

Welcome to this Report detailing our activities for 2002.

Thanks to Venus Griffiths for the mixed media "Sharp Edge" used on the cover.

In contrast here is an image of "Sharp Edge" taken from an RAF helicopter on a training exercise.



Sharp Edge.

Peter Little

## Glenmore Lodge Training Weekend



Cairn Gorm Summit.



Testing a Snow Bollard.



Snow-hole Shelters.

Karen Holmes

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

Team Leader: Mark Hodgson

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Rosthwaite Keswick

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Training Officers: Roy Henderson Jill Sharpe

Radio Officer: Alan Prescott Transport Officer: Allan Alcock

Equipment Officers: Martin Bell Chris Higgins

Base Officer: Keith Stephenson Report Editor: Peter Little Honorary Auditor: John Wood



CALLOUT LIST: Allan Alcock

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Peter Barron Jan Beedham Martin Bell

Fiona Boyle

Paul Carter Paul Cheshire

Neil Dowie Mike Fanning Anne Francis

Chris Francis Mick Guy Roy Henderson

Scott Henderson Chris Higgins

Mark Hodgson Simon Hodgson

Karen Holmes Dr Tim Hooper Forecourt Attendant

Retired

National Park Ranger Laboratory Technician Ambulance Technician

Lecturer

Production Manager Chartered Engineer

Hotelier Solicitor Teacher

> Research Assistant Head Teacher National Trust Warden

National Park Ranger Outdoor Pursuits Instructor Chartered Builder

Builder

Outdoor Pursuits Instructor

GP

Katharine Horder Paul Horder Robin Humphrevs

Andy Jones Peter Little Brian Martland Malcolm Miller

Phil Newton Mike Nixon MBF Simon Noble Des Oliver David Pratt

Alan Prescott David Robinson

Jocky Sanderson

Jill Sharpe Brian Spencer Keith Stephenson

Chris Strutt lan Wallace

Dr Peter White

Head Teacher Retired

Cashier Retired **Pharmacist** Retired Head Teacher

Retired Retired Teacher Retired Teacher

Senior Manager Shop Manager

Outdoor Pursuits Instructor

Nurse Retired Joiner Trainee Solicitor

Retired GP

## **Editorial**

#### Unabridged

Team members are dedicated and assiduous in attending callouts and weekly practice sessions. It could be said of our base that many team members have almost taken home there!

While the circumstances of every callout will be different, we have a popular area of the Lake District to cover, and the types of callout presented are identifiable for practice purposes, and we know all about certain black spots, (e.g. Sharp Edge on Blencathra). We have training programmes that underpin what could be termed "service models" enabling the efficient delivery of high standards, whether the topic be casualty care, ropework, driving, or one of the many other tasks.

It is essential that important simple things are done right all the time. While we have lectures and presentations in our schedules, with in-house expertise and external speakers, we also commit ourselves to frequent training sessions on the fell. From the latter, it may be said that we often act our way into a new way of thinking, rather than think our way into a new way of acting.

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

Familiarity leads to a spirit of close cooperation and a set of personal relationships that are secure and generate confidence. Everyone is empowered to offer input, and to exchange ideas. With minimal hoopla, practice sessions can also mean having a bit of fun!

Perhaps, as a theme for its operations the team strives to "do things well, and do things better", but will always be on the lookout to "do better things"

2002 was dubbed "International Year Of Mountains" and in the Lake District there was a continuation of the mass return to the mountains that had started in the aftermath of the "Foot and Mouth" epidemic of the previous year. The restrictions upon hill goers had been lifted. The team had a very full year's worth of activities, recording the high total of 78 callouts. As you read this Report, you'll discover how 2002 has been an important year for us, with the spectrum of undertakings wide and unabridged.

Peter Little



The area of our activities

## Chairman's Report

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Stretcher loading in poor conditions.

**KMRT** 

It has been said, somewhat caustically, that mountain rescue is the fastest growing sport in the UK.

Whilst a little unkind there may be something in that statement. It is certainly an area of growth. Not in terms of the sheer numbers of people active in mountain rescue teams, but in terms of the numbers of calls made upon the rescue teams, and the weight of expectation that there will be a response to a call no matter what, when or where.

Mountain rescue teams have long prided themselves on adopting, indeed encouraging, that expectation. Can there be any other where the call for assistance stems from an accident demanding immediate assistance to an injured person? The answer would seem to be "no". But even that most obvious of responses is not beyond query. Does, for example, a broken finger demand the services of the rescue team? Circumstances might dictate that it does, but more often than not the answer will be "no"

I can think of numerous examples where people with not insignificant injuries have secured their own safety without recourse to a rescue team. Indeed, several members of the Keswick Team have got themselves off the hill notwithstanding painful breaks and strains.

I can also think of several instances of the Team being called to assist in less than pressing situations. For example, the "escorting" from the fell of the aforesaid broken finger (and its human appendage!); or being asked to evacuate an otherwise perfectly fit individual who was, in truth, merely hungry. That individual, incidentally, when encouraged by phone to eat some of his emergency rations, walked the short distance back to his car unassisted.

Of course, there is a balance to be struck. Again, there are several members of the Keswick Team (including a Training Officer, and a Deputy Leader!) who have gratefully resorted to the services of a mountain rescue team to get them down – but in situations of last recourse or where self help was a complete non-starter. To be fair, the vast majority of calls for immediate assistance following an accident are entirely appropriately made and not to be discouraged. Such situations are the *raison-d'etre* of mountain rescue teams.

Where there is more difficulty (and perhaps this is a personal observation only) is with searches. Again, perhaps it's a personal perception, but the number of night time searches seems to be increasing. And they are hard work!

Many, but not all, searches are now initiated by the fraught mobile phone call from someone who knows where they set off from, but not where they have been since, or (self-evidently) where they are now. The phone then goes dead – either because the battery is useless, or because the individual is in fact moving and has dropped out of signal.

The knowledge that somebody is out lost on the fells (usually at night and in poor weather) is enough to turn out the Team. But it really is a needle in a haystack situation. Unless the missing person is on a path, they are virtually impossible to find. In the scheme of things, people tend to get lost when the weather is foul, and it is next to impossible to "search" beyond the edge of the path owing to the combination of driving rain or snow, wind noise, and swirling clag, each of which exacerbate the general gloom of night time.

And that assumes that the person is actively looking to be found. Not surprisingly, someone caught out in the worst of weather is either going to continue in their efforts to move to lower (and

## Chairman's Report continued . . . —

safer) ground, or "go to ground" until the weather eases or first light arrives – whichever is the sooner. Either the missing person is walking away from his would be rescuers, or he cannot hear or see his rescuers to respond to them – even if they pass mere feet away. The missing person is doing only what common sense dictates they should, but in doing so makes the possibility of being found even less likely.

Searches are in the main wet, cold, demoralising and fatiguing in the extreme. And generally the outcome is the same – the missing person walks out after first light none the worse for wear. Which begs the question – why the phone-call in the first place? Was it truly a call made out of a fear of the consequences of benightment in terrible conditions? Or was it a case of seeking to avoid, or minimise by sooner rescue, the discomfort that inevitably accompanies an unscheduled night out? I suspect that it is the latter that predominates – not out of any maliciousness on the part of the caller, but because the rescue teams have themselves fostered the belief that such a phone-call is always appropriate.

Having received such a call (or, worse, the call from someone who expected another to have booked in/phoned in/ met up etc) the question for the rescue team is: "who are we to gamble with peoples lives?" And because to wrestle with the answer to that is uncomfortable, the rescue teams will continue to turn out come what may to search for the apparently lost, in the hope that, this time, they might just make a difference. Undoubtedly, on occasions, that difference has been life or death. But rarely.

All of us who are involved in mountain rescue do so on a voluntary basis. We are under no compulsion to become involved, or, indeed, to go out when called upon to do so. In truth, there is a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction in being a

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

member of a mountain rescue team - otherwise we wouldn't do it.

But, I can't help feeling just a little dismayed that an expectation exists that, no matter what, a rescue team will turn out to find or assist those who never, really, needed to be found or assisted in the first place. Indeed, some of the people we turn out for never expected anyone to come looking for them at all. They were content to have their little adventure secure in the knowledge that, with their equipment and in the prevailing conditions, they would come to no harm.

The dictionary definition suggests that "sport" is "....an activity pursued for exercise or pleasure...". The training, the camaraderie, even the administrative elements associated with being a member of a mountain rescue team tend to the conclusion that we are indulging in a hobby close to, if not in fact, a sport. But the rescues themselves are a job of work – albeit a labour of love which (in the main) generate a sense of tremendous satisfaction.

So, is mountain rescue a sport?

It can certainly give the appearance of being one, and is perhaps partially responsible for fostering both this perception and a higher than necessary "market" for its services – with the busier teams (in particular) suffering the consequences in terms of requests, or pressure (perhaps self induced), to turn out.

But at 02:30 in the morning in the Central fells in a howling gale and soaked to the core looking for someone who isn't there, the answer is obvious. Mountain rescue is not a sport. It's not perfect. It's not fun. It is this - a demonstration of goodwill and charity at its best.

Mike Fanning



Training at Brown Crag.

Paul Horder

## Team Leader's Report

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



The Air Ambulance

**KMRT** 

122 calls to the Team from the police resulted in 78 Full-Team callouts, the other 44 calls being classed as alerts. An alert is defined, by Keswick Team, as an incident where the leader and deputies are called or paged by the police but which does not result in a full callout of the Team. This may be for; walkers reported overdue where it is decided to give them a couple of extra hours – which in 9 out of 10 times works, for flashing lights seen on the fells, or occasionally where a group has got themselves 'temporarily misplaced' and ring for help from their mobiles. Again these latter types of calls can occasionally be dealt with by 'remote control' but sometimes of course they do develop into full-blown searches. For the actual numbers of callouts this makes 2002 the third busiest year in the Team's history, following closely behind '95 and '92 which had 86 and 82 respectively. It is by far the busiest year for alerts. The 78 callouts again made Keswick the busiest Rescue Team in the Lake District and potentially the busiest Mountain Rescue Team in the country.

The statistics from the 78 rescues read as follows: 30 legs, 17 searches, 3 head injuries, 2 mountain bikes, 4 arms, 2 water rescues, 7 climbing/scrambling, 6 medical and 7 'others'. There were 2 fatalities in the year, this being one of the lowest years for such incidents. There is an interesting statistic that demonstrates that, out of some 2080 recorded rescues undertaken by the Team between 1948 and the end of 2002, just over 10% have been fatalities. Fortunately the number of fatalities on the fells per year has remained fairly static; thankfully it has not risen in proportion to the rise in numbers of callouts over the years.

We used helicopters on 12 occasions in the year, 8 from the RAF or Royal Navy and the Air Ambulance on 4 occasions. The

helicopters available from the forces RAF Boulmer, Leconfield and Valley, and RN Gannet differ considerably to the North West Air Ambulance, which operates from its base in Blackpool. The Sea-Kings of the RAF and Navy are larger and can therefore carry more personnel, have better endurance, are able to operate at night and can winch Team members and a stretcher in or out of the aircraft. The Air Ambulance needs to land close to the casualty site in order to load a casualty on a stretcher. The Air Ambulance is a new asset that the Team is able to call upon, and in the right conditions and location provides a rapid transfer time to hospital. Their flight time from their base of approx 25 minutes gives the advantage of being able to call upon their services after we have arrived at the casualty site and been able to fully assess the casualty's condition and potential landing sites. The skill of all the helicopter crews is greatly appreciated by the Team, as it is I am sure by our casualties.

The Team has the opportunity with the publication of our Annual Report, to officially thank the following: All Team members for their commitment throughout the year; wives, husbands and families for all their support and the missed evenings and days out, and to Team members' employers for their support by way of allowing members time away from work, normally at very short notice. Our thanks also go of course to all the people who support us financially by way of specific financial donations, equipment provision and discounts, and those who drop their loose change into our collecting boxes. With no grants or public funding we rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters.

Returning to the number of alerts and rescues in the year, 2003 has seen the Police calling on our services for incidents which would not normally be called 'mountain' rescues. We were involved in a search for a 6 yr old lad who had gone missing from

the hostel where he was staving, and also for an elderly gentleman suffering from Alzheimer's who had not returned to his nursing home, both incidents in the town and its immediate surrounding area. In such situations we are able to call on 38 people who can respond within minutes to such a situation, providing the Police with an organised team fully equipped to undertake and manage such an incident. We can also call on the assistance of neighbouring Teams and SARDA Lakes, the cross-Lake District Search and Rescue Dog Association. Searching back yards, gardens, fields, churchyards, parks and the like is somewhat different to searching the high fells - and just as hard work.

The one resource we lack in all types of incidents is a reliable radio system. Our old sets are failing us, spares are very difficult to obtain as more and more manufacturers have dropped out of this fairly narrow market. Within the next 2 to 3 years we must also change to a different radio frequency, as our old frequency will no longer be available. Given the difficulties we suffer working on the current frequency, this in itself is not a problem it is hugely frustrating when your handset will not allow you to communicate with someone you can see across a valley or further up/down the fell!

Our current radio system was provided over 10 years ago, to all Teams in the Lakes, by Cumbria Police, who also maintain some of our sets for us. The radio and communications subcommittee of our umbrella organisation LDSAMRA (Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association) have been researching the provision of new radios across all Lakes Teams: investigating options, testing equipment, obtaining prices etc.

# Team Leader's Report continued ... Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

The cost of re-equipping all Teams in the Lakes will be considerable and will run into several hundred thousand pounds; however, this must be done, and needs to be done all at the same time as we regularly have multi-team searches and incidents where we must be able to talk to each other. Representations are currently being made to Cumbria Police for their commitment to provide the Lakes Teams with this new equipment when specifications and details of the equipment have been finalised and agreed. We are not asking for financial support immediately, but are suggesting that allowance is made in subsequent years' financial budgets to enable this support to be provided by the Police in Cumbria, as is already happening in other areas of the country.

Finally, I would like to announce that Mike Nixon MBE, our Team President has been awarded the Mountain Rescue Council Distinguished Service Award for all the work done by Mike in over 50 years with the Team. Since 1983 when we began formally recording individual Team members' attendance on rescues, Mike has been on over 900 callouts, a phenomenal number. If ever anyone deserved this award it is Mike, who joins just 44 other recipients from across Mountain Rescue in England and Wales and becomes the 4th Keswick member to receive the award, previous recipients being: George (MBE) and Dick Fisher and 'Rusty' (OBE) Westmorland. Mike is to be presented with his certificate at the MRC weekend at Plas y Brenin in May. Congratulations to Mike.

Mark Hodgson



Air Ambulance in Action - Sharp Edge in the background. **KMRT** 

## **Equipment Officers' Report**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Boat Training.

Peter Barron

Team members attend incidents in all weathers and at any time of day or night, and we cannot afford to be ill prepared. Whilst many people across the country settle down for a good night's sleep, members of Keswick M.R.T. may well be donning fleeces, boots, waterproofs and the like, essential clothing to protect us through the long night of a search and/ or rescue for overdue or injured walkers. Waterproofs from Lowe Alpine, fleece and windproof garments from Montane, trousers from Karrimor, we have tried, tested and proven these -and other items from various manufacturers that suit our particular needs. A rescuer could easily become at least ineffective, or, at worst, a casualty themselves, in seventy mile per hour winds on the summit of Skiddaw, or in the subzero winter temperatures on the front of Great End. It is with these experiences in mind that we purchase new clothing and equipment. We strive for the best prices, as being financed by donations we wish to spend your money wisely, and most suppliers generously offer us some discount.

The year was a quiet one for the Equipment Officers. Over the past few years we have worked hard to establish an equipment programme which has now proven effective in terms of easily identifying renewal dates for technical equipment and personal kit. Our scheme of reviewing/ replacing clothing on a four yearly cycle seems, now, to be an effective system. The scheme allows for the overall expenditure on kit to be spread over the four years. One of the benefits of this is that our Treasurer can get a good night's sleep, (although not if he's out with the rest of the Team searching on Glaramara or in upper Eskdale). In line with the programme of reviewing/replacing kit, the Team in 2002 purchased Karrimor fleece trousers or tights, (the choice was left to individual team members), Keela thermals, and small but very effective Petzl Tikka L.E.D. head-torches. Next year team members will be able to access a £50 allowance towards summer mountain footwear, and we will be reviewing the state of our current Pertex windproofs. That shouldn't upset our Treasurer too much ....should it?!

We would like to thank all the manufacturers and retailers who have so generously supported us. Some have supplied samples for us to test, most have given the Team some form of discount, for which we are very grateful, and all have provided prompt and reliable service.

**Chris Higgins** 

## **Training Report**

As always this has been a busy year for the Team, with weekly sessions on all aspects of training needed to fulfil our rescue role. We have had team members training intensively both "inhouse" and on external courses. As ever we must be grateful for the skills and expertise within the Team and the willingness of team members to structure practices and pass on their knowledge and skills.

We have also restructured our training schedules to try and look at skills desirable and skills necessary for all team members to keep abreast of changes in techniques whilst keeping an eye on current legislation and sharing good practice. This has resulted in a series of "core" skills practices running throughout the year, which all team members are expected to attend.

Twelve team members took part in our annual winter skills weekend at Glenmore Lodge in February, in good conditions, practising snow and ice techniques for rescue, and having the opportunity for some ascents of routes in the corries. As ever, we find that training together over a period of days enhances team relationships as well as our skills.

We are using courses nationally to fulfil our training needs. Team members have attended white water skills courses, "Rigging for Rescue" and rope access courses, and have fed back their learning to the team as a whole. We continue to have good

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

relationships with the helicopter crews we work with in the RAF and Navy, as well as the Air Ambulance, and train with these crews on a regular basis.

Currently we are in the process of putting all members through an intensive advanced driving course. This is intended to grow our skills and observation on the roads, both in cars, and in driving team vehicles in a rescue situation. This is proving enjoyable and has provided much "food for thought" about our current individual skills!

The Mountain Rescue Council First Aid exam, which all team members are expected to take, comes around every three years, and we are undertaking extensive training at present, as well as our ongoing first aid practices, as we will sit the written and practical skills exams in March 2003. Once again we expect every team member to pass as they have all managed to do successfully for many years now.

The levels of expertise in the team ensure that our skills allow fast and efficient rescues in sometimes difficult conditions. We are grateful for the high levels of commitment to training all our members undertake and it is always very satisfying to see these bear fruit on such rescues.

Jill Sharpe



Rope work at Shepherd's Crag.

Paul Horder



Stretcher work at Shepherd's Crag.

KMRT

## Medical Report

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Tim (left) attending to a casualty.

**KMRT** 

Medical practice changes continually, and the Team has to work hard to stay abreast of developments. Pre-hospital emergency care is emerging as a medical speciality in its own right. A subgroup comprising the two doctors, nurse, trainee paramedic, pharmacist, and other interested members meets periodically to discuss changes, and advise the team on policy.

The principles of "ABC", (Airway, Breathing, Circulation), remain of paramount importance, and are the foundation of team members' first aid training. The team will be subscribing to an

airway management course for members, which will include the emergency use of the laryngeal mask airway. This is a device to assist an unconscious person to breathe. It is widely used in general anaesthetics, and is now finding a role in trauma.

Equipment becomes ever more refined, and a welcome development is the appearance of lightweight carbon fibre oxygen cylinders, which will soon be deployed by the team. Blood glucose testing kits are now available for use in unconscious casualties and in diabetic emergencies.

We may have new challenges to face. Some mountain bikers are starting to wear full-face crash helmets, (like motorcycle helmets), rather than the traditional cycling helmet. These will present new problems in the management of the airway and neck of an unconscious casualty.

Tim Hooper



Practicing Log Roll! KMRT

## **Incident Report 2002**

Compiled by Paul Horder

#### 1 7 January 11:56 Shivery Knott, High Tove

A man (50 yrs) slipped on ice, injured his ribs/chest.

#### 2 9 January 04:46 Central Fells

A request to assist Wasdale MRT in a search for a man (22 yrs) who had phoned in to say he was lost on Great Gable. He was found the next day by search dog in Lambfoot Dub on the side of Broad Crad!

#### 3 2 February 12:21 Cat Bells summit

A man (40 yrs) was blown over by the wind. He sustained a broken fibula and torn ligaments.

#### 4 11 February 16:03 River Greta

A report of an empty 2-man canoe floating down the river, and a man frantically searching for his friend. The incident resolved itself when the missing person turned up.

#### 5 15 February 14:53 Stonethwaite area

A diabetic man (30 years), was reported to be in distress somewhere near Stonethwaite. A search was made, but the man safely turned up.

#### 6 16 February 13:00 Great End

A walker reported having found 2 abandoned rucksacks at the foot of SE Gully. They both looked as if they had been there for some time. They were retrieved by team members and given to the police for investigation. POSTSCRIPT - The climbers had apparently completed their climb late (in January) and had been unable to relocate their rucksacks.

#### 7 3 March 13:54 Force Crag, Coledale

A man (49 yrs) slipped and fell to his death while scrambling through the crag.

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

#### 8 8 March 11:28 Skiddaw House

A check was made by Land Rover of this remote hostel for a missing walker. The search was abandoned due to insufficient information on his disappearance.

#### 9 9 March 10:30 Blencathra - Scaley Beck

A walker (58 yrs) slipped and fell about 35' into a beck during an unexpected snow shower. He suffered head, chest and knee injuries.

#### 10 13 March 13:58 Sour Milk Gill, Seathwaite

A woman teacher (47 yrs) with a school group slipped and broke her ankle.

#### 11 16/17 March 08:00

Dent Station area

A request from Kendal MSRT and West Yorkshire Police to assist in search for murder victim missing since last October. We were requested to attend with search dogs and our pioneering GPS mapping technology.

#### 12 30 March 14:10 Friar's Crag

A request from the ambulance crew to assist in the evacuation of a woman with an ankle injury on the lakeshore path.

#### 13 30 March 14:39 Causev Pike

A fell runner (47 yrs) slipped and badly gashed his knee.

## 14 2 April 12:53 Watendlath - Rosthwaite path

A woman (45 yrs) wearing smooth-soled trainers slipped and broke her arm.

#### 15 4 April 15:30 Greenup Edge

A girl (17 yrs) turned her ankle and broke it.

#### Blease Fell Incident

(No.75) Chris Higgins



(a) The scene of the incident.



(b) Helicopter arrival.

#### 16 20 April 14:47 Stoneycroft Beck

A man (52 yrs) walking in a group decided to turn back. He was located by other walkers in a distressed condition. He was airlifted to hospital - suspected heart condition.

#### 17 25 April 12:34 Gowder Crag

A climber (31 yrs) fell 10 metres when a loose block came away. He sustained a dislocated shoulder.

#### 18 30 April 12:33 Cat Bells - Hause Gate path

A woman (71 yrs) slipped and sustained lower leg injuries.

#### 19 5 May 15:11 Bessyboot - Glaciated Slabs

A climber (53 yrs) fell 10 feet and injured his leg. He got some way down before being met by the Team.

#### 20 12 May 13:50 Dash Falls - Back O' Skidda

A woman (24 yrs) fell from her mountain bike on a steep track and landed 40' lower down in some waterfalls with head, neck and arm injuries. She was airlifted to hospital.

#### 21 13 May 13:24 Walla Crag - Cat Gill path

A woman (65 yrs) slipped on wet rock and broke her ankle.

#### 22 18 May 15:37 Red Beck, Glaramara

A man whistled for help when cragfast. Other walkers had assisted him by the time the Team had arrived.

#### 23 25 May 13:22 High Spy summit

A woman (59 yrs), heard a crack when her ankle twisted under her. She crawled to the summit cairn where she waited for help.

## Incident Report 2002 continued . . .

#### 24 26 May 15:37 Bram Crag area - St John's in the Vale

A fell runner taking part in the Helvellyn Race badly gashed his leg. However, he managed to reach help before the arrival of the Team.

#### 25 2 June 16:12 New Bridge, Rosthwaite

A woman (70 yrs) stumbled and injured her ankle. A local member was able to assist before the arrival of the Team.

#### 26 2 June 17:12 Skiddaw - Carlside Col

A report of a red smoke flare seen in a gully was investigated but nothing was found.

## 27 3 June 13:10

Sour Milk Gill

A walker (54 yrs) slipped and possibly dislocated his patella.

#### 28 3 June 15:10 Glaramara to Allen Crags

A woman (53 yrs) slipped on wet ground and injured her ankle.

#### 29 4 June 00:36 Central Fells

A request by Wasdale MRT to assist in search for 2 overdue walkers who had left Wasdale to climb Scafell Pike at 5pm. They were both ill-equipped and inexperienced.

#### 30 5 June 17:04 River Greta - Low Briery

A boy (15 yrs), a member of a Duke of Edinburgh group, slid 50' down a steep bank towards the river, colliding with trees and landing in some boulders.

#### 31 12 June 13:37 Latrigg summit

An American visitor (65 yrs) slipped and broke his ankle.

## Incident Report 2002 continued . . . —

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

#### 32 20 June 22:36 Skiddaw Littleman - Black Beck

A woman (35 yrs) turned her ankle.

#### 33 3 July 15:12 Ormathwaite

A woman (77 yrs) slipped and broke her ankle.

#### 34 8 July 23:27 Brundholme Woods

A 6 yr old boy escaped from his bedroom window while staving in the area. Found 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours later in a tree.

#### 35 10 July 13:11 Cat Bells

A woman (59 yrs) slipped and broke her ankle.

#### 36 13 July 19:33 Low Rigg

A woman collapsed while walking.

#### 37 13 July 22:34 Derwentwater

A man (27 yrs) disappeared while swimming. He was recovered from the bed of the lake by a policeman after 27 minutes. He was revived and was said to be in a 'critical' condition in hospital.

#### 38 16 July 15:33 Barf

An elderly couple became cragfast while climbing the steep front of the mountain.

#### 39 17 July 17:46 High Coledale

A 12 yr old golden retriever needed assistance when it ran out of steam. It was hauled out of a steep sided gill on a stretcher and carried partly down the fell before it decided it could walk again.

#### 40 25 July 16:33 Blencathra - Scales Tarn

A girl (16 yrs) was hyperventilating after 'seeing a ghost'. She had recovered before the Team arrived.

#### 41 27 July 15:44 Derwentwater - Brandlehow Bay

A report of someone with chest pains. An ambulance dealt with the situation and the Team was not required.

#### 42 30 July 16:20 Brown Crag. Langstrath

A girl (17 yrs) slid about 15' into a gill while trying to escape bad weather. She broke her femur. She was rescued in a thunderstorm and taken to hospital by helicopter.

#### 43 31 July 12:03 Walla Crag - Cat Gill

A woman (43 yrs) slipped on the path and gashed her head.

#### 44 3 August 19:07 Helvellyn - Wythburn path

A walker slipped on the path and injured an ankle. Other walkers effected a recovery.

#### 45 7 August 16:00 Blencathra - Roughten Gill

A boy (12 yrs) slipped on wet grass and badly lacerated his knee.

### 46 8 August 14:47

Whiteside

A woman (59 yrs) slipped and broke her fibula.

#### 47 9 August 15:40 Blencathra - Gate Gill

A woman (40 yrs) experienced a panic attack when descending the ridge into the gill and was unable to move in the steep ground.

#### 48 10 August 15:10 Skiddaw

A girl (11 yrs) became separated from her parents on the ascent. A search was initiated. Having reached cloud level, the girl had returned by the same route and found her way to her holiday address in Keswick!



(c) Helicopter winch.



(d) Spectacular!

# 49 13 August 11:18 Puddingstone Bank, Rosthwaite

A girl (16 yrs) slipped and fell forward injuring her shoulder.

#### 50 13 August 11:43 Grains Gill

A girl (19 yrs) succumbed to poor weather conditions.

#### 51 13 August 23:15 Ennerdale - Rosthwaite (Coast to Coast)

2 men (55 yrs) were reported missing having failed to turn up at their accommodation. Their agent had mistakenly booked them into 2 addresses!

#### 52 20 August 22:15 Esk Hause area

A woman (56 yrs) became separated from her husband.

#### 53 25 August 15:02 Lingholm area

A woman (65 yrs) slipped and dislocated her elbow.

#### 54 27 August 19:00 Greenup Edge

A search was made after receiving reports that a golden retriever had been seen circling the top of a gill!

#### 55 29 August 21:00 Gillercombe Buttress

A brother (18 yrs) and sister (16 yrs) became cragfast after climbing without a guide book. They eventually got themselves off and were walked off the fell.

#### 56 31 August 09:23 Mill Plantation - Thirlmere

A man (48 yrs) broke his tibia and fibula having fallen 5' into a ditch.

#### 57 2 September 17:47 Aaron Slack

A man (73 yrs) tripped descending the track and landed heavily on his face. He was taken by helicopter to hospital.

## Incident Report 2002 continued . . .

#### 58 3 September 11:40 Ullock Pike - near The Watches

A walker came across the body of a man from Scotland known to be missing by the police.

#### 59 5 September 22:40 Central Fells

A man (55 yrs) was reported overdue from an unadvised walk by his hotel. His car was located at Seathwaite. 41 members from 3 Teams made a search. He was found at Sampson's Stones in Eskdale having become lost in the deteriorating conditions.

#### 60 12 September 15:20 Brandelhow Woods

A woman (66 yrs), wearing flip-flops, slipped on uneven ground and injured her ankle.

#### 61 15 September 15:35 Rosthwaite

A man (22 yrs) forgot his house keys and, following being at the local agricultural show (team members in attendance), fell from a bedroom window while trying to climb in. He sustained serious head injuries and was flown by air ambulance to Preston Royal Infirmary.

#### 62 16 September 12:30 Surprise View, Borrowdale

A note giving cause for concern was found by a National Trust Ranger near a cliff edge. A search was made, including 7 search dogs, but nothing was found.

#### 63 17 September 14:53 King's How

A woman from Kansas, USA, became stuck in steep ground on her descent. Another walker heard her whistles and cries for help. She was safely escorted down.

#### 64 18 September 11:30 Blencathra - Scales Fell

A man (70 yrs) became unable to put weight on his leg. A trapped nerve was suspected.

## Incident Report 2002 continued . . . –

#### 65 19 September 15:04 Dodd Wood

A mountain biker (45 yrs) fell from his bike after he hit a bump in the forestry road while descending. He injured his collar bone and ribs and received other cuts and bruises.

#### 66 26 September 10:35 Ashness area

A man (59 yrs) went missing from his campsite. He was mentally impaired and part of a care group. He was found in broken ground in difficulties but unharmed.

#### 67 29 September 14:54 Langstrath

A woman was reported to be in a collapsed condition. She was met by the Team making her own way down the valley. Later confirmed to have an arrhythmia.

#### 68 2 October 15:07 Glaramara - Allen Crags path

A diabetic woman (66 yrs) slipped and injured her back. She was airlifted by helicopter to Whitehaven hospital.

#### 69 2 October 21:24 Honister - Great Gable area

An elderly couple (60 & 70 yrs) were reported to be overdue from a walk. Their car was located at Honister and they were found in Gillercomb at 2300 hrs in an exhausted condition.

#### 70 13 October 10:34 Langstrath - Blea Rock

Some walkers saw a dog which appeared to be in difficulties in rocks on the side of the valley. An investigation was made, but no dog found. There had been some sheep gathering taking place in the area.

#### 71 26 October 14:34 Skiddaw Forest

A woman (60 yrs) broke her tibia and fibula while walking. Other walkers got a ladder from the Skiddaw House refuge and carried her that far from where she was taken by the Team to a waiting ambulance.

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

#### 72 31 October 13:12 Littledale, Newlands

A woman (54 yrs) slipped on wet scree. Broken ankle.

#### 73 9 November 13:25 King's How

A woman walking on her own slipped on rock, injuring her face and arm. Another passing walker raised the alarm.

#### 74 11 November 11:11 Braithwaite Dam

A man (45 yrs) was reported to have collapsed. The incident was dealt with by paramedics before the arrival of the Team

#### 75 24 November 14:39 Blencathra summit ridge

A man (59 yrs) turned his ankle. He tried to walk down but required help. A helicopter was used in his evacuation.

#### 76 18 December 14:48 Sty Head

A man slipped on ice and injured his ankle. There was an A & E Consultant not far away who was able to assist before the Team carried him down and took him to hosoital.

#### 77 19 December 13:43 Blencathra, Scales Fell

A woman (49 yrs) slipped on icy grass and sustained a probable fracture of her tibia and fibula after successfully completing a traverse of Sharp Edge in snow and ice! She was taken by air ambulance to Lancaster Royal Infirmary.

#### 78 21 December 21:04 Central Fells

2 men (45 and 52 yrs) became lost and benighted on a walk to Scafell Pike. A search involving 74 people from 6 Teams together with 6 search dogs located the missing men the following morning on the Corridor Route. They had thought they were at Esk Hause!



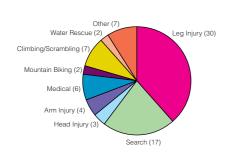
(e) Nearly ready!

## Incident Report 2002 continued ...

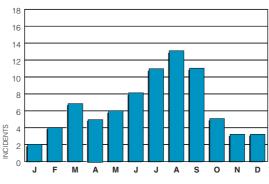
# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

#### **INCIDENT TYPES 2002**

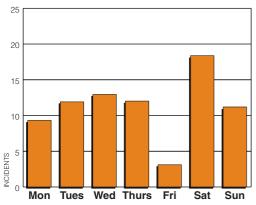
Figures in brackets refer to number of incidents, not percentage of incident types



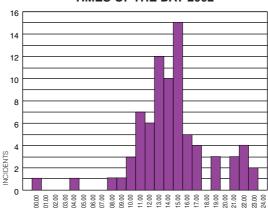
#### **MONTHS OF THE YEAR 2002**



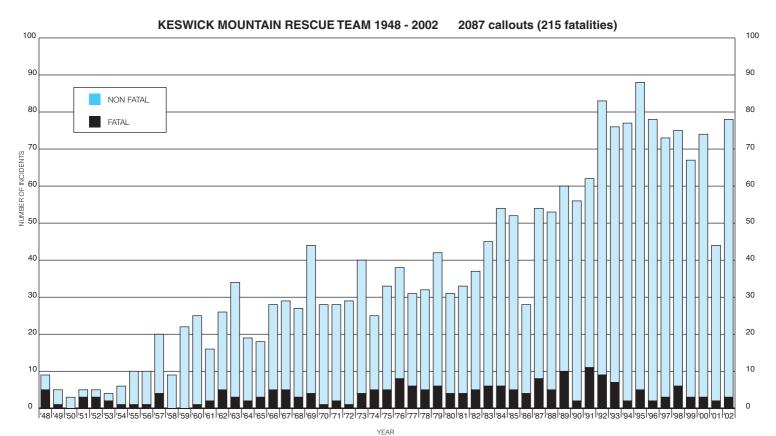
#### **DAYS OF THE WEEK 2002**



#### **TIMES OF THE DAY 2002**



# Incident Report 2002 continued ... Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



## **Keswick Team Search Dogs**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

This has been a busy year for all the Lake District Search Dogs. As Chris Francis acts as the Co-ordinator for calling out all search dogs on any incident, it follows that the Keswick based dogs tend to be frequently attending searches all over the Lake District, and elsewhere! At present, there are two graded search dogs working with the Team – Loch, a 9 year old golden Labrador, and Mist, a 4 year old Border Collie/Terrier cross.

This year, these two have attended the following incidents outside their own area, as well as every Keswick search:

January 6th - Furness Team requested help from Search Dogs to search estuary banks for missing father and son, lost in Walney Channel. Both Keswick dogs attended for 5 hours. Unfortunately, the missing persons were found in two different locations by coastguards and an RAF helicopter. FATAL.

Coniston MRT requested Dogs to search for missing walker on Swirl How. He turned up as the Keswick Dogs were en route.

**January 9th** - Wasdale Team mounted a search for a missing walker in the Gable area, but could not pin him down, as he was in fact elsewhere! Dogs were called for first light, and he was located by Chris Francis and Loch in the area of Greta Gill, Scafell.

**February 6th** - Both Keswick Dogs set off to assist Penrith Team locate a missing couple on a north Pennines walk. They turned up as the Dogs were awaiting a helicopter lift to Butt Hill.

**March 15th** - Dogs called to assist Wasdale to search for missing walker on Scafell. Located by Team just after Dogs deployed.

March 16th/17th - Dogs took part in a grim search for the body of a murder victim, near Dent. Both Dogs attended. The remains were eventually found by a Police Cadaver Dog in woodland just outside the main search area.

April 1st - Millom and Furness mounted a search for a missing depressed man in the sand dunes along the shoreline at Millom. He was eventually located outside the search area by a member of the public. FATAL.

**April 10th** - Cockermouth MRT requested the Keswick Dogs to help search for a party of 6 teenagers from Liverpool on Red Pike. They were found by Keswick Dog Mist – her first find after grading the year before.

May 23rd - Teesdale Team mounted a search for a missing walker on the Pennine Way. One Keswick Dog attended. He was located in a guest house having changed his plans.

**May 25th** - Penrith did a similar job in their area, but unfortunately, the casualty was found dead by Kirkby Stephen Team.

**June 2nd** - Wasdale asked for the usual for a search on the central fells. Two men left the Wasdale Head Hotel at 5 p.m (!) to walk up Scafell. Found by a Lakes Dog handler on the road at Hardknott.

June 25th - Back to Furness for a search for a missing diabetic in the Dalton area, near the Wildlife Park. First search in Lake District to encounter kangaroos! The missing person was found dead some considerable time later in a completely different area.

**August 27th** - Coniston MRT asked for an urgent call out of Dogs after a 6 year old autistic child went missing from a caravan site. He turned up while we were en route.

**October 5th** - Wasdale Team asked for assistance with searching for a depressed man. He was located by another Lakes dog handler en route over Wrynose Pass.

**November 21st** - Cave Rescue Organisation requested Lakes Dogs to assist in search for missing elderly gentleman around Ingleton.

**November 26th** - Patterdale mounted a search for a missing local man in the area of Deepdale. He was found by other rescue team members at 2 a.m near Hart Crag.

**December 4th** - Penrith Team were asked by the Police to search for a missing farmer in the Brampton area. FATAL - his body was found by Team members while the Dogs were en route.

**December 22nd** - Cockermouth asked Keswick Dogs to stand by to assist in the search for a missing man on Haystacks. However, he was found while they were en route.

**December 28th** - Cave Rescue Organisation asked for Lakes Dogs again to assist, close to Skipton. Once again, the missing person was located while we were en route.

Mick Guy



Mist

Mick Guy

## George Bott

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



George Bott

He always said that it was his love of the mountains of the Lake District and the wish to "put something back" that were the reasons for George joining the Team in 1956. Four years later the problems of an old rugby injury and the feeling that at 40 (!) he was getting too old to contribute usefully, led to his reluctant resignation. However, his most useful contribution was yet to come.

In 1997, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the team by Lt. Col. "Rusty" Westmorland, George wrote "Call-Out, The First 50 Years", the definitive history of the team. As an accomplished writer and book reviewer, and with meticulous research both of the archives, and by personal

interviews, he produced an attractive, readable and fascinating story of the team in its formative years, from the days when members used their own ropes, equipment and vehicles to the present day use of helicopters, radios and sophisticated medical equipment. It was an immediate success, and quickly went to a second printing, bringing the reality of mountain rescue and team membership to many thousands of people.

By his sad and unexpected death in November, the team has lost a much valued friend and supporter.

**Brian Martland** 





A callout in the early days!

Richard Fisher

The history of the team was adroitly related in the book "Call-Out, The First 50 Years" written by the late George Bott, and published by the team in 1997.

Five years later, in the year of his passing, the team has acquired two new Land Rovers. It seems appropriate to review the history of the team vehicles, and as a tribute to George Bott, this Report reprints extracts from the section in his book that refers to team vehicles, together with an update.

In the early days of the team, transport was "primitive and uncoordinated. A callout meant that members hopped on their bikes and met at the police station: few in those days had cars". The rescuers were subsequently "dispatched by a range of vehicles".

"In 1954, the team acquired a Humber Snipe shooting-brake for £145, with seating for eleven. It did sterling service, though not without problems, for several years before it was damaged. It ended its days on a farm at Grange moving hay.

"After this unseemly end to team transport, a substitute ambulance operated until 1958 when it was in such poor condition that it was condemned as a risk to anyone riding in it. The following year, a new Land Rover was bought for £350 by a bank loan that was paid off within twelve months. It was first used on 7th March 1959: a short run to Shepherds Crag but, for an injured climber, a rapid, safe and reasonably comfortable rescue. The team realised that with this vehicle it would be possible to travel on difficult terrain ....and get much nearer to the scene of many accidents.

"By 1962, the Land Rover was showing signs of wear and it was decided to buy a secondhand vehicle of the same kind at a cost

of £600. Five years later, it was modified and extended by two feet; side windows were added and later accommodation provided for two stretchers.

"The two Land Rovers, loaded with equipment, provided only cramped space for team members: on return journeys, there was often a casualty to be carried as well. In 1975, through the generous efforts of Keswick Round Table, a Ford Transit Minibus was added to the team transport. A valuable acquisition which allowed the rescuers to travel in reasonable comfort.

"By 1978, the Land Rovers were showing disturbing signs of wear and tear from constant use and old age: one had been in service for twenty years and had been involved in more than 600 rescues. On 24th July 1978, an appeal was launched for £6,000 to buy a new Land Rover. Each team member agreed to raise £100 and in months the total was reached and passed. So successful was the appeal that it was decided to raise further funds for a second replacement vehicle. One of the old Land Rovers was sold to Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team and Keswick ordered two new Safari Land Rovers

"1985 saw yet another change. The Ford Transit Minibus, in spite of a major refurbishing in 1980, finally succumbed to the rigours of mountain rescue duties. It was decided that some £10,000 should be raised to buy a new, off-road, four-wheel drive Ford Transit personnel carrier, which could also serve as an ambulance. It was affectionately christened "The Rusty Bus" in honour of the team's founder.

"The effort needed and made to find the money to buy this vehicle is typical of the team's apparently never-ending commitment to raising funds to improve the service it provides.

## **Vehicles**

"With increased numbers of callouts, the two Land Rovers suffered considerable hammering. In 1990, a new turbo-diesel Land Rover was bought, backed up by a similar vehicle in 1991 at a cost of £16,000. Finance was available from a donation to team funds from the estate of Mrs Elizabeth Bates of Barnoldswick."

In 1998 a replacement four-wheel drive Transit was obtained at a cost of almost £47,000 - built as an ambulance to a specification determined by the team. The matter was researched by a specialist group of team members, and the team came to the conclusion that this was the only vehicle to fit our requirements. The old Transit was donated to Dartmoor Rescue Team.

In last year's Report the treasurer acknowledged "the superbly generous gift of £130,000" from a Keswick woman in a legacy, with the "overdue" replacement of two vehicles in process. As stated above, the team has now purchased two new Land Rovers. The team decided that it would donate the two old Land. Rovers to other Mountain Rescue Teams, following a consideration by a subcommittee of all the issues. See under "Grant Making" in the Treasurer's Report. One Land Rover was donated to Kintail Mountain Rescue Team in Scotland and the other to Edale Mountain Rescue Team, in the Pennines. A further happy development was the donation of a LDV Ambulance by Edale Team to North of Tyne Search and Rescue Team. A spectacular hand-over of vehicles took place at Keswick base in June.

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

Keswick team now has a fleet of three modern road vehicles (and a boat !). All require much attention and care from the Transport Officer and the Equipment Officers. The words of George Bott remain valid:

"All three vehicles are kept in tip-top condition and consistently maintained. Just as a horse rider's first responsibility is the grooming of his mount, so the team must always ensure that its transport is ready for immediate use - and that means the first duty on return to headquarters after a rescue is to tidy the interior of the vehicles, check and replace equipment, and make sure that fuel tanks are full ....a procedure that is absolutely necessary but seldom welcome at the end of a tiring rescue."

> Peter Little with acknowledgement and thanks to George Bott.



The hand-over of vehicles.

Paul Horder



Our current fleet. Paul Horder

## A Probationer's View

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team





Glenmore Lodge Training Weekend.

Peter Little

The team is in possession of several 600 foot ropes. Why? For probationers to carry, of course! As in all organisations, it's inevitable that newer members get put upon to a certain extent, whether it's being sent for a 'long stand' or, as in the team's case, being asked to carry the dreaded 600 foot rope. That's what I thought, anyway.

"It's a test", I kept telling myself, as I flogged my way up a fell which felt like Everest, but was probably no more than fifteen minutes walk. In fact, it's not a test at all. In reality, it's just one piece of kit, amongst the vast array of equipment the team has to transport to many of the incidents it is called to, and somebody has to carry it. More often than not, it's the more senior members of the team who end up carrying the heaviest and most awkward pieces of gear up the hill and often end up doing it twice as fast as some of us!

On a rescue this year, one of the team carried the dreaded 600 foot rope for several miles and up to the top of what was definitely a high fell, and down again, without a word of complaint. The rope was used to lower one of the aforementioned more senior team members about 400 feet over a steep, high crag to two casualties who had been cragfast there for several days. Happily, the casualties were well, if rather hungry and cold and were safely lowered to the ground below. This was the second day that a small selection of the team had attempted to rescue those two unfortunates, which added up to a lot of man-hours....and all for a couple of hounds!

To be put on the spot in a training situation seems, also, to be a test for the probationer. "Don't mess it up" I chanted to myself, as I struggled to assess an injured casualty in the presence of both a team doctor and several experienced team members.

Unfortunately, I did mess some of it up. However, on reflection, I have since realised that we all mess it up in training on occasion, which is how team members become so competent in the frequent real situations that are faced. As a probationer, it is not a case of intensive training for a year and then sitting back once full membership has been attained, ready to take revenge on the next unwary probationer that comes along. The life of a team member is a constant cycle of learning and practising new skills and refreshing those skills which have lain dormant for too long.

On a recent night search of the central fells for two missing walkers, in difficult conditions, a gruelling addition to an already tiring search was requested from the powers that be and I was, as I thought, unlucky enough to be included in the party asked to undertake the task. "They'll be watching me to see how I perform" I thought, as we squelched off into the night. Later, after a long and fruitless search, we made our weary way back to civilisation and I realised that my companions were just as exhausted as I. They had been watching me, but only to check that I was alright, as I had them at times.

As a probationer in the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, I have come to realise that the whole operation relies on teamwork. Without the commitment, cooperation and coordination of every team member, rescues just wouldn't happen. So, whether administering emergency first aid at the scene, or carrying spare kit up the hill later, each cog, even the probationary cog, is just as important as the next for the KMRT machine to function. I have also learned that there are even heavier pieces of equipment to carry than the 600 foot rope, so next time, I might volunteer for it!

A hardworking probationer!

## **Collection Box Sponsors**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

The team would like to thank all the collecting box sponsors who have in 2002 collected £18,000 (almost half our annual running costs). If you would like to support the Team in this way, please contact the Collection Box Co-ordinator, Brian Spencer on Tel: 017687 72531.

Abacourt House Acorn House Allerdale House Armathwaite Hall Bank Tayern Barclavs Bank Barn Rigg Guest House, Thirlspot Beaty and Co. Wigton Beckstones Guest House The Beeches Guest House Betty Barker's Birch How Guest House Bonshaw Guest House Bookends Borrowdale Hotel Borrowdale YHA Bowfell Braithwaite Court HPB Brierholme Guest House Brookfield Guest House Brysons Caffle House, Watendlath Camping and Caravan Club Site Cars Of The Stars Cartwheel Guest House Casa's Castle Inn Castleriaa Farm

The Coffee House Coledale Inn. Braithwaite The Corner Shop The Cornish Pastv Cotswold Camping Craglands Guest House Crag Side Guest House Crosthwaite Garage Crow Park Hotel Cumbria Hotel Cumbrian Properties Dalegarth Hotel Dale Head Hall Hotel Daresfield Derwent Bank HF Derwent Cottage Derwent Club Derwent Jewellers Derwentwater Caravan Park Derwentwater Marina Derwentwater YHA Dog and Gun Dollywaggon Guest House Easedale Hotel Edwardene Hotel Eel Crags Eiger Sports The Electric Shop Elliotts Erinville Guest House Fawsley House Ferndene Guest House Field and Stream Fine Designs Firns Flock Inn Four In Hand

George Fisher

George Hotel Golden Lion Inn Glaramara Outdoor Centre Glencoe Guest House Glendale Guest House Grange Bridge Cottage Cafe Grange Cafe Grevstoke House Greystones Guest House Grove House Gallery Gypsy Hazel Bank Hotel Hazelmere Guest House Hazelwood Guest House Hedgehog Hill Guest House The Heights Hotel High Lodore Farm Cafe C and C A Holmes Honister House Honister Mine Hooleys Hope Memorial Camp Horse and Farrier Howe Keld HSBC Hunters Way Hutton Moor End Caravan & Camping Site Jane Horder, Lancaster F and J Jarman, Aspatria

Kalgurli Guest House

Keswick Holiday Art Studio

Keswick Mountain Rike Hire

Keswick Mountain Sports

Karrimor Bowness

Keswick Golf Club

Keswick Motor Bikes

Keswick Lodge

Keswick Outdoor Clothina Co Keswick Park Hotel Keswick YHA Kinas Arms Kinafisher Kings Head Hotel, Thirlspot Lairbeck Hotel Lakeland Lakeland Pedlar Lake Road Inn The Lakes Fish Restaurant Lakeside Holiday Park Lakeside House Lakeside Tea Gardens Langdale Guest House Langstrath Hotel Latriaa House Laurel Bank Guest House Leathes Head Hotel Littlefield Guest House Lodore Hilton Hotel Low Manesty Caravan Park Luchini's Lynwood Guest House Lyzzick Hall Hotel Mary Mount Hotel Max Spielman Photography Medical Centre Middle Ruddings Hotel Mill Inn. Munarisedale Mines Museum Moot Hall Monic Morrel's National Trust Lakeside The Necessary Angel Needlesports

New House, Rosthwaite Nichol End Marine North Lakes Caravan Park Oddfellows Arms Packhorse Inn The Paddock Parkergate Pizza Panorama Police Station Powe Howe Guest House The Puzzling Place Rainhow Rathbones Rathbones Outdoor Wear Ravenstone Hotel Ravenstone Lodge Hotel Ravensworth Hotel Rembrandt Restaurant Richmond House Hotel Rickerby Grange Rock at The Warehouse Rock Shop Rohan Rosthwaite General Store Rowe Opticians Royal Oak, Braithwaite Royal Oak Hotel, Rosthwaite Salutation Inn. Sandon Guest House Saw Mill Cafe. Dodd Scawdell Guest House Scafell Hotel Scotgate Camping Site Seathwaite Farm Cafe Seatoller House Scales Farm Cottage Shemara Guest House The Sick & The Wrong

Siai's Silver City Silverdale Hotel Skiddaw Grove Hotel Spar Grocers Spooney Green Cottage Strathmore Guest House Stybeck Farm Sundance Wholefoods Sun Inn. Bassenthwaite Sunnyside Guest House Swan Inn. Thornthwaite Sweeney's Cellar Bar Swinside Farm Cottage Swinside Inn Swiss Court Hotel Tarn Hows Guest House Temple Sports Theatre By The Lake Thistledown Thornleigh Guest House Thresher Wine Shop TOG 24 Touchwood Trekkers Cave Treeby and Bolton Tynemouth Lodge Hotel Underscar Hotel Village Shop, Braithwaite Village Shop, Portinscale West View Guest House Whinlatter Forest Tea Room White Horse Inn The Wild Strawberry Winchester Guest House Wine Rack Woodside Guest House Yeoman Outdoors Yew Tree Cafe



Brian Spencer

Camping Site

Chaucer House Hotel

Chiltlee Guest House

Clarence House

Claremont House

Castlerigg Hall Caravan

and Camping Park

Cherry Tree Guest House

#### Treasurer's Report, Trustees Annual Report, Financial Statements for the year ended 30th November 2002

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Teams' Financial Year end is the thirtieth of November, and if I had made one wish this year, it would have been that my house hadn't been struck by lightning on the third of November.

Computers are wonderful aids, and this job would take me many hours more without one, but they are not keen on being zapped with a couple of million Volts!

However, thanks to a good "backing up" regime all is now well, and I can drag out statistics that will bore the majority and interest the minority.

Looking over the last five years allows me to see that there are some general trends.

Removing the large Legacies, our Income is fairly static and gives us no cause for complacency. Brian Spencers' efficiency with the Collecting Boxes means that they are an increasing source of revenue for us, but still only contribute less than half of our yearly outgoings.

A really alarming trend is the continuing increase in Insurance expenses. The Building Insurance has risen 35% in five years but by over 15% this year.

The Vehicle Insurance has obviously gone up this year, but even more worrying, it was almost impossible to obtain a quote due to the "siren and flashing light" status of the vehicles.

This year we have purchased two new Ambulances and passed on the two old ones to Mountain Rescue Teams that are not as financially solvent as ourselves.

We have also upgraded our computer ware, and a "PowerPoint

presentation" has been developed for communication and fundraising.

Also as promised, we have opened some of our Training Courses to other Teams.

After these expenditures it will be seen that we still appear to have a healthy balance. We do have to bear in mind, however, our ongoing expenses which run at £45,000 per year, the alarming trend in increased insurance premiums and also the probability of a huge outlay on communications equipment in the coming years.

We have a legal and moral obligation to renew Rescue Equipment on a regular basis and have in place a rolling replacement programme that can cost us up to £10,000 per annum.

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of George Bott. George, an ex-Team member, compiled the book, "Call-Out, The First Fifty Years" which sold in great numbers, and raised considerable funds for the Team.

We would like to thank again Venus Griffiths for her valuable contribution to the Team. For the last few years, not only has she provided us with a superb front cover for our Report, but has also donated the original art work for us to auction for Team funds.

The cover picture of the 2002 Report, "Grisedale Pike" has been eagerly acquired already! Thanks also to Derwent Frames for their donation.

Team Treasurer - Ian Wallace

## **Annual Report**

#### TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Total Gross Income 1st December 2001 - 30th November 2002: Between \$10,000 and \$100,000.

Total Gross Expenditure 1st December 2001 - 30th November 2002: Between £10,000 and £250,000.

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

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

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

Details of Persons or Bodies Entitled to Appoint Charity Trustees & Details of Method of Appointment: The only body with the power (within the terms of the Constitution) to appoint a trustee is the membership of the Charity. The Charity Trustees are appointed at each Annual General Meeting, and hold office until the

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

following AGM. The Trustees must be members of the Charity and are the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Team Leader and two others elected from the general membership. There is no bar on a Trustee standing for office for successive terms. Candidates for positions conferring trusteeship must be nominated in writing to the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the AGM, and notified to the membership not less than 14 days prior thereto. Voting is conducted by a secret hallot

Name of Current Charity Trustees: The Charity Trustees as at the date of this Report (7th January 2003) are:

Chairman Michael Leonard Fanning

Secretary Neil Dowie
Treasurer lan Wallace

Team Leader Timothy Mark Hodgson

General Team Member 1 Paul Horder General Team Member 2 Peter Barron

Names of Retiring Charity Trustees: None.

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

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

Income Reserves Policy: 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. These sources of income have, historically, been insufficient to ensure that annual running costs are met. Trends over the preceding 5 years suggest that income from regular donations is static. However, historically, the Charity has benefited from legacies which when annualised have ensured that annual income exceeds annual running costs. The Charity has, again, benefited from such income in the financial year.

The sector in which the Charity operates is subject to the EC regulatory regime – most notably in respect of personal protective equipment. In consequence, equipment renewals are routine, and required regardless of actual wear and tear. Equipment renewals now take place according to a timetable that is budgeted for within the particular year of renewal. Overall, therefore, annual running costs are increasing.

As mentioned in the Treasurers own Report above, large-scale expenditure will be required in respect of the ageing communications network. The Charity Trustees are keen to retain a significant specific reserve to meet this contingency. In the absence of any agreement as to 3rd party funding, such expenditure will be required before 2008.

## **Annual Report**

Keswick Mountain Rescue Team for the year ended 30th November 2002

As reported in last years Report, the Mountain Rescue Council of England & Wales (Itself a registered charity) is committed to national fund raising. A professional fundraiser was appointed with the aim of raising, ultimately, £1 million annually. However, that enterprise has been less than successful to date, and whilst the Trustees previously expressed concern at the potentially adverse impact MPC fund raising may have on the Charity's own fund raising, those concerns have not, to date, been borne out. Nonetheless, it is assumed that in the medium to long term, MRC fund raising will have such an impact. This is an area that the Trustees will continue to monitor.

Ignoring capital expenditure on the acquisition of new motor vehicles, total income exceeded total expenditure in the financial year, but the margin was relatively small. A significant proportion of incoming funds was from unplanned sources (legacies). The accounts for the financial year disclose that but for interest generated from the reserves, there would have been an excess of expenditure over income. Accordingly, the Trustees see no room for complacency and will maintain the general income reserve policy of three times annual expenditure. That is 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.

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.

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

Grant Making Policy: During the last financial year, the Charity made two grants to other charitable trusts with like objects to its own – namely a Land Rover to Kintail Mountain Rescue Team, and a Land Rover to the Edale Mountain Rescue Team, Both vehicles were formerly operated by the Charity, and new replacements having been purchased, it was felt most appropriate to donate the redundant vehicles to other Rescue Teams without charge. A bid process was organised (full details of which can be provided on request to the Secretary) to ensure that the vehicles were first offered to Teams within the Lake District (no bids were received from any of the Lake District Teams), and regard was had to the operational need, and financial constraints upon, the bidding teams. Whilst bids were received from teams in Eire, the Charity was of the view that its objects were, by reason of its Constitution, limited to supporting like organisations within Great Britain.

Support was provided to other Lake District Teams by way of provision of places on externally supplied training courses funded by the Charify. This did not involve the making of any grants as such – but made available training in specialist areas (white 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 advantace of Mountain Rescue generally.

As yet, 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.

#### Chairman, Mike Fanning; Treasurer, Ian Wallace

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

We report on the accounts of the Team for the year ended 30th November 2002 which are set out on pages 26 to 29.

#### Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

Gibbons & Company Chartered Accountants Institute of Chartered Accountants In England and Wales 43 Station Road Keswick, Cumbria 2 January 2003

## Statement -

of financial activities for the year ended 30th November 2002

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

		2002	2001
	Notes	£	£
Incoming Resources			
Covenants		1,557	2,127
Donations		15,891	28,068
Collection Boxes		18,583	15,315
Legacy		23,173	147,196
Income Tax Recovered		1,536	3,863
Bank and Building Society Interest		13,317	4,902
Miscellaneous and Book Sales		(264)	52
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£73,793	£201,523
Resources Expended			
Direct Charitable Expenses	2	52,650	46,962
Other Expenses	3	16,104	15,406
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£68,754	£62,368
Net incoming Resources Before Transfers			
NET INCOMING (EXPENDED) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		5,039	139,155
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st DECEMBER 2001		608,168	469,013
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 30th NOVEMBER 2002		£613,207	£608,168

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

## **Balance Sheet**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

at 30th November 2002

	Notes	2002	2001
Fixed Assets		£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	4	312,600	268,492
Current Fixed Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	5	4,990	2,170
Stock	6	95	800
Building Society Deposits		274,474	326,198
Cash at Bank		21,342	10,767
		300,901	399,935
Liabilities, Amounts falling due within one year	7	294	259
NET CURRENT ASSETS		300,607	339,676
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		£613,207	£608,168
Funds			
Unrestricted		£613,207	£608,168

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24th January 2003 and signed on its behalf by: M. Fanning (Chairman) and I. Wallace (Treasurer), (Trustees).

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

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

for the year ended 30th November 2002

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Accounting Convention**

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statements of Recommended Practice.

#### Depreciation

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

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

#### Stocks

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

	T	Total funds	Total funds
		2002	2001
. DIRECT CHA	ARITABLE EXPENSES	£	£
Motor Vehic	e Expenses		
Insurances		1,583	1,349
Petrol and Oil		755	456
Maintenance		1,080	1,529
Equipment E	xpenses		
Rental		2,302	2,861
Maintenance	of Radio	164	1,137
Maintenance	of General Equipment	3,072	1,602
Clothing and	Outdoor Equipment	6,008	10,793
Courses, Med	lical and Other Expenses	6,253	2,834
Depreciation of	of Motor Vehicles		
and Equipme	nt	30,145	14,401
Vehicles Trans	sferred	1,288	
Grant to other	Charitable Institution	-	10,000
		£52,650	£46,962

#### 3. OTHER EXPENSES

Garage, Team and HQ Expenses

Rent, Rates and Water	678	698
Telephone and Electricity	1,996	1,727
Repairs and Renewals	1,169	1,961
Postage, Printing and Stationery	4,326	3,416
Insurance	1,651	1,448
Bank Charges	20	33
Independent Examiners Fees	329	200
Sundry Expenses	1,490	1,478
Depreciation on Leasehold Property	4,445	4,445
	£16 104	£15 406

## Notes to the Financial Statements

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

for the year ended 30th November 2002

		Leasehold			
		Land &		Motor	
		Buildings	Equipment	Vehicles	Total
		£	£	£	£
4.	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
	Cost				
	At 1st December 2001	222,262	142,086	61,401	425,749
	Additions During Year	-	12,788	67,198	79,986
	Disposals	-	-	(18,710)	(18,710)
	At 30th November 2002	222,262	154,874	109,889	487,025
	Depreciation				
	At 1st December 2001	22,225	88,427	46,605	157,257
	Charge for the Year	4,445	9,968	20,177	34,590
	On Disposals	-	-	(17,422)	(17,422)
	At 30th November 2002	26,670	98,395	49,360	174,425
	Net Book Value	-			
	At 30th November 2002	195,592	56,479	60,529	312,600
	At 30th November 2001	200,037	53,659	14,796	268,492
	All fixed assets held are for the furtherance of the C	harity's objectives.			
				2002	2001
5.	DEBTORS			£	£
	Prepayments			£4,990	£2,170
				2002	2001
6.	STOCK			£	£
	Consumable Stock			80	80
	Stock of Books			15	720
				£95	£800
				2002	2001
7.	LIABILITIES - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN	N ONE YEAR		0004	0050
	Accruals			£294	£259

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

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

GIFT AID DECLARATION	Notes		
Name of Charity  Keswick Mountain Rescue Team	You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.		
(Registered Charity No 509860)	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		
Full name and address of donor in CAPITALS	on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give).		
Mr/Mrs/Miss	<ol> <li>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</li> </ol>		
Address	(see note 1).		
Post Code.	4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can reclaim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return.		
I want Keswick Mountain Rescue Team to treat the following as Gift Aid Donations (delete as appropriate):	<ol> <li>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.</li> </ol>		
• the enclosed donation of £	6. Please notify Keswick Mountain Rescue Team if you change your name or address.		
• the donation(s) of £	Please return this completed Gift Aid Declaration		
which I made on/	to the Team Treasurer:		
all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until further notice	lan Wallace Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ		
Cianatura Data / /	Thank you for your support !		

## **Bankers Order**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

If you would like to make a regular donation to Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, please complete the Bankers Order below.

Provided you pay Income Tax, the Team can now reclaim the tax you have already paid on the sum donated to the Team, from the Inland Revenue.

	Full name and address in CAPITALS	Gift Aid: please do not detach
į	Mr/Mrs/Miss	ToBank plc
	Address	
į		(name and address of your bank)
-	Post Code	Name of Account to be Debited
1 000 0000		Account Number
j	The sum of £ Annually/Monthly	Sort Code
	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	Please pay to Midland Bank plc, Market Square, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5BQ (Sort Code 40-26-06) for the Credit of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team (Account Number 60498173) The sum of $\Sigma$ (figures)
	Signed	
į	Please return this completed form to:	and a like sum Annually/Monthly on the
1	KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM Spooney Green, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4PJ	day of
	Thank you for your support !	Signed

## **Donations**

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

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

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

Gordon Grav Tash Hacking John A Martin A Grundy Colin Osman Ted Staples Peter Hartley Fred Winwood **Edith Webster** Vinny Webster Dennis Cresswell Mr Hindmarsh Lt. Col. P Hartley J Clarke Doris M Norris Brian Watson George Bott Chris Green

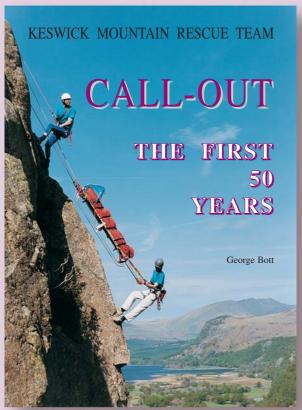
#### LEGACIES

Mrs Doris Hayes Eliza Brownrigg Miss O Iredell

## **Thanks**

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

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



ISBN 0.9531098.0-1

# **CALL-OUT**

## THE FIRST 50 YEARS

by George Bott

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, 56 pages.

Price £5 available in bookshops, or by post (£6 including postage and packing) from Brian Martland, Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, Cornerstones, 15 Helvellyn Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4EN. Cheques to be made payable to: Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

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

# For Mountain Rescue Call 999 and ask for Police

#### Then be prepared to state:

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

#### Then:

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



http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk