



TEESDALE AND WEARDALE SEARCH AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 17

Thank you!

Big thank you to our Associates and Team members, who took part in Durham street collection on 3rd December.

It was a very busy day in town and the fact that this time we were allowed to park our control vehicle on Framwellgate Bridge proved most successful. Members of the public approached us to say thank you for what we do. Many of them wanted to learn more about the sort of emergency service we provide. Most of them were surprised to hear about the area the Team covers and that we also are often involved in searches for missing vulnerable people across the county and beyond. Also the fact that we take part in water rescues and assist with flood emergencies and other contingencies was something they were not aware of. It was a good opportunity to educate the public.

For some reason folks seemed particularly interested in our merchandise on that day. Especially in our pens, so much so that we struggled with replacing the stock on the table!

Just when the streets in Durham go busiest, the Team were called out to assist in search for a missing person in Hamsterley Forest. Most of the Team had to leave the buckets behind and rushed towards their cars. Our land rovers had to be picked up from Durham base and Barnard Castle.

On the way to RV, just outside Lanchester on B6296 towards Satley, two team members encountered a road traffic accident and assisted providing first aid while waiting for an ambulance. Young driver was trapped in a smashed car after hitting a tree. He was very lucky not to sustain life threatening injuries and not hitting another vehicle!

The search itself proved very tricky as the person in question kept changing locations every time he could hear the rescuers approaching! Eventually he was located with great help of our dog handlers and their dogs. Team escorted him to an ambulance in the full beam of the police helicopter's search light helping them to negotiate dense woods.

Before the Team headed home, they changed the damaged wheel in the missing person's car that was found abandoned in the forest. it was a very satisfactory and adventurous day, exactly the way we like it!

Street Collection Dates 2017

Stanhope:	Saturday 6 th May
Bishop Auckland:	Saturday 10 th June
Barnard Castle:	Saturday 29 th July
Darlington:	Saturday 28 th October
Durham:	Saturday 9 th December



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Dr Dan Miller – Team member

I've long had an interest in the outdoors and pre-hospital medicine. At 17 I completed a PADI rescue diver course that covered basic first aid, primary and secondary surveys and use of oxygen and AEDs. Whilst at University I was a member of the Wilderness Medicine Society and Army Reserves where my interests in pre-hospital medicine and particularly resource limited medicine grew. I was fortunate enough to spend a 4 week period of my medical training in Ghana, Africa. In a minimally government funded system I saw the devastating effects lack of resources had on patient care. Being based in a medium sized A&E department receiving undifferentiated patients of all natures, with only one doctor, highlighted to me the luxury we have in NHS healthcare. Whilst there we struggled against lack of equipment, drugs and money ultimately leading to the necessity to develop skills of improvisation, problem solving and resourcefulness that are shared with pre-hospital medicine, and in particular Mountain Rescue Medicine. I was very lucky to spend 6 weeks with the Great North Air Ambulance Service – my first experience of professional pre-hospital medicine. I thoroughly enjoyed shadowing the team as they attended emergencies across the region as they managed complex medical, surgical and trauma cases in challenging conditions and environments. It was here I was introduced to the work of the Mountain Rescue Teams.

These groups of unpaid volunteers would head out at a moment's notice to search for, treat and rescue casualties in all conditions, 24/7/365. What's more is that any equipment needed has to be carried in a rucksack – often for many miles! I soon sent off an application and, after a selection process, was thrilled to be on the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Teams 'C' List. I received a warm welcome and quickly became involved in training exercises. I spent a year learning about voice procedure, search techniques, winter and night considerations to name but a few new skills with an exercise once a month. Whether we were on the fell, on local crags or painfully sliding down abbey rapids in a dry suit – I saw the energy and passion of every member of the team as they devoted their free time to keeping the public safe. After passing my assessment last December I am proud to be on TWSMRT's 'A' team.

I look forward to continuing to learn from members of the team and in return hopefully being able to give back the time and effort that was put in to train me.

January Call Outs

The team had a quiet start to the new year with only 2 call-outs in January, both of which were on the periphery of our area.

On the 8th of Jan. we were called to assist Swaledale MRT to search for a male missing from Tan Hill. The man, believed to be from the Bradford area was camping with friends behind the country's highest pub when he decided to go for a walk, (possibly after sampling one too many of the pubs fine ales)! He managed to call police at 3am to say he was lost, and the alert went out. He was located around midday, safe & well and still walking away from the pub.

Three MR teams were involved, - Swaledale, Kirkby Stephen & Teesdale & Weardale as well as a dozen police officers and the police helicopter.

On the 21st of Jan. we were called to assist Cleveland MRT in the search for a vulnerable male missing in the Claybank area of the Cleveland hills. The man was found at around 09.30, treated by MR personnel, before being air lifted to hospital by Cleveland's new air ambulance.



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Fundraising

On Wednesday 2nd of November a group of mixed ability walkers (mainly staff and residents from Verdant Leisure Caravan Sites, Kingfisher and Heather View) set out on an overnight expedition to raise funds in support of the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team. The group of nine were following an original idea by Paul Pemberton from Stanhope to walk the moors and sleep overnight in a shooting hut. Paul Green (previously part of the TWSMRT) devised the route, arranged for transportation to the drop off/pick up points and coerced the merry band to get together for the event raising just over £600.

Starting from Huddesope Valley approximately 4 miles north of Middleton in Teesdale the walk followed the old quarry to gain high ground between Monks Moor and Carrs Hill, dropping down into the valley of Great Egglesope with an 'interesting' stream crossing. There were a couple of soggy feet and one member managing to get a piggy back across before the final push, climbing to the overnight destination of a shooting hut nestled into the southern slopes of Harnisha Hill. The hut had been prepared previously by Paul who carried 40kg of coal up the steep track with a fellow explorer carrying mulled wine and water, not an easy task! However, a cosy night full of stories, music and laughter ensured the group were all tucked up in their sleeping bags on the very hard floor, bellies full of hot soup and ginger cake. The following day some of the group headed down the track to ford the stream back to the pick-up point while others headed to the highest part of the road where the 'watershed fence' marks the boundary between Weardale and Teesdale. The group had an absolutely brilliant time raising funds and are planning another walk to a different shooting hut in the spring.

The Team would like to offer their sincere thanks to those who took on this fundraising event for us.





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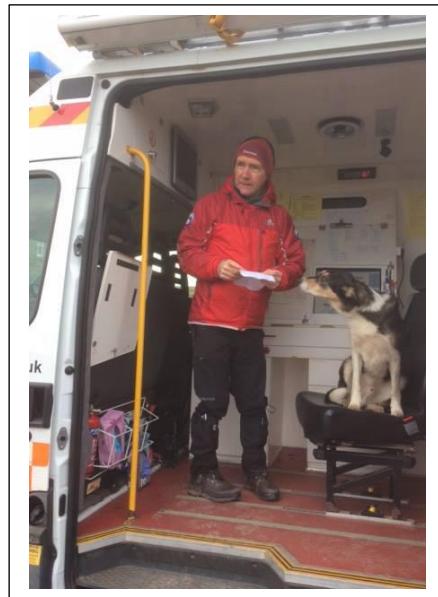
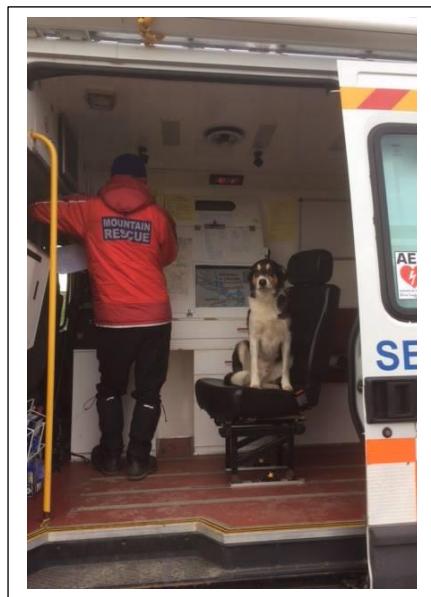
November's Night Training Exercise

The casualty was located but it was tough going and the Team had a long search in deep snow. They were still smiling at the end though and Eric couldn't resist making a few snow angels as he waded through the waist deep snow!



New search Manager

One of the Team's valued search dogs, Sam, is settling into his new role as Search Manager.....





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TEAM CALL OUTS

NOV 16 - FEB 17



09.00 07/02/2017	Team called out to search for a male missing from Forrest in Teesdale. Fortunately he was found before the team deployed.
08.00 21/01/2017	Called out on Saturday morning to assist Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team who had been searching for a vulnerable male missing in the Clay Bank area of the Cleveland Hills. The missing person was found at around 09:30 and treated by mountain rescue personnel before being taken by helicopter to hospital.
09.00 08/01/2017	The team deployed to assist our colleagues in Swaledale Mountain Rescue team in a search for a male missing after camping at the Tan Hill Inn. He was found in a designated search sector, fit and well.
03.00 26/12/2016	Team called to search for missing vulnerable 82 year old male at 3am on Boxing Day. Team assembling in Chester le Street when the person was found by a member of the public.
15.00 03/12/2016	The team were called out to search Hamsterley Forest for a missing male. 17 team members responded and two search dogs. Fortunately he was found safe and well not long after night fall
18.15 25/11/2016	TWSMRT were called by Durham Police to search for a high risk missing male. The area identified was Long Newton, as the team were travelling to the RV point the missper was found by the Police.