

Teasdale and Weardale Search and Rescue Team Newsletter May 2005



Dates for the Diary

The Durham Street collection raised £725 – thank you to all who took part. Help is required for the **Barnard Castle Meet 28th- 30th May** – anyone who can help should contact Paul Fell cas_care@yahoo.co.uk. The **Glaxo Show is on Sunday 12th June** at Glaxo – the team are doing a series of 20 minute (max) presentations including a General talk, the Cadet group, Dogs and Safety in the hills as well as some demonstrations, an appropriately themed treasure map and manning display boards. Anyone who can help please contact john.little@dunelm.org.uk. For the first time we are doing a collection in **Stanhope, 25th June – 10.00 – 16.00**. If you are available, please let john.little@dunelm.org.uk (0191 377 2383) know, so we can make best use of team members time. The next committee meeting is on 7th July with the next newsletter soon after.

The team's **fridge freezer** (medium sized in full working order) is now available to a good home (team replacement coming soon). Please speak to Chris Roberts (or leave a message 01833 630 999).

Fundraising

Please remember all team members have a responsibility to fundraise. There are currently about 70 collection tins in shops, cafes etc in County Durham. 50 of them are under the care of just 20% of team members. Please think about approaching any shops, petrol stations, coffee shops etc about having a tin – if they know your face then there is a very good chance they'll agree. There are several tins in Weardale and the Barnard Castle area that need new carers – if you could help please let John.little@dunelm.org.uk know.

Sets of 8 notelets are still available for £1.50 – an ideal present for the right person.

Supporters pin badges will be available soon for £3 each. Cardboard Landrover collection tins are also coming soon - £1 for a flat pack, £1.50 cut and scored or £2 fully assembled, but can be given away free to interested groups.

Driving Discussions about the team's blue light response continues cautiously – the protocol at present remains unchanged.

Insurance negotiations over the fine print are still ongoing for team personnel cover. Insurance is in place in the mean time.

Right to Roam comes in this month – it seems inevitable that it will have some impact on the team - so standby for a few extra hill incidents.

Newsletter articles are welcome from any member or supporter of the team – submit on time (July 7th) or be left out!

Team Newsletters between 2001 and 2004 seem to be missing from the archive – if anyone has copies or knows their location please pass them onto John Little.

The Website now contains a lot of information for team members and the public. This includes the team calendar, email addresses and links for emailing the team, committee and the members reps. Please ensure that those listed as not on email are sent hard copies as necessary. The website will shortly contain the membership list so team members can print out their own copy. We also plan to include a sponsors page which can include link to any team member employers etc. to thank them for allowing team members out for callouts – a certificate is also being produced. Further help with running the website is required – please speak to the team leader if you can help.

Associate membership is growing (now 88). Please approach anyone who you think might be interested in supporting the team in this way – the committee challenges everyone to recruit one associate member this year. The Associate Members rep can now give a years associate membership at his discretion so if you know someone who has supported the team (financially, in kind or otherwise) and you think it would be a suitable thank you then please speak to Paul. There will be an Associate Members **open day on Saturday 20th August** for anyone who wants to find out a bit more about the team.

Blizzard packs are effective reusable survival bags – see www.blizzardprotectionsystems.com - please ask John if you would like to know more. The team is going to place an order at discounted rate. A pack will cost £16 (plus P&P if you cannot collect it from me). The usual retail price is £25 to £30. Please place orders with john.little@dunelm.org.uk before the 8th of June. The order is open to anyone including families, associate members etc.

Dog Meg and Des had an outstanding find for Swaledale Team back in March, they found 35 year male whom had been missing from home.

Des is also currently training his new dog Misty who is coming on tremendously under the watchful eye of Meg.

We have a new edition to our team. She is a cute little Springer spaniel called Fern and her proud new owner is Graham White, unfortunately Ben had to be retired from SARDA due to a spinal problem, he now has his paws up in front of the fire at home.

Good news for Holly and Paul Fell, as Holly passed her stock and obedience tests and has moved into stage 1 training. Bracken and Lee will hopefully be going for their assessment within the next six months, if Bracken doesn't run into any more sharp sticks!

The Who's Who photo board should be appearing in the base shortly. Please supply Stephen Marrs with a large passport photo if required – lack of photo may result in a caricature!

NESRA: All team members are invited to the NESRA meetings but only NESRA committee members have a vote – however there is a vacancy for a publicity officer if anyone is interested.

Call outs

It has been fairly quiet since the last news letter.

24/3/05 Despondent missing from home. Initial police enquires suggested that he may have parked up at one of the Teesdale reservoirs. Mobile was used to carry out quick search of all beauty spots and car parks around reservoirs – nothing found. Later over the weekend his car was found in the Swaledale area – we were put on standby but not used (Dog Des was involved). The body of the missing man was found.

25/03/05 Team contacted about a gentleman missing from home who was considered to be at risk. Police enquires and searches suggested that he might have travelled to the river near Broken Scar. A hasty search was carried out in the early evening using the last of the light – nothing was found. The gentleman was later found safe and well at a friend's house.

09/04/05 D of E group from assisted out of the Cauldron Snout area during bad weather. Group took shelter in the High Force Youth Hostel overnight and continued their expedition the following morning.

28/04/05 Army Cadet undertaking his D of E fell and injured his ribs. Assisted off the fells by team members.

Youth team currently has 14 members but this has in turn upset some existing sponsorship with members outside the geographical funding catchment – further inquiries are ongoing but the Iceland trip is currently on ice. All new members have now been out on exercise with the Team, and on their own training programme.

A very successful weekend was enjoyed in April when the group travelled over to the Coniston area of the Lakes. Saturday evening was spent climbing and abseiling. Following an interesting variety of evening meals most of the group set out on a night navigation exercise under a perfect moonlit sky. The Sunday was spent on and around the Old Man of Coniston, under beautiful blue sky and hot sun. Paul led one group on 'Safety on steep ground skills', whilst Mark and Chris took two separate groups on different and challenging routes up onto The Old Man. On the descent our two girls decided that a swim in a tarn was the order of the day – the lads, including Mark and Chris were shamed into following suit!!

On the weekend we also welcomed Sarah Smith to the group as a new leader. Sarah has a great deal of expedition experience with Raleigh International – having trekked mountains and jungles around the world.

Cas Care training will take place from the evening of the 23rd to the 25th September for all team members (including those still qualified). The weekend will be optionally residential at Middleton (thanks to Adam again) and be in addition to the team exercise the weekend before. A written contract is being drawn up for team first aid cover of public events. The contract will explicitly state that the team will leave in the event of a call out. Congratulations to Adam Hearn who re-qualified as an advanced medic on the last course.

Recruitment will continue to be in late winter. Expressions of interest from anyone keen to join the team will be accepted all year round and they will then be invited to the recruitment evening.

Communication by pager is continuing to be unreliable. Please let John.little@dunelm.org.uk know if you miss a message. A priority pay as you go type text message alternative which can also email or pager team members is being investigated. A final decision will be made in the near future.

Training

Any team member who cannot make an individual exercise or who is struggling with the general commitment for any reason should speak to the training officer (Ian: 01833 622285).

General Program

The crag training is open to all team members – please see the members area of the website for the latest details.

The September Wednesday evening training programme will be publicised soon - watch out for details on the team website.

Time & Date	Area	RV
0900, 15/05/05	Crag/River High/Low F.	High Force – car park
TBA, 18-19/06/05	Hamsterley Forest w/end	The Grove NZ 066298
0900, 17/07/05	Pennine way west Durham	High Force – car park
August	No exercise	
TBA, 17-18/09/05	Urban search Durham City	TBA
23-25/9/05	Cas care training	Middleton
0900, 16/10/05	Teesdale Reservoirs	Kelton Moss NY 936204
TBA, 19-20/11/05	Helicopter/night nav.	TBA
0900, 18/12/05	Burnhope Seat area	High Force – car park

Programme is subject to land-owners approval. A and C list team members are reminded that they must attend at least 6 exercises through the course of the year. Members should advise the Training officer if unable to attend. Any queries should be directed to Ian Findlay (01833 622285).