
Chilltee Guest House	Four Seasons Threlkeld	King Kong ice climbing wall	Nordicoutdoors	Spar Grocers	
Clarence House	George Fisher	Kings Head Hotel Thirispot	Norwegian Store	Spooney Green Cottage	
Claremont House	George Hotel	Kirkbride Eyecare	Out There	Squirrel Lodge Guest House	



**Brian Spencer**



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## Treasurer's Report

Keswick Mountain Rescue Team has a large area to cover which includes the "Big Four," Skiddaw, Helvellyn, Scafell and Scafell Pike and it has been another busy year.

Mountain rescue is not funded by government or local authority. The work that we do is only possible due to the generosity of the general public who give to the cause and we thank them wholeheartedly.

This year has also been a year of change with newer, younger members of the team taking over from some of the older ones. We have had new officers with new ideas and this has moved the team forward but has also incurred greater cost as the new ideas have been put into practice. I am sure that you have gleaned some of the changes from the Team Leader's report.

Receipts from the Collecting Boxes are slightly down despite Brian Spencer's usual hard work. We shall have to see if this is a trend or a one off. The Collecting Boxes are our only regular source of income and only cover about a third of our yearly running costs.

The basic running costs of the Team are a little more each year and that has to be borne in mind. The new Land Rovers are paid for and up and running.

*During the year, donations were received in memory of:*

Allan Alcock	Tom Creighton	Brian Hirschfield
Mark Ballard	Ronald Crowe	Dick Hutchinson
Dennis Bauman	John Ellis	Jackie Jackson
Peter Birkett	Neil Entwistle	Charles Ledger
Ralph Blair	Elizabeth Fisher	Leslie Parks
Malcolm Blowman	Anne Flitcroft	John Quinn
Reg Byram	Nathan Gopichandran	Keith Ramsden
Andy Cleworth	Gordon Gray	Matt Wilkes
Paul Collins	Richard Haynes	
Jack Cooper	Anne Hertzberg	

The new stretcher project has produced a useable model that we are all proud of and we have hopes of greater things to come.

Training has, as usual, been an expensive but vital part of the budget.

As yet we have no firm facts from government sources, but Mountain Rescue teams may be going to receive some VAT concessions next year. This would aid our finances considerably but I shall not hold my breath!

The Team, after a lot of thought and advice from our legal and financial advisers are going to change their charitable status from a "Charitable Company" to "Charitable Incorporated Organisation." This has been a great deal of hard work for our secretary, but will be well worth it in the long run. The differences between the two formats can be seen on the Charity Commissioner's website as can our year's financial details.

["www.charity-commission.gov.uk"](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)



**Ian Wallace**

## Trustees' Report *for the year ended 31st October 2014*

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### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Charity Name:** Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

**Charity Registration Number:** 509860

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

**Trustees:**

Mr. Malcolm Miller, Chairman  
Mr Alan Prescott (Retired 30 January 2014)  
Mr. Ian Wallace, Treasurer  
Mr. Paul Cheshire, Secretary  
Team leader, Mr. Timothy Mark Hodgson (Retired 30 January 2014)  
Mr. Chris Higgins, Team Leader (Appointed 30 January 2014) Member 1  
Ms. Fiona Boyle, General Team Member 2

**Independent Examiner:** Gibbons, 136 Gray Street, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 2LU  
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 2014. The 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. It was amended, approved and adopted by a Special General Meeting of the Team on 8 September 1994 and again on 8 October 1998 and subsequently again on 1 April 2005 and successively on 31 January 2008. 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, which was created during the period, is a reserve to be set aside to cover uninsurable contingencies and unforeseen circumstances. The level has been set at £600,549 (2013 - £541,004) which is three times the previous year's adjusted expenditure.

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## Trustees' Report *for the year ended 31st October 2014*

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

During the year ended 31 October 2014 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.

Within the immediate future, Keswick Mountain Rescue Team are going to change their charitable status from a "Charitable Company" to "Charitable Incorporated Organisation." The differences between the two formats can be seen on the Charity Commissioner's website "[www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)"

### **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 and signed on their behalf by: **Malcolm Miller, 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 62*

## 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 <b>Keswick Mountain Rescue Team</b> (Registered Charity No 509860)	<b>Notes</b> 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.
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):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the enclosed donation of £</li> <li>the donation(s) of £..... which I made on...../...../.....</li> <li>all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until further notice</li> </ul>	
Signature ..... Date...../...../.....	



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

The Charities Aid Foundation







## 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	
<b>Gift Aid</b>	
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:	
<b>KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM</b>	
<b>Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ</b>	
Thank you for your support !	
2015	
<b>Gift Aid:</b> 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 HSBC 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 .....

*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)

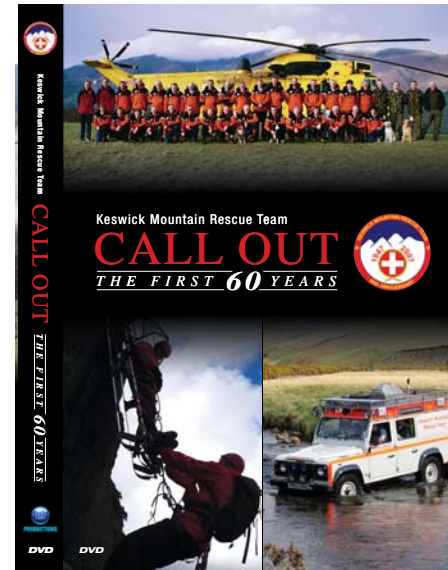
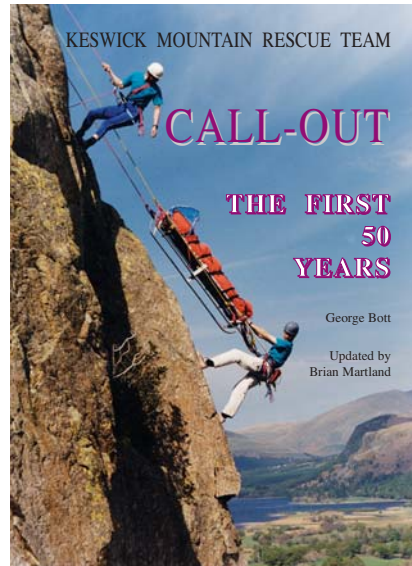
On 24 April 1946, Wilfrid Noyce, later a member of John Hunt's successful Everest team, was badly injured while he was climbing on Great Gable. His rescue – a long and difficult operation – prompted a local climber, Colonel Horace Westmorland, to form a properly organised Mountain Rescue Team.

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**

## 999 Text Service for Emergency Calls



*Incident 55*

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

see also the link [www.keswickmrt.org.uk/documents/who\\_to\\_call.pdf](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk/documents/who_to_call.pdf)



***In an emergency for  
Mountains/Rivers/  
Lakes Rescue  
call 999 (or 112)  
and ask for Police and  
then Mountain Rescue***



*Keswick Mountain Rescue Team 2014*

**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