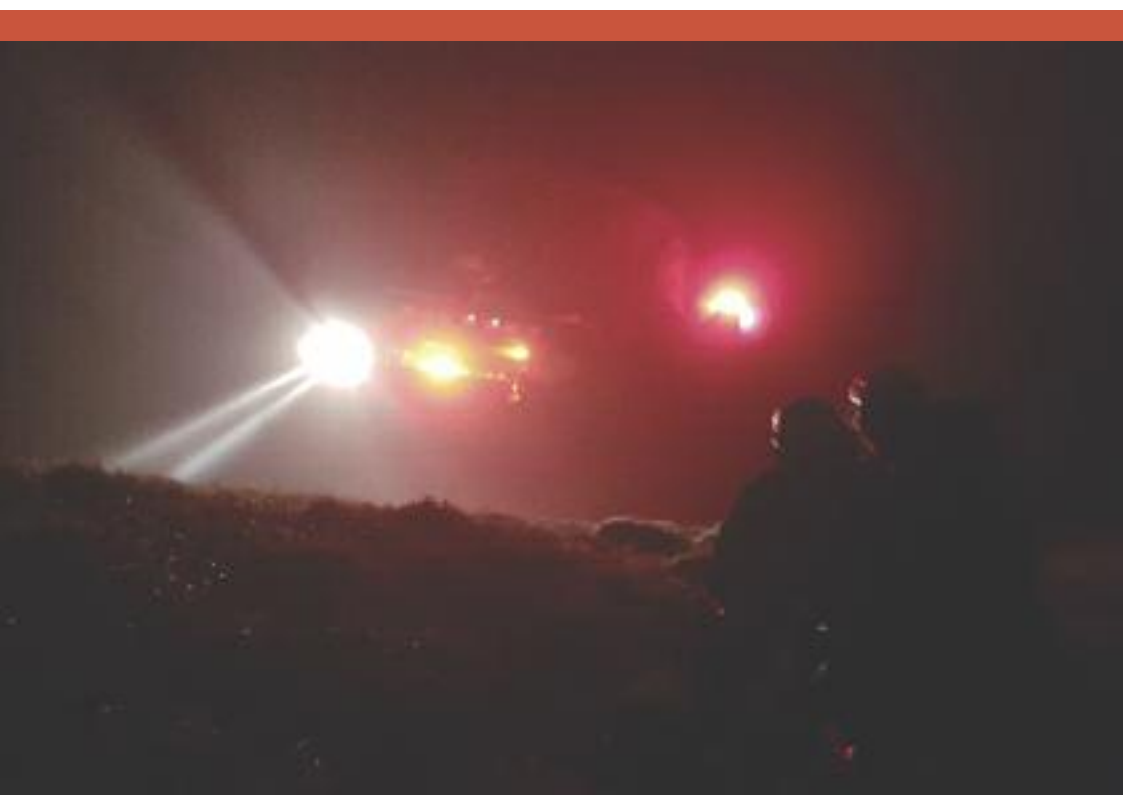




ANNUAL REPORT

53

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL



OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION  
SEFYDLIAD ACHUB MYNYDD DYFFRYN OGWEN

THE OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN  
RESCUE ORGANISATION

53rd ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 2017



Bryn Poeth, Capel Curig, Betws y Coed, Conwy LL24 0EU

T: **+44 (0)1690 720333** E: **secretary@ogwen-rescue.org.uk**  
W: **ogwen-rescue.org.uk**

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Please note that the articles contained in this report express the views of the individuals and are not necessarily the views of the team.

**Christmas photography competition winner 2017:** Castell y Gwynt  
© Neil Murphy.



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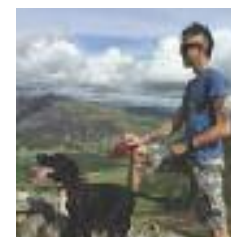
**14 January 2018: Call-out No 6 : Tryfan:** We were called to search for a walker reported overdue. In worsening weather, twelve team members searched Cwm Tryfan, Heather Terrace and along the foot of the West Face, through into the early hours with nothing found. Sadly, police confirmed the man's body had been found, the following morning © OVMRO.



## chairman's report 2017

THIS YEAR, I'M GOING TO BREAK WITH TRADITION AND STATE THAT WE'VE BEEN QUIETER THAN LAST YEAR.

**Andy Harbach**  
Chairman



We've had 112 call-outs, compared to 136 last year. Members have been deployed on 94 of these incidents, with the rest being handled by our team leaders. This is not being mirrored across the North Wales region, with most teams being busier than last year.

Sadly, five of these call-outs have involved fatalities. Our thoughts go to the families and friends of these casualties.

The number of casualties with no injuries remained fairly constant at 57. As would be expected, the most common injury was the leg, with 26 casualties needing assistance.

Inter-agency working continues to be a big part of mountain rescue, not only for Ogwen, but also for the other teams in North Wales. One example of this was when a helicopter went missing and after some time it was decided that it might have crashed in Southern Snowdonia. Teams from all over North Wales, the RAF and Coastguard assisted with the search for the missing aircraft, and the eventual recovery of those who were on board. Two senior team leaders were in the North Wales Police Silver cell for the duration of the search. North Wales teams, including OVMRO, also responded to the flooding in November.

With the team having been in existence for over 50 years, it is a sad fact that I have to write each year that a past member is no longer with us. Pete Rickard, a member from 1984 to 1997 died in October. Pete's funeral was held in Bangor and was attended by some of the members who had worked with him during his time at Ogwen.

In December, I was pleased to hear that Tim Bird had been awarded an MBE for services to policing and the community in the New Year Honours. Tim has been a full team member with OVMRO since 2003, is currently a team leader and joint lead of our technical rope rescue working

group. Tim also helps to coordinate and deliver the regional fatal incident protocol courses which ensure members are appropriately trained to deal with mountain fatalities.

In last year's report, I stated that Jo Worrall and Pete Frost were standing down as treasurer and secretary respectively. I was extremely pleased with the response I had to an appeal to 333 members for volunteers to fill these important administrative positions. A number of suitably qualified people expressed an interest, and in the end John Barber took on the role of secretary and Heather Beale took on the role of treasurer. Both John and Heather have been working hard over the past year to ensure the team runs smoothly.

There have been other changes on the committee, with younger team members taking on significant responsibility. Craig Jowitt has now completed his first full year as training officer, and Alex King as equipment officer. My thanks go to everyone who helps out with team administration.

I am going to be standing as chairman again for 2018, but if elected this will be the final year of my five-year maximum term. We will therefore be looking for a new chairman to take over in 2019.

Since the 2017 AGM, Kevin De Silva has retired. Kevin was a decisive team leader, equipment officer and house officer during his time with OVMRO. He has now moved to Essex, so unfortunately cannot continue to be a full team member. Kevin's significant contribution to the team has been recognised with honorary membership of OVMRO.

Dave Worrall was presented with his honorary membership certificate at the 333 AGM in October. During his time with OVMRO, Dave was a team leader, chairman and a committee member.

Carol and Dave Salter have been extremely good helping to keep Oggie Base tidy for a number of years, and have now stood down. I

am extremely grateful to them for their work, which isn't easy with 50 muddy mountaineers walking around the building!

We have now introduced a scheme to recognise the commitment made by team members, when they leave the organisation. Retiring members with a specific length of service will be offered a choice of leaving gift, to be presented at the annual dinner. We are also introducing ten-year service certificates in addition to the 25 and 40 year ones already supplied by Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW).

This year we also held our first spring review. This was an opportunity for members to provide constructive feedback to the committee and team leaders. A number of useful points were made and these have been taken on board and appropriate changes made. I'd like to make this an annual event so members can continue to contribute outside the formal structure of the AGM.

The Oggie 8 Challenge took place in August, with 63 people and one dog participating. Zoé Penfold, a trainee with OVMRO, and Melanie Day from 333 took on the lead roles in organising the event. There were marshals at checkpoints on most of the summits. They experienced the same mixed weather conditions as the competitors, but without the walking to keep them warm. Llwybr-Main Duo was the first team to complete the event, in 6 hours 49 minutes. Thanks to everyone who assisted, and participated in the event. Special thanks go to The Welsh Oven, and Mr Stripey, who provided well-earned pizzas and ice cream at the end of the event. Zoé has moved out of our area and is now a trainee with Aberdyfi MRT.

It is good that we are continuing to attract new trainees, and that trainees are progressing on to full team membership. During 2017, Joe Begley, Charlie Beale, Soraya Cherry, Martin Wall, and Daz Edkins passed their final hill day

and became full team members. Steve Mullan, Jools Eldridge, John Heaton, Dave Brown, Tony Adams, Ryan Lang, Lisa Handcock and Jamie Barclay all passed their initial hill day. This takes our current number of trainees to 13. Another final hill day is planned for early 2018.

Lisa Handcock works at Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor, and is also helping out as our casualty care specialist. Lisa has been working with Pauline Hallett, Glynne Andrew, Sally Armond and Soraya Cherry to ensure our casualties get the best possible treatment if they are injured.

It was a privilege for the team to be nominated, jointly with Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team, for the 'Extra Mile Award' category in the TGO awards. We did not win, but did get a Highly Commended. The winner was The Fix the Fells Volunteer 'Lengthsmen' who maintain Lakeland paths.

Training is an essential element of mountain rescue. There have been 105 training sessions during the year, and members have spent over 2000 man-hours training. Whilst our core rescue skills are important for everyone, we also have members qualifying at high levels in specialties including water incident management, search management and casualty care.

333 members continue to support the team. In addition to the work done by John and Heather, we are supported by Matt Nobles, our merchandise coordinator, and Andy Mercer who helps out with base maintenance following Kevin's departure. 333 members also assist with manning base at weekends and John Dexter assists our IT group.

Fundraising and awareness are still an important part of the work done by 333. Events this year included the Llandudno emergency services promenade day, the Betws y Coed WI event, and the Christmas lantern event in Betws. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events. This is of course on top of the Oggie 8 and the funds received from 333 membership

subscriptions, which make up a significant part of our annual income. This income helps us to continue to provide the excellent service which our casualties deserve.

At the end of October, the 333 AGM and dinner was held at Siabod Café. As usual the café has been a great supporter of the team throughout the year. It was the 20th Anniversary of 333 and there was an extremely tasty cake cut by Clive Swombow who has been chairman of 333 since its inception.

The team continues to put on events for the benefit of our 333 supporters. Dave Worrall has organised a navigation day and Tim Radford organised a day's first aid training. In December, Chris Lloyd and Dave Worrall coordinated the annual mulled wine, mince pies and memories evening. This was as popular as always, with a number of interesting presentations.

We have a couple of challenges for 2018. The general data protection regulation (GDPR) is coming in to force in May. This is going to be a significant challenge for mountain rescue teams around the country as we ensure all our data is managed appropriately. OVMRO has also chosen to undergo an MREW peer review in September. We will spend a weekend being observed and questioned by members of other teams. This will result in feedback and help us to improve our working practice for the future.

To close this report, I would like to thank all our team members for the time they give to attend call-outs and training, and to carry out administrative tasks. The work carried out by everyone is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank the families and friends of team members for their understanding. Without their support, members would not be able to go out on rescues at all hours of the day and night.



**28 November: Call-out No 107: Tryfan:** Two walkers descending the North Ridge become cragfast in a gully on the West Face © Karl Lester.



## ADRODDIAD Y CADEIRYDD 2017

ELENI, BYDDAF  
YN NEWID Y  
DREFN ARFEROL  
WRTH DDWEUD  
INNI FOD YN LLAI  
PRYSUR NA  
LLYNEDD.

Cawsom 112 o alwadau, o'u cymharu â 136 llynedd. Galwyd ar aelodau ar 94 o achlysuron, gydag Arweinyddion ein Tîm yn ymdrin â'r gweddill. Nid yw'r un peth yn wir ledled gweddill Gogledd Cymru, gyda'r rhan fwyaf o'r timau'n brysurach na llynedd.

Trist dweud y bu pump o'r galwadau hyn yn ymwneud â damweiniau angheuol. Bydd teuluoedd a ffrindiau'r meirwon yn ein meddyliau. Arhosodd y nifer o rai a achubwyd heb anafiadau yn weddol gyson, sef 57. Fel y gellid disgwyl, anafiadau i'r coesau oedd y rhai mwyaf cyffredin, a bu angen cymorth ar 26 o bobl am y rheswm hwn.

Erys cydweithredu rhwng asiantaethau yn rhan fawr o achub mynydd, nid ar gyfer Ogwen yn unig, ond hefyd ar gyfer timau eraill yng Ngogledd Cymru. Cafwyd un enghraifft o hyn pan aeth hofrennydd ar goll, ac, ar ôl peth amser, penderfynwyd y gallai fod wedi cwympo yn Ne Eryri. Bu timau o bob rhan o Gogledd Cymru, yr RAF a Gwylwyr y Glannau yn cynorthwyo yn y chwilio am yr hofrennydd coll, ac wrth nôl cyrrff y rhai a fu'n teithio arno. Bu dau arweinydd tîm hyn yng nghell Arian Heddlu Gogledd Cymru trwy gydol y chwilio. Hefyd, ymatebodd timau Gogledd Cymru, gan gynnwys SAMDO, i'r llifogydd ym mis Tachwedd.

**Andy Harbach**  
Cadeirydd



Gan i'r Tîm fodoli ers dros 50 mlynedd, mae'n ffaith drist bod rhaid imi gofnodi bob blwyddyn nad yw aelod cynt ddim gyda ni mwyach. Bu fawr Pete Rickard, aelod o 1984 i 1997, ym mis Hydref. Cynhaliwyd angladd Pete ym Mangor, ac ynddi bu rhai o'r aelodau a weithiai gydag ef yn ystod ei gyfnod yn Ogwen.

Pleser oedd clywed, ym mis Rhagfyr, i Tim Bird dderbyn MBE yn Rhestr Anrhydeddau'r Flwyddyn Newydd ar gyfer gwasanaethau i blismona ac i'r gymuned. Bu Tim yn aelod llawn amser o dîm

SAMDO ers 2003; ar hyn o bryd mae'n Arweinydd Tîm ac arweinydd ar y cyd ein grŵp gweithio ar achub technegol â rhaffau. Mae Tim hefyd yn helpu cydlynu a chyflwyno cyrsiau'r rhanbarth ynghylch y protocol ar gyfer damweiniau angheuol; mae'r rhain yn sicrhau bod gan aelodau'r hyfforddiant priodol ar gyfer ymdrin â marwolaethau ar y mynydd.

Yn adroddiad llynedd, dywedais fod Jo Worrall a Pete Frost yn ymadael â'u swyddi, y naill fel Trysorydd a'r llall fel Ysgrifennydd. Cefais fy mhlesio'n fawr gan yr ymateb i'm hapêl i aelodau grŵp 333 am wirfoddolwyr i lenwi'r swyddi gweinyddol pwysig hyn. Mynegodd nifer o bobl gymwys eu diddordeb, ac yn y diwedd ysgwyddodd John Barber swydd yr Ysgrifennydd a derbyniodd Heather Beale swydd y Trysorydd. Bu John a Heather ill dau'n gweithio'n galed yn ystod y llynedd i sicrhau gweithredu rhwydd y Tîm.

Bu newidiadau eraill yn y Pwyllgor, gydag aelodau ifainc o'r tîm yn ysgwyddo cryn gyfrifoldeb. Erbyn hyn mae Craig Jowitt wedi cwblhau ei flwyddyn lawn gyntaf fel Swyddog Hyfforddi, ac Alex King yntau ei flwyddyn gyntaf fel Swyddog Offer. Diolchaf i bawb sy'n rhoi help llaw gyda gweinyddu'r Tîm.

Byddaf yn sefyll i'm hethol fel Cadeirydd unwaith eto ar gyfer 2018, ond os llwyddaf, hon fydd blwyddyn olaf uchafswm pum mlynedd fy nhymor. Felly, byddwn yn chwilio am Gadeirydd newydd i gymryd fy lle yn 2019.

Ers Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol 2017 mae Kevin de Silva wedi ymddeol. Yn ystod ei gyfnod gyda SAMDO yr oedd Kevin yn gadarn ei benderfyniad fel Arweinydd Tîm, Swyddog Offer a Swyddog Tŷ. Bellach mae e wedi mudo i Essex, felly'n anffodus ni all barhau fel aelod llawn amser o'r Tîm. Cydnabuwyd cyfraniad sylweddol Kevin i'r Tîm trwy Aelodaeth Fygedol o SAMDO.

Cyflwynwyd tystysgrif aelodaeth fygedol i Dave

Worrall yng Nghyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol grŵp 333 ym mis Hydref. Yn ystod ei gyfnod gyda SAMDO, bu Dave yn Arweinydd Tîm, yn Gadeirydd ac yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor.

Bu Carol a Dave Salter yn hynod dda wrth helpu cadw'n pencadlys yn daclus ers nifer o flynyddoedd; bellach maent wedi rhoi'r gorau iddi. 'Rwyf yn hynod ddiolchgar iddynt am eu gwaith, nad yw'n waith hawdd pan fydd 50 o fynyddwyr lleidiog yn troedio'r adeilad.

Bellach 'rydym wedi cyflwyno cynllun i gydnabod ymrwymiad aelodau o'r Tîm wrth iddynt ymadael â'r sefydliad. Bydd aelodau sy'n ymddeol gyda hyd penodol o wasanaeth yn cael cynnig dewis o rodd ymadael, i'w chyflwyno yn y cinio blynnyddol. Hefyd, 'rydym yn cyflwyno tystysgrifau ar gyfer 10 mlynedd o wasanaeth yn ychwanegol at y rhai ar gyfer 25 mlynedd a 40 mlynedd a ddarperir eisoes gan MREW.

Eleni hefyd cynhaliwyd ein hadolygiad gwanwyn cyntaf. Cyfle fu hwn i aelodau gyflwyno adborth adeiladol i'r Pwyllgor ac i Arweinyddion y Tîm. Gwnaethpwyd nifer o bwyntiau defnyddiol, a chafodd y rhain eu nodi, gan wneud y newidiadau priodol. Hoffwn i hyn ddod yn ddigwyddiad blynnyddol, er mwyn i aelodau fedru parhau i gyfrannu y tu allan i adeiledd ffurfiol y Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol.

Cynhaliwyd Tro Wyth Copa Ogwen (Oggie 8 Challenge) ym mis Awst, gyda 63 o bobl ac un ci yn cymryd rhan. Bu Zoé Penfold, hyfforddai gyda SAMDO, a Melanie Day o 333, yn flaenllaw wrth drefnu'r digwyddiad. Yr oedd marsialiaid wrth y siecbywntiau ar y rhan fwyaf o'r copaon. Profasant yr un tywydd amrywiol â'r cystadleuwyr, ond heb y cerdded i'w cadw'n gynnes. Deuawd Llwybr-Main fu'r tîm cyntaf i gwblhau'r tro, mewn 6 awr 49 munud. Diolch i bawb a gynorthwyodd, ac i bawb a gymerodd ran. Diolchiadau arbennig i The Welsh Oven, ac i Mr Stripey, a ddarparodd



**9 April: Incident No 29: Tryfan:** Call-out to a casualty near the summit of Tryfan. Team members reached the casualty and began the evacuation by stretcher before the helicopter was able to airlift to hospital © OVMRO.

bitsas a hufen iâ haeddiannol ar ddiwedd y digwyddiad. Erbyn hyn mae Zoé wedi mudo o'r ardal ac yn hyfforddai gyda Thîm Achub Mynydd Aberdyfi.

Mae'n beth da ein bod ni'n parhau i ddenu hyfforddeion newydd, a bod hyfforddeion yn symud ymlaen i aelodaeth lawn o'r Tîm. Yn ystod 2017 llwyddodd Joe Begley, Charlie Beale, Soraya Cherry, Martin Wall, a Daz Edkins yn eu diwrnod olaf ar y mynydd, gan ddod yn aelodau llawn o'r Tîm. Llwyddodd Steve Mullan, Jools Eldridge, John Heaton, Dave Brown, Tony Adams, Ryan

Lang, Lisa Handcock, a Jamie Barclay i gyd yn eu diwrnod cychwynnol ar y mynydd Daw hyn â nifer cyfredol ein hyfforddeion i 13. Y bwriad yw cynnal diwrnod olaf ar y mynydd unwaith eto yn gynnar yn 2018.

Gweithia Lisa Handcock yn Ysbyty Gwynedd. Bangor, a hefyd yn helpu fel ein arbenigwraig ar ofalu am anafusion. Bu Lisa'n gweithio gyda Pauline Hallett, Glynne Andrew, Sally Armond, a Soraya Cherry i sicrhau bod y r anafusion yn derbyn y driniaeth orau posibl.

Braint i'r Tîm fu cael ei enwebu, ar y cyd â

# BUILT-IN EFFICIENCY

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- All models conform to EN 12278



➤ Gyro Twin



➤ Gyro PM



➤ Gyro



Thim Achub Mynydd Llanberis, ar gyfer categori'r 'Extra Mile Award' yng ngwobrau TGO. Nid enillasom ni ddim, ond cawsom Ganmoliaeth Uchel. Yr enillydd fu fforddolwyr gwirfoddol 'Fix the Fells' sy'n cynnal a chadw llwybrau yn Ardal y Llynnoedd.

Mae hyfforddiant yn elfen hanfodol yn achub ar y mynydd. Cynhaliwyd 105 o sesiynau hyfforddi yn ystod y flwyddyn, ac mae aelodau, rhyngddynt, wedi treulio dros 2000 awr yn cael eu hyfforddi. Tra bo'n medrau achub creiddiol yn bwysig i bawb, mae gennym hefyd aelodau sy'n ymgymhwyso ar lefelau uwch mewn arbenigeddau sy'n cynnwys rheoli digwyddiadau sy'n ymwneud â dŵr, rheoli chwilio, a gofal anafusion.

Mae aelodau grŵp 333 yn parhau i gefnogi'r Tîm. Yn ychwanegol at waith John a Heather, fe'n cefnogir gan Matt Nobles, sy'n trefnu gwerthiant ein nwyddau, a Andy Mercer sy'n rhoi help llaw gyda chynnal a chadw'r pencadlys ers i Kevin ymadael. Mae aelodau grŵp 333 hefyd yn cynorthwyo gyda gofalu am y pencadlys ar benwythnosau, a bydd John Dexter yn cynorthwyo'n grŵp Technoleg Gwybodaeth.

Mae gwaith codi arian a chodi ymwybyddiaeth yn parhau i fod yn rhan bwysig o waith grŵp 333. Ymhlith digwyddiadau eleni cafwyd diwrnod y gwasanaethau brys ar bromenâd Llandudno, digwyddiad Sefydliad y Merched ym Metws y Coed, a gorymdaith lusernau yn y Betws. Diolch i bawb a gefnogodd y digwyddiadau hyn. Daw hyn, wrth gwrs, ar ben Tro Wyth Copa Ogwen a'r arian a dderbyniwn o danysgrifiadau aelodaeth 333, sy'n rhan sylweddol o'n hincwm blyneddol. Bydd yr incwm hwn yn ein helpu i barhau i ddarparu'r gwasanaeth ardderchog y mae'r rhai sy'n galw arnom yn ei haeddu.

Ddiwedd mis Hydref, cynhaliwyd cinio a chyfarfod blyneddol 333 yng Nghaffi Siabod. Fel arfer, bu'r caffi yn gefnogwr ardderchog i'r Tîm

trwy gydol y flwyddyn. Hyn oedd Ugeinfed Ben-blwydd 333 a thorwyd cacen hynod flasus gan Clive Swombow, sydd wedi cadeirio 333 ers y dechreuad.

Mae'r Tîm yn parhau i gynnal digwyddiadau er lles ein cefnogwyr yn 333. Trefnodd Dave Worrall ddiwrnod llywio â map a chwmpawd, a threfnodd Tim Radford ddiwrnod o hyfforddi cymorth cyntaf. Ym mis Rhagfyr cydlynodd Chris Lloyd a Dave Worrall y noson flynyddol o win twym, mins peis, ac atgofion. Bu hon mor boblogaidd ag erioed, gyda nifer o gyflwyniadau diddorol.

Bydd cwpl o heriau inni yn 2018. Daw'r rheoliad cyffredinol diogelu data (GDPR) i rym ym mis Mai. Bydd hyn yn her sylweddol i dimau achub mynydd ledled y wlad wrth inni sicrhau rheoli ein holl ddata'n briodol. Hefyd, mae SAMDO wedi dewis mynd trwy adolygiad cyfoedion MREW ym mis Medi. Treuliwn benwythnos yn cael ein gwyllo a'n holi gan aelodau timau eraill. O ganlyniad i hyn, cawn adborth a fydd yn help inni wella ein dull o weithio yn y dyfodol.

I gloi'r adroddiad hwn, hoffwn ddiolch i holl aelodau ein tîm am yr amser y maent yn ei roi i ateb galwadau, i ddod i hyfforddiant ac i wneud gwaith gweinyddol. Gwerthfawrogi'r gwaith pawb yn fawr.

Hoffwn ddiolch hefyd i berthnasau a chyfeillion aelodau'r tîm am eu goddefgarwch. Heb eu cefnogaeth hwy, ni allai aelodau fynd allan ar alwadau bob awr o'r dydd a'r nos.



THIS IS MY FIRST TEAM LEADERS ANNUAL REPORT AS THE NEW TL ON THE BLOCK. THE OTHER TLS HAVE SPENT MUCH MORE TIME ON THE OGWEN TEAM.

**Chris Campbell**  
Team Leader



My MRT experience started way back on 13 November 1995 when starting a suitability trial for the Royal Air Force Mountain Rescue Service at RAF Kinloss as a part-time troop. My previous mountaineering experience grew vastly during this period with many a winter's day spent out on the mountains, sometimes not seeing another soul as the expanse up there is enormous and hostile. I was regularly on the SAR helicopter, flying off to places like the Cullin Ridge, in the Cairngorms, or Ben Nevis as a fast party to rescue mountaineers in distress, especially in winter.

Another full-time tour at RAF Stafford and Valley before moving away and coming back to Valley for my last tour ever in the Service. I finished my military career in 2014 as the RAF Valley team leader, working alongside teams like OVMRO and Llanberis when called out to assist them. That's when Pauline seconded me to join OVMRO.

The small group of team leaders do a fantastic job of liaising with North Wales Police and managing the team to ensure those in trouble receive the best service we, as a mountain rescue team, can provide. Most team members don't realise the amount of time the leaders spend dealing with police because it isn't on their radar, initially. With only a small number of leaders to manage the team, I was asked to stand-in during the winter of 2016/17, due to my previous RAF experience.

Post-winter, and as a full team member, I was encouraged to step forward and be ratified as a team leader for OVMRO. After much deliberation I felt I should, and certainly could, give something back to the team, and eagerly agreed. Following team leader and committee review, it went to the membership at the annual general meeting and I was voted in for a one year probationary period.

The team has been busy attending various



**31 March: Incident No 24: Devil's Kitchen:** When a casualty took a short tumble whilst descending, team members from both Ogwen and Llanberis teams worked together in strong, turbulent winds © OVMRO.

call-outs since the last annual report, ranging from a missing person search in Bangor, assistance to a Duke of Edinburgh group member to persons lost or stuck on the mountains, especially on Tryfan. In March, we rescued a solo male mountain biker who'd injured his knee on a rock on the Marin Trail. Team members carried him by stretcher to a waiting ambulance at the nearest forest track. Also in March, a 10-year old boy in an organised group slipped on mud while descending from the Rhiw Bach mine system injuring his leg. Team members evacuated him by stretcher to the road and handed him over to an ambulance crew.

Some notable call-outs now follow. In May, an informant reported cries for help coming from the Penrhyn quarry area. An NPAS aircraft was tasked to assist but found nothing but, on leaving

the scene, the cries for help could still be heard. A team leader went direct to scene to attempt to localise the source. As darkness fell, a request was made for R936 assistance and additional team support was provided with two team members deploying into the quarries. As R936 was about to arrive to also search the scene, a short distance above the quarry a young goat was found with its head trapped in the fencing. Apparently the grass is always greener on the other side. The team leader managed to release the goat and all were stood down.

Last year we deployed to approximately six call-outs where nothing was found. These were probably persons also hearing goats and ringing North Wales Police with good intentions. But who could forget the early August Saturday morning

call-out in the rain looking for a male who needed our help, somewhere above the Devil's Kitchen/ Glyder Fawr area? Troops searched for a couple of hours before being called back to base. The male had rung police again stating he needed help on Tryfan. Fortunately, they were able to matched the voice recordings and figured out that this was a hoax call. What if a serious call-out had come in and someone needed our immediate assistance?

In August, we responded to a father and son close to the summit of Pen y Ole Wen. The father had a sudden onset of severe chest pain but R936 was unable to extract him due to the weather conditions, low cloud and high winds. R936 did manage, however, to uplift troops at very short notice close to the area. There was an initial problem determining the location but, when located, the casualty was treated for a possible cardiac event before being put into a stretcher. A difficult stretcher raise up onto the ridge then ensued due to very loose rock underfoot before a long stretcher carry over arduous terrain, in the dark. The team managed to get the casualty below the cloud level which then allowed R936 to retrieve the casualty and fly him to hospital.

In October, North Wales Police received four reports of shouts and whistles for help in the area of Tryfan. A party of three were descending close to Wrinkle Slab when a male slipped and fell 100 feet due to the slippery snow conditions. Two other parties who had just finished their hill day were stopped by one of the informants and quickly assisted by gathering kit and running up to the casualty site. They escorted the father and daughter off the hill and placed the injured male into a sleeping bag with a shelter placed over him. The RAF MRS was called to assist and with Ogwen troops placed the casualty into a stretcher before R936 arrived on scene. Unfortunately, the downdraft was recirculating the snow upwards causing the crew not to safely

see the crag. A lower ensued to position the stretcher out and down from the crag where R936 returned to carry out a very long winch and take the casualty to hospital. Thanks go to these selfless mountaineers who assisted in the first instance to stabilise the casualty, who it turned out had suffered two dislocated shoulders and some broken ribs.

It just goes to show that OVMRO can be called upon to deploy and assist whoever or whatever needs our help.

Last year on 14 May, I attended a fatality scene to record evidence on behalf of North Wales Police. A father and daughter had been trying to descend North Gully from Tryfan summit when the father slipped, after deciding descent was not possible, and disappeared out of view from his daughter. A climber in the area heard the screams and went to assist. After doing what he could for the casualty, R936 arrived and took the casualty to hospital. The climber then went to the aid of the daughter and escorted her out of the dangerous terrain. I was part of a team of four who went up to assist in the recovery of the climber and daughter. A short time later, the incident was found to have been in South Gully so, once again, I was part of a party of four sent to the area to carry out the Fatal Incident Protocol on behalf of the police. I wrote my statement and submitted this with all pictures. Next thing I found myself summoned before the senior coroner for North Wales, D Pritchard Jones.

It was an eerie experience standing up, giving oath and giving my account of the mountain rescue action I was involved in on that fateful day. To say I was nervous was an understatement. Having never done anything like this before, I was asked by the coroner and a friend of the family what I suspected led to this fatality. Being put on the spot as a Subject Matter Expert (SME) and giving my opinion on why the tragic incident occurred made me very aware of what came out



**10 December 2017:**  
**Incident No 108: Tryfan:**  
A 24-year-old member of a family group took a long, tumbling fall in the Wrinkle Slab area of the West Face  
© Karl Lester.

of my mouth. After all, I was representing OVMRO at this inquiry, not just as a SME, but also as a team leader.

As I write this, OVMRO has just had a call-out on Tryfan for a missing person that unfortunately ended up as a fatality. The first one of 2018 and hopefully not many more!!

Throughout the last year we've been fortunate to work with our counterparts across North Wales, teams like NEWSAR, Llanberis and the RAF Mountain Rescue Service, to name just a few. This collaborative joint working ensures we all work seamlessly in achieving the same goal — rescuing people in distress who need help. As a team though, we couldn't operate without the members. We have also been fortunate in that we have a healthy group of trainees keen to learn new rescue skills to ensure we continue to

provide an excellent level of rescue capabilities, including casualty care. These troops tirelessly give up their own time voluntarily, no matter what the weather, to help those who need it. To you all I say thank you on behalf of the team leaders.

Of course, it is the cooperation of the partners and wives that allows us to donate this time and be separated from them. To these people I also say thank you. I know first-hand from my wife telling me how stressful it can be when she has woken up at 3.00 am to find that I'm not next to her. Especially as the last thing she remembered was falling asleep next to me. Maybe in the keenness to get out of the house to go and help someone, I should pause a little to just send her a text to inform her of where I am going. Maybe I will make that my New Year's resolution!

## JANUARY

**1 JANUARY 05:25:** 1 HOUR 5 MINS:  
PYG TRACK, SNOWDON: **MALE & FEMALE  
ILLNESS**

**1** A couple, who had presumably gone to the summit for the New Year, got lost on their way down the PyG track in sleet and snow (forecast). The gentleman had medical problems which increased as they waited so, when Llanberis team members arrived on scene, he could no longer walk. R936 was requested for the evacuation and both OVMRO and Aberglaslyn MRT put on standby.  
► 5 team members involved.

**1 JANUARY 16:45:** 4 HOURS 45 MINS: BWLCH  
ERYL FARCHOG: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

**2** Two well-equipped walkers descended the SE ridge of Carnedd Llewelyn but lacked the confidence to climb down the 'bad step' due to the icy conditions. They requested assistance so hill parties were deployed up Mac's Highway for the short walk in to the Bwlch. The walkers were then roped down to the Bwlch for the walk down to the team vehicles.  
► 19 team members involved.

**4 JANUARY 23:10:** 35 MINS: PENTRAETH:  
**2 MALES. LOST**

**3** Two young brothers were reported as missing from home and North Wales. Police requested we attend with SARDA dogs. Whilst initial investigation was still ongoing the brothers turned up safe and well and the team stood down.  
► 4 team members involved.

**7 JANUARY 17:20:** 19 HOURS 10 MINS:  
PINNACLE RIB, EAST FACE TRYFAN:  
**2 MALES. STUCK**

**4** Two well-equipped but relatively inexperienced climbers asked for advice when night fell before they had completed the route. They were on a safe platform just below Yellow Slab but reluctant to carry on climbing the greasy rock in the dark. They had a casualty shelter, torches, food and water and decided they would sit it out on the mountain overnight and continue the climb the following morning. The team leader made welfare calls to them until midnight and early the next morning. Although being a little wet and cold they continued the route in the morning and walked back off the mountain unaided.  
► 3 team members involved.

**14 JANUARY 10:45:** 1 HOUR 45 MINS: TIN  
CAN ALLEY, CWM IDWAL: **MALE. LEG  
INJURIES**

**5** A male hill walker slipped on a wet rock a short distance above Idwal car park, and suffered a lower leg injury. Team members were on scene quickly as he was only ten minutes from the road. They splinted his leg and then he was carried on a stretcher to the road to be transferred to an ambulance.  
► 16 team members involved.

**19 JANUARY 17:30:** 1 HOUR 30 MINS:  
TRYFAN: **NOTHING FOUND**

**6** A male on the A5 below Tryfan reported hearing screams and shouts coming from the mountainside and was concerned someone needed help. Unfortunately, he had borrowed a phone to make the call so no further info could be gathered initially. A team leader



**14 January: Incident No 5: Tin Can Alley:** Stretcher evacuation of a casualty with a lower leg injury © OVMRO.

went to the location but could find no sign of the informant. No other people in the area had heard the shouts.

► 2 team members involved.

**21 JANUARY 14:45:** 1 HOUR 45 MINS:  
BRISTLY RIDGE: **MALE. FATALITY**

**7** A male walker was seen to fall some considerable distance down a gully from the ridgeline and reported as unresponsive. The informant was some distance below him with no means of access to the location so the team was immediately called and R936 tasked. The aircraft managed to locate the male and winched him from the mountain. He was taken to Bangor Hospital. Sadly, we were later informed by his friend that he had died from a heart attack which caused the fall.

► 15 team members involved.

**22 JANUARY 12:05:** 3 HOURS 25 MINS:  
GYRN WIGAU: **MALE. STRAYED**

**8** Two brothers walking on Gyrn Wigau became separated in misty conditions. One of them grew concerned for the other and searched the area thoroughly before asking for assistance. Because of the easy nature of the ground there was concern the missing man may have had a medical problem and be unable to respond. Hill members plus a search dog were deployed to the area but luckily the brothers found each other shortly before team members arrived at the place last seen. The hill party met up with the brothers for a debrief and to check all was well.

► 10 team members involved.



**28 JANUARY 14:06:** 3 HOURS 24 MINS: MAIN GULLY, GLYDER FACH: **2 MALES. STUCK**

**9** A man and his ten-year-old son reported themselves stuck in the top section of Main Gully, having thought it was a descent route in the cloudy conditions. With some advice over the phone, they managed to reascend the gully and gain the plateau. From there they were monitored by phone until safely back on the road. They were a well-equipped party who asked for assistance at an appropriate time.  
▶ 11 team members involved.

**30 JANUARY 20:40:** 17 HOURS 20 MINS: LLAN FFESTINIOG: **MALE. FATALITY**

**10** The team was asked to assist South Snowdonia SRT and North Wales Police with an incident at the Afon Cynfal. In a joint effort between police divers and mountain rescue, the body of a male was recovered from the river gorge and transported to an undertaker. Further investigations by NWP were anticipated.  
▶ 9 team members involved.

## FEBRUARY

**14 FEBRUARY 14:30:** 7 HOURS: BRISTLY RIDGE: **MALE. STUCK**

**11** A solo male scrambler became stuck in a gully on the side of Bristly Ridge and wisely decided to remain on a ledge and ask for assistance, as moving up or down the gully would have been dangerous. He was well-equipped with good mountain clothing and a bivvi bag, and had a torch and whistle to aid in locating him.

Due to a limited response from OVMRO the team leader requested assistance from RAF Valley MRT. Hill parties from both teams made their way to the ridge where one party rigged an abseil to lower a team member to the casualty, who was then lowered on down to the other hill party waiting on the screes. All team members and the casualty then walked off to Oggie base.  
▶ 16 team members involved.

**17 FEBRUARY 17:20:** 4 HOURS 55 MINS: GLYDER FACH: **MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

**12** A young pair of walkers started their day early enough to complete their planned route. They parked at the Pen Y Gwryd and went up to Pen Y Pass to take the red spot route to Glyder Fawr, then continue on to Glyder Fach, intending to come down to Llyn Caege Fraith area and descend back to the Pen Y Gwryd via the Miners' Path. Having got to Glyder Fawr they continued on but lost their way in the cloud. After having spent some time trying to refind the path, without success, they called for assistance. They thought they were at Bwlch Y Ddwy-Glyder but SARLOC showed them to be at the top of Bristly Ridge. They were advised to walk east towards Caege Fraith and a small hill party deployed to locate and retrieve them to Oggie base.  
▶ 15 team members involved.

**19 FEBRUARY 18:45:** 45 MINS: Y GULLY, WEST FACE TRYFAN: **2 MALES. STRAYED**

**13** A party of three well-equipped walkers started up the North Ridge but one of them slipped and twisted an ankle not far from the summit. He was able to continue walking slowly but they decided it would be best to head down. Unfortunately, they chose the west face. They climbed down into Y Gully until they could



**12 March: Incident Nos 17 & 18: Tal y Fan** The first of two incidents during the afternoon when a walker slipped on wet grass, injuring his knee © OVMRO.

go no further due to the steepness of the terrain, then wisely asked for help. Two hill parties were able to climb into their location and lower the group on a rope system to safe ground. They were able to walk off with team members.  
▶ 14 team members involved.

## march

**4 MARCH 13:45:** 6 HOURS 15 MINS: GLYDER FAWR: **2 MALES. LOST**

**14** Two males asked for help as they had become disoriented in a white-out on Glyder Fawr. No further details.  
▶ 2 team members involved.

**11 MARCH 16:00:** 2 HOURS 20 MINS: MARIN TRAIL: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**15** A solo male mountain biker on the Marin Trail hit his knee against a rock causing him to fall off the bike. He was unable to straighten

the knee or bear weight so rang for help. With assistance from NEWSAR team members and WAST paramedics, a small hill party located the male, treated his injury and then lowered him on a stretcher to the adjacent forestry track. He was then transferred to the ambulance for onward transport to Ysbyty Gwynedd. The use of SARLOC helped with the speedy recovery.  
▶ 18 team members involved.

**11 MARCH 21:00:** 45 MINS: TRYFAN: **5 MALES. OVERDUE**

**16** A group of five climbers were reported as being overdue from a day of climbing on the East Face of Tryfan. There was no report of injury and the team leader had spoken to the group ninety minutes earlier, while they were descending the South Ridge. He was advised to wait a further 30 mins and the team leader would then contact him for an update. Shortly afterwards, the group leader rang to report that the group had turned up safe and well, but had descended by a different route.  
▶ 2 team members involved.



**12 MARCH 13:45:** 4 HOURS 15 MINS: TAL Y FAN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**17** A male walker slipped on wet grass and injured his knee. He was unable to walk so his wife called for assistance. Several hill parties made their way to his location, his injury was treated then he was moved on a stretcher back to the team vehicles. He was returned to his own transport for the journey home.  
▶ 14 team members involved.

**12 MARCH 16:45:** 1 HOURS 15 MINS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STRAYED**

**18** A well-equipped father and his eleven-year-old daughter parked at the Tryfan layby intending to climb the North Ridge. They reached the snow line and decided to turn back due to conditions underfoot. They strayed onto the West Face and felt it too dangerous to go up or down. The Coastguard aircraft, returning from other tasking, winched the pair as they were passing and dropped them at Oggie base.  
▶ 13 team members involved.

**19 MARCH 11:10:** 4 HOURS 20 MINS: MILESTONE BUTTRESS: **MALE. STUCK**

**19** A solo walker parked his car opposite Glan Dena and ascended directly up Tryfan from there. He soon realised that conditions were poor and slippery in trainers, so decided to descend towards Idwal Cottage to collect his bike (previously left there). He missed the main path, crossed over the top of Milestone Buttress and descended into a gully where he sensibly decided he was unable to go up or down. A group of team members, lowered in from above, collected him then continued to the bottom of the gully and down to the road.  
▶ 10 team members involved.

**21 MARCH 17:45:** 3 HOURS: RHIW BACH, CWM PENMACHNO: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**20** A ten-year-old boy, in an organised group, was on the descent path from the Rhiw Bach mine system when he slipped on the mud and injured his lower leg. The outdoor centre staff requested rescue kit from their centre and also called for mountain rescue. Team members were quickly on scene to assess the casualty, and it was decided he would need to be evacuated by stretcher to the road where he was passed over to an ambulance crew for transport to Ysbyty Gwynedd.  
▶ 17 team members involved.

**26 MARCH 10:35:** 5 HOURS 40 MINS: MILESTONE BUTTRESS: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**21** The well-organised and equipped pair of climbers were on Rowan Route. The casualty led the second pitch but fell 2-3 metres severely injuring his ankle and was unable to move. Team members treated and reduced the dislocated ankle, then evacuated the casualty using a stretcher lower to safe ground for a carry to the road. The aircraft was unable to winch from the cliff due to the continual presence of unroped climbers on routes close to the incident site. An excellent joint operation with RAF Valley MRT.  
▶ 14 team members involved.

**29 MARCH 22:50:** 42 HOURS 10 MINS: SOUTH SNOWDONIA: **3 MALES & 2 FEMALES. MULTIPLE FATALITIES**

**22** The team was called to assist in the search for a helicopter, missing in the Rhinog area of South Snowdonia. Other mountain rescue teams had located the crash site before OVMRO was deployed, so the team stood down whilst the AAIB were on scene. The following

day, team members were deployed on to the mountain to assist with the removal of the bodies. However, the Coastguard helicopter was able to complete the task during a break in the weather, so all team members returned to base.  
▶ 18 team members involved.

**30 MARCH 20:50:** 55 MINS: COEDTY: **4 FEMALES. LEG INJURIES**

**23** Four horse riders became lost in the dark not far from Coedty reservoir, having travelled from Llyn Cowlyd. A team leader was able to give them directions back to the road, less than 500 metres away. They were met there by the wife of a team member who advised them how to get to their lodgings.  
▶ 4 team members involved.

**31 MARCH 15:30:** 6 HOURS: DEVIL'S KITCHEN: **MALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES**

**24** A solo male walker was descending the path from the Devil's Kitchen when he slipped 2-3 metres in a bouncing fall, impacting himself hard in various locations. He managed to walk a little further but then had to stop. He was found by a passing school group who raised the alarm. The team was called out but we were already committed to supporting the crashed helicopter incident in the Rhinogs, so Llanberis MRT and Rescue 936 were also requested to attend. Poor wind conditions prevented the helicopter from approaching so teams treated and evacuated the casualty by stretcher to a waiting ambulance.  
▶ 25 team members involved.

**1 APRIL 13:40:** 2 HOURS 50 MINS: SUB CNEIFION RIB: **MALE. ARM INJURIES**

**25** A male climber, third on the rope, suffered a twisting injury to his left upper arm, low down on the first pitch of Sub Cneifion Rib. His friends lowered him to the base of the crag and climbed down to him. A small party of team members went to the scene and R936, training in the Ogwen Valley, was also tasked. The casualty was splinted and winched aboard the helicopter for a short journey to hospital.  
▶ 13 team members involved.

**1 APRIL 17:15:** 2 HOURS 30 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **6 FEMALES & 4 MALES. STRAYED**

**26** A group of ten set off up the ridge but ended up on the Eastern Traverse, in mist. They were tired and worried about their unknown location and the possibility of nightfall. A team leader spoke to the party by phone and SARLOC confirmed their location. The party were advised to retrace their route back down along the Eastern Traverse and then to descend the North Ridge. Regular comms and monitoring continued until the party reached the road.  
▶ 12 team members involved.

**2 APRIL 19:25:** 3 HOURS 5 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **2 MALES. LEG INJURIES**

**27** A family of four set off up the ridge at 5.00pm, with the intention to recce the start of route for a possible summit trip. The two teenage boys moved faster and their parents lost sight of them so the father called the police. A team leader spoke to the older boy who said they were ok, had reached the summit and were now descending the North Ridge. They were



**27 April: Team on film with Kate Humble and her dog Teg:** Fortunately, the weather never stops play! A day of good humour and banter with a very professional production team. The star of the day was team member Sally with her search dog Spin © OVMRO.

advised to proceed with caution down and stay within mobile coverage. Shortly afterwards, concerned that they were unable to locate the boys using SARLOC and their mobile was going to voicemail, a party of seven team members were deployed from road at the Milestone. R936 was tasked to assist due to the young age, lack of equipment and clothing of the missing pair. It was also now dark. The Oggie party quickly located the boys in the vicinity of Waterfall Gully and the helicopter stood down as the pair were close to the road. The older boy had suffered a foot injury and was unable to put weight on it. His foot was splinted and both boys were assisted to the road and brought to base to be reunited with parents.

► 13 team members involved.

**8 APRIL 19:35: 3 HOURS 55 MINS: PEN YR OLE WEN: MALE & FEMALE. STRAYED**

**28** An inadequately-equipped pair set off from Aber to walk to Ogwen. They made their way across the Carneddau and became stuck during the descent of Pen Yr Ole Wen, at the onset of darkness. A small rescue party climbed to meet them and guide them off the mountain. Unfamiliar with walking in UK mountains, they were fortunate to have got as far as they had without an earlier incident.

► 7 team members involved.

**9 APRIL 12:20: 7 HOURS 25 MINS: SOUTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**29** A party of three were descending from the summit of Tryfan when one slipped and fell about two metres, landing partly on his rucksack and his thigh across a rock. He was unable to move and, given the reported presence of swelling in the thigh, this was judged to be a

potentially serious injury which could require a long stretcher carry across difficult ground. Support from Ogwen, NEWSAR, RAF MRS and SAR-H was requested. Team members and the R936 crew treated the casualty. Variable cloud conditions eventually required the stretcher to be lowered/carried below cloud level to a winching site. The casualty was flown to Oggie base and transferred to hospital by WAST ambulance.

► 22 team members involved.

**22 APRIL 16:40: 2 HOURS: TRYFAN BACH: FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

**30** A 17-year-old female injured her knee whilst rock climbing on Tryfan Bach. She managed to get back down to the base of the climb but was unable to walk to the road. RAF Leeming MRT were on scene very quickly to administer first aid and a stretcher party from Ogwen joined them shortly afterwards to carry her back to the road. She was then taken to her local hospital by the group leader.

► 13 team members involved.

## may

**1 MAY 18:30: 5 HOURS 35 MINS: GLYDER FACH: 3 MALES & 2 FEMALES. LOST**

**31** A family group of two adults and three children set off for a walk in good weather conditions, without any equipment, planning or knowledge. About an hour from darkness, they called 999 as they could not see a safe way off the mountain. It transpired they were near the

summit of Glyder Fach. Given the very young age of one of the children, the team responded. The family was located and escorted off the mountain but needed assistance and warm clothing.

► 14 team members involved.

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**2 MAY 13:25:** 2 HOURS 15 MINS: BETHESDA: **FEMALE. LEG & ARM INJURIES**

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**32** A female walker slipped on a damp rock whilst walking in Braichmelyn forest, sustaining an ankle and wrist injury. A small hill party were able to locate and treat her, and then carry her a short distance to the team vehicle. She was driven to the road, transferred to her husband's car and advised to attend the local hospital.

► 14 team members involved.

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**5 MAY 12:10:** 25 MINS: BRYNTEG, ANGLESEY: **LOST**

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**33** North Wales Police contacted the team for assistance with a missing person search at Brynteg. A team leader put the search dogs on standby and then contacted the police for further information. Whilst the information was being passed on the missing person turned up, so team members and SARDA were stood down.

► 1 team member involved.

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**5 MAY 18:20:** 25 MINS: GREAT ORME: **FEMALE. STUCK**

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**34** Shouts for help were reported, from a young girl who appeared to be stuck on a cliff ledge with her dog. Mountain rescue and the Coastguard were tasked and police officers also went to the scene to assess the situation. The girl's father and police officers managed to extract the girl and team members stood down.

► 3 team members involved.

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**5 MAY 20:05:** 1 HOUR 40 MINS: NORTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STRAYED**

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**35** A couple set off up the ridge with little knowledge of the route. At some point they strayed on to the East Face and became stuck in a gully. Luckily, as team members were deploying the couple were seen by some climbers who offered to help them. The climbers walked them back to the road via Bochlwyd.

► 8 team members involved.

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**13 MAY 12:10:** 12 HOURS: SOUTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

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**36** A male walker stumbled on the South Ridge sustaining an ankle injury. Initially there was confusion as to his location but a hasty party soon located him and helicopter support was requested. RAF MR team members training locally were also requested to assist. Unfortunately, the helicopter couldn't access the casualty site due to strong winds, however, several hill parties were flown to Caseg Ffraith and then made their way to the casualty site. The casualty was lowered down some very difficult terrain on the stretcher and the helicopter was able to return and winch him aboard for a short flight to hospital.

► 17 team members involved.

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**14 MAY 12:15:** 8 HOURS 45 MINS: NORTH GULLY, TRYFAN: **MALE. FATALITY**

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**37** The team received a report from a solo climber who believed a male had fallen some distance down a gully on the East Face of Tryfan and was possibly unconscious. Whilst the climber made his way down to the fallen male the team prepared for deployment and the Coastguard helicopter was tasked. The winchman was able to rapidly extract the walker from the gully and the casualty was flown direct to Bangor

Hospital where sadly he passed away. Team members then assisted the climber and the walker's daughter back to the road and arranged appropriate care for both.

► 19 team members involved.

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**14 MAY 14:35:** 1 HOUR 10 MINS: LITTLE GULLY, EAST FACE TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

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**38** Two walkers and their dog became cragfast in the Little Gully area. Team members deployed to the previous rescue roped them down the gully to the Heather Terrace and on down to Oggie base.

► 6 team members involved.

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**17 MAY 15:00:** 3 HOURS 45 MINS: CWM IDWAL: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

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**39** An 82-year-old lady slipped on steep grass, sustaining an ankle injury. RAF Valley MRT were training at Oggie base and went immediately to the scene whilst Ogwen team members gathered at base. An Ogwen hill party joined the RAF at the incident site and in a joint effort carried the lady on a stretcher back to Ogwen Cottage. From there she was transferred to hospital by ambulance.

► 10 team members involved.

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**17 MAY 15:55:** 2 HOURS 55 MINS: CWM TRYFAN: **FEMALE. LOST**

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**40** A solo female walker rang 999 to say she was lost somewhere in the Tryfan/Cwm Tryfan area. Initially there was no contact with her despite her carrying two phones but, after an hour, contact was finally made and it was established she was towards the southern end of Cwm Tryfan but was not confident to continue down in to the cwm. Team members set out to

find her and met her walking down with two other walkers. She was brought back to Oggie base for a drink and debrief.

► 9 team members involved.

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**17 MAY 18:50:** 1 HOUR 35 MINS: Y ROWEN, DOLWYDDELAN: **FEMALE. HEAD INJURIES**

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**41** A couple were walking on the hills above Dolwyddelan when the lady fell onto rocks sustaining a large head laceration which bled excessively. She felt unable to continue the walk down. Team members at base from the previous job were deployed by team vehicle and the assistance of the Coastguard helicopter was requested due to the nature of the injury and the distance from the road. The helicopter was able to locate and lift the lady to hospital and the husband was happy to walk down so the team stood down.

► 14 team members involved

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**28 MAY 20:00:** 1 HOUR PENRHYN QUARRY, BETHESDA: **STUCK ANIMAL**

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**42** An informant reported cries for help being carried on the wind from the Penrhyn quarry area. An initial investigation was carried by police officers and a team leader with the NPAS aircraft also being tasked to assist. At this point nothing was found but when the aircraft left the area cries for help could still be heard. The team leader continued trying to localise the source and, as darkness fell, R936 and additional team support were requested with two team members deploying into the quarries. A short distance above the quarry, a young goat was found with its head trapped in fencing. It was released and the team and R936 stood down.

► 4 team members involved.



## June

**2 JUNE 23:45:** 14 HOURS 5 MINS: EASTERN CARNEDDAU: **MALE. LOST**

**43** Concern was reported for a solo male walker who had not returned from a two-night camping trip. A hasty search was organised, with RAF Valley MRT and Ogwen team members deploying along the main footpaths leading into that area. A search dog team was deployed and a police helicopter also flew over the area to search. When the gentleman's phone came back into signal, at midday, he was able to confirm he was safe and well and on his way off the mountain. All teams stood down.  
▶ 17 team members involved.

**12 JUNE 22:00:** 11 HOURS 40 MINS: LLANDUDNO: **LOST**

**44** A female was reported missing by her husband and graded as high risk. As there was no availability of a PoISA, North Wales Mountain Rescue Association search advisers were asked to assist with search planning and to support the search. At dawn, the search activity was increased with SARDA trailing and air scenting dogs brought into the operation. An NPAS aircraft also assisted, together with a very significant number of police resources. Fortunately, the missing female was found safe by police officers and returned to her home.  
▶ 4 team members involved.

**17 JUNE 13:50:** 3 HOURS 10 MINS: BRISTLY SCREES, GLYDER FACH: **2 MALES. LEG INJURIES/ EXPOSURE**

**45** Two men set off on a long walk via Idwal, Glyder Fawr and Glyder Fach on a hot day with a Black Labrador that doesn't normally walk that far. The dog got sore paws and tired by the heat so it was struggling on

steep ground as they started to descend the screes. Passing members of the public helped them continue down slowly until team members arrived. The dog's paws were bandaged and it was given plenty to drink, enough to revitalise it and allow it to finish the walk down to the road.  
▶ 12 team members involved.

**28 JUNE 22:50:** 4 HOURS 55 MINS: DOLWYDDELAN AREA: **MALE. STUCK**

**46** A solo male walker set out for a three-day camping trip in the area north of Dolwyddelan. At some point, the weather worsened so he decided to retreat, but in doing so fell into a deep bog and was therefore very wet and cold. He was also lost. The team leader only managed one brief phone call with the casualty, who could not be persuaded to put up his tent and wait till morning. A small hill party deployed by Land Rover into the forestry area above Dolwyddelan and extracted him back to his car.  
▶ 6 team members involved

## JULY

**1 JULY 13:45:** 1 HOURS 55 MINS: AFON DDU GORGE: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**47** A male gorge walker was reported to have an ankle injury high up in the Afon Ddu gorge and his group asked for assistance. Team members were on scene very quickly to find he had managed to extract himself from the gorge and was close to the concrete access road. Ankle splinted, he was given pain relief and driven down to the rest of his group to take him on to hospital.  
▶ 12 team members involved.



**17 May: Incident Nos 39, 40 and 41: A flurry of jobs:** A busy few hours for the team with jobs in Cwm Idwal, Cwm Tryfan and Dolwyddelan © OVMRO.

**1 JULY 16:40:** 55 MINS: PEN Y BONT FOREST, DOLWYDDELAN: **MALE. ILLNESS**

**48** A male camping by a lake in Pen y Bont forest rang for an ambulance as he suspected he had food poisoning. Team members set off with a vehicle to Dolwyddelan but they were stood down en route as the ambulance had already located and picked up the casualty.  
▶ 11 team members involved.

**1 JULY 17:30:** 7 HOURS: CRAIG YR YSFA: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**49** A male climber suffered a foot injury at the top of Amphitheatre Buttress and was unable to descend. The Coastguard helicopter was unable to reach him due to cloud cover but flew Ogwen members high up on to the mountain. A very long and difficult stretcher extraction followed, with OVMRO and NEWSAR

team members bringing the climber down to Cwm Llugwy. From there he was taken to Oggie base by team vehicle and advised to attend the local hospital.  
▶ 19 team members involved.

**1 JULY 18:30:** 4 HOURS 30 MINS: CARNEDD LLEWELYN: **2 MALES. LOST**

**50** Two males became lost in cloud in the area of Carnedd Llewelyn whilst attempting the 14 Peaks. They had lost their map and had no idea of their location. No contact with the casualty party was possible despite numerous attempts. A search party of OVMRO and NEWSAR team members were tasked, along with SARDA England search dogs, due to the possible poor outcome of the casualties in the wet weather conditions. When





**First aid training – first hand experience:** Team members regularly get to grips with airways, injections and a Mannequin Challenge. Images © Karl Lester & OVMRO.

contact was finally established, the gentlemen were back at their car at Dolgarrog. All team members were recalled and the search dogs stood down.

► 8 team members involved.

#### **1 JULY 19:45: 10 HOURS: GLYDER FAWR: FEMALE. EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

**51** A male and his 73-year-old mother set out over the Glyderau in bright sunny weather, making slow progress through the Devil's Kitchen, up to Glyder Fawr and Glyder Fach. At this point they tried to retrace their route but, as forecast, the weather changed and the mountains were gradually covered in thick cloud. They lost their way. The mother became exhausted just below the summit of Glyder Fawr and unable to move. A large party of rescuers, including members of OVMRO, NEWSAR, Aberglaslyn MRT and RAF Lossiemouth MRT, deployed to the area and located the casualty. The Coastguard helicopter was also on scene waiting to pick her up at any available opportunity so she was encouraged to move slowly down the mountain. However, the weather kept closing in, the helicopter returned to base and she was carried all the way down to the road.

► 14 team members involved.

#### **2 JULY 20:30: 1 HOUR 25 MINS: CARNEDDAU: FEMALE. LOST**

**52** A father and daughter parked their car opposite Glan Dena and ascended Pen Yr ole Wen, onto Carnedd Dafydd then onto Carnedd Llewelyn. At this point the daughter, who was going faster than her father said she wanted to go to Yr Elen. Due to miscommunication he remained on Carnedd Llewelyn while she completed her round trip and passed him

(without knowing) and descended back to the car via Llugwy reservoir. After not seeing his daughter for some time (and having an inoperable phone), the father asked a passing pair to call for help to locate his daughter. These three started to walk off the hill by which time the Coastguard helicopter was overhead searching and the daughter had been located safe and well at the car. The aircraft lifted the three on the hill back to Oggie base.

► 11 team members involved.

#### **3 JULY 17:40: 2 HOURS 50 MINS: CRAFTNANT VALLEY: FEMALE. EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

**53** An 18-year-old female on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition appeared to collapse whilst walking uphill in the Crafnant valley area. The Coastguard helicopter was tasked immediately and local team members went direct to scene. She responded well to glucose therapy and it was decided she didn't need an airlift. The team vehicle took her down to Trefriw to a waiting ambulance for onward transport to hospital.

► 21 team members involved.

#### **7 JULY 16:40: 1 HOUR 35 MINS: LLYN GEIRIONYDD: MALE. ILLNESS**

**54** A group of males were swimming in Llyn Geirionydd when one of them had a panic attack and possibly passed out. His friends assisted him onto some rocks a short distance from the shore where he came round but felt unable to swim to shore. No contact could be made with the group so a hasty team went to scene and the Coastguard helicopter tasked. Shortly afterwards, the team leader managed to speak to the group who were safe and well and no longer needed assistance.

► 13 team members involved.

**12 JULY 14:00: 55 MINS: IDWAL SLABS: FEMALE. EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

**55** A solo female scrambler reached a small ledge high up above the Idwal Slabs and could go no further so rang a friend to ask for help. Luckily, the Coastguard helicopter was training close by so was redirected to her location for a quick pick-off. Team members had assembled at Oggie base to assist if necessary.

► 5 team members involved.

**15 JULY 20:30: 7 HOURS 25 MINS: CRAIG YR YSFA: MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**56** A group of five had climbed Amphitheatre Buttress and were abseiling back down when one of the party took a swing and hit the side of the gully injuring his hip and leg. R936 was unable to reach the casualty due to strong winds but flew Oggie team members as high as possible. RAF Valley MRT was also called and flown to the same location. The casualty was treated, placed on a stretcher and lowered 300 metres down to the landing site. Due to the deterioration in the weather the helicopter was unable to assist further and team members carried the casualty to the team vehicles, parked up by the old mines. He was transferred to an ambulance at Taly Bont and all members went home or returned to base.

► 12 team members involved.

**19 JULY 14:15: 4 HOURS 45 MINS: LLYN ELSI: FEMALE. LOST**

**57** A solo female reported herself lost on a forestry vehicle track above Betws y Coed. An initial description of her location was established and she was asked to walk back down the track to the first junction and wait

there, however, a team found no sign of her. RAF Valley MRT were asked to assist as it seemed the search may take some time. More vehicles were about to deploy when the woman turned up safe and well in a cafe in Betws having met up with some other walkers.

► 17 team members involved.

**23 JULY 13:05: 1 HOUR 25 MINS: Y GARN: MALE. LEG INJURIES**

**58** A solo male walker asked for assistance after injuring his leg on the descent of a scree slope. He was able to move but shaky on his feet and worried about falling again. Initially his location was indeterminate but listening to the 999 recording clarified it slightly and spotters were deployed to several locations to scan with binoculars. By this point, the gentleman had continued to descend to the old A5 by himself, walked back to his car and then, driving down the Nant Ffrancon, saw the MR vehicle and stopped to inform us he was safe. He had been trying to find a phone signal to report he no longer needed help.

► 17 team members involved.

**25 JULY 23:40: 25 MINS: TRYFAN: NOTHING FOUND**

**59** A member of the public, camping at Gwern Gof Isaf campsite, reported he could see flashing lights on a nearby mountain, probably Tryfan. He saw two to three lights coming together on a rocky peak, with no specific pattern to the flashes, for about fifteen minutes. No reports of overdue or missing climbers had been made. As it was likely to be mountaineers using headtorches to descend Tryfan, no action was taken.

► 2 team members involved.



**26 July: On film. Again:** Team members acting as extras for a BBC/S4C drama production to be shown in early 2018, the main star being the extremely talented Welsh actress Sian Reese-Williams (Hinterland and Emmerdale), above with team members Brian Robbins, Chris Lloyd and Jed Stone before their [alleged] industrial strength make-up session © OVMRO.



**27 JULY 16:05: 8 HOURS: HEATHER TERRACE, TRYFAN: MALE. FATALITY**

**60** Hillwalkers discovered the body of a male at the foot of North Buttress, just off the Heather Terrace. The team implemented an investigation of the scene and gathered relevant evidence from the area which was transferred to North Wales Police. The body was then evacuated using a technical rope system, from Heather Terrace down into Cwm Tryfan, where RAF Valley team members met the group and assisted with the evacuation to the road.

► 23 team members involved.

**29 JULY 16:00: 3 HOURS 50 MINS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

**61** Two hill walkers were following a route description from a walking magazine. They followed the North Ridge to the approximate area of North Tower before becoming disorientated and attempted to rejoin the footpath near Llyn Bochlywyd by descending and traversing the steep West Face of Tryfan. They became cragfast in Y Gully and called for mountain rescue. A

team member scrambling on Tryfan diverted to assist by searching the West Face and located and stabilised the cragfast walkers, one of whom was in a precarious location. A small hill party accessed the cragfast walkers from Brag Rocks. Rope was used to recover and lower the casualties to safe ground. They had no injuries, so were escorted of the hill and back to Oggie base for a debrief.

► 13 team members involved.

**31 JULY 12:20: 40 MINS: BANGOR: NOTHING FOUND**

**62** North Wales Police requested a SARDA trailing dog to assist with finding a crime suspect in the Bangor area after police scenting dogs had failed to find the suspect. The request came in via OVMRO as Bangor is within our operational area. During the process of assessing the incident and liaising with the SARDA coordinator, the suspect was detained by police and the request cancelled with no further action taken by OVMRO.

► 2 team members involved.

## august

**1 AUGUST 16:00:** 2 HOURS 15 MINS: MINER'S BRIDGE, BETWS Y COED: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

- 63** The team was called to assist the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, attending a lady with an ankle injury in the woods near to the Miner's Bridge, Betws y Coed. Team members attended the scene and assisted with treatment and transport of the casualty to a waiting WAST ambulance..
- 21 team members involved.

**9 AUGUST 18:30:** 1 HOUR 45 MINS: GRIBIN RIDGE, GLYDER FAWR: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

- 64** A male walker presented himself to the informant, high up on the Gribin Ridge, after a boulder rolled onto his leg causing a deep cut, possibly down to bone. The informant dressed the wound and the casualty was able to walk slowly. A hasty party deployed from Idwal Brewshack to assist the casualty off the hill and met up with him below Bochlwyd stream. Others at base prepared for a possible stretcher carry. The gentleman was then assisted to the Brewshack where the OVMRO doctor assessed his injury and recommended a trip to hospital.
- 17 team members involved.

**9 AUGUST 20:35:** 1 HOUR 10 MINS: MOEL SIABOD: **LOST**

- 65** A family, including three children, lost their way on the lower slopes of Moel Siabod during an afternoon stroll in the Bryn Engan forest. Their exact location was determined with SARLOC and a team vehicle drove to within a very short distance to retrieve them. Although it was a clear sunny day and there were farms and houses close by, they had not been prepared to walk down to them. An unnecessary call-out.
- 8 team members involved.

**10 AUGUST 22:45:** 4 HOURS 45 MINS: ABER FORESTRY: **3 FEMALES. LOST**

- 66** Three female walkers became lost on a walk from Rachub to Aber. The owner of their rented holiday accommodation was concerned for their safety as they had been out for over ten hours on a relatively short walk, and she'd received several messages saying they were lost in felled woodland and surrounded by water so could make no progress. A small hill party took a team Land Rover into Aber forest to the most likely location and soon discovered the three ladies who were waiting for daylight to try again. They were warmed up and walked down to the Land Rover, then driven back to their accommodation.
- 7 team members involved.

**12 AUGUST 7:15:** 4 HOURS 25 MINS: CWM IDWAL: **MALE. NOTHING FOUND/HOAX**

- 67** The team was called to search for a man who had made three broken phone calls to North Wales Police asking for help. As there was no more information, hasty hill parties were sent out to search all the paths around Cwm Idwal, Devil's Kitchen and the Glyder Fawr area. During the search, another call came in to the police from a male asking for help on Tryfan. The calls were compared and police concluded they were from the same person and it was a hoax call. All hill parties were recalled.
- 15 team members involved.

**15 AUGUST 21:00:** 1 HOUR 15 MINS: GLYDER FAWR MAIN CLIFF: **MALE. LOST**

- 68** A solo male scrambler became cragfast on the upper part of the Glyder Fawr Main Cliff when he lost the route. He was unable to safely make progress or to retreat from the

small ledge he had reached. As it was almost dark at this point the decision was made to request the Coastguard helicopter to assist whilst team members gathered at Oggie base. Fortunately for everyone, the winchman was able to extract him from the ledge and he was flown to Oggie base.

► 11 team members involved.

**16 AUGUST 14:30:** 2 HOURS: DOLWYDDELAN CASTLE: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

- 69** A male tourist slipped on wet grass close to Dolwyddelan Castle, injuring his ankle. WAST initially attended the incident and treated the casualty, but then requested OVMRO assist with the evacuation. A small hill party took the team vehicle to within 50 metres of the casualty and a short stretcher carry got him on board for a drive down to the road and waiting ambulance.

► 11 team members involved.

**17 AUGUST 14:30:** 2 HOURS 30 MINS: CLOSE TO SWALLOW FALLS: **FEMALE. ARM INJURIES**

- 70** A female walker sustained a wrist injury whilst walking by the river between Swallow Falls and Miner's Bridge, Betws y Coed. WAST was called first but, once on scene, asked OVMRO to provide assistance with the evacuation. A small hill party used a stretcher to carry her back to the road and the ambulance.
- 16 team members involved.

**20 AUGUST 4:00:** 2 HOURS: BRYNTEG, ANGLESEY: **MALE. LOST**

- 71** The team was requested to assist in a search for a vulnerable male in the

Brynteg area. SARDA was also contacted and able to provide a trailing dog. Whilst in the early stages of organisation of the search, the missing man turned up safe and well. OVMRO and SARDA stood down en route.

► 3 team members involved.

**20 AUGUST 17:05:** 6 HOURS 20 MINS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **3 MALES. LOST**

- 72** Three males lost the route whilst descending from the summit of Tryfan and strayed into broken ground high on the West Face. Hill parties managed to locate them and rope them to safe ground before a slow walk off the mountain.
- 20 team members involved.

**20 AUGUST 20:05:** 4 HOURS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **5 MALES. LOST**

- 73** Five poorly-equipped males became lost in fading light on the North Ridge. To quote the team leader, 'They got lost. We found them'. No other information available.
- 11 team members involved.

**25 AUGUST 19:00:** 30 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **2 FEMALES. STRAYED**

- 74** A mother and her seven-year-old daughter had climbed the North Ridge to the area of the North Tower. At this point, the mother decided it would be wise to descend but strayed too far to the west onto broken ground. At this point, she called 999 to ask for advice. Team members training at base deployed to the Milestone car park area and spotted the pair descending the path, having been assisted back to the path by a passing walker. They were safe and well so the team stood down.
- 8 team members involved.



**26 AUGUST 18:45:** 5 HOURS 5 MINS: ALPHABET SLABS, GLYDER FACH: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

**75** A well-equipped couple had planned a route up Bristly Ridge and on to the Glyderau. At some point on the ridge they decided it was too steep for them. They managed to traverse westwards off the ridge and eventually found themselves in Main Gully on Glyder Fach face. They descended this but rang for help when one of them became cragfast on the top section of Alphabet Slabs. A small hill party went to their aid and a Coastguard helicopter was also tasked but was delayed due to another incident in the Lake District. A joint effort resulted in the female casualty being winched from the crag and the male casualty being roped down to safer ground.

► 12 team members involved.

**26 AUGUST 22:35:** 25 MINS: CARNEDD DAFYDD: **2 FEMALES. LOST**

**76** Two sisters reported themselves lost between Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewelyn whilst attempting the 15 Peaks. They were well-equipped and experienced walkers but had become disoriented in the cloud. They were given a compass bearing to follow which would allow them to descend easy ground south of the ridge back to the A5. Their progress was monitored by means of SARLOC and phone calls and one team member walked up a short distance to escort them back to the road.

► 10 team members involved.

**26 AUGUST 22:40:** 35 MINS: TRYFAN: **NOTHING FOUND**

**77** A camper at Gwern Gof Isaf campsite reported seeing flashing lights on Tryfan

and was concerned that someone may need assistance. When the team leader called the informant the lights had disappeared. Team members were deployed to the campsite to have a look but could see no lights either. It was decided that no action was required as there had been no request for help from that location and no report of overdue parties.

► 7 team members involved.

**27 AUGUST 17:55:** 3 HOURS 35 MINS: CLOGWYN YR CYRAU, BETWS Y COED: **MALE. LEG & SPINE INJURIES**

**78** A male climber, leading a route on the crags of Clogwyn y Cyrau, took a six-metre fall, impacting a ledge with both feet. His friends lowered him to the base of the route but were unable to move him further as he had pain in both ankles and his lower back. The team managed to drive a Land Rover close to the location, so after a short stretcher carry he was driven down through the forest to a waiting road ambulance.

► 16 team members involved.

**27 AUGUST 21:10:** 1 HOUR 55 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

**79** Two climbers had finished a route on the East Face and tried to descend the North Ridge. However, in the dark they became disoriented low down on the ridge and asked for assistance. Two team members were quickly on scene and guided them back to the road.

► 8 team members involved.

**28 AUGUST 15:50:** 31 HOURS 15 MINS: PEN YR OLE WEN: **MALE. HEART ATTACK (SURVIVED)**

**80** A male walker, out with his son, had a sudden onset of severe chest pain close

to the summit of Pen yr Ole Wen. The team deployed immediately but there was an initial problem determining the location. More team members were flown high on the mountain by the Coastguard helicopter but cloud cover prevented a quick extraction. The casualty was treated for a possible cardiac event then carried over difficult ground to below cloud level. The helicopter returned and was able to recover the man and fly him to hospital.

► 24 team members involved.

**30 AUGUST 14:30:** 6 HOURS 15 MINS: BANGOR: **MALE. LOST**

**81** North Wales Police requested the assistance of OVMRO and SARDA in the search for a male patient missing from Ysbyty Gwynedd. A trailing dog picked up his trail to a certain point, and this information resulted in the police standing down both the team and dogs.

► 12 team members involved.

## September

**3 SEPTEMBER 15:55:** 1 HOUR 10 MINS: CRIMPIAU: **5 MALES. STUCK**

**82** A party of five claimed to be stuck in undergrowth close to the A5 at Capel Curig after attempting a walk to Llyn Coryn. SARLOC located them as only 500 metres from the road and, by the time the team vehicle had driven that way, they were only 250 metres away and able to continue to the road.

► 5 team members involved.

**8 SEPTEMBER 14:55:** 2 HOURS: EAST GULLY, GLYDER FACH: **2 MALES. STUCK**

**83** The brothers had walked to the summit of Glyder Fach and then followed a vague path which they thought would lead them into Cwm Bochlwyd. Unfortunately, it led them into East Gully and they continued down this until they could go no further but neither could they climb back out. Team members gathered at base but the Coastguard helicopter was able to snatch them off the hillside and drop them at base.

► 7 team members involved.

**16 SEPTEMBER 12:15:** 25 MINS: NANT FFRANCON: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

**84** A report came in of a female with an ankle injury in a rocky area close to the road. WAST requested team assistance initially but the team were stood down soon afterwards as the ambulance crew were able to manage the situation themselves.

► 6 team members involved.

**16 SEPTEMBER 18:25:** 1 HOUR 30 MINS: CWM BOCHLWYD: **NOTHING FOUND**

**85** A group descending the Y Gribin ridge late in the day reported hearing cries for help. After discussion, they were happy to continue their descent and follow up any further cries. North Wales Police had no other reports on their system and, after monitoring the group by phone, they found a tent with a couple of people close by which may have been the source. The incident was closed following checks with the police.

► 12 team members involved.



**18 SEPTEMBER 14:30:** 5 HOURS 15 MINS:  
WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **MALE. STUCK**

- 86** A solo male walker climbed the North Ridge to the summit, but when he tried to return the same way drifted onto the broken ground of the West Face close to Notch Gully. He became cragfast on a slippery ledge. Two hill parties located him in Notch Gully, he was roped up to the ridgeline and brought down Western Gully back to the road.
- 11 team members involved.

**18 SEPTEMBER 18:40:** 4 HOURS: LLYN COWLYD AREA: **2 FEMALES. STUCK**

- 87** A minimally-equipped and prepared pair of female walkers started a walk at Capel Curig based on a phone app taking them into Llyn Cowlyd, which they walked around the north side. They then tried to walk back on the south side but the app gave no information. They could find no path and soon got stuck on steep ground and called 999 for help. Team members drove into Cowlyd and recovered the pair from steep heather ground and returned them to their car at Capel Curig.
- 7 team members involved.

**20 SEPTEMBER 12:50:** 5 HOURS 10 MINS:  
BRISTLY RIDGE: **2 MALES. STUCK**

- 88** Two males who had climbed Tryfan and then continued on up Bristly Ridge became cragfast close to the notch. They felt unable to continue but lacked confidence to descend as the weather had deteriorated into heavy rain. A small hill party located them, roped them down to safe ground and then walked them off the hill.
- 12 team members involved

**23 SEPTEMBER 22:50:** 35 MINS: DEGANWY VADRE: **FEMALE. ILLNESS**

- 89** The team was asked to assist with the extraction of an intoxicated 14-year-old female who was semi-conscious and unable to walk down from Deganwy Vadre. The team was stood down en route because ambulance crew and police officers on scene decided not to wait and managed to get her to the ambulance.
- 5 team members involved.

**28 SEPTEMBER 13:55:** 2 HOURS 10 MINS:  
GLYDER FACH: **MALE. LEG INJURY**

- 90** A solo male walker rang a family member and asked her to ring for help for him as he had twisted his knee and was struggling to walk. When a team leader made contact with him he was making slow but steady progress down the Bristly Screes. He agreed to continue his descent with the team leader phoning him at regular intervals to monitor his progress. He was able to walk back to the road.
- 6 team members involved.

## OCTOBER

**4 OCTOBER 11:25:** 2 HOURS: TRYFAN:  
**MALE. LEG INJURIES**

- 91** The party were descending Upper Western Gully when a male slipped and fell approximately five metres sustaining a knee injury. After consultation, it was agreed he should continue to walk off the mountain if it was safe to do so. The group supported the casualty and they made their own way off the mountain with periodic calls giving their status and location.



**10 September: Aftermath of a wet crag training session:** Mountain rescue is frequently a far-from-fair weather endeavour and training in wet weather is all part of the experience! © OVMRO.

The group was then met by the ambulance for treatment. This was a really good effort by the casualty and the group.

► 2 team members involved.

**5 OCTOBER 13:30:** 1 HOUR 20 MINS: MAIN FACE, GLYDER FACH: **MALE. TRUNK INJURIES**

- 92** A male climber sustained pelvic and chest injuries following a 30 foot fall whilst abseiling. Initially, an air ambulance was tasked to the incident as they were close by, but although they could get a paramedic to the casualty they were unable to evacuate him due to the steep terrain. The Coastguard helicopter

was then tasked and rapidly evacuated the casualty to hospital, leaving a paramedic and climbing partner plus dog on the hill. The team was called to assist those remaining, but the air ambulance returned and managed to get them on board and team members stood down.

► 7 team members involved.

**7 OCTOBER 21:30:** 1 HOUR 40 MINS: TRYFAN, BOCHLWYD AREA : **MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

- 93** A couple asked for assistance when they lost the path on their descent of the west side of Tryfan. With just one headtorch and

## november

no map, they called for assistance. They had been navigating using Google Maps and a page from a guidebook. Their location was established and they were given advice on how to proceed safely. As a precaution, team members were mobilised to support them off the hill. The pair eventually found the main descent path and made their own way to the A5, just as team members were leaving base to locate and assist them.

► 5 team members involved.

**8 OCTOBER 17:45:** 4 HOURS 45 MINS:  
GLYDER FAWR/Y GARN: **2 MALES  
& 2 FEMALES. LOST**

**95** Two adults with two young children asked for help as they were lost in cloud 'on a mountain'. There was much confusion about which mountain they were on and they were unable to activate SARLOC. Poor communication and a poor phone signal also complicated the operation. Although they stated they were on Y Garn, further information placed them on Glyder Fawr, so search parties were deployed into Cwm Idwal to ascend via the Kitchen. The cloud finally lifted and R936 was brought in to the search. They were eventually located on the south side of Glyder Fawr above Llyn Cwmffynnon and lifted to Oggie base. They were totally unprepared for a day in the hills with no map, compass, torch or extra clothing.

► 20 team members involved.

**13 OCTOBER 14:25:** 2 HOURS 35 MINS:  
SYCHNANT PASS: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

**96** A solo female walker, out with her two dogs, slipped on wet grass above the Sychnant Pass and suffered an ankle injury which prevented her from walking. Hill parties went to

her aid, treated the injury and carried her back to the road whilst the dogs were taken to a family member close by. She was then passed over to an ambulance crew for further assessment and transport to hospital.

► 15 team members involved.

**14 OCTOBER 12:10:** 2 HOURS 50 MINS:  
LLYN COWLYD DAM: **3 FEMALES & 1 MALE.  
EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

**97** A group of four teenagers, on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, set off their SPOT tracker and also rang 999 because they believed one of the group may have developed mild hypothermia as the whole party were wet and cold. As they were accessible by vehicle at Cowlyd dam, a team vehicle was deployed to pick them up. Subsequently, there was a report that their group leaders were dealing with the situation, however, the team continued to the location and met up with the group and their leaders. They were all returned to their campsite by team vehicle to dry off.

► 16 team members involved.

**17 OCTOBER 14:05:** 1 HOUR 15 MINS:  
GRIBIN RIDGE: **MALE. ARM INJURIES**

**98** Two male climbers had climbed the Cneifion Arete and were descending steep ground into Cwm Bochlwyd when one of them fell a short distance dislodging a rock that then struck his arm. They were able to make themselves safe on the ledges but asked for help to get off the mountain as the arm injury prevented the casualty descending safely. Due to good weather and the time of day, the Coastguard helicopter was requested and able to extract the climbers and fly them straight to hospital.

► 8 team members involved

**27 OCTOBER 12:30:** 4 HOURS 10 MINS:  
ABOVE SYCHNANT PASS: **MALE. LEG  
INJURIES**

**99** A group were walking the North Wales Coast Path when the male slipped and sustained injuries. The casualty was treated by team members and evacuated to the road using a farmer's quad bike. The casualty made his own way to hospital.

► 14 team members involved.

**28 OCTOBER 17:30:** 5 HOURS 50 MINS:  
TRYFAN: **1 MALE & 3 FEMALES. LOST**

**100** The group of four departed from the lakeside layby, ascended the North Ridge and descended to the south summit with the intention of going to Bwlch Tryfan then into Cwm Tryfan. However, a compass bearing from South Summit went wrong and led them onto the West Face. They were unhappy to retrace their steps on steep ground so called for assistance. A party of team members recovered them from their location and escorted them back to the road.

► 14 team members involved.

**30 OCTOBER 11:15:** 5 HOURS 45 MINS:  
GRIBIN FACET: **FEMALE. LOST**

**101** A female climber seconding Slab Route on the Gribin Facet managed to get her leg totally jammed in a crack in the rock. Her partner was unable to free it so called for help. An Oggie hill party was dispatched with back up requested from Llanberis MRT who also deployed to the casualty site. A joint effort with rope systems and washing-up liquid finally freed the leg and she was lowered to the base of the crag and loaded on a stretcher ready for evacuation.

► 9 team members involved.

**1 NOVEMBER 16:20:** 1 HOUR 30 MINS: FOEL  
FRAS: **MALE. EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

**102** A solo male was running the Welsh 3,000 Peaks and was finishing on Foel Fras when his body seized and he was unable to move at all so he made a 999 call asking for help. Following some rest, he was able to stand and descend again and made a second 999 call advising that he was moving safely not needing assistance. A team leader kept in intermittent contact with the runner as a welfare check until he safely reached the road.

► 2 team members involved.

**2 NOVEMBER 16:35:** 4 HOURS 20 MINS:  
TRYFAN: **2 MALES. LOST**

**103** Two males became lost on the descent of the North Ridge and ended up on top of the Milestone Buttress. Hill parties located them, roped them to safe ground and walked them back to the road.

► 13 team members involved.

**19 NOVEMBER 16:20:** 2 HOUR 20 MINS:  
WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **MALE. STUCK**

**104** Two poorly-equipped male walkers were descending the North Ridge when they strayed onto steep ground. The slower of the two became cragfast after his friend went ahead and decided to carry on down to the road. Hill parties located the cragfast male and assisted him to safe ground for a walk to the road.

► 20 team members involved.

**22 NOVEMBER 22:20:** 4 HOURS 45 MINS:  
GWYNEDD: **STANDBY**

**105** During a regional Silver Extreme Weather Flooding Event, a request came in from

North Wales Police for the availability of swiftwater and flood rescue teams to support a multi-agency response in the western area. OVMRO declared availability and forward deployed to Oggie base in preparation for tasking deployments of a Type C Flood Rescue Team and two Land Rovers. Team members attended base to prepare kit (some were held at home due to road flooding in the area), prior to being stood down. OVMRO also provide a tactical adviser to Silver.

► 14 team members involved.

**27 NOVEMBER 15:10:** 2 HOURS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **2 MALES. LEG INJURIES**

**106** There were initial confused reports of a male lost on Tryfan and separated from his friends. SARLOC and a phone call identified that he had fallen whilst descending the North Ridge injuring his ankle. He had one friend with him. A further two male party members had returned to their car and driven to the Bethesda area to call for assistance. The pair were poorly-equipped, without map or compass, and reported themselves as very cold and wet with a suspected broken lower leg. With limited MRT troops available, R936 attended and airlifted the casualty and his friend to Bangor Hospital.

► 12 team members involved.

**28 NOVEMBER 15:10:** 7 HOURS 10 MINS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **MALE. STUCK**

**107** Two walkers descending the North Ridge lost the path and become cragfast in a Gully on the West Face. There were very poor phone communications with the party, who were only able to speak with the police control room — no contact with the team and no SARLOC. The lost party gave their grid reference as SH 664 601, plotted as Waterfall Gully area, North Ridge

Tryfan. An initial hill party of four team members set off to search this location but there was no sign or indication of the missing person. The search continued with further team members deployed and the lost party was eventually located in a gully near Wrinkle Slab on the West Face of Tryfan at grid reference SH 663 598. The two uninjured walkers were cragfast on a small ledge in a steep sided gully above a serious drop assessed as not suitable for helicopter extraction. Technical rope rescue was used to lower a jockey about 50 metres to the walkers who were then raised to the top station, short roped down the North Ridge to return to Oggie base.

► 19 team members involved.

## December

**10 DECEMBER 16:10:** 5 HOURS 10 MINS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **MALE. TRUNK INJURIES**

**108** There were multiple calls to police concerning shouts for help and whistles heard in the Tryfan area. A party of three were found descending close to Wrinkle Slab who had been stuck, one with a shoulder injury after a long tumbling fall. RAF Valley MRT and Oggie team members deployed to the scene. The male casualty also had a chest injury so the Coastguard helicopter was requested to assist. The casualty was lowered on a stretcher to a suitable winch site and flown to Bangor Hospital. Thanks must go to climbers in the area who were on scene first and stabilised the casualty.

► 20 team members involved.



**8 October: Incident No 95: Glyders:** Two adults with two young children lost in cloud with initial confusion about which part of the mountain they were on © OVMRO.

**12 DECEMBER 00:40:** 50 MINS: LLANDUDNO: **FEMALE. LOST**

**109** OVMRO received a call from North Wales Police requesting assistance to search for a high risk missing person in the Llandudno area. NWP FIM and PolSA requested mountain rescue and SARDA support to search a rural area and woodland on the Orme and surrounding areas. The missing female was found alive and well near the golf course in Llandudno before any team members deployed.

► 1 team member involved.

**26 DECEMBER 18:15:** 2 HOURS 45 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **2 MALES & 2 FEMALES. STUCK**

**110** A poorly-equipped party of four became stuck low down on the North Ridge having lost their torch. A hill party deployed but the Coastguard helicopter was also requested as the 75-year-old member of the party was very cold. The group was located, winched and dropped off at Oggie base.

► 14 team members involved.

**30 DECEMBER 15:55:** 1 HOUR: GLYDERAU/CWM IDWAL: **2 MALES. LOST**

**111** Two adult males plus a dog were reported overdue by their concerned parents. Their intended route was from Bochlwyd over the Glyderau and down into Cwm Idwal. As the route was ambitious with the timings and it was still daylight, the team leader decided to wait for an hour to see if they turned up, which they did. No mountain rescue action needed.

► 13 team members involved.

**31 DECEMBER 13:35:** 2 HOURS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **MALE. LOST**

**112** A lone male reported himself stuck in a steep gully on the West Face. He was unable to give a good description of his location and communications were limited due to a poor phone signal. Luckily his torch light was spotted from the roadside. The Coastguard helicopter was also tasked due to his precarious position and the limited daylight hours left. The helicopter extracted him and returned him to Oggie base, while hill members returned on foot.

► 15 team members involved.



Christmas photography competition winner 2017: Llyn Idwal © Iwan Williams.



INCIDENT SUMMARY 2017

INCIDENT TYPE

Cragfast	28 (26%)
Hill walking, injured	18 (17%)
Lost	16 (15%)
Non hill walking, injured	10 (9%)
Climbing, injured	8 (8%)
Missing person	7 (7%)
Medical condition	4 (4%)
Report of lights or shouts	4 (4%)
Overdue	3 (3%)
Weather standby	2 (2%)
Water incident	2 (2%)
Dog casualty	1 (1%)
Downed aircraft	1 (1%)
Mountain biker injured	1 (1%)
HOAX call	1 (1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>

MONTH

August	19 (17%)
July	18 (17%)
May	12 (11%)
January	10 (9%)
March	10 (9%)
October	10 (9%)
September	9 (8%)
April	6 (6%)
November	6 (6%)
June	4 (4%)
February	3 (3%)
December	2 (2%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>

DAY

Saturday	26 (27%)
Sunday	24 (25%)
Wednesday	14 (15%)
Friday	9 (9%)
Monday	8 (8%)
Tuesday	8 (8%)
Friday	6 (6%)

LOCATION

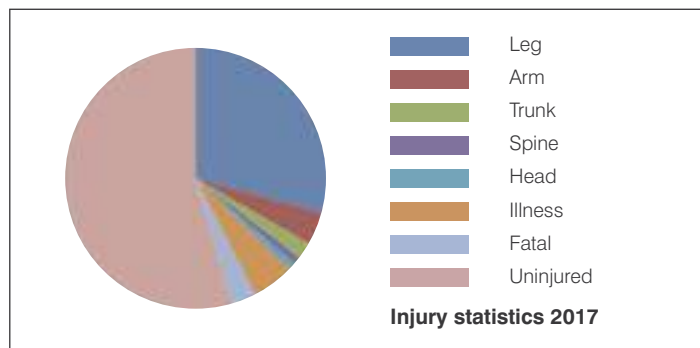
Tryfan: N Ridge & W Face	12 (13%)
Tryfan: E Face & Hthr Terr	7 (8%)
Tryfan: S. Ridge	2 (2%)
Craig yr Isfa & area	4 (4%)
Dolwyddelen area	4 (4%)
Glyder Fach, Main Cliff	4 (4%)
Llandudno area	3 (3%)
Bangor & Anglesey	3 (3%)
Carnedd Llewelyn	3 (3%)
Glyder Fawr	3 (3%)
Bristly Ridge	3 (3%)
Nant Ffrancon & Bethesda	2 (2%)
Sychnant & Coastal path	2 (2%)
Penyrolewen	2 (2%)
Glyder Fach	2 (2%)
Cneifion & Sub Cneifion	2 (2%)
Llyn Cowlyd	2 (2%)
Bristly screes	2 (2%)
Cwm Tryfan & Tryfan Bach	2 (2%)
Swallow Falls/Miners Br	2 (2%)
Moel Siabod	2 (2%)
above Dolgarrog	2 (2%)
lower Carneddau	1 (1%)
Aber Falls area	1 (1%)
Tal y fan	1 (1%)
Foel Fras	1 (1%)
Carnedd Dafydd	1 (1%)
Gribin Facet	1 (1%)
Gribin Ridge	1 (1%)
Cwm Bochlwyd	1 (1%)
Y Garn	1 (1%)
Crimpiau	1 (1%)
Idwal Slabs	1 (1%)
Clogwyn y Cyriau	1 (1%)
Llyn Elsi area	1 (1%)
Marin Trail	1 (1%)
Llyn Gerionydd	1 (1%)
Llyn Crafnant area	1 (1%)
Penrhyn quarry area	1 (1%)
Rhinogs	1 (1%)
Snowdon	1 (1%)
Penmachno	1 (1%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>



A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR CASUALTY CARE WITHIN OVMRO IN MANY RESPECTS, BUT THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF INJURIES TO OUR CASUALTIES REMAINS FAIRLY CONSTANT

Just over half of our call-outs are to the 'lost, stuck or strayed' and these people just need a helping hand, reassurance or possibly rope rescue, no casualty care skills required. However, that still leaves quite a few folk needing our tender loving care which can range from a sticky plaster to full body immobilisation for spinal injuries.

As the chart shows, the majority of our injured casualties have a leg injury which usually means a splint and a carry-off by stretcher or, hopefully, a winch off into the Coastguard helicopter. But we still need to be prepared for more serious injuries and train with this in mind. Sadly, this year we had



**Pauline Hallett**  
Casualty Care Lead

three fatalities, two on Tryfan and one on Bristly Ridge. As always our thoughts are with those left behind and the other mountaineers who helped us in these difficult situations.

To provide the best care for our casualties we encourage team members to take the MREW Casualty Care Certificate (CCC) training and assessment, which also provides insurance for any treatments performed. At present, fourteen team members hold this qualification and the team also has three doctors, one paramedic and one trainee paramedic on the books. In addition



**1 October:** Helicopter winch training with Rescue 936. Team members also practised using the high line which provides stability to whoever is on the winch to prevent spinning on long winches © OVMRO.



to holding the CCC, twelve of our members have attended extended training to enable them to administer enhanced pain relief on the mountain.

Our core skill Casualty Care training, which is mandatory for all team members, has been brought back 'in house' with the much appreciated assistance of doctors from Ysbyty Gwynedd and Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, winchmen paramedics from Bristow Helicopters based at Caernarfon and also from the resuscitation officer at Ysbyty Gwynedd. These are all professionals who attend patients/casualties every day so have a wealth of real life experience to share.

OVMRO hosted a regional MREW CCC course in the summer for nineteen members of various NWMRA teams, with fourteen going through to the assessment and passing. Again, our thanks go to the medical professionals who gave up a day of their own time to run the assessments.

On the equipment side of things, every team member carries a standard basic first aid kit and several more experienced members carry an advanced kit which will include airway

adjuncts, breathing aids, drugs and so on. We've recently had a review of the team first response kits and our team paramedic is working closely with a couple of companies to see if they can produce a compact light bag to replace our current modular system.

One unusual piece of first aid kit was taken on the hill this year: a bottle of washing up liquid for the lady who got her knee jammed in a crack whilst climbing on the Gribin Facet. Strangely, we went to the same route for the same problem about seven years ago and washing up liquid saved the day on both occasions!

As always, we would like to thank our partner agencies for their support throughout the year, especially North Wales Police and the Caernarfon-based Coastguard helicopter R936, always a welcome sight in the valley.

Also thanks must go to RAF Valley MRT for their assistance, North Wales Ambulance Service, the staff of the Emergency Department at Ysbyty Gwynedd and the other North Wales MRTs who support us when necessary.



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equipment officer

THIS HAS BEEN MY FIRST YEAR AS EQUIPMENT OFFICER, TAKING OVER FROM DAVE JONES, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

This year I have had a few interesting projects to work on, the main one being the replacement of all the team rope. Working with the technical rope rescue group, we agreed to adopt an already tested system rather than test and create our own, as we've done before. We have close ties with Kirk Mauthner who runs his own rope rescue company, as well as being an active mountain rescue team member in British Columbia, Canada. He is a world-renowned figure in rope rescue and mountain rescue and we adopted his rope rescue principles a number of years ago. He has completely tested all the elements of his system with a specific rope and prussic combination and we agreed to purchase this combination.

This selection also allowed us to utilise the MPD, a device designed by Kirk, that is very efficient at raising and more reliable for lowers. We have played with the device before but had a rope compatibility issue.

We are still using the previous mountaineering based system where the situation allows, but the MPD is our go-to device. We have also created a new team Technical Field Guide to aid in teaching the new system and as an aide memoire on those cold, wet, dark nights. We are now operational with the new rope prussic and MPD system and into the process of training the team on the new device. I would like to thank Jed Stone, Kim Burnham and Tim Bird for all their hard work over the last year on this project.

We have recently been awarded a grant by DEFRA to spend on water rescue equipment

**Alex King**  
Equipment Officer





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**Technical rope rescue:** Getting to grips with our new descent control devices. The CMC Multi Purpose device is replacing our prussik-based belay systems and will go operational once training has been completed  
© Karl Lester.

and have specified and ordered a new water rescue raft and house evacuation sled. This enables us to hand the NWMRA raft back to the region for another team to look after. The new raft has had many modifications and changes to make it exactly what we need, based on much feedback from recent flood events and

water rescues and hopefully it will be exactly what we require. The company chosen has been very accommodating with our requests and helped with their manufacturing and real world experiences and we look forward to its arrival.



Christmas photography competition winner 2017: Lyn Ogwen© Jan Knurek.



## PRESS OFFICER

I AM ALWAYS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT OUR PROFILE REMAINS HIGH WHICH USUALLY RESULTS IN SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING.

Over the last couple of years or so, OVMRO has been trying to share its success with the quieter mountain rescue teams in North Wales. With this in mind, I have not been so eager to report every call-out to the media, in the hope the quieter teams will get those valuable column inches and publicity. However, the reporters at The Daily Post, the freelance journalist, Glyn Bellis, and the Grough website are always keen for the nitty gritty. Keeping a close eye on the OVMRO website, they are quick to give me a call for the details.

Apart from our website, which is updated by the team leaders almost before the call-out is closed down, team member Karl Lester is quick to publicise details on Facebook. Team member, Gerwyn Lloyd (no relation, I think!) is the native Welsh speaker for interviews with Radio Cymru and S4C.

Throughout the year, I receive numerous requests from TV and film companies. Many, I refer to the quieter teams. Often the requirements and expectations of these companies are too onerous. We are all volunteers. We are not sitting in our base waiting to be called. We all have homes and employment, and enjoy a good day out on the hill. Standing around, then doing something which is incorrect in MR terms, then repeating it a few times, then standing around again is not what we are about.

In January, we were requested to contribute to a TV series called The Detectives, about real life and death cases. In 2016, OVMRO members

**Chris Lloyd**  
Press Officer



had been asked to assist with the recovery of a murder victim. As a result, we were asked to give a couple of interviews at the site. After the screening, later in the year, I was surprised to be stopped in the street by strangers who said, 'I saw you on the TV last night'.

BBC Wales has been running a series with Kate Humble who is 'Off the Beaten Track in Wales'. The producer made contact early on this year. The series takes Kate from the tip of mainland North Wales (Great Orme) down to South Wales. She wanted something on mountain rescue and perhaps to include a search and rescue dog. Filming took place in April and was first screened on Friday 1 December. Team members who assisted with the filming, were glued to their TVs for the first episode. What they didn't know was that after Kate had filmed OVMRO members and search dog Spin with her handler, Sally, Kate's next shot was joining Natasha Brookes. She is renowned for skinny dipping in just about every piece of fresh water in Snowdonia. They were to meet up in Cwm Silyn where Kate bravely joined Nathasha for a skinny dip in the lake. I had been asked if we could provide water safety. I referred the producer to Aberglaslyn MRT as this is their patch.

In June, a TV film-making company asked if we could assist in a crime series. The narrative was that a woman had been chased through the woods before falling to her death down a ravine. Her body could be seen, but they needed experts to gain access. The producer asked what mountain rescue would do. I stated that we could gain access using ropes, we could work safely in the water with team members giving upstream safety and downstream safety. We could extract the body up and out of the ravine

having carried out fatal incident investigations. We could also provide safety and casualty care for the film crew. I think the director wanted some involvement for the actors so, despite us arriving on scene with all the technical rescue kit, swiftwater rescue kit, casualty care kit and fatal accident kit, we found ourselves fully kitted up, standing around in a few inches of water for a lot of the time. Whilst I am sure that when this part of The Hidden is screened in 2018, it will look impressive to the non-mountain rescue viewer, we hasten to add that we were working to the instructions of the director and not our own protocols!

A combination of the release of the national mountain rescue accident statistics and the Ordnance Survey wanting to promote sales of hard copies of maps and some of their useful safety ideas, meant I found myself at 05.30hrs above Llanberis on a wet morning with BBC Breakfast's Graham Satchell and some people from OS. At 06.20, a very wet Graham Satchell peered from beneath his hood to interview someone who had been a casualty. She related her story, then over to me for a comment about people going into the great outdoors and finally to an outdoors enthusiast who plugged the use of paper maps whilst pulling pieces of kit out of the rucksack I'd provided. We hung around for an hour ready for the 07.20 slot on national TV and once again I had to squeeze as much as I could into about 90 seconds of interview. As we had an hour to wait before the 08.20 slot, we popped into Llanberis for bacon butties and hot teas. Unfortunately, the BBC couldn't join us as they had to film a trailer at 07.55.

Back at the site, we were met by local BBC TV cameraman and journalist, Roger Pinney. We



**Coastguard helicopter to the rescue:** © Karl Lester.

have worked together on several occasions, one memorable one when he joined us on swiftwater rescue training. After an off-the-cuff comment, he found himself in a dry suit being swept down the river, then swimming aggressively to the bank for a piece to camera. Roger knows the points that we need to get across, so asks the right questions.

It is important we maintain a high profile. It enables us to broadcast the 'Mountain Safety'

message, to tell people that we are volunteers and that we are not sitting waiting to be called — and to tell people about the community service we provide, assisting the professional emergency services, not just walkers on the hills.

My thanks to the BBC, Grough website, The Daily Post and Glyn Bellis for their assistance in our quest.



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## training officer

SINCE THE LAST REPORT, SIX TRAINEES HAVE PROGRESSED ONTO BECOMING FULL TEAM MEMBERS. WE HAVE ALSO GAINED MANY MORE TRAINEES.

The training events have been excellently attended and my thanks go out to the support from members who have attended the events. A huge thanks also goes to the people who have instructed on these courses, both internally and externally.

On 1 March, the team will be heading up to the west coast of Scotland where 24 team members will be doing our team winter training. This is essential for us to operate in winter conditions in our own area. It's also a great chance for us to have some quality team building.

We have just introduced a new rope system, which has seen new 'descent control devices' introduced into our kits and the upgrading of ropes due to the old ones reaching the end of their life. This upgrade has seen lots of work from the technical rope rescue group who are creating a new Technical Rope Rescue guidebook. It also means we've had to add additional training for members to get to grips with the new devices.

We currently have ten trainees who will spend the next several months progressing towards becoming full team members. All are already excellent mountaineers and they will be training in the rescue side of things and learning the many 'oggie-isms'.

**Craig Jowitt**  
Training Officer





THE IT GROUP CONTINUES TO DO A GREAT JOB MANAGING THE IT AND SECURITY SYSTEMS AT BASE, AND SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE TEAM'S OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES VIA SOCIAL MEDIA.

**Jim Langley**  
IT Officer



This year saw several global cyber attacks like the WannaCry Ransomware attack prompting the team to look at our online security and our protection from such security breaches. Such risks highlight vulnerabilities and we continue to assess, update and maintain our processes. Also with the strengthened European Union General Data Protection Regulations coming into force in May 2018, we have a duty to ensure protection of any individual's personal data.

This major update of data protection has an organisation-wide implication but also, from an IT perspective, in how, why and where personal data gets stored, for instance with the 333 membership. As with many things this has prompted a streamlining of our systems which is one of the tasks we are currently addressing. We have also personalised log-ins to functions such as SARCALL for the same reasons.

We continue to have some reliability issues with our email system, despite each member being given their own personal team email address and mailbox. It's been a frustrating process getting to the bottom of the issue and we are currently looking into options with other email hosts and providers. It seems that over-zealous spam filters are blocking emails forwarded to multiple mailboxes which is a principle method of sending emails to all members.

Social media continues to grow and the wider community is actively involved with our re-energised use of Facebook. This platform remains our main most popular social media stream with a current following of just over 7,000. The feeds are managed mainly by Karl Lester and are visually interesting as well as factual and informative. Twitter has 5,526 followers but is less used currently since John



**6 December 2017:** There was a storm on the cards so we thought we'd better prepare and eight hardy team members did some swiftwater rescue training. Thanks to Plas y Brenin for letting us use their pond! © OVMRO.

Carrie, who managed this account, stood down from the team. We are aware of additional platforms currently gaining momentum such as Instagram but have yet to establish an account. For this platform, images are essential and hashtagging such as #ovmro is the main method for gaining interest and followers. Our support group 333 have also joined our Facebook page posting information and events for their followers. This was chosen over establishing a separate page mainly for the reason that many of our

supporters are already actively following our page and so it made sense to keep the single media stream.

Finally, it's worth mentioning that ViewRanger have continued to support our organisation with free digital mapping of both OS and Harvey maps for our members. This is fantastic and valuable software as almost all team members have smartphones and use the app for finding an accurate location for use locally in our operational area and on operations nationally as required.

Christmas photography competition winner 2017: Foel Fras © Ruth Revell.



## TREBLE THREE

I STILL FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT TREBLE THREE BEGAN TWENTY YEARS AGO, ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1997. AND, ON 28 OCTOBER 2017, IT HELD ITS 20th AGM AT SIABOD CAFÉ.

**Clive Swombow**  
Chairman 333



I have had the honour of being chairman since its inception and have watched it grow, both in numbers and professionalism.

Our success has been down to the many members who have assisted in various roles on the committee, too many to list, but without whose hard work, Treble Three (333) would never have achieved the standard it has now reached.

However, 333 would and could not exist without its members. The group, was originally set up to assist in fundraising but, with the team's blessing and appreciation, this has expanded to cover administration duties for the team, performing base duties and driving team vehicles. This has helped to offset the pressures created by the ever-increasing number and diversity of call-outs full team members are required to attend.

I have mentioned this before, but make no apologies for reiterating it: I am proud of the way the team gives 333 members something back in return for their continued support. The OVMRO webpage it shows such activities as first aid sessions, GPS days, introduction to tracking and navigation days, all at no charge. I believe this sets the standard for support groups, with enquiries from teams across the UK and Sweden, seeking our advice on the set up of support groups. I believe we were the first and still the vanguard of the organisation of such groups. However, the days we organise are not the only get-together days. We have collection days for the team, great social events which not only raise money for the team but also ensure OVMRO is kept in the public eye. Please check the webpage and come along to meet and greet with team members and fellow 333 members — it is always a great time.

Thank you one and all for the past twenty years and may Treble Three continue to expand in the numbers and ways in which it supports — in my opinion, the epitome of a mountain rescue team.

**14 January 2018: Turkey and cobweb walk:** Post Christmas and New Year breath of fresh air, led by Dave Salter © Alan Green.



## TREBLE THREE news and events

SINCE THE TREBLE THREE 2017 AGM, WE HAVE HAD A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING DAY OUTSIDE CUNNINGHAM'S IN BETWYS Y COED, IN DECEMBER, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH THE TEAM AND 333.

These events should be viewed not only as fundraising events but as social events to encourage 333 members and team members to come along, not just to rattle tins but also to socialise and get to know each other.

The following events had taken place since the AGM:

Saturday 22 October: AGM

Saturday 4 November: Evening torchlight walk:  
Dave Worrall

December: Mulled Wine and Mince Pies:  
Chris Lloyd

December: Fundraising in Betws Y Coed

Sunday 14 January: Turkey and Cobweb Walk:  
Dave Salter

### Planned events for this year:

#### **Sunday 1 July: Midsummer Madness Walk:**

This will be a repeat of the Turkey and Cobweb walk. We should be able to spend time in the hill fort this time, as hopefully the weather will be a bit kinder to us.

#### **Saturday 3 November: Night walk:**

Starting at base at 16:30. Led by Dave Worrall

#### **Thursday 22 November: Navigation day:**

Meet at base for 10:30 start. Lead by Dave Worrall

#### **Casualty Care Day and Tracking and**

#### **Search skills:**

Dates yet to be finalised. Keep a look out on the OVMRO website and Facebook. Emails will be sent out nearer the time.

Last year's accounts show that 333 brought in £12,575 plus another £1,000 as extra donations. Thanks to those who organise these events. It is hoped the same events will be organised again this year, although the Oggie 8 will not take place in 2018 but, hopefully back again in 2019.

**Chris Wycherly**  
333 Member







**14 January 2018: Turkey and cobweb walk:** Post Christmas and New Year breath of fresh air, led by Dave Salter © Alan Green.

No dates have yet been fixed for 2018 but, when they are, notification will be made by email and on the team's Facebook page. If you have any ideas for new events, for either fundraising or social, please let me know.

The Christmas cards were a great success with all cards sold, which amounted to 1,100 cards (1000 were ordered but 10% more were given by the printer).

The idea of a desktop calendar for 2019 was discussed, following a competition for photos. Twelve photos will be selected from landscapes and the team in action. Photos should be included from all seasons. See competition rules.

An updated 333 leaflet should be out soon. There are currently 573 members paying regularly and there has been some success in sending out notification of lapsed membership (within a suitable time period) with the newsletter. If you would rather receive the newsletter by email please contact [chris.wycherley@outlook.com](mailto:chris.wycherley@outlook.com)

#### **Turkey and Cobweb Walk, led by Dave Salter Alan Green**

On Sunday 14 January, 29 members of 333 and Prestatyn Rambling Club turned out for the walk, led by Dave Salter. The weather stayed dry, but cold and cloudy on the tops. We set out from Trefor on the Llyn Peninsula and ascended Yr Eifl. The wind chill on the summit was considerable and the boulders were slippery.

On top of the trig point is a metal sculpture. It is believed it was placed there by a blacksmith as a declaration of love for his wife. If anyone can verify the story, or provide more detail, we'd love to hear from you. The iron age hill fort of Tre'r Ceiri is very impressive and interesting, but not a place to linger in the prevailing weather so, after a lunch stop, we descended to Trefor.

Paned was taken at Caffi'r Gath Ddu, in Parc Glynllifon. The tea, bara brith and Welsh cakes were good and the staff pleasant, but it's not a place to go if you're in a hurry.

Thanks to Dave Salter for organising another fine walk. Looking forward to Midsummer Madness.

#### **Evening Torch Light Walk, organised and led by Dave Worrall Chris Wycherley**

A group of eight and a little dog set out from base on a rather chilly November evening to enjoy Ffynnon Lligwy and Pen Yr Helgi Du. We plodded up Mac's Highway to Ffynnon Lligwy to access the path to Bwylch Eryi Farchog. From here we battled through wind and rain to scramble up to Pen Yr Helgi Du, where we were greeted, for a few minutes, by a very bright super moon. The views across the Conwy Valley, to the lights of Conwy and beyond, made the scramble worthwhile. Walking at night in the dark certainly adds another dimension to hill walking, and is to be recommended. Thanks Dave. Do join us next November.



**Turkey and cobweb walk**  
© Alan Green.

# Photographic Competition

Following the success of the 2017 OVMRO Christmas cards, the 333 committee has decided to go ahead with another fundraising project this year, to support the team. We intend to produce:

- **A 2019 calendar**
- **A pack of Christmas cards**
- **A pack of notecards** blank inside, to be sent any time of the year.

To this end, we are running another competition to choose photographs for the various items. This time we're looking for a mixture of images showing the scenic beauty of the Ogwen Valley area and images of the team going about their business. Images submitted may be used for any of the items and we will need photos taken during all seasons of the year. The calendar and cards will be bilingual in Welsh and English. The competition is open to all: amateur or professional, OVMRO and 333 members and non-members.

## Entry to the competition closes on 30

**April 2018.** For a chance to have your work featured, please submit your photos by email to **competition@333.org.uk**. Please include your name and contact details. No postal entries can be accepted.

A number of copies of Judy Whiteside's book 'Risking Life and Limb' will be awarded to the

winners. Or, if you wish, you may choose an alternative prize from our online shop. Only one prize per winner will be awarded. No other fee payable.

Photos must be a minimum of 200 dpi/1200x800 pixels and in jpeg format. There will be an upper limit on the file size determined by the email attachment size limit.

Cards will be printed in landscape format 155mm x 105mm (6"x4"). The size of the calendar has not yet been decided. Any winning entry may be cropped to fit its chosen purpose.

Photos must have been taken by the individual submitting them and, by entering the competition, permission is granted to OVMRO to reproduce the photos. The chosen images will be credited to the photographer, with a statement that the photographer owns the copyright to the image. Where photos include recognisable people, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain their permission for their image to be reproduced and sold.

To limit the workload on our hardworking volunteer judges, please do not submit more than three photos per entrant.



**Risking Life and Limb**  
A number of copies will be awarded to the winners.



**Last year's winners:** Castell y Gwynt (Neil Murphy), Llyn Ogwen (Jan Knurek), Llyn Idwal (Iwan Williams), Foel Fras (Ruth Revell) and Dyffryn Ogwen (Lawrence Cox).

## treasurers report

OUR GYM/SPARE GUEST ROOM HAS NOT BEEN THE SAME SINCE I STEPPED INTO JO'S HARD-TO-FILL SHOES IN MARCH 2017. OUR DINING TABLE HAS MOVED FROM THE LOUNGE AND BECOME MY DESK, THE SOFA IS REGULARLY COVERED IN FILES AND PAPERWORK, AND THE GYM EQUIPMENT IS GATHERING DUST IN THE CORNER.

**Heather Beale**  
Honorary Treasurer



On pages 70 through to 73, you will find the Trustees Report. Thank you to John Barber for preparing this on behalf of the Trustees.

As part of my role, I receive all the generous donations sent to Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO — these include money raised in local shops and businesses, sponsored events, donations sent following rescues and from supporters who just want to say 'thank you for being there', as well as for many other very personal reasons. We are very grateful to everyone who sends us donations, as they enable us to continue to provide our voluntary service in and around the Ogwen Valley.

In 2017, we received over £16,000 from donations in memory and bequests. These have included:

Barry Moore	Malcolm Wright
Betty Horsley	Marc Yeoman
Bruce Woodland	Margaret Seddon
Chris Parrot	Monica Stone
David Smith	Neil Parnell
Derrin Barber	Paul Mooney
Gerald Doig	Peter Baker
George Tod	Ron Lidgett
HR Greene Charitable	Saun Laxen
Settlement	Stan Palmer
Hugh Hodgson	Sylvia Lord
John Wynne	T Yardley
Mair Llewelyn	

On behalf of the team, our thanks go out to all the families who think of us at such a difficult time. My personal thanks go to Jo and Dave for all their ongoing support and assistance while I have settled in to this new role.

I must also express thanks to my husband Charlie, for supporting me and putting up with me disappearing off to committee meetings and hiding away in my office for hours on end over the past nine months.

Finally, my thanks to the team members who respond to my never-ending stream of emails requesting information and help.



# Please donate to the Rescue Benevolent Fund



So WE can be there to  
help support TEAM MEMBERS  
when they need it

There's never a 'good time' to have an accident. Right?

Accidents happen, we know that. Sometimes, they happen to team members while they're involved with rescuing someone else. And, more often than not, they've put their own lives and families on hold to help someone in need. Quite apart from any physical or psychological injuries, that accident might impact on their ability to earn. Their family might struggle, both financially and emotionally.

The Rescue Benevolent Fund is there to help team members and their families — from across England and Wales — when they need it, with the physical rehabilitation of broken limbs, emotional support through access to counselling and even immediate or longer term financial support.

We can't do it without you

By making a donation to the Rescue Benevolent Fund, you'll be helping us support team members and their families in times of hardship. And it could just as easily be an Ogwen Valley team member asking for our support. So thank you, in anticipation. Thank you.

To donate, go to  
[justgiving.com/  
rescuebenevolentfund](http://justgiving.com/rescuebenevolentfund)



Website: [rescuebenevolentfund](http://rescuebenevolentfund) Email: [secretary@rescuebenevolentfund](mailto:secretary@rescuebenevolentfund)

Mountain and Cave Rescue Benevolent Fund is a registered charity No 1150755

## COLLECTION BOXES

THANK YOU TO  
NEIL AND MAGGIE  
ADAM WHO  
COORDINATE AND  
EMPTY MANY OF  
THE COLLECTION  
BOXES IN AND  
AROUND THE  
OGWEN VALLEY.  
THANKS ALSO TO  
THE MANY OTHERS  
WHO EMPTY THE  
REMAINING BOXES.

**Heather Beale**  
Honorary Treasurer

And to all those who donate to the team via our collection boxes, please keep giving, as all your pennies and pounds have added up to over £5300 in 2017.

If you would like to have a collection box or have a box which needs emptying, please contact Neil and Maggie at our base (01690 720333) and leave a message or email [treasurer@ogwen-rescue.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@ogwen-rescue.org.uk).

During the year, we have collected from boxes located at:

- 333 Events
- Judges Gift Shop
- OVMR Base
- Pont y Pair Chip Shop
- Black Cat
- Vaynol Arms, Pentir
- Country Cooks
- Ellis Brigham
- Hen Felin Cafe, Aber
- Plas Power Adventure
- Joe Browns
- Cunninghams
- Leisure Centre
- Llandudno Junction
- Cafe Ty Tan Lan
- The Gwydyr, Dolwyddellan
- Douglas Arms
- Spar, Dolwyddellan
- Information Centre
- Betws y Coed
- Plas y Brenin
- Vagabond
- Bunkhouse
- Bryn Glo Café
- Tryfan Organics
- Eagles, Penmachno
- Ogwen Bank
- Field and Trek
- Lledr Hostel
- Tyn y Coed
- Elens Castle
- Pinnacles Café
- World of Italy
- Rohan/Raw Earth
- Bethesda Surgery
- Cotswold Outdoor
- Colwyn Bay Royal Mail
- Cotswold Rock Bottom
- Bookwise
- Conwy Falls Cafe
- Wild Horse Brewery
- Stables Bar, Royal Oak
- Bod Gwynedd B&B
- Hawkshead shop
- Mabinogionn
- Shell Garage, Betws y Coed
- Scran
- Ogwen Falls Brewshack
- Betws Motors



## THE TRUSTEES OF OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE CIO (OVMRO) PRESENT THEIR REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017.

On behalf of  
the Trustees  
**John Barber**  
Trustee

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', 2014.

### 1: Charity Information

Charity Name:	Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Known as: Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation (OVMRO)
Charity No:	1160504 (England & Wales)
Address:	Bryn Poeth, Capel Curig, Betws y Coed, Conwy LL24 0EU
Trustees:	<b>A Harbach</b> (ex officio, Chair); <b>H Beale</b> from 11.3.17 (ex officio, Treasurer); <b>P Frost</b> to 11.3.17 (ex officio, Secretary); <b>J Barber</b> from 11.3.17 (ex officio, Secretary); <b>J Worrall</b> , <b>C Lloyd</b> , <b>R Hore</b> , <b>W Dean</b>
Bankers:	HSBC plc
Accountants:	Crestmere Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants, Intec, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd
Independent Examiner:	Barrie Buels FCCA FCIE

### 2: Objectives and Activities

OVMRO's objectives, as written in its constitution, are:

- To search for and rescue people in difficulties in mountainous regions, or inhospitable environments, and in furtherance thereof to develop rescue techniques, and to disseminate information about the activities of the organisation.
- The provision of grants to charities which support the mountain rescue community.

OVMRO's primary focus remains to rescue people in difficulty in the mountain ranges adjacent to the Ogwen Valley in Snowdonia,

namely the Carneddau, y Glyderau, and Moel Siabod. In addition to mountain rescue activity, OVMRO maintains a swift water rescue capability and supports national flood emergencies. The scope of activities is reviewed periodically.

### 3: Achievements and Performance – Delivering Public Benefit

OVMRO experienced another busy year, responding to 112 reported incidents ranging from helping people who were lost to fatalities. The total number of team member attendances was over 1250.

Team members have assisted, and been assisted by, neighbouring mountain rescue teams and have worked closely with the helicopters of the Maritime Coastguard Agency, the RAF Mountain Rescue Team, North Wales Police, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. An example of inter-agency working was a tragic incident in March when a helicopter crashed in the Rhinog mountains in South Snowdonia. The recovery operation involved multiple mountain rescue teams in support of police, ambulance and Air Accident Investigation Branch.

Team members continue to train to a high standard in various skills, including technical rope rescue, casualty care, swift water rescue, search management, fatal incident investigation, bereavement counselling, defensive driving (on road), off-road driving techniques, winter search and rescue techniques and working with helicopters.

At the end of 2017, OVMRO had 38 full team members and a further 13 trainee members. The team continues to attract a healthy level of trainee team members, a satisfying proportion of whom go on to achieve full team member status. Members of the CIO are individuals who undertake to act in good faith to further the purposes of the CIO.

Members of the 333 support group continue to provide administrative and operational support to the team, in addition to 333's valuable fundraising activities.

OVMRO is affiliated to the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (NWMRA) and Mountain Rescue England & Wales (MREW). Through its

representation in these groups, OVMRO makes an active and valuable contribution to the mountain rescue community.

In deciding the activities that the CIO should undertake, the Trustees have paid regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

### 4.1: Principal Funding Sources and Expenses

OVMRO benefits from a strong flow of charitable donations and remains in a strong financial position to deliver its charitable objectives. In addition to publicity of its mountain rescue activities, OVMRO maintains a high public profile by attending community events, hosting visits to the rescue base, providing talks to school and community groups, utilising social media responsibly and responding to an appropriate level of media engagement.

The Oggie 8 event was held in 2017 with 53 participants in 15 teams competing, and raised £2,860 after costs.

OVMRO does not use commercial fundraisers. The Management Committee approve all fundraising activities and does not permit activities that could in any way intrude on a person's privacy, be persistent, or place undue pressure on a person to donate money.

Team members are supported by the periodic issue of essential kit items and the reimbursement of travelling expenses when responding to operational incidents and participating in training events.

Training and equipment costs continue to be the main expenditure. One major expense item was replacing the team's Technical Rope Rescue System, costing around £17,000.

The base at Bryn Poeth has been subject to a programme of maintenance and improvement work.

The organisation is not bound by any financial commitments for which funds do not exist.

### 4.2: Reserves Policy

Although it is intended that future activities of the charity are to be funded by future income, OVMRO's reserves provide a buffer should there be any downturn in donations. The CIO aims to



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**Chris Lloyd, Ogwen Press Officer and Trustee**

**Paramo gear is trusted to perform day after day in extreme conditions by a range of professionals from Search & Rescue teams to the British Antarctic Survey.**

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maintain reserves of at least two years operating costs, which is approximately £170,000 at current expenditure rates.

## 4.3: Investment Policy

Funds not currently required for short-term expenditure are held in interest bearing bank accounts, with account balances aimed to be within the FSCS's compensation scheme limits.

## 4.4: Independent examiner

Barrie Buels was reappointed as Independent Examiner and has expressed his willingness to continue in that capacity.

## 5: Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to its constitution dated 12 March 2016 and a Rule Book, last updated 7 December 2017.

### 5.1: Trustees Appointment and Induction

Trustees are elected for a period of one year at the AGM from nominations made and seconded by members in advance of the AGM. There must be at least three and not more than seven elected Trustees including the three ex-officio Trustees (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no remuneration from the charity.

Trustees on appointment are usually familiar with the activities of the CIO but receive a copy of the Constitution and the Rule book. Trustees can attend Management Committee meetings.

### 5.2: Operational Management

Trustees are elected for a period of one year at the AGM from nominations made and seconded by members in advance of the AGM. There must be at least three and not more than seven elected Trustees including the three ex-officio Trustees (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).

### 5.3: Risk Management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the CIO is exposed and they are satisfied

that the CIO's established systems mitigate those risks. The Trustees have commenced work to prepare the CIO for the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018.

### 5.4: Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of the resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2014
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 as well as the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are pleased with the performance of the CIO during this reporting period. We wish to thank everyone who has supported the organisation during the year, in particular the team members and their families, and members of the 333 support group.

## REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION CIO YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017.

**Barrie Buels**  
**FCCA FCIE**  
Crestmere Limited  
Chartered Certified  
Accountants

### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and the seeking of explanations from you as the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that in any material respect: accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

## OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION CIO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017	2016
<b>incoming resources from generating funds</b>			
Recurring items	2	88,088	65,923
Non recurring items	3	16,165	75,099
Transfer from Ogwen Valley MRO			14,055
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>104,253</b>	<b>155,077</b>
<b>resources expended</b>			
Charitable activities	4	124,579	152,603
<b>Net movement in funds for the period</b>		<b>(20,326)</b>	<b>2,474</b>
Fund balances at 31 December 2016		<b>760,746</b>	758,272
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2017</b>		<b>740,420</b>	<b>760,746</b>

## OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION CIO BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	2017	2016
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	5	173,020	199,270
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks		10,115	11,055
Debtors		3,586	1,340
Cash at bank and in hand	6	554,659	550,041
		568,360	562,436
<b>Creditors amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Accruals		960	960
Net current assets		567,400	561,476
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>740,420</b>	<b>760,746</b>
<b>Income funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		740,420	760,746



**OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION CIO**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2016**

**1 Accounting policies**

The financial statements are prepared for the year ended 31 December 2017, comparative figures referring to the year ended 31 December 2016.

**1.1 Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102) issued in July 2014.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern.

**1.2 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised at the point where the charity has an identifiable probability of receipt.

During the period the charity operated a single unrestricted income fund.

**1.3 Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised on the accruals basis and include, where appropriate attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Governance costs comprise professional fees and similar costs attributable to the governance of the charity.

**1.4 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Garage annexe	5%	straight line
Motor vehicles	20%	straight line
Rescue equipment	10%	straight line

**1.5 Stock**

Stock is stated at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

**2 Incoming resources – recurring items**

	Note	2017	2016
333 Support Group	7	20,130	20,133
Donations	8	34,110	29,868
Oggie 8 Event		5,028	
Collecting boxes		5,353	6,233
Investment income		1,228	1,241
Other recurring income	9	22,239	8,448
		88,088	65,923

**3 Incoming resources – non-recurring items**

In memory	9,806	24,052
Bequests and legacies	6,359	51,047
	16,165	75,099

**4 Provision of rescue and related services**

	Note	2017	2016
Base expenses	10	8,293	24,716
Communications		2,537	3,671
Equipment replacement	11	21,243	11,660
Transport	12	2,450	3,374
Training and conferences		1,497	15,345
Water & team members PPE scheme		18,536	24,593
Team expenses		22,337	19,225
Other charitable expenses	13	20,646	23,109
Depreciation		26,250	26,250
Governance costs*		790	660
		124,579	152,603

\*Includes £360 [2016: £360] in respect of Independent Examination

**5 Tangible fixed assets**

	Garage Annexe	Vehicles	Rescue Equipment	Total
Brought forward	75,000	50,000	125,000	250,000
Depreciation				
Brought forward	5,938	25,000	19,792	50,730
Provided for the year	3,750	10,000	12,500	26,250
As at 31 December 2017	9,688	35,000	32,292	76,980
Net book value at 31 Dec 2017	65,312	15,000	92,708	173,020

**6 Cash at bank and in hand**

	2017	2016
Current accounts	18,333	20,241
Deposit accounts	536,174	529,445
Cash in hand	152	355
	554,659	550,042

**7 333 Support Group**

	2017	2016
Memberships	12,575	660
Merchandise and similar	6,520	13,584
Other income	1035	5,889
	20,130	20,133

**8 Donations**

	2017	2016
Clubs	7,199	6,086
Companies	3,875	3,452
Personal	9,106	9,739
Rescues	4,210	3,440
Other contributions	9,720	7,151
	34,110	29,868

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## 9 Other recurring income

	2017	2016
Annual report sales		21
Goods purchased from team members	3,353	4,215
Team member events	1,165	2,301
Honesty box	145	298
Other income	1,937	1,613
VAT refunds	15,639	
	22,239	8,448

## 10 Base expenses

Catering	849	1,212
Rent, phone and repairs	2,341	15,208
Insurance	1,894	5,204
Other expenses	3,209	3,092
	8,293	24,716

## 11 Equipment replacement

First Aid	2,888	2,028
Other equipment	18,355	9,632
	21,243	11,660

## 12 Transport

General transport costs	2450	3,374
-------------------------	------	-------

## 13 Other charitable expenses

Administration	4,887	5,070
Printing, postage and stationery	2,690	2,393
Bank and card charges	688	751
Fund raising costs	3,719	10,575
IT and website	1,341	2,480
VAT paid to be reclaimed	3,603	
Other expenses	3,718	1,840
	20,646	23,109

*Recoverable VAT has been treated as an expense pending acceptance of an appropriate claim.*

## 14 Employment costs

During the year the charity had no employees.

## 15 Trustees

None of the trustees received any remuneration during the period.

During the year, four trustees (2016–7) were reimbursed £189.80 (2016 – £150) for travel expenses in connection with the governance of the charity.

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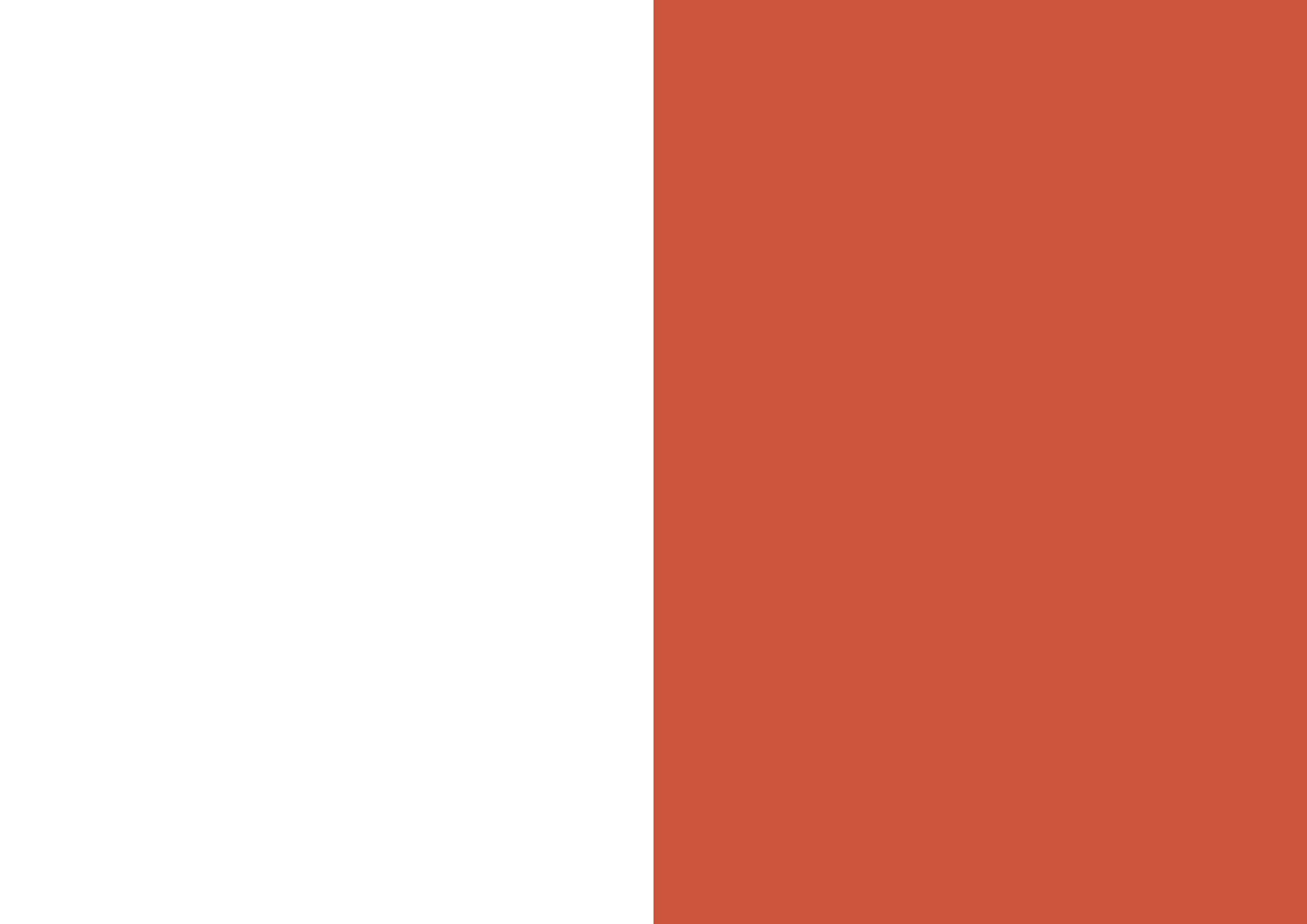
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