CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION RESCUE 2018 Incidents attended during 2017





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for their continued support



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

Another busy year...

 $2017\,$ saw a continuation of the high number of callouts for the team, with the final total being our second highest ever. Sadly this included a total of four fatalities, one of which occurred underground.

Our team members train and prepare to go to the assistance of any person or creature in difficulties on the fells, and the hours spent on rescues (equivalent to 2556 total hours in 2017) is matched by a figure estimated at 4700 hours spent training, preparing and cleaning equipment, not to mention something like 150 hours spent on the day to day administration and governance of the team. That's a huge commitment for volunteers to make on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis. Yet all in the team do it willingly because they believe it's worthwhile—it's a chance to give back to sports and activities that have formed a large part of our team members lives.

Avoiding avoidable calls

Having said how committed our members are, we all get frustrated when we are called out simply because people have failed to prepare sufficiently, whether that is through lack of gear or equipment, or a lack of resolve on an individuals part to finish what they started (Sulber Nick signpost is not a Bus Stop!) From this year, we intend to highlight any callout that we deem to be avoidable—we will not publicly criticise the individuals involved, but we will make clear what could have been done to avoid the situation occurring, and will continue to offer 'advice' to those individuals at the time.

Going out in the hills? Essential kit you should always carry

- Map and compass, torch and head torch and a whistle
- Without a torch, map and compass are useless after dark!

Both torch and whistle can be used to signal for help: Six good long blasts in a minute. Stop for one minute. Repeat. Continue until someone reaches you and don't stop because you hear a reply. Your whistle blasts may be a direction finder. Don't forget spare batteries and bulbs for your torches. What to take with you

- Suitable clothing warm, windproof and waterproof. Layers work best!
- Footwear with a treaded sole which supports the ankles.
- Spare clothing including hat and gloves even in summer!
- Ample food and drink for the day including high energy snacks such as chocolate, nuts or dried fruits.

Always carry water — even in cool weather it's easy to become dehydrated.

ABOUT THE INCIDENTS WE ATTENDED DURING 2017

Incident Categories We categorise incidents 'Cave' or 'Mine'	as:
' Mountain':- Walker/Other person	Ē.
Fell Runner	1
Gyrocopter	
Quad bike	2
Climber	2
Swift Water	
'Animal'	** ** * *

'Local Incident'. For clarity, local incidents are divided into:-Assist Police or

Assist Ambulance

'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 2017 = 91

68 'mountain rescue' incidents 10 'cave/mine rescue' incidents 11 'animal rescue' incidents (3 underground, 1 surface)

2 'local' incidents (team's specialist skills utilised on-road / urban locations)

plus 6 alerts for overdue cavers and walkers or specialist advice given to Police which did not require a call out.

Total volunteer hours attending incidents: 2556, plus 6 hours for alerts.

Incidents During 2017

JANUARY

01. Jan. 1st Sun. 15.20 River Doe, Ingleton – River Rescue.

Multiple calls were received by Yorkshire Ambulance Service and North Yorkshire Police for a person (m, 40) fallen into the River Doe on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, possibly above Snow Falls. The casualty had already been pulled from the river above Storrs Common by a passerby, when CRO arrived and ambulance and air ambulance paramedics were rapidly on scene. The casualty was suffering from multiple injuries and hypothermia, having being swept up to a kilometre downstream, so a decision was made to evacuate him rapidly to hospital by air ambulance. He was 'packaged' onto a team stretcher, and carried to the air ambulance by team and fire service personnel, before being conveyed to Royal Preston Hospital for treatment.

02. Jan. 2nd Mon. 15.58 Ribblehead – 🗖

CRO was asked to assist in a search for a missing person (m, 50) believed to be on Whernside and with inadequate clothing for the freezing conditions. As team members gathered at Ribblehead for a pre-search briefing, the man was found, safe and well, on a minor road in Chapel le Dale. Team members were stood down.

03. Jan 2nd Mon. 19.41 Ingleborough – 🗖

Two walkers (m, 27; f, 25) with a dog, contacted the Police for guidance when they became disoriented whilst walking off Ingleborough. Although well equipped, they had lost confidence in their navigation in the dark. The duty controller was able to establish their location using SARLoc (a smartphone application that sends the phone's location to our mapping software), then guide them to Gaping Gill, where they were met by two team members who escorted them off the hill.

04. Jan 14th Sat. 13.51 Ingleborough – 💃 Mountain Rescue.

A CRO member, out for a walk, reported that a walker (m, 12) had sustained an ankle injury, 50m from the summit of Ingleborough, on the Ingleton side. He used his own emergency equipment to keep the boy warm until help arrived. Team members carried him to a Yorkshire Air Ambulance - requested because of the patient's cold condition and the time a stretcher evacuation would take - and he was flown down to Horton in Ribblesdale playing field, for transfer to a YAS road ambulance. His companion was accompanied down to the team Land Rovers, near Crina Bottom, for a lift to their accommodation, in Chapel le dale. However, well before the returning rescue party reached the vehicles, the text alerts fired off again

05. Jan 14th Sat. 16.04 Pen-y-ghent – f

Before the previous incident was quite concluded, there was a call to go to a walker (f, 32) who had suffered a knee-cap dislocation '15 minutes from the trig point' on the main path down from Pen y ghent towards Horton in Ribblesdale. While the team was re-organising and en route, a (different) former CRO controller,



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out for a walk, happened by. He provided spare clothing and encouraged the group to assist the injured person to begin to move downhill. With his support, they had progressed to within about 250m of the top of Horton Scar Lane when the CRO team arrived. The casualty was helped into a team vehicle and taken down to the main car park in Horton, to wait for a road ambulance. Later, when it became apparent that an ambulance would not be available within a reasonable period of time, she and a companion said they preferred to use their own car for the drive to hospital. The patient was assisted onto the back seat of their car and CRO members returned to Clapham.

06. Jan 21st Sat. 10.15 Scar Top, nr. 📻 Giggleswick – Animal Rescue.

A sheep, reported to have been crag-fast on a limestone scar for over 36 hours, was located on a narrow ledge approximately 10m above ground level. A team member descended by rope to the ledge from above and the sheep was 'encouraged' to retrace its route up a narrow cleft to the field above.

07. Jan 24th Tue. 14.58 Malham – Mountain 👖

Yorkshire Ambulance Service asked for assistance with a walker (f) with a medical condition near the river from Malham Cove. However, ambulance personnel were able to access the casualty easily, so the team was stood down en route.

08. Jan 29th Sun. 15.36 Little Ingleborough

A walker (m, 28), wearing trainers, slipped on snow or ice when beginning to descend from Little Ingleborough towards Gaping Gill, sustaining a suspected shoulder dislocation. As CRO members made their way up to him, his companions assisted him to descend a little way down, very slowly and in considerable pain. He was given pain relief and stretchered (partly sledged, partly carried) down to a team Land Rover, below Trow Gill. Back in Clapham, he was transferred to a YAS ambulance for the journey to hospital.

FEBRUARY

09. Feb 12th Sun. 11.43 Pen y ghent – 👖 Mountain Rescue.

In wintery conditions, a walker (f, 42) slipped on ice descending from the summit, fracturing her right tibia and fibula. The casualty was attended to by team casualty carers, given pain relief and splinted before being carried on a stretcher to the road-head for transfer to a road ambulance and transport to hospital.

Incident 9-Wild and windy conditions on Pen-y-ghent



10. Feb 19th Sun. 18.27 Bargh Hill, Stainforth from Mountain Rescue.

Two walkers (m, 41; f, 38) reported themselves lost (without map), in the dark and in low cloud, on what was intended to be a circular walk over Pen y ghent from Horton in Ribblesdale. SARloc showed them to be on Bargh Hill, Stainforth. A local CRO controller walked up to guide them and their two dogs off the hill, then drive them back to Horton, while a controller colleague monitored communications, at home.

MARCH

11. Mar 3rd Fri. 21.56 Ingleborough, Clapham 🏂 – Mountain Rescue.

Two Three Peaks walkers (m, 20; m, 19) reported themselves lost and benighted, descending from Ingleborough. From their description, the CRO duty controller surmised that they were actually on the Nature Trail path, heading towards Clapham. A small team set off by Land Rover, but

found them just as they entered the village.

12. Mar 11th. Sat. 15.54 White Scar Cave, Ingleton – Cave Rescue.

A visitor (f, 79) tripped, while on a tour of the show cave, hitting her head, just above the left eye. A small team went in to assist the Yorkshire Ambulance Service paramedic who was first on scene. After initial treatment, the patient was able to walk to the cave entrance.

13. Mar 25th. Sat. 14.16 Whernside f – Mountain Rescue.

North Yorkshire Police received a call to a walker (m) collapsed but conscious, descending from Whernside 'towards Ingleton'. The duty controller was able to re-contact the caller and established that they were in fact descending towards Bruntscar. Team members arrived on scene together with a road ambulance as the casualty neared the road head. He was escorted to the ambulance and left in the care of Yorkshire Ambulance Service personnel.

14. Mar 31st Fri. 12.13 Pen-y-ghent – 🗖 Mountain Rescue.

A walker (f, 16) suffered an asthma attack near the summit of Pen-y-ghent. She was assessed by air ambulance paramedics before being escorted down to a team vehicle for transport to a road ambulance.

APRIL

15. Apr. 2nd Sun. 17.45 Baxenghyll Gorge, Ingleton – Mountain Rescue.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service asked for assistance with the evacuation of a photographer (m) who had suffered a broken leg while on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Team members escorted the air ambulance paramedics to the casualty and assisted with preparing him for transfer to a road ambulance which arrived shortly after. The casualty was then carried by team members to the road ambulance.

18. Apr. 12th Wed. 15.59 Long Kin East Pot, The Allotment, Austwick – Cave Rescue.

A group of five cavers (m: 36, 30, 30, 26; f, 29) was reported overdue in Long Kin East Pot. An initial investigation was begun, but they reported themselves to be on the surface, safe and well, two hours after their 'call-out time'.

19. Apr. 13th Thur. 14.17 Malham Cove – 🏂 Mountain Rescue.

A young person (m, 15) was reported missing whilst walking at Malham Cove. He was found safe and well, while CRO members were en route

Incident 15-Casualty transferred to road ambulance



to Malham.

20. Apr. 14th Fri. 16.00 Malham Cove – fi Mountain Rescue.

A walker (m, 49) collapsed while walking up the steps, at the side of Malham Cove. He was escorted, on foot, to a CRO vehicle and transported to Malham village.

21. Apr. 17th Mon. 12.43 Malham Cove – Mountain Rescue.

16. Apr. 4th Tue. 10.21 Fell Lane, Ingleton – f

A walker (m, 39) was reported to be experiencing a fit, on the bridleway to Crina Bottom. After attention from a YAS paramedic, he was assisted into a CRO Land Rover, for transport to a road ambulance, down on the Hawes road. He was then taken to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for a check-up.

17. Apr. 8th Sat. 10.21 Foot of Malham Cove from Mountain Rescue.

A walker (m, 68) was reported to have 'passed out', then regained consciousness, on the path at the foot of Malham Cove. CRO members carried him by stretcher to a waiting air ambulance for the journey to Harrogate General Hospital, for assessment. A walker (m, 50) was reported to have fallen on the steps at Malham Cove. On their arrival, YAS paramedics advised that they were able to manage the incident, so CRO members were stood down en route.

22. Apr. 19th Wed. 11.02 Great Knott, Gordale, Malham – Animal Rescue.

North Yorkshire Police passed on a message that two new-born lambs were stuck down a mine shaft, near Gordale House, Malham. CRO caving members were unable to descend very far into the awkward and narrowing natural rift in the limestone bedrock and were unable to see or hear anything. The lambs' owners and CRO members concluded that the ewe had given birth on a grassy ledge above the fissure and that any new-born lamb(s) had either fallen straight down it and died or had been taken, on the surface, by a predator.

23. Apr. 22nd Sat. 21.13 Swan Dike Pot, Pen-y-ghent Gill – Cave Rescue.

Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association asked for assistance on an incident in their area. Four cavers were reported overdue in Swan Dike Pot, above Pen-yghent Gill. Two of the party had made their way out of the cave and reported that another member was stuck beyond a tight section of passage. After several hours of effort, by CRO & UWFRA, the casualty was assisted through the constriction and was on the surface at 05.00 on Sunday morning – safe and well.

24. Apr. 23rd Sun. 10.34 Whernside – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (m, 79) was reported to be in difficulty near the summit of Whernside. CRO members located and attended to him. It appeared that he had tripped and fallen, so was unable to continue his walk. He was assisted to an air ambulance and flown off the hill to be transferred to a road ambulance for the journey to hospital.

25. Apr. 29th Sat. 15.34 Great Knoutberry Hill, Cumbria – Mountain Rescue.

Cumbria Police advised that a gyrocopter had crashed on the summit of Great Knoutberry Hill, above Dentdale. Team members, just finishing providing cover for the annual Three Peaks Race, were sent from Horton in Ribblesdale in two team vehicles.

They arrived at the crash site just as the Great North Air Ambulance was taking off for the Royal Lancaster Infirmary with two slightly injured casualties on board. After handing over to the Cumbria Police officers who then arrived on scene, the duty controller and other team members departed for another call, near Giggleswick. (Assisted by Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team.)

26. Apr. 29th Sat. 16.24 Giggleswick Scar (South) – Mountain Rescue.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service asked CRO to respond to a report of someone who had 'fallen from a wall, 200m from Settle Golf Club'. Because of the Great Knoutberry Hill incident, a reduced team responded from Horton in Ribbles-dale to assist the Ambulance Service.

On arrival, it was discovered that a climber (f, 37) had suffered a 3m fall from Giggleswick Scar (South), sustaining a displaced fracture of her right ankle. Team members provided casualty care, including splintage and pain relief. Further team members were called out, to assist with a belayed stretcher lower over difficult terrain (among trees on



an awkward scree slope) from the Scar to the road, some 60 metres below. The casualty was eventually lowered to the road and carried to a road ambulance for the journey to hospital.



27. Apr. 30th Sun. 17.32 Whern-

A walker (m,78) suffered a lower leg injury and was unable to make progress to the top of Whernside. Contact with the caller established that the casualty had health conditions which were impacting on his ability to continue walking and that he had become very cold. Two team vehicles went to the aqueduct in Little Dale and team members proceeded up the hill to reach the casualty. After assessment by a team doctor, the casualty was carried on a stretcher back to the team vehicles and driven to a road ambulance, waiting at Ribblehead.



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Us In 2018

RESCU

JUST TEXT GIVING

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

Using **Just Text Giving**, anyone with a mobile phone can donate between $\pounds 1$ and $\pounds 10$ to CRO by text. So to give $\pounds 5$, you simply text **CAVE11 \pounds 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/ f**or 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 copytype 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.

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

Austwick Cuckoo Fair Monday 28th May 2018 Ingleton Gala — Saturday 21st July 2018 Clapham Street Fair — Saturday 28th July 2018

MAY

28. May 11th Thu. 13.02 Long Churn Cave, Selside, Horton in Ribblesdale – Cave Rescue.

A caver (m, 47) slipped at the middle entrance to Long Churn and, in saving himself from a more severe fall, put out his arm, which caused him to dislocate a shoulder. He then walked up to the upper entrance, hoping that rest would aid recovery. The pain worsened, so he rang for help. The first CRO member on scene assessed the injury then began assisting the casualty down the hill. Both were met by other CRO members and a team vehicle. After being given pain relief, he was shuffled onto the rear seat and driven, very gently, down to the road-head, for transfer to a road ambulance.

29. May 13th Sat. 16.57 Simpson's Pot, West Kingsdale – Cave Rescue.

Two cavers descended Simpson's Pot, intent on a 'pull-through' trip to Valley Entrance. One (m, 59) was unable to pass the constriction at the bottom of Slit Pot and was unaware of, or unable to climb up to the alternative way on. He remained there, while his companion went out for help. A CRO team went in from Valley Entrance, climbed above the caver and helped him to by-pass the constriction en route to Valley Entrance.

30. May 13th Sat. 23.23 Descent from Ingleborough, Horton in Ribblesdale – 💆 Mountain Rescue.

Two Three Peaks walkers (f,36; f,26) reported themselves lost and exhausted on the descent from Ingleborough, towards Horton in Ribblesdale. A small team of CRO members made a rapid search of the suspected area, soon found the 'missing' pair and accompanied them, painfully slowly, to a member's car, waiting near the walking route.

May 20th Sat. 14.33 North of Higgh Birkwith, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue.

A Three Peaks walker (f,24) slipped or tripped, sustaining an ankle injury. One of her companions back-tracked about 500m to where two CRO members were staffing a checkpoint on the annual 'CRO Challenge' event. A team vehicle was



tripadvise

sent, pain relief administered and the ankle splinted, before all were taken to meet a road ambulance at Horton in Ribblesdale.

32. May 20th Sat. 15.26 The Allotment, Austwick (Ingleborough) – Animal Rescue

A Labradoodle dog (m, 11) was reported to be exhausted on a walk between Clapham and Horton in Ribblesdale. A team vehicle, with four members on board, was sent to assist. With some coaxing, 'Sydney' tottered on to within a short distance of a decent vehicle track. He was carried to the team vehicle and transported to Clapham for a drink and feed. That left two members to walk back to Clapham, so a second vehicle was sent to retrieve them. This was good news for a different party of three who had taken a wrong turn off the Three Peaks Walk route, arriving in Clapham while aiming for Horton in Ribblesdale. As a CRO vehicle was heading that way, in any case, they were taken to 'Sulber Cross-roads'. to walk the last two miles, or so, down to Horton (but we promised not to tell on them).

33. May 24th Wed. 16.29 Ingleborough – Search

A Three Peaks walker reported hearing a man's cries for help and seeing someone waving. A search by three SARDA dogs and 15 team members failed to find anyone.

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34. May 25th Thur. 16.31 Horton-in 👖

A walker (m, 82) requested help due to feeling faint when trying to walk. He was reported to have fallen earlier and was now about ½ mile from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. A nearby CRO team





member met the informant, was able to reach the casualty's location and brought him down in a private vehicle. After assessment, CRO team members concluded that the casualty's condition resulted from the very hot weather.

35. May 30th Tue. 15.48 Snow Falls, Ingleton – Mountain Rescue

Yorkshire Ambulance Service asked for help with a walker with an injured ankle on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Though the ambulance was quickly cancelled by the casualty, the first CRO member on scene was able to assist.

36. May 31st Wed. 12.03 Sand Cavern, Gaping Gill, Clapham – Cave Rescue

Bradford Pothole Club (BPC) asked CRO to assist with the rescue of a young person from Sand Cavern in Gaping Gill. The casualty had descended into the main chamber of Gaping Gill via the BPC winch and was exploring further cave passages with his father when he fell and injured his hip. He was attended to by BPC members and extracted by BPC and CRO from Sand Cavern back to the main chamber in a stretcher. Once there, he was able to sit in the winch chair to be lifted to the surface, then taken by Yorkshire Air Ambulance to a road ambulance in Clapham village.

37. May 31st Wed. 15.00 Gaping Gill, 🔀 Clapham – Cave Rescue

During incident no 36, a caver (m, 60) suffered from chest pains while in the Main Chamber of Gaping Gill, where he was helping to manage winch descents. He rode to the surface in the winch chair where his condition was assessed and stabilised by a Bradford Pothole Club member and a paramedic from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. He was then carried by stretcher to the air ambulance on its return from incident no 36.

JUNE

38. June 2nd Fri. 23.02 Sulber Nick, f

Two Three Peaks walkers (both f, 25) reported themselves lost and benighted, while descending from Ingleborough to Horton in Ribblesdale. CRO members soon found them and escorted them down to Horton. Moonlight and their single small light had been inadequate for them to find their way.

39. June 3rd Sat. 17.29 Fluted Hole, Newby Moss, Ingleborough – Animal Rescue

A pot-holer reported that a sheep had fallen down Fluted Hole and appeared un-injured, but was too heavy for him to rescue, alone. A small team went up onto Newby Moss, extricating the sheep from 18m down and releasing it onto the fell.

CAVING COURSES

in the Yorkshire Dales

40. June 5th Mon. 17.29 Calf Holes, Birkwith, Horton in Ribblesdale – Animal Rescue

A farmer reported that one of his sheep had fallen down the 10m pitch at the entrance to Calf Holes and he was concerned that water levels appeared to be rising due to the heavy rain.

A small team attended, only to find the stream into the pot in flood. An inspection was made of accessible areas of the pitch, but no sign of the sheep could be found. In the interests of safety of our members, no further search of the cave was made, and the farmer was asked to contact the team if he found the sheep had been washed through.

41. June 13th Tue. 12.24 Path from Gordale Bridge to Cawden Flatts, Malham – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 70) was reported to have collapsed on the path from Gordale Bridge to Cawden Flatts. With no phone signal, the caller returned to Malham to call for help and to collect the village defibrillator, because the patient was believed to have stopped breathing. When the first CRO members arrived, the paramedics from the North West Air Ambulance were monitoring the now-conscious patient, who was believed to have had a heart attack. The helicopter then flew him to hospital and CRO members, together with the road ambulance crew were stood down.

42. June 21st Mon. 16.33 Horton Scar, Pen-yghent, Horton in Ribblesdale – Animal Rescue A 'sprocker' spaniel (m, 5) fell on rocks and was unable (or unwilling) to move his back legs. The owner requested assistance to get the dog off

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INGLEBOROUGH HALL Clapham, North Yorkshire LA2 8EF Tel: 015242 51265 Email: cave@ingleboro.co.uk www.ingleboro.co.uk the hill and a small team responded. Together with a National Park Ranger, they took the dog down to its owner's vehicle in Horton, to go for treatment by a local vet.

43. June 24th Sat. 21.38 Three Peaks Route, Ingleborough to Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue

Five walkers (f, 35-40) were reported overdue on the descent from Ingleborough. Four were quickly ascertained to have arrived safely in Horton, but a lone walker was still not accounted for.

Two search parties were dispatched to begin checking the route, but as this was done the lone walker arrived back at Horton safe and well.

Kath's Adventure

S everal team members had great pleasure in June 2017 when they helped 92 year old Kath Doré to visit some of the sites that her grandfather commemorated in verse back in the late 1800's! Slightly limited mobility - shaky legs, with artificial knees ("Good as new!") and other health issues mean Kath is limited to using a wheelchair for longer forays, so would need assistance if she was to get to Malham Cove, Gordale and Janet's Foss.

Linda from Beck Hall Hotel contacted the team to see if we could help Kath achieve her aim, and we were delighted to try and do just that. Kath ventured into the Cove assisted by Linda, Pauline Cullen (Kath's neighbour and good friend) and



44. June 27th Tues. 14.35 Ing Scar, Malham — 👖 Mountain Rescue.

A walker (f, 53) was reported to have fallen while walking near Malham Cove, sustaining a shoulder injury. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance was able to land near the casualty and drop off a paramedic but had to move due to unstable ground. The casualty was packaged and stretchered by team members to a CRO vehicle, then driven to a road ambulance waiting at the main village car park, for the journey to hospital.



Incident 44—Team members stand ready to package and stretcher the casualty to the helicopter, as paramedics complete their assessment

JILL ECCLESTON

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FUNI Primary KS1 & 2 FUNdamentals of movement Extra curricular, holiday clubs, circuit classes others the day before, and so our task was to try and get Kath to Gordale and Janet's Foss.



Kath in Gordale with team members Gordale was achieved, but the roughness of the track meant it was a quite tiring experience, so discretion was chosen as the better part of valour, and we decided not to attempt the slippery rocks down to Janet's Foss. Instead we whisked Kath up to Malham Tarn to see the very different vista which opens up there, before returning her, tired and a little sore, back to Beck Hall for refreshments.

All the team members involved today were in awe of Kath's determination, sense of humour and stamina. It was a privilege to meet her. And a big thank you to Beck Hall at Malham, who helped organise this for Kath, and also supplied suitable nourishment when we returned after Kath's adventure!



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Search Dogs in Cave Rescues?

Bill Batson,

SARDA Dog Handler and CRO team member

Dogs are a truly mutli-talented animal and their special skills – predominantly their incredible sense of smell – are put to good use in a vast range of specialist environments. Our mountain rescue search dogs are in a group of 'working' dogs that have been trained to use this amazing sensory ability in a specific way. Use of dogs in tasks such as police dogs, disaster dogs, bomb disposal dogs, drugs dogs, medical detection dogs, trailing dogs, tracking dogs, drowned victim search dogs and even cadaver dogs appears in the media on a fairly regular basis and many will be aware of their value in such specialist situations.

But what about cave rescue incidents? Could a conventionally trained mountain rescue search dog be of use in events involving missing, injured or lost cavers and pot-holers??

Well, as a member of the Yorkshire Dales Cave Rescue Organisation and Mountain Rescue Search Dog handler, I can confidently say that I would not be in a rush to let my dog 'work' underground in the 'normal' way. Beside the fact that our dog's ranging and search abilities are not best suited to the underground world, our caves and pot holes simply have too many sudden drops and other hazards that could all too easily cause injury or worse to my dog.

So, can my dog be of any use at all at caving incidents? The answer is – quite possibly.

It is not unknown for cavers to go underground in bright sunlight and good visibility. Finding the cave entrance and returning to their vehicles after the trip will be straightforward in these conditions. However, it is often the case that when cavers reappear on the surface again at the end of their trip, they are faced with both darkness and thick cloud, making the return to the vehicles much more problematic, particularly if they are unfamiliar with the terrain and don't have essential navigational aids such as map and compass. Handler Bill with search dogs Angus (L) and Glen (R)



While most manage to find their way back to their cars without incident, occasionally cavers become lost having left the cave entrance, and so become lost on the fell. Enter the search and rescue dog, stage left....

On another occasion involving a group of 'mixed ability' cavers, one of the party was unfortunately injured while still underground. Two of the less experienced exited the cave to raise the alarm – which they duly did, and awaited the arrival of the cave rescue team. However on the arrival of the team, the two cavers were unable to provide an exact location for the cave entrance and team members were not 100% sure which specific entrance the group had descended. Although it was still daylight, the visibility was very poor and the team did not want to waste valuable time and assets sending team members down the wrong entrance. On talking to the two cavers, we discovered that they had left some bags at the entrance to the cave and so a plan was rapidly hatched that involved deploying my search dog Glen up onto the fellside in the hope that he would find the bags and return to me to indicate

Search Dogs in Cave Rescues cont'd

its location. After just a few minutes, having 'homed in' on the human scent on the cavers' bags, Glen returned and gave his usual bark indication before leading us directly to the correct cave entrance. Underground team personnel followed and rapidly disappeared into the depths to successfully extricate the injured caver.

These are just two examples where a search dog – trained to find lost, injured or vulnerable people on 'the surface' can also be of use where the 'victim' is, or has been, underground.

I now routinely take my search dog to caving incidents in the knowledge that – even in this 'alien' environment – he may provide essential skills that can have a direct, positive, effect on the outcome.

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June Incidents Continued

45. June 30th Fri. 01.49 Whernside area – Mountain Rescue.

A group of six (all m, 16) on a Silver D of E expedition was reported missing in the Whernside area – last known position was approaching the summit ridge at 20.00 on Thursday. As they had tents, sleeping bags and food for two days, this was not treated as a serious emergency, so two CRO members and a Police officer drove around the area, looking for lights. Later, they supported the school's own staff, who found the group encamped at Boot of the Wold at 07.30.

Low cloud, darkness and a shortage of drinking water had prompted them to retreat from the hill, reversing their ascent route. The low cloud seemed also to have interfered with their tracking system, but this began working again later, possibly as the cloud blew away.

After stocking up with drinking water, the group resolved to continue with the expedition, which they completed without further mishap.

JULY

Jul. 1st Sat. 20.40 North of Malham Tarn, Malham Moor – Alert only

A D of E group was reported to be 'lost', with one member of the party (f) having a leg injury. Their own supervisor somehow ascertained their position (within 200m of the road?) and CRO prepared to respond. However the group's shouts for help were heard by other people who offered to take them to Malham Tarn Field Centre.

46. July 8th Sat. 20.23 Sulber Nick, Inglebor- 🕰 ough – Mountain Rescue.

CRO were called out by the organisers of a Three Peaks Walk charity event. A participating walker (f, 56) aggravated an existing leg condition and was unable to continue her walk. She was treated by event marshals and then evacuated from near Sulber Nick on Ingleborough by CRO team members and vehicle.

47. July 15th Sat. 16.10 Ingleton Playing 🖣 Fields – Local Incident.

One of the last runners home (m, 44) in the Ingleborough Mountain Race slipped, sustaining a fracture to his right lower leg while descending the grass slope to the finish. CRO members, who were providing first aid cover for the Gala and Race splinted the leg and gave the runner pain relief, pending the arrival of Yorkshire Ambulance Service. In addition, several runners were treated for minor cuts and grazes upon completion of the race.

48. July 15th Sat. 17.05 Southerscales, Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue.

Just as team members were clearing away after the Ingleton Gala, a call was received to two walkers (m, f) lost 'somewhere on Ingleborough'. The Duty Controller was able to speak to them directly by mobile phone, then exchange 'SARLoc' messages, resulting in their position being flagged up on CRO's mapping software. The walkers had followed another group onto limestone pavement, then lost contact in low cloud. As the walk-



ers were without any navigational equipment, they were told to stay where they were, then collected by a team vehicle from near Great Douk cave, before being dropped back at their own vehicle at the Hill Inn.

49. July 16th Sun. 15.36 Robin Proctor's Scar, Austwick – Mountain Rescue.

A climber (m, 57) fell approximately 10 metres from Robin Proctor's Scar, Austwick, sustaining shoulder and head injuries. Team members assisted a Yorkshire Ambulance Service paramedic to reach the site, then packaged the climber for a stretcher-lower down the scree slope beneath the scar. He was then driven in a team vehicle to Town Head, Austwick for transfer to the road ambulance and transport to hospital.

50. July 19th Wed. 15.52 Malham Cove – 🙍 Mountain Rescue.

A walker (f, 35) crossed the beck at the foot of the Cove and began ascending the climbers' route up to the East Wing, believing it to be the path to the top. Two thirds of the way up, she felt unable to continue or to retreat, so rang for help. Two CRO members attended and located the walker, before one of them ascended to escort her to safety.

51. July 19th Wed. 16.00 Hull Pot, Horton in 🛒 Ribblesdale – Animal Rescue.

A sheep was reported to be stranded in Hull Pot. CRO members rescued it and delivered it to Top Farm, as unfortunately it had broken a leg in its fall.

52. July 20th Thu. 14.05 'Outside', near Black e Hill, Malham Moor – Animal Rescue.

A sheep was reported to be stuck in a rift, down a shake-hole 'half-way along the Settle Loop near Victoria Cave'. The actual location was just off the Gorbeck Road towards Langscar Gate. The sheep was rescued, unhurt.

53. July 22nd Sat. 17.08 Near Beezley Falls, f

A walker (f, 14) slipped on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, near Beezley Falls, sustaining an injury to her right ankle. An ambulance paramedic was



soon on scene, quickly followed by CRO members who were at the Depot, clearing up after the Clapham Street Fair. The patient was 'packaged' and carried to a road ambulance for transfer to hospital.

Jul. 23rd Sun. 17.51 Three Peaks area, Horton in Ribblesdale / Ingleton parishes – Alert only

Five walkers were reported missing on the Three Peaks Walk, in rain and poor visibility. They had last been seen on Whernside at an uncertain time. The duty controller said to give them another hour, but as a precaution asked team members for their availability and agreed that one local member should drive the roads between Bruntscar and Horton in Ribblesdale. Just as he arrived in Horton, to speak to the 'organiser', so did three of the 'missing' party. They said that the other two were 'ten minutes' behind them, so CRO stood down.

Jul. 23rd Sun. 20.15 Three Peaks area, Horton (1) in Ribblesdale – Alert only

A walker was reported overdue on the Three Peaks, some 14 or 15 hours after leaving home in central North Yorkshire. Her husband, who had called the Police, had no knowledge of her proposed route. As a local CRO member was setting out to find whether her car was still in Horton car park, she arrived home, safe and well.

Meanwhile, back in Ribblesdale

54. July 23rd Sun. 20.00 Horton in Ribblesdale

An hour after the other three members of their sponsored Three Peaks Walk group had said that they were 'ten minutes behind' them, the 'organiser' reported that the final two walkers (m. f) had still not reached Horton Station. As a local CRO member arrived at the station approach, the pair emerged from the station gate. However, there was no minibus, no 'organiser' and no reply on his mobile phone, despite the fact that the duty controller had asked him to remain at the station. The local member began driving the relieved pair through the village and soon discovered that the reason for the lack of signal was the thickness of the walls at the pub! Some words were exchanged! The two walkers had held back on the first peak (Pen-y-ghent), because two other, slower walkers had been left behind by the main group.

N.B. It is CRO policy not to criticise people to whose aid the team goes, but some walk 'organisers' and participants seem to go out of their way to test our resolve on this policy.

55. July 30th Sun. 12.26 Whernside –

A fell runner (m,54) was reported to have sustained injuries after a fall on the descent from the summit of Whernside. On arrival, a small team set off up the hill to provide first aid, but found the casualty making his way down the hill, assisted by walkers.

At Bruntscar, the casualty's facial and hand wounds were dressed by team casualty carers, then he was taken in a team vehicle to the Hill Inn, from where a road ambulance took him to hospital for treatment.

AUGUST

56. Aug 1st Tues. 03.21 – Horton in Ribbles-

A call was received from North Yorkshire Police about two Three Peaks walkers (m, 23; m, 18) who had become lost in darkness. They found themselves above Horton Quarry, but felt unable to proceed safely or to retrace their steps.

They had called for help when their last mobile phone was down to 5%, so the duty controller was unable to call them back, to offer advice. A small CRO party was arranged to guide them to safety, but as this arrived in Horton, the pair presented themselves at the car park. Gathering twilight had enabled them to distinguish a path away from the quarry edge and they were able to self-rescue. The walkers, who had been out since 09.30 the previous day were offered advice and water, before making their way back to their car.



Just occasionally, it is one of our own who comes a cropper. Look out for Simon in his tee shirt gift from the team—and avoid if at all possible!

57. Aug 7th Mon. 22.21 Horton in Ribblesdale f

When darkness fell, a family of three (m, 40; f, 39; f, 9), undertaking the Three Peaks Walk, were unable to negotiate limestone pavement and field walls above Beecroft Hall, due to inadequate lighting.

Three team members and a local police officer located the walkers, provided them with lights and escorted them down to a team vehicle before dropping them at their car in Horton in Ribblesdale.

58. Aug. 8th Tue. 15.20 Near Gaping Gill, Angleborough – Animal Rescue.

A dog-owner reported that his dog had fallen down a pot near Gaping Gill. A small team was assembled to go assist, but just as they left our Depot, a call was received from a team member at Ingleborough Cave to say that the dog had been recovered successfully by his owner and CRO's services were no longer required. The team members stood down.

59. Aug. 12th Sat. 18.00 – Near Snow Falls, f

A walker (m, 62) stepped off the path near Snow Falls on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, then slipped and fell / tumbled about 12m down a steep wooded slope to the river's edge, sustaining back and pelvic injuries. Having been given pain relief, he was put into a vacuum mattress (full-body splint), then onto a Bell mountain rescue stretcher for hauling back up to the path. He was further assessed by YAS paramedics, then carried to the Beezleys caravan park and transferred to an air ambulance for the journey to hospital.

Aug. 12th 23.24 Three Peaks area, Horton in Ribblesdale – Alert only

Seven walkers (5f, 2m) were reported overdue on the Three Peaks Walk, descending from Ingleborough towards Horton in Ribblesdale. From the description given by the caller, they appeared to have passed 'Sulber Crossroads'. The caller was asked to drive the road between Horton and Selside, looking for lights on the fell. Meanwhile SARloc messages were sent to the four known mobile phone numbers, just in case they came into an area of better reception. Not surprisingly, none of them worked. Just as three CRO members – one with a SARDA dog – were preparing to set out, the original caller rang to say that he had found the group on the road, safe and well. At this point, a local Police officer also came across them.

60 Aug. 14th Mon. 11.38 – Gaping Gill, Ingle-

A caver was reported to have sustained serious head and chest injuries in the Main Chamber of Gaping Gill, but when the duty controller obtained up-to-date information he had been recovered to the surface by pot-hole club winch and was being sheltered in a nearby shake-hole. An air ambulance was able to land close to the casualty, before team members had set off with a stretcher, so pot-holers on site assisted the ambulance paramedics to carry him to the helicopter on a spinal board. CRO members returned to Base and the casualty was flown to hospital.

61. Aug. 24th Thu. 23.03 Horton in Ribbles-

A group of three walkers (m, 30; m, 11; m, 6) and dog were reported overdue from their camp-site in Horton, having set out at 12.30 to do some unspecified part of the Three Peaks Walk and with only water and sweets to sustain them. By chance, the Duty Controller's wife had seen such a group two hours earlier, walking along the road near Selside, in the dark and with inadequate lights. She had offered them a lift, which they had declined, apparently unaware of how far they still had to walk. The Duty Controller drove the road and went on to the camp-site, identifying the tent by its light and the altercation taking place within. Having confirmed that this was indeed the correct tent and that all were back safely, he withdrew, so as not to exacerbate the disturbance to other campers.

62. Aug. 25th Fri. 16.09 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Rescue.

A climber (f, 30) took a fall of about ten metres from one of the more serious routes on Malham Cove. Although her rope and belay held, she sustained a head injury from hitting the rock face

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(without helmet), during the fall. After attention from YAS/YAA paramedics, she was put into a vacuum mattress and onto a mountain rescue stretcher for lowering from 'the cat walk' by team members. She was carried downstream to the waiting air ambulance. This flew her down to Malham village where she was transferred to a road ambulance for the journey to hospital.

You can read the climbers' own account of the experience on p.20-21



63. Aug. 27th Sun. 14.53 Baxenghyll Gorge, f

A walker (f, 56) slipped on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, sustaining an ankle / foot injury. After giving pain relief and applying a vacuum splint, team members carried her, by stretcher, up to Beezleys, where YAS paramedics assessed her injury. She was put into a road ambulance, which took her to the family car, in Ingleton. Her family then took her to a hospital nearer home, for an X-ray.

64. Aug. 29th Tue. 12.59 Gordale Scar, Malham – Mountain Rescue.

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A walker (f, 58) fell on rocks, below the lower waterfall at Gordale Scar, sustaining deep lacerations to a lower leg. She was treated by a YAS paramedic, then stretchered to a road ambulance by team members, who then stood down.

SEPTEMBER

65. Sep. 2nd Sat. 09.28 Pen-y-ghent, Horton fin Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (m,68) felt unwell, approaching the summit of Pen-y-ghent, but continued to the top. Very soon after beginning the descent, he collapsed and lost consciousness. By coincidence, the next people to come along were all medical professionals, so when it was necessary they attempted CPR and kept it up, until relieved. A road ambulance, an air ambulance and CRO were all dispatched. Arriving on scene first, the air ambulance paramedics continued CPR and the helicopter flew down the hill to pick up CRO members and road-ambulance paramedics. CPR was halted after over an hour from the collapse. The air ambulance flew the deceased down to Horton in Ribblesdale, for hand-over to the road ambulance and Police, while CRO members checked on the other members of the party and withdrew from the hill, themselves. FATAL

66. Sep. 2nd Sat. 14.56 Rosebay Pot, Newby Moss, Ingleborough – Animal Rescue.

A caver reported that a sheep was stranded down Fluted Hole (which turned out to be Rosebay Pot), on Newby Moss. A small team attended and recovered the sheep, releasing it, unharmed, onto the fell.

67. Sep. 2nd Sat. 16.32 – Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (m, 57) was reported to have chest pains 'on the mountain' near Malham Cove. Later information showed this to be threequarters of the way up the steps to the top of the Cove. After assessment by, and treatment from an air ambulance doctor and paramedic, the patient was transferred to CRO's Bell stretcher, then carried and 'sledged' down to the waiting air ambulance for the flight to hospital.

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Incident 62—A Tough Day At Malham Cove

Adapted, with permission, from Mina's blog https://tinyurl.com/CRO2017-62

On Friday August 25th, sport climber Mina Leslie-Wujastyk was coming to the end of her training regime, so that she could hit the ground running when the good autumn conditions arrived. Climbing with her friend Penny Orr, they'd had a pretty good day in good conditions for Malham (in August!). She was trying Rainshadow (9a), a long term project, just checking in with it while still in full training mode. She had already been up once and was feeling pretty good on it all things considered.

"Feeling strong, moving up from the undercut is solid, readjust the left hand, pinky up, eyeball the pinch, hold it, wow that felt surprisingly okay, next move, left foot through, hit the gaston, swap feet, set up, move right.....I held it....something fires off, ah damn I'm in the air...."

Sounds like a normal sport climbing experience, trying hard, and taking a fall. Not even a very big one (especially by European standards!). This was not a normal fall though, things didn't go the way they usually do and, to quote Mina "I ended up in quite a pickle".

Mina fell two moves from where she would clip the next draw, a place she had fallen before multiple times. "Of course it all happened so fast but essentially I fell, inverted back and flipped sideways impacting the lower Raindogs wall hard with the back of my head and left side of my body. My brain felt like it reverberated around my skull, stunning me, shooting pain in the back of my head, instant paraesthesia (pins and needles) coursed down both my arms. I screamed".

"I grabbed my head, vaguely aware that this meant I could still use my arms and shouted for Penny to lower me. Landing on the catwalk, I felt my hands hot and wet and I felt a wave of panic at the sight of them covered in blood. The pins and needles subsided after about 20 seconds. Al Wilson was straight by my side to compress the wound and hold me still as Penny and Eddie called the emergency services". This was about 4.10pm.

The Air Ambulance arrived first; the helicopter appearing above the cove increasing her anxiety about the seriousness of the situation. Mina was full of praise for the air paramedic, and climbing partner Al, who were reassuring and gentle and even laughed at her strangely-timed jokes. Having turned 30 this year, Mina was elated that Eddie estimated her age to the services as "early twenties".

As part of their protocol, upon receiving the emergency call the Ambulance service mobilised CRO as well. Mina was lying on the catwalk (a kind of wide, rocky ledge for those that don't know it)- not an easy place to evacuate from. Due to the head injury and the nerve related symptoms she needed to be





immobilised. "Mountain Rescue arrived and with incredible kindness, skills, lots of smiles and reassurance they went about planning and executing a rescue. I was put in a neck brace and vacuum mattress to keep me totally still. It was like being hugged by a bouncy castle. This was the first time I cried, I've never been immobilised like this before and it suddenly felt very serious and there were a lot of fears running through my mind. I kept reminding myself that I could feel and move my arms and legs".

"I was lowered off the catwalk vertically to ground level and the team executed this brilliantly. I was then carried across the river (in the rain and midges, such bad timing!) to the helicopter". After assessment there, it was decided to transfer Mina to a road ambulance in Malham village for onward transport to Airedale Hospital, rather than fly her direct to the Major Trauma Unit at Leeds, which Mina found reassuring to hear!

On arrival at hospital, Mina was subjected to a barrage of test and scans, but after the best part of 7 hours immobilised, finally given the all clear, with just bruising and a scalp wound to show for her experience, and finally got home at about 1 a.m. the next day.

Mina has found that the experience has given her a lot to reflect upon, including the surprising reason for her injuries. "My fall was weird, but for a reason: my harness was too big for me! Although it wouldn't have come off, the waist section was way too big and as a result the force of the rope tightening that would usually pull a climber upright in a straightforward fall, in this case didn't. My harness got pulled upright but I continued to flip backwards and slide sideways with the force of the fall. Like I said previously, I have taken the exact same fall in the past and it has been totally safe but, after losing some weight in the last 6 weeks, my harness (although done up to the max) was loose. I now have another smaller one, (big thanks to Arc'teryx for sending me one out asap)".

"I am an experienced climber and although I knew it was a bit on the loose side, I had not anticipated what the implications might be. It's very easy to be complacent; it wasn't so big that I would ever have fallen out of it, just not snug enough to prevent me moving too much. I feel that this was the component that caused things to go wrong the way they did".

Another factor in the incident was not wearing a helmet. "Had my harness fit been appropriate, I wouldn't have needed one but it wasn't and if I had had a helmet on my injuries wouldn't have been nearly so bad. To give context I would guess, in my experience, that 90+% of sport climbers don't wear helmets. I was part of that 90%. For traditional climbing, I always wear a helmet and I think that is a common approach and distinction among many climbers".

"I genuinely believe that I was very unlucky to have sustained a head injury like this sport climbing but it is obviously a risk; things don't always go to plan, the unusual can happen and we can make errors (like my assessment of my harness fit in this case). Climbing can be safe but it inherently contains calculated risk. I think I was probably more likely to be in a car accident traveling to Malham than what happened. That aside, I for one, with 20+ years of climbing experience, am going to try to question more, to look more and to check more". Photographs: ©Penny Orr

68. Sep. 4th Mon. 22.55 Three Peaks, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue.

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Anxious parents reported two Three Peaks walkers (both f, 27) overdue from the walk they had begun at 07.30. The Police checked local roads, while the CRO duty controller tried to contact the missing pair by voice, text and SARLoc messages. The parents were supported by two Army instructors, who were camping in Horton and it was they who, just as the first CRO member arrived at the finish of the walk, made contact with one of the 'missing' walkers, at home, in a different part of Yorkshire!

69. Sep. 9th Sat. 10.40 Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (f, 66) slipped, while descending the stone -pitched path from Ingleborough to Humphrey Bottom, falling and rolling about 30m. She sustained head, hand and leg injuries. After assessment, first aid and 'packaging', CRO members stretchered her about 100m to where an air ambulance could land. This flew her, initially, down to a road ambulance, but after reassessment by paramedics, it flew her on to hospital.

70. Sep. 9th Sat. 19.48 Simon Fell Breast, f

A Three Peaks walker's knees were reported to have 'given way, on Ingleborough, 7 miles from Horton'. After some delay, while a more accurate location was identified, a small group of CRO members met the party (f, 37, 30, 40) and assisted them down to a team Land Rover. They were driven down to CRO Base, in Clapham, then collected by another member of their bigger sponsored walk group.

71. Sep. 12th Tue. 11.32 White Scar Cave, Ingleton – Cave Rescue.

A visitor (m, 65) collapsed with chest pains, just over half-way along the show cave. After monitoring and treatment by paramedics from Yorkshire Ambulance Service and North West Air Ambulance, he was packaged by CRO members, then carried, by stretcher to the road ambulance outside. As CRO members stood down, the paramedics were checking him again, to determine which ambulance would take him to hospital.

72. Sep. 21st Thu. 14.36 Colt Park, Ingleton The Animal Rescue.

Following a search of mixed grassland and limestone pavement by farmers and local volunteers from Natural England, an in-calf, pedigree heifer was reported missing from a small herd near Colt Park, Ribblehead. A further search of woodland and mixed terrain by farmers and CRO members yielded no result, so the search area was widened with CRO's first use of a drone-mounted video camera. As the search continued, one of the farmers drove off, by quad, to look at a neighbouring herd, in amongst which, sadly, he found the (deceased) animal.

Sep. 23rd Sat. 12.41 Blea Moor bridleway, Ingleton – Mountain Rescue.

A Three Peaks walker (f, 42), suffering back pain, could not continue beyond the Blea Moor signal box, so her companions used its phone to call for an ambulance. The ambulance crew parked by the viaduct and while they were walking the three quarters of a mile to the casualty, their control called CRO. The CRO vehicle picked up the casualty, her companions and the paramedics, returning them all to the road ambulance.

74. – Sep. 30th Sat. 17.05 Garsdale Station, Garsdale, Cumbria – Mountain Rescue.

CRO was called to assist with a walker (f, 73) who had fallen and injured her ankle on the Pennine Bridleway near to Garsdale Station. Members were stood down, en route, when North West Ambulance Service paramedics confirmed they were able to extract the casualty to their vehicle.

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75. Sep. 30th Sat. 20.30 Simon Fell, Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue.

A lone walker (f, 25) reported herself lost and benighted while descending from the summit of Ingleborough. CRO team members and a search and rescue dog were deployed to search the eastern flanks of the hill. During eventual telephone contact with the missing person, additional information was gleaned that enabled CRO to estimate her location to be on part of Simon Fell. She was found safe and well, a short while later, and escorted down to the CRO base in Clapham.

OCTOBER

76. Oct. 7th Sat. 13.00 Three Peaks path, above High Birkwith, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue.

A Three Peaks walker (f, 32) slipped on the muddy path between the Old Ing and Nether Lodge tracks, fracturing an ankle. A companion rang the Police and while the call was being transferred from Lancashire Constabulary to North Yorkshire Police, a member of RAF Leeming MRT chanced by. He called CRO, direct, then stayed to help. After pain relief and immobilisation, the casualty was carried to a road ambulance for the journey to hospital.

77. Oct. 9th Mon. 11.15 – near Stainforth Force, Little Stainforth – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (f, 57) slipped and fell on the riverside path south of Stainforth Force, fracturing her left leg. CRO assisted Yorkshire Ambulance Service and air ambulance paramedics to extract her from the location for transfer to hospital.

78. Oct. 11th Wed. 14.23 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Rescue.

North Yorkshire Police asked for assistance in recovering a body from the base of Malham Cove. The deceased was carried across a very fast -flowing beck, then driven down to the village where she was handed over to the undertaker. Meanwhile, a small group of team members went to the top of the Cove to check the edge for any personal possessions or 'evidence'. FATAL

79. Oct. 14th Sat. 16.16 Top of Watlowes Dry Valley, Malham – Mountain Rescue.

A walker (f, 56) had taken a fall on the steps that lead into the top of Watlowes, injuring one knee and gashing a leg. After treatment by YAS paramedics and pain relief from a CRO team doctor, the patient was 'packaged' ready to be carried back up the steps and to the road-head. However, an air ambulance (not previously available) arrived at this point, so its crew flew her to hospital, instead.

Team members spent much of this day in West Kingsdale, on practice incidents, alongside cave divers and active cavers (non-team members, willing to assist on any protracted cave rescue). See p.26-27. Towards the end of the exercise, but with

two groups still underground, this call was received from Yorkshire Ambulance Service, to which available CRO members responded.

80. Oct. 18th Wed. 14.10 Clapham Bents, J Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Rescue.

A school-girl (10) on an outdoor education residential visit was reported to have fainted, while walking to the side of and well below the Ingleborough to Little Ingleborough path. When she was persuaded to stand up again, she fainted again. A CRO team drove to the bottom of Trow Gill, then walked 2 km up to her party and brought her down to Gaping Gill, by stretcher. An air ambulance flew in and evacuated her down to Clapham, for handing over to local paramedics in a road ambulance.

81. Oct. 18th Wed. 15.33 Above the track to Trow Gill, Clapham – Mountain Rescue.

A CRO member driving down towards Clapham, to collect more members for incident no 80, became aware of a quad bike bouncing and rolling down the steep hill towards the track. He reported this on the radio and was joined by a colleague who had been escorting the other members of the school group back to Clapham. While he continued down, for reinforcements, she stayed with the injured and immobile driver (m, 49) who they had found on a more gentle slope, higher up the hill. More CRO members arrived and the casualty was put into a vacuum mattress (whole-body splint) to be carried up to a more level area where a helicopter might land. The air ambulance originally requested for the first incident was diverted here and flew the injured guad driver to hospital. Meanwhile, a second air ambulance took the first patient from Gaping Gill.

82. Oct. 21st Sat. 14.15 Trow Gill, Clapham – 🏂

A walker (f, 51) slipped on the wet, cobbly track, sustaining a fracture of her lower right leg. CRO was called to assist, but as the weather conditions were poor and the casualty's party had little to shelter her with, they moved her down to the office of the Ingleborough Show Cave. Team members provided casualty care and conveyed the casualty down to our Depot in Clapham to transfer to a road ambulance, for transport to hospital for treatment.

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Name of account to be debited							
Please enter details of your bank and a	account above						
Please pay annually/monthly (*) the sum of £							
(amount in words)						
to Cave Rescue Organisation, commencing on the	day of(month)(year)						
until further notice. (*)delete as appropriate							
Signed	Date						
Address	10-						
Post	code						

Details of account to be credited

Bank – Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 5 Hargreaves Street, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 1EN Sorting code – 30-11-48 Account number – 00935977 Account name - Cave Rescue Organisation

Please quote reference number

This authority cancels any previous authority in favour of the payee. Would you please acknowledge receipt of this authority.

Please do not send this form direct to your bank. When completed please return it to – The Treasurer, Cave Rescue Organisation, Clapham, Lancaster LA2 8HH

83. Oct. 28th Sat. 11.07 Ingleborough — Mountain Rescue.

A party of five walkers reported themselves stuck on the top of Ingleborough, due to thick cloud, and felt it unsafe to descend. Despite advice by phone from the duty controller, the party refused to leave the summit shelter.

A small CRO party was therefore assembled, and despatched to meet the group. Fortunately before the CRO party reached Crina Bottom, the controller was contacted to say that another group were escorting the party off the hill.

84. Oct. 28th Sat. 12.01 Westhouse area – 🙍 Mountain Rescue.

As the news arrived that the party on Ingleborough were now descending, a call was received from Yorkshire Ambulance Service to a report of a cyclist with a head injury and possibly now unconscious, 'somewhere on a path' in the Westhouse area, near Ingleton.

The vehicle responding to the previous incident was diverted, and together with a road ambulance crew and another team member in his own vehicle, began to check likely routes around Westhouse where the casualty may be located. As this initial search was being carried out, further information from YAS indicated that the cyclist was actually on Whelpstone Crag in Gisburn Forest, (It appears that the site of the mobile phone tower was mistakenly given as the cyclists location when trying to triangulate the location, as the cyclist lost consciousness before responding with further information). The call was therefore passed to Bowland Pennine MRT and CRO stood down.

85. Nov 17th Fri. 17.30 Ingleborough summit – f

Two Three Peaks walkers (m, 24; f, 24) reported themselves benighted on the summit of Ingleborough, inadequately clad and shod, with no spare kit or food and only mobile phones for navigation and lighting. One had a panic attack, causing breathing difficulties. CRO teams went up the hill from Chapel le dale and Crina Bottom, locating the pair at the summit shelter. Having been given glucose and a drink, they were escorted down to Crina Bottom and driven back to their accommodation in Horton in Ribblesdale.

86. Nov 30th Thu. 23.52 Little Stainforth – Local Incident.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service requested the team's assistance when an ambulance crew responding to an urgent call was unable to access the patient due to poor road conditions. Shortly after team members from the local area were mobilised to assist, the ambulance managed to access the property concerned and team members were stood down.

DECEMBER

87. Dec. 1st Fri. 12.25 Near Gordale Bridge, Malham – Mountain Rescue

Yorkshire Ambulance Service requested assistance for a walker (m) collapsed '300m from Gordale House', but actually on the path from Gordale Bridge towards the top of Malham Cove. Sadly, just as team members arrived, the Yorkshire Air Ambulance doctor declared the individual to be deceased. This was despite attempts at CPR by other walkers and the road ambulance crew. As the air ambulance then left the scene, team members remained, to remove the casualty from the hill and place him in a road ambulance. FATAL.

88. Dec. 8th Fri. 09.00 New Ewes Top Moss Pot, Scales Moor, Ingleton – Cave Rescue

North Yorkshire Police asked CRO to conduct a search of the ground, sinkholes and potholes on Scales Moor, in connection with a wider search for a missing person.

A team member entering New Ewes Top Moss Pot very soon discovered the body of a caver (m, 68), only a few metres in. After notifying the police and receiving direction from them, team members recovered the caver's body from the pothole, then stretchered him down to Scar End, for handing over to the undertaker. FATAL.

Dec. 8th Fri. 12.04 Scaleber Force, Settle -

Whilst incident 88 was in progress, Yorkshire Ambulance Service asked for help following a report of a vehicle in the stream above Scaleber Force, with persons trapped and ambulance crews having difficulty accessing the incident due to road conditions.

Joint Cave Rescue Training

By Martin Holroyd An underground team leader

Cave rescue callouts have thankfully been reducing over recent years, and most of the team callouts are now above ground (where the number appears to be increasing!). The team, however, continues to maintain a core of active cavers who respond to underground incidents. The restricted access, often limited communications possible, as well as the protracted work required to achieve a successful outcome for many underground incidents has shown that on occasions additional help or specialist skills are required.

In the past additional support was often sought from cavers staying at local cave huts or socialising at the local pubs. The team has now created extended call out lists of experienced cavers willing to assist, and these are now called out in a similar way to team members.

In October 2017 a successful underground training day took place involving CRO underground and surface team members, the extended rescue cavers callout team and members of the cave divers group. Each of these groups have specialist skills and strengths which may be required at a protracted or difficult cave rescue. The day also gave an opportunity to meet and train together to improve interoperability.

The day was split into two parts with the morning dedicated to theoretical and coaching input, followed by practical underground sessions in the afternoon. We began the day by outlining the kev elements of CRO including an overview of the team structure. how it responds to an incident and the common type of underground incidents. This was followed by a number of coaching workshops by the underground team leaders and other specialist team members to give an overview of the standard operating

A thoroughly miserable day on the Fells—all the better for going underground!



principles, equipment and techniques adopted by CRO including:

- Underground Stretchers,
- Casualty care equipment used by CRO and the difficulties and limitations of underground first aid.
- Standard rescue rigging techniques and rescue loads.
- Communications equipment used by the team.
- Diving equipment.

In the afternoon the training moved to a very wet Kingsdale — the heavy rains and flooded caves added a sense of realism to the practical scenarios. Surface team members provided surface support, logistical support, a communications network and welfare. Underground, each scenario presented the rescuers with challenges in casualty care, communications,

rigging and moving a casualty in difficult locations.

As well as managing the training scenarios the team was further tested when an actual incident occurred at Malham (see incident number 79) requiring a full team response.

The day was well attended and enthusiastically supported ensuring it was a success. This required a lot of effort from those who attended and many team members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare and run the exercises and then clean all the equipment, resulting in a late finish - just like a real cave callout.

Cavers List and Team members head off to KMC



Thank you to everyone who assisted to make the day a success.

the ongoing incident, were able to confirm that hospital. the two occupants had been removed from the vehicle and were being conveyed down to Settle. This information was passed back to YAS and CRO stood down.

89. Dec. 23rd Sat. 15.55 Ingleborough Mountain Rescue

fog, in wet and very windy conditions, when they sought to find and assist a Three Peaks walker (m, 33), who had reported himself lost on Ingleborough. The walker was located on the very summit of Ingleborough and was found to be suffering from severe hypothermia. Extremely poor visibility ruled out an emergency evacuation by helicopter, so a CRO doctor and other team members treated and carefully packaged the hypothermic walker, then carried him in a stretcher for 2.5km to a CRO 4×4 ambulance. He was then taken down a rough track to Ingleton village for transfer to hospital by road ambulance.

90. Dec. 27th Wed. 11.26 Green Bank, Great 🐔 Knoutberry Hill, Cumbria – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 82) slipped and fell, on wet grass on a bridleway track, injuring his ankle. He was kept warm by his family who were able to bring blankets and a hot water bottle to his location. CRO team members treated him for a suspected fracture / sprain to his left ankle, before transporting him off the hill in a stretcher loaded into a CRO 4×4 ambulance. He was passed on to the care of

Police officers in attendance at our Depot due to North West Ambulance Service for the journey to

91. Dec. 27th Wed. 15.10 Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough - Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 38) slipped on ice, injuring his right ankle on the descent from Ingleborough summit. The CRO controller used SARloc to pinpoint his exact location. The injured walker was cared for by CRO team members braved darkness and dense CRO team members, carried down the hill in a stretcher and driven to the road-head in a CRO vehicle for hand-over to Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Dec. 28th Thu. 08.30 Staithes, Whitby – Alert 📣 only

The team was contacted by Cleveland MRT and asked for availability for search of disused railway tunnels in the Whitby area, for a missing person. Team members were asked to declare their availability in preparation for sending a party to assist. Fortunately, the missing person was found safe.



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CRO Ingleborough Challenge 2018

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the CRO Challenge 2017, it was a huge success for the team this year with over $\pm 8,000$ being raised.

This year the event is being held on the 19th May 2018 where we will be having two different challenges; you can enter, either the Ingleborough Marathon, or the 12 mile Clapham Circuit. By the way—we set our date long before the Royal Wedding!

Just to have it ear marked for the future, the 2019 Challenge will be on the 18th May 2019.

A big thank you goes to our commercial supporters for the 2018 event who are:

JWK Solicitors J.R. Hooper & Co The Concorde Technology Group



Competitors at the Colt Park check point

Akeroyd of Saltaire Striders Running Club has supported our Ingleborough Challenge fundraising event for the last 5 years, since her sister was rescued by the team on Pen-y-ghent.

She very kindly nominated the team for the running club's annual charity donation, and on Thursday 7th December 2017, 2 members of our team attended their Christmas meeting and were presented with a cheque for £800. Thank you Saltaire Striders, and especially Mel for your continued support!



Phil & Malcolm receive the cheque from Mel

From our Open Day Who knew our garage had such good acoustics? The Sandstones Ukelele band entertaining customers





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September 2017 Practice - Alum Pot

Our training session in September was the culmination of a six month progamme on technical rope rescue, and involved setting up a traverse (ropeway) across Alum Pot, with the ability to lower people partway across the traverse, using a reeve system to access the pot beneath. As well as being a good exercise in technical ropework, it enabled us to establish the viability of a new route for accessing and rescuing any groups who may become trapped by rising floodwater. The technique will also be useful at other locations in our area. You may well see us use a simplified version at the Clapham Street Fair, where we set up a 'Tyrolean' ropeway to entertain the children (and parents!).



Funding

We rely almost entirely upon voluntary our funding, and we would like to thank everybody for their efforts on our behalf. Unfortunately space available doesn't allow us to mention in detail some of the great fundraising events that have taken place on our behalf.

However, we would like to mention :

Open Wheel—their open sportive each year is a valuable income source for the team, and much appreciated!

The Co-operative Community Fund—The team has been fortunate to be nominated for grants at both the Ingleton stores and Settle—thank you!

Aviva Community Fund—the team were nominated for a £1000 grant in this 'competition' where those receiving enough votes were guaranteed to receive the grant. Our fabulous supporters saw us reach the required target in a day and a half!

Thank you everybody who has contributed in any way to our finances—we couldn't do it without you!

During 2017, CRO had three qualified mountain rescue search dogs, Glen, Angus and Belle. A fourth dog, Kes, has also now qualified with the Search & Rescue Dog Association (SaRDA).



SaRDA CALLOUTS 2017

Our dog handlers were called to seven incidents outside our team area in 2017.

For more information on mountain rescue search dogs,

visit www.sardaengland.org.uk.

21st Jan Cleveland MRT— Clay Bank, nr Stokesley.

Assist in search for vulnerable male (39) missing from Clay Bank car park. Found by local walkers.

3rd Feb Scarborough & Ryedale MRT— Hawnby, Ryedale.

Assist in search for missing estate worker. Found deceased in river by local MRT.

23rd April Calder Valley SRT— Otley Chevin.

Assist in search for missing walker (m, 80). Walker returned home later, safe and well.

30th June Upper Wharfedale FRA-Knaresborough.

Assist in search for a missing boy (14). Found safe and well that evening.

12 Aug Cleveland MRT— Clay Bank, nr Stokesley.

Assist in search for vulnerable male (47) missing from Clay Bank car park. Found deceased by local MRT.

25 Aug Glossop MRT—-Snake Pass, Derbyshire.

Assist in search for a missing male (46) after vehicle found abandoned. Found deceased by local MRT.

16th Oct Wasdale MRT— Scafell/Eskdale area.

Assist in search for missing walkers (1m, 1f). Female found safe and well, but male found deceased by MRT.



Booth's, Settle—Fundraising

Duly 2017, Booths in Settle invited members of the team to present a donation for £1000.00. A group of team members, led by our Chair, Pam Hickin, went to Booth's where the cheque was presented by the shop manager.

And then, on Friday, the 22nd December, team members and their families/friends each gave up all or part of the day to rattle some tins and raise





awareness about the team at Booth's Supermarket, again in Settle. The end result was a whopping £1,130.40p (including about £100 in sales) raised for the team. This was a brilliant effort by all concerned (to say nothing of the generosity of Booths' shoppers) and especially grateful thanks from the team's Operations Group, who may be spending some of it (but very carefully)!



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This is a summary of CRO's income and expenditure for the year ending 31st October 2017. The organisation's accounts and annual report may be read, in full, on the Charity Commission website at <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission</u>. 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 2017 Numbers in brackets indicate fatalities Cave/Mine/other underground 10 (1) Mountain 65 (3) Climbing 3 Animal 11 Other incidents 2 Main team total 91 (4)

CRO dogs/ handlers assisting In other teams' areas 7 TOTAL 98

Standby/Alert Calls: 6

People involved 123 Sheep 7 / lambs 2

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS Cave incidents

Falls 2 Fall in show cave 1 Chest pains in show cave 1 Hung up on rope 1 (1) Reported overdue 2 Dislocated shoulder 1 Unable to pass through slit 1 Chest pains 1

Climbing Incident

Fall from pitch 3

Other local/urban or tarmac incidents Falls/slips 1 Assist ambulance crew 1

Mountain incidents

Falls / slips 24 (1) Falls - mountain biking 2 Collapses/medical condition 11 (2) Overdue/ Reported missing 6 Knee problems 3 Immobile on steep slope 1 Gyrocopter crash 1 Cry for help heard 1

Since 1935, CRO has attended 2927 incidents **Cave 745** Cave (assisted by divers) 12 Cave diving 16 **Disused mines 17 Other underground 1** Mountain 1382 Climbing 100 **Open water diving 11** Animal - surface 152 - underground 312 **CRO / SARDA dogs and handlers** searching in other teams' areas 197 Other incidents 100 'Stand-by' and 'Alert' calls are not included. This has involved 4193 people (aged 5 months to 87 years), 252 lambs, 226 sheep, 79 dogs, 13 calves, 9 cows, 9 ducks, 1 bullock, 2 heifers, 1 cat and 1 rabbi t plus the recovery of a wide variety of objects.

Summary of Statistics

Summary of Statistics						
Year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total incidents attended	98(4)	103(3)	84 (3)	74 (9)	64 (0)	73 (5)
Cave/Mine	10(1)	6	10 (1)	7	8	7
Cave Diving in Mines	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0
Mountain	65(3)	73(2)	57 (2)	56(6)	46	49 (1)
Climbing	3	5	1	2	1	-
Animal	11	7	3	4	5	8
Other incidents	2	8	10	3 (2)	2	2
CRO dogs + handlers						
assisting in other teams' areas	7	4	2	1	2	7
There were no 'Cave, assisted by divers', or	open wa	ter diving'	incidents	s in this si	ix year pe	eriod.



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

Words and figures contributed by Bill Batson, Brian Boardman, Alison Haigh, Martin Holroyd, Phil James, Rae Lonsdale and Phil Nuttall.

Cover photo: Descending Alum Pot via aerial ropeway, 6th Sept 2017, by Martin Holroyd

Other photographs by Bill Batson, John Burton, Andy Colau, Brian Cowie, Ben Haigh, Phil James, Rae Lonsdale, Rachel Platt and Sean Whittle (CRO).

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An event to raise funds for the CRO Mountain & Cave Rescue Team

For more info and to enter www.cro.org.uk/challenge

CRO

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