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ADDRECIATED

RESCUE '25

Incidents attended during 2024





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CAVE RESCUE ORGANISATION

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



Charitable Incorporated Organisation no 1201338 (formerly no 241091)



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

Welcome

Thank you for picking up and reading our leaflet.

Originally started during February of 1935, the Cave Rescue Organisation is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Our volunteer–run team has been available to respond to calls for help – 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, for ninety years and counting.

It takes an extraordinary amount of effort for us to be prepared for rescue incidents. We have a base, several vehicles and a wide range of equipment to fund and maintain. Team members commit to regular training to maintain and enhance their skills.

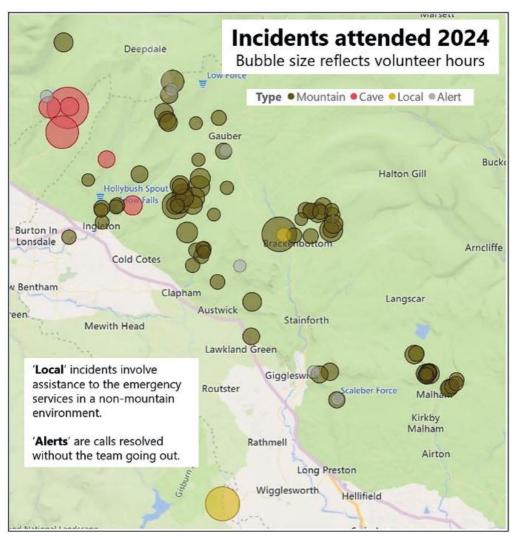
What can you do to help?

Aside from your verbal support and very welcome donations, we would like you to ask yourselves three questions before your next outdoor adventure:

- Am I confident I have the KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS for the day?
- Do I know what the WEATHER will be like?
- Do I have the right GEAR?

For more information on preparing for your adventure, see www.adventuresmart.co.uk

Thank you Martin Colledge Chair, Cave Rescue Organisation





www.descentmagazine.co.uk

Cover: 'Stretcher evacuation from Southerscales Fell', April 2024 (Incident 18.). **Opposite page:** Most of the team, Summer 2024. Photos: Dave Gregory

In the following pages, an icon shows what the 'casualty' was doing (except in the case of 'Animal' or 'Local' incidents).

'Mountain' incidents:

Walking



Fell running



Climbing



Cycling



Canyoning

Incidents attended during 2024

All are in North Yorkshire unless shown otherwise

JANUARY

01. Jan. 7th Sun. 13.44 Middle High Hill, Settle

A walker (f. 61) fell on a steep and slipperv hillside, injuring an ankle. Two team members fortuitously walking nearby provided initial care, keeping the casualty warm until more team members arrived. After assessment and immobilisation, she was placed in an insulated casualty bag on a stretcher and sledged to a team vehicle for the drive to Settle and the onward journey to hospital.

'Cave' incidents:



Caving



Show cave visiting

Path Work

Wheelchair User

Paragliding

Caver on surface

'Local' incidents:



Assist Ambulance



Assist Police



'Alerts':-

Alerts' are calls resolved without the team going out, so are not numbered and receive only passing mention in the year's statistics. All incidents are in North Yorkshire unless shown otherwise

TOTAL INCIDENTS ATTENDED **BY MAIN TEAM IN 2024 = 85**

75 'mountain' incidents

5 'cave' incidents

5 'local' incidents (team's equipment and skills applied in 'other' situations)

Plus 7 alerts for overdue walkers or cavers, not requiring a call out.

There were no animal rescues in the year.

Total volunteer hours on incidents: 3529, and less than 10 hours for all the alerts.



02. Jan. 14th Sun. 10.34 Pen y ghent Side, Horton in Ribblesdale

A walker (m, 53) slipped and injured his leg while descending the track from Pen y ghent towards Hull Pot. Team members drove CRO 4 right to him. After assessment and splinting, he was taken to Horton for onward transportation to hospital.

FEBRUARY

03. Feb. 4th Sun. 17.58 Pen y ghent

Two walkers (m, 20s) became stuck on the steep and rocky south end of Pen y ghent. Two other members of their party (m, f, 20s) went up to assist them, but all were unable to move due to gale force winds and poor visibility. Team members, struggling in the wind, located the group at the edge of the summit plateau. The casualties, cold despite being well-equipped, were led over the summit and down the Hull Pot track to a team vehicle.

04. Feb. 10th Sat. 23.50 County Pot, Casterton, Cumbria

Nine cavers (7f and 2m-19 to 22 years) were reported overdue in County Pot, a popular entrance into the Ease Gill / Three Counties system. Initially, snow drifts made accessing Bull Pot Farm difficult, with CRO 4 the only vehicle able to pass the drifts. Once the road was opened, two underground teams carried out hasty searches of the group's planned route, finding them cold and tired but safe. The cavers were helped to the surface and across the fell to Bull Pot Farm, the Red Rose Cave &Pothole Club (RRCPC) cottage.

The overdue cavers were well equipped and had an effective call out arrangement in place, allowing the alarm to be raised promptly.

Alert only. Feb. 16th Fri. 13.14 Limestone Scar Above Banks Lane, Settle

A visitor (f, 12) was reported to have 'climbed a high rock' and become cragfast (unable to move because she was scared). The Duty Controller spoke to the casualty's mother, who calmed her and talked her down to safety.

05. (same day) 17.47 Clapham Bottoms, Clapham

Two walkers (m,27; f,27) reported that they were lost in low cloud and rain on Ingleborough while following a published walk. As they were in a poor area for phone reception, the usual telephone location systems were ineffective. However, the caller had mentioned walking past 'a tanker', which the team's local knowledge suggested was the bowser for watering stock



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in the Clapham Bottoms area. With other team members on stand-by at home, two members drove up Long Lane in CRO 4 and two up towards Trow Gill in CRO 2. The team in CRO 4 located the walkers just off the head of Long Lane and returned them to CRO Depot for a hot drink

MARCH

06. Mar. 2nd Sat. 13.03 Malham Cove (top)

A walker (m, 79) had difficulty breathing after climbing the steps to the top of Malham Cove. YAS paramedics assessed the casualty before team members helped him walk to a team vehicle. This took him to the road ambulance, in the village, for further assessment before he was returned to the party's coach.

07. (same day) 22.44 Lancaster Hole to Wretched Rabbit, Casterton, Cumbria

Four cavers were reported overdue on an Ease Gill through trip from Lancaster Hole to Wretched Rabbit, having set off at noon. Four members of the RRCPC staying at Bull Pot Farm went to Wretched Rabbit and began searching from that end of the cavers' anticipated route. Finding no-one, two of the RRCPC members returned to Bull Pot Farm to report. A full team call-out was initiated at 01.44. Arriving at Lancaster Hole, team members found that the other RRC&PC members had guided the mispers to the bottom of the shaft. Three of the cavers were able to make their own way up the 36m pitch while the fourth needed a haul. All returned safely to Bull Pot Farm.

08. Mar 9th Sat. 08.35 Horton in Ribblesdale

Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) asked for assistance with a medical incident involving an infant (f, 7 months) in Horton after a family walk. Local members and a team vehicle were stood down on arrival as the child was being assessed by paramedics in their ambulance and now appeared well.

09. Mar. 10th Sun. 13.15 Little Ingleborough

A walker (f, 40) slipped on the descent from Little Ingleborough, sustaining a painful lower leg injury which prevented her from continuing. CRO 4 was 6

driven almost to the casualty site. After immediate treatment there, she was stretchered down to a team Land Rover by team members who had walked up from Trow Gill. Once back in Clapham, she was able to transfer to a family car to travel onward for further care.





10. (same day). 13.47 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail

With team members on their way to incident no 9, a call was received to assist a visitor (m, 14) taken ill on the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. However, an off-duty paramedic found the casualty and, when team members arrived, the youth was sufficiently recovered to be assisted to a team Land Rover. This took him and his family to their car with a recommendation to visit a hospital for a full assessment.

11. Mar. 19th Tue. 12.26 Malham Cove (top)

A walker (f, 40s) slipped on the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove immediately above the steps, injuring a wrist and a leg. The first member on scene began assessing her and was soon joined by YAS paramedics from the YAA helicopter. They splinted the wrist fracture before the casualty was lifted into an insulated casualty bag by additional team members and onto a stretcher to be transported to an ambulance at the road-head

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12. Mar. 21st Thu. 13.09 Nr Barrel **Buttress, Attermire Scar (Warrendale** Knots). Settle

A climber (m. 34) fell about 6m while bouldering at Attermire Scar. He landed on his bouldering mat and thought he was uninjured apart from some pain in his lower back. A group of walkers came across him and helped keep him warm until team members arrived. Having unlocked a gate to allow access, a local farmer kindly carried rescue kit to site on his quad, then showed



the CRO 4 driver the best route in. After being assessed and given pain relief by team members (later supplemented by a YAS paramedic), the climber was immobilised in a vacuum mattress. put in a casualty bag and onto a stretcher He was then sledged down a steep slope then wheeled about a kilometre to the road ambulance waiting on Stockdale Lane.

13. Mar. 22nd Fri. 19.30 Nr Inaleborough summit

Two walkers (f, 35 and 37) became stranded on the summit of Ingleborough in bad weather conditions. Having established that the two were close to the Swine Tail path near the summit plateau, the Duty Controller advised them to remain where they were until team members could reach them. Hasty parties went on foot from both Crina Bottom and Chapel le Dale to locate the mispers because ground conditions were too wet for team vehicles. The walkers were found, cold but otherwise uninjured, having drifted off the path onto steep ground in poor visibility and strong winds. Wisely, they had staved put until found. Once re-warmed, the two were guided off the summit to a team vehicle at Crina Bottom then returned to their car in Horton.



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14. Mar.23rd Sat. 11.24 Malham Cove (steps)

A visitor (m, 62) became unwell after ascending the steps towards the top of the Cove. After attention from YAS paramedics, he was walked gently down to a team Land Rover and driven to Malham village for further assessment by the paramedics in their ambulance.



15. Mar. 29th Fri. 12.47 Horton Scar Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale

A walker (m, 54) experienced chest pains on Hull Pot track. After assessment by YAS paramedics from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA), team members carried him the short distance to the helicopter for a direct flight to hospital.



16. Mar. 30th Sat. 21.05 Ingleborough
Three, Three Peaks walkers (m, m, f)
reported themselves lost and benighted on the
summit of Ingleborough. PhoneFind confirmed
their position, and they were asked to remain at
the summit shelter. One team in CRO 4 drove
up onto Little Ingleborough and a second team
went to Crina Bottom by Land Rover. Walking
up, the teams met the mispers on the summit
and escorted them to Crina Bottom to be driven

APRIL

off the hill

17. Apr. 3rd Wed. 14.53 Twisleton Glen, Ingleton

A walker (m, 34) stumbled on the return leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail, sustaining a very painful ankle injury. The team doctor assessed the injury and gave pain relief before team members splinted the ankle and stretchered

the casualty to the roadhead. A team vehicle returned him to his partner's car for the journey to hospital.





18. Apr. 9th Tue. 16.49 Southerscales Fell, Ingleborough

A walker (m, 64) slipped while walking from Ingleborough to Park Fell, sustaining a suspected broken ankle. A 'hasty party' (fell-runner members with initial equipment) assessed and splinted the injury and put the patient into an insulated casualty bag. After further assessment by the team doctor, the patient was lifted onto a stretcher and sledged down to a team vehicle which took him to the YAS ambulance waiting at the roadhead.



19. Apr. 11th Thu. 19.04 Whernside

A Three Peaks walker called 999 after his girlfriend (19) fainted repeatedly at the beginning of the descent from Whernside towards Bruntscar. The CRO Duty Controller said:

'The weather was worsening, and it was starting to get dark. They had huddled down, and she was in a plastic bivvi bag to keep warm. Their position was just off the summit ridge on the descent path. A full team of 15 members set off to find and recover them in horrendous rain and



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reducing clag. They were found, quickly, and the casualty was seen to be in a semi-conscious state. She was assessed, placed into a casualty bag and sledged rapidly down the hillside on a Bell stretcher, before being carried to the YAS road ambulance waiting near Bruntscar. Her worried boyfriend was able to walk down, un-aided.'

K

20. Apr. 20th Sat. 07.38 Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough

An early morning alert from Lancashire Constabulary sent team members to a walker (f, 56) who had slipped on the still icy path, injuring an ankle. A combination of CRO 4 and members on foot carried equipment to the site, as taking a Land Rover would have caused too much damage to the ground. The team doctor treated the casualty and administered pain relief. Meanwhile, to avoid a long and muddy stretcher

Crow says

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carry, YAA was requested and agreed to airlift the walker to the ambulance waiting at the roadhead in Chapel-le-dale.

K

21. (same day) 12.38 Malham Cove (steps)

Not much time for a late breakfast as a visitor (m, 67) had a medical problem while climbing the steps to the top of the Cove. The first team members to arrive at the rather busy site found that the casualty had recovered to some extent. Following advice by radio from the approaching YAS paramedic, the visitor was escorted gently back down the steps and handed over to YAS personnel.

However.



22. (also the same day) 13.56 Colt Park, Nr Ribblehead

As the Malham incident was concluding there was a further call to a potentially serious incident involving a paraglider at the Ribblehead end of Ingleborough, with other emergency services also on their way. A duty controller and a team Land Rover with advanced care medical personnel on board attended the scene while other members

prepared to deploy from the CRO Depot. Sadly, the casualty, who had apparently suffered a medical episode after making a safe landing, was deceased before the team arrived. Team members assisted in transferring the casualty to an ambulance for onward transport. A sad end to a busy day.

FATAL

23. Apr. 22nd Mon. 22.10 Ingleborough (towards Horton in Ribblesdale)

Two Three Peaks walkers (f, 22, 27) called NYP to say that they did not know where they were after leaving Ingleborough summit. Their phone and power bank had died after their initial call, and before they could pinpoint their exact location. A hasty search of roads and villages found their car in Horton in Ribblesdale car park. Two team members then set off to run up Sulber Nick and towards Ingleborough. Shortly afterward NYP advised that the mispers had sought help at a house in Clapham. They were collected, debriefed, and returned to their car in Horton.

24. Apr. 24th Wed. 15.47 Giggleswick Scar (North), Lawkland

A climber (m, 52) was reported to have fallen about 10m from the crag at Cave Hole, NW of Buckhaw Brow, sustaining a head injury. After assessment and treatment of the head wound by a team doctor and YAS paramedics, the casualty was stretchered down through the trees and transferred to the road ambulance.

Pro Tip: If using a phone all day, particularly for social media, photos etc., ensure that you have sufficient power back-up to last. Otherwise, keep the phone of one member of your party switched off for emergencies. Keep that phone in an inside pocket, as a cold battery will not last as long as a warm one.

25. (same day) 16.27 Short Gill, Barbondale, Cumbria

As Incident 24 was concluding, Cumbria Police advised that a child (m, 10) had sustained an injury while out with a group. He had slipped on a grassy slope and could not walk. Some members were diverted from the previous incident and others were called out from home. After assessment by a team paramedic, the

casualty was immobilised and stretchered down to a North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) ambulance.

26. Apr. 27th Sat. from 09.15 Three Peaks Race, Horton and Beyond

As they do each year, team members provided safety and rescue cover for the Three Peaks Race. Over the course of the day, they assisted two casualties: one spectator (m, 37) near the Hill Inn with a wrist injury and one walker (m, 76) unrelated to the race on Whernside summit with lacerations to face and hand.

Alert only. (same day) 17.45 Pen y ghent

A Three Peaks walker who had become separated from his walking partner on Pen y ghent reported that person missing. However, as the Duty Controller was making preliminary enquiries, the missing walker turned up safe and well near Horton in Ribblesdale.



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MAY



↑ 27. May 4th Sat. 13.35 Simon Fell Breast, Ingleborough

A fell-runner (f, 43) collapsed while descending from Ingleborough on a challenge event. A small team drove to the casualty site in CRO 4 to give immediate care alongside the event first aiders. When more team members arrived, the runner was placed in an insulated cas bag and onto a wheeled stretcher. She was taken along the path to a team Land Rover near Nick Pot and driven down into Crummackdale for transfer to a YAS ambulance.





28. (same day) 21.21 Clapham Bottoms, Clapham

Two Three Peaks walkers (m. 22 and 26) called NYP saying that they were lost. They had a limited signal which disappeared altogether after their first contact with NYP. However, they had given a good description of their surroundings, which narrowed down the search area. Members were dispatched in three team vehicles, quickly finding the mispers and bringing them safely down to Clapham.



29. May 11th Sat. 16.58 Baxengill Gorge, Ingleton

A visitor (f. 43) slipped and sustained an ankle



injury below Beezley Falls, on the return leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail. Team members splinted the ankle and then carried and wheeled the patient by stretcher to a YAS road ambulance back at Beezleys.

30. May 13th Mon. 19.28 Kingsdale, Thornton in Lonsdale

A child (m, 11) walking with an organised group had crawled under a large rock and apparently become stuck fast. Shortly before the team arrived on scene, the group leaders managed to extricate him from his predicament, none the worse for his adventure.

31. May 17th Fri. 18.09 Pen y ghent, Horton in Ribblesdale

The user of an all-terrain powered wheelchair (m. 36) became stranded when the wheelchair suffered a mechanical breakdown. The location was unclear initially but was determined to be the Pennine Way route down from Pen y ghent to Horton, A small group of team members out on a training session in CRO 4 drove to the site and took him and his vehicle to Horton, from where other members arranged his transport home.

32. May 18th Sat. 21.56 Pool Sink to Wretched Rabbit, Casterton, Cumbria

Their call-out person reported that six cavers (2m, 4f) doing an Ease Gill through trip from Pool Sink to Wretched Rabbit were significantly overdue. Team members went to Bull Pot Farm, prepared to search the route the cavers had taken, while Associate members - 'the Cavers List' - and underground members of Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association (UWFRA) were put on stand-by in case a more extensive search might be needed. As the first team members were getting ready to go underground the overdue party arrived back at Bull Pot Farm, having taken much longer than anticipated to complete their trip.



33. May 20th Mon. 19.51 Leck Fell, 🛂 Leck, Lancashire

NWAS received reports that cries for help had been heard from one of the many potholes on Leck Fell, which form part of the largest cave system in the UK. Team members joined a multi-agency response including specialist units from the Police. Fire and Ambulance services. Using their knowledge of the area and the cave systems, team members checked the entrances and upper pitches of more than 20 potholes. Surface team members and personnel from the Fire Service and Police, including the Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service Drone Team, also searched a large area of the fell. With no missing persons found, Lancashire Constabulary stood everyone down just after 01.00 on Tuesday.





34. May 25th Sat. 11.24 Bridleway Nr Clapdale, Clapham

A walker (m. 30) stumbled on a rock just beyond Clapdale Farm. He heard a snap from one knee, fell to the ground, and was unable to go further. By coincidence, team members were supporting Search Dog Kez and her handler in a demonstration event nearby. Two of the team were driven down to the bridleway iunction to scramble up to the casualty, CRO 1 continued down to Clapham, then, along with CRO 3, brought additional team members and YAS paramedics up to Clapdale Farm. Having been given mild pain relief, the casualty was 'packaged' and stretchered to CRO 3 to be taken down to the road ambulance.



35. (same day) 12.53 Twisleton Scars,

A climber (m, 61) fell a reported 3m at Twisleton Scars and suffered lower back pain. Team members and YAS paramedics from YAA assessed him then put him into a vacuum mattress ('full body splint') and on to a stretcher. Team members carried the casualty down over the steep and rocky ground to a more level area where the casualty could be lifted into the helicopter. The helicopter then flew down to the road near Twisleton Dale House to transfer him to a waiting road ambulance.



🖧 36. May 26th Sun. 22.00 Ingleborough

Four members of an original party of twelve Three Peaks walkers had been struggling and were reported overdue on the descent from Ingleborough. With a search plan in place and team members setting out to begin the search, a call was received confirming that the mispers had been guided safely down to Horton by another party of walkers with their lights.



Email: enquiries@bibbys.co.uk

Website: www.bibbys.co.uk

37. May 30th Thu. 12.15 Pen y ghent

A volunteer (m, 65) working on the Brackenbottom to Pen y ghent (Three Peaks) path was taken ill and was unable to walk off the hill. With other team members on stand-by, a small group drove CRO 4 all the way to the casualty site. After assessment the casualty was driven down to his car parked near Brackenbottom.

JUNE

38. Jun. 1st Sat. 12.13 Ingleborough

NYP asked for assistance with enquiries and a possible search for two walkers (m, late 60s) reported missing overnight when they failed to return to their accommodation in Horton in Ribblesdale. Their last known position was close to Ingleborough. One walker soon returned to Horton and said he had become separated from his companion after they had been benighted and spent an unplanned night on Ingleborough. He described roughly where he had last seen his companion – on very steep ground to the NW of the summit. Team members searched the area for several hours without success, assisted by a helicopter from NPAS and a search dog and handler from UWFRA.

Information was received at about 19.00 hours that the misper had turned up, safe and well, in a nearby pub. NYP collected him and, following a debrief, returned him to his accommodation.

39. (same day) 16.00 Pen y ghent

Although most available team members were occupied with the previous incident, a few were providing safety cover for the annual Pen y ghent Fell Race based in Horton in Ribblesdale. Race Control alerted them to a runner injured on the descent from Pen y ghent. On arrival at the casualty site, team members found two injured runners (f, 23 and f,35). One had twisted her ankle badly and was unable to continue, while the other was carrying an existing knee injury which had worsened. She had stopped to offer assistance to the first runner and then, wisely, decided not to carry on her own race. Both were assessed and then transported back to Horton.



40. (also same day) 18.00

A walker (f. 30) slipped on the stepped path descending from Whernside to Bruntscar, suffering a painful lower leg injury and finding herself unable to continue. Members who could be spared from the ongoing search on Ingleborough, plus others newly available, went up the hill and assessed and treated the casualty before sledging her down to CRO 3 in the stretcher. She was handed over to YAS paramedics waiting at the roadhead. Having assessed her, she was released to travel with family to her local hospital.



41. Jun. 2nd Sun. 14.58 Gordale Scar, Malham

A visitor (f.58) to Gordale Scar was reported to be suffering a medical problem. A YAS road ambulance, team vehicles and team members struggled to get through the heavy traffic, only to find that there was no casualty there. Witnesses said that someone had been ill, but appeared to have recovered and left with friends some time earlier. A further search confirmed that there was no casualty in the area.

Pro Tip: If you call 999 and the situation resolves, please call back and cancel the request for assistance.

42. Jun. 8th Sat. 13.21 **Whernside**

A walker (m) was reported to be unconscious and not breathing near the summit of Whernside. The Duty Controller asked NYP to call YAA. Two medical professionals who happened to be walking on the hill (and who had a defibrillator!) had already begun CPR. Sadly, despite their best efforts and those of the paramedics, the casualty

could not be resuscitated. Team members worked with the helicopter crew to recover the deceased to the road-head.

FATAL



43. Jun. 11th Tue. 08.30 Tosside

NYP asked for CRO's assistance in a search for a man (53), missing from a holiday park near Tosside since the previous evening. As Tosside straddles CRO's boundary with Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue Team, our colleagues offered to cover part of the search area. Team members began a thorough search of the area, including farmland and streams. Sadly, a short while later, NYP officers assisting with the search located the body of a man thought to be the missing person. Team members assisted NYP with the protracted investigation, recovery and evacuation.

FATAL



44. Jun. 15th Sat. 08.23 Pen y ghent

A Three Peaks walker (m, 50) was reported to have collapsed and was being given CPR by an off-duty paramedic near the summit of Pen y ghent. Team members who were approaching the summit to assist returned to Dale Head when YAS paramedics from YAA confirmed that the casualty was deceased and would be flown off the hill. Other members assisted with landing the aircraft and carried him to a waiting road ambulance.

FATAL

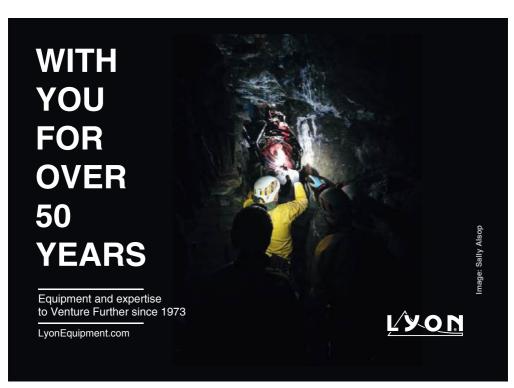


45. (same day) 14.15 White Scar Cave, / Ingleton

A visitor (m, 75) was reported to have collapsed in the Battlefield Chamber of White Scar Cave - the furthermost part of the show cave - but was now 'sat up with a cave guide' although unable to walk. After a thorough assessment by the team's doctor, the patient was carried by stretcher to the cave entrance and handed over to waiting YAS paramedics.

The text recording our incidents here is based on the frequent incident updates to be seen on our website at www.cro.org.uk.

These and a variety of CRO postings may also be found at www.facebook.com/CaveRescueOrganisation



46. Jun. 17th Mon. 20.34 Ingleborough

Three students (all m) were reported missing/ overdue on a walk over Ingleborough. Information was sparse but it was believed that they were near the ridge between South House Moor and Swine Tail. Their phone signal was weak and intermittent. A call from a tutor suggested that they were close to meeting up with the missing students but due to a misunderstanding between them this turned out to not be the case. As light was fading, a hasty party was sent up Ingleborough from Chapel le Dale and located all three, close to their originally reported position, safe and well but cold. They were walked down to the Hill Inn and driven in a team vehicle to their camp in Horton.

47. Jun. 18th Tue. 17.20 Pen y ghent

A walker (f, 44) was believed to be suffering a medical problem on the descent from Pen y ghent towards Hull Pot. Team vehicles took members to the top of Horton Scar Lane, then CRO 4 took a YAS paramedic and a team paramedic further up to the casualty site. After assessment, the patient was determined to have recovered sufficiently to be driven to Horton and given into the care of YAS.

Alert only Jun. 19th Wed. 15.44 Colt Park area, Ribblehead

A walker reported that he had sustained an ankle injury. Telephone communication was poor, but it seemed that he may have been in the Colt Park area. Team members were put on stand-by but, just as the duty controller's PhoneFind message showed that the caller had left the area, NYP advised that the walker had informed them he was safely back in his car and on the way home.

48. Jun. 29th Sat. 12.47 Malham Cove (top)

A visitor (f, 50s) fell on the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove, injuring her wrist. A team member attended, found the casualty, put her in a group shelter with her party, and directed the YAS paramedics to her location to make an assessment. Further team members assisted the paramedics in walking her to a team Land Rover which took her to the YAS ambulance.

JULY

49. Jul. 1st Mon. 10.31 Pen y ghent

A walker (f, 26) injured her lower leg on the path from Pen v ahent summit down toward Hull Pot. Two team vehicles drove up to the top of Horton Scar Lane, then team members and a YAS paramedic continued on foot. When the casualty had been assessed and her leg splinted, she was stretchered to a team vehicle which took her and the other members of her party to Horton and the ambulance.



50. Jul. 8th Mon. 16.08 Nr Long Churn Caves, Horton in Ribblesdale

Having just emerged from Lower Long Churn Cave, a caver (m, 30) slipped on the stile, sustaining a lower leg injury. Unable to walk down to Selside, he phoned for help. After assessment by a YAS paramedic, the injury was splinted and the casualty assisted into CRO 4 for the drive down to the road ambulance.

51. Jul. 22nd Mon. 15.19 Dean Moor, Malham Moor

A mountain biker reported falling from his bike, sustaining possible rib injuries. The location co-ordinates placed the mountain biker on the bridleway from Water Sinks to Langscar Gate, Malham Moor. As the call had 'emergency roamed' the caller could not be contacted in any way to confirm details. When team members and the YAS paramedics arrived at the supposed casualty site, nothing was found. With no patient to deal with, the YAS personnel were re-directed to a new incident and team members began an exhaustive search of all bridleways in the area, as well as asking other people whether they had seen a cyclist in apparent pain or distress. Nothing was found and no further emergency call was received.



52. Jul. 28th Sun. 17.09 Nr Janet's Foss, Malham

A walker (m, 89) fell and injured his shoulder on the footpath from Malham to Janet's Foss. Team members attended ready for the expected stretcher carry, but local knowledge allowed a team vehicle to drive right to the casualty's location. The casualty and attendant YAS personnel were driven back to the road ambulance in Malham.



53. Jul. 29th Mon. 23.14 Malham Cove (near top)

As he was returning to Malham after a very long day's walk, a lone walker (m, 53) found himself benighted and disoriented near the top of Malham Cove. Realising that he was near the edge of the Cove with only a phone torch, he sensibly remained where he was and rang for assistance. Having identified his location, a small team set out and one member walked to him relatively easily before escorting him back to safe ground and down to Malham.

AUGUST

54. Aug. 4th Sun. 11.41 Horton Scar Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale

A walker (f, 69) collapsed while walking on Horton Scar Lane. Team vehicles took members and YAS paramedics to the site, put the patient onto a team stretcher and then into CRO 3. The patient was driven to a field lower down the track and transferred to a YAA helicopter which had iust landed.



55. (same day) 16.38 Lund Farm, Burton in Lonsdale

A walker (m, 78) fell and injured his lower back on a footpath near to the River Greta, between Ingleton and Burton. After attention from the YAS personnel, team members lifted him carefully into a vacuum mattress and then into a stretcher which was wheeled and carried across fields to a YAS ambulance.



56. Aug. 6th Tue. 15.58 Janet's Foss, Malham

A walker (m, 19) collapsed, suffering facial injuries, on the footpath near Janet's Foss. Team members assisted the YAS paramedics already on-scene to bring the casualty to a nearby field to be transferred to the YAA helicopter.





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New Experiences

The team engaged with four probationary members in September 2023. A year later, all four gained full operational membership. We invited two of them— Eleri and Jude—to talk about their motivation and their experiences over their first 18 months with the team.

Why did you join the team?

Eleri: Growing up, my Dad used to take me walking a lot in the Brecon Beacons/Bannau Brycheiniog and I remember thinking Mountain Rescue were like superheroes, with red capes (jackets), helping people in some of the most inaccessible areas. I spend a lot of time outdoors, through work, walking my dogs and running on the trails and fells. I've always taken comfort knowing that there's a team of dedicated and experienced volunteers in Mountain Rescue willing to come to my aid should something go wrong. So it's a real privilege to join the team and give something back.

Jude: I've loved being in the outdoors since I was first introduced to hiking and camping on Dartmoor as a member of my high school's Combined Cadet Force. I wanted to use the knowledge and skills I've built over a lifetime in the outdoors to help those who find themselves in difficulty in the hills. Anyone, no matter how experienced, can find themselves in trouble and in need of assistance.

What is your day job?

Eleri: I'm a freshwater ecologist so I spend a lot of time working in rivers and lakes monitoring water quality and undertaking ecological surveys.

Jude: I'm a seabird ecologist. The Yorkshire Dales isn't best known for its seabirds so I get to spend some time on remote Scottish islands during the spring and summer. However, I work from home most of the time!

What have been the highlights of joining the team?

Eleri: A main highlight for me has been the people. I'm not from the Dales originally so it's been a real pleasure meeting like-minded individuals and being welcomed into the team. It sounds cliché but there really is a family feel with everyone looking out for one another. During the probationary

year we had lots of bespoke training as well as joining the full team training. One of my favourite sessions was learning to use a specialist piece of equipment called the Larkin frame. This involved me dangling off a crag on Storrs Common, getting lowered down and hauled back up! It was really interesting to see how various pieces of equipment can aid complex rescue situations.



Jude: Meeting new people, learning new skills, and feeling like I've played a part in helping people who have found themselves in difficulty. Everyone in the team has been incredibly welcoming and keen to share their knowledge and experience. It's a great feeling to be part of a group of likeminded people willing to give their time freely to help others. I've gained so much new knowledge and skills in everything from search techniques to swift water rescue to casualty care, but the learning and skill development will never stop, which is exciting!

Have you undertaken any specialist training?

Eleri: In October 2024 I qualified as a Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Technician (SRT). The training involved theory and practical sessions in the local area before heading up to the whitewater centre in Glasgow for the assessment. My day job involves a lot of wading through rivers, so it was great to learn more about search and rescue techniques in this environment.



Above: Swiftwater training.

Opposite: The Larkin Frame.

Jude: I qualified as a Remote Rescue Medical Technician after a month of very intensive training. The practical exam was held underground in a local show cave (without the lighting) which added to the intensity of the experience.

Do you just attend rescues?

Jude: It's not just about going on call outs. There's an expectation that all members of the team attend monthly training sessions, vehicle and kit maintenance sessions, quarterly meetings and fundraising events. We all help with the annual CRO Challenge, one of our biggest fundraisers held in May. There is the choice to take part in a 12- or 26-mile walk/run starting and finishing at the CRO Depot in Clapham – a fun day for everyone involved!

Eleri: Some team members also undertake their own fundraising activities. The team needed to purchase six new sets of Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Technician (SRT) personal protective equipment (PPE), which cost about £1150 each. I was happy to support the fundraising effort with my attempt at the Montane Winter Spine Challenger South MRT race, alongside teammates Jude and Craig. We are really proud of the money we raised and grateful to all who donated.

What, if anything, have you found most challenging about joining the team?

Eleri: Joining the team has been a really positive experience so it's hard to pull out any specific challenges. My main hobbies don't involve much specialist equipment so it's been a learning curve for me getting to grips with some of the rescue rigging techniques. But everyone in the team has been really supportive and helpful in getting me up to speed. The regular training sessions have been so valuable and 'practicing with purpose is the key to progress', as they say!

Jude: Probably just how much there is to learn! The first six months of training introduced us to everything from call-out procedures, incident management and locating casualties, to the huge amount of rescue kit we have for both above and below ground rescues, where it's kept, how it's maintained and how it's used. The second six months saw us continuing to train with the specialist kit, but we also attended incidents, helping carrying equipment and with stretcher evacuations under the watchful eye of our more experienced team members. Seeing how the procedures and kit come together in real rescue scenarios really helped embed everything we were taught in training.

What are you looking forward to over the next few years?

Eleri: This year I'm hoping to do my Remote Rescue Medical Technician training, to expand my skill set and become better equipped to assist casualties during rescues. I'm also looking forward to the CRO Challenge on 17th May. Before I joined CRO I used to enter the event every year and loved it. There's a great atmosphere and some excellent homemade cakes at the finish, so I really enjoy helping out on the day and seeing people have as much fun as I did!

Jude: I'm really looking forward to consolidating everything I've learnt over the last 18 months, hopefully needing to ask a few less questions and becoming more confident in how I contribute to the team.

News for our supporters:

Like all search and rescue teams in England & Wales, the Cave Rescue Organisation ('CRO') is a charitable organisation, reliant on people's generosity for donations to continue its work. The statutory emergency services may call out the team day or night, at any time of year and in any conditions, so it's essential that members and equipment are always prepared. The time recorded on call-outs (3,529 volunteer hours in 2024) is dwarfed by the un-recorded time spent on training, equipment and building maintenance, raising both team awareness and funds, plus just running the Organisation, In 2024 this cost £85,289 (See finance charts on page 37). However, vehicle replacement could cost up to £300.000 over the next two or three years. Providing PPE to help protect our 55 operational members is also expensive—think quality waterproofs, fleece, helmet, harness for all and caving suit and/or water kit for some.

Every operational or support member is expected to commit some time to awareness and fund raising activities, and there are plenty to go at:

- supporting the annual Ingleborough Challenge ,
- maintaining collecting boxes in shops and businesses across the area,
- staffing the CRO stand at a variety of local events and activities,
- talking to groups particularly of young people about rescue (and how to avoid it!)
- · seeking support from local businesses,
- maintaining CRO's Just Giving or Local Giving pages,
- · maintaining our on-line shop and
- other tasks in support of the Treasurer and Secretary.

What's new?

To celebrate our 90th Anniversary in 2025, we are increasing our awareness-raising activities and events. We have created a promotional video; *CRO - Saving Lives Above & Below Ground*, which is available across our social media platforms or by using this QR Code.



This is a great way to find out what the team does, or you could visit us at our monthly exhibition stand at Ribblehead, planned* between Easter and October (Saturday - 19 April, 24 May, 21 June, 12 July, 20 September & 25 October) or at our local events and activities; Austwick Street Market & Cuckoo Festival (Mon 26 May), Ingleton Gala (Sat 19 July), Malham Show (Sat 23 August) or Settle Christmas Lights Switch On (Nov 2025 (Date TBC)).

[*Please check dates on our website—www.cro.uk.]

You can help us remain on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by donating to the Cave Rescue Organisation. By helping us you will be making a difference for those calling for help, allowing us to keep saving lives above and below ground in the Yorkshire Dales.



Take the CRO Ingleborough Challenge to enjoy the beautiful hill without the usual Three Peaks crowd. Our friendly members and supporters are there to help, whether you walk or run, doing 12 miles or 26. Our video of the 2023 event provides a taster – it boosted numbers in 2024, so we had to close entries early to avoid serious over-subscription. Watch it at https://youtu.be/ldCnAJ9QreQ.

The 2025 Challenge is on the 17th May and that in 2026 will be on16th May. Find more about the event at https://cro.org.uk/the-cro-challenge. We hope to see you there!

P.S. Cake at the finish!

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CRO has a 'fleet' of four vehicles, three of which are Land Rover Defender 130s of varying age up to 20 years old, plus a Honda Pioneer 'side-by-side ATV' now a little over five years old. The make-up of that fleet is still under review, as reported last year, and some remedial work has been done on the oldest vehicle. The situation will be resolved very soon, but there is a great variety of alternative vehicles available. Perhaps the protracted discussions show just how flexible the old-style 'Landy' was? And who can predict our precise requirements for 5, 10 or 20 years hence?

In this report of incidents attended by CRO members during 2024, the vehicles deployed are usually referred to by their radio call-sign.

CRO 1 is the 5-seat equipment Land Rover, kitted out as the primary cave rescue response vehicle, although also capable of supporting most surface incidents.

CRO 2 also has five seats but is the primary fell or surface incident vehicle.

CRO 3 has seven seats plus two fold-up 'dickie seats' not used on the road. Rescue kit is minimal by comparison with 1 and 2. The rear seats may be re-configured so either type of stretcher may be slid in to carry an immobilised patient to a road-head, with three people seated.

CRO 4, the Honda Pioneer, can carry four people and only a very minimum of equipment, but its weight – and thus pressure on the ground – are only a fraction of one of the Land Rovers. It is used to carry casualty carers rapidly and usually more directly to a casualty site, so that assessment and care may begin before the main party and equipment arrive.



Giving to the Cave Rescue Organisation

Any recorded donation made to a registered charity by a UK taxpayer is boosted by (currently) 25% when the charity claims back the income tax deemed to have been paid on the money given. A donation by cash or cheque should be sent with the completed declaration (below) to The Treasurer, CRO, Clapham, via LANCASTER LA2 8HH. A standing order (opposite) should be sent to the donor's own bank and the Gift Aid declaration to the Treasurer, as above.

Smartphone users have two options. This QR code—also printed on our collecting box label—will take you to the **Just Giving** site with simple instructions to make the donation. CRO pays a fee for this service.

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Much better for CRO, access our page on the Local Giving site from the QR code on page 36.

HMRC also allows Gift Aid on small cash donations made through our collecting boxes. This is limited to a combined total of £2,000 per year.



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Promoting safety is one of CRO's charitable objects. Much of keeping safe is common sense, although sometimes it seems that common sense is a rare commodity. Those three points made in our Chair's introduction—knowledge/skills, knowing the weather and having the right gear, are the key components of being *AdventureSmart*.

Outdoor knowledge often comes with experience and, like skills, can be learned by, for example, joining a walking club and asking someone more experienced how to navigate, then 'topping up' with expert instruction. Plus, there's plenty of advice on the internet, at outdoor shops or in your local library.

It's easy to check on the weather you can expect, by watching the BBC, but for updated local forecasts, try the Mountain Weather Information Service www.mwis.org.uk. This has local forecasts for the Dales and for other upland areas.

You don't have to spend a fortune to begin going walking. Decent footwear and waterproofs plus something comfortable to carry your food and plenty to drink for the day will suffice at first, then gradually improve your gear with those goodies that should make your day safer and more enjoyable.

There are several short and very basic safety videos on YouTube, aimed primarily at newer walking communities. These were produced in collaboration with MOSAIC Outdoors and our colleagues in Upper Wharfedale FRA and are presented by people of those communities.

View on your smartphone here:





Dogs and Cattle Don't Mix!

To safeguard sheep, it is a legal requirement that a dog is kept on a lead or otherwise under close control when taken through a field with sheep. But the risk may be to the dog and its owner if the field contains cattle. A group of frisky young cattle or a cow with its calf may take exception to the dog and charge towards it. This doesn't happen often, but if it happens to you, send the dog away from you as vigorously as possible. Both you and your dog should have more chance of avoiding injury, if you aren't attached to each other. If you have a dog and you do see cattle in a field, keep an eye on them and give them a wide berth to reduce the risk. Also, try not to walk between a cow and its voung calf or, indeed, between a ewe and its young lamb.

If you need help in an emergency, away from a metalled road, call '999', ask for 'Police' then ask the Police for 'Mountain Rescue'. Follow the instructions given and keep the phone clear so that the rescue controller may phone back for clarification or to give re-assurance.

Regular outdoors-people use grid references to describe map locations whereas the statutory services use What3Words. Whichever is used, please always also provide a placename and a description of where you are.

Emergency calls only means your phone can't make normal calls, but can 'roam' to a different network to call 999. But no-one can phone you back, nor can you access the internet to load a location app.. In this situation think about your location (placenames, grid reference and description) before making the call and, perhaps call 999 again in ten minutes to be able to answer detailed questions to speed the response.

We're all in favour of self-rescue — outdoors-people are supposed to be self-reliant—but if you call for help, then escape the situation or are helped by passers-by, please do have the courtesy to call 999 again to stand us down.

No-one likes to be taken for granted!

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57. Aug. 8th Thu. 13.09 Below Beezley Falls, Ingleton

A canyoner (f, 14) fell about 9 metres into the River Doe. Her group leaders had brought her out onto the bank, where she was complaining of back pain. After the casualty had been checked by YAS paramedics, team members stretchered her back to the YAS ambulance for further assessment.



58. Aug. 15th Thu. 14.27 Kingsdale Master Cave, Thornton in Lonsdale

A caver reported that four companions (m, 59; f, 38; m, 26; m, 26) — two experienced and two less so — were unable to reach their ladder from the streamway up to the Roof Tunnel in Kingsdale Master Cave because of fast-flowing and rising water. The first team members went in Valley Entrance to rig for a rescue but soon encountered the cavers making their way out safely along the Roof Tunnel.

59. Aug. 18th Sun. 09.56 Pen y ghent

A walker (f. 49) was reported to have fallen on the rake path ('the miners' track') NW of Pen y ghent summit, sustaining a head injury. As team members and a YAS road ambulance were en route, the walker's husband told YAS that she had suffered a suspected broken arm but was being walked down Horton Scar Lane and could be taken to hospital in the family car. The ambulance crew and several team members. stood down from the incident but one team Land Rover, with casualty carers, continued up the lane to meet the family group. Because, on arriving at the road-head and being assessed, the casualty said she felt dizzy and a bit faint, a YAS ambulance was re-called to take her to hospital.

60. Aug. 19th Mon. 12.02 'Norber Boulder Field', Austwick

A walker (m, 58) fell from one of the 'Norber boulders' (glacial erratics), sustaining a serious ankle injury. An air ambulance was landing as team members arrived at the road-head. When they reached the casualty site, the patient was being 'packaged' by YAA paramedics. Team members assisted with a short carry to the helicopter.

Alert only Aug. 21st Wed. 18.28 Whernside (summit ridge)

A walker (m, 19) called the ambulance service, saying that he and a companion (f) were lost and cold. The call initially went to NWAS as the phone mast was in Lancashire and was passed to YAS and thus to CRO. The YAS system showed the caller to be on the summit ridge of Whernside. Team members were put on stand-by but, after some communication difficulties, it was learned that the mispers had been guided safely off the hill by other walkers.

Alert only Aug. 22nd Thu. 12.07 Scaleber Force, Settle

YAS asked for CRO's assistance after a visitor (f, 49) was injured following a fall at Scaleber Force. However, as team members were organising to respond, it was confirmed that the YAS crew had been able to assist the casualty to their road ambulance, so team members stood down.



61. Aug. 24th Sat. 13.42 Pen y ghent / Horton Scar Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale

A walker (f, 43) tripped while out with friends on Pen y ghent, sustaining a painful knee injury. She was able to walk only a short distance before continuing became too painful. Team members drove up to the scene and, having assessed her injury, splinted the knee before driving the whole party back to Horton.

62. Aug. 29th Thu. 12.11 Wharfe Wood,

A walker (f, 76) slipped on a stone step stile and injured her chest and back on the walk through Wharfe Wood, above Feizor and Austwick. Other walkers guided the first team members, the team doctor and paramedic to the casualty site. They began the casualty care process before YAS personnel arrived. Given the initial description of events, YAA also attended but evacuation by helicopter was deemed unnecessary. After treatment and 'packaging', the walker was stretchered back to the waiting team Land Rovers at the Feizor Nick track and driven down to Feizor for transfer to a YAS road ambulance.





on Whernside. Inquiries determined that three of them had descended into Kingsdale and the other four were still on the summit ridge. Two team members drove up and found the three Kingsdale mispers on the road near Yordas Cave. Eight team members headed up Whernside on foot from Kingsdale Head in high winds and with rain approaching to locate the others. They found the four mispers, cold but uninjured, on the summit ridge and guided them back down to the waiting team vehicles.

63. (same day) 16.30 Simon Fell, Ingleborough

As members were completing the cleaning and clearing up from incident no 62, there was a call to a walker (f, 19) who had slipped while on the top of South House Moor, near Simon Fell above Selside. A painful ankle injury meant that she was unable to continue walking. The location is one of the least accessible in the CRO operational area for vehicles, so required team members to walk up from near Selside. The casualty was located, assessed, and packaged. Weather and ground conditions ruled out an evacuation by air ambulance, and as it would soon be dark and very cold with the prospect of a long and difficult stretcher descent, YAA requested the assistance of HM Coastquard. A Coastquard helicopter flew in from North Wales, airlifting the casualty and her family down to an ambulance waiting in Horton. Team members walked down from the hill after a long day!

64. Aug. 31st Sat. 22.12 Nr Ingleborough Cave, Clapham

Two walkers (m, 45, f, 13) told NYP they were lost somewhere near Ingleborough Cave. Team vehicles conducted a preliminary search of tracks in the area, while other team members gathered at the Depot ready for a more extensive search. The mispers were found, very quickly, near the entrance to Ingleborough Cave. Cold but unhurt, they were brought back to the Depot.

65. (same day) 23.10 Whernside

Team members were still at the Depot when NYP advised of a group of seven walkers (f) missing



SEPTEMBER

66. Sep. 7th Sat. 12.10 Pen y ghent

A walker (f, 34) suspected she had broken an ankle. A call to the reporting party and the use of PhoneFind established that they were on Pen y ghent. With the RV at Dale Head, a hasty party was sent ahead with medical equipment, and they splinted the injured ankle. As CRO 4 was able to reach the site, it was used to carry the casualty to the roadhead for transfer to the waiting YAS road ambulance.

67. Sep 8th Sun. 13.47 Scaleber Force, Settle

A visitor (f, 27) slipped and fell a short distance at the foot of the lowest cascade of Scaleber Force, experiencing serious back pain. Arriving on scene, the YAS paramedics requested CRO's assistance. Having given pain relief and put her into an insulated casualty bag, team members lifted the casualty onto a stretcher for the carry up the steep and slippery path for her transfer to the road ambulance.





68. Sep. 13th Fri. 13.46 Janet's Foss, Malham

A walker (f, 65) slipped on the path descending to Janet's Foss and suffered a head injury. After assessment by a team member, she was able to walk the short distance back to the road and taken in a CRO vehicle to Malham car park and the YAS paramedics.

69. Sep. 16th Mon. 16.06 Nr Trow Gill, Clapham

A walker (f, 67) slipped on the footpath above Trow Gill, sustaining a head injury. CRO 4 was driven close to the casualty site while other team members gathered below in case of a stretcher carry. Following an assessment of her injuries, the casualty was assisted in walking the short distance to CRO 4 and driven down to Clapham.

70. (same day) 20.17 Pen y ghent

Two walkers (f) were reported missing and believed to be on Pen y ghent. As darkness fell, they changed their descent route and became disoriented. Once their location was established, team members were able to drive team vehicles to them and take them safely back to Horton in Ribblesdale.



71. Sep. 21st Sat. 23.52 Horton Scar Lane, Horton in Ribblesdale

A walker (m, 46) was unable to continue his descent from Pen y ghent due to the combined effects of a pre-existing medical condition and exhaustion. As the walker's location was known and readily accessible, two members collected him in a team Land Rover and drove him back to Horton.

72. Sep. 25th Wed. 19.23 Clapham Bottoms, Clapham

A group of Three Peaks walkers (3, all m) took the wrong route off the Ingleborough summit plateau and descended to Gaping Gill in thick cloud and 'horizontal rain', rather than the path to Horton in Ribblesdale. They were wet, cold and unable to continue, having been walking for almost twelve hours. PhoneFind placed the walkers just North of Trow Gill, going on to Clapham Bottoms. They were located by team members, driven down to Clapham in team vehicles, and given a snack and hot drink as YAS paramedics checked them over in the Depot.

73. Sep 26th Thu. 10.37 Dean Moor, Malham Moor

An expeditioner (f,15) sustained an ankle injury while walking on a footpath over Dean Moor to the northeast of Langscar Gate. Fortunately, two of the supervisory staff were members of other mountain rescue teams, so they splinted the injury, gave pain relief, and sheltered the casualty in an expedition tent while calling CRO through NYP. Team members carried and 'sledged' the casualty to Langscar Gate, where she was transferred to the group's vehicle for the journey to hospital and further treatment.

This all took place in the heaviest rain the area has enjoyed for several months



74. (same day) 17.31 Nr Gordale House,

A visitor (m. 77) tripped and fell, sustaining a serious ankle injury. In the broken telephone call he made to YAS, he described being 'in a field' and said he could 'see Gordale Farm to his left' but gave no further information. Team members were alerted at the same time as a road ambulance was allocated to the incident. The first three team members arriving at Gordale Bridge learned that the fall had taken place on the path to Gordale Scar, but the casualty had crawled into the adjacent field where he was seen by the farmer and driven to the road-head. These members helped transfer the patient to the road ambulance and everyone else stood down.

Alert only Sep. 29th Sun. 16.46 Bull Pot of the Witches, Casterton

A caller, living over 200 miles away where there had been heavy rain and flooding, was unable to phone his son (35) who had intended exploring Bull Pot of the Witches. He therefore contacted the Police concerned about his son's safety, some three hours earlier than their agreed callout time. He was unaware that there had been little or no rain in the Casterton area that day and that only the very bottom of that system floods with heavy rain. The CRO Duty Controller phoned Bull Pot Farm — the Red Rose Cave & Pothole Club's base — and someone very kindly agreed to check the parked cars, then offered to go look into the pot. Fifteen minutes later, she reported that she had made voice contact with the 'missing' caver who was well on the way out of the hole and mystified as to the cause for concern. The Police and the caller were informed that all was well.

OCTOBER

75. Oct. 3rd Thu. 18.12 Whernside

A walker (f, 26) was having difficulty descending from Whernside due to a painful knee injury. Inquiries determined that she was descending slowly towards Bruntscar, assisted by a companion. As it was cold and getting dark, team members attended and helped the walker to rejoin her party in safety.

76. Oct. 5th Sat. 20.45 Fell Close, Ingleborough

A party of four Three Peaks walkers (all m, 51, 19,21 & 22) became disoriented and lost. They had descended the wrong way from Ingleborough in the dark, despite being experienced and reasonably well equipped. PhoneFind showed that they had been heading towards Low Sleights Road (the Ribblehead-Ingleton road). Team members located the mispers and guided them back to a team Land Rover for return to their accommodation.

77. Oct. 10th Thu. 16.38 Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough

A paraglider pilot (m, 57) called for assistance after a bad landing which included a fall from about 5 metres. He advised that he had a

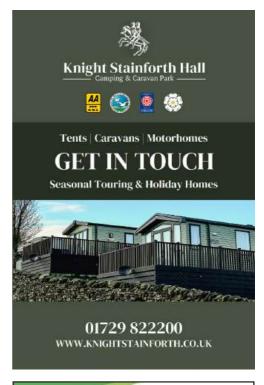
bruised back and leg and was unable to walk off the hill. Having found him, team members assessed him, 'packaged' him in a vacuum mattress, and brought him down to a team Land Rover on a stretcher. He was driven to the roadhead and handed over to YAS paramedics.





78. Oct. 13th Sun. 17.13 Ingleton Waterfalls Trail

A visitor (m, 'elderly') took a fall on the return leg of the Ingleton Waterfalls Trail and was seen to be struggling. One passing walker loaned him a walking pole, and another tried to phone for help, but had no signal until almost reaching Ingleton. Team members walked or ran that half of the Trail from each end without finding the man and his wife. They were found to have reached the village where a team member spotted them. They were able to continue to the Trail car park.



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Edward Wilson 07818 456161

Ingleton and surrounding areas



STRAMONGATE

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00. Oct. 13th 1934. Sat. 19.15 Gingling Hole, Fountains Fell, Malham Moor



A potholer (m) was reported to have displaced a loose boulder which trapped his leg and broke it in two places on the slope into what was then the final chamber of Gingling Hole. His companions made splints from a camera tripod and a ladder rung before trying to move him. Meanwhile, it was about three and a quarter hours before their club-mate who had gone out for help could raise the alarm. Gradually, potholers from the few other clubs caving at the time became aware and turned up to help. Eventually. a local (non-caving) doctor was allowed underground and he applied a plaster cast while in a low passage (less than a metre high) with water flowing through. The casualty was 'stretchered' out of the hole on a plank (supplied by the farmer at Rainscar), transferred to Skipton's (St John Ambulance Brigade) motor ambulance and

Footnote: An account of the incident which sparked the conception of CRO as a potholers' mutual aid organisation appears on the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club website at The Gingling Hole Accident – The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club (yrc.org.uk), although timings seem to vary on different accounts. The YRC is Britain's oldest caving club and was also involved, later, in the setting up of the Joint Stretcher Committee, precursor to Mountain Rescue (England & Wales).

arrived at Skipton Hospital some 30 hours

after his accident.

79. Oct. 27th Sun. 15.44 Malham Cove (top)

A walker (f, 78) became ill near the middle of the limestone pavement at the top of Malham Cove. Team members assessed her before helping her on to a stretcher. She was wheeled to a team

vehicle and driven down to Malham car park. After a further assessment by the team doctor, she re-joined her (many) companions on their coach for the return home (or to a local hospital, if necessary). Our team doctor received a round of applause!

80. Oct. 28th Mon. 17.44 Gunnerfleet Area, Ingleton

NYP received an incomplete call from some people who had walked off Whernside, uninjured but lost and benighted, so couldn't find their car. From some of the words given, they may have been in the Gunnerfleet area. It transpired that the call had 'roamed' to another network to enable the 999 call, which meant that no-one could call back to ask questions and our reliable PhoneFind application would not work. As three team members arrived at Ribblehead in two vehicles, NYP advised that the mispers had called to say that they had found their car and were now on their way home.

NOVEMBER

81. Nov. 7th Thu. 14.07 Malham Cove (steps)

A walker (f, 65) slipped on the path down the west side of Malham Cove, suffering a suspected fracture to her right ankle. Team members assessed her, provided pain relief, and splinted the lower leg before helping her on to a stretcher. She was then wheeled to a team vehicle and driven down to Malham car park, from where friends would transport her to hospital.



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from a distance, a hound (which was part of a pack being trailed on Studrigg Scar) apparently tumbling down a steep bank. He had seen the hound get up but had seen nothing beyond that and was concerned as to its welfare. Neither NYP nor CRO received any further requests for assistance and no 'injured animal' reports were received.

The informant was thanked for his concern.



82. Nov. 9th Sat. 16.45 Ingleborough

A Three Peaks walker (m, 44) was reported to be having breathing difficulties and feeling as though he was going to lose consciousness on Ingleborough, his final peak. His companions started walking him back down towards the Hill Inn, as conditions were deteriorating. A small party of team members soon found the walkers and helped them to the waiting team Land Rovers. After an examination by YAS paramedics, they were driven down to the road-head.

Alert only. Nov. 13th Wed. 12.55 Studrigg Scar, Crummackdale, **Austwick**

A passing walker contacted NYP after seeing.





83. Nov. 21st Thu. 12.31 Nr Runscar Cave, Ribblehead

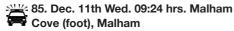
A caving instructor (m, 43) slipped on frozen turf after exiting Runscar Cave and sustained a lower leg injury. Having ensured the safety of the client group, the other instructors set up a group shelter for their colleague and called for help. Team members assessed the casualty and immobilised his leg before carrying him, by stretcher, to the road-head. His colleagues drove him to hospital for further assessment and treatment.



84. Nov. 22nd Fri. 10.05 hrs. Humphrey Bottom, Ingleborough

A walker (m, 48) slipped on ice on the path up Humphrey Bottom to Ingleborough, sustaining a suspected hip injury. The first team members to arrive at the casualty site found that he was just being loaded into an air ambulance, so the team stood down.

DECEMBER



Team members assisted NYP by recovering a deceased person from the foot of Malham Cove for transfer to the undertaker at the roadhead. A sad end to a busy year.

FATAL

(England)



Key:

BPMRT - Bowland Pennine MRT

CMRT - Cleveland MRT

Mountain Rescue Search Dogs

LAMRT - Langdale Ambleside MRT

OVMRT - Ogwen Valley MRT

OMRT - Oldham MRT

PMRT - Penrith MRT

UWFRA - Upper Wharfedale FRA

WMRT - Wasdale MRT

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 several local farmers and the support (by getting 'lost'!) of a number of dogs' bodies.

Kez (below) and her handler were called out sixteen times outside the CRO core area in 2024. For more information on mountain rescue search dogs visit

www.mountainrescuesearchdogsengland.org.uk



1st Jan. (01.00) - PMRT - Cross Fell area, Dufton, Cumbria

Search for lone fell-runner (m). Found, deceased, by a member of the public, 2km from Dufton (outside search area).

3rd Jan. (07.00) - OMRT - Saddleworth Moor, Oldham, Greater Manchester

Search for man (82) last seen walking towards Saddleworth Moor, the previous day. Found, deceased, by a member of the public, outside search area.

10th Jan. (06.00) - OVMRT - Carnedd Llewelyn area, Gwynnedd

Search boulder field and ridge of Carnedd Llewelyn for lone walker (m), last heard from at 13.00 two days previously. Found, deceased, three months later.

30th Mar. (19.00) – UWFRA – Kettlewell, North Yorkshire

Called to search area above Kettlewell after shouts for help were heard. On arrival, redeployed to Ilkley Moor for other incident. (No-one found on Kettlewell search.)

(same day) (20.10) – UWFRA – Keighley Gate area of Rombalds Moor, Ilkley, West Yorkshire Called to search for family of five, lost and benighted on Ilkley Moor. Stood down en route as family found by local UWFRA member.

3rd Apr. (10.00) – UWFRA – Grimwith / Trollers Gill area, Hartlington / Appletreewick, North Yorkshire

Search area centred on Dibbles Bridge after NYP found car with note inside from owner (f, 25). Found, deceased, by a walker near Parceval Hall.

17th April (17.45) – UWFRA – Ilkley, West Yorkshire

Search woodland near Ilkley for man reported missing the previous day. Found in Scarborough by NYP.

10th May (05.30) – WMRT – Central Lakeland, Cumbria

Called previous evening to search for walker reported missing, possibly in Scafell Pike area. Searched route West of river up to Cam Spout Crag and Esk Buttress. Found, deceased, by WMRT near Corridor Route.

21st Jul. (12.42) – UWFRA – Barden area, North Yorkshire

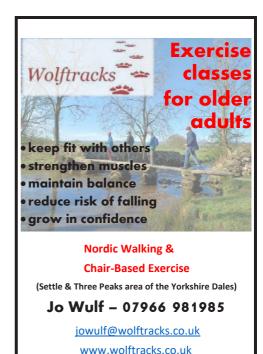
Try to find a trail of the owner (m, 44) of a car found, with a note, at Barden Bridge. Misper found, deceased, below The Strid, by a member of the public, two days later.

8th Aug. (12.00) – CMRT – Nr Ingleby Greenhow, North Yorkshire

Called to search Bank Foot Wood area after two independent reports of shouts for help. Stood down en route after farmer said shouts may have been someone directing their working dog.

15th Aug. (01.18) – BPMRT – Warton Crag area, Nr Carnforth, Lancashire

Search paths and area near Warton Crag after man (58) parked in the car park but did not return. Found, deceased, by a member of the public, two days later.





10th Oct. (12.00) – UWFRA – Barden / Burnsall area. North Yorkshire

Try to find the trail of a man (70s) supposedly walking from Barden Bridge to Burnsall. Stood down immediately after deployment as found, safe and well, by a member of the public, near Thruscross Reservoir, several kilometres in a different direction.

30th Oct. (08.00) – LAMRT – East of Grasmere, Cumbria

Called for availability, late evening of 29th and searched up to Heron Pike on 30th for a paraglider pilot missing since 11.00 on 29th. Found alive but with multiple injuries by KMRT, SW of Great Rigg.

6th Nov. (10.45) – PMRT – Cross Fell area, Dufton, Cumbria

Called to search for a walker (m, 75) lost in mist and benighted on the 5th, prompting an overnight search by Lakes teams. Stood down after misper phoned in and SARDA (Lakes) doghandler went to meet him.

16th Dec. (18.15) – UWFRA – Whinney Gill Reservoir, Skipton, North Yorkshire

Search reservoir edge and woodland after man (55) was reported missing. Kez indicated point where misper had gone into the water and he was found close to there, deceased, the following day by Police divers.

Note re expenditure chart (opposite)

**comprises building maintenance, light/heat, insurance, cleaning, rates, water, rent.

***independent examiner (accounts), subscriptions, postage, stationery, travel, bank charges and legal costs.

Equipment costs comprised general 10%, PPE 10% and medical 8%.

Note also that the team's Land Rovers are in serious need of review for replacement.

CRO contributors were

Alison Haigh, Andy Colau, Bob Scurr, Dave Gregory, Eleri Pritchard, Jake Stapleton, Jon Beavan, Jude Lane, Julian Leader, Martin Colledge, Martin Holroyd, Phil James, Phil Nuttall, Rae Lonsdale, Simon Johnson and Simon Oxley with apologies to any forgotten photographers.

It's a Changing World . .

Some modern developments, intended to make life simpler - for the declining number of bank staff, if not always for folk with bank accounts - have unintended consequences.

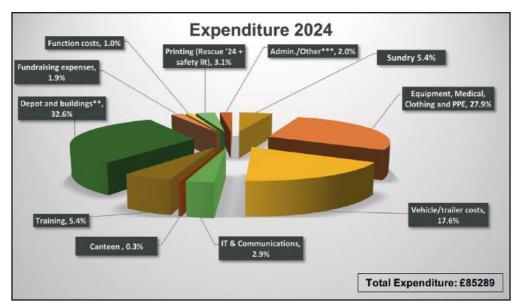
One such, for CRO, is the reduction in collecting tin donations by about three quarters over the past six or seven years. The shift from cash and 'loose change' to plastic for almost everything has had a major effect, not really compensated for by our putting a Gift Aid QR code on the collecting tin label.

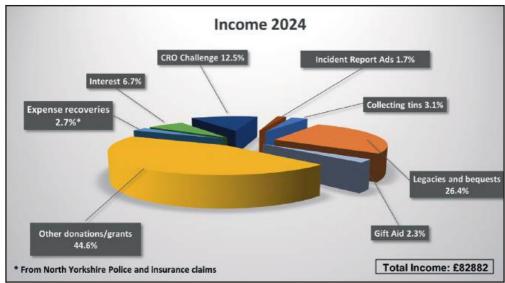
An even greater change - this time very beneficial - is the massive increase in income from legacies. We've never liked to remind folk that 'You can't take it with you when you go.' but, fortunately, some people, aware of what the team does, have remembered us in their will or at their funeral, so that legacies contributed over a quarter of our income last year (and over half, the year before).

For those who are alive, kicking and paying tax, the most cost-effective means of giving is through Local Giving. This QR code will get you there, as will a simple internet search. We pay a small annual subscription and they do all the processing and tax recovery, so our Treasurer doesn't have to.



Financial Summary 2024





This is a summary of CRO's income and expenditure for the year ending October 31st 2024. Increased spending on personal protective equipment (PPE) for members is one of the reasons that total expenditure is substantially greater than in recent years.

The Organisation's annual report and accounts 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 either 'Cave Rescue Organisation' or 1201338.



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



Incidents 2024

Numbers in brackets indicate fatalities

IVU
Incidents
Cave 5
'Mountain'
walking 62 (2)
climbing 3
caver on surface 2
running 2
paragliding 2 (1)
canyoning 1
cons'vation volunteer 1
cycling 1
wheelchair user 1
'Local' incidents 5 (2)
Main team total 85 (5)
CRO handler/dog Assisting other teams 15
TOTAL 100
People involved (CRO area only) 129 Animals rescued in 2024 0

MAIN CAUSES OF INCIDENTS Cave incidents Overdue Overdue trapped by water Show cave - medical	3 1 1
Mountain incidents Walking slips/trips/falls medical/exhaustion 15 lost/overdue/benighted stranded/crag-fast crawled under rock pre-existing injury Climbing – fall Caver on surface – fall Running – fall Canyoning – fall Cons'v'n volunteer – medica Cycling – fall (not found) Paragliding – medical 1 – landed badly Powered w/chair broke down	13 2 1 3 2 2 1 1 1 (1) 1
Local incidents	

Assist Ambulance Seriously chilled infant 1 Assist Police Phone call or 'cries for help' (not found) 2 Recover deceased 1 (1) Search for/recover misper1 (1)

Since 1935, CRO has attended 3,609 inciden	ıts
Cave	768
Cave (assisted by divers)	10
Cave diving	17
Disused mines	17
Other underground	1
Mountain	1771
Climbing	124
Open-water diving	11
Animal – surface	
underground	339
CRO / MRSDE dogs and	d
handlers searching in	
other teams' areas	262
Local/urban/tarmac	
incidents	142
'Stand-by' calls ('alerts'))
are not counted.	

This has involved 4,972 people (aged 5 months to 87 years), 524 sheep/lambs, 91 dogs, 13 calves, 9 cows, 1 bullock, 1 Highland heifer, 1 cat and 1 rabbit plus a wide of objects.

Summary of Statistics					
Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total incidents attended	100 (5)	97 (7)	108 (3)	98(4)	100(3)
Cave	5	4	8	4	6(1)
Cave diving	0	0	0	0	1(1)
Mountain (except climbing)	72 (3)	63 (3)	66 (1)	64(1)	67(1)
Climbing	3	4 (1)	3	4(1)	0
Animal	0	10	9	10	8
Local/urban/tarmac incidents	5 (2)	8 (3)	10 (2)	8(2)	5
CRO dogs + handlers assisting in other teams' areas	15	8	12	8	13

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





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The CRO Ingleborough Challenge and Clapham Circuit

Run or Walk

Marathon & 12 Mile Trail Saturday 16th May 2026 Saturday 17th May 2025







For more info and entry: www.cro.org.uk/challenge



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