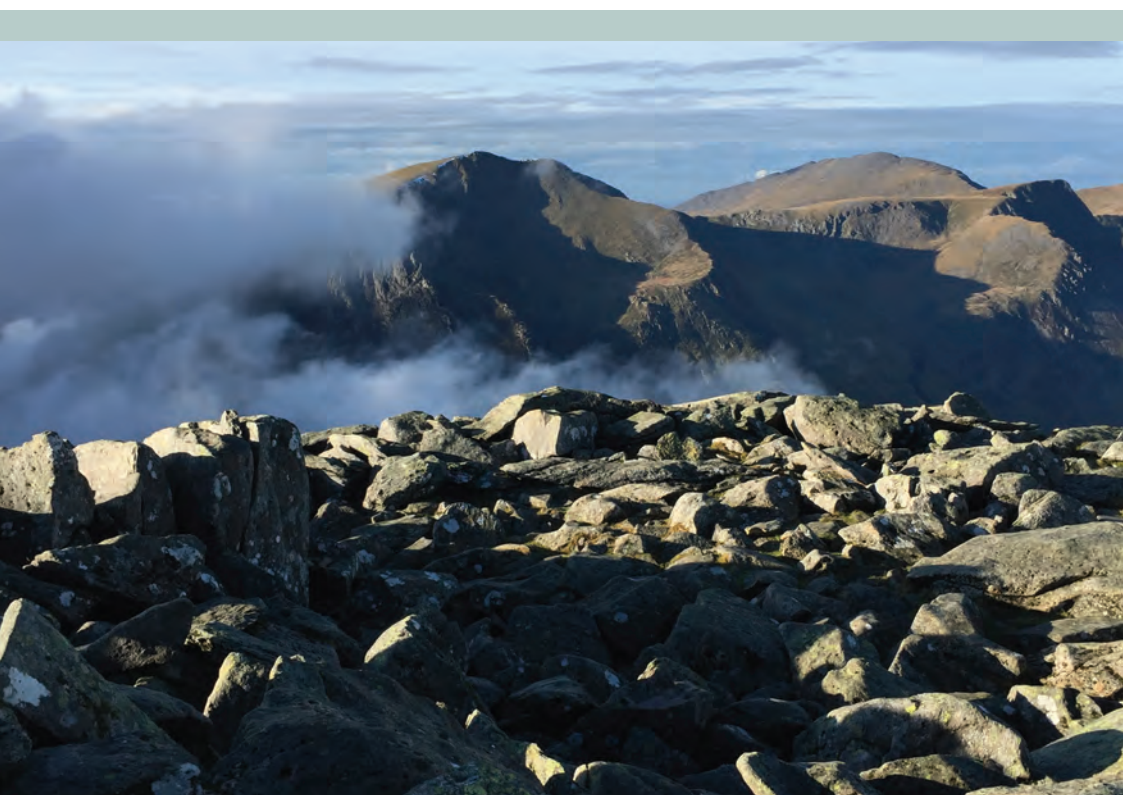




ANNUAL REPORT

52

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL



OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION
SEFYDLIAD ACHUB MYNYDD DYFFRYN OGWEN

THE OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN
RESCUE ORGANISATION

52nd ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2016



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Front cover: Y Garn and Elidir Fawr from Tryfan © Andy Harbach

Back cover: Foel Goch from the lip of Cwm Tryfan © Russ Hore

Argraffwyd gan/Printed by Browns CTP

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

Clouds billowing over the East Face: Taken from Oggie base. Spot the person... © Russ Hore.



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Working together, looking the part: Team members taking part in a Princes' Charities Day during 2015, wearing their Páramo windshirts © Paramo.



chairman's report 2016

WELL, NO SURPRISES FOR GUESSING THAT ONCE AGAIN IT HAS BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR THE TEAM. DURING 2016, WE HAVE ATTENDED 136 INCIDENTS AND, SADLY, FOUR OF THESE HAVE BEEN FATALITIES.

Our thoughts go to the families and friends of these casualties. In 55 of the incidents, there were no injuries, and the casualties required assistance because they were lost or stuck in a difficult to reach location. As would be expected, the most common injury was the leg, with 34 casualties needing assistance.

There has been some excellent inter-agency working shown in North Wales over the year. In winter we had a call-out for someone experiencing difficulty on a steep snow slope on Glyder Fach. Team members were out for most of the night, and early the next day were joined by RAF MRT and Aberglaslyn MRT members, as well as the Coastguard helicopter. This response enabled a successful outcome for the casualty. Later in the year, we assisted Aberglaslyn MRT and the fire service with the search for, and subsequent recovery of, a kayaker. Despite the sad outcome, the inter-agency working allowed for a successful recovery in very difficult circumstances.

Sadly, on 10 March, Roger Jones, one of the founding members of OVMRO, passed away. Roger had been a team member for 51 years, having become involved in mountain rescue through the Scout movement. Roger was a well-liked member of the team, affectionately known as 'Jones the Voice', following an incident in which he was able to communicate with Ron James that he needed to turn his radio on, when all other voices had failed. Roger was a team leader from 1966 to 2010, when he was awarded an MBE for services to mountain rescue. Roger served on the committee or as a co-opted officer for 50 years, being chairman, treasurer and transport officer. Members miss listening to the stories Roger used to tell of the many rescues he took part in. He always offered words of wisdom and encouraged the new generation of

Andy Harbach
Chairman



rescuers we are now seeing in the team. Roger was always supported by his wife Jill, daughters Claire and Heather, and his son Geraint, who is also a team member. A celebration of Roger's life was held on 24 March, including a low flypast of the Coastguard helicopter that set off a number of car alarms at Bangor crematorium!

Tony Jones, who was also a member of the team during its early years, sadly died on 6 May. Tony had a major influence on mountain rescue in the UK and around the world. He joined OVMRO in 1966, and was appointed as a team leader shortly afterwards, a post he held until 1998. He served as chairman from 1969 for 21 years and became the chairman of the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association too, a post he held for many years. He was also vice chairman of Mountain Rescue England and Wales for a number of years. Tony helped to bring the American search management courses to the UK. In 1992, he was the star of the TV programme 'This is your Life', shortly after which he received his MBE. Tony was awarded honorary membership of OVMRO when he left the team, and he will be missed. Tony's funeral was held in Bangor Cathedral on 26 May and was attended by representatives from MREW as well as the North Wales teams. Al Read and Bill Dean read eulogies.

The team has been fortunate to have had a strong committee, and this is in no small part due to the work of Jo Worrall as treasurer, and Pete Frost as secretary. Both Jo and Pete have been extremely supportive of OVMRO and have dedicated a huge amount of time to the organisation. Jo and Pete will be moving on at our AGM in March and I am extremely grateful to them for their work.

It is encouraging that we have people willing to volunteer to take on the responsibility of these roles. I have a number of 333 Support

Group members who have volunteered to help fill the positions of secretary and treasurer, and I am grateful for their enthusiasm.

Dave Worrall will also be retiring from the team. During his time with OVMRO, Dave has been a team leader, chairman and, more recently, a committee member. He has been instrumental in implementing the cost-neutral scheme which has benefited our members over the last two years. Dave's reasoned arguments and positive influence will be missed and I would like to thank him for his work.

During the last year, Chris Onions also left OVMRO. Chris was our training officer as well as a team member, and was always keen to encourage innovation and the raising of standards within the team. I would like to thank Chris for his work too. Craig Jowitt has stepped in as interim training officer and is already making excellent progress.

Al Cook retired from the team after eight years of service. Al was water officer for a number of years and the work he put into swiftwater training and improving water rescue standards was evident when the team was deployed to national flooding incidents over Christmas and New Year 2015-16. Alex King, assisted by Craig Jowitt, has taken on the role of water officer. They are currently working hard on an equipment issue scheme to ensure that all swiftwater-trained members have access to personal equipment that will allow them to respond quickly to water-related incidents. Alex Bath also left the team, having dedicated a significant amount of time to rescues, attending 70 call-outs in 2010 alone.

Kevin de Silva has retired as a team leader, but currently remains an active team member, and our house officer. I am grateful for the work that all our team leaders do to coordinate call-outs on our behalf. It is a significant responsibility, and the high regard in which we are held by our

partner agencies is testament to the excellent job done by our team leaders. We are currently examining ways to bring new members into the team leader cadre to provide resilience for the future.

During 2016, we completed the process of moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by taking the step of merging the old and new charities. This concluded a long process, and I am grateful to Chris Lloyd and Jo Worrall for all the work they have done over the last few years to make this possible. Other teams, and the national body, are now asking Ogwen for advice as they move towards becoming incorporated.

The team was pleased to hear that Tim Bird was the winner of this year's North Wales Police Federation Community Service Award. This is in recognition of all the work Tim does for mountain rescue. He is a team leader with Ogwen, and helps to organise and deliver fatal incident training for the North Wales region.

On 16 November, Judy Whiteside, George Manley and myself attended The Great Outdoors awards ceremony in Kendal. 'Risking Life and Limb', our 50th anniversary book, had been nominated as Book of the Year. There was some extremely stiff competition for the prize, including work by Cameron McNeish. We were delighted to be announced winners, which is testament to the work done by Judy in compiling the book, the wonderful illustrations George drew, and of course the time everyone gave to be interviewed and to tell their stories. Sales of the book have increased greatly on the back of the award. It is available in our online shop at shop.ogwen-rescue.org.uk as well as at Cotswold Outdoors in Betws y Coed, Siabod Café, and the Joe Brown shop in Capel Curig. Siabod Café was 'highly commended' in the Café of the Year category.

The team is also in the fortunate position of

having lots of new blood joining us. We currently have thirteen trainees and, in the past year, Zoé Penfold, Martin Wall, Charlie Beale, Jen Edwards, Tim Harrop, Soraya Cherry, Rob Bradley, Josh Brennand, Paul Terry, Matt Kempson, and Daz Edkins all joined the team. We are looking forward to a final hill day early next year to enable some of our trainees to demonstrate the skills they have learned and progress to full team membership.

A number of 333 members are now helping us with base operations at weekends. We have formalised the process for bringing new base operators on board, with an application process followed by a training scheme coordinated by Jed Stone. This allows us to ensure that everyone participating is aware of what the role involves and is appropriately trained. This helps give our hill-going members more time with their families, which is appreciated. Some of the 333 base operators have also been assessed to drive our team vehicles so they can assist with call-outs. John Dexter, a 333 member, is also helping the IT group, using his wealth of experience.

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, the Dolwyddelan fun day, and the Christmas lantern event in Betws. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events. This is of course on top of the income received from 333 membership subscriptions, which make up a significant part of our annual income.

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 once again hosted a Christmas quiz to raise funds for us. As always I'd like to thank all the 333 support group members for assisting us during the year. Your support is invaluable and the funds raised allow us to continue to



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Tony Jones (above left) and Roger Jones (right): The two longstanding members of the team who will be sadly missed © OVMRO.

provide excellent service to our casualties.

Team members continue to put on events for the benefit of our 333 supporters. Dave Worrall organised a map and compass-based navigation day, whilst I ran a GPS training day. Tim Radford organised a first aid training event, and Clive Swombow ran his interesting tracking and clue awareness day. In November, we held the annual mulled wine, mince pies, and memories evening. This was as popular as always, with a number of interesting videos and photographic presentations. Chris Lloyd kindly prepared the mulled wine and mince pies to his usual excellent standard, whilst Dave Worrall was compère for the evening.

2017 is going to see the return of the Oggie 8 Challenge. This popular fundraising event is due to

take place on Saturday 5 August. Our organising team of Zoé Penfold, Mel Day and Tess Peddie will be meeting in January, and more details will be provided in due course. I am sure this will be another successful event.

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 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.

Rock, clouds and shadows: View of Y Garn and Elidir Fawr from Tryfan
© Andy Harbach.



ADRODDIAD Y CADEIRYDD 2016

WEL, DIM
GWOBRAU AM
DDYFALU IDDI
FOD, UNWAITH
ETO, YN
FLWYDDYN
BRYSUR I'R TÎM.
YN YSTOD 2016
'RYDYM WEDI
ATEB 136 O
ALWADAU, A,
GWAETHA'R
MODD,
BU PEDAIR O'R
RHEINY'N
YMWNEUD Â
DAMWEINIAU
ANGHEUOL.

Andy Harbach
Cadeirydd



Bydd teuluoedd a ffrindiau'r meirwon yn ein meddyliau. Cafwyd 55 o alwadau heb anafiadau; bu angen cymorth ar yr anffodusion gan eu bod nhw ar goll neu'n sownd mewn lle anodd ei gyrraedd. Fel y gellid disgwyl, anafiadau i goesau oedd y rhai mwyaf cyffredin, a bu angen cymorth ar 34 o bobl am y rheswm hwn.

Cafwyd enghreifftiau ardderchog o gydweithio rhwng gwahanol asiantaethau yng Ngogledd Cymru yn ystod y flwyddyn. Yn ystod y gaeaf cawsom alwad i helpu rhywun a oedd mewn trafferth ar lethr serth dan eira ar y Glyder Fach. Bu aelodau'r Tîm allan am ran fwyaf y noson, ac yn gynnar drannoeth ymunodd aelodau Tîm Achub Mynydd yr Awyrlu Brenhinol a Thîm Aberglaslyn â hwy, yn ogystal â hofrennydd Gwylwyr y Glannau. Diolch i'r ymateb hwn, achubwyd y cerddwr yn ddiogel. Yn ddiweddarach yn y flwyddyn, buom yn cynorthwyo Tîm Achub Mynydd Aberglaslyn a'r diffoddwyr tân i chwilio am gaicwr ac i nôl ei gorff wedyn. Er gwaethaf y canlyniad trist, y cydweithredu rhwng yr asiantaethau a fu'n gyfrifol am gael hyd i'r corff yn llwyddiannus mewn amgylchiadau anodd iawn.

Trist dweud i Roger Jones, un o sefydlwyr SAMDO, farw ar y 10 o Fawrth. Buasai Roger yn aelod o'r tîm am 51 o flynyddoedd, gan ddod i gysylltiad ag achub mynydd trwy'r Sgowtiaid. Yr oedd Roger yn aelod hoffus o'r Tîm, gyda'r llysenw annwyl 'Jones y Llais', a hynny ar ôl iddo lwyddo i roi gwybod i Ron James fod arno angen troi ei radio ymlaen, pan oedd llais pawb arall wedi methu. Bu Roger yn Arweinydd Tîm o 1966 hyd 2010, pan dderbyniodd MBE ar gyfer gwasanaethau i achub mynydd. Bu Roger yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor, neu'n swyddog cyfetholedig arno, am 50 o flynyddoedd, gan wasanaethu fel Cadeirydd, Trysorydd a Swyddog Cludiant yn ei dro. Gwêl yr aelodau colli clywed straeon Roger

am y nifer fawr o alwadau y cyfranasai iddynt. Byddai bob amser yn cynnig cyngor doeth ac anogaeth i'r genhedlaeth newydd o achubwyr a welwn ni erbyn hyn yn y Tîm. Bu Jill, gwraig Roger, Claire a Heather, ei ferched, a'i fab Geraint, sydd hefyd yn aelod o'r tîm, bob amser yn ei gefnogi. Cynhaliwyd dathliad o fywyd Roger ar y 24 o Fawrth, a gynhwysai hofrennydd Gwylwyr y Glannau'n hedfan heibio'n isel, gan danio nifer o larymau ceir wrth amlwgfa Bangor!

Trist dweud i Tony Jones, hefyd yn aelod o'r Tîm yn ei flynyddoedd cynnar, farw ar y 6 o Fai. Bu Tony'n ddylanwad pwysig ar achub mynydd yn y Deyrnas Unedig ac o gwmpas y byd. Ymunodd â SAMDO yn 1966, a chael ei benodi'n Arweinydd Tîm yn fuan wedyn, swydd a lanwodd tan 1998. Bu'n Gadeirydd o 1969 am 21 o flynyddoedd. Aeth yn Gadeirydd Cymdeithas Achub Mynydd Gogledd Cymru (NWMRA) hefyd, a dal y swydd honno am lawer o flynyddoedd. Bu hefyd yn Is-gadeirydd Achub Mynydd Cymru a Lloegr (MREW) am nifer o flynyddoedd. Helpodd Tony i ddod â chyrtsiau rheoli chwilio o America i'r Deyrnas Unedig. Yn 1992 efe a fu'n seren rhaglen deledu 'This is your Life', gan dderbyn MBE yn fuan wedyn. Gwnaed Tony'n aelod mygedol o SAMDO pan adawodd y Tîm, ac fe welir ei golled.

Cynhaliwyd angladd Tony yng Nghadeirian Bangor ar y 26 o Fai a daeth cynrychiolwyr o MREW yn ogystal ag o dimau Gogledd Cymru. Darllenwyd anerchiadau angladdol gan Al Read a Bill Dean.

Bu'r Tîm yn ffodus yn ei Bwyllgor cryf, ac mae llawer o'r diolch am hyn yn ddyledus i waith Jo Worrall fel Trysorydd, a Pete Frost fel Ysgrifennydd. Bu Jo a Peter, ill dau, yn hynod gefnogol i SAMDO ac yn cysegru oriau maith i'r Sefydliad. Bydd Jo a Peter yn ymadael â'u swyddi yn ein Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blyneddol ym mis Mawrth ac 'rwyf yn hynod o ddiolchgar iddynt am eu gwaith.

Mae'n galonddid bod gennym bobl sy'n barod i wirfoddoli i ysgwyddo cyfrifoldeb y swyddi hyn.

Mae gennyf nifer o aelodau o 333, ein grŵp cefnogi, sydd wedi gwirfoddoli i helpu llenwi swyddi'r Ysgrifennydd a'r Trysorydd, ac 'rwy'n ddiolchgar am eu brwdfrydedd.

Bydd Dave Worrall, hefyd, yn ymddeol o'r Tîm. Yn ystod ei amser gyda SAMDO, bu Dave yn Arweinydd Tîm, yn Gadeirydd ac, yn fwy diweddar, yn aelod o'r Pwyllgor. Cymerodd ran bwysig mewn rhoi ar waith gynllun niwtral o ran cost a fu o les i'n haelodau dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf. Gwelwn golli dadleuon rhesymegol Dave a'i ddylanwad cadarnhaol, a hoffwn ddiolch iddo am ei waith.

Yn ystod llynedd, gadawodd Chris Onions yntau SAMDO. Chris oedd ein Swyddog Hyfforddi yn ogystal â bod yn aelod o'r Tîm, a bu bob amser yn awyddus iawn i annog arloesi a chodi safonau ymhlith y Tîm. Hoffwn ddiolch i Chris yntau am ei waith. Camodd Craig Jowitt i'r bwlch fel Swyddog Hyfforddi dros dro, ac eisoes mae'n dod ymlaen yn ardderchog.

Ymddeolodd Al Cook o'r Tîm ar ôl 8 mlynedd o wasanaeth. Al oedd ein Swyddog Dwr am nifer o flynyddoedd a gwnaeth gryn waith ar hyfforddi ar gyfer dyfroedd cyflym ac ar wella safonau achub o'r dwr; daeth hyn yn amlwg pan anfonwyd y Tîm i argyfyngau yn codi o'r llifogydd dros y wlad i gyd adeg Nadolig a Blwyddyn Newydd 2015-16. Alex King, gyda chymorth Craig Jowitt, sydd wedi llenwi swydd y Swyddog Dwr. Maent ar hyn o bryd wrthi'n galed yn gweithio ar gynllun dosbarthu offer, er mwyn sicrhau y bydd modd i'r holl aelodau sydd wedi'u hyfforddi ar gyfer dwr cyflym gael hyd i offer personol a fydd yn caniatáu iddynt ymateb yn gyflym i argyfyngau sy'n ymwneud â dwr. Gadawodd Alex Bath yntau'r Tîm, ar ôl cysegru cryn amser i alwadau, gan ateb 70 yn 2010 yn unig.

Mae Kevin de Silva wedi ymddeol fel Arweinydd Tîm, ond mae'n parhau i weithredu fel aelod tîm ar hyn o bryd; ef hefyd yw ein Swyddog Ty. Yr wyf yn ddiolchgar am waith ein holl Arweinwyr Tîm yn cydlynu galwadau ar ein rhan. Mae hyn yn



28 October: Splashing around in the Menai Straits: Oggie members joined members of Wasdale and Aberdyfi teams and Mercia Inshore Search and Rescue for a Management of Water and Flood Incidents course © OVMRO.

gyfrifoldeb o bwys, ac mae'r parch mawr sydd inni gan ein cyd-asiantaethau yn tystio i waith ardderchog ein Harweinwyr Tîm. Ar hyn o bryd 'rydym wrthi'n archwilio dulliau o ychwanegu aelodau newydd i'n cnewyllyn o Arweinwyr Tîm er mwyn aros yn barod i weithredu yn y dyfodol.

Yn ystod 2016, cwblhawyd y broses o newid i fod yn Sefydliad Elusenol Corfforedig trwy gyfuno'r hen elusen â'r un newydd. Daeth hyn a phroses hir i ben, ac 'rwyf yn ddiolchgar i Chris Lloyd a Jo Worrall am eu holl waith dros y blyneddau diwethaf, sydd wedi gwneud hyn yn bosibl. Erbyn hyn mae timau eraill, a'r corff cenedlaethol, yn gofyn i Ogwen am gyngor wrth iddynt hwy symud tuag at ymgorffori.

Yr oedd y Tîm yn falch o glywed eleni fod Tim Bird wedi ennill Gwobr Ffederasiwn Heddlu Gogledd Cymru am Wasanaeth i'r Gymuned. Rhoddwyd y wobr i gydnabod holl waith Tim dros achub mynydd. Mae'n Arweinydd Tîm gydag Ogwen, ac yn helpu trefnu a rhoi hyfforddiant

ynghylch damweiniau angheuol yn rhanbarth Gogledd Cymru.

Ar yr 16 o Dachwedd, aeth Judy Whiteside, George Manley a minnau i seremoni wobrwyo The Great Outdoors yn Kendal. Cawsai 'Risking Life and Limb', llyfr yn dathlu ein pen-blwydd yn hanner cant, ei enwebu'n llyfr y flwyddyn. Bu cryn gystadlu am y wobr, gan gynnwys gwaith gan Cameron McNeish. 'Roeddem wrth ein boddau pan gyhoeddwyd mai ni oedd wedi ennill, a hynny'n dystiolaeth i waith Judy'n llunio'r llyfr, darluniau gwych George ac, wrth gwrs, yr amser a roddodd pawb i'w gyfwrdd ac i adrodd ei hanesion. Cododd gwerthiant y llyfr yn fawr yn sgîl y wobr. Mae ar gael o'n siop ar lein shop.ogwen-rescue.org.uk yn ogystal ag yn Cotswold Outdoors ym Metws y Coed, Caffi Siabod, a siop Joe Brown yng Nghapel Curig. Derbyniodd Caffi Siabod ganmoliaeth uchel yng nghategori caffï'r flwyddyn.

Mae'r Tîm hefyd yn ffodus o gael llawer o aelodau newydd yn ymuno â ni. Mae gennym



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Chris Lloyd, Ogwen Press Officer and Trustee

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13 dan hyfforddiant ar hyn o bryd ac yn ystod y llynedd ymunodd Zoé Penfold, Martin Wall, Charlie Beale, Jen Edwards, Tim Harrop, Soraya Cherry, Rob Bradley, Josh Brennand, Paul Terry, Matt Kempson, a Daz Edkins i gyd â'r Tîm. Edrychwn ymlaen at eu diwrnod olaf ar y mynydd, yn gynnar y flwyddyn nesaf, i alluogi rhai o'n hyfforddion ddangos y medrau y maent wedi'u dysgu ac i fynd ymlaen i aelodaeth lawn o'r tîm.

Mae nifer o aelodau 333 erbyn hyn yn ein helpu gyda gwaith yn y pencadlys ar benwythnosau. 'Rydym wedi ffurfioli'r broses o sefydlu gweithredwyr newydd yn y pencadlys, gyda phroses ymgeisio a ddilynir gan gynllun hyfforddi wedi'i gydlyn gan Jed Stone. Mae hyn yn ein caniatáu i sicrhau bod pawb sy'n cymryd rhan yn ymwybodol o oblygiadau ei swydd ac wedi derbyn hyfforddiant priodol. Mae hyn yn gymorth wrth roi i aelodau sy'n gweithredu ar y mynyddoedd ragor o amser gyda'u teuluoedd, a gwerthfawrogi hyn yn fawr. Mae rhai o weithredwyr y pencadlys, sy'n aelodau grŵp 333, hefyd wedi'u hasesu i yrru cerbydau'r tîm fel y gallant gynorthwyo gyda galwadau. Mae John Dexter, un o aelodau 333, hefyd yn helpu'r grŵp TG, gan wneud defnydd o'i brofiad helaeth.

Mae gwaith codi arian a chodi ymwybyddiaeth yn parhau i fod yn rhan bwysig o waith grŵp 333. Ymhlith digwyddiadau eleni oedd diwrnod y gwasanaethau brys ar bromenâd Llandudno, digwyddiad Sefydliad y Merched ym Metws y Coed, diwrnod o hwyl yn Nolwyddelan, a gorymdaith lusernau yn y Betws. Diolch i bawb a gefnogodd y digwyddiadau hyn. Daw hyn, wrth gwrs, ar ben yr incwm a dderbyniwn o danysgrifiadau aelodaeth 333, sy'n rhan sylweddol o'n hincwm blyneddol.

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. Yno, unwaith eto, y cynhaliwyd

cwis Nadolig er mwyn codi arian inni Fel erioed, hoffwn ddiolch i holl aelodau 333, ein grŵp cefnogi, am ein cynorthwyo yn ystod y flwyddyn. Mae'ch cefnogaeth yn amhrisiadwy ac mae'r arian a godwch yn caniatáu inni barhau i ddarparu gwasanaeth ardderchog i'r rhai sy'n galw arnom.

Mae aelodau'r tîm yn parhau i gynnal digwyddiadau er lles ein cefnogwyr o 333. Trefnodd Dave Worrall ddiwrnod llywio â map a chwmpawd, tra bûm i'n cynnal diwrnod o hyfforddi am y System Leoli Fyd-eang (GPS). Trefnodd Tim Radford ddiwrnod o hyfforddi cymorth cyntaf, a chynhaliodd Clive Swombow ddiwrnod diddorol ar ddilyn olion a bod yn ymwybodol o gliwiau. Ym mis Tachwedd cynhaliwyd ein noson flynyddol o win twym, mins peis, ac atgofion. Bu hon mor boblogaidd ag erioed, gyda nifer o fideos a chyflwyniadau ffotograffig diddorol. Bu Chris Lloyd mor garedig â pharatoi'r gwin twym a'r mins peis yn rhagorol fel arfer, tra bu Dave Worrall yn arweinydd y noson.

Yn 2017 cynhelir Tro Wyth Copa Ogwen (Oggie 8 Challenge) unwaith eto. Mae hwn yn ddigwyddiad codi arian poblogaidd ac fe'i cynhelir ddydd Sadwrn, y 5 o Awst. Bydd ein tîm trefnu, sef Zoé Penfold, Mel Day a Tess Peddie, yn cyfarfod ym mis Ionawr a cheir rhagor o fanylion gyda hyn. 'Rwy'n sicr y bydd hwn yn ddigwyddiad llwyddiannus arall.

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 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.

2016 HAS BEEN ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR THE TEAM, WITH 136 REPORTED INCIDENTS.

Tim Bird
Team Leader



As active mountaineers and rescuers, many of our lives have been, and will be in the future, touched by death in the mountains and rivers of Snowdonia. It is with great sadness that team members have assisted with four mountain related fatalities during 2016, and we endorse the chairman's condolences to the family and friends of these casualties.

I am also reminded of the emotional and physical risks taken by team members when dealing with these and other mountain rescue incidents. To my knowledge during this period, two team members have been hit by rock fall on steep ground, and several tackled a fast-flowing technical river during body recoveries.

The strength of our team lies in our people, their resilience, community commitment, skill and team working. Once again, the team leader group would like to formally thank the team members, trainees, team officers, specialist and support members, together with their family members, for their continued unwavering support of the organisation during call-outs, and the equally important day-to-day running and housekeeping of the team.

The primary responsibility of the OVMRO team leader group is the safe management of the operational call-outs. To conduct safe operations the team requires sound foundations to support rescues. These vital pillars of support include; good governance, sound finances, quality equipment and appropriate training.

The team leader group would like to further endorse the chairman's vote of thanks to outgoing committee members including Jo Worrall as treasurer and Peter Frost as secretary.

As the newest of the current full team leaders, I would like to pay my own respects to two previous Ogwen TLs who passed away during

2016. I had the privilege to work with both Roger Jones and Tony Jones. Both shared the same surname, but not to be confused! Roger was steadfast, always reliable and a strong and effective team leader, from whom I learned a great deal during my formative years with the team. Tony I met through running the NWMRA Fatal Incident Protocol courses at Plas y Brenin. Like Roger, he had vast mountain rescue knowledge and experience, something both men shared generously with aspiring team members. I recall Roger calling for a minutes silence at past team annual dinners to remember fallen team members and I look forward to remembering both men and our other fallen colleagues at times over the years to come.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the current team leaders Dave Worrall and Kevin De Silva who are standing down. Both Dave and Kevin have been great supporters of the team over many years and the TLs wish them all the best in their new adventures in life.

Reviewing the rescues for 2016, the incident trends continue, with 'lost and lonely' casualties, in difficult to reach steep ground and lower leg injuries being common factors again. The significant rescues and events for me, this year, have to be the multi-agency flooding responses to Cumbria, York and, closer to home, in the Conwy Valley, the winter search and rescue of two climbers on Glyder Fach, the mountain fatality on Notched Gully, Tryfan, and the search and body recovery of a kayaker from the Afon Glaslyn.

During this period I can variously recall: mending Jed's broken glasses whilst he was reversing the Landy out of flood waters in Cumbria, sleeping on the floor with a hundred squaddies

in a police station in Carlisle, meeting the Prime Minister, wading with a raft full of half-drowned sheep, climbing Y Gribin in thigh-deep snow at night looking for cragfast climbers, spending some challenging time with colleagues on top of Glyder Fach in a blizzard and abseiling past a cut in a rope damaged by rock fall. We all have our own memories of these and other experiences, and the privilege to work with our mountain rescue and multi-agency colleagues to resolve such difficult incidents.

The team leaders recognise the assistance OVMRO has received from several other agencies during this time but would like to specifically thank the Bristow crew at Caernarfon and our colleagues at the ARCC for their continued assistance with operational call-outs.

The future brings new challenges, including further multi-agency working to deal with the ever increasing and complex demands on our team and others in the region. I predict more regional training and calls for a more joined up approach to mountain rescue.

OVMRO has its own challenges for 2017. None of us is getting any younger! Our new trainees make up nearly 25% of our strength and, along with the more recently qualified team members, they are the future of the team. We all need to recognise the need to support those four pillars of governance, finance, equipment and training. They enable us, a group of volunteers, to deliver a professional quality service. We would like to thank the recently appointed acting team leaders who have filled the gap over the winter period, and look forward to launching new initiatives and refreshing the Party Leader and Trainee Team Leader Scheme in 2017.

injuries

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Death	7	7	2	5	4
Head Injuries	6	6	6	5	11
Trunk injuries	2	1	2	2	2
Arm Injuries	7	2	5	9	13
Leg Injuries	22	24	21	29	34
Exhaustion/exposure	2	3	0	3	3
Heart Attack	0	0	0	1	1
Illness	8	4	6	3	7
Lost, strayed, stuck	74	42	41	57	55
Spinal	4	3	1	1	6
Unknown /nothing found	–	–	12	–	11
Total	135	125	117	134	136

incidents

Total team members at base	646
Total team members at home	247
Total team members on the hill	591
Total team members en route	19
Total team members involved in 2016	1503

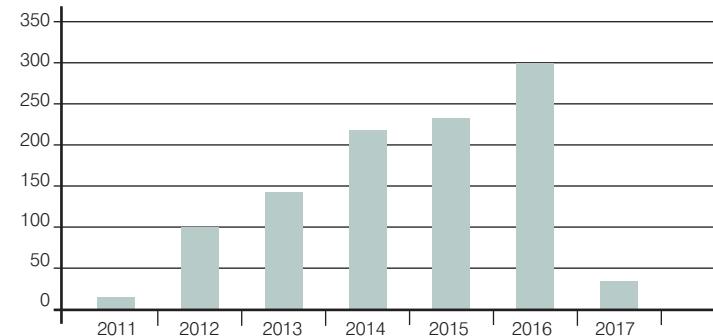
THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICS FOR SARLOC BASED PURELY ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVATIONS BY MR TEAMS.

First active use: 27 May 2011

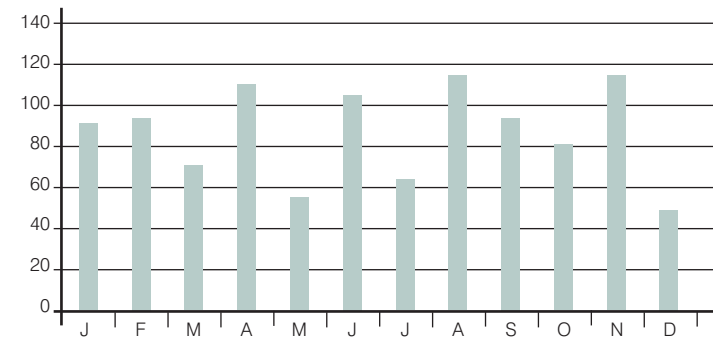
A party on Yr Wydfa phoned and said they were lost. The mobile 'phone then cut off. MRT sent a SARLOC 'just in case it got through' and the position popped up on base PC. Helicopter tasked to location and hovered above them at SARLOC grid.

1054 operational uses so far.

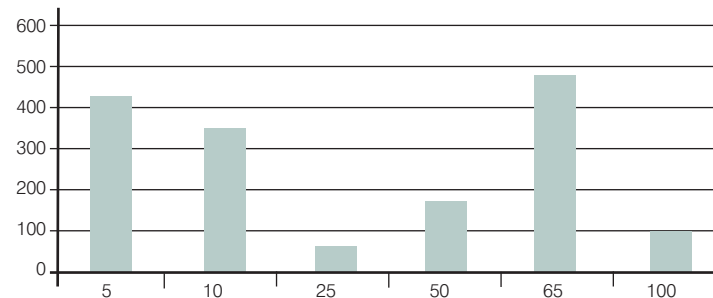
sarLOC: OPERATIONAL ACTIVATIONS BY YEAR



sarLOC: OPERATIONAL ACTIVATIONS BY MONTH



sarLOC: accuracy/m vs count



JANUARY

1 JANUARY 00:40: 20 MINS: RACHUB: NOTHING FOUND

1 An informant reported seeing several red flares on the hillside above Rachub. A team leader advised North Wales Police (NWP) that no action would be taken by the team unless there was a definite report of someone needing help. The probable cause was people celebrating the new year with fireworks and flares.
► 1 team member involved.

2 JANUARY 12:29: 30 MINS: SWALLOW FALLS: MALE. ARM INJURIES

2 The team was asked to assist a male with a dislocated shoulder sitting on rocks in the river, close to Swallow Falls. As team members were en route to Oggie base they were stood down as the male had relocated the shoulder himself and no longer needed help.
► 6 team members involved.

2 JANUARY 15:08: 1 HOUR 22 MINS: LLYN IDWAL: FEMALE. ILLNESS

3 A female teenager suffered a prolonged fainting attack whilst walking around Llyn Idwal. Her mother asked for help from a passing team member who requested a team call-out. A small hill party reached her and the Coastguard helicopter also attended due to the length of time she was apparently unconscious. She was flown to Bangor Hospital for further assessment.
► 18 team members involved.

2 JANUARY 14:20: 4 HOURS 20 MINS: RED WHARF BAY, ANGLESEY: MALE. LOST

4 A male resident of a care home had been missing for several hours so the team was asked to provide search management

and field searchers. Whilst in the planning stage, the man was located by NWP and the team stood down.

► 19 team members involved.

7 JANUARY 00:21: 18 HOURS 54 MINS: CAPEL CURIG: MALE. NOTHING FOUND

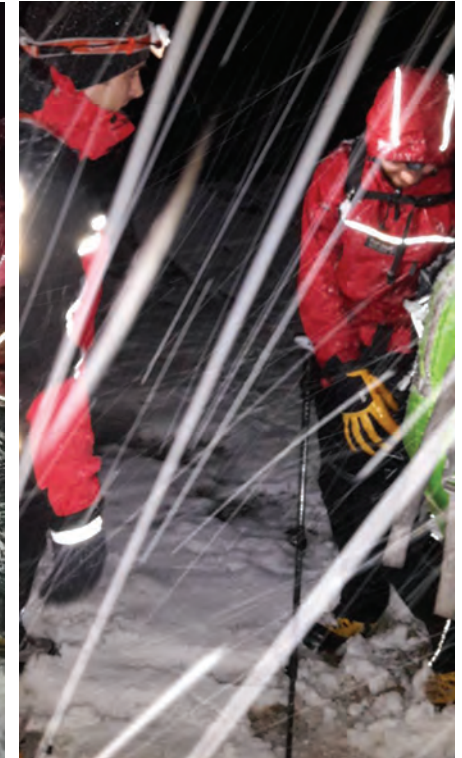
5 The team was asked to assist NWP with an incident in the Capel Curig area. This involved a hasty search during the night followed by a more intensive search in the day. Team members were joined by members of SARDA and RAF Valley MRT. Nothing found. NWP continued with their enquiries.
► 14 team members involved.

9 JANUARY 13:07: 1 HOUR 33 MINS: BRISTLY RIDGE: 2 MALES. STUCK

6 Two males became cragfast in the Sinister Gully area of Bristly Ridge. A small hill party deployed whilst the Coastguard helicopter was en route. Initially, the site was in cloud so the aircraft picked up the hill party and winched them close to the cas site. However, the cloud cleared and the aircraft managed to winch the pair aboard for a short flight to Oggie base and then returned to collect the hill party.
► 11 team members involved.

13 JANUARY 17:12: 19 HOURS 18 MINS: GLYDER FACH: 2 MALES. STUCK

7 Two climbers reported themselves stuck in the Central Gully area, in difficult snow conditions. Despite several hill parties being deployed, the team was unable to either locate or make contact with them due to atrocious weather and dangerous snow conditions. The Coastguard helicopter made several attempts to reach the men but was unable to due to low



13 January. Incident No 7: Oh, what a night!: Team members involved with the rescue of two cragfast climbers. The risk of avalanche was high with a good depth of wind blown soft powdery snow © OVMRO.

cloud. The rescue was suspended in the early hours and resumed at first light when Llanberis MRT, RAF Valley MRT and Aberglaslyn MRT also sent team members. Mid-morning, the cloud lifted and the helicopter was able to winch the climbers from their precarious position and transport team members back to base. The climbers were found to be fit and well. They were well equipped and had dug themselves in when they realised they would be stuck overnight. By daybreak, the weather had abated, so they began to belay each other off the hill.
► 21 team members involved.

16 JANUARY 13:38: 22 MINS: LLANFAIRFECHAN: FEMALE. LOST

8 An elderly female was reported missing from home. As the team leader was collecting details, she turned up safe and well. No mountain rescue team action required
► 1 team member involved.

18 JANUARY 12:56: 2 HOURS 4 MINS: BANGOR: MALE. LOST

9 The team was asked for search advice for a person who had been missing for nearly three weeks. Three Ogwen team leaders

reviewed the available information and proposed a plan of action for NWP which included the use of the National Police Air Service (NPAS) in the first instance. NWP were also advised that a police search adviser (PoISA) should be asked to review the data and then link with mountain rescue.

► 3 team members involved.

21 JANUARY 00:00: 51 MINS: Y GARN:
NOTHING FOUND

10 Two separate 999 calls were made from people reporting lights on Y Garn. The weather and mountain conditions that night were excellent, with moonlight. With no other reports of people in distress, an informant was contacted and it became clear that the lights were moving but with no obvious pattern. Given this, the operation was closed as a false alarm with good intent.

► 1 team member involved.

25 JANUARY 16:06: 1 HOUR 32 MINS: FAIRY GLEN, SYCHNANT PASS: **MALE. SPINE**

11 Welsh Ambulance Service (WAST) asked for assistance with the evacuation of a male digger driver with a suspected spinal injury after his digger overturned but team members stood down soon after as the ambulance crew had managed the incident themselves.

► 10 team members involved.

30 JANUARY 14:20: 1 HOUR 10 MINS: GLYDER FAWR: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

12 A male walker, in a very well-organised group, slipped on an icy rock close to the summit of Glyder Fawr and suffered a leg injury. A large hill party assembled at base to support the Coastguard helicopter which had

also been tasked. Fortunately, the aircraft could land on close to the injured walker who was then flown to Bangor Hospital. The rest of the group did not need assistance.

► 14 team members involved.

31 JANUARY 16:18: 1 HOUR 52 MINS: CWM LLOER PATH: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

13 A male walker, in a group of six, slipped on wet grass 100 metres from the road above Glan Dena in the Ogwen Valley. He suffered a significant lower leg injury so the group rang for help. Team members were quickly on scene, treated the injury and evacuated him on a stretcher to the team vehicle. He was then taken to an ambulance for onward transport to hospital.

► 18 team members involved.

FEBRUARY

2 FEBRUARY 15:12: 2 HOURS 38 MINS: MILESTONE BUTTRESS: **2 MALES. STRAYED**

14 Two hill walkers descending the North Ridge of Tryfan strayed onto the steep ground above the Milestone Buttress. A small hill party located and lowered them down the climber's descent gully to safe ground. They returned to Oggie base for a debrief.

► 16 team members involved.

6 FEBRUARY 11:50: 2 HOURS 25 MINS: TRYFAN: **MALE. NOTHING FOUND**

15 A solo male hill walker asked for help as he had become trapped in a gully low down on the North Ridge. A small hill party

was deployed to search the obvious gully lines but he could not be found. As the search became more extensive, more information came from NWP which indicated he had returned to his car safely and had informed the police. All hill members returned to base. SARLOC successfully used.

► 23 team members involved.

6 FEBRUARY 20:50: 1 HOUR 10 MINS: AFON LLAFAR, GERLAN: **2 MALES. TRUNK & LEG INJURIES**

16 Two males descending from Carnedd Dafydd in the dark reached a river they felt unable to cross. Three team members walked up to them and assisted them across the river to the main path for a short walk back to Gerlan.

► 12 team members involved.

11 FEBRUARY 18:20: 1 HOUR: CWM IDWAL: **9 MALES. NOTHING FOUND**

17 A member of the public reported concern for a large group of ill-equipped teenage boys, high up above the Devil's Kitchen late in the afternoon, shortly before darkness. Two team members walked up to Llyn Idwal but there was no sign of the group and no vehicles in the car park. False alarm with good intent.

► 8 team members involved.

13 FEBRUARY 14:30: 1 HOUR: NORTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

18 Two walkers became stuck due to the winter conditions. A full team call-out was started and a request made for R936. They were able to fly directly to the site due to a SARLOC fix and a good description of clothing. The walkers were airlifted back to Oggie base.

► 12 team members involved.

15 FEBRUARY 16:30: 4 HOURS 30 MINS: CARNEDD LLEWELYN: **NOTHING FOUND**

19 Dogs were heard barking on the cliffs high on Carnedd Llewellyn and there was a possible concern for the safety of the dog's owner. Given limited daylight and the time to get to scene on foot, the support of the Coastguard helicopter was requested. Team members were flown to the area and the helicopter conducted extended searches of the area but nothing was found. Two dogs were seen but could not be caught.

► 11 team members involved.

16 FEBRUARY 14:20: 7 HOURS: GLYDER FACH: **2 MALES. STUCK**

20 The pair were walking the Glyders from Tryfan and turned back due to difficult conditions near Glyder Fawr and during the descent to Glyder Fach, they lost the paths and became disorientated in poor visibility and high winds. They used a group shelter to provide some protection and called 999 for help. Locating the pair was initially problematic due to poor phone contact. A grid reference was eventually obtained. However, getting team members to their aid was delayed due to another rescue operation starting which needed a more urgent response. An RAF Valley MRT party was airlifted to a high location by the Coastguard helicopter and they located the very cold pair and walked them to safety.

► 12 team members involved.

16 FEBRUARY 15:16: 2 HOURS 50 MINS: CWM LLOER: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

21 The casualty sustained a leg injury whilst descending Cwm Lloer. He had severe

difficulty in walking and was getting very cold but was met by a group who called 999 for assistance. Given the cold conditions and lack of mobility of the injured person, support from the Coastguard helicopter and RAF MRS were requested. An Ogwen party was flown to the area but it transpired the injured man had begun to walk-off assisted by the group who found him. Mountain rescue team members were dropped high in the Cwm and followed the casualty party down to the road.

► 14 team members involved.

20 FEBRUARY 13:30: 2 HOURS 30 MINS:
MOEL SIABOD: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

22 A female walker sustained an ankle injury whilst descending the north east ridge of Moel Siabod. It was too painful to walk so she asked for help. A small hill party was deployed from Bryn Engan whilst the Coastguard helicopter attempted to reach the cas site in cloud and heavy rain. They were able to land on close to the casualty and she was then flown to the local hospital for treatment. SARLOC successfully used.

► 12 team members involved.

20 FEBRUARY 20:00: 30 MINS: CRAIG YR
YSFA: **3 MALES. LOST**

23 Three friends had not returned from climbing Amphitheatre Buttress in difficult conditions. Fortunately, they returned to the car park safe and well before the team deployed.

► 2 team members involved.

23 FEBRUARY 02:46: 4 HOURS: CARNEDDAU:
MALE. LOST

24 A 33-year-old male decided to walk to the summit of Carnedd Dafydd, leaving home in Bethesda at 20:30. After brief contact

with his girlfriend at 22:00, she heard no more. Concerned for his safety at 02:45 she rang NWP and they called the team. As no contact could be made with the man and there was no definite search area, three team leaders prepared a search plan for first light. Luckily, he arrived home just before the plan was put into action. His phone battery and head torch had both died leaving him with no means of navigation or walking off the hill until daylight.

► 3 team members involved.

24 FEBRUARY 19:49: 42 MINS: A5 OUTSIDE
OGGIE BASE: **2 FEMALES**

25 The team base was contacted direct by the WAST control room following a reported road accident somewhere in the Ogwen Valley. They were unable to make contact with the two passengers, one of whom was reported to be 32 weeks pregnant. A quick look out of the window revealed the car crashed into the wall on the bend by the team driveway. With no other agencies in attendance, two vehicles and troops were despatched to provide any medical assistance required and to guard the scene and direct traffic. As soon as the other agencies arrived the team withdrew back to base.

► 11 team members involved.

20 FEBRUARY 16:10: 6 HOURS 50 MINS:
GLYDER FAWR: **2 MALES. STUCK**

26 Two climbers on East Arête on the Grey Slab area became cragfast when the lead climber could no longer move up nor down and could find no protection to set up an abseil. The Coastguard helicopter was unable to winch from that location due to the steep terrain so team members were flown to the base of the route. One team member managed to climb up to the lead

climber, secure him and then lower him to safer ground. Aberglaslyn MRT deployed ground troops to assist with the continued descent to a safe winch area, and Llanberis MRT were on standby to be flown in to assist if necessary. A joint effort by the teams and the Coastguard helicopter resulted in a happy outcome.

► 8 team members involved.

28 FEBRUARY 13:30: 1 HOUR 20 MINS:
BRISTLY RIDGE: **4 MALES. STUCK**

27 A party of five walkers became stuck near the top of Bristly Ridge as they were not prepared for the snowy conditions. The Coastguard helicopter was able to winch all of them aboard and drop them at Oggie base whilst the team were preparing to deploy. Aberglaslyn and RAF Valley teams had been on standby to assist.

► 10 team members involved.

march

4 MARCH 16:45: 2 HOURS 15 MINS:
GLYDERAU: **2 MALES, 2 FEMALES. LOST**

28 Four walkers reported themselves lost in white-out conditions on a ridge above Cwm Idwal. It wasn't possible to gain any further communication with the party so several hill parties deployed to search the priority areas. The Coastguard helicopter was just about to be tasked when the casualty party rang NWP to say they had found a path toward Pen y Pass and felt confident about walking off the hill unaided. The team stayed on standby until the group had safely returned to the road.

► 20 team members involved.

10 MARCH 11:35: 1 HOUR 30 MINS: PEN YR
OLE WEN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

29 A solo male walker was ascending the mountain when he strayed off the path and slipped, injuring his ankle. The ankle started swelling immediately and the casualty was unable to move up or down the mountain so called 999 for assistance. The Coastguard helicopter was requested given the high location and the long potential evacuation time by stretcher. The aircraft found and extracted the person down to base.

► 8 team members involved.

12 MARCH 14:50: 1 HOUR 20 MINS:
EASTERN TRAVERSE, TRYFAN: **MALE. STUCK**

30 A male walker was ascending Tryfan and went off-route near the Eastern Traverse. He called 999 for help and requested mountain rescue assistance. Whilst team members were mobilising, passing scramblers helped the man to a safe position and he then continued off the mountain without needing further assistance.

► 12 team members involved.

13 MARCH 11:20: 1 HOUR 30 MINS:
CRIB LEM: **MALE. STUCK**

31 A male walker was ascending the Crib Lem spur and went off route whilst scrambling. He got onto steeper ground and became unable to move up or down and so called 999 for assistance. He was well organised and greatly assisted the process in identifying that he was safe and not an immediate priority. Given the high location and the time required to move team members safely into that site, the support of R936 was requested and tasked to support the incident and shortly after the person



ROGER JONES MBE 1945-2016

A founder member of the team, Roger died peacefully at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor on 10 March. The 'Voice of Ogwen' is sadly missed. **Chris Lloyd** looks back over Roger's life.

Roger was one of the founding members of OVMRO when it began operating out of Ogwen Cottage, and was a team member for fifty-one years. Having always lived in the Ogwen area, he became involved with mountain rescue through the Scout movement, when his father was Gwynedd area county commissioner. He joined the Scout outdoor activities centre at Yr Hafod in 1959 and was employed as a mechanical engineer at Bangor University.

Roger was a team leader with OVMRO from 1966. At the end of his tenure, in 2010, the team was delighted that Roger was awarded an MBE for services to mountain rescue. In his usual way, ever the team player, he stated that the award was really for the team rather than an individual.

He served on the team committee or as a co-opted officer for fifty years — first elected to the committee in 1966 — and served as treasurer from 1972 to 1975. He was chairman in 1990, and it was during this time that the first major renovation of Bryn Poeth occurred. His vision, along with others, transformed the team into the semi-professional organisation it is today.

He was co-opted as the team's transport officer in 1995, and held this position until the time of his death. He was instrumental in the purchase of new vehicles for the team, and ensuring they were always ready to transport members and casualties both locally and more recently on call-outs to the floods in York and Cumbria.

Roger had a great interest in international rescue too, and attended the ICAR (International Commission for Alpine Rescue) conference on numerous occasions. He always extolled the benefits of networking at the conference and encouraged other members to attend, regarding it a 'wonderful jolly and a hoot'!

With such a wealth of experience, Roger had lots of stories to tell. Everyone who met him enjoyed listening to his tales of the many rescues he took part in. Not only was he able to offer words of advice and wisdom, he always encouraged new developments within the team, such as the Ogwen stretcher, and was keen to encourage the younger generation.

At the team's 50th anniversary dinner in 2015, Roger's wife Jill was presented with the 'Joe Hero award', in recognition of all the support family members give to team members.

As Roger said, during an interview for the team's book, 'If I hadn't enjoyed doing it, I'd have stopped doing it'. A great many people can be grateful that Roger enjoyed mountaineering and mountain rescue. He is greatly missed.

A service to celebrate his life, at Bangor Crematorium on 24 March 2016, was attended by family, friends and Ogwen team members past and present — and it was standing room only. Fifty team members stood in their red fleece jackets as the hearse arrived, escorted by the team's two Land



Rovers and the forward control vehicle. The low throb of rotor blades could be heard from the grey clouded skies. Spirits were low, until the silence was broken by the thundering roar of rotors as the S-92 helicopter passed overhead, en route to a job somewhere. Smiles all round.

Anyone who knew Roger, knew he could tell a good tale but, this time, the tales were about him, as the assembled crowd heard again of Roger's many misdemeanours over the years. Respectful laughter echoed through the chapel. This was the Roger we all knew!

It was a non-religious service without hymns, but Roger did enjoy a good sing-song in the pub. Wally Owen, a past team member, took to the stage with his guitar and sang the old climbing song 'All for the want of a nail'. Those who could remember sang along too. Later, Alistair Cook read 'A Prayer for Mountain Rescue' then, bravely, Roger's widow too addressed the crowded chapel, thanking team members for their support.

The service ended with 'The Lark Ascending' and then it was off to the Tyn y Coed Hotel, Capel Curig where the party continued for the remainder of the day. Roger would have approved.

Above: Roger in classic stance, and Jill and Roger Jones on the day he picked up his MBE from Buckingham Palace © Roger Jones.

was assisted by passing climbers. R936 was able to safely extract the stuck person and fly them to Oggie base.

► 14 team members involved.

20 MARCH 19:18: 2 HOURS 32 MINS: MARIN TRAIL: FEMALE. LOST

32 A couple were nearing the end of the Marin bike trail near Betws Y Coed when she became tired on a long uphill section. The male carried on and returned to their vehicle. She phoned 999 as she was lost, with no lights, and it was dark. As she described the location as a forest road and near the end of the Marin Trail, a team leader drove the forest tracks and found her (in the area of marker post 69) after about 30 minutes. At this point she was moving around and he was lucky to find her on a track he had already searched.

► 6 team members involved.

20 MARCH 19:36: 44 MINS: OGWEN VALLEY: NOTHING FOUND

33 A motorist reported a torch light on the mountain. There was no distress signal but he reported it 'just in case'. No action taken.

► 2 team members involved.

25 MARCH 16:00: 1 HOUR 30 MINS: LONDON CRAG: FEMALE. LEG INJURIES

34 A 26-year-old female was leading a short route on the locally known London Crags near the Caseg Fraith Hut belonging to the London Mountaineering Club, when she fell about 20 feet to the ground, injuring her ankle. She was treated at the scene and stretchered the short distance to the team Land Rover.

► 19 team members involved.

25 MARCH 19:08: 8 HOURS 52 MINS: WEST FACE, TRYFAN: **FEMALE. FATALITY**

35 At about 6.30pm, the team was called to an incident on Tryfan. The weather had been glorious all day, but the wind was increasing. The 999 call came from a man high on Tryfan. He and his wife had been descending the North Ridge/West Face when she fell down a gully and he was unable to get to her. A lengthy operation followed with the Coastguard helicopter and members of Ogwen, Aberglaslyn and Llanberis teams. Ultimately, the husband was walked down to Oggie base. Sadly his wife had passed away on the hill and was brought down the mountain later in the night.

► 16 team members involved.

26 MARCH 15:45: 3 HOURS 45 MINS: COWLYD LEAT: **3 MALES & 4 FEMALES. EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

36 A group of seven Duke of Edinburgh students reported themselves cold, tired and lost at the south end of Llyn Cowlyd, close to the leat. They were told to put up their tents whilst a small hill party walked up to them with warm clothing and hot drinks. SARLOC used successfully.

► 13 team members involved.

29 MARCH 14:15: 2 HOURS 30 MINS: CASTELL Y GWYNT: **MALE & 3 FEMALES. EXHAUSTION/ EXPOSURE**

37 A party of four, with two children of seven and eleven, reported themselves inadequately equipped and exhausted close to Castell y Gwynt, Glyder Fach. They were struggling to continue in the snow conditions and poor weather. A full team call-out followed and the Coastguard helicopter was asked to assist. A

member of RAF Valley MRT already in the area also made his way to their last known location. There was no contact with the party after the first call but luckily the helicopter spotted them walking down to Llyn Cwm Ffynnon, with another group. The winchman was lowered and had a chat with them. It was agreed the safest option was for the group to continue walking down to the roadside.

► 21 team members involved.

30 MARCH 15:25: 2 HOURS 35 MINS: PENMAENMAWR: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

38 A 21-year-old male walker, with a family group, slipped on wet grass descending a footpath. He suffered an ankle injury and was unable to walk. A small hill party attended the scene, treated the injury and then were able to assist him to a team vehicle on a nearby vehicle track. He was advised to visit the local hospital for further assessment.

► 9 team members involved.

april

6 APRIL 17:14: 1 HOUR 26 MINS: BETWS Y COED: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

39 A 14-year-old male sustained a knee injury whilst walking on the riverside footpath. Team members were quickly on scene with equipment for a stretcher carry but, after splinting the knee, the boy was able to walk with assistance the 200 metres back to the road. He was advised to seek further treatment at his local hospital.

► 23 team members involved.



17 May 2016: Ogwen on camera: Filming with a Sky TV team for the new Insight channel. Team members performed a pick off procedure with short stretcher carry scenario. The film crew were highly impressed with our organisation, professionalism and humour! © OVMRO.



14 APRIL 18:35: 3 HOURS 55 MINS: CWM EIGIAU: **MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

40 A couple reported themselves lost in cloud on the Carneddau, at Gledrffordd. After a discussion with team leaders their position was confirmed with SARLOC and they were persuaded to start moving downhill towards the quarry buildings in Cwm Eigiau. A hill party set off via Llugwy and a vehicle was deployed into Cwm Eigiau. The couple had successfully walked down to the buildings and were picked up by the vehicle for transport back to their car in the Ogwen Valley. SARLOC successfully used.

► 12 team members involved.

16 APRIL 15:50: 1 HOUR 10 MINS: CASTELL Y GWYNT: **FEMALE. ILLNESS**

41 A 21-year-old female walker collapsed whilst walking in the area of Castell y Gwynt. She had been struggling and feeling faint before the collapse but had no previous relevant medical history. Due to the high location, cold weather and possible urgency of the situation, the Coastguard helicopter was tasked immediately

whilst team members gathered at base. Luckily there were some RAF Leeming MRT members close by who assisted the air crew. The casualty was assessed and winched aboard the aircraft for a short flight to Bangor Hospital.

► 12 team members involved.

20 APRIL 15:45: 1 HOUR 30 MINS: TRYFAN: **MALE. HEAD/FACE INJURIES**

42 An 80-year-old male was walking up Tryfan when he slipped and fell about two metres sustaining a head injury. The fall was witnessed by two other walkers who went to administer first aid and then stayed with the casualty until his evacuation. Because of the nature of the injuries, Rescue 936 was requested and attended the incident. Due to the fine weather, R936 requested hill troops be held at Oggie base for deployment should they not be able to reach the cas site. In the event, none were.

► 18 team members involved.



TONY JONES MBE 1939-2016

Dr A S G Jones (AKA Tony Jones) died on 6 May, aged 77 years. **Chris Lloyd** looks back over his remarkable life and lifelong commitment to the cause of mountain rescue.

Tony was a major influence on mountain rescue, across the UK. Born in India, the son of an officer of the British Indian Army, as a young boy he moved back to his mother's home country of South Africa. Childhood polio left him with a weak leg but, growing up in the shadow of Table Mountain he soon took an interest in the mountains and joined the Mountaineering Club of South Africa, a membership which he kept for sixty years. Through this, he became involved with mountain rescue.

He moved to the UK in 1963 to further his studies at Aberystwyth University, and joined the university mountaineering club. In 1965, when the Ogwen team began, it was trusted groups of mountaineers who staffed the team. The Aberystwyth group was one of these. Having gained his PhD, he moved to lecture in Marine Geology at University College of Wales, Bangor and, in 1966, became a full member of OVMRO. He was appointed a team leader, an office he held until 1998. In 1969, he was elected chairman, a position he held for 21 years.

A single man, he could devote his free time to studies of mountain rescue. He was chairman of North Wales Mountain Rescue Association for forty years and became involved with the then Mountain Rescue Committee. He served as vice chairman for several years and later as trustee.

Tony encouraged innovation. His good friend, Dr Ieuan Jones, realised that with better first aid at the accident site, the better

the outcome for the casualty. Ieuan devised a series of first aid courses for both RAF and civilian teams and Tony was soon teaching these to team members around the country. Following a visit to the US, he helped bring the American style of search management back to the UK.

He established close contact with the USAF PJs (special forces medics) stationed in England, who came to Snowdonia to train, and became an honorary PJ member, their motif of a pair of green feet proudly tattooed on his buttocks.

Not owning a television set himself, his appearance on TV's 'This is your Life' caused some trepidation for the three Ogwen members charged with organising the event. When the Wessex helicopter landed and Michael Aspel jumped out with the famous red book, it was fortunate there were enough good friends around to make sure Aspel wasn't told what he could do with his book!

In 1995, Tony was awarded the MBE, a thoroughly deserved honour for years of dedication to mountain rescue. When he resigned as a team member in 1999, he was made an honorary member.

He was also a member of the Climbers' Club, for many years hut warden at Helyg, their Ogwen hut. He was also a member of the Alpine Club and, despite his weakened leg, summited Mont Blanc, Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya.

Soon after his arrival in Bangor, Tony joined the local fire service. In 1970, he was



able to put this experience to good use when the drying room of the Clachaig Inn, Glencoe, caught fire. When the fire engine arrived, he volunteered his expertise, using the hose to save the fine selection of malt whisky displayed behind the bar.

On 26 May his funeral, in Bangor cathedral, was attended by members of mountain rescue across England and Wales, alongside the RAF and 22 Squadron, the police, MCA and RNLI. A number of eulogies demonstrated the huge influence and diverse contribution he made and the service ended with a small local choir singing a stirring rendition of Nkosi Sikele Afrika, the national anthem of South Africa.

A book should be written about this unusual and remarkable man: born in India, brought up in South Africa, with the Welsh surname of Jones, who regularly wore a kilt of Scottish tartan! He led with single-minded authority. He was a generous man, always willing to help fledgling team members with his vast knowledge of mountain rescue, gained by thorough research and the university of life. It was a privilege to have known Dr ASG Jones MBE.

Above: Tony as most would remember him and a much younger Tony in the early years of the team © OVMRO/Bill Dean.

23 APRIL 20:30: 45 MINS: MOEL Y CI: MALE. ARM INJURIES

43 A lone male mountain biker fell off his bike on the North side of Moel y Ci, injuring his shoulder. A small group of local team members were able to access a forestry track to drive a vehicle close to the scene. He was then able to walk unassisted to the vehicle and was taken to hospital for treatment.
► 7 team members involved.

30 APRIL 13:22: 3 HOURS 38 MINS: AFON PRYSOR: MALE. LEG INJURIES

44 The team was called out to work with Aberdyfi, South Snowdonia and Aberglaslyn team members and Rescue 936 to recover a man who had sustained an ankle injury in Maentwrog Gorge. Two team members trained in swiftwater rescue were asked to assist in the extraction of the casualty, who was then carried on a stretcher to the Coastguard aircraft.
► 18 team members involved.

may

5 MAY 22:10: 1 HOUR: DEVIL'S KITCHEN: NOTHING FOUND

45 A group camping above the Kitchen thought they heard shouts for help. Using a SPOT device to contact 999 via a parent, they began a search for the source of the shouts. After 30 minutes, there was no response so they returned to their camp. A standby was started whilst information was



24 May 2016: Rope rescue training with Kirk Mauthner: Team members get the opportunity to update themselves with the latest evidence-based techniques. Kirk is a recognised international expert in the field and an IFMGA UIAGM mountain guide © OVMRO.

gathered but there was no need to deploy mountain rescue. It is likely the source of the shouts was wild goats in that area.

► 5 team members involved.

7 MAY 17:20: 2 HOURS 10 MINS: EAST FACE TRYFAN: MALE. ARM INJURIES

46 A male climber fell and dislocated his shoulder. A hill party set out but luckily he was quickly extracted by the Coastguard helicopter and flown to the local hospital for treatment. SARLOC successfully used.

► 18 team members involved.

8 MAY 16:50: 2 HOURS 20 MINS: MILESTONE BUTTRESS: MALE. LOST

47 A party of four male walkers split up close to the Cannon Stone on the North Ridge of Tryfan as one had decided to return to the road. His friends continued to the summit and then back to the car and were surprised not to find their friend there. They reported him missing and the team put spotters onto the A5 to see if they could locate him on the West Face area. He was seen on top of the Milestone Buttress and a small hill party went to retrieve him. He was uninjured but tired and lost.

► 17 team members involved.

28 MAY 11:30: 1 HOUR 30 MINS: TRYFAN BACH: FEMALE. LEG INJURIES

48 A female climber stumbled on a rock at the foot of Tryfan Bach and injured her ankle. Her partner had no phone signal so walked over to Oggie base for help. A rope rescue training day was in progress, so the team was able to respond and treat the casualty quickly and then carry her a short way to an ambulance.

► 9 team members involved.

29 MAY 16:10: 3 HOURS 10 MINS: WEST FACE TRYFAN: MALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES

49 A male walker took a long tumbling fall down a gully on the West Face resulting in multiple injuries. Sadly, his dog also received serious injuries in the fall. Some local mountain instructors close by assisted on scene until team members reached the cas site, then the male was immobilised on a stretcher and winched aboard the Coastguard helicopter. His dog and partner were brought to base for further assessment.

► 16 team members involved.

31 MAY 19:05: 4 HOURS 50 MINS: CWM EIGIAU: 2 MALES & 3 FEMALES. LOST

50 A party of three adults and two children became lost in the cloud on Carnedd Llewelyn and mistakenly dropped down towards Cwm Eigiau. As it was late in the day and the children were too tired to climb back to the ridge line, they asked for help. They were located using SARLOC and encouraged to continue walking along the track out of Cwm Eigiau where they were met by the team Land Rover and returned to the Ogwen Valley. SARLOC successfully used.

► 4 team members involved.

June

3 JUNE 19:55: 3 HOURS 30 MINS: GLYDER FAWR: FEMALE. NOTHING FOUND

51 A solo female walker asked for advice when she became unsure of her route down from the Glyderau. SARLOC was used to locate her and this placed her half way down the

screes towards Llyn y Cwn. She was advised to continue in a NE direction to pick up the path through the Devil's Kitchen and asked to ring in periodically. On the next conversation she was back at Llyn Caseg Ffraith as she felt the screes were too steep to descend safely. She then made her way via Bochlwyd to the road in the darkness. A good effort.

► 1 team member involved.

5 JUNE 11:40: 1 HOUR 45 MINS: CONWY: **MALE. HEART ATTACK**

52 WAST asked for assistance with the extraction of a patient with cardiac problems in a wooded area close to Conwy. The track was too small for them to gain access. Local team members went straight to the scene whilst the team Land Rover was dispatched from Oggie base. R936 and Helimed were also tasked and arrived quickly so the team stood down.

► 8 team members involved.

18 JUNE 15:55: 2 HOURS 35 MINS: MOEL SIABOD: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

53 A 16-year-old female complained of sore knees, associated with a previous injury, on the descent of Moel Siabod. Her location was confirmed with SARLOC. Other members of her party assisted her some distance down the hill and then requested mountain rescue to assist. A small hill party deployed and she was carried on a stretcher a short distance to the team vehicle.

► 11 team members involved.

18 JUNE 19:50: 1 HOUR 40 MINS: CARNEDD LLEWELYN: **MALE. LOST**

54 A solo male walker attempting the 14 Peaks rang for assistance as he was lost in the cloud on Carnedd Llewelyn. The team

were gathering when he rang to say he could see Foel Grach and was happy to continue. Despite having a map and compass he got lost again on his way to Foel Grach and met up with some runners who also had no idea of their location. Luckily the cloud cleared enough for everyone to relocate themselves and the team stood down.

► 10 team members involved.

19 JUNE 17:35: 4 HOURS 25 MINS: GRIBIN RIDGE: **MALE & FEMALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES**

55 A male walker called from Ogwen car park reporting his two friends had been involved in a rockfall on the Gribin Ridge and both had sustained injuries. He had been unable to get a phone signal on the mountain so ran down to get help. Hill parties were flown by R936 close to the scene, which was in cloud, and made their way up to the casualties. The female casualty had minor leg injuries and was flown back to Oggie base for treatment whilst her companion was being assessed. He had suffered more serious injuries and was airlifted to hospital shortly afterwards. Thanks must go to the crew of R936 who managed to reach and extract the casualty in atrocious weather conditions.

► 15 team members involved.

21 JUNE 18:00: 3 HOURS 50 MINS: DEVIL'S KITCHEN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

56 A solo male walker was descending the Devil's Kitchen path with his dog when he slipped and sustained an ankle injury. Some walkers close by went to his assistance and started to help him down but soon realised the terrain was too steep to assist him safely. A hasty party went to the scene and R936 was

requested, but unfortunately they were already operational in the Lake District. The injury was splinted and the casualty was helped to 'bum shuffle' and hop down the steep part of the path and then loaded onto a stretcher for the descent from Llyn Idwal to the road.

► 17 team members involved.

25 JUNE 12:35: 2 HOURS 25 MINS: GWYNEDD: **MALE. NOTHING FOUND**

57 WAST reported a motorcyclist with possible leg and neck injuries needing assistance on a minor road in the Penmachno area of Snowdonia. Although the initial description of location seemed quite clear, SSSART and OVMRO vehicles ended up driving around looking for the incident which eventually turned out to be south of Bala! An ambulance was on scene so mountain rescue stood down.

► 8 team members involved.

25 JUNE 17:45: 5 HOURS 35 MINS: TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. EXHAUSTION/EXPOSURE**

58 An elderly couple set off to climb the North Ridge of Tryfan about 9.30am and worked their way steadily upwards. However, the weather deteriorated and they became cold and slightly lost. A passing party found them and helped them up to the Eastern Traverse. At this point they met two climbers who joined the group and assisted them to the summit. It became clear the couple were very tired and unable to move down without assistance, so a 999 call was made. On advice from the TL, they were asked to start moving down Western Gully as best they could. A team party was dispatched, which met the casualty group at the bottom of Western Gully. With a little more assistance they made it to the grasslands at the base of the gully. The female

was moving reasonably well and so continued to walk off the hill with assistance from two team members. The male was very tired but uninjured, so packaged in a stretcher and, using a back rope, team members sledged him down below cloud base. Rescue 936 then winched him in the stretcher before dropping him at Oggie base, where he was reunited with his wife.

► 20 team members involved.

JULY

1 JULY 15:05: 3 HOURS 25 MINS: MILESTONE BUTTRESS: **MALE. STUCK**

59 A group of four friends set out to follow a route pre-loaded on to their GPS up the North Ridge of Tryfan. For obvious reasons this was going to prove challenging on that terrain. They turned round before the summit and strayed on to the West Face on their descent. One of the party became stuck above the Milestone Buttress area and felt unable to move so they called for help. His friends looked for a way off whilst a small hill party deployed to the site. He was located, and short roped back to the path.

► 18 team members involved.

3 JUNE 11:40: 3 HOURS 50 MINS: LLANDUDNO: **MALE. LOST**

60 The team was asked to search for a vulnerable male last seen in Llandudno at 18:30 the previous evening. There was significant concern for his safety. NWP had already tasked HMCG and the Coastguard helicopter for the search so it was decided not



2 June 2016: Swiftwater rescue training with added car: Team members travelled to the Tees Barrage International White Water Course to complete the Rescue 3 Europe Vehicles in Water course with R3 Safety & Rescue © OVMRO.

to deploy Ogwen members until more information had been gathered about the missing person. SARDA had just been requested to assist when NWP informed the TL that the missing person had been found safe and well in Penrhyn Bay.
▶ 2 team members involved.

5 JULY 16:30: 1 HOUR 45 MINS: OGWEN VALLEY: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

61 The team assisted ambulance personnel with a short distance carry over easy ground of a person who had injured his knee.
▶ 14 team members involved.

8 JULY 17:20: 3 HOURS: IDWAL STREAM: **FEMALE. LOST**

62 A young couple set out to complete a traverse of the Glyderau. They were poorly equipped, had little mountain experience and using a poor route description downloaded from the internet, which resulted in them ending up on a scrambling adventure. Eventually, they became separated with the female stuck on very steep ground with absolutely no idea where she was. A SARLOC fix identified her location but, in the meantime, her phone had run out of battery, so she decided to take control of her situation and carefully down-climbed Idwal stream to the path, where she met her partner who had returned to search for her. They arrived at Idwal Cottage to be met by team members.
▶ 7 team members involved.

14 JULY 14:30: 1 HOUR 40 MINS: GLYDER FACH MAIN FACE: **MALE. LOST**

63 A solo male scrambler lost the route on Glyder Fach Main Face and felt unable to continue up, but also unable to climb back down the crux. He wisely asked for help. A small

hill party assembled at Oggie base whilst R936 went straight to the scene for a first look. They were able to easily winch him from the crag and return him safely to the rescue base.

▶ 11 team members involved.

17 JULY 12:00: 2 HOURS 45 MINS: BRISTLY RIDGE: **2 MALES. CRAGFAST**

64 Two experienced and fit mature males set out for a walk on the Glyderau. At Bwlch Tryfan they made a decision to follow others up the Bristly Ridge scramble rather than their planned scree route to the summit of Glyder Fach. At some point they scrambled off route and became cragfast in a steep, greasy gully. They had no mobile signal so used six blasts on a whistle and called for help. An informant, in Cwm Bochlwyd below, heard the calls and contacted NWP 999 via his mobile. Initially, mountain rescue had contact with neither the informant nor the men. OVMRO team members were sent to investigate and locate the informant and check the South Ridge of Tryfan and Bristly Ridge areas. The informant was then able to make a further call to NWP and was spoken to by the team leader at Oggie base. The incident location was confirmed as Bristly Ridge and R936 called due to reports of a possible broken lower leg. An Oggie hill party got to within 50 metres, when the winch operator airlifted the two uninjured male casualties to Oggie base.

▶ 14 team members involved.

19 JULY 13:10: 1 HOURS 35 MINS: B-ROAD ABOVE LLANRWST: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

65 The team was asked to assist with a motorcycle RTC on a B-road above Llanrwst. Whilst information was being gathered,

Helimed arrived on scene and were confident they could deal with the incident unaided. Team members remained on standby until the casualty had been extracted.

► 4 team members involved.

21 JULY 13:10: 4 HOURS 35 MINS: TREFRIW MINES: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

66 A member of a university party, doing mine surveys in the Cae Coch mines, sustained a leg injury in the mine. The group made a tremendous effort to move some 300 metres towards the road, but the dense forestry eventually stopped their progress. Given the location and difficult ground, R936 was called. Team members rigged a lowering system to move the casualty 40 metres down an eroded area to a pick-up point for the aircraft, which needed a full 300-foot lower to reach the site.

► 13 team members involved.

24 JULY 14:40: 4 HOURS 30 MINS: MOEL SIABOD: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

67 Thirteen Air Cadets and four leaders were descending Moel Siabod when one of the girls slipped and hurt her knee. She was unable to walk so the leader called 999. The team located, treated and stretchered the girl to the Land Rover waiting at Bryn Engan forest track. 936 had been requested but was delayed by another incident so stood down.

► 21 team members involved.

25 JULY 14:25: 4 HOURS 55 MINS: IDWAL SLABS: **MALE. ARM INJURIES**

68 A couple were just beginning a route on Holly Tree Wall, above Idwal Slabs, when the lead climber sustained a probable dislocated shoulder. Initially, the Coastguard

helicopter went to the scene whilst Oggie members gathered at base but, as there were so many other climbing groups in the immediate vicinity of the casualty, it was decided not to winch directly from scene. Seven team members were flown to a higher location, abseiled down to the casualty and treated him for his injury. The aircraft could then winch him out as the other climbers had all moved away. His partner was brought to Oggie base for onward transportation to the hospital.

► 8 team members involved.

30 JULY 17:55: 2 HOURS 55 MINS: NORTH RIDGE OF TRYFAN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

69 A group of eight inexperienced males on a stag weekend decided to climb the North Ridge of Tryfan. At some point, one of the males put his foot into a hole and twisted his knee. He tried to descend but it became too painful to continue. The description of their location was very vague so helicopter assistance was requested whilst a hasty party and a stretcher party deployed. The hasty party and winchman located the casualty, treated him and evacuated him to hospital by aircraft. The rest of the group were able to be walk down with team members.

► 20 team members involved.

30 JULY 20:25: 2 HOURS: EAST FACE TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

70 Two climbers reported themselves as stuck on the descent of the East Face after finishing one of the climbing routes. Two team members were diverted from the previous job to walk along the Heather Terrace and locate the climbers. They were found to be abseiling down to the terrace but had tied off the ropes. Once they were safely on the terrace, a team

member climbed up to retrieve their ropes and they were able to walk back to the road with team members. Lack of head torches would also have caused them problems at some point.

► 8 team members involved.

31 JULY 15:35: 55 MINS: LONDON CRAG OGWEN VALLEY: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

71 WAST requested assistance with a casualty at London Crag. The woman had slipped on wet grass just below the lower part of the crags at about 14.30 and called for help. A rapid response vehicle was despatched and team members helped package and move the patient to the roadside.

► 14 team members involved.

august

2 AUGUST 17:30: 5 HOURS: GLYDER FACH: **MALE. LOST**

72 A solo walker asked for help when he became lost in cloud on the Glyderau. He had no idea of his location, had no map and was unable to use his compass. Six hill parties were deployed to walk the common routes in that area and he was eventually found on the south side of Glyder Fach and escorted to the road.

► 16 team members involved.

4 AUGUST 14:05: 2 HOURS 25 MINS: SNOWDON: **FEMALE. ILLNESS**

73 Llanberis MRT requested assistance with an incident on the Llanberis Path, when an 18-year-old female walker complained

of tingling in her hands and feet. Oggie team members were deployed to Peris base but the incident resolved before they set out.

► 10 team members involved.

5 AUGUST 15:05: 3 HOURS 45 MINS: EASTERN TRAVERSE, TRYFAN: **FEMALE. LOST**

74 A female walker, in a group of four, suffered a panic attack on the Eastern Traverse. Her group were unable to persuade her to move up or down so a hill party set off to assist. One team member arrived on scene just as the Coastguard helicopter became available, so the casualty was winched off the hill and her companions walked down with the team member. SARLOC successfully used.

► 15 team members involved.

6 AUGUST 20:00: 3 HOURS 50 MINS: NORTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **5 MALES & FEMALE. LOST & STUCK**

75 A family of six (including three children) became separated on their descent of the North Ridge and stuck in poor weather conditions. Luckily, one group could be seen from the road as they had a torch, and the other group was located using SARLOC. Two hill parties extracted the family members from their separate locations, and the Coastguard helicopter was put on standby until it was certain the children would be able to walk down. Everyone returned to base cold, wet and tired but in good spirits.

► 7 team members involved.

8 AUGUST 01:00: 7 HOURS: CWM DULYN: **MALE. HEAD/FACE INJURIES**

76 An instructor from an outdoor centre reported a student, wild camping with a



9 August. Incident No 74: Military aircraft crash: Team members assisted Llanberis team with an incident on Yr Aran © Llanberis MRT.

group in Cwm Dulyn, had banged his head and may have concussion. Further information came to light that the report was through a third party and the incident had happened several hours previously. It was agreed with the instructor that no action would be taken unless the group made an emergency call. Staff from the centre located the group at first light and the student was walked out for a precautionary check-up
 ► 2 team members involved.

9 AUGUST 13:42: 3 HOURS 48 MINS: YR ARAN: **6 MALES. AIRCRAFT INCIDENT**

77 OVMRO was asked to assist Llanberis MRT with an incident involving a military training aircraft on Yr Aran. An RAF training helicopter had made an emergency landing close to the summit before the aircraft caught fire. In the initial stages it was uncertain whether there were any casualties. Fortunately, all crew

members escaped the helicopter safely and they were then brought down to Nant Peris base by Helimed. Oggie team members then assisted with another incident on the Miners' Track...
 ► 12 team members involved.

9 AUGUST 14:30: 2 HOURS 30 MINS: MINERS' TRACK, SNOWDON: **MALE. ARM INJURIES**

78 ... involving a male with a wrist injury. A Llanberis member had located the casualty and begun to assist him towards Glaslyn. Oggie members drove a vehicle up to Llydaw and walked up to meet them. He was then driven to Pen y Pass to meet an ambulance.
 ► 11 team members involved.

12 AUGUST 14:30: 4 HOURS: CRIMPIAU: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

79 The team assisted a 16-year-old male who had stepped down and felt his left

knee pop whilst descending Crimpiau. He was unable to walk due to the pain. The casualty was of a large build and the evacuation would have taken some time to safely implement. Given this, the support of R936 was requested to transfer the casualty to hospital for treatment.

► 22 team members involved.

14 AUGUST 11:55: 2 HOURS 35 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **2 MALES. HEAD/FACE/ARM INJURIES**

80 A party of ten were starting the ascent of the North Ridge when the leader pulled up on a medium size rock. It displaced and fell onto the hand of a young boy and a fragment hit the head of an older boy. Given the possible injuries and the location, the support of R936 was requested and granted. Supported by ground troops, the casualties were winched aboard and flown to hospital.

► 14 team members involved.

14 AUGUST 17:55: 1 HOUR 35 MINS: NOR NOR GROOVES: **FEMALE. STUCK**

81 A couple, staying in Snowdonia had completed the Snowdon Horseshoe and been advised that Nor Nor Grooves would be a suitable step up in scrambling terms, being a 1+1/2 grade scramble. They completed about two-thirds of the scramble before the female became stuck some three metres above the gully bed, braced in a bridging move. At considerable risk of falling, she was also suffering cramps. Rescue 936 attended direct whilst a support team was put in place at Oggie base. The air crew conducted the rescue under difficult and confined working space but were able to winch the couple to safety.

► 11 team members involved.

14 AUGUST 20:25: 1 HOUR 35 MINS: NORTH RIDGE, TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

82 A couple had been making their way up to the summit of Tryfan after a late afternoon start and got into steep ground around the North Tower area. They decided to make their way back down to their vehicle and chose to descend the West Face as they felt reversing the North Ridge would have been difficult. They made only slow progress and had a small slip with a very minor injury to her knee. They called 999 but had significant connection problems. The team was called out and Rescue 936 tasked to search the West Face, given the originally reported location. However, the pair were intercepted by a team member as they walked into Idwal car park.

► 6 team members involved.

14 AUGUST 23:50: 15 MINS: CARNEDD GWENLLIAN: **NOTHING FOUND**

83 Lights were reported on the mountain, however, the excellent weather conditions and benign forecast encouraged lots of people to stay late on the mountains resulting in lights on most mountains in the area. There were no reports of missing or overdue people so the team leaders decided to suspend engagement unless there was new compelling information.

► 2 team members involved.

17 AUGUST 15:00: 2 HOURS 35 MINS: Y GARN: **TRAPPED DOG**

84 A dog was spotted trapped by its lead in some boulders a short distance away from some walkers descending the goat track. It was believed to have been there for 3-4 days and was quite aggressive. Via NWP, the party

asked for advice from mountain rescue about the issue and the Dog Warden kindly agreed to promptly meet the group at Idwal. On arrival there, the dog owners were very surprised to see it again. Apparently it had run away from a walking group some days before and the trailing lead had become trapped in rocks. The dog was lucky to be spotted by the passing group. No mountain rescue engagement other than advice.

► 2 team members involved.

21 AUGUST 14:50: 2 HOURS 35 MINS: ABER FALLS: **MALE. ARM INJURIES**

85 An experienced and well-equipped family group were crossing the river above Aber Falls when their dog lost his footing and pulled the father off balance. He fell into the river sustaining a painful wrist injury and became very cold due to the immersion. After requesting mountain rescue help the group started moving down slowly but stopped above the bad step. Team members splinted the wrist, gave pain relief and assisted him to walk down to the vehicles.

► 8 team members involved.

27 AUGUST 21:45: 1 HOUR 30 MINS: GLYDER FACH: **2 FEMALES. LOST**

86 Two walkers were reported overdue from an attempt on the Welsh 3000 Peaks. They had checked in with their partners at 18:00 from the summit of Glyder Fach and intended traversing Tryfan to a planned meeting point by Llyn Ogwen. At the same time, Llanberis MRT had been called for flashing lights in Cwm Ffynnon. When LLMRT members arrived at the flashing lights it turned out to be the two lost walkers! OVMRO troops were no longer needed and the walkers were escorted off by LLMRT.

► 2 team members involved.

29 AUGUST 17:20: 1 HOUR 50 MINS: MOEL SIABOD: **FEMALE. STUCK**

87 A party of three walkers parked at the Bryn Glo and set off on a walk up Moel Siabod using Viewranger with a downloaded route. When climbing the SE ridge they decided it was too technical so decided to turn back. They failed to find the path and dropped south of Llyn Y Foel so phoned for help. They were located using SARLOC, then told to walk north until they came to the main path, which they did, returning to their car without further assistance.

► 3 team members involved.

29 AUGUST 17:55: 1 HOUR 15 MINS: GRIBIN RIDGE: **MALE. HEAD/FACE INJURIES**

88 A group of five were descending the Gribin ridge when one of them fell and cut his head quite badly. The group applied dressings to the open wound and walked a short distance to the flat ground of the Football Pitch. The wound continued to bleed and, given the age of the casualty, the nature of the wound and the time it would take team members to get to the scene, the support of R936 was requested. Fortunately, the group was quickly found by the aircraft and the casualty flown to hospital.

► 10 team members involved.

31 AUGUST 15:07: 1 HOUR 28 MINS: BRISTLY RIDGE SCREES: **MALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES**

89 A walker slipped whilst descending the screes and suffered a minor leg injury and cut to the head. A hill party assembled at base but the R936 crew were able to winch him aboard and fly him to hospital for treatment.

► 14 team members involved.

september

3 SEPTEMBER 16:50: 5 HOURS 10 MINS: EAST FACE TRYFAN: **2 MALES. STUCK**

90 Two poorly-equipped walkers climbed the North Ridge in forecast wet weather and tried to descend the East Face, becoming cragfast about 15 metres above Heather Terrace. A small party climbed up to them, lowered them to the terrace and accompanied them off the hill.

► 9 team members involved.

5 SEPTEMBER 15:25: 4 HOURS 5 MINS: EASTERN TRAVERSE: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

91 A couple rang for help from the Eastern Traverse of Tryfan when the female refused to move despite being an experienced walker. Team members short roped her up to the ridge line and she was able to walk back down to the road unaided.

► 15 team members involved.

8 SEPTEMBER 14:25: 3 HOURS 35 MINS: FAIRY GLEN: **FEMALE. ARM INJURIES**

92 A female fell five metres from the path onto some rocks suffering arm and chest injuries. WAST were first on scene and requested the OVMRO assistance to extract the casualty from the gorge. A technical rope rescue system was set up to raise her to the top of the gorge and she was carried to the Coastguard helicopter.

► 13 team members involved.

11 SEPTEMBER 19:40: 3 HOURS 55 MINS: CWM LLOER: **FEMALE. STUCK**

93 A solo female walker lost the path in fading light and, unfortunately, had no torch. A small hill party located her and walked her back to the road.

► 7 team members involved.

16 SEPTEMBER 14:40: 1 HOUR 35 MINS: CWM LLOER: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

94 A male walker, in a well-organised group, slipped close to Llyn Lloer and suffered a painful ankle injury. Team members gathered at Oggie base whilst the Coastguard helicopter R936 went straight to scene. They were able to winch him aboard and fly direct to hospital, so no MRT action needed.

► 17 team members involved.

18 SEPTEMBER 12:20: 2 HOURS: BETWS Y COED: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

95 The male casualty was walking with a small group of four on a walk from Betws Y Coed to Miners Bridge and up to Swallow Falls. He sustained an injury to his right leg and called 999 for assistance. This was provided by WAST who also requested the team attend to assist with moving the man from the path to the ambulance. The team packaged the patient onto a stretcher and carried him 300 metres to the ambulance.

► 12 team members involved.

19 SEPTEMBER 20:25: 2 HOURS 30 MINS: NORTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **MALE & FEMALE. STUCK**

96 A couple became cragfast on the North Ridge as they tried to descend without torches. The route they had taken was unclear and the first report was that the wife had sore knees and could walk no further. A small hill party located the pair in the Waterfall Gully area on the lower North Ridge. They were able to walk back to the road with team members.

► 13 team members involved.

22 AUGUST 20:45: 4 HOURS 45 MINS:
YSBYTY GWYNEDD, BANGOR: **MALE. LOST**

97 The team were asked to search for a high risk missing person who had walked out of Ysbyty Gwynedd earlier in the day. A SARDA dog team searched the grounds of the hospital and the immediate surrounding area but the misper was not found.

► 4 team members involved.

24 SEPTEMBER 13:00: 1 HOUR: LLYN ELSI:
FEMALE. ILLNESS

98 An unconscious female was found by a mountain biker in the forest where there was rave music in the distance. The informant was not able to get a phone signal so returned to Betws Y Coed to make the emergency call. Given the reported unconscious nature of the casualty and the remote location, a request for R936 was made, together with mobilising the team. Whilst this was happening, police located the casualty and worked with the ambulance service to treat the casualty. Team and R936 were stood down

► 3 team members involved.

24 SEPTEMBER 14:30: 1 HOUR 15 MINS:
CRIMPIAU: **MALE. ILLNESS**

99 An emergency call was made, initially to NHS Direct, then the ambulance service, advising that a 15-year-old male was semi-conscious due to illness. Given the potential severity of the patient's condition, WAST requested the tasking of R936, which was training off the coast at Blackpool, to support a rapid response paramedic. The team was mobilised and the casualty located by the aircraft and flown to hospital.

► 7 team members involved.

27 SEPTEMBER 15:30: 5 HOURS 30 MINS:
ABERGLASLYN: **MALE. FATALITY**

100 OVMRO was asked to assist Aberglaslyn team members with a search and recovery operation for a missing kayaker in the Afon Glaslyn. A joint response was organised with hasty and primary searches of the banks from the bridge upstream and the Point Last Seen (PLS). He was located about a metre below the surface. Initial recovery operations were unsuccessful and suspended due to darkness and team members returned next day to help recover the body.

► 14 team members involved.

28 SEPTEMBER 06:30: 5 HOURS 30 MINS:
ABERGLASLYN: **MALE. FATALITY**

101 In a continuation of the previous day's incident, a small party of team members assist Aberglaslyn MRT with the recovery of a body from the Afon Glaslyn. A joint effort with North Wales FRS resulted in extraction of the body from the water and a short stretcher carry back to the road where NWP took over.

► 6 team members involved.

28 SEPTEMBER 14:30: 5 HOURS 15 MINS:
LITTLE GULLY, EAST FACE TRYFAN: **MALE. ARM INJURIES**

102 A Mountain Leader training group of seven, including two leaders, were descending Little Gully with safety ropes when one of the party slipped, lost his footing and wrenched his shoulder out. It was too painful to continue so they called for help. The Coastguard helicopter was deployed but was unable to recover the casualty and winchy to the cab, due to turbulence. Oggie team members climbed into the site and treated the casualty, then



8 September. Incident No 92: Rescue in Fairy Glen: Team members rescue a woman who fell five metres from the path © Chris Bradshaw.

lowered him on ropes to the Heather Terrace. He and the winchy were then able to walk off back to Oggie base with team members.

► 22 team members involved.

30 SEPTEMBER 12:00: 1 HOUR 45 MINS:
BRISTLY SCREES: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

103 A lone walker slipped on wet rock close to the top of the Bristly Screes and injured his ankle. A passing walker stopped to help but the casualty was not able to easily move from his position. Due to the clear weather and the fact that the casualty was high up on the mountain, R936 was tasked whilst team members assembled at Oggie base. The aircraft was able to winch the casualty and drop him off at base for assessment by the team doctor.

► 15 team members involved.

30 SEPTEMBER 20:10: 20 MINS: BELOW
BOCHLWYD STEPS: **FEMALE. ARM INJURIES**

104 A female walker, with a large group of friends, slipped near the bottom of the Bochlwyd steps, hurting her wrist. Many of the party arrived at the YHA asking for help because she felt faint. However, within a few minutes of the team being activated the casualty walked into the YHA unaided.

► 8 team members involved.

OCTOBER

2 OCTOBER 13:45: 2 HOUR 45 MINS:
BANGOR: **MALE. FATALITY**

105 A body was discovered in woods close to Tesco Bangor by BIRD search dogs. Team members were tasked to carry the body by stretcher to the road for the undertaker.

► 13 team members involved.

2 OCTOBER 11:25: 15 MINS:
PENMAENMAWR: **MALE. LOST**

106 A vulnerable gentleman, reported missing from a residential care home was later found safe and well. No MRT action required.

► 3 team members involved.

2 OCTOBER 18:40: ABER FALLS: **MALE. ILLNESS**

107 A walker with medical problems walked further than intended and became unwell. His daughter ran down to the village for help. He improved sufficiently with food to walk the short distance to the team Land Rover, was assessed and advised to attend the local hospital if he felt unwell again.

► 13 team members involved.



13 October. Incident No 114: North Ridge of Tryfan: Team rescues man from above Heather Terrace after he became separated from his friend and tried to retrace his steps down the mountain © OVMRO.

5 OCTOBER 14:10: 2 HOURS 50 MINS:
AFON DDU: **FEMALE. SPINE**

108 A nine-year-old girl slipped whilst scrambling in the Afon Ddu gorge and landed on her back on a rock. The instructor decided to treat her as a spinal injury as the girl was complaining of numbness in her back, and the team was called to extract her. A small group of team members treated her, placed her in a vacmat and then used a stretcher to carry her out of the gorge to the team Land Rover. She was then driven a short distance to waiting ambulance for transfer to hospital.

► 15 team members involved.

8 OCTOBER 15:10: 1 HOUR 10 MINS: CARNEDD LLEWELYN: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

109 A walker slipped and injured her ankle whilst on an organised mountain walk. Despite strapping, she was unable to continue

walking. Whilst troops were gathering at base, R936 attended, picked up the casualty and took her straight to hospital.

► 11 team members involved.

9 OCTOBER 13:30: 3 HOURS 30 MINS: CWM CLYD: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

110 A group of six friends were climbing a gully on the main face of Y Garn when a large block of stone dislodged and fell on to the lower leg of one, causing great pain. His friends managed to hobble him out of the gully and began to descend the mountain. They were met by the first hill party and the injury was treated by team members. As the stretcher party was being deployed R936 arrived on scene and picked up the casualty and took him direct to hospital. SARLOC used successfully.

► 14 team members involved.

10 OCTOBER 18:00: 3 HOURS 35 MINS:
BANGOR: **MALE. STUCK**

111 Two friends decided to walk around the Glyderau on a very fine day without map or compass, or indeed anything much else in the way of equipment. They missed the descent path for the Devil's Kitchen and ended up cragfast on the goat path. Their lack of local knowledge and poor ability to describe their location prolonged matters. They were eventually located by the small light on one of their phones. Team members climbed the goat path and guided the pair to safe ground, back down via Devil's Kitchen.

► 10 team members involved.

12 OCTOBER 23:45: 2 HOURS 15 MINS:
CWM TRYFAN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

112 A 999 call was received from a group high in Cwm Tryfan reporting a teenager with an ankle injury and could move no further. There was no further contact with the group so developing a response plan was challenging. Given the nature of the injury and location, the support of the Coastguard R936 was requested. Team members supported the operation from base whilst the aircraft recovered the casualty and flew him to hospital for treatment.

► 5 team members involved.

13 OCTOBER 14:10: EAST FACE TRYFAN:
MALE. LOST

113 Two friends decided to climb the North Ridge of Tryfan but separated high on the ridge as one of them was not happy on the steep ground. One managed to gain the summit and return to the road, however, the other tried to retrace his steps down the mountain, became lost and lacked confidence. He rang for help but could not provide much information about his

location. A hill party was deployed and after much searching with binos he was spotted about 25 metres above the Heather Terrace on a ledge system. At this point the Coastguard helicopter was requested as extraction from that location would prove difficult. The helicopter winched the casualty aboard and flew him to Oggie base whilst the hill party walked off.

► 15 team members involved.

15 OCTOBER 14:40: 2 HOURS 50 MINS:
CLOGWYN CYRAU: **MALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES**

114 A male climber fell a short distance whilst leading on Little Buttress, landing on a boulder and then taking a further fall onto rocky ground at the base of the buttress. A WAST paramedic was on scene first and asked OVMRO to assist with the extraction. Team members went to the scene where the casualty was placed in a stretcher for a short carry uphill to a team vehicle. He was driven down to the road and transferred to an ambulance for onward journey to hospital.

► 17 team members involved.

18 OCTOBER 09:30: 3 HOURS: NORTH RIDGE OF TRYFAN: **MALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES**

115 Two males were scrambling on the lower part of the North Ridge when one slipped and took a tumbling fall of about ten metres. He suffered several lacerations to his head and had spinal pain so R936 was requested immediately. Two team members were flown up to assist the winchman. The casualty was flown to Bangor Hospital whilst the team members and the other scrambler walked down to the road.

► 5 team members involved.

november

19 OCTOBER 21:10: 40 MINS: GRIBIN RIDGE: **NOTHING FOUND**

116 A walker in the Cwm Idwal area reported seeing lights waving in a circular motion on the Gribin Ridge. He was concerned someone may need help. Unfortunately, the team leader could not contact the informant despite repeated attempts. It was agreed with NWP that, as there was no direct call for assistance and nobody was reported missing, the team would not deploy. No action taken.

► 1 team member involved.

20 OCTOBER 20:00: 3 HOURS 30 MINS: PEN YR OLE WEN: **MALE. LOST**

117 A male walker attempted to walk from Gerlan to Idwal YHA over the Carneddau, but it took longer than expected. Although he had a torch, he felt it was inadequate for the steep ground he needed to descend. A small hill party located him and provided him with better lighting, and he was able to walk off the hill with the team.

► 13 team members involved.

22 OCTOBER 12:20: 43 HOURS 10 MINS: BOCHLWYD: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

118 A man and his son were descending the South Ridge of Tryfan when he slipped and twisted his ankle. He was unable to walk so called 999 for assistance. With the help of some other walkers he managed to bum shuffle his way all the way down to the Bochlwyd outflow where he was met by team members. His leg was splinted and he was assisted down to the flatter ground where he was then placed in a stretcher for a short evacuation to the road and ambulance. A great effort on his part.

► 9 team members involved.

25 OCTOBER 17:30: 3 HOURS 35 MINS: FOEL GOCH: **MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

119 A couple set off up Tryfan, followed by the Bristly Screes. They headed for the Gribin but were not confident in the low cloud so reversed direction and headed east, ascending Foel Goch before calling for advice. They were told to keep walking east to be met by team members coming up the hill. They actually turned north down Afon Bwlch Goleuni to the Land Rover track and followed this back to their car at the Milestone. Luckily they were intersected by the team Land Rover and team members recalled.

► 9 team members involved.

25 OCTOBER 18:20: 3 HOURS 40 MINS: Y GARN/DEVIL'S KITCHEN: **NOTHING FOUND**

120 Reports came in from two independent parties — one at the base of Idwal Slabs, the other descending Devil's Kitchen — that a male voice shouting for help was heard for about 20 minutes. The location triangulated to an area east of Devil's Kitchen at the base of Glyder Fawr main face. The Coastguard aircraft from Caernarfon was requested to do a FLIR search of the area, as darkness had fallen and the terrain, while accessible, was not easy to search for a possibly collapsed person. Ground troops were also deployed to ascend and search the area. After 45 minutes of searching, in good FLIR conditions, with only seven goats, a few sheep and maybe a fox seen, the search was called off and attributed to the goats. Again!

► 13 team members involved.

27 OCTOBER 14:40: 5 HOURS 20 MINS: FOEL GOCH: **MALE. STUCK**

121 A solo male walker set out to scramble the Crib Lem Ridge above Cwm Llafar,

but mistakenly carried on past the ridge and became stuck on steep ground at the base of the Black Ladders cliffs. R936 were asked to assist but could not reach the casualty location due to the near vertical cliff above him. However, they flew four team members to a location close by. The team members then climbed up to the walker and lowered him on a rope system to safer ground, before abseiling off and walking out to Gerlan.

► 15 team members involved.

29 OCTOBER 15:00: 2 HOURS: ABERGWYNGREGYN COASTAL PATH: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

122 Two brothers were walking from Abergwyngregyn on the North Wales Coastal Path when one slipped, dislocating his kneecap, an injury which had previously occurred some years ago. Their location was confirmed using SARLOC. Fortunately the kneecap returned to its normal position but the casualty was unable to continue. A small group of team members were able to move the casualty back to the road for the journey to hospital.

► 14 team members involved.

29 OCTOBER 20:05: 1 HOUR 10 MINS: TRYFAN: **MALE & 2 FEMALES. LOST**

123 A concerned member of the public reported three climbers overdue from Grooved Arête on the East Face of Tryfan. Team leaders made some initial enquiries during which the missing climbers turned up safe and well at the Brewshack. The route had taken longer than expected but they were adequately equipped with torches etc to make the descent in the dark. False alarm with good intent.

► 3 team members involved.

1 NOVEMBER 12:30: 2 HOURS 50 MINS: NORTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **FEMALE. LEG INJURIES**

124 The casualty was scrambling on the lower part of the North Ridge of Tryfan when she slipped on wet rock and tumbled a short distance gashing her lower leg. Her friend treated the injury and stopped the bleeding, but they felt unable to descend unaided so rang for help. Team members administered pain relief, and the girl was able to slowly walk down the hill back to the road.

► 15 team members involved.

15 NOVEMBER 16:30: 5 HOURS 5 MINS: CWM DULYN: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

125 Two males were descending the path between Llyn Melynlyn and the Dulyrn Bothy (where they intended to stay), when one slipped and injured his ankle. He tried to continue but it was too painful to walk. His friend went on to the bothy for help and met up with two MR personnel, also overnighing. They got him into a group shelter and a Land Rover and team members drove up to Llyn Melynlyn to assist. The casualty was 'hopped' up the steep track, then carried on a stretcher the remaining 200 metres. He was then driven to his own vehicle.

► 9 team members involved.

26 NOVEMBER 16:15: 4 HOURS 15 MINS: CARNEDD LLEWELYN: **STUCK**

126 A group of thirteen got stuck below the summit of Carnedd Llewelyn, one of them having a panic attack. Their location was confirmed using SARLOC. Luckily, an RAF MRT party was close by so went to the scene and walked the group back down to Oggie base.

► 12 team members involved.

December

3 DECEMBER 14:07: 3 HOURS 53 MINS: YR ELEN: **MALE. TRUNK/ARM INJURIES**

127 A solo hill walker fell on a snow patch whilst descending from Yr Elen and slipped about 20 metres before hitting a rock. Luckily, he was found by another group who reported his injuries as shoulder and ribs, with difficulty breathing. Their location was confirmed using SARLOC. The Coastguard helicopter was tasked and the winchman requested mountain rescue back up, so four team members were flown to the casualty site. The casualty was treated and flown to hospital for treatment.
► 13 team members involved.

3 DECEMBER 16:45: 10 MINS: CWM IDWAL: **MALE. LOST**

128 Oggie base received a call from a staff member at the Brew Shack, Idwal Cottage reporting a customer split from her husband on a local walk — believed from the description to be around Llyn Idwal — and he was without a head torch. Whilst dealing with this report and contacting NWP, the informant called back to say the husband had turned up safe and well. A team vehicle deployed and cancelled whilst en route to collect team members from another incident.
► 4 team members involved.

3 DECEMBER 17:15: 45 MINS: NANT FFRANCON: **NOTHING FOUND**

129 A concerned staff member at the Life Foundation Centre in Nant Ffrancon reported seeing lights coming down the mountain opposite the centre. An OVMRO vehicle and team members returning from another incident were redirected to the location to investigate. Team members on scene believed the lights were

most likely to be from mountain walkers or fell runners descending the ridge of Carnedd y Filiast north east, towards the A5. Lights were seen to be making steady progress downhill. There was no further reporting or requests for assistance so the incident was closed with NWP as a false alarm made with good intent.
► 8 team members involved.

4 DECEMBER 12:50: 35 MINS: GREAT ORME: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

130 A male walker slipped and injured his lower leg whilst walking on the Great Orme. The team was requested but, after discussion with NWP, it was agreed the Coastguard Rescue Team would be able to respond in a shorter time so the incident was passed to them.
► 3 team members involved.

16 DECEMBER 10:40: 1 HOUR 35 MINS: NORTH RIDGE TRYFAN: **FEMALE. MULTIPLE INJURIES**

131 A solo female walker fell on the North Ridge causing leg and facial injuries. Initially no contact was possible with her so the team assembled at Oggie base and R936 was asked to assist. A team spotter finally located a flashing torch high on the ridge and the helicopter was able to go straight to the scene and evacuate her to hospital.
► 15 team members involved.

26 DECEMBER 11:52: 1 HOUR 53 MINS: CWM IDWAL: **MALE. HEAD/FACE INJURIES**

132 A male walker collapsed on the footpath around Llyn Idwal after a possible fit. The collapse also caused significant facial injury. Team members were deployed to the incident

site and R936 was also requested to attend. Working together, the casualty was treated, placed in a stretcher and carried to the aircraft which had managed to land close by. Team members then cleared the scene and walked off the hill.
► 15 team members involved.

28 DECEMBER 11:35: 2 HOURS 50 MINS: TRYFAN SUMMIT: **MALE. LEG INJURIES**

133 A male suffered a leg injury close to the summit of Tryfan and was unable to continue. Team members assembled at base but R936 were also requested as he was very high up and the temperature was very low. He was winched from the mountain and dropped off at Oggie base, whilst his family were walked down by a team member.
► 8 team members involved.

28 DECEMBER 18:22: 2 HOURS 30 MINS: MOEL SIABOD: **2 MALES & FEMALE. LOST**

134 Three poorly-equipped walkers became lost on their descent from the summit of Moel Siabod. They missed the path back to Plas y Brenin and ended up at the upper edge of the forest above the A5. A team vehicle drove up the track from Rhos farm and quickly located the lost group. They were returned to their car.
► 14 team members involved.

30 DECEMBER 17:00: 7 HOURS 25 MINS: IDWAL SLABS: **MALE & FEMALE. LOST**

135 Two climbers had completed Tennis Shoe on the Idwal Slabs but then were unable to locate the descent route. They climbed higher up onto a ledge which they were unable to escape as they felt there were inadequate belay points. Initially, R936 tried to extract them but wind conditions were unsuitable for winching.



Shirt sleeves and stretchers:
Team members with stretcher high above the A5, during warmer weather © Russ Hore

They returned to Caernarfon base and a hill party was deployed to the incident site. The climbers were then roped down to safe ground and walked out to the road with team members.
► 10 team members involved.

31 DECEMBER 13:05: 1 HOUR 35 MINS: PENMAEMMAWR QUARRIES: **MALE. LOST**

136 A vulnerable male, with the possibility of self harm, was reported as being in the Penmaenmawr quarry area. Whilst NWP made initial investigations, the team was put on standby and a search manager asked to formulate a search plan. With the assistance of the police helicopter, NWP officers on the ground located the missing person in a hut and the team was stood down.
► 7 team members involved.



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THE TEAM HAS HAD ANOTHER STEADY YEAR REGARDING OUR CASUALTIES. ONCE AGAIN, LOWER LIMB INJURIES LEAD THE WAY WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF INJURIES.

We have continued our close working relations with the crews of the HM Coastguard Rescue Helicopter based out of Caernarfon. They have provided exceptional care to our casualties and are a relief to anyone in distress or injured. We hope this will continue for many more years to come.

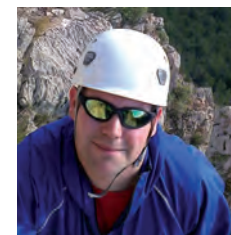
After a meeting with Chris Onions who was the training officer at the time, it was decided to look at reducing the burden of team members and take Casualty Care training outside of the team. With the support of our team doctor, we consulted with ORMS Ltd based in Llanllechid, down the road.

ORMS already has an international reputation for delivery of Hazardous Area Paramedic training and for us seemed the logical course for delivery of our training. As ORMS currently deliver training to the RAF Mountain Rescue Service and have previously trained the RAF Search and Rescue rear crew. (Most have moved to Bristow). This allowed a common syllabus and language to be taught.

The majority of team members received some level of training and all who did thoroughly enjoyed it. It makes a difference when you have staff delivering training who practise what they teach as part of their day job.

We are delighted to have recently welcomed Dr Lisa Handcock from Ysbyty Gwynedd into the team as a Specialist Member. Lisa has a background in Anaesthetics and Pre Hospital Emergency Medicine and will be supporting Glynne and the rest of the Cas Care Group in driving standards up.

John Carrie
Casualty Care Officer



CASUALTY CARE

JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE NAME OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION SEEMS TO BE ON MANY MAILING LISTS.

Chris Lloyd
Press Officer



It is the press officer's duty to ensure OVMRO is kept in the public eye and that articles published are accurate. We have two regular supporters, The Daily Post and the services of Glyn and Derrick Bellis who, as freelance journalists, spread the name nationwide. BBC Wales will usually get in touch if there has been a major rescue or a fatal incident. They even asked for a live radio interview on the morning that the last Land Rover Defender came off the production line. As an enthusiast myself, I was able to wax lyrical about these vehicles, but when I commented about the time-served feature of 'rain in and oil out' the interview came to an abrupt end!

There have been several approaches from various TV companies. Wishing to share the opportunity for publicity, I frequently reply by offering the names of other MRTs in North Wales. We did undertake one day of filming with Sky TV for a series on tourism in several European countries. We carried out a short stretcher lower and I was asked to advise or comment on mountain safety. Whilst wishing to promote Snowdonia, I was frequently asked, 'What is the worst that could happen' and, of course, the blunt answer had to be 'death'. There seemed to be no way of avoiding this fact. I will be interested in the result when it is screened in 2017.

This year has been punctuated with extremes of good and sad news. In mid-March, the well renowned character, Roger Jones MBE died in hospital. Roger had been a founder member of the team. He was a team leader, committee member, chairman and transport officer. He will be remembered not only for his big voice but also his big heart.

At Easter, a couple were seeking the descent from Tryfan's wintery summit. Trying to find a route



Risking Life and Limb TGO Book of the Year 2016: Left to right: George Manley, Judy Whiteside, Paul Hodges and Andy Harbach at the TGO Awards in November. Moel Siabod Café won Highly Commended in the Café of the Year category © Andy Harbach.

down the West Face, the woman slipped and fell a great distance. The inquest was reported in the Daily Telegraph in August.

At the beginning of May, Dr Tony Jones MBE died after a few years of declining health. Tony had been a long standing member of OVMRO and as chairman for over twenty years, he built a strong, forward thinking organisation. His funeral, later that month, was attended by senior officers of the emergency services both from the UK and overseas. His detailed obituary was published in the Sunday Telegraph in late June.

Of the good news, a book about the long standing history of the Pen y Gwryd Hotel was published and this included chapters written by the Chairman of OVMRO and myself.

Even better news was the nomination of our own book celebrating the first fifty years of OVMRO for Book of the Year award at The Great Outdoors magazine awards. The best news was that Risking Life and Limb won. Judy Whiteside, the author, George Manley, the illustrator, and our chairman attended this prestigious event held in Kendal in November. As this award has

helped increase sales, we are very grateful for the nomination.

Like all civilian mountain rescue teams in the UK, we are dependent almost entirely on voluntary contributions to finance these charities. Whilst our clients are often 'advised' as to how we are funded, their 'post rescue' donations can never meet the annual turnover. It is only by keeping the name Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue in the public eye that individuals, both mountain and non-mountain users, climbing clubs and businesses will continue with their generous support. This enables us to continue to provide this 'free' search and rescue service 24/7.

I thank my team mates John Carrie and Jim Langley for keeping OVMRO in the social media and to Gerwyn Lloyd for his expertise in giving interviews in Welsh. The website is kept up to date by a small army of members. This is an essential part of publicity for OVMRO. We even receive complaints from some of our clients if their rescue has not been posted on the site within 24 hours!

Paddling about on the river: Team members training in water rescue techniques, in and out of the water © Russ Hore.



EQUIPMENT OFFICER

THE TECHNICAL ROPE RESCUE TRAINING THAT WAS DELIVERED BY OUR EXTERNAL TRAINER, KIRK MAUTHNER, IN MAY 2016 PROMPTED FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS OF OUR ROPE SYSTEMS AND A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE KIT.

Research had been carried out by the mountain rescue service in British Columbia with very interesting results. There was clear evidence to show that two equally tensioned ropes are less likely to fail than a dedicated main line (under full tension), backed up by a separate safety line, which would catch the load if the main line failed. This required a swift rethink of our systems and some equipment, and thanks must go to Jed Stone for updating our shadow boards in base to reflect the new tech rescue bag contents. We are still evaluating a device called a Scarab and also looking at other belay devices, which would maintain our safety margins when lowering our full rescue loads.

The rope testing that was planned for 2016 was halted slightly while we reviewed our systems so this is still required for 2017 and we are looking forward to establishing links with DMM and carrying out compatibility drop testing at their facility in Llanberis.

Swiftwater kit has undergone a significant review during 2016 with the personal issue of 16 sets of swiftwater kit to SRT-trained team members and an update of the current base kits. This initiative will reduce the response time of having properly equipped members on scene without the delay of having to go to base to collect kit. Another benefit will be properly fitting and safer kit due to not having to be one size fits all, which is correctly stored and regularly maintained by the individual team member.

Dave Jones
Equipment Officer





Smoke gets in your eyes: Getting to grips with the flares used to direct the helicopter close to a casualty site © Russ Hore.

As part of our ongoing 'Kit issue' scheme, rucksacks have been the project for 2016. So thanks to Tim Bird for narrowing down the field and arranging the order. Thanks also go to Cotswold Outdoor for their support with this project.

We will shortly be losing the regular support and input from a long-standing team member who has been the equipment officer for many, many years prior to me taking over. His knowledge

on equipment is vast and his continued support during my two years has been invaluable.

Thanks Kevin!

The role of equipment officer has been very demanding on time, so I'm extremely grateful for the responsibility taken on by the specialist subgroups (Casualty Care, Swiftwater and Search) for the checking and management of their equipment.

training officer

HAVING RECENTLY TAKEN ON THE ROLE OF TRAINING OFFICER AT SHORT NOTICE, THE FIRST TASK WAS TO PUT TOGETHER A TRAINING CALENDAR FOR 2017, WITH THE HELP OF JED STONE.

Craig Jowitt
Training Officer

We began by highlighting the training needs of the team, then started filling out the calendar. All the 'core skills' are now slotted in. The next task is to add in the fun — the interesting and progressive training — and we'll be working with Plas Y Brenin to utilise their expertise in short roping, security on steep ground and stance management.

The team currently has fourteen trainees. The challenge is to get them through their final hill day in spring before taking on more. It's amazing to see so many people wanting to join the team and give up their time. There's a lot to take in but the rewards are amazing for those who stick it out. The trainees are the future of the team!

We've seen a couple of very experienced team members stand down after many years service and trying to fill that void will be hard but also an opportunity for new ideas and skills to flourish.

With not having a winter skills weekend this year, I will be making sure next year's is a good one. It will likely be Scotland, unsure of which coast but I'll book the weather in advance!

Daz Edkins is currently flying the Ogwen flag in Croatia this year on their winter assessment week, I look forward to the pictures and stories. Ogwen has had a close relationship with the Croatian rescue team for many years. It's a great way of learning new skills and sharing ideas.

Feedback and support has been brilliant and is much welcomed. Any ideas or suggestions please get in touch with me. Finally, I'd like to thank Jed for all his help, which has made the role achievable for me!

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Extra Urban 60.1-62.8 (4.7-4.5); Combined 53.3-57.7 (5.3-4.9). CO₂ Emissions 139-129 g/km.

The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only.

TWENTY YEARS!
AND IT'S QUITE
A STORY: TWENTY
YEARS SINCE 333,
THE OVMRO
SUPPORT GROUP,
WAS FORMED. THE
INITIAL CONCEPT
WAS TO RAISE
FUNDS TO MEET
SPIRALLING
RUNNING COSTS
AND NO OTHER
TEAM IN THE
COUNTRY HAD A
SIMILAR SCHEME.

We were pleased to have as patrons, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Lord Aberconwy, the Marquess of Anglesey and the then Chief Constable of North Wales Police, Michael Argent and a number of mountain equipment retailers agreed discounts for members (now only Cotswold Outdoors).

At the inaugural meeting on 13 September 1997, I was honoured to be appointed chairman. I have watched 333 grow, both in numbers and in professionalism, from a fundraising group to an integral part of OVMRO. 333 members now perform duties previously undertaken by team members, allowing them to focus on the ever-increasing workload. The team has seen a doubling of call-outs over the past decade with more diverse incidents such as swiftwater rescue and flooding requiring extra training and expense. By undertaking routine tasks such as staffing base at weekends, cleaning and secretarial work, 333 has enabled the team be where it is, in the vanguard of search and rescue. So to all 333 members, thank you for your invaluable commitment.

We look for ways we can say thank you, and to this end, continue to run GPS training, basic first aid, navigation, tracking courses and so on, together with walks, camping weekends and other activities. A complete list of activities for 333 members is available on the team website.

I believe 333 is the benchmark for support groups. Over the years, a number of teams have contacted us about setting up similar systems, including the newly-formed SAR team in Sweden.

Please keep up the excellent work as there is no doubt that SAR motto, 'That Others May Live', refers to 333 members as well as the team. Thank you, and may the next twenty years see continued growth and integration with the team.

Clive Swombow
Chairman 333



TREBLE THREE

ON SUNDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER, TEAM MEMBERS TIM RADFORD GAVE TREBLE THREE MEMBERS AN EXCELLENT INSIGHT INTO THE TECHNIQUES OF FIRST RESPONSE ON FINDING A CASUALTY – THE SAME ON WHETHER ON THE HILL OR IN THE STREET.

Chris Wycherly
333 Member

We were given a quick tour of the base, showing us the extensive equipment store. I am always impressed with the meticulous organisation and storage of the equipment. Everything clearly labelled and in its prescribed place.

The session then continued with the DR C ABCDE protocol, the sequence that should be adhered to when a casualty is approached.

D Danger: the responder should look for any danger that may exist firstly to themselves and then to others including the casualty.

R Response: the casualty's responsiveness should be ascertained.

HELP: Call for assistance

C Catastrophic bleeding: a new addition to the protocol, added following casualty care in a war situation. Any catastrophic bleeding should be stemmed as a priority.

Following this assessment the following should be completed:

A Airway: Ensure the casualty's airway is clear.

B Breathing: Assess the casualty's breathing. If not breathing ensure help is on its way and commence CPR.

C Circulation: Check pulses and potential sources of blood loss

D Disability: Assess conscious level.

E Environment: Protect against exposure and evacuate.

Following lunch, team member John Carrie, a senior paramedic from North West Ambulance Service and the team's casualty care officer, gave us an excellent demonstration of the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator. This included new thinking in the methods which have not as yet been distributed to the emergency services. We heard it first!

Tracking skills course:

Clive Swombow instructing Tracking and Clue Awareness Course for 333 members during 2016 © OVMRO.



Many of these AED devices are sited in public spaces, the locality of which will be given to you if you were to call 999, if you are within 200 metres. We all felt this demonstration was invaluable, although we all hoped we'd not ever have to use it. We were also shown John's interesting training aid to demonstrate how to deal with a choking casualty. Although a serious matter, much fun was had in trying to aim the offending obstruction across the room.

We finished the day with a demonstration of setting up and carrying the Bell stretcher, complete with casualty (a bucket full of water), around various objects close to the base. This showed the difficulties the team encounters when having to carry an injured party down a mountainside.

Although most of us had previously completed first aid courses, it is always good to recap as lack of use causes us all to forget. Thanks Tim.

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2017. WHY NOT COME ALONG, MEET OTHER MEMBERS AND LEARN NEW SKILLS?

Wednesday 5 April. 19:00

Base familiarisation for team members and Treble Three members wanting to do base ops. Meet at Bryn Poeth.

Saturday 3 June. 10:00 to 16:00

Navigation practice. A chance to hone your

navigation skills in the hills. Meet at Bryn Poeth then out and about in the Oggie Valley.

Sunday 3 July. 10:00 to 15:00

Midsummer Madness Walk. Join us for an interesting walk through somewhere in Snowdonia. Venue to be decided!

Saturday 5 August 07:00 to 21:00

Oggie 8 Challenge. Meet at Bryn Poeth.

Sunday 20 August. 10:00 to 16:00

Tracking, search and clue awareness. Find out how the team looks for clues to find missing persons in the hills and local environment. See website for details nearer the time.

Sunday 24 September. 10:00 to 16:00

333 Casualty Care day. A chance to look at some of the techniques and equipment used by the rescue team when dealing with a casualty. Meet at Bryn Poeth.

Saturday 4 November. 18:00

Evening walk. Out and about. See website for details nearer the time.

All events are emailed to members or find them on the website, under Support Group. If you have not received any notifications, we probably do not have your email address. If this is the case, please email secretary@333.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.



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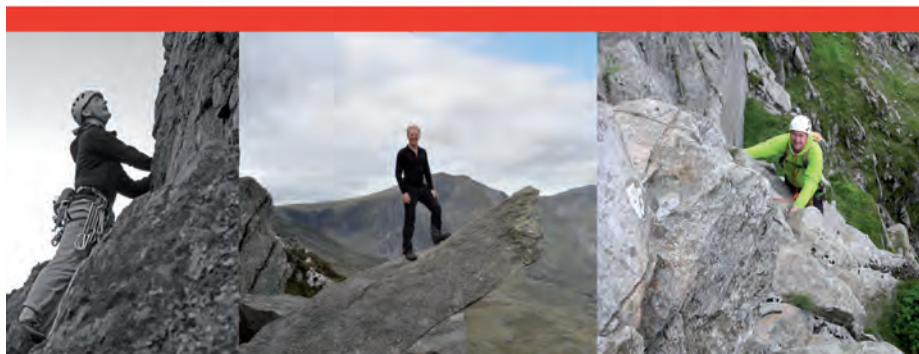
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Joe Brown Shops are all based in the heart of Snowdonia. We have two shops in Llanberis; Menai Hall and the Corner Shop, and another shop in Capel Curig. "The Corner Shop" specialises in footwear & fell running, family outdoor & gear for kids. Our Menai and Capel Curig shops cater more for the mountaineer and climber, and are an Aladdin's cave of technical gear and equipment from all the best specialist outdoor brands, including...



treasurers report

IT'S A COLD JANUARY BANK HOLIDAY AS I'M ASSEMBLING MY LAST TREASURER'S REPORT. DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS DAVE AND I HAVE, I HAVE DECIDED IT'S TIME TO STEP DOWN AS TREASURER. THE ADMIN ROLES CONTINUE TO GROW IN TIME AND COMPLEXITY – AND PROBABLY CHALLENGE THE TEAM LEADERS FOR THE TIME COMMITMENT!

Jo Worrall
Honorary Treasurer



We will be glad to regain the back room from team papers and merchandise and our weekend days for being out in the hills instead of gazing at them from behind a computer screen.

As has already been noted, the old charity has now been merged with the CIO. This will make the accounts simpler in the future with just the one set to prepare. All the resources are now with the CIO.

On the following pages you will find the Trustee Report. My thanks go to Pete Frost for preparing this on behalf of the trustees.

A part of my role is receiving donations in memory — sad to say, as you can see from the accounts, we receive a large amount from donations in memory and bequests. This year these have included:

Peter Baker	Roy Samuel Moore
Derren Barber	Moriarty Garlic
Sandra E Bell	Challenge (Douglas Arms, Bethesda)
Maria Blagojevich	Stephen James Oakes
Peter James Davenport	Marcus Pither
Gerald Doig	Mrs Mair Powell
David James Duce	Michael Powell
Dennis Charles Fawcett	David Smith
Miss D E Flynn	Tracy Smith Memorial Fund
Albert Edward Griffiths	Ieuan Gwynn Roberts
David Meredith Hilditch	Trevor Roberts
Malcolm Hollway	Eluned Mary Thomas
Ian Hughes	Mrs M E Thomas
Arfon Jones	George Tod
Dr ASG 'Tony' Jones	Daniel Turner
Mrs Mary Jones	Mr and Mrs Venn
Roger Jones	Paul Wood
Jane Marshall (Wilson)	Mal Wright
Clifford Frank May	
Paul Mooney	

On behalf of the team, our thanks to these people, families and friends. And how could I finish without thanking the Treasurer's Assistant? A huge thank you to Dave for all the help he gives me with our accounting software.

THE TRUSTEES PRESENT THEIR REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016. THIS REPORT IS PRESENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE, 'ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING BY CHARITIES' (SORP) PUBLISHED ON 16 JULY 2014.

On behalf of the Trustees
Peter Frost
Trustee

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to a constitution dated 12 March 2016 and a rule book dated 7 May 2016. It was established on 1 June 2015 to take forward the work of the unincorporated organisation, registered charity number 502442, which merged with the CIO on 12 March 2016.

The CIO's annual reports are published on the Charity Commission website, with effect from the year ending 31 December 2015. The unincorporated organisation's reports are also published and provide a clear comparative of the financial activities and financial position with this, and previous accounting periods.

The CIO is affiliated to the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (NWMRA) and Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW).

Statement of 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
- Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing 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.

Organisation

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Andy Harbach (Chairman)
Jo Worrall (Treasurer)
Peter Frost (Secretary)
David Jones (Equipment Officer) until 12.03.2016
Chris Lloyd
Russ Hore from 12.03.2016
Bill Dean from 12.03.2016

Trustees are appointed by election at the AGM. There must be at least three and not more than seven elected Trustees. The Members of the CIO are individuals who undertake to act in good faith to further the purposes of the CIO.

The affairs of the CIO are managed by the charity Trustees with day-to-day management devolved to a management committee elected by the members of the CIO at the AGM.

Objectives and activities

- 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.

Activity and performance

The role of the Trustees is to ensure that the charity carries out its objectives as agreed in its registration as a charity and that it is managed in accordance with charity law and the regulations of the Charities Commission.

The CIO, through attendance at 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, helped maintain OVMRO's high public profile during the year. As a result the CIO benefits from a strong flow of charitable donations and remains in a strong financial position to deliver its charitable objectives.

Operationally the organisation has experienced another busy year, responding to 136 reported incidents. Team members have assisted, and been assisted by, neighbouring mountain rescue teams and 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 this inter-agency working occurred during an incident on a steep snow slope on Glyder Fach. Team members were engaged in this incident during most of the night and were grateful to be joined early the following morning by colleagues from Aberglaslyn MRT, RAF MRT and the Coastguard helicopter. This joint response enabled a successful outcome for the casualty. Later in the year, team members assisted colleagues from Aberglaslyn MRT and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service in the search for and subsequent recovery of a kayaker.

This year, authorised members of the 333

support group have further extended the range of operational and administrative support provided to the team. This appears to be working satisfactorily and supplements the valuable fundraising activities customarily performed by 333 members.

Team members continue to train to a high standard in various skills, including technical rope rescue, casualty care, swiftwater 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 participating in training events and operational incidents are supported by the reimbursement of travelling expenses and the periodic issue of essential kit items. This year, suitably qualified water technicians have received personal issue equipment to enable them to respond directly to water incidents thus avoiding the need to collect team kit from base prior to deployment. The reimbursement of travelling expenses and issue of personal equipment appears to be delivering its intended objective within budgetary projections.

The base at Bryn Poeth has been subject to a programme of maintenance and improvement work which includes an uprated security system to enhance the protection of the CIO's material assets and records.

OVMRO continues to be represented at national (MREW) and regional (NWMRA) level by team members who make an active and valuable contribution to the mountain rescue community.

The organisation continues to attract a healthy level of trainee team members a satisfying proportion of whom go on to achieve full team

member status. Job descriptions for the various roles within the organisation have been prepared to aid succession planning by encouraging team members to develop into management roles.

The Trustees are pleased with the performance of the CIO during this reporting period and proud to report that the book written about the team 'Risking Life and Limb' won the TGO Book of the Year award. 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 support group who play an increasing role in the administrative and operational functions of the organisation.

Public Benefit

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

Reserves Policy and risk management

Future activities of the charity are to be funded by future income and liquid assets currently held as shown in the accounts below. The organisation is not bound by any financial commitments for which funds do not exist. The Trustees are currently seeking professional investment advice to identify risk-free opportunities to generate income from funds not currently required for short-term expenditure.

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and they are satisfied that the charity's established systems mitigate those risks.

THE CHARITY'S TRUSTEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ACCOUNTS. THE 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.

Barrie Buels
FCCA FCIE
Crestmere Limited
Chartered Certified
Accountants

As Independent Examiner, 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
- 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, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts and my report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention, which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, 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 2016

	Note	2016	2015
Incoming resources from generating funds			
Recurring items	2	65,923	30,498
Non recurring items	3	75,099	76,027
Transfer from Ogwen Valley MRO		14,055	721,041
Total Incoming Resources		155,077	827,566
resources expended			
Charitable activities	4	152,603	68,454
Net movement in funds for the period		2,474	759,112
Fund balances at 31 December 2015		758,272	758,272
Fund balances at 31 December 2016		760,746	

OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE ORGANISATION CIO
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016	2015
Tangible fixed assets	5	199,270	225,520
Current assets			
Debtors		1,340	
Stocks		11,055	18,400
Cash at bank and in hand	6	550,041	515,312
		562,436	533,712
Creditors amounts falling due within one year			
Accruals		960	960
Net current assets		561,476	532,752
Total assets less current liabilities		760,746	758,272
Income funds			
Unrestricted funds		760,746	758,272

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 2016, comparative figures referring to the year ended 31 December 2015. The charity was active from 1 June 2015.

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, FRS 102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting for Charities (FRS 102)' issued in July 2014.

The adoption of the latter represents a change of accounting policy (see Note 16)

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. 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 there is no material uncertainty in relation to the charity's ability to continue as 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	2016	2015
333 Support Group	7	20,133	5,504
Donations	8	29,868	10,920
Oggie 8 Event			5,835
Collecting boxes		6,233	3,291
Investment income		1,241	559
Other recurring income	9	8,448	4,389
		65,923	30,498

3	Incoming resources – non-recurring items		Note	2016	2015
	In memory			24,052	8,499
	Bequests and legacies			51,047	67,528
				75,099	76,027
4	Provision of rescue and related services		Note	2016	2015
	Base expenses		10	24,716	12,348
	Communications			3,671	749
	Equipment replacement		11	11,660	4,496
	Transport		12	3,374	2,277
	Training and conferences			15,345	6,732
	PPE scheme			24,593	1,465
	Team expenses			19,225	6,129
	Other charitable expenses		13	23,109	9,778
	Depreciation			26,250	24,480
	Governance costs*			660	840
	<i>*Includes £360 (2015: £360) in respect of Independent Examination</i>			152,603	69,294
5	Tangible fixed assets				
		Garage Annexes	Vehicles	Rescue Equipment	Total
	As at 1 January 2016	75,000	50,000	125,000	250,000
	Depreciation				
	As at 1 January 2016	2,188	15,000	7,292	24,480
	Provided for the year	3,750	10,000	12,500	26,250
	As at 31 December 2016	5,938	25,000	19,792	50,730
6	Cash at bank and in hand				
				2016	2015
	Current accounts			20,241	24,043
	Deposit accounts			529,445	490,997
	Cash in hand			356	272
				550,042	515,312
7	333 Support Group				
	Memberships			660	625
	Merchandise and similar			13,584	4,879
	Other income			5,889	
				20,133	5,504
8	Donations				
	Clubs			6,086	1,768
	Companies			3,452	376
	Personal			9,739	7,319
	Rescues			3,440	1,008
	Other contributions			7,151	449
				29,868	10,920

9	Other recurring income			
	Annual report sales		21	40
	Sale of used stamps		279	
	Goods purchased from team members		4,215	143
	Team member events		2,301	1,022
	Honesty box		298	93
	Other income		1,613	2,812
			8,448	4,389
10	Base expenses			
	Catering		1,212	658
	Rent, phone and repairs		15,208	5,219
	Insurance		5,204	5,572
	Other expenses		3,092	899
			24,716	12,348
11	Equipment replacement			
	First Aid		2,028	1,710
	Other equipment		9,632	2,786
			11,660	4,496
12	Transport			
	General transport costs		3,374	2,277
13	Other charitable expenses			
	Administration		5,070	3,969
	Postage and stationery		2,393	402
	Bank charges		751	270
	Merchandise and similar		9,574	2,264
	Fund raising costs		1,001	2,532
	IT and website		2,480	341
	Other costs		1,840	
			23,109	9,778
14	Employment costs			
	During the year the charity had no employees..			
15	Trustees			
	None of the trustees received any remuneration during the year.			
	Trustees have received no reimbursement of individual expenses incurred for services provided to the charity in their role as trustees			
16	Reserves at 1 January 2015			
	The entity had no reserves at the commencement of the comparative period as operations commenced during that year. No adjustments are required as a result of the change of accounting policy.			

ANGLESEY GOLF CLUB CAPTAIN'S DAY 2016

The captain of Anglesey Golf Club for 2016, Peter Rigby, himself a keen mountaineer, generously nominated North Wales Mountain Rescue Association as his chosen charity for his Captain's Day competition, on Saturday 11 June, an event supported by OVMRO and the RAF MRT.

After a thoroughly enjoyable day, blessed with fantastically sunny weather following a drizzly start, the generous members and guests of Anglesey Golf Club raised just over £1500 for NWMRA.



Images from the day: Left to right: Mobile 2 joins the RAF MRT mobile 'Tryfan'; Ogwen Mobile 2 outside the clubhouse; Captain of Anglesey Golf Club, Peter Rigby, with the OVMRO Secretary, and Club Professional, Gary Coppell.

Anglesey Golf Club

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Lady Full	£550	2nd Club membership	£250	
Country	£342	New Member	£350	
				<i>until 31 May 2018</i>

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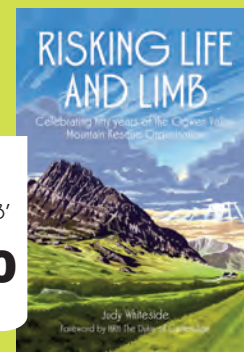
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THANK YOU TO ALL
THE PEOPLE THAT
DONATE TO THE
TEAM VIA THE
COLLECTION
BOXES. ALSO, TO
THOSE FOLK THAT
EMPTY THEM AND
TO MAGGIE AND
NEIL ADAM THAT
OVERSEE THE
WHOLE PROCESS.

If you would like to have a collection box, please contact Neil and Maggie at our base on 01492 720333 and leave a message on the answering machine. If you have a box that needs servicing, please contact Maggie or Neil.

During the year we collected from boxes at:

- Base
- 333 Events
- Black Cat
- Y Mabinogion
- Country Cooks
- Joe Browns
- The Gwydyr
- Spar, Dolwyddelan
- Eagles, Penmachno
- Field and Trek
- Ty'n y Coed
- Pinnacles Café
- Rohan
- Cotswold
- Cotswold Rock
- Stables Bar
- Hawkshead
- Shell Garage
- Betws y Coed
- Judges Gift Shop
- Londis
- Betws y Coed
- Pont y Pair Hotel
- Ellis Brigham
- Plas Power Adventure
- Café Ty Tan Lan
- Douglas Arms
- Moel Siabod Café
- Soul of Snowdonia Gallery
- Information Centre
- Information Centre
- Dolgellau
- Groes Inn, Conwy
- Royal Mail
- Colwyn Bay
- Geldrid Stores
- Bhodhi Movement
- Ellens Castle
- Riverside Chocolate House, Pentrefoelas
- Llyn Crafnant Tea Room
- Senate Electrical
- Snow & Rock
- Plas y Brenin
- Ogwen Falls
- Vaynol Arms, Pentir
- Ty Gwyn, Rowen
- Cunninghams
- Bull Inn, Llanbedr
- Vagabond
- Tryfan Organics
- Glenwood
- Bridge View

Jo Worrall
Honorary Treasurer

COLLECTION BOXES



Incident No 55. 19 June: Rescue on Y Gribin: Thanks must go to the crew of Rescue 936 who managed to reach and extract the casualty in atrocious weather conditions — as seen in the similarly misty images © OVMRO.

AN ODE TO OGWEN

WRITTEN AFTER YOU SAVED MY LIFE ON FATHERS' DAY

By **Glenn Kirkham**

Dedicated to Ogwen Valley MRO, the pilot and winchman of the R936.

As we enter the valley
My heart skips a bit
The beauty of this place
Knocks me off my feet.
The site of rock
Is our escape
As we get higher,
Faces beam so bright.
Even in cloudy weather
This tends to excite.
Reaching the top
A natural high.
Our life medication
Feel so alive.
Conquer the sharks fin (Tryfan)
What next should we try?
A rugged gothic rock (Bristly Ridge)
Stands so high.
Thought of retreat.
We are safe, we won't die.
Climbing the gully
Using hands and feet
Closer to the top
A pinnacle we reach.
We glide over the rock
Such a foreign land.
In the mist,
The top we stand
Time to descend,
The valley awaits.
Three happy people
In our favourite place.
Stepping off rocks,
Life escapes.
On our way down,
My heart misses a beat.
A thud.
Then no sound
Appears. Nothing.
Silence all around.
Inside my head
I can't die today

Won't walk with the dead
Leave that for another day.
Suddenly I wake up.
Pain all around
But the sound of death
Becomes a close sound.
We push we lift
We fight as a team
Get me the fuck out this rock
That is what I scream.
Life still fading
I can't give up.
My daughter's face
Gives me that final push.
Slip from under.
I gasp for air
Look to the clouds
Lay down and stare.
A body warms me
I am ok.
I can feel my feet
Will walk another day.
Hours pass
We lay in a pit,
Looking at the clouds.
Cold and shivering,
Waiting to be fixed.
Then suddenly,
Out of nowhere
Sound of the blades
In the air.
If I had the energy
I would try and cheer.
They fix me up,
Keep me warm.
This is not my time.
I feel reborn
A man from the sky
Takes me from the land.
Without these people
I would be a spirit of the land.

THE IT GROUP HAS BENEFITED THIS YEAR BY THE ADDITION OF JOHN DEXTER, A MEMBER OF 333 AND WITH VAST EXPERIENCE IN THE IT INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY IN HARDWARE.

Jim Langley
IT Officer



The group is busy with a range of issues, keeping the IT system up to date and secure whilst working within a strict monthly data limit due to the necessity of a satellite broadband connection. Following on from a major overhaul of the team website and online shop in 2015, the group has been able to look at upgrading some aging computers and streamlining how data is stored on our server. Security is a constant threat in the cyber world and the computer system has monitoring and antivirus software to ensure threats are minimised. We have set up a cloud based storage system and are in the process of transferring files onto this.

Our weather station has been maintained with a new working relationship with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) who have monitoring stations dotted around the Conwy catchment. They are happy to assist with this maintenance and have access to our data should they need it. Fortunately for us they use the same equipment so finding spares and replacement sensors has become far simpler.

We have also sourced a suitable and dedicated digital webcam. A simple idea initially but with technical considerations of limiting data usage and upload, the system has to comply with our constraints and also the adverse weather known specifically to the Ogwen Valley!! Hopefully, the images will grace our website in 2017 and continue to provide vital, on-the-ground conditions, to complement the live weather feed we produce for the Ogwen valley.

Social media continues to attract greater numbers of followers and the support for OVMRO spirals upwards. The number of followers swells on Twitter due to the great work by John Carrie

and we have over 5,000 followers and over 1,500 tweets. Facebook also has a strong presence and many people interacting with this platform. With regular updates and post shares we have again over 5,000 page likes and messages are regularly and quickly replied to.

The team website has a members' area for all team members. This is regularly used by members to sign up to training or social events and is used to access team documents in the repository. There are many great functions within this team manager and members can look at their skills validity. Whether they are in-date or out-of-date with a core skill such as casualty care or technical rope rescue. There are also some members who require the appropriate skill for tea making! An essential skill I think you will agree.



29 May. Incident No 49:

Tumbling fall on Tryfan: Team members tend to a walker who took a tumbling fall sustaining multiple injuries © OVMRO.



KEEP ON COLLECTING THOSE USED STAMPS!

I'm sure we all still get letters with stamps on, even in this digital age. Why not save those stamps to pass on?

For many years now, long standing team member Bill Dean has been collecting them, sorting them and turning them into cash.

The team has benefited from this over the years and now, as part of supporting the region, our committee has agreed that the funds raised in this way can go to the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (of which Bill happens to be the treasurer!). The association is made up of six teams: Aberdyfi, Aberglaslyn, Llanberis, Ogwen, North East Wales and South Snowdonia.

We are still happy to collect the stamps at Bryn Poeth for Bill.

Thank you in anticipation!

Jo Worrall
Treasurer

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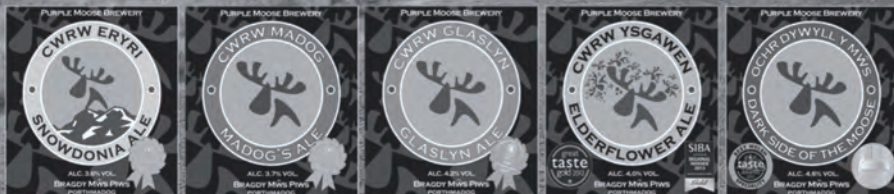


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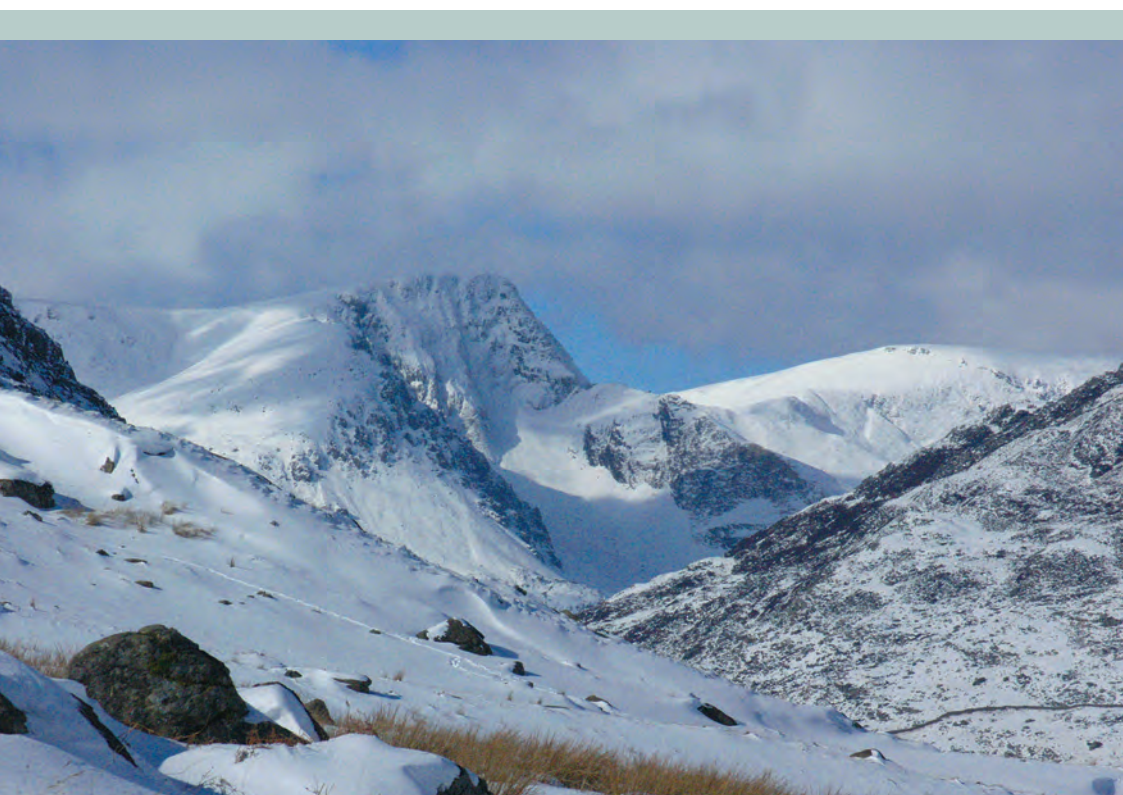


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