



TEESDALE AND WEARDALE SEARCH AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2014

PLEASE NOTE:

TWSMRT receives support from Hetton Home Care through the use of its franked mail capability. Therefore, you may receive mail with a 'Hetton Home Care' banner and a Houghton-le-Spring franking stamp. This allows the team to save 30% on its postage bill for mass mailings. Needless to say we are very grateful to them for their support.

The Team would like to say thank you to Elvet Methodist Church, Durham for allowing us to park our vehicle on their premises during the Durham street collection on 6th December. We'd also like to extend our thanks to the three associate members, David, David and Jennie who came and volunteered their time on what was a very cold day. It's very much appreciated. We raised a great figure of £1313.12.

Callout: In the middle of December, the Team were involved in a search for a high risk missing person in the Chester-le-Street area. 12 searchers, a mountain rescue search dog and the Team's canoe group spent 6hrs covering woodland, fields and the River Wear.

Thank you

The Team received £600 from The Clique, Barnard Castle which will pay for two new vacuum splints.

A donation has also been received from DUCK (Durham University Charity Kommittee) for a total of £4287.56.

Many thanks to both for their continued support.

Callout: At the beginning of November the team attended a callout from Durham Police to search for a person missing after an RTC. As the team were being briefed to search designated area, the missing person was found outside of the search area.

Change of Base

TWSMRT have agreed to have a base at Sniperley Fire Station, Durham. This will be capable of housing two vehicles and two trailers within our own accommodation block. Other facilities such as conference/lecture rooms will be shared. This base is at the planning stage and the plans will be submitted for formal planning permission from the County Durham planners at the end of December.

TWSMRT's second base will be a quad station at Barnard Castle, so called because it will house Fire and Rescue, Police, Ambulance and Mountain Rescue. This will be the first of its type in the country. This base is at the consultative stage prior to planning.



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In October a weekend of casualty care training was undertaken. This is vital for keeping the team members' medical skills up to date.

Callout: On 9th December the Team were called to assist the fire service with the rescue of a driver from a vehicle stuck in a flooded ford at Westgate. The casualty was rescued by the fire service as the Team assembled.

On Saturday 29th November interviews were held for prospective new team members. They were given a presentation on the team, its aims and the requirements for new members. That was followed by a short hill test and then an interview. Good luck to all those who made it through the process and have started their training.

In September the Team were called to search for a missing 39 year old female in the Trimdon Colliery area. The woman had last been seen about midnight the day before and was classed as very vulnerable. The Team searched woodland and farmland in the vicinity of the missing person's home. About 2hrs into the search the missing lady was picked up by Police outside of the designated search areas following an appeal on Facebook.

In November, Search and Rescue team members from across the North East undertook some dry training, working on systems for moving a raft both across and up and down a river. With two major rivers, seven large reservoirs and many other areas of water in the Team's area it is valuable to practice, analyse and improve these skills both on and off the water.





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On 15th November, the Team undertook a training exercise on the popular Cross Fell. The highest point on the Pennines (893m), the fell is known for its dense hill fog and strong winds. After “rescuing” our injured and missing walkers they set up their bivvy or tent for the annual night out. The mist cleared at sunrise to give them some great views as they left the fell the following morning. The exercise proved just how useful flashing head torches and whistles are at attracting the attention of rescue teams.



HRH The Duke of Cambridge showing his support for the Mountain Rescue service of England and Wales.



14th December: A wet and windy day of training on Meldon Hill!



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TEAM CALL OUTS OCT - DEC 2014



10.20 20/12/2014	Search in Chester-le-Street area for a high risk missing person.
09.00 09/12/2014	Team were called to assist fire service with rescue of driver from a vehicle stuck in a flooded ford.
14.00 01/11/2014	The Team were called a number of hours after a car crash in the Witton Park area where the driver had left the scene and not been seen since. The missing male arrived back at his house just as the Team were about to commence a search of the area around the crash site.
09.00 08/10/2014	Team called to assist Swaledale Team as part of an extended search for a vulnerable missing male in Arkengarthdale, Swaledale. The missing man was found safe and well while the Team were assembling.