

# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team

RESCUE REPORT 2021

# Introduction

**Welcome** to the 2021 Rescue Report of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

This Report includes a record of the Team's activities throughout 2020.

The Team comprises up to 50 team members who live in and around Keswick. Team members come from many different walks of life and occupations.

For Team members, as well as being on call 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, and in all weathers, there is a significant amount of on-going training in advanced first aid, mountain and water rescue. In recent times there have been around 100 rescues a year, each call-out involving 12 to 20 members and taking anywhere between one hour and several days. This can only be achieved through the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of their employers.

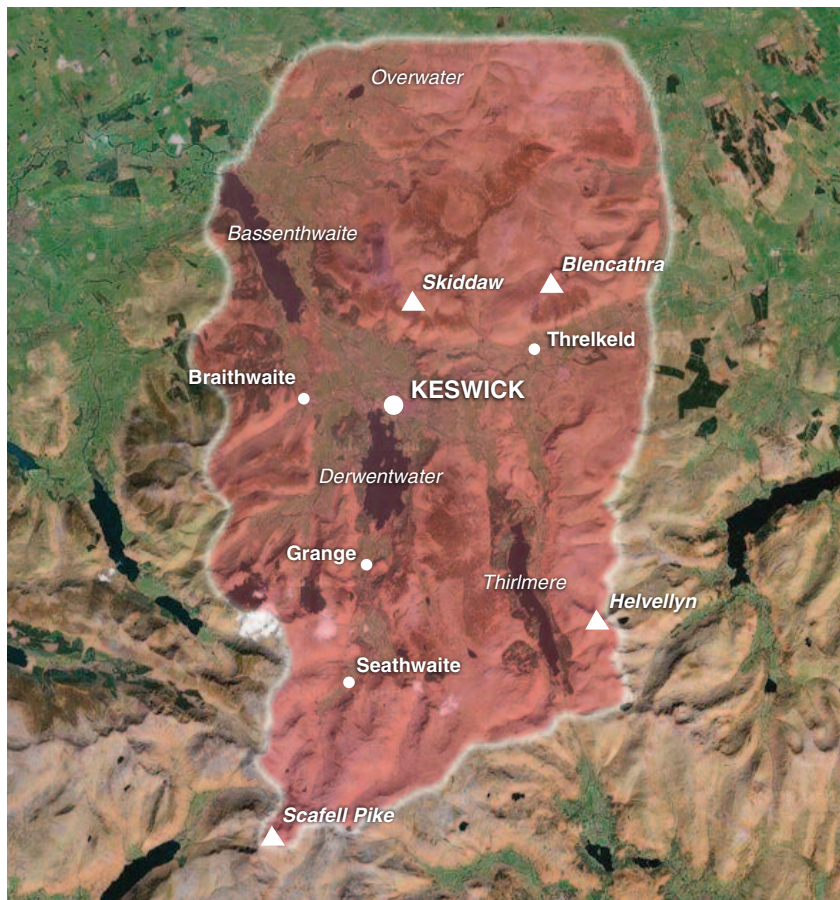
The Keswick Mountain Rescue Team was founded in 1947 and remains a charity organisation that depends entirely on donations and on-going support of the public. We thank you for your help and contributions.

## For more information about the Team

Please see [www.keswickmrt.org.uk](http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk)  
and the Team's presence on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/keswickmrt)  
and [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/keswickmrt)

*Cover photo: Incident 81  
Sharp Edge - there were 4 incidents  
on Sharp Edge in 2020*

## Keswick Mountain Rescue Team Area of Responsibility





# Keswick Mountain Rescue Team



Incident 79 - Derwentwater

<b>Gordon Barker</b>	Company Director	<b>Simon Hodgson</b>	Accommodation Provider
<b>Alan Barnes</b>	Emergency Medical Technician	<b>Adrian Holme</b>	Emergency Planner
<b>Paul Barnes</b>	Fire Fighter	<b>Stuart Holmes</b>	Photographer
<b>Pete Batey</b>	Optometrist	<b>Tim Hooper</b>	GP
<b>Martin Bell</b>	Paramedic	<b>Katharine Horder</b>	Retired Head Teacher
<b>Sarah Bennett</b>	Student Paramedic	<b>Jonny Hume</b>	Teacher
<b>Phil Blair</b>	Outdoor Pursuits Instructor	<b>John Hunston</b>	Retired Accountant
<b>Tom Blakely</b>	Paramedic	<b>Andy Jones</b>	Guest House Proprietor
<b>Fiona Boyle</b>	Lecturer	<b>Dan Jordan</b>	Emergency Medical Technician
<b>Paul Cheshire</b>	Chartered Engineer	<b>James Lamb</b>	Accommodation Provider
<b>Nuala Dowie</b>	Hotel Proprietor	<b>Peter Little</b>	Retired Pharmacist
<b>Craig Dring</b>	Retired Procurement Manager	<b>George Lloyd</b>	Police Officer
<b>Richard Duckett</b>	Outdoor Pursuits Instructor	<b>Tom McNally</b>	Photographer
<b>Adam Edmondson</b>	Outdoor Pursuits Instructor	<b>Malcolm Miller</b>	Retired Head Teacher
<b>Donald Ferguson</b>	Rope Access Technician	<b>Duane Moran</b>	Outdoor Pursuits Instructor
<b>Chris Francis</b>	Fire Service	<b>David Pratt</b>	Retired
<b>Richard Gale</b>	Mountain Bike Guide	<b>Alan Prescott</b>	Retired Engineering Manager
<b>Chris Gillyon</b>	Company Director	<b>Lisa Price</b>	General Marina Manager
<b>Geoff Gilmore</b>	Leisure Pool Manager	<b>Jocky Sanderson</b>	Outdoor Pursuits Instructor
<b>Sarah Graham</b>	Paramedic	<b>Robin Saxby</b>	Community Nurse
<b>Rob Grange</b>	Photographer	<b>Paul White</b>	Papermill Chemist
<b>Steve Hepburn</b>	Company Director	<b>Elly Whiteford</b>	Technical Specialist
<b>Chris Higgins</b>	Company Director - Outdoor Pursuits	<b>Jenni Whittaker</b>	Doctor
<b>Dave Hill</b>	Retail	<b>Geoff Williams</b>	Outdoor Pursuits Instructor
<b>Mark Hodgson</b>	Retired Project Director	<b>Brad Williamson</b>	Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

<b>President</b>	Mick Guy
<b>Chairman</b>	Gordon Barker
<b>Secretary</b>	Fiona Boyle
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Hunston
<b>Team Leader</b>	Chris Higgins
<b>Committee</b>	Peter Little Paul White
<b>Deputy Team Leaders</b>	Martin Bell, Tom Blakely, Steve Hepburn, Dan Jordan
<b>Medical Officer</b>	Tim Hooper
<b>Training Officers</b>	Paul Barnes, David Hill, Dan Jordan
<b>Water Officer</b>	Jocky Sanderson
<b>Radio Officer</b>	Alan Prescott
<b>Vehicles Officers</b>	Adam Edmondson, Richard Gale, Mick Guy, Adrian Holme
<b>Equipment Officers</b>	George Lloyd, Lisa Price
<b>Base Officers</b>	Sarah Bennett, Geoff Gilmore
<b>Report Editor</b>	Peter Little
<b>Secretary (membership)</b>	David Pratt
<b>Collection Box Co-ordinators</b>	Malcolm Miller, Paul White
<b>IT Manager</b>	Rob Grange
<b>Data Protection Officer</b>	Craig Dring
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Nuala Dowie
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Katharine Horder

Email: [secretary@keswickmrt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@keswickmrt.org.uk)

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Lakeside Car Park, Lake Road,  
Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5DJ

## Team Leader's Report

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This year has obviously been dominated by the Covid pandemic and has presented us with new and very challenging situations. We didn't anticipate what a year it would be when the first three months of 2020 began much as any other. We did 18 rescues between New Year and the end of March, which included several of our 'bread and butter' lower leg injuries, a few dramatic snowy escapades on Sharp Edge and Helvellyn, and Storm Ciara, (fortunately, she was more benevolent than Desmond!).

Looking back at the early part of 2020 two incidents stand out which went on to have a bearing on me for what was to come. Firstly, a crashed cyclist who sadly died from his injuries on Honister Pass. This tragic incident highlighted the fragility of life and how risky day to day living can be, even when taking part in something as innocuous as going for a bike ride with a friend. It reminded me how precious life is and how we should all cherish it, and protect not only our own lives, but those of others - something that would become more evident soon after! The thoughts of everyone in the team went out to the family and friends of this young man whose life tragically ended doing something he enjoyed, on a dry and sunny spring morning in a most beautiful part of the world.

The second incident of note was the school group who ventured up Helvellyn in the snow. Led by teaching staff with no outdoor qualifications, and grossly ill-equipped, the group called for the team's help when one of the pupils fell, and slid down a steep snowy slope, and collided with rocks, and injured their face and hand. Fortunately, it was nothing more severe - this incident was at the same spot where we have had some very serious injuries and several fatalities in the past. This incident highlighted some people's inability to prepare properly for something and take adequate precautions, to listen to informed and well-intentioned advice, to read a situation and to take responsible decisions to protect themselves and others. Something that has needed to be a bit of a theme of 2020!

The above two incidents are mentioned to hopefully reinforce the messages that have come from many quarters this past year. Life is fragile so make



*Chris Higgins*

decisions and do things to protect your own and those of others - please. To many of you it may sound as if I'm getting on my 'soap-box' a bit and that some of the messages put out by mountain rescue teams during the pandemic may have been frustrating and out of keeping with what you'd expect from us. I ask for your understanding in a time that has pushed us to our limits and hope that I may explain things.

You will undoubtedly know that all mountain rescue in the UK is provided by volunteer members of the public - ordinary people who are the same as everyone else. We have jobs and families and hobbies and pressures and responsibilities like you. We are not heroes or a different breed or special in anything other than we want to give some of our time to help others in the outdoors. We get ill, tired, stressed, upset, angry just like everyone, and so do our families.

Mountain rescue teams don't, in any way, want to be seen as a mountain "enforcement agency". We all expect that people will want to go walking and climbing, cycling and canoeing, swimming and fell running in and around where we live because - well, why wouldn't you? They are all great things to do and it's a beautiful place to do them. It's what we do and why we live here. We expect that on occasions some of these adventures may end unexpectedly with someone getting injured or lost or in distress - no one goes out with the intention of breaking an ankle or having a heart attack, and we understand that you may need our help to sort things. We are only too happy to help.

Our objective throughout the pandemic has been to protect the safety of the volunteer team members, and to ensure that our service wasn't compromised to the extent that we couldn't perform rescues. Within the emergency services and rescue organisations around the world there is a recognised hierarchy of rescue - Self, Team, Victim. By which, unfortunately for our casualties means they are the least important part of a rescue. As a rescuer - the most important person there is "me". If I'm not there or I get into trouble myself then I can't help the casualty - and worse, if the team

needs to divert it's attention to look after me then I am hindering the casualty's rescue. The next level of importance is the team - the combined expertise and effort of many people can do so much more than any individual. The individual "selves" when formed into a "team" thereby help the victim, who without that hierarchy would need to fend for themselves.

Within Keswick Mountain Rescue Team I am proud to say we have the highest levels of skill and experience you could wish for in an emergency service of this type. Doctors and Paramedics with years of experience in pre-hospital care (the stuff that keeps you alive until you get into the hospital itself) work alongside mountaineers, swift water rescue technicians, search



*Incident 57 - Blease Fell, Threlkeld*

## Team Leader's Report

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*Incident 77 - Sharp Edge, Blencathra*

dog handlers, vehicle technicians, IT specialists, rope access technicians, and other highly disciplined people to bring you the best care, fast!

Another rescue we did in 2020 highlights how the skills of the team combine to be unique and exemplary, especially when coupled with the highest levels of expertise brought to a situation by the crews of the Great North Air Ambulance and the Coastguard Search and Rescue Helicopters. During August the team were called to help a very experienced rock climber who had fallen quite a distance and was badly injured. He was again taking part in something that he loved and had all of the correct equipment and skills/knowledge, but on that particular day things didn't go to plan, through nobody's fault. When we arrived at the scene the gentleman was semi-conscious and he was being looked after by his climbing partner, his helmet was quite badly damaged, and he was in obvious distress. Within 20 minutes of our arrival, he was being looked after by: two mountain rescue team doctors, a HEMS doctor (from the air ambulance), an orthopaedic surgeon, three paramedics, an ambulance technician and a former A&E nurse all from Keswick MRT. Ropes were rigged, the stretcher assembled while all the time the level of care being given to this casualty was phenomenal outside a hospital setting. Once stabilised the casualty was then carried a short distance to where the winchman from Prestwick's Coastguard helicopter was able to pick him up, and fly him down to the valley floor, where he was transferred into the Great North Air Ambulance for ongoing treatment and transfer to hospital. An astounding team effort and one that I was particularly proud to be a part of.

So, why the frustration and messages earlier in the year? Inevitably, with the travel restrictions in place during the summer, more people than usual chose to visit the Lake District. With the increase in visitor numbers came an increase in rescue callouts - we were doing nearly one a day in August! This put an immense pressure on the team, particularly as attendance numbers were depleted, with some members needing to shield others or self-isolate for a variety of reasons. As you can possibly see from what I've



written, mountain rescue teams are unique in that we are the only people who can get someone off the mountain with their broken ankle/femur/vertebrae ..... etc. If members of a mountain rescue team become infected with Covid we can't help.

We have had to wear facemasks during the heat of July and August because we can't maintain 2m social distancing when carrying a stretcher. We have had to disinfect our vehicles every time they are used, and we are having to quarantine or wash our equipment after every rescue. We have chosen to turn out and help people who have been potential carriers of Covid - had to get close up to them to dress their wounds, splint their bones or give them some pain relief. And we are only volunteers. All we have wanted is for everyone to do what they can to protect us and thereby help everyone who needs us.

Keswick Mountain Rescue Team is part of the wider Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA). As team leader I have been supported beyond expectation by people within this umbrella body. The Covid pandemic has thrown at us a barrage of problems to overcome and most of them were outside my sphere of knowledge and experience. I am glad to say there are people within LDSAMRA who are more than willing to offer an immense amount of help and support without judgement. I don't think I could have navigated my way through the intensity of the pandemic and its impact on Keswick MRT without their help on all manner of things, including sourcing PPE for team members, protocols for disinfecting vehicles, clarification of Covid medical scenarios, training regimes in the current situation and much more. It is very reassuring to know there are people who live nearby, that aren't in our team, that are willing to support us and stand by us when our backs are against the wall. To everyone in LDSAMRA who has had our backs - thank you.

Finally, I want to thank each and every team member for their involvement last year. Understandably, several needed to stay away but have been

'present' remotely and we hope to see you in person very soon. The efforts of everyone on callouts has been inspirational and we've done some quite remarkable things, but a rescue team isn't just about running up a hill with a first aid kit (although there is quite a bit of that). There is always much to be done 'behind the scenes'. A lot of which has been picked up by those members needing to stay away such as co-ordinating the new base extension or our newly designed Keswick Stretcher project, counting up collection box money or maintaining our water rescue equipment or radios. The pressures on everyone have been immense, and yet we have managed to safely effect ninety rescues. We have undoubtedly saved the lives of some of those ninety and definitely brought relief and comfort to many.

**Chris Higgins**



*Incident 87 - Grisedale Pike*

# Ninety Callouts in 2020

## Incident Report 2020

### Edited from Team records

**1 1st January 2020 15:15 - Latrigg**

A woman experienced abdominal pains with severe nausea and sickness.

**2 19th January 2020 16:05 - Blencathra**

Two people had become stuck on Tarn Crag, above Scales Tarn. They were unable to move on steep and snowy ground. A well-equipped fell runner in the area went to the scene to assist and remained with them until the Team arrived. RAF Leeming MRT helped the Team, too. The two walkers were rope assisted from the difficulties, and were walked off the fell.

**3 22nd January 2020 14:55 - Sharp Edge, Blencathra**

A man fell about 10ft, bashing his shoulder and twisting his ankle. He was rope-lowered down to what is known as the 'Chicken Path', (on the northern side of the Edge), from where he could be safely walked off.

**4 25th January 2020 17:14 - Stybarrow Dodd**

An 11-year old boy in a group of walkers got particularly cold and wet, and there was concern about his well-being. By the time the Team had arrived, he had warmed up and with some dry

clothes was able to walk down with the Team from Sticks Pass down to Stanah.

**5 25th January 2020 18:24 - Rosthwaite**

An injured walker was on the path from Watendlath to Rosthwaite. It was initially reported that there had been a knee/hip injury but it transpired that the person had slipped, done the splits, and pulled a muscle. He continued down and was met by the Team. He did not require treatment or assistance.

**6 1st February 2020 13:41 - Beckstones Gill, Thornthwaite**

A walker experienced a supraventricular tachycardia attack, which manifests itself as an extremely high heart rate. After a check over by the team doctor, the casualty was able to walk accompanied down to the road.

**7 4th February 2020 15:42 - Barrow**

A woman suffered an ankle injury.

**8 9th February 2020 03:16 - Keswick**

Storm Ciara caused some early morning chaos at the caravan park on Crow Park Road in Keswick. An evacuation of the site was commencing when the police requested support from the Team. The initial task was clearing a narrow lane with a stalled camper van that was causing a blockage. We were then directed to a flooded area in the park to help people and dogs trapped in vehicles. During this time it was noticeable how the depth and strength of the flood water was increasing. Everyone was helped to safer areas but unfortunately some vehicles had to be abandoned.



Incident 7 - Barrow



**9 14th February 2020 13:53 - Penrith**

The Team was asked by Penrith MRT to assist in the search for a missing person. On arrival at the scene the Team was turned back as the missing person had been found.

**10 16th February 2020 12:51 - Ashness Bridge**

A fell runner slipped and sustained a dislocated ankle.

**11 22nd February 2020 12:18 - Castle Crag**

A woman suffered an ankle injury.

**12 22nd February 2020 14:16 - Castle Crag**

A woman suffered shoulder and arm injuries. Callout 12 was in almost the same location as Callout 11, about 15m uphill in fact.

**13 1st March 2020 15:20 - Bannerdale**

A woman suffered an ankle injury, beside the River Glenderamackin, behind Souther Fell.

**14 5th March 2020 17:27 - Helvellyn**

In winter conditions, and in descent near Browncove Craggs, a teenager, one of a school group, slid out of control, coming to rest some 60-80ft lower down, but not before hitting his face and breaking his nose, along with breaking a couple of fingers. One member of the group, on seeing the fall, had run off downhill and had not been seen since. Further Team members were subsequently tasked to find the missing person, who was later found by police. Whilst an assessment of the casualty was being carried out, the rest of the Team cut steps across the snow slope, and escorted the cold, damp, but uninjured pupils one by one to safer ground. Once the casualty had had his hand splinted and injuries assessed, he was able to walk with assistance. With one Team member on either side, the casualty was walked off, along with the rest of the group, back to the main path.



*Incident 18 - Cat Gill, Walla Crag*

**15 6th March 2020 15:42 - Brund Fell, Rosthwaite**

A young woman had sudden stomach pains near the aptly named Resting Stone. These were so severe that it prevented further progress. After a check-up by a Team paramedic, the casualty was able to walk down with assistance.

**16 11th March 2020 14:02 - Dodd Wood**

A man slipped and took a 20 feet tumble, injuring his head and ribs. The Ambulance Service requested assistance in getting the casualty back down to the main road.

**17 21st March 2020 12:24 - Honister Pass**

A cyclist was descending Honister Pass, when he lost control of the bike and fell, suffering severe injuries. Two passing off-duty medics immediately provided assistance and in a short time the police, mountain rescue, and air ambulance teams arrived, and tried to resuscitate the casualty. Sadly, and despite a sustained effort, nothing could be done to save him. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to the man's family and friends.

**18 22nd March 2020 14:21 - Cat Gill, Walla Crag**

A man slipped while descending, had a painful leg and could not weight bear.

## Incident Report 2020

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### 19 3rd May 2020 11:29 - High Side, Bassenthwaite

A farmer suffered serious injuries in an accident. His family and co-workers were nearby and did all they could with first aid until land and air ambulance crews arrived. As the accident occurred 200m up

a fell additional support from Keswick MRT was requested. Several doctors, paramedics, and ambulance staff made a sustained effort but sadly could not save him. Our deepest sympathies go out to the man's family and friends.



Incident 23 - Sty Head

### 20 29th May 2020 16:09 - Honister Pass

The Ambulance Service alerted the Team to help a cyclist who had crashed at a bridge on the descent from Honister Pass towards Buttermere.

### 21 31st May 2020 18:00 - Langstrath

A man had suffered a leg injury.

### 22 11th June 2020 18:06 - High Spy

A walker descending High Spy reported hearing shouts for help coming from the upper Newlands Valley. A search was made of likely spots but nothing was found.

### 23 14th June 2020 11:17 - Sty Head

A woman had fallen and injured her ankle near to Sty Head pass. Wasdale MRT dealt with the incident initially. After the ankle was treated and pain relief provided, the Wasdale team agreed to stretch the casualty down towards Seathwaite for a handover with Keswick MRT near to Stockley Bridge. Keswick MRT then completed the carry.

### 24 20th June 2020 16:04 - Shepherds Crag, Borrowdale

A man fell 8m whilst climbing the route M.G.C. at Shepherds Crag. He hit the ground and was in and out of consciousness, after a bang to the head. Air and road ambulance teams attended and treated the casualty. Keswick MRT packaged the man in a vacuum mattress and stretched him to the road ambulance.

### 25 3rd July 2020 21:30 - Helvellyn

Two women asked for assistance, having made a navigation error in poor weather, and with darkness approaching. The pair, together with their dog, were located at the summit shelter and were walked off the hill.

**26 9th July 2020 16:26 - Langstrath**

A woman had slipped and dislocated her knee, in the lower part of Langstrath. An ambulance paramedic on scene was able to reduce (put back in place) the knee cap.

**27 9th July 2020 17:13 - Skew Gill, Corridor Route, Great End**

A man took a tumble and damaged his hip and ribs. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

**28 24th July 2020 15:24 - Fell Side, Caldbeck Fells**

A man suffered an ankle injury, near Potts Gill, close to Fell Side.

**29 26th July 2020 19:38 - Dodd**

A woman suffered a hip injury.

**30 26th July 2020 21:39 - Scafell Pike**

A family of three requested help after getting lost. The call was dealt with initially by Wasdale MRT, who requested support from Keswick MRT on the 27th July as part of a search of the Scafell Pike area. It was later discovered that the family had made a safe descent to Wasdale.

**31 27th July 2020 13:50 - Sty Head**

Three teenagers were walked back down to the valley, after asking for help in very poor weather conditions, and having become very cold and wet.

**32 28th July 2020 15:33 - Wythburn**

A woman had an ankle injury, and was unable to weight bear after falling on the descent path from Helvellyn to Wythburn Church.

**33 30th July 2020 17:46 - Force Crag, Coledale**

A woman had an ankle injury, and was unable to weight bear, while descending the path down towards Force Crag mine.



*Incident 34 - Stonycroft Gill, Newlands*

**34 1st August 2020 16:45 - Stonycroft Gill, Newlands**

A woman suffered an ankle injury while gill scrambling.

**35 3rd August 2020 18:23 - Force Crag Mine**

A man was cycling down the main track from Force Crag Mine towards Braithwaite when a sheep leapt out into his path, causing him to crash. He

sustained severe facial and possible spinal injuries. A Coastguard helicopter took him to hospital.

**36 3rd August 2020 20:45 - Greenup Gill**

A man, his wife and daughter had become lost whilst walking part of the 'Coast to Coast' route from Grasmere to Stonethwaite, above Lining Crag. The Team escorted the family down to the valley.



## Incident Report 2020

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### 37 5th August 2020 07:00 - Esk Hause area

A family group of 6 hired bikes in Windermere with the intention of riding to Wasdale Head. However, the weather conditions and terrain were unsuitable for the trip, they did not give a detailed route plan, and had unsuitable clothing for the conditions, and took minimal provisions.

At 21.00 on 4th August, when they failed to arrive at the Wasdale Head, they were reported as overdue. Many attempts were made to contact members of the group by calling and messaging all of their six mobile phones. Repeated attempts were also made to locate the party by using the 'phone-find' technology used by MR teams. All with no success. Throughout the remainder of the evening the four MRT leaders from Wasdale, Keswick, Duddon and Furness, and Langdale-Ambleside Teams discussed the incident in detail. The conclusion was, that given no route description, it would be like looking for a needle in a haystack, and that the party may well not be in the mountains at all. As such members from some of the Teams drove the roads most likely to have been ridden by a cycle party with no success.

At 01.30 the Teams stood down and restarted the search at 07.00 on 5th August, to be informed by the police at 08.30 that the party had recently arrived at the Wasdale Head Inn after a very cold, wet and unpleasant night out.

The party explained that they had indeed gone into the mountains from Langdale with a plan to cross via Esk Hause, Styhead and descend into Wasdale, however they had become lost at Esk Hause. They had pressed on with the bikes as far as the boulder fields of Broad Crag, on Scafell Pike, before abandoning the bikes and continuing onto the Corridor Route where they went to ground until first light. They then continued onto the Wasdale Head Inn.

### 38 5th August 2020 12:39 - Cat Bells

A woman suffered an ankle injury on Skelgill Bank.

### 39 6th August 2020 17:49 - Castle Rock, Thirlmere

A rock-climber took a leader fall from about 40ft up the route called 'Gazebo'. He hit the ground before tumbling down the steep slope below. He suffered

head injuries. A Coastguard helicopter helped in the extraction of the casualty, by winching him, because of the awkwardness of his position and the seriousness of the injuries. He was then flown down to an Air Ambulance who took him to hospital.



*Incident 38 - Cat Bells*

**40 9th August 2020 10:18 - Great End**

A man had a tumble while descending below The Band, resulting in a deep laceration to his calf. The Team stretchered him down to Seathwaite, via Sty Head. Cockermouth MRT helped the Team.

**41 9th August 2020 13:06 - How, Portinscale**

Two walkers, on a path through fields, were charged by a bullock. Both were knocked to the ground, but managed to make their retreat into an adjacent field. The male casualty suffered a hip injury.

**42 10th August 2020 13:09 - Great End**

A woman suffered a hamstring injury while descending at the back of Great End. She was in intense pain and unable to straighten her leg or bear weight on it. An Air Ambulance was able to evacuate her from the fell.

**43 11th August 2020 15:15 - Stonethwaite**

A man appeared to suffer a seizure, at the campsite. The ambulance service requested assistance from the Team, in order to access the casualty site.

**44 12th August 2020 14:25 - Cat Bells**

A man was on the way up Cat Bells and about to ascend the last rocky scramble before the summit. However, he became paralysed by the exposure, and was unable to continue. The casualty was struggling, but could be walked off with the support of two Team members.

**45 13th August 2020 12:03 - Seatoller**

A mountain biker fell from his bike on a track above Seatoller. He suffered a deep cut to his knee.

**46 13th August 2020 13:47 - Latrigg**

A woman suffered an ankle injury while descending on the Spooney Green Lane path.



*Incident 42 - Great End*

**47 14th August 2020 19:20 - Taylorgill Force, Seathwaite**

After a possible sighting of a terrier near this waterfall, the Team made a search of the area, for a dog reported missing on 11th August. Unfortunately, there was no sign of the dog.

**48 19th August 2020 15:29 - Lingmell Col**

A woman suffered a knee injury. Incidents in this area would usually be dealt with by Wasdale MRT, but as that Team was committed to another incident, they requested help from Keswick MRT. The casualty was located and treated, and stretcher options evaluated. The Duddon and

## Incident Report 2020

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Furness MRT was at Wasdale Head in support of Wasdale MRT. They ascended the slopes of Lingmell, to meet the Keswick MRT. After both MRTs jointly negotiating some steep scree, the handover was made to Duddon and Furness MRT, who continued the descent with the casualty into Wasdale, while the Keswick team returned via the Corridor Route to Seathwaite.

### **49 21st August 2020 12:28 - Lord's Island, Derwentwater**

Two men were reported to be swimming in the lake, after having capsized their canoe between St Herbert's and Rampsholme Islands. The two ended up being washed up on Lord's Island. A Keswick MRT member who works at Derwentwater Marina took a rescue boat direct to the island to pick up the casualties and bring them to shore at Stable Hills. Meantime further resources were deployed from KMRT, Police, Fire and Rescue, and NWAS in case they were needed.

### **50 21st August 2020 13:53 - Brandreth**

A woman was blown off her feet, and injured her hip and head on some rocks. A call for help was routed through to Cockermouth MRT, who asked Keswick MRT for support with a stretcher carry. A Coastguard helicopter which had attended the earlier lake incident (no.49) went to investigate, but with low cloud and a strong, gusty wind had to abandon the attempt to help. Both MRTs made the approach to the casualty from Honister Quarries, but, because of the prevailing weather conditions, the casualty was stretchered down in to the sheltered valley of Gillercomb, and from there to Seathwaite via the path close to Sourmilk Gill.

### **51 20th August 2020 13:14 - Whinlatter Forest**

A mountain biker had crashed and injured his shoulder.

### **52 26th August 2020 13:44 - Hawes End**

A woman suffered an ankle injury, while walking the path between Hawes End and Lingholm.

### **53 27th August 2020 18:46 - Helvellyn**

The Team was called to assist a missing man, who had suffered a tumble, and sustained cuts and grazes, but was making slow progress down to Swirls, Thirlmere.

### **54 29th August 2020 14:35 - Great End**

A man had become 'cragfast' on the cliff, while trying a direct descent towards Sprinkling Tarn. A Cockermouth MRT member was in the vicinity and provided good intelligence on the situation and means of extraction. While Keswick MRT made their way up Grains Gill for a potential rope rescue from the summit of Great End, a request was also made to the Coastguard for helicopter support. Subsequently, the Coastguard helicopter winched the man to safety.

### **55 30th August 2020 12:27 - Knott**

A man walking in the area between Knott and Coomb Height suffered chest pains. An Air Ambulance took him to hospital.

### **56 1st September 2020 13:56 - Whinlatter Forest**

A mountain biker had crashed and injured his shoulder.

### **57 2nd September 2020 13:03 - Bleas Fell, Threlkeld**

A woman suffered an ankle injury.

### **58 3rd September 2020 10:46 - Surprise View, Borrowdale**

A dog was rescued, after it had fallen off the edge of the viewing point.

### **59 5th September 2020 14:53 - King's How, Borrowdale**

A woman slipped on a rocky path, landed on her back and banged the back of her head.

### **60 5th September 2020 19:20 - Sty Head**

A man had become exhausted, and started stumbling on the wet rocky path, falling a few times, and taking a few minor knocks and scrapes. He was unable to complete the walk.

### **61 6th September 2020 14:48 - Blencathra**

A woman slipped and broke her ankle.

### **62 12th September 2020 13:05 - Whinlatter Forest**

A woman had fallen from her electric bike, and suffered wrist, back and pelvis injuries.

### **63 14th September 2020 16:22 - Knott Rigg, Newlands**

A woman suffered a knee injury.

### **64 15th September 2020 14:27 - Dock Tarn**

A man had become unwell. Because of the nature of the reported symptoms, and the man's medical history, an Air Ambulance was called to help the Team.

### **65 17th September 2020 10:18 - Hanging Stone, Base Brown**

A man had fallen and tumbled approximately 50 metres down a rocky slope. Because of the severity of the fall, and possible serious head injuries, an Air Ambulance was requested to attend. The helicopter took him to hospital.

### **66 17th September 2020 12:43 - Johnny Wood, Borrowdale**

A woman had a slip on a steep wet path, and her legs had become too wobbly for her to continue.



**67 27th September 2020 12:20 - Carl Side**

A man collapsed on the path descending the south side of Carl Side. Walkers in the vicinity immediately went to help at the same time as alerting the emergency services. An Air Ambulance was first on scene followed shortly after by Keswick MRT. Sadly, despite a sustained effort by all the medical professionals, the man could not be resuscitated. Our thoughts and condolences go to the man's family and friends.

**68 27th September 2020 15:17 - Helvellyn**

A man became exhausted whilst descending to Swirls car park by Thirlmere. He was reported to be cold and unable to take on any sustenance. An examination revealed he had a low blood sugar level, but, after warming and being provided with fast acting carbohydrate, he started to recover.

**69 2nd October 2020 12:16 - Borrowdale**

A man was on the riverside walk between Grange and Rothwaite, when he had a fall. Although there was no apparent injury, he was sufficiently shaken that some passing walkers wisely requested MRT help. After a thorough examination he was deemed well enough to continue walking to Rothwaite, supported by a couple of team members.

**70 3rd October 2020 16:45 - Helvellyn**

A party of three women had become lost in bad visibility whilst descending from the summit of Helvellyn. The Team helped them down to Swirls.

**71 4th October 2020 13:24 - Nitting Haws, Borrowdale**

A man tripped on the path that descends towards Grange, causing an ankle dislocation.

**72 4th October 2020 13:48 - St Johns in the Vale**

A man had injured his ankle in a slip.

**73 14th October 2020 19:21 - Clough Head**

A group of 3 walkers had become unsure of a way down from the summit. They were escorted off the fell.

**74 17th October 2020 12:45 - Whinlatter Forest**

A mountain biker crashed, and he suffered a fracture in his lower leg.



*Incident 71 - Nitting Haws, Borrowdale*

## Incident Report 2020

### 75 17th October 2020 14:52 - Low Rigg

A woman suffered a leg injury while climbing down from a wall stile.

### 76 17th October 2020 18:06 - Robinson

A man suffered an ankle injury.



Incident 76 - Robinson

### 77 21st October 2020 13:41 - Sharp Edge, Blencathra

A man slipped, and fell most of the way down the north gully. An Air Ambulance delivered a doctor to the scene, and separately picked up several Team members taking them to the casualty

site. While the medical team were treating the man's serious injuries, Coast Guard helicopter support was requested to winch the casualty out of the gully. Unfortunately, this plan had to be abandoned due to turbulent wind conditions. So, after the casualty was packaged, he was lowered on a stretcher to a safe area, and loaded onto the Air Ambulance, which flew the man to hospital.

### 78 22nd October 2020 14:55 - Cat Bells

A woman had slipped on wet rock and had fallen several metres. She suffered cuts on her face and a suspected broken thumb.

### 79 22nd October 2020 17:58 - Derwentwater

A group of four men set off on kayaks from Kettlewell. One capsized and two others were put into difficulty trying to rescue him. Keswick MRT launched their rescue boat from Keswick boat landings, and another from Derwentwater Marina in Portinscale. The three in the water were found very cold but conscious. The fourth member of the party was recovered from St Herbert's Island by a Fire and Rescue boat. Once all four were accounted for, the Coastguard helicopter that was en route to help the search was stood down.

### 80 26th October 2020 15:58 - Dale Head

A search for a missing teenager. He was found at the end of the miners track on the north side of the fell.

### 81 5th November 2020 10:29 - Sharp Edge, Blencathra

Two teenagers and a dog had become 'cragfast'. The Team set up a rope-line along the ridge and assisted the group to safety.

### 82 14th November 2020 13:07 - Helvellyn

Patterdale MRT initiated a search for a group of three walkers, after the group had become lost,

and after one of the party was said to have fainted. On arriving at Wythburn, Keswick MRT met a fourth member of the walking party, who had returned down the hill, and was on the phone to the group. During the call their Lat-Long grid reference using the Google Maps app was confirmed as half way up Birkside Gill, south of the path from Wythburn to Helvellyn. All were uninjured and were able to be walked down.

### **83 21st November 2020 15:22 - Sharp Edge, Blencathra**

Part way along the Edge, a couple opted out of continuing. They unfortunately tried to descend from the ridge down towards Scales Tarn. The man slipped and fell from part way down. His partner was stuck on the crag unable to go up or down. KMRT members were split into two parties, with a team going to assist the fallen man approaching from the tarn, and with the second party going along Sharp Edge in order to get to and lower the woman to safety.

The man's successful attempts to not tumble, in order to avoid potentially far more serious injuries, meant that all the impact had been on his lower back, ribs and leg. Strong analgesia was given before immobilising him in a vacuum mattress and placing him on a stretcher for a rope-assisted lower down the mountain.

Meantime other team members had climbed along Sharp Edge, securing a safety line along the ridge. A team member was lowered to locate and secure the crag-fast female. Once harnessed and helmeted, the woman and rescuer were lowered to easy ground at the foot of the crag above the tarn, from where they were able to walk down. The man was then taken to hospital by a Coastguard helicopter that had waited in a field at the base of the mountain.

### **84 22nd November 2020 14:11 - Barf**

Two women had become 'cragfast' below Slape Crag.

### **85 29th November 2020 17:08 - Raise**

A couple took a wrong turn in mist, while descending Helvellyn, and as it became dark and without torches, they asked for rescue assistance. 'Phonefind' was able to locate them near to the summit of Raise, so the Team walked them down to safety.

### **86 6th December 2020 20:57 Whinlatter Forest**

A young couple had become lost. 'Phonefind' confirmed their position as just south of Lord's Seat. They were guided to safety.

### **87 8th December 2020 11:41 - Grisedale Pike**

A couple found themselves in cloud and unable to

find their descent path. After a short off-piste attempt into the snowy NE bowl, they asked for help. The pair were found, harnessed and helmeted, then short-rope back to the main path from where they were accompanied down the fell.

### **88 25th December 2020 13:38 - Rosthwaite**

A man suffered a knee injury, on Lingy Bank.

### **89 30th December 2020 14:36 - Dale Head**

A man slipped on his descent from Dale Head and dislocated his shoulder.

### **90 31st December 2020 16:54 - Cat Bells**

The ambulance service requested support after a quad bike had gone off the road, below Cat Bells, following a minor collision with a car. As well as MR a fire crew also attended. The quad bike rider appeared to have suffered a broken collar bone.



*Incident 85 - Raise*



## 2020 - an unusual year in Mountain Rescue Casualty Care

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Writing this as we enter yet another period of national lockdown in response to the spiralling Coronavirus crisis, it seems strange to think back to January 2020 when the pandemic threat was barely being discussed, and Covid-19 illness was a small story from a previously obscure Chinese city.

As the year progressed, the developing situation became clearer, and Mountain Rescue teams had to adapt their training and incident management to account for the risks presented both by potentially infected casualties, but also by working in close quarters with fellow team members, any of whom could have been vectors for transmission of the virus. Fortunately, in an evidence-light situation, Keswick MRT were able to benefit from evolving guidance from Mountain Rescue's national and



*Incident 11 - Castle Crag*

regional medical committees, and our infection control practices developed with time and greater understanding of the pandemic.

Despite a three-month period with very few rescues during lockdown, the end of restrictions saw large numbers of visitors to the Lakes, and in August the team ended up with our highest number of callouts in a calendar month ever. The most common injury encountered in Mountain Rescue is to the lower leg, and this year seemed to be the year of the nasty ankle injury for Keswick MRT. A series of unlucky hill walkers came to grief, often on grassy terrain that had been made treacherous by heavy rain after a prolonged dry spell.

Time and again the team turned out to find displaced ankle fractures, with the foot rotated abnormally and the skin pulled taut over the underlying bone. These situations can have serious long-term consequences for the casualty- the longer the nerves and blood supply to the foot are disrupted for, the more problematic the consequent surgery and recovery become. In these circumstances, we deliver strong pain relief, either by injection or absorption through the mucosa of the mouth, and then 'reduce' the injury using traction and manipulation to get the joint as close to anatomical alignment as possible. This typically restores adequate circulation to the foot, and also prevents permanent damage to the stretched skin. We then maintain the position of the ankle with splinting, using a lightweight, malleable splint that is rigid once moulded and bandaged into place. We have found that 'vet wrap' self-adhesive bandaging, well known to horse and dog owners, to be the best solution for this.

At the other end of the severity scale, once again 2020 saw Keswick MRT responding to several incidents involving major trauma- serious injuries to multiple body systems. Typically as a result of long falls, such as off Sharp Edge, one of our accident black spots, these incidents see increasingly complex and invasive treatments, previously only available within the walls of the hospital, being delivered in remote and inaccessible locations. This

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## 2020 - an unusual year in Mountain Rescue Casualty Care

advanced care is available thanks to the increasingly close working relationships we have with the teams of both the helicopter emergency medical services (locally, the Great North Air Ambulance and North West Air Ambulance charities), and the HM Coastguard helicopter crews. Casualties have benefitted from surgical interventions, blood transfusions and prehospital emergency anaesthesia, all delivered at or near the scene of the incident, thereby delivering the best possible stabilisation and prospects for recovery. The availability of aircraft evacuation also mean that these patients can be taken directly to a major trauma specialist hospital, the nearest of which are in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Preston.

Members of Keswick MRT hold the nationally issued Casualty Care certificate, which is examined every 3 years and allows team members to deliver interventions and medications (including controlled drugs) beyond



*Incident 39 - Castle Rock, Thirlmere*



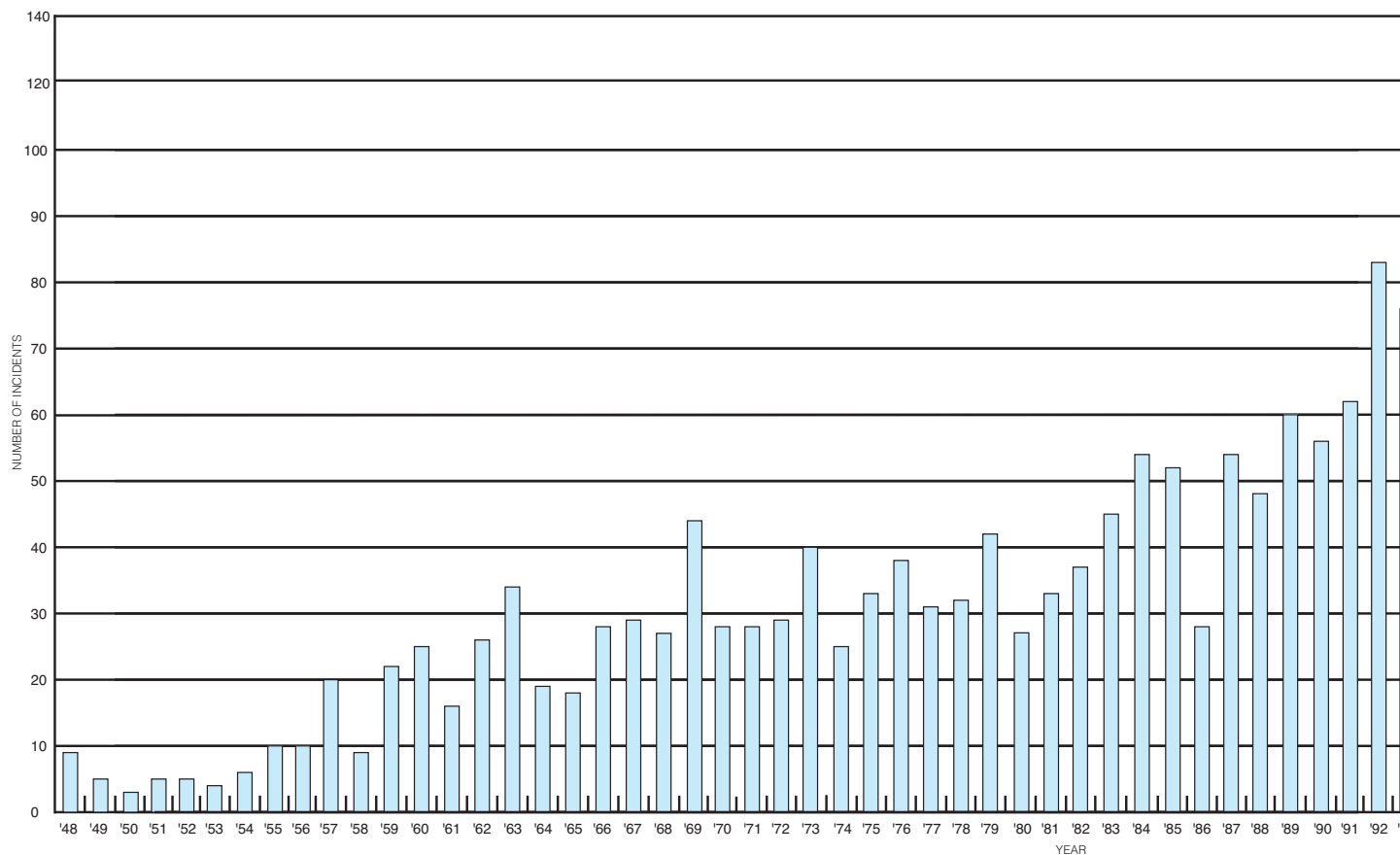
*Incident 74 - Whinlatter Forest*

those of routine first aid. The team also benefits from having members who work as doctors, paramedics and emergency medical technicians on helicopter teams, on ambulances and in general practice and emergency departments locally. This allows for the development of effective inter-disciplinary training, working and feedback, allowing for an ever-improving standard of care to be delivered to our casualties. As we look ahead to 2021, the fells are covered in snow and ice and we have already had our first rescue of the new year. Our minds turn to training for hypothermia, avalanche burial and the added severity of weather that complicates Mountain Rescue in winter, and, despite the pandemic, we continue to be available to help those in distress in the mountains at any time, day or night.

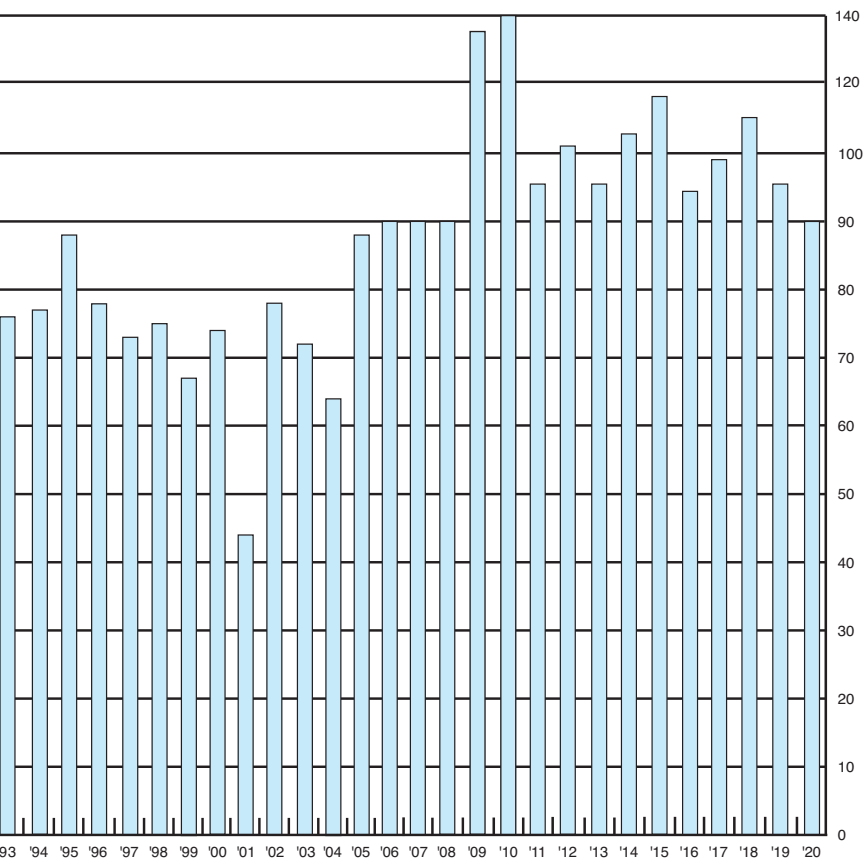
**Tom Blakely**

# Incident Report 2020

KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM 1948 - 2020



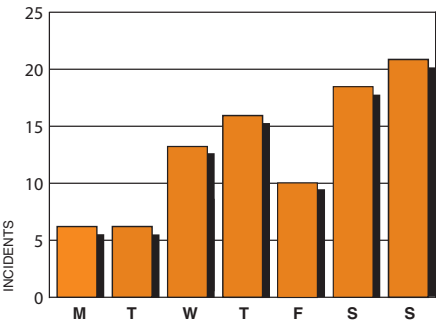




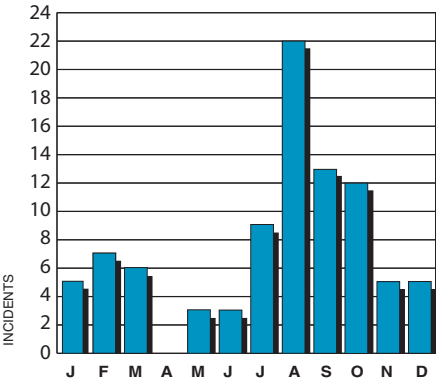
Incident 7 - Barrow

# Callout Statistics - 90 Callouts

DAYS OF THE WEEK 2020

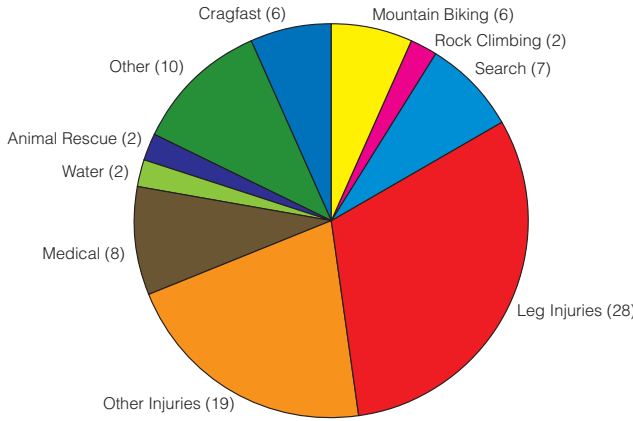


MONTHS OF THE YEAR 2020

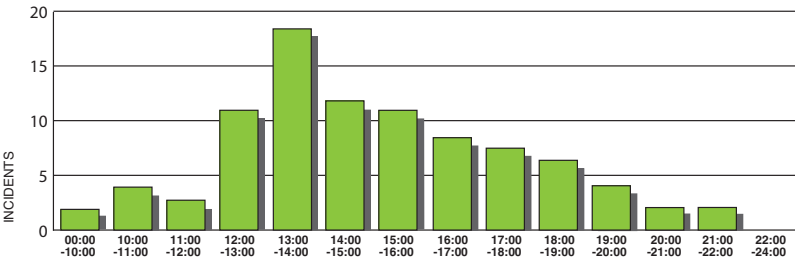


INCIDENT TYPES 2020

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



TIME OF THE DAY 2020



In June 2020 the Team was honoured to receive The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), which is known as "the MBE for volunteer groups."

The award is to "recognise and celebrate, with professionalism and integrity, a diverse range of organisations who are making exceptional contributions to society."

Fittingly, the award actually went to all 12 of the rescue teams that make up our umbrella body LDSAMRA, the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association.

Seeing as we often train together, share knowledge and expertise, and work together on rescues, it's really good to recognise all that wider teamwork and support.

Together we add up to about 400 men and women from all walks of life, and a couple of people will go to a garden party at Buckingham Palace for tea and to represent us all.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.

It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and the QAVS recipients are announced each year on 2nd June, the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

We have a signed certificate in our base at Keswick, there's a crystal award for the whole LDSAMRA region, and each of us in the Team received a rather special QAVS pin badge.

But before we got too carried away, we remembered Isaac Newton's words about 'standing on the shoulders of giants' ... and the past team members who put us where we are today.

After very little debate we came up with criteria to select the former team

members whose huge contributions to us achieving this QAVS award should not go unrecognised.

It boiled down to those still living who had served in the Team for 25 years or more. These 16 people carried great loads on their shoulders to make the Team what it is today.

Donald Angus  
Paul Carter  
Alan Ferguson  
David Ferguson  
Mick Guy  
Roy Henderson  
Scott Henderson  
Paul Horder  
Robin Humphreys  
Brian Martland  
Phil Newton  
Val Nixon  
Des Oliver  
Brian Spencer  
Ian Wallace  
Dave Weeks

Their QAVS pin badges will be given to them personally by Malcolm Miller, a member of the Team for over 50 years now, who has served alongside every single one of them.

\* Sir Isaac Newton wrote in a letter to fellow scientist Robert Hooke in 1675, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

(25 years is a long-standing, recognised milestone for long service in the wider world of mountain rescue).

**Paul Cheshire**



## 50 Years!

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50 years, how did that happen? While it is a significant landmark it is certainly not unique, I follow in the footsteps of Mike Nixon and Des Oliver, previous long-term members of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team and impressive acts to follow.

I joined Keswick Mountain Rescue Team in 1970 when I was a teacher at Lairthwaite School, along with Brian Spencer, work colleague and fellow outdoor enthusiast. Everyone remembers their first rescue and ours was to attend a group on Carrock Fell, one of whom was suffering from exposure.

According to the Team records it was September and as I recall it a pretty miserable day, typically wet and windy Lake District weather. By the time we got there others in the group were also suffering but were able to descend by their own means while the initial casualty was stretchered off.

That scenario was to be more or less repeated many times over the years to come, okay different locations and different injuries but the routine followed a familiar pattern.

In the early 70's it was the Police station in Keswick that was the centre of communications and gathering point. Members would be alerted individually by 'phone then make their way to the station where a Landover would be waiting. There were few radios and once out on the hill



*Malcolm Miller*

we relied mostly on verbal communication.

If there was a big search in the central fells, once we had been briefed and left the valley we were on our own; covering our given area and returning to the valley for further instructions. Occasionally the search might be recalled, the signal being a maroon flare. If you could see or hear it!

Obviously much has changed over the years and so much for the better, improved communications certainly, but the Team functions much more efficiently in so many ways.

Following a 999 call, the Team can now have the first vehicle on its way within minutes. For years we used different kinds of pagers, but today with smartphones in everyday use, the response time is very much reduced.

The use of smartphones has sometimes been criticised in some quarters; a perceived 'get out of jail free' ticket. Rarely has the technology been used as such, far more frequently it has enabled a casualty to raise the alarm and initiate a response in a much faster time, with potentially life saving consequences. Like any piece of equipment, if used intelligently it is of immense value; that is as an addition to (not instead of) a map, compass, suitable clothing, weather awareness, knowing ones own limitations and so on.

The resources available to the Team have also improved tremendously over the years. From a dedicated base and a veritable fleet of fully equipped vehicles, to a group of well equipped and highly skilled individuals ready to turn out at a moments notice.

Team members have a wide range of skills that are constantly updated through regular and

rigorous training. Not only are they individually equipped to perform efficiently in all mountain conditions, but have qualified training in specific areas such as driving, rigging techniques, working with helicopters, fast water rescue and casualty care (a high level of first aid permitting the administration of pain relieving medication, essential to the welfare of casualties in a threatening environment).

When I joined the team I did so because I felt I had something to offer; mountaineering skills with experience in the Lakes, Scotland and Alps. There was also the consideration that however careful or prepared one might be, accidents can happen to anyone at any time. Therefore helping someone out of a tricky situation (knowing that it could equally happen to you) seemed to be an appropriate way of giving something back to mountaineering.

However, I wasn't aware at the beginning of how much I would gain in return.

The overriding benefit of being a Team member for so long is the friendships that have been formed. The vast majority the people I consider my friends are either current or past members of the Team. Our shared interest in the outdoors has resulted in some very memorable days both locally and much further afield. Of particular note, a group ascent of Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis, in perfect conditions, to celebrate Mike



*Malcolm (second from the left) celebrating in 1998 the 50th anniversary of the first Team practice at Kern Knotts, Great Gable. In 2020 Malcolm celebrated his 50 years as a Team member.*

Nixon's 80th birthday, and on another occasion combining a motorcycle trip touring the Dolomites including some brilliant via ferrata ascents, plus of course many days closer to home out on the hills and enjoying the rock climbing in our own locality.

Quite definitely the past five decades being

involved with Keswick Mountain Rescue Team has been very much a two-way relationship. Any contribution I have made has been equally repaid through the comradeship and multitude of memorable experiences on and off the hills.

Thanks for the memories.

**Malcolm Miller**

## Search Dog Meg 2007-2020

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It is with much sadness that I lost my beautiful Search Dog Meg in early October 2020, she was nearly 13 ½ years old.

Meg was a pretty tri-colour collie girl with foxy pricked ears and spotty nose and legs, expressive amber eyes and a beautiful banner tail.

I rehomed Meg at 11 months old from a local farm and as she had not left the farm, she was shy and timid and would not even come for a walk.

She soon started to come out of her shell with TLC and the help of my previous search dog Mac and her character started to emerge as her confidence grew.

She started her training as a search dog in November 2008 and to start with she would only bark for a dustpan brush wiggled on the floor though soon moved onto proper toys with balls and squeaky toys being a favourite. Though she did also manage to chew through a knitted plait on a body's hat!

She would also creep up on the bodies hiding out for us and often came back to tell me that she had found with them when they were still unaware they had been found until barked at furiously second time in – she was a sneaky girl.

Meg graded in April 2011 in the Howgills and went on to work as a graded Search Dog and was a member of Keswick MRT for 8 years before developing arthritis and retiring in March 2019.

Meg attended 84 callouts with me – many just us and a good few working as a team with Search Dog partner Bracken. Many of the callouts I remember were in the dark, wet, raining, windy, poor visibility searching for lost walkers, runners or despondent and vulnerable people. Training and working a dog in conditions like these build a bond and understanding that cannot be explained.

She attended avalanche training in Scotland, flew in helicopters, went in



*Search Dog Meg*



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## Keswick MRT and Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dogs

boats and also starred in Cumbria Life Magazine and the Mountain Rescue Film 2015 where she sits gracefully at the end.

She was always very agile and would scamper up and down small crags or run along walls making my heart race.

Meg was also the cover girl for our Friends Supporters leaflets for many years and loved to have her tummy ticked by children at our Open Days and Collections outside the Fiat Garage in Keswick.

In late 2015 she was tasked, along with Search Dog Ginny to find Pudsey Bear who had got lost on Catbells for a short film for Children in Need. She was quite taken with Pudsey's feet which resembled very large fluffy toys in her eyes and tried several times to get hold and run off with them! Meg also starred in a Japanese programme about dogs and owners demonstrating how we train search dogs to find people using toys and play.

She was such a character, she was loving, fun, playful and cheeky and also stubborn, awkward and analysing – a real thinker and pushed my patience to its limit at times, she made me laugh and I adored her. She was very chatty and vocal and liked to comment on many things with a Woo Woo which could quickly escalate to an excited bark-especially when playing or at small wheels and birds.

She loved water and would be down at the water's edge of any lake or river waiting for a toy to be thrown in or would swim alongside me.

She taught me so much as a search team partner and as a friend and companion and life is so much emptier without her.

I am heartbroken to lose her and miss her enormously, she was always there, and life is very quiet.

Time will heal and I have many good memories of all the good places we went and the things we did together, and she will always be with me.

**Elly Whiteford**



*Meg and Elly*

## Search Dog Bracken Retires

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Time flies and it doesn't seem five minutes since I picked up Bracken, a beautiful dark brown fluffy tri-colour collie with a striking white blaze up his face, from a farm at 18 months old. We went for a walk then he jumped into the boot of my car with Mac and Meg, my other two collies, like he belonged there and home he came.

He spent the first week living in the porch and peeping round the door into the kitchen at us before finding the courage to come into the house and spent a lot of the time on walks behind my legs. His confidence soon grew with patience and bonding with Mac and Meg, especially Meg as they would chase and play with each other.

Initially, I wasn't going to train him for search work but Meg, my current working Search Dog at the time had developed a recurring leg injury and Bracken had already taken to the short exercises I tasked them with, running with them to find hidden articles and picking up quickly on the indication. So, when I tried him on his own he searched, found and indicated by barking with no problems and this transferred easily to finding people and he loved every minute.

Bracken passed his obedience test in May 2012 and started training. Training a new dog is exciting and Bracken was my third trainee search dog. They are all individuals and for me, I needed to learn about him and form a working

bond, finding out what drove him and excited him for reward-this was tuggy games with rings and plastic sticks.

He was a pleasure to train and work and responded well to encouragement and reward, was eager to please, and so we progressed well through the search training stages, though not without a few hiccups though.

We graded as a fully trained search team in July 2014 following a gruelling final assessment that took us from the valley bottom to the summit ridges of the Coniston fells working for nearly five hours through bog, steep scree, crags, boulder fields, steep grass and bracken. From this point on I would work Bracken on his own or as a team with Meg.

In 2015 we travelled to Killarney in southern Ireland with several other Search Dogs from the Lakes to attend the International Congress of Alpine Rescue (ICAR) where Mountain Rescue representatives from all over the world gather to discuss advances in technology, medical treatment, avalanche and wilderness rescue and produce guidelines of best practice that can be used in all countries.

We worked with the Irish Search Dogs and met dog handlers from many countries to discuss how we train and learn from each other. We set up demonstrations to show how our dogs



*Search Dog Bracken*

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## Keswick MRT and Lake District Mountain Rescue Search Dogs

searched the ground and indicated back to us when they had found a casualty and took us to them. We were filmed as part of the conference and appeared on Irish TV!

In spring 2016 Bracken suffered a serious leg injury during training while on a strike to a body. His foreleg went down a hole while running and he suffered ligament and bone damage to his wrist. This resulted in the joint being fused and I thought that was the end of his career as a search dog. His leg healed well and he coped amazingly, so following discussions with the vets I decided to see how he coped on the fells.

Being a big, strong and fit dog, he came back to search work following an assessment and attended his first callout in December 2016.

Two days later, on his second search after his return to work he had a find on an elderly diabetic gentleman who had been missing from home since the Friday lunchtime and out for two cold winter nights.

Despite the efforts of the Police, Cockermouth Mountain Rescue Team and local people, the gentleman had not been found and the Search Dogs were called in on the Sunday morning to assist.

We were searching fields in West Cumbria separated by deep tidal ditches and scrub. It was mid to late afternoon and we had been searching for over 5hrs when heading to

investigate a sighting of a black hat that some locals had told me about when Bracken found the gentleman in an area of rough ground in a field that had already been searched earlier that day.

Bracken was out of sight so I couldn't see the gentleman until Bracken barked and I saw the flash of his orange jacket and ran towards him and then I could see a figure lying on the ground along the bottom of the fence and under some vegetation. As I approached, he moved and raised his arm, he was amazingly alive though severely hypothermic and was flown to hospital in the air ambulance.

It is hard to describe the emotions when your dog finds a missing person, it doesn't feel quite real at the time and the adrenaline is rushing as you assess the casualty whilst getting on the radio to get information out about location and condition for assistance, then treating the casualty the best you can until more people and equipment arrive along with the medics.

After the casualty had been evacuated, there was Bracken sitting, temporarily forgotten in amongst the contents of my rucksack that was dispersed in a hurry to find thermal blankets and a shelter to protect the casualty. He then had a play and a fuss and lots of people telling him what a good boy he was. I was very proud of him for a job well done and that all that training had finally paid off.

Although not as long a career as some search dogs, Bracken is now nearly 12 and has been a member of Keswick MRT and a graded Search Dog for 6 ½ years, attending nearly 50 search callouts and accompanying the team on many more, which, considering his time out for injury is an effort to be proud of and of course his find.

He has been a pleasure to work and be on the hill with, typically, we are out in the worst weather conditions when searching. We have been in boats and he has been featured on the Coastguard website pictured being winched into the helicopter wearing his 'doggles'.

He is the cover for our Friends Supporters' leaflets and appeared in Cumbria Life Magazine and other various news articles along with fellow search teams.

He is my best friend and companion and through COVID he has been my anchor and got me through the low points with his constant affection and companionship, playfulness and happy disposition. I cannot fail to smile at his beautiful fluffy face and the expressions and looks he gives me and can't believe how fast time has gone.

He now deserves his rest and to stay in the warm when the pager goes off, though I know he would always rather be out with me.

Thank you, Bracken.

**Elly Whiteford**



## Treasurer's Report

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Other parts of this report will have dealt with the strange year 2020 has been from the perspective of KMRT as lockdown gave way to a flood of visitors over the summer, but fortunately our finances have remained robust. Collection box income and In Memory receipts from funerals have been badly hit of course, but other income has held up well with a few useful legacies helping to make up the shortfall. Funeral directors have started using online donation websites to make sure those who want to give are still easily able to do so despite being unable to attend the funeral in person.

I would also like to thank those who give by standing order or regularly through Just Giving, for example, as their contributions help us to budget through good times and bad. Over the years, their contributions quietly mount up to considerable sums, usually with the additional benefit of Gift Aid.

Our costs have been lower than expected, in large part because we have not spent as much on training, and in particular had to cancel our usual winter preparation trip to Chamonix.

The value of our investments has taken a hit, but not by as much as we would have expected. During the year we withdrew £250,000 from them to help pay for the base extension, which is, at long last, proceeding apace. Thanks are particularly due to Chris Gillyon for overseeing this project. Once we have paid for it, entirely out of our own resources, the team's reserves will remain sufficient to cover all eventualities, and I am grateful to all past and continuing donors who have made this possible. In particular, very generous legacies have allowed us to build up our reserves in the past.

By the time you read this, we will have received, all being well, delivery of our new stretchers, built in Canada to our own design. This has been a long running project that has taken a lot of effort from a small group of team members but particularly Mark Hodgson, to whom thanks are very much due.

We also have the new stretcher box at Sty Head ready for installation,

awaiting a helicopter lift or, failing that, a group of willing volunteers to carry it onto site. Former team member Matt Eaves is due our thanks for organising its construction.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have generously contributed to the team at a time when money has been tight for many people, or raised funds through a Just Giving appeal. In particular, a casualty we rescued in December 2019 from Cam Crag ridge in Langstrath has raised over £2,700 for us via her Just Giving page. We have been very fortunate in having some incredibly generous donors this year, many quoting the difficulties of operating under Covid 19 as their reason for giving. Oh, and I can't end without thanking Sally at Glencoe Guest House who continues to raise money for the team by selling her cakes and recipe book – I can personally vouch for the results

**John Hunston**



*Incident 79 - Derwentwater*

Tues 4th Feb started well. I was away on my annual winter walking trip to the lakes with my dad. We've been coming up here for years. We are well practiced fell walkers, and I'm also an Ultra trail runner. After a cloudy day on the tops of the Coledale round, the weather finally cleared to reveal some amazing views for our journey down. We had a nice easy decent down Barrow ahead, and were looking forward to a well-earned pint at the bottom. Maybe I'd lost my concentration, maybe I was too preoccupied by the views. Either way, one minute I was happily walking along, the next I was on the ground with my ankle twisted underneath me.

With the pain I was in, and the cracking sound I'd heard, I knew I wouldn't make it down on my own, even though we were so close to the finish. My dad quickly called for assistance. My phones sim card had malfunctioned earlier in the day, so we down to 1 phone. As dad was waiting for a call back from the emergency services, his phone ran out of power. Fortunately, I had a power bank with me. We were able to give our exact location to the operator using the what three words app. I soon started to get cold, as even at this lower level the wind was strong and very cold. I put on my extra layers and got my survival bag out. Before we knew it the cavalry appeared over the crest of the hill below us. It was a huge relief to see them.

Within minutes I was wrapped up warm and was protected from the wind by a pop-up tent. I was really only aware of the 2 members of the team either side of me and a couple at my feet assessing my ankle at this point. They were so friendly and put me at ease straight away. I was quickly made comfortable and my ankle put in a splint. Before I knew it, I was sledging down the hill on the stretcher, as the smooth ground made for an easier descent. This was when I became aware of the number of team members that were in attendance (17 in total I later discovered). How this many people going about their normal lives could mobilize and be so organised so quickly is truly incredible! The Keswick Mountain Rescue ambulance was waiting for me at the bottom, but fortunately we were able to make our own way in the car to Carlisle hospital where it was confirmed I had a spiral fracture to my fibula. I would be in a cast for some time.

I really can't thank the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team enough. It's a service we all hope we won't need to call on, but they are always there if disaster strikes! They're living proof not all heroes wear capes! The guys, ladies and canines that give up their time as volunteers, often in horrific weather, and in dangerous situations to do this amazing work really do deserve medals.

**Helen Robinson**



*Incident 7 - Barrow*

## Collection Boxes 2020

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No one needs reminding that 2020 has been an extraordinary year. I have previously noted that contributions have been dropping as people become more used to making payments by card rather than cash. This has been particularly noticeable during the last year. Also of course, many of our box holders, being in the hospitality business, have been closed or suffering from drastically reduced clientele.

Consequently, our collection box takings (common with most charitable organisations) have been significantly down on previous years. It is not all negative however. While it is difficult to single out specific contributors, there are a couple of examples that deserve mention. Sally Lunson, the proprietor of Glencoe Guest House in the town, has for some years raised significant amounts of money through the sale of cakes. This year she has gone a step further, publishing a book of recipes, raising even more funds for the Team.

Another notable contribution, and a first as far as I am aware, was from Liz Mather, a Dentist in Carlisle who instead of wedding gifts, asked for our collection boxes so that her guests could contribute to the Team.

Our thanks go to both of the above for their generous efforts and consideration.

The future of the collection boxes may be in question, but they will continue to be displayed for the foreseeable future. There are however some changes. We are updating our boxes in some locations so they may look a little different. Also, we are expecting to include a QR code on the labels in the near future as an extra dimension to gifting the Team.

Whatever way you can support us, please continue to do so. All contributions are appreciated and very much needed. Please remember that Mountain Rescue is only funded through public donations.

Thank you and take care.

**Malcolm Miller and Paul White**  
(Collection Box Coordinators)



*Incident 69 - Borrowdale*

## Collection Box Sponsors

2 Windsor House	Cumbria House	Horse & Farrier	Medical Centre	Silverdale Hotel
Abacourt House	Cumbrian Cottages	Howekeld	Middle Ruddings Hotel	Skiddaw Croft
Acorn House	Cyclewise Whinlatter	HQ Box	Mill Cottage	Skiddaw Grove Hotel
Alexandra's	Dale Bottom Campsite	Jan's Lakeland Sandwich Shop	Mill Inn Mungrisdale	Skiddaw Hotel
Alhambra Cinema	Dale Head Hall Hotel	Java	Millets	Skiddaw House Hostel
Allerdale House	Dalegarth Hotel	Keswick Bike Company	Moot Hall	Spar
Alpkit	David and Elaine Burns	Keswick Brewing Company	Morrels	Spar BP Garage
Alternative	Denton House	Keswick Campsite	Mrs Lingard Homethwaite House	Squirrel Lodge Guesthouse
Appletrees Guest Ho.	Derwent Bank HF	Keswick Cottage Hospital	Namaste	Star of Siam
Armthwaite Hall	Derwent Club	Keswick Fridge Magnet	Near Howe Mungrisdale	Strathmore Guesthouse
Ashness Farm	Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre	Keswick Golf Club	Needle Sports	Stybeck Farm
Avondale Guesthouse	Derwentwater Club Site	Keswick Launch Company	New House	Sun Inn
Bank Tavern	Derwentwater Holiday Home Site	Keswick Park Hotel	Newlands Adventure Centre	Sunnyside Guesthouse
Barclays Bank	Derwentwater Hostel	Keswick Reach Lodge Retreat	Nichol End Marina	Sweet Treats
Barn Gill House	Derwentwater Marina	Keswick Reminder Office	Nordicoutdoors	Swinside Farm Cottage
Bean on the Fells	Dog and Gun	Keswick Rugby Club	Norwegian Store	Swinside Inn
Birch How Guesthouse	Dollywagon Guesthouse	Keswick Spa	Old Keswickian	Swinside Lodge
Blacks	Dorchester House	Keswick YHA	Oxleys Underskiddaw	Swiss Court Hotel
Bookends	Eden Green	Kingfisher	Packhorse Inn	Tarn Hows Guesthouse
Booths	Edwardene Hotel	Kings Head Hotel	Paramo	The Beeches
Boots Chemist	Eel Crag	Kirkbride Eyecare	Parkergate	The Chalet
Borrowdale Caravan Club Site	Electric Shop	Knotts View	Peathouse	The Cheese Deli.
Borrowdale Gates Hotel	Ellergill Guesthouse	Kong Adventure	Pheasant Inn	The Heights Hotel
Borrowdale Hotel	Elm Tree Lodge	Lairbeck Hotel	Pizza Panorama	The Keswick Boot Company
Borrowdale YHA	Farmers Arms	Lake Road Inn	Portland House	The Lookout Guesthouse
Braithwaite Court HPB	Fat Face	Lakeland	Primrose Cottage	The Puzzling Place
Braithwaite Shop	Ferndene Guesthouse	Lakeland Décor	Primrose Cottage	Theatre By The Lake
Bramblewood Cottage	Fine Designs	Lakeland Slate	Rathbone	Thorngreen Guest Ho.
Brierholme Guesthouse	George Fishers	Lakeland Toys and Hobbies	Ravenstone Lodge Hotel	Thornleigh Guesthouse
Brookfield Guesthouse	George Hotel	Lakeland View GH	Ravenstone Manor Hotel	Thornthwaite Gallery
Brun Lea Guesthouse	Glamara Outdoor Centre	Lakes Bar & Bistro	Ravensworth House	Touchwood
Brysons	Glencoe Guesthouse	Lakeside House	Relish	Travis Perkins
Casa's	Glendale Guesthouse	Lakeside Site	Rickerby Grange	Trespas
Castle Inn	Golden Lion	Lanehead Farm Guesthouse	Rivendell Guesthouse	Troutbeck Caravan & Camping Site
Castlerigg Farm Camping Site	Goosewell Farm Climbing Wall	Langstrath Hotel	Rohan	Troutbeck Inn
Castlerigg Hall Caravan & Camping	Grange Bridge Cottage Café	Larry's Lodge	Roly's Fudge Shop	Two Dogs
Castlerigg Manor	Grange Café	Laurel Bank Guesthouse	Royal Oak, Braithwaite	Tynemouth Lodge Hotel
Chilllee Guesthouse	Grey Goat Inn	Leathes Head Hotel	Royal Oak, Keswick	Wainwright Inn
Claremont House	Greystoke House	Littlefield Guesthouse	Royal Oak, Rosthwaite	West View Guesthouse
Clarence House	Greystones Guesthouse	Liz Mather	Salisbury Guest Ho.	Wetherspoons
Coledale Inn	Hawcliffe Guesthouse	Lodore Falls Hotel	Salutation Inn	Whinlatter Siskin Tearoom
Cornish Pasty	Hazel Bank Hotel	Love The Lakes	Saw Mill Café Mirehouse	White Horse Inn
Cotswolds	Hedgehog Hill	Luchinis	Scaffell Hotel	Wild Strawberry
Crafty Baa	Herdwick Guesthouse	Lynton Lodge	Scales Farm Cottage	Winchester Guesthouse
Craglands Guesthouse	High Lodore Farm Café	Lynwood Guesthouse	Scotgate Camping Site	Winfields
Cragside Guesthouse	Honister Mine	Lyzick Hall Hotel	Seatoller House	Yew Tree GH
Crow Park Hotel	Hope Memorial Camp	Mae's Tea Room	Seven Oaks Guesthouse	Yew Tree Guesthouse
Cumberland Pencil Museum	Hope Park Mini Golf	Mary Mount Hotel	Shemara Guesthouse	



## A Probationer's Account 1

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My First rescue. I had just finished a substantial Sunday dinner when I got my first call. I looked at my wife and said "I have to go." The adrenaline had kicked in and I hopped onto my bike and peddled as fast as I could to base. Threw all of my kit on and jumped into the rescue vehicle. We were headed to an elderly lady who had fallen from a bike and had a suspected broken hip. The casualty was located in Dodd Wood on a fire track. As I work just at the base of Dodd, I had a pretty good idea of where they might be, and to the delight of my very full stomach, we could drive direct to the casualty. The Sunday dinner and bike ride to base had left me feeling less than athletic to be marching up hill carrying a heavy rucksack.

The first rescue was a real eye-opening experience. I was blown away by the knowledge, skill, professionalism and genuine care given to the casualty. I tried to be a sponge and absorb the experience as best as I could, help as best as I could, and more importantly - not get in the way of the team members who actually knew what they were doing.

Over the following weeks and then months I found myself relishing all opportunities to get out on call outs. Being a keen climber and hill walker and working as an outdoor instructor, I feel acutely aware that I myself may need mountain rescue someday.

Team life as a probationer is great. It is well structured with lots of training, every Thursday is a day too look forward to. Knowing I will finish training having learned something new and feel super excited to put it into practice on the next call out. Having such experienced team members around is fantastic to help you learn the ropes and give you that confidence boost to get involved at the sharp end of a rescue.

I really believe the Lake District is here to be explored. Being beautiful and exciting the fells attract many walks of life and levels of experience. As I found throughout the different rescue call outs, it is possible for anyone - no matter how experienced - to have an accident. Being part of a team of people who go out and help anyone who needs it is a real privilege



*Probationer Hill Day*

and something I don't take for granted.

There has been a real mix of rescues starting with the classic "biffed" ankle, through to people falling off Sharp Edge on Blencathra and sustaining life threatening injuries, and very sadly, a fatality on Carl Side. No matter how injured the casualty was, I have been truly in awe of how well the team deal with the situation in a calm, friendly and professional manner. And certainly after the fatality, having an experienced team around me helped me digest the situation in any way I could.

Being around so many team members allows for an incredible knowledge base to be tapped into and I have witnessed what I can only describe as the best care you could wish for outside of a hospital. I feel really proud to be part of KMRT. Now six months in, I am really enjoying my year as a probationer. And I can confidently say, I now no longer eat a full Sunday dinner any time before the 'peak' call out times on a sunny Keswick weekend day!

**Phil Blair**

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## A Probationer's Account 2

A probationary member in a strange year.

It has been in the back of my mind to join the Keswick rescue team, having moved to the area 10 years ago. There had long been a little voice telling me "I didn't think I could guarantee the time to the team to be useful", until the not-so-little voice of my housemate (at the time a probationary member, now a valued team member) told me to get my backside into gear and stop coming up with petty excuses.

And so began my on the hill 'beasting' or evaluation day. I was met by the most genuine, un- assuming, regular looking collection of people you could ever hope to meet on the hill.....all with Spartan-like fitness. I was privileged to be accepted for a short trial period (to ascertain whether I could fit into the team and take on this position of responsibility), after being able to just about keep up, in some of the worst conditions I've ever been out in.

Obviously, this year has presented everyone with some unique challenges to overcome, the rescue team in particular, as all of MREW established how to maintain this essential service and keep both its members and any potential casualties safe. As a brand-new probationer, new to the environment of emergency services, I was in awe of the dedication of the team. During the Covid crisis this team has not only managed to maintain the same level of support, but has in fact had to increase capacity due to an influx of people heading out to the local area to get a little extra exercise, from those under prepared through to seasoned adventurers.

After a hasty few full day training sessions with the Team leader, myself and my 3 fellow probationers were added to the callout list, keen to get out and do our part. I'll be honest, my phone never left my hand for a single minute waiting for that first callout, but once they started, I couldn't believe how busy we were. I guess everyone was keen to get out and enjoy the hills as travel abroad was off the table.

With callouts ranging from lost and cold walkers, to local climbers and bikers having some serious accidents, multi-team searches and a lot of

stretcher carries, I've learned so much from the team and appreciate chewing the ear off the medical lot at every possible moment (apologies to all).

The wealth of knowledge in the team and commitment to this voluntary service is incredible and I hope everyone visiting the area will appreciate this and continue to show their support and keep themselves safe in the mountains.

This particularly difficult year has been a great introduction to the team and has done nothing but increase my resolve to further my involvement in the team, and I hope that I can make it as a full team member next year.

**Richard Duckett**



*Probationer Hill Day*

## A Probationer's Account 3

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I have moved to Keswick after spending the last 23 years living in the Scottish Highlands.

For almost 20 years I was a member of Oban Mountain Rescue team which covers a huge area all the way from the Mull of Kintyre to Glencoe as well as various islands.

I can't quite believe how small our patch is in Keswick.

It was a shock to the system joining Keswick MRT as a probationer - firstly the COVID lockdown when all the probationary steps were put on hold and then when lockdown was lifted it was incredibly busy.

In Oban we would have 25 rescues in a busy year but this summer I've been on more than 40 callouts - sometimes 3 in a day.

The rescues are very different in that there is very little driving (In Oban we were sometimes driving upwards of 2 hours to an incident) and some of them are done and dusted within a couple of hours.

Virtually all the rescues I used to be involved in took upwards of 6 hours and occasionally up to 2 days when we were helicoptered to an island but not brought back so had to wait for a boat to bring us home.

Now I'm old and grey it's also good that a lot of our callouts don't involve quite as much flogging up a big hill on rough terrain (although carrying that 200m rope up Grains Gill is pretty brutal for an almost 60-year old!)

As a climber, canoeist, hillwalker and cyclist it's great to help others in the hills but what is just as important to me is the friendship and camaraderie of being in a Mountain Rescue Team.

After being a big fish in a small pond I'm now back at the bottom of the heap but the whole team has been welcoming, understanding and caring - Thanks guys for helping maintain my sanity during these recent difficult times.

**Robin Saxby**



*Incident 56 - Whinlatter Forest*

I came to Mountain Rescue late, having more grey hair than most of the team. It was not something I planned, but having been involved in two Alpine rescues where I thought I could have used my medical background better, I took the Diploma in Mountain Medicine where it was suggested that I could be useful as part of a Mountain Rescue Team.

I contacted the membership secretary of the Keswick team, and was invited on the "Hill Assessment Day" in early December. I was scheduled to be away on the appointed day, but two senior members of the team kindly volunteered to take me out a couple of days earlier. High winds and sleet made me think I had drawn the short straw, but it transpired that the weather on the official day was even worse.

We had a chat whilst walking up Styhead Gill, before turning sharp left to walk up an almost vertical slope, still chatting. I was breathing out of my ears, frantically trying to think of short questions with long answers! An hour or so micro-navigation around the tarns near the summit of Seathwaite Fell followed, before a more leisurely walk down Grains Gill.

Four of us from the Hill Assessment were then invited to attend half a dozen Thursday evening team training sessions, where we got to meet other members of the team. After this short spell as a "pre-probationer", the team were due to vote at a Quarterly General Meeting whether to invite us onto the team as probationary members. However, the QGM coincided with the onset of the first coronavirus lockdown, so the meeting was postponed, and we were in limbo. Although the lockdown meant we could not be voted onto the team until June, it did mean that Team Members were available to take us through our induction quickly and we were able to start on the callout rota in early July.

Initially things were quiet, but August brought a period of 22 callouts – three on some days! It was clear that many of the people calling the team would not usually be holidaying in the Lake District. Fortunately(?), because of the pandemic many of the team who work in the outdoor industry were not busy, and others who had holiday scheduled, had to cancel, so more team members than usual were available. Things have become more normal since then, and in particular the shorter days have brought a lot more

people "lost after dark".

I have learned a lot in my time with the team. I now find myself walking down paths thinking how hard it would be to get a stretcher down there! I have been amazed at the dedication and professionalism of my colleagues, and how well supported we have been as new members. By the end of 2020 team members will have spent around 3500 hours on callouts and many more in training and preparation. It is an honour to be involved with KMRT, the sheer amount of work put in by the team of volunteers to make sure that things work smoothly has been an education and inspiration. I will be very proud if I am invited to become a full member at the end of my probationary year.

**Brad Williamson**



*Incident 61 - Blencathra*



## Please Support Us

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There are many options for supporting the work of Keswick MRT.

Donations, large and small, will be warmly welcomed by the Team at all times.

Please support the Team through the links from the website: [keswickmrt.org.uk/donate](https://keswickmrt.org.uk/donate)

### Just Giving

(Our preferred choice as the charges are lower so more of your donation comes to the Team).

### Virgin Money Giving

### Donr Text Giving

Text KESWICKMRT 10 to 70085 to give £10 to us.

This costs £10 plus a standard rate message. For any amounts between £1 and £20.

**Cheque** - details on our website.

**Standing Order** - details on our website.

**Legacy / Will** - details on our website.

### 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. Please download the form from our website.

*However you donate, we thank you for every single penny*



*Incident 40 - Great End*

# Base Extension Plan

The Team is extending the building to improve its ability to respond to calls for help, particularly those relating to flooding in and around the Keswick area.

A part of the extension will be a Silver Control Centre for use by all agencies involved in such an event. The Team will also gain better rope access training facilities and parking space for the Mercedes 'boat bus' vehicle

currently parked outside the existing building.

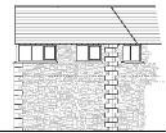
The funding for the project is coming from Team reserves, and so "thank you" if you have given money to us in the past. The Team is entirely dependent upon the public's charitable donations, and receives no government funding other than Gift Aid and VAT recovery.



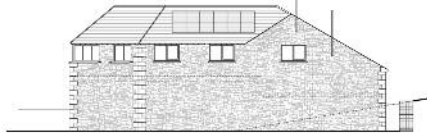
A - WEST ELEVATION (FRONT)



B - SOUTH EAST ELEVATION (FRONT)



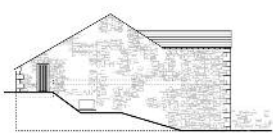
C - SOUTH WEST ELEVATION (CAR PARK)



D - SOUTH ELEVATION (CAR PARK)



E - EAST ELEVATION (REAR)

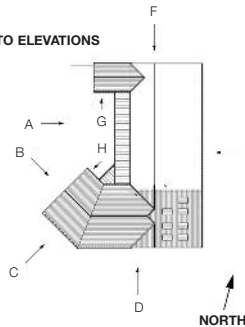


F - NORTH ELEVATION (FOOTPATH)



H - NORTH EAST ELEVATION (ENTRANCE)

## KEY TO ELEVATIONS



WEST ELEVATION (FRONT)



SOUTH WEST ELEVATION (CAR PARK)



***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

