



TEESDALE AND WEARDALE SEARCH AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2016



Search for:
Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Dying To Be Cool Campaign

Last Year the Team were involved in the massive multi-agency search for missing 14 year old Cameron Gosling who had been swimming with friends in the River Wear near Bishop Auckland. Last Year the Team were involved in the massive multi-agency search for missing 14 year old Cameron Gosling who had been swimming with friends in the River Wear near Bishop Auckland. Cameron had been overcome by cold water shock and sadly drowned. Please share the Dying to be Cool campaign video and help spread this important message, and please stay safe whilst enjoying our waterways this summer.

Please find the video and further information on the Durham County Council website: www.durham.gov.uk/dyingtobecool

New Equipment

The team has been the grateful recipient of a defibrillator from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, as part of their links with the local community. This compact and user-friendly Philips Heartstart defibrillator will replace the more heavy and cumbersome one previously kept on our Control vehicle and will be a great asset to our medical capability if we attend a cardiac arrest situation. Pete Bell, Team Leader, and I collected the defibrillator from Tracy Story, CDDFT Resuscitation Officer last month. We are grateful to CDDFT for donating this valuable piece of equipment to the team and particularly to former team member and Durham Emergency Department Consultant Richard Harden who instigated the donation.



15/06/2016 – Press Release from Durham Constabulary

We are now in a position to name the teenager who died last night after getting into difficulty at High Force in Teesdale.

Curtis Atherton, 16, from Hartlepool was swimming with his brothers and friends at the pool area below the water fall when he got into trouble.

The alarm was raised at 8pm when Police, fire crews, air support and mountain and fell rescue attended and a search of the river was carried out.

Curtis was located at around 9.45pm and airlifted to James Cook hospital in Middlesbrough where he sadly later died. Detective Inspector Andy Crowe said “This is a devastating incident and a stark reminder of how a fun afternoon swimming with friends can end in tragedy.

“My advice is simple; do not swim in open stretches of water such as this as the dangers are often well hidden. “As well as the deceptively cold water temperatures which affect people’s ability to swim, there are many hidden hazards lying beneath, such as strong currents and discarded rubbish or rocks.

“Curtis’s family would like to thank everyone involved in the efforts to locate Curtis yesterday evening.”

DURHAM CONSTABULARY, Protecting Neighbourhoods, Tackling Criminals, Solving Problems...Around the Clock

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING: Use your postcode to get access to local news and events from your Neighbourhood Policing Team, at <https://www.durham.police.uk>



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Great Glen Trip

This year 7 Durham University students (all finalists) opted to paddle the Great Glen supported by two Team members - John and Marc. Each student has to raise a minimum of £370 to support the team in addition to covering the costs of the trip.

The trip involves paddling along a mixture of canals and lochs across Scotland from Fort William to Inverness over a 5 day period. The trip is entirely self supporting so all the food for the trip is carried in the boats. In practice the first and last day are mostly spent driving to Fort William and back from Inverness respectively, leaving 3 full days paddling in the middle to cover the majority of the 60 mile trip. The students mostly have very little paddling experience and relatively little experience of life outdoors so five days out in the wilds can be a challenge.

The first day saw the group arrive after some very greasy chips at the top of Neptunes staircase, at about 5pm to start the first days paddling - approximately 5 miles of canal to the campsite at the end of Loch Lochy. At Loch Lochy Loch the 5 boats have to be carried up to the track and then trollyed about 500m to the campsite - the first of a number of portages along the route. Cake and custard was served before everyone took to their tents to prepare for the trip ahead. Day two started on Loch Lochy in glorious and sweltering sunshine with a gentle tail wind, but it wasn't to last, by the end of the day the group were being drenched by torrential downpours which paddling on Loch Oinch.

Day three saw the group paddle the second half of Loch Oinch and complete three portages to take them to start of Loch Ness in Fort Augustus in time for a late lunch. By this stage there was a steady headwind of about force 4 and the group had their first and only capsizes of the trip as the boats launched out into Loch Ness. The 8 miles to the camping area was very slow going include an enforced stop at Rubha Ban when the wind crept up that little bit further and the group started making negative progress. Because the beach at Rubha Ban was so exposed, despite the large pile of firewood the group opted after a brief respite to continue their paddle for the remaining couple of miles to the campsite perched just above Loch Ness.

Day four started windless but very quickly developed another strong headwind resulting in a 14 hour paddle to reach Loch End. By this stage the group was so tired they didn't even make use of the available hot showers before crawling into bed. The final day saw a short paddle along the canal into Inverness and an uneventful drive home - arriving back in Durham about 6pm.



TV Series

Durham Constabulary will feature in a prime-time BBC 1 series about missing people. Filming is expected to begin later this month and will be shown early next year. They will aim to film missing people cases over a number of months from the moment the call comes in to the conclusion. It is hoped the series of three one-hour programmes will shine a light on an area of policing which the public have little knowledge about. Durham Police feel this series will tell the stories of ordinary people whose lives have gone into freefall and the dedicated individuals working around the clock to find and save them.

As in the case of Euan Couthard, the Durham University student who unfortunately lost his life in the River Wear in Durham in January 2015, TWSMRT are often involved in missing person searches in both rural and urban areas and will also be featured in this series.



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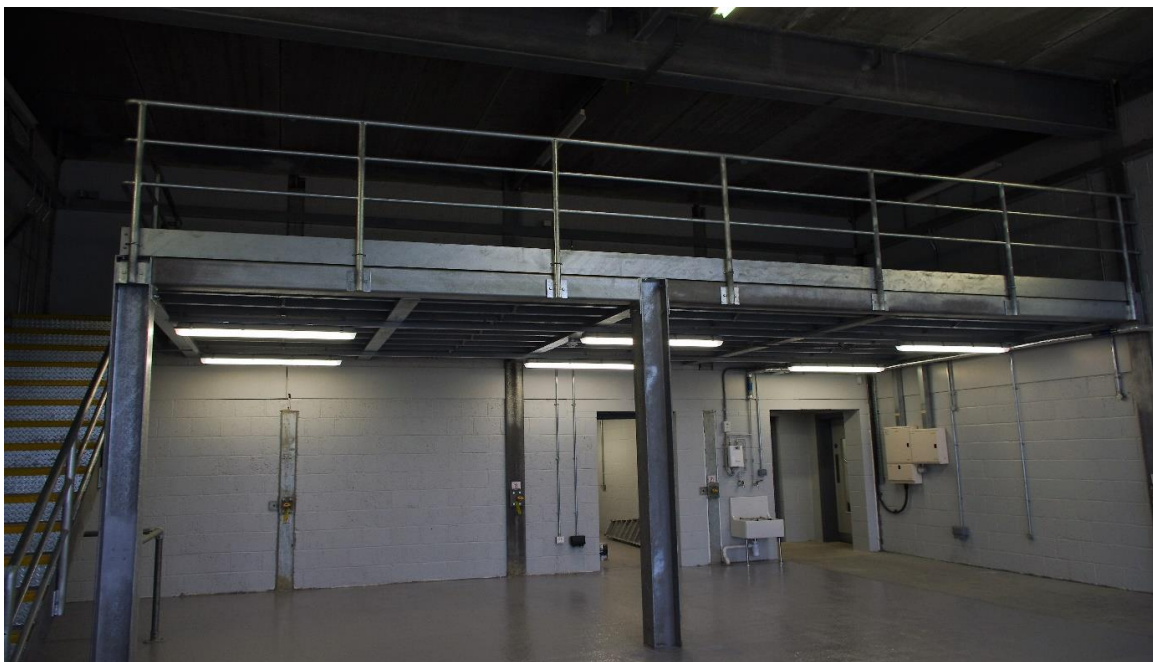
Progress of Our Bases 18th July 2016

In my last report, the new extension at Durham Fire-station, the blockwork was up to roof height and the mezzanine floor has been installed in the existing garage. I am pleased to report the building was completed on schedule and has been handed over to County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue service for installation of the fixtures and fittings. This is in progress and is due to be completed by the end of July.

The building comprises 'dirty' and 'clean' areas separated by the entrance corridor. The dirty area houses the garage, mezzanine, drying and equipment rooms. The clean area consists of the Control room/office, archive room, toilet and training room.

It is a tribute to the vision of those who designed our current base that the new base is modelled on that design.

Below is the base exterior, garage and mezzanine level and front wall of the training room.





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British Off Road Driving Association Training 13/08/16

Two team members have been at Deepdale Off Road training centre doing their BORDA off road driving course. They had a fantastic day, learning how to handle the team's Land-Rover on Deepdale's purpose designed off-road course, that allows off road driving to be taught and practised under a large variety of conditions and situations. Any team member that drive the team's Land-Rovers off road must attend and pass this course. This year the team is funding 6 team members to do this course.



Medical Cover – 6th & 7th Aug

We had an interesting weekend assisting Swaledale MRT with medical cover on the Ard Rock MTB Enduro event. Several riders treated mostly superficial stuff but one required hospital.



Thank you from Durham Constabulary

Missing Darlington man Archie Campbell was found down an embankment just off the A66 between Blands corner & the stadium. Archie appears well but is being taken to hospital to be checked over. Archie's family are with him. Thank you to everyone who has shared our posts, rang in with information and checked their gardens, sheds, garages, etc. The information provided by the public was crucial in directing our search.

Thank you also to the volunteers from the regional mountain rescue teams who have also been involved in the search for Archie.

Please find below dates of the remaining street collections this year. If you can help at either of them we would be most grateful.

Bishop Auckland: Saturday 17th September

Durham: Saturday 2nd December



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TEAM CALL OUTS JUN-AUG 2016



01.00 14/08/2016	Team called at 1am to search for a missing 56 year old male who had gone out for an evening stroll and not returned four hours later. The missing male returned safe and well of his own accord as the team assembled.
11.00 31/07/2016	Search for a high risk 29 year old female missing from her home address in Stanley since 1800hrs., Saturday evening. As the team assembled to continue the search, the missper was found outside the original search areas. She was transferred to hospital by ambulance for assessment and treatment.
09.00 30/07/2016	Search for a high risk 29 year old female missing from her home address in Stanley since 1800hrs., Saturday evening.
14.00 28/07/2016	Team was called to continue the search for a missing elderly male with dementia. The Team searched woodland near the missing mans home in targeted search sectors. He was found in woodland, in a search sector adjacent to the A66, he was stretchered to the A66 and handed over to the Ambulance Service.
23.30 27/07/2016	Team called at 23.30 to search for a missing elderly male with dementia. The Team searched through the night covering river banks and woodland near the missing mans home. Nothing round and search stood down pending further inquiries.



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21.00 25/07/2016	Team involved in a large scale search for a missing 65 year old woman with advanced dementia from Esh Winning. The search was strongly driven by public sightings at Broom Park, Stone Bridge and The Cock of the North, and finally stood down when a member of the public identified the missing lady heading towards Haswell Plough.
09.00 17/07/2016	Team asked to search Carrs Nature Reserve for a missing person.
09.00 10/07/2016	Team were consulted by Durham Police and went onto standby for a missing person from the Stanhope area. Team stood down after further information from the Police.
17.00 01/07/2016	Team called to a female with a head injury near the river Tees above Low Force. NEAS medics found the casualty as team members assembled and assessed and treated the injuries. The Casualty was walked out.
10.00 30/06/2016	TWSMRT were called to search for a 31 year old, male missing from his home at Blackhall Colliery since Tuesday. We search areas in the Denes adjacent to his house. Unfortunately nothing was found, and further enquires are on-going by Durham Police.
09.00 25/06/2016	A competitor on the Durham Dales challenge walk who had fallen and lacerated his knee was treated. His laceration was cleaned and dressed, and he was advised to attend his local A&E as follow up treatment was required.
09.00 14/06/2016	Team called when one of a small group of youths who had been swimming in the pool below High Force waterfall got into trouble and disappeared from sight. The Team searched the water below the waterfall along side the Fire Service supported by the Teams Canoe section. The missing male was found and recovered from the water before being transferred by helicopter to hospital. Unfortunately the male was later pronounced dead.
02.20 14/06/2016	Team called to assist with the evacuation of a man who had fallen a considerable distance into a disused quarry on the outskirts of Ferry Hill. The man was carried down some steep step to the ambulance service off road vehicle before being transferred to hospital.