



TEESDALE AND WEARDALE SEARCH AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

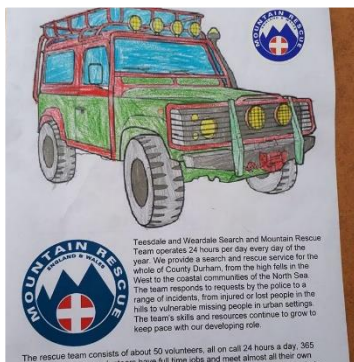
NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 17

Street Collection Dates 2017

Darlington: Saturday 28th October

Durham: Saturday 9th December

As always, any help is greatly appreciated!



Well done Lucas Grey who won our colouring competition at Wolsingham Show. There were lots of great entries which made choosing a winner very difficult. Left is his entry which is how we think all mountain rescue land rovers should be designed from now on!

On 3rd August Our assistance was requested with the search for another missing person in the Durham City area. Team members searched woodland and river banks until dark. Thankfully the missing person turned up safe and well the following day.

The search did throw up one of our more unusual finds though.....





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Working with others



The Team often work together with other agencies on callouts, maybe assisting another mountain rescue teams who need more manpower and/or search dogs for a search, or working together with Police, Paramedics, Fire and Rescue, HM Coastguard and Air Ambulance services to improve outcomes and facilitate the rescue of people from

areas which may require specialist skills, for example steep ground or water. The following are examples of such instances.....

Hamsterley Forest:

The Team were called out on 27/08/17 by the North East Ambulance Service to help their roadcrew and subsequently the Great North Air Ambulance Service with an injured mountain biker in Hamsterley Forest.

Edmondsley:

The Team joined a search for a 61yr old who went missing from Edmondsley, alongside the Police and HM Coastguard.

Facebook post by Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team on 10/09/17:

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Northumbria Police requested assistance in an ongoing search for a missing female in the North Tyne valley. [North of Tyne Mountain Rescue Team](#) and ourselves responded with Incident Controllers liaising with the Police Search Adviser to agree a search plan.

The Teams were called out soon after and deployed to search paths, tracks and wooded areas near to the missing person's point last seen. Assistance was also requested from [Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team](#) to search the banks of the nearby rivers as we had a limited number of water trained members available.

Nearly six hours later the missing female was located by one of our search groups, safe and well, and was soon reunited with her family. A good outcome for all concerned.

Fundraising



On 29th July we held our annual street collection in Barnard Castle. The Team were joined by the President of Mountain Rescue England & Wales, Ray Griffiths (second from right), who stood with us holding a bucket just like everyone else.



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Casualty Care Weekend 2017

Our team members refreshed their casualty care skills over the course of a weekend in May. The teaching, which was led by our Advanced Casualty Carers, Dr Dan Miller and Paul Renwick, focused on scenarios to ensure it was as hands-on as possible. On Saturday, team members who have passed their Casualty Care certificate (a qualification accredited by Mountain Rescue England & Wales and valid for three years) worked together to practice a variety of trauma and medical scenarios, using all the equipment that we carry, including oxygen, entonox, traction splints, collars and vacuum mattresses. In the afternoon, Rich Warne, one of our experienced team members who holds the Advanced Casualty Care certificate, ran a hugely informative and entertaining (although maybe not for Dr Dan!) session on hypothermia. Dan agreed to be soaked through and then lie on the ground without insulation to see how long it would take for his core temperature to drop (not long!). Management of hypothermic casualties was then ably demonstrated by our casualty carers using external warming methods including a blizzard bag – as the photos suggest, Dan looked like he had been treated well at the end!

On Sunday we were joined at Mickleton Quarry by the rest of the team for more scenario practice – working in groups of three or four, team members managed simulated casualties who were in cardiorespiratory arrest after a heart attack, suffering from anaphylaxis and asthma, and those who had traumatic injuries such as femoral fractures and head injuries. The focus was on 'core' skills: being able to perform an immediate assessment of an ill or injured casualty (the 'primary survey'), recognising life-threatening problems, communicating them to other members of the team and documenting them properly on the casualty care card. Hopefully being able to practice these skills outside in the environment we work in was of benefit to all team members who attended. Thanks to everyone who came, to Adam for use of the Kingsway Centre, to Andy Bottrill for organising food, and to our Advanced Medics Rich, Izzy, Russ and Pete, and Dan and Paul for all their efforts in helping to run the weekend.

Dr Hannah Bienias





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3 Peaks – 10th & 11th June

TWSMRT have been providing logistical support for several years to Durham University students in their annual bid to scale the National Three Peaks. The Durham University Charity Committee (DUCK) seek students who are prepared to take on the challenge while at the same time are prepared to help fundraise for TWSMRT. Taking on Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in a continuous challenge event where the clock and effort starts at foot of Ben Nevis on Saturday and does not stop until back down at the car park in Snowdon on Sunday evening.

This year TWSMRT were supporting 2 student groups on separate weekends in early June who were attempting the challenge just after they have finished their end of year exams. The students come with a variety of sporting or outdoor experience but in many cases this is a first real taste of the mountains for the students taking part. Typically, the students do not know each other before the start of the weekend as they have all signed up for the event individually and been assigned a weekend by the DUCK organisers. After 36 hours spent together in a minibus, which takes on a unique odour of sweat, damp kit, boots, food snacks and more importantly the on hill pain, determination and team spirit shown, always sees the supporting members of TWSMRT notice how much the student group have bonded together. Those students that take part in the 3 Peaks event come away with a huge sense of achievement and pride and for us as a Mountain Rescue team we hope that we have provided some their first safe introduction into the hills and start a passion which will continue for many years ahead.

The photos below are from the second weekend group who were supported by two drivers and two hill leaders from TWSMRT. The weather was true to the forecast and really did play havoc on this weekend's challenge. The initial rain on drive up to Fort William had the whole bus thinking it might be more of a swimming trip than a hill climb. Fortunately, after everyone had assembled in their waterproofs (often brand new and unused) and set off, the weather eased up and allowed a pleasant but breezy ascent onto Ben Nevis. It was a smooth descent until the last 30mins when once again the heavens opened up and the whole group got a fresh Scottish soaking before loading up into the minibus for the evening drive to Seathwaite. The ascent of Scafell during the night was where the strong winds were going to be the biggest challenge hitting the students head on and the TWSMRT hill leaders were having to take regular checks on route ahead to ensure still safe for everyone to proceed. Another tick in the box after all students safely returned from Scafell Pike despite taking an hour longer than normally planned due to the tough winds faced. The final hill standing in the way was Snowdon and although dry and moderate temperature, it was the strong winds again which were the biggest concern for the group. The first few km were quite smooth and sheltered but as the group gained elevation and neared the summit the wind strength had increased and was not showing any signs of easing. The tough call was made by TWSMRT leaders that the whole group would need to return for safety of all. The students although disappointed not quite to finish the final couple km ahead knew that there was no option to go any further. They still had big smiles when back in Snowdon car park and had pride in knowing they had worked harder than most 3 Peaks groups ever need to in some very tough conditions on Scafell and Snowdon. The group later heard that Llanberis Mountain Rescue team had dealt with a casualty the same day who suffered a head injury when they were blown over in the strong winds higher up the mountain. So, although not quite a complete 3 Peaks challenge this time, the decision to return before the summit was for the best and hopefully all the students will get their chance to go back and complete Snowdon in near future.

James Chilcott



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Thank you!

The Durham Dales Centre in Stanhope has raised a huge amount for the Team. They are currently at £330.37 so far this year with a massive amount of £2548.66 in the last 5yrs. Amazing, grateful thanks from the Team.

Training

On the evening of 12th September, alongside Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team, some of the Team's swift-water and flood rescue technicians undertook some essential training at Teesside International White Water Centre covering various elements of the DEFRA Mod 3 syllabus.



We need your VOTE!

Darlington Building Society is giving the region's community the opportunity to decide how 25 charities will share a donation of £16,000.

A public vote is now open to decide how the total sum is shared between the 25 charities which includes Teesdale & Weardale Search and Rescue team.

PLEASE VOTE HERE: <https://www.darlington.co.uk/branch-finder/barnardcastle/>

Or pop-in and vote at the Barnard Castle branch



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TEAM CALL OUTS

MAY 17 - SEP 17



16.00 17/09/2017	The Team were briefly called out while return from our days training to look for a missing male in the Dipton area. The vulnerable missing male had last been seen at Dipton Scout Hut and had subsequently told the police that he could hear a road. He was found by the police very shortly after we were called. Six team members, two trainees and three team vehicles responded.
12.00 13/09/2017	Team called to six canoists reported as overdue and who's canoe had been seen floating down the river upside down. The team were stood down about 45 minutes later when the group were found safe and well by the police helicopter.
09.00 11/09/2017	Team called by police to search for a missing male in the Leadgate area. The 45 year old male was found after about an hour a short distance outside the initial search area.
07.30 10/09/2017	Team called to assist North of Tyne MRT in search for missing 12 year old. Team stood down while assembling when girl found safe and well.
13.00 31/08/2017	The team were called to help search for a missing woman in the Leadgate Area. The vulnerable lady in her mid forties had left home about 11am the previous day. During searches a potential sighting was identified however nothing was found and the search stood down at 22.30 to await more information from the police.
09.00 27/08/2017	Assistance to the ambulance service to extract an injured mountain biker in Hamsterley Forrest, who was then transferred to the GNAAS helicopter and flown to James Cook Hospital.
09.00 25/08/2017	Team called to search for four children reported missing in Hamsterley Forest. Despite being stood down within one minute of being called 3 Team members were already responding (although not on scene!)
06.00 23/08/2017	Team called by police shortly before 6am to help in the search for a vulnerable male in his 40s last seen in Peter Lee heading towards Castle Eden Dene. The Team searched some



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	of the Dene before being stood down when the missing male was located by family members outside the search area.
10.25 12/08/2017	The team were called to assist NEAS with the evacuation of an injured farmer from the fells above Westgate. The ambulance crews managed to evacuate the patient to their ambulance just as the team were arriving on scene.
17.45 02/08/2017	The Team was called out on Wednesday evening to search for a missing vulnerable male thought to be in the Pelaw woods area of Durham City. 10 Team members searched until dark, nothing found. Police are continuing inquiries.
11.31 02/08/2017	10 Team members and a MR search dog from Cleveland MRT searched for vulnerable man in Edmondsley area on Tuesday afternoon. The gentleman returned home and was treated by Team medics before arrival of ambulance.
09.00 22/07/2017	Team searched into the early hours for a lady missing from northern Darlington. As the team assembled a report came in of a confirmed sighting in Barmpton. The team searched in and around all the footpaths and accessible tracks within 1km of this sighting including some open ground. The Team stood down at about 1.30am to await more information.
09.00 20/07/2017	Fourteen Mountain Rescue Volunteers from Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team supported by four dog handlers (and their dogs) from Yorkshire and Northumberland search for 12 hours today for a 65 year old female missing from her home in Peter Lee. The Team searched both the parkland within the Town and the steep and overgrown ground within Castle Eden Dene. No sign of the missing lady was found and the police are continuing to review all the evidence to lead further enquiries.
19.00 16/07/2017	Team called out Saturday evening to search for vulnerable male missing in Consett area. Team stood down after 4hrs. Person found by Police some hours later in house.
22.00 26/06/2017	Team briefly on standby to assist Cleveland MRT with search for missing lady. Stood down before deploying after missing lady was found and further help no longer needed.
13.30 17/06/2017	Search for a male missing from home after consultation with Durham Police who were concerned for his welfare.
18.30 11/06/2017	Team called to evacuate a male walker who had collapsed near the River Tees a mile or so below Cauldron Snout Waterfall. Further information continued to come in as the team assembled with some police officers and local farmers reaching the casualty first. While the casualty was capable of walking very slowly because of the very difficult terrain he was stretched to the team vehicle before being transferred to a NEAS ambulance. Weather conditions deteriorated while the team were out concluding in heavy rain driven by high winds.