



## TEESDALE AND WEARDALE SEARCH AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

### NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2014

#### FAREWELL TO FOUNDER MEMBER

A founder member of a local mountain rescue team has sadly passed away after a heroic battle against Mesothelioma. Chris Scott from Spennymoor joined Upper Teesdale & Weardale Fell Rescue Association when it was formed in 1968 which went on to become Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team in the 90's. Since 1998 he has been the treasurer of the Team.

Former team leader Alan Best said "Chris made an outstanding contribution to the team, he was the sort of person who worked away in the background and who you knew you can rely upon to do a good job. Chris has left his mark in a number of areas within the Team as well as attending callouts, he produced a computer based data logging system to record our incidents which was adopted by other mountain rescue teams, he managed our associate members for many years and with his wife Kathleen attended the majority of our street collections whatever the weather. Chris's most lasting legacy for the Team is its base in Barnard Castle, named The Chris Scott Search & Mountain Rescue Centre in his honour. Chris was a major participant in the 2002 appeal to raise the £150,000 funds to build the base and was totally committed to monitoring the fundraising to ensure we had sufficient funds to build and run a permanent home for the team, its vehicles and equipment. Over the years Chris played such an important role in taking the team from a group of poorly equipped, beg-steal and borrow enthusiasts, to the impressive highly trained, sophisticatedly equipped group that it is today."

Present Team Leader Pete Bell said "Chris's wife Kathleen said he fought his illness with great courage and determination and those words sum up how we felt about Chris within the Team. It is perhaps fitting that Chris's last journey was in one of the vehicles belonging to the Team which was such a big part of his life for over 50 years."

#### CALL OUT

Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team were called out on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 to assist the Ambulance Service in the recovery of an injured fisherman.

Steve Owers Deputy Team Leader said "Just after lunch we received a call from North East Ambulance Service to ask for assistance to recover a fisherman who was injured at Grassholme Reservoir in Teesdale. The elderly gentleman had fallen at the water's edge onto a rock and injured his back. When we arrived, 2 NEAS paramedics and the North East Air Ambulance were in attendance. The gentleman who was in a lot of pain was given pain relief by the paramedics and 5 Team members put him on our stretcher and carried him along the bankside to the ambulance."

#### RESCUE IN WEARDALE INVOLVING ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team were involved alongside other emergency services in the rescue of an injured man from a quarry last night. Deputy Team Leader Adam Hearn said "We were called by the Police at around 11pm last night (Tuesday) to a disused quarry at Bollihope, a fairly remote area between Teesdale & Weardale. A man had slipped and fallen near the top of the quarry and come to rest near the edge of a 20m drop. He sustained an injured leg. The Team alongside Durham Fire Service and HART Paramedics secured the casualty on to a stretcher and initially brought him up to the path before lowering him to safer ground. He was then carried out to an ambulance. The incident was concluded at around 01:00hrs. It was very gratifying to see how all of the emergency services used their individual skills to work together to rescue this casualty."



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### THE NEW VEHICLE

Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team have just taken delivery of a new Landrover to add to their existing fleet of a Control Vehicle and a older Landrover.

The Team, who are all volunteers, cover the whole of County Durham as well as the Eastern side of the Pennines including Cross Fell the highest peak in the Pennine range. Not only do they search for and rescue lost walkers but a substantial part of their job is searching semi urban areas for missing children, dementia sufferers and people who are depressed and may want to harm themselves.

Pete Bell Team Leader said "We have been fundraising for 3 years in order to buy and convert this vehicle. We have had over 50 donations both large and small. The main contributors have been Durham University Charity Kommittee (DUCK) and Glaxo Smith Kline family day with many smaller donations from individuals and groups who have put on specific events in aid of the Team."

"The Landrover has been converted to meet our particular needs. While it will normally carry 5 personnel plus a great deal of our equipment it has been adapted so that 2 of the rear seats can be removed and a stretcher can be loaded quickly into the rear of the vehicle. Unlike with our old Landrover there is now space for our medics to work on the casualty while they are being transported. We also have a built in patient monitoring device. We have also had a role cage fitted to improve the safety of Team members. Training of Team members with the vehicle is currently ongoing and it should be available for callouts in the next few weeks."

The Teams old Landrover will now be used primarily to transport Team members especially when there is a need for a 4 wheel drive vehicle.





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### RESCUE

A mountain rescue search dog who along with her handler is a member of Teesdale & Weardale Search & Mountain Rescue Team made a great find on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014 even though she was not searching for a casualty.

Tony High the handler said "Isla my 5 year old border collie had been with me and my family helping with the Team street collection in Barnard Castle on Saturday morning. After a couple of hours I took her for a walk along the river bank in the Demenes area of the town. At one point Isla disappeared into dense undergrowth and started to bark as she returned to me. The way she did this was an indication to me that she had made a find. I followed her over a fence and into the undergrowth to discover an elderly man lying in a ditch near the river."

Pete Bell Team leader said "When Tony and Isla found the elderly gentleman he immediately contacted the Team. We sent 2 team members and one of our advanced medics to the scene. The gentleman was very confused and had sustained a head and chest injuries. The advanced casualty carer monitored the gentleman while team members set up for a stretcher carry to a position accessible for a road ambulance and handed him over the NEAS ambulance crew. Tony, his partner and 2 children did a great job in looking after the man before we arrived. I have no doubt that had search dog Isla and Tony not found the gentleman away from the well trodden paths he would have been there for some considerable time, if not over-night, and he would have been in a much more serious condition than when he was found. We understand that the gentleman was beside the river picking up rubbish"

### STUDENTS SUPPORT RESCUE TEAM IN MEMORY OF LUKE PEARCE

Students and staff of St. Cuthberts Society, University of Durham have presented Teesdale & Weardale Search & Rescue Team with a cheque for over £800 in memory of their fellow student Luke Pearce who tragically died in the River Wear last month. The Search & Rescue Team worked alongside Durham Police and Durham Fire & Rescue in the week long search for Luke.

Serge Chapman, President of St Cuthberts JCR said "We raised the money in various ways to show our appreciation. These included a football match between our rugby club and Luke's friends organised by James Churchman our rugby captain. Eleanor Harby our welfare officer organised a memorial service and balloon release and Mandy Patterson, Luke's housekeeper organised a raffle. Our whole community is devastated by the loss of Luke but we're all exceptionally grateful for the excellent work that the Mountain Rescue Team, who are all volunteers, and the other emergency services have done in searching and recovering Luke. We're working on a video to help highlight river safety and safe drinking for all students coming to the University to ensure something like this doesn't happen again to Durham"

Steve Owers, Deputy Team Leader said "Although this was a tragic incident it is gratifying to know that the Luke's fellow students, friends and family appreciated the work that we and the other emergency services did. The students themselves also gave up their time to assist in the search. In addition over the past few days Luke's family and friends have donated in excess of £700 to the Team, for which we are extremely grateful.

### STREET COLLECTION DATES

The dates for the remaining street collections this year are listed below and as always we would be very grateful to anyone who could spare an hour or so to give us a hand:

<b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Durham</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Darlington</b>

The Barnard Castle collection in August raised a total of £840.82 (including sales). The Team received a call out in the afternoon so many thanks to the Associates and remaining team member who held the fort at the collection!



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### TEAM CALL OUTS

**JUNE - SEPT 2014**



22.h3 18/09/2014	The team was called to locate a party of six who had been off roading and got their vehicle stuck on the fell. Due to thick mist and very poor visibility they were unable to find their way back. Team members located them and evacuated them back to Edmundryers.
22.h1 12/09/2014	The team were called to assist two canoeists who had become benighted on a trip on the river Tees. They were located and police were able to go to the location to evacuate them.
12.00 11/09/2014	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 two hours into the search the missing lady was picked up by the police following their appeal on Facebook and taken to hospital.
18.30 08/09/2014	Team called out to assist the other emergency service in the search for a teenager who was last seen in the River Wear at Finchale Abbey. MR search concluded at 2300hrs. At around 1100hrs 09/09/14 a body was recovered from the river which is believed to be the missing teenager
12.40 22/08/2014	As oer article
17.45 20/08/2014	Team called out at 17.45 to search for a high risk female missing from home. Less than 30 mins after start of search the missing women was found in woodland by a mountain rescue search dog. Casualty carried to NEAS ambulance by team members
13.30 09/08/2014	As per article
15.30 31/07/2014	Team called out to search for male reported to have injured leg after fall near Winston Bridge on the River Tees. Found soon after search commenced. Pain relief and splinting carried out by Team Advanced Casualty Carer
09.40 15/07/2014	Team called to search for missing vulnerable 22 year old male. His phone had been pinged to the mast in Castleside. Team stood down before search commenced
22.15 01/07/2014	Team requested to assist NEAS and the Fire Service with the evacuation of a man who had fallen and injured his ankle immediately above a drop into a disused quarry in Weardale.
05.00 13/06/2014	Team requested to evacuate a body found in woodland near Evenwood across a couple of fields to the nearest road.



*TEESDALE AND WEARDALE  
SEARCH AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM*