

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION RESCUE 2016

Incidents attended during 2015



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CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

Clapham, North Yorkshire LA2 8HH
email: secretary@cro.org.uk



Volunteers, saving lives above and below ground in the Yorkshire Dales, North Lancashire and SE Cumbria

It's been a memorable old year...



Lost John's—training for the worst

2015 was a very memorable year for the Cave Rescue Organisation—not only did we celebrate our 80th year as a rescue team (and, incidentally, we are the oldest voluntary inland rescue team in the UK), but we also encountered a more varied than usual range of incidents throughout the course of the year. December will be memorable if only for the appalling weather bringing flooding right across the North of England (and elsewhere).

With 82 callouts this year, including surface and underground incidents, nurse-maiding a broken Coastguard S92 SAR helicopter and providing assistance at flood incidents in Kendal and York – it's been another busy one.

Whilst the number of caving incidents has stayed at around 10% of our total calls, incidents like the one at Bull Pot, Kingsdale (Number 8, February 12th 2015) serve to remind us where the origins of the team lie—

we are a Cave Rescue Team who do a lot of Mountain Rescue too.

And to the nay-sayers who scoff at the use of the term 'Mountain Rescue' for our comparatively small hills—come up to the Yorkshire Dales peaks in any weather conditions, and you'll find challenges (and beauty) to match the best or worst that any Welsh or English peak can throw at you. Faced with this smorgasbord of weather, it's easy to wish for sunnier climes. However, we've had plenty of good days too in 2015 and who could wish for a better place to live, work and play than our wonderful Yorkshire Dales? We pretty much have it all – caving, climbing, walking, mountain biking, fell-running, paragliding..... and of course the CRO is always on hand to help locals and visitors alike, when things don't go quite as planned.

Read on, enjoy and perhaps see some food for thought?



Rescue from the Cat Walk, Malham—Incident No. 74, November 8th 2015

ABOUT THE INCIDENTS ATTENDED DURING 2015

Incident Categories

We categorise incidents as:
‘Cave’ or ‘Mine’



‘Mountain’:-

Walker/Other person



Fell Runner



Cyclist



Climber



Parapentist



‘Animal’



‘Local Incident’. For clarity, local incidents are divided into:-

Assist Police or



Assist Ambulance



Assist Fire Service



‘Alerts’:-



Incidents without a number prefix are ‘alerts’, where ‘action’ went little or no further than the CRO Duty Controller, with no ‘boots on the ground’. A call is recorded as an ‘incident’ only when team members are called out and are at least *en route*.

TOTAL INCIDENTS ATTENDED IN 2015 = 82

59 ‘mountain rescue’ incidents

10 ‘cave/mine rescue’ incidents

3 ‘animal rescue’ incidents (2 underground, 1 surface)

10 ‘local’ incidents (team’s specialist skills utilised on-road or in built up locations)

Plus 5 alerts for overdue cavers and walkers or specialist advice given to Police which did not require a call out.

Total volunteer hours attending incidents:
2377 + 6 hours for alerts.

Incidents During 2015

JANUARY

01. Jan 04 Sun 15.40 Malham



Cove, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

A walker (f, 35) slipped on frozen grass near the top of the Cove and broke her ankle. Following treatment by CRO the casualty was stretchered a short distance up to a team vehicle and transported off the hill and down to the Malham Visitor Centre for transfer to a waiting road ambulance.

02. Jan 11 Sun 00.21 OBJ Hole,



Ingleborough, North Yorkshire –

Cave Rescue

Three cavers (m, 59, 52, 32) were reported overdue on a trip down OBJ Hole into Gaping Gill. CRO search parties found the cave only partially rigged, with no indication of the cavers’ whereabouts. Further searches of Bar Pot eventually established contact with the overdue cavers who had self marooned at the Flood Entrance Pot side of the Horrocks Stearn crawl, having pulled their ropes down and then failed to negotiate the connecting crawl, preventing their intended exit via Stile Pot. The three were escorted out to the surface via Wades Entrance and brought down to Clapham.

03. Jan 13 Tue 18.53 Malham Cove,



North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

The Police requested help in locating a missing woman (43) after her car was found in Malham village car park. CRO initially deployed a search dog to cover the top of the Cove whilst a small CRO team searched the foot. The casualty was quickly found, suffering from hypothermia, at the foot of the Cove. Following treatment she was stretchered a short distance to a team vehicle for transport down to the village and transfer to a road ambulance.

04. Jan 17 Sat 14.03 Cove Road, Malham, North Yorkshire – Local Incident



The Ambulance Service requested specialist assistance from the team following a road traffic collision in snow/ice high up on the Cove Road. CRO deployed a small team and 4x4 ambulance to help extract and evacuate the two casualties. An air ambulance and two road ambulances attended, along with two fire appliances and several police vehicles.

05. Jan 31 Sat 10.00 Greta Woods, Burton-in-Lonsdale, North Yorkshire - Underground Incident - Miscellaneous



CRO were asked by Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council to investigate an apparent mineshaft which had appeared in Greta Woods, Burton in Lonsdale. A small team from CRO went to investigate and check for foul air. A gas detector revealed that there were no harmful vapours present and an assessment of the hole showed that it was probably a collapsed buried kiln, measuring 8m deep. Fencing contractors were advised of the safe distance to erect fencing to prevent access to an area liable to further collapse.

06. Jan 31 Sat 14.47 Lower Long Churn Cave, North Yorkshire - Cave Rescue



A novice caver (f, 14) suffered a very painful locked hip joint while exiting Lower Long Churn Cave in a school group. After the call had been made to the Police, other cavers moved her to the cave entrance. Having administered pain relief, CRO members gave her shelter and then carried her to an air ambulance for the flight to hospital. A road ambulance also attended, but was not used.

FEBRUARY

07. Feb 01 Sun 17.05 Rift Pot, Ingleborough, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



A caver (m, 59) fell about 5m near 'The Bridge' in Rift Pot. Despite breaking his femur and three ribs he was able to make his own way back to the surface (up three pitches!) before

calling for help. After giving him pain relief, the team 'sledged' him on a stretcher over snow and grass to a CRO vehicle for transport back to Clapham and transfer to a road ambulance.

08. Feb 12 Thu 18.35 Bull Pot, Kingsdale, North Yorkshire – Cave Rescue



A caver (m, 50) was killed near the top of the fifth pitch in Bull Pot as a result of a large rock fall. During an eight hour operation CRO teams employed a variety of rock removal techniques to extract him before bringing his body up to the surface. From there he was stretchered down to rendezvous with the Police at the roadside in Kingsdale. FATAL

09. Feb 12 Thu 22.56 Bentham, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



Whilst the previous incident was still ongoing a second call was received. CRO's two SARDA search dogs and a small team of navigators were deployed to assist the Police in a search for a missing woman (53) in the Low Bentham area. She was found by a Police helicopter crew soon after the search commenced.

10. Feb 15 Sun 18.36 Austwick, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f, 57) sustained a suspected broken ankle whilst negotiating a stile on the Austwick to Clapham footpath. CRO was called and were able to drive directly to her across the fields. Following treatment the casualty was transported in a team vehicle down to the village and then back to the CRO base in Clapham to await a road ambulance.

11. Feb 22 Sun 14.31 Malham Cove, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A walker (m, 62) slipped on the snow covered limestone pavement at the top of the Cove and

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12. Mar 01 Sun 16.34 A65 Settle By Pass, North Yorkshire – Local Incident



Due to adverse weather conditions, the team were called by North Yorkshire Police to provide 4x4 ambulance capability to a Road Traffic Collision. Two team vehicles responded, to find that ambulance and Police had managed to get to the scene, where 3 casualties required hospital treatment. Team members assisted with basic casualty care and assisted in transferring the injured to ambulances.

13. Mar 05 1055 Pecca Falls, Ingleton - Mountain Rescue



The team was called by the Ambulance Service to assist with a patient suffering a medical condition at Snow Falls. A search along the River Doe failed to find the casualty, who had incorrectly identified the location. The air ambulance confirmed the location to be Pecca Falls on the River Twiss. The team relocated and then carried the patient by stretcher to a road ambulance on the Kingsdale road.

APRIL

14. Apr 04 Sat 14.40 Baxenghyll Gorge, Ingleton, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f, 42) slipped on the waterfalls walk, sustaining a suspected ankle fracture. After treatment by CRO members, she was carried to a team vehicle, then transported to a road ambulance at the main Waterfalls car park.

15. Apr 05 Sun 15.20 Buck Haw Brow, Giggleswick, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A climber (f, 36) slipped and fell approximately 30 feet whilst walking between pitches at 'Hollywood Bowl', sustaining suspected head, neck, back and pelvic injuries. Initial treatment was given by team members and ambulance personnel, before the casualty was carried by stretcher to a road ambulance. She was subsequently transferred to an air ambulance for conveyance to hospital.

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16. Apr 05 Sun 18.00 King Pot,

Kingsdale, North Yorkshire – Cave Rescue

Just after team members had finished clearing up from the previous incident, they were called to 2 cavers (1m,1f) reported stuck in King Pot. 3 teams of 2 cavers entered the pot and managed to assist the cavers concerned, who had encountered problems at T piece passage. The cavers were then escorted to the surface, and made their way off the hill under their own steam, before being given a lift back to their car.



17. Apr 05 Sun 20.51 Sulber Nick,

Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

Whilst the previous incident was in progress, a call was received to three walkers lost in poor visibility near Sulber Nick. Three team members were sent in a team vehicle to locate the walkers, who were escorted down to their car in Horton in Ribblesdale.



18. Apr 08 Weds 17.21 Malham Cove,

North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

The team were called by the Ambulance Service to assist with a walker with a sprained ankle at the foot of Malham Cove. A small team attended and splinted the injury, before removing the casualty to the road for transfer to an ambulance.



19. Apr 12 Sun 10.49 Ingleborough,

North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

The team were called to two walkers and their dog stuck on the summit of Ingleborough due to blizzard conditions and high winds. The team responded and committed a hasty party from Crina Bottom to assist the casualties. They were met on the way by two runners, who, realising the plight of the walkers, had encouraged them to make their way down from the summit, as they were poorly dressed to wait for help. The two walkers were extremely cold, and very wet, and by this time one of the two runners had also started to develop mild hypothermia. All were placed in the team vehicle, warmed and given warm drinks before being taken down the hill.



The runners were taken to their vehicle at Ribblehead, and thanked for their actions, whilst the walkers and their dog were taken to our Depot in Clapham. The walkers were given advice and dry clothing for their journey home.

20. Apr 12 Sun 12.34 Ribblehead, North Yorkshire – Local Incident



Just after dropping off the two runners who had assisted at the previous incident, the team vehicle was approached by a cyclist who was in an obviously distressed condition. The cyclist had been competing in a time trial event, but had become cold and fatigued in the poor weather conditions. The cyclist was assisted into the team vehicle and given care by team members, who diagnosed hypothermia. Due to his condition, an ambulance was requested to transport the cyclist to hospital. Whilst being warmed, the cyclist was conveyed down to Ingleborough Community Centre in Ingleton for transfer to a road ambulance.

21. Apr 12 Sun 13.03 Middle House Hill, Malham, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



As team members were clearing up from the previous incidents, a third call was received from the Police to a group of walkers in difficulty, where one of the group had fainted, and was now extremely cold. Two vehicles with team members aboard responded to the incident. Upon arrival at the location given, the party of teenagers and an accompanying teacher were quickly located, where they had put up a tent for shelter and got into sleeping bags to stay warm. The whole party (and their equipment) was assisted from the fellside and warmed up in the team vehicles as they were taken back to their own vehicle. The original casualty was assessed by a team doctor, and along with the rest of the party, not found to be in need of further medical assistance.

22. Apr 14 Tues 22.10 Garsdale-Dentdale area, Cumbria – Mountain Rescue



The team were alerted by Kirkby Stephen MRT to a group of D of E students who had

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WELCOME TO BEN LYON - OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Following the sad death of the team's previous President, Doctor John Farrer, on New Years Day 2014, the CRO has been without a figurehead. However, in May of 2015, we were able to finally welcome our new President - Ben Lyon. Everyone on the team has heard of Ben's company, Lyon Equipment, and most will be aware of the support we have received – and continue to receive - from the UK's leading supplier of equipment for work, rescue and play at height and in dark places. Fewer will know that Ben was an underground controller with the CRO or that he edited and published the team's 50th anniversary book.

Ben Lyon was born 1939 in South East London. At the tender age of one year he was, in his words, "blown up by the Bosche" shortly after which he was evacuated to Lancashire. Ben began climbing in North Wales in 1953. He entered Bangor University in 1958 and continued to do lots of climbing. This culminated in an expedition to the Stauning Alps in Greenland in 1961, which he led.

Ben's first experience of major rescue took place while he was in Greenland when expedition member Brian Brewster fell 500 metres down ice cliffs. The rescue operation took 72 hours and culminated in Brian's evacuation to the coast by American army helicopter before being flown to Iceland by the Danish air force.

Outward Bound Eskdale gave Ben his first job - as an instructor; a post he held from 1961- 64. At that time the OB School was the rescue team for a large part of the Western Lake District, including Wasdale. Rescue involved lots of big carries in those days!

Moving on from Eskdale, Ben was selected for the role of Chief instructor at Oxford City Education Department's Outdoor Centre in the Upper Wye Valley. While there Ben became involved in the setting up of the first rescue team in the Brecon Beacons.

During this period Ben started caving, primarily because "there's not much good rock climbing in that area. . . ."

Ben also founded the British Association of Caving Instructors while based in the Wye Valley.

In 1968 he landed the job of running the 'National Scout Caving Activity Centre' at Whernside Manor, Dent. Under Ben's direction, the Manor quickly built up a

reputation for all sorts of caving courses, including rescue, and on one occasion - the use



Chair Heather Eastwood welcomes Ben Lyon as President of the team

of explosives underground! The courses attracted cavers from throughout the UK and by 1976 80% of the courses were non-Scout, and Whernside Manor had become a de-facto National Centre for caving. Around this time, ownership transferred to Yorkshire Dales National Park.

From 1969 onwards, Ben played a full part in CRO and became an Underground Controller. Ben left Whernside in 1983 to run his own business - Lyon Ladders, or, as it has become today, Lyon Equipment. This fledgling business actually began in 1965, when Ben began making caving ladders. As the business grew, the range of equipment Lyon Equipment supplied became wider. Of course this included the SRT gear that almost every caver in the land now uses.

Now, in 2015, Ben is Chairman of Lyon Equipment. The company is no longer based in Dent but at Tebay and employs over 80 people. Lyon distributes product ranges familiar to every climber, caver and outdoor enthusiast as well as providing work at height and rescue training for rope access technicians and the emergency services. The link to mountain and cave rescue remains a key feature of Lyon Equipment and many teams make use of the Lyon training centre for their own training.

Ben has also been a keen expedition caver. He has led or taken part in 3 expeditions to Mulu (1978, 80/81 & 84), 2 to China (88, 89) plus expeditions to Peru and Canada. Along the way, Ben has written a book on caving techniques – Venturing Underground, set up the Cave Leadership Training Board and helped set up IRATA and established their training & assessment programmes. He is an Honorary Member of both the Combined Services Caving Association and the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres.

And he is now our President. Welcome back Ben.

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not arrived at an agreed campsite at Cowgill in Dentdale, travelling via bridleway from Garsdale. As CRO were preparing to instigate a full callout, information was received that the party had been located, and all were safe and well, having made further progress than expected. Team members who had gone to check at Cowgill, and to open our depot, were therefore stood down.

23. Apr 25 Sat 11.31 Pen y ghent, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



CRO provided rescue cover for the annual Three Peaks Race. A runner (m,40) tripped on the descent from Pen y ghent, suffering a serious gash to one knee and serious abrasions to both hands and the other knee. After initial treatment by CRO, he was assisted into a team vehicle to return to Race Control, along with another runner (f), who had retired with cramp. Also, near Birkwith, CRO members assisted Yorkshire Ambulance Service personnel to carry a runner (f) to their ambulance. She had also fallen, sustaining a fractured jaw.

24. Apr 25 Sat 13.00 Bruntscar, Whernside, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f,33) slipped, sustaining a painful knee injury, while descending from Whernside. She was also becoming seriously chilled in the rain and sleet. She was escorted down to the road, where transport was provided to return her to the family car.

25. Apr 25 Sat 18.50 Settle, North Yorkshire – Local Incident



Yorkshire Ambulance Service asked for help in carrying a patient (m,78) with a suspected pelvic injury from his home, in Settle, to an air ambulance, some 600m away on the rugby field. In the event, the air ambulance was not needed and all that was required was a simple lift into a road ambulance.

26. Apr 25 Sat 21.16 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



North Yorkshire Police called CRO to look for

a Scout group, after the leader had reported that they had diverted from their original route and were on the Chapel-le-dale side of Ingleborough. Contact was lost before adequate information was available, so in view of the recent weather conditions, a search was begun. Several small search teams, including two SARDA dogs and handlers, were deployed to different parts of the fell. About thirty minutes in to the search, the group turned up, safe and well, at the camp-site in Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

MAY

27. May 02 Sat 12.21 Malham Cove, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f,56) slipped on the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove, sustaining a lower leg injury. As CRO arrived, an air ambulance was lifting off to carry her approximately 700 metres to a road ambulance. CRO stood down.

28. May 03 Sun 20.36 Three Peaks, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



A three peaks walker (m,50s) got ahead of the rest of his party and was last seen at Ribblehead, at 'around mid-day'. Although properly clad, he had no map, compass or mobile phone. About an hour and a half after they had completed the walk themselves and having sent a van round to Clapham to look for him, they reported him overdue. Just as a search was beginning, he was reported to be in a taxi, returning to Horton in Ribblesdale from Dent.

- May 04 Sun 00.08 Three Peaks, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



Alert - A Three Peaks walker (M) was reported overdue, having last been seen on Whernside at 19.30 hrs. As the Duty Controller was telephoning the informant, the 'missing person' returned safely.

29. May 04 Sun 22.02 Three Peaks, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



Two Three Peaks walkers (f) reported

Vietnamese Cave Rescue Training

by Martin Holroyd

For the past 25 years UK cavers including past and current members of CRO have been visiting Quang Binh Province in Vietnam.

The expeditions have explored some of the world's largest and longest caves, often in remote jungle terrain. More recently adventure caving has been made possible for tourists and this has seen a rapid rise in visitor numbers to the region that are able to sample some of the breathtaking caves of the area.

In a country where 'rescue teams' don't exist the expeditions have had to be self-sufficient and equipped for any eventuality. The growing popularity and increasing number of adventure tourist trips has also highlighted the potential of needing some form of rescue capability in the area.

In November I spent two fantastic weeks delivering introductory rescue training to the local guides and porters. In such a short timescale there is only a limited amount of information and training that can be delivered. The principle was to keep it simple and use only the equipment currently available to the guides and porters and the limitations of the equipment. The training covered basic stretcher handling, simple hauling techniques including standard internal mechanical advantage. Some tours require river crossings, so basic crossing techniques and throw bagging were also covered.

To underpin the practical elements some basic rescue theory was covered based on these basic rescue philosophies:

- 1. Individual safety**
- 2. Team Safety**
- 3. Casualty safety**

It was great fun delivering training to enthusiastic people willing to learn and always with a smile. The setting was spectacular and it was great to have an average age of under 30!



Practice, practice, practice....

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themselves lost descending Ingleborough, approaching Horton-in-Ribblesdale. The CRO controller was unable to re-contact their mobile phone for more details, but assessed their likely position. Two members of the team found the walkers where they were assumed to be.

30. May 05 Mon 13.34 Three Peaks, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



A walker reported shouts and whistle blasts on or around the summit of Ingleborough. An extensive search by team members and search dogs could not locate anyone in difficulty or descending the hill down any of the normal routes.

It was later discovered that a school group may have been shouting and using whistles some distance away at the reported time, which may have carried on the wind.

31. May 16 Sat 12.48 Whernside, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



While CRO was conducting its annual fundraising 'Challenge' walk a call was received to assist a member of the public who had collapsed on the summit ridge of Whernside. CRO attended with a team and coordinated the assistance of an Air Ambulance to fly the casualty to hospital.

32. May 21 Thu 17.49 Oxenber Scar, Austwick, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue



A climber (f, 74) fell, head first, while descending the 'easy' gulley, between climbs. Arriving on scene, a Yorkshire Ambulance Service

paramedic pronounced her dead. After a brief Police investigation, CRO members lifted her into a stretcher, which was then lowered from the crag and carried down to the road-head. FATAL.

33. May 23 Sat 14.45 Gaping Gill, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A walker (m, 59) became unwell near Gaping Gill. The team responded, together with the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. On arrival, the casualty had just been placed in the helicopter. The team then provided transport down to Clapham for family members, so they could follow to the hospital.

34. May 23 Sat 21.30 Whernside, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



The team were contacted by a friend concerned for two Three Peaks walkers (m, 50 + 10) who were struggling on Whernside, 15 hours after starting from Horton in Ribblesdale. Although in contact, health problems caused sufficient concern for a small team to be dispatched to assist the walkers down to the road, from where they were conveyed back to their accommodation.

35. May 24 Sun 14.32 White Scar Cave, Ingleton, North Yorkshire – Cave Rescue



A cave visitor (f, 62) stumbled and hit her helmet on the show cave roof, experiencing neck pain and headache. After a check-up and pain relief from the team doctor, she was assisted from the cave.

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**36. May 27 Wed 17.14 Sulber Nick,
Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain
Rescue**



The team were called to a walker (f, 54) who had suffered a lower leg injury. The casualty was assessed by team cas carers, given some mild pain relief and splinted, before being transported down to a road ambulance at Selside for transfer to hospital.

**37. May 30 Sat 12.50 Malham, North
Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue**



Whilst attending the English Junior Fell Race Championships, the team were asked to assist after a fell runner (f,15) collapsed as she completed her race. The casualty was assessed, and given oxygen therapy and glucogen, and monitored.

After approximately half an hour, the casualty was recovered sufficiently to be able go home with her parents. She was conveyed down to her parents car in Malham.

**38. May 30 Sat 18.15 Pen y ghent
North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue**



A Three Peaks walker (f,32), trying to complete the course in reverse order, began to suffer mild hypothermia and dizziness as she approached the lower slopes of Penyghent. The team responded to a call, and located the casualty near Hull Pot. She was assessed by team casualty carers, and it became apparent that the walker had not eaten properly during the course of the day. She was placed in a cas bag and rehydrated and fed, and returned in a team vehicle to Horton in Ribblesdale.

JUNE

**39. Jun. 7th Sun 14.52 Hull Pot,
Horton in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire –
Animal Rescue**



Walkers reported seeing an injured sheep in Hull Pot. A small team from CRO hauled out a lamb with a broken leg and delivered it to its owner.

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40. Jun. 7th Sun 16.36 Gordale Beck, Malham, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m,55) was reported to have taken ‘an extreme fall, into a deep ravine’, above Gordale Scar, suffering serious bleeding. As CRO members were en route, Yorkshire Ambulance Service advised that he had crossed the beck and had crawled out of the valley, up to the ambulance crew. CRO then stood down.



Kingsdale, 8th June 2015—casualty prepared for airlift

41. Jun. 8th Mon. 10.29 Kingsdale Beck, Thornton in Lonsdale, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

A volunteer (m,70), working on a steep bank in preparation for re-building a wall and constructing steps for a footpath, fell and rolled about 6m down the bank, landing on rocks in the dry river-bed. Rocks were cleared away from around him and pain relief was administered before he was lifted carefully onto a stretcher and carried a short distance to an air

ambulance. Possible back and other injuries in an awkward situation.

42. Jun. 11th Thu. 14.36 Settle, North Yorkshire - Local Incident

Call to assist the Police searching for a missing person in the Settle area. Person found as search groups were being prepared.

43. Jun. 20th Sat. 13.27 Whernside, North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue

Fell runner (m 35) fell 12 m near the summit ridge while descending Whernside. Casualty



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had suffered head injuries and was transported off the hill to a road ambulance. The Air Ambulance in attendance was unable to take-off because of low cloud.

**44. Jun. 20th Sat. 21.24 Clapham,
North Yorkshire - Mountain Rescue**

Lady with damaged knees was unable to return to Clapham following a walk on the Three Peaks Transported back to Clapham via CRO Land Rover.

**45. Jun. 27th Sat. 10.35 Pen y ghent,
North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue**

A walker (f,78) was reported to have fallen, injuring a leg and wrist and feeling sick and faint near Churn Milk Hole. Other walkers told the first CRO member on scene that she had recovered and had set off down Long Lane. She was not to be found along Long Lane, Moorhead Lane or the connecting path. With no phone number to call, CRO members were about to stand

down when a report was received that she was actually mid-way between the end of the Brackenbottom path and the summit of Pen y ghent. When CRO members found her, she had descended, with assistance, about 250m towards Brackenbottom. After an examination, she was persuaded that a stretcher-carry down to the team vehicle, parked near Churn Milk Hole, was the best option. Despite having tumbled a considerable distance down a steep, grassy slope, she declined any medical attention and was taken, by Land Rover, to her accommodation in Horton in Ribblesdale.



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HSBC Settle branch raises funds

Once again, the staff of the Settle branch of HSBC went all out to organise another Quiz Night, in aid of CRO. The event, held on the 24th April at Settle Rugby Club saw a fantastic turnout, which together with generously donated raffle prizes saw £900 raised on the night - which HSBC matched pound for pound. A brilliant contribution gratefully received.

Thank you all!

Friends of CRO

Your support is essential if CRO is to maintain the specialist equipment, the depot and provide CRO members with advanced first aid training. Please help us by becoming a Friend of CRO.



By being a Friend you provide a much needed donation that will help to ensure the survival of this dedicated and remarkable team.

Your good will, and participation in the events organised to support and assist CRO, provides vital encouragement and assistance.

Being a Friend is fun and provides you with an opportunity to meet others who appreciate their connection with the the CRO team.

You get:

- Notification of CRO fundraising events.
- Special Friends' Events.
- Access to the CRO depot on Friends' days.

- Networking through Friends' events.
- Copies of CRO publications.
- An opportunity to be affiliated with and join like-minded people in supporting the CaveRescue Organisation.

Practical Help for CRO In addition to financial support, the CRO welcomes offers of practical help in areas not directly connected with search and rescue incidents. 'Support Members' of the CRO can provide such help and a Friend of CRO may wish to consider becoming a 'Support Member'. More information on Support Membership is available from CRO's Personnel Officer. The following types of Friend membership are available:

Individual annually: (£25 or more)

Family annually: (£40 or more)

Business annually: (£100 or more)

Clubs and associations annually:

(donation of £50 more)

Interested? Then contact –

friends@cro.org.uk

JUST TEXT GIVING

Just Giving (www.justgiving.com), the on-line charitable giving service has proved a good source of income for CRO.

In 2011, Vodafone launched **Just Text Giving**, so anyone with a mobile phone can donate between £1 and £10 to CRO by text. So to give £5, you simply text **CAVE11 £5** to 70070. Your donation will be acknowledged by text, which will also give you the opportunity to Gift Aid the donation, adding 24% from the tax-people to what you are giving. Re-claiming the tax is rather easier on a smart phone. The whole donation comes to CRO, as the service is sponsored by Vodafone.

Anyone can use the on-line **Just Giving** system to create their own fund-raising page for CRO, whether for a specific fund-raising event or in memory of a loved one. It's easy: just go to www.justgiving.com/caverescue/raisemoney/ for on-line instructions. You can use this facility to set up your own text-giving from friends, relatives and fellow-supporters. If you're reading this on paper, but have internet access, there's no need to copy-type the address, above. Go to the CRO home-page www.cro.org.uk ; on the top line, hover over 'How you can help us', then click on 'Fundraising' in the menu that appears. After that, it's simple.



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<http://cro.ink2cash.co.uk>

and follow the instructions to print off a freepost label. Package and label your cartridges, and drop them in the post - you can even use old envelopes or boxes. Any cartridge by these four manufacturers that is not reusable will be recycled appropriately.



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Settle Rotary Club Donation

Settle Rotary Club have been a great supporter of CRO in the past, and again supported CRO in our 80th year.

Floyd Schofield, Settle Rotary Club's first female President handed Heather Eastwood (CRO's first female Chair!) a cheque for £600. In addition, Floyd's nominated charity for her year in office was CRO.

Floyd commented- "We appreciate the effort you all went to to show us round your Depot, unpacking the vehicles and having to put it all away again afterwards. We will endeavour to channel more funds your way during my year as President. Rae and Heather got their points across so eloquently and the visit was enjoyed by us all".

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46. Jun. 27th Sat. 12.57 White Scar, North Yorkshire – Cave Rescue



While dealing with an incident on Pen-y-ghent, CRO received a second call for assistance: A gentleman taking part in a guided tour of White Scar show cave had a ‘collapse’ at the far end of the system near the ‘Battlefield’ cavern.

CRO were alerted and attended the incident, having to initiate a second call-out for more team members as the incident on Pen-y-ghent was continuing. Team members helped Ambulance Service paramedics reach the casualty and subsequently stretchered the gentleman out of the cave where a road ambulance was waiting. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance also attended the incident but was not required.

47. Jun. 30th Tue. 19.00 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Animal Rescue.

A farmer reported one of his sheep approximately 6m down a pothole near Long Kin West on the southern flank of Ingleborough. A small team used cave rescue equipment to extricate the sheep and return it to the farmer.

JULY

48. Jul. 3rd Fri. 16.37 Catrigg Force, Stainforth, North Yorkshire – Animal Rescue.

A walker found a sheep trapped in the deep ravine at Catrigg Force. A small CRO team responded, and a member abseiled down to the sheep. After a brief swim (the sheep, not the CRO member), the sheep was placed in a bag and hauled up out of the ravine. At the surface it was returned to the farmer, none the worse for its experience.

49. Jul. 6th Mon. 13.34 Castlebergh Rock, Settle, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

The Team were called by Yorkshire Ambulance Service to a man fallen from Castlebergh Rock. The casualty (m,16) was on a steep tree covered slope below the crag, and suffering from possible spinal and neck injuries. Whilst paramedics undertook casualty care, the team used a vacuum mattress and lightweight



The swimming lamb, Catrigg Force

stretcher to extricate the casualty from the slope, and transport him to a waiting road ambulance.

50. Jul. 10th Fri. 16.29 Dales Way, Ribblehead to Dent – Mountain Rescue.

The team were contacted by Police to conduct a search for a walker (doing the Dales Way to Kendal), who was reported to have not turned up at pre-booked accommodation in Sedbergh on Thursday evening. Repeated efforts to contact the walkers mobile phone were unsuccessful. The whole team was alerted for a possible protracted search, and team leaders met to plan a systematic search of the possible routes used by the walker. As planning was being completed, the walker contacted Police, safe and well, from Kendal.

51. Jul. 12th Sun. 14.28 Whernside, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

The team were alerted by the Police to a walker taken ill on Whernside, whilst undertaking the Three Peaks. The team responded and made their way to the casualty, whose condition was described as deteriorating. An air ambulance

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

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Please pay annually/monthly (*) the sum of £

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***The Treasurer, Cave Rescue Organisation
Clapham, Lancaster LA2 8HH***

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2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Cave Rescue Organisation reclaims on your donations in the year (currently 25p for each pound you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the Cave Rescue Organisation reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donation qualifies for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the Cave Rescue Organisation, or you can ask your local tax office for leaflet IR65 Gift Aid.

When this declaration has been completed please send it to -
The Treasurer, Cave Rescue Organisation, Clapham, Lancaster LA2 8HH

Charity number 241091

became available and also attended and landed nearby.

The casualty's condition improved sufficiently for him not to require evacuation to hospital, so the air ambulance flew him down to a CRO vehicle so that he could return to his own car.

52. Jul. 19th Sun 16.27 Waterfalls Trail, Ingleton, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

Someone was reported to have been fitting and in need of assistance, 'on a trail off Oddies Lane, Ingleton'. No further information was available and the phone number given went to voicemail. While CRO members were looking for them, the caller descended to Ingleton, carrying her son (4) back to the car park, without assistance.

53. Jul. 29th Wed 18.19 Ribblehead, Ingleton , North Yorkshire – Cave Rescue.

Call to assist a reported caver who had fallen and was unconscious in a cave at Ribblehead. During a significant cloudburst over the area CRO dispatched a Land Rover and team members to assist Yorkshire Ambulance Service. The caver recovered sufficiently to make his way across the fell with help from his party and was transported by ambulance to hospital. Due to the severity of the weather and significant flooding, CRO escorted the ambulance back to Ingleton.

AUGUST

54. Aug. 1st Sat. 14.30 Gordale, Malham, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

Call to assist ambulance service when a walker at Gordale Scar was hit by a falling rock.

After treatment by paramedics the casualty was taken to hospital by ambulance.

55. Aug. 4th Tues 14.08 Gordale, Malham, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

Call to assist Ambulance Service to help a woman with an ankle injury near Gordale.

The woman was found between Gordale and Malham Cove and carried by stretcher to a road ambulance.

- Aug. 17th Mon 18.29 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Alert only.

The team were alerted by North Yorkshire Police to a potential missing walker on Ingleborough. During initial enquiries, Police were informed that a man matching the description of the individual had been into the Station Inn at Ribblehead, and was reportedly walking along the road to Hawes. He was quickly located by the Police and returned to his anxious companion. No team deployment was necessary.

- Aug. 28th Fri 14.18 Burn Moor, North Yorkshire – Alert only.

A child (m, 7) was reported lost on 'Keasden Moor' (part of Burn Moor), but was found by his own party almost immediately after the call was made to North Yorkshire Police.

56. Aug. 29th Sat 10.21 Three Peaks route near High Birkwith, Horton in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

A Three Peaks walker (f, 33) slipped on wet, muddy grass, injuring an ankle. Having given her pain relief and applied a splint, team members carried her, by stretcher, to a waiting road ambulance.

57. Aug. 30th Sun 12.48 Malham Cove, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (m, 28) slipped on the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove, sustaining a broken lower leg. After treatment by Yorkshire Ambulance Service paramedics, he was carried by stretcher to an air ambulance by CRO members.

SEPTEMBER

58. Sep. 1st Tue 21.45 Whernside, Ingleton, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

Two walkers (m, 36; f, 36), having almost completed a Three Peaks walk from Ingleton, reported themselves benighted above Twisleton, while attempting to return from Whernside to Ingleton. They could give their



position only in latitude and longitude, so a SARloc fix was made by CRO. They were advised which wall to follow, then met and escorted off the hill by team members.

59. Sep. 5th Sat 19.09 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



Walker reported to have leg / ankle injuries / broken ankle while descending Ingleborough towards Horton. Description of incident led us to believe this was at Nick Pot crossroads.

Walker found and transported off the hill to ambulance for assessment. Found to be tired but well and taken back to Horton in Ribblesdale.

The team also transported other tired walkers who had no lights back to Horton.

60. Sep. 5th Sat 22.19 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



Two Walkers reported 'lost' at signpost on Ingleborough while descending towards Horton. Thought to be Nick Pot crossroads, CRO dispatched a Landrover and team members. Walkers found safe and well with only one light.

61. Sep. 14th Mon 19.36 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



Two Three Peaks walkers (f,43 f,39) reported themselves stranded in low cloud on Ingleborough. Information was sparse and communications poor, but they were found, quickly, in the summit shelter, then escorted to a CRO vehicle waiting near Crina Bottom.

62. Sep. 18th Fri 14.38 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



A walker (m,52) slipped on mud, near 'Nick Pot shooting hut', sustaining a suspected ankle fracture. With assistance from companions, he continued to the junction of Sulber Nick with Clapham Lane. CRO members immobilised the leg, then took him in a team vehicle to Horton in Ribblesdale, where he was transferred to a road ambulance.

63. Sep. 19th Sat 08.00 Crosby Ravensworth, Cumbria – Mountain Rescue.



Nine CRO members went to assist Penrith MRT, in an extensive search for a local woman (78) who had not returned from walking her dog on Crosby Ravensworth Fell, on Thursday afternoon. Teams from across Cumbria and the northern Pennines had also been involved on the Friday. Late on Saturday morning, Cumbria Police reported that a body had been found.

64. Sep. 19th Sat 14.42 Gorbeck (Malham Moor), North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



A walker (f,66), on the 'Settle loop' of the Pennine Bridleway, tripped, sustaining facial injuries. CRO was called, but a Yorkshire Ambulance Service 4x4 had arrived first, so CRO and the North West Air Ambulance were stood down, as they arrived at the scene.

- Sep. 19th Sat 21.33 Simpson's Pot / Swinsto Hole, Kingsdale, North Yorkshire – Alert only



Two groups of cavers, doing a Simpson's – Swinsto exchange trip were reported overdue. An initial check suggested that one group was out and safe, while the other was slower. A further check showed that the remaining party was just then surfacing – about four and a half hours later than planned.

65. Sep. 26th Sat 21.29 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



The Police reported a group of walkers lost on the descent from Ingleborough, and were only able to give only rudimentary information as to their location. The team were unable to re-contact them, so two small parties were sent to check likely locations. The group (8 women) were located at South House Farm, Selside. The group were then transported back to Horton.

66. Sep. 27th Sun 12.29 Whernside, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



The team were alerted by Bowland Pennine

MRT, who were providing safety and marshalling for the annual 3 Peaks Cyclo Cross race, to a cyclist suffering head, facial and neck injuries having fallen on the descent from Whernside. The team responded and provided medical equipment and assistance with casualty care until the Great North Air Ambulance arrived. The patient was carried to the waiting helicopter for transfer to hospital.



67. Sep. 27th Sun 14.57 Gisburn

Forest, Lancashire – Mountain Rescue.

As the team were returning from the previous incident, a call was received from Yorkshire Ambulance to a cyclist suffering from a dislocated shoulder in Gisburn Forest. The team responded, and as the first member arrived, the cyclist had been found by the ambulance crew, and was being helped into the ambulance. As no further assistance was required, the team were stood down en route.

68. Sep. 30th Wed 20.28 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.



Two walkers (m44, f34) reported themselves lost on Ingleborough to North Yorkshire Police. From descriptions of the landmarks given, two small CRO teams were dispatched to locate the pair. They were located on the Pennine Bridleway and brought down by vehicle to Clapham.

OCTOBER

69. Oct. 4th Sun 00:56 Easegill System, Cumbria – Cave Rescue.



A party of 4 cavers (3m, 1f) were reported

overdue from a through trip in the Easegill System, from Top Sink to Lancaster Hole. Initial enquiries confirmed they had not returned to their lodging, and their vehicle was still located at Bull Pot Farm.

Rescue teams (including additional cavers from Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association) were despatched to locate the group. They were eventually located near to Fall Pot, and then escorted to the surface via Lancaster Hole, unhurt but tired.



70. Oct. 7th Wed 12.15 Stainforth

Force, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue.

The team were requested to assist Yorkshire Ambulance personnel with a casualty (f,71) who had slipped and sustained an ankle injury. The crew were unable to get her to their vehicle because of slippy, poor ground conditions. A small CRO team responded, and using a Bell mountain stretcher, carried the casualty to the road ambulance for transport to hospital.



71. Oct. 20th Tue 17.22 Whernside,

North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue – Parapentist

A parapentist (m,48) crashed shortly after take off whilst attempting to fly from Whernside. Low cloud and loss of daylight forced the air ambulance to abandon attempts to rescue the man, though they were able to place two CRO members and a paramedic on the mountain. CRO started to organise a stretcher carry, but due to the casualty's condition a Coastguard helicopter was requested to attend. They flew the casualty to Leeds-Bradford Airport

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During 2015, CRO had two qualified mountain rescue search dogs, Glen and Belle. A third dog, Angus, is now in training with the Search & Rescue Dog Association (SaRDA).



SaRDA CALLOUTS 2015

Our dog handlers were called to two incidents outside our team area in 2015.

7th Sept Assist Duddon—Furness MRT

Search for 69 yo (m) missing from holiday accommodation. Eventually discovered safe and well on 8th Sept.

18th Sept Assist Penrith MRT

Search for 78 yo (f) missing whilst dog walking (see team incident number 63). Search moorland and quarries in area east of Crosby Ravensworth. Casualty found on 19th Sept (F)

For more information on mountain rescue searchdogs, visit

www.sardaengland.org.uk.



New Arrival Angus (L) with stalwart Glen (R) training in Crummackdale and flyer Belle (below)

for transfer to Leeds General Infirmary. This avoided a long stretcher carry and subsequent protracted road journey to hospital.

This was CRO's first rescue using an HMCG Bristow's helicopter following the stand down of RAF Sea King helicopters.

72. Oct. 28th Wed 1443 Feizor, North Yorkshire – Local Incident



North Yorkshire Police requested assistance locating a vulnerable male who had gone missing. As preparations were underway to conduct a search, the Police located the missing man.

NOVEMBER

73. Nov. 3rd Tue 11.26 Watlowes Valley, Malham, North Yorkshire – Mountain



Rescue

The team were alerted by North Yorkshire Police to a walker suffering from an ankle injury in the dry valley above Malham Cove. On arrival, a team casualty carer carried out an assessment of the casualty, who was then splinted and given pain relief before being stretchered back to a CRO vehicle for transport down to Malham, from where they were transported to hospital by road vehicle.

74. Nov. 8th Sun 13.50 Malham Cove, Malham, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



The team were called to assist paramedics who had responded to a climber (m,20) who sustained a lower leg injury after slipping whilst climbing a grade 7a route above the catwalk at Malham Cove. The team provided safety cover for the paramedics and casualty, who was 'packaged' and then lowered vertically in a stretcher from the catwalk using a rope rescue system before being carried by stretcher to a team vehicle, from where he was taken to the road ambulance for transfer to hospital.

75. November 14th Sat 16.30 Kendal, Cumbria – 'Local' Incident



The team were asked by Kendal MRT to provide personnel to assist with a dry evacuation

80th Anniversary of CRO

On the 17th October 2015, members old and new gathered together at the Falcon Manor Hotel in Settle, North Yorkshire, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Cave Rescue Organisation.



Old and current team members at the celebration

The origins of the CRO date back to an incident on October 13, 1934, when a boulder fell onto the leg of Reg Weetman, in Gingling Hole, and broke it in two places. A subsequent rescue by cavers from several clubs took over 24 hours.

Consequently, a meeting of all involved was arranged for November 24, 1934, at Rock House, Settle.

There, according to the log book of the Northern Cavern and Fell Club, one of several clubs and organisations in attendance, it was suggested a rescue organisation be set up.

On January 5, 1935, a letter was sent to PC Elliott at Settle Police Station asking for cooperation on rescues and the CRO became operational on February 12, 1935.

The Central Rescue Committee was transformed into the Central Rescue Organisation just before it became operational and three years later, in 1938, it changed its name to the Cave Rescue Organisation.

The first recorded incident was on June 9, 1935, at Gaping Gill and the first recorded fatality in a cave was on May 7, 1936, at Alum Pot, near Selside when a woman died after being hit by a falling rock.

It was around the 1960's that CRO started to be called to surface incidents. In fact during this period only 45 per cent of rescues were from caves.

Cave diving was also becoming popular and the CRO's first diving fatality occurred when Alan Clegg, a well-known experienced caver and the CRO's treasurer, died in Lancaster Hole.

By the 1980s, things had started to change and the trend was towards more surface incidents, but the manpower needed for a cave rescue is approximately five times more than for a surface incident...and unfortunately helicopters still don't fit underground!

Today, the CRO is one of the premier rescue organisations of its kind in the world and it rescued its 3,900th individual during the latter part of 2015.

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of properties in the centre of Kendal prior to expected flooding. 10 CRO personnel joined colleagues from Kendal and other Cumbrian teams to complete the task; the last of our personnel withdrawing at about 11pm.

On this occasion the predicted flooding thankfully did not occur.

76. Nov. 15th Sun 14.24 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

The team were called out to assist a walker with chest pains, close to Ingleborough summit.

Poor weather conditions, high winds, rain, limited visibility and approaching darkness provided challenging conditions for the team. A Coastguard Search & Rescue helicopter was asked to assist due to the medical situation, however this could not complete its task (see the following rescue report). CRO stabilised the casualty's condition and undertook a surface stretcher carry along with continuing casualty care on steep ground, taking the casualty to a land rover for transport to a road ambulance.

77. November 15th Sun 19.24 Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue

A Coastguard Search & Rescue helicopter, called to assist with the previous incident, developed a mechanical fault which caused it to shut down. The helicopter was on sloping ground and began to slip, tilting to one side. The crew abandoned the aircraft which was in danger of rolling over, and requested assistance from CRO to assist in stabilising the aircraft.

CRO brought in engineering equipment to secure the aircraft and ensured the crew were safe and well, following which the Fire Service arrived with heavy duty equipment. Over the next 4 days, CRO helped with the security and recovery operation which utilised heavy lifting equipment, temporary hard standing and further manpower, before the aircraft was able to take off at about midday on Thursday 19th November.



Rescuing the Rescuers

How getting help from the Coast Guard didn't go to plan...

Four days babysitting a helicopter may not rank as our most challenging callout, but it was certainly one of the more unusual that we've had.

The mechanical fault that developed meant the crew had to leave it where it landed—at a precarious angle, and sinking into soft ground!

As well as securing the aircraft, team members kept watch overnight, and then assisted, as necessary, as the recovery got under way.

Because of the nature of the fault, and the repair carried out, it was essential that the helicopter was within 5 degrees of horizontal when they attempted take off.

This could only be achieved using some serious lifting technology, which required a temporary roadway to be constructed, so that a 70 tonne crane could be brought in to manoeuvre the aircraft to a level position.

Weather conditions were far from ideal, with torrential downpours and at times high winds, but the specialist lifting contractors were eventually able to



manoeuvre the aircraft into a position from which a take off could be attempted.

So, on the fourth morning, all unnecessary equipment was unloaded and placed in CRO's trailer, the road was closed, and the pilot went for it.

Fortunately, they were able to then fly the aircraft to Ribblehead Quarry, where all the gear was reloaded, having been transported by road, and then the aircraft successfully returned to its base at Caernarfon, just four days after it set out on its mission to help us!

The engineers and crew did a sterling job, as did the lifting crew from Lawson's Crane Services of Cockermouth, the time required for extrication all being due to the poor weather and ground conditions encountered.

Of course, we couldn't let them leave without a farewell picture, and a little adjustment to the décor. We did, however, resist the opportunity to keep any souvenirs, though the tail rotor would look rather nice on our Depot wall!



78. November 25th Wed 14.19 Sulber Nick, Ingleborough, North Yorkshire – Mountain Rescue



A Three Peaks runner, descending Sulber Nick towards Horton, reported hearing a shout for help. A search was organised, but no-one found. Several noisy groups were reported to be on expedition in the area.

DECEMBER

- Dec. 5th 13.00 - Flooding around Kendal, Cumbria – Alert only



With severe floods developing across Cumbria, Kendal MRT asked about CRO's availability to again assist with house-to-house warnings and possible resident evacuations. With too few members available, and severe weather within our own area, we were forced to decline the request on this occasion.

79. Dec. 5th Sat 20.30 Cumbria – Major Incident – Flooding



As serious flooding developed both locally and in the Lake District from Storm Desmond, CRO were on alert for incidents requiring our assistance. As it became clear that those incidents in our own area were under control, we made ourselves available to the Lake District MR coordinating group. The team were tasked to assist with removal of people from flooded properties in the Langdale/Ambleside area.

CRO responded with 2 vehicles each with 2 personnel. Whilst en route, negotiating flooded roads around Kendal, they were re-tasked to the holding centre at Penrith Fire Station for further deployment. However, at about 00:30 hours, the decision was taken to release the crews back to their home area, whilst remaining available for further deployment if required.

80. Dec. 6th Sun 14.27 Dent, Cumbria – Ambulance Assist (Flooding)



Due to continuing flooding, North West Ambulance Service was unable to reach Dent to respond to a call from a patient (f, 34) who was in need of hospital treatment.

CRO attended, both locally and via Kingsdale/Deepdale. Following assessment by a team doctor, the patient was carried and wheeled to a Yorkshire Ambulance Service road ambulance for transport on to hospital.

81. Dec. 26th Sat 22.30 York, North Yorkshire – Major Incident – Flooding



As part of a co-ordinated regional response and alongside MRTs from across Northern England and parts of Wales, CRO members went to York, to assist with the rescue or evacuation of people trapped or at risk of being trapped in their homes by the unprecedented flooding. 7 taskings completed during 16 hours at scene.

82. Dec. 29th Tue 20.28 – 3 Counties System – Pool Sink, Cumbria - Cave Rescue



Called by Cumbria police to a caver with a dislocated shoulder at the bottom of the first pitch in Pool Sink within the 3 counties cave system. An underground team were dispatched, who brought the casualty to the surface where a team doctor and stretcher party were waiting to take them down to Bull Pot Farm and a waiting NWAS road ambulance for transfer to hospital.



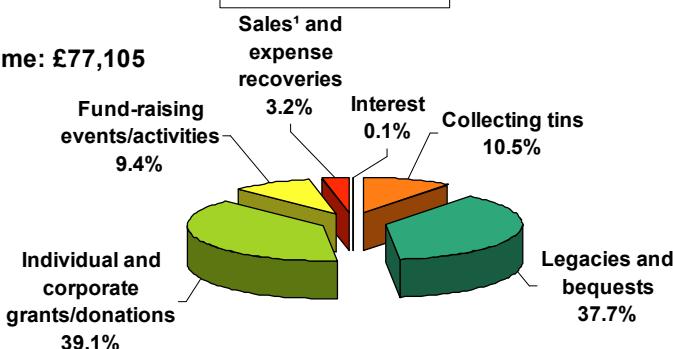
CRO team members assisting with home evacuations in York, December 2015. Thanks to Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association for the loan of the sled!

Financial Summary, 2015

Income 2015

As a percentage of total

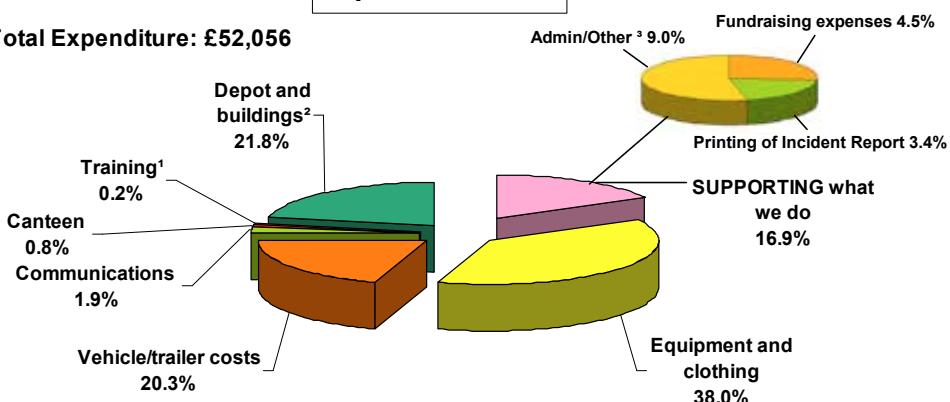
Total Income: £77,105



¹Incident report advertising and sale of redundant equipment.

Expenditure 2015

Total Expenditure: £52,056



¹ Mostly in-house or shared with other teams at minimal cost

² Repairs, cleaning, heat, light, insurance, rates, water, rent

³ Computer costs, function costs, postage, stationery, telephones, travelling, subscriptions, a/c audit, & bank charges

This is a summary of CRO's income and expenditure for the year ending 31st October 2015. Within a few weeks of the end of the financial year, purchase of a new CRO 2 (Land Rover 130) disposed of rather more than the year's operational surplus of £25,049. The Organisation's accounts and annual report may be read, in full, on the Charity Commission web-site at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission. Click on 'Search for a charity', then type 'Cave Rescue Organisation' in the search box.



Cave and Mountain Rescue in the Yorkshire Dales, North Lancashire and SE Cumbria



INCIDENTS 2015

Cave/Mine/other underground

10 (1)

Mountain incidents

- Falls / slips 22
- lost way 5
- lost/benighted 2
- fell-running 3
- mountain biking 2
- paragliding 1
- investigate shouts for help 2

Mountain

58 (2)

Climbing

1

Animal

3

Other incidents

10

Main team total

82 (3)

CRO dogs/ handlers assisting

2

In other teams' areas

84

TOTAL

People involved 93

Sheep / lambs 4

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS

Cave incidents

Rockfall

1 (1)

Fall

3

Self marooned

1

Physically stuck

1

Dislocated shoulder

1

Collapse (medical)

1

Reported overdue

1

Climbing Incident

Fall from pitch

1

Rock gave way, fall

1

Other incidents

Assisted Major Flood incidents

3

Assist Ambulance

3

Serious Road Traffic Collision (snow)

2

Local search—Missing person

1

HMCG Helicopter recovery

1

Collapses:

- medical condition 6

Since 1935, CRO has attended 2726 incidents

Cave 714

Cave (assisted by divers) 10

Cave diving 16

Disused mines 17

Other underground 1

Mountain 1137

Climbing 97

Open water diving 11

Animal - surface 146

- underground 300

CRO / SARDA dogs and handlers searching in other teams' areas 184

Other incidents 91

'Stand-by' and 'Alert' calls are not recorded.

This has involved 3,932 people (aged 5 months to 87 years), 246 lambs, 216 sheep, 77 dogs, 13 calves, 9 cows, 9 ducks, 1 bullock, 1 Highland heifer, 1 cat and 1 rabbit plus the recovery of a wide variety of objects.

Numbers in brackets are fatalities by incident type.

Summary of Statistics

Year

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
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Total incidents attended

84 (3)	74 (9)	64 (0)	73 (5)	86 (4)	79(9)	94(5)
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Cave

9 (1)	6	8	7	11	13	
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15

0	2 (1)	0	0	0	0	0
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Disused Mines

57 (2)	56(6)	46	49 (1)	64(2)	48(6)	59(2)
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Mountain

1	2	1	-	-	-	5
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Climbing

3	4	5	8	6	8	6
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Animal

10	3 (2)	2	2	1	1	3
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CRO dogs + handlers

assisting in other teams' areas	2	1	2	7(4)	4(2)	9(3)	6(3)
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There were no 'cave diving', 'Cave, assisted by divers', or 'open water diving' incidents in this seven year period.



Multi-Route Marathon and Clapham Circuit
May 22 2016 - Walk It or Run It

A sponsored event to raise money for the local Mountain & Cave Rescue Team.
12 mile & 26 mile options - Walk It or Run It
2016 The Challenge Grows - Be There



CRO Challenge 2016

May 22nd



Don't forget to get it in your diary - www.cro.org.uk/challenge

Support the team, in 2016!



Our thanks to all who have helped CRO, in any way, over the past year

Words and figures contributed by Alison Haigh, Brian Boardman, Phil James, Jack Pickup, Martin Holroyd and Bill Batson.

Cover photo: CRO 1 and Helimed 98. 12th July 2015, by Roy Holmes, CRO

Other photographs by Matt Haigh (Bristow's Helicopters), Rosie Hancock (SaRDA), Steve Finch Photography, Rae Lonsdale, Roy Holmes, Sean Whittle, Bill Batson, Bernie Bond and Phil James (all CRO members).

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The 2016 Challenge will take place on
Sunday the 22nd May 2016
(Saturday 20th May 2017)

The Challenge is a fundraising event for CRO: the
Mountain & Cave Rescue Team covering the 3 Peaks &
Malham area of the Yorkshire Dales

Walkers/runners are invited to take part and are
asked to raise at least £25.00 sponsorship per person for
the Ingleborough Marathon and £15 per person for the
Clapham Circuit.

Register
www.CRO.org.uk/Challenge

Challenge@cro.org.uk

CRO Depot
Clapham
N.Yorks (Via Carnforth)
LA2 8HH

