

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION RESCUE 2019

Incidents attended during 2018



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Volunteers, saving lives above and below ground

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

Hello, and thank you. Thank you for picking this, our latest incident report, up and taking an interest in what we do. And an even bigger thank you if you were generous enough to drop a few coins in one of our tins. Rather partial to the big shiny coins myself, but paper (plastic!) would be favourite! As Chairman however I have to offer an even bigger thanks to the men and women of The Cave Rescue Organisation. They are without doubt an amazing group of people. Not just the active operational members, but those who keep the organisation running behind the scenes. The past few years has also seen the growth and development of a new class of operational member. What the team refer to as "The Cavers List". This is a group of active cavers that the team can call upon to assist in any underground incident. It reinforces the philosophy of cave rescue. Cavers helping cavers. This year cave rescue was acted out on a global stage. In late June British Cave Divers played the prominent role in the successful rescue of all those trapped in Tham Luang Cave in Thailand. Without doubt an extraordinary undertaking. Tragically, though this was not without incident. The devastating loss of retired Thai Navy Seal Saman Gunan illustrated the severity and enormity of the undertaking. The thoughts of the international cave rescue fraternity will always be with Saman and his family. So enjoy life, its precious. Enjoy the Dales. Both above and below ground. We have a wonderful part of the world to play in and enjoy. Please treat it, and its residents, with the respect it deserves. So plan, prepare and stay safe, and I really do mean it. Enjoy yourself.

Sean Whittle
Chair
Cave Rescue Organisation.

Front cover photo: Training in Kingsdale with North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service including Settle and Bentham crews.

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 2018

Incident Categories

We categorise incidents as:

'Cave' or 'Mine'



'Mountain':-

Walker/Other person



Fell Runner



Paraglider



Cyclist



Climber



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

2018 = 70

55 'mountain rescue' incidents

5 'cave/mine rescue' incidents

8 'animal rescue' incidents

(4 underground, 4 surface)

2 'local' incidents (team's specialist

skills utilised on-road / urban

locations) plus 14 alerts for overdue cavers

and walkers or specialist advice given to

Police which did not require a call out.

Total volunteer hours attending

incidents: 2251, plus 11 hours for alerts.

Incidents During 2018

JANUARY

01. Jan. 8th Mon. 13.10 Moughton Scar, Crummackdale, Austwick – Animal Rescue



The team's first call of 2018 occurred when a local farmer reported that a sheep had become stuck about 12m up a crag. A small team rescued the sheep and returned it to the flock on the fell, unharmed.

02. Jan. 9th Wed. 12.45 Thornton Force, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f, 26) fell, sustaining chest injuries, while walking the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Having verified that she was able to walk, with assistance, team members escorted the patient to a team vehicle where she was assessed by a Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) paramedic prior to transfer to hospital.

03. Jan. 17th Wed. 23.03 Cross of Greet, Lythe Fell, Lancashire – Mountain Rescue.



A vehicle and its three occupants became stranded in snow near the Cross of Greet. Having used SARloc (a mobile phone tracking app) to locate the vehicle, Bowland Pennine MRT determined that it was in CRO's area and passed the call over.

A small party, in a team vehicle, reached the occupants and took them to CRO Base, at Clapham, leaving their car in a lay-by for later collection. They were collected and taken home by a friend/relative. The group had set off from Clitheroe in heavy rain and were not expecting snow on the fell tops.

CRO's first 'avoidable' call of the year.

FEBRUARY

04. Feb. 4th Sun. 16.04 Little Banks, Attermire, Settle – Mountain Rescue

A walker (f, 60) fell and injured her shoulder on a footpath between Stockdale Farm and Attermire. Team members cared for and assisted the injured walker to the nearest road for transport to hospital.

05. Feb. 5th Mon. 15.49 Ingleborough summit – Mountain Rescue paraglider

On the summit of Ingleborough, a paraglider fell about 3 metres when his parachute stalled as he was taking off. He suffered a suspected ankle fracture. Remarkably, and with the generous help of passing walkers, the injured person had the tenacity to shuffle and slide a considerable way down from the summit. CRO team members and a YAS paramedic treated him, then carried him by stretcher to a CRO vehicle waiting near Crina Bottom. He was driven down Fell Lane to Ingleton and transferred to a road ambulance.



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06. Feb. 17th Sat. 15.00 Trow Gill, Clapham – Mountain Rescue

Having stepped off the path while walking down through Trow Gill, a walker (f, 46) slipped on wet grass, sustaining a suspected lower leg fracture. After splinting the leg, CRO members carried her to a team vehicle for the drive down to Clapham and transfer to a waiting road ambulance.

07. Feb. 22nd Thu. 11.07 Hunterstye, Crummackdale, Austwick – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 71) fell while descending the steep hill from Moughton and sustained serious injuries to his face and head. The Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) was able to drop paramedics nearby, but then had to land at the bottom of the hill due to a lack of suitable landing places near the casualty.



When team members arrived on scene, they assisted the paramedics in 'packaging' the walker in a team stretcher and, with the assistance of his companions, were able to 'sledge' the casualty down the steep slope, then carry him to the waiting air ambulance. He was then flown to hospital for emergency treatment. A team vehicle took his companions back to their car in Clapham.

This QR code will take you to our website



MARCH

Mar. 1st Thu. 14.00 Severe Weather Event, North Yorkshire – Alert only

North Yorkshire County Council asked for availability of all North Yorkshire teams to provide a crewed vehicle for county-wide response, if required, during the anticipated heavy snow. Following a teleconference, it was decided that the county was not as severely hit as anticipated and any requests for assistance from teams would continue to be via the normal callout procedures.

The area covered by CRO appeared to be less severely hit by heavy snow than many surrounding areas, so no calls were received for weather-related assistance.

Mar. 4th Sun. 16.53 Keld Head, Thornton in Lonsdale – Alert only

A member of the public found unattended caving equipment near the resurgence at Keld Head, Kingsdale and raised concerns with the police. The duty controller attended the site with a constable and, after making enquiries, established that the items had been left the previous day, with no persons at risk. The items were removed so they could be returned to their owner.

08. Mar. 9th Thu. 14.20 Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 69) slipped and fell, immediately after leaving the Ingleborough summit plateau, on the path towards Crina Bottom and Ingleton. His fall was witnessed by a mountain biker who phoned for help and was then joined by a passing fell-runner. He used his own first aid kit to staunch the flow of blood from the deep scalp wound.

CRO members were called out and an air ambulance requested. By chance, a CRO Underground Controller was out for a run just beyond the summit, so that he was able to provide more information and help walk the casualty to where the helicopter could land. Team members

were stood down, just beyond Crina Bottom, and the helicopter flew the patient down to Ingleton, for transfer to a road ambulance.

09. Mar. 10th Sat. 12.51 Pecca Falls, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

A visitor (f, 71) was reported to have collapsed near Pecca Falls on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail and to be sitting by Tom's Cabin (refreshment kiosk). When team members arrived, she was not there and passers-by, when asked, had not seen anyone fitting the given description. A team member ran down the path, finding that the 'patient' had recovered from her apparent faint and continued walking down towards the car park with her extended family. On arriving at the car park, she was assessed by a YAS paramedic, before returning to the family car.

10. Mar. 11th Sun. 04.25 Providence Pot, Kettlewell – Cave Rescue

Five cavers (f, 18 – m, 25) were reported overdue in Providence Pot, at 21.29 on Saturday. The afternoon's rain had melted snow, causing a rapid rise in stream levels. Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association (UWFRA) attended and began a search of the Dow – Providence system, later asking CRO to 'stand by' and report availability of caving members.

At 04.25 on Sunday, UWFRA asked CRO to assist in the search. Four members of the party were located at about 06.10 and the fifth about 50 minutes later. Their ways out, both forward and back, had been denied them by flood-water. All were in reasonable condition and began a retreat from the system. They were fed and accompanied to the surface, emerging from Providence Pot and all reaching Hag Dyke by 13.00. Here, they were assessed by a YAS paramedic, before being driven down to Kettlewell. They had been underground for about 26 hours.

11. Mar. 13th Tue. 12.14 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

YAS asked for CRO's assistance in reaching and rescuing a walker (m, 82), said to be collapsed and confused at Manor Bridge, on the western arm of the Waterfalls Trail. Team members and a paramedic ran up from the main car park, finding him much further up the path, by the refreshment kiosk. When the patient – now cheerful and alert – had been assessed, he was carried by stretcher to a road ambulance, waiting on the Kingsdale road.

Mar. 17th Sat. 20.15 Three Peaks area – Alert only

Four walkers (all m) were reported overdue on a Three Peaks walk, with a strong, bitterly cold wind blowing the snow. They had left the Station Inn, Ribblesdale, at 07.00, being seen to head towards Whernside. Fortunately, they returned to the Inn (thirteen and a half hours later), just as the duty controller was phoning other pubs in the area.

12. Mar. 24th Sat. 13.41 Craven Way Old Road, Dent, Cumbria – Mountain Rescue

A walker (f, 16), on a Gold practice expedition, was taken ill on the Craven Way, to the South-East of Dent. CRO and the Great North Air Ambulance (GNAA) responded. After the GNAA paramedic had assessed the patient, she was assisted to a team Land Rover, driven down to the road near Whernside Manor and transferred to a North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) road ambulance for the journey to Westmorland General Hospital.

13. Mar. 24th Sat. 22.15 Wretched Rabbit / County Pot, Casterton, Cumbria – Cave Rescue
Two cavers (f, f) were reported to be three hours overdue in Wretched Rabbit, Easegill. Having alerted CRO, other cavers, staying at Bull Pot Farm, went to investigate and found that the two were still underground, unharmed, but moving very slowly. A small group of CRO members waited to make sure that all were safely back at Bull Pot Farm.

APRIL

14. Apr. 1st Sun. 21.09 Sulber Area, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue

Two Three Peaks walkers (f, 59; m, 58) reported themselves lost 'after the shooting hut' on the descent to Horton from Ingleborough summit, asking that someone call them back with instructions for the route. Repeated attempts to contact them on the number given were unsuccessful, so three small search parties were tasked from Crummackdale, Horton and Borrins to try to locate them. Unfortunately, the number given by the caller was for the wrong phone, but was eventually answered, at home, by a family member who was able to provide the correct number. Once contacted, the walkers were soon located at Gillgarth Farm, some way off their intended route. The walkers were taken back to their car, in Horton, and the search teams stood down.

They had no compass and only one small head-torch between them, so this incident was 'avoidable'

Apr. 3rd Tue. 20.26 Pen-y-ghent – Alert only

A lone walker (m) was reported overdue by his partner, while walking 'in the Pen-y-ghent area'. As the duty controller was talking to the Police to establish further details, the walker contacted his partner by phone to say he was okay and about to return home. No further action was required or taken.

15. Apr. 4th Wed. 21.47 Sulber Area, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue

Four Three Peaks walkers (m: 23, 22, 17, f: 21) reported themselves lost descending Ingleborough towards Horton, in poor weather conditions (snow and strong winds). A team of seven members, using a CRO vehicle, located the walkers near a gate on the track from Sulber Nick to Borrins. They were taken to their car in Horton and given advice regarding preparedness.

Although they had a map, they had no compass and only one small torch between them. Their mobile phones were nearly out of battery. This incident, too, could have been avoided with the correct skills and basic equipment.

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.

16. Apr. 17th Tue. 12.00 Whernside – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 87) was reported to have collapsed 'half-way up Whernside'. The first CRO members to arrive found him just above the wall at 525m O.D. An assessment by team casualty carers suggested that he had recovered well, so he was stretchered down to a team vehicle and driven to the road-head. As a precaution, he was taken for a thorough hospital check-up by YAS paramedics at the road ambulance



17. Apr. 18th Wed. 13.24 Nr Pecca Falls, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

A walker (f, 82) was reported to have fainted near Pecca Falls on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. CRO members arrived to find YAS paramedics already on scene. The patient, who was fully conscious, was put into a casualty bag on a lightweight stretcher and carried to a

team vehicle just above 'Tom's Cabin'. She was driven to the road-head and transferred to a road ambulance.

18. Apr. 20th Fri. 13.59 Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton – Animal Rescue

An in-lamb ewe was reported to be stranded on a ledge at Ingleton's former limestone quarry. A text trawl of team members showed insufficient volunteers for the afternoon, so the rescue was planned for that evening. However . . .

19. Apr. 20th Fri. 16.02 Gordale Scar, Malham – Mountain Rescue

A walker (f, 42) slipped on wet rocks at the beck edge, between the two waterfalls in Gordale Scar, sustaining a painful shoulder injury. Having been given pain relief and with her shoulder immobilised, the patient was able to walk up to the top of the Scar, assisted and encouraged by CRO members. She was helped to the waiting air ambulance for the flight to hospital.

Meanwhile, back at Mealbank Quarry

the ewe was waiting patiently on her ledge. So, after a quick snack (for some of us), it was off to Ingleton. The ewe was seen to be about six metres up from the quarry floor, but there was neither easy access up to it nor space to wrestle it safely into its rescue bag while un-roped, so a team member abseiled down from the top of the quarry face. When he was four or five metres above the animal, it became more frightened of him than of the drop below, so ran and bounced down a narrow, grassy rake to the quarry floor, before running away from the team members waiting below.

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DONATING TO HELP SAVE LIVES

We rely entirely on donations and bequests to support our rescue efforts. We employ no staff, all being volunteers, so administrative costs are kept very low indeed, meaning most of the money you donate goes directly to those rescue efforts. There are several ways you can donate to the team.

DIRECTLY VIA PAYPAL

Go to our website's fundraising page at <https://cro.org.uk/fundraising-for-cro/> and click on the Paypal button. This will take you to a page where you can make a one off or regular monthly donation.

JUST GIVING

Anyone can use the on-line Just Giving system to create their own fundraising 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/

and then click on the 'Fundraise for us' button. You can use this facility to set up your own just giving site to raise funds for us from friends, relatives and fellow-supporters. You will need to create an account with Just Giving to fundraise this way.

BEQUESTS

Another source of income for the team are donations made by people when they draw up their will. Leaving a bequest to a charity is a common way for people to share part of their estate after death. Speak to your solicitor when drawing up or amending your will for more details.

And finally, for regular shoppers on Amazon, there is information on p.11 about how you can support us whilst you shop, at no cost to yourself!

Your Chance to Meet Us in 2019



Austick Cuckoo Fair - Monday 27th May 2019
Ingleton Gala - Saturday 20th July 2019
Clapham Street Fair - Saturday 27th July 2019

Apr. 24th Tue. 17.08 Ingleborough – Alert only

Members of a practice expedition group (3 m, 1 f; 16-18) reported themselves 'lost at the summit of Ingleborough Hill'. Use of SARloc showed them to be on the path across Simon Fell Breast, which leads (in a few miles) to Horton in Ribblesdale. They were persuaded to continue and were met, a few minutes later, by their supervisors, eventually reaching their camp-site, rather wet.

Avoidable? Probably, but aren't practices where mistakes are permitted?

MAY

May 8th Tue. 16.13 Gaping Gill area, Clapham – Alert only

Two 13-year old students (f) were reported missing from a school group between Gaping Gill and Ingleborough Cave. However, just as the duty controller was telephoning North Yorkshire Police's Force Control Room for more information, they were reported to have been found.

20. May 10th Thu. 19.15 Shout Scar, Thornton in Lonsdale – Animal Rescue

A passer-by reported that a lamb was stranded on a ledge on Shout Scar, Kingsdale. The duty controller went to investigate, but couldn't quite reach the lamb. While two other members were *en route* to assist, the duty controller found that if he changed position, he could just reach, so he grabbed the animal and returned it to its mother.

21. May 13th Sun. 10.09 Near Gaping Gill, Clapham – Mountain Rescue

A walker (f, 67) sustained severe bruising to her shins when falling as she walked. A team member attending the Gaping Gill Winch Meet assessed her, then requested a team vehicle to transport her off the hill and back to Clapham.

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Ingleton Waterfalls Trail

About the Walks
Located within the Yorkshire Dales National Park the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail is a family friendly walk of around 4.5 miles with spectacular views whatever the weather. The trail climbs along side the River Twiss and its numerous waterfalls culminating with the mighty Thornton Force. The trail then crosses to the River Don, offering views of Ingleborough on route, before dropping back into the village of Ingleton through ancient woodland and beside yet more stunning waterfalls.

Ticket Prices 2019
Adult (16+) £7.00
Child (under 16) £3.00


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Entry Times
March 1st - March 31st: 9am - 4pm
April 1st - August 31st: 9am - 7pm
September 1st - October 31st: 9am - 4pm
November 1st - February 28th: 9am - 2.30pm


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22. May 15th Tue. 12.32 Rowten Pot, Thornton in Lonsdale – Animal Rescue

 A lamb was reported to be stranded on a ledge, 8m down into the open pot-hole. A small team rescued the lamb and re-united it with its mother.

23. May 15th Tue. 16.07 Shorkley Hill, Malham – Mountain Rescue

 A school student (f, 13) slipped and sustained an apparently serious lower leg injury on the path from the Rakes road to Malham Cove. Having been given pain relief by the YAS paramedic, she was carried to a waiting road ambulance for transport to hospital.


24. May 19th Sat. 15.45 White Stone Lane, Wharfe, Austwick – Mountain Rescue

 While the CRO Ingleborough Challenge was under way, a collision between a mountain biker and a CRO Challenge competitor on a public bridleway was reported to the event control by a checkpoint. The runner was treated for a head injury at the checkpoint. A little while later the mountain biker arrived with shoulder and rib injuries. CRO casualty carers began to treat his injuries, but he then chose to decline further treatment and called his wife to take him to hospital.

25. May 23rd Wed. 12.52 Malham Cove – Mountain Rescue


 North Yorkshire Police reported that a walker (f) had slipped and injured her ankle on the steps on the left side of Malham Cove. On arrival, team casualty carers splinted the injury and placed her in a stretcher, before sledging her down to a team vehicle at the foot of the Cove. She was then transported to a waiting road ambulance for transfer to hospital.

26. May 23rd Wed. 14.30 Malham Cove – Mountain Rescue

 While dealing with incident 25, the team were asked to assist a girl in a school party who had slipped on the limestone pavement, injuring her right ankle. A team casualty carer assessed the injury and strapped it up, before transporting the student and a teacher, in a team vehicle, to their own transport in Malham village. The teacher


was advised to take the student to the local hospital when they returned home.

May 23rd Wed. 15.05 Cove Top, Malham – Alert only

 Having dealt with incidents 25 and 26 and as team members were sorting equipment in the visitor centre car park, the duty controller was approached by two walkers, seeking advice. A friend had slipped and injured his ankle whilst walking on the Cove top! Advice was given and friends who had remained with the casualty started to walk them to the road.

Team members drove up Cove Road to lend assistance, with the two friends, only to find the casualty had already reached their vehicle and would be transported by their friends. As no action was taken by team members, this is recorded as an alert only.

27. May 26th Sat. 16.29 Giggleswick Scar – Mountain Rescue

 A climber (m) slipped and fell on the 'Titter ye not' pitch at Giggleswick Scar South, sustaining a severe injury to his left lower leg as he hit the ground. On arrival, team members escorted the YAS paramedics to the scene and assisted while emergency pain relief was administered. The casualty was then splinted and packaged for a lower by stretcher to the road below, down a steep, wooded scree slope.

At the road, the casualty was transferred to a road ambulance for transport to hospital. Thanks to our YAS colleagues, for providing casualty care, and to North Yorkshire Police who provided safety protection for team members on a busy road with blind summits and bends

Simple Ways to Support us in 2019

As a charity, we are entirely reliant on donations to support the work we do, and every little helps in that regard.

If you are considering a fundraising event for us, Facebook provides tools for you to simply raise funds. From your News feed, you can select 'Fundraise' from the left menu. Simply select Cave Rescue Organisation as your chosen cause, and you're off. You can choose to raise as much or as little as you wish, and it all helps.



If you are a regular Amazon user, you can raise funds for the team simply by shopping as normal but going to smile.amazon.co.uk first. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.




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On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.co.uk, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping (simply choose 'Cave Rescue Organisation'. You shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, and you don't need to create a separate account. Later, if you forget that you have set smile up, the normal website will prompt you to switch to smile.amazon.co.uk, in the event that you haven't bookmarked the site.

Finally, don't forget to follow us on Facebook, and receive news about our own fundraisers, like the CRO Challenge, and where you can meet us in 2019. Simply search @CaveRescueOrganisation to find our page.


28. May 27th Sun. 09.35 Cross Pot, Horton in Ribblesdale – Animal Rescue

 A group undertaking navigation training heard a lamb calling from within Cross Pot, near Horton in Ribblesdale. A small team attended the site and discovered a lamb stuck on a ledge within the pot. The lamb was brought to the surface, and because it was very weak, was returned directly to the farm, rather than being released onto the fell.


29. May 27th Sun 14.23 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

 A walker (f) fell approximately six metres down stone steps near Pecca Falls, losing consciousness for a short while. YAS asked CRO to assist and the casualty was located not far from the rendezvous point. YAS paramedics were taken to her and, after a full assessment, they suspected head and spinal injuries. The patient was placed in a full body vacuum splint and stretched by team members to a team vehicle for transport to the road ambulance.


30. May 28th Mon. 15.45 Brackenbottom Scar, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue

 A walker (f) slipped and fell while descending from Pen-y-ghent, sustaining a suspected fracture to her right ankle. She was carried by passers-by to within 500m of the road, before being met by team members. The casualty was treated by team casualty carers and given pain relief before a YAS paramedic took over treatment. Team members splinted the patient's leg and carried her by stretcher down to a waiting road ambulance.

31. May 29th Tue. 13.22 Little Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue


 A walker (m) began to suffer chest pain and dizziness while ascending Little Ingleborough, beyond Gaping Gill. YAS called CRO and, as several members happened to be there, a team vehicle was sent, immediately, from the base in Clapham. Meanwhile, team members attending the Gaping Gill Winch Meet, together with trained members of Bradford Pothole Club, were able to reach the casualty quickly and begin casualty care. An air ambulance was also rapidly on scene. Following treatment from the air ambulance staff, a team stretcher was used to carry the casualty to the helicopter for the flight to hospital for further treatment. Thanks to Bradford Pothole Club members for their assistance on this call.

32. May 30th Wed. 11.22 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue.


 A woman, walking up the steps next to Pecca Falls, became unwell and lost consciousness. YAS asked CRO to assist in extricating the casualty. While the casualty was being treated by YAS and YAA paramedics, the team prepared a stretcher, then carried her to a team vehicle via the old Pecca slate quarry. She was driven to the Kingsdale road, to a waiting road ambulance, which took her to hospital. Thanks to the air ambulance staff who also assisted with the stretcher carry!

JUNE


33. Jun 2nd Sat. 09.36 Yordas Cave and area, Thornton in Lonsdale – Local Incident.

 North Yorkshire Police asked for CRO's assistance by searching Yordas Cave and immediate area for a person (m, 50) reported to be missing from home and 'at risk'. No-one was found, nor was there any evidence that he had been there. He was located, two days later, in Blackpool.

34. Jun. 2nd Sat 14.25 Baxengill Gorge, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

 A visitor (m, described as 'big and heavy') fell on the stepped path, landing on an unrelated visitor (f, 45). He walked away, leaving her with a suspected fractured clavicle and grazes to her head. After immobilising the injury and administering pain relief, team members walked her gently to a YAS road ambulance for transport to hospital.

35. Jun. 4th Mon 05.32 Lost John's System, Leck, Lancashire – Cave Rescue

 Two cavers were reported to be more than five hours overdue from a through trip between Lost John's and Notts 2, which they had estimated would take four hours (20.00 Sunday to 00.00 Monday). CRO members began searching in the two pots referred to, being joined by people on CRO's list of non-member cavers and members of UWFRA, to investigate other holes on that part of Leck Fell. Eventually, the 'mispers' were found, stranded and off-route, in Lost John's and were accompanied to the surface. More members of CRO, UWFRA, Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit and Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team were standing by for a later, additional call-out, but this was not needed.

As some members were back at Clapham, beginning to clean equipment, and others were still coming off Leck Fell, call-out texts were heard again



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36. Jun. 4th Mon 18.52 Malham Cove – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m) was reported to have broken an ankle, about half-way up the steps to the top of Malham Cove. Two YAS ambulance technicians were on scene when CRO members arrived. The patient was given pain-relief and had his injured leg splinted, before being put into a vacuum mattress and onto a stretcher. He was sledged and carried down to a team vehicle for later transfer to a road ambulance.

... and back at Clapham, much of the caving kit was still waiting to be washed and put to dry.



Incident 36

37. Jun. 9th Sat 17.34 Catrigg, Stainforth – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m), who had strayed slightly off the footpath from Catrigg to Stainforth, slipped on a grassy bank and went over on his ankle – reportedly hearing a snap. He was treated for a possible fracture by YAS paramedics and CRO team members. A short, but tricky stretcher carry enabled the injured walker to be taken by a CRO vehicle to the road-head.

38. Jun. 9th Sat 18.38 Thornton Force, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

While attending to incident 37, CRO was called to an incident at Thornton Force, near Ingleton. A boy, aged 11, had slipped whilst entering the pool at the foot of Thornton Force and hit his head on a submerged rock. He was treated by CRO members, a community responder and an air ambulance paramedic. He was then escorted a short way, on foot, to a CRO vehicle for the drive to Ingleton village from where a NWS road ambulance took him for a check-up in hospital.

39. Jun. 12th Tue 14.05 Pen-y-ghent summit – Mountain Rescue

CRO were called to assist a walker who had collapsed on the summit of Pen-y-ghent, having suffered a cardiac arrest. Despite the hard work of YAA paramedics at the scene, the outcome was **FATAL**.

40. Jun. 15th Fri 11.55 Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m) with a medical condition collapsed and was unconscious for a brief period. Initial information stated that he was 'on the track to Little Ingleborough', but further enquiries suggested that he was on the Horton side of the hill. While CRO members searched up and down the path from the Nick Pot area, the crew of an air ambulance spotted him just above 'Sulber Cross-roads'. He was walked to the aircraft, then flown down to a road ambulance, waiting at Horton playing field.

41. Jun. 16th Sat 19.11 Heron Pot, Thornton in Lonsdale – Cave Rescue

Four cavers had left a note at their caving hostel, giving a call-out time of 19.00, before going to Heron Pot. Although not unduly concerned, the duty controller asked a colleague from Ingleton to investigate. At just after 20.00, he found them emerging from the cave; they had lost track of time.

JULY

42. Jul. 6th Fri 14.29 Thornton Force area, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

YAS requested the team's assistance to help a walker who had fallen on the Waterfalls Trail. The injured person was eventually found near Pecca Falls, being assisted back to the car park by a companion, as they had been told that an ambulance would not be available for 4 hours. The casualty was assessed and assisted/escorted to a team vehicle at Tom's Cabin, then driven to their own vehicle at the Waterfalls car park. The companion was able to take them to hospital for assessment.

43. Jul. 13th Fri 21.30 Stock Pot, Ingleborough Common, Ingleton – Animal Rescue

A sheep was reported to be stranded, about 5m down, in a pot somewhere above High Leys, on Ingleborough. The farmer who reported it offered a guide, to locate it, if CRO would rescue it the following morning. Three members, in a CRO Land Rover, followed their guide up to the Gritstone Pot area, then explored on foot, before finding a lamb in a lesser-known pot-hole, near Gritstone Pot (overlooking Crina Bottom). The lamb was rescued and released, un-hurt. Despite the dry conditions, the team Land Rover's front wheels dropped into a cunningly hidden grip and, thanks to a neighbouring farmer, was towed out by his rather large tractor.

44. Jul. 14th Sat 09.54 Nr Grey Gill, Gordale, Malham – Mountain Rescue

Almost as soon as the lamb-rescue group was committed to the 2 km off-road drive to the



Incident 44

Gritstone Pot area of Ingleborough, a member of an expedition group (f, 15) was reported to have a knee injury, above the path from Gordale Bridge towards the Malham Rakes road.

On arrival, team members found that she was in no pain, but her knees had locked so that she could not walk — a pre-existing condition which caused problems from time to time. The patient was carried, by stretcher to a team vehicle, then taken to meet her group's own transport, so that she did not require an ambulance.



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45. Jul. 14th Sat 15.06 'Brothers Wall', Crummackdale, Austwick –Mountain Rescue

A climber (m, 48) was reported to have fallen, sustaining a dislocation fracture of one wrist, in Crummackdale.

After initial confusion, when the grid reference provided by the ambulance service indicated the head of Crummackdale, but YAA landed below



Incident 45

the scar above Wharfe, the correct location was identified. After air ambulance paramedics had splinted the rather deformed wrist, CRO members sledged and carried the patient, by stretcher, down to a team vehicle. This was driven down and along to Crummack Lane, where he was transferred to a road ambulance for the journey to hospital.

46. Jul. 19th Thu. 18.00 Malham Cove - Mountain Rescue

YAS, then North Yorkshire Police, requested assistance at the foot of the Cove, after someone had been seen to go from the top. Formalities over, the deceased (m, 22) was carried to a waiting CRO vehicle, then taken to Malham car park for handing over to the undertaker. FATAL

47. Jul. 25th Wed. 15.16 Malham Moor – Mountain Rescue

A mountain biker (f, 70) hit a rock on the brideway from Tennant Gill to Henside and was pitched forward, over her bicycle handlebars, fracturing both of the bones to one wrist. Once her arm was immobilised, during which process the patient steadfastly refused any pain relief (She just gritted her teeth and said 'Get on with it!'), she was helped to her feet and supported for the quarter-mile walk to a team vehicle. She and her husband were driven to their parked car, for him to drive to hospital.

AUGUST

48. Aug. 4th Sat. 12.02 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

A visitor (m, 32) sustained a fracture to the shoulder, after taking a fall between Manor Bridge and Pecca Falls, on the Waterfalls Trail. Team members immobilised

the shoulder, then supported him on the walk down to the main Trail car park. He was assisted into a team vehicle and taken to a NWAS road ambulance for the journey to hospital.

49. Aug. 4th Sat. 21.30 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue.

A visitor reported her elderly parents missing on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Unable to call her back and with the 'mispers' having no phone, the duty controller (resident in Ingleton) popped out to look for them. Just as a CRO colleague was checking that the Police had no more specific information, the duty controller found the couple at the entrance to the Trail's main car park. Very soon, their daughter arrived and the duty controller beat a hasty retreat, leaving the family to discuss communication issues.

50. Aug. 5th Sun. 21.38hrs – Sulber Nick and Beecroft, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue

Two walkers (f,43; f,39) reported themselves 'lost and losing daylight', but gave a (correct) ten figure grid reference for their position, within 100m of 'Sulber Crossroads'. While the duty controller was trying to contact them, they told North Yorkshire Police that they both had a phone signal and a torch, so would continue to Horton. A few minutes later, their response to the team's 'PhoneFind' application showed that they were within four fields (1 km) of the village, so no further action would be required of CRO. The incident log was closed and the CRO web-site updated to show an 'Alert only'.

However, 15 minutes later, the pair telephoned the duty controller to say that they really were lost, now. 'PhoneFind' placed them just above Beecroft Hall (They said they had climbed two walls.), so two local members drove up there, walked them to the car and returned them to their own car, parked in Horton.

51. Aug. 11th Sat. 12.50hrs – Hunt's Cross, Thornton in Lonsdale – Mountain Rescue

While assisting with a group of paragliding enthusiasts, a man (71) slipped on rocks, sustaining a deep laceration to his right shin and was unable to walk.

The team conveyed a YAS paramedic to the casualty's location, then packaged the casualty for sledging by stretcher back to the road ambulance. From there he was taken to hospital for further treatment.

Aug. 11th Sat. 21.49hrs – Ingleborough – Alert only

A caller contacted North Yorkshire Police to 'express concern' for two male walkers she had seen some two and a half hours earlier on Ingleborough, because they looked as though they were 'struggling and not well equipped'. Given the time elapsed, and the fact that 'struggling and not well equipped' could equally apply to probably a half of those who attempt the Three Peaks Challenge each year, the Duty Controller decided not to commit team members to an almost certainly futile search, without first receiving a call from the individuals concerned. *No such call was received overnight.*

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INCIDENT at MEREGILL HOLE

15th March 1969 by Jack Pickup

Following the media interest surrounding last year's dramatic cave diving rescue in Thailand, team member Jack Pickup recalls the first such incident, which led to the development of the necessary skills which enabled British cave divers to play so prominent a role in that incident.



Photo Credit: Associated Press

At about 11.30am on Saturday 15th March 1969 a party of six cavers, students from Sheffield University Speleological Society, arrived at the entrance to the Meregill Hole and laddered down the rift into the mere. The leader of the group had some five years potholing experience, the remainder of the group were of less experience, including CH (the eventual casualty) who had been caving about a year or so. All the group were wearing wetsuits, except CH, who wore clothing of natural and man made fibres.

There was thick snow with freezing conditions so everything was extremely dry; the mere was about 50 feet below the level of the normally flooded crawl between the entrance pitch and second pitch. The first pitch was dry and these conditions prevailed down all the subsequent pitches. The bottom was visited with a quick look at the torrent which issues in from the left as you approach the sump. They returned to the bottom of the 100ft pitch at approx. 4.30 pm. They had rigged this in two drops, the lower 75ft divided by an 8ft wide ledge and then a 25ft pitch to the top. When they started up the 75ft pitch they found that water was now running down the walls, whereas earlier it was comparatively dry.

The pitch was laddered from the top across the ledge and down the lower section, but there was only enough rope to doubleline the lower part. The party climbed the lower section lifelined by the leader, who stayed at the bottom, and then started up the next 25ft section, without a lifeline. It was whilst CH was climbing this awkward diagonal section that he fell about 15ft from the ladder and landed on the ledge about two feet from another party member. He landed feet first and rolled onto his backside but seemed unhurt. The leader quickly climbed the 75ft pitch and talked to CH, who assured him he was OK - he had cut his hand slightly but was able to stand and walk about. He was asked if he could carry on or should someone go for help. He decided to carry on provided he was given a strong line and he easily climbed the 25ft pitch.

It was then the group became more aware of the increase in water, which was cascading rather than running down the pitch walls. They started to get worried about CH's condition on the next pitch - he got about 10ft from the top and then swayed about. He swung away from the ladder but was prevented from falling by the lifeline, although he swung into the waterfall. One of his friends took a risk and climbed up alongside him without a lifeline and shouted at him and saw that his eyes appeared glazed. He was hauled up the final few feet onto a ledge where the water gushed down.

This was not a suitable place to be for too long as it was exposed, very wet, cold and windy. So CH was then immediately hauled up the next pitch by three of his friends on a Bachmann

assisted lifeline. Unfortunately this involved a further soaking in the melt-water; then his companions sat CH down in a dryish alcove. Because of his obviously deteriorating condition it was decided that someone should get out as quickly as possible and call out the CRO, the time was about 6.15pm.

Two of the group stayed with CH who understandably was by now very wet and cold. They took turns in rubbing him in an attempt to keep him warm. When the others who had gone out to get help arrived at the entrance crawl they found the water level had risen right up the pitch from the mere and had almost reached roof level, before flowing on towards the second pitch. One of the group climbed the entrance pitch, ran straight down to the road and stopped the first car that came along. As chance would have it this was driven by Reg Hainsworth, the CRO Chief Controller, who was on his way as guest speaker to the Happy Wanderers Cave & Pothole Club dinner in Dent. He was informed that the entrance crawl was filling. The time was approx. 6.45pm.

The first CRO rescuers entering the cave at 8.15 pm had difficulty because of the now high water level of the mere and they reported that it was halfway up the entrance crawl through the entrance from the mere. The West Riding County Fire Service was called to pump water from the stream and hence prevent water filling up the mere.

At about 8.30pm the first of the rescue team arrived at CH's location. He was carried from the top of the third pitch to a bigger drier passage and wrapped in dry blankets. Although conscious, he was obviously in an advanced state of hypothermia and his pupils were unequal. When he was put into a stretcher and hauled up the very wet second pitch he protested loudly in a slurred voice.

By now the entrance crawl from the mere had flooded completely, so it was quickly decided that the only way to get CH out was by diving him out through this flooded entrance tube. An alternative route, the Aven passage, was laddered by other rescuers, however being extremely tight it was thought impossible to take a casualty out that way. The time was now about 9.30 pm and a call went out through the Police to contact CRO & Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue divers. Being before the days of mobile phones, it was a considerable time before they could be found and arrived at the scene with their specialist equipment.

That Saturday evening, I was at the Happy Wanderers CPC dinner at the pub in Dent, wondering where our guest speaker, Reg Hainsworth, had got to. Fairly late in the HWCPC dinner proceedings, I was called to the phone. It was Settle Police who said they had been requested to contact me and other cave divers by Reg Hainsworth from the scene of an incident at Meregill Hole in Chapel le Dale. Flooded with the day's snowmelt water from the slopes of Ingleborough, the only way to recover the casualty to the surface appeared to be to dive him about 30 feet through the entrance passage.

I immediately enlisted the help of two other diving friends, John Southworth and Peter Livesey. We agreed to meet as soon as possible in the lay-by above the Hill Inn. I then left with my wife for a hectic drive via Kingsdale, in my new mini van, through snow and ice to my home at Ingleton to collect my diving kit, which took about 30 minutes or so.

I placed (threw!) all the diving gear I thought I might need in the back of the van. The adrenaline was by this stage coming out of my ears - nothing was going to stop me, this was going to be an underwater rescue from a cave for real; not only my first, but the first!

I eventually arrived at the roadside near the Hill Inn to be met by my fellow divers, John Southworth and Peter Livesey, who had driven straight there via Newby Head. We feverishly checked our gear, struggled into wetsuits on a freezing and bitterly cold night, with snow



stretching as far as the eye could see.

A CRO Land Rover took us as far as the track leading to Great Douk cave but was then stopped by very deep snow. It was then, as I recall, down to just the three of us to carry two diving cylinders and our own diving kit the remaining half a mile or so to the entrance.

We arrived, despite the bitter wind and snow, huffing and puffing and generally as hot as hell from all the exertion of carrying all our kit and wearing wet suits, not normally suitable for trekking across the fells. We were ushered straight into a large canvas ridge tent to be briefed by Reg Hainsworth.

The news was that CH was at the entrance sump in a stretcher awaiting our arrival. He was understandably suffering from hypothermia but still alive, despite being rescued for over six hours in soaking wet clothing. Pete Livesey (lacking his diving gear), understandably elected to stop in the mere at this side of the sump. He was to act as comms with the surface tent party and hold the pull-back rope which I would use to signal, with 3 pulls, when we were ready to return.

At about 1 a.m. we eventually got ourselves down the 50ft ladder into the water of the mere. It was very cold – snowmelt – and you could tell. It wouldn't take long at that temperature to curb our enthusiasm. I decided to dive first, with the rescue mask and its associated cylinder of compressed air, but without a guideline. I knew it was a straightforward dive – only one way, down to the bottom of a big flooded U tube passage and up the boulder slope at the other side.

Helmet and light check, hooded up, mask on, no flippers – I planned to walk and crawl along the passage – with valve in my mouth, a quick blow with head underwater to check for leaks and then down I went. It was deep but clear and the cold water was still a shock but within about 60 secs I was through. I stood up and walked forward to see CH unconscious in the stretcher. The last of the frozen rescue team then left to head up the pitch out through the very tight Aven entrance – no room for a stretcher – leaving me to tend to CH.

I immediately got the cylinder for his air supply and fastened it to the stretcher by sliding it down between the side of his leg and the fastenings. I connected the full-face mask to this air supply and started to fit it to him. CH regained consciousness and attempted to talk – it was unintelligible – but I tried to reassure him and let him know he would be out in a few minutes. It was then that John Southworth appeared, wearing a real holey wet suit and suffering from the cold more than I was, but clearly he was up for it!

Now unconscious again, CH didn't appear to be breathing deeply enough to open the second stage of the valve in the full face mask so I purged it manually myself. John tied the rope to the head of the stretcher, and we dragged the whole unit to the edge of the sump pool. It was now or never; I looked at CH and he was conscious again. I gave him the thumbs up and thought the poor sod, is he in for a real cold shock! I elected to dive first, close to CH's head and the vital mask and decided to put my finger on the purge button for the 60 secs dip through the sump. Three pulls on the rope was the signal and we were off with Pete pulling strongly and me steering. We banged and bumped along and then we were through amidst clouds of air bubbles from the purged rescue mask. Shouts and whoops informed the surface party we were out. Pete standing chest deep quickly stood the stretcher up and then lifted it up as high as possible to keep CH out of the freezing water. John and I assisted Pete as best we could, although our diving kit hindered us and we were also numb from the very cold water.

The casualty was quickly hauled up and into the warm surface tent to be examined by



Dr Hyslop, the CRO team doctor from Settle, where he was found to be still alive but not conscious. His wet clothes were removed and he was wrapped in a dry sleeping bag and thick polythene bag and carried to the waiting CRO Land Rover. Unfortunately, on the journey over the fell to the roadhead, the casualty died.

From the CRO debrief -

1. This was a rescue where conditions appeared to multiply themselves against the efforts of the rescuers at every turn.
2. CRO would like to thank the farmers at Southerscales and Skirwith farms for transporting equipment and fire pumps from the roadhead.
3. The party underground were completely amazed to learn that melting snow alone had caused such a rise in the water level. Estimates gave a rise of 20ft in the level of the mere.

The following are the thoughts of Jack Pickup.... The CRO diver who recovered the casualty, CH. -In retrospect -

- CH would almost certainly be carrying extra very cold weight (30lbs) of water in his clothing which was cotton, terylene and woollen pullover - Had CH worn a wetsuit like his colleagues the result may have been different.
- Had the party used a lifeline on the 25ft pitch it's not unreasonable to suggest the incident would almost certainly not have occurred.
- We now know that the body loses heat 26 times quicker in water than in air..... If we knew that then, we would have made greater efforts to prevent that aspect occurring.
- Had the divers been contacted earlier it may have had a different ending but it was nonetheless a very sad end to the first underwater rescue from a cave.

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52. Aug. 13th Mon. 16.47hrs – Gaping Gill, Clapham – Mountain Rescue

A visitor (f) to the winch meet at Gaping Gill slipped, approaching the site, and sustained an injury to her left knee, so that she was unable to bear weight on the leg.

A team vehicle with two members on board was despatched and, after assessing the injury, they brought casualty down to Clapham. She was taken home by a family member.

53. Aug. 14th Tue. 17.01hrs – Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue

A woman reported that her daughter, undertaking the Three Peaks alone, was stuck 'near a steep drop', 'somewhere on Ingleborough', with a failing phone battery. With thick cloud limiting visibility to about 5 metres, the walker had lost confidence and was unable to find her way off, having only a guide book for directions.

PhoneFind technology failed to locate the walker's position, so a full search was initiated, with a hasty party setting off for the summit from Crina Bottom. Meanwhile other search teams started from the Hill Inn, Horton, Clapham, Park Fell and Cold Cotes, hoping that she would have found another group to join to make her way off.

In the event, the hasty party located her at the shelter on the summit, where she had sought refuge from the cold wind and rain. She was given some food, and then led off Ingleborough via Little Ingleborough and Newby Cote, to be reunited with her mother and her own children at the team's base in Clapham.

54. Aug. 25th Sat. 15.25hrs – Park Fell, Ingleborough – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 48) slipped on steep ground, sustaining a dislocation fracture to his right ankle. Another walker used his 'personal locator beacon' to call for help. The call was directed, initially, to UWFRA, then to Swaledale MRT and then to CRO. On seeing the severity of the injury, the first two members to reach the patient requested evacuation by air ambulance, in order to minimise movement and reach hospital more quickly. Having administered pain relief

and immobilised the injured leg, CRO members 'sledged' the patient 50m down the hill to a more gently sloping area. A NWAA helicopter, flying from Barton (Eccles), then flew him to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for treatment.

Unsuitable footwear.



55. Aug. 26th Sun. 18.21hrs – Storrs Common, near Beezley Grange, Ingleton – Mountain Rescue

A visitor (f, 22), having almost completed the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, slipped on the path below Storrs Common, sustaining a suspected fracture of the left ankle. After treatment by YAS paramedics, she was stretchered to a team vehicle, then driven to the Community Centre car park, transferred to a road ambulance and taken to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for treatment.

Unsuitable footwear.

56. Aug. 28th Tue. 18.41hrs – Head of Trow Gill, Clapham – Mountain Rescue

Two walkers became separated from a larger group on the last leg of the Three Peaks Walk, heading from Ingleborough to Horton in Ribblesdale. With no map and only a page and a half of typescript describing the whole Three Peaks route, they descended, mistakenly, via Little Ingleborough and past Gaping Gill. At the head of Trow Gill, one (f, 19) slipped and suffered an apparent knee injury. A 999 call was made to YAS, whose Emergency Operations Centre called CRO. Team members immobilised the knee and administered pain relief, before putting the rather cold patient into a casualty bag, on a stretcher. She was partly carried and partly 'sledged' down to a team Land Rover, driven down to CRO Base and transferred to a road ambulance for the journey to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Aug. 29th Wed. 20.47hrs – Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Alert only

A family visiting the waterfalls walk reported themselves lost in woodland. The CRO Duty Controller was able to contact the family on their mobile phone and established that they had found their way to Ingleton and were being directed to the waterfalls car park by a passer-by.

57. Aug. 31st Fri. 07.10hrs – Providence Pot, Kettlewell – Cave Rescue

CRO were called to support UWFRA with an ongoing incident. Two cavers had been reported overdue the previous evening from a traverse of Dowber Gill passage linking Dow Cave with Providence Pot. The overdue party was found a long way into the cave by UWFRA cavers. They were safe but cold and tired and faced a long and in places arduous journey to the cave exit. Five CRO cavers were able to provide assistance in bringing the overdue party to the surface.

SEPTEMBER

58. Sep. 7th Tue. 16.46hrs – Near Snow Falls, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue

A walker (m, 86) with several medical conditions and a history of back trouble was unable to complete the walk around the Ingleton Waterfalls because of the pain. Having administered pain relief, team members carried the patient from just below Snow Falls up to Falls Park, at Beezleys, to await the arrival of a road ambulance for the journey to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

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CRO Ingleborough Challenge

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the CRO Ingleborough Challenge 2018, it was a huge success with the highest number of challengers taking part and over £7,500 being raised. Special thanks go to those people who got sponsored and raised additional funds for the team; without doubt, this assisted us in achieving the fantastic final total we did.

The weather was perfect and everyone who took part had a great day out, with every ache and pain being well earned. For the 2019 event we have requested similar weather conditions again and although we believe this has been approved, we are still waiting for official confirmation - fingers crossed!

The date for the CRO Ingleborough Challenge 2019 will be the 18th May 2019, so we hope to see you there. All the details for the event can be found on our website at <https://cro.org.uk/the-cro-challenge>

A big thank you goes to our commercial supporters for the 2018 event who were:
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Joint Training

At CRO we're lucky to have excellent relationships with the other emergency services. We often work together at incidents, drawing on each other's expertise and experience. In 2018 we held a series of events to develop that teamwork further.

In August we had a joint training exercise with North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service's Bentham and Settle crews at the Valley Entrance to the West Kingsdale cave system. Cave rescues often require us to access flooded caves and extract casualties from them. Just inside Valley Entrance is a "duck" - a partly flooded passage with a low roof that can make evacuating a stretcher difficult or impossible. The firefighters were able to use their equipment to pump water out from the duck, lowering the water level and making the stretcher extraction much easier for the underground rescuers. In a real rescue, the time saved could mean the difference between life and death for an injured or hypothermic casualty.



We've got more joint training planned for 2019. We're fortunate to have such skilled and dedicated colleagues in the other emergency services - and they're good company over a brew, too!

We also work often with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) on both surface and underground rescues. We held two sessions in 2018 for YAS members to help them understand the technical side of our work better.

In August we took a group of YAS members down Lower Long Churn Cave to the Dolly Tubs - a classic novice caving trip. Flat-out crawls, vertical pitches, deep pools of water and tight and constricted passages make for a difficult rescue, particularly with a stretcher - and Lower Long Churn has all of these! The group then abseiled or were lowered down vertical pitches to reach a



ledge partway down the main shaft of Alum Pot. The summer sun provided some warmth, but Alum Pot is still a damp and draughty place to stand still for any length of time. It reminded everyone of how much colder and in October we held an exercise in the infamous De Pot – a mock cave in the CRO Depot – to demonstrate techniques we use to safely extract casualties from vertical pitches underground or off crags. The YAS members, each escorted by a CRO member, were lowered on ropes by a CRO technical rigging team into a blacked-out garage from above. They then had to



traverse past a further vertical drop using cowstails on their harnesses to reach the casualty's location. The casualty was given first aid and placed in a stretcher, and the casualty and the YAS members were taken back across the traverse and then hauled out. While YAS would not normally take part in technical rope rescues, the YAS members who attended now have a better understanding of how we operate when those situations come up.




Scotland's Gain... In the summer of 2018, we bid farewell to team member Bill Batson, and his 2 search dogs, Glen and Angus. Bill has finally retired from his job at Lyon Equipment, and has now moved north of the border to be closer to wider family.


Bill joined the team in 2004 (he thinks!), having served for many years in RAF Mountain Rescue, where he was a team leader and Chief Instructor for all the RAF MR teams. Not only did Bill bring his wealth of experience to the team, but also his search dogs who were instrumental in many significant finds during their time with us, notably the crashed aircraft on Ingleborough in 2010. Bill's expertise in rope rescue and safe systems of work led to a significant improvement in the team's rope rescue capability, and firmly cemented the excellent relations that the team has with Lyon Equipment. Bill is continuing to

serve Mountain Rescue in Scotland, where he remains a search dog handler, and will be joining the Braemar MR Team too. Scotland's gain is definitely our loss. Good luck to Bill, Caroline, Glen and Angus in their new life up North!


Sep. 9th Sun. 10.50hrs – Three Peaks walk (Horton in Ribblesdale) – Alert only

 CRO duty controllers were advised that a Three Peaks walker (m, 46), last seen at Ribblehead at 12.00 noon the previous day, had not returned to his car at Horton in Ribblesdale. All local hotels were phoned, in case the missing walker had stayed the night and search planning was beginning when North Yorkshire Police officers found him, back at his car and about to drive off. Without a map, he had walked over Whernside and Ingleborough, but taken the wrong descent route, slept rough (in a cave) and arrived in Clapham, where he phoned for a taxi to take him back to Horton.

Sep. 22nd Sat. 19.32hrs – Ingleborough – Alert only

 A father reported that his daughter – 'an experienced walker' – had become separated from the rest of her party on Ingleborough. She had not been heard from for an hour and was believed not to have reached the summit, so the father was going to look for her. 24 minutes later, the CRO Duty Controller was advised that she had been found and that both were on their way home.

59. Sep. 27th Thu. 11.04hrs – Gordale Beck, North of Mastiles Lane, Malham Moor – Mountain Rescue


 A diabetic student (m, 17), on a field visit, collapsed, falling face-down in the beck. He was recovered by companions, then regained consciousness. YAS first requested CRO's help in locating him, via PhoneFind, but this did not work (Perhaps the original call roamed to a different network?). A second caller gave a grid reference which, though 900m out, was at least near Mastiles Lane. YAS road ambulance and rapid response vehicle, YAA and CRO all attended and, after attention from the paramedics, the student was driven by team vehicle to the YAS ambulance, parked at the roadside.

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.

OCTOBER


60. Oct. 13th Sat. 10.06hrs – Pen-y-ghent – Mountain Rescue

 A Three Peaks walker (m) slipped on wet rocks, just below the summit of Pen-y-ghent, sustaining a suspected ankle fracture. He telephoned for help, but also started to make his way down the hill after his ankle was strapped up by a passer-by. CRO team members, accompanied by YAS staff, met the injured walker near the top of Horton Scar Lane. He was then driven in a CRO vehicle to Horton-in-Ribblesdale from where a road ambulance took him to hospital

Oct. 15th Mon. 03.56hrs – Hawksworth, West Yorkshire – Alert only

 The CRO Duty Controller was contacted by YAS to help identify the location of a serious road traffic accident through the use of SARLOC – a computer software application available to mountain rescue teams that can help phone users to share the location of their smart phone.

61. Oct. 17th Wed. 02.00hrs – Pen-y-ghent – Mountain Rescue

 A walker (m) on an evening excursion from Settle to Ribblehead became lost after descending from the summit of Pen-y-ghent. During a brief and muffled telephone call, the CRO Duty Controller was able to establish only that the lost person had a fading torch battery, was beside a dry-stone wall and most likely located some distance from the summit in the direction of Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Five separate CRO hill teams were deployed to search the main path corridors on the west and south sides of the hill. The lost walker was located not far from Hull Pot, near to the fell gate at the top of Horton Scar Lane. He was cold, tired and hungry, but otherwise okay. The walker was brought down in a CRO vehicle and given a lift back to Settle by a CRO team member.

62. Oct. 25th Thu. 15.45hrs – Whit-a-Green, Horton in Ribblesdale – Animal Rescue



Natural England staff reported a ewe stranded in an un-named cave entrance whose stream runs into the Alum Pot system. In the evening, four CRO members went up and wrestled the sheep out, taking care not to drive it further in and into the stream-way

NOVEMBER

63. Nov. 4th Sun. 14.05hrs – Pen-y-ghent – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f) on Pen-y-ghent summit jarred her back, resulting in much reduced mobility. On arrival at the rendezvous point at Dale Head, it was found that the cloud base prevented the YAA helicopter from accessing the casualty. Instead, the pilot dropped his paramedics off on the hill at the base of the cloud mass (about 600 m O.D.), so they could walk up to the casualty.

The pilot then returned to the RV point and shuttled eight team together with a Bell stretcher and other kit, to the same point. This sped up access to the casualty, so that a stretcher carry could be undertaken. The intention was then to withdraw the airborne paramedics, to free up the aircraft for further calls. The stretcher party and casualty would descend towards Hull Pot for collection by a team vehicle. Fortunately, just after the stretcher carry commenced, there was a significant improvement in visibility on the summit. This allowed the pilot to land near the stretcher party and members and a road crew paramedic, take the casualty down to the road ambulance in Horton in Ribblesdale – better for the patient than a longer carry and Land Rover ride down the rough track to Horton.

Team members and the rest of the casualty's party walked down to the team vehicles at Hull Pot and were then taken off the hill back to Horton. Many thanks to the YAA helimed crew for their assistance on this call, particularly with the ferry service which considerably reduced the time that was required to reach the casualty.

64. Nov. 18th Sun. 17.39hrs – Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Rescue



Two Three Peaks walkers (m, 27; m, 21) reported themselves lost in the dark, two hours after leaving the summit of Ingleborough, intending to finish at Horton in Ribblesdale. North Yorkshire Police's initial investigation suggested that they were between Gaping Gill and Trow Gill (Clapham). An on-line 'Phonefind' search by a CRO controller confirmed this. In order to save weight, they had left critical kit (compass, map, second light, second phone) at home, relying solely on a smartphone app.. When the duty controller rang them, they had only 7% battery and a single, fading head-torch. Otherwise, they were well-equipped and at least they 'stayed put', as instructed.

A small team from CRO drove up to Trow Gill, walked up to where they could see the torch, then escorted the pair to a team Land Rover. They were driven down to CRO Base and waited in the New Inn, for a friend to drive them back to Horton.

65. Nov. 20th Tue. 12.48hrs – Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton – Animal Rescue



A sheep was reported to be stranded on a ledge about 30m up on the quarry face and may have been there for two days. A team member abseiled down to its level, but the combination of criss-crossing, vegetated ledges and a rather lively young ewe made catching up with it, let alone wrestling it into a canvas bag, somewhat problematic. The member on the quarry face drew back, as it seemed likely that the sheep would leap to its death, rather than be caught. Eventually, it moved down onto a rock ledge with a sheltering overhang, immediately above. All agreed to leave it for a day or two, in the hope that it might be less active, when hungry (or might even find a way off?).

Former quarries are notorious for having unstable rock-faces and Mealbank is no exception. The top of the quarry, immediately above the last position of the sheep, has several apparently loose blocks, so abseiling down safely, either side of it, may pose a problem.

A few days later, the farmer tempted the sheep safely from the quarry face, by shaking a bag of feed-nuts. Clearly, hunger for food did, eventually, overcome its fear of humans!

DECEMBER

66. Dec. 1st Sat. 15.36 hrs – Near Quarry Pond, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Rescue



A call was received from North Yorkshire Police stating that a man was suffering shortness of breath and palpitations, near the quarry pond, on the return arm of the Waterfalls Trail.

Just as the first team member arrived at the location, CRO was stood down, as the man had walked to safety, in the village.

67. Dec. 2nd. 11.39hrs – Pen-y-ghent Side, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue



A walker reported herself lost and asked for advice, having set out to walk Pen-y-ghent.

Despite a poor signal, the police control room staff were able to get a location for her before losing the call. A small team drove to Hull Pot and walked towards the reported position. As they approached, they came across the 'missing' person and a companion, making their way towards Hull Pot. They were none the worse for their experience and were taken back to their car in Horton in Ribblesdale.

68. Dec. 4th. Tue. 12.37hrs – Watlowes ('Dry Valley'), Malham – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f, 60) slipped on wet limestone, twisting her knee, so that she couldn't walk.

Having immobilised her leg, CRO members helped her onto a stretcher and sledged/carried her to a team vehicle, then drove her down to Malham car park, to meet the road ambulance. After assessment by YAS paramedics, she was transferred to the family car for the journey to a hospital nearer her home.

Dec. 8th Sat. 19.58hrs – Aquamole Pot, Thornton in Lonsdale – Alert only



Nine cavers were reported overdue from a trip into Aquamole Pot. However, the call was cancelled only a few minutes later, as the group had emerged safely, but had not, immediately, had a phone signal.

69. Dec. 22nd. Sat. 15.10hrs – Below Lower Winskill, Langcliffe – Mountain Rescue



A walker (f, 46) slipped on mud, on the path from Lower Winskill down to Langcliffe, hearing a 'snap' as she injured an ankle. Having given her pain relief, team members put the patient into an insulated casualty bag, then carried and sledged her on a Bell stretcher down to the top of Pike Lane, Langcliffe. From there, a team vehicle took her to the village car park where a YAS road ambulance was waiting.

70. Dec. 26th. Wed. 17.56hrs – Ingleborough summit – Mountain Rescue



A walker (m, 52) reported himself (and dog) 'lost in fog and pitch black', near the Ingleborough summit shelter. He was escorted down to a team vehicle, near Crina Bottom, to be brought off the hill.

Avoidable.

REMEMBER - GIFT AID IT!

Any donation you make to our charity, be it a regular or one-off payment, can benefit us by up to 25p more for every pound you donate if you complete a Gift Aid Declaration form.

The Cave Rescue Organisation is a Registered Charity, number 241091



Set Up A Standing Order

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION - BANKERS ORDER (19)

To: The Manager, Bank
Address:
..... Post code:
Sort code: __-__-__ Account number:
Name of account to be debited -

Please enter details of your bank and 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 -
..... Post code -

Details of account to be credited

Bank - **Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 5 Hargreaves Street, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 1EN**

Sort code: **30-11-48** Account number: **00935977** A/C 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, via Lancaster LA2 8HH.

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

GIFT AID DECLARATION (19)

Details of donor

Title Full name.....

Address

.....

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Post code Telephone number

I want the Cave Rescue Organisation to treat

- * the enclosed donation of £.....
- * the donation(s) of £..... which I made on / / 20.....
- * all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise
- * all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise

as Gift Aid donations

(*) delete as appropriate

Signed - Date-20.....

~~~~~  
**Complete this form for just one of the four options above.**

#### Notes on completion of this form -

1. If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future:
  - (a) please notify the Cave Rescue Organisation if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force
  - (b) you can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the Cave Rescue Organisation - it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
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

Funding

We rely almost entirely upon voluntary contributions, bequests and grants for 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! Thank you everybody who has contributed in any way to our finances—we couldn't do it without you!

During 2018, CRO had Four qualified mountain rescue search dogs, Glen, Angus, Bella & Kes. MRSDE Handlers are required to keep an updated log of training along with regular search training in Woodland, Mountain environment and Night time searches as well as 2 to 3 days National Training per month plus regional Training on a Sunday.



MRSDE Callouts 2018
Our dog handlers were called to 4 incidents outside our team area in 2018.



For more information on mountain rescue search dogs visit www.mountainrescuesearchdogsengland.org.uk

15th Jan Wasdale MRT – Scar Lathing, Scafell Assist in major search for walker (m, 29) last seen setting off to climb Scafell Pike, two days before. Found by search dogs, handler and local team navigator, en route to search area. Walker had become lost, then fallen and sustained injuries, lying in boggy ground for two days and two nights before being found. Evacuated by Coastguard helicopter.

15th Jan Upper Wharfedale FRA – Outskirts of Skipton Assist in search for vulnerable female (63) missing from home. Fields and river-bank searched, but nothing found. Found, deceased, by a member of the public, ten days later, 1½ miles downstream.

2nd Jul Swaledale MRT – Kirkby Fleetham (WNW of Northallerton) Assist in search for local male, missing for nine hours and considered to be at risk. Found walking home from a friend's house by North Yorkshire Police.

14th Sep Teesdale and Weardale S&MRT – Shiney Row, Houghton le Spring Assist in re-newed search for male (30), missing since 18th August. Found, deceased, in dense woodland, by local team search dog.

On 1st January 2019, SARDA England rebranded to become MRSD (England)



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



Incidents 2018

Numbers in brackets indicate fatalities

Cave/Mine/other underground 5

Mountain 53 (2)

Climbing 2

Animal 8

Other incidents 2

Main team total 70 (2)

CRO dogs/ handlers assisting

In other teams' areas 4

TOTAL 74

Standby/Alert Calls: 14

People involved 82

Sheep 5 / lambs 3

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS

Cave incidents

Reported overdue 3

Cavers self-marooned 1

Cavers trapped by flood water 1

Climbing Incident

Fall from pitch 2

Mountain incidents

Falls / slips 24

Falls - mountain biking 1

Collapses/medical condition 12 (1)

Overdue/ Reported missing 6

Knee problems 1

Recover Deceased 1 (1)

Summary of Statistics

Year	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total incidents attended	74 (2)	98(4)	103(3)	84 (3)	74 (9)	64 (0)	73 (5)
Cave/Mine	5	10(1)	6	10 (1)	7	8	7
Cave Diving in Mines	0	0	0	0	1 (1)	0	0
Mountain	53 (2)	65(3)	73(2)	57 (2)	56(6)	46	49 (1)
Climbing	2	3	5	1	2	1	-
Animal	8	11	7	3	4	5	8
Other incidents	2	2	8	10	3 (2)	2	2
CRO dogs + handlers							
assisting in other teams' areas	4	7	4	2	1	2	7

There were no 'Cave, assisted by divers', or 'open water diving' incidents in this six year period.

Since 1935, CRO has attended 3001 incidents

Cave 735

Cave (assisted by divers) 10

Cave diving 16

Disused mines 17

Other underground 1

Mountain 1328

Climbing 107

Open water diving 11

Animal - surface 156

underground 316

CRO / SARDA dogs and handlers

searching

in other teams' areas 199

Other incidents 103

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

This has involved 4275 people (aged 5 months to 87 years), 255 lambs, 230 sheep,

80 dogs, 13 calves, 11 cows/heifers, 9

ducks, 1 bullock, 1 cat and 1 rabbit plus

recovery of a wide variety of objects.



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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 Jack Pickup, Simon Johson, Phil James, Sean Whittle, Rae Lonsdale and Phil Nuttall

Cover photo: Incident 45, Crummockdale, 14th July 2018

Other photographs by Jonty Rhodes, Roy Holmes, Phil James, Rae Lonsdale, Sean Whittle (CRO).

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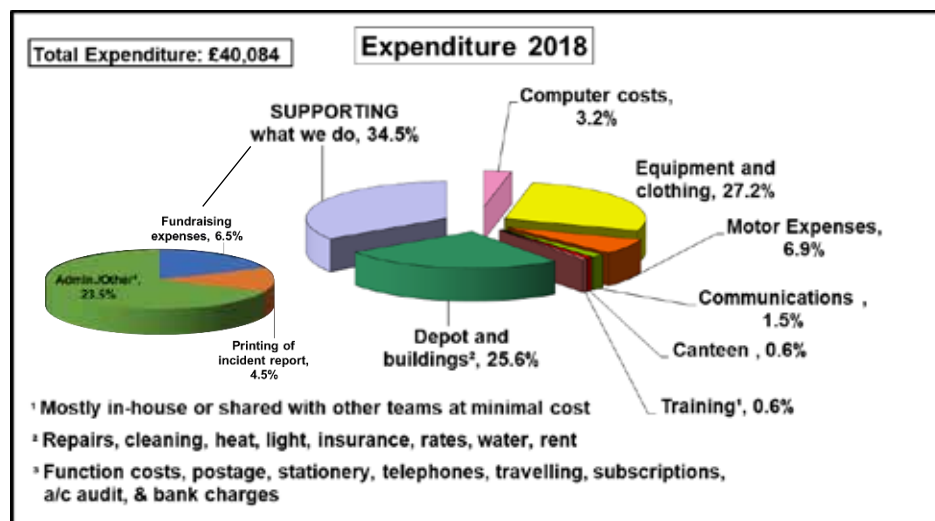
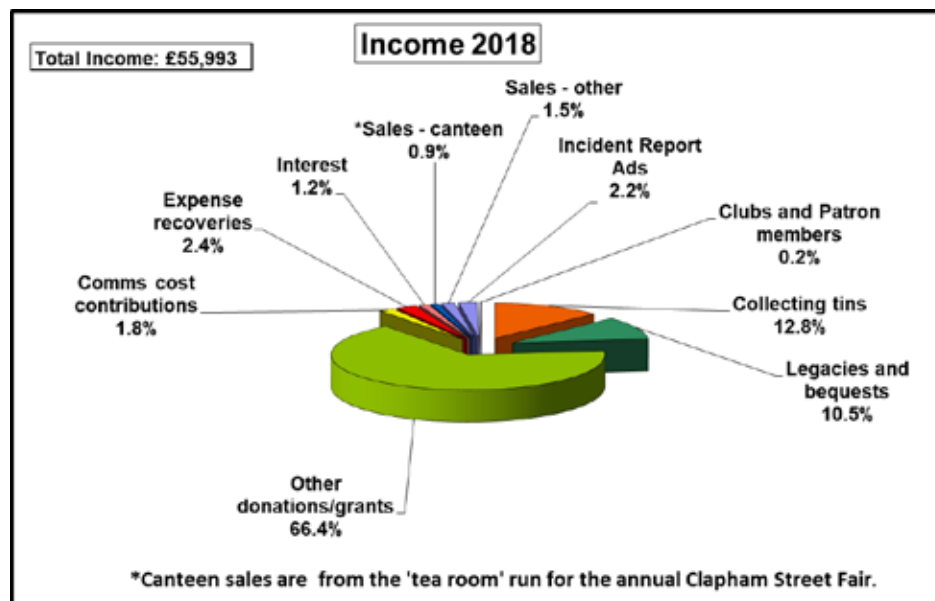
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Cave Rescue Organisation

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Financial Summary 2018



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 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission. Click on 'Search for a charity', then type 'Cave Rescue Organisation' in the search box.



**THE CRO
INGLEBOROUGH
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**& CLAPHAM
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THE CRO INGLEBOROUGH CHALLENGE

Marathon & 12 Mile Trail

Run or Walk

Saturday 16th May 2020

(Saturday 18th May 2019)



A sponsorship event to raise money for the Mountain & Cave Rescue



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

