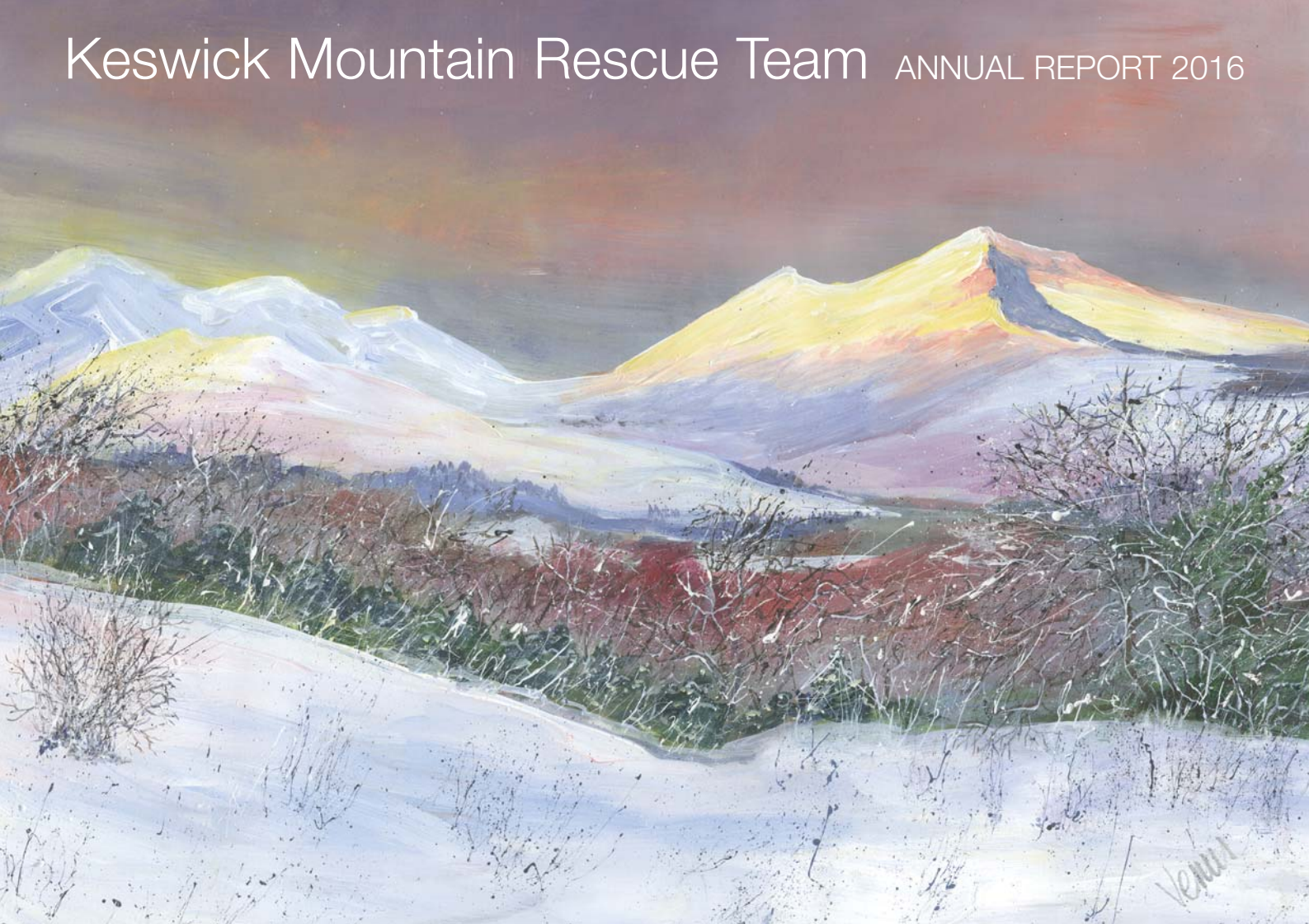


# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team ANNUAL REPORT 2016



## Introduction



Grisedale Pike and surrounding mountains

Venus Griffiths

Welcome to the 2016 Annual Report of  
Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

**Registered Charity Number 509860**

This is a record of the Team's activities in 2015.

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

The Team operates in the area shown on the map on **page 2**, and in 2015 the Team occasionally operated elsewhere.

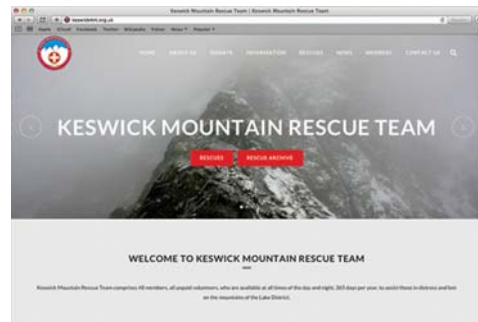
## Thanks

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.*

## Contents

Pages 2, 16-17	Statistics	Page 22	Wainwright Exhibition
Pages 3-5	Team Leader	Page 23	Land Rovers and Helicopters
Pages 6-15	Incidents 2015	Page 24-25	Support and "Thank You"
Pages 18-19	Search Dogs	Page 26	Collection Box Sponsors
Page 20	Brian Spencer	Page 27	Treasurer
Pages 21	On Probation	Pages 28-29	Trustees

## The website



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

and the Team is now on [\*\*facebook\*\*](#)

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 2016

**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  
**Deputy Team Leaders:** Matt Eaves, Chris Gillyon  
 Steve Hepburn  
**Committee:** Tom Blakely, Paul White

**Medical Officer:** Dr Tim Hooper  
**Training Officers:** Alan Barnes, Steve Hepburn  
**Radio Officer:** Alan Prescott  
**Vehicles Officers:** Matt Eaves, Mick Guy  
**Water Officer:** Jocky Sanderson  
**Equipment Officers:** Dan Jordan, George Lloyd  
 Tom McNally  
**Base Officers:** Simon Noble, Graeme Wilson  
**Social Secretary:** Elly Whiteford  
**Report Editor:** Peter Little



Steve Allen	<i>Handyman</i>
Gordon Barker	<i>Biotech Consultant</i>
Alan Barnes	<i>Mountaineering Instructor</i>
Paul Barnes	<i>Fire Fighter</i>
Martin Bell	<i>Paramedic</i>
Sarah Bennett	<i>Tour Operator</i>
Tom Blakely	<i>Paramedic</i>
Quentin Boyes	<i>Marketing 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>Hotel Proprietor</i>
Matt Eaves	<i>LDNPA</i>
Donald Ferguson	<i>Retail Assistant</i>
Chris Francis	<i>Fire Service</i>
Richard Gale	<i>Accommodation Provider</i>
Chris Gillyon	<i>Company Director</i>
Geoff Gilmore	<i>Leisure Pool Manager</i>
Rob Grange	<i>Photographer</i>
Mick Guy	<i>Retired</i>
Steve Hepburn	<i>Company Director</i>
Chris Higgins	<i>Company Director</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>
Peter Little	<i>Pharmacist</i>
George Lloyd	<i>Student / 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>Self Employed</i>
David Pratt	<i>Teacher</i>
Alan Prescott	<i>Senior Manager</i>
Lisa Price	<i>General Marina Manager</i>
Jocky Sanderson	<i>Outdoor Pursuits Instructor</i>
Ian Wallace	<i>Retired</i>
Paul White	<i>Papermill Chemist</i>
Elly Whiteford	<i>Technical Specialist</i>
Graeme Wilson	<i>Retired</i>

**Secretary (Membership):**  
 Tom Blakely

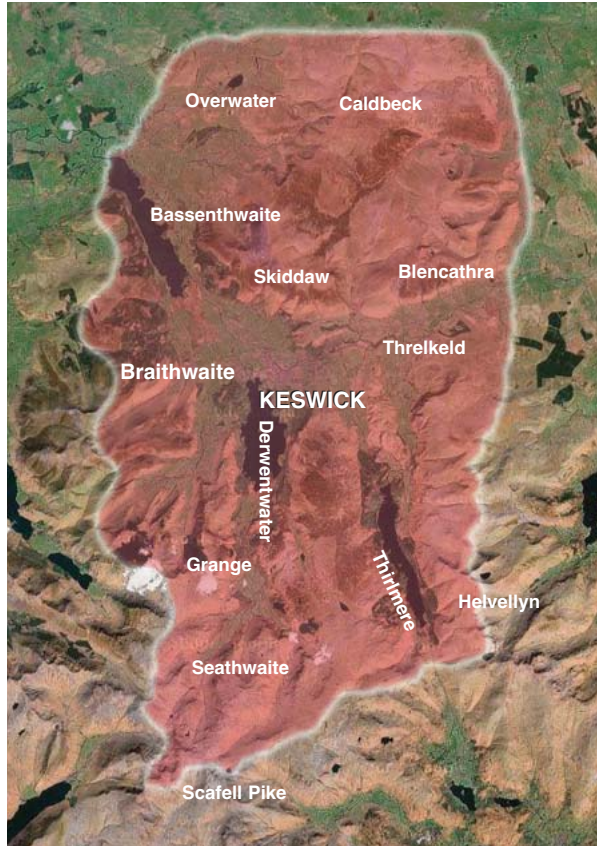
**Secretary:**  
**(Correspondence, Talks & Visits):**  
 Fiona Boyle

**Collection Box Co-ordinators:**  
 Malcolm Miller, Paul White  
 See *page 26*

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



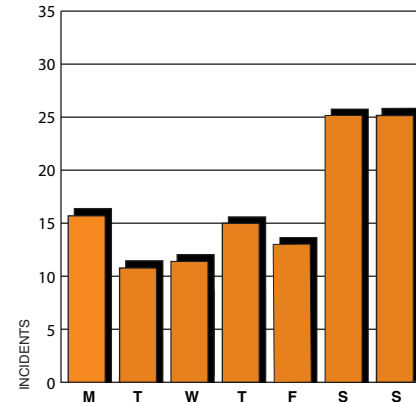
## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team Area of Responsibility



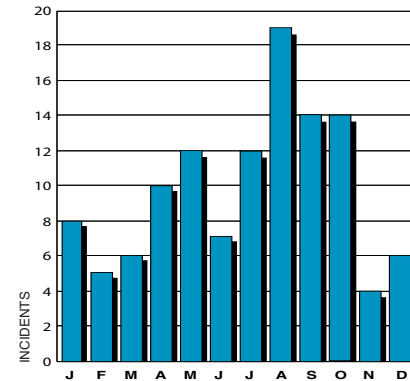
## CALLOUT STATISTICS

117 Callouts, 11 Fatalities

### DAYS OF THE WEEK 2015



### MONTHS OF THE YEAR 2015



Last year was the Team's 3rd busiest year ever. There were 117 rescues, plenty of alerts and to support these, many hours of training, cleaning, maintaining, repairing, restocking, fitting, reprogramming, servicing, charging . . . the list goes on. What stands out for 2015? The December floods and last winter's tragedies in the snow and ice – of which more below.

There were a few changes relating to members and their roles in 2015. A big thank you to Simon Hodgson who has stepped down as a deputy team leader after 17 years – a truly fantastic commitment. I'm glad to say he's not leaving the team but will continue as an active member, getting out on the hill and getting stuck in on rescues.

Three members left the team last year – Brian Spencer, Chris Harling and Dr Peter Hemingway. Brian, who joined in 1970 and was involved with over 1200 rescues, was also our collection box co-ordinator and he estimates that he's collected over £370,000 from the boxes dotted around town. Chris became a member in 2009 and was a deputy leader very shortly after. He is very technically competent and put in many hours training others within the team as well as fulfilling the duties of deputy leader on the hill. Peter left us after a short time as a probationary member. As an experienced mountain rescue doctor, his contribution to training other team members in particular was really appreciated. I wish all three of them all the best in the future.

The skills of a mountain rescuer are highly specialised, diverse and somewhat incalculable. To maintain our skills at an appropriate level in order that we can consider ourselves members of a 'High Performance Team' is very difficult but here is a list of why we must continue to train and aim to be the best we can . . .

- During the winter of 2015 on Helvellyn, Blencathra and Great End there were several very serious rescues, unfortunately some of which had very sad outcomes. Our thoughts, as always are with the families and friends of people who have not returned from a day in the mountains. These rescues were often in very harsh conditions and through the night and highlighted the importance of protecting team members by covering essential personal winter skills ahead of our UK winter by training in the Alps in late October.
- Operating in the dangerous flood-waters of Keswick, Whalley and York proved the value of having highly skilled Swift Water Technicians within the team and the benefits of standardised training and equipment across the Lakes' region. Unfortunately Keswick MRT, along with the many other volunteer groups, have become well practiced at helping when our town floods. Our sincere thanks go to the other teams who supported us during the height of things on December 5th, Members of Cockermouth, Duddon and Furness, Wasdale, Penrith, Patterdale and Langdale/



Ambleside teams all put in many hours of fantastic work which would have otherwise overwhelmed us on our own.

- The complex scenarios of multi-victim, multi-location and multi-agency incidents, such as in the floods, showed the need for having established, rehearsed and clear command and control structures in preparation for any Major Incident. This doesn't just happen when we need it for something big, so needs to be practiced throughout the year during our more regular rescues. The 'bread and butter' rescues could quite often manage themselves but we try to use these rescues to practice for the big events. There is a wealth of experience within the team for leaders to draw upon and we try to involve others in the decision making process within a structured manner.

## Team Leader's Report 2016 (continued)

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- Sea Kings, air ambulances and the new Coastguard S92 helicopters were used throughout 2015, demonstrating the need for continuing helicopter training. Our boat was used several times to effect a swift response to high risk scenarios needing the complex skills of boat deployment to people in difficulty in the water. In some of our most serious terrain, such as on Sharp Edge, technical rigging systems were used regularly with skill and efficiency that only comes from repeated training and practice. First aid skills were used routinely throughout the year on pretty much every rescue we did – the fact that so many of us took, and passed, the MREW Casualty Care exam in March is testament to the quality of training given by the medics within our team at the start of the year.

The members of a mountain rescue team need to have an immense amount of knowledge and skill to be able to operate in the environments that we do. I recognise the pressures on team members in terms of work, families and their own time and commitments and there don't seem to be enough hours in our regular Thursday night training sessions!

The team is going from strength to strength and I am very reassured when I hear some of the positive things from a lot of team members new, "time served" and recently retired. We continue to evolve in many areas, but that is not



*Incident 117 - Flooding in York*

to say that what we did in the past was in anyway wrong – far from it. The systems of working, equipment and skills used by rescue teams of the past were often pioneering and at the cutting edge, but, as with a lot of things, have become out-dated and superseded by the new – remember Walkmans and VCRs?!? While not wanting to throw out things that have been tried and tested over many years simply for the sake of it, I'm keen for the team to advance. We are a very fortunate team and I believe we have a responsibility to use some of our assets to best advantage for the mountain rescue community as a whole – something we have prided ourselves on in the past.



*Incident 102*

We have plenty of dynamic members with energy and ideas and the finances to allow us to explore new things. We have the terrain and the high volume of rescues to let us test out new skills and equipment and then the credibility to put these ideas out there and for them to be received and critically appraised by others in the MR community. Developments include our new stretcher project (we now have a working prototype in service on our lead Land Rover after many years of development), technical Rigging 4 Rescue rope work systems and skills, Swift Water Technician training, advanced 1st aid courses, driver training and overseas technical training. Keswick MRT has a long and proud tradition of innovation and we continue to build on our accomplishments.

I am looking forward to 2016 knowing that so many people want to take the team in the same direction – the vision of being a pseudo-professional (we are all volunteers after all!), High Performance Team seems to be shared by members young and old. Although what we do is often difficult, frequently tiring, sometimes dangerous and occasionally upsetting, we try to remember that we are all “in it” together. Being unpaid we need something to keep us motivated, to get us to leave our families, our warm firesides or our mates in the pub to grunt up beside Grains Gill with a heavy bag on our back in the lashing rain at some ridiculous hour. Despite what

many outside mountain rescue might see as ‘downsides,’ we get immense satisfaction and a lot of enjoyment out of being members of Keswick MRT.



**Chris Higgins**



# One Hundred and Seventeen Callouts in 2015

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## Incident Report 2015

### *Edited from Team records*

- 1    3 January    11:47**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A man came off his mountain bike. Leg and pelvic injuries. He was flown by air ambulance to hospital.
- 2    11 January    14:09**  
**Base Brown**  
A woman was reported as being seriously fatigued. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team. She was able to walk down with support.
- 3    12 January    08:00**  
**Helvellyn**  
A search for a missing man, involving Patterdale, Penrith, Kirkby Stephen, and Keswick MRTs with search dogs. His body was found on the headwall above Red Tarn. Fatality.
- 4    17 January    16:08**  
**Helvellyn**  
Patterdale MRT requested help as they had two simultaneous incidents, involving fallers from Swirral Edge. RAF Leeming MRT and Penrith MRT also responded, together with a RAF Sea King. One casualty with serious injuries was airlifted to hospital by the Sea King. Another was brought down to Patterdale Base by a Keswick MRT vehicle.
- 5    21 January    20:24**  
**Great End**  
A search of the area for two climbers who had failed to return after completing SE Gully on Great End. As the search was about to resume the next morning, information came in from the police to say they had been found at the lower end of Eskdale.



*Incident 7*





Incident 17

## 6 22 January 11:07

### Brown Cove Crag, Helvellyn

A climber was airlifted to hospital by Royal Navy Sea King helicopter after suffering spinal, head and neck injuries in a fall.

## 7 24 January 1:36

### Brown Cove Crag, Helvellyn

A lead climber fell 40m whilst winter climbing in a gully, and suffered an open fracture to his lower leg. An Air Ambulance dropped off its paramedic at the scene, and then ferried some of the KMRT members up to the crag. Members of Kirkby Stephen MRT, who had been training in the area, helped the Team. The casualty was lowered to a stable vantage point, from where he was airlifted by a RAF Sea King, and flown to hospital.

## 8 31 January 16:06

### Longlands Fell

The ambulance service requested help to recover a man who had broken his leg while sledging.

## 9 8 February 16:46

### Blencathra

A man and his daughter became disoriented on Blencathra, and found themselves on Southern Fell. He began to suffer from severe cramp in one leg, and they called for assistance.

## 10 14 February 15:54

### Ullock Pike

A couple got into difficulties on steep snow-covered ground. As the Team neared the top of Ullock Pike, a phone call was received to say that they had managed to get off the fell by themselves.

## 11 17 February 20:39

### Helvellyn

Keswick, Patterdale, and Kirkby Stephen MRTs in a search for a missing man. The casualty was found below the headwall above Red Tarn. He had taken a fall, and suffered life threatening injuries. He was evacuated towards Greenside, where a Royal Navy helicopter was able to winch him and take him to hospital. Sadly, the casualty died shortly after arrival in hospital.

## 12 20 February 13:07

### Latrigg

A man slipped on mud, and broke his ankle.

## 13 28 February 13:07

### Barf

A man had become crag-fast on scree.

## 14 14 March 14:03

### Ashness Bridge

A woman had slipped and suffered an ankle injury. Her husband, in going to get assistance, had fallen from a stile, and knocked himself out.

## 15 15 March 16:21

### Sinen Gill, Blencathra

A woman had suffered an ankle injury. RAF Leeming MRT helped the Team.

## 16 22 March 14:41

### Wythburn

A woman slipped on muddy ground. Ankle injury. An Air Ambulance helped the Team.

## 17 24 March 12:11

### Whinlatter Forest

A boy crashed whilst mountain biking. Lower leg injury.

## Incident Report 2015

- 18 **30 March 18:06**  
**Sour Milk Gill, Borrowdale**  
A man took a tumbling fall descending the path. He suffered major head, chest and back injuries. He was winched out of the gill by a RAF Sea King, and flown down to Seathwaite Farm, where he was transferred to an Air Ambulance, for transfer to hospital.
- 19 **31 March 19:49**  
**Scafell Pike area**  
A party of walkers had become split up, and some had not arrived back at Seathwaite. The missing group turned up at Seathwaite as the Team with search dogs arrived for a search.
- 20 **3 April 12:09**  
**Walla Crag**  
A woman tripped and broke her wrist.
- 21 **4 April 20:25**  
**St Herbert's Island, Derwentwater**  
Police requested assistance with transport to the island to deal with an incident.
- 22 **6th April 15:31**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A woman fell off her mountain bike, suffering possible head, neck and shoulder injuries.
- 23 **6 April 16:36**  
**High Pike**  
A man became unwell whilst walking on the Caldbeck Fells.
- 24 **11 April 11:31**  
**Barf**  
A woman found herself stuck on the steep ground just below Slake Crag.
- 25 **14 April 12:00**  
**Cat Bells**  
A boy with a knee injury.
- 26 **20 April 09:08**  
**Cat Bells terrace path**  
A man had suffered a possible stroke.
- 27 **20 April 17:29**  
**Cumbria Way near Rosthwaite**  
A woman broke her ankle.
- 28 **26 April 11:29**  
**High Rigg**  
A man had fainted during a walk from St Johns Church to Low Bridge End.
- 29 **26 April 13:01**  
**Lodore Falls**  
A person was having a panic attack at the foot of the falls. The Team was recalled before arrival at the scene.
- 30 **1 May 12:57**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A woman had become crag-fast. The Team stood down at Scales Tarn, as the situation had been resolved.
- 31 **2 May 14:41**  
**Seathwaite**  
A woman sustained an ankle injury and a minor head wound.
- 32 **4 May 12:57**  
**Barf**  
A family of three had become stuck on steep ground.
- 33 **5 May 14:42**  
**Sticks Pass**  
A woman with a foot injury.



Incident 33



Incident 37

- 34 9 May 12:00**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
 A mountain biker crashed, and suffered rib and possible spinal injuries.
- 35 13 May 12:26**  
**Birk Side, Helvellyn**  
 A man with a head injury.

- 36 15 May 17:21**  
**Esk Hause**  
 A mother and daughter with navigation problems in poor weather. They were escorted down from the shelter at Esk Hause.
- 37 16 May 12:09**  
**Hause Gill (Honister Gill), Seatoller**  
 A man lost control of his bike on the lower part of the Honister Pass road, and fell 15m in to the gill. He suffered multiple injuries to his head and spine. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 38 18 May 06:48**  
**Scafell Pike area**  
 A couple had become lost the previous evening. Wasdale MRT had then conducted a search. Keswick MRT, Duddon and Furness, Cockermouth and Langdale Ambleside teams, Lake District MR Search Dogs and a Sea King from RN Gannet then joined Wasdale MRT in the search. The missing two were found near the summit of Scafell Pike, and flown to safety.
- 39 21 May 11:52**  
**Allerdale Ramble – Tongue Gill, Borrowdale**  
 A woman had broken her wrist in a fall.
- 40 29 May 11:52**  
**Shepherd's Crag**  
 A boy had taken a tumbling fall whilst scrambling in a gully.
- 41 30 May 13:44**  
**Graystones, Whinlatter**  
 A man had collapsed. Fatality.
- 42 2 June 13:14**  
**Brackenburn, Cat Bells**  
 A fallen man. An ambulance crew managed to walk the casualty down, so the Team was not required.

- 43 12 June 17:08**  
**Ullscarf**  
 A woman reported herself lost and exhausted somewhere in the Ullscarf area. She was able to walk down with the Team.
- 44 14 June 02:37**  
**Bassenthwaite Lake**  
 Two men had taken out an inflatable canoe which then capsized; one managed to swim ashore, the other managed to get into a moored boat, but could not get back to shore. The Team was able to retrieve him.
- 45 15 June 11:47**  
**Helvellyn**  
 A woman broke an ankle on the path above Swirls. Langdale/Ambleside MRT helped the Team.
- 46 15 June 13:15**  
**Easedale**  
 A diabetic patient in difficulties. Keswick MRT helped Langdale/Ambleside MRT.
- 47 25 June 13:23**  
**Cogra Moss, Lamplugh**  
 Cockermouth MRT asked the Team to help in the search for a missing man.
- 48 25 June 14:27**  
**Watendlath**  
 A woman with an ankle injury, on the path between Blea Tarn and Watendlath.
- 49 8 July 11:41**  
**Manesty, Cat Bells**  
 The sounds of a farmer gathering sheep were mistaken for shouts for help.
- 50 9 July 11:55**  
**Seathwaite**  
 A woman felt unwell and faint on the footpath from Seathwaite to Sty Head. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.



## Incident Report 2015

- 51 14 July 12:26**  
**Great Gable**  
A woman with a knee injury. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 52 14 July 15:56**  
**Cockshot Wood, Keswick**  
A woman had collapsed and appeared to be unconscious.
- 53 15 July 14:00**  
**Above Ashness Bridge**  
A woman had broken an ankle.
- 54 15 July 19:49**  
**Goat Crag, Watendlath**  
A man fell 10m whilst climbing. He suffered head, chest and spinal injuries. A RAF Sea King flew him to hospital.
- 55 20 July 17:00**  
**Derwentwater**  
A group of three capsized their boat. The Team, along with a number of other agencies was alerted, but the group managed to swim to one of the islands. A boat from one of the local sailing centres picked them up, and the Team stood down.
- 56 23 July 21:10**  
**Friars Crag, Derwentwater**  
A boy with an ankle injury.
- 57 27 July 15:58**  
**Watendlath**  
A woman had stumbled and fallen, damaging her neck and shoulder.
- 58 28 July 15:31**  
**Stonycroft Gill, Newlands**  
A woman taking part in an organised gill scramble, trapped her foot between two boulders, and fell, suffering an ankle injury.



Incident 59





Incident 60

**59 29 July 15:31**

**Cat Bells**

A girl slipped and aggravated an old knee injury.

**60 29 July 17:15**  
**Goat Crag, Borrowdale**

Two walkers attempted to descend from the High Spy – Maiden Moor ridge direct towards Hollows Farm, and became stuck in a gully which looked to be a possible descent route. The Team took up the necessary rope kit, and recovered them to safe ground.

**61 3 August 14:09**

**Castlerigg area**

A man was taken ill while walking. The patient was taken to hospital by a member of the public.

**62 5 August 13:49**

**Mouthwaite Comb, Blencathra**

A woman had taken a 100m tumbling fall through steep bracken, to land in a gully. She had suffered serious shoulder injuries, and was taken to hospital by Air Ambulance.

**63 8 August 08:15**

**Greenup Edge/Wythburn areas**

A search for a missing woman. She was located in Patterdale.

**64 8 August 17:06**

**Eleventrees/Fieldside, Keswick**

A man, cycling up the hill towards Castlerigg Stone Circle, suffered a medical emergency, and fell from his bike. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

**65 9 August 12:26**

**Allerdale Ramble, Seatoller**

A man had fallen from his mountain bike, and had become unconscious.

**66 12 August 16:21**  
**High Spy**

A boy with a knee injury.

**67 13 August 14:33**

**Brandelhow Park, Derwentwater**

A woman had fallen from her bike, and was unconscious for a while.

**68 13 August 19:30**

**Burns Farm area, Threlkeld**

A search for a missing man.

**69 16 August 10:28**

**Dock Tarn area, Borrowdale**

A man with a broken leg. RAF Valley MRT helped the Team.

**70 16 August 13:34**

**Dollywagon Pike**

A woman with a knee injury. RAF Valley MRT helped the Team.

**71 20 August 15:37**

**Whinlatter Forest**

A man fell from his mountain bike, suffering numerous lacerations and an injury to his jaw.

**72 21 August 12:28**

**Whinlatter Forest**

A man had collapsed whilst using a high ropes course. Despite the best efforts of all the emergency services on scene, (the Team, Ambulance crew, and Air Ambulance crew), the man could not be saved.

## Incident Report 2015

- 73 23 August 10:45**  
**Cat Bells**  
A man suddenly had a fit, and collapsed.
- 74 24 August 13:22**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
The rescue of a dog which had slipped and tumbled 45m down a gully.
- 75 29 August 10:27**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A mountain biker had fallen, and become unconscious. Head, collar bone and arm injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 76 30 August 14:34**  
**Sharp Edge, Blencathra**  
A couple had got themselves crag-fast after getting off route.  
The Team retrieved them to safe ground.
- 77 30 August 15:13**  
**Allerdale Ramble, Grange**  
A mountain biker had come off his bike. Leg and chest injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 78 30 August 19:15**  
**Greenup Edge, Borrowdale**  
A man feeling faint asked for help in descent to Stonethwaite.
- 79 31 August 12:41**  
**Walla Crag**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 80 3 September 13:56**  
**Cat Bells**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 81 3 September 19:06**  
**Road between Borrowdale Hotel and Buttermere**  
Cockermouth and Keswick MRTs had information referring to someone being given CPR at the roadside. No-one could be found. It appeared that the car which had stopped near the incident may have assisted someone and then driven off. Both Teams stood down.
- 82 3 September 19:07**  
**Spooney Green Lane, Keswick**  
A mountain biker had come off his bike. Multiple injuries.
- 83 6 September 14:32**  
**Whinlatter Forest**  
A woman came off her bike, and injured her shoulder.
- 84 9 September 04:06**  
**Sty Head, Borrowdale**  
Two men benighted on the Corridor Route. Wasdale MRT helped the Team bring them down safely to Wasdale Head.
- 85 10 September 20:32**  
**Derwentwater Boat Landings, Keswick**  
A man had swum out to a boat, but, cold and wet, could not get back. Although the Team boat was prepared for use, a marina boat went to the scene.
- 86 11 September 11:56**  
**Cat Bells**  
A man became unconscious, having suffered some kind of medical problem. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.



Incident 80



Incident 100

**87 16 September 13:07**  
**Friars Crag, Keswick**

A woman tripped on a path, and fell face first, suffering a black eye and other facial injuries.

**88 18 September 00:00**  
**Crosby Ravensworth area,**  
**Eden District**

Penrith MRT requested help from all Lakes MRTs to find a woman with dementia who had disappeared. Sadly, her body was found on the 19th some 7 km from her home.

**89 19 September 02:47**  
**Fleetwith Pike**

Cockermouth MRT asked the Team for help with a search for a missing paraglider. A Coastguard helicopter helped to recover his body. Fatality.

**90 19 September 10:45**  
**Station Coppice, Thirlmere**

A man slipped on wet rock. Lower leg injury.

**91 19 September 12:27**  
**Barf**

A man and a woman crag-fast below Slape Crag. A RAF Sea King winched them to safety.

**92 20 September 16:41**  
**Sty Head area, Borrowdale**

A man with a lower leg injury. Wasdale MRT attended the incident.

**93 23 September 11:10**  
**Whinlatter Forest**

A woman with a leg injury.

**94 2 October 10:43**  
**Hill Top Quarries, Threlkeld Knotts**

A man fell 50m. Lower leg injuries.

**95 2 October 15:29**  
**Rosthwaite to Watendlath path**

A man unwell, suffering from a "racing heart." An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

**96 2 October 18:01**  
**Raven Crag, Thirlmere**

A report of a base jumper in difficulty. No injuries.

**97 3 October 13:57**  
**Grains Gill, Borrowdale**

A man had collapsed. Sadly, he could not be saved.

**98 4 October 08:00**  
**Fleetwith Pike**

Cockermouth MRT asked the Team to help in a search for a missing walker. His body was discovered on Fleetwith Pike.

**99 10 October 13:41**  
**Barf**

Two women had become crag-fast.

**100 12 October 12:26**  
**Wolf Crag, Great Dodd**

A man made a crash landing while speed flying. Spinal injuries. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.



## Incident Report 2015

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Incident 104

- 101 17 October 12:38**  
**Carl Side col, Skiddaw**  
A man had collapsed, apparently from a heart attack. An Air Ambulance helped the Team. Sadly, he could not be saved.
- 102 17 October 12:47**  
**Glaramara**  
A man with a knee injury. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.
- 103 18 October 17:06**  
**Barkbethdale, Skiddaw**  
A woman with an ankle injury. An Air Ambulance took the casualty to hospital.
- 104 20 October 14:13**  
**Swanesty How, Borrowdale**  
A woman with an ankle injury.
- 105 25 October 17:15**  
**Stake Pass, Borrowdale**  
A man with a knee injury. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team.
- 106 27 October 14:10**  
**Seathwaite**  
A search for a missing man.
- 107 29 October 12:49**  
**Browncove Crags path, Helvellyn**  
A woman fell and dislocated her shoulder. An Air Ambulance took her to hospital.
- 108 1 November 18:07**  
**Cat Bells – Maiden Moor**  
Two boys were benighted. The Team walked them down. No Injuries.





Incident 107

**109 8 November 17:32**

**Great Gable and surrounding area**

Keswick, Cockermouth, and Wasdale MRTs in a search for a missing man. Cockermouth MRT found him in Ennerdale.

**110 15 November 16:16**

**Derwentwater**

A report that a dinghy sailor had been thrown out of his boat near Derwent Isle. He was able to reboard the boat, and return to safety, before the Team launched a rescue boat.

**111 21 November 12:12**

**Cat Bells**

A man had collapsed. Passers-by, the Team and staff of an Air Ambulance made every effort, but, the casualty's life could not be saved.

**112 3 December 17:36**

**Esk Hause**

Wasdale, Langdale/Ambleside, and Keswick MRTs in a search for a missing man. Wasdale MRT found him at Calf Cove, and he was brought down to Seathwaite by Keswick MRT.

**113 4-5 December 21:46**

**Keswick, Braithwaite, Uldale areas**

A major flooding incident caused by the advent of Storm Desmond. The Team dealt with 26 incidents, rescuing people from flooded homes, checking on vulnerable folk, and transporting people to the evacuation centre at St Herbert's School. A further 11 incidents were dealt with by Swiftwater Teams from Cockermouth, Duddon and Wasdale who came to assist the Team.

**114 6 December 12:48**

**Scarth Gap, Buttermere**

A man with a shoulder injury. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

**115 6 December 15:39**

**Keswick flood area**

The Team was asked to evacuate a woman with a medical emergency from a house.

**116 26 December 14:45**

**Whalley, Lancashire**

The Team, along with other LDSAMRA teams, responded to the flood situation in the Clitheroe area of Lancashire. Teams were deployed to assist in rescuing people from flooded houses.

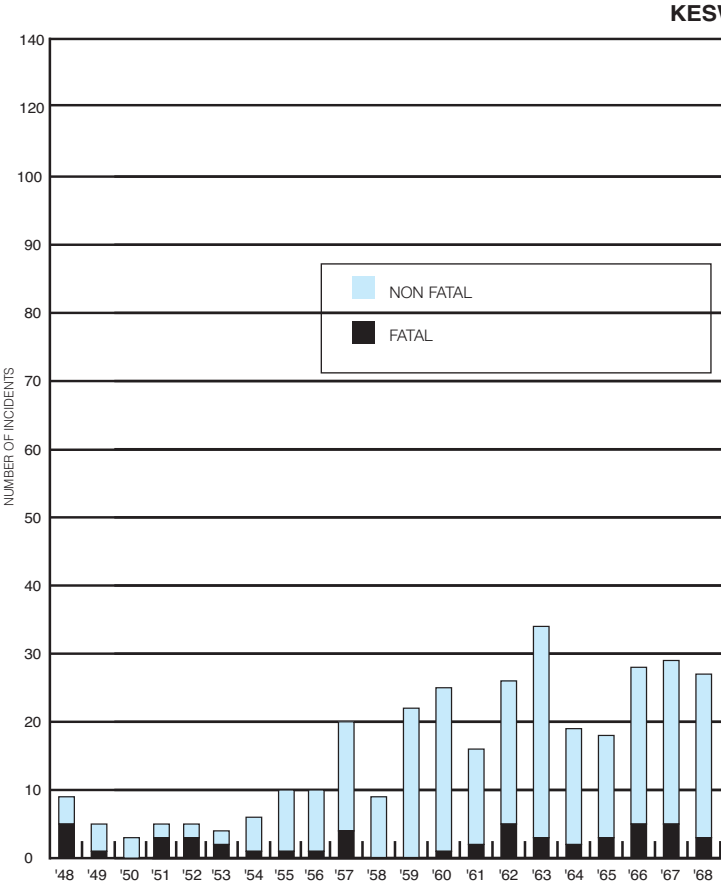
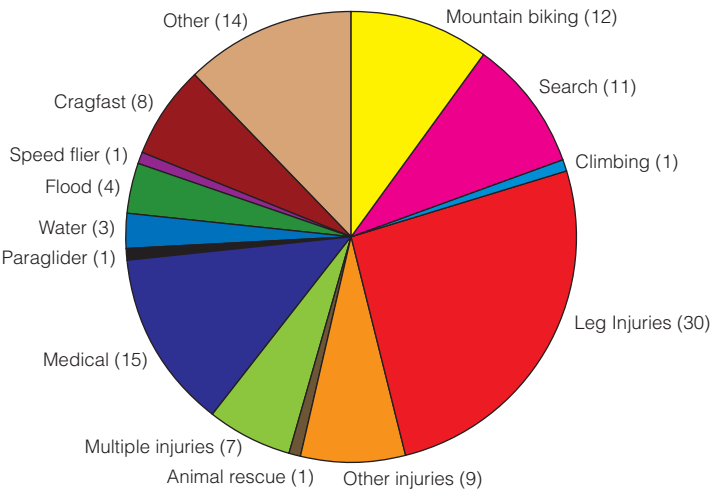
**117 27 December 01:15**

**York**

Teams from Keswick and Cockermouth were despatched to assist the first team which attended directly from the previous flood incident in Lancashire. Teams were tasked with checking houses, and evacuating residents on rescue sleds or boats along one of the main roads into the city.

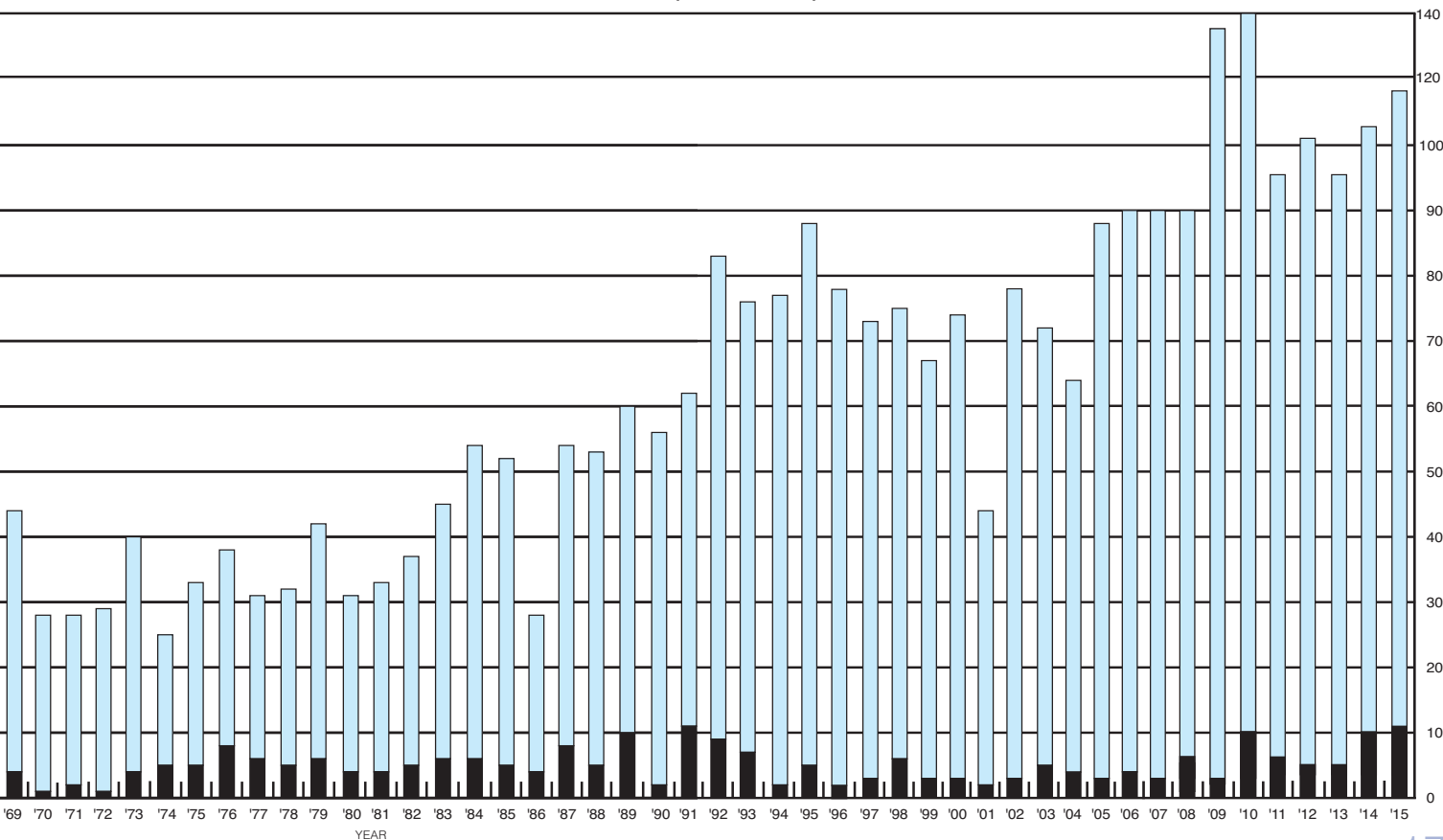
INCIDENT TYPES 2015

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



## Incident Report 2015

WICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM 1948 - 2015 3370 callouts (290 fatalities)



## Keswick Search Dogs in 2015

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*Isla with handler Martin Bell*

This year has seen the development of our two new Search Dogs: Rona, with handler Rob Grange, and Isla, handler Martin Bell. Both had struggles at various points in their training, but overcame them to both “grade” as operational search dogs at the end of the year.

For the first time since 1989, Keswick team has had six search dogs at its disposal, though this will drop to 5 again in March, when Search Dog Ginny steps down after a 10 year career, with over 250 callouts to her name. This year saw her last “locate” when she helped to pinpoint two 13 year olds who had taken themselves off for an adventure on Maiden Moor.

This was a quieter year for the dogs, with 45 callouts to a variety of locations, including a trip to the North York Moors for Beck and Bracken to search for a missing walker at the request of Cleveland MRT. Training continues with the regular weekly sessions at Whinlatter, Brandlehow, Hollows and various other local venues, and monthly weekends in various parts of the Lake District.

**Mick Guy**



*Rona with handler Rob Grange*



## Keswick Search Dogs and Handlers in 2015

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*Left to right: Isla, Martin Bell; Ginny, Mick Guy; Meg, Elly Whiteford, Bracken; Chris Francis, Beck; Rob Grange, Rona*

Brian Spencer stood down at the end of 2015, after attending more than 1000 rescue incidents in an amazing 45 years' service.

Brian taught mathematics at Lairthwaite School, then its successor Keswick School, for 21 years, and was also involved in outdoor pursuits with the schools, including skiing, canoeing, and Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Brian's first rescue incident was in winter conditions on Carrock Fell in January 1970. "The team rescued a soldier who was suffering from hypothermia, and put him in a hot bath at a nearby farm. That is not something that would happen nowadays as hypothermia victims should be re-warmed slowly."

Brian has served under the leadership of four Team Leaders in the 45 years, and from three rescue bases.

In one period he was a Base Quartermaster, but, over the last 16 years he was the collection box co-ordinator for the Team, looking after the approximately 280 collection boxes dotted around the town and vicinity. It is estimated that more than £370,000 was brought in from the boxes during that time, including £29,000 during last year.

More than 1000 incidents is a remarkable achievement. Brian recalls many memorable callouts, including three notable incidents on Skiddaw. Two, those of 31st December 2000, and 20th January 2009, were in savage winter conditions, with difficult evacuation of the casualties, the latter incident involving hypothermia cases. Hypothermia was a feature again in the third Skiddaw incident, that of 21st June 2006. Prevailing weather was the memorable feature of another callout, when Brian was blown over and carried along by a fierce strong wind on Brandreth.

Probably the most unusual incident he attended was when he and two other team members donned skis one morning to evacuate a couple who had been benighted and were marooned in Skiddaw House. George Fisher, team leader at the time had two pairs of snow racquettes in his shop and suggested the casualties could walk out on them in the deep snow. "It was not the best idea! It takes a while to get used to them and our casualties were exhausted! In fact it ended in tears!"

"I have enjoyed my 45 years with the team and shall miss the camaraderie and friendship offered over this time. I still expect my pager to go off and it will take a while to get used to each day going to plan! I feel proud to have been a member of such a professional organisation and feel assured that it is in very capable hands."



## On Probation

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Walking into the rescue base for the first time 12 months ago, I vividly remember being overwhelmed by a world a million miles away from my family one at home. The vehicles seemed enormous, the men towered over me, there was kit I didn't recognize everywhere all being neatly checked and repacked. How could a Mum with 2 young children possibly fit in here was my first reaction.

I joined as a pre probationer in January 2015 and then at the end of March after attending some team training sessions and a hill assessment day, I was voted in as a probationer for a year. That year is nearly up and reflecting back I realise quite how much I've done and learned although there still seems so much more to learn.

As a probationer with KMRT, you are on call as soon as you are voted in so I spent my first 4 days constantly checking my phone for that elusive first callout text. When it came I was at a riding lesson with my daughter but I was able to leave her with a friend and made it in time for second truck. I've attended almost 40 now but the first was one of the most serious with a casualty with suspected spinal injuries. To see the team at work was humbling and exciting at the same time and I was hooked.

Since then I've been out on searches with our amazing search dogs, walked people off the hill at dawn, attended numerous lower leg injuries, mountain bike and climbing accidents and sadly one fatality. No two callouts are the same – the terrain, the weather and the injuries are always the variables and the make up of the team changes each time too depending on everyone's availability. I've spent hours walking up hills and carrying stretchers with team members of all ages and backgrounds and they have become almost like a second family. For me, the sense of camaraderie is as good as the feeling you get from helping a casualty.

And then there's the training. Like most people on the team, my life outside of KMRT is busy – my husband and I run a travel business in town and when I'm not working, I'm taxiing children around. So, I have tried hard to fit in as much as I could – helicopter training with the new Sikorskys, rigging for rescue, winter training in Zermatt and Glencoe, driver training as well as the Thursday night sessions from our base. There are many more opportunities too.

I have loved my probationary year. I joined to learn something new and have an excuse to be out on the fell more as well as doing something worthwhile. While I have put a lot in, I feel that I have got even more out of the experience. It can be difficult juggling commitments and I've definitely needed my family's full support to enable me to make callouts and training, but whatever happens at the final vote next month, I feel really privileged to have been part of such a professional, friendly team for the last 12 months.

**Sarah Bennett**



*Winter Alpine Training*



### “Wainwright: A Love Letter to the Lakeland Fells”

*This was “A major exhibition for all those who love the English Lakes, exploring Wainwright’s world; his walks and unique method of recording them; his enduring challenge to us, as well as celebrating the sheer beauty of the fells!”*

There is no doubting the importance of Wainwright’s writings in the world of hillwalking. He and many other writers have popularised the attractions of fell-walking, and facilitated the activity. The challenge for many walkers is to complete the ascent of all 214 fells given “separate fell” status in the Wainwright guide books, a challenge known as “completing the Wainwrights.”

Each year, the more fells are the location of many accidents and incidents throughout the Lake District. Keswick MRT is one of the twelve teams in The Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association, the umbrella body for mountain rescue teams in Cumbria.

A less well-known fact about Alfred Wainwright is that for a brief period he was a member of one of those twelve teams, Kendal Mountain Rescue Team.

Keswick MRT contributed a display at the Keswick Museum exhibition.

The poster for the event concentrated upon two accident “blackspots” in the area covered by the Team, Sharp Edge on Blencathra, and Barf.

The Team website, [www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk) has much information about these and other incident blackspots.

Please take care on all the fells, and

**“Watch Where You’re Putting Your Feet”** (Wainwright).

### Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



## “WATCH WHERE YOU’RE PUTTING YOUR FEET”



### Sharp Edge - “sharp enough for shaving”

The “rising cress of naked rock” of Sharp Edge on Blencathra is technically undemanding, if you have a head for heights, are a competent scrambler and the conditions are ideal. However, conditions are often less than perfect and the slate is polished and very slippery when wet or icy. In such conditions walkers should “use common sense” and turn back - Sharp Edge should be left for another day.



Many walkers are drawn to the easier paths on the northern side of the ridge which finishes at a gully, but here the rock is poor and loose and comes away in your hands. Slips and falls from Sharp Edge often have very serious consequences. With Keswick M.R.T. having responded to 86 incidents, 11 of which have been fatalities, Sharp Edge should always be considered a serious undertaking.



“use common sense”



### Barf “little rogue mountain that cannot be tamed”

Walkers are often attracted to Barf by the whitewashed beacon of rock known as “The Bishop” and often continue from this “venerable figure” to the summit. However, the ground is steep and loose, particularly above the Bishop, where the “walls of rotten rock cannot be trusted for handholds and fall apart as a touch”.



The route leads to SCAPE Crag which needs to be ascended by a short, but exposed, slanting rocky ramp. With descent seeming even more hazardous, this is where people find themselves in something of a predicament. Wainwright described the route as “A very stiff scramble, suitable only for people overflowing with animal strength and vigour”.

Keswick M.R.T.’s archive records 28 rescues on Barf, 13 of which have been in the last five years

### Mountain Rescue Teams

Keswick M.R.T. is a charity run entirely by local volunteers. They will respond to help anyone who is in need, whether injured, stuck or lost. To help yourselves - please take care on Sharp Edge, Barf and all the fells of Lakeland, and don’t risk something today, that would be better done tomorrow, because, as Wainwright said:

*“The fleeting hour of life of those who love the hills is quickly spent, but the hills are eternal”*



### LAND ROVERS PASSED ON TO OTHER TEAMS

In the traditions of the Team, our retiring Land Rovers were donated to the most deserving MRT(s) who could make use of them. One of the teams was South Snowdonia SRT in North Wales, whose Team members came up to Keswick to claim the vehicle.

Our second retiring Land Rover was donated to Kintail Mountain Rescue Team in Scotland.

The keys were handed over to Chris Nixon, Team Leader of Kintail MRT.



### BRISTOW RESCUE HELICOPTERS

2015 saw the launch of Bristow's operation of SAR in our area. Here is the S92 at a training session:



## KMRT Support and “Thank You”

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Support for the team comes in many ways and the Team is always very grateful for the time and effort people make. Here's a large picture painted by pupils from St. Herbert's School, Keswick.



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## KMRT Support and “Thank You”

“Myself and my son baked and hand decorated these cakes tonight to raise money for you guys tomorrow at the school cake sale. You went out to my son on 24th March when he fell off his mountain bike in Whinlatter forest whilst on his school residential. We are also doing a sponsored walk in July to raise money. Thank you for all you guys did and do. Superb xxxx will update you on the sponsored walk in July xxx.”



# Collection Box Sponsors

Thank you to all the establishments who host our collection boxes and their customers who support the team with their donations. The amount raised in 2015 was £29,000.

Abacourt House	Cumbrian Cottages	High Lodore Farm Café	Spar BP Garage	Royal Oak Keswick	The Wainwright
Acorn House	Cumbria House	The Hollies	The Lookout Guest House	Royal Oak	Wetherspoon
Alexandras	Cyclewise Whinlatter	Homethwaite House	Love the Lakes	Sally at Threlkeld, Salutation Inn	West View Guest House
Alhambra Cinema	Dale Bottom Camp Site	(Elizabeth Lingard)	Luchinis	Sandon Guest House	Whinlatter Siskin Tearoom
Allerdale House	Dalegarth Hotel	Honister Mine	Lynwood Guest House	Saw Mill Café Dodd	White Horse Inn
Alternative	Dale Head Hall Hotel	Hope Memorial Camp	Lyzzick Hall Hotel	Scatell Hotel	The Wild Strawberry
Armathwaite Hall	Dandelion Cafe HF	Hope Park Mini-Golf Kiosk	30 Manor Park	Scotgate Camping Site	Winchester Guest House
Ashness Farm	David and Elaine Burn, Ashtree	Horse and Farrier	Mary Mount Hotel	Seatoller House	Woodside Guest House
Avondale Guest House	Avenue	How Keld	Medical Centre	Seven Oaks Guest House	Yew Tree Café
Bank Tavern	Derwent Club	HSBC	Middle Ruddings Hotel	Scales Farm Cottage	Yew Tree Guest House
Barclays Bank	Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre	Hunters Way Guest House	Mill Inn Mungrisedale	Shemara Guest House	
Barn Gill House	Derwentwater Caravan Park	Java	Moot Hall	Shipstone & Co	
The Beeches	Derwentwater Marina	Keswick Bike Co.	Morrell's	Siennas	
Birch How Guest House	Derwentwater Hostel	Keswick Brewing Co.	Mountain Warehouse	Silver City	
Blacks	Dorchester House	Keswick Cottage Hospital	Namaste 21 Manesty View	Silverdale Hotel	
Bookends	Dog and Gun	Keswick Golf Club	Near Howe Mungrisedale	Skiddaw Croft	
Booths kiosk	Dollywaggon Guest House	Keswick Collectables	Needlesports	Skiddaw Grove Hotel	
Boots chemist	Eden Green	Keswick Launch Company	Newlands Adventure Centre	Skiddaw Hotel	
Borrowdale Caravan Club Site	Edwardene Hotel	Keswick Park Hotel	New House	Skiddaw House Hostel	
Borrowdale Hotel	Edz	Keswick Reminder Office	Nichol End Marine	The Soap Co.	
Borrowdale YHA	Eel Crags	Keswick Spa	Nordicoutdoors	Spar Grocers	
Braithwaite Court HPB	The Electric Shop	Keswick YHA	Norwegian Store	Spoonery Green Cottage	
Bramblewood Guest House	Ellergill Guest House	Kingfisher	Old Keswickian	Squirrel Lodge Guest House	
Brierholme Guest House	Erinville Guest House	Kong Adventure	Open All Hours	Star of Siam	
Brookfield Guest House	Farmers Arms	Kings Head Hotel	Out There	Strathmore Guest House	
Brun Lea Guest House	Fat Face	Kirkbride Eyecare	Oval Caravan and Camping Site	Stybeck Farm	
Brysons	Ferndene Guest House	Knotts View	Oxleys at Underscar	Sun Inn	
Camping and Caravan Club Site	Field and Trek	Lairbeck Hotel	Packhorse Inn	Sunnyside Guest House	
The Card Collection	Fine Designs	Lakeland Décor	Parkergate	Swinside Farm Cottage	
Cartwheel Guest House	Flamingo	Lakeland Slate	Paramo	Swinside Inn	
Casa's	George Fisher	Lakeland Toys and Hobbies	Peathouse	Swinside Lodge	
Castle Inn	George Hotel	Lakeland View Guest House	Pheasant Inn	Swiss Court Hotel	
Castlerigg Farm Camping Site	Golden Lion	Lakeland	Pillar House	Tarn Hows Guest House	
Castlerigg Hall Caravan and	Goosewell Farm Climbing Wall	Lake Road Inn (Wainwright)	Pizza Panorama	Temple Sports	
Camping Park	Garamara Outdoor Centre	Lakes Bar and Bistro	Portland House	Theatre by the Lake	
The Chalet	Glencoe Guest House	The Lakes Fish Restaurant	Primrose Cottage, Dalston	Thornleigh Guest House	
Chillies Guest House	Glendale Guest House	Lakeside House	Primrose Cottage	Thornthwaite Gallery	
Clarence House	Grange Bridge Cottage Café	Lanehead Farm Guest House	Pumpkin Café	TOG 24	
Claremont House	Grange Café	Lengstrath Hotel	The Puzzling Place	Touchwood	
Coldale Inn Braithwaite	Greystoke House	Larry's Lodge	Rathbone	Traditional Sweet Shop	
The Cornish Pasty	Greystones Guest House	Laura of the Lakes	Ravenstone Hotel	Travis Perkins	
Cotswold	Hawcliffe Guest House	Laurel Bank Guest House	Ravenstone Lodge Hotel	Trespas	
Craghills Boot Store	Hazel Bank Hotel	Leathes Head Hotel	Ravensworth House	Troutbeck Inn	
Craglands Guest House	Hazelmere Guest House	Lynton Lodge	Rickerby Grange	Troutbeck Caravan and Camping	
Cragside Guest House	Hedgehog Hill	Little Chestnut Hill	Rivendell Guest House	site	
Crow Park Hotel	The Heights Hotel	Littlefield Guest House	Rohan	Twa Dogs	
Cumberland Pencil Museum	Herdwick Guest House	Lodore Falls Hotel	Royal Oak	Tynemouth Lodge (Tynemouth)	



The Team has had another busy year and consequently has had the extra expenditure that is associated with more callouts.

Most of the income of the Team is not guaranteed and it fluctuates from year to year so comparisons are not too helpful unless over a long period.

Donations this year have been £96,271 whereas last year was only £50,664. This is due to some large donations from LDSAMRA.

Legacies this year were £8,000 whereas last year was £44,435.

The only regular income over the years has been from the Collection boxes around our area. This has been gradually increasing and this last year raised over £29,000. The co-ordinator, Brian Spencer, retires this year end after being responsible for raising over £370,000 during his tenure.

Although the Team have only been able to claim back VAT on various purchases since April it appears that we will be able to save about £6,000 per year in expenditure.

We are in the process of upgrading our IT equipment at a significant, but very necessary cost. New personal wet weather gear has also been purchased this year.

This year the Team is going to change its charitable status from a "Charitable Company" to "Charitable Incorporated Organisation."

All in all we are able to keep on top of our expenditure thanks to the generosity of you, the General Public, in the shape of covenants, legacies and general donations from so many well meaning people.

It is the policy of the Team not to single out individual donors in the report but everyone who donates is much appreciated by the Team members and we are greatly appreciative of everyone's kindness.

We would not be able to function without you!

As usual our independently examined accounts are available for all to see on the Charity Commissioners website:

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

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

Bob Atkinson	Enid Cooper	Esme Little
Peter Baker	George Davidson	Gwynne Mainwairing
Mick Blake	Valerie Davies	Jean Maxfield
Alan Bowler	Dick Fisher	Charles Miller
Keith Broughton	John Graham	Ramon Norman
Mick Brown	Gordon Gray	Mark Patterson
Howard and Eileen Brunton	Christopher Green	Keith Ramsden
Campbell Connet	J and G Hadwin	Don Rostern
Howard Cooke	Michael Hodgson	Matt Wilkes
	Paul Kent	



Ian Wallace

## 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 5DU

### Trustees:

Mr. Malcolm Miller, Chairman (Resigned 29 January 2015)  
Mr. Gordon Barker, Chairman (Appointed 31 October 2015)  
Mr. Ian Wallace, Treasurer  
Mr. Paul Cheshire, Secretary (Resigned 29 January 2015)  
Ms. Fiona Boyle, Secretary  
Mr. Chris Higgins, Team Leader  
Mr. Paul Horder, General Team Member 1  
Mr. Thomas Blakely, General Team Member 2 (Appointed 31 October 2015)

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

**Investment Advisor:** 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 along with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 October 2015. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out 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 £359,418 (2014 - £600,549) which is three times the previous year's adjusted expenditure.

The building reserve is a reserve to be set aside to cover the development of the base and headquarters in future years. The reserve has been set at £300,000 (2014 - £250,000).

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

During the year ended 31 October 2015 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.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.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 on 8 January 2016 and signed on their behalf by: **Mr Gordon Barker, 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 25*

# 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 25p 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**



2016





## 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 !

2016

**Bankers Order:** 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)

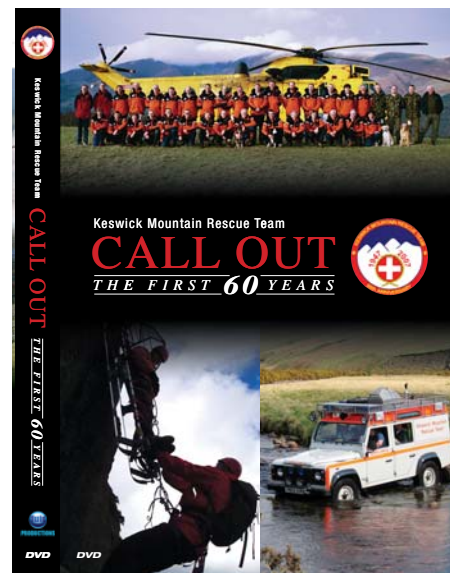
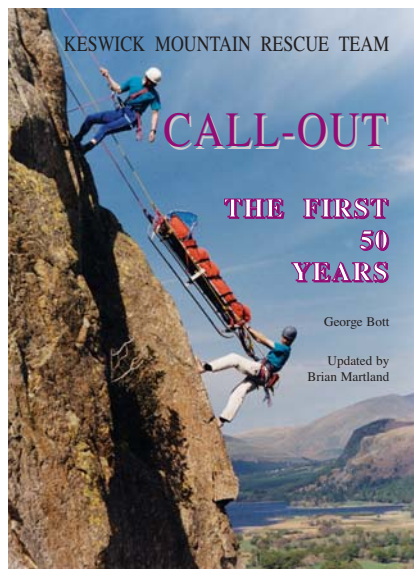
On 24 April 1946, Wilfrid Noyce, later a member of John Hunt's successful Everest team, was badly injured while he was climbing on Great Gable. His rescue – a long and difficult operation – prompted a local climber, Colonel Horace Westmorland, to form a properly organised Mountain Rescue Team.

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 £9.00**

**DVD £9.00**

**including postage and packaging**

## 999 Text Service for Emergency Calls



*Incident 33*

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

*See also the Team's Website:* [www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)



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



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