

CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

RESCUE 2020

Incidents attended during 2019



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

So, it happened. We reached over a hundred incidents in the year – 102, in fact. This has been the busiest year in the Cave Rescue Organisation's history. It's not something to celebrate, but it's certainly a year to reflect upon.

It's been over a hundred times when the Cave Rescue Organisation has been called to help those in need and over a hundred times when members of our team have left their family, friends and places of work to come to the aid of those who needed us.

There is though, so much more than the operational side of what we do. So many people, in so many ways, keep the CRO going, allowing us to come to the aid of others. From your donations to the partners and employers who understand and contribute in their own way. They provide not just physical support, but the emotional support that we need in the too often, difficult circumstances we face. These people rarely get the recognition they deserve.

Therefore, I would like to state that I am proud to be associated with all the women and men involved with the CRO, those who offer their time and energy in such selfless acts. You turned out over a hundred times and I know that, if asked, you'd do it a hundred times more.

So please, visitors, locals and team members enjoy yourselves in the Dales and stay safe. Learn from the experiences of others, as described here,

and make informed decisions in what you do. The Dales will always be there tomorrow and they will always welcome you back.

Thank you,

Sean Whittle

Chair, Cave Rescue Organisation.

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 and ankle support.
- 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.

ABBREVIATIONS used in this leaflet

COMRU Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit
CPR Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation
CumPol Cumbria Police
DofE Duke of Edinburgh's Award
EOC Emergency Operations Centre
FIM Force Incident Manager
FCR Force Control Room
GNAA Great North Air Ambulance
HART Hazardous Area Response Team

LanCon Lancashire Constabulary

'Misper' missing person

MREW Mountain Rescue (England & Wales)

NWAA North West Air Ambulance

NWAS North West Ambulance Service

NYF&RS North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

NYP North Yorkshire Police

SwMRT Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team

UWFRA Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Assoc'n

YAA Yorkshire Air Ambulance

YAS Yorkshire Ambulance Service

ABOUT THE INCIDENTS WE ATTENDED DURING 2019

Incident Categories

We categorise incidents as:

'Cave' or 'Mine'



'Mountain':-

Walker/Other person



Fell Runner



Paraglider



Cyclist



Climber



Caver on surface



Swift Water



Quad rider



'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

2019 = 102

84 'mountain' incidents

6 'cave/mine' incidents

7 'animal' incidents (3 u/grd, 4 surface)

3 'local' incidents (team's MR skills

applied in 'other' locations)

plus 14 alerts for overdue cavers and walkers, not requiring a call out.

Total volunteer hours on incidents:

5125, plus 17 hours for alerts.

All incidents are in North Yorkshire unless otherwise stated.

Incidents During 2019

JANUARY

01. Jan. 6th Sun. 14.25 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident

A walker (f, 69) slipped and fell on wet limestone pavement, in low cloud, at the top of Malham Cove. CRO team members treated her lower leg for a suspected fracture, then carried her, by stretcher, to a team Land Rover for transport down to Malham village and transfer to a YAS road ambulance.

02. Jan. 17th Thu. 20.25 Moor Head Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Incident

A mountain biker (m, 60) on an evening ride hit a patch of ice on the descent to Helwith Bridge. Catapulted from his cycle, he dislocated a shoulder. Team members gave him pain relief and immobilised the injury before driving him to the road-head in a team Land Rover. YAS paramedics administered further pain relief, then took him to hospital for an X-ray and relocation of the joint.




Dislocated shoulder

This QR code will take you to our website
www.cro.org.uk



03. Jan. 19th Sat. 08.51 Pen-y-ghent, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Rescue


 A walker (m, 40) slipped on ice, just below the summit of Pen-y-ghent, on the path towards Hull Pot and heard a snap from his right ankle. CRO members responded, but as many active members were beginning a day's casualty care training, over at UWFR's base in Grassington, a small group also set off from there, in an UWFR vehicle. The casualty's companions, who had been keeping him warm, in low cloud and snowy conditions, were escorted off the hill, while he was splinted and put into an insulated casualty bag. He was carried and sledged over snow and rough terrain, the kilometre and a half down to a CRO vehicle. Patient and stretcher were driven down to meet a YAS road ambulance, in Horton in Ribblesdale.




A group shelter is vital for casualty care, on most days of the year. Both photos incident no 3.




04. Jan. 25th Fri. 12.25 Grain Head, Whernside – Mountain Rescue

 A walker (m, 31) slipped on the descent from Whernside and sustained a suspected ankle fracture. Team members found him being assisted down the hill by his companions. They assessed him, splinted the injured leg and provided pain relief. He was then stretchered to a team vehicle and driven to a YAS road ambulance, waiting at the Station Inn, Ribblesdale.


05. (same day) 13.35 Leck Fell, Cowan Bridge, Lancashire – Mountain Incident

 While the previous incident was ongoing, a quad-bike rider, assisting in a game shoot, rolled his vehicle and sustained back injuries. NWAS put the team on stand-by, as both a road ambulance and the NWAA helicopter were on scene. However, the helicopter became clouded in, so the team was requested to attend and assist. Another CRO Land Rover and crew responded from Clapham, together with five members and a vehicle from incident no 4. They assisted NWAS personnel in stretcher the casualty to the waiting road ambulance.

06. Jan. 27th Sun. 14.02 Ingleborough – Mountain Incident


 A team member came across a walker, one of a group of five, showing signs of mild hypothermia. He was provided with additional warm clothing, food and drink. The team member requested assistance in getting the casualty off the hill and a rendezvous at Trow Gill was agreed, as the casualty was warming sufficiently to walk, initially with assistance. A team vehicle met the group at the base of Trow Gill and transported them back to CRO Base, at Clapham, to meet members of their party who had gone to collect their vehicle. After a final check-up, the casualty was allowed to return home.

07. Jan. 28th Mon. 11.40 Top of Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident

 A walker (m, 72) slipped and fell on the limestone pavement, sustaining a suspected ankle fracture. Team members splinted the injured limb, then carried the patient by stretcher to a team Land Rover which took him to a YAS road ambulance, waiting in Malham. On this incident, a team member slipped and fell, injuring his wrist. No treatment was needed at the scene, but a later hospital check revealed a fracture to his forearm.


FEBRUARY

08. Feb. 2nd Sat. 18.42 Souther Scales Fell, Ingleborough – Mountain Incident


 Two walkers (m 26, f 25) became benighted when trying to detour around the steep ground below Swine Tail. Without map, torch,

compass or winter gear, they lost their bearings. A small team was sent to the location given by Phonefind and, after a check on their well-being, escorted them down to a team vehicle for transport back to their car. This was the couple's first outing in the hills. Although not adequately equipped this time, perhaps after the advice they were given, they will be better prepared next time!


Feb. 16th Sat. 15.07 Roaring Hole, Chapel le Dale, Ingleton – Alert only

 Two cavers were reported to be 'trapped', two hours after entering Roaring Hole, Southerscales. Ten minutes later they were reported to be on the surface and walking back down to Chapel le Dale. No action required.

09. Feb. 20th Wed. 14.08 Path above Thornton Force, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A visitor (m, 52) was reported to have collapsed and lost – then regained – consciousness at the top of the steps above Thornton Force, on the Waterfalls Trail. He was uninjured and declined to be stretchered to a team Land Rover, waiting on Twisleton Lane. Instead, he was escorted down to Tom's Cabin and across fields to the Kingsdale road, where YAS paramedics were waiting to assess him.


10. Feb. 23rd Sat. 12.29 Giggleswick Scar North, Lawkland – Mountain Incident

 A climber (m, 55) suffered a medical event, fell from the crux of his climb and was left suspended, semi-conscious, in his harness. His second lowered him down to their stance – a narrow (60cm) ledge, 6m above the ground. The YAS ambulance crew reached the ledge, but were limited in what they could do in that

situation. When CRO members arrived, they were able to lower him off, then stretch him down, through the trees, to a road ambulance. He was assessed by an air ambulance doctor and carried across the road to a waiting YAA helicopter.

MARCH

Mar. 9th Sat. 22.14 Lancaster Hole, Casterton Fell, Cumbria – Alert only

 A team member staying at Bull Pot Farm phoned the duty controller to advise of an overdue group of cavers, doing a through trip from Wretched Rabbit to Lancaster Hole. Others at Bull Pot Farm had established that the party had reached the base of the entrance pitch in Lancaster Hole, but two novices were too exhausted to climb out without assistance. There were sufficient cavers at Bull Pot Farm, including members of various cave rescue teams, to help the exhausted cavers to the surface. CRO members were not needed.



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Mar. 11th Mon. 20.30 Three Peaks – Alert only

 Concern was expressed for a Three Peaks walker who had not returned home two hours after the expected time. Nor had he responded to phone messages. As enquiries were being made, the walker made contact. He had been delayed by wintry conditions and by helping two other walkers, unsure of the route.

11. Mar. 20th Wed. 19.39 Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Incident

 A Three Peaks walker (m, 45?) rang an acquaintance in Horton, to say that he had fallen while descending from Ingleborough and was bleeding significantly from a head-wound. The acquaintance rang YAS, whose dispatcher, unable to call the casualty back or know where to send assistance, called CRO. A text was sent, using Phonefind, but without immediate response. Small teams set off to various access points, but then a text was received from the casualty, saying that he was walking down to Clapham. This was followed by his mobile phone being tracked near The Lake, on an on-screen map. A team Land Rover was able to pick him up and all other parties were stood down. Back at CRO Base, a paramedic was able to assess the patient, before a precautionary trip to hospital.


12. Mar. 23rd Sun. 12.38 Thornton Force, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A visitor (m, 61) fell and tumbled four or five metres onto rocks, near Thornton Force, on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. He sustained a deep gash to one leg and a scalp wound. A YAS paramedic assessed the patient and stopped the


bleeding so that CRO members could stretch him to a team Land Rover, which took him to a road ambulance. An air ambulance circled overhead, but was not needed.



13. Mar. 24th Mon. 13.33 Path to Pen y ghent, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Incident


 While trying to take a photograph from the top of a small limestone scar, on the path from Brackenbottom to Pen y ghent, a walker (m, 13) fell on to rocks, below, sustaining suspected chest injuries. After attention from a YAS paramedic, it was agreed that he could walk the short distance to a CRO Land Rover, which took him down to a road ambulance, waiting near Brackenbottom.

Mar. 26th Wed 08.22 Pen y ghent, Horton in Ribblesdale – Alert only

 YAS received a call, saying that a walker (m, 45) was fitting 'on top of Pen y ghent'. YAS deployed both road and air ambulances, calling CRO as an added precaution. From home, the duty controller could see that the cloud base


was well above the summit, so agreed with YAS that CRO would not go out. It then transpired that the casualty had come round and had not been on the summit, anyway. With no response to CRO's Phonefind message, the duty controller rang the caller, who said they were walking off the hill and only two minutes from the road. He was asked to wait at the former Horton in Ribblesdale Primary School, to meet the two ambulances.

14. Mar. 26th Wed. 17.53 Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Incident


 Two Three Peaks walkers (m, 21; f, 21) became detached from a much larger sponsored walk group and, without map, took the wrong route off Ingleborough. Before the daylight was lost completely, they phoned NYP, who contacted CRO. The duty controller telephoned the 'mispers', then sent a Phonefind message, the reply to which placed them at Gaping Gill. A small CRO team drove to just below Trow Gill, then walked up to Gaping Gill. After confirming that both walkers were only a little cold, they loaned them lights and escorted them back to the Land Rover for the run down to CRO Base. Meanwhile an off-duty controller saw the main group in Horton in Ribblesdale and suggested that they send a car to Clapham, to collect their colleagues.

APRIL

15. Apr. 6th Sat. 19.00 Above Stockdale Farm, Settle – Mountain Incident


 A walker (f, 16) was reported to have back and hip injuries, on the fells above Stockdale Farm. A phone call revealed that there had been no fall; the casualty had sat down to rest, but was unable to stand again, because of a pre-existing condition. Once located, she was stretched down to Stockdale Farm, assessed by a team doctor and assisted into her group's minibus.

16. Apr. 7th Sun. 19.41 Rayside Plantation, Clapham – Mountain Incident


 A group of Three Peaks walkers decided to descend from Ingleborough to finish in Clapham. On the way, two of them developed leg injuries, preventing them from completing the walk. They waited for help while the others continued. CRO members did not find them at their reported location, so the search area was

widened and they were found, a little North of Rayside Plantation (i.e. off-route). They were escorted to a team Land Rover and driven down to Clapham.

17. Apr. 8th Mon. 13.34 Whernside, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A walker (f) fell and injured her leg, near the summit of Whernside. As CRO team members were assembling near Bruntscar, the YAA helicopter arrived. Low cloud and strong, gusting wind prevented it from landing near to the injured walker, so a few team members were flown to a high point on Whernside to accompany paramedics to the casualty site. The injured walker was assessed and her leg splinted before she was stretched down the ridge to the aircraft, which flew her to hospital.

18. Apr. 11th Thu. 18.00 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A walker (f, 20), on the return leg of the Waterfalls Trail, fell and heard a crack from her ankle, after which she was unable to stand or to walk down to Storrs Common. The CRO doctor assessed the patient and splinted her badly swollen ankle. Team members stretched her to a Land Rover, to be driven up to the road and meet the YAS ambulance.



Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Incident no. 18




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Apr. 14th Sun. 11.35 Path to Cawden Flatts, Malham – Alert only

 YAS received a 999 call saying that a walker had felt dizzy and fallen, on the path from Gordale Bridge over to Malham Cove. When the CRO duty controller rang in, he was told that a road ambulance was en route, but a further call stated that the patient had walked into the National Park Centre. A 'stand down' was agreed.


19. Apr. 18th Thu. 14.20 'High Risk' Missing Person, Horton in Ribblesdale – Local Incident

 NYP asked for assistance after a man (mid-40s) threatened suicide and was believed to have headed up Ingleborough. Two team members went to Horton to liaise with NYP and two others went to collect a team vehicle. All were stood down when a Police officer found the missing man on Cam Fell.


20. Apr. 19th Fri. 17.56 Whernside, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A Three Peaks walker experienced severe cramp on the summit of Whernside and was unable to continue. Team members took a stretcher to the site, but the casualty was persuaded to stand and was, eventually, able to walk down to Bruntscar. A team Land Rover took him to his group's support vehicle at the Old Hill Inn.


21. Apr. 20th Sat. 11.14 White Scar Cave, Ingleton – Cave Incident

 A visitor (f, 82) lost consciousness, bending down through a low section, well into the show cave. A YAS paramedic provided casualty care and CRO members stretchered the patient out to the road ambulance, waiting in the car park.


22. (same day) 13.57 Beezley Falls, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A visitor (m, 61) with pre-existing heart and other medical conditions, became unwell, descending the steps below Beezley Falls. He was assessed by a paramedic team member and given oxygen, until his condition stabilised. He was stretchered down to the family car and taken to hospital, for a precautionary check-up, as the YAS ambulance had been diverted to another call (See incident no 23).

23. (same day) 15.20 Manor Bridge, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Incident

 A visitor (f, 35) collapsed with uncontrolled epileptic seizures while walking the Waterfalls Trail. She was treated by YAS and NWAA paramedics, then stretchered by team members to a road ambulance, waiting in the car park. This took her to the air ambulance, which flew her to hospital.


24. Apr. 21st Sun. 17.35 Pot Scar, Feizor – Mountain Incident

 A climber (f, 28) had just descended the crag and unclipped, when a rock fell from above, causing her to lose balance and tumble down a scree slope, sustaining a lower leg injury. Team members assisted YAA personnel in securing and splinting the casualty, then stretchered her down the scree and grass slope to the helicopter for the flight to hospital.



Pot Scar, Feizor. Stretcher carry to helicopter.

25. Apr. 22nd Mon. 11.36 Janet's Foss, Malham – Mountain Incident

 A walker (m, 72) slipped and sustained a head injury on the path by Janet's Foss. CRO was called to assist YAS, but was stood down as the first member arrived at the road-head.

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Fun with Crow

There aren't many rescue teams whose initials spell anything, let alone something


26. Apr. 27th Sat. 13.20 Whernside, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A runner (m, 52) was treated by CRO team members, after falling and hearing a crack, on the summit of Whernside. He was stretchered down, then driven to the Hill Inn for onward transport. While this incident was being dealt with, another runner (m, 49) competing in the Three Peaks Race, suffered a severe pain in his right knee, also on the summit. He was unable to continue or to walk. A CRO member assessed him and radioed for assistance. He was stretchered to a waiting air ambulance involved in incident no 27 and flown down to Bruntscar. A waiting St John ambulance returned him to Horton

27. (same day) 13.26 Whernside, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

 A runner (m, 30), competing in the Three Peaks Race, fell, suffering facial injuries and became unconscious on the first steep descent from the summit of Whernside. He regained consciousness and was assessed by a CRO member who radioed for more assistance. YAA soon arrived on scene and he was flown to hospital

28. (same day) 14.20 Ingleborough – Mountain Incident

 A runner (m) competing in the Three Peaks Race went missing after reaching Ingleborough in 12th place. There was concern when he hadn't arrived back in Horton, nor been seen on the descent. A small team was

interesting, but for at least four decades the Cave Rescue Organisation has used 'Crow' as its radio call-sign and has referred to each of its vehicles accordingly (Crow One etc.). The first drawing of the extrovert 'Crow' by Mark Nuttall, to promote the CRO Ingleborough Challenge, was a head-smacking 'Why didn't I think of that?' moment for some of us. Now, thanks to some additional drawing by well-known illustrator Hunt Emerson, the cheeky Crow (along with girlfriend Crowena) is here again, to offer advice for the unwary visitor. All the messages are taken for granted by the seasoned outdoor enthusiast, but looking through the pages *(continued on page 12)*

about to leave Clapham for Trow Gill and search from there, when the runner returned safely to Horton, having taken an unintended detour via Gaping Gill.



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29. (same day) 15.43 Whernside, Ingleton – Mountain Incident



Three walkers (m, f, f) were assisted down the final sections to a team Land Rover and driven to the Hill Inn

30. Apr. 30th Tue. 13.21 Simon Fell Breast, Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Incident



A paraglider lost control of his craft and hit the fell-side. He reported having breathing difficulties and wheezing. Team members set off to the Nick Pot track, picking up YAS paramedics on the way. They were joined by both NWAA and GNAA helicopters. Suspecting spinal and pelvic injuries in addition to those to the chest, the air ambulance crews worked together to stabilise the casualty. Team members then carried him to the GNAA aircraft for the flight to hospital.

MAY

31. May 2nd Thu. 15.21 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident



A caller reported that someone had 'fallen approximately 100ft,' at Malham Cove. Having dispatched a road ambulance, rapid response vehicle and air ambulance, YAS called out CRO. YAS personnel determined that life was extinct and departed. When NYP's formalities had been concluded, CRO members searched the top of the Cove and one ledge for any property or evidence, then carried the deceased (m, 18) to a team vehicle and drove down to Town Head Farm to await the undertaker. **FATAL.**

32. May 9th Thu. 15.11 Below Snow Falls, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Incident



A walker (f, 75) tripped and fell, not far downstream of Snow Falls. She was reported to be bleeding seriously from a head wound. When team members arrived, the casualty had been well bandaged by one of her group. Following an assessment by CRO team members, she was able to walk, with assistance, down to Storrs Common and given into the care of YAS paramedics.

33. May 11th Sat. 10.16 Brackenbottom, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Incident



A walker (m, 29), training for a later attempt on the Three Peaks, announced "I think my heart has stopped", then collapsed. He was on the path above Brackenbottom and his companions started CPR, keeping this going until the arrival of YAS paramedics, who were successful in restarting the casualty's heart. CRO members carried the casualty to the YAA helicopter for monitoring and evacuation.

34. May 12th Sun. 09.00 Deepdale, Dent, Cumbria – Animal Rescue



Two terriers disappeared into a narrow cave fissure; only one came out. The dog's owner and others had already worked hard to locate the dog and asked CRO to help. Team members spent a full day breaking boulders and removing rock from a very narrow cave passage, but by the end of the day they had reached a point where the passage was too small to continue. They had not seen or heard anything of the missing terrier.

35. (same day) 20.23 Simpson's Pot, Kingsdale, Thornton in Lonsdale – Cave Incident



Four cavers were reported overdue from a pull-through trip* from Simpson's Pot to Valley Entrance. They had been underground for over eight hours and were some three hours beyond their expected exit time. Just as CRO cavers were about to start a search, two of the missing cavers emerged from Valley Entrance and said that their colleagues were unable to pass through the top of Slit Pot – an underground pitch with a notorious constriction. CRO members abseiled through the system to reach the stranded cavers, then led them to and lowered them down an alternative, more spacious, route. They were met by a team from Valley Entrance and escorted out, safe, well and relieved to be out.

[* This involves descending the cave system by abseiling down pitches (drops), pulling the rope down after each pitch and exiting the cave at a lower level.]

34 (continued) May 16th. Thu. 11.00

Three members returned to Deepdale and worked for a further six hours but were still unsuccessful in reaching the missing dog.

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36. May 18th Sat. 13.30 Waterfalls Trail, below Thornton Force, Ingleton – Mountain Incident



A walker (f, 77) slipped and fell, injuring the back of her head. When CRO members arrived, they found her much improved from the original description. Following assessment, it was agreed that the patient could walk to the team Land Rover for the drive to the road-head on the Kingsdale road. Here, she was further assessed by YAS paramedics. An air ambulance circled overhead, but returned to its base when the patient was seen to be walking.

37. May 19th Sun. 11.48 Whernside, Ingleton – Mountain Incident



A walker (f, 56) fell, sustaining an injured wrist and arm, somewhere on Whernside. The CRO duty controller spoke to the patient's husband, learning that she had a broken arm and a minor head wound. This information was passed to YAS and YAA. With the phone signal lost and a helicopter due on scene before CRO members could be there, the duty controller decided not to alert the full team. However, another duty controller was setting off to walk on Whernside as the call came in and was able to relay the helicopter's activities. The casualty was assisted to the aircraft and was transferred to a road ambulance, near the Hill Inn.

May 20th Mon. 18.55 Riverside Walk, Airton – Alert only



UWFRA transferred a request from YAS to assist with the recovery of a body, found in the River Aire, at Airton. However, before CRO's swift-water rescue team could be activated, YAS sent a 'stand down' message, as NYF&RS personnel were on scene and dealing with the situation.



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f CaveRescueOrganisation

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38. May 23rd Thu. 17.24 Near Ellerbeck, Chapel le dale – Animal Rescue



Walkers had spotted a lamb down a 2m fissure and reported it, with a grid reference. Eventually, with assistance from the farmer at Ellerbeck Farm, the lamb was located down a tiny hole and extracted using a lassoing technique.

39. May 29th Wed. 11.25 Mealbank Quarry, Ingleton – Animal Rescue



Walkers had reported a lamb several metres down a cliff face and the lucky lamb had landed on a grassy shelf, so had plenty to eat. A small team abseiled down and brought it back to safety.

40. (same day) 15.09 Gaping Gill, Clapham – Mountain Incident



A member (m, 48) of the club running the winch-meet at Gaping Gill experienced heart palpitations and a racing pulse. CRO was called and requested a helicopter. NWAA was unable to land because of low cloud. Meanwhile, CRO members who had been on stand-by were called to assist. Team vehicles were able to drive up to Gaping Gill and, after a brief examination, brought the patient down to Clapham where a YAS road ambulance was waiting.

(Continued from page 9.) looking / through the pages of this booklet, it won't be difficult to find examples of where the less experienced 'came unstuck'. Crow's advice is available as an A4 sheet with advisory colour cartoons on one side and a choice of colouring sheet for young children or a quiz or crossword on the reverse. Publication was enabled by a grant from 'Stories in Stone', a scheme of conservation and community projects, concentrated on the Ingleborough area, led by our Clapham neighbours, the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (www.storiesinstone.org.uk).

Pop in to Crow Base, next door to Clapham's New Inn, on the first Saturday morning (ideally between 10.00 and 12.00) of any month to collect a free copy or copies or e-mail goingout@cro.org.uk for postal arrangements. A donation to cover postage costs would be good!

JUNE

41. Jun. 1st Sat. 12.57 Curtain Pot, Fountains Fell, Malham Moor – Cave Incident



A caver (m, 74), one of three exploring and excavating a 'new' cave, fell approximately 6m down a pitch, deep underground, sustaining a suspected fractured femur. The cave was not yet surveyed, nor were the passages of sufficient size to allow extraction of an immobilised casualty. As a result, the team called on neighbouring teams (UWFRA, COMRU and SwMRT) and our own Cavers' List to assist with modifying the cave and placing rigging to facilitate egress. In the meantime the casualty was cared for by a team doctor assisted by trained casualty carers, who monitored his condition and packaged him for eventual extraction. Sadly, due to the nature of his injuries and the extended time needed to create a navigable way out, the casualty succumbed to his injuries and died just prior to the evacuation beginning. **FATAL.** Total hours for all volunteers involved = 1,626

42. (same day) 15.52 County Pot, Casterton, Cumbria – Cave Incident



While CRO and others were engaged with incident no 41, a call was received for a caver (f, 36) with a leg injury, having fallen down a 6m pitch, while de-rigging County Pot. Members of CRO and of the Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club went to her aid, treated and splinted the leg and assisted her to the surface. Members of COMRU also assisted, en route to Curtain Pot. Members of the NWAS HART also arrived from Merseyside, having been informed, incorrectly, that CRO was unable to cope with two cave rescues at one time. They requested a helicopter evacuation, but as no air ambulance was available, a Coastguard helicopter flew in and the casualty was winched aboard for the journey to hospital. Most of the CRO and COMRU members proceeded to Fountains Fell, to assist at Curtain Pot.

43. (same day) 18.12 Top of Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident



With two incidents already in progress, a further call was received to a walker suffering a possible cardiac event on top of Malham Cove. Two CRO members were sent, in a team vehicle, and members of UWFRA, en route

to incident no 41 were diverted to Malham. However, the YAA helicopter was able to reach the casualty just before MRT members arrived. Following the paramedics' assessment, the casualty was flown down to Malham village for transfer to a road ambulance. Members of both teams returned to assist at Curtain Pot.

44. Jun. 2nd Sun. 12.17 Little Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Incident



A call was received to a walker (f, 44) suffering a cardiac event on the steep climb above Gaping Gill. As team members were at CRO Base, cleaning and sorting equipment from the previous day's incidents, they were able to respond immediately, arriving at the casualty site at the same time as YAA. Once the casualty had been assessed, team members stretchered her to the waiting helicopter.

45. Jun. 8th Sat. 12.02 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident



YAS received a report of someone having been seen falling from the top of Malham Cove. Having dispatched a road ambulance, rapid response vehicle, HART and air ambulance, they also called out CRO. YAS personnel determined that life was extinct and most departed. A CRO duty controller went to Malham, to liaise with NYP. Police formalities completed, CRO members searched the top of the Cove for any property or evidence, then carried the deceased to a team vehicle and drove him down to Town Head Farm to meet the undertaker. **FATAL.**

46. (same day) 12.58 Near top of Malham Cove – Mountain Incident



While awaiting more information from the on-scene controller for incident no 45, a call was received for a walker (m, 80) with a twisted ankle at the top of the steps on the West side of the Cove. The YAS paramedics already on scene started casualty care, ready for the arrival of team members, who packaged and stretchered the casualty down to a waiting vehicle, for transport to Malham and transfer to a YAS road ambulance.

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 Ure and its numerous waterfalls cascading 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.

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47. Jun. 18th Tue. 14.33 Southercales, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

On the way from Ingleborough to Chapel le Dale, a walker (f, 68) tripped on an undulation in the grassy path, hearing a snap and feeling serious pain in her left ankle. Fortunately, a passing caving instructor was a member of a neighbouring rescue team. He sheltered the patient and made her comfortable before CRO arrived. Having given some pain relief and splinted the leg, team members drove her down to the Hill Inn car park to meet a YAS ambulance.

Jun. 22nd Sat. 03.11 Malhamdale / Littondale – Alert only

CRO received a request to assist NYP in the search for a high risk missing person whose car was thought to have been found, empty, in Littondale. This is in UWFRA's area, so the request was passed to them. However, the location was then changed to Malhamdale, so the request was passed back. NYP found the misper, fast asleep in the car, so no action was required by either team.

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48. (same day) 17.01 Little Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Incident

On the descent from Ingleborough towards Gaping Gill, a walker (f, 59) slipped and fell forward, sustaining a facial injury. Although originally reported to have lost consciousness, briefly, and possibly having a hip injury, neither may have been the case, as she recovered before CRO team members arrived. Although a little shaky, she was able to stand and begin walking down to meet the team's 'hasty party'. After assessment by a team doctor, she was able to walk, unsupported, and was escorted down to team vehicles, waiting below Trow Gill. Back in Clapham, she was handed over to YAS paramedics.

49. Jun. 23rd Sun. 12.49 Ingleborough summit, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

A member of a school group (m, 13), walking the Three Peaks, developed pain in his upper right leg and was unable to continue beyond the Ingleborough summit shelter. Two teachers waited with him, while the rest of his group continued their walk. CRO team members drove to Crina Bottom and continued to the summit on foot. The young person was assessed, treated for his leg injury and evacuated by stretcher to Crina Bottom. From there, a CRO Land Rover took him to Ingleton for transfer to a YAS road ambulance.

50. Jun. 25th Tue. 10.46 Meal Bank Quarry, Ingleton – Animal Rescue

A farmer reported that one of his sheep and her two lambs were stranded on the former Meal Bank Quarry, Ingleton. He had seen them there on Saturday and hoped they would find their way down when they had eaten all the grass on their ledge. Three CRO members accessed the quarry face on foot and by rope, guided by radio by another team member and the farmer, watching from the quarry floor. Eventually, all the sheep were coaxed into following a series of steep ramps and ledges off the quarry face to safety.

51. Jun. 26th Wed. 17.17 Langcliffe Scar, near Settle – Local Incident

NYP requested the help of CRO to search footpaths between Settle and Malham for a missing local person. As CRO team members were mobilising, NYP officers found the missing person unharmed.

52. Jun. 27th Thu. 17.18 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident

The leader of a small group of adults rang for help when the other two experienced difficulty on the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove. A small CRO team assisted them off the rocks, onto a grassy area and into a team Land Rover. This took them, physically unharmed, to their own vehicle, near the village.

Jun. 29th Sat. 22.27 Three Peaks Walk – Alert only

A Three Peaks walker reported that someone who had been ahead of him had not arrived at his car when he (the second walker) arrived there. Seven minutes later, a further message was received from NYP 'Re walker on Yorkshire 3 Peaks – pls cancel – have located him in Airedale Hospital'.

JULY

53. Jul. 6th Sat. 04.59 Pen y ghent – Mountain Incident

A Three Peaks walker (m, 60) lost his footing on the steep, rocky path to the summit of Pen y ghent, falling about two metres and landing on his head, shoulder and arm. He sustained fractures to both wrists and slight head injuries, losing consciousness for a few minutes. CRO members stretched him down to a team Land Rover, passing hundreds of ascending walkers on the way. He was transferred to a YAS road ambulance, waiting at Brackenbottom.

54. Jul. 9th Tue. 23.42 Ingleborough – Mountain Incident

Three inexperienced walkers, attempting the Three Peaks, reported themselves lost, but uninjured on Ingleborough. The Phonefind app showed them to be on the Swinetail, so they



Queuing on Pen y ghent. Incident no 53.

were advised to return to the summit shelter. This they did, but declined to risk trying to find a way off and were told to stay at the shelter. One team member ran up the hill from Newby, one remained at home for communications and three took a team Land Rover to Crina Bottom, then walked up from there. The lost walkers were guided down to the vehicle and driven back to Horton in Ribblesdale. They had set off at 10.00. When they called 999, almost 14 hours later, they told NYP that they had unsuitable clothing, no water and little food. Lesson learned for next time.



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55. Jul. 13th Sat. 09.37 Whernside – Mountain Incident



A fell runner (f) slipped and fell near Grain Head. She remained conscious, but sustained a deep laceration to her forehead, nose and cheek. Her companions dealt with the immediate bleeding, but she felt too unwell to walk, so CRO were called. The casualty was assessed and her wounds dressed before she was stretchered down to a team vehicle at the aqueduct. She was transported to a companion's car at Ribblesdale, to go to hospital.

56. Jul. 14th Sun. 17.06 Broad Flats, above Malham Cove – Mountain Incident



A field studies student (f, 50) slipped and injured her ankle on rocky ground above Malham Cove, stepping into a rabbit hole. Despite help from companions, she was unable to walk. Team members assessed the injury and stretchered the casualty to a team vehicle. She was driven to the Field Centre, then, by a friend, to hospital.

57. Jul. 15th Mon. 13.30 Top of Malham Cove – Mountain Incident



A visitor (f, 62) was reported to have taken a fall at the top of Malham Cove and sustained a head injury. As team members were responding, YAS advised that the casualty had been able to make her way to the road ambulance. CRO stood down.

58. Jul. 16th Tue. 16.02 Giggleswick Scar South – Mountain Incident



As she was being lowered from her chosen climbing route, a climber (f, 56) fell the last 5ft to the ground and was in severe back pain. She was given pain relief and placed in a vacuum mattress on a Bell stretcher, then lowered gently over scree and through trees to a YAS ambulance at the roadside.

59. Jul. 21st Sun. 01.02 The Green, Clapham – Mountain Incident



Two people walking along a dark road, late at night fell over a wall, down a bank and into Clapham Beck. CRO members helped the man climb a step-ladder, to get out, but the woman had to be put in a casualty bag on a lightweight stretcher and carried to the waiting YAS ambulances.

60. Jul. 25th Thu. 19.16 - Ingleborough - Mountain Incident



In extremely hot and humid weather, a Three Peaks walker (m, 31) suffered prolonged and incapacitating cramp in one leg, reportedly on the summit of Ingleborough. It was not possible to confirm his party's location, so a small, fast group of team members ran up from Crina Bottom, with first aid kit and drinks. While they were en route, the casualty party's position was confirmed as between the Swine Tail and Simon Fell Breast, so the team continued, over the summit and down to the casualty site. Meanwhile, their Land Rover returned to Clapham. The initial CRO team provided a large quantity of water, as well as salty and sugary snacks, until the afflicted walker was able to begin walking again. He was assisted towards Sulber Nick, while two CRO Land Rovers took other members in support. The casualty's party was brought down to Austwick and returned to Horton in Ribblesdale, by car, while half of the team members opted to jog back to Clapham.



Many of our members and their spouses are excellent bakers. Don't believe it? See for yourself and sample their handiwork at the Clapham Street Fair on Saturday 25th July 2020.

Cave Rescue Organisation Charity Gift Aid Declaration

single or multiple donation (complete as appropriate)

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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Please send this completed form to: The Treasurer, Cave Rescue Organisation Clapham, via Lancaster. LA2 8HH

CRO Ingleborough Challenge

The CRO Ingleborough Challenge lets fell runners and walkers of all abilities enjoy the Three Peaks area of the Dales, while providing vital support to CRO. Participants can choose to run or walk either a 12 mile or a marathon circuit. Both routes explore the area around Ingleborough, the second highest of Yorkshire's Three Peaks and the heart of CRO's "patch". The routes pass through spectacular limestone countryside, and the marathon circuit goes over the summit of Ingleborough. The circuits are well-signed, with marshals at key checkpoints to assist participants with route finding.

Yet again the 2019 Challenge exceeded all expectations, with more challengers than ever before. As promised, we were blessed with perfect weather for the event. Thanks to everyone who took part and in particular thanks to everyone who arranged sponsors. With your help we raised over £10,115 for the team, our highest total to date.

It was another first as well this year with our youngest competitor ever, Ella Jackson, who at the age of 9, completed the 26 mile route and raised over £1,850 for the team..... with this sort of grit and determination, a possible future team member we hope!

The 2020 CRO Ingleborough Challenge will take place on Saturday May 16, 2020. As always the request for perfect weather conditions has been submitted, we are now just waiting for the official "thumbs up" before we can confirm that! All the other details for the event are in place and can be found on our website <https://cro.org.uk/the-cro-challenge>

We hope to see you there.
As always we would like to thank our commercial sponsors for their support for the 2019 event. They were:
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How could you help CRO?

There is a variety of ways in which almost anyone can support CRO; some are practical and others financial. If you live in our relatively small operational area, perhaps you might 'adopt' a place where copies of this booklet and our 'Calling for HELP' cards are displayed for others to pick up. If you provide accommodation or run some other 'public-facing' business, do you have space to display those publications and/or the Crow cartoon leaflet 'Take care... to enjoy the Dales'? Also, for supporters who are fairly active, but don't meet our operational membership criteria (availability, location, skills, fitness), we do have support membership, which might involve volunteering alongside the operational members on events such as the CRO Ingleborough Challenge and the Clapham Street Fair or could mean helping with maintenance, catering, admin or other 'background' tasks. Expressions of interest to secretary@cro.org.uk, please.

Some of us may have reservations about the use of social media in relation to rescue, but if used appropriately, Facebook can be a very valuable medium. Our Facebook 'page' is at facebook.com/CaveRescueOrganisation and tries to see a lighter side to what we do than does our web-site (www.cro.org.uk). It also offers advice and up-to-date news concerning the team and its activities. But Facebook can provide fund-raising and donation opportunities, too. There is a 'donate' button on CRO's page, as well as a list of current and recent 'Fundraisers'. Or, you can organise a fund-raising activity and promote it through your own Facebook page. Using your Newsfeed, select 'Fundraise' from the left menu, select 'Cave Rescue Organisation' and

you're off. At the risk of being boring, it would be good to know what is planned, before you are totally committed. Please run any novel ideas past our Secretary (secretary@cro.org.uk); on the one hand, we don't want the CRO name discredited, but on the other, we may be able to enhance your idea with support.



The Co-op Community Fund has paid for two trailers, scene lighting and water-rescue kit.

'Shop local' is always a good principle and we urge readers to do that where they can, particularly supporting those businesses that support CRO, either by advertising in this report or by hosting a collecting box or leaflet dispenser. If, on the other hand, internet shopping is your only option, then AmazonSmile can be set up to give CRO 0.5% of the cost of any eligible purchases at no extra cost to you. To do this, go to smile.amazon.co.uk, then type 'Cave Rescue Organisation' in the box under 'Or pick your own charitable organisation', click 'search', then confirm your choice. Any Amazon visits after this will prompt you to shop via AmazonSmile.

REMEMBER - GIFT AID IT!

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The Treasurer, Cave Rescue Organisation, Clapham, via Lancaster LA2 8HH.

61. Jul. 26th Fri. 13.41 Whernside – Mountain Incident



On the approach to the summit ridge of Whernside, in warm and humid conditions, a Three Peaks walker (m, 39) became exhausted, unable either to walk or stand and experiencing occasional cramps. Despite being given drinks and energy food, his situation did not improve and, after half an hour, his companions rang 999. NYP passed the request for help to CRO. Although the casualty was in North Yorkshire, a small 'hasty party' ran up on the Cumbria side of the hill, with water and appropriate snacks. A second CRO team set off with a stretcher, but this was not needed, as everyone walked gently down to the team vehicles. The 'casualty party' was driven back to Horton in Ribblesdale.

Jul. 30th Tue. 19.41 Grinton Area, Swaledale – Alert only

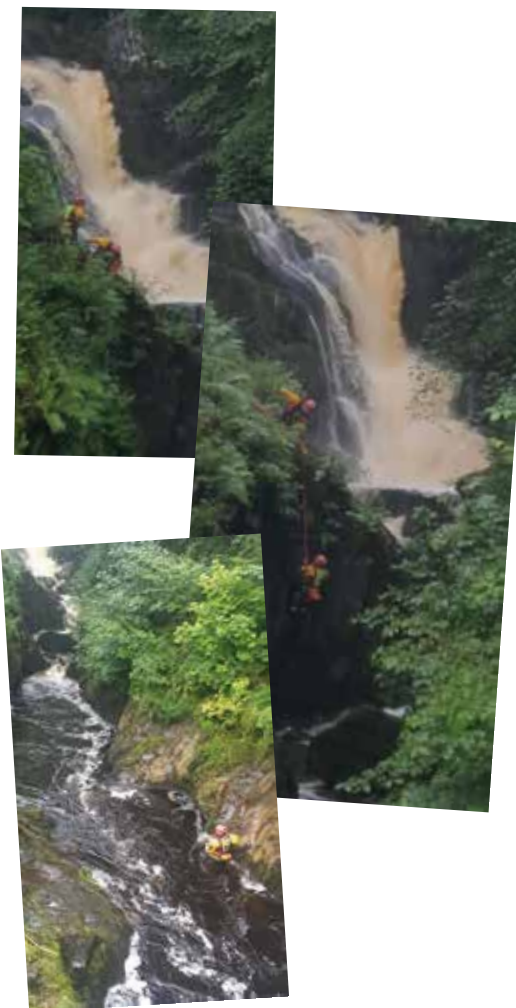


With a number of reports of people, cars and livestock stranded by flooding after heavy rain in Swaledale, all mountain rescue teams in the North East and Yorkshire Dales regions were asked to state how many swift-water rescue technicians and what equipment they would be able to commit to a major rescue effort. In the event, the water receded as quickly as it had risen, meaning that Swaledale MRT, NYF&RS and NYP were able to cope, without outside assistance.

62. Jul. 31st Wed. 12.53 Below Pecca Falls, Ingleton – Animal Incident



A family's five-year old German Shepherd went just off the path, slipped down the slope, then plunged into the river, just below Pecca Falls. It was last seen just above Pecca Bridge. NYP called CRO and team members searched for the dog. Three of them, wearing dry-suits and with swift-water rescue kit, abseiled in to the gorge and searched the pools as best they could in the high water conditions and, sometimes, heavy rain. Sadly, the dog was not found.



AUGUST

62. (cont'd) Aug. 1st / 2nd Thu. / Fri. Below Pecca Falls, Ingleton

No-one likes to leave a job half done, so on the next two days, team members returned to search for Neo, the missing German Shepherd. Nothing was found on Thursday, but water levels had dropped further by Friday, so a more thorough search was possible. The body was recovered from 1.5 metres below the water surface at the base of a large boulder in the pool where he was last seen.

Neo's owners had also returned to search for him, so our team members were able to reunite them with their pet.

63. Aug. 3rd Sat. 20.04..The Allotment, Ingleborough – Mountain Incident

A Three Peaks charity walker (f, 50) developed pain in her right hip and knee on her descent from Ingleborough and was unable to continue walking, beyond Nick Pot. CRO team members and a YAS paramedic treated the walker and stretchered her to a CRO vehicle for transport off the hill and to a waiting road ambulance.

64. Aug. 4th Sun. 11.04. Near Winskill, Langcliffe – Mountain Incident

A girl (12), walking along a bridleway towards Catrigg Force, fell and dislocated her knee cap. Possibly due to excitement caused by the arrival of YAA, she may have inadvertently straightened her leg and found that her knee cap had popped back into place. She was assessed by YAA and YAS paramedics before a short carry to a road ambulance.

65. (same day) 11.42. Above Pecca Falls, Ingleton – Mountain Incident

As incident number 64 was being completed, CRO and YAA were called to assist YAS with a second incident. A boy (10), walking the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, tripped over a large lump of bedrock that formed the path surface. His mother described seeing him tumbling head over heels down a steep rocky bank. CRO team members found the boy at the foot of the steep slope, next to the river and about 8 metres below the path. After attention from YAS and YAA paramedics, he was 'packaged' and hauled back up the slope by CRO members, then stretchered to an ambulance.



We always try to stand behind the helicopter camera-person. Incident 72.

(same day) 18.34 Curtain Pot, Malham Moor – Alert only

Four cavers were reported overdue, some three hours after their expected return from a trip down Curtain Pot on Malham Moor. The informant had become more concerned due to the onset of a thunderstorm with heavy rain. As CRO members were organising a rescue response, the informant called again to advise that four figures could be seen heading down towards him. A short while later, he confirmed that the cavers were all safe and well.

66. Aug. 6th Tue. 00.28. Giggleswick Scar, Giggleswick – Mountain Incident

A walker (f, 18) was struggling to find her way down steep craggy ground off Giggleswick Scar, in the dark, and tripped, twisting her ankle and banging her chest on a rock. Unable to bear weight on her foot, she became benighted. YAS paramedics were called out first and spotted her location from the glow of her mobile phone. They were unable to reach her because of the terrain and darkness. Using a safety rope, CRO team members assisted the patient to the top of the steep, craggy ground, then carried her in a stretcher on a longer route, over easier ground, down to the road ambulance.

67. Aug. 7th Wed. 13.35. Top of Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident

A walker (f, 70) was reported to have sprained an ankle and gashed her head in a fall on the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove. On arrival, team members found that the slight scalp wound had been covered and all that was required was a stretcher carry to a team vehicle. This took her down to Malham car park, where she was transferred to the family car for the journey to her local hospital for a check-up

68. Aug. 9th Fri. 20.49 Top of Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident

Immediately on arriving at the top of Malham Cove, a walker (m, 61), slipped on the wet limestone pavement, injuring his hip or upper leg, so that he could not stand. Soon after a CRO controller and YAS ambulance crew arrived at the road-head, a YAA air ambulance flew in and landed close to the casualty site. YAS personnel attended to the patient and CRO team members

carried him to the aircraft, which flew down to Malham village. Here, they indicated a night-time landing zone and transferred the patient to a road ambulance.

69. Aug. 10th Sat. 13.55 Flood Entrance, Gaping Gill, Clapham. – Cave Incident

A caver (m, 20) was reported by the club operating the GG winch to be 'hung up' on the rope in SE Pot. He had gone too low on a re-belay and had been unable to return. However, he was rescued by club members, escorted to the Main Chamber and winched up to the surface, before CRO members arrived. He was slightly hypothermic, so was sheltered and given warm drinks. CRO members assessed him twice, at intervals, before declaring him recovered.

70. Aug. 11th Sun. 07.05 River Kent, near Sedgwick, Cumbria – Water Incident

Following a report of someone in the River Kent, near Sedgwick, five members of CRO's swiftwater rescue team and the duty controller went to assist Kendal MRT (as did members of Duddon and Furness MRT) in supporting the statutory emergency services' investigation. When it became clear that the MR presence was not needed, the teams stood down.

71. Aug. 12th Mon. 17.11 Above Trow Gill, Clapham – Mountain Incident

A caver (f, 34) walking in caving wellies from Gaping Gill back to Clapham, slipped on the rocky path above Trow Gill, sustaining a painful ankle injury. Initial information put her at the entrance to Ingleborough Cave, so only a small team was called out. This was remedied when her true position was known. YAS paramedics and team members splinted the injured leg, then stretchered the patient down to a CRO Land Rover, waiting below Trow Gill. A road ambulance, waiting by the show cave, took her to Clapham, where she and her companions opted to go to hospital in their own car.



Our Bell MR stretcher weighs 24kg, on the way up the hill.



Add the patient



..... And it seems lighter, sledged down a grassy hill-side. All are incident 71.

72. Aug. 19th Mon. 11.47 Pecca Falls, Ingleton – Mountain Rescue

A visitor (m, 84) was reported to have collapsed on the outward leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, near Pecca Falls, but later location information seemed confused. A 'hasty party' of CRO members found him, assessed him and, with other team members, carried him to a team vehicle. This took him and a YAA/YAS paramedic round to the road ambulance, waiting in the main Falls car park.



YAS/YAA paramedics work on the patient; CRO members wait to carry him. No 72.

73. Aug. 20th Tue. 15.13 Pennine Bridleway, nr Langscar, Malham – Mountain Rescue

Two mountain bikers (m, 37; m, 34) hit a large rock, almost simultaneously, and were unseated near the westernmost point of the Settle Loop of the Pennine Bridleway. One appeared to have a shoulder injury and the other was confused after a blow to the head. After assessment by paramedics from the YAA air ambulance, they were able to board a YAS road ambulance (800m off tarmac!) to be taken to hospital for a more detailed examination. CRO members loaded their two companions and all four bikes into a team vehicle and returned them to the bike hire shop, in Settle.

74. Aug. 21st Wed. 13.56 On rocks at the foot of Malham Cove – Mountain Rescue

A visitor (f, 56) slipped on wet rocks, at the edge of Malham Beck, close to Malham Cove, landing on her face, gashing her nose and dazing herself. When YAS paramedics and CRO members arrived, she had recovered sufficiently to walk, with assistance, to a team vehicle. This took her to the YAS road ambulance, down at Town Head and the paramedics assessed her, away from the busy path. Unsuitable footwear.

75. Aug. 23rd Fri. 11.05 Ingleborough Summit – Mountain Incident

A D of E party came across a collapsed, lone walker (m, 56) at the summit shelter. He appeared to be deceased. Supervisory staff called for assistance and erected a tent to protect the casualty until the team arrived. A hasty party made their way to the summit, followed by a stretcher party, accompanied by air ambulance paramedics (the air ambulance was forced to land below Crina Bottom due to low cloud). Paramedics confirmed life extinct at 12.58 and Police officers attended the scene to confirm that there were no suspicious circumstances. Team members stretchered the casualty down to vehicles at Crina Bottom, before driving him down to Ingleton Police Station. While the casualty was being attended to, the distressed D of E participants who found him were ferried down to a café in Ingleton with another supervisor in a team vehicle. **FATAL.**

76. Aug. 24th Sat. 13.21 Southscales, Chapel le Dale – Animal Incident

A 13-year old Springer Spaniel fell down a pothole near Great Douk Cave. The owners could see the dog but were unable to retrieve him themselves. A small team was assembled at CRO Base, while the duty controller went to the scene. As he arrived, a passer-by brought the dog to the surface, none the worse for his tumble, other than an open gash to his flank. The team stood down and the owners were assisted in finding a vet to treat their pet.

Customers at Booths (Settle) gave £727 to CRO, in the Christmas collection. Thank you!

77 Aug. 31st Sat. 09.30 Near Summit of Pen y ghent – Mountain Incident

A walker (m, 31) was reported to be having a fit, then unconscious but breathing, just above the upper tier of rocks on the ascent of Pen y ghent. When he regained consciousness, his companions and a passing doctor moved him to the shelter of the ridge wall as the weather was a bit wild. Team members met near Dale Head, as an air ambulance circled overhead. With the cloud base just above the summit, paramedics assessed the patient, but asked the team to keep moving forward, in case the cloud lowered further. The patient was put into the YAA helicopter, without CRO assistance, and flown to hospital.

78. (same day) 21.44 Three Peaks – Mountain Incident

Two Three Peaks walkers (m, m), last seen on Whernside at 16.00 hrs, were reported overdue. When questioned by NYP's Force Control Room staff, the caller admitted that the pair had 'no plan – not sure appropriate provisions for the night – were following the path – no plan of route – were following others – no maps'. While some team members were heading to CRO Base, at Clapham, and the rest were on stand-by, Phonefind messages were sent to the mobile phones of the two 'mispers' and their 'co-ordinator' who had gone looking for them. One misper responded and appeared to be in the middle of the road near Holme Farm, Horton in Ribblesdale (+/- 3 metres), but there was no response from the other, or from their 'co-ordinator'. A controller drove to Horton and interviewed 'a friend of' the group, who said that the mispers were in a car on their way home and that the 'co-ordinator' was also safe. NYP said they had not been advised of this safe return.

Further questioning by the controller revealed that the pair had come down from Whernside and paid 'a farmer' to drive them back to Horton. Avoidable in how many ways?

(same day) 22.40 Ingleborough – Alert only

A walker (f, 36) was reported overdue on a walk over Ingleborough. However, as the duty controller was speaking to NYP, they heard that she had turned up, safe and well.

SEPTEMBER

Sep. 8th Sun. 22.45 Three Peaks area – Alert only

Three walkers (f, f, f) were reported overdue on the Three Peaks Walk, possibly on Ingleborough. With no instructions on what to do and the only phone they knew about going to voicemail, relatives did an internet search and found a commercial walking guide. After some discussion, he advised calling NYP for help. With the only hard evidence being a social media post from the top of Whernside, saying that the group had intended doing two of the peaks, but had now decided to do all three, any other information provided seemed to be surmise. On the assumption that the group started from Horton in Ribblesdale, a local CRO member was tasked with searching Horton for 'a big black Peugeot'. However, before he had found it, the mispers phoned home, to say that they had missed their way on Ingleborough, but were now safely back at the car and setting off home. No action required.



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Sep. 13th Fri. 18.49 Jean Pot, Gaping Gill, Clapham – Alert only

Three cavers were reported overdue from a trip down Jean Pot, Gaping Gill. When CRO's duty controller contacted the informant, he was told that one caver had just returned to Clapham, saying that all were safely out of the cave. No action required.

79. Sep. 15th Sun. 21.27 Three Peaks Walk, Pen-y-ghent – Mountain Incident

Two walkers (f, 32; f, 30) were attempting the Three Peaks Walk, with Pen-y-ghent last. Due to earlier delays*, they were approaching Pen-y-ghent at dusk. After dark they reported themselves lost and described being beside a wall, in a boggy area, with the summit of Pen-y-ghent on their left. Attempts by NYP and CRO to pinpoint their location, using mobile phone apps, were unsuccessful. One walker sent a screen shot (below) from her phone, with a very vague map supposedly showing their location.



CRO sent a small search party and found the lost walkers not far from Hull Pot Beck. In the dark, they had strayed quite a way off the usual route. They were escorted to a CRO vehicle and driven to Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

*On the way down, they admitted to having walked right over Ingleborough, almost to Ingleton, thinking they were heading for Whernside. They quizzed another walker and, on discovering their error, re-ascended Ingleborough, before tackling Whernside. They also admitted to going astray on Whernside and thought that these significant detours had caused their delay.

80. Sep. 18th Wed. 07.18 Pen-y-ghent – Mountain Incident

A Three Peaks walker (m, 67) was reported to be unconscious, having sustained a head injury during a significant fall on the rock band near to the summit of Pen-y-ghent. When the first CRO members arrived at Dale Head, they could see the YAA helicopter on the summit and were told that paramedics were attempting CPR. Sadly, this was unsuccessful. The aircraft made two flights to lift CRO personnel and equipment onto the hill. Team members then used ropes to lower the casualty, in a stretcher, over steep ground to where the helicopter could land. The casualty was flown down to Horton-in-Ribblesdale. **FATAL.**



(Above) Incident no 80.
(Left) Incident no 79. Screen-shot from mobile phone, which was intended to help team members find the mispers, but which we still don't understand, completely. One thing is clear—only 1% battery remains!

Lassie Come Home

Michael Hale, one of CRO's duty controllers reflects on incident no 82.

'Why is it I always get the daft call outs?'

The six CRO duty controllers operate a rota, taking calls for a week each from the police and ambulance services and deciding what action is needed. And I seem to get the daft calls - like the time we searched the beck below Ingleborough Cave for a severed hand! We spent a happy hour paddling in ankle-deep water, looking for the hand or possibly a one-handed person. Was it a Halloween hoax? We went home empty handed.

My turn, again, and a call from the Station Inn at Ribbleshead. Two dogs had been taken for a walk onto Whernside, late at night. One had jumped up at a low flying bird and landed on the steep side of the summit ridge, tumbling off into the mist and gloom. Not wanting to miss

the fun, the second dog followed down the steep slope and into the darkness. Neither dog responded to whistles or shouts and the owner was not confident to go down to see what had happened to them. Concerned about his wife and young daughter, in the dusk and cold, he returned to the pub where he asked the landlord for advice. 'Have a few pints, then call CRO.' he said. So, on the phone, the landlord passed me over to a person I couldn't understand or get any sense from. As I live only five minutes from there I opted to go and speak to him myself, tasking Jonty and Mike to meet me with a team Land Rover. Face to face with the dog owner, the story was a bit clearer, except that he kept telling me he was at 'the tarns' on Whernside, but you and I know that the tarns are not

near the summit. With the aid of a sketch on a beer mat, I discovered that he thought the summit cairn is called a 'tarn'. That cleared up, and fairly sure of which side of the hill they will be on, we drove round to the Blea Moor aqueduct, calling at a couple of farms on the way to see if the dogs had been around. It was now properly dark and misty, so a full search of the fells at this time of night was not a good idea. We don't have to do many large-scale searches these days, as technology means we can transfer a person's phone's GPS data to one of our computer maps, instantly see where they are and go straight to them. Unfortunately, these dogs either didn't have phones or couldn't be bothered to answer them, so we had no idea where they were. Beyond the aqueduct, we walked on,



'Never pose with children or animals'


shouting, whistling and shining lights up the fell-side, but to no avail. We suggested that the owner come back tomorrow morning and look in daylight; he said he would stay the night in the pub.

As we returned, the doggy owner took a phone call from his missus to say that the bigger


of the dogs – the Alsatian – was scratching at the door of the pub. A quick investigation found that the other dog – a terrier – was stranded on the wrong side of the cattle grid, outside. Being smaller, it couldn't cross. It seemed a miracle that the two dogs had found their way back off the fell, over several wire fences, walls and a railway track especially as one was quite small. Perhaps the big one had helped his little chum over the stiles, like something out of a Disney film! [*Incredible Journey* – two dogs and a cat travel 5000 miles across America, after their owners 'accidentally' left them at their old house when they moved.]

Pleased that the family was reunited, the happy CRO team of three went home, leaving the dogs to enjoy a pint in their favourite pub.


81. (same day) 16.50 Fell Beck, Ingleborough, Clapham – Mountain Incident

 A walker (m, 64) slipped on wet rock while getting a drink from Fell Beck above Gaping Gill, on Ingleborough. He fell into the water and was reported to have hit his head on rocks. His companions helped to get him out of the beck and called for help. The injured walker was attended to by YAA and YAS paramedics before CRO members carried him a short distance to the air ambulance. He was flown to hospital while CRO members brought his companions down to Clapham village.


82. Sep. 22nd Sun. 18.20 Whernside – Animal Incident

 A family asked for help in finding their two dogs, missing on Whernside. One had taken a tumble down the steep slope and into the mist, from near the summit. The other had chased after it and, while both could be heard barking, they could not be seen. Three team members joined one of the adults in searching for the dogs and visiting local farms, but found nothing. Soon after dark, the dogs found their way back to the rest of the family at the Station Inn, Ribblesdale and the hill party was recalled.

83. Sep. 28th Sat. 14.30 Near Pecca Falls, Ingleton – Water Incident

 Following a number of 999 calls, reporting 'a body in the river', just below Pecca Falls, personnel from CRO (including the Swiftwater Rescue Team), NYP, NYF&RS, YAS and YAA all headed in that direction, only to find that the body was that of a sheep, washed down by the overnight and early morning rain. All stood down.


84. (same day) 20.46 Swine Tail, Ingleborough – Mountain Incident

 A trio of Three Peaks Walkers reported themselves lost, but uninjured, on Ingleborough. In the dark, their one torch and two mobile phones had died and their third phone – the sole means of navigation – showed only 17% battery. NYP were able to establish that this phone was near the foot of the Swine Tail. One team member ran up the hill from Newby Cote, while three others took a team vehicle round to Nick Pot. The individual team member began to guide the 'mispers' onto and down the path for Horton in Ribblesdale and was met by the others, walking up with extra


lights. One of the mispers was extremely cold and struggling, but all three reached the team vehicle safely. A local member returned them to their accommodation near Horton and the team vehicle returned to CRO Base.

OCTOBER


85. Oct. 5th. Sat. 17.11 Craven Way, Whernside – Mountain Incident

 A walker (f, 60) sustained an ankle injury on the descent from Whernside to the Craven Way green lane and there was concern that she might do more damage if she continued walking. Team members drove up to the Force Gill aqueduct in two CRO vehicles. The injured person had taken some pain-relief, borrowed walking poles from one of her companions and continued walking, carefully. The first team members to arrive assisted her to one of the vehicles and she was driven to the Station Inn at Ribblesdale, to wait for the rest of her group.

86. Oct. 14th. Mon. 12.21 Malham Cove, Malham – Mountain Incident

 A walker (m, 69) experienced a dizzy spell, fell and sustained a head injury at the top of the steps onto the top of Malham Cove. YAA paramedics, arriving first, assessed the patient, then walked him to a road ambulance, waiting at the top of Cove Road. Team members stood by, with a stretcher, in case assistance was needed.

87. Oct. 20th. Sun. 16.12 Rock Scramble, above Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough – Mountain Incident


 Two Three Peaks walkers became crag-fast while ascending the rock scramble above Humphrey Bottom. One (f, 31), became very cold in strong winds and low cloud, so could neither continue nor retreat. After being assessed by a team doctor and given extra clothing, she was assisted down to a team vehicle, near Braithwaite Wife Hole. Both walkers were driven




Thanks to Lyon Equipment for their donations of PPE.

down to the road-head, given a hot drink then driven to Horton in Ribblesdale.


88. Oct. 22nd. Tue. 17.51 Barbon Low Fell, Barbon, Cumbria – Mountain Incident

 NWAS asked for help in finding someone (f, 62) believed to be at risk, having walked on to Barbon Low Fell. She was found very easily, assessed by a paramedic team member and accompanied down to the road-head. She was kept warm until NWAS paramedics arrived.


(same day) 22.40 Ingleborough – Alert only

 A walker (f, 36) was reported overdue on a walk over Ingleborough. However, as the duty controller was speaking to NYP, they heard that she had turned up, safe and well.


89. Oct. 27th. Sun. 20.35 Ingleborough summit – Mountain Incident

 Two Three Peaks walkers (f, 24; f, 22) reported themselves benighted and unable to find the way down from Ingleborough's summit shelter. They had set out at 08.00, overlooking the effects of the clock change on daylight. One team member ran up to the summit from Newby Cote and met the pair, while team vehicles took others up to Crina Bottom. The pair were guided down, offered hot drinks and returned, unharmed, to Horton in Ribblesdale.

90. Oct. 30th. Wed. 18.27 Near Gaping Gill – Mountain Incident


 Two Three Peaks walkers (m, 57; m, 53) became lost and benighted at Gaping Gill (The sign said so.). They phoned home and a family member phoned NYP. A team Land Rover was driven to the bottom of Trow Gill and two members jogged up to GG, collected the mispers, then guided them back to the vehicle. They were returned to Horton in Ribblesdale.

91. Oct. 31st. Thu. 14.38 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail – Mountain Incident

 A visitor (m, ca. 35?) was reported to have such abdominal pain, '20 minutes into the walk' on the Waterfalls Trail, that he was unable to continue. When the first team member arrived at the casualty site, YAS personnel were just beginning to walk the patient back to the car park. CRO stood down.

NOVEMBER


92. Nov. 3rd. Sun. 13.06 'Sulber cross-roads', Ingleborough – Mountain Incident

 A walker (f, 42), having climbed Ingleborough from Clapham, slipped on the descent path across Simon Fell Breast, injuring an ankle. She tried to continue for about a mile, but eventually accepted that help was needed. A passer-by (coincidentally a member of a lowland search team) provided a group shelter, to keep out the cold, and another walking group stopped to help. A small CRO team drove up to 'Sulber cross-roads', collecting two YAS paramedics en route. The casualty declined any treatment beyond a little pain relief. One CRO Land Rover drove her and her husband back to Clapham, while the other returned the YAS personnel to their ambulance, near Selside.



Incident 92— 'Sulber Cross-roads'.

93. Nov. 5th. Tue. 12.14hrs – Sheriff Hill, Malham – Mountain Incident

 A walker (f, 55), slipped on the muddy path from the top of Malham Cove to Malham Rakes, sustaining an ankle injury. CRO received erroneous location and contact information, but, enjoying a 'bird's eye view' from the YAA helicopter, crew-members shared a location for the patient. CRO members arrived to find YAS and YAA personnel carrying the injured walker to the road ambulance, so assisted with the remaining 'carry' to the ambulance.

94. Nov. 7th.Thu. 20.31 – Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Incident



On Thursday evening, NYP asked CRO to prepare to conduct a daylight search of North Ribblesdale for a walker (m, 77) missing since the previous Monday, while they continued their own enquiries overnight. Team leaders spent the evening planning a search, to begin on Friday morning.

After a briefing, the team began a search of boundaries and caves along walking routes radiating from Horton village, coordinated from a base at Horton Old School. As the first phase of the search was being completed, a farmer reported finding a body in a field NE of Lodge Hall, well outside the anticipated search area. Team members and NYP officers relocated to the Nether Lodge track, confirmed the identity of the deceased and stretchered him to a waiting road ambulance. **FATAL.**

95. Nov. 12th.Tue. 17.45 – Ingleborough – Mountain Incident



A lone Three Peaks walker (m, 30) reported himself lost on Ingleborough, but otherwise unharmed. Before calling the CRO duty controller, NYP established that the misper was on Simon Fell Breast, below the footpath to Horton in Ribblesdale. One member ran up onto the hill from Newby Cote, while others set off, by team Land Rover, to go to the Horton path near Nick Pot. Meanwhile, the misper's phone signal was lost and the runner could find no-one on Simon Fell Breast. The runner went down to Gaping Gill and still found no-one. Just as a second Land Rover was setting off to Trow Gill with a small party to search up towards Gaping Gill, the misper phoned to say he was just passing Ingleborough Cave en route to Clapham.

Nov. 16th Sat. 17.59 – Ingleborough – Alert only



Two people lost the path, descending from Ingleborough in darkness. Other walkers were passing and helped them to find the path to the Hill Inn. Progress was monitored until they were off the hill safely.

Meet the team in 2020:
16th May—CRO Ingleborough Challenge
25th May—Austwick Cuckoo Festival

96. Nov. 22nd Fri. 17.28 – Ingleborough – Mountain Incident



Four Three Peaks walkers (m, 18, 19, 20, 26) reported themselves benighted at the summit shelter on Ingleborough and unable to find their way off, but otherwise unharmed. One member ran up onto the hill from Newby Cote, while others set off, by team Land Rover, to Crina Bottom. Both parties arrived there at the same time and the walkers were ferried down to the road-head.

97. Nov. 29th Fri. 14.33 – Crina Bottom, Ingleton – Mountain Incident



A walker (m, 86) complained of feeling unwell, then collapsed, having suffered a suspected heart attack on the bridleway, a short distance beyond Crina Bottom. YAS requested CRO attendance and the first team vehicle to arrive carried paramedics to the site. Despite the best efforts of the walker's companion, a passing walker, YAS paramedics and CRO members in carrying out CPR, the doctor who had arrived by air ambulance pronounced life extinct. Police formalities concluded, CRO vehicles transported all down to Ingleton. **FATAL.**

DECEMBER

98. Dec. 10th.Tue. 15.19 – Pennine Way, Jackdaw Hill, Horton in Ribblesdale – Mountain Incident



A walker reported that his companion (m) had developed hypothermia on the Pennine Way, '2 miles' north of Horton in Ribblesdale. He had been trying to carry his large dog, which was in a similar state of collapse. When team members arrived, the casualty and dog were in a group shelter and recovering. All were transported back to their car, in Horton. It seems that they had walked from Horton to Hawes and (almost) back – 22 miles?

Dec. 15th Sun. 14.06 – Lythe Fell Road, Lowgill, Lancashire – Alert only



A patient (f), driving herself to hospital for essential medical treatment, became stuck in snow, on a remote, moorland road. LanCon's FIM alerted CRO. When the duty controller rang, the FIM advised that a local farmer had arrived on scene and had been able to set the driver on her way. CRO was not needed.

99. Dec. 15th. Sun. 20.04hrs – Road above Kingsdale Head Farm, Thornton in Lonsdale – Local Incident



A motorist, following his SatNav, tried to drive over from Kingsdale to Deepdale, but the car became stuck in snow. He called for help, then managed to get his heavily pregnant wife and small child to the safety of Kingsdale Head Farm. The farmer and CRO members recovered the car and the family set off again, by a different route.

100. Dec. 16th. Mon. 22.45 – Area around Sannat Hall, Stainforth – Local Incident



A motorist, near Sannat Hall, reported seeing a light flashing in lots of three. Each time the duty controller called his number, it went to Voicemail, so a team member drove up Silverdale for a look around. Nothing unusual was seen and by the time the motorist answered his phone, he was 30 miles away and could offer no further information. False alarm, with good intent?

101. Dec. 19th.Thu. 00.06 – The Gaping Gill System, Clapham – Cave Incident



A group of nine cavers went in to Gaping Gill by various routes, meeting up in the Main Chamber. After all the others were safely out of Bar Pot, two (m, 22; m, 22) were reported overdue. They had tried to exit via Corky's Pot, found that water levels had risen and retreated to the (now-de-rigged) Bar Pot. One CRO team went to Corky's Pot, but found an excess of water (rain on snow melt!). Another went in to Bar Pot, very soon came across the missing pair and accompanied them to the surface, for transport back to Clapham. In the belief that CRO would not have enough cavers available for an extended search, the duty controller had called neighbouring UWFRA. Their cavers arrived at CRO Base, just as the mispers were found.

This incident saw the first (and very effective) use, 'in anger', of the new 'CRO 4' – Honda Pioneer (sit-in ATV). This carried a comms team and all the necessary caving equipment up to Bar Pot, so that the rescuers were able to travel light from the Land Rover at Trow Gill.



CRO 4—drivers under instruction at Coniston Hall Off-Road Centre. December 2019



102. Dec. 25th Wed. (Christmas Day) 10.07 – Above Crina Bottom, Ingleborough – Mountain Incident



A fell-runner (f, 48) slipped on a rocky section of the bridleway onto Ingleborough, sustaining fractures to one shoulder and immediately below one knee. She and her partner were also very cold when team members arrived on scene. After administering pain relief and applying an 'Israeli Dressing', the team put the patient into an insulated 'casualty bag' and stretchered her about 600m to a team Land Rover, for a gentle drive down to a YAS road ambulance, waiting in Ingleton.

Meet the team (continued)
18th July—Ingleton Gala
25th July—Clapham Street Fair
29th August—Malham Show
5th September—Bentham Show

Mountain Rescue Search Dogs (England)



In England and Wales, anyone wishing to begin to train, qualify and run a search dog, must first be an operational member of a recognised search and rescue team. Training and assessment are very thorough and cannot even begin until the young dog has demonstrated, unequivocally, that it takes no notice of sheep.

One CRO member works with his search dog, training every week over a mix of terrain, thanks to the agreement of a number of local farmers.

Kez (below) and her handler were called to seven incidents outside the CRO core area in 2019.



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Call-outs 2019

30th January – Bowland Pennine MRT – Coastal marsh, Southport

Assist in search for terminally ill patient (m, 80), who had left a suicide note. Found, deceased, by Police divers.

27th February – UWFA – Woodland near Spofforth

Assist in search for vulnerable missing person (m, 81). Found by member of public next day, outside search area.

4th June – Bowland Pennine MRT – Parbold

Assist in search for vulnerable missing person (m). Called to search woodland near Parbold. Misper located at friend's house.

12th August – Rossendale & Pendle MRT – Woodland near Accrington

Assist in search for vulnerable missing person (f, 47). Found, deceased, by member of public on 24th August, outside search area.

7th September – Calder Valley S&RT – Elland

Called to search woodland for misper (m, 18). Stood down en route after misper located prior to search teams deploying.

26th September – UWFA – Appletreewick

Assisted in search for missing vulnerable person (m, 64). Found, deceased, by UWFA team members.

11th October – Bowland Pennine MRT – Preston

Assisted in search of woodland for vulnerable person (f, 58). Found, deceased, one week later, near Barrow in Furness.

For more information on mountain rescue search dogs visit

www.mountainrescuesearchdogsgengland.org.uk



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



Incidents 2019

Numbers in brackets indicate fatalities

Cave	6 (1)
Mountain	84 (6):-
Climbing	3
Walking	66 (4)
Fell-running	5
Cycling	2
Riding quad-bike	1
Paragliding	1
At risk / vulnerable	6 (2)
Water	2
Animal	7
Local incidents	3
Main team total	102 (7)

CRO dog/ handler
Assisting other teams 7

TOTAL 109

People involved 118
Sheep / lambs 6
Dogs 4

Stand-by/Alert Calls: 14

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS

Cave incidents

Physically stuck 1
Fall 2(1)
Lost rope, marooned 1
Hung up on rope 1
Show cave visitor (medical) 1
Climbing Incidents
Medical 1
Fall from pitch 1
Rock gave way, fall 1

Mountain incidents

Falls / slips
— walking 40
— non walkers 2
— medical event 18(4)
— fell-running 5
— mountain biking 3
Other causes:
— hypothermia 2
— exhaustion 3
— benighted/lost/overdue 14
— crag-fast/stranded 3
— recover deceased 2(2)

Total volunteer hours for incidents in 2019: 5125
Total hours spent by controllers handling alerts/standby's: 17

North Yorkshire 97
Cumbria 4
Lancashire 1

Since 1935, CRO has attended 3108 incidents

Cave 741
Cave (assisted by divers) 10
Cave diving 16
Disused mines 17
Other underground 1
Mountain 1409
Climbing 110
Open water diving 11
Animal - surface 159
underground 320
CRO / MRSDE dogs and handlers searching in other teams' areas 206
Local/urban/tarmac incidents 106

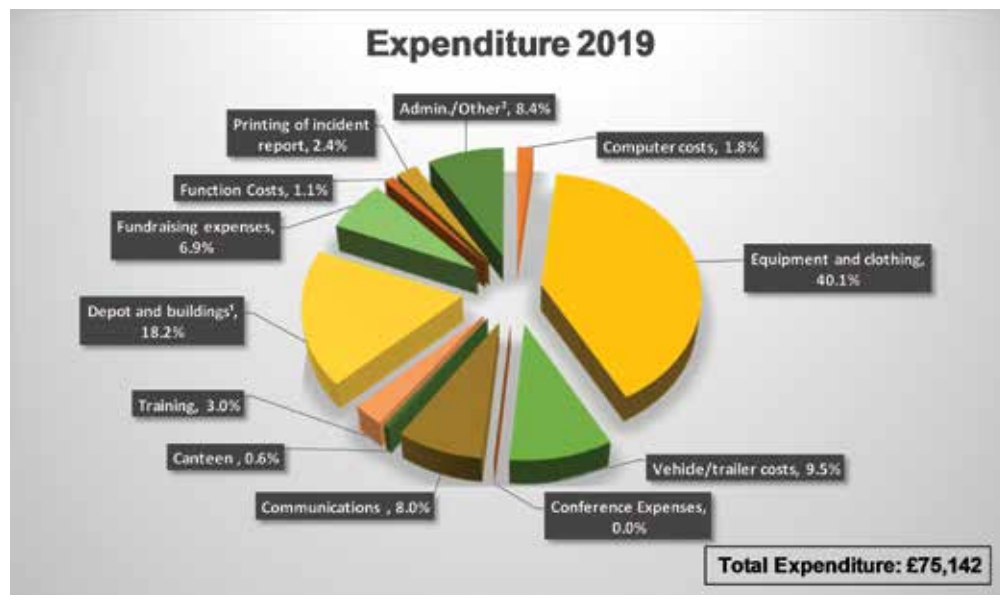
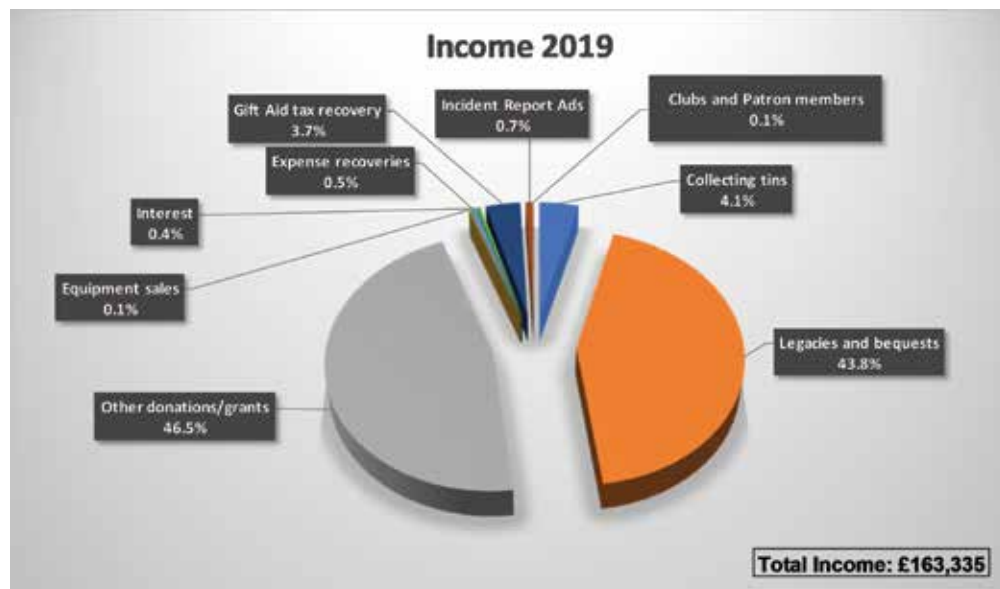
This involved 4,394 people (aged 5 months to 87 years), 258 lambs, 233 sheep, 84 dogs, 13 calves, 9 cows, 9 ducks, 1 bullock, 1 Highland heifer, 1 cat and 1 rabbit plus the recovery of a wide variety of objects.

Summary of Statistics

Year	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total incidents attended	109(7)	74(2)	98(4)	103(3)	84(3)	74(9)
Cave	6(1)	5	10(1)	6	10(1)	7
Disused Mines	0	0	0	0	0	1(1)
Mountain	81(6)	53(2)	65 (3)	73(2)	57(2)	56(6)
Climbing	3	2	3	5	1	2
Animal	7	8	11	7	3	4
Local/urban/tarmac incidents	3	2	2	8	10	3(2)
CRO dogs + handlers						
assisting in other teams' areas	7	4	7	4	2	1

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

Financial Summary 2019



This is a summary of CRO's income and expenditure for the year ending 31st October 2019. 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.

2019 was a busy year for rescues and a very healthy financial year for CRO — a year so un-characteristic that some explanation may be helpful.

A very welcome, anonymous legacy (one of our biggest ever) has, since the end of the financial year (31st October), paid for CRO 4, the lightweight off-road vehicle and will also pay for almost all of a planned building project.

For the first time, a 'donate' button was posted on Facebook, following the tragic death of former CRO member Harry 'Eski' Hesketh in Curtain Pot. The expected £200-£300 in donations turned into an amazing £14,000, plus very significant donations from Eski's family and from Skipton Properties Ltd. Some of the money donated through Facebook was shared with the other teams whose members worked at Curtain Pot.

Rescue teams used to claim that they received no public funding and were totally dependent on their own voluntary fund-raising. Such a claim is no longer true, and while relief from **Value Added Tax** on those goods and services which are not bought for re-sale may not be 'income', the money 'saved' is available for other purchases. At the same time, charitable giving is encouraged and enhanced by **GiftAid**, where HM Revenue & Customs enhances donations from individual tax-payers by the amount of tax deemed to have been deducted in earning the money donated (adding a quarter).

At a more local level, CRO received significant grants towards the cost of 'going digital' and

developing a wider radio network through MREW and from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's **Sustainable Development Fund**.

Promotion of safe practice in the outdoors—one of CRO's charitable objects—has been aided by replacement of the display in our exhibition trailer and publication of the 'Crow says' leaflet. These projects were funded largely through Stories in Stone, developed by the **Ingleborough Dales Landscape Partnership**, led by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and supported by the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**.

Although CRO operates in parts of three different counties, **North Yorkshire Police** — the county's lead statutory agency for search and rescue—contributes to a national scheme for members' personal accident insurance (topped up by MREW), pays the team's costs of running SARcall (call-out and on-line incident logging system), allows sharing of its Airwave strategic radio network and contributes to some of the team's incident costs. A grant from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is paying, currently, for driver training.

There is **LIBOR*** funding available, at a national level, for some aspects of training. **DEFRA** grant-aids those teams willing to make their water rescue resources available nationwide, although CRO's policy is to be available for such activity only in North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Lancashire.

(* from fines levied on some banks for financial impropriety)

Our sincere thanks to all who have helped CRO, in any way, during 2019.

Cover photo: Incident 53, Pen y ghent, 6th July 2019, Jo Wulf

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