

Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity Number 1160504



Annual Reports 2020

This report was produced by combining a number of documents.
Editor : Russ Hore 19th March 2020

Chairman's Report 2019

During 2019 the Team attended 121 callouts. Sadly three of these were fatalities. In just over half the incidents there was no injury. In total there were 1014 member responses to the callouts, and members also undertook 3472 hours of recorded training.

We continue to struggle to work out how to form a trainee team leader scheme that will allow members to progress to operational leadership. Part of the problem is the commitment required, and part is coming up with entry criteria that are achievable whilst maintaining high standards. We are in the process of considering a proposal which will bring in external expertise to help us solve this problem.

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic group of trainee team members. During 2019 Chris Thomas, Dan Romberg, Ray Talbot and Cath Wilson began their training. Approximately 50% of applicants do not make it through the selection process. This is due to high standards we expect that make it possible for us to safely carry out rescues on extremely difficult terrain. We also expect a high level of commitment from our trainees, including good attendance levels at training and callouts.

Tom Adams, Jamie Barclay, and Tim Houldey all passed their final hill day during 2019. They demonstrated a high level of competence in the mountain rescue skills they had been learning over the past 12 to 18 months. I would like to congratulate them on this achievement.

Lisa Handcock retired as our Team Doctor and a trainee team member. During her time with the Team, Lisa worked with the casualty care group to ensure our casualties receive the best possible care. Lisa's contribution will be greatly missed. Craig Jowitt, Mike Pinches, and Paul Edwards also resigned with a combined experience of 20 years as full team members. I would like to thank Craig, Mike, and Paul for their contributions to the Team. John Hulse retired as a Team Leader in March. John was a Team Leader since the mid-1980's and has helped countless casualties through his experience and calm measured approach to rescue leadership.

Maggie Adam and Bill Dean both achieved 50 years of service to OVMRO in 2019, having started with the Team in 1969.

At the AGM in March 2020 Heather Beale will be standing down as Treasurer. Over the past few years Heather has done a huge amount of work for which we are extremely grateful. It has been a pleasure to work with Heather. We advertised on social media for a new Treasurer and received an excellent response, with a number of highly qualified applicants. Our Trustees will select an applicant to recommend to the AGM. Russ Hore will be standing down as a Trustee at the AGM. I'd like to thank Russ for his contribution as a Trustee since we became a CIO. Bob Lewis and Bill Dean stood down as Trustees in March. I'd like to thank them for their work. We were fortunate to be able to benefit from the extensive experience of Gareth Pritchard during 2019. Gareth agreed to become a Trustee after our March AGM.

During the last 12 months Jed Stone has taken over as Equipment Officer. Jed's enthusiasm and dedication have ensured our equipment standards are at an extremely high level. Jed has spent a lot of money ensuring all our equipment is in date and suitable for the stress which we put on it during rescues. Jed also initiated a six monthly equipment checking scheme, which first took place in November. During this all items were checked, and this helps ensure we are confident that our equipment will perform as we need it to. Daz Edkins stood down as joint Training Officer, Alex King as Equipment Officer, and Bob Lewis as Committee members. Thanks to Daz, Alex, and Bob for their contributions.

We made a change to our core skills training requirement to attempt to enable members to achieve higher levels of skills rather than continually going over basics. We now require basic casualty care, swift water and technical rope rescue to be carried out every two years and ask members to do a minimum of 20 hours training per year. This year members have undertaken further training including JESIP command and control, search field skills, WEMSI medical training, and vehicles in water courses. All of these are excellent CPD and provide an opportunity for members to further their rescue skills.

Ogwen has always been a Team that wants to improve and so we volunteered to undergo a peer review in November 2019. Tim Radford and Tim Lamberton did an excellent job of managing the peer review. We had a significant question set to respond to which covered all aspects of team life, from rescue to equipment, and looking after our team members. This was sent to the reviewers a couple of weeks before the review. During the review weekend 8 hours were spent with members going in to a lot of detail about the responses to the question set. This gave us a lot to think about, all noted by our scribe Jo Worrall. On the Sunday we had a full team exercise to rescue a casualty from Milestone Buttress. The weather was cold but dry, however the damp ground led to icy conditions, making for a challenging exercise. We are expecting observations from the reviewers to be available in January, and this will give us plenty to consider as we head in to the new year. I'd like to thank everyone who supported the review process, including our external reviewers Tim Cain, Owen Phillips, and Chris Cookson.

The Oggie 8 challenge returned for 2019. Jen Edwards did an excellent job of planning the event and coming up with separate challenges for walkers and runners. Unfortunately due to extremely poor weather the walkers were only able to complete the first half of the challenge, and the runners were not able to start. It was a sensible decision based on the weather, but of course disappointing for the participants. Thanks to Jen and everyone who supported the event, including the marshals who spent several hours at very wet and windy checkpoints. The Oggie 8 will be taking a break in 2020.

333 members are continuing to support the Team in administrative roles. Heather Beale, and John Barber are our Treasurer and Secretary. Matt Nobles continues to work hard keeping up with the merchandise orders that come through the team online shop. Sandra Begley, and Maggie & Alwyn Oliver have been assisting with keeping base tidy. Clive Swombow, the 333 Chairman, is also

one of our elected Trustees.

333 also continues to help with fundraising activities. Events in 2019 have included the Betws y Coed WI event, and a Christmas collection in Betws y Coed. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events. The 333 membership subscriptions make up a significant part of our annual income that enables us to provide a high quality service to the public.

At the end of October, the 333 AGM and dinner was held at Siabod Café. Captain Alun Tink of the Coastguard Helicopter crew gave an extremely interesting presentation on the work of the aircraft, and how it helps mountain rescue. As usual the café has been a great supporter of the Team throughout the year. Once again, the café held a Christmas quiz, hosted by the entertaining Mike Lees, which raised £400 for the Team.

The Team continues to put on events for the benefit of our 333 supporters. These have included guided walks and navigation with Dave Worrall, and tracking with Clive Swombow.

The Team was fortunate to be presented with a new Jaguar Land Rover Discovery Sport kindly donated by Jaguar Land Rover Halewood. This replaced our ageing mobile 3, and has been used to transport team members to callouts, fundraising, and events such as the MREW conference. Thanks to Marty Wall and the staff of JLR Halewood for this incredible donation.

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

I would also like to thank the family 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.

As you may have heard, Tim Bird took over as Chairman of OVMRO at our AGM in March. I was chairman for six years, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 333 members for their support. The funds that you raise form a significant part of our annual income, and allow us to continue to provide a professional volunteer rescue service in the Ogwen Valley and beyond. I'd also like to thank our team members for their support and time dedicated to rescue, training, and administration. Finally I would like to thank Tim for taking over as Chairman. With COVID-19 there have been significant changes to the way we operate, and Tim is already demonstrating that the Team is in safe hands.

Andy Harbach - 2019-2020 Chairman

2020-2021 Chairman's Report

I write this during a period of unprecedented actions in both the UK and the rest of the world. On March the 4th this year I had the privilege of becoming the Chairman of the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation. At the time I had heard of Coronavirus, however I don't think any of us really comprehended the scale and nature of this threat.

By way of introduction and for those who don't know me, before becoming the Chairman of OVMRO I have been a Team member for nearly twenty years and an operational Team Leader for about six years. I joined the Team to give something back to Mountaineering and Outdoor pursuits which has been both my passion and work over the years. Prior to joining North Wales Police in 2001, I worked as a Professional Mountaineering Instructor (MIC). I have been very fortunate to have climbed and worked on all Seven Continents which have included trips to the Greater Ranges and Antarctica.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both my predecessor as OVMRO Chairman, Andy Harbach and the members of 333 for all your work and support of the Team. I know Andy was a great supporter of 333 and I hope, with your assistance to continue this relationship.

Due the fast-evolving Coronavirus outbreak, OVMRO has currently suspended its training and face to face meetings to practice Social Distancing as per the Government Guidelines. The Team remains operational and will respond to any Mountain Rescue Call Outs. I look forward to meeting you in more normal times and sharing some Mountain Rescue stories and perhaps a mountaineering slide show. Once again, thank you for all your support whether it be fund raising, base support or your annual membership of 333, it all helps and is valued.

Please keep safe during the current national Coronavirus emergency.

Kind regards

Tim Bird MBE - Chairman and Team Leader

Team officers and Trustees for 2020-2021

Position	Name
Chairman and Trustee	Tim Bird
Treasurer and Trustee	Carolyn Palmer
Secretary and trustee	John Barber
Equipment officer	Jed Stone
Training Officer	Charlie Beale
Committe	Brian Robbins
Committe	Dave Brown
Committe	Tim Houldey
Committe	Tom Adams
Trustee	Chris Lloyd
Trustee	Andy Harbach
Trustee	Gareth Pritchard
Trustee	Dave Otter

Treasurer

It's my final treasurer report. The last 3 years have been interesting and I have enjoyed the challenge. I will continue to assist the team, and the future Treasurer, as required.

This year we have been supported by the following organisations, through collecting tins, with a grand total of £3250. We thank them all for their ongoing support of the team:

Black Cat Service Station	Boathouse Climbing Wall Llandudno	Bookwise BYC
Butchers Trefriw	Cafe Ty Tan Lan	Cotswold Outdoors BYC
Cotswold Rock Bottom BYC	Country Cooks	Cunninghams BYC
Douglas Arms Bethesda	Field and Trek	Gwydyr Hotel Dolwyddellan
Hawkshead BYC	Idwal YHA	Information Centre BYC
Joe Browns	Judges Gift Shop BYC	Julian Charles Llandudno
Lakeside Café Crafnant	Ogwen Falls Brewshack	Plas y Brennin
Pont y Pair Chip Shop BYC	Riverside Chocolate	Shell Garage BYC
Tyn y Coed Capel		Vagabond BH

In 2019, we received In Memory and Legacy donations totalling £52400. We have listed the In Memory names from 2018 and 2019. We thank the families and friends of those who died, for thinking of us at such a difficult time.

2018		
Aelwyn Williams	Alan Clawley	Arthur Clarke
Brian Wilkinson	Claire Beer	Derek Penny
Derren Barbour	Elizabeth Caywood	Ged Swindley
Gerald Doig	Gwynne Roberts	Huw Thomas
Iwan Huws	James Penny	John Alan Gibbs
John Wynne	Kevin Gauntlett	Mark Thomas
Mike Bethell	Reg Cave	Ron Lidgett
Ronald Turtle	Stephen J Griffiths	Terence Luckm
2019		
Barbara Roscoe	Brian Teece	Stanley Frederick Fraser
Colin Jones	Diana Flynn	Edward Burke
Graham Funnell	Ian Payne	Kevin Wyn Jones
Marie Taylor	Mark Jenner	Mary Frampton
Paul Miller	Peter Marston	Rosie Waite
	Tom Lloyd	

On behalf of the team, our thanks go out to all the families who think of us at such a difficult time.

I must also express my 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 3 years. My thanks also go to the team members who respond to my never-ending stream of emails requesting information and help.

Heather Beale

Working Group Reports

Equipment Officer

Well where to start, at the beginning I suppose, in May I took on the role of the Equipment Officer, one of the jobs I had never done before for the Team

- ° One of the first things required was to set up an equipment Inspection regime, and it was decided that best practice would be to fall in line with Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) guidelines.
- ° Over one thousand five hundred serial numbers have now been recorded (just our mountain hardware) which allowed me to then work out item's lifespans and replacement criteria.
- ° A purchasing system was re-established to enable the accurate recording of all purchases.
- ° Charging system made up for casualty board headtorches.
- ° Four members attended the Helix PPO Inspectors course, this now means we have 6 qualified Inspectors.
- ° Purchasing system arranged with local companies.
- ° Established links with various companies with regard to discounted equipment.
- ° Letters of Conformity required for all PPE equipment gained from the internet.
- ° Charging programme set up for the camera's in the Fatal Incident Kits
- ° Team Manager system changed to be able to record Individuals issued kit.

Some of the main items of equipment purchased include;

Miscellaneous

Batteries

Fenix headtorch's purchased for casualty use and vehicles

Kask helmet visor and earmuffs purchased for Helo Helmets

Armadillo Merino wool beanies purchased

9 new Trainees issued with full Outer Layer protection plus other general issued items.

Update of bags for kit carrying

Two stretchers serviced, second Titan Stretcher purchased

Two new style Titan Headguards

20 stretchers carry straps

Members waterproofs replaced

18 Avalanche transceivers replaced with 20 new ones

Hardware.

Bridge extension for chest harnesses

DMM Belay Master (for Bridge extension)

Hex's 1 – 4 assorted

RFid Recording system purchased

Purchased more Teufelberger KMIII rope (our main rope).

Dynamic ropes replaced.

8mm LSK to totally replace gold/yellow 10m's

Hex's replaced or sent for re slinging.

20 x 60cm Slings

100 Ultra D Screw Gate Carabiners

15 x Chimera Snaplinks

3 x Torque Nut Sets

2 x Rock hammers

Second lead kit brought into service

3 dragon Cams to replace those lost

2 more Power Cord System brought into service

Water gear.

Team members issued with full Swift Water Rescue kit.

Water Kit – Electric battery pump – charger & system for charging batteries (12v vehicle/240v mains).

Adaptors for RIB inflation Set Up

3 pairs of R3SAR Bestard SAR Pro Boots

Stainless Steel clips for water gear

Floating Rope replaced

New type LED lights to replace Glow Sticks for Water Group

Palm Chest harnesses

At the end of this period I feel we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and I could not have done it without the assistance of those that have backed up my efforts, a massive thank you goes to them.

Jed Stone

IT Group

Due to the issues we had with people forwarding email from their Ogwen accounts to their own personal email address we have moved away from the team web site email service which is difficult to administer and suffered at the hand of firewalls etc on people's personal accounts. We have implemented a new email system based upon Google Professional Service. While nothing is perfect it has reduced if not eliminated issues partly due to the majority of people switching to Google accounts, but even with people still having email forwarded. This worked partly because once it was received via Google it was straightforward to have your local 'phone email app read team emails directly. I think overall it has been a great success. I certainly don't get an issues reported to me.

General maintenance of the Team's online shop has been continuing. This has mainly been on the administration side to make things easier for the Treasurer.

Team Manager which is used to record members' training and callouts is starting to show its age. There are plans to come up with a replacement in the next year.

A laptop has been brought for the Equipment Officer to bring the equipment recording up to standard. Every piece of equipment is now recorded with an expiry date for safety.

Data protection: The processes and procedure systems we introduced to comply with GDPR are being used and are doing the job.

Casualty Care Annual Report 2019

2019 has been an unprecedented year in terms of upskilling our team members, with a real focus on getting team members requalified in their MREW Casualty Care Certificate (8 team members) and getting team members qualified for the first time (5 team members).

Al Read	Brian Robbins	Danny Hinson	Glynne Andrews
Karl Lester	Neil Adam	Paul Smith	Rob Bradley
Steve Mullan	Tim Houldey	Tim Radford	Tom Adams
Dan Romberg			

Three of our MREW CCC qualified team members went on an intense WEMSI course, focussing on consolidating and broadening their casualty care knowledge. My thanks go to all participants for all their hard work in successfully passing their exams and to all the trainers, assessors and supporters for helping them through.

Over the course of 2019, as ever, we have had a lot of support from external agencies including training sessions run by Chris Bradshaw (HM Coastguard), staff at Ysbyty Gwynedd for advanced airway training with many more sessions planned for 2020.

Three team members attended a Mountain Medicine CPD day in May, which involved a day of lectures attended by Mountain Rescue, Frontline Healthcare Professionals, and Wilderness Professionals.

This year Sally Armond published the Oggie Drug Aide Memoir. This has taken a huge amount of work and the final book contains information on all the drugs we carry (indications, contraindications, doses etc) in an easily accessible and light weight format! Other teams in the region are considering using this format in the future. My thanks go to Sally for all her hard work in creating this for us all.

Sadly, our team Doctor Lisa Handcock left this year. Lisa has been a huge support to the cas care team throughout her time with us. She has helped to increase our training standards, run MREW CCC courses and establish more links with Ysbyty Gwynedd. Lisa is still happy to help OVMRO with team training, and still run advanced airway sessions for us in theatre. My thanks go to Lisa for all her support and hard work

The peer review highlighted and gave impetus to the cas care team to review our controlled drugs storage and procedures, which is being implemented now.

Many of our experienced team members have been crucial in running sessions, checking equipment and drugs and helping run the cas care group. My thanks go to Sally Armond, Glynne Andrews, Jamie Barclay, Steve Mullan, Karl Lester, Paul Smith and Jed Stone for all their help and support.

Sy Cherry

Training officers report 2019-2020

1. This year we have had 8 new trainees off the back of 3 IHD's
2. The team have completed a swift water course. 12 team members completed the full course with one half being at Tees Barrage and the other locally in north Wales
3. We have had team 6 members attend an advanced SRT course in north Wales
4. 3 team members attended and passed the WEMT course at Glenmore lodge in Scotland
5. Winter training (2020) was also well attended by 19 team members who all covered winter skills
6. Some team members have also completed external courses which have been logged as CPD hours on team manager
7. All team members completed the minimum CPD hours this year
8. A number of team members attended the L2 avalanche awareness course in Scotland with a TL attending the Avalanche management course
9. Two team members attended the police enhanced driving two-day course
10. Tim Houldey, Jamie Barclay and Tom Adams passed the FHD to become a full team members
11. Jed Stone, Dave Brown, Martyn Wall and Dan Romberg all completed the Helix PPE checking course
12. Team member Dan Romberg, Karl Lester and Paul Smith also completed the MREW CCC course
13. This year there will include a re-introduction of the local recce nights. This is an ideal opportunity for more experienced team members to assist and get to know newer team members and trainees, and vice versa.

Charlie Beal

333 Secretary Report

In order to show our appreciation for the support that 333 gives the team a number of activities are arranged for the members, throughout the year. We accept that many 333 members live at some distance and are not able to attend, sometimes the activities are attended by as few as two. We will however continue to run them to show our genuine appreciation of your membership.

The following events have taken place over the last year.

January:	Annual "Turkey and Cobweb" walk and evening walk
July:	Navigation in the mountains.
July:	Fund raising at Capel Carnival.
July:	Launch of the New calendar.
July:	"Midsummer madness" walk
August:	Oggie 8 Challenge, organised by the team and supported by 333 members.
August:	Betws Y Coed W.I. Summer fair Fund Raising.
September:	Tracking and Clue awareness Day.
November:	Evening walk
December:	Fundraising outside Stewart Cunningham's Shop in Betws Y Coed.

Special thanks to Dave Salter, Dave Worrall and Clive Swombow for organising their events. As yet no events have been programmed for this year but we are open to suggestions and volunteers. Please see the 333 section on the website and facebook for future events.

Thanks to Alan Green for all of his hard work, again, with the photographic competition. I am sure you will agree that the standard of photographs chosen for the calendar and the cards is exceptional once again. The calendars and cards were distributed in a number of local outlets. The calendar was launched at Bryn Poeth in July with an excellent presentation by John Rowell of Chasing the Light. Alan Green offers his thanks to John Rowell for his invaluable help in choosing the winners for the photo competition.



Turkey and Cobweb Walk January 2020. 333 members on Y Braich



Some statistics for this year (2019-01-01 to 2019-12-31)

1: Incidents

Total Incidents	121
Total members attended	1014
Total members involved	1014

2: Injuries

Fatal	3
Head/Face Injuries	7
Trunk Injuries	3
Arm Injuries	9
Leg Injuries	17
Exhaustion/Exposure	2
Heart Attack (Survived)	1
Illness	5
Lost, strayed, stuck	67
Nothing found	9
Spine	6

3: Team Training

Sessions	107
Total Events attended	774
Total Training hours	3472



**Trustees Report and Accounts
For the year ended 31st December 2019**



Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160504

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Trustees Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

The Trustees of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO (OVMRO) present their report and financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2019. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", 2014.

Charity Information

Charity name	Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Known as: Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation (OVMRO)
Charity Registration Number	1160504 (England & Wales)
Address	Bryn Poeth, Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed, Conwy LL24 0EU
Trustees	A. Harbach (ex officio, Chair) H. Beale (ex officio, Treasurer) J. Barber (ex officio, Secretary) C. Lloyd R. Hore W. Dean (To 16 March 2019) G. Pritchard, from 13 May 2019 C. Swombow, from 16 March 2019
Bankers	HSBC plc
Accountants	Crestmere Limited, Chartered Cert. Acc., Intec, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd
Independent Examiner	Barrie Buels FCCA FCIE

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.

Achievements and Performance – Delivering Public Benefit

OVMRO experienced another busy year responding to 121 reported incidents (130 in 2018) ranging from helping people who were lost to, sadly, fatalities. The total number of team member attendances for these incidents was 1014, averaging over 8 members attending each callout. The improved communications systems continue to enable team leaders to handle some incidents without having to deploy team members, often directing and monitoring progress of "casualties" by phone having located them using an online location system.

Team members have assisted, and been assisted by, neighbouring mountain rescue teams (MRT) and have worked closely with the helicopter services of the Maritime Coastguard Agency, the RAF Mountain Rescue Service, North Wales Police, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. MonSAR continues to work toward operational status on Anglesey, which will reduce the Team's search workload there.

Team members continue to train to a high standard in a range of 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. Team members' training hours totalled 3472 hours over 107 training sessions.

At the end of 2019, OVMRO had 42 full members and a further 10 trainee members. The Team continues to attract trainee members,

with many of these completing their 18-month training programme 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.

An incident the team responded to in 2019 shows how important a prompt response can be when serious injuries are sustained, and how OVMRO is able to work with other agencies to get a casualty to the best location as soon as possible. A lady was walking through a field of cows with her dog. She was trampled by the cows, sustaining significant injuries. Team members were training in the area and were quickly on scene, to assess the casualty and provide casualty care. The lady was stretchered to an air ambulance and flown to the trauma centre in Stoke. Her border terrier, Billy, was later found safe and well. 18 members attended this callout.

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

Financial Review

The CIO's annual reports are published each year on the Charity Commission Website, with effect from the year ending 31st December 2015. Prior to that date reports for the unincorporated Organisation are published.

Principal Funding Sources and Expenses

OVMRO benefits from a strong flow of charitable donations and remains in a sound financial position to deliver its charitable objectives, with a surplus of income over expenses of just over £2,000 in 2019. Subscriptions from the 333 support group contributed around £15,000 and the team also benefited from a significant bequest of around £40,000 in 2019.

In addition to publicity from its mountain rescue activities, OVMRO maintains a high public profile by attending community events, hosting visits to its rescue base, providing talks to school and community groups, utilising social media responsibly and responding to an appropriate level of media engagement.

OVMRO does not use commercial fund raisers. Any fund-raising activities must first be approved by the Management Committee, and no activities are permitted that could in any way intrude on a person's privacy, be persistent, or place undue pressure on a person to donate money.

Equipment and training costs continue to be the main expenditure areas. Team members are supported by the periodic issue of personal protection equipment and other essential kit items, and by the reimbursement of travelling expenses when responding to operational incidents and participating in training events. The team's policy is that membership should be cost-neutral. Team member's travel costs have increased in 2019 following an increase in the mileage rate allowance to bring it into line with vehicle operating costs as part of the cost-neutral policy. Beyond this, there are expenses for the continuing programme of maintenance and improvement work at the Team's base, Bryn Poeth.

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

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 maintain reserves of at least two year's operating costs, which is approximately £270,000 at current expenditure levels

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.

Independent Examiner

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to its constitution dated 12th March 2016 and a Rule Book, last updated 18 September 2018.

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.

Operational Management

The Trustees delegate operational management of OVMRO to a Management Committee whose members are elected for a period of one year at the AGM from nominations made and seconded by members in advance of the AGM. The Committee must adhere to the Constitution, and Rule Book and supporting policies.

In November 2019, the team held a peer review, where experienced Mountain Rescue personnel from other teams conduct a review of the team over a three day period covering all aspects of the teams operational and management skills , processes and systems – effectively “holding up a mirror” for the team to review how it operates. The outcome from this is being processed for implementation in 2020.

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 are satisfied that the CIO’s processes and controls continue to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.

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:

- a. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- b. observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2014
- c. make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- d. state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- e. 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 believe they have met these responsibilities in 2019.

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 2019, in particular the team members and their families, and members of the 333 support group.

On behalf of the Trustees

John Barber, Trustee

22nd February 2019

Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31 December 2019.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Barrie Buels FCCA FCIE

February 2020

Crestmere Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019	2020
Incoming resources from generating funds			
Recurring items	2	85,895	71,052
Non-recurring items	3	53,413	27,075
Total incoming resources		139,308	98,127
Resources expended			
Charitable activities	4	156,432	145,044
Net movement in funds for the year		(17,124)	(46,917)
Fund balance at 31 December 2018		693,503	740,420
Fund balance at 31 December 2019		673,379	693,503

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019	2018
Tangible fixed assets	5	125,520	146,770
Current assets			
Stocks		6,879	7,881
Debtors		8,129	5,894
Cash at bank and in hand	6	536,811	533,918
		551,819	547,693
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals		960	960
Net current assets		550,859	546,733
Total assets less current liabilities		676,379	693,503
Income funds			
Unrestricted funds		676,379	693,503

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27th February 2019

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared for the year ended 31 December 2019, comparative figures referring to the year ended 31 December 2018.

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

Other expenses included £12,075 from a significant donation made in memory of Iwan Huws, paid to other mountain rescue teams who worked with OVMRO for the tragic search and recovery operation. Recoverable VAT has been treated as an expense pending acceptance of an appropriate claim.

1.5 Stock

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

2 Incoming resources - recurring items

	Note	2019	2018
333 Support Group	7	25,638	20,532
Donations	8	29,080	22,162
Core funding grants			5,651
Oggie 8 Event		5,507	131
Collecting boxes		3,250	4,145
Investment income		2,326	3,357
Other recurring income	9	20,094	15,074
		85,895	71,052

3 Incoming resources - non-recurring items

	2019	2018
In memory	12,736	3,638
Bequests and legacies	40,677	23,437
	53,413	27,075

4	Charitable activities				
			Note	2019	2018
	Provision of rescue and related services				
	Base expenses		10	14,826	89,788
	Communications			5,117	3,503
	Equipment replacement		11	35,461	22,010
	Transport		12	3,444	2,957
	Training and conferences			12,462	7,397
	Water & Team members' PPE scheme			-	300
	Team expenses			38,391	35,474
	Other charitable expenses		13	24,513	36,435
	Depreciation			21,250	26,250
	Other costs				
	Governance costs			968	930
				156,432	145,044
	Governance costs include £370 (2018 - £360) in respect of Independent Examination				
5	Tangible fixed assets				
		Garage Annexe	Vehicles	Rescue Equipment	Total
	Cost				
	Brought forward	75,000	50,000	125,000	250,000
	Depreciation				
	Brought forward	13,438	45,000	44,792	103,230
	Provided for the year	3,750	5,000	12,500	21,250
	As at 31 December 2019	17,188	50,000	57,292	124,480
	Net book value at 31 December 2019	57,812	-	67,708	125,520
6	Cash at bank and in hand				
				2019	2018
	Current accounts			3,044	2,263
	Deposit accounts			533,529	531,514
	Cash in hand			238	141
				536,811	533,918
7	333 Support Group			2019	2018
	Memberships			15,378	13,630
	Merchandise and similar			7,952	5,442
	Other income			230	1,460
				25,638	20,532
8	Donations			2019	2018
	Clubs			5,797	2,964
	Companies			3,454	1,565
	Personal			9,031	7,632
	Rescues			5,026	3,858
	Other contributions			5,772	6,143
				29,080	22,162

9	Other recurring income	2019	2018
	Goods purchased by team members	4,381	3,384
	Team member events	1,494	1,685
	Honesty box	123	147
	Other income	7,158	6,293
	VAT refunds	6,938	3,565
		20,094	15,074
10	Base expenses	2019	2018
	Catering	876	158
	Rent, phone and repairs	10,941	7,542
	Insurance	3,009	1,580
	Other expenses	-	508
		14,826	9,788
11	Equipment replacement	2019	2018
	First Aid	9,526	5,395
	Other equipment	25,935	16,615
		35,461	22,010
12	Transport		
	General transport costs	3,444	2,957
13	Other charitable expenses	2019	2018
	Administration	2,02	30
	Printing, postage and stationery	665	1,752
	Bank and card charges	984	800
	Fund raising costs	6,880	5,883
	IT and website	2,653	2,733
	VAT paid to be reclaimed	9,973	7,093
	Other expenses	1,333	18,144
		24,513	36,435

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 year.

During the year 3 trustees (2018 - 3) were reimbursed £332.95 (2018 - £429.90) for travel expenses in connection with the governance of the charity.

Trustee liability cover is provided via a third party consortium comprising Mountain Rescue England & Wales (MREW), British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) and Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA).